Plate I - Ringling circa late 40's. Note Betty Broadbent pose on far left panel and compare it to Beatty Photo No. 6.

Past issues of the LCW give good coverage and description as well as sizes and construction of the side show banner line of canvas or folding panel However, if you are solely dependent upon CMB information, the design of the panels has been hinted and suggested but has never been completely covered by pictures.

In developing my four wagon spread, I photographed only a portion of the Ringling Circus in the late 40's and then had to catch the closest remaining tent shows after my stint in the naval service. For your use, I have prepared seven plates.

Plate I is only a portion, but I included to specifically show the pose for Betty Broadbent, the tatooed lady,

Plates II through IV take the 1963 Clyde Beatty and Cole Bros. Circus clockwise starting with Photo 1 on left midway; Photo 2 left midway near main entrance to the Big Top. Photo 3 shows entry marquee and portion of semitrailer on right midway. Photos 4,5 and 6 show the five panels of the semitrailer nearest the Big Top entry. Photo 7 shows the bally platform, ticket booths and side show entry. Photos 8, 9 and 10 show five additional panels on the second semitrailer. Photo 11 shows the second pit show and its relationship to the bannerline. Photo 12 was a night shot ten years later showing the snake charmer, contortionist, barker and flame swallower.

Note the similarity of Photo 6, Plate III to the far left panel of the photo on Plate I.

Plates V and VI are of the 1962 Cristiani Wallace Bros. Circus and should be referenced to Vol. 31 No. 1 pages 13 and 14 of the LCW for December 1967 - January 1968. A full description was given by Walter Heist. These photos will help to fill that area. Notice that the art on this show was "G randma Moses" style. The figures were definitely not by artists, thus, adding justification for some liberties on the part of the model builder.

In working with the smaller scales, the Monkey Village panel was deemed to be too involved for reproduction. I looked through "A Ticket to the Circus," "The Circus in America," "Pictorial History of the American Circus," "The Circus" (Ideals), and "Great Days of the Circus" for a sampling of acts which I felt I could either carve or modify existing figures to resemble these acts. You might try the same.

Plate VII shows three model makers versions of the folding banner line. All are scratch built. George Baney's work is on sheet metal. John Paul Roberts is of 1/8" basswood utilizing decoupage trim. Evan Reichard's is of basswood with paintings done on colored craft background.

Note that many of the pictures contain patrons of the circus. If you study them, you will be able to determine how to place your own figures on the midway.

The Evolution of Side Show Panels

DATE: 1963	SCALE: None	SCANNED & REVISED: 06/26/03	Pg 1 of 7

Circus Model Builders

Drawn By	DRAWING NUMBER
Evan L. Reichard, CMB 1142	#0294

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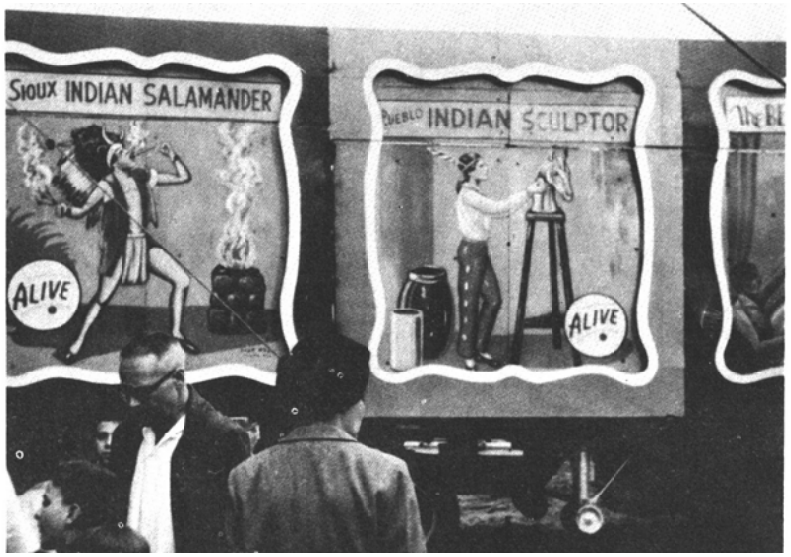
Beatty Photo No. 2

