

Diane Vaught, Lynne Brown, and Jo Downey discussed organizing and maintaining friends groups. A restoration group is needed to get a carousel into operating condition; then a friends group can take over to keep it going. Support groups can raise money while marketing the idea of the carousel and providing fun for the community.

→ Keep a list of jobs that need to be done. Make sure volunteers are kept busy with meaningful work. There is some kind of job for everyone; you just have to be creative. Utilizing the efforts of disabled adults can pay dividends. Involving young people in the work of the carousel is important, to raise another generation who will love and support the carousel, and appreciate its history.

Flyers, posters, letters, and other communications should always incorporate the carousel's logo to heighten awareness. Personal thanks for donations, spelling out the use to which funds will be put, is good public relations. If a blanket appeal for a volunteer doesn't work, a specific request to a specific person will usually bring a positive response.



### THE NEW HAVEN EXPERIENCE

#### A city restores its carousel - - The Lighthouse Park Carousel

In January of 1980, as in the months and years before, the four-row Carmel/Loeff carousel at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, Connecticut, stood in storage. The carousel building, built in 1916, was empty and open to possible vandalism.

In February of 1980, Sally Fecteau was called. Would she be interested in serving on a committee to save the carousel? You bet she would. Sally had been making known her desire to conserve the merry-go-round for the past 15 years by writing letters to the mayor, and other influential townspeople, in an attempt to drum up interest in saving the carousel.

Things started happening soon after that initial phone call. An article about the carousel appeared in the city's only newspaper, and a non-profit organization for conserving the carousel was formed - The Friends of the Lighthouse Park Carousel.

One of the first steps taken by the fledgling organization was to apply to the National Register of Historic Places to get the carousel declared a historic site.

To increase awareness of the group and its cause, and to raise money, The Friends of the Lighthouse Park Carousel held several functions, including a carousel day, a childrens' art contest and a costume ball.

Carousel Day was proclaimed by the town's mavor, who is in the corner of the conservationists. The day's festivities were held at Lighthouse Park and included a craft show, pony rides, rides on a rented carousel (so the townsfolk could get a taste of what was to come), a baby parade, sandcastle contests, a baseball game and other free entertainment, food and refreshments. To top it all off, a hobie cat regatta sailed on the nearby harbor waters. This function netted the group over \$6,000.

An art contest was also held in which children vied to nave the carousel figures (horses and two dragons). The committee has also presented slide shows on the plight of the carousel at the area's schools.

Ads were taken in the program for the group's costume ball, held last summer. Revenues for the program and ball amounted to \$4,000. To publicize this event, local radio and television personalities promoted the ball through their medium and also served as emcees.

The mayor announced that he was going to seek \$100,000 in capital bonding money to be spent on renovating the carousel building, including a new roof, windows, flame retardant paint and structural and other repair. (Included in the carousel pavillion is an annex large enough for dances and exhibits. The Friends of the Lighthouse Park Carousel are hoping to rent out this space for additional income.)

With the funding for the building in the works, the group is concentrating its efforts on the carousel. Here is where another snag is developing. The committee is uncertain in which direction to go in restoring the carousel figures. Two have been restored, by donations for the purpose of using the figures for public relations, and both were done in high gloss enamels. The committee is wondering whether to restore the figures to the original paint, to strip them and start fresh, to use flat paints or high gloss, etc. (Any comments from NCA members on this subject will be appreciated.)

Another pitfall is the cost of a new band organ, \$16,000 to \$20,000, since the original was sold and is now in California.

Things are progressing. The group is affiliating itself with other civic groups for increaed recognition, and community interest is growing.

NCA members, please check the list of items that the committee has for sale, and the membership information. Here is a chance to pick up some unique carousel gift items for friends and family and, at the same time, help out in this fine cause.

RE-DEDICATION OF BURLINGTON NC's DENTZELDIANE VAUGHT

It was a bright sunny day in Burlington, NC Saturday April 31, 1983, for the re-dedication of the cities newly-restored 1912 Dentzel carousel. A good crowd was on hand for the speeches and ribbon cutting. John Hayek was there too relate his memories of the carousel when it was at Forest Park near Genoa, Ohio, back before 1948. He also presented to the city of Burlington and the Restoration Committee, the NCA's "Certificate of Appreciation" in recognition of their contribution to the preservation of the carousel. Diane Vaught, NCA member, a volunteer who spearheaded the project, received a surprise when, during the dedication ceremonies, bunting was pulled from the top of the structure to reveal a plaque renaming the pavillion, The Diane Vaught Carousel Pavillion

HISTORY

The Dentzel carousel was built around 1912. The exact location this carousel was first in operation is not known, but it is known that it ran in the Oak Point Amusement Park near Oak Harbor, Ohio, in the late teens or early 1920's. It was then purchased by Carl Utoff for the Forest Park Amusement Park near Genoa, Ohio. The city of Burlington bought the carousel from Utoff in 1948 and brought it by truck caravan to the city park. It has been in operation at the park every season since October 9, 1948.

RESTORATION

Joe Radomski and Art Roberts of J. R. Finishing, Burlington, NC had the tedious task of repairing the wood of the animals. This repair was much more involved than usual, as it required strengthening the wood with an epoxy wood consolidator. The entire carousel, including the heart pine sweeps, platform, centerpole and its supports, was also completely stripped by hand and restored by staining and sealing the natural wood. All the mirror and picture frames were refinished and the rounding boards, which were covered with many layers of Walt Disney Characters, were stripped and restored to their original art. The building also received repairs. The wood supports for the building were enclosed with brick, a chain fence and chicken wire were removed and replaced with a waist-high wrought iron fence, giving non-riders a clear view of the carousel as it whirls. Sixteen rolling metal doors provide security and protection from the weather.

