

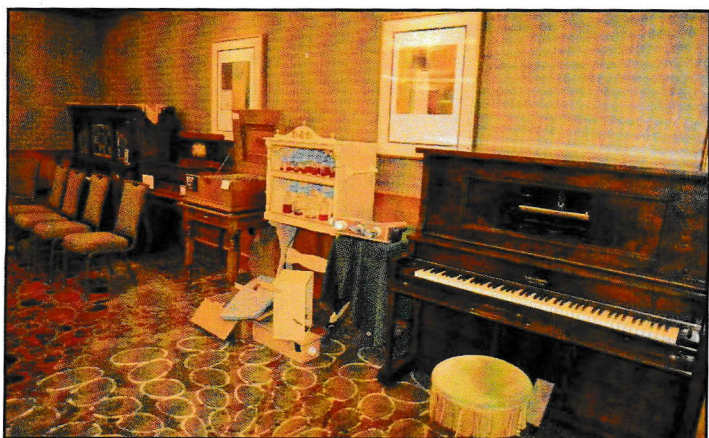
AMICA CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON - JULY 2-7

Text by Carl Dodrill; Photography by Glenn Thomas and others

The Pacific Can-AM Chapter took on this convention with the determination to make the convention innovative and outstanding. Music rather than touring was to be emphasized as was ease in getting from the airport to the hotel. Facilitating the establishing of connections between AMICAns was also high on the priority list as a way of strengthening AMICA. We had 14 people on the Convention Committee. Members of the convention committee were: Carl Dodrill (Chair), Stu Swanberg (Co-Chair), Rob Wilson (Treasurer), Halie Dodrill (Secretary), Spencer Chase, Rob and Penny Reid, Paul Hempel, Bill and Judy Mote, Bruce Newman, Marc Sachnoff, Alison Swanberg, and Annie Tyvand. We were pleased that 130 people attended the convention.

Hotel and Hospitality Suite

We selected the Airport/Southcenter Doubletree Suites Hotel which provided free transportation from the airport



A portion of the instruments in the Hospitality Suite

to the hotel. Because we selected a holiday week for the convention, we had the big hotel to ourselves and we got it at a good rate. Meeting rooms were spacious, AV support was excellent, and the Hospitality Suite would seat more than 80 people while providing space for some 14 automatic instruments. To encourage interaction between AMICAns, we had this room open 46 hours during the convention with it being continually staffed. Music was played throughout much of that time and snacks and drinks were constantly available. People came, stayed and connected with others.

The instruments in the Hospitality Suite included a 1909 Howard upright pumper which had been totally rebuilt by Bruce Newman, a Farrand pumper and a Steinway Duo Art offered by Stu and Alison Swanberg, two 20 note bottle organs brought by Phil Dayson and Carl Dodrill, a Regina 20 3/4" 1905 disc player presented by Annie Tyvand, a Wurlitzer nickelodeon owned by David Goodwin and Larry Sanchez and a series of antique music boxes supplied by Michael Wallace and others.

Pre-convention activities

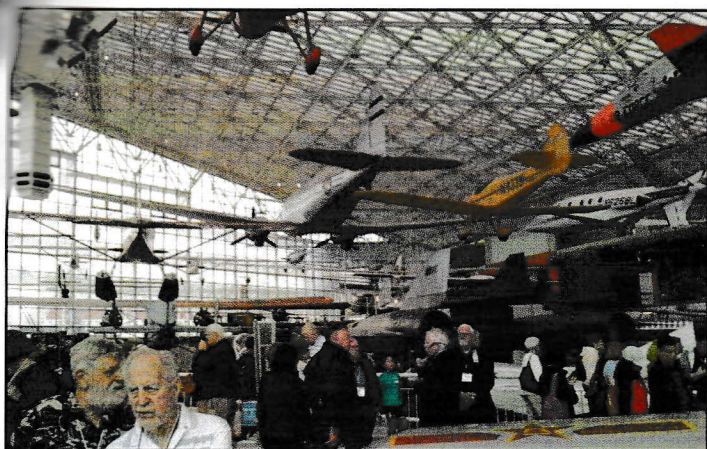
We were amazed that 54 of the 130 registrants picked up their registration packets on Monday, July 1. The next morning, more than 30 of these took off on a guided Seattle bus tour which focused upon the Pike Street Market and the locks. The Board Meeting, moderated by President Joel Cluskey, occurred on this day. When these activities concluded, many people came to the Hospitality Suite to chat with others, hear the instruments and partake of available snacks. At 8 PM, Marc Sachnoff played ragtime, blues, and other music including his own compositions. The Hospitality Suite was filled with more than 80 people.



