

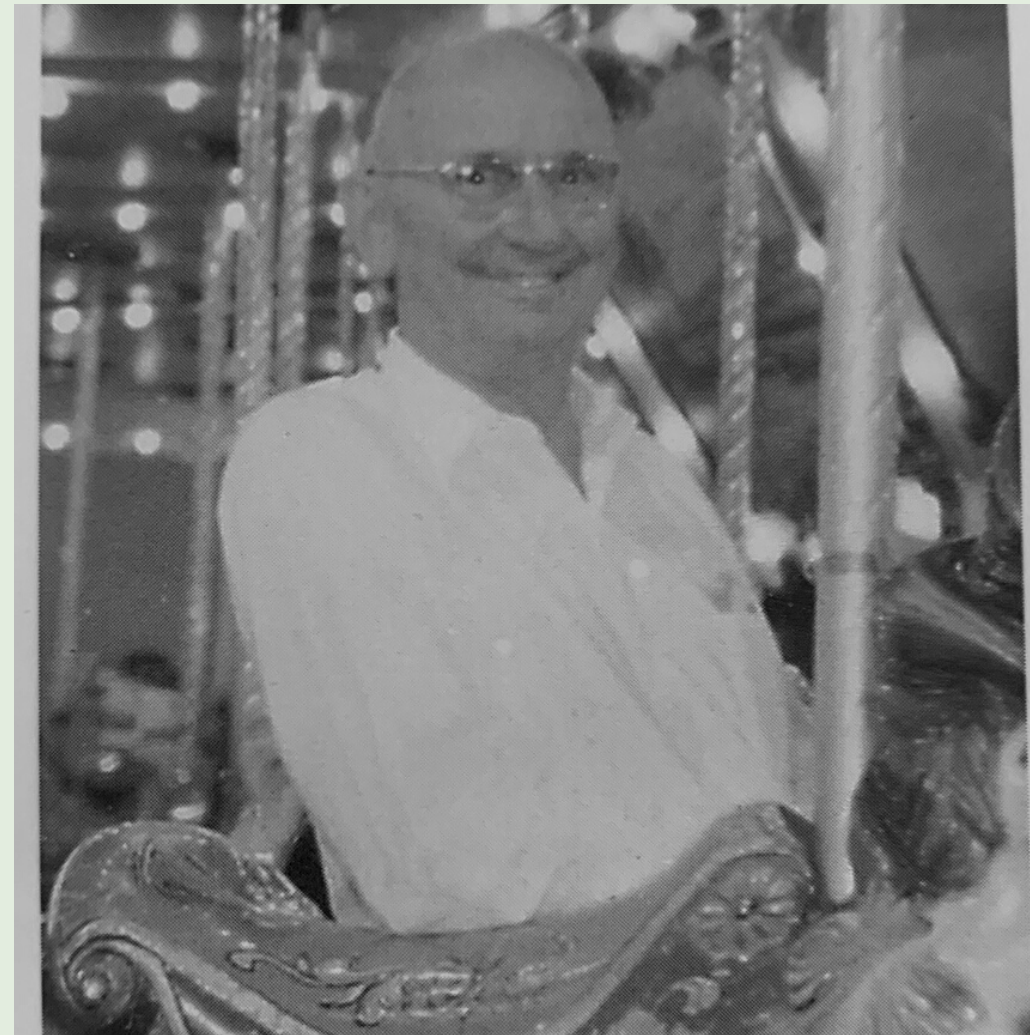
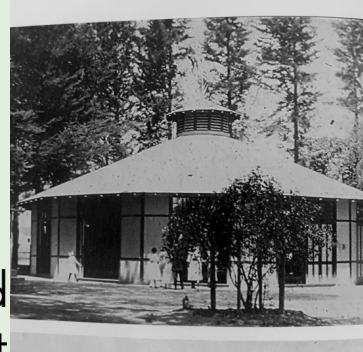
# TILDEN PARK MERRY GO ROUND



**1916** The Merry go Round was moved to Wonderland Park, Ocean Beach, CA. The second location for the Merry Go Round at the boardwalk included a ticket booth and food stand.



