

Horses have always played an important role in the circus. During the 1920's and 1930's Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus carried approximately 350 head of baggage stock and around 150 head of ringstock.

After the show switched to tractors and increased their use of motive power in 1939, the number of horses carried was greatly reduced. Throughout the 1940's and 1950's the show carried approximately 80 to 100 head of ringstock.

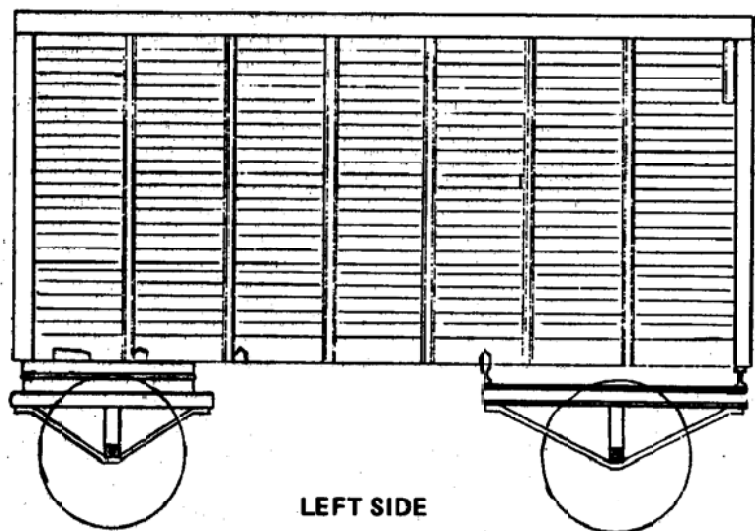
For the 1956 season, the last year under canvas, this total was increased to 121. The increase in number was due to the addition of 36 burros used in the spec. A breakdown of the horses was as follows: 26 liberty horses, 11 rosinback, 6 high school, 12 saddle horses, 12 draft, and 18 others.

In the 1950's the Ringstock Department was under the supervision of Frank T. Selock. All horses were transported in three to four specially built stock cars which usually traveled in the third section of the circus train. On the lot, they were housed in two tents located in the backyard. These tents were usually a square gable end type which were approximately 30' wide by 100' long.

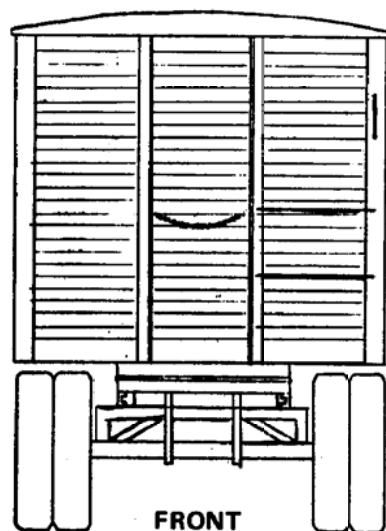
For the 1956 season only one tent was used. This tent was a 55' round end with three 38' middles and one row of quarter poles. There were four rows of stalls; one along each side and two rows down the middle. The original plans were to have a "Horse Fair" open to the public. This was a repeat of an earlier idea used in 1939.

Around 1950, several changes occurred in the wagons carried by the Ringstock Dept. but, throughout the 1950's it had pretty well narrowed down to the following five wagons: No. 11 canvas, No. 30 baggage, No. 117 blacksmith, No. 136 supply, and veterinarian, No. 137 trappings. With the exception of No. 136, all of the wagons were originally from the Al. G. Barnes Circus. Under the direction of Bill Yeskee, Ringling's wagon builder, the original wooded undergear and spoke wheels were replaced with Ringling's steel undergear and dual rubber tires.

