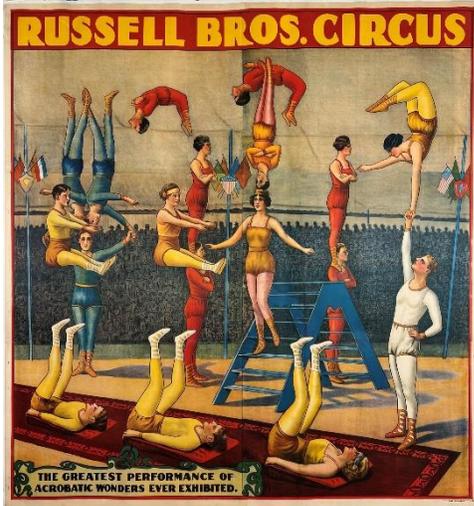


CIRCUS – WILD WEST - SIDESHOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2022



OVER 750 LOTS INCLUDING:

- THE GORDON TURNER COLLECTION
- WILD WEST, TWO BILLS, T.A. SMITH
- W.H. RICE – WATER CIRCUS
- DUANE “UNCLE SOAPY” THORPE
- HUNT CIRCUS FAMILY COLLECTION
- BIGGERSTAFF PHOTO ARCHIVE
- JIM HAND COLLECTION
- KEN HARCK SELECTIONS
- SIDESHOW, ODDITIES, UNUSUAL
- CIRCUS MODELS
- PROGRAMS, ROUTE BOOKS
- EPHEMERA AND BOOKS
- OVER 300 POSTERS
- WARDROBE & COSTUMES
- KELTY – GLASIER – PHOTOS
- FILM & PHOTOGRAPH
- SCRAPBOOKS, EPHEMERA
- CIRCUS FAN ITEMS

FREEDOM AUCTION COMPANY PRESENTS:

CIRCUS – WILD WEST - SIDESHOW

ONLINE AUCTION – CIRCUS FRIEND GATHERING

EXHIBITION AT:

FREEDOM AUCTION COMPANY GALLERY
1601 DESOTO ROAD, SARASOTA, FL 34234
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH AT 11AM EASTERN

ADVANCE AND LIVE BIDDING AT:

WWW.FREEDOMAUCTIONS.COM
WWW.CIRCUSAUCTIONS.COM

TELEPHONE AND ABSENTEE BIDS ACCEPTED

PH: 941-725-2166

E: INFO@FREEDOMAUCTIONS.COM

IF YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU WISH TO SELL, PLEASE
CONTACT US REGARDING OUR WINTER 2023 AUCTION.

About the Auction...

The summer 2022 installment of our Circus Memorabilia Auction offers one of the most diverse collections we have ever presented. There is a tremendous selection of Wild West containing numerous very rare and scarce examples. A dedicated Sideshow segment presents some of the strangest things you will ever see. Complimenting the sale are over 300 posters covering an era of over 175 years in American Circus. A trove of fresh-to-market material has come to us from abandoned storage lockers, forgotten closets and cross-country journeys. Our passion for circus comes from the basic concept of historical preservation. We hope you read the foregoing collections summaries which will give you a deeper understanding of the entire assembly presented.



The auction will be presented live online, and we will once again host an auction watch gathering in our gallery. In the past, the assemblage of folks gathered for the auction watch has included historians, archivists, researchers, performers, owners, John Q. Public and a host of clowns. It is always a fun time for attendees and buyers and we invite you to this year's event. Let the sawdust fly!

Thanks...

We want to thank you for your interest in our auction. Whether you purchase anything or not, we hope you have enjoyed the catalog and the experience. If you enjoy this genre, we encourage you to join the Circus Historical Society. The organization is dedicated to preserving the rich history of circus.

Freedom Auction Company would like to especially thank those who provided research assistance and support in the creation of this catalog:



John and Jan Biggerstaff, Chris Berry, Circus Historical Society, Circus World Museum, Neil Cockerline, Fred Dahlinger, Jim Elliott, Dorita Estes, Bill Hall, Ken Harck, Wyatt Hollifield, Marsha Hunt, Brian Morrissey, Michael Papa, Steve Partyka, Fred Pfening, John Polacsek, Aubrey and Evan Raber, Ron Severini, Chuck Sidlow, Al Stencell, Timothy Tegge, Tibbals Learning Center, Gordon Turner, Peggy Williams.

