



*The*  
***Carousel***

*News & Trader*

August 2013  
Vol. 29, No. 8  
\$7.95

***INSIDE THIS ISSUE:***

**Spring Carousel Tour to Europe**

**A Visit to Fête Paradiso in NYC**

**Carving Life with Gerry Holzman**

**Warren R. Deasy Remembered**

# Historic Carousels

## FOR SALE

### 1927 Illions Supreme – **SOLD**

This is the last of the three complete supremes including the world famous American Beauty rose horse.

**1925 PTC. Last operated Kiddieland in Melrose, IL**  
3-row carousel with an amazing 16 signature PTC horses.

### **JUST IN** – 1926 Dentzel Deluxe Menagerie Carousel

All original animals. Deluxe trim. Currently in storage. Videos of it operating at its last location.

**JUST IN** – 1890 Loeff Carousel. The famous “Broadway Flying Horses” from Coney Island.  
Just undergone museum restoration. Three extremely rare dogs among the menagerie.

**1925 PTC. Last operated Kiddieland in Melrose, IL**  
3-row carousel with an amazing 16 signature PTC horses.

### 1900s PTC Carousel

Last operated by the world famous Strates shows. In storage awaiting restoration.

**1880s Herschell–Spillman Steam–Operated Carousel**  
Original steam engine with 24 animals and 2 chariots.

### 1900s PTC Carousel

Rare 4-row unrestored carousel great for community project. Priced to sell. Restoration available.

### 1920s Dentzel Carousel

Another huge 4-row machine, just like Disneyland’s Carousel, with 78 replacement animals.

### 1900s Loeff Menagerie Carousel

Huge 4-row menagerie carousel. Has been in storage for years, awaiting restoration.

### 1900s Dentzel Menagerie Carousel

All original animals. Currently up and operating looking for new home.

### 1900s PTC Carousel

A huge 4-row with all original animals. Restored and ready to operate.

### 1895 Loeff Carousel. Last operated at Asbury Park

A huge 4-row with 78 replacement animals.

### 1927 Dentzel frame from Rock Springs, WV

The last carousel Dentzel ever built with the trim still in original paint. Replacement animals available.

### A Large Supply of Newer Used Carousels. Perfect for Malls.

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You can make new friends and catch up with carousel people and ideas. We will be having some interesting programs and also time to visit the beach or just do nothing. Make it a longer vacation and visit nearby Monterey, Carmel or San Francisco.

The price, including community meals, rooms with a view and fireplace but no TV to interrupt, is \$375 for double occupancy and \$525 for single occupancy. New this year: payment plan now available.

Contact Jean Bennett at [carouselwest@gmail.com](mailto:carouselwest@gmail.com) for more information. We hope to see you there!

## The Carousel News & Trader

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## ON THE COVER:



August, 2013  
Vol. 29, No. 8

With the "Circus Horse" from PTC #83 on last month's cover, what better to follow it up with? For my first couple of years with the magazine, I had my lion covers in August. That was hard to keep up. And now a clown on a pig? Falling off the pig is more like it. But much more, this famous, Karl Muller figure is one of only a few remaining.

John Caruso photo

## Inside this issue:



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Next Month:

*B&B Returns to Coney Island*

**Advance Notice**

# LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16th 2013

Featuring the legendary 1890 Haverhill Mass Soda Fountain & Drug Store



**3 Historic Carousels:** 1925 PTC #72 from Kiddieland with 16 Signature Horses; 1890s Steam Carousel with original steam engine; Solar Carousel.

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# From Dan's Desk

Message from the publisher,  
Dan Horenberger

Sorry for the short Dan's Desk this month. Dan is on his annual cross-country summer trip covering thousands of miles and visiting dozens of carousels – working on some and just checking in on others – as he travels out on the Southern route, then up the East



coast, and back across through upstate NY and the Northern route on return. There is a lot new and exciting going on in the carousel world – a lot more details on all of it in next month's issue.

**Ontario Beach Park Dentzel carousel up and running again.**

Photo courtesy of horse lover Pat Miran's blog, "2 Talk Horses", at <http://gs90.inmotionhosting.com/~ntalkh5>



**One of 16 "signature" horses on the PTC #72 carousel which will be offered for sale at auction on Nov. 16 in Lincoln, IL. There will be no tags on the horses this time as the carousel is being offered "intact as a whole machine" only.**

**PTC #72 Back to Auction Nov. 16 in Chicago Area**

Just as we were going to press, the news came in that the paperwork was signed, and Kiddieland PTC #72 will in fact go back to auction this fall, Nov. 16, 2013, in Lincoln, IL.

It seems strange that it was just three years ago – Dave Norton was alive and well and PTC #72's long-time home, Kiddieland in Melrose, IL went on the auction block. Sadly, even though the park had rumors of internal troubles for

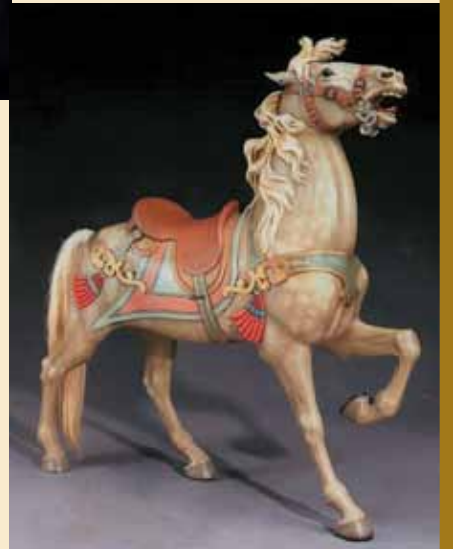


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Carmel, Muller, Dentzel, PTC, S&G, Illions. Armored.





A look at a few of the 966 lights on Missoula's carousel.

Photo courtesy of Joy Larson and 1075zoofm.com, <http://1075zoofm.com/author/joylarson>

years, the auction was rushed with almost no time to promote it. And to make it extra fun, it was held in early December – freezing in Chicago and holiday season in mid-stride.

This time around there is a lot more time and this will be a carousel auction like no other with three entire machines being offered. To really cover the spectrum, an 1880s steam carousel and a converted Allan Herschell, now a solar powered carousel will join PTC #72. And, it's a lot more than a historic carousel auction, with antique cars and motorcycles, lots of mechanical music machines and even a soda fountain. See **Donley Auctions'** ad on page 5 for more info.

### Ontario Beach Dentzel Back Up and Running

Sadly, the **Ontario Beach Park Dentzel** was quiet over the 4th of July this year with a broken gear. The replacement gear from **Brass Ring Entertainment** arrived in mid-July and before the month was over, the beautiful 1905 Dentzel menagerie machine was open again to the public. Dan will be stopping in on the carousel in his travels to have a look at the mechanism to be sure that one broken gear doesn't lead to another.

### Help With Energy Efficient LED Lights for Missoula

**A Carousel for Missoula** is two-thirds of the way to lighting up the carousel with longer-lasting, more energy-efficient LED light bulbs. Thanks to a grant from NorthWestern Energy and donations from the community, the carousel has raised \$4,174 of the \$6,118 needed to replace the 966 light bulbs. The carousel's volunteer mechanics searched and found an LED bulb that will maintain the old-fashioned look of the carousel and the color of the animals, but be more energy-efficient and save money. The new bulbs will both last longer and use approximately one-tenth of the energy needed to operate the current bulbs.

