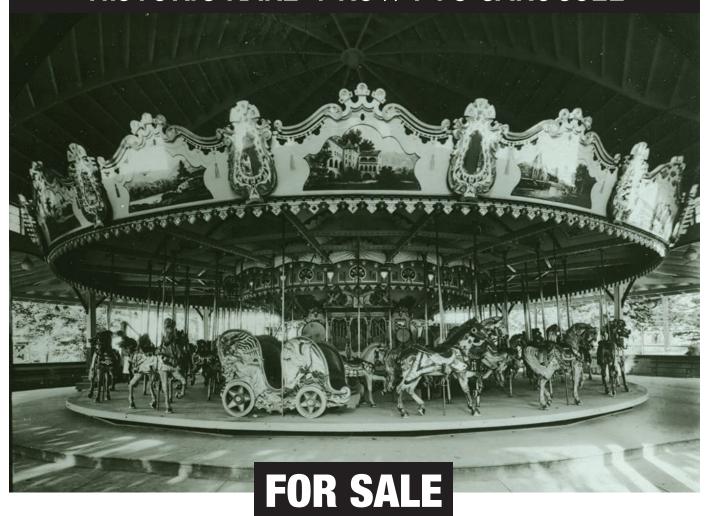




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ON THE COVER



August 2008 Vol. 24. No. 8

1920s Dentzel Lion from the historic carousel at Kennywood Amusement Park in West Mifflin, PA.

Photo by Jerome "Jerry" Horwitz

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The Carousel News & Trader

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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.



Dan has been working non-stop this spring and summer. Most recently he completed mechanical restorations for the carousel at Balboa Park in San Diego and now completing the installation of a new platform as well as the restoration of the North Tonawanda band organ for the Tilden Park car-



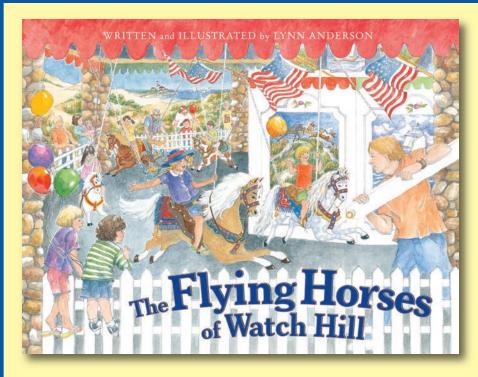
ousel in Berkeley, CA.

Dan did get one day off; the 4th of July. He is seen

here at the parade in South Pasadena, leading the local fire department in his newly acquired 1951 Crosley kiddle fire truck from the defunct Idora Park in Youngstown, OH.



Photos by Roland Hopkins





FLAT HAMMOCK PRESS 5 CHURCH STREET • MYSTIC, CT 06355 (860) 572-2722 • Fax (860) 572-2755 The heart-warming story by best-selling author and artist Lynn Anderson of a small carousel horse who wants to be a big horse.

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CARVER'S CORNER: Adding Your Personal Touch to Trappings

Carousel Carving Tips & Tricks



By Larry Pefferly Special to The Carousel News & Trader

If you are anything like me, from time-to-time you may want to carve your own design on the carousel animal you are creating, or give it your own personal touches.

A client ordered a carousel horse and requested I carve a three-dimensional likeness of her black Labrador Retriever's head behind the cantle of the saddle. Working from her dog's photograph, I carved what I felt was only an ordinary piece; I wanted it to be a better likeness.

I could have used a lot of wood filler in trying to make it look more like him, but if you have read my book or earlier columns in this magazine, you know I prefer not to. I remember my father first sculpted in clay for some of his pieces, using the clay models as guides for the final sculptures in stone or wood. The models were much smaller if the works were to be large; for example, 1/4 or 1/2 to scale, or what was necessary, to accomplish the final outcome.

Using tips I learned from him, I made a clay model of the dog's head and found it much easier to shape and alter in order to reach the desired effect. Within half an hour I had what I wanted. (See Figure 1 of the clay model.)

I determined where the clay model looked best behind the saddle and marked its placement before gluing the wood for final carving. Once attached, all I had to do was carve, copying from the clay model. The finished carving is shown in (Figure 2.)

A video tape was made for my client of the entire carving process of her horse which in-





cluded the clay model of her dog's head and the finished wood carving of it. Some of you may remember seeing her horse in my "How to Carve and Paint a Carousel Horse" video and DVD.

On another occasion I wanted to carve a goat with a monkey behind the saddle, its arm hanging over the goat's side with its hand grabbing the saddle blanket. Again, the clay model came into play as it gave me flexibility in determining dimensions and placement of the monkey's head, arm, and hand. Figure 3 depicts the clay model of the arm and hand. Figure 4 shows the finished product carved in wood.

I hope this tip will be of help to you. While it has saved me a lot of wood and carving time that otherwise would have been wasted, I also found it was fun to do and put me on a path of modeling busts and animals in clay that I thoroughly enjoy.

Happy Carving!

Master carver, Larry Pefferly has been carving carousel horses for over 20 years. To learn more about Larry, visit www.carouselcarving.com.

To purchase his "How To Carve A Carousel Horse" video or book, visit www.CarouselStore.com.



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Band Organ Feature

October, 2008

Photos and stories welcome from all contributors.

Deadline: August 29





For submissions, contact Roland Hopkins at 818-332-7944, ext. 6 or via email at roland@carouselnews.com.

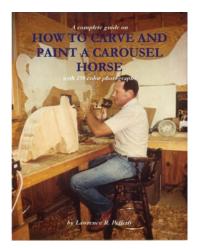
A complete guide on

HOW TO CARVE AND PAINT A CAROUSEL HORSE

with 138 color photographs

By Lawrence R. Pefferly, Carver

This is the definitive book, and a "must have" for every carver of carousel horses. Lawrence Pefferly, a third generation carver, has written this 140-page book so a novice can confidently follow precise and easy-to-understand, step-by-step



instructions to create one's own carousel horse. Abundant and beautiful color photographs and illustrations are inserted throughout as ready-references in each discussion.

The book or Carousel Carving DVD can be purchased at www.carouselcarving.com for \$39.95, or from:

The Carousel Store at www.CarouselStore.com.

Rare Carousel Ephemera...

POST CARDS:

- Dreamland, Glen Haven Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, N.Y.— Postmarked Ottawa Canada, 1906-1-cent stamp
- Merry-Go-Round, Boblo, (Bois Blane Island) Detroit River, Postmarked, Detroit, Mich, Jun 22, 1914. 1-cent stamp
- The Santa Cruz Beach/ Boardwalk Merry-Go-Round,
- (CA), Postmarked from Calpine, CA 1988. Signed by Bill Long, 15-cent stamp.
- Disneyland, Postmarked from Anaheim, CA, 1961. 15-cent stamp
- The Merry-Go-Round, Luna Park, Seattle. Postmarked 1911. 1-cent stamp.
- Color drawing of couple on carousel. Postmarked, Clark, S. Dak.
 1914 1-cent stamp.
- Cartoon type drawing. Postmarked, Camp Shelby, Miss. June 21 1940s (?) no stamp.

\$40 for all. + \$3, S&H



magazines. These magazines are from September 1988 and include an article about the 1988 carousel stamp First Issue event. These are stamped with a 25 cent carousel stamp and cancelled at the event that was held in Sandusky, Ohio. Only 14 copies of these available. \$10 each + \$2 each S&H.

Special First Day stamp issue

Full sheets of the 1988 carousel postage stamps, (25 cent) 50 per sheet, in new condition.

\$25 per sheet, + \$2 – S&H. 20 sheets available.



Two carousel pendants (about 1" long). Gold plated Sterling. w/chains (.925). Very popular about 20 years ago. \$75 each or both for \$100. \$10. - S&H.

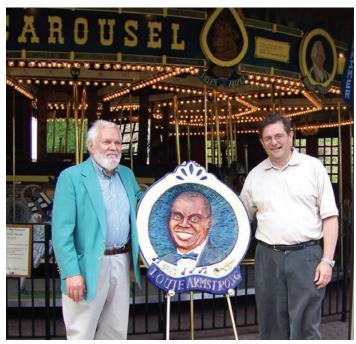
I'm still finding things packed away for years. Email me about shipping for multiple items.

Contact: Walter Loucks. Email: WalterLeeL@aol.com.