Please visit our partner website, www.circusauctions.com for up-to-date information on future auctions.

If you have items you wish to sell, please contact us at 941.725.2166 or info@freedomauctions.com.



GORDON TURNER

Gordie, to those that know him, lived and worked in Schenectady, N.Y. Now residing in the Chicago area, Turner's love affair with the circus began as a child when his parents took him to the circus and he tells a great "tail" of a escaped lions in his first experience.

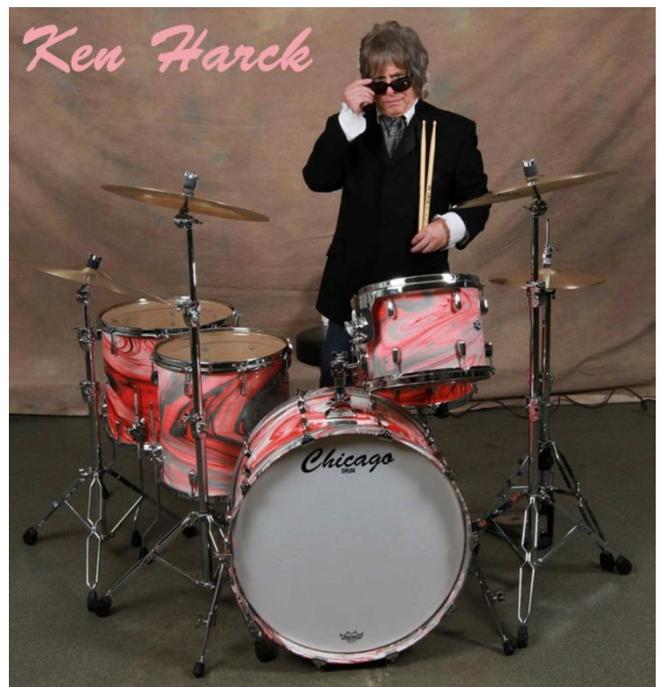
Now 87, Gordon was a patent illustrator for G.E. and is an avid circus fan and circus model builder. His collection is offered here and Gordon is excited to see his life's work be shared with those of similar passions.

Featured are one-inch scale circus models, lithographs, programs and paper.

KENNETH HARCK

Ken's passion for circus began as a child, collecting circus posters. A musician by trade, Ken has been a longtime procurement agent of circus artifacts for Howard Tibbals, the Tibbals Learning Center at the Ringling Museum, Sarasota, Florida. If it was good, you could bet that Ken could secure it.

Featured is a great selection of Harck's personal collection including Wild West lithographs, photographs and paper.





HUNT'S CIRCUS

1892 marked the year that Charles T. Hunt Sr., known as "Mr. Circus", started his show in Kingston, N.Y. Hunt later joined forces with sons, Charles Jr., Harry and Edward as Hunt Bros. Circus and Granddaughter, Marsha Hunt, later revived the show as Hunt's Super Circus in the 1970's.

The Hunt Circus was one of the best known and most beloved circus families and became one of the oldest shows owned and operated by the same family.

From the Hunt Family Collection comes rare sideshow banners that flew on the bannerline of the show, photographs, ephemera, business records, lithographs and more.

THOMAS ARNOLD SMITH (T.A. SMITH)

Tom Smith (Oct. 30, 1870-Dec. 24, 1944) was a supplier of horses and equipment to significant American circus shows. He was truly a man "behind-the-scenes", an associate of Ringling Bros., Buffalo Bill, partner to Pawnee Bill, Downie Bros., Welsh Bros. and others. For years he operated a stable and farm in Tullytown, PA.

A case law study revealed to us in research that we were in possession of Smith's trunk contents that were left abandoned in a room he boarded in 1930.

This amazing discovery has yielded a trove of documents from the Circus and Wild West shows at the turn of the century.

