

THE HAMMER MUSEUM

FUNdraising ? Or just plain FUN?

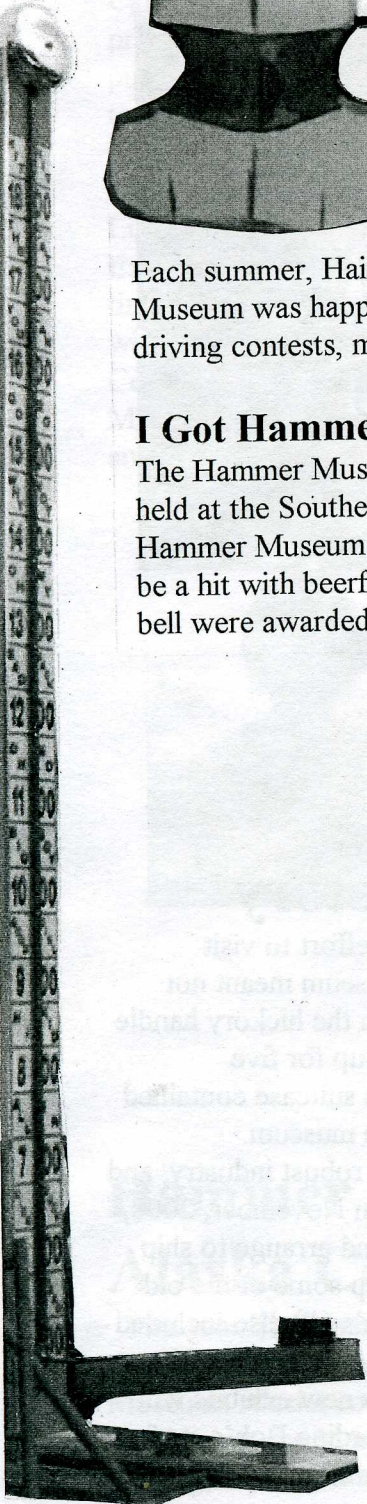
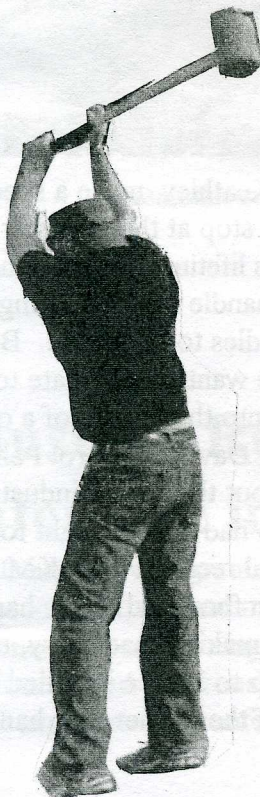
Each summer, Haines hosts a number of community-sponsored events, and as always, the Hammer Museum was happy to participate in the festivities. From the hard-hitting high striker to spike driving contests, many contestants took a swing at Hammer Museum activities around Haines.

I Got Hammered at the Haines Beerfest

The Hammer Museum was happy to participate in the 17th Annual Craft Beer & Homebrew Festival held at the Southeast Alaska State Fair Grounds in Haines. This was the first time that the Hammer Museum ran the high striker for the day of Beerfest activities. The high striker proved to be a hit with beerfest participants with over 125 contestants. The first thirty people who struck the bell were awarded a drink chip good for a free beer at one of the local bars. The event raised over \$250 that was divided equally to support the festival and the Hammer Museum. The Hammer Museum would like to thank The Pineer Bar, The Harbor Bar, and the Ft. Seward Lodge for donating drink chips.

