

The *Carousel*

News

Summer 2019
Vol. 35, No. 2



INSIDE:

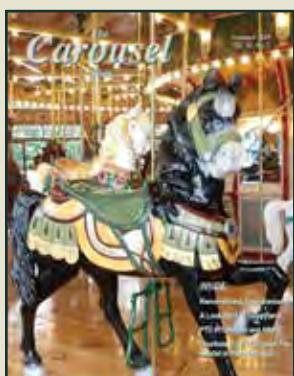
Remembering Freedoland

A Look Back at Hoppyland

PTC #72 Before and Afters

Lourinda Bray's Carousel Toy Exhibit in Pasadena, CA

ON THE COVER:



Summer, 2019
Vol. 35, No. 2

The circa 1925 Philadelphia Toboggan Co., PTC #72 carousel now in Somers, CT. Currently being restored by the New England Carousel Museum.

Jean Bennett photo

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A Look Back at Hoppelalong Cassidy and the Hoppyland Carousel ... 25

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Message from the Editor

Another issue. *The Carousel News* still lives on.

It's getting to be the end of summer, but I will still call it the Summer issue. We'll see how the fall goes.

There are still many ads that help with the layout and the I hope the ads remain a resource for many .

A lot of photos in this issue. I hope that is okay. Lots of before and afters of PTC #72 and a tour through Lourinda Bray's museum exhibit. Also and excellent research story on the Hoppyland Carousel by Barbara Willams. I hope you enjoy.



Rare US Merry Go Round figures from the carousel on the National Mall, part of the NCA Convention tour in Sept.

The Carousel News

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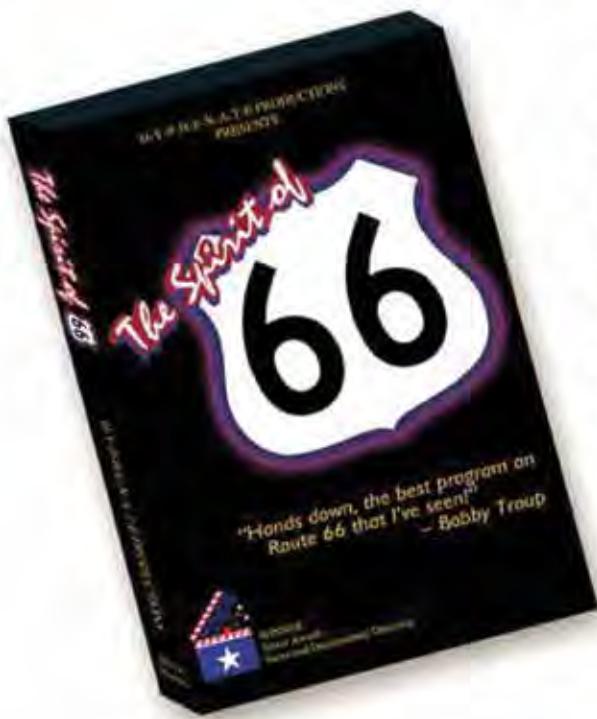
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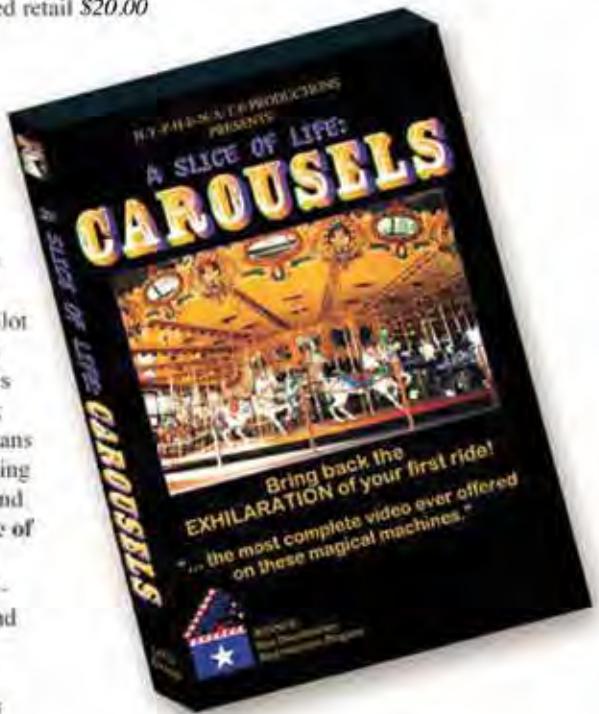
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'Round The Carousel World

Information compiled
By Roland "Rock" Hopkins



Glen Echo Park Carousel to Close for \$1M Renovation

While most summers start with a first ride on the historic carousel, this year, summer began with one last ride on the carousel at Glen Echo Park in Montgomery County, for now.

The popular ride was shut down at the beginning of July so the building that houses it can undergo some major renovations.

Riding the carousel is a yearly tradition for generations of Washington area families. It's on the National Register of Historic Places.

Between 1983 and 2003, each hand carved animal on the carousel was fully restored.

The local community stepped in to save the carousel when threatened with a sale to another park community in the early 1970s.

It was also the site of civil rights protests that took place

Glen Echo carousel in Maryland.

in the 1960s during the era of the privately owned amusement park.

The carousel is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2020 with a new roof, an updated fire suppression system and a new band organ room.

The cost of the repair work has been priced at more than \$1 million.

New Aquarium, Ferris Wheel and Carousel for St. Louis

The St. Louis skyline will be getting a new addition soon, as construction is underway on a 200-foot Ferris wheel at Union Station.



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A rendering of The St. Louis Wheel, a 200-foot Ferris wheel, set to be built by the end of the month at Union Station.

The St. Louis Wheel is part of a \$187 million family entertainment complex under construction at Union Station centered around a 120,000-square-foot, two-story aquarium. Other attractions slated to be open by the end of 2019 include new restaurants, a 36-foot-wide old-time carousel and an 18-hole mini golf course.

The observation wheel will loom 200 feet above the city, with 42 enclosed climate-controlled gondolas that can hold up to eight people each, or 1,380 pounds. It will run 365 days a year, and the 12- to 15-minute ride will offer riders a 20-mile view in each direction on a clear day. The wheel will also be decked out with 1.6 million LED lights that can display a variety of different color combinations to celebrate special occasions or holidays.

"This [St. Louis] is an amazing city. This is going to change the landscape. It will be a new landmark to add to the city of St. Louis," said Eli Stovall during a preview of the wheel July 11. Stovall is a managing partner for Icon Attractions, which will operate the wheel.

Icon Attractions currently operates the Capital Wheel and Carousel at National Harbor, a 350-acre development in National Harbor, Maryland, just outside of Washington D.C. The development opened in 2014 and features a 180-foot Ferris wheel.

The St. Louis Wheel will be located on the southwest corner of Union Station, next to the train station along 20th Street.

It will be completed at the end of this month and open for the first riders in October. The wheel pays homage to the Ferris wheel at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, which stood 264 feet above the city, with 36 cars that carried 60 standing passengers each.

Union Station, which first opened in 1894, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1970.

The St. Louis Aquarium will be the centerpiece of the new development at Union Station. At two stories and 120,000 square feet, the aquarium will feature 13,000 freshwater and saltwater animals. The aquarium pays homage to Union Station's train depot roots by having visitors enter the aquarium via a 3D virtual reality train ride that will "deliver" visitors to an area that explores the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.



Rye Playland Carmel carousel.

Westchester OKs \$10.5M to Restore Playland Carousel and Derby Racer Ride

WHITE PLAINS - Westchester County will borrow \$10.7 million to restore the historical carousel and derby racer rides at Playland amusement park in Rye.

The county legislature unanimously approved the spending on Monday with the work to include restoration of the fire-damaged carousel and repairs to the buildings that house the Derby Racer.

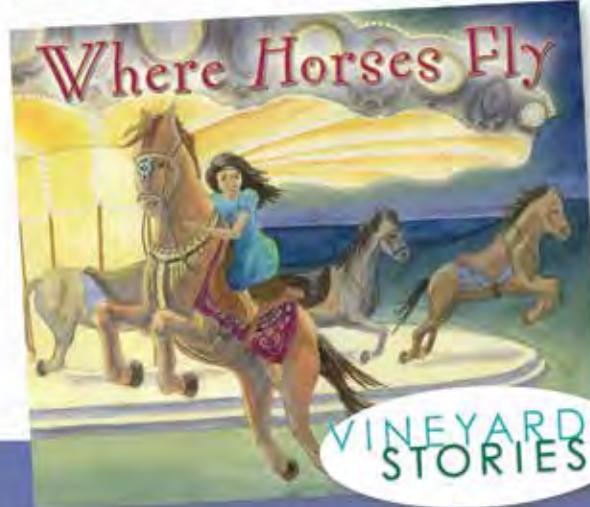
Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky, chairwoman of the legis-

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By Jacqui Boulter, with illustrations by Sabrina Kuchta

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lature's Public Works committee, called the two rides "the backbone" of Playland.

"Who could imagine an amusement park without a carousel, especially an amusement park that has such a historic carousel as ours," Shimsky, a Hastings-on-Hudson Democrat, said.

The carousel was closed in July 2017 after a fire in its cupola, with its historic hand-carved horses damaged by water used to extinguish the flames. The horses are being restored with the aim of reopening the ride for the 2020 season.

Lawmakers approved \$5.57 million in bonds for that ride and another \$5 million in bonds for the Derby Racer. The total work will include improvements to electrical systems and updated fire sprinklers.

The county plans to recoup some of the cost for the carousel work from insurance. Last year, county officials said \$1.3 million to restore the ride's 66 horses and chariots would be paid out of insurance. That work was contracted to WRF Designs in Connecticut.

County officials say they'll receive a \$465,000 preservation grant from New York state for the project.

The carousel is 104 years old and was originally located in Savin Rock Park in Connecticut, then moved to Playland when it opened in 1928. Its figures were sculpted by Charles Carmel, a carver known in the industry at the time.

The Derby Racer was built in 1927.

Playland is owned by the county, which is currently facing litigation from a company called Standard Amusements over management of Playland. The county hired Standard to take over management of the park for 30 years, but County Executive George Latimer decided this year to end the deal.

Standard is suing the county and looking to retain its contract in bankruptcy court. Outside attorneys for Westchester filed a motion to dismiss the case.



PTC Carousel Building. Battleship Cove in the background.

Savor the Moment Café Opens at Fall River Carousel

FALL RIVER — Walkers at Heritage State Park and visitors to Battleship Cove and the Fall River Carousel are just some of the customers stopping in for a bite to eat at Savor the Moment Café, said owner Sherri Rego.

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Carousel Modelers and Miniatures 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 2012 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.

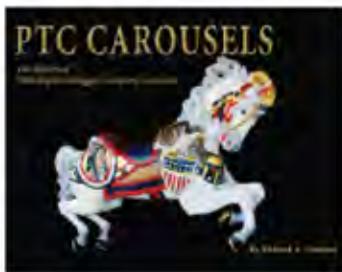
All inquiries or questions should be sent to Patrick Wentzel, CMMA secretary-treasurer, 2310 Highland Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26101-2920 or call (304) 428-3544, or email pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com.



Carousel History Resources

“... This should become the reference book for the PTC enthusiast and historian.”

Bette Largent
NCA President

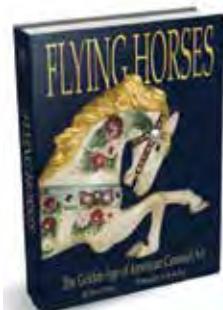


“Reviewer’s Choice... Tracing the history of many of the carousels through their use to the modern day, PTC Carousels is a strong pick....”

Midwest Book Review

“PTC CAROUSELS” recently received first place awards in the Beverly Hills Book Awards national competition in “History” and “Coffee Table Book” categories. The awards recognize excellence in cover and interior design, and aesthetic components that demonstrate outstanding presentation.”

PTC Carousels: The History of Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousels by Richard A. Gardner. 192 pp., 324 photos, Library Edition with dust jacket. ISBN: 978098254685 39.95



“Exhaustively researched and lavishly illustrated... a visual treat.”

