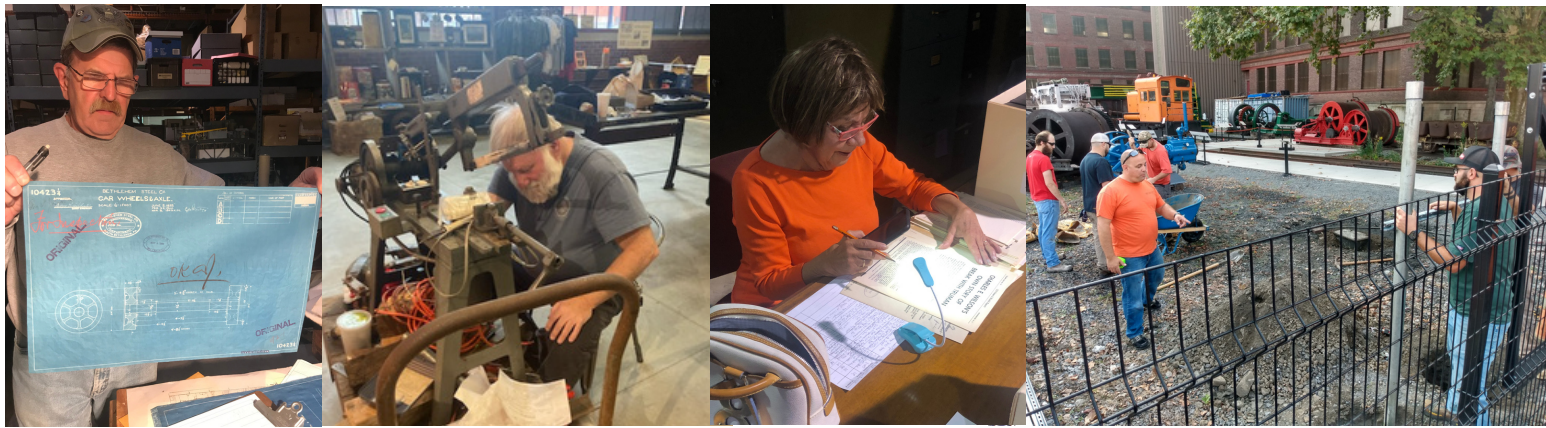


N M I H

National Museum of Industrial History

THE MUSEUM MESSENGER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 19th 11am-3pm
FAMILY FUN: S.T.E.A.M.
Adventures- Be an Inventor!

Feb. 19th 12pm-3pm
FAMILY FUN: Metal Melting
for Kids!

Feb. 25th @ 1pm
LECTURE: The President
Pumping Engine with Mark
Connor

Mar. 5th 12pm-3pm
FAMILY FUN: Metal Melting
for Kids!

Mar. 12th @ 11:30 & 2:30
DEMO: The Corliss Comes
Alive

Mar. 19th 11am-3pm
FAMILY FUN: S.T.E.A.M.
Adventures- Rosie the
Riveter

Mar. 19th 12pm-3pm
FAMILY FUN: Metal Melting
for Kids!

Mar. 25th @ 1pm
LECTURE: The History That
Speaks for Itself: Textile
Industry and Needle Trades
in the Lehigh Valley

**For more information
about upcoming programs,
check out our website at
www.nmih.org/**

NEW IN THE SHOP!

Local Artist Sergei Yaralov wood prints are NEW at the Museum Shop! Twenty different designs of Bethlehem, hand painted by Sergei and then printed onto a wood block. Small and large sizes are available (\$20 & \$35 respectively).



NMIH RECEIVES NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANT FOR CAPITAL EXPANSION

The National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of its Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant: Capital Projects program.

“I am proud that the National Museum of Industrial History is located in our region—one with a rich history as an epicenter of American manufacturing and innovation,” said Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA07). “NMIH is an excellent institution deserving of this support and I look forward to the expansion of their exhibits.”

