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All-polished, apex-top Oriental Black die: 4-0 x 0-10 x 3-2
Polished flat-top base with 2-inch polished margin: 5-0 x 1-4 x 0-10
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about our cover
Front: Adams Granite Company
For Elmwood Cemetery Memorials, Hammond, Ind.
4-0 x 1-6 x 5-6 Jet Black memorial with applied bronze and gold-leaf lettering
First off, congratulations on your election to president of the Barre Granite Association.

Chatot: Thank you; it is quite an honor.

In your new role as president of the board of trustees, what do you see as your main goals and objectives for the coming year?

Chatot: I think we need to really focus on increasing membership in the BGA and enhancing services for members, including unveiling a new warranty program, having a larger presence at trade shows, and updating our marketing and promotional materials. The past administration (led by past-president Brice Mugford) set a good foundation in these areas, and we need to continue working toward strengthening the
organization and making it of great value to its members. Last year we established a five-year vision for the BGA, and we now need to decide what tools are going to be needed to implement and achieve our aim. Granite has a unique history in Barre that dates back over three centuries now. The best product that we offer is the people in this community. Some of the finest craftsmen and tradesmen in the industry live right here and are passing their trade on to the next generation. When you buy from a BGA member you are not just getting a monument or memorial, you are getting years of skill and expertise that you just won't find anywhere else. That history is our greatest strength, and we have to make others understand what a value-added product they are getting every time they choose a Barre Granite Association member business over any others.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges currently facing the BGA?

Chatot: I think we all need to take a serious look at what we want the BGA to be. We provide a number of important services for our members — including union contract negotiations and a lower cost workman’s comp insurance product — but what more can we offer and be in order to grow and become an important resource to not only members, but also to retailers and the industry? We need to understand what members want from us in the year 2000 and beyond. We definitely want more members and are coming up with methods to attract others to the BGA. The more companies that belong to our organization, the more we can do for the membership, the better deals we can negotiate, the stronger our position can be on the political front.

In its 111-year history, the BGA has never had a female president. How does that make you feel, and do you think being a woman will lend a different perspective to the office?

Chatot: I honestly don’t see my being a woman as that big a deal. I feel more honored that my peers feel I am skilled and competent enough to take on the role of president, and that in itself is a great honor. Probably for my father’s generation this is something remarkable, but I have been in this business for 24 years and have seen how much the times have changed in every industry, not just granite. Frankly, if you look at small businesses in an historic perspective, women have been running the show for many years, just behind the scenes. Men worked in the plants and women have run the offices, done the books, or worked the retail end of the business. Our roles haven’t really changed that much, but the recognition and respect have, and that is a welcome and important difference.

Any final thoughts?

Chatot: I am just very excited about the future of the BGA and will continue the hard work of our past leadership. I also encourage anyone who has questions or comments to give me or our Executive Director John Castaldo a call and share your thoughts. We really want member participation and value everyone’s comments and ideas. Tell us what you would like to see for programs and services. After all, we are here for the members and need to know what they want if we are to be an effective and valuable organization for them.
Tucked away in a small building on Blackwell Street is LaCroix Custom Cutting. When you arrive, you will be greeted by Robert LaCroix whose warm French Canadian accent is as strong and polished as the stone he cuts. Opened in 1985, LCC creates monuments, small to medium in size, mostly from Barre Gray. An operation of four people, LCC prides itself on exceptional customer service and flexibility. "If I say a monument will be ready to ship on Monday, I will stay through the weekend and night to make certain I keep that promise. My customers come first, and I will do what it takes to make them happy," says Robert.

But don't let its size fool you. LaCroix Custom Cutting is busy, very busy, and business grows each year. Robert attributes this growth to the firm's dedication to its customers and the fact that LCC is a very trustworthy operation. "I get a lot of the same businesses ordering from me over and over. We have one thing, design monuments, and do it very well. I send out for etching, carving, and sandblasting and give it a nice final polish before sending it to my clients. We aren't equipped for that type of work, and most people don't mind," says Robert.

