

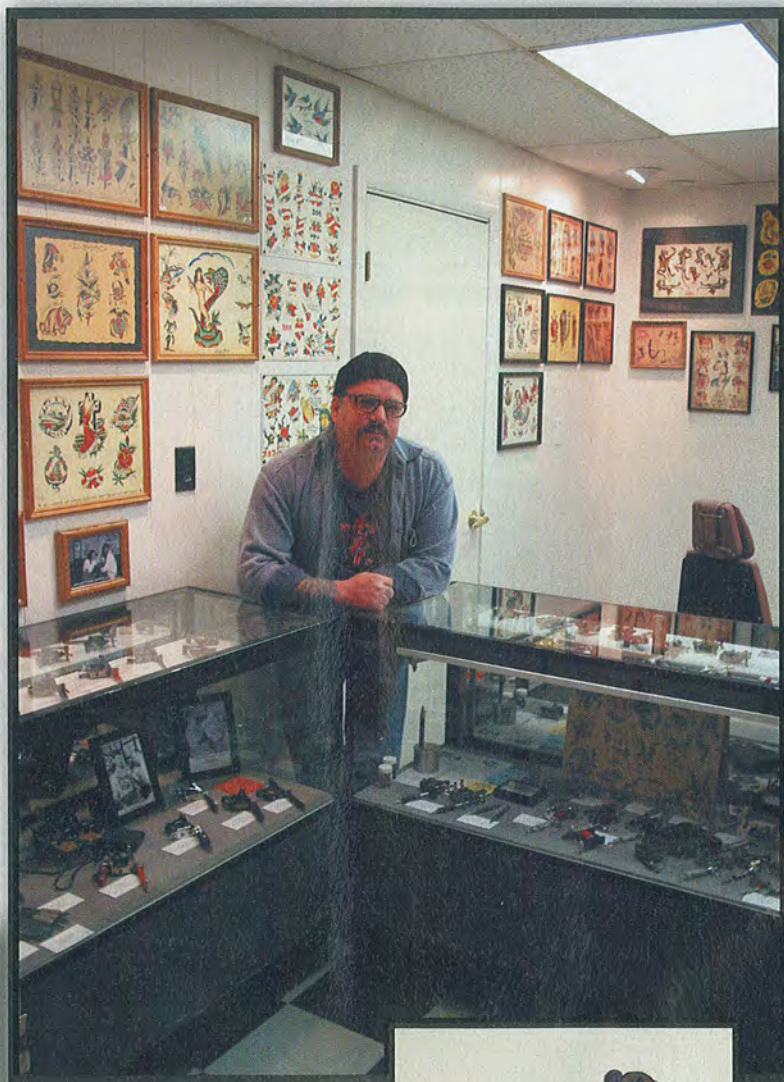
# MUSEUM QUALITY

Photos by Durb Morrison & Chris Pfouts

Gallipolis, Ohio is located near enough to the West Virginia state line that you can hear the moonshine cooking. It's a small town. There isn't a laser photocopier in the city limits, for example.

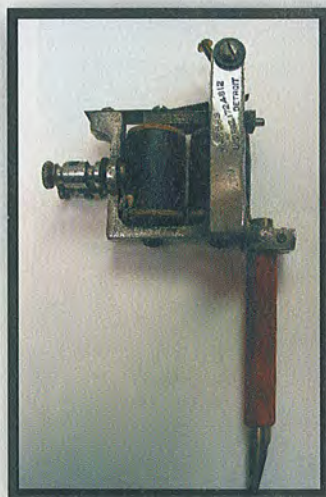
Temple Tattoo serves the southeast corner of the Buckeye State from downtown Gallipolis. Temple's owner, veteran tattooer Rich T, has a major-league passion for the history of the skin trade – especially as it unfolded in the American Midwest – and he's opened up a fine museum to display his collection.

It's not a giant venue, but Rich T has built a well-rounded showcase for tools, designs, photos and memorabilia. Among the many rare old machines on display are two from Percy Waters, several Jonesy units, examples from Owen Jensen and Bob Shaw, some rotaries, jailhouse machines, and a number of exotic mystery machines. The gem – as far as we were concerned – is a nickel-plated Professor Chas. Wagner machine, stamped on both the frame and the tube. Vintage photos of tattoo



artists and inked-up sideshow and circus performers line the walls in one section, and there's a wealth of framed flash from such notable and diverse talents as Stoney St. Clair, Owen Jensen, Sailor Barney, Sailor Eddie, Tattoo Ole, and Robert Wicks.

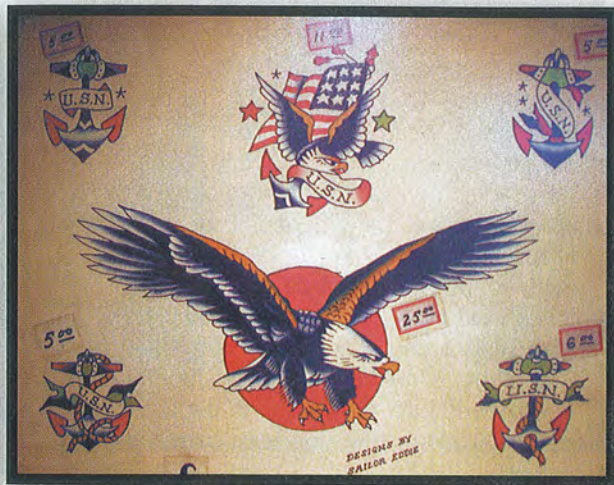
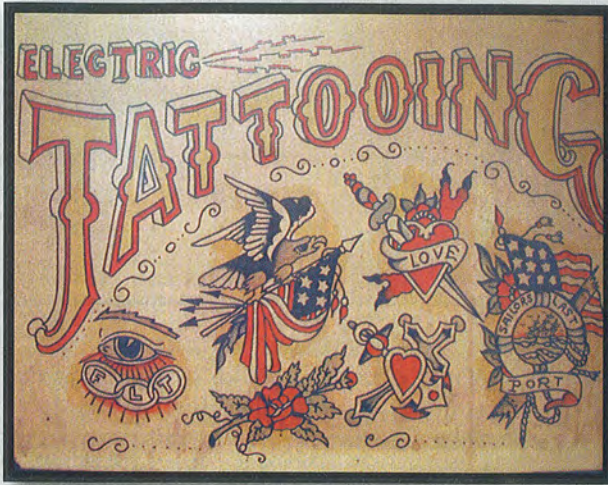
Rich T is always trying to expand his collection, and working hard trying to track down some shadowy names from the history of Midwestern tattooing. At least, he's working as hard as he can. The shop and his mushrooming Bicknee supply





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business both command a lot of his attention. But like any man with a passion, he finds time. At the upcoming second Hell City convention (Columbus, Ohio) this year, the museum will have an historical display. Look for it or fall by Temple and tell 'em ITA sent you. For hours and directions, call 740-441-8287.



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