The enthusiasm and pride created by the restoration of this carousel has been infectious. Its spread throughout the entire recreation department, the cities employees and the towns people. More than 16,000 persons rode the carousel in its first eight weeks of operation this year. Season passes were created because of the number of people coming regularly to ride the carousel and the parks other attractions.

This carousel truly has been inspiring because the city, the group of volunteers and private business all worked together to make this restoration possible. A "Friends of the Burlington, NC Carousel" organization has been formed within the Burlington City Parks and Recreation Department, which has information available for any interested person. Thus the carousel will be always maintained and preserved for generations to come.

RE-DEDICATION OF RALEIGH, NC's CHAVIS PARK CAROUSELLORI L. WIESE

The Raleigh, NC Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Raleigh City Council, rededicated the city's Chavis Park Carousel June 4, 1983. Rich Wickens was present to award the NCA's "Certificate of Appreciation" for last years restoration of the cities Dentzel carousel located in Pullen Park and to speak at the dedication of the Allen Herschell at Chavis Park.

Funding for the restoration project was provided by a \$100,000 recreation bond issue fund and by \$42,000. approved by the City Council. The Chavis Park Carousel was purchased for the city's community park in the summer of 1937 at a cost of \$4,000. The mayor at that time said that he expected, "... the device to pay for itself in a year at the rate of a nickel a ride."

It is a refurbished number two special, three abreast machine that dates back to 1923 with some of the animals likely to date as early as 1916. The carousel has 36 hand-carved horses, four cast aluminum horses, two wooden chariots, 14 rounding boards, 14 shields with figure-heads and 14 paintings.

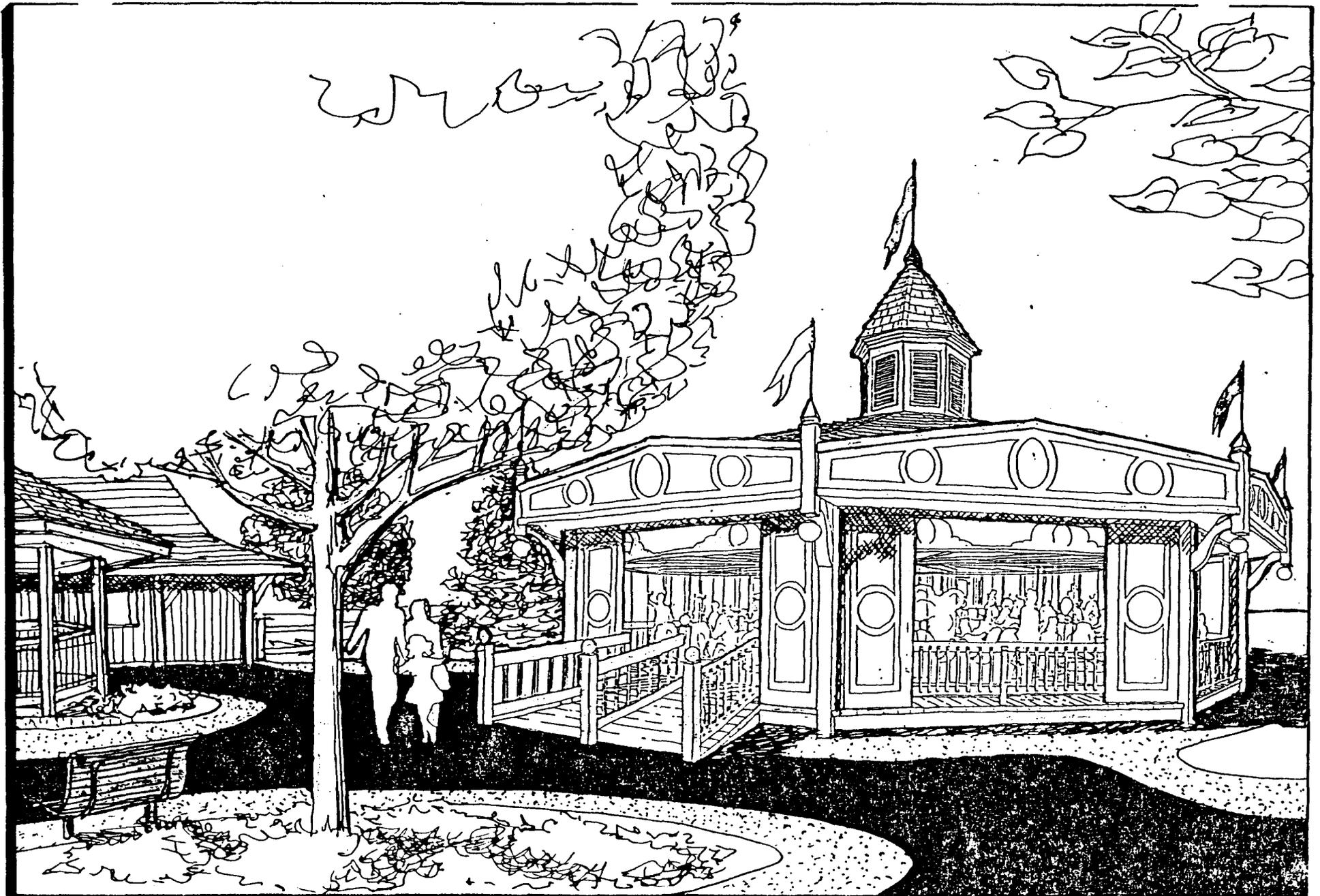
Rosa Ragan, a Raleigh artist who supervised the project, reported that extensive research was done in an effort to duplicate original colors and artwork for the carousel. One source was an old Allen Herschell company catalog. Outside canopy paintings were taken from drawings in the book, but the 14 oval paintings on the inside walls are replicas of the originals.