One could say that granite courses through the veins of the whole LaCroix family. Robert started in 1970 working in area plants until 1985 when he opened his own shop. He also has two other brothers who cut stone,
one in Barre, one in Canada; and his sister does sandblast work in Canada. Fernand LaCroix is the patriarch of this clan and at 74 years of age, he hasn't known many days in the past 55 years when he wasn't cutting granite. In fact, he is one of the three employees of LaCroix Custom Cutting.

Brian Campbell joined the operation two years ago. Robert's wife, Lucie, a part-time secretary/bookkeeper, rounds out the group. "I hired Brian when Dad said he wanted to retire in February. Well, February rolled around, and he never made mention of it again. So now both Dad and Brian work here. It's good. We are very busy, and Dad is a master craftsman. He says the same thing every year (about retiring), and then February comes and goes, and he's still with us. He is strong as an ox and really healthy, so as long as he wants to keep cutting, I am happy to have him here. It would be tough without him," says Robert.

Clockwise, from opposite page: Owner Robert LaCroix; Fernand LaCroix; Brian Campbell; Robert and Brian splitting stone.
Take a tour of Colombo Stoneworks and you will experience a rich blending of the old and new. Modern equipment and techniques share space with well-worn wooden floors and valves and pulleys that could have been aboard the Titanic. A few of the offices have been updated and stylishly remodeled, others retain the charm of earlier times. Modern CAD equipment shares space with draftsmen who still create designs the same way their predecessors did 50 years ago. One thing is for certain: Colombo Stoneworks is a company on the go and growing every day.

Robert Plante has been the owner and operations manager of the 20,000-square foot manufacturing plant since 1998. He is a warm and friendly person who takes great pride in his plant and people. “We aren’t the largest plant in town, but we can create almost anything any
of the larger plants offer. We added a mausoleum division to our product offerings last fall and are starting to see some great results in that area. I feel our success comes from the people who work here and their commitment to the craft and business. We give personalized, full-service to all our clients and work hard to ensure they get just what they want,” said Plante.

Colombo Stoneworks isn’t new to most in the granite industry. Colombo Granite Company was started in 1949 by Mac Colombo. In 1970, Bob and Jackie Colombo took control and modernized the operation, and in 1998 Colombo was purchased by Robert Plante. “In my opinion, it was a perfect marriage. Bob and Jackie had the manufacturing side of the operation well in place. My company, Robert Plante Stoneworks, had a great deal of expertise in the brokering and the art/drafting side of the business. In our first year alone, we doubled monument sales, and it just keeps getting better,” added Plante.

Plante is no stranger to the granite industry; his varied career started in 1973 at Rouleau Granite in Barre. “I worked in sandblast for a year and then went on to learn drafting for the next six years. In 1980 I was promoted to sales and relocated to central Pennsylvania for nine years. I then started my own brokerage firm in 1989. All of it was a wonderful building ground to bring me to where I am today, and I use every bit of that past knowledge in all that I do at Colombo Stoneworks,” said Plante.

Clockwise, from top right: Larry Griffin, custom polisher; one of the firm’s newly refurbished saws; Bill Binaghi, lead draftsman, and Gwen Plante, co-owner and drafts person; Jim Bigelow, sandblast, Roger Trepanier, Saporiti Sand blast Company, and Bob Plante.
Gandin Bros., Inc., owner Butch Gandin and his son, Tom, a third-generation owner, with the firm’s new Pellegrini Robot-Wire Saw.

WHAT Gandin SAW

Gandin Bros., Inc. entered the new millennium in high gear — with its new robot-wire saw from Pellegrini, Inc. “I am as excited about this new piece of equipment as any that we have purchased in years,” says owner Butch Gandin. “This robot-wire saw will give us the ability to cut more shapes and designs in-house than ever before.” This task is being handled by his son, Tom, who computer-designs the order, then forwards it to Asa Prescott who has 31 years experience in saw operation. “Having had a profile, or contour saw, for many years, we are accustomed to working with different shapes,” Butch says.
“However, this new saw will enable us to handle much longer cuts faster and with more accuracy. For instance, we could conceivably saw a bench up to 8 feet long, with the legs and back, all in one piece. We handle a lot of duplicate work, such as scroll-top markers and many stately monuments with curves and nosings, which can now be produced more efficiently, saving time and money.”

