

Frank Rider **(Observations by Two Close Friends)**

Len Railsback and Richard Hujar

Franks Rider was lost to all the *Happiest Music on Earth* family and friends on June 10th, 2003. Frank was born in Port Clinton, Ohio, Oct. 31, 1931 to John F. (Jack) Rider and Caroline (McClure) Rider. He was a 1949 graduate of Port Clinton High School and a 1953 graduate of Bowling Green State University. He married Evelyn Hope McCandlish also of Port Clinton in 1955. Frank is survived by Hope and three sons John, Karl and Mark and their families. Frank's career was in Human Relations at U.S. Gypsum in Wabash, Indiana.



Len Railsback and Frank enjoying a light moment while viewing Jef Ghysel's organ collection in Brussels, Belgium on the "Bumbling Bruder" tour of 2002.

Our first meeting with Frank and Hope was in 1974 when they answered an add in the *Antique Trader* about a 147 Wurlitzer that we had for sale. A trip to Hutchinson, Kansas, was made with them to return to Wabash with the organ. Our friendship just grew and grew from that time. Annual meetings of MBSI, rallies, trips to Europe and visits in each others home. We shared the good times and the bad times. Now we were all excited about the COAA, rallies and friends.

How do we say good-bye to Frank, a special friend, husband, father, grandfather? This has been a difficult thing to do. This years MBSI Mid Am rally was just not the same with out Frank. Then we can hear Frank say "carry on and enjoy life."

Frank had a memory that covered every subject. Many times we suggest that he write a book. He could tell you where a music machine was even if it had been sold several times.

Frank's funeral was a celebration of his life that many friends attended. It was mentioned that more were there than at some chapter meetings. It seemed to us that the rain on the way to the mausoleum was the way many of our rallies ended. Frank would have said "What did you expect?"

Hope shared with me a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson:

Of speckled eggs the birdie sings.
And nests among the trees;
The sailor sings of ropes and things
On ships upon the seas.
The children sing in far Japan
The children sing in Spain:
The organ with the organ man
Is singing in the rain.

Frank. We know you are enjoying *The Happiest Music on Earth in Heaven*.

Len and Billie Railsback

We met Frank 23 years ago when we attended our first Music Box Society Chapter Meeting. Ever since that meeting we became good friends. Frank became everyone's friend the instant he met you.

The organ rallies were Frank's favorite meetings and he and Hope always had plenty of chairs for you to sit and he would play your favorite roll. This was the Frank that will always be in our memory—whether it be at a rally or in his home.

Frank was always encouraging people he met at rallies to join our group and telling them we had more fun than anyone else. Whenever you received a phone call from Frank it was to



Frank and Richard Hujar take time out to rest between cranking the organ at the last COAA rally of 2002 (Zoar, Ohio).



Hope and Frank dancing to the organ music at the 2002 COAA rally in Holland, Michigan.

ask you if you could host a meeting or sign up to be on a committee. His first words to you would be "I'll help you."

Over the decades he enjoyed collecting lots of fun stuff but I believe that collecting a wide variety of organs was his real passion. He had an outstanding memory for remembering where each nickelodeon or band organ had been acquired and the succession of previous owners.

A visit to the Riders was always fun—getting a first class tour of the collection and occasionally hearing one of his very



Frank's organ rally vest and hat laid out in remembrance of him at his funeral. Photo: Mary Pollock

new acquisitions. His last words to you at every meeting were "come see us."

One of the events that I looked forward to was the twice a year trip to Chicago to attend the advertising, slot machine and juke box show. Over the years Frank, Harold Freiheit and myself would drive to the show. Hope called us "The

Three Musketeers." The plan was to meet at Frank's on Friday, get up early the next morning, awakened by the music of the Wurlitzer Nickelodeon, and start the drive to Chicago. Hope graciously packed us a lunch so we never had to stop. We spent the day scouring the show looking for that great bargain. On the way home we always stopped at the Ponderosa Restaurant for dinner. When we arrived home we relaxed with popcorn and beer. This was our plan for every trip. I will miss this because Frank was such a big part of this whole experience and they say nothing is ever the same.

After Frank became ill we went to Wabash to see him in the nursing home. We found out that his birthday was on Halloween. We teased him about that and had him smiling. He was a trooper and we had a memorable visit with him that day.

Frank loved his family, music and friends. Our sympathies are with Hope and his family. We will miss our dear friend. I wonder if Frank has already had that first Band Organ Rally in heaven?

Richard and
Mary Ann Hujar

Frank M. Rider, 71
Wabash County's
"Calliope Man"
Oct. 31, 1931 - June 10, 2003



Frank M. Rider, Wabash, passed away June 10 at Americare Living Center, Wabash. He was ill 4 months.

Frank was an avid collector, first of antique cars, then of automatic musical instruments; calliopes, fair organs, band organs and small street organs. He was a popular sight in local parades with his ornate, gilded calliope wagon. His trademark straw hat, striped shirt and hand puppets amused the crowds. This tradition will live on through his sons.

He was born in Port Clinton, Ohio, Oct. 31, 1931, to John F. "Jack" Rider and Caroline (McClure) Rider. His father was an avid hunter and decoy carver.

Frank was a 1949 graduate of Port Clinton High School and a 1953 graduate Bowling Green State University. He married Evelyn Hope McCandlish, also of Port Clinton, in 1955.

Frank began a lifelong career in Human Relations at the U.S. Gypsum Co. plant near Port Clinton, transferring to Genoa, Ohio, then to Wabash. He was a founding member of the Wabash Valley Personnel Assoc. He served on the Board of Directors of the Otis R. Bowen Center for over 30 years. He was appointed by Mayor Mitten to the City of Wabash Board of Zoning Appeals and Plan Commission, serving for over 30 years. Mr. Rider was a member of the board of trustees of the Musical Box Society International and was a member of the Carousel Organ Association of America.

Masonic affiliations were O.H. Perry Lodge, Port Clinton; Port Wayne Mizpah Shrine; and Wabash Shrine Club. Masonic services were held June 12 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Home.

Frank is survived by his wife, Evelyn Hope, and sons, John F. (Karen) Rider, Noblesville, Karl (Sally) Rider, Wabash, and Mark (Marie) Rider, Milwaukee, Wisc.; and his grandchildren, Clare Rider, Noblesville, Cale and Matt Rider, Wabash, and David Rider, Milwaukee, Wisc.

With a lifetime membership in the Methodist Church June 13 services were held at First United Methodist Church, Wabash. Pastor Jim MacDonald officiated. Susan Vanlandingham was organist. Burial was in Chapel of Remembrance, Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Pallbearers were Ray Hood, Roger Rapp, George Akers, and Cale and Matt Rider, Wabash; Mike Grant, Columbia City; Don Stinson, Bellefontaine, Ohio; and Leonard Railsback, Hutchinson, Kan. Calliopiist was Paul Dyer, Fortville.

Wabash, Indiana's remembrance of Frank

Written and submitted by Hope Rider