SAVING AND RESTORING

THE

C. W. PARKER CAROUSEL #119

C.W. PARKER "CARRY-US-ALLS"

C.W. PARKER "The Amusement King"

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

ARTICLES

THE OPERATION BEFORE THE EFFORT BEGAN

By TOM HAWTHORN

THE cardboard cotton-candy cone, its sweet pink angel hair long ago devoured, rolled round and round in the wind that whistled through the deserted PNE grounds.

That same wind brought a cold, grey rain. It splashed on the Venture River, a ride whose boats have been put in dry dock.

No more make-believe gas is being pumped at the Esso station on the Grand Prix track.

The air rang with a peal of childish squeals only a day and a half ago, but now Kiddieland is a wasteland.

What the wind couldn't twirl was the merry-go-round. Its deliciously colorful horses — there are 36, no two alike — each weigh from 57 to 90 kg.

Ruffians (carnival slang for laborers) have begun the ginger task of putting the horses out to a burlap-wrapped winter pasture.

C.W. Parker built this carousel with its canopy of mirrors and pink cherubs 80 years ago in Leavenworth, Kansas. Inmates of the penitentiary there hand-carved the wooden horses.

The nags, impaled by chrome poles, have been around the track once too often. Paint barely clings to many. One horse's tail has fallen off.

Still, these feisty Mustangs buck and bare their teeth, tongues extended in untamed beauty. Manes flow. Hooves, covered with little metal horseshoes, pound on for miles without ever touching the ground.

Parker was a famed ridemaker who dubbed his creations "Carry-Us-Alls".

This ride, numbered 119, was bought by Happyland, the PNE's predecessor, for $1,575 half a century ago. Its prior life has been lost in dimly-remembered tales.

Today, the carousel could sell for $100,000 whole, or twice that if it was stripped down like an old Chevy. Too many amusement parks play wrecker.

"It helps their cash flow problems," says maintenance manager Martin Vine. "But it means one more merry-go-round is gone."

The continental wooden carousel count is down to 20, says Vine, who in the '70s helped Conklin Shows resurrect The Galloper, a steam driven carousel built in 1886.

"Conklin realized the old carnival people were getting beyond their years and wouldn't be able to refurbish the old carousels anymore. The average in the business at the time was either 50 or 18. The economy was good. Most people had real jobs to go to instead of hanging around the carnival."

Vine, 27, has just about finished his 14th carnival season, the past six at the PNE. The old carnies taught him all about jennies (their word for carousels), about how C.W. Parker and the competing Philadelphia Toboggan Co. cranked out beautiful pieces of craftsmanship, about how it should be respected.

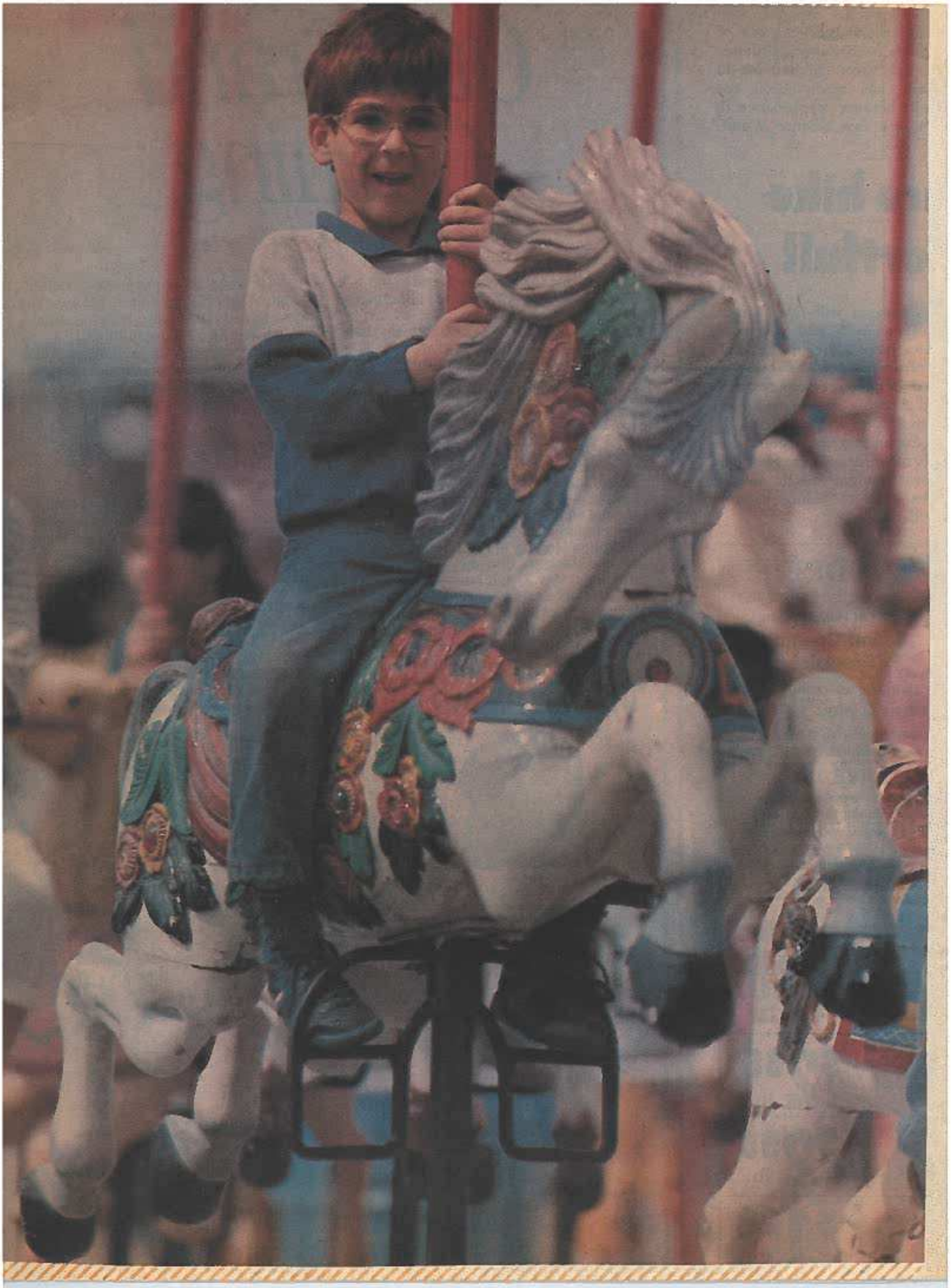
All 36 horses will soon be dismantled and removed to their secret stable. A mechanic's gloves will then come off to be replaced by the kid gloves of a skilled workman, as newfound life is given a proud legacy.

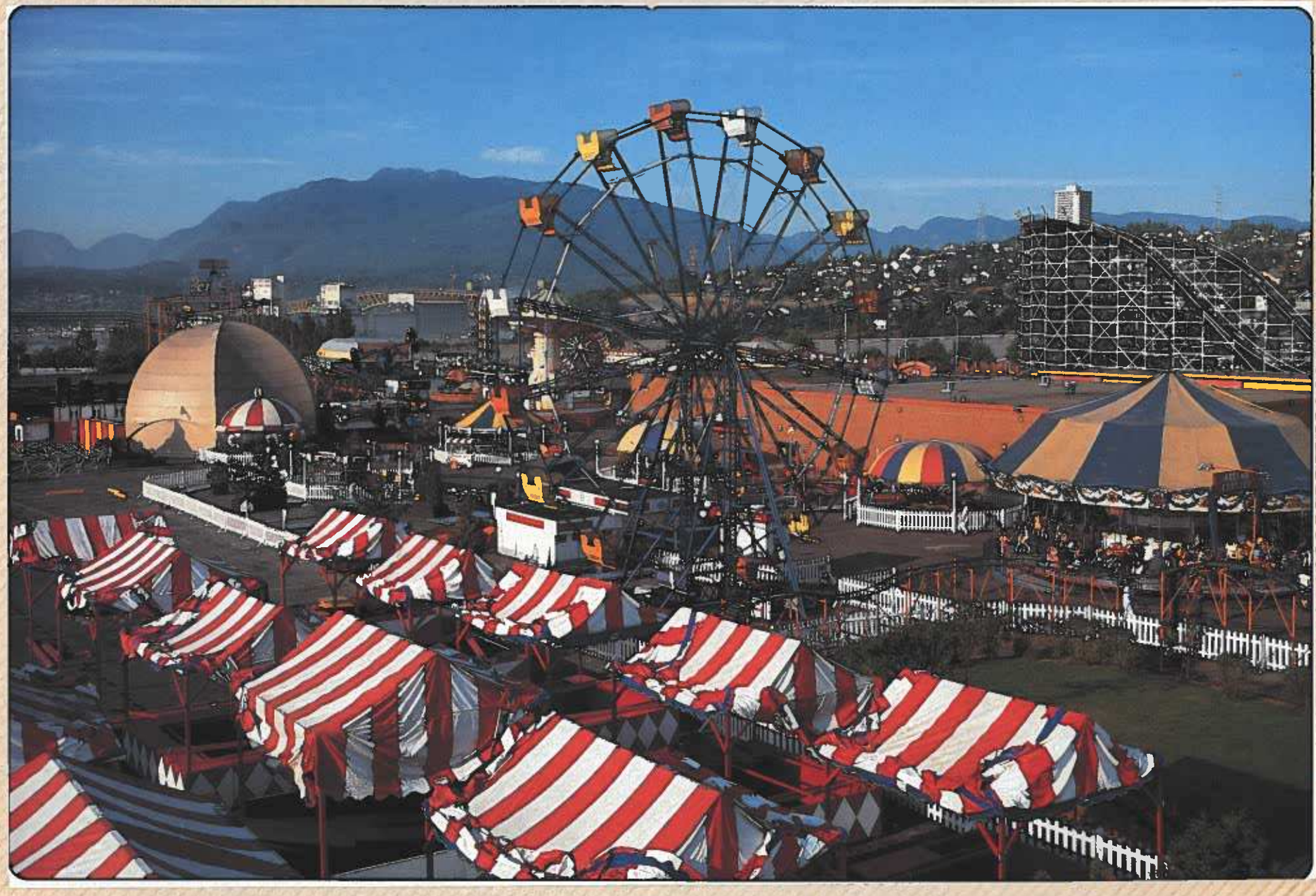
HIGHLAND ECHO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

Spring Comes Around Again!

This boy joined more than 1,000 area children at Playland Thursday. The kids were at the amusement park to help kick off the M.S. Society's annual fund raising Carnation Week.

Echo photo by Jim Harrison





REAL ANCIENT HISTORY

VIVIANNE

VANESSA

All aboard for the tossing m

By PETER WILSON

The horses jump and plunge and buck and bare their teeth. Eyes flash like jewels in the sun. Proud heads snap, manes toss and hooves fly.

The finely-muscled bodies flash past, 36 steeds awash in color. Each mount is an individual, no one is exactly like any other. Here blood-red roses bounce against dazzling gold leaf. There a rainbow saddle glows atop a multi-hued blanket. Bridles are ablaze with scrollwork.

Not a bad turn-out for a herd of 54-year-...

We are talking, of course, of the carefully hand-carved wooden horses gracing the merry-go-round at the PNE's Playland. Recently, at a cost of more than $20,000, they were restored to the look of their glory days when they first hit that carnival trail some time between 1919 and 1921.

The folks at the C.W. Parker factory in Leavenworth, Kan., who originally created this carousel, would be proud.

Perhaps prouder is Gerry Crawshaw, Playland's genial general manager, who positively beams as he shows off the new paintwork. He smiles despite the fact that and their parts scattered around the continent. The horses are in collections or perhaps acting as bar stools in some rich man's home.

"I was offered $4,500 for one of the horses three or four years ago. Of course I couldn't take it. Each of these horses is unique and I could never replace it," says Crawshaw, shown riding the merry-go-round at right.

The closest any modern midway manager could come would be a $60,000 to $70,000 fibreglass or aluminum job with only three different moulds. That means only three individual horses compared with Crawshaw's 36.

With this in mind Crawshaw decided at the end of last season it was about time to freshen up his carousel (or as C. W. Parker called it, a Carry-Us-All.) He called in painter Bob Dalton, got an estimate, and told him to go to it.

Dalton tried his best but just stripping the first horse took so long the painter could see he would be getting nowhere fast. In the years since the merry-go-round's manufacture (it was bought by Happyland, the PNE's predecessor, for $1,575 in 1934 and was already an experienced teen-ager then) it had acquired 11 separate coats of paint. The crest, which goes around the outside top edge, had nine

glows atop a multi-hued blanket. Bridles are ablaze with scrollwork.

Not a bad turn-out for a herd of 54-year-olds.

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Perhaps prouder is Gerry Crawshaw, Playland's genial general manager, who positively beams as he shows off the new paintwork. He smiles despite the fact that he originally estimated the refurbishing would cost no more than $10,000.

But, he assures those who ask, it was worth it. There are so few of these old wooden merry-go-round extravaganzas left. Most of them have been broken up different models. That means only three individual horses compared with Crawshaw's 36.

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Crawshaw called in professional paint strippers, the Bix Service Company, who also found themselves stymied.

"We'd dip the horses in the vat with our regular chemicals," says Lee McClair of Bix. "but we got nothing more than a kind of gucky runny mess."

But armed with a new stripper they perfected with people from the University of B.C., they went to work once more.

"It was fascinating to watch," says McClair. "You could see details come clear, all kinds of crazy little effects put in by the carvers that must have been hidden for years. It was our largest job and certainly the strangest."

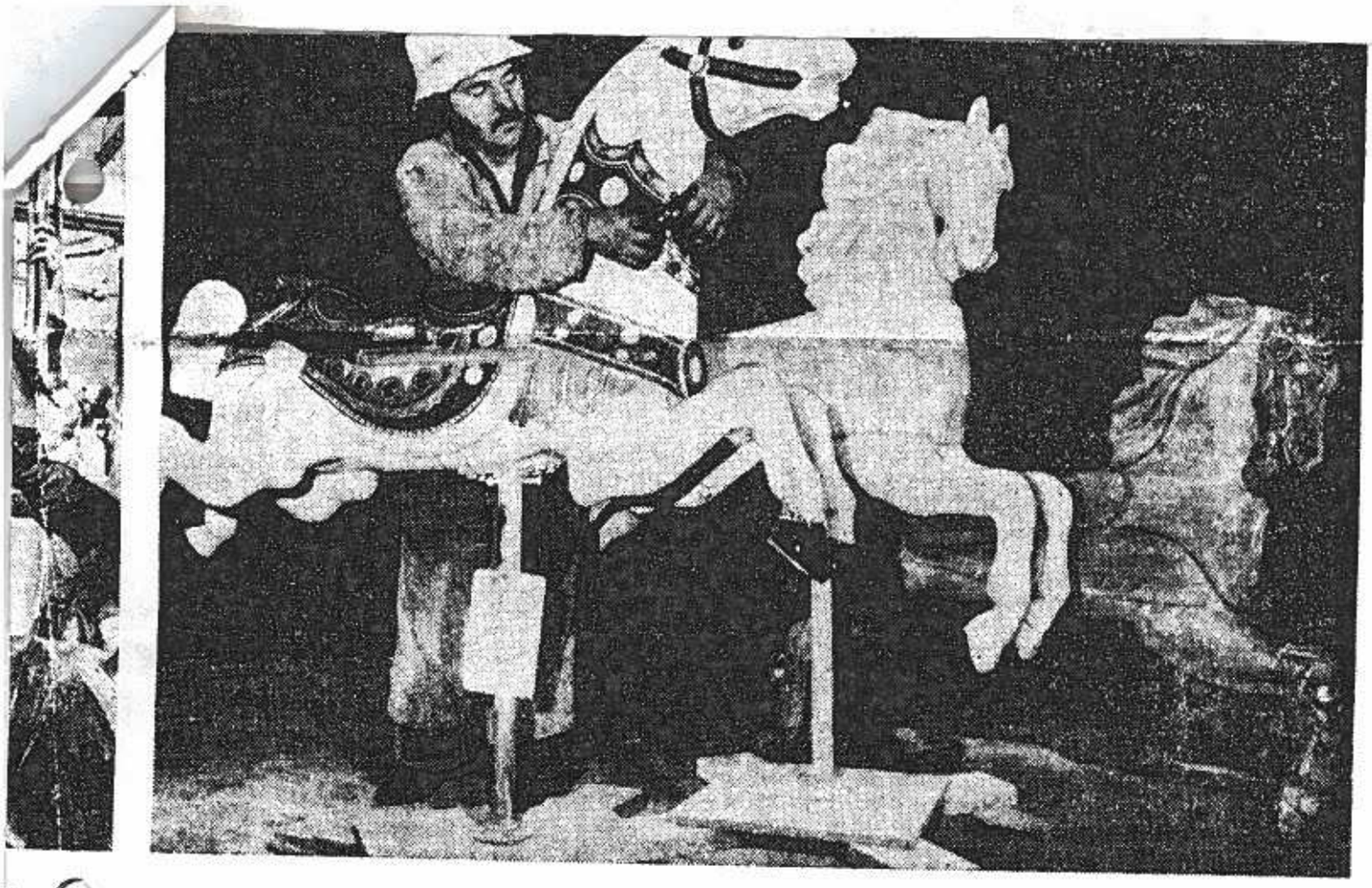
Then Bob Dalton took to his paintbrush once more, not without his problems.

"They let me choose my own colors, decide what I thought was right for the job. I wouldn't have done it otherwise, that was part of the challenge," says Dalton.

The horses were given four basic colors: brown, white, black and palomino. After that Dalton got down to the detail.

Scoping Dawn

—Photos by Glenn Baglo and Ken Oakes



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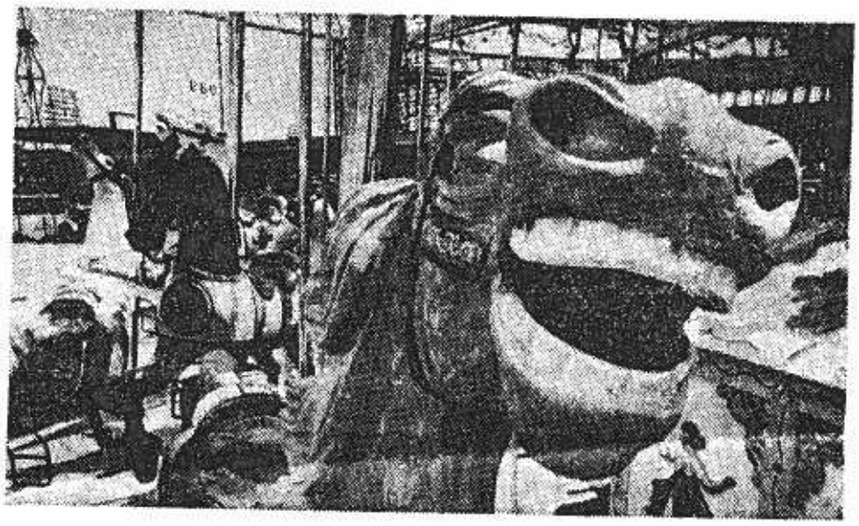
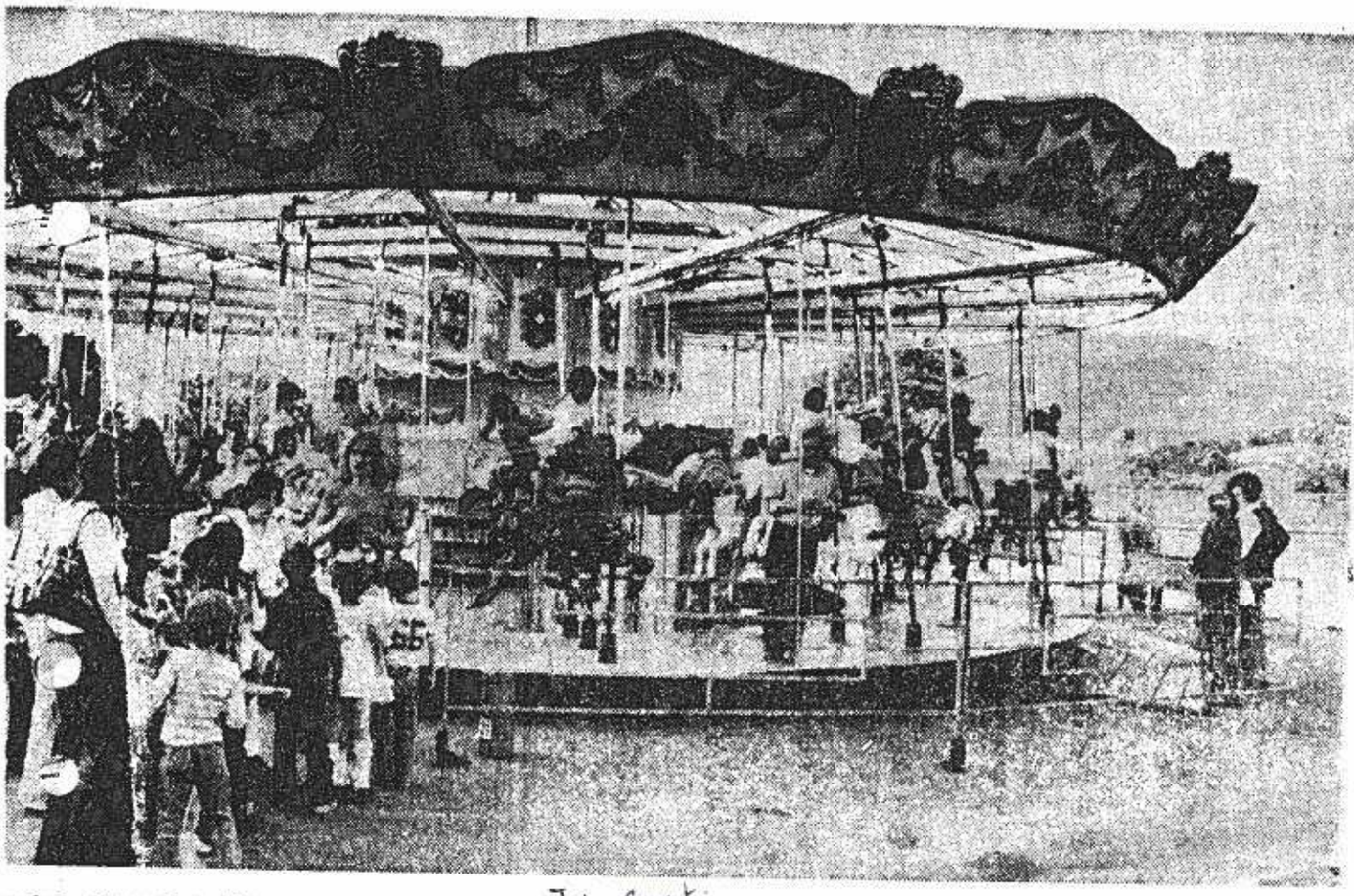
"At the beginning I would lay down some colors and have to take them up again because they didn't work together. What I thought would look good was a mistake so I started over."

Just at the deadline — May 16 to be in time for that first long weekend of the year — everything was finished.

The only thing Crawshaw regrets is selling the organ that originally came with the carousel. It was in terrible shape but the buyer, Doyle Lane, a local player piano store operator, managed to restore it.

"I wouldn't mind getting it back, but I'm sure I couldn't afford it now," says Crawshaw, whose first job with a carnival was as part of a four-man merry-go-round crew. "The taped music just isn't the same."





John Grant

en Oakes

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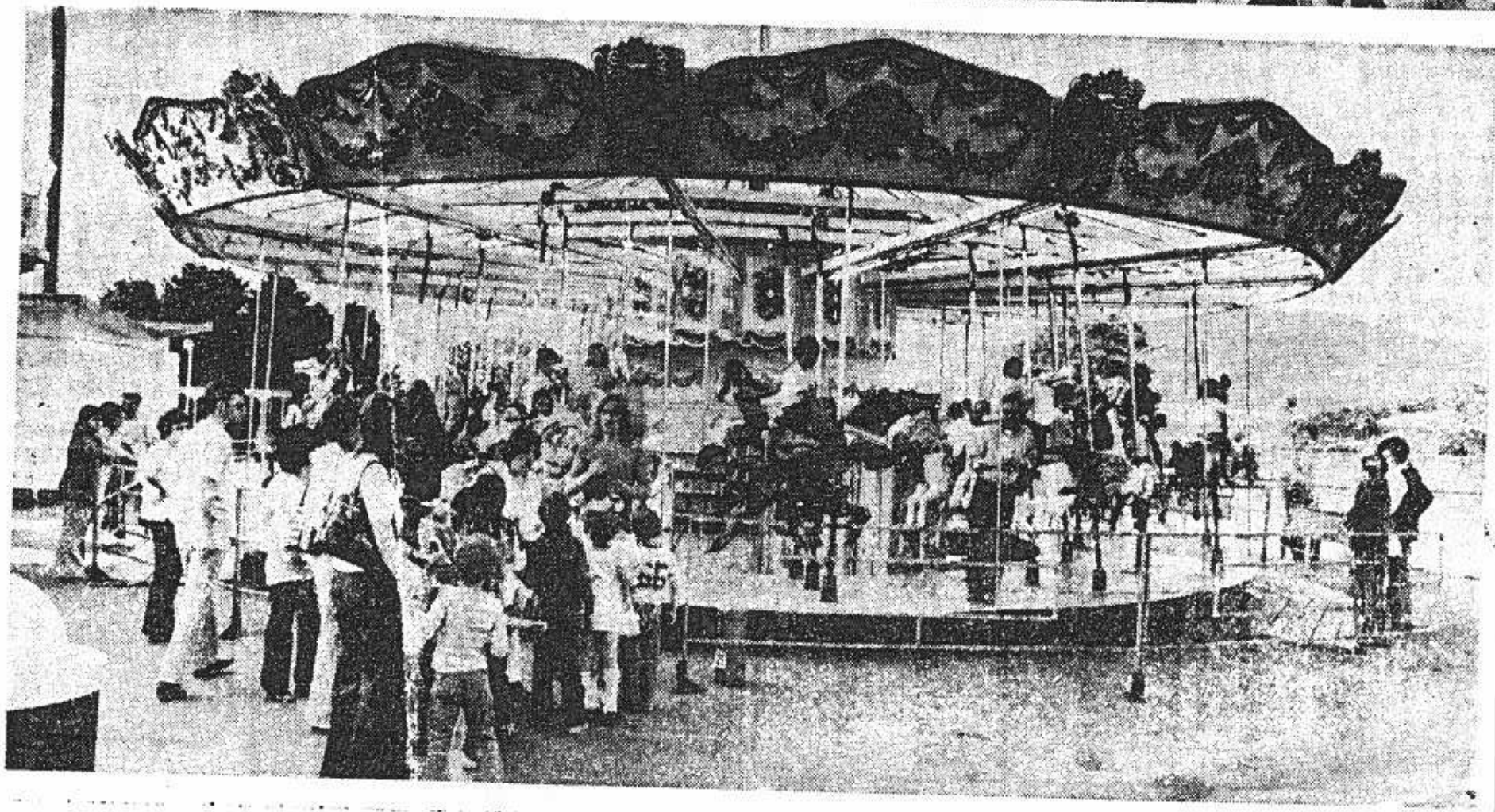

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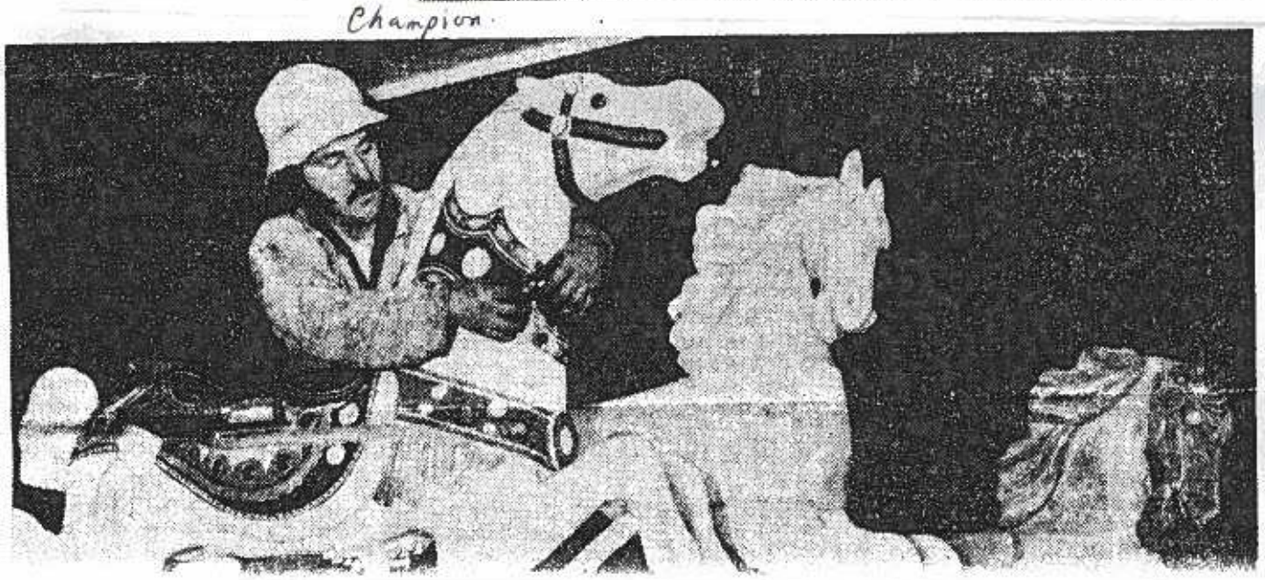

