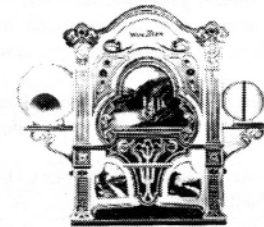




CAROUSEL ORGAN



The Official Publication of the
Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA)

The *Carousel Organ* is born!

Inside This Issue:

- Three rally reports
- *Meet Your Member* Column
- *Great Dorset Steam Fair* Photos
- Waldkirch's *Orgelfest*
- "Mediocre Restoration and Regulation" by Art Reblitz
- Schedule of Rallies (2000)
- Advertising Discussed

The *Carousel Organ* was chosen as the title of our new COAA publication. Plans were discussed for the formation of this (hopefully interesting) document at the recent business meeting held at the North Tonawanda rally in late August. Ron Bopp has volunteered to serve as Editor and Publisher with the assistance of former M.B.S.I. Editor, Angelo Rulli, who will assume the duties of assistant Editor.

Besides reporting the events of previous rallies and advertising future ones, the *Carousel Organ* will strive to list future rallies of many organizations; include a *Meet Your Member* column which will feature one of our members in each issue; educational articles, both original and repeated (from other sources); and a limited advertising section.

COAA members are requested to send any item they wish submitted to the editor for inclusion in the next issue of the *Carousel Organ*. Only with member support will this publication be successful.



COAA President Terry Haughawout fields a question at the business meeting in North Tonawanda while Mary Jo Bopp and Debbie Smith observe.

Editor/Publisher — Ron Bopp
Assist. Editor — Angelo Rulli

From The Editor's Loft...

As I take over this position of editing and publishing the *Carousel Organ* several things wander through my mind. First of all, am I crazy for doing this? Well, maybe so, but I have felt for years that the carousel and band organ enthusiasts in America needed more information about their interesting hobby than was available. By helping create a medium dedicated to providing this information this goal should be attainable. Am I qualified? Well, maybe so and maybe not, but I am going to try. I have had experience with writing; with desk-top publishing; with photography; and of course, interest in the subject matter. I have asked Angelo Rulli, past-Editor of the MBSI publications (for 17 or so years) to assist me in this task. Angelo, since retiring from his former position, is now in the real estate field and is quite willing to help.

What will be the content of the *Carousel Organ*? Besides the reports of ongoing COAA rallies (superbly provided by Hope Rider) I hope to include reports of other related functions (you can find three other such reports or photos of in this issue) as well as timely and informative articles relating to the field of outdoor (or amusement) mechanical musical machines (see page 9 for Art Reblitz's article). I have requested input from several "experts" in this field and already have interesting projects lined up for the future including an essay on the Wurlitzer "Monster".

One of the really neat things I have included is the "Meet Your COAA Member" column (see page 10). This will be a chance to learn a little more about those organ enthusiasts that you see at rallies. In addition, I plan on delving into the archives of other journals and reprinting interesting articles that will be of interest to you, the COAA readers. Many photos will accompany each issue, some related to the articles supplied and some, like the one at the bottom of this page, which have been provided by readers.

On page 11 we have discussed advertising, in the form of business card inserts. This will help make this publication even better and I invite any of our COAA members that wish to do so, please contact me about this.

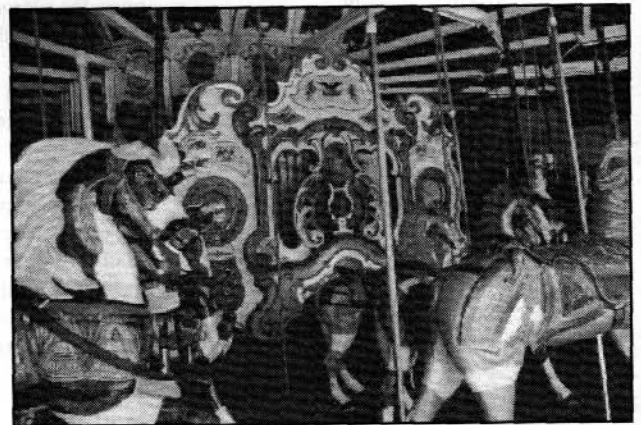
At the start, I wish to thank our COAA President, Terry Haughwout, as well as Marge Waters, Secretary, for their support of this project. In addition, I will thank ahead, Angelo, and Mary Jo, my wife, for their help in editing and support.