BY J. C. KEITH
 AT FRANCE CANADA STOCK YARDS, UNION MARKET
 WATERTOWN, MASS.

MAMMOTH HORSE AUCTION SALE
 THREE DAYS

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
APRIL 17, 18, 19, 1923
 AT 10.30 A.M. EACH DAY

1000 HEAD HORSES

On Tuesday, April 17
 Complete disposal of the
Pawnee Bill Wild West Show
 Show not going out this season
200 Seasoned Baggage Horses

In pairs, four and eight horse teams. Include bays, blacks, grays, blacks and grays. All young, compact built rugged animals. Specially selected for type and endurance by MR. TOM SMITH, who scoured every western horse raising state to select the right type. Mr. Smith has purchased all the horses for the Buffalo Bill & Pawnee Bill Shows for many years and will sell only the best individuals. ALSO 50 HEAD RIDING HORSES, 500 to 1000 lbs. 20 Calico Horses. Lots of Educated Saddle and good Cow Horses and Ponies.

On Wednesday, April 18, at 10.30 A. M.
SADDLE HORSE DAY
200 Head Saddle Horses

Parkbacks, High Jumpers, Polo Ponies, Hunters, Several Fast Trotters and Pacers, with and without records.

28 head extra high class saddle horses from Peter Kimm, Sedalia, Mo., will be sold at 2.30 p. m. Send for catalog.

100 HEAD FARM CHUNKS
 From Clay County Farm Associates
 Clay County, Missouri

Their first shipment to our Eastern market. Dugged hardy horses, 1200 to 1600 lbs.

Thursday, April 19, Lexington Day, at 10.30 A.M.
600 Head Western Commercial Horses

The largest and best shipment ever shipped East. The following shippers consign:

Draft Horses, Wagon Horses and Farm Chunks
 Earl Dow, De Moines, Iowa, 200 head
 G. W. Johnson, Missouri, 100 head
 J. W. Johnson, Missouri, 100 head
 Lane Mack, California, 100 head
 Fred Curtis, Nevada, 100 head

Packs, Chaises and Saddle Horses
 Frank Johnson, Utah, 100 head
 C. W. Johnson, Utah, 100 head
 J. W. Johnson, Utah, 100 head

Every horse will positively be sold to the highest bidder. Auctioneers, the world's largest horse shippers, will be here in person.
ABRAM GIDDON, AUCTIONEER



DUANE THORPE – “UNCLE SOAPY”

Duane Thorpe (1924-1995), known as Uncle Soapy, was long considered the last of the “old-school” clowns on the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Beginning in 1949, his career spanned over 40 years in the business and his work touched many lives.

One was once quoted, “He was the anchor of Clown Alley – a gentleman and a gentleman”.

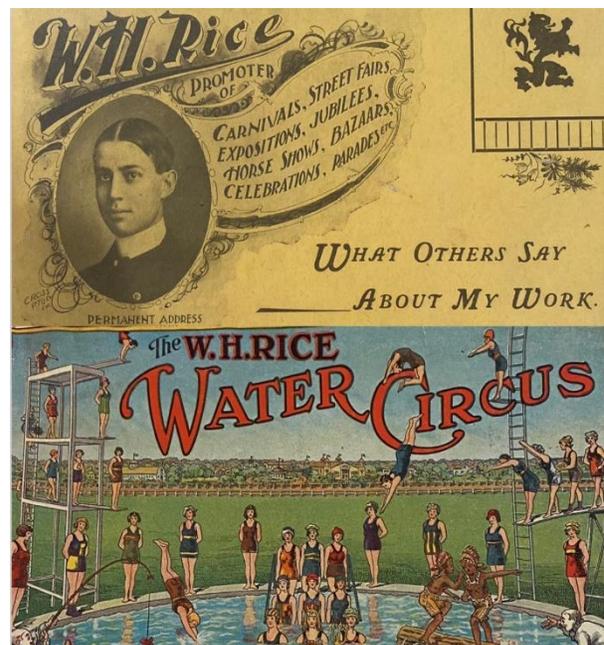
Featured is a very special collection, a massive archive, directly from the estate of Thorpe including photobooks, scrapbooks, contracts, clown gig sketches and more.

