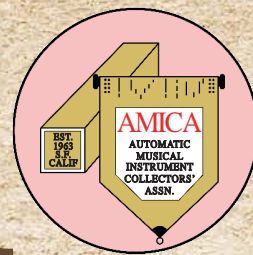


# THE AMICA



AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

**Victrola**  
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**MUSIC'S  
MASTER MEDIUM**

VICTOR TALKING MACHINE COMPANY, CAMDEN, N.J.

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Vol. 23—No. 6

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1927

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Re-print ad from the Jan/Feb 2003)

# KC HOA Chapter Report

Reporter Dan Davis

In October the KC HOA AMICA entertained visitors to the 1844 Rice-Tremonti Homestead. It is located in Raytown, Missouri. The Homestead was a camping farm supplying travelers to the Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails. Members enjoyed a fun day of instrument playing and visiting. We ended the day enjoying a delicious meal at a local Italian restaurant.



HC Beckman



*Trudy and Greg Moffitt*



*Rice-Tremonti 1844 Homestead*



*Roger Stumfoll, Ken and Virginia Filardo*

In October several members played their instruments and entertained children and adults at Carolyn's Pumpkin Patch. This is a large outdoor yearly fall event space located in Liberty, Missouri. One of the main features is a Bradley and Kaye carousel. It was located at Kansas City's Worlds of Fun from 1979 to 2016. It features fiberglass horses molded from original C.W Parker horses. It was later sold to Carolyn's Pumpkin Patch.





Bob Stout and Rick McDowell



Bradley and Kaye Carousl



Greg Moffitt, Bob Stout, Mike and Sandy Schoeppner, Carol Davis, and Trudy Moffitt

# Northern Lights Chapter

## Photos & Report by Tracy and Merrie Tolzmann

A beautiful Fall day was in store as Northern Lights AMICA and Snowbelt MBSI members gathered at the lovely Minnetonka, Minnesota, home of chapter treasurer Susan and John Ellingson on Sunday, September 28th. Twenty-nine members and guests arrived, making their way around the house to the spacious back yard where an impressive collection of classic automobiles awaited. Three sat outside John's "man cave" workshop/garage, with another four vehicles, a homebuilt O-roll orchestrion, a Wurlitzer 125 Military Band Organ, innumerable vintage neon signs, and a 1957 wooden Chris Craft boat packed into the building. The O-roll piano was built by John and the late Northern Lights member, Tom Wurdeman. The orchestrion serenaded the gathering as the autos were examined.

Members were greeted upon arrival by chapter Secretary Merrie Tolzmann, who made sure everyone wore a name tag. We welcomed visitors Cyndy and Bill Hall from Saint Cloud, Florida. They were in the Twin Cities for the late Bill Nunn's Skyrock Farm auction. The Halls were guests of local COAA members Angelo Rulli and Suzie Hendricks. AMICAn Ron Olsen brought Steve Kozicky as a guest.

As a decommissioned Griswold Rotating Banner railroad crossing signal flashed its red lights and ordered "STOP," John's "Ottaway" Amusement Park Train left the backyard station with one passenger at a time due to the steep grade of the Ellingson's contoured back yard.

Inside the house, John's interest in trains was obvious as a large layout of American Flyer and Lionel model trains filled a second-floor room. A 1915 Stroud Duo-Art upright Piano in the adjoining hallway provided musical accompaniment. Model railroad engines and rolling stock were displayed all around the room from floor to ceiling, with a second layout located on the ground floor and even more locomotives and cars filling the cozy adjacent TV room. Vintage pedal cars adorned the room, too!

Around the corner from the upstairs train layout was a comfortable den with a 1926 Chickering Ampico Grand Piano. All around the house were antique Erector Set constructions and vintage pressed steel toys. Throughout the house, Susan's collection of antique light fixtures and "Gone With the Wind" lamps glowed warmly, as numerous old clocks ticked away.

Members returned to the back yard for a business meeting which was preceded by a presentation by Rich Poppe about a 26-key Barrel Organ that he had purchased from Nancy Fratti at the AMICA-MBSI Convention in Chicago five weeks earlier. Rich had "Googled" the manufacturer's name, "Chiappa & Sons, Ltd.," seeking information on the instrument, and was surprised to see the first result a COAA magazine story on the firm written by joint chapter Chairman Tracy Tolzmann! Tracy added to Rich's comments remarking on his 2008 article written after he and fellow member Mike Merrick visited the Chiappa factory in London in 1984. Rich's organ had been built there circa 1900. The Internet also provided other interesting provenance on the instrument.