Art & Antiques Weekly

“A welcome addition to the collection of anyone who appreciates carousel art.”

Carousel News & Trader

Flying Horses: The Golden Age of American Carousel Art, 1870 - 1930, by Peter J. Malia, 200 pp., 250+ photos ISBN: 9780982546826, Limited, Signed, and Numbered Edition\$49.50

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Located on the ground floor of the carousel building, Savor the Moment serves a menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, breakfast pastries, yogurt parfaits, fruit cups and snacks. It also offers coffee, tea, cappuccino, latte and several types of cold drinks. And on Sunday, it sells malassadas, which have been popular lately, said Rego.

The owner's son, Steven Rego, a chef who graduated from the culinary arts program at Johnson & Wales University, came up with the menu.

Rego said she was helping out a friend at the snack bar at the battleship when she saw the closed-up kitchen space inside the carousel and realized it was a diamond in the rough. So she presented a plan for the café to the committee that oversees the carousel. In April, she got the go-ahead for the café.

Savor the Moment Café is located inside the carousel at Battleship Cove, 5 Water St. More information is available at savorthemoment.com or by calling 508-233-8876.



Arnette Tiller sands down an Indian pony in her studio in Buffalo Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019. Photo Ashleigh Snoozy | The Sheridan Press

Artists Refurbishing Wyoming Carousel Ponies

By By Ashleigh Snoozy

BUFFALO, WY — ‘Round and ‘round the horses go, chasing one another into a rich history held within intricate-painted fiberglass bodies.

Those same bodies of past carousel stars lie stationary and sanded down in the barn-like studio of Arnette Tiller, a local potter in Buffalo. Tiller, along with local Buffalo craftsman Daniel Walters, have completed the majority of what Tiller described as a process similar to painting a car.

“What started as a dream to bring our historic carousel to the downtown core has blossomed into a complete center for the visual and performing arts, which we offer for the enjoyment of locals and tourists,” Tiller said in an introduction on the building and project’s website, cowboycarouselcenter.com. “When complete, the center will house the only full-sized carousel in Wyoming and the only Cowboy and Indian carousel in the world.”

The space itself contains literature educating visitors about the carousel’s history and has just enough backyard space to one day fit the fully-renovated carousel. Currently,

12 horses have been completed with full body redos and historical labels painted atop a fresh coat of airbrushed color. Twelve more sit half-completed and barely sanded, awaiting love from community members beyond Tiller and Walters.

The carousel and horses were originally from the East Coast before a local man purchased it and brought it out to live out West. He had a craftsman remodel the horses to reflect a traditional cowboy and Indian feel, which is how the horses were loved so well during the carousel's running years in Buffalo.

People from Buffalo, Johnson County and even stretches of Sheridan and other regional areas came to town just to ride.

Tiller, who frequently hosted hordes of children wanting to learn art through pottery in her studio during the summer, invites a slightly older demographic to come in and work on the horses in the capacities they can before the actual paint is applied. The final 12 horses must be sanded to complete matte; any shiny spot will not take paint properly and will come out as a missed spot in the end product. Tiller said she and Walters learned from experience that it's easier, more efficient and the end product is more professional if they complete the painting themselves.

The artistic expertise and intricacies left behind on the horses come from a mix of artists helping paint the ponies in their past lives. That detail has been replicated by Tiller as best as her abilities allow.

The project has taken much longer than Tiller anticipated, and it still has a long way to go before community members will ride the cowboy and Indian ponies round and round.

"It's taking longer than we thought," Tiller said. "We just thought we'd buy a lot, put the building up and put the carousel in."

There wasn't anything available and the city wasn't willing to hold the responsibility for the carousel and buildings associated. So, a committee was formed, with Tiller as one of the founding members, and fundraising began. Fundraising continues for a building to house the carousel, which has yet to be started in full force.

The building funding totals around \$700,000. Tiller remained optimistic, though, comparing the building to a hotel build costing far more. The committee anticipates launching a capital campaign for the building itself, unless someone would like naming rights on the building by donating a full \$750,000, Tiller half-joked.

An entire donation structure has been established for those wishing to contribute financially to the project and can be found online.

Until then, the ponies are the top priority for Tiller and the committee, and fundraising for future aspects of the project. To volunteer with the ponies, call the Cowboy Carousel Center at 307-217-4084. To visit and learn more about the project and history, visit the center at 59 N. Lobban Ave. in Buffalo, WY.

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City workers pump water from around the carousel after a storm flooded the beach and park area, days after the ride finally opened for the summer. Bob Tymczyszyn, Torstar photo

Historic Port Dalhousie Carousel Floods Again

Four days after its belated seasonal opening, the Lakeside Park Carousel was closed again due to flooding — this time because of heavy rainfall.

An intense rainstorm swamped the area around the historic ride, which was no longer sandbagged after its opening Saturday. "We just had so much rain yesterday that the water was filling up around the carousel, that's sort of in a little sunken area," said Darrell Smith, director of municipal works for St. Catharines, on Wednesday. "With the lake levels so high the catch basin isn't going to drain that well. We had to shut it down."

City crews were pumping water away from the carousel but with more rain in the forecast, but, no doubt the carousel will be dry and opened by the time you read this.



Cottage Grove volunteers gathered. Greg Lee photo

Carousel Dream Comes to Fruition

Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel volunteers have been involved in the total restoration of the 1929 Herschell 36-foot, 34-animal menagerie carousel since 2017. Since then, 7,000 volunteer hours have been dedicated to the carousel, with many of the volunteers pictured here.

In the front row, row sitting down, from left are, Alice Nowicki and Nadine Kelly. In the second row, squatting, are Karen Munsell, Donna Edsel, Ellen Hogue and Larry Simelius. Standing, from left, are Duane Taddel, Ray Murray, Carmen Dowell, Don Williams, Jerry Avery, Ken Schweiger, Marie Longfellow, Doyle Hicks, Loyle Hicks and Russ McGuire.

It is indefinite when the carousel will be certified by a ride inspector and passed by OSHA, said Carousel President Don Williams. The carousel is being stored long-term, but temporarily at the King Estates warehouse in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park. The restoration of the carousel is almost complete, and Williams said he expects the carousel to be open to the public soon.

Albany Carousel Celebrates Second Anniversary

Staff volunteers and visitors at Albany's Historic Carousel & Museum celebrated two years recently with a carnival featuring games and activities in and around the carousel.

Peggy Burris, the carousel's executive director, said the event serves as a fundraiser for the carousel and funds raised by the anniversary celebration last year helped the nonprofit that operates the carousel add five new animals. Burris said the carousel has space for 52 animals, but currently only has 35.

She said adding new animals gives people a reason to keep coming back to the carousel.

"We want to keep bringing people back to this wonderful gem we have here in downtown Albany," she said.

Burris noted that the carousel has helped spark the revitalization of downtown Albany by adding an attraction that brings in tourists from all over Oregon who then spend money at other downtown businesses.

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Happy riders on the Albany carousel.

"(The carousel) draws people downtown and then everyone has success," she said. "I think right now, Albany has never been better."

She said since March 1 this year, the carousel has drawn more than 66,000 people.

For Saturday's celebration, she said she was hoping to draw around 1,600 people. The event took more than 60 volunteers to put on, she said.



The late 1800s Cass County Dentzel carousel.

Cass Country Carousel Celebrates 100 Years

For 100 years, Logansport has been home to a rare piece of unique, 19th century artwork — and its the kind you don't have to admire from behind a velvet rope. In fact, you can climb on board and ride it.

The Cass County Dentzel Carousel celebrated its milestone 100th anniversary recently in Logansport with Carousel Fun Day at Riverside Park.

The Cass County Dentzel Carousel is one of few complete Dentzel carousels in the United States. Each animal was hand-crafted by Gustav Dentzel, a German immigrant who took up residence the Germantown area of Philadelphia in the late 1800s, and his workers. Dentzel opened a cabinet shop but after seven years grew bored and decided he would try his hand at creating carousels. Dentzel's fa-

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Wood repair by John McKenzie.

ther, Michael Dentzel, carved carousels back home in Germany. Cass County's carousel was completed in 1885.

There are 43 animals and three chariots on the Cass County Carousel. Only one horse and one chariot are not original to the carousel — the horse was purchased as a replacement and was carved by Dentzel's son and the chariot was added later to accommodate those in wheelchairs.

Before the carousel came to Logansport, it ran at Roberts Park in Fort Wayne from 1901 until it was bought by Duey Schmidt in 1919 for \$1,000. Schmidt transported the carousel by urban line to Logansport. It resided at Spencer Park until 1949 when it was moved to Riverside Park.

The carousel ran until 1969 when it was put up for sale because the last private owner died.

"A lot of people wanted this carousel," said Ernie Gasho. "Anheuser-Busch is the one we were scared of because they had more money than sense and they wanted this carousel to put in their Busch Gardens."

The carousel was ultimately bought by the Logansport Jaycees for about \$15,000, according to Gasho. "The Jaycee's never actually owned it. As soon as they bought it, they started the Carousel Corporation."

The Carousel Corp. owns the carousel and is independently operated by a volunteer board of directors. It rents a space at Riverside Park and the 99 year lease isn't up until 2094.

The Carousel Corp.'s mission statement is, "to preserve

and protect the Dentzel Carousel for the children of Cass County. Forever."

The carousel ran in the old building next to its current location until Labor Day weekend of 1994. The old building was hard on the animals — which are made wood except for their glass eyes. With the cold winters and humid summers, the animals started cracking and dry rotting.

The new building — which is a humidity controlled building — was purchased in 1993 and took two years to complete, according to Gasho. The interior is decorated with painted hand-prints, bricks and plaques with donor names on them.

The new building reopened July of 1995, the 100th anniversary of Riverside Park.

The murals that run across the carousel now are oil paintings based on photos from the book "Where Two Rivers Meet."

The lead horse of the carousel was named "Princess Logan" by name contest winner Bradley Liebner in 2000. According to Gasho, Liebner knew that the horse was a girl because "she was wearing earrings." That horse is the only original figure not restored by the Carousel Works. It was done by the Logansport Art Association in 1989-90.

The carousel hosted a family reunion recently where one woman was 102, according to Gasho, and that woman also got on and rode. "She said, 'I want to ride it one more time. I rode on it originally when it was in Spencer Park.'"

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beautiful original carving by Ed Roth
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photo: April Renae



The J&S carousel has been in St. Augustine since 1992.

St. Augustine's 'iconic' carousel may be dismantled

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. - The carousel in St. Augustine's Davenport Park that locals describe as a 'landmark' and 'beloved' may close soon and never reopen, city leaders learned recently.

City Manager John Regan learned that the operator of the J&S Carousel has died and his widow was planning to dismantle the carousel, which has been a St. Augustine landmark since 1992.

"(He) did it for the love of it, not as a real business model," Regan said. "We just learned of this and I think that sad circumstance is on his passing and possibly losing this iconic element of the city."

The carousel was on San Marco Avenue at San Carlos Avenue, in the same park with public library on U.S. 1.

The man operating the carousel Tuesday told News4Jax that the wife of the owner, James Souels, told him the attraction's last day will be Sunday.

The city said Sourels had just signed new, five-year lease of the property to begin on Oct. 1. The widow has asked to be released from that lease and the family intends to dismantle the ride.

"It was a project of love is what we were told," St. Augustine Commissioner Nancy Sikes Kline said of the owner's dedication to keeping the carousel running. "Like a gift."

The city had no official comment but did tell News4Jax it is trying to be respectful to the family while working to find a way to preserve the carousel. Regan said he has offered condolences to the Souels family. He said he also told his assistant, "'Time is of the essence' and, 'See what options can be developed.'"

Reaction to the thought of losing the carousel, which had offered \$1 kids rides was strong. Families using the carousel Tuesday were universally disappointed when told it might close.

"We live in Jacksonville now, we came down actually just today to ride the carousel, so it's very sad news to know that we might be losing the carousel," Matt Lowry said. "Every time my son and I drive by, he yells out, 'There's the carousel.' He calls the horses 'hay nays,' so he screams out for them."

