

“Rally Edition”

CAROUSEL ORGAN

2010

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.

Rally #1
Lake Winnesaukah—Chattanooga TN
May 29 to 31, 2010

Whenever Memorial Day Weekend rolls around, you just know that COAA members and their instruments are out playing at Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park in Rossville, Georgia. Located just south of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lake Winnie hosted the sixth consecutive COAA Memorial Day Organ Rally, which began on Saturday, May 29 and ended on Monday, May 31.



Jeremy Gobbel and Dave Mahr watch while Allison Keisler cranks away.



Mike Schoeppner playing his 20-note Castlewood hand organ.



Adrian Rhodes checking up on Ted Guillaum.

It was a great way to spend the Memorial Day Weekend and our hosts, Adrienne Rhodes, Talley Green and their staff at Lake Winnie, welcomed us with open arms and plenty of great Southern hospitality.

Forty three COAA members and friends attended the Rally, representing fourteen different states and Canada.

Members brought 15 organs, which played throughout the “Park” during the entire weekend.

In a now well established Lake Winnie tradition, the hand-cranked organs were featured in special concerts down by the Lakeside Stage, where we entertained “Park” visitors and each other. These concerts are always great fun for participants and spectators alike, and offer an opportunity for COAA members to show just how talented they really are!

On Saturday evening the “Park” provided us with our traditional bar-

Photos for the 2010 Rally Edition were provided by several members including Mike Barnhart, Stefan Batist, Jonathan Bopp, Gordie Davidson, Ted Guillaum, Dick Hack, Ron Keisler, Chris Kehoe, Jim Partrick, Buzz Rosa, Angelo Rulli, Mike Schoeppner, Ann Scott, Paul Senger, Terry Smythe, Tim Wagner, Dan Wilke and the editor, Ron Bopp.

beque meal, which always ends with a much anticipated trip over to the ice cream truck, with our choice of desserts! Then, as the meal ended, Adrienne Rhodes presented each of us with a gift, a small carousel wind chime!



Henry Sandstrom makes music for the public.

Following the meal, it was time for another Lake Winnie Tradition—an evening concert by the COAA Band, playing along with David and Darlene Wasson’s Concert Organ *Trudy*. The weather was not the best for an outdoor band concert, as there were light rain showers throughout the evening, but after migrating to a new location under the Wasson’s canopy, the band played on!



Mikey Mills and family enjoy “Lake Winnie.”

Each night, after leaving the “Park,” members found their way to the hospitality room back at the motel, where discussions of organs continued well into the night.

One of the highlights of the 2010 Rally was related to the Lake Winnie’s Model 33 Ruth organ, located at the center of the antique PTC carousel. A MIDI player system, installed by the

late Charles Walker, was no longer working, and there was minimal documentation to figure out how it was wired. COAA organ sleuths Doug Mauldin, Danell Mauldin and Wayne Holton spent a good portion of the weekend analyzing and rewiring the system, to get it playing again. Before the weekend was over, the organ was playing and sounding great! As mentioned earlier, COAA members are a very talented bunch!



Dave Beck and Dave Mahr in heavy conversation.

Lake Winnie is the only Amusement Park that has hosted six consecutive COAA Rallies, and we are extremely grateful to Adrienne Rhodes and Talley Green for all of the support that they have provided to the COAA throughout the years.



Tom & Kay Bode entertaining during the hand-cranked organ concert.

We want to thank everyone who attended in 2010, and we look forward to the seventh Lake Winnie Memorial Day Rally in 2011. We hope to see YOU there!

Ron Keisler



Sandy Schoeppner doing the *Chicken Dance*.



Norma Venable cranking an OSI organ.



Ron Keisler talking “shop” with Doug Mauldin.



Jim Grayson’s new Johnson 105 military band organ.

Rally #2
John Dam Plaza—Richland Washington
June 12, 2010

This is the fourth annual Northwest band organ rally in Washington State. This year, we were at Richland, Washington, along the mighty Columbia River in a small gathering area (John Dam Plaza) where people have come to gather since the days of the WWII Manhattan Project.



Judy Danko and Ann Scott play Dan's 20-note OSI *Strasse Orgel*.