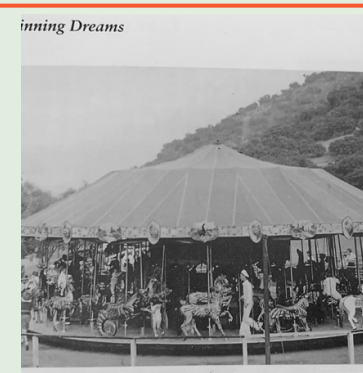
**1912** Oliver and Ross Davis then installed it in Urbita Springs, in San Bernardino Springs, CA. This new 1911 Herschell-Spillman operated at the short lived trolley park, an amusement park built by Pacific Electric Railway until 1916.



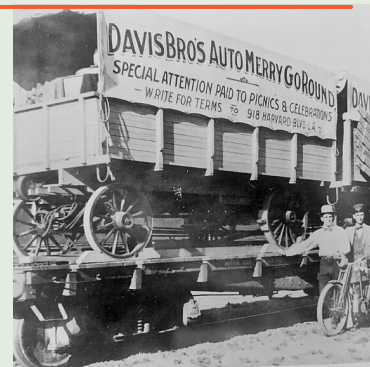
**1937** Later, The Herschell-Spill was then dismantled and placed in storage, the carousel was replaced with a 1926 four row Spillman and the 1911 machine was put back into storage.



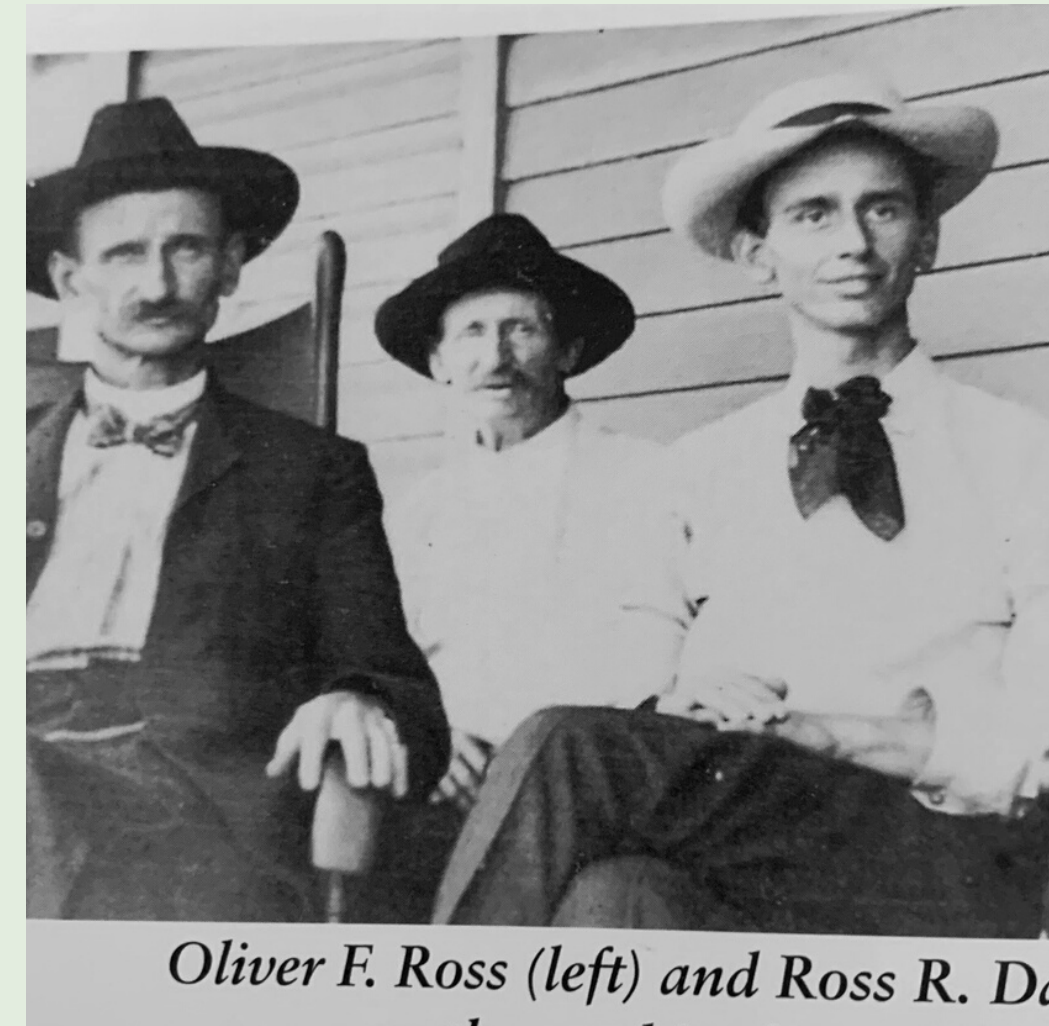
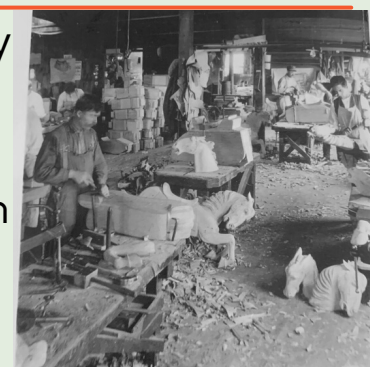
**1935** Ross Davis brought the carousel out of storage back for the public to enjoy under a tent in Griffith Park, while a permanent carousel building was under construction.