*Continued on page 8*

## Amusement Industry LIGHTING SUPPLIES

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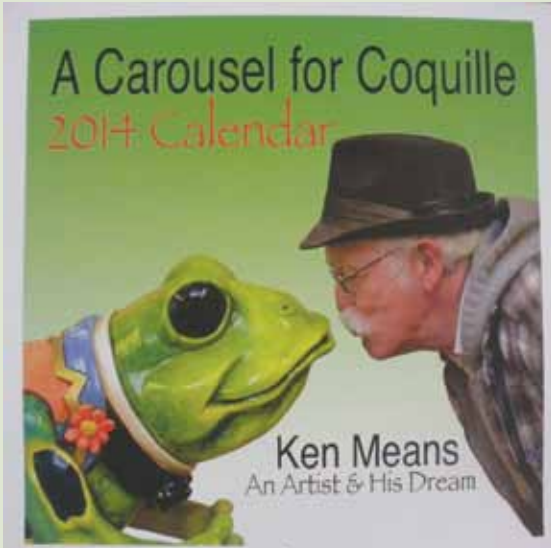
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October, 2013  
Photos and stories  
welcome from all  
contributors.  
Deadline: Sept. 15



### The **Carousel** News & Trader

For submissions, contact Roland Hopkins at 818-332-7944  
or via email at [roland@carouselnews.com](mailto:roland@carouselnews.com).

## Dan's Desk cont...



Dan stopped by to see Vickie Stauffer and take a look at the Menlo Park carousel in Perkasia, PA. A simple gear adjustment took some bumps out of the ride and some easy maintenance tips were left behind to keep it smooth

To finish up the new lighting, the carousel is asking for help. You can participate in its "Buy a Bulb" fundraiser by sending a \$5-per-bulb donation to: A Carousel for Missoula, P.O. Box 3345, Missoula, MT 59806; or donate with PayPal at [carouselformissoula.com/donate](http://carouselformissoula.com/donate) or in person in the carousel gift shop. Those who help with this final push will be entered into a drawing for a free private rental or double-deluxe birthday party at the carousel. If you donate by mail, remember to include your name and contact information (address, email and phone) for notification purposes. A donation is not necessary for entry into the drawing. To enter without donating, follow the same procedures as you would if donating, without sending money.

### A Classic Stop in Perkasia and Menlo Park

Dan found time in his cross-country/East coast travels to stop by Perkasia, PA, to visit our friend, Vickie Stauffer, and take a look at the classic 1951 Allan Herschell **Menlo Park Carousel**. "It was just a simple gear adjustment to smooth out the ride", Dan said. He also left behind some simple maintenance tips for Vickie to share with her crew, adding, "It's easily one of the nicest 1950s Allan Herschells I've ever seen."



Vickie and the volunteer crew there work very hard to keep that nice little machine pristine. It's "a rare example of original AH Art Deco style rounding boards and scenery" according to the NCA census at [www.carousels.org](http://www.carousels.org). Too bad the operating season is so short. I had more fun riding this carousel than any other during the Philly convention in 2009. For more information on a visit and to be sure you get a ride, [www.perkasieborough.org/historical\\_landmarks.html](http://www.perkasieborough.org/historical_landmarks.html).



# Rare Organ Offerings

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# Riding With The Rabbit

By Richard Concepcion

## B&B Returns to Coney

I've covered quite a number of carousel openings and re-openings over the past 30 years of my local cable TV show, but the one that kicked off this Summer's beach season here in New York City was still a rather special occasion, when Coney Island's last classic carousel returned home after nearly a decade-long absence.

The B&B Carousell (sic) was built by William Mangels with horses carved by Charles Carmel. Though it was built in Coney and spent most of its years here, the carousel's first or second venue was actually Bertrand Island Amusement Park in Lake Hopatcong NJ, until it was brought back to Coney Island in 1932 as a swap for an Illions Supreme carousel, and then turned inside a storefront on the resort's main thoroughfare, Surf Avenue, right outside the original Luna Park. It remained there for over 70 years, even long after all the other ride attractions around and behind had disappeared. But time itself was no longer on the side of this venerable carousel when one of its last private owner(s)-partner and caretaker, Michael Saltzstein, suddenly passed away around the 4th of July in 2000. His surviving partner, Jim McCullough, of the famous Coney Island family of ride entrepreneurs, couldn't afford the huge inheritance taxes he became liable for to acquire the remainder of the ride's ownership. The difficult decision was made to place the B&B Carousell onto the Guernseys auction block in 2005, from where it could have been sold to out of town or state interests, and even broken up. However, the City of New York under the administration of Mayor Mike Bloomberg stepped in at the last minute and purchased the carousel outright so



***"BUILT BY MC ILLIONS" wrapped around Abraham Lincoln's head was discovered under layers of paint and fill. The horse was not accepting riders when the carousel opened. Not sure if that has or will change. If there is no intention to, then maybe better just to display it, protected, next to the carousel and replace it with a horse folks can ride.***

that it could remain in Coney Island for present and future riders to enjoy.

And so now, after an eight-year restoration effort by Carousels & Carvings of Marion OH, the B&B Carousell has returned to its rightful place in Brooklyn's fabled seaside resort. It is in a new location along the boardwalk now called Steeplechase Plaza – named for the famous Steeplechase Park attraction that closed here in 1964 (demolished 1966) – and alongside the landmark Parachute Jump tower that now lights up in LED fashion at night.

The official dedication festivities on the Friday leading into Memorial Day weekend were open to the public, though not very well publicized, if at all. The impending ceremony was even difficult to confirm within the Coney Island support community at large, but eventually, through them, I got the right scoop and made last-minute arrangements to be there that morning. In addition to covering the event for my TV show, I was hoping to get some initial photo record for carousel fans online and anywhere and did in fact accomplish that.

The ceremony itself was pretty typical for an affair like this, with pre-dedication entertainment provided by Coney Island's very own troubadour, Amos Wengler, who performed a song with the help of kids from local Public School 90 who would also take the first official ride on the restored carousel. Next, Mayor Bloomberg took to the podium declaring the "2013 beach season in New York City open!", after acknowledging a roll call of members in his administration who expedited the shoreline's recovery from last Fall's Hurricane Sandy. Other dignitaries spoke too, including the city councilman for the Coney Island district, the Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and a representative from Central Amusements, subsidiary of Zamperla Rides from Italy, which company will operate the B&B Carousell as a concession. Zamperla's Central Amusements are also operating the new Luna Park just down the boardwalk.



***Richard takes his first ride on the revived B&B.***



**Enjoying a ride on an historic, hand-carved carousel in Coney Island after two decades of absence.**

With speeches complete, everybody counted down to the moment that the Mayor threw a symbolic switch that started the revived and returned B&B Carousel on its first official ride. This first ride would carry the PS90 kids, along with some of the officials who were present for the occasion.

This new publicly-owned setting for Coney Island's last historic carousel actually has some nice amenities. It's an actual carousel roundhouse with a nice view of the Atlantic Ocean across the revived boardwalk – quite a change from its former storefront location on Surf Avenue for many years. The pavilion is decorated on the high walls with some of the old signage brought over from the old street location. There is also a cafe attached to the outside and a party room inside, restrooms, drinking fountains, and most importantly, plenty of spectator space from where anyone can watch the fun. The present location is historically significant too, being at the edge of what was once was the great Steeplechase Park – the last of a chain of amusement establishments owned by George Tilyou – and that park was home to a number of classic carousels through its history including a Looff and then an Illions that stood just a few yards away from where the B&B Mangels/Carmel now makes its home.

It should be noted too that some of the classic aesthetics to the attraction have been changed with the carousel's new venue. For one thing, the brass ring arm did not come here to the boardwalk from Surf Avenue. Not surprisingly though. One of the Illions dragon chariots has been displaced off the ride and substituted onboard with a new ADA-compliant chariot. The Gerbreuder Elite Orchestra band organ now plays off a MIDI system instead of its old BAB paper rolls. The carousel itself turns now at a much more leisurely pace than the much faster speed it used to run at. But the real surprise noticed by carousel watchers was on the armored horse with the likeness of President Abraham Lincoln and carved by Illions, though for a longtime sharing this carousel with the Carmel horses. When this horse came back after his restoration, his armor revealed the legend "BUILT BY MC ILLIONS" carved in an arc above Lincoln's head. This "signature" was apparently concealed by paint and plaster



**Signage from the old carousel building on display.**

for many years and now has been brought back to light. Ironically though, because this lead horse is now of elevated value compared to all the others on the carousel – no one is allowed to ride him today.