Sikes Kline said she wants city staff to recommend ways to save the carousel. "I think it is important that we do what we can to find a way to preserve it and perhaps there are some options if we act quickly."

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The Carousel for Missoula is spinning again.

Repairs complete! A Carousel for Missoula Re-Opens

MISSOULA — Thanks to the innovation of a local metal fabricator, Missoula's popular Carousel is re-opening much sooner than expected, with the ponies ready for the "round-to-round" again on Thursday morning.

The Carousel for Missoula had to be shut down in late July after a main bearing failed in the century old ride's apparatus.

Because of the age of the ride, there was real uncertainty about how to get it going again -- that's where Andy Troutwine came to the rescue.

He used the tools from "Andy's Shop" to design and fabricate a replacement bearing, which was installed this week with the help of Carousel volunteers.

Troutwine designed a special "collar" bearing, which was able to be opened and snapped around the main drive shaft. Without that design, the entire support structure of the ride would have had to be dis-assembled.

In addition to the mechanical achievement, Carousel Director Theresa Cox says children have been making their own donations to help get the ride up and running.

Naming opportunities Available For Joyland Carousel

WICHITA, KS. This fall, Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, is raising money to restore a piece of Wichita's history to its original glory.

The Riverside facility took possession of the old Joyland carousel a few months ago and is now looking for donations to complete the restoration project on the historic landmark.

For \$3,000 you can add your name to the renovated Carousel Pavilion at Botanica. As of Tuesday afternoon, six spots remain for potential donors to add their names. For a gift of \$200, you can have your name or a short saying engraved on a metal restoration coin that will be permanently placed in the floor of the Carousel Pavilion.

Botanica says the coins are about five inches in diameter. The facility says there are 87 coins available. If you're interested in a naming opportunity to help the Joyland Carousel restoration project, contact Jamee Ross at jross@botanica.org or 316.264.0448 ext. 105.

You can learn more about the project at Botanica's website. <https://botanica.org/carouselgardens/>



Michael Hammond as George A. Dodge in "Paragon Park".

Theater Review: 'Paragon Park' Revival is a Delight

Paragon Park may have closed 35 years ago but if the enthusiastic audience response to last Saturday's sold-out opening-night performance of "Paragon Park: The Musical" at Norwell's Company Theatre is any indication, time has done little to dim the affection many people have for the Hull amusement park.

While they might have loved to be at the park again, many show-goers seemed happy just to revisit the home-grown musical, which enjoyed a very successful premiere run in 2012.

With book by Hingham resident – and Company Theatre co-founder and artistic and executive director – Zoe Bradford and Holbrook resident and actor Michael Hammond, along with music and lyrics by composer Adam Brooks of Waltham, the show smoothly blends historical detail with sweeping musical numbers.

The poignant opening number, "One Last Ride" – set at the 1985 auction that would, in the end, save the Paragon Carousel and extend its life as an operating fixture on Nantasket Avenue to this day – captures the combination of fleeting pleasure and lasting memories that amusement parks provide.

The action then shifts back to 1905, with Paragon in the planning stages and high-brow Hullonians opposing it, fearing its thousands of electric lights might forever alter their treasured views of sunset on Nantasket Beach.

Co-book-author Hammond also takes on the role of Paragon developer George A. Dodge, imbuing the businessman with warmth, good humor, and a willingness to do whatever it takes – from interviewing kids about their fantasy adventures to passing himself off as a fishmonger – to bring his vision to life.

The story is about more than just the building and operating of the park, however, and Bradford and Hammond use several class struggles to add drama to the proceedings. When a group of Italian immigrants arrives in Hull, for example, the red carpet remains rolled up.

Special mention must be made of the meticulously recreated Carousel, a particularly splendid set piece.

Paragon Park may be gone, but it's far from forgotten.



Slater Park Carousel expected to reopen in September

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (WPRI) — From the swan boat rentals to the disc golf course, Slater Park in Pawtucket offers many amenities to residents and visitors.

But the park's iconic 124-year-old carousel has been closed for repairs since March.

Pawtucket's Project Leader Joe Morais said that's because additional funding in the city's building bond has allowed for more repairs than initially expected.

Morais said the original plan just included replacing the roof. After the city received the additional funding, he said additional repairs – from cosmetic to structural – were scheduled. "It's an old structure, they don't make them like this anymore," Morais said.

While the recent heat wave did slow down roof repairs, Morais said most of the delays have come from the Rhode Island Historical Society.

"They have to review, advise and approve every piece of the scope of work," Morais explained. "Without their permission, we can't move forward. This project would have been done sooner, but because we didn't have approval at that time, we had to push it back a couple of months."

Director of Pawtucket's Department of Public Works Eric Earls told Eyewitness News that he is impressed with the repairs made so far.

"It's looking beautiful," Earls said. "It gives the people of Pawtucket a sense of pride."

Earls said so far, the front steps of the carousel have been rebuilt and all of the windows – including the stained-glass windows – are now being restored by hand.

According to Morais, the carousel should be fully repaired by mid-September [around the time you read this], just in time for the city's 21st Art's Fest.

New Old Carousel for Pioneer Village

North Dakota - The Ward County Historical Society made the move from Minot to Burlington, ND, right along Highway 2.

There was damage done to the buildings during the move, but the President of the society says they have even more plans for the site.

"In the future we're looking at expanding maybe a few other buildings. We want to do kind of a farmstead out here. We're looking at getting back the little red school house that was donated to us a few years ago that the fair would allow us to put on the property. That's been offered again. The park board in Minot has given us the carousel that used to be in Roosevelt park."

At some point we want to get a building to put that in. It's an original carousel from the 1900's" says David Leite.

The historical society held a community appreciation picnic in honor of the big move.

Long Branch Unveils Charming New Carousel

By Perdita Buchan, Courtesy of Extell

There was a time when almost every town on the Jersey Shore had a carousel. Until recently, only two of the grand old carousels remained: Gillian's Wonderland Pier Carousel in Ocean City, and the Dr. Floyd Moreland Carousel in Seaside Heights.

But at the end of July, Long Branch unveiled a new, hand-carved carousel with a seaside theme at Pier Village. Guests can ride a dolphin, a seahorse, a pelican and various fish. Even the traditional horses wear wreaths of seashells and seaweed befitting the carousel's boardwalk location, just a few yards from the beach.



The new carousel is a reminder of the golden age of the American carousel, from 1870–1930. The Depression put an end to carousel production, but the Shore's carousels continued to spin. As time passed, some were lost to fire or flood, while others that did survive were often sidelined in favor of more exciting rides. In the 1970s, collectors rediscovered historic carousel animals as folk art, and it soon became more profitable to break up the rides and sell the individual animals than to keep them running.

Carousels have a long history in Long Branch. At least as early as 1909, there was a carousel on the Long Branch Pier. The hurricane of 1944 demolished the pier – and the carousel. The pier eventually was rebuilt with a mix of fast-food restaurants and carnival attractions, including an old-fashioned carousel. In 1979, the Pier was sold to developers and the carousel broken up. In June 1987, a fire destroyed the latest pier, paving the way for today's Pier Village.

The new Pier Village Carousel was built by The Carousel Works of Ohio.

Rides won't necessarily end with the warm weather, though. Housed in a glass pavilion that can be heated, the carousel could be a year-round attraction if the City of Long Branch, which owns it, sees the demand.

*Perdita Buchan's new novel, *The Carousel Carver* (Plexus Publishing), tells the story of a "golden age" immigrant carver.*

In Memorium



In Memory of

Robert Ersepke

August 30, 1938 - May 29, 2019

Los Altos Hills

Robert Ersepke was born on August 30, 1938 to Gertrude and Edmund Ersepke in San Francisco. As a boy Robert stood out for his dependability and eagerness to help.

A quality which would endure throughout his life. He also had a knack for repair work. At a young age he would assist his parents with work on the house, other projects, and became a young handyman. Robert would not shy away from any task.

He graduated from George Washington High School, was called by the United States Army and was assigned to Europe during the height of the Cold War. There he served in the field as an Artillery Surveyor. He was honorably discharged from the Army and attended San Jose State University. He formed many lifelong friendships while at San Jose State, joined the Flying Club, and eventually became a pilot.

After graduation Robert became a licensed contractor. A tall, powerfully built man, he was known for incredible feats of strength on job sites. In one case, many decades ago, someone saw him carry a refrigerator strapped to his back up many flights of stairs. Robert had an unstoppable work ethic. He went into business for himself, and built by his own hand, a thriving garage door installation company. He would work all day and late into the night and always insisted on doing physical work himself.

Robert had a hunger for life and was successful at so many interests and businesses. He was an owner of the bar Fox and Hound in Cupertino. Robert owned a vineyard in Templeton. He was a commercial and residential landlord. Robert loved hunting for new real estate opportunities and buying and selling real estate. He was always dreaming and searching for a new piece of land someplace new where his horses could roam. He was also a daring motorcyclist unafraid of riding on California freeways. Later in life his favorite vehicle was a huge red Dually truck which he maneuvered on narrow San Francisco streets with no problem.

His passion in life was his animals. He owned many horses, a ranch and a team of dogs. He loved caring for them all and insisted on personally picking up the bales of hay for the horses.

Robert lived the values celebrated in his favorite genre of movie: The Western. He was our hero. A rugged individualist, daring, charming, courteous, fearless and unflinching in the defense of his friends and family.

Robert lost his loving wife Pat from cancer at a young age.

He is survived by his sisters Evelyn Krimen, Marilyn Ersepke, his brother Arthur Ersepke; cousin Leonard Martin and wife Kathy, his nephews Robert, Gerald, Edmund, Eric, Tommy, Randall, his nieces Elizabeth and Nancy.

And also his beloved close friends: Nancy Burdick, Barry and Rosemarie Mirkin, Nigel Endersby, Keivan Ehsnipour; Grace and Jan Pedersen; Bob and Melinda; Pam Hessey, Eugene Moriguchi; and also Carmen, Francisco, Jocelyn, Paco and Emily who became part of his family and made his last year in life so joyous.

And many other friends too numerous to name.

He is also survived by his many horses, his pack of dogs led by a Belgian Malinois named Ziggy ... and a vocal cockatoo named Bill.

A collector of fine carousel figures among all else, he last attended Carousel West in 2008.





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The Park Featured a Dentzel Carousel and the History of America

Remembering Freedomland U.S.A - Bronx Park in the Early 1960s



The King Rex Carousel in the New Orleans themed section of Freedomland U.S.A. in The Bronx. Michael R. Virgintino Collection

*Mommy & Daddy, take my hand
Take me out to Freedomland.
\$2.95 is all you pay
At Freedomland today!*

*You'll see the great Chicago Fire
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You're right there on the spot.*

— Freedomland Jingle

By Michael R. Virgintino

My parents came from the South Bronx. They were married when my father returned from World War II and, eventually, they purchased a new brick row house in the northeast section of this borough of New York City.

After I joined the family, Freedomland U.S.A. arrived, rising on marshland in the nearby valley. I was at the right place at the right time. My summer fun at Freedomland captured my imagination and nurtured my love for American history. My passion about our past has grown stronger with each passing year since Freedomland closed its gates.

I never forgot about that wonderful place where it all began for me. As a writer, journalist, public relations executive and historian for the last 40-plus years, I have written



Mirror panel from The King Rex Carrousel also is located in the New England Carousel Museum.

and spoken about a myriad of topics. Then, about a decade ago, I felt it was time to “return” to Freedomland. With the arrival of social media, I created a popular memory page on Facebook: Freedomland U.S.A.—The World’s Largest Entertainment Center.

The following is an excerpt from *Freedomland U.S.A.: The Definitive History* (Theme Park Press). In the book, I document from conception to bankruptcy the story about one of the most beloved theme parks in America. It lasted just five seasons (1960-1964), but Freedomland still is recalled fondly by the baby boomers among us. Its attractions included a vintage carousel.

