



***Hear some insightful stories about the Museum's Historic Collections  
A Presentation by former curator Robert Pelton***

(Bridgeport, CT) — On Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 p.m., Robert Pelton, Curator for The Barnum Museum for 23 years from 1976 to 1998, will describe and uncover some fascinating information related to specific artifacts in the museum's collections dating from 1877. Mr. Pelton continues to be an extraordinary resource for ongoing research and development within the museum. With more than two decades of institutional history, some amazing and insightful stories of the museum's 114 years will be revealed during this presentation.

Prior to 1976, the Bridgeport Board of Education as a History and Social Studies teacher employed Mr. Pelton for eight years at Hall School in Bridgeport, and later as a Library Media Specialist at Warren Harding High School in Bridgeport. The opportunity to transfer to the Barnum Museum came in 1976 with the retirement of longtime curator, Kenneth Holmes. Mr. Pelton participated in the planning of major changes to the museum during the 1980s. The building was closed in 1986 to allow for a complete redesign of the exhibits. The Barnum Museum Foundation was established in 1988 and the Museum reopened in 1989 with changes to the original 1893 building completed.

Mr. Pelton received a Bachelor of Social Science degree in 1959 from Fairfield University with a major in history and government. He continued at Fairfield University, earning a Master of Arts degree in 1963 with a teaching major in History and Social Studies. Pelton completed his Master of Science in Library Science at Columbia University in 1971. Additionally, he completed Museum Studies Workshops at the Strong Museum in 1980 and New York University in 1985.

Phineas Taylor Barnum, one-term mayor of Bridgeport and four-term member of the Connecticut General Assembly, was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport, is listed in the national Register of Historic Places and is totally handicapped accessible.

**What: Historic Collections of The Barnum Museum, a presentation by Bob Pelton**

**Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Presentation in the People's Bank Gallery**

**When: Sunday, September 24, 2:00 p.m.**

**Cost: Free to Barnum Museum Members. General admission applies for others. Adults \$5, Seniors and College Students \$4, Children 4 to 17 \$3 and children under 4 are free. However this event is not recommended for children under 12.**

**For more information call 203-331-1104 or visit [www.barnum-museum.org](http://www.barnum-museum.org)**

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