

MUSEUM FUNDING AT A GLANCE.

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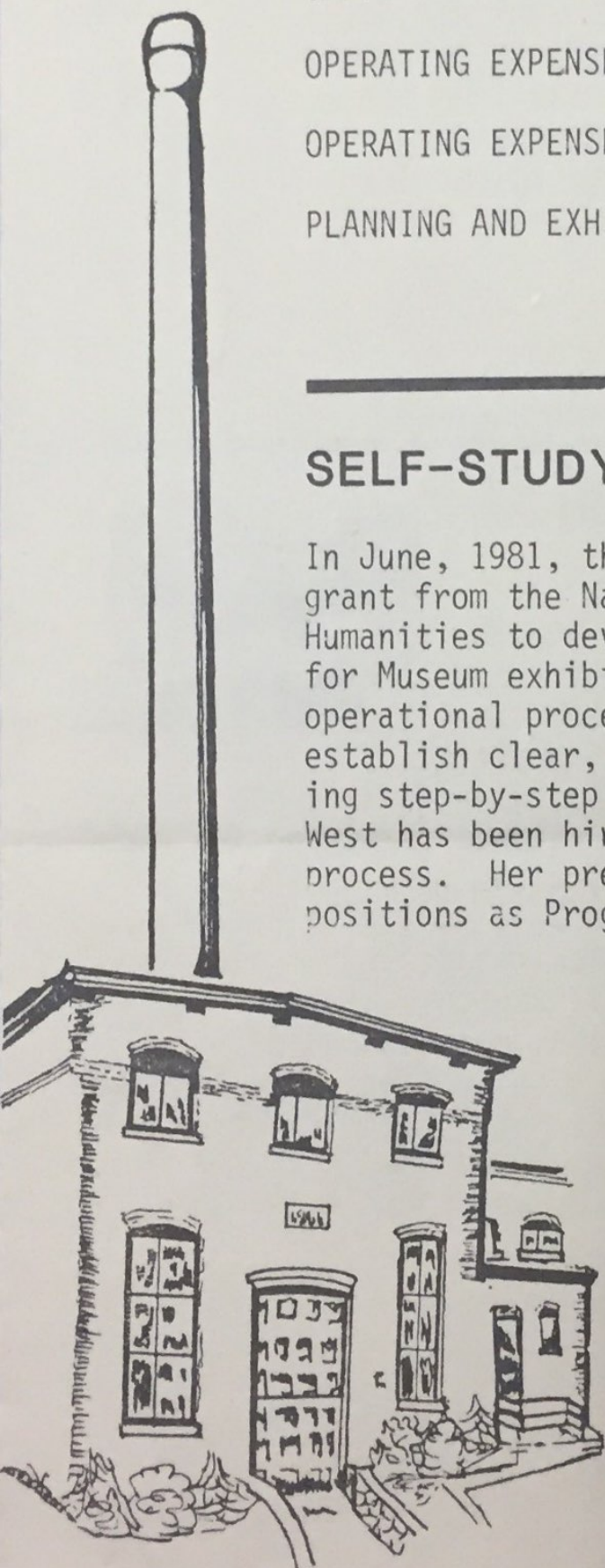
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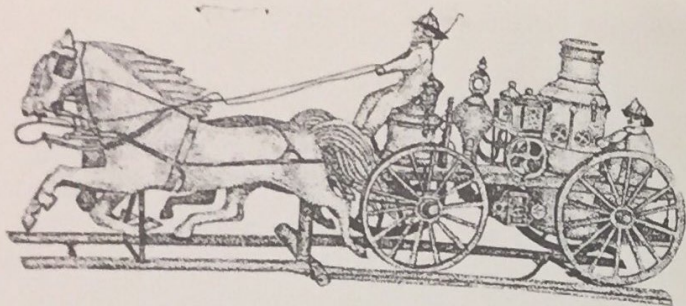
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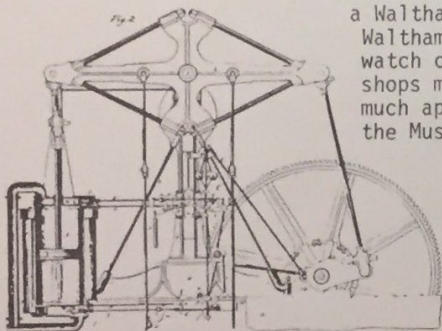
MUSEUM CATCHES FIRE! (ENGINES)

Those who attended the Open House last June will remember the two fine fire engines on display. The small hand pumper, built in Boston in 1848 by the Howard and Davis Company (the predecessor of the present Howard Clock Products Company of Waltham) is on long-term loan to us from the American Precision Museum of Windsor, Vermont. Waltham No. 1, the magnificent 1871 Amoskeag Company steam pumper (Waltham's first steam fire engine) is on loan to us from the W. H. Nichols Company. The Nichols Company has promised us five other pieces of Waltham fire equipment, now on loan to the Boothbay Railway Museum.

