

We wish to thank Mr. Karl H. Hartisch for these plans, photos and history as Karl has spent a lot of time both in collecting the data and measurements on this wagon and making the plans. Karl obtained this material while the wagon was still in Peru, and has promised to give us additional plans of the Terrel Jacobs Cross Cages which he has collected material on. Incidentally, the pictures were taken at Rochester, Ind.

This wagon was located on a farm outside of the town of Rochester, Ind. At one time it had been the property of Cole Bros. Circus, however, it had originally been Robbins Bros. Circus property. The Canvas Wagon, as well as around 40 other wagons of all descriptions found their way to this farm after the disastrous fire at Winter Quarters.

The wagons were converted to use on the farm and as the wheels wore out, they were replaced with wheels from other wagons until down through the years only a dozen or so remained. These remaining wagons, as they wore out were left on a common graveyard on the farm to become victims of the elements.

You will note that on one photo a roof line is showing. This roof was added to the wagon after it reached the farm as this was an open top wagon while it was on both the Robbins and Cole Circuses.

Information received from Al Conover states that in 1938 the No. 86 Wagon was definitely a Side Show Canvas Wagon; if it had been used for other purposes in prior years either on Cole or Robbins, it is not known by the author.

You will note that this wagon is of the older type wood bound construction with no angle or channel iron used for bracing. There were two other Robbins Bros. Wagons found with it and these also were of the same type construction; one of these bore a thrust plate dated 1925 so it is safe to assume that this wagon was also in use at this time.

This wagon was small in comparison to the sizes of later canvas wagons and there was no indication of it ever having been equipped with a canvas boom. There were also no signs of it ever having had pole racks on the sides.

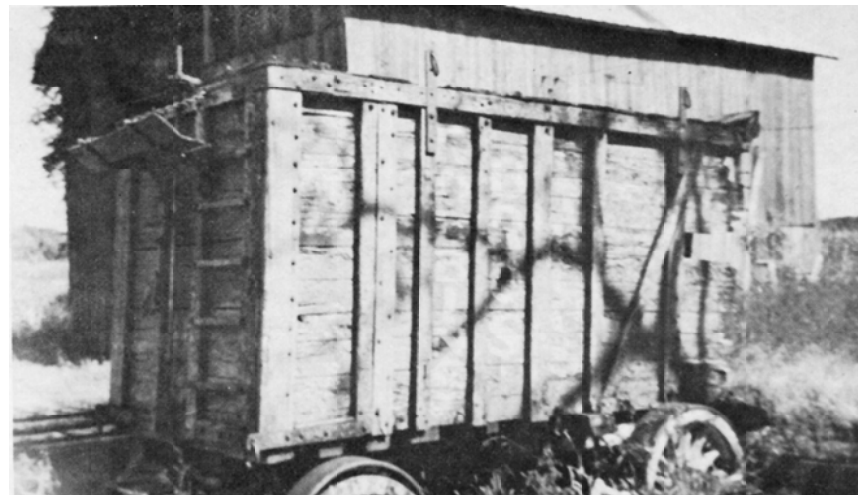
Old 86, though badly weathered, still had a bit of paint here and there. The color scheme was: Inside - white, Body-orange, Letters - white outlined with blue, Running Gear - white striped in blue, Wheels - white striped in blue and Rivet Heads also blue.

The detail sheet shows that the wagon had more or less standard brake arrangement. All hinges were of the gate hinge and pin type as shown in the plans.

Mr. Hartisch wrote that he was of the understanding that about a year ago these wagons (the ones that remained) were purchased by The Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Museum personnel admitted at the time of purchase, that the wagons were deteriorated beyond restoration, but that all measurements would be taken and that some hardware and several fifth wheel assemblies would be salvaged. They hope to make exact duplicates of these wagons.



"Old No. 86" - Robbins Bros. Circus



Robbins Bros. No. 86, as seen on farm at Rochester, IN. Note the wooden wheel has fallen away from the rim.

