

“Rally Edition”

of the

Carousel Organ*

2023—Our 22th Issue

Six great American rallies & gatherings
this year plus two other super rallies

- 1). Iris Festival, Mountain View, AR
- 2). East Broad Top RR, Rockhill, PA
- 3). Circus Calliope Festival, Peru, IN
- 4). Rotary Carousel Rally, Broome County, NY
- 5). Michigan Flywheelers, South Haven, MI
- 6). Seminary Picnic, Perryville, MO
- 7). AMOS Rally, Horsham, Australia
- 8). Street Organ Festival, Kevelaer, Germany

*The official journal of the **Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA)**
*Devoted to enjoying, preserving, and sharing knowledge of all outdoor
mechanical musical instruments, including band, fair, and street organs,
calliopes, and hand-cranked organs of all sizes.*

Photos provided by Tim Bath, Regine Brindle, Kathy Cavitt, Beverly Chatfield, Dan Davis, Heike and Johannes Rath, John Ravert, Hope Rider, Mike Schoeppner, Paul Senger, Gary and Rose Stevenson, Wally Venable, and Barry Woolmer.

Iris Festival — Mountain View, Arkansas

May 5-6, 2023

The Mountain View Chamber of Commerce and the Stone County Iris Festival rolled out the welcome mat for the 4th annual Organ Rally sponsored jointly by COAA and Heart of America, AMICA



Doug Mauldin, rally co-host from North Little Rock Arkansas, talks about his Hofbauer 20-note Organ with some early arrivals.

It was an enjoyable two-day event in a beautiful setting on Courthouse Square in this small Ozarks town that bills itself as the Folk Music Capital of the World. Friendly locals strolled through the park both days, while local bands performed each evening. The Corvette Posse Car Club joined in, and a street dance was held on Saturday night. Other musicians performed on front porches around town and in a concert hall just off the square. Several of the members visited the Ozark Folk School quilt show that was going on.



Bear Schultz & Beverly Chatfield brought several instruments from Illinois, including the oldest crank organ, this Molinari.



John & Kathie Hall brought their OGM Organ from Ft. Worth Texas to join in.

Mountain View seems to be the ideal location for COAA to rally. The surrounding countryside is at the edge of the Ozarks and very picturesque. The rally is held on the park-like town square with the courthouse in the center. Everything is within walking distance, including the Pinewood Cabins, The Knotty Squirrel Cabins, two Bed & Breakfasts. We gather for breakfast at the Rainbow Café and have dinner at Mi Pueblito. During the day or evening, there is a local barbecue restaurant, and two ice cream stands. After the day is over, we gather for a happy time “wine tasting” on the front patio of the Knotty Squirrel, sometimes until midnight.



Mike Schoeppner from Wichita Kansas and Tom McAuley line up for a photo op.

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Robbie Tubbs from Raytown Missouri and Trudy Moffitt from Leawood Kansas spend some time catching up.



Kathy Quashnock from Wichita Falls Texas shows a happy visitor how to crank her Verbeeck.



Bill Klinger probably came the shortest distance from Flippin Arkansas to show his latest version of his home-built organ.



Angelo Rulli, Greg Moffitt and John Hall.



Getting the gang assembled for a group picture is a real challenge. (Just as we were ready to shoot, a helpful visitor grabbed the camera and shot the picture for us).h

East Broad Top RR — Rockhill, PA

June 10-11, 2023

The East Broad Top COAA Rally was held on June 9-11, 2023, in Rockhill, Pennsylvania. There were 85 members in attendance with seven trailered organs and 14 crank organs and other instruments. The main feature besides the organs was the 1916 Baldwin 2-8-2 steam engine Number 16 excursions. Also, the Rockhill Trolley Museum provided rides and local history.



Philip Williams with his North Tonawanda Musical Instrument Works organ.

There were tours of the railroad shop which were left "exactly" as the day they closed in 1956, a round-house tour, trolley rides, and of course, the steam engine excursion. The air was filled with music, train whistles, and smoke, all of which added to the ambiance.



John Prtljaga with his custom-built organ.

