

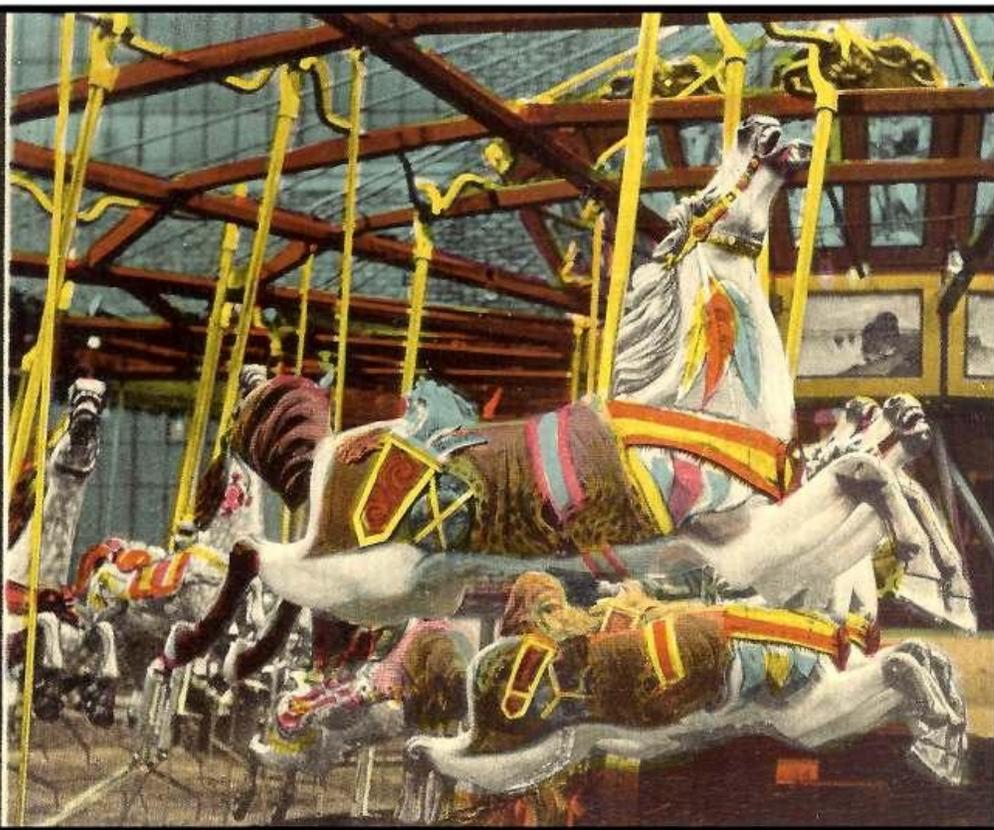


# WEBFOOTER EXTRA

MARCH 2016

## WHERE HAVE THE CAROUSELS GONE

MANUFACTURED  
...BY...  
**C. W.  
PARKER**  
World's Largest  
Manufacturer  
OF  
Amusement  
Devices  
Leavenworth,  
Kansas.



### WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

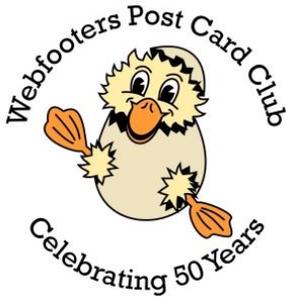
PO Box 17240  
Portland OR 97217-0240



[www.thewebfooters.com](http://www.thewebfooters.com)



◆ Where Have All the Carousels Gone? – see page 3.



# Antique Paper Round-Up

## WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

10th ANNUAL

### ORAL AUCTION & BANQUET

# FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

AUCTION PREVIEW AT 4:00 PM ♦ BANQUET DINNER AT 5:30 PM

ORAL AUCTION BEGINS AT 7:00 PM

**PAIGE AUCTION, 6429 SW MACADAM AVE IN PORTLAND**

DINNER \$15.00 PER PERSON ♦ AUCTION ADMISSION IS FREE

- ♦ Postcards: Real Photo, Holiday, Artist-Signed, Lithos, Linens & Chromes
- ♦ Vintage Photographs: Tintypes, Stereo Views, CDVs, Cabinet Cards, Snapshots & Mounted Photos of All Sizes
- ♦ Antique Paper Ephemera: Advertising, Trade Cards, Travel Brochures, Maps, Menus & other early paper items