SIDE NOTE: When the B&B Carousel left Coney Island for its restoration, there were three other carousels (modern metal ones) still operating at the seaside resort area. Upon its return this year, only one of those three carousels is left. Hopefully the famous B&B Carousel will forever carry on the legacy of the classic hand-carved wooden carousel, here at the place where many of them were created, at the birthplace of the amusement industry in the United States on the Brooklyn shore in New York City called Coney Island.

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# Carousel Calendar

## AUCTIONS

Nov. 16, 2013

**Union, IL.** Donley Auctions presents a huge carousel, music and more auction. PTC #72, an 1880s steam carousel and an Allan Herschell converted to solar power will all be offered as a whole units only. Lots of mechanical music, antique cars and motorbikes, a soda fountain and more. See ad on page 5 in this issue.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Through September 29

**Governors Island, NY.** *Fête Paradiso Exhibit.* Vintage carousels, flying swings and other carnival rides and fun stuff including an 1897 bicycle carousel is one of only two in existence. Many more carousels and rides. See the article starting on page 15 in this issue for all the additional information you might need to know.

September 6-22, 2013

**Puyallup , WA.** *The Puyallup Fair.* Home to PTC #43. The Puyallup Fair started in 1900, and is one of the biggest fairs in the world, and the largest in the Pacific Northwest. A star-studded concert lineup, the PRCA Rodeo, rides, exhibits, food, flowers and animals are mainstays of the 17-day event. For info, visit [www.thefair.com](http://www.thefair.com).

September 19-23, 2013

**Leavenworth, KS.** *The 41st Annual Convention of the National Carousel Association (NCA)* will be hosted by the C. W. Parker Carousel Museum. Convention attendees will see 8 great carousels during this 40th Anniversary convention, See full page ad on page 33 in this issue or visit [www.nationalcarousel.org](http://www.nationalcarousel.org).

Sept. 27 - Oct. 20, 2013

**Dallas, TX.** *Big Tex.* Annual State Fair of Texas. Ride the 1920s Dentzel. The largest state fair in the US dating back to 1886. (214) 565-9931 or visit [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com).

Nov. 18-22, 2013

**Orlando, FL.** *"Imagine"* is the theme for 2013 as the IAAPA Attractions Expo returns to Orlando. Product displays, industry events, behind-the-scenes facility tours and education program focused on trends, opportunities, and best practices. IAAPA Attractions Expo is the thriving marketplace for the attractions industry. Visit [www.iaapa.org](http://www.iaapa.org).

## COAA AND AMICA BAND ORGAN RALLYS

September 27-29, 2013

**St Charles, MO.** COAA Rally meets Oktoberfest. COAA is sponsoring this rally with the city of St. Charles and the German Club of St. Charles. These groups have been getting together for 25 years with their annual Oktoberfest which last year brought attracted 70,000 people over the three days. Hosted by Gary Stevenson(314) 753-8607, email: [garyg@studio801.com](mailto:garyg@studio801.com) or visit [www.coaa.us](http://www.coaa.us).

## Letter to the Editor

### RE: Butch Schimian Memoriam

Dear Roland,

Words cannot express how much I appreciate (and I know Butch does also) your honoring him in your In Memoriam page.

You have the incredible gift of writing from the head and heart, an approach that is relaxed and candid. One feels as if you are in the room having an intimate conversation with one person. Yet, you are reaching a multitude.

I especially enjoyed your comparison of Butch to an armored horse. My first carousel horse was an armored Parker (I still have him), and, as you said, is reminiscent of Butch – strong, invincible, protective, and “tough as nails” on the outside. However, he had the added inner strength of love and kindness as shown in his devotion as a Mason and Shriner to caring for burned children and airlifting them to the Shriners Burns Institute. In these carousel years, he found wonderful friends, not to mention direction and purpose in our endeavors.

Butch was a source of joy and love in my life, and losing him has been a very painful experience. I will miss his high-spirited nature and acute perspective on life. I am blessed to have had his love and presence in my life for many years but not nearly enough years.

Thank you, Roland, for all your kindnesses.

– Barb Nelson



## Celebrating Carousel Day in the Gardens



July 25, 2013 - Carousel Day – Vickie Stauffer takes a ride on the new 2009 Brass Ring Ent. hand-carved wooden carousel at world-famous Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Canada.

# Historic Carousels

**FOR SALE**

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**Dentzel**



1905 "Leaf Eater" from the Mexican Muller - \$42,500

**ca. 1905 PTC**



ca. 1905 PTC Outside Row Armored stander. \$47,500

**M. C. Illions**



ca. 1915 Illions Outer Row Seaside Heights Jumper. \$21,900

**Looff**



ca. 1890 from Goddard Park, Rhode Island. \$15,500 **\$13,500**

**Mexican Muller**



ca. 1920 Lise Liepman paint. \$9,500

**Pine Grove PTC**



ca. 1905 PTC #9. Restored in stains by Pam Hessey. \$27,500



Ca. 1905 Muller Jumper From the Mexican Muller \$11,500



ca. 1895-1905 Looff Jumper - Stripped to bare finish. \$7,500

**Huge Parker**



1924 Dentzel Ostrich. Lise Liepman paint. John Hughes restoration. \$22,500 **\$17,500**

**E. Joy Morris**



Rare E. Joy Morris Zebra. Outside Row - \$10,000



HUGE 91.5" L Outside Row 1920s Parker. Older restoration. \$17,500 **\$14,500**



ca. 1895 Harvey's Dept. Store in Nashville, TN - \$6,900

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The Festival of Vintage Rides and Carousels from Europe on Governor's Island, NYC

# A Visit to Fête Paradiso - French Carnival and Carousel Exhibit



*The world-famous Velocipedes. You could say it was a bicycle carousel. A bicycle built for many. Said to be built in 1897.*

By Charles and Catherine Crawford  
Special to *The Carousel News & Trader*

An email from our friend, Cheryl, said, "Did you know there are some old French carousels on Governors Island?" "Really?" At that point we didn't, but we knew we just had to take a look. But, getting there is not that easy. Governor's Island is located one-half mile off the end of Manhattan. A former military base that covers an area of 172 acres. Last year 92 of the total acres were open to the public. Cathy and I live 90 miles north of New York City. We are not city people. We came up with a plan. We have friends who live near us. They know their way around the city. We proposed a day out a day out with the four of us visiting Governor's Island. The only weekend they had available was the one coming up. July 20th was forecasted to be brutally hot, so we adjusted our plan. We would go on Sunday the 21st. Still hot, but not as steamy as the day before.



*Cathy takes over the ticket booth at the first carousel just inside the park. Photos courtesy of Charles Crawford*



We met at the “Park & Ride” on the Taconic State Parkway and continued our journey to Manhattan. They knew where we could park for free. We would complete our travels to Battery Park by subway. A note for all of you inexperienced strap hangers—check up to the minute information schedules. The weekend is when the MTA does track work. The Number 1 train that would have gotten us straight down to the Ferry terminal was undergoing maintenance. Therefore, we had a much longer, more confusing train-changing trip. We would have never made it without the help of our friends, Joe and Mary.

To get out to Governor’s Island you have to take the Ferry at the Battery Maritime Building built in 1909. As we boarded

the Ferry, (free), we are surrounded by scores of happy children and their parents. One child told us he has never been on a boat before and he hoped he didn’t get seasick. We hoped he didn’t either. Soon the old traditional car ferry, the Lt. Samuel S. Coursen begins our voyage to the island.