Saturday night, a dinner of chicken and pulled pork with the usual sides, and an Ice cream sundae bar was enjoyed by all. The dinner was followed by

announcements by our COAA president, Bob Yorburg, and by the host, John Ravert, and a very informative lecture by Jonathan Smith, head of EBT marketing, on history and present and plans at the railroad.



Announcements by President Bob Yorburg and rally host, John Ravert.

On Sunday morning, a worship service was held in the pavilion with Reverend Joseph Schreck speaking on music and worship. Music was in abundance both days with a group of interested Amish and rail fans. Sadly, the music stopped, and our band of musicians headed for home Sunday late afternoon.



Norma Venable plays the *Erie Airs* Organ

There was talk of future rallies at East Broad Top as everyone felt the venue was a great place for a rally. More publicity would have brought a bigger crowd as many of the locals realized too late what was just in their backyard!

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Dan and Anne Wilke with their 36-key Verbeeck street organ.



John van Dorn with his Wurlitzer 103.



Bill and Maria Griswald and their pup on the train.



Greg Swanson playing the Hofbauer organ.



Jean Milburn and Roger Wiegand.

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Peter and Jill Hallock relax and listen to the Diamond Jubilee.



Paul Senger with his John Smith busker organ.



Terry and Jan Bender with their R20/78 Konzertorgel custom Raffin organ.



Jean Orcutt with her 21er Pell Organ.



Wally Venable and Kent Zacherl.

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Bob Ebert playing his Stüber organ.



East Broad Top Steam Engine # 16 Ready for action.



Norma and Wally Venable.



Rally Host, John Ravert posing for the camera.



Marsha Ebert Concertizing the Concertina.



Jean Milburn, Norma Venable, and George Potter.

Circus Calliope Festival — Peru, Indiana

June 16-18, 2023

Twenty-one COAA members and seven instruments gathered for the second Circus Calliope and Mechanical Music Festival on June 16-18 at the International Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, IN. The festival brought together six steam calliopes, the largest known number gathered in one place in modern history, as well as several mechanical musical instruments brought by COAA and others.



It was a rare event when we had "Bye Bye Blackbird" played by a trio. On the left, the Indiana University steam calliope. On the right, the Morecroft steam calliope. Sandwiched in between is the Tangley sponsored by the Lebanon, Indiana American Legion. Three instruments, with three musicians on three keyboards. It was more musical than most of us expected.

Friday started cool but rose later in the day providing the perfect conditions for playing organs. After the rally on Friday, a few members traveled to Harvey Hinklemeyer's Pizza Restaurant for a meal and hospitality with other members. We were generously provided a spectacular meal by the Circus Hall of Fame on Saturday evening. Crowds continued to be light on Saturday and Sunday, but an enjoyable time was had by all.



Karl & Hope rider with the Rider Calliope (and bells).



The Peru Circus Band rehearses and plays year-round, but its primary function is to play for performances of the Peru Amateur Circus in July. They also perform in the big Circus Parade there.

Both amateur and professional musicians volunteer their time for nearly two weeks each summer to provide the musical background for over 200 amateur circus performers, playing more than three hours in each show.

At the Calliope Rally, they performed on and in front of the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Band Wagon No. 29, which is part of the Hall of Fame collection.

A second write-up by Hope Rider of Wabash, Indiana completes the story of this rally. A "Calliope Fest" brought several COAA members and friends to Peru, Indiana recently. Sponsored by COAA and Circus Hall of Fame, it was held on the old winter headquarters and circus grounds, east of Peru. This small town has a rich history of several circuses' calling it "home."



The young man in the chair bought this Tangley and trailer from a funeral home operator. He is 18 years old and from Ohio. This was his first appearance at a rally, and he didn't know about COAA. He plans to rename it and show it for playing gigs. One of the brass tubes was cracked and repaired with duct tape. We told him Miner Company LLC is still building new ones and we thought they could supply a new one.



