

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

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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.”

CIRCUS HARMONY RECEIVES GRANT FROM CIRQUE DU SOLIEL

November 27, 2017 (St. Louis, MO) - Circus Harmony was thrilled to receive an email that said "Because we recognize the importance of your work in the community, we are pleased to inform you that Circus Harmony will be the recipient of our 2017 Cirque du Monde Grant in the amount of \$10,000!" This is a grant given to just three American organizations who use "Social Circus as a method of intervention with youth in difficulty."

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group has chosen the cause of youth at risk and has developed several programs over time that each offer various avenues of support. [Cirque du Monde](#), is one of them. It combines circus techniques with educational social intervention to help young people. Social circus aims to help these youth get their self-confidence back, make them realize their strengths and discover their hidden talents.

As St. Louis' only social circus, Circus Harmony does just that. This small, grassroots non-profit uses circus arts to build character in individuals and bridges between communities through their Peace Through Pyramids, Circus Teaches the Art of Life and other programs. By inspiring individuals and connecting communities with their circus education and entertainment programs, they have a positive impact on the St. Louis area and beyond.

In separate but connected news, Circus Harmony announced that two of their alumni, Sidney 'Iking' Bateman and Melvin Diggs will be joining Cirque du Soleil as performers on the show, [Luzia!](#) These young men have embodied Circus Harmony's mission statement to help young people "defy gravity, soar with confidence and leap over social barriers, all at the same time."

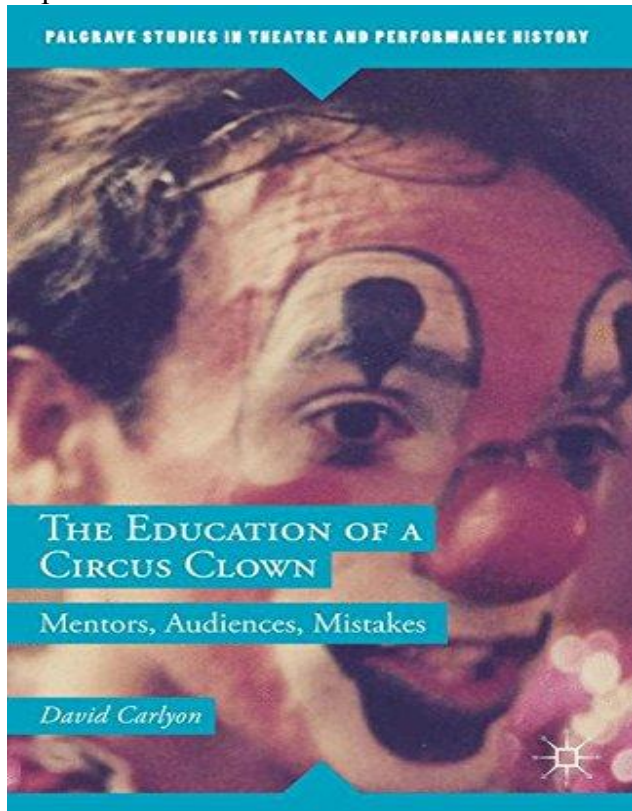


Circus Harmony's Artistic/Executive director, Jessica Hentoff, said, "We are thankful to Cirque du Monde for honoring us by supporting their work and Cirque du Soleil for recognizing the talents of our alumni. We invite everyone to come see our current generation of flying children and witness some of the work that Cirque du Monde is supporting in our weekly shows at City Museum.

More information on our classes, shows, and programs can be found on our website at www.circusharmony.org.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

That CHS member, David Carlyon's book *The Education of a Circus Clown* won another award? Now, in addition to the Stuart Thayer Award, it was named a Freedley Award finalist, Theatre Library Association (TLA), for "exemplary work [about] live performance."



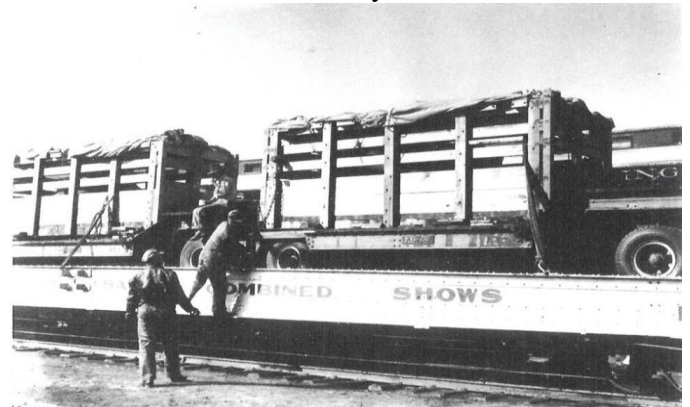
CIRCUS RING OF FAME

With great pride, the Circus Ring of Fame Foundation, Inc., has inducted the Class of 2018 into the famous St. Armands Circle Ring of Fame. Always considered a highlight of the seasonal awards, the ceremony took place on Saturday, January 13th at 2:00 PM, with a circus band concert featuring sixty musicians from Windjammers Unlimited and conducted by Andrew Glover preceding the festivities at 1:15 PM. All events are open to the public and add greatly to Sarasota's circus heritage.