Bronx residents had an abundance of family entertainment venues from which to choose during the early 1960s. Anyone seeking a carnival atmosphere enjoyed Brooklyn’s Coney Island and Rockaways’ Playland in Queens. Some people traveled to Palisades Amusement Park along the Hudson River in New Jersey, or Rye Playland, which continues to operate today in Westchester County. Small neighborhood amusement areas could be found throughout the five boroughs of the city, in Westchester, and along Long Island.

Freedomland U.S.A. was different than the conventional amusement parks. It was a theme park that featured the story of America through attractions that included Fort Cavalry, the Chicago Fire, the Civil War, and the Northwest Fur Trapper ride. It even embraced the present and future of space flight.

The research and design team that created and constructed Freedomland consisted of about 200 leading art-

ists and architects. Many were former Disney employees. Others were veterans of the film industry.

The Bronx location for the theme park was a 205-acre site at the southern part of about 400 acres of marshland. The park and its attractions would be located on 85 acres, with the remaining 120 acres reserved for maintenance and parking.

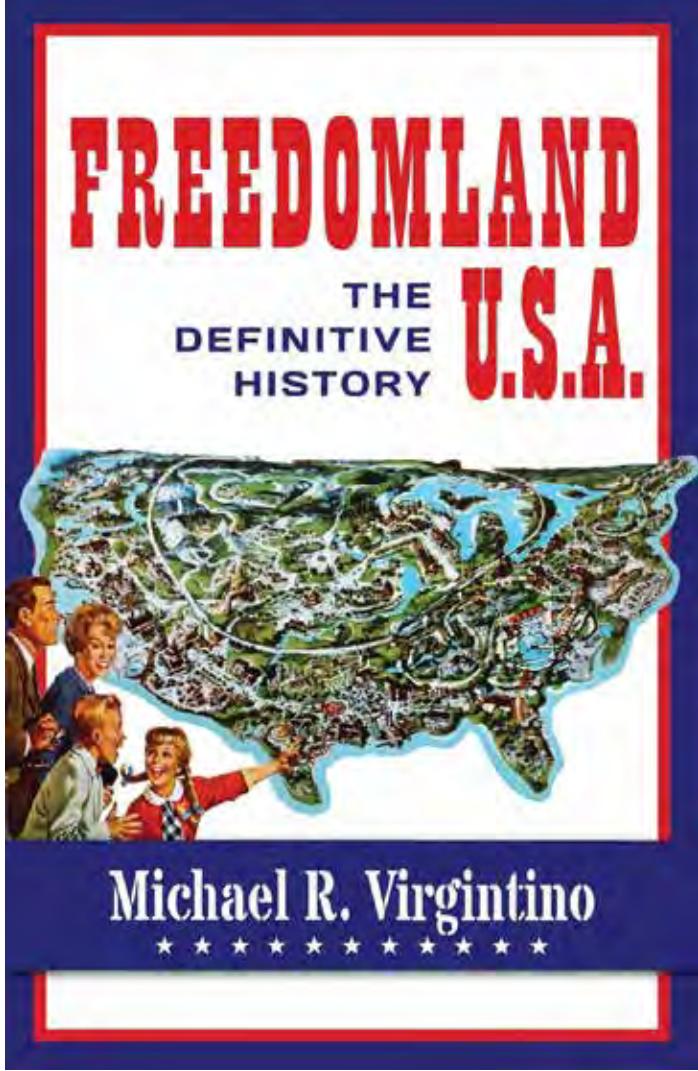
Freedomland’s grand opening had been scheduled for June 1, 1960. It then was rescheduled for a month later to ensure that the park would be ready for the anticipated crowds. Due to the growing excitement generated by aggressive advertising, marketing, and the on-air promotion by the city’s popular music radio stations, the official opening date again changed to June, specifically to Father’s Day on Sunday, June 19.

The King Rex Carousel [using the French spelling of the word] reportedly was purchased from W.F. Rankin for \$3,500. Research has not discovered any information about Rankin, the purchase, or the early history of the attraction.

This carousel was not built specifically for Freedomland. It was created by William H. Dentzel and dates to the early 1900s (circa 1910). William was the son of carousel pioneer Gustav Dentzel and he carried on the family business through the 1920s.



Upper panel from The King Rex Carrousel is located in the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol, Connecticut.



The cover and back of the Freedomland book.

The original name of this carousel, if it had a name, remains lost to time. The name Freedomland fans remember is believed to have originated with its installation at the park. Rex (founded 1872) is a New Orleans Carnival Krewe that stages one of the city's most celebrated parades for Mardi Gras. Rex is Latin for "King," and Rex reigns as "The King of Carnival." The carousel was appropriately named not just for its role in the park but for its ultimate status as the last known half-standing, half-jumping, four-row, two-level Dentzel.

The carousel's 72 menagerie figures were situated on a two-level platform. The ride, with a diameter of 54 feet and circumference of 132 feet, consisted of two rows of standing animals on the lower level and two rows of leaping animals on the upper level. The ride included three chariots, or stationary coaches. This carousel is considered highly unique when compared to others created by the Dentzel company, which sold new four-abreast attractions for as much as \$24,000 during the early 1900s.

The upper platform of leaping figures included four each of rabbits, cats, pigs, ostriches, and, according to the National Carousel Association, very rare smiling bears. The

The Story of America's Park

After being fired by Walt Disney, the flamboyant C.V. Wood brought his hard-won experience as the self-titled "master builder of Disneyland" east, to a marsh in the Bronx, where in 1960 he unveiled his greatest project, a doomed theme park to tell the history of America: Freedomland.

Wood's efforts to build his "Disneyland of the East," a themed collection of lands that presented epic moments in American history as thrill rides, shows, and live action, were plagued from the start by politics, cost overruns, and financial chicanery. Despite these obstacles, the park prospered—until its big-money backers (as they had planned from the start) pulled the plug and cleared the land for lucrative urban development.

Through a well-researched narrative, personal and newspaper accounts, interviews, and exclusive photos, journalist and author Michael R. Virgintino presents the definitive history of Freedomland, from the people behind its creation, and the executives, entertainers, and sponsors who kept it running, to in-depth looks at each of its historically themed lands, and an analysis of the park's inevitable bankruptcy in 1964.

Unlike Disneyland, the story of Freedomland does not have a happily ever after, but theme park fans will not want to miss this captivating but cautionary tale of America's park.

Michael R. Virgintino is a journalist and marketing communications executive who began his career in the newsrooms of New York City area radio stations. He is also a historian and a recognized expert on Freedomland.

www.ThemeParkPress.com



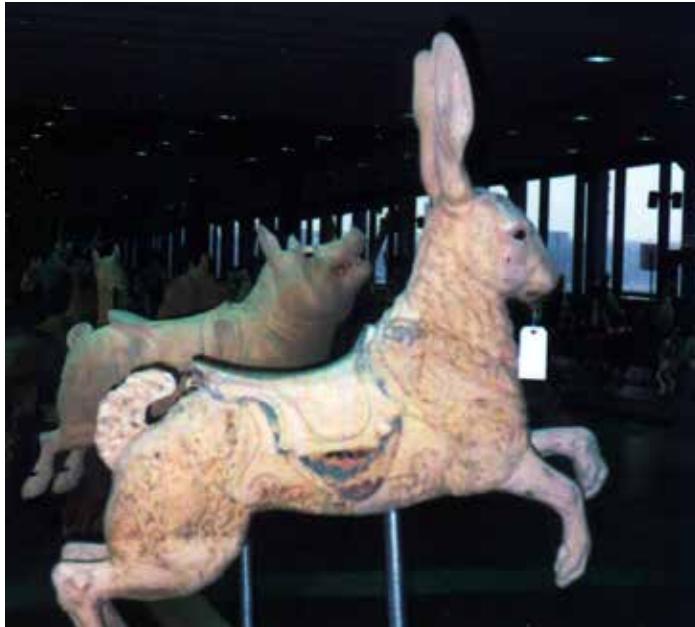
lower platform of standing figures included an eagle/flag horse, a lion, and a tiger. Some figures were in matching pairs on the first and second rows.

Storytown USA

Storytown USA [now The Great Escape in Lake George, New York], a fairy tale-themed amusement park owned by businessman Charles Wood, opened during 1954. Charley purchased a number of Freedomland attractions for the park [including the] King Rex Carousel (for a reported \$100,000).

On December 16, 1989, individual pieces from the Freedomland/Storytown/Great Escape carousel were auctioned by Guernsey's auction house in New York City. The total price for 69 figures (at Freedomland, the ride included 72 figures) was \$1,321,227, with a 10 percent buyer's premium of \$132,122, making the individual purchases total \$1,453,350. Besides horses, the figures included rabbits, cats, bears, ostriches, deer, giraffes, mules, pigs, and one each of a tiger and lion. Some of the items were stripped of paint. Others were refinished and some were auctioned with a protective fiberglass coating.

The coating was reported to have been applied at



Carousel rabbit and pig stripped for auction.

Freedomland. According to Bill Finkenstein, owner of WRF Designs, a carousel restorer and appraiser in Plainville, Connecticut [see sidebar], the fiberglass is similar to a glaze on a doughnut. The fiberglass resin reacts with fiberglass tape and actually damages the carousel figures.

"Condensation builds up between the fiberglass and the wood, and this affects the detail of the piece," said Bill. "The detail is found in the first couple of inches of the figure."

The use of fiberglass to protect a piece from chips, dents, and the weather, was not unique to the King Rex Carousel, added Bill, who has been involved in this industry for about 40 years. He knew Charley and he prepared the figures for the auction. He stripped the fiberglass from some of the animals and discovered serious deterioration in some pieces that required significant restoration.

During August 1990, Guernsey's held an auction in Saratoga Spring, New York, that included figures from a variety of other carousels and also featured panels, chariots, and a rounding board from the former Freedomland attraction.

"Years later," said Bill, "Charley felt bad about auctioning the carousel and selling it in pieces."

After the auctions, several pieces of the Freedomland attraction found a home at the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol, Connecticut. One is a carved wood inside upper panel. Featured in the main gallery, the panel is about two feet in height and depicts an Indian warrior charging on horseback. A mirror from the ride also can be found in the museum's lobby. It is set in a wood frame with the addition of three light bulbs. Pictures from Freedomland indicate that the original mirror panels did not include lights. The panel and the mirror were restored by WRF Designs.

"Freedomland U.S.A.: The Definitive History" can be found on Amazon

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1683901770/ref=cm_sw_su_dp?fbclid=IwAR2Dd-x5ObvWHXHWt0iiTAYxRvxFGE2VF64YsIDWltRPBY7UEyLEA_AVcEk



William Finkenstein and Gabe Finkenstein at WRF Designs studio in Plainview, Connecticut.

Photo: Michael R. Virgintino Collection

William Finkenstein Appreciates The Art And History Of Carousels

By Mike Virgintino

For more than 60 years, William Finkenstein has admired the history and the beauty of the world's carousels. The attractions, he said, are wonderful works of art.

When he was younger, Finkenstein attended a pulp show that featured just about everything that was made with paper. Old copies of The Saturday Evening Post were offered by one vendor.

"So, I asked if he had an issue for May 1947, that is the month and year of my birth," said Finkenstein. "He finds the issue and the cover has a Norman Rockwell image of an artist who is painting a carousel."

The magazine cover reinforced Finkenstein's deep appreciation for carousels. He traces his passion to an earlier day when he was just six years old. Finkenstein is one of nine children of ancestors who arrived from Prussia during the late 1800s. The family settled for a time in Amsterdam, New York.

"We had a traveling circus come to town in Amsterdam," recalled Finkenstein. "The circus set up in nearby big fields and I was told to stay on the porch, because the circus had gypsies and children sometimes disappeared when they were around. But, I heard the music and smelled the popcorn. I went across the street, between a church and graveyard. I became mesmerized by the carousel. The animals were going up and down and all the children were having fun."

"I then felt a hand on my shoulder," continued Finkenstein, "and it was a state trooper who knew me, because my grandfather was a judge. The trooper took me home and I got the lecture again about the gypsies."

Carousels continued to enter Finkenstein's life.



William Finkenstein carefully restores a section of a carousel at WRF Designs studio in Plainview, Connecticut.
Photo: WRF Designs.

