



# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## THE VICTORIAN GOLDEN GALLOPERS

By 1885 The Fredrick Savage Company had perfected “The Platform Gallopers” whose galloping action more closely imitated the movement of a horse. The Fredrick Savage Company were agricultural engineers situated in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England. They manufactured rides for showmen; they had a unique style about them.

Fredrick Savage, inventor of a system for running fairground carousels using a steam engine mounted at their centre, was born in the Norfolk village of Hevingham.

At the age of 16, Savage started work at a small foundry in East Dereham. In 1848, he moved to Kings Lynn where he worked for Thomas Willet, wheelwright and blacksmith. Willet retired in 1850 and Savage set up under his own name. The business expanded, making engines for both fairgrounds and agricultural equipment. It was in 1868 that he put a steam engine in the middle of a carousel — a breakthrough that enabled carousels to increase in size and carry more people. A style of ride was developed that used elaborately carved 'galloping horses' suspended on twisted brass rods in rows of three or four abreast. These brightly coloured rides became known as 'gallopers'.

In 1872, Savage moved to Kings Lynn's St Nicholas' Ironworks. He became a Justice of the Peace and was Mayor of the town from 1889 to 1890. He died on the 27th April 1897.



*FREDRICK SAVAGE*

### Specifics about the ride

Circa 1895 this particular ride was purchased from Rhyl amusements in the early nineties. Restoration to bring them back to their former glory began. Mr Eric Hughes manager at Rhyl amusements for several decades believed that the gallopers were once owned by a Maggie Collins of the famous Pat Collins Dynasty.

Metals - The rods, the brass work, the iron work are all original supplied from new by the company as is the gearing, together with the Victorian steam chimney.

Lighting – Consists of 2200 coloured lights, yellow and orange giving the ride the authentic Victorian charm, hence the name THE VICTORIAN GOLDEN GALLOPERS.



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The Horses – These have been hand redecorated in the traditional fashion and covered with a special two pack lacquer which is air and water resistant. The horses are 36 double seater horses.

Artwork - All the artwork pieces are painted by a local Derbyshire artist depicting a complete hunting scenes and various animals taken from the original decor, The outside rounding boards, central and upper panels have all been painted by Tate of Derbyshire Almost all of the wood work (swifts, platform bearers etc ) are original as is all the iron work.

The Organ – The central organ is 7ft high, over 8ft across consists of a proscenium top and side wings which are ornately carved and decorated. Complete with authentic Victorian organ sounds.

The ride - today is operated by a 3 phase electric motor and started, off a fluid flywheel to a central gear box. This can also be quickly re-adapted to steam by a belt drive.

## **Gallopers – Fixed Pay Box (Side)**





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Fixed Pay Box





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Horse





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – New Steps





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Original Gearing





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Original Rods





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Original Rods





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Original Top Section





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

Gallopers – Original Top Shutters & One of the Mirrors





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

**Gallopers – Original Top Shutters, Tate & Artist**





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Rounding Boards in Two Sections





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

Gallopers – Swift Droppers x12. Oil Painted on Each Side





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

Gallopers – Various Horses





# AMUSEMENT TECHNICAL

## Gallopers – Various Horses





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## Gallopers – Various Horses

