



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Mike Augspurger Innovative Lives Presentation and Oral History

NMAH.AC.0689

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Mike Augspurger Innovative Lives Presentation and Oral History
Date:	1998 2001 2000
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0689
Creator:	Augspurger, Mike Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. Cater, Anita
Extent:	0.25 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	Mike Augspurger was born in 1956 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Working with steel and titanium, he invented an all terrain rear wheel drive handcycle. Collection contains approximately eight hours of video footage documenting Augspurger discussing his life and work and a promotional video titled <i>One-Off Handcycle</i> .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was recorded by the Innovative Lives Program of the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation on May 5, 2000. The Innovative Lives series brings Museum visitors and American inventors together to discuss inventions and the creative process and to experiment and play with hands-on activities related to each inventor's product.

Provenance

The collection was transferred from the Lemelson Center to the Archives Center in 2001.

Available Formats

Original videos digitized in 2014. See repository for details.

Processing Information

Processed by Kimberly Tarr (project archivist), December, 2009; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Mike Augspurger Innovative Lives Presentation and Oral History, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. Series 1, Original Videos, 2000, is stored off-site and may not be used by researchers. Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. The Archives Center does not own rights to the promotional video One-Off Handcycle. Reproduction permission and fees from the Archives Center may apply. Copies of releases on file.

Biographical / Historical

Mike Augspurger (1956-) was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he built, modified, and raced bicycles, motorcycles, and go-karts from a young age. He attended motorcycle mechanic school at the Indiana Institute of Technology and received his B.A. from Hampshire College in 1981. Augspurger founded Merlin Metalworks in 1987 with business partners and began using titanium to manufacture bicycle frames because of its flexibility, corrosion resistance, and lightweight nature. It was his friendship with neighbor Bob Hall, a wheelchair racing athlete, which prompted him to create an all terrain arm-powered cycle. He founded One-Off Titanium, Inc., to design, manufacture, and custom-build handcycles in 1989.

The Jermone and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation was founded in 1995 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History through a generous gift from the Lemelson Foundation. The Center's mission is: to document, interpret, and disseminate information about invention and innovation; to encourage inventive creativity in young people; and to foster an appreciation for the central role invention and innovation play in the history of the United States. The Innovative Lives series brings together museum visitors and, especially, school-aged children and American inventors to discuss inventions and the creative process and to experiment and play with hands-on activities related to each inventor's product. This collection was recorded by the Innovative Lives Program of the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains seven (7) hours of original (BetaCam SP) recordings and eight (8) hours of reference (viewing) copies documenting the life and work of Mike Augspurger, inventor of the One-Off All Terrain Handcycle. The recordings include a presentation by Augspurger for the Lemelson Center's Innovative Lives Program. Audience participants are students from Jefferson Junior High School (Washington, D.C.), Nysmith School (Herndon, Virginia), Nicholas Orem Middle School (Hyattsville, Maryland), and Rosa Parks Middle School (Olney, Maryland). The collection also contains interviews with Leni Fried, Augspurger's wife, and Provi Morillo, an owner of a One-Off Handcycle.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series.

Series 1, Original Videos, 2000

Series 2, Reference Videos (viewing copies), 1998; 2000

Series 3, Supplemental Documentation, 2001

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Bicycle industry
- Bicycles
- Inventions -- 1980-2000
- Inventors -- 20th century
- Mountain bikes
- Photographs
- Slides

Types of Materials:

- BetaCam SP (videotape format)
- Interviews -- 1980-2000
- Oral history -- 1990-2000
- Videotapes

Names:

- One-Off Titanium

Container Listing

Series 1: Original Video, 2000

Box 1, Item OV
689.1-7

OV 689.1-7 Mike Augspurger Innovative Lives Presentation and Interview, 2000

May 5

7 Videocassettes (BetacamSP)

Notes: Original video cassettes

Total Running Time: 7 hours

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Series 2: Reference Videos (Viewing Copies), 2000

