

THE BUGLE

Fall 2016

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 22, Number 4

Grant Received from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation BulEx® Fire Extinguisher Training System Acquired

By Paul Nelson

In mid October the Fire Museum was notified by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation that our grant request for a BullEx Digital Fire Extinguisher Training System had been approved. The interactive system will become a major component of the Fire Museum's fire safety education programming both at the Museum and in the field. BullEx of Albany, NY is a world leader in fire and safety training.

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was established in 2005 by Firehouse Subs co-founders Chris Sorenson and Robin Sorenson following the Katrina Disaster as a way to give back to the Public Safety community. Today, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has given more than \$23 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada. Grants are awarded quarterly to first responders and public safety organizations. The average grant is valued at \$15,000. To learn more about Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation or to donate visit www.firehousesubsfoundation.org.

The grant request was the culmination of the efforts of many Museum people. John Zangerle had seen the system at several locations including a fire museum. He recommended that the Museum seek a grant to acquire one. Ken Rybka reached out to the Firehouse Subs franchise in Mayfield Heights for information. Co-owners Nick Kalafatis and Chris Compton were receptive to being of assistance as needed. They were also interested in partnering with the Museum on local activities. Several have already been held at their site with Ken Rybka bringing his Mack pumper there for activities. (Continued on page 2, See BullEx.)



Paul Nelson photo

Ken Rybka attacks the fire

President's Log

By Roy Ziganti, Jr.

I have periodically reported in my President's report about the generosity of Firemen. For many years, 35 that I personally know, members of Cleveland Fire have donated thousands and thousands of hours as well over a million dollars to various causes. This past November Cleveland Fire held its annual United Way campaign at the Fire Museum. While this is a very important event for the WRFM, I would like to tell you that the Museum is not the only benefactor. The campaign works not only because of the generosity of the members but also because of the individuals who work it.

"United Way" is an umbrella organization that facilitates the collection of funds and redirects them to organizations of the donors' choice. The Cleveland Fire Department is so generous that they donate more to charities than the two largest divisions within the City of Cleveland combined. But this might not happen if it were not for the people who work that week.

In the early nineties, Chief Kevin Gerrity asked BC Jim Carroll if he would speak before the membership on behalf of the United Way campaign. Jim took charge; he explained the benefits that the collection would do for the people of Northeast Ohio. Along the way numerous other members of the Division have stepped up to help and in so doing they have helped other organizations. (Continued on page 2, see Log)

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This newsletter is dedicated to informing the members of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center of its activities and events.

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BullEx

(Continued from page 1)

Next the Museum's grant writing team of Al Poslet and Joan Oliver took over, preparing all the necessary material and documents needed for the submission. They have taken over the Museum grant writing program and are currently working on several other projects.

Thanks to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation the Museum received a complete Trainer's Package, a digital fire extinguisher training system using self generated flames and a laser extinguisher to teach proper use in case of fire.

The system includes a base unit, two different laser extinguishers, an iPad mini tablet control with scenario customization and roster management software. Conical laser technology replicates the discharge of a fire extinguisher held by the participant. LED digital flames appear in a simulator with integrated sound effects differing depending on the type of fire. Choices include Class A, B and C fires. The unit can be transported in a carrying case for field use. Also included is a R.A.C.E. System (Rescue, Alert, Confine, Extinguish) that includes an alarm pull station, strobe light, smoke detector, horn and an interactive 9-1-1 telephone. It is designed to involve individuals on the various decisions to be made when fire occurs.

The BullEx System will be incorporated into the existing lesson plans for young people as well as adult and seniors groups. The System can also be used for people visiting the Museum on their own. BullEx representative Joel Hall trained Museum personnel in its operation on November 18th. Those attending the training session were Roy Ziganti, Ken Rybka, Jim Bell, Joan Oliver, Stu Warner and Paul Nelson. Other volunteers will be trained in presenting the System to Museum visitors.

Finally our sincere thanks to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for making this possible. It will be a very important component of our fire safety education programming. Stop by and say thanks to Nick and Chris, our local advocates. They are located at 6232 Mayfield Road in Mayfield Heights just west of I-271. And, try one of their great subs, too!

Log

(Continued from page 1)

Ted Pompei was the first. Ted's daughter Jessica was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age 12. Ted inquired if he could speak before the Division and he asked the Division if they would help out by donating a buck or two a pay; almost 20 years later that couple of bucks has traveled north of \$200,000. Ted does a fantastic job in keeping the program moving with all the different Fire companies ensuring that they get back in-service as soon as possible.

Mike Blake has an autistic daughter; Rachel is non verbal. The family needed a place where Rachel would feel comfortable and have a good time. The Blake's found this group called "Special Stars". Special Stars is open to any individual with special needs or disabilities. Special Stars provides social activities throughout the year such as swimming, bowling, and parties.



