CHARLES RIVER
MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

SHOPTALK

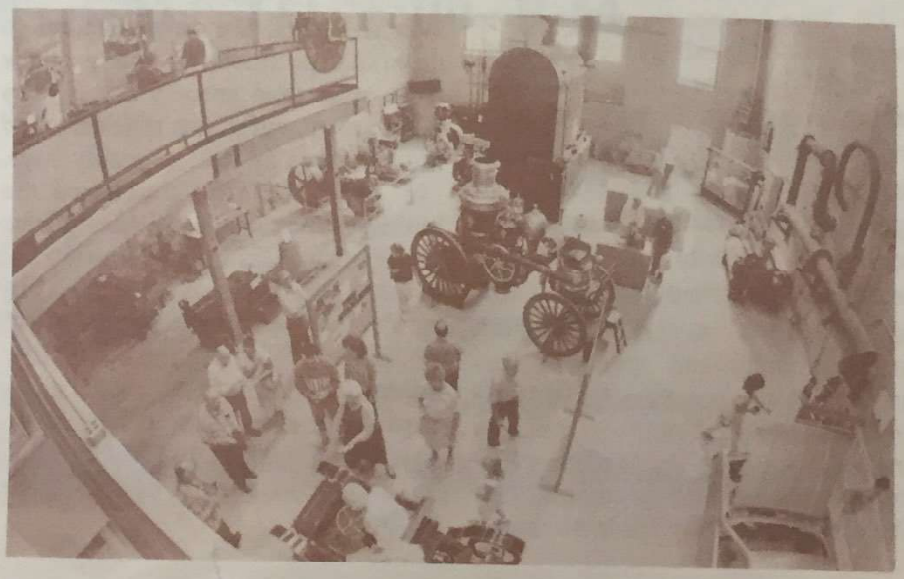
Fall 1988 Volume 3 No. 3

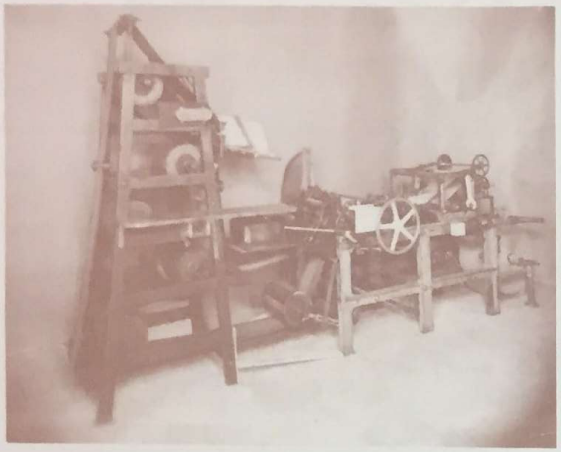
GRAND OPENING

On September 28th, a Gala Fundraising Evening kicked off our opening festivities. The $50 a plate meal and the cocktail hour were catered by Hillcrest of Waltham. A string and woodwind trio provided background music and atmosphere as the guests arrrived for the evening. After dinner, Museum President Fred C. Bailey recognized past museum presidents, past and present treasurers and other stalwart supporters of the Museum. Following his brief comments, Bailey acted as Master of Ceremonies for a program of brief speeches by Alfred Purcell, Chairman of Associated Industries of Massachusetts, and Norman Krim, formerly of Raytheon and now a consultant. The evening was concluded by reopening the exhibits for the 140 guests who attended the affair.

