



The Carousel

News & Trader

August 2010
Vol. 26, No. 8
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Children's Museum of Indianapolis**

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Merry-Go-Round Museum's 20th



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ON THE COVER:



August, 2010
Vol. 26, No. 8

Early 1900s Dentzel menagerie at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. After 20 years in storage, the museum resurrected the carousel in 1976.

Children's Museum photo

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JULY ISSUE CORRECTION: – OOPS...

Roland,

Just received the July 2010 issue of CN&T. Page 32 contains the attached photo of PTC #21. Your interpretation of the inscription on the photo is impressively erudite, with the explanation of the Latin word "tamen." Very erudite, but wrong. Take another look at the word in question. It is the good old English word "taken," not "tamen." The photo was "taken Labor Day 1912."

Etiam magnus Homerus nutit!

– Matthew Caulfield, Seabreeze Park

Taken

(Now I see the "k")

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"Carousels of Discovery"

NCA 2010 Convention

Sept. 21*-Sept. 26

The 2010 NCA Convention will be headquartered at the Ramada Hotel located at the Spokane International Airport in Spokane, Washington.

We are calling the 2010 Convention: "Carousels of Discovery", as we will cross the path the "Corp of Discovery", led by Lewis and Clark, followed across the Inland Northwest 200 years ago.

***Pre-Convention:**

Tues. Sept. 21 2010 - Tech Day

Technical Conference hosted by the Spokane Carousel. Information on the operation, training, restoration and preservation of an antique carousel.

Wed. Sept. 22

Visit the Tri-Cities to view the restored figures of the 1910 Dolle-Carmel-Borrelli Carousel.

2010 Convention

Wed. Sept. 22

Check-in. Kick-off dinner at Spokane's Riverfront Park 1909 Loeff Carousell.

Thurs. Sept. 23

Pass through Silver Valley in Northern Idaho on the way to Missoula, MT, and a visit to "A Carousel for Missoula", 1995 community carved 3-row carousel on an antique frame. After lunch in Missoula, on to the state capital of Helena, MT. Overnight at the new Great Northern Hotel with the 2001 Great Northern Town Center Carousel. Carousels and Carvings mechanism with figures by Ed Roth, painted by Bette Largent. Dinner at the hotel and ice cream at the carousel.

Fri. Sept. 24

To Boulder, MT, and the Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo grounds and a ride on their 1950s Brill hand-cast aluminum carousel. Then, to the Butte Mall, the current location of the Spirit of Columbia Gardens community-carved carousel on display. Then, to the Silverwood Theme Park in Northern Idaho and visit their 1954 Allan Herschell. Dinner in Silverwood and back to Spokane.

Sat. Sept. 25

Visit the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River, the largest hydro electric complex in the Western Hemisphere. On to Republic, WA and the Ferry County Fair Carousel, circa 1895-1900 Armitage-Herschell. Lunch and other activities at the new carousel building. Back to Spokane for the annual banquet and preservation fund auction.

Sun. Sept. 26

Breakfast and closing comments.

For more information on the 2010 Convention and great ideas for additional pre-and post-convention stops, visit:

www.nca-usa.org



1909 Loeff, Riverfront Park, Spokane, WA
This "sneaky tiger," is just one of three known to be carved by Loeff and the only one the public can still ride. Gary Nance photos.



1895-1900 Armitage-Herschell, Republic, WA
Ferry County Fair Park Carousel.



1995 Community-Carved/Antique Frame
"A Carousel for Missoula" Missoula, MT
Photo by Donnie Sexton/Travel Montana

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.

By the time you read this, I should be home for the summer, or what is left of it. But, as this issue goes to print, I am still on the road, finishing up work on some major carousels across the country. We'll have full stories on all of the work that has been done this season in future issues. There has been a lot of it, which is great news for the antique machines.

Finally, after a couple of very slow economic years, there is some good news surfacing in the carousel world.

Folks in Ohio have announced plans for a permanent location for **Euclid Beach's PTC #19** and fundraising efforts are underway. The **Adirondack Carousel** in upstate New York is back on track and hoping to break ground soon and have the carousel operating by next spring.

Look for details on these machines and other exciting carousel news in next month's issue. Meanwhile, get out there and support your local carousel. *Happy summer! – Dan*



CAROUSEL BIRTHDAYS

There are a number of birthday celebrations in the carousel world this year. Last month we did a story on the 100th birthday of the "Bill" Mason Savage carousel in Los Gatos, CA.

The Floyd Moreland carousel in Seaside Heights, NJ, celebrated 100 years recently.

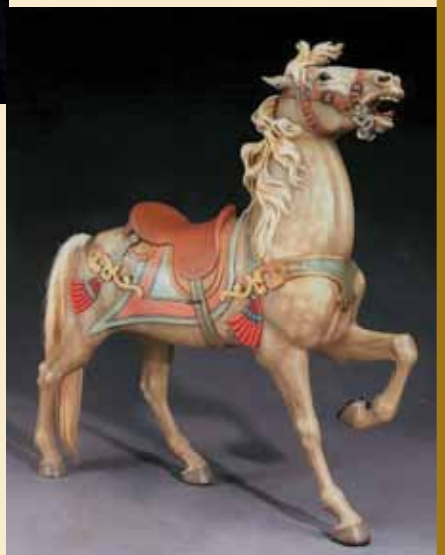
John Caruso sent us this picture of the cake which was said to be 100 percent edible. See our Sept., 2007 issue for a feature on the Floyd Moreland carousel.

The Merry-Go-Round Museum in Sandusky, OH, celebrates 20 years this summer. Their official birthday is etched into the garden outside the building. See the full story on the museum in this issue.



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PEN-MAR CAROUSEL

Notes from Marianne...

By Marianne Stevens

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

**Marianne Stevens poses on her
prized Loeffl carousel at Shore-
line Village in Long Beach, CA
in the 1990s.**



New on the carousel scene, Sotheby's recently sold an early Loeffl goat for \$53,000—it must have been the paint. Privately, a Dentzel lion with a side figure of a cherub, sold for \$65,000 to a well known movie star. Conversely, a near duplicate of Charlotte Dinger's cover horse (for her book, *Art of the Carousel*), with cabbage roses no less, sold for a mere \$13,000—it had condition issues.

Back in 1992, I did an extensive article for the *CN&T* on the Pen-Mar carousel from Maryland. It told of its journey from its original location to its final destination in Alaska and how the figures were stored in a shed behind a gas station. Eventually the shed's roof fell in and they were abandoned in a field.

This was an early D.C. Muller & Brother carousel and the figures were fantastic. How could this happen? It was during World War II and carousels were a low priority.

All of the figures suffered from this exposure, but the paint saved some of them, including an Indian pony, an armored horse, a flag horse, several zebras and others.

Interestingly, the sea horse and the lion had been taken



Pam Hessey photo

The restored armored Muller from Pen-Mar close up.

off and put on another carousel, (now known as the Astro-world carousel), earlier.

