



The world's only museum dedicated
to man's first tool

Giant Hammer Erected

If you have been in Haines since July 24, 2007, you probably noticed our new outdoor "exhibit"- a 19 foot claw hammer located in front of the Hammer Museum. Hammer Museum Director Dave Pahl constructed this monstrous hammer over the course of three months. The head, weighing in at 40 lbs., is made of styrofoam and fiberglass and the ergonomically-correct handle was carved from a spruce log. It is mounted in a metal and concrete base.

Dave installed the hammer on a Sunday afternoon, taking advantage of lighter traffic in the adjoining parking lot. The next business day, the hammer attracted major attention-attendance spiked sharply, including a large number of Haines residents who popped in to compliment the Hammer Museum on its newest addition. Some locals even called the Museum to register their approval of the new "lawn sculpture." Additionally, a number of newspapers, including the *Chilkat Valley News* and the *Juneau Empire* ran articles about the new hammer.

Some have wondered if this hammer is the largest hammer. Unfortunately for those who crave superlatives, it is not the largest hammer. The title of largest hammer ever is held by a functional hammer located in Pittsburgh. This 90" tall, 250,000 lb. Gravity drop hammer was used by Bethlehem Iron Company from 1893 to 1896. It was taken out of service because its concussion was compromising the structural integrity of surrounding structures.

Hammer Museum Named "Rising Star"

The Hammer Museum was honored with the "Rising Star Award," presented by the Haines Chamber of Commerce in October 2006.



Internship Program Instituted

Summer 2007 marks the inaugural year of the Hammer Museum's internship program, which was organized with the assistance of Scott Carlee of the Alaska State Museum. The Hammer Museum was fortunate to host two interns over the course of the season: Kathy McCardwell from May through mid-August, and Matt Maehler from mid-August through September 22nd. Intern projects included cataloguing hammers, leading tours, researching the "What's It? Hammers, and creating a scavenger hunt for children. Writing projects included a docent training manual, an article posted to Wikipedia, a letter to inventors encouraging them to participate in our "Inventors Corner" exhibit, and this newsletter. Dave and Carol Pahl, the Director and Vice-Director of the Museum, respectively, agree that having an intern is wonderful for the fresh perspective it provides, and it allows them to take a day or two away from the Museum each week- a rarity in the past five seasons, during which the Museum was staffed almost exclusively by them.

Meet the Interns:

Kathy McCardwell: "I came to the Hammer Museum from a background in anthropology and with previous experience in a history museum and an ethnographic collection, but with no particular knowledge about hammers. As an anthropologist, I really enjoy what the hammer collection says about human creativity, both with regard to technology and social norms. One of my favorite things about the Hammer Museum is how all-inclusive it is: Pretty much everyone has used a hammer at one time or another, and every household has at least one-and usually many more-so I think it's a topic that people can easily relate to. And, of course, I've been having a lot of fun outside of the museum, too. Getting to experience Alaska not as a tourist has been a great opportunity for me. I've particularly enjoyed getting to do some hiking and biking around, and also visiting Glacier Point and the Davidson Glacier. I'd like to stick around and see what a "real" Alaskan winter is like, but unfortunately, it's back to Kentucky for graduate school for me."

Matt Maehler: Interning at the Hammer Museum was a great experience in that I was able to familiarize myself with museum operations, and witness the beauty of Alaska at the same time. The museum afforded me the opportunity to utilize my degree in history and, more importantly, the chance to develop a new skill set- from dealing with the public to learning the fundamentals of cataloguing. I would like to thank the Pahls and the Alaska State Museum for this internship, it is much appreciated.

Building Improvements Planned for the Museum

It's finally happened. The Hammer Museum is completely and indisputably out of space for both exhibits and storage. While we may joke about putting hammers on the ceiling, we really need a better long-term solution. Director Dave Pahl is currently working out the details of our expansion plans, but current plans involve removing the back part of the building, including kitchen and work room/living quarters, and replacing them with a two-story structure incorporating an additional 480 square feet of exhibit space on the ground floor, with new living quarters on the second floor and additional basement space for storage. Dave hopes to have the plans approved and all systems go to begin construction in spring 2008.

