

Remembering Paul Luckey

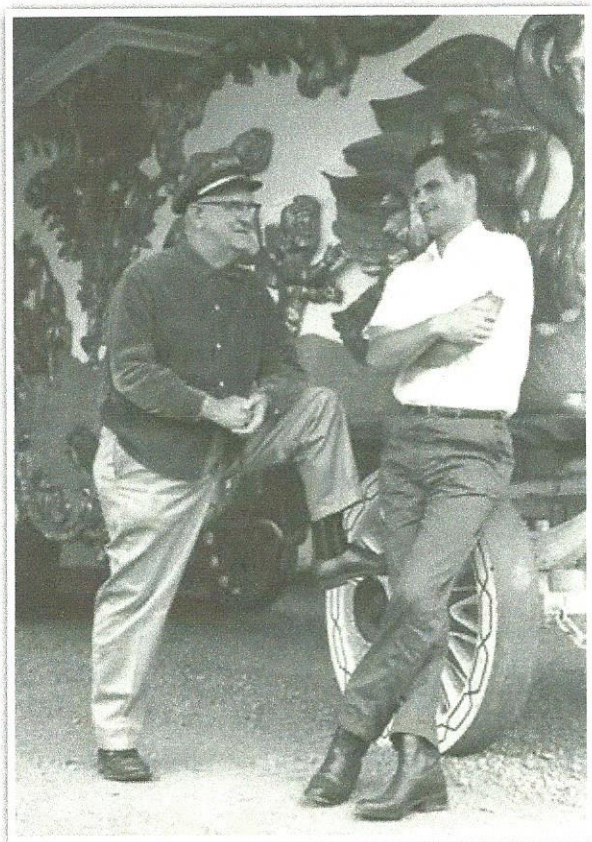


Ringmaster August 1975 at Circus World Museum

Leonard PAUL Luckey (Dec 13, 1907–Jun 23, 1982) was inducted into the Windjammers Hall of Fame at our Annual Convention in January, 1994.

Paul was a native of Richland Center, Wisconsin. In a sense, he entered show business as an eleven year old, serving as

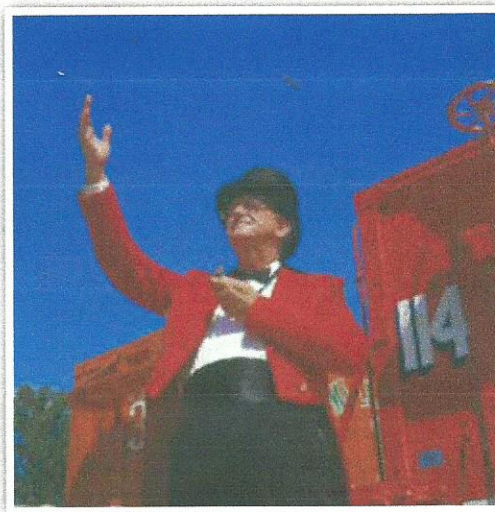
projectionist for silent movies in his home town. After a brief career as a traveling musician and music teacher, he joined the Parker and Watts Circus in 1938. During the 1940's, Luckey performed with an indoor circus operated by western movie cowboy Buck Owens. (No relation to the country-western singer of the same name).



Paul Luckey, Supt of Displays at CWM, with animal trainer John Herriott at the Swan Bandwagon in 1965

WWII brought Paul to the Badger Ordinance Works outside Baraboo, Wisconsin. During those years, he continued to play with bands and orchestras and resumed teaching private music lessons.

In 1960, he joined the Circus World Museum staff and served as ringmaster until 1977. In the off season, Mr. Luckey created displays & exhibits, including a circus art display that traveled the country. He also created a correspondence course about circus history and traveled to various communities giving programs about the circus. Through his music connections and friendships with circus band leaders and musicians, he accumulated for Circus World Museum the most extensive library of circus band music found anywhere. Especially notable is the inclusion of the personal music library of Merle Evans, long time band leader for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.



Paul Luckey with Merle Evans in 1969, the year Merle retired from his 50 years with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus



Ringmaster
Luckey leaving
his Circus Wagon
Dressing Room

*Photos Courtesy of
Barbara Bailey*

Chappie Fox, John Herriott, and Paul Luckey in a planning
mode at Circus World Museum in 1967