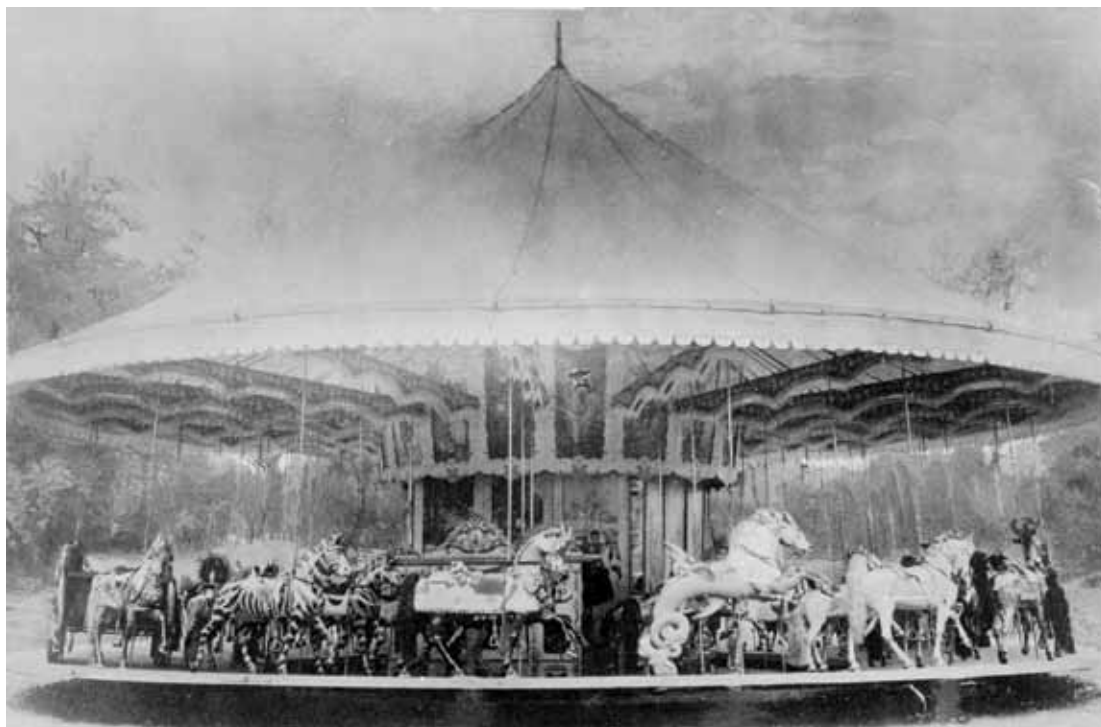
The good news is that a photograph of the Pen-Mar carousel when it was new has surfaced (from the Smithsonian Institute). It shows the zebras, the armored horse, and the hippocampus very clearly.



"Ribbon and rose" horse from Pen-Mar. Bill Manns photo



Pen-Mar armored stander as it appeared in 1992, some work had been done but there was plenty still to do.



***The ca. 1900
D. C. Muller
& Brother
Pen-Mar
Carousel
shown here
in a factory
photo taken at
the time of its
completion.***

Smithsonian/Fraley
Archives

Truthfully, it was not much of a carousel. The outside rims appear to be made of scalloped material and there were interior scenery paintings. All of the figures are stationary, so it must have been one of their first carousels. But, the figures were marvelous.

Besides a lion, tiger and hippocampus, there were three zebras, three deer, three goats and three giraffes; and the rest were horses—great horses. The horses included an Indian pony, an armored horse, a flag horse and one with ribbons and roses.

The armored horse had led an interesting life since it left the platform. It was given to a local carpenter to re-assemble and repair for a proposed children's museum in

Anchorage, which never happened. The people who were given the figures to repair simply kept them. Some repaired them, some didn't.

Years passed. I became interested in the Pen-Mar story when I bought the beautiful outer row horse with ribbons and roses. Right after the article on Pen-Mar appeared, a man contracted me who had the armored horse. I flew to see it, made an offer and bought it.

Now you see it in all it's glory.

— Marianne



The armored Muller from Pen-Mar restored. Pam Hessey photo



Deborah Allen's Indian Pony from Pen-Mar.

Riding With The Rabbit

By Richard Concepcion

It was a little over a year ago that PTC carousel #15 was dismantled and moved out of the Palisades Center Mall in West Nyack, NY, in the Northwest suburbs of New York City, after a decade-long play here. The Perron family's lease was not renewed due to lagging business and the carousel had been up for sale over the past several years, so now the ride is back in storage in Oregon, awaiting a new home and maybe new owners.

What fascinates me about the history of this particular carousel is how far and wide it travelled across the country, literally coast-to-coast, over this past century, starting its career at Wendell's Amusement Park in Fort George, NY, (a long-forgotten venue that was actually near the upper tip of Manhattan in New York City, back when there were still farms up there), then headed west to Wisconsin, played a season at a World's Fair in Canada, then a shopping mall in Southern California before jumping back to the New York City area to be stabled in another shopping mall, until last year. (You can look up all the travel details for PTC #15 in the NCA Census at www.nca-usa.org).

Most of us are aware that carousels, like all amusement rides, can be generally divided into two working types (not styles), those being the portable/carnival/travelling and the permanent/park/fixed-location models. The latter were designed to "stay in one place". But, as it historically "turned out" (gotta love those double-meanings) most classic carousels, especially those that survive today, have long since vacated their original homes and migrated onward to other spaces and places. Even during the carousel's heyday, the



Laura Harrison photo

PTC #15 jumper, shown here at Palisades Mall in NY.

Philadelphia Toboggan Company would reclaim some of their famous rides, refurbish them and then place the ride in a new location, even with a newer (higher) center pole number. In my NYC hometown alone, several of its carousels simply migrated "across town" from their original home of Coney Island. And Coney's last classic carousel to be returned after restoration in Ohio, while it was built in Coney Island, actually first turned way out in the Lakelands of New Jersey.

I can actually name the handful of classic carousels that I've ridden in more than one location, and none of them were classified as "portable"; PTC #15 above being one of them. (And now that 15 has left my area—again—I hope one day to be able to say that I've ridden that carousel in a third location.) As a kid, I lived across the river from another PTC carousel [#84] that I only got to ride once in that park...but after many years, I finally got to ride it again—across the border in Canada.

So, what does permanent mean nowadays anyway? Certainly not forever...but, hopefully a very long time. As with both carousels and life in general, they say "What goes around, comes around." It's only when it comes to losing the things and people that we love that we hope it's not forever.



Swan chariot aboard PTC #15. Laura Harrison photo



Richard Gardner photo

Converted Dentzel prancers lead the PTC chariot on PTC #84 now at Paramount's Wonderland in Canada.

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PTC



PTC stander in colored stains painted by Pam Hessey; from Pine Grove Park, PA
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Dentzel



Dentzel rabbit from House on the Rock
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Illions



Illions jumper from small carousel at LA County Fairgrounds
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Looff



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Carousel Calendar

AUCTIONS

November 13, 2010

Auburn, IN. *Norton's Annual Consignment Auction.* Carousel figures, carnival rides, amusement park rides, full carousels, band organs and all related amusement equipment and collectibles. Consign early for maximum advertising exposure. Brochure deadline is Oct. 15. For information and consignment package contact Norton Auctioneers, www.nortonauctioneers.com, (517) 279-9063.

SPECIAL EVENTS

August 21, 2010

Willowbrook Museum, ME. *Old Home Day.* Ride the 1894 Armitage Herschell steam carousel. For information, (207) 793-2784 or www.willowbrookmuseum.org.

Sept. 21-26, 2010

Spokane, WA. *NCA 2010 Carousel Convention.* Visit the 100 year old Spokane Riverfront Looft and numerous other carousels and landmarks in Washington, Montana and Idaho. Visit www.nca-usa.org for information.

Sept. 24 - Oct. 17, 2010

Dallas, TX. *State Fair of Texas, Fair Park.* Once-a-year chance to ride the historic 1920s Dentzel carousel. The largest state fair in the U.S. dating back to 1886. For information, call (214) 565-9931 or visit www.bigtex.com.

Nov. 15-19, 2010

Orlando, FL. *2010 IAAPA Attractions Expo.* Orange County Convention Center. Visit www.IAAPA.org.

Through Dec. 31, 2010

Sandusky, OH. *"Wild!"* is the Merry-Go-Round Museum's 2010 Exhibit and displays rare carousel animals from several private collections. "Wild!" kicks off the museum's 20th birthday celebration with additional events planned throughout the year. For information, call (419) 626-6111 or visit www.merrygoroundmuseum.org.

COAA BAND ORGAN RALLYS

COAA is devoted to enjoying, preserving, and sharing knowledge of all outdoor mechanical musical instruments, including band, fair, street organs, calliopes, and hand-cranked organs of all sizes.

September 4-5, 2010

Urbandale, IA. *Band Organ Rally.* Living History Farms. Visit www.coaa.us for more information.

October 15-17, 2010

Weston, MO. All band organ enthusiasts are welcome to the *Historic Weston Street Organ Muster*. Come to historic Weston with or without an instrument. For information visit www.westonmuster.com, contact Gordie Davidson at (913) 683-3645 or www.streetorgangrinder.com.