Beatty Photo No. 3

Plate II

Beatty Photo No. 1



Beatty Photo No. 4

Clyde Beatty & Cole Bros. Circus
April 30, 1963
Glen Burnie, Maryland

The Evolution of Side Show Panels

Pg 2 of 7	SCALE: None	SCANNED & REVISED: 06/26/03	DRAWING NUMBER #0294

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Beatty Photo No. 6

Beatty Photo No. 7

Plate III

Beatty Photo No. 5

Beatty Photo No. 8

Clyde Beatty & Cole Bros. Circus
April 30, 1963
Glen Burnie, Maryland

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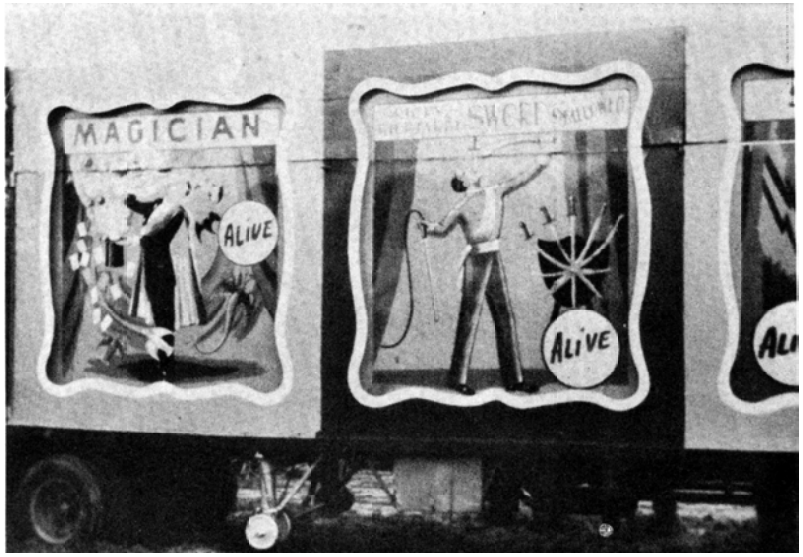
The Evolution of Side Show Panels			
Pg 3 of 7	SCALE: None	SCANNED & REVISED: 06/26/03	DRAWING NUMBER #0294

Beatty Photo No. 10

Beatty Photo No. 11

Plate IV



Beatty Photo No. 9

Beatty Photo No. 12

Clyde Beatty & Cole Bros. Circus
April 30, 1963
Glen Burnie, Maryland

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Cristiani Photo No. 1

Cristiani Photo No. 2

Plate V

Cristiani Photo No. 4

Cristiani Wallace Bros. Circus
May 3, 1962
Glen Burnie, Maryland

Cristiani Photo No. 3

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The Evolution of Side Show Panels			
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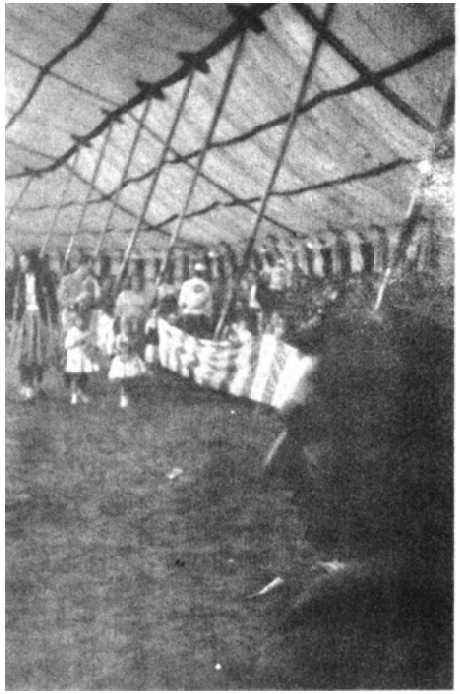
Beatty Photo No. 5

