

WINDJAMMERS HALL OF FAME

A. LEE HINCKLEY (1892-1985), 1977 Inductee

By Rod Everhart, WJU #1351, (with thanks to an obituary written by Charles Schlarbaum and research by April Zink)

Archie Lee Hinckley was born October 9, 1892, the youngest of nine children by Thomas C. and Lydia A. Hinckley. The young boy went by his middle name all his life, but it was usually accompanied by his first initial when put in print. His father was a well driller in the small town of Oxford, located near the Illinois border in the Northwest Quadrant of Indiana.

While Hinckley deserves recognition, Oxford's most famous celebrity actually turns out to be the standard bred horse, Dan Patch. Lee was four when the horse was foaled. The horse achieved celebrity status by setting world speed records that remained unbroken until 1960. The horse continues to be honored at the town's annual Dan Patch Days festival. Wouldn't it be nice if A. Lee Hinckley were given similar honors?

As a young boy, Lee began playing the cornet so he could be in the town band. In 1909, a circus called Honest Bill's 25-Cent Shows came to town. They set up on a pasture across from the barn where racehorse Dan Patch was born. When the circus packed up and moved on to the next town, Lee was part of it, another case of a teenager "running away with the circus!" Somehow he managed to end the Season as bandmaster of their 15-piece circus band.

From 1910 to 1915, Hinckley was on cornet with Gentry Brothers Dog & Pony Show, mentored by bandmaster Harry O. ("Pops" or "Crig") Crigler. [See the Nov/Dec 2017 *Circus Fanfare* Hall of Fame feature on Crigler, Windjammers' 2009 inductee.] Crigler was no doubt instrumental in developing Hinckley's musical talents as the young man became quite proficient on cornet, E-flat clarinet, drums and calliope. At Gentry, if you were able to finish a season, you were considered to be a first-rate Windjammer. So, it was with those credentials that Lee built his career as a cornetist and circus bandmaster.

What was amazing about Hinckley was the number of different circuses and shows with which he was connected during his 50-year circus career. Most seasons he was with a different show, sometimes switching mid-season. However, after Gentry Bros., he spent three seasons during the World War 1 years with Howe's Great London Shows. In 1919, he took a breather, setting up a boy's

band in Monett, MO, called Lee's Concert Band. Included were 21 boys under the age of 21 ... six clarinets, 1 flute, 4 cornets, 3 horns, 2 trombones, 1 euphonium, 2 tubas, 2 drums. It was during that stint in Monett that Harvey Phillips (Windjammers Hall of Fame inductee in 2010) recalls attending a Town Band concert there with Hinckley as conductor. This was Phillips first live band experience and he reported being so impressed by the man who had magically waved the small white stick, "causing" music to come from the band.

After a year in Monett, Hinckley went back on the road, this time with Hunt Bros. Circus. In 1922, he was on cornet first with Atterbury Bros. Circus and then Christy Bros. Circus.

His first true bandmaster role happened in 1923, when he joined Honest Bill Newton's Show, replacing Herbert Swift. At that time, the band had 2 cornets, 3 clarinets, 2 trombones, 1 euphonium, 2 tubas and 2 drums. A year later, he moved over to a sister show of Bill's, called Orange Brothers Circus. In subsequent years, Hinckley had pay stubs with the names of many other circuses, including Robinson & Schieder, Mack Hale Circus, Bud E. Anderson Circus, Capell Bros. Circus & Carnival, Toll Brothers Spanish American Circus, Jethro Almond Circus, Barney Brothers Circus, Dan Rice Circus, Parker & Watts Circus, Russell Bros. Circus, Lewis Brothers Circus, Stevens Bros. Circus, John Pawling Circus, King-Cristiani Circus, Cristiani Bros. Circus, and King Brothers Circus.



Hinckley in 1938 - Parker-Watts Circus

Hinckley's first of several tours of duty with King Brothers Circus was in 1946 and 1947. It was during that time that Harvey Phillips' high school bandmaster persuaded Hinckley to take 17-year old Phillips onto the circus bandstand playing tuba. After having played just twenty King Bros. Circus shows, Harvey stepped off the

bandstand after a matinee show and was greeted by a man who said he thought Harvey played great, but needed first notes, the tuba played so much better it was reported that bandmaster Hinckley almost dropped his cornet. It was Hinckley himself who advanced Harvey the needed \$100 to complete the purchase.

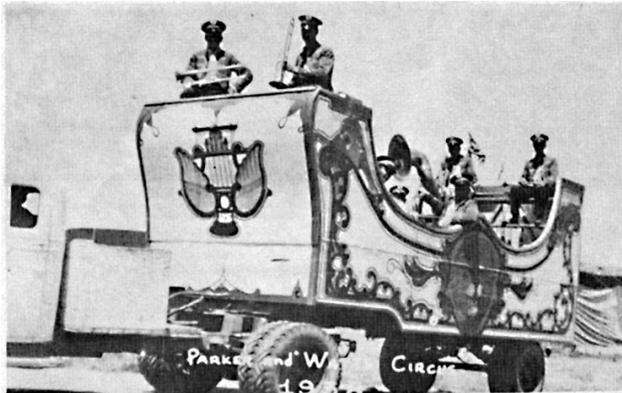
a better instrument. And he had just the instrument. Harvey tried it out at the evening performance. With the Hinckley died December 4, 1985 in West Lafayette, IN at the age of 93. His remains were cremated and shipped to Cleveland, OK for the services. His wife, Eva Bell Verland, died December, 1969.

