

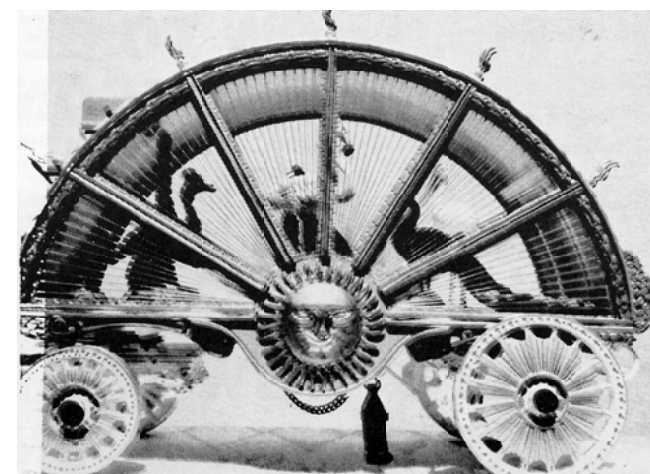
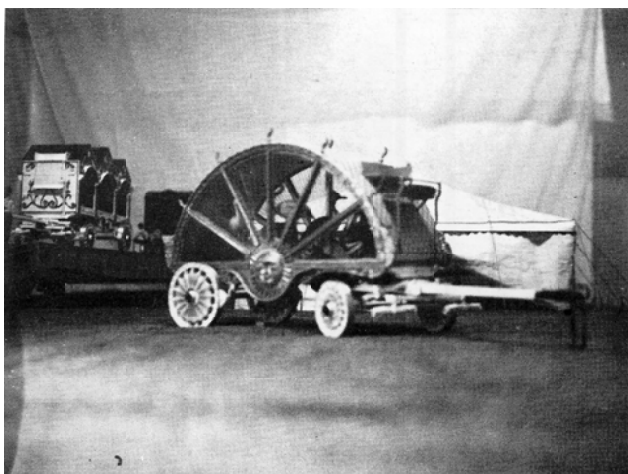
The Number 57 Aviary or Bird Cage Wagon was constructed around 1903 by the George Schmidt Company of Cincinnati for John Robinson's Ten Big Shows Circus. The general design is in keeping with the remainder of the cottage cages designed by Emil Roettengartner, a qualified designer and artist employed by the Geo. Schmidt Company at that period. He is credited with designing most if not all of the unusual cottage cages on the John Robinson Show.

The design is unique as to the general construction which features a half round roof with "Mr. Sun" as the central figure to form a sunburst.

This wagon was 15 ft. long by 6 ft. wide and featured a sprung under carriage which was standard on all of the cottage cages. The wagon was equipped with a two-man seat and foot board with a somewhat different brake arrangement featuring a long bar and the brake could be operated by the driver or brakeman. The single rear door hinged upwards to allow access to the cage interior.

The color of this wagon is unknown and the model is painted orange with a yellow "shingle" effect roof. The wheel face sunbursts are orange with a blend of yellow. The cage contained flamingos, parrots, storks and probably a few crows.

This wagon was featured in the menagerie and daily parades until 1911 at which time John Robinson's Ten Big Shows went off the road. Number 57 was stored at the Robinson Winter Quarters at Terrace Park outside of Cincinnati until 1916 at which time they were purchased along with the Robinson title by the American Circus Corporation. The cage, along with the cottage cages, was shipped to Peru, Indiana after being sold to Ben Wallace. Number 57 was then sold to the Coop and Lent Motorized Circus. The under carriage was removed and the cage mounted on a truck after which no known record is available. Much of this history was made available by Dick Conover and photos are included in his excellent book "Give 'Em a John Robinson."