Paul Nelson Photos

Calling 9-1-1



Explaining R.A.C.E. System



Learning about the BullEx System
(l to r) Ken Rybka, Roy Ziganti, Joel Hall of BullEx,
Joan Oliver, Jim Bell

The next member that I would like to mention is Steve Churchin. Steve's son William has cerebral palsy. William needed a special school to help him live a better quality of life. The Churchins found this in the "Rising Stars Academy", an organization that helps individuals with motor skill impairments. The Division of Fire is among the largest donors to both Special Stars and the Rising Stars Academy.

This is just a drop in the bucket to what Firemen do – there are many other worthy causes that they contribute not only their time but also their funds.

Through "PAYROLL DEDUCTION" we are able to facilitate this collection process. A few dollars are not missed individually, but for many those few dollars make a tremendous difference.

The Lone Star State Welcomes Fire Museums

By John Zangerle

The Western Reserve Fire Museum has been a long time member of the Fire Museum Network (FMN). FMN is an organization dedicated to assisting fire museums across the country large and small. Members range in size from the Smithsonian and Hall of Flame Museum to small individually owned collections. A meeting is held annually to provide seminars and networking to benefit museum operations. This year's seminar and annual meeting was held the first week of November in San Antonio, Texas sponsored by the San Antonio Fire Museum. John Zangerle and Dan Hayden represented our fire museum.

The San Antonio Fire Museum is housed in the downtown San Antonio former Station #1 directly behind The Alamo. The two story former headquarters station and shops were built in 1938 as a WPA project. About four years ago a group of current and retired San Antonio firefighters came up with a plan to turn this closed station into a museum. The city fathers approved and contributed substantial funds toward the restoration of the building. Private donors also played a major role in the completion of the restoration.

The building itself has five bays in the main station and four bays in the former shops adjacent to the station. Exhibits in the SA Museum range from a hand drawn ladder wagon to a mid-'20's American LaFrance, 1951 Mack pumper and a late '30's Diamond T service ladder custom built by the San Antonio shops. A children's education area is hosed in the former shops.

The very enthusiastic San Antonio Museum Board provided a true Texas sized welcome to the Fire Museum Network attendees. A welcome reception at the Museum the first night was so successful the hosts had to push some of the stragglers out the door at 1:00 AM. On Friday all day meetings were held at the historic Menger Hotel adjacent to The Alamo and the San Antonio Riverwalk. A number of outstanding programs were provided ranging from volunteer recruitment and retention to preservation of photographs as well as director and officer fiduciary duties.

Saturday night concluded with the highlight of the event, a true Texas Bar-B-Que at a ranch owned by one of the SA Museum's directors. A menu of wonderful smoked meats and classic side dishes were served with authentic Texas toast. Plenty of Texas beer and margaritas were provided by volunteers of the Museum dressed in "old west" attire.



John Zangerle photos

San Antonio Fire Museum



Paul Nelson photo

Two trucks ran out of station



1924 American LaFrance



Hand drawn ladder carriage



1951 Mack Model L

Following the Friday meetings, the group took a Riverwalk boat cruise on the San Antonio River. Saturday more meetings took place including the use of STEM and STEAM in fire museums. The session concluded with presentations by the various participating museums. Dan Hayden and John Zangerle presented information about our funeral caisson. A great deal of interest was expressed by the attendees in the operation of our caisson.

Those who were able to stay Sunday morning toured the Alamo and the Spanish missions surrounding the San Antonio area. The seminars and networking with other museums at these meetings is invaluable. The current FMN president, Bill Hall, of the Columbus, OH museum, has asked our museum to consider hosting a seminar and meeting, possibly for 2018.

An Odd Cleveland Aerial Ladder

"Some assembly required"

By Paul Nelson

For one compiling historical facts about the Cleveland Fire Department, the project is never over. History is a moving target. There is always more to learn that helps to fill in the blanks and answer the unknown. Information is lurking in places where it would be least expected. Such was the case on details and photos of Cleveland's 1877 M. Scott Uda Aerial ladder. Basic facts were known but there were no known photos. Then a plethora of information came by way of a donation to the Museum contained in a group of newspaper clippings from the 1890's and early 1900's about the Cleveland Fire Department. They were glued to the pages of an insignificant book, quite brown from age but still readable. Thanks to retired Cleveland fire fighter Jim Pesek who arranged the donation.