His father, an engineer with General Electric, frequently moved the family. Recreation time included rides on many different carousels.

The Art Of Carousels

One day, Finkenstein received a paint set and chalk from his mother. The surprise sparked his interest in art.

"I created a number of pieces and then attended a craft show to display about 30 images," said the artist. "Within an hour, I had only three left and made \$1,800. My father told me to go home and paint more while he stayed to sell the remaining pieces."

Finkenstein's early art career included sign work, drafting and then teaching mechanical drafting. The family had moved to Connecticut and, finally, the day arrived when he began to work with wooden carousel horses. His company, WRF Designs, focuses on the appraisal and restoration of carousels from across the country.

"Many years ago, a relative who knew I painted brought over a carousel horse for me to refurbish," said Finkenstein. "Then, the owner of the nearby (Southington) Lake Com-pounce Amusement Park called and asked if I would restore the park's wood carousel. From there, calls for carousels that required restoration have continued to come in."

Finkenstein and his wife, Claudia, started the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol. They invested significantly with their finances and time to gather the collection and secure the museum's success and popularity.

Restoring America's Carousels

Finkenstein and his son, Gabe, who works in the business with him, have restored many of the famous carousels from Binghamton, New York, the Carousel Capital of the World. They also have restored a carousel from New Orleans that was damaged during a hurricane.

Recently, the Finkensteins were commissioned to restore the 1915 Mangels-Carmel attraction from New York's Rye Playland in Westchester County. The carousel was damaged by water when its roof caught fire several years ago.

"A carousel is a beautiful attraction," concluded the senior Finkenstein. "But it also is history."

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Cowboy Star, "Hopalong Cassidy", William Boyd, Opened the Los Angeles Park in 1951

A Look at Hoppyland, Kiddie Amusement Park in Venice, CA, and its Carousel



Hopalong Cassidy (William Boyd) on the Hoppyland carousel in 1951. Barbara Williams collection

The Hoppyland Carousel

By Barbara Williams

Hopalong Cassidy

Hopalong Cassidy was a TV-land, cowboy hero of the 1950's along with Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and The Lone Ranger. They rode into children's lives on their equally-heroic horses, Topper, Trigger, Champion and Silver, respectively, with fast-action tales about good guys and bad guys. The worshiped, larger-than-life cowboy characters became famous movie stars and put their names on lunchboxes, sandwich bread, watches, six-shooters and much more.

Hoppyland

As an extension of his cowboy fame, William Boyd, the actor who portrayed Hopalong Cassidy, opened a kiddie-themed amusement park, Hoppyland, in 1951 (1). It was in the Venice area of Los Angeles, not far from the historic canals that had made the city famous.

Hoppyland had the usual kiddieland amusement park fun with rides, games, ponies, prizes, etc., and it had a full-sized carousel. It was used in promotional pictures for advertising the new, celebrity-owned amusement park because of its large sea serpent that was especially eye-catching (1).



Hopalong Cassidy and a trolley full of Hoppyland attendees in 1951. The carousel is in the background on the right.

Barbara Williams collection

Boyd, easy-going and well-liked, recruited his fellow actors to come to the park for publicity, but Hoppyland didn't live up to financial expectations and only last a few years (2). It closed in 1954, just before Disneyland was set to open, which would jettison expectations about going to the amusement park to a whole new level, and when Davy Crockett was fast-becoming the new western hero (3).

The Hoppyland Carousel

Over the years, in modern times, the carousel became known as the Hoppyland carousel by researchers seeking to know more about it, that having been its most recognizable location.



A family outing to Hoppyland for cotton candy and perhaps a carousel ride. Undated photo.
Barbara Williams collection



The Hoppyland carousel, showing PTC horses, dated September, 1951. The original center area scenery panels look to be gone, replaced with a flat surface and smallish, decorative mirrors.
Barbara Williams collection

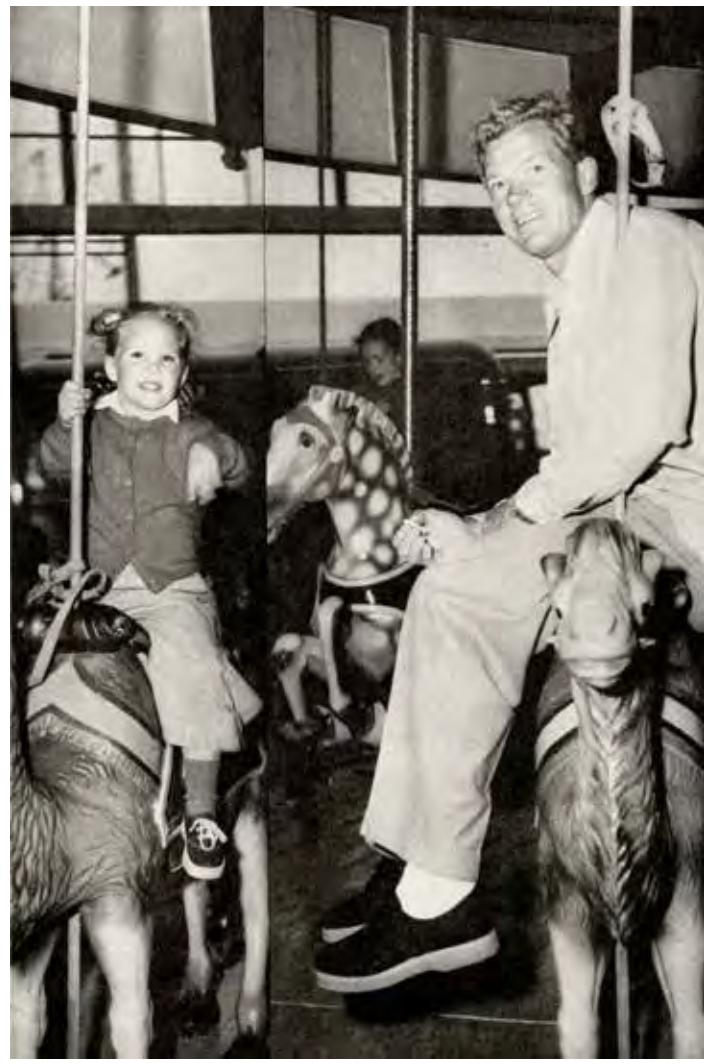


Ride tickets from Hoppyland. There were some adult-sized rides at the amusement park, but most were primarily for children. Barbara Williams collection



Watching Hopalong Cassidy on TV and dressing the part was a big deal in the 1950s.

Credit: Unknown publication, no date.
Barbara Williams collection



Actor Bill Williams, who starred in The Adventures of Kit Carson on TV in the 1950s, rides the Hoppyland carousel with his daughter. They are riding Morris camels.

Hoppyland, Movies, October, 1951.
Barbara Williams collection



The Hoppyland PTC standing horses had long, thin legs and were tall, as was Bill Williams, one of the actors who visited Hoppyland in support of William Boyd's amusement park venture (2).

Atlantic Press, Paris, 1951
Barbara Williams collection

Fitting In

As seen in pictures through the article, the carousel is a 3-row machine with stationary animals on the outside row and 2 inner rows of jumpers. What is able to be seen in photos shows PTC horses and E. Joy Morris Company menagerie animals - 2 sea creatures, 2 camels, 1 zebra, and a feline, perhaps a tiger. (The zebra only shows in a video of Hoppyland.) The sea creature isn't as obvious as to make – Morris or PTC. Two chariots show, positioned to suggest a possible total of four. The earlier-style frames in the center area are flat with scenery paintings and a bit of decorative scroll-work below. The rim shields are not PTC-like with curious, faces staring down at onlookers. The rim's lower edge is typical of PTC, with drop-downs of an oft-used shape, alternating with light-bulbs. The rim itself is flat with no bas-relief carvings, just scenery paintings. There is a signature panel on the carousel, proclaiming that it is PTC-made.

Since there isn't documentation about the carousel's year of manufacture, the carousel, itself, presents the next

most reliable evidence as to when it was made. The PTC horses on the Hoppyland carousel are of the long, slender leg style. It is seen on 1912's #22, for example, and other PTC carousels that precede it, and #'s 23, 24, and 25, from 1912. These three carousels are significant in that they

had Morris menagerie animals combined with PTC horses, like the Hoppyland carousel. They were stationary carousels, with animals that did not go up and down, while Hoppyland's carousel had inner rows of jumpers, making it more in keeping with what was popular by 1912. Otherwise, the features of the four carousels are much the same (5)(6).

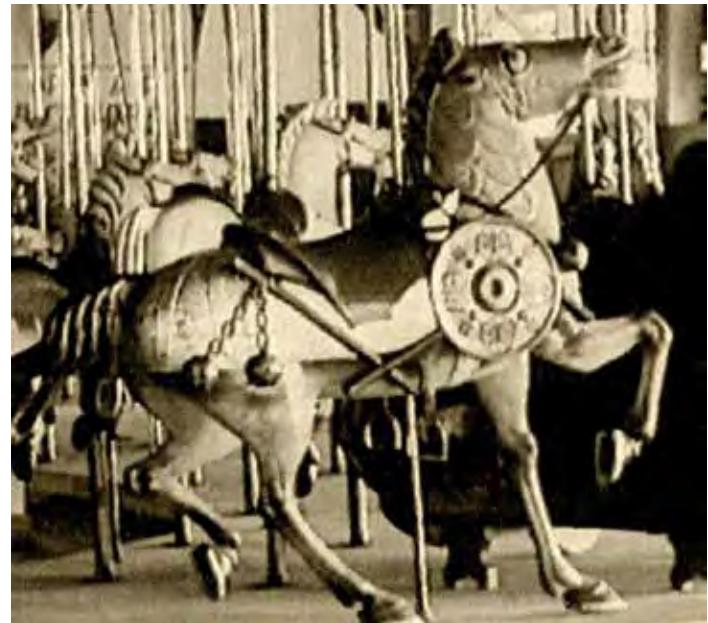
The next carousel was #26, made in 1913, a portable with all horses, altogether different, but #27, also a portable, had unusual rim shields, similarly unique to those on the Hoppyland carousel. It was made in 1913 (4).

So, sometime around 1912 could be the year of manufacture for the Hoppyland carousel. The first surfacing of the carousel is in 1921, but by then PTC was making carousels with little that resembled the Hoppyland carousel, except the outer row standing horses, and that was a PTC tradition. The Hoppyland carousel was clearly from an earlier period, with some parts that were even earlier. PTC bought-out the Morris Company in 1903, so the menagerie animals were made before that (5). The PTC horses look to be from the time period in which the carousel was made.



E. Joy Morris camel, PTC 6, 1905. It is similar to Hoppyland's carousel's camels.

Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams collection



PTC 22, 1912 – Asbury Park, New Jersey. A PTC factory photo taken at the time of installation. The PTC horse style has the long slender legs. Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams collection



PTC #27, 1913 – The portable carousels were all jumpers. The rim shields have the lion faces. The inset shows how the carousel was transported as it went to its bookings. Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams collection

PTC 23, 1912, Schenley, Park, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Special-ordered for free riding, #23's, 24 and 25, were made at a reduced cost, using stationary animals, with the menagerie selection varying from carousel to carousel (6). The tiger on the left is a Morris animal, the horse at the center is a PTC. The deer on the right is also a Morris animal. The carousel's framework is plain with earlier-style panels in the center. The Hoppyland carousel was also a combination of Morris and PTC animals.

