

CHARLES RIVER  
MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

MARCH, 1990

# SHOPTALK

THE CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY  
VOL. 4 NO. 1



The varied program included performances by Joe Cormier, Seamus Connelly and Solomon's Seal shown here.



An audience of over 370 people crowded into the Jackson Room of the Francis Cabot Lowell Mill for the concert sponsored by Watch City Coffee House and The Charles River Museum of Industry with support from Arts Lottery and local vendors.

## MUSIC FROM THE MILLS

This fall, the Charles River Museum of Industry and the Watch City Coffeehouse with partial support from the Waltham Arts Lottery Council presented a unique concert of traditional music entitled "Music From the Mills." Because the Museum's collection is a tribute to our ancestors whose innovations helped shape the workplace of today, the Museum was open to guests prior to the concert and admission to our exhibits was free with the concert ticket.

The performers in the show highlighted the musical traditions of the first immigrant groups to work in the mills of Waltham in the mid-nineteenth century. The Canadians were represented by Joe Cormier, one of the foremost Cape Breton Scottish-style fiddlers. The Irish fiddler was Seamus Connelly, a native of County Clare, Ireland. Seamus and Joe were joined by dancers who demonstrated traditional dances of eastern Canada and Ireland. Song by Solomon's Seal, a quartet of musicians playing traditional and contemporary dance music and songs from New England and Quebec. The

group is led by singer/pianist Rick Lee, along with members Jane Orzechowski, Holly Gettings, and Deana Styles.

The evening was sold out, with people being turned away from buying even standing room tickets. Over 370 people packed the Frances Cabot Lowell Mill's Jackson Room. All guests entered through the Museum, which opened an hour and a half prior to the concert. All in all, we consider the evening to have been an unqualified success, we look forward to an ongoing collaboration with the Watch City Coffeehouse.

- Johanna Winer

Note: The Watch City Coffeehouse will be holding a concert in the Jackson Room on April 19th. They are proudly presenting Utah Phillips, who sings songs of labor and industry. Admission to the Museum will again be free with a concert ticket. Hope to see you!

## CARNEGIE MELLON'S GAIN

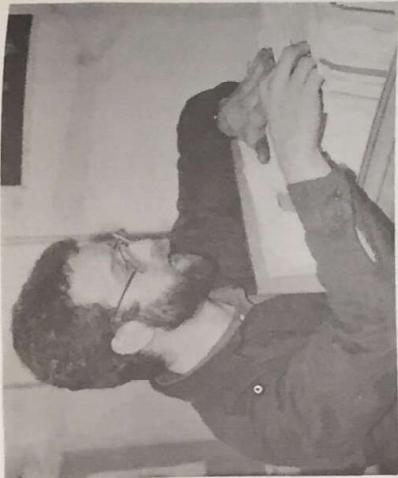
Dan Holbrook, our former Assistant Curator, received a full scholarship to the Ph.D. program in history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the end of June, Dan left the Museum to spend his summer working and staying with his family on Cape Cod. To say the least, we miss him. Those of us who have worked with him wanted to use this space to say a few words about Dan.

"The vacancy created by Dan's departure can not be filled by a single individual. Dan brought with him a unique range of skills. His expertise includes: unclogging the drain by the back door (prevents flooding in the exhibit areas); researching historical questions; cleaning light fixtures 30 up; providing tours for visitors; replacing glass in those hard to reach places; hanging a seven seater bicycle; making terrific studded mushroom caps; transporting objects to the museum from some pretty awful locations; cataloging museum objects; saving snapping turtles from imminent demise; painting out obstructions on the footbridge across the Charles; walking on water through floods; working knowledge of automotive, watch and canoe building history; a willingness to attack almost any course with good humor and more. Am I exaggerating? Of course, he would deny all - or almost all of this. To give those of you who have never met our Assistant Curator Emeritus an idea of what this future Ph.D. in History is like, I offer the following. I asked Dan to catalog some photographs for the museum. The photo above was identified by Dan as "Dan Holbrook at Work." Dan handed me this photograph and suggested that I place it in the archives, since it was so rare to catch Dan at work. And Dan...you are not even here to defend yourself!

