

The
Carousel

News & Trader

October 2012
Vol. 28, No. 10
\$6.95

WURLITZER

ANNUAL
BAND ORGAN
ISSUE

Marianne Stevens 1929-2012



Bob Yorburg carving the façade.

Part Four: The Façade

Any façade on this organ had long been lost. Although it would have instrumentation close to that of a 166, it made more sense to replicate a 165 façade. No Wurlitzer 166 façades are known to survive to replicate, plus the extra pipe ranks for near-166 instrumentation could easily be incorporated behind a 165-style façade. Costs and time were also factors.

Robert Yorburg of Yorktown Heights, NY, was selected to do the carving. Bob had the added advantage of being a close two hour drive from me, and I was easily able to preview his work and his workshop. Besides working on carousel components, Bob owns band organs, had carved numerous arcade and midway figures, and his extensive background was a natural.

Thanks to the help and courtesy of two different East coast collectors, each with a Wurlitzer 165, Bob and I were able to make careful pictures and measurements of every part of the façade, ensuring a perfect reproduction.

Another strong plus was that Bob had worked with an illustrator and finisher on numerous projects. Bob recommended Marguerite Chadwick-Juner of New York and Pamela Hessey of Kingman, AZ. Marguerite is an illustrator with much accomplished art and illustrations to her credit. Pam is a professional, operating Hawk's Eye Studio, which specializes in restoring carousel components and similar art. Pam would do the glazing, gold leafing, painting, and finishing.

For illustrations, I selected a series of scenes from outdoor photographs from trips my wife and I had taken to various national park and wilderness areas. The carving was finished with oils and gold leaf, which emphasized and showcased the carving without being gaudy. The two drums were surrounded by mottled gold circles, emphasizing the drums. I decided against lights as they would make the



Along with the "Lincoln Park" 165 shown on page 21, the 165 shown above also served as a model for the façade.

carving more complex and would detract from and minimize the illustrations.