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The COTOUSEL News & Trader

> The Historic Carousels of Palisades Park in New Jersey

February 2011 Vol. 27, No. 2 \$5.95

Tribute to Amusement Park Icon, Wendell "Bud" Hurlbut

A Visit to Sherman's Amusement Park on Lake Caroga in New York



NationalCarouselAssociation2011Events



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ON THE COVER:



February, 2011 Vol. 27, No. 2

One of the two ornate chariots aboard the 1928 PTC #84 carousel which operated at Palisades Park, NJ, from 1946 through 1971; now operating at Canada's Wonderland. Photo by John Caruso

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The Carousel News & Trader

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1920s Dentzel Carousel Another huge 4–row machine, just like Disneyland's, with 78 replacement animals.

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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.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this. One of the legends of the amusement world, **Bud Hurlbut**, has passed away. For me, this is especially hard since I've known Bud for so long, having met him in the '70s while working with Dave Bradley. I was working with Dave when he helped Bud get the needed pieces and parts for the carousel Bud built at **Castle Park**. This was after Bud had sold his rides at **Knott's Berry Farm**.

In the early days, Dave and Bud both had parks in the Los Angeles area; far enough apart so as not to be in direct competition, but still there were always the bragging rights for the best ticket sales. Competitors, maybe; but always friends, and always sharing and exchanging ideas.

Bud was very active in the business right up to the end. Not that long ago I sold Bud another carousel, and went with him to look at locations for that next park; the whole time hearing stories about he and Dave and Walt Disney.

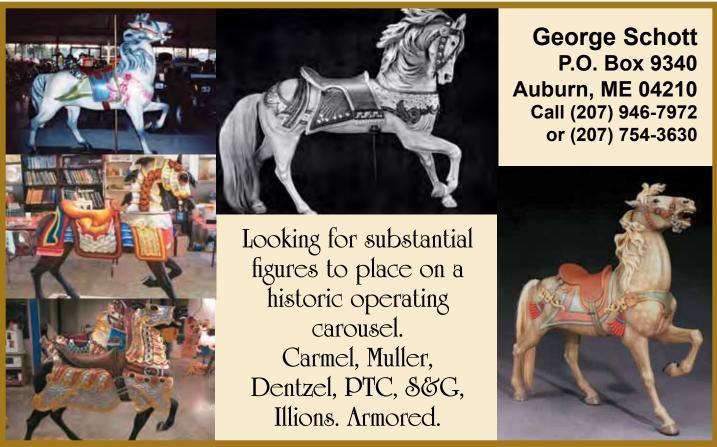
A lot of Bud's extra horses ended up at Disneyland. Walt wanted jumping animals and traded those "hard to get people to ride" standing animals and some cash for nice jumpers. Walt learned early on that the general public wanted to ride animals that go "up and down", not just stand still. So, Disneyland made their whole machine jumpers, and even added an extra row. Those deals ended up working out great for Bud, who later had one of the greatest carousel auctions ever, selling all of those extra "standing" animals.

There are tons of stories about Bud, but one that the carousel world will especially like. Bud always liked telling me this story, because at one time, I ran the carousel at Santa Monica Pier (Dave Bradley had helped me get the job).

Bud was looking for a carousel for Knott's and PTC #62 was at the Newcomb Pier, (part of the Santa Monica pier today). Mr Newcomb had the carousel for sale and Bud went in and came away with a price and agreement, but he didn't have the money that day. "No problem", Mr. Newcomb said. "When you raise it just give it to my secretary. I'm leaving for a vacation." So Bud went out and raised the needed funds.

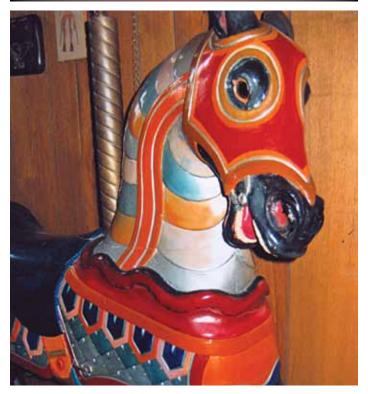
After getting the money together, he went back to Mr. Newcomb's office to pay for the carousel. The secretary said she was sorry to tell him that she could no longer sell Bud the carousel... Mr. Newcomb had just passed away and everything was on hold. That's how close PTC #62 was to becoming the carousel at Knott's Berry Farm.

Bud will be greatly missed by friends and business associates alike. Memories of Bud however, as well as his innovations in the industry, will live on forever.



Carousel News & Trader, February 2011

Letters to the Editor



Stein & Goldstein armored jumper, one of the replacement figures from the Dentzel carousel at Happyland/Jolly Rogers park in Bethpage, Long Island, NY. The carousel figures were old at auction in 1978.

Dear Roland,

We moved to Long Island in 1955 and went to Happyland Amusement Park frequently with our children. While Happyland was its official name, locally it was known as Jolly Rogers, which was the name of the restaurant inside the park.

They had a lovely Dentzel machine with several S&G replacement figures on it, and when it was auctioned off in 1978, we acquired the S&G armored horse; the one pictured in the newspaper clipping enclosed.

Actually Gray once came to Long Island and spent an afternoon with my husband and Barbara and Armand Winfield, a couple very active in early NCA history. Barbara (who is no longer with us) was a very talented artist who was commissioned to refurbish several of the replacement pieces – my horse being one of them. We were told at the time that the replacement pieces were once part of the Barbara Britton collection. Perhaps Gray will remember going to lunch with my husband, Bruno, and the Winfields that day.

I'd appreciate it if you could assist us in contacting Gray as Bruno would like to speak with him. Also, with our advancing age, our gallant steed will need a new home soon.

It's fun to look through *The Carousel News & Trader* again. It brings back the happiest of memories of our early membership in the NCA and the many friends we made.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth and Bruno Speiser, Syosset, NY



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ADD ONE MORE DENTZEL TO THE LIST

Notes from Marianne...

By Marianne Stevens

Carousel Historian, Co-Author of "Painted Ponies."

Marianne Stevens poses on her prized Looff carousel while at Shoreline Village in Long Beach, CA, in the 1990s.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Both Marianne and I were thrilled to get this reader's response to her article in the December issue, We hope to hear more of our readers.)

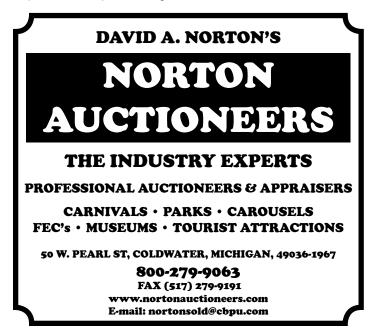
Roland -

I received my *Carousel News and Trader* yesterday and read with interest Marianne Steven's article "Where Have All the Dentzels Gone?" I have information on a Dentzel carousel that was not on her Disbanded / Dispersed list.

About four years ago, I acquired an outside-row Dentzel stander at a fine arts auction. The seller was at the auction and gave me this information when I bought the horse.

I was informed that my horse was from a carousel that was operating in Winton, NC, at a local carnival (amusement park?) that had gone out of business in the late 1940s. Apparently, the carousel was dispersed, and by 1950, the horses and menagerie animals were being used as lawn ornaments and public art in and around Winton, NC.

The owner of my horse saw the figure in someone's yard, inquired about purchasing it, and did. This was in 1951.





Julie's horse in the first coat of primer. This is as far along in restoration as he is.



Almost ready for paint. "As always, it's a work in progress."

I'm not even going to comment on the horror of using wooden horses as outdoor ornaments, but yes, my horse – during restoration – revealed a lot of evidence of having spent time outside. And, the history I have on my horse indicates that it had to be "reassembled" when it was purchased.

From my estimation, my horse is a circa 1905-1910 Dentzel. I've done some internet research but I have been unable to find any information about an amusement park, carnival or carousel in Winton, NC. If you or anyone out there has any memories or information on this Winton, NC, carousel, I'd love to hear about it. I can be contacted via email: jkgood12@comcast.net

Thanks so much!

