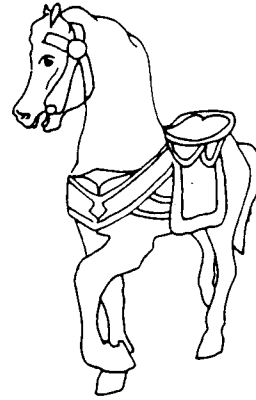


"THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

*Post Office Box 884
Santa Monica, CA 90406-0884*



NEWSLETTER
SPRING - 1988



SANTA MONICA'S SCARF HORSE
"LOOK FOR ME ON A T-SHIRT IN THE CAROUSEL SHOPPE"

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Member cards expire on April 30th. In order to make maximum use of free ride privileges and to help fund this newsletter and the exhibits in the Friends exhibit case in the carousel building, we hope you'll mail in the enclosed membership form so Friends can continue to promote an appreciation for Santa Monica's restored Philadelphia Toboggan Co. No. 62 carousel and for the hand-carved wooden carousels still providing family fun throughout the U.S.A. and Canada. Thanks.

For the "early birds" who have already joined, you could give the enclosed member form to another carousel fan...

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1988

Thanks to Judith Meister, Pier Manager for the City of Santa Monica, we have learned that the carousel building on the Santa Monica pier has received the National Historic Landmark designation. This corrects our previous newsletter which reported that the carousel itself had received this designation. Judith sent us a copy of the nomination form prepared by representatives of the National Park Service which explains the historic significance of the carousel building and the following article is based upon that document, with additional information from Friends files and research by Barbara Williams.

THE LOOFF HIPPODROME - AN HISTORIC LANDMARK

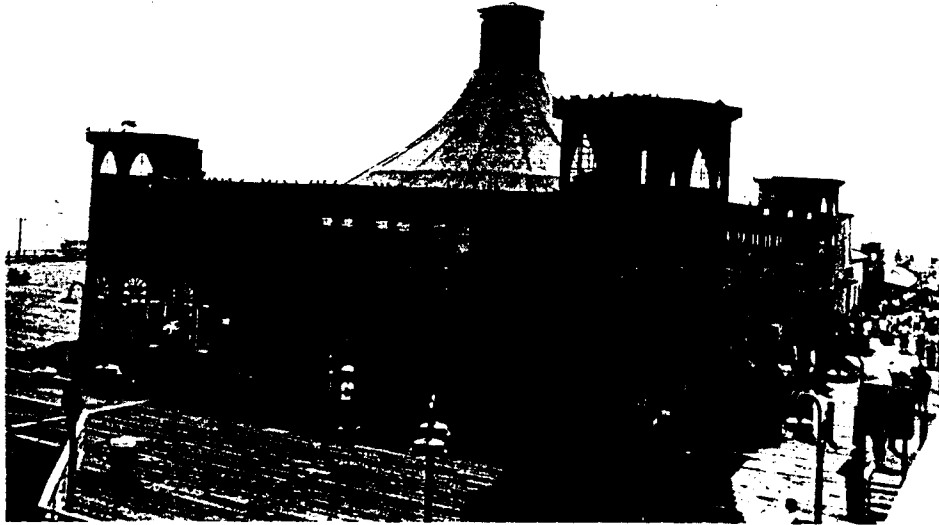
Looff's Hippodrome (Santa Monica pier carousel building) is a rare example of an early structure built to house a carousel in an amusement park. It is one of only two such structures that remain on the west coast. Its location on an amusement pier adds to its novelty, and it is also the principal intact historic element of the formerly extensive collection of amusement facilities at the Santa Monica pier.

THE PIER

Charles I.D. Looff and his son Arthur were well-known amusement park developers and operators who built a number of amusement park rides including roller coasters and carousels. The Looff amusement park business started on the east coast, first at Coney Island and later at Riverside, Rhode Island. In 1910 Charles Looff moved to Ocean Park, California, and in 1912 established his headquarters, factory and home at the Pike in Long Beach.

In 1915-16 the Looffs constructed the Looff Pleasure Pier adjacent to the Santa Monica Municipal Pier. The first building constructed was the Hippodrome, complete with a spectacular Looff carousel. This was soon followed by a Looff roller coaster ("The Blue Streak"), which was installed on the pier after a tour of duty at the San Diego Exposition, a giant swing ride called the "Aeroscope" (c. 1917), the bowling and billiard building and, in 1924, the La Monica Ballroom. In addition, the pier had picnic shelters and a bandstand and quickly attracted the crowds which came on the electric trolleys from downtown Los Angeles and from Venice.

The height of the pier's popularity was from 1924, when the La Monica Ballroom opened, through World War II, before the freeway system begun in 1939 made more distant coastside attractions and new inland theme parks, such as Knott's Berry Farm (1940) and Disneyland (1955), easily accessible. The pier's popularity persisted into the 1950s and the La Monica Ballroom became the first in the nation to televise its programs. The "Blue Streak" roller coaster, on the other hand, survived only until 1931, and the La Monica Ballroom was demolished in 1968. Today, only the Hippodrome and the bowling and billiard building survive.



LOOFF'S HIPPODROME

THE CAROUSEL BUILDING

The Hippodrome is considered by carousel enthusiasts as the grandest attraction on the pier and a worthy recipient of the National Historic Landmark designation. This places it in the company of such as the Brooklyn Bridge, which had such a fuss made over it a few years ago...

The Hippodrome is basically a square structure with "sun parlors" at the corners. Strangely enough, there are only three towers since the sun parlor on the southwest corner does not extend up above roof level. Seven arched bays between the sun parlors, with their distinctive fan-shaped window design, once provided free access to the carousel from all directions for the crowds attracted by the sounds of the band organ and the comfort of rocking chairs surrounding the carousel for those who wished to watch the happy riders.

The upstairs level originally provided a series of offices and apartments which were occupied by families of the pier's management staff and there is a windowed gallery around the interior space containing the carousel. Even in recent times the upper level was used as interesting but somewhat inconvenient apartments for adventure seekers and artists. We have heard interesting tales of trying to go to sleep to the sound of the carousel and its band organ, and of exposed water pipes which because of the distance from the water heater produced only tepid water at the best of times. These apartments were closed after the 1974 fire, but since the building's restoration the upstairs area is again being used as offices by the City.

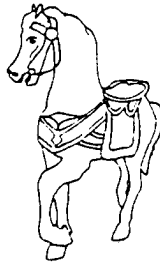
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1988

RESTORATION

The City of Santa Monica began restoration of the carousel building in 1982. The first phase was completed in 1983 and involved the exterior of the building, including new window frames and windows, new stucco and painting, exterior stairs and a complete sprinkler system.

Interior restoration was so far complete in the summer of 1984 that the carousel was able to operate in August. A grand opening, with free balloons passed out by Friends to carousel patrons, coincided with the running of the Los Angeles Olympic men's marathon through Santa Monica, which added to the festive atmosphere down on the pier.

The history of the carousel and its 1980/81 restoration were discussed in the Spring 1987 Friends Newsletter. Presently, the pier itself is planned for a major restoration project.



Other legacies of Charles I.D. Looff which still decorate the California coast are the Looff carousel (1911) and roller coaster (1924) at the Santa Cruz boardwalk and the "Looff" sign which still crowns one of the few remaining buildings at the old Long Beach Pike, site of Looff's west coast factory.

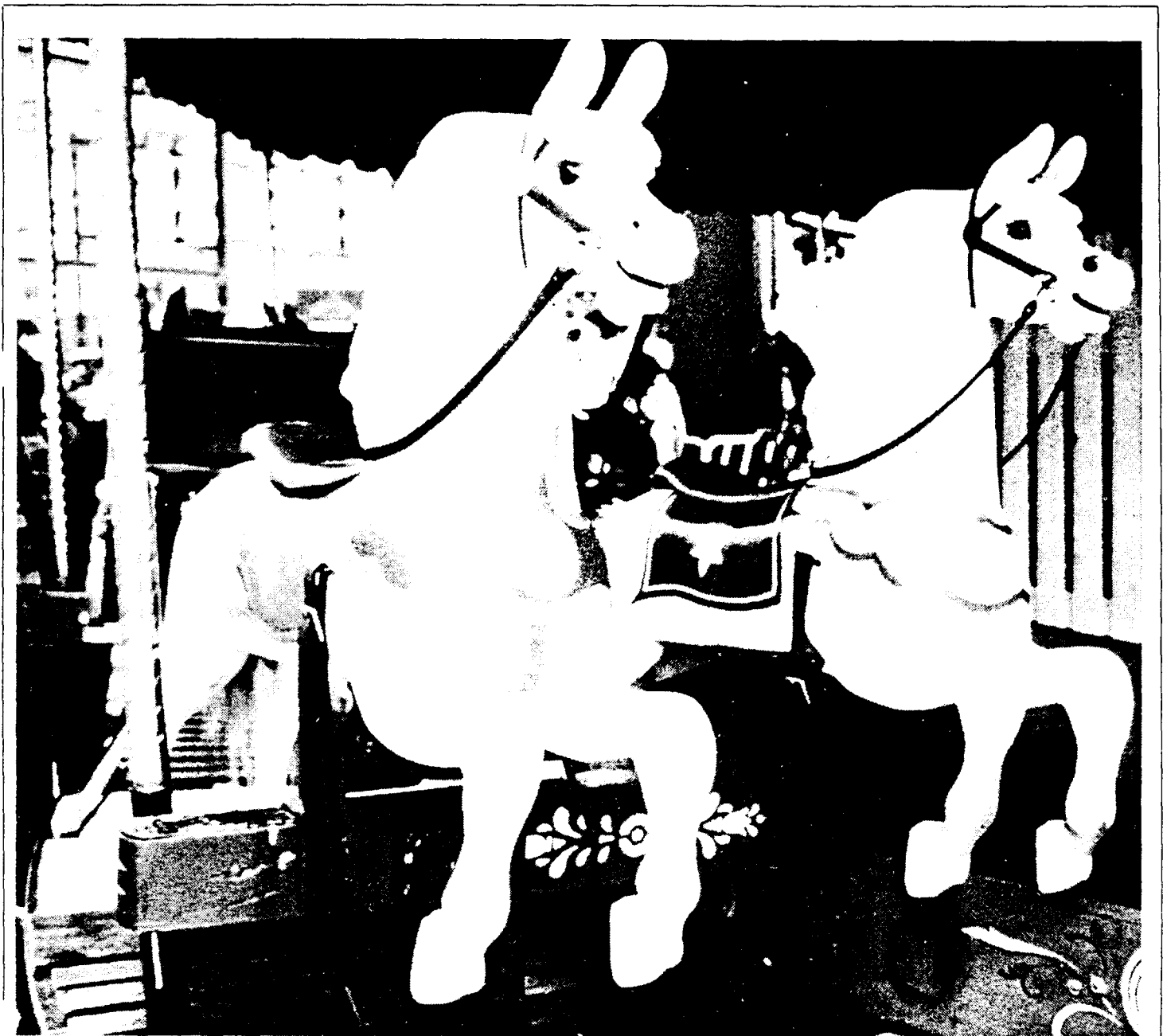
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
STARTING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
THE CAROUSEL IS OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
10 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

The Colorado Carousel



Issue Number 4

Winter, 1986



Armitage Herschell horses, typical of the country fair style.

See story on Page 2.

Colorado artist illustrates new carousel coloring book

By Pat Hyman

As far back as I can remember, I have wanted to be an artist. My heroes are the great Victorian and Edwardian illustrators like Kay Nielsen and Edmund Dulac.

Circumstances and "fate" led me away from that dream. But for a chance meeting at the 1984 National Carousel Association Convention, I might still be dreaming. It was there that I met Harvey Roehl, owner of the Vestal Press, Ltd., and he made me an offer I couldn't refuse. The result was a joint venture, **A Carousel of Limericks**. I supplied the drawings for Harvey's limericks.

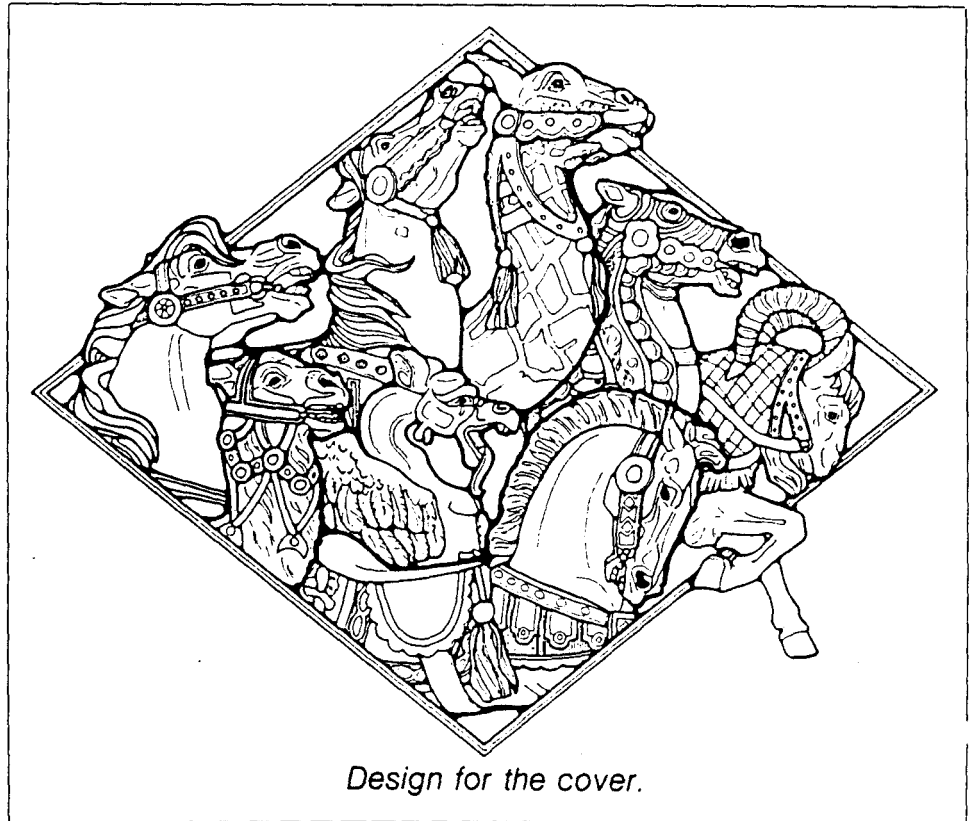
Just as the book was "hitting the stands," I learned that Marianne Stevens wanted Vestal Press to publish a coloring book for her Looff merry-go-round which operates in Long Beach, California. Miraculously, she wanted me to do the drawings! And so I started my second project for Vestal Press.

Before I could draw the carousel figures, I had to see them in person, right? That was just the excuse I needed to fly out to California. There, I found the beautifully restored Looff merry-go-round installed in Shoreline Village, a picturesque turn-of-the-century-style seaside village.

The machine in question was hand-carved in the Charles Looff factory in Riverside, Rhode Island in 1903. Originally, it was installed in Luna Park in Seattle, Washington. When the park was closed by a disastrous fire, the carousel was transported to San Francisco's Playland-at-the-Beach and operated there until 1973.

Marianne Stevens of The Wooden Horse, Roswell, New Mexico, purchased the machine in 1973. She restored it in 1983 and leased it to the newly-built Shoreline Village complex in Long Beach. This carousel is one of only 14 surviving Looff carousels and has been designated a California historic point of interest.

The carousel has been magnificently refurbished. Each animal sparkles with a vitality seldom seen on park machines. The entire merry-go-round reminds me of a fabulous Faberge jewelled creation with gold-on-white decoration on the rounding boards and interior panels. There are 62 figures and four chariots on board, including 50 horses, four galloping giraffes, four galloping rams, and four

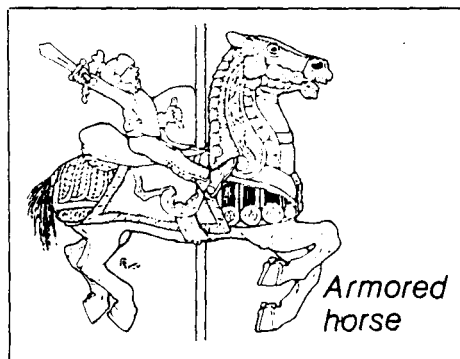


Design for the cover.

camels. Fifty-six of the figures are jumpers; six are stationary.

I spent several hours photographing the carousel to provide the pictorial references for the coloring book. From the beginning, I knew the book would have to be something special to properly depict this wonderful machine. I wanted to find new ways of showing the animals by varying the perspective. The book would have to convey the depth and animation of the carousel in motion and to show people enjoying it as I had done.

I flew back to Westminster and set to work. I would draw whenever I could find the time. The drawings were completed



Armored horse

the end of July, and were shipped off to New York to the Vestal Press. This is one project I could have worked on forever ...each figure was such a joy to study and draw. I feel as if all the figures on that machine are mine! (Only kidding, Marianne!)

The Vestal Press currently is putting the book together. Part of that job is designing the layout. Vestal Press has hired a very talented graphic designer, James Weaver, to finish what I started. From what I have seen so far, he is doing a superb job and the book will be something special indeed.

If all went according to schedule, the **Shoreline Village Carousel Coloring Book** should have been available around Thanksgiving. The book will sell for \$4.95 (plus \$2 shipping) and can be ordered directly from the Vestal Press, Ltd., 320 North Jensen Road, P.O. Box 97, Vestal, New York 13850. Or you may obtain a copy autographed by the artist, by contacting Pat Hyman, 3761 West 91st Place, Westminster, Colorado 80030.

I've given you the lines; now you fill them in with your imagination!

NCA meeting in Michigan draws Colorado enthusiasts

Colorado Carousel Society members Will Morton, Jo Downey and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Link, traveled to Michigan in August to attend the 13th annual conference of the National Carousel Association.

The theme of the four-day meeting was "Menagerie Machines of Michigan," and the more than 250 attendees covered the State of Michigan from Holland on the west side to Detroit on the east. NCA members visited seven of Michigan's handcarved wood carousels including a mixed carousel on a Parker frame, put together by John Hayek and installed in his backyard.

NCA members also were invited to visit Jon and Barbara Abbott's house, where their marvelous collection of carousel animals, amusement park artifacts and antiques was on display.

Carousels at Dutch Village, Lake Lansing, Crossroad's Village, Greenfield Village, Grand Rapids' Public Museum, and Boblo Island were admired and photographed by the members.