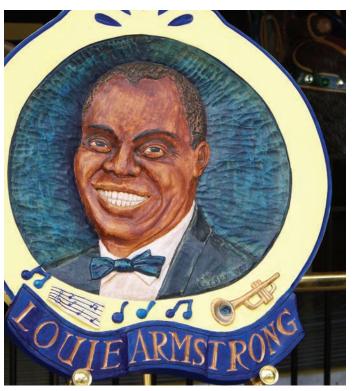
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CAROUSEL NEWS BRIEFS

EMPIRE STATE COOPERSTOWN, NY, CAROUSEL CELEBRATES LOUIE ARMSTRONG



A new portrait of Louis Armstrong for the rounding boards of the Empire State Carousel was dedicated Memorial Day weekend at Cooperstown. Armstrong lived in New York for a large portion of his later years. Shown above are Gerry Hotzmann, the carver and creator of the Empire State Carousel (left), and Garet Livermore, vice president of education



for the Farmers Museum. For information on the carousel and the Farmer's Museum, call (888)547-1450 or visit www. farmersmuseum.org.

BAND ORGAN RALLY VISITS KNOEBEL'S GROVE

www.carouselnews.com



The Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA) Band Organ Rally paid a visit to Knoebels Grove in June. Among the atendees was LeRoy H. Schumacher (above)



with his Wurltizer 146A. Above (right), Dick Knoebel demonstrates the Wurlitzer 105. For information on upcoming COAA rallys see our calendar or visit www.coaa.us.

CAROUSEL TEA PARTY IN PITTSBURG, PA





PITTSBURGH, PA – The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy celebrated the first PNC Children's Carousel Tea, displaying the grand PNC Carousel at Schenley Plaza on May 31, 2008.

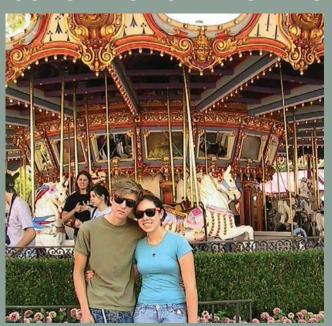
The Tea Party Luncheon featured tea sandwiches, cookies, lemonade and, of course, tea for all members of the families. Girls and boys came out wearing their most festive party attire and their favorite hat. All proceeds went to benefit the work of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

The event featured exciting performances for all ages. Also offered were free rides on the PNC Carousel, live music and specialty photos by Catch the Moment. This spirited event will continue a year of celebration in the region under the banner of the 250th anniversary, and will showcase on of the many unique attractions and public spaces that contribute to Pittsburgh's recognition as "America's Most Livable City."

In its 11-year history, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has given many neglected urban spaces new life as distinctive family attractions. Such additions as the PNC Carousel emphasize the importance of giving families a reason to visit and share in the experience of the rejuvenated parks, which is a part of the conservancy's mission statement. Improving, restoring and revitalizing the four city parks will enable the parks to have an excellent integrated program for the present and future enjoyment of the community.

For information, contact Laura Fulmer at the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy at (412) 682-7275.

CONGRATS TO THE GRADS



Part-time employee and part of the Brass Ring and Carousel News family, Eric Fabbro, celebrated his high school graduation with a trip to Disneyland. Shown here in front of the carousel with his girlfriend, Leslie Toy, both of South Pasadena.

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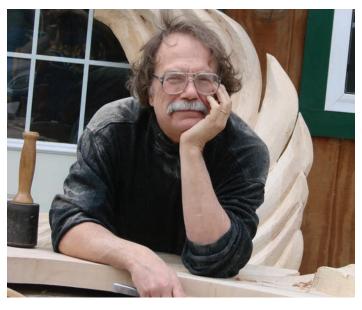
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CAROUSEL NEWS BRIEFS

NOWACK'S PHOENIX FOR WELLNESS



Carousel Carver George Nowack, well known for his numerous carving demonstrations and for carving a reproduction of Conneaut Lake Park's famous original lead horse, is still carving away. Most recently, he has been appointed as co-director of a new program to be implemented at the new Oncology Wellness Institute in Meadville, PA. The OWI is the result of the work of Dr. Barry Bittman and his research. Nowack has developed a program based upon Bitterman's findings that incorporates the active participation of cancer patients in the creation of art as an integral part of their treatment. Nowack is in the process of carving a donation to the



OWI. His donation is an exact replica of the Phoenix which is OWI's logo. The design of the Phoenix is based upon a sketch by his wife Carolyn. The finished dimensions of this sculpture will be approximately 10-feet in height, and with a wingspan over nearly 8-feet. For information on the OWI program, contact George P. Nowack, c/o The Mind-Body Wellness Center, 18201 Conneaut Lake Road, Meadville, PA 16335, or call (724) 927-2493 or email gnowack@windstream.net.

ADIRONDACK CAROUSEL'S NEW HERON



SARANAC LAKE, NY — A small mountain village in upstate New York was buzzing with anticipation of Leo Lambert's arrival with his hand-carved heron, which he calls "Hank Heron." The gorgeous animal was unveiled by Lambert at a special ceremony recognizing the carver's time and craftsmanship. Community members, the Adirondack Carousel Board, and the executive director were all in attendance at the event.

Lambert and wife (shown left) were quoted as saying, "Taking the heron out of our home and bringing him here to the carousel is like losing a member of our family." However, the Lamberts enthusiastically handed over the 100-pound wood heron to the carousel for children to enjoy.

Lambert is coming up on his 30th year of traditional carving. In 1997 he was named "Carver of the Year" by the New England Woodcarvers Association. He is an active participant in community affairs and various art organizations. Lambert holds many leadership positions in these organizations, including president of the Woburn Guild of Carvers and president of the Reading Art Association. He is currently sharing his woodcarving gifts as a faculty member at the Homestead Woodworking School.

The Adirondack Carousel project has been in the works for the past few years. Volunteer carvers, locally and from around the nation, have generously donated their time and hard work to deliver the final carousel figures. Most of the figures will be completed this summer and showcased at various events this summer and fall.

For information or to "Join the Ride" contact Sarah Greenwood at (518) 891-9521.

QUASSY MEMORIES



Celebrating its centennial this year, Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, CT, has been going through its archives to create a number of display boards tracing the history of the lakeside property. Holding one of the photo boards now being shown in the park restaurant is Eric Anderson, a co-owner of the family park. Dozens of centennial banners andflags are hung throughout the 20-acre property to honor the occasion. Quassy is recognized as one of only 11 remaining "trolley parks" in the United States and is the only family-owned park remaining in the region. For information, call (800) FOR-PARK or visit www.quassy.com.

GEAUGA LAKE AUCTION

Since 1888, Geauga Lake Park had been entertaining tens. of millions of Ohio patrons. Having started as a water park, it is ironic that it has returned to its roots as today all that remains is the Wildwater Kingdom Water Park.

Situated on a private lake, one side of the lake was Geauga Lake Amusement Park and on the other was Sea World. Six Flags bought both parks and later sold the complex to Cedar Fair, owner of Cedar Point in Sandusky, OH, in addition to other parks across the nation.

Citing a declining attendance, Cedar Fair closed the park moving some rides to its other parks while deciding to continue operating the attached water park.

The balance of rides and related equipment was sold at auction June 17th and 18th conducted by Norton Auctioneers of Coldwater, MI.

According to David A. Norton, CEO and chief auctioneer, the auction attracted over 800 potential bidders from across the nation and several countries.

Two ferry boats went for \$22,500 each while a 195-foot tall, 34-year old Space Tower sold for \$13,750. It will probably be sold for scrap. Likewise, a 31-year-old steel roller coaster was bid off at \$27,500.

Other prices realized were a Skycoaster at \$92,500, a wooden roller coaster at \$33,000, a kids' triple water slide at \$52,000 and a Huss Bee Kiddie Ride at \$22,000.

For information on upcoming Norton auctions, call (517) 279-9063, or visit www.nortonauctioneers.com.

Carousel Calendar

SPECIAL EVENTS

July 11 - Aug. 24, 2008

Stony Brook, NY. Hot Dawg! Celebrating Coney Island, America's First Amusement Park. Special exhibit dedicated to Luna Park, Steeplechase Park, Dreamland and countless other attractions from Coney Island. Exhibit items on display from the Paul & Nancy Brigandi Coney Island Museum. At the Ward Mellville Heritage Organization, Educational & Cultural Center, Stony Brook Village Center, Main Street on the Harbor, Stony Brook, NY. For information: (631) 689-5888 or www.wmho.org.

Through Aug. 30, 2008

Cleveland, OH. Euclid Beach Park Now's replacement horses for the Euclid Beach Carrousel on display at the Memorial-Nottingham branch of the Cleveland Public Library, in North Collinwood. The display includes "Euclid Beach" fencing and new brass poles.

Through May 24 - Sept. 1, 2008

Cooperstown, NY. *Gilded Lions and Jeweled Horses: The Synagogue to the Carousel.* Exhibition tells the story of a little-known aspect of American carousel history and its connection to Jewish visual culture. The Fenimore Art Museum, 5798 State Hwy. 80, Lake Road, Cooperstown, NY. For information, call (888) 547-1450 or visit the website at www.fenimoreartmuseum.org.