 Julie Good, Collector and Enthusiast State College, PA

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Feinstein • 2/1/33 - 8/28/10



Nancy the gardener.

By Brenda Kalb

In the April 2007 issue of *The Carousel News & Trader*, there was an article about our little carousel restoration group. We met at Nancy Feinstein's, (also known as Nancy's Zoo). Since that article was published, we have lost a very good friend to cancer. But, in all reality, the world lost a wonderful person who was an avid collector of carousel figures, antiques, Gladding McBean pottery, wrought iron, tiles, exquisite jewelry (award winning pieces), and fine art among other things. She was a devoted gardener and spent much time with her beloved roses.

To have known Nancy was an experience. Anyone who met her was impressed with her knowledge and love of so many different things. Her taste would probably be considered as "eclectic". Her house was filled with so many beautiful items; antiques, iron, tiles, carousel animals, and so much more. Her horse barn is adorned with a chandelier of all things. But, knowing Nancy, you didn't consider it unusual.

Nancy came to California in the mid-1950s and met her



Nancy restoring a chariot side.

husband, Jay Feinstein, shortly thereafter. They were married in 1957. They had one son, Rob, who is married and lives in San Diego with his wife and two children.

Nancy pursued a career as a secretary, a Parole Agent and then was very active in the construction community. She had owned several businesses, including a



Nancy with my horse Genesis.

Blood Bank, a retirement home, a building housing a school and a beauty salon. Nancy also served on the 1989-90 Orange County Grand Jury. She and Jay built a mountain cabin in Green Valley Lake which they enjoyed for many years.

Her love of horses continued until her death. She had a lovely Arabian horse in the back yard "just to look at".

Her dogs, always collies, were always by her side, as was her cat, Ezra, (gotten from the pound). She also was an active raccoon rescue person and loved to have them around the house. She also admitted to housing some ferrets in her time. I can remember coming to the front door and the ferrets being loose. Before she would open the door, she would put them in a huge Gladding McBean urn situated by the front door so they couldn't get out.

I remember hearing of a speaker at a funeral mentioning that the date the person was born until the date the person dies, is the "dash" – as Nancy's was 2/1/33 - 8/28/10. The dates are not that important, it's how you lived the dash between those years.

For as long as I have known Nancy, she lived her "dash" to the fullest. She did and bought whatever she loved – and this is a great testimony to her life and "dash".

The carousel community will miss her as well as her friends from the Grand Jury, her business associates, her friends and many other people she touched, who all lost a



Nancy and I take a buggy ride.

unique and special person. Her legacy is in her family and many friends, who will keep her memory alive. Her home and garden, her architectural designs, her art and carousel collection attest to her creativity and sense of beauty.

Nancy had a free spirit, a generous nature and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Riding With The Rabbit

By Richard Concepcion

Another Tale from NY's Central Park



I have another tale for you from Central Park in New York City. This one is also in hardback.

"The Winter Bird" is a story written (1971) by actress Catherine Burns about a bird who was known in Central Park for being an individual of much imagination and little patience who never took anybody's word for anything. So it was no surprise to find this bird not believing the warnings from the flock about the harsh winter weather to come and declining to fly South with them.

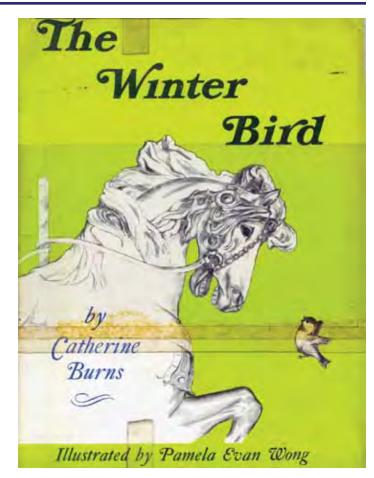
As the winter weather settles upon the park, the bird finds himself all alone, with no food from the kids that strolled here during the warmer weather, and the zoo animals all moved indoors for the cold season. Just as he begins to despair, the bird discovers the old carousel house, finds his way inside, and is offered refuge from the winter by the wise horses of the carousel.

During his time with the horses, the bird learns about the horse's lives before they came here, (not carved at all), while he in turn shares his daily observations of life in Central Park during the wintertime. Throughout these verbal exchanges, the bird and the horses see and accept the differences between them – the bird full of change and doubt, while the horses peacefully exult in enduring. Finally, spring arrives and the bird takes leave of the carousel, departing with greater wisdom than when he first arrived.

Among the carousel stories I've collected and read over the years, "The Winter Bird" is certainly the most philosophi-



Pamela Evan Wong illustration of the carousel house.



The Winter Bird by Catherine Burns; Harper Collins, 1971.

cal tale written, especially for a children's book. In particular, I take heart in the horse's self-characterization of themselves as creatures of enduring. This is precisely the point I've made myself about the longevity of carousel horses in my recent columns here, in light of Central Park's carousel reaching its 100th anniversary this year.

Pamela Wong's illustrations throughout this book really capture the essence of the cold Central Park winter outside, contrasting with the warmth of shared feelings inside the carousel house. However, it can be plainly seen that her depictions of the carousel are not of the actual Stein & Goldstein ride itself, but were inspired instead by the photography from Fred Fried's book "A Pictorial History of The Carousel".

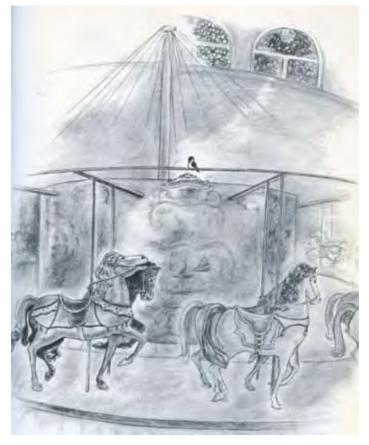
The horse in the story. named Featherfellow. who converses the most with the Winter Bird is actually the famous "Eagle" horse carved by Daniel Carl Muller, who now resides at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom in Florida. He adorns both the cover of this story book, as well as that of Fried's book, the photograph on the latter taken at Olympic Park in Irvington, NJ.

This brings me back again to the real horses of the Central Park Carousel. This past December I visited the Carousel Works shop in Mansfield, OH, and saw my favorite horse, Black Beauty, there awaiting restoration. Only this time he was not black at all but totally stripped down to his natural wood color. Art Ritchie told me they counted some 30 coats



Richard and his favorite horse from the Central Park Carousel, Black Beauty. The horse has been stripped of some 30 coats of old paint and is now ready for the new.

of paint that they then stripped off Blacky, so I'm sure he's now feeling much lighter than he has in 100 years. When he returns to his New York home all shiny black again with brightly painted tack, Beauty will rejoin his friends aboard the Central Park carousel, to continue enduring together, just like the horses encountered by *The Winter Bird*.



Pamela Evan Wong illustration of inside the carousel house.

Carousel Calendar

SPECIAL EVENTS

February 8-12, 2011

Gibsonton, FL The 42nd Annual International Independent Showmen's Association, (IISA), Gibtown Showmen's Club Trade Show. The Gibtown "Super Trade Show and Extravaganza" is the biggest trade show in the carnival industry. The annual show hosts over 300 exhibits of products from around the world. Admission for IISA members is free. For IAAPA, OABA, or the SLA memberships, \$25.00. For all others, \$50.00. The trade show is held at 6915 Riverview Dr., Gibsonton, FL. Visit www.gibtownshowmensclub.com or call (813) 677-3590.

Through May 29, 2011

Auburn, CA. *A Leap of Imagination.* Display of carousel figures from the collection of Sue and Mark Hegarty inside the Treasury Room in the Historic Courthouse. The 19 carousel animals include English, German, French and Mexican carvings. Among the American figures are a beautiful Carmel Borelli jumper, very early Looff and Dentzel prancers, a flag Parker and a standing camel by Daniel Muller. Figures by Illions, H/S, Armitage Herschell and a Carmel stander are also included. The Museum is open from 10-4 daily except holidays. Admission is free. For additional information, call (510) 889-6500.

