

## Forest Park's exhilarating ride

By **ALFRED LUBRANO**  
Daily News Staff Writer

**I**T WAS LIKE FINDING a carton of Faberge eggs in the bottom of the corner grocer's dairy case.

Everyone thought the wooden horses in the Forest Park carousel were nothing more than the standard revolving cavalry of mares and stallions.

It took Marvin Sylvor, a Queens carousel maven with horse sense, to realize that the merry-go-round was an equine treasure of unparalleled dimension—a one-of-a-kind object of movable art that is worth more than \$1.5 million, according to a Sotheby's expert.

Like oblivious heirs who suddenly inherit a bundle, community leaders and residents have been scrambling to revitalize the park, making the area a worthy setting for the newly discovered jewel.

### Everyone's pitching in

Police from the 102d Precinct plan on stepping up park patrols, borough parks officials are working to provide security lighting, and residents have formed groups such as Friends of the Forest Park Carousel to help raise funds for preservation and maintenance.



**MARVIN** Sylvor is restoring 54 horses for use on the Forest Park Carousel.

BILL TURNBULL DAILY NEWS

Marvin Sylvor, 48, who runs the Fabricon Design Group in Glendale, is restoring the 54 horses that were carved around 85 years ago by the one true, recognized master of carousel art,

Daniel Muller. Fabricon creates fiberglass ornamental art, and is the only maker of carousels—these days, all plastic—in the state.

"It's an absolute honor," said the

gray-bearded Sylvor, in manner and style the artsy iconoclast. His company has contributed some \$250,000 toward the estimated \$800,000 to \$1 million it will take to restore the horses and upgrade and secure the carousel grounds.

"It's not economics, religion, AIDS or poverty," Sylvor continued. "A carousel is wonderful, frivolous, exciting. There are just five grand ones in New York, maybe 150 in the country. It helps keep balance in the world."

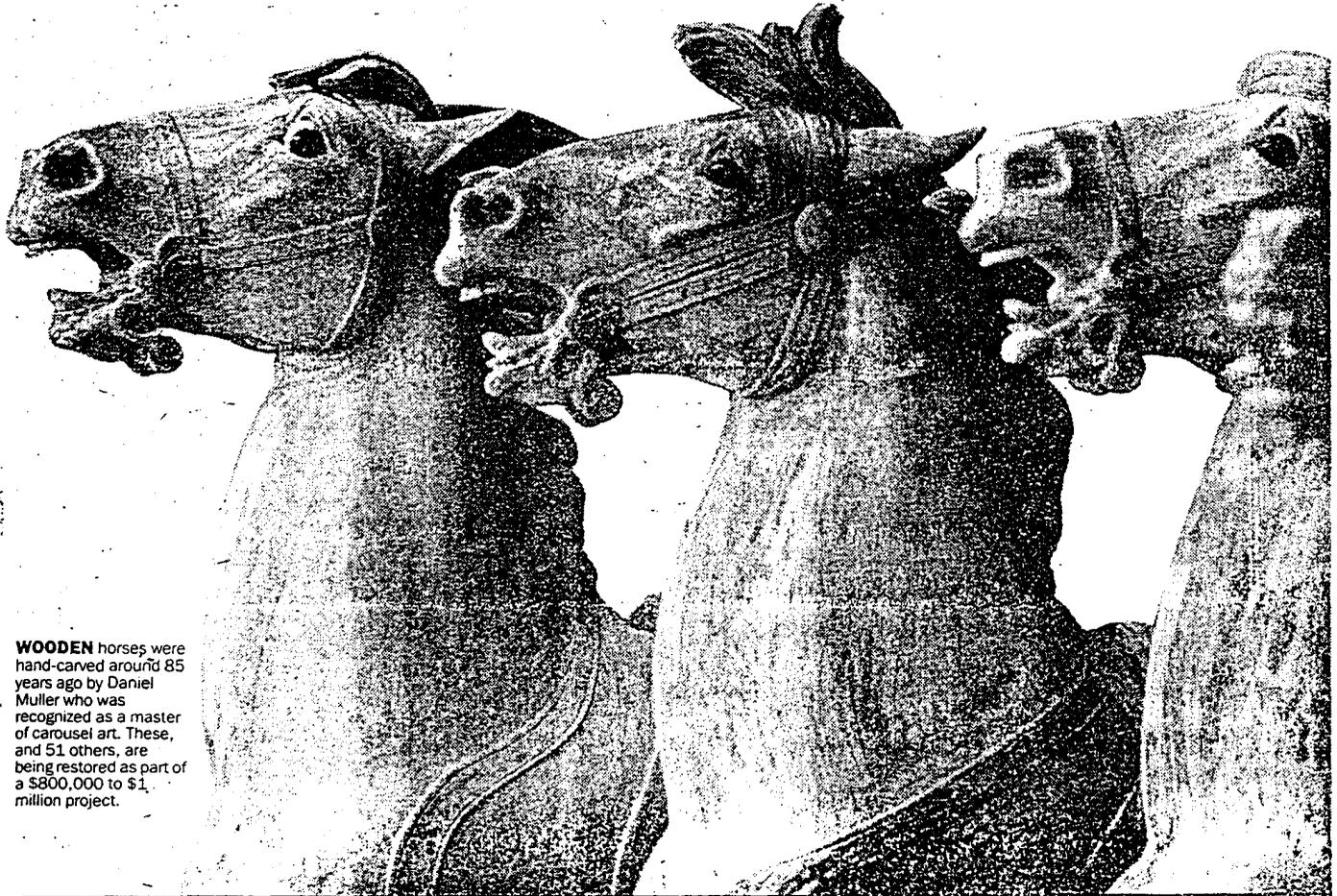
### Sees magic in carousels

Things don't usually work out this well in New York City. By rights, Sylvor said, the carousel beams should have been eaten by termites, and the basswood horses—exquisitely detailed versions of U.S. military mounts—should have rotted or been carried away by modern-day horse thieves.

That no such calamity befell the carousel speaks to the magic inherent in merry-go-rounds, or so Sylvor likes to believe.

Charlotte Dinger, a carousel-art consultant with Sotheby's art auction house, said the Forest Park horses are worth so much because Muller, a

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**WOODEN** horses were hand-carved around 85 years ago by Daniel Muller who was recognized as a master of carousel art. These, and 51 others, are being restored as part of a \$800,000 to \$1 million project.

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# A carousel of joy

**CAROUSEL FROM PAGE ONE**  
German who emigrated to Brooklyn, created just 12 carousels in his lifetime.

The Queens carousel may well be the only one of its kind in the world, Dinger said, more valuable than the Central Park carousel designed by Stein and Goldstein.

For years, though, no one knew it. The carousel was bought by a restaurant company for \$30,000 in 1973 from a Lowell, Mass., group. "It was like buying a Rembrandt for \$25," Sylvor observed.

Classified by the city as a concession, the carousel was placed in the spot where a previous merry-go-round had burned down in 1966. It was paired with a food operation and expected to make money.

But like a horse that is ridden too hard, the carousel was abused and badly maintained, Sylvor said. It closed in 1984. Last year, Sylvor negotiated a lease with the city to restore and begin operating the carousel as a concession by July 4.

Thanks to certain bureaucratic quirks, Sylvor cannot run the merry-go-round without selling ice cream and other foods. He knows nothing about the food business, but is willing to learn if it means Muller's horses will run again.

Maddeningly, from Sylvor's point of view, the Department of Parks and Recreation will not pay for the restoration.

"Why doesn't the city do it?" he wanted to know. "It's their park." The city has a ready explanation.

"Something on park land that's capable of charging a fee (as a carousel is) must generate its own revenue, even if it's a wonderful thing," said Joanne Imohiosen, assistant parks commissioner for revenue.

### 'They belong to the world'

"You have to make a choice, and use (city) money for a playground, or something else that can't charge admission."

Sylvor said he will press on with the restoration, and hope for corporate contributions. "Where's the support?" he asked. "These horses don't belong to me. They belong to the world."