Before we knew it we were docked on the other side and people were streaming off the Ferry. Cathy inquired at the information desk and was told, “The Fête Paradiso is up the hill and to the left”. So off we went. Soon we saw the carousel horse stencils in the road and in no time we were in Nolan Park. It’s a wonderful place with beautiful large trees and even larger houses lining the park’s perimeter.

Directly in front of us was the first carousel (shown above left). And the first thing we noticed was the big pig. There were also six chariots, of which one rocks, along with a rooster and a dancing girl (bottom left) and a lion that you sat in (above right). The funny thing is, the little ones seemed to like the lion. The bigger boys favored the front of the chariot, where it goes way up and down (below). And the Dads seemed to go for the pig, while the Moms sat under the shade trees and took a breather.







We noticed all the ride operators were dressed in stripes. They were very French looking with their neck scarves. Some even wore berets. All were smiling and friendly.

Next up, to the left as we entered the exhibit, was a Swing ride for the smaller thrill seekers (above).

As we continued into the park, we came upon a very unusual ride – a spruce tree with all types of carousel animals around it (above right) and rounding boards surrounding it all as they would be on a normal carousel.



Very interesting things were around this tree. Things you just don't see on carousels in the states. From a happy Bayol cow with horns and tongue out, (left) to a not too happy Spooner centaur soldier with gun drawn (below). There was no informational sign with the exhibit, just the rounding board (above right)

as clue to its maker. It was quite interesting to look at. This is where the people with their big, professional looking cam-



eras took lots of photos. One such photographer remarked to me that she had never seen animals such as these on any carousel before. I was about to mention the NCA was planning to have their convention next year in the New York

City area, but before I could get a word in she was off snapping pictures of another collection of animals encompassing a large shade tree nearby. More about that one later.



*Above, Heyn prancers, below a Heyn elephant and Frech cat. Left, a Bayol cow, Spooner centaur and Mathieu camel.*



Charles Crawford photos



Next was a 1950s ride with small period cars, bikes and a “hippy” type bus that was a big hit with the little ones (above left and right). I must add at this point, the children were having such a great time and were so extremely well behaved, despite the rising temperatures.

Next up, in the center, were the swing boats (below). Small ones for the youngsters and larger ones for the young at heart. Also in the middle of the park was the food pavilion, with French crepes along with the usual “fun” food. Nearby was the beer garden pavilion providing live entertainment and, yes, they also have short bottles of real French Champagne.



On the Brooklyn side of the park was a large shade tree, this time with carousel animals around it (below). Except for the Spooner dragon, the remainder of the creatures were more traditional pieces.



Further, down the line we come across the midway games, along with the band organ, (below) that due to the heat, played for just a short time.





In front of the house where the ticket booth was located, was a children's carousel with a white wooden boat that I just loved. The horse alongside the boat looks out at his admirers as if to say "Isn't this fun?" while the second horse seems to be racing a clown who is on his hands and knees (all above). There were many other interesting creations to contemplate on this carousel (right).



the Steeplechase ride at Rye Playland, Rye, NY, before they slowed it down. It is a great workout even though there is a motor to help you along. The second half of the ride was a real "rip". You went backwards. Laughter and screaming came from all onboard. Enthusiasm encouraged by the antics of the ride operators, who were squeezing their bulb horns as

But, we had the most fun on the Velocipedes (below). You could say it was a bicycle carousel. A bicycle built for many. Said to be built in 1897. There were seats in a car, one behind the other for the little ones, but if your legs were long enough for your feet to reach the pedals, then you peddled. Cathy said it reminded her of

the passengers went whizzing by, backwards! Watching the ride afterward I see some peddled hard to go faster, some just peddled at speed and some put their feet up and let others do the work. So life on a Velocipede is kinda just like... well, life itself.



the Steeplechase ride at Rye Playland, Rye, NY, before they slowed it down. It is a great workout even though there is a motor to help you along. The second half of the ride was a real "rip". You went backwards. Laughter and screaming came from all onboard. Enthusiasm encouraged by the antics of the ride operators, who were squeezing their bulb horns as the passengers went whizzing by, backwards! Watching the ride afterward I see some peddled hard to go faster, some just peddled at speed and some put their feet up and let others do the work. So life on a Velocipede is kinda just like... well, life itself.



**Cathy, Chuck and their friend, Mary, enjoy the rare rides, (shown left and right).**



Charles Crawford photos



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Back in the center of the park, the last ride we came to was the three-abreast carousel (above). Most of the horses went up and down. But, a few stood rearing back – ready to charge (below). Included on the ride was a swan chariot, and just when I thought this was an all horse carousel, we were surprised to see what we think was a lamb. The ride was slow, but there was a lovers tub for those seeking a little more thrill in life. Cathy and I rode on the horses.

It was getting late, and we were a long way from home. Nevertheless, we decided to take a walk around the Island. So, after a stop at a Mister Softy for ice cream, we headed for the ferry. One was already loading, so we ran to get aboard for the scenic trip back to Manhattan. Governor's Island is beautiful, and the New York City skyline from the island is indescribable. It was a long, hot day – but one we all fully enjoyed!



**If you're looking for a  
Grand Day Out  
get over to the  
Fête Paradiso  
Governor's Island, NYC**

**Hours are:**

**Sat-Sun, 10:30 am - 6:30 pm**

**Ticket are:**

**\$3 for one, or \$25 for 10.**

*(Each ride takes one ticket)*

**The exhibit will be  
there to enjoy through  
Sept 29, 2013.**

Visit Two Salon Carousels, One Velocipede, Puppets, Organs and More...

# 18 Carousel Enthusiasts Embark on Euro-Merry-Go-Round Tour



*The 1890 the velocipede or bicycle carousel. One of only two known. It was shown briefly in Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris".*

By Jean Bennett

*Special to The Carousel News & Trader*

**I**n May of 2013, 18 carousel enthusiasts and 2 tour professionals embarked on a whirlwind visit of carousels in Europe. Three friends and I arrived in Paris early to see some of the usual tourist spots before the carousel portion began. Because of the small group, while we were staying in Paris we used the public transportation system of the Metro and the train. I found the Metro easier to use than the NYC subway system.

**On the first day** we were given an all day pass for the Metro. We visited the fiberglass carousel in the Tuileries Garden and then walked along the Seine to the Eiffel Tower. There were two interesting fiberglass carousels nearby. Back to the Metro and train for our visit to **Luxembourg Gardens**. It is a very large park with a great children's area and a carousel with wooden animals that hang from poles



*Monica Denham and Fran Novakoff on one of the many newer fiberglass carousels in Paris, this one is in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. John Caruso photos*



**Beautiful vintage children's carousel in the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.** John Caruso photo



**A hard working elephant on the Jardin du Luxembourg children's carousel.** Jean Bennett photo

rather than being attached to a platform. Then we were on our own to visit *Notre Dame*, *Saint Chappelle*, and find an interesting restaurant for dinner. We made it back to the *Gare du Nord* train station before our pass expired.

**On the second day**, after once again enjoying the variety of items at the breakfast buffet, we were off on the train and Metro to Bercy. That is where the very large collection



**This third carousel you see at Jean Paul Favand's has row boats in place of chariots.**

of **Jean Paul Favand** is located. It is stored in a former wine warehouse and various areas can be rented out. One section is a Venice fantasy complete with animatronic singers and a light show. The first carousel that we saw was one with stationary animals (2 swans, a cat and a sheep) and 8 chariot type seats. There were many carousel figures displayed on the walls and ceilings.



**Entrance to Jean Paul Favand's**

The next carousel contained many horses of both the jumper and stander variety and also 2 large boats. The building also contained some old fashioned games to entertain us. There was a horse racing type game with French waiters instead of horses and several shooting galleries. After many more carousel figures to investigate, we came to the velocipede or bicycle carousel. It was shown briefly in the Woody Allen movie *Midnight in Paris* and is propelled by people power. Once everyone gets into the rhythm – it goes quite fast. We rode it twice and then rested before we headed to

a quick visit to the next building where they were setting up for a party. Back to the Metro and another train for our journey to **Disney Paris**. The carousel was impressive and always busy so it was difficult to get photos. It consists of 16 outside row armored wooden horses carved by Joe Leonard and 70 inside row fiberglass horses. It also has the 2 original Roman chariots from the PTC #46 carousel at Disney World in Florida. We rode a few of the rides, had dinner, and took two trains to get back to the hotel about 11 pm.

