



Al G. Barnes
Elephant Tableau

DATE: 1921

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

SCANNED & REVISED:
04/29/03

Pg 1 of 2

Circus Model Builders

Drawn By
Art Gunther

DRAWING NUMBER

#0101

Additional Information on Elephant Tabs

There might have been a few other so called elephant tableaux with a small carving of an elephant or its head, but there were three most distinguished and big Elephant Tableaus with full and large carvings of elephants on both sides of the wagons as follow: the Carl Hagenbeck Elephant Tableau, the Sells-Floto Elephant Tableau (CMB Plan #1), and the Al. G. Barnes Elephant Tableau.

Now for some history on the three bull tabs, as they are preferably called by most of the model builders.

The Carl Hagenbeck Bull Tab was built by the Bode Wagon Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the winter of 1904-05 for the new Carl Hagenbeck Trained Animal Shows of 1905 and 1906. It then was used on the Hagenbeck and Wallace shows when they combined in 1907. It's believed that it was demolished in the Hagenbeck-Wallace train wreck in 1918.

The Sells-Floto Bull Tab, well-known to all the model builders was built in 1910 by the Bode Wagon Co. of Cincinnati and is at the Ringling Circus Museum in Sarasota, Florida

The Al G. Barnes Bull Tab, the least known of the three bull tabs, was built in about 1921 at the Al G. Barnes winter quarters in California, with carvings furnished by Bode. Later it was dismantled and the large elephant figure carvings were mounted on top of the front entrance of the Jungleland in Thousands Oaks, California. They were still there in 1962.

Photos of the Al. G. Barnes Elephant Tableau are very scarce. Art Gunther was fortunate in having one and I used it extensively in drawing a plan of the tableau. His drawing tried to copy faithfully from that photo. You will note that the carvings are almost similar to those on the Sells-Floto tab, and they seem to be of the same size. For comparison the body of the Sells-Floto tab is 16+ ft. long, 6 ft. high plus 2 ft. for the skyboards and 5 ft. 6 inches wide.



The Al G. Barnes elephant tab. [Carver Collection]

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