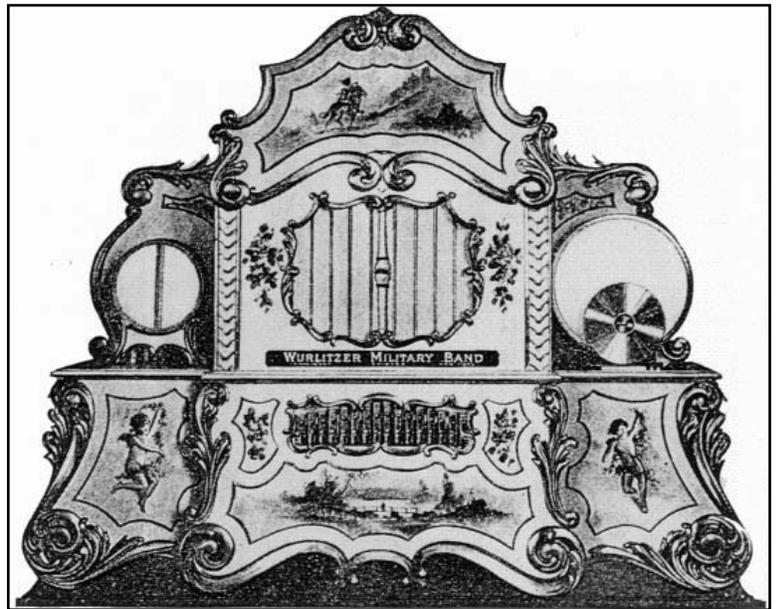


In 2001, the organ and carousel were moved to a permanent new carousel building, a custom-designed architectural complement to the nearby renowned Como Park Horticultural Conservatory (Figure 4). The carousel building is a mini version of the conservatory. Como Park is one of the premier parks in the upper Midwest and offers a multitude of summer and winter activities. The carousel was rescued due to local philanthropist Gerald Cafesjian, whose generosity paid for most of the restoration and for the new carousel building.

Figure 5. The Wurlitzer Style 153 as it appeared in a Wurlitzer factory photo. The organ referred to as a “Duplex Orchestral Organ” was meant for carousels and open-air dance pavilions. Over 169 of this type of organ was made over a twenty year period beginning in 1916.



Angelo Rulli is currently the Assistant Editor of the Carousel Organ. Angelo’s passion is organ grinder memorabilia of any kind and he loves playing the part of an Italian organ grinder.

Arnold Masino, Hurdy Gurdy Man

Ed Ditto

George Arnold Masino was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, on October 20, 1897 (Figure 1). When he was one year old, his family moved to Akron, Ohio where at age 18 he got a job with B.F. Goodrich. He worked in several different offices there for seven years before joining his father in the horseradish business as a salesman and delivery man.

He had many interests but his love of animals won out. In 1935 he started training animals as a hobby after seeing the late Harry Thompson show off his dog, goat, and pig act at the former Summit Beach Park. By 1937 Arnold was on a full-time circuit with his “Arnold’s Comedy and Acrobatic Animals.” He toured Ohio and neighboring states with an act of animals that included a cart-drawing pig, an acrobatic goat named Billy Whiskers and several monkeys.

Arnold developed a hurdy gurdy routine but could not find an organ. Finally, he found a man in Frankfurt, Germany, (Werner Cleve) who could custom build him one for him. It was a replica of the early hurdy gurdys which date back more than 200 years to Austria. It was a 20-note, 20-pipe barrel organ on a stick. It was pinned to play



Figure 1. Arnold Masino with his monkey and 20-note organ.

six American tunes changed by shifting the barrel back and forth. The six tunes were *The Band Plays On*, *American Patrol*, *Chiri Biri Bin*, *Mexican Hat Dance*, *Vienna Waltz*, and the *Anniversary Waltz*.

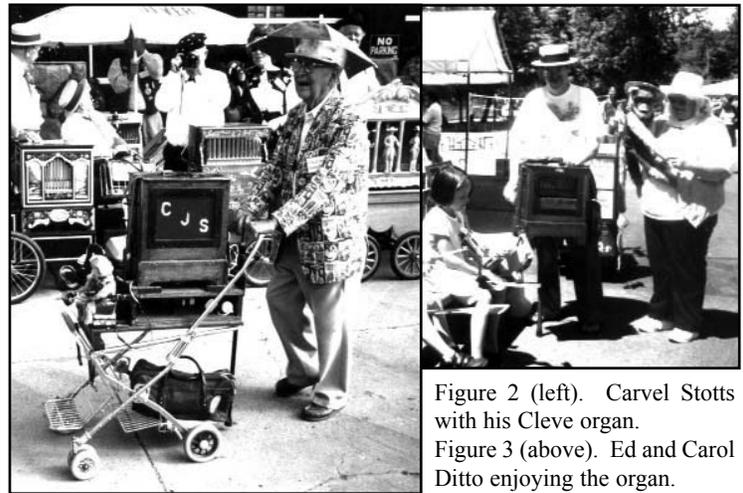


Figure 2 (left). Carvel Stotts with his Cleve organ.

Figure 3 (above). Ed and Carol Ditto enjoying the organ.

At age 69 Arnold quit full time work with his animals and concentrated on the hurdy gurdy routine, It was a bigger success than expected and he performed full time until his death on Tuesday, December 19, 1978.

Many of you have seen this organ. After Arnold's death Bill and Marge Waters arranged the sale of it to Carvel Stotts (a colorful, long-time member of the MBSI). Carvel pushed it on a baby stroller and attended many rallies (Figure 2). The organ now resides in the collection of Ed and Carol Ditto (Figure 3).

Ed and Carol Ditto are avid “organ grinders” who actively grind their organs for nursing homes and other charity-related events as well as our own COAA rallies. They recently formed a new chat group (internet) for organ grinders (organgrinders@yahoo.com).