The AMICA Board meets before the convention and deals with important issues



Marc Sachnoff played Tuesday evening for more than 80 people



People enjoying the Flight Museum

Northwest resident, it was time to bring him back. He played a concert which was fashioned around the tunes in a long Link roll in a truly specialty concert.



A view of Kenyon Hall from above

Tours

Of the 50 museums in the Seattle area, the Convention Committee chose one to be visited by the entire convention --- the Museum of Flight. This is the largest private air and space museum in the world with the largest educational program in the world. Ten docents met us just inside and offered tours with different emphases.

On Saturday, July 6, three optional tours were offered. The first was to downtown Seattle, where people chose the Underground Seattle Tour at Pioneer Square, the Pike Place Market or the Seattle Center with the Space Needle. A second bus went to the Museum of Glass in Tacoma. The final bus went to the American Car Museum in Tacoma where they viewed more than 300 classic automobiles.



Nathan Bello not only did two piano concerts, but as shown here, he repeatedly entertained in the Hospitality Suite



Dennis James accompanied a full-length silent film at Kenyon Hall

Dennis James is a world-renowned theatre organist who has previously played for AMICA conventions. On this occasion, he performed on a theatre organ at Kenyon Hall in Seattle. He played for the 1919 full-length silent film **True Heart Susie** starring Lillian Gish. Dennis worked extensively with Lillian Gish later in her life, and before he played for the film, he gave a talk on her and on his interesting contacts with her. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear from an organist who worked with the star of a silent film!

Morten Gunnar Larsen is a world-famous ragtime pianist who was brought from Norway to Seattle for this AMICA convention. He graduated from the Norwegian Academy of Music in 1978, having specialized in classic ragtime and early jazz piano with an emphasis on Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, Eubie Blake, and Louis Gottschalk. In his 90-minute concert, he demonstrated skills that were truly stunning as he played music from the composers just mentioned plus music from others as well. The precision of his playing was obvious along with both delicacy and a firmness as was

Artists

Nathan Bello is a skilled pianist whose training was significantly influenced by mechanical music and piano rolls. He first appeared as a pianist at the Portland AMICA convention in 2003 when he was 16 years old, and since then, he has played at other AMICA conventions. A Pacific



Morten Gunnar Larsen played a truly memorable piano concert

required by the music. It is truly safe to say that everyone was swept away by his sensitive skills at the piano.

Home visits



Annie Tyvand with a 15-1/2 Regina bow front changer

On Thursday, July 4, everyone was taken to three separate homes where they spent about 90 minutes at each location enjoying musical instruments and other collections.

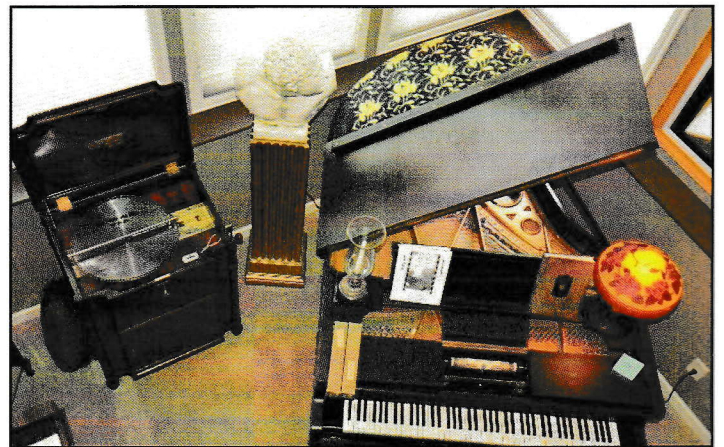
At the home of Annie and Dale Tyvand, for example, a whole series of music boxes were found: a 1920 Steinway Duo Art, a Seeburg KT, and other instruments. But there was also a beautiful doll collection room, an extensive Currier and Ives collection, and outside people found an almost unbelievable glass garden.

