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**Colvin Law**  
May/June 2017



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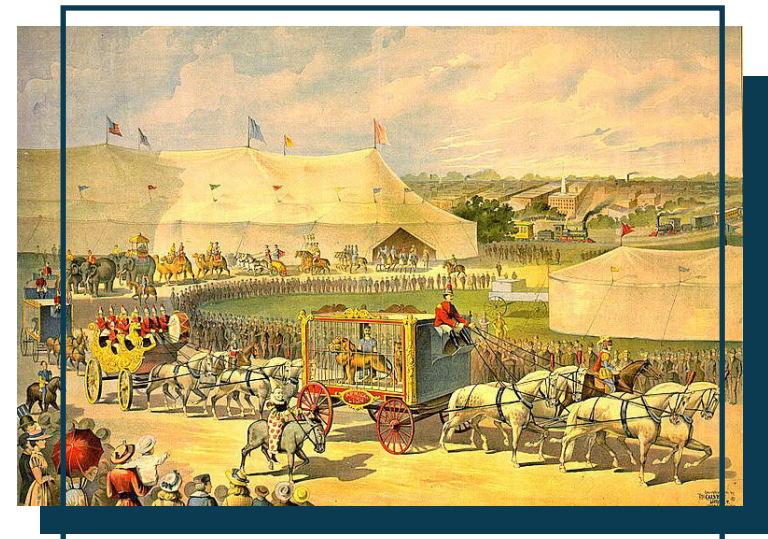
# THE END OF THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

## *The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus*

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus origins date back to more than 145 years ago and has been a constant in the American cultural fabric and imagination ever since.

P.T. Barnum was born on July 5, 1810, in Bethel, Connecticut. When Barnum was as young as 12 years old, he showed his flair for salesmanship by selling lottery tickets. His salesmanship eventually led him to secure many key attractions for his circus.

Following the death of P.T. Barnum, the circus was taken to new heights by James A. Bailey with the employment of over 1,000 people to produce the spectacle of its time. By 1887, the Ringling brothers' show was steadily growing, and they eventually became big enough to absorb their competition and become the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. In the last 145 years, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has become a cultural phenomenon that fueled the imaginations of spectators everywhere while becoming synonymous with making the impossible possible.



Over the course of the last 145 years, along with the rise of the modern circus, America has witnessed numerous life-changing innovations, including the light bulb, automobile, television, antibiotics, space travel, personal computer, internet, and smartphone. While not all of these innovations came to be because of the circus, an argument can be made that the spirit of the circus, of making the impossible possible, has aided American innovation.

Beyond fueling American imagination and innovation, the circus also appeals to everyone's inner child. It is not by chance that at the beginning of the circus, the ringmaster is always heard announcing, "Welcome, ladies, gentlemen, and children of all ages." By wowing our inner child and sparking our imagination, the circus makes us revisit our youth.

In the late 19th century, the Brooklyn Bridge was one of the largest bridges in the U.S. and an engineering marvel. However, many people refused to walk or drive their carriages across the Brooklyn Bridge because they felt it was unsafe — that is, until P.T. Barnum took his troop of elephants across the bridge. Barnum showed that if a herd of elephants could walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, so could carriages and people.

All of this is why, when I heard early this year that The Greatest Show on Earth was on its last American tour, I felt it was so important to take my two children to the circus of my youth before it came to an end.

**“Over the course of the last 145 years, along with the rise of the modern circus, America has witnessed numerous life-changing innovations.”**

So, early one Saturday morning this spring, my wife, kids, and I packed our sandwiches and drinks for a family pilgrimage by car to the outskirts of Atlanta to see the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus one last time. Seeing the circus again in a live venue brought back childhood memories of seeing the circus with my parents. I was reminded of how it both wows and thrills by showcasing that which seems to be impossible at first, can become possible with proper training and effort. In visiting the circus with my wife and kids, I realized that the daredevils and the high-wire performers were still everyone's favorite. Going back to the circus this spring not only allowed me to say goodbye to an amazing American institution, but it also allowed me to reconnect with my inner child and rekindle the American spirit and belief that anything is possible.

*- John Colvin*

# MORE THAN JUST MAY FLOWERS

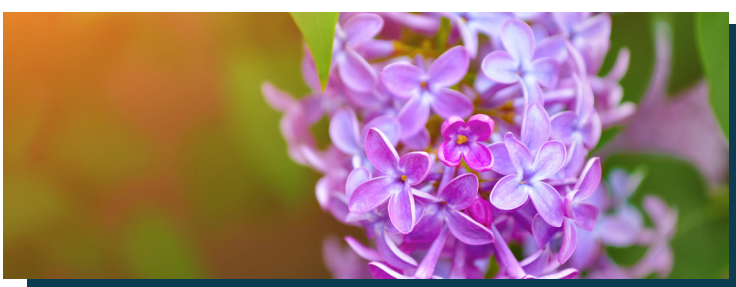
Spring has sprung, and for many people, that means it's time to get back into the garden. Before you reach for your watering can, take a moment to see how your own garden compares to some of the most unique gardens in the world.

**The Ancient City of Sigiriya**  
Location: Sri Lanka

By far the oldest entry on this list, Sigiriya is the ruins of an ancient capital city, built around A.D. 480. Today, it's a World Heritage site. Its vast system of winding irrigation channels, high terraces, and rock sculptures make up the three main gardens: a terraced garden, a water garden, and a rock garden made of boulders so massive, one has a 15-foot-tall throne carved into it.

