

ORIGINS OF CAROUSELS

- Carousels trace back to 12th century Arabian games of horsemanship called "Carosellos"
- 16th century France featured lavish tournaments of pageantry called "Carrousel"
- 17th century French Nobleman trained for spearing contests on legless wooden "horses" by tossing rings as they rode around a center pole
- Rotation power was by horse, mule or man pushing or pulling the mechanism through the late 19th century
- 1860: Frederick Savage designed a portable center mounted steam engine which would carry the weight of three or four rows of horses on platforms.
- He followed this invention with a patent for overhead gears which gave an up-and-down motion to the horses. These are called "Jumpers" today.
- 1867: Gustav Dentzel, a German immigrant, founded the G.A. Dentzel company and pioneered the carousel industry in America.
- 1876: Charles Loof in his spare time built the carousel to be installed in Coney Island.
- 1882: Allan Herschell started the Armitage Herschell Company later becoming the Herschell-Spillman company that built small portable carousels except for a few large park machines. (Tilden Merry Go Round is one of those large park machines)
- 1893: Charles Wallace Parker started the C.W. Parker Company to build "Carry-us-alls". At age 14 Dwight Eisenhower sanded horses in the Parker factory.
- 1903: Henry Auchy formed the Philadelphia Toboggan Company,
- Dentzel, Loof, Herschell Spillman, and Philadelphia Toboggan Company were the main players in the Carousel Industry and each had their own style of carving.
- Handcrafted chiseled carousels prospered through the 1920s until mass production techniques and the Depression dealt the industry a fatal blow. From then on animals were made of aluminum and then fiberglass.
- There are approximately 300 handcrafted carousels still operating throughout the United States.



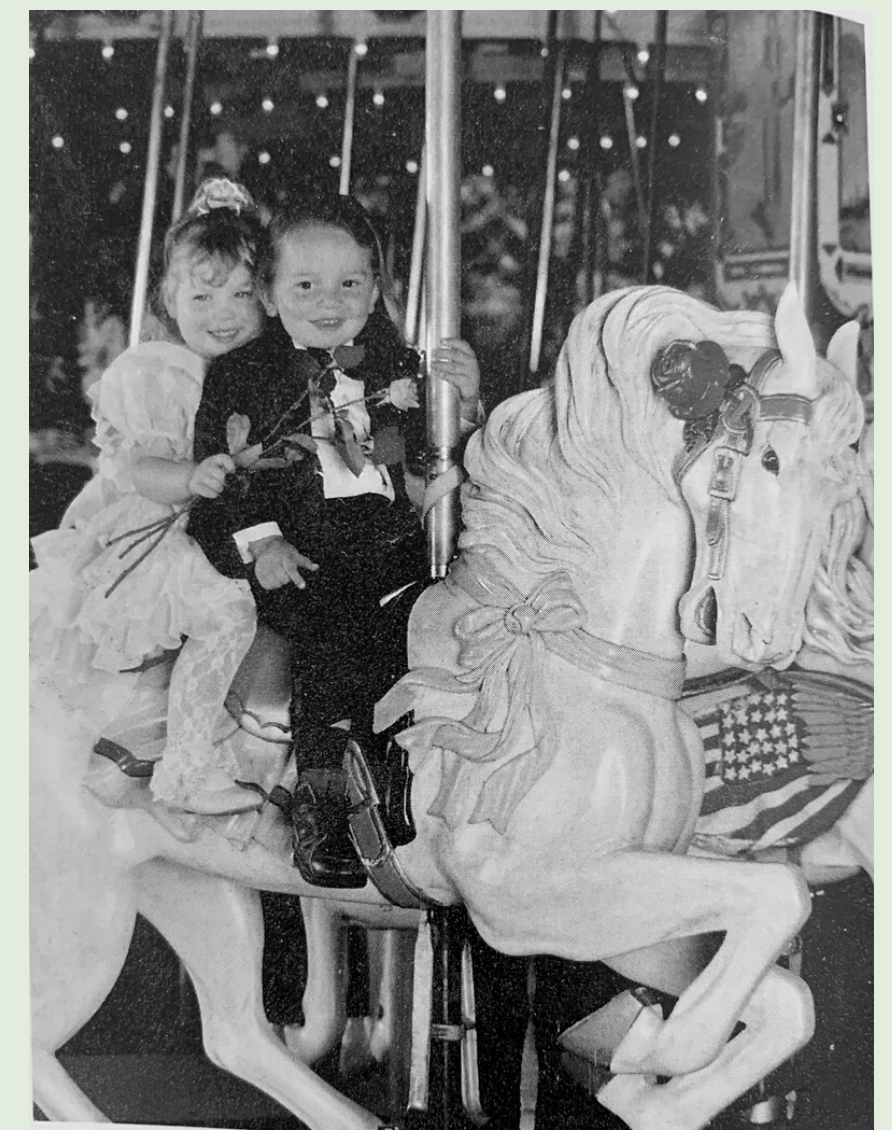
TIPE OF CAROUSELS

COUNTRY FAIR STYLE:

