

Meet Your Member: Mike and Liz Barnhart

Mike and Liz Barnhart have been involved with automatic musical instruments since they saw a player piano ad in an Air Force newspaper in 1966. This piqued their interest and after purchasing their first upright player piano, they were hooked.

They discovered reproducing pianos a few months later and traded in their upright for a Weber Duo-Art grand. In 1968 Hathaway and Bowers advertised a Double Mills Violano which they purchased and in 1969 bought a basket case Weber Otero from them. They built an 11 foot high music room addition in 1975 to accommodate the Otero and Mike spent a couple of years restoring it. The Otero played for the first time at Amica's Convention in Dayton in 1978. When the music room was completed, they acquired a neighbor's 6'6" Chickering Ampico which was rolled down the street and into the house.

Mike and Liz attended many band and monkey organ rallies through the years and in 1999, Liz bought a 25-key Pell "Monkey Organ." Mike designed and made a cart with storage areas using an Amish wagon base that had articulated wheels. The cart was



Mike and Liz with their prized possession, *Treveris*.

described in a *Carousel Organ* article called "A Wagon for Elizabeth."

Mike had wanted a fair-ground organ for years and finally designed one in 2002. Mike built the case and façade to resemble the Porta Nigra in Trier, Germany and the 165 style organ, made by Don Stinson, was installed and delivered in 2003. The organ, named *Treveris*, is to have over 200 pipes and can be disassembled and loaded in the Barnhart van for transport to rallies and other activities. It takes about 45 minutes to load or unload and prepare it to play, sometimes

less to load if it is raining. The Barnhart's also have a small Molinari Barrel Organ, Seeburg MO, Wurlitzer 2/7 Pipe Organ which has not played since being removed from Jackson State Prison in Michigan and music boxes. Individuals and groups are welcome to tour the Barnhart Museum and also enjoy the backyard Garden Railroad.

Mike and Liz enjoy participating in American organ rallies as well as group musical tours in Europe such as the Bumbling Bruder Tour.

COAA Rally #5 at Muscatine, Iowa

Muscatine, Iowa will be the 5th COAA rally of 2007. As you may know, Muscatine is the home of Norman Baker and the Tangley Calliophone. Seasoned organ enthusiasts will remember the "Calliope Recall" in Muscatine in 1993. Now we will be helping to celebrate the annual Great River Days Festival (a three day long celebration of life along the Mississippi River). See www.meetmuscatine.com for more information.

Small organs will have the chance to mingle with the Festival participants along the Mississippi River while large

organs will have grass, trees (shade) and plenty of room to entertain the enthusiastic crowd at Weed Park. See your individual mailing for the detailed schedule. The planning committee has arranged for us to utilize the park for the three day weekend. On Saturday evening we will have a special dinner (site to be announced), followed by our usual COAA business meeting and then, a special presentation by COAA member, Ron Bopp, entitled *A Musical History of Patriotic Music*.

In addition, there will be a Great

River Days parade on Saturday morning. Interested COAA members, whether trailered or truck units, or hand organs on carts, are welcomed to participate.

A block of rooms has been held at the Holiday Inn in Muscatine which is located at 2915 North Highway 61. Their phone # is **563-264-5500***. Room rates are \$74.00 for single or doubles; \$84.00 for a triple and \$90.00 for a quad. Mention "Band Organ Rally" when you make your reservation. Cut-off date for motel reservations is Friday, July 6, 2007. ***corrected phone number.**

2007 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
Mid-Am Chapter (MBSI)	Wabash, Indiana	Hope Rider (260-563-5030)	July 19-21, 2007
COAA Rally #5	Muscatine, Iowa	Ron Bopp (918-786-4988)	July 27-29, 2007
COAA Rally #6	St. Joseph, Michigan	Ken Kaszubowski (269-926-1063)	August 24-26, 2007