

SAVE OUR WOODEN CAROUSELS

Notes from Marianne...

By Marianne Stevens
Carousel Historian, Co-
Author of "Painted Ponies."

Unique and Mysterious... PTC #13



My association with PTC #13 began with a bright red lion which I purchased in New York City in 1973, along with a tiger which had a cat chasing a rat on its cantle.

We knew nothing at that time about PTC #13, E. Joy Morris or Charles Leopold – all of that was to come later. But, I was curious about the lion and tiger; what machine had they come from, and where, etc. So I called Fred Fried, who seemed to know everything about anything that moved in New York.

He told me that a man named Pace Goldstein was selling a number of carousel figures on Long Island and that the carousel, which was being broken up, had wolves on it.

Armed with knowledge, I made a few inquiries among people I knew who collected carousel figures. I found that several of them had purchased groups of the figures from the carousel from Goldstein.

This carousel turned out to be quite unique – in addition to the wolf, it had leaping hounds; a pair not seen on any other PTC carousel. In addition, it had goats, camels, zebras, giraffes, a St. Bernard dog, an armored horse and a few Dentzels, as well as the lion and tiger. But there was no sign of a hippocampus that I could find. This was peculiar, as there was one on both PTC #12 and PTC #14. It must



Kissing cherubs on the cantle of this PTC #13 stander.

have swam off before I heard about the machine.

I was subsequently able to purchase the zebra, a blue horse, a green horse, and one I still have – a horse with kissing cherubs on its cantle, purchased some years later from an estate in Long Island – I rescued it.

So ended the story of PTC #13 as a unit. Whether Pace Goldstein needed the money that the individual figures brought, or the space in his Kiddieland, we will never know. Although some mystery and confusion has surrounded this carousel, (hopefully cleared up in this article), there was one figure on board that would make the carousel world famous – the St. Bernard named Bruno. When Bruno was auctioned off in 1992, the bidding began at \$75,000, and continued up to \$174,900, still the highest recorded price ever for a carousel figure at auction. Those were the days...

Barbara Williams is a superior researcher. I gave her a few key words and she came up with the following information. Please read on.



The start of it all; a tan tiger and bright red lion.



The world famous "Bruno" sold for \$174,900 in 1992.

A Mysterious Shuffling of Archive Photos Led to Years of Misidentification

Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousel #13 - A Unique Creation



PTC Archive photo courtesy of PTC Coasters, Inc.

This is PTC #13. The outside giraffe has large leaves draped over the saddle which is very different than PTC #11's trappings.

By Barbara Williams

Special to The Carousel News & Trader

Once again, Marianne and I have insightful information and pictures to share about a virtually unknown carousel – PTC #13. It is a carousel that embarked on its journey beginning in 1906. In an all too familiar story, it moved from place to place and eventually ceased to exist as an operating carousel. We are pleased to be able to tell the tale of this carousel's life.

Luna Park, Hartford, Connecticut

PTC #13's first location was Luna Park in Hartford, Connecticut. The amusement park was added to Hartford's fairgrounds by the local trolley company to increase ridership and lure more visitors to the fair's horse racing. Originally named White City, because it and White City's management in West Haven were one and the same, it lacked the shoot-the-shoots and roller coaster that were customary attractions at the White City parks. So, before opening to the public in



*The setting sun at Luna Park, Hartford, Connecticut, (briefly known as White City), the original home of PTC #13.
Barbara Williams Collection*



This image was also found in PTC's files and was incorrectly identified as being PTC #13, as it is clearly a Dentzel (post-marked Aug. 1908). Another postcard (postmarked Sept. 1908) shows the same carousel as being a "Merry Go Round at Coney Island, NY". Barbara Williams Collection

1906, the name was changed to Luna Park. The Hartford park might have automatically been a huge success in that it was named after the famed Luna Park at Coney Island, but by the end of the season in 1907, already under new management, the park was in receivership. The park was purchased in 1908 and again in 1909. The midway's new Japanese décor couldn't detract from the fire that destroyed the scenic railway in 1909 or that Luna Park's carousel departed that year. Afterwards, the park didn't last long and, eventually, the fair closed down⁽¹⁾.