Grand Opening Day, October 1, was attended by Civic and State leaders including Senator Carol Amick, Waltham Mayor William Stanley, Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Murphy and many others. A 9 AM Coffee Hour was followed by the formal Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Fred C. Bailey introduced speeches by Mayor Stanley, Senator Amick, and Lieutenant Governor Murphy. Following their brief comments, Trustee Michael Folsom, Museum President Fred C. Bailey, Executive Director and Curator Gail Fowler Mohanty together with the three dignitaries clasped a large pair of shears borrowed from the Museum's Collection and snipped the ribbon. By 10:30 AM, the Charles River Museum of Industry officially opened to the public. Visitors were invited to "Punch In" for free tours and special demonstrations until 5PM. Demonstrations of exhibited machinery including the Player Piano, the Pearl Platen Press, the Paper Bag Machine, a metal planer, a shaper and a model steam engine highlighted the activities available to visitors. Several local antique automobile enthusiasts drove their automobiles to the museum to line the driveway. Courtesy of Polaroid and organized by Trustee Herb Ahrens, free photographs were taken of guests seated on either the Waltham Number 1 Steam Fire Engine or the 1907 Orient Runabout. Pat Caruso, a 50 year veteran of the Waltham Watch Company, disassembled and assembled watches for interested visitors. Rounding out the days activities were tours of the museum, gallery lectures, showings of the "Subminiature Vacuum Tube Story" and free helium balloons. The Opening schedule was packed with special events because of the enthusiasm and assistance of many individuals who offered us their time and skills. Recognition and our thanks goes to:
Michelle Neville, Joseph and Jean Salvucci, Pat Caruso, Branded Liquors, Elizabeth Silliman, Michael Folsom, Richard Gordon, Charles Woodman, Brenda Capello, William Kilbourn, Cal Guiry, Joan Sheridan, Aldie Johnson, Howard Gorin, Arthur Moses, Elizabeth Drolette, Chris Morrison, Herb Ahrens, Polaroid, Bud Hansen, Walter Bush, Jane Donohue, Jim McDonald, Mary Tsiongas, Lois Butcher and Eric Haartz.

- Gail Fowler Mohanty-





A STAR IS BORN

In "The Machine" exhibit there resides a large wooden and iron machine ten feet long that produces little brown paper bags measuring 5" X 7." This behemoth starred at the recent Grand Opening Day activities. It shed its normally irksome, cantankerous and finicky behavior and allowed amateur bagmen, Daniel Holbrook and Arthur Moses, to operate it with success. It must have been the crowds of interested onlookers that tamed our beast. This large and only recently anthropomorphized machine was donated to the museum in 1981 by Longview Fibre Company. It was originally built by the Waltham Bag and Paper Company in about 1920. The machine is designed to be run by a trained operator who can entice the machine to produce 40,000 bags per hour. The Waltham Bag and Paper Company was founded on January 19, 1914 by Theodore Jewell(Vice President and Treasurer) and a seven member board. They originally produced grocery bags in buildings leased from the Waltham Gas Light Company on Cooper Lane. After World War I, the firm decided to diversify production, and produce bags other than grocery size. They began to manufacture millinery and notions bags as well as candy bags.

In 1934, the firm purchased the buildings they had been leasing from the Waltham Gas Light Company and in 1966 the firm was purchased by Longview Fibre Company of Longview, Washington. The firm currently continues to make paper bags at the rate of about 1 million a day(during peak times) and employs 35 people in their Cooper's Lane facility.

MEET THE PUBLIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR - Johanna Winer

Hello! I began working for the Museum on September 6th as the new Public Programs Coordinator and I am still catching my breath. It is exciting and challenging to get to work just as the Museum itself opens its doors to the public.

After a few years of Federal Government work, I decided to leave to pursue a career involving my lifelong love for museums. After a stint as an intern at Boston's Museum of Science, I enrolled in George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Armed with a Master's in Teaching in Museum Education, I returned to Boston. And here I am.

Please introduce yourself to me if you can catch me as I fly by either showing a new guide around or rushing to answer the phone!

-Johanna Winer-

MUSEUM HOURS

The Charles River Museum of Industry is proud to announce in its newletter that the museum is open to the public every **Thursday through Sunday from 10AM to 5PM.** Admission is $2.50 for Adults, and $1.50 for Senior Citizens, and Children between the ages of 4 and 12. Children below 4, residents of the Francis Cabot Lowell Mill and museum members are admitted for free.