Eager to show off the horses, now corralled in his warehouse, Sylvor offered a visitor a close look at Muller's handiwork.

Each carving looks like a flesh-and-blood animal in a perpetual cavalry charge, frozen in a fury of wild eyes and straining mouth. Sylvor and his workers had to strip off layers of garish carnival-type paint to restore the horses to the understated elegance that Muller originally designed.

"They're magnificent," said Sylvor, still transfixed by the wood sculptures he has seen countless times.

As though the artistry of the animals inspired him to reevaluate his work, Sylvor felt compelled to add, "You know, the ornamental art stuff we usually do around here is 'fakey,' all glitter and theatrics. But these—these are the real ones."

Sylvor said he has been feeling transformed somehow, as though the magic of Muller's horses changed him. Stan Brutkiewicz, the carpenter



**PAINTER** Tom Gaitanis puts finishing touches on carousel horse.

working on restoring the floor of the carousel in Forest Park, said the animals affected him the same way.

"I usually work on bars and restaurants," he said over the staccato bursts of hammers at the carousel site. "But this is new and exciting."

Then Brutkiewicz again examined the hardwood floor that would soon hold the hooves of the most extraordinary pack of horses in New York City.

"It feels great to be here," he continued, smiling. "This, this is a carousel."



**SHOP** is a beehive of activity as workers strive to restore Forest Park Carousel to its former splendor.

WILLIAM TURNBULL DAILY NEWS

# A Landmark Turns Around

## Carousel fix could save park

By Beth Holland

One day last September, Marvin Sylvor and Bonnie Garry stood before the graffiti-strewn sliding metal doors shuttering the broken and forsaken carousel in Queens' Forest Park.

They had a permit from the city's Parks Department to rejuvenate the carousel, installed in 1973 but motionless since 1966. They opened the huge lock on the main metal door.

Inside, in the dark and dust, was an artistic masterpiece: a carousel crafted by the most revered carver of wooden carousel figures during the industry's turn-of-the-century heyday, the late Daniel Carl Muller.

And not only that. This carousel, one of 12 made by D.C. Muller & Brother Co. of Philadelphia from 1903 until the company went under in 1914, is one of only two Muller machines remaining in the world. It is the only one with an outside row of Muller-carved military horses, standing in the classic poses Muller favored, showing his fascination with Civil War and cavalry trappings.

Sylvor and Garry, co-owners of Fabricon Design Group Inc. in Glendale, Queens, knew immediately what they must do: Restore it. Preserve it. Protect it.

And have it working by the Fourth of July, as required in the permit from the city giving them, as Carousel Parks Inc., a five-year option to operate the carousel and nearby snack bar.

No mean feat, considering the estimated \$500,000 to \$600,000 cost of restoring the three-row carousel's complex motor and drive mechanism and its 54 figures — 49 horses, a lion, a tiger, a deer and two chariots.

The cost of repairs doesn't approach the worth experts place on the carousel. Conservative estimates say \$1 million; others go as high as \$2 million. If the grander of the animals were sold separately at auction, said one carousel aficionado, they each "would bring



Above, a rearing team of wooden horses from the Forest Park carousel in Queens waits for repairs and refinishing. The horses, carved near the turn of the century, are treasured for their detail. Below, wood carver Jeff Briggs mends a broken leg.

\$200,000 in a blink. No problem."

"They really have a treasure there," said Charlotte Dinger, author of "Art of the Carousel" and Sotheby's carousel art consultant. "This is the last grand all-Muller carousel in the country which has the large standing horses, and the last with the military horses, which are most admired of Muller's work."

Sylvor and Garry do have help with the restoration — neighbors and businesses around Forest Park that are donating time, talent and supplies to make the carousel the lynchpin in reclaiming Forest Park from drug pushers and vandals.

At the carousel site, a construction crew from Head Corp. in Maspeth is working on the frame and machinery, stripping and sanding the platform, recasting the gears. All donated time.

Mr. T Carting has donated dumpsters at the site. Electrical work is being performed on a volunteer basis by Segna Electric Co. of Middle Village. Benjamin Moore paint company and the New York Metropolitan Paint Dealers Association are donating paint.

A nonprofit group, Carousel Restoration Inc., has been established for fundraising and taking private contributions. A "Friends of the Carousel" organization is under way.

"The carousel is the centerpiece," said Maria Thomson, a community activist who for years has battled for upgrading Forest Park. "You ask any person who lives near Forest Park about the carousel and they will tell you, 'I remember . . . And it's good memories.'"

"If this carousel is made to look the way it should, that's going to be such a psychological lift to that whole environment."

The park had "really hit bottom" and was well-known as a drug trafficking location, said Mary Ann Carey, district manager of Community Board 9. But she is encouraged by the support of Borough President Claire Shulman and Borough Parks Commissioner William Cook, among others.

Roads through Forest Park, as of



Koumas Gaitanis repaints a figure.

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NEWSDAY, MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989

# A Queens Landmark Turns Around

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May 1, are closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., to cut down on potential vandalism or other unsavory activities. The 102nd Police Precinct is patrolling the park regularly and has promised not to siphon off all its officers to the Rockaways this summer, as has been done in the past to keep tabs on beach crowds.

But bigger city honchos need to sit up and take notice, Carey said.

"The city, as a whole, does not have a very good track record as far as supporting this carousel or Forest Park," she said. "It should be our responsibility and the responsibility of those in power to see that this facility is put back and the amenities we need — the fencing, the lighting, the security — are provided."

Frederick Fried of Manhattan, credited with bringing recognition to carousel art as an American art form with his 1964 book "A Pictorial History of the Carousel," restored the Muller carousel before its 1973 installation in Forest Park. The original park carousel burned in December, 1966, and Fried was instrumental in bringing the Muller carousel to Queens.

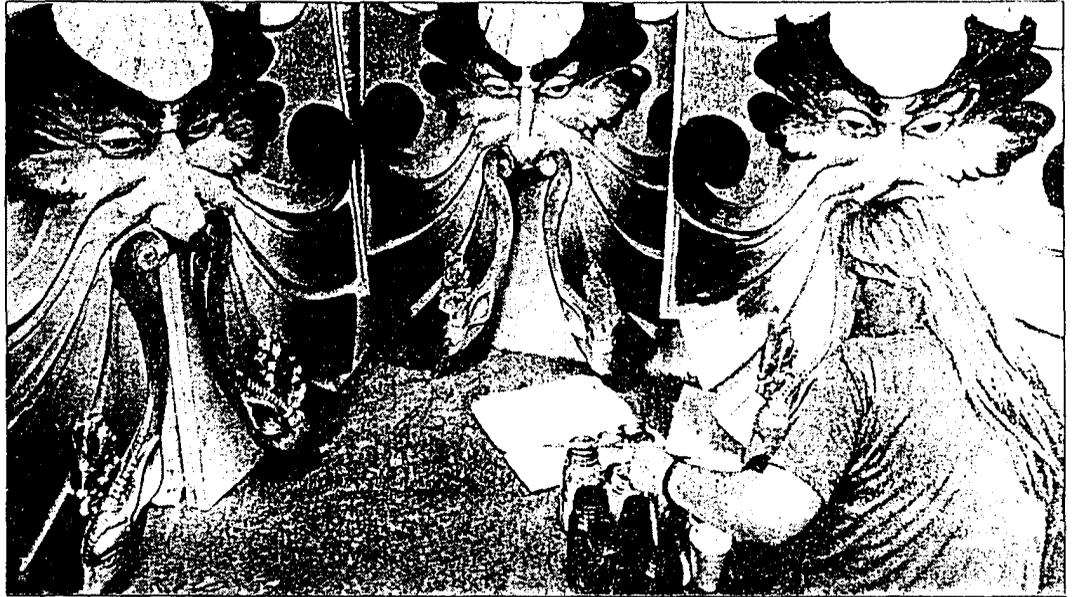
"Daniel Carl Muller is the most expensive horses you can buy," Fried said. "But Daniel Carl Muller was not just a folk artist; he had studied sculpture. He knew what he was doing, and even if he didn't, if he didn't put it down, his chisel knew where to go."

