

Meet Your Member: Ted Guillaum

I cannot say for certain exactly when I decided to become an organ grinder. Was it a dream of a lifetime? I don't think so. I never even saw or heard an organ grinder as a child. But a seed was planted when I was a child. I was fortunate enough to grow up in southern Indiana and close enough to Evansville, IN where the Mesker Park Zoo had a couple of rides that included a classic Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel (PTC #67) housed in a traditional wooden round building built in 1923. My parents would let me, and my sister and two brothers, ride after visiting the animals. What a thrill! One of the things that got me hooked on organ grinding was the magnificent SOUND of the band organ. I don't know who made the instrument but I don't think it was a Wurlitzer. I recently found a photo from the Willard Library collection in Evansville and the instrument was much bigger than any Wurlitzer that I am familiar with. I just know I loved the sound and a seed was planted.

Moving along in time, I became familiar with the sound of the calliope on the Delta Queen steamboat. It would stop once in a while at my home town of Tell City, IN. The Mark Twain bug bit me and in 1976 I gave up my career as a high school band director and ran off and joined up with the Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen steamboats as a Purser for the next five years. I could never get enough of hearing the calliope. Every time they would play I would try to drop what I was doing and run up on deck to give a listen. Some would say that standing right underneath a steam calliope, playing full blast, would be too loud. Not me. Bring it on! I never quite got all the river water out of my blood after I



Ted Guillaum and his signature wave of the hat.

left the boats at the end of the 1980 season. I joined a group of river buffs that met in Marietta, Ohio once a year. It was there that I saw my first street organ. I found Jim & Sylvi Caporale's flag shop and they had some antique street organs in their window that year but none of them were in playing condition. I thought "Ah ha!" Another seed was planted. I wanted to learn more. I came home and got on the internet. I searched for a year and got familiar with names like Raffin and others. The next year, back at Marietta, I was in luck. The Caporale's had their big Raffin in the shop and I finally got to hear it. That was it. My goose was cooked. I had to have one! Where do I get it? Who do I contact? How long will it take? But I want it NOW! Sylvi gave me the name of Hal O'Rourke and I went back home for another year of trying to justify paying for my dream organ AND figuring out just what I would do with it if I had one. Ok, now all my friends are thinking I have lost my mind for sure. Now it is 2003 and the big MBSI rally is held in Marietta. I knew Hal would be there and he would be looking for me. I was pretty sure that I wanted a Raffin but I still had not heard or played any other organs. Hal suggested I look at the variety of organs at the rally to be sure of what I wanted. Dave Rohe happened to be the first grinder that I met and he was cranking a 20er Raffin just like the one that I wanted. He was kind enough to allow me to play and that was it. I was done. I met back up with Hal and I placed my order for my very own Raffin

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2007 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
Heart of America (AMICA)	Lendonwood Gardens Grove, Oklahoma	Ron Bopp (918-786-4988)	April 14, 2007
COAA Rally #1	"Grinders in the Garden" Kennewick, Washington	Dan Danko (509-783-7113)	May 19, 2007
COAA Rally #2	Lake Winnepesaukah, Georgia	Charles Walker (404-892-0065)	May 25-28, 2007
COAA Rally #3	Gallipolis, Ohio	Bob Hood (800-655-6482)	June 16-17, 2007
COAA Rally #4	Quassy Amusement Park Middlebury, Connecticut	Ron Gustafson (203-758-2913, Ext. 109)	June 30-July 1, 2007
Mid-Am Chapter (MBSI)	Wabash, Indiana	Hope Rider (260-563-5030)	July 19-21, 2007
COAA Rally #5	Muscataine, Iowa	Ron Bopp (918-786-4988)	July 27-29, 2007
COAA Rally #6	St. Joseph, Michigan	Ken Kasbaski (269-926-1053)	August 24-26, 2007

30th Anniversary CD Offered!

After 30 issues of the *Carousel Organ*, the COAA is now offering a special Anniversary CD.