John Robinson Bird Cage

DATE: 1903

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

SCANNED & REVISED:
01/05/03

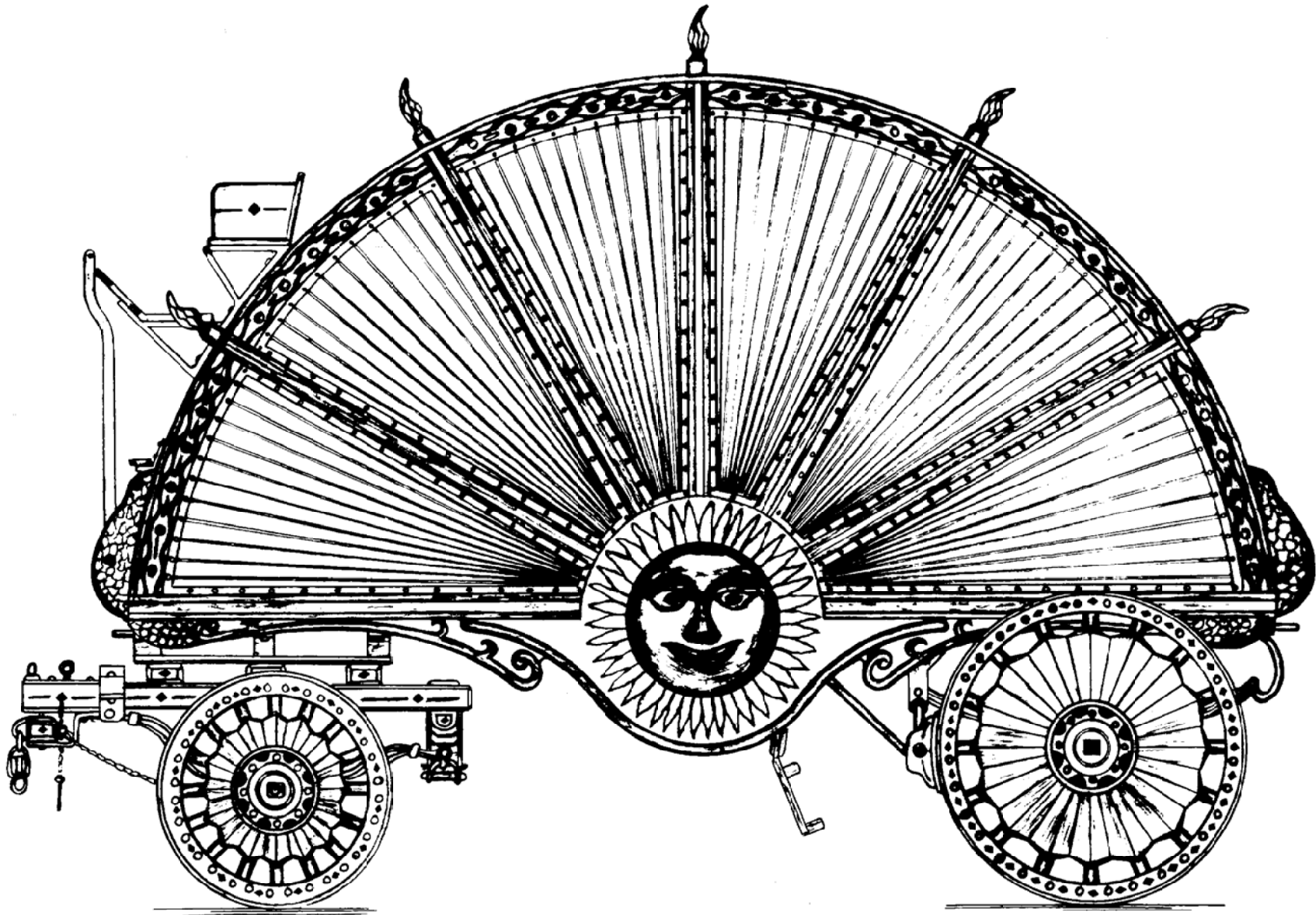
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Circus Model Builders

