

for Ride 1 was cleverly reused for Ride 2 as a further cost-cutting measure (at the time, it must have been felt that any record featuring the popular Bozo character would be a best seller). As was the standard industry practice then, both of these records were released in the 78-rpm and 45-rpm speeds. While sales figures for these two records are not available, their relative scarcity indicates that they probably did not sell as well as Capitol's other children's records featuring the likes of Bugs Bunny, Hopalong Cassidy, and Bozo himself.

If you've been searching for an original copy of "Bozo's Merry-Go-Round" Ride 1, finding Ride 2 will be even more of a challenge. Even Peter Muldavin (whose personal collection of 78-rpm children's records exceeds 11,000 titles) admits that it eluded him until only recently, a sure indication that, after 53 plus years, there aren't all that many copies available on the open market. In addition to being prized keepsakes for those of us from the "baby boomer" generation, the colorful Bozo record covers are collector's items in their own right, further contributing to the desirability (and scarcity) of these two titles.

Fortunately, for those who *must* have these records for their collections but don't have the time or the patience to spend the days/weeks/months/years required to locate original copies, it is possible to order a custom-burned CD with all of the selections contained on Rides 1 and 2 from Peter Muldavin's Kiddie Record King website (www.kiddierokordking.com/). Full color copies of the original record covers are also available from Peter—if you mention that you are a member of the COAA, or that you read this article in the *Carousel Organ*, he'll give you a 15% discount on your order.

Was a "Ride 3" ever issued? The scarcity of the first two records tends to indicate that there was probably not enough interest on the part of the record buying public to warrant releasing a third installment of "Bozo's Merry-Go-Round Music." Back in 1954, there was still plenty of opportunities for the general public to hear live band organ music. It was only after the old time amusement parks started disappearing at an

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alarming rate that the demand arose for carousel-related items such as carved wooden figures and band organ recordings. Had the "Bozo's Merry-Go-Round Music" records been released a decade or so later, they might have "gone gold" as they say in the record industry. We can be thankful that, long ago, some record producer unwittingly preserved for posterity examples of the music that has been delighting generations of children (and their parents) right up to the present day.

Eric Beheim is a life-long carousel and band organ fan. He and his wife, Pat, live in Southern California in east San Diego County

Ed Schmidt

Edward Franklyn Schmidt, 74, of McFarland, Kansas, died Friday, August 24, 2007 at Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center in Topeka. He had been a member of the community since 1976.



Ed was born May 17, 1933 in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Edward and Mildred Birth Schmidt. He attended local schools and graduated in 1951 from Rhodes High School in Cleveland. He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict.

Ed spent his adult life building organs (before Ed started building band organs, he worked many years as a craftsman at a furniture company). He worked for many different private collectors building and repairing "band" and other pipe organs all over the country. He took his love for mechanics and music and combined those into his craft of building instruments. Ed also built his own complete band organ (now in the possession of COAA member, Rick McDowell). He was a member of AMICA and COAA.

He married Evelyn Reuter on June 17, 1962 in South Gate, California. She survives at their home.

THE TUSSING Electric Auto-Player is an Instrument designed for use on AUTOMOBILES, MOTOR BOATS, etc. It is compactly and occupies but little space. On the running board of an automobile it occupies about the space of a radio. The instrument is especially adapted to cars furnishing their own current as it is easily connected to a trouble plug or some other convenient place of connection. It can be installed on a car in about 20 minutes and does not require a special workman to do it. The music is very pleasing and is in form of duets and can be heard for a considerable distance. It has a sweet and mellow tone and thus furnishes a pleasant warning signal. The construction is of the very best of materials and workmanship. The instrument requires no attention nor does it give any trouble. Bell Phone 546-J C. TUSSING 112 Adam Street Tonawanda, N. Y. Home Phone 61-11

An advertisement of a calliope-like musical device for an automobile. Using a interchangeable medium featuring six tunes this was marketed by Christian Tussing. Courtesy: Matthew Caulfield.