We had seven organs (two large and five small) and beautiful weather.

Following the rally, we adjourned to the outdoor dining area at the Red Lion for dinner and some cabaret style music provided by Ingmar Kause. Ingmar is considering making and marketing a 27-note book-operated organ later this year.



Ingmar Kause from BC, Canada plays his German-made Steuber.

It was a fun time that brought together new and old friends with a common interest in the happiest music on earth

Dan Danko



COAA member Ray Ashmun drove from Portland, Oregon to enjoy the rally.



The Iles family (John, Marna and Mark) and friend pose with their 27-note John Smith (with four stops and glockenspiel).



Bruce and Terry Miller brought their Wurlitzer 153 from Issaquah, Washington



COAA member John Hass from Casper, Wyoming, and his brother enjoy the 125.



The 2010 rally poster advertising the rally on John Dam Plaza in Richland, Washington.



(above) Ron and Jane Smith played his beautiful John Smith 20-note hand organ.

(below) Chris Wallace made some fine adjustments to Miller's Wurlitzer 153 band organ.



Rally #3 Knoebels Amusement Resort—Elysburg, PA June 12-13, 2010

How do you improve a premier traditional amusement park that owns 10 band organs, offers free parking, free admission and free entertainment in a family atmosphere nestled within a grove of hemlock trees? Why, add more band organs of course! And that's exactly what we did at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, PA the weekend of June 12th.



Stefan Batist, from The Netherlands, enjoyed the rally.

135 COAA members and friends gathered from 17 states, Puerto Rico, Canada and The Netherlands, bringing 45 organs to Knoebels to celebrate "The Happiest Music on Earth." The Knoebel family welcomed COAA back to Pennsylvania's hometown park for our fourth rally there. A multitude of activities made the rally go by too quickly. Four crank-organ concerts, two COAA band concerts with *Trudy*, a barbecue dinner, a tour of the Knoebels organ collection and nightly video screenings in the hospitality room made for an action-packed weekend.



Ted Guillaum holds the 'mic' for Paul Senger during one of the crank-organ concerts.



Joe Hilferty listens to his "big-n-loud" Wurlitzer 153 military band organ.

COAA members provided plenty of musical variety throughout the park. In the "big-n-loud" department, members brought musical treasures representing the manufacturing talents of Anderton, Bruder, Gavioli, Gibson, Miner-Tangle, North Tonawanda Musical Instrument Works, Pell, Pleur, Ruth, Stinson, Updyke, Wasson, Wurlitzer, Yorburg and Younce. Hand-cranked organs represented the firms of Castlewood, Hofbauer, Mechanical Organette Company, Organ Supply Industries, Prinsen, Raffin, John Smith, Stuber and Der Orgelbau im Wienerwald.

It's always a pleasure to work with the Knoebels family and staff to coordinate a rally. Joe Muscato is a resourceful and friendly liaison, pro-

viding information and coordinating all the particulars on behalf of the park. Nancy Heiser was most helpful in coordinating our meal. Tom Kiefaber went above and beyond in providing electrical access and problem solving for our members with trailered organs. Jon Anderson was very helpful as our point person during the event.



Dave Wynn explaining the group of organs owned by the Knoebels park.

Dave Wynn was very gracious to coordinate the Knoebel organ collection tour, host our group on his day off and make us feel very welcome. Bud Dugan and the Security staff, including Bob, Dan and Dean were just super in assisting with organ trailer placement and tending to other needs of our members. Thanks to the Knoebel family for creating an environment that fosters



Left to right, Trevor Knoebel (Ron's son), Ron "Buddy" Knoebel (Dick's brother), Tim Wagner, Dick Knoebel, and Rick Knoebel (Dick's son).

the talents and warmth of so many good people, and for sharing this special place with the rest of us.



John van Dorn and Harold Wade exchanging ideas on hand-crank organ tunes.

Knoebels hallmark hospitality was evident throughout the weekend. Our registration packets included complimentary ride tickets. The park treated us to a tasty barbecue chicken dinner on Saturday, and Orgelmeister Dave Wynn hosted a Sunday morning tour of the Knoebels organs that are not on display in the park.