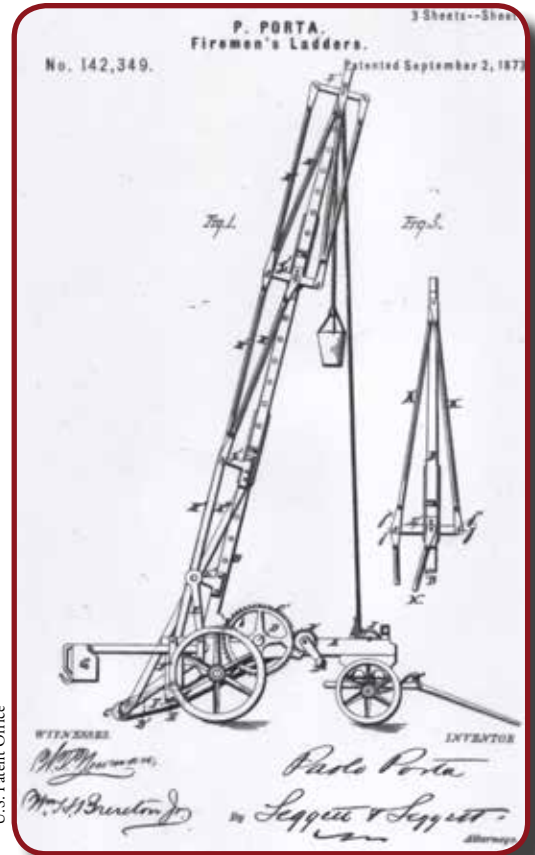
Amongst the brittle pages was a story in 1902 of physical agility tests for potential new Fire Department hires. Within the story was a description and photos of the 1877 aerial ladder that was used in the tests. First the details of the Scott Uda and then the story of potential cadet screening.

The history of the apparatus, described as an aerial ladder, was fairly well known in the annals of early fire fighting history. Mary Belle Scott Uda, an Italian, decided to introduce the device in the US following the death of her husband who designed it. She had a working model made, secured a US patent on September 2, 1873 (No. 142349 illustrated on the right) and brought it to New York City as a first step in 1874. The New York Fire Department like it so much that they bought a 100-ft model at the cost of \$2,500 in early 1874. They liked it so much that they paid Scott Uda \$25,000 (Warrant No. 122987) on May 19, 1874 for the right to build and use the aerial ladder covered by the patent. They built four more aerial ladders according to a statement by Fire Department President Perley.

On September 15, 1875 a horrific accident occurred while one of the ladders was being used in a test. Four firemen and a battalion chief had positioned themselves on the ladder. Someone on the ground made an inappropriate movement of the rope and windlass that caused the ladder to move and snap. All five were thrown to the ground and killed. That ended the use of the ladders by FDNY.

The photo below of the Cleveland ladder and one known of a Boston 1876 ladder have the similar appearance as the patent illustration, but all references show the use of the ladder only in a 100% vertical orientation and not at an angle.

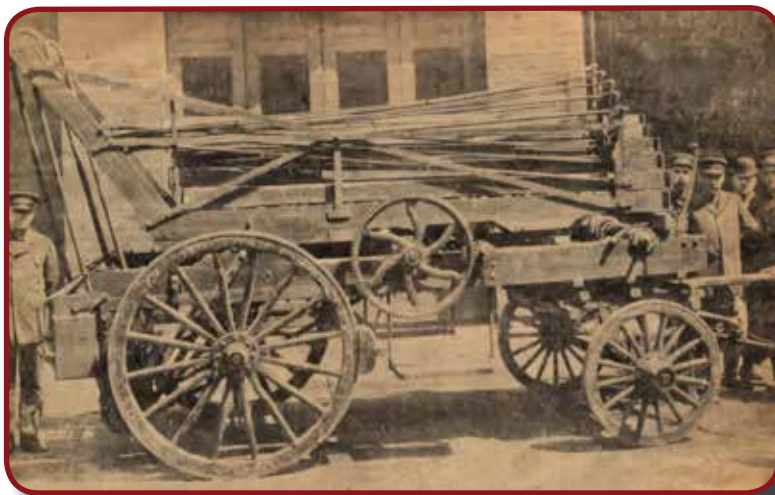
Boston placed a Scott Uda ladder in service in 1876 placing it at Ladder 8 in Fort Hill Square. It was manned by the ladder company when needed and was in service until 1883. A known photo of it is similar to the Cleveland photo.



Patent 142349

The circumstances surrounding the purchase of the Scott Uda by Cleveland is not known. Records indicate it was purchased for a negotiated price of \$1,200 for a 75-ft, 7-section ladder. Scott Uda offered a 65, 75, 85 and 100-ft models. Abbott & Downing, a well known wagon and stage coach builder in Concord, NH built the wagon and possibly the ladders.