In attendance for the rededication were city officials, members of the Chavis Carousel Restoration Project and grateful citizens. One citizen in attendance was present in the summer of 1937 for the original dedication.

## **LOS GATOS CAROUSEL TO GET NEW BUILDING**

The Savage-Parker-Dare carousel at Los Gatos, Ca, will run once more, this time in a new building at Oak Meadow Park. The 3 row machine is being restored by a volunteer group called the Billy Jones Wildcat Rail Road. The BJWRR members, along with the Los Gatos mayor and head of the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, helped break ground, February 21, 1987, for the construction project.

*Mike Mendenhall*



OTHER CSGS - 5

# TUSCORA PARK

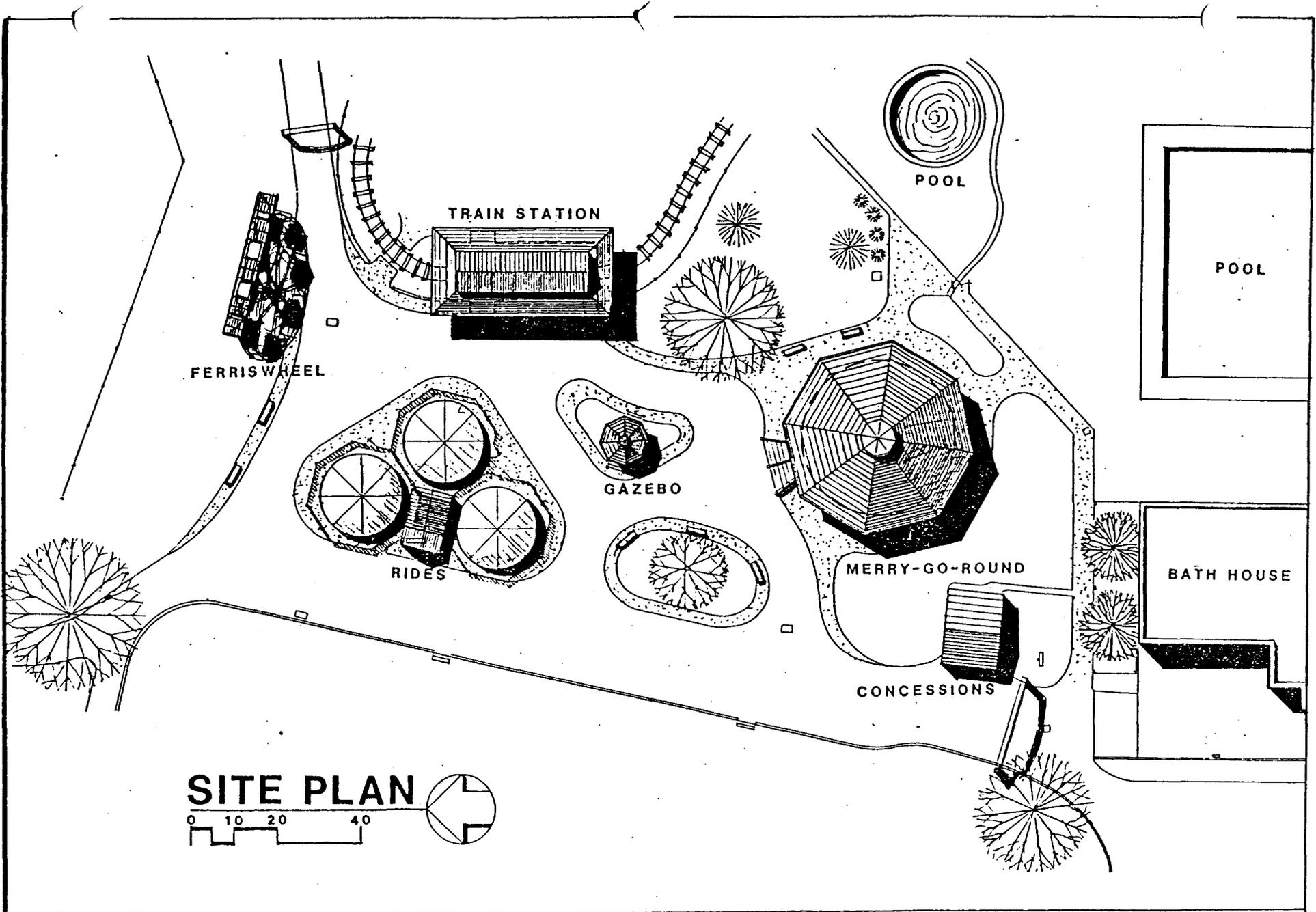
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# The only 'real' carousel is at Children's Museum

FOR AN Indianapolis child, there's really only one carousel — the one on the fifth floor of the Children's Museum.

