

A Chairman's Perspective – The **Associated Press** Comes Calling...



One of the great parts of participating in the activities of the Rolls-Royce Foundations is interacting with all the volunteers. Volunteer hours add up to well over another full-time employee, which is a staggering statistic!

When you ask them why they do it, the common thread is, a love for working with the people present and the unique nature of the facility and its mission. After all, getting to mingle among this kind of automotive history is rather special. Getting to do it with this many like-minded individuals is just the icing on the cake!



This year's volunteer appreciation event was even more unique in that the entire volunteer community had an opportunity to be interviewed by the Associated Press. Through a chance encounter, Mike Scolforo, a reporter from the Associated Press, found our museum and wanted to know more. After a brief preliminary discussion and interview with Head Librarian Sarah Holibaugh, and myself, it was agreed that the volunteer picnic would be the ideal opportunity for their reporters and video team to meet the staff and volunteers that make this museum run.

There was an added air of electricity as we introduced the AP Team to the attendees. Here was our chance to let the world know what we are about and hopefully capture the imagination of everyone with even a passing interest in this subject! The Associated Press interviewed staff and volunteers, captured videos, drove museum cars along with volunteers and created a story on the Foundation that could be featured in print and on television!



Within hours of the story going live, the phones started ringing. The Foundation was now featured in news outlets from Texas to Maine to national syndicates like The Washington Post and Apple News! We made it on every local tv station and on stations as far away as Michigan! We had no idea how well this organization would resonate with the public. In 48 hours, we had over 100 phone calls for tours, questions about what we do and volunteer opportunities! The museum has been booked solid ever since with tours, interview requests and MORE volunteer interest! Even our slightly "off the beaten path" location



Building a Better Foundation



won't keep them away! For those of us who are so passionate about this organization, it has been thrilling to watch the public come from all over to see our collection and fall in love with our little place, just like us!

Just goes to show you that if you build it (and advertise it properly!) they will come!

Your Rolls-Royce and Bentley Museum is taking its first of many bows to the appreciative audience and it all happens from your enthusiasm and generosity as a member and supporter of the RRF!

Thank you for your faith and support in this most worthy of historical organizations.

We will endeavor to continue this path of education, enlightenment, service, and entertainment of the public as we steadily move forward with North America's one and only Rolls-Royce and Bentley Museum, the Rolls-Royce Foundation!

– George Wagman III
Rolls-Royce Foundation Chair



AP

U.S. NEWS

At a little known Rolls-Royce museum in Pennsylvania farm country, volunteers dote over iconic cars



BY MARK SCOLORO

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A Museum That's Easy to Miss

The 29 antique and collectible Rolls-Royce and Bentley automobiles that date as far back as the late 1920s are the central attraction of the largely overlooked and seldom visited museum, which is easy to miss among the surrounding miles of farm fields and stretch of nondescript industrial buildings just outside Mechanicsburg. The museum, owned by the Rolls-Royce Foundation, includes a showroom, maintenance area and a third room being converted into a library and reading room.

"I often wonder if the homes around here know the foundation exists," Fowler said. "Or if they always just wonder, 'Why do we see these vintage Rolls-Royce and Bentleys roaming around from time to time?'" The museum has its roots in nearby Harrisburg, where Rolls-Royce put an owners' club in the 1960s, located between large dealerships in New York and Washington. After Hurricane Agnes devastated that location in 1972, a businessman donated the Mechanicsburg property for a new facility. The 6,000-person owners' club, with members in 26 countries and a headquarters in the same complex, is a separate entity but works closely with the museum.

Though admission is just \$5, the museum launched in 2004 gets only about 1,000 visitors a year. It typically draws members of car clubs, groups of seniors and students on school field trips, with visits that have to be scheduled in advance.