♦ AND MUCH, MUCH MORE ♦

**PUBLIC WELCOME AT ALL OF OUR EVENTS**



36th ANNUAL

# ANTIQUÉ PAPER SHOW & SALE

## AND SILENT AUCTION

# SAT. & SUN. APRIL 16 & 17, 2016

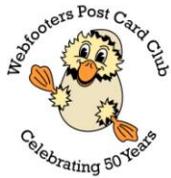
GRESHAM ARMORY, 544 NE DIVISION ST, GRESHAM OR 97030

POSTCARDS ★ PHOTOGRAPHS ★ ANTIQUE PAPER ★ EPHEMERA ★ NOSTALGIA

SATURDAY 10 AM—5 PM ★ SUNDAY 10 AM—4 PM

**SILENT AUCTION FIRST CLOSING SUNDAY 2:00 PM**

FREE ADMISSION ★ FREE PARKING ★ SNACK BAR



**HELP US SOLVE THE MYSTERY...**

# **WHERE HAVE ALL THE CAROUSELS GONE?**

## **WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB**

*50th ANNIVERSARY EVENT*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016, 5:00 P.M.**

## **OAKS PARK DANCE PAVILION**

7805 SE Oaks Park Way at the foot of Spokane St in Portland

- ◆ POST OFFICE CANCELLATION STATION at 3:00 PM
- ◆ SOCIAL HOUR WITH HORS d'OEUVRES at 5:00 PM
- ◆ DISPLAY OF OAKS PARK MEMORABILIA at 5:00 PM
- ◆ GUEST SPEAKER ON CAROUSEL HISTORY at 6:00 PM

**ADMISSION \$5 PER PERSON — INCLUDES PROGRAM AND HORS d'OEUVRES**

### **THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME**

Postcards, souvenirs, carousels and history—what could be more fun? Portland's own Webfooters Post Card Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, with a big party including historic displays and a program at the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion at the foot of S.E. Spokane Street in Portland.

Special guest speaker will be Barbara Fahs Charles of Washington D.C., a founder of the National Carousel Association. Ms Charles completed the first census of American carousels in 1971, and it is an ongoing project. She will give a history of carousels illustrated through post cards and an update of Portland's carousels.

The Webfooters will mount a large display of historic Oaks Park memorabilia and post cards, and there will be a display of carousel animals from Oaks Park's collection.

The Post Office has agreed to set up a Carousel Station at Oaks Park for our event to cancel with a special pictorial postmark and collect mail that day. Also, the Albany Carousel Museum will join us with exhibits and souvenirs.

### **THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME**

Please RSVP to: [pdxwebmaster@icloud.com](mailto:pdxwebmaster@icloud.com)

# WHERE HAVE THE CAROUSELS GONE?



A very elaborate 3-row Carry-Us-All (carousel) was one of approximately 400 carousels built by the C.W. Parker Company of Leavenworth, Kansas. Only 29 of Parker's carousels are known to exist today.

Back in the day, amusement parks were on the cutting edge of technological advancement 110 to 115 years ago. They were attracting the masses and nearly every large community had at least one amusement park. The earliest parks almost always had a carousel, usually at the center of the park and it was usually the first ride that was installed.