W.H. (Bill) RICE

Bill Rice W.H. Rice was one of the most widely known showmen in America at the turn of the century into the 1930's. With diverse amusement connections, he was best known for his Water Circus shows.

Rice once billed himself in endeavors of exploitation, publicity and raising funds for anything.

We will feature a host of Rice items including personal photos, show photos and ephemera



About Gordon Turner...

Gordon (Gordie) Turner, 87, is a lifelong circus fan and collector. He attended his first circus at age five with his parents, and he shared this tale about that experience. He and his folks arrived at the lot early as trucks were bringing wagons up from the railroad yard. A truck pulling animal wagons hit a bump, the door sprung open, and two lions jumped out. With the lions loose less than 50-feet away, Gordie and his father jumped to safety in an empty wagon. They watched from this vantage point as the lions rolled around in the grass, oblivious to the chaos. Workers soon lured the lions back into their cage, but the thrill of this experience was Gordie's first recollection of the circus, and from that point on he was hooked.

Gordie has a natural creative talent. As a boy of twelve, he began building model circus wagons out of small blocks of wood that he painted red. By the time he was in high school, he had constructed 20 quarter-inch scale wagons. His first exhibition was in his high school gymnasium. What was supposed to be a one-day show was extended for several days due to high interest among teachers and students.

Gordie studied mechanical drawing in high school, and after graduation he landed a job with the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York. He advanced from the mechanical drawing department to the patent division, and eventually ran the patent drawing room at GE's Research and Development Center in Niskayuna, New York. He saw the industry go from hand-drawn illustrations to computer-generated drawings, and he was successful in both mediums.

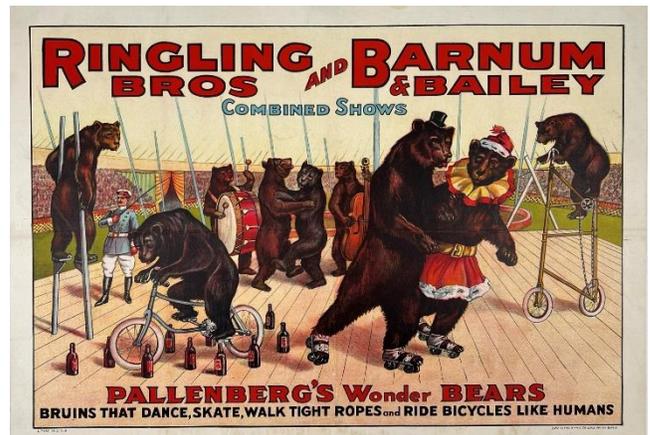
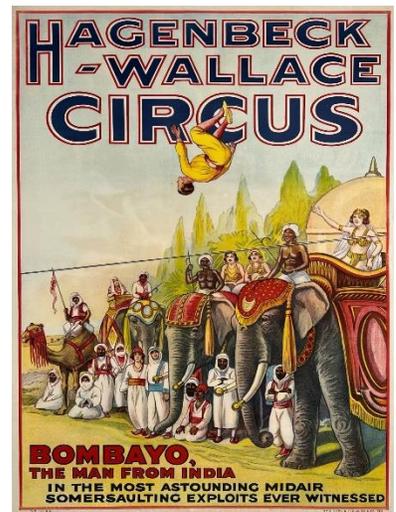
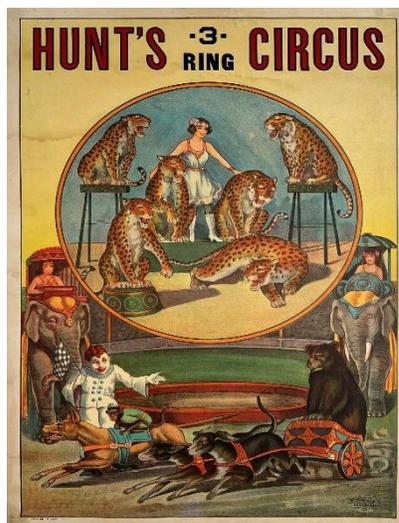
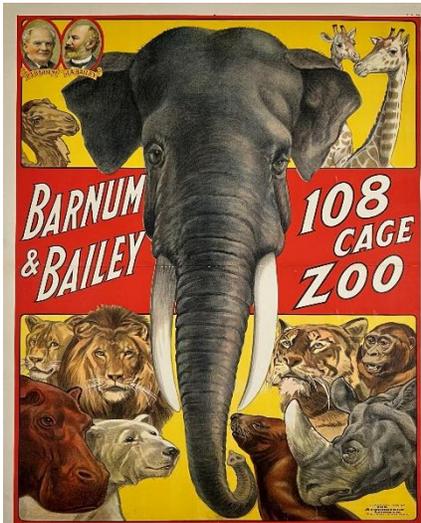
Throughout Gordie's forty years with GE, he kept on building circus wagons and displaying his works. He moved from quarter-inch scale to half-inch scale and finally one-inch scale. Gordie didn't just construct circus wagons; he built the railroad cars to carry the wagons and he created a miniature circus to give viewers the feel of a day at the circus. He enhanced his exhibitions with lithographs and photos from his extensive personal collection.

