



*The*  
**Carousel**

*News & Trader*

August 2009  
Vol. 25, No. 8  
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***INSIDE THIS ISSUE:***

**Glen Echo Park's 1921 Dentzel  
Spins on in Maryland**

**Parker Meets Stein & Goldstein  
in Pueblo City Park, Colorado**

**A Look Back at Beech Bend  
Dentzel in Bowling Green, KY**

**Tribute to Bob Varga and  
Oklahoma's Carousel History**

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# 2009 NCA Convention



## NCA Philadelphia "Freedom" Tour Sept. 23-27 2009

### **"You Spelled Freedom Wrong!"**

No, we didn't. Our convention in 2009 is named in honor of Frederick Fried, a co-founder of the National Carousel Association. No one would have believed that his carousel, said to be Dentzel's favorite, would make its way back from storage in an old mill to be completely restored and ridden again. For the finale of our tour, we will view and ride this carousel at the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia.

Our nation formed its roots right here in Philadelphia, as did many of our favorite carousels. We have so many to show you that we even had to skip a few.

Along the way you will experience the best of Pennsylvania. We will show you Hershey, the PA Dutch, the coal regions, and historic Philadelphia. And you will love the food!

So get your cameras, your walking shoes, and your hearty appetites ready! This is not a convention to miss!

### **Carousels We Plan to See:**

- Dorney Park, Allentown, PA - 1921 Dentzel 4-row
- Hersheypark, Hershey, PA - 1919 PTC #47
- Pottstown Carousel - 1905 PTC #9 frame with Ed Roth carvings
- Perkasio Carousel - 1951 Allan Herschell 3-row metal
- Weona Park, Pen Argyl, PA - 1900 Dentzel, original paint
- Peddler's Village - 1922 PTC #59 frame, Ed Roth carvings.
- Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, PA - 1924 Dentzel restored
- Soupy Island, Thorofare, NJ - 1900 Heyn 4-row

### **Pre-convention Tour – Wednesday September 23rd:**

- Millville Fire Company, PA - 1920 Allen Herschell 3-row
- Knoebel's Grove, Elysburg PA - 1923 Kremer/Carmel 4-row and 1910 Stein & Goldstein 2-row

### **Also planned:**

A visit to Arnold's Fun Center; free time at Chocolate World, Hershey, PA; tour the incredible cement castle of Henry Chapman Mercer in Bucks County, PA; Shady Maple Smorgasbord, Lancaster County.



*Please Touch 1924 Dentzel*



*Dorney Park 1921 Dentzel*



*Pen Argyl 1900 Dentzel*



*Hersheypark 1919 PTC #47*

**Convention Hotel:** Doubletree Suites, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. (610) 834-8300. \$129 per night includes breakfast for two. All rooms are suites. Reserve Now!

Future Details, Updates and Registration Info to follow at NCA website:

[www.nca-usa.org](http://www.nca-usa.org)

# ON THE COVER



August 2009  
Vol. 25, No. 8

*Beautiful lion restored  
by Rosa Ragan  
aboard the 1921  
Dentzel menagerie  
carousel at Glen Echo  
Park in Maryland.*

Photo by  
Bruce C. Douglas

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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.*

Visitors to **Midway Park** in New York will find the carousel in a new location this year. The structure around the carousel is in need of repair. Until that can be completed, New York State park officials, who own the site and wanted to keep the carousel operational, moved it to the ancillary parking lot. Mike Miecznikowski, general park manager for the Allegany region, which includes Midway, said the state park system bought Midway Park in 2006 and opened it in 2007 when they knew there were some issues that needed addressing. He said staff put in a new water system, took down substandard cottages and began looking to repair the hippodrome, where roller skating occurred, and the carousel building, where foundation concerns and seven layers of roofing were issues.

"It's our intent to have a premier building restored to historic preservation standards," said Miecznikowski. "In the



mean time, we did not want to deny people," he said about the carousel. While the analysis is being done and a restoration plan is being put together so funds can be sought and the building can be restored. The staff wanted the carousel to remain functional. Since its design allowed for the ride to be taken down and moved from town to town as part of traveling carnivals, moving the ride was feasible, he said, adding it is now located at the ancillary parking area.

Midway Park was privately operated by the Walsh family for about 50 years prior to the state park's system purchasing the park. Although a master plan is being done by the state for the park's future, Miecznikowski said the state plans to maintain the family atmosphere of the park. He said it is one of the longest continuously-running parks in the country, being first-established in 1898 as a trolley park.

Midway Park's rides are open from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday beginning June 20, although the park is open seven days a week.

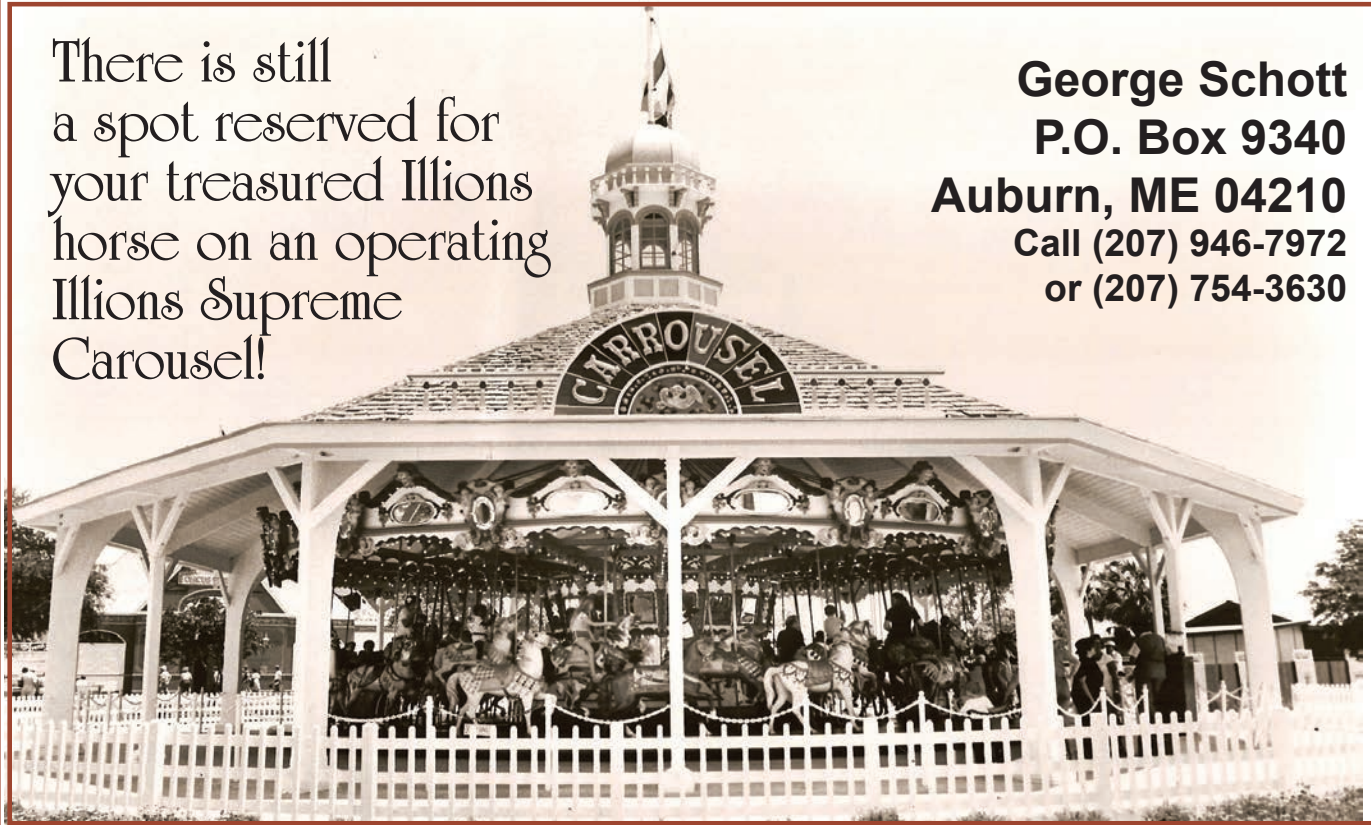
## **Six Flags files for Chapter 11**

The New York-based chain of parks has been trying unsuccessfully this year to renegotiate terms with lenders on hundreds of millions of dollars in debt. The current management team inherited a \$2.4 billion debt load that cannot be sustained, particularly in these challenging financial markets, said Six Flags chief executive Mark Shapiro in a statement. As a result, we are cleaning up the past and positioning the company for future growth

A lot of people I know are hit really hard by this. They did their work in the winter and now they won't be paid. I'm

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glad I didn't get the job to restore the carousel at Six Flags St. Louis this winter. So far no closures are predicted so all of the carousels are safe. Expect to see a lot of wear and tear on the Six Flags carousels and other rides for the next couple of years.

**A carousel ride makes the tabloids...**

Britney Spears took time out of her busy tour schedule to take her sons to **London Zoo** recently. It was reported she was grinning from ear to ear as she rode a carousel with her boys. Stars must be few and far between in London. When the carousel at **Santa Monica Pier** was my concession, stars were there almost daily. The only time it made the news was when they made a spectacle out of themselves and were asked to leave by the police.

**Times are tough but this has to be a low**

A man was charged with theft and possession of cannabis after security guards saw him pocketing cash he allegedly took from children riding on a merry-go-round inside **Chicago Ridge Mall**, police said.

Police said Steven M. Burrows admitted that he had been stealing money from the ride for six weeks when he was arrested.

**Not a carousel horse but a real diving horse and giant muffler men**

The **Magic Forest** in Queensbury, NY, can amuse children and adults, too, with its oddball statues, four giant Muffler Men and retro charm. The magic works before you set foot in the park. A 38-foot, 4,500-pound Uncle Sam statue that's billed as the tallest in the world towers over the parking lot. This is one of the park's four Muffler Men giant fiberglass statues that beckoned automobile travelers in the 1960s and '70s to muffler and tires shops, restaurants and roadside attractions; many altered to fit other themes other than muffler shops. During my road trip doing a book about Route 66, part of the glory was finding these giant men. Real Route 66 travelers just say "giant alert!"

Magic Forest also features a pair of shows, including one in which the country's only diving horse performs. Lightning dives twice a day into a pool of water.

"He's a happy, healthy horse, which we have proven over and over to all the people who think it's cruelty. It's not," said Shelley Cummins, the park manager for 16 years. "How would you like a job where you only had to dive twice a day, only if it's not raining, for 10 weeks? You get taken care of and petted and fed, and there's a companion in your corral. He has an easy life; he's a happy horse. Any human would trade for that."

**Illinois artist uses a carousel horse for auction.**

Linda Doyle of Mundelein, IL, is pursuing her passion of painting whimsical murals and public art pieces. Doyle painted a carousel horse as a public art piece that is on display in Woodstock, IL. She was one of 27 artists selected to paint a full-size carousel horse that is similar in concept

*Continued on page 8*

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# Carousel Calendar

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### June 8 - September 17, 2009

Lake Geneva, WI. Public Art Festival celebrating both the carousel horse and SMILES' 25th anniversary of serving people with special needs. Over 65 pieces of carousel art uniquely created by local and national artists can be seen in the downtown area. Information regarding events, artwork or artists is available at [www.prancingcarousels.com](http://www.prancingcarousels.com).

### August 22, 2009

Newfield, ME. 2nd Annual Old Home Days, sponsored by the Historical Society of Newfield and 19th Century Willowbrook Village. Free admission and free carousel rides. This one-day only Old Home Days event will feature a wide variety of activities: carnival games, carousel rides, concerts, historic craft demonstrations, vendors, and free Willowbrook admission. Demonstrations include Windsor chair making and many more. Check back for additional activities for the day is yet to be fully scheduled. For more information, call Amelia Chamberlain, director, at 207-793-2784. Vendor spaces are available. Individuals and organizations are needed to staff games, etc. Historic craft and trade demonstrators are needed as well as musicians for bandstand concerts. The Village is open 10am to 5pm, 5 days each week, closed Tuesday and Wednesday, through Columbus Day. Admission is usually \$9 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors, \$4 for students ages 6-18, and under 6 free. Visit <http://www.willowbrookmuseum.org>.