NEH grants help preserve America’s rich history and cultural heritage, and encourage and support scholarship and innovation in history, archaeology, philosophy, literature, and other humanities disciplines. Grants are highly competitive and involve a rigorous peer-review process to ensure that the projects represent the highest level of humanities quality and public engagement.

“Expanding onto our previously undeveloped second floor will enable NMIH to tell a more diverse and inclusive story of the transformative role of our industrial past, present and future through dynamic exhibits, engaging programs, special events, and robust educational offerings,” said Kara Mohsinger, President & CEO of NMIH. “We are so grateful for the generous support and the opportunity to leverage this grant to raise matching funds for the project.”

The National Museum of Industrial History’s mission, in affiliation with the Smithsonian Institute, is to forge a connection between America’s industrial past and the innovations of today by educating the public and inspiring the visionaries of tomorrow. The main objective of the expansion project is to increase space for exhibits, programming and events that will educate and inspire while promoting visibility for both the Museum and the region as a vital and vibrant destination for visitors and locals alike.

MEET OUR FIRST BARNETTE INTERN

A Moravian University junior with a long love of history is working with the museum as the first Barnette Intern.

Brendon Ward, class of 2024, spends about 20 hours a week learning the many aspects of the museum's activities. He is currently helping to catalog the hundreds of thousands of documents, photographs, films and other records of the past at the museum's archives. The internship comes with a stipend to support student research and is sponsored by Curtis "Hank" Barnette, Chair Emeritus of the museum's Board of Directors and of Bethlehem Steel Corporation, and his wife Joanne Barnette.

A native of Emmaus, Brendon selected Moravian for his college career because of his ability to self-design a major that focuses on history, archeology and anthropology. "I envisioned teaching history as a career but realized I didn't want to spend my days in a classroom," he said. A summer 2021 archeological dig in Denmark fueled his passion to "dig" into the past to preserve and learn from it. When not engaged in academic pursuits, Brendon can be found training and competing with the Moravian track and cross country team events and listening to music with friends.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to acquire this long-term base of professional knowledge," Brendon said. The Barnette Internship is open to college students with interests in history and related fields.

Application deadline is May 31.
Contact info@nmih.org for further information.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ERIC QUIMBY



Eric worked at Bethlehem Steel for 13.5 years! His adventure began after he graduated from Temple University with a degree in Documentary Film Making. He was interested in working in the company's filming department and secured an interview at Martin Tower. He specifically remembers being amazed at the opulence of the building. Unfortunately, the filming department had recently been disbanded, so Eric applied for a laborer position. He started at the Brass Foundry, and he was astounded at the environment and the dangerous working conditions.



Did you know that the Silver Suit that workers used to wear during pours was shared amongst all the workers and never cleaned? Ick! Eric didn't know that either until he was promoted and told to put it on. It made him physically sick, so he applied for a laborer position in No.2 Machine Shop and was transferred. He started out sweeping and shoveling chips and then moved on to Floorhand and Shop Receiver. Eric enjoyed being a Floorhand immensely; he liked the process of degreasing and polishing production pieces.

Eric's favorite part of our museum is our building! He loves the riveted construction and the fact that it could be repurposed. This is no surprise seeing that one of his major interests is artifact preservation. Eric works at the Reading and Northern Railroad, where three generations of his family before him worked.

Eric likes to explore abandoned places and collect cool items to sell in our gift shop. He has donated many unique items, including vintage glass railroad insulators and lots of railroad spikes – like the one he is “smoking” in this picture! He also enjoys making art from scrap iron and steel. Come and see his collection!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Long before the internet, online news sites, 24/7 cable and streaming services, people learned what was going in their world from daily newspapers, limited television, radio broadcasts and Congressional hearings.

Those were the Communications vehicles the nine large steel companies of 1952 used to try to persuade the public to support the companies as they locked out the United Steelworkers over a wage dispute.

The mills took a lengthy strike, and to sway public opinion the companies waged an all-out media blitz to support their position for wage limitations. Engaging Hill and Knowlton, the leading U.S. public affairs and opinion company of that era, the steel companies used the full range of media to pressure the union to return workers to their jobs without any further impact to their families or communities. In that era, every steel company job created at least three in support of the mills their communities.