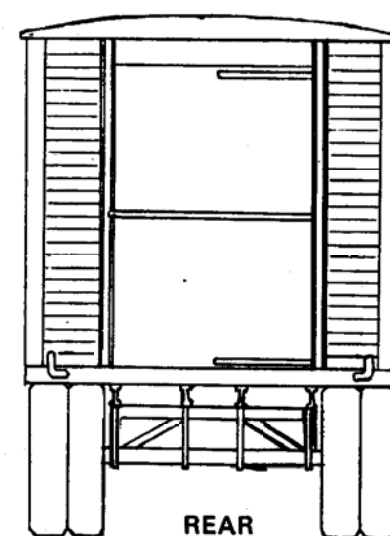
RBBB Stock Department			
Wagon Nos. 11, 30, 117, 136, 137			
DATE: 1938/56	SCALE: 1/4" = 1'	SCANNED & REVISED: 04/18/2005	Pg 1 of 6
Circus Model Builders			
Drawn By Jim Caldwell			DRAWING NUMBER #0271



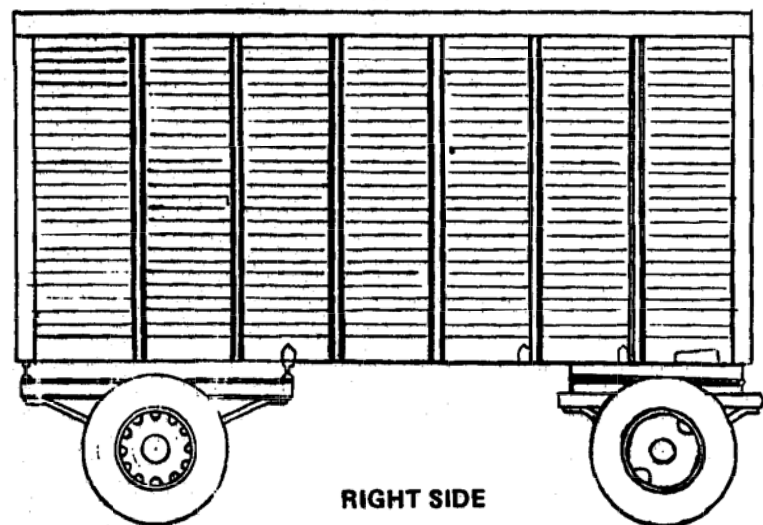
LEFT SIDE



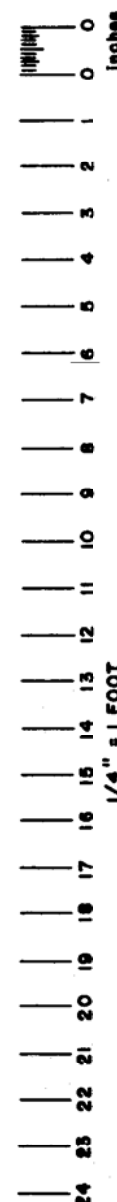
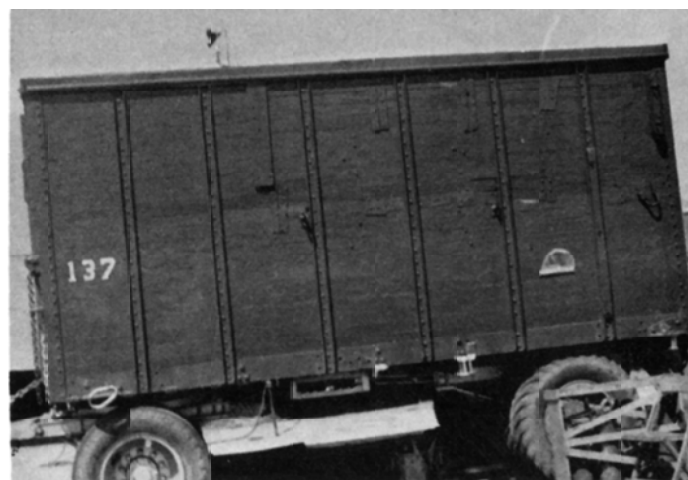
FRONT



REAR



RIGHT SIDE



RBBB No. 137 - Ringstock Trappings

Dimensions - 15' 0" Long, 7' 6" Wide, 6'6" High.

Painted Ringling Red with a silver interior; however, it may have had a blue interior in earlier years.

Wagon No. 137 was of wood construction and very similar to wagon No. 30. It was originally built by Red Forbes for the Al G. Barnes Circus and came over to the Ringling show following the 1938 season. It remained on the Ringling show through their final under canvas season of 1956.