NCA President Ray Jones called for a commitment from the members to fill needs, help where they can, and become involved. He would like the theme for the

coming year to be "Come on in, we are busy—saving and preserving whole carousels."

The NCA conference was held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. In addition to touring the beautifully restored menagerie machines throughout much of Michigan, NCA members had numerous opportunities to learn more about their favorite pastime...preserving the antique wooden carousel in America.

Presentations and workshops included "Folk Arts and Cultural Conservation," presented by Marsha MacDowell, curator of Folk Arts Division at Michigan State University; "Immigrant Influences on the American Carousel," by Andrew Gulliford, American Culture Program at Bowling Green State University; "The Story of the C.W. Parker Carousel at Crossroads Village," presented by John Hayek, past president of the National Carousel Association; and "The Edison Institute Carousel at Greenfield Village," by Tony Orlando, professional carousel restoration specialist and past director of the NCA.

Additional presentations included, "The Michigan State University Museum Carousel," by Val R. Berryman, curator

with the Michigan State University's History Division; "Detecting Woodworm Damage in the Carousel Animal," by restoration specialist Sally Craig; "Painting Techniques: Color Selection for Carousel Animals," by restoration specialist Charles Jakubowski; "A Carousel in Our Future," by W.D. Frankforter, director of the Grand Rapids Public Museum Multipurpose Room; and "In Search of a Carousel—The Spillman Park Machine," by Carl Ulanowicz, coordinator of exhibits at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

The NCA conference for 1987 will be in upper New York and Canada. 1987 chairperson JoAnn Brown of Agra-on-the-Lake, Ontario has announced that the conference will be held just prior to Labor Day weekend. The Niagara conference will be the first time in the 14-year history of the NCA's annual gatherings that members have had an opportunity to participate "internationally."

More detailed information on the 1987 NCA conference, as well as on the 1987 ACS annual gathering, will be reported in **The Colorado Carousel** in the coming months.

Hopes remain high for carousel's National Landmark designation

While the decision has not been announced officially, the Kit Carson County Carousel Association members have been given to understand that a unanimous vote in Yellowstone this fall favored designation of the old carousel as a National Landmark.

The Kit Carson County Carousel, which was restored as a 1976 Bicentennial project with additional restoration taking place in the decade since, was supported for landmark status by The National Carousel Association along with a dozen other old carousels across the country. "The carousel is part of our nation's cultural heritage, being a part of our history and folk art," the NCA said.

The other carousels, amusement parks and carousel structures recommended for landmarking by NCA included: The

1912 Loeff Carousel and "Big Dipper Coaster" at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk in California; Loeff's Hippodrome 1922 PTC (Philadelphia Toboggan Company) Carousel at Amusement Pier in Santa Monica, California; the 1900 Dentzel at the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, Indiana; the 1902 Dentzel at Riverside Park in Logansport, Indiana; the 1901 Parker at the Dickenson County Museum and Historical Society in Abilene, Kansas; the pre-1884 Dare at Martha's Vineyard in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts;

The 1909 Dentzel at Highland Park in Meridian, Mississippi; the 1879 Armitage Herschell at Pioneer Village in Minden, Nebraska; the Playland Amusement Park's 1928-29 Mangels/Carmel at Rye, New York; the Kennywood Amusement

Park's 1927 Dentzel at W. Mifflin, Pennsylvania; the Loeff Carousel and Shelter Building at Crescent Park in E. Providence, Rhode Island; and the circa 1884 Dare at Watch Hill, Rhode Island.

The final step, now, according to local association spokesman Jo Downey of Stratton, is for the Secretary of the Interior to sign the actual Landmark designation proclamation, an action expected at any time. The Kit Carson County Carousel Association and the Colorado Historical Society have worked together for the past five years on the nomination attempt.

If the Kit Carson County Carousel does receive Landmark designation, the association may request the Secretary of the Interior or his designee to come to Burlington to present the plaque.

Carousel whirls hospital's patients into a fantasyland!

A nostalgic bit of Americana elicits squeals of delight from patients who ride the colorful steeds of a real carousel in the Solarium of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children. A little blind girl quickly learned how to grab the brass ring as the merry-go-round spun to the magical music of a band organ, and a young amputee, learning to use a prosthesis after cancer surgery, climbed on the back of a unicorn to enjoy a spin.

The carousel, with a menagerie of eight beasts whirling around on a 12-foot base, is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Simon W. Henderson Jr. of Lufkin. They commissioned the \$24,000 merry-go-round to be made by William H. Dentzel Jr., a semi-retired lawyer who is maintaining a fourth generation tradition as a carousel carver.

The scaled-down version of the great amusement park attractions features a pink pig, a chestnut steed, a white rabbit straight out of Wonderland and other fantasy creatures to amuse the children.

Dentzel and his wife brought the gift to Dallas from their home in Santa Barbara, California. It was assembled the day it arrived in August so that the Hendersons and the Dentzels could see how much pleasure it brought the young patients. Texas Scottish Rite's carousel is the third Dentzel machine in the Dallas area. Two of the great, 68-horse machines built by his grandfather and uncle remain in use—one at the State Fair of Texas and the other at Six Flags Over Texas.

Dentzel's great-grandfather built the first carousel in Germany, "The Flying

Horses of Kreuznach," back in the 1830s, then his grandfather came to America and fashioned this country's first carousel in 1867. The business passed on to his sons and the name "Dentzel" on a carousel became synonymous with excellence of craftsmanship. Master carvers working with the family created the first flying horses and a menagerie of exotic beasts skillfully painted to become a peculiarly American art form. William Dentzel's father embarked on a career as a home builder in Beverly Hills, California, in the 1920s, and the last of the great carousel builders went out of business during the Great Depression of the '30s.

A practicing trial lawyer for more than 30 years, the present Dentzel resumed carving and devotes much of his time to perpetuating the nostalgic magic of the family's grand old machines so that children, such as Scottish Rite patients, may continue riding in the fantasy land of the carousel.

—Reprinted from the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children newsletter, **Building Blocks**, Fall, 1986.

Carousel Society information

The purpose of this society is to encourage the preservation, restoration and maintenance of Colorado's operating carousels and to bring together those people interested in the history and art of the antique carousel. The Colorado Carousel Society is committed to developing a partnership between private collectors of carousel animals and operating carousel supporters in Colorado to preserve and enjoy the history and art of the carousel.

The society's major function is: Disseminating historical information on Colorado's carousels and carousels in general and arousing interest in preserving Colorado's existing carousels and the art of the carousel by: publishing historical material in newspapers or otherwise; by publishing a quarterly society newsletter; by holding meetings with presentations, lectures, papers and discussion; by developing quality exhibits for loan to state museums and historical societies and any other interested organization; by encouraging National Historical Site designation for each of Colorado's operating carousels; by conducting preservation and restoration workshops for carousel animals; and by using the media to awaken public interest.

Types of Membership

Individual—Any person interested in the purposes of the society—\$10

Family—Any family interested in the purposes of the society—\$15

Contributing—A person, group or firm offering additional support to the purposes of the society—\$25

Business—Any business, organization, institution or library interested in the purposes of the society—\$50

Sustaining—A person, group or firm offering special support to the purposes of the society—\$50

Enclosed is my check. Please enter my name as a member of The Colorado Carousel Society. Return to Colorado Carousel Society, P.O. Box 66, Stratton, Colorado 80836.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 Type of Membership _____ Date _____
 Amount Enclosed _____

CCS meeting...

(Continued from previous page.)

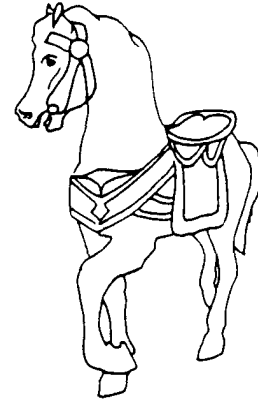
limited number of quality antique figures available, the look, feel and warmth of this fine Americana style of art still can be achieved by purchasing a quality wooden reproduction.

Persons desiring more information on the Carmel reproduction can contact Harris by writing to Royal Bell, Ltd., 576 Lamar Street, Arvada, Colorado 80002, or by calling 431-9266. At this time, Harris is also working on plans for developing a facsimile of a full-sized Looff. He told CCS members that, depending on the market and the success of the first two figures, he may also consider developing a Dentzel-style lion.

The next CCS meeting will be in late February or early March and will be the annual house tour. Persons who would like to invite members to their homes to view individual carousel figures, or who know of homes which would welcome a round robin visit by enthusiastic carousel fans, should contact the Society at P.O. Box 28, Stratton, Colorado 80836, or contact Betty Hull in Denver at 794-3702.

"THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

*Post Office Box 884
Santa Monica, CA 90406-0884*



NEWSLETTER
WINTER - 1987/88



SANTA MONICA'S "PELT" HORSE

DOWN AT THE PIER

Barbara McCoy has had a very successful first summer as operator of the Santa Monica pier carousel. According to Barbara, it has been a "delightful season" with over 107,000 riders for the summer and over 285,000 riders for the year through Labor Day. Would it surprise you to know that four out of ten riders are adults? Barbara has enjoyed meeting Friends members who have ridden the carousel and, judging by the notes we have received, our members are pleased with Barbara and her staff.

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 1987/88

This was a very good summer season for the carousel as well, with few mechanical problems (which is a relief for a machine which celebrated its 65th birthday in 1987). Barbara McCoy reports that the Carousel Shoppe is quite popular and the carousel has been in demand for party rentals. (If you also think it's grand fun to party at the pier in the historic Looff Hippodrome riding our favorite carousel, you can call Barbara at 213/394-7554 for party information).

The carousel will remain open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. all winter long so there are lots of opportunities to ride or just stand and watch the children enjoying themselves...

Actually, it has been a fun year at the pier. In addition to the carousel and summer kiddie rides there were dances on the pier in the early summer and in the autumn we had a meeting of those old favorites the carousel and the circus. The pier hosted 27 performances by the unique Canadian circus "Le Cirque du Soleil" with its clowns, trick cyclists and acrobats. The pier is getting to be a place to visit all year round!



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HONORS
SANTA MONICA'S CAROUSEL

This year the National Park Service designated the Santa Monica pier carousel and its Looff Hippodrome building as a National Historic Landmark.

The selection process for this honor follows strict criteria, and many carousels are not able to qualify. Important factors include the age of the machine, its state of preservation, and whether it was manufactured by a significant American carving shop. Santa Monica's carousel can boast an age of 65 years, a recent restoration, and manufacture by Philadelphia Toboggan Company (a shop which produced over 80 carousels before its demise for economic reasons in the 1930's).



GRIFFITH PARK MERRY-GO-ROUND

"WE'RE UNDER RESTORATION..."

Shown above is evidence of the restoration work being carried out on the rounding boards of the Griffith Park merry-go-round by proud owners Warren and Rosemary Deasy. The paint scheme is cream white with deep red accents and some lovely metallic touches. The first panel of the several now completed took three months to perfect since, for starters, several shades of red were tried before "just the right color" was achieved.

As the rounding boards are completed (now one panel just takes about three weeks since practice enhances skill -- and, they've stopped debating about that red paint) the cherub heads are being named for carousel crew and friends.

This fine machine, manufactured in 1926 by Spillman Engineering Company, has all jumping horses in rows of four. Installed in Griffith Park in 1937, the merry-go-round has been in its present location for 50 years.

A wide variety of souvenirs is available, and proceeds from sales apply to the restoration fund.

Recent visitors to the park will have noticed the giant new Stinson Organ Co. band organ. We were at the carousel on the day that Don Stinson (the manufacturer) was running some test rolls through the organ to show its wonderful range and beautiful deep tones. Undoubtedly, the organ could be heard all the way to the zoo.

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 1987/88

PASS THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE...

Really exciting news for carousel buffs is an announcement by the United States Postal Service that in 1988 there will be a block of four carousel animal stamps coming out.

First day of sale for these stamps is set for October 1 at Sandusky, Ohio. You may remember from the Friends autumn newsletter that Cedar Point Amusement Park is located at Sandusky. The park has three carousels that are very highly regarded by carousel fans, plus a small kiddie machine. And, on the opposite end of the scale, there is a large "racing derby" featuring huge elongated horses which accommodate two adult riders.

About the closest the Postal Service previously got to our favorite subject was the issuance of a block of four American horses issued in 1981. On the other hand, Great Britain issued a set of stamps in 1987 honoring British fairs which included a "roundabout" as carousels are called there.

You can be sure we will buy lots of carousel stamps for use on Friends mail.

SPEAKING OF MAIL

Please be sure to notify Friends if you should change your address. Because the Post Office does not forward our newsletter, which is sent by bulk mail, we have no way of knowing which newsletters were not delivered.

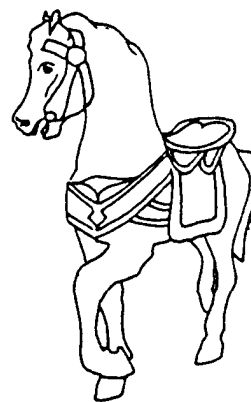
We use bulk mail because the postage rate for a non-profit group such as ours is highly economical. But there are a few rules to this bulk mail business, such as no forwarding and the requirement that every piece of mail be exactly the same. This is why you will still be getting our flyer for membership dues even if you have already paid. We don't mean to imply that we don't think you are a member, it's just that all the mailing must be identical. (You might want to pass the extra membership flyer on to another carousel fan).

COME TO THE CAROUSEL

RIDE AND ENJOY

"THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

1341 Ocean Ave., Suite 91
Santa Monica, CA 90401



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1985

Carousel Operation Staff to Change

A number of the Friends are already aware that Barbara Williams and Harvey Gaylin, the carousel's caretakers for the past 3-1/2 years and founders of the Friends, did not renew their contract with the City of Santa Monica for the new year. January 6th was their last day, along with staff members Shandra Beri and Gordon Pine, as operators on the ride.

Their decision was motivated in part by a desire to use their carousel expertise to help other carousel preservationists in the struggle to save the growing number of endangered carousels. (There are only about 200 antique wooden carousels in the U.S.A.)

Because of their on-going commitment to the protection and preservation of the Santa Monica Pier Carousel, Barbara and Harvey will continue as President and Vice President of the Friends for 1985.

The Carousel's Continuing Schedule

The City of Santa Monica has contacted potential carousel operators and will continue to operate the carousel until the new operators are under contract. For the continuing winter schedule the carousel will be open on weekends and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (For information, call Pier Operations (213) 458-8689.)

Friends, Find Your Cards and Come For a Ride!

The City of Santa Monica and the new operators will continue to give free rides to Friends upon presentation of a current membership card. PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR CARD WITH YOU as free rides are only available upon presentation of a current Friends card. The 1984 card will be honored through April 1985.

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 1985

Summer in December

The Friends fourth annual party, delayed because of the carousel's closure during the renovation of the interior of the Loeff Hippodrome building, was finally held on December 15th. Almost 200 Friends and guests braved the rain and joined together for a "Friendly" evening which was highlighted by a visit from good old Santa Claus. Amid much applause, Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Jennings presented us with a Mayor's Proclamation recognizing the Friends' support of the carousel.

A wonderful time was had by all and the Active Friends look forward to planning more such activities in the future.

Photo Exhibit

The Restoration of Philadelphia Toboggan Co. #62

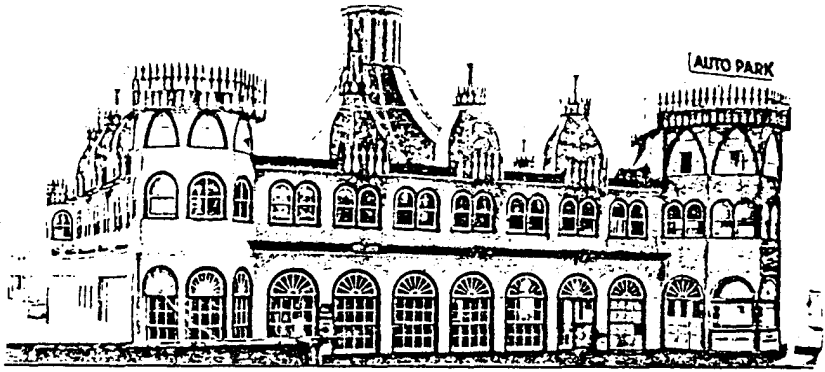
Back by popular demand will be Barbara Williams' photo documentation of the restoration of the Santa Monica Pier Carousel. The exhibit will be on display from early February in the Friends display case at the carousel. Future exhibits are already being planned and include historic material pertaining to carousels, the pier, Santa Monica Bay, children's art, and the art of the wooden carousel.

TV, Movies and Books

"2 on the Town" with Melody Rogers included a feature on the Santa Monica Pier Carousel on the January 10th show. The cameraman caught some wonderful shots of Friends Melanie and Stephanie Aguilar, ages three and four, while they were riding their favorite horses.

"The Sting", an ever-popular movie starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford and the Santa Monica Pier Carousel, aired on public TV during the holidays much to the delight of local fans and visiting tourists from around the world.

Want to know more about carousels? The well known Hennessey and Ingalls Art and Architecture Bookstore has relocated to the Santa Monica Mall (just north of Arizona Avenue) and brings to the area a selection of hard-to-find books on the subject. Available in stock (and can be ordered when sold out) are: "A Pictorial History of the Carousel" by Frederick Fried, "The Art of the Carousel" by Charlotte Dinger, "Fairground Architecture" by Geoff Weedon, and "The Carousel Animal" by Tobin Fraley. ALSO, the February 1985 issue of "Americana" magazine currently in the stores has an interesting article on the carousels of Portland, Oregon, in particular and restoration in general.



The Friends Will Continue

Now that the construction work on the carousel building is virtually complete, the Friends expect to be able to implement some of the plans we announced during 1984. These include slide shows and exhibits both at the carousel and elsewhere, financial assistance with maintenance of the carousel itself and other projects. Watch for our changing exhibits in the Friends showcase in the carousel building!

Active Friends

Obviously we are hoping that you will continue to support the Friends organization and we always need "Active Friends" to help in our activities. The Friends could not have achieved anything this past year were it not for the dedicated band of volunteers who put in a lot of hours doing all the backstage work, including working at the Christmas party, writing the newsletters, addressing and stuffing hundreds of envelopes and (harder than you might think) blowing up balloons. The Directors and Officers wish to give special thanks to Karen Cook, Jane Gladden, Jim Kintz, Brenda Koplin, Elinor Morgan, Joan Temple, Chris Whitaker and Allen Zahner.