University of Pittsburgh, Richard Bowker collection



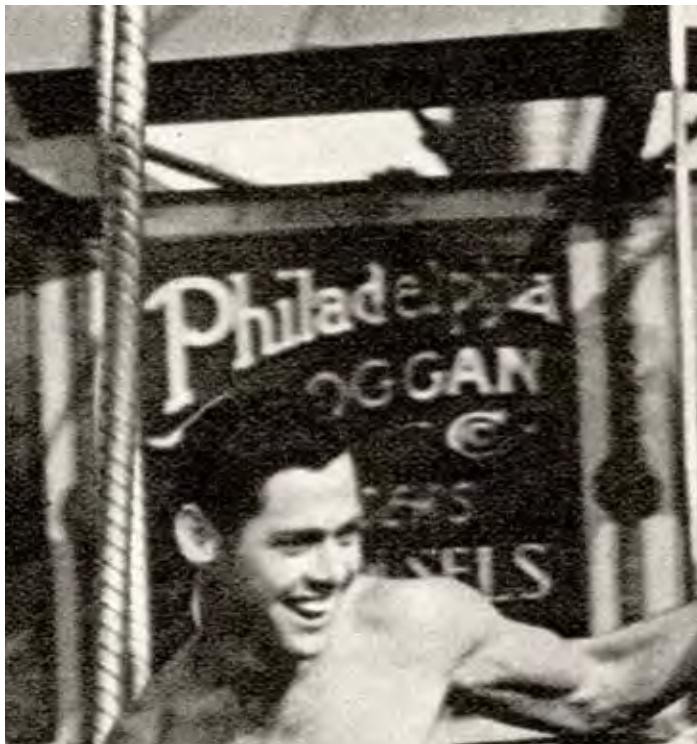


The carousel at the Fun Zone, Balboa, Newport Beach, California in 1940. The carousel was featured in an article about the masses of young folks who flock to Balboa for raucous Spring Breaks. A horse with an animal skin saddle is seen (right) as is an unusual, sea-horse creature (left).

Look, "6,000 Boys Meet 6,000 Girls", June 4, 1940, Paul Dorsey, photographer. Barbara Williams collection



The path leading towards the ever-popular Fun Zone, as seen in the 1960's. Barbara Williams collection



The signature panel on the carousel reads, in part, "Philadelphia Toboggan Carousels"

Look, "6,000 Boys Meet 6,000 Girls", June 4, 1940, Paul Dorsey, photographer. Barbara Williams collection



Point Defiance Park, Point Defiance, Washington, circa 1910.
Barbara Williams collection

The Trail of the Hoppyland Carousel

The Hoppyland-PTC carousel's history is without pictures for some locations and there are pictures of the carousel at a location that remains unidentified. There are periods in which the carousel isn't accounted for which could represent unknown locations and the possibility of storage.

The timeline is made up of findings by Fred Dahlinger, Jr., (1921 to 1929), and Barbara Williams, (1936 to 1969). The entries are either specific, with documentation, or circumstantial, where they fit with other information.

A Timeline from 1921 to 1969

The Carousel's Proposed Year of Manufacture – 1912

Washington

September 1921
Tacoma, Washington
3-row PTC carousel For Sale by H.G. Riehl (16)

December 1921
Tacoma, Washington
Steffens Superior Shows
Charles Steffens buys 3 row carousel and Berni organ from George Riehl of Washington (17)

July 1922
Point Defiance, Tacoma, Washington
Steffens' PTC carousel at location (18)

August 1922
Point Defiance, Tacoma, Washington
Steffens' PTC carousel at location (last mention)
(19)

California

September 1923
Selig Zoo Park, Los Angeles, California
Steffens installs No. 12 Big Eli Ferris wheel (20)

May 1926
Steffens buys new Parker carousel (21)

May 1927

Oakland, California

Steffens' Idora Park rides and games moved to warehouse

Steffens to take his new Parker carousel on the road (22)

January 1929

Oakland, California

Warehouse clear-out of large inventory

Steffens' Superior Shows – 3-row PTC for sale (23)

1936

Fun Zone, Balboa, Newport Beach, California

Fun Zone opens with #12 Ferris wheel bought from Washington seller (24)

1940

Fun Zone, Balboa, Newport Beach

PTC pictured at Fun Zone (25)

1951

Hoppyland, Venice, California

PTC pictured at Hoppyland (page 25, this article)

1954

Hoppyland, Venice, California

Hoppyland Closes (1)

No Date

Streamland Park, Pico Rivera, California

PTC pictured at Streamland (26)

1969-70

Streamland Park, Pico Rivera

Streamland closes (9)

Carousel Animals Sold.



The Fun Zone, Balboa, Newport Beach, California Ferris wheel name plate reads: Big Eli Wheel - Built by Eli Bridge Co. - Roodhouse Ill U.S.A. - Pat'd Aug 8 1905 - No 154-18. This Ferris wheel was originally owned by C.H. Steffens in Seattle, Washington (7). Barbara Williams collection





*At the Fun Zone at Balboa, Newport Beach, the carousel sat next to the water's edge.
The postcard is not dated. Barbara Williams collection*



The off-set colorizing of the postcard all but obliterates the carousel, but the rim decorations up top are identifiable.



The Fun Zone, Newport Beach, California in 1957. The PTC carousel has been replaced with a different carousel.
Barbara Williams collection

Destiny

With standing animals on the outside row, the Hoppyland carousel would have been considered a “park” carousel, the kind found as fixtures at amusement parks, where the stationary animals provided an advantage for catching the brass rings. The park carousels were also where menagerie animals were to be seen. The Hoppyland carousel fits the criteria for being a park carousel, but, instead, it didn’t seem to have any one permanent home and it disappeared for long periods of time. What we know of its installations is that it was at kiddielands, the kinds of locations usually associated with smaller, portable-type carousels.

The carousel started out in Washington’s state’s wilderness park at Point Defiance (8). From there, it journeyed, at least in part, to California kiddielands at beachy Balboa, then onto to Venice, a remnant of times gone by, and, finally, the farmlands of Pico Rivera, where it’s last seen at Streamland Park. The unaccounted-for periods in-between installations would represent additional locations or storage.

Ownership by Steffens, a concessionaire, namely a supplier of rides, arcade games and carnival attractions, may have started the carousel on its nomadic journey by the sheer nature of the business. Its arrival date in Southern California isn’t known, but it appears to be there when it

is advertised for sale in 1929. Ownership of the carousel is unclear after that. Once in Southern California, it didn’t seem to stray far, though, with three confirmed locations, covering a twenty-five-year span of time.

By the 1960’s, the Hoppyland carousel was 55 years old. Where photographed over the years, it was in outdoor settings with only overhead protection, so its condition was compromised (9). After Streamland closed, the animals were bought by a young couple from Venice for re-selling to finance the start-up of an antique business.



One of Venice’s three miniature trains ended up at Streamland Park, in Pico Rivera. It had been at Venice from 1903 to 1926 (1). Barbara Williams collection



Venice miniature train at Streamland Park, in Pico Rivera.
Barbara Williams collection



Children's birthday parties were popular at Streamland Park.
Barbara Williams collection



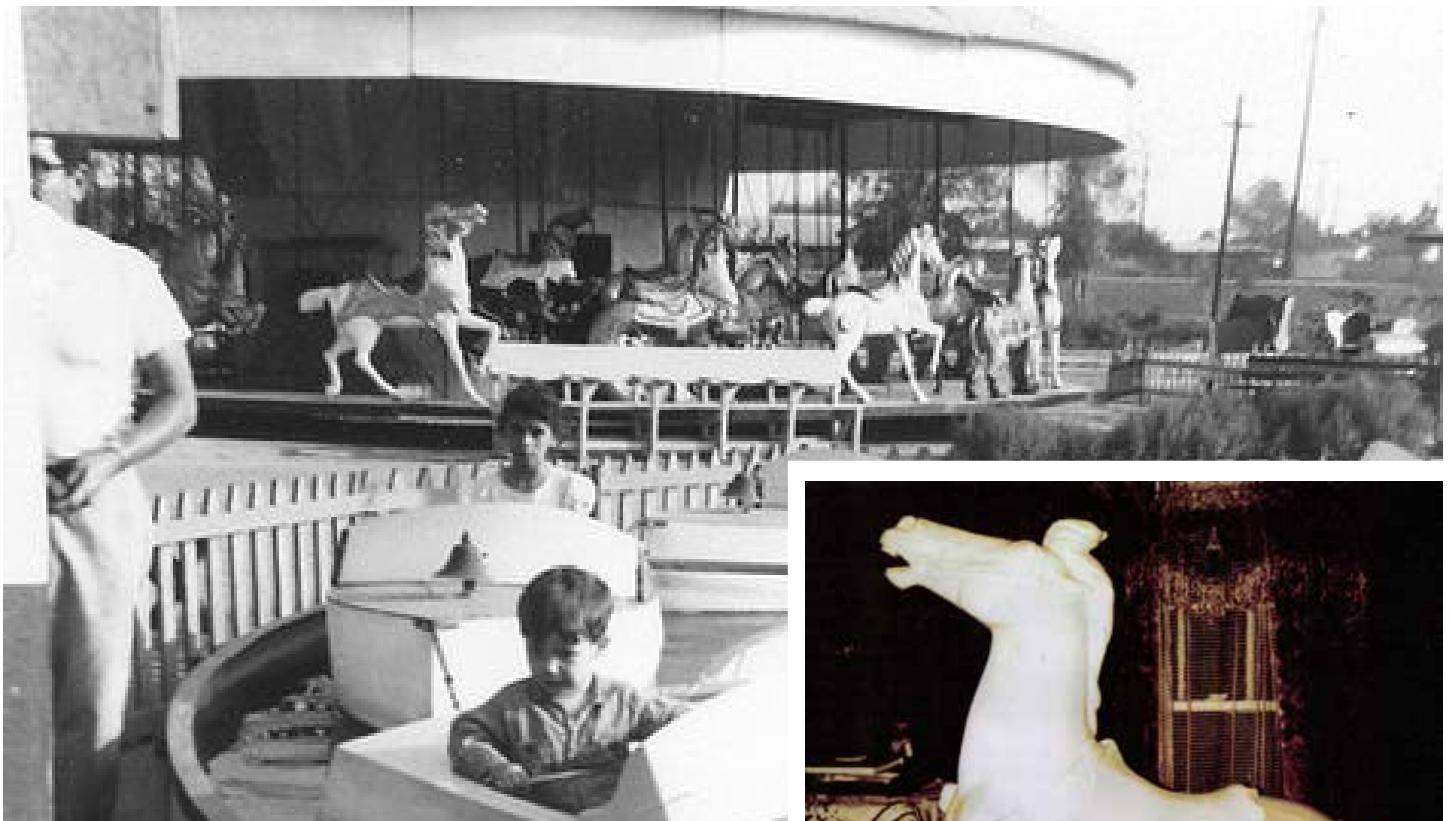
The pony rides at Streamland Park. Barbara Williams collection



Boat rides at Streamland Park, Pico Rivera, 1960's.
Barbara Williams collection



Streamland's mini-coaster was a thrilling ride for children. Barbara Williams collection



The carousel was one of ten rides at Streamland Park in Pico Rivera. A Morris sea horse is seen (center) as is what looks like a Morris tiger, going around the outer edge of the platform on the right. The rim shields are gone. Streamland opened in 1940 and closed in 1969 (10). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/craniumcellar/75497424/> (26)



One of the Hoppyland outside row, standing horses, in profile. Credit – Rol and Jo Summit – Flying Horses



Hoppyland animals in a collection after the carousel was sold off in parts. Carousel historians, Rol and Jo Summit, had the opportunity to photograph them shortly, thereafter. Rol and Jo Summit - Flying Horses



*One of the inner row PTC jumpers from the Hoppyland carousel and a Parker on the left.
Credit – Rol and Jo Summit – Flying Horses*



The Hoppyland-PTC carousel in a stereoview card from 1923. It is on slightly curved, rigid cardboard, measuring 7" x 3 1/2". When in a viewer, the double image creates a 3D effect. Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams Collection

The Stereoviews

The carousel is seen in a set of stereoviews, showing it at an unidentified location. They are dated 1923 by the Exhibit Supply Company that marketed them for use in arcade viewing machines where pictures flipped when coin-activated, creating motion (11). The activity in the stereos is of a child cavorting on the carousel in a manner that appears to be naughty.

There are nine stereos. They are numbered 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 11 and 14, with six missing in the sequence. In #1, the boy is approaching the carousel. He then proceeds to climb around on the carousel, unnoticed, until #14, when the operator appears. It's not known if that's the end of the series or if the boy is escorted away in additional views.