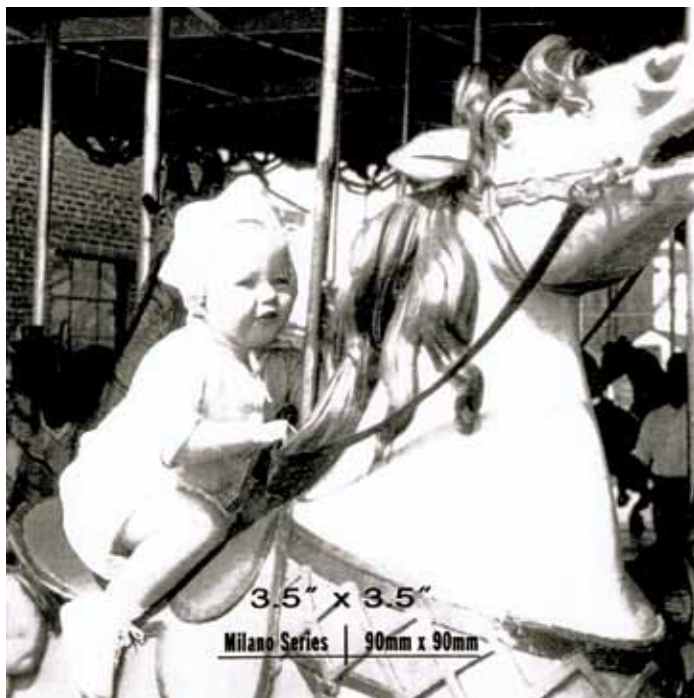


Photo courtesy of John Caruso

John Caruso found this used as a generic photo in a picture frame. This is Marianne's horse with the "kissing cherubs". "This horse, pictured at the extreme left in the archive picture of the whole carousel, just in front of Bruno, gave me the clue to PTC #13." – Marianne Stevens.



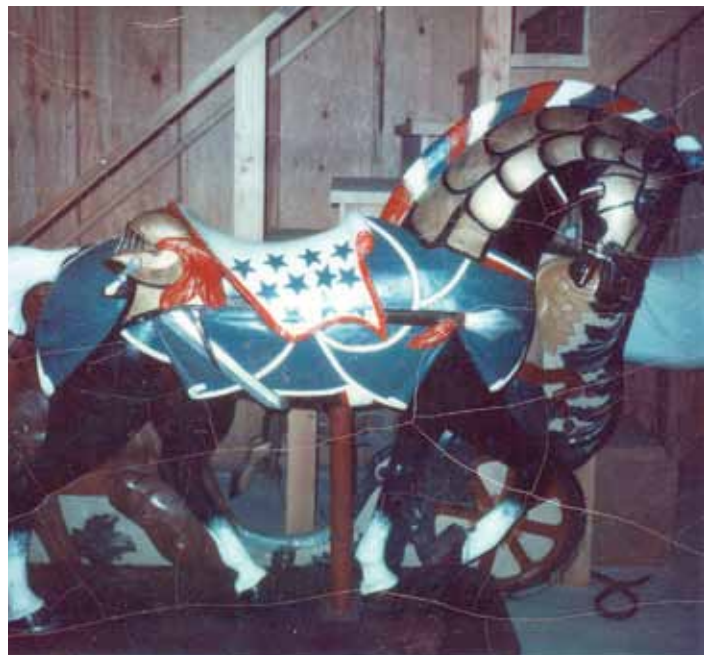
A tranquil setting at popular White City, Broad Ripple, IN. Barbara Williams Collection

White City, Broad Ripple, Indiana

Broad Ripple, Indiana, where another White City Amusement Park opened in 1906, was PTC #13's second location. PTC records indicate the carousel was installed in 1909, so it moved there directly from Hartford.⁽²⁾

Broad Ripple was a thriving amusement park, not only providing entertainment for fun-seekers, it was also an important employer for the local area. Streetcars ran between Broad Ripple and Indianapolis with the turn-around at the park's entrance. In its first two years, new rides and attractions were continually added to the park. In 1908, a four-acre swimming pool was constructed and billed as, "The largest affair of the kind in the country". On June 26, 1908, the day before the pool was scheduled to open, White City burned. It was an uninsured loss.

Three years after the fire, in 1911, the parent company of the Broad Ripple Traction Company, bought the park and reintroduced rides and recreational activities. For eleven years, through 1922, the park did well with expansions in-



Marianne Stevens photo

Armored horse from PTC #13 now in the Dinger Collection.



Restored outside row horse from PTC #13 above.

cluding a new boathouse and a 10,000-square foot dance hall. In 1924, Olympic hopeful, Johnny Weismuller (AKA Tarzan), won the 100-meter freestyle qualification at Broad Ripple's swimming pool⁽³⁾.

It is not known if PTC #13 left after the big fire, or if it was still at the park when it re-opened. A Dentzel, now at the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, was installed at Broad Ripple in 1917⁽⁴⁾.

Bailey's Crossroads, Norfolk, Virginia

The third location for PTC #13, according to the PTC inventory, is listed as Bailey's Park, Norfolk, Virginia. This appears to be Bailey's Crossroads where the Bailey family home was built in 1837 at a highway junction connecting Alexandria, Virginia, with the Shenandoah Valley. Generations of the Bailey family were in the circus business, storing



PTC #13 zebra, sans its stripes. Marianne Stevens photos



Running Horse Studio photo

PTC #13 roached mane stander restored by Lourinda Bray.

the traveling shows at the family home site. The association with the circus eventually led to the partnership of the Barnum & Bailey Circus⁽⁵⁾.

The only mention found of a carousel at Bailey's Crossroads is from the late 1950s to early 1960s, so it cannot refer to PTC #13, as there is one more location for the carousel that pre-dates the Bailey's information. A reminiscence about Bailey's Crossroads includes memories of a miniature train, carousel, ponies, Gifford's Ice Cream shop across the street, and the nearby Hot Shoppe Drive-In theatre with ponies and small rides⁽⁶⁾. This information is included in the article as it may offer insight as to what might have been at Bailey's Crossroads at an earlier time.



