

The Clerestory

Sculptors in Steel Exhibit Will Run Until May 31st.

The Attleboro Area Industrial Museum (AAIM) has created an exhibit titled "Die Makers - Sculptors in Steel" as a salute to the extremely talented artists of the Attleboro area jewelry industry. Working in solid steel, these artisans created amazingly detailed hubs and dies that were used to manufacture large quantities of beautiful items. This exhibit features the work of Ralph Cote, a talented die maker who lived in Norton Massachusetts.

If you are a die maker or acquainted with one or just have an interest in this art form, come to the AAIM to view this exhibit. The AAIM is located at 42 Union Street in Attleboro and is open to the public on Thursday and Friday from 10 AM to 4PM. Visits and tours for groups can be arranged by calling the museum at 508-222-3918.

Attleboro Cultural Council Provides Grant To Fund AAIM Elementary School Program

The Attleboro Cultural Council awarded AAIM a grant to fund "History to Go". The program, geared toward third grade classes, is transported to the various Attleboro Elementary Schools. The program includes the history of the Attleboro area from the discovery of America to the present time. There is an emphasis on Attleboro's evolution from agriculture to the cotton mills, jewelry production, and the industries of today. Local companies such as The Attleboro Jewelry Outlet and Guyot Brothers Company, Inc. made contributions that provide the children with a hands-on jewelry-making experience as part of the program. AAIM thanks the Attleboro School System for allowing implementation of this program and the warm and cooperative reception the program has received.



Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, Inc.

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Special points of interest:

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- *Look for a a "Thank You!" reception for members in June.*

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Do You Remember Coopers Pond?

Cooper's Pond is a lovely pond located in the woods near Pleasant Street in Attleboro. In the early 1900s, it boasted a large icehouse and was the center of a thriving ice harvesting business. Do you remember having an icebox in your kitchen? I do! At the March 21st meeting of the North Attleboro Historical Society, AAIM Director, George Shelton, gave a lecture on the ice harvesting industry, the icebox, and local ice harvesting industry. The program included a video featuring ice-cutting operations on Cooper's Pond in 1930, along with several artifacts from the Cooper's Pond operation. This video is available for viewing at the museum.



Cooper's Pond Today

Spring 2005 Ring Class Underway

The AAIM "Make Your Own Wedding Ring" Class is now meeting weekly under the direction of resident silversmith, John Szymac. Students create unique ring designs in wax that are later cast in precious metal to produce one of a kind rings, the family heirlooms of tomorrow. Channel 5 "Chronicle" featured this unique program recently, thereby generating increased interest in the museum.

Happy Anniversary AAIM!

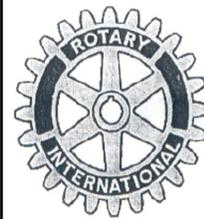
July 4, 2005 will be the 30th anniversary of the AAIM. With a vision for historic preservation, AAIM was incorporated by Emilio Gautieri, Elizabeth Phillips, William Ward, Jerome Coogan, George Gibb, and August Schaefer. The generous gift of a complex of buildings at 42 Union Street by the Handy and Harmon Company made possible the creation of a repository of both civic and industrial history. Thousands of artifacts, archive documents, and photographic images are being preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Happy Anniversary AAIM! We plan to move into the future with programs and exhibits that showcase Attleboro's rich history.



The AAIM is for kids.

What would interest kids at the AAIM? They could make chain on an 80-year-old chain making machine and taking a piece of chain home. They can also see a demonstration of how early silversmiths shaped metal, operate a hand powered brocading machine (while learning about brocading), try their hand at measuring with a micrometer, use a 1950s shadowgraph, see a punch press punch metal, learn about findings, and more. The museum has become a destination for school groups, cub scouts, and family groups. Kids are welcome at the AAIM. Visits and tours can be arranged by calling the museum at 508-222-3918. We are open to the public on Thursday and Friday from 10AM to 4PM.

Rotary Grant Will Preserve Attleboro's Historic Images



Rotary Club of
Attleboro

The Rotary Club of Attleboro awarded a generous \$4,000 grant to the AAIM for the purchase of computerized storage and reproduction of our large collection of slides, photos, and glass plate negatives. The grant will be used to purchase a high-end scanner, printer, a high storage capacity server, a computer, and associated software. This system will allow historic images to be quickly accessed and reproduced for research and publication purposes, while preserving the original collection. Thank you Attleboro Rotary!

Who's In Charge?

Let me introduce myself. I am George Shelton, Executive Director of the AAIM since 2004. I am a retired teacher from the Norwood School System. I hold a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education and have lived in Attleboro for 36 years. Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the AAIM is an active organization in the community with artifacts, programs, and exhibits that highlight Attleboro's rich history. Let me encourage you to visit us and see for yourself how we are preserving and passing on the history of Attleboro.

Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, Inc.

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Executive Director, George Shelton



It is the mission of the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, Inc. (AAIM) to collect and preserve the artifacts, photographs, documents, publications, tools, and machinery that relate to the industrial history of the Attleboro area; to make these materials readily available for both research and enjoyment; and to act as a resource center for the education of the public about the industrial history of the Attleboro area, so that knowledge of the past may contribute to a fuller understanding of the present and inspiration for the future.

AAIM was incorporated on July 4, 1975 as the City of Attleboro's Bicentennial Project.

Board members include:

William H. Adair, Jr.
William Hannan
Brian S. Neily
Charles Thomae
Bette Fuller

Steve Reynolds
Gerald J. Keane
Kenneth H. Tenglin
Sylvia Witschi

Emilio Gautieri, Jr.
Daniel G. Larson
Rose Larson
Nancy Young

Let Us Introduce Ourselves!!

You now hold in your hands the official newsletter of the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum!

The Clerestory will be issued to update you on the latest news at AAIM. It is entitled "The Clerestory" for two reasons. It will give you the "clear story" about the latest news at the Museum, and, it is named for the beautiful clerestory windows that run down the center of the roof of the main building. The following quote from the MA Historical Commission aptly describes AAIM's clerestory: "This small industrial brick building built in 1899 has been recycled into an Industrial Museum. Unlike numerous industrial buildings in Attleboro, this structure is but one story high with an unusually tall monitor roof, unconsciously reiterating the shape of the building it tops. These monitor roofs were developed as early as 1793 when a 'long dormer or monitor' was placed in the middle of the roof of the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. By the second decade of the 19th century, this dormer developed into a 'clearstory monitor' which appeared in most of the mills of the 19th century for it was an efficient way to provide light and ventilation in large buildings. The fenestration of this utilitarian building is particularly fine." Please visit AAIM for more info about the history of the building and the Attleboro Refinery Company which it housed.



The AAIM clerestory monitor window during renovations in August, 1979. Photo taken by Elizabeth Hartshorn Phillips.