Sept. 23-28, 2008

Memphis, TN. NCA 2008 Convention. *Exploring the Mississippi* will feature visits to seven antique wooden carousels plus two new Carousel Works Endangered Species Carousels. Highlights of our exploration will include a visit to and presentations by community leaders on the future of the 1909 Libertyland Dentzel Carousel. For information, visit www.nca-usa.org.

COAA BAND ORGAN RALLIES

August 9-10, 2008

Crank Organ Rally; Franklin, PA.
Hosted by the DeBence Museum, (814) 432-8350 or (888) 547-2377

August 15-17, 2008

COAA AMICA Rally; Leavenworth, WA. CONTACT: Bill Mote bandjrest@worldnet.att.net.

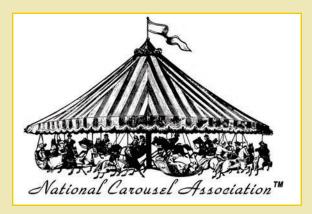
August 23-24, 2008

COAA Rally; Holland, MI CONTACT: (616) 396-1476.

September 12-14, 2008 COAA Rally; Findlay, OH CONTACT: Terry Haughawout (419) 454-3671.

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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



"Exploring the Mississippi" Memphis, TN Sept. 23-28

The NCA convention for 2008 will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn in Memphis, TN. The convention will be held on Wed., Sept. 24, through Sun., Sept. 28, with optional activities planned for Tuesday and Wednesday. Pre-registration check-in will be available on Monday evening, and registration will continue through Wednesday afternoon.

CONVENTION TOUR CAROUSELS*

- 1904 Dentzel, Highland Park, MS* *Pre-convention option.
- 1909 Dentzel Libertyland, Memphis, TN* *Currently in storage.
- 2002 Carousel Works, Memphis Zoo
- 2006 Carousel Works, St. Louis Zoo
- 1915 PTC #35, Six Flags, St. Louis, MO*
 *Historic presentation only.
- 1921 Dentzel, Faust Park, St. Louis, MO
- 1898 Armitage-Herschell, Faust Park, MO
- 1905 Herschell-Spillman, Perryville, MO
- 1901 Armitage-Herschell, Greenville, MS
- · Spillman "Over the Jumps," Little Rock, AR

For convention registration, additional information and updates, visit the NCA website at:

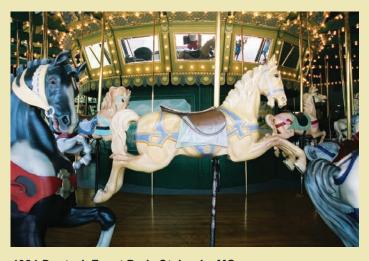
www.nca-usa.org



1901 Armitage-Herschell, Greenville, MS



"Over the Jumps" Carousel in Little Rock, AR



1921 Dentzel, Faust Park, St. Louis, MO

Rare Carousel Figures Highlight the Art and Craft of Amusement Parks

"Art in the Round" Dentzel Exhibit at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont



The 1902 Dentzel figures and rounding boards, believed to be in original paint, go up in the round barn during the installation of the exhibit. They will be on display through October 26.

By Leslie Wright
Special to The Carousel News & Trader

SHELBURNE, VT – Finding an antique carousel with all of its figures and decorative panels in original form is extremely rare. Preservation and Conservation Director Rick Kerschner believes that the museum's 1902 Dentzel Carousel may be so uncommon that it could be one-of-a-kind.

Museum visitors will have the opportunity to view this extraordinary example of amusement park art in an exhibit planned for the Round Barn this season.

In addition to conserved carousel figures, the exhibition includes never-before-displayed canvas carousel panels and rounding boards that are hand-painted along with the wooden organ that once played those distinctive notes known to carousel aficionados as "the happiest music on earth."

The carousel was manufactured in Philadelphia by the Gustav Dentzel Carousel Company. Because individual carousel figures are prized as folk art, many carousels have been broken up and the figures sold off individually. To have



Shelburne's 1920s two-row Herschell Spillman operates daily when the museum is open.



According to the NCA, this carousel operated at Sacandaga Park, Northville, NY, from 1903 to 1930 and in Piseco Lake in Speculator, NY, 1930 to 1951.

According to the plaque behind this beautiful Dentzel lion, "Shelburne Museum Founder Electra Havemeyer Webb purchased the carousel in 1951. Though she originally intended to operate it on the museum grounds, Mrs. Webb's appreciate of each animal's sculptural quality led her to exhibit them as independent works of art alongside her collection of trade signs and folk art."





all 40 animals as they were originally painted is rare – most amusement parks maintained their carousels by painting them with garish and inexpensive "park paint."

It's also unusual to have an entire set of canvas panels and rounding boards for a carousel. The rounding boards are painted wooden panels that hang above the carousel figures. The panels hid the machinery at the center of the carousel.

The conservation effort is partially funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and by individuals who make gifts to "adopt" carousel animals and support their preservation. The exhibit, entitled "Art in the Round: Shelburne Museum's Dentzel Carousel," is open May 18 – Oct. 26, 2008





If you squint, maybe you can imagine this beautiful three-row Dentzel on a summer night in a quaint family park in upstate New York. Or you can always visit upstate Vermont this summer or fall and see it for yourself.

SHELBURNE MUSEUM HISTORY

Located in Vermont's scenic Lake Champlain Valley, Shelburne Museum is one of the nation's finest, most diverse, and unconventional museums of art and Americana. Over 150,000 works are exhibited in a remarkable setting of 39 exhibition buildings, 25 of which are historic and were relocated to the museum grounds.

Impressionist paintings, folk art, quilts and textiles, decorative arts, furniture, American paintings, and a dazzling array of 17th to 20th-century artifacts are on view. Shelburne is home to the finest museum collections of 19th-century American folk art, quilts, 19th and 20th-century decoys, and carriages.

Electra Havemeyer Webb (1888-1960) was a pioneering collector of American folk art and founded Shelburne Museum in 1947. The daughter of H.O. and Louisine Havemeyer, important collectors of European and Asian art, she exercised an independent eye and passion for art, artifacts, and architecture celebrating a distinctly American aesthetic.

When creating the museum she took the imaginative step of collecting 18th- and 19th-century buildings from New England and New York in which to display the museum's holdings, relocating 20 historic structures to Shelburne. These include houses, barns, a meeting house, a one-room schoolhouse, a lighthouse, a jail, a general store, a covered



bridge, and the 220-foot steamboat Ticonderoga.

In Shelburne, Mrs. Webb sought to create "an educational project, varied and alive." What visitors experience at Shelburne is unique: remarkable collections exhibited in a village-like setting of historic New England architecture, accented by a landscape that includes over 400 lilacs, a circular formal garden, herb and heirloom vegetable gardens, and perennial gardens.

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Little prior history is known of this portable 1920s carousel, which most likely traveled from fair-to-fair before emerging from storage in Minnesota in the late 1980s. The carousel was restored and now enjoys its current home in Vermont.

The museum's collections, educational programs, special events, workshops, activities, and special exhibitions constantly offer new perspectives on four centuries of art and material culture, assuring visitors a museum experience unlike any other.

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Sigmund Freud Found Dreamland to be the Most Intriguing Place In America

William H. Reynolds Shared His "Dreamland" With Coney Island



Twilight at Dreamland. View of the park taken from the top of Shooting The Chutes. On the right side of photo is Fighting the Flames and the Iron Tower, which was 300-feet high. On the left side of photo, behind George C. Tilyou's Ferris Wheel in the background, is Luna Park. Dreamland photos are property of the Paul and Nancy Brigandi Museum.

By Paul and Nancy Brigandi Special to The Carousel News & Trader

William H. Reynolds was born in Brooklyn in 1867. Reynolds's father was a successful builder. As a schoolboy, William earned money by working for his father, cleaning up after the workmen were done. Reynolds's father was the kind of person who used to pay his bills when he felt like it, and in the business he was known as "good, but slow."



Birds-eye view of Dreamland at night, 1904.



The interior of
Dreamland's grand
ballroom; once
the world's largest
ballroom, where
thousands of people
could Waltz to a live
a orchestra on any
given night.

Photo circa 1904.

William showed his business sense by making an agreement with the companies his father did business with to get a rate of two percent discount on all bills that he saw were paid promptly on the first of the month. With William taking care of the payments, his father was entirely willing to pay the bills on time. Before, he simply hadn't taken the time to bother. Within a few months William saved \$200.

Soon after, William told his father that he was going into business. His father laughed, stating, "Where was the capital?" William showed him his bank book. It was not long before William had a shingle hanging out at the corner of Reid and Lafayette avenues in Brooklyn stating, "William H. Reynolds Real Estate Broker."