Oh, sure, there are the little merry-go-rounds at the shopping center carnivals, and the somewhat bigger ones at the state and county fairs, but those are to the museum carousel as a Chevette is to a Cadillac. There's a distant kinship, but a large gap in class, since most traveling carousels now have either cast metal or fiberglass animals.

The museum's carousel, in contrast is an outstanding specimen of the work of Gustav Dentzel, originator of the "Philadelphia style" of carved wooden animals, and his staff. It is, in fact, one of only two surviving Dentzel carousels.

Furthermore, rather than having two rows of jumping animals and one of stationary ones, the common arrangement for three-row carousels, the horses on all three of its rows are "jumpers."

From 1917 to 1956, the carousel operated in Broad Ripple Park. A part of its shelter roof fell on the carousel in 1956; the ride was shut down and began to deteriorate. In 1970, 14 animals and assorted other bits and pieces were donated to the museum. That led to a re-assembly and restoration effort which gathered up and repaired all but one of the original animals and produced the ornately beautiful attraction that so delights children (and grown-ups) today.



Janet Abrell of Terre Haute takes a ride on the Children's Museum carousel with her children, Justin, 6, left, and Cody, 4.

# Remember Those Days ? Well.... A

# WANTED

By the Citizens of Santa Monica



THE PIERS ARE NOT SAVED . . .  
 Proposition 1 is the only guarantee that  
 the piers will be here, forever.

The Proposition makes it illegal to raze,  
 destroy or tear down the piers. Severe  
 penalties are provided for violators.

The Pier Preservation Ordinance (Prop 1)

is the result of over two years struggle to  
 protect the piers from the greed of devel-  
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Insure the piers against future redevelop-  
 ment desires and the whims of future City  
 Councils. Vote YES on Proposition 1 and  
 Save The Piers, Forever!

## yes on proposition 1 save the piers, forever

At the N.C.A. Southern California "Mini-Con" of June 6-7...

# Gala Opening Slated at Santa Monica

the SANTA MONICA  
PIER LESSEES ASSOCIATION  
in cooperation with the SANTA MONICA  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



After a long period of uncertainties dating back to 1971 when the Piers were declared unsafe and were threatened with demolition, a new era is about to blossom. The Santa Monica Municipal Pier had been an attraction in Southern California by 1916, and has been home to a carousel since then, with the present machine P.T.C. #62 taking up residence in the old carousel building, (built by Charles I.D. Looff) back in 1949. Following the passage of "Proposition 1" back in 1973 to "Save the Piers, Forever", it seemed as though the old carousel, sight of so many T.V. and movie productions, including "The Sting", was indeed "Safe Forever". The months that followed were months of near disaster - a fire in March, 1974 - and a roller coaster of events characterized by high hopes, only to be dashed by deep disappointments. An article appeared in a newspaper a couple of years back suggesting that this maybe was the end of the line for the noble steeds of Santa Monica Pier.

This agonizing period, has now come to a close, thanks to city people there in Santa Monica. For the past six months, Philadelphia Toboggan Company's Carousel #62 has been undergoing a complete restoration under the supervision of Tracey Cameron of Hartford, CT. As a result, the merry-go-round is being transformed from a "dull moth" into a "beautiful butterfly". For Tracey, it has not been an exactly uneventful project (could any project be uneventful for her?) with an episode of controversy, an unending stream of visitors (some of whom are renowned personalities) and the antics of "Wally", her parrot. Tracey will have many stories to tell you in the months ahead, I am sure!

The salient piece of news is this - a private party is being held on Santa Monica Pier at the carousel for members of the N.C.A., Santa Monica City officials, and special invited guests, one of whom is a surprise not to be missed! This event, slated for June 6th at 7 p.m., will be a time for picture-taking (the ominous signs are gone!), meeting special guests, having refreshments, mingling with new friends and old, and of course, rides, rides, rides and all of this with the background music of the old Wurlitzer 153 band organ, which after a period of silence is back in good voice. This is a lifetime opportunity not to be missed!

Then on Sunday, June 7th, the participants will spend "Sunday at the Summit's" where they will view the spectacular collection of Rol and Jo, have lunch, participate in a restoration workshop conducted by the "Expert, Rol Summit". Carousel animals with a variety of problems will be discussed. There will also be a tool and product display.

# CAPPER'S WEEKLY

O for a horse with wings!  
— Shakespeare

TAKEN TO HEART FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS

45 Cents

Volume 104—No. 15

Edition A

Topeka, Kan. 66607

July 20, 1982

## Historic merry-go-round comes home to Kansas

Ride three minutes for a nickel! Jump astride one of 24 horses or sit in one of four chariots on an 81-year-old merry-go-round! That's what Abilene, Kan., folks from toddlers to persons in their 80s did recently on a Sunday afternoon.

The merry-go-round rides were offered as part of an effort by the Dickinson County Historical Society to start a fund for complete restoration of the steam-powered machine and a tent-like building to house it.

Built in 1901 by C.W. Parker, the hand-carved merry-go-round had no canopy as it was intended for use under a tent. Jimmy Weiser purchased the merry-go-round from Parker in 1928 and operated it every summer for 30 years. Tom Knight, Riverton, Wyo., bought it in 1959. After his death, his widow, Winifred Knight, contacted the Smithsonian Institution. The Institution got in touch with the Dickinson County Historical Society.

