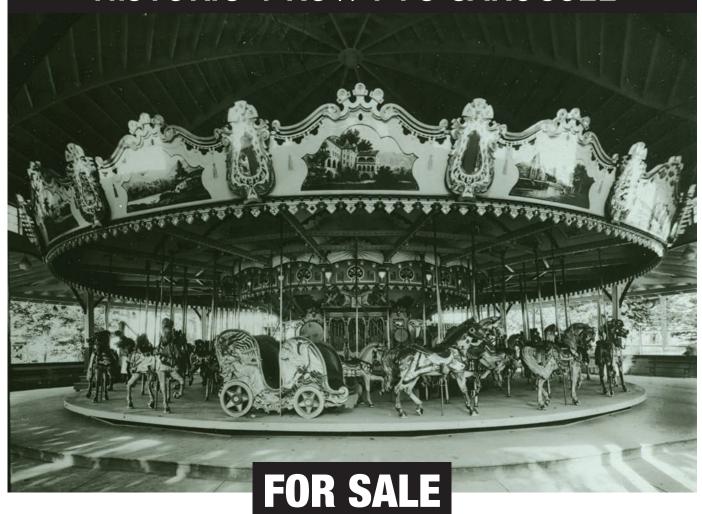




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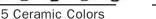
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## ON THE COVER



January 2009 Vol. 25, No. 1

Past and present meet as a restored horse from the Woodside Park Dentzel is set against a backdrop of Memorial Hall during the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.

**Photos Courtesy of** Please Touch Museum

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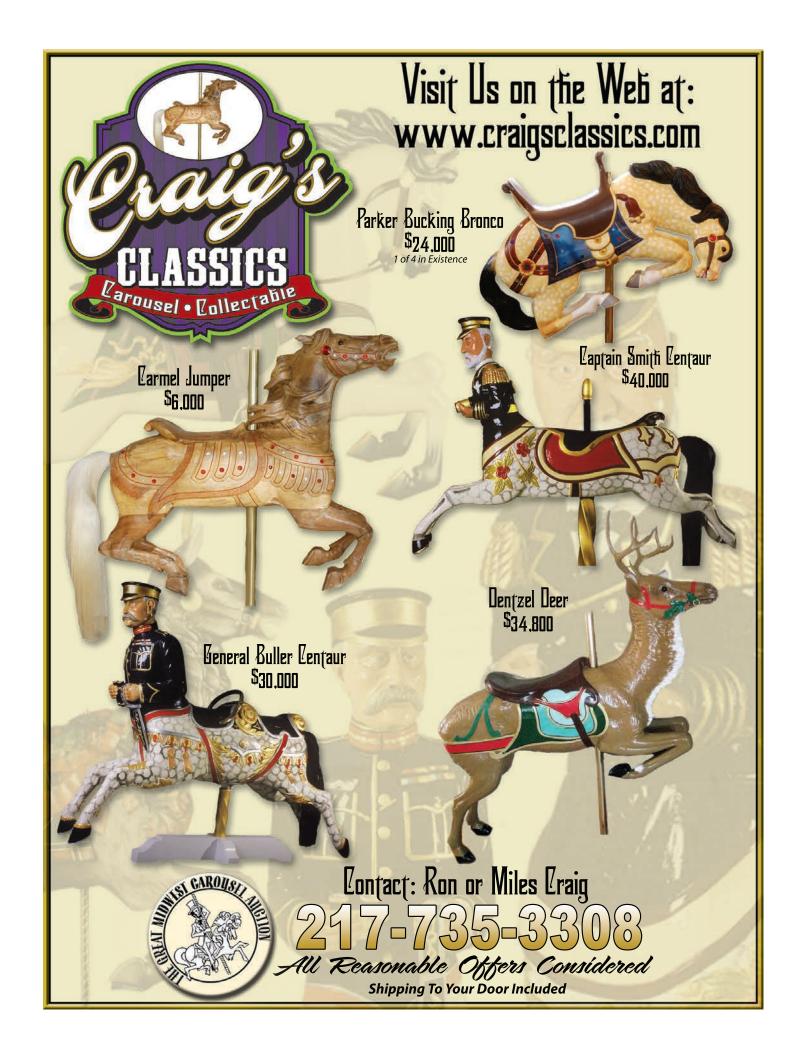
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# From Dan's Desk

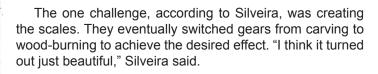
Message from the publisher, **Dan Horenberger** 

These are little bits of information that come across my

desk. Some will become bigger stories in future issues of the CN&T, others are just passed-along information.

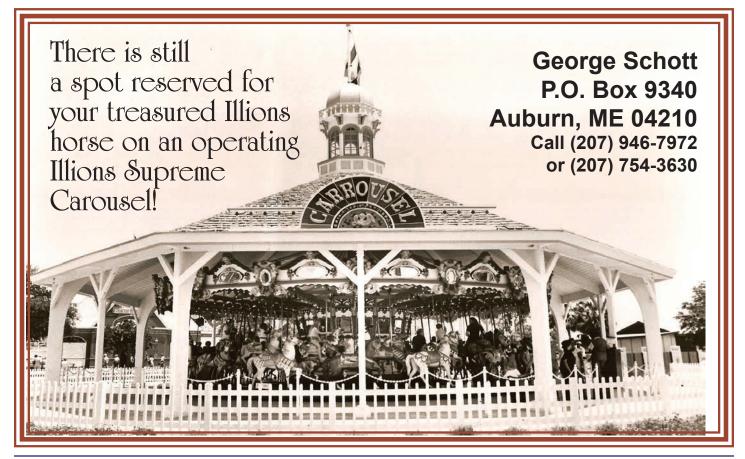
Nothing like a nice 8,000-mile drive across the country looking at carousels, but it's nice to be home, too. I drove through the southern states visiting carousels on my way to and from the **IAAPA Expo**. The show was great. It's a lot of fun to meet people who I've talked to so many times and done business with for years but have never met. I'd like to thank all of the people for taking time to stop by our booth.

The **Salem Riverfront Carousel** in Oregon has a catchy new attraction. It's a brand new brass ring machine. But not just any ring machine; it's in the shape of a salmon. This is a great idea for adding even more fun to a great carousel. The carvers spent about a year on the fish. Fritz Geiling, Everett Koontz and Ben Silveira were the primary carvers.



As I've found throughout the country, our local amusement parks have had a great season. The numbers are in and it was a huge year for Fresno's Rotary Storyland and Playland in Northern California. The family amusement park had its most successful season in 15 years. The parks recently underwent a half a million dollars renovation. With a mix of new and old favorites, the parks set an attendance record and increased revenue. And there is good news for parks that have a hard time complying with California's new strict ride laws. California's DOSH enforcement has finally learned that these small parks take a little time to upgrade. They just can't find the funds overnight like Disneyland, Six Flags and the Cedar Fair group can.

As long as we're on **Cedar Fair**, the Ohio amusement park operator **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** saw its share earnings rise nearly 70 percent in the third quarter, but the results still fell far short of Wall Street's expectations. "Through the end of the third quarter our parks entertained a record 20 million visitors, up two percent from this time last year," CEO Dick Kinzel said in a release. "During this same period, average in-park guest per capita spending was down less than one percent to \$40.28 and out-of-park revenues were comparable to last year's at \$94 million."



Cedar Fair owns and operates 11 amusement parks, six outdoor waterparks, an indoor waterpark and five hotels in eight states and in Ontario, Canada.

Not to be out done, **Six Flags** also had a banner year. Revenue rose five percent to \$489 million as total park attendance rose by 200,000 in the third quarter. For the current quarter, Six Flags said revenue was up nine percent over last year, driven by a seven percent increase in attendance and greater spending from park visitors helped by its Hallow-een-themed offerings. Six Flags, which runs 20 of its roller-coaster parks in the United States, Mexico and Canada, reported quarterly profits of 95 cents per share, compared with 61 cents per share in the same quarter last year.

But not all is well in the industry. A big sign out front of **Cypress Gardens** says "Welcome to Cypress Gardens," but "Closed." In order to renovate, the Winter Haven theme park will be closed until March. The park is doing away with its rides. The Ferris wheel will be wheeled away and the carousel carted off. "The operating costs and maintenance of the rides is astronomical," say the park owners. Zoo animals are also being removed. An expanded water park will take the place of animals and rides. "It's the one spot at the park that's made a splash." Cypress Gardens says. More information on the renovation plans will be available soon, but the old stand-bys of flower gardens and the water ski show will remain. You'll find an expanded look at the history of Cypress Gardens in this month's issue.

Justice is served as the man who pleaded guilty to arson at **Conneaut Lake Amusement Park** will pay nearly \$2 million in restitution and serve jail time. The judge sentenced Nickolas Pope to three to 20 years in prison. Pope admitted to setting the blaze that destroyed the ballroom at Conneaut Lake Park and a nearby historic church in February. The fire caused an estimated \$1.5 million in damages.