8 Videocassettes (VHS)

- Box 3, Item RV 689.1 RV 689.1, Mike Augspurgen Innovative Lives Presentation, 2000 May 5
Notes: Total Running Time: 53:41, Camera A
- Anita Cater, NMAH staff, provides opening remarks for the 21st Innovative Lives program and introduces Augspurgen. Discusses his early years growing up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and interest in go-karts, bicycles, and motorcycles. Elaborates on the evolution of mountain bicycle development, the differences between steel and titanium construction, and how he became interested in developing a handcycle. Presentation includes photographic slides as well as demonstration of handcycle. Answers questions from Jefferson Junior High School (Washington, D.C) and Nysmith School (Herndon, Virginia) students.
- Box 3, Item RV 689.2 RV 689.2, Mike Augspurgen Innovative Lives Presentation, 2000 May 5
Notes: Total Running Time 54:02, Camera B
- Same information as RV 689.1, but shot at a different angle and includes audience reaction.
- Box 3, Item RV 689.3 RV 689.3, Mike Augspurgen Innovative Lives Presentation, 2000 May 5
Notes: Total Running Time: 1:01:32, Camera A
- Anita Cater, NMAH staff, provides opening remarks for the 21st Innovative Lives program and discusses traits of inventors; introduces Augspurgen. Discusses his early years growing up in Fort Wayne, Indiana and how his interest in racing motorcycles influenced his decision to attend motorcycle mechanic school. Outlines his early work as machine apprentice, development of his hand bicycle design, the invention process, and applying for a patent. Elaborates on the evolution of mountain bicycle development, the benefits of titanium, and how he became interested in developing a handcycle. A neighbor, Bob Hall, had won the Boston Marathon wheelchair race and Augspurgen believed that he could create a better arm-powered design. Also mentions the importance of the magazine industry in marketing his product. Presentation includes photographs as well as demonstration of the custom-made handcycle. Answers questions from Nicholas Orem Middle School (Hyattsville, Maryland), and Rosa Parks Middle School (Olney, Maryland) students. Concludes with advice to students on being inventive. Still images from presentation are included at end of tape.
- Box 3, Item RV 689.4 RV 689.4, Mike Augspurgen Innovative Lives Presentation, 2000 May 5
Notes: Total Running Time: 59:47, Camera B
- Same information as RV 689.3, but shot at a different angle and includes audience reaction.
- Box 3, Item RV 689.5 RV 689.5, Mike Augspurgen Interview, 2000 May 5

Notes: Total Running Time: 1:01:32, Camera A
Interviews with Jefferson Junior High School students discussing inventions and creativity. Questions include: what does it take to be inventive? Do you have an idea for an invention? (Multiple takes.)

Box 3, Item RV 689.6 RV 689.6, Mike Augspurger Interview, 2000 May 5
Notes: Total Running Time: 1:02:33 Camera
Continuation of interview which commences on RV689.6. Augspurger discusses his relationship with his father and how he influenced his education. Reminisces about his cross-country motorcycle trip and outlines the pleasures and appeals of human-powered vehicles. Explores his initial apprehension about starting his own business. Augspurger demonstrates the handcycle outdoors and rides up a flight of stairs. (23:56)
Elementary school teacher George Tatum discusses his invention of the wave bike. Elaborates on his desire to combine his love of sailing with bicycle riding. Discusses the upright design and how it works. Demonstrates wave bike on the water. (39:47)

Box 3, Item RV 689.7 RV 689.7, Mike Augspurger Interview, 2000 May 5

Box 3, Item RV 689.8 RV 689.8 One-Off Hand Cycle, 1998
Notes: Total Running Time: 11:06
Produced, written, and directed by Roberta Bouchard, 1998. Content description: Promotional video in which Augspurger outlines the features of the One-Off Handcycle. Features hand cyclists Rose Winand and Terry Ball, and Paralympic Gold Medalist Chris Waddell.

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Series 3: Supplemental Documentation, 2001

Box 3, Folder 1	Interview with Leni Fried, 2001 August 22
Box 3, Folder 2	Interview with Provi Morillo, 2001 August 22
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs and Slides, 2000-05

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