- Gail Fowler Mohanty

Knowing Dan Holbrook is an experience in itself. He has all the qualities that make up a friend that most would like to have. We at the Museum, having worked with him, have been privileged to share a friendship that will long be remembered. We wish Dan the best. He deserves it!

- Eleanor Shaughnessy



Dan Holbrook at Work.  
Photograph: Rolly Perry

Dan creates noise. Sounds of hammering, vacuuming, sawing and sundry other crashes and bangs emanate from wherever Dan happens to be. I think it might be genetic. But when you work with him, you hear other noises too: answers to thousands of questions on hundreds of subjects, music, talking, and particularly lots and lots of laughing. For those of us who have worked with him, a very friendly and enjoyable din.

- Johanna Winer

After I stopped calling him "Hal," we had a pretty good working relationship. Underneath that charming, laidback but sharp-witted exterior there exists a Dan who is a great problem solver, an historian with a curious and thirsty mind and a tremendous resource for Museum related questions and just about everything else. He may be on his way to Pittsburgh, but his contributions to CRM will surround us and stand as a constant reminder of him. Watch out Pittsburgh!!! Dan Holbrook is coming to town.

- Karen LeBlanc

I found Dan to be highly intelligent, resourceful and witty plus all the attributes usually connected with an Eagle Scout. During his all too short stay with us he accomplished many things which I am sure were not in his job description. All these attributes should be on the mind of anyone seeking a replacement for him. Bravo Dan, I hope wherever you go, they will appreciate you as we have!

- Charles Woodman



Arthur Nelson Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, and Vice President of the Board of Trustees.

## CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY: CELEBRATING GREATER BOSTON'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Few areas in the world can demonstrate such an outstanding record of innovation and growth in industry and technology over the past two hundred years as the Charles River Basin and the Greater Boston area. The ingenuity and entrepreneurialism which has made technology based enterprises grow in the Boston area is flourishing and is profoundly enhancing the prospects for continuing growth.

### •••CALENDAR•••

April 19th, Utah Phillips Concert, Presented by Watch City Coffeehouse at the Jackson Room, Frances Cabot Lowell Mill.

April 21st, Music by Machine, Part I - Computer Music 10 AM to 5PM with admission to Museum.

April 22nd, Music by Machine, Part II - Mechanical Music 10 AM to 5PM with admission to Museum.

April 28th, Mill Architecture an audio visual presentation by Maureen Meister, Art and Architecture Historian, Northeastern University.

For more information about any of these events call 893-5410.

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- Eleanor Shaughnessy

*SHOP TALK* is a publication of the Charles River Museum of Industry (CRM). CRM is a non-profit corporation founded in 1979 for the purpose of establishing a center a center for the study of the history and future of industry in the Charles River region.

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Development and Public Relations Coordinator: Karen LeBlanc  
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April - All Month is Museum Month

April 7th, Marcia Perlmuter presents dramatization "Three Mill Girls" at 2:00 at the Charles River Museum of Industry.

**SHOP TALK<sup>4</sup>** PUBLIC PROGRAMS ENRICH MUSEUM VISITS

Watertown 1821? Yes, a mysterious strike, the first recorded strike in U.S. history occurred here at the Boston Manufacturing Company Mill in that year. Our visitors tried to solve the mystery by following a series of clues hidden throughout the Museum. Those who answered our questionnaire entered a prize drawing. Area businesses who donated prizes were: Chadwick's Ice Cream Parlor, Lexington; Ritcey's Seafood Kitchen, Waltham; Anderson's Florist, Waltham; Mr. Big Toyland, Waltham; Teaching Tools, Inc., Newtonville. Visitors responded enthusiastically to this educational and enjoyable event.

"Three Mill Girls" were dramatized professionally by Marcia Perlmutter, actress. She involved audience members in roles both sympathetic and not so sympathetic; the audience was thrilled by her performance. Ms Perlmutter will return on April 7th 1990 for a reprise.

