



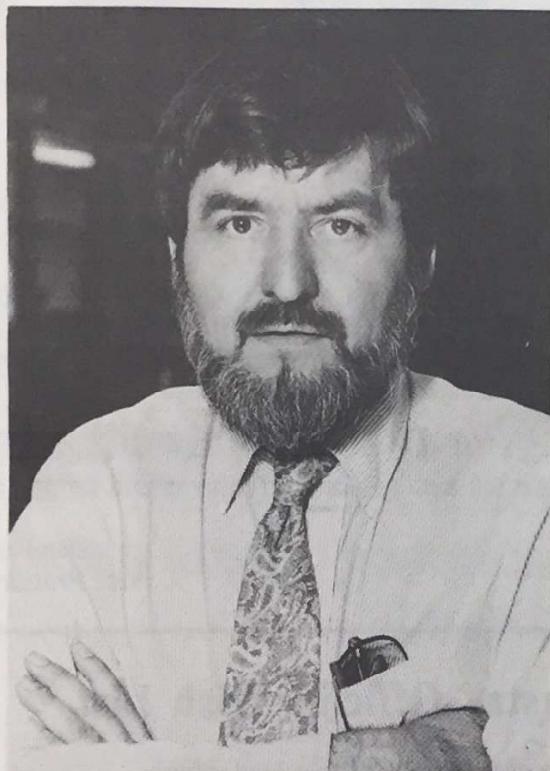
SHOPTALK

Newsletter of the Charles River Museum of Industry

154 Moody Street
Waltham, MA 02154
(617) 893-5410

Winter 1991

In Memoriam



Michael Brewster Folsom

Michael B. Folsom, Founder of the Charles River Museum of Industry, died suddenly on 12 December 1990. He was known to many for his curiosity, his interest in the way things worked, and his ability to write and speak about the way the development of technology changed people's lives. One of his special interests was teaching people about the interaction between man and machine.

His love for industrial archeology led him to study the Francis Cabot Lowell Mill in Waltham and its first occupant, the Boston Manufacturing Company. It did not take him long to realize that the mill had enormous historical significance. This

in turn led him to uncover the rich industrial history of the entire Charles River valley.

Dr. Folsom was a man with a vision. He was always a step ahead of everyone else. And so it was with the Museum — he visualized the mill as a site for a museum commemorating the history of the industries along the Charles River, and the people that worked in them. Soon, his enthusiasm caught on to those around him. Working with regional industry leaders, educators, and the local communities, he developed programs to link people to their past. The result was that people in a city that felt no special distinction suddenly took pride in their history, their heritage and their accomplishments.

In 1980 he founded and became the first Executive Director of the Charles River Museum of Industry. He was the heart and soul of the Museum. He will be sorely missed. We at the Museum have a renewed commitment to keep his dreams and legacy alive through our work, to make the Museum a worthy and enduring monument to his life and his work.

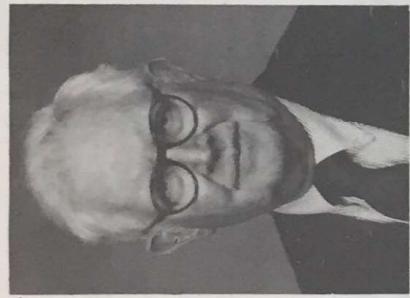
Dr. Michael Folsom leaves his wife, Dr. Marcia Folsom, Wheelock College Chair of Liberal Arts, and his sons, Jamie Folsom and Raphael Folsom. His family has established The Charles River Museum of Industry Folsom Memorial Fund in his memory. ♦

Acknowledgement

The Charles River Museum of Industry would like to thank Mary Carty and her family for the generous donation of their collection of Norumbega Park historical artifacts and memorabilia.

Take a Look!

A Message from the V.P.



Dan H. Fenn, Jr.

I have always been attracted like the proverbial moth to historical sites. So when Fred Bailey and Mike Folsom introduced me to the Charles River Museum (at the time, it was nothing but a big empty boilerhouse), I was intrigued. After all, when I first met the Kennedy Library and Museum, it was housed in a federal warehouse in Waltham.

We really do have something quite special here. To start with, of course, we have the birthplace of so much that shapes our lives today. One can actually see history move along here. The other day when I was doing my volunteer stint as caretaker and guide, I walked around the complex. It doesn't take a trained eye — and mine certainly is not — to see in the different colors of the brick and in the varying styles, the growth of the Boston Manufacturing Company. Look at the first factory, for instance. The added floor is clearly visible; the simplicity (*read cheapness*) of that very first building is evident in its plainness. Then check out the added buildings as they came along. I was struck by the 1873 addition: all kinds of purely decorative devices, sparkling in sharp contrast to the bare architecture of sixty years earlier. The building itself proclaims that "we are doing very well, thank you!"

Secondly, we have a museum which shows dramatically how many different species of trees grow from one acorn. (I know the botany is lousy, but the idea is good.) New enterprises, like the BMC, made necessary new industries like clocks and shoes and bicycles. And they, in turn, spawned cars and electronics.

It's all there, unfolding before your eyes. Come see it, think about it, enjoy it, and support it!

Dan Fenn
Vice President

Notice to Trustees and Corporators

Annual Meeting of the Charles River Museum of Industry

May 8, 1991

8:00 AM

Jackson Room, Charles River Museum of Industry
154 Moody Street, Waltham

continental breakfast will be provided

Need a Special Place for a Special Function?

The Charles River Museum of Industry
is a unique historical site to hold gatherings
large and small.