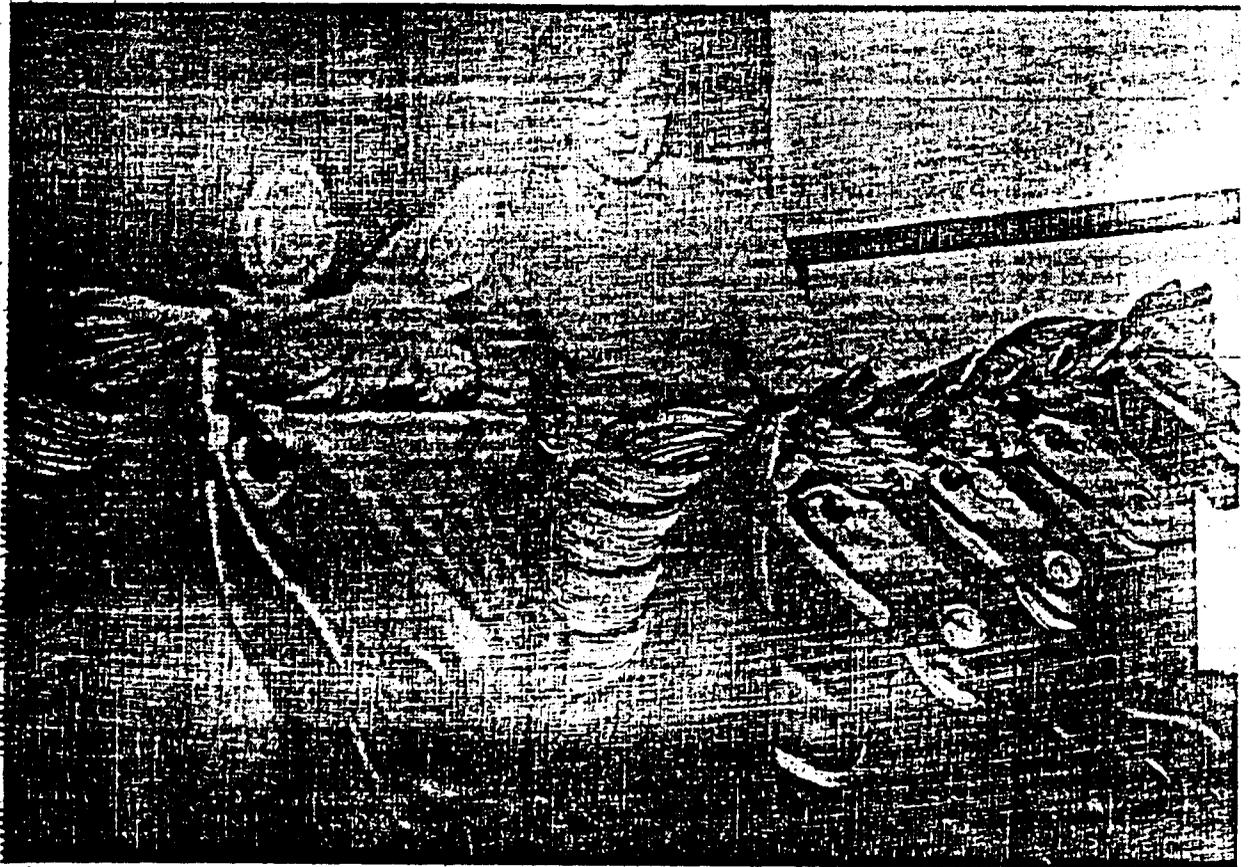
Linda Millner, the society's director, says there are only two other handcrafted Parker merry-go-rounds known to exist, one in Denver, Colo., and one in Tacoma, Wash.

But could there be one in China? The March 7, 1903, Kansas Semi-Weekly Capital (a predecessor of Capper's Weekly) reported: "C.W. Parker's factory is manufacturing the oddest merry-go-round ever constructed. It is on order from China and the motive power will be eight Chinamen who will push the revolving table by walking under a cover around the center of the pole. The gallery will be shipped to China and be used in the interior cities of that country." The March 6, 1903, Abilene Daily Reflector reported the merry-go-round for China was being made with carved horses, dragons and swans. (The Kansas Semi-Weekly Capital quotation comes from "Too Good to Keep," the Capper's Weekly centennial book, available for \$5.95 from Capper's Weekly Books, 816 Jefferson, Topeka, Kan. 66607.)



A hand-carved merry-go-round built by C.W. Parker in Abilene, Kan., in 1901, has been returned to running condition by Joe Minick, Enterprise, Kan., shown above with the machine in Abilene's Eisenhower Park.  
—photo by Jim Burton

The Buffalo News/Wednesday, November 10, 1982



—News Staff Photographer Gail M. McVey

**HISTORICAL ROUNDUP**—Raphaelle Proetrock, president of a small but dedicated circle of friends known as the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier, admires some of the steeds from a carousel that was hand-carved in North Tonawanda in 1916. The carousel was rescued from the auction block by the society, which will hold a fund-raiser soon.

## North Tonawanda Creation Rescued

# A 1916 Carousel Comes Full Circle

By AGNES PALAZZETTI

Carousel lovers in North Tonawanda made a grab for the golden ring last summer — and they caught it, despite several hard obstacles.

The Carousel Society of Niagara Frontier has "brought home" a carousel, which had originally been hand-carved in North Tonawanda in 1916.

To do this, the very small society raised \$30,000, mostly by going door-to-door and having their neighbors respond with \$1, \$2 or \$5 of hard-earned money from strained budgets.

"That much was needed just to bring the horses home from Canada; there's still a long track ahead."

