

## WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM

For those of you new to the Museum's circle of friends, Welcome!

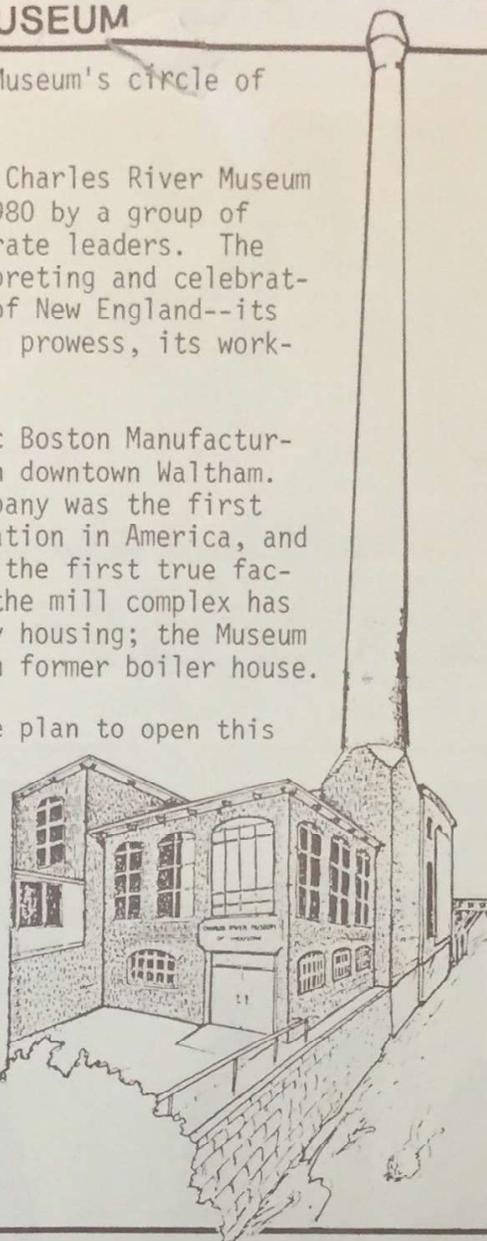
Here's some background. The Charles River Museum of Industry was founded in 1980 by a group of Waltham-area civic and corporate leaders. The Museum is dedicated to interpreting and celebrating the industrial heritage of New England--its businesses, its technological prowess, its workers and their skills.

We are housed in the historic Boston Manufacturing Company mill building, in downtown Waltham. The Boston Manufacturing Company was the first successful industrial corporation in America, and its original mill (1813) was the first true factory in the world. Much of the mill complex has been rehabilitated as elderly housing; the Museum occupies the three-story high former boiler house.

The Museum isn't open yet--we plan to open this summer. Until then, we are planning our exhibits, collecting artifacts, and fund-raising. We can use your help with all our work. If you would like more information, please give us a call:

### CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

154 MOODY ST.  
WALTHAM, MA. 02154  
(617) 893-5410



## 50,000 POUNDS, WITH ONE HAND!

The University of Rhode Island called the Smithsonian Institution, and the Smithsonian called us. That's the way the Museum was given a late nineteenth-century materials testing machine.

The testing machine, made by the Tinius Olsen Company, can apply a pull of 50,000 pounds on a piece of metal--with all of the force coming from a simple hand crank. The machine is a dramatic demonstration of the way simple levers, gears, and screws can be combined to compound forces. Museum visitors will be able to work the machine themselves to learn about the tensile strength of materials.

The testing machine was donated by Professor Warren Hagist, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics of the University of Rhode Island. Our thanks to him, and also to the Standard-Thomson Company, for the use of their truck to move the machine to Waltham.

newsletter  
FEBRUARY 1982

THE CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

## STAFF PROFILE: MICHAEL FOLSOM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Brewster Folsom comes to the directorship of the Charles River Museum of Industry with a wealth of experience interpreting the American industrial heritage. For more than ten years he taught at MIT in the Humanities Department and in the Program in Science, Technology and Society. While there he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop methods for teaching the history of industry. This project interested him in the use of industrial museums as an educational resource, and

led directly to the founding of our Museum. Dr. Folsom has participated in a variety of interpretive programs outside the classroom. With a former student of his at MIT he has worked on a film about the history of the textile town of Waltham, Massachusetts. Among Dr. Folsom's professional activities is his work for the Society for Industrial Archeology. He has been President of the Southern New England Chapter and is now Secretary of the SIA's National Board.



