



Prior to the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey performing under a new, fireproofed canvas for the 1945 season, Washington, D.C. fire marshal R.C. Roberts holds a match to the sidewall as deputy fire marshal Captain R.A. Warfield holds a stop watch, measuring the time that the canvas remains burning when the contact with the flame is removed. *Photo by Acme Photo, from author's collection.*

their way to Tinty's Ranch. Plainville's Joseph Tinty, a respected shop owner and equestrian, convinced Ringling to return to the county and welcomed the circus to set up on his sixty-five-acre tract of land, which would later become Plainville Stadium, home of car races, rodeo shows, circuses and other events. To persuade the Big Show to come back to the area and play in a relatively small town, Tinty had to guarantee that the big top would be full; and indeed, it was.

Ringling played two shows in Plainville to sold-out crowds of over ten thousand at each show. While many who were in Hartford four years earlier to witness Ringling's big top burn to the ground wanted nothing to do with the show returning to the state, others were interested in revisiting the circus, including Plainville resident Patty Murphy, now almost nine years old. Miss Murphy was seriously burned in the Hartford circus fire,