I Rang the Bell at the Southeast Alaska State Fair

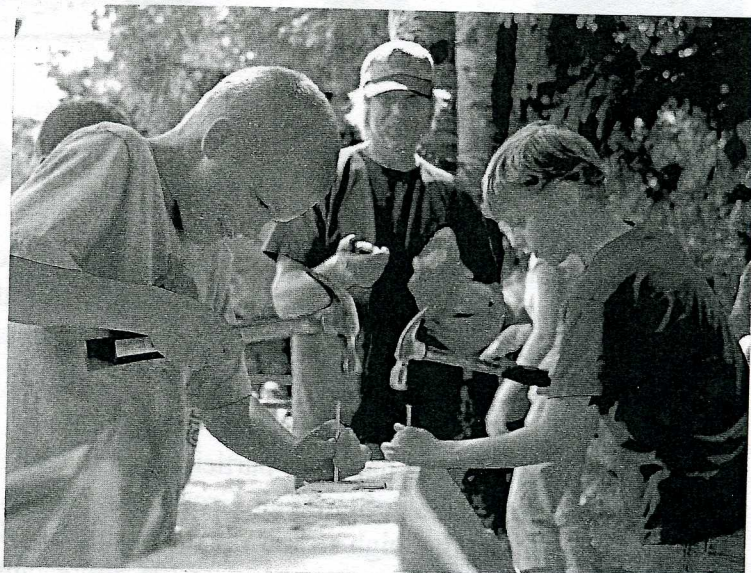
The high striker also made an appearance at the Southeast Alaska State Fair this year. Contenders of all ages tried their hand at striking the bell with some success. The bell was especially difficult to strike this year with a top record of 9 consecutive rings. Sturdy contestants who successfully rang the bell were awarded an "I Rang the Bell" button and the kudos of spectators. The fundraiser brought in over \$500 to benefit the fair. Special thanks to volunteers Kathy McCardwell, Steven Price, Carol and Dave Pahl, Don Chase, and Josh Benassi for manning the high striker during the four day fair.



Driving spikes and pounding nails: The Hammer Museum Celebrates the 4th of July

During the Haines Chamber of Commerce 4th of July celebrations this year at Tlingit Park, the Hammer Museum tested the hammering abilities of a number of Haines residents in nail and spike driving contests. Several adults learned first hand about the challenges that came with manually hammering in spikes on the rail-

road. Using a vintage narrow headed spike driving hammer, contestants tested their strength and accuracy. The greatest challenge seemed to be hitting the spike on the head consistently. Kids were also invited to test their hammering skills in nail driving contests. Our champ, Dylan, was able to drive a 3" nail in 5 seconds flat. We would like to thank Haisler's Hardware, Haines Homebuilders, Alaska Sport Shop, and Lutak Lumber for donating gift certificates for contest winners.



Getting a Handle on Handle History

On an Alaskan vacation in 2008, Bob and Yvonne Keathley made a special effort to visit Haines. Bob had been packing a heavy suitcase and a stop at the Hammer Museum meant not only lightening his load, but also a chance to share his lifetime of experience in the hickory handle manufacturing industry. The Keathleys owned IXL handle manufacturing group for five generations and were a major supplier of hickory handles to the world. Bob's suitcase contained a small sampling of items relevant to the trade that he wanted to donate to the museum.

The Keathleys visit was the beginning of a journey into the history of a once robust industry, and also the beginning of a journey for museum founders, Dave and Carol Pahl. In November, 2008, they headed to Bernie, Missouri, to find out more about the handle industry and arrange to ship donated machinery back to Haines. Fortunately, Bob had the foresight to keep some of the old machinery and hundreds of photos and other historical records. The Keathley's gift also included several hundred "new" hammer heads which had been furnished to the handle mill by the various tool makers. Apart from the complete line of handle making machinery, many new exhibits will come out of the Keathley's gift. Highlights of the trip to Bernie included recording Bob's stories and oral history of the industry and area and a tour of the former IXL handle mill which is now owned by Ames True Temper.

Internship Program: Year 3

This May, the Hammer Museum welcomed intern Susannah Dowds from Buffalo, New York. Susannah is a recent graduate of Smith College who hopes to pursue a career in museum education. Prior to this summer, she had completed internships at several museums on the east coast, but this summer she was excited to branch out and travel to Alaska to work at the very unique Hammer Museum.