The stereoview pictures of the carousel were taken in

1923, the year Steffens' Superior Shows, installed a Big Eli Ferris wheel at the Selig Zoo in Los Angeles, California (12). It was near downtown, adjacent to ostrich and alligator farms (13). Selig Zoo expansion plans were announced in 1923 that included a new, Luna Park with amusements. But, the grandiose plan did not happen and the faltering zoo was sold before the end of the year. A Luna Park did open, briefly, across the street at municipal Lincoln Park, but it had a different carousel (14). (1924 Spillman Engineering)

An arrival in California 1923 for installation at the Selig Zoo, along with the Ferris wheel, for a short stay in conjunction with the projected development, is worth considering because of Steffens' ownership of the carousel prior to and after that year.

The band organ that shows in the center area is a No. 33 Ruth, best seen in stereoviews #'s 4 and 14. (15).



The child cautiously approaches the carousel, and is soon behaving badly. Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams collection



In this undated snapshot, the skin-saddle horse is seen that shows in the 1940 photo of the carousel when it was at the Fun Zone. The photo looks to be from the 1920's, judging by the girl's clothing. There is a wrap of tape on the sea creature's outer front leg that shows in the 1923 stereoviews.

Barbara Williams collection

www.carouselcorner.net



A website for carousel enthusiasts.

Read *The Carousel News & Trader* and *Merry-Go-Roundup* articles. See pictures of carousels, past and present; vintage carousel photos; carousels in the movies and old carousel postcards. There's a special section about the Santa Monica Pier Carousel – a historic profile; the initial restoration of the carousel and restoration of its building, the Looff Hippodrome.

Newly Redesigned.

Updates in progress.

*Site Host and Contributor,
Barbara Williams*

This is a non-profit, educational site.



The upper rim shields on the Hoppyland carousel are a curious lot, having faces with puzzling expressions.
Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams collection



The rim of PTC #27, a portable carousel. It has lion-faced rim shields that are quite like the style of the face shields on the Hoppyland carousel. Stenciling, seen on the rim decoration piece, was a PTC practice.
Fred Fried PTC Archive, Barbara Williams collection



One of the Hoppyland carousel's rim face shields after being stripped of paint. Rol and Jo Summit – Flying Horses



Hoppyland carousel rim shield with an imposing face. Lourinda Bray collection. Rol Summit, Lourinda Bray



Above: Lion-faced, PTC 27 rim shield. Lourinda Bray collection. Rol Summit, Lourinda Bray
Right: Another of the Hoppyland rim shield with the unusual faces. Rol and Jo Summit – Flying Horses



Right: Another of the Hoppyland rim shield with the unusual faces. Rol and Jo Summit – Flying Horses

Retrospect

It would be nice to know the circumstances under which the carousel was made by PTC, with its old and new parts and why it doesn't have a catalog number. It would be great if there were no gaps in the carousel's history, so all of its whereabouts over the years was known. It's difficult to not be able to confirm the 1923 location. However, in spite of what is not known, in the found material, the carousel's presence is affirmed with places, dates and pictures. So, while incomplete, the carousel's story has come a long way.



Selig Zoo entrance, 1920's. The zoo is a possible location for the carousel when it first came to Southern California in 1923. The zoo doubled as a source of animals for the movie business (27). Barbara Williams collection

Gratitude

It's always great to be able to bring something out of obscurity and into recognition, as with the Hoppyland carousel. It may not have gotten much in the way of appreciation as it earned its keep over the years, but now it can. Thank you to Fred Dahlinger, Jr., Rol and Jo Summit, Lourinda Bray, Paul Brewer, former Streamland Park employee, and Fried Fried (posthumously) for their input and helping to put together the legacy of the Hoppyland carousel. Special thanks to Roland Hopkins, editor, The Carousel News, for making the presentation of the Hoppyland article possible.

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 - 5 William Manns, E J Morris, *Philadelphia's Forgotten Carousel Builder*, The Carousel News & Trader, March, 1989



At the Selig Zoo in the 1920's. Los Angeles's City Hall can be seen in the background, above the lion's head. The Hoppyland carousel, with its exotic animals, would have fit right in at the zoo.

Harry Quillen photograph, Barbara Williams collection

6 Barbara Williams, Philadelphia Toboggan Company #23, Merry Go Roundup, Spring 1996

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A Look at the Carousel Before, During and After Horse Restorations

PTC 72 From Kiddieland, Chicago to Sonny's Place in Connecticut



Restored horses aboard PTC 72. John Caruso photo

SOMERS, CT – PTC #72 carousel is back in Connecticut and spinning again as the horses are restored one-by-one until all 48 are completed.

The carousel has a rich history, starting in 1925 at Delaware Beach, New Castle, Delaware; then it operated from 1929-1945 at Lakewood Park, Waterbury, CT. From there records show from 1945-1951 it was back to the Philadelphia Toboggan Company Factory in Philadelphia, PA to be refurbished.

In 1952 the carousel re-emerged at Kiddieland Park, Melrose Park, Illinois, where it operated until 2009. From 2009-2017 the carousel was in Storage in Chicago, Illinois.

In 2017 it made its debut at Sonny's Place, Somers, CT.

Since arriving at Sonny's Place in May 2017, considerable work has been done to prepare this ride for years of service. The 48 horses on the carousel restored by the New

England Carousel Museum. For the time being, when riding our carousel, you may notice a few horses missing for restoration. This will continue until all of 48 horses are completed by the museum.

PTC #72 has the distinction of carrying 16 signature PTC horses. Other PTC carousels carry one, maybe two signature horses, no others come close to the 16 signature horses on PTC #72. There are no

Once operating in Waterbury, CT, the 1925 PTC #72 with 16 signature horses now in Somers, CT

records to indicate why this carousel was blessed with so many horses touting their maker, PTC.

Arriving in Connecticut in May 2017



New England Carousel Museum photos





Restored outside row stander. John Caruso photo



PTC #72 in Waterbury, CT. Photo courtesy of Tom Rebbie and the PTC Archives



**PTC #72
upon
opening in
New Castle,
Delaware in
1925.**

Photo courtesy of Tom
Rebbie and the PTC
Archives

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Before and afters. Jean Bennett photos.





PTC #72 horse before and afters courtesy of Jean Bennett.







PTC #72 horse before and afters courtesy of Jean Bennett.



Restoration at the New England Carousel Museum



Juan doing paint removal.



Full body in paint removal stage.



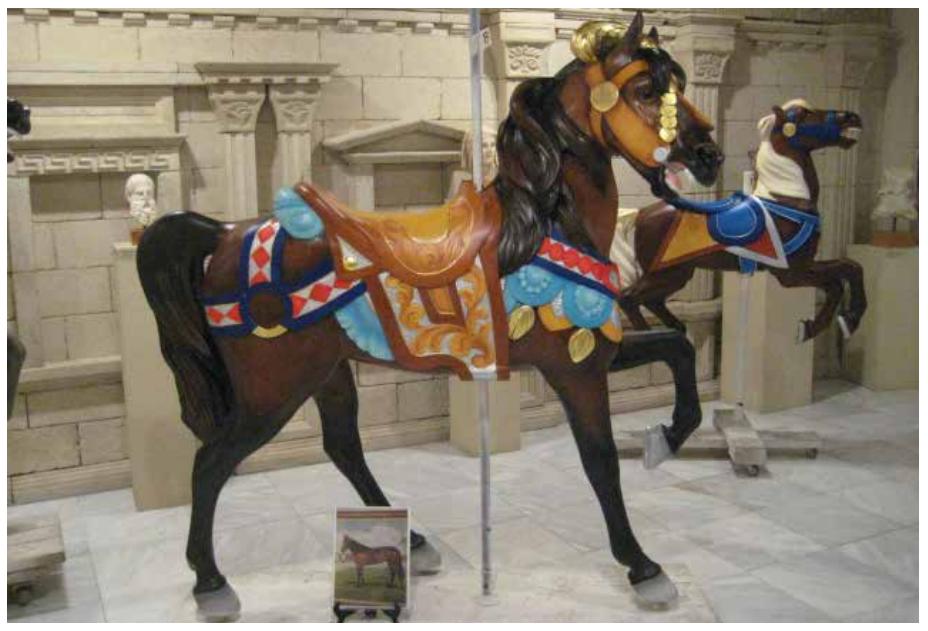
Nail removal by Juan and Chris.



Belly restoration in shop.



Master painter Judy Baker.



Completed stander.



Outside row stander in primer with gold leaf.



Painting the detailed trapping.



Dapple painted head with gold leaf applied.



Judy Baker painting the saddle.



Completed outside row stander.



Stander awaiting restoration.



Carved flower detail stripped to bare wood.



Outside row stander brass plate.



Artist Lisa Gibson-Ronalter painting.



A row of standers awaiting their turn at restoration.



Artist brushes and paints.

A VISIT TO: "Touchable" Exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History

The World of Carousel Animals and Childhood Toys that Rock, Bounce & Roll



American, Wonder Horse, spring rocking horse, circa 1940.

This was our introduction story to the exhibit in the last issue. In this issue, we will take you on a photographic walk through the Pasadena Museum of History...

PASADENA, CA - The Pasadena Museum of History invites visitors to bask in the joyful ambiance of quintessential childhood amusements in a uniquely "touchable" exhibition, Giddy Up: Children Take the Reins. Curated by local collector and conservator Lourinda Bray.

The PMH galleries are filled with a dizzying array of more than thirty-five smaller scaled carousel horses and exotic creatures that visitors of all ages will be able to see – and touch. An enchanting photo booth features a double-seat Polar Bear from an English carousel by J.R. Anderson, circa 1920, that children and adults can climb on for a special keepsake photo.

A selection of ride-on horses/animals that rock, bounce, and/or roll, along with a wide variety of animals and carou-

sel themed toys, are also on view. Today we might call these the 'interactive' toys and amusements of yesteryear. They were specifically designed to spark children's imaginations, encouraging youngsters to "take the reins and create their own unique stories and fictional characters as they pretended to be their favorite cowboy film stars or other fictional characters."



Giddy Up is the Museum's second exhibition devoted solely to items from Lourinda Bray's collection. Her Running Horse Studio in Irwindale, CA houses her nearly unimaginable menagerie, along with carousel art, miniatures, toys, and more in 7,000 square feet of merry-go-round memorabilia. Here she carefully restores figures for other collectors and for operational carousels, as well as pieces in her own collection, which spans the history of carousels from the mid-nineteenth century to modern day, with many examples from the "Golden Age of Carousels," considered to be the late 1800s -1929.



Above Left: Metal PTC Cart Pony with add on western saddle converted to a rocker. Center: Italian Papier Mache Rocker. Right: Whitney Reed rocking horse circa 1885.



Glass display case shown above full of very small Ride on Toys. The brown horse rear left is a French piece that converts from a Rocker to a wheeled Push Toy. Most of these are very small sit on Push Toys. Primitive Oxen and Cart made for me by one of my Lourinda's fathers' employees.



Left:
*Most of a Mobo Riding Snail, Tan pony made by Marx which ran on a car battery.
Right. White Mobo pony from England.*



Right:
*More Mobo Toys.
Zebra made by
Hollywood Hobby
Horse Toys, and
designed by silent
movie star, Harold
Lloyd.*



Case of games and puzzles above.



Left: Stein and Goldstein row 2 horse on a glider mechanism made by FAO Schwartz for use in their Toy Department.



Above: Various Spring Riding Toys. The red one at center is the first Wonder Horse.

Right: English pieces made by Lakin circa 1930. Rooster named Big Joe, Elephant.





Case of tin Amusement Toys mostly made by Chein.



Wood PTC pony and cart circa 1930.



English peacock.



Above: Limonaire goat.



Above: Limonaire cat and Bayol Rabbit.
Inset: French Swan and Seal.



Above: A variety of Mexican figures.