At the end of the first year, William had accumulated something like \$40,000. Besides being in the real estate business, he developed communities, the first being the "Bedford" section of Brooklyn, where he began to build houses worth anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000. It is here that he became a very successful businessman in the Brooklyn real estate market. The houses sold extremely fast, which gave him enough capital to build homes inexpensively.

William's father said, "Billy, I can't keep up with you any more."

The parent who had seen his son sweeping shavings only a few years before, confessed he was being out distanced. So, the younger Reynolds told his father to close his shop and come work for him, and he did. In developing the Bedford section, William made \$500,000.

William then turned his attention to the east side of Brooklyn and started buying up land which nobody wanted to touch due to a title war that was going on. He thought the titles would have to be cleared soon, and they were.

William was appointed New York Senator from 1894 - 1895. In 1898, he developed "Borough Park," building over a thousand homes. After that, he operated extensively in Bensonhurst and West Minster Heights.

In 1904, William opened up Dreamland, an amusement park in Coney Island, at a cost of \$3.5 million. It was con-

structed in less then six months. It was the only known instance where a place of entertainment of its magnitude was completed within such a short time. This also included the demolishing of any existing buildings that were on the property. There were thousands of workers and mechanics who labored night and day. The park opened on May 14, 1904.

The most impressive way to arrive at Dreamland would have been by steamboat. The tower was incredibly more impressive and majestic when seen from the ocean. As the steamboat approached Dreamland's Iron Pier, visitors were overwhelmed by its massive 375-foot beacon tower. In 1904, it was one of the tallest structures in the United States, even taller then any building in N.Y.C.

The tower stood in the center of the park, and its overall presence, with its 100,000 electric lights, dominated all of Coney Island. It was also used as an observation tower. Elevators took people up to the top, giving them a spectacular view of Coney Island. "Shooting the Chutes," a flat-bottom boat ride, was another major attraction in Dreamland. The ride itself was actually constructed in the ocean and descended over the beach into the park's saltwater lagoon. Dreamland was an architectural masterpiece.



Midget City in Dreamland, was home to 300 midget residents. 1904 photo.

The Shoreline, viewed from the Dreamland Chute, shows the Leap-Frog Railway, an experimental train ride and the only one known to be built. The Bathing Pavilion advertises Hot & Cold Salt Baths.

Photo circa 1904.

Series 1024 A. Shore Line, East from Dreamland Chutes, Coney Island.

Davidson Brothers.

Dreamland's Ballroom located on the pier, was the largest in the world at 25,000-square-feet. Can you imagine the orchestra playing the waltz, thousands of people dancing to it, the sweet smell of the salt water, along with the cool ocean breeze? It was the most popular ballroom in Coney Island Adjoining the beautiful ballroom, (also on the pier over the water), was a restaurant nearly as large as the ballroom itself, serving the finest cuisine, only equal to that found in Manhattan.

Some of the attractions in the park were, "The Leap -Frog Railway," which was on its own pier with a track leading to no where. There were two separate enclosed trains that would race towards each other on the same track. Once they met. one would pass over the top, while the other was passing underneath. Each car was only around five-feet in height and held 32 passengers. The ride operated from 1904 to when it burned in the 1911 fire. Another attraction was "Fighting the Flames," a re-enactment of fire and rescue used to entertain and educate. It consisted of a city block of assorted stores, buildings and a hotel. The scene opens with the hotel on fire with screaming people trapped inside. The alarm rings and the firemen jump from their beds, slid down the brass poles and race to the fire. As they arrive, so does the battalion chief. The flames, discovered on the first floor quickly begins to engulf the rest of the building. The trapped people are forced to the roof of the building were they ultimately jump into nets to their safety. The fire is put out, and the city block is saved only to ready for the next show.

Dreamland also offered you a chance to go "Coasting Through Switzerland," a miniature realistic replica of Switzerland designed and owned by Thomas J. Ryan. It was a sled-type roller coaster that toured through the ice covered Alps and villages. You would see the majestic peaks of Mount Blanc and the Matterhorn. Your journey took you through the quaint villages of Switzerland with a unique system of electric illumination to recreate beautiful sunrise and sunsets. You would feel the cool breezes of the Swiss Alps, accomplished by fans blowing across dry ice, making this not only a truly

wondrous attraction but also a favorite on those extremely hot summer days.

The park also offered in 1904 the finest wild animal acts in the world at the Bostock Animal Arena. Frank C. Bostock, known as the "animal king," came from a family of animal showmen since 1805. He started out small, but his talent of working with animals made him a true international showmen as he took his Hippodrome of animal acts to Paris, London and New York. He would perform daily with his wild animals for over 15 years; however, when he could no longer perform he became the teacher for many men and women who then created their own act, many performing at the Bostock Arena. Shortly before the fire of May 27,1911, which destroyed the entire park, Frank Bostock sold his entire of Dreamland animal acts to Colonel Ferrari. Unfortunately for Colonel Ferrari, he suffered a total loss of his investment when the park burned down on opening day of the 1911 season.

The Baby Incubators exhibit was established by Dr. Martin Arthur Couney, a pediatrician from Paris. When he first



The entrance to "Hell Gate," shown here in 1905. A fire would start here on May 29, 1911. The fire would, ironically, ultimately destroy this Biblical-themed amusement park.



The gentleman in this circa 1909 photo from Dreamland may very well be Sigmund Freud. Freud, and other notable figures of the day like Charles Lindbergh, were known patrons. Along with its grandiose rides and spectacles, Dreamland once featured a Lilliputian village populated with 300 midgets. Freud supposedly declared Coney Island "the only part of America that interested him," noting the Lilliputian village to be a "must-see."

introduced his incubator technology in the 1890s it was not accepted by the medical community. Dr. Courney then introduced it at the International Exhibition in Berlin in 1896. He eventually found his way to America and Coney Island. In 1903 the exhibit was featured in Luna Park. In 1904, he moved his entire facility to Dreamland where he was able to have street access, giving him a year-round operation.

The incubator building looked like a two-story old German farmhouse, as Dr. Couney did not want it to look like a hospital. It was a practical, educational and life-saving instrument. Eventually the medical industry started sending their premature baby cases to him, recognizing that his incubator technology was a life-saving device of the future. After the fire of 1911, he moved to a few other locations in Coney Island, eventually ending up back in Luna Park in 1941. Throughout his career 8,000 premature babies were handled by Dr. Couney, of which 6,500 babies survived.

In 1904, Samuel Gumputz was the manager of Dreamland. One of his jobs was to visit World Fairs and other exhibitions to bring back new and unique attractions to Dreamland. While visiting the 1904 St. Louis World Fair, he purchased the attraction "Creation" for the 1905 season. It was not just the entrance, but also an attraction. This allowed Reynolds to



Interior view of the Fighting the Flames attraction in 1904.



View from the Iron Tower of Shooting the Chutes, which stood in the ocean. To the right of the chutes is Dreamland's ballroom on the pier. On the left of the photo is the interior of the Fighting the Flames attraction. Photo circa 1904.

have the greatest entrance at any amusement park ever.

"Creation" was the largest illusion ever constructed in its time. It was the story of creation from the first book of Genesis. The journey began with a boat ride around the "Big Blue Dome," where people would see the spectacular illustrations on the works of God. In the "Great Dome," the six days of the creation of the world were presented. At first there was a watery waste, then land appeared. Last its man and woman were created in the "Garden of Eden." On the seventh day, God rested.

With this new attraction, Dreamland started to add other Biblical attractions, including "Hell Gate," an attraction based on an ancient and very human dread, that of the whirlpool. Passengers boarded boats which began to swirl around terrifying waters of a 50 foot whirl pool carrying the boat to the center. The slope would suddenly dip and allows the boat to slip beneath the outer rims of the spiral into a subterranean canal to reveal a scenery of rocks, reefs and shipwrecks from the bottom of the ocean.

Another Biblical attraction was "The End of the World," where Gabriel blows his trumpet, the earth quakes and the people fear that the end of the world is very near. Dreamland conducted an experiment called "Midget City." It was a laboratory on social behavior. The society of 300 little people had their own government, police and fire department, along with their own laws.

Unfortunately, on May 27, 1911, at approximately 1:30 in the morning, workers accidentally started a fire in the "Hell Gate" attraction, ultimately destroying the entire amusement park. It was the biggest fire in New York State history to date.

In 1907, at the age of 40, William then spent \$10 million to develop Long Beach. He had approximately 3,800 lots, with each house costing at least \$7,000. He then built Reynolds Channel and the Long Beach Hotel.

William Reynolds passed away on October 14, 1931 at the age of 63.

Old Times Cherished and New Memories Made at Pittsburgh's Favorite Park

Historic 1920s Dentzel Continues to Thrill Riders at Kennywood in PA



Kennywood's Dentzel Carousel has retained its original home since its installation and it was placed in the National Historic Register in 1987.

