

The CHM Muse

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Staff & Volunteer Monthly Newsletter

August 2009



The 1401 Team Turns Back the Clock



Here are 1401 restoration team pictures in IBM period dress. From Robert Garner: "You guys look cool, friendly, convivial, professional and, 'normal'..." From Alan Kay: "Wow, looks like just like it was (except for all these old guys)."

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Calendar of Coming Events

CHM Presents: An Evening with Authors, Jim Gemmell & Gordon Bell
Wednesday, September 23, 2009

The 2009 Fellow Awards
Tuesday, October 20, 2009

CHM Presents: The 50th Anniversary of the
Legendary IBM 1401
Tuesday, November 10, 2009

CHM Presents: The HP Phenomenon – An Evening
with Author Chuck House
Tuesday, December 8, 2009

What a Difference a Grant Makes

By Karen Kroslowitz

The CCARP project grant, funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services, ended on June 30. **In the space of 21 months, staff and volunteers catalogers added 11,203 new object records and 31,379 photographs to the Mimsy database.** Their accomplishments far exceeded the goals set for the grant period—125% for new records and 285% for new photos—and thus, have brought CHM to new heights in collections stewardship. A debt of gratitude is owed to the scores of CHM volunteers for their patience with Mimsy and willingness to adhere to the ins and outs of artifact handling—not to mention all the object identification and computer knowledge they've shared! Many thanks to the scores of high school students and all those from Hands On Bay Area, who spent countless tedious hours renumbering and cropping photos. Volunteers generously gave 3121 hours of service during the 2-year grant period—42% more than the proposed requirements for project completion!

This grant did not address the backlog of physical objects still to be fully cataloged and photographed, which includes the artifacts previously stored at Moffett Field and the SAP Collection (which is inventoried and photographed, but not cataloged to CCARP standards). To continue increasing access to the collections, internally and by the public, applying for new grant funding to complete cataloging of the physical objects collection will be considered.

Collections Volunteering Update

As most readers know, the Collections Department is focusing on the new exhibition during FY10 and staff time will be redirected. Accordingly, physical objects collections volunteer opportunities will be adjusted to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, hosted by **Karen Kroslowitz, Alex Lux,** and **William Harnack.** Concentrating on those items related to the upcoming exhibition and eventual move of Visible Storage, we need Collections Helpers to assist with cataloging and photographing acquisitions, packing artifacts for moving or storage, specialized exhibit cleaning, and other tasks.

Archives Helpers will continue assisting as they have been— cataloging, scanning, and preparing the document collection for the move. See **Elizabeth Borchardt** if you'd like to know more about becoming an Archives Helper.

WANTED!

ARTIFACT HELPERS



**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY &
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS AT
SHORELINE 1 - 5 PM**

We need to keep the acquisition wheels rolling, and we're in need of artifact helpers. We've recently received some large donations- volume and object size! — including an IBM System 32, NCR 500 system, HP 3000 and 9000 systems and much more!

WANTED!



ARCHIVE HELPERS

**THE MOVE TO PREPARE FOR THE EXHIBITION
HAS STARTED! YOUR HELP CATALOGING,
SCANNING AND PREPARING THE DOCUMENT
COLLECTION IS NEEDED.**

Even though the IMLS funding has ended, the business of cataloging hasn't, and we need your help.

The CHM Web Redesign

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Over the last year, the CHM Web Team of Dana Chrisler, Ton Luong, and Anna Boyko have worked steadily to redesign the CHM website (www.computerhistory.org) with new content, updated features and a clean crisp design. Over the past two months, two new sections of the web have made their debut.

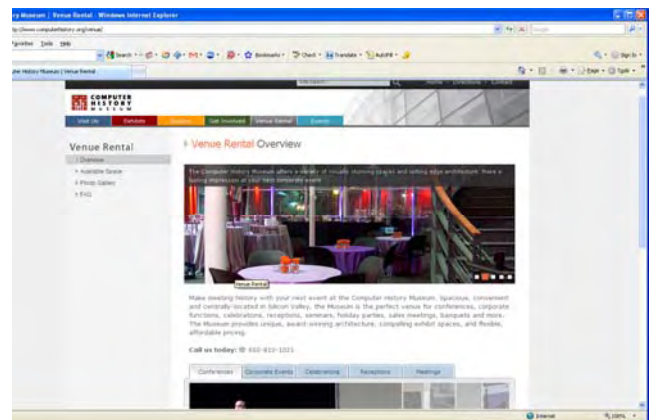


Get Involved: <http://www.computerhistory.org/getinvolved/>

Venue rental has become a key component of the museum's income strategy. To help support our efforts to bring in more customers and present the museum as a dynamic, beautiful and affordable venue, in August the CHM Web Team debuted a complete overhaul of the Venue rental site. Knowing that visuals both engage web visitors and sell customers, the Web Team purposely designed the new pages to be image rich and show the museum in many modes. On the Overview page, slide shows feature the museum set up for everything from a business conference to a celebration party. The Available Space page includes floor maps of the museum's rentable spaces with visual click-throughs that display photos of each area.