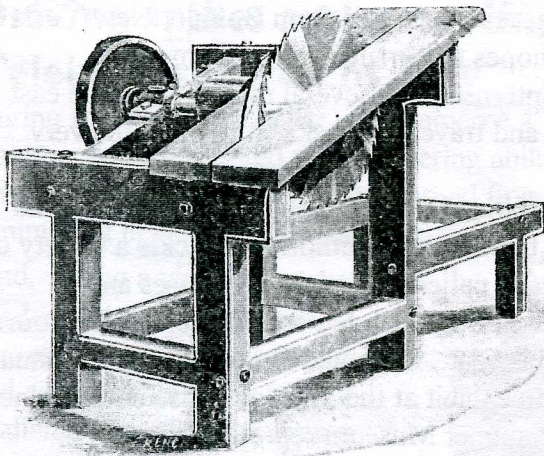
Susannah thoroughly enjoyed her summer in Haines, largely thanks to the efforts of Dave and Carol Pahl. At the museum, Susannah was given the freedom and authority to tackle a variety of projects ranging from grant writing to accounting. Dave patiently explained the uses and purposes of almost every hammer in the museum, so that Susannah felt comfortable giving tours to large groups of people who came to the museum this year. Dave and Carol allowed Susannah to design the drink hammer exhibit for the Smithsonian exhibit at the Sheldon Museum in Haines, and let her be a part of the visit from the Lithuanian Hammer Museum representatives. Likewise, Dave and Carol introduced Susannah to Haines, giving her the full "Alaskan Experience." They arranged for Susannah to go on trips to Glacier Point, Skagway, and gave her time off so that she could try whitewater rafting for the first time. Susannah was very much taken with Haines and has decided to stay. Currently, she is working as the Education and Programs Coordinator at the Haines Library, but she also hopes to remain involved with the Hammer Museum as an enthusiastic volunteer. Susannah would also like to give special thanks to Michael and Lorraine Marks for their generous contributions to the Hammer Museum internship program.



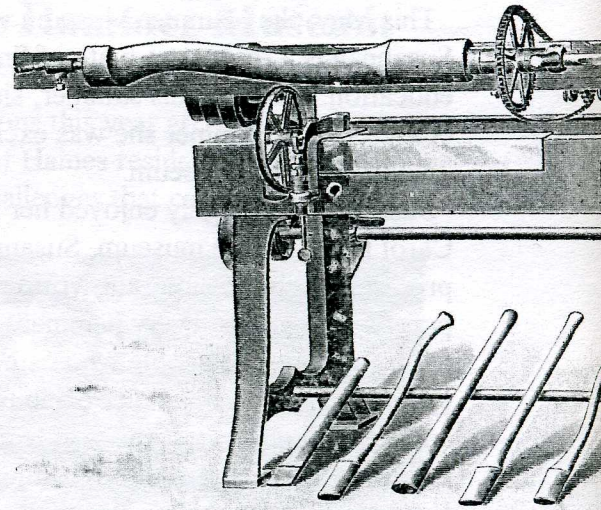
Susannah conquers Mt. Ripinsky

Hammer Museum Represented at Museums Alaska Conference in Unalaska

This year The Hammer Museum was granted a scholarship of \$1,160 from Museums Alaska, the statewide museum association, to send museum educator Susannah Dowds to the annual Museums Alaska conference. Upon learning that the Hammer Museum had earned the travel scholarship, the Marks Foundation generously contributed additional funding to offset the costs of lodging, additional travel expenses and conference workshop expenses. Continued on page 6.