**The first carousel you see at Favand's is this circa 1880 two-level menagerie.**



*One of the beautiful armored outside row horses carved by Joe Leonard above. Below, one of the original PTC #46 Roman chariots both aboard the Euro Disney carousel.*



**On the third day** we boarded a fancy new bus and headed to St Gobain. There we visited Concept 1900 owned and operated by Ina and Philippe. They build fiberglass carousels and other rides. They had a carousel set up in the shop and took us on a tour of the various design and fabrication areas. Then we were treated to a selection of cheeses and champagne or mimosas. We took a group photo on the carousel and were given 8x10 copies of it. Then back on the



*A new carousel erected in the factory at Concept 1900 in St. Gobain, France.*



*John Caruso with a huge, elaborate outside row Loeff jumper at Jafri Toys in the Netherlands.*

bus to drive through Belgium to our next hotel in Putten, the Netherlands. We learned that you must pay to use the bathrooms at the rest stops, but you will receive a coupon to redeem on purchases at the convenience store. We had a dinner of curried chicken, salad and veggies and a cheese-cake with kiwi and mango on it. We fell into bed to prepare for the next adventure.

**On Day Four**, after a buffet breakfast we headed to Almelo to visit **Jafri Toys**. It is owned by brothers Frits and Godfried Heinhuis who married sisters. They each have sons named Frits and John after their grandparents. They make various toys for the carnival industry and also purchased a Loeff carousel. It ran in Barcelona for many years and is now for sale. They very generously brought the figures out from storage so that we could see them and take pictures. The carousel consists of 53 horses (including 7 armored), 3 camels, 3 goats and 5 giraffes. There are many unique carvings on the cantles. There is fiberglass material on some of the animals but it does not appear to be much of a problem. There is also a large 3 seat chariot and a fighting dragons chariot. We were able to receive large photos of the carousel when it was operational. It would be amazing to see this carousel running again in the United States. Jafri also makes band organ figures and had a large display of them. The rain we experienced did not dampen our enthusiasm and appreciation of our visit to this amazing place.



*A long row of great Loeff figures displayed at Jafri Toys.*







**Ca. 1895 Janvier Salon Carousel**  
Efteling Theme Park • Kaatsheuvel, Netherlands  
22 Horses - 2 Pigs with Clowns and 4 Gondolas  
John Caruso photo



John Caruso photos



**The Gavioli organ with the salon carousel at Efteling.**

**On the road again**, we stopped at a rest stop where some of us sampled *Crème Brulee* Magnum ice cream bars and also free small cans of non-alcoholic beer. Before we knew it we had arrived at Efteling which was built in 1933, making it the first amusement park in Europe. It is centered around fairy tale type characters and contains several carousels. The most famous one (at least to us) is the Salon carousel. It is inside an elaborate building and consists of 22 horses and 2 pigs that have human size clowns on the back facing the next rider. There are also 4 large gondolas. The original steam engine is



**Gondola on the salon carousel above. Great carousel figures below.**



**This is the second of three carousels at Efteling.**

still on the ride. There is also a carousel with 16 horses (9 of which rock back and forth), a lion, a rooster, a spinning tub, a chariot on a pole, 2 gondolas and 2 other chariots.



**Façade of the Janvier Salon Carousel c. 1895 at Efteling. The amusement park is considered the oldest in Europe, built in 1933. Below is the center pole for the salon carousel, surrounding art and motor drive.**



There are paintings on the ceiling and draperies between the poles. I believe that the third carousel might be fiberglass. It had 12 horses, 2 standing elephant seats, 2 gondolas and 2 chariots. It also had many draperies. There were also some very cute 4 figure carousels that were moved by human power. There was an interesting museum with some carousel figures.

It was difficult to understand the significance of the other items because the signs were naturally all in Dutch. After seeing as much of the park as possible in the short time that we had, we headed to **Museum Dansant** in Hilvarenbeek. They had



**A third carousel at Efteling Park had some nice dressings, but looked like it was fiberglass.**



**Lion aboard the second Efteling Park carousel.**

many band organs that we got to listen to as we ate dinner. The Dekalb with 3 robots who stood up was my favorite. Then we toured the basement area with more organs and had some freshly made cotton candy.

**On Day Five**, after breakfast we began the long journey to Germany. When we arrived at the park in **Hanau** we discovered that they were having a flower mart and had all kinds of items for sale. We toured the carousel building that was seen by NCA members in 2006 and is still being restored. We were also able to see two of the finished horses and purchase a souvenir of a piece of the original slate roof. I still don't really understand the engineering design of this unique carousel but maybe someday we will be able to see it in action again. After shopping, we ate at the Biergarten and enjoyed traditional wienerschnitzel. We

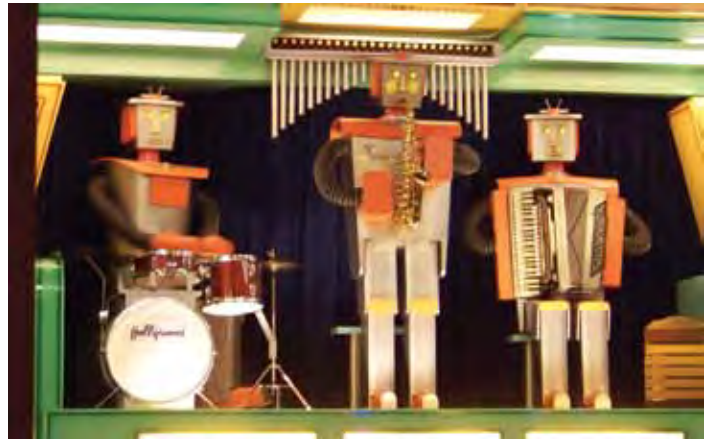


**Horses on display at Hanau Park.**

arrived at our hotel in Karlsruhe and I saw an enormous outdoor vending machine on the way to the bus to retrieve the camera that I had forgotten.



**The Stadt Museum has one of the biggest collections of puppetry art in the world as well as a wonderful collection of fairground art.**



**Very cool Dekalb at Museum Dasant. Jean Bennett photo**

**On Day Six**, at the sumptuous breakfast buffet, we had a choice of many things including smoked salmon, honey that dripped directly from the honeycomb and small ice cream cone type containers to put your choice of jelly or the fresh honey in. After a couple of rest stops that included seeing a Mercedes McLaren convertible and sampling another flavor of Magnum ice cream, a traffic jam, and several naps... we arrived in Munich. We met with **Dr. Florian Dering** who guided us to the **English Garden Park** which is larger than Central Park in New York.

The carousel was not open, but we were able to visit it for a short time. It's a very interesting stationary one that consists of 10 horses, 2 rams, 2 deer, a flamingo, a stork, an ostrich, a giraffe, a camel and a llama. It also has 6 very unique chariots for seating. It is believed to be 100 years old. We then

walked to the **Stadt Museum** where we received a personal tour since the museum is not open on Mondays. They have a large collection of fairground art with many marionettes and puppets, shooting gallery



**A circa 1912 children's carousel in Englischer Garden in Munich with some very unusual, but beautiful figures.**



**More from the Stadt Museum.**



John Caruso photos

**One of the last great Salon carousels operating, the Grand Carousel, Eden Palladium, now right outside entrance to Europa Park.**

targets and a male Laughing Sal. They also have several figures including some very large standing horses and carriages believed to be from the oldest carousel known. We next walked to the City Hall plaza to watch the glockenspiel in motion at 5 pm. It consists of a jousting match that Bavaria of course wins and then everyone dances. The city hall building is very elaborate and has many interesting carvings. Time for a little shopping before our dinner at the enormous Hofbrauhaus with an oompah band for entertainment. It was a long 4 hours back to Karlsruhe.