COAA AND AMICA BAND ORGAN RALLYS

February 18-19, 2011

Plantation, FL. *The COAA Mid-Winter Meeting.* Tour the Milhous collection and enjoy the Jancko collection. Many organs to see and hear as well as other mechanical musical instruments. View the private Dauer Museum of Classic Cars. Other open houses will be available. The host hotel is the Quality Inn in Plantation; \$99.00 per night. Registration is \$25.00, but COAA membership is required. For more information, contact Ron Bopp at (918) 527-0589 or visit the COAA online at www.coaa.us.

May 7-8, 2011

Garden City, NY. Nunley's Carousel and Aviation Museum organ rally. Joint AMICA/COAA band organ rally. Bring your band organ, big or small, or just stop by and enjoy the "Happiest Music on Earth". For information, contact Bob Stuhmer at (516) 294-4374, bstuhmer@msn.com, or visit www.coaa.us.

May 21, 2011

Hanford, CA. Magnificent Pipes of Hanford. Antique carousel in town square. Historic theatre and church organs in town. Plenty of room for visiting organs. A fun event with a great food and a local homemade ice cream shop. For special hotel rates contact Dave Jones at VisitHanford@att.net, or (559) 582-5024; (cell) 559-707-9983.

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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IN MEMORIAM

Created Legendary Rides for Knott's Berry Farm, Opened Castle Park **Amusement Park Industry Icon** Wendell "Bud" Huribut, 1918-2011



Walter Knott, (in front), and Bud Hurlbut took the log ride for a test "spin" or two (or more) well before John Wayne and his son, Ethan, became the first official guests to brave this thrilling ride.

By Michael Mello and Mark Eades

Reprinted courtesy of The Orange County Register (1/6/11)

Bud Hurlbut, who created some of Knott's Berry Farm's centerpiece rides, died Wednesday. He was 93. Wendell "Bud" Hurlbut worked for years with Walter Knott, the founder of Knott's Berry Farm. There, Hurlbut designed and built the Calico Mine Ride and the Timber Mountain Log Ride — two attractions that, decades after they were built, remain among the most popular rides in the park.

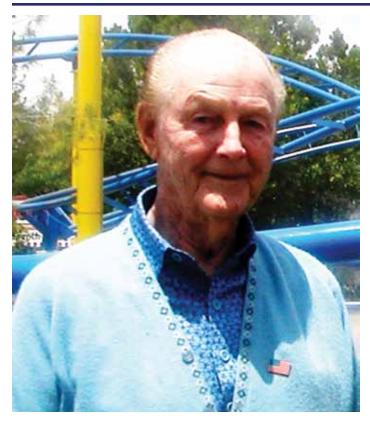
Hurlbut became known in the industry for his innovation — like the locomotives' electric motors on the Mine Ride — and attention to detail. Even into his nineties, he could be found in the middle of his workshop, just across La Palma Avenue from Knott's Berry Farm.

"Here's the thing, I always was independent. I didn't have to answer yes or no to no one," Hurlbut told the Register's Mark Eades in an interview last year. "I paid my bills. And I've kept the shop going and kept working because this is my golf game. It's my enjoyment, and that's why I keep doing it."

"He loved to create those things. That was his life," said Marion Knott, Walter Knott's daughter.

The news spread quickly among Knott's employees, many of whom have known Hurlbut for years.

"There would not be a Knott's Berry Farm theme park today if it were not for the talent, determination and creativ-



Amusement and attraction entrepreneur, Wendell "Bud" Hurlbut, at his Castle Park in Riverside, CA.

ity of Bud Hurlbut," said Marty Keithley, general manager of Knott's Berry Farm. "We will be forever grateful for the attractions that he created. His legacy will live on and generations to come will know of his talent."

"It is a huge loss," theme park designer and historian Christopher Merritt said of Hurlbut's passing. "Bud Hurlbut was a titan of the theme park industry. He influenced me with his designs in such a major way. Bud lived a life worth living – and I will always be grateful to him for his friendship and advice."

Landmarks all over Southern California display Hurlbut's work. He crafted the Liberty Bell replica that hangs in Independence Hall at Knott's Berry Farm. Hurlbut toiled for two weeks to make sure that the bell in Buena Park sported a crack exactly like the original's, according to the book "Early Amusement Parks of Orange County" by Richard Harris.

Castle Park in Riverside is another Hurlbut project. He established the park in 1976, later selling it.

Hurlbut designed the replica 1880s steam train that now runs at the Santa Ana Zoo. The train originally puffed around Santa's Village in the San Bernardino Mountains before the zoo bought it in 1999.

In the late 1950s, Hurlbut built the Calico Mine Ride on a contract basis for Knott. Hurlbut agreed to build and maintain the ride, paying Knott a portion of the ride's proceeds.

It took about a year of design and construction, all of which cost about \$1.5 million.

As work went on and Hurlbut needed more money, he sold part of his ranch outside of Whittier, his Cadillac and his home to finance construction.



Calico Square at Knott's Berry Farm in the 1960s with the log ride, stage coach and train.

"One day," Hurlbut recalled in an interview earlier this year, "(Knott) came over and said, 'Bud, are you sure you know what you're doing?' I told him, 'Yeah, sure.' I never lied to him again."

He knew what he was doing. The ride was an instant hit when it opened in 1960.

Hurlbut, Marion Knott, said, "lived the true life of an entrepreneur. That's why he and Dad got along so well."

Hurlbut's work made an impression on the industry. Walt Disney frequently came to watch Hurlbut's work on the Calico Mine Ride.

Bud Hurlbut was the first to create "themed" rides, Marion Knott said, ideas that later were imitated elsewhere.

"Both of the rides he did were just as viable today as

when he built them. There isn't a log ride at any other park that compares to the log ride at the Farm."

Hurlbut was married for 63 years to Lucille Hurlbut who passed away in May of 2004. They had no children.

The 1907 Dentzel came to Castle Park in 1985 from Knott's, originating at Hershey Park, PA.



TRIBUTE TO BUD HURLBUT



Bud shows a scale model of his proposed Log Ride to an intrigued Walter Knott in 1967.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It was through www.yesterland.com that we came across this tribute to Bud Hurlbut. Chris Jepsen was kind enough to allow us to reprint it. We're also reprinting the introduction from Werner Weiss.)

At his O.C. History Roundup, Orange County historian Chris Jepsen posted an excellent tribute to Wendell "Bud" Hurlbut, who died January 5, 2011. Hurlbut was not only the creative force behind several Knott's attractions, including the park's masterpieces—the Calico Mountain Mine Ride and the Timber Mountain Log Ride—he also financed, built, owned, and operated them. I'm republishing this tribute here in the hope that more people will read it.

Werner Weiss, Curator of Yesterland, January 8, 2011

Bud Hurlbut (1918-2011)

By Chris Jepsen

I'm sad to report that themed attraction entrepreneur/genius Wendell "Bud" Hurlbut passed away on Wednesday at age 93. He designed, built and operated Knott's Berry Farm's best attractions, including the Calico Mine Ride (1960) and the Timber Mountain Log Ride (1969). His business understanding with Walter Knott – to operate rides on his property – rested for all those decades on a simple handshake deal, never a signed contract. A gentleman's word was his bond in those days, and both Walter and Bud were, by all accounts, honorable gentlemen.

Hurlbut was an innovator, and his inventions, like flume rides and various motors, were adopted later by much of the theme park industry. Anyone I've ever talked to who worked for him loved working for him. His obituary in the Orange County Register states that "Even into his nineties, he could



The Log Ride under construction in 1969.

be found in the middle of his workshop, just across La Palma Avenue from Knott's Berry Farm."

In the photo above left, Bud shows a scale model of his proposed Log Ride to an intrigued Walter Knott in 1967.

Unlike Disney, which has teams of talented Imagineers and other specialists to help create each new attraction, Bud had mainly himself to rely on. This is all the more amazing when you consider how much more elaborate, say, the Calico Mine Ride was in comparison to Disney's Matterhorn—opened just a year apart from one another.