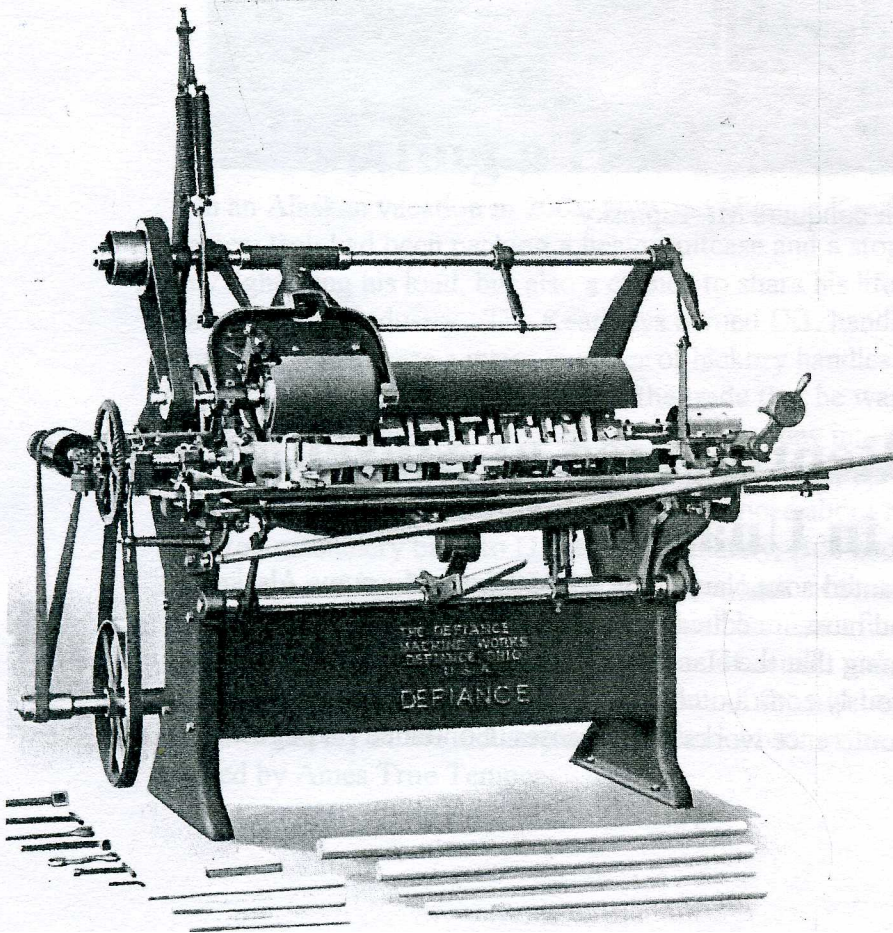


The IXL collection of antique handle making equipment was donated to the Hammer Museum by the Keathley family of Bernie, Missouri. The Keathleys owned and operated the IXL Handle Manufacturing Company for five generations. IXL was sold in 1997 to Ames True Temper Company and is still operating in Bernie today.



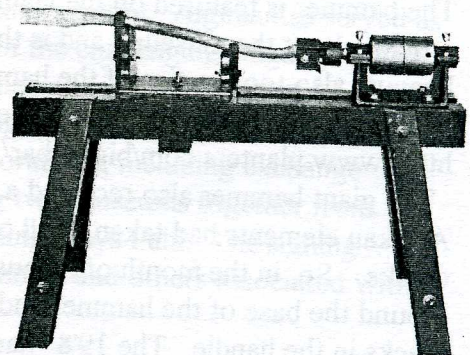
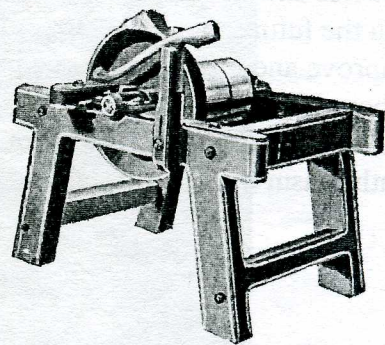
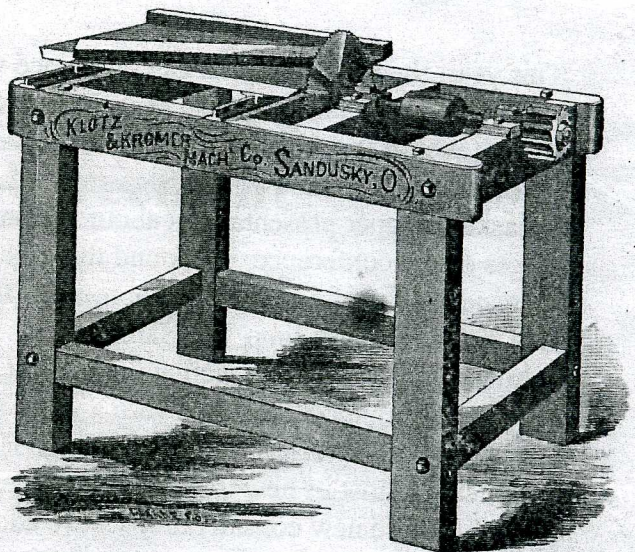
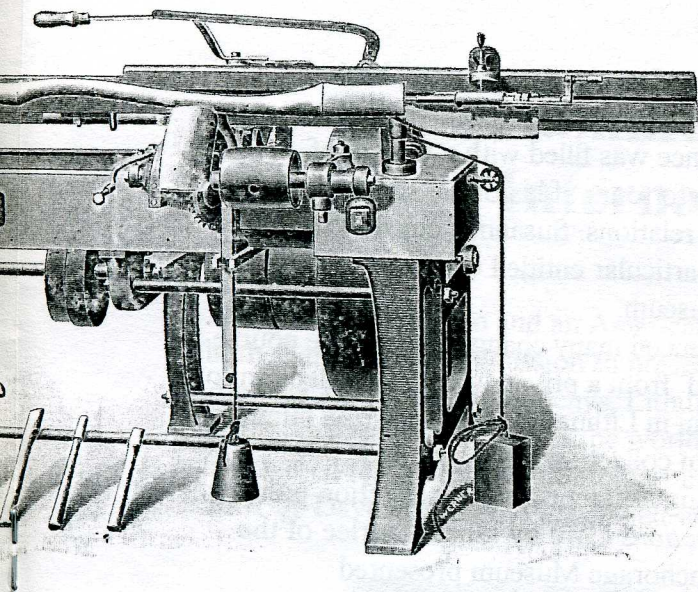
Handle Manuf