Gandin Bros., Inc., has also updated its Cochran’s Computer Design System. Tom heads up the Design Department and says its possible to now be able to accept e-mail designs or DXF file disks from customers who have their own various systems. “We are looking back only to remember what kept us going for three generations of quality and service and are moving forward with enthusiasm to achieve whatever the future holds — focusing on quality, customer service and competitive prices.”

Cecchini Retires
By Beth Gadbois

After a professional life almost exclusively to Adams Granite Company, Carole Cecchini retired this past March after 45 years of service. Carole’s first job was working for a lawyer’s office. She quit after the first week and had been with Adams and the granite industry ever since. Hers is a success story by any measure, starting off as a secretary, moving on to doing the bookkeeping, and retiring as a Vice President and Office Manager. She plans to enjoy her retirement by traveling, possibly out west, gardening, fishing, and doing crafts. She hopes to stay in touch with everyone as well, and since she will still do a little bookkeeping for Adams, she will probably have an opportunity to do just that. Some folks just can’t seem to retire all the way!

Partners For Peace
John Castaldo, BGA executive director, and Judee Chatot, BGA president, present Vermont Adjutant General Martha Rainville, commander of the Vermont National Guard, with one of two Barre Gray granite cornerstones produced and donated by North Barre Granite Company. The blocks will mark projects that will be completed in Macedonia by a team of U.S. military personnel led by the Vermont National Guard: two clinics will have been renovated and one of them expanded, two schoolyards rebuilt and a new playground constructed.
NEW AROUND TOWN

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
By John Castaldo

WELL, IN KEEPING WITH THE tradition of past issues of Barre Life magazines, I am proud to ressurect "Some Words from the Executive Director." The BGA held its 111th Annual Meeting this past June with a great year behind us, optimism for the year ahead and, new ideas on the table. Our Board of Trustees bid farewell to Brice Mugford of Peerless Granite, who served as a Trustee since 1994, and as president of the BGA for the past two years. I would like to extend my gratitude on behalf of the BGA membership to Brice for his leadership and commitment to the Association during his presidency. I would also like to welcome our new President, Judee Chatot of North Barre Granite. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Judee, and when it comes to new and unique ideas, Judee will be leading the way. Her commitment to the industry will prove to be a strong driver for the BGA, and I look forward to our next year with Judee as BGA President. The Trustees and other committees that give their time to the Association and also contribute to the publication of this magazine are some of the best assets this Association can have. They are the people that you call and speak with on a daily basis and who know their products and the industry inside and out. Barre manufacturers have a lot to be proud of as they usher the BGA into its 112th year. And speaking of assets, our members know that one of their most valuable assets is you. The quality of the work that comes out of Barre and the commitment to service your needs is paramount to our members. What always amazes me is the number of companies in our Association that were operating before the words computer, internet, e-mail, and web page, were ever conceived. In fact, a couple of our companies were around when electricity was in its infancy. Back in the early 1900s they were producing granite products that said Barre quality, commitment and pride. That remains the attitude today, despite our speed-of-light networks and global economies. Our manufacturers are well-tuned up for the 21st Century, but they know the only thing that really counts is each and every customer. Just to make sure that you are getting a quality monument manufactured by BGA members, you have the Barre Guild Seal protecting you. Our warranty program is as solid as the stone it covers and continues to be another proud feature of Barre Granite Association members. In 2089, when the BGA celebrates its 200th birthday, customers will still be complimenting our members for the quality of their work and the Barre craftsmanship. So please take a minute to look at our member list inside this issue. And please, call our office if you wish to come to Barre and visit your manufacturer. We will be happy to help you with travel information and accommodations for your visit to Vermont.

