

# Carousel Time

by Gerald P. Madden

Dentzel Carousel Company carved and painted wooden horses and other creatures near Hunting Park in the City of Philadelphia.

In 1902 Dentzel installed a carousel in that public park, bringing smiles to the faces of many children, who wanted to ride horses in circles for miles.

The lead horse pulled a chariot, followed by the jumpers and standers. The rider of a stander spun on the outside of the giant circular platform with a goal of grabbing the brass ring, entitling the catcher to another ride.

An outside stander was a reliable and steady steed.  
A stander was not built to have vertical motion or speed.  
You rode a calm stander on a warm spring Saturday,  
having not a care in the world when above a great bay.

An organ played a happy tune timed to coincide  
with the duration of the brief and roundabout ride.

Riders on armored jumpers went around and around,  
like the shielded warriors of ancient ages,  
who rode great distances over plains and battleground,  
pursuing legions of infantry in several stages.

Along with a lion, a tiger, and two bears, oh my,  
were four rabbits, two ostriches, and a mule nearby.  
All these formed a menagerie to complement the mounted horses,  
jumpers and standers, bearing children in unwinnable race courses.

In 1967 an auctioneer removed the carousel from its building in Hunting Park, taking the finely carved and painted Dentzel horses and menagerie, and the organ for a sale to collectors as valuable objects from a public place, where life was a lark.

Carousel time is the few minutes riding a carved and painted horse recalling a pleasant memory of a day with a friend that lasts a lifetime.

Gerald P. Madden is a finance professor, who was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He has taught in nine states and in Ireland; most recently he taught at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Besides occasionally writing poems, his finance work appears in academic and practitioner journals. His 1991 book was one of the first to deal with computer-assisted investment analysis.