Hickory is the best wood to use for tool handles due to its resiliency, shock-resistance, and toughness. It is the best wood for striking-tool handles. No other wood has these combined properties. The successive steps in the process are as follows: The log is sawed into lengths a few feet long. These are commonly called butts or bolts. The log is then split by a splitting saw (not shown) and the blanks are produced. The finished handle. Surplus wood is next removed. The log is raised on a platform for the operator to stand on. The log is then slide off out of the way readily. The blank is then turned on a pattern or saw lathe. The copy lathe is used to turn the pick, broad axe, and hatchet handles. Notice the shape of the machine, while the blank being turned. The copy lathe are removed on a throater. The machine is then used to smooth the handle. The throater head is used for smoothing the handle. The handle is then cutting off the ends to the required length. The handle is then shaped to the desired shape to receive the axe head. The handle is then (right). The handle is placed in a guide and the handle is then contains three cutter knives. The scroll machine is then used. Finally, the handle is ready for sanding. The scroll machine is from an overhead line shaft. Waste produced from the line shafts and produce electricity at the mill.



Manufacturing Circa 1900

The combination of stiffness, hardness, American hickory has made it the world's supreme wood. It has been found to surpass American hickory in strength in the process of making an axe handle are as much longer than the finished handle is to be. These bolts are next sawed into slabs or blanks on a blocking saw (top left). This machine has a table which is at an incline, so that all waste pieces will fall away ready for the copy lathe (above), also known as a pattern lathe, for turning a variety of irregular forms, such as axe handles. The pattern being copied is mounted on the left end of the lathe at the right. Irregularities which are left by the copy lathe (at top right) is a combined throater and cut-off machine for the crooked parts of handles, and the saw for the gauge machine (not shown) is used to cut the end of the handle is shaped using a disc wheel. The end is forced against the inside of the disc which shapes the knob (bottom right) bevels the edges. The handles are turned in one operation on a copy lathe. All of these machines were driven by flat belts from the handle mill fueled steam engines to power the



This year, the Museums Alaska conference was held in Unalaska. As a newcomer, both to Alaska and to the museum field, Susannah was delighted to attend her first museum conference and to travel to the Aleutians for the first time. The conference was filled with a variety of sessions ranging from workshops about artifact preservation to tours of historical sites in Unalaska to paper presentations about Alaskan and Russian relations. Susannah enjoyed the many aspects of the conference, but found that one workshop in particular entitled *Collections Care* was especially useful to the development of the Hammer Museum.

In a short period of time, the Hammer Museum has experienced many changes. Over the course of the last eight years, the Hammer Museum has transitioned from a privately owned collection to a non-profit organization allied with a sister hammer museum in Lithuania. Likewise, the number of artifacts and historical documents in the Hammer Museum collection has multiplied, introducing a host of new issues and considerations regarding artifact care and collection policies.

Many of these new considerations were addressed in *Collections Care* by Scott Carrlee of the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and Monica Shah of the Anchorage Museum presented *Collections Care* jointly. The first half of the session presented by Carrlee covered some of the basics of preventative conservation. Susannah was amused to see a picture of one of the Hammer Museum hammers in the presentation. The second half of the workshop, presented by Monica Shah, dealt with collections management, including accessioning objects, condition reports, and policies and forms that shape the collections that are present in a museum.

In the future, Susannah hopes to apply this information to the Hammer Museum in an effort to improve and manage the growing collection of hammers that comes from all over the world. Above all, Susannah would like to thank Dave and Carol for encouraging her to apply for the travel scholarship and the Marks Foundation for contributing both financial support and enthusiasm for her trip to Unalaska.