Paul Simington and Paul Senger taking advantage of the Knoebels hospitality.

During our Saturday dinner, COAA president Ted Guillaum presented the Knoebel family with a preservation award, honoring the park for their tradition of presenting mechanical music to the public. Brothers Dick and Buddy Knoebel, along with their sons Rick and Trevor were present to accept the award. Leanna Knoebel was unable to join us. The dinner also provided an opportunity for us to sing *Happy Birthday* to Carol Ditto! During Sunday morning's organ collection presentation, Ted pre-

sented a preservation award to Dave Wynn for his excellent work in restoring and maintaining the organs at Knoebels.

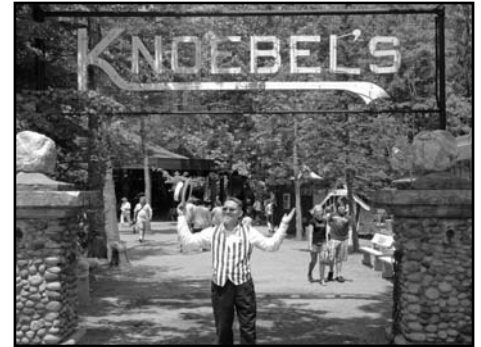


Mikey mills, Alex Fausto and Ian Fraser enjoying the rally under the watchful eye of Wally Venable.

One of the highlights of this year's rally was the joy of seeing three of COAA's youngest members meet for the first time. At Saturday afternoon's crank organ concert, 9-year old Ian Fraser demonstrated his 20-note Celestina organette. After the concert, he was joined by Alex Fausto and Mikey Mills in exploring this delightful 19th century instrument. It was a treat to see the next generation of enthusiasts coming together to share the joys of our hobby. During Sunday morning's organ tour, they all took turns at hand playing the 1920 Tangley Calliaphone, to the delight of all present. Burl Updyke and Dan Wilke also toodled at the "Calliope".

On Saturday and Sunday several members shared their musical talents at two COAA band concerts with Dave Wasson's *Trudy* concert organ. Dave and Darlene prepare sheet music for a variety of instruments, so that anyone

can join in the fun. They have several musical programs prepared, and it's a real treat to sit back, relax and enjoy the concert in the company of your COAA family. For Sunday's concert, several of Knoebels' band members joined in as well!



Rally coordinator, Tim Wagner, welcoming COAA members to Knoebel's Amusement Resort.

Though coordinating a band organ rally single-handedly is a lot of work for me, it's a pleasure to deal with the high caliber of individuals affiliated with COAA. Creating and renewing friendships is one of the rewards of hosting this rally. I'd like to thank everyone who attended the rally and especially those who brought instruments to entertain us and park guests. Thank you for sharing your time, resources and music. Your participation is an important contribution to the success of the Knoebels rally, to the vitality of our organization and to the public face of COAA.

Tim Wagner



Come rain or shine the COAA band plays on.



Tom Evansew enjoys coming to the Knoebels rallies.



Roger Wiegand in front of his 89-key Gavioli fair organ.



Andy Adams promoting one of his newly-cut Wurlitzer rolls.



Will and Joanne Schultz played their 26-note John Smith hand organ.



Bob and Sandy Moore with their Wurlitzer 146 (converted Wilhelm Bruder organ).



Terry and Jan Bender (and parrot) aside their calliope unit.



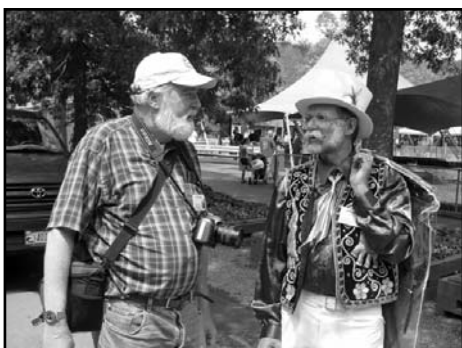
Patricia and Dave Rohe admire the large organs that came to this rally.



Bob Yorburg with his personally designed 98-key Pell fair organ.