The interior of the wagon contained large lockers on each side and across the front. The harness was hung on pegs inside these lockers and when the doors were closed trunks and boxes could be loaded without damage to the enclosed harness.

The wagon is now located at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin

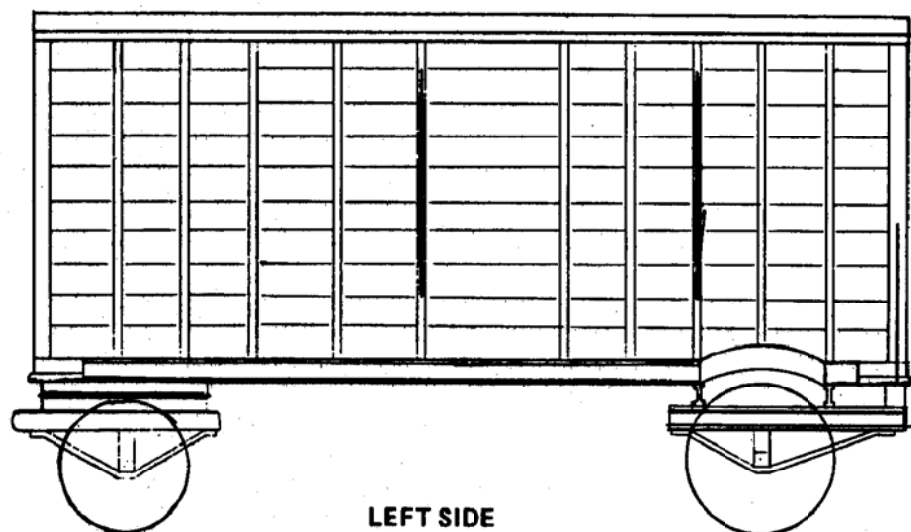
RBBB Stock Department Wagon Nos. 11, 30, 117, 136, 137

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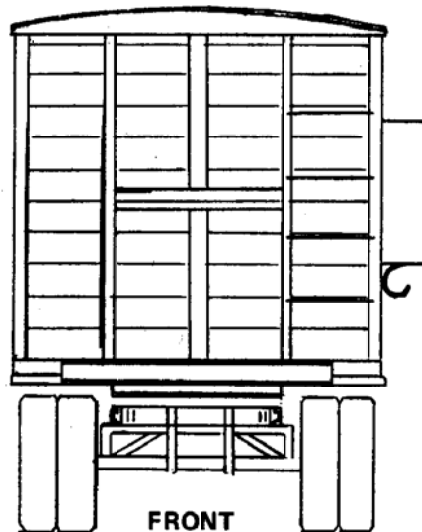
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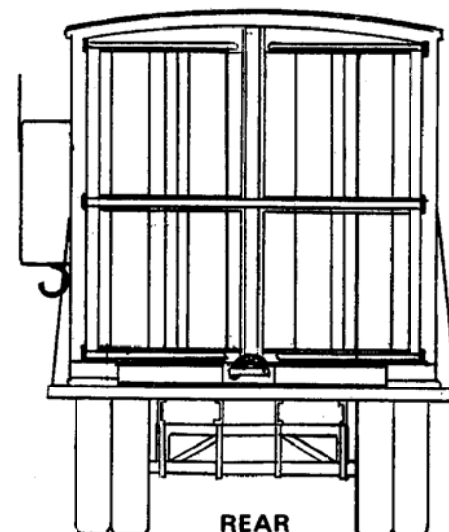
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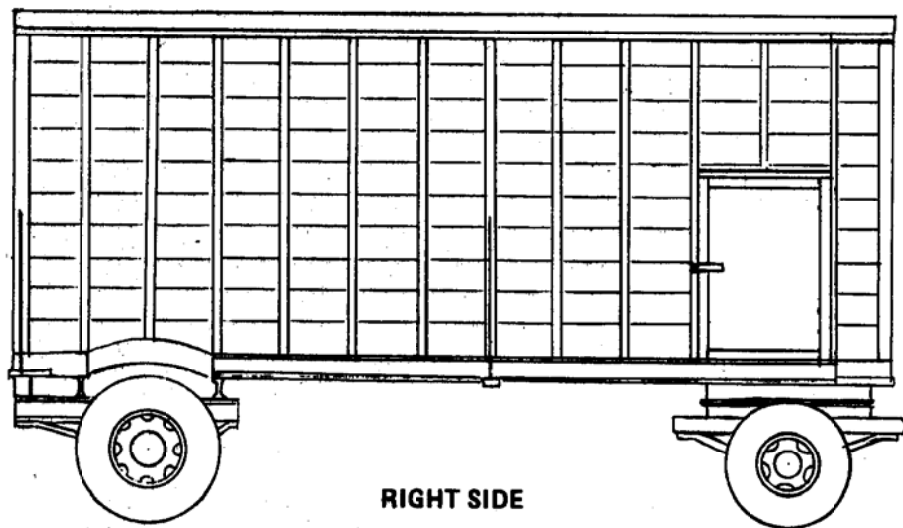
LEFT SIDE