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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Annual Summer Spin For Historic Carousels



(From top, clockwise) 1894 Norman & Evans in Mt. Pleasant, IA; 1890s Armitage Herschell in Redford, NY; 1905 Herschell Spillman in Perryville, MO; 1920s C. W. Parker in Rollag, MN.

A number of our precious historic carousels operate just once a year. Some for only a day, others for a few days or more, but your opportunity to take a step back in time and enjoy a ride on these merry-go-rounds is limited.

August 7-8, 2010

The St. Vincent De Paul Parish Seminary Picnic

1905 Herschell Spillman • Perryville, MO

Operates annually during community event on the first full weekend of August. Carousel operates Saturday noon to 11 p.m.; Sunday noon to 9 p.m. For information, call (573) 547-4591 or visit www.perryvillemo.com.

August 22, 2010

The Church of Assumption

1890s Armitage Herschell • Redford, NY

Operates during the annual Redford Picnic which started back in 1955. Carousel viewing available on Saturday. Rides on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For information, call (518) 293-6259 or visit <http://folklore.tauney.org/rvsp/redfordcarousel.html>.

September 2-6, 2010

Midwest Old Threshers Reunion

1894 Norman & Evans • Mt. Pleasant, IA

Operates during the annual Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. For information, call (319) 385-8937 or visit www.oldthreshers.org.

September 3-6, 2010

Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion

1920s C. W. Parker • Rollag, MN

Operates during the annual W. MN Steam Threshers Reunion which dates back to 1954. For information, call (701) 237-0477 or visit www.rollag.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“The Rest of the Story” by Gray Tuttle

Nunley-Murphy Rockaway Beach Carousel



Four row Nunley-Murphy carousel at Rockaway Beach in the 1950s. The carousel would later be put into storage, then sold and moved to Myrtle Beach for the 1970 season.

Photos courtesy of the Tuttle collection

Hi Roland,

After receiving the Nov. 2009 issue of CN&T and seeing the Rockaway Beach postcard showing a Nunley-Murphy four row machine that we had owned, I am writing the “Rest of the Story”. – Gray Tuttle

Nunley-Murphy at Rockaway Beach

The summer of 1966, we moved our park train from a shopping center in Winston Salem, NC, to Grand Strand Park in Myrtle Beach, SC. Grand Strand was under construction by William “Bill” Parker. The park was opened that year in time for the July 4th holiday. After three successful seasons and Fred Fried’s “Pictorial History for the Carousel”, we felt that the park needed a carousel. During June 1969, we located a three row 1930’s Spillman machine in storage at Fairyland Park in Kansas City, MO. Judy and our son, Jamie, flew to Kansas City, Mo., bought the machine and it arrived in time for the July 4th holiday.



Nunley-Murphy machine at Myrtle Beach, Summer 1970.



Four row Nunley-Murphy with early Carmel horses in 1979 on the cover of "South Coast" magazine, Myrtle Beach.

The carousel bug had bitten and we located a four row Nunley-Murphy machine in storage at Nunley's Kiddieland in Baldwin, Long Island, NY. This was the machine in the Rockaway Beach post card. This carousel was unusual in that it had 20 sections and 74 horses; a mixture of Carmel



"We got only one chariot with the machine when we bought it; so we used a pair of chariots from the Feltman carousel from Coney Island, NY." (Feltman chariot shown above).



Outside row Stein & Goldstein jumper on the Nunley-Murphy machine in 1970 in Myrtle Beach.

and Stein & Goldstein jumpers, with a couple of Dentzel standers mixed in. The Lecari Brothers, owners of Nunley's Kiddieland, were trying to sell the horses for two hundred dollars (\$200.00) each and they had sold only two. We bought the entire machine, except the S&G armored stander, and moved it to Myrtle Beach. (The armored horse was later purchased by Judy for my birthday and has been the center piece of the Tuttle Collection since.)

The Spillman was sold to Marianne Stevens to make room for the four row machine which was assembled for the 1970 season.

The outside scenery and lower inside scenery were missing on the Nunley-Murphy machine. We made new scenery panels and located a [PTC] drive enclosure at Forest Park in Hanover, PA. (See CN&T July, 2010 for photos).



Original Carmel armored jumper shown here in Myrtle Beach in 1970.



Original top inside scenery panels in 1970.

The upper inside panels were original. The original ring machine was also used.

Around 1974, the outside row jumpers were replaced with restored early Carmel jumpers from Shady Grove Park, Uniontown, PA, in order to preserve the paint and condition of the original horses.

During the 1980s the wooden horses were replaced with Allan Herschell style aluminum horses and the machine was sold to GrandStrand Park. Around 1990, the park was sold and the machine was moved to a North Myrtle Beach kiddie park by Bill Parker.



Original Carmel jumpers in 1970.



Replacement Carmel jumper from Shady Grove Park carousel, Uniontown, PA. Shown here in 1975.

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The original Stein & Goldstein armored stander (shown in the Rockaway Beach postcard (Nov., 2009 CN&T). This photo appeared in the Nov., 2001 issue of the CN&T.



Original Carmel jumpers in 1970.



Replacement Carmel from Shady Grove Park.

Later during the 1990s, Mr. Parker built Fun Mountain Park in Gatlinburg, TN, where the machine operated with replacement scenery panels from Fabricon until the park closed. The machine was sold at auction in February, 2008. This historic carousel is currently in storage in Knoxville, TN, and is looking for a new home. You can contact Dan at Brass Ring Entertainment if interested.

Coming soon: "The Carousels at Myrtle Beach".

– Gray Tuttle, North Carolina



The machine at Gatlinburg, TN, in 2008, before the auction.

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The Auction

September 25

The Park Avenue Armory, New York City

In 1983, Guernsey's sold the Edwin Ferren Collection of Carousel Figures at New York's famed Park Avenue Armory. Most agree that that event was not only the first carousel auction ever but it also was the catalyst that alerted the world to these wonderful carvings. For the first time, the names Dentzel, Carmel, PTC, Stein & Goldstein, Loeff, Muller, Illions and other skilled carvers entered our vocabulary... and collectors rejoiced. Following that auction, Guernsey's went on to conduct many more carousel sales, often with record-setting results.

Now, more than a quarter century since that initial event, Guernsey's is thrilled to be conducting our next major Carousel Auction at that very same Armory where history was made so long ago. On Saturday, September 25th, a wonderful assortment of carousel treasures will be sold featuring stunning outer row standers by Muller, Dentzel and Carmel Borelli. There will be lions and tigers by Illions, Loeff and Dentzel. And terrific smaller Stein & Goldstein standers. But this is just a sampling. For a more complete listing, please contact us and we'll rush you a CD with images of the many beautiful and exciting figures featured.

Thinking of selling figures from your collection? It's not too late for consignment. Give us a call and we'll discuss the possibilities. Guernsey's... the world's leader in the sale of carousel figures.

Details:

The Auction: Saturday, September 25 at 2:00

The Setting: New York City's
Park Avenue Armory at 66th Street

The Preview: Friday, September 24, 10am - 8pm
Saturday, September 25, 9am - 2:00am

Absentee Bidding: Telephone
(please contact Guernsey's in advance)
Internet via liveauctioneers.com

Auction Info: Please contact Guernsey's to receive a Compact Disc (CD) of the auction items

Please Note: On Friday, September 24, Guernsey's will be conducting a separate auction at the same venue. For sale will be extraordinary items relating to people and events that changed the course of 20th Century America. Names included in the event will be John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Marilyn Monroe, John Lennon, Babe Ruth, Elvis Presley and many others. Those attending the Friday Carousel Auction Preview will have a chance to view these items which are being sold Friday evening at 7pm.