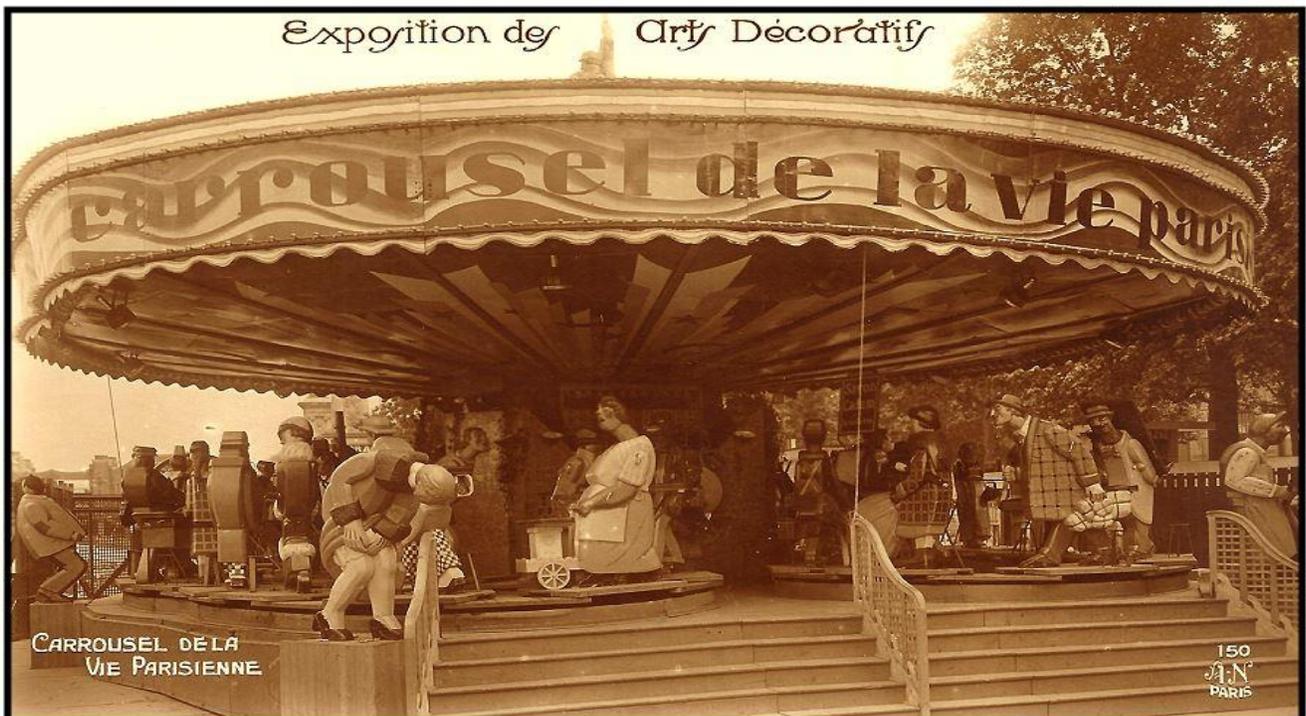
A carousel or "merry-go-round" is an amusement ride consisting of a rotating circular platform with seats for riders. The seats are traditionally in the form of rows of wooden horses or other animals mounted on posts, many of which are moved up and down by gears to simulate galloping, to the accompaniment of band organ music. Some early carousels became known as "flying horses" which had no platforms; the animals would hang from chains and fly out from the centrifugal force of the spinning mechanism. They were often powered by animals walking in a circle or people pulling a rope or cranking.

Carousels are commonly populated with horses, each horse weighing roughly 100 pounds, but may include a variety of mounts, including mythological creatures such as dragons or unicorns. Sometimes, bench seats are used and occasionally mounts can be shaped like aeroplanes, cars or chariots.



Some of the earliest amusement rides at the parks or fairs were carousels like this primitive merry-go-round with benches for seating.

Carousels were being built and operated at various fairs and gatherings in central Europe and England in the 18th century. Animals and mechanisms would be crafted during the winter months. In the summer months, the family would go touring in their wagon train through the region, operating their carousel at various venues.



A very unique carousel in Paris at the 1925 Paris Exhibition (Exposition des Arts Decoratifs or Art Deco) which had carved wooden people and appears to have no animals.