NEGATIVES
RE PRECEDING
4 PHOTOGRAPHS

1940

MORE HISTORY

CVA180-884

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1940

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1957

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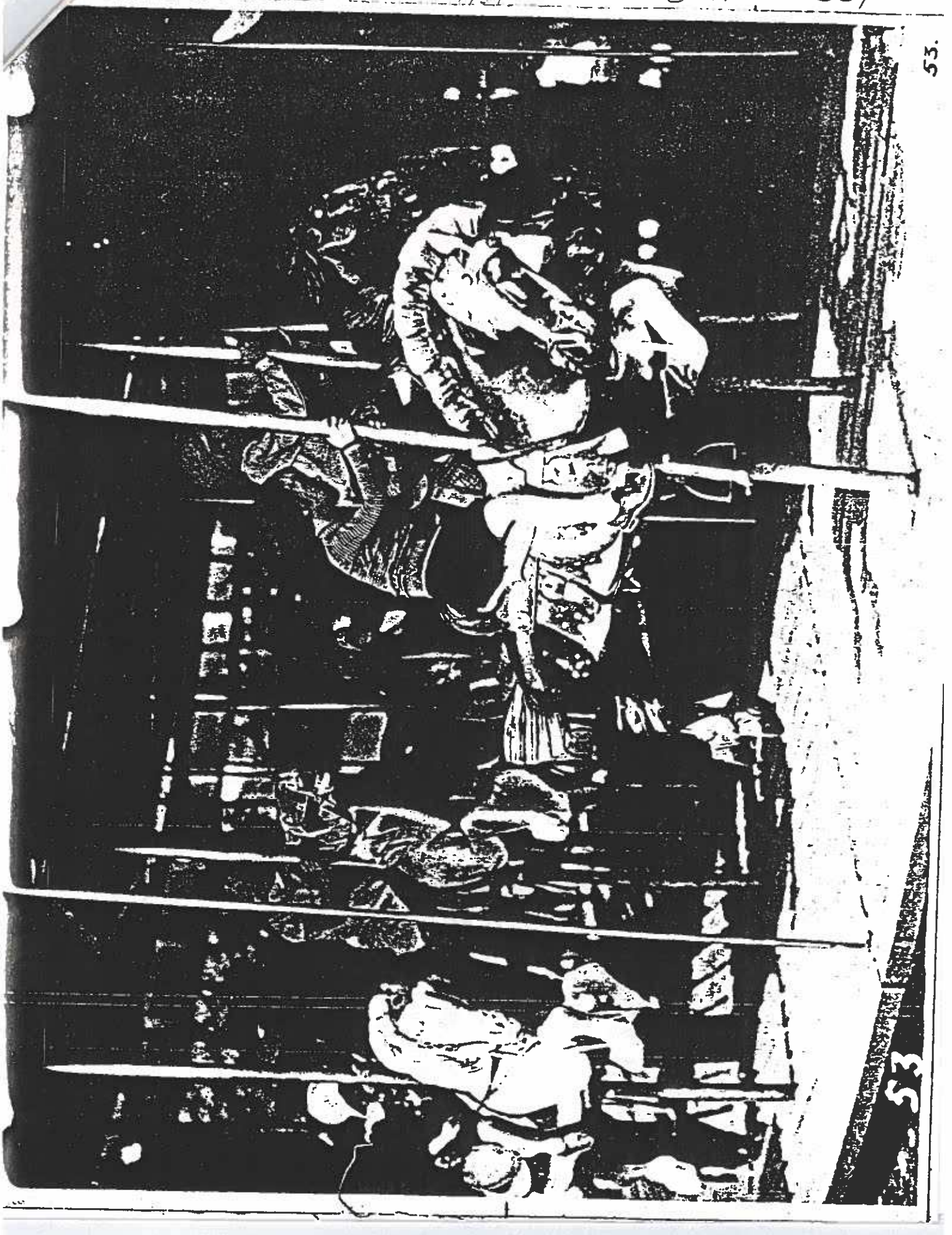

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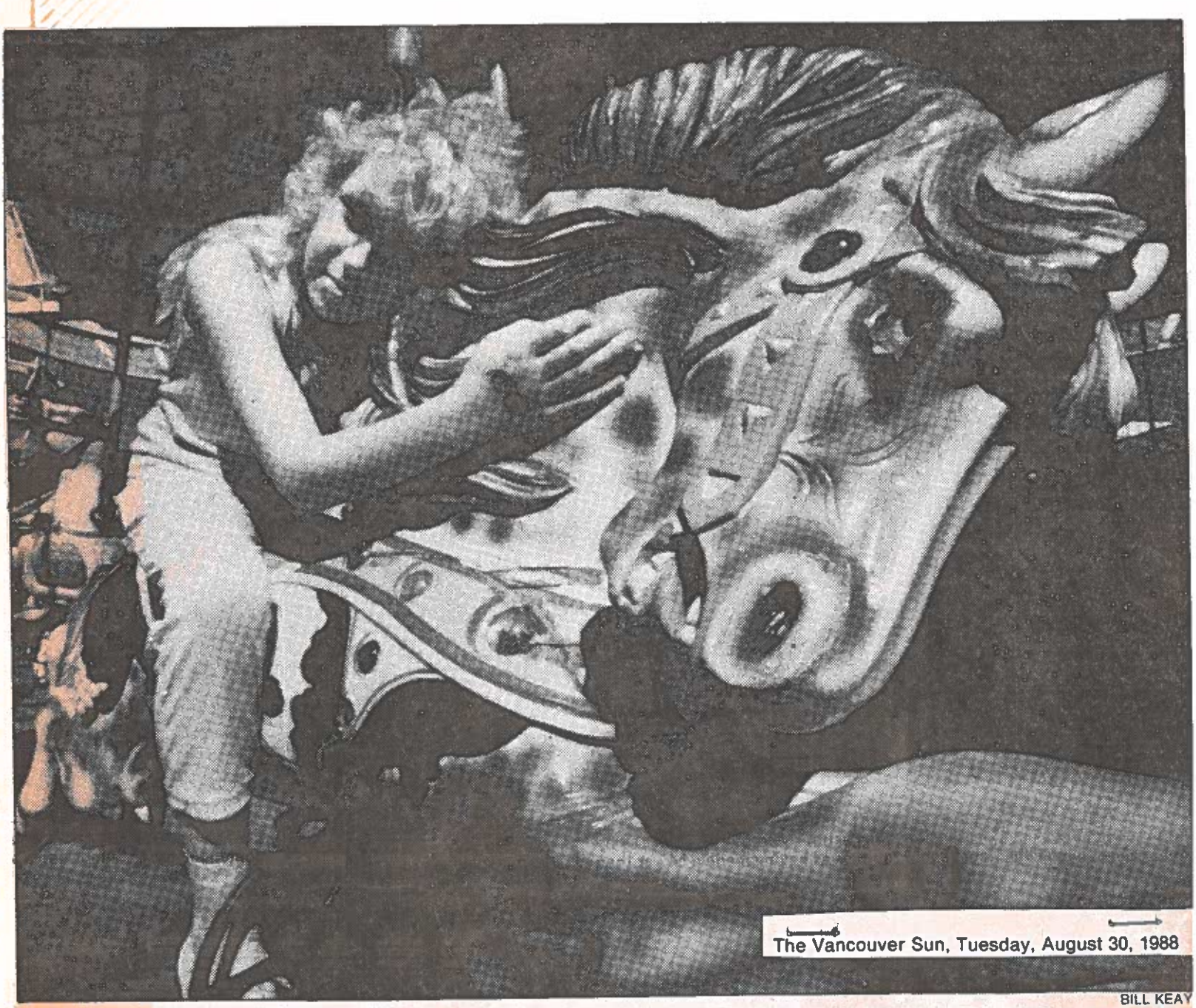
. . . A SORRY SIGHT!

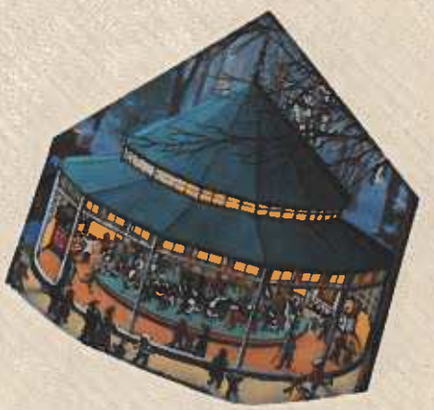


The Vancouver Sun, Tuesday, August 30, 1988

BILL KEAY

DISSAPOINTED Sharon Nicholls of Burnaby sits on her favourite ride at the PNE, the merry-go-round, which was out of service on Monday. The horses on the ride are chipped, cracked and some are missing eyes.

VENUS STARTS THE FRIENDS GROUP



CAROUSEL RESCUE BID

By DON HAUKA
Staff Reporter

Playland's Parker carousel "deserves the same respect as the Mona Lisa."

At least, that's how Venus Solano sees it.

"That sounds like it's right out of left-field, but it's true. I used to ride on that carousel when I was a kid. I love it."

The 34-year-old Vancouver waitress wants to save the aging merry-go-round from the ravages of the wind and rain at the Pacific National Exhibition grounds.

"If something's not done, it'll be destroyed in five years," says Solano.

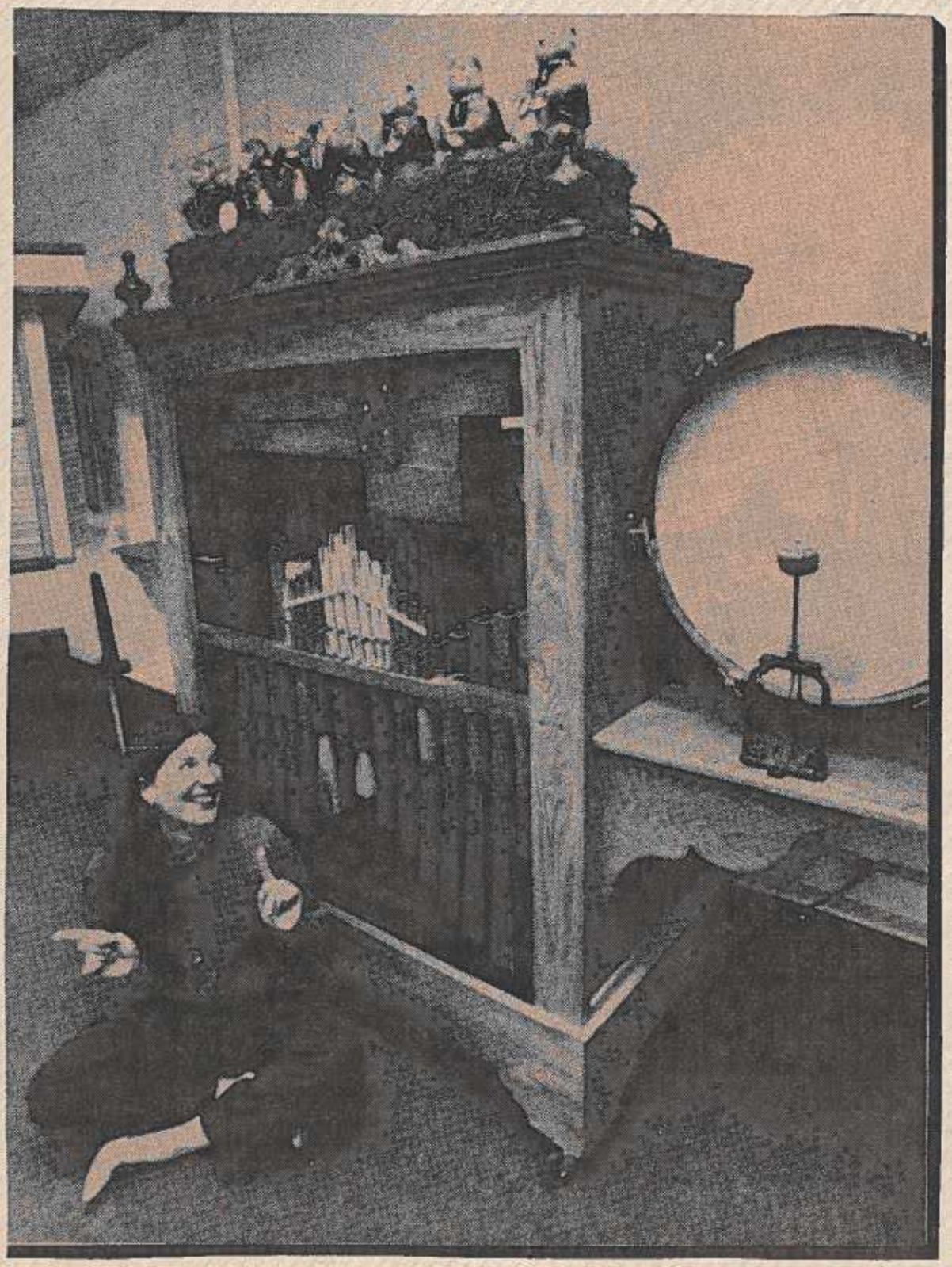
So she and some pals are trying to reclaim the 1917 carousel's original Wurlitzer organ — which is languishing in Langley.

The save-the-carousel group is launching a raffle to raise funds to buy the $25,000 restored music machine.

Ald. Phillip Owen, a PNE director, said he likes the idea of a restored carousel, but first wants to see a proposal from Solano.

Staff photo by David Clark

Venus Solano with $25,000 Wurlitzer from Playland carousel.



CP Photo

KEITH JAMIESON WITH ONE OF HIS HORSES

His horses stay at home

VANCOUVER (CP) — Keith Jamieson's house is a stable.

But luckily for whoever cleans his rugs, the 14 horses inside his home are made of solid wood.

Jamieson, 40, has been collecting antique horses from carousels for the last six years and he's put 14 of them in various parts of his home.

"Fifteen years ago, these pieces were considered firewood," says Jamieson, who restored and sponsored the 56-horse carousel at Expo 86.

"Now they're looked upon as art."

Jamieson delights in his own $100,000 collection but advocates preserving old carousels, not selling them off in parts.

He loves having 'em (around)

Keith Jamieson of West Vancouver shows one of the antique carousel figures that he collects.

Staff photo by Rick Loughran

By SHELLY EASTON
Staff Reporter

Keith Jamieson's house is a merry-go-round.

And he wouldn't have it any other way.

Jamieson collects figures from antique carousels.

Fourteen of the refurbished beauties, each called by name, have been put out to pasture in his West Vancouver home.

There's Valdez, a Mexican warrior who carries a sword, standing in a living room nook.

Sam and The Colonel and Old Paint — named for the 15 layers of color that had to be stripped — stand proud in bedrooms and hallways.

And Mortimer the Rabbit has claimed the kitchen as his domain.

Jamieson, 40, who has been collecting for six years, says his love of carousel animals grew out of his memories of riding a carousel tiger at Fort Erie, Ont.

That tiger sold for $12,000 eight years ago but Jamieson couldn't afford to bid.

"It was like the end of the world," he recalls. "Now it's worth $72,000."

Jamieson and his wife Pat bought the oldest member of their collection, 103-year-old Lady Liberty, at a recent auction in New York City.

While he won't say how much he paid, another horse fetched $92,000.

"Fifteen years ago, these pieces were considered firewood," says Jamieson, who restored and sponsored the 56-horse carousel at Expo.

"Now they're looked upon as art work."

Although his $100,000 collection consists of animals taken from a variety of machines, Jamieson is all for keeping carousels, such as the 1915 Parker model at Vancouver's Playland, together.

But "only if somebody is going to look after it," says Jamieson, who supports the recently formed group Save the Carousel.

"The machine was left out in the rain with no top for three months," he said. "You don't do that."

SUNDAY
THE VOICE OF NORTH AND WEST VANCOUVER
north shore
news
1969
TWENTY YEARS
1989
March 26, 1989

NEWS photo Tom Barley

PAT AND Keith Jamieson of West Vancouver take a ride down memory lane with their very own antique carousel horses. The couple are trying to raise funds to save the Playland carousel. See stories, pages 5 and 27.

Life's a carnival for W. Van couple

OLD PAINT lounges just inside the front door of his West Vancouver home, unaware that the district has a bylaw outlawing horses in residential areas.

By RAY TICKSON
Contributing Writer

But he and the eight other horses (and one stray rabbit) that share the Jamieson home don't have to worry. The bylaw wasn't intended to ban wooden carousel animals.

Pat and Keith Jamieson have a passion for antique merry-go-round horses. They buy them, and restore them, and display them all over their home. In fact, their house is a shrine to the carousel.

The Jamiesons both work at regular jobs: he at Web Press graphics and she for Macmillan Bloedel, but manage to own and operate a company called Brass Ring Ventures in their spare time. They have been married 14 years and have no children. They use their company to do carnival promotions, and restore and appraise carnival art.

The company, along with Westcoast Amusements and the Variety Club, organized a mini-carnival to open the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre in 1986. They set up a ferris wheel, merry-go-rounds and midway games — all inside the convention centre.

Brass Ring Ventures worked with the Oregon Carousel Museum to restore and refurbish the marvellous 56-horse merry-go-round that amused children and adults alike at Expo 86.

"The machine sat in a truck in Wisconsin for 35 years," Keith said, "but we restored it to original condition."

Keith says his love of antique wooden carousel horses grew out of childhood memories of riding them at Crystal Beach, Ont., and from his university days in Ontario. "I paid my way through university working the carnivals," he says.

Pat's interest began more recently.

She says: "We were driving through Portland, Ore., in 1982 and saw a sign saying 'National Carousel Convention,' and couldn't resist." Portland calls itself "the city of carousels," she says.

They bought their first horse at an auction in Fort Langley that same year. They call him 'Old Paint' because of the 15 coats of paint they had to remove before the long process of refinishing could begin.

"We were driving through Portland, Ore., in 1982 and saw a sign saying 'National Carousel Convention,' and we couldn't resist."

Old Paint sits inside the entrance of the house on a brass pole, frozen in mid-leap, graceful and colorful: his coat gleaming, his saddle and bridle bright from many hours of tender, loving care. His other wooden friends are scattered throughout the house, some restored and some waiting for their turn in the basement workshop.

"It takes about 150 hours to properly refinish one of these beauties," Keith says.

Pat gets to do the grubby work. She strips the multiple coats of paint from the neglected animals. Brushing on chemical paint stripper, she carefully scrapes it off, using wooden tongue depressors to avoid scratching the wood. The fine details are cleaned out with wood-carving tools, then she sandpapers everything.

Pat says the horses can't be dipped in a vat of stripper to get the paint off because they are hollow and the chemical would get inside. "Then you've got trouble," she says. "The stripper will bleed back through the paint and a brown, gummy line will form." The stripper would also attack the glue holding the horse together and it might fall apart, "leaving you with nothing but pieces."

Keith says he does the "fun part." He cuts out the rotten wood and fills the holes and cracks with a marine-type epoxy fairing compound. Then he gets to play artist with his paint pots.

"We neutralize the wood with a chemical, then seal the whole thing with two coats of heavy shellac," Keith says. He then applies three to four coats of white gesso filler before painting the beast with bright acrylic paint. "A coat of clear finish goes over top," says the artist.

The Jamiesons also do restoration work for other people. They recently shipped a horse to a woman in Florida that they painted to match color swatches the woman's interior decorator sent to them. "I had to use a very careful and elaborate crating procedure for shipping that one," Keith says.

Keith estimates the average restoration costs $3,000 to $5,000. "A big machine could cost $200,000 to restore," he says.

The Jamiesons love their carousel life. They travel all over North America attending conventions and auctions. "You meet all sorts of people and make many friends," Pat says. "We bought a horse in New York last year, and will be going to Long Beach, Calif., next October."

NEWS photo Tom Burley

WEST VANCOUVER residents Pat and Keith Jamieson pose with some of their prized possessions...antique merry-go-round horses.

WV COUPLE SEEKING DONATIONS TO SAVE CARNIVAL RIDE

Friends of the Carousel seek $350,000

WEST VANCOUVER residents Pat and Keith Jamieson want someone to help them grab the brass ring. They are looking for some generous donor to come up with $350,000 to rescue the Playland carousel at the PNE from oblivion.

By RAY TICKSON
Contributing Writer

The Jamiesons are members of a group called Friends of the Carousel, that hopes to persuade Vancouver City or some private benefactor to buy the dilapidated merry-go-round from its present Playland owners and restore it to its original glory.

Keith Jamieson says the 36-horse machine, a classic built in 1915, "needs to be rescued." Jamieson says Playland hasn't looked after the machine. "It was not worked on by proper restoration experts," he says. "For three months last year it was outside in the rain without a top on it." He suggests Playland either restore it properly or put it into the hands of an historical foundation.

"The carousel has been in Vancouver since 1947, carrying thousands of children," says Jamieson. "It's part of our heritage."

Playland's Linda Lloyd says Vancouver City has requested Playland hang on to the ride while city officials consider giving it a heritage designation.

Jamieson says he believes Playland's owner, York Hannover Hotels Ltd., of Mississauga, Ont., will break the machine up and sell the horses to individual collectors if it can't get the $350,000 price it's asking.

Carousel horses can be worth more sold to individual collectors than as an entire merry-go-round, Jamieson says. Some especially rare specimens have been auctioned for more than $90,000.

Venus Solano, chairperson of Friends of the Carousel, says Guernsey's Auctions from New York has been in Vancouver "sniffing around the carousel." She says they would like to sell it for York Hannover.

The mayor of Vancouver is very interested in the carousel, says his executive assistant. Janet Fraser says mayor Gordon Campbell asked the owner not to sell the machine until all avenues have been explored to purchase it locally.

"York Hannover has given us some time to try to get some group to purchase it," Fraser says. "They were going to sell it this April, but they are waiting until we can sort out the options." She says the city has no funds to buy the carousel.

Fraser says the carousel may be able to earn its upkeep by being rented out as a concession. "There are heritage trust funds that will probably support the cost of restoration," she says, leaving only the purchase price to be raised locally.

LIFE'S A CARNIVAL FOR DUO: SEE STORY PAGE 27

Some cities in the United States own carousels and operate them as concessions. New York, San Francisco and Portland all have wonderful carousels owned by the cities or historical foundations, says Jamieson.

At one time there were over 4,000 wooden carousels in North America. Now there may only be about 200 left. "In 10 years there will not be any wooden carousels left in any amusement parks anywhere," Jamieson says.

High-tech, flashy rides that can be put up and taken down in two hours by a two to three man crew are replacing the more cumbersome old machines that don't trailer well and take a large crew to assemble.

Solano says William Densel II, the grandson of the man who introduced the carousel to North America, has agreed to oversee restoration work. Brass Ring Ventures has offered to donate time and expertise to organize volunteers to do the refinishing.

Solano is appealing to people who may have photos of the carousel as it was in the 1940s or '50s to please phone her at 873-9516. She is especially interested in pictures of the Wurlitzer organ that used to be part of the carousel.

Venus Solano says riding a modern plastic merry-go-round horse when you can bob up and down on its old-fashioned, hand-carved poplar or basswood ancestor is like flashing a zircon instead of a real diamond. The attractive Vancouver waitress has loved carousels ever since her childhood summers at the Pacific National Exhibition where a 1917, 44-horse Parker merry-go-round has turned round and round since 1947. Once a beautiful sight, the vintage merry-go-round now suffers from cracks, peeling paint and dry wood rot from years of rain, wind and neglect. Last spring, it sat for three months without a canopy, furthering the decay and prompting Miss Solano, 34, to action. As leader of the six-member Save the Carousel lobby group she wants the $350,000 ride turned over to the City of Vancouver for a full facelift, then housed in a protective dwelling. "Carousels are being split up and sold all over North America. With some work, ours could last at least 100 years."

LORI COHEN

Carousel crusader Venus Solano: *A diamond in the rough*

The Province Sunday, September 24, 1983

PNE CAROUSEL LOSING RACE FOR A RESCUE

By Shelly Easton
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of thousands of dollars separate the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel Society from the carousel at Playland.

Donations to the society's fund to save the 36-horse carousel have reached $48,000.

But the carousel's owner, York-Hannover Corp., wants $350,000 for the 72-year-old ride, or it will be sold at auction.

The Toronto development firm has given the society until the end of October to raise the money.

"People have been phoning and coming in by the droves," said society spokesman Venus Solano.

"It's just wonderful."

Some carousel experts say the price on the 1917 Parker ride is too high because the horses are in poor condition.

"It's the great carousel ripoff," said Duane Perron, of Portland, Ore. He and his wife operate the International Museum of Carousel Art and own 17 carousels.

"The numbers I've seen are outrageous.

"It's a wonderful little carousel and I hope it can be saved. But the horses aren't worth $10,000 apiece."

Restored Parker animals fetch between $5,000 and $7,500 at auction, Perron said.

But York-Hannover spokesman Dan Kramer said the price is low.

"I would prefer to do it by way of auction," he said.

"We know we could get more there, but I have to give (the society) a chance."

Donations can be made at any VanCity Credit Union.

DON WRIGLEY GETS INVOLVED

CAROUSEL COMRADES . . . Bill Wrigley, chairman of Burnaby Village Museum and Venus Solano, president of the Lower Mainland Association of Friends of the Vancouver Carousel are working hard to save the heritage merry-go-round so that it can continue to delight future generations of Lower Mainland children.

CAROUSEL CAUGHT

Money will decide its fate

Burnaby Village Museum officials want Lower Mainland residents to trade their loonies for ponies.

Don Wrigley, museum board chairman, is urging everybody to get behind a plan to buy the old carousel that has whirled at the Pacific National Exhibition since 1947.

"We've only got until November to raise the money to even have a chance to get it," he said.

Under a plan approved unanimously by the museum board, the carousel would be purchased by a non-profit group and relocated to Burnaby Village. In exchange, the museum would maintain and operate the merry-go-round and promise never to sell it.

Wrigley said the carousel, built in 1917, fits perfectly into the museum's 1890-1925 time-frame.

"This is a delightful place for it. People will enjoy it here," he said.

But before the carousel ponies can trot in endless circles in Central Valley, the non-profit society trying to purchase the carousel needs to raise $350,000, Wrigley said.

Venus Solano, president of the Lower Mainland Association of Friends of the Vancouver Carou-

By GORDON CLARK

sel, said her group was given first dibs on the carousel Monday by York Hannover, the Toronto firm that owns the ride.

"They really like the idea of it going to Burnaby Village and they'd love to see it stay here and be a community project," she said.

But Solano said her group needs to raise another $200,000 by Nov. 1 to buy the carousel and another $100,000 to refurbish it. Having first refusal on the carousel will make it easier to raise the money because people will feel comfortable donating money, she said.

"We have to act quickly."

If the group can't raise the funds in time, the carousel will be auctioned- off and will likely be dismantled so collectors can buy one or two horses and renovate them as decorations.

"By someone having a horse, renovating it and putting it in their living room, they're destroying the carousel. That's what we're trying to prevent," Solano said.

Over the decades the carousel twirled at the PNE, millions of children enjoyed the ride. It is part of the memories of many B.C. residents.

Wrigley said he hopes grown-ups who recall the thrill of spinning around on one of the carousel's 36 horses will drop a few dollars into a fund to save the ride.

It's been at the PNE since 1947 and they've ridden on it," he said. "Millions of people don't even know it's being sold."

The carousel is an important part of Lower Mainland heritage that will be lost unless people get behind a plan to buy the ride, Solano said.

Wrigley said the carousel will help replace the miniature train that is moving from Burnaby Village to Confederation Park. He said the carousel should be saved so that it can continue to enthrall Lower Mainland kids.

"We feel it will be good for the children of B.C.," he said. "It would be a real shame if we lost it."

Carousel donations can be made through any branch of Vancity credit union where an account has been set up.

Burnaby NOW

SEPTEMBER 24, 1989

BURNABY & NEW WESTMINSTER NEWS, March 11, 1990

News photos by Arlen Redekop

Horses from the PNE carousel have found a friend in Venus Solano, who is restoring six of the beasts in Burnaby with help from Anthony Salandini (above left) and Tony Galeazzi.

Friends of the Carousel

Horses being restored as fundraising continues

It's a labor of love.

The Painters Industry Joint Council trade board in Burnaby is returning six wooden carousel horses to their former glory, for no charge, as part of a plan to save a wooden carousel at the PNE from death by auction.

The painters volunteered to help get the horses into good enough shape to use on the carousel this summer after hearing a plea from the Burnaby-based Friends of the Carousel.

Last year, the six horses weren't in use, but the association is hoping even a glimpse of the beasts' former beauty will be enough to whet the charitable whistle of corporate and private donors.

The carousel has been a popular ride at the PNE fair for more than 50 years. The association is trying to raise funds to buy the carousel and move it to a new home at Burnaby Village Museum before the horses are auctioned off individually, as was first proposed by the owners.

The Friends have until October to raise the estimated $700,000 needed to buy and restore the carousel, according to association spokesman Venus Solano.

One other wooden horse from the 1917 Parker carousel is in the process of being scrupulously restored by American master carousel artisan William Dentzil III. That horse will be ready to rejoin the carousel in April.

