Fig. 1. Side view (partially open). In this configuration the artifact is 107.32cm tall and weighs 1723gm. It is made of wood and aluminum. It is used to vaporize materials without destroying them. Continued...
Continued...
Fig. 7. Side view (artifact fully open). PHOTO: © 2018 Richard W. Black

**Artifact 18-01 Answer**

See next page.
Thanks for participating in our very first “What’s It?” guessing contest! As of the cut-off date we had 38 separate entries by 36 people. While most surmised it was for drying something, some were more specific than others. Some, we noticed, might have been hungry while guessing. And, we thought, the “Really Interesting Guesses” were certainly plausible. Good job everyone! The next artifact is going to be tougher, we’re not certain ourselves what it is. Try researching it before guessing and be as specific as possible with your answer.

SPECIFICALLY CORRECT GUESSES

Theresa Alano ...... Clothes drying rack
Anna Allen........... Clothes to dry, [or] “...candles to dry and set...”
Barb Biljan......... Laundry dryer
Nancy Breslawski . Clothes dryer *
Cathy Chesnut..... Folding clothes drying rack
Chet Fery ............ Laundry dryer / hanger (Second guess)
Diana Flow .......... Clothes drying rack
Sharon Guiz??** Clothes dryer
Donna Mancuso .. Clothes dryer (Second guess)
Kari Pardun ......... Clothes / laundry drying rack
Dave Preston ...... Clothes dryer
Bill Sauers ........ Clothes dryer rack
Jessica Sargis....... Mitten / sock / hat dryer
Jessica Slentz....... Clothes drying rack or pasta drying rack) *
Cody Sommer ...... Clothes rack for drying clothes
Cindy Underwood Clothes rack
Norm Wright ....... Clothes dryer
“Neta” ............... Clothes dryer
“Rex” ............... Clothes dryer

GENERALLY CORRECT GUESSES

James Barrett....... Indoor drying rack
Abby DeVuyst....... Drying rack
Hank Earle .......... Drying rack
Hanny Heyen....... Drying rack
Jan Milliman ....... Drying rack
Mary Ellen Rich ... Drying rack
Mary Rich.......... Drying rack

“IN THE BALLPARK” GUESSES

Evan Dobbins Pasta/noodle dryer (Evan had “Clothesline to dry clothes” first, but crossed that off)
Linda Miller ....... Drying rack—possibly for pasta?
Jan Preston......... Pasta dryer

REALLY INTERESTING GUESSES

Calvin Cavagiale I think it is an archaic umbrella stand for a table or a beachside outing
Chet Fery ............ Newspaper rack /holder (First guess)
M. Herzog.......... Tripod—Surveying?
Donna Mancuso This was the safe when library was on State Street (First guess. Oops, wrong artifact)
Julie Pruss Spinning rack—probably for winding wool / fiber in a factory
Pat Schafer......... Artist easel
Marilyn Slentz..... An Umbrella
“Debbie” ............ Used for yarn

NO GUESS

Tony Gianni Tony: Thanks for entering, but we couldn’t find any guess on your reply form.

* Both of these entrants correctly drew a picture on the back of the card showing how they imagined the artifact fully open.
** Sorry Sharon, we couldn’t make out the rest of the spelling of your last name on the entry form.

ANSWER: Yup, a Clothes Drying Rack!

Continued...
BACKGROUND

“WHAT’S IT?” has been a proposed feature of the BCM website since its inception in 2007. In 2017 Brockport Community Museum (BCM) board member Archer “Buck” Nobel, a Brockport Central School District teacher (now retired) developed “The Mystery of History” school project that encouraged fourth and fifth grade students to use observational and investigative techniques to determine what an artifact is and how it was used.

That project was introduced to the general public during a BCM outreach presence at the 2017 Brockport Sidewalk Sale. That success led to this collaboration between the Brockport Community Museum, Seymour Library and Brockport Central School District. The first artifact for identification debuted at the November 17, 2018 Seymour Library “After Dark” gala.

GET INVOLVED

– Take your best guess regarding the current artifact.
– Watch our home page for the next artifact and clue(s).
– Do you have an artifact you would like to know more about? Open your query to a larger audience.
– Submit a suggestion about how we can improve this project.

If so...

Leave your contact information in “Ye Olde Prediction Box” near the exhibit display.

CREDITS

*Museum project committee*
Archer “Buck” Noble
Richard W. Black
Norman Frisch

*Seymour Library*
Carl Gouveia, Director