



TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

AMERICAN PRECISION MUSEUM • SUMMER 2009

Vol. 27, No. 2

The American Precision Museum is open daily 10 am - 5 pm, Memorial Day weekend through October.

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Keeping History Alive

Exciting... Engaging... The highlight of our vacation in Vermont!

These are just some of the 2008 visitor comments about *From Muskets To Motorcars: Yankee Ingenuity and The Road To Mass Production* and the working machine shop launched in 2008. Both will remain in place through October 2009. The exhibit celebrates the ingenuity of the work that began in the Robbins and Lawrence Armory in Windsor, VT with the manufacture of the 1841 Mississippi rifle and explores how the tools and techniques of precision manufacturing made mass production possible.

However, it was the working machine shop at the center of the exhibit, and our student interns from the River Valley Technical Center (RVTC) in Springfield, VT, Ben Holleran and Bryce Carter, who captured the imagination of our visitors last



Ben Holleran explaining gears to a young visitor in the working machine shop

Medora Hebert

season with their energy, enthusiasm and knowledge. They worked daily through the summer and on weekends in the fall helping visitors understand the transition in manufacturing from the mechanically operated historic machines to the computerized numerically controlled machines of today.

Christopher Gray, a trained machinist and tool-maker and an instructor at RVTC who is our partner in this project, added a new dimension this past fall. He and his students built a mobile manufacturing exposition (MME), a portable, design development and manufacturing laboratory, to take the working machine shop to schools. MME went on the road in spring 2009, bringing current manufacturing and engineering technology

A Working Machine Shop *continued on page 5*



Ed Pershey



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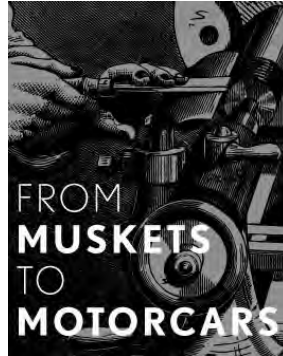
Calendar of Events 2009

EXHIBIT

Open Daily 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Memorial Day weekend through October

From Muskets to Motor Cars: Yankee Ingenuity and the Road to Mass Production

Explore the tools and products that led to mass production and see demonstrations in the working machine shop.



Saturday, July 11

FREE MUSEUM DAY

4:00 pm

George Houghton: Vermont's Civil War Photographer

Brattleboro photographer George Houghton took many poignant views of Vermont's soldiers during the Civil War. Rutland historian Donald Wickman looks at Houghton's life and the images that brought the war back to Vermont. (funded, in part, by the Vermont Humanities Council)



Courtesy of UVM Special Collections

Saturday, August 1

FREE MUSEUM DAY

Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl Football Game with VT/NH's best high school seniors

11:00 am Behind the Scenes Tour at
American Precision Museum
Noon Shriner's Parade, Main Street
2:00 pm Football game, Windsor's
Macleay-Royce Field

Thursday, August 5

FREE ADMISSION FOR TEACHERS

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Calling All Teachers

An afternoon open house with museum staff to learn more about the museum and *The Industrial Revolution in Northern New England*, a traveling education kit for grades 7-12. Call, e-mail to reserve.

Sunday, August 9

FREE MUSEUM DAY FOR CONE BLANCHARD AND GUESTS

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cone Blanchard Reunion

The museum is hosting the first Cone Blanchard day for former employees and their families. The day will begin at the museum with a special tour and continue at Windsor's new Welcome Center. Greg Sharrow, Director of Education, Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury VT will lead a panel exploring the company's role as Windsor's largest and most significant employer. Bring your own picnic. Dessert and drinks provided. RSVP to the museum.



Windsor Historical Society



All museum programs are accessible
and open to the public.

Saturday, August 15

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL WHO COME BY BICYCLE

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Vermont's Wheelmen

Vermont's Wheelmen will demonstrate riding their highwheels with displays of other antique bicycles.