By Jim Weaver Special to The Carousel News & Trader

Founded in 1898 as a small trolley park in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, just east of Pittsburgh, Kennywood Park was begun by the Monongahala Street Railway Company, a business controlled by steel baron and philanthropist Andrew Mellon.

Located on the banks of the Monogahela River, the park site, once owned by the Kenny family, was a lovely grove of trees where people would picnic. Kennywood Park, which catered to local industrial workers and their families, was built at the end of a trolley line to encourage ridership, but soon it began to generate more revenue than the trolley business itself. Interestingly, Kennywood is perhaps the only ammusement park in the nation that allows people to bring their own food into the park, a carryover from the family picnic tradition of years gone by.

Photos courtesy of Kennywood Park



From the Great Depression in the late 1920s right into the mid-1990s, Kennywood was famous for allowing a repeat ride on the carousel with just the one paid ticket.







Photos of the Kennywood carousel on this page were taken at the 2005 NCA convention by Jerome "Jerry" Horwitz.

In the early 1910s, Kennywood added two large roller coasters: The Racer and the Speed-O-Plane. In the 1920s three more coasters were added – Jack Rabbit, Pippin, and Racer (replacing the 1910 Racer). The park also added a large swimming pool. I recently had the pleasure of riding

the Jack Rabbit, and the 88-year-old wooden coaster is still a thrilling ride.

The Depression Era was especially hard on the park. Dancing helped keep it in business during this period as all the great dance bands played here from 1930 to 1950. During the Second World War period, the park was unable to add new rides, but it did buy a used ferris wheel and a miniature train, which it still operates.

In the 1950s, school picnics became popular and the park attracted

many student groups. The park added many new rides to its Kiddieland in this decade. Some popular rides included the Hurricane, the Looper, the Rotor (the first ride imported from Europe), the Wild Mouse and the Octopus. The 1960s





The Wurlitzer 153 band organ dates to 1915.

and 1970s brought competition from Disneyland and other theme parks. Kennywood decided to spend the money necessary to remain competitive.

The Turnpike was built in 1966 followed in 1968 by the Thunderbolt, redesigned from the old Pippin. With the Thunderbolt came the designation "The Roller Coaster Capital of

the World."

Keeping up with changes in the amusement industry in the 1980s and '90s, Kennywood added the Raging Rapids water ride in 1985. In recognition of its long history, Kennywood was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987. One of the most popular additions to the park was a new steel-looping coaster, the Steel Phantom in 1991. The Steel Phantom's top speed was 80 MPH, its longest drop was 225-





One of the parks first kiddie rides was this W. F. Mangels carousel purchased in 1923. Kiddie land opened in 1924. Photo courtesy of Arcadia Publishing.



Current 2008 photos of the carousel on this page.

feet and it featured four loops. Other rides from these years include the Exterminator, the Pittfall, the Pittsburgh Plunge and the Whip.

In the 21st century the park continues to keep a balance of change and preservation of tradition, which has always been important to Kennywood's success as "America's Finest Traditional Amusement Parks." Now in its second century, Kennywood still contains two major buildings dating from 1898 -- the carousel pavilion and a restaurant, which was originally the Casino Dance Pavilion.

The Kennywood Carousel is in the center of the park and has long been the place to meet if you became separated from your group. Lost children can always find the carousel.







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Artist Jen Tomasic painting a horse..

The carousel pavilion is a large, round wooden structure with a tent-shaped roof and open sides. The antique carousel was manufactured by the Dentzel Company of Germantown (Philadelphia), PA, and purchased by Kennywood in 1926 for \$25,000. It was fully restored in 2005. Interestingly, the carousel was originally built for the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial, but not completed in time.

There are four rows of carved wooden horses including 50 jumpers, 14 standers, plus a lion, a tiger, and four chariots. The band organ is a magnificent Wurlitzer 153 built in 1915, The carousel was designated a Pittsburgh Area Landmark in 1977 and received the National Carousel Association Historical Award in 1998.

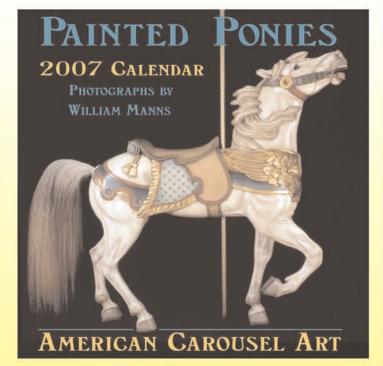
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The carousel being reassembled in the spring of 2004 after restoration.

Riding the Kennywood carousel was a real treat. The Wurlitzer band organ is powerful, and the carousel moves at a fast pace, more quickly than others I've ridden in recent years. The wooden floor (which looks like it may be the original) slopes glently toward the center of the carousel and has lots of spring when it turns, adding to one's feeling of exhilaration.

Today the park features a nostalgic atmosphere and is supported by a loyal fan base. In 2006, Kennywood purchased 15 adjacent acres and is in the process of acquiring another 28 acres of the Union Railroad yard. Its \$60 million expansion plan, all contingent on tax concessions and the location of a proposed major expressway, includes a hotel, an indoor water park, and a new signature thrill ride.

The parent company Kennywood Entertainment also operates Sandcastle Waterpark, which opened in 1989; Idlewild Park near Ligonier. PA; Story Land, the children's theme park in Glen, NH; and Lake Compounce, New England's family theme park in Bristol, CT, the oldest continuously-operating amusement park in North America.

Negotiations are now in progess for the sale of the company to a Spanish firm, Parques Reunidos, which owns nearly 50 amusement park world-wide.

For more information, call (412)461-0500 or visit them on the web at www.kennywood.com.

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Looking Back...



A familiar figure for many years at Kennywood was Tonay Sacramento. He had been associated with the park's carousel since 1946 as manager of the historic attraction. His smiling face and warm greeting to riders were a summer institution for nearly 50 years, until his retirement due to poor health. Over the years, Tony was nicknamed "Mr. Kennywood" by many of his fans and co-workers alike. After his death in 1998, Tony's funeral procession reverently drove through the park by the carousel in a fitting final tribute. Photo courtesy of Arcadia Publishing and their "Images of America Kennywood."



Jack and Carol Denehy of Bristol both worked at Lake Compounce as young adults. In this photo take in 1986 when the park had reopened under Hershey Entertainment, they enjoy a ride in the carousel with their granddaughter, Lindsay. Photo courtesy of Arcadia Publishing.

"Images of America - Lake Compounce" by Lynda J. Russell and "Kennywood" by David P. Hahner, Jr. are both available from Arcadia Publishing at local bookstores and retailers or at www.arcadiapublishing.com.

History buffs and park enthusiasts alike will be thrilled with either or both of these books, both full of great memories and photos of the parks.

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The 1893 Carousel is a Mix of Murphy, Carmel, Looff, and Stein & Goldstein

America's First Family Theme Park; Lake Compounce, CT, Since 1846



Current photo of the carousel. The figures are in the process of being restored by artists at Kennywood Park.

Photo by Andy Adams

By Tracey Blackman
Special to The Carousel News & Trader

The name "Lake Compounce" is derived from John Compound, a Mattatuck/Tunxis Native American Chieftain. On December 2, 1684, his wife and several tribal members affixed their waxed fingertip "marks" to a deed that conveyed the "Compound's Lake" to a group of white settlers who had migrated to central Connecticut from Massachusetts. Legend has it that shortly thereafter, Chief Compound drowned in the lake while trying to cross it in a large brass kettle.

On October 6, 1846, Samuel Botsford, an influential Bristol scientist, persuaded property owner Gad Norton, an original settler descendant, to let him conduct "a series of beautiful experiments in electricity." Well publicized, the



This photo shows the carousel during the 2004 NCA Convention. The historic merry-go-round got a new building in 2003. Photo by Jerome "Jerry" Horwitz.



The Lake Compounce carousel shown here in 1983. Photo by Barbara Williams.

event drew thousands of spectators who witnessed the demonstration amid the beauty of the woods and water. Although the final experiment of "blowing up from shore, two huge jugs of gunpowder tied under a raft in the middle of the lake" failed, it did inspire Mr. Norton to action. He put a path around the lake, set up picnic tables, allowed public swimming and rowing on the lake and built a gazebo for lakeside band concerts. Lake Compounce had officially opened to the public as a picturesque "picnic" park.

In 1847, the "Southern method" of cooking lamb was introduced at Lake Compounce to families, groups and organizations and the long and profitable tradition of summer barbecues began. The following year, a hand-powered revolving swing and Connecticut's first 10-pin bowling alley with adjoining pool tables became new attractions. In 1851, Isaac Pierce, a successful "California Gold Rush 49er," joined forces with Norton and the firm of Pierce and Norton was established.