This year's class featured outstanding Risley artists, The Fredonias, UniverSoul Circus founder and owner Cedric Walker, the incomparable polar bear trainer Ursula Böettcher, famous trapeze artists, The Ramon España Family– The Flying Españas, and local favorite and clown extraordinaire Chuck "Chucko" Sidlow. A Circus Ring of Fame inductee is recognized for their outstanding contributions to the world of circus.

MOVING THE SHOW . . .

CHS member, Stephen T. Flint, offered a very interesting look into the movement of Ringling equipment to the Madison Square Garden and the Boston Garden dates recently on Facebook.



Here we see the 2 LaCrosse Carry Alls (D-1 and D-2) that transported the big RD7 CATs from the train to the lot. These larger CAT's were used on the lot for spotting wagons but did not have the rubber street pads on the tracks, so they tore up the city streets pretty bad. Consequently RBBB ordered these 2 transports for the RD7's. The 2 photo's are from the Sarasota to New York Madison Square Garden 1939 run and obviously these aren't CATS (which wouldn't be needed for the building stands anyway). What is loaded on the transports (and flat car) are crates containing 3 rhinos that Frank Buck had purchased from the show and were being shipped to Buck's exhibit at the World's Fair. When the crates were off loaded, the transports also carried Terrell Jacobs shifting dens from the train to the Garden (and back). Terrell's road dens would catch up to him at the first canvas stand, as well as the big RD7 CATs that normally rode on the transports. The first under canvas stands must have been "pretty interesting" sorting and reloading equipment needed for the building stands and not for the road.



RUBBER TIRES

On December 16, 2017, CHS member, Chris Berry asked this question of the Facebook group "Circus Wagon Fan-atics" Need a little help from our wagon-masters? What year did Ringling introduce dual tires to the undercarriage of baggage wagons? Are these pneumatic tires? Any idea what was in wagon #20?



Stephen T. Flint is a very knowledgeable historian when it comes to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Trucks, Tractors and Mechanical Dept. He offered this response. "Bill Yeske and his shop crew replaced the wooden wheels with 4 pneumatics in 1933 on wagon #12 Baggage Stock Trappings wagon as a test. This seems to be the first documented baggage wagon receiving air filled tires. That being said, keep in mind that in the early 1920's a couple of the arena dens also had air filled tires. They were all pretty lightly built and one even appears to have used a Model T chassis as a base. The Mack Trucks were all on pneumatic tires by 1937, Eventually, more wagons were converted over to the pneumatics starting with the heavier generators and the hippo den. The new ticket wagons (1935) were ordered from Springfield with pneumatic tires being specified. The baggage wagon pictured above carried the long side grand stand chairs. It was originally built with wooden wheels having the pneumatic tires added for the 1938 season. Interesting feature of this wagon is the little hinged platform and support chains to aid in loading/unloading the chairs.

CHRISTMAS CARD . . .



Pictured here (image 1) is the centerfold of the 1939 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Christmas card. The artwork was an adaptation of a 1938 Strobridge lithograph for the 1938 spectacle "NEPAL" (which featured "Bring 'em Back Alive... FRANK BUCK"), shown in image 2. Both original pieces are from the Tim Tegge Circus Archives collection.



DUES ARE DUE

Your annual dues renewals were included in the Sept. delivery of the Bandwagon. As of January 1st, 2018, we still had 175 members that haven't sent their dues in yet.

Please send your dues payable to the Circus Historical Society to our Secretary / Tres.

Bob Cline
2707 Zoar Road
Cheraw, SC 29520-4133

You can also pay with PayPal on our website at <http://www.circushistory.org/application2.htm>

MILNER LIBRARY RECEIVES 250,000 PIECE COLLECTION

The Milner Library's Special Collections is thrilled to announce the recent donation of a 250,000 piece collection of circus memorabilia. As announced in a Milner Library news release, the gift comes from long time Circus Historical Society member Herbert Ueckert of Sarasota, Florida.