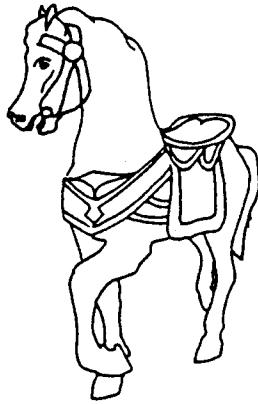
Among the group of "Active Friends", the following have been elected Directors and Officers for 1985:

Barbara Williams - President and Director
 Harvey Gaylin - Vice President and Director
 Brian Morgan - Chairman and Director
 Elinor Morgan - Secretary/Treasurer and Director
 Richard Bloom, Bonnie McMickle, Susan Mullin, and Jim Naples - Directors

The Friends of the Santa Monica Pier Carousel have a new mailing address:

1341 Ocean Avenue, Suite 91
 Santa Monica, California 90401

Telephones: (213) 452-9017 Barbara Williams
 (818) 986-5984 Brian Morgan
 (213) 654-6317 Harvey Gaylin



NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 1985

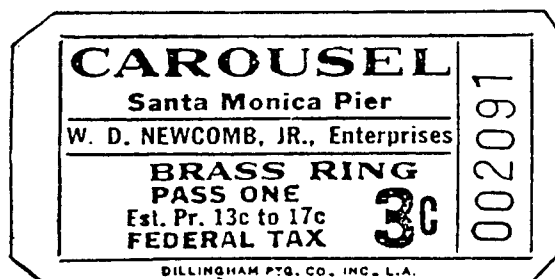
Preservation in Action - PTC #61 Finds a New Home

Philadelphia Toboggan Co. #61, the Santa Monica Pier Carousel's virtual twin (also manufactured in 1922), has just survived the carousel's two biggest enemies: fire and auctioneers.

The carousel had been at Idora Park in Youngstown, Ohio, since 1922 until it closed forever after a devastating fire. Last year's fire destroyed the historic wooden roller coaster and singed the carousel building and a few of the horses. The carousel was only saved because one fire company devoted all their attention to just the carousel.

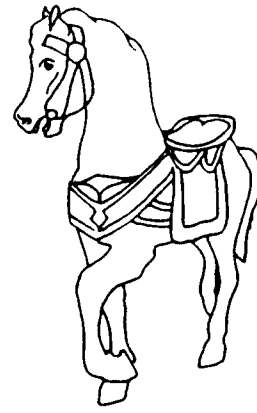
After Idora Park closed all its assets (including the carousel) were put up for auction. Although a lot of collectors and dealers bid the prices up, carousel preservationist David Walentas from New York City saved the carousel by buying it whole (no mean feat as this required a bid 10% in excess of the total bids for the individual components of the carousel). He already has a location for the carousel in his home state.

The Walentas family visited the Santa Monica Pier Carousel during the holidays, giving the carousel operations staff an opportunity to express their gratitude for saving this magnificent carousel.



"THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

276 Santa Monica Pier
Santa Monica, CA 90401



SUMMER NEWSLETTER - JULY 1984

WHEN IS THE "FRIENDS" PARTY?

Because of delays in the current restoration of the Carousel building interior, we had to delay the annual party originally planned for June 15th. As a result, we are planning the Annual Friends Party for early October. We are also developing another "Christmas at the Carousel" party which was so successful in previous years.

We hope that those of you who have held onto tickets for the June party will be able to attend the rescheduled party, for which tickets for the June date will be valid. The date and time for the October celebration will be sent in the next mailing. If you are unable to attend, you can return your tickets to the above address for a full refund.

SPECIAL "FRIENDS" SLIDE SHOW

A special slide show is to be presented by Barbara Williams, Harvey Gaylin and Shandra Beri (the Carousel Operators) on the history and restoration of the Santa Monica Pier Carousel. This is the slide show presented at the recent American Carousel Society Convention. The show is scheduled for Saturday, August 4, 1984, at the Santa Monica Public Library. See the enclosed flyer for all the details.

WHEN WILL THE CAROUSEL BE OPERATING?

The City of Santa Monica decided to close the Carousel to enable the contractor to complete restoration of the building interior. Unfortunately, we have no firm commitment from the contractor or the City as to when the restoration will be complete. We will open as soon as we can and will notify "Friends" in the next mailing as soon as we have a firm date.

WHAT ABOUT THE CAROUSEL ITSELF?

The Carousel Operators and the City have taken advantage of this closed period to have some repairs done to the band organ, realign, balance and raise the machine, and replace worn parts. The more interesting and exciting work has been on the horses themselves. The Santa Monica Pier Carousel is blessed with a talented Carousel horse restoration team on the operation staff. Ms. Barbara Williams sands, repairs and preps each figure and Ms. Shandra Beri paints to perfection. They have completely repainted some of the horses to match the style used by the manufacturer, Philadelphia Toboggan Company. This is different from the loud multi-colored style used by some modern restorers. Now that we have both styles on the Carousel, you can compare the two to see which you prefer.

PUBLICITY AND EVENTS

American Carousel Society Convention: The ACS held their annual convention on the Queen Mary in Long Beach over Mother's Day weekend. On May 11th, the 250 or so conventioners spent a day touring the Los Angeles area carousels (and getting a taste of our Friday rush hour traffic). They visited your Santa Monica Pier Carousel in the late afternoon with cameras clicking. We entertained them with soft drinks and cookies and they were impressed with one of the best maintained carousels in the area.

On May 12th, Barbara Williams presented her slide show on the Carousel restoration and history at the convention.

So "thank you" to Barbara, Harvey, Shandra and Gordon (the Carousel staff), and active "Friends" Jane, Allen and Gina and friends of "Friends" who spent their Friday afternoon helping to entertain these visitors.

National Carousel Assoc. "Merry-Go-Roundup" Magazine: The NCA has just issued a special edition of their magazine devoted entirely to the Santa Monica Pier Carousel, its history and restoration. This issue is larger and more spectacular than usual and includes 46 pages of articles and photos. A glorious color photo of the entire Carousel spreads over the front and back covers of the magazine while the center page features seven more color photos, most of which are still available as postcards at the Carousel. The magazine is recognition by carousel enthusiasts of the hard work put into saving your Carousel.

The magazine is also a wonderful souvenir and will be available at the Carousel.

ODDS. AND ENDS

We have just seen a statistic (in a very reputable magazine) that shows there are 225 carousels in the United States. With a population nation-wide of about 225 million, we are looking forward to meeting the million or so "assigned" to the Santa Monica Pier Carousel.

COMMENTS PLEASE!

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or suggestions, please send them to the "Friends" at the letterhead address. Any "Friends" who have time and energy to contribute, please phone Susan Mullin at (213) 458-8689 and she will give you the time and date of our next working meeting. Some specific needs at the moment are for an experienced party organizer and a knowledgeable publicity person.

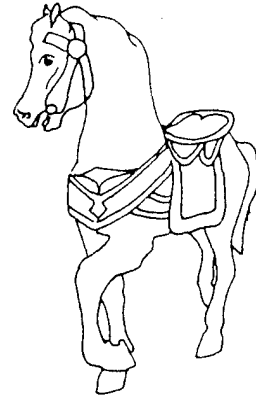
AND NOW, THE COMMERCIAL

Some people on our current mailing list are not yet paid up cardholders of "Friends of the Santa Monica Pier Carousel" for this season. We need your support to help us meet our objective of publicizing and preserving our Carousel and Pier.

Please return the application form to renew for 1984/85. We encourage current supporters to give the form to interested friends or neighbors. Note that as always the "Friends" party will be restricted to "Friends" and their guests.

"THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

Post Office Box 884
Santa Monica, CA 90406-0884

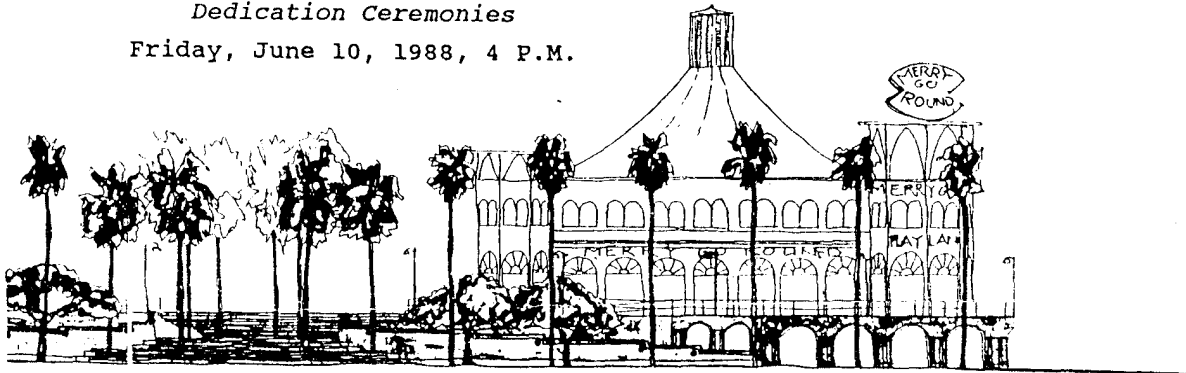


NEWSLETTER
SUMMER - 1988

SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL BUILDING A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Dedication Ceremonies

Friday, June 10, 1988, 4 P.M.



Friends of the Santa Monica Pier Carousel were among the guests invited to the ceremonies dedicating the Santa Monica Pier Carousel Building as a historic landmark.

The ceremony, which was reported by television, radio, and the newspapers, started just before 4 p.m. with free rides on the carousel. Even though we were all dressed up, in recognition of the occasion, it is difficult not to have fun while riding a carousel to the sounds of a Dixieland band ("Dixie Standard Time"). A number of the dignitaries were seen to throw decorum to the wind and enjoy a spin on ol' PTC #62.

UPDATES - October 3, 1988

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER - 1988

Judith Meister, Pier Manager, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed Friends and their officers and introduced the speakers. The bronze plaque designating the carousel building was presented to Mayor James Conn by Lewis Albert, Deputy Regional Director of the National Park Service. Mr. Albert, who had grown up in the Los Angeles area, acknowledged that he had "faint but fond memories of riding the carousel in his youth" and stated that he has been seeking the gold ring ever since...

The impressive wording of the plaque is as follows:

LOOFF'S PLEASURE PIER
 CAROUSEL BUILDING
 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A

 NATIONAL
 HISTORIC LANDMARK

 THIS SITE POSSESSES NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
 IN COMMEMORATING THE HISTORY OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

 1987

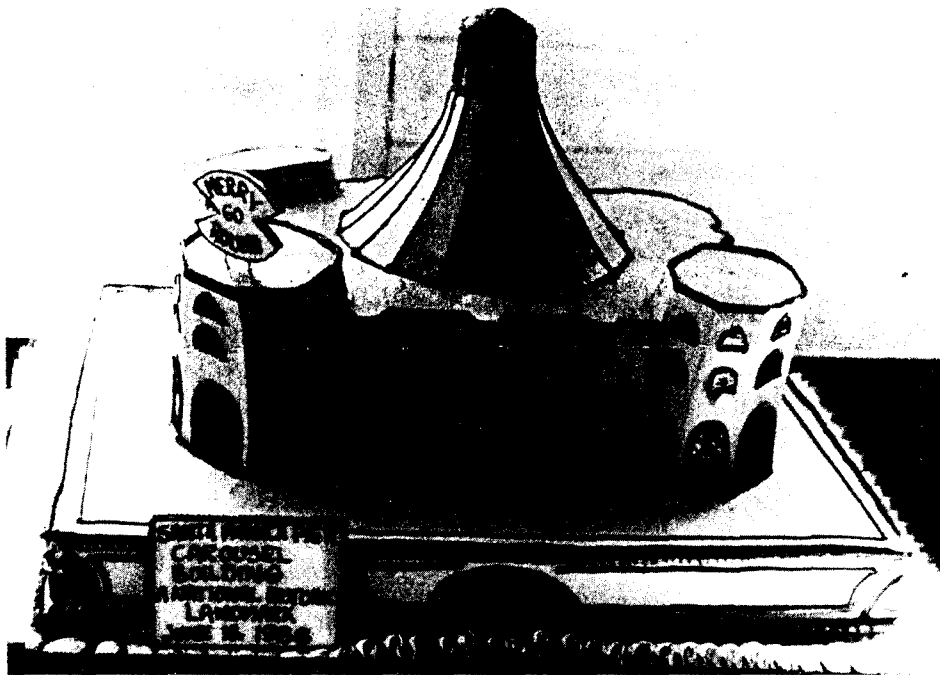
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the chocolate cake in the shape and colors of the carousel building, complete with towers and the old "Merry Go Round" sign. Fortunately, they did allow the photographers present the opportunity to get their photos before Mayor Conn and Mr. Albert cut the cake since it wasn't long before all that was left were a few crumbs!

Another thrill was being able to get together with Friends members and other carousel people we hadn't seen for awhile -- inspiring us to again consider a party at the carousel in the not too distant future.

Although she and her husband were unable to attend, we received a letter from Wilda Loeff Taucher (daughter and granddaughter, respectively, of Arthur and Charles Loeff who built the carousel building in 1916) sending Friends her best wishes and saying:

"I hope June 10 is a good day for you -- all of you who are so involved with the Santa Monica Hippodrome. It is a treasure of a building in my humble estimation; however, I may be a bit prejudiced! You may be interested to know that June 10 was my father's birthday. He would have been very proud, I'm sure."



NEW FRIENDS EXHIBITS

To celebrate the carousel building's Landmark status, Friends have installed a new photo exhibit in our display case.

We invite you to return to the 1920's to see the Looff Hippodrome, giant roller coaster, and the Aeroscope which whizzed its passengers round and round at the height of the Hippodrome's second story windows. Then, you can trace the deterioration of the pier and carousel building over the years. A particularly interesting trio of images, taken in the early 1980's, shows the north front of the building as many remember it (seedy but colorful), the carousel as it looked when the building interior was dark and far from inviting, and the rear of the building with its large number of boarded over windows and crumbling stucco.

Of course, we all know there was a happy ending so our exhibit also sets forth the major restoration undertaken by the City of Santa Monica starting in 1982. We have highlighted some of the different aspects of the work involved and end our tale with a view of the Hippodrome taken this summer when the hard work and dedication of many were rewarded by the ceremony held June 10th to recognize the carousel building as a National Historic Landmark (of which there are fewer than 1,800 throughout the country).

Plus, on the south wall of the Hippodrome Friends have placed two 30" x 40" enlargements of historic black and white photos taken in the 1930's showing the pier and the Looff carousel with its "catch the gold ring" game. The photo quality is so fantastic that we hope you will be as enthusiastic as we are about this display.

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER - 1988

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Friends wish to thank Executive Parking for once again sending in a Corporate Membership. We are pleased that our goal of increasing the appreciation for Santa Monica's carousel in particular, and carousels in general, meets with their approval.

CAROUSEL STAMP FIRST DAY COVER

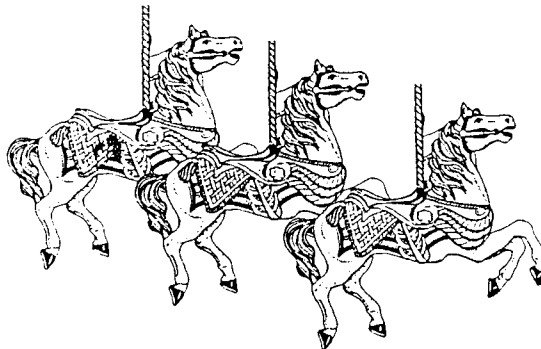
One of our members has suggested that our Friends envelope would make a great First Day Cover for the new carousel animal stamps. Accordingly, we will attempt to obtain first day cancellation on a Friends envelope for any member who makes a contribution to Friends before September 15. Those Friends who have already made an additional contribution in 1988 will receive their First Day Cover in appreciation.

NATIONAL CAROUSEL ASSOCIATION

Just a reminder that the NCA convention this year will be held in Pittsburgh August 14 - 18, and offers members a chance to visit Pennsylvania carousels, hear about preservation and restoration, and chat with carousel-minded folks. If you are not a member of NCA, information about this non-profit organization is available from Gail Hall, P.O. Box 307, Frankfort, Indiana 46041.

You don't have to be a member of NCA to send away for the latest census of carousels in the USA and Canada. Cost is \$6 (which covers cost and first class postage) and may be ordered by making out a check to NCA and sending it to Gail Hall at the above address. This is the ideal vacation companion in that you can locate carousels in the area you are traveling through and become acquainted with other efforts to preserve operating carousels. We took the census with us last year and count our visit to New Philadelphia, Ohio's restored Herschell-Spillman carousel a highlight of the trip.

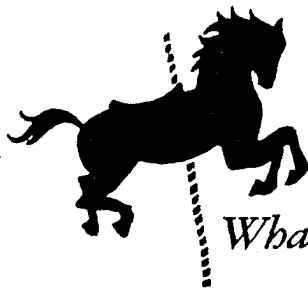
SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL BUILDING



UPDATE 1 (10/8/88)

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Artwork:
City of Santa Monica



A Special Project of The Downtown Council

Bushnell Park Carousel Society

250 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06103 203-728-3089

What's Coming Up and Going Down at The Carousel

May, 1989

Hartford, Connecticut

Opening Party for Members Set for May 17

A totally refurbished merry-go-round will greet you on Wednesday, May 17 from 5 PM to 7 PM as you arrive to celebrate the Carousel's 12th Annual Opening Party for Members. At this writing, none of us has seen the horses completely restored except in photographs so the excitement level is very high!

Each Spring the Society greatly anticipates this opening event to honor the members who generously provide support to sustain the seasonal operation of the carousel. Your income truly does carry us through those long winter months when the horses have been turned out to pasture to regroup for the upcoming season.

We look forward to meeting a record-breaking two hundred new members this season and revisiting many of our longstanding supporters. Mark May 17 on your calendars now and pick up the phone to call Lynne Brown (728-3089) to make a reservation for the party.

75th Birthday Party for Horses To Mark Opening Day — May 20

After a long winter of refurbishing, the horses will be ready to line up for public inspection and trial on Saturday, May 20, 1989, at 11 AM sharp!

