

Well, fellow members here I am again. but this time i think we can have a little fun applied with this article and plan of this mystery steam calliope.

Yes, at one time this was a real circus steam calliope as you can see with the supplied photo. Let me tell you how I got this photo and ten others which is hard to believe. While I was working with the Maine Central Railroad a fellow worker came to me with eleven glass plates of circuses played here in Portland, Maine. Believe it or not, the plates cost me the staggering sum of twenty-five cents a plate. The dates on the plate covers were 1909-1910-1911. The show titles were Ringling Bros. Circus, 101 Ranch Wild West and Adam Forepaugh Circus. However the plates were not put into the proper envelopes.

I put an ad in the LCW, the Bandwagon and the White Tops. Many collectors and fans purchased the photos for their collections. Many of our circus historians in all three organizations, really could not pinpoint - steam calliope.

The supplied photo with this article was used in the Bandwagon issue of November-December 1969, page 22, photo number 32. It does mention Adam Forepaugh, it also mentions Ringling Bros Circus, and it also mentions Kit Carson Wild West. It also states no other photo of this wagon has been located, so now up to this date, the question still remains, who owned this calliope.

Two years later my friend the late Charles Amidon, a model builder and a fine circus artist sent me a pen sketch of the other half of the wagon as to what it might have possibly looked like. by looking at the sketch. It does make sense. With this sketch as a plate, I have made drawings of the front and rear of this wagon with the same thought, this is what it could have possibly looked like.

So my dear model builders, with the history of this wagon, Charles Amidons sketch and my drawings of the possible front and rear, this could make a very attracting steam calliope for your show.

The Mystery Steam Calliope

DATE: 1909 | SCALE: 1/2" = 1

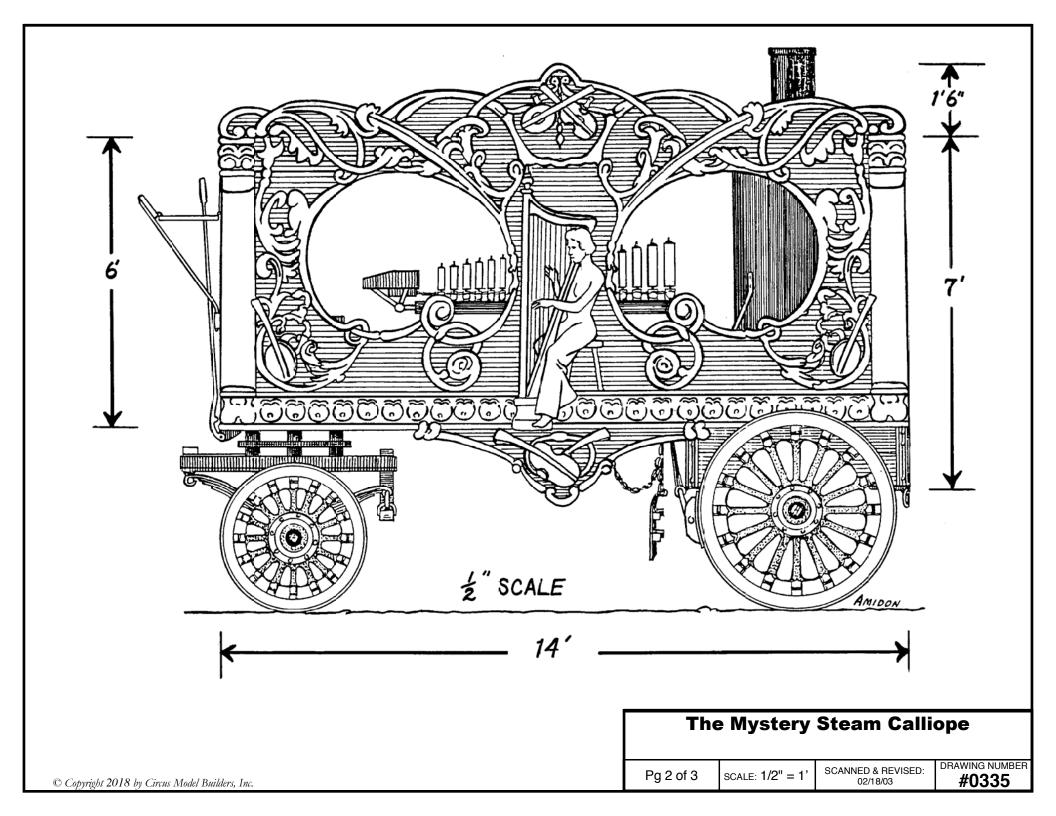
SCANNED & REVISED: 02/18/03

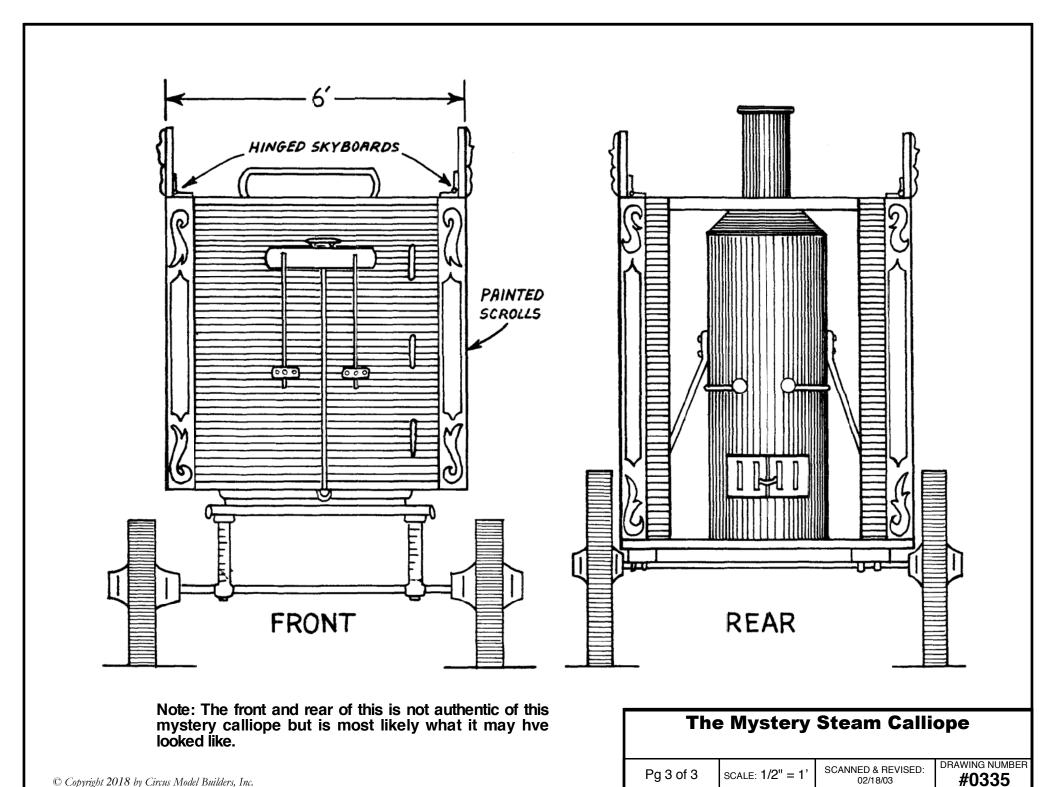
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Circus Model Builders

Drawn By
Charles Amidon & M. Allaire

DRAWING NUMBER #0335





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