"We start going after \$30,000 more we need by next March to finally pay for the carousel," said Raphaelle Proetrock, president of the Society.

Phase two of the fund-raising campaign will be Nov. 21, when the society takes over part of the Sum-

mit Park Mall in Wheatfield for a "Carousel Christmas Party."

Special "guests" will be some of the 35 horses from the antique carousel. The theme of the party, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., is "to celebrate the return of the carousel," Mrs. Proetrock said.

There also will be a working carousel for anyone in the mood for a ride, champagne, hors d'oeuvres and music for dancing.

The fund-raiser is a reservations-only affair and they must be made by Monday.

North Tonawanda's champions of the horses only number about 20, but have perseverance and faith enough for 200. They are bound and determined to revive their city's heritage when it comes to carousels.

North Tonawanda first gave America the magical carousels when Allan Herschell founded the Armitage Herschell Co. in 1883.

The carousel the society is now buying was created by the Herschell Co. for a small amusement

park in London, Ont. Called the "Jumping Jack Carousel," it played at the London park for 25 years and then was moved to another small park in Hamilton, where it played for another 20 years.

When the owner of that small park was ready to retire, into storage went the horses, chariots, mirrors, paintings, polished brass hangers and the hundreds of lights. For 15 years, they gathered dust until William Steming of Hamilton bought the carousel, hoping to open his own small amusement park.

It was more than he could ultimately afford so the carousel was headed for the auction block until the Carousel Society heard about it and made its bid.

They had \$10,000 in hand. Mr. Steming agreed to wait until early fall for another \$17,500, with the final \$30,000 payment promised by next March 1.

When the big moving day arrived a few weeks ago, members of

the society were able to get three big trucks to move their precious carousel. It took almost seven hours just to load the horses and the hundreds of parts.

"The Customs people could hardly believe what we were bringing through," Mrs. Proetrock said, laughing. "They just looked at us and made comments like, 'Horses, huh? You guys pay for this? Paid real money, huh?'"

The carousel's parts are being stored in one of North Tonawanda's closed schools. If a second part of the society's dream doesn't happen before spring, the group hopes to assemble the carousel and place it in one of the city's parks.

What would make them happier would be to raise more money, enough to put a down payment on the original Herschell factory, which is now empty and shuttered. They would like to restore it as a museum for carousels.

Just another golden ring to grab for.

The word from Hartford is that 4 years and 800,000 riders later...

# A Restoration Project Makes Bushnell Park 1914 S&G Gleam Anew

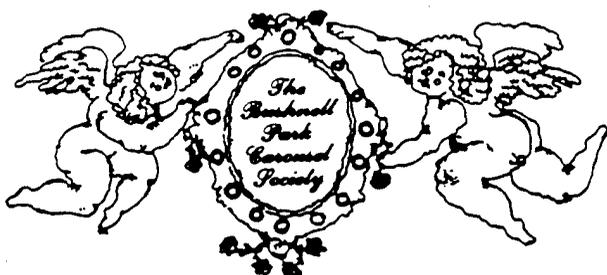
Forty-eight hand-carved, brightly-painted horses grace the Bushnell Park Carousel - one of a relative handful of hand-crafted carousels that still exist. Hartford's (CT) was created by "Stein and Goldstein, the Artistic Carousel Company" of Brooklyn, NY. The merry-go-round also features two ornate lover's chariots, more than 800 light bulbs, beveled mirrors and a Wurlitzer Style 153 band organ. The carousel was purchased in 1974 from an amusement park in Canton, Ohio, was dismantled and shipped to Hartford for restoration under the guidance of Tracey Cameron.

After four seasons and more than 800,000 riders, (or should I say 800,000 backsides)?, the horses and chariots were in need of extensive repair. In some cases the figures were worn down to bare wood.

In October, 1980, the Bushnell Park Carousel Society, which has the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the machine, was recipient of a \$37,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to completely restore the 1914 ride. Once again, Tracey Cameron, resident of Hartford, was called upon. This time extremely durable acrylic enamel paints similar to paints used in automobiles and airplanes were used. These paints were not available at the time of the original restoration. Other minor repairs were taken care of at this time. Now it is reported that the horses are "absolutely gorgeous".

This season, however, with inflation, the price will rise to 25c. The carousel is often rented for a variety of occasions. It has been the scene of many a birthday and weddings. One of the most rewarding experiences for the operators has been the hosting of a visit by children from a local school for the blind. They sure loved the music and the motion of the carousel.

The carousel really needs your support and you can help even by becoming a member of the Bushnell Park Carousel Society. Postcards, beautiful color posters and even T-shirts are available. All donations are tax deductible. For further information contact the Bushnell Park Carousel Society, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, CT. 06103.



# St. Louis restores its historic carousel

By JULI CRAGG

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — The hand-carved animals on a rare, turn-of-the-century carousel, a survivor of a 1963 fire that destroyed a historic amusement park, may soon be whirling again.

A group called the Friends of the Carousel is raising money to faithfully restore the majestic ride — adorned with 60 horses, four reindeer and two chariots — to working order.

"It's unique in that it's all original — nothing has been replaced," said Phyllis Maritz, founder of the group.

The carousel was carved by the Dentzel company of Germantown, Pa., between the late 1800s and 1929. Only one animal, believed to be a horse, and the organ are missing.

The carousel's records were lost in the 1963 blaze that destroyed the 14-acre Highlands Amusement Park, the site of school

picnics and family outings since it opened in 1896 in Forest Park.