A. Lee Hinckley retired from circus life in 1960 at age 68. His last 11 seasons had been as bandmaster of King or Cristiani, or a combination thereof. His replacement at King Bros. in 1961 was Charles "Chuck" Schlarbaum (WJU #61, WJU Hall of Fame 2007), and Schlarbaum and Hinckley at that point were good friends. Chuck liked to call him "Uncle Lee" and says they "spent many an hour around the old wood stove at winter quarters, discussing circus music and circus musicians." Chuck used Lee's expertise by having him as the technical advisor when Chuck did a recording for Bob Hoe [Windjammers Hall of Fame inductee in 1975.]



Eva B. 1899-1969

A. Lee 1892-1985



1938 - Parker & Watts - Lee Hinckley & Paul Luckey at top



1938 - Parker & Watts Circus Band - Hinckley 3rd from right



1950's band on flatbed; Hinckley on bass drum



1950's - King Bros. Circus Band - bandleader Hinckley at right



1951 - King Bros. Circus Band - Bandmaster A. Lee Hinckley



1952 - King Bros.- Cristiani #1 Bandwagon

APPENDIX:

A. LEE HINCKLEY'S CIRCUS CAREER

CIRCUS CAREER SPANS OVER 50 YEARS:

1909	Honest Bill's 25-cent Shows (age 17, bandmaster of 15-piece band)
1910-1915	Gentry Brothers Dog & Pony Show-cornet (bandleader Harry "Pops" Crigler)
1916-1918	Howe's Great London Shows- cornet
1919	Lee's Concert Band organized in Monett, MO (Boys band under age 21, Flute, 6 cl, 4 cnt, 3 horns, 2 tbn, euph, 2 tubas, 2 drums)
1920	Hunt Bros. Circus-cornet
1922	Atterbury Bros. Circus-cornet
1922	Christy Bros. Circus-cornet
1923	Honest Bill's Show (bandmaster with 2 cornet, 3 clar, 2 tbn, barit, 2 alto, tuba, 2 drums)
1924	Honest Bill Newton (15 bandsmen)
1925-27	Orange Brothers Circus (2nd show of Bill Newton)
1928	Robinson & Schielder
1929	Mack Hale Circus (bandmaster) Other circuses in the 1920s playing cornet: Bud E. Anderson Circus, Capell Bros. Circus & Carnival
1934	Toll Brothers Circus
1935	Jethro Almond Circus
1936	Barney Brothers Circus
1936- 1937	Dan Rice Circus
1938	Parker & Watts Circus
1939-1940	Lewis Brothers Circus
1941	Russell Bros. Circus
1942-1943	Lewis Bros. Circus
1945	Bud E. Anderson shows
1946-1947	King Brothers Circus (15 bandsmen, Harvey Phillips joined the band on tuba, 1947)
1948	Stevens Bros. Circus
1949	John Pawling Circus
1950-1951	King Bros. Circus (7 bandsmen)
1952-1953	King Bros. -Cristiani Circus
1954-1956	King Bros. Circus (11 bandsmen)
1957	Cristiani Bros. Circus
1959-1960	King Bros. Circus

Personnel of Hinckley's 1947 KING BROS. CIRCUS BAND: Bandmaster playing cornet - A. Lee Hinckley; Cornet - Jimmie Hurt, Roy Short, Carl Woolrich and Dave Brinner; Clarinet and Sax - Frank Novak and Frank Owens; Trombone - Robert Herson, George Roye, Carl Kubler; Baritone - Sylvester Larios; Tuba - Joe La Frances; Drums - James Johnson; Air Calliope - William "Buddy" Geiss; Steam Calliope - A. Deacon Albright.

Personnel of the 1947 KING BROS. SIDESHOW BAND: Bandmaster playing trombone - H.C. Brown; Trombone - Earl Fennel; Trumpet - W.H. Pier, Smiley Walker, Alfred Brazley; Clarinet and Sax - Claude Pasaver; Tuba - Willie Wilson; Soloist - Susie Rogers; Drums - Davis Nelson; Comedians & Dancers - Nip Golden and Walter Merritt.

Personnel of the 1953 KING BROS - CRISTIANI CIRCUS BAND: Hinckley, bandleader and trumpet; Cornet-Phil Doto, Lewis Hawks, Philip Garkowj, Ed Nisham (he died shortly after season began); Trombone-Alfred Burlingame, Charles Wanford; Bass-Edward Damon; Drums-Al Yoder; Air Calliope- Walter Geiss.

A. Lee Hinckley in 1952-53 with KING-CRISTIANI CIRCUS

Written by Joseph T. Bradbury (reprinted from Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.2, edited April Zink)

April 5, 1952 was a circus day to remember. It was opening day of the King Bros.-Cristiani Circus on the lot at historic Central City Park in Macon (GA). Macon had served in the past as the winter home of Sun. Bros., Sparks, and Downie Bros. circuses. On this day the grand, free, street parade was reborn. Thirteen years earlier when Cole Bros. and Parker & Watts Circuses gave their final parades during the 1939 season, all of the experts solemnly assured us that the circus parade was now dead, as extinct as the singing clown. There were a few attempts to later revive the parade such as in 1912 when the new V&H Circus assembled wagons and had planned to present a daily parade but unfortunately that show lasted only a single day. The Jay Gould Circus in the late 40s did put on makeshift parades at times but there was no serious attempt to bring back this daily feature of circus day until Floyd King and his partners, Lucio and the rest of the Christiani's did so in 1952.

