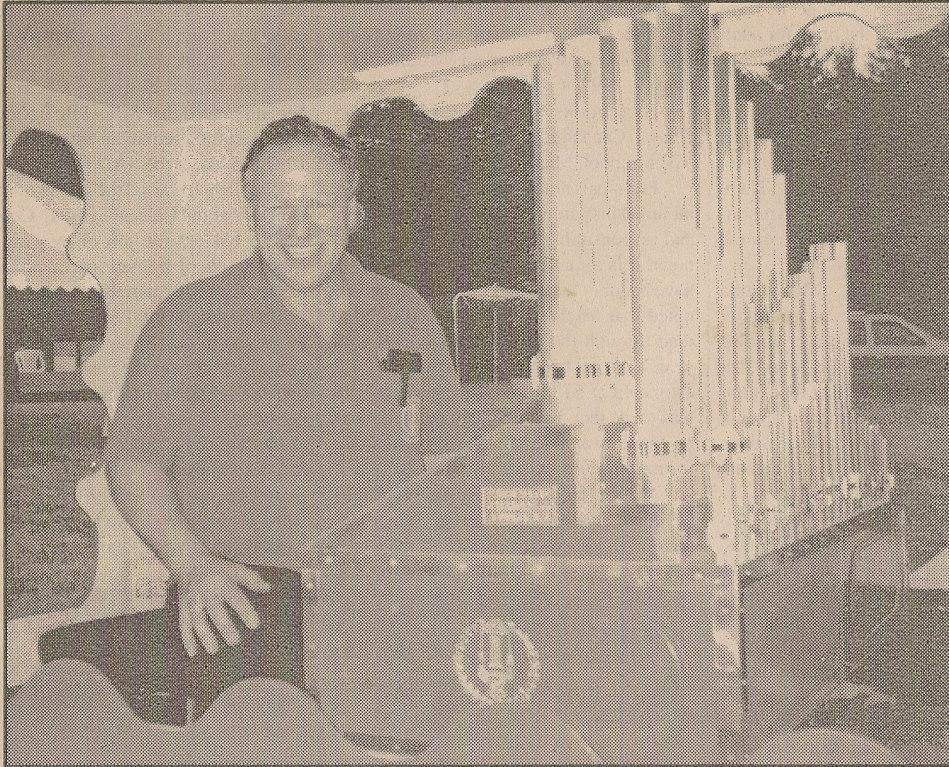


# Ori Circus Calliope at Canaan Old Home Days' Parade

## *Jack's Back!*

Submitted by Donna Zani Dunkerton



He spent his time in 1961 and 1962 reconstructing it. He acquired a used air dryer from National Geographic in Washington that was used to dry paper and ran it with a 2-1/4 Clinton lawnmower engine.

Willard "Bill" Busler played the calliope for Shuey from 1963-73.

They played for Shrine circuses, Shrine parades and conventions, community parades and picnics.

In 1971, the calliope was taken to St. Paul, Minnesota to a World Championship Calliope contest. It was held in connection with the Midwest Shrine Convention. There were about 20 calliopes at the event. Bill Busler played a medley of "In the Good Old Summertime", "Sidewalks of New York", "Yankee Doodle Dandy", "You're A Grand Old Flag", and "It's A Small, Small World." Bill won the championship.

After Shuey's death, the calliope was bought by Jack Leisure. He had it reconditioned by Tom Librandi who owned a machine shop. He later had a new circus wagon constructed by Ray Wolmer. It was then converted from gasoline motor driven to electric using either A.C. or batteries. Mr. Busler played the calliope for Jack until he retired six years ago. This is one of the finest calliopes in the country and is presently owned by Chuck Druding of Webster, New Hampshire.

The music of the circus and carnival is best known by the sound of a calliope.

Before 1900, the big loud steam calliope, patented by J. C. Stoddard of Worcester, Mass., was the hallmark of circus parades.

In the early 1900's, Joseph Ori developed the first successful air calliope and later founded the "Pneumatic Calliope Co." in Bloomfield, New Jersey. The "Pneumatic" was and still is the Cadillac of the air calliopes, each one being built by hand.

The instrument pictured above was built in 1921 in Jersey City. It has 44 whistles ranging from F to B plus the attention getting siren whistles. It was originally set up in a circus wagon in 1926 by Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey and used by them through the 1950's.

It was powered by steam but in 1931 it was converted over into a pneumatic calliope. It was played for several years by famous calliope player, Mike Doyle. Upon his retirement the circus owed him money, so they gave him the calliope. It was taken apart, packed in boxes and shipped to Doyle's home in New England. Here it remained in boxes until his death. Nelson Shuey, who was a photographer and owned Brown's Studio in Harrisburg, heard from a friend in West Hanover, Massachusetts, that the calliope was going up for auction with the Doyle estate and had him bid for it. Shuey did buy it and had it shipped to his home in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

