



Loom and Spindle

THE MILL MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT /
WINDHAM TEXTILE AND HISTORY MUSEUM

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Sept. 12, 1:00 - 2:30 PM. Learn about silk worms and how they produce silk thread. Learn the difference between silk fabric and other fabrics. Have fun with a silk craft. All supplies and refreshments included. FREE to Kids Club Members. All other participants \$2. For reservations call 860-377-7755.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 1:00 - 2:30 PM. Theorem Painting is the art of making stencils and using them to make drawings or paintings on fabric or paper. Learn about the history of the craft and make a stencil of your own. Discovery tour, story and snack included. FREE to Kids Club Members. All other participants \$2. For reservations call 860-377-7755.

Thursday, Oct. 14, 5:30 PM. Annual Meeting of members. At the Museum.

Sunday, Nov. 13, 1:00 - 2:30 PM. Learn to sew in the city where tread was produced! Children will be introduced to the different parts of the sewing machine and will learn basic techniques such as straight stitch, backstitch, and zigzag. Participants will also have the chance to try out an antique treadle machine! FREE to Kids Club Members. All other participants \$2. For reservations call 860-377-7755.

December. Gift Wrapping at East Brook Mall. The museum will hold its gift wrapping fundraiser at the East Brook Mall. Sat. & Sun., Dec. 11 & 12, and Friday, Dec. 17 till Mall closing on Friday, Dec. 24. Wrapping from 9 AM till closing all days. *If you would like to be a wrapping volunteer, please contact Brooke at 860-377-7755.

Thursday, Dec. 9, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Christmas Tree Silent Auction. Come join us for a wine and cheese reception while you view the wonderful trees that have been decorated by local businesses. Perfect for apartments, hospitals, and assisted living facilities. Bidding ends at 7:15 PM. We will also have a tree that we will be accepting donations on to go to a needy family. \$10 admission. For more information contact Brooke at 860-377-7755.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 1:00 - 2:30 PM. Our 4th annual Gingerbread Holiday. Come join in the many activities. Make your own gingerbread house, decorate gingerbread cookies, make Christmas ornaments, help decorate a BIG gingerbread house and much, much more. Includes all supplies & Refreshments served. Kids Club Members \$4, otherwise \$8 per child. Reservations requested, call Brooke at 860-377-7755.

SHABOO!

A new exhibit at the Windham Textile and History Museum commemorates the Shaboo Inn, a renowned 1970s and 1980s blues and rock concert hall in Mansfield, CT, located in a former silk mill. The exhibit features dozens of rare photographs of the famous acts that played at Shaboo, along with other memorabilia.

In 1971 Mark Foster and Gary John bought an old silk mill in the Conantville section of Mansfield and converted it into the cutting edge Shaboo Inn, managed by Bruce John and David "Lefty" Foster. "Shaboo" is Lebanese for "what's wrong with you?" Shaboo attracted top blues, rock, and other music acts of the 1970s and 1980s, including Bonnie Raitt, Muddy Waters, B. B. King, Tom Waits, Dire Straits, and James Montgomery. Quickly, it became one of the top music venues in New England, attracting large and enthusiastic audiences. It closed in May, 1982, a victim of television and disco. A few months later, on Aug. 13, Shaboo burned in a fire.

The exhibit contains photos of Shaboo from the time when it was a silk mill. In 1853 Joseph Conant built a small silk mill in the southern part of Mansfield, near where the East Brook Mall is located today. Natural springs and a marsh provided plenty of



The Shaboo Inn in Mansfield, CT, in the 1970s. The music hall was located in a former silk mill.

fresh water, essential for manufacturing silk. The neighborhood around the mill soon became known as Conantville.

Over the years, the mill was sold and rebuilt several times. Between 1907 or 1908 and the 1940s it was owned and operated by Max Pollack and Company, an important Connecticut silk manufacturer.

The exhibit also features photos of the fire, a "mystery photo" of a dancing woman (can anyone identify her?), the original Shaboo sign, dozens of photos of performers from the Museum's collection, more photos loaned by David Foster and Bruce John, Foster's Shaboo jacket, biographies of many of the acts that played Shaboo, and other items.

The Museum is grateful to David Foster and Bruce John for loaning many of the items in the exhibit.

NEW DONATION TELLS THE HISTORY OF THE POLISH EXPERIENCE IN CONNECTICUT

Like many ethnic clubs and societies, the Pulaski Club in Willimantic, CT, is shrinking. The heyday of Polish migration to Connecticut and the rest of the United States, which began around 1900, ended in the 1950s. Today's third- and fourth-generation Polish Americans no longer identify as strongly with their ethnic heritage as their parents and grandparents did. Faced with declining membership, the club recently sold its meeting house on Pulaski Court and moved its memorabilia into members' attics.

In order to preserve its history, the club has generously donated many of those items to the Textile Museum's Dunham Hall Library, where they will be preserved as important historic artifacts. Poles were among the 26 different ethnic groups who migrated to Willimantic to find work in the city's once-booming textile mills, and their labor helped build the industry. The Pulaski Club Collection includes club records (in both Polish and English), framed pictures (including photos of a young Senator Christopher Dodd posing with Polish heroes Lech Walesa

and Pope John Paul II), flags, banners, a drum, and other items.