Hyperion's sign reads "The Magnificent Time Traveling Cream Machine - The steam engine Hyperion powers the fully automatic time machine piloted by its mad scientist ice cream master Jin Selbert who tirelessly searches for delicious ice cream and wonderful music through the tunnels of time." The calliope is MIDI controlled, but boiler water is pumped by hand.

The occasion attracted many roll-operated hand-played and steam calliopes. One had to vie for attention! Several monkey organs were present, especially "Wally" Venable, his organ and great presentation.



Wally Venable with his *Erie Airs* and organ.

We (myself and my son Karl Rider) trailered our Rider calliope the short distance from where we live in Wabash, IN. Karl maintains and operates the Rider Calliope in local parades.



Steve Pontius presents his Ruth Organ.



The Norman J is a trailerable steam engine-powered sternwheel boat. She spends most of her summers on an Indiana lake. Like most of the steam calliopes playing today, she has a modern packaged boiler, reducing licensing and certification issues. Her equipment includes an owner-built steam calliope played manually. For shore display, she had a beautiful keyboard.

The Peru Circus Band played many "rousing" circus tunes at the rally's beginning.

A large tent sheltered many from the hot mid-June heat. The hand organs were located in the former elephant and "big cat" barn. It had been renovated by many volunteers and a new roof was put on in 2021-2022.

A gift shop offered souvenirs and circus memorabilia in this old barn. Typical foods such as elephant ears and cotton candy were offered. This two-day event seemed popular with people who attended.

Photographs courtesy of Tim Bath, Regine Brindle, and Hope Rider



Dale Smith, a former circus clown brought along a Stumpf Fiddle to play along with his organ *Judith Lynn*. Both the sound and motion really draw attention.



Jane and Larry Beverly relaxed and enjoyed the festivities.

Rotary Carousel Rally — Broome County, NY

July 22-23, 2023

Several Rotary clubs and host Mikey Mills put together a band organ rally at beautiful Highland Park in Broome County, NY. It was the very first rally in this community known for its several carousels, band organs, and of course the Link Piano Company! COAA is hoping to be back in Broome County in 2025 for another rally. Mikey Mills



Mikey Mills & Jim Kenney at *The General* Wurlitzer 164



Gred & Linda Swanson



Angelo Rulli & Suzie Hendricks enjoying a spiedie!



Dave Clark & Dan Wilke at Dave's Wurlitzer 153



Kathy Smith & Anne Wilke relaxing

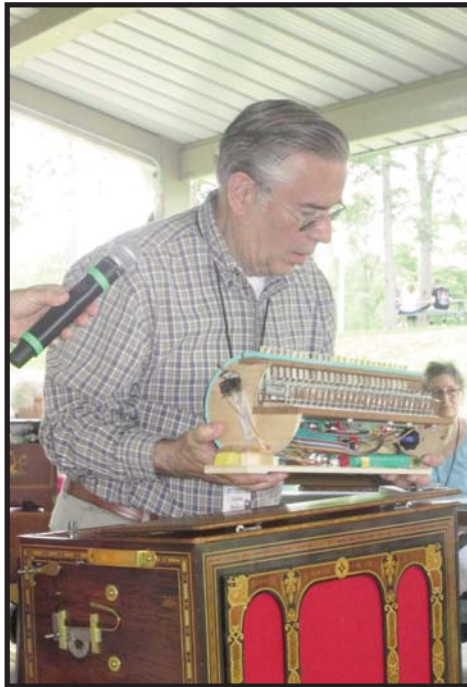


Justin Romig & John Ravert enjoy the shade

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Anita Shulls plays father Bob Cole's *Grosse Bruder*.