At the home of David Goodwin and Larry Sanchez, people saw three classic automobiles and then once inside a series of musical instruments including a George Steck Grand Duo Art, a Seeburg Nickelodeon, a Mills Violano, and several phonographs. There was also a music house in the back yard with several juke boxes and a Chickering Grand Ampico.

At the home of Carl and Halie Dodrill, one first heard a



David and Larry's roll room



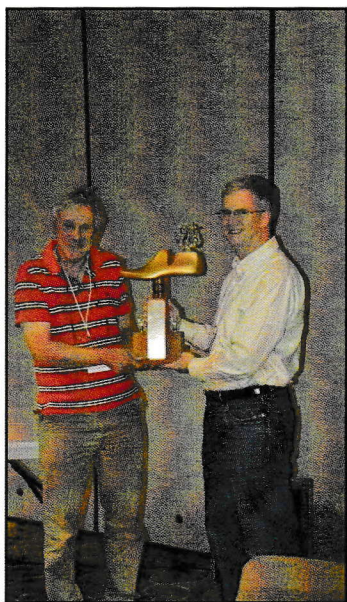
A great view down into the living room at David and Larry's

Wurlitzer band organ, and saw a series of eight classic cars. In the pipe organ shop were displays on the pipe organs they rebuild. Next door Phil Dayson demonstrated the largest Manischewitz bottle organ known. In the house, Halie had a quilt show with 24 quilts displayed, and Carl showed a small bottle organ, a 1924 Violano, and a 1921 unique art case Weber Duo Art that once belonged to Maury and Fran Willyard.



The view entering the Dodrill property

Special events



The "footsie" is presented by contest moderator Julian Dyer to Joel Cluskey upon winning the Pumper Contest

The pumper contest this year was led by Julian Dyer of the UK, with 10 contestants. The winner was Joel Cluskey.

Two entertainment sessions were offered which as far as we know have never been offered at an AMICA convention. Magician Rick Swaney offered an hour "Wonders of Magic" show that left people both amazed and amused. "How did he do that?" many people said.

Then the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound came and presented two old time radio programs. The first was a Lum and Abner presentation from 1943 which centered around a player piano and which included the fact that you needed to learn how to

operate it to get the most out of it. The second was a Fibber McGee program from 1952 which had Fibber tuning a piano. Lots of laughs!

Workshops—technical

Nine technical workshops were offered this year: 1) Player Rebuilding, Tips and Tricks 101—Bruce Newman; 2) How to Build a Bottle Organ—Phil Dayson and Carl Dodrill; 3) Building a Simple MIDI Player—Spencer Chase; 4) Creating MIDI Files of Reproducing Piano Rolls—Peter Phillips; 5) Piano Roll Reproduction in the 21st Century—Tim Baxter; 6) Got those "Shreddin" Piano Roll Blues—Past Present and Future—John McClelland; 7) 3-D Printing—John Grant; 8) Encouraging Research/Internet Resources—Terry Smythe; and, 9) Broadwood and the Ampico in London—Julian Dyer. The workshop rooms were routinely filled, and it was obvious



One of the many technical workshops. Here, Bruce Newman demonstrates rebuilding techniques

that the audience appreciated the skills of the presenters.

Workshops—non-technical

To reach out to people whose interests were not technical, we offered five such workshops this year which we called **Share Your Expertise**. The first of these was the long-standing logo cross-stitch session by Liz Barnhart. At the same time, Halie Dodrill did a round table session on quilting, and Annie Tyvand did one on glues. Then there was an hour of easy listening piano music with 30 minutes presented by Marc Sachnoff and 30 minutes by Halie Dodrill. Marc played Jazz, Ragtime, and Blues while Halie played light classical pieces combined with hymns in interesting ways, and she also played popular tunes that had meaning to her. The final session was on recipes, led by Paul Hempel.