Guernsey's

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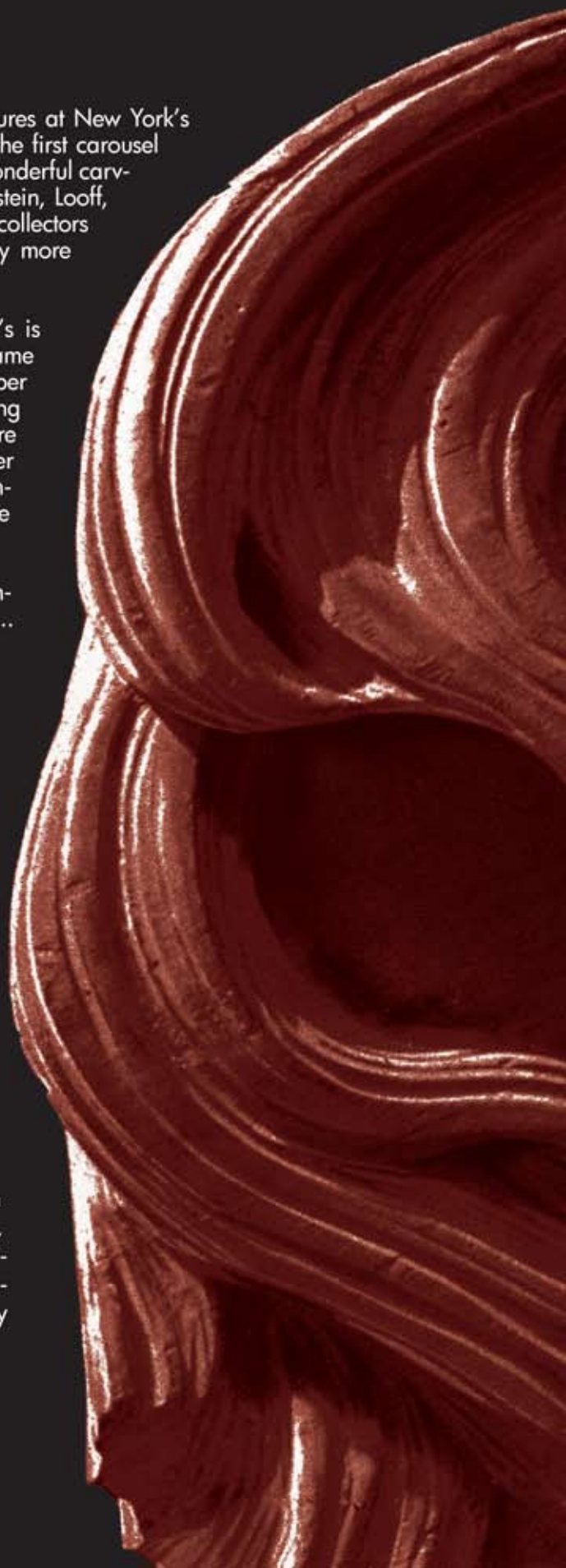




Image shown similar to those being sold

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PTC Comments, Corrections and Clarifications



Hi Roland, Your July CN&T mentions that the chariots that came from PTC carousel #46 are on the carousel at Disneyland Paris. Here is a photo of mine taken of one of them, when several NCA members visited in 2002. Best wishes, Brian Steptoe.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We continue to receive accolades for our June, 2010 issue featuring the history of PTC carousels. As well, we continue to receive corrections and clarifications as more information surfaces. Hopefully new information will continue to surface as we welcome all submissions. In our original story, PTC #29 was incorrectly listed as a menagerie due to a transcription error from the original text; the machine was, in fact, all horses. A great deal of information has surfaced, and continues to surface concerning the fate of PTC #29. Look in next month's issue for the complete story.)

PTC #39 - Lake "Winnie" Carousel

Roland,

NCA board member and past president, Brian Morgan, has sent me correspondence with questions concerning the statements made regarding PTC #39 in the June 2010 PTC article.

In the article it was stated that the carousel had been at Hunting Park, PA, before it went to Lake Winnie in Rossville, GA. Brian kindly pointed out some known facts about the carousels at Hunting Park, PA. He stated in his com-



PTC #39 swan chariot. Richard Gardner photo

munication that the 1921 Kiddieland Dentzel carousel was originally at Hunting Park and noted that the carousel was supposedly used by Dentzel as a show piece, with Hunting Park only a few blocks from Dentzel's factory in Germantown, PA. The Dentzel was in Hunting Park from at least 1924 until it went to Cedar Point in 1968.

Brian also pointed out that the Dentzel carousel was one of the assets bought by PTC from the Dentzel estate, and would have been later sold to Cedar Point. (Why this carousel was not identified as PTC carousel with an "R" notation is not known.)

The assertion that PTC #39 had been at Hunting Park was a mistake on my part. In reviewing the communication in the PTC archives regarding #39, I came across a letter dated January, 1967, from then President of PTC, J. C. Allen, to Mrs. Evelyn Dixon White at Lake Winepesaukah indicating that a PTC carousel at Hunting Park was available for a price of \$24,000. In the upper right margin was a handwritten note dated July 1967, some of which was difficult to read but ending with "our #39".

I incorrectly concluded that Lake Winnie had purchased the carousel referred to in the letter. In reviewing the information from Brian and looking back at a copy of that letter,



The organ on PTC #39 is original to the machine. It was repaired and put back on the ride in 2006 when this photo was sent to us by Charles Walker. Charles passed away in 2007.

the handwritten appended note appears to read "purchased (this word not completely legible) one from Lahoude (?) (question mark mine) Park, Atlanta, GA, our #39."

Brian Morgan is correct. Lake Winnie later purchased PTC #39 from Lakewood Park, GA, and the Dentzel Hunting Park, PA, carousel referred to in the January 1967 letter went to Cedar Point. Apologies to your readership on this incorrect reading of the PTC archive letter.

Regards, Richard Gardner



PTC #67 at Carowinds in NC has a rare four row configuration with jumpers on the outer rows and small standers on the inner row. Richard Gardner photos.

PTC #67 - Carowinds, NC; PTC #48

Hi Richard,

Gray Tuttle has pointed out that PTC #67's configuration is unique – it has all small standers on the inner row with jumpers on the outer rows and that it's a four row machine. We said three row. Also, PTC #48 did not burn, per PTC records. I have correspondence between the carousel's owner and a painter about the carousel in 1971. The carousel was gone, however, by 1978.

– Barbara Williams



The colorful carousel building at Carowinds.

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Historic Dentzel Menagerie at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis



The early 1900s Dentzel horses flank a Dentzel deer with the Wurlitzer 105 band organ in the background. David Babb photos

By David Babb

Special to The Carousel News & Trader

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis shares with a new generation a genuine antique American carousel. The Children's Museum, or "TCM", operates the charming antique Dentzel carousel in the Carousel Gallery (on the fourth floor) each day the museum is open. This amounts to 2,500 hours and 110,000 riders per year, and has been the pattern followed since carousel's restoration and installation in 1976. Boys, girls and adults enjoy the hand-carved figures, lights and music of this grand old, high-mileage carousel. Experiencing this carousel can bring a smile to the face of some, or a tear to the eye for others.

The museum's staff produces a comprehensive museum program with the goal of making education fun for multi-thousands of children of the area and other states.



This lion is one of the carousel's 11 menagerie figures.



Friends - Ann Bond



Early 1900s Dentzel Menagerie
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana
Photo courtesy of TCM



According to "Painted Ponies" (pg. 33) this thoroughbred-style carving by Gustav Dentzel was "never carved in the jumping position. This horse was modified to fit a Mangels mechanism."

TCM is a very special place for children who throng to the museum with parents, sponsors, and teachers. Visitors can explore the physical and natural sciences, history, world cultures, the arts, and see how dinosaurs lived 65 million years ago in *Dinosphere: Now You're In Their World*®.

There are also science activities, interactive playrooms, antique toys and trains, archaeological displays, special productions in the Lily Theater, and much more. The Children's Museum Store offers creative, interactive games, masks, animal models, books and other good quality merchandise for children.

The TCM Dentzel carousel was carved and built in the early 1900s by the Dentzel Carousel Company of Philadelphia, PA. This carousel is an excellent example of the realism and beautiful detail of the Philadelphia-style. Visitors who appreciate carousel art come from great distances to visit and admire it.

The carousel's first recorded home was in the White City



Roached maned outside row horse attributed to William Dentzel, modified to a jumper. Gustav Dentzel passed away in 1909. Mangels patented his jumping mechanism in 1903.

Amusement Park in Indianapolis, IN, in 1917. Forty-two Dentzel animals and two seats were originally installed on a Mangels mechanism. The White City Park was renamed Broad Ripple Park in 1922. Later the park was sold to the City of Indianapolis.