CURATOR'S REPORT

This past spring and summer have been an exciting and busy time at the Museum. The construction of the balcony was completed, and we were faced with the construction and installation of the exhibits. We then received a large, new and important addition to our collections. The Waltham Clock Company, a new corporate entity but a descendant of the Waltham Watch Company, had to empty 35,000 square feet of space in the Crescent Street plant. Despite operating under severe time constraints, the new owners, Marc Dinkel, Greg Wertheimer and David Karlson, took much time and care to see that the important objects and business records that were in this space were preserved and in our hands. An inclusive list of the things brought to light would tax the limits of this newsletter, but included are dozens of boxes of business records; thirteen larger watchmaking machines; many smaller tools such as multiple spindle drill presses, watchmaker's lathes, and still unidentified machines; workbenches; dies for watch parts; production records; photographic collections; and much more. One of the larger machines, which drills and countersinks four holes in a small watch part, has already been restored by one of our volunteers, Chris Morrison. He is now working on understanding its intricacies in order to get it up and running. This particular machine was one of three which were mounted on a bench along with all of their drive shafting, pulleys, etc. We hope to re-assemble this workbench with all of the machines working. Pat Caruso, a longtime Watch Company employee, and friend of the Museum, and Steve Abrams, President of Howard Clock Products Company of Waltham, were both extremely helpful in identifying many of the objects. Fred Widmer and Rob Butler put in many sweaty hours helping to move the collection into our storage area.

The Raytheon Company has loaned us, on a permanent basis, a 1947 microwave oven, one of the earliest commercially available applications of microwave cooking, two television sets from the very early 1950s, a microwave diathermy machine, used by doctors for deep heat treatments, and several very nice product catalogs and annual reports. Charles Francis Adams and Norman Krim, longtime Raytheon executives, have added an assortment of vacuum tubes and antique radios to our ever-growing collection of electronic artifacts. Perhaps the most fascinating of these is a Belmont pocket radio of 1945, a Walkman-like device using sub-miniature vacuum tubes, and equipped with a single earphone.

We also received a beautiful Wedgewood cup, saucer, and bread and butter plate transfer printed with a picture of the Waltham Watch Factory. Rita Olivieri of Waltham made the donation in memory of her sister, Mrs. Samuel Collura, who had received the set upon her retirement from "the Watch."

A maintenance log from Waltham No. 1 Pumping Station came to us from Robert M. Vogel, a Curator at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Flora D'Angio, a Waltham resident who has made donations to the Museum in the past, has now given us two Metropolitan Sewing machines, which were originally used at the Waltham Knitting Company, founded by her father. Along with the two machines were boxes of needles and other parts for knitting machines, small machine tools, and a blowtorch from the middle of the 19th century.

When Dr. Douglas Buttman visited the museum, he noticed that we did not have any information about William D. Clement, who had been a Waltham manufacturer of watchmaker's lathes and tools. Through Dr. Buttman's efforts, we received product catalogs and a loose-leaf binder full of information on Mr. Clement and his products from Mr. Clements' daughter, Mrs. Verna Clement Walker of Middlebury, Vermont.

We continue to receive photographs, books, and other documents from residents of the area who have discovered that the history of the region, or at least small parts of it, can be found in their attics and basements.

-Daniel Holbrook-

MEMBERSHIPS

The Charles River Museum of Industry opened its doors on October 1. But to keep them open Thursday through Sunday 10 AM to 5PM, we need your support. Your support will not be without reward. For the first time, we are able to offer you the full spread of membership benefits described below from free admission to a discount at our store. Examine the membership categories and the benefits below and select the level that is best for you. Or **Try Us** - tear out the coupon below and visit the museum before you join.

Membership Benefits

All members receive the following:

* Unlimited free admission for member and guest for a full year.
* Reduced admission fee for tours and other special events.
* Subscription to the Museum's newsletter, **SHOPTALK**, with advance notice of museum special events.
* Use of museum library, archives and educational resources.

Membership Categories

APPRENTICE (Retired/Student) $10
All membership benefits listed above.

LABORER $25
Unlimited admission for entire family plus membership benefits of Apprentice.

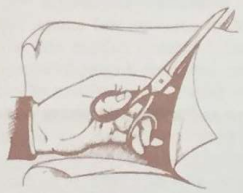
OPERATOR $50
Invitation to previews of new exhibits plus membership benefits of laborer.

SUPERVISOR $100
Operator membership benefits plus recognition in the Annual Report as a Museum Supervisor.