Donations can be sent to: **VanCity, 519 W.10th Street, Vancouver, V5Z 1K9 Att: Friends of the Carousel.**

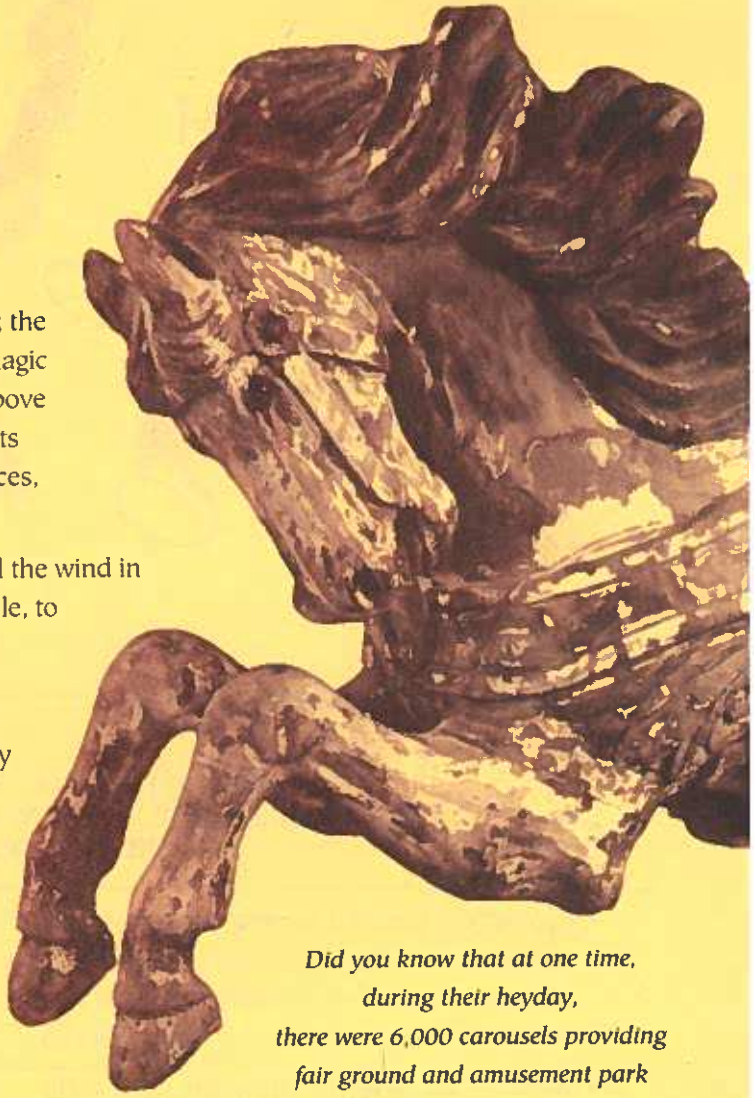
ALL IT TAKES IS A LEAP OF FAITH

Do you remember your first ride on a carousel... choosing your favourite steed, being very careful to avoid those "sissy" chariots; the horses moving to the soothing cadence of the barrel organ; the magic of the brightly coloured animals reflected in the ornate mirrors above you? Wouldn't it be wonderful to share those enchanted moments again with your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends?

Soon, you'll be able to select your horse, feel the wind in your hair and be transported, for a short while, to another place and time.

HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

The Friends of the Carousel and the Burnaby Village Museum, led by committed volunteers over a two-year period, rescued the PNE carousel from the New York auction block in the summer of 1990. Now they are hard at work with gallons of stripper, a variety of scrapers and lots of elbow grease restoring this unique historical treasure.



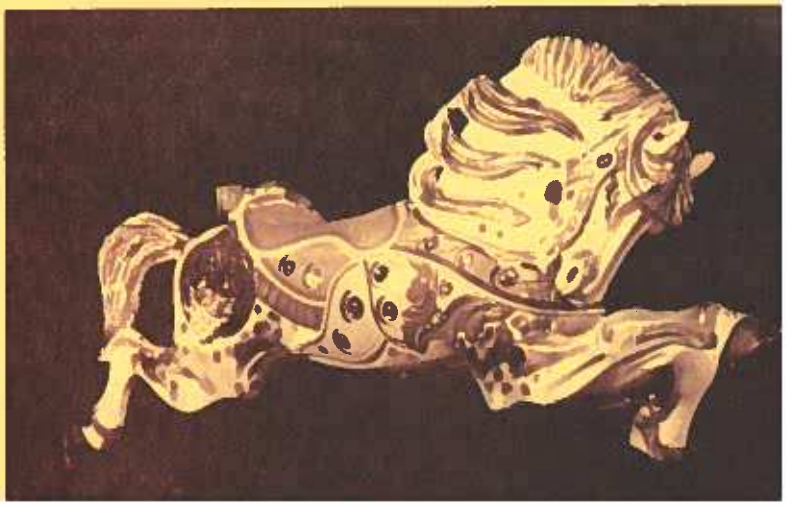
Did you know that at one time, during their heyday, there were 6,000 carousels providing fair ground and amusement park enjoyment all over North America... today there are less than 200 left?

AND WHAT A TREASURE IT IS!

The Lower Mainland, and in fact all of B.C. and the Pacific Northwest, is fortunate that due to the determination of a number of people, a significant aspect of North American history will be saved.

The carousel was built by the C.W. Parker Company, of Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1917 and contains 36 painted ponies. The Parker Company was one of 14 major manufacturers, each of which developed unique carving styles and characteristics. Although carousels were not an American invention, the tide of European immigrants in the late 19th century brought both the technology and craftsmanship to the Eastern seaboard which made them a fixture for many decades. Today, research continues to determine exactly when the carousel first appeared at the PNE. Current thinking and photos show that it was believed in place in 1932.

The rescue of the Parker carousel was just the first step of an ambitious plan that includes its complete restoration and housing hopefully in time to celebrate the Burnaby Centennial in 1992. As of February 1991, $119,000.00 has been donated by thousands of people just like you. People who value the craftsmen of the past and cherish their own sweet childhood memories.



YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FRIENDS OF THE CAROUSEL!

BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM • 6501 DEER LAKE AVE., BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA V5G 3T3

☐ $5.00 ☐ $25.00

☐ $50.00 Other _____

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

CREDIT CARD NUMBER:

_____

EXPIRATION DATE:

☐ Yes, I would like a tax receipt (min. $5.00)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

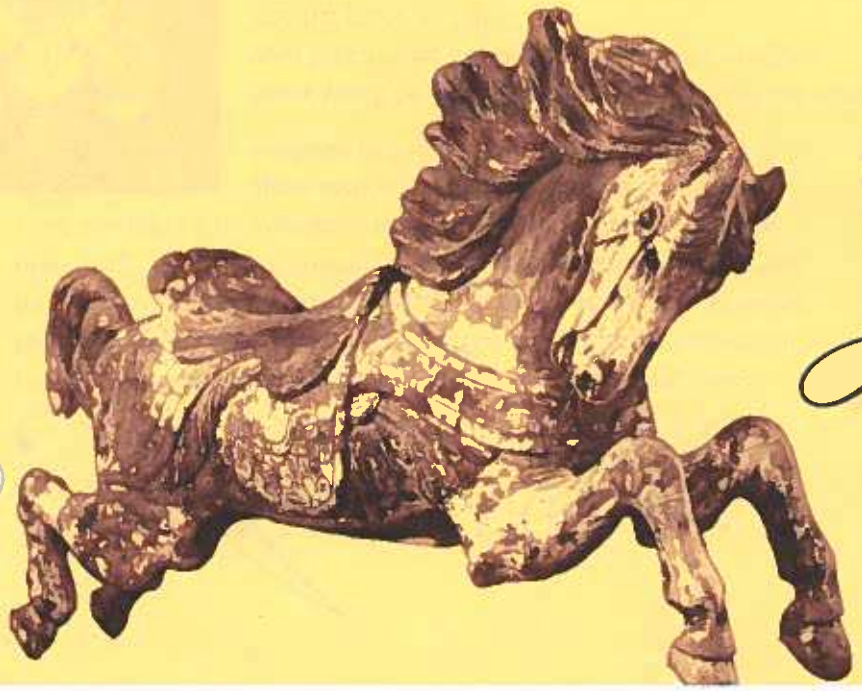
SIGNATURE _____

The Friends of the Carousel is a non-profit organization (charitable tax number: 083134-52) solely dedicated to the restoration of the C.W. Parker Carousel which will be housed at the Burnaby Village Museum in perpetuity. Corporations, too, have contributed with money and materials. Wouldn't you like to help the carousel twirl again so that you relive the magic of the past and create new memories with the people who are special in your life now? Please join us in restoring this cherished historical prize by sending a donation with the attached form.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET COSTS	
Purchase of carousel	$350,000
Restoration	$160,000
Housing	$100,000

FUNDING SOURCES BUDGET (to February '91)	
GO B.C. Grant	$200,000
Corporate donations	$100,000
Donations in kind	$60,000
Individual contributions (needed)	$250,000

FRIENDS OF THE CAROUSEL
BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM, 6501 DEER LAKE AVE., BURNABY, B.C. V5G 3T3
TELEPHONE (604) 293-6500 FAX (604) 293-6525



YOU CAN HELP US OVERCOME OUR BIGGEST HURDLE...

Do you remember your first ride on a carousel… very carefully choosing your favourite steed, the powerful yet gentle motion of the horses in time with the band organ, the flash of colour in the ornate mirrors above you? Wouldn't it

Friends of the Carousel

be wonderful to share those enchanted mon
your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephe

Soon, you'll be able to select your horse, feel the wind in your hair and be transported, for a brief moment, to another place and time.

ents again with
/s or friends?

How is this happening?

For two years, The Friends of the Carousel, has worked diligently to save the PNE Carousel from the New York auction block. With assistance from the province of British Columbia, the Corporation of the District of Burnaby, the Burnaby Village Museum and thousands of individuals, the Carousel has been rescued. Now a dedicated corps of volunteers is hard at work, with gallons of stripper and lots of elbow grease, restoring this precious piece of early North American social history. As you can imagine, this is a labour-intensive task which requires untold hours of volunteer time and an endless supply of materials.

This group of dedicated volunteers, as of December 1991, has generated over $420,000 in donations. But more money must be raised if the required $610,000 goal is to be met.

Government and the public have done their part to help restore the Carousel. Now we must turn to the business community for its much needed backing.

Why support the Carousel?

The Carousel is a tangible link with our past. It's part of our social heritage. And, as with any object of historical significance, it must be preserved today if it is to be available to us tomorrow.

Supporting the restoration of this Carousel is a unique opportunity for you to perform a single act of generosity that will endure long into the future.

As you will learn in the next paragraph, the Friends of the Carousel is offering lasting recognition to those who contribute to the Carousel's preservation.

How can you help?

We offer three levels of funding support:

- For a $7,500 donation you will be identified with an outside row horse.
- For $5,000 you will be identified with a mid-row horse.
- For $2,500 you will be identified with an inside row horse.

You will also receive:

- A tax receipt
- Your name displayed on the recognition plaque at the Burnaby Village Museum
- A framed poster with plaque
- An invitation to the official opening at the Burnaby Village Museum September 1992.

A little bit of history...

Did you know that at one time, during their heyday, there were 6,000 carousels providing fair ground and amusement park enjoyment all over North America and that today there are less than 200 left?

Although carousels were not an American invention, the tide of European immigrants in the late 19th century brought both the technology and craftsmanship to the Eastern seaboard which made them a fixture for many decades.

The Burnaby Village Carousel was built by the C.W. Parker Company of Leavenworth, Kansas in 1912 and contains 36 painted ponies. The Parker Company was one of 14 major manufacturers, each of which developed unique carving styles and characteristics. Today research continues to determine exactly when the Carousel first appeared at the PNE. Current thinking and photos indicate that it may have been in place in 1936.

Friends of the Carousel

Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue,
Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5G 3T3
Telephone (604) 293-6500 Fax (604) 293-6525

Design: Studio Allsorts
Copywriting: Linda Bartz, Knight & Associates
Photos: B. Rowland, H. Sumner, D. Norris
Separations & Film: Merging Images Prepress
Printing: Hemlock Printers

BCIT student Mike Maliowsky restores 70–year–old carousel horse for open house.

BCIT mends carousel

BCIT's School of Trades Training is involved in the restoration of five carousel horses from one of the few merry–go–rounds left in the world.

Next weekend, April 6, 7 and 8, all five carousel horses will be on display at BCIT, along with many other student exhibits, hands–on demonstrations, special events, clowns, jugglers and entertainment during BCIT's Open House 1990.

Called "Challenging the Future . . . Today," BCIT's Open House will spotlight the state–of–the–art training students receive in the fields of engineering, business, health and trades.

Admission and ample parking at the Institute's Willingdon and Canada Way campus are free to the public. Hours are Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Riding home

Venus Solano, of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel, proudly shows off one of five refurbished antique horses, which will be reunited with the rest of the team at the PNE's Playland today. BCIT students restored them.

Staff photo by David Clark

Burnaby artisan Venus Solane with three of the antique horses which Friends of the Carousel hope local residents will save by chipping in $350,000 to buy and restore them at Burnaby Village Museum.
News photo by Arlen Redekop

Horse rescue

Campaign to save PNE carousel brought to public

By Wynn Horn
Staff Reporter

Local heritage-minded residents are being asked to cough up $350,000 to save the antique carousel at the PNE Playland.

The 1917 Parker carousel, and its painted horses, has been the subject of a year-long effort to keep the relic in Burnaby. The carousel is owned by a Toronto company but it is leased by Playland at the PNE fair grounds, and will be sold by auction in September if enough money can't be found in the meantime.

The Lower Mainland Association of Friends of the Vancouver Carousel, headed by Burnaby resident Don Wrigley, hope their summer blitz will bring in enough pledges to cover the $350,000 purchase price of the carousel.

A corporate fundraising effort has already raised $100,000 in donations and in-kind donations, and trades have offered to do much of the restoration work for free: the Painting Industry Joint Trade Board has offered to provide $60,000 in preparation work and painting through its members as well as through a painting course at B.C. Institute of Technology.

The total cost of returning the horses to glory, including restoration, is more than $700,000.

Burnaby Village Museum has offered the carousel a home, if the antique can be saved and corporations like Van City Savings Credit Union and Diacham Industries of Vancouver have each donated $10,000.

However, Wrigley admits asking for money is a chicken-and-egg dilemma: "No one wants to donate until they're sure all the money can be raised. That's why we're asking for pledges rather than donations."

No money will actually be collected until September, when it becomes clear the carousel can, indeed, be saved.

"In the unhappy event that we do not obtain title to the carousel by Sept. 30 donors would not be asked to honor their pledge," said Wrigley.

The association is looking for volunteers to man booths in shopping malls and at community events throughout the summer, said Wrigley.

RIDING TO THE RESCUE

The Race is on to Save Vancouver 's 1917 Parker Carousel

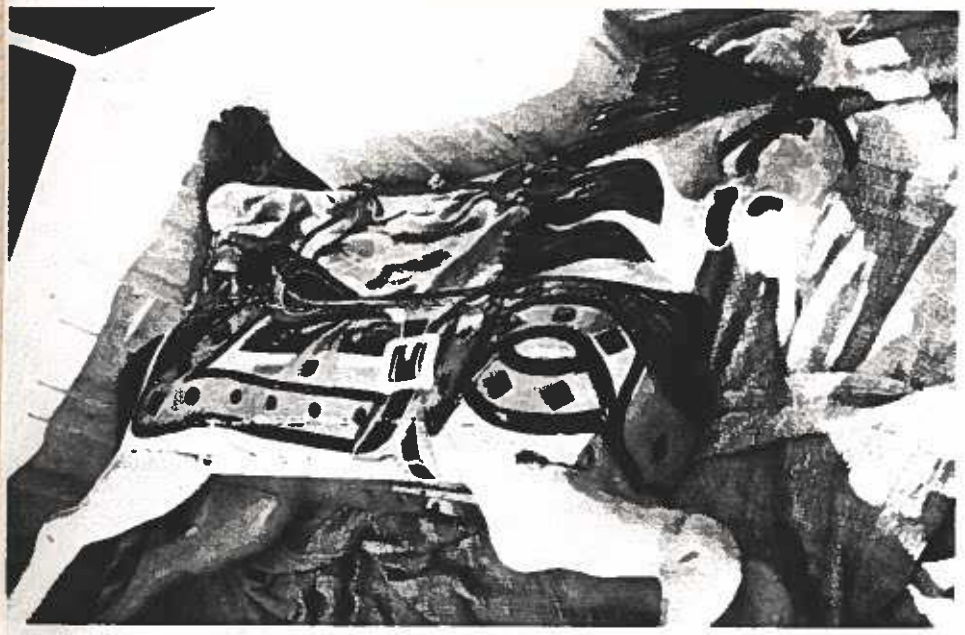
By Doug McCallum
Director, Friends of Vancouver Carousel

William Dentzel III undertook the task of restoring "Julius", one of the C. W. Parker horses from the Vancouver carousel, to raise the awareness of the public and to promote the fund raising efforts.

For the last two years the 'Friends of the Vancouver Carousel' (Vancouver, Canada, that is) have been fighting to save the 1917 Parker merry-go-round whose 36 prancing steeds have been whirling here ever since the ride rolled into town one magical day in 1947. We call ourselves "Friends" of this carousel because, after bringing joy to generations of people, it now needs all the friends it can get in order to escape the destruction that has befallen too many carousels. But despite some huge obstacles, our efforts are beginning to pay off and we are making giant strides toward saving this artistic and historic treasure once and forever. We hope you will climb on board and help keep the merry-go-round turning for tomorrow's children.

What is making the struggle particularly challenging is that the carousel has suffered long term neglect. Exposure of the ride to the elements has led not only to cracked and pealing paint, but also to conditions of extensive dry rot in the horses and other wooden components, for Vancouver has a very wet climate with an average of 65 inches of rainfall annually.

A second problem is that the carousel is privately owned and slated for auction. However, the owner has agreed to allow the Association a breathing space in which to raise funds so that the carousel can be purchased locally and be placed in a public trusteeship. As well, we had to surmount another hurdle. Before sponsors would make commitments, we had to find a home that would provide an appropriate setting, guarantee the carousel's future preservation, yet still make it accessible to people as an operating ride. That meant an organization with professional expertise, physical and financial security, and a high-traffic location. It meant an established and accredited museum, and that's just what we've got. Unable to find such a home in Vancouver, we turned to the adjoining municipality of Burnaby. There, we approached the municipally-owned Burnaby Village Museum which was delighted to take on the task of preserving and operating the carousel in perpetuity. Burnaby Village is no dusty repository, but an outdoor living history museum that collects, restores, and preserves buildings and artifacts from the period 1890 to 1925, re-creating a typical small town of the period when Colonel Parker built this traveling carousel, and representing the sort of communities it visited in younger days. The museum already attracts over 70,000 visitors a year, including numerous school tours. A major expansion is underway that will double the area of the museum grounds and increase annual attendance to a quarter of a million by 1992.



The carousel has suffered long-term neglect and has been exposed to the elements which has led to cracked and peeling paint, and extensive dry rot.

Could anyone imagine a happier home for a carousel?

Finding that home has been a crucial turning point in the campaign to save the carousel. With its future assured, corporate and institutional sponsors are now willing to help resolve the carousel's present difficulties. Through our "Adopt-a-Horse Campaign", corporations may pledge $10,000 apiece for the acquisition and restoration of individual horses. The most important sponsor, Van City Savings Credit Union, second largest such institution in North America, has not only adopted a horse, but has donated secretarial services, meeting space, fundraising assistance, and banking facilities for The Friends of the Vancouver Carousel Association. The British Columbia Institute of Technology has volunteered to do all the repainting of the ride and the horses, and the Painting Industry Joint Trade Board will donate all the paint!

Mayor Bill Copeland and the Burnaby Municipal Council are very encouraging, supportive, and have indicated that the municipality would undertake housing the carousel. The Government of British Columbia is considering a provincial heritage grant to cover one-third of the entire project's costs, providing we can raise the other two-thirds. It appears that there will be plenty of support for restoration and maintenance.

The most urgent problem is raising the short-term cash of $350,000 to purchase the carousel. The owners have given us until September 30th of 1990 before they send the horses to auction, so this is truly a race against time. Here in Vancouver, British Columbia, individual and corporate donations are helping but we also hope that carousel lovers everywhere will show their support and set an example that the public at large can follow. After all, the aficionados know better than anyone exactly what is at stake here. You know what a unique and irreplaceable work of art a carousel can be, and we know just how many of these fabulous creations have disappeared, or are disappearing.

In order to raise the awareness of the public here and to promote the fundraising efforts, we persuaded the owners to let us take one of the horses and have it completely restored. William Dentzel III, a familiar name to the carousel world, undertook the work. The restored horse, named "Julius", and the Burnaby Village Museum represent the vision of a happy future for this Parker Carousel. A happy future that many of you can help create. Any donation, no matter of size, can help put us across the finish line by September 30, 1990.

The Friends of the Vancouver Carousel is a registered non-profit society and can issue tax receipts if desired.

When the race is won, and the 1917 Parker Carousel is as good as new going merrily around in its new home, we hope you'll come up and pay your Northern neighbors a visit. You'll be glad you did.

The mailing address is:

Don Wrigley
c/o Burnaby Village Museum
6501 Deer Lake Ave.
Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada, V5G 3T6

Don Wrigley is President of, The Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel.

Photo: Courtesy of Burnaby Village Museum

Memories of days gone by come to life at the living history museum, Burnaby Village Museum. Guests can enjoy more than 30 outdoor and indoor displays and hand-on activities and demonstrations depicting the 1890-1925 period of life in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

FOR SALE
GOING . . . GOING . . . GONE . . .

A carousel farewell?

Kids' favorite ride at the fair is on the block

The Province Thursday, August 23, 1990

By Tom Hawthorn
Staff Reporter

A fair without tradition is a sterile amusement, a diversion without soul.

For years, a spin on the carousel has been a staple of a child's visit to the Pacific National Exhibition.

Inge Tomic first put daughter Sue on the merry-go-round in 1963, and they both brought Sue's three-year-old daughter Tara to the storied ride this week.

PNE SCHEDULE, Page 61

Staff photo by Marianne Hamilton

Colorful wooden steeds may head for the U.S. unless a rescue campaign is successful.

"It would be a shame if they took something like that away," Tomic said as her granddaughter completed her ninth turn atop a wooden steed. "You get to be a baby again."

But take it away they will. The final roundup of the 73-year-old carousel's horses is set for soon after the fair closes on Labor Day.

The carousel's owner, Toronto-based York-Hannover Corp., is determined to unload it this fall. If a local non-profit society fails to raise the company's $350,000 asking price by the end of next month, the carousel's horses will be sold at auction in New York.

"We're running out of time, but we're going to give it the old college try," says Don Wrigley of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel.

The Friends have a prospective home for the carousel at the Burnaby Village Museum, while the B.C. Institute of Technology has offered to have third-year students in its paint-and-trim shop do renovations.

The carousel's admirers are setting up a table beside the ride this weekend to solicit pledges and donations, but the nickel-and-dime campaign has so far left them about $300,000 short.

Children seem to enjoy the nearby Ball Crawl and Munchkin Mobiles as much as the merry-go-round, but no kiddyland attraction has such allure for adults.

The carousel displays the craftsmanship of a bygone age. Gilt cherubs unfurl blue bunting beneath a red-and-white canopy.

A small wooden plaque amid the filigree states: "Built by C. W. Parker, Leavenworth, Kansas." Parker, known as the Carnival King, adapted the cam that permitted horses to go up and down as well as around and around. He called his amusement a Carry-Us-All.

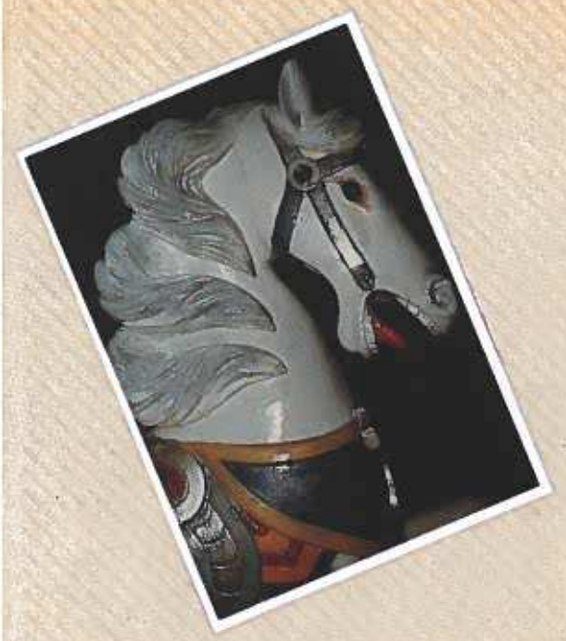
When the Vancouver carousel was built in 1917, it was powered by steam and included an organ. The organ was sold long ago and replaced by recorded calliope music. Even if the tape was played these days, it would be drowned out by the chunka-chunka of hard rock from a nearby adult ride.

But the beauty of the carousel is to be found in its 36 hand-carved horses, some of which are said to have been fashioned by Leavenworth prisoners. No two are alike. Some rear with nostrils flared, while others display flowing manes.

Even the saddles include such decorative flairs as cantles shaped like a lion's head.

But age and the elements have taken a toll. The dobbins suffer from dry rot and some have even lost their tails.

The carousel's attendants will accept their final three coupons ($1.65) sometime on Labor Day. After that, only a miracle will spare the horses that have thrilled generations from becoming little more than a rich man's plaything.



THE CAROUSEL IS SAVED!!!

Burnaby NOW

SEPTEMBER 12, 1990

Burnaby Willingdon MLA Elwood Veitch chats with Burnaby Village Museum volunteers Shirley Davies and Kay Copeland at presentation Friday.

Ric Ernst/NOW

Veitch rides to rescue

A fundraising campaign to Save the Vancouver Carousel received a boost when Burnaby Willingdon MLA Elwood Veitch presented the campaign with a $200,000 Go-Grant from the provincial government.

"It is important to recognize the significance of such items that are among the memories of our childhood," Veitch said at the ceremony at Metrotown Centre. "Those memories will be retained at our own Burnaby Village Museum."

The Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel is hoping to raise $350,000 by Sept. 30 in order to save the carousel located at Playland. It is one of two carousels in North America which were built before 1920.

Association president Don Wrigley said the provincial grant "certainly put us around the bend. We're heading for the financial post by the end of September. We still have a long, long way to go, but I think we're on the right track."

Since July 1, individual pledges have raised $31,000 for the campaign. About 1,500 families have made donations, Wrigley said. "The emotion out there is very strong indeed."

Wrigley said young children are even giving up their allowances to donate to the carousel fund.

Unless the funds can be raised, its owner York Hanover, will action off the carousel horse by horse. Each horse is valued at $10,000.

To date, the campaign has received three $10,000 donations from VanCity, DiaChem Industries and B.C. Hydro. Two $500 pledges have also been received.

In addition, B.C. Hydro has made a donation in kind to make the carousel "power smart" when it relocates at Burnaby Village Museum, Wrigley said.

Funds are still required to save the Carousel by Sept. 30. To date, $260,000 has been raised. Carousel pledges can be phoned to VanCity at 877-7000 or Burnaby Village Museum at 293-6500. Pledges can be made at any VanCity branch in the Lower Mainland.

THE MOVE IS ON!

Burnaby NOW

NOVEMBER 7, 1990

Race is on for 'finish'

The carousel horses have found a new stable.

The Friends of the Carousel saw a wish come true Friday as they took possession of the Vancouver carousel and moved it to a Burnaby warehouse for restoration.

Volunteers from West Coast Amusements (WCA), which runs Playland, gently put the wooden carousel horses into a truck and took them to an undisclosed location.

The move itself took Don Wrigley, President of Friends of the Carousel, hours of work to put together. Between problems with title to the carousel and with getting the moving crew available, Friday was the fourth moving day he had arranged.

(Cont. on P. 3)

Roustabout 'Dumptruck' hefts wooden pony to moving van Friday morning as Friends of the Carousel took possession of the ride and moved it to a secret location where more than 50 volunteers will begin work to restore the antique Parker carousel. When finished, the turn-of-the-century artifact will be placed in Burnaby's Heritage Village.

Ward Perrin/NOW

Carousel 'Friends' take possession

Cont. from P. 1

But when the time came, the move clipped along with near-military precision, a tribute, perhaps, to Wrigley's service in the navy.

"If you're not there, the ship sails, and it's an awfully long swim to catch it," Wrigley said.

The crew of eight men ("roustabouts") from WCA arrived at the Playland storage area ready to work at 9:50 a.m., and the truck was parked ready to take on horses at 10:05 — Wrigley had scheduled things for 10 sharp.

Also on hand were Venus Solano and several other volunteers, including Mayor Bill Copeland, and Nick Volkow, head of the parks commission.

The horses, which weigh between 75 and 100 pounds apiece, were carried to the truck in peoples' arms and were wrapped in blankets before being tucked into the truck. It's unlikely any flesh-and-blood horse has ever been treated so tenderly.

And from the looks of the carousel horses, it's been a while since most of them were babied. If looks are anything to go by, the restoration task will be a daunting one.

Except for the two which have been restored, the horses so lovingly carted away were in need of more than a little sprucing up.

Some horses were missing one or more legs — one had none at all. Others were missing their tails, or had had them sawn off at mid-length.

On some horses, the paint had rubbed away to expose the intricate wood joinery underneath. On others, wide horizontal cracks showed.

One of the cracked horses had at one time been "restored" by having hundreds of eighth- to quarter-inch wooden dowels pounded into the cracks.

It made Keith Jamieson wince. Jamieson is a carousel horse fanatic who worked on restoring the Expo '86 merry-go-round. He has agreed to oversee the restoration of Burnaby's newest pride and joy, and he worried over the move more than all the others present put together.

Jamieson explained that not only did dowelling make the cracks even wider (it forces the wood apart), but the dowels had been smeared with glue, so when they are removed they could well take chunks of the original wood with them.