The Library of Congress



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Exhibitor William Huxhold, Toronto

Saturday, October 31

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

10th annual Model Engineering Show

American Precision Museum and Windsor Community Center
Visit with New England's finest model engineers with special workshops and demonstrations throughout the day.



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Museum Trustee, Bill McCarthy

Saturday, September 26

FREE ADMISSION



Smithsonian Day at museums around the country

3:00 pm

Reinventing the Waterwheel

Sponsored by APM and the Windsor Historical Society

Presentation of conjectural drawings and historical research about the original water power system at the Robbins & Lawrence Armory. The waterwheel powered the machinery for gun manufacture and was an installation typical of an 1840s waterwheel for northern New England.

Christopher Marston, Architect, Historic American Engineering Record, Washington DC

John Johnson, Industrial Historian, Marshfield VT



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From the Chairman, Board of Trustees and the Executive Director

During the past year the museum, like everyone else in the world, faced the challenge of a major decline in the economy. However, thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters, the museum remains in healthy economic condition. As a direct result of your support, the museum has the resources to continue developing for the future. We have contingency budgets should the general economic problems persist. A society's long-term commitments are truly tested in times of stress, and often cultural resources such as museums suffer greatly. Your continued support has been, and we hope will continue to be, an essential foundation for the museum.

Just as important as financial resources are the human resources, which enable a museum to flourish. Trustees rotate off the Board each year in accordance with the museum's bylaws, and 2009 will bring the departure of several who deserve special thanks. Don Whitney has provided energy and expertise in assessing the collections. Working with former Trustee, Shirley Grainger, he has led our research inquiry program. John Ordyk has contributed deep knowledge of historic machine tools and has been a pillar of the Model Engineering Show. Don and John will continue to serve on the Collections Committee. Hub Yonkers has devoted much creativity and energy as a member of the Executive and Exhibits Committee and has been an extraordinary leader of the Development Committee. We are grateful that Hub, too, will continue his committee work. We look forward to continuing



Gilbert Whittemore
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Ann Lawless
Executive Director

Springfield Reporter

relationships with these dedicated people in their new roles.

A thriving organization attracts new talent, and thanks are due to trustees who will be completing their first year of service in July 2009. Bob Dufresne, a native of Springfield VT with a civil engineering practice in Windsor, also served his first year as Treasurer, a critical role during transitions in our bookkeeping practices and weathering the economic crisis. Carolyn Coker of Mascoma Savings Bank also brings financial

expertise to the Board. Debra Williamson's teaching and tutoring background is an outstanding asset as we expand our work with teachers.

Capable staff is essential to the smooth, day-to-day running of the museum. During her two-year tenure, thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Melissa Wilson, the museum's first collections manager, brought new standards of organization and care to our collection of over 4,000 artifacts. We wish her well at the Adams National Historical Park in

Quincy, MA. The museum is now recruiting her successor. We welcomed a new financial manager, Debra Geil, whose careful attention to detail is essential to the more visible accomplishments of the museum.

The 1846 Robbins & Lawrence Armory is our single largest artifact, and in 2008, our building maintenance efforts included new wiring and a focus on sustainability, with new, energy efficient light fixtures and a new heating system. In 2008 we completed the plan for the restoration of the building's

It is with great sadness that we learned, as we were going to press, that long-time Trustee Charlie Carter died at his home in Winchester, VA on May 15th after suffering a stroke. Carter enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the machine tool industry, which began with Heald Machine in Worcester, MA. When Heald acquired Cincinnati Milacron, the Carter family moved to Ohio where he headed research and development for the company. In 1990 he joined the Association for Manufacturing Technology and moved to Virginia as Vice President for Technology. He retired from AMT in 2003, but he remained active in the industry and was generous with his time and his support for the museum. He willingly served on many committees and provided important leadership and guidance to the museum. He will be missed by all of us, and our thoughts are with his family at this time.

masonry, and work will begin in 2009 with stabilization of the most vulnerable areas.