Many of the items will be included in an upcoming exhibit on Polish migration to Willimantic scheduled to open in February 2011. The exhibit will be guest-curated by Dr. Anna Jarosynski-Kirchmann, a history professor at Eastern Connecticut State University and an expert on Polish migration to the United States.

The Pulaski Club also made a monetary bequest to the Museum to help defray the costs of preserving the items.



Polish flags and banners from the Pulaski Club Collection



NEWS & NOTES

Bev York, the Museum's Educational Consultant, has been named 2010 "Ms. Walktober" by the Last Green Valley. Each fall, the Last Green Valley sponsors Walktober, a month of nature and history walks in northeastern Connecticut led by local naturalists and historians. York's award "recognizes her outstanding service" to Walktober, leading numerous history

walking tours over the past several years. The Last Green Valley also made a contribution in York's name to the Museum. Check the Last Green Valley's web site to see what walk York is planning this year.

Thanks to a grant from the Greater Willimantic Rotary, the Museum will be able to begin preserving and cataloging an important collection of engineering drawings and

architectural plans from the former American Thread Company in Willimantic, CT. The Museum has more than 15,000 of these drawings and plans, perhaps the largest such collection from a single company in existence. The Rotary grant will allow the Museum to preserve several hundred of the most historically significant of the drawings in archival quality containers, and make them available to the public.

"Poles were among the 26 different ethnic groups who migrated to Willimantic to find work in the city's once-booming textile mills."

FROM THE ARCHIVES:
CREATING A MILL WORKER DATABASE

THE AMERICAN THREAD CO.
WILLIMANTIC MILLS
WILLIMANTIC, CONN.

Date Sept 11/25

I hereby accept employment, understanding that
there is a strike on at these mills.

Signed Mrs. Alphonsine
Baldue.

Several times each year, the Museum's Dunham Hall Library fields requests from people looking for eastern Connecticut mill workers. These requests often come from descendants looking for information about grandparents or other relatives who worked in the mills. But sometimes they come from scholars and researchers hunting for data on what life was like for mill workers and their families.

Willimantic, CT, but will grow to include workers at other Willimantic mills, and then mills in other towns in eastern Connecticut. The database will be elastic, so that it can be expanded to include as many mill workers as can be added. Eventually, the database will be placed on the Museum's web site.

- Boudreau Armida emp AmTCo r 82 Ives
- Enne (Mary) emp AmTCo h 82 Ives
- John B (Louise) boxmkr h 336 Valley
- Joseph emp AmTCo r 82 Ives
- Regina r 82 Ives

In response, the Library is undertaking the creation of an electronic database of mill workers. The database will begin with American Thread Company workers in

Volunteers have begun by entering the names, jobs, marital status, previous residence, and other information about replacement workers hired by the American Thread Company during the big strike of 1925. The data comes from internal ATC records in the Library's collection. In Phase II, volunteers will enter data about mill workers listed in Willimantic street directories published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Phase III will use information from the United States manuscript census for Willimantic through 1930.

LIST OF APPLICATIONS FILED — MONDAY, JUNE 22/25
EMPLOYMENT OFFICE — LOWELL, MASS. 2 SHEETS
SHEET

NAME	AGE	FAMILY CONNECTION	ADDRESS	REMARKS
LANDRY, ARTHUR	47	FATHER	1434 MERRIMACK ST.	CARD TENDER SETTER GRINDER
" , MAUD	29	WIFE (2 ND)	" " "	GENERAL HAND
" , ROSE	19	DAUGHTER	" " "	SPOOLER (RING BOB)
" , IDA	17	"	" " "	RING SPINNER
" , MARY	21	"	" " "	" "
" , MATILDA	22	"	" " "	SPOOLER (RING BOB)
" , LEO	18	SON	" " "	NO MILL EXPERIENCE - HUSKY - WORKS IN STORE
" , JOHN	48	FATHER'S BROTHER	" " "	CARD ROOM OILER

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SUMMER 2010

If you have already renewed your membership, thank you!

- Student/Senior, \$15 _____
- Individual, \$25 _____
- Family/Household, \$40 _____
- Additional Donation _____
- Sustaining, \$75 _____
- Patron, \$100 _____
- Benefactor, above \$250 _____

We are a 501(c)3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

NAME: _____ E-Mail: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Checks payable to: W. T. H. M.

Windham Textile and History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MILLMUSEUM.ORG

**THE MILL
MUSEUM OF
CONNECTICUT**
WINDHAM TEXTILE AND
HISTORY MUSEUM

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
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Email: millmuseum@sbcglobal.net

MUSEUM GOES BLUE

As part of its Shaboo exhibit, the Windham Textile and History Museum has gone blue.

Thanks to the generosity of David Foster, the Blues Brothers bus and Blues Brothers impersonators represented the Museum in the Willimantic, CT, annual Independence Day Boom Box Parade. Museum members dressed in Blues Brothers costumes and handed out flyers. Foster and former Blues Brothers guitarist Matt "Guitar" Murphy headlined a packed reception at the Museum on July 9. Later that evening Willimantic entrepreneur Damian Fox donated his Thirsty Frog restaurant for a fundraiser concert for the Museum.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Windham Textile and History Museum will hold its Annual Meeting of members on October 14, 2010, at 5:30 PM at the Museum at 411 Main Street, Willimantic, CT. All members may attend and vote. The Annual Meeting will elect the Museum's officers and vacancies on the Board of Directors.



Museum volunteers in Blues Brothers costumes prepare to participate in the Boom Box Parade.