



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Making history personal

For Immediate Release

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Visit the *Made in Tennessee: Manufacturing Milestones* Exhibition at the Museum of East Tennessee History

(Knoxville, Tenn.) The exhibit, *Made in Tennessee: Manufacturing Milestones*, at the Museum of East Tennessee History through April 4, chronicles the history of manufacturing and manufacturers in Tennessee over the past two-and a-half centuries. A companion student K-12 curriculum has been developed and is available for teachers and students.

As with all exhibitions and programs developed by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Museum of East Tennessee History, *Made in Tennessee* features a “grassroots” approach, turning to communities and individuals across the state for help in identifying content and artifacts.



Exhibit platform representing manufacturing across Tennessee from 1860-1890.

The exhibition begins at the workstation of Knoxville Glove Company employee Margaret Newcomb, who personally sewed more than 10,800,000 industrial gloves from 1953-2013. Visitors are invited to “clock in and out” using a time card and an authentic time clock and will enjoy more than 80 artifacts of iconic Tennessee products, from Jack Daniels to JFG coffee to an Alladdin/Stanley thermos to an employee-signed hood of a Volkswagen. The perimeter of the exhibit includes 20 “Did You Know?” facts about manufacturing in Tennessee, such as did you know that Mastercraft, the world’s largest producer of ski, wakeboard, and luxury performance power boats, built their first ski boat in a two-stall horse barn in Maryville in 1968? Visitors will encounter other surprising facts: Did you know that in 1810, there were 14,000 registered distillers in the state, producing some 25.5 million gallons a year? Intriguing is the fact that by 1980, the Marathon was the only car that had been produced completely in the state, yet by 2010, Tennessee was the “#1 state in car manufacturing strength.”

Following its run at the Museum of East Tennessee History, Knoxville, the exhibit will be made available to museums across the state through 2017.

The goal of the exhibition and curriculum is to raise awareness of manufacturing's role in

America's, and more specifically Tennessee's, history through artifacts, print, photographs, video and graphics telling representative stories that highlight the emergence of different industries over time from 1760 to current and future. Supplementary programming, such as lectures, panels, and site tours, will afford the opportunity to engage Tennessee communities in dialogue about the current and future prospects of manufacturing.

ALCOA Foundation is the presenting sponsor of this education-based initiative with a grant of \$50,000 that was given in honor of ALCOA Tennessee Operations 100th anniversary celebration and the announcement of its automotive expansion project on May 2, 2013. The Tennessee Valley Authority is also a sponsor of the exhibit.

The Museum of East Tennessee History is open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday; 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday; and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Sunday. Museum Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors, and FREE for children under 16. Each Sunday admission is FREE to all and ETHS members always receive FREE admission. The Museum is located in the East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37901. For more information about booking the exhibition, scheduling a school tour, or visiting the museum, call (865) 215-8824, email eths@eastTNhistory.org, or visit www.easttnhistory.org.

About East Tennessee Historical Society

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged as one of the most active history organizations in the state and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 180 years the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage—recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

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