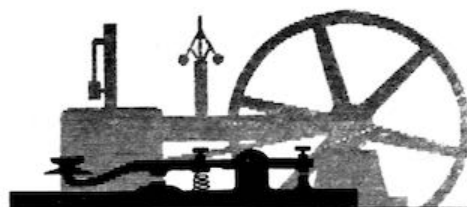


# THE NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM OF WIRELESS AND STEAM, INC.

Tillinghast Road, East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818  
Robert W. Merriam, Director/Telephone 401 884-1710



## 1982 REPORT

This museum's life goes on vigorously. It takes energy to rescue large engines from remote places. We are fortunate to have energetic people who can bring rare beauties back to East Greenwich. Plenty of energy goes into other activities at the museum as well.

### Activities

Last Sunday the tenth anniversary carol sing took place. The house was full. Townspeople and friends braved a blizzard to celebrate both the season and the day ten years ago when the old meeting house rolled majestically on to its new site on the museum grounds. We further celebrated having the meeting house put on the National Register. Jim Essex once again led the singing accompanied by Peg Sumney on the old pump organ, both performing with skill and enthusiasm.

Other recent activities included weddings, visitations by radio clubs, boating groups, school groups, and the '82 YANKEE STEAM-UP which was perhaps the best yet; at least that is what a number of kind people said when the day was over. The weather, the fascinating displays and the visitors were superb. Superb is also the only word for the help of the many museum volunteers.

Director, Dick Hanson, prepared the foundation for the 100HP vertical boiler which Charles A. Moore III arranged. This huge boiler was able to run all the large engines simultaneously. Director, Dan Fay, served again as Engineer of the Works insuring smooth running of all machinery. Other workers at Steam-Up were Carol Anderson, Jeff Berry, Louise and Merrill Budlong, Barbara and Dick Day, Valerie and Rick Day, Louise and Bill Fay, Dave and Caroline Kernan, Walt Olney, Herman Hanson, and Steve Hollister.

The Corliss Chapter of The National Association of Power Engineers once again did a splendid job manning the refreshment stand Steam-Up Day. Bob, Cathy, Sue and Sandy Savory, Tom Halliwell, Fred Pendlebury, Bob Mogey, Charlie Costello, Dick Boucher and Jack Woolf were the mainstays of the NAPE crew. Every year the NAPE generously donates the profit it realizes from its member's hard labor at the refreshment stand to the benefit of the museum. The directors are deeply grateful for

this sizable help.

### Accessions

The museum has been the honored recipient of several important gifts. Mr. Ed. G. Raser, W2ZI, presented his extensive library of wireless history to the museum. Ed has lived wireless professionally as a radio engineer and non professionally as a radio amateur since his teens. Ed has won about every historian's award in the field of radio. His knowledge has come from experience and study; the size and quality of his collection of books is what you would expect from someone with his fame in the field. The addition of Ed's books to this museum's library marks a significant advance in its status. The directors thank you, Ed, for your thoughtful gift.

The next two important accessions have sadly come about through the passing of two long time museum friends; one in the field of radio and one in the field of steam engineering.

Mr. Richard H. Kaufmann, K2DMR, was present at the opening ceremony in 1964 and he has been a good friend ever since. Dick held the rank of Fellow in the IEEE. He was an engineer among engineers. We are grateful to Dick and Mrs. Kaufmann for the gift of his library and several important pieces of early equipment. The other good friend that we have lost was John Young of the NAPE. John left his extensive collection of steam books and memorabilia to the museum.

Mrs. Gerald F. J. Tyne presented the museum several important pre WW I American Marconi Co. engineering drawings. One is a splendid detailed detector design.

Big things have been happening in the steam department. Bob Vogel, head of the machinery division of the Smithsonian and John Bowditch of similar responsibilities at the Henry Ford Museum led us to an unusual triple expansion Herreshoff engine in the bowels of the old Phelps Dodge plant in Brooklyn, N. Y. It is a large engine, perhaps 1000 HP when under high pressure steam. It is of the type used in Spanish American War torpedo boats. Getting it into the steam building was a delicate shoe horn job done masterfully by director, Dick Hanson.

Another interesting engine to arrive recently is a two cylinder textile printing machine engine. This engine was built by Granger in Providence sometime near the end of the nineteenth century. With the addition of these two engines the museum now has seven large stationary engines which were Rhode Island built. What we need to round out the collection is an Armington Sims and a Greene.

The next museum accession is spectacular both in size and historical importance. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cellemme of Narragansett, R. I. have given the two and one half story station house of the old Point Judith coast wireless station, call letters, "PJ". This station house is perhaps the oldest building built expressly for a wireless station surviving in the world. "PJ" was in operation from 1903 through 1910. It was the key station of the MASSIE WIRELESS TELEGRAPH SYSTEM. Massie beat Marconi in outfitting all the vessels of a single steamship line with wireless. The Fall River Line has this distinction.

To a radio man, going into Massie's station is like going into a time machine. The site is among the dunes right on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The building is remarkably unaltered from the day it was built. The interior is entirely finished in narrow tongue in groove varnished siding. The place for the antenna lead-in is as it was when built, large Elektrose insulators of an uncommon type used to hold the 200 foot wooden lattice tower were still stored under the building, spare foil covered glass plate condensers were in the attic along with extra heavy copper antenna wire. Buried in the sand are numerous Edison LaLande primary cells and lead sheathed power cables to the separate battery house for in those days there was no commercial power to that desolate site.

The station has two rooms up stairs and two similarly sized rooms down stairs. It is our purpose to restore the Massie wireless equipment as it was in one of the up stairs rooms. The other three rooms will provide much needed office space and additional display space.

The acquisition of this building is an exceptional event. Moving it to the museum twenty miles away will be no easy task but we will do it. The concrete foundation with full cellar is now ready. The moving crew consists of Jeff Berry, Mark Beezer, Charles A. Moore III, Jonathan Stevens with Mr. R. B. Hanson providing the engineering wisdom. All these men are old hands in conquering challenging problems. In this project there are certain unavoidable costs which brings us to the next subject.

#### Management

The directors are pleased that our policy of neither seeking nor accepting government grants means that we are in much better fiscal shape than some of our brother institutions. We perhaps also fare better than others because our directors are extremely frugal. It is astonishing what does get done on our modest budget thanks to our capable volunteers.

But without your contributions none of this would be possible. The museum needs your support to carry out its goals. Please give what you can to save the Massie building and help forward the museum's purposes.

## Future Projects

The masonry boiler house for the 100 HP Moulton boiler and two other boilers has been started. Mr. Thorn Mayes, W6AX, has made some excellent suggestions for proper display of the museum's increasing collection of model stationary steam engines. Thorn has also built and presented the museum a splendid model of a Massie Oscillaphone [TM]. The communications receiver display is developing. Mr. Bill Thomas, W1IX0, filled a conspicuous gap by donating a mint RME 69.

The directors and workers at the museum express our combined deep thanks for these gifts as well as for the considerable financial support from our friends.

We wish everyone best wishes for a HAPPY 1983!

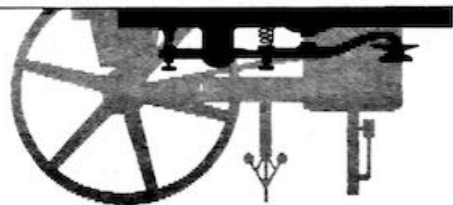
Wm. Slater Allen, Sr.  
Merrill P. Budlong

Norman D. Fay  
Richard B. Hanson

Nancy A. Merriam  
Robert W. Merriam

A Non-Profit, Public, Educational, Engineering Museum

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