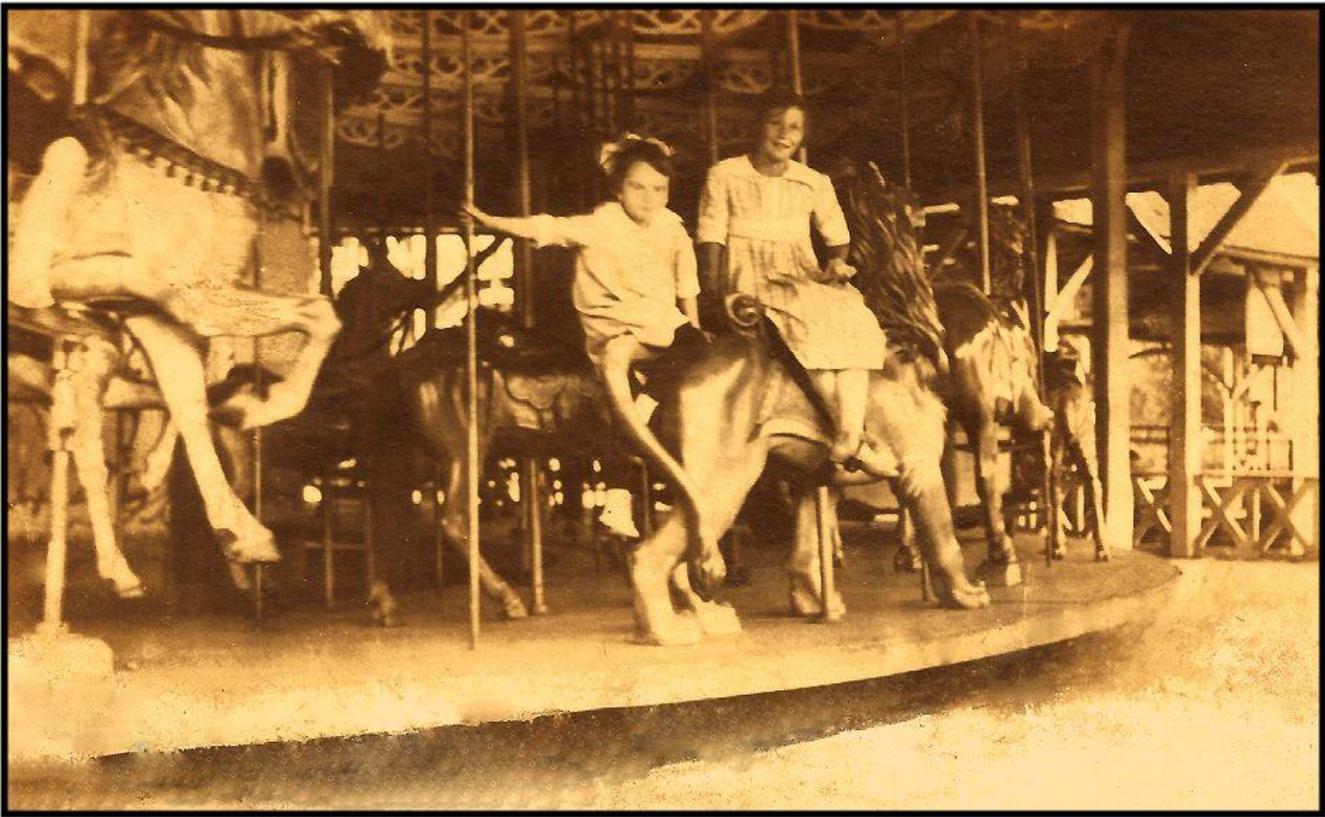


Larson and Ralstone's steam merry-go-round, a Herschell-Spillman track machine, at Westfield, Illinois, circa 1908.

These mechanical innovations came at a crucial time in history, when increased prosperity meant that more people had time for leisure and spare money to spend on entertainment. It was in this historical context that the modern fairground ride was born to the delight of many thousands of pleasure seekers. The earliest known carousel in America was built in 1799 in Salem, Massachusetts. Even though there were a few carousels operating in the US by the end of the Civil War, the real "golden age" of the carousel was from about 1880 to about 1930.

Over the years, Portland was fortunate to have six different amusement parks, but only one remains today, Oaks Park. Of the more than 2,000 carousels built in America during the "golden age", just over 200 exist intact today. Even though most of the amusement parks disappeared, one reminder of amusement parks, carousels, remained with us. When the amusement parks closed, many communities saved their carousels.

Portland was once known as a town where carousels could be found in many parts of the city. Besides the amusement parks, carousels could be found in several locations Downtown, at Washington Park, the Zoo, Jantzen Beach Center, Burger King at Burlingame, Mall 205, Clackamas Town Center and the Oregon Square. Today, the only two that remain in operation are at Oaks Park and Clackamas Town Center.



This view of the original carousel at Oaks Park, a 1900 Herschell-Spillman track machine, was taken in 1917. This carousel was sold and moved to Bickleton, Washington in 1924 when Oaks Park acquired a 1911 Herschell-Spillman Menagerie Carousel. Photo courtesy of Steve Kenney.