"He carved the horse like there was a skeleton underneath, muscle tone, everything," Sylvor said. "There's enormous tension in his horses. They're ready; they're ready to ride off. What he did with eyes is incredible. What he did with expressiveness around the nostrils is incredible. Horse enthusiasts just go berserk when they see his work."

"I hope that the city realizes what a jewel it is."

At Fabricon's offices in Glendale, the jewel is being restored. Some of the horses' legs were broken off, and the paint on all was peeling and chipped. The gears of the carousel machinery were largely stripped, the teeth sheared off through careless operation by a previous concessionaire.

But the carelessness had an up side.



Julie Bork paints the panels that will adorn the top of the rehabilitated Forest Park carousel in Queens. Newsday / Donna Dietrich

Beneath the Muller carousel is a pit 7 feet deep, dug at Fried's insistence to ease repairs made from beneath the carousel platform. Into the pit had been swept pieces of horses' legs, the missing antler from the deer, parts of the gears and other miscellany.

Sylvor and his crew found every missing piece.

For weeks, Fabricon employees have worked to strip the old layers of heavy paint, yet keep what remains of the original factory paint, a process requiring an average 17 hours per animal. Legs are being mended by wood sculptor Jeff Briggs, who considers it an honor to act as repairman.

"They're fabulous, unbelievable pieces of work," he said. "The detail . . . it's true carving, from a carver's standpoint. Everything is so complete, it's like you look at it and think it's clay, not wood."

"We need to get out there and tell the world," Sylvor said. "This thing belongs to the community — to Queens, to the city, to the country, to the world. "This should be here forever. This should be protected forever."

## Schedule of Carousel Events

Leading up to the reopening of the Forest Park carousel are activities for those interested in volunteering, as well as promotional and fund-raising events.

The carousel is on Forest Park Drive, just east of Woodhaven Boulevard.

• Weekends in May and June: Volunteers interested in helping restore the carousel site may call Carousel Restoration Inc. at (718) 894-4233.

Some specifically skilled workers are needed, including artists, roofers, electricians, carpenters, masons or cement workers, floor finishers and sign makers. In addition, those with sewing, gardening and painting skills are being sought.

• June 1: Six busloads of children from School District 27 will visit

the carousel, with entertainment provided by Belmont Racetrack in conjunction with its upcoming Horse Fair. Students from PS 47, 60, 66, 97, 183 and 225 will see some of the carousel horses in various stages of renovation and learn about the carousel's history.

• Sundays throughout June: From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a sale of display props used by Bloomingdale's and Macy's, among other stores.

All proceeds will go to the carousel restoration. Prices from \$5 up. The Sunday sales will be held at the carousel. Purchasers will receive a free ticket to ride the carousel.

• July 4: Carousel opens at Forest Park. Hours not yet available.

• July 9: Carousel dedication ceremony, 2 p.m.

# CAROUSEL RESTORATION, INC.

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FRIENDS OF THE FOREST PARK CAROUSEL

84-06 73rd AVENUE, GLENDALE, N.Y. 11385

PHONE (718) 894-4233 FAX (718) 326-9604



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CAROUSEL RESTORATION, INC.

## THE PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL COMES TO LIFE

by Diane Currier

One group of animals in the zoo at Brooklyn's Prospect Park requires no daily feedings. That's because they're in the temporary workshop of sculptor and nationally acclaimed carousel restoration expert Will Morton VIII. Morton is busily working on the restoration of the Charles Carmel-carved Prospect Park Carousel, which dates back to 1912, and came to Prospect Park in 1952, where it operated until 1983, when neglect and vandalism forced its closing.

Now plans are being made for its grand opening, thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the Prospect Park Alliance, a private advocacy group that works in conjunction with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

In order to recapture Carmel's designs and colors, Will Morton started with a period of discovery. Working with his wife, Marlene, and three assistants, Wayne Kowalski, Brigid McGinn, and Lucio Schiavone, Morton first carefully labeled all the parts of the carousel. Next, area volunteers of the Brooklyn Bucket Brigade came in to dismantle and move the carousel to a workshop set up in the temporarily closed zoo.

Line drawings of the 56 figures, including 51 horses, one giraffe, one lion, and one deer, were made, to record colors. Highly detailed design areas such as the inside blankets, breast plates, and saddles were traced. Setting out to uncover the animals' original look, Morton and his assistants then began a careful removal and study of paint layers. The original colors were matched with Pantone color chips, and the line drawings began to resemble a paint-by-numbers canvas as the color codes were added to each design area.

With the original color scheme intact on the drawings, the team removed all the paint and sanded the animals. At

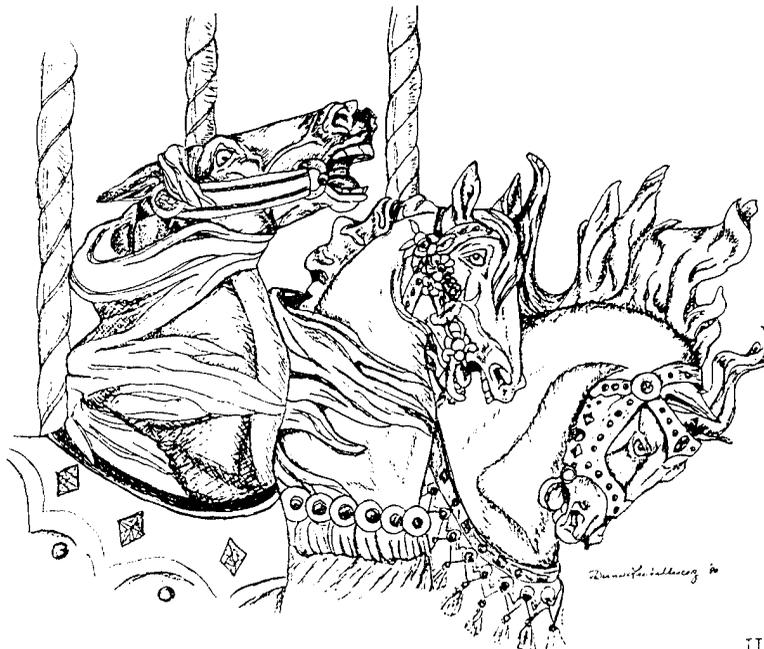
this point, Morton could begin repairs to broken hooves, ears, and nostrils. One horse's missing head will be entirely re-carved. After repairs are complete, the next steps are priming, sanding, priming, sanding, four times in all. This will be followed by the final coat of paint, in the original colors, covered by a protective finish. All the horses will also get new horsehair tails.

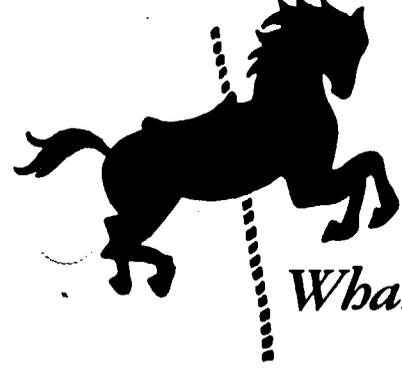
With the Grand Opening planned for October, the animal restoration is on schedule. As Morton and his team work steadily along getting the horses ready, work also progresses on the carousel housing, and the Prospect Park staff is busy planning for the mid-October opening. Festivities will include a press party on October 12, 1990; a Carousel Gala fund-raiser on October 13, and the Grand Opening on October 14, when young and old will climb aboard for a 50-cent ride.

Fund-raising efforts by the Prospect Park Alliance continue, with a special "adoption" program whereby each donor of a \$5000 contribution can select and name a horse.

Carousel committees have been formed, bringing in members of the community to assist with the Park's efforts. A special Children's Carousel Committee is working on a cooperative effort for the children of Brooklyn to adopt a horse. This program has met with enthusiasm from area schools. It seems everyone is eager for the Prospect Park Carousel to twirl again. And that magical moment is just around the corner.