## Saved from fire

"The carousel was right in the middle," said Patrick M. Donelan, chairman of the fund-raising group. "All the other amusements were around it and it was saved. It was truly remarkable."

Businessman Howard C. Ohlendorf, fearful the carousel would be dismantled and sold piece-by-piece to collectors, bought it. He later donated it to the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, which operated it in the summer at a Mississippi River park.

The wooden figures suffered from exposure to humidity and the elements, and the carousel was put into storage in 1979 to prevent further deterioration.

Park officials also were wary of theft as carousel animals became increasingly popular, and valuable, collector's items.

The St. Louis carousel animals are said to be worth from \$4,000 to \$15,000 each, depending on the size and the detail of the carving.

The Friends of the Carousel held a cocktail party to raise money for restoration, and more than 700 people paid \$35 each to attend. The group hopes to raise \$250,000 to have the animals riding four abreast again by 1984.

Carlos and Judy Sardina, furniture designers and restorers who live in Warrenton, Mo., have already begun restoring parts of the carousel.

Sardina, who has worked on two reindeers and a chariot, said each piece must be stripped and smoothed with fine-grained sandpaper. Loose joints are reglued, nicks filled and at least two coats each of primer and varnish applied before the animal is repainted.

"If there's an ear missing or a hoof, then Carlos will carve it," said Sardina,

who paints the pieces after her husband completes the other steps.

"We have the chart from the Dentzel company with all the colors," said Sardina. "We're going to use the same colors the company did."

Most of the animals are in various stages of repair; some are stripped to the creamy base wood while others remain coated with paint used in amateurish touch-ups.

"They all had been painted by hand, just by kids, and it shows," said Maritz. "When you see a restored horse you know the difference."

After being returned to its original condition, the carousel is to be operated at Faust Park in west St. Louis County at a specially constructed climate-controlled building.

"It will be whirling and twirling again in delight for the people of St. Louis," said Maritz.

(1983)

1983

## *Factory becomes carousel museum*

NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y. — The carousel, that musical amusement ride for all ages, may be fading from the scene at today's fast-paced parks but not from people's memories. While carousels may be going the way of pony rides and all-day lollipops, they are being remembered proudly in North Tonawanda at the Herschell Carousel Factory Museum.

In 1883, Scottish immigrant Allan Herschell built his first merry-go-round and toured the area with it. He sold the ride and completed a second machine a year later, which also was sold. By 1891, Herschell and his company were making 100 carousels yearly.

The ride fell on hard times and the factory — in the community which welcomes visitors with a

sign proclaiming "Home of the Carousel" — closed around 1955. Now there is new life being pumped into the buildings where old-world craftsmen once performed their magic in creating classic carousels. Inside the "round house" where Herschell workers once assembled new machines stands an authentic 1916 Allan Herschell carousel.

The carousel on display is believed to be the first one Herschell produced after moving to the factory on Thompson Street in 1916. The factory opened its doors as a museum in 1983, thanks mainly to the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier, whose board includes Allan Herschell, grandson of the company's founder. The society feels fortunate it was able to acquire an original, intact Herschell carousel for the museum. It

was sold to a family in London, Ontario, in 1916 and stayed in the family until 1976.

The ride was never used for amusement park purposes and was in good condition when the society purchased it in 1982 for \$55,000, a modest price considering a similar antique merry-go-round was sold at an upstate amusement park two years ago for more than \$400,000. The carousel was moved to the museum and erected in July 1983. Besides the carousel, which visitors can ride for only 25 cents, the museum has completed two other exhibits — a photo layout showing production at the old carousel factory and another showing the Allan Herschell Co. in its early days. The museum features live family entertainment Sundays, but the carousel is the most popular attraction.

# Carousel expert praises city

By Marion Flanigan  
Herald News Staff Reporter

Frederick Fried, an authority on American folk art, Smithsonian fellow, consultant to major museums, and pioneer in the preservation of carousels, came to the First Baptist Church Wednesday with a message of congratulation to the Fall River community.

"I want to congratulate the community for saving a great historical piece, a landmark, and a work of art. The 1500 members of the National Carousel Association thank you from the bottom of our hearts," he said.

Fried was referring to the Philadelphia Toboggan Company's 1920 carousel, formerly a showpiece of Lincoln Park, and captured in November, 1986, by city leaders for \$693,000 at Guernsey's Big Apple Auction in Lincoln Center, New York City. Fried was present at that historic event.

The classic 48-horse merry-go-round, with its fine sculptured details, and two ornate chariots, is in good condition, awaiting reassembly in a new permanent home on the city waterfront.

Fried, author of the definitive work on the evolution of flying horses, "A Pictorial History of the Carousel," affirmed that the city has acquired a very significant example of folk art, representing an era of American sculpture that has, until recently, been overlooked by historians.

His lecture, illustrated by slides, included allusions to the Philadelphia Toboggan Co., a firm founded by Henry B. Auchy and Chester E. Albright in Germantown, Pa., in 1903. The company excelled in the production of roller coasters and, as Fried noted in his book, "exquisitely carved carousels. The crestings were lavish, the animals showed great craftsmanship and design, and no one in the United States could match their chariots."

Fried, a carousel fancier since childhood, can identify carousels not only by their manufacturer, but also, in many cases, by the master carvers who sculpted them—Gustave and William Dentzel, Salvatore Cernigliaro, Marcus Charles Illions, Solomon Stein and Harry Goldstein, and Albert and Daniel Muller, to name a few.

