

FROM THE DIRECTOR...



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Now, to get the show on the road...

Mike Folsom

NEWSLETTER
Winter 1983

Charles River Museum of Industry



SHOPTALK



Charles River Museum of Industry

Vol. 2 No. 1, Winter 1983

PEER INSTRUCTION



RECENT VISITORS
Debbie
DiCenzo,
12th grader
at Watertown
High School,
describing
the workings
of the
Museum's
tower clock
exhibit for
Nick
Zamarrelli,
a 9th grade
blind
student.

Picking Up STEAM...

The end of an era is often the beginning of a Museum exhibit. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts no longer asks questions about reciprocating steam engines on its steam engineers licensing exam. Once the major source of industrial power in the state, there are perhaps a dozen such steam engines in operation today.

The Peterson School of Steam Engineering in Boston, deciding it could no longer house its collection of small steam engines, called the Smithsonian, which, as it frequently does, referred the School to us.

What better place for the collection, we thought, than a museum which planned to build one of its main teaching exhibits around steam power? Albert Kuehn, President of Peterson, agreed, and now we have a handsome group of machines built specifically to show the varieties of steam engine technology, some in working order, others partially cut away to reveal their operations.

DAVIS & DAVIS

Power Steering
and Metz Papers

Through the good offices of John Lothrop and the Academy of Applied Science, the Museum has received a varied and extremely important collection of materials related to the early years of the American automobile industry.

Francis Davis was an innovator in automobile equipment who for many years operated out of his own small machine shop in Waltham, where he invented what became the prototype for power steering.

The Museum has received major equipment from this machine shop, including a striking Rivett bench lathe (manufactured in Brighton), along with drawings and patterns and prototype pieces for the early power steering device. This material will become a focus for an exhibit on the process of innovation in industry.

William Morris Davis, Francis' brother, was also deeply involved in American automobile history. He worked for the Metz Company in Waltham, and many important papers from that pioneering automobile manufacturer were preserved by him. These are the only Metz Company papers we know to exist. They include charts of corporate organization, blueprints to production floor layout, calculations for wage rates, plus designs for Metz models that were never produced.



VOLUNTEER SALUTE

This month the Museum salutes two dedicated volunteers, Beatrice Drinan and Charles Woodman, both of Waltham. Beatrice, an executive secretary at Bolt Beranek and Newman, is responsible for soliciting and scheduling Mike's speaking engagements, while Charlie, a machine designer and tower clock repairman, revs up some of our machinery and helps with collections.

GRANT RECEIVED

The Museum has received a grant of \$15,000 from the George I. Alden Trust of Worcester to complete renovations to the Boiler House Exhibit Hall. Once completed, this hall will be used temporarily for education programs and for the open storage of our collections.

The grant, both generous and timely, will enable the Museum to complete needed improvements by spring, and be open for school programs this summer.

Renovations to the remainder of our facility will continue at the same time.

GOODBYE & HELLO

Shari West, the Museum's Exhibit and Education Programs Planner since 1981, has resigned her post to join the Boston Museum Design Group as Project Manager.

Shari was instrumental in developing the Museum's Exhibit Master Plan, and in planning and coordinating the "World of Work" summer workshops.



Shari West and Gene Thompson

The Museum will continue to rely on Shari and the Boston Museum Design Group for the design of its exhibits.

The Trustees and Staff wish her well in her new endeavor.

Joining the Staff in February is Gene Thompson, currently an English and Social Studies teacher at Watertown High School.

Gene, who will assume responsibility for coordinating our summer workshops, earned her Ed.M. degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her undergraduate degree from Boston College. In addition to teaching, Gene has broad based experience in career education program development and in counseling.

Also joining the Staff as Research Assistant is Peter Bernson, a recent graduate of Connecticut college, and a former intern at the Museum of Fine Arts. Peter will be responsible for researching materials for the summer workshops, and for gathering data on historic industrial sites in Greater Boston.

WEDNESDAY IS...

Remember the Prince Spaghetti commercial on T.V. showing "Anthony" running through the streets of the North End eager for supper? Well, Pistone/Matzell Advertising, originators of that commercial, have volunteered their creative services to the Museum. They recently revised the text for our fund raising brochure. We admit to being encouraged...Can it be long before Greater Boston witnesses a throng of brochure-wielding Museum Trustees charging through the streets crying out for contributions?!

Take One!

SLIDE SHOW UNDERWAY

The Museum's visitor orientation slide-show is now in production and will be ready in time for our summer education programs.

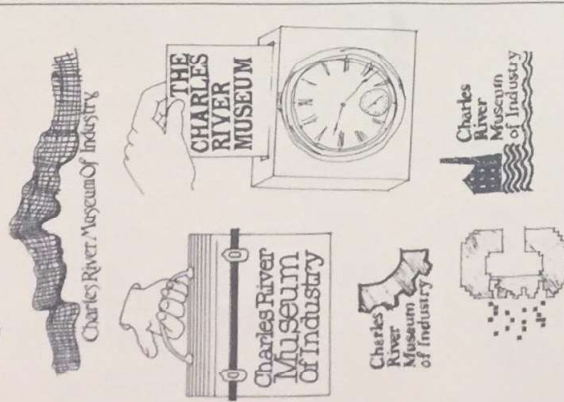
This 15-minute presentation, produced by Communications for Learning and made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will relate the history of our site to the development of industrial New England.

The show will explain how the first successful industrial corporation in America was founded here in 1813, and how its innovations in technology and economic organization

laid the basis for the growth of manufacturing throughout the region during the century to follow.

Jonathan Barkan, President of Communications for Learning, has produced two audiovisual programs on aspects of the Charles River, one for the Army Corps of Engineers and another for the Metropolitan District Commission's Charles River Dam Exhibit. Barkan and his associate, Fred Kresse, are also responsible for a series of signs to be mounted in the Historic District around the Museum, and for a brochure for a self-guided tour of the site.

Logos



DAILY AND DALY GRAPHIC DESIGN OF Brookline has generously taken on the Museum as a public service. Shown above are some early sketches of a logo design that Daly and Daly is working on for us.

NEWS BRIEFS

RUSTOLEUM CORPORATION, in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has donated more than 100 gallons of paint to the Museum for renovation and exhibit construction.

RESIDENTS of the Charles River basin should be on the lookout for a monthly series of articles appearing in the Waltham News Tribune on local historic industries. The first of the series, written by the Museum staff, ran in January and focused on the invention of chalk in Waltham.

DIRECTOR MICHAEL FOLSON has been asked on behalf of the Museum to participate in the formation of a new Waltham/Brandeis American Studies Project to study the entire history of Waltham.

NEWSLETTER
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Waltham MA 02154

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Mile Folson

This newsletter is printed through the generosity of John Beaver, and with the assistance of Kathi McCormack and Martha Gallagher.