



President's Message

We were pleased to hear from Tom Crowdis III at our last Quarterly that his father is recovering well from triple-bypass heart surgery. Tom has had a tough time of it of late, and I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from more of us. For the time being, Tom is recuperating at his son's home and may be contacted at 508-759-8558. On a broader note, keeping in touch with all our members is one of the areas I believe needs more focus, and in the coming months we'll be looking at [and looking for] ideas to help us do that as well as to get more of our members involved in the work of MCMA. As many of you are already well aware, close involvement with this or any charitable organization benefits the member as well as the organization. Related to that effort is our ongoing push (weak though it is) to update to the computer age, but we need everyone's help if we're to get there. E-mail addresses are a start, and if you have not already provided us with yours, please do so by sending an e-mail to Rick at the office at Mcma1795@aol.com

Bill Anderson

Recent Happenings

Our April Quarterly was held at the Montvale Plaza in Stoneham, where we enjoyed a family-style turkey dinner, conducted our normal business, voted to approve By-Law changes as recommended by our By-Law Committee and our Board of Government, and welcomed as new Associate Members Mr. Frederick C. Arrowsmith, Mr. Robert B. Arrowsmith, Mr. Eugene Capobianco and Mr. Jonathan Hanson. We were then pleased to hear from Mr. Ed Ryan and Mrs. Sarah Tribuzio of the Penikese Island School, who combined to give a talk and slide show describing the history of the school and the work they do with troubled youngsters. As this school has been a frequent recipient of MCMA support, our members very much appreciated hearing this detailed account of the school's operations and their far-above-average success ratio with these youngsters. As always, it's good to know not only that our support is put to immediate good use, but also that it is helping to bring about lasting success stories.

Helping Others

Many, if not most, of the organizations we support have had long relationships with MCMA, but each year we seem to find one or two "new" organizations that merit our attention and support. Last year, we encountered for the first time **The Wheelchair Recycler Inc.**, and began what we hope will prove to be a continuing and beneficial relationship.



Millions of people in this country are wheelchair-bound, and David Heim, a former machinist, joined their ranks after a motor vehicle accident left him paralyzed at age 34. Following his accident, David was to learn that the use of a power wheelchair can dramatically improve the quality of life of disabled persons by allowing them to lead more independent lifestyles, but that there are frequent barriers to procuring and maintaining a power wheelchair. These include the prohibitively high cost of new or even refurbished wheelchairs, strict eligibility requirements for insurance coverage, costly repair fees and long waits for chairs being repaired.

Consequently, in 1998 he started a non-profit organization, The Wheelchair Recycler Inc., in Marlborough, MA with the stated purpose of providing wheelchairs, walkers and scooters to those in need without regard to money or insurance. In essence, he obtains donated used or obsolete units, repairs them if possible, or salvages them for parts if not. David is still in a wheelchair, but has use of his hands and is a talented mechanic, and with the help of his son and a friend has repaired more than 600 wheelchairs in the past decade. Most of the people who have received chairs or repairs are on fixed incomes and lacking adequate insurance. David Heim makes it possible for those persons to afford these necessities for life by significantly reducing the price.

Our \$4,500 grant to this small but deserving enterprise was used to fund the purchase of a drill press and a variety of power tools, plus a laptop computer, printer and fax machine. All will be used to hopefully improve the operational efficiency and expand the opportunities of this young and somewhat unique organization.



MCMA History

We're into "Tourist Season" in Boston, and we thought this might be an appropriate occasion to recall that MCMA members have been responsible for a great many of the sights, attractions and places of interest that draw people to this city. So, next time you have occasion to visit Boston with family or friends, don't hesitate to take credit for **MCMA Boston**. As usual, we have **bolded** the names of the key MCMA members associated with each of these attractions, but keep in mind that many other members were involved as subcontractors or craftsmen as well.



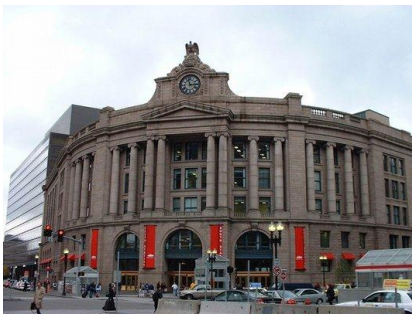
U.S.S. CONSTITUTION
Edmund Hartt, Shipbuilder



CUSTOM HOUSE
Base: **Ammi B. Young**, Architect
Tower: **O.W. Norcross**, Builder



OLD CITY HALL
Gridley J. F. Bryant, Architect



SOUTH STATION
O. W. Norcross, Builder



PUBLIC GARDEN SUSPENSION BRIDGE
William Gibbons Preston, Architect



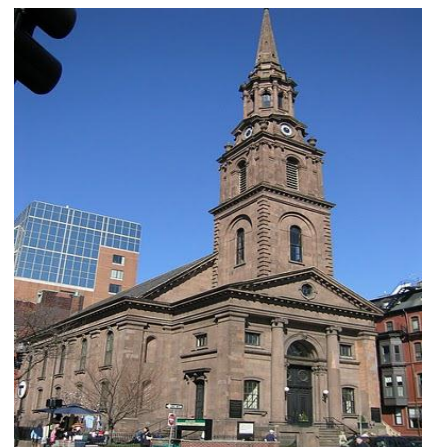
ISABELLA STUART GARDNER MUSEUM
Willard T. Sears, Architect



"NEW" OLD SOUTH CHURCH
Willard T. Sears, Architect



BUNKER HILL MONUMENT
Soloman Willard, Architect



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH
Arthur Gilman, Architect



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
O.W. Norcross, Builder



QUINCY MARKET
Alexander Parris, Architect



TRINITY CHURCH
O. W. Norcross, Builder



SYMPHONY HALL
O. W. Norcross, Builder



COMMERCIAL WHARF
Isaiah Rogers, Architect



COLBURN HOUSE
Asher Benjamin, Architect



CHARLES STREET JAIL (now The Liberty Hotel)
Gridley J. F. Bryant, Architect



OLD WEST CHURCH
Asher Benjamin, Architect