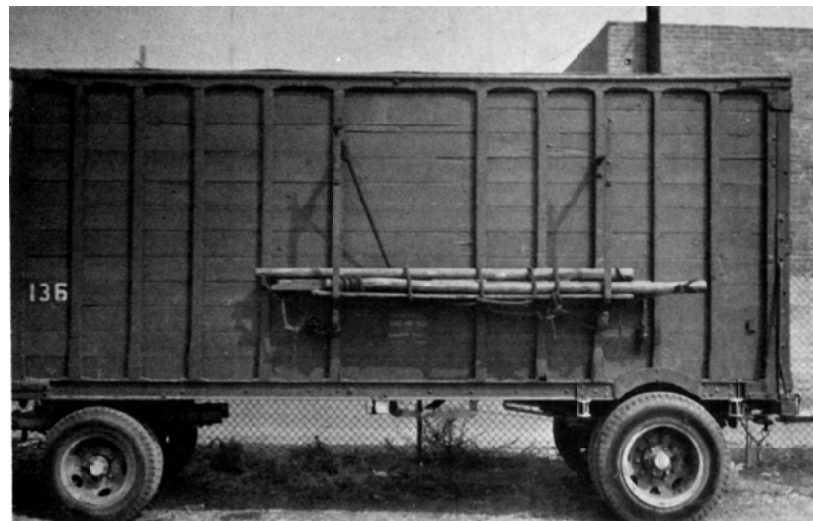
FRONT



REAR



RIGHT SIDE



1/4" = 1 FOOT

Inches

RBBB No. 136 - Ringstock and Veterinary

Dimensions - 18' 0" Long, 7' 6" Wide, 7' 0" High.

Painted Ringling Red with a blue interior.

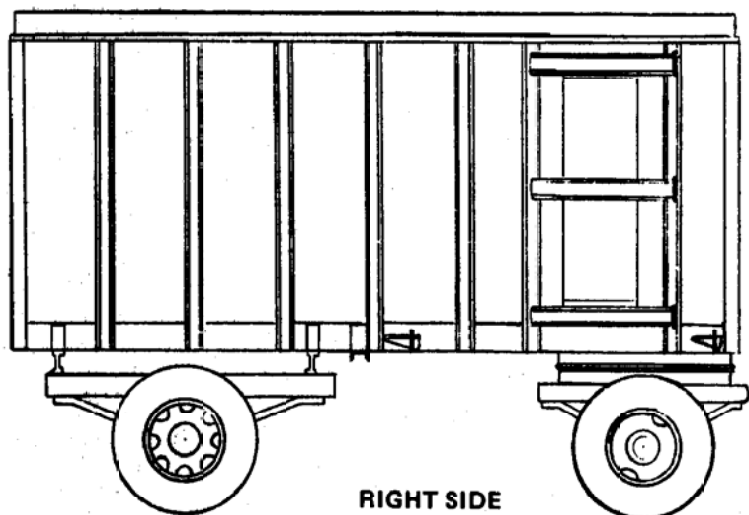
Wagon No. 136 was of wood construction and was built by Bill Yeskee. This wagon was the only Ringling built wagon with the Ringstock Dept. during the 1950's. All of the other Ringstock wagons were originally from the Al G. Barnes Circus.