Because it has been 75 years since Stein and Goldstein originally carved the ponies, it seemed appropriate to celebrate the opening this year with a full blown birthday party in their honor. So... the day will be filled with games, contests and a birthday cake, of course, to commemorate this special birthday!

Here are some of the fun-filled events of the day:

- Carousel rides all day
- Face painting
- Coloring contest
- Birthday candle hunt
- Giant bubble blowing
- Hotdogs, drinks, popcorn, ice cream and clowns

- Personalized picture badges
- BIRTHDAY CAKE

Though the Carousel will be operating all day, the birthday party will run from 11 AM to 2 PM. Children are encouraged to bring presents of toys to the horses for their birthday. All gifts will be collected and donated to needy children through 96 TIC-FM's "We Are the Children" program.

We look forward to one of the largest opening days we have had to date for several reasons:

- 1) we're having a birthday party for the horses;
- 2) one of your favorite DJ's from 96 TIC-FM will be on hand at 1:30 PM to cut the birthday cake;
- 3) the carousel is late opening by more than a month due to the restoration and anticipation is high;
- 4) more riders than ever will want to view the newly restored carousel;
- 5) this merry-go-round is still the cheapest form of mass transit in Downtown Hartford at a very affordable 25 cents;
- 6) a newly constructed brick walkway around the pavilion, additional park lighting just outside the door and three huge brownstone planters filled with a variety of greens now beautify the entire area around the Carousel;
- 7) the Carousel is one of only a few "moving folk art museums" left in the country. Where there used to be thousands, there are now fewer than 200 remaining;
- 8) real horses will be in the park that day carrying the Mounted Police.

Another Volunteer Opportunity

Want to have some fun and help many others do the same?

Come down to the Carousel for our opening day on May 20 from 10 AM to 2 PM to assist with the birthday party festivities. As you can see from the above article, many activities have been planned for the day which would benefit from your assistance... and, we are expecting record-breaking crowds!

UPDATE 3 (5/30/89)

We can guarantee it will be four hours filled with lots of laughs. Pick your project if you have something special you would like to do, or we'll prescribe your method of fun that day. Just call Lynne Brown (728-3089) to give her your name (and preference if you have one).

About the Restoration Process

Late last fall all 48 horses and two lovers' chariots were loaded into a moving van and driven to The Carousel Works of Mansfield, Ohio, where they have been undergoing major restorative work.

All layers of paint have been stripped, literally thousands of joints have been reglued and then the totally restored bodies painted with primer coat. Left standing in a row, they await their final beautifying process. To most of us, this final "dressing" is the most exciting aspect; it is to the artists that paint them, too!

The knowledge and skill needed, however, to get these wooden bodies soundly repaired after having been ravaged by extremes of temperature as well as constant use is a special talent. For instance, many kinds of glue as well as paint have been researched to come up with products that will endure for many years. The Carousel Works has been very successful in both areas.

Mechanically, everything is being checked and rechecked for wear and replaced where necessary to ensure rider safety.

The deck where the horses stand has been taken down to the bare wood, worn boards replaced and several fresh coats of paint applied.

What you will see when you come to the Opening Party is an impeccably restored antique merry-go-round... a crown jewel... to be admired and enjoyed.

Carousel Museum for Connecticut

The first East Coast museum dedicated to carousels will open May 20, 1989, in Bristol.

The New England Carousel Museum will have on its

first floor, displays of 300 or so carved animals. Horses, cats, elephants and other pieces will be shown individually or as part of whole carousels. Some of the pieces will be from the collection of the museum's organizer, Bill Finkenstein. Temporary displays from other privately owned collections will also be on display.

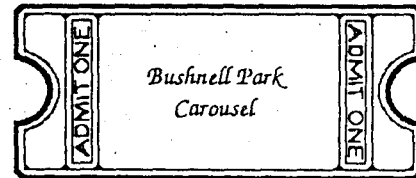
Among the pieces: two carved chariots dating from about 1915 each encrusted with up to 1,500 glass jewels, and an entire carousel from Santa's Land, an amusement park in Putney, VT.

"Many people around here and in New York remember this one from their youth," Mr. Finkenstein said.

On the second floor, daily operations of Mr. Finkenstein's *R & F Designs*, a carousel restoration business, will be open to visitors. Here they will see workers carving and painting and applying gold leaf to figures and repairing the machinery that drives them.

In the museum there will also be an exhibit of hurdy-gurdy organs, which visitors can play.

The New England Carousel Museum, opening on May 20, will be at Riverside Avenue in Bristol.



Membership Renewals

Thank all of you who sat right down to respond to the membership renewal letter that went out last month. Your prompt response was appreciated (and sorely needed due to our very late opening this year).



CSNF NEWS

CAROUSEL SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 672
 NO. TONAWANDA, N.Y. 14120

VOLUME X

NO. 3

EDITOR: JEANETTE HARMON
 171 ELMWOOD PARK WEST
 TONAWANDA, N.Y. 14150

AUGUST 1989

EDITORIAL:

TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

It seems fitting that this issue be deemed an Anniversary issue in both celebration and admiration for our achievements of the last decade. It was in spring of 1979 that the idea to create a Carousel Museum was first born. Like a child, the idea was nurtured, loved and has grown. What was once a handful of people is now an army of volunteers and supporters who have brought national attention to our community. The idea and the people have united ---the end result is the Herschell Carousel Museum with all the splendor and glory due such a wondrous feat. For some of you this will be a walk down memory lane. Pat yourself on the back as you reminisce with us. This is a tribute to you. For those of you who have just come on board, it will be a learning experience. You will be amazed to see that no task is too great, given determination and dedication. And now let us begin our journey from the past to the present.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Carousel museum proposed for NT

By CHRIS SALAMONE
 Gazette Correspondent
 NORTH TONAWANDA — A proposed museum here could preserve the last remaining building of what once was the largest amusement ride company in the world, as well as house memorabilia from the once-thriving carousel industry of a bygone era.

The Tonawanda Council on the Arts, has presented the City Council with a proposal to purchase the old Hirschell-Spillman building, 39 Gravel St., for the purpose of restoring and exhibiting carousels which were made at the site as early as 1883.

According to a council spokesman, the building is huge and could be used as an extension of the council's Goundry Street offices. The spokesman said that eventually the museum would have a display room for the Hirschell-Spillman Co., an exhibit area for carousel memorabilia, a 500-seat music theater, restoring areas, gift shops and a restaurant.

The Hirschell-Spillman Co. was founded in North Tonawanda by Allan Hirschell and his brother-in-law Ed Spillman after several reorganizations of the Hirschell Co. In addition to amusement park manufacturing, the first Hirschell companies manufactured steam engines and boilers. Hirschell's

first carousel, made in 1883, was steam-powered. Spillman owned and operated an engineering company in the city.

In 1915, Hirschell representatives bought out Spillman's share of the business and the company was known as the Allan Hirschell Co. Inc. Soon after, the company moved to Buffalo where it produced carousels until sometime during the 1960s.

Since the company's move to Buffalo in the 1910s, all but one of the factories have been torn down. The remaining building, with Allan Hirschell Co. Inc. written boldly across it, is now owned by Deborah Kowalewski and Lynn Shell, who are sisters. They also own Industrial Motor Service Inc. and utilize the Hirschell building as a warehouse. Ms. Kowalewski and Ms. Shell are willing to negotiate with North Tonawanda.

"We feel this is a very vital part of the past of this community and it should be preserved," the spokesman explained. The council has located a carousel in California which was built in 1913. "We hope to purchase the carousel and restore it for the museum," he said.

The carousel is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fowler of Claremont, who love carousels, but are willing to part with this hand-carved antique for \$21,000.

7-22-1979

NIA-GAZ.

SPAGHETTI DINNERS
 YARD SALES
 DUNKING MACHINES
 TRAVELLING SLIDE PRESENTATIONS
 BPO CONCERTS
 ORGAN CONCERTS
 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
 CHAMPAGNE PARTIES
 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

CANDY SALES
 DOOR-to-DOOR DRIVES
 SHOPPING SPREES
 RAFFLES
 WEBSTER STREET CAROUSEL DAYS
 CANAL FEST RIDES
 PONY RIDES
 COLLECTION CANISTERS
 PLANT SALES

And the list goes on. If there was a fundraiser to be had, we had it.

Our viewpoint
Attend Carousel Ball

TON. NEWS 2/11/80

A NEW, high-spirited group in town is generating much interest in the possibility of purchasing an authentic Allen Herschell carousel for display in a special theme museum in North Tonawanda.

The Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier is attempting to instill a sense of pride and "merry-go-round fever" in Tonawandans in order to accomplish its goals, and a "Carousel Ball" set for Saturday night is part of that effort.

Allen Herschell, who is in charge of the group arranging the dance, is a grandson of the founder of the merry-go-round factory which operated for years in NT. The dance will center on a carousel theme and advance ticket sales have been brisk.

IN 1903 the Allen Herschell factory was the largest manufacturer of carousels in the world and the society

hopes to eventually turn the old factory into a local museum for carousel memorabilia.

The society has its sights set on an original carousel on the West Coast, that was manufactured here, and the cost is about \$30,000. The society hopes to raise \$50,000, which then might be matched by state and federal funds.

The society could then purchase and renovate the old factory into what it hopes would be the finest Carousel museum anywhere.

IT'S AN ambitious goal, but the society members have shown the enthusiasm and dedication needed to get the job done.

We urge the public to get behind this outstanding local effort and suggest that residents show their support by attending the Carousel Ball tomorrow night at the Sikora Post on Payne Avenue.



FEBRUARY IS CAROUSEL MONTH: George Horvath, left, and Allan F. Herschell of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier hold the initial draft of North Tonawanda Mayor Betty Hoffman's proclamation of February as Carousel Month. Mrs. Hoffman will present the proclamation at the Carousel Benefit Ball on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Stephen Sikora American Legion Post 1322, 950 Payne Ave. The public is invited and tickets will be available at the door.

GETTING THE BALL ROLLING!

Friday, October 24, 1980

Carousel figures to spin tale

TON. NEWS

By LOU MICHEL

Round and round went the Herschell-Spillman merry-go-round, circling its way into the webs of history.

And though many of the classic carousels, which were manufactured in North Tonawanda, are lost forever in that web, some of the carousel animals and other carvings will journey from the past back home Friday night.

Area residents will have an opportunity to view their heritage at the Carnegie Cultural Center, 240 Goundry Street, where the figures and carvings will be on exhibit through Dec. 30.

The Herschell-Spillman Exhibition will officially open with a public reception at the center from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday. Admission is free.

Included in the exhibition will be various animal figures and carousel panels that show the craftsmanship and skills of the Herschell-Spillman artisans. The artifacts have been donated by various persons and organizations throughout the Western New York area.

At the center, there is an air of excitement over the exhibition.

Robert B. Ramer, recently-appointed executive director of the center, believes the exhibition will help

further establish the center as an area cultural stronghold.

"People can relate to the carousel and I think it will have appeal to the people here because it was built here. We definitely should be able to make some waves with this event and gain a lot of publicity.

"Already, we are well known for our comic art gallery. In fact, we have the fourth largest gallery in the country. With the carousel exhibit, we hope to further establish the center in the cultural community. We are planning a booklet on carousels. It will be marketed nationally," Ramer, a 29-year-old Lockport resident, said.

Although he is hoping to draw publicity to the center, Ramer also hopes the exhibit will inspire local residents with artistic ability to come forward and utilize the center.

"I'm fascinated with the possibilities of developing the artistic talents of local people. During the exhibition, I hope to meet area people interested in the arts and developing their own artistic abilities. I also hope to increase the center's membership rolls through the attention generated by the exhibit," Ramer said.

The event is being sponsored by the Tonawandas Council on the Arts in conjunction with the state Council on the Arts.



Thursday, February 11, 1982

Tonawanda NEWS

Carousel Society loses out on its bid

By MARY FIELD
 Some 300 original Spillman Engineering Co. carousels which were manufactured in North Tonawanda in the early part of the century today can be found in all parts of the world.

Frank Guman, owner of the Spillman carousel in Mahanoy City, this week accepted a \$150,000 bid offered by the Grand Rapids Museum in Michigan according to W.E. Frankfurter, museum director.

But North Tonawanda hasn't got a one.

That's the story told today by Raphaelle Proefrock of North Tonawanda, president of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier. And, according to Proefrock, the society is working hard to "bring one home."

Although the local Carousel Society had submitted the same \$150,000 bid last November, the group has been unable to raise the \$50,000 downpayment requested by the owner, said Proefrock.

This week the Carousel Society lost its chance at an original Spillman carousel which had been for sale in Mahanoy City, Pa.

About \$10,000 had been raised by the society in recent months for the downpayment, she said. But because the Grand Rapids Museum had its money "up front," the owner decided to accept the museum's bid over the society's offer, she added.

Frankfurter said the museum plans to use the carousel as a main attraction when the museum relocates to a downtown location. "We heard about the Carousel Society's story and we're sorry it hasn't been able to find a carousel," he said. "But I can't say we're not grateful to purchase this carousel. We've been looking all over for one and it fits right into our plan for the museum's renovations."

Proefrock reported only about 300 of the original 10,000 Spillman carousels have been preserved throughout the world. And, she added, despite losing the carousel it had bid for in Mahanoy City, it will continue its search to bring back one of the remaining 100 carousels to North Tonawanda. "We haven't given up hope," she noted.

Newsletter OCTOBER 1980
 CAROUSEL SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.
 240 GOUNDRY STREET, NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14120
 694-1490

10 Herschell Spillman prange, 1910 model, one horse, also from Newton Lake Park. HAS BEEN STRIPPED. Back taken Park (Hershey), Cal machine during restoration, 1979

11 Herschell Spillman horse, 1910 model, one horse, also from Newton Lake Park. Restored in wood without metal original steps showing through. Very striking. Can be displayed from either side.

12 Herschell Spillman dog, 1910 model, one dog, also from Newton Lake Park. Restored in wood without metal original steps showing through. Very striking. Can be displayed from either side.

(Photos courtesy of Pauline Design, 234 High St., Santa Cruz, California)

CARNIVAL
 MAY 27-30
 Rides, Games, Food
 Allan Herschell
 Merryground
 Built in N. Tona.
 SATURDAY
 BAND ORGAN CONCERT
 FELTON FIELD - NO. TONA.

5/21/81
 TON.
 NEWS

UPDATE 4 (11/14/89)

Society setting its sights on 'new' carousel

By LOU MICHEL

Spinning the wheels and making progress — that's exactly what members of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier, based in North Tonawanda, have been up to lately.

Though the society was unlucky in its efforts to purchase a \$175,000 Spillman Carousel, originally made in North Tonawanda, another locally made carousel has been located in London, Ont., west of Hamilton.

Just with any luck, Rae Proefrock, society president, said, the carousel, selling for \$55,000, could be back "home" in North Tonawanda by August.

But between now and then, a lot of fund raising must be done.

Proefrock said the carousel, built in 1916 at the Allan Herschell merry-go-round factory at Thompson and Geneva streets, is not quite as elaborate as the first one the society had originally set its sights on, but has certain distinctive characteristics making it special.

The society had sought a Spillman Carousel, constructed in 1927 in a factory where Carousel Park amusements now stand at the corners of Oliver and Pennsylvania streets. But a museum in Michigan purchased the carousel from a resident of Pennsylvania.

Proefrock said, "The carousel we are now looking at is an earlier model and because of that does not have the elaborate wood carvings the later models have. However, it does have 35 beautifully carved horses and center panels with paintings.

"What makes it unusual is it contains a love tub, a circular seat which holds two and when it is turned by either of the passengers, they are pushed against one another. There were only 10 Herschell Carousels built with the love tub."

Proefrock noted she and several other society members drove to London to inspect the carousel about three weeks ago. The owner, William Stenning, stores it, partly disassembled, in a barn.

Prior to Stenning owning the carousel, it was owned by the family of Daniel Joyce, also of London, where the carousel operated until 1936 when Joyce's grandson relocated it to a small amusement park in Hamilton. Because of declining business, the carousel was mothballed in 1959, and in 1975, Stenning acquired it.

Proefrock said in order to buy the carousel the society has to make a down payment of \$10,000 by mid-May and subsequently make a \$17,500 payment by August. If both payments are made, Stenning will release the carousel to the society and set up a

payment schedule for the remaining \$77,500.

The society presently has \$7,000 in its treasury.

To come up with the money, Proefrock said, a door-to-door, fund-raising campaign will be conducted in early June. Area businesses also will be solicited.

At the society's April 22 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Center, 240 Gundry St., a discussion on other ways to raise revenue will be conducted. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Besides the carousel's being built here, Proefrock noted another possible angle. "You know it's quite possible local residents may have gone for rides on this particular carousel when it was working at the amusement park at Hamilton Beach," she said.

The society learned of the carousel through an official in the National Carousel Association about six weeks ago.

If successful in acquiring the carousel, the society is hoping to locate it either at the former Herschell factory or at a park in North Tonawanda.

"We will charge money for rides on it, but the price will be reasonable. And the money will be used to pay off the carousel," Proefrock said.

With any luck, a carousel will be spinning its way back "home" by August.

TON. NEWS



Saturday, April 2, 1982

RAE PROEFROCK is hot on the trail of another carousel! Let her tell it: "After picking ourselves up from the disappointment of losing the large Spillman carousel, we resolved to locate and purchase another. With the help of members of the National Carousel Association, a large telephone bill and 1,300 miles of driving, we have found a beauty!"

"Purchase terms for this 1916 Allan Herschell carousel are very reasonable, but we need a \$10,000 down payment by the end of April."

If you just tuned in, Rae is president of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier and the spearhead of the campaign to bring home a North Tonawanda-made carousel as the star in a heritage museum which would be a joy to Tonawandans and a boon to the area.

Let's all pitch in!

Tuesday, September 14, 1982

Carousel event dunkees sought

Interested in helping raise money to pay off the Allan Herschell carousel that arrived home in North Tonawanda this past weekend?

If so, take a dunk. A dunk!

The folks over at Susie O'Grady's restaurant and tavern, 341 Wheeler St., Tonawanda, are planning to operate a dunking machine Sunday afternoon and proceeds will be donated to the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier.

To date, society members have paid \$27,500 for a \$55,000 carousel acquired from a Canadian in London, Ont. The remaining balance is due in March.

The dunking machine will be run using tavern employees, who are hoping city officials and others will take the plunge and also volunteer to be dunked.

According to Scott Walters, a spokesman for the tavern, dunking will get underway at 1 p.m. If anyone is interested in volunteering, call 697-9668.