Now, time to go forth, and hear some organs...

Ron

A Parker Carousel Factory Advertisement:

The Parker Factory carries at all times a complete assortment of Military Band Organs suitable for use with Merry-Go-Rounds and Carry-Us-Alls. They are furnished with cylinder or paper played music as may be desired and at prices ranging from the lowest at which a serviceable instrument can be manufactured to the most ornate and costly that can be produced.



A Gebr. Bruder (playing B.A.B. 66 key rolls) on the B & B carousel at Coney Island, NY.

Photo supplied by Jeff Alterman.

Rally In The Woods **Hermitage Farms III, Marion, Ohio** **August 6 - 7, 1999**

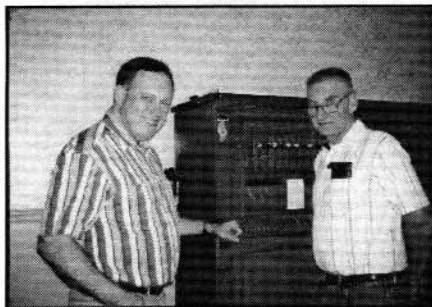
The Carousel Organ Association of America first rally of the year was held in and bordering a small wooded area on the edge of the city of Marion, OH, August 6 & 7th, 1999. The rally was arranged by Don and Norma Redd with the help of ABOA's Ken and Marian Smith and the staff of Carousel Concepts at Hermitage Farms III.

Carousel Concepts is an active wood carving business specializing in the carving of carousel horses, rounding boards and associated memorabilia. While strolling through the large building adjacent to the woods, people watched carvers in action as well as ride the Herschell-Spillman carousel.

Thursday evening the Redds hosted a picnic in nearby LaRue, OH, to the music of Larry Beverly's Wurlitzer Caliola and Larry Kern's Stinson Concert Organ. Guest enjoyed the picnic as well as tours of the Redd's Victorian home and musical box collection.

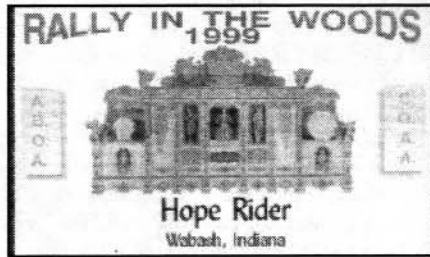


Ed Ditto and Linda Simons comparing merchandise at the display in the Carousel Concepts building.



Mike Perry and Frank Rider enjoy Mike's Link 2E coin-operated piano.

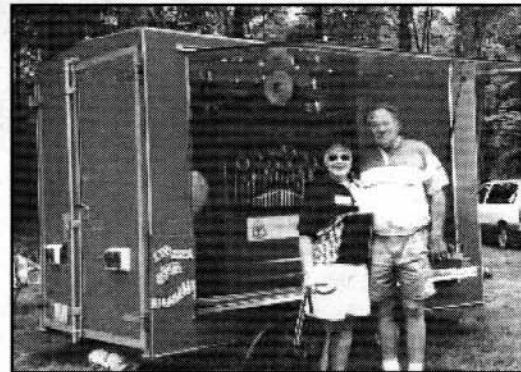
Friday, after a day of playing both cart-mounted street organs and large trailer housed organs, members enjoyed an open house at Linda and Mike Perrys in Old Town, Marion. Approaching the house one first admired its aquamarine color trimmed in deep aqua and rose accent. The Victorian interior is beautifully restored and mechanical music pealed forth as the group meandered throughout the house.



A pre-civil war Johns Rogers statue, which depicts an organ grinder entertaining children, is a focal point in the parlor. Other mechanical musical instruments include an upright Criterion musical box, organettes and automatic pianos (including a Link and a Seeburg). A Mills Violino entertains guests in the living room where there is also a Knabe

reproducing grand piano. In the room adjacent to the parlor an Aeolian Orchestrelle can be pumped as well as a standard player piano.

