

Meet Your Member

Each September in our neighboring town of West Springfield, MA the Eastern States Exposition is held, or as it is known today, the "Big E." In 1967 my wife and I were there helping out at the food booth of our church. As I took a break to walk around the fairgrounds I came upon a huge tent and could hear some wonderful music coming from it. It drew me inside, and there were these large, beautifully painted machines creating the music. I couldn't imagine that a machine could sound so good. The first machine inside was one called *Sadie-Mae* and it was playing *Laura's Theme*. I was mesmerized watching the cardboard books going through the roll frame, causing the organ to play. The *Gypsy Queen*, *Madam Laura*, and the *Emperor* were also on display awaiting their turn to entertain the public.

I had two goals now; one, to go to Sikeston, MO (which I did that summer) and visit the Gay Nineties Village; and two, acquire a fairground organ. As it happened, I was told of a person in town that had a fairground organ. I quickly obtained it—it turned out to be a 56-key Gebr. Bruder barrel organ.

I decided that our organ needed a name, as the Eakins often named their instruments, so she was named *Katie-Sue* after my two daughters Catherine and Susan.

In the late 70's I converted the barrel into the Wurlitzer 165 roll system. This gave us a variety of music to play. Most of the time the organ was playing at family affairs and an occasional job. Then we became interested in collecting and showing antique farm engines, and *Katie-Sue* got stored away. At an engine show in NY, that summer my wife took sick. She was diagnosed with cancer and passed away the fall of 1997—my world stopped.



Jill and Pete Hallock in front of *Katie Sue*, their newly-restored Bruder fairground organ.

Photo: Mary Jane Anderson

The next year I went to engine shows alone, when I met Jill—we found that we enjoyed many of the same interests. I showed her the Bruder organ in the barn and she said we should take it out and show it. Jill started looking for more rolls to add to my collection of music. She met Matthew Caulfield over the internet and purchased some rolls from him.

The next summer Matthew invited us up to Seabreeze Park to meet him and see the parks organ and music collection. It was a great trip which we combined with an antique engine show which was not far from Rochester, NY.

Matthew suggested we join some mechanical music organizations. He told us about the COAA and the MBSI where we could bring the organ to a rally. The following summer the engines got put in the barn and off to an organ rally we went, with Ali our doberman, and *Katie-Sue*. We had a great time and enjoyed all the organs and people that we met.

The following year we were in Ohio on our way to a rally when our trailer broke and sent *Katie-Sue* into the median. We went back to Massachusetts, not knowing how much damage had been done, but feared the worst. It looked like we would have a year of work to get *Katie-Sue* back together.

We started in August to rebuild *Katie-Sue*, but did take time off in September to get married. Jill says that I did this to keep her around for all the work that needed to be done. We completed repairs to the organ and trailer in time to get to our first rally of 2003 in Marietta, Ohio.

It was nice to be back with all of the good friends that we have met through the COAA.

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.

2004 Organ Rally Dates			
<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #1	Knoebels Grove, Elysburg, Pennsylvania	Tim Wagner 585 425-7072	June 11-13, 2004
COAA Rally #2	Dutch Village Holland, Michigan	Terry Haughwout 419-454-3671	June 18-20, 2004
Mid-Am Rally	County Fairgrounds Medina, Ohio	Ed & Carol Kraus 330-239-1794	July 9-10, 2004
COAA Rally #3	Crossroads Village Flint, Michigan	Carl & Sharon Curtis 734-428-0159	July 24-25, 2004
COAA Rally #4	Sugarcreek, Ohio	Ed & Carol Ditto 330-343-7697	August 20-21, 2004
COAA Rally #5	DeBence Antique Music World Franklin, Pennsylvania	Lynn Zilmer 814-432-8350	September 10-12, 2004