### September 23-27, 2009

Philadelphia, PA. "Freedom Tour 2009" - NCA Convention. Note that "Freedom" is misspelled on purpose in honor of Fred Fried. His carousel at the Please Touch Museum will, of course, be a highlight of the tour. Other stops will include Dorney Park, Hersheypark, Pottstown, Weona Park, Peddler's Village, Willow Grove Park Mall and Soupy Island. The pre-convention tour on Wednesday will include Knoebel's Grove with its two great carousels and their fantastic food. Additional stops in Bucks County and Lancaster County will add some non-carousel surprises. For more information, see the ad in this issue and then visit [www.nca-usa.org](http://www.nca-usa.org) and sign up!

## COAA BAND ORGAN RALLYS

### August 14-16, 2009

Waynesville, OH. Contact Norman Gibson. Visit [www.coaa.us](http://www.coaa.us) for more information on COAA rallies and events.

### September 5-6, 2009

Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, CT. Contact Ron Gustafson (203) 758-2913 x109. Visit [www.coaa.us](http://www.coaa.us) for more information on all COAA rallies and events.

### SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

Fax to (818) 332-7944  
or email [roland@carouselnews.com](mailto:roland@carouselnews.com).

## Dan's Desk Cont...

to the "Cows on Parade." The carousel horses will be on display through Sept. 6. They will be auctioned off in September with proceeds benefiting the Main Stay Riding Rehabilitation Program in Richmond.

### More carousel art to be auctioned for charity

Sheila Brown of Elkhorn, WI, volunteered at SMILES therapeutic riding center in Darien, WI, a few years ago. She learned about the program, which specializes in therapeutic riding for children and adults with disabilities. Brown wanted to do more than volunteer. She wanted to create something that would rally the community together around the cause and help raise money to keep the program going. She painted a carousel horse.

The "Prancing Carousels" public art exhibition and fundraiser features more than 60 life-size and tabletop sculptures painted by local and national artists and sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

The painted horses will be on sidewalks and in store windows in downtown Lake Geneva, WI, this summer. The pieces then will be auctioned off Sept. 19, and all proceeds will benefit SMILES.

### Shreveport gets approval for new amusement park

The Shreveport, LA, Metropolitan Planning Commission paved the way Wednesday for construction of an amusement park "We want to provide for the city of Shreveport an experience of such high quality that when people come, they expect a lot, but when they leave, they got a lot more than what they expected," said Ray Bragg, president of Great Adventures Family Fun Park.

"Our goal is to become the destination of family entertainment in northwest Louisiana," Bragg added. The park, tentatively scheduled to be open by December, would gross an estimated \$2 million a year and employ 60 people, Bragg said. Shreveport needs more attractions specifically for children and teenagers, said Stacy Brown, president of the Shreveport-Bossier Tourist and Convention Bureau. "It's very hard to find good clean fun for teenagers when you're traveling. This meets a need in our area."

### Who wants to go to an amusement park when there's a home football game anyway?

The San Francisco 49ers' campaign to get a new stadium built in Santa Clara had started off smoothly, but the Great America theme park is quickly turning these proceedings into a wild ride. The Great America theme park, on whose current parking lot the stadium would be built, has submitted a last-minute request for council to delay voting on the plan – or even reject it altogether. Internal discussions between the 49ers and Cedar Fair have the 49ers offering to pay the amusement park firm roughly \$1 million annually to close on 49er game days. Santa Clara City Council, who seem terrifically motivated to get this deal done and are unlikely to delay or dismiss the vote based on Great America's concerns.



## SAVE OUR WOODEN CAROUSELS

### Notes from Marianne...

By Marianne Stevens

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

Marianne is shown right at a dinner with founding members of the NCA in Sandwich, MA. (Fall 1973)



The month of June means Asilomar to me; a meeting of people who love carousels, in a beautiful, quiet, serene setting in Monterey on the ocean.

It was started in 1979 by Nina Fraley in order for collectors to have a place to share ideas, pictures and discussions. It was originally for local collectors, but the word got out and now people come from all across the country.

This was a more somber meeting since we had lost a prominent member recently – Ruth Illions Pease, and Friday night was dedicated to her – an outstanding lady.

Asilomar is a place for contemplation, walks by the sea shore or in the woods to see if you can spot a doe with a new born. I saw two this year.

Asilomoor is a state run conference ground originally designed by Julia Morgan, that brilliant architect (who also designed Hearst Castle, or San Simeon).

It is a laid back weekend with meals in the dining hall (Hooray -- no the cooking), programs, slide shows, seminars, question and answer periods, a chance to talk to people you don't see from year to year and to catch up on carousel news. A very enjoyable time.

After, Mary Jenkins and I went up to San Francisco for a few days which was fun. I met with my old friend, Sue Hagerty, who is always fun, went to an auction at Bonham & Butterfield – which was well advertised. Thus I was shocked that there were only 10 people in the audience, four of which were in our group.

Most of the bidders were on the phone. It was mostly furniture with a few carousel figures.

After that, we went to visit my old carousel; the Playland Loeff now at Zeum. It still looks grand. It always amazes me what a wonderful carousel it is. Most figures have little secondary carvings behind the saddles to support the riders; flowers, cherubs, dolls, eagles, devils, musical instruments, dog heads... everything clever and creative. All of the armored horses are in a line as are the camels, rams and giraffes.

All the horses in line have their heads up, (or down or out), it gives the carousel a feeling of symmetry... a balanced look; as do the matching colors in the rows... same body color, same color used on the trappings.

When you look at a carousel, the figures that are light in color stand out. The dark ones disappear. There are no dark colors on this carousel.



Zeum Loeff carousel. Emily Bush photo

I was dismayed to read on the "History of the Zeum Carousel" that now I have been reduced to being a "private collector."

I saved that carousel. I made sure it stayed together despite many attempts by others to buy it and part it out. And now, according to the museum, I am referred to as nothing more than a "private collector".

I owned that carousel for 22 years and I protected it for future generations yet unborn.

This is the thanks I get?

I ran it in Long Beach for 13 years, waiting for San Francisco to provide a place for it. To bring it home to a place where it had operated for 62 years and yet no one stepped forward to save it but me. And I did manage to get it back to San Francisco where it belonged... and now per the museum, I am referred to as simply a "private collector."

While so many of our remaining historic carousels still have questions as to their history, this one we know and it is a great one. Beyond the personal insult, it is sad that a museum of such stature would cheat their visitors out of the great history of this machine.

That said, we proceeded with our visit, eating in marvelous seaside restaurants, visiting Sausalito, the Cliff House, (a big disappointment), the Presidio; marvelous places, marvelous fun.

See you in Asilomar next year?

– Marianne Stevens

### JULY CORRECTIONS:

EDITOR'S NOTE: In last month's column, I had typos in the names of "Jon" Abbott and "Edo" McCullough. My sincere apologies to all for these errors.

– Roland Hopkins

# CAROUSEL FAMILY & FRIENDS



Childhood and lifelong friend Jim Lucier with his wife Marci and their two beautiful children recently made a visit to Santa Cruz and the Beach Boardwalk.

Jimbo and I shared the soccer field on our state-champion team in High School and many, many hours battling it out on the tennis court, water skiing in Duxbury Bay back in the day, or snow skiing in New Hampshire.

I've got to get up to San Francisco and see him soon with so many great carousels up there to see as well.

– Roland Hopkins



Jim got quite a kick out of the ring game, though he never told me if he got one into the clown's mouth or not, knowing him and his athletic skill, he probably got a few.



NCA census chairman, Patrick Wentzel with his three grandsons at a birthday party for Patrick given by his daughter, Melissa. I'm pretty sure Pat sent me this picture just for fun, but I thought it would be fun to include it. Happy birthday, Pat!

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## Carousel News & Trader Forum

*(Two new subscribers have added some questions along with their subscription. Maybe someone out there has some answers for them.)*

To Carousel News & Trader,  
Enclosed is my check for \$35.00 for my magazine subscription. Also, does anyone know of any listing of an Alan Herschell half and half that was retired and sold about 1-2 years ago in Virginia? The horses were sold individually.  
– Linda Hayes, New Jersey.

To Carousel News,  
I'd like a year's subscription to The Carousel News. Enclosed is \$35.00.

Last summer I happened upon the Crescent Park Carousel in Riverside, RI. That started my New England tour which included Bushnell Park and the Carousel Museum in CT.

My mom remembered the Euclid Beach Carousel in Ohio in the 1920s, and I grew up on the Fireman's Carnival Carousel in Monroe County of New York State. Any idea where this is? There was a large buckskin jumper, three gray horses, roosters, and dogs (like Spaniels).

– Carolyn Ruf, Chelsea, MA; Takimidnight@yahoo.com

Hi,  
Below is correspondence I have had with St. Louis County, MO, about the 5-abreast Carousel. They say I should contact your publication. My Cousin and I both remember stories of our grandfather owning a mobile 5-abreast carousel in the Midwest somewhere in the 1920s. He was supposedly injured setting it up and sold it to be permanently set up in the St. Louis area. As you can see by the response, they feel that their carousel would be too big to move. Do you know anything about a carousel of this size being built to be portable and being used in the Midwest in the '20s?

– Jay P. Hingst, Prescott Valley, AZ; Hingstj@aol.com

I do not know of any 5-abreast carousels that traveled from fair to fair in the St. Louis area. (The construction on a carousel this size limits its mobility because of its size and weight and the time it takes to assemble...).

Any information can be sent directly or to us here at [info@carouselnews.com](mailto:info@carouselnews.com).

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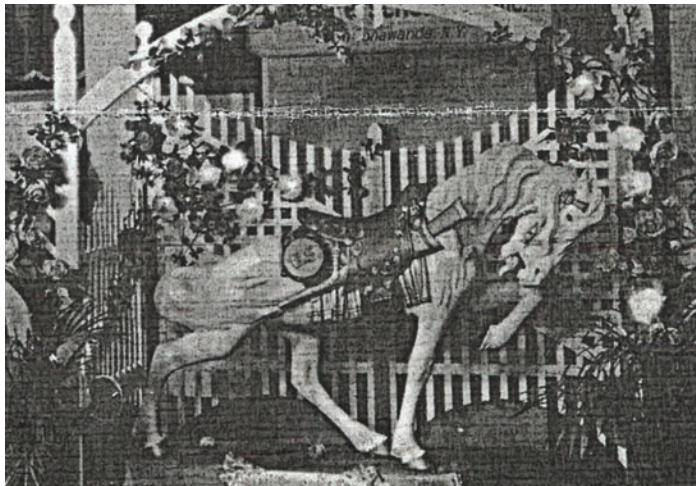


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## Info on this Horse?



*(Here is recent correspondence with a reader looking for information on this horse. Sorry the picture is so poor, but it is from an old news clipping.)*

Mr Hopkins,  
I have an old photo of a horse that was on display at the Chicago World's Fair back in the early 1900's. It looks as though it was on display in a booth. It looks like some type of military style wooden horse. It looks to be real big. If I was to send you a picture of it is there a way to include it in an issue to see if there is any response to its whereabouts or what happened to it. Somehow my family has had this picture for ages.

Here is a copy of the picture of the horse that I mentioned. Sorry if it is not to clear. It is all that I have. The picture has been in our family as long as anyone can remember. I don't know if it was the Chicago Fair or not. Our family used to own a small carnival business years ago. The story is that my grandfather saw this horse.

