

ANTIQUE CAROUSEL FIREMEN'S PARK GIDDINGS, TEXAS

HISTORY OF THE CAROUSEL

FIREMEN'S PARK IS THE SITE FOR ONE OF ONLY SIX
ORIGINAL ANTIQUE CAROUSELS IN THE WORLD.

IN THE EARLY 1900'S, A TRAVELING CARNIVAL CAME TO LEE COUNTY
AND SET UP THEIR ATTRACTIONS AT THE FAIR GROUNDS (FIREMEN'S PARK).
THE LOCAL POPULATION ENJOYED GOING OUT TO THE PARK TO EXPERIENCE
THE THRILL OF THE ATTRACTIONS. THE LOCAL FATHERS HAD GIVEN
PERMISSION TO THE CARNIVAL TO OFFER THESE RIDES WITH THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT A CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE LEFT FOR THE
COMMUNITY. WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR THE CARNIVAL TO LEAVE,
THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY LEFT FOR THE CONTRIBUTION AND CONSEQUENTLY,
THE CAROUSEL WAS LEFT AS COLLATERAL FOR THE
DEBT OWED. THE CARNIVAL NEVER RETURNED TO PAY THE DEBT
AND COLLECT THEIR CAROUSEL. THUS, THE CAROUSEL REMAINS AT
FIREMEN'S PARK WHERE IT WAS LEFT IN THE EARLY 1900'S.
OVER THE YEARS, THE FAIR ASSOCIATION AND THE GIDDINGS
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVE REMAINED DILIGENT WITH THE MAINTENANCE
AND RESTORATION OF THE CAROUSEL. IN 2004,
THE CAROUSEL IS STILL OPERATIONAL AND CONTINUES TO
ENTERTAIN YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE.