**1900** Davis Bros. Auto Merry Go Round" was born when Oliver received a small portable carousel as payment for a debt. He decided to take the carousel on the road with traveling carnivals, where they travel by rail and wagon, hand and shovel.

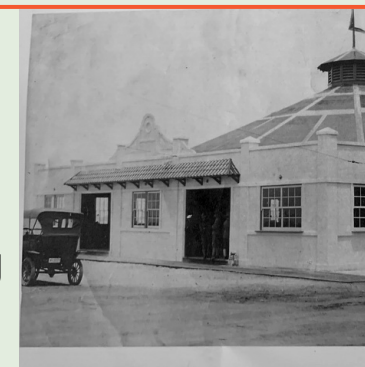


**1911** Herschell-Spillman Company manufactured carousels in Tawananda, NY, and our Merry Go Round was build in 1911, featuring a three row machine with managerial animals. It was the second permanent machine built by Herschell-Spill for Oliver Davis.

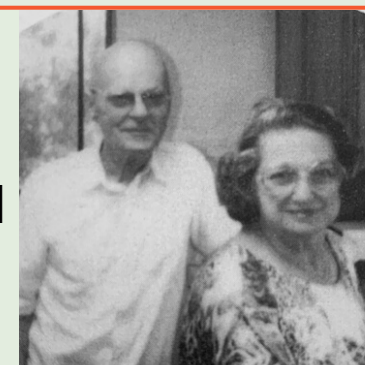


Oliver F. Ross (left) and Ross R. Davis

**1917** They had to put the carousel into storage before the winter storms because of previous concerns with the building structure.



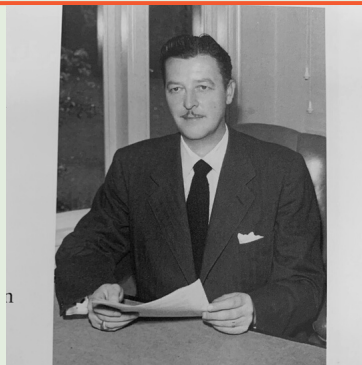
**1926** Ross took over the business when his dad Oliver passed away. The carousel was then placed in storage again.



**1939** Ross Davis, was hired to locate a traditional carousel to install in the new parks Fantasyland.



**1945** EBRPD named Richard Walpol their 3rd general Mng. of Tilden Park. He had the idea that a park can also be a recreational place and he knew Davis had a spare Merry Go Round in storage. The group discussed the idea of bringing it to Tilden Park.



# TILDEN PARK MERRY GO ROUND



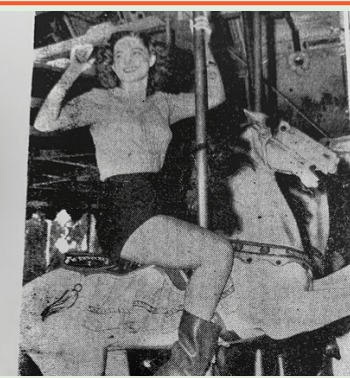
Berkeley kids have a real and permanent treat in store for them starting Saturday at 10 a.m. when a full-sized, old-time merry-go-round will start operations at the Lake Anza intersection in Tilden Regional Park. Atop a leveled-off hill, the merry-go-round will be joined to a of rare, fragrant iris plants from the Salbach gardens—

## Carousel at Lake to Open On Saturday

By ZERELDA OWSLEY  
In this changing world where the new look vies with the new way and the "good old days" are a nostalgic dream, where can the youth of today find anything even reminiscent of a quieter, happier past? If you don't believe it can happen, visit Berkeley's merry-go-round at Lake Anza intersection in Tilden Regional Park next Saturday morning!  
The same old horses, the growling lions, the spirited zebra, the dog, the cup and the carriage seats, the grinding organ music—every peck of it could have moved 50 years ago.