In 2008 we launched our new lending kit, *The Industrial Revolution in Northern New England*, for grades 7-12. Activities in the kit are linked to curriculum standards in NH and VT, and teachers rent the kit to prepare their students for a museum visit and also to explore their own communities. Last season visitors were enthusiastic about our working machine shop staffed by student interns. Thanks to the continuing partnership with the River Valley Technical Center in Springfield VT and the Vermont Department of Labor's Next Generation grant program, we are recruiting new interns for 2009.

Looking ahead, our exhibit planning project supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is now drawing to a close, and we will submit a second grant proposal to NEH to implement this plan – focused on themes of innovation, work, and craftsmanship and how Vermont's Precision Valley influenced the course of American history and culture.

These are both exciting and challenging times for small museums in rural areas like Windsor, Vermont. However, we feel fortunate and optimistic because your ongoing support and commitment makes our work possible. Thank you, and we look forward to welcoming you in 2009.

From Muskets to Motorcars *continued from page 1*

and equipment to rural elementary, middle and high schools in the Connecticut River Valley region. MME introduces students to the high tech world of modern manufacturing, enabling them to experience it directly through a variety of hands-on learning activities. While the goal of this career exploration program is to interest more students in careers in manufacturing and in RVTC's programs in particular, it has had the added benefit for the museum of introducing APM to a wider audience during the off season when our exhibits are closed. Holleran and Carter kept their skills sharp by demonstrating the historical impact manufacturing ingenuity has had on this region since before the industrial revolution. The project also helped the museum recruit new interns from among Gray's current students.

When school ends in June, the MME will return to APM in time to train the 2009 group of interns. The working machine shop will be ready for visitors during July and August. Holleran, our senior intern, will be joined by five new students. Thanks to ongoing support from the Vermont Department of Labor Next Generation program, the working machine shop has become a focal point for museum visitors who appreciate the opportunity to see machines in action and learn from the student interns operating them.



RVTC's Chris Gray with Gary Sihler and museum Trustee, Rolly Cann

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continued from page 5

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Volunteer Excellence at the American Precision Museum!

Sandy Wilson began her volunteer career with APM the minute her daughter Melissa was hired as the museum's first Collections Manager in January 2007. She came along to see what the museum was all about, and fortunately for us, she liked what she saw! She excelled as the principal framer for the *Doodles, Drafts, and Designs* exhibit, matching over 60 new prints to existing frames. After perfecting that skill, she then went on to master the art of mounting the exhibit.



Left to right: Sandy and Melissa Wilson and volunteer Pat Youden

The American Precision Museum, founded in 1966, preserves the heritage of the mechanical arts, celebrates the ingenuity of our mechanical forebears, and explores the effects of their work on our everyday lives. The museum is housed in the original 1846 Robbins and Lawrence Armory in Windsor, Vermont. The Armory was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1972. The museum holds the largest collection of historically significant machine tools in the country.

Volunteering has been part of Sandy's life for years, and she was hooked on the museum after that experience! She returned for her next project as Melissa's #1 data entry person for the Collection Information Project. She was responsible for entering over 3,500 artifacts into the museum's database. Her typing skill of over 85 wpm certainly made the job a little easier!

Sandy grew up in Reading, PA and moved to Washington, DC and a career with the Federal government. After marrying Dave who was with the State Department, they were overseas for six years living in Liberia, Japan and Burma. Returning home, they settled in Virginia where Sandy worked for AAA Travel, and Dave continued with the State Department. Because New England had always been a Wilson family vacation destination, New Boston, NH felt just right when Dave retired.

Now that daughter Melissa has left the museum to return to the Adams National Historic Park in Quincy, MA, sadly Sandy is no longer making the trip from New Boston to Windsor. Fortunately, the Wilson 'team' worked so well together that the Collections Information Project for which Melissa was hired, is well ahead of schedule. The museum said a sad farewell to both Melissa and Sandy on April 16th with the hope that Sandy could be enticed to return – especially to help with any picture framing that might be needed in the future!