Michael Folsom with delegation from the Peoples' Republic of China. The group from the China Machine-building International Corporation didn't come all the way to Waltham just to visit us. They were here visiting the Standard-Thomson Company, and came over to see a bit of American history.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

As a major step in preparation for the Museum's 1982 Capital Campaign, the Development Committee, headed by Earl Wilson, President of the Standard-Thomson Company, has completed and printed a detailed Prospectus. This document introduces the Museum and explains our purposes and goals, exhibit policies and education programs, and defines our audiences, varied resources, and funding.

The Prospectus will provide the basis for our appeal to major donors, both institutional and personal, over the near-term future, and is a step forward in our work on a Master Plan.

## MILL RESIDENTS TO BRING HOME THE BELL

Residents of the Francis Cabot Lowell Mill housing development, who share the renovated historic Boston Manufacturing Company mill complex with the Museum, have organized a Residents' Museum Committee.

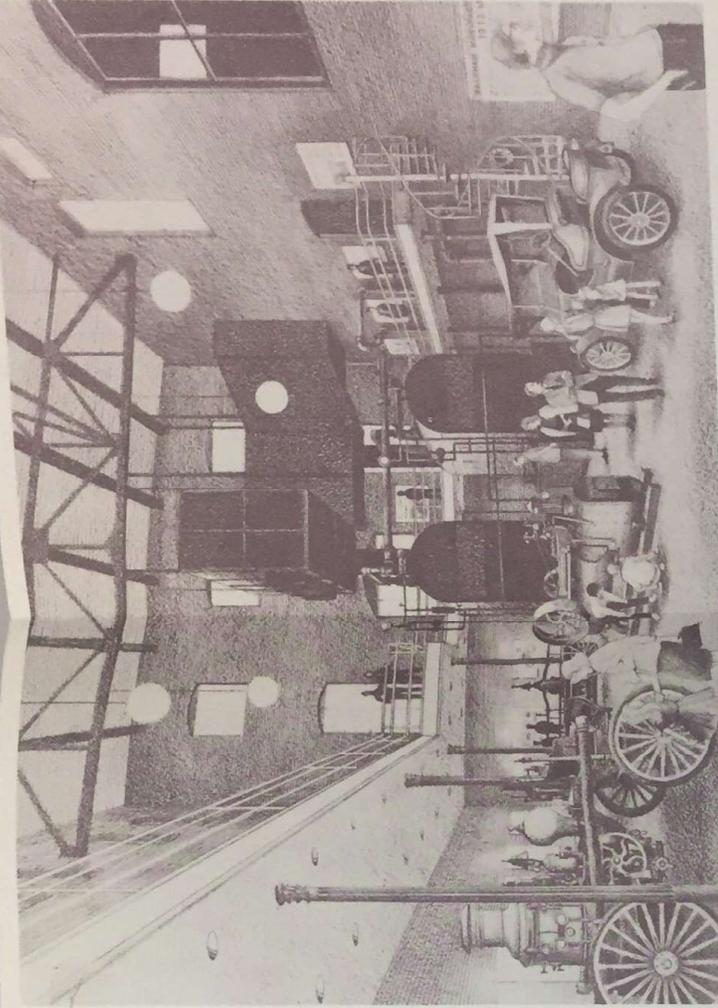
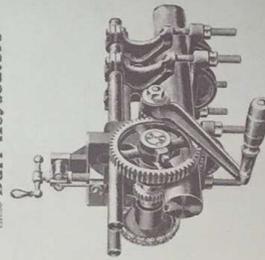
Our friends in the Mill have taken as their first project an effort to bring back the bell that used to hang here to ring out the periods of the work day for the employees. As in most industrial cities, the tolling of the bell was for many years a feature of life in Waltham, telling school children and shopkeepers when to be up and when to be home.