Still, the work to come will be a labour of love for the 50-plus group of volunteers Don Wrigley has moulded into a fighting force.

Wrigley's troops are currently phoning the 2,200 people who pledged money to purchase the carousel. If all the pledges are honored, the Friends of the Carousel society will have enough to pay back Burnaby for the transaction.

If you owe a pledge, Wrigley asks that when you send your cheque you indicate on a separate piece of paper that you are honoring a pledge. If you didn't pledge but still want to support the project, the restoration process is going to require large infusions of cash, so Wrigley asks that you be generous.

Please send cheques for pledges and donations to 6502 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3T6. Or even simpler, you can drop into any branch of Vancouver City Savings, and tell them your cheque is for deposit to the Friends of the Carousel account.

Now photographer Ward Perrin caught this unusual view of the carousel horses Friday, during move to a Burnaby warehouse where restoration of the antique merry-go-round will be undertaken over the next year.

Strip show at museum

Burnaby Village Museum will be the site of a strip show this and every weekend until Dec. 16.

The Friends of the Carousel have moved two of the merry-go-round horses to be restored into the basement of the museum's Seaforth School to have the work started on them.

The first job, naturally enough,

By MARGOT BARTON

is stripping the old paint off the horses.

"We'll be using paint stripper and hand-removing the old paint," said Keith Jamieson, who will be overseeing the restoration project.

Jamieson has found a paint stripper, 3-Ms Safest Stripper, that is environmentally friendly and safe to use indoors, so the public will be welcome to watch.

It takes about 40 hours of work to strip the paint from a carousel horse.

"We use popsicle sticks and almost surgical tools on the very delicate bits," Jamieson said. "That way we can dig out the little areas and not harm the wood.

"If you don't do it right, you can eradicate some of the delicate carving."

Once stripped, the horses will have their woodwork repaired, and then be painted.

The Friends will be demonstrating how much is going to be involved in the restoration — acquiring the carousel from Playland was the first step, not the last.

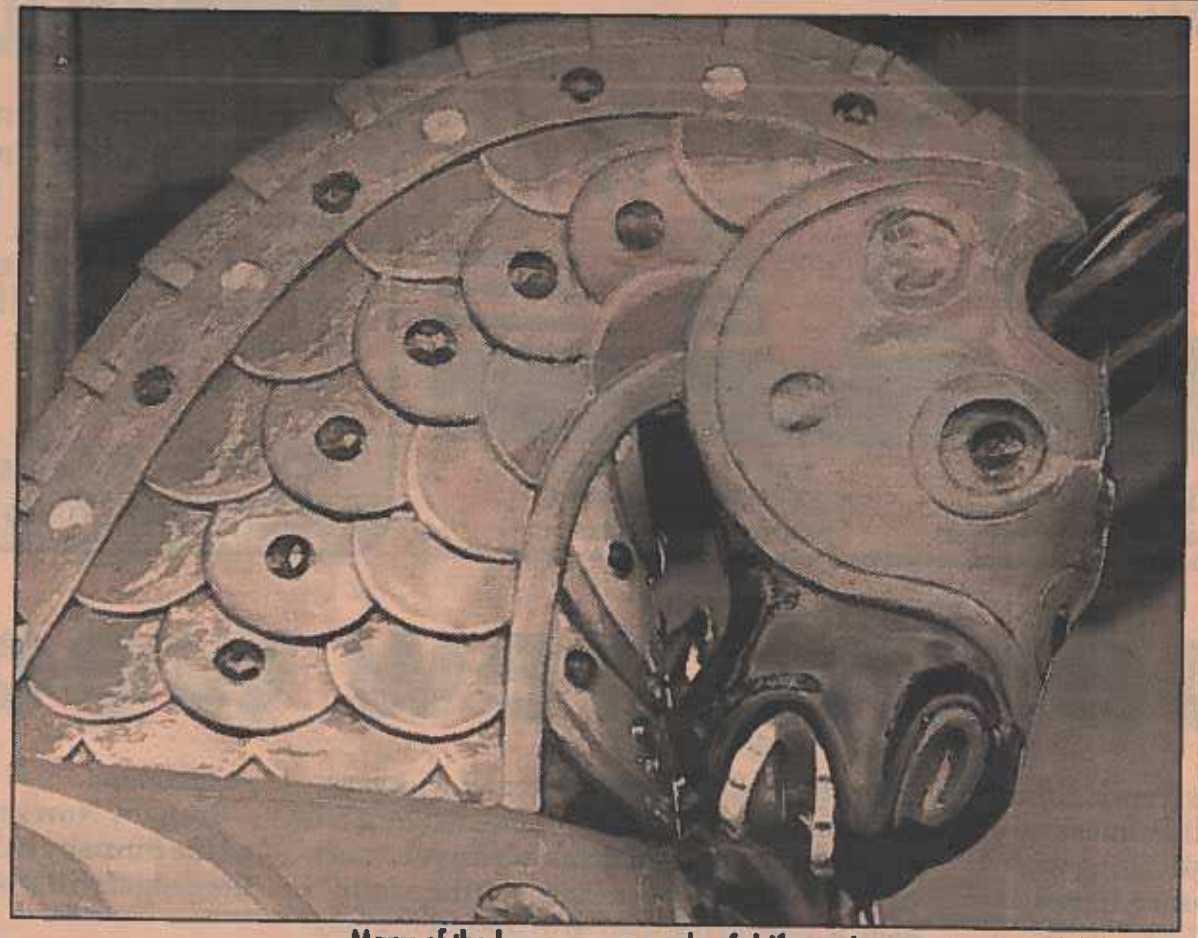
The next four weekends are what Friends president Don Wrigley calls "another opportunity to continue donating" to the carousel project.

Once restored, the carousel will be a permanent fixture of Burnaby Village Museum.

The carousel itself is a C. W. Parker, named after Parker, the carnival king of his day. Many of the horses were carved out of the driftwood he picked up along the Mississippi while on his travels.

A 1917 model, it fits in perfectly with the 1890-1925 theme of the Village. Some of the horses predate 1917.

People who have pledged money to the project, or those who want to contribute to the restoration project, are asked to send their cheques, payable to the Friends of the Carousel, to the Friends of the Carousel, c/o Burnaby Village Museum, 6502 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3T6.



Many of the horses were made of driftwood. Paul Clarke/NOW

RESTORATION EFFORTS BEGIN

Burnaby NOW

FEBRUARY 10 1991

Paint comes off ponies

The Friends of the Carousel have begun its hands-on restoration of the former PNE carousel.

Every weekend, the swelling ranks of volunteers assemble at the work-site and get on with the painstaking job of the first step, paint stripping.

"Last Sunday, we had 24 vol-

By MARGOT BARTON

unteers out," said Don Wrigley, president of the Friends. "We had four people working on one horse at one point."

But the amount of work required is daunting.

As Keith Jamieson, the man who will be overseeing restoration, explained at an orientation meeting late January, the horses were all "dip-stripped" by the previous owners about a decade ago.

That process of immersing the horses in hot liquid caustic solution caused deep damage to many of the herd, as the stripping solution dissolved some of the glue holding the horses together and then stayed in the wood seams, even after repainting. That means it has been slowly eating away at the wood and joiner for 10 years or more.

But Jamieson has techniques for dealing with the problems ahead and the volunteers number among them several skilled woodworkers, so they will be well able to meet the challenge of restoration.

Once the woodwork has been done, the painters will take over. The carousel will be painted with as close to original colors as possible.

To that end, the Friends have contacted all other owners of Parker brand carousels and are trying to match the original colors used as closely as possible. Because the horses were dip-stripped, it is impossible to look at earlier layers of paint for colors, but information-pooling should help.

The Parker factory has no remaining records, so it can't be consulted for information on stock colors.

All this work is not cheap. Even though 3-M is donating the expensive but environmentally- and people-friendly paint stripper Safest Stripper and Lumberland has donated all the wood and fasteners needed to make saw horses and work tables, the restoration project will cost big dollars—if it were being done professionally, it would cost over $200,000.

After raising more than $300,000 for the carousel purchase, the Friends still need to collect about $40,000, some of which will pay the provincial sales tax.

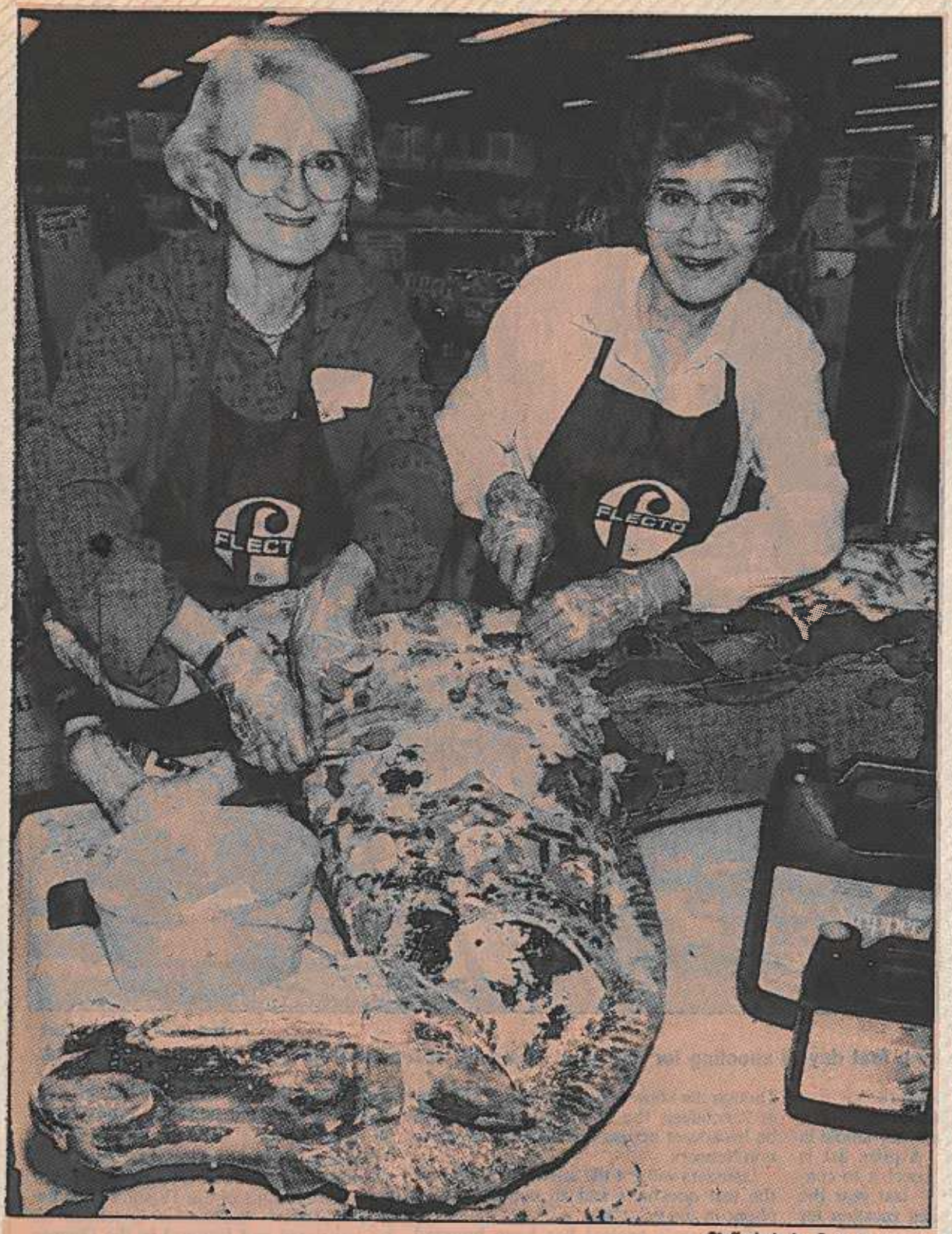
To donate to the restoration of the carousel, mail your tax-deductible cheque to Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, V5G 3T6. Starting now donors will be issued a tax receipt on the spot.

Keith Jamieson, R, who will oversee the extensive project to restore PNE Carousel horses to their former glory, points out the fine details of the horses to the more than 30 volunteers who turned out at the worksite. Ward Perrin/NOW

DIRTY WORK

After handing over $133,333 cheque to Friends of the Carousel Saturday, MLA Elwood Veitch rolled up his sleeves and tried a little paint stripping on carousel horses which are being restored. The money is two-thirds of a GO B.C. grant enabling the society to buy the carousel. The last payment is due when project is completed.

Chung Chow/NOW



Staff photo by Greg Osadchuk

A horse of, uh, different colors

At Lougheed Lumberland yesterday, Elsie Gordon, left, and Anna King scrape paint from a wooden horse, one of 36 from a Pacific National Exhibition ride undergoing restoration. Gordon and King are from Burnaby Museum's Friends of the Carousel.

Friends rally to save historic carousel

WHEN THE PLAYLAND carousel stopped at the Pacific National Exhibition, the memories didn't, so the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel, private firms and the provincial government came to the rescue.

Since at least 1947, the whimsical horses of the carousel have been entertaining children, moms, dads and grandparents.

That all ended in 1989 because the carousel was in bad shape and required expensive repairs to keep it operating. It was destined for the auction block in New York City.

In stepped the Friends. At the 11th hour before the auction deadline, the friends secured financing of $330,000 and bought the carousel.

The financing included 2,400 private donations, bridge financing from the city of Burnaby, a $200,000 GO BC grant from the provincial government, and a commitment of time, expertise and restoration materials from private companies and individuals.

The carousel, built in 1917, is one of just 250 wooden machines still functional. There were 4,000 built in North America between 1880 and 1930.

It has 36 hand-carved horses, each with a unique character.

"There are a lot of memories. A lot of the volunteers who are working on the machine have ridden on it and fell in love with a favorite horse a long time ago," says Keith Jamieson, president of Brass Ring Ventures Ltd.

Jamieson has volunteered his time and expertise in the carnival business to manage the carousel restoration. The 3M Company, General Paint and Lumberland are also sponsors.

"Within 10 years, this machine will be worth $1 million," says Jamieson. A single carousel animal from another machine – a hand-carved rooster – fetched a record $148,000 at auction in 1990.

Don Wrigley, president of the Friends of the Carousel, says the restoration will be completed by the spring of 1992 and the carousel will be installed in its new home at the Burnaby Village Museum. ❑

BC News

BC
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NEWS

May 1991

Project manager Keith Jamieson works on horse from carousel.

History being preserved

Barry Blomskog is co-ordinating the volunteer effort to restore the carousel.

By MARGOT BARTON

Burnaby NOW Staff reporter

Barry Blomskog is earning his 15 minutes of fame every Saturday.

The 48-year-old professional furniture restorer is second-in-command of the carousel restoration project, commanding and instructing his troops every Saturday at the secret warehouse, code-named Jenny.

"We're all going to get our 15 minutes of glory, like old 'what's-his-name' said. While we're giving something back to society, knowing it's going to be there long after we're gone makes it all the better."

"This is a hands-on thing that you'll never get to do again. It's just a marvellous thing."

These are powerful words for a man who swore he'd never again get involved in a volunteer venture. "I'm not much for volunteering. I coached soccer for seven years, and that cured me. But I'm meeting great people and doing what I love."

It isn't the first time Blomskog has worked on part of a carousel. He restored the two carousel horses in mining magnate Edgar Kaiser's collection several years ago.

When they read about the Friends of the Carousel last fall, both Barry and Colleen decided to check out the situation. They haven't looked back. "Colleen is totally involved in it," Blomskog says proudly. "As she got into it, now you couldn't tear her away if you tried."

That kind of enthusiasm is the norm throughout the corps of volunteers, most of whom are women. One of the reasons is that volunteers don't just get stuck with the paint scraping, but get to do the more glamorous jobs as well.

"I work under a philosophy of whoever starts, they do all the jobs all the way through. If you start it, you do all the work. We've got no prima-donnas."

The project is a good one for student restorers, because Blomskog is adamant that virtually all the work be done by hand. "We use no power sanders, no rasps, no skilsaws."

Whereas an error with a power saw could cause the decapitation of a horse, a slip with a screwdriver being used to extract paint from delicate carvings can just cause a small gouge.

Now that almost all the paint stripping is done — ahead of schedule — Blomskog and his team have started in on the physical repairs.

Over the years, the former owners of the carousel did rough and ready work.

"You find two dozen spikes holding a leg on," Bolmskog laments.

By the time they are done, all the horses will be held together with wooden dowels and glue. The wide longitudinal cracks will be clamped, shimmed, glued and sanded down.

The fibreglass used by some maintenance person years ago will all be gone. And every inch of every horse will be hand-sanded.

The Friends of the Carousel are still raising funds to complete paying for the purchase of the carousel and the provincial sales tax, and to start the fund for the building which will eventually house the carousel at Burnaby Village Museum.

Donations are tax-deductible, with tax receipts issued immediately. Donations of more than $25 will be acknowledged with the gift of a gorgeous full-color poster of carousel horse "Belle," stripped of old paint and awaiting her new colors.

Donations can be sent to the Friends care of Burnaby Village Museum, 6502 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, V5G 3T6. Or you can call Friends of the Carousel society president Don Wrigley, Burnaby's citizen of the year, at 521-5569.

Larry Wright/NOW

Barry Blomskog at work on the carousel restoration project.

FEATURES/ARTS

Full color poster is what you get when you donate $25 or more to Save the Carousel fund at Burnaby Village Museum. The photography, art work and printing bill were all donated to the Society. Now if you are one of those who has already made a donation and it is more than $25, bring your receipt and pick up your copy. 5,000 were printed.

STILL FUNDRAISING

BURNABY NOW, JUNE 19, 1991

Carousel donation

Larry Wright/NOW

Burnaby South Secondary school student council representatives brought a smile to Harry Sumner (right), vice-president of the Friends of the Carousel restoration project, with a $1,500 donation on behalf of the '91 grads. In honor of their donation, one of the restored horses will be named Rebel, the name used by the school's sports teams.

BURNABY NOW SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1991

Carousel home

The 1917 Parker Carousel is getting a $1.5 million home in beside the Burnaby Village Museum.

Plans for a Carousel House with viewing and display areas are being fast-tracked in order to complete construction in time for Burnaby's Centennial.

"This is something that's really captured the imaginations of the citizens of Burnaby," an elated parks commissioner Merrill Gordon said after the building plans were approved this week.

When finished, the 36-horse carousel will become a destination spot for school field trips and possibly a site for children's birthday parties, said parks director Dennis Gaunt.

The carousel has arrived in Burnaby as the result of a $350,000 fundraising effort to save the former PNE Playland merry-go-round from the clutches of a New York auction house.

Don Wrigley, selected the Outstanding Burnaby Citizen of the Year in 1990, chaired the Friends of the Carousel Society, which brought the feature attraction to the museum.

The Carousel House will be decorated to reflect the turn-of the-century era of the attraction and will be designed to allow riders to imagine they are riding through the park.

Public donations will be sought to offset construction costs.

Burnaby NOW

Vol. 4 No. 26 25¢ NEWSSTAND JUNE 30, 1991 YOUR CANADIAN-OWNED COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Carousel collector

Ric Ernst/NOW

Keith Jamieson stands beside "Warrior", one of his carousel horses.

HISTORY SAVED

Preservation of carousels is more than a hobby to Keith Jamieson

By THERESA McMANUS

Burnaby NOW reporter

For Keith Jamieson, carousels are not only a hobby, they are a way of life.

His gold wedding ring depicts animals on a carousel. His office at work is decorated with a full-size carousel horse, a miniature horse, and prints of carousels and amusement parks. His home houses an assortment of carousel collectables.

"I always wanted to have a horse in our house," says Jamieson. "I satisfied that. It just got carried away."

Jamieson is the project manager of the restoration to the carousel purchased by the Friends of the Carousel last year. He and his wife Pat have been involved in the merry-go-round business for 10 years. They buy and sell carousel art, do minor and major restoration projects on carousels, do consulting and appraisals, and organize carnival promotions.

The couple were on their way back to Portland from a skiing trip at Mount Hood when they spotted a sign advertising the 1982 national carousel convention in Portland.

"We decided to sign up and go," he recalls.

They haven't looked back. They travel to conventions all across North America, buying everything from cups to full-size carousel pieces.

"At these conventions there are all kinds of seminars on restoration. Basically, that's how we learned the carousel business."

Jamieson says he was fortunate enough to meet and spend a couple of hours working with Barney Illions, one of the last living legends from the original carousel families, who together built up to 6,000 carousels between 1850 and 1930.

Jamieson says carousel pieces are not cheap. For example, in 1989 a

Please see **HISTORY** on pg. 4

HISTORY

Continued from page one

rooster sold for $148,000 US in New York City.

"We bought our first horse for $750. Today the least expensive horse you can find is in the $7,000 range."

One rule that is closely followed is not to name any carousel piece they plan to sell. It is hard to give up a piece once it has been named, he says.

"If we give them a name, we keep them. We have pieces that we just won't sell. You do get attached to them."

Although carousels generally conjure images of horses, all different animals are found on carousels. "Our own personal favorite is Mortimer the rabbit. Each carousel horse is totally different. Each horse has its own personality."

The Jamiesons first carousel purchase was a horse named Old Paint which they bought in 1981.

Jamieson is not alone in his love of carousels: Pat restores pieces and documents all of the couple's collection.

"I don't think you could do this if your spouse would not allow you to have carousel animals all over the house," he smiles.

In addition to their 15 carousel animals, the Jamiesons have a collection of original prints, oil paints and lithographs on carousels. "You could say we are into it," he says.

The amusement business has been of interest to Jamieson since his days at the University of Toronto. "I put myself through university working with Conklin Shows. They are a travelling carnival I used to work for in the summertime."

Today, the Jamiesons offer promotions and carnival activities through their company Brass Ring Ventures Ltd. Jamieson, vice-president of marketing and sales for Web Press Graphics Ltd., says his company is supportive of his interest in carousels.

"Web Press is very supportive of me putting my time out for this. Everybody gets infected here," says Jamieson, adding that employees have bought books on carousels and have donated to the Friends of the Carousel.

Jamieson enjoys seeing carousels kept together, but says they should be sold to individual collectors if they are not going to be cared for. "I play both sides of the fence."

Carousels are revolving platforms of art, he says. "People are starting to appreciate that these are works of art."

Jamieson has fond memories of carousels dating back to his youth. "When I was a kid I used to go to Crystal Beach, Ontario. That was my favorite amusement park. I used to go there every summer, and there was a tiger there that I used to ride all the time."

The tiger was sold when the carousel was broken up, but he couldn't afford to buy it. "I think he's in Texas. I want to find him. I want to buy him."

Carousels appeal to most people, he says. "I think it brings back memories. It brings back a time when things were simpler. Carousels are like motherhood. They are real tough to attack."

Carousel restoration project is proceeding

The Friends of the Carousel restoration project is proceeding on schedule.

Project Manager Keith Jamieson says the 36 carousel animals are presently broken down into 500 pieces on the floor of the restoration project workshop.

"We have the time so we are doing a full-quality museum restoration. This piece is in much worse condition than I thought it was. It is probably the worst (entire carousel) I've ever seen, and I've seen a lot of them," Jamieson says.

Carousel animals are not carved from a single piece of wood, but are composed of several pieces glued together.

All of the joints on the 36 horses are loose, he says.

Dipstripping processes and leaving the carousel out in the rain have wreaked havoc on the animals, Jamieson says. In addition, the mechanical parts all have to be replaced.

"If I had known about this, I might have though twice about this (project). I was warned that it would be a mammoth task to bring it to completion. I disregarded that. They needed help. Their hearts were really in it. I saw the professional work they paid for and it wasn't worth it."

If Jamieson were not volunteering for the project, his bill alone would be about $200,000.

"The volunteers we've got are far better than I ever thought or could imagine. They are very dedicated.

"The volunteers we've got are far better than I ever thought or could imagine."

– Keith Jamieson

Most of the volunteers have never worked on a carousel before but they are so enthusiastic. They are doing absolutely fabulous work," he says.

"We're doing it in a special way. We do everything by hand. Everything is done in the traditional manner. We don't want to eradicate any of the original carving."

Although the process results in 300 hours of work per horse, it will ensure that the original carvings are preserved.

THE RESTORATION OF THE BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM C.W. PARKER CAROUSEL

by Pat Jamieson

In September 1990, The Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel and the Burnaby Corporation successfully acquired at a cost of $330,000 (Canadian) a beautiful but sadly neglected C.W. Parker (#119) after a two-year rescue mission led by dedicated volunteers.

On Friday, November 2, 1990, under the watchful eyes of Don Wrigley, President of the Association, and Past President, Venus Solano (the carousel's number one supporter from the start), several volunteer "roustabouts" from West Coast Amusements Ltd. (WCA) gently loaded the horses and machinery into a WCA truck for the move to an interim location to be restored. Other volunteers and several Burnaby politicians were also present for the move which clipped along in the rain with military precision.

The interim location for the carousel is a large, heated warehouse made available to the group by the Municipality of Burnaby, British Columbia for restoration purposes. All costs of maintaining this building for the duration of restoring the merry-go-round will be absorbed by the Municipality. The support of Mayor Bill Copeland, Aldermen and staff, has been outstanding. Not only is the warehouse perfectly suited for the restoration process but is located in a tranquil parklike setting on the waterfront of Burrard Inlet.

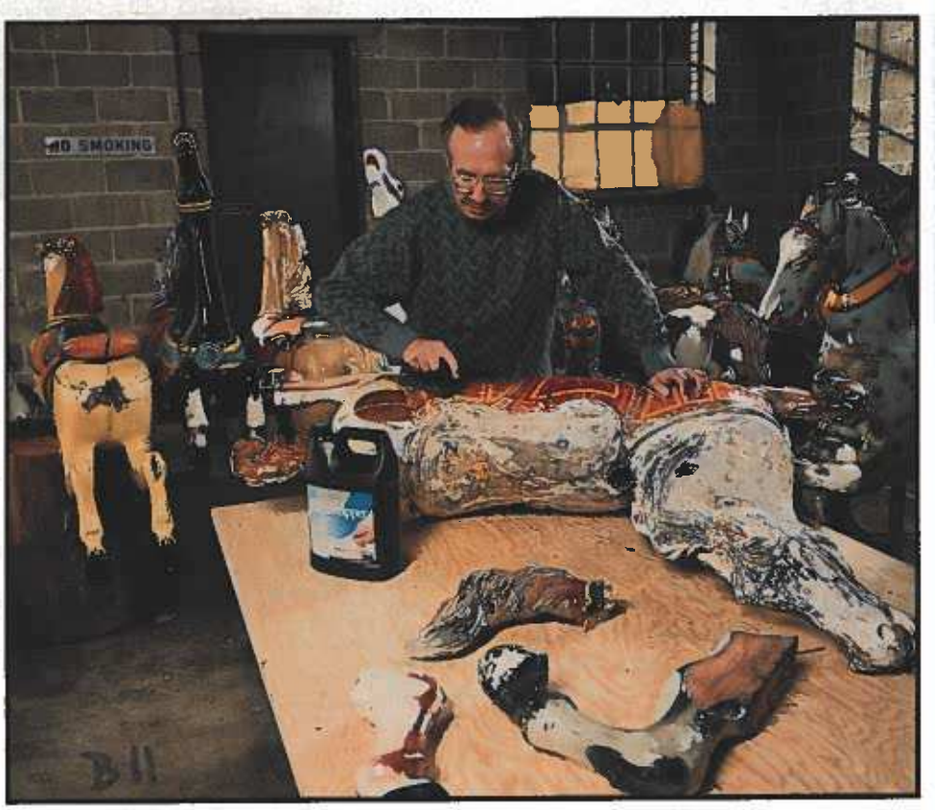
The carousel, manufactured by C.W. Parker Company, has 36 horses (all jumpers) in a mixture of carving styles, and two small chariots each pulled by three small metal horses. Most of the horses are carved in the outstretched galloping style, some with American Beauty Rose decorations. However, a few of the horses have heads and trappings very similar to Stein & Goldstein factory carvings. The latest information indicates that this machine was operated at "Playland" Amusement Park on the Pacific National Exhibition grounds in Vancouver, B.C. since 1936 and may have been purchased that year from someone in San Francisco.

Under the leadership of Project Manager, Keith Jamieson, President of Brass Ring Ventures Ltd., a group of approximately fifty volunteers began the restoration process in January. In addition to being members of the National Carousel Association since 1982, Keith and his wife, Pat, have restored a variety of carousel animals and currently own a large (by Canadian standards) selection of amusement park art and memorabilia. In addition to their restoration work, their company played a key coordinating and negotiating role in bringing to Expo '86 the magnificent 1907 PTC #15 carousel, owned and operated by Duane and Carol Perron and the International Museum of Carousel Art in Portland, Oregon.

Working weekends from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on a drop-in basis, under the guidance of Keith and Coordinator Barry Blomskog (another person with previous restoration experience), volunteers have been busy stripping paint off the horses, scenery panels, and other pieces of the machine. Fortunately, the 3-M Company has donated gallons of their environmentally and people-friendly paint stripper "Safest Stripper", and one of Western Canada's largest building supply retailers, "Lumberland", has donated all the wood and fasteners needed to make saw horses and work tables.

Unfortunately the carousel figures had all been dip-stripped by the previous owners about ten years ago so there is no hope of documenting or restoring any original paint. At present most of the horses have been carefully hand stripped down to the bare wood stage, and repairing, sanding and filling, also by hand, has begun. The group is using a fairing epoxy compound as filler. As well, among the volunteers are several skilled woodcarvers who are carving the many legs, tails, ears and other missing or damaged body parts that need replacing.