If you would like more information on the Prospect Park Carousel, contact Mary Fox, Carousel Coordinator, at 718-965-8961. If you would like to support the Prospect Park Carousel restoration or find out about "adopting" a horse, write or call the Prospect Park Alliance, 53 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, New York 11215, 718-768-0227.





# Bushnell Park Carousel Society

250 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06103

*What's Coming Up and Going Down at The Carousel*

FEBRUARY, 1992

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BASH...

Each spring the Society opens the carousel pavilion to greet its 500 plus members for the first twirl of the new season. This year's event will be held on Friday, April 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and promises to be packed with entertainment surprises to please the entire family.

Due to our membership growth as well as this event's popularity, the Carousel Society regrets that it must enforce a limit of guests per membership as detailed below:

- Individual - Member plus one guest
- Family - Immediate Family only
- Contributing - Immediate Family plus two guests
- Supporting - Immediate Family plus four guests

If you plan to attend this fun-filled event, please call Leni Callas-Wrobel at 246-7739 to make your reservation. A reply is required for admittance no later than April 17th.

## CALLING ALL STABLE HANDS...

On Saturday, April 18th the annual barn and stall spruce-up will take place. Please consider joining us this year to unveil the horses and pavilion of its accumulated dust. The doors will open at 9:30 and volunteers are urged to dress "grubby" and "warm". Please consider bringing along old rags, rubber gloves, step ladders or water. A special request goes out to those strong volunteers who would be interested in assisting us in removing our beautiful outside winter panels. The more volunteers we have, the quicker our horses will shine. (For those of you who have never joined us, the actual first ride of the season takes place following the clean-up!) As in the past, light refreshments will be served. Please call 246-7739 if you can lend a hand.

**PARTIES, PARTIES, PARTIES...**

Whether the occasion is formal or casual, consider having your next party at the Bushnell Park Carousel. Last year alone the carousel played host to over 150 spectacular events. Some tried and true parties have included: wedding rehearsals, anniversaries, family reunions, company outings, adult and child birthday parties or fundraisers. Remember: members receive a 20% discount off our standard rental rate!

**A Carousel Birthday** - What better way to make a child's face glow with utter excitement, than a Birthday Party at the Bushnell Park Carousel? Imagine a roped off area within the pavilion with twenty or less of your child's favorite pals with balloons, popcorn, party favors, cake and unlimited carousel rides. This Birthday Plan was created for those parents wishing a daytime party at the carousel at a reasonable per child rate. Please call 246-7739 for more details.

**MEMBERSHIP APPEAL...**

With Connecticut's economic times at an incredible low, it's no wonder that the Carousel has not been able to retain immunity toward this trend. Please keep in mind that an antique carousel requires constant customized maintenance to keep its gears spinning, its horses jumping and its lightbulbs and brass twinkling. At this time, we would like to make a special appeal to those members considering renewal - What would Bushnell Park be like without our twirling Stein & Goldstein and our melodic Wurlitzer Band Organ? Hopefully with your continued support, we will never have to ponder this horrible thought. Remember, a contribution to our stable of horses not only insures its continuous spin for yet another season, but provides hours of quality entertainment for you and your family.

**BUSHNELL PARK CAROUSEL SOCIETY, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 1992 SEASON**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRIBUTING (\$60) \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax deductible and should be mailed to the Bushnell Park Carousel Society, 250 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103.



## *National Carousel Association*

### NON-PROFIT FRIENDS GROUPS

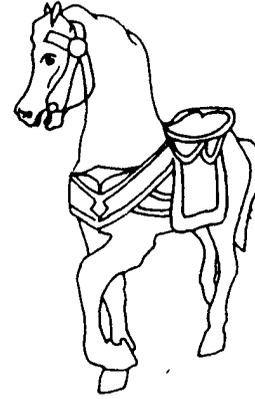
The NCA has worked closely with a number of communities who are in the process of, or have successfully completed, carousel preservation and restoration projects. Based upon our experience, we strongly recommend the formation of a non-profit Friends group as the fundraising arm of a carousel project.

Where a carousel is owned by a city or other governmental entity, we have found that a Friends group has the following advantages:

1. A donor feels all funds raised will go strictly to the carousel project rather than possibly being absorbed into the city's general funds.
2. The Friends group is perceived as having the interests of the carousel and the community as its highest priority.
3. There is the ability to attract capable and qualified leaders and workers who are willing to donate their time and expertise to a non-profit group as opposed to a city or governmental unit.
4. There is a perception of community involvement which is beneficial for both publicity and public donations. A carousel restoration project has an attraction for local and national media coverage.
5. Enhanced community involvement and spirit. This frequently has the advantage that the community is more likely to care for and "protect" the carousel after the restoration, reducing the cost of subsequent maintenance and repair.
6. It is easier to raise donations (cash and materials) from the local business community and individuals. We frequently see sizable donations of cash or materials to Friends projects.
7. Donations are generally tax deductible to the donor.
8. A fundraising organization exists when funds are needed for future refurbishment.
9. The ability to attract funds from national organizations and carousel-lovers nationwide.

# "THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

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



## FRIENDS GROUPS ACTIVITIES

A frequent comment by Friends groups is that a restoration is "only the start of the work". Based upon our experience, and also based upon discussions with other Friends groups, we have found that there are a number of projects which a Friends group can address. Projects we have tackled at Santa Monica include:

### Restoration and Preservation:

1. Saddles and other areas of wear need to be repainted at least annually.
2. Breakage -- legs, ears, etc.
3. After a few years you will find a need to repaint a few rows of horses each year.
4. After six to ten years you will need a complete restoration.
5. Revarnish the platform.

### Maintenance and Safety:

6. Soon after operations commenced following the 1980/81 restoration we decided to replace metal stirrups with step-ups. These were found to be necessary both for rider safety and to reduce wear and tear on the horses.

### Publicity:

We consider it important to keep the local community, press and city aware of the importance of our carousel.

- a. Quarterly newsletter.
- b. Changing photo exhibit at the carousel.
- c. Periodic slide shows to Friends members and other groups.
- d. Annual opening day celebration (balloons, cake, popcorn, etc.).
- e. Parties at the carousel for Friends members.
- f. Frequent media interviews.

Friends SMPC  
Friends Groups Activities  
Page 2

- g. Gift shop, t-shirts, postcards.
- h. Adopt-a-horse program to pay for restoration.
- i. If your carousel does not have a band organ, or the band organ is in need of repairs, a Friends group could take on this project.

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# Crossroads Village Dedicates New Carousel Building

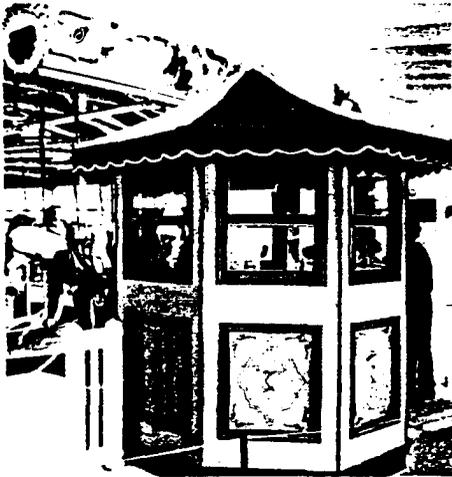
by Cecil E. Darnell

It was a joyous gathering of the community when some 200 people added their warmth to the already heated new Carousel Building at Crossroads Village, Flint, Michigan on November 24, 1989.

Words cannot express the intensity that filled that freshly painted facility as Rosalyn A. Bogardus, from the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, spoke of the energy, hours and commitment a dedicated group of selfless people had invested



The sparkling new Carousel Building on dedication day at Crossroads Village in Flint, Michigan.



This new ticket booth was finished just in time for the new Carousel Building.



John Hayek addressed those attending the dedication ceremony as the community also enjoyed the lighting of the Christmas lights on the same day.

in the carousel project. While the community hasn't experienced a favorable economy, the people rose above local conditions and made things happen in a positive way. You could feel the truth in her words as the crowd responded to that growing feeling shared by everyone present.

There was magic in the diversity of this audience, a mixture of young and old. What is there about a carousel that meshes the generations?