**Poison Garden**  
Location: England

The Duchess of Northumberland's Poison Garden sits behind skull-and-crossbones-bearing black iron gates in the Alnwick Garden. This garden is home to over 100 varieties of poisonous plants, from South America's brugmansia to the more common laurel hedge. No one has died in the garden yet, though in the summer of 2014, seven people passed out after inhaling toxic fumes from some of the plants.



**Growth Chamber**  
Location: The International Space Station

Being able to grow food in space would be an invaluable boon to long-distance space travelers, and the growth chambers aboard the International Space Station are bringing astronauts closer to that goal. Cinnamon basil seeds were successfully germinated during a three-week mission back in 2007, and NASA currently has plans for sending even larger chambers to the ISS.

While your own garden may not be centuries old or up in space, that doesn't mean it's any less special. This spring, may your garden grow as green as the envy of your neighbors!

# May's Best Deals



April showers bring May deals! This month, and thanks in part to Memorial Day sales, you'll be able to save big at a number of different retailers. But scattered among all of these sales, you'll be able to find a few hidden gems that will save you hundreds, if not more. Take a look:

### Mattresses

Mattress stores always seem to be having sales. If you've ever driven past a mattress store (or 12) on your way to work or while running errands, you've probably noticed the trend. But despite these endless sales, May is one of the best months to buy a mattress, and it all comes down to one day: Memorial Day. You may still need to shop around to find the perfect mattress for your needs, but with every mattress store running sales, that affordably priced pillow top won't be hard to find.

### Refrigerators

Like mattresses, many kitchen appliances go on sale during Memorial Day weekend. But when it comes to May deals, not all appliances are created equal. Fridge manufacturers start rolling out new models in June, which means retailers need to get rid of last year's stock. If you need to upgrade other major appliances in your home (dishwasher, stove, oven, etc.), you'll want to hold off until late summer/early fall, but be sure to pick up your refrigerator now.

### Office Furniture

Right around the end of tax season in April, office furniture sellers try to get the attention of small businesses and home businesses. Like most retailers around this time, they want a piece of your tax return. Instead of jumping on Tax Day sales, wait a month and you'll be greeted by steep end-of-season discounts. Plus, with school ending in May and June, demand for office furniture is exceptionally low, giving you the chance to upgrade your office for less.

### What Not to Buy

There are two big categories where you aren't going to find any deals: laptops and Mother's Day gifts. You'll end up paying close to full price for these items. Laptop deals ramp up mid- to late-summer, during the back-to-school season. And, well, when it comes to Mother's Day, if you wanted to save on a gift for your mom, you shouldn't have waited until the last minute.

# Law Day

## Celebrating the 14th Amendment

Created by President Eisenhower, National Law Day celebrates law in the United States. President Eisenhower established Law Day in 1958, and in 1961 Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating the national holiday.

Before President Eisenhower established May 1 as Law Day, the first of May was known in some parts of the world as May Day, a day to remember the struggles of workers who fought for better wages and working conditions. At the time, President Eisenhower stated, "In a very real sense, the world no longer has a choice between force and law. If civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law." Law Day asks Americans to celebrate the law and focus on their given rights, namely, that "all men are created equal," and that "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are guaranteed.

Every year, the American Bar Association picks a theme to celebrate on Law Day. This year, the organization is celebrating the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States," forbids states from denying any person "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law," and makes it illegal to "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Because it mentioned the state's role, the 14th Amendment greatly expanded the protection of civil rights to Americans. According to the Library of Congress, the 14th Amendment is cited in more litigation than any other amendment.



National Law Day reminds us that no one is above the rule of law and that law prevails no matter what. Beyond that, it's a national holiday that celebrates our equality, our given rights as U.S. citizens, and our commitment to the rule of law for every citizen.

# Distracted Driving in Tennessee

## Keeping your loved ones safe

You're driving down a highway, looking ahead, checking your mirrors at the appropriate times, and going the speed limit. Your child is in the back, strapped in a car seat and playing a game. Traffic slows, so you gently push on your brakes to reduce speed. Suddenly, the driver behind you rams into your vehicle. They were texting their friend instead of looking at your brake lights.

Although texting while driving is against the law in Tennessee, innocent people still fall victim to inattentive and irresponsible drivers every day. According to [distraction.gov](http://distraction.gov), a U.S. government website dedicated to preventing distracted driving, there are approximately 660,000 drivers distracted by cellphones or other handheld devices on the road at any given moment. The average distracted driver looks away from the road for 4.6 seconds each time they send or receive a text. At 55 mph, that interval is the length of a football field.

According to the Tennessee Highway Safety Improvement Program, most Tennessee traffic fatalities occur on state highways. While highway fatalities decreased between 2009–2013, serious injuries have increased from 6,275 to 7,008.

Unfortunately, improvements to roadways don't always prevent the numerous accidents caused by driver negligence. Accidents on Tennessee roads occur every day because of drivers who are under the influence, speeding, or inattentive.



Let's keep our family and loved ones safe by reminding everyone not to drive distracted.

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## Marvelous Macaroni Salad

### Ingredients

#### Dressing

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

#### Salad

- ½ pound macaroni, cooked, drained, and cooled
- 1 cup sliced celery
- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- ½ cup chopped red pepper
- ½ cup chopped green onion

### Instructions

1. Mix together dressing ingredients.
2. Mix together salad ingredients.
3. Mix dressing and salad together. Chill before serving.
4. Enjoy!

Recipe inspired by [Food.com](http://Food.com)

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