Walter and Bud took the log ride for a test "spin" or two (or more) well before John Wayne and his son Ethan became the first official guests to brave this thrilling ride.

Although the Timber Mountain Log Ride and Calico Mine Ride stand out as Bud's masterworks for Knott's, he also provided most of the other early amusement/theme-park attractions. In fact, the first such attraction at Knott's was a Dentzel Merry-Go-Round which Bud had to talk Walter into allowing onto his property.

Other Hurlbut attractions included the well-loved Antique Auto Ride, which was later renamed the Tijuana Taxi when that area of Knott's was re-christened "Fiesta Village." Bud made sure the ride was not simply a car on a track, but that the passengers would experience an adventure going through all kinds of terrain and past a variety of colorful and amusing scenes.



Calico Mine Ride miners, ca. 1960. The visionary attraction at Knott's turned 50 years old just three months ago.

Bud's miniature trains are somewhat legendary in the industry, and one of them circled Knott's Lagoon, which is now a parking area behind Independence Hall.

Another Hurlbut addition to the Lagoon were miniature paddle-wheelers including the Cordelia K in about 1963. At least one of the boats reappeared years later, across the street in the Reflection Lake.

Walt Disney knew Bud and would come over to see his progress on various projects. When Walt came to see the new Calico Mine Ride, he had no idea that the apparent entrance to the ride was only the beginning of a hidden, winding, and attractively themed queue area. Even with a long line, it would appear to passers-by that the line was short. And once in line, the guests were appeased by the colorful and dynamic surroundings. "You sneaky S.O.B.!" Walt exclaimed to Bud, upon discovering about a hundred people were already ahead of them in line.

Today, of course, Disney uses this innovation in all its theme parks.

When Walter Knott announced he was building an exact replica of Independence Hall, Bud set to work on a gift for Walter: An exact replica of the Liberty Bell to place inside the hall.

Cast in the same alloy as the original, and with atten-



Bud's legendary miniature train circles Knott's Lagoon in 1958, which is now parking area behind Independence Hall.



Calico Mine Ride Glory Hole, ca. 1960.



Bud Hurlbut inspecting the cast of the replica Liberty Bell and its crack for authenticity.



Walter Knott, Bud Hurlbut and guest admire the newly installed Liberty Bell in Independence Hall.

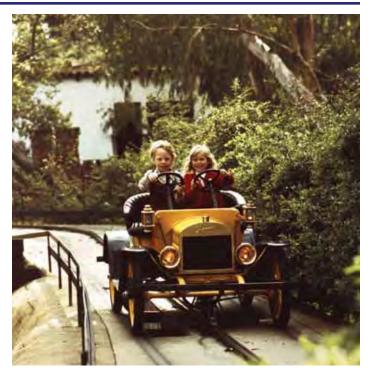
tion paid to the tiniest detail, the bell still adorns the hall's entrance today.

Many of the older attractions in Fiesta Village also began as Hurlbut concessions. Many of these were relatively familiar rides from a mechanical perspective, but were made colorful and unique by Bud's focus on appropriate theming and detail.

The Happy Sombreros, was a "Tea Cups" clone that featured colorful chili bowls topped with huge fiberglass som-



Bud's Happy Sombero ride at Knott's was his own spiced up version of a classic teacup ride.



Bud's "Tijuana Taxi" automobile ride at Knott's in 1973. This simple, classic ride is still popular today.

breros. Even the operator's booth and wrought-iron fencing and arches reflect a sense of old Mexico or early California.

When Bud finally sold his attractions to Knott's outright, the changes were almost immediately evident. Soon such touches as the beautiful hand-painted murals on the back of each "Mexican Whip" (Tilt-a-Whirl) car were replaced with simple blocks of color.

Bud continued bringing rides to Knott's into the early 1980s. One of the last was the Dragon Swing (a favorite of mine, as a child). But, by the time of Walter Knott's death,



Walt Disney studied and consulted with amusement entrepreneurs Bud Hurlbut and Dave Bradley, incorporating their best ideas and innovations into his design for Disnleyland.

The 1902 Dentzel Merry-Go-Round shown here at Knott's, ca. 1965, was the first ride that Hurlbut brought to Walter Knott. Bud had to convince Walter to let him bring it onto the property. The carousel originally ran at Hershey Park in PA, and then Brady Park in Ohio, before Bud installed it at Knott's Berry Farm in the 1950s.





Cordelia K on the Lagoon at Knott's Berry Farm.

the whole business arrangement became less appealing to Bud. As I noted earlier, he soon sold many of his attractions to Knott's. Others (and parts of still others) reappeared at Castle Park in Riverside—a theme park Hurlbut established himself in 1976. Bits and pieces of some of your favorite old Knott's rides can still be found out there.

You can also find a refurbished Hurlbut miniature steam train (formerly of Santa's Village) at the Santa Ana Zoo in Prentice Park.

Bud will be missed. But it's hard to think of a better legacy than pushing the boundaries of your industry forward and upward while simultaneously bringing joy to millions and millions of people.

I'm one of those people, and I suspect you are too.

About The Author: Chris Jepsen is a historian, Vice President of the Orange County Historical Society, and Assistant Archivist at the Orange County Archives—which includes the Knott's Berry Farm Collection among its holdings. A lifelong Orange Countian, Chris has been going to both Knott's and Disneyland regularly for as long as he can remember. He has even led tours of Knott's as a historical site. Since 2006, he's been blogging at the O.C. History Roundup. You can visit his blog at: http://ochistorical.blogspot.com.



This 2007 photo shows, (left to right), Walt Disney Imagineering Sr. V.P. of Creative Development Tony Baxter; Orange County's Assistant Archivist Chris Jepsen; Bud Hurlbut; and renowned Disney artist Kevin Kidney. We all drove up to La Crescenta to hear Imagineer and Knott's Preserved author Christopher Merritt give a talk on the history of Knott's Berry Farm. Bud's work was heavily featured.

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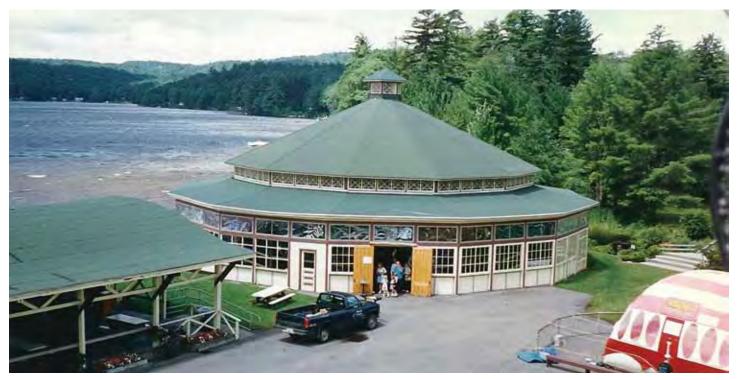
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Historic Little Park Home to an Eli Bridge Ferris Wheel and Operating Looff Mechanism

Carousel Adventures at Sherman's Amusement Park on Lake Caroga



The classic building with beautiful stain glass windows on Caroga Lake in upstate, New York.

All photos by Charles Crawford

By Charles Crawford

Special to The Carousel News & Trader

hen my wife, Cathy, and myself go on a day trip, we always check for local carousels to ride. And so it was, one day back in 1994, when we were out antiquing in the southern Adirondack mountains in upstate New York.

We went to Sherman's Amusement Park on Route-29A, located across the road from the Caroga Lake Post Office. It's a little park with very little left to show of what it once was. This was a first time visit for us as we drove into the parking lot that day. Situated right on Lake Caroga, the park looks great.

The grounds look like a "gated community" in Florida, very beautiful to look at but not much going on. The old Eli Bridge Company Ferris wheel had no seats on it and the only ride operational was the 1904 carousel. But that was the ride we were there for. It was in a classic building with beautiful stain glass windows. The Carmel/Looff horses left the carousel in 1980 being replaced by an assortment of metal animals. The platform machine with just painted rounding boards was a little bit of a disappointment. We experienced an enjoyable ride and then we were on our way. Two years later we found ourselves back in the area.