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### SAVE OUR WOODEN CAROUSELS

#### Notes from Marianne...

By Marianne Stevens

Carousel Historian, Co-Author of "Painted Ponies"

Marianne is shown right at a dinner with founding members of the NCA in Sandwich, MA. (Fall 1974)

We've lost a few good friends lately. Sad to say, Cyndy Hen-



ning, a lovely lady; Bill Mangels, scion of a great family; and Charles Walker, a true friend to carousels, have passed away. Friends like these are irreplaceable.

I've often wondered why carousel painters paint horses dark colors—they're so difficult to see. In photographs, they just blend into the background. It's not that hard to paint horses light or tones of light colors or even pintos. They look so beautiful in light colors. Just look at Disney's carousels.



Photo by Emily Bush

There are so many beautiful antique carousels for sale right now. Let's hope they all find good homes in the United States soon. European countries have laws against their art treasures being exported, as does Canada I believe, but not the U.S. We should. We all know that the almighty dollar can be very tempting, and it would be a shame to see any one of our historic carousels sold overseas. I was faced with this myself with my big Looff Carousel (which now operates in San Francisco at the Yorba Buena Center shown above). I had an offer from Japan. It was a lot of money, but I wouldn't let that carousel leave our shores. Carousel carvings are art treasures just as surely as paintings or sculptures. Let's keep our treasures at home. Let's hope that the owners of the carousels for sale have a conscience. Let's not break the carousels up either. There are so few of them left.

Have a happy holiday season!

Marianne Stevens

# CAROUSEL NEWS BRIEFS

# **SCENES FROM 2008 IAAPA EXPO**



A bird's-eye view of the floor from a kid's jungle gym.



Pam and Tim McClure of Coins Unlimited.



John Tomlinson of Butchart Gardens and Dan Horenberger.



Don Stinson and Dan Horenberger at "The Carousel News & Trader" booth.



Super Auctions' booth.



Zamperla's new Surf's Up ride.



Harry Murphy and Dan Horenberger.



Allan Kottwitz of Action Lighting.

Orlando, FL – While the stock market was looking down, things were looking up at the 2008 IAAPA Amusement Park Expo in November. Produced by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, the annual trade show attracted an estimated 24,000 people from a record-setting 100 nations.

The world's largest conference and trade show for the \$24 billion amusement park and attractions industry took place at the Orange County Convention Center with the theme, "Success in Every Direction."

Conference and trade show participants represented amusement and theme parks, family entertainment centers, waterparks, zoos, aquariums, museums, casinos, resorts, developers, themed entertainment designers, consultants, manufacturers, and suppliers.

"Considering the state of the world economy and the fact that this was our second consecutive year in Orlando, we are pleasantly surprised with the attendance at this year's Expo," said IAAPA President and Chief Executive Officer Charles Bray. "26,500 people participated in last year's show in Orlando, which was one of our best events in the past 10 years. To be down less than 10 percent during these tumultuous economic times is amazing."



National Amusement Park Historical Association.

More than 13,000 buyers representing more than 5,000 companies participated in the Expo. The trade show floor featured 1,154 exhibiting companies on 482,550-net square feet of space. Exhibitors showcased everything from rare antique carousels to new thrill rides, roller coasters, and inflatable attractions, theatrical equipment, souvenirs, high-tech control systems, candy, snow machines, and the world debut of the arcade version of the popular "Guitar Hero" video game.

The 2009 IAAPA Attraction Expo will take place in Las Vegas, Nov. 16-20, 2009, at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

For information on the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, visit www.IAAPA.org.

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## CAROUSEL NEWS BRIEFS

## **SEEKING NORUMBEGA PARK PHOTOS**



One of the few Norumbega Carousel pictures Rob has. The lower right wing illustration panel on the band organ is just barely visible but unmistakable.

We recently heared from CNT reader Rob Goodale who is seeking photos of the Norumbega Dentzel Carousel and band organ. Here is his original message:

"We are currently restoring a 1925 Wurlitzer 146-B band organ to factory condition. For many months a search has been ongoing to locate the history of this organ and confirm its origin. Recently we positively confirmed that this was the organ from the Norumbega Park Carousel in Newton, MA. After an exhaustive search, I finally located the person who actually removed the organ from the carousel when Norum-



The illustration panel as indicated, matching the old picture.

bega Park was closed in 1963.

Very few photographs have materialized from this carousel. Even the Norumbega Park historical group was of little help. If you have access to any pictures of this carousel, especially any that include the band organ, we would greatly appreciate having scans of them to include with the historical data on this organ."

If anyone has any photos or information they would like to share, they can call or email the CNT or email Rob Goodale at rrg@unlv.nevada.edu.

Look for a full story on the band organ restoration, as well as on the history on Norumbega Park, in a future issue.

## SANTA VISITS THE PARAGON CAROUSEL



Emmett and Annabelle Doherty get candy canes from Santa (Bryan Fenelon) at the Paragon Carousel.

Santa made his annual visit to the Paragon Carousel, PTC #85 on a chilly Saturday in early December. Despite



the frigid cold in the Northeast, the elaborately decorated carousel brought in nearly \$400 in just three hours. According to James Hardison, they will likely expand the hours and days of the festive event next year.

10

### Carousel News & Trader Forum

# Nunley's Documentary Looking for Input



"Hello Long Islanders. Do you remember Nunley's Carousel and Amusement Park in Baldwin, NY? Our video production company, DV8R Post, Inc, is currently working on a documentary on the history of Nunley's, and we want you to help tell the tale. We're currently seeking people who wish to share their experiences at Nunley's. Anyone who has vivid memories of the park, and perhaps some photos or home movies of when you went there, we would love to hear from you.

Also, we are seeking any purchasers and/or owners of items that were auctioned from the park on the day they closed in 1995. We want to see where these pieces of Long Island history have ended up. Please contact me, Dennis Ciccone at dennis.cicconejr@dv8rpost.com if you're interested in being a part of this effort. Thank you."

### Thanks to All From Ron Craig

Ron Craig ran a classified ad in the magazine over the past few months with a ready buyer seeking an armored horse. He called the other day and wanted to pass along his thanks to all of the CNT readers who sent along photos and information on their armored figures for sale.

The buyer made a choice from the many figures and chose an Illions stander, for which they paid \$28,000. As Ron said, "It is great to see that there are still active buyers out there," and he again wanted to thank everyone who responed to his ad.

He is still looking for French figures and "basket cases" and has a number of nice figures for sale as you can see by his advertisement in this issue and on his new website.

Ron was willing to pay for this notice of the sale as an advertisement, but I thought it made a worthy new item to demonstrate that figures are still selling in this soft market.

# FOR SALE



#### **Beautiful Fabricon Carousel.**

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# FOR SALE



#### Carousel with location in Los Angels available.

Great location comes complete with carousel featuring new Ed Roth carved animals. Contract with the City good for two years. Food permit also included. A great way to be in the carousel business quickly. Unbelievably priced at \$175,000! This won't last long. Owner has the right to remove carousel if your just looking for a ready to operate machine.

#### Call 818-394-0028

Or Email dan@carousel.com for pictures and details.

# CAROUSEL NEWS BRIEFS

## **SPECIAL EVENTS AT BRYANT PARK**



Pick a card, any card, and come down for magical magic by R.J. Lewis (above), Arnie Kolodner, and Flaubert Frog & The Great Sardini. Sundays through January 18, 1-2 p.m.

NEW YORK, NY – The Bryant Park Carousel, in the heart of downtown Manhattan, is proving once again this year that a little activity goes a long way, even in the frigid New York City

winters. Magic shows and story telling for children on weekends are a big hit again this year. The park also hosts an outdoor holiday market from Thanksgiving until New Year's Day, and the carousel is right at the entrance to a huge Everyone's favorite amphibian, Flaubert Frog (a.k.a. Daniel Kitrosser), whose storytelling, fun, and games are a "hoppening" every Saturday through January 17, 1-2 p.m.

skating rink that expects 250,000 skaters by mid-January. Last year the carousel had 16,000 riders in November and December at \$2 each. They hope to surpass that this year.

"That's our secret," says Dan Pisark of Bryant Park Corp. "The carousel is surrounded by lots of activities and free events."

For more information, visit www.bryantpark.org.

## 2009 NCA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

2009 NCA Technical Conference Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10, 2009 Sandusky, OH

Friday's activities will include a tour of the three Cedar Point carousels: a 1912 Muller four-row, a 1921 Prior & Church Racing Derby and a 1921 three-row Dentzel. There will be plenty of photo opportunities and, hopefully, a chance for a ride. Also, on Friday will be a tour of the Lorain County Metroparks and a tour of the Sandusky Maritime Museum. Finally, there will be a special performance of The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of "MacBeth" at The Coach House Theatre. Saturday will be full of educational seminars and conclude with dinner at the Merry-Go-Round Museum, including behind-the-scenes tours. Look for more information in next month's issue or visit www.nca-usa.org.



