

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYONE ELSE, but I had a very enjoyable time on the carousel-riding expedition last Saturday. Dian and I pulled into the parking lot by the Griffith Park Carousel about 5 minutes to one, right behind Neal Reynolds and his son. We were the first ones there, with Len Moffatt and June Konigsberg (plus 1 Konigshügel) right behind us. We commandeered a table with a good view of both the parking lot and the carousel, so we could keep watch for other LASFSians arriving. A few at a time, they trickled in: The Ellerns, Johnstones, HilFred Hoffmänder, Patten, Baker, Harness, Hannifen, Klassen, Simpson, Lyn Steier. We ate some of the picnic stuff we had brought with us, rode on the carousel, and came back to finish off the food by 3 o'clock or thereabouts.

The Griffith Park Carousel, according to one of the attendants, was built around 1930, and was at the San Diego Exposition Fair before being moved to its present location in 1935. (Much of this information should be accepted as tentative, with confirmation from the Dept. of Parks and Recreation required for final acceptance.) The rides are 10¢ each, or 3 for 25¢. The Carousel has horses only (not counting the usual 2 "carriage-chairs," and goes about 5 RPM, with the ride lasting about 3 minutes. There are 2 orchestrions though only one of them is played on a particular day. A decorated panel of the Carousel proclaims it came from "Ross R. Davis, Agent, Los Angeles."

We next went to Lincoln Park, in East Los Angeles, where the Carousel building hides itself in a corner and is hardly ever noticed by passers-by. (Ted Johnstone, who went past Lincoln Park hundreds of times when he traveled to and from his So. Pasadena home, never knew there was a Carousel there.) Like the one at Griffith Park, this is a Davis Carousel, has two orchestrions, and charges 10¢ or 3/25¢ for a 3-3 1/2 minute ride. However, in addition to horses, which comprise all the moving animals of the center 3 rows, the stationary outer row includes a lion, a tiger, a giraffe, and 2 goats. The music from the big orchestrion at Lincoln Park Carousel has been recorded, and one may purchase the 78rpm records at the refreshment stand. They cost a dollar each, and the supply is obviously dwindling and not being replaced. Of the 8 recordings listed on the faded list they keep, one was unavailable in 1963 when Dian and I first discovered the records. Last Saturday, at least two more were unavailable, so I am glad we got 7 of them when we could. According to an attendant, the Lincoln Park Carousel is run by the same concessionaire who runs the Griffith Park one. She was unable to give dates or any other information, tho.

The third and last carousel for the day was on Santa Monica Pier, remnant of the days when SM was the center of beach-front entertainment in the area. A big sign points up the 1900 Wurlitzer orchestrion, but there is no information available as to the date of the carousel itself. It appears to be reasonably well kept-up, and the horses seem more freshly painted than those of the other two carousels. It has only horses, and has them in three rows rather than four like the others. The price is higher: 20¢ a ride, but it lasts a little over 5 minutes, and goes slightly faster than the other two (only about 6rpm). Rumor states that the SMP Carousel once had the brass ring device, but now there is no trace of it. The building housing the carousel (with "Mer-ry-Go-Round" painted on it in big letters) also has some apartments on an upper floor, surrounding the carousel. We figure low rent must make up for the noise.



It was about 6:30 when the Carouseling broke up, and most of the attendees came over to our apartment for a party. All in all, I think everyone enjoyed the outing enough to warrant another such in a couple months. (Tentatively, the next would involve meeting at a central location in LA for transportation pooling around 9AM at the latest, and taking in Knott's Berry Farm's Carousels, then going on down to San Diego and the Balboa Park Carousel.)

Besides, I won at Bourree Saturday night!

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D I R E C T C U R R E N T S

Tom Gilbert sent me his list of 10 Present BNFs, so here it is, just for the record:

Walt Willis	Bjo Trimble
John Berry	Redd Boggs
Ted White	William Rotsler
Bruce Pelz	Harry Warner
Dick Eney	Terry Carr

To those who commented on my statements anent the rioters, let me assure you that I concur with the idea of providing relief for the innocent in Watts; I merely want them separated from the non-innocent, a task I believe impossible. Also, I am a Devout Coward, and have no intention of asking anyone to run into the streets to stop friends, neighbors, etc. from rioting and looting. I do maintain, however, that a lot more could have been stopped before they left to get into the streets, if some of the "innocent" had tried to do so. I repeat that I object to letting people get away with rioting and then crying for relief from the results of their own actions. Separate the innocent from the others, then I'll agree to relief.

Costume Prize addenda: I like the idea of a Sweepstakes Prize, voted upon by the winners of the Judges' prizes. As far as I remember, only Pittcon and Westercon 18 have had such a thing since I've been attending cons. And, George, I don't care for the idea of dressing the judges up as anything (your suggestion was medieval judges' costumes, or as the Judges of the Dead, or something like that). For one thing, in competition or not, it distracts from the contestants on stage; for another, some judges might not like the idea, and you are either out one judge, or you have an unmatched set.

G.Wolford: If you couldn't write or draw, you letterhacked, and unless it was YANDRO, you got free copies for the letters.

Jayn Ellern - If that was a Morian Mousse you served us last time, I hope you don't decide to serve us a Morian Ratte! Anyway, don't blame me for casting aspersions on your good intentions -- I can't even lift an aspersion anymore (the aspersion-store manager watches me too closely.)

Scribe - Lab Duq is delightful! Continue, or we'll send Eney a copy and let him continue it!

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Published by Bruce Pelz for the 46th Distribution of APA L, 2 September 1965. See most of you at the NonCon, I hope? I can use the money...you do play cards, don't you? IncuNebulous Publication 398.