Ferris wheel had no seats on it when I took this shot in 1994.



The platform machine with just painted rounding boards was a little bit of a disappointment in 1994. Shown right is a vintage photo of the Caroga Lake carousel, coincidentally submitted just before we went to press by Susan Germain.

This time when we stopped for a ride again, the park was packed. So in we went. We rode the carousel and then the Ferris wheel. Walking around we enjoyed the crowd, young, old and everyone in-between, enjoying the carousel like it was the only one in the world.

In a pavilion that appears to have once housed bumper cars, or perhaps a whip ride, we notice there was food being served. There are not many restaurants in that part of the Adirondacks. We are more than ready for lunch and the food looks good, really good.

So we go over and get in line. Looking around, we notice something strange... there did not seem to be any cashier. Where do we pay?

Cathy went over to a server and asked. All the food is free she was told. If you want a beer that would be \$1.50. Sounded good to us. I got a beer with my burger; I felt I had to pay for something. That sounded like good logic to



Cathy Crawford takes a ride on the carousel in 1994.



me. We took our food and went into the pavilion to get out of the sun. Tables were set family style. Lots of tables full of people. Surrounded by people we have never seen before, we located two seats and started eating our lunch. If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting Cathy and myself you know we are talkative. It was not long before we were engaged in conversation with everyone at our table. At times, our table-mates appeared to be confused.

After the meal, we took one more ride on the carousel. As we were leaving, we remembered at the roadside was an ice cream stand. It seemed a frozen treat would be the perfect end to this fun experience. As we walked up to the stand, I took a look inside and had to do a double take. The ice cream machine was so old I think the only other machine like it must be in the Smithsonian. Nevertheless, like



Though not indicated in this picture, the park was quite a bit busier during the visit in 1996.

1969 postcard from Sherman's Amusement Park on Caroga Lake in upstate New York.

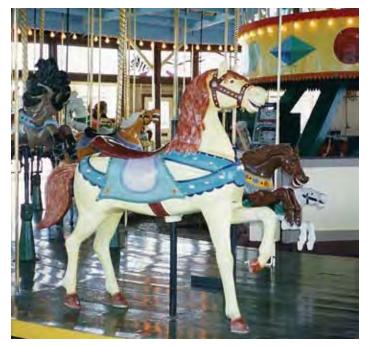
the rest of the park, the stand is clean and the ice cream is delicious. As we are leaving, curiosity gets the best of my wife. Cathy goes back to the ice cream vendor to ask what special event is going on today. Was it a special community day she asks?

"Oh no my dear, this isn't a community event." the clerk tells her. "It's the Jones' Company picnic."

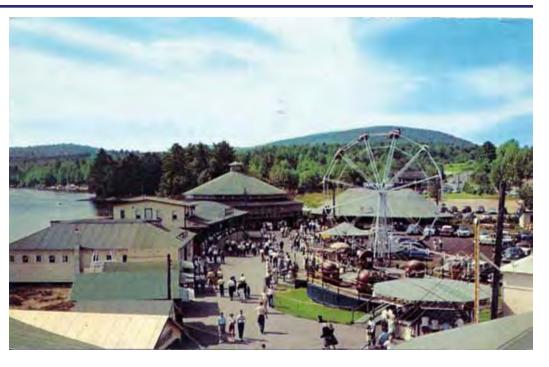
I was in the car ready to start the engine when Cathy gets in and tells me, "You know the park is closed to the

public today? We just crashed the Jones Company picnic." I knew there was a reason why I purchased that beer. No wonder everyone looked at us kind of funny. They were trying to figure out which department we worked in. "He must work second shift... and doesn't she work in purchasing?"

We never did get back to Sherman's Park. Later I found out, after 1996, the park was only open for private functions, no longer open to the public, due to insurance costs. In 2007, this park that was started in 1920 finally closed and was put up for sale. Now sold in 2010, we can only hope for a favorable outcome. The world might just be losing one more place to stop and have a adventure that includes a ride on a carousel.



Another shot of the carousel from the visit in 1996.





In a pavilion that appears to have once housed bumper cars or perhaps a whip ride we notice there was food being served during out visit in 1996.



The ice cream machine was so old I think the only other machine like it must be in the Smithsonian.

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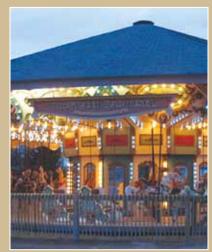
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Two D. C. Muller Company Machines, Two PTCs, and Two Mystery Machines?

A Look Back at the Carousels of Palisades Amusement Park, NJ



The first carousel at Palisades Park, a 1908 D. C. Muller Company three-rwo. Photo courtesy of the Palisadian

By Vince Gargiulo Author and Palisades Amusement Park Historian (Excerpts from his forthcoming book)

hen Palisades began bringing in rides in 1908, the management struck a deal with Daniel C. Muller, the head of one of the leading manufacturers of carousel rides in the world, the D.C. Muller Company.

Instead of Palisades purchasing the carousel, they gave Muller a partnership in the ride's operation. In effect, Muller became a concessionaire at the park.

The 1908 season was considered experimental for both the park and the partnership with Muller. Although the trolley company had Palisades in operation for ten years, it didn't resemble a traditional amusement park until 1908. Rides were installed throughout the property but little was spent on permanent structures until the owners could determine how the public would accept this new wonderland. Depending on which press release you read, the cost of the new carousel was anywhere from \$5,000 to \$25,000.



Now at Canada's Wonderland, PTC #84 ran at Palisades Park from 1946 until its closing in 1971. John Caruso Photo



1928 PTC #84, Four-Row At Happyland Hastings Park, Vancouver, BC (Later to Old Orchard Beach, ME, then Palisades Park, NJ. Now at Canada's Wonderland, Maple, ONT) **PTC Archive photo**

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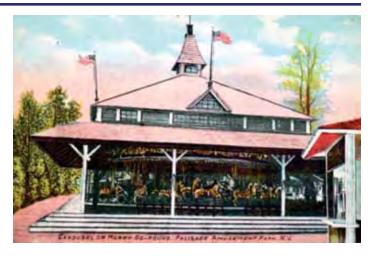
In December 1908, The Palisadian newspaper published this photo of three of the unpainted D. C. Muller horses used on the first Palisades carousel. Their names were Dagmar, Ducette and Rosana. Photo courtesy of the Palisadian

This first Muller carousel was a three-row design with the two inner rows being jumpers. The horses were an assortment of prancing Arabian and Norman steeds.

The building, constructed to house the carousel for this experimental season, was replaced in 1909 with a new, more permanent and elaborate building. The reported cost to build this structure was \$6,000.

Several publications in 1909 implied that Palisades had more than one carousel. In May, the *North Side News* described "an unusual array of carousels", and in July, *The Palisadian* wrote of "merry-go-rounds". It is possible that both of these plural references were errors, it is also a theory that Palisades may have had a small children's carousel that could explain the newspapers' reports.

The first Muller machine was moved to a different park, Atlantic Highlands, in 1914.



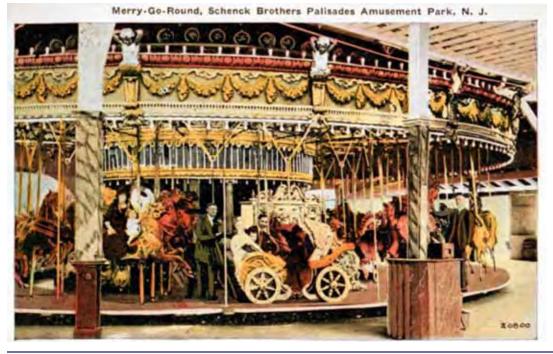
Postcard showing the original carousel building at Palisades Park, destroyed by fire, along with the four row Muller carousel in August 1944. Photo courtesy of Vince Gargiulo

Second D. C. Muller Carousel

Carousel historian, Brian Morgan, has discovered Muller's original diaries from this period. From these records, it appears that the Schenck brothers wanted a larger carousel to accommodate the larger crowds that were coming to their park. As the 1913 season was coming to a close, Schenck gave Muller an ultimatum; replace the carousel with a fourrow machine or the park would install one themselves, leaving Muller with competition to worry about.