**On the Seventh Day** we boarded the trolley and then a train for the ride to **Europa Park** in Rust. It is similar to Epcot in that it contains an area for each of the European countries to display rides, food etc. We hunted in vain for the Eden Palladium and then discovered that it was outside the gates and did not open until 5 pm. We visited the other carousel which said that it was 100 years old. It had



**Cotton candy girls at Museum Dansant Margarete Dodds, Monica Denham, Fran Novakoff and Jean Bennett.**



**A huge Mortier dance organ at Museum Dansant.**



John Caruso photos

*The coach above shows the date of the carousel's construction. A Bayol pigs above, and horses below, on the Eden Palladium.*

12 horses, 2 spinning tubs, 2 rocking gondolas and 4 other chariots. We rode roller coasters, went up in the Euro Tower for aerial views of the park and had snacks. At 5 pm we exited the park and were able to view and ride the Eden Palladium. It was obtained from the Eco Musee d'Alsace very recently. It contains 12 horses, 12 pigs, 2 spinning tubs and 2 rocking gondolas. It has a large façade and 2 life-size horse and rider statues. Then it was back on the shuttle and the train to return to Karlsruhe. Some had dinner at the hotel while others spent their time getting lost in the suburbs.

**On the Eighth Day** we had our breakfast and then bid goodbye to the twelve carousel riders who were continuing on to Switzerland. The rest of us took a walk around Karlsruhe and then boarded a trolley to the train station. We rode a high speed train to Paris which only took 3 hours and stopped only once. After negotiating the metro stairs with our suitcases, we had the rest of the afternoon and evening to do as we wished. Some of us visited the outside of the Louvre and the Opera House. All had a last dinner in Paris.



*This nice little carousel (above and right) is in the England section of Europa Park and is almost 100 years old.*



# Euro Carousel Paparazzi



**John Caruso, Margarete Dodds and Fran Novakoff in one of the two row boats on the carousel at Favand's.**



**Noel Hinde enjoying a little leisure time in an elephant shaped seat on the new Concept 1900 carousel.**



**Diane Shamp Efteling Park.**



**Linda Simons on a Hubner horse.**



**Betty and Charles Jacques on one of the carousels at Jean Paul Favand's.**



**Dr. Dering talks about these carousel figures which are supposedly among the oldest in existence. Part of the fairground art collection at Stadt Museum.**



**Putting the velocipede in motion.**



*Façade to Eden Palladium, Grand Salon carousel.*

**On the Ninth Day** we said our final good-byes. Some of us were headed home and others were off on further travels. It was the end of our **Excellent Carousel Adventure**.

Many thanks to Linda and Boz, our tour organizers, and to John, our wonderful bus driver. Also a big thank you goes to Ken and Barb Weaver for finding all the places and connections to make this dream a reality. We will all have great memories to reminisce about for a lifetime.



*A vintage children's carousel at Favand's.*



*More interesting figures 1912 children's carousel in Munich.*



*A group of organ figures and band organ display above and below at Jafri Toys in the Netherlands.*



*Unusual fortune telling machine at the Museum Dansant in the Netherlands. Fortunes were good as all got home safely.*

# Two European Carousels to Australia



## Rundles 3 Abreast Galloper

(From the Rundles website)

*Manufactured with the latest materials and methods. A mainly galvanized steel fabrication with aluminium platforms covered with a resin coated ply. Decorations of reinforced plastic with lacquered twisted brass tubes on horse and platform rods.*

*This is a popular family ride with a large throughput and low maintenance costs. A variety of horses, cockerels, chariots etc., are available.*

**Seating Capacity: 72 persons**

**Capacity / hour: 1250 person / hour**

**Horses: 36 • Sections: 12**

**Drive: Electric Inverter • Motor: 4kw**

**Lights: As required**

**Height: 6.25 m x Diameter: 12 m (approx.)**

**Construction: Galv. Steel/Alumin./Fiberglass**

**Sound: Traditional Organ (optional)**

Thanks to a "heads-up" from our friends at the **Semaphore Carousel** in Australia, Pete and Dea Lohmann, and their great *Facebook* page, we get a first look at two new European carousels soon to become Australian carousels; a new English Galloper from Rundles and a double-decker from Germany. The first one really is new. The second is used, but new to Australia.

For the first carousel discovery, they found this posted on Rundles website; [www.rundles.co.uk](http://www.rundles.co.uk).

"On May 2nd, 2013, Galloper ready for its long voyage – We have just finished packing our new Galloper into 2 - 40' containers ready for export. Its new home will be at Luna Park in Sydney Australia. It should hope fully dock/arrive in 6 weeks time ready to be built up again after surviving its long voyage across the seas."

The second carousel heading over was announced in a post by Peter and Dea:

"A N.S.W's Showman has bought this very nice 2-story carousel. It will be Australia's only two-story, but the second one [to operate] in our country. The first one, now gone, was at Magic Mountain on the Gold Coast. That park is now closed and I've not been able to find a photo of that carousel. I would love to hear from anyone that has one."

The double-decker carousel had been previously operating in a park in Germany.

The **Semaphore Carousel Facebook** page is a great hub for any carousel news happening down under...



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**20th Anniversary Gala**  
at The Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House in Holyoke!

Thursday,  
Sept. 19, 2013  
6:30pm

Entertainment  
by  
**Dan Kane  
& Friends**

...what a ride!

Join us for fabulous food,  
cash bar, great silent auction,  
50/50 raffle and lots of fun!

Tickets \$45 per person. Purchase a table for 10  
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All proceeds benefit the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round





**SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2013  
NCA CONVENTION**

# **"CARRY-US-ALL" TO KANSAS**

**Cowboys, Carousels & the Wizard of Oz  
100 Year Birthday for Carry-us-all #118**



**LOCATED IN HISTORIC LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS**

**Sept. 25 - NCA Archives, Roundabout Faire and Welcome Party**

**Sept. 26 - The Wizard! - 1901 Parker, Abilene - 1908 Herschell Spillman, Topeka**

**Sept. 27 - KC Royals 2009 Carousel Works, KC Zoo 2007**

**Carousel Works, Worlds of Fun 1926 Illions, BBQ Dinner**

**Sept. 28 - 100 Year Old 1913 Parker, 1950 Parker, 1850 NCA**

**Primitive Carousel, C.W. Parker Museum Tour,**

**Leavenworth City & Fort Tour, Faire, Banquet & Auction**

**Sept. 29 - Breakfast, General Meeting & NCA Archives**

**For Info: [j-m-reinhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j-m-reinhardt@sbcglobal.net) or 913.897.2521**

## Original Paint Dentzel Rooster/Archer's Target



*This figure has become a favorite at the museum for both its unconventional beauty and unconventional back story.*

**By Kurri Lewis**

*Executive Curator, Museum of Carousel Art & History*

**T**his month's featured animal is a very unique circa 1895 Dentzel Rooster. Several companies produced different versions of roosters, but Dentzel's were the most realistic with the very intricate detailed carving.

This particular Dentzel rooster comes from the Jimmy and Carol Filler Collection. The figure has original paint and the addition of some new wood, which has a very unique story to it – making this rooster very much a one of a kind.

While we all know many carousel animals have been found in barns, attics, random antique shops, and many other interesting places, not everyone knows how rare and amazing these animals can be. The story that comes along with this rooster very much proves that not everyone knows how to handle these works of art.

This Rooster was located inside a barn and had many arrow sized holes located all over it. Those holes were indeed from arrows as the rooster suffered damage due to it being used as a target for bow and arrow practice. Due to the many holes in the figure from the arrows, the wood that suffered the damage was replaced and re-carved.