COCHRAN'S NEW LOOK
By Beth Gadbois

IF YOU ASK DIANE COCHRAN WHAT SHE thought of Cochran's old office space, she would have to say "a trip back to the era of the '50s office design." This past winter, that all changed. Down came the old dark paneling, industrial linoleum floors, tired paint and worn-out carpeting. In came new carpeting, sheet rock and fresh paint, shelving and new furniture. Cochran's was also very creative in how they got the work done. During their slow winter season, rather than lay off the sandblast crew, they hired them to do the renovations. "The sandblast team was so meticulous and creative, we couldn't have asked for a better group to do the work," says Diane. They even found a couple surprises such as no insulation in the walls and an old
window that had been paneled over, which has since been replaced and renewed. The new downstairs is now more organized and efficient.

Everyone at Cochran's invites you to stop by and take a look at their new quarters on Blackwell Street in Barre.

NEW CAD SOFTWARE

Long known as a premier supplier of CAD software for the granite industry, Cochran's is pleased to introduce its new Windows-based version of Cochran Designer 2000. Previously available only in a DOS version, this new software allows the user to negotiate in the ease of a Windows environment. New features have been added and others updated to meet the needs of the granite industry and the speed of Windows. Give them a call at 802-479-1035 for further details.

THE VERMONT GRANITE MUSEUM OF BARRE received $500,000 in funding from the Vermont Legislature in May, has launched its own capital campaign, and is moving ahead with planned improvements. Immediate plans for the century-old former Jones Brothers plant located in Barre are to lift the 30,000-square foot building off the ground and pour a new foundation that will raise the building six inches above the flood plain that it rests upon. This foundation work is scheduled to be completed before the winter. In the spring, the building’s clapboard siding will be stripped and four-inch-thick stress skin panels installed. These panels, which will also be installed under the roof, will provide insulation and create a vapor barrier. On September 9 the Vermont Granite Museum of Barre will hold its third annual granite festival at the site. For more information about the museum or the festival, contact VGMB Executive Director Marcia Davis at 802-476-4605.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

From left: Dennis Vachon, Maine Memorials; Michelle Mureta Parker, Montpelier Granite Works; Guest Speaker Charlie Hunt, Hunt Memorials; Lynda Mureta Aldrich, Montpelier Granite Works; and Paul DiMatteo, Maine Memorials, at the New England Monument Dealers Association Convention in Sturbridge, Mass.
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Barre, VT 05641
802-476-5812/FAX: 802-476-7349

SUMMER 2000
George Kurjanowicz Sculpture Studio

5-0 x 7-0 x 1-8 Impala Black base with inset Danby White Marble carving
Designed by Jerzy Kenar, Chicago, Ill.
Base by Granite Importers, Inc.
Marble joined to granite by Peerless Granite Company
Classic & Contemporary

Granite Importers, Inc.

Stony Creek granite sign with polish and thermal finish.
"When Mr. Pittman passed away in September 1998, Mrs. Pittman came to our company with a request for a 'Tribute In Stone.' This was to match her husband's greatness in life and to the community. Mrs. Pittman had said she wanted a statue of two kids, a duplicate of an 18-inch ceramic statue her husband had for 30 years. The statue had been broken into more than 100 pieces in a move years before. We spent two days epoxying it back together. Mrs. Pittman also wanted a column and bench for the grandkids to climb on when visiting the cemetery. After showing Mrs. Pittman designs we had collected over the years — all were rejected — we set out to draw up our own design. After she picked out the design (at right), we drew it up to full scale. With a couple minor changes, we came up with this beautiful 23,000-pound monument. The first base measures 7-8 x 7-8 x 0-8. The second base is 4-0 x 4-0 x 0-10. The bench is 5-8 x 0-8 in diameter with full rounds. The column is 3-0 x 3-0 in diameter with 2" deep flutes. The top two bases measure 3-6 x 3-0 x 0-6 and 3-0 x 3-0 x 0-4. The 5-foot-tall statue is China Gray granite. The foundation consists of more than 10 yards of cement to insure no movement over time." Brian Pruitt

Pepin Granite Company, Inc.
Flachtemeier Monuments • Freeport, Ill.
Riverton Memorial

New England Granite • Westfield Mass.