WELL - I'LL BE DIPPED!

UPDATE 4 (11/15/89)

Thursday, May 20, 1982

Tonawanda NEWS

Carousel Society plans door-to-door campaign

A door-to-door fund-raising campaign in the Twin Cities has been planned by the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier to raise \$20,000 to bring home to North Tonawanda a 1916 handcarved merry-go-round.

The merry-go-round, manufactured by the former Allan Herschell Company in North Tonawanda, will be used to establish a tourist attraction in the Tonawandas as well as an educational tool to show the industrial and artistic heritage of the Twin Cities.

According to Rae Proefrock, president of the society, 26 volunteers will be needed in North Tonawanda and 140 more in Tonawanda to make the drive a success. "We are hoping to average two dollars per family," Mrs. Proefrock said. "Each family that donates will receive a ticket-receipt good for one family ride on the carousel when it is operational."

The society has already

put a \$10,000 donation on the carousel and plans to establish a merry-go-round and band organ museum in the Tonawandas when the carousel is brought here. The project has been endorsed by North Tonawanda Mayor Betty Hoffman and Tonawanda Mayor David Miller as well as the Common Councils in both cities, Niagara County legislators and the Chamber of Commerce of 2859.

The Tonawandas are also lending support for the drive. In addition, a consortium of service clubs in the Tonawandas has gone on record "endorsing the drive."

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the drive is asked to fill out the accompanying coupon and send it to: Mrs. Rae Proefrock, 1440 Masler St., North Tonawanda 14120, or call 694-2859.

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP "BRING IT HOME" BY COLLECTING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

_____ would be willing to be a District Leader to distribute and collect materials from 10 volunteers.

TON. NEWS

Monday, September 13, 1982



IT'S HOME: Unloading a carousel horse from one of the three trucks that arrived Saturday night from London, Ont., with the components of a full carousel are, from left, Rae Proefrock, president of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier, and Doug Baltes, vice president. The carousel is being stored at the former Allan Herschell Carousel Factory on Geneva Street, North Tonawanda, where it was

built in 1916. According to Mrs. Proefrock, an estimated 200 well-wishers were on hand at the factory to welcome the carousel home. The next several months will be spent restoring and assembling the amusement ride, according to Mrs. Proefrock, who noted volunteers are still needed to assist in the work. The society hopes to have the carousel in operation by summer.

Tonawanda NEWS

Wednesday, June 23, 1983

Carousel Society plans restoring of round house

Thompson streets in North Tonawanda. Members will view progress made to date on restoring the round house section of the building and the carousel. Plans will be made to clean and paint the structure and machinery of the carousel.

Members and others interested in the renovation and restoration of the building and the 1916 carousel are invited. Volunteers are needed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 7 to 10, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. at the site to help with renovation.

For information, call Rae Proefrock at 694-2859.

Wednesday, June 8, 1983

"CAROUSEL" SIGNS

New signs at various entrances to North Tonawanda in the future will contain the phrase "Home of the Carousel." The Common Council Tuesday authorized spending \$500 to paint the slogan on signs in recognition of the city's early days when carousels were manufactured at the former Allan Herschell plant on Thompson Street.

TON. NEWS

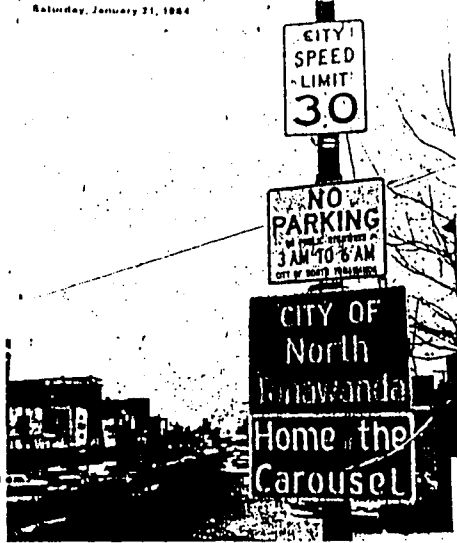
Tonawanda NEWS

Thursday, June 9, 1983

Garage sale benefits carousel

Antiques, furniture, books, clothing and dishes will be among the items featured at the second annual "Giant Garage Sale" of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 166 Delaware St., Tonawanda.

The public is invited. Proceeds will be used for the final payments on the 1916 Allan Herschell carousel to be dedicated this summer.



CAROUSEL SIGNS: Signs proclaiming North Tonawanda the "Home of the Carousel" have been erected at key entrances to the city. This one is at Webster and Sweeney streets. The Public Works Department made the signs and put them up with the approval of the Common Council at the request of the Carousel Society. The former Allan Herschell building off Thompson Street, which years ago was used as a factory for making the carousels, has been converted into a museum. (NEWS Photo by David L. Bugbee)

TON-NEWS

Tuesday, April 24, 1984

NT Carousel group will buy complex

Facility to house merry-go-round

By NANCY TRACEWELL
Niagara Gazette

NORTH TONAWANDA — Only a few hurdles remain in the path of the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier as it plans the re-opening of its 1916 carousel at the Allan W. Herschell Co. complex this summer.

Within a week, the society will sign a sales agreement for the purchase of the Herschell manufacturing complex, Allen F. Herschell, board chairman of the society, said yesterday. The buildings, at Thompson and Vandervoort streets, will be restored and transformed into a museum housing carousels and the mechanical music business.

The cost of the Herschell complex, which manufactured the first carousel in 1883, was not disclosed. The current owner of the building is Industrial Motor Service Inc., 201 Vandervoort St., Herschell said.

The society hopes to possess the buildings before June 1 and have the carousel operating by July 1, he added.

The purchase includes the Herschell roundhouse — the building that housed the 36-steed carousel last year and whose roof collapsed following a late February snowstorm.

"We'll get a temporary roof in place for the summer," Herschell said. "We hope to rebuild, with a permanent roof, next winter."

But before any permanent construction begins, the society will know if the Herschell facility has been accepted on the state and national Register of Historical Places.

On May 18, a committee of the state Board for Historic Preservation will decide if the complex should be added to the state register, said Claire Ross, field representative for the state Division of Historic Preservation.

The committee already approved the historic designation in a preliminary review April 6, Ms. Ross said.

If the application is approved by the state at the formal review, it then will be sent to the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C., for consideration as a national historic site, she said.

As a historic site on the federal register, the building may become eligible for special restoration grants, she said.

Herschell said restoration of the 27,000-square-foot building, including displays of carousel manufacturing and restored machinery, could cost as much as \$1.25 million.

The society plans to obtain money through fund-raisers, including a repeat performance of last year's successful musical event. The Buffalo Philharmonic will play in concert with Carlo Annibale on the three-keyboard Wuritzer theater organ at the Riviera Theatre, 67 Webster St., on May 25.

Annibale, 53, of Kenmore, learned to play the organ at age 12 while attending the Batavia School for the Blind. He also arranged the three songs he and philharmonic will perform, "Gallop Comedian," "The Very Thought of You," and "New Thank We All Our God."

In addition, Annibale will perform solo renditions of "The Carousel Waltz" and "The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down."

Carousel restoration project earns NT nationwide plaudits

North Tonawanda has received recognition for its efforts to restore an original hand-carved wooden carousel, according to an announcement released today by the U. S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C.

Although North Tonawanda is not a finalist in a nationwide Livability Award contest, ideas from the city's contest entry will be included in the National Clearinghouse on the Arts, as a model for other cities to follow.

The clearinghouse is part of the U. S. Conference of Mayors' City Livability Awards Program, co-sponsored by Philip Morris Inc. The awards were determined by an independent panel of judges.

The judges praised the efforts of Mayor Betty Hoffman, other city officials and the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier Inc., to bring back to North Tonawanda a 1916 carousel originally built in its Allan Herschell factory.

In particular, they emphasized the role the mayor played in trying to obtain historic landmark status and funding for the restoration of the carousel factory.

The judges also praised the city's beautification project, the Botanical Gardens and especially its Blindergarten for the visually handicapped, developed by Parks Director Donald Gane.

They also called attention to LaFaire, sponsored by the Carnegie Cultural Center and Canal Fest as examples of urban arts events which enhance the quality of life for residents.

The winner of the 1984 award will be announced June 18.

Tuesday, May 15, 1984

Tonawanda NEWS 2



Roundhouse with carousel parts and packing cases

Roundhouse roof being repaired

By BAIHAHA A. TUCKER
Correspondent

(Editor's note: This is the fifth of a six-part series on saving the Allan Herschell complex in North Tonawanda as an historical landmark and teaching tool.)

Of the six inter-related buildings at the Allan Herschell complex at Thompson and Vandervoort streets in North Tonawanda, the roundhouse is best known. Familiarity with this uniquely-shaped building comes from the fact that last summer rides on the restored merry-go-round were in the roundhouse.

When the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier (CSNF) brought the 1916 Allan Herschell carousel "home," they assembled it in the roundhouse, built just for testing carousels in early 1900s. Hundreds of people were on hand for the dedication ceremony a year ago during Canal Fest '83.

But in the heavy snow of a late March snowstorm this year, the roof collapsed, forcing the CSNF to dismantle the carousel and store it and begin renovations on this special building.

The roundhouse, built as an original part of the carousel factory operations, is a 54-foot diameter wall structure covered by a tent-like conical roof. The building was originally designed to create total clear space without a center post. Each wall originally had a large horizontal eight pane window which amply lit the

interior with natural light.

According to John Conlin, architect historian at the state University of Buffalo in his report for the National Historic Register, a two-inch wide steel tension strap bound the tops of the wall sections which formed the roof cone.

"The original spatial effects of this building were mutilated by later intrusive additions and alterations," the architect noted. "There were originally two small dormered skylights in the roof. In the 1930s, the north section of the roof was raised up using similar wall construction and strap banding."

Mr. Conlin stated that the rafter ends are still in place at the original lower level of the wall where they were sawed off and the original eave line was clearly visible from the outside.

It was in the roundhouse that the final product was assembled and tested prior to being shipped around the world. A railroad loading dock enclosure was added to the roundhouse in the 1930s, with original loading doors which were barn-like double doors.

Although the roof was severely damaged in the snow storm, much of the original building remains and is now being repaired by CSNF members and volunteers.

Funds are being raised for the restoration through various events.

(Next week: Machine Shop.)

Friday, July 4, 1984

Carousel museum plans Sunday show

On Sunday, the Herschell Carousel Factory Museum, 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, will host the Outreach Program of the Historical Society of Buffalo and Erie County with two slide presentations with narrative by Harry and Peg Boulet.

At 2 p.m., the history of the Erie Canal is the program followed by the Pan American Exposition of 1901 at 3 p.m. Both programs are free of charge and all are welcome.

The museum offers this program in preparation for the Tonawanda Canal Fest which takes place July 20-27. Also, ride the 1913 hand-carved wooden carousel at 25 cents a ride. Wood carving demonstrations by a member of the Wood Carvers of the Niagara Frontier will be presented.

TON-NEWS

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE ROOF IS MISSING?



WE DID!!!

N. Tonawanda Plans \$1.2 Million Projects

By MARY RYAN
A series of renovation projects totaling about \$1.2 million and aimed at the improvement of North Tonawanda's downtown business district was announced today by Mayor Betty Hoffman.

Michelle Tow of Stuart I. Brown, the city's planning and management consultant, said today that North Tonawanda received word Wednesday that its application for \$600,000 in federal funds through the Small Cities Comprehensive Development Block Grant program has been approved.

According to Ms. Tow, the project will consist of three parts:
 ✓ \$263,000 in low-interest loans for Roberts Furniture Showplace on Main Street, the construction of a 3,300-square-foot "mini-mall" between Webster and Manhattan streets, and the enclosure of a brick patio for a restaurant in the Packet Inn, which currently is being developed by Riverview Development Corp.

✓ Paving and lighting improvements to the Manhattan Street parking lot, curbs and sidewalks between Goundry and Tremont streets, sanitary-sewer replacements in the Tremont-Sweeney streets area, repaving of the intersection of Goundry and Webster streets, and new signs. A grant of \$85,000, in addition to \$42,500 from the city, will finance those projects.

✓ The Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier will receive \$27,000 and will add \$10,000 of its own funds for general improvements to the old Herschel-Spellman Merry-go-Round manufacturing plant, which now houses one of the carousels originally built by the company. The money will go toward roof replacement and repair of the

sprinkler system. In addition about \$1,000 in funds will help pay landscaping materials for the Carousel Society's proposed "walking park," which will run from the plant to the new docking facilities on the state Barge Canal. The city will contribute an additional \$4,000 in personnel for grading and cleaning up the park area.

✓ Community development funds of \$174,000 also will be available for housing rehabilitation in the Vandervoort, Thompson and Oliver streets area. Owner contributions will aid in the financing of the project.

Some funding also will go for program administration and audit, Tow said.

In total, the government grants will come to \$600,000 with an additional \$500,000 coming from other sources.

Carousel Society sets third BPO concert

A blend of classical and popular music played on the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ and by members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra will reverberate March 13 in the historic Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda.

This special a.p.m. concert is being sponsored by the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier.

Its purpose is to raise funds for a mortgage payment on the historic Herschell carousel factory complex at Thompson and Vandervoort streets in North Tonawanda, which is being restored by the society, replete with a working carousel and museum.

The BPO concert, the third sponsored by the Carousel group, is of special historic interest because the Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ in the Riviera, was manufactured by The Wurlitzer Co. of North Tonawanda. The Wurlitzer firm began its organ manufacturing business in the city in the early 1900s with the production of barrel organs used on carousels manufactured by the

Herschell firm, the Proefrock society founder and chairman, noted.

The March 13 concert selections to be played by the combined BPO and the Mighty Wurlitzer are being arranged by Carlo Annibale, a blind organist. Mrs. Proefrock said Mr. Annibale writes the combined organ and orchestral scores in Braille and his wife then translates them for the sighted musicians to play.

Raymond Harvey will conduct the combined orchestral-organ concert.

Tickets, which sell for \$7.50 each, may be purchased in person, beginning next week, at Clancy's in Mid-City Plaza and the Riviera Theater, both in North Tonawanda, and at Parson's Drugs on Main Street, Tonawanda, Mrs. Proefrock said.

Also beginning Monday, tickets also may be purchased by mail by calling 694-0743, or 693-5677, she said.

BUFFALO NEWS

Area Landmarks

Sunday, February 1, 1987 By Lawrence McIntyre



Allan Herschell Carousel Factory

Now a carousel museum, the complex of seven buildings at 180 Thompson St. in North Tonawanda once was one of the most important manufacturing centers of merry-go-rounds in the country. The factory's first carousel, built in 1916, is on display there.

Allan Herschell, who came to Western New York from Scotland, was a foundry man who built steam boilers at two nearby locations. He came up with the idea that his boilers would be just the thing to power carousels. The buildings were connected in 1930. Before they were used for merry-go-rounds, they were used in the manufacture of pre-fabricated greenhouses.

Next week: The Field House, N. Parkway, Queenston, Ont.
 Feb. 15: Benjamin Moore Mill, Pias Street, Lockport.

HERE WE GO 'ROUND AGAIN!

Tuesday, May 5, 1987

TON NEWS

The Buffalo News/Sunday, June 7, 1987

Door-to-door fund-raising campaign set by Carousel Society for projects

The Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier is planning a door-to-door campaign as phase one of its announced major capital fund drive.

Funds are needed to purchase roofing materials for the main museum complex at 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, and to rebuild the roundhouse in which the carousel operates.

Major structural repairs to the building were completed over the winter with the assistance of a Small Cities grant from North Tonawanda. Roofing repairs must now be made to protect the new support beams from water damage. The Portier Avenue unit of the Reserve Navy Construction Battalion will assist with free labor. However, \$20,000 must be raised for materials. Since much of this amount is



needed by early June, the Carousel Society is asking for support from residents in Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. More than 250 volunteers are needed to ask for donations in their neighborhoods.

It is hoped that each family will donate \$2 or whatever it can afford in appreciation for a donation, the

Carousel Society volunteer will give each donor a ticket for one free family ride on the Allan Herschell carousel and a 50-cent coupon for Canal Fest rides.

Donors of \$10 or more will be given memberships good for a 10 percent discount in the museum gift shop. Donors of \$25 or more will also be given a certificate for a glass museum mug.

Support of this fund drive by volunteers who collect and by residents who donate will bring more than monetary benefits to the Carousel Museum project. A demonstration of community support will be viewed as a positive factor when the Carousel Society applies for historic preservation funds to rebuild the roundhouse under the state Environmental Bond Act.

The door-to-door drive is slated for May 18. However, volunteers may collect any time in the last two weeks of May. If you have even one evening to assist with this drive, call Rae Proefrock at 694-2859 or Gail Borycki at 693-4451.



MIKE GROLL/Bufalo News

LOOK OUT BELOW — Louis Pistor of Buffalo tosses patches of the Carousel Society Museum roof into a dumpster Saturday in North Tonawanda. U.S. Navy Seabees from Buffalo and Rochester helped with the work, which eventually will turn the former Allan Herschell Carousel Factory at 180 Thompson St. into a museum making old-time carousels.

TICKET GOOD FOR
ONE
 FAMILY RIDE

I HELPED TO "BRING IT HOME"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Receipt for \$ _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Carousel Society
 of
 The Niagara Frontier



Mr., Mrs. William Knope According to the family, the newlyweds were the first couple to have wedding pictures taken at the Carousel Museum in North Tonawanda.



Riding carousel are from left, Raymond Baglers, Lynn Bradshaw and Charles Gavaue.
Photo by Don Schwartz

The Tonawanda Metro Community News - June 23, 1987

Carousel Society Hosts Woodcarving Lectures

Herschell Carousel Factory Museum, 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, will present a free lecture and demonstration series, "Carving a Carousel Figure," during June and August.

Gerry Holzman, professional woodcarver from Islip, N.Y., will carve and talk on the history and techniques of woodcarving. Lectures will be at 2 p.m. daily through June 27 and 1 p.m. Sunday, June 28. Holzman will return for more lectures Aug. 21-23 at the same times.

Others, including a traditional local carousel carver, painter or operator will tell stories about their experiences in the carousel industry. The series is funded in part with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, Folk Arts Program.

Holzman, who has studied for years under master European woodcarvers, specializes in creating custom carvings in the manner of 19th-century America. His carvings include shop signs, cigar store Indians and nautical pieces, as well as carousel figures. He and his partner, Jim Beatty, carved the official Empire State Carousel.

