

Let's take a look at a very important part of the circus in fact it is the very heart of the Big Show itself, THE PAD ROOM. This tent combines men's and ladies dressing rooms and all ring stock. There is a lot of equipment in this unit and no circus could be complete without it. All Liberty, Rosinbacks, Menage horses and ponies are quartered here and it is also the home of the performers, from day to day. Dressing rooms can be placed in two ways; Men on one round end and ladies on the far end or both on one end with a canvas partition separating the two. I like the latter for miniature as it leaves the far end open for a better view of the horses inside. You will notice in the sketch that the trunks are placed in rows marked A-B-C-D and E. Also each trunk is given a number.

Each day trunks are placed in the same location. Each trunk has a sectional pipe affair with a broad top, used to hang clothes and wardrobe and a mirror, Two water buckets are in front of each trunk with the person's name lettered on each, Some use a canvas folding chair. Each dressing room has a water barrel for drinking water. Clowns usually stay together in rows, aerialists, Wild West people, etc. This is NOT CLOWN ALLEY, Clown Alley is outside next to the back door of the Big Top and houses rows, of clown prop boxes.

Now let us move to the other end of the pad room where ring stock is usually placed in 4 rows, with the ponies on the far end. Roped or pole tied stalls can be used with a canvas bag arrangement tied in head of each stall for feeding. Props shown can be bales of hay and straw, pitchforks and shovels, water buckets (marked-Ring Stock), harness gear, trappings and plume boxes can be shown and we can hang harness and trappings beside each horse. Floats, carts, sulkies and chariots should be spotted handy just outside the door in the back yard. On the Cole Show in 1935-36 all trunks were carried in the American Wagon. Asia Wagon carried Clown Alley props. Both wagons had water buckets loaded also. They also used a pad room canvas wagon, too.

Trunks in the circus must be uniform in size and square in shape, no old fashion Camel backs were allowed. This was necessary for loading. The standard size trunk is 18" wide, 20" high and 24" long. This is

known in size as "24" and looked on with favor by all circus prop men who must pack them in the wagon. This type and size was usually stipulated in your contract on the old time shows, although it was not strictly enforced. Many trunks are "30" and even "36"'s. The performers name goes on top along with MDR or LDR (Men's dressing room or Ladies' dressing room) also a row letter and trunk number (see drawing). Anyone who can put a small box together can make a miniature trunk. Cut corners and reinforcement irons from soft tin, punch and pin on, with small bank pins. Trunks can be made to open and hold wardrobe, make-up and all the odds and ends found necessary. Paint trunks various colors - all black, all brown, top half red, bottom half black, blue center panels on top of all, black trunks, etc. Outside of the dressing rooms we can show laundry on clothes lines, For men we would have sport shirts, socks, tights, shorts, etc. On the ladies' wash lines we have tights, stockings and you know what. Some water buckets can be shown out here too, waiting to be filled by the water wagon. Oh, yes, let's not forget the two little tents in the back yard marked Men Performers and Lady Performers.