For Cultural Awareness Day on the Waltham Common, the Museum set up a table along with other cultural organizations. Many people stopped by and expressed interest in the Museum. We handed out brochures and maps and sold items from our gift shop. We were on the Common again on October 7 for the Mayor's Picnic. Our visibility is increasing.

For the second time this year, the Museum sponsored a Trolley Tour of the industrial history of the Charles River Region. We greatly appreciate the generosity of Ms Dorothy Slamin Hill, who donated the services of the trolley, and driver Mr. Jerry Taranto and of Dr. Michael B. Folsom, who conducted the fascinating and well-received tour.

DO YOU ENJOY:

- Machining parts?
- Typing/Office work?
- Talking with people?

DO YOU HAVE SKILLS:

- You'd like to donate to help improve the community's resources?
- You can share with a budding non-profit organization?

**HAVE YOU HAD YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

You do? Well, then come share our coffee, cake, and conversation as a Charles River Museum of Industry. Volunteer! Call (617) 893-5410 today for information. Both day and evening hours are available.

**SHOP TALK<sup>5</sup>**

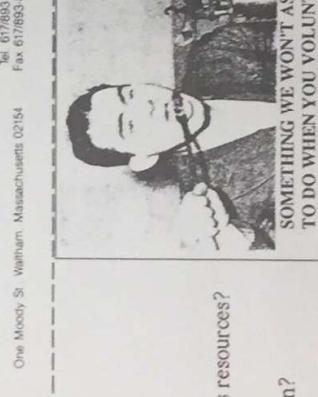
What do an old clock and a 19th century brooch have in common? They were two of the prized possessions people learned about from our experts at our first annual appraisal day on January 20th. Our exceptionally well-qualified and knowledgeable experts were: Mr. Bernie Gordon, rare books; Mr. Paul Duggan, watches and clocks; and Mr. Richard Ware, jewelry. We sold refreshments and our participants were very pleased with what they learned. Make your appointments early next year!



Charles K. Woodman received the first Annual Charles K. Woodman Award at the 1989 Member's reception. The award acknowledges membership support in the form of time, and talent. Woodman received a citation and a plaque honoring his unwavering efforts to enable the Museum to achieve major goals.

**KEYES**

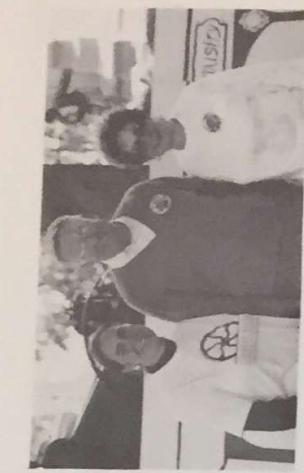
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Hon. William F. Stanley, Mayor of Waltham, Karen LeBlanc and Maria Antonelli enjoy the Mayor's second Annual Picnic. The Museum had a booth and a small display of Museum objects displayed from the bed of a Waltham Auto Body truck.



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**TRIVIA CONTEST: ROLLING ON THE RIVER II**

All correct entries will be eligible for a drawing. The contest prize will be dinner for two at the Chateau Restaurant, Waltham, MA. Clip and send completed contest form to the Charles River Museum of Industry, 154 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02154. The winner will be identified in the next issue of SHOP TALK.

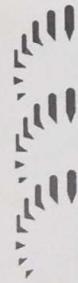
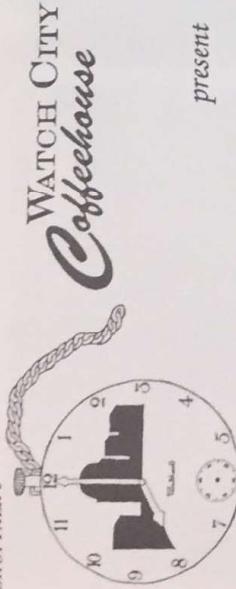
1. The Charles River begins in what body of water? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What natural boundary exists between Waltham and Weston? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what year was the first and most important ferry begun, linking the Boston peninsula with the Charlestown peninsula? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what year was the "Great Bridge" between Cambridge and Brighton built? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In what year was the Metropolitan Park Commission founded? \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST WINNER!!!!!!  
The winner of last issue's Rolling on the River Contest is Frederick R. Coburn of Weston.