Another outside row stander from PTC #13. "This horse puzzled me. I knew it was a Dentzel, but why was it on a PTC Carousel?" – Marianne Stevens.



PTC #13's wolf. One of only two known PTC wolves. The other was on PTC #12. Marianne Stevens photo

Trier's Amusement Park, West Swinney Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Location number four for PTC #13 was West Swinney Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The PTC files list the location as being Trier's, West Swinney Park.

Trier's was an amusement concession within Swinney City Park⁽⁷⁾. George F. Trier was primarily involved with dancing, operating a dance pavilion at Robison Park as well as a private dance studio, both in Fort Wayne. He operated a dance pavilion at West Swinney Park for eighteen years, then purchased the park's buildings and erected an amusement center, date uncertain⁽⁸⁾. In 1940, Trier advertised the



Portrait shot of Marianne's kissing cherub stander shows the incredible expression of the face and eyes on the horse. Marianne Stevens Collection photo

equipment at his park as being for sale⁽⁹⁾. He died in 1942⁽⁸⁾. On June 23, 1953, under new ownership, but still named Trier's, the park suffered a fatal blow in the form of a fire that destroyed the dance pavilion and a major portion of the roller coaster⁽⁷⁾. Even though there had been a series of



The outside row giraffe on PTC #11 at the Circus Circus Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1973. The carousel was part of a revolving marquee. Barbara Williams photo



PTC #13 tiger with a cat chasing a mouse on the cantle, after restoration. Marianne Stevens photo

The exterior of the carousel building at Willow Grove Park in Philadelphia, PA, shows the same structure as the interior shot of what is now known to be PTC #13.

PTC Archive photo courtesy of PTC Coasters, Inc.



ownership changes and park modifications at Trier's over the years, the end of Trier's may have been when PTC #13 moved to its last location.

Pace's Kiddieland, Bayville, Long Island, New York

Bayville, New York, is known for its Adventure Park, that turns into Scream Park, to celebrate the ghosts of the past that supposedly invade the town during Halloween. In 1851, pirate descendant, Balthazar Bloodworth Bay, the town's founder, built Bloodworth Mansion to house his family and his traveling carnival. Now thought to be haunted, the mansion and family history have given Bayville a colorful heritage⁽¹⁰⁾.

In 1955, Pace (Phillip) Goldstein had a 5-ride kiddieland (Pace Amusements) in Bayville⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾. The park opened in 1939⁽¹²⁾. Goldstein's brother, Meyer, owned a chain of miniature golf courses in the area under the business name, Meyer Goldstein's Pace Amusements. Pace's kiddiepark also had miniature golf and a driving range⁽¹¹⁾. According to Marianne's findings, this is where PTC #13 was last as an operating carousel.

Sorting it Out –

A few mix-ups have created confusion when it comes to PTC #13. At PTC, in #13's file, and in Luna Park, Hartford, CT, carousel postcards, a Dentzel menagerie carousel is pictured. To add to the confusion, the same carousel picture was used on postcards of Coney Island and Rockaway Beach in New York. Interestingly, there are companion postcards of a Ferris wheel attributed to Luna Park, Hartford, CT; Steeplechase Park, Coney Island and Rockaway Beach, NY⁽¹⁴⁾. Apparently it wasn't a problem for the postcard company to reuse these images, regardless of the fact that the carousel and Ferris wheel were at one location only.

The second issue as to the identity of PTC #13 lies with the PTC factory photo of what is supposed to be PTC #11 at Willow Grove Park, Philadelphia, PA, (page 17). At first glance, it looks like it could be #11, and the photo is identified as being of Willow Grove, PTC #11's first location⁽¹³⁾. However, the discovery of #13's animals by Marianne, and

more careful scrutiny of the supposed #11 photo, says otherwise. This photo is of PTC #13, not #11. Even I thought the Willow Grove picture was of PTC #11, despite my own picture of the outside row #11 giraffe clearly showing it is not the same as #13's.

It is interesting to note that exterior features of Willow Grove's carousel building match the inside view of what we now know shows PTC #13. The shape of the building supports is the same in both the interior and exterior shots. The wood shingles on the outside can be seen on the inside. The windows on the upper level are the same and open in the same manner. Either both PTC #11 and #13 were at Willow Grove, or there was interchanging of figures between the two carousels.

How the photo of the Dentzel carousel in the PTC files came to be associated with #13 will never be known. Generally, PTC records are considered reliable, if not necessarily complete, but in this case, #13's identity has been obscured for a long time by this picture.

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LONG LOST CAROUSELS

PTC #13 - From Hartford to Bayville, Long Island



The very rare menagerie figures (above and below) are one-of-a-kind, not known to have existed on any other PTC.



A full romance shot of Marianne's "blue" stander (above) and below, a close shot of its cantle trappings.



A PTC #13 jumper. Photos this page courtesy of Marianne Stevens



Ending where it began. PTC #13's lion and tiger.