

### Meet Your Member—Paul & Patty Dyer

Patty and I have been interested in our hobby for over 25 years. When we first got interested was when we owned Model-T cars. We went to the Indianapolis 500 track for a car meet. There was a Model-T pie wagon playing circus music. I went to check it out, and to my disappointment it was playing a tape player. I told Patty I was going home and build a calliope. That did not turn out so well. I contacted friends who had calliopes and was told to contact Dave Miner's father. He sent me the blue prints and I was off to building another calliope.

I spent the entire winter of 1984 and into early spring making a working calliope. The first rally I went to was in Sandusky, Ohio. From then on I was hooked. We did lots of parades with our little red circus calliope wagon. Soon I got interested in band organs, so I started learning how to build organ pipes. Then it was the building of a band organ. And then another and another.



Patty and Paul Dyer with their style 165 organ.

I took on a project of making Wurlitzer 153 facades with Bob Brown. I ended up making 12 of these. The next big project was getting a Decap Organ from Roy Haning and Neil White. Since I had no room to set up the organ I had to buy some property. I built a new building to house our collection. That was the beginning of a much larger collection.

In the mean time I managed build yet another band organ. We then had two so I decided to sell one to our good friends Oran and Candy Speas

who became members and attend rallies with us.

Along the way we took time, at the prodding of our friend Frank Rider, to be Chapter Chairman of the Mid-Am chapter of the MBSI. That was the year of the largest and hottest organ rally. There were 45 large organs and lots of small organs along with 103 degrees of heat, making the rally a “drive-through” rally for many onlookers. I am sure many of you remember.

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#### 2010 Organ Rally Dates

COAA Mid-Winter Meeting	Clarion Hotel Tampa, FL	Ron Bopp 918-527-0589	February 19-21, 2010
AMICA (Lady Liberty)	Long Island, NY	Vincent Morgan	May 1, 2010
COAA Rally #1	Lake Winnepesaukah Chattanooga, TN	Ron & Glynn Keisler 803-356-4515	May 29-31, 2010
COAA Rally #2	Washington State	Dan Danko 509-783-7113	June TBA, 2010
COAA Rally #3	Knoebels Grove Elysburg, PA	Tim Wagner 585-425-7072	June 12-13, 2010
COAA/AMICA Rally #4	Band Organ Recall/Wurlitzer Bldg. North Tonawanda, NY	Mike Walters 716-656-9583	July 10-11, 2010
COAA Rally #5	Merry-Go-Round Museum Sandusky, OH	Vicki Bout 419-626-6111	July 17-18, 2010
COAA Rally #6	Carousel Museum St. Joseph, MI	Suz Schalon 888-404-7587	August 20-22, 2010
COAA Rally #7	People, Beer, Fun & Antebellum History Fort Leavenworth, MO	Gordie Davidson 913-683-3645	October 16-17, 2010

The vibratone ranks, which have been compared with the familiar kazoo musical toy, are particularly well represented in all of the later products of Gebroeders Decap, and this organ is no exception. A very common effect is for the actual tune to be played by the jazz flute and vibratone with the tremulant selected on the melody division, with suitable chords played on the counter-melody vibratone, also with the tremulant, to fill out the overall sound producing a kind of “vibratone chorus”



Figure 6. The 92-key Decap in the Kraus Collection in Medina, Ohio.

Albert Decap became a master at utilizing the many resources of such organs. A particular speciality was his jazz improvisations which were often played in single-notes on the violin, trumpet and jazz flute registers drawn together (without the tremulant), against transparent three-note counter-melody chords on the celeste. Some bars later, this combination was often reversed, whereby the improvisation was now forcefully played in the counter-melody division on the saxophone, alto vibratone and cello, against chords in the melody played by the vibratone, this time with the tremulant.

### Owner's Comments

When the spouse, partner, or significant other of a mechanical music collector hears an instrument and says “I’d like one of those,” I’ve learned that collector ought to pay attention.

So, Ann and I were in Europe with the Bumbling Bruder tour in 2005. We saw and heard several 92-key DeCap organs, but when we got to Fredy Kuenzle’s museum in Lichtensteig, Switzerland, she said those magic words. She particularly liked the two saxophones and two accordions featured on some of the 92-key models rather than the fewer number of instruments usually featured on smaller-sized organs.

Returning home and doing some research, I found that the only 92-key DeCap available in the US in the last few years had been snapped up by Ed Kraus, an Ohio collector (Figure 6). Thus I turned to Andrew Pilmer in York, England, who had been responsible for the fantastic restoration of our 89-key Gavioli.

Pilmer located an organ in Holland, shipped it to his shop in York for refurbishing, and then shipped it to us when a new house we were building in Connecticut was finished. We played it for all collectors who took the bus tours to collections during the recent MBSI annual convention.

I’m now worried about the cost of the next “one of those” that Ann might want!

Bill Edgerton

In some organs the trumpet is equipped with zinc resonators but in the case of *Marie Jeanne*, they are of made of wood.

The organ was crated and shipped to Connecticut in a dedicated 20’ container and was brought into Bill and Ann Edgerton’s new home shortly after arrival. After some weeks of acclimatization, we checked over and tuned the organ before final assembly prior to this year’s MBSI annual convention at Morristown, NJ. Bill and Ann hosted a house visit on one of the member’s collection bus tours when, spread over two days, around 300 people saw and heard the new acquisition.

Centerfold photograph by Keith Pritchett. All others by Ron Bopp unless otherwise noted.

Roger Mostmans is the grandson of Camille Decap and has worked full time in the Decap family business in Antwerp since 1974.

Andrew Pilmer has been involved with mechanical organs since 1986 and is well known among COAA members for his restorations as well as his hospitality with visits from the Bumbling Bruder Tour group.

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We now have a room full of organs and musical instruments. These include a 92-key Decap; a Hanchett calliope; a 123 Mortier with a new façade (built as a copy of the famous Taj Mahal organ); a 36-key Verbeeck street organ and a 165 Dyer-built band organ. The last is mounted in a trailer that we take to rallies.

Our music building has brought us many hours of pleasure entertaining groups of visitors over the years. We welcome visitors to come share a love for the fantastic music of old.