



Golden Agers Rock!

CELEBRATING SENIORS MAKING THE BEST OF THE REST OF THEIR LIVES

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It's Just TOO HOT!!

In looking at the “celebrations” this week, there just aren't a lot of them and I think I know why—IT'S TOO HOT TO BE OUTSIDE UNLESS YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO! Or you're at the beach...or in the mountains. The one celebration that does sound fun is Carousel Day!

The modern carousel (or Merry-Go-Round or Roundabout as it's called in England) emerged from early jousting traditions in Europe & the Middle East. Knights would gallop in a circle while tossing balls from one to another; an activity that required great skill and horsemanship. This game was introduced to Europe at the time of the Crusades. The word carousel originated from the Italian word for “little battle”, used by crusaders to describe a combat preparation exercise and game played by Turkish & Arabian horsemen in the 12th century. This prepared and strengthened the riders for actual combat as they wielded their swords at the mock enemies.

By the 17th century, the balls were gone. Instead the riders had to spear small rings that were hanging from poles overhead and rip them off. These cavalry spectacles replaced medieval jousting and were common in Italy and France. The game

began to be played by commoners, and carousels soon sprung up at fairgrounds across Europe. In Paris, an early make believe carousel was set up with wooden horses for the children.

By the early 18th century carousels were being built and operated at various fairs and gatherings in central Europe and England. Animals and mechanisms would be crafted during the winter months and the family and workers would go touring in their wagon train through the region. These early carousels 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.

By 1803 John Joseph Merlin had a carousel in his Mechanical Museum in London. The horses “floated free over a pole”. It was connected to a big musical instrument that played a fully orchestrated concerto and from the first note, the carousel would start turning while each horse would make a galloping movement with a visitor riding on its back. Merlin did not patent his inventions and engineers were

allowed to create their own models of his creations.

Viewed from above, in the United Kingdom, merry-go-rounds, turn clockwise with animals facing to the left. In North American and mainland Europe, carousels typically go counterclockwise with animals facing to the right.

By the mid-19th century the platform carousel was developed with the animals fixed to a circular floor that would suspend from a center pole and rotate around. These were called dobbies and were operated manually by the operator or by ponies. These became a fixture at fairs.

The first steam-powered mechanical carousel, invented by Thomas Bradshaw, appeared in 1861. It was described by a local paper as “a roundabout of huge proportions, driven by a steam engine which whirled around with such impetuosity, that the wonder is the daring riders are not shot off like cannon-ball, and driven half into the middle of next month.”

Now on to important stuff...

The Week of July 19-25:

- National Zoo Keeper Week
- International Lace Week
- National Baby Food Week
- Annie Oakley Week
- Garlic Week

Some celebrations only last a day.

19th-Global Hug Your Kid Day

20th-Moon Day

National Lollipop Day

World Chess Day

Space Exploration Day

21st-Take Your Poet to Work Day

No Pet Store Puppies Day

22nd-National Refreshment Day

Rat-Catchers Day

23rd-Gorgeous Grandma Day

Hot Enough For Ya Day

National Pajama Day

Lumberjack Day

24th-Cousins Day

National Cowboy Day

National Drive-Thru Day

Frozen Margarita Day

National Tequila Day

Tell An Old Joke Day

25th-Auntie's Day

Carousel Day

Hire a Veteran Day

Thread the Needle Day

Have a great week & call if you need anything!

Serving Him & Loving it!

Carol 😊

Pastor Bill 901-569-1428

Pastor Cassie 678-492-3956

Carol 803-360-7137