Craig Smith & MIDI System



Bill Clark and his "Five Octave" and organ



The hand organ concert



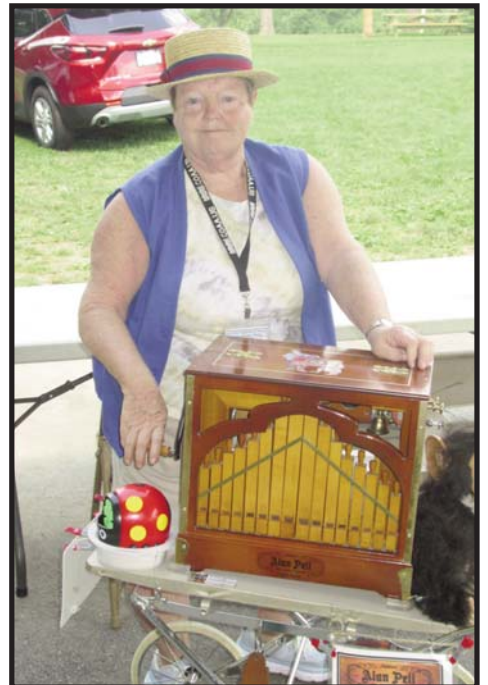
Bridget Hodges, Carolyn Brunell, Mikey Mills, Dave Clark & Dan Wilke



Paul Senger cranking



Jack Shay presents H. Roehl's *A Pioneer of Mech. Music*



Jean Orcott and her Alan Pell organ

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Brad Sweet and his Wurlitzer 145B



Sandy & Steve Dean with their Wilhelm Bruder 48er



Mike Roseboom records one of the organs



Linda & Greg Swanson with their 31/84 Raffin



Rusty King & wife presenting Ed Link



Dan Wilke plays his 36-key Verbeeck at the organ concert



Shawn Patton with his Wurlitzer 153 band organ

Michigan Flywheelers — South Haven, MI

September 8-10, 2023



Spencer Meachum, Suzie hendricks, Angelo Rulli, Tom Perna, and Bob Buckler



Alex Romeo, Spencer Meachum, and Suzie Hendricks

Seminary Picnic — Perryville, MO

August 4-6, 2023

<p>Seminary Picnic Buffet Saturday, 3-7 PM Sunday, 11 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>Fried Chicken Kettle Cooked Beef Chicken & Dumplings</p> <p>Food Stands Hamburgers Porkburgers Fried Fish Bar-B-Que Homemade Ice Cream</p> <p>Historic Carousel</p> <p>Kiddie Rides Games Washer Tournament</p> <p>Carnival Rides by Fountain City Amusements</p>	<p>Nightly Entertainment 7-11 PM Friday THE BURNT MILL BOYS Saturday WELL HUNGARIANS</p> <p>Daytime Entertainment Saturday, 3:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>Sunday Afternoon Local Bands and Performers To be Announced Check our website for updates!</p>	<p>Bingo Friday, 7-9 PM Saturday, 4-10 PM Sunday, 1-7 PM</p> <p>New for 2023 Carousel Organ Rally Saturday & Sunday Afternoons</p> <p>The Carousel Organ Association of America will be bringing us "The Happiest Music on Earth" as they share with us their mechanical musical instruments.</p> <p>Come see, hear, and even play one of these magical instruments!</p>
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 <p>122nd Annual Seminary Picnic August 4-6, 2023</p> <p>Friday, 6-11 PM Saturday, 1-11 PM Sunday, 11 AM - 6 PM</p> <p>https://seminarypicnic.org/ 1816 W. St. Joseph Street Perryville, MO 63775 573-547-4300</p>
<p>1. Main Stage 2. Porkburgers 3. Pull Tails 4. Fish Fry Stand 5. Concessions 6. Kiddie Rides 8. 1905 Carousel 9/10 Kiddie Concessions 11. Games/Quilts/Fancy Stand 12. Soft Drinks/Water</p> <p>13/19/23. Beer 14. Barbecue 15. Ice Cream 16. Bingo Hall 17/22. Hamburgers 18/24. Toilets 19. Picnic Buffet Dining 21. Pavilion Stage 25. Washers Tournament 26. Beer Garden/Concert Seating</p>

On August 4th, 2023, 20 members of the Carousel Organ Association of America descended on the Town of Perryville, Missouri to be part of the 122 annual Seminary Picnic

Our members dislike having an event where they end up playing for themselves. Over the course of our attendance, this picnic offered members an event that featured an attendance of 22,000 to 25,000 people to play for its three days.