Lake Compounce prospered as a picnic park through the post-Civil War era. In 1873, the Bristol Press published its first notice of Lake Compounce with an article describing the property as a "a convenient and delightful little seaside of their own for the people of Bristol."

In 1875, Norton and Pierce petitioned local legislators that their residences be "set off" from the town of Southington to the town of Bristol. A sheep roast was held in appreciation to those legislators and friends who helped secure the granting of that petition. In this quiet manner, the famed "Crocodile Club" was established and, in 2000, celebrated its 126th reunion.

The Casino, the first permanent building on the property, was built in 1895 with a restaurant downstairs and a ballroom upstairs. A full course dinner cost 50 cents. Public transportation also began that year as the Bristol and Plainville Tramway Company and later, the Southington and Compounce Line, brought thousands of park goers to Lake Compounce by trolley.

Around that time, Timothy Murphy of Savin Rock, CT, be-



2004 Convention photo by Jerome "Jerry" Horwitz.

gan to assemble the carousel. Combining the works of four master carvers and a Looff mechanism, Lake Compounce purchased the carousel for \$10,000, and it opened to the public on Memorial Day, 1911. In 1914, the Green Dragon, Lake Compounce's first electric powered roller coaster opened to the public. It was replaced by the "Wildcat," a wooden classic built in 1927 by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. The "Wildcat" operates to this day, and in fact, was recently designated as the best amusement park by readers of *Connecticut Magazine*.

The first of three Cris Craft speedboats was purchased in May 1929 for \$2,800. At a cost of 15 cents for a thrilling ride around the lake, it paid for itself by July. The 1930's brought more growth. The Casino Ballroom was expanded to include an enormous dance floor without walls, so that people could dance "under the stars." Huge windowed walls and a high arched ceiling were added in 1937. On Easter Sunday, Glenn Gray and the Casa Loma Band opened the "Starlite Ballroom" to a full house of "Big Band" enthusiasts. Most Big Bands played Lake Compounce. From Dorsey to Calloway, Basie to Kenton, James to Goodman, the ball-



2008 photo by Andy Adams.



2004 Convention photo by Jerome "Jerry" Horwitz.

room was packed for each performance. The all time attendance record of 5,000 dancers was set in the spring of 1941 when Tommy Dorsey's reorganized band featured a young, up-and-coming vocalist, Frank Sinatra.

Lake Compounce purchased a miniature steam railroad designed and built by British actor William Gillette, portrayer of Sherlock Holmes in 1943. This enchanting train made its inaugural run the following year when more than 100,000 passengers rode on more than 35 tons of 17 gauge steel track that completely encircled the lake.

Lake Compounce prospered during the 1940s and '50s as a very special picnic/amusement park. Local entertainers also appeared as a weekly attraction on the Lake Front Stage and featured such talent as Tex Pavel, Colonel Clown and Slim Cox and the Cowboy Caravan.

In 1957, the "Little Showboat" made its debut and took passengers on a leisurely "paddle" around the lake. In 1959, an 18-hole miniature golf course was added. In 1962, speedboats replaced the Cris Crafts. Their characteristic "rooster tails" doused riders and thrilled onlookers.

Lake Compounce remained under the ownership of the



Above and right, 2008 photos by Andy Adams.



2008 photo by Andy Adams.

Pierce and Norton Corporation until 1966, when Edward G. Pierce, Isaac's grandson, sold his interests to the Norton family. The Nortons continued to own and operate the park through 1985. At that time, the family reluctantly sold the park to The Hershey Corporation, which renamed the venue as Hershey Lake Compounce. Following two years of operation and the investment of millions of dollars, a corporate decision was made to sell the park and the company returned to its roots in Pennsylvania.

From 1986 through 1996, Lake Compounce experienced the "decade of the roller coaster." Financial troubles and empty promises from a string of four owners severely tarnished the park's image. During this decade, Lake Compounce had a checkered history, including mountains of unpaid bills, a barrage of lawsuits and a string of unsuccessful turn around attempts.

In addition, the park was affected by an inordinate amount of adverse publicity, including ruckus concerts, unpaid back taxes, the towns of Bristol and Southington threatening foreclosure and numerous abbreviated seasons when the park opened only for Labor Day weekend just to keep the streak alive as the country's oldest, continuously operated amusement park.



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2004 Convention photo by Jerome "Jerry" Horwitz.

There was also a prevailing sentiment that time had passed the park by, leaving it behind in a simpler era of Tommy Dorsey concerts and 1950s musicals.

Steeped in tradition and filled with generations of summer memories, many amusement parks in New England suffered from neglect and closed for good. When Rhode Island's Rocky Point, the nation's second-oldest park, served its final clam cake and auctioned its rides in the mid 1990s, it seemed to be one of the final nails in the coffin for the region's moribund amusement park industry.

Moreover, most small, family-owned parks had disappeared in recent years since they did not have the capital to continue operating. They have gone the way of mom-and-pop grocery stores.

In April 1996, The Kennywood Entertainment Company, a family-owned company that operates three parks in western Pennsylvania, became the new managing partner of Lake Compounce.

Traditional parks are a big part of Kennywood's heritage. Kennywood Entertainment CEO Harry Henninger's grandfather purchased Kennywood Amusement Park, just outside Pittsburgh, in 1906.

What made the Lake Compounce opportunity tempting was the financial incentive offered by the state of Connecticut in the form of an \$18 million loan. The agreement to partner with the state was predicated by a promise by the new owners to invest \$17 million of their own resources.

Back taxes of \$1.5 million to the towns of Bristol and Southington were immediately paid off. Next, Kennywood recruited one of its veterans to serve as general manager and tapped another industry veteran to oversee the marketing of the park.

In the first year alone, more than \$24 million was spent on more than 20 major new rides and attractions. The work of 50 contractors had to be orchestrated in the massive reconstruction of the park.

Another key factor was to find the right balance between the older, more traditional aspects of the park with the newage attractions that people now expect. For example, a



2008 photo by Andy Adams.

state-of-the-art roller coaster, a white water raft ride and other thrill rides were added to the park's line-up to complement the vintage 1927 roller coaster, the 1911 carousel, and an antique trolley.

The Kennywood vision of what Lake Compounce could be, the company's financial resources, and Kennywood's knowledge of the industry coupled with the state's involvement, were the primary ingredients for success. Moreover, the image of the park began to improve when the company did what it said it would do.

Since 1997 another \$20 million has been spent to rejuvenate the park and restore its luster. In total, nearly \$50 million has been invested in new rides, attractions, and physical improvements.

The park's transformation has tastefully integrated its natural beauty and rich heritage with a blend of classical and contemporary rides, live shows, and unique attractions. As the park continues into the new millennium, a balance of change and tradition continue to be important for Lake Compounce, the nations first amusement park.

For more information, call (860) 583-3300 or visit the park on the web at www.lakecompounce.com.



2008 photo by Andy Adams.

The German Heyn Carousel Joined the Family Theme Park in 1967

Good Old-Fashioned Fun For Kids Of All Ages at Story Land In NH



Story Land's carousel toured the Bavarian countryside for more than 60 years before heading toward the U.S.

By Roland Hopkins
The Carousel News & Trader

You won't find the thrill of a "Batman" roller coaster at Story Land in Glen, NH, but what you will find is "Flying Fish," the "Turtle Twirl," the "Polar Coaster" and good old-fashioned family fun. The 21 rides and attractions at the park are designed for parents and children to enjoy together.

I have very fond memories of visiting Story Land with my grandparents when I was quite young. It is certainly a magical place for a kid. Though I may have been just seven or eight years old when I visited in the late 1960s, I clearly recall the Crooked House, which I could never get enough of.

There were not so many rides in those early days, but there was the experience of being in a magical place as your childhood stories came to life. Humpty Dumpty was on the wall to greet you as you entered the park, The Old Woman was In the Shoe and Peter Rabbit was there as well.



The Crooked House was a favorite of mine as a kid.



New this year, kids can purchase a souvenir Story Land drivers license before or after their drive. I'm not sure they would have issued me one when I was a kid.

By the time I visited the park in the mid-late 1960s the antique cars had been added. I can still hear my older sister yelling at me because I kept bumping the tires on the center guard rail. (Interesting that a decade later my sister would be my chaperone as I took a real car on the highway for the first time before I got my license... I recall being equally nervous, but I didn't hit any rails).

I also recall the antique Story Land carousel, which would have been newly installed around that time, for its unique

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rocking motion – then again, I guess I remember it because it was up to you to rock your own horse and create your own fun as the merry-go-round went 'round.

ANTIQUE CAROUSEL

According to Jim Miller at Story Land, the carousel was manufactured in the late 1800s by Friedrich Heyn in Neustadt an der Orla, Germany. The ride toured the Bavarian countryside for more than 60 years and was powered by steam.