The Boston Manufacturing Company's 1858 Henry Hooper bell was bought from a local junk yard in 1967 by a group of Waltham residents who had emigrated from French Canada. The church in their home town of Margaree, Cape Breton Island, had burned down, and the new church needed a bell. It turned out, however, that the Boston Manufacturing Company bell was to large for the new steeple, and it rests there unring. The church is willing to have it returned to the mill, and the Residents' Museum Committee will be organizing a dinner dance this spring to raise funds to Bring Home the Bell.

## Advertisement, 1904

### Your Repair Shop

is not complete unless equipped with one of these **Burr Keyseaters**



Artist's rendering of the Boiler House section of the Museum. Our thanks to Peter Thomas and Keyes Associates.



## HOW TO BUILD A MUSEUM PART ONE: GET GOOD ADVICE

The Museum staff has been busy putting together a Five Year Master Plan. (This work is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.) The plan will define the Museum's overall strategy and its goals as well as establish a schedule for exhibits and programs.

In order to draft this plan, we've talked to some of the best people in the museum business. Among others, we've talked to Fred Moore (designer of the Springfield Science Museum), Ed Krent and Nick Paffett (designers of the South Bend, Indiana, Industrial Museum) and Nancy Mann and Mike Seif (planners of two of the Massachusetts State Heritage Park visitor centers).

A Technical Assistance Grant from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities makes possible consultation with Richard Rabinowitz, President of the American History Workshop. Rabinowitz is a nationally known museum planner who has worked on major educational and exhibit projects at Old Sturbridge Village and at the Smithsonian.

We have also sought the advice of the staff at other industrial museums. Thomas Leavitt, Director of the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, and Dr. Patrick Malone, Director of the Slater Mill Historic Site, have been active in our planning effort. The National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant gives us the opportunity of meeting with the staffs of the Smithsonian, the Hagley (Dupont) Museum, the Henry Ford Museum, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry and a number of others.

If it has been done in the world of industrial museums, by the time we are finished, we will know about it.



**WALTHAM INDUSTRY IN POETRY**

The Museum staff has come across a remarkable piece of poetry about Waltham and the Boston Manufacturing Company, which we are pleased to share. The poem appeared in The Hive, Waltham's first newspaper, in 1835. An excerpt:

Our factories prosper, and all, if they please,  
May witness some hundreds as busy as bees.  
A bevy of females with bright, sparkling eyes,  
And cheeks fresh as Hebe's, each one a rich prize,  
Lucrative employment here constantly find,  
And cultivate ever the heart and the mind.  
Such wise regulations within them prevail,  
That rarely, if ever, have any proved frail,  
Without any mandate from kings on their throne,  
They all go ahead, and enjoy what's their own.



**STRIKE ONE!**

It appears that Waltham may now be able to claim the title of home of America's first industrial strike.

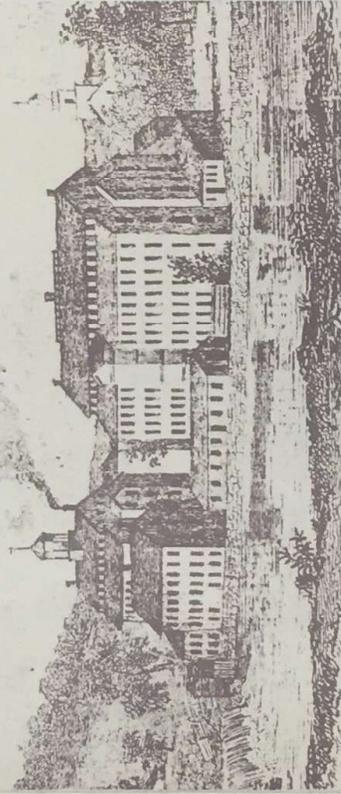
In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we had discovered in a museum in Vermont the papers of Isaac Markham, a machinist who worked for the Boston Manufacturing Company in Waltham in 1821. Staff research in the Markham papers has revealed a letter from Markham to his brother, dated May 30, 1821. In it he discusses recent events at the Boston Manufacturing Company: "A few days since they cut down every unmarried man's wage (except mine) that they employ, and without giving them the least notice until the day came for payment. The same trick was played off on the girls but they as one revolted and the work stopped two days in consequence."