After touring the Perry homestead, Ken, Marian and Susan Smith hosted a party in the motel hospitality room complete with music supplied by the ABOA band. Players were John Prtljaga, percussion; Dave Vincent, Tuba; Kim Pontius, accordion; Ken Smith, trombonium, and Ben Jones, soprano sax. The listeners participated by singing along.



New COAA members, Leroy and Betty Schumacher pose with Mary Pollock's Wurlitzer Style 125.

Saturday, organs played throughout the wooded park to an appreciative crowd. Many people enjoyed the tabletop organettes and cart mounted street organs which were being played in the Carousel Concepts building. Saturday evening found the combined COAA/ABOA enjoying dinner at Carousel Concepts and the members headed home the next day with good music and memories to remember.

Hope Rider
 Wabash, Indiana

COAA Band Organ Rally Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum North Tonawanda, New York

August 27th and 28th, 1999, found over 30 members of COAA attending a band organ rally in North Tonawanda, NY. This rally was held in conjunction with the National Carousel Association which was held in nearby Niagara Falls.

Elizabeth Brick, curator of the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum (HCFM), greeted COAA members cordially. The capable volunteer staff assisted us in placing our organs and allowed us free reign of the museum/factory and 1916 Allan Herschell carousel. A focal point were carvers busy fashioning carousel horses.

The Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier was established in 1979. It purchased the above carousel in 1982 and then purchased the Herschell factory complex in 1985. Carousel horses, rounding boards and other amusement rides were carved/built in



Ed and Carol Ditto showing their display to Frank Rider.

this factory.

Thursday evening members enjoyed an organ concert in the 1926 Rivera Theater, as well as a tour of the backstage, dressing rooms and projector area. Early Friday morning members arrived to set up their organs, prior to the arrival of the general public. First to greet and display/demonstrate their organs were Ed and Carol Ditto (and granddaughter, Chelsea Christmas). Their tabletop display included a Werner/Clave monkey organ; Gem roller organ; Celestina; Clariona and a Raffin 20/31.

A Stinson #29 band organ was played by Frank and Hope Rider while Carl and Sharon Curtis displayed a Wurlitzer 105. Ron and Mary Jo Bopp played their 52 key Gebr. Bruder and Ron had a book signing of his new book, *The American Carousel Organ*, in front of the museum. Richard Pauly played a Raffin 31/103 trumpet organ assisted by his wife Shirley, while Dan Wilke entertained with a Hofbauer concert organ.

Howard Kohlbrenner played his Artizan XA2 assisted by Margot Sorrentino. Mary Pollock's Wurlitzer Military Band Or-

gan played varied tunes throughout the day as Mary had purchased new rolls from the HCFM right after they had been punched on the old Wurlitzer perforators.

Following the greenway, we found Harvey Roehl playing his Tangley calliope to the delight of Marion and an appreciative crowd. Bill and Marge Waters were nearby with their Stinson Style 165 band organ. Bob and Cheri Conant wowed everyone with their massive 1910 Wilhelm Bruder and Sohne fair organ. A Frati barrel organ pealed nearby, cranked by Don and Alice Sheetz.

Cliff Gray could be seen both days, carefully guarding and entertaining his Wurlitzer Style 150 band organ (a modified deKleist organ). Robbie Gray helped Cliff by greeting guests and the general public. John Leonard drove in from Canada with John Ashworth and Willie Tallon. With the Canadian flag flying, John's 1913 North Tonawanda band organ kept cadence with his Style 50 Kiddie Wurlitzer.

Texas' Larry Kern played his very large Stinson Model 187 band organ, the largest made by the Bellefontaine, Ohio, firm. COAA President Terry Haughwout played his Wilhelm Bruder and Sohne Model 79 band organ.

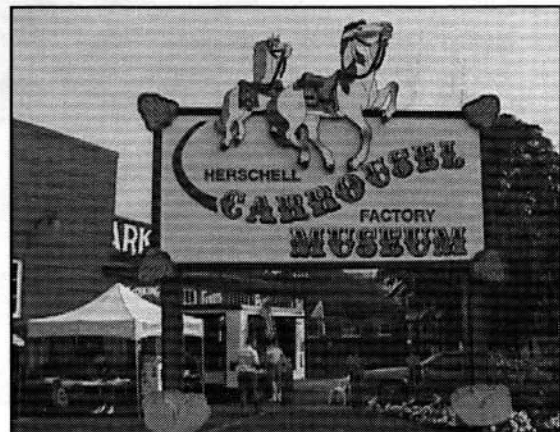
Saturday evening the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier hosted a supper for COAA members in Pine Woods Park. A short business meeting followed. Discussion was had regarding the improved COAA publication, the *Carousel Organ*.

