Collection of Refrigeration Research, Brighton, MI
**OUR HISTORIC COLLECTION**

The following photos display some of the items and artifacts that Refrigeration Research has been collecting. The collection consists mainly of refrigerators, condensing units and other energy related appliances. It also contains books, literature and catalogues tracing the history of refrigeration and air conditioning since the beginning.

The Items Below May Be Recognized From Past Monthly Bulletins

- **Left**: Frigidaire "Dome Shaped" Compressor (1919 - 1926)
- **Right**: Copeland Isobutane Unit (1926)
- **Early Farm Milk Cooler**: Chicago Street Lamp, c. 1890
- **The Pierce-Arrow Ice Chest**: c. 1890 (Charcoal insulated)
- **The Audiffren-Singren Refrigerating Machine**: Hermetically sealed system, c. 1923
We Are Fortunate To Have Many Items Formerly Made By Kelvinator and Copeland.

The early Kelvinator Refrigeration Unit, introduced in 1916.

1926 - Zerozone Refrigeration Unit.

The Copeland “Pollinog”, the Father of the Copelametic. Copelametic and other Copeland Condensing Units including the first 1/2 hp Copelametic made in 1939.

Early Kelvinator, Norge, Norge, Frigidaire and General Electric refrigerators.

Many Other Interesting Items Are Also Proudly Displayed

Complete Harry Alter Catalogues - Leather Bound (1933 - 1987)

Nilzer Water Cooled Compressor and Condenser for Ice Cream Cabinets. (1923 - 1929)

The Crosley “Icy Ball” c. 1929

Refrigeration Research
The Collection Continues To Grow As We Seek Out More Interesting Items From The Rich Heritage Of Our Industry
Woodcuts of Cold Stores from about 1890 (Frick Collection)
Steam engine driven ammonia refrigerating compressor c.1890 (Frick Collection)
Exhibition “Air Conditioning America,” National Building Museum, 1999

Smithsonian Institution, 1993
Exhibition “Manufactured Weather”
The first U.S. patent for a device that could be used to cool air was granted to Dr. John Gorrie in 1851. It lowered temperatures by compressing air and then permitting it to expand rapidly. Heat was forced from the air and exhausted during compression, but was drawn from the surroundings as the air expanded. Because Gorrie’s machine was essentially a heat extractor, it could chill water, food, or the air around it. His innovation went no further than a prototype, however, due to the loss of his financial backer and the lack of public interest in the device.

The first successful mechanical refrigeration equipment was patented soon after the Civil War, but the process was economical only on a grand scale. It was used mainly in brewing, food processing, textile manufacture, and cold storage. The lethal substances ammonia and sulfur dioxide were the primary refrigerants, and the equipment was totally unsuitable for homes. Practical domestic refrigeration machinery and “safe” refrigerants such as Freon did not appear until the 1930s.

The indoor climate that many people take completely for granted is actually something that other people have created over the last 150 years. Manufactured weather is the product of new fuels, inventions, and improvements in old inventions, from thermostats, and water-powered fans to huge central heating and air-conditioning systems. These devices are in turn the product of someone’s ingenuity, and demand still more ingenuity today to improve fuel efficiency, control indoor humidity and temperature more precisely, and substitute new coolants for ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons.
“Installing Ductwork”

“Installing a furnace and heating ducts”
Paintings by John Niro from “Sheet Metal Craftsmanship: Progress in Building,”
National Building Museum, 1988