

Memory Ornaments: The Bill Lynch Shows

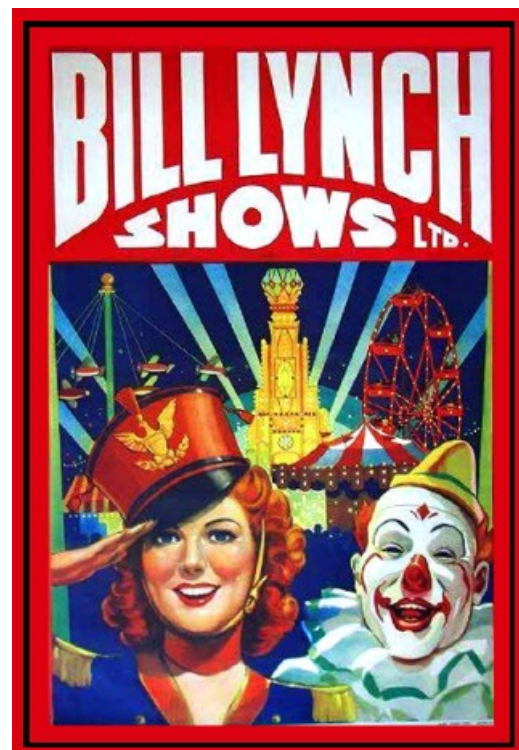
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I love making Christmas ornaments, and I especially love capturing childhood memories to add to my own tree and those of my siblings.

A friend sent along this poster image, and it brought such a rush of nostalgia that I knew I had to make a memory ornament.

When I was a child, one of the highlights of the whole year was the arrival of the Bill Lynch Shows, a travelling midway that visited our town over 10 days in early July. We called it the Circus, and it was all any kid could talk about once these colourful posters began to appear in store windows in June.



I never saw either a majorette or a clown in attendance, but there were rides and games and prizes, and the whole thing had an air of heady excitement that none of us could resist.

For us, the Circus was the highlight of the summer.

To make my ornament, I used my 2x3" button machine -- a gift I gave myself back when I was still working. It's a perfect size and shape for featuring a poster image like this one.

Even if I didn't have the machine, I would still have made my ornament, decouping my images to hardboard or even multiple layers of cardstock.



I made my ornament from two buttons, removing the pinbacks first.



Before making up the buttons, I punched holes in the metal forms to allow for a jump ring to attach the beaded component to the finished ornament.



I glued the finished buttons back-to-back using Goop, clamped them with clothespins, and set them aside to dry. Once the unit had dried, I added a large jump ring and glued red and white braid trim around the edges, again using Goop. Craft wire and beads from my stash made up the beaded element, and the whole thing hangs from an ornament hook.

Once I had finished the first ornament, I decided to make more for my siblings and our Maritimer friends. I know these ornaments will be just as nostalgic for them as they are for me.



The Bill Lynch Shows, a staple of east coast culture for decades, are long defunct now, of course. There's still a small midway that does the circuit, but it doesn't

bring with it the level of awe and excitement that we felt, back in the days when such wonders were still rare.

My favourite ride was then -- and still remains -- the Tilt-a-Whirl. One of these days I'll have to make an ornament of that.