While the new wood sticks out from the rest of the wood covered by century-old original paint, it gives this special carousel animal even more charm and character, after surviving what could have been a disastrous fate.

While being one of our visitors' favorite pieces in the exhibit, it has become a focal point for our tour guides to discuss the rarity of original paint and also that these wooden gems need to be handled with great care to ensure their survival.

*(Most CN&T readers know that in the 1980s, a Dentzel*



**Dentzel roosters are among the most sought after carousel figures, having sold for \$148,000, \$145,00 and a third one for just under \$100,000 in past auctions.**

rooster sold at auction for \$148,500. That figure would hold the record for the most expensive carousel figure ever sold at public auction for a less than a decade, being beat by a PTC St. Bernard in the early 1900s which sold for \$174,900. The Dentzel rooster, however, remains in second place 30 years later. The most expensive carousel horse ever sold at public auction has also held its record for three decades. That was a outside row Illions jumper from Seaside, NJ, which sold in the 1980s for \$121,000.)



**In the center of this close-up photo, you can see one of the arrow holes in the rooster's body.**

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Bill Manns photo. Lise Liepman restoration.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Warren Deasy – Carousel Owner - Operator - Lover



1925-2011

By Matthew Caulfield

**W**arren Roger Deasy, co-owner of the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round in Los Angeles, California, died October 8, 2011, in Los Angeles. His passing went unannounced in the carousel and amusement park world.

He was born September 6, 1925, in Spokane, Washington, the son of Jefferson T. Deasy and Wilhelmina Antonia (Camyn) Deasy. His mother was born in the Netherlands. Warren attended the University of Washington, Seattle, in the late 1940s, then entered a career in advertising and commercial production in the 1950s in Seattle. He later organized his own advertising business, "Supercolossal Pictures."

Warren married Helen Beatrice (Dyser) Burt (b. Spokane, October 24, 1920; d. October 4, 1991, San Luis Obispo) in Spokane on April 26, 1952. They were divorced in San Luis Obispo in January 1969.

Warren married Rosemary Helene Macgillis (b. August 12, 1943) in Marin County, California, on February 14, 1970. In 1984-1985 Warren and Rosemary bought the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round from its owners, Don Rand and Edward Openshaw. The Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round was originally installed in 1937 by Ross R. Davis, who operated it until his death, when it passed to his son, John O. "Bud" Davis, who later sold the ride to Rand and Openshaw. The Deasys bought Don Rand's half of the ride in 1984, with Ed Openshaw staying on as partner for a year to teach Warren and Rosemary all about operating it.

Because the final sale of the ride did not include the two ex-Davis Wurlitzer 165's that Rand and Openshaw owned



**Warren photographed in 2008 by our good friend, Hiroshi Hanamura, Japanese book designer, photographer, Route 66 aficionado, and author.**

nor any of the smaller Davis band organs, the Deasys commissioned an entirely new 165-scale band organ from Don Stinson to provide traditional carousel music for the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round.

Eventually Warren and Rosemary divorced, but continued to jointly own the merry-go-round in partnership – Rosemary going by the name Rosemary West. After Warren's death, Rosemary continued to operate the carousel, and still does to the present day. She is also a principal in Frozen Mango – A Design Group, Santa Monica, California.

In his will, Warren left his half of the merry-go-round to Julio, who was, for twenty-seven years, the Deasys' ride manager. Today Julio handles day-to-day operations, while Rosemary handles paperwork, contracts, dealing with the local bureaucracy, and arranging TV and movie shoots.



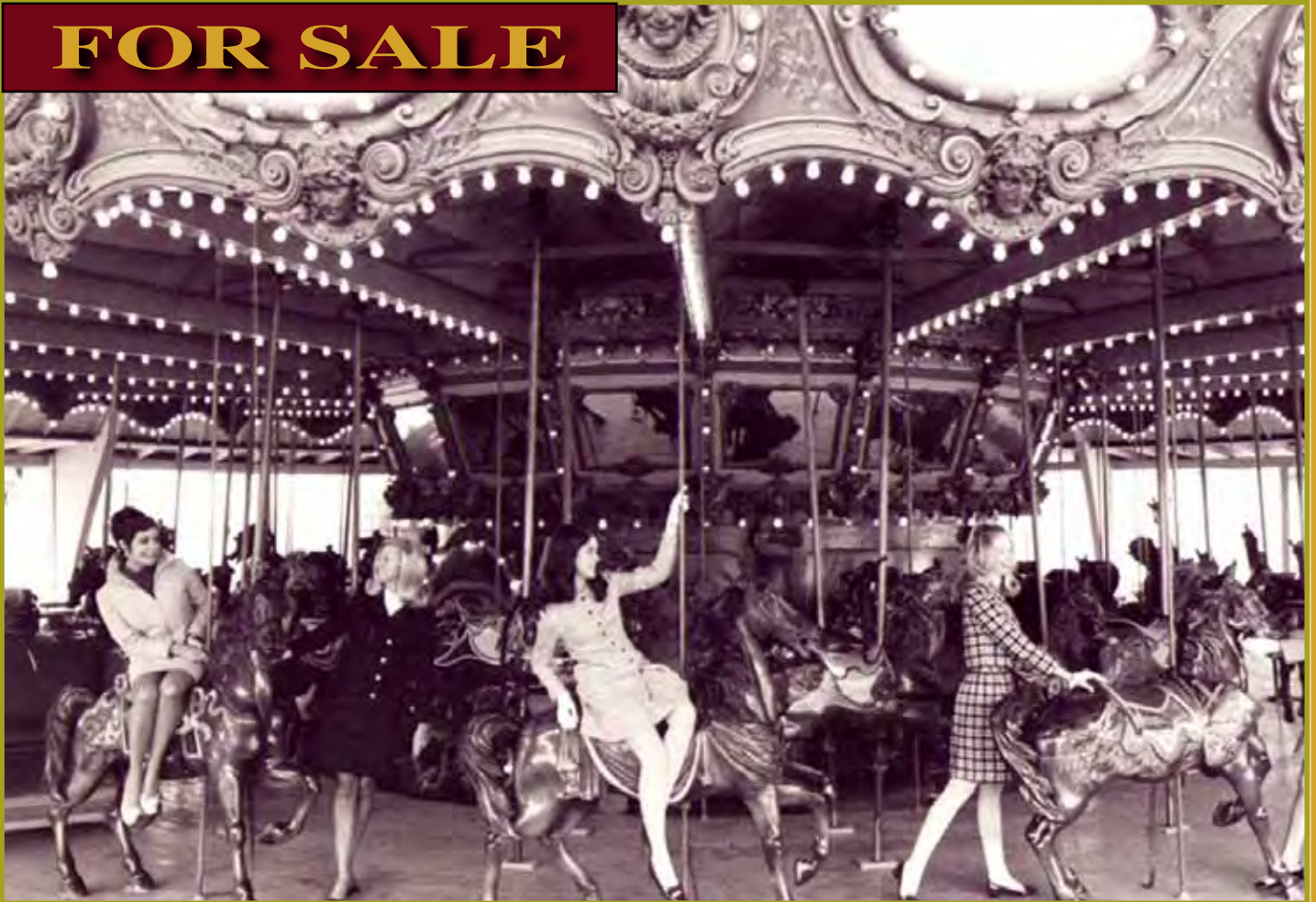
**The Historic Griffith Park carousel building.**

Hiroshi Hanamura photo



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# The Continuing Chronicle of Gerry Holzman – A Well-Weathered, and Sometimes Wayward, Woodcarver



By Gerry Holzman  
Courtesy of his new  
Carving Blog at:  
[www.soundsofcarving.com](http://www.soundsofcarving.com)

**I have been carving for 43 years. I began as a hobbyist and then, after being properly trained by an English Master Carver, made a mid-life career change from teacher of history to carver of wood.**

During this time, I have reworked thousands of pieces of lifeless and shapeless wood into all sorts of attractive and useful creations. And, as I have formed the wood into something other than it was, the very act of working with that wood has transformed me into a person I never thought I could be.

