

Well here we are again, this time we have Cole Bros. Circus Flat Car Number 41. These drawings are reworked from plans sent to me by CMB Norman Wilder and are presented as drawn by him with me just tracing them in ink in order to achieve better reproduction in the LCW! Thanks Norman for your contributions to the Construction Department.

I don't have a lot of history to give you about Car No. 41. There is a photo of it on page 112 of the book *The Circus Moves by Rail*, which is an excellent resource book written by Chappie Fox. This car was originally a stock car manufactured by the Mount Vernon Rail Car Company and was later cut down and turned into a flat car as depicted in the plan. You can still see that bottom ends of the bracing required for the sides of the stock car have been left on the bottom sills and have been capped with some channel iron.

Much of the strength of a stock cars frame came from the construction design of the sides of the car, so once these sides were removed, additional strength was given to the cars underframe through the provision of a set of truss rods. Even so you can see in the above mentioned picture that Car No. 41 still had a slight sag in the middle when loaded. Well that's about it for this one! I would like to thank those who have been sending me information, I am trying to get it into quality plans in the near future!