Please let me know if you are going to add it to one of your magazines. I am very interested if anyone out there knows anything about it or even its whereabouts.

Hi Roland,

I contacted the Carousel Museum in North Tonawanda and was able to find some info. On the horse. Just by luck of the draw, they actually have a display there now that features the carver of the horse. They have a picture of the horse there also. He told me that it was carved in 1929. The picture is from a show in St. Louis where it won Best Of Show. As to the whereabouts of the horse, he has no idea. He doesn't know if it still exists. He has a picture of somebody standing next to it and said the horse is big. If it still is around today, he said it would be worth some big bucks. It is up to you if you want to print the picture or not. I don't think my family had anything to do with it. Probably just a horse my grandpa liked.

Thank you,  
Randy  
[randydcricri@msn.com](mailto:randydcricri@msn.com)>

## UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE CAROUSEL MUSEUM



*Model Marisa Svalstedt poses with the flame mane carousel horse created by Marcus Illions. Photograph by Ron Compton.*

On Sunday, June 21st the New England Carousel Museum opened its doors early to host a photo shoot with the carousel horses. Photographer's Ron Compton from Avon, CT and Dennis Ciekliniski (aka Dennis Chunga) from New Milford, CT, along with models Lyndsey Stevens and Marisa Svalstedt (aka Eastwick) and make up artist Jessica Lynn Hill, collaborated to rent the museum for the morning, with the goal of creating some really beautiful photos in the unusual and creative setting.

The Museum staff arrived early on a Sunday morning to open the Museum and work with the photo crew watching for two hours while the photographers staged wonderful looking models with the spectacular carousel animals. The results were splendid, unique photographs. "When we received the call to rent the Museum for this purpose the first thing we did was request the websites of the photographers and models to see the kind of work they have done in the past. This showed us polished, professional work beautifully presented" said Louise DeMars, Director of the Museum. "We were excited about the project because we had always said that the Victorian setting of the Museum would make a

wonderful backdrop for a fashion show or a photo shoot."

Model, Marisa Svalstedt said, "The museum staff was friendly and most helpful, arriving early to open the museum, giving suggestions as to where it would be best to shoot, informing the team which carousel horses were most precious, and assisting the models and photographers safely behind the ropes with special care not to damage the ornate and valuable carousel horses. Overall, the collaborative photo shoot at the New England Carousel Museum was a great success. The team had a wonderful time and enjoyed working with the staff to create beautiful images that flattered both models and the beautiful carousel horses on display."

"As prints from the photo shoot started coming in to the Museum website we were delighted with the results. We were pleased that they chose us as a location for one of their unique photo shoots. We had always dreamed of having either a fashion show or a fashion shoot at the Carousel Museum and we are thrilled with the results. We hope that either Vera Wang or Betsy Johnson are reading this," said Louise DeMars.

For information, visit [www.thecarouselmuseum.org](http://www.thecarouselmuseum.org).

# CAROUSEL NEWS BRIEFS

## JANE'S CAROUSEL FINALLY ANNOUNCES A HOME!



*This great news just in from Jane Walentas.*

*"Finally, a statement was issued from the Governor's Office and we have an agreement to install "Jane's Carousel" in Brooklyn Bridge Park on the East River between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges in DUMBO.*

*My husband, David, and I will be donating the Carousel as well as an exciting pavilion designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect, Jean Nouvel.*

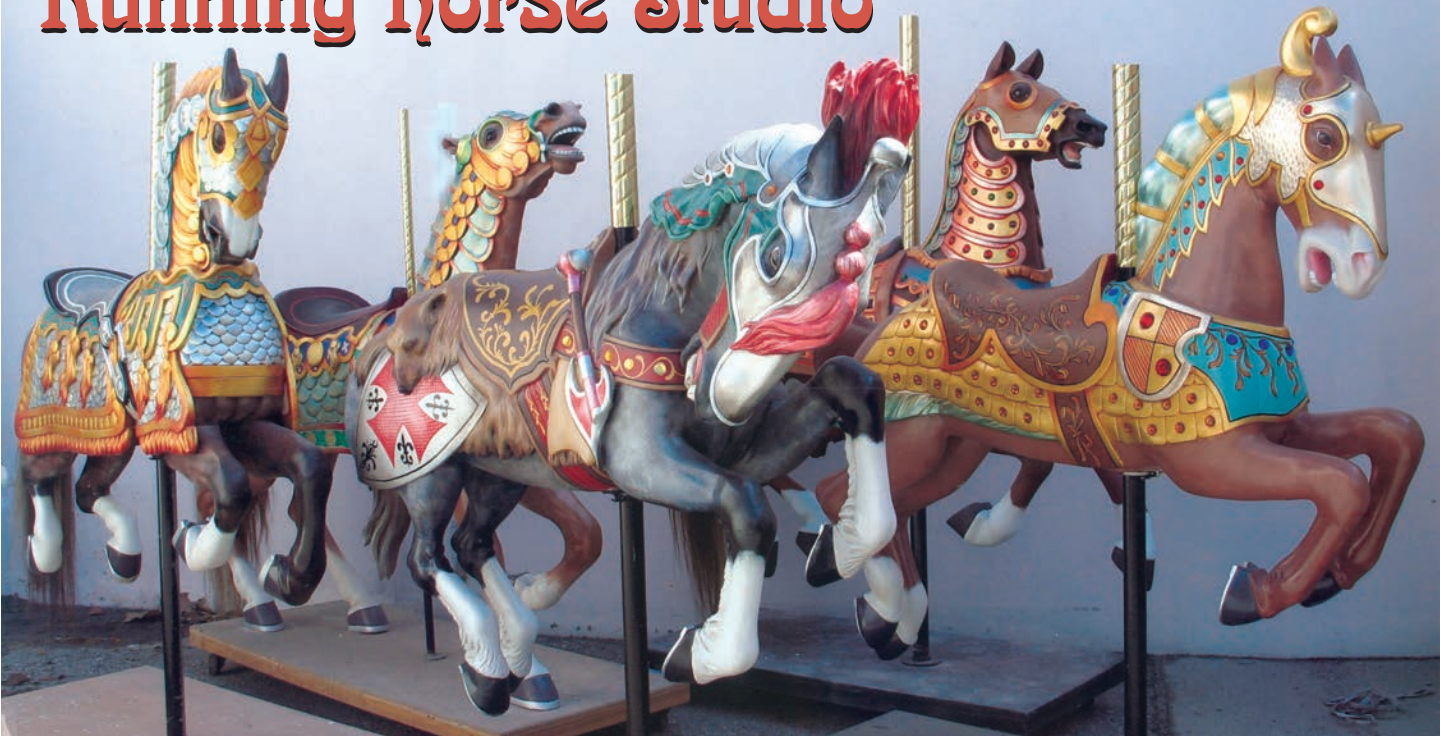
*The park will be beautifully landscaped and the carousel is scheduled to open to the public for rides by December 2010.*

*Needless to say – we're thrilled!"*

*For updates, visit them at [www.janescarousel.com](http://www.janescarousel.com).*

## Restoration Running Horse Studio

Lourinda Bray  
626-793-1303



# MARTIN ROENIGK - 1941-2009

By Jerry Dupy and E.Alan Long

Reprinted Courtesy of the Carroll County News

Residents of Marty Roenigk's adopted hometown reacted to the news of his death with shock and disbelief.

Roenigk, 68, who died in a two-vehicle accident while on a trip to Iowa with his wife, Elise, was remembered for his positive impact on the city since the couple's move here in 1996.

Roenigk was a highly successful business entrepreneur and hotelier. In a city defined by its artistic community and historic architecture, he is remembered for his philanthropic efforts which were directed towards support of the arts, land conservation, and historic conservation.

Jack Moyer, vice president of Operations and Development for the Crescent and Basin Park Hotels, owned by the Roenigks, said that Marty Roenigk's passing is "obviously a great loss to us," citing his influence and support in restoring the two hotels and the City Auditorium.

"For everything they did publicly, there were two or three more big-hearted acts that happened anonymously," Moyer said. "He loved Eureka Springs and did whatever it took to help this community. If you think of the fact that he was here just a little over a decade, and look at the impact he has had, it is surprising. It's tough to find a person like that who had the impact he has had."

On a more personal level, Moyer says that Roenigk spoke of "Jack's plan and my money," and that they certainly had an aggressive and fruitful partnership. But really, he said, there were only two partners, Marty and Elise.

Roenigk had three things he was really passionate about, Moyer said: Preservation, not just of what he owned but of Eureka Springs; the interest he and Elise had in mechanical music which they shared throughout their entire life together; and Elise herself.

"People who know them as Marty and Elise together saw them as inseparable," Moyer said. "It was interesting to see him when Elise was out of town. Marty was not in his element and really was uncomfortable. They really made a neat team."

In 2007, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Roenigk's purchase of the Crescent Hotel, a gala event was held to celebrate their preservation efforts. Third United States Congressional District's Rep. John Boozman delivered a keynote address that emphasized the importance of visionaries like the Roenigks to "foster history through an incredible vision of the future – to see decades beyond and to preserve America's precious resource."

In an emotional address to the crowd, Marty Roenigk emphasized the need for economic sustainability to keep the "grand dames" such as the 1886 Crescent Hotel and downtown Basin Park Hotel as living entities that will endure and persevere through the ages "even after we are gone."

In an article published in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on Feb. 25, 2007, Marty Roenigk stated that he wanted to leave a legacy behind in Eureka Springs. The article stated, "After he's gone, Roenigk wants to know he helped save the historic 19th century buildings by taking the city in a more modern direction." Unfortunately his work-in-progress became a legacy on the evening of June 18 when Roenigk and his beloved Irish Setter were killed in a two-vehicle accident on a rural road outside of Griswold, Iowa.

"Twelve years ago Marty Roenigk stood before a historic, five-story, limestone building that was in much need of repair, in much

need of love and he told me – with his wife Elise at his side – that someone needed to protect these kind of irreplaceable assets. It was on that day that the redevelopment of both the 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa and the 1905 Basin Park Hotel began," said Jack Moyer, remembering that first day's meeting.

"His words were so memorable that one of the three tenets found in the mission statement of our two hotels is 'Protecting The Irreplaceable,'" Moyer added.

Roenigk, a native of Cleveland, OH, and his wife, first came to Eureka Springs from East Hampton, CT. in 1997 in search of a repository for their mechanical music boxes, a passion of theirs and the reason for their trip to Iowa. While investigating the Basin Park Hotel for not only their music boxes but also a place to live and retire, they were introduced to the Crescent Hotel. Two purchases and restoration investment in excess of \$10 million later, the two hotels have been restored to their former grandeur and collectively are one of the biggest employers in western Carroll County.

Roenigk was named Eureka Springs' "Man of the Year" in 2001. In that presentation he was praised for his local philanthropy and support in such areas as the redevelopment of the 65 local natural springs and for his providing the seed money and impetus for the securing of the Save America's Treasures grant that restored the city's 1929 Civic Auditorium.

Roenigk did not rest on his laurels, however. Since receiving that honor, he and Elise have been philanthropic vanguards for such entities as the local chapter of the American Cancer Society; Eureka Springs' May Festival of the Arts; Main Stage Creative Community Center; Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow, donating a historic home to them; Harmon Skate Park; Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge; Western Carroll County's Carnegie Library and its annual Books-In-Bloom writers celebration; Eureka Springs School of the Arts; as well as supporting dozens of local artists through commissioned or purchased works of art.

The Nature Conservancy also benefitted from the Roenigks' generosity when Marty and Elise donated more than 1,200 prime, acres of land near the Buffalo National River.

His noted and well-respected business acumen saw him in top management for such well-known companies as Travelers Insurance and many others as well as his own Mechantiques, the country's largest dealer in mechanical musical instruments.