In all of the years, since 1905 when the Herschel Spillman Carousel was installed on the Seminary Picnic Grounds, there has never been a carousel organ to play with its operation during the picnic. This year COAA members were invited to participate by Fr. Joe Geders of St. Vincent De-Paul.

Most members were at the hotel on Friday. After getting to the hotel and meeting in our meeting room for the weekend, we all left there and assembled at

the Double Barrel BBQ to break bread. After eating we went to the picnic grounds to scope out our sight and drop off instruments. We did not play that evening as a very loud band was playing at the grounds. Later we went back to the meeting room for social hours to rekindle friendships and make new ones.

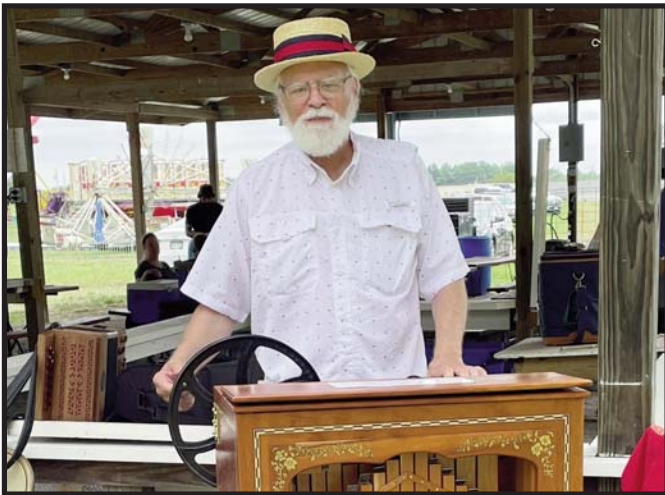


COAA members Steve & Amy Pontius were the first to accept the invitation and they brought his father Kim Pontius's home-built Ruth 63-keyless/Midi Band Organ to the picnic. They set up near the Carousel as the featured instrument. That being said, this organ was not the only large Carousel instrument brought to the Grounds for the Perryville event. COAA member Rick McDowell also graced attendees with his home-built Wurlitzer 168 instrument with its 350 Pipes. These two trailered instru-

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ments were the largest instruments, but not the only organs brought to the picnic grounds.



we were blessed to have a visit by longtime COAA member Elise Roenigk who drove from Arkansas just to say hello at the event. Here she is (above) with past COAA president Angelo Rulli.



COAA board member Jim Quashnock brought his home-built 42-key Midi instrument and his wife, Kathryn, brought her 40-key Verbeeck book organ.

Suzan Hendrix and Angelo Rulli also came with their Whitman Midi instruments. Saturday afternoon



Bear Schulze Came to Perryville with his vintage Molinari barrel instrument and Beverly Chatfield came with her Whitman roll organ. Bill Mikko (above) seen here talking with Bear Schulze.

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The instrument that the Mauldins brought to the rally developed a problem so Doug & Danell ended up sitting around (their instrument was sent off for repair after the rally).

Thomas & Kay Bode, are seen (above) with Rick McDowell. Tom later cranked his Bode-Built, 37key and 37 pipe instrument for the public at our shelte. They had to leave the rally early due to the heat and humidity.



Carl Cavit is seen above playing the concertina with Jim Quashnock and his 20-note 'belly organ.'

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Sunday, as the event was winding down, my wife, Rose, asked if I would shoot a photo of the wives who were still at the event as these were the people she had enjoyed during the rally. So I shot this picture for her. Cathy Cavit, Sue Hendricks, Rose Stevenson, Kathryn Quashkock, Danell Mauldin, and Amy Pontius.



Report and layout by rally organizer, Gary Stevenson.

AMOS — Horsham, Australia

October 13-15, 2023

AMOS partnered with the Horsham Spring Garden Festival in the Botanical Gardens for our 2023 Rally. Horsham is a three-hour drive west from Melbourne, the capital of Victoria (in the south of Australia). The weather was a little chilly on both days, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of our 30 members in attendance. There were several organs not seen before and a couple which had changed hands between members over the previous years.