The North Tonawanda companies were prolific carousel carvers in the Country Fair style. Their horses are relatively simple, easy to move and spread widely throughout the country. Most carousels away from the Eastern Coastal resorts were either North Tonawanda or Parker. A museum dedicated to these carousels is in an old Herschell carousel factory in North Tonawanda, New York.

Major Carousel Builders and Carvers were:

- *ARMITAGE HERSCHELL*
- *HERSCHELL SPILLMAN COMPANY*
- *SPILLMAN ENGINEERING*
- *ALLAN HERSCHELL*
- *THE KANSAS COLONEL -- C. W. PARKER*
- *U. S. MERRY GO ROUND COMPANY*
- *CHARLES DARE & Salvatore Cernigliaro (Cherni), John Zalar.*



PHILADELPHIA STYLE:

A more natural and realistic depiction of horses and menagerie animals.

- *DENTZEL*
- *PHILADELPHIA TOBOGGAN COMPANY*
- *D. C. MULLER & BRO.*
- *LONG FAMILY - The LONG/LEUPOLD CAROUSELS*
- *E. JOY MORRIS*
- *CHARLES LEUPOLD*

CONEY ISLAND STYLE:

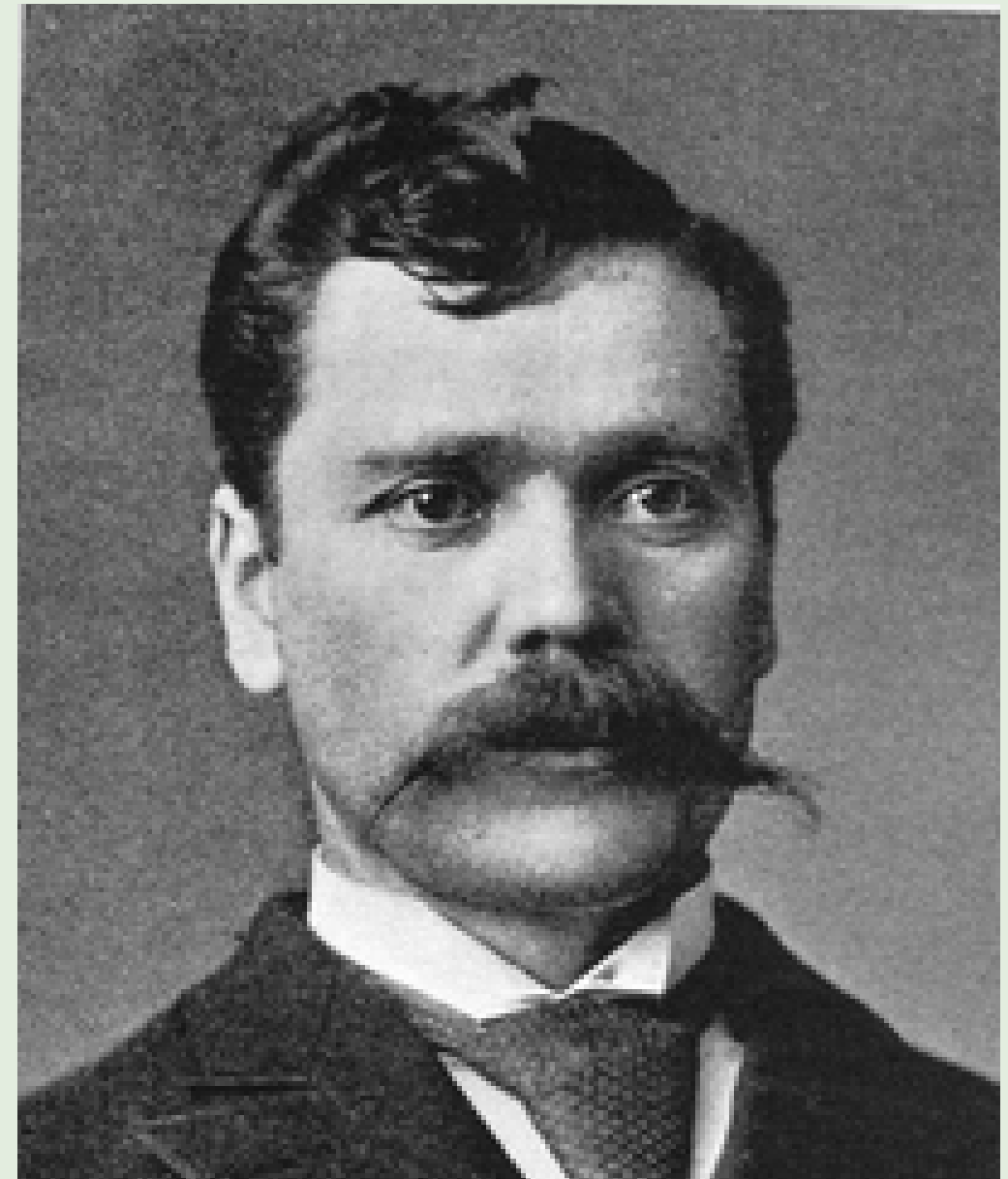
This style is characterized by flamboyant horses, bedecked with jewels and gold and silver leaf. The carousels themselves often are resplendent with mirrors to catch and reflect the light.