1921 Prior & Church Racing Derby at Cedar Point.

### Carousel News & Trader Forum

# Coney Island Print Info



This letter came to the CNT recently. "Dear Dan,

I am sending you a photo of a carousel print that I was recently gifted. The background of the photo appears to be of the "Wonder Wheel" at Coney Island. Many years ago I had the pleasure of taking my family to the park and enjoyed a ride on the wheel. I don't remember anything of the carousel at the park. After going back through my "Carousel News and Trader" magazines, I did find a Coney Island shot in the July/August 2005 issue, page 22, which has a picture in the upper left-hand corner that shows a background resembling the skyline in the enclosed photo. I would greatly appreciate it if you could confirm my thoughts and, if possible, could you identify the carousel for me. I have been receiving your publication for some time and I would like to commend you on the great job you have done since taking over. Thank you for any help that you might extend.

Sincerely,

Donald Meyer

222 George Ave. Wauconda IL, 60084"

Anyone with any thoughts of photos to share can contact Mr. Meyer directly or contact the CNT.

## Carousel Calendar

#### **AUCTIONS**

#### Feb. 12, 2009, 11 AM

Orlando, FL. Surplus Rides and Parts from Strates Shows. Items include 1914 PTC #28 three-row carousel selling as a complete unit only. Numerous other rides include Chance Zipper, Chance Skydiver, Kid Power Steam, 3 Tower Skyride, Scooter Cars, Bumber Cars and much more. Contact Norton Auctioneers at (517) 279-9063 or visit www.nortonauctioneers.com.

#### April 11, 2009, 10 AM

Lawrenceburg, IN. Bob Kissel's Carousel Horse, Animals, Antiques and Collector Items Auctions. Over 50 carousel horses and animals. Gambling wheel, juke boxes, ferris wheel seats and much more. Consignments still accepted. At the Lawrenceburg, IN, Fairgrounds. For information, call Bob Kissel at (812) 839-3255.

#### May 13, 2009, 11 AM

Auburn, IN. Norton's Annual Consignment Auction held at the 480-acre Kruse Auction Park in Auburn, IN. Contact Norton Auctioneers at (517) 279-9063 or visit www.nortonauctioneers.com.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Through Jan. 18, 2009

Bryant Park, NY. Ice skating, story telling, magic and carousel rides. For information visit www.bryantpark.org\_or call (212) 768-4242.

#### Feb. 21, 2009

Santa Cruz, CA. 28th Annual Clam Chowder Cook Off. Join the fun and excitement as talented chefs from throughout the west coast compete for the glory of the BEST CLAM CHOWDER! Admission is free; visitors may purchase tasting kits (\$8) to sample the clammy concoctions. Cooking starts at 10 a.m. Public tasting begins at 1:00 p.m. Winners announced at 3:30 p.m. For information or to get an entry form, contact the Chowder Committee at (831) 420-5273. Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. 400 Beach St., Santa Cruz, CA. (831) 423-5590. Web: www.beachboardwalk.com.

#### Ongoing

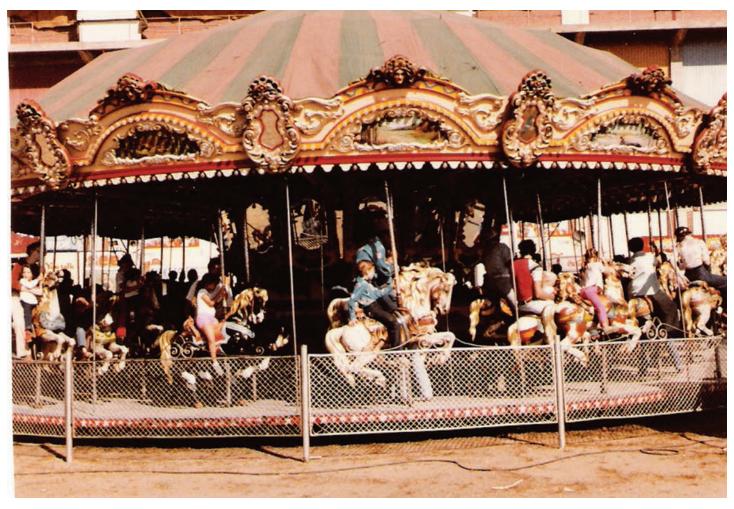
Sandusky, OH. *Merry-Go-Memories* at the Merry-Go-Round Museum.. New exhibit features horses from the Euclid Beach Grand Carrousel, Philadelphia Toboggan Company #19. Open weekends only in January and February; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday; 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. \$5 adult, \$4 senior (60 and over), \$3 children (ages 4-14). Children under the age of three are admitted to the museum free. A carousel ride is included with museum admission. Merry-Go-Round Museum, 301 Jackson St., Sandusky, OH 44870. (419) 626-6111. www.merrgoroundmuseum.org.

#### SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

Fax to (818) 332-7944 or email roland@carouselnews.com.

## LONG-LOST CAROUSELS

# PTC #34 at the Kansas State Fair



**Photos from the Bob Guenthner Collection** 







ere are some great shots of PTC #34, (built in 1915) when it was owned by Royal American Shows and set up at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS. These photos were taken in the early 1980s by Robert Guenthner. Bob has a collection of 59 sets of photos of 44 different carousels. His rare photos are advertised for sale in our classified section. Many of his photo sets taken in the late 1970s and early 1980s, are of carousels no longer in operation, like this rare PTC machine. This carousel was sold at a Red Baron auction in 1986.

The Carousel will Turn 100 in 2010, Hopefully in Euclid Beach Park

# 2,700 Remember Euclid Beach Park Look Forward to Carousel's Return



Concept sketch of the proposed building and site plan for the Euclid Beach Carrousel shown here at its original site in Euclid Beach State Park in the old North Collinwood neighborhood. The site plan and concept was drawn up by Paul Volpe and Scott Bolinger of City Architecture of Cleveland OH. Paul is the principal of City Architecture and was the city architect for Cleveland. He dearly loves getting involved with community projects. While the center pole would not be exactly where it stood when Euclid Beach Park was open, by shifting everything north a very short distance, six Humphrey-era sycamore trees, including the two that originally stood by the carousel, can be preserved. These concepts were presented with the

Euclid Beach Carrousel Committee's proposal to the Western Reserve Historical Society in December 2008.

By Elva Brodnick Special to The Carousel News & Trader

uclid Beach Park Now (EBPN) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Cleveland Lakefront, presented the fourth annual Remembering the Sights and Sounds of Euclid Beach Park.

Thanks to the annual event, Euclid Beach Park came alive again for one day only on Sunday Sept. 28, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event was held at Euclid Beach State Park in Cleveland, OH, the site of the lost, but not forgotten, amusement park on Lakeshore Boulevard. Euclid Beach Amusement Park closed forever 39 years earlier on Sept. 28, 1969.

Markers were in place throughout the park showing the rides and attractions that claimed that spot when the park



Euclid Beach Carrousel replacement horses on display at the Memorial-Nottingham Branch of the Cleveland Public Library since August made a visit to the event and are now back at the library for all to see.



Two of the replacement figures for the Euclid Beach Carrousel carved through funds raised by EBPN displayed at the remembrance on the site that the carousel operated.

was operating. Original Euclid Beach Park amusement ride cars and other park memorabilia were also on display.

There were walking tours that included history of the park along with history of the rides and attractions at their original locations. Free rides were made available on the Thriller and Rocket Ship cars. One of the coaster cars from the Thriller Roller Coaster has been mounted onto the chassis of a 1951 Chevrolet truck. The Chevy was actually once used as a maintenance vehicle at the amusement park.

## 1940 Illions Steeplechaser



1940Illion: Steeplechaser off of the Coneylsland New York Carousel. Custompainted by Charles Knight of Knight Studios in 2001. Slight lefte ard amage, tip. Custom made wroughtiron stand. Great gift! Mr. Knight values it at \$3000 WITH the eard amage. Will take \$2500 boln a foreclosure and need to pay moving expenses Serious in quiries, please. 503-453-7672 email hoof npaws@comcast.net.



Shown above and below, classic cars representing every decade that the park was open were part of the celebration.

One of the rockets from the old Rocket Ship circle swing has been mounted on an automobile chassis.

Also on display were reproduced carrousel (Euclid Beach Park spelling) horses copied from originals that once rode on the park's merry-go-round. They were on exhibit at the site where the Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousel, #19, operated from it's installation in 1910 to the last day the park operated in 1969.

Maybe most importantly on display this year was an architectural rendering (with site plan), for a proposed building that could house the carousel at the Euclid Beach State Park on the site where it originally operated. This proposal to have the merry-go-round return to its original home was prepared by the Euclid Beach Carrousel Committee, which is made up of neighborhood movers and shakers, Northeast Shores Development Corporation staff and EBPN members. The full proposal was delivered to the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) in December 2008.

On hand to feed the hungry visitors and help bring back memories of the lost park were the Famous Humphrey Popcorn Balls and Candy Kisses. The popcorn balls sold out about midway through the event. Hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks were also available, and many took their food purchases to the many picnic tables in the park.