The Empire State Carousel is the first full-sized, hand-carved carousel to be made in America since the Depression. The merry-go-round has been especially designed as a unique showcase for New York State history and culture.

All of the elements of the carousel are based on New York themes. All of the animals will be those native to the state and the band organ will play tunes such as "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and "Sledwags of New York." The scenery panels will display New York vistas and the rounding boards will carry portraits of prominent New Yorkers.

In addition to the demonstrations, Holzman will also teach a woodcarving class for 10 carvers from many parts of the county. The students will carve a reduced-size carousel horse by completing the rough carving in June, working throughout the summer on their own and returning to the museum in August for the finishing work.

The completed carvings will be on display in a public exhibition on Aug. 23 at the museum.

Carousel Society members and prospective members are also invited to meet the carvers, at the society's regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. June 25, at the Herschell Carousel Factory Museum.



Wind Symphony musicians enjoy night at the carousel

By SHIRLEY CONNER/Staff Writer

A lively reception for the 45 hand-picked, young musicians in the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, came to a halt for them at about 9 p.m. Friday night.

Capt. Robert Austin Boudreau, director, may as well have tapped his hat.

They all whisked back to practice aboard the Point Counterpoint II, their music-standstand barge alongshore in Tonawanda.

Without complaint, these dedicated musicians headed to a late night rehearsal. Some were riding the 1916-vintage Herschell carousel, others were chatting and eating, while calliope music filled the air at the Carousel Museum on Thompson Street in North Tonawanda.

The Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier hosted the reception for the musicians and their host families.

Friday was only the second day these talented young men and women had ever seen each other or performed together.

"They talk music. And when they're not talking music they are rehearsing — they even compete with each other," said Barbara MacLean, whose North Tonawanda home is "home" for four of the musicians.

Those interviewed during a brief visit by The NEWS, were either music majors still in colleges, graduate music majors or already performing in symphony orchestras.

Takayoshi Yoshioka, 21, of Tokyo, is one of Japan's top percussionists, performing during the regular season with the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra.

"Capt. Boudreau invited me to play soloist this year," Mr. Yoshioka said proudly. The director auditioned him six years ago when he was selected to play in the 1980 performances of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, he said.

A 1979 graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, he said when his wife, a pianist, joins him in the United States in July and the AWS' tour ends Aug. 12, the couple plan to revisit Boston. "I have many

friends there," he said. "But my money is running out."

He plays 21 percussion instruments, including the marimba, xylophone and drums. He is staying with Ann Finkle of North Tonawanda.

Amy Morris, 21, of Omaha, Nebraska, who'll get her master's degree in music performance next month from Northwestern University, was busy buying a carousel tee shirt in the gift shop. She plays flute and piccolo and is staying with Robert and Shally Smith of Tonawanda.

Two young Texans, Stephen Pandolfo, 21, of Denton, a senior at North Texas State University, is a percussionist, and Brian McCreath of Fort Worth, is a junior at the College of Wooster in Ohio, and plays trumpet.

Martha Munding, 22, of Stillwater, Minn., who plays French horn, brushed her hair back, looking tired but excited. Martha, a University of Wisconsin graduate, plans to continue music education next year at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She is staying with the Joseph Aronson family in Tonawanda.

Dave Haglund, 22, of Muskegon, Mich., is a senior at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo, plays trumpet. "After I finish student work here next year, I'll be graduated and begin teaching music," he said.

Jeff Cooper of Fort Madison, Iowa, was just graduated last Sunday from St. Louis Conservatory of Music, he said with a wide grin. He'll be playing trumpet in AWS concerts this summer.

Joe Cincotta, 28, of Boston, Mass., a University of Lowell (Mass.) graduate, says, "I especially like jazz. I give private percussion lessons and play drums in various groups in the Boston area." He was auditioned by Capt. Boudreau at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Although these young musicians were strangers two days ago, their common love and dedication to music has an immediate harmonious chord among them.

You may hear them practicing along the Erie Barge Canal banks today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., near their musical bandstand barge, Point Counterpoint, moored along East Niagara Street, just east of the Delaware Street Bridge.

Vets enjoy carousel museum

By EDREILLY
Correspondent

About 18 disabled veterans were given a go-round in North Tonawanda Sunday and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The men, from the Buffalo Veterans' Administration Hospital, were part of a group of some 40 veterans and their families who were guests of the Herschell Carousel Factory-Museum, 180 Thompson Street.

The visit was sponsored by the Niagara County Community College Veterans' Association, which arranged for rides on the museum's 68-year old carousel and a cookout for the vets on the museum grounds.

Gary Guarino, an NCCC student, and director of the college's veterans' association, coordinated the outing. He was assisted by Niagara County Historian Teresa Lasher and Becky Lasher.

Among the disabled vets was the Buffalo VA hospital's first heart transplant patient Donald Snedeker of Middleport.

Mr. Snedeker, who reported he feels fine, drove to the museum from Middleport, rode the carousel, and stopped to visit an aunt in North Tonawanda before returning home.

His heart operation was performed

May 14.

Special guest Sunday was North Tonawanda Mayor Betty Hoffman who issued a proclamation, co-signed by Tonawanda Mayor David L. Miller, declaring Oct. 14-20, "Veterans' Hospital Book Week" in the Twin Cities.

Part of the occasion, originated by Mr. Guarino, is to collect hard cover and paperback books for the hospital library.

Magazines six-months old up to current issues also will be accepted. They may be dropped off during hours of operation at the Tonawanda and North Tonawanda city halls and the Lewiston Town Hall.

Sunday also marked the end of the season for the museum. The doors will be closed until Memorial Day next year.

Teresa Lasher, who currently is

establishing a research library and cataloging artifacts for the museum under a state grant, said the carousel will be dismantled stored for the winter months and refurbished for next year.

Only one of the five buildings at the museum complex currently is open to the public, Ms. Lasher said, but the museum officials hope to expand starting next year.

Future exhibits and operating items will include other amusement park rides made at the Herschell factory and used at Page's Whistle Pig in the Town of Niagara and Crystal Beach in Canada, she added.

Among the museum's possessions to be put on display, Ms. Lasher said, are two "Dodge-Em" cars a child-size boat and various band organs and related musical instruments.

WHO SAID MERRY-GO-ROUNDS ARE JUST FOR KIDS?

TONAWANDA NEWS

UPDATE 4 (11/15/89) CONT.

Saturday, May 17, 1986

Carousel Society appoints full-time museum director

The Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier announces the appointment of Don C. Traub as director of the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum.

Mr. Traub is the first full-time museum professional to be appointed to this position. He will bring to the museum professional standards in administration, collection management, and interpretation with long range goals directed toward expanded operations.

Mr. Traub, his wife, Susan, and their two sons have resided in Abilene, KS for the past 12 years, where he has been exhibit specialist for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. In this capacity he researched, designed, fabricated and maintained a continuous program of rotating exhibits in eight galleries.

As a volunteer director for the Dickenson County Historical Soci-



DON TRAUB

ety, Mr. Traub has also experienced the same problems and joys of the Carrousel Society members. Since 1974, he and his family have been involved in a project to purchase, restore, and construct a building to house a 1905 C.W. Parker Co. ca-

rousel now designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The Carrousel Society Board of Directors and members believe Mr. Traub will be a valuable asset to the all-volunteer staff which has developed the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum. Funding for this position is provided in part by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and in part by the Federal Institute of Museum Services.

Located at 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, the Carrousel Museum is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. until Labor Day. On exhibit are photographs, artifacts, wood milling equipment, and an operating 1916 hand-carved wooden carrousel. Wood-carving demonstrations and family-oriented entertainment are offered each Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. For additional information call the museum at 693-1855.

Work on new roundhouse starts

Work was scheduled to begin today on the foundation for a new roundhouse for the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, Thompson Street, North Tonawanda, for the Carrousel Society of the Niagara Frontier.

Rae Proefrock, society chairman, said Concept Construction Co., Elma, was awarded the contract based on its low bid.

The project is expected to cost \$225,000 of which \$190,000 has been raised through state grants, loans and fund-raisers, she said.

The remaining \$30,000 will be raised by the society by pleas to local industry.

The roundhouse will be the home for the authentic 1916 hand-carved carrousel and the original woodcarving shop.

Volunteer workers have been dismantling the old roundhouse since the roof collapsed in 1984 because of rotting wood and age.

1988: A BANNER YEAR IN OUR GROWTH.

BIG PLANS - FINALLY STAMPED FOR APPROVAL!!

Carrousel museum on 'stamp-go-around'

The public is invited to enjoy a band, clowns and "Benjamin Franklin" at 10 a.m. Tuesday, in the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, to mark the sale of new carrousel animal stamps.

The Buffalo office of the U.S. Postal Service will conduct a special 40-minute program at the museum to highlight the occasion. A specially designed hand cancellation and cover will be available with the new carrousel stamps at a cost of \$2 each.

Carrousel animals, the subject of the 1988 National Stamp Collecting Month promotion of the Postal Service, are recognized and appreciated throughout the world as one of the most creative, time honored crafts.

At one time, carrousel animals were hand carved at the former Allan Herschell factory, now site of the Carrousel Museum. The animals that appear on the stamps are from other carrousel manufacturers and were not carved at the Herschell factory.

Four carrousel animal stamps have been added to the American Folk Art Series of stamps.

Hand cancellations will be available for sale after the ceremony and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the museum. The cachet and postmark, which reads "Herschell Museum Station," were designed by Jim Andrews, a member of the Carrousel Society.

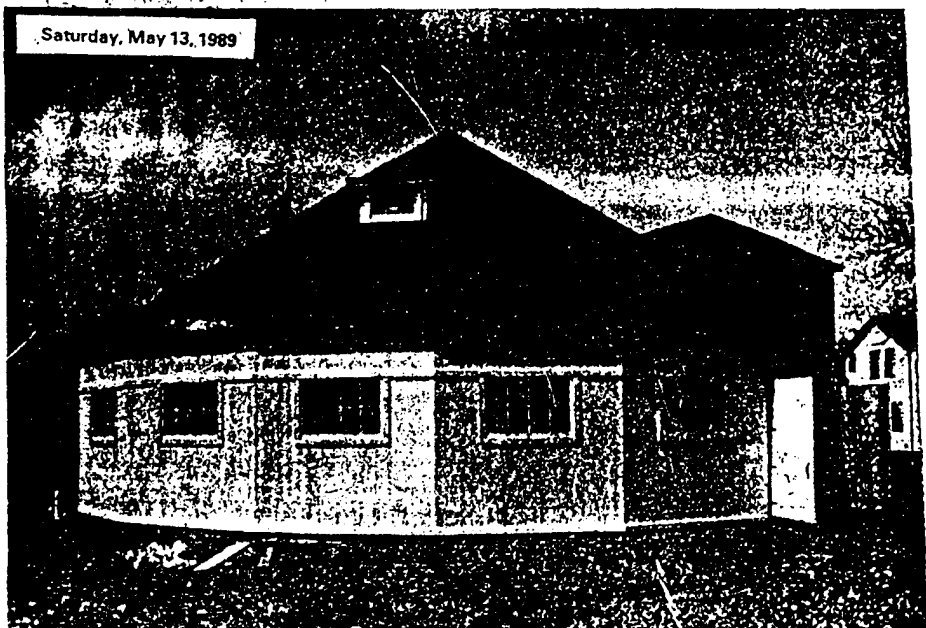
The postal cachet can also be ordered by mail by sending a check or money order payable to the Carrousel Society and a stamped, self-addressed No. 10 envelope to Carrousel Society, P.O. Box 672, North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120.

Proceeds from the sale of the cachet will be used to fund improvements at the museum. The Carrousel Society has had a limited



CARROUSEL CACHET: At right is the commemorative cachet and above is the cancellation postmark that will be issued in a special ceremony Tuesday at the Carrousel Museum in North Tonawanda. The ceremony will mark the U.S. Postal Service's issuance of four carrousel animal stamps. The public is invited to the ceremony and can purchase the cachet for \$2.

number of cachets printed, which will be sold on a first come, first served basis.



READY TO OPEN: The new roundhouse at the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, is complete and ready to greet visitors. The roundhouse, which holds an antique hand-carved wooden carrousel, opens Memorial Day weekend, May 27. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. The

roundhouse will be open Wednesday-Sunday, 1 p.m. during June; Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. during July and August. Super Sunday performances will be held at 2 p.m. June 18-Sept. 10. (NEWS photo by John Rusac)

\$30,000 grant aids roundhouse restoration

The Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum roundhouse in North Tonawanda came another step closer to being paid for this week when it was awarded a \$30,000 restoration grant to complete payments to the contractor.

That leaves \$20,000 in funds still to be raised for payment to the architects and consultants.

This latest grant is the result of joint efforts of a committee of the Niagara Council on the Arts, which applied for a major "Local Projects" grant from the National Endowment For the Arts, and the Niagara County Legislature, which agreed to participate in this project.

The goal of the National Endowment For the Arts is to encourage local government support for cultural organizations and activities by awarding a 50 percent match to new local expenditures for up to three years.

The committee from the Niagara Council on the Arts has worked for two years to complete a needs assessment, write the grant proposal, and secure the cooperation of the County Legislature. These cooperative efforts have resulted in a grant of up to \$150,000 to county cultural organizations over a three year period, with the county contributing one dollar for each fifty cents of the grant.

This year the county budgeted \$78,000 in new monies for support of cultural activities, thus acquiring \$39,000 from the NEA.

A major portion of the NEA funds also were approved for capital improvement projects at Fort Niagara and the Niagara Falls Aquarium. An additional \$5,000 was awarded to Das Haus in Bergholtz to replace a crumbling fountain.



ACCEPTS GRANT: Rae Proefrock, second from left, receives check for \$30,000 for the roundhouse restoration project from the National Endowment for the Arts Local Projects Program in cooperation with the Niagara Council on the Arts and the Niagara County Legislature. Others from left are: Russell Rizzo, member of the Board of Directors for the Niagara Council on the Arts; William Ross, chairman of the Niagara County Legislature, and Malcolm Needler, county legislator from North Tonawanda. (NEWS photo by David Bugbee)

7/12/89

TON. NEWS

1979 saw the first article being reprinted in this newsletter. July 25, 1989, a decade later, saw Director Don Traub offer a literally (92 °) warm welcome to over 200 people in attendance for the dedication of the new Roundhouse, a \$220,000 project. As the saying goes, "You've come a long way baby" from that first fundraiser at the Sikora post in February, 1980, netting just under \$1,000.

As soon as I walked in the Museum Tuesday afternoon for the dedication, I felt the tingle of excitement and pride that permeated the atmosphere. Smiling faces of CSNF members were as bright as the colors on the carousel. A beaming Rae Proefrock, CSNF President, had the following words of praise and recollection for those present. They are meant for all to hear.

"We have invited you today to thank you for your dedication and support for the growth of this Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum---specifically the restoration of the Roundhuse building where hundreds, perhaps thousands of Allan Herschell carousels were assembled and tested before shipping to all parts of the world.

"You and others who could not be here today have given us words of encouragement, funding and hours of labor. Each of you has contributed to our success. The long range goal of total building restoration and extensive exhibits is still in the future. However, with your help, we have accomplished a major step toward that goal.

"We have completed a \$220,000 permanent home for our 1916 carousel, where it will operate in a protected environment for years to come. We have restored the collapsed Roundhouse which played a significant role in the operation of the Allan Herschell Company.

Some of us have worked for ten years, waiting for the new Roundhouse to become more than a dream. Others have hopped on the merry-go-round more recently, but with equal enthusiasm. There have been many frustrations, even nightmares during those years. There have also been many quiet moments of satisfaction along with times of public excitement such as today,

"Although we are excited about this accomplishment, we also realize there is a long road ahead. Our next task is to complete the mechanicals for the Roundhouse, restore the loading dock and build the glass connecting corridors. We must also complete the roofing and replace broken windows and skylights. Your continued support will play an integral role in our future growth. We invite you to STAY ON THE RIDE with us to help celebrate our next major accomplishment."

President Rae also gave special thanks to local City officials, Niagara County Legislators, New York State Legislators, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Congressman John LaFalce for their funding support. It couldn't have happened without them. To mention all who played a part would be a lengthy

UPDATE 4
(11/15/89)

book. "The self-satisfaction of knowing you helped make it happen is reward in itself," said Rae.

Assemblyman Schlimminger relayed a story of interest I want to share. It seems Mr. Armitage, Herschell's partner in producing steam boilers, was the Assemblyman's great uncle. Those boilers included the one that powered the first carousel in 1883, said the legislator.

Mario Pirastru, Regional Director NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, stated that this project was the highest rated of 110 projects submitted statewide. Pat yourself on the back again guys and gals because you made it happen.

Laurie Rable of the National Trust for Historic Preservation came in from Boston, Mass. for the dedication. Another announcement tells us that under a Local Programs Project of the National Endowment of the Arts, the Herschell Carousel is one of 10 projects funded nationwide. Charles J. Jacques, Jr., President of the National Carousel Association presented a certificate of appreciation to us for the "yeoman" preservation efforts of the CSNF. And the plaudits kept coming and coming.

An added pleasantry was the 1989 Canal Fest Queen, Theresa Emerett, who was on hand to cut the ribbons for the Lockman Exhibit, the Roundhouse and to uncover the freshly refurbished lead horse.

Ten wonderful; fortunate fulfilled years have just been celebrated. The next ten are bound to be just as wonderful, thanks to Earl Dealing and his donation of 4 Herschell horseshoes for the lead horse. With those horseshoes, the symbol of good luck, mixed together with people like you, the future looks bright ahead.

Yes, "We've come a long way baby," from a dance at the Sikora Post to:

Bush's NT carousel ride makes rounds

Jonathan Bush's recent visit to North Tonawanda for a political fund-raiser made news well outside the Twin Cities.

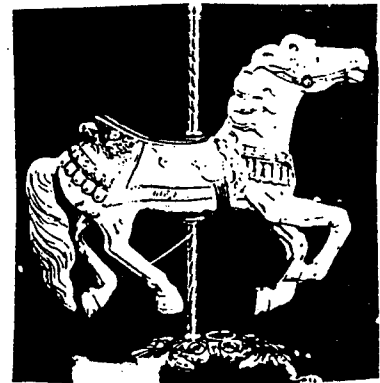
An Associated Press wire photograph of Mr. Bush, brother of President George Bush, found its way into various newspapers across the country, including the Savannah Evening Press in Georgia and the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester.