SUPERINTENDENT $250
Supervisor benefits plus recognition in the Annual Report as a Museum Superintendent and free admission for two guests to visit the Museum and exhibitions free.

INVESTOR $500
Supervisor benefits plus recognition in the Annual Report as a Museum Investor and invitations to special demonstrations of equipment and special events with the Museum Trustees and staff.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR $1,000
Investor benefits plus recognition as Museum Director in the Annual Report.



WALTHAM'S 250TH PARADE

On October 9th 1988, the Charles River Museum of Industry participated in the parade in honor of Waltham's 250th anniversary. Waltham Auto Body supplied the base for our float: a flat bed truck with a 22-foot bed. Richard Gordon, Trustee, invited us to display his 1907 Orient Runabout on the float for the occasion. The ten foot long Runabout may have been dwarfed by the flat bed but still cut a stately figure in the parade. The Orient is ordinarily displayed in the Automobile Plant exhibit in the Museum's Boiler House but was excused for the day in order to appear in the parade.

TRY US!!

Personal Memberships

[] Apprentice(Student/Retired) $10
[] Laborer $25
[] Operator $50
[] Supervisor $100
[] Superintendent $250
[] Investor $500
[] Museum Director $1,000

Name _____
Address _____
_____

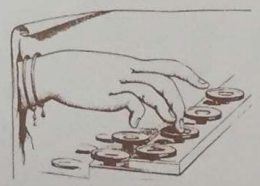
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Charles River Museum of Industry is lucky to have hired several enthusiastic and well-qualified new guides. The guides will greet visitors and school groups and lead them on tours. These new employees have had a lot to learn in a short time and have risen to the task admirably.

In addition to self-guided tours, we are implementing a Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities grant to develop programs with Waltham's Vocational/Technical School. We want to increase school participation in general by involving teachers in using the museum in their curriculum, and by scheduling frequent class tours. We are seeking funding for an education program called "A Mill Girl's Trunk." Through reproduction artifacts, stories, and songs, participants in this portable program will be able to get a close look at the life of a mill operative of the last century.

At the same time that we develop plans for special groups, we want to make the casual visitor's experience valuable. To accomplish this, our future plans include a self-guided tour and other in-museum activities, including kits that children and adults alike can pull out and use to learn about topics ranging from "Gears" to "Life in 19th Century Waltham." We are looking forward to increasing people's use of the terrific resources we have available here at the Charles River Museum of Industry.

-Johanna Winer-



GIZMO!

Do you have a thing-a-mabob, a whatsit or a widget that's been around the place for years and nobody knows what it is? Send us a photo, and we will do our best to identify it.

Here is an artifact from our collection. Help us identify it.

VOLUNTEERS CRMI NEEDS YOU

Do you have a few hours a week to spare? Come work in our store, write for our newsletter, demonstrate our machines, provide clerical assistance, or help with other interesting museum activities. In return, we offer you free coffee, new friends and our endless gratitude!

For more information contact Johanna Winer at 893-5410.

FEEDBACK

We would like to encourage our readers to write us with responses and/or suggestions about this newsletter. It will help us to make it more fun, more valuable, and more interesting, if we can find out what sort of things you would like to hear about.

We would also encourage anyone who wishes to contribute articles to get in touch with us about it. We know there is a wealth of knowledge about this area's industrial heritage out there. Memories of the "good old days" (or the "not so good old days"), family histories and stories about the working life are just a few of the possibilities.

We will also try to answer requests for information about this region's industrial history. Here is your chance to contribute something very special to the museum and to your fellow readers. Don't be shy!!

Daniel Holbrook

HOUSEKEEPING

If your address label is in error or if you receive more than one copy of the newsletter, we would appreciate a correction.

The Custodial Department

WISH LIST

1. Steel Shelving
2. Rags
3. Flat file cabinets for machine drawings or plans.
4. Blacksmith's bench
5. Dehumidifiers

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CHARLES RIVER
MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

Admit One **Free** with the Purchase of
One Admission of **Equal** Value

Hours: Thursday through Sunday
10 AM to 5PM

Expires December 31, 1988

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