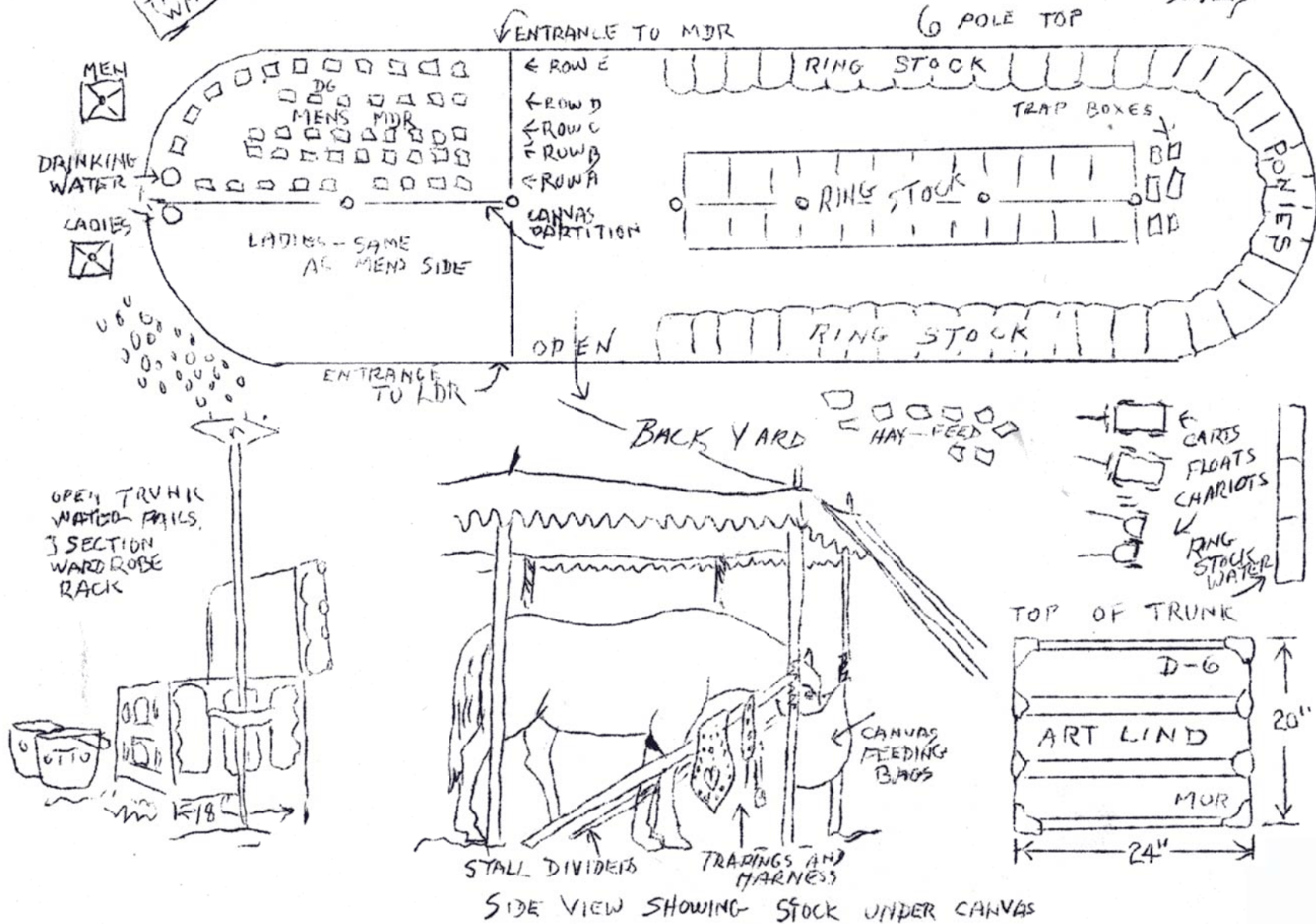
Flags on the center poles can be lettered - Ponies, Arabian Horses, Equestrian, Circus or they can all be American flags. Four, five or six-pole top can be used, depending on the size of your show. This tent will have an entrance, but you will find it opening into the back yard. Some shows spotted their wardrobe department in part of the entrance, but you will find that your wardrobe department will show off better outside by itself with its own top. This entire unit if constructed and built with as much detail as possible will attract attention and any effort you put into it will be well repaid in satisfaction.

Well, fellow model builders, here is something to keep you busy for some time to come. Don't rush through it, take your time and work in all, the detail you can and you will, be surprised at the finished job.

Circus Pad Room			
DATE: None	SCALE: None	SCANNED & REVISED: 01/13/04	Pg 1 of 2
Circus Model Builders			
Drawn By Jean LeRoy			DRAWING NUMBER #0154

CIRCUS PAD ROOM

NOTE -
(DRAWING NOT IN SCALE)



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