

# Antique village provides return to music machines

By JOHN BEHM

No, you haven't seen it all. Or heard it all. But now you can, thanks to a dozen years of hard work by Priscilla and Doyle Lane.

From all over the world, the Lanes have collected and restored a showcase of mechanical musical marvels—and have put it on display at the Daniel Boone Antique Village off I-85 near Hillsborough. It's the Wonderful World of Self-Playing Instruments.

Your grandfather would remember easily (put a little nickel in/in the nickelodeon!) The predecessor to the jukebox took a nickel to play one melody. Right?

But what about those other musical novelties from the turn of the century? When was the last time you listened to a favorite tune on the harmoniphan or triola? Or invited a friend to the apartment to examine your etchings and listen to the latest on your Regina Changer?

Thought so.

The names for these self-operating music makers are as colorful as the age they represent. Tournaphone. Triola. Celestina. Made in Chicago, built in New York, hand-crafted in Switzerland—these music boxes range in size from the very small (the familiar wind-up variety, great for a dressing table) to the very large (somewhat uncommon, a mahogany leviathan powered by an electric motor, weighing more than two tons and containing a small orchestra).

Mrs. Lane herself exhibits the collection. "It's more than just a museum," says Lane, "It's a show. There's a little history behind every piece in the collection, but the music they make tells you more about them than I ever could."

One of the first musical wonders to entertain a visitor is the "Encore" Automatic Banjo. An ingenious arrangement of metal buttons (fingertips) and claws (picks) plunks out tunes on this contraption as well as any North Carolina picker. Thousands of these coin-operated machines were constructed in 1896, but the success of the "Encore" was eclipsed by the builder's inability to keep up with repairs.

Not a banjo enthusiast? Featured in the same room is a Swiss-made music box with no less than 110 teeth. Let it play you an affectuoso.

In an adjoining room, a dance-hall organ from Fairbanks, Alaska, plays "Que sara, sara" from a player-piano type punched paper roll. For 25 cents a shot, ghostly fingers play a tune on a piano that once entertained patrons of the Bucket of Blood Saloon in Virginia City. For another quarter, listen to melodies provided by a self-playing Wurlitzer Harp—taken from the Six Mile House, a famous brothel outside Butte, Montana.

But that's not all. For the discriminating ear, the Violano Virtuoso (designated by the U.S. government as one of the "Eight Great Inventions of the Decade") sings a song to piano accompaniment.

That's quite a lot to see and hear. They are only a small part of an exhibit which the Smithsonian Institution says far surpasses its own collection of music machines.

"Some of the items we bought, some we traded for," says Doyle Lane, standing in the museum workshop where he restores the music-makers. "There is a Music Box Society Convention that meets once a year for workshops, but the best information comes from people like the junkman who tells us about a wheezy old pipe organ going up for sale at a church auction."



DTH/Jay Hyman

## Memorabilia at the Daniel Boone Antique Village in Hillsborough

Lane's shop resembles the childhood fantasies of Santa's workshop meshed with a cabinet maker's and a production line for Steinway pianos. It is there that he brings the dilapidated remains of old melodistas, polyphons and orchestrians back to life. It is no easy job.

"The parts of an instrument to be restored need to be cleaned, filed, refitted . . . and often replaced with hand tooled copies," says Lane.

The mechanical song boxes are on display and open to the public 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. daily. But don't let your curiosity stop there.

Leaving the world of mechanical banjos and automatic orchestras behind, the visitor to Antique Music and Wheels can dream or reminisce in the company of a 1933 Kissel, a 1923 Studebaker Speedster and a 1930 Packard. These automobiles and an assortment of 19th-century

carriages belong to Hillsborough's own Freeland collection. Horseless buggies of some note include an 1893 Roof Seat Brake (formerly used for hunting parties) and an 1880 model Brougham (the official limousine used by President Benjamin Harrison). If you don't feel quite at ease in the 1800s, then "Dr. Koch's Remedies Wagon" (circa 1885) may have the answer—in terms of stock and poultry tonic.

Antique music machines and cars from great granddad's day. It's a trip around the world and a trip into the past. A boxful of bellows, belts, gears and pulleys agree in song . . . post-frontier coaches and jazz-age autos pose in quiet dignity.

See and hear it all. The distant past has never been so close.