Business began with a welcome to our guests and moved on to a report on the previous day's auction of Bill Nunn's Skyrock Farm Collection. The all-day event was a success with some bargains to be had among bids from the U.S., Europe, The Netherlands, and on-line. Local hopefuls had success with numerous lots, and the 57-key Gavioli Fairground Organ -- Bill & Stacy's favorite instrument -- will be staying in Minnesota as it was won by a Northern Lights member after spirited bidding!

Ron Olsen reported on the May 7 death of long time AMICA member Paul Watkins of Champlin, MN, who passed away at age 85. A motion was made and carried for Northern Lights to donate \$100 in memory of Paul to Cancer Research at the Mayo Clinic. Paul was a descendant of the renowned Minnesota Watkins Company that started in 1868 with travelling salesmen selling liniment, vanilla extract, and cinnamon. Paul never worked for the business that expanded to numerous products which remain very popular.

Cheryl & Kiven Lukes will be hosting our annual Holiday Meeting in Glenville, MN, a two-hour drive from the Twin Cities. The November 23rd gathering will have an altered agenda due to the distance, with dinner served first, followed by tours of the Lukes' collection. The meeting was adjourned as Susan called everyone to dinner.

Susan's Scandinavian heritage was in evidence as she had prepared delicious Swedish Meatballs in a creamy sauce along with chicken skewers, garlic and regular mashed potatoes, and fresh green beans, while numerous salads and side dishes were provided by attendees. No one went hungry as we enjoyed supper al fresco, with plenty of delicious desserts in store for those who saved room.

With appetites sated, attendees began departing as the lovely day drew to a close with warm thanks to our hosts, Susan and John, for a wonderful afternoon.



*A 1940 Ford Deluxe and 1942 Lincoln Continental convertible stand by as attendees listen to John's stories about the vehicles.*



*Host John Ellingson stands with (l to r) Kiven Lukes, joint chapter Vice Chairman Steve Klosinski, Alex Stolitza (inside the Ford), Rich Poppe, and Tom Kuehn.*



*Ken Huber, Rich Poppe, and Gary Goldsmith with the homebuilt O-roll Orchestrion and the Wurli-tzer 125 Band Organ inside John's "man cave."*



*Neon signs lined the walls of John's workshop/garage, with the bowling neon recalling his 60-plus years in the bowling business. At the rear from left to right are a 1957 Chevrolet Corvette convertible, 1932 Ford Street Rod conversion, 1940 Ford Deluxe, and a 1950 Ford Custom convertible.*



The organ's lower façade.



Joint chapter Secretary Merrie Tolzmann (left) checked attendees in and visited with (l to r) Carol Schultz, Cheryl Lukes, and Lisa Tenhoff, with the 1957 Oldsmobile Super 88 convertible in the background.



John talks about his vintage scooters as (l to r) Tom Kuehn, Steve Klosinski, Kiven Lukes, and Rich Poppe look on.



Our host, Susan Ellingson (left) chats with member Carol Schultz and visiting MBSI and COAA members from Florida, Cyndy and Bill Hall.



*Some of the 29 members and guests enjoying the beautiful Fall day: sitting in front, Gary Goldsmith (left) and Tim Wheat; standing (l to r), Brian and Betty Falk, Steve Kozicky, host Susan Ellingson, Ron Olsen, Angelo Rulli, Cyndy & Bill Hall, Suzy Hendricks, Ken Huber, Jerrilyn Boehland, Ralph & Carol Schultz, and Steve Klosinski.*