In 1938, the Dentzel carousel was moved to a domed pavilion. In time, the weather took its toll; paint became chipped, the mechanism rusted, the wood rotted, and the animals became dingy. When the pavilion roof collapsed in 1956, it extensively damaged the carousel, breaking some of the animals and machine itself. The carousel was unserviceable, and the remains were removed and stored in a barn by the Indianapolis Parks Department.

The director of The Children's Museum of that era was Mrs. Mildred Compton, who had long admired the carousel animals and sought to find out what happened to them. Thanks to her perseverance, the animals were found and removed from the old barn and in the 1960s and placed in the hands of Bill and Caroline Von Stein for restoration.

The animals were received by The Children's Museum in two lots. After securing two of the horses in 1965, Mrs



An original Gustav Dentzel stander.



A row of three giraffes. David Babb photos



In 1956, the pavilion housing the carousel collapsed and the damaged figures and mechanism were put into storage.

Compton continued her campaign and added figures until, in 1970, the Indianapolis Parks Department donated the remaining figures; 19 large horses, eight small horses, two giraffes, a lion, a tiger, and a goat to TCM. Three missing stags were located and donated three years later.

In 1973, Mrs. Compton attended the inaugural conference of the National Carousel Roundtable, (now the NCA), intending to find buyers for some of the animals in order to raise money to restore the others for display in the museum. Instead, at the conference, she became convinced that the museum should restore the entire carousel to working order. When the last restored animals finally arrived at the museum, a replacement Mangels carousel mechanism was purchased from Gray Tuttle, a 1919 Wurlitzer 105 "Special" band organ was secured, and the carousel was assembled.

Many friends of TCM and the carousel participated in this extensive project and still support this beautiful carousel.

The carousel opened to the public in 1976. The last restored animals were installed in 1977. The Dentzel carousel was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990.



TCM meticulously maintains their prized carousel figures.



The Children's Museum began to obtain and restore the nearly forgotten figures from the parks department in 1965. They started with two horses and added on from there.

Today on the TCM Dentzel carousel, there are thirty-one horses, a lion, a tiger, three goats, three giraffes, three stags, and two chariots. All three animal poses of standers, jumpers and prancers are represented. Many of the animals have real horse hair tails. Virtually all of the animals are original. The Children's Museum has taken pains to restore and maintain the authentic colors of the animals. TCM staff keep an extensive logbook detailing the service and work on each animal over the years.

Each day staff and volunteers spend one to two hours cleaning and maintaining the carousel for smooth operation. Each year the museum closes the carousel for two weeks to thoroughly clean and repair needy animals and the machine itself. Maintenance is done by a variety of TCM staffers, paid part-time workers and volunteers, and sometimes contract specialists. Repainting of the animals usually requires contract specialists. Volunteers sometimes operate the carousel during museum hours as well as doing routine cleaning and assisting with minor repairs.



Prancing goat. 1997 photo by John Caruso



Dentzel tiger with simple, but elegant trappings. 1997 NCA convention visit. John Caruso photo

Since at times a damaged or broken animal requires removal from the carousel for extended repairs, one hope of some is that TCM will acquire additional Dentzel figures for temporary service. Special donations are occasionally received by the museum and in 2001, one of the original rounding board mirrors was donated to TCM.

Thousands of children and adults enjoy a ride the carousel animals each year and learn on the spinning old Dentzel carousel that transcends the generations. For the past cen-



The Children's Museum's welcome center.
Photo © 2009 The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Inc.

tury this magic has delighted many riders of all ages. And, the Lord willing, this fine antique carousel has many miles and smiles to go.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is open year-round, closed some Mondays in the winter and on some holidays. For information, call (317) 334-3322 or visit them at www.childrensmuseum.org.

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A Single Dare Horse from NH Leads to More Dares and History in WI

Zippel Park, Charles Dare, and Gillie, Godard & Co., Gillett, WI



The Dare horse that started this story. Behind the horse is the flying alligator chariot. Leah Farnsworth photos

By Leah Farnsworth

Special to The Carousel News & Trader

(Roland, I believe that the Killingly Historical Society Wild-wood Park carousel photo (CN&T July, 2010) is of a Dare platform style machine with gallopers. It is like the one that our two horses and three chariots were on. The platform had wheels that ran on a track. Dare also made a suspended platform with stationary animals and a "Flying Horses" style, which was a swinging type with all of the horses and chariots hung from poles, without anything below them. It was seeing the Killingly photo that inspired me to finish this story, which I had been thinking about for some time.)

THE DARES...

It began with a phone call from a man in Florida in March, 1985. He was a friend of a family member who also lived there. He loved antiques and had seen a photo of an old Dare carousel horse. He asked me to find a Dare for him. Within a week I had located a Dare in New Hampshire, sent a check, and it was soon delivered. When it arrived, I took photos of it and rushed them off to see if he wanted any changes before we shipped it to him. When I called, he said that he had forgotten to call me back to tell me he had purchased a Carmel from a carousel person in New Mexico.

By this time the little black Dare with the bird saddle had become a welcome addition to our household. We have enjoyed sharing it with people in the Milwaukee, WI, area, including the downtown Christmas decorations twice, and it was at the Capt. Frederick Pabst Mansion's 1800s Christmas toy display. It was on loan with several of our other horses to the Waukesha County Museum and it is the black Dare in the *Painted Ponies* book.



The outside row Dare from Zippel Park in Gillett, WI.



The inside row Dare from Zippel Park.

In Decemer, 1989, 22 Armitage-Herschell horses were stolen from Glidden, WI. It was reported in *The Carousel News & Trader*, Jan., 1990, and had made the front page of most newspapers in WI, including the Milwaukee Journal.

In March, 1990, we received a phone call from a couple that had two Dares for sale. Their new home was not yet finished, and the closing date on the home that they lived in was very close. They planned to move to a motel and put their furniture in storage, but this would be an additional expense. They would have to sell some things, and the Dares were first to go. Knowing that most people would not know the difference between a Dare and an Armitage-Herschell, they worried about the Dares being held for evidence if they were suspected of having two of the stolen horses.

Remembering that the county museum had a Dare on exhibit, and having written down my name, they called me. When I asked them where they bought the Dares, they said



Clarence Radtke and Pete Farnsworth with inner side of Dare chariot (1999).

that they purchased them from Clarence Radtke. I told them that I knew Clarence, and that my husband, Pete, and I could meet with them the next evening.

Clarence and I had several conversations about this pair of horses over the past few years, but I had never seen them. I knew that he had owned the whole carousel, and had sold all of the horses except for "this matched pair with all original everything", which he had kept for himself since the 1940s. He had told me that he was selling his place in Fond du Lac, WI, and wouldn't have room for them in his Milwaukee home. He wouldn't let me see them until we agreed on a price, which I wouldn't do. Every time we spoke, he told me that "collectors are supposed to pay more for things". He shared a lot of stories about the good old days of carnivals and fairs.

The next evening, when we arrived at the couple's home, the Dares were mounted on small wooden block stands. They had never been converted to the modern jumping mechanism by drilling pole-holes through them. Although they had seam separations and a few missing eyes, they were a very special pair. They both had their original ears, martingale and bit rings, stirrups and matching bird saddles. They each had a fan carved on their chest, five blades on the inside-row brown horse that I liked, and a seven bladed fan on the outer-row tan horse that Pete liked. The big toothy smiles in their fat, puffy mouths made them look like the happy ponies in the 1878 Charles Dare catalog. We were told that the horses had to stay together. We showed them the pictures of Dare horses in our *Painted Ponies* book, which they enjoyed. We returned the next evening and bought the old Dares and gave them a copy of *Painted Ponies*.

Charles W. F. Dare's company, the New York Carousal Manufacturing Co., New York, NY, began making carousels in the 1870s. After moving his company to Brooklyn, NY, he called it the Charles W. Dare Company.



The double-dog faced sea serpent chariot from Gillett, WI.