I had been an almost weekly visitor to the King-Cristiani quarters in Macon during the winter and Floyd King had told me the exciting news about the new parade as early as January. One day he said, "Son, come in the office with me, I want to show you a photo of the steam calliope I have just purchased for our parade this season." I recognized it immediately as one of the famed Gentry twin steamers which he had bought from Dr. Karland Fritzkorn of Norfolk. The steam calliope, incidentally, was one that Floyd King had once owned and had been on his Cole Bros. Circus which went bankrupt in mid-season 1930. The No.1 bandwagon to be used in the parade was a beautiful shell type vehicle which had been built for the V&H Circus mentioned above. It was painted red with gold leaf on the carvings. In the center of the wagon was a huge carving of a bird, which had come off a former Ringling tableau and had been owned by Floyd and his brother, Howard King, back in the 20s. It was last used on their Gentry Bros. Circus in 1929. At the beginning of the 1952 season, the bandwagon was equipped with steel rimmed, sunburst wagon wheels but these were later replaced with pneumatic tires during the season.

I arrived on the lot early, Sat., April 5, and activity was already underway for the parade which would leave the lot at 10am. Three performances were scheduled at 12:15, 3:00 and 8 pm. About thirty minutes before departure, they hitched up a 4-horse team to the bandwagon. These were not draft horses but ring stock which had been assembled for the team. I assume they had hard-assed them during the week but they were still mighty frisky and the driver, as well as the bandsmen, were nervous. To discourage any kind of runaway, they brought up the sideshow fighting lion cage truck to travel immediately behind the bandwagon and a huge cable was anchored from the bandwagon to the truck. The truck would follow close enough so that the cable would lie slack on the ground, but in case the team started to take off on a runaway, it would hopefully be used to brake the bandwagon.

Bandmaster A. Lee Hinckley placed his 9-bandsmen on the seats about fifteen minutes before time to leave. (The 10th bandsman on air calliope, rode with his truck-mounted instrument as a separate unit in the parade.) Hinckley wanted the final few minutes to warm-up the band and get the team accustomed to what it would be hearing on the journey through the downtown streets of Macon. With teamster in the center of the regular driver's seat, flanked by two bandsmen, with the rest of the musicians occupying the other seats, Hinckley gave the cue and the band broke out with Fred Jewell's magnificent, GENTRY'S TRIUMPHAL MARCH. Oh! but it sounded great, and Hinckley's trumpet could be heard above it all, making you feel that surely Gabriel himself had descended from the heavens. Maybe it was Gabriel, after all the experts had assured us we'd never again see and hear the sounds of a circus parade in our lifetimes. Hinckley always had a knack of having his band sound on opening day like it was in mid-season form, in marked contrast to some bands I have heard very early in the season. To this day, whenever I hear GENTRY'S TRIUMPHAL MARCH, I recall that spring morning back in 1952 when A. Lee Hinckley and the King Bros.-Cristiani band played it at the rebirth of the American circus street parade.

Advance the calendar one year to April 4, 1953. Again it is opening day in Macon for the King Bros.-Cristiani Circus. The morning street parade had returned and the opening performance, first of three scheduled, is in progress. Hinckley's 10-piece band is on the bandstand under the big top. It is now time for an exciting number in the program, the so called "old time leaps". This was a popular act before the turn of the century and in the early 1900s, then it faded away for a number of years. Charlie Sparks made a big ballyhoo of the return of the leaps in his Downie Bros. Circus performance in 1931. Billy Pape headed the list of Downie leapers that season and climaxed the act by going over several elephants. Floyd King had the leaps in 1947, the first time I had ever seen King Bros., which made its debut the previous year. In 1953, the inclined runway used for the leaps began in the third ring and led to the center where the leapers hit the springboard and did all kinds of mid-air maneuvers before landing on a huge mat. There were about six leapers, members of the Cristiani clan, plus Red Dingler, local Macon performer, who was with the show for several seasons. Lucio Cristiani clowning in the act and Tripoli Cristiani climaxed the number by going over 5 elephants. Hinckley's book called for a single piece to be played during the leaps, from the time the performers first headed up the runway until Tripoli's final leap) over the elephants. It was Karl King's great SUNSHINE GALOP, my personal favorite of favorites. The band played it at breakneck speed and Al Yoder had the drums at the 1-1 beat almost rising off the bandstand. So captivating was the music, it made one want to jump out of his seat and run up the platform with the rest of the leapers. For several seasons Hinckley played SUNSHINE GALOP for this act. A few years later when the Cristiani Bros. Circus was formed, this same number was used for the leaps. I recall in 1959, that Ramon Escorcia's 7-piece band on the Cristiani Bros. Circus, played SUNSHINE GALOP for leaps which were performed by the Renaults (Cristianis) with Belmonte Cristiani going over 4 elephants as a finale. I also recall in 1963, Ramon Escorcia's 5-piece band on the Sells & Gray Circus, he playing SUNSHINE GALOP for the Riding Santiago act.

