

John,

02/27/2014

I was just sitting down to write you !

It actually arrived in NY Tuesday, but I put off delivery to today as that was the date I had planned around. I greatly wondered how such a thing would be safely packed - now I know. It is now safely in my apt - not set up - that will have to wait till the weekend - but I want to thank you for how beautiful it looks and the excellent condition it's in - it exceeds my expectations. The coin door looks new, as does the monkey's bell and the side rails. The playfield looks great. I can tell you it is in incredibly better shape than that German Fireball I told you I was also getting locally. It has a very grateful owner now.

In principle I was aware that a pin weighs upwards of 300 lbs, but I did under-estimate just what that amounts to with curbside delivery. It was kind of hilarious (in retrospect) how the delivery guys looked at me with this thing literally at the curb - I think they were laughing to themselves thinking "that sucker's never gonna get that thing in".

Naturally my building's heavy-duty hand truck which I was counting on to help wrestle it in had gone missing. The box was way too big to fit on the building's luggage trolley (we have one of those trolleys like hotel bellmen use). I found a smaller cart and got the box down on it in a way that it could be rolled in the front door, and thought I was home free - I'll show 'em. Naturally, just then a certain member of the coop Board (that probably doesn't mean much to you), who is a stickler for the house rules, came in, saw that I was proposing to roll the thing through the lobby and onto the elevator, and raised a stink. Technically that is not allowed - such things have to be carried down to the basement via the service entrance and brought up on the service elevator. While I knew that, I was hoping to get away with not doing it. I was long ago president of the Board and continue to have a lot of cred with the staff, so they weren't about to stop me. If she hadn't come in at that moment it would have been simple. Murphy's Law never fails.

I knew I could not manage that box, even sliding, down those stairs by myself, and I couldn't really enlist the building staff to help me. I opened the box and realized I could make the whole thing much more manageable by unloading it, albeit out on the sidewalk with curious on-lookers, in sub-freezing weather. I did that, got the super to help me, and long story short, finally got it in (via the lobby after she had left :)

I think it's fitting that Central Park should start its new life with a funny story, and now it has.

Anyway, it is obvious that you really care for these machines and have high standards. In the abstract it seems crazy to transact with someone so far away, with something so big and heavy, but you've certainly delivered. I can't wait to tell you how it plays once it is set up. I will do so, and send a pic of its new home (*not* with my meager view of Central Park unfortunately, now that it is clear how hard it is to wrestle anywhere - that view is not where it is destined).

I wish I had the room - I'd give you a list of a few other machines I would love to have - notably that Midway helicopter game with the dual joysticks (I forget its name), and a certain Chicago Coin pitch&bat game whose name I have to find - but my wife would kill me, so these will have to wait.

I'll update you soon - in the meantime, thanks !

M...