Charles River Museum of Industry Official Wish List

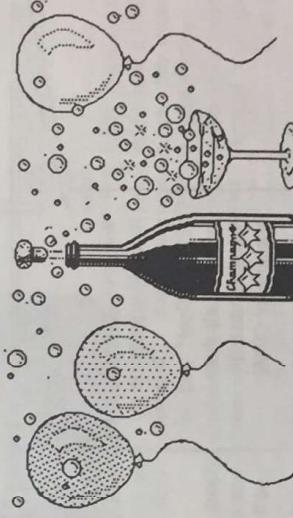
Following are items needed by the Museum; it's a great way to give to your favorite institution!

1. New or used Apple Macintosh II w/ color monitor & extra memory (approx. \$3000 new).
2. New or used Apple Macintosh SE (approx. \$1000 new).
3. New or used Apple Laserwriter (approx. \$3000 new).
4. New or used fax machine (approx. \$500 new).
5. Sponsor for newsletter(s) printing (approx. \$650) and/or postage (approx. \$350).†
6. Clerical Assistant for the office (person to work at the Museum).
7. Office supplies (e.g., file folders, scotch tape, manila and padded envelopes, etc.).
8. Two large mats for entryways (approx. \$30 ea. at Staples).
9. Bevel-edge mat cutter (approx. \$25 at Pearl Art & Craft).
10. Conservation materials (e.g., glassine envelopes, mat boards, Japanese tissue, etc.).††

If you would like more information or need help in locating the item, please contact the Museum.

† Please contact Karen LeBlanc for more information.

†† Please contact Joyce Himawan for item specifications.



Call Karen LeBlanc at (617) 893-5410 for information on rental facilities!

On Volunteering

feeling of escape from everyday routine and its infinite stress and troubles.

Volunteering is also learning. At the Charles River Museum of Industry, this is not confined to machines and other objects on display. Learning extends to the people and the relationships which one brings into being with other volunteers and Museum staff.

It is very important to realize that it is due to a group of giving people that dedicate themselves to the preservation of objects and information that we now know about our past, thus being able to have a better understanding of today and tomorrow.

So try something different. Be a volunteer at the Charles River Museum of Industry. Call for more information. ♦

Volunteering at the Charles River Museum of Industry is an experience that comprises various aspects of both personal and professional life. From the very beginning, a feeling of worthiness accompanies the volunteer during the hours he/she dedicates to the Museum. Besides that feeling of merit distinctive to volunteer work, there is also a great deal of fun in any field of interest.

New Docent Program Leads to

New Lettering on Smokestack

The new Saturday Docent Program, under the direction of Joan Sheridan and Dan Fenn, has been an extraordinary demonstration of support and commitment from the following Blue Ribbon Trustees and Volunteers:

M. Barbara MacLellan (Trustee)
Ed Mann (Volunteer)
Fred Ruland (Trustee)
Jean Salvucci (Trustee)
Joan Sheridan (Trustee)
Gregory L. Wertheimer (Trustee)
Charles Woodman (Chief Volunteer)

Brenda Capello (Trustee)
Walter Corcoran, Esq. (Trustee)
Doris Crowell (Trustee)
Dan Fenn (Trustee)
Walter Keyes (Trustee)
Karen M. LeBlanc (Staff)

We have just installed invisible lettering on the smokestack. It says "Thank You!" and is meant for all those who contribute their time and resources to CRM! Look up the next time you are in the area . . . you'll see it!

The consensus of this vanguard group is that they have learned a tremendous amount about the exhibits and have a renewed appreciation for the Museum. The experience of being exposed to visitors and witnessing their interests delights and energizes us all.

Collection Update

Calendar of Events

March

Music from the Mills, a program of Irish music featuring The Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society and Sharon Kennedy, Storyteller [doors open at 6:00 PM, show starts at 7:30 PM]

Mill Residents Family Day

April: Local Heroes Month

Fundraising Party [private function]
Local Heroes Lecture: "The Metz Family" – Albert Arena, Director, Waltham Museum [1:00 PM]

Local Heroes Lecture: "Early History of The Raytheon Co." – Norman Krim, former Vice President, The Raytheon Co. [1:00 PM]

Local Heroes Lecture: "The Stanley Brothers" – Sue Davis, Founder and Executive Director, The Stanley Museum [1:00 PM]

May: Preservation Month

CRM Open House in Celebration of Preservation Month [all day]

CRM Lecture: Max Hall, author of *The Charles, The People's River* [1:00 PM]

TBA W. H. Nichols Co. /Parker Hammitt Retirees Reunion and Family Day

Need a Unique Place for Special Events?

The Charles River Museum of Industry is a great place to hold gatherings large and small.
Call Karen LeBlanc for information on rental facilities!

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

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Collaborators on this issue of SHOP TALK —
Editor: Joice Himawan; Contributors: Dan Fenn ("Take a Look!"), Pat Hilpert, Karen M. LeBlanc ("New Docent Program Leads to New Lettering on Smokestack"), Grace Morales ("On Volunteering"), and Ralph Papino ("Collection Update"); Layout and Graphic Design: Joice Himawan.

Special thanks to the Waltham Vocational School Graphic Arts Shop Class for printing the Winter 1991 SHOP TALK.



Support the Charles River Museum of Industry!

- Yes, I want to be a Museum member!
 New Membership
 Renewal

Enclosed is \$25 for Individual Membership
 \$40 for Family Membership
 \$15 for Seniors and Students

- I would like to support the Museum with a donation of:
 \$25 \$100 \$250
 \$50 \$150 \$500
 \$75 \$200 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____



CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY
154 Moody Street • Waltham, MA 02154

Non-Profit Org.
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Boston, MA

MS. ELIZABETH CASTNER
685 TRAPELO ROAD
WALTHAM MA 02154

Museum Hours:

Thursday & Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM
and By Appointment (call 617/893-5410)