



Volunteer Information Sheet

This sheet is for **NEW** volunteers to become a bit more familiar with the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles' gallery collection and the history of the building the museum is housed in. Please refer to Erminie Hafer's book for more information.

The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles was established in 1965 by Paul and Erminie Hafer. Paul Hafer had a 57-year career of designing and building truck bodies at the Boyertown Auto Body Works, which was co-founded by his father B. Frank Hafer. He served for 21 years as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. Erminie Hafer's book, *A Century of Vehicle Craftsmanship*, is a thorough history on the transportation industry in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

This historic site was actively used as a place of vehicle manufacturing for well over 100 years, dating from before the invention of automobiles and operating into the age of modern highway transportation. Vehicle manufacturing continued uninterrupted at this location from 1872 until the factory closed in 1990. During its growth from the horse-drawn era to the automotive age the site evolved to meet new manufacturing needs. Although it was expanded and altered over the years, portions of the original carriage factory were retained. The majority of the construction dates to the large steel-frame World War II assembly plant of the Boyertown Auto Body Works, but the original 1872 Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Factory blacksmith's shop still stands as part of the factory complex.

During World War II this plant produced Navy and Marine Corps four-wheel-drive frontline ambulances as well as trailer-based Mobile Machine Shops, Mobile Prosthetic Laboratories, Mobile Tire Repair Shops, Shoe & Textile Canvas Repair Mobile Units, Mobile Hospital Operating Rooms and Boxing & Packaging Units. The Auto Body Works received the prestigious Army-Navy “E” flag and four additional stars for its outstanding war-time production.

Since 2002, the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles has occupied the old Walnut Street assembly plant and strives to maintain the historic character of the World War II factory and the 1872 Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage factory. The restored 1872 blacksmith shop from the Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Factory is the earliest of the museum buildings. The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles is open to the public and collects, preserves, studies, and exhibits vehicles built in Pennsylvania.

Ongoing List of Duties for Volunteers

- × Special Events
- × Kitchen Help
- × Front Desk (weekends)
- × Vehicle Maintenance
- × Library Organization
- × Light Cleaning
- × Docent or Tour Guide
- × Gallery Maintenance

If you have any questions about volunteering please contact:

Autumn Shaner

Volunteer Coordinator

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Darlene Brunner

Volunteer Coordinator

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