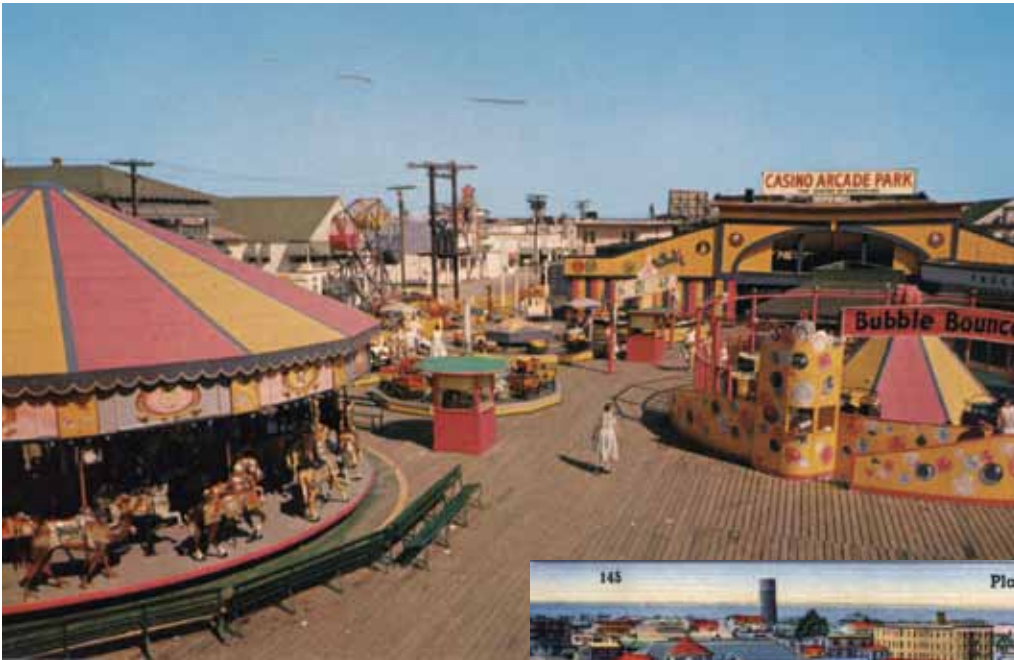


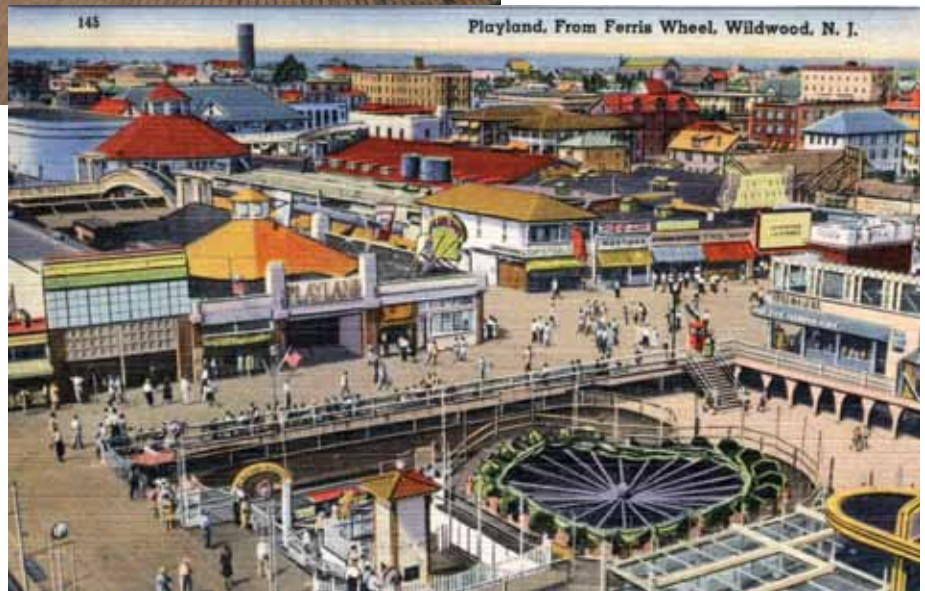
# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## January 2010 Dolle Article Clarifications and Corrections



Dolle-Borrelli carousel at Casino Arcade Park, Wildwood, NJ. (Left)

Playland Pier PTC #41 in Wildwood, NJ. The Post Office is the white building behind the long red roof. (Below)



*The biographical and professional background information about Frederick Dolle is from research done by William Benjamin. – Barbara Williams*

Clason Point is in the Bronx. It is not in Westchester County. – John Caruso.