Giving the Invocation must have been easy for The Reverend Floyd Wehner—the Almighty was ready and waiting in the new carousel building. His presence could be felt throughout.

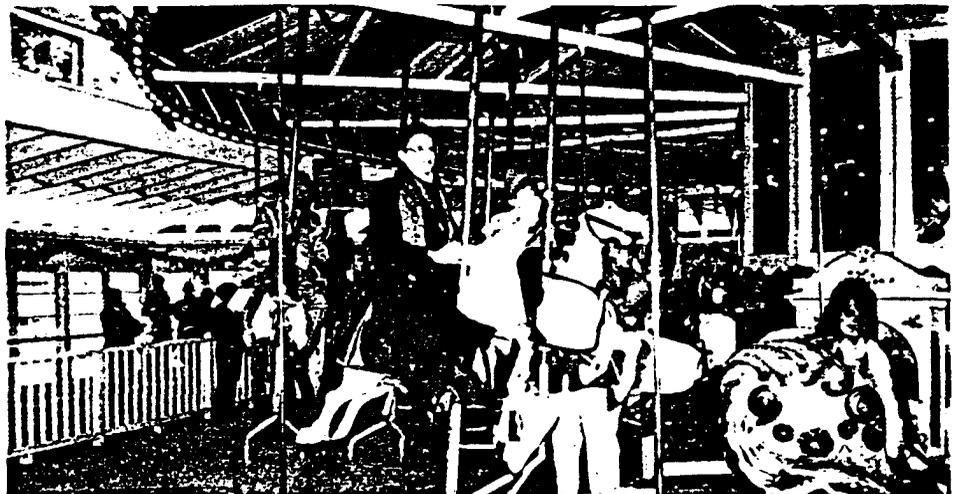
Cameras flashed as those who had "adopted an animal" captured this moment for the family scrap book. It was a proud moment because the job these people had

done on this project could only have been from the heart and was so quickly accomplished.

The contractors responsible for the construction were introduced and applauded for the planning required to coordinate the entire project with the Parks' public schedule.

But how did John Hayek do it? He seemed so relaxed as he casually reiterated the state of antique carousels in America, and how fortunate Crossroads Village was to have this 1912 Parker as a part of the Village and themselves.

John Hayek said, "A short six and a half years ago, this project got underway. Who would have thought then that we would be here now, doing this?" Perhaps the real magic of the day was the fact that everyone was concerned about giving credit to others



The free rides resulted in a full carousel following the new building dedication.

# DEDICATION OF TICKET BOOTH AND NINE RESTORED HORSES AT CROSSROADS VILLAGE

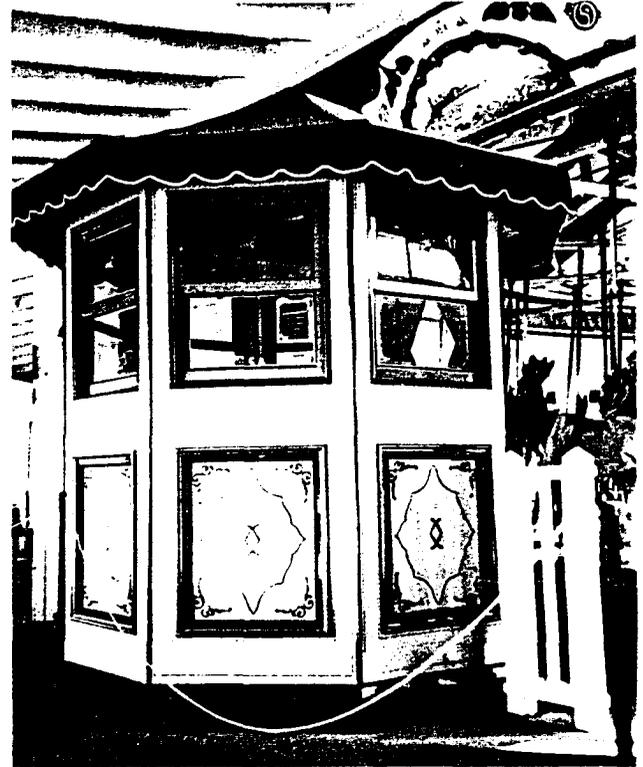
By Marc Ferrand

On Sunday, June 3, a ceremony was held in the new Crossroads Village Park building, Flint, Michigan, housing the 1912 C. W. Parker carousel. This was a heartfelt statement of appreciation to those donors of funds given for the specific purpose of

restoring nine carousel horses on the historic machine. Honor was given to these individuals by Genesee County officials and members of the Crossroads Village Carousel Friend's group. The Friends initiated the "Adopt-A-Horse" fund raising project in 1987. The contributors honored will receive certificates with photos of adopted horses. A brass plaque with the donor's name is placed beneath each restored horse. The generous support given by members

of the community has been extremely valuable in the upkeep of this fine machine.

As part of the program, Sheldon Siegel, president of the Friends of the Crossroads Village Carousel, presented restoration artist Dan Gosnell with a special framed remarque print of the painting being sold for fund



The new ticket booth at the Crossroads Village carousel was designed, constructed and painted by Dan Gosnell with a lot of love and many hours of his time.

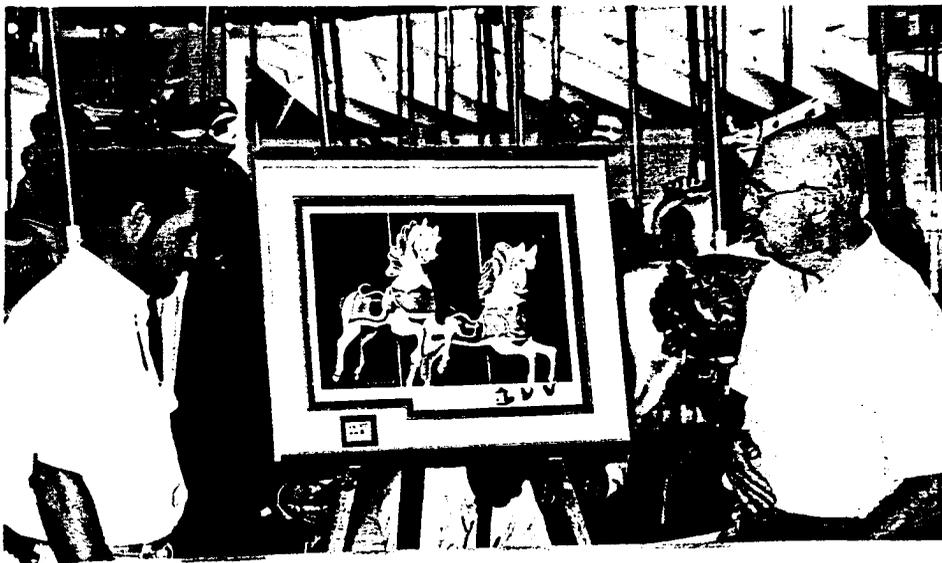
raising by the group. This was to express appreciation for his outstanding work. Included in the special framing was a remarque of the ticket booth and an original historic C. W. Parker carousel ride ticket supplied by Jon Abbott.

In addition to being renovator and restoration artist for many parts of the machine Dan Gosnell designed, constructed and decorated the ticket booth that has delighted the Friends of the Carousel and has been perceived by the public as a fine addition to the carousel.