World of Big Things

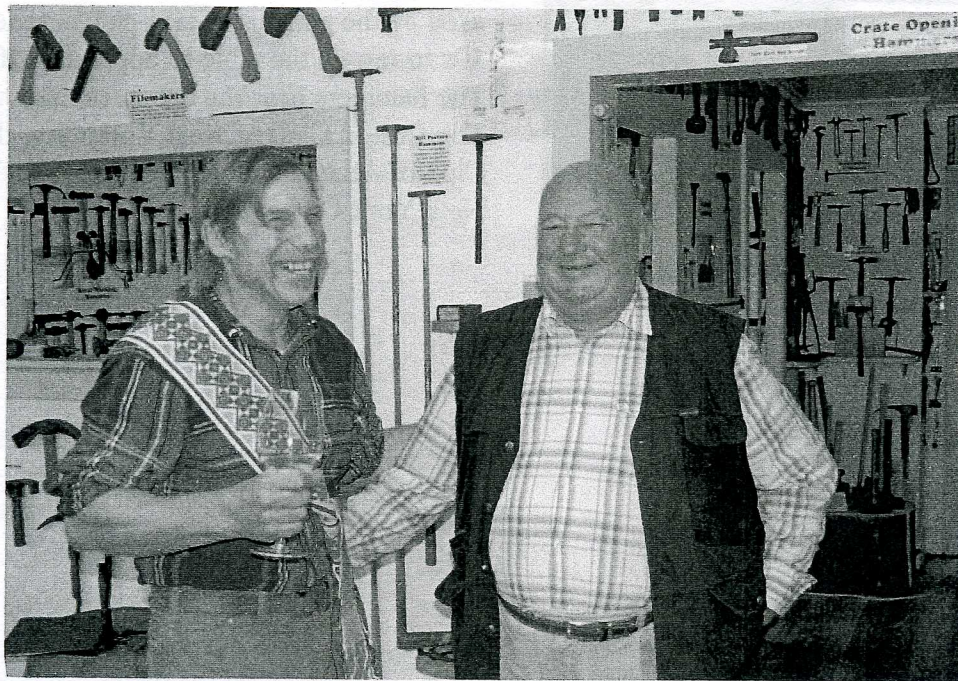
While walking up Main Street in Haines, almost anyone would be able to identify the Hammer Museum by the nearly 20' tall claw hammer statue in the front yard. Director Dave Pahl constructed the hammer in 2007 to draw the attention of passers by. Since then, the giant hammer has become a local landmark in Haines and a familiar symbol of the Hammer museum. The hammer is featured on the Hammer Museum website, mentioned in numerous newspaper articles about the museum, and is the object of many vacation photos. This spring, Planters Peanuts also took notice of the hammer, featuring it in an advertisement for their new product "Big Nut Bars." The hammer may be seen on the Planter's Peanuts website: <http://www.planters.com/bignutbar/>

The giant hammer also received a facelift this summer. During the past couple years, the Alaskan elements had taken a toll on the wooden hammer handle, causing weathering and a few cracks. So, in the month of August, Dave Pahl repaired the damages. Dave set up a scaffolding around the base of the hammer and spent a week sanding, weatherproofing, and filling in the cracks in the handle. The 19'8" hammer now looks as good as ever and remains a distinctive marker of the Hammer Museum in Haines.

Hammer Museums Forge International Agreement

A Lithuanian museum and an American museum have formed an alliance. Now sister museums, both share a common mission to preserve the history of man's first tool, the hammer.

Anatnas Kibickas of Linkmenys, Lithuania, is a publisher and hammer enthusiast. In 2006, he opened what he thought was the world's only museum dedicated to hammers. Then he discovered his American counterpart in Haines, Alaska. The Alaskan museum was founded in 2002 by Dave and Carol Pahl. Their museum became a non-profit educational facility in 2004.



Hammer Museum Founders Dave Pahl and Antanas Kibickas

In August, Antanas and his friend, Professor Algimantas Grigelis, made the long trip to America to visit the Pahl's and to study museum operations at the Alaskan museum. Algimantas served as translator for Antanas who speaks very little English. In spite of the challenging language barrier, both parties had an appreciation and mutual understanding of the importance of preserving the history of the hammer. To that end, a mutual agreement was signed to further cement the sister museum relationship. The agreement addresses possible collaborations, including exchange programs, and creation of a hammer reference book. "Bringing two museums together from opposite sides of the globe to share a common goal is a great thing" says Pahl. The signing ceremony on August 22, 2009, was also attended by board members and others associated with the Alaskan Hammer museum.