In the early 1940's this wagon was numbered 148; however, it was renumbered 136 around 1945 and remained that number until the show closed in 1956. The wagon served as an office and supply wagon for the show's veterinarian, Dr. J. Y. Henderson. The front portion of the wagon was partitioned off and contained a large locker across the front for veterinarian supplies. An ice box refrigerator was also in this section for medicine which required refrigeration. The rear section of the wagon carried equipment and props for the equestrian production. One of the buggies used in this part of the show was also carried in this section. Wells were set in the floor to hold it from shifting while in transit.

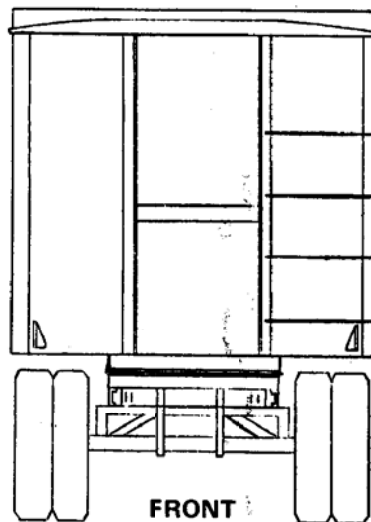
The wagon was destroyed in a fire at the Venice quarters on March 19, 1962.