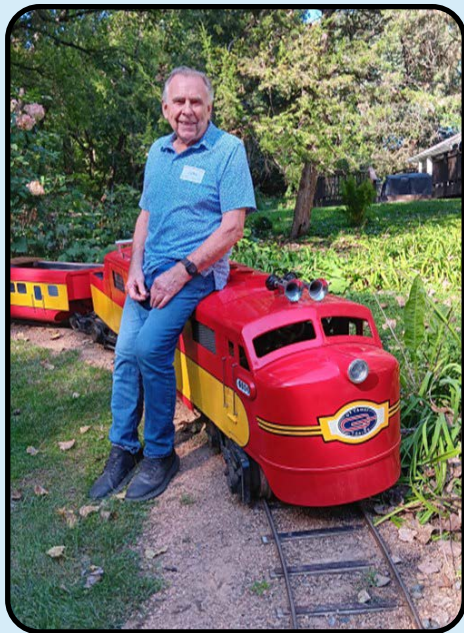
*John's scooters: left to right, the 1955 Cushman Eagle, a circa 1950 Doodle Bug, and 1948 Schwinn bicycle with a Whizzer motor attachment.*



*Rich Poppe (left) did a "Show & Tell" about his "new" 26-key Chiappa & Sons Barrel Organ. Chapter Chairman Tracy Tolzmann added to Rich's presentation. The eight-tune organ was built circa 1900 at the London firm.*



*It was "ONE aboard!" for a ride on John's Ottaway Amusement Park Train... the grade of the railbed was too steep for a heavier load! Here engineer John gives Rich Poppe the once around.*



*Host John Ellingson and his Ottaway diesel locomotive.*



*Vintage Erector sets were displayed throughout the railroad room.*



*Suzy Hendricks and Kiven Lukes admire the 1915 Stroud Duo-Art Piano.*



*John's large train layout held many interesting displays and included numerous vintage pressed metal buildings and tunnels, and the Matterhorn mountain.*



*A few steps from the expansive train room was a cozy den with a 1926 Chickering Grand Piano. Here, Steve Klosinski and Tom Kuehn listen to John talk about the instrument.*

## Nate Otto Presented Classic Comedy Films with Live Fotoplayer Accompaniment

Audiences experienced classic comedy films just as they were originally seen in small-town theaters—complete with live accompaniment on a restored 1916 American Fotoplayer.

The event took place over three weekends in Nate's Anoka workshop: September 25–27 and October 17, 18, 23–25.

Nate Otto, master craftsman and owner of Rum River Restorations in Anoka, brought vintage player pianos back to life for new generations to enjoy. He restored his 1916 American Fotoplayer over a three-year period. The instrument featured a double player piano roll system, 100 organ pipes, and a variety of percussion effects—allowing the operator to match silent film scenes with expressive, mood-setting music.

The event offered a captivating return to a bygone era, evoking the charm of small-town theaters that couldn't afford a "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ. It was a must-see experience that delighted all who attended.

**The Annual Almelund Apple Festival took place on Sunday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Leave 'Em Laughing tent, hosted by the Laurel & Hardy club, showcased Stan and Ollie along with their contemporaries in a five-hour, ever-changing parade of classic comedies. Plenty of cartoons were featured as well.**

Festivalgoers enjoyed delicious food, live musical entertainment, Model T Ford rides, mouthwatering apple desserts, and much more. Admission was free.

Almelund, located about an hour north of the Twin Cities, welcomed visitors who traveled via I-35, exited at North Branch, and drove 10 miles east on Hwy 95 to County Road 12—the gateway to Wild River State Park.

The event was held in the charming 1880s-era "Log Barn Cinema," part of a multi-building immigrant farm museum on the grounds. It was a perfect setting for a day of nostalgic fun.

## Cafesjian's Carousel Presented "History in Motion"

The historic Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousel No. 33 spent 75 years at the Minnesota State Fair, from 1914 to 1989. Rescued from the auction block in 1988 by the nonprofit citizens' group Our Fair Carousel Inc., the ride continued as a treasured Minnesota landmark, operating in Saint Paul's beautiful Como Park beginning in October 1999.

On Friday, September 19 at 7:00 pm, Cafesjian's Carousel hosted a special "History in Motion" event that featured:

- A PowerPoint presentation reviewing the carousel's rich, colorful history
- A hands-on tour of its 68 unique hand-carved horses
- A close-up look at the mechanism that powered the ride
- The Wurlitzer Band Organ—the "Voice of the Carousel"
- Magical twilight rides under the glow of 898 tiny bulbs, with a final ride at a faster pace

Light refreshments were served, and admission was \$10 per person, payable at the door. Attendees RSVP'd via [facebook.com/cafesjianscarousel](https://www.facebook.com/cafesjianscarousel) and enjoyed an unforgettable evening celebrating this beloved piece of Minnesota history.


