

Meet Your Member

Frank Rider's first exposure to mechanical music was a Seeburg Jr. coin-piano in the Quisno's Ice Cream Parlor in his home town of Port Clinton, OH. One summer a "Medicine Man" set up a wagon about two blocks south of his Jefferson House, and played a brass Calliope to attract attention—at that point, Frank decided it would be neat to have one and currently, he has three. He started working as a "printer's devil" at age 14 (40 cents/hour) hence bought a new Whizzer motor bike which expanded his mechanical music horizons to nearby Catawaba Island's Gem Beach plus Sandusky, Ohio's Cedar Point. Both amusement parks had a lot of music to offer! Gem Beach had a Dance Hall (live orchestra and 3.2% beer), a penny arcade full of collectable arcade machines, dozens of slot machines (including a defective penny slot machine which could be emptied out for a couple of cents) PLUS a Mills Violano and a Derby or Greyhound Nickelodeon. Several amusement rides had canned music but the skating rink had a band organ that played during skating. Cedar Point had a numerous band organs and later had a small museum that had a Wurlitzer Tonophone, a Violano, etc.

In the mid 1960s Frank and Hope visited DisneyLand, Knott's Berry Farm and Calico Ghost Town and decided to search for a nickelodeon, band organ and a calliope (we have successfully found a few since then!). Frank asked an antique "picker" Wabash friend to try to find a nickelodeon—he did but kept the Seeburg Jr. for himself. Frank was so jealous he couldn't sleep, but then remembered seeing some mechanical music in a northern Indiana Antique Store. That weekend he bought a Coinola Cupid and learned his "friend" had bought his Seeburg Jr. there



Frank and Hope Rider at a recent COAA rally.

a week earlier (some friend!). Next, he spotted an ad in Hemmings Motor News for a Seeburg piano that was for trade (he tried to trade him a rusty 1924 Model T touring car found in a leaky Put-In-Bay barn, but ended up buying the Seeburg Jr. that was found in an abandoned farm house). While loading it, the farmer mentioned "if you like this kind of stuff, you ought to visit a nearby store that has some of it." Frank hit the jackpot at the store as the owner said he had a machine that played a violin sittin' outside, but it got too wet, so he junked it, however the other one quit also but was sitting in the storage room (covered with boxes, rotten garbage, etc.). Frank pulled some boxes away from it and discovered a band organ (plays Style 125 rolls) complete with a dead rat in it when he opened the spool box door. After getting both finds

home, he remembered that he'd seen some kind of art glass piano on the stage of the abandoned dance floor over the local theater (it turned out to be a gutted Wurlitzer Orchestrion). Frank contacted the antique store owner who brought two young guys (Dave Ramey and Tom Sprague) down to look at it. At the 1969 Annual MBSI Meeting we saw the first book operated "Amsterdam Street Organ" owned by Betty Walker (Butson) The 1969 MBSI Christmas *Bulletin* Issue shows the organ with Ed Freyer, Harold Freiheit, Frank and others checking it out. Fortunately, we were finally able to buy this 50 key (probably a Bruder) organ a couple years ago to keep our other organs company: Hope's favorite monkey organs, Tangleys, Wurlitzer Caliola and Band Organ, 60 key Dutch Street Organ, several Stinson's, 55 key Wellershaus, 36 key Gasparini, 46 note Artizan, and a 52 key Bruder.

Frank Rider recently suffered a stroke. Cards and letters may be sent to Hope Rider at 1062 Alber, Wabash, IN 46992

COAA Web Site

Check out www.carouselorganassociation.org for the latest information about rallies, membership and COAA items for sale. This is a good site to refer your friends who are considering membership in the COAA.

2003 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
Tulip Festival Heart of America (AMICA)	Pella, Iowa	Gary Craig 314-771-1244	May 2-3, 2003
COAA Rally #1	Dutch Village Holland, Michigan	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	June 20-22, 2003
Ohio Bicentennial Mid-Am (MBSI) Rally	Marietta, Ohio	Sylvi Caporale 740-373-4262	July 11-12, 2003
COAA Rally #2	Jamestown, New York	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 18-20, 2003
COAA Rally #3	North Tonawanda, New York	Elizabeth Brick-Schutt 716-693-1885	July 25-27, 2003
COAA Rally #4	DeBence Antique Music World Franklin, Pennsylvania	Lynn Zillmer 814-432-8350	September 12, 2003
COAA Rally #5	Findlay, Ohio	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	September 21, 2003