Included in the CD are: *30 issues of the *Carousel Organ* plus the yearly *Rally Editions*
*PDF's of 173 individual articles that have been included in issues 1 - 30
*Subject Index plus Author Index of articles

All this for \$25.00 plus \$2.00 shipping/handling. Send checks to: Ron Bopp, Editor/Publisher
25241 S. 630 Rd.
Grove, OK 74344

Classified Ads

Classified advertising rates (per issue): \$0.35 per word with a minimum charge of \$10.00 per ad (non-member rates: \$0.70 per word with \$20.00 minimum). **Bold type words** are \$0.50 per word. Classified advertisements may be repeated in consecutive issues with a 10% discount for the 2nd ad, 20% discount for the 3rd ad and 30% for the 4th ad. There will be no refunds for consecutive insertions should your item sell before the end of the ad schedule.

All classified ads (and payment) should be mailed to COAA Advertising Manager, Herb Brabandt, 6113 Rodes, Louisville, Ky (40222) before the first of December, March, June or September. Phone inquiries may be made to Herb at 502-425-4263 or email at johebra3@aol.com. Ads may be paid by check, Money Order, or by PayPal (Carousel Organ Association of America [Marge Waters], Wawaters2@aol.com) The members name must appear in the ad content as well as the price. The ads should be limited to organs, calliopes and/or other outdoor mechanical musical instruments or related products and/or services.

For Sale: MANY ITEMS FOR SALE: time to do some shop cleaning of instruments, parts, carvings, recordings, etc. DECAP 80-key single accordion and sax \$9,500.00 (partly restored). TELEKTRA installed in an upright piano with about 80 brass rolls (Works) \$4,500.00. Schulmerich Carillon complete and working with about 25 rolls \$3,500.00. Old LP's, tapes and 150-plus of m-m instruments. Please visit our new web page for more info, pictures, etc. on these and many other items at www.NickelodeonCo.com. Or, email schmuck@wightman.ca Ron Schmuck, RR#4, Mount Forest, Ont. Canada. N0G 2L0. Call 519 323 3582.

For Sale: WURLITZER 850 PEACOCK JUKEBOX—Beautiful, complete, original, and professionally restored machine with coin gear. Rare early “footed” model. Former celebrity owner. \$27,000.00 OBO (516) 541-9080 Email: anthony.ballato@verizon.net for photos

For Sale: SEEBURG DOG RACE GREYHOUND PLAYER PIANO—Fully restored in 2006 by Dick Hack Mechanical. Perhaps the best example of this very rare animated “A” roll nickelodeon with gambling mechanism in existence. See: Bowers Encyclopedia pages 179 and 606. \$33,000.00 OBO (516) 541-9080 Email: anthony.ballato@verizon.net for photos.

Wanted: Cast iron flat belt pulley with curved spokes for band organ. Approximately 16 inches in diameter. Don Janisch, 4794 Wildflower Ct., Dousman, WI 53118. 262-965-2627

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My first event was Oktoberfest in Nashville and I could not believe the response. The people loved the organ. I loved playing for them and getting them involved. I would present them with "Genuine Organ Grinder Certificates" and we had lots of laughs.

I joined COAA that winter not knowing what to expect. I wanted to attend some rallies like I had experienced at Marietta and attended four in 2004. I have attended a bunch since then and have had a great time meeting other members and making new friends. I am always amazed at the vast amount of technical knowledge, skill, and friendliness of the membership. I never dreamed there were so many people in one organization that could build, restore, repair, maintain and love these mechanical music machines. My mechanical abilities are zero but I continue to try to learn.

My eyes were opened even wider when I accompanied the recent Bumbling Bruder Tour in 2005 of Germany and the Netherlands. The International Organ Festival in Waldkirch could have lasted forever as far as I was concerned. I never dreamed you could still see so many high quality mechanical music instruments like they have in Europe.

When I meet someone new and they ask me what I do for a living, I like to tell them that I am an organ grinder. But I also work five days a week at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, TN as an Archivist (to pay my bills). My interest is in performing and trying to get a crowd excited, laughing, or singing along. I perform at all kinds of events from public festivals to private functions and I enjoy them all. That is why I think COAA is such a great organization. Everyone can find a place where they can put their talents to use