His passion for preservation saw him purchase such local area historical gems as War Eagle Mill, a working water-powered grist mill that produces organic natural products; and the 1901 Gavioli Chapel, a restored limestone church used now as a wedding chapel and local live-theatre venue.

In the closing accolades of Roenigk's 2001 award presentation it was stated, "Our man of the year is an active citizen ... but not a noisy one. He is a preservationist, a philanthropist, a lover of his Irish Setter, and the soul mate of his wife Elise. Anyone who knows this quiet Cleveland native knows that of all his corporations his business of today is making Eureka Springs as great as it potentially can be. Why? Simply because he loves his new hometown."

Moyer put the feelings of Marty's hotel family and numerous members of the community in perspective, "We will miss this gentle man who loved so deeply and cared for his community so greatly. And when the modern history of Eureka Springs is written Marty Roenigk will be noted as one of those who started the 21st century renaissance of this historic little Arkansas Ozark town."



# BAND ORGAN NEWS BRIEFS

## THREE RIVERS ORGAN RALLY IN WASHINGTON



Bruce Miller's Wurlitzer in it's modern van transport .



A calliope van with a gorilla.

NCA president, Bette Largent spent the day at the COAA band organ rally in Kennewick, WA hosted by Dan Danko on June 6, 2009. She says it was a perfect day with temperatures in the 70s and breezes off the Columbia River. She was kind enough to share these photos.



New organ made from mail order blueprints, with monkey.



The midi system inside of the new organ offers many more tunes but is still hand cranked.  
Bette Largent photos



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Calliope or Street  
Organ Music?

If "Yes", join the

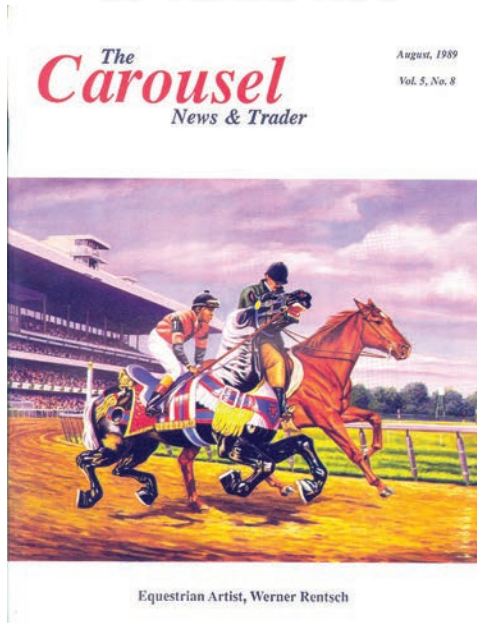
# COAA

(Carousel Organ Association of America)

- \* Four to five organ rallies a year
- \* Four issues of the *Carousel Organ* (a 44-page journal filled with technical and historical articles as well as advertisements) a year plus the *Special Rally Edition* (photo reports of rallies).
- \* All for \$30.00 (US); \$35.00 (Can.); \$45 (overseas)
- \* Membership: Mike Schoepner, COAA Treasurer  
12906 Raytown Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64149  
MS-SS@swbell.net  
[www.COAA.us](http://www.COAA.us)

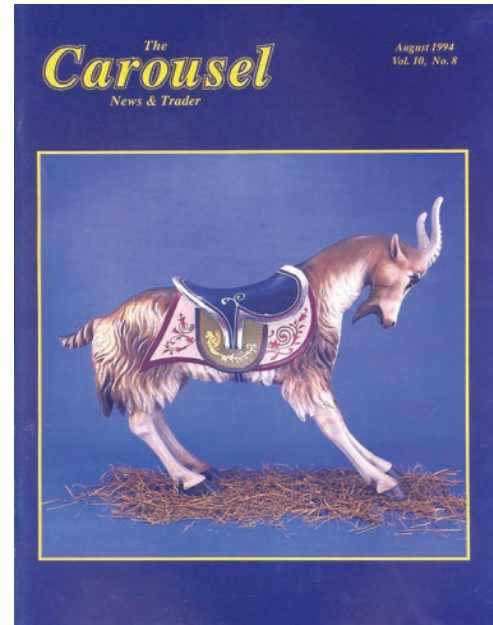
# Carousel News & Trader Through The Years

## 20 YEARS AGO



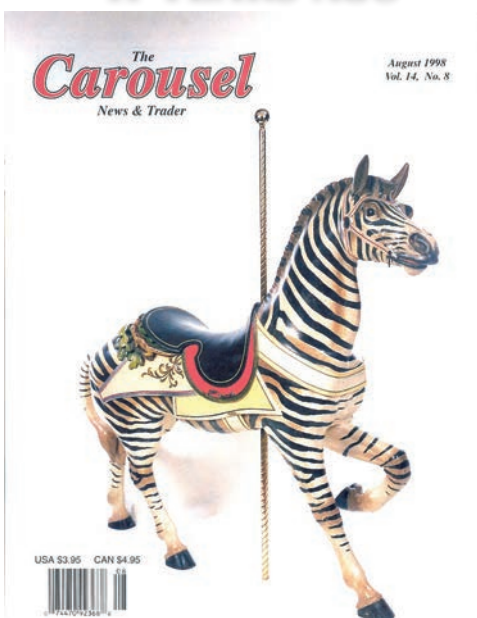
Forest Park Carousel opening • Tuscora Park 1928 Spillman rededicated • Equestrian artist, Werner Rentsch • Conneat Lake Park carousel • Libertyland Dentzel carousel • 1914 Mangels/Illions Columbus • Rexburg, Idaho carousel.

## 15 YEARS AGO



Carousel art of Sandi Lebron. • Carousel animal: real or fake? Frankenmuth Festival band organ rally • Endangered Species carousel Fort Wayne, IN, Zoo. • Sotheby's Amusement auction Crossroads Village hosts Carousel Models & Minatures

## 11 YEARS AGO



COVER: PTC zebra • Norton Alabama and Arkansas auction • Restoring a Crystal Beach zebra • ACS Convention in San Francisco • Grand Rapids exhibit Butterfield auction for the American Carousel Museum/Freels collection • Peddler's Village.

## 2 YEARS AGO



ON THE COVER: The Kit Carson PTC #6 • Frank Brodnick Memoriam • Norman and Evans Steam Carousel • Kit Carson Carousel Museum opens in Colorado • Original Loeff Restored for Eldridge Park • NCA Convention Memories • Carousel West 30th Gathering at Asilomar • Erieview Carousel Home Again.

To purchase these and other collectable back issues and search the contents of CN&T back issues, visit [www.CarouselNews.com](http://www.CarouselNews.com).



The Rare 1911 Carousel Sports 12 Stein & Goldstein Jumpers

# Coney Island in Colorado: A Visit to Pueblo City Park Parker #72



*S&G Feathers and Pistol horse, a crazy way to carry a pistol.*

Photos by Grace Spengler

**By Grace Spengler**

*Special to The Carousel News & Trader*

**O**ur visit to the historic Pueblo City Park Parker #72 /Stein & Goldstein carousel began with an article: "Saddle Up Some History" in the *Denver Post's Denver & the West—Colorado* Sunday section printed on May 24, 2009.

The write up was in conjunction with the Colorado Carousel Society's "Ride Five" promotion. The *Post's* Claire Martin listed all 11 of the carousels in Colorado (Vintage, Reproduction, New and Future carousels) with a snippet of information about each. This feature was a good reminder that Pueblo's City Park carousel had been on my "must see" list for a while.



*A photo from the extensive wall displays inside the carousel building shows the carousel at Lake Minnequa.*



**Two Abilene Parkers on the same row as the Cherub horse.**

So, the Post article inspired my family and I to take a trip, though the first complication came in because the trip would have to be a “day trip,” which eliminated viewing the carousel during its hours of normal operation which are only in the evenings.

After a couple of false starts, we selected our visit day and arrangements had to be made.

I used the parks department email to contact the Pueblo Assistant City Manager of Recreation who was kind enough to schedule a private visit during the morning just for us. The Pueblo Park Area Coordinator, Mr. Daugherty, was our marvelous tour guide and he came out specially to let us in.

There was one reason why I really wanted to see this carousel: the Stein & Goldstein outer row horses. This is probably as close as I can get to a Coney Island style ride without flying out to the east coast.

Some cautions if you want to plan your own trip to this carousel. The operating hours are only in the evenings this season, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and they are closed on Mondays. Also, the carousel building is a full enclosure and



**Picture of non-romance side of the inner row Parkers – light bounce back from the pole. The gentleman in the picture is Mr. Daugherty.**



**Stein & Goldstein Dapple Grey Horse with a Winged Cherub on the chest strap.**

the ride is located behind locked gates – thus our need to arrange to have it opened up.

The visit was great fun. I had ample time to take all the pictures I could want, including some shots of the inner workings and the paintings. We also got an exclusive ride with the organ playing its “happiest music on earth” in the background. That was a thrill, as I did not expect the ride to be fired up for just three visitors.

Mr. Daugherty was friendly, knowledgeable about the ride, and had a wealth of information about the trials and tribulations of keeping up a carousel that runs in a public place. They had apparently just done work on the overhead crank system and were looking at the gear workings for their next “needs some maintenance work” project. He mentioned that local artists did all of the door art, rounding board art and center pole paintings as part of the community restoration effort.

Another fun installation in the carousel building are the fun house mirrors that were also salvaged from Lake Minnequa Park. Apparently these were from the 1890s and the glass is extremely thick. They are the classic sorts of fun



**The Wurlitzer Military Band Organ 1920 style 146.**



**S&G Gold and White drape horse.**

house mirror, the ones that distort your reflection in various ways. They are placed at intervals around the inner walls and they make the view twist in interesting ways as the ride revolves.

The carousel is not the only ride, there are a number of Kiddie attractions in the same fenced off area. Among the eight rides I could see are a small rollercoaster, a rocket swing ride, a mini-train, and a small Ferris wheel.

This Carousel has an interesting history, as the horses rode on previous carousels before being united on #72.

The 12 outside horses are a long way from where they were originally carved, being Stein & Goldstein (S&G) horses thought to have been carved around 1907. The consensus is that these horses were installed on the carousel when it was refurbished in 1914 as they have the "11worth" horseshoes.

The 24 inside horses, the Dragon Chariot and the Lover's Tub were from the C.W. Parker factory. The horses are thought to date from 1902, probably originally having been installed on a "Track Type" carousel.

They are in the older Abilene style as opposed to the Leavenworth look.

How these two diverse groups of horses wound up on #72 seems to be a result of renovation and relocation. The Parker horses may or may not have been on the ride when it was originally placed with the Exposition & Amusement Co., from 1911 to 1913.

The delivery price for #72 at this point was \$5,160, including a canvas top, steam power generator and a band organ.

As of the next year, the ride was relocated to J. J. McQuillen's Lake Minnequa Amusement Park in Pueblo. It remained there from 1914 until the end of the season in 1939. The price at this time was \$3,075 without the band organ, band organ drive or a tent top.

The organ was purchased separately on May 13, 1914; a #2871 Wurlitzer style 165 was bought for the Skating Pavilion, but seems to have been used with the Merry-Go-Round also. (See November 2008's *The Carousel News & Trader*, "American Band Organs: History of The Wurlitzer Style



**Probably the most dramatic of the outer row S&G horses, this dapple grey has tulips and roses and a fly-away mane. (Shown below as well).**

165" article by Dan Robinson for the details.)

Apparently along with the Stein & Goldstein horses a single Lover's Tub was added to the ride in 1914 replacing one of the Dragon chariots. The Lover's Tub was not standard equipment on a Parker Carry-Us-All and thus cost 2-tickets to ride; one more than the horses. There is still one of the chariots that Fred Fried describes as: "a biting battle between a dragon and a python" on the ride. (*A Pictorial History of the Carousel*, p. 163, Frederick Fried)

All of these muddled origins make the center-pole sign saying: "Built complete C.W. Parker Abilene, Kan. 1911 Largest & Only Exclusive Man'fr. of Amusement Devices in the World" slightly ironic.