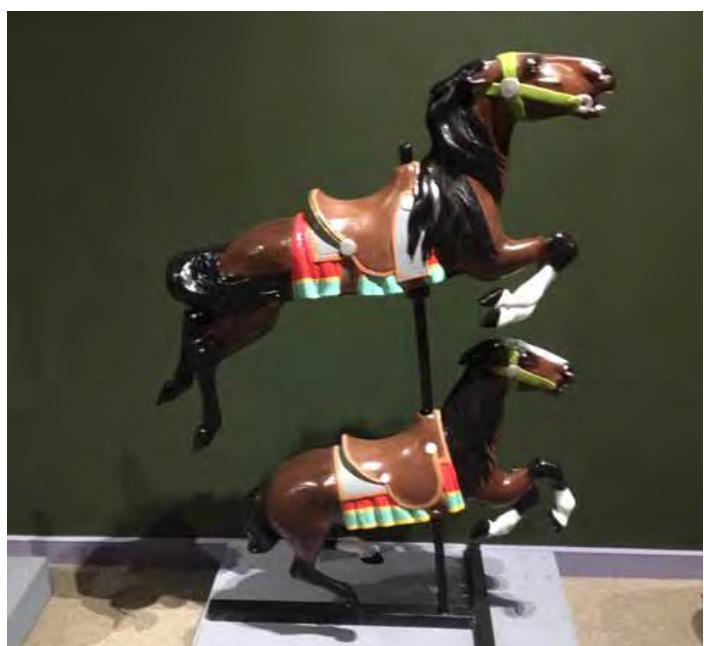
Above left: Mexican Seahorse and Seal. Above Right. German Lion and Hubner pony. Inset right: Dentzel panel with Little Mermaid painting by Helen Werner Cox.



Above: German figures; Heyn pony. Hubner Pig. Bear Chair.



Looff baby Giraffe.



A Pair of metal Allan Herschells from a Little Beauty carousel.



More tin Toys and puzzles.



Looff pony. Circa 1880. Factory paint.



Top: Wood Marx pony from truck mount carousel. Front: Metal Ewart. Behind: Metal Mangels in factory paint.



Selection of Shoo-Fly Riding Toys. Swan is a glider. Panel is Looff.



Mexican Chariot.



Mexican Superman.



Anderson (English) Polar Bear.



A pair of Mexican Apes.



Italian Manticore.



Section of Primitives.



Mexican mermaid and fish.

Running Horse Studio Restoration

Lourinda Bray
626-793-1303
rindalsb@sbcglobal.net



www.runninghorsestudio.com

Western Train Co. Restores Boomtown Casino Flying Horses Fabricon Carousel in Reno



The Boomtown Casino Fabricon carousel.

TEMECULA, CA – This May, 2019, Western Train Co., a California based Amusement Rides Manufacturer, traveled to Reno, NV to perform an inspection on the Carousel at Boomtown Casino & Hotel, made by Fabricon Carousel Co. sometime in the 1990s. The team at Western Train found the carousel to be in non-operating condition and made arrangements with Boomtown Casino to restore the machine at their workshops in Temecula, CA. After weeks of restoration to major parts of the machine, Western Train Co. successfully re-installed the restored carousel in its dedicated room in Boomtown Casino & Hotel, where it is now operating for guests to enjoy.

When asked about the restoration, Western Train Co. Marketing Director Anthony Marquez said, "When we first saw the carousel it was in pretty rough shape mechanically, the horses and vanity pieces were mostly accounted for,

but the real problem was in the structural pieces of the carousel. We found broken sweeps, rotted out mud-sills, bent structural supports, and critical bearings that were completely unusable.

The real challenge wasn't in the parts but in getting the machine disassembled, shipped, and completely restored and re-installed in just 30 days time, that was a test for our workshop guys, but I'm happy we were able to get the machine up and running the way our customers wanted."

Western Train Co. is most known for their miniature Train Rides which run around Amusement Parks all over the world. However, in the past few years the Train Shop from California has turned into a restoration shop for Antique and Historic Carousels. In early 2017, Western Train Co. began the bulk of restorations on several Antique carousels; including a 1927 Illions Supreme, the 1890 Looff "Broadway



The Boomtown carousel stripped back.

Flying Horses" Carousel, a 1920's Dentzel Menagerie Carousel, and most recently this charming little Carousel located in Reno, NV.

Western Train is striving to provide museum quality restorations to Antique Rides and Americana. "We really enjoy working on the carousels, our clients like that we can come in and take a look at their oldest rides (Trains & Carousels) and give them an inspection sheet that lets them know just



Up top working on the main gears and electrical.

what's going on up there."

"Several times with carousels we meet maintenance teams who just don't know where to start looking for problems, so we are very happy to be able to step in and help", says Marquez.

While they are in progress on their current restoration projects and installing new railroads, Western Train Co. continues to offer museum quality restorations to local parks.

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Ken Means Moves Shop to Franklin, TN



Ken Means carved carousel lion at his new Factory at Franklin.

By John McBryde

Reprinted courtesy of BrentwoodHomePage.com

Ken Means thought July 25 was a good day to move to Franklin.

It was, after all, National Carousel Day.

Step into the main entrance of the Factory at Franklin and you'll get the connection. Along one corner of the building is a glass-walled space that has been housing all manner of carousel animals since Means and his wife, Bettie, moved from their home in Myrtle Point, Oregon, to Williamson County last week. They brought with them a menagerie of intricately carved and painted horses, lions, rabbits, roosters and more, as well as four or five unfinished pieces.

"My daughter lives here and has been wanting us to move here for some time," Means explained as he chiseled away at a figure that would eventually become a well-paint-

ed donkey. "She told us she rented this space on a one-year lease, so after talking about it for about a week, we decided to make the move."

Means is a master carver, painter and mechanical engineer, best known for the carousel animals he has created and had commissioned for Merry-Go-Rounds throughout the world. His first creation was a wooden rocking horse he made for his children in 1979.

In Myrtle Point, he owned a three-story building with a floor that served as a showroom for his collection of carousel animals. It also included a basement where he taught the art of wood carving for almost 27 years.

"People came from all over the United States and Canada, with some from Hawaii and Australia," Means said. "The classes were always booked. There was one student from Oakland, California, who waited three years just to get in the class, and one from Denver who waited two years."



Ken with William Shatner and the horse he carved for him.

"We might start a school here, I don't know."

The rented space in The Factory serves as both Means' workshop and his showroom of 20 carousel animals. He spent a recent weekday carving on an unfinished piece that was strapped to a table while taking questions from moms and dads and children who were in awe of the collection.



noon-5 p.m.) so I can work more."

Asked if he had a favorite piece, Means simply said "the next one I create."

"I have a great vision for this guy here," he said, pointing to one of the unfinished pieces. "It's going to be a tiger — a sneaky tiger — with a big monkey swinging off a vine behind him, and then wrapping around in front is going to be a very large snake. It's going to be really spectacular. I hope to have him done by Christmas."

More information on Means, and a gallery of the animals he has created, can be found at his website. Or visit his space at The Factory for up-close looks at his creations. <https://kenmeanscarousel.com/>



Ken on the local news.

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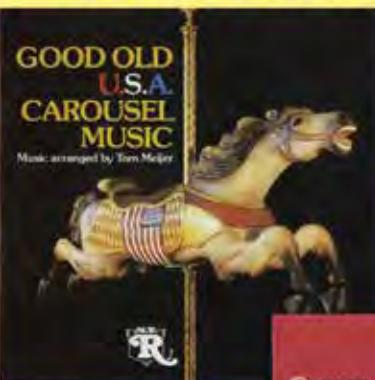
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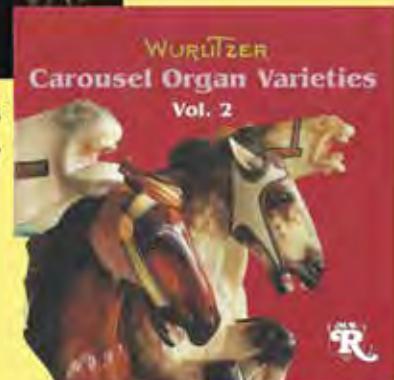
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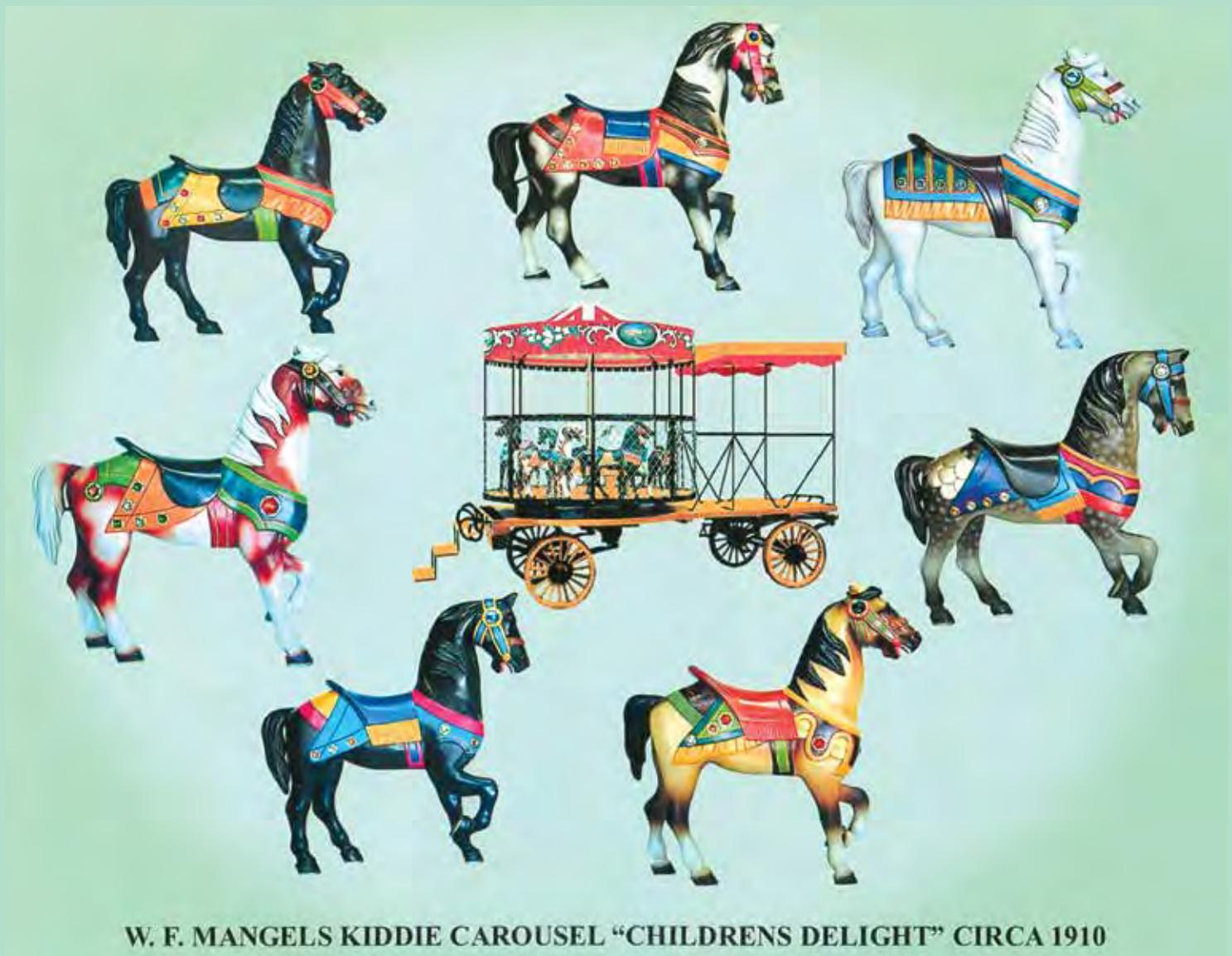


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4.Lady of Spain, Paso Doble	Tolchard Evans
5.There's A Ring Around The Moon,	Al Bowlly
6.Poor Butterfly, Two Step	Raymond Hubbell
7.Ben Bolt March, March	John Philip Sousa
8.Red Roses For A Blue Lady, Fox Trot	Tepper & Brodsky
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6.Mexican Hat Dance = El Jaleo Tapatio, Teardilla	Traditional
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