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**CHARLES RIVER  
MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY**

present

**A Music From The Mills Concert**

An evening of songs and stories of working people

**Thursday, April 19, 1990**  
**7:30 pm**



**UTAH PHILLIPS**

**Charles River Museum of Industry**

**Enter ONLY from Pine Street • Ample free parking in Embassy Lot**  
Free admission to Museum beginning at 6:00 pm

Advance tickets available at:

Charles River Museum of Industry  
Watch City Coffeehouse  
Waltham Public Library Main Branch

Advance tickets: \$10 (\$8 for students & seniors) • Day of Show: \$12 at the door

**Call for information:**  
Charles River Museum of Industry: (617) 893-5410  
Watch City Coffeehouse: (617) 647-1055

**MUSIC FROM THE MILLS presents UTAH PHILLIPS AND PRISCILLA HERDMAN**

On Thursday, April 19th, the Watch City Coffeehouse and the Charles River Museum of Industry will co-sponsor the second in a series of "Music From The Mills" concerts, featuring Utah Phillips and Priscilla Herdman. The Music From The Mills series is dedicated to the musical heritage of Waltham's working people, past and present.

Utah Phillips is one of America's greatest storytellers, labor activists, songwriters, and all-around characters. Modestly referring to himself as the "Golden Voice of the Great Southwest", he has lately been occupied with a presidential campaign under the banner of the Sloth And Indolence Party. (If elected, he promises to do absolutely nothing.) Between his tall tales of a hobo life on the road and his pungent observations on politics, he writes some of the most honest songs of life and love since the days of Woody Guthrie. "I don't have any answers", he says of his performances, "but I have some songs and some tales and some humble truths I've picked up along the way."

Joining Utah Phillips will be Priscilla Herdman, known for her clear and sparkling voice and her powerful interpretations of contemporary songs from throughout the English-speaking world. With five albums to her credit—including an award-winning album of children's music released last year—she is known as one of the most compelling performers on the folk circuit.

The April 19th concert will be held at the museum at 7:30 PM, with free admission to the museum's exhibits for ticketholders beginning at 6 PM. Last November's inaugural Music From The Mills concert was a sellout, so we encourage you to purchase tickets in advance from one of the outlets listed opposite. For further information, please call the museum at (617) 893-5410 or the Watch City Coffeehouse at (617) 647-1055.

**OTHER WATCH CITY COFFEEHOUSE CONCERTS**

The Watch City Coffeehouse, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, is now in its third season of presenting regular concerts of contemporary and traditional folk music at the First Parish Church in Waltham, 50 Church Street. Below is the schedule for the remainder of this season. Please call (617) 647-1055 if you'd like to know more about the performers, show times, or ticket information.

March 16th — a St. Patrick's eve Celtic show with PENDRAGON

March 31st — a Saturday matinee family show with ANDY HOLINGER

April 6th — the powerful duet MAGPIE, with DAVE CROSSLAND opening

May 4th — New hampshire singer/songwriter CORMAC McCARTHY

May 18th — New Talent Night hosted by DAVID GOLDFINGER

June 1st — high energy Latin music from FLOR DE CABA, with DEAN STEVENS opening  
Sept. 7th — FRED SMALL will open the fourth season of Watch City concerts

"The Lord loveth a  
cheerful giver. He  
also accepteth from  
a grouch."



- Anonymous -

[ ] Yes, I will become a Museum Member.

Enclosed is

[ ] \$25 Individual Membership [ ] \$40 Family Membership

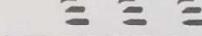
[ ] Yes, I will support the Museum with a donation of:

\$25 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



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MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

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