*Thanks for the great article on the carousel at Wildwood, New Jersey. That is my favorite carousel postcard! That is indeed a 153 Wurlitzer and that organ played every day from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. They would change the rolls two or three times a day. I worked the summer of 1947, between high school and college, as a bellboy in my aunt's hotel. I didn't have my driver's license yet, so I rode a bike six or seven times a day to check their box at the Post Office. It was across the street from the Carmel-Borrelli carousel and you could hear the organ from it.*

*The Carmel-Borrelli carousel was run by the Ramagosa Brothers in their Casino Arcade Park. But, Playland Park was run by a different company; the Cedar-Schellenger Corporation which was a real estate company. I wrote to them in 1948 to ask about the one band organ. These were inside a carousel building (PTC #41) where the boardwalk turned northeast. There was a Berni Import organ that sounded terrible and tinny. Luckily, it would play for ten to fifteen minutes. They turned on a great organ that faced*

*the Playland Pier and the ocean. Playland was the other amusement park in Wildwood. Their tickets were 25 cents for adults and beside their great PTC three row carousel, was a row of Skee Ball machines and I got to be good at it. If you got a score of 250, you got a coupon worth 25 cents that was for a ticket to ride whatever you wanted. I got a lot of free rides after putting my quarters in. They later called the pier the Marine Pier. Dear old PTC 41 was removed in 1974, the animals sold off in 1983.*

*Back to the reply from the Cedar-Schellenger Corp. – They did not know the make of the one organ that faced the ocean as they got it second-hand. But, I found out from Dr. Bill Black of Carousel Music that it was a Limonaire, a French-made organ.*

*– Dick Bowker*

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Playland Park lead horse and Fairyland Park Middle-Row Stander

# Dolle Article Uncovers History on Borrelli-Carmel Horses



*Loeff lion in the front yard.*

**By Leah Farnsworth**

*Special to The Carousel News & Trader*

**O**n a cool March day in 1981, we arrived at the docks of a freight company near Milwaukee, WI. My husband, Peter, and I were there with a trailer to pick up a crate from Oregon. Inside was a large Borrelli-Carmel stander that I had purchased from a friend in Portland. I wanted to know its history.

In her 1983 book, *The Art of the Carousel*, the late Charlotte Dinger has a photo of this horse in park paint on the Ocean City, NJ, Playland Pier carousel. Charlotte told us that it was the largest horse on the carousel. She said that it was a very early Carmel carving, and it was the lead horse of the carousel, which was owned by Allen Roy Herschell. The horse is carved with his upper eyelids covering the upper part of the glass eyes. I have never seen another horse like this.

Photos taken in 1977 can be seen in my article in the Sept. 2007 issue of CN&T. One of the rounding boards reads: M.D. BORRELLI, MFG. OF HIGH GRADE CAROUSELS.

Photos courtesy of the Leah and Peter Farnsworth collection

The horses were a mix of Carmel, Dentzel and Illions carvings. Later, the carousel was sold to a dealer in South Carolina. A May, 1980, brochure had pictures and prices for some of these horses.

When I purchased the horse, it had been stripped. That is the way this horse looks in our photo on page 159 of the Marianne Stevens and William Manns book, *Painted Ponies*. Some of the old jewels were missing and some were cracked. A bag of old jewels was sent along with the horse. Later we had the horse restored and rejeweled and painted as a palomino by Jon and Linda Layton.

In January, 1979, a middle-row Borrelli-Carmel came with me from a Wisconsin dealer that lived near us. I had seen pictures of this horse and many others from the same carousel in an earlier brochure from an East Coast dealer. It said that the horses came from the Wildwood, NJ carousel. In the 1964 Fred Fried Book, *A Pictorial History of the Carousel*, he wrote that the Wildwood carousel was originally at Fred Dolle's Fairyland Park in Westchester, NY, then sold to Ragamosa brothers at Savin Rock, NJ.

Over many years I spoke to several people from the New



**1907 middle-row Borrelli-Carmel stripped.**

York and New Jersey area who had photographed this carousel, but no one had a photo showing our horse in the middle row. I finally gave up.

I wasn't fond of the heavy coat of paint, so I tried to find time to carefully strip the horse to original paint.

With our active family, I found that spare time was priceless, and I wasn't rich. When I was getting a group of horses ready for a display, I knew I didn't want to show the horse half-stripped. Making a poor decision, it was stripped to the bare wood, but first I took a photo to document the original colors. Then he spent four months with nine of our other horses on loan to the Waukesha County Museum to celebrate the re-opening of a large display area. The exhibit was educational, and this Carmel represented the inner-row Coney Island style.



**Middle-row 1907 Borrelli-Carmel showing original paint on trappings. Peter Farnsworth photos**

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