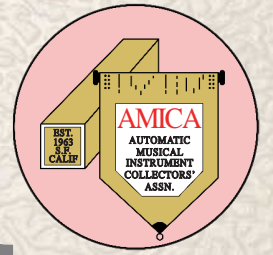


THE AMICA



AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN



FEATURE ARTICLE:
*The Reproduco
Player Pipe Organ*
By Charles Morgan

Chicago AMICA Holiday Party at the Sanfilippo Estate December 9, 2023

Reporter & Photographer Ken Walczak
President Margaret Bisberg



The Chicago Chapter of AMICA was once again honored to be invited by the Sanfilippo family and the Sanfilippo Foundation for a Holiday Gala. It is always a pleasure to view the extensive collection and hear the wonderful sounds of the mechanically played instruments. Added to the array of mechanically played instruments, is the the largest theatre organ in the world, the Wurlitzer 5/80. Fairground, dance and street organs occupy almost every crack and corner in the main house and the Carousel Pavilion. A full size "brass" steam locomotive, a "Guilded Age" railroad coach, and a caboose share the pavilion with the huge Eden Palais Salon carousel. A collection of stationary steam engines share the space in the Carousel Building with numerous fair organs. In the house is a 19th century Paris street scene with a beautifully recreated perfumery shop containing a collection of over 3,000 perfume bottles, ranging in age from ancient times to modern times. This collection was assembled by Jeffery Sanfilippo and his partner, Rusty.

At 3:00pm, the doors opened to this fantastic collection in the house. For those who were never there before, it was awesome. At 3:30pm, there was a demonstration of the steam engine running in the lower level. At 4:00pm, there were tours of the organ chamber and at 5:00pm, the attendees assembled in the theatre for a Laurel and Hardy

holiday silent film and a holiday singalong. Jay Warren, renowned theatre organist, presided at the keyboard of the giant Wurlitzer organ. The singalong put everyone in the holiday spirit. There was a short presentation about the music and a welcome by Jeffery Sanfilippo.

Upon completion of the film presentation and concert, everyone went to the Carousel Pavilion to view and hear more mechanical music marvels, as well as, to view a huge collection of stationary steam engines. From 6:00 to 7:00pm, there was a social hour so that members of the various attending organizations could become acquainted. Beverages were provided to aid in the socializing.

At 7:00pm, a sumptuous buffet was provided with a variety of foods. By 8:00pm, dessert was served, to the accompaniment of fairground music and street organ music. By 9:00pm, the carousel was up and running for those who wished to be treated to a ride on the beautiful 1890 Eden Palais Carousel. At 9:30pm, the evening culminated with a battle of the biggest organs - the Wurlitzer 180 and the 110 Key Gavioliphone.

Everything made it a wonderful day. Even the sometimes-harsh Chicago Area weather was pleasant and allowed for a safe, snow-free drive home or to the guests' respective hotels.



Beverly Chatfield Bear Schultz and the Hanks Family with the 92-key Limonaire



Derek Hanson, Robert Roenke, Rachel Long, and Rob Pratt enjoying the social hour



Dr. Lloyd Lange and Rob Deland with the Ramey Banjo Orchestra



Making serious decisions in the buffet line



The larger than life lyrics for all to sing



Ken Walczak with the Gavioli Ladies



Tracy Tolzmann, Angelo Ruli, and Marty Persky with the song tablet



Jay Warren at the Wurlitzer 5-80 console