Just about everyone stopped by to visit the EBPN booth for Euclid Beach Park souvenirs, videos, recordings, or just to talk and share park memories.

Weber's ice cream was also on site selling Frozen Whip, similar to that served at Euclid Beach Park, with a constant line at their booth all day.





Martin Anderson, from Debence Music, with Howard Kast's Grinder organ.

Hopefully Frozen Whip, Humphrey Popcorn Balls and Candy Kisses will be available in Euclid Beach State Park, as well as rides on the historic carousel by the time the carousel celebrates its 100th birthday in 2010.

In the meantime, mark your calendar for the 2009 *Remembering The Sights and Sounds of Euclid Beach* on the 40th anniversary of the park's closing, Sept. 27, 2009.

This event also was made possible with the help of the Neighborhood Connections program of the Cleveland Foundation. Thanks also to Northeast Shores Development Corporation and all of the volunteers and others who helped make this annual event a success.

For more information, visit www.euclidbeach.com.



Horses from the Euclid Beach Park Carrousel are currently on display at the Merry-Go-Round Museum in Sandusky, OH.

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# The Roller Coasters of Euclid Beach

By Bob MacCallum

On Sept. 28, 1969, Euclid Beach Park in Cleveland, OH, closed for its final season. On that day it was still possible to ride all three of the wood coasters that had thrilled Clevelanders for much of the 20th century.

If you arrived at the park by streetcar or in later years by bus, the transit station and pedestrian entrance was right in the shadow of The Thriller on Lake Shore Boulevard, just east of East 156th Street, as the "dog leg" of The Thriller ran right along the road. If you walked under the coaster and went straight ahead after entering, you would come to the eastern end of the park by the entrance to The Thriller.

The Herbert Schmeck masterpiece first opened to the public in 1924. This coaster featured a 71'5" high first hill, and an out-and-back layout with the above mentioned "dog leg," and was the most popular ride in the park. In early years on a peak day, three trains, each with three four-bench cars, operated. By the 1960s the ride ran with a two train maximum.

Adjacent to The Thriller entrance was the entrance to Racing Coaster, designed by John A. Miller, which first operated in 1913. The original name of this coaster was the *Derby Racer*. However, in 1921 the Great American Racing Derby (a carousel with horses that raced) opened, and to avoid confusion the coaster was renamed Racing Coaster. As with other classic racing coasters, it



Thriller - Over the Top. Photo by Jim Wise



A postcard long shot of the racing coaster.

had one continuous track, so if you boarded a train on the left side of the station, your ride ended on the right side of the station. The structure was a double out-and-back, which paralleled the first leg of The Thriller.

Just east of these two coasters was the entrance to The Flying Turns, a unique joint creation of John N. was the highest of the rides ing Turns in 1934.



Bartlett and John A. Miller. It NBC doing a radio broadcast from the Fly-

with that name, and a track that featured "barrels" for the free-wheeling trains to transverse. Each train had three articulated cars with six caster-style wheels apiece. Passengers rode two to a car, one person directly in front of the other. This ride opened at the beginning of the 1930 season.

During the first half of the 1960s, there was one other coaster that operated at Euclid Beach Park. It was called Aero Dips, and was in the north end of the park, near Lake Erie and the bath house. This junior coaster, another John A. Miller creation, originally opened in 1909, with the name New Velvet Coaster. Subsequent names were New Velvet Ride, Velvet Coaster, and, finally, Aero Dips. This ride featured trains with two three-bench cars, and was generally a

younger rider's first coaster before "graduating" to the larger rides above.

The final season for the Aero Dips was 1965, which meant in that year you had the choice of four different wood coasters in one park, which was equaled only by a few other parks in the United States at that time.

The American Coaster Enthusiasts, (ACE), was founded

in 1978 as a not-for-profit, all volunteer club to foster and promote the conservation, appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of the art of the classic wooden roller coaster and the contemporary steel coaster. The club has grown to nearly 7,000 members representing all 50 states, DC, and 12 countries. ACE publishes a bimonthly newsletter and a quarterly magazine. They also sponsor several events at parks each year.

For information, visit www.aceonline.org or call (740) 450-1560.

1924 Carousel Originally Operated at Nearby Woodside Park

# Historic Dentzel Returns Home to Philadelphia's Please Touch Museum



After over 40 years the Woodside Park Dentzel is entertaining riders once again.

Photos courtesy of the Please Touch Museum

By John Caruso
Special to The Carousel News & Trader

t one time Philadelphia was one of the centers of carousel carving, producing somewhere between 250 and 300 carousels in little more than a 50 year period. However, the last operating carousel in the city, Huntington Park in Germantown, was sold to Cedar Point in 1968. For more than 40 years the city has been without and antique carousel. But now, Philadelphia can once again claim to be the home of a carousel carved in their own city.

The Please Touch Museum, housed in the beautifully restored Philadelphia Exposition Building built for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, was given the carousel on a long term-loan from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg.

The Please Touch hired Todd Goings and a very talented team of artists and literally brought this carousel back from the dead.



Memorial Hall, which once greeted millions of visitors during the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, will now greet millions more as home to the Please Touch Museum and historic carousel.



The new annex built off of the 230-plus-year-old Memorial Hall gives the carousel and its riders a special place to spin with plenty of natural light.

Photos by John Caruso

The carousel, built in 1924, was originally at Woodside Park, a short distance from its present location in Fairmount Park. Supposedly it was William Dentzel's favorite carousel, and it is said that he often brought prospective buyers of his carousels there to see it.

The carousel is probably a combination of two carousels. The other being carved by the Muller Brothers, who went back to work for the Dentzel Company after their shop closed at the beginning of WWI.

A letter dated 1914 was found inside one of the outside row Mullers inviting Philadelphia Business School students to visit Woodside Park which leads me to believe that there might have been a Muller carousel at Woodside Park before.

Outside row stander before the restoration. Lisa Parr photo.

and at some point the Dentzel Company took the Muller in trade to create the new Muller/Dentzel machine.

Other things found included a ticket stub from Fontaine Ferry Park in Louisivlle, KY, which also had a Dentzel carousel at one time.

This current carousel was put together in 1924, the date coinciding with the date found on one of the centerpole mirrors. It operated at Woodside Park until the park closed in 1955. It was then moved to Rockaway Beach, NY, for a brief period, then operated in Lambertville, NJ.

Fred Fried, carousel preservationist and historian purchased it and eventually reluctantly sold it to the Smithson-



The horse shown left, now restored and back on the ride.



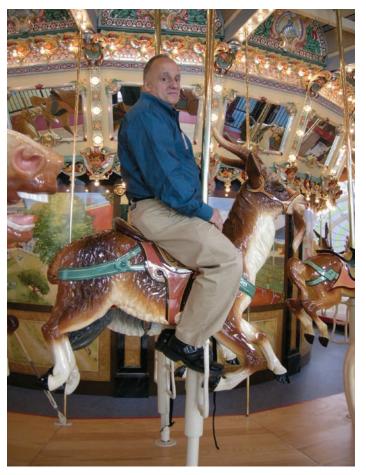
#### A Dentzel thoroughbred.

ian with the intention of having it operate on the National Mall for the Bicentennial.

Marianne Stevens, NCA co-founder and carousel historian, did a condition report on the ride in 1973. She concluded that since the figures were at some point sandblasted they would never stand up to all the traffic the carousel would be expected to get during the Bicentennial. The Smithsonian acquired a four-row Allan Herschell for the event instead



Co-chair of this year's NCA Convention, Vickie Stauffer on an outside row Muller.



John Caruso on a rare Dentzel jumping goat.

which still runs today.

Some of the figures from the Dentzel ended up being displayed in various areas at the museum, the rest going into storage at a mill in Massachusetts, where they literally lay dormant for the next 30 years. Personally, I had not thought of it as a whole carousel anymore. The nearest I'd ever gotten to it was seeing the photos in Fred Fried's book, A Pictorial History of the Carousel, reduced to pieces, in a museum's collection, possibly getting deaccessioned at some point and sold off, which, as we know, was the fate of many carousels.

Thankfully, sometimes things aren't as bleak as they seem and there is a happy ending to this carousel story.

The Dentzel Company carved carousels for amusement areas and parks all over the country. Some remain as national treasures, while so many others have been lost.

This particular piece of American history would not only return, but it would return back to the city in which it was carved. This meticulously restored Dentzel/Muller carousel now operates only a short distance from Woodside Park, where it started. This is not only a triumph for carousel preservation, but for historic preservation as well. And, even though it wasn't possible for this carousel to operate for our country's Bicentennial in 1976, it now has a new home at the beautiful Beaux Arts-style Memorial Hall, built for the our country's Centennial Exposition in 1876. What a strange and wonderful coincidence.

# A Page From Fred Fried's Merry-Go-Round...



"Rockets
and jets and
the speed
of sound
Have no
thrills like
the MerryGo-Round."