- *CHARLES LOOFF*
- *W. F. MANGELS*
- *M. C. ILLIONS*
- *CARMEL*
- *MURPHY BROTHERS*
- *STEIN & GOLDSTEIN*



ALLEN HERSHELL

- Born in Scotland in 1851, one of 13 children, moved to America at 19
- Herschell and James Armitage began a company making steam engines
- 1873 moved to Tonawanda New York, launched the Tonawanda Engine and Machine Company. After two fires, the company became. The Armitage Herschell Company.
- 1864 Allen Herschell completed his first carousel
- 1899 company ran into financial problems and failed
- 1903 Allen Herschell and Edward Spillman bought the assets of the former company from the bank and formed the Herschell Spillman Company.
- Herschell Spillman became the world's largest producer of carousels. Their \$2,000 portable steam-powered carousels traveled to the four corners of the globe.
- The firm produced menagerie animals including chickens, dogs, zebras, pigs, lions, tigers, frogs, storks, and giraffes.
- Chariots displayed subjects such as Mother Goose and Uncle Samhn Davis with young.



In 1913 Herschell left the Herschell Spillman Company and formed his own competing company. Herschell created mostly portable machines with rigid poses on his horses which enabled them to be packed up and moved to the next town efficiently and with minimal damage. His most recognized carving is the "Trojan", a large-headed cropped mane horse. Six Herschell carousels can be seen in and around Binghamton, New York, all donated to the communities by the local shoe magnate Johnson family. Another is at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs.



AMERICAN CAROUSELS

UNITED STATES FLAG HORSE

The American Flag horse was a recurring theme for carvers and painters of Carousel figures. Besides making a statement of enthusiasm and patriotism for the parks and patrons, many carousel creators were recent immigrants, proudly embracing their new country.

This section is dedicated to the memory of those of all nationalities who died and in honor and those who survived and serve in the aftermath of 9/11/2001.

- An M.C. Illions carving from Hempstead Lake State Park, Long Island, NY
- Daniel Muller carved stander with a magnificent eagle is now in a private collection.
- 1926 Dentzel carousel at Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington Texas, known as the Silver Star Carousel.
- One of the last carousels carved by the Dentzel factory. This style of Dentzel horse is fairly common on Dentzel carousels, but very few of this style have the US Flag
- Balboa Park San Diego CA: 1910 Herschell Spillman menagerie carousel; two inner row jumping horses decorated with the U.S. Flag; not common for inner row horses which usually are fairly plain. Because of the unusual style forelocks, these horses are sometimes referred to as "unicorns"
- Allen Herschell jumper on mixed 1910-1915 Herschell Spillman/Herschell carousel in City Park in Wheaton, MD (just outside Washington, DC). This carousel used to operate on the Mall in Washington DC in front of the Smithsonian Castle
- 1913 C.W. Parker (now restored) in Leavenworth, KS, on the Parker carousel at the C.W.Parker Carousel Museum. This horse is considered the lead horse on the carousel. It has a Kansas sunflower on the chest, and an ear of corn carved behind the saddle -- a Parker trademark.