It is now time for the finale of the 1953 King Bros.-Cristiani performance featuring Hugo Zachinni, the human cannonball. The rings are cleared and the huge cannon mounted on a truck comes into the big top and is positioned at the far end of Ring One

with the barrel pointed toward the center of the tent. As the truck is being placed into position, prop men scurry about rapidly erecting the net in which Captain Zachinni will land. In the meantime, before any announcement is made of the act by Equestrian Director Harry Thomas, Hinckley's band began playing Karl King's GARLAND ENTRY and continued with it up until just before the actual cannon shot. The band very, softly plays the trio as the tension builds with the audience during the final moments of preparation. Now the beautiful tones of the air calliope can be distinctly heard as it plays along with the band. In my opinion, Hugo Zachinni was one of the all time great circus performers. His manner of showmanship added to the excitement of the act. There were a number of the Zachinni clan doing this kind of act, but Captain Hugo was my favorite. He made a dramatic entrance into the big top, walking beside his wife, and holding his helmet in his hand. Arriving at the cannon, his wife remained at the rear beside the firing mechanism while Hugo examined the cannon thoroughly. Then he kissed his wife and climbed to the top of the barrel, signaling the adjustment to the proper angle. Then he walked to the end of the barrel, put on his helmet, raised his head and eyes to heaven, made the sign of the cross, then lowered himself feet first down into the barrel. The music stopped and Harry Thomas made a short announcement telling the history of the act, how it was first performed on the "Isle of Malta" etc. Then Harry called for absolute silence and a hush crept over the audience and you could see small hands covering the ears on small heads and even most of the grownups squinted and cringed in anticipation of the loud noise soon to follow. Mamma Zachinni then called out in a loud, clear voice, "Are you ready, Captain Hugo Zachinni?" Deep from inside the cannon came the faint cry, "Yes. I'm ready." A moment later came the tremendous explosion and sailing through the air and into the net without a blemish, Capt. Zachinni. A cheer went up, grins broke out on every face in the audience, relieved not only that the good Captain had made it safely but that the loud report of the cannon was all over. Hinckley's band hit into a patriotic strain. The audience rose and headed for the track and to the exits. They knew it was all out and over without any prompting from Ringmaster Thomas. It was a socko finish to a great performance. The cannon finale did it's job, it sent them home happy. In my memory, to this day, whenever I hear the GARLAND ENTRY, I recall the great cannon in 1953. The days the King show wintered in Macon hold some of my finest circus memories. Their first winter was 1947-48, then wintered in Rosenberg, Texas 1948-49, but came back to Macon following the 1949 season and used the old Central City Park facilities as it's winter home as long as the show was on the road. Unfortunately in 1956, King Bros. went on the road in units, Eastern and Western, failed before the end of the year and the Floyd King version of the title was over.

Hinckley's 1953 King Bros.-Cristiani Circus Band had the following personnel: Hinckley, bandleader and trumpet; Cornet-Phil Doto, Lewis Hawks, Philip Garkowj, Ed Nisham (he died shortly after season began); Trombone-Alfred Burlingame, Charles Wanford; Bass-Edward Damon; Drums-AI Yoder; Air Calliope- Walter Geiss.

Unk.source, date: Lee Hinckley, veteran circus bandmaster, leads a fine little four-piece band which has two trumpets, 1 trombone, and drums. Although small it is still very live and in the opinion of this reviewer far superior to an electric organ or canned music. The band uses several circus marches and gallops and specializes in old standards such as "Rosalie," "Beautiful Lady in Blue," "Somebody Stole My Gal," "Sidewalks of New York" and other such tunes that have been used to cue circus performances for years.

In 1919, Mrs. A. Lee Hinckley (Eva Bell Verland) was listed as a banner solicitor with the Gentry Bros. Circus.

A. Lee Hinkley was inducted to the Windjammers Unlimited Hall of Fame in recognition of his 50 years as a circus musician and band leader. Windjammers Unlimited was founded in 1971, and Hinckley was named its Hall of Fame Laureate in January, 1977.

Photos in 2018 Circus Fanfare article, page 2

[1938-ParkerWatts-ALeeHinckley-bandleader.jpg](#)

SOURCE Buster's Scrapbook - Bandleader A. Lee Hinckley at backdoor in Spectacle parade uniform with cape

[1938-ParkerWatts-Hinckley-Luckey.jpg](#)

SOURCE Buster's Scrapbook CAPTION Parker & Watts Circus Band - A. Lee Hinckley, bandleader (Paul Luckey, 2nd from left)

[1938-ParkerWatts-Hinckley.jpg](#)

Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.1 Pg.8-1938 Parker & Watts Circus Band on #1 bandwagon-A. Lee Hinckley bandleader (PHOTO Joe Bradbury)

[1950s-flatbed-KingBros-Hinckley.jpg](#)

Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.2 Pg.18- CAPTION Trombone-unk, Trombone-unk, Tuba-Eddie Doman, Baritone-Walter Peele, Snare-Paulson, Bass Drum-A.Lee Hinckley, Trumpet-Phil Doto, Trumpet-Phil Garkow (PHOTO Lee Hinckley)

[1950s-KingBros-Hinckley.jpg](#)

Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.2 Pg.9- CAPTION Trumpet-Clarence Swanger, Tuba-Palmore, Drummer-Al Yoder, Comet-Hilton Smith, Baritone-unk, Comet-James Hurt, Trumpet & Bandleader-A.Lee Hinckley, Calliope-Walter Geis (PHOTO Lee Hinckley)

[1951-KingBros-Hinckley.jpg](#)

Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.2 Pg.9- CAPTION Drummer-Al Yoder, Bandmaster-A. Lee Hinckley, Comet-Clarence Swanger, Trumpet-unk, Trumpet-unk, Baritone-Walter Peele, Tuba-Eddie Damon, Trombone-Alfred Burlingame, Trombone-Charles Wanford, Calliope-Walter Geis (PHOTO Lee Hinckley)