While in the area many members visited Niagara Falls. Sunday open houses were offered by Stan Aldridge of North Tonawanda and Bill and Marge Whittemore of Hamburg, NY.

Hope Rider
Wabash, IN



Capt. John Leonard explaining his organ.



COAA Band Organ Rally
Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
North Tonawanda, New York

A Rally Collage



Mid-America Chapter's (M.B.S.I.) Band Organ Rally

The Mid-America Chapter 24th annual Band Organ Rally was held from July 29th to 31st, 1999, in Columbus, Indiana. Paul and Patty Dyer organized the rally, and the setting was a nice city park with lots of trees, grass and a scenic pond where paddleboats could float and enjoy the music. The only problem was that there were few paddleboat riders exercising their legs as the temperatures were in the 100s. This did not detract from the 300 chapter members however who trekked to this beautiful site to listen and enjoy the sounds of the band and fairground organs as well as the related circus calliopes and smaller hand-cranked street organs.

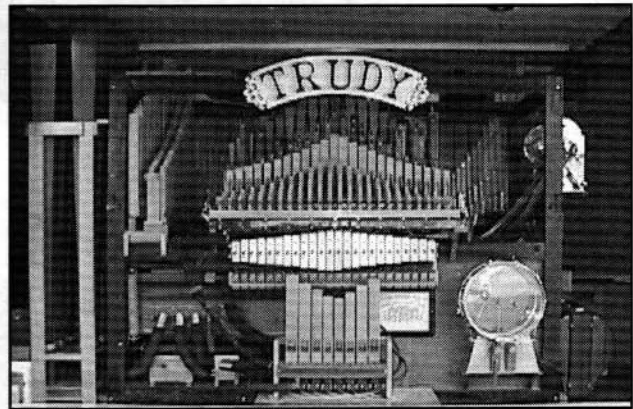


Rally coordinators, Patty & Paul Dyer, pose with Paul's Style 165 Fairground Organ

Over 40 large units were brought from as far as California and New York. As expected with an American rally, the Wurlitzer Company was well represented with over 14 organs showing up. There were several Wurlitzer Style 103s, 105s, and 125s, the one type of organ that Wurlitzer sold most of — it plays the Style 125 roll and includes brass trumpets and piccolos on the façade. Other styles included the 146, 147, 153, the Wurlitzer Caliola (Wurlitzer's answer to the competing Tanglely Company's Calliophone, or Calliope) and the rare Style's 106 and 126. There are only two Style 106 organs existing today and only one Style 126.

Other American organs included Wil Markey's 46 keyless North Tonawanda (mounted on a restored 1927 White Truck); two Artizan Factories, Inc., organs (one a 46 keyless Ruth which was converted to play the Artizan system in the late 1920s); and a very rare 46 keyless Niagara band organ (Niagara was in business only a very short time and probably less than 5 examples are in existence in the United States).

Mid-Am rallies are fortunate to have a number of European organs present and members enjoyed 4 different Gebr. Bruders; the Krughoff's 97 key Steenput fairground organ; and a 36 keyless A. Ruth. Seen for the first time in years was a Mortier band

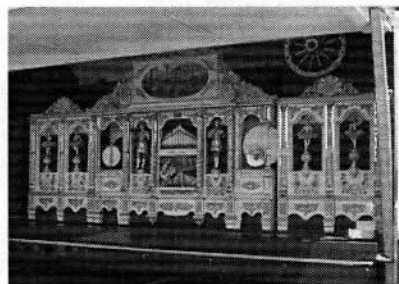


Trudy, a 98 key truck-housed organ, was brought from San Diego, CA, by Dave and Darlene Wasson.

organ brought by Bill Nunn.

These rallies usually have a number of contemporary-made organs and this year's rally was no exception as we were treated to Paul Dyer's Dyer Style 165 Fairground Organ; several Stinson (Don Stinson of Bellfontaine, Ohio) organs including a Style 165, 187 and two Dutch Street Organs; Phil Jamison's Prinsen Dutch Street Organ; and Dave Wasson's 98 Key Organ, Trudy.