The carousel on location at the Lambertville Music Circus. (Courtesy, Smithsonian Institution)

The following text is excerpted from a booklet prepared by Fred Fried for St. John Terrell's Music Circus, or as Fred put it on the cover of the booklet:

"This booklet, containing excerpts from the huge, authoritative vol-

ume "The Pictorial History Of The Carousel" by Fred Fried, was written expressly for St. John Terrell's Music Circus."

"It was set up and operated in Woodside Park where it became a sensation and met with outstanding success. Mr. Dentzel, when my by a prospective customer, would drive out to the park, point with pride, and say "That's my sample, when do I start yours?" Here this carousel remained until the park was condemned for a housing site in the 1950s. The carousel was bought and moved to Rockaway, New



Above and right show the intstallation in Lambertville.

York, where through the illness and negligence of its new owner, it was exposed to the elements and allowed to deteriorate. The author, knowing its proud background was shocked to see this historic carousel in that condition, and resolved to save it. After much effort and at a great personal sacrifice, he bought it, had it dismantled and put in storage until the perfect home could be

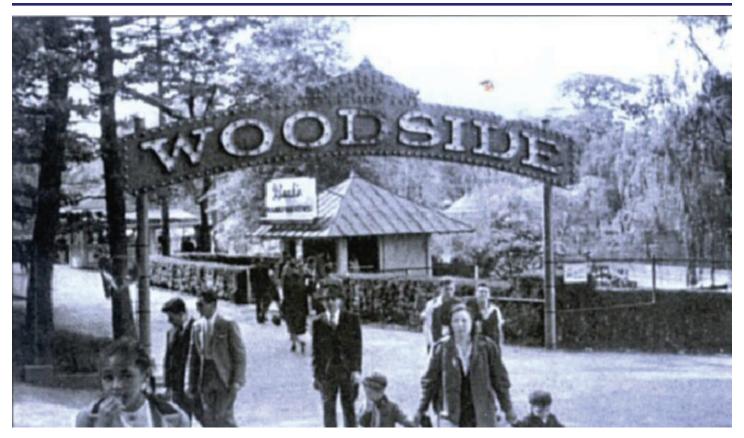
"St. John Terrell read of the story in the press and contacted the author, offering it a most fitting home, the grounds of his famous Music Circus in Lambertville, NJ. With loving care and great skill, it was nursed back, in the tradition of circus and carnival folk, so that this great carousel once again reflects the artistic talent of its makers. Once again, laughing children, nostalgic adults and all the lovers of America's great past can mount the backs of these exquisitely-carved creatures and ride the circular track leading to a world of fantasy.

found for it.

"The world may be full of new ideas, new inventions, and great devices for making a better existence – but no one will ever devise a greater or better object to give greater joy than the Merry-Go-Round.







The entrance to Woodside Park, photo circa 1940s. Photo courtesy of www.amusementparknostalgia.com

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The remainder of this story on the history of the carousel, museum and Centennial Exhibition is courtesy of The Please Touch Museum).

#### The Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel

An iconic Philadelphia carousel that stalled for more than 40 years in storage has received an impressive makeover and returns to its hometown, bringing joy to generations in its own 9,000 square-foot glass pavilion on the east side of Memorial Hall.

Originally operating at Woodside Park—a favorite West Philadelphia amusement park located less than 10 blocks from Memorial Hall—the Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel was built by the Dentzel Carousel Company of the Germantown section of Philadelphia. While the carousel debuted at Woodside Park in 1924, many of the animals on the carousel are much older, dating back to 1908.

The carousel was built "Philadelphia-style," which means the animals are sculpted in vibrant, lifelike detail. There are 52 hand-carved wooden animals in the menagerie, including 40 horses, four cats, two pigs, two goats and four rabbits. Dentzel's head carver, Salvatore Cernigliaro, was famous for creating and hand-carving the rare "flirting rabbit," where one paw is lifted up as if the rabbit is waving hello. The "flirting rabbit" on the original Dentzel Carousel is one of only three known to exist in the world. At Please Touch, a replica of the "flirting rabbit" is part of the animal menagerie. The standers, or outside row horses were originally designed and carved by Daniel Muller—considered to be one of the foremost carvers of his time. One of the most

intriguing and unique features are the 1,296 lights that illuminate the carousel.

The Dentzel Company was founded in 1870 by Gustav Dentzel, a well-known German master carver who immigrated to the United States and began his business in 1867 in Philadelphia and Atlantic City. After Gustav's death, his son William took over the company in 1909 until it closed at his death in 1928. The company was then sold to its Philadelphia competitor, the Philadelphia Toboggan Company—still in existence today, producing primarily roller coasters.

Continued on page 26



The carousel while at the Lambertville Music Circus. (Courtesy, Smithsonian Institution)







#### Muller outside row stander.

The Dentzel Carousel that would find a home at Woodside Park was a favorite of William Dentzel and was used as a sales model. The Dentzels would take potential customers to Woodside Park to view this gem of a carousel, and would very often receive an order for a new one based on its construction and design. William Dentzel, so proud of this carousel, had his initials carved on the lead horse.

Restoration of the animals, paintings, and center support system of all the mechanical parts of the carousel took approximately 20 months with three teams, in California, Ohio and North Carolina working on different parts of the extensive project. The team made up of Todd Goings of Carousels & Carvings in Marion, OH, Ed and Adriana Roth of Long Beach, CA, and Rosa Regan of North Carolina has more than 80 years of experience in the care, restoration, maintenance, operation and manufacturing of carousels.

All repairs and applied colors are based on the color palette of similar Dentzel carousels from the 1920s. The 52 intricately hand-carved, multi-colored wooden animals were individually restored along with two chariots, and 18 beveled mirrors which are each surrounded by a jester head decorated with acanthus leaves. Hand-carved roses, cher-



Signature on the lead horse. WD, for William Dentzel.



Another Muller outside row stander.

ubs, jewels, beads and intricate latticework which ornament the carousel also needed to be repaired and painted.

Please Touch Museum's Senior Exhibit Designer Lorna Kent painted the eight drum panels for the carousel over a period of three months. The panels show images of Woodside Park as it appeared in the 1920s.

The carousel is housed in a new glass and steel pavil-



Erin, one of many carousel ride operators who make your ride very enjoyable, is aboard the flirting rabbit carved by Ed Roth. The museum wanted the figure to be larger and more exaggerated than the original.



William Dentzel
would take
customers to
Woodside Park,
show them the
carousel and then
ask, "When do you
want me to start
on yours?"

The Dentzel/Muller lead horse (left).

**Photos By John Caruso** 

ion on the east side of Memorial Hall. The new structure is decorated with an important piece of carousel history: the original Dentzel Carousel Company sign from the factory building on Germantown Avenue in Philadelphia.

After Woodside Park closed in 1955, the carousel was saved from oblivion by Frederick Fried, a carousel enthusiast, who put it in storage for several years until he briefly loaned it to the Music Circus in Lambertville, New Jersey. In 1965, the Smithsonian Institution purchased the carousel from Fried, with intent to refurbish and install it for use on the National Mall, near the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C. for the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The plan never came to fruition and for almost 40 years, the Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel remained in storage. A few of the characters were removed and placed on display at the National Museum of American History. In 2002, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission took ownership with plans to install the Dentzel Carousel outside the State Museum in Harrisburg, PA.

In 2005, Please Touch Museum acquired the Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel on a long-term loan from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The carousel returned to Philadelphia in August 2008, in preparation for the October 2008 grand opening of Please Touch Museum at Memorial Hall.

#### The History of Please Touch Museum

"Portia Sperr didn't set out to revolutionize Philadelphia's museum industry. It just worked out that way."

The year was 1976. Pet rocks, bellbottom pants, and disco were all the rage. In Philadelphia, as the nation gathered to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with spectacular Bicentennial festivities, Please Touch Museum opened its doors to the public. On Sunday, October 2, in a 2,200 square foot space tucked away in a small corner between the dinosaur skeletons and

wooly mammoths at the Academy of Natural Sciences, a dozen parents, educators, and artists led by Sperr, a Montessori educator, came together to offer over 400 visitors, patiently waiting in line, a new kind of museum—a hands-on environment in which "learning was child's play."

Please Touch Museum was a pilot project, with a small staff and a small budget, but it was the first museum ever dedicated to serving children ages 7 and under. For three short hours, children played, weighed and, of course, touched their way through exhibits that engaged their senses and ignited their imaginations, while parents fought the instinctive urge to warn, "Don't touch that!"

In a matter of a few weeks, the museum's visitation grew so rapidly that additional staff was hired and families had to come through in shifts. It quickly became evident that 2,200 square feet was just not enough for this popular little experiment. By 1978, Please Touch relocated to a larger space



Stacy Swigart, Curator of Exhibitions for Please Touch.



A dentzel cat.

on nearby Cherry Street. Hours of operation were Tuesday through Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday morning hours were added after children and parents staged a mini-protest.

