

Local Foundryman Sees Rebirth Of Metalcasting

Phoenix Non-Ferrous Technologies, founded and owned by Lincoln Charles of Andover, is a metalcasting research and development company whose mission is to build intermediate and appropriate low-cost technologies based on lean manufacturing principles that will allow average citizens access to one of the basic materials of industry – metal castings. This is done through the creation of instruction manuals, manufacture of equipment, distribution of consumables, fabrication of tooling, and assistance with process engineering.

Lincoln is a metallurgical engineer and graduate of the Colorado School of Mines. He feels there is a major change taking place throughout the United States. Having operated his own casting facility in Franklin since 1980, Lincoln enjoyed the occasional inventor or backyard mechanic stopping by, sometimes with a son or daughter, wanting to see “how things are made.” Sometime whole school classes or Scout troops

markets, propelled by creative individuals skilled in traditional methods.

“These small-scale niche market producers do not add greatly to the gross national product of the country,” Lincoln says, “but they are the fertile ground where those few that exercise their creative freedom take root and sprout innovations.”

Wishing to take advantage of what he sees as the imminent devolution of the US industrial base to cottage industry status, and to maximize the marketability of his own skill at metalcasting with limited resources, Lincoln took a new direction and formed Phoenix Non-Ferrous Technologies in 2004. Work began immediately on a prototype facility in the industrial park in Franklin. By December of 2004 castings were being produced, and 10 months later enough work has been processed to start the cost analysis necessary for prospective clients.

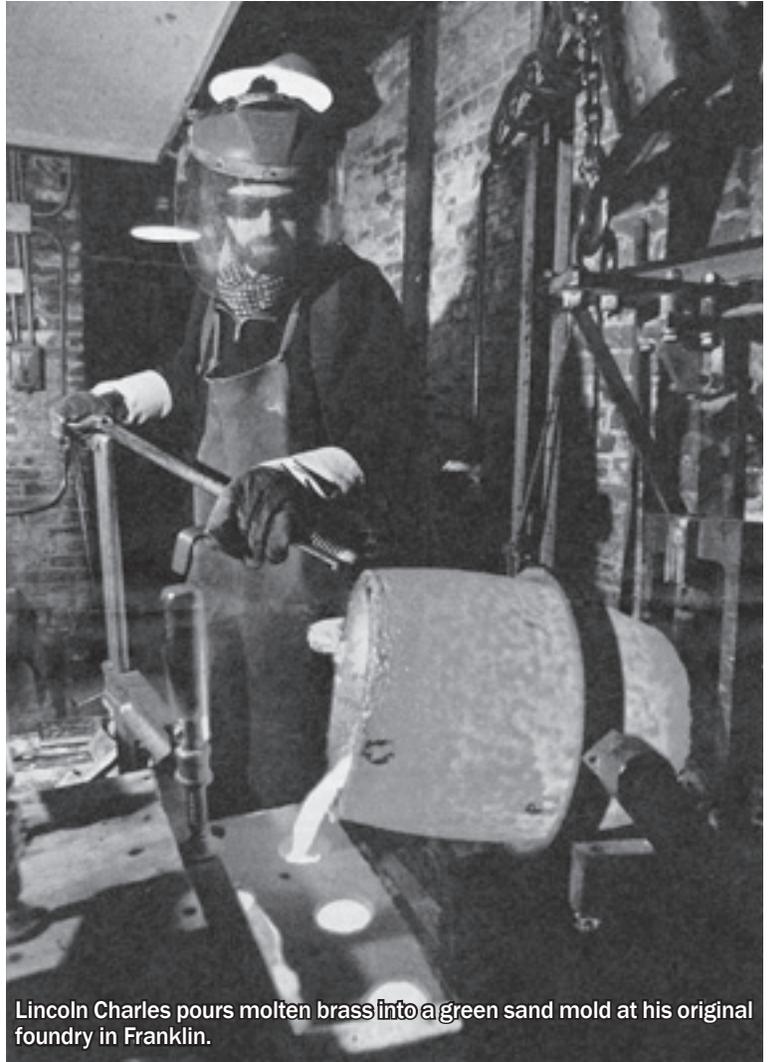
Phoenix processes will deal with the green sand method and the solid mold lost wax method of metalcasting. All equipment will be fairly simple and understandable, suitable for maintenance and repair on the spot with off-the-shelf components.

Prospective clients run the gamut from downsized baby-boomers who want to start a one-person home occupation, to OEM (original equipment manufacturers) currently purchasing castings off-shore and wanting some in-house capacity to study, control, and improve their products or to increase market share.

All Phoenix technologies pass the tests for “green money” or “natural investing,” including:

- Avoidance screening – Toxic substances are eliminated or minimized.
- Affirmation screening – Minimum material and energy consumption.
- Community investing – Enhanced incomes can be realized when facilities are located near economically marginalized people.

Although his company is still early in the development stage, Lincoln is optimistic that it will be successful in keeping the craft of metalcasting alive for the people of the United States.



Lincoln Charles pours molten brass into a green sand mold at his original foundry in Franklin.

Niche Metalcasting Markets in the US

- Fine Arts
- Ornamental Metals
- Jewelry
- Fund Raising & Promotional
- Architectural Restoration
- Automotive Restoration
- Industrial Design
- Industrial Education
- Industrial Manufacturing
- Home Accessories
- Marine Fittings

came for lectures and demonstrations. Then they all stopped coming.

At about the same time, Lincoln says, a wave of incorrect information was being spread, encouraged by the government, academia, and the national metalcasting societies, supporting the discarding and bypassing of all conventional tried-and-true methods in favor of the new high-tech, capital-intensive techniques. Lincoln feels strongly that US metalcasters in the new global economy will be smaller scale, highly adaptable producers, responding to opportunities in niche



Beginning September 22, The New London Inn will offer its **“Thursday’s Child”** dinners to benefit local charitable organizations.

Simply come to the Inn on a Thursday night, order off the menu, and know that 50 percent of that night’s profits will go to charity. All you need to do is make a reservation ...and have a good time!

“Thursday’s Child” beneficiaries:

- September 22:** The New London Barn Playhouse
- September 29:** Kearsarge Assets Network
- October 6:** Upper Valley Humane Society
- October 13:** New London Hospital’s ABC’s Day Care
- October 20:** Wilmot Community Association
- October 27:** Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust
- November 3:** Kearsarge Area Council on Aging
- November 10:** Closed For Vacation
- November 17:** Abbott Library in Sunapee
- November 24:** Thanksgiving
- December 1:** Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association



526-2791

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“Thursday’s Child has far to go....”