[1952-pneumatic-KingBrosCristiani-Hinckley.jpg](#)

Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.2 Pg.10- CAPTION Sideview of the No.1 Bandwagon with 4-horse hitch in King Bros. -Cristiani street parade late in the 1952 season. Note, pneumatic tires replaced the sunburst wagon wheels. (PHOTO Joe Bradbury)

SOURCES for A. LEE HINCKLEY - 1977 Windjammer Hall of Fame recipient (COMPILED FROM THE CIRCUS FANFARE ARCHIVE INDEX)

Vol. 7, No. 3 – 1977

PHOTO poor resolution – March 27, 1977 presentation of Windjammer's Hall of Fame award to A. Lee Hinckley by Ward Stauth in Lafayette, IN

Photo from Busters Scrapbook - 1938 band before spectacle - in capes - 9 members - Paul Luckey 2nd from left (cornet) (WJU HOF Paul Luckey spotlight in Vol.47 No.1, 2017); Portrait of A. Lee Hinckley bandleader 1938.

Vol. 8, No. 1 – 1978

PHOTO Pg.8-1938 Parker & Watts Circus Band on #1 bandwagon-A. Lee Hinckley bandleader (PHOTO Joe Bradbury)

Vol. 8, No. 2 – 1978 Article written by Joseph T. Bradbury - three songs as played by Hinckley's circus band

PHOTOS. Pg.9-1951 & 1950s era King Bros. Circus Band- A. Lee Hinckley bandmaster

Pg.10- A.Lee Hinckley's Band on Cristiani Bros 4/7/1952-Bandwagon No.1 sunburst wheels Athens GA;

Pg.10- Late 1952 same band and wagon, pneumatic tires (Joe Bradbury).

Pg.18-1950s King Bros. Band in parade on flatbed- A Lee Hinckley bandleader (A Lee Hinckley).

Vol. 10, No. 1 – 1980

1947 King Bros. Circus band-A. Lee Hinckley & sideshow band personnel (Rick McConnell)

Vol. 16, No. 1 – 1986

OBITUARY: Closing Chord, A Lee Hinckley, Bandmaster, Pioneer Artist (Charles Schlarbaum)

Vol. 18, No. 4 – 1988

ARTICLE: A Lee Hinckley - Circus Bandmaster - Modern Medium-Size Tent Shows; listing years and titles (Richard Prince)

Vol. 26, No. 2 – 1996

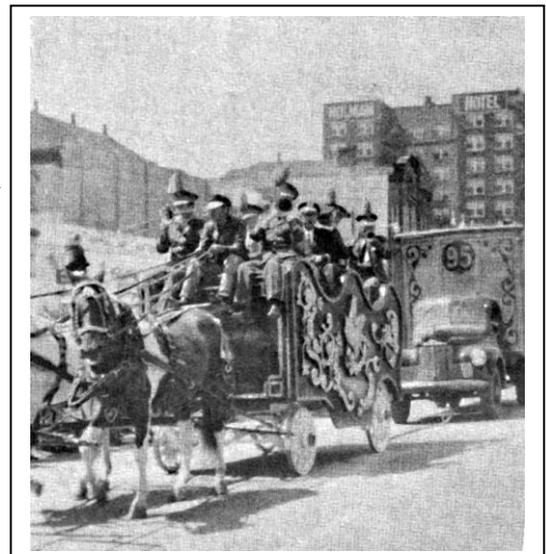
REPRINT FROM 1978-VOL8-NO2 - EDITED BY PECKHAM - POOR RES- COPIED PHOTOS.

Pg.21-1952-Cristiani-Bros-Circus-bandwagons-A. Lee Hinckley, bandleader

[1952-sunburst-KingBrosCristiani-Hinckley.jpg](#) =====>

Circus Fanfare 1978 Vol.8 No.2 Pg.10- CAPTION A. Lee Hinckley's band on No.1 Bandwagon in King Bros. -Cristiani Circus parade at Athens, GA, April 2, 1952-second stand of the season.

Note the sideshow fighting lion cage truck following closely behind. There is a cable on the ground between the truck and the bandwagon to brake the bandwagon in case of runaway horses. Also observe the steel rimmed sunburst wagon wheels on the bandwagon at the beginning of the season. They were changed to a pneumatic tires later on.
(PHOTO Joe Bradbury)



Ancestry.com info:

Parents: Thomas Childs Hinckley (11/18/1848 - 6/9/1933) and Lydia A (Headley) Hinckley (7/31/1848 - 12/29/1928)

Full Name: Archie Lee Hinckley, born Oct 9, 1892 - died Dec 4, 1985.

Archie Lee was the youngest of 9 Siblings:

1. William Alfred 1869-1953
2. Mary Lydia 1871-1960
3. Susan A. "Susie" 1873-1949
4. Pearl Sarah 1875-1973 (Dec 8)
5. Harry Thomas 1877-1950
6. Mattie E. 1880 (Dec)-1881 (Aug)
7. Gertrude L 1884-1983
8. Charles Lester 1887-1949
9. Archie Lee 1892-1985

Spouse: Eva Bell Verland (Oct 8, 1899- Dec 1969). Eva is buried at Bethany Cemetery, Pawnee OK

Lee Hinckley's location at death: Tippecanoe, Indiana

Marker: Bethany Cemetery, Hallett county, Pawnee, Oklahoma

Hinckley Family taken circa 1895



back: Willie (1), Gertrude (7), Harry (5), Pearl (4), Susie (3), Mary (2)
front: Thomas, Archie Lee (9), Charles (8), Lydia