Original features on the merry-go-round included 36 hand-carved wooden horses, two spinning tubs, two rocking boats, and several colorful and elaborately hand-carved columns and facades. The carousel was designed in sections to allow for easy dismantling and transportation between towns on horse-drawn carriages.

A Canadian carnival operator purchased the carousel around 1960 after seeing it in Germany at Oktoberfest. It was shipped to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and placed in a warehouse for storage. The machine was later moved to Toronto, where it operated at the Canadian National Exposition in 1965 and 1966.

Story Land acquired and installed the carousel in 1967 with a few modifications: electricity replaced the steam power; a new track was installed for the turntable; and the canvas top was replaced with a more permanent metal roof structure.

Miller notes that over the past 40 years Story Land has undertaken a number of special projects to maintain the carousel for continued use and to preserve the many features that help make it unique. Recent examples include construction of a non-slip floor for the turntable platform and vacuum-formed casts of columns and facades to preserve the original colorful look. A dozen or so of the horses are repainted by hand each winter. Though they appear similar at a first glance, Miller points out that each of the 36 horses were hand-carved just a bit differently, giving each an individual identity. Also, of course with this type of old-fashioned carousel, each horse is mounted on a spring-loaded base to allow individual riders to rock it. Being of European design, the Story Land carousel turntable moves in a clockwise rota-

The antique German carousel not only retains its century-old charm, but also has been updated to host wheelchair access.

tion, unlike the more common counter-clockwise motion of the American merry-go-rounds.

And, although well over a century old, the carousel is now accessible to riders who are disabled. The original spinning tubs and rocking boats have been replaced by two benches designed and built by Story Land. The benches provide regular seating accommodations but also feature a por-

tion that flips up and includes straps below to allow guests using wheelchairs to secure their chairs next to guests seated on the bench.

STORY LAND HISTORY

The inspiration for Story Land came to Bob and Ruth Morrell of North Conway, NH, from a woman they met in Germany while Bob was serving in the United States Army in the early 1950s.

Frau Von Arps had created a collection of small dolls based on characters from children's stories and she suggested that the Morrells build a small village to house them when they returned home to the White Mountains. The Morrells took her suggestion much further, deciding instead to bring some of those characters and stories to life in a setting with green grass and flowers, where children would be safe and busy at every turn.

The park opened for business in 1954 with Humpty Dumpty, the Old Woman in the Shoe, the Three Little Pigs, Peter Rabbit, Heidi's Grandfather, the Red Schoolhouse, and a few other familiar characters taking the place of heavy equipment on the site of an old saw mill. The only ride at the time was Freddy the Fire Truck, a real fire engine that took guests on a path through the woods.

Bob and Ruth were pleased when visiting parents told them how much they appreciated a clean place in a rural setting staffed by courteous young people. Years later Bob once said, "We had no competition; but nobody expected that crazy idea to survive anyway."

The Morrells put all their money back into the park each year adding new features and improving the old ones. Everything had to be clean and orderly. They wanted parents to be able to record precious moments and to have a place where imagination was a reality. They always stressed the need to listen – really listen – to what people sais.



As Story Land grew through the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s, the families that visited the park grew as well. Many of the parents and grandparents who visit the park today first came to Story Land as children themselves.

The Morrell's own two children, Stoney and Nancy, both grew up at Story Land. Each honored the memories of their parents, who passed away in the 1990s, by continuing the traditions set down by their elders over the years. Stoney held the reins of the operation from the mid-1980s until his own passing in 2006, and his sister Nancy guided the park into a storybook marriage with the Kennywood Entertainment Company family of theme parks in 2007.

As Stoney once said, "Our role here is not to build buildings, but to paint a picture. Every view should be a great picture, and everyone in it should feel comfortable that they look good in that picture."



Wheelchair friendly benches on the antique carousel.

CAROUSELS FOR SALE

1920 Allan Herschell. 42 horses. 3-row. All wood. In very nice condition. \$175,000.

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1956 Allan Herschell. 30 Horse. Aluminum. 3-row. Nice clean machine with fitted trailer. \$75.000.

(1) 1949 and (1) 1951 Allan Herschell 40', 36 Horses. Aluminum. 3-rows. '49 has Spillman-style scenery, '51 has AH-style scenery. \$75,000 each.

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Allan Herschell. 30 Horses. All aluminum. 36'. T.M. center with air brakes. New center T base. Oilless bearings. \$100,000.

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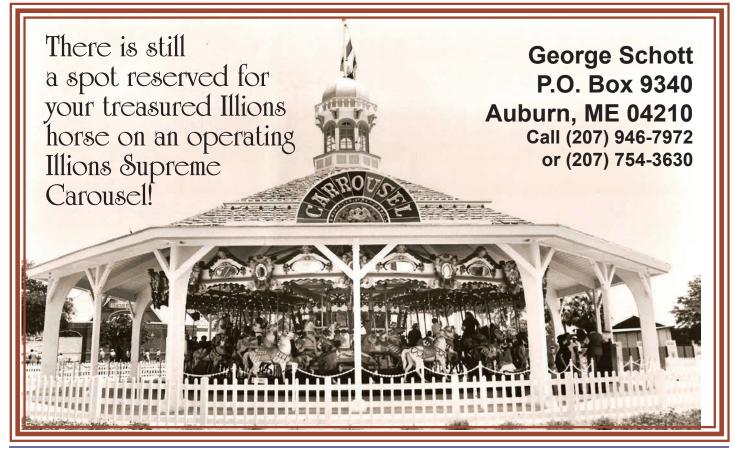
"The list of ideas to keep improving the picture for the future is as long and unique Storv Land's past. The creation of Story Land is similar to building a jigsaw puzzle, with the difference being that we've never had the picture on the box to show us exactly what the finished product will look like," according to park representatives.

Story Land celebrates its 55th consecutive season this year. And according to Story Land, "As the pace of the world becomes faster and quality family time more scarce, the need for clean, relaxing, inspiring environments that renew our spirit becomes ever greater. We're providing a product that people take home, not in their pockets, but in their hearts."

That may sound a bit cheesy, but I was a kid at Story Land, and I will never forget it.

As Bob Morrell was fond of saying when he envisioned the special park, "Just think of it!"

For more information on Story Land, call (603) 383-4186 or visit www.storylandnh.com.



Western Massachusetts City Looks to Return a Carousel to Downtown

First Annual "Carouselebration" Fundraiser for Pittsfield, MA



"Obie" gets a temporary home in a store window on the main street of Pittsfield, MA, promoting the Berkshire Carousel Project. The store, Jim's House of Shoes, was founded 61 years ago and named for Berkshire Carousel President Jim Shulman by his father. The story is now owned by a cousin and includes a mini Buster Brown cycle carousel inside, which will eventually be exhibited in the Berkshire Carousel building.

On May 3rd and 4th, Berkshire Carousel, Inc. held its first major fundraiser and family event called "Carouselebration." Berkshire Carousel, Inc is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization in Pittsfield, MA and is directed by Maria Caccaviello. The group is planning on building a carousel in downtown Pittsfield over the next three years through the work of professional carvers/painters and by volunteers from the area. Pittsfield is in the heart of the Berkshires, which is an area known for its arts and is the home to many skilled painters and craftsmen. The carousel is anticipated to be the key community project for Pittsfield's 250th anniversary of incorporation in 2011.

The project began with seed-funding from former residen Jim Shulman and wife, Jackie, who came up with the carousel idea to help bring families back to the downtown.



A Chance carousel was donated for the celebration.



Berkshire Carousel Co-founders Jackie and Jim Shulman, take a ride on the carousel donated for the event by the Gillette Brothers Amusements of Pittsfield, MA

A bustling city in the 1960s, Pittsfield experienced the gradual loss of industry and jobs. The population declined from 58,000 to a current 43,000 and it suffered environmental problems and all the accompanying issues of urban decay. In the last five years the city has begun a revival to become a major art center. It is focused on rebuilding



Face painting on Family Day.



Berkshire Carousel Co- Founder and Board President Jim Shulman with Anita Bakst, sponsor of the first horse to be carved for the carousel (after Obie).



Berkshire Carousel Board Member, Marjorie Shulman enjoying a carousel ride at Family Day

the downtown to include new restaurants, condominiums, art galleries, cinemas, and restored theaters. The carousel would be an ideal project to fit-in with the new developments. Thus, with endorsement from the city's leadership, the Shulmans set up a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization, recruited a board of directors, hired a director, and purchased land in the heart of the city. Although residing in Ohio, Jim has served as the board president since November 2007.

"The Carouselebration was a huge success and Maria did a terrific job in mustering volunteers, donors and participants for this inaugural event," Jim shared. "We are off to a great start. Our byline is 'We can make it happen!'"

The two-day program featured three main parts: a carvers' workshop, a gala dinner and a Family Day. Despite cold and sometimes rainy weather the turnout was excellent for both days.