A professional photographer, Barry Rowland, has carefully photographed each horse from both sides charging developing costs only. Another volunteer artist, Valerie Pugh, will now use those photographs to make line drawings for planning and later documenting paint colors. General Paints has agreed to donate all painting supplies. The restoration group is currently seeking information about the Parker factory's original painting methods and colors.



Project leader Keith Jamieson demonstrates correct paint stripping techniques. Photo, Derrick Norris, Looking Good Studio.

"Strip Show at Lumberland": Keith Jamieson, Marni Abbot and Juanita Hadwin demonstrate stripping process and solicit public donations at a local building materials retail outlet. Photo Don Wrigley.

Parker horses at warehouse location, stripped and ready for filling and sanding. Photo Keith Jamieson

with some horses predating 1917, will fit in beautifully.

Fund raising efforts to date have included "strip-shows" at local stores, shopping centers and at the Museum itself. A casino night was held with good success. Publicity from the local community newspapers has been tremendous and there have been several local TV and radio news spots. Anyone donating $25.00 or more will receive a spectacular poster of a partially stripped horse, suitable for framing. Corporations and individuals are being actively solicited for funds. Sponsorship of a horse will allow one to name it and the sponsor's name will be engraved on a plaque commemorating the gift.

Of course, the Association needs a lot of money to ensure this beautiful carousel is restored to its former glory and operating at its magnificent new home. Any donation, no matter the size, will help achieve this goal. The Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel is a registered non-profit society and will automatically issue a Canadian tax receipt.

The Association is also interested in hearing from anyone who might have any information on the history of this machine prior to its arrival in Vancouver in 1936.

If you have any information for the "Friends", or if you would like to make a donation, the mailing address is:

Don Wrigley, President
The Lower Mainland Assn. of the
Friends of the Vancouver Carousel
c/o Burnaby Village Museum
6501 Deer Lake Avenue
Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5G 3T6

Checks should be made out to "Friends Of The Carousel". Expected restoration completion date is the Spring of 1992, at which time the carousel will be moved to the Museum grounds and merry-go-round lovers everywhere will once more be able to ride this wonderful treasure from the past, hopefully during Burnaby's 1992 Centennial Celebration.

While time and material donations have been exceedingly generous so far, the rest of the project will cost big dollars. In addition to funds required to purchase further restoration supplies, the Friends of the Carousel Association is trying to raise money to complete paying back the purchase price to the Burnaby Corporation; also to help design and built appropriate housing for the machine at its eventual location on the grounds of the Burnaby Village Museum. The Museum actually recreates a small town with an 1890-1925 theme by restoring and preserving buildings and artifacts from that period. The 1917 model Parker carousel,

Volunteer Bill Hale hard at work preparing a leg joint for filling. Photo, Keith Jamieson

BURNABY NOW, JULY 31, 1991

Craig Sleik/NOW

Burnaby Mayor Bill Copeland and the mayor of our twin city in South Korean, Toshiyuki Kazuko, inspect the fine craftsmanship in one of the Friends of the Carousel Society's restored carousel horses. The society also had something new to show both mayors. See details on page 2.

Carousel now has an organ

By THERESA McMANUS

Burnaby NOW reporter

A carousel without music is like a steak and kidney pie minus the kidneys, says Don Wrigley, president of the Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel.

"A carousel without a band organ is not a carousel," Wrigley says.

This particular organ stands six-feet high and seven-feet wide, and weighs in at 900-lbs.

Dave Zeffert, who sits on the association's board of directors, agrees with Wrigley's line of thinking.

"It adds to the excitement and fun of riding a carousel. Even with taped music it would not be as fascinating and interesting," Zeffert says.

"This is music that is actually created by an early computer that plays. There is nothing like the real thing."

The association recently purchased a 1925 Wurlitzer military band organ in Spokane, Washington.

"The Wurlitzer is the most collectible and most appreciated band organ. It's a big name," Zeffert says.

"There's not many around. There are only one or two sold each year in the United States. We were lucky to find it this close."

According to a copy of the original manufacturer's records, the organ is one of only eight built in 1925. "Ours has a set of zylophone bells which is what the 146B (model) has," Zeffert says.

The organ plays foxtrots, waltzes and marches on special band organ music rolls, with each roll containing thousands of different songs.

"Our unit has twin roll changes. It can play continuously," Zeffert says.

"It has 105 wooded organ pipes including flute, violin, trumpet, trombone and bass pipes."

Although the model purchased is similar to other models built, Zeffert says this model has a character of its own.

In addition to the 105 pipes, the organ also is equipped with a bass drum, a snare drum, a cymbal and zylophone bells. "So it's a whole orchestra," he says.

The association is in the process of trying to buy additional rolls, Zeffert says. "Seven came with it but we would like to buy another 50."

The organ, which sold for $1,350 in 1925, was purchased for $25,000, what Zeffert thinks is a sound investment for Friends of the Carousel.

"They never go down in price. They climb and climb."

The rolls sold for $15 each in 1925 and can still be purchased at that price when bought in bulk.

Craig Sleik/NOW

MUCH MUSIC: The Carousel tunes produced by the Friends of the Carousel's newest acquisition, a 1925 Wurlitzer military band organ, is applauded by Burnaby Mayor Bill Copeland and visiting South Korean dignitaries Mrs. Tagashira and Mayor Toshiyuki Kazuko.

"These band organ rolls are similar to player piano rolls which are an early form of computer because it read the holes in the paper," Zeffert says.

"The whole machine is run by air pressure."

The self-contained organ will probably be located on the outside perimeters of the carousel where it can be prominently displayed.

Meanwhile, planning and restoration of the carousel itself continues to progress towards being operational for Burnaby's Centennial.

Carousel target: Sept. '92

By THERESA McMANUS

Burnaby NOW reporter

The Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Carousel is fast-tracking to be ready by September of 1992 to participate in Burnaby's Centennial celebrations.

"It's a long time off, but there is a lot to do," said association president Don Wrigley.

"We need money. We need volunteers. It's coming. All the pieces are there, it is just a matter of locking them all together."

The project is proceeding "more or less" on schedule, he said, as restoration, housing, and fundraising continue to be the association's main pursuits.

"We still need more volunteers because we are under a deadline now to get this thing up and running in time for the Centennial celebration," he said.

Restoration of the horses is being conducted at a warehouse in North Burnaby. Volunteers work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends, and 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays.

No experience is required to volunteer for the restoration project.

"We will take basically anyone who is willing to help. We have professional people there who will show them what to do. Anyone who is motivated to help, we are willing to see them," Wrigley said.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 213 has offered to provide its professional expertise at no cost. Burnaby-based Bemister Electric Ltd. has offered to supervise the electrical work.

In addition, BC Hydro has contacted its supplier, who will be providing sockets, lamps, breakers, outlets and assorted electrical supplies.

Housing for the carousel is also moving forward. "We have seen the drawings (and) the architect is on-stream. It will be going out to tender sometime within the next month or two," Wrigley said.

The association is hoping to see construction of the carousel's housing begin in January 1992. That project is expected to take eight months.

Housing for the carousel will contain concessions, gallery area, restrooms and a terrace. "It's going to be quite a structure," Wrigley said.

As for fundraising, Wrigley ascertained it will require about $40,000 to $50,000 to complete the carousel restoration.

This will cover the cost of recasting of the gears, providing a floor for the carousel, and installing brass poles for holding onto.

"We are hoping to get brass poles. It enhances the ride. It is just ordinary steel at the moment. We are also hoping to install a hardwood floor on the carousel."

Volunteers of the Friends of the Carousel will attend various local functions where they hope to raise funds for the project.

Two carousel horses will be on display at the Burnaby Village Museum on Sept. 21 and 22. A carver will be on hand to demonstrate the carving process and some machinery will be on site to demonstrate the mechanical aspects of the carousel.

Visitors to the museum can have their picture taken with the horses for $5.

The association is also developing a corporate sponsorship package to solicit financial support over the next two months, Wrigley said.

Individuals who donate $1,000 and groups who donate $1,500 to the association can name a horse. Corporations paying $2,500 can name an inside horse, corporations paying $5,000 can name a centre horse, and corporations paying $7,500 can name an outside horse.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Carousel received an award for the best exhibit by a first time exhibitor at the Pacific National Exhibition.

CITY OF PORT MOODY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DAVID T. DRISCOLL

September 3, 1991

Mayor W. Copeland and Members of Council
District of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 1M2

Bill & Co.

Dear Mayor Copeland and Council Members:

I have attached a copy of an article that appeared in "The Carousel News", July, 1991. I subscribe to the journal in support of my carving hobby. The Carousel News is the "journal of record" for anything to do with the history, methods, art and trade of carousels.

Bill, you and your Council can be very proud of this venture which seems so well supported in the community. I don't know what the debate was in Council, but I am sure that your collective foresight in backing this initiative will long be praised.

The "photo ops" of a "Mayor among mares" is possible. Some other horse descriptions are ... stargazers, listeners, prancers, standers. I don't know who on Council any of those names would suit.

Cheers!

David Driscoll
Mayor

cc: Friends of the Carousel
Burnaby Village Museum

2425 ST. JOHNS STREET, PORT MOODY, B.C. TELEPHONE (604) 936-7211 FAX (604) 936-9830

GENERAL H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF'S REPLY TO MARJORIE STEVENS' LETTER ADVISING HIM SHE HAD NAMED ONE OF THE HORSES AFTER HIM

September 17, 1991

Dear Ms. Stevens,

Thank you very much for your letter and the photographs. It looks like you have your work cut out for you to bring "Stormin Norman" back to his full glory. I'm sure the full carousel will be a thing of beauty when it's completed next year.

Again, thank you for writing and best wishes for a successful restoration effort.

Sincerely,

H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF
General, U.S. Army, Retired

Ms. Marjorie Stevens
809 Sawcut Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4A2
Canada

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, USA (Ret.)
United States Central Command
MacDill AFB, FL 33608-7001

FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS

MS. MARJORIE STEVENS
809 SAWCUT AVENUE
VANCOUVER, BC
V5Z 4A2
CANADA

KEITH ACCEPTING N.C.A. CHEQUE
FROM CHARLIE JACQUES

National Carousel Association

Devoted to the Preservation of the Classic Carousel

October 17, 1991

Charles J. Jacques, Jr.
President

Friends of the Vancouver Carousel
c/o Keith Jamieson
5789 St Giles Road
West Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V7S 1L7

Re: Restoration of Parker Carousel

Gentlemen:

The National Carousel Association is pleased to announce that at it recent meeting in Sandusky, Ohio, it voted to give $1,000.00 from its preservation fund toward the restoration of the Vancouver Parker Carousel. Your carousel is an important historic landmark. There are now fewer than 170 antique handcarved carousels remaining in North America.

This carousel was originally carved by C.W. Parker in Kansas. It was made around the turn-of-the-century and after many years it was finally placed at the Pacific National Exhibition Plan in Vancouver. The citizens of Vancouver, British Columbia, and all of Canada should be proud that they own and are preserving this historically significant carousel.

A check for $1,000.00 made payable to the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Jacques, Jr.
President

P.O. Box 157 • Natrona Heights • Pennsylvania 15065 • (412) 226-1178

BURNABY NOW SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1991

Carousel bonus

A party held to celebrate the 40th birthday for Burnaby Ald. Derek Corrigan produced a welcome bonus for Friends of the Carousel.

Invitations sent out for the Nov. 22 gathering requested that party-goers make donations to the association instead of giving gifts to Corrigan, said Don Wrigley, carousel association president.

"It was quite an enjoyable evening," said Wrigley.

Close to 100 people attended the birthday party, which raised $1,120 for the carousel restoration.

"We managed to con my friends out of $1,000," Corrigan said. "I was trying to avoid all those strange t-shirts and mugs, and cans of prunes."

Corrigan said the carousel project is one that is "significant to the Centennial. It's something that I have been working on quietly, one that has a lot of community support. It's also one where people are putting in hard labor to make it happen."

Assisting the Friends of the Carousel provided a personal bonus for Corrigan. "It makes me feel better about turning 40, which is depressing enough."

Volunteers have donated about 7,000 hours to the restoration of the 1912 Parker Carousel.

The carousel, which will be located at Burnaby Village Museum when completed, is scheduled to be fully restored and operational by September 1992.

Donations to the carousel restoration campaign can be done through Friends of the Carousel, c/o Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby B.C., V5G 3T6.

BURNABY NOW SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1991

Carousel booster

Burnaby NOW editor Barry Gerding (left) holds up Canadian Community Newspapers Association award for finishing second in the community service category among papers of similar circulation from across Canada. The award was based on the editorial coverage and corporate support given to the Save the Carousel campaign in Burnaby. Standing with Gerding are (from left) Friends of the Carousel president Don Wrigley, Burnaby Village Museum director John Mitchell and Burnaby NOW publisher Derrick Chamberlain. The carousel project continues to move along with construction of a new building, currently at the planning stage, at the museum site anticipated to be completed by next September. Donations to the carousel project can be made to Friends of the Carousel c/o Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3T6.

BURNABY NOW SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1991

Photo/NOW files

Carousel worker Keith Jamieson explains the restoration process to members of the public.

People best part of 'labor of love'

Working on the carousel involves a lot of dedication, but it is a labor of love for volunteers of the Friends of the Carousel.

"The proudest day is going to be the day we push the button," says Harry Sumner, vice-president and volunteer coordinator.

Sumner says people are the best part of volunteering for the association.

"The atmosphere is extremely friendly. They keep coming back weekend after weekend," says Barry Blomskog, one of the supervisors of the restoration.

Volunteers' skills have progressed throughout the restoration project, he says. "Everybody now is so into it that I pretty much say, 'Just carry on what you are doing'." Volunteer plan to continue working on the restoration project right through the holidays.

"You hate to break the routine. It's something you look forward to. It's different than what you do day to day on the job. You don't want to lose momentum," explains Maxine Wilson-Young.

Colleen Blomskog says the volunteers are a fun group of people.

"There is no competition for money, position or any of that crap. It's out the door. Everybody is treated equal," adds Blomskog.

Elsie Gordon is one of the volunteers who has sponsored a horse. "It's Treasure. I started working on him last Sunday. He is in such bad shape. I love the ponies. I'd love to own a racehorse. That's the closest I'm going to get to having one," she smiles.

Volunteering for the carousel project has been rewarding, Gordon says. "It's been fun. Every step you make, there is an improvement. They are so run down. When you go home, you feel like you have accomplished something. Every step of the way, it is an accomplishment. I enjoy it because it gives me that fulfilment."

Volunteer Roy Brainerd was also surprised at the condition of the carousel. "I'm a native boy and I just figured we (Brainerd and wife Carol) would help them out. It was in worse shape than we thought. I think it's gone really well. It's a great bunch of people. It's nice to meet the people."

Volunteers share a common bond, says director Don Hamilton. "We are all working for the same goal. God willing, I think we will hit out objective," he says.

Carousel will roll for Centennial

BURNABY NOW
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1991

Delays due to bad condition

Although restoration of Burnaby's carousel is behind schedule, it will be ready in time for the municipality's Centennial in September 1992, say members of the Friends of the Carousel.

"One of the reasons we are behind is because the machine was in such bad condition. You never know until you take the paint off, the structural damage you have," explained Keith Jamieson, who is in charge of the carousel's restoration.

The carousel was in much worse condition than Jamieson had anticipated when he agreed to oversee the restoration, despite the warnings of friends who had seen the carousel. "That thing is a pile of junk. That is a ridiculous project to tackle. That should be a pile of firewood by now," they told Jamieson.

However, volunteer for Friends of the Carousel were unaware of the machine's poor condition, he said.

"You folks didn't really know how bad it was. You folks have done an amazing thing. It's been a fabulous project. We've come a long way. We did inherit a piece of junk, but it really is going to be a fabulous machine when we get it all done," Jamieson told volunteers attending a volunteer appreciation night at Burnaby Village Museum Monday night.

While painting of the horses was originally scheduled to begin in November, the process has been delayed until January.

"We are going to paint the carousel in very natural shades. They are going to look like horses. We are not going to have pink horses and blue horses," Jamieson said. "The horses will look very real. That's how they were painted originally."

The carousel's floor, acquired from Oakalla prison's gymnasium floor, provided another 'twist' to the project.

"When I came on, we did not plan on redoing the floor. We've got to be idiots, don't we? Sure enough, we are actually going to have a new hardwood floor. That will be great," Jamieson said.

Housing for the carousel, which will be located at Burnaby Village Museum, is yet to be finalized, said John Mitchell, director of Burnaby Village Museum.

"The architect is now working on the detailed design of this. In January we will have the final drawing which will go from the Parks and Recreation Commission, where it is now, to municipal council," he said. "Our timetable is a bit tight because the design process has taken a little bit longer than we thought. It looks good. Certainly, it will be open in '92 for the Centennial year."

Housing will complement, not overwhelm the carousel, Mitchell said. "I think that the final building will be a marvelous feature."

Mitchell said the carousel will be a welcome addition to the museum and to Burnaby. "When it is finished, it is going to be like a great big jewel box."

While restoration and housing proceed, fundraising is also an ongoing activity for the association. "The budget that was put in in 1989 was $610,000. That was acquisition, restoration, and housing," said association president Don Wrigley. "We are about two-thirds of the way there, so we still have a fair amount to go."

More than $400,000 has been raised from cash and "in kind" donations. A corporate package was recently completed. Individuals, unions and corporations have donated supplies, labor, and expertise, said Harry Sumner, the association's vice-president.

"It just amazes me the kinds of things people can do when they put their minds to it. I know the carousel is going to be a tremendous success," Mitchell said.

Said Jamieson: "I'm truly amazed. I'm absolutely amazed and astounded at the amount of effort you folks are putting in. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it myself. The quality of workmanship is fabulous."

THE NEWS, Sunday, December 29, 1991

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

RUNNERS UP

Donald Wrigley

If a humanitarian is someone working for the welfare of the human race, then at first glance saving a team of horses - wooden horses at that - wouldn't seem to qualify someone as a humanitarian.

Wrong. Twenty years from now at the end of long summer afternoons, children with birth dates in the next millennium will beg their elders for one more ride on the Burnaby Village Carousel.

The merry-go-round would have gone to a New York City auction house if not for Donald Wrigley and the Friends of the Carousel. Beginning in 1989 and through 1990, Wrigley dedicated himself to rescuing the 1917 wooden Parker carousel from Playland, where it lay forgotten.

His passionate quest was rewarded when Burnaby agreed to build a new home for the Carousel at the Museum. Wrigley was named Burnaby's Citizen of the Year for 1991 and received enthusiastic praise from grateful residents.

"Thanks for keeping my childhood memories alive," wrote one.

"You have renewed my faith in society," said another.

Wrigley merely called his award "an acknowledgment of all the wonderful volunteers" who made the restoration possible. He replied to the cheers with his dogma on giving: "Volunteering is a chance to balance the register. Without volunteers, the world would disintegrate. Society would be the loser."

Thanks to Wrigley, Burnaby and its families are the winners.

The Carousel will be inaugurated in 1992, Burnaby's centennial year.

The Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission
Cordially invite you and your guest
to the

SOD TURNING CEREMONY

for

THE CAROUSEL BUILDING

A Burnaby Centennial Legacy Project

2:00pm Saturday, April 4, 1992
at Burnaby Village Museum

R.S.V.P. 293-6500 by March 30, 1992

Refreshments at the Discovery Room
Museum Administration Building
following the ceremony.

BURNABY
Parks and
Recreation

BURNABY 1892 1992 CENTENNIAL

Programme

SOD TURNING CEREMONY PARKER CAROUSEL BUILDING

A Centennial Project of the Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission

BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM
April 4, 1992 2 p.m.

2:00 p.m.	**Welcome** Dan Johnston, Chair, Parks and Recreation
2:05 p.m.	**Introduction** Dan Johnston introduces Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislature, Mayor, Council, Parks Commission, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, Chairman of Friends of the Carousel Association
2:10 p.m.	**Speeches** 2:10 p.m. Dan Johnston, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission 2:15 p.m. His Worship Mayor Copeland 2:20 p.m. Don Wrigley, President, Friends of the Carousel Foundation, Chairman, Fundraising and Housing Committee
2:25 p.m.	**Sod Turning Ceremony** His Worship, Mayor Bill Copeland
2:30 p.m.	**Official Photographs**
2:45 p.m.	**Refreshments for Invited Guests** Discovery Room, Museum Administration Building
MUSIC:	Carousel Band Organ Music provided by Friends of the Carousel Foundation

Comforts for the carousel

Construction of building to house carousel begins

By THERESA McMANUS

Burnaby NOW reporter

Burnaby is digging into its carousel project.

While restoration of Burnaby's carousel continues, The Friends of the Carousel and the Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission have embarked on construction of a $1.5 million building to house the Parker carousel.

"It's going to be a dandy building," says Harry Sumner, vice president of the Friends of the Carousel Association.

A sod turning ceremony at Burnaby Village Museum on Saturday attracted local MPs, MLAs, Burnaby council members, and representatives of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Centennial Committee and the Friends of the Carousel.

"It was fantastic," Sumner says.

A housing committee, composed of staff at Burnaby Village Museum, the Friends of the Carousel, and the Parks Commission tackled the building project.

The circular building will include a room for the carousel, a orientation room where the public can learn about the history of carousels, and an alcove for the band organ, Sumner says.

"One-third of it will be glass so you will be able to stand outside and see the carousel run," he says.

When the weather is fine, the windows will be opened.

A recognition wall inside the carousel building is being set aside to recognize donors, volunteers and sponsors of the project, he adds.

According to Sumner, 16 contractors have been hired to assist with the project for which the municipality has allotted $1.5 million.

While it could be "tight" to finish the building in time for the September celebration of Robert Burnaby's birthday, the association is aiming to have the carousel restored by then, he says. "The carousel is moving right along on schedule."

Organizers have considered the carousel's heritage when planning the building, Sumner says. "They are going to be holding the history of the carousel, that's for sure."

BURNABY NOW, APRIL 8, 1992

Craig Sleik/NOW

It's my shovel: Although they may appear to be struggling, Mayor Bill Copeland and Don Wrigley assist each other as they turn the sod at the site of the Parker carousel's new home.

John Kerrigan Sproule/ Architecture

Fax Transmittal

1668 West First Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.,Canada
V6J 1G1
Telephone (604): 733-3347
Facsimile (604): 733-2578

To: JEFF ARLARI / JOHN MITCHELL
By Fax: 2074 - 7080.
From: BRENT MURDOCH.
Date : MAY 8-02
Project: BURNABY CROWFEL

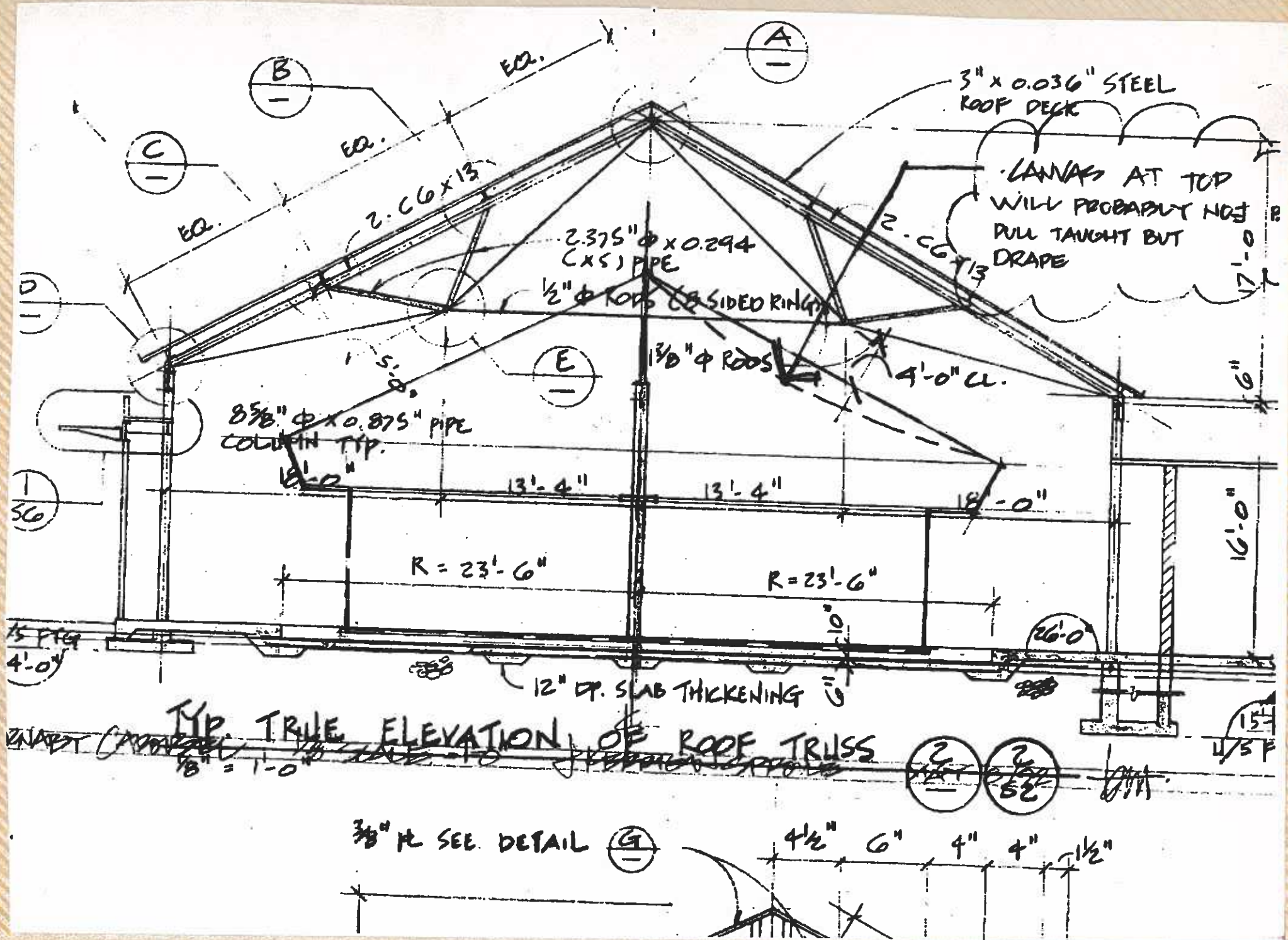
No. of Pages: 2
Project #: 0117

cc	FIRM	ATTENTION	FAX NUMBER
	WEB PRESS.	KEITH JAMIESON.	091-0821

W/B SLAVE DRAWING OF CROWFEL SUPER IMPOSED ON TRUE ELEVATION/SECTION. — NOTE CLEARANCE BETWEEN TRUSS AND CANVAS APPROX. 4'-0" IF CANVAS IS TAUGHT — INSIGNIFICANT THE CANVAS WILL BAGGE AND WE WILL HAVE MORE THAN OUR 5'-0" CLEARANCE.

- THIS LAYOUT ALSO ASSUMES A 10" DROP AS WAS DRAWN IN ORIGINAL TENDER DWGS NOT 14" AS WAS SUGGESTED BY KEITH JAMIESON MAY 7/02

GM



A
B
C
D
E
EQ.
EQ.
EQ.
3" x 0.036" STEEL ROOF DECK
CANVAS AT TOP WILL PROBABLY NOT PULL TAUGHT BUT DRAPE
2 - C6 x 13
2 - C6 x 13
2.375" Φ x 0.294 (x5) PIPE
1/2" Φ RODS (8 SIDED RING)
1 3/8" Φ RODS
4'-0" CL.
8 5/8" Φ x 0.875" PIPE COLUMN TYP.
18'-0"
13'-4"
13'-4"
18'-0"
R = 23'-6"
R = 23'-6"
17'-0"
16'-0"
6"
26'-0"
4'-0"
12" DP. SLAB THICKENING
TYP. TRUE ELEVATION OF ROOF TRUSS
1/8" = 1'-0"
3/8" PL SEE DETAIL G
4 1/2"
6"
4"
4"
1 1/2"

Burnaby Historical Society

Preserving The Past

6501 Deer Lake Avenue
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 3T6

May 28, 1992

Dear Mr. Jamieson,

On behalf of the Burnaby Historical Society, I would like to thank you for giving your time and expertise to add an interesting segment to the 1992 B.C. Historical Federation Convention which was hosted by the Society from May 7-9. Delegates enjoyed seeing your slides and learning about carousel restoration.

It was certainly the first time at any BCHF convention that such a nostalgic and fascinating subject such as the rescue and restoration of a carousel has been presented. There were many positive comments about the whole carousel presentation.

The unveiling of the restored carousel will be a moment of triumph for you and all the others who have and are working still to bring a bit of colourful history back to life.

Sincerely,

Pixie McGeachie

Pixie McGeachie
President

Carousel coming together

By THERESA McMANUS

Burnaby NOW reporter

The Lower Mainland Association of Friends of the Carousel is co-ordinating its activities so everyone arrives at the finish line at the same time.

Restoration, fundraising and construction of the carousel's housing are continuing, says association president Don Wrigley.

"There are all sorts of things on the go. It's the synchronization of all these parts that are starting to come together," he says.

"We hope to have completed the restoration part of it in October so we will be ready for the housing. We are reasonably on target with things, but nothing is etched in stone."

The work is far from over: scenery, machinery, and horses have to be painted; the floor has to be sanded; the chariot has to be restored; and electrical work has to be completed.

Construction of the carousel's new home began at the Burnaby Village Museum site in early June.

"The form work has been poured. The walls of the basement are up. It is progressing. They have given a 27-week building period. Mind you they might quicken it up – who knows. They have had no setbacks because of the weather."