We played for two days in the intense heat to a moderate number of interested onlookers; enjoyed a large and active mart and then met on Saturday evening for a banquet at which time a number of members dressed in the 1920's style clothing were acknowledged and given awards for their efforts. The entertainment was Ron Bopp's audio/visual presentation: "Escapades of the Bumbling Bruder Tour", a visual refreshment of the week's tour of Holland, Switzerland and Germany where 48 Mid-America Chapter members were able to enjoy two organ rallies, including the KDV rally in Arnhem and the Orgelfest in Waldkirch.



A beautifully restored Style 36 A. Ruth fairground organ from the Drew exhibition was brought by Tim Trager.

Great Dorset Steam Fair Dorset, England

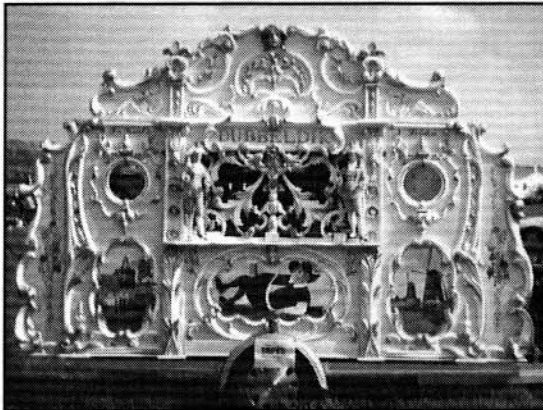
Every year over two hundred thousand people take in the Great Dorset Steam Fair, an exhibit of English life in the earlier years. Not only are steam engines and our beloved fairground organs a part of this festive event but the list continues on with such categories as Wood Sawing; Steam Wagons and Cars; Military Vehicles; Vintage Tractors; Ploughing Engines; Stationary Engines; Models of all kinds as well as many others. Jack Hardman, who attended this year's event, was kind enough to provide some photographs for our viewing.



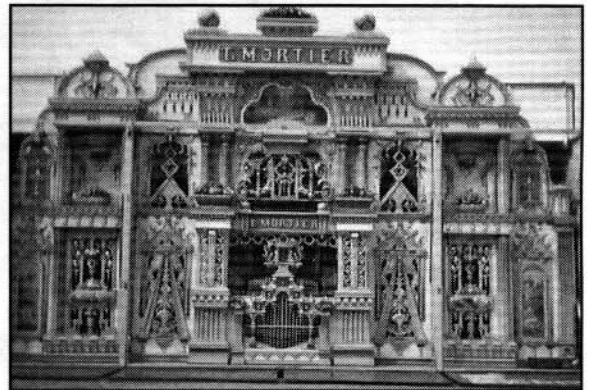
An Anton Pieck organ.



The John Bull Steam Carousel (*Golden Gallopers*)



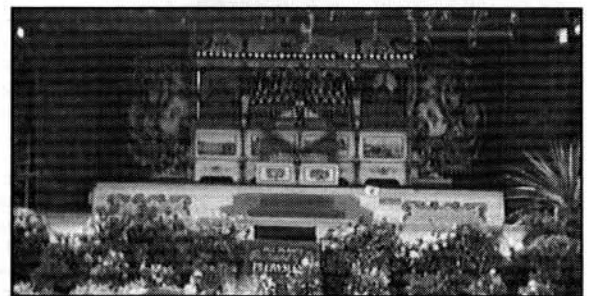
The Dubbeldik Organ



A large Mortier Organ.



Coupled traction engines



A large fairground organ in garden setting

Orgelfest '99 Waldkirch, Germany June 11 – 13, 1999

The *Orgelfest* this year in Waldkirch, Germany, was the scene of celebration of 200 years of organ building in that Black Forest Town. Many beautiful organs were present and below are just a "teaser" of some of those organs. A report of the *Orgelfest* along with many other photographs will appear in the next issue of the *Carousel Organ*.



A recently-built 56 key Keller organ with exposed pipework and unusually placed drums (left). This organ uses the 56 key Limonaire scale and was built by Frederick Keller, the last apprentice of Carl Frei, Jr.