Barre Gray and Jet Black granite veterans memorial. Overall size: 5-8 x 3-0 x 6-4
Montpelier Granite Works

*Oak Grove Memorials • Medford, Mass.*

This custom all-polished, hand-carved/hand-tooled die is set upon two plinths, including balance-rock-pitched base.
Barre Gray granite clock was donated to the new Barre City School and is on display, behind Plexiglas, in the school’s library.
Colombo Stoneworks

Cecil Vault & Memorial Company

Connie Cecil, owner of the Wilmington, Del.-based company, with an Impala memorial for a fallen police officer. Die: 2-2 x 1-4 x 4-6 • Base: 3-2 x 2-4 x 1-2
CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY

Twin City Custom Sandblast Monument Middletown Middletown, Conn.

Jet Black Die:
3-0 x 0-8 x 5-4
Polish-2
Balance Dusted
With Checks & Flutes

THE SAVA ASTRA FAMILY
### Brochures .45 Each Unless Otherwise Noted

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<th>Design</th>
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**Summer 2000**
### P. The Story of Granite

25 each

### Q. Barre Granite Heritage

$4.95

### Product Description

- A. Bolo tie with leather-look cord, $15
- B. Letter opener, $15
- C. Pick and shovel granite tie pin, $5
- D. Shovel granite tie clip, $5
- E. Leaf-mount granite earring set with either surgical steel French hooks or posts (specify on order form), $12.
- F. 8" x 8" Barre Gray granite clock, $40
- G. Set of 4 BGA Pilsner glasses, $20

### Other Publications

- R. What Every Cemeterian Needs to Know About Barre Gray Granite Memorials, $4.95

(All jewelry items are rhodium-plated, with a cabochon of Barre Gray granite)

### Color Posters

S. How to Customize Barre Memorials, $1

### Videotapes ($10 each, 5 for $40)

- T. New Technology in Barre
- U. Artistry in Granite
- V. Quarrying and Manufacturing
- W. The Story of the Barre Granite Industry
- X. The Stone Whistle: Tour and explanation of the Barre granite industry, with John Forsythe.

### Item Letter | Product Description |
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### Shipping Charges

- Free! Barre Guild window decals. Specify quantity on order form.
- Orders to $15.00: add $4.50
- $15.01 to $50.00: add $6.50
- $50.01 to $100.00: add $7.50
- Over $101.01: add $11.00

### Merchandise Total

Add 5% sales tax on Vermont orders

Add Shipping Charges

TOTAL

Write, Call, FAX: Barre Granite Association, P.O. Box 481, Barre, VT 05641 • 802-476-4131 • FAX 802-476-4765

Name

Company

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

Payment Method:

☑ Visa ☑ MasterCard ☐ Check/ Money Order

Card Number

Expires

Signature

FAX:
CALLING IT QUILTS: Graphic designers are an odd group. I know this first-hand. This ad appeared in COMMUNICATION ARTS, a magazine that features ads other graphic designers and advertising people deem exceptional — a Barre Life of advertisments, if you will. It appeals to my dark side (come on, we all have one) and serves as a fitting end to my 10-year term (give or take an issue or two — okay, five) as editor of Barre Life. It has been a pleasure producing the magazine over the years, but the time has come to move on and let someone new take over. The best of luck to Beth Gadbois as new editor and to all of you in the memorial industry.

PTM
Granite Industries of Vermont
O'Connor Memorials • Brewerton, N.Y.

Custom Jet Black etched (tool box) die: 2-0 x 1-2 x 2-4
Medium Barre flat-carved (cabinet) base: 2-6 x 1-6 x 1-10
McKnight Monument
Hope Cemetery - Barre, Vermont

Design: Architect Don McKnight AIA

1½” Raised Interlaced Celtic Ornamentation
Hand Carved By: Roger Couture, FMI

Family Memorials, Inc.
Barre Granite Monolith, 6-2 High

Sand-engraved by BGA Member
B&B Monumental Engravers