

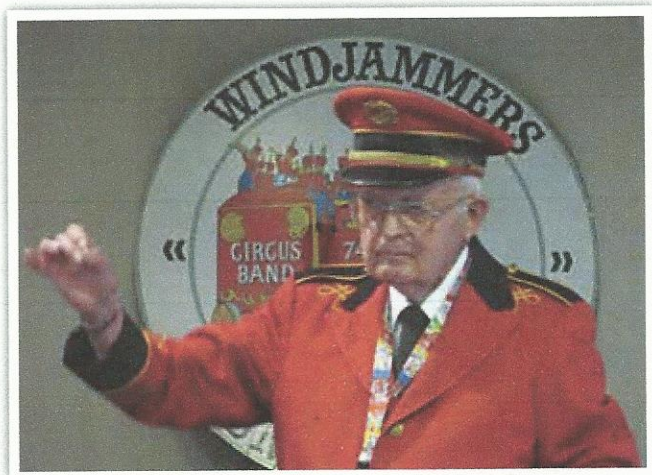
WINDJAMMERS HALL OF FAME

RICHARD WHITMARSH

Richard Whitmarsh was born in Brockton, MA on December 26, 1923. His father purchased his first student trumpet for him at age 12. Three years later Richard was the proud owner of a King Master Model cornet which was to become his featured instrument thereafter.

After graduation from school, Richard was accepted into the 50 piece U.S. Coast Guard Band and spent time serenading the Army troops as they were boarding the ships to England during World War II. The band also spent time with Hollywood personalities entertaining the troops and participating in patriotic parades and war bond rallies.

After leaving the U.S. Coast Guard Band, he worked for a short time in the Bell Department of the Conn instrument plant in Elkhart, Indiana. His starting wage in 1946 was 60 cents per hour. He also went to the Conn Musical Instrument Repair School in Elkhart. While there, he played with the Tony Papa Dance Band and ended up touring the Midwest territory doing one nighters with this well-known band.



Richard conducting "Barnum & Bailey's Favorite" at the Windjammer summer meet in Springfield on July 17, 2015. Photo by Rod Everhart

on trumpet, and did instrument repairs. Later, he became a wholesaler selling musical merchandise to other music stores in the New England area.

Richard joined Windjammers Unlimited in 1972 (Member #143), and played his cornet in the First Convention Band in Key Biscayne. Following the event, he drove up to Sarasota and visited Merle Evans at his home, where Merle grilled him about the Windjammers Convention and inspired him to a career promoting traditional circus music.

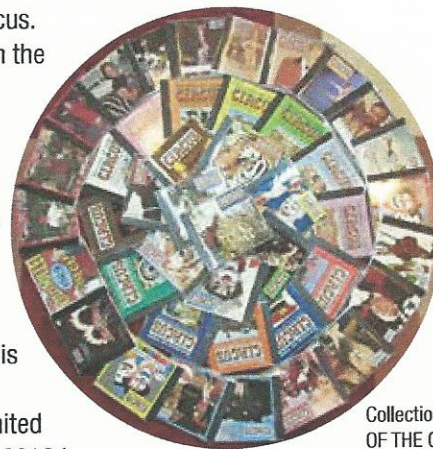
Richard began his *Sounds of the Circus* recordings in the early 1970's and has produced an amazing 55 CD's of circus music plus one DVD. Richard says he has the recordings for 7 more CD's in the hopper awaiting funding. The *Sounds of the Circus* CD's include a significant 685 unique titles, a most worthy contribution to the preservation of traditional American circus music. Richard says his bandleader uniform was designed after Merle Evans', and he tried leading the band with Merle's actions in mind. The South Shore Concert Band has performed numerous town circus concerts and public Center Ring Concerts, including 20 with the Big Apple Circus, 10 with Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers, 10 with the Big E Circus, and 5 with Kelly Miller Circus. Richard has been on the bandwagon in four Macy's Parades.

Thanks to Richard for his dedication to promoting our circus music heritage, and congratulations to his being added to the Windjammers Unlimited Hall of Fame as the 2016 honoree.



Volume 24 CD Cover - Richard Whitmarsh with Paul Binder, founder of Big Apple Circus

After returning to his hometown of East Bridgewater, MA, he performed on cornet with the Abington Legion Band from 1947 to 1962. When the conductor died, Richard was selected as his successor. He relocated the band to East Bridgewater and the name was changed to South Shore Concert Band. Soon, Richard had increased the number of summer concerts from 8 to 36. During this time, Richard opened a retail music store known as Whitmarsh Music Company, gave private lessons



Collection of SOUNDS OF THE CIRCUS CD's. Photo by Rod Everhart