Photos: Agnes Taylor



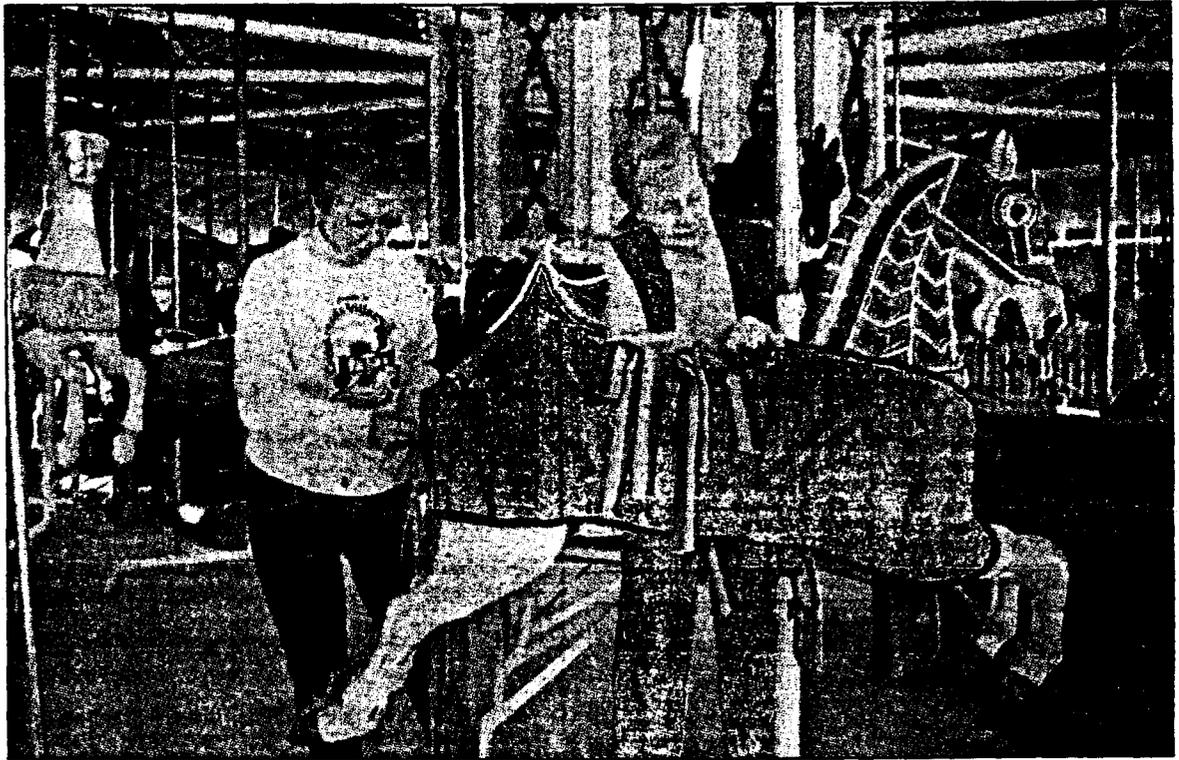
Master Craftsman, Dan Gosnell, researched and built the ticket booth to the likeness of an original C. W. Parker.



Dan Gosnell (left), restoration artist for the carousel and maker of the ticket booth, and Marc Ferrand, the artist who created the print of the two horses, look at the framed print presented to Dan on June 3. An original C. W. Parker ticket on the bottom of the print was donated by Jon Abbott.



Anna Tugya from Clio, Michigan stands in "her" row of horses on the Parker carousel. She adopted all three of them in the same row.



JOURNAL PHOTO/JANE MALE

Judy Allen (left) and Gertrude Tanner fit a saddle blanket on one of the horses.

11/23/89

## Carousel at Crossroads opens for Christmas

By DAVID V. GRAHAM  
Journal outdoor writer

**GENESEE TWP.** — Visitors to Christmas at Crossroads will be able to ride the 1912 Parker carousel this season, which traditionally has been shuttered during the yule season.

And they won't freeze doing it.

Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on Crossroads Village's \$215,000 carousel pavilion that will protect the antique merry-go-round year-round.

The heated pavilion, built with a Mott Foundation grant, will be dedicated at 4 p.m. Friday, the first day of the village's annual yuletide celebration, and visitors may ride free until 6 p.m.

**AT 7 P.M.** Friday, David Hales, director of the state Department of Natural Resources, will preside over the ceremonial Christmas tree lighting on Main Street. He and other public officials, including state Sen. John D. Cherry Jr., D-Clio, are expected to speak.

To protect the valuable carousel horses from muddy boots and snowsuit zippers, several volunteers from the Friends of the Carousel committee have spent two months sewing vinyl "horse blankets" to fit over the wooden animals' saddles.

Some volunteers spent Monday fitting the custom-made blankets on the horses and making final adjustments.

In recent years, 24 of the carousel's 36 horses have been restored at an aver-

Volunteers have done most of the stripping and scraping work on the carousel horses, while Clio craftsman Daniel Gosnell, a former Greenfield Village restorer, has done the restoration painting and reconstruction work.

age cost of \$2,800 apiece.

When a parks official suggested the blankets, longtime committee member Gertrude Tanner of Flushing volunteered to head the effort. She enlisted aid from Judy Allen, Julie Siegel, Nancy Graves, Ruth Putman, Liz Olsen, Martha Langdon, Pam Price and Melba Clapp.

Tanner said getting the fleece-lined vinyl turned out to be more difficult than expected.

"We exhausted everything the Goodie Barn had, and then we started ordering fabric from a store in Cincinnati," she said.

Volunteers have done most of the stripping and scraping work on the carousel horses, while Clio craftsman Dan-

iel Gosnell, a former Greenfield Village restorer, has done the restoration painting and reconstruction work.

Gosnell also built an old-fashioned Parker ticket booth, modeled on one shown in an old photograph, that will be used for the first time Friday.

All of Gosnell's work has been paid for by the Friends group, which has raised more than \$75,000 in contributions for the project.

Built in Leavenworth, Kan., in 1912, the carousel spent decades on the carnival circuit in the western United States and Canada, said carousel buff John Hayek.

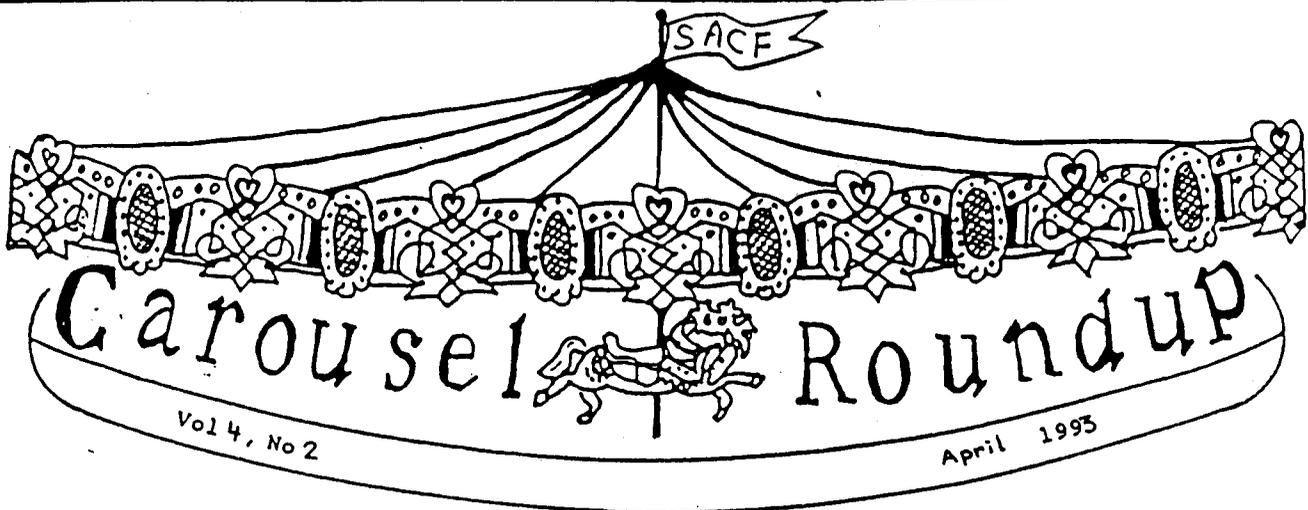
Hayek said the merry-go-round eventually wound up in a Riverside, Calif., amusement park, then was put into storage for several years.

A MICHIGAN investor sold the carousel to the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission seven years ago for \$125,000, a price considered then to be a bargain, Hayek said.

The carousel was unprotected during its first winter in the village, but a roof and concrete platform later were built.

Gosnell and the Friends oversaw the restoration of the carousel's "rounding board" and screen panels in the early years.