*"Merry-Go-Round - Jantzen Beach Center, Portland, Oregon"*

The 1921 C.W. Parker Carousel installed at Jantzen Beach Amusement Park in 1928 was dismantled in 2012.

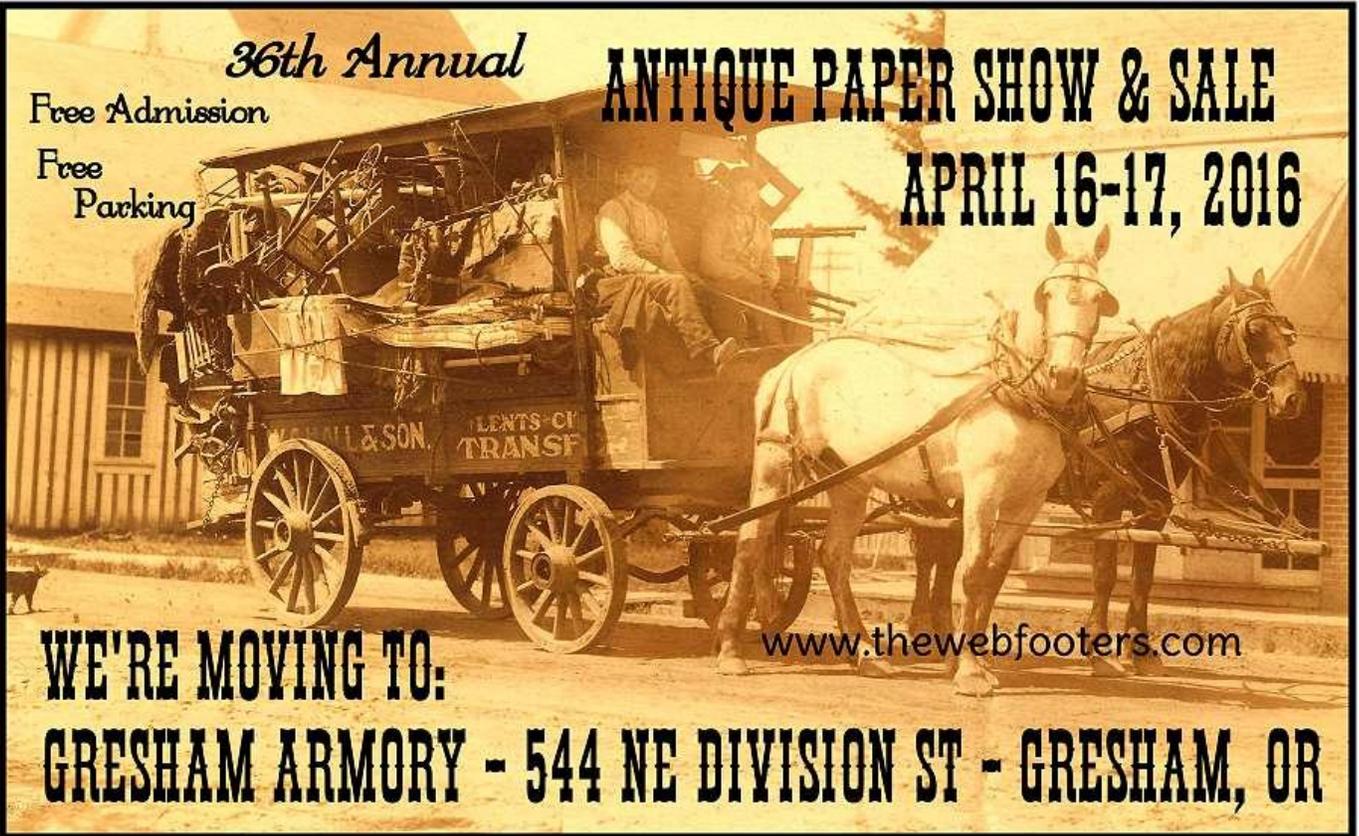
*36th Annual*

Free Admission

Free  
Parking

**ANTIQUE PAPER SHOW & SALE**

**APRIL 16-17, 2016**



**WE'RE MOVING TO:**

**GRESHAM ARMORY - 544 NE DIVISION ST - GRESHAM, OR**

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