It all began as a reaction to the challenging words of Zorba the Greek:

*“Every man needs a little madness or else--  
He never dares cut the rope and be free.”*

I accepted Zorba’s challenge, reached inside myself, found my madness and embarked upon the adventurous journey from teacher’s desk to woodcarver’s workbench. During this time, just as Zorba had promised, I became free (well, as free as a guy with all my hang-ups could be). For me, the experience has been both magical and mystical. But, equally important to my wife and to my children—from this, I made a living.

I fully realize that my comparative freedom of Today has been tempered by the formative fires of all those frenzied Yesterdays--Yesterdays that were marked by the inevitable turmoil and the inescapable trouble that haunts all of our lives. Yet the emergence of unexpected triumphs and unanticipated joys during those same years causes me to believe--somewhat immodestly--that these experiences of mine might well be of some interest to others.

**“Consequently,** while I am still able to do the two things I love--carving and writing, I have decided to start a blog.”

**Rest assured,** this will not be another instruction guide--there are enough of them out there already. It is NOT my intention to teach the reader how to carve. It is my intention to comment generally about the quirkiness and unpredictability of life by drawing on the specifics of my woodcarving experience.



Henry David Thoreau once claimed, “*I have traveled a great deal in Concord.*” More recently, Robert Fulgham contended, “*All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten.*”

**Similarly, I believe that the practice of woodcarving has been my Walden; and the people and places it has introduced me to have been my kindergarten.** More important, I believe that we woodcarvers have many grand stories to share with the rest of the world. By describing some of my own adventures, I hope to suggest a few useful ideas for living in this increasingly perplexing world.

***In support of this belief, I offer my next post--“The Horse I Wanted To Buy”***

***About Gerry Holzman*** - I have been a professional woodcarver since 1970, a carousel restorer since 1976 and a collector of New York State folklore since seventh grade. I learned my woodcarving trade by studying in England with the late Gino Masero, one of England’s 32 master-carvers. During my career I have restored over 100 pieces of antique carousel art and have created approximately 250 pieces of original carousel art. The scope and diversity of my other work is demonstrated by my private client list which includes Disney, Cunard and the South Street Seaport.

Since 1984, I have been the head carver and chief consultant for the Empire State Carousel. This project, which features the work of over 1,000 craftspeople throughout New York State, culminated in the creation of a full-size operating merry-go-round--a truly unique machine that is entirely based on the theme of New York’s history and culture. Aptly described as a “museum you can ride on”, the carousel is on permanent display at the Farmers’ Museum in Cooperstown, NY.

**Visit [www.soundsofcarving.com](http://www.soundsofcarving.com) for Gerry’s further musings, or look for his next column here in The CN&T next month.**



# The Continuing Chronicle of Gerry Holzman – A Well-Weathered, and Sometimes Wayward, Woodcarver

## The Horse I Wanted To Buy...



**H**er name was Coquette. She was a symphony in shimmering silver with a flowing black mane that swelled and curled like the crest of a surging waterfall. Her maroon and red trappings were delicately edged in gold and embellished with colorful assortments of flowers. Even though her piercing glass eyes and strong open mouth

suggested great vitality, she was old—so old that, on some of the high points of the carving, well-worn wood showed through her al-ligatored silver paint.

Oh God, how I loved that horse. But, I didn't dare buy her without Arlene's approval, for Coquette was, even in the early days of the carousel horse craze, exceedingly expensive.

Tom Watson was selling Coquette because he and his wife were splitting up after just three years of marriage and were turning their joint assets into cash. So I arranged for Arlene to see the horse at Tom's house but cautioned her that the high asking price might be negotiable and suggested that we establish a verbal code for communicating our feelings. "If you really like the horse, say 'I thought it would be bigger.' If you don't like it, say, 'I thought it would be smaller.'" It was a variant on the "Good Cop--Bad Cop" approach that I thought would work well.

When we walked into Tom's living room a couple of days later to see the horse, Arlene, who has an instinctive flair for the bargaining process, went to the heart of the matter by quickly and cleverly exclaiming, "Gerry, she's absolutely beautiful!" **The Good Cop had shot the Bad Cop right between the eyes.**

Because Tom was a decent sort who very much wanted to sell the horse, the Bad Cop finally did manage to get a few bucks knocked off the price and a deal was made.

But--hold on now, that's not the end of the story, no, not by a long shot.

I arranged to pick up the horse the following Saturday afternoon. However, Friday night Tom called me to tell me that he and his wife had reconciled. As he explained it, when he told her that he had sold Coquette, she began to cry and, life being what it is, and men and women being what they are, they ended up in each other arms. He apologized profusely for putting us to so much trouble; I, in turn, wished him well and expressed the hope that they would live happily ever after.

**But--they didn't.**

About 15 months later, out of the blue, a phone call came from Tom. He told me that he was in the final stage of a divorce and Coquette was once more for sale. "Do you still want her? And, even though the carousel horse market has risen, I'll honor last year's price."

The next day, I drove up the long circular driveway to Tom's house with a pack of crisp hundred dollar bills in my pocket and sunshine in my heart. When I rang the front doorbell, a woman opened the door, a pretty young woman whose eyes still showed signs of tears earlier shed.

"You must be Gerry. I'm Beth, Tom's wife. Tom is too embarrassed to talk to you. So I'll explain. We've patched it up again-- and this time for good. And we're keeping Coquette. She's like a symbol of our marriage. If we keep her, we keep our marriage. We're both so sorry, really sorry, for bothering you so much. We hope you do understand."

What I did understand was that my love for this superb silvery steed was to remain forever unrequited. But, in my disillusionment, I had forgotten Yogi Berra's wise observation, "It ain't over until it's over."



Before the year was out, I got another phone call from Tom. **It was over.** He and Beth had signed the divorce papers that morning and he wanted the "damned horse," the symbol of their marriage, out of his house and out of his life. "Was I still interested?" And, despite the fact that prices on the carousel horse market were still going through the roof, he again offered to stick to the original agreement.

I immediately went to the bank and, for the third time, got a new pack of crisp hundred dollar bills. And early that evening, for the third time, drove up Tom's long circular driveway.

The house was completely dark and there was no sign of life. Shades of Berra! **"It was déjà vu all over again."**

I slumped over the steering wheel cursing Tom, carousel horses, and a multi-partisan array of gods. Coquette, the love of my life, was less than fifty feet away. Separated from me by only a fragile wooden barrier--and by my reluctance to commit a felony--she was never to be mine.

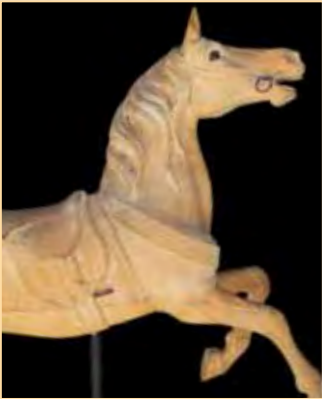
I sat in my car for fully five minutes, experiencing a wide variety of emotions. I wasn't angry; I was hurt, humiliated, frustrated and, above all, incredulous that something like this could keep happening to me. As I began to slowly drive away, a pair of headlights appeared at the other end of the driveway. The lights flashed and the horn honked. Tom sprang out of the car and came running toward me. He was full of apologies. Unexpectedly, he had to work late and had no way to contact me.

If you ever come to my house, take a walk into the living room. There, in front of a rough-cut wooden wall, stands a symphony in shimmering silver with a flowing black mane that swells and curls like the crest of a surging waterfall. **And I expect when you see my lovely Coquette, you'll agree with the Good Cop Arlene who once wisely declared: "She's absolutely beautiful."**

– See you next month, GH.

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