So, in May 1914, Muller replaced his first ride with a larger one. The new carousel had a 52-foot wide platform and the requested four rows of horses. The outside row had four chariots.

When the Rosenthals took over the amusement park in 1935, most original agreements between the Schencks and concessionaires were not honored. Some contracts were re-negotiated but for the most part, the Rosenthals cleaned house. It was probably at this time that Muller sold out his



Postcard showing the second D. C. Muller Company carousel at Palisades Park was a 4-row machine. The Schenck brothers insisted Muller build a larger machine to accommodate the growing crowds at the park.

Photo courtesy of Vince Gargiulo and the PAP Historical Society

Carousel News & Trader, February 2011

www.carouselnews.com



The new carousel building under construction in 1944-'45. Photo courtesy of John and Margaret Winkler

interest in the carousel at Palisades. The ride remained in operation, however, until 1944, when the August fire destroyed half of the amusement park including the carousel and the building in which it was housed.

PTC #69 at Palisades Park

After the fire in 1944, a new domed-building was constructed to house a new carousel. When the park opened for the 1945 season, it acquired the PTC #69 from Olympia Park in McKeesport, PA.

This machine was operated for only one season until Palisades could purchase a larger one.

This ride was sold in 1946 to Old Orchard Beach in Maine. In 1949, it was destroyed by fire.



One of the few known photographs said to be of PTC #69. Photo courtesy of John and Margaret Winkler



Palisades Park's new carousel building, completed for the 1945, season would first play host to PTC \$69. Photo courtesy of the Reiser Family

Clarification on PTC #69 at Old Orchard Beach By Richard Gardner

The PTC archive document on which I based the conclusion in the June CNT article that PTC #69 was destroyed in a fire stated "#69 went to OOB in 1946. According to Dan Blaney "this was "OOB's classic carousel, a replica of the Chicago World's Fair carousel, (I believe he has this confused with #84 (sic)). It burned down on July 19, 1969."

I could not determine the author of the document, but I now believe this reference was in error. Another PTC archive document talks about the history of carousels at Palisades Park, and that document mentions #69 and indicates "This carousel was destroyed by fire in 1949."

A search of the internet for fires in 1949 turns up no reference to a fire in 1949 but does turn up a a document that describes the loss of a PTC roller coaster, "The Cyclone", PTC's #84 roller coaster, in a fire in 1948 or 1949. The European Coaster Club's listing of PTC roller coasters that indicates that the Cyclone coaster operated at Old Orchard Beach until 1948. This correlates with other OOB records that indicate the fire was in 1948. Old Orchard Beach was apparently disaster prone and had devastating fires in 1907, 1922, 1948, 1958, 1969, and 1972.

Based on the personal recollections of CNT reader, Audrey Miller, that clearly indicate the carousel operating at OOB in 1969 was a menagerie carousel, plus photographs that confirm that fact, along with observation of the features of the carousel, I think we can conclude that the carousel destroyed in the fire of July 18-19, 1969 was not PTC #69, but a Dentzel carousel.

What happened to #69? Since there was a fire at the pier in Old Orchard Beach in 1948 large enough to destroy the PTC coaster #84, along with the PTC archive document, I think we can conclude that #69 was lost in the fire, probably in 1948 rather than 1949. This is not a certainty, but is a best guess.



PTC #84 operated at Palisades park from 1946 through the park's closing in 1971. Photo courtesy of The Rinaldi Familiy

PTC #84 at Palisades Park

After the season ended in 1945, Palisades swapped the PTC #69 with Old Orchard Beach for the PTC #84. Today, most people remember this machine as being the one they rode on at Palisades.

The ride had two band organs. The smaller of the two was a Wurlitzer Model #153 and the larger one was by the A. Ruth & Son Company of Germany. The larger organ, being the louder of the two, was used on weekends and holi-



Palisades park worker. Joan and Margaret Winkler photo

days when the crowds at the park were larger (and more noisy).

The PTC shield was proudly displayed on the lead horse of the four-row PTC #84 and the entire ride was covered with over one thousand light bulbs. Each year, the ride was painted and polished and presented to the public with great pride.

Tuesdays and Thursdays were bargain days at Palisades and on these days admission to the carousel was five cents during the day and ten cents at night. This special price was maintained right up until the park closed in 1971.

When Palisades Amusement Park closed in 1971, a flyer was circulated in an attempt to find the forty-three year old machine a new home. The asking price was \$80,000.



PTC #84 signature horse. Jerry Horwitz photo



The park owner at the time it closed, Irving Rosenthal, wanted to ensure that his beloved carousel would continue to entertain children and their parents for decades to come.

Rosenthal offered to donate the ride to the Bergen County Parks Commission. The commission declined, saying it would be inappropriate for the county's parks. The Smithsonian also declined the offer, claiming it had no room for the large machine. Finally, the carousel was sold to Lion Country Safari in Laguna Hills, CA.

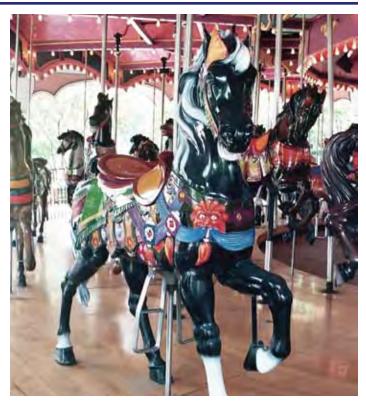
The ride remained carefully packed away in storage for several years. Lion Country never used the ride because they could not get the necessary zoning they needed for the



proposed new park. They sold the carousel to King's Island in Cincinnati, OH, in 1973, which later sold it to its sister park, King's Dominion, located near Richmond, VA.

This ad was run by Palisades and published in Billboard Magazine on September 1, 1951. The carousel sounds like it could be the PTC #84 (except the diameter is off by a foot). Was Palisades looking to sell the PTC #84 or were they selling this carousel for another amusement park? In any event, the Park held on to the PTC #84 until it finally closed in 1971.

Photo courtesy of Vince Gargiulo and the **PAP Historical Society**



Two more outside row standers from PTC #84 at Canada's Wonderland taken in the late 1990s. John Caruso photos

The Mystery of the Lost Carousel



This carousel was pictured on a postcard (circa 1920s). Although the card was captioned "Entrance to Merry-Go-Round, Palisade Amusement Park", the story behind this machine remains a mystery. Researcher Brian Morgan notes that the horses on the ride appear to be prancers which would not have been used on any of the known Palisades carousels. One possible explanation is that this photo was a generic one that was used by many different parks.

John Winkler, part of the Park's maintenance crew, also notes that the small buildings on the left do not have any lights going up the roof line, a common detail along the old Palisades midways.

Photo courtesy of Vince Gargiulo/PAP Historical Society



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Recently featured in LIFE and LOOK Magazines, this magnificent work of art is a number 84one of the last made by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company.

Features: Two organs, 64 horses and two chariots four abreast. It is completely hand carved and the horses are studded with rhinestones. It is decorated with antique oil pantings and mirrors, and has been freshly repainted. Porcelain poles and steel rods keep it virtually maintenance free. Similar to the "Golden Carousel" installed in the new Disney World-but even more beautiful. A collector's item that will increase in value. A super attraction year after year-it has never missed being a BIG, BIG, money maker.

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For complete information, contact: Mr. John Rinaldi at Palisades Amusement Park Palisade, New Jersey (201) 945-1000



PTC #84 outside row prancers shown above and below. These August 1999 are from Jean Bennett.

The carousel received an overhaul in 1979 at Carowinds in Charlotte, NC. A new electrical system was installed and all of the horses were stripped of their twenty-three coats of paint. Most of the horses' ornaments and jewels were saved, while most of the horses received new poles.