Association members continue to pursue fundraising ventures to cover the cost of the restoration effort and the $1.5 billion housing project.

Because the association did not receive a GoBC grant for the housing project, Wrigley says Burnaby council has asked the association to redouble its fundraising efforts.

According to Wrigley, the association has received a bingo license and will be one of 21 licensees at the new bingo hall at Station Square.

The association continues to seek sponsorship of the horses on the carousel. "There is still one outside and four centre ones to be sponsored."

Wrigley is presently involved in discussions to find a sponsor to finance efforts to make the carousel wheelchair accessible.

"That is one aspect we are looking into, but it is not a fait accompli yet," he says. "It will come about. It is just a question of how we get from A to B."

Volunteers continue to pursue the restoration project at the Friends of the Carousel's Burnaby warehouse. "Restoration is still going on. Some of the horses are painted in their colors," Wrigley says. "There are about nine in the process of being painted."

Wrigley says two of the horses have received all but their final protecting coat of paint. Horses are not being painted "garish, fairground colors", Wrigley says. "All the horses will be painted natural colors so they look like a horse."

Meanwhile, Friends of the Carousel will participate in upcoming community events such as Discovery Days, the Sea Festival parade, a Coquitlam parade and the Pacific National Exhibition.

At events, excluding parades, the association will sell buttons for $5 and posters for $25.

"They are very popular. Last year at the PNE we raised approximately $8,000," Wrigley says. "We just keep nibbling away, picking up money here, picking up money there."

DON WRIGLEY
Carousel workhorse

THE RESTORATION OF THE BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM CAROUSEL

HELP SOLVE THE GREAT "MANE MYSTERY"

Story by Pat Jamieson

Burnaby Village's "mystery mane" horse, is it a high toss or not? Keith Jamieson Photo

A rear view of the mystery mane horse from the C.W. Parker 1913 carousel No. 119. Several carousel experts have well divided opinions as to whether the horse's mane is original. Keith Jamieson Photo

The volunteer restorers of the 1913 Parker carousel No. 119 have a bit of a mystery on their hands. It seems that one of the horses has many of the characteristics of a high toss mane "Lillie Belle" except that the mane has either been cut down over the years or was never carved in the high flame style to begin with.

Project manager, Keith Jamieson has solicited opinions from several carousel restoration experts throughout North America and conclusions are pretty well divided. While the style of the trappings is typical "Lillie Belle," the mane carving appears to be sweeping down and not up in a flame appearance. The top mane sits low on the horse's head about 2 inches lower than the forelock.

Old photographs of this particular horse are minimal but the oldest of which, dated 1952, shows the mane exactly as it is today.

Parker No. 119 was originally manufactured and sold in 1913 and was returned to the factory in 1915 where it was upgraded from Standard style to Superior. There is a mix of carving styles, some pre-dating 1913. The carousel has been tracked from Houston, Texas, back to the factory, to Alum Rock Park in San Jose, California, to the San Francisco/Oakland area, and finally to Vancouver, British Columbia in 1936, where it remained until acquired by the Friends of the Carousel in 1990. (See July 1991 issue of *The Carousel News & Trader* for more details).

The restoration effort is proceeding full speed ahead. All the horses are primed and waiting for colors which have been carefully chosen by the Paint Committee and mapped out on line drawings of each horse. Restoration of rounding boards, scenery panels, mirrors, sweeps, and all mechanics is proceeding on schedule. A Wurlitzer 146B band organ has been acquired and is also being restored, much to the delight of the volunteers who enjoy hearing it play while they are working on the carousel.

The merry-go-round will also have an unusual "new" floor with a history all its own. Recently a very old Burnaby penitentiary, Oakalla, was phased out and about to be demolished—but not before the gymnasium floor was salvaged by some enterprising carousel volunteers who spent several evenings in prison (with permission of course) painstakingly removing the maple hardwood floor in order to rebuild the carousel platform.

The volunteers have been outstanding, with over 12,000 unpaid hours reported to date.

Fund-raising efforts continue with a wide variety of activities: casino night, craft fair demonstrations, parades, radio and television promotions and a horse sponsorship program. The group received a big boost

when the National Carousel Association voted to give $1,000 from its preservation fund toward the restoration.

The President of the Friends group, Don Wrigley, has been particularly effective with his greatly admired technique which he has used to great success on area businesses. He even persuaded some local politicians to pool together their own money to sponsor a horse!

A sod-turning ceremony to mark the start of construction on a $1.5 million building to house the carousel on the grounds of the Burnaby Village Museum was held in early April. The circular building will include a room for the carousel, an orientation area where the public can learn about the history of carousels, and an alcove for the band organ. A recognition wall inside the building will honor volunteers, donors and sponsors of the project.

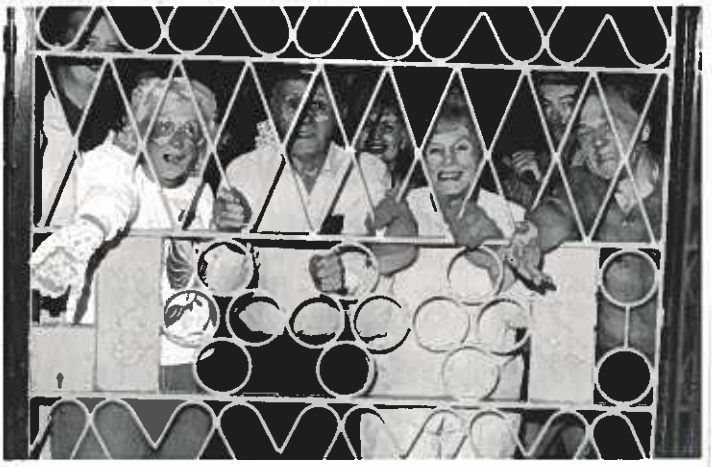
Current plans have everything coming together for a November 1992 grand opening. The Foundation of Friends of the Carousel is still in need of funding to continue and complete the restoration process and, as well, they welcome any information readers may have about the history of this machine or any thoughts, photos, and opinions about the "mane mystery."

If you have any information about Parker carousel No. 119, or if you would like to make a donation, the mailing address is: Don Wrigley, President, The Lower Mainland Foundation of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel, c/o Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5G 3T6.

Checks should be made out to the "Friends of the Carousel." The Foundation is a non-profit society and will automatically issue a Canadian tax receipt.

Foundation members and volunteers are excited about bringing this handsome machine back to its full glory and cannot wait to invite merry-go-round enthusiasts everywhere to visit this wonderful treasure from the past.

The mane carving appears to sweep down rather than up like a flame mane. Old photographs, some dating as far back as 1952, of this horse shows the mane as it is today. Keith Jamieson Photo



The Oakalla floor robbers (from left to right) Ken Diamond, Marni Abbott, Ed Stebner, Faye Stebner, Hazel Sumner, Don Hamilton, and Don Wrigley. Harry Sumner Photo

A Passion for the

When playing the horses means serious business.

Wooden Ponies

By Patrick Cook

"For some unknown reason, it's like a sickness," the man in his early forties says.

His eyes---without a hint of sickness—twinkle ever so slightly as he says this. He sits outside on the loading bay of an old Texaco Oil warehouse, overlooking the Sunday-calm waters of Burrard Inlet. The Coast Mountains rise behind him. The Douglas Firs silence the din of Vancouver. And laughter from a cluster of men and women eating lunch filters through the drought-warmed air of this West Coast June.

"But there could be a sickness worse than this," he says, gesturing around him.

While his gesture indicates the pastoral setting, the "sickness" Keith Jamieson refers to is his passion, and the passion of thousands of others like him across North America, for carousels.

Some of us know them as merry-go-rounds. Others know them as round-a-bouts. Whatever the tag, the carousel, that marvel of late-Victorian ingenuity and gaudiness, is the object of Keith Jamieson's affection.

You see, Keith Jamieson is a carousel junky, a lover of the wooden ponies. But Jamieson, a vice president of Web Press in Port Coquitlam, printer of *The Costco Connection*, is also a businessman. In the past 11 years, Jamieson has made himself into one of only a handful of carousel experts in North America. Together with his wife, Pat, Jamieson spends a large portion of his spare time buying, selling, trading, and restoring all things carousel.

Over the years, the demand for Jamieson's services has increased. The carousel horses and animals, hand-carved by Italian and German artisans who immigrated to America around the turn of the century, have risen in status since he first entered the carousel business in the early 1980s. Now, many collectors consider carousel animals as excellent examples of American folk art. And they're willing to pay top dollar for them.

Valient, an older-style Parker horse (above, left) shows its majesty, even without a coat. At left, Friends of the Carousel strip and sand to find the beauty beneath layers of old paint and varnish. Above, a fully-restored carousel captures the imagination of a young rider.

PHOTOS: M. STEVENS, B. ROWLAND, H. SUMNER, D. NORRIS

Today, the typical price for an individual carousel animal ranges anywhere from $7,500 to $100,000. Last year, however, according to Jamieson, one carousel figure, carved in the late 1800s, sold for $148,000 US. The figure was a rooster. "One hundred forty-eight thousand dol-

All of sudden, they're reading everything they can about merry-go-rounds, and they're all becoming experts.

With steady hands, Friends members Carol Rush and Barry Blomskog perform surgery on a carousel pony.

lars for a rooster—a chicken! It was incredible!" says Jamieson.

Because demand for the individual pieces has pushed prices sky-high, many carousels have disappeared. During the "golden age" of carousels, from around 1850 to 1930, there were almost 4,000 carousels in North America. Now, only 200 remain.

Saving and restoring these remaining carousels has become part of Jamieson's life's work. His latest project, which takes him every weekend to that pastoral warehouse beside Burrard Inlet, is the restoration of a 1912-vintage C.W. Parker carousel.

Jamieson is not alone on this one. Together with a group of dedicated volunteers, collectively known as The Friends of the Carousel Society, they are restoring the Playland carousel, long a fixture at the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver. When completely restored later this year, the 36-horse carousel will become a working artifact at the Burnaby Village Museum just outside of Vancouver.

The group began its efforts back in 1989 when the owners of Playland, York-Hannover of Toronto, wanted to unload their aging attraction. "To retain an antique doesn't suit our business," a company spokesperson said at the time.

A York-Hannover employee, Venus Solano, approached the company with a proposal: Let's save the carousel intact, and they said, Okay, but it'll cost you $350,000.

Undaunted, Solano and a handful of other carousel lovers founded the Friends of the Carousel Society. They hoped to raise the money for the purchase of the Playland carousel. After a faltering start, Don Wrigley, then president of the Burnaby Village Museum, came on board and got the ball rolling.

Wrigley, a man often seen festooned with fund-raising buttons and always filled with unlimited energy, is credited with pulling and keeping the Friends of the Carousel group together. He was the "real mainstay" of the whole project, says Jamieson.

After a year-long, nail-biting race to raise the cash, the group succeeded in purchasing the carousel on September 24,1990—five days before the owners were to send the attraction to New York for auction.

In hindsight, raising the $350,000 was the easy part. "I think everyone realized they were going to have to raise a lot of money to acquire the carousel," says Jamieson, "but I'm not too sure everyone realized the horrendous amount of work it would take to restore it."

But the realization quickly came. When the carousel was broken down into its 500 or so components, and strewn about the warehouse floor, the friends must have felt like all the king's horses and all the king's men staring down at the pieces of Humpty Dumpty. Soon after acquiring the carousel, the group asked Jamieson to come on board. He agreed.

Over the past two years, many of the 20 or 30 core volunteers have become experts in their own right. "We've seen people here who have never thought about merry-go-rounds before," says Jamieson, "and all of sudden, they're reading everything they can about merry-go-rounds, and they're all becoming experts. There really is a passion involved in all this."

With the completion date set for late September of this year, all of this will soon be wrapping up for Jamieson, Wrigley, and the Friends of the Carousel. Some will remain with the group, helping the museum maintain and run the restored carousel, but most will be moving on to other pursuits and other passions.

And Jamieson? Although he's mum about his next project, it will involve another carousel. Perhaps the setting for his next project will not be quite as pastoral as his perch beside Burrard Inlet, but there's no doubt his passion for the wooden ponies will remain.

A Passion for Wooden Ponies 20

Carousels have become a consuming passion for B.C. businessman Keith Jamieson and a group of Burnaby volunteers as they restore the PNE carousel to its former glory.

Keith Jamieson, carousel connoisseur, has gained much of his knowledge hands on.

BURNABY NOW, AUGUST 19, 1992

Craig Sleik/NOW

FINAL TOUCHES: professional painter Dorothy Clarke working on one of the carousel horses that will eventually be on permanent display at the Burnaby Village Museum.

Larry Wright/NOW

FAMILIAR LOGO: The Burnaby Centennial logo was a common sight around Burnaby over the past year, including the Friends of the Carousel Society float on display here at Discovery Day.

BURNABY NOW CENTENNIAL, SEPTEMBER 16, 1992

Carouselers pay off civic debt

COUNCIL BRIEFS

By Dan Hilborn

Don Wrigley, the 1990 Outstanding Citizen of the Year, has proven he really knows how to be the first person on the Burnaby council agenda.

With a cheque for $330,000 and an equally large smile, Wrigley endeared himself in the hearts of the politicians on Monday night.

The cheque, signed over to the City of Burnaby and dated for Sept. 22, 1992 - Burnaby's 100th birthday - is payment in full for the municipality's hand in saving the vintage 1917 Parker Carousel.

The money was handed over almost two years to the date after Burnaby rather hesitantly handed over the initial 'loan' with only a verbal promise it would be repaid.

And in recounting the history of how the carousel arrived in Burnaby, Wrigley let the council members know there investment was well worth the money.

Since the carousel was acquired by the society, wooden horses from similar vintage merry-go-rounds have steadily increased in value at the major auction houses in New York, Wrigley said.

In fact, based on recent sales of similar figures, one of the Burnaby Carousel horses may be worth up to $90,000 and two more could be worth $56,000 apiece.

And Wrigley estimated 10 of the 36 Burnaby horses are worth more than $40,000.

"It was probably one of the best investments Burnaby has ever made," said Copeland, as he accepted the cheque. "It is really, truly going to become a Burnaby treasure."

Copeland also noted that Burnaby hemmed and hawed over the 1990 decision to give the money to the society because the B.C. Municipal Act forbids local governments from making loans.

The carousel, once a main feature at the PNE's Playland, is now in the final stages of restoration at a local warehouse and is slated for public unveiling in its new home at the Burnaby Village Museum next spring.

While Burnaby has now totally recouped its costs of saving the carousel from the auction block, the $1.5 million price-tag for building the carousel house at the museum will be made up through admission charges.

BURNABY NOW CENTENNIAL, SEPTEMBER 16, 1992

Carousel restoration is nearly complete

Friends of the Carousel have set their sights on completing their legacy project during Burnaby's Centennial year.

"It's September now. All the pieces are coming together. We are hopeful we can keep on target and have it up and running in the Centennial year," says Don Wrigley, president of the Friends of the Carousel.

"The restoration is on schedule. The horses are being painted. There is about one-third of them which are complete. Another one-third are in various stages of being done."

Construction of housing for the carousel has been underway at Burnaby Village Museum since June.

Through fundraising efforts, Friends of the Carousel have raised enough money to repay the municipality for money it previously released to the association to acquire the carousel.

"I think the fundraising is going pretty well. We are going to repay the $330,000 to council on Sept. 14," Wrigley says.

Of the 36 carousel horses, all but one centre horse ($5,000) has been sponsored. The association is now working to obtain sponsors for 80 panels including: rounding boards ($1,000), shields ($750), scenery with lights ($500), and scenery without lights ($250).

Wrigley says the project has benefited by council's decision for it to be a designated legacy project for the municipality's Centennial. "That a plus obviously."

And Burnaby council has contributed to the project by sponsoring a horse in recognition of the Centennial volunteers, he says.

According to Wrigley, Centennial committee chair Don Brown has also mentioned the work of the Friends of the Carousel at Centennial events. "It has raised the awareness of people of the restoration and housing."

COQUITLAM, PORT COQUITLAM, PORT MOODY NOW, SEPTEMBER 27, 1992

Keith Jamieson watches as Carma Ferreira of Coquitlam adds the fine details to a carousel horse's ornate saddle blanket.

Paul Van Peenen/NOW

By HAZEL POSTMA

Coquitlam NOW reporter

Stormin' Norman is a fierce beast with flying mane and glaring eyes.

His namesake, U.S. Gulf War hero General Norman Schwarzkof, is delighted to have the horse named after him and wrote to the Friends of the Carousel to say so.

Stormin' Norman is one of 36 wooden horses on the old PNE carousel being painstakingly refurbished in the former Texaco building on the Barnet Highway.

The 1913 carousel was built in Leavenworth, Kansas, by C.W. Parker and has a distinct mid-west flavor. It went first to Texas as part of the Lonestar travelling shows and then to San Francisco.

With the bit between its teeth, this horse is raring to go.

Paul Van Peenen/NOW

In 1936 it arrived at the PNE where it operated until 1990.

"It was to be auctioned but people from all over the Lower Mainland formed the Friends of the Carousel and ... raised $350,000 to buy it and then restore it, which cost another $100,000," says Keith Jamieson, who heads the restoration project.

As part of Burnaby's 1992 Centennial, the city is building a $1.5 million building at its Heritage Museum to house the carousel.

Aside from being vice-president of Web Press Graphics, a Port Coquitlam printing company, Jamieson buys, sells and restores antique carousels throughout North America.

"Of all the hundreds of carousels I've seen this is probably in the worst condition," he said.

Jamieson said the horses "literally fell apart when we took the paint off. Some had 28 nails holding on one leg. The whole machine had to be rebuilt from the ground up, including the floor. We don't even know which order the horses go. When we picked it up from the PNE it was in 500 pieces."

Each day volunteers arrive, tools in hand, ready to carve wood, install electrical cables, hand-polish wooden floors made from the maple tongue-and-groove decking on the floor of the Oakalla gymnasium, set paste jewels into ornate saddles and paint horses, borders and signs.

Fifty volunteers have already put in 20,000 hours on the project, volunteers like Carma Ferreira of Coquitlam.

The young medical technologist spends up to three days a week on the carousel. She's hand-sanded borders, done some wood carving "and now I'm doing the detail work on the horses — I've got a steady hand."

Ferreira has taken night courses in wood carving and read up on the history of carousels.

"It's fascinating. One day when I can afford it, I'd like to get my own horse and restore it."

When not working on the carousel she plays clarinet and cello, sews and does crafts.

Volunteers include retired people and electricians, artists and carpenters, wood carvers and physicists, homemakers and students.

"It takes 300 hours to do one horse what with the repairs, woodwork and paint and then the four coats of varathane." Jamieson says.

'When we picked it up from the PNE it was in 500 pieces.'

Of 6,000 wooden carousels made in North America between 1850 and 1930 there are less than 200 left "and for the Lower Mainland to have this piece of antiquity is really special," he adds.

At a recent auction in New York one horse fetched $57,000 U.S. "and the highest price ever

Carousel horses link with past

paid for a carousel animal was $148,000 U.S. and that was a rooster."

Jamieson says corporate sponsors such as Osborne Propellers, Lumberland, General Paints and 3M have provided much of the materials needed in the restoration "and students at BCIT have done a lot of the mechanical and fabricating work."

Once complete, the horses will be mounted three abreast on the carousel, which turns counter-clockwise.

The carousel should be finished by the end of November when it will be erected in its new home — ready to thrill yet another generation with its musical rides.

Volunteers strip, sand, repair and paint antique PNE carousel.

CAROUSEL RENAISSANCE
How 36 worn-out nags
Became a work of art.

HOME SPECIAL
Designer decorating tips.
Faux finishing explained.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN
Building a better safety net
Part one in a report on pedophiles.

SEMIAHMOO

Sounder

VOLUME EIGHT
NUMBER TWO
FEBRUARY 1993
CIRCULATION: 26,200

FEATURE

By Lisa Smedman

The final roundup

Painted ponies to run once more

When they were sold, the horses were sorry-looking nags. Their paint was chipped, the nails that had been banged into them to hold them together were rusty, and their bodies were cracked. A few had broken legs and tails that had been "repaired" with heavy applications of glue and Scotch tape.

But Venus Solano knew the beauty of these "painted ponies" was more than just skin deep. When they went up for sale, she didn't even take a look at their teeth. She knew the nostalgic value a carousel could evoke, and realized that one day they'd be proud race horses, bucking broncs, and prancing ponies once more.

his chairmanship (and with financial help from both municipal and provincial governments), Friends of the Carousel raised the $330,000 needed to buy the ride. In 1990 the deal was completed, and the horses changed hands. Then the hard work of getting them back into shape began.

Carved from hollow blocks of wood and assembled from 30 to 50 different pieces, the carousel horses had suffered a number of indignities over the years. Because they had been "dip stripped" several years ago and repainted in gaudy colors, it was impossible to tell what the original colors had been. (A paint committee ultimately decided to restore the horses in natural tones.) One of the horses had an oddly shaped mane that looked like it might have been recarved. Experts were divided on its original shape, but ultimately the deciding vote was cast in favor of a "high toss" mane – a swirling series of curls rising high above the horse's head.

Each horse had to be hand sanded with three to four different grits of sandpaper. Their wooden bodies then were covered with two sealing coats, three priming coats, two to three coats of colored paint and four protective finishes.

In all, an estimated 24,000 hours of volunteer labor were required to get the carousel back into shape. That figure included those volunteers who helped restore the ride's electric motor, floorboards and mechanical workings and the carousel's more than 900 light bulbs and approximately 140 mirrors. Fundraising required an additional 11,000 hours of volunteer time.

During the restoration work, there were a few surprises. Inside the hollow body of one horse, volunteers found a 5-cent ticket, good for admission "on the date of issue only." Their best guess is that a child wedged it down into a crack. An-

Sometime this spring (organizers are predicting it will be in April) at Burnaby Village Museum, they'll crank up the Wurlitzer military band organ and a fully restored, working carousel will slowly begin to turn. Lights will flash, mirrors will glitter, wood and brass will shine – and the ponies will run once more.

The carousel, now completely renovated and awaiting assembly in a specially constructed building, was originally built by the Parker Company in Leavenworth, Kansas in 1912. It worked at fairs in Texas, San Jose and San Francisco before being brought to Vancouver's Happyland amusement park (the precursor to Playland) in 1936.

In 1987, the ride's owner, York Hannover, decided to shut down the carousel for good and sell its 36 horses separately to collectors. A small group of carousel lovers, headed up by PNE waitress Venus Solano, thought the ride should be kept intact, and conceived the idea of buying and restoring the carousel.

Venus passed the torch in 1989 to Don Wrigley of the Burnaby Museum. Under

Pictured above, Top to Bottom left (1-3) and right (4-6):
1) Captain Julius. Originally the lead horse of the carousel, with a fearsome sea monster on the back of his saddle. Sponsored by Don and Dorothy Wrigley.
2) Vivian. A horse in the "lilly belle" style, so named for the bells on the back of her saddle. Sponsored by Barbara Becher, who named the horse after the horse her grandfather rode in the Grand Nationals. The horse features a distinctive "high toss" mane.
3) Phar Lap. This horse, sponsored by Margaret Mitchell, features a dog and gun on its saddle. Western motifs were popular on Parker horses.
4) Venus. Sponsored by the Restaurant and Foods Association of B.C., this horse was named after Venus Solano, originator of the drive to purchase and restore the carousel.
5) Firefly. The Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society, when it sponsored this horse, insisted upon dalmation spots.
6) Valiant. This armored horse was sponsored by volunteer Paula Tanchyk.

other horse held a note, probably penned in the 1960s, from a worker who had once done restorative work on the carousel.

When reassembled, the carousel will feature three rows of horses, a chariot, and a modern twist – a section where a wheelchair can be wheeled into place behind smaller, stationary horses with lengthy reins.

Like all North American carousels, the ride will spin counter-clockwise. (The Brits spin their carousels in the opposite direction.) The "romance" side – the side of each horse which faces outward, gets the most attention, and is often decorated with gems and extra carvings.

The distinctive mark of a Parker horse is the mane, which curves around the ears in two graceful loops. Parker also shod his horses with metal shoes bearing the stamp "11 Worth" – a pun for Leavenworth.

Parker called his carousel the "carry us all," considering the name "merry go round" to be "too tame." The rides were designed to be both portable; a 1916 advertisement claimed that three men could assemble a Parker carousel in 90 minutes, while one ride was said to have earned $17,943 in 29 weeks in 1905.

"Colonel" Parker got his start in the carnival business by buying a shooting gallery. In 1892 he bought his first carousel, and

toured with it throughout the midwest, pulling it from town to town on horsedrawn wagons and by rail. By the turn of the century, he had his own carousel construction business – although the first horses were smaller (with hair tails instead of wooden ones) and were carved in standard poses, with interchangeable legs. Only later, under the influence of European carvers, would the horses develop embellishments, with curled forelegs, hind legs that kicked out, windblown manes, lavishly jewelled saddles and pompadour forelocks. American flags were a popular design, as were typical midwestern symbols such as ears of corn, cowboy gear and sunflowers.

Under the hands of the restorative team that worked under project manager Keith Jamieson, the glamor and beauty of the carousel horses has been recaptured. Each of the 36 horses was sponsored, at a cost of $2,500, $5,000 and $7,500, by an individual or organization. In return, a name could be selected for the horse, and in some cases, particular colors could be chosen.

"The volunteers have done a terrific job of restoration," says Don Wrigley. "If you'd seen those horses two years ago you'd have cried."

The "golden age" of carousels fell between the years 1905 and 1925. A switch to aluminium construction in the 1930s and the Depression that struck that decade were heralds of the decline that was to come.

But this spring, in Burnaby, the painted ponies will run once more.

Still crazy for carousels after all these years

"I've always loved carousels, ever since I was a kid," says Bob Frearson of White Rock.

A quick look around his living room confirms it. Together with his wife Mabel, Bob's collected dozens of ceramic carousel figurines. Winding one up, he smiles, listening to the tinkling music as the horse bobs gently up and down on a tiny brass pole. Calendars on the walls feature glossy photographs of carousel horses, and the the lavishly illustrated book *Painted Ponies* is a favorite. Bob's even got a carousel horse wristwatch.

Little wonder then, that Bob and Mabel were quick to get involved with Friends of the Carousel after seeing a display at the PNE. In the years since, they put in their time, helping out with fundraisers, dispensing information on the project at malls, and staffing the booth at the PNE. Even though they didn't do any of the restorative work themselves, they're justifiably proud of the end results.

"To look at the horses now, you wouldn't even credit that they made of wood," says Mabel. "The finish is just that good."

A love of carousels runs in the Frearson family. Their son Clint used to run a carousel at Guildford Shopping Centre each summer, and was also involved in the fundraising. The Frearsons have also been active for many years with White Rock's annual Sea Festival.

Mabel and Bob Frearson

"Carousels have a universal appeal," says Mabel.

Bob, who moved with his family to Vancouver in 1936 from the B.C. Interior, remembers the carousel in its original location at Happyland. "As a Boy Scout in the late '30s, I loved riding carousels. In those days there wasn't as much diversity of entertainment as there is today."

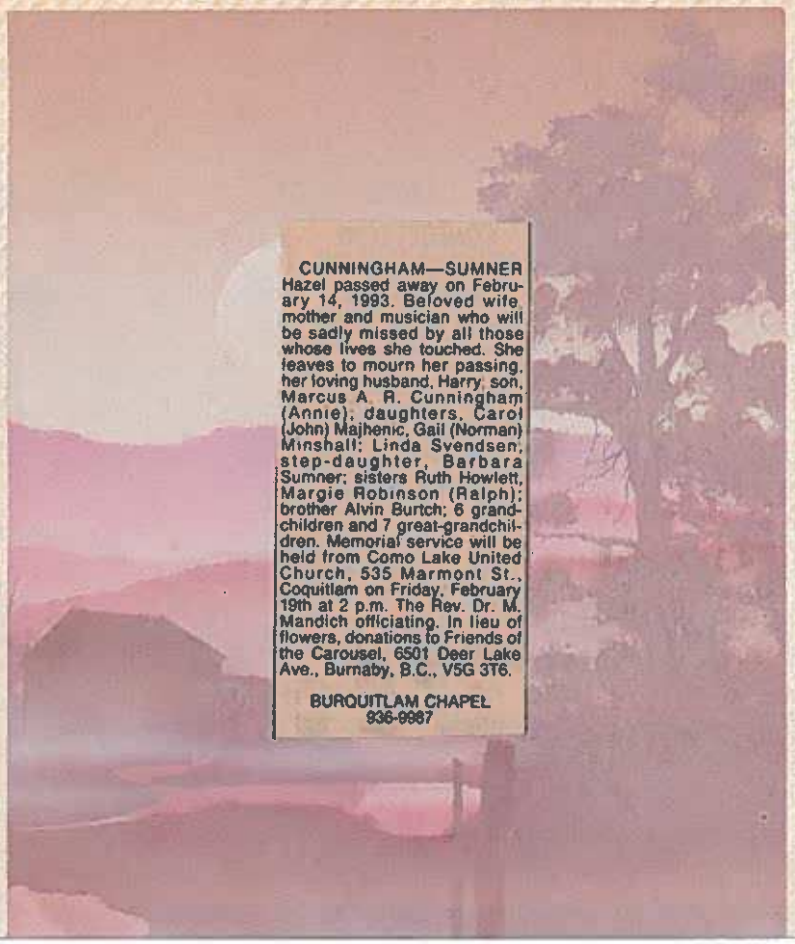
His love of carousels has spanned the decades. On a recent trip to Florida, Bob spotted a rarity – a double decker carousel, set up inside a hotel. Needless to say, he used up most of the roll of film that was in his camera in documenting it. On another trip, this time to Portland, they sat and "people watched" at a four-abreast carousel.