Beatty Photo No. 6

Plate VI



Beatty Photo No. 8

Cristiani Wallace Bros.
Circus
May 3, 1962
Glen Burnie, Maryland

Beatty Photo No. 7

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The Evolution of Side Show Panels			
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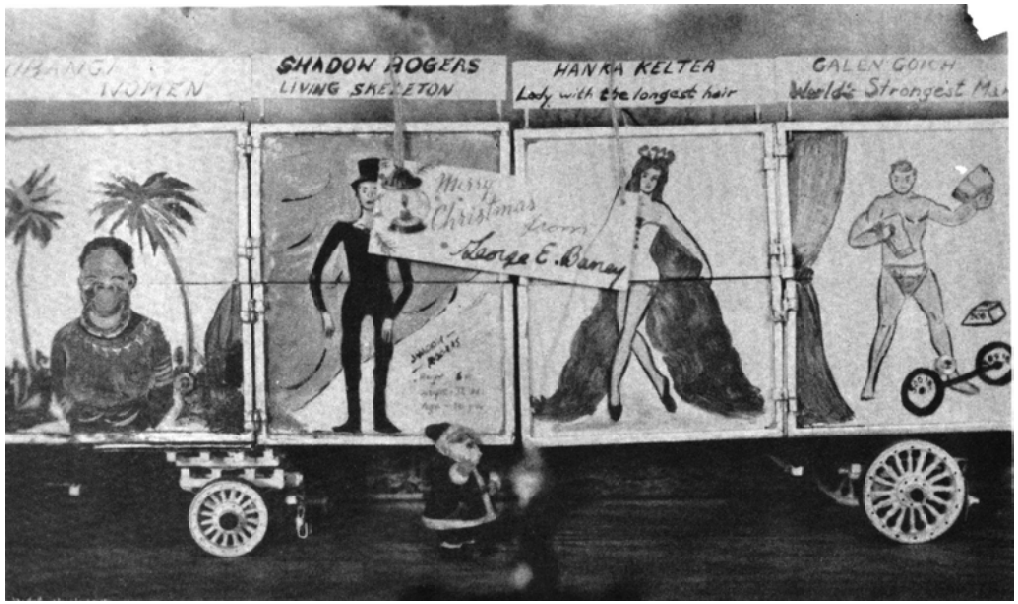
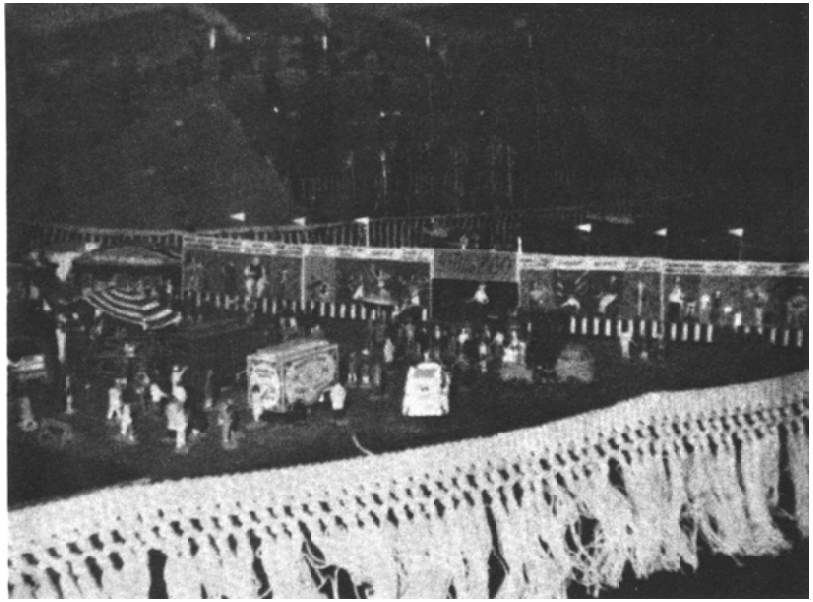
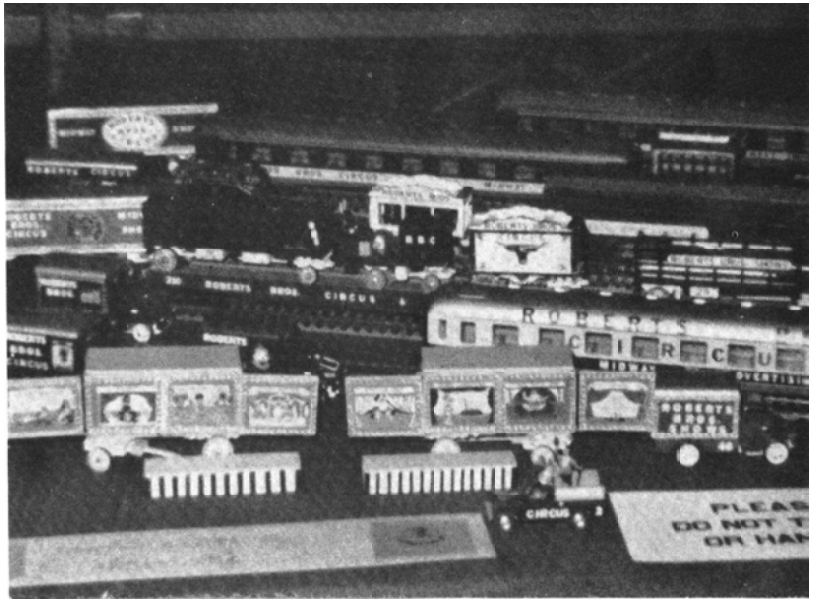


George E. Baney



Evan L. Reichard



John Paul Roberts, Sr.

Plate VII

The Evolution of Side Show Panels

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