The photo shows Mr. Bush, during his NT visit, riding the Herschell-Spillman carousel at the Carousel Museum off Thompson Street.

TON. NEWS 7-14-89

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CSNF!

Are you ready for ten more years? We are.



Check your calendar of events that was mailed to you about two weeks ago for our summertime activity. The next meeting on August 24, 1989 at 7:30 is family night at the Carousel. Bring everyone along for a ride on the Carousel.



"Jake" Wurl

WE WOULD BE REMISS IF WE DID NOT INCLUDE OUR LATE FRIEND JAKE WURL IN OUR TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE. HE IS PART OF MANY MEMORIES FOR MANY PEOPLE.

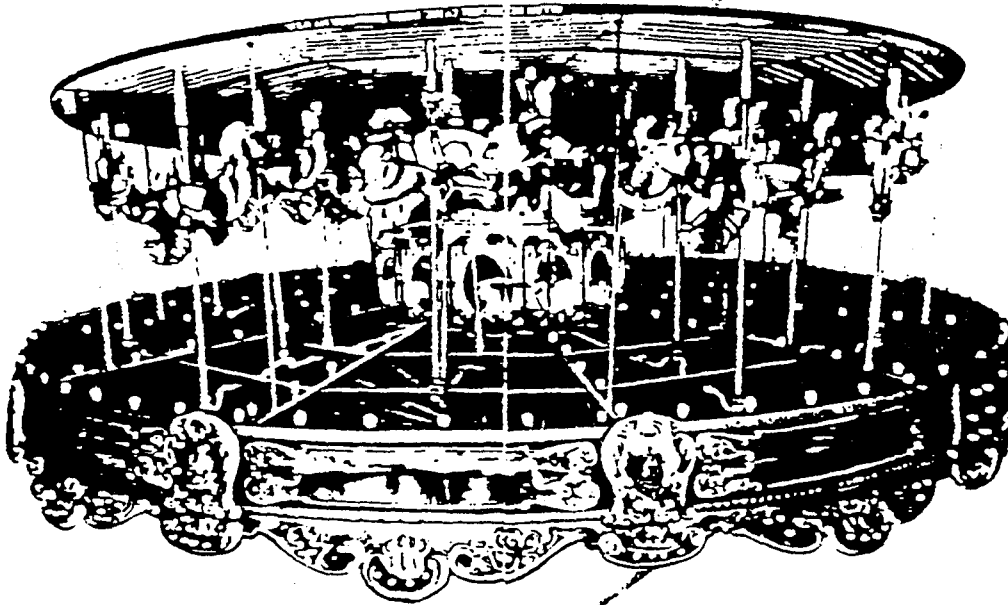
UPDATE 4 (11/15/89)

I hope you've enjoyed reminiscing a little bit. Next month I will begin a series that will take several issues to complete. I will feature a different part of the museum each month and maybe throw in another old newspaper article or two just as a reminder of how far we've come. With every victory comes a new challenge and the next step, as in the past, is dependent upon each of you. There is a job for everyone, no matter how talented you are. We just need YOU!

I am open for suggestions for the newsletter. Drop me a note with either an idea or an already prepared article.

ALSO

We mustn't forget those register, tapes and memberships that are ongoing support. Keep saving the tapes and remember a current membership is free admission to the Museum.

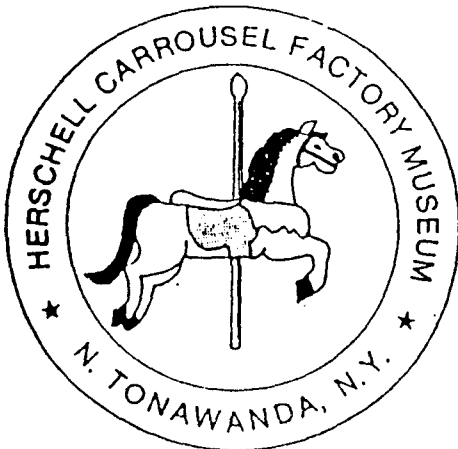


10

Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
The Carousel Society of Niagara Frontier
P.O. Box 672, 180 Thompson St.
N. Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120

NON PROFIT
PERMIT
No 111
No Town, N.Y.

DATED MATERIAL - RUSH



Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jacques, Jr.
P.O. Box #89
Watertown Heights, Pennsylvania

15065

UPDATE 4 (11/15/89)

VOLUME ONE
NUMBER ONE



SPRING 1989

PONYUPDATE

To Our Readers...

This newsletter is our way of keeping in touch with the hundreds of people who have sent their stories, photos, good wishes, offers of help, and financial contributions. We thank each of you, and we hope you'll stay involved. *Please copy this newsletter and pass it along to your friends, post it at work, and send it to your local newspaper to expand our network.*

—Peter Boehm and Nancy Peterson,
Co-Founders, Our Fair Carousel.

Fund-Raising Efforts Take Top Priority

Volunteers are working on several fund-raising strategies:

Major gifts are the key to our success. We're inviting businesses, individuals, or organizations (civic, church, youth, or hobby groups, for example) to "Adopt A Pony," with a contribution ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 (see separate story).

Individual contributions are welcomed by Our Fair Carousel at P.O. Box 17276, St. Paul, MN 55117. Contributions began flooding into OFC's mailbox as soon as our name and address appeared in the media. These individual gifts, which amount to about \$12,000 currently, will be used to "adopt" the pinto pony (see "Save the Pinto").

We'll operate the carousel at the Minnesota State Fair this summer—its 75th anniversary, and its final turn there. Come, and bring your friends! We hope that big crowds will help us raise lots of money to help pay off our loan.

T-shirts, posters, and possibly other items will be on sale at the State Fair and other locations. Watch for more information.

Carousel Snatched from New York Auction— and from Higher Bidder!

Just five minutes before Minnesota's state fair carousel was to be sold at auction in New York Dec. 10, Our Fair Carousel (OFC) purchased the merry-go-round from its former owners and pledged to keep it running in Minnesota.

When the sale was announced, a cheer went up from the auction crowd. Auction-goers from around the country congratulated OFC's Peter Boehm and Nancy Peterson on Minnesota's success in saving its carousel.

OFC paid \$1.13 million; another party was ready to pay \$200,000 more if the carousel had gone to auction. Based on prices paid for carousel animals at that auction and other recent auctions, Minnesota's carousel is worth what OFC paid, or more! And because carousel prices are rising steadily, it will eventually be worth much more than we paid for it.

OFC, a non-profit group formed in November to save the carousel and keep it in Minnesota, obtained a \$1.3 million loan from First Bank St. Paul for the purchase as well as a year's storage and insurance. The loan is guaranteed by the City of St. Paul—in essence, the city co-signed our loan.

OFC must raise funds to repay the loan by Dec. 29 of this year. Should we fall short, ownership of the carousel will transfer to the city, which will sell it to pay off the loan.

"It's a big job, but I am confident we will raise the money," said OFC co-Founder and president Peter Boehm. "We arranged the purchase of the carousel in an incredibly short time, thanks to the wonderful support from people in Minnesota and beyond. That same spirit will enable us to raise the money we need so we can keep the carousel here, where it belongs."

You or Your Group Can 'Adopt A Pony'

Businesses, individuals, employee clubs, civic groups—everybody can help save Minnesota's carousel by "adopting" or sponsoring one of the 68 horses on board.

Sponsoring gifts are as follows:

- ◆ \$25,000 for one of the outer-row horses, the largest and most elaborate on the carousel.
- ◆ \$15,000 for a second-row horse.
- ◆ \$10,000 for a third-row horse.
- ◆ \$5,000 for an inner-row horse.

In recognition of each gift, a plaque bearing the sponsor's name will be mounted at eye level on the pole supporting the horse, where

every rider will see it. The sponsor will also receive a painting of the horse.

The "Adopt-A-Pony" effort is the heart of Our Fair Carousel's fund-raising program. OFC will be contacting many businesses and foundations to invite them to participate, but our volunteers will not be able to reach everyone.

You can help by sharing this information with your employer, civic group, employee club, youth organization, hobby club, neighborhood group—in short, anyone who might be interested in contributing or raising funds to "Adopt A Pony"!

Carousel News At a Glance

- 11/11/88: *Star Tribune* announces that state fair carousel is to be dismantled, horses sold individually at a New York auction.
- 11/15/88: Our Fair Carousel incorporates as non-profit organization to purchase carousel and keep it running in Minnesota.
- 11/17/88: St. Paul City Council adopts council member Dimond's resolution enabling city to co-sign a bank loan to purchase the carousel.
- 12/10/88: Carousel's owners agree to sell to OFC just five minutes before horses would have been auctioned.
- 12/22/88: Purchase is finalized with \$1.3 million bank loan from First Bank St. Paul. City co-signs loan, which must be repaid through fund-raising by 12/29/89.
- 3/9/89: OFC board approves Town Square Park as future home of carousel (pending approval of City of St. Paul).
- 3/10/89: \$600,000 pledge announced; fund-raising for loan repayment passes half-way mark.
- 8/24-9/4/89: Carousel will operate at Minnesota State Fair for 75th and final season.
- 1990: Carousel expected to reopen in Town Square Park; will be open to public year-round.
-

Meet Minnesota's Favorite Carousel

In 1914, the Philadelphia Toboggan Company assembled its 33rd and newest carousel at the Minnesota state fairgrounds, where it has been ever since. PTC #33, as it is known to carousel experts, was produced during the company's peak years and represents some of its finest carving.

Philadelphia-style carousels are known for their excellent carving and for the realistic poses of the animals. Many of PTC #33's 68 horses still have their original paint. This is rare among old carousel horses, which were frequently repainted.

The carousel does not in fact live up to the claim of "World's Largest Merry-Go-Round" (the sign on the building at the state fair) but it is one of just 15 in the U.S. with four rows of jumping horses.

While 6,000 carousels were made in the U.S. during the early 1900s, less than 175 remain intact. That

number decreases each year. Floods, fires, and tornadoes once were the chief destroyers of these fanciful machines. Today most are lost when they are dismantled and the horses are sold individually to collectors. In the last year alone eight carousels have been dismantled and sold to collectors—horse by horse—depriving those communities forever of the joy of riding these machines.

Permanent Location Under Discussion

OFC's directors voted in March to place the carousel in Town Square Park, in downtown St. Paul, after it leaves the state fairgrounds at the end of this year's fair.

The Town Square site was chosen because it does not require the expense of a new building, can be open year-round, provides safety and security for the carousel, and can draw many potential riders from people who visit St. Paul to go to the Science Museum, the state capitol,

the state sports tournaments, shopping, and other reasons. The space, a city park maintained by BCE Development Properties, is often rented to special groups for parties and receptions, a practice that could continue with the carousel there.

The final decision must be approved by the City of St. Paul after engineering studies and cost estimates are complete. Other sites that had been suggested include Mears Park, Como Park, Galtier Plaza, Bandana Square, Harriet Island and others.

\$600,000 Pledge Brings Fund to Half-Way Mark

Fund-raising efforts passed the half-way mark in mid-March, with \$680,000 received in gifts and pledges. OFC must raise the remaining \$620,000 by Dec. 29 to repay its \$1.3 million bank loan and ensure the future of the carousel.

An anonymous individual has pledged to raise \$600,000 from sources that would not otherwise be available to OFC. The money will be given after the balance of the \$1.3 million is raised. This fundraiser will remain anonymous until that time, after which the carousel will be named for him.

The first three corporate contributors are IDS Financial Services, Inc., with \$15,000, West Publishing Company with \$5,000, and BCE Development Properties with \$50,000. They are participating in the Adopt-A-Pony program (described later in this newsletter); BCE's gift will sponsor two outer-row horses, IDS' a second-row horse, and West's an inner-row horse.

Smaller individual gifts—ranging from \$1 to \$500—totaled about \$12,000 by mid-May.

Save the Pinto

Nearly everyone has a favorite horse aboard the carousel. For many, it's the spirited pinto pony. That's why we've designated the pinto as "the people's horse," the one to be saved by the many small contributions we receive.

We'll apply the small individual contributions toward adopting the pinto as part of our Adopt-A-Pony program. When contributions have reached \$25,000, we'll prepare a plaque for the pinto announcing that this pony has been saved "by the people of Minnesota."

In addition, each contributor of \$100 or more will receive a small goldtone pin in the shape of our logo indicating that he/she helped to "Save the Pinto" (please allow several months for production of the pin).

So, even if you can't afford to adopt a pony for the full price (\$5,000-25,000) you can participate in the Adopt-Pony program!

OFC Establishes Board of Directors

Our Fair Carousel, Inc., has expanded its board of directors to include 25 business and government leaders, carousel experts, fund-raisers, and preservationists. (The board's committees will be assisted by dozens of volunteers.)

Members of the board are:

Peter J. Boehm (Pres.), President, Minnesota Technical Typography; **James A. Weichert** (Treas.), Partner, Touche Ross & Co.; **Nancy A. Peterson** (Sec.), Public Relations Director, Macalester College; **Brian R. Walton** (Exec. Committee Member), Branch Marketing Support Manager, IBM; **Victor A. Wittgenstein** (Exec. Committee Member), Manager of Special Services, St. Paul Parks & Recreation Div.; **Robert J. Angleson**, General Manager, BCE

Development Properties; **Gerard L. Cafesjian**, VP for Marketing and Sales, West Publishing; **Arthur J. Curtze**, Executive Secretary, Brass Ring Trust, State College, PA; **Tom Dimond**, St. Paul City Council Member; **Katy Chambers Frantz**, Realtor, Century 21, Sarona, Wis.; **Peg Guilfoyle**, Production Manager, Guthrie Theater; **Robin L. Kashuba**, Proprietor, Carousel Rose Inn, Carver; **Carol A. Kerner**, Senior VP for Communications, IDS Financial Services; **David A. Lanegran**, Professor of Geography, Macalester College, and President, Minnesota Landmarks; **Esther Malabel**, Art Director, Features, *Star Tribune*; **Karal Ann Marling**, Professor of Art History and American Studies, University of Minnesota; **Dave McDonell**, Public Relations Consultant; **Frank M. Mukai**, Senior Manager, Ernst & Whinney; **Jerome F. Paquin**, Attorney, Opperman, Heins & Paquin; **Angelo Rulli**, Mechanical Maestro and Publisher of *Mechanical Music*; **Sandy Schwartzbauer**, Executive Director, Minnesota Landmarks. **Charles W. Nelson**, historical architect, is the board's liaison with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Several spots on the board are yet to be filled.

Carousel's Symbol: A 'Ticket to Ride'

Our Fair Carousel hopes to get its name and "face" into the public in the next several months, so people will know how to participate in our efforts. When we do, you'll see the symbol that appears at the top of page one of this newsletter. It's a ticket, of the kind you might purchase to ride the carousel, with a spirited horse, mane flying, bursting through. The name "Our Fair Carousel Fund" appears in distinctive type on the ticket. All of our *official* publications, ads, and products will carry this signature.

Want to Help? Here's How...

Here are some of the ways you can help Our Fair Carousel in the next few months. If you're interested, just clip out and return the form on the back page.

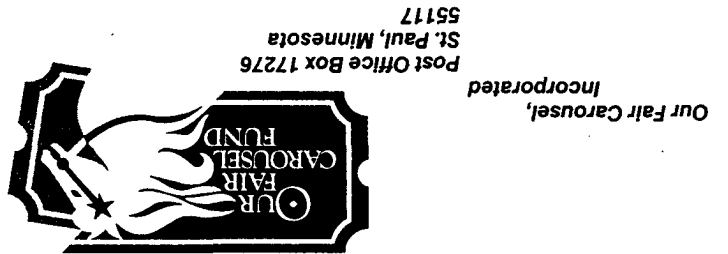
Photos. OFC is especially interested in *old* photos of the carousel (ca. 1914-1940), and in *excellent* photos of horses and riders in more recent times.

Historic information. We're looking for information to help in restoring the carousel—especially information about the fire that damaged part of the carousel in June 1939.

Spring clean-up crew. We need some hearty workers to help clean up a lot of grease and grime to get the carousel building ready for the fair.

State fair workers. We'll be operating the carousel the 12 days of the fair—we need ticket sellers, ticket takers, traffic managers, and folks to sell t-shirts, posters, and buttons, all in three-hour shifts.

Fund-raising help. Help is needed on many fronts—for example, to sell t-shirts and posters through the year, to solicit major gifts, and to organize Adopt-A-Pony efforts among civic groups, youth organizations, church groups, employee clubs, neighborhood associations, or hobby groups.



Want to Help? Here's How...

- YES, I want to help Our Fair Carousel.**
- Spring clean-up crew.**
(OFC will call to let you know when!)
- State Fair crew.**
I can work _____ 3-hour shifts.
(OFC will call in July to schedule the shifts.)
- Fund-raising.**
- I'll sell t-shirts, posters, etc. during the year.
- I can help with major fund-raising leads.
- I'd like to organize an "Adopt-A-Pony" effort with (name of group):

please send me more information.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Here's another name to add to your newsletter list:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

VOLUME TWO
NUMBER ONE



SPRING 1990

PONY UPDATE

Our Fair Carousel safe, headed for new home

Minnesota's state fair carousel is safe from the auction block, and before the end of 1990 it will be operating in a new home and with a new name.

That announcement was made March 12 by Peter Boehm, president of Our Fair Carousel (OFC), concluding a 16-month effort to keep the 76-year-old wooden merry-go-round alive.

The machine had been scheduled to be sold horse-by-horse at a New York auction in December 1988; instead, OFC was able to purchase the carousel intact from the family that owned it. To do so, OFC obtained a \$1.3 million bank loan, backed by the City of St. Paul. By agreement, OFC had until December 29, 1989, to raise funds to repay the loan, or the city would sell the carousel.

As the loan deadline approached in December 1989, the group had raised more than \$1 million in just one year, but was short of its goal and faced the possibility that the carousel would be lost.

At the last minute, the City of St. Paul pledged a \$350,000 interest-free 10-year loan—enough to pay off the bank loan and to begin restoration of the carousel. The original loan deadline was extended to March to enable OFC and the city to negotiate financial and operating agreements.

On March 12, the bank loan was paid and the agreements were completed. They provide that:

- the City of St. Paul will own the carousel, ensuring that it will forever be operated in a city park. The city may not dispose of the carousel or take it out of operation except by selling it back to OFC for one dollar.

