

Wild West Show

In 1900, Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West Show visited Portsmouth. Over 20,000 people attended the two performances.

The troupe arrived via the B. & O. S-W train at 4 a.m. on July 20, 1900. The show equipment required 45 large train cars and was said to be the largest show train to visit the city of Portsmouth.

The trains were unloaded at the Gallia Street crossing, across from the Portsmouth Fire Brick Company, and took several hours. A parade commenced from Gallia to 5th, then to Court Street, down Court to 3rd, then east to Offnere Street and there to the 'show grounds". This was the fairgrounds at the time, which is presently a car dealership.

Buffalo Bill, "the Prince of Western Plainsmen", rode ahead of the parade in his "fine carriage".

At Cody's interview, he told the reporter that the show employed over 400 people and maintained 300 horses. The participants were from all over the world.

The newspaper called the show first-class and the "real article" because the performers were real cowboys and real Indians. All the British and German soldiers had served in their respected armies. Many nations were represented in the show. Roosevelt's Rough Riders re-enacted the charge up San Juan Hill.

Annie Oakley, the young female sharpshooter from Ohio, was also with the show.

The cost for admission was 50 cents for adults, children under 9 years, half-price and reserved seats were \$1.00.