

= Golden Age of Trucking Museum =

The Golden Age of Trucking Museum is a defunct trucking museum in Middlebury , Connecticut , United States . Founded in 1998 by Richard and Frances Guerrera , it was non @-@ profit organization dedicated to trucking that focused on trucks of the 1950s . The museum was dedicated on September 23 , 2002 and housed in a 32 @,@ 000 square foot building . It featured a collection of historic and antique vehicles including the first registered car in Connecticut , a 1928 Pierce @-@ Arrow Motor Car Company dump truck . Among the trucks in the museum were Mack Trucks , GMC and Autocar Company trucks , including a 1963 Mack B61 motivated Guerrera to found the museum . The Golden Age of Trucking Museum also featured a collection of toy trucks , hats , state license plates and images relating to trucking . Throughout its entire operation , the museum ran a deficit and it closed after a 2009 fund raising campaign failed . The museum 's final day of operation was on July 20 , 2010 . The economic impact of the museums closure was expected to be low , but according to Steven Frischling of the Boston Globe. the Golden Age of Trucking Museum made its mark on the auto world .

= = History = =

Founded in 1998 by Richard and Frances Guerrera , the Golden Age of Trucking Museum was a non @-@ profit organization dedicated to trucking . The Guerreras owned and operated R.J. Guerrera , a liquid transportation trucking company . Originally , a collection of trucks were restored and stored in barns and garages throughout Connecticut . The Golden Age of Trucking Museum was opened to bring the collection under a single roof . After the property for the museum was purchased in July 1998 , Richard Guerrera was diagnosed with cancer . In June 1999 , he was transported to the site for an unofficial groundbreaking event . Richard Guerrera died a month later and the facility was completed in 2002 . The museum was designed by Francis Guerrera 's son @-@ in @-@ law , a general contractor . On September 23 , 2002 , the museum was formally opened with a ribbon @-@ cutting ceremony in the complete 32 @,@ 000 square foot building .

The museum never was able to sustain itself through its visitors and it ran a deficit throughout its entire operation ; the museums operating costs that were covered by Frances Guerrera . In 2009 , a \$ 100 @,@ 000 funding raising campaign was undertaken , but it only resulted in a total of \$ 20 @,@ 000 being raised prior to July 2010 . On July 6 , 2010 , the board of directors came to the conclusion to close the museum . The museum 's final day was on July 20 , 2010 and also featured a gathering of antique cars in a " Cruise Night " event .

= = Collection = =

The Golden Age of Trucking Museum featured a collection of historic trucks , cars and other items related to the trucking operation , with a special focus on trucking in the 1950s . Many of the historic vehicles on display were noted for their rarity or otherwise unique quality . These include the first registered car in Connecticut , a 1902 Merry Oldsmobile , and a 1928 Pierce @-@ Arrow Motor Car Company five @-@ to @-@ seven ton dump truck , one of only 55 Pierce @-@ Arrow trucks produced . The displays included a 1916 Mack Paddy Wagon , a 1929 Diamond T truck , a 1931 Ford Model AA Service Car , a 1936 Ford Roadster Deluxe and a Model T Ford Tank Truck . A 1953 Fageol moving van with original owner 's banner was located near some surreys and carriages . Other early period vehicles on display included a 1912 Autocar two @-@ cylinder transit bus , a 1914 Trumbull , a 1915 Barker , and a 1917 Republic Model 10 1 @-@ ton express and a 1920 3 ½ ton Model AC Mack .

Trucks of the 1930s and 1940s included a 1937 Ford tow truck , a 1940 Dodge VK , a 1940 Mack FN , a 1941 Federal Model 25K and a 1942 Dodge WC @-@ 21 . The 1950s ' vehicles were represented by a 1952 Diamond T 950RSa , 1955 IH DFC405 and a 1955 GMC Model 860 . Later vehicles included two Autocar Company trucks , a 1962 DC75T and a 1974 DC9364 10 @-@ wheel dump truck . The 1963 Mack B61 was of special importance to the founder Richard Guerrera who

acquired the truck with the purchase of a local company , Oil Transport . Guerrera sold the truck and reacquired the same vehicle in 1985 to restore it . This Mack B61 was described as the " impetus " for the museum . Also on display was a 1996 Volvo prototype truck cab .

Other items on display included " Bumpers " , a dog sculpture made of Mack Truck bumpers and a collection of toy trucks , hats , state license plates and images relating to trucking . The museum also included an exhibit featuring kerosene lamps . According to Stephen Wood , the kerosene lamps might have come from the defunct Kerosene Lamp Museum . Also on display was Stephen Guman 's Guinness World Record breaking Popsicle stick structure , made of 396 @,@ 000 sticks .

= = Impact = =

Throughout its operation , the Golden Age of Trucking Museum was one of two trucking museums in Connecticut . Steven Frischling of the Boston Globe wrote , " It may seem strange that two trucking museums would be located in the same state , but [t] he Haul of Fame truck museum and [t] he Golden Age of Trucking Museum make their individual marks on the auto world . " The economic impact of the museum 's closure was not expected to be large according to John Cookson , co @-@ chairman of Economic and Industrial Development Commission . Janet Serra , the director for the Western Connecticut Convention and Visitor 's Bureau , said the effect of closure would not be immediate , but noted it could impact tourism and area hotels .