Hinckley's WW1 Registration card

Form 1 **751 REGISTRATION CARD** No. *10*

1 Name in full *Archie Lee Hinckley* Age in yrs *25*
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address *Oxford Ind*
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth *Oct 9 1892*
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural Born*

5 Where were you born? *Oxford Ind*
(State) (Country)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? *Chuyon*

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Mechanic*

8 By whom employed? *Mil & Sulbeck Co*
 Where employed? *Greenville Texas*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? *None*

10 Married or single (which) *Married* Race (specify which) *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank *no*; branch *no*
 years *no*; Nation or State *no*

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *Yes wife to support*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Archie Lee Hinckley
(Signature of man)

If person is of African descent, check this corner

829 13-1-A

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which) *Medium Slender, medium, or stout* *Medium*

2 Color of eyes? *Gray* Color of hair? *Brown* Bald? *no*

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? *no*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J. W. Johnson
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct *North Day* County *Clay*
 City or County *Oxford* *Harrison*
 State *Ind.* *Ind.*

Order No. 578

Hinckley's WW2 Registration card

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U <u>382</u>	1. NAME (Print) <u>Archie Lee Hinckley</u> (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) <u>Route #1 Cleveland, Pawnee Oklahoma</u> (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS <u>Route #1 Cleveland, Pawnee, Oklahoma</u> (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE <u>1600F32</u> (Exchange) (Number)	5. AGE IN YEARS <u>49</u> DATE OF BIRTH <u>Oct. 9, 1892</u> (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH <u>Oxford Indiana</u> (Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS <u>Dan Vesseland, Route #1, Cleveland, Pawnee, Oklahoma</u>		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS <u>Band Leader for various circus</u>		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over)	<u>A. Lee Hinckley</u> (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White	<u>5' 7 1/2"</u>	<u>135</u>	Sallow		
	EYES	HAIR	Light		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negro	Blue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blonde	Ruddy		
	Gray	Red	Dark		
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled		
	Brown	Black <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Light brown		
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown		
		Bald	Black		
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:
Right Handed

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

[Signature]
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board #1, Cleveland, Pawnee, Okla.
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration April 25th, 1942

Local Board of Pawnee County,
COURT HOUSE,
PAWNEE, OKLAHOMA
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

16-21630-4

April 1942 (age 49) [The Selective Service Act on September 16, 1940 applied to men ages 21-44 for potential service.

All men age 18-65 had to register.

However, on October 18, 1942 all men over the age of 45 were designated IV-A ... overage and unfit for military service.

Source: Historynet.com

There is no record that Hinckley served in the U.S. military. -AZ

A. LEE HINCKLEY DESCENDANTS

While it appears A. Lee and his wife Eva Bell did not have any children, Lee did father a child out of wedlock when he was 21 years old. The mother was Jennie Ethyl Reeves, listed in the census as a housekeeper. She was born February 2, 1892 and died December 17, 1960.

The child, a son, was born October 27, 1913 at 9:30 p.m. He was named John Burnham Reeves. Jennie's parents were John C. Reeves and Jennie (Burnham) Reeves. The birth certificate shows the father as Archie Hinckley, a Showman, Oxford, IN, and notes the birth was not "legitimate."

PLACE OF BIRTH		INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS		CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH.	
County of <i>DeWitt</i>	Township of <i>Oxford</i>	Registered No. <i>175</i>	
Town of <i>Oxford</i>	City of <i>Oxford</i>	St. _____	Ward _____
FULL NAME OF CHILD <i>John Burnham Reeves</i>		Born Alive? <i>Yes</i>	
Sex of Child <i>Male</i>	Twin, Triplet, or Other _____	Legitimate? <i>No</i>	Date of Birth <i>Oct. 27 1913</i>
FATHER Full Name <i>Archie Hinckley</i>		MOTHER Full Maiden Name <i>Jennie Reeves</i>	
Residence <i>Oxford</i>		Residence <i>Oxford</i>	
Color or Race <i>W.</i>	Age at last Birthday <i>21</i>	Color or Race <i>W.</i>	Age at last Birthday <i>21</i>
Birthplace <i>Oxford, Ind.</i>		Birthplace <i>Evansland Ind.</i>	
Occupation <i>Showman</i>		Occupation <i>at home</i>	
Number of child of this mother <i>1</i>	Number of children, of this mother, now living _____	Were precautions taken against Ophthalmia neonatorum? <i>Yes</i>	
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*			
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of above child; and that it occurred on <i>Oct 27 1913</i> , at <i>9:30 P.M.</i>			
* When there is no attending physician or midwife, then the householder should make this return. See instructions on back.		(Signature) <i>Edna M. [Signature]</i>	
Given or christian name added from a supplemental report _____		Dated <i>11-1-1913</i> Address <i>Oxford, Ind.</i>	
HEALTH OFFICER _____		Filed <i>Oct. 31 1915</i> <i>H. [Signature]</i>	
HEALTH OFFICER _____		HEALTH OFFICER _____	

John Burnham Reeves used October 28, 1913 as his birth date. On December 28, 1936 he married Lois CLODENE Williams (b. May 4, 1920; d. January 14, 1985). They had three children -- Richard Allen and Marvin Lee, born in 1937 and 1939 respectively, and a daughter Martha Evelyn. John died May 14, 1999 at age 85. Marvin died April 23, 1990 at age 51.