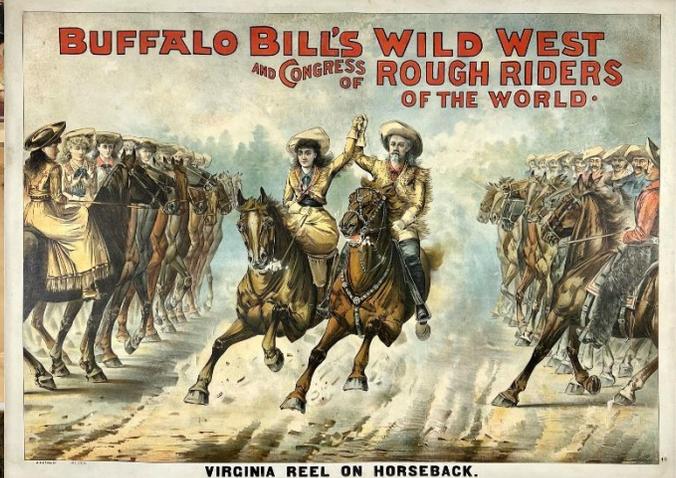
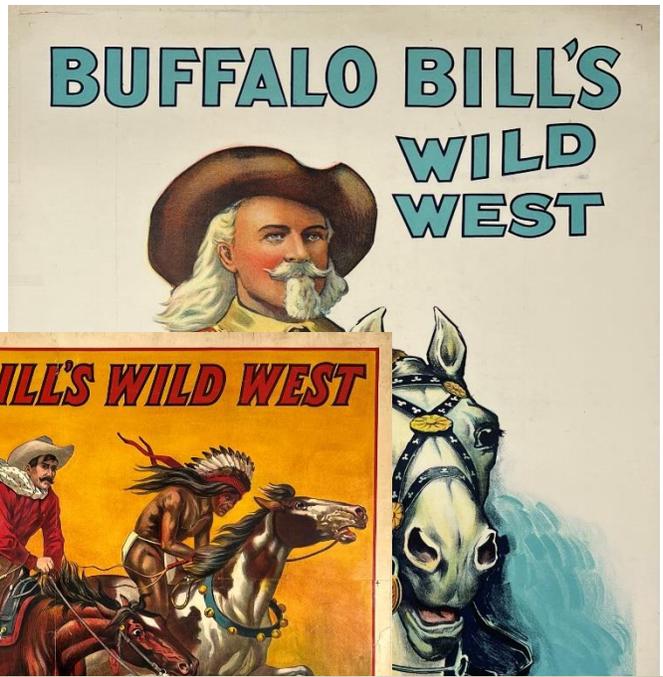
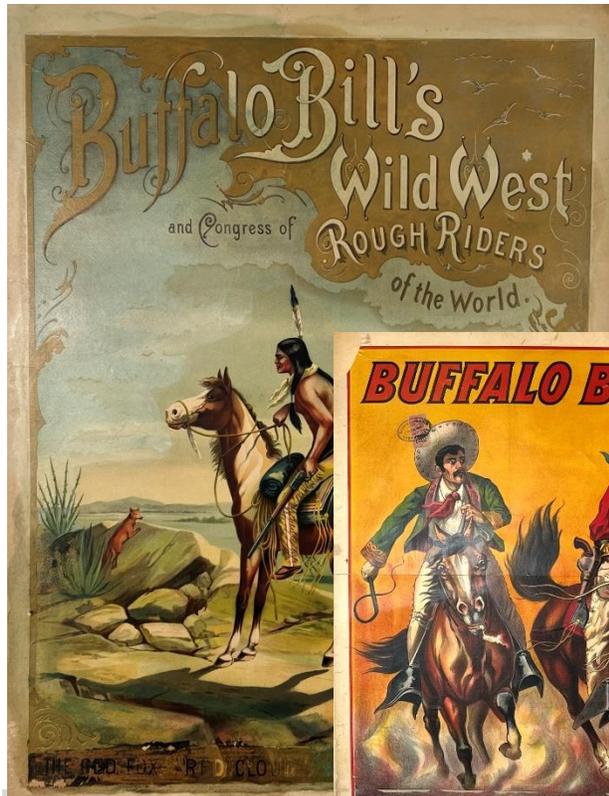