In 1981, the carousel was sold to Canada's Wonderland in Maple, Ontario, where it remains today.

Olaf Schneider began another major refurbishing of the PTC #84 on September 7, 1993. The band organs on the ride today are not the same ones from its days at Palisades. The have been sold off since Wonderland had the ride.

(Author's note: I would like to thank the following experts for helping to piece together the mysteries of the Palisades' carousels: Fred Dahlinger, Circus World Museum; Brian Morgan, (past) president of the National Carousel Assoc.; Barbara Williams, (former) archivist for the NCA; Rusty King and Bill Black, experts in band organs and carousel music; Laura Grauer, archivist for the Philadelphia Toboggan Company; Tobin Fraley, author of The Great American Carousel; and John Winkler, Palisades Park mechanic and good-friend.)



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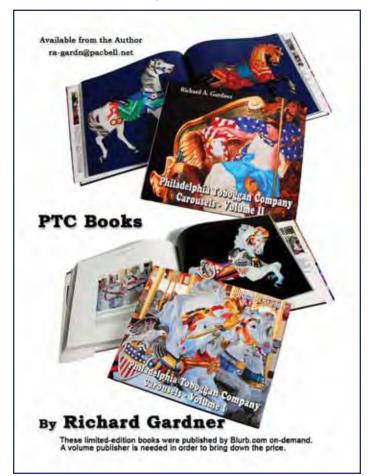
Carousel News & Trader, February 2011



After beginning operations in Canada in 1928 at Happyland Hastings Park in Vancouver, PTC #84 would return to Canada in 1981 and Canada's Wonderland where the historic carousel continues to operate today. Jerry Horwitz photo

PTC #84 at Canada's Wonderland

After beginning operation in Canada at Happyland Hastings Park in Vancouver in 1928, the carousel returned to Canada in 1981 and its present location at Canada's Won-



derland Park. The 4-row PTC #84 merry-go-round has 42 jumpers, 24 standers and 2 chariots.

Canada's Wonderland Park is located just 12 miles from Toronto and is open seasonally. Opening day in 2001 is scheduled for May 8. For information, call (905) 832-8131 or visit: www.canadaswonderland.com.





A Brief History of Palisades Amusement Park Excerpted from the book by Vince Gargiulo

"Palisades Amusement Park: A Century of Fond Memories"

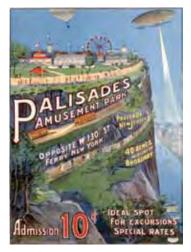
High atop the New Jersey Palisades cliffs, located within the boroughs of Cliffside Park and Fort Lee, once stood the home of the famous Cyclone roller coaster, the Tunnel of Love and the world's largest salt water pool. The place was called Palisades Amusement Park and even today, over thirty years after it closed its gates, the Park is still warmly remembered.

In 1898, a New Jersey picnic grove became the catalyst for one of the greatest amusement parks of the century. What would later be known as Palisades Amusement Park, started out as an attraction for the local trolley company, designed to increase weekend ridership. It grew to be one of the world's most famous fun centers, achieving national prominence through the Freddy Cannon song, "Palisades Park".

Originally, it had been a simple picnic ground, with tables and benches, refreshment concessions and a breathtaking view of Manhattan. By 1908, it had added a carousel, various rides, a wild west show and numerous other attractions. It soon became a popular oasis for the turn-of-the-century populace.

In 1910, the property was purchased by Nicholas and Joseph Schenck, two brothers that were a major influence in the developing motion picture industry. In 1913, they constructed the world's largest outdoor salt water pool in the Park. The Schenck brothers built Palisades into an attraction which came to rival Coney Island. For nearly twenty-five years the Schencks transformed Palisades into a magical wonderland. In 1934 they sold their interests in the Park to two other enterprising brothers, Irving and Jack Rosenthal. The Rosenthals took the Park to new heights of popularity.

Palisades Amusement Park was host to Kings and Queens, rich and poor alike. At the famed open-air theater, A photo postcard from the early 1900s (left) shows the Palisades Park midway, Palisade Alley. Below, an early 1900s advertising postcard.



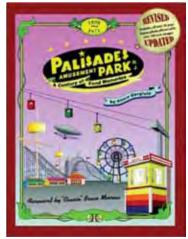
top entertainers of the day performed for record crowds. During the Big Band era, the talent included such classic performers as Benny Goodman's Big Band, Cab Calloway, Les Brown & His Orchestra, Harry James and The Dorsey Brothers.

The names of performers from the world of Pop and Rock reads like a Who's Who of musicians; Fabian, Chubby Checker, The Shirelles, The Chiffons, Leslie Gore, The Jackson Five, Tony Bennett, Vic Damone, The Four Seasons, Bill Haley & The Comets, Bobby Rydell, Dion, Jackie Wilson, Neil Sedaka, Tony Orlando, Frankie Avalon, Little Anthony, Freddy Cannon, Diana Ross & The Supremes, The Young Rascals, The Lovin' Spoonful, The Fifth Dimension and many more. It was host to the Little Miss America Pageant, the Miss American TeenAger contest, the Diaper Derby and many other diverse and interesting competitions.

Palisades finally closed its doors on September 12, 1971

to make room for high rise condominiums, but the memories live on.

Palisades Amusement Park: A Century of Fond Memories by Vince Gargiulo is available, along with a whole lot more, at www.palisadespark.com, one of the most extensive, informative, and upto-date memorabilia web sites on a defunct amusement park that you will find on the internet.



LONG LOST CAROUSELS







Hi, Tammy,

We read your request in the July issue of "The Carousel News & Trader".

These photos of the Belmont Park Looff were taken on 9/7/1972. I hope they help in your research.

Regards, Jo and Rol Summit, Flying Horses

Belmont Park Looff • San Diego, CA



Photos courtesy of the Rol & Jo Summit Flying Horses collection



Dear Jo and Rol,

Hello there! Thanks so much for emailing these wonderful photos. You really made my whole day!

I have now confirmed that this indeed was the carousel that the musical group/TV personalities, The Monkees, were on in that early episode.

I am looking at one of my Monkees trading cards with the same chariot and the other trading card with two of them riding the camels.

I am so excited and very appreciative. Thanks you so much! Words cannot express my gratitude.

These photos mean a lot to me especially since I am both a huge Monkees and Carousel fan.

Take care! Very Sincerely, Tammy L. Mondschein

C. W. Parker and Abner Sauer in Abilene, KS



C. W. Parker's wood shop in Abilene, KS, circa 1907. From left: Charles W. Parker, Abner C. Sauer (Lois' grandfather), Martin Thompson and John Grove (Lois' uncle).

Carousel News & Trader reader Lois Sauer VanDeWarker has shared with us these historic photographs showing her lineage and her "three degrees of separation" from the great showman and carousel builder, C. W. Parker.

harles W. Parker, Grove (Lois' uncle). Her paternal grandfather, Abner C. Sauer, and her uncle, John Grove, worked for C. W. Parker in the early 1900s until Parker moved his shop from Abilene to Leavenworth in 1910. Her father had his own mini-Parker carved his father.

1908 photo shows Lois' father, Earl Calvin Sauer, (2), on a horse carved for him by his father, Abner Sauer who worked for C. W. Paker

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Designed By Caleigh Dinger

CAROUSEL MINIATURES

Miniature Carousel Builder, Al Kruger



Al Kruger and his traveling miniature carousel shows off his blue ribbon for his winning miniature.

Long time friend of the *CN&T*, carousel enthusiast and miniature builder, Al Kruger has been cheering folks up for decades now with this traveling miniature carousel.

"I've lost count of how many hours this [miniature] has operated and how many places it has been," says Al.

"When it's at a convention or fair, I put a 110 volt, 30 rpm motor in it. When I go to schools, hospitals, senior centers and convalescent homes, I mount it on the wheel chair with a 12 volt, 30 rpm motor and a tape player with merry-goround music. With the lights on and music playing, it is a delight for everyone that sees it."



Al's miniature mounted on its wheelchair has entertained hundreds of folks at schools, hospitals and convalescent homes through the years.