John Behm is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

## Weekender

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Melanie Sill  
Editor

James Alexander Jr.,  
Assistant Editor  
Elliott Warnock, Columnist

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George Shadrui, Editor  
Dinita James, Managing Editor  
Mark Murrell, Features Editor  
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# Weekend Fare

## Cinema

### Campus

**Love Me Tonight**—Maurice Chevalier stars as a tailor who falls in love with Jeanette MacDonald. At 8 p.m. today in Carroll Hall. Free with UNC student ID.

**THX-1138**—George Lucas film about a fascist 25th century. With Robert Duvall. At 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday in Carroll Hall. Free with UNC student ID.

**The Miracle Of Morgan's Creek**—Preston Sturges' film, cynical comedy about a small-town girl who marries and gets pregnant by a C.I. and then forgets who he is. At 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday in Carroll Hall. Free with UNC student ID.

**Multiple Maniacs**—John Waters' film stars Divine in a tale of debauchery and anarchism. At 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sunday in Carroll Hall. Free with UNC student ID.

### Chapel Hill

**Plaza I—Being There.** At 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30 p.m.

**Plaza II—Breaking Away.** Final shows today at 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. **Little Darlings** starts Friday. Shows at 3, 5, 7:10 and 9 p.m.

**Plaza III—The Deer Hunter.** Final shows today at 3 and 8 p.m. **Windows** starts Friday. Shows at 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m.

**Varsity—All That Jazz.** At 2:15, 4:40, 7:05 and 9:30 p.m.

**Varsity Lateshow—The Rocky Horror Picture Show.** At midnight Friday and Saturday.

**Carolina Blue—Chapter Two.** At 7:15 and 9:30 p.m.  
**Carolina White—Coal Miner's Daughter.** At 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15 p.m.

**Carolina Classics—Pat And Mike.** Final shows today at 3 and 5 p.m. **A Night At The Opera** starts Friday. Shows at 3 and 5 p.m.

**Carolina Lateshows—The Mouse That Roared** at midnight Friday and Saturday and **The First Nudie Musical** at 11:15 Friday and Saturday.

## Radio

**Inside Track—The Motors' Tenement Steps** at 11 p.m. tonight on WXYC-FM 89.3.

**Classic Album Feature—Pink Floyd** at 11 p.m. Friday on WXYC-FM 89.3.

**In Focus—Featured artists are:** Bob Seger and Robert Gordon today; and The Allman Brothers and The Dixie Dregs Friday. Aired both days from 6-11 p.m. on WDBS-FM 107.

## Theater

**Ain't Misbehavin'**—Broadway on Tour presents this musical revue of Fats Waller songs. At 8 p.m. Friday and at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday in Memorial Hall. Tickets available at the Carolina Union box office.

**An Arabian Tale**—Banat Bahary will present the story of Aladdin using cabaret and ethnic dances at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Community Church in Chapel Hill, on Mason Farm Rd.

**Your Own Thing**—North Carolina State University presents this off-Broadway musical loosely based on *Twelfth Night* at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in Thompson Theatre on the N.C. State campus. Call 737-2405 for reservations.

**Life With Father**—Raleigh's Little Theatre presents this comedy about a Victorian family at 8 p.m. today through Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Little Theatre, Pogue St. in Raleigh. Call 821-3111 for reservations.

## Music

**Recital**—Allan Ware, clarinet; Barbara McKenzie, piano. At 8 p.m. Friday in Hill Hall Auditorium.

**Sunday At Four**—UNC Men's Glee Club. At 4 p.m. Sunday in Hill Hall Auditorium.

**Greg Smith Singers**—At 8 p.m. Sunday in Memorial Hall.

**Organ Recital**—David McConkey. At 8:15 Sunday in Duke Chapel on the Duke University campus.

## Planetarium

**Easter The Awakening**—The Planetarium's annual Easter show. At 8 p.m. today and Friday; at 11 a.m., 1, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday; and at 2, 3 and 8 p.m. Sunday.

**Laser Fusion**—A light show with live rock music at 9:15 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

**Classical Laser**—A light show performed to classical music at 4:15 p.m. Sunday.

## Gallery

**Ackland Art Museum**—19th and 20th Century Drawings from the Musee Carnavalet in Paris through April 13.

**Morehead Planetarium Gallery**—Mexican Indian Textiles through March 31.

## Nite Life

**Cat's Cradle**—Tim Krekle and the Sluggers Fridays and Saturday. Eddie Hinton and Rocking Horse Sunday.

**The Station**—Sunfire today through Sunday.

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