In 1940, the City Commissioner of Parks and Highways arranged for Pueblo Public Park District No. 2 to purchase C.W. Parker #72. The ride was installed south and east of Goodnight Avenue; however it lacked a building to protect it at this point.

In the 1950s the carousel was moved to the City Park Zoo's birdhouse area, where Kiddie Rides for younger children were offered. The carousel operated in that location





*The 'biting war between the dragon and the python' chariot.*

until 1981, when the community got behind restoring the carousel. As part of the restoration, the carousel and all the other attractions were moved to their current location.

A private collector offering to buy one of the horses in 1980, apparently fueled the need for a decision by the park department and community as to what to do with C. W. Parker #72. There was much debate about whether to sell and

replace the ride or restore and preserve the carousel. I for one, am glad the city decided to hire Will Morton, to do the conservation work. Even this long after the restoration (done in the late 1980s) the animals look wonderful.



At about the same time the restoration was happening, a Wurlitzer Military Band Organ, 1920 style 146, Serial no. 3293, was purchased. The organ was restored by Art Reblitz and Will Morton and still plays great.

I found out most of this information during the visit or through research. Thanks to the authors of: "Lake Minnequa Park 1877-1940" display on the wall of the carousel building and Noreene M. Sweeny, "Peaks & Prairies, Parkers & PTCs 1994 NCA Colorado Convention," *The Carousel News & Trader*, Vol. 10, No. 10. October 1994.

#### **The 1911 Parker / Stein & Goldstein Carousel**

Pueblo City Park, 3455 Nuckolls Ave, Pueblo, CO 81005. Website at: [www.pueblo.us](http://www.pueblo.us), or call the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department at (719) 553-2790 or email them at [parks@pueblo.us](mailto:parks@pueblo.us)

Cost per ride: 25¢: 2009 hours of normal operation: Memorial to Labor Day: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday though Sunday. Closed on Mondays.



*The fish-scale armored S&G horse.*

## **CCS RIDE FIVE PROMOTION**



*This photo was taken at the Ride Five promotional launch at Elitch Gardens Theme Park, Denver. Colorado Carousel Society members in attendance are (left to right & front to back): Betty Hull, Carol Kirwin, Marlene Morton, Billie Noren Will Morton, Al Noren, Dennis Towndrow, George Kirwin*

The Colorado Carousel Society, a not-for-profit organization established in 1983, is sponsoring a promotion to encourage residents to enjoy Colorado's carousels this summer. "Ride 5" is a great and inexpensive opportunity for families and friends to have fun together and to learn about some of the state's treasures without spending a lot of money or gas.

Participants in Ride 5 will ride five carousels between May 30 and Labor Day, September 7. Three of the carousels must be antique. Each participant will present a coupon to the carousel operator, who will punch it with a special punch to verify that the participant rode that carousel. Coupons will be available at various outlets, such as carousels and web sites, including: [www.coloradocarouselsociety.org](http://www.coloradocarouselsociety.org). The CCS website also lists information on the 11 participating carousels.

Children and adults alike are welcome to participate in Ride 5, which was launched at Elitch Gardens on May 30. Participants who complete five qualified rides may mail the punched coupon, postmarked by Sept. 15, to the Colorado Carousel Society to be entered in a drawing for prizes.

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# The Figures Were Restored by Renowned Carousel Expert Rosa Ragan Though the Park Closed in 1968, the 1921 Glen Echo Carousel Remains



*The Glen Echo carousel has outlasted the park and retained its original location since 1921.*

Bruce C. Douglas photo

By Cintia Cabib

*Special to The Carousel News & Trader*

**T**he past 88 years have seen a revolution in the forms of entertainment we enjoy. Radio, the movies, television, and now the Internet have captured our imagination and our leisure time. But throughout these years, a handmade contraption outfitted with a menagerie of wooden animals has continued to captivate children and adults, who still line up today to experience its magic at five revolutions per minute.

At Glen Echo Park in Glen Echo, Maryland, visitors of all ages wait their turn to ride the majestic Dentzel carousel, one of the few antique carousels that remains in its original location. In the ticket booth is 87-year old Irene Hurley, who is celebrating her 30th year of working at Glen Echo Park. Her son, carousel operator Max Hurley, rings the bell to signal the start of another ride. As the old-fashioned band organ music strikes up, youngsters and adults are transported



*Soldiers grab for the brass ring in the 1940s.  
Photo from the collection of Richard A. Cook.*



**Ladies riding side-saddle in the 1950s.**  
Photo from the collection of Richard A. Cook.

to an earlier time, when Glen Echo Park was one of the premiere amusement parks in the Washington, D.C. area.

Glen Echo Park opened in 1891 as a National Chautauqua Assembly, offering classes and lectures in the liberal arts, including literature, languages, music and art. After encountering financial problems, the Chautauqua closed and re-opened as an amusement park in 1899. The wooden, hand-carved carousel, built by the Philadelphia-based Dentzel Carousel Company, was installed in the park in 1921.



**Folks gathered at the carousel in the 1930s.**  
Photo from the collection of Richard A. Cook.

Gustav Dentzel was a German cabinetmaker who immigrated to the United States in 1864 and founded the company three years later. The animals he and his carvers created were characterized by their realistic, expressive and graceful appearance. After his death, his son William succeeded him and continued to run the business until his death in 1928. Their work became known as the Philadelphia-style of carousels.

Between the 1920s and 40s, Glen Echo Park became one of the most popular destinations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Visitors danced in the Spanish ballroom, swam in the Crystal Pool, and rode the carousel, the bumper cars and the roller coaster.

After World War II, the amusement park continued to attract thousands of people. Not everyone, however, was able to enjoy the park's attractions. Glen Echo Park's owners refused admission to African Americans. In 1960, after staging sit-ins at lunch counters in nearby Arlington, Virginia, Howard University students began to picket Glen Echo Park in protest of its segregation policy.

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**Children enjoy a ride in the early days of the carousel.**  
Photo from the collection of Richard A. Cook.

**When longtime resident and Town of Glen Echo Councilmember Nancy Long learned that the carousel had been sold, she embarked on a campaign to keep the carousel at Glen Echo Park.**



Bruce C. Douglas photos

On June 30, several protesters who had been picketing outside the park walked through the gates and entered the carousel, where they presented tickets purchased by white demonstrators. When they refused to leave the carousel, they were arrested for trespassing. As the picketers continued their protests that summer, they were joined by neighborhood residents and local politicians who turned out in large numbers to support them. In March 1961, bowing to pressure, Glen Echo Park opened its doors to everyone, regardless of race.

The amusement park continued to operate over the next several years, but attendance to the park declined, and it eventually closed in 1968. The rides, including the carousel, were sold to other amusement parks and to private collectors.

When longtime resident and Town of Glen Echo Councilmember Nancy Long learned that the carousel had been sold, she embarked on a campaign to keep the carousel at Glen Echo Park. Virginia-based collector Jim Wells had

purchased the carousel and sold it to Mike Roberts, a collector in California. Upon learning of the town's efforts to save the carousel, Roberts gave it one month to raise \$80,000 to purchase the carousel. Through individual contributions, foundation grants, and help from local organizations, the Town of Glen Echo managed to raise the funds within the one-month time period.



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**1921 Dentzel Menagerie Carousel**  
Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD  
Bruce C. Douglas Photo



*A sample of figures on this page and the next.*  
Photos by John Caruso.

In 1970, through a land exchange with the park's owners, the United States federal government acquired Glen Echo Park. The carousel was donated to the park on the condition that it remain at Glen Echo for the public's enjoyment.

One year later, the park reopened to the public as an arts and cultural center, under the administration of the National Park Service.

For mother and son carousel operators Irene and Max Hurley, the carousel brings back fond memories of their visits to the park. Irene Hurley recalls taking the trolley from Washington, D.C. in the 1940s to dance in the Spanish Ballroom, while Max remembers his fascination with the carousel's band organ. Max began working at the carousel in 1977, performing general maintenance and operating the ride. As his workload increased and his teenage staff became unreliable, Max convinced his boss to hire his mother on a part-time basis. During the spring and summer months that the carousel is open, Irene Hurley sells approximately 4,000 tickets each weekend. Irene says the years she has spent working at the carousel have been her happiest.

The Wurlitzer 165 band organ was installed next to the carousel in 1926 and was restored in 1978. It features 256 wooden pipes, a glockenspiel, castanets, a crash cymbal, a triangle, and snare and bass drums. There are more than



*Just one of many ornate outer row standers.*

150 music rolls for the band organ, which plays the music using perforated music rolls, similar to a player piano. Many of these rolls were created by Max Hurley, who taught himself to make musical arrangements using a blade and a hole punch.

The Dentzel carousel is a menagerie carousel with 40 horses, four rabbits, four ostriches, a giraffe, a lion, a tiger, a deer, and two chariots. The two sets of rounding boards are decorated with mirrors, cherubs, jester head shields, princess heads, and many other decorative features.

In 1983, Rosa Ragan, a North Carolina-based artist who specializes in carousel restoration, began working on a 20-year project to restore the carousel. The restoration was funded primarily through more than \$500,000 in private contributions raised by the Glen Echo Park Foundation, whose mission was to preserve Glen Echo Park and its cultural and educational programs. The National Park Service and





**Renowned restoration expert Rosa Ragan's impeccable work speaks for itself.**

the Parks and History Association, the non-profit organization which managed the operation of the carousel, provided additional funding.

The animals were dismantled from the carousel, loaded on a truck and transported to Ragan's North Carolina studio. Ragan found that the carousel animals were in generally good condition, but the paint on the animals was cracking and falling off. Since the carousel had been repainted several times over the years, Ragan first removed five to six layers of paint, leaving the original paint intact. She documented the original colors and designs and covered the paint with reversible sealing products. After applying a primer, she painted each animal in its original colors, then added five coats of protective varnish. Ragan says, "I didn't add anything that was mine, with the exception of one little thing. Traditionally, on a carousel that I restore, I give one animal, usually the lowliest,



**This prancing deer is joined by a giraffe, the lion (shown on the cover), four ostriches, four rabbits, and a tiger in the menagerie, in addition to the 40 horses and two chariots.**



**It has been a long time since anyone swam in the Crystal Pool, but for decades, thousands did. John Caruso photos**

smallest creature, a little gold tooth, and so one horse has a little gold tooth."

In addition to the carousel animals, Ragan restored the chariots, the band organ facade, the center barrel panels, the upper rounding boards and the ceiling panels. A few years later, the carousel's exterior was painted as part of an overall renovation project to rehabilitate Glen Echo Park's deteriorating buildings.

Today, the non-profit Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture administers the park's programs and facilities, while the National Park Service manages the grounds and provides historical tours. Glen Echo Park's classes, theatre and puppet shows, art exhibits and events draw half a million people each year. The carousel is the park's centerpiece, providing fun and excitement for its young visitors and bringing back memories of good times, struggles,





Bruce C. Douglas photos

**The Wurlitzer 165 band organ joined the carousel in 1926.**

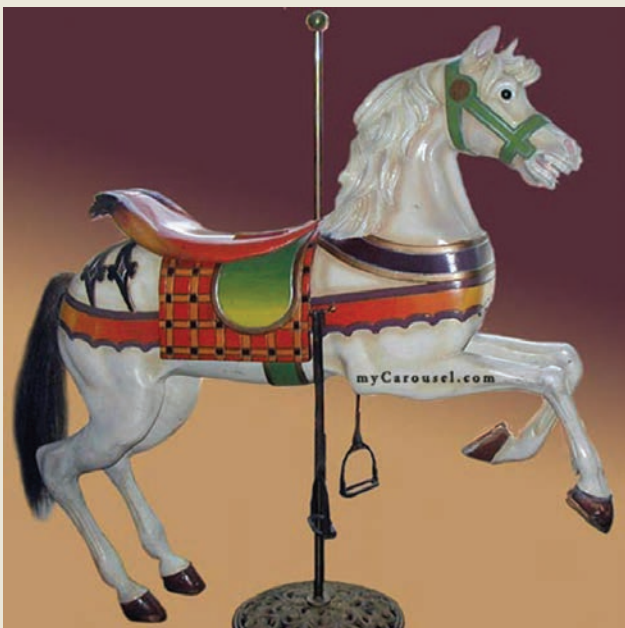
and achievements of the men and women who have a special connection to this enduring ride.

