

Meet Your Member—Wilbur & Sandra Herr

I was a depression baby born in 1932. Orrville, Ohio was a railroad industrial town where wheels were always turning and many of our 1950 graduating high school class would remain in Orrville to work in industrial related jobs.

Our high school vocational program offered college level mechanical drawing two periods a day during the junior and senior years. This was my favorite subject. I applied at Schantz Pipe Organ Company the day after graduation and was hired on the spot. It has been a privilege to layout and design pipe organs for church's and university's throughout the United States over a time period of 58 years of full and part time employment.

Uncle Sam did interrupt my work schedule. After returning from Korea I met Sandy at the Orrville Airport which her Father had developed. I asked for her hand in marriage and he insisted that I obtain my pilot license. I consented, he consented and she consented. With a fam-



ily actual flying became expensive so I sold the Piper Colt and began building Radio Control Aircraft.

During the 70s I became interested in clock building and restoration. About the same time we visited a band organ rally in Zoar, Ohio. It was not until the 80s that I did an organ project in Traverse City, Michigan and at the same time visited the Music House museum. That visit lit a bit of a fire and I came home and bought a Metrostyle Pianola Piano then proceeded to restore it. In 1990 when I retired from full time work we visited the Monkey Organ Rally at Sandusky, Ohio, where I spent the afternoon asking questions of friendly organ grinders who were more than willing to share their

stories. I came home and ordered a Raffin R31-119, joined MBSI, then COAA. Since then the mechanical music virus has taken control and my intended shop is

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2011 Organ Rally Dates

AMICA Rally	Nunley's Carousel East Garden City, NY	Bob Stuhmer 516-294-4374	May 7-8, 2011
COAA Rally #1	Living History Farm Urbandale, IA	Ted Guillaum 615-226-5098	May 14-15, 2011 organgrinderted@bellsouth.net
COAA Rally #2	Lake Winnepesaukah ("Winnie") Rossville, GA	Ron Keisler 803-356-4545	May 28-30, 2011 rkgkak@earthlink.net
COAA Rally #3	Flag Day Rally Gallipolis, OH	Amanda Crouse 800-765-6482	June 10-12, 2011 Amandacrouse@visitgallia.com
COAA Rally #4	Lake Olcott Olcott Beach, NY	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 30-31, 2011 dwilke@ganddmangement.com
COAA Rally #5	Quassy Amusement Park Middlebury, CT	Ron Gustafson 203-758-2913	August 27-28, 2011 Ron@quassy.com
COAA Rally #6	Riverside Park Findlay, OH	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	Postponed to 2012 tbhowout@embarqmail.com
COAA Rally #7	Festa Italiana/Riverboat Rally St. Paul, MN	Angelo Rulli 651-775-7575	September 23-24, 2011 angelorulli@gmail.com
COAA Rally #8	Eastern States Exposition West Springfield, MA	Roger Wiegand 508-358-2563	Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2011 roger@carouselorgan.com

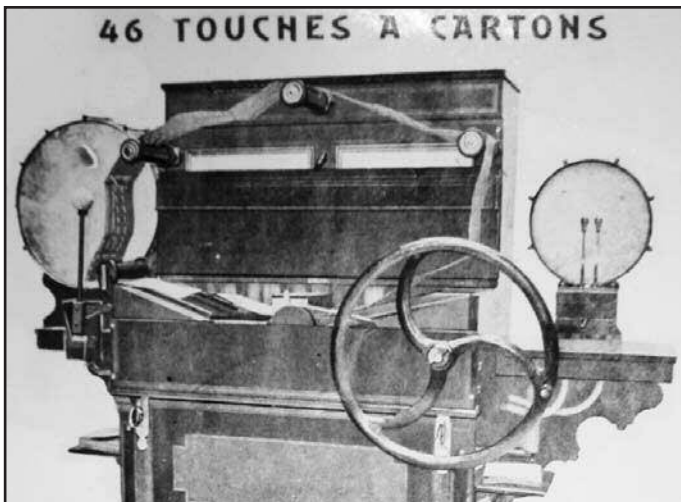


Figure 78. An illustration of a 46-key book-operated Gavioli organ. The book is an endless book which circulates around the top of the rear of the organ. The book appears to be held up by a set of spindles.

Photo: Fred Dahlinger

Conclusion

In reviewing the myriad of mechanical musical instruments utilizing the book-operated system it becomes apparent that all were an attempt to escape the limitations of a previous operating system, whether it was a pinned barrel (cob or cylinder) or a circular disc, used by that particular manufacturer (inventor) or of a competitor.

Over 30 such attempts have been examined. Most have succumbed to more modern methods although book-operated fair and street organs are still in existence and being used, and some current manufacturers continue to produce organs that play with the cardboard book system.

To reiterate, the rhythmic and mechanical motion of the traveling/weaving book adds another dimension to the realm of enjoying a truly mechanical musical instrument.

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now a music room with things that play A-Rolls and O-Rolls. Much of my free time is spent in restoration projects like the just finished Steinway Upright Duo Art or Wurlitzer 125 in process.

I am amazed at the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the people who have developed mechanical music and those that keep it alive today. Like many of you we have been blessed with the friendship of COAA and MBSI members willing to share their time, knowledge and skill.

Any regrets? Only one, that we did not find these organizations earlier.

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In memory of . . .

Walter P. Bellm, long time collector, museum owner, and Past President of the Music Box Society, passed on November 28, 2010. In 1965 Walt acquired Horn's Cars of Yesterday museum in Sarasota, Florida and changed it to Bellm's Cars & Music of Yesterday. The collection was sold in 1997 but the museum building still stands, again housing a collection of vintage cars.