John's marriage license has an oddity in that he listed his father as "Walter Hinkley", occupation "farmer." Actually that name would be a miss-spelled combination of his step-dad and his biological father. On December 23, 1916, Jennie married Walter O. Blaney, a farmer. The 1920 Census lists Jennie as Jennie Blaney. In 1922, she married Clodia Andrew Jackson. The 1930 Census lists her as Jennie Jackson (and widowed.) The 1940 Census again lists her as Jennie Jackson (but divorced.) At that time she was living with her son, John, Clodene, and her two grandsons.



About 1951 Back Row, L-R Clodene Reeves, John B. Reeves, Jenny Ethel Reeves, Richard A. Reeves
Front Row, Martha E. Reeves, Laddie, Marvin L. Reeves



About 1972, Left to right:
John Burnham Reeves & Clodene "Susie" Reeves with their
granddaughters, Susan, Julie, Lori, and daughter Martha Evelyn



John Burnham Reeves

A. LEE HINCKLEY's DEATH

Death Certificate

8: 046806

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Local No. 85181-S-35-P-204 State No. _____

DECEASED - NAME: A. LEE HINCKLEY SEX: MALE DATE OF DEATH: DEC. 4, 1985

RACE: WHITE AGE: 93 UNDER 1 YEAR: _____ UNDER 1 DAY: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: DEC. 7, 1892 COUNTY OF DEATH: TIPPECANOE

CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION OF DEATH: OTTERTOWN HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION: OTTERTOWN NURSING HOME

STATE OF BIRTH: IND. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY: U.S.A. MARRIED: NEVER MARRIED WIDOWED: DIVORCED SURVIVING SPOUSE: _____

USUAL OCCUPATION: BAND DIRECTOR KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY: RINGLE BROTHERS CIRCUS

RESIDENCE - STATE: IND. COUNTY: TIPPECANOE CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION: OTTERTOWN

STREET AND NUMBER: _____ IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES NO

15a OTTERTOWN NURSING HOME 15b YES NO

15c IS DECEASED OF SPANISH DESCENT? IF YES SPECIFY MEXICAN, CUBAN, PUERTO RICAN, ETC.

FATHER - NAME: THOMAS HINCKLEY MOTHER - MAIDEN NAME: LYDIA (UNKNOWN)

INFORMANT - NAME: KENNETH HINCKLEY RELATIONSHIP: NEPHEW MAILING ADDRESS: 3150 HARVEY LANE, WESTLAFAYETTE, LA 70004

BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL, OTHER: CREMATION CEMETERY OR CREMATORY - FUNERAL HOME: RESTHAVEN CREMATORY - LAFAYETTE, LA

DATE: DEC. 9, 1985 FUNERAL HOME - NAME AND ADDRESS: HIDDEN STREET FUNERAL HOME 822 N. 924 HARVARD

21a Signature: Donald L. McKeown, M.D. DATE SIGNED: 12-6-85 HOUR OF DEATH: 1:30 A.M.

21b NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: Donald L. McKeown, M.D.

21c MAILING ADDRESS - PHYSICIAN: P.O. Box 398 N. MEADOW ST. OTTERTOWN, IN 47970

HEALTH OFFICER - SIGNATURE: Wendell H. Riggs, MD DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER: Dec. 6, 1985

22a IMMEDIATE CAUSE: cardiac arrest

PART 4 (a) DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: cardiac arrest

(b) DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: arteriosclerotic heart disease

(c) DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: _____

PART 5 OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: Renal insufficiency, cardiovascular insufficiency

SBH 06-003 State Form 35430 REV 10/77

TYPE OR PRINT PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

Below for State Office Use

A 1

B 1

C 1994

D 6

E 999

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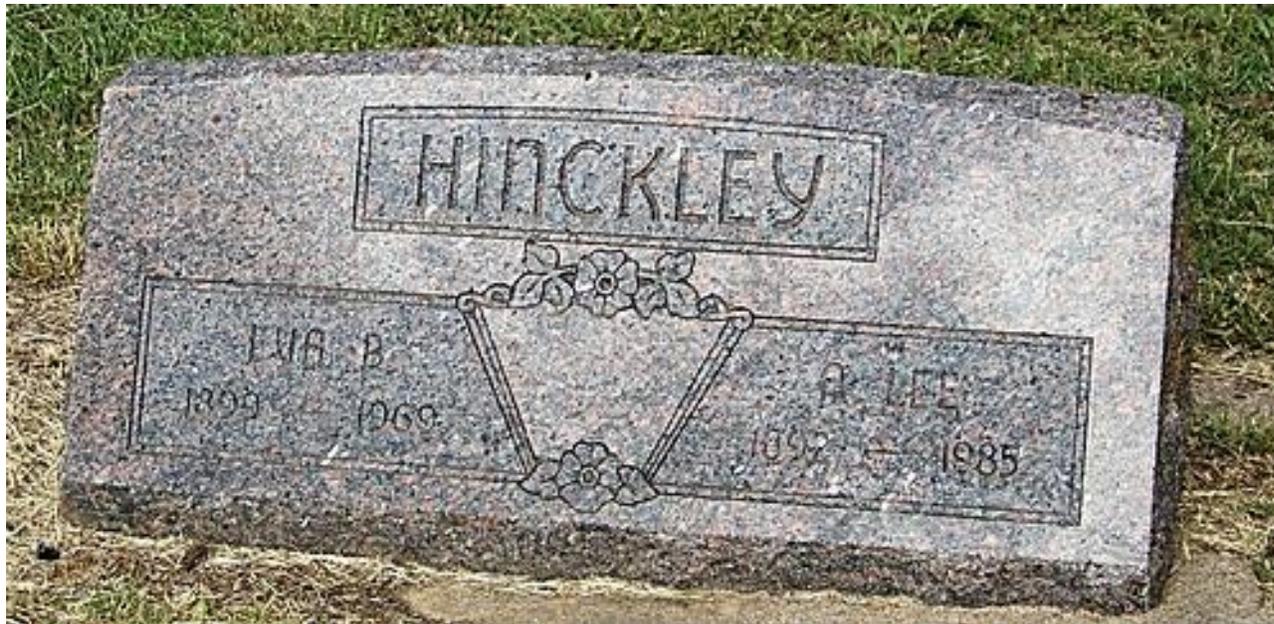
FUNERAL HOME No. 395

FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S LICENSE No. 269

EMBALMER'S NAME: M. H. PRIDEMORE

FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

Tombstone



OBITUARY prepared by Charles J. Schlarbaum and published in the JAN-FEB 1986 (Vol. 16, No. 1) *Circus Fanfare*, a publication of Windjammers Unlimited. Charles "Chuck" Schlarbaum succeeded Lee Hinckley as bandmaster of King Bros. Circus.

Closing Chord

A. Lee Hinckley
Bandmaster Pioneer Artist

A. LEE HINCKLEY, WINDJAMMER'S HALL OF FAME MEMBER, DIED DECEMBER 3, 1985 IN WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA. HE WAS 93 YEARS OF AGE.

MR. HINCKLEY WAS BORN IN OXFORD, INDIANA, OCTOBER 7, 1892. HIS FATHER WAS A WELL DRILLER.

IN 1909 A CIRCUS CAME TO OXFORD. THE LOT THEY SHOWED ON WAS A PASTURE ACROSS FROM THE BARN WHERE THE FAMOUS RACEHORSE "DAN PATCH" WAS BORN. WHEN THE CIRCUS PACKED UP AND LEFT TOWN LEE WAS WITH IT. A CORNET PLAYER IN A CIRCUS BAND AT THE AGE OF 17.

A. LEE HINCKLEY WAS PROFICIENT ON CORNET, Eb CLARINET, DRUMS AND CALLIOPE. AT VARIOUS TIMES IN HIS CAREER THESE DOUBLES STOOD HIM IN GOOD STEAD WHEN HE WAS SHORT A MAN IN THE BAND OR NEEDED WORK.

EARLY MUSICAL TRAINING ON THE CIRCUS WAS COMPLETED UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF HARRY "POPS" CRIGLER ON THE GENTRY DOG AND PONY SHOW. IF YOU WERE ABLE TO FINISH A SEASON ON THAT SHOW YOU WERE CONSIDERED TO KNOW YOUR "STUFF". WITH THESE CREDENTIALS LEE STARTED HIS CAREER AS A CIRCUS BANDMASTER. WE DO NOT KNOW THE FIRST SHOW HE LED A BAND ON, BUT DO KNOW THAT HE WAS A PIONEER BANDMASTER WITH THE FIRST MOTORIZED "MUD" SHOWS.

A PARTIAL LIST OF THE SHOWS MR. HINCKLEY WAS BANDMASTER ON INCLUDES: ORANGE BROS. CIRCUS, HONEST BILL NEWTON CIRCUS, BUD ANDERSON CIRCUS, DAN RICE CIRCUS, LEWIS BROS. CIRCUS, CAPELL BROS. CIRCUS & CARNIVAL, KING-CRISTIANI CIRCUS AND THE KING BROS. CIRCUS.

HARVEY PHILLIPS, TUBA PLAYER EXTRORDINAIRE, STARTED HIS CIRCUS CAREER WITH A. LEE HINCKLEY ON KING BROS. CIRCUS.

IN THE LATE WINTER LEE WOULD HEAD FOR THE CIRCUS WINTER QUARTERS. HE WOULD BE ARMED WITH HIS PAINT KIT, CAMEL HAIR BRUSHES AND PLENTY OF GOLD LEAF. IT WAS TIME TO TOUCH UP THE WAGONS AND GET THEM READY TO ROLL. SPRING WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. SCROLL WORK, FEROCIOUS LIONS AND TIGERS AND ORNATE LETTERING WERE ALL IN UNCLE LEE'S BAG OF TRICKS. WE SPENT MANY AN HOUR AROUND THE OLD WOOD STOVE AT WINTER QUARTERS, DISCUSSING CIRCUS MUSIC AND CIRCUS MUSICIANS. A. LEE'S EXPERTISE HELPED ME ON MY RECORDING FOR BOB HOE. HE WAS OUR TECHNICAL ADVISOR, AND HOW HE LIKED TO ADVISE.

THE REMAINS WERE CREMATED AND SHIPPED TO CLEVELAND, OKLAHOMA FOR SERVICES.

A WIFE, EVA B. VERLAND, PRECEDES HIM IN DEATH. AMONG THE SURVIVORS ARE A NEPHEW, KENNETH O. HINCKLEY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA.

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND THE RED WAGONS ARE GETTING READY TO ROLL AGAIN. WHEN THEY ROLL THEY WILL ROLL ALONG BEARING THE MEMORY OF A GREAT TROUPER AND BANDMASTER: A. LEE HINCKLEY.

CHARLES J. SCHLARBAUM