During the next four years, the museum commissioned local artists to create works for children to enjoy, consulted scholars from several disciplines to add intellectual content to the museum's exhibits, and developed culturally diverse programs designed for young audiences. Just like the children it served, Please Touch seemed to grow bigger and bigger with each passing year.

In 1983, Please Touch, faced again with long lines of children waiting to play, decided the time had come to find a permanent location. With the help of many generous donors, Please Touch Museum purchased and renovated a three-story, 30,000 square foot building in the heart of Philadelphia's museum district at 210 N. 21st Street. In an interactive environment scaled to young children's developmental needs, Please Touch was now able to unite the arts, sciences, and humanities in multidisciplinary experiences that encouraged children and parents to play and learn together. 1983 was also the birth year of Artie the Elephant,



A dentzel rabbit.



This little guy seems to like the idea of Please Touch.

created from toys and found objects by Philadelphia artist Leo Sewell. From opening day in 1983 to 1993 the museum's attendance grew 70%, memberships increased 52%, full-time staff increased from nine to 37, and the operating budget more than tripled.

In the following years, Please Touch made leaps and bounds in the areas of exhibits, educational programs, collections, and community involvement. In 1985, Please Touch awarded its first Book Award, the only award of its kind to honor the publication of quality books for young children. The award is given annually to two books in categories based on the age of the museum's visitors, kids under the age of seven. 1986 was marked "Please Touch Museum Year" by a Philadelphia City Council resolution, and by 1988, Please Touch Museum was accredited by the American Association of Museums.

And after 12 years of outstanding leadership, founding director Portia Sperr passed the reigns in 1988 to Nancy Kolb. who became the museum's new Executive Director.

Please Touch introduced the "Great Friend to Kids" (GFTK) Awards in 1996, honoring individuals and organizations with ties to the Philadelphia region that have made outstanding contributions toward enriching the lives of children. Past GFTK Awards winners include the Philadelphia Eagles, Sheryl Leach, creator of Barney, Alex Scott, Founder of Alex's Lemonade Stand, local children's television performers Captain and Mrs. Noah, the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and others.

Seven years after the move to 21st Street, even the new building started to become cramped. An opportunity to purchase an adjoining building opened, and the museum moved quickly to secure it. As a result of a \$4 million capital campaign to fund the purchase of the new building, Please Touch introduced 40% more exhibit space.

At its 21st Street home, Please Touch was home to nine interactive exhibits and featured daily gallery activities

based on science, art and music, including Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, The SuperMarket, Sendak, Barnyard Babies, Story Garden, Move It!, Kids Construct, Recycled City, Kids Creations, and a variety of temporary traveling exhibits.

In 1998, as the museum's audience kept on growing, Please Touch looked to grow again, this time to a new facility at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River waterfront. However, in 2002, when the waterfront development plan failed to materialize, Please Touch was yet again faced with having to find a new home. Disappointment would soon be replaced by opportunity!

Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park presented itself as the perfect new home for Philadelphia's Children's Museum. Please Touch Museum agreed to an 80-year lease on February 14, 2005 after receiving final approval from the Philadelphia City Council and the Fairmount Park Commission. On December 15, 2005, Please Touch broke ground on an ambitious renovation and expansion of Memorial Hall. This National Historic Landmark provides three times more exhibit space, a connection to other family destinations like the nearby Philadelphia Zoo, and the opportunity to rehabilitate the centerpiece originally built for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.

From 2005-2008, construction work was in full force at Memorial Hall—from excavating grounds and giving the building a well-overdue bath to building a carousel house



Another dentzel cat. Photos by John Caruso.



and installing new exhibits along with a huge "monument to play"—a 40-foot replica of the Statue of Liberty's Arm and Torch in the Great Hall. Please Touch Museum's construction crew made big strides in returning this Philadelphia landmark back to its original glory just in time for the museum to move in and open its doors to generations of children to come at its Grand Opening on October 18, 2008.

Over three decades and more than a million visitors later, Please Touch Museum is still bringing knowledge, fun and a whole new world of excitement to young children and their parents who make the trek from all over the country to this revolutionary museum. With the Grand Opening of Please Touch Museum at Memorial Hall, an 11-year dream was finally realized. While utilizing the grandeur of Memorial Hall to bring together the past, present, and the future, Please Touch Museum stays true to its mission of "enriching the lives of children by creating learning opportunities through play."

#### **Visitor Information:**

Please Touch Museum, Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park, 4231 Avenue of the Republic, Philadelphia, PA 19131 (215) 581-3181. www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

HOURS: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. CLOSED: New Year's, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. ADMISSION: Members: Free; Children under the age of One: Free; Children and Adults: \$15 per person; Groups of 15+ (90 minute visit): \$10 per person with reservations required.



#### The History of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition

Officially known as the "International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine," the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 was the first major world's fair to be held in the United States. The Centennial celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and showcased the United States as a rapidly developing industrial power with abundant natural resources. Nearly 10 million people visited the Centennial from May 10 to November 10, 1876, a staggering feat of cultural tourism when one considers the U.S. population totaled just 40 million at the time.

"What happened in Philadelphia in 1876 is a story we need to know," says Nancy Kolb, president and CEO of Please Touch Museum. "It was an opportunity for the city

to shine and it did. It was America's explosion onto the world scene."

The Civil War had ended 11 years earlier, but the nation's wounds were still fresh. Political scandals were in the headlines and women were sowing the seeds of the fight for equality. New inventions were being introduced left and right. The manufacturing of goods was booming. The United States of America was 100 years old. The country needed a party... a big one that could highlight the best and brightest of American (and international) ingenuity.

The Centennial was the product of ten years of planning and hard work, and the results were astonishing. Some 30,000 exhibits filled over

240 massive exhibit halls spread over 284 acres in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. Nearly every nation in the world exhibited at the fair.

Presiding at the opening ceremonies on May 10, 1876 were President Ulysses S. Grant, his cabinet, the Supreme Court, both houses of Congress, Emperor Dom Pedro II of Brazil and his Empress, the governors of Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, to over 100,000 spectators.

An anchor of the exhibition was a massive Corliss steam engine, the largest such engine ever built, weighing 650 tons, standing nearly 70 feet in height, and providing the power for all the machines in the exhibition's Machinery Hall. The huge Corliss engine found a home in Chicago after 1876, where for 30 years, it powered George Pullman's train-car factory. Once retired, the giant machine was sold as scrap for \$8 a ton. Another popular exhibit in Machinery Hall was a pro-



totype slice of the cable that Roebling Brothers would use for the Brooklyn Bridge. Among the other technologies on display was a new device patented by a Scottish immigrant named Alexander Graham Bell. Called the "telephone," it allowed people to speak at a distance, connected by a wire.

Designed in the magnificent Beaux Arts style, Memorial Hall served as the Art Gallery at the Centennial and was designed to serve as a permanent museum of art for the city of Philadelphia. During the Centennial, 3,256 paintings and drawings, 627 works of sculpture, 431 works of applied art

and nearly 3,000 groups of photographs from 20 nations were exhibited. On display was Peter Rothermel's huge 32 x 16 ¾ -foot painting Battle of Gettysburg, which can now be seen at The State Museum in Harrisburg. Philadelphia artist Thomas Eakins displayed several works of art in Memorial Hall, including the paintings The Chess Players (now in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art).

The Women's Pavilion, erected by the Women's Centennial Committee led by Mrs. Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, energetic great-grand-daughter of Benjamin Franklin, was the first large-scale attempt to exhibit the products of feminine industry and taste. It showed the rela-

tive emancipation of the women of the United States, while it bombarded visitors with feminist and women's rights propaganda in its newspaper, The New Century for Woman.

After a six month run, the Expo closed its doors, having played host to nearly 10 million visitors. On November 10, 1876, President Grant returned to Fairmount Park to close the great fair. Most of the buildings were removed from Fairmount Park and the exhibits they had held would go on to form the cornerstones of the collections of some of the nation's top museums. The Smithsonian Institution acquired the exhibits of 34 countries and a number of U.S. states, which were shipped to Washington, D.C., in more than 40 freight cars. Congress provided a new home for the exhibits, first, by transferring the Washington Armory to the Smithsonian, which used the huge building to store the exhibits, then by constructing the National Museum.

1376



Todd Goings and the Woodside mechanism at his shop in Ohio. Goings was the overall coordinator of the project and restored the carousel mechanism and frame. Rosa Patton was the color palette designer and painting supervisor; and carver Ed Roth was in charge of the project to reproduce the original contour and features of the horses that had been sandblasted and carve needed replacements. The painting was done by carousel artists Lise Liepman, Adriana Roth, Lisa Parr and Theresa Rollinson. Photo courtesy of Lisa Parr.

On May 10, 1877, exactly one year after the inauguration of the Centennial Exposition, Memorial Hall reopened as the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (later renamed the Philadelphia Museum of Art). By the turn of the century, it became increasingly apparent that larger quarters were needed to house the growing collections, and the museum moved to its new building on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in 1928.