"You'd find there was more adults than kids riding the carousel," says Bob. "There were couples in their 50s and 60s riding side by side, holding hands."

Some day, say the Frearsons, they'd like to buy a full sized carousel horse.

Although Bob's ridden the painted ponies many a time, Mabel has a confession to make. She's never once ridden the carousel. "I love them, but I'd get dizzy," she confides. "Still, I love to watch them. They bring back memories of a gentler sort of life."

"A carousel ride is a gentle, fun, pleasant thing," adds Bob. "In the earlier days at a lot of the fairgrounds they'd have the carousel and people would ride them. It was the fun thing to do. When the new generation has a chance to ride the carousel (at Burnaby Village Museum) they're going to be infected and become carousel people too." ■



CUNNINGHAM—SUMNER
Hazel passed away on February 14, 1993. Beloved wife, mother and musician who will be sadly missed by all those whose lives she touched. She leaves to mourn her passing, her loving husband, Harry; son, Marcus A. R. Cunningham (Annie); daughters, Carol (John) Majhenic, Gail (Norman) Minshall; Linda Svendsen; step-daughter, Barbara Sumner; sisters Ruth Howlett, Margie Robinson (Ralph); brother Alvin Burtch; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Memorial service will be held from Como Lake United Church, 535 Marmont St., Coquitlam on Friday, February 19th at 2 p.m. The Rev. Dr. M. Mandich officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations to Friends of the Carousel, 6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, B.C., V5G 3T6.

BURQUITLAM CHAPEL
936-9987

"Her Music Lives On"

In Loving Memory

Hazel Cunningham Sumner

July 20, 1913 - February 14, 1993

Memorial Service
Friday February 19, 1993
2:00 pm

Como Lake United Church
535 Marmont Street
Coquitlam, B.C.

Officiant
The Rev. Dr. Michael Mandich

Reception to Follow

COMO LAKE UNITED CHURCH
535 Marmont Street
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 7H6
931-8555

February 19, 1993

Participating in the Service

The Rev. Dr. Michael Mandich
(Senior Minister)
Dr. Zion Wu
(Minister of Music)
Remembering Hazel: **Don Wrigley**
Soloist: **Barry Rector**
Trio: **John Wright** (Drums)
Doug Parker (Piano)
Eric Muir (Trumpet)
Como Lake United Church Choir

You are invited to join the family for a time of fellowship and refreshment in Room 120 following the service. During that time they ask that you sign the guest book.

Order of Worship

To celebrate the Life of
Hazel Blanche (Burtch) Sumner
(July 20, 1913 - February 14, 1993)

Organ Prelude
Silent Meditation on: 1) Scripture
2) Trio: Time after Time
We remember Hazel's life and give thanks
Solo: "You'll Never Walk Alone" (Carousel)
Prayer of Invocation
Hymn: (G) #50 "How Great Thou Art"
Scripture
Trio: "My Funny Valentine"
Prayers - " Over the Rainbow" - Trio (background)
Hymn: (G) #128 "Let There be Peace"
Service of Committal

Benediction (Tune Edelweiss)

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever,
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavour.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face
and God's grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever.

A house for Burnaby Heritage Village's 1917 Parker carousel nears completion as men work on the structure's roof. Money is still needed for restoring the horses. News photo by Mario Bartel

A carousel salute

Volunteers recognized for scraping and carving

A dinner last week honored 35,000 hours of scraping, sanding, carving, painting and rebuilding, all in aid of a 75-year-old carousel.

Volunteers helping to restore the 1917 Parker carousel at Burnaby Heritage Village were recognized at the Feb. 16 dinner.

The Hart House dinner also honored many thousands of dollars in donated funds, according to a statement from VanCity Credit Union, a project sponsor. VanCity board member Franca Zumpano handed out commemorative pins to the volunteers.

Zumpano said the project "took both vision and action — not only with chisels and paintbrushes, but also actions with cheque books."

The carousel, which spent many years at the PNE, includes 36 painted ponies. It is typical of thousands of carousels built in the early 1900s for fairgrounds and amusement parks. Fewer than 200 remain.

Plans call for the local project to be open to the public April 3 at Burnaby Heritage Village. Friends of the Carousel hope to raise another $90,000 to meet the full restoration cost of $650,000.

Zumpano said that VanCity restored the first horse on the carousel "to demonstrate the great potential of this project."

Journey home coming to an end

Burnaby's restored carousel nears completion in time for museum's 1993 opening

By THERESA McMANUS
Burnaby NOW Reporter

Burnaby's restored 1917 carousel is getting set for its final run around the track.

On Saturday and Sunday, carousel machinery was moved from the warehouse, where volunteers with Friends of the Carousel have been working on its restoration, to the carousel's permanent new home at the Burnaby Heritage Village.

"It's getting down to the backstretch," said Don Wrigley, president of Friends of the Carousel. "We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's been a hard road."

The carousel will officially open to the public on April 3 when the museum opens for the 1993 season.

Wrigley said 36 Burnaby students will be the first citizens to ride the carousel at the official opening.

"The first ones are going to be children from Forest Grove elementary school," Wrigley said.

"They were the children who performed the carousel dance at the May 23 opening of the Centennial. The children did a dance to the tune of the band organ. I thought they should be the people to ride it first on the official opening April 3."

Larry Wright/NOW

Don Wrigley and Keith Jamieson check out electrical circuitry required to make the carousel operational.

Plans are being made for a civic opening of the carousel prior to the museum's official opening day.

Although the carousel is almost up and running, the job is not finished for the Friends of the Carousel.

"We are going to go on fundraising and we are going to continue as a society as a support group for technical assistance and volunteer assistance," Wrigley said.

Volunteers gathered last week at a Volunteer Appreciation Night for Friends of the Carousel.

"All the volunteers were recognized with a certificate of appreciation. "

'THE NEWS' - Wednesday, March 24, 1993

Carousel opens Saturday at museum

In the glory days of carousels, there were 6,000 across North America. Today, fewer than 150 are still going round.

That number will grow by one Saturday, with the official dedication ceremony of the 1912 Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel.

And what a carousel this is: 12.5 tons empty, 15 tons loaded; 36 horses, one chariot and six cast aluminum ponies; 500 major parts, including 64 brass poles and 52 scenery panels; and music from a 1925 Wurlitzer band organ capable of reaching 90 decibels and imitating the sound of an entire military band.

Since the rescue of the decaying ride from the PNE three years ago, Don Wrigley and the Friends of the Carousel have put in 35,000 hours of volunteer labor, repairing, stripping and sanding horses, then applying as many as 16 coats of paint to each of the handmade wooden animals.

Saturday's ceremony is not the official opening: that will take place a week later, on the first day of the Burnaby Village Museum's summer season. Invitees for Saturday include Mayor Bill Copeland, parks and recreation chair Dan Johnston, MP Svend Robinson, and MLA Joan Sawicki. Red Robinson will officiate.

Norvie Frame, daughter of the carousel's original owner, Fred Leggett, will travel here from Houston, Texas. Houston was the carousel's first home before it moved to San Francisco and then Vancouver. Frame's three nieces, granddaughters of Leggett, will accompany her.

The first ride on the restored carousel belongs to children from Forest Grove elementary school.

Museum opening

Burnaby Village Museum and, at long last, the restored carousel, will open for a new season Apr. 3.

Children of all ages will be able to ride on the 1912 Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel #119, salvaged from the PNE's Playland and restored patiently by dedicated volunteers. The video "Labour of Love: the Saving of #119," will be shown between noon and 4 p.m.

Other attractions opening weekend include a scooter tour for kids, toy making, magic and illusion with Murray Sawchuk, an old-time trip to Burnaby's first bank, jazz and ragtime performances and the chalk caricatures of Ernie Poignant.

Burnaby Village Museum will be open seven days a week, Apr. 3-Sept. 26.

Carousel history saved

Burnaby's museum finds a home for the 1912 carousel

By ANN RISDON
Burnaby NOW Reporter

The carousel now whirling at Burnaby Village Museum is a magnificent example of history preserved. It is also a tremendous community achievement.

But above all it is a monument to one man's persistence and determination - some would say stubbornness.

Don Wrigley was chairman of the Burnaby Village Museum board in 1989 when the previous chairman, Terry Malone, told him the Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel headed by Venus Solarno were trying to raise funds to acquire the #119 carousel from the PNE.

First operated in 1912 by Fred Leggett for the Lone Star Circus in Houston, Texas, the carousel was a fixture at the PNE's Playland from 1947 to 1988. At that point, the carousel was stored, then scheduled to be soldby its new owners, York Hanover based in Toronto, through an auction house in New York.

Carousel horses are now viewed as art pieces. Some sell at auctions for as high as $192,000, snapped up by collectors who restore them to their original state as an ornament for their homes.

Craig Sleik/NOW

Don Wrigley's efforts to help preserve the Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel earned him the Kushiro Cup as Burnaby's citizen of the year in 1990.

Proud carousel sponsors

Here are the names of each of the Parker Carousel horses and their corporate sponsors:
Captain Julius: Don and Dorothy Wrigley and family.
RoyalBurnaby Belle: Staff in Burnaby area Royal Banks
Champion: Vancouver City Savings Credit Union
Firefly :Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society Local 323
Phar Lap: Margaret Mitchell
Scampering Dawn: Dennis and Cice Brown
Vanessa: Parklane Ventures Ltd.
Treasure: Elsie T. Gordon
Mignonette: Ethel Stebner, Faye Stebner, Ken Diamond
Valiant: Paula V. Tanchy
Vivian: Barbara Becher
Nareena: Mrs. G. Switlo
Nipoti: Bill and Ruth Copeland
Mr. Ed :To recognize Edward A. Stebner
Allegro: Harry Sumner and Hazel Cunningham Sumner
John Ernest: Ernest and Pat Beaucamp:
Betty B: The Beedie Group.

This was expected to be the fate of the 36 Carousel horses, each being sold on an individual basis.

But the Friends of the Carousel Association, under the impetus of Don Wrigley organized a campaign to preserve the carousel. The group's plan was to purchase the carousel, restore it back to its original state, and then donate it to the Burnaby museum. In exchange, the museum would maintain and operate the merry-go-round with the promise never to sell it.

The carousel was built in the early 1900s, which would follow within the museum's heritage time frame of 1890 to 1925 as an authentic historic item.

Shortly after, on a sunny September morning, Wrigley saw the carousel for the first time. "It was in terrible shape," he recalled. "Paint was peeling, eyes, ears, jewels missing. Tails off, legs off. " Big cracks in the bodies were fastened together with nails and plugged with wooden dowels.

Still, Wrigley saw possibilities. Soon, the village museum board, which was losing its model railroad attraction to Confederation Park, unanimously voted to give the carousel a home. Thus the Friends of the Carousel Society was formed, and Wrigley became a director.

Then, the PNE president at the time, Erwin Swangard, began insisting that the carousel was not for sale. "A bit of a ping-pong game went on between the PNE directors and the Playland directors," Wrigley recalled.

But by December of that year, Swangard had resigned and Morgan Thomas became the new head of the PNE. Wrigley called on the new president, but Thomas postponed discussions because he was off to Thailand.

While Thomas was away, Wrigley received a call from Playland saying the Carousel was to be shipped off to auction unless the association could purchase it. "I know there was not a cat in hell's chance of raising $350,000 by April," Wrigley said.

Besides the steep price, the carousel would probably have been sold in pieces to individual buyers. But when Thomas returned, he granted a stay of execution. That move in turn kickstarted the fundraising campaign in Burnaby. The agreement ultimately made between the Friends of the Carousel and the PNE stipulated a price of $350,000 by Sept. 30, 1990.

The fundraising coffers contained only $10,000 donated by one lone corporate sponsor, Van City Savings. The association decided to get guidance from a fundraising company. The survey said there was not sufficient corporate support to raise $350,000 and recommended the association ask the owners of Playland, York Hanover, to donate it. The company's bill for this survey was $6,000.

"It was a community achievement. I was only the catalyst that brought it all together."

Another $2,000 had been spent completely restoring one horse and repairing another. Soon the association's bank account stood at $2,000. "I felt despondent indeed," Wrigley said. "We had four months."

Wrigley, now the president of Friends of the Carousel, opted to seek pledges so that if the project failed there would beno huge task of returning the money. Burnaby NOW agreed to help publicize the campaign which in turn helped bring in volunteers and greater community awareness of the project.

"Burnaby NOW played a big part, Dee (then editor Dee Fitton) and Derrick Chamberlain."

"I believe that was the first movement of the pieces of the jigsaw to put it in place, when Burnaby NOW came aboard," Wrigley said.

As time wore on, Wrigley decided to use the negotiating skills he learned in lumber trading to persuade York Hanover to lower their price. In a long-distance conversation with company president Don Kramer, he suggested the company donatethe carousel as a tax write-off. Kramer laughed at the idea.

Then Wrigley told him the market for carousels had softened and reminded him of the enormous freight costs involved in shipping a carousel to any of the U.S. auction sites. Eventually the two struck a deal for $330,000.

Unfortunately, the $20,000 saving was short-lived. When the association finally bought the carousel, the provincial sales tax bill was $19,800.

But by September, the province had kicked in with a $190,000 grant which combined with 2,200 pledges and a $330,000 grant from the city, enabled the carousel to be purchased and brought to Burnaby. Two years later, Wrigley would go before council to present the city a cheque repaying that grant in full.

As soon as the carousel was acquired, some 2,000 pledges had to be called-in by phone and by letter. Wrigley's wife Dorothy spent long hours typing to donors as far away as Toronto, Florida and California. Almost 90 per cent of pledges were honoured.

Meanwhile, the work of restoring the horses continued under project manager Keith Jamieson.

In all, volunteers put in 25,000 hours of restoration work.

Some even worked on Christmas Eve, Wrigley said.

Many of the carousel horses were deteriorated and had some missing legs, tails or were damaged from the cold and dampness.

Most of the horses were stripped down to the bare wood stage, filed, sanded and repainted with anywhere from nine to 13 coats of paint to achieve the original colour.

The association under Wrigley's persistence embarked on a plan to have every horse given a private sponsor.

Their reward for their corporate generosity was to have their name engraved on the horse of their choice.

Along with the hard work there were some very bad moments. The horses were in a Burnaby warehouse protected by an alarm system. Many a night at 3 a.m. the alarm would sound and Wrigley have to get up, dress, drive over, and meet the RCMP on the site.

Wrigley shrugs off praise directed towards himself. "It is the community's achievement. I was only the catalyst to bring it all together," he said. .Why did he take it on?

Partly, he says, it was the commitment he made to locate the carousel in Burnaby Village Museum. As well, "I thought it would be good for Burnaby as a tourist attraction."

The restoration process is now complete, as is the building in which the carousel will now be housed appropriately named the Don Wrigley Pavilion.

The official opening is slated for Saturday March 27, with the public opening to be a week later, April 3.

Attending the March 27 ceremony will be Mrs. Norvie Frame of Texas, the daughter of the carousel's original owner, Fred Leggatt.

Bingo: Gordon Robson

Dyck: Margie M. Robinson.

Twister: Dennis and Flory Bosa.

Centennial: Burnaby City Council

Tommy D :MP Dawn Black, MP Svend Robinson, MLA Barry Jones, MLA Barbara Copping, MLA Fred Randall, MLA Joan Sawicki, Mayor Bill Copeland.

Rose B: Rose,George and Rose Bancroft

James: Rose and George Bancroft

Pisces: Gin and Dorcas Farn

Meg: Derek Corrigan

Wheeler: The Rotary Club of Burnaby, Deer Lake

Guppy: Dorothy E. Wrigley and Cice Brown

Rebel: Burnaby South Secondary School

Royal Warrior :Buckingham Elementary School

Venus: Restaurant and Food Services Association of B.C.

The Colonel: Dr. E.M. Stevens

Happy Marie: Marie and Fred Donatiello and Mary (Lily) McCormack

Shannon: Instabox Ventures Ltd.

Annie :Parklane Ventures Ltd..

Royal: George Roy Brainerd

Old Paint: Burnaby Village Museum Staff and Volunteers.

Gold Heart: Chariot Variety Club (chariot section)

Loving, Caring, Sharing, Helping Hand: Ronald McDonald Charities (four metal horses around the wheelchair).

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Carver creates charger

By HAZEL POSTMA

Coquitlam NOW reporter

James stands proudly amid the sawdust and dirt of the workshop. His mane flows in the wind and his saddle gleams.

Until you peer over his back and he dissolves into raw chunks of unfinished wood.

James is a model of one of the horses on Burnaby's restored carousel. He's part of a demonstration exhibit designed to show visitors how carousel horses were built.

Coquitlam carver Marie McIlhiney spent hours in her basement workshop, cutting, sawing, grinding, carving and polishing James so he would be ready for the official opening of the 1912 carousel this weekend.

Marie McIlhiney puts together demonstration Carousel horse.

Paul VanPeenen\NOW

McIlhiney's involvement in Burnaby's Centennial project began two years ago "when my brother, Pat Welsh, volunteered me. We built the wood work benches and then I started on restoration and repairing."

Some parts of the carousel were so badly damaged or else missing entirely, that McIlhiney began carving new parts and was eventually commissioned to work on James.

"Burnaby Museum realized it could use a horse as a teaching and demonstration tool," McIlhiney says.

"Bob Watts, another volunteer, and I chose a horse, engineered its construction and built it together tMcIlhiney came to carving late in life, although she comes from an artistic family — her brother's an art teacher and a sister is a weaver.

"My father wanted to build a windmill for his grandsons but he couldn't see well enough to do the carving so he asked me to do it," McIlhiney says.

She fell in love with carving, took herself off to a night school class at Centennial and hasn't looked back since.

"The first things I carved were plaques of a kangaroo and an emu because I wanted something Australian on the walls," says McIlhiney who spent some years in Australia before returning to Canada and settling in Coquitlam in 1965.

She began carving birds and decoys five years ago after a hunting club commissioned her to carve 12 ducks as prizes.

She spends up to 50 hours on each bird. The result is a carving so intricate, so life-like that you reach out to stroke the feathers, touch the beak, just to determine that it really isn't real.

At 62 years-old, McIlhiney reckons she has at least six or seven years left for carving "and I want to do silversmithing, designing birds in silver. I also like to paint."

Work tends to get in the way — McIlhiney is a supervisor in the parts department at Sears' warehouse — and she only has time to carve in the evenings and on weekends.

"I love the feel of the wood as it takes form in my hands. Every wood has a different aroma. I love the smell of yellow cedar although it's quite strong and bass smells like soap. Bass is what most carousel horses are carved from or cottonwood. It's light but firm and holds a good line."

Heading back to the basement to put the final touches to James, McIlhiney is surrounded by planks of wood, drills, clamps, saws, planers, piles of dust, tins of varnish and paintbrushes.

And over in the corner are her washer and dryer, "so I can do laundry at the same time," she laughs.

A magical, musical ride

Built in 1912 by C.W. Parker in Leavenworth, Kansas, Carousel No. 119 was bought by Fred Leggett of the Lone Star Amusement Co. of Houston, Texas in 1913.

Leggett returned the carousel to Parker in 1915. It was rebuilt and shipped to San Francisco in 1918 where it operated until 1936 when it was sent to Vancouver, becoming part of the PNE's Happyland, later Playland.

In 1989 the carousel was rescued from demolition by Friends of the Carousel to became part of Burnaby's 1992 centennial celebrations.

Three years of fund-raising, hardwork and 35,000 hours of volunteer time later, the restored C.W. Parker Carousel opens this week in Burnaby.

A special pavilion has been built at Burnaby Village Museum to house the carousel and provide an interpretative history of the carousel and its restoration.

Marie McIlhiney makes the first rough cuts to form the "Lillie Belle" high toss mane.

The $1.5 million Burnaby carousel pavilion starts to take shape. The glass and wood building will include a display area describing the history of the carousel.

The spectacular lead horse proudly displays her new mane.

Burnaby Village Museum Parker Carousel to Open April 3, 1993

Story by Pat Jamieson

Countless hours and close attention to detail produced this beautifully painted outside row horse.

A pair of "American Beauty Rose" horses await their return to active duty on the Burnaby carousel.

Two years and some 25,000 volunteer hours later "the piece of junk" as often referred to by Project Manager Keith Jamieson, has been transformed into a "thing of beauty". "The volunteers had no idea what they were getting into" said Jamieson. "Even I was tricked."

The years of neglect had really taken their toll and the full extent of the damage became very evident as the layers of paint were stripped away. Horses and scenery literally fell apart. Add the challenge of building a new maple hardwood floor, completely new electrical wiring, new mirrors, new brass poles, new drive gears and the list went on and on!

The most amazing aspect of the whole project according to Jamieson was the dedication and talent of the volunteers. "Even at times when the task at hand seemed overwhelming they never gave up." One major hurdle was recreating a high toss mane that had been broken off at some point in the carousel's history (See "Mane Mystery" story in June, 1992 *Carousel News & Trader*).

The carousel is now completely restored and awaiting transport to its new $1.5 million home located in the Burnaby Village Museum. Burnaby, once a suburb of the larger metropolitan center of Vancouver, became a City in 1992 which was also its Centennial Year. The stunning glass and wood carousel pavilion was a centennial legacy project and includes a display area describing the history of the carousel and the restoration project. A gala grand opening is set for April 3, 1993.

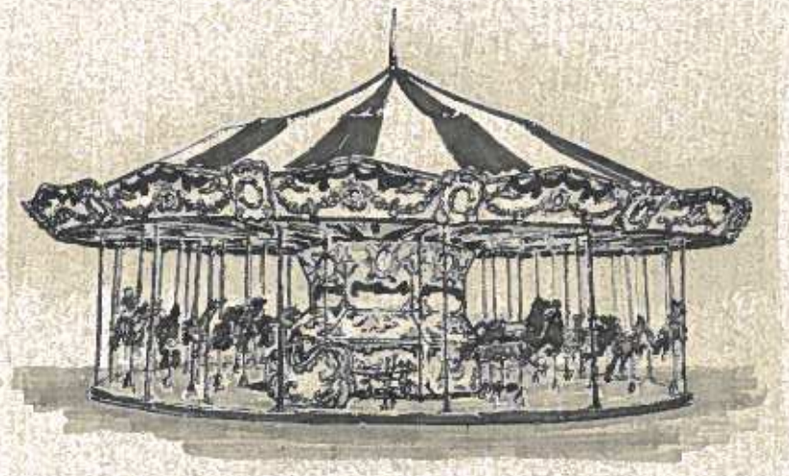
C.W. Parker would be pleased with this patriotic pinto beauty. The Burnaby Museum's carousel restoration has taken almost two years to complete.

The Friends of the Carousel are still looking for information on the 1913 Parker No. 119 machine before it came to Vancouver in 1936 and, of course, they still need donations to help pay off the acquisition and restoration costs. If anyone would like to help, or if anyone has any information about this carousel, please write to: Don Wrigley, President, The Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Carousel, c/o Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, V5G 3T6.

Exquisite detail painting was accomplished by Dorothy Seaton Clarke who volunteered her professional art services.

C.W. Parker,

ESTABLISHED 1892 WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF AMUSEMENT DEVICES



City of Burnaby

The Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission

cordially invites you and your guest
to attend the official opening ceremony of the

Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel

in the Don Wrigley Pavilion
at the Burnaby Village Museum

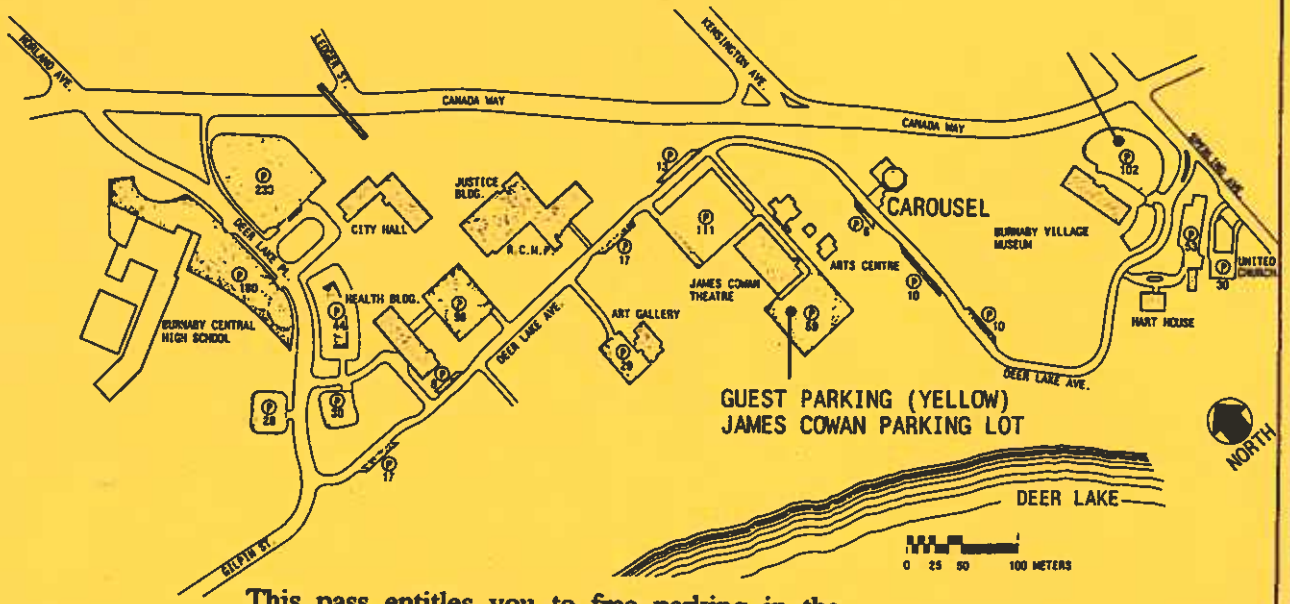
11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 27th, 1993

R.S.V.P. 293-6500 by March 18th. 1993

This invitation entitles you to
4th Ride on the Carousel

BY RIVER AND SEA RISE BURNABY

CAROUSEL GUEST PARKING MAP



This pass entitles you to free parking in the James Cowan Theatre south parking lot.

Burnaby Parks and Recreation

City of Burnaby
Parks and Recreation

Welcome
to a Dedication Ceremony
to celebrate

The Official Opening of the 1912 Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel and the Don Wrigley Pavilion

at Burnaby Village Museum
March 27, 1993

A Burnaby Centennial Legacy Project

Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission and Friends of the Carousel

Dedication Ceremony

Program of Events
Saturday, March 27, 1993, 11:00 a.m.

Arrival of Official Party

Welcome Master of Ceremonies - Mr. Red Robinson, KVOS-TV
Introduction of Official Party
O Canada Mr. Kyle Allen, Burnaby Clef Society

Speakers

His Worship Mayor Bill Copeland
Mr. Dan Johnston, *Chair of Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission*
Mr. Svend Robinson, *M.P. Burnaby Kingsway*
The Hon. Joan Sawicki, *Speaker of the House and M.L.A. Burnaby Willingdon*
Mr. Don Wrigley, *President of Friends of the Carousel*

Unveiling of Commemorative Plaques

- **presented by the National Carousel Association**
  N.C.A. President Brian Morgan to Commission Chair Dan Johnston
- **acknowledging the support of the Centennial Committee**
  unveiled by Centennial Committee Chair Don Brown
- **acknowledging the work of the Friends of the Carousel**
  unveiled by Commission Chair Dan Johnston
- **dedication of Carousel by the Friends of the Carousel**
  unveiled by Friends Vice-President Harry Sumner
- **official opening of the facility by City of Burnaby Council and Parks and Recreation Commission**
  unveiled by Burnaby Mayor Bill Copeland

Symbolic Transfer of Carousel from Friends to City

Mr. Don Wrigley, President of Friends of the Carousel

Ribbon Cutting to Open Carousel Building

His Worship Mayor Bill Copeland

First Ride

Children of Forest Grove School

Designated Rides for Special Guests

Refreshments will be served from 11:45 a.m.

Following the designated rides for special guests, the carousel will be available for all invited guests to ride. Don't miss the exhibit "The Story of Parker #119" and the video "Labour of Love: The Saving of Number 119" in the Carousel Activity Room.

Our very special guest today is Mrs. Norvie Frame, daughter of the original owner of our carousel, Mr. Fred Leggett. Mrs. Frame and other family members have come from Texas to attend the official opening of the carousel.

The Story of the Carousel

This 1912 C. W. Parker "Carry-us-All" was lovingly restored by the Friends of the Carousel between 1990 and 1993. The City of Burnaby, Province of British Columbia and Friends of the Carousel contributed to the construction of a new building to house the Carousel at Burnaby Village Museum. These accomplishments will serve as a lasting gift to the people of Burnaby and to Carousel lovers everywhere.

History of C.W. Parker Carousel No. 119

1912

Carousel No. 119 was built by C. W. Parker, an amusement ride manufacturer in Leavenworth, Kansas.

1913

Fred Leggett bought No. 119 for "Lone Star" Amusement Co. (Houston, Texas). It was returned to the Parker factory in 1915.

1918

No. 119 is believed to have been rebuilt after 1918 and then used in the San Francisco area until 1936.

1936

No. 119 was shipped to "Happyland" in Vancouver's Hastings Park (home of the Pacific National Exhibition).

1957

Ownership passed to "Playland", also in Hastings Park.

1988

The Carousel was scheduled to be broken up and sold at auction. Concerned citizens formed the "Friends of the Carousel" to save No. 119 from this sad fate.