The Victorian-style pavilion, designed by the Flint architectural firm of Tomblinson, Harburn Associates, was built by Castles Brothers of Flint.



## The Prez Sez

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we might have super good news. Well it appears we have done quite well since our last issue. Once again, a lot of hard work accomplished by a few hard working volunteers. We can not thank these folks enough .. read on and see if you don't agree: WE ARE GETTING THERE!

Lawrence "Zip" Zepeda

### PAINTING WORKSHOP AND PICNIC SET FOR 8 MAY 93 AT THE FARM

Mark your calendar for May 8th. That's the day we will have our painting workshop for all those who aspire to paint-a-horse or maybe some of the scenery. In the last newsletter we told you of the painters we had found .. well these are the people who will be providing the painting instructions. For you who are not coming, you will be missing the live nude model who will be present at the painting workshop.

We will be having a picnic lunch, so plan to come early and stay late. The planned times are, to start about 10:00 AM and continue until 4-5:00 PM. All items for the picnic will be provided by the Isleys, Doris and Ray. Plates, cups, utensils, napkins, condiments, etc. will be furnished - so just bring your appetite. The rumor is that we are having par-oque and other goodies.

Irva and Melba will be providing us a summary of their experiences at the NCA convention. This should provide us some incite on what and how other carousel groups are doing.

Call the SACF office, Melba at 333-7510 or Norman at 333-0245 if you plan to attend so we can plan for the right number of people. Please call by 6 May 93.

## REMEMBER PAINTING WORKSHOP - MAY 8th

CAROUSEL ROUNDUP is published six times a year, or thereabouts, by the San Antonio Carousel Foundation, 4242 E. Southcross, Suite 4, SATX 78222. SACF is a non profit, membership organization dedicated to restoring the Playland Park Carousel, a circa 1917 C.W. Parker Grand Jubilee carousel. Membership is \$10 a year (Jan-Dec) and includes a subscription to CAROUSEL ROUNDUP. Back issues available for \$2.50 ea. SACF officers: President--Lawrence Zepeda; VP--Rex Moss; 1st VP--Norman Edwards; Sec--Irva Scaramozi; Tres--Mary Swanson. Direct suggestions/comments concerning CAROUSEL ROUNDUP to Editor: Rex Moss, 337-6439.

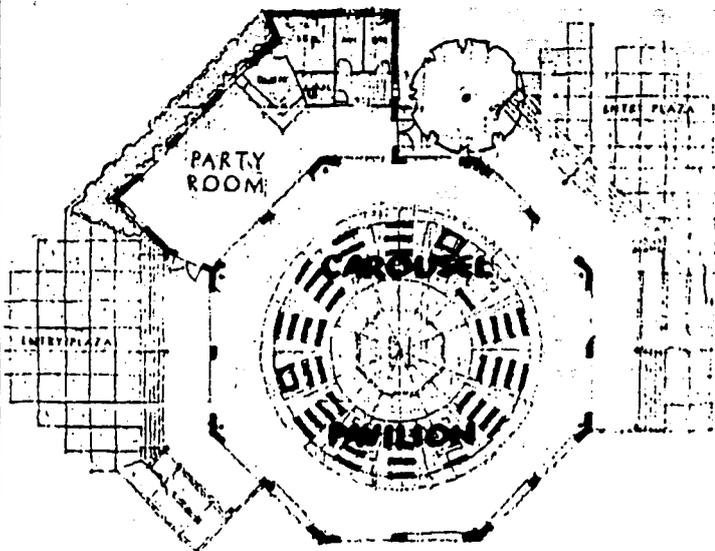
# Carousel Roundup

## MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

The next step in the process for locating our carousel in HemisFair Park is to meet with the city council. This meeting with the S.A. Council is to occur 1:30 PM 29 Apr 93. This will be the time when the city officially recognizes the SACF, hopefully by passing a proposed resolution establishing their commitment to getting the carousel into operation. Dr. Franklin plans to be at this meeting as well as our negotiators, Norman and Melba. Others are welcome, I am sure and if you are interested please keep in contact with Melba as she will know the latest, i.e., changes in date or time.

## NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLANNING COMMITTEE

Norman and Melba met with the San Antonio Historical Design Review Commission on 7 Apr 93 and the results were no April fools joke! With little discussion, the SACF plan was approved. Our plans had already been modified from what was shown in the last newsletter. As a result of the commission's concern that our plan blocked too much of the view into the park, we eliminated the covered walkway and incorporated the party room in with the carousel building. See the revised floor plan below. Norman had planned the foundation's rebuttal for each of the committee's earlier concerns but again with almost no questions, they approved. Perhaps a few of you saw the article of this approval in the local newspaper.



## CARVING CLASS UPDATE

Mary, Norman and Rex are still attending a carving class each week. This class is being taught by Jack Nole who has donated his time and expertise to help the foundation. The carvers are now working on horses. One of the horses carved for the foundation has been reworked (it needed a lot of rework) and another has been started. Rex has been working on one of the five FLAG horses and is nearing completion - meaning ready for priming, sanding, and then painting. This one will feature KANSAS and the Kansas flag. The current plans are for the other four to feature OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, USA, and MEXICO including the flag of each.

## COLLECTING OUR CARVING TOOLS

The foundation has purchased several carving tools for use by our trained carvers. These tools and other tools yet to be purchased or otherwise acquired are being collected in a toolbox donated by our master carver, Jack. Jack has added several of his personal tools to our toolbox. Mary has also added some tools. Hopefully, this carver's toolbox will grow until we have a set able to handle any carving project. As the carvers continue their training, we often find conditions where new tools are required. Clamps, files, chisels are but a few of our needs already identified. If you have some of these you wish to donate please let us know. They will be put to good use.

## ANOTHER STEED REWORKED

Jack Nole, with a little help from the carving class, has turned a mostly square legged roughly carved steed into a carousel horse. The foundation contracted with Floyd Girtz to carve four horses. These horses are not finished products and they will require many hours of finish work before they can be turned over to the painters. One of these four has been reworked and another started. What remains on the reworked horse are the three steps of priming and sanding before it can be turned over to our painters.

# Carousel Roundup

## TWO OF OUR MEMBERS ATTENDED THE NATIONAL CAROUSEL CONVENTION

Melba Frost and my trip to the St. Paul, Minnesota National Carousel Association 1993 Technical Conference was a great learning experience. We are not alone, there are many other people and organizations trying to restore these beautiful old carousels.

This technical conference was put on by the Our Fair Counsel Group who provide some very informative sessions. We met and talked at length with people who work on the structural, electrical, and mechanical parts of carousels. These people will help us just for the asking. There were many groups who offered to help us learn about the restoration and painting of all carousel parts. We found the light sockets which should work on our carousel. (With Jack Nole's help, we are on the right course restoring our horses).

There were sessions on working with volunteers, generating revenue, buying and maintaining an organ, and a trip to Our Fair Carousel's workshop where their horses are restored.

We learned that even though we have a very unique job, in that we have NO original paint - the carousel is in many pieces - we do not want to destroy the personality of our carousel by removing all the nicks and bumps. Each of these carousels have their own history and part of the SACF story is in the history.

Melba and I also learned we want to do this again! Thanks to the foundation we were able to represent all of you and gain knowledge which we hope to share with each of you at our 8 May painting workshop and picnic at the farm.

Submitted by Irva Scaramozi

### NEW BUILDING AT THE FARM

The new building at the farm is nearing completion. Our painting workshop and picnic on 8 May will afford many of you the first opportunity to see this structure. It will sure help with the restoration effort to have a protected place to work. The restroom and air conditioning remain to be completed but it sure looks great now.

Irva Scaramozi and I found there are things moving in St. Paul other than barges on the Mississippi. There is an astoundingly beautiful 1914 PTC Carousel moving around, operated and lovingly cared for by a group of dedicated people.