"You have a treasure," Fried assured members of the Lifetime Learning program, and their guests, Donald Ashton, treasurer of Fall River Carousel, Inc.; John Scanlon, in charge of fund-raising for the operation, and several carousel authorities from southern New England. "I'm not yet sure who the specific carvers of your carousel were, but I know something about their families." He pledged that the Fall River Carousel will become a focus of his meticulous research in the months to come.

Fried advised that, in the re-  
(Continued on Page 32)



This steed from the Fall River Carousel exemplifies the fine craftsmanship of the carvers of the Philadelphia Toboggan Co., producer of some of America's most notable carousels.

Climb Aboard  
Fall River's  
**CAROUSEL**



Send contributions:  
Fall River Carousel  
P.O. Box 190  
Fall River, Ma.  
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## Carousel expert —

(Continued from Page One)

assembly of the carousel, close attention be given to the integrity of the piece, the placement of the horses in dramatic positions according to the original plan. He noted with dismay how a classic upper outside rim of Philadelphia Toboggan Co. carousel had been defaced with fiberglass and outlandish decoration when it was re-assembled in Disney World.

Fall River Carousel Inc. plans to acknowledge contributors of \$50 or more by inscribing their names on the base of the carousel. When asked if this concept is appropriate, Fried said, "Of course, as long as the name plates aren't too large."

In response to a woman who hoped that the admission price would be cheap enough for all children to enjoy the ride, Fried suggested that the city get corporations to underwrite certain days when the regular price of the ride would be reduced—say, from 50 cents to 25 cents—for children.

Fried is a pioneer in documenting the development of the carousel—an amusement of almost universal memory to adults in the western world, but, like many ingenious inventions, taken for granted until it became, as it is today, and endangered species.

Speaking through his "Lifetime Learning" audience to the community at large, he told the people of Fall River: "You have an original,—a great work of art." He described the aesthetic impact of a hand carved carousel as "a nature mobile,—it moves, it has carving and painting; it's a sculpture, and it has music—art in all dimensions."

Today, there are less than 200 original carousels in operation for the public in America, Fried noted. Several great ones, including a carousel he now owns, are stored in museums; his is on loan to the Smithsonian Institution. Too many, he noted, have been broken up, and the glorious teams of horses, bears, sea serpents, tigers, lions, graffes, unicorns and other mythical beasts have been doomed to prance in suspended isolation.

With the dismantling of so many time-honored merry-go-rounds, carousel art has tended to become the private enclave of individual collectors, who enshrine one steed



Frederick Fried

as a decorative showpiece, or, worse still, divide the wooden horses crossways and set them up as wall reliefs on either side of a mantel or picture window, Fried noted: ("Don't do that!" he commanded). In contrast, Fall River can be proud for saving a whole carousel from being broken up, he emphasized.

The National Carousel Association has as its primary goals the protection of operating carousels still in existence, providing information on their history and restoration, and promoting awareness of this unique art form.

The art expert forecast that, in acquiring the PTC classic, the city will greatly increase its outreach as an historic site and tourist attraction.

"When you have the carousel set up, the National Carousel Association will hold a convention in Fall River, bringing many new visitors to your hotels and restaurants, stores and shops, and museums," he suggested.

The Rev. Donald Mier, pastor of First Baptist Church, said that he and Madeline Smalley, Lifetime Learning coordinator, were surprised that the series should capture such a world-wide authority as Fried. "But he told us there was nowhere he'd rather speak, than here in Fall River," Mier said, adding, "Wonderful things are happening in our city."

RESTORATION UNDERWAY FOR THE ST. CATHARINE'S (ONTARIO) LOOFF...

## port dalhousie merry-go-round\*

"The Merry-Go-Round might not be operating in Port yet, but for 12 weeks part of the antique amusement ride was in the St. Catharine's Historical Museum undergoing restoration work by members of the St. Catharine's Art Association and other volunteers."

"Twenty large wooden frames decorated the round house and at one time featured canvas paintings (does anybody happen to have an early photo of these paintings?). Layers and layers of paint were removed which had been added to the frames over the years. After this process was completed, the original paint and lovely pattern were revealed, displaying the early ride builder's zeal for decoration."

"The Parks & Recreation Department was quite enthused about this 'discovery' and hoped that the original pattern could be reproduced. This is where the eager members of the Art Association become involved, organized by Mar van der Valk and guided by former art teacher, Bill Davies. They laboured over the frames for three days and a week to copy the underlying work in as close a colour and pattern as possible."

"Our congratulations for a job well done" to:

Heather Armstrong	Frieda Suderman	Lorraine Swain
Bill and Mark Davies	Barb Sutherland	Marg van der Valk
Blanche Scott		Mary Welstead

"We all look forward to seeing them reassembled on the Merry-Go-Round this summer. A special word of praise as well to Mrs. Flumerfelt of Port Dalhousie who managed to repaint twenty frames all on her own. Quite an achievement."

(The above article appeared in the Newsletter of the St. Catharine's Historical Museum, June, 1980, No. 2. Your Editor is in contact with the Museum, and a photostory is forthcoming in a future issue. For those of you who are making the trip to the Niagara Falls area this summer and hope to see the restored carousel in operation are advised by the Museum to wait until about July 15.)

\* Photo: See Merry-Go-Roundup, Vol. 5, #1 (1978), p. 12