Jonathan Bopp invited his mother, Donna, to the rally. She apparently approves.



Dick Hack and Terry Bender are deep in conversation.



Terry Younce with his Anderton Organ.



Carol Ditto plays one of several that she and Ed brought for the rally.



Howard Kast and Richard Bogert play together in a "Hofbauer moment."



A conveyer of grinders await their turn at the hand-organ concert.



Derek Stallwood and his 20-note John Smith organ.



Galen Leshar behind his 20-note John Smith hand-crank organ.



Beth Ann and Mark Mitchell (outer) entertain some guests.



Maxine Ritthaler explains her 20-note Wilhelm Bruder hand organ.



Andy Bogert takes his turn at cranking an organ.



Harold Wade and Rob Johnston share a laugh between grinding.



Ted Guillaum counsels Lindy Sheehan on the fine art of organ cranking.



Norm Gibson poses with his Scottish-oriented fair organ.



Ed Ditto taking his turn at providing some of the "Happiest Music on Earth."



Janice Kast and Derek Stallwood wait their turn in the hand organ concert.

Rally #4 Wurlitzer Factory Grounds—North Tonawanda, NY July 10-11, 2010

History was made on July 10 & 11, 2010 when the first ever Band Organ Homecoming took place at the historic Wurlitzer Building in North Tonawanda, New York. Although several organ rallies had previously taken place at the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in North Tonawanda, this was the first time that a rally ever took place on the very grounds of the Wurlitzer Building where so many of the instruments we know and love were built!



Doug Hershberger's Wurlitzer 125.

As the starting time of 10:00 am was quickly approaching on Saturday morning, all was still quiet as organ owners were in the final stages of setting up. Doug Hershberger was told that someone had to be first and was encouraged to turn on his organ to start things off. At 9:57 am the electric motor was switched on and the gleaming brass trumpets of his 102 year old Wurlitzer 125 broke the silence and sang out across the grounds with the very fine Wurlitzer march arrangement of *God Bless America*, kicking off this most historical event. A very appropriate start to the rally, paying tribute not only to the United States but also to The Good Lord above who smiled down on us all weekend long with two days of absolutely perfect weather without a cloud in the sky!



Brom Hine and Angela Perez from San Juan, Puerto Rico proudly show off their new 58-key Stinson organ.

Just over 100 COAA members were registered and brought a total of 44 instruments (22 large and 22 small). Of those, seven Wurlitzers and one DeKleist organ were brought “back home” to play once again at the place they were built! A fine mixture of other instruments provided a wide variety of sights and sounds to round out the rally experience including organs by Raffin, Molinari, Hofbauer, A. Ruth & Sohn, Wilhelm Bruder, Stinson, North Tonawanda Musical Instrument Works and NBC from Holland! Premiering at this rally was a brand new 58-key Stinson organ brought by Don and Phyllis Stinson. Its new owners, COAA members Bromfield Hine and Angela Perez from San Juan, Puerto Rico were in attendance and announced that the organ would soon be at home in their dining room. Can we, as band organ enthusiasts think of a finer way to enjoy a meal?



Paul Senger and Doug Hershberger in a deep conversation.



Kevin Sheehan with his original Wurlitzer Caliola.

And speaking of meals, the one we enjoyed Saturday evening was typical Buffalo fare of pizza and chicken wings, catered by none other than the Wurlitzer Pizza Company which operates out of the old factory cafeteria! The meal location was in a former Wurlitzer demonstration room on the second floor which at one time contained three pipe organs. It is now used as a training room by the plumbing supply business which occupies part of the building. The room worked out well for a presentation put on by Tim Wagner who showed vintage film footage of Wurlitzer theater organ construction filmed back in 1929, 81 years ago in the very building we were watching it in!



Mark Mitchell and Wurlitzer roll researcher, Matthew Caulfield.



The COAA band takes a formal pose in front of *Trudy*. Pictured are (kneeling) Wally Venable, Darleen Wasson, and (standing) Tom Billy, Dan Robinson, David Wasson, Bill Griswold, Lynn Herche and Beth Ann Mitchell.