For information on a visit to the carousel and current events at the park, visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

*(Editor's Note: Filmmaker Cintia Cabib's half-hour documentary "Carousel of Memories" captures the recollections of generations of Washingtonians and the carousel's many roles over time: from an amusement park ride, to a symbol for the civil rights movement, to an endangered work of art. To order a DVD copy, please visit [www.cintiocabib.com](http://www.cintiocabib.com) or [www.carouselstore.com](http://www.carouselstore.com).*

Also available for history buffs is "Glen Echo Park: A Story of Survival" by Richard Cook and Deborah Lange with over 100 historic photos from the Richard Cook collection. You can order the book at [www.glenechopark.org/history.htm](http://www.glenechopark.org/history.htm).)

## Circa 1895 Looff



**Outside-row prancer.  
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62" long x 45" high.  
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IN MEMORIAM: BOB VARGA 1928-2009

# A Tribute to Bob Varga and His History of Oklahoma Carousels



*Primitive, horse-powered, suspended swing-ride with buckboard seats in Ada, OK. Photo circa 1890. Photo credit: Dell Maxwell*

By Barbara Williams

*Special to The Carousel News & Trader*

From 1998 to 2001, carousel enthusiast, Bob Varga, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, searched for material about his home state's past and present carousels. Bob didn't have a computer when working on this project, so it was labor intensive; chasing rumors, making phone calls, haunting libraries, driving to see the newly-found operating carousels so he could see for himself what they were like. Most of the historic carousels he found information about were not previously known to exist. Oklahoma does have a rich carousel history and thanks to Bob, we now know about it.

In 1999, Bob wrote, "In 1985, *Daily Oklahoman* columnist, Bob Lee, wrote about reflections about what he and his readers remember about Oklahoma's carousels. Since I was researching Oklahoma's carousel history, and had al-



*Here is the photo of Bob Varga that was sent by the family for use with the article. It was said that the family likes this photo because it was a happy day.*



**On the reverse - "Willie Baldwin and Ozeeta Hall at the Oklahoma State Fair, September 1943." In a different handwriting is "Mother".** Barbara Williams collection

ready found a surprising amount of information, I wondered if he was still interested in the subject and wrote to him, asking for his help in locating more information and photographs. He was very interested and proceeded to run two columns in 1999, listing me as the contact person. The first column came out the morning of Memorial Day. I was on the phone most of the day and had fascinating conversations with mostly older folks about the old days in many aspects. I learned a great deal about carousels and places that people remembered and I was even promised some photos. While some of the recollections were vague, I have included them in the listing as I feel they add to the over-all picture of just how many carousels Oklahoma had."

Bob passed away on March 7, 2009 at age 81. The carousel world has lost a devoted friend. He was a faithful contributor to the National Carousel Association's archives and a strong supporter of the carousel museums. He closely followed carousel restoration projects and Six Flags' (formerly Premier Parks) buy-up of parks, fearing for the future of the carousels under their ownership.

Bob was born on February 16, 1928, in New York City. He was a World War II veteran, having served in Japan in the Armed Forces Radio. He was a university professor in the Speech & Drama Department at Oklahoma City University. Among his professional accomplishments, he authored and directed children's plays. His many interests included biplanes, carousels, steamboats, women's softball, the theater and a life-long love of teddy bears. He was predeceased by his wife, Jane. He is survived by his sister, Irene; his children Janice, Terrie and Chris, daughter-in-law, Tamara; grandchildren Sarah, John, Kristin, Austin, Lauren and Jason.

Bob and I began our correspondence in 1997 when I was archivist for the NCA. He had so many questions about various carousels, figuring I had the answers in the files. Because of his inquiring mind, I learned a lot! In our correspondence, we talked about our lives, our families, the downsides of living where there are perils - his Oklahoma tornadoes, my California earthquakes, and carousels, of course. Bob's 2008 holiday greetings had wonderful news



**Maggie Hendrix, at age five, on the Bartlesville carousel in 2007. Maggie's mom, Lisa, says, "Riding the carousel is always, in our family, the last ride of the night. As it turns out, it was my mother's custom as a child too, so this is a third-generation tradition."** Photo: Lisa C. Childs

- he had email! We did start emailing, exchanging pictures and I was looking forward to much more.

Bob's family sent me his carousel collection. Through their generosity, I am able to share Bob's Oklahoma carousel research and photos. In gratitude, thank you, Bob, for being such a wonderful friend. To Bob's family, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

## OKLAHOMA'S CAROUSELS:

*Information compiled by Bob Varga*

### Ada

Primitive, horse-powered, suspended swing-ride with buckboard seats. It was operated by John William Maxwell in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Garvin County, the Indian Lands of Oklahoma Territory (now the town of Center). This information was submitted by Dell Maxwell, great-niece of John Maxwell. (Photo on page 29).

### Bartlesville, Johnstone Park Kiddie Playground

This is an all horse, circa 1930, three-row metal carousel with thirty jumpers and two chariots. Johnstone is a small



**Film transfer of the carousel at Craterville. Credit: Bob Varga**



**In 1998, Enid's carousel ran clockwise. Photo credit Bob Varga**

city-owned amusement park with a total of sixteen kiddie rides. It is situated near the Tom Mix Museum and Frank Lloyd Wright Price Tower. Johnstone Park opened in 1947 with the carousel arriving a little later in 1951. The park is open from May to September, with staffing by volunteers.

(Photo above left).

### **Carnegie**

This recollection was in response to Bob Lee's column in *The Daily Oklahoman*: "There was a carousel, about twenty feet in diameter, in a round building."

Bob's Varga's Update: Carnegie did have a carousel, but the wood horses were sold off in 2001. It was a fourteen-section, Allan Herschell machine. The frame remained at the site as of July 2001. (No photo).

### **Craterville**

There was a carousel in a Craterville amusement park. In the 1950's, when the original town site was designated as a wildlife refuge, the amusement park closed permanently, and the town itself was relocated. At the new Craterville, Lake Lawtonka was created and that town site is now under water.

In a reader's response to Bob Lee's column in which Craterville's carousel was described as "small", the reader said, "I can guarantee that if you were three-and-a-half feet tall, six-years-old, and had never seen one before; the carousel at Craterville was definitely not small!" (Photo left).

### **Duncan**

A carousel with twenty jumpers is operated at Duncan on Fair days and special occasions by the Kiwanis at their kiddie park.

A fond reflection by local, Patricia Brandon: "Summer evenings, the park is filled with children, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. The little ones have their favorite horse on the carousel and tears flow when the horse is taken. But, there's always next time."

Bob Varga thought the carousel animals looked like fiberglass, 1950's vintage, and that the chariots were crude, not like originals.

Recent attempts to confirm the present-day status of the Duncan carousel were unsuccessful. (No photo)



**Elk City Carousel in Ackley Park. Webshot photo**

### **Elk City, Ackley Park**

On May 26, 2001, Elk City unveiled its brand new Centennial Carousel. It is a three-row, thirty-six horse machine. It has six hundred lights, a forty-five foot hardwood platform and features all wooden trim. The carousel was custom-built by Dan Horenberger of Brass Ring Entertainment in Sun Valley, CA. It has wooden horses carved by Ed Roth.

### **Enid, Meadowlake Park**

This is a 1925 Allan Herschell, three-row, half and half, with twenty seven jumpers and two chariots. Three of the jumpers are half-sized horses. It had a band organ at its previous location, Hellum's Amusement Park, near Enid, where it was installed in 1928. The carousel was given to city of Enid in 1965 and placed in Meadowlake Park. The carousel is city-owned and is operated by Kiwanis Club, which also owns Meadowlake's Chance train ride. The Lions Club owns the airplane and car rides. Meadowlake has an arboretum, picnic area and the lake for which the park is named. The park is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. (Photo above left).

### **Eufaula**

Bob Lee's *Daily Oklahoman* column prompted this recollection: "A large carousel was installed around 1920 and was sold in either 1979 or 1980. It was a big machine." The carousel's site is now a ballpark. (No photo).

### **Fort Cobb**

A small carousel is used at Fair time and sometimes for July 4th celebrations. It may have come from Sulphur, OK. The Parker issue of 'Carrousel Art' magazine, features a wooden, armored Parker, described as having come from a carousel in Fort Cobb.

Recent attempts to confirm the present-day status of the carousel were unsuccessful. (No photo)

### **Hinton**

This is a two-row, metal Parker carousel with sixteen jumpers and two chariots. It has updated fiber-glass trim with vintage, fluorescent lighting. It is a portable machine



*Hinton's modest carousel is a town favorite. Bob Varga took this picture in 1999.*

with a trailer-mounted center pole. It is used at the August County Fair, Rodeo Days and other special occasions.

### Hydro

Hydro has a wooden Allan Herschell carousel. It and other rides arrived with a traveling carnival around forty years ago, only to become mired in mud, a result of a local flood. Left by the carnival company, the townspeople rescued the rides and installed them in a local park. (No photo)

### Medicine Park

What looks to be a Parker carousel was at Medicine Park in an outdoor carnival setting. Medicine Park was a thriving, planned tourist resort, established in 1908. The healing powers of Medicine Creek, tennis courts, spas, swimming and fishing drew large crowds to the popular, picturesque enclave. (Photo below)

(Bob's original notes had listed "Lawton – No Information". I looked up the town of Lawton and saw that it was very close to the resort of Medicine Park, so I thought it was worth looking into as a possible location of a carousel. I already had a postcard of what looked like a carousel building at Medicine Park, (AKA, Lawton, on the card). I got in touch with Ed Stonerock, of Medicine Park, who generously inquired around to see if anyone remembered a carousel. Among the old-timers, nobody did. The traveling Parker seems to have been the only carousel ever at Medicine Park.

– Barbara Williams). (Photo below right)



*At Medicine Park, bushes obstruct the view of the carousel's animals, but judging by the center area, it looks like it may be a Parker. The carousel has the flaps, right, used to prevent freeloaders from jumping on the carousel while in motion. The postcard is undated. Credit: Barbara Williams*



*It is too bad that the life of the carousel was cut short by the failed Belle Isle project at Oklahoma City.*

Photo: Bob Guenther

### Mountain View

Once outfitted with wooden Parkers, Mountain View's carousel now has newer aluminum Parkers. It is a large carousel, with sixteen sections and measuring forty-five feet in diameter. Some of the old wooden Parkers are still around town, in possession of the locals. (No photo).