RBBB Stock Department

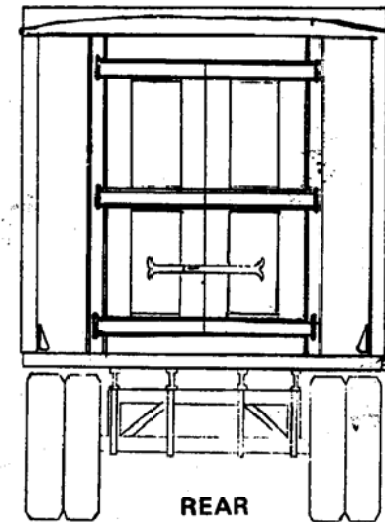
Wagon Nos. 11, 30, 117, 136, 137



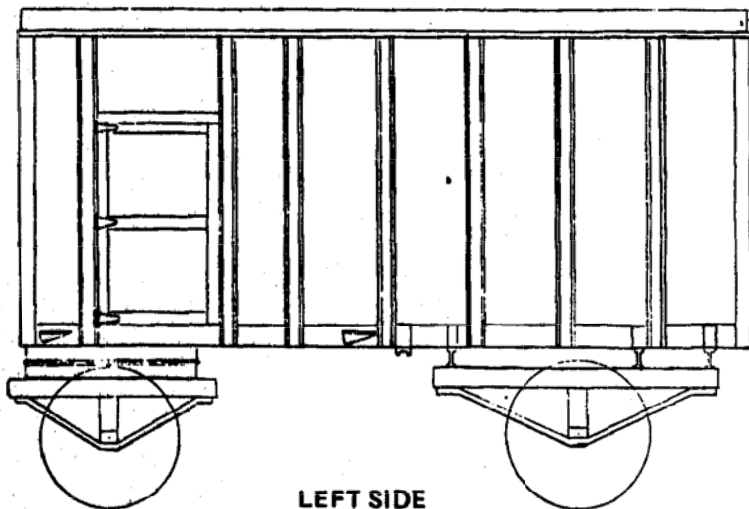
RIGHT SIDE



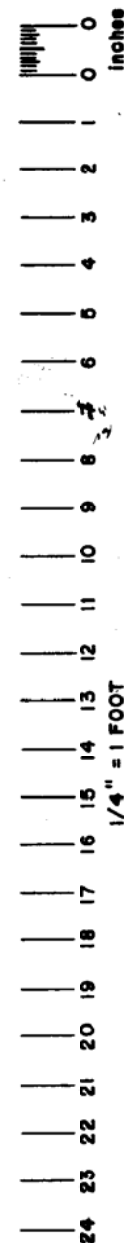
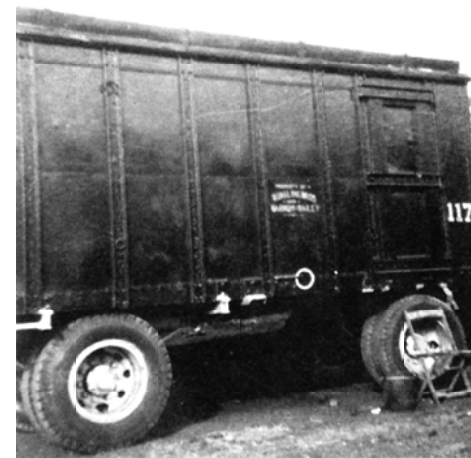
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LEFT SIDE



RBBB No. 117 - Ringstock and Blacksmith

Dimensions - 15' 0" Long, 7'6" High, 6'6" Wide.

Painted Ringling Red with a blue interior.

Wagon No. 117 was built in the early 1930's by Red Forbes for the Al G. Barnes Circus. At that time it was used to early band instruments, props, and other baggage. A small air calliope was also carried in this wagon. After the Barnes show closed in 1938, it was transferred to the Ringling show and equipped with dual pneumatic tires. The number was changed to No. 46 and it was used to carry concessions throughout the 1940's.