After dinner band organ concerts were back outside featuring Larry Kern's Stinson Ambassador Organ and David and Darleen Wasson's *Trudy* Concert Organ. The evening ended just after 10:00 pm with a Christmas roll being played on *Trudy* and about 20 die-hard COAA members singing along in front of the organ. After that, most of the left over group thought that ice cream was in order, so off we drove down the road to a Dairy in Niagara Falls, making it just before closing at 11:00 pm.



Pictured are John Ravert, whose Wurlitzer organs are in the background; Tom Austen, owner of the Wurlitzer factory buildings; Gordon Tussing, contributor to much of the automatic musical industry in North Tonawanda; Doug Hershberger, current owner of the existing Wurlitzer music roll perforator; and Martin Anderson, restorer with the DeBence Musical World in Franklin, PA.

Sunday was another picture perfect day and a chance to greet members of AMICA International who sponsored this rally as part of their convention held in Buffalo the previous four days. A special surprise also on Sunday was a visit to the rally by Gordon Tussing. Gordon and his son are the last surviving members of the large family which contributed so much for so many years to the band organ and automatic music industry in North Tonawanda. Several band organ exhibitors were thrilled to meet him and discuss their favorite subject with a man who saw and participated in so much of it. Gordon gave every indication of enjoying himself thoroughly as did the rally participants, AMICA members and the public alike.

Dan Wilke



Angelo Rulli and Suzie Hendricks pose in front of Doug Hershberger's Wurlitzer 125 band organ, in front of the Wurlitzer building.

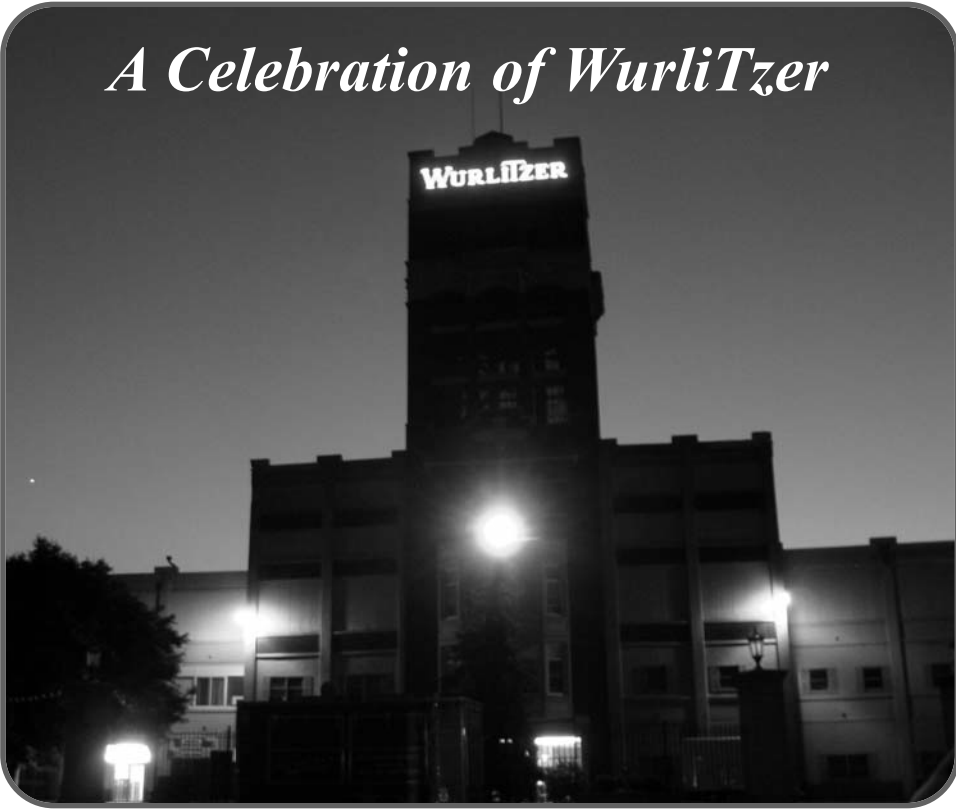


Dennis and Debbie Robinson asking Bernice Evarts if the "for sale" sign refer to the cake or the ragtime calliope.