As well as a great catchup with some members who we hadn't seen since pre-COVID times, there were some new members in attendance and lots of interest from the local people. We were invited to do a short presentation on the stage to inform visitors about mechanical music and invite them to listen to the organs.

We also attracted a couple of young people who were budding 'organ grinders,' who we hope may be potential members in the coming years.

Peter Datson
President,
Australian Mechanical Organ Society (AMOS)



Peter Datson explaining mechanical



James, our youngest organ grinder cranking a 36-key Verbeeck



A 35-keyless Findlay Organ



"Mr. Music"—a novelty organa built by David Holt

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26-note modified John Smith Organ



The Pioneer—an 48-keyless built by Richard Ellis



24-note Johan Schneider Organ



Miss "B" and Friends—built by David Holt



33-keyless Dean Organ



A youngster playing a 26-note Stuber organ

All photos by Barry Woolmer

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Street Organ Festival — Kevelaer, Germany

July 14-16, 2023



The sing-a-long event with lyrics projected on a screen

For the first time, a Kevelaer street organ festival took place from July 14 to July 16, 2023. Kevelaer is the largest pilgrimage city north of the Alps. About a million pilgrims visit Kevelaer, located on the Lower Rhine near the Dutch border each year. This year we started with 25 organ grinders at the age of 19 to 89, from all over the entire federal territory of Germany bringing to life the unique world of barrel organ music. Not only the queen of instruments, the organ, is considered an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO since 2017, but also her little sisters, the barrel organs from the backyards. The festival was intended to make it possible to experience the joy of the barrel organ as well as its cultural significance.



Rafael and Friedlinde Engeser from Drehorgelhaus Raffin, Überlingen, Lake Constance, enjoyed with their synchronous play. Raffin 31/124 & Raffin 20/67.

After welcoming all participants and enjoying a delicious dinner together we started with a sing-a-long event into an atmospheric weekend. Hits, evergreens, and folk songs accompanied by lyrics projected onto a screen invited the audience to sing

along vigorously which was a lot of fun for everyone involved.



Of course, Christa Hohnhäuser, Jubel Jette, President of the Berlin Barrel Organ Association, belted out her songs to the delight of the audience playing her Raffin 31/78 built in 1983.

A highlight of the festival was the concert on Saturday afternoon in the idyllic brine garden. Christian Dietzel from Salzgitter moderated the very well attended performance, introduced the participants to the audience and explained the different types of barrel organs that could be seen and heard. The guests sang with great joy along to the barrel organs, especially when the Kevelaer Homeland song was played.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O5vND-FfHI

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Organs lined up in front of the altar at St. Mary Basilica's church.

Afterwards, the participants received a short tour of our beautiful city before the grand finale, the extraordinary organ concert which took place in St. Mary Basilica. Classical and sacred music was played in a filled-to-capacity Basilica. Organ builder Wolfgang Brommer played the choir organ and busker organ synchronously with his wife and showed also with his special model the only fully chromatic hand organ in the world with 56 whistles (picture below with Johannes Rath, organizer of the festival) just as much as the other individual performances demonstrated how artistic music-making with different types of organ can be.



The author and festival organizer, Johannes Rath, and Wolfgang Brommer in front of the 56-note organ.

Basilica organist Elmar Lehnen added short, concise pieces on the church organ. The audience was not only flashed by the performance of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, played and sung by Johannes Rath, but also by the synchronously play of Friedlinde and Rafael Engeser's *Hallelujah* by Handel as well as by all the other individual performances too. Standing ovations were the crowning conclusion not only of this concert but of a unique

weekend full of nostalgic music, cultural encounters, and special experiences.

We are already planning our next festival which will take place May 31 to June 2, 2024 here in Kevelaer. If you think it is worth a visit, I agree. For anyone interested in coming over we have already reserved a contingent of hotel rooms.

Thank you . . . Heike & Johannes Rath.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O5vND-FfHI



A panoramic view of the church's interior with the multitude of attendees.



Street organs in transit.



Wolfgang Brommer and Heike Rath with two figure organs.