THE CHARIOTS

On September 24, 1998, an ad in our local newspaper listed three chariots carved by Charles Dare in 1890: one dog-faced sea serpent and two flying alligators. I called the phone number and spoke to Clarence. His Milwaukee home and a storage building were being condemned so that the road could be widened and a business area built there. He needed to sell many things. We could not agree on a price, and he said that he would burn the chariots rather than lower his price. I said if he donated them to a museum, at least he could get a tax write-off. We bantered a bit longer, and I told him that he had not saved them since 1944 just to have a historical bonfire. We left, and when I called him a few weeks later, they were still the same price.

I received a phone call from Clarence in March, 1999. He said that he knew that we would take good care of his chariots, and he asked us to make him "an honest offer", which we did. He had moved from the house, but still had things in the storage building and they were both supposed to be torn down on Monday. We spent the next day helping him and his brother, Carl, load the things that they wanted to keep into

their vehicles. Both men were quite elderly and not in good health.

When we paid for the chariots and loaded them, Clarence gave me two extra Dare saddles with a different decoration on the back that someone had forgotten to take when they bought two of the Dares many years ago. He told me that he bought the Dare carousel in a city park in Gillett, WI, around 1944. He had taken the horses to put on another carousel that he owned, but then he sold the other carousel. He said that the machinery and wooden parts of the carousel were all junk, and he did not remove them when he picked up the horses and chariots.

When I called in April with a few more questions, his wife told me that Clarence wasn't with us any more.



The 12-acre Zippel Park in Gillett, WI, where the Dare carousel was until 1944.



Bay Beach Park in Green Bay, WI. Three row carousel with aluminum animals (1987).

ZIPPEL PARK, GILLETT, WI

In 2001, the National Carousel Association held its Technical Conference in Madison and Waterloo, WI. Margo and Gordon Cronin and the Waterloo 1911 C. W. Parker Carousel were our hosts. Margo called and had asked me if I would give a talk about our research that we were doing on the history of the early WI carousels, most of which have been gone for a long time. Since there was very little in our file on the Gillett carousel, we decided to take a road trip on a nice day in October, 2002.

At the Gillett Area Historical Society, we found a copy of an article from the January 27, 1927 *Green Bay Press-Gazette* titled "Gillett, One of the Most Prosperous Villages in the State of Wisconsin". It stated in the article that "The Gillett Advancement association, composed of business men... owns a 12-acre park in the village. In it are a merry-go-round, baseball diamond, camping quarters for tourists and the largest dance hall in Oconto county". After photocopying some of the history, I began speaking with some of the older people who might have remembered the carousel, but only one lady did. She had grown up in Gillett and told me, in a hushed voice, "Something terrible happened on that carousel", but her mother wouldn't tell her what it was, and she, like other children were not allowed to go near the carousel again. She guessed that it would have been around 1942.

In February, 2007, I began to share research with Lorraine



Rooster, horse and Rudolph on the Bay Beach Park carousel (1987).

Gentz, vice president of the Gillett Area Historical Society, and we have been able to connect some of the partial stories that we each have been working on. A June, 2000 letter from Fred Luedeman states that his father, a steam engineer, became the man to run the steam engine when it was powering the carousel. They had moved to Gillett in 1931. Fred knew that two children were hurt on the carousel, but that it was after he moved from Gillett in 1939. His father ran the carousel "until such time the carousel was abandoned".

The Historical Society carousel information sheet says "... the carousel may have been put to disuse because of those injured, or because of a generally deteriorated condition."

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These statements seem to reinforce the condition Clarence spoke about when he arrived there in 1944.

Last month, June, 2010, I began working on another part of the Gillett story. Some people in Gillett believe that their carousel went to Bay Beach Park in Green Bay, WI. Some people remember a carousel leaving the park around the 1950s, and some say that it was larger than the carousels that travel around to the fairs. The Green Bay Parks department has acknowledged in a letter dated February, 2007, that they purchased a carousel in 1954, but do not know where it came from. They also state that they bought a new metal carousel from a company in Kansas in 1971, but do not know what happened to the carousel that they bought in 1954.

While we were at Circus World Museum in 2001, I asked Fred Dahlinger if their Herschell-Spillman two-row carousel had come from Bay Beach Park and he said it had. Was this the larger carousel that left Gillett and went to Bay Beach Park in 1954? My research on this is stalled.

THE ENGINE

Lorraine Gentz had located the man who owned the steam engine that had been in Zippel Park and powered the early carousel, and I got his phone number last week. His name is Jay Tousey, and when I called to ask about his engine, he said that he would call me back in a little while with some answers. About an hour later he called back and told me that it was a "Gillie, Godard & Co. steam engine, made in Tonowanda, NY, and its number is 9525". Jay said that he had gone with his father and a crew of men with a low trailer to get the steam engine in Zippel Park when he was around



The two-row Herschell Spillman carousel at the Circus World Museum in Barboo, WI, once operated at Bay Beach Park.

seven years old. It is still sitting in a building where it had been unloaded many years ago. It had taken him a while to get to where he could read what was on the engine.

In the 1897 publication, *Landmarks of Niagara, New York*, it said that Gillie, Godard & Co. (manufacturers of steam riding galleries) are among the business men and residents of North Tonawanda, past and present, who brought [North Tonawanda] into prominence throughout the country. In 1897, William Gillie was an alderman in No. Tonowanda, NY. When Pete called the Old Threshers in Iowa for any more information on Gillie, Godard & Co., they suggested that he call *The Carousel News & Trader*. He told them that was who I was writing this for.

I am thankful to all of the people who have been a part of this story. They include Clarence and Carl Radtke, Barbara Tousignant, Mr. and Mrs. Sonheim, Margo and Gordon Cronin, Lorraine Gentz, Fred Luedeman, Green Bay Parks Dept., Jay Tousey, Pete Farnsworth and the people of Gillett, Wisconsin, who care about their history.

If you have any information about a carousel that was at Zippel Park, Gillett, WI, or Gillie, Godard & Co., please send it to Lorraine Gentz, V.P., Gillett Area Historical Society, #44 Robinhood Lane, Apt. 2, Gillett, WI. 54124, or you can e-mail me at leesearch@ATT.net.

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It All Began with the Celebration of a USPS Carousel Stamp in 1988

The Merry-Go-Round Museum Gets “Wild!” – Celebrating 20 Years



A Charles Loeff buffalo, carved by Edward Buff, from 1890 contains multiple carved details including a dog on the cantle, and a sunflower and acorns on the saddle blanket. Carol Brown photos

By Carol Brown

Special to The Carousel News & Trader

Take a walk on the “Wild!” side during the Merry-Go-Round Museum’s 20th Birthday Exhibition. Displaying the rare carousel animals from several nationally known private collections, this exhibit promises fun and education for the entire family.

Since the museum began with the original issue of the carousel stamps, a display of the animals depicted on the 1988 U. S. postage stamps designed by Paul Calle is featured in the building’s lobby. The 1895 Gustav Dentzel deer, and the 1917 Daniel Muller armored horse from the Cedar Point Midway carousel are displayed with a backdrop of the stamp set. Rounding out this display are a Charles Loeff camel and one of his goats. While not the original stamp

animals, these two menagerie pieces are examples of Loeff’s carving style. The first day of issue ceremonies for the stamps were at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH, which brought together local community leaders to celebrate this event at the former downtown United States Post Office.

Sandusky’s Downtown Waterfront Development Director at that time, Rachel Pratt, was asked about plans to entice people attending the first day issue from Cedar Point to the lovely historic district.

“Well, I asked the post office to loan the building to us, and they sold the carousel stamps for the biggest first day issue ever,” Ms. Pratt explained. “We talked with local collectors, met and brought an exhibit together for two days.”

“There was such a fabulous response, and everyone kept saying, ‘wouldn’t this be wonderful to have this all the



One of two PTC camels on display in Sandusky.

time," Pratt recalled. She would serve as the museum's director. "It was one of those things that was meant to be. The museum idea came at the right time, with the right building and the right people."