THE ATWOOD COLLECTION

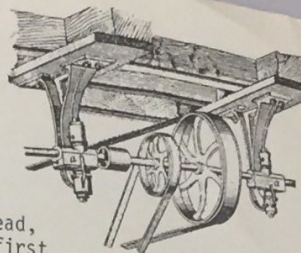
Mrs. Charles Atwood has donated to the Museum her late husband's extensive and very fine machine-making and watch repairing shops. Mr. Atwood, a Winchester industrialist, made a hobby of building model steam engines and also collected and repaired watches. The machine shop includes a large collection of antique hand tools, as well as a large marine steam engine model, partially finished.

The watch repair shop includes a Waltham-made lathe, and many Waltham watches are in the watch collection. Mr. Atwood's shops make an admirable and much appreciated addition to the Museum's collections.



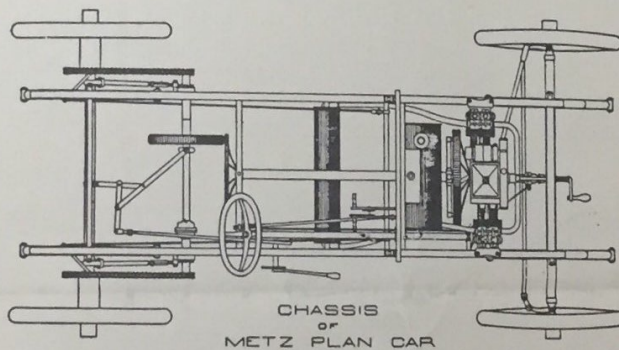
WALTHAM IN STOW

The Museum staff spent a pleasant but exhausting Sunday in October arranging and taking stock of the Waltham Dial Gage Co., of Stow. The machine shop and stock of the company have been donated to the Museum by William and Jean Woodhead, who ran the company for many years, first in Waltham and after the mid-thirties in Stow. This shop, along with the Atwood shop, will form a major part of the Museum's exhibit on machine tools.



WALTHAM IN THE MIDWEST

On our National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored trip to the Midwest to examine museums of industry, we discovered in the storage collections of Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry a Waltham-made Orient Buckboard. The Orient was the first car manufactured in Waltham. The Museum of Science and Industry has agreed to let us have the Orient Buckboard on long-term loan. It should be back home in Waltham soon!



COLLECTIONS: CATALOGS AND CARDS WANTED

The Museum wants to build up its collection of trade catalogs and business cards from the companies of the Boston area. Nineteenth and early twentieth-century trade catalogs and trade cards are a great source of information on industry, and are full of pictures that can be used in Museum exhibits. Let us know if you have any local company catalogs or trade cards, please--and remember, donations to the Museum are tax-deductible.

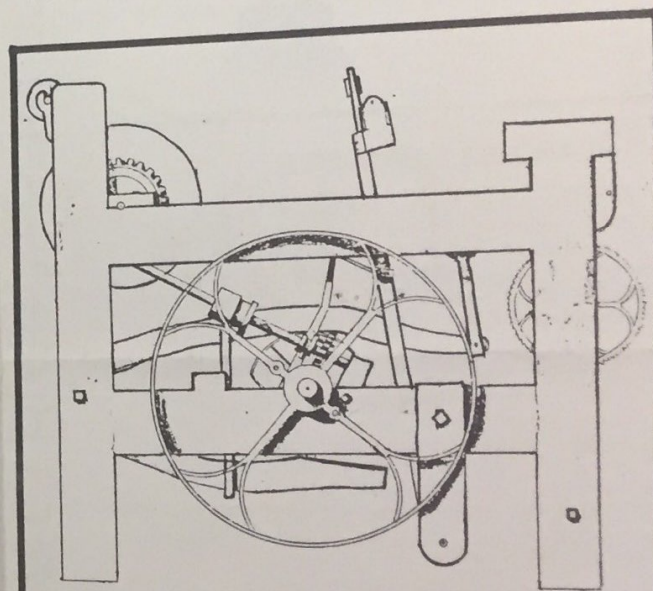


WALTHAM LOOM DRAWINGS FOUND

Until now, historians have been unable to determine what the Waltham loom--the loom responsible for the success of the Boston Manufacturing Company at Waltham--looked like. None of the early machine drawings of Francis Cabot Lowell and his chief mechanic, Paul Moody, exist, nor do any of the machines they built survive.

