

## Meet Your Member

Bill Water's musical interest started with his playing a violin as a child and continues with his membership in the Shrine Drum and Bugle Corp., in which he plays a drum. Bill's interest has always been the large organs, beginning with his childhood memories of going to his father's company picnic, which was always at Euclid Beach Park in Cleveland. Bill was fascinated with the Gavioli and Wurlitzer organs that were in the skating rink and on the carousel.

Our interest peaked when we attended the Pumpkin Festival in Circleville, Ohio a couple years after we were married and saw a huge block long organ (we have no idea who the maker was, but the facade was very ornate and the music great). The beginning of our collection of music was a Story and Clark pump organ which Bill purchased at an auction for twenty dollars and for several years we tried to "corner the market" on pump organs, several of which we still have. Shortly after the first pump organ was purchased, we joined the Music Box Society and from that time on, the Waters family never missed the annual Mid-Am Chapter Organ Rally.



Marge and Bill Waters proudly play their Stinson 165 band organ.

As new collectors, we made the usual mistakes in purchasing mechanical music. Eventually, after spending many enjoyable, happy and informative hours with Carvel Stotts and his lovely wife Helen, we purchased the Stinson 165 that has been taken to every Mid-Am Organ Rally (MBSI) since 1986 when it was purchased. In addition, our collection now includes a number of organettes (for many years we rarely came away from a mart that one was not purchased).

The friends we have made through the musical organizations are some of the best anyone could ever ask for. We have never encountered anyone who would not share their knowledge and graciously open their homes to let the groups see their collections.

When the Carousel Organ Association of America was organized, we knew there was a need for an organization that specialized in outdoor mechanical music and of course joined immediately. We look forward to many years of great organ rallies organized by the huge number of knowledgeable and fun members!

## Another COAA Rally — Bearcreek Farms

Kim Pontius has arranged for the third COAA rally of this year. It will be held at the Bearcreek Farms in Bryant, Indiana. The rally is scheduled for July 28, 29 and 30. Registration is \$5.00 per person and your check and information (including what type of organ you are bringing and what electrical requirements you need) should be sent to Kim at 230 Woodland Drive, Hartford City, IN 47346.

Bearcreek Farms is 200 acres of fun including an antique village (Bloomfield), the Tin Lizzie Museum (classic cars) and a country fair complete with a restored Chance carousel. In addition Swiss Days celebration is being held in nearby Berne, IN.

Motel reservations may be made at the Bluffton Motor In (219-824-5553) in Bluffton, IN. This is 25 miles from the rally site and the nearest motel with rooms available. Camping reservations may be made with Bearcreek Farms and may be made with Carla at 219-997-6823.

### Organ Rally Dates

| <u>Event</u>   | <u>Location</u>                 | <u>Contact Person</u>                | <u>Date</u>        |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mid-America (MBSI)<br>Annual Band Organ Rally            | Crossroads Village<br>Flint, MI | Sharon & Carl Curtis<br>734-428-0268 | July 20 - 22, 2000 |
| COAA Organ Rally<br><i>Bearcreek Farms</i>               | Bearcreek Farms<br>Bryant, IN   | Kim Pontius<br>765-348-0107          | July 28 - 30, 2000 |
| COAA/Snowbelt (MBSI)<br><i>Pioneer Power Show</i>        | LeSueur, MN                     | Ralph Schultz<br>612-873-6704        | Aug. 26 - 27, 2000 |
| Heart of America (AMICA)<br><i>Old Threshers Reunion</i> | Mt. Pleasant, IA                | Gary Craig<br>314-771-1244           | Sept. 1 - 3, 2000  |
| Mid-America (MBSI)<br>Monkey Organ Rally                 | Sandusky, OH                    | Bill & Marge Waters<br>330-334-1344  | Sept. 8 - 9, 2000  |
| Fullerton Arborfest<br>and Band Organ Rally              | Fullerton, CA                   | Frank Nix<br>818-884-6849            | Mid-Oct., 2000     |