The rounded façade building was completed in 1927 for the U. S. Postal Service, which moved out in 1986. The building was re-purposed for a party during the stamp issue ceremonies and more than 2,000 visitors spent time enjoying carousel art and learning from a carousel carver in the historic facility. Two years later, the museum opened to the public, on July 14, 1990. Going strong since, the rotating exhibits produced by museum staff have included: an exciting



Dentzel lion with the second PTC camel behind.

look at French carousels, Les Animaux De La Foire; specific carvers like Dentzel, Muller, and Illions; and Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousels and history. To celebrate Ohio's bicentennial in 2004 *Buckeyes at Play* reviewed the state's love for amusement parks and carousels and included a list of 99 merry-go-rounds that operated throughout the years. The Ohio map pinpointed each machine in its historic location. Each exhibit has been well received and appreciated by guests to the museum.

With a goal of bringing rare and unusual carousel animals together for this special birthday year, "Wild!" features menagerie pieces, (carousel animals that aren't horses).



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A French alligator, modern preying mantis, modern chimp, Dentzel cat and PTC Zebra among the "Wild!" display.

Prized for their artistry and valued by aficionados, many of these carousel animals have rarely been seen in public. Of course, the museum's reputation for informative and entertaining exhibits enticed private collectors to loan these legendary pieces to Sandusky for this historic event.

Descriptions of each animal, including its provenance when known, artist/carver, date of creation, the carousel on which it rode, area of the country where it was located, and other information provide an intriguing insight on each artifact. The display is designed to present that information clearly, concisely, and in an interesting format, creating a context for visitors.

"Our goal is to entertain visitors through a fun, upbeat story of carousels, their creators, and generations of fans who just love to ride," said Veronica VandenBout, Executive Director of The Merry-Go-Round Museum. "Since a museum educates, we share what we know with guests."

Each tour begins with a history of the museum, from the building's completion to the stamps issue ceremony through the restoration of the building from the post office to a carousel museum. Then volunteer tour guides share the various carousel horse styles and point out examples of each displayed in the marble walled lobby.

Entering "Wild!" through the gallery opening, the adventure begins. Marvelous original Spillman Engineering scenery panels are hung above the display spaces. These panels are from Crystal Beach Park, Vermilion OH, and are undergoing conservation by the museum's artist in resi-

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Child-size French carousel elephant.

dence and master carver, Kate Adam. The Crystal Beach merry-go-round was similar to the lovely machine located at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, MI. Although the machine was broken up and sold off in the late 1950s, the panels have been kept together.

Intriguing to visitors are two PTC camels standing side by side. Carved in the same shop, and dated the same, they show very different carving styles. While the form is the same, each camel's face has a different expression. Trying to discover who might have been the master-carver responsible for each is a continuing effort. Then tour guides discuss with visitors the other camel, a jumping Looft camel. This little guy has become a favorite of children with his charming face and smaller size. One of Dentzel's fabulous lions takes center stage in the exhibit area, while a Herschell-Spillman stork and a Looft ram from the Redondo Beach, CA, carousel provide a whimsical touch to finish this tour segment.

Next up is Euclid Beach Park's own PTC #19 horses on parade. From 1910, the stately armored horse sports the PTC logo on its shield and is joined by a smaller armored jumper from the inner row. Information on the now defunct park is also included. Photos, artifacts, and a replica of the famous arch tie the display area together.

Three giraffes point out the differences in carving styles within the Philadelphia school. An E. Joy Morris giraffe with a gold-leafed snake wrapped around its neck, a Dentzel giraffe in original factory paint, and a small PTC giraffe demonstrate the variations of one form by different head carvers. A delightful, child-size French elephant takes its place near the Morris animal.

Few buffaloes or bison were ever carved making these animals highly sought after and much admired. A Charles Looft buffalo from 1890 contains multiple carved details including a dog on the cantle, and a sunflower and acorns on the saddle blanket. A PTC zebra watches guests from his spot behind the buffalo. Carved by E. Joy Morris, the leaping leopard appears to be taking flight as he snarls. He's not the only cat in "Wild!". There is also a Dentzel cat.

Rounding out the French animals in the exhibit display is a Matthieu standing alligator with a handle to open and close the 'gator's mouth.

A 1939 Allan Herschell merry-go-round is the heart of the gallery and dominates the view inside the building. Restored at the museum after its purchase in 1992, both new carvings and historic animals ride the machine. None of the original horses were available, which made it necessary to substitute pieces on the machine. Early on, many of the horses were borrowed from collectors to populate the merry-go-round. Now, with the exception of just a very few, the museum owns all the animals.

New carvings of two sea monsters will be joined by a third later in the year, completing a row of monsters. Also carved in the museum's shop and riding the carousel are a zebra, an armored horse, a frog, and an ostrich. While based on historic animals, these are not reproductions but interpretations of the artistic form.

With multiple volunteer carvers under the guidance of the museum's artist in residence and master carver Kate Adam, a minimum of two animals a year are produced. One of Kate's own designed horses is raffled off each year and supports the carving and restoration shops as well as the education programs offered throughout the year. The only reproduction currently riding the machine is of a Dentzel topknot horse, carved by one of the volunteers, Paul Koerner. As in the previous century, pieces carved at the museum are done by a crew, with the master carver taking responsibility for the project. Kate has been on the museum's staff for more than twelve years and maintains studio space in the building for private commissions from collectors.

Restoration team is led by John Hufnagle, a volunteer for the museum. The restoration crew members repair animals from the merry-go-round and build the body blanks for the carving crew. Just saying they fix the pieces from the machine is skimming the surface. Design elements on any animal may have been damaged by previous restorations. By repairing those missteps, it is possible to return the animals to their former glory. One of these victories is a great old Bayol donkey. It had been sandblasted in a previous restoration and his hair was gone. With his ears disintegrating from wood rot, and broken legs, the repairs were fairly extensive. Now completed and on display, "Jacques" gives museum visitors a reference point for the restoration process within the confines of the tour.

With support from The Frost-Parker Foundation, The Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation, The Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation, and museum members "Wild!" will continue through 2011.

As part of the museum's birthday celebration, the Carousel Organ Association of America paid a visit to Sandusky with a rally in July to share cake, candles and the "happiest music on earth!"

Additional events are scheduled throughout the summer including the Toast of Ohio Wine Festival and a Wood Carvers Show. Visit www.merrygoroundmuseum.org for more information and the latest updates on events, or become a friend on Facebook.

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43 Years from Inception, Scott Harrison's Labor of Love Came to Fruition

Carousel Of Happiness Celebrates Grand Opening in Nederland, CO



Scott Harrison's zebra in full stride, which became a symbol of the project and is shown at the center of the carousel's logo, finally mounted and ready to ride. Grace Spengler photos

By Grace Catherine Spengler

Special to The Carousel News & Trader

For Colorado residents there was ample notification that The Carousel of Happiness was opening. Anyone who has followed the story in *The Carousel News & Trader* knew that the opening day had arrived. Then, the Donor Appreciation Party invitation came in the mail, alas the date did not work out for us, but we enjoyed getting the invite.

Next, the May/June 2010 AAA *EnCompass Extra* email newsletter had an article by Cathy Stiers announcing the official opening and packing a lot of additional information.

The *Denver Post's Inside & Out* section May 29th, 2010, ran an piece titled: "Nederland Springing from Hippie to Happy" by Claire Walter. There was also a write up in the *Boulder Daily Camera* published on May 29, 2010.

Thus, if we had missed the fact that The Carousel of Happiness was officially opening, it was not for lack of everyone trying to keep us informed.

Never ones to miss a hint, we paid attention. Though not able to attend the grand opening, on a summer Colorado Thursday, armed with a wealth of information, we took a trip up into the mountains to see for ourselves.



Carousel of Happiness building entrance.

Nederland is a mountain town situated in the scenic Boulder Canyon area. The drive is beautiful, though most of the routes are up twisty mountain highways. We clocked 63 miles from central Denver to our destination, and other than running into some roadwork that delayed us unavoidably, it was an enjoyable drive. Without the construction delays the trip could easily be made in a little over an hour.

Nederland is a wonderful small town and we had absolutely no trouble locating the carousel – in fact, given the



Scott's panda and the rest of the menagerie ride the resurrected 1910 Loeff mechanism from Saltair, UT.

route we took, it was the first thing we saw when we entered the town proper. What a cheerful way to greet visitors.