On the right one can appreciate the power needed to crank this organ. Rotating positions and arms made this a visually attractive event to watch.

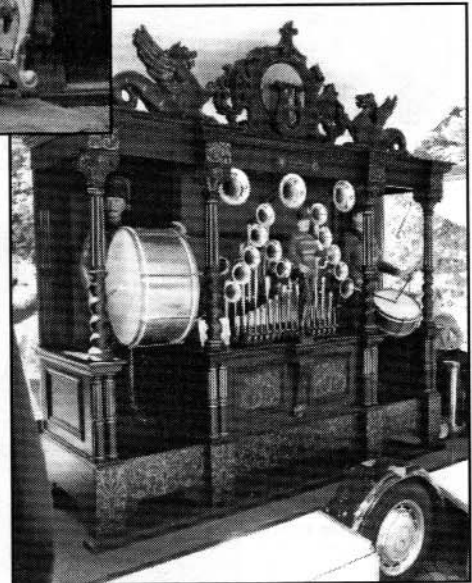


Not frequently seen in the United States are Wellerhaus organs and on the right is an attractive 70 key Wellerhaus. This sat in front of the original workshop of Ignaz Bruder (it is currently used by contemporary organ builder, Stefan Fleck).



On the left is a 90 key A. Ruth barrel organ (Model 24). The organ is in the collection of the Elztalhmuseum, the museum in Waldkirch that specializes in preserving the mechanical instruments that were manufactured there.

On the right is an unusual sight for Waldkirch, Germany. It is a Wurlitzer Style 130 Military Band Organ which was brought by Philippe and Eve Crasse of Toulouse, France. The organ was made for Wurlitzer by the deKleist firm in 1906. It later had embellishments added including the drum wing sections and animated figures.



Mediocre Restoration and Regulation*

I respectfully submit that in all cases where you have noticed mediocre musical results coming forth from an automatic instrument made during the "Golden Age" (circa late 1890s-1930), it is the fault of mediocre restoration or regulation, NOT mediocre standards of the original manufacturer.

I say this after restoring, regulating, and tuning hundreds of orchestrions of nearly every brand for over 30 years, always paying special attention to the musical finishing touches. I've also arranged over 300 music rolls and books for orchestrions and organs, and I've always been careful with note lengths, percussion timing, automatic registers, etc.

Certain technicians have glossed over the minute finishing touches that sometimes take 10%, 20%, or more of the total restoration time, because they believe "the customer has a tin ear, can't hear the difference and won't pay for it."

To the contrary, I've found that most collectors *can* hear the musical improvement even when they don't know the technical reasons for it. I've been rewarded time and time again when the owner of an instrument said "Wow — I never knew it could sound that good!" To me, that's what restoration is all about.

I'll never understand the mind of the technician who thinks repairing three instruments makes him or her more knowledgeable than the factory which made thousands of instruments — instruments that made good music for years of heavy commercial use, given a little proper tuning and maintenance. If the instruments didn't sound good when they were new, they would not have been a commercial success.

One example of a mechanism that very few people understand is the Seeburg reiterating snare drum mechanism. If you've heard one instrument, or 10, or 20 that didn't sound good, that doesn't mean the instrument didn't sound good when it was new. Only when one understands the relationship of bleed size, pouch dish, pouch porosity, valve travel, loud and soft vacuum levels, pneumatic span, lost motion between beater pneumatic and reiterating valve, original beater wire length, original beater weight, beater to head travel, pneumatic stop position, pneumatic open rest position, batter head material and thickness, snare head material and thickness, head tension and tuning, snare material, snare tension, and many other subtle factors, *only then* should that person pronounce judgment on a design.

Very few original instruments are still playing with their original materials and regulation. Since most have already been through one or more careless restorations, most of the original factory specs are long gone. Therefore, when an observer pronounces judgment on what he or she assumes are original specifications, in most cases they are actually criticizing sloppy rebuilding or incomplete regulation, perhaps going back as far as the late 1940s.

I'm not saying that a technician must have vast experience in order to understand how to make something sound good. Some individuals have been very successful with their first restoration, while others will never benefit from their experience.

In my opinion, the furthering of mechanical music is always better served by an attitude of careful respect for the original instruments than the more prevalent "I heard ten instruments that didn't sound good; therefore the manufacturer didn't know what it was doing."

