

SUNDAY PLUS



Matthew Caulfield with the carousel at Seabreeze Park. He came back to Rochester after working for decades with the Library of Congress.

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Remarkable Rochester

Jim Memmott
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Remarkable Rochesterians

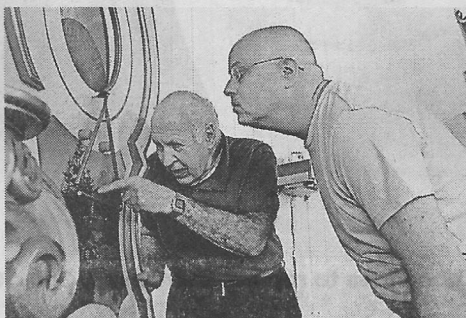
In a wonderful 1997 story in The Washington Post, Phil McCombs wrote about Matthew Caulfield's post-retirement return to Rochester to fulfill his dream to operate the carousel at Seabreeze Amusement Park in Irondequoit.

Then 63 years old, Caulfield was an internationally known expert on Wurlitzer carousel organs and the perforated paper rolls that guide their music.

He landed the Seabreeze job running the carousel at Seabreeze – the one that replaced an earlier carousel that had been destroyed by fire. The organ had been replaced as well, built to the exact model of the original Wurlitzer 165 style, and Caulfield was soon in heaven repairing, and adding, music rolls.

Caulfield quickly became a valued and beloved member of the team that makes Seabreeze so special. And it's safe to say that millions of people have heard the music that he loved and preserved. (On Spotify, check out Carousel Breezes, Vol. 1 and 2.)

Matthew Caulfield died last month at age 90. As suggested by Craig Smith, let's add his name to the list of Remarkable Rochesterians that can be found



ABOVE: Matthew Caulfield points out to Marketing Manager Jeff Bailey a section of the band organ he wants to repaint before the park opens for the 2015 season.



RIGHT: Matthew Caulfield sweeps around the carousel at Seabreeze Park before it opens.

at: <https://data.democratandchronicle.com/remarkable-rochesterians/>

Matthew Caulfield (1933-2024): Renowned for the creation and reclamation of the perforated rolls that guide the automated organs that accompany merry-go-round rides, he became the operator of the carousel at Seabreeze Amusement Park and its Wurlitzer 165 style organ in 1997 after a successful career as a rare-book cataloger at the Library of Congress. Having grown up in Rochester,

where he worked at Seabreeze as a teenager, he graduated from the University of Rochester and the University of Chicago with a master's degree in classical languages and literature. The author of over 1,000 postings on the Mechanical Music Digest website, he also served as Seabreeze's unofficial archivist, organizing documents and photos.

Jim Memmott writes Remarkable Rochester. Reach him at jmemmott@gannett.com.