The carousel is housed in a marvelous building – wood siding with river-rock half-walls and forest green roof and trim. Debbie Davenport was the Nederland architect who worked with Scott Harrison to design the building. It is a point of pride for the carousel staff that the building is “green”. With the ample number of windows in the actual carousel pavilion, the building feels very light and airy, and at night it must make a cheerful statement when lit from within.

Between the three of us, we had two cameras, and we had a load of fun taking pictures, riding the carousel and talking with the friendly staff. Not only were we privileged to take our rides and our pictures, but we also got to hear the restored Wurlitzer 125 organ.

On the day we visited, we had the fun of watching a large number of young children enjoying the ride – it really brings home that carousels do have an innate appeal to kids, whether they are kids by age or kids at heart.

This is truly a menagerie machine. It has only one horse – the Indian pony – making the decision of what to ride an agony of choice. Fortunately, there are offerings for all riders ranging from wheelchair friendly ride options, to “chariot” equivalents, to stationary animals, to a large selection of jumping critters. There is a vast array of size, seating and still choices available. The four bench seats are each as different as they can be; the gorilla in the wheelchair spot, the bear in the red “wellies” looking over the original bench seat, the swan chariot and the dragon boat all have still seating. We tested out the dragon boat, the cat, the frog and the lion.



Dolphin and mermaid ready to ride.

It's the small touches that make this carousel very unique: the raccoon hanging onto the sweep holding out silk flowers; the baby orangutan climbing the support pole, the tiger sitting majestically next to the center pole, the exposed workings so you can watch the gears go round, the mouse sitting in the rabbit's tail like he's sitting in a recliner in his living room, the frog on the back of the fish, the ballet slippers on the Alpaca, and the pair of monkeys in the baskets on the donkey, just to mention a few.

Everything is bright and colorful and the paint jobs show a whimsy that is endearing. Many of the critters have bright primary spots or stripes among their normal color ones: the zebra from the logo for the carousel, the cheetah, the deer's hooves, the cow's tail, spots on the giraffe, and the lynx.

Many of the animals also wave or face out as the ride goes around, giving the watchers a flash of fun too. The gorilla seated next to the wheelchair spot faces out; and the monkeys in the baskets both wave at the crowd. And even standing in the hub with the workings, something faces you – namely the baby orangutan.

Other unusual animals on the ride are the Mermaid next to the dolphin, the ribbon toting coyote, the winking kangaroo with her joey, the great blue heron and the tropical fish.

There are some ‘keep your eyes open’ details to watch for also: the small fairy figures hiding around the room, the stained glass elephant and horse, the extra mirrors around the inside walls and the extra nature paintings around the inside of the rounding boards. There are also folk-art accents along the sweeps and an upstairs observation deck so you can see the Twirling Girl at the very peak of the carousel. It is also well worth the time to pause and watch the rounding boards go by. The swan starts as an egg and slowly opens her wings to a full spread then goes back, the boy rises up



Donkey and welcoming co-pilots.



Dragon boat showing the tattoo.

and spreads his arms then ducks back down, the frog leaps up and stands then crouches again. The "transformation" of these carvings is fun to watch, just like the rest of the ride.

Like many reclaimed carousel frames, the Carousel of Happiness did not start out in its current location, nor did it boast such a menagerie originally.

When originally produced, the ride came out of Charles I.D. Loeff's factory. This Loeff carousel was delivered to Saltair Park in 1910. Saltair was located on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake near Salt Lake City Utah. For those interested in the history of Saltair, there is a very nice slideshow online. Just Google "Saltair: A Photographic Exhibit".

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The raccoon hanging off the sweeps.

There is also an excellent short history of the park on Wikipedia. The history of the Saltair Looft and it's journey to Scott can also be found in the September, 2006 CN&T.

And of course you can find the interesting history of the Looft mechanism on the Carousel of Happiness website.

The Carousel of Happiness as it now stands has a restored and rebuilt 1910 General Electric motor, new bearings, and the gears and all the metalwork has been replaced or refurbished.

The Carousel also has a new wood platform built of Southern yellow pine, which came from the cribbing for whisky barrels from a Seagrams plant in Peoria, IL. These Southern yellow pines were cut down some time in the 1890s, making the new floor as vintage as the carousel frame and workings. Neall Strand used mathematical calculations to help Scott make the floor fit perfectly.

The rounding boards also had to be found elsewhere as the original ones were missing by the time Scott bought the mechanism in 1986. The replacement rounding boards are from another carousel. Volunteer Will Forrest helped Scott assemble the "transformational figures" for the rounding boards.

The Carousel of Happiness is located at 20 Lakeview Drive in Nederland, CO, next to the train cars along Highway 119 and 72. Find you're way to Nederland, you won't have any trouble finding the carousel.



Tropical fish showing the frog on its back, behind, the tiger guarding the center of the ride.

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Scott Harrison dedicating the carousel to his two fellow Marines killed in Vietnam. Photo courtesy of Doug Cosper

The carousel is open for rides seven days a week, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. through Labor Day. The Carousel Shop is open during the same hours. Rides are \$1.00 each. Carousel of Happiness profits go to help children with special needs. For information, visit www.carouselofhappiness.org.

The information for this article was assembled from a number of sources many of which have been mentioned already. Additional information was gleaned from the "Carousel of Happiness Keepsake 18-month calendar 2010-2011: Celebrating the Centenary 1910-2010 of the Loeff-Harrison Carousel."



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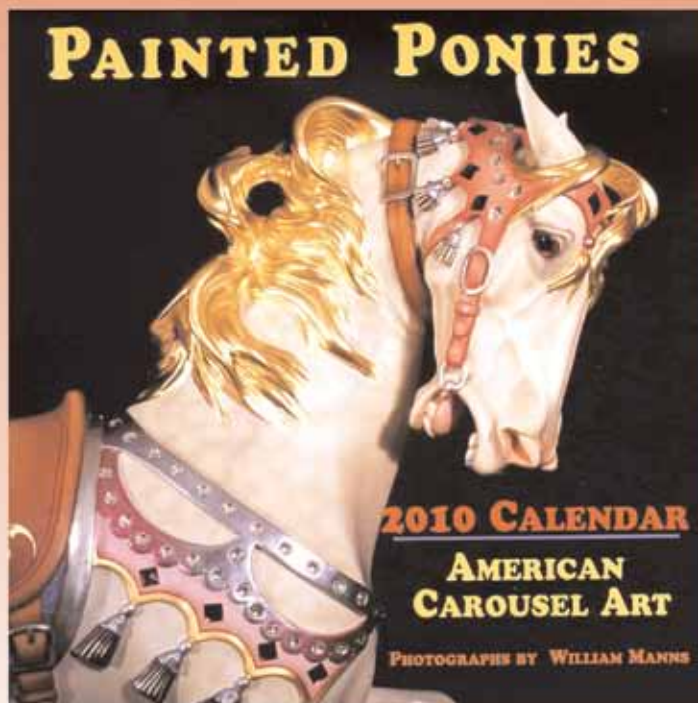
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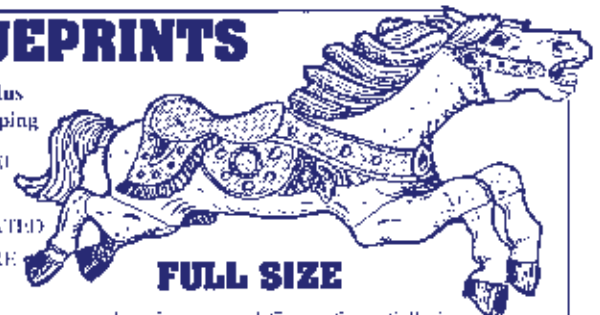
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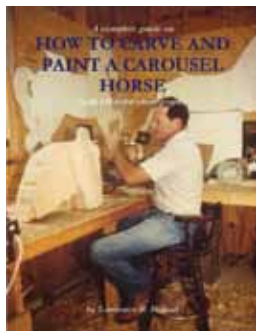
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**Carousel Modelers and
 Miniature Association**

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

CMMA membership includes the quarterly publication, *Horse Tales*, a membership directory and the hobby's greatest fellowship. The 2009 convention was held at the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum.

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

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



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1900s PTC Carousel

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1900s Loeff Carousel

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1900s PTC Carousel

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

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