Volunteers 2008

The museum is very grateful to all our volunteers. Some of them are here weekly, and others come just for an event or a project. However, each brings a special perspective to their work here, and we are very grateful for that.

We also want to acknowledge our dedicated Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors who continue to go that extra mile for the museum whenever they are asked.

Without such a dedicated volunteer commitment from so many, the American Precision Museum would be a very different place. We acknowledge and thank them all for their continued good will and commitment.

Ruth Carter	Mike Riviezzo
Ruth and Paul Doiron	Clay Washburn
Joseph Gresser	Larry Welker
Byron Knapp	David and Sandy Wilson
Pam Levesque	Steve Wright
Steve Moore	Herb Yohe
Charles Nettleship	Pat Youden



Rolly Cann, trustee and long-time volunteer, working on a machine.

Financials

Condensed Balance Sheets*

for the years ended April 30, 2007 and April 30, 2008

	2007	2008
ASSETS		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 17,881	\$ 14,339
Grant receivables	254,186	378,013
Other current assets	6,172	8,805
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	854,351	820,887
Investments	1,181,019	1,322,844
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,313,609	\$ 2,544,888
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities	\$ 21,077	\$ 10,790
Unrestricted net assets	1,150,956	1,357,055
Temporarily restricted net assets	324,034	394,517
Permanently restricted net assets	817,542	782,526
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 2,292,532	\$ 2,534,098
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 2,313,609	\$ 2,544,888

Condensed Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets*

for the years ended April 30, 2007 and April 30, 2008

	2007	2008
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 635,975	\$ 542,408
Admissions	19,567	17,400
Memberships	21,168	25,703
Investment income	42,384	52,626
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	64,244	(26,569)
Other income, net	12,227	7,844
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 795,565	\$ 619,412
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 133,630	\$ 176,453
Depreciation	39,371	45,522
Occupancy, insurance and maintenance	18,634	23,965
Office and publication costs	29,294	32,245
Professional services	6,610	14,360
Contracted services	28,648	34,379
Other expenses	47,167	50,922
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 303,354	\$ 377,846
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES		
EQUALS CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 492,211	\$ 241,566

*Complete reviewed 2008 and 2007 financial statements with accompanying notes and opinions are available at the museum office.

2008 Report on Giving

It is with appreciation that we recognize in this *Report on Giving* all who have contributed so generously to the museum in 2008. Each gift we receive helps to preserve and maintain the Robbins & Lawrence Armory and our historically significant machine tool collection.

We also want to thank those generous donors who continue to remember the American Precision Museum with gifts of rare machines, such as the Jones, Lamson Co. profiler/edge miller built in the Robbins & Lawrence Armory between 1869 and 1876 and the L.S. Starrett Engraving Machine, circa 1900.

To our many donors and friends, it is your legacy of support that makes our work possible. Thank you.

E. Hubbard Yonkers

Chair, Development Committee

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSE GIFTS

(January 1 - December 31, 2008)

Robbins & Lawrence Society (\$2,500 +)

James and Nancy Farley
Anonymous
Douglas M. Loudon
Dorothy M. Morris
Jane Osgood and
Ted Hilles
Rick and Linda Roesch
Estate of M. Allen Swift

Mill Brook Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Precision Valley Society (\$500 - \$999)

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Steven Carter
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In Memory Of

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Sid Lane
Shirley Lane
Syd Spaulding
John Snarski
Wes Unruh
Gordon Fitch
Peter Williamson
Debra Williamson

We encourage you to bring any mistakes or omissions to our attention so that we may correct our records accordingly. Thank you.

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Michael Wilkie

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(deceased)
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Members continued from page 9

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This has some additional tax benefits to your estate. Distributions from IRAs and other retirement plans represent taxable income to the recipient, but when the recipient is the American Precision Museum, no income tax is due. Like bequest provisions, gifts to the American Precision Museum from retirement plan assets are fully deductible from your taxable estate and can thus represent both income tax savings and estate tax savings.