A piece of this gap in the record was filled recently with the identification of the drawings of Isaac E. Markham at the Sheldon Art Museum in Middlebury, Vermont. Markham, a textile machine builder, worked at several New England textile mills, including the Boston Manufacturing Company. He appears in the BMC payroll books in 1820 and 1821. While in Waltham he made drawings of a number of machines in use here. He also did a pencil and water color sketch of the mills, which is the earliest known view of the Waltham mills.

The Museum has organized a research team to analyze the Markham drawings. Copies of the drawings will be on display in the exhibit on the BMC now under construction.



Scale drawing of a Waltham cam-type power loom, drawn by Isaac E. Markham. This was the first successful American power loom, designed by Francis Cabot Lowell and Paul Moody. Drawing (c. 1820) from the Markham Papers, Sheldon Art Museum, Middlebury, Vermont.

IRATE TOURIST

The other day an irate tourist from Kansas City called the Museum to complain that she had been driving around Waltham for hours looking for the place with the exhibit of historic cameras, and why didn't we have any signs up? We explained that the Museum is not yet open to the public and that we certainly planned to have plenty of signs when we were, but how had she heard about us? She allowed as how we certainly ought to be open, because she had read that we were open in a photography magazine which urged its readers to look us up.

How did this encouraging, if premature, announcement come to be made? A call to Jack Naylor, our founding President and one of the country's foremost camera collectors, cleared things up--sort of. Last spring he had sent an announcement of our June introductory Open House to the magazine and the editor just improved the story a bit.

Thanks anyhow, and we hope y'all will come back, now!



SOLAR HEAT PROJECT

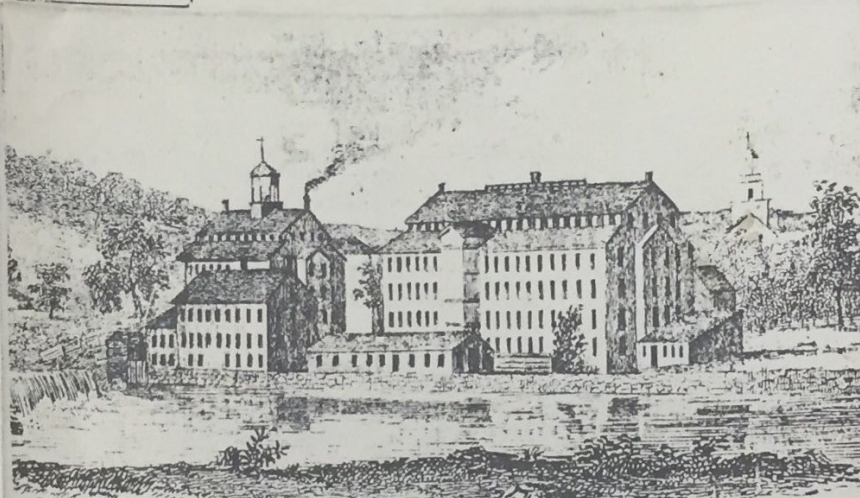
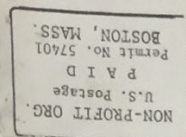
The first step toward the Museum's working energy exhibit has been taken. Bergin Construction Co. of Waltham has begun to erect a set of panels which will cover much of the south face of the Boiler House and turn that massive brick wall into a solar collector.

The structure is called a Trombe wall and is simplicity itself. A framework of two-by-threes supports three layers of clear plastic sheets about four inches off the brick wall. Sunlight passes through the plastic and heats the wall. Cool air from inside the Museum enters the space between the wall and the plastic, passes over the hot wall and is heated to about 100°, and is driven back into the Museum by a fan.

The solar project is funded by a grant of \$16,000 from the Department of Energy. We are talking with Boston Edison and Boston Gas about further developments of our energy exhibit. We may soon install photovoltaic cells which will convert sunlight directly into electricity to power the fan for the Trombe wall.

newsletter
November 1981

THE CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY



THE BOSTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY EXHIBIT

The first exhibit of the Charles River Museum of Industry, telling the story of the Boston Manufacturing Company of Waltham and its role in the industrialization of New England, is well under way. The exhibit will be located partially in the residential portion of the restored BMC mill complex, now called the "Francis Cabot Lowell Mill," and partially in the Museum, which is adjacent to the housing.

The project includes not only a permanent exhibit on the BMC but also an audio/visual presentation, a travelling exhibit, and an 8' x 12' diorama of central Waltham as it looked in the 1820's.

The \$160,000 exhibit project is funded in large part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It will be completed in time for the opening of the Museum next year. The project is being coordinated by Sandy Norman, a Ph.D. candidate in American Civilization at Brown University. She is the former Director of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society and former Head Tour Guide at the Slater Mill Historic Site in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Ms. Elizabeth Cantor
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THE CHARLES RIVER
MUSEUM OF
INDUSTRY
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