Drawn By
Bob Miefert - CMB #1941

DRAWING NUMBER

#0273



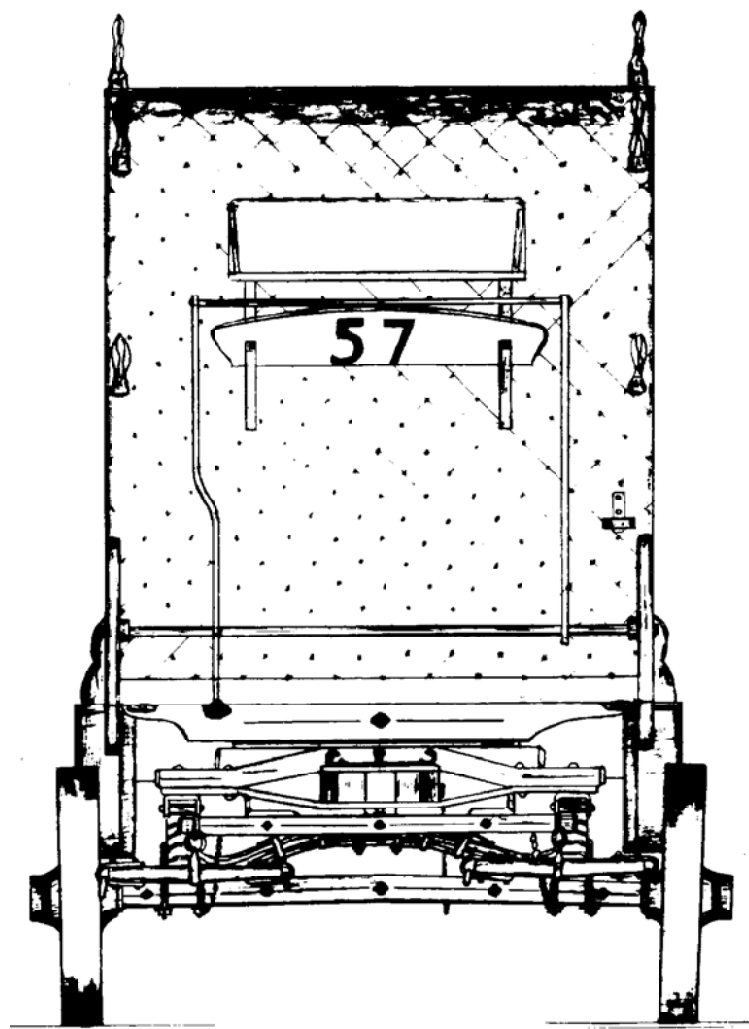
John Robinson Bird Cage

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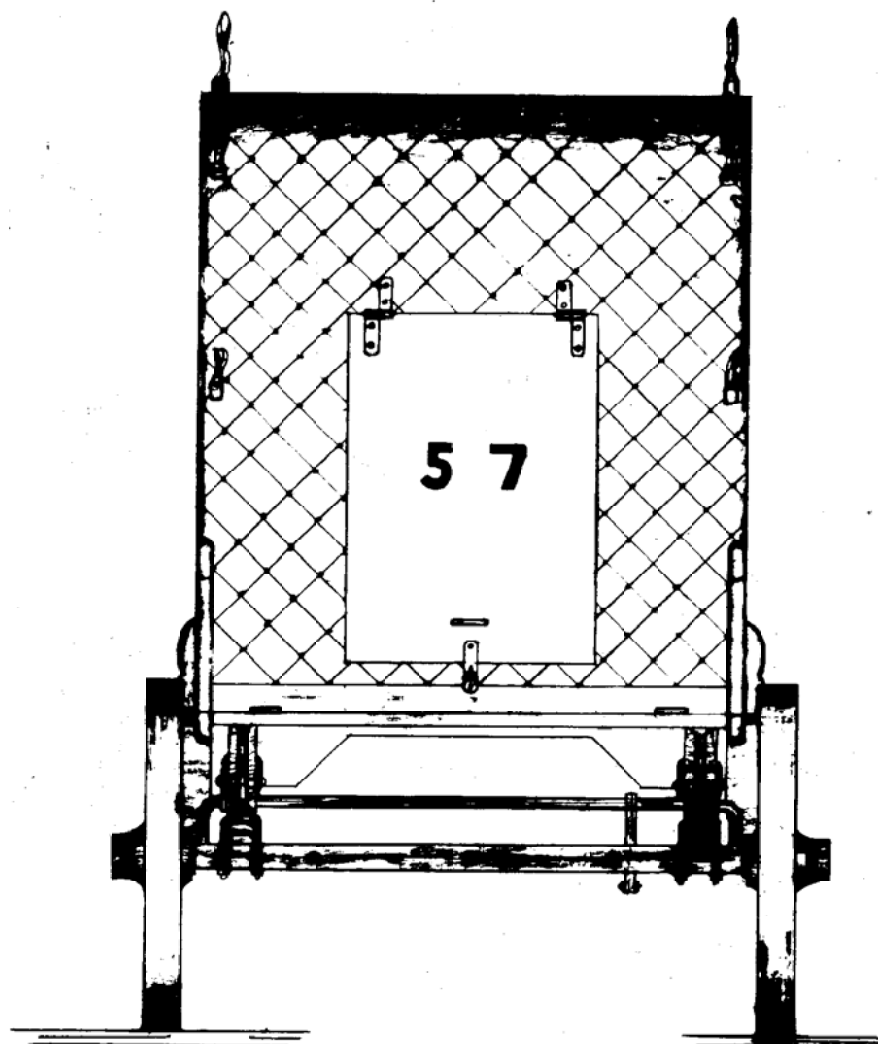
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

SCANNED & REVISED:
01/05/03

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Front View



Rear View

John Robinson Bird Cage

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SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

SCANNED & REVISED:
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