Assume that in nearly all examples, if something doesn't work right, it just isn't fixed right. Then try to learn how to fix it right!

Art Reblitz
Colorado Springs, CO

*reprinted (with permission) from the August 19, 1999, issue of MMD

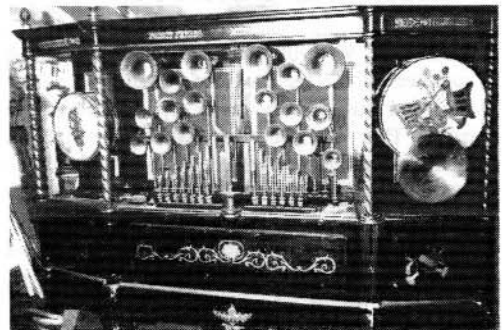
Wonderful Band Organ Sound

*The finest of pleasures we've found
As the horses and tigers go'round
Is a carousel ride with the kids at our side
And the wonderful band organ sound*

Vestal Press

A concert militaire band built in Mirecourt, France, by the firm Poirot frs. in 1885.

Photo and information from Francoise Dussour.



Meet your COAA Member

The featured COAA members this month are Roberta and Cliff Gray, Jefferson, Texas. Seen at every rally, their mechanical music experience dates back a long time. Cliff attended Baylor University where he played football and received his degree in geology and geophysics. As a child he was fascinated by the circuses that played in Terrell, Texas, where he was born. He would watch the circus unload while he played in his father's lumber yard. He even remembers listening to a big Wurlitzer 157 band organ at the Texas State Fair.



Cliff and Roberta Gray enjoying one of their two organs they bring to rallies. This one is a Wurlitzer Style 150 Military Band Organ

Cliff and Robbie met while he was working in Venezuela and they married there in 1959. When they returned to the States, Cliff worked in Washington, D.C. One day, in 1962, Robbie came home from an auction hauling a player piano in much need of repair and said: "Make it play, you can fix anything." And, he did. She continued to bring musical things home, and he continued to make them play. Cliff met Jim Wells, and they became good swapping

friends. His first band organ was a North Tonawanda, which he later swapped back (with some booty) for a Wurlitzer 146A. Soon the house was filled with all types of mechanical musical instruments. At this point in time, Cliff, Jim Wells, and Bruce Miller, along with others, started the National Capital chapter of MBSI, holding the organization meeting in Robbie's antique shop, where Cliff's machines were stored. All this was about 1976, just before Cliff's job was transferred to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. In the early 1980s the Grays became active in AMICA and hosted the Board of Director's meeting, with band organs lining the front of their home (outside Picayune, Mississippi). During this time they attended their first band organ rally, in Roscoe Village (Coshocton, Ohio). This started a whole, new and wonderful life. Since retiring and moving back to Texas — the little Piney Woods town of Jefferson — Cliff and Robbie have



Meet Your COAA Member

Each issue we will feature one of the COAA members who have provided familiar faces, organs and music for the many organ rallies of the past. This way, new and not-so-new COAA members can learn what others have contributed to the field of outdoor mechanical music.

Do you have a suggestion for someone you would like to see featured in this section? If so, contact the editor.



Mechanical Music Makes The "Catalog"

Noteworthy for collectors of mechanical music was the "Early Holiday 1999" edition of Hammacher Schlemmer, an upscale mail order catalog business which advertises that they "offer the best, the only and the unexpected for 151 years."

While the COAA does not promote one manufacturer over the other it is of interest to see that one of the manufacturers of contemporary organs, Heinz Jäger and Wolfgang Brommer of Waldkirch, Germany has been represented in a publicly-viewed catalog. Perhaps other companies such as Hofbauer, Pell or Raffin will also be seen in the future in these types of advertising catalogs.

Advertisers Wanted!


Yes, advertisers are wanted for the *Carousel Organ*. The *Carousel Organ* will be expanding into more pages filled with interesting articles and photographs and there will be more expenses associated with its production. In order to do this some of the monies anticipated will need to come from advertising revenue. At this time advertising space will be limited to a business card insert. The cost will be \$10.00 per year (at least 3 issues of the *Carousel Organ*) per card.