I can't begin to tell you how much we enjoyed this technical conference, the things we learned and the wonderful people we met. A special thanks to Peter Boehm and his wife Nancy for coordinating the meeting. I especially enjoyed meeting the people I have either corresponded or talked with in the past years: Charles Walker and R. L. Condon, charming gentlemen who each have a C.W. Parker horse that was on our carousel, (take care of those ponies gentlemen); Anne Hines who has shown interest in our project from the beginning; Todd Goings who was so kind to take pictures for us; Charles Jacques, Jr., past president of NCA and Gail Hall who, I am proud to say, are both members of SACF; Brian Morgan, President of NCA and Terri Lunde, representing Janzen Beach 4-row Parker in Portland, Or, who has 10 extra Parker horses. Can you believe? Arthur Curtze who was there for the auction of our carousel in 1988; Tom Vansent who keeps such good NCA census records; Gordon and Margo Cronin representing the Waterloo, WI Firemen's Park Carousel and Dannielle and Mark Dimeglio who are compiling information on carousels were also present.

We met many people who are interested in what we are doing and are watching us, as it seems no one has ever restored a carousel that has been dispersed.

Submitted by Melba Frost

### SACF LOST AT RECENT AUCTION

The SACF put in bids on two of four Parker horses available at a recent out-of-town auction. The auctioneers used a very strange plan, in that, they opened all sealed bids and started the live auction bidding on those items at that price. Someone bid just over our price for one while the other went for a much larger price. Needless to say, we lost out on both our bids. UPDATE 10 (5/15/93)

# Carousel Roundup

OTHER CSGs 111

## HEMISFAIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

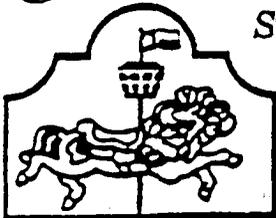
The SACF participated in HemisFair's 25th anniversary celebration of its opening. This celebration was somewhat wet but we enjoyed several clear periods where we impressed the few visitors who wandered by. Many of our faithful members were present to hand out brochures, show the proposed carousel building design, sell some t-shirts, caps, etc. and demonstrate some of our new woodcarving skills. A couple of our horses and our newly painted sign which shows our foundation logo were on display. An article in the local newspaper briefly described our foundation and its participation in this event.

## ALAMO HEIGHTS NIGHT

Fiesta started off for many foundation members on April 16 at the Alamo Heights Night festivities. I would tell you where the festivities were, but I know I can't describe the location and I don't think I could find it again. This activity is similar to other Fiesta activities meaning music, food, drinks, carnival, etc. The SACF had a booth which sold caramel corn, our hats, patches, buttons and gave out brochures. Many people stopped by to see the carousel horse we had on display. Thanks to Vivian, Jim, Norman, Don, Irva, Mary, Rex, Zip, and Yuki for their work.

## KING WILLIAMS PARADE

This year the RAIN queen reigned over the King Williams Parade and the rains did not come so there was a parade. Many of our members showed up early to participate in the decorating as we turned a flat bed trailer into a mobile carousel adorned with four of our horses, lots of balloons, flowers, children, etc. We distributed our brochures and several bags of candy to the throngs lining the historical district parade route. Hopefully, our brochures got into hands of people who will join the foundation and help us with our effort. It was a thoroughly enjoyable time which will be repeated next year I am sure.



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Dr. Floyd Mooreland, manager of Floyd L. Mooreland Carousel on the Casino Pier, congratulates Karen Schwartz and her son, Rusty, winners of a raffle held on Labor Day. The Schwartzes took home a replica of a carousel horse, pictured above.

## Carousel takes visitors on a ride into the past

Remember the good old days when you rode the carousel and reached for the brass ring?

The brass ring game, which assured the winner a free ride on the merry-go-round, is now gone, but riders on the Floyd L. Mooreland Historic Carousel at Casino Pier have been receiving free raffle tickets all summer to win a full-size replica of a carousel horse.

The drawing was held on Labor Day and Karen Schwartz of Eatontown was the lucky winner. Runners-up were Cassandra Kusza of Lyndhurst and Sheila De Young of Totowa, both of whom received a \$25 gift certificate from Casino Pier's Magical Carousel Shop.

Mrs. Schwartz, who frequently rides the Casino

Pier carousel, was reached by phone and immediately hopped in her van to Seaside Heights to pick up her new carousel horse. She and her son, Rusty, were thrilled.

Casino Pier's carousel, hand-crafted in 1910 by the William Dentzel Co. in Philadelphia, has been in its current location since 1932. Now recognized as an important American art form, the museum-quality machine is one of only two vintage carousels that remain intact in the state of New Jersey. It is also one of the few carousels in the country that had an original pneumatically operated Wurlitzer Military Band Organ to provide the music. This rare example of Americana is treasured by

officials at Casino Pier, who are proud to feature an original hand-carved art form as one of its countless attractions.

The raffling of a polyethylene replica permits Casino Pier to provide a special prize to its valued guests each summer while being true to its commitment to preserve the hand-carved classic wooden carousel for the enjoyment of future generations.

An exhibit on the carousel and the history of carousels in Ocean County will be featured at the Ocean County Historical Society in Toms River in mid-October, and Dr. Floyd L. Mooreland, manager of the carousel, will give an illustration lecture on the topic at the society at 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 22.

# Life Today

Bob  
Saunders



## Fairy tales can come true ...

This is a love story.

Over 40 years ago, one of the farsighted gods cajoled a grandfather into placing his 4-year-old grandson onto the back of an antique carousel horse.

Startled by twinkling lights and calliope music, the little boy grasped the pole as if it were connected to the center of the universe, which indeed it was.

That horse was made of wood, but the boy's fresh imagination infused the great stallion with life, and soon its muscled neck began to strain against the bit.

Imperceptible at first, the carousel moved forward and began to gain momentum. Suddenly the boy let go of the pole and clung to the stallion's flying mane as faster and faster that faithful charger flew. The horse's eyes grew bloodshot and the boy on his back crouched against the wind.

Adults with their well-worn imaginations will say they heard nothing, but the children present heard the stallion snort and say to the boy, "You are one of the chosen few. I offer you the gift of gifts. I offer you the gift that inspires dreams. But — I want something in return. I want the one thing that only you can give."

The little boy broke into a smile and straightway gave his runaway heart to the steed.

"Do not grasp the reins so tightly," said the stallion. "Have faith in me; have faith in the power of dreams. Now, let the reins slip through your fingers."

Given free rein, the horse broke free of the whirling carousel and carried the little boy out into the stars. And the little boy never returned to quite the same earth as quite the same little boy.

"Merry-go-round. Oh, merry-go-round," sang the boy, for now he had seen Mother Earth from the perspective of one who has observed his universe from the Milky Way.

"Merry-go-round, this is what heaven must be like," whispered the little boy.

The next 15 years whirled by as every spare moment the boy had was spent riding the carousel.

When he wasn't growing heady on calliope music and colored lights, he was overseeing younger children as they rode the merry-go-round.

Summer breezes from high school and college found the young man working at the carousel. However, the ride was fast falling into disrepair.

The antique carousel was nearly 100 years old and badly in need of restoration. There was talk of dismantling — even of sale.

But 40 years earlier, one of the fiercer stallions had snorted and said to a 4-year-old boy, "You are one of the chosen few. I offer you the gift that dreams are made of."

And that little boy had straightway given his heart to the horse.

Thus the man who grew from that boy went to the people who owned the carousel and said, "I will restore the carousel. It will be a labor of love."

Indeed, the man did restore the carousel. And because he labored in the name of love, the restoration was done well.

"Merry-go-round, merry-go-round," sang a new generation of smiling children.

"Go round again, and again, and..." sang another little boy whose Palomino just returned from the far side of Jupiter.

"Merry-go-round," sang an older married couple who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the same horses they had ridden on their honeymoon.

Thanks for the ticket back to yesterday, Carousel Man. And thanks for the blue cotton-candy mornings and dazzling candy-apple nights.

And for you, Carousel Man?

Saturn is yours. The laughter of generations is yours. Perfect love ... is yours.

Summer is yours. The brass ring ... the unicorn ... the faithful charger are yours. The North Star ... the morningstar.

Everything ... is yours.