Metal sheeting was added to the sides in the late 1940's, which gave the wagon the appearance of being of all steel construction. Following the 1950 season, it became No. 117 and replaced old No. 47 as the blacksmith shop. Usually a canvas fly was attached to the side of the wagon to provide shade.

The wagon was destroyed in a fire at the Venice quarters on March 19, 1993.

RBBB Stock Department

Wagon Nos. 11, 30, 117, 136, 137

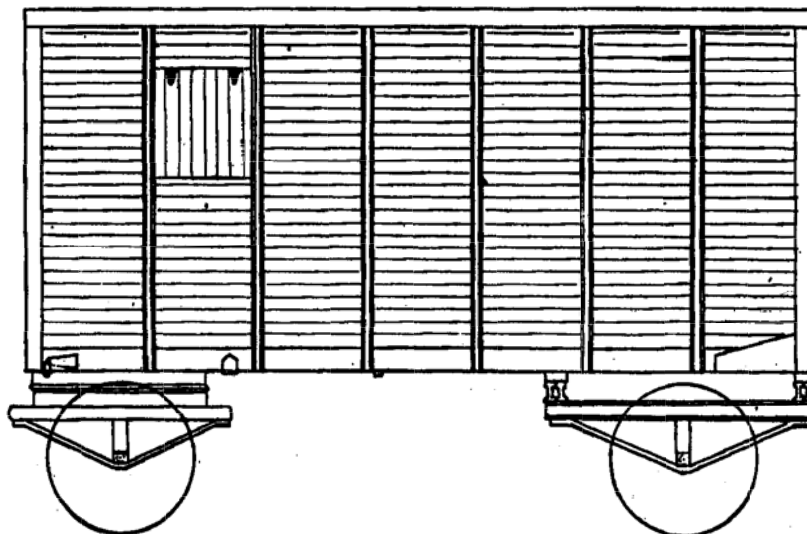
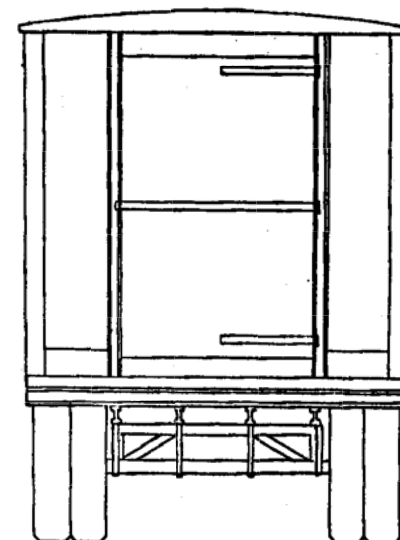
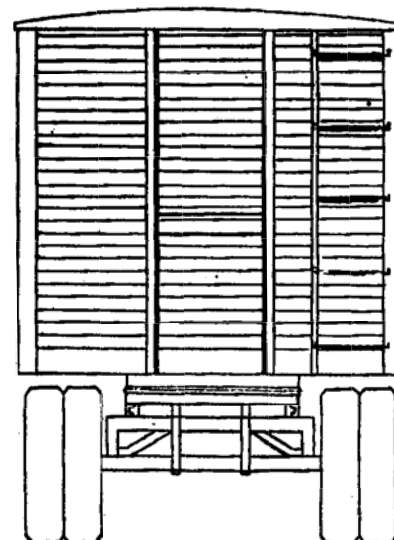
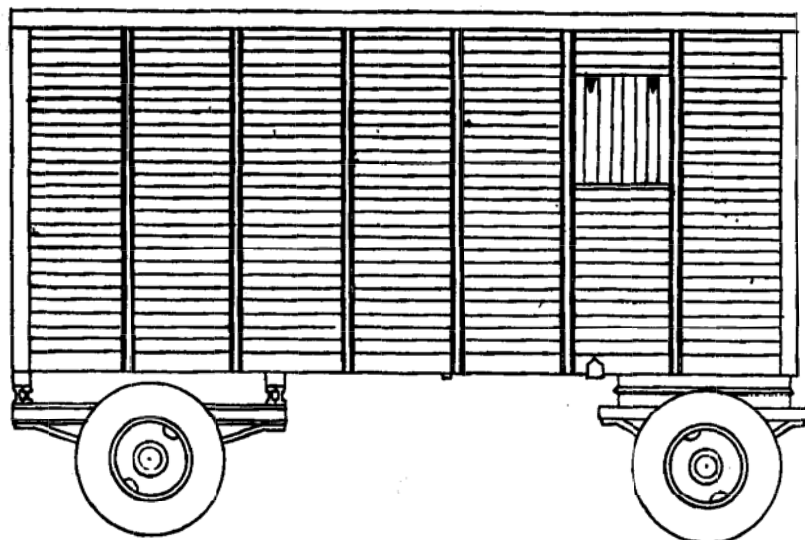
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SCALE: 1/4" = 1'

