



BHC-MSS 0013
Guide to the Circus Photographs taken by William Day Collection
By Meghan Rinn
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: William Day

Title: Circus Photographs taken by William Day Collection

Dates: c. 1940s-1970s

Quantity: 1 manuscript box

Abstract: 10 manuscript boxes

Abstract: The William Collection of Circus Photographs featured a wide array of images from mostly the 1940s to 1970s, documenting circus life. It shows not only animal and human performers, but features behind the scenes images that give a greater view into what life was like for those who traveled with the group every year.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

At present, no additional information about Mr. Day or his collection has been located.

Scope and Content Note

Focusing on the 1940s-1970s, these 67 color photographs are all mounted on backing. They feature photographs of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, the Hunt Brothers Circus and the Cole Circus. Circus name is not indicated unless name of organization appears in the image.

Arrangement note:

Arranged by topic in alphabetical order.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Gift or possibly a transfer from the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Preferred Citation:

Circus Photographs taken by William Day (BHC-MSS 0013), Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Corporate Names

Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus

Subject tracings

Circus animals--Pictorial works.

Circus animals--United States--History--20th century.

Circus performers--1940-1950.
Circus performers--1970-1980.
Circus performers--United States.

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. Acrobats
2. Advertising posters
3. Animal trainers
4. Clowns
5. Equestrian performers
6. Exotic animals
7. Loading on the flat cars
8. Lot
9. Performers
10. Ringmasters
11. Setting up the Big Top
12. Tent
13. Unloading the animals
14. Wagons