### Oklahoma City, Belle Isle Park

Belle Isle Park's Parker carousel was moved to Springlake Park in 1928. Amusements at Belle Isle included a small coaster, a dance pavilion and rowboats. A second kiddie-sized carousel at Belle Isle burned in the 1940's. By 1948, all of the attractions were gone. In 1984, the Dentzel carousel from President's Park, Carlsbad, New Mexico was bought by developers of Belle Isle Shopping Mall. It was to be installed at the site of the old Belle Isle Park power plant as the centerpiece of the new endeavor. The oil bust of the 1980's brought the project to an immediate and permanent end. Ultimately, the carousel's animals were sold off. Still unaccounted for, the frame was most likely left behind at Belle Isle and sold for scrap along with old machinery and



*The carousel-like building in Lawton is seen in the upper left with a pink and red roof. Credit: Barbara Williams*





**Delmar Garden, Oklahoma City, postmarked 1909**

Credit: Barbara Williams

piping when the old power plant was cleared out in the late 1980s. (Photo left)

### Oklahoma City, Black Hawk Amusement Park

Originally, this was the Black Hawk Lodge and Restaurant, established around 1933. By 1937, this enterprise had a swimming pool, antique shop, miniature golf, rides and a carousel; make unknown. (No photo)

### Oklahoma City, Delmar Garden

Delmar Garden opened in 1902 with an auditorium for vaudeville. Added was a roller coaster, Ferris wheel, race track, dance hall, live theater, swimming pool, beer garden, hotel, restaurant and a Kinedrome, an early motion picture house. The carousel was located at the back end of the promenade on the right. Delmar Garden was located in the lowlands, which flooded, and was plagued by mosquitoes. As a result, the park closed in 1910. The Oklahoma Historical Society Oral History Department taped an interview with a Mrs. Annie Drummond, (born 1890), who came to Oklahoma in 1898. One of her memories was of Delmar Garden. She said she went there many times. She talked about baseball games, picnics and the theater and the rides:

Annie: "Yes, there were rides."

Interviewer: "Was there a carousel?"

Annie: "A carousel? Well..ah..I don't recall."

Interviewer: "What was your favorite ride at Delmar?"

Annie: "Why the Merry-Go-Round, of course!"

(Photo above)

### Oklahoma City, Fairgrounds

Appearing in *The Daily Oklahoman*, Sept 30, 1910, was a description of the attractions in the forthcoming fair, "The big 'Chanticleer' Steeplechase is the first one to be used in this country and attracts both old and young. This machine was made in England and most of it is hand carved. It was imported at a cost of \$30,000 and has long since paid for itself." This ride came with the Patterson Shows which provided most of the midway attractions.

The fair also had as a permanent attraction, a 1909 Loeff carousel in a Loeff-built building. In 1954, the Loeff was ac-



**James W. Bostock's platform galloper, bought by the James Patterson Shows, that furnished attractions for the Oklahoma City fair. This is an earlier, undated photograph of the ride. Credit: Barbara Williams**

quired by Carl Sedlmayr, owner of Royal American Shows, the world's largest railroad carnival. This coincided with the closure of the fair at its original site, demolition of the Loeff-built carousel building, and relocation that year to the fair's new site. At the new fairgrounds, Royal American Shows brought in one of their two PTC carousels. It is not known if the Loeff operated at the new fair site. Sedlmayr gave the Loeff carousel to the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida, in 1965, with the intention of having it operate there as a money maker for the museum. It was ultimately dispersed, with most of the animals selling at auction in 1986.

(Photos above and below)

### Oklahoma City, Frontier City

Frontier City had a 1959 metal Chance carousel that was destroyed in the devastating 1998 tornadoes. Upon initial inspection, it appeared that damage to the carousel was limited to the upper rim, but further scrutiny confirmed that all



**One of the Oklahoma City Fair Loeffs on display at the Ringling Museum in the 1980's. Credit: Bob Guenther**



*The Chance carousel made especially for the Smithsonian's 150th birthday tribute/year-long traveling exhibit, seen here at Frontier City, Oklahoma City, in 1998. Credit: Bob Varga*

of the vertical parts had been harmed by the twisting winds. This machine was returned to Chance for salvage. It was replaced in 1998 with the Chance carousel commissioned by the Smithsonian for its 150th birthday tribute, "America's Smithsonian" - the world's largest, year-long traveling museum, of which the carousel was an important, interactive attraction. For Frontier City, Chance was commissioned to make an "Oklahoma Horse" for the carousel, decorated with American Indian motifs and the Oklahoma state flag. Frontier City opened in 1959 and is still in operation.

(Photo above)

#### **Oklahoma City, Springlake Park**

Springlake Park opened in 1926, adding rides from defunct Belle Isle Park. The park was purposely located near the zoo so the trolley line could bring patrons to both sites. Springlake had a Parker carousel, Big and Little Dipper Philadelphia Toboggan Company coasters, a ballroom and a train. The park had two major fires, one in 1946 and another in 1981, but the carousel was spared both times. Springlake finally closed due to racial unrest in the park and it was leveled in 1983. The Parker carousel was sold in



*Springlake Park's sweet-faced horses are showing their age in the 1980's. Credit: Bob Guenther*



*Wedgewood's PTC 59, seen here at auction in Florida in 1985. Credit: John Daniel*

1982, and no longer exists. The Big Dipper was reduced to lumber, the train went to Lima, Peru. The site is now occupied by a technical school with a Springlake carousel horse and coaster car displayed on the campus.

(Photo below left)

#### **Oklahoma City, Wedgewood Park**

Wedgewood Park opened in 1958. Maurice Woods, the park owner-operator, bought PTC 59 in 1961 at auction from Lincoln Park, Worcester, Mass for \$7,900. Woods had the carousel shipped to Oklahoma by a furniture mover. Over the winter, two hundred and fifty gallons of stripper were used to remove the many layers of paint. Woods' mother, Esther, repainted the forty eight horses and chariots in her living room.

Wedgewood was adjacent to housing and the noise from the amusement park, in particular the coaster and the carousel, became an issue. Controversy also arose when integration of the Olympic-sized swimming pool was mandated, but not implemented, resulting in the closure of Wedgewood in 1969. The carousel went to Petticoat Junction, Panama City, Florida., where it was sold at auction in 1985. Wedgewood Park is now the site of the Wedgewood Village Apartments. (Photo above)



*Bell's four-row Parker in Tulsa, as seen in the 1980s Credit: Bob Guenther*



*The endangered species carousel at the Oklahoma City Zoo in 1999. Credit: Bob Varga*

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma city Zoological park**

Originally named the Lincoln Zoo, it had a metal Herschell carousel, that operated through 1967. There was a train ride, steamboat and the Skyride that came from Spring-lake Park. The last surviving original ride, the Skyride, was demolished in 1998. The new Carousel Works Endangered Species carousel was installed in 1999.

(Photo above)

**Sand Springs**

Sand Springs opened in 1911. It was a boating and picnicking resort, developed around a large orphanage for the people involved with the facility. Rides were added, a means by which to attract a trolley line to the park. The rides brought problems to the area, however, so Sand Springs' carousel, Philadelphia Toboggan Company #10, and all of the other rides were sold to Crystal City Amusement Park in Tulsa in 1934. (No photo)

**Shawnee**

This was a privately owned Herschell-Spillman carousel with forty small horses. It was sold to a Cleveland, Ohio carnival company about twenty years ago. (No photo)

**Tulsa, Bell's Amusement Park**

Jack Johnson brought his 1917, four-row Parker carousel with him when he moved from San Antonio, Texas to Tulsa in 1983 to manage Bell's Amusement Park (1951-2006). The carousel, bought by Johnson's father from a traveling carnival in 1940, had operated at Playland in San Antonio until the park's closure in 1980. The Parker and its band organ were auctioned off in the late 1980's. It was replaced with a 1954 metal, three-row, all jumper, thirty-six foot, Arrow machine with taped music. (Photo left)

**Tulsa, Crystal City Amusement Park**

Crystal City Amusement Park, (1920's - 1956), was built adjacent to and intended as competition for nearby older Electric Park. It had a spring-fed swimming pool and the rides from Sand Springs, including PTC 10. Crystal City prospered until the late 1940's, when it began to fade. Most of the rides were sold off in 1948 and moved to Lakeview Park in Tulsa. The carousel burned at Crystal Lake in one of a series of mysterious fires that occurred in the 1950's,



*Nothing was found about an Illions carousel being at Lakeview Park, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Credit: Frederick Fried Archive*

leaving the dance hall and the swimming pool as the only remaining attractions. Crystal City Amusement Park was replaced with the Crystal City Shopping Center. (No photo)

**Tulsa, Electric Park**

Electric Park was built before neighboring Crystal City was established. It had a dance hall, merry-go-round, rides, concessions, swings, a fun house and a miniature train. A man-made lagoon and one of the biggest swimming pools in the state were the park's main attractions. Crystal City overshadowed Electric park and it closed in 1928.

(No photo)

**Tulsa, Lakeview Park**

Crystal Lake's rides were moved to Lakeview Park in 1948, minus the PTC carousel.

In a 1975 *Amusement Business* ad, an Illions carousel is for sale at Lakeview. (No photo, ad shown above)

**Tulsa, Mohawk Park (Tulsa Zoo)**

This 'Merry Go Round Employee' badge was found with a metal detector by Wally Dick of Broken Arrow while he was treasure-hunting in and around an old house in North Tulsa. It was near the site of Mohawk Park. (Photo below)





**This postcard is postmarked July 16, 1908. Summer fun of the type described at Vinita.**

Credit: Barbara Williams

#### **Tulsa, Woodland Hills Mall**

This was a twelve year old (as of 1999), two-row, sixteen-horse, metal carousel made by the San Antonio Roller Company. It is no longer at the mall. (No photo)

#### **Vinita, Electric Park**

All that remains of Electric park is the reflecting pool which is now used for watering pastured livestock. (No photo)

#### **Vinita , I.T. (Indian Territory)**

In 1894, the Unassigned Lands of Oklahoma were purchased from the Cherokee. A celebration marked the occasion that included fifty lemonade and ice cream stands, thirty lunch counters, eight photo galleries, two shooting galleries, five merry-go-rounds, five dance floors and two gambling wheels, along with exhibits and shows.

Tent shows, fairs, rodeos, the Ringling Brothers Circus and the Walter Main Shows came to Vinita in the early 1900's. (Photo above)

The photo of Aunt Ola Belle on the carousel horse in a studio setting was taken somewhere in Vinita. Electric Park is a possibility as is the 1894 celebration or the traveling shows that came to town. (Photo right)

*Special thanks to the many contributors to this article. First and foremost to the Bob Varga Family; also to Amusement Park Journal; Black History in Oklahoma; Carrousel Art: Loeff Family Album; Daralene Carson; Maggie & Lisa Childs; Fred Dahlinger; Jean & Wally Dick; Don Gardner; Dee Gower; Bob Guenther; Herschell Carrousel Museum; Anne Hinds; Dan Horenberger; Indian Journal; John Keenen; Bob Lee, The Daily Oklahoman; Metro Tech School; Route 66: The Empire of Amusement; Ed Stonerock; Dell Maxwell; Oklahoma City Library; Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma Magazine; Oklahoma Today; Sanborn Map Company; Smithsonian*

*Magazine; The Chronicles of Oklahoma; The Merry-Go-Roundup; The Daily Oklahoman; The Sunday Oklahoman; Vinita I.T., 1821-1907; Pendelton Woods (OG&E, ret.); Price Woodridge, Oklahoma Educational Television Authority.*



**Written on the undated photograph is "Aunt Ola Belle". Stamped is "Vinita I.T." (Indian Territory) The horse looks like an early Loeff. Credit Barbara Williams**

Once in Tolchester, MD, the Carousel Last Turned in Bowling Green, KY

# The Final Spin for a Beautiful Dentzel at Beech Bend Park



*The Dentzel with ribbons, acorns and leaves, which was also shown in the Tolchester photos.*

Photos from the collection of Peter and Leah Farnsworth

By Leah Farnsworth

Special to *The Carousel News & Trader*

When I saw the [Tolchester] photos of the lion and the horse named Queen in the July issue of *The Carousel News & Trader*, I was surprised. They were from the carousel that I was writing about, and added a part of its history. Thank you, Chuck Eckles!