Stan Beilski inspecting the interior of the Wurlitzer factory building.

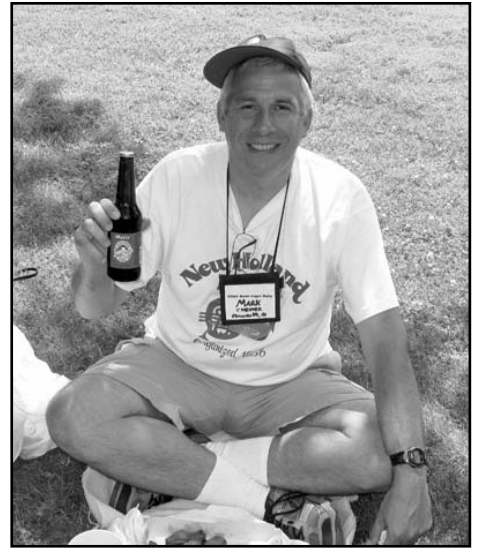
A Celebration of WurliTzer







Bernice & Eddy Evarts with their new Stinson band organ.



Mark Chester with his Moxie!



Julia Iassacs was a guest of Bill Griswold (*Trudy* in the background).



Kathy & Craig Smith with niece, Aliyah Luccitti with some of Craig's barrel organs.



Neil and Debbie Smith are 'pleased as punch' with their newly restored Wurlitzer 146-B organ.



A nice presentation of a Don Stinson-produced organ.



John Prtljaga and Margie Hagen with John's self-built Dutch organ.



Geri, Alice & Richard Bogert take a well-deserved rest.



Mary Jane and Martin Anderson find a place in the shade.



Joan and Terry Haughwout flank Pauline Leonard, Gaviman (-woman) emeritus.



Marion "Sweetie Pie" and Bill McCleary with his super Stinson MA-2000A organ.



Audrey Oor and Bob Cole cranked his well-handcrafted hand organ.



Jim Lydon takes a turn at cranking a Raffin hand organ.



David and Barb Schumacher resting between playing times with their OSI organ.



Liz & Mike Barnhart with their Stinson style 165 organ, Treveris.



Something got to Tom Billy, posing in front of his Style 33 Ruth organ.



Capt. Noel Blair from Grand Island, NY and his Wurlitzer 146-A.



Jim and Donna Partrick in their 'resting' mode.

Rally #5
Merry-Go-Round Museum—Sandusky, OH
July 17-18, 2010



Sandusky's Merry-Go-Round Museum makes a stately backdrop for Paul Senger and his 20-note John Smith organ.

The fifth COAA rally of the year was held in Washington Street Park in beautiful downtown Sandusky, Ohio. The rally was featured in conjunction with the 20th birthday of the Merry-Go-Round Museum. Seventy-three members and 37 organs provided birthday music for two days. Members enjoyed the Museum's birthday cake on Saturday along with the necessary ice cream.



Rally host, Vicky Bout, addressing the membership at dinner on Saturday.

The Saturday evening dinner was held at the museum where Vicky Bout, Executive Director of the Merry-Go-Round Museum welcomed and thanked all of the members for helping celebrate the festive occasion. Dave Vincent won (again) the 50-50 making him one of the richest COAA members attending rallies.



Much to the dismay of David Wasson, Dave Vincent receives his portion of the 50-50 drawing.

Most members played both Saturday and Sunday to receptive audiences. With the weather being perfect and the organs spotted reasonably apart from each other it made for a great organ rally setting.



Patti and Paul Dyer discussing organ rolls with Carl Curtis, behind.



Linda and Mike Grant resting between the playing of their two Wurlitzers (styles 126 & 103) next to the museum building.

Band Organ Rally

Sat. July 17 Sun. July 18

 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
 More than 30 band organs playing
"The Happiest Music on Earth"
 in Washington Street Park,
 Sandusky, Ohio
 For information call 419-626-6111

The rally poster.



Sharon and Carl Curtis take a break from playing their Stinson Model 29 band organ.



Mary Jo Bopp cranking her book-operated 45-key Verbeeck street organ.



