

OUELLET TODAY

PARTNERSHIP
IN CONSTRUCTION



Bowdoin College
Aerial view of Adams Hall foundation

Adams Hall: Medical College or Mausoleum?

OAI Crew Finds Evidence of Stiffs Under the Floorboards

In 1861, Adams Hall was a brand new, state-of-the-art instructional building on the Bowdoin College campus. It was also where, according to Guy Farrar, Class of 1910, the college kept its "stiffs in pickle." In other words, Adams Hall housed the laboratory where students of Bowdoin's former medical school (1820-1920) practiced on cadavers.

So, is Adams Hall haunted, as some claim? It recently gave up a few secrets to Ouellet Associates' crew members, on site at the beginning of an extensive renovation. "We found some irregular, coffin-shaped floorboards in the attic and, sure enough, stuck to the underside of one was a death certificate," says project superintendent Dean Ouellet. In addition to coffin lids, the team has unearthed body tags and a second death certificate. But to date, no ghosts.

Adams Hall is OAI's seventh building project at Bowdoin in two years. "It's a privilege to be part of the team, dedicated to maintaining the historic fabric of this campus," says project manager David Lawrence. But with Adams Hall, as with other campus buildings, the years have taken their toll. "We found that the masonry had cracked with age," says Lawrence. "It was the same thing with Maine Hall, and we'll be correcting it the same way, by spraying layers of concrete on the old brick to limit future movement and cracking."

The renovation, slated for completion this coming August, will increase the number of offices to 28 and add common areas, conference spaces and one classroom. A new

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One of the coffin lids unearthed during demolition work at Adams Hall.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ADAMS HALLS ~ BOWDOIN COLLEGE
Brunswick, Maine

COTTER UNION ~ BOOK STORE
Colby College • Waterville, Maine

KETCHUM LIBRARY ADDITION ~
GEORGE AND BARBARA BUSH CENTER
University of New England • Biddeford, Maine

UNE ACADEMIC SCIENCE BUILDING
University of New England • Biddeford, Maine

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Just How Much Do You Know...?

- 1) What state has executed more than 350 criminals since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976?
 - a) Florida
 - b) Texas
 - c) New York
 - d) Colorado
- 2) In Roman numerals, "CD" represents which of the following?
 - a) 150
 - b) 400
 - c) 550
 - d) 900
- 3) Better known for its food items, what conglomerate introduced the Wonderbra in 1994?
 - a) Campbell Soup Co.
 - b) General Mills
 - c) Hershey
 - d) Sarah Lee
- 4) Since 2000, which of these nations has exported the most passenger cars to the U.S.?
 - a) Germany
 - b) Canada
 - c) South Korea
 - d) Japan
- 5) What NFL team won a record 18 consecutive games in 2003-04?
 - a) Indianapolis Colts
 - b) Pittsburgh Steelers
 - c) New England Patriots
 - d) Green Bay Packers
- 6) Charles Lindbergh's famous solo transatlantic flight in 1927 took him from New York to:
 - a) London
 - b) Paris
 - c) Glasgow
 - d) Madrid

—from *mental_floss*

Answers: 1) b (During the past 30 years, the Lone Star state has executed nearly four times more prisoners than any other.) 2) b 3) d 4) b 5) c 6) b

Up, Up And Away

The earliest balloons were inflated animal bladders, intestines and stomachs. It wasn't until 1824 that scientist Michael Faraday invented the rubber balloon, which he used in his experiments with hydrogen at the Royal Institution in London. Faraday cut two circles



from sheets of rubber and dusted the centers of the circles with flour to keep them from sticking together. Then he pressed the sticky edges together to seal the sides, and inflated the balloon with hydrogen.

According to Balloon Headquarters, an organization of balloon enthusiasts, by 1825 people were making their own balloons using a kit marketed by British rubber manufacturer Thomas Hancock. By 1889, pre-made imported balloons were available in the U.S. The Montgomery Ward catalog sold them for four cents each or 40 cents a dozen. In 1907, The Anderson Rubber Co. began manufacturing balloons in the United States.

The modern-day latex balloon was developed in 1931 by Neil Tillotson, a chemical engineer from New England. His first model was shaped

like a cat's head, with pointed ears and printed whiskers. Tillotson founded the Tillotson Rubber Co. Its Dipco division still makes balloons today.

The Hardest Change An Organization Can Make

How many projects does your organization have underway? If your answer is too many, you might want to consider making a difficult, but extremely effective, change: reducing the overload on your workers.

Why? Because, according to *Chaco Canyon's Point Lookout* newsletter (<http://Chaco-Canyon.com/pointlookout>), overloaded people just can't focus long enough to do anyone or anything much good. If everyone is working beyond capacity all the time, they're not going to feel like they can exercise the luxury to explore, experiment or take risks. And if your people aren't doing those things, it's unlikely they're going to have a breakthrough.

Why Do We Say It?

Do you know where these common expressions come from?

- Barking up the wrong tree originated with hunting dogs that would bark at the bottom of a tree where they mistakenly thought their quarry was hiding.
- When you can't hold a candle to someone, you can't measure up. This comes from the practice of apprentices holding a candle so their masters could see what they were doing. If an apprentice couldn't even do that, he was obviously inferior.
- If your temper gets out of control and you fly off the handle, you're like a loose axe head that flies off its handle.
- Stealing one's thunder: this phrase originated in 1709 when John Dennis, an English playwright, invented a new method of simulating the sound of thunder on stage that used metal balls rolling around in wooden troughs. Dennis's play was not successful but his technique was, and when he realized it was being used in a later production of *Macbeth*, he purportedly accused the director of stealing his thunder.
- A flash in the pan, something with great promise that doesn't come to fruition, dates back to Gold Rush days. A miner might see a flash in his pan that didn't turn out to be gold. Similarly, something doesn't pan out when it doesn't meet expectations.

Adams Hall... *continued from page 1*

ADA-compliant entrance and elevator tower on the west end will be separated from the existing building by a glass lobby. An HVAC upgrade will create an ultra energy-efficient environment. And to top it all off...a new copper roof with skylights.

"Every square foot of the upper two floors is being reconstructed," says Lawrence. "But when we're done, the traditional architecture of this landmark building will remain intact. The building will support state-of-the-art classroom technology once more—it will only look 150 years old."



A rendering of the renovated Adams Hall, complete with its new stair tower.

New Year's Thoughts

The holiday season has once again come and gone. While we frantically rushed around to buy gifts, attend parties and carry out our normal business and personal obligations, we made a point of stopping to take a few moments to reflect.

We are enormously grateful to have a successful business, with dedicated, hardworking employees, outstanding building team partners, supportive corporate friends and, of course, loyal clients. You are the heart and soul of our company, without whom our success would not be possible.

All of us at Ouellet Associates hope you had a safe and healthy holiday and wish you a year ahead filled with happiness, promise and opportunity.

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