**1950** Jhon Davis expanded the three row machine to a four row by adding an inner row of aluminum Allan Herschell horses to the amazing hand carved-managerie.



The State Historical Resource Commission recommended the "Herschell-Spillman Merry-go-Round in Tilden Park" be nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.



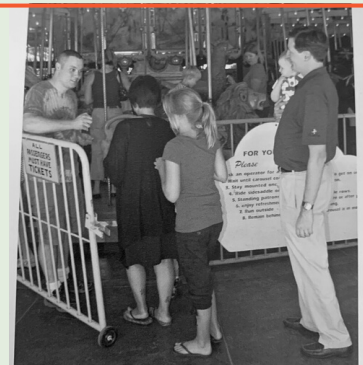
**1976** Perry family wants to sell the merry go round to East Bay regional parks district, with the Perry & Jennet paid to run it. after much deliberation and court judges decision the Perrys and EBRPD come to an agreement. the Perry stay on until 1992.



**1947** Walpole and board members Rober Sibley and Jhon McDonald visited Ross Davis, the owner/operator of the merry go round in Griffith Park. Davis had a spare carousel in storage, the group discussed the idea of bringing it to Tilden Park.

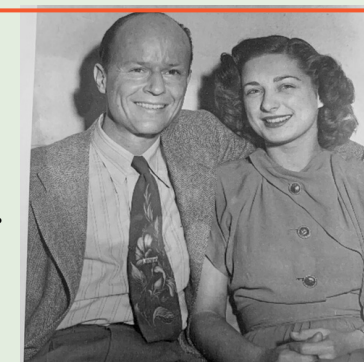


**1948** Tilden Park Merry go Round Opened. Ross Davis and his son John moved it to Tilden Regional Park in the East Bay, CA. During the first month of operation the merry go round had 40,000 riders.