Ms. Elizabeth Gastner  
685 Trapelo Rd.  
Waltham, Ma. 02154

124 Moody Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

THE CHARLES RIVER  
MUSEUM  
OF  
INDUSTRY

BOSTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, c. 1836



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 57401  
BOSTON, MASS.

**TRUSTEES:**

- Herbert W. Abner  
Director of Manufacturing  
Polaroid Corp. Waltham  
President
- William H. Nichols  
President  
W.H. Nichols Co.  
Treasurer
- Hon. William E. Hays  
Judge (retired)  
Middlesex County Court  
Secretary
- Dr. Gregory H. Adams  
President  
Bentley College
- Fred C. Bailey  
Telebyte Engineering Services
- John R. Beaver  
President  
Autoslip Beaver, Inc.
- Paul A. Cunnolly  
Principal  
Waltham Central Jr. High

- Mrs. Henry E. Cooper III  
Waltham Historical Society
- Philip J. Crooks  
Senior Manager  
Crescor Crown, Inc.
- John H. Dwight  
Vice President  
Artisan Industries
- Peo L. F. Fejling
- Peter C. Hardy, Esq.
- Victor C. Hamish, Esq.  
General Manager  
Raytheon Corp. Waltham
- Donald High, Jr.  
President  
Hyde Bird Feeder Co.
- Walter L. Kray, P.E.  
Keyes Associates
- Philip A. Lashway  
President  
Waltham Savings Bank

- Thomas W. Lavitt  
Director  
Narmack Valley Textile Museum
- Thomas J. Murphy  
Senior Managing Editor  
The News Tribune
- Donald E. Nelson  
Vice President  
Nelson Management Co., Inc.
- Joseph G. Riley, M.D.  
Assistant Principal  
Waltham Central Jr. High
- Joan M. Sheridan  
Associate Director  
Planning Office  
City of Waltham
- Ronald G. Vukob  
Senior Vice President  
Brybank Middlesex
- William F. Whelan  
Senior Vice President  
Brybank Middlesex
- Earl L. Wilson  
President  
Standard-Thomson Corp.

**WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM**

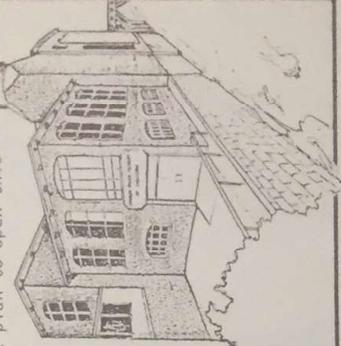
For those of you new to the Museum's circle of friends, welcome!

Here's some background. The Charles River Museum of Industry was founded in 1980 by a group of Waltham-area civic and corporate leaders. The Museum is dedicated to interpreting and celebrating the industrial heritage of New England--its businesses, its technological prowess, its workers and their skills.

We are housed in the historic Boston Manufacturing Company mill building, in downtown Waltham. The Boston Manufacturing Company was the first successful industrial corporation in America, and its original mill (1813) was the first true factory in the world. Much of the mill complex has been rehabilitated as elderly housing; the Museum occupies the three-story high former boiler house.

The Museum isn't open yet--we plan to open this summer. Until then, we are planning our exhibits, collecting artifacts, and fund-raising. We can use your help with all our work. If you would like more information, please give us a call:

**CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM  
OF INDUSTRY**  
164 MOODY ST.  
WALTHAM, MA., 02154  
(617) 893-5410



**50,000 POUNDS, WITH ONE HAND!**

The University of Rhode Island called the Smithsonian Institution, and the Smithsonian called us. That's the way the Museum was given a late nineteenth-century materials testing machine.

The testing machine, made by the Tinius Olsen Company, can apply a pull of 50,000 pounds on a piece of metal--with all of the force coming from a simple hand crank. The machine is a dramatic demonstration of the way simple levers, gears, and screws will be able to compound forces. Museum visitors will be able to work the machine themselves to learn about the tensile strength of materials.

The testing machine was donated by Professor Warren Hagist, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics of the University of Rhode Island. Our thanks to him, and also to the Standard-Thomson Company, for the use of their truck to move the machine to Waltham.