"We had over 40 participants at the carvers' program and since the event, 50 people have signed up to work on the carving and painting of figures," Jim stated. Two profes-



"This photo is one of the few I have of the inside of the tent at the Carouselebration Gala, which shows the set up and the carved horse (Obie) in the middle. The man standing is my dad Irving who was surprised with an intro and Happy Birthday song the band was playing...it was his 89th birthday."

- Jim Schulman



Berkshire Carousel Board Member and Pittsfield City Councilor Jonathan Lothrop (left), Volunteer Auctioneer Ross Dindio and Mayor Ruberto's PR Director Matt Dindio (right) holding the city proclamation for the "Carouselebration."

sional carousel figure carvers contributed their time to give demonstrations and go step-by-step through the carving and painting process.

Maria added, "The evening gala, which we held in a heated tent, had over 250 people who were served a wine-paired gourmet dinner. The Sister City International Jazz Band also treated patrons to jazz music and carousel rides on a 56-horse ride donated for the event by Gillette Brothers Amusements."

In addition, the gala included demonstrations by the carvers and a fun auction. Maria continued, "Over 75 items were donated for the auction, including dining opportunities with local and national celebrities, autographed sports items and books, food and lodging gift certificates, autographed cartoon cels, gourmet catering, spa retreats, flight experiences and even a wide-screen TV, easy chairs and pizza for the World Series."

On Sunday, with nicer weather, the Carouselebration continued with a Family Day, including live music from three bands, carousel rides, face painting, balloon sculptures, a moonwalk, and lots of food choices.

Maria shared, "It was a great success, with over 2000 people present and lots of folks who got all geared up for the project."

The two-day event brought in over \$45,000 and four sponsors of horses. The carousel will be a 14 section 40-foot in diameter machine with 38 figures and two chariots. The board is reviewing vendors for the mechanical parts and the carving. Most of the carving and painting will be

NEW ENGLAND CAROUSEL MUSEUM Buyer's Guide Correction:

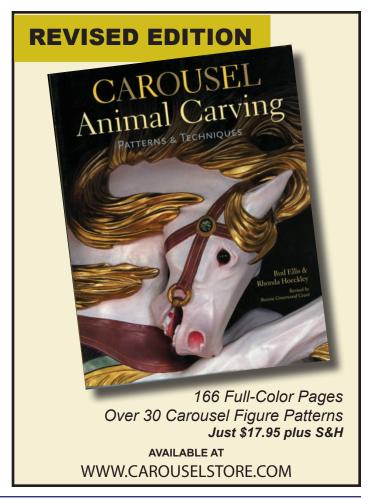
In the April Buyer's Guide Issue, the New England
Carousel Museum's old website and email was listed.
The current and correct website and email is:
 www.thecarouselmuseum.org
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Obie at the gala with pictures of figures and chariots to be sponsored on the wall

done locally under the supervision of professionals. The carousel theme will be the Berkshires with panels, rounding boards and shields depicting the rich heritage of the county and of famous citizens. Funding for the carousel will come from sponsorships of the figures and other parts while the building to house the ride is expected to be a combination of sources including grants, foundations, and corporate sponsors.

For more information on the project, visit the website at www.berkshirecarousel.com.





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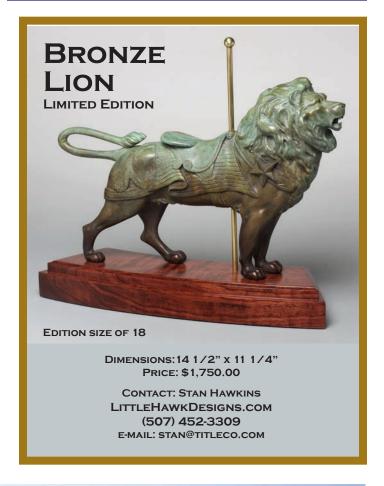
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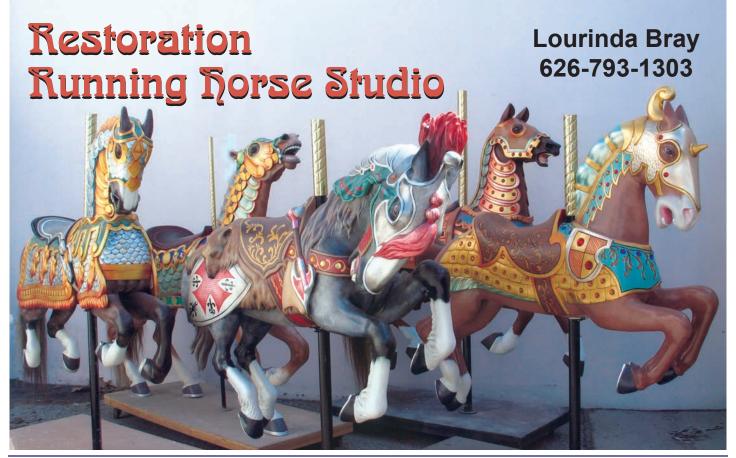
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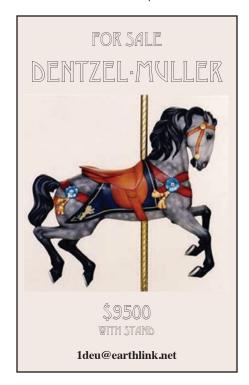
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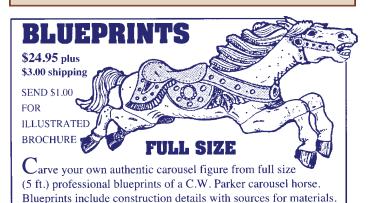
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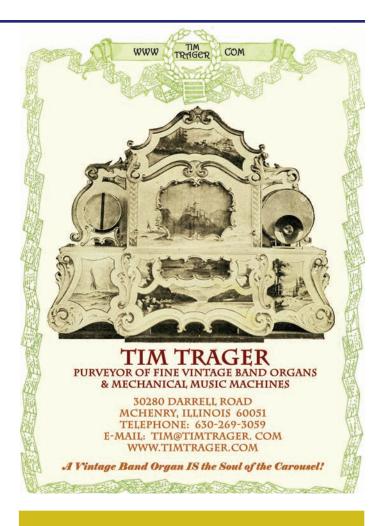
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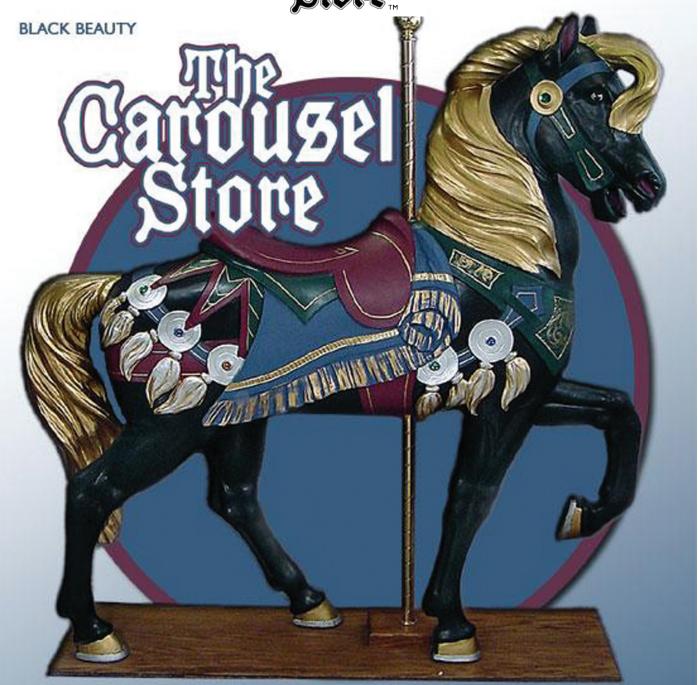
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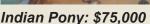
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1920s Dentzel menagerie carousel

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

1880s Herschell Spillman steam-operated carousel Original steam engine with 24 animals and 2 chariots.

1895 Looff carousel last operated at Asbury Park
A huge 4-row with 78 replacement animals.

1920s Dentzel carousel

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

1927 Dentzel frame from Rocky Springs, VA

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

1920s Spillman carousel

All original wooden animals restored and ready to operate.

1926 Allan Herschell carousel

All original animals, restored and ready to operate.

1930s Allan Herschell carousel

30 original half-and-half animals waiting for restoration.

New Wooden menagerie carousel

Carved by Ed Roth and Chuck Donohue with barn yard-themed animals. Ready to operate anywhere.

Other large, significant antique carousels available. Details by request only.

All machines can be seen at www.carousel.com.

We also have over 50 antique band organs, dance organs, orchestrions, nickelodeons, and other mechanical music machines available. Call or write for details.

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