## Robbins Bros. Circus Side Show Canvas Wagon No. 86

DATE: 1930s	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'	SCANNED & REVISED: 03/19/03	Pg 1 of 4
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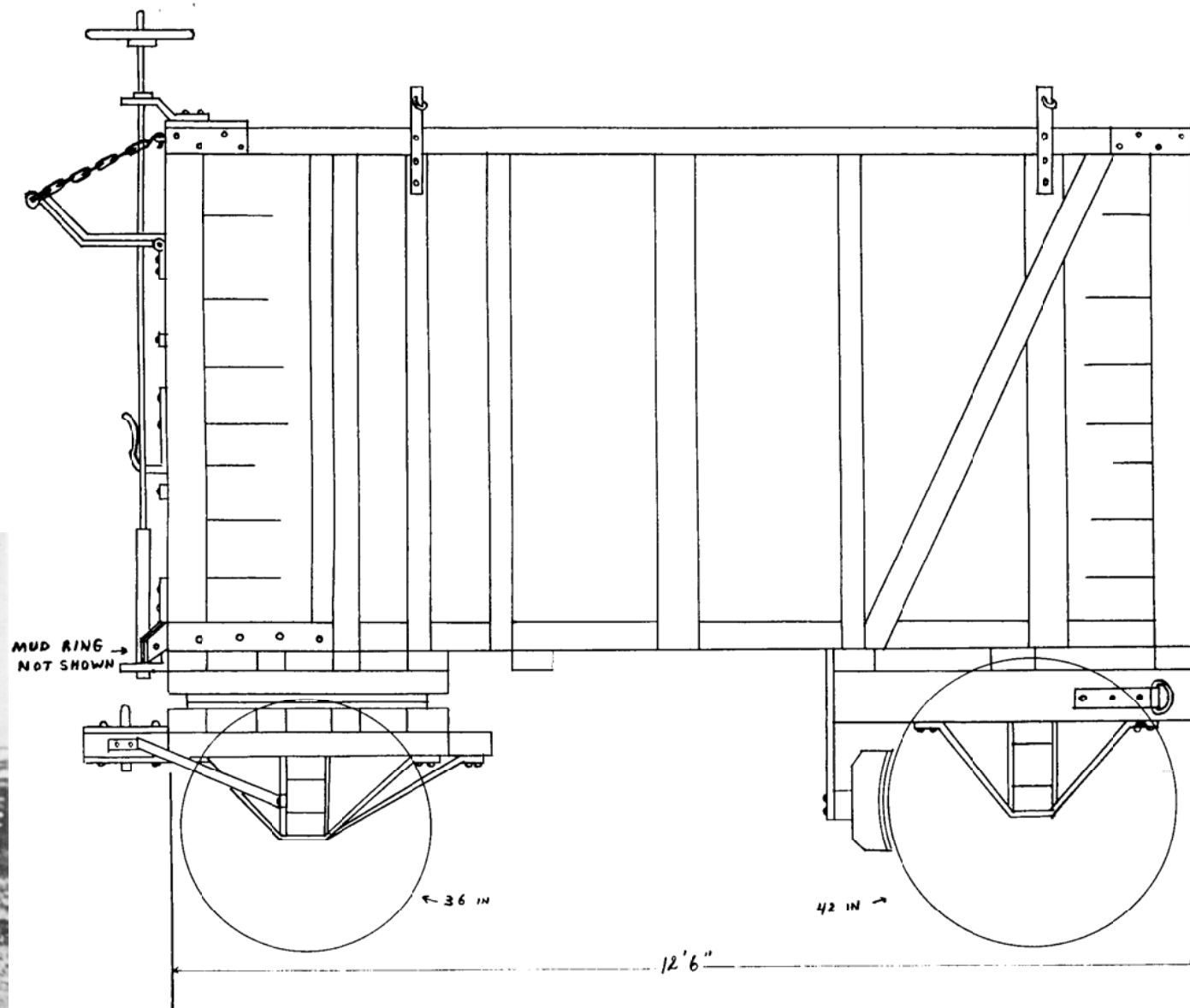
# Circus Model Builders

Drawn By  
Karl H. Hartisch

DRAWING NUMBER  
**#0183**



Front view of "Old No. 86" side show canvas wagon.