The museum's archives contain hundreds of binders with thousands of documents that are being cataloged. When museum curator Andria Zaia gave a box of binders to archive volunteer Bette Kovach, "Her eyes nearly popped out of her head," said Andria. As a longtime employee of Bethlehem's Steel's public affairs department, Bette was involved daily in managing news of the company for 27 years. "To see the full orchestration of a large-scale public opinion campaign conducted before I was born is magical."

In the end, President Harry Truman ordered the mills back to work, and that conflict created the animosity between labor and management that led to the 116-day strike of 1959. "I can't wait to get into that box of news clippings...: Bette exclaimed.

NMIH APPLAUDS THE RECOVERY OF AN HISTORIC STEAM BOILER

BETHLEHEM, PA – 122 years ago, Gottlieb Buehler acquired a steam boiler from the shuttered Friedensville, Lehigh County, zinc mines. The boiler, essentially a giant enclosed tube in which water was boiled into steam, was a perfect choice to serve as a water tank for Buehler’s brand-new furniture factory on Front Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The massive 30-foot-long tank was placed in the middle of the factory building basement during its construction with no obvious way to remove, move, or replace. Built in Philadelphia about 1870, the rivetted boiler was one of 22 which were required to operate the famous President Pumping Engine. This engine was scrapped in 1900 following the mine’s closure and the boiler was available for this new purpose. Once in the factory basement, the tank was in water service until recently as the building is now scheduled for demolition as part of the Manhattan Building Company’s Riverfront Lofts development.

Thanks to the support and donation of the tank by the Manhattan Building Company, the recovery of the tank by Lehigh University and the support of community advocates and the National Museum of Industrial History, the tank was successfully turned 90 degrees in the basement and lifted out of the building through a hole cut through the ground floor using specialized lifting and moving equipment. Lehigh University’s contractor performing the work, Bean Inc. Contractors, then carefully placed the tank onto a flatbed trailer operated by R.E. Daumer Trucking, and transported the tank to an inside storage location at the former New Jersey Zinc mine location on Camp Meeting Road in Upper Saucon Township. The property is owned by Lehigh and was acquired as a gift from the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation in 2012.

The plan is to eventually have the tank restored and on display in front of the engine house where it was first located and which once held The President Pumping Engine. The President Pumping Engine location at the Ueberroth mine site in Friedensville, Upper Saucon Township, was approved for a PA historic roadside marker to be placed at this property on Old Bethlehem Pike just last month. The property, which is part of Stabler Pathways, is unimproved and restricted, but Lehigh is developing options to stabilize and repair the engine house and allow public access. Lehigh has obtained grant support through matching funds for structural evaluations, construction repair documents and conceptual designs from both the Louis J. Appell, Jr. Preservation Fund for Central Pennsylvania of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Keystone Historic Preservation Grant program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to the boiler, Lehigh was also able to recover wood beams from the floor supports which will be used to replace failing lintels in the surviving engine house ruins.

“This is a great day for all the people who have worked hard on behalf of the recognition and preservation of the remaining assets of The President Pumping Engine. As the only metal artifact remaining of this famous engine, recovery of this historic boiler is a major milestone,” said Kara Mohsinger, President and CEO, the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH). “We applaud the foresight of the Manhattan Building Company and Lehigh University and their generous support in saving this unique remanent of our industrial history and invite visitors to come and see our new display at the museum on The President, which includes a working scale model of the engine.” Mike Piersa, NMIH Historian, added, “An intact stationary steam boiler from the 1870s is an extremely rare find. Most boilers of that era were melted down, having been replaced due to obsolescence, corrosion, or scrap drives during the 20th century World Wars. Due to its obscure location and continued use as an integral part of the building’s water supply infrastructure, this boiler turned tank beat the odds and now we can celebrate its survival, and eventual return to its first home. The boiler was made in one of the preeminent iron works along the Philadelphia waterfront which led the city to be known as the Workshop of the World.”



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