Gordie is considered a premier model circus builder among his peers. Over the years, Gordie displayed his wagons and circuses at schools, department stores, malls, and movie theaters. The pinnacle of his success was a year-long exhibition at the New York State Museum in Albany. Gordie's 50-foot-long exhibit covered all aspects of life. This exhibit, including the half-inch scale model wagons, has found a home at the New York State Museum.

Gordie amassed a large collection of circus memorabilia during his lifetime, including lithographs, posters, photos, and other items. Components of his collection, including many of his one-inch scale models, will be offered at auction this summer. Circus fans will clamor to bid and buy elements of this fabulous collection.

Gordon Turner seen here with Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus star, Evy Karoly, c.1956.





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On Wednesday, April 18, at 10.30 A. M.

SADDLE HORSE DAY
200 Head Saddle Horses

100 HEAD FARM CHUNKS
From Clay County
From Argentina

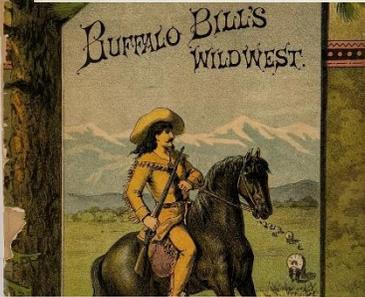
Parkhacks, High Jumpers, Polo Ponies, Hunters, Several Fast Trotters and Pacers, with and without records.

28 head extra high class saddle horses from Peter Klamm, Sedalia, Mo., will be sold at 2.30 p. m. Send for catalog.

Thursday, April 19, 1923
600 Head

Draft Horses, Wagon Horses and Farm Chunks.
Holl Bros, Des Moines, Iowa, 100 head
F. A. Williams, Birmingham, 100 head
L. J. Williams, Birmingham, 100 head
Loring, Wash, California, 80 head
East Grates, Nevada, Iowa, 28 head

Every horse will positively be sold to the highest bidder and BUY. Tues. Wed. Thurs. April



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BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST **PAWNEE BILL'S FAR EAST**