Jim Welte poses with his adorable Artizan A-2 band organ.



Marge Hagen and Dave Reichart awaiting dinner in the Merry-Go-Round Museum.



Norm and Tana Otto pose behind their 22-note Perlee organ.



Mary Pollock sits with her Wurlitzer 125 Military Band Organ.



Leroy and Betty Schumacher brought their restored Wurlitzer 146 band organ for all to hear.



Gary Craig from St. Louis gives a big smile while playing his 31-note Stuber street organ.



David Stumpf and Wayne Holton compare arranging notes.



Tom Logan brought his Wurlitzer 105 reproduction organ of which he was quite proud.



The Redd family: Don, Fred, Norma (sitting) and Kathy Scherer.



Jill and Peter Hallock displayed their 56-key Bruder organ.



Wilbur and Sandy Herr rest from playing their 31-note Raffin street organ.



Coming to the rally were Natasha and Linda Simons—Mary Jo Bopp welcoming them.



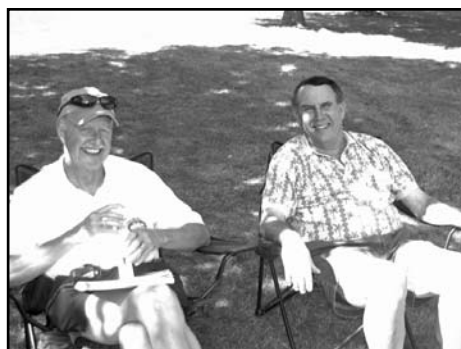
Richard Webb enjoying the sun and the rally.



David and Darlene take a well-deserved rest in the shade from playing *Trudy*.



Larry Kern (and PJ) taking a break from his organ to enjoy other's music.



Neil Smith and Terry Haughawout relaxing between organ tunes.

Rally #6
Living History Farms—Urbandale, IA
July 17-18, 2010

Living History Farms tells the amazing story of how Iowans transformed the fertile prairies of the Midwest into the most productive farmland in the world. While at the 500-acre open-air museum, our visitors traveled through time periods spanning 300 years.



A panoramic view of the Living History Farm.



Yousef Wilson playing one of his self-made crank organs.

For the first time ever, COAA joined in the activities and demonstrations. Forty-nine members from 12 states brought 25 crank organs, carousel organs, a concert band organ, and a calliope to share with the visitors. The result was fantastic. Living History Farms set an attendance record

on the Labor Day weekend we were there. Since people were there for historic interest, virtually everyone was impressed by the showing of organs.



Jeanine Cole brought this nice Wurlitzer 146 band organ.

One COAA member counted 160 people who stopped and talked about his organ during the first few hours—then it got busy!



Bill Klinger entertains with his street organ.

The museum features a reconstructed 1875 town, where the crank organs performed on wooden sidewalks, along with the Farm's historical interpreters. There was also an Artizan organ in front of the implement dealer, a Tangley attracting attention at the veterinarian shop, a Wurlitzer near the picnic shelter, a Stinson on the walkway to the old schoolhouse, and Trudy in front of Rosie's Café. A huge Wurlitzer-based carousel organ set up at the ball field, and later moved to the Visitors Center because of the old-timers' ball game.



The host, Linda Shuck—events coordinator, welcomes COAA members to the weekend festivities.

Most of the visitors and members rode hayricks to the outlying areas: the 1700 Ioway Indian village, the 1850 pioneer farm, and the 1900 Midwestern farm.

The COAA members and the staff of Living History Farms all agreed that this was a perfect rally and rally setting. Another rally at this location will be scheduled in the future. For those who might consider registering next time, the other facilities are excellent.

There are two hotels and a country-style family restaurant located around the entrance so that you don't even have to get back on the highway for a complete weekend. The Farm is located in Urbandale Iowa (a Des Moines suburb) and is only ¼ mile from both Interstates 35 and 80.

Mike Schoepner



Mike Merrick and Tracy Tolzman take a break from playing their Ruth/Artizan organ display (below) for the tourists.



Dean Shepard plays his MIDI-accordion while H.C. Beckman waits patiently behind his 20/26 John Smith street organ.