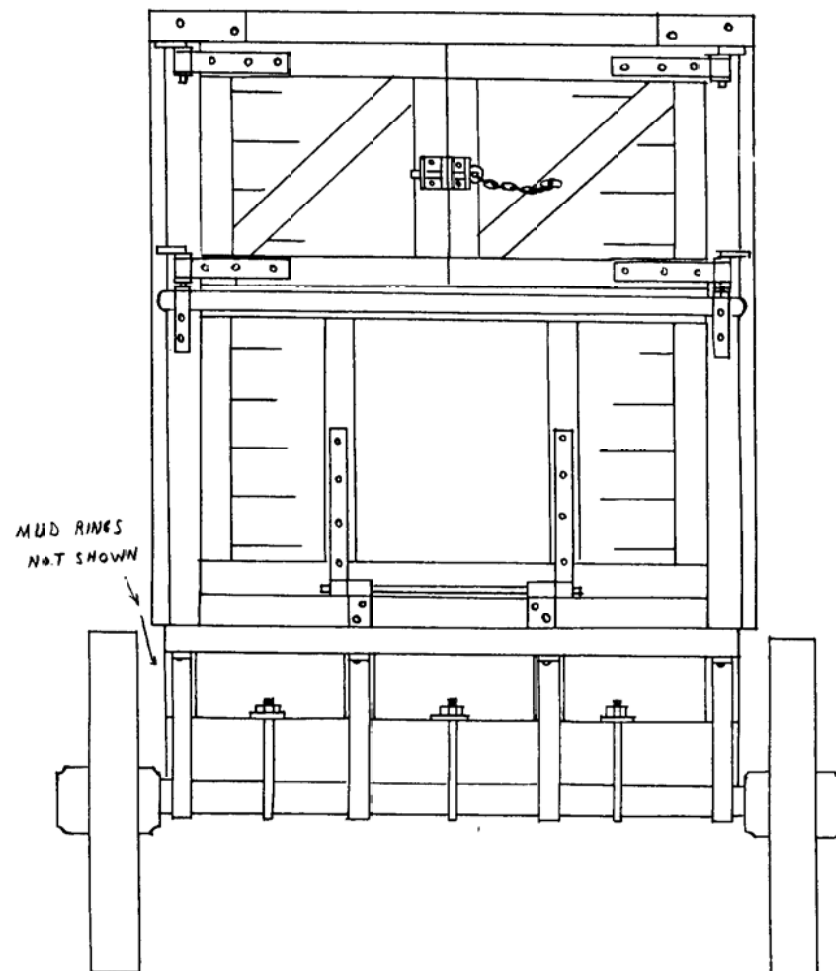
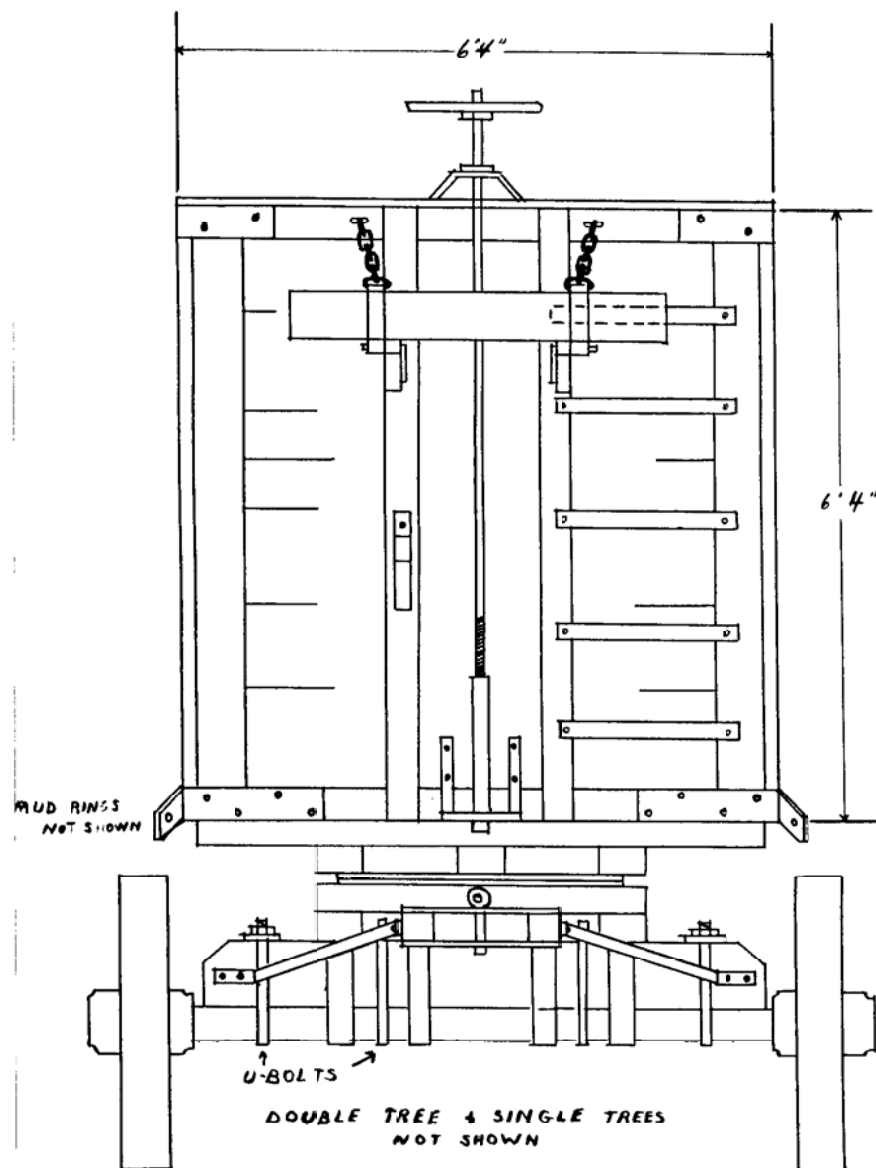
**Robbins Bros. Circus**  
**Side Show Canvas Wagon No. 86**

