

## **International Clown Hall of Fame Re-Opens In Baraboo, Wisconsin** **By Janice Snowberg**

After around 15 years in Milwaukee and several years in storage, the **International Clown Hall of Fame's** displays and inventory has been moved to historic Baraboo, Wisconsin, home of the Ringling Brothers. Greg DeSanto assumed directorship of the **ICHOF** this last fall, and have moved the clown memorabilia to a storefront down the block from the Ringling Theater in downtown Baraboo. He has spent months and months sorting the historic collection. With the help of Sandy Weber, a noted designer from Highland Park, Illinois, parts of the collection are now on display for public viewing.

May 21, 2010 was the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the facility. Approximately 100 people attended the opening including the mayor of Baraboo, members of the Chamber of Commerce-in red noses, two former inductees: Jimmy Williams and Richard Snowberg, and many circus and clown enthusiasts. During the opening festivities the president of the Chamber of Commerce received a pie in his face.

The collection is artfully displayed. Sandy Weber has spent many weeks arranging interesting teachable clown artifacts. The museum collection will be changed periodically for public viewing. Also plans are being made to catalog and put the collection on a disc and have the clown library open for research.

The **Clown Hall of Fame** already has a busy summer planned. The museum will be part of bus tours coming to the city. Also they are participating in an outreach program for youth, including a summer clown-training program.

While in Baraboo, Rich and I were also invited to attend the **Circus World Museum's** dress rehearsal for the opening of their circus May 22. The talent in the show includes The Fusco Brothers (Venezuela), the ByKhan Duo (Belarus), Rosaire's Perky Pooches (England), Jessi Wonderfool (California), the Franzen elephant act, Slava on the rola bola (Russia) and aerialist Elana from Siberia. We had a fun time being entertained. I definitely would recommend visiting both the **ICHOF** and **Circus World Museum** this summer. It will be worth your time.