Our three day trip to Kentucky in 1979 had been well planned. Then we had a national gas shortage. Many gas stations would only sell to you if your license plate number ended in an odd or even number on odd or even numbered days. We were still going, and as we were packing our van early that morning a phone call told us that our dog sitter would not be able to come. We added leashes, dog food and a Brittany and three Springer Spaniels, who loved to travel, and Peter and I, and two of our teenagers, Barbara



*Arthur, Leah and Barbara Farnsworth on the Dentzel carousel at Beech Bend Park.*



**Cats and pigs on the inner rows.**

and Arthur, left for Kentucky. We had a very enjoyable trip. While we were packing to go home, Peter went to pay our motel bill. He returned with a brochure for Beech Bend Park near Bowling Green, KY. He recognized a small photo of a Dentzel listener horse head on it. The only Dentzel listener style horses that I had ever seen in photos were on menagerie carousels. I begged to go there, even though I knew that he had to be at work early the next day, in Wisconsin. Hoping to find more friendly gas stations, we headed further from home for more adventure.

Carousel horses with one ear back used to be called "lop-eared". While visiting with Marge Swenson, publisher of *Carousel Art* magazine, I told her how much I disliked that name. It is used by horse people for a type of deformity. There are beautiful carvings from the best carvers with one ear back, and they are not deformed. It is a natural position when a horse is listening for sound behind him.

Marge said that people would need a new name for the horse, and that it was up to me to name it and write about it for the magazine. I finally wrote the article, which appeared in issue #19, including some fancy wording added by the editor and a horse show photo of my horse, Traveler, with one ear back, listening to me. As a Wisconsin state reserve champion at halter, he wasn't lop-eared. Thus, I coined the term, "listener".



**Dentzel tiger behind the "listener".**



**Deer, cats with birds, goats and donkeys were part of the menagerie at Beech Bend.**

When we arrived we saw the once beautiful carousel. Like the rest of the park, it had fallen on hard times. Part of the platform holding the outer row animals scraped on the ground as it turned. The paint was very weathered, but the carvings were beautiful. We rode and photographed the carousel and bought extra tickets for our scrap book and headed home.

The 1907 Dentzel three row step platform carousel had four double seated chariots with mirror trim that rode on the lower outside level. The outer row animals included a lion, carved in the stand and roar position. There was a head in front of the saddle and a wide ribbon rippled across his shoulder. A sash was layered under the saddle. The roaring tiger also had wavy ribbons on its shoulder, but was painted as a lioness. There were no stripes on its brown body. A grey prancing goat with the tip of his tongue out was wearing a halter and his trappings were simple. His horns were short and looked like they had been broken and rounded off. The prancing deer also wore a halter and more simple trappings, but it had a very large set of real antlers. Brown triangular spots on the giraffe made it distinct as it looked down at the riders.

The rest of the outside row were horses. A roached



**Lion with black donkeys and pigs behind.**



**Classic Dentzel stander, the only roach maned horse and ostriches.**

mane horse with a beautiful face wore a blanket and a tassel blown back. The rest of the horses were the classic Arab and the listener styles. One Arab had rippled ribbons coming from under the front and back of its saddle, which "tied on" a rolled carrier holding an oak branch with acorns. Between the saddle and the blanket was a fringed scarf, folded back and forth. Another Arab and a listener each had a large flower and very fancy trim. The horse that was in the brochure was in front of the tiger. No wonder he was listening.

There were twenty rows of jumpers. Nine rows were menagerie. The two white cats carried red birds in their mouths and the pink cats had green fish. One white cat was very fancy. Two of the rabbits were white, with simple trappings and the two grey ones were fancier. Two white and two pink pigs had long bottom tusks. Two large ostrich had well carved feathers, especially the fluffy looking ones in the rear. Four smiling donkeys, two black and two white, had ribbons around their necks with bells on them. A white one had a large leaf for a saddle and vines carved as straps.

There were eight mares (smaller sized prancers) on the inner row. The trappings on each of the mares were different. The other three inner row horses and all of the middle row horses were larger jumpers with parallel legs.



**Listener horse, rabbits, cats and giraffe.**

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- 1969 Chance. 30 horses. 3-row. With new Chance Dentzel-style scenery. New brass pole sleeves. Oilless crank bearings. New top. Like new. With trailer. \$125,000.
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*Photo copy of a Beech Bend tickets and a brochure with the horse that brought us to Kentucky.*

They were all carved with their ears laid back, but they had such big happy smiles that no child would be afraid of them. Many of them had similar trappings.

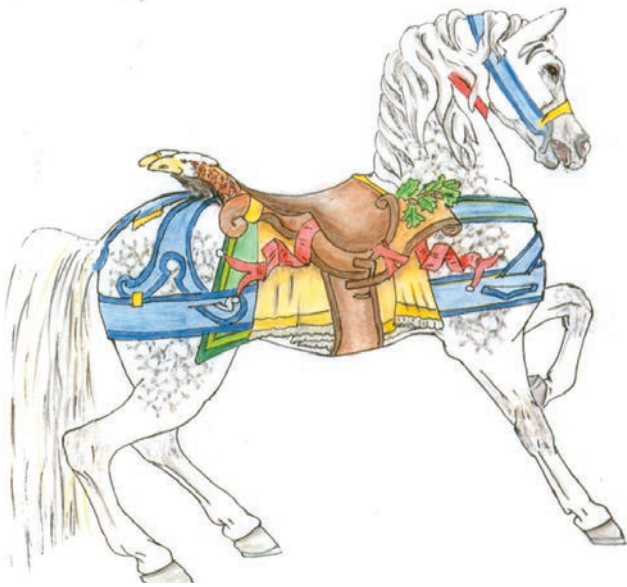
The carousel was in Tolchester Park in Tolchester, MD around 1950. The park closed in 1962, but we do not know when the carousel left. It ran in Joyland Park in Lexington, KY until it was purchased by Charles Garvin and moved to Beech Bend Park.

In the 1880's a family owned a farm in the bend of the Barren River, where large Beech trees grew. The shade and cool air by the river made it a popular picnic place for people



*Barbara and Leah Farnsworth (riding the horse in the brochure above).*





**Leah's drawing of the horse to be restored.**

from Bowling Green. In 1888 the family set aside this area of their farm and called it Beech Bend Park. Charles Garvin bought this park in the 1940's. He added a bowling area, roller skating rink, swimming pool, dance hall and a Ferris wheel from the Chicago World's Fair. A 3/8 mile oval race track was added, which has been paved and is still used for races. Later a drag strip and camping were added. In 1979

The brochure said there were 6500 campsites. The first two days were free and \$4 per day after. There were 42 rides at that time, but not all of them were running. The park was a reflection of the owners health. Charles Garvin died in 1979. and the park closed not long after we had been there.

The park was sold by the Garvin family to a group of investors. Country singer, Ronnie Milsap was one the buyers. During this time the wooden carousel animals were sold to a Wisconsin carousel dealer. When they appeared in his catalog they were listed as RM plus a number. They were also sold through catalogs from Wyoming and California. The dealer then repopulated the carousel for them with metal outside row horses that look like the ones on page 37 of the 1979 A.K. Brill, Peoria, IL catalog, but were probably made at the Theel Company in Leavenworth, KA, who bought the C.W. Parker Company after Parker died. The inner rows were replaced with metal Allen Herschell horses from a dealer in Ohio.

The park did not do well and after the 1982 season it closed again. After the Garvin family took the park back again, they sold the racetracks to Dallas and Alfreda Jones in 1984, who purchased the rest of the park a few years later. In a 1997 letter from Mr. Jones he states that there were many kiddie rides in the campground area and six adult rides coming in 1998. Camping was now \$15. per day. We went there on a week day and it was very quiet.

A wooden roller coaster, called the Kentucky Rumbler was installed in 2006 and a new carousel called The Grand Carousel was added in 2008..



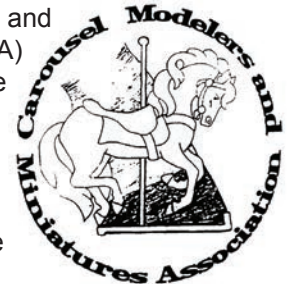
**The Dentzel ribbon horse restored.**

In October, 1980 we purchased the ribbon horse that was shown in last months magazine. I repainted it and it was in Christmas displays in downtown Milwaukee, WI and later displayed in our county historical museum. In 1999 it was restored by John and Linda Layton and painted to match my drawing of the horse. Now we know that her name was Queen almost sixty years ago.

In 1985, the Dentzel frame with the metal horses was sold at auction.

## Carousel Modelers and Miniature Association Reorganizes for 2009

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. Plans are also underway for a 2009 convention.

The CMMA is now accepting 2009 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](mailto:pwentzel@patrickwentzel.com).

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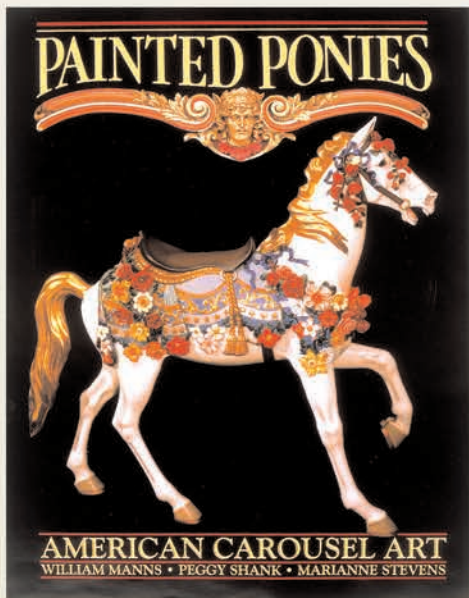
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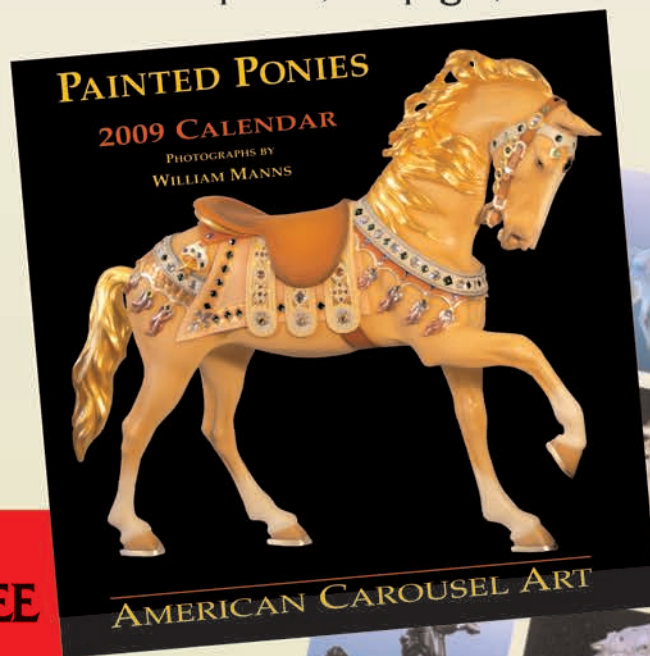
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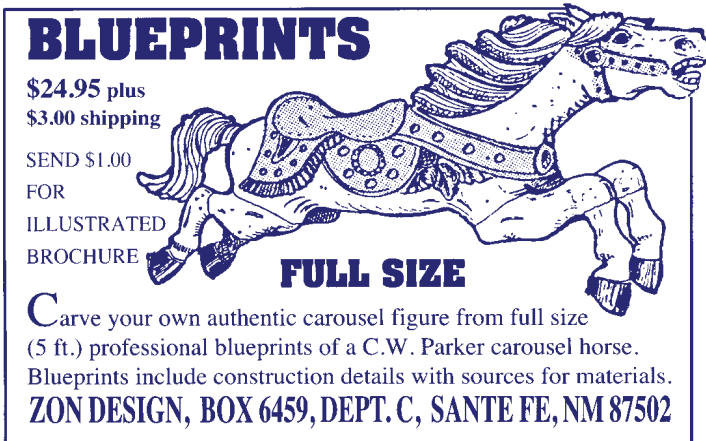
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