

Meet Your Member

Martin Anderson was a little boy who loved to take things apart to see what made them work. He was also able to put them back together again. Sometimes they worked even better when he was finished. Mary Jane was a little girl who loved music. However, she was not able to play anything but the radio. They both grew up enjoying time at amusement parks—Idlewood, Kennywood, Idora and Cascade.



Martin and Mary Jane Anderson taking a rest at a 2005 organ rally. Not pictured is the “Air-Calio” calliope.

While setting up a display for the now-defunct Idora Park in Youngstown, OH, the Idora group told Martin about the Artizan band organ from Conneaut Lake Park, PA, which needed major repairs. Martin also learned about a bandwagon that Joe Lucky of Erie had built to display a DeBence Wurlitzer 105 band organ in an Edinborough Parade.

While living in Franklin they decided to take their young daughter, Becky, to visit a music museum outside of town—DeBence Museum. They all fell in love with Jake and Elizabeth, and all of the music machines.

In the mid-1990s, after a series of strokes, Martin began a rehab program that included helping to restore a Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ in Oil City, PA. The project director, Dr. Richard Abel, was a very patient and knowledgeable mentor for Martin. In 1998, Martin was conducting an organ tour for a ladies group from Franklin. Elizabeth DeBence was in that group. She asked the Andersons to consider going to DeBence Antique Music World in downtown Franklin to volunteer their time and talent. They began their volunteer work there in late summer, 1999.

DeBence used this festive wagon to return the restored Artizan to Conneaut Lake Park during their opening day, 2000.

The same year Martin and Mary Jane trailed a DeBence Wurlitzer 153 band organ to various fairs, and festivals. One event was a COAA rally in Midway Park, Jamestown, NY. They enjoyed it so much that they became “carnies” every summer. This year they are displaying the “Air-Calio” calliope originally from Kennywood Park, Pittsburgh, PA. It had been part of the Larry Givens (Wexford, PA) collection.

They have met many wonderful people, seen many exciting things, and heard great music from many fine band/street organs. If you are ever in the Franklin area, please be sure to stop in to see the Anderson’s “Home-

COAA Web Site

Check out www.carouselorganassociation.org for the latest information about rallies, membership and COAA items for sale. Vice-president Larry Kern has taken over responsibility for the page and has done an outstanding job. This is a good site to refer your friends who are considering membership in the COAA.

2006 Organ Rally Dates

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Contact Person</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| COAA Rally #1 | Lake Winnepesquakah Amusement Park Chattanooga, TN | Charles Walker (404-892-0065) | Late May, 2006 |
| COAA Rally #2 | Knoebel’s Grove Amusement Park Elysburg, PA | Tim Wagner (585-425-7072) | June, 2006 |
| COAA Rally #3 | Crossroads Village Flint, MI | Carl & Sharon Curtis (734-428-0268) | Mid-July, 2006 |
| Mid-Am Rally (MBSI) | Warren, OH | Dave Calendine (810-869-4778) | July 27-28, 2006 |
| COAA Rally #4 | DeBence Museum Franklin, PA | Lynn Zillmer (814-432-8350) | Sept. 8-10, 2006 |