Memorial Hall remained open for smaller exhibits and was used for collections storage until 1956, when it was converted to a recreation center and headquarters for Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission. In 1961, a basketball court was inserted in the west gallery, and locker rooms were built on the ground floor. In 1962, the east gallery was converted into an indoor swimming pool. By 2000, the building's deteriorating condition led the Park Commission to seek a new tenant to restore Memorial Hall. Please Touch Museum signed an 80-year lease on February 14, 2005.

During renovations, one of Philadelphia's lost treasures has been protected in a temporary, climate-controlled room on the ground floor. In the mid 1880s, John Baird—a former member of the Centennial Board of Finance—started the ambitious project to record the history of the Centennial in miniature. Months of archival research and preparatory drafting led to the hiring of highly skilled mechanics to construct, carve and paint the buildings and other objects depicted in 1-to-192 scale. It was first exhibited in 1889 at the Spring Garden Institute and later gifted by Baird to the City of Philadelphia. It was on display in City Hall from 1890-1894 and put in storage until 1901. That year, it was moved to the basement of Memorial Hall, where it sits today. The Centennial Model is the centerpiece of the Centennial Experience



The carousel animals, shields and mirrors in storage in Massachusetts, c. 1965. (Courtesy, Smithsonian Institution)

at Please Touch Museum. Appropriate educational activities and exhibits featuring original artifacts, reproductions, stories and "touchable" objects will surround the model in its room, providing visitors with a complete Centennial experience.

In 2005, a coalition of organizations in Fairmount Park created a master plan for the future of the fairgrounds, dubbed the "Centennial District." The Fairmount Park Commission, Fairmount Park Conservancy, Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia Zoo and Mann Center for the Performing Arts devised a plan to turn the area into a cultural and historical attraction. It is an ambitious, multi-faceted, 20-year plan with an end date of 2026 - targeted to coincide with the 250th anniversary of American Independence.



#### 1876 Centennial Fun Facts

- · Attendance: 9,789,392
- · Attendance fee: 50 cents (the average daily salary for the American worker was \$1.21)
  - The entire exhibition covered 284 acres.
- · More than 70 acres of Fairmount Park was covered with buildings.
- · There were 106 visitor entrance gates and 43 exit gates.
- The Centennial had 60,000 exhibitors from 37 foreign countries and the United States.
- The \$8.5 million it cost to produce the

Centennial Exhibition in 1876 is equal to \$141.772.356 today.

- It cost \$1.5 million to build Memorial Hall.
- · 3,256 paintings and drawings, 627 works of sculpture, 431 works of applied art and nearly 3,000 groups of photographs from 20 nations were exhibited
- The Arm and Torch (above) of the Statue of Liberty was at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Donations were collected to fund the pedestal that would sit in New York Harbor for the full statue.
  - · A model first kindergarten was exhibited at



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the fair. The education method was based on the ideas of Friedrich Froebel, a German educationalist considered the "father of the kindergarten." His ideas maintained that when children engaged with the world, they gained understanding. He also emphasized learning through play. Froebel developed a series of "gifts" (play materials) and "occupations" (activities). The gifts included blocks that architect Frank Lloyd Wright's mother bought at the Exhibition and took home for her son. He later placed great influence on these blocks in his designs and theories.

- Charles Hires, a Philadelphia pharmacist, introduced his beverage, root beer, at the Centennial. Still in production today, Hires Root Beer is the oldest, continuously marketed soft drink in the United States.
- · A six-bed hospital on site was run by Dr. William Pepper, who later founded the Free Library of Philadelphia.
- · Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated the telephone during the Exhibition.
- The banana was first introduced to the U.S. at the 1876 Centennial, where it was wrapped in foil and sold as an exotic treat for a dime.
- · Served at the Exhibition, "Centennial Cake" survives today as shoofly pie.
- In 1876, Wilhelm Wolff's statue The Dying Lioness was located at the southeast corner pavilion of Memorial Hall. Today, it greets visitors at the entrance to the Philadelphia Zoo.
- · Ohio House, a 3,325-square-foot building on one acre at States Drive and Belmont Avenue, is the only state building left from the Centennial. The exterior stonework features 21 different Ohio sandstones with inscriptions indicating the source quarries. It was redeveloped in 2007 as a coffee shop and meeting place.
- The Total Abstinence Fountain, funded by the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America and dedicated on July 4, 1876, still stands between Memorial Hall and the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. It portrays Moses (the central figure), prominent Catholic-Americans Charles Carroll and Archbishop John Carroll, Irish temperance proponent Father Theobold Mathew, and Commodore John Barry, "Father of the American Navy."

The 16-Horse Karussell is Said to Have Been Carved by a Shoemaker

# A Look at The True "Oktoberfest" Includes 1830s Der Bemperlprater











EDITOR'S NOTE: This story comes to us courtesy of Lourinda Bray and her German friend Hans Weth. Lourinda inspired Hans to keep his eyes open for authentic carousel items. He found an entire carousel and more. It has taken a while to get this story and the photos together, but here it is.

By Hans Weth

Besondere an das Karussell News & Trader

hen I learned from Rinda that she has a passion for old and authentic carousel items I asked my antique shop around the corner whether he would know of something for sale. But nothing came up. Then I read an article in my daily newspaper about the oldest still existing carousel, the "Bemperlprater," and that it would be to be seen during the Oktoberfest, which actually takes place in September.

"Der Bemperlprater" is shown above at the 2007 Oktoberfest

in Munich. To the right is said to be the same machine in a photo circa 1926. To the best of my translation abilities, (and Google's), it is said that this Karussell was carved over a three year period by Engelbert Zirnkilton, a shoe-



maker and master carver of his day. The Karussell is said to have made its debut in 1830. That would make it nearly 100years-old in the inset photo. Interesting how the scale and overall carvings show a similarity to the Watch Hill Carousel.



The Oktoberfest started out 175 years ago as an agricultural show and gave farmers the possibility to present their products and animals.

Maybe because in those days there were so many breweries around the area where the show took place, and maybe because the farmers coming into town liked beer very much, (which they didn't have on their farm yards), the agricultural show slowly turned into the Oktoberfest as it has become associated with around the world today.

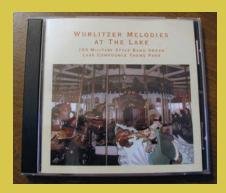
Still in the center of Munich, five million visitors come in from all over the world, mostly to enjoy the feeling of getting drunk on that rather strong beer in one of those very

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Among the other carousels on display in Munich was this circa 1910-1915 double-decker Heyn shown above, as well as left and right.

smokey, very loud, completely overcrowded big tents and all dancing and singing at those long tables.

Well, from next year on, smoking will not be allowed anymore and authorities have foreseen a quite efficient structure of immediate ambulantory help for what they like to call "beer corpses."

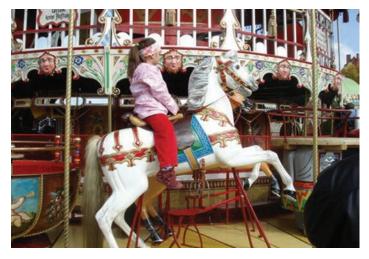
In defense of the unknowing "out-of-town visitors," the type of beer served at the Okoberfest has almost twice as much alcohol as normal beer, so for those who are not aware of it, I guess it is like drinking fruity rum cocktails.

Today the Oktoberfest has become an event for rather young people with the constant big need for enjoying themselves. Getting dressed in sort of a Bavarian style has become a must. The original traditional-type of dress is getting more and more changed into sometimes wild fancy dress using traditional materials such as Loden fabric and deer leather and accessories never seen before with the pure traditional-style, which seems to be appreciated by fewer people, perhaps because of its simplicity.

But there is another world, too, at the Oktoberfest. When I went out there on a sunny Sunday last September, the atmosphere outside the many tents was light, peaceful and somehow still as decades ago.

The noises were not from rowdy drunkards, but loud-





speaker announcements convincing people to buy a ticket, to this or that. And there were the huts where you could get some rather delicious grilled chicken, duck or fish and many other varieties of healthy, or maybe not so healthy, snacks.

Most of all, there was always some very special music in the air coming from somewhere. It was the music from the band organs and the music from carousels.

It was amazing how many carousels there were and how well kept they were. I had no idea that today's computer and







TV kids would find so much enjoyment from something considered to be so old-fashioned as a carousel, together with music coming from an organ and not from a CD.

But, the kids really enjoyed it, and one could see the fascination in their eyes. Some of them could not get enough of it, and I saw them crying when their mother was fed up just watching them go round and round and paying for their rides.

So, dear Rinda, I do not know whether this is what you expected. Please, let me know if you need some amendents or alterations. And feel free to do everything with what I've been trying to put down.

Hope this finds you well!



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## **CNT Readers Go Round**



One of our newer loyal readers, Janet Murphy, poses in front of the carousel, (or gallopers), in Florence, Italy, during her visit this past fall. Interesting that Janet has managed to get her picture in the magazine before her own son, who just happens to be the editor.