This was truly a team effort with Gary Matsushita and Valerie Alston defining the needs and creating content, and some amazing technical work by Anna Boyko, Ton Luong and Dana Chrisler to bring these ideas to life.

In July, the **Get Involved** pages were successfully launched. The "Contribute" section focuses on membership and individual/corporate development. With the start of the new FY10 giving year, this is a great time to bring up a new web design encouraging visitors to become members and donors of the museum at all levels. The Marketing & Development team worked closely with the Technology team to create the look and content. Special thanks go to David Bledsoe, Karae Lisle, Carina Sweet, Fiona Tang and Lynne Van Tilburg for their input and content creation.



Venue Rental: <http://www.computerhistory.org/venue/>



A Splash of Color

Facilities' **Dennis Cassar** and Graphics Designer **Jennifer Alexander** have begun an interior building renovation project- pop in to the Boole Conference Room for their first colorful efforts.



On KRON 4's Best of the Bay

Best of the Bay filmed a segment on CHM that aired on August 9 and 22. Janelle Marie, the host, conducted a walk-through interview with John Hollar, highlighting the Babbage Engine, Apple I, Xerox laser printer and Google server.

View the video at:
<http://bestofthebaytv.com/view/917/Computer-History-Museum>

On the BBC

In July, Dag Spicer conducted an interview with Jamillah Knowles of BBC's Pods and Blogs. Jamillah was on vacation in the Silicon Valley area, but was working throughout her holiday here. One of the key places she visited for her first stop in the area was CHM, alongside Google.

See the following link to view Jamillah's first "postcard" from Silicon Valley:



Blog:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/podsandblogs/2009/07/post_card_from_silicon_valley.shtml

In The NY Times

The nation's first chief of technology, Aneesh Chopra, appeared at the Computer History Museum in early August for a talk that presented an outline for Mr. Chopra's priorities in the coming months, which include using technology to improve education, health care and the government infrastructure.

Mr. Chopra's CHM appearance is featured in the New York Times at:

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/05/the-nations-cto-woos-silicon-valley/>

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A Successful Backpack Drive

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The Computer History Museum's staff & volunteers continued our great tradition of supporting the Family Giving Tree (FGT), an organization dedicated to sending low-income children back to school with the tools they need to succeed. Like the Holiday Wish Program CHM supported last fall, child-specific wish cards were taken by various departmental and volunteer teams throughout the museum, and the teams shopped for and filled individual backpacks with school supplies.

Seventeen full backpacks were purchased and donated to the FGT. Special thanks go to Jim Somers and Shelley Bergin, who coordinated the team efforts here at the museum, and to Randy and Julie Neff, volunteers with FGT as well as CHM, who returned the gifts to FGT's local warehouse.

And thanks to all who participated with donations on behalf of CHM!

Final Front of House Stats for July, 2009:

Open Hour Visitors: 2489
Babbage Demo Attendance: 1277
Tour Attendance: 1054
PDP-1 Demonstrations Attendees: 87
1401/Data Processing in the 60's Tour Guest: 24

Store Sales: \$5175
Front Door Donations: \$1375

Volunteer Hours: 2256
Total Volunteers: 131

The Editors :: Jim Somers, Marcin Wichary, Gary Matsushita
This month's contributors: Robert Garner, Paula Jabloner, Al Kossow, Karen Kroslowitz, David Laws, Bob Sanguedolce, Jim Somers and Fiona Tang

New Hires in August

Please join us in welcoming two new employees :

Jessica Burns has joined CHM as a **Development Specialist**

Jane Cheung is our new **Manager of School and Public Programs**

This Month in History

August 3, 1977

Radio Shack Announces TRS-80

Radio Shack debuted the TRS-80 Model I, the company's first personal computer. Equipped with 4 kb of RAM, cassette-tape storage, and a built-in BASIC interpreter, the TRS-80 was one of the first mass-marketed personal computers, along with the Commodore PET and the Apple II. At the time when most microcomputers came from kit form and appealed to hobbyists, these three computers addressed the average person and were very popular in schools. Radio Shack sold more than 200,000 TRS-80 computers.



Want more info on the TRS-80? Check out our catalog page at:

<http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/accession/102646108>

Trivia Question

On August 7, 1944, IBM president Thomas J. Watson formally presented the Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator (ASCC) to Harvard University. By what other name is this computer known?

Last Trivia Question

Ivan Sutherland described the first interactive graphics program. What was it called?

Answer: Sketchpad. Sketchpad was revolutionary, written by Sutherland in 1963 in the course of his PhD thesis. It is considered the ancestor of modern computer-aided drafting (CAD) as well as a general breakthrough in computer graphics.