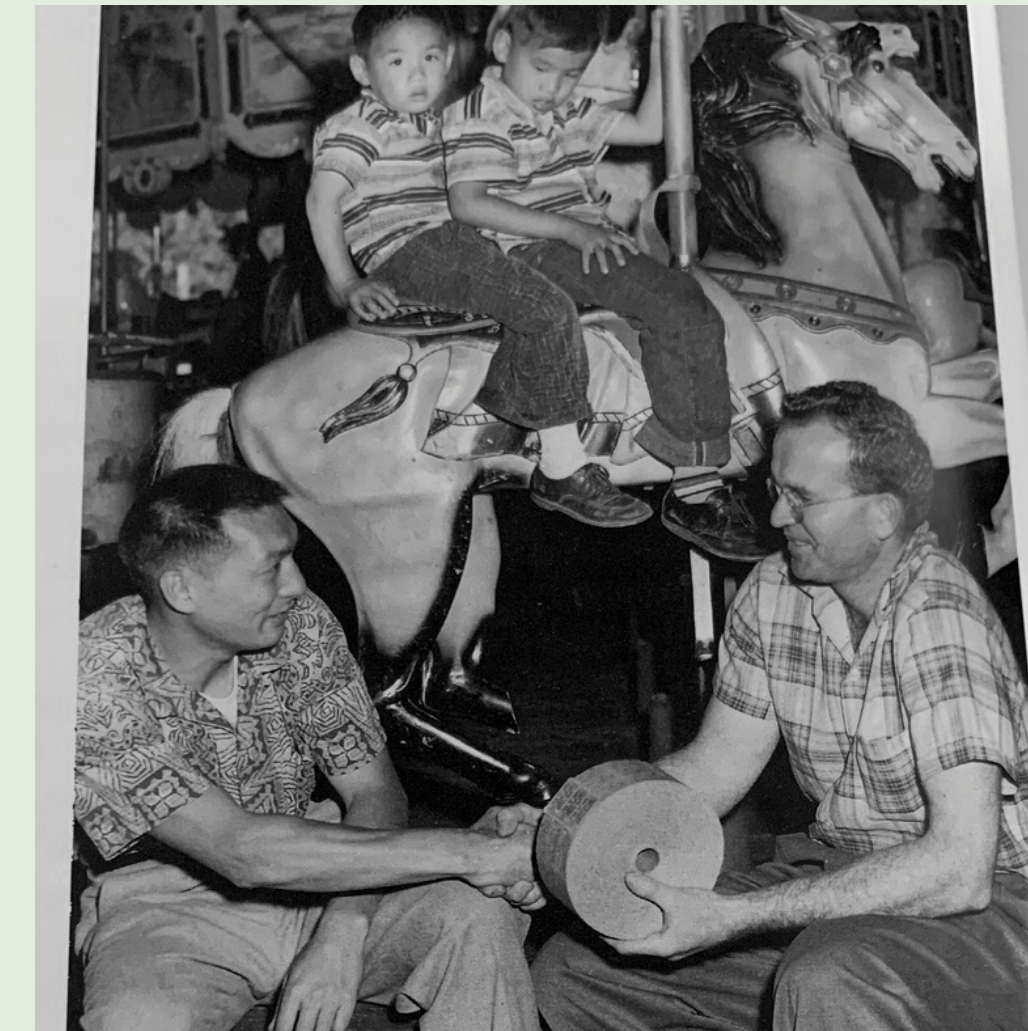


Harry & Jeanette Perry with Jan & J.O. Davis and Lisa H.

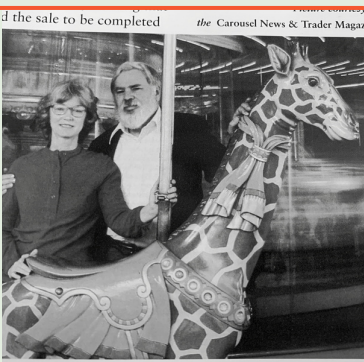
**1953** John and Jan Davis and family moved to Los Angeles. Harry Perry and Family moved in to run the machine at Tilden Park. The Perry family operate the Merry go Round for the better part of three decades, They love living at Tilden Park.



**1966** Harry Perry Built a room next to the bank organ for Jeannette to do all the painting and had a heated place during the winter time. There was always some animal in need of painting again. Harry would prime them, and then Jeanette do the finish work. He'd also be doing all the broken ears and legs.



**1978** Upon acquiring the Merry-Go-Round East Bay Regional Park District hired Nina and Maurice Fraley (Redbug Workshop) to restore the animals, spinning tub, and chariots. The ride was painted in the color palette that exists today, taking cues from the surrounding parklands.



**1988** Pam Hessey part of the Redbug Workshop in the late 70s restoration projects, she did small repairs like fixing a broken ear or touch paint in the animals for the Perry and Terri through 1995.



# TILDEN PARK MERRY GO ROUND



**2002** The machinery and structure went through a top to bottom restoration program that lasted six years.



**2015** In November 2015, all Merry-Go-Round animals, spinning tub, and chariots were repainted in the 1970s color palette, the project included artists from the 1970s restoration. The 2015 project was a collaboration of Hawk's Eye Studio, Sycamore Concessions, and the East Bay Regional Park District.



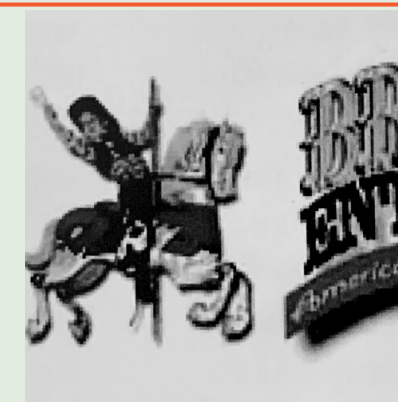
**2014** in March, The East Bay Regional Parks approved a five-year contract with Sycamore Concessions Corp. The owners Steve and Doreen grew up riding the carousel with their Family.



**1992** This was a transition year for the carousel. The old concessionaire Perry retired, welcoming Terri as new operator.



**2008** The Merry go Round has a brand new costum build vertical grain fir platform, was installed by Brass Ring Entertainment.



**2013** Terry Oyarzun retired from Manage the carousel concession.



**2020** In March 2020, The Merry-Go-Round was closed due to COVID-19, the Kwasnicki Family took the Initiative to start a mechanical maintainance of the machine and restoration of the saddles and damaged areas, also the Zebra and the antique horse carriages. Steve did the wood work and Diana the Painting. EBRP repair the infrastructure of the building and replace damaged columns.



**2021** Carousel open for the public again after almost a year, with fresh coat of paint and protective varnish!. History wall furniture is restore also and updated ready to celebrate 110 year of spinning dreams!