(Courtesy of Milner Library, Special Collections)

After spending his career working in the school libraries of Las Vegas, Ueckert said he was drawn to Illinois State's collection because it also serves as a resource for classes. "We are absolutely thrilled that they have accepted our collection and look forward to seeing the items shared and used for educating ISU students and the larger public," he said.

Herbert Ueckert, who has been collecting for decades, gifted a vast collection that contains everything from artists' original sketches of professional circus posters, and candid and publicity photographs, to clown props and performer's costumes.

"I'm not sure I've ever seen so many spangles and feathers in my life. It's fantastic," said Head of Special Collections and Rare Books Maureen Brunsdale. "The passion of Herb and his partner Neil Cockerline is the circus, its history, and its impact on society. Circuses helped to entertain and inspire. With the collection we will continue to inspire for generations to come."



"The possibilities are endless," noted Brunsdale. "Students in Family and Consumer Sciences can explore the construction techniques of historic costumes, the School of Theatre students can study the performer contracts and publicity stills, School of Art students can examine original poster art."

While working to make items available to students and classes, Brunsdale and the Special Collections staff will work to design exhibits around the new items. "We have a jeweled elephant blanket," she said in awe. "It is enormous, as you can imagine, and gorgeous. People need to see it."

To find out more about this collection and the [Circus and Allied Arts Collection](#) at Milner Library, contact Brunsdale at (309) 438-2871.

2018 CHS CONVENTION

Are you planning on going to the 2018 Circus Historical Society Convention in Baraboo this year?



Would you like to be one of the presenters of Circus History this year? All the information and Registration forms can be found in the links below. Make your reservations soon as this is peak time in Wisconsin.

<http://www.circushistory.org/2018eventinfo.pdf>

<http://www.circushistory.org/callforpresentations.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW

That the Big Apple Circus is now on Tour? They are playing in Alpharetta, GA. from Jan. 26th to Feb. 25th. Then they go to Washington DC, March 8th – April 1st.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The Circus Historical Society's Board of Trustees conducts its business via email, face to face and through teleconferences. A teleconference was held Thursday evening at which time, the results of the completed election were announced. Steve Gossard reported the following election results.

Ballots were sent out last year in the Bandwagon for the Bi-Annual elections. Seventy three ballots were returned from the nearly 600 mailed out to CHS members. Re-elected to a Trustee's position for a four year term were Fred Pfening, Al Stencell, Don Covington, Alan Campbell, and Deborah Walk. Newly elected Trustees are Richard Flint and Bruce Hawley. Peter Gorman is next in line if someone cannot fulfill their next four years as a Trustee.

Following this filling of the Board, the Election of Officers was held. Don Covington was elected as the president of the Circus Historical Society for a second two year term. Alan Campbell was elected as Vice-president for a second two year term. Robert Cline became the new Secretary / Treasurer again after a two year hiatus.

AMAZING AUCTION

Have you ever been to an auction that was so boring you could almost fall asleep? That wasn't the case on Saturday January 20th, 2018 when the Showfolks of Sarasota held their annual fundraising auction.

The Auction was offered by Freedom Auction Company of Sarasota, Florida. According to their spokesperson, Kisha Hollifield, there were nearly 750 lots for sale. Once the auction began at 9 AM in the Showfolks Club, the one single auctioneer kept it going until nearly 6 PM with a single quick break.



The auction gathered 75% of the income in the first third of the auction with multiple high ticket items bringing good money such as a pair of Gunther Gebel Williams boots going for \$850.00 + a 20% buyer's premium.



This famed Edward Kelty photograph of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Side Show attractions that was taken in the basement of the Madison Square Garden brought a buying price of \$7,200.00 + a buyer's premium of 20%.



This auction also offered a photo album full of 8" x 10" photos by Edward Kelty that had never been seen in the public eye before. The album contained 72 different photographs that were taken in 1935. The Album sold for \$7,000 + a 20% buyer's premium.

In all fairness to the market, many other Kelty photos sold for between \$60.00 and \$250.00. The auction was full of donated items from many people in the circus community.

Items of interest included costumes, old flags, animal blankets, props, posters, and wagon wheels such as this real beauty that sold for \$1000.00 plus the 20% buyer's premium. There were offerings of old show records, photographs, photograph albums, artwork, conceptual drawings, circus models, banners, and even a rug.



The Showfolks of Sarasota has offered this auction for several years now and look forward to doing it again next year where the Auction house is expecting it to top 1000 lots next year. There's plenty of time to save up and make your travel plans for Sarasota next January. You won't want to miss it!