

Circus Car.

Hazardous Material Removal and Windows. George reported that all hazardous material has been removed from the interior and exterior of the car, and VAHS has certifications to provide to the County at the time of donation. Workers at Uni-Glide Trailer Company are now repairing rusted segments on the exterior and opening up windows that were covered during and since the Ringling years. They are also replacing floor surfaces in the vestibules. Materials related to window replacement are scheduled to be shipped to Uni-Glide on October 16th. Bob Dills' plan is to cut the door in the near future.

George reminded the Board that hazardous materials were identified after the contract with Bob Dills was signed. Bob estimated that removal would cost \$10,460, and these funds were raised. When the removals were certified over the summer, Bob requested \$10,000, and a check for that amount was released to Uni-Glide.

Revised Lease and Donation Agreements. VAHS has received revised lease and donation agreements from the County, following VAHS's feedback regarding the initial versions. George and Tom Doherty have reviewed the revised documents and are preparing remarks for the Depot Committee. The process has understandably slowed, due to Carolyn's illness. The County has been notified of the situation.

Interior Exhibits. Mary reported that the Circus Car Design Committee has had a very successful summer. Sigrid Gebel has agreed to designate the largest residential room The Gunther Gebel-Williams Residence, and Sigrid will work with committee members to decorate the room to reflect the living quarters of the Gebel family when they were on the train. Famous clown Chuck Sidlow who served as Ringling's Boss Clown for many years, has agreed that the middle-size room can be designated The Chuck Sidlow Residence. Chuck is very excited about the project and has many artifacts to share. Peggy Williams, the first female graduate of Clown College and subsequent Clown College faculty member who also was a Feld Entertainment executive after her performance years concluded, has agreed that the smallest room can be designated The Peggy Williams Residence. The display will tell Peggy's story of starting in a small room and moving up to a room the size of one-third of a car during her many years with the Circus.

The Design Committee has also determined a focus for the central exhibit area. The exhibits will address innovations in the Circus that took place during the Venice years. The focus on innovations resulted from a meeting that George, Mary, and Betty had with Deborah Walk early in the summer. Deborah pointed out that every time the circus moved, it re-invented itself. The notion of re-invention provided an organizing concept for the many topics that the committee wished to cover in the exhibit area.

The earliest Venice innovation was the construction of the Venice Arena in 1960. A miniature of the Arena (about 3' x 4' in size) is currently being created by craftsman Bill Dovel. Other innovations to be highlighted include the purchase of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus by a group that included Irvin Feld; the acquisition of Circus Williams, including Gunther Gebel-Williams; the beginning of two traveling units—the Red and Blue units; the creation of Clown College, an initiative unique to Venice; along with special stories about the relationship between Venice and the Circus, and Venice's circus legacy.