Nate Otto *presents...*  
**Not-So-Silent Movies!**  
 Experience classic comedy films the way they were originally seen in small-town theaters, with LIVE accompaniment on a 1916 "American Fotoplayer"  
 See all the details and reserve your seats at: [eventbrite.com/e/1681412633449?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1681412633449?aff=oddtcreator)  
 3 weekends with 2 great shows in Nate's Anoka workshop:  
 - September 25, 26, & 27 and October 17, 18, 23, 24, & 25 -  
 Nate Otto is a master craftsman and owner of Rum River Restorations in Anoka where he brings vintage Player Pianos back to life for new generations to enjoy.  
 Nate restored his 1916 American Fotoplayer over a 3-year period. The Fotoplayer contains a double player piano roll system, 100 organ pipes, and numerous percussion effects that allow the operator to accompany silent films with appropriate mood music to fit any scene! It's a fascinating return to a bygone era, recalling the small town theaters that couldn't afford a "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ.  
 It's a MUST-EXPERIENCE event you'll love!




the Leave 'Em Laughing tent presents classic silent & sound comedies at the Almelund Apple Festival  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st**  
 ~ 11:00 am to 4:00 pm ~

- Laurel & Hardy
- Buster Keaton
- Our Gang
- the Three Stooges
- classic Cartoons
- much more...
- Food
- Crafts
- Live Music
- Apple Desserts
- Model T Rides
- Immigrant Museum

Almelund is on Hwy 95 at Co. Rd. 12  
 10 miles East of North Branch ~ 10 miles west of Taylora Falls  
**Come join the fun at this FREE family event!**  
 the Leave 'Em Laughing tent is Oasele 921 of the International Sons of the Desert



**Cafesjian's carousel HISTORY in motion...**

The historic Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel number 33 spent 76 years at the Minnesota State Fair from 1914 to 1989. Saved from the auction block in 1988 by the nonprofit citizens' group Our Fair Carousel Inc., the ride survives as a Minnesota treasure operating in Saint Paul's beautiful Como Park since October of 1999.

Join us for a special "History in Motion" event featuring...


- PowerPoint review of the carousel's rich, colorful history
- hands-on tour of the 68 unique hand-carved horses
- a close look at the mechanism that makes it all work
- the Wurlitzer Band Organ - the "Voice of the Carousel"
- all capped by magical twilight rides on your favorite horses under the light of 898 little bulbs (with the final ride at a faster pace!)

~ light refreshments will be served ~

You can let us know you're coming at: [facebook.com/cafesjianscarousel](https://www.facebook.com/cafesjianscarousel)

**7:00 pm Friday, September 19**  
 \$10 per person  
 ~ payable at the door ~

~ handicap accessible ~  
**Cafesjian's Carousel**  
 1245 Midway Parkway in Como Park  
 Saint Paul - MN - 55109



# SOCAL AMICA MEETING

Reporters: Diane DeTar and Mark & Gale Weber

Photographer: Lowell Boehland

Our September 14th Chapter meeting was a combination AMICA and MBSI, along with multiple friends, family, and neighbors. The event was organized as a potluck open house and garden party. Mark and Gale Weber's beautiful home is located in an old eucalyptus forest in Palos Verdes Estates south of Los Angeles. There was a variety of dishes provided by the attendees and set up in the Weber's garden. The group was entertained by Mark's latest creation, a MIDI controlled carousel organ. Mark built this organ from an old case that was gifted to him by fellow member, Don Rugh.

Mark and Gale Weber's collection includes a Phillips orchestrion, phonographs, music boxes, organs, automata, and vintage magic lanterns along with many other antique items collected over the years. Mark is also an exceptional furniture maker and has made many award-winning pieces that were built in his home workshop. The highlight of the Weber's collection is their replica of a Belgium dance hall organ in the style of Mortier. The organ plays 322 pipes, plus several hundred digitally-sampled virtual pipes that can play in conjunction with the real pipes. The organ plays from a balcony above the kitchen area. The glassed-in pipe chamber is located in the attic, where the organ presents itself as a residence organ from the 1920s, complete with a 1926 Robert Morton console that had been originally located in the Wilshire Ebell theater. Mark and Gale designed the organ and constructed it from parts gifted, scavenged, or purposely built by Mark. The organ was played throughout the day by accomplished organist Edward Torres. Edward is the past organist for the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo, California. He is currently the organist at the Bob Baker Marionette Theater in Pasadena. The theater just celebrated its 52nd anniversary.

