MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS
Jefferson City Circus Photograph Collection

Abstract: Candid images of circus people and animals from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus (1932) and the Al G. Barnes Circus (1933) when they visited Jefferson City.

Extent: 15 Images

Physical Description: Photographs; Negatives

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIFFs

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None; permission granted

Preferred Citation: [description of item], [date]; Jefferson City Circus Photograph Collection, Record Group 998.402; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift. Accession #2011-0281

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 11/07/2017

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

In September 1932, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Jefferson City. A newspaper advertisement claims the Circus is bringing 1,600 people, 800 arena stars, 100 clowns, 1,009 menagerie animals, 50 elephants, 700 horses, five rings, four stages, and a huge hippodrome course.

In August 1933, the Al G. Barnes Circus visited Jefferson City. At this time, the Circus was owned by Ringling Brothers. Barnes’ circus was known for its animal attractions and acts. In particular, the tiger act in the center ring was renowned and the tigers were trained by a woman
named Mabel Stark. The circus was set up on a field between Howard and Beck Streets in Jefferson City, Missouri, on what was Louis M. Beck's Dairy Farm.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS064 David Denman Photograph Collection
MS266 Historic City of Jefferson Collection
MS272 Ehrhardt Photograph Collection
MS297 Mark Schreiber Photograph Collection
MS314 Tom Sater Capital City Collection
MS315 Lynn Shaffer Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS317 Duke Diggs Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS329 Alice Fast Jefferson City Postcard Collection
MS340 George Grazier Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS349 Otto Kroeger Photograph Collection
MS360 Dr. Arnold G. Parks Jefferson City Postcard Collection
MS369 Bob Priddy Collection
MS390 Ann Noe Collection
MS394 Priesmeyer Shoe Factory Photograph Collection
MS399 Bill Fannin Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS400 Gary Kremer Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS421 Henry Gensky Photograph Collection
MS426 Jefferson City News Tribune Photograph
MS433 Dr. Joseph Summers Collection
MS463 Jefferson City Photographs by Kendal Mertens
MS467 Ott Construction Company Photograph Collection
MS479 Joe Kleene Photograph Collection
MS481 Martha Rutledge Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS483 Mary Wilhite Jefferson City Photograph Collection
RG110 Department of Natural Resources National Register of Historic Places

Additional External Resources


“Capital City Thrilled as Circus Comes to Town.” Jefferson City Post-Tribune. September 2, 1932: pp. 1-2.

SERIES

Circus Photographs, 1932-1933

Extent: 15 images

Scope and Content

This collection consists of 5”x7” copy prints and 4”x5” copy negatives of images of the Al G. Barnes Circus when it visited Jefferson City on August 7, 1933 and of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus from September 2, 1932.

All images have been digitized. They are available as 800dpi tiffs and are on the Z Drive. Lower res versions are also on the Archives’ Flickr website here: https://www.flickr.com/photos/missouristatearchives/albums/72157633372975469.

Container List

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<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>A team of horses pulls a wagon across a field for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum &amp; Bailey Circus.</td>
<td>09/02/1932</td>
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<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>A man rides a horse across a field. There is a long row of vehicles in the background. This is the Ringling Bros. and Barnum &amp; Bailey Circus.</td>
<td>09/02/1932</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A man stands in a field watching the elephants from Al G. Barnes’ Circus. Several Circus employees are with the elephants and there is a tent behind them.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
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<tr>
<td>167</td>
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<td>Several Asian elephants get ready for the Al G. Barnes Circus. Men are lining them up and there are step ladders next to the elephants so that the howdahs (chairs) on their backs can be loaded.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
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<td>167</td>
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<td>A group of men poses in front of the elephants from the Al G. Barnes Circus. They wear uniforms. The elephants in the background have large, elaborate chairs called howdahs on their backs.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
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<td>167</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A woman poses next to an elephant that is wearing layers of blankets and an elaborate chair called a howdah on its back.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
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<td>Two men sit in front of a decorated circus wagon being pulled by two zebras.</td>
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<td>View of the Al G. Barnes Circus tents from across a field of crops.</td>
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<td>View of the Al G. Barnes Circus tents from across a field of crops.</td>
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<td>56</td>
<td></td>
<td>View of the Al G. Barnes Circus tents from across a field of crops.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
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<td>167</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two elephants walk on the grounds of the Al G. Barnes Circus. A man rides on top of one of the elephant’s heads.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are tents in the image as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>167</th>
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<th>Horses wearing elaborate regalia walk down a lane at the Al G. Barnes Circus. There is an old car in the background as well as a tent flying a U.S. flag.</th>
<th>08/07/1933</th>
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<td>A young man in a circus outfit holds the rope of a camel. The camel has blankets and a large seat on its back.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
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<td>167</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>A man stands with his team of camels. The Al G. Barnes Circus camels have decorated blankets on their backs.</td>
<td>08/07/1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Image of a steer and two horses.</td>
<td>09/07/1933*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although this image is labeled with “9” as the month, it is probably “8” and goes along with the other circus images.*