Tom McAuley cranking his 20-note Jaeger und Brommer street organ in circus motif.



Marlene Eickson with her 20-note Castlewood hand organ.



Dave Mahr and Angelo Rulli having too much fun behind two Raffin street organs.

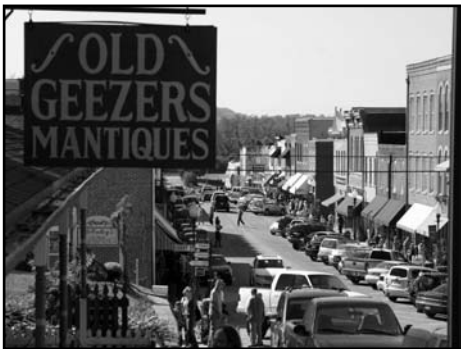


Jim Partrick with his OSI street organ.

David Wilder entertaining group of small on-lookers.

Rally #7 Historic Weston Street Organ Muster—Weston, MO October 16-17, 2010

Over the river and into the past best describes the journey made by those attending the Historic Weston Street Organ Muster. Approximately 40 COAA members and guests provided the town residents and hundreds of visitors with The Happiest Music on Earth for seven hours each on Saturday and Sunday.



Historic Main Street with its array of street organs in front of shops.

Featured up and down Historic Main Street were two truck mounted band organs and about 14 street organs. The weather was stunningly perfect with a crystal blue sky both days. The Muster was co-sponsored by the Weston Chamber of Commerce: President Julie Pasley wrote Muster organizer, Gordie Davidson . . . “We never dreamed it would be such a fantastic event. Thank you for all your work in bringing this event to fruition. Whenever COAA wants to come back,



H.C. Beckman awards Weston Mayer, Greg Hoffman, with an organ grinder's certificate.

we will welcome them with open arms.”

Mayor Greg Hoffman was stunned by the energy and enthusiasm the music brought to Historic Main Street. Weston is an antebellum Missouri River town founded in 1837.

Most of the activities were based around the Saint George Hotel, once a refuge for river boat captains conducting commerce in Weston. Owner John Pottie and his staff provided a superb German buffet Saturday evening. During the meal, the group was blessed with a cameo appearance by Juha Silfverberg, the hotel's resident accordionist: he played by request, *Old Comrades*, as the group clapped in time. The remainder of Saturday evening was dedicated to reminiscing in the hotel's wine bank.



Jim Finley, curator of the Orval Hixon Photography Museum, addresses members.

Unique to this Muster was a Mart Sunday morning in the hotel. Many attendees brought their musical treasures and junk to barter and sell with each other—all and all a good idea for future rallies. The other spotlight activities for Sunday morning included tours of the National Silk Art Museum and the Orval Hixon Photography Museum. It was hard to believe the finest collection of silk art on the planet resides in Historic Weston, Missouri.

All members were pleased with the personal tours conducted by curators John Pottie (silk art) and Jim Finley (photography).



Gordie Davidson and July Pasley, President of the Weston Chamber of Commerce, touring the line-up of street organs.

Asked how he put this successful event together, organizer Gordie Davidson stated “I simply planned my work and worked my plan with ruthless attention to detail.”

YouTube videos and images from the Historic Weston Street Organ Muster can be found online at www.westonmuster.com.



Tom and Kay Bode entertain a very young organ enthusiast.



The COAA attendees line up in front of *Trudy* for a group photo.



Carl Cavitt plays his new Wittman organ for onlookers.



Carol Ditto walked the streets with her monkey friend.



Greg Filardo from St. Joseph, Missouri tilts his barrel organ to reveal the bottom pipes.



COAA President, Ted Guillaum, came up to Kansas from Nashville for the rally.



Charles and David Wasson chat with Jim Partrick.



Tom Griffith cranks his 20-note Raffin street organ.



Ed Ditto with his barrel organ.



Tom Griffith, Angelo Rulli, Gordie Davidson and Ted Guillaum take time out to pose.



Doug Mauldin from Little Rock, Arkansas takes a turn at cranking a Raffin organ.

Fun & Crazy Photos of COAA Members — 2010