During the day, we were all entertained by the Philipps PC10 Orchestrion with violin pipes and several engaging automata. We also heard a smaller MIDI controlled pipe organ that Mark built that is now displayed in his intriguing music room. Somehow Mark was able to squeeze in a tour of his private workshop.

It was a beautiful Southern California day. The event was well attended by over 55 members and guests. Good energy was plentiful, and toward the end of the meeting everybody sang "Happy Days Are Here Again" to the new carousel organ. What FUN!

A big "thank you" goes out to Mark and Gale for a wonderful day of entertainment and education as well!



*Lowell Boehland always manages to take a wonderful group picture!*



Tables were set up in the beautiful back yard for the potluck buffet.



Mark and Gale's daughter, Rebecca, signing in Judy and Bob Burtscher.



Mark showing off his latest instrument...a MIDI controlled carousel band organ. It's just amazing that he built it from scratch inside an old case that was gifted to him by member Don Rugh.



Don Rugh congratulating Mark, with Gale by his side, on a job well done.



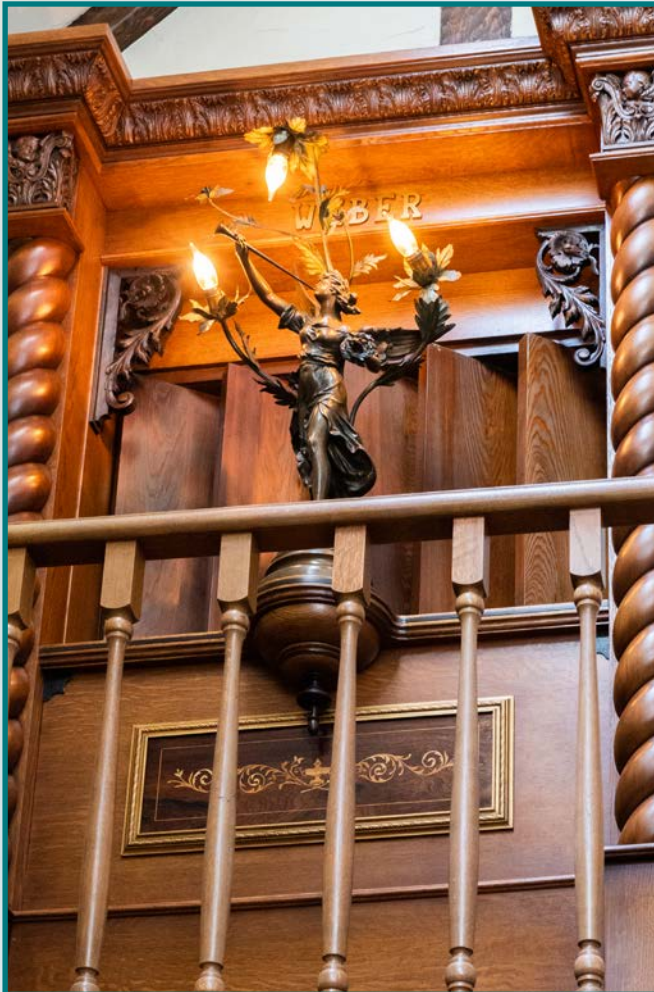
The "Music Room" containing the Phillips PC 10 Orchestrion and Mark's home-made MIDI controlled pipe organ.



*Edward Torres playing the Robert Morton console on the Weber Residence Organ.*



*A closer look at the Alexandre Theroud automaton.*



*The swells opening up at the top of the kitchen. An absolutely beautiful facade built by Mark.*



*Two automata with a nautical theme.*



*Mark standing next to the Phillips Violine. To his left is a Spanish barrel organ. And in the front case is the Alexandre Theroud automaton.*



*Wayne Johnston, Diane DeTar, Arabella Julien, Frank Nix, Gale & Mark Weber, and Edward Torres.*