Pg 2 of 4

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

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**Robbins Bros. Circus  
Side Show Canvas Wagon No. 86**

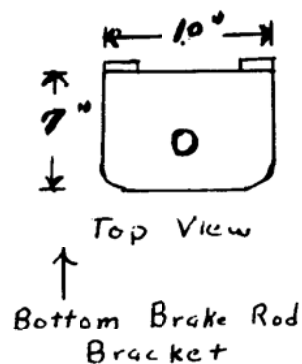
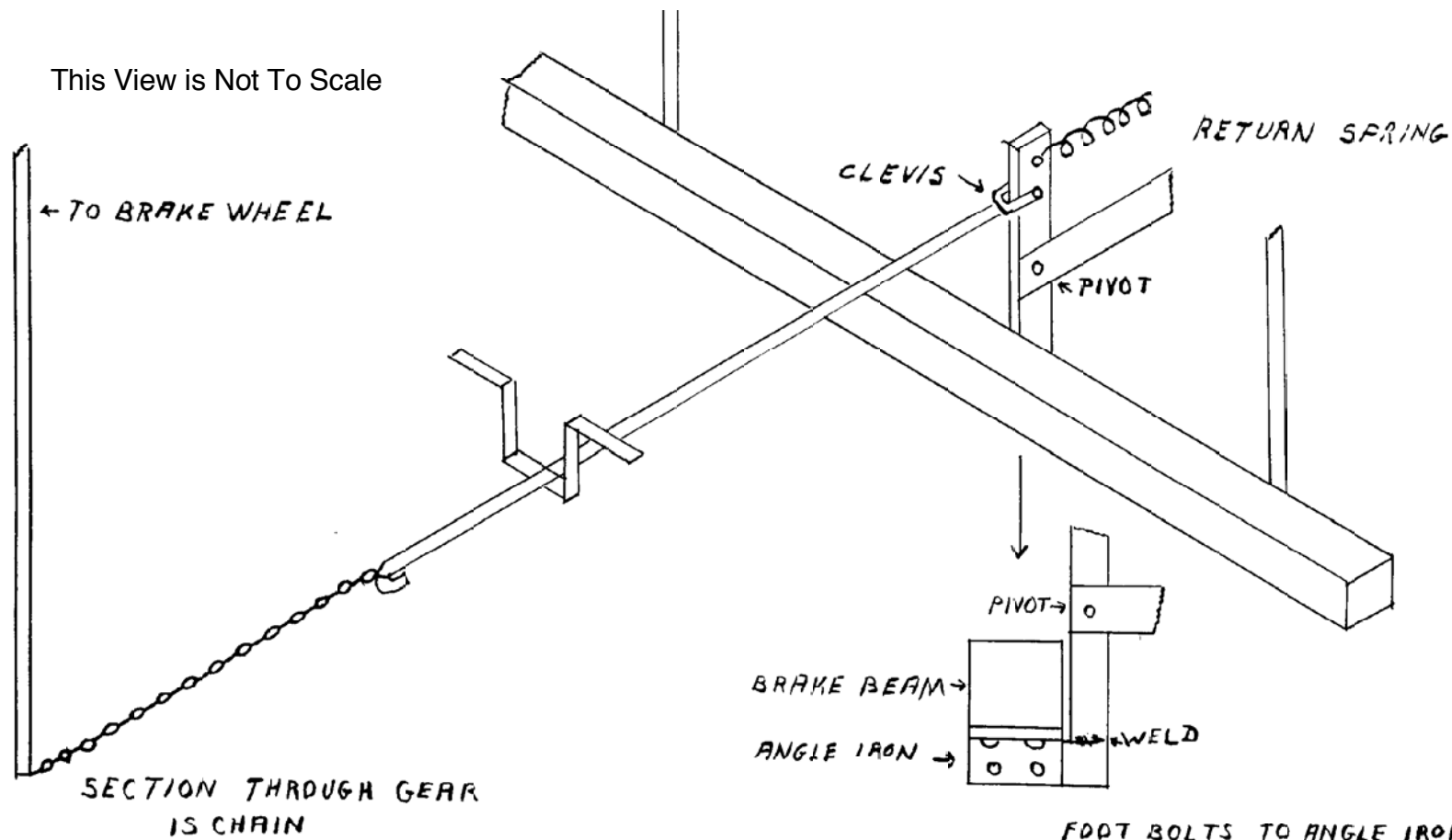
Pg 3 of 4

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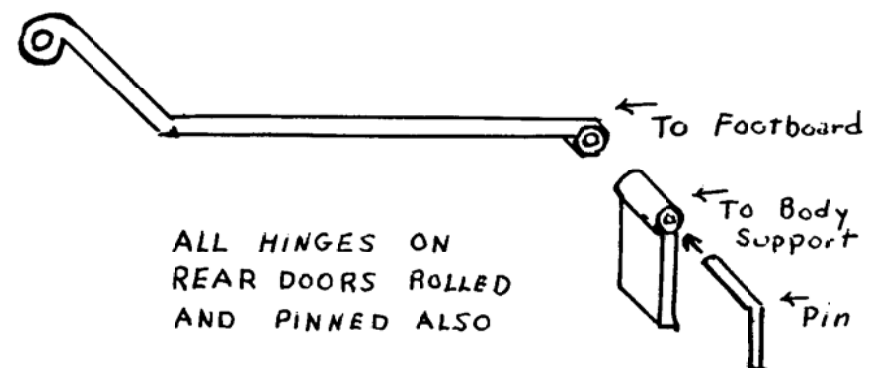
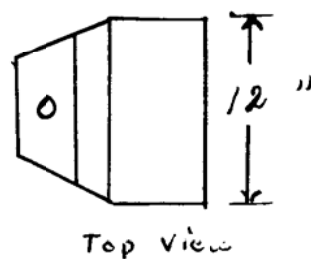
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This View is Not To Scale



Top Brake Rod Bracket



**Robbins Bros. Circus**  
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Pg 4 of 4

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

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