The judges comments on his miniature which won a first place blue ribbon were as follows, "The colorful big top, the patriotic theme given the eagles and the panoramic scenes in the center plus the individually painted and had carved horses bring back the memories and charm of a simpler way of life."

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CAROUSEL MINIATURES

Resurrecting a Miniature From Katrina's Flood

I sold Fred a couple of merry-go-round kits in 1986. He has slowed down a bit with his dialysis with his treatments every day. He was going to send you his story, but since that may not happen, I thought I would send along his letter instead. – Al Kruger

Dear Al,

Thanks for keeping in touch with me. I am also having health problems as I am on dialysis every night.

Enclosed are pictures of my carousel which was under water for three weeks. It was really a disaster and in shambles.

All the figures were carved from basswood and put together with glue and dowels. some of the figures were missing legs and tails.

After a lot of scrubbing and cleaning, the figures looked in good shape but they all had to be painted, including the rounding boards.

The carousel is all together now but not operational as yet. I have to do some leveling as the horse cranks didn't work too good. I was really satisfied how good the figures turned out. My other small carousel was heavily damaged also. All of the figures on that one were made of balsa wood. They were damaged beyond repair and all were destroyed.

Take care of yourself and keep in touch. Fred Feske, Haraham, LA





Fred Feske's miniature carousel with hand-carved basswood figures mounted on a Kruger mechanism, resurrected and repaired after spending three weeks under water.

Carousel Modelers and Miniature Association

The Carousel Modelers and Miniatures Association (CMMA) has been reorganized. The CMMA was founded in 1986 for the purpose of bringing together modelers, miniaturists and woodcarvers interested in building operating miniature carousels.

CMMA membership includes the quarterly publication, *Horse Tales*,

a membership directory and the hobby's greatest fellowship. The 2009 convention was held at the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum.

The CMMA is now accepting 2010 memberships. Past CMMA members will be contacted with membership information. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Checks or money orders should be made out to the CMMA and sent to the CMMA secretary-treasurer.

If you are interested in carousel models, miniatures or woodcarving, please contact the CMMA for additional information. All inquiries or questions should be sent to Patrick Wentzel, CMMA secretary-treasurer, 2310 Highland Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26101-2920 or call (304) 428-3544, or email pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com.

Carousel News & Trader, February 2011

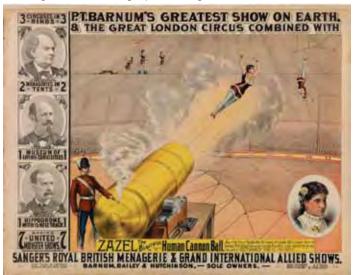
Exhibit from the The Strobridge Lithographing Company February 26 - July 20

Cincinnati Art Museum Celebrates The Amazing American Circus Poster

CINCINNATI, OH – *The Amazing American Circus Poster* exhibit will feature rare and unique examples from the Cincinnati Art Museum's own collection, shown for the first time. The special exhibition will be on view from February 26 through July 20, 2011.

On display in a fantasy gallery reminiscent of the "Big Top" will be 80 circus posters created between 1879 and 1938, along with photographs and circus ephemera. The exhibition will pay tribute to the internationally acclaimed Cincinnatibased Strobridge Lithographing Company, which created and printed the posters and was the leading printer for the major circuses of the time. The posters designed by the firm's artists were unrivaled for their brilliant color, print quality, and graphic description of the acts and action. They give us a detailed portrait of the heyday of the American circus, spanning from the time of P. T. Barnum's circus until the early years of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey.

The circus advertising – from small posters showing clowns and bearded ladies, to immense billboards pasted on the sides of barns in which aerial feats and new technology exploded into the landscape – were the messengers and are now the record of the transformative world. Strobridge's custom designed posters delivered the rare and exotic, extremes of human and animal potential, new technologies, gender differences, animalized humans, and humanized animals, attractions that audiences were not likely to see anywhere else. At a time when museums were few and far between, the flamboyant Strobridge circus poster stands were museums without walls and the poster designs laid the groundwork for future generations of graphic designers.



P.T.Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth & The Great London Circus: Zazel, The Beautiful Human Cannon Ball, 1882. P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth is a trademark owned by Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth: Charles 1st, The Marvelous Chimpanzee, 1910 color lithograph poster. Gift of the Strobridge Lithographing Company.

The Amazing American Circus Poster is co-organized by Curator of Prints, Kristin Spangenberg, at the Cincinnati Art Museum and Deborah Walk, Tibbals Curator of the Circus Museum at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, FL, where the exhibition will be on view next fall. The show draws on the Cincinnati Art Museum collection and two major lenders; The Ringling Museum of Art and the Howard Tibbals Collection.

The catalogue for *The Amazing American Circus Poster: The Strobridge Lithographing Company* will be available in the Cincinnati Museum Shop for \$39.95.

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

Hours of operation are Tues. - Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The mseum is closed on Mondays. The Art Museum is located at 953 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

For general information, call (513) 639 2995 or visit them at www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

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CAROUSEL ARTISTS

Artist Tom Forcey of Lansdale, PA



The most recently completed painting by Tom Forcey, the Illions at Seaside Heights, NJ. This machine was also known as Chafatino's Carousel, originally from Coney Island, and is well known to carousel enthusiasts all around the world.

PHILADELHIA, PA – Tom Forcey grew up in the Germantown section of Philadelphia in the late fifties, about an hour's drive from the PTC factory. Many of his family summer vacations were to Seaside Heights, NJ, where he

spent many hours as a child riding the carousels at Seaside Heights. There was a Zolar PTC, which is still in operation there, but the Looff carousel is now gone.

Tom's obsession with horses was probably influenced by his love of carousels. He spent most of his early twenties working as a horse trainer while developing his skills as an artist and he has been a fine artist for most of his life. He has also worked as a technical and medical illustrator. His watercolors and oil paintings are

on a variety of subjects. They are imaginative, and personal, and have been awarded in local art leagues.

Tom found having been a horse trainer with an interest in antiques led him to attempt some carousel paintings. He discovered carousel art to be the most challenging and difficult. After several attempts, his first paintings resembled horses and zoo animals on poles. He was not satisfied with this result. He began studying many photos of local operating machines, and visiting Charlette Dinger's nearby museum, constantly observing the carver's designs.

His study finally paid off with his carousel paintings either winning prizes or being sold.



This close up is of a Dentzel "Cremello" stander. Other completed paintings include the carousels from Barnsville and Greenfield Village.

A large dark piece with an Illions rounding board was painted from memory. It involves a German hunt lodge theme. The machine operated at Lakeside Park in Barnesville PA, which mysteriously disappeared around 1975.

Two of his large view pieces are interpretations of the Burlington, CO, PTC. One is watercolor and one in oils.

> Some of his paintings zoom in on special details of certain figures. In one painting, (above), the head shot is a Cremello mare with pink eyes, and original paint. Another shows the detail of the clown on a Dentzel lion.

> Tom can now produce a piece containing a customer's favorite fantasy or existing machine right down to panel paintings and individual menagerie carvings. He has visited the carousel at Weona Park in Penn Ar-

gyle, PA, and the carousel at Knoebels and plans on using them for inspiration for his next paintings.

Forcey believes the artwork and history of carousels needs to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Tom is now 58 years old, resides in Lansdale, PA, and has been a professional illustrator for 30 years. He's involved with local art leagues and participates in art competitions. He is available for commercial freelance work, art lessons, and commissioned paintings. If you would like more information please contact Tom at: tomforcey@yahoo.com. Or you can view some of Tom's other painting at his online portfolio: http://sites.google.com/site/4cdesigns/.

The armored lead horse on the Burlington

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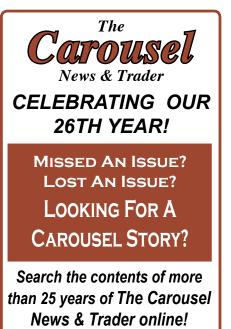
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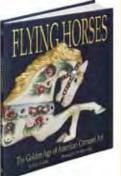
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