Acquisitions to the Collections

Engine Lathe, ca 1900, J. Birkenhead Company, Mansfield, MA
 Stephen Brown
 Engraving Machine, ca 1900, L.S. Starrett Company, Athol, MA,
 Douglas Starrett
 Planer, hand-operated, ca mid-to-late 1800s
 E. Hubbard Yonkers
 Grinding stone used in the Mill Brook shops, ca 19th century,
 Windsor, VT
 Rockingham Area Community Land Trust

DONOR PROFILE

Jim Farley

Jim Farley was introduced to the museum through his association with the Association for Manufacturing Technology and Andy Ashburn, the late editor of *American Machinist*. Farley was an active Trustee in the museum's early days under Ed Battison, APM founder. "Ed had a vision for what was to become the American Precision Museum. AMT and *American Machinist*, together with some of the biggest names in the industry, were instrumental in making that vision a reality," says Farley. "There was a great deal of interest, enthusiasm and support for the museum back then. We all felt the potential for success was enormous."

Those were the early days at the museum with the involvement of some of the giants of the industry like Fay Kingsbury and Ralph Flanders of Jones & Lamson. After a few years, Farley felt the museum was losing its focus, and he resigned from the Board. However, he did not lose touch and always visited when he was in the area. Charlie Carter, a friend from AMT and a museum Trustee, kept him up to date. Farley continues, "When Charlie Carter called to ask me to serve on the newly-formed Board of Advisors, I said yes. From the newsletters and communications with the museum, I could tell that things were turning around, and it was time to get involved again."

In 1950, as a new electrical engineering graduate from Northwestern University in Evanston IL, he joined General Electric in Schenectady NY. Then came the Korean War and service in the Army Signal Corps at White Sands Proving Grounds NM. His unit was assigned to track rockets as they were fired at the test grounds. "That was quite an experience," Farley says, "There we were – 450 engineers – trying to figure out how to track rockets using World War II radar sets under the leadership of two regular Army officers who knew nothing about engineering or the project at



Jim Farley

hand." Farley continues, "In his previous post, our company commander had led the last carrier pigeon unit in the Signal Corps, and the First Sergeant had supervised some 500 WACS in London during WW II. Somehow it all worked! We were quite an outfit, but, as engineers, we got the job done."

After Korea, he worked briefly for Allen Bradley and then joined a start-up company SpeedLap, later renamed SpeedFam, manufacturing lapping and polishing machines. There Farley pioneered 'hollow manufacturing' since all the parts for the SpeedFam machines came from outside vendors, and the company owned no machine tools itself. SpeedFam designed the machines and purchased the parts. The company then assembled and tested everything and provided all the service, taking full responsibility for the final product.

Farley recognized early on the importance of the company having a global presence, and he established operations in England, West Germany and Switzerland and then Asia. In the 60s, he formed a joint venture with the Obara Corporation, a Japanese company manufacturing resistance welding equipment for the Japanese automobile industry, which also utilized SpeedFam's

'hollow manufacturing' system. "We opened offices in Taiwan, South Korea, China and India," says Farley. "Success came from the combination of good Japanese management and a cooperative and comfortable working relationship with my Japanese partner. This led to sales that eventually exceeded those of the US operation."

In the early 90s, SpeedFam began to market equipment for making semiconductors, and this new market greatly expanded opportunities for growth. After taking the company public, then came a merger with a competitor. SpeedFam-IPEC was later sold to Novellus Systems, a well-established semiconductor equipment manufacturer.

Today, Farley and his wife Nancy are enjoying retirement and their large family of 14 grandsons, 2 granddaughters, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Reunions come every two years gathering family from France, California, Chicago, Ohio, and Phoenix.

"I am enjoying this reinvolvement with the American Precision Museum. Good things are happening to preserve and tell the story of the machine tool industry and the giants of that industry who made it all happen," continues Farley. "I am happy to be in a position to make a difference for the museum. It is a great place with one of the most significant collections of machine tools in the country."



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