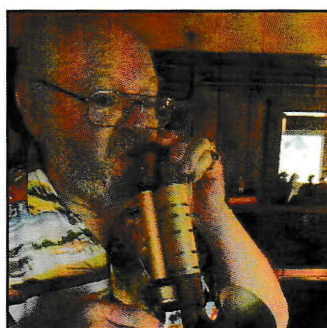
These mostly round table sessions allowed people to share their knowledge on given topics, to acquire information on those topics from others, and to become better acquainted with each other. We found these sessions to be highly successful, and we hope that they will be offered at future conventions.

Open to the public

The Hospitality Suite was opened to the public on Saturday from 1-4 PM. A moderate amount of advertising had been done, and about 40 people came. All instruments in the Hospitality Suite were played, and usually by their owners. This is a truly worthwhile activity and it did seem to stimulate interest in automatic music among the people who came.

Banquet and entertainment

Entertainment at the banquet was provided by the Cornucopia Concert Band which has been led by AMICAn Al Rustad for many years. During the break, attendees in period clothes were invited to come forward for a photograph. The table favors were passed out, a candy/sauce dish bearing the convention logo.



Rob Wilson demonstrates his Play a Sax at his Sunday open house

Post-convention open houses

On Sunday and following the Farewell Breakfast, four open houses were offered with transportation provided. Two homes were to the south and hosted by Keith Hannah and Roy Matson. Two homes were to the north, hosted by Rick Swaney and Rob and Joan Wilson.



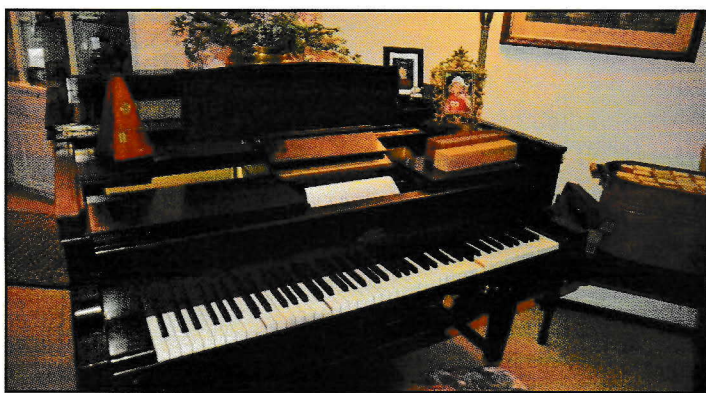
*Julian Dyer pumps Bruce Newman's piano
in the Hospitality Suite*



*1899 Mahogany 27" coin op changer in the
Tyvand living room*



*Attendees enjoying one of the several glass gardens
created by Annie Tyvand*



The 1920 Steinway Model O Duo Art at the Tyvands



Deven Pierce truly enjoys pumping a roll



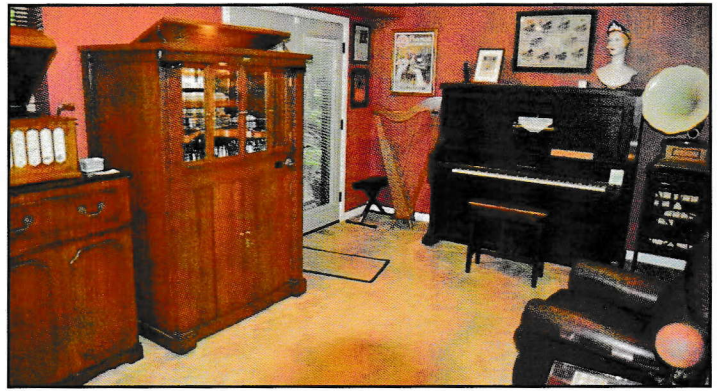
*Antique dolls and playthings displayed in individual
vignettes at the Tyvands*