CNT reader, Laura Harrison, sent these pictures of the holiday window displays in New York City featuring carousels to Bette Largent, who passed them on to me. Laura's daughter Emily is shown above with a close-up of the display below. I believe this is the Lord & Taylor's display.



## **BOOK REVIEW:** The Rides are Leaving, the Water Will Stay

# Florida's First Theme Park, Cypress Gardens



The double-decker carousel and Paradise Sky Wheel Ferris wheel were located near the entrance to Adventure Grove, which hosted over 40 rides. Photos courtesy of Arcadia Publishing

As mentioned earlier in this issue, the historic Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven, FL, is saying so long to all of it's amusement rides. The zoo animals also will be removed as the park owners cite operating and maintenance costs and the inability to compete with nearby Disney World and other parks. The owners are assuring loyal fans of the park, considered Florida's oldest theme park opening in 1936, that the park will re-open in the spring, that the gardens and waterski shows will remain, and the zoo and rides will be replaced with a new water park.

While the park is closed for renovations we thought you might enjoy a brief look at some of the history of the park, which now includes the rides as, courtesy of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America Cypress Gardens.



Adventure Grove as it looked until the fall of 2008 with the Sunshine Sky Adventure, Swamp Thing, Okeechobee Rampage, Delta Kite Flyers and other rides.



Advertised on this vintage title card as "MGM's Spectacular Musical Excitingly Filmed in Florida's Beautiful Cypress Gardens," "Easy Love" brought Esther Williams back to Winter Haven. Van Johnson plays the owner of Cypress Gardens, and Williams is a star Aquamaid. Her attempts to attract his attention are played out through the film. A glimpse of midcentury Cypress Gardens, a series of breathtaking waterski scenes, and enjoyable synchronized swimming are not to be missed. On a side note: while preparing this issue, Van Johnson passed away at the age of 92 of natural causes. Johnson was a heart-throb leading man whose popularity was once considered second only to Bing Crosby. Johnson rose to fame during the WWII years while stars of the day like Clark Gable and James Stewart were serving in the Armed Services. Johnson was unable to serve as he had a metal plate in his head from a near-fatal car accident.



Hundreds of troops visited Cypress Gardens during WWII. Cypress Gardens was one of the few attractions that remained open during the war. They used their gas ration–15 gallons a week–to provide ski lessons to the soldiers.

# Images of America - Cypress Gardens By Mary M. Flekke, Sarah E. MacDonald, and Randall M. MacDonald

Florida's first theme park, Cypress Gardens, was the brainchild of Richard Downing "Dick" Pope, Sr. With his wife, Julie Downing Pope, he transformed a marshy, lake-side property in Winter Haven, FL, into a magnificent garden. The park's first visitors in 1936 toured pathways surrounded by lush plants from around the world. Two years later, electric boats meandered through the park's winding, hand-dug canals. Water ski shows commenced in 1942, and the park became the "Water Ski Capital of the World." The Florida-shaped Esther Williams Swimming Pool still graces the shore of Lake Eloise. The park was a set for dozens of short and feature films, a stage for beauty pageants, and



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To submit your story, contact Roland@CarouselNews.com.



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Johnny Carson paid a visit in 1968 while taping "Johnny Carson Discovers Cypress Gardens." He took part in a number of stunts including the one shown above.



Carol Burnett visited Cypress Gardens in 1961 while taping the Gary Moore Show. Along with Burnett and Moore were Peter Lawford and Alan King.

a site for special television broadcasts. A butterfly garden, zoo, rides, and the small-town Southern Crossroads shopping and dining area have been part of the park through the years. Kent Buescher purchased Cypress Gardens in 2004, and today's expanded Cypress Gardens Adventure Park preserves the family-friendly appeal of Dick and Julie Pope's magnificent park."

Authors Mary M. Flekke, Sarah E. MacDonald, and Randall M. MacDonald are long-time Cypress Gardens visitors. Drawn from the park's archives, the authors' collections, and area libraries, these images trace the development and life of Florida's iconic roadside attraction and celebrate those who make Cypress Gardens memorable.

Images of America - Cypress Gardens can be purchased at local and national bookstores or can be purchased at www.arcadiapublishing.com.



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By Dan Horenberger

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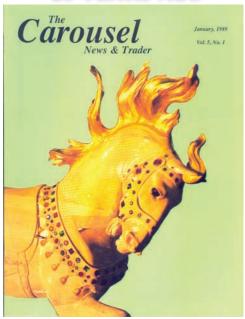
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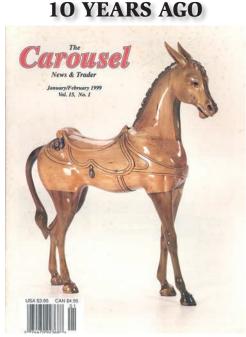
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# Carousel News & Trader Through The Years

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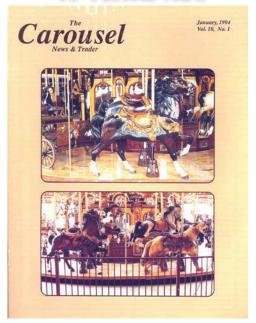


PTC #33 purchased prior to Guernsey's auction. • Rogene Corey memoriam. • Restored Twin Lakes carousel horse "Chief" returns home to IL • NCA pickets Guernsey's auction. • Carousels at the IAAPA convention in Dallas.



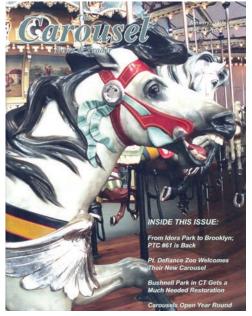
COVER: E. Joy Morris donkey • Norton auctions Neff carousel • PTC #15 in NY • Armitage-Herschell/ Dare carousel restored in Australia • Carousels of Coney Island • Carousel Magic restores PTC #19

#### 15 YEARS AGO



Perron's 1914 Illions and 1920 Spillman join Harvest fest in Oregon. • Swenson auction in Irwindale, CA Fabricon carousels. • Whalom Park celebrates 100th Kissel auction • Abbot and Riewe's Midwest auction.

#### 2 YEARS AGO



COVER: PTC #61 • Astroland sold • NY's Chelsea Cove to feature carousel • Restoration of Bushnell Park carousel • Paul Titus Carousel • From Idora Park to Brooklyn, NY for PTC #61 • Carousels open year-round • IMCA open house.

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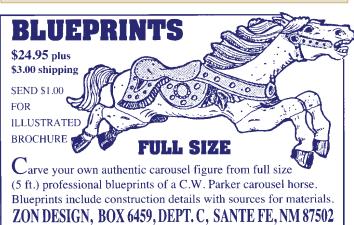


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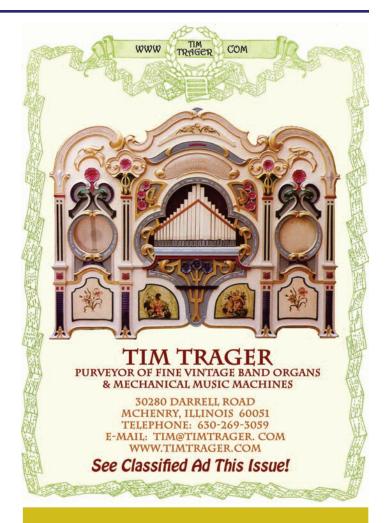
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#### Warehouse find.

Several organs all in the state of disrepair and disassembled including a

#### Wurlitzer 125.

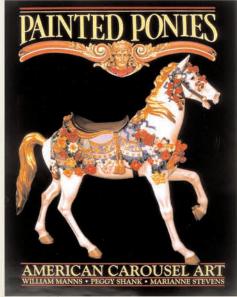
To be sold as one lot.

Pieces and parts for the organs are in several large piles.

Maybe all of the pieces are there, maybe not. There may even be extra pieces.

Perfect opportunity for a restorer or talented collector to get a great deal.

Email for pictures. dan@carousel.com for pictures anddetails



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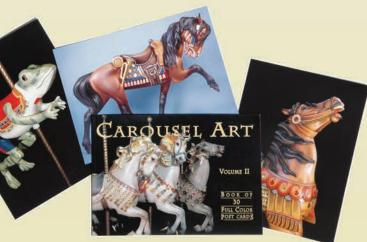
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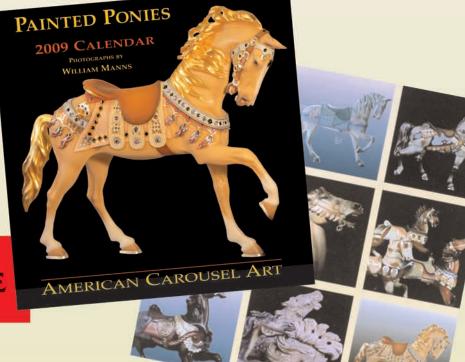
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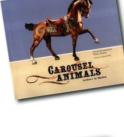
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A huge 4-row with 78 replacement animals.

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