

Miniature Band Organs

Eddie Evarts



Figure 1. Wurlitzer Model #125.



Figure 2. Wurlitzer Model #146.



Figure 3. Wurlitzer Model 105 (old style).

After Bernice completed her first miniature carousel, I decided to attempt building a miniature band organ to accompany the carousel. We live in North Tonawanda, which has a rich history of band organ manufacturing. The decision was to make a Wurlitzer Model # 125 (**Figure 1**). I was a tin smith at General Motors at the time and thought this would be a good challenge for me constructing the horns, etc. This model turned out very nice and soon people wanted me to build one for them.

I entered my first miniature in the New York State Fair and competed with entries from the entire state. I won the fourth place prize. After building about 20 of this model, I decided to expand to another model and then built a Wurlitzer Model # 146 (**Figure 2**). That also became popular and I built several of these and then on to the Model # 105 in both the old and new styles (**Figures 3 & 4**).

The latest model that we built was the Model # 153 which is also very popular and has created a lot of interest (**Figure 5**). Our hope was to try to build one of every model that Wurlitzer created but now we know this will never happen. There are just too many models and too little time.

Our latest creation that is in progress is a miniature of our Model # 58-M Stinson organ (**Figure 7**). So far we have the facade done and are working on the rest of the organ. All our organs have lights, speakers and an MP3 player which is loaded with our original band organ music. They are approximately 8" high and 8" wide. This is our winter hobby. We do this during the cold snowy western New York winters. We have been building miniatures for over 20 years and have enjoyed the making of them.



Figure 7. Model #58-M Stinson Organ.



Figure 4. Wurlitzer Model 105 (new)



Figure 5. Wurlitzer #153



Figure 6. Carousel with organs lined up.