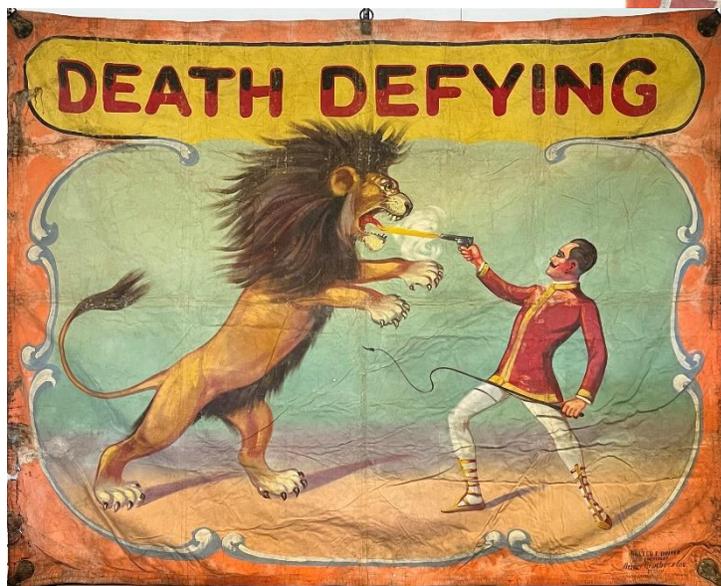
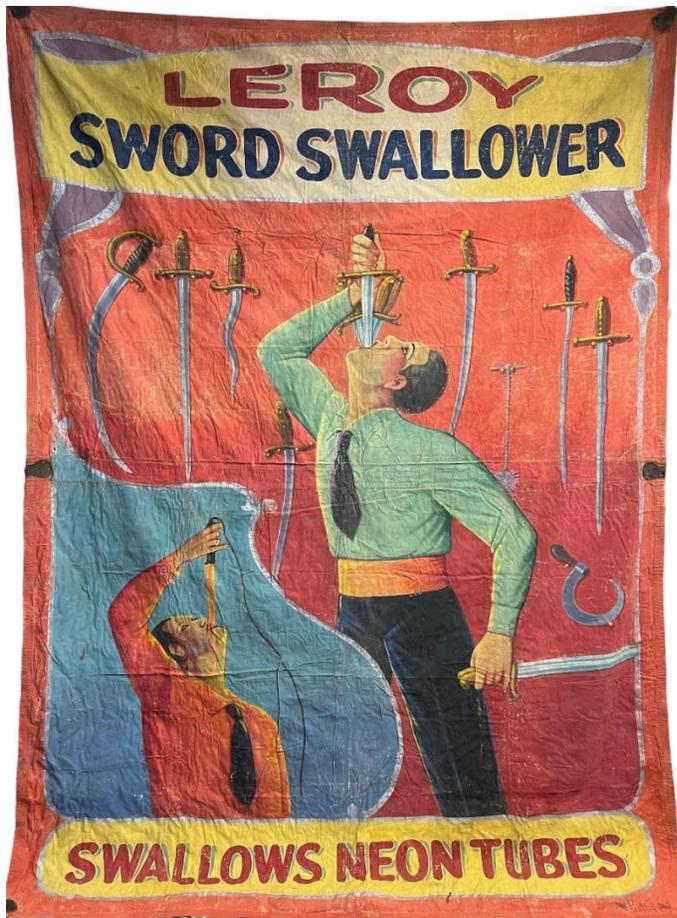
Philadelphia, June 26 1913

Fidelity Trust Company

Pay to the order of
Pay to the order of
Chas. Medford, Inc.

order
of Dollars
Buffalo Bill's Wild West
Pawnee Bill's Far East
New York

\$190.00





LILLIAN FRANCIS SMITH

THE CALIFORNIA GIRL

ANNIE OAKLEY

A collage featuring a central portrait of Annie Oakley in a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored dress with medals. Surrounding the portrait are several circular vignettes showing her in various sports: riding a horse, riding a bicycle, and shooting a rifle. A large trophy is positioned above the portrait. At the bottom, the text reads "THE PEERLESS WING AND RIFLE SHOT".

THE PEERLESS WING AND RIFLE SHOT



A large, colorful illustration of Lillian Francis Smith. She is wearing a dark blue dress with gold trim and a large, light-colored hat. She is holding a rifle in her right hand and resting her chin on her left hand. The text on her skirt reads "CHAMPION RIFLE SHOT OF THE WORLD." The background is a landscape with a fence and a sunset sky.

CHAMPION RIFLE SHOT OF THE WORLD.

CALHOUN PRINT CO