If you want to know just what size this will be, check out the business cards of John or Terry below. All cards will be printed in black and white at this time. Please send your card(s) to the editor (Ron Bopp) and make your check out to "COAA." The editor's address is 55801 E 365, Jay, OK 74346

John "*The Organ Man*" Jones

Organ Grinding

2007 7th Place
Jackson, Mississippi 72772 918-999-1111



Terry Howbig
Violin Machines

"Your Cat is Music To My Ears"

33305 E Third
Bloomfield, CA 99111



Meet Your Secretary!

Marge Waters, Wadsworth, Ohio, has taken over the duties of Secretary, handling not only the minutes of each meeting but also the chore of mailing out notices and keeping an active data base. Marge and her husband, Bill, travel to each COAA rally with their Style 165 Stinson band organ.

Thanks Marge!

COAA Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address (Street/City/State/Zip) _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

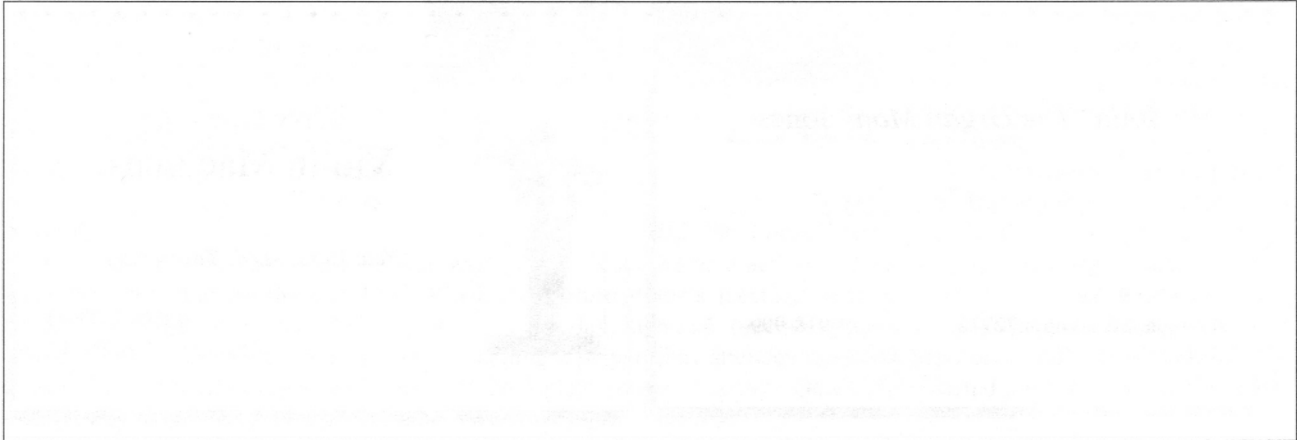
Dues: \$5.00 annually

Send to COAA, c/o Marge Waters, 7552 Beach Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281

Return to:
Carousel Organ
Ron Bopp, Editor
55801 E 365
Jay, OK 74346

Carousel Organ Association of America

President: Terry Haughwout
Vice-President: Ron Bopp
Secretary: Marge Waters
Editor/Publisher: Ron Bopp
Assistant Editor: Angelo Rulli



Schedule of Rallies (2000)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Dates</u>
COAA Emmett Kelly Clown Festival	Houston, MO	Ron Bopp 918-786-4988	May 5 – 6, 2000
Heart of America (AMICA)	Kinsley, KS	Tom Griffith 785-625-9677	May 19 – 21, 2000
Mid-America (MBSI) Crossroads Village	Flint, MI	Sharon & Carl Curtis 734-428-0268	July 20 – 22, 2000
COAA/Snowbelt Chapter (MBSI) Engine Meeting	La Sueur, MN	Ralph Schultz 612-873-6704	August 26 – 27, 2000
Heart of America (AMICA) Old Threshers Reunion	Mt. Pleasant, IA	Gary Craig 314-771-1244	September 1 – 3, 2000

Do You Have Something For The *Carousel Organ*?

All items (of interest to our readers) are welcome for inclusion in one of the forthcoming issues of the *Carousel Organ*. Please submit photos, articles, newspaper clippings, or what-have-you to the Editor (address above). Questions? Phone: 918-786-4988.