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DRAWING NUMBER
#0271

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1/4" = 1 FOOT



RBBB No. 30 - Ringstock Wardrobe

Dimensions - 16' 0" Long, 7' 8" Wide, 6' 9" High.

Painted Ringling Red with a silver interior; however, it may have had a blue interior earlier. Wagon No. 30 was built in the early 1930's for the Al G. Barnes Circus by Red Forbes. The Barnes number was No. 73 and it was originally used to carry performers' trunks. When it was decided to take the Barnes show off the road following the 1938 season, this wagon was transferred to the Ringling show. Ringling's originally changed the number to No. 144 and used the wagon for many years to carry props. In the 1950's this wagon became part of the Ringstock Dept. and the number was changed to No. 30. It remained in this use through the final season of 1956.

The front section of the wagon was partitioned off and was used as an office for the Supt. of Ringstock. When loaded it carried trunks, trappings and the spec blankets.

The wagon is now located at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida.

RBBB Stock Department Wagon Nos. 11, 30, 117, 136, 137

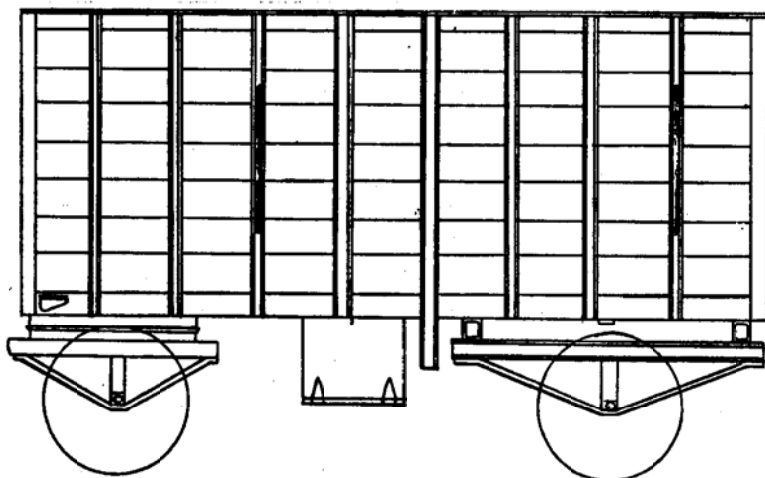
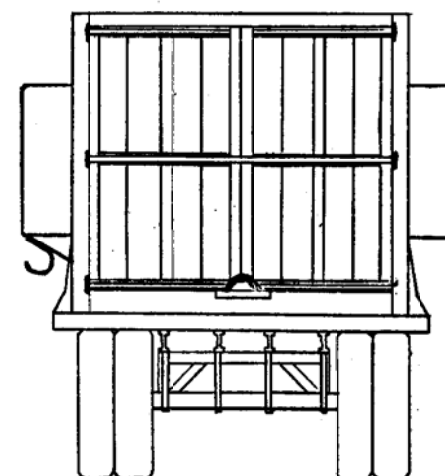
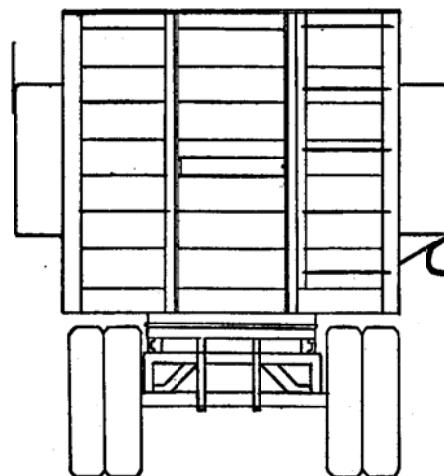
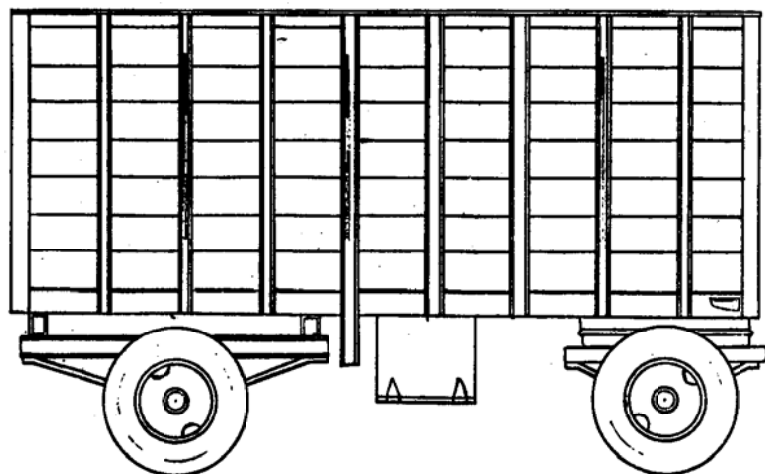
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1/4" = 1 FOOT
Inches



RBBB No. 11 - Ringstock Canvas

Dimensions - 15' 6" Long, 7' 0" Wide, 6' 0" High.

Open top wagon, painted Ringling Red with an iron oxide color interior.

Wagon No. 11 was originally built in the early 1930's by master wagon builder Red Forbes for service on the Al G. Barnes Circus. At this time the wagon had a roof and was used to carry grandstand chairs. The original Barnes number was No. 34. After the Al G. Barnes Circus was taken off the road following the 1938 season, this wagon, along with many other former Barnes wagons, was transferred to the Ringling show. For several years during the 1940's, Ringling used the wagon to carry seat planks. At this time, the wagon was No. 16. After the introduction of the mechanical seat wagons, it was then transferred to the Ringstock Dept. and the number was changed to No. 11. Following the 1955 season it was replaced by No. 20, an all steel wagon with a larger capacity.

The wagon was last seen in the graveyard at Sarasota and is presumed to have been destroyed when the show moved to Venice, Florida and closed their Sarasota winterquarters.



RBBB Stock Department Wagon Nos. 11, 30, 117, 136, 137

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