*David and Larry's 1922 Bush and Lane Welte
Licensee Reproducing Piano*



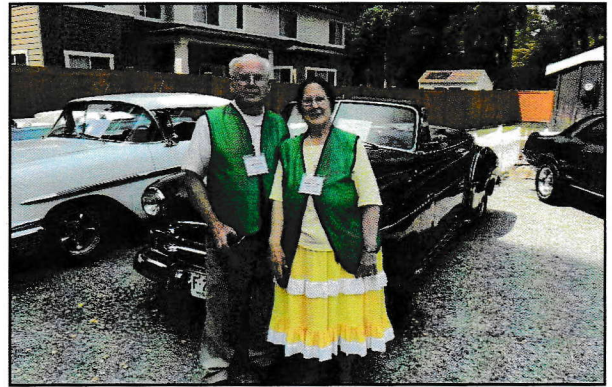
The back-yard music house at Larry and David's place contains a series of juke boxes and a 1936 Chickering grand with Ampico action



A music room with a variety of instruments at David and Larry's place including a 1925 Mills Violano Virtuoso and a 1923 Bush and Lane pumper



People listened to the Weber Duo Art in the Dodrill living room



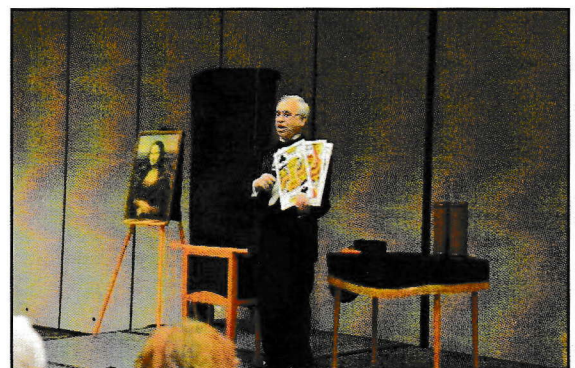
Carl and Halie Dodrill in front of some of the classic cars in their front yard.



24 of Halie's quilts were displayed in the Dodrill home



Bob Monsen entertained with his Wurlitzer 105 band organ at the Dodrills



Rick Swaney entertains the audience with magic



The old-time radio cast getting ready to perform Lum and Abner and Fibber McGee and Molly broadcasts



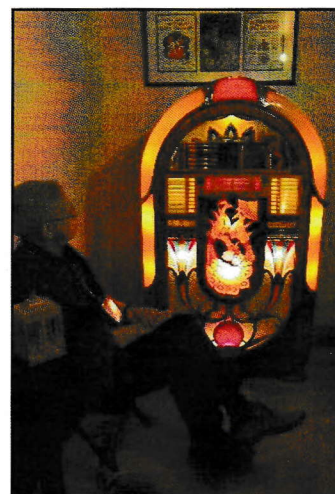
Led by Al Rustad, the Cornucopia Concert Band played for the banquet



People dressed in period clothing at the banquet



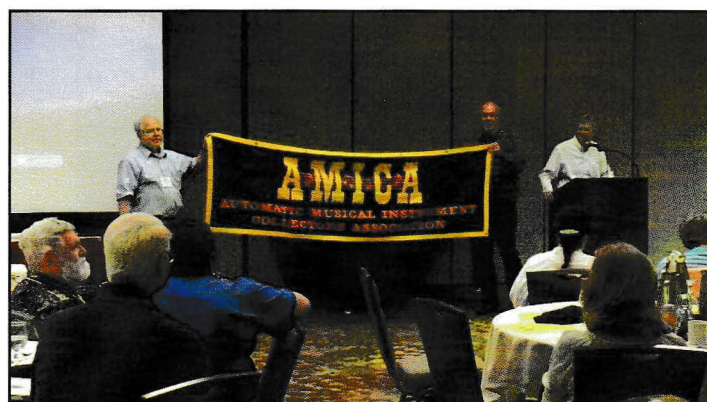
People searched out bargains at the Mart



A remarkable Wurlitzer juke box at Rick Swaney's Sunday open house



The banquet in the hotel ballroom



The AMICA banner is passed on to next year's convention committee at the Farewell Breakfast