1993

The fund-raising and restoration work are complete and the beautiful 1912 C. W. Parker Carousel is back in operation in its new home at Burnaby Village Museum.

The Don Wrigley Pavilion

- Named in honour of the President of the Friends of the Carousel, Don Wrigley, who co-ordinated the fund-raising and restoration project.
- Completed in March, 1993. Architecture by John Kerrigan Sproule, Architecture; built by ESPO Construction Ltd.

The Friends of the Carousel

The Friends will continue to act as a support group for Carousel operations. To become a member of the Friends of the Carousel, please contact Darlyne Dyxon at 420-9189.

Highlights of the New Facility

- restored working 1912 carousel (including 36 horses, 1 chariot, 4 metal ponies and space for 1 wheelchair)
- interactive computer information exhibit on the carousel project
- donor and volunteer recognition area
- multi-purpose activity room for exhibits, programs and special events
- accessible from Burnaby Village Museum or from Deer Lake Park

Carousel Operation

Rates:

1 ticket $2.15	3 tickets $5.25	(includes G.S.T.)

1993 Hours of Operation:

Spring	April 3 - May 31	11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Summer	June 1 - Sept. 6	10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fall	Sept. 7 - Sept. 26	11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving	Oct. 9 - Oct. 11	11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Heritage Christmas	Nov. 28 - Dec. 23	11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
	Wed. evenings in Dec.	4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Evenings Dec. 27 - 30	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Special Rentals:

The Carousel and Pavilion may be rented for special events such as birthday parties, meetings and company parties. For information, please contact the Museum at 293-6500.

Acknowledgements

The Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel and the Don Wrigley Pavilion have been made possible through the efforts of:

- The Friends of the Carousel
- The City of Burnaby
- The Government of British Columbia

and many generous corporate and private monetary and "in kind" donations.

Special Thanks To

- Burnaby Villa Hotel and Conference Centre
- Holiday Inn Metrotown

for their assistance in accommodating our special guests at this event.

March 29, 1993

Dear Keith & Pat,

Thank you for inviting us to attend the Grand Opening of your carousel. We felt so honored. We were also thrilled to see the carousel & meet the many people involved in the restoration. I do hope that you can arrange for someone to write an article about the carousel & its restoration for the Merry Go Round Up.

We also want to thank you personally for your hospitality & kindnesses which we were in Vancouver

Brian & Elinor

THANK YOU NOTE FROM BRIAN MORGAN, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL CAROUSEL ASS'N.

"THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER CAROUSEL"

NEWSLETTER
Summer 1993

NEWLY RESTORED LEAD HORSE ON BURNABY'S 1913 PARKER CAROUSEL

A RESTORATION SUCCESS STORY

Despite having to subject our California bodies to the Canadian winter weather, we were delighted to have been invited to the grand opening of the newly restored Burnaby, B.C., Canada 1913 C. W. Parker carousel this past March.

C. W. Parker was at one time the dominant supplier of country fair style carousels. Operating out of his factories in Abilene and Leavenworth, Kansas, he brought the bluster, bombast and promotion of a carny barker to the world of carousels. Soon his flamboyant machines with their elongated and flashy horses could be found at carnivals and parks all over the Midwest. One of his more elegant and elaborate carousels even operated at the Santa Monica pier in the '30s and '40s before being replaced by the current PTC No. 62.

Another of Parker's carousels started its career in Texas and San Francisco before landing at Vancouver's Hastings Happyland Park in 1935, where it operated until 1988 when it was slated to be broken up at auction. One of the workers at the park then started a strident campaign to save the carousel for Vancouver. Her efforts led to the formation of a Carousel Friends Group which was successful in persuading the Village (now City) of Burnaby to advance the money to buy the carousel. A vigorous fundraising campaign and over 35,000 hours of volunteer labor enabled the Friends of the Carousel to pay back the loan and completely restore and repaint the carousel and its horses. After a wonderful weekend of "thank you" parties for the many individuals, government agencies and corporations who had helped in the restoration, the carousel was finally opened to the public. It now operates as part of the Burnaby Historical Village on the eastern boundary of Vancouver in a specially designed building.

These efforts of the community of Burnaby have definitely added another jewel to the carousels of the West Coast. You can even have the thrill of a visit to a foreign country to add to the excitement.

Parker #119 Whirls Again at Burnaby Village Museum

Story by Pat Jamieson

Burnaby Village Museum Parker #119 Carousel is newly restored and raring to go. The carousel was opened to the public on April 3rd. Photo by Faye Stebner

The Don Wrigley Pavilion houses the newly restored Burnaby Village Museum carousel. The building was named in honor of the President of the Friends of the Carousel. Photo by Keith Jamieson

"They weren't taking away my childhood toy!" So said the original spearhead of the Lower Mainland Friends of the Vancouver Carousel at the official grand opening ceremony on Saturday, March 27th of this year. Venus Solano Fudge maintains she always knew this day would come and people would once again enjoy riding the beautiful Parker carousel.

The project to save Parker 119 began in 1988 (see stories in July, '90, July '91, June '92 & March '93 CN&T) and culminated on this sunny Saturday in March when invited guests attended the official opening ceremony. An opening party for fund-raisers, restorers and their families was held the afternoon and evening before.

The official dedication of the carousel included speakers from all three levels of government: Canada, the Province of British Columbia and the City of Burnaby. A popular local radio personality and carousel supporter, Red Robinson, was the Master of Ceremonies. A variety of Commemorative Plaques were presented to acknowledge the work and support of the Burnaby Centennial Committee, the Friends of the Carousel, the leadership of the Project Manager, Keith Jamieson, and to dedicate the carousel and the new facility.

A special plaque was presented by Brian Morgan, President of the National carousel Association, who thanked the Friends, the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby Village Museum for the effort expended to save this magnificent work of art.

Following the speeches, His Worship Mayor Bill Copeland cut the ribbon to open the brand new carousel building, the Don Wrigley Pavilion. The building was named in honor of the President of the Friends of the Carousel, Don Wrigley, who coordinated the fundraising and restoration project.

The first ride was reserved for the children of Forest Grove Elementary School who were decked out in colorful pony costumes. Other designated rides for the special guests followed.

One very special guest enjoyed everything immensely. Along with other members of her family, Mrs. Norvie Frame came all the way from Texas to attend the opening. "It's brought back so many memories" said an emotional Mrs. Frame who was a young girl in 1913 when her father, Fred Leggatt brought No. 119 for the "Lone Star" Amusement Co. which operated out of Houston.

While guests were enjoying the refreshments provided by the historically attired staff of Burnaby Village Museum, and riding merrily on the carousel, certain Friends who had participated in the mechanical refit and installation of the machine were starting to breathe a little easier.

Unbeknownst to most guests and defi-

nitely not leaked to the media, the clutch had overheated the night before at the Friend's party and had blown a critical seal. With no time to completely repair it, two of the Friends, Gordon Ironside and Doug Wills sat inside the "doghouse" (the center housing) for several hours with a funnel, a gallon of oil, and a tray of sandwiches, in order to keep it (and them) running. Meanwhile, Project Manager Keith Jamieson, was outside giving interviews and telling everyone "the carousel is running like a finely tuned Swiss watch!"

Another special day was held for all the people who had adopted a horse, the corporate sponsors, and their families on Sunday, March 28th. Opening day for the public was the following weekend, April 3rd, and the carousel, now fully repaired, has run perfectly ever since.

Carousel fanciers everywhere are invited to ride this wonderful machine. Burnaby Village Museum is located adjacent to Deer Lake Park off Highway #1.

Historically costumed villagers invite visitors to demonstrations, displays and hands-on activities among buildings depicting the 1890s through 1925. Public hours vary, so if you are planning a visit it is best to write or call ahead.

For more information about Burnaby Village Museum and the impressively restored Parker 119 merry-go-round call (604) 293-6501 or write to Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, V5G 3T6.

Donations are still being gratefully accepted by the Friends to help pay off restoration costs. Checks should be made payable to the Lower Mainland Association of the friends of the Carousel and sent to the above address care of Don Wrigley.

During the official dedication of the carousel, refreshments were provided by the historically attired staff of the Burnaby Village Museum. Photo by Pat Jamieson

Photo: Burnaby Village Museum

horsing around on a Carousel

By Gail Buente

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A CAROUSEL TO EVOKE THE MAGIC OF CHILDHOOD. Remember how it felt to jump on and grab your favorite steed? As soon as you were in the saddle, you rode into your own private fairy-tale world. Sadly, such pleasures are fast becoming relegated to the intangible realm of nostalgia as kids today are mesmerized by fast-paced electronic fantasy worlds. Slowly revolving carousels — which once numbered more than 6,000 across North America — are nearly an endangered species with fewer than 175 remaining in operation. • Luckily for British Columbians, one of those rare creatures makes its home at the Burnaby Village Museum. But it might never have turned up there had it not been for a group of dedicated carousel lovers who performed a bit of magic on an aging derelict from the PNE midway, transforming it into a gleaming representative of the golden age of carousels. • Built in 1912, the Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel started its life as Carousel #119 — so named because it was the 119th carousel built by the renowned C.W. Parker Co. of Leavenworth, Kansas, the world's largest carousel manufacturer between 1900 and the mid-1920s. The company's owner, Charles W. Parker, was a colorful character and a shrewd entrepreneur who was the first to base his operation in the Midwest so he could service the western half of the continent.

While rival manufacturers added carved cats, frogs and other animals to their "carry-us-alls" — or roundabouts, whirligigs, spinning jinnies and merry-go-rounds, as carousels have also been called — Parker's used only horses that had a distinctive thin, sinewy appearance. Many of the 36 brightly colored steeds leaping and galloping beneath the ornate canopy of the Burnaby carousel

have this long, lean look.

Parker built most of his roundabouts so they could be broken down and stacked for transport. Good thing, since this one moved around a lot. It first operated at the Lone Star Amusement Company in Houston, Texas. Two years later, the carousel was moved to an amusement park in San Jose, California, where it remained until 1922, when it was transported to San Francisco for rebuilding. Eventually, its long and winding road brought it up the coast to Vancouver, B.C., where it was installed in the carousel building at Happyland (now called Playland) in 1936.

For the next 54 years, the carousel entertained thousands upon thousands of children and their parents at Happyland. The popularity of the ride was evident from the wear and tear that took its toll and left old #119 in a state of extreme disrepair. The paint was chipped and peeling; the delicate hand-carved manes and tails were cracking; small parts had gone missing. York Hanover, the management company for Playland, decided it was no longer worth maintaining the ride, so in 1988 they decided to sell the horses individually at auction.

When word got out that Vancouver was losing its carousel, a group of volunteers, called the Lower Mainland Association of Friends of the Carousel, began lobbying to save the ride. The spirit of the group reflected the commitment of its founder, Venus Solano. Harry Sumner, former volunteer co-ordinator and current marketing consultant for the carousel, said Solano "would stand for hours beside the carousel, stopping all who passed by, trying to drum up support for the cause."

It wasn't easy, but enough funds were raised through corporate and individual donations (and a Go BC grant) to buy the carousel intact. Then the real work began. For two years, some 220 people generously gave more than 30,000 hours of their time to re-carve, sand, glue and paint the carousel, painstakingly restoring it to its original condition.

Today, the carousel gleams with love and fresh paint. The horses prance around, three abreast, to the sound of an antique 1925 Wurlitzer Military Band Organ, complete with an automatic drum set. Sedate adult riders can settle back in a regal chariot while tiny tots can ride the four small stationary ponies. There's even a space for those in wheelchairs to ride.

No detail has been overlooked. Every bridle and saddle is uniquely finished in a rainbow of colors. Tucked in behind each saddle is a detailed carving of a fish, dog's head, ear of corn or other fanciful object. One ear of corn even has a tiny ladybug perched on top!

The sponsors gave their individual horses imaginative names like Guppy, Twister, Scampering Dawn, and Mignonette and each is decorated accordingly — with a few happy surprises for riders to discover. For instance, Firefly, a black stallion with a pinto neck, was sponsored by the Burnaby Fire Fighters. A close look at the spotted pattern reveals two Dalmatians cleverly concealed in the design!

When the Friends of the Carousel had completed the arduous task of refurbishing, they donated the carousel to the Burnaby Village Museum, where it is protected by the Don Wrigley Pavilion, designed to be reminiscent of old-style carousel buildings like the one at Happyland. The setting is ideal.

The Burnaby Village Museum re-creates a small Lower Mainland town of the period between 1890 and 1925 — the heyday of the carousel. Visitors stroll along Main Street past the blacksmith's shop, the ice cream parlor, the trading company, the tram station and other original and re-created buildings of the time. Even Gameboy-addicted kids will enjoy travelling back in time to this little village, and taking their turn on a *real* time machine, the Burnaby Centennial Parker Carousel.

The carousel's renewed popularity has made it the focal point of special events such as a school program called *Horsing Around*. Local school groups are given an inside look at how carousels are built and restored, with the help of Old Paint, one of the original horses which was left in its unrestored condition, and Barnaby, a partially completed horse that can be disassembled to demonstrate the carving process.

The carousel operates from April 2 through Labor Day at a cost of $1 per ride for all ages. The Don Wrigley Pavilion and the carousel may be rented for special events. For information, contact the Burnaby Village Museum at 293-6500. ■

Parker 119 at Burnaby Village Museum

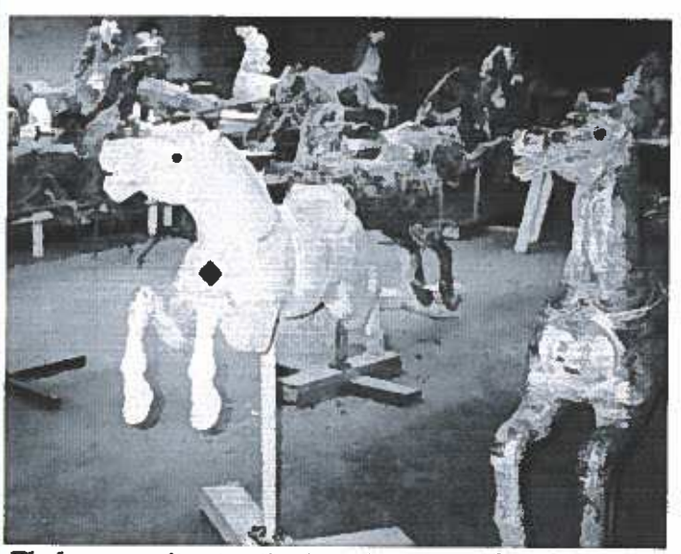
"Definitely worth the effort."

MERRY-GO-ROUNDUP
WINTER 1993

As members of the Lower Mainland Association of Friends of the Vancouver Carousel watched with satisfaction and pride, Parker 119 was officially dedicated by three levels of government on March 27, 1993: Canada, the province of British Columbia, and the city of Burnaby.

The rescue of the 1912 Parker Carry-Us-All began in 1988 when a former employee of Playland Amusement Park Ltd., who owned the carousel, started the campaign. Venus Solano had been hired the previous year to repair and repaint the horses, to get them ready for the Park opening in the Spring.

During the process, Venus fell in love with the beautiful carvings and recognized that this treasure was not valued or properly cared for. When her pleas to the park management and parent company York Hannover Co. fell on deaf ears, Venus formed a "Friends" group.



The horses await restoration in various stages of repair.

A lucky young student gets the first official ride on newly restored

The group planned to raise funds to purchase and restore the carousel.

As public and political pressure increased, York Hannover announced its intention to break up the carousel and sell the horses at auction. The race was on.

Gordon Campbell, the mayor of Vancouver, persuaded the owners to hold off on the sale until November 1989, thus buying the group a precious commodity, time.

Under Venus' presidency, the Friends started their fund raising. Corporate sponsorship programs, individual donations, events, sales of carousel mementos and adopt-a-horse campaigns were used to raise enough cash to purchase the machine.

Then York Hannover decided that perhaps the carousel was valuable after all, and agreed to sell it to the Friends for a staggering $350,000 Cdn. (approxi-

"Lillie Belle."

mately $275,000 U.S.).

This, for a machine that had been left out in pouring rain for several months without a top.

In addition to the moral and technical support provided by the NCA, an early corporate sponsor, Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, gave the group its first real monetary boost by adopting the first horse for $10,000.

One of the Credit Union vice presidents served on the initial board of directors, and the Credit Union provided meeting space and administrative assistance.

The legal work required to incorporate the Society was donated by Davis & Company, a major Vancouver law firm.

The Friends also set out to find a permanent home for the machine following its acquisition. After exploring many sites in Vancouver proper, they settled on the Burnaby Village Museum in the adjacent municipality of Burnaby, which had expressed the most interest.

This well-established historic family park is in a beautiful lakeside setting and depicts the time period from the 1890s through 1925. Villagers in period costume invite visitors to demonstrations, displays, and hands-on activities in such buildings as a blacksmithing shop, one-room schoolhouse, and ice cream parlor. The carousel would be in total harmony with this operation.

Although the Burnaby Village Museum quickly agreed to take on the task of preserving and operating the carousel, fund-raising efforts proceeded slowly.

By November 1989, it was clear that the Friends needed more time to raise the money they had agreed to pay for the carousel. Because of the publicity surrounding their efforts and Playland's realization that auctioning the machine would not necessarily guarantee the profit they envisioned, another reprieve to September 30, 1990 was granted. Fund raising continued.

With the wholehearted support of the municipality of Burnaby, which owns the museum, the Friends rallied behind incoming president Don Wrigley, who had been chairman of the Burnaby Village Museum board.

Don and Venus organized many fund-raising events and accepted pledges from citizens of the lower mainland, schoolchildren, and businesses. *Burnaby Now*, a local newspaper, became a supporter and provided almost weekly articles and pictures.

By early September 1990 about $60,000 had been raised. Sadly, it appeared the group would not reach its goal of raising enough money to save the carousel.

However, Don's patience was rewarded in mid-September, when the province of British Columbia presented the Friends with a $200,000 G-B.C. Grant.

"It is important to recognize the significance of such items that are among the memories of our childhood. Those memories will be retained at our own Burnaby Village Museum," said Elwood Veitch, a Burnaby Willingdon Member of the Legislative Assembly, at the presentation ceremony.

Despite the tremendous boost, the fund was still short about $90,000. At this point, Don used his well-honed negotiating skills to persuade Playland to lower the asking price.

After much haggling, the parties struck a deal at $330,000 Cdn. (approxi-

"Lillie Belle," without her high-toss mane, awaits restoration.

Larry Root (left), Marie McIlhiney (ladder), Barry Gaston (kneeling), and Keith Jamieson (right) place one of the first horses on the machine.

mately $258,000 U.S.). The municipality of Burnaby then granted the Friends an interest-free loan for the full amount still needed, to be repaid with redeemed pledges and continued fund raising.

On a rainy November 2, 1990, an excited group of Friends watched as volunteers from West Coast Amusements Ltd. brought the carousel out of storage at Playland Park and moved it to a warehouse that was donated and maintained by Burnaby for the duration of the restoration. The move was supervised by NCA member Keith Jamieson, who volunteered to serve as project manager for the restoration process.

As one group of volunteers continued the fund raising, other volunteers began the restoration work. Most of the horses were badly deteriorated. Many were missing legs, tails, and other parts. Keith was overheard to remark that if he'd known what bad shape the machine was in, he might have thought twice about the project.

Nevertheless, all of the horses were stripped down to bare wood, cracks were filled, and missing parts were carved and replaced. Previous stripping, including at least one dip-stripping, precluded any chance of restoring the original colors. Volunteers then sanded, primed, and painted the horses realistically, using acrylic paints.

Over two years, the volunteers put in more than 25,000 hours of restoration work. Near the end of the project, some even worked on Christmas Eve.

Corporate sponsors included 3-M, who donated the paint stripper; Lumberland, who donated tools and building materials for the work stands; and General Paint, who donated some of the paint. Yet, many other costs had to be covered by fund raising.

The center pole just fits into the new Don Wrigley Pavilion.

Volunteer coordinator Harry Sumner and his late wife, Hazel, recruited people to staff fund-raising booths at shopping centers, fairs, and any place there was likely to be a crowd.

In 1991, the NCA donated $1,000 from the Fred and Mary Fried Preservation Fund. This actually worked out to about $1,250 in Canadian money..

Don again used his persuasive skills to secure corporate and individual sponsors. He even enticed some local politicians to team up and sponsor a horse. The fund-raising crew put in another 10,000 volunteer hours, for a total of over 35,000 volunteer hours to date.

During the two-year restoration, a variety of

Ken Diamond (left), Harry Sumner (middle), and Dennis Brown (right) move the first horse to its new home.

Parker 119

Continued from page 26

Wurlitzer 146B military band organ before restoration.

interesting events occurred:

• A 1925 Wurlitzer 146B military band organ was acquired to replace the original music maker.

• Volunteer Marjorie Stevens wrote Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf to advise him she had named the horse she sponsored Stormin' Norman, after him—and he replied. His thank-you letter on four-star letterhead is on display in the museum.

• A beautiful wood floor for the machine was acquired from the gymnasium of an old Burnaby penitentiary, Oakalla, which was demolished.

• Under the leadership of mayor Bill Copeland, the municipality of Burnaby became the city of Burnaby and celebrated its 1992 Centennial Year by dedicating $1.5 million toward the construction of a building on the museum grounds to house the carousel.

• While one horse had many characteristics of a "Lillie Belle" carving, its mane had either been cut down over the years or was never carved in the high-flame style to begin with.

After much discussion and soliciting opinions from North American carousel restoration and carving experts, the volunteers decided to recreate the high-toss mane.

On Christmas Day 1992 the carousel was complete and ready for its new home. Construction of the new building was behind schedule, however, so the actual assembly and installation of the machine did not begin until a snowy day in late February 1993.

Another volunteer crew, led by Keith Jamieson, worked several weekends in a row to erect the center pole, assemble the sweeps and rounding boards, fit the gears and drive pinion, and add the floor, top, and scenery panels.

The final, glorious moment came when the horses were added. Some lucky volunteers then participated in the test rides.

There were so many people to thank that four separate openings were held.

On Friday, March 26, a party was held in the carousel building for the fund-raisers and restorers and their families. The official grand opening took place the following day. Invited guests included Brian Morgan, NCA president, who presented a commemorative plaque and thanked the Friends, the city of Burnaby, and Burnaby Village Museum for the effort expended to save this beautiful work of art. Following speeches and other presentations, mayor Bill Copeland cut the ribbon to open the Don Wrigley Pavilion and start the first official ride.

Sunday, March 28, was dedicated to those who sponsored horses, corporate donors, and their families.

Finally, on Saturday, April 3, the carousel opened to the public.

Fund raising continues to pay off remaining restoration costs.

For more informaton about Parker 119 and the Burnaby Village Museum, contact: Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, BC, Canada, V5G 3T6. (604) 293-6501.

About Parker 119

1912 • Parker Carousel No. 119 is built (perhaps earlier).

1913 • No. 119 is sold to Fred Leggett of Houston, Texas, owner of Lone Star Amusement Co., part of a traveling midway.

1915 • Lone Star closes. No. 119 returns to the Parker factory in Leavenworth.

1915-17 • No. 119 is rebuilt and modernized; emerges in "Superior" style.

1918 • It is believed that No. 119 was sent to Alum Rock Park in San Jose, Calif.

1922-35 • No. 119 is sent to Parker rebuilding and repair facility in San Francisco. Replaced at Alum Rock with a new four-row Parker, which burned in the early 1930s.

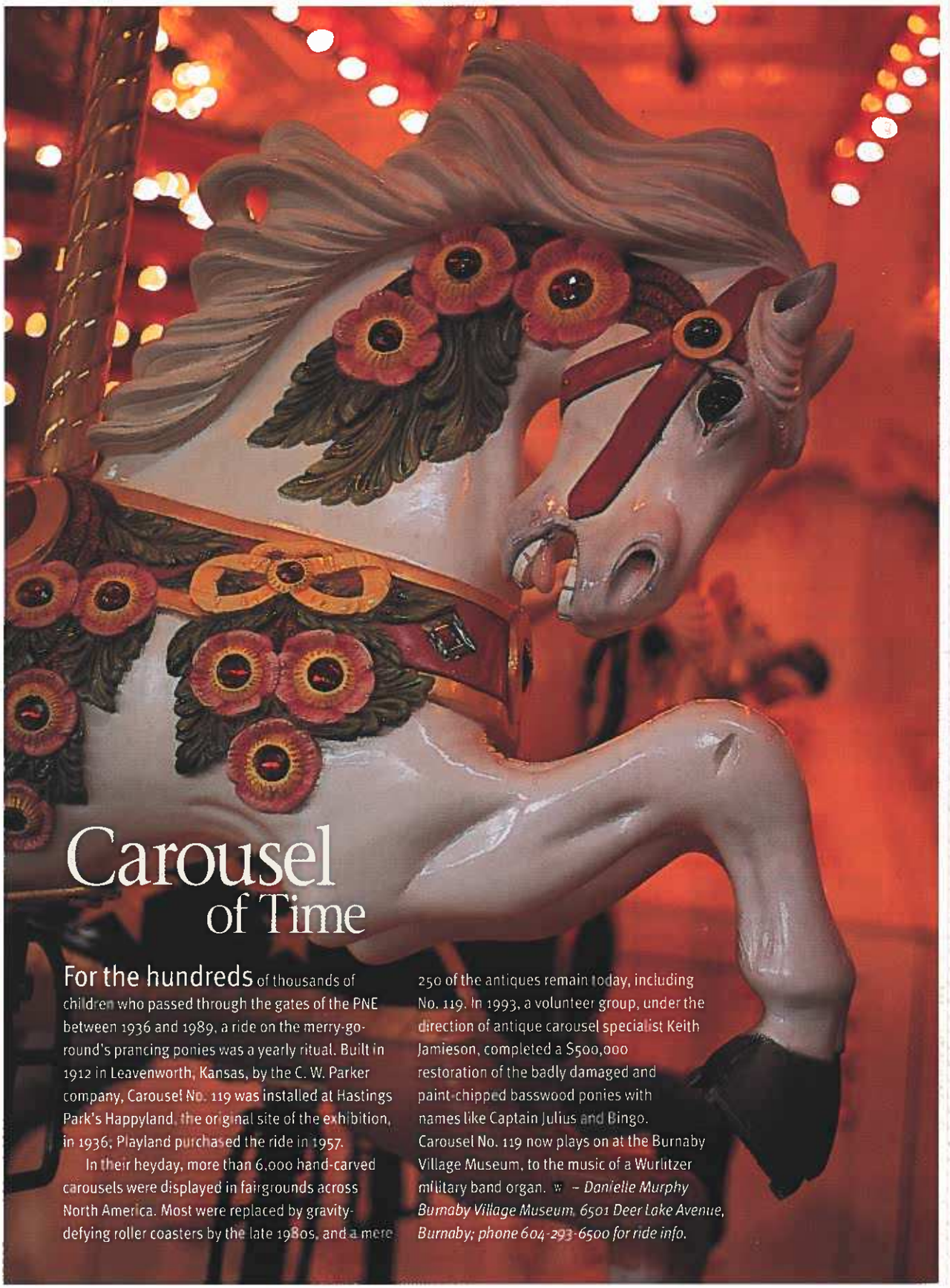
1936 • No. 119 arrives at Vancouver's Happyland Amusement Park; operates in a PTC carousel building.

1957 • Happyland closes. No. 119 is removed from the carousel building, which is demolished, and installed, repainted, and refurbished in the Happyland dance hall.

1958-90 • No. 119 is moved to a new carousel building at Playland Amusement Park. The building is later torn down, and No. 119 operates outside in summer, is stored winters.

1990 • No. 119 is acquired by Friends of the Carousel, who restore, repaint, and rebuild it.

1993 • No. 119 moves in March to the new Don Wrigley Pavilion at the Burnaby Village Museum.



Carousel of Time

For the hundreds of thousands of children who passed through the gates of the PNE between 1936 and 1989, a ride on the merry-go-round's prancing ponies was a yearly ritual. Built in 1912 in Leavenworth, Kansas, by the C. W. Parker company, Carousel No. 119 was installed at Hastings Park's Happyland, the original site of the exhibition, in 1936; Playland purchased the ride in 1957.

In their heyday, more than 6,000 hand-carved carousels were displayed in fairgrounds across North America. Most were replaced by gravity-defying roller coasters by the late 1980s, and a mere 250 of the antiques remain today, including No. 119. In 1993, a volunteer group, under the direction of antique carousel specialist Keith Jamieson, completed a $500,000 restoration of the badly damaged and paint-chipped basswood ponies with names like Captain Julius and Bingo. Carousel No. 119 now plays on at the Burnaby Village Museum, to the music of a Wurlitzer military band organ. ■ *– Danielle Murphy*

Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby; phone 604-293-6500 for ride info.

Photograph: Ron Sangha

City of Burnaby

The Burnaby Parks, Recreation and
Culture Commission
and the Friends of the Carousel
Invite you and a guest to the

10th Anniversary
Celebration of the Carousel
at Burnaby Village Museum

Saturday, April 5, 2003

At the Don Wrigley Pavilion
Burnaby Village Museum
6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby

2:00-4:00pm: Ceremony, by invitation only
4:00-8:00pm: Public celebration, with free rides

RSVP to 604-293-6500 by March 24, 2003

PICTURE OF THE DAY

ONE MORE TIME AROUND

Danica Kobayashi, 7, of Port Moody takes a spin around the restored 1912 C.W. Parker carousel at the Burnaby Village Museum yesterday. RIC ERNST — THE PROVINCE