Museum Participates in Museum Assessment Program

In late May of 2007, the Hammer Museum participated in a Museum Assessment Program through the American Association of Museums. The Museum Assessment Program is designed to help up-and-coming museums set and attain goals as they work toward accreditation-for museums, the equivalent of passing the bar exam. Only 750 museums nationwide are accredited; only 6 museums in Alaska are accredited. Haines already has one accredited museum-the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center-and in time, the Hammer Museum hopes to become the second accredited institution in town.

As part of the MAP program, the Hammer Museum hosted Maria Pasqually, Curator of Exhibits at Washington State Museum in Tacoma, Washington, who was our site visitor. Ms Pasqually will be providing the Hammer Museum with suggestions for areas and methods of improvement, eventually leading to the accreditation of the Hammer Museum.

Museum Receives Grant to Prepare Exhibit Panels

The Hammer Museum is excited to announce that it has been awarded a \$2000 grant-in-aid from Alaska State Museums. Grant monies from this organization are earmarked for use by non-profit museums for improvement projects. The museum was awarded funds for a pilot project addressing both security and display needs. According to the current plans, groups of hammers will be securely mounted on panels, which can then be displayed on the walls of our building or, during the off season, another remote location. The grant provides funds sufficient to create a small number of traveling exhibit panels, as a sort of pilot project. Should this pilot project indicate that this is a viable solution, the project will be extended to encompass the majority of the pieces in the museum.

The Hammer Museum Name Disputed

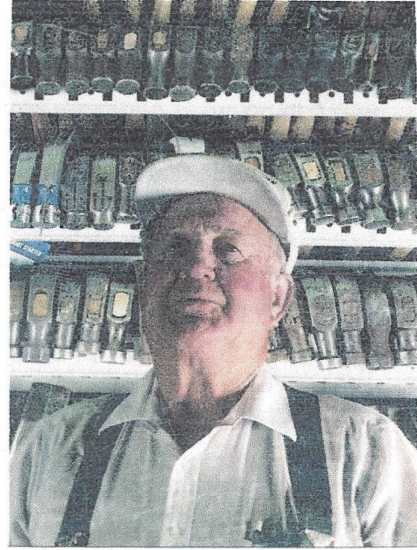
Despite the fact the The Hammer Museum is, as far as we can tell, the only museum about hammers, the name "The Hammer Museum" has become a bone of contention. The Armand Hammer Museum, a modern art museum at UCLA, has decided that it would like to shorten its name, becoming the Hammer Museum, and has filed for a trademark on the name. The Hammer Museum(of Haines, Ak) has filed a counter-claim with the intent of showing previous use of the name, in hopes of being awarded the trademark. Should these efforts fail and the Armand Hammer Museum receive the trademark, "our" Hammer Museum will have to change its name. It is too early in the proceeding to be able to predict the outcome; however, we believe that the Hammer Museum has a strong record of having used the name for the past five years, which we believe will be sufficient to support a decision allowing the continued use of the name "The Hammer Museum" for the museum actually about hammers. The Oct. 5th Wall Street Journal featured the trademark dispute on its' front page.

New Virtual Tour Available on Website

If you were unable to come visit the Hammer Museum this season, don't despair! The museums website has recently added a new virtual tour highlighting some of our newer pieces and new information. The museum has increased its number on display by about 300, to 1700 hammers. The website can be accessed at www.hammermuseum.org. Check it out !

New Acquisitions: The Stevenson Collection

It may or may not come as a surprise to you that, although the Hammer museum is the only museum devoted to hammers, there are a number of hammer collectors scattered about the world. The number became one less when Don Stevenson, of Woodland, Washington, decided to part with his collection prior to relocating. Though the hammer-collection community hates to see one of our number step aside, the Hammer Museum is excited to announce that, as of October 2006, it has procured his collection of approximately 4,300 hammers, many of which are slated to be incorporated into the extant displays. Already a number of pieces from this collection have been placed on display, and as the museums comprehensive cataloguing project progresses, more will be added to the rotation of exhibits.



The Hammer Museum
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