- OFC will restore, maintain, operate, and govern all significant decisions about the carousel.

- a private developer, BCE Development, will renovate Town Square Park in downtown St. Paul as a new home for the carousel. The carousel should be installed and operating there by November 1990.

The carousel will be named for St. Paul businessman Gerard L. Cafesjian, whose \$600,000 gift capped the year-long, \$1.3-million campaign to repay the bank loan (see separate story). Major gifts from individuals, clubs, corporations, and foundations came through OFC's

From the bottom of our hearts

Thank you!

The carousel is saved, thanks to you. Hundreds of volunteers, thousands of donors, plus all who bought shirts, buttons, posters, and prints, plus over 100,000 who rode the carousel during the Fair—all of you can take pride in accomplishing what few communities have been able to do!

We at Our Fair Carousel are volunteers, too, and we've put in long hours to get the job done. So chances are, we haven't thanked you properly for your support, encouragement, expertise, financial contribution, or service. (And here we come again, offering new opportunities to volunteer, to contribute, and to purchase carousel mementoes!)

So here it is: from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU.

"Adopt-A-Pony" plan, with sponsorship ranging from \$5,000 for an inner-row horse to \$25,000 for an outer-row jumper. Other funds came from the public and from operations at the 1989 State Fair.

Some 300 volunteers sold tickets, operated the ride, and sold mementos of the carousel's "75th and final year at the fair" in August. The carousel drew 107,000 riders in 12 days (54 percent more than the previous owner's past five-year average), and fair-goers bought 11,000 t-shirts, 21,000 buttons, and 3,000 posters. In all, fair operations contributed \$150,000 (net) to the fund-raising effort.

After the fair, volunteers dismantled the carousel and placed it in storage to await its new home.

Town Square Park is indoors, on the fourth floor, above a downtown St. Paul shopping mall, where the carousel will be able to operate year-round. BCE Development, which manages the park for the city, will spend up to \$583,000 to renovate the park to accommodate the carousel; BCE also contributed \$50,000 in cash.

OFC plans to restore and operate the carousel using volunteers, and its 25-member board of directors will set policy, continue to raise funds, and make decisions about restoration and other matters. (A form for signing up as a volunteer is on page 4 of this newsletter.)

Peter Boehm believes that carousel operations can be self-supporting through ticket sales (a price of about one dollar is expected) and sale of carousel products.

continued on page 2

Your old photos can help solve a mystery

Your old family photos, or your vivid memories, could help solve a mystery: exactly what did the carousel look like *before*?

If you've ridden the carousel lately, you've seen a red-white-and-blue motif for the interior walls and the "rounding boards" on the outside rim. Originally, however, the color scheme was probably cream, forest green, pale green, and gold. Instead of stars, there were flowers and twisting vines.

There also were 18 "scenery panels"—paintings of idyllic scenes such as a deer at sunrise, or children playing.

A 1939 fire damaged the carousel's decorative elements, and subsequent repainting changed its look.

Now, OFC wants to restore the original designs, and seeks old photos to help in the process. If you don't have photos, but have *clear, vivid memories* of what the carousel looked like, write us a letter.

Individuals submitting the 10 photos or written descriptions most useful to the restoration will each receive a signed, limited-edition print by Minneapolis artist Stephen Nesser, depicting three of the carousel's horses. The print is valued at \$100.

So dig through that old box of family prints, page through the old albums, or jog an old memory.

Send photos and letters to OFC, P.O. Box 17276, St. Paul, MN 55117.

continued from page 1

However, the group must also raise the \$350,000 to repay the city's interest-free loan and about another \$350,000 to restore the 68 horses.

"Because the horses were only ridden 12 days a year at the fair, they are in wonderful condition," Boehm explains. "A few need repairs—mostly for broken legs that weren't fixed properly over the years.

"The horses are in original paint, or one layer of park paint. But they have a thick layer of badly yellowed varnish, which we intend to remove to expose the color underneath. We plan to restore them two at a time, over a period of three years, after the carousel gets back into operation."

Boehm has found warehouse space near the University of Minnesota, where volunteers will spend the summer and fall cleaning and restoring the carousel's mechanical parts, stripping and refinishing the platform, and restoring original colors and patterns to mirrors, scenery panels, rounding boards, etc.

To prepare for that task, Boehm is seeking old photos showing the original condition of the machine. He has combed through archives in Philadelphia and New York, as well as at the State Fair and the Minnesota Historical Society, doing research about PTC #33 and other machines produced at about the same time (it was built in 1914).

Information, contributions, and questions may be directed to: Our Fair Carousel, P.O. Box 17276, St. Paul, MN 55117.

Product ideas?

When we open the carousel at Town Square in November we will be operating a gift booth where we will sell carousel-related items. If you have ideas for products, from inexpensive coloring books up to one-of-a-kind hand-carved carousel horses, please send us a detailed proposal.

St. Paul businessman and U of M grad student are top donors

A St. Paul businessman's love of carousels—and his generous \$600,100 contribution—will be memorialized as the state fair carousel becomes Cafesjian's Carousel—St. Paul.

Gerard L. Cafesjian, the son of Armenian immigrants, in the 1930s spent summers riding carousels at New York's Coney Island and New Jersey's Asbury Park. (In fact, his family rented rooms so near the Asbury Park merry-go-round that he fell asleep to its music every night of the summer.)

Now vice president for marketing and sales at West Publishing Co., he said he was happy and proud to help save the carousel. "The carvings, the color, the music, the sights, the sounds. All of it seems to ring the right note in people.... I saw the preservation of this wonderful carousel as a special way that I could offer a measure of happiness to children of all ages and our community as a whole."

A 31-year-old University of Minnesota graduate student, Diane Bush of Minneapolis, was the second largest individual contributor, with a gift of \$75,000.

After inheriting some money from her parents, she had thought about buying a carousel horse for her living room, but decided she would rather have her horse on an operating carousel.

In other words, she would help save Minnesota's carousel by participating in the Adopt-A-Pony program. Why does she like carousels? "They are colorful, noisy, unique works of art, and they evoke so many wonderful memories."

OFC in the news

Minnesota's effort to save its carousel has generated world-wide interest. OFC's scrapbook contains nearly 200 stories from newspapers in the Twin Cities and many smaller Minnesota towns. Each of the Twin Cities-based TV stations carried 15-25 stories during the past year. Radio stations around the state have reported developments.

National media have carried stories too: the *New York Times* ran two stories, the *Christian Science Monitor* ran a two-page feature Sept. 15, and another story this March. *USA Today*, and papers from Maine to California told our tale.

ABC World News Tonight carried a two-minute feature at the close of its 5:30 p.m. news in October that brought calls and contributions from across the country. Anchorman Peter Jennings updated in May.

Our favorite: a story and photo in the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, *Gazette*.

The Public Relations Society of America saluted OFC's media-coverage efforts with a 1989 "Minnesota Classics" award and a national "Silver Anvil" trophy.

Get them while they last

At the Fair we were often out of the shirt, or button, or poster you wanted. These products were so popular we just couldn't keep them in stock. After the Fair we re-ordered and sold many more by mail order. But a few items remain in stock. No more of these products will be ordered and they will *not* be sold at the new location. So send for them now before they are all gone.

T-shirts: \$10 plus \$1.50 for postage, per shirt.

Pinto (shows the complete pinto pony) available in XXL.

Carmel (shows the head of the horse carved by Charles Carmel) available in Small and XL.

Ticket to Ride (shows our logo in shades of pink and green) available in Small.

Posters and Prints: \$10 plus \$1.50 for postage, per poster, and \$100 for a limited edition print, signed by the artist.

Buttons: \$1 each plus \$1.50 for postage for 1-5 buttons. Only the Pinto button is remaining.

Want to help? Here's how.

Over the next several months we will be restoring the carousel to its original beauty. But to do that we need help. Wooden parts will need to be repaired, sanded and painted. Floors are being stripped to uncover the natural wood. Brass poles need to be cleaned, polished, and repaired. 1000 porcelain light sockets need to be replaced and rewired. Gears, cranks and bearings need to be cleaned, de-greased, inspected, and repaired. Eighteen oil paintings must be painted for the outer rim. Talented individuals are welcome to participate. Companies that can provide any of the needed materials or perform any of these services are invited to take on the carousel as a special project. (For example, Binney & Smith Inc. has provided us with \$100,000 worth of Liquitex® artist oil paint for the decorative painting.)

What are your talents? When are you available? Send us your name, address, and phone number, along with times when you will be available, and a list of your special talents. We'll call people who list special talents as we get to that phase of the restoration.

Starting in November, we will be operating the carousel, also with volunteers. Volunteers will sell tickets, work in the gift booth, and operate the ride. We will be open from 3 to 7, Tuesday-Friday, 10 to 5 on Saturday, and 12 to 5 on Sunday. Preference will be given to those people who can put in a regular shift or two each month. Sign up now.

Restoration of horses will begin in November or December. Woodworkers, carvers, and painters who can demonstrate their talents will be invited to classes conducted by a professional restorer.

See the sign-up form on page 4.

TCDAG adopted a pony. How about your group?

When the plaques are imprinted with names of those who have "adopted" the carousel's 68 horses, the Twin Cities Decorative Artists Guild and Northland Decorative Painters will be among them.

The guild, whose members pursue many kinds of crafts, set a goal for 1989: raise \$5,000, the minimum needed to sponsor a carousel horse under the "Adopt-A-Pony" program. The goal was an ambitious one for the group, but through individual fund-raising, sale of note cards, and an October "boutique" sale, the group succeeded.

In addition, members volunteered at the Fair, helped arrange for a contribution of 160 gallons of artist oil paint from Binney & Smith Inc.,

and will help with decorative painting of the carousel.

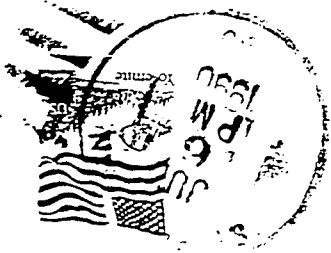
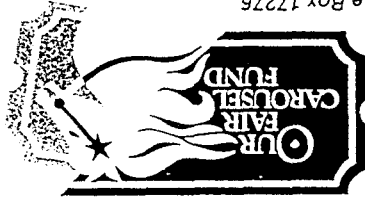
Clubs, individuals and families account for nine adoptions so far. Corporations and foundations account for ten more; and the favorite Pinto Pony has been adopted by smaller gifts from the people of Minnesota. Your group—employee club, hobby group, service organization, even your family—can sponsor a horse, too. Forty-eight horses remain to be adopted; your group's name could be displayed on a plaque on the horse pole for all to see.

A contribution of \$5,000 will adopt a fourth-row horse, \$10,000 a third-row, \$15,000 a second-row, and \$25,000 a prized first-row horse. Contact Our Fair Carousel for more information.

Charles J. Jacques
P.O. Box 157
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Post Office Box 17276
St. Paul, Minnesota
55117

Our Fair Carousel,
Incorporated



Want to help? Here's how.

YES, I want to help Our Fair Carousel.

Restoration.

My special skills are _____

I am available (dates and time) _____

(OFC will call to let you know when!)

Operations crew.

I can work _____ 4-hour shifts on _____ (day of the week).

Fund-raising.

I'd like to organize an "Adopt-A-Pony" effort with (name of group):

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Here's another name to add to your newsletter list:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!**BRASS RING NEWS**

Published by The Friends of Rochester Carousels

September 1990

**DIRECTOR'S
CORNER**

Nancy Tischendorf

As director of Friends of Rochester Carousels I would personally like to welcome you to our very first newsletter. Published bi-annually, it is intended to keep you informed of activities related to the Friends of Rochester Carousels, the carousel at Ontario Beach Park, and of other groups active in the Ontario Beach Park area.

The Friends of Rochester Carousels was formed two years ago under the inspiration of myself and former director Susan Geverdt. Both Susan and myself are long-standing members of both the National Carousel Association and the American Carousel Society. Once we became acquainted with many others around the country who formed carousel support groups, we set out on our own to begin one to promote the restoration of the ONTARIO BEACH CAROUSEL. Our group operates under the auspices of the ONTARIO BEACH PROGRAM COMMITTEE and the MONROE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT.

Our planned activities this year include: completion of a permanent informational display at the carousel; the publication of our first newsletter; preparation of an operational and maintenance manual for those hard-working folks who both run and maintain the carousel; and, of course, CAROUSEL FEST '91. As you can see, there is PLENTY to do, and plenty to get involved with. So, if you are interested, by all means, come to one of our monthly meetings and see what we are all about.

I have great feelings about our group: they all deserve a big round of applause for all of the hard work and support they give. We, as a group, promote and support the restoration of the few remaining antique carousels left in our country today. The ONTARIO BEACH CAROUSEL is YOUR carousel. We, as a group, through our activities as well as this newsletter, hope to make you more aware of the carousel's artistic and historic value. SEE YOU SOON!

**Officers and
Committees set for
new year**

Nancy Tischendorf was elected Director to replace Susan Geverdt who was a founder and the first director of the Friends of Rochester Carousels. Susan served in that capacity for two years and she and Nancy did an excellent job of getting the group organized and functioning. We would like to thank Susan for her contributions, for sharing with the group her expertise, and for her hard work in many different areas. Others persons elected were Del Machiele, Assistant Director; Carol Dunn, Secretary; Rosemary Fregoe, Treasurer and Membership. Committees include Promotions, Festival, County Liason, Newsletter, Educational Display, Landmark, Historian, and Activities.

LIGHTHOUSE

Remember to visit the Charlotte/Genesee Lighthouse after your ride on the carousel. It's located just south of Ontario Beach Park.

The Secretary says...

In the fall of 1988 a notice was sent to people in the community who may have been interested in doing some cleaning of the Dentzel Carousel at Ontario Beach Park. The people who attended this first meeting may not have realized it, but they would form the group "Friends of Rochester Carousels". With director Susan Geverdt and co-director Nancy Tischendorf the group started working towards our goal--to support the restoration of the carousel and promote the carousel as an historic art form in our community.

The February 1989 meeting was an informational session on carousels in general and about our Dentzel carousel in particular. This has now become an annual event.

Our next step was Carousel Fest '89. After much planning and effort, the Friends of Rochester Carousels first public event took place on June 10 and 11. The weekend was a great success generating over \$500 towards the restoration of the carousel and promoting community awareness.

The rest of the year went well. After previously holding our meetings in members' homes, we decided to move our meeting place to the Britton Road Library and have them on the second Monday of every month. At our meetings many hours were spent planning for Carousel Fest '90.



Dates Set For
CAROUSEL FEST '91
June 8th & 9th

MEMBERSHIP

Carousel Fest '90 was held on June 9 and 10. The previous evening, a wine and cheese party was held for members, county officials and other invited guests. One highlight of the evening was the unveiling of several newly restored animals by Bill Finkenstein of R&F Designs of Bristol, Connecticut, the firm doing our restoration work. The festivities concluded with a long ride on the carousel. The fest offered carousel rides, a demonstration of how the carousel animals are painted in the restoration process, band organ music, an educational display and vendors of carousel art and objects. As a result of this fest over \$1000 was donated to the restoration fund. More than half of these funds were generated with a raffle of a fiberglass reproduction of a Illions jumper donated by R & F Designs. The rest resulted from the sale of printed T-shirts and posters of our Dentzel carousel.

The Friends of Rochester Carousels is a group of persons interested in promoting the preservation and restoration of the historic Dentzel menagerie carousel at Ontario Beach Park. We are active in informing the community of the treasure it has in this carousel. We invite all those who are interested to become a member. Annual memberships run from July 1 to June 30 and are only \$15 per person. Checks should be made payable to "Ontario Beach Park Program Committee" and sent along with your name, address and phone number to Rosemary Fregoe, 2061D Hudson Ave., Rochester, New York 14617.

Landmark Status

A number of carousels have been designated as National Landmarks. We feel our carousel meets the requirements. A committee is gathering the necessary documentation for submission to the National Park Service for consideration for this prestigious designation.

Restoration Work Continues

The Ontario Beach Park carousel is a beautiful example of a menagerie carousel and it is one of only six remaining Dentzel menagerie carousels in the United States. It has 52 animals, including three cats, three rabbits, three ostriches, three pigs, two mules, one tiger, one lion, one giraffe, one deer, and one goat, besides the traditional horses. Two chariots also grace the carousel. Currently, about twenty-four animals have been restored to their original splendor. For years one of the animals on the carousel was a zebra. However, during the restoration work it was discovered that it had originally been a mule and so it was repainted as a mule. This winter season another fifteen to twenty will be restored by R & F Designs. One chariot was previously completed while the other is being returned on October 12 along with one of the ostriches. The building that houses the carousel was renovated during 1983-84. This winter the carousel platform and the round house floor will be refinished. The goal is to complete the restoration of the remaining animals in time for the Charlotte bicentennial festivities in 1992. Recognizing the importance of the carousel to the community, the City of Rochester declared it a Rochester Landmark in 1980. The carousel is operated by the County of Monroe for the enjoyment of all.

G. A. DENTZEL, Carousel Builder

The sign in front of the carousel at Ontario Beach Park says "Historic Dentzel Carousel 1905". It was produced by the pioneer of modern carousels in this country, Gustav A. Dentzel. Dentzel immigrated to America in 1860 as a young man of 20. He opened a cabinet making shop but also toured the country with a portable carousel made by his craftsman father in Germany. It was such a successful venture that in 1867 he changed his shop to G. A. Dentzel, Steam and Horse Power Caroussell Builder. His business flourished and he produced many carousels which were installed in many parks and amusement centers. He also maintained control of some of these and, for a while, they generated more income for him than did the manufacturing business. The Dentzel Company was noted as producing the most anatomically correct carousel animals. Dentzel

employed many master carvers, including Daniel and Albert Muller and Salvatore "Cherni" Cernigliaro. The Mullers, whom Dentzel raised as sons after their father's death, considered Dentzel a stern taskmaster and left his employ to start their own company. When that failed they joined the Philadelphia Toboggan Co., and later still, they rejoined the Dentzel Company after G. A. Dentzel's death in 1909. Cherni introduced a variety of delightful menagerie animals, including cats, rabbits, and bears to the carousel. The Ontario Beach Park carousel is a menagerie carousel and contains many animals done by this talented carver. Dentzel's son, William, took over the business after his father's death and continued to produce elegant carousels. The company was sold to PTC after William's death in 1928.

Sylvia Kulwicki

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