It was placed in service on February 15, 1877 at Headquarters Station. It was drawn by two horses and described as "Aerial Ladder" in the running book. It was assigned to respond to 21 boxes in the downtown area with Hook & Ladder No. 1. It did not have an assigned driver and used a substitute driver at the station. Members of the hook and ladder would operate it.



Cleveland Plain Dealer photo

Scott Uda ladder in front of Headquarters
Date of photo unknown

The photo helps to explain the device and shows the differences from the patent drawing. It was built on a special 4-wheel wagon on which the seven sections of the ladder were carried. Each ladder section tapered slightly inward over its length. It was an "assemble on the scene when needed" apparatus.

The ladder sections would be laid out and each section joined by inserting a wooden rod through the ladder rails. Once assembled to its full length it was attached to a raising device on the wagon that was described as a rope windlass hoist mechanism. The fly wheels on the sides of the wagon were rotated. Each turn would cause the frame of the wagon to shorten and become part of the raising operation. The rope and windlass completed the operation. The ladder was raised to a 100% vertical position as seen in the photo at the right. It was not a truss type ladder and was designed to operate in that orientation rather than an angle as seen in the patent. Its intent was to allow firemen to ascend the ladder with a hose line and play away on a burning building. It was a water tower. It did not have the strength to be laid up against a building to be used for entry or rescue. It would snap as it did not have strength for that type of use. However when vertical, it was perfectly stable. Records also indicate it was used by firemen reaching out with long poles to attempt to pull down walls of a burned out building.

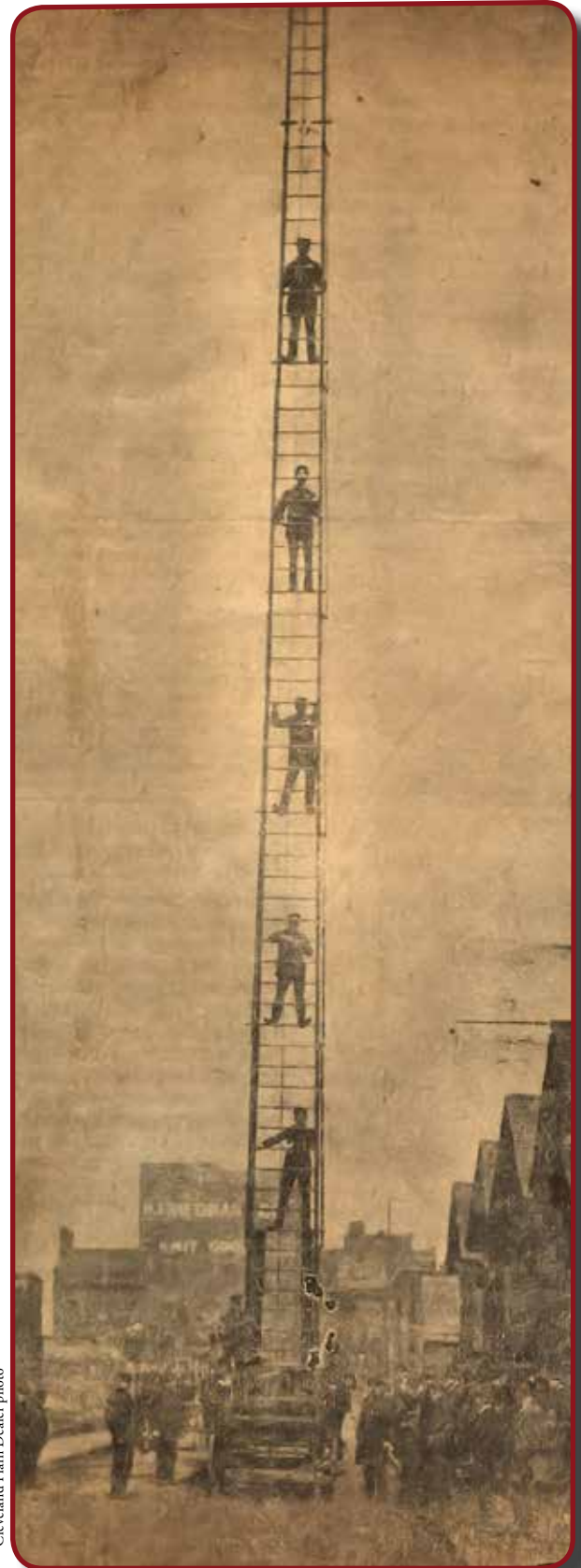
Its use in Cleveland has not been well documented. The only significant comment when it was placed in service appeared on February 28, 1877. The Plain Dealer quoted a boot black who saw the apparatus running down the street with the comment "Golly! Look at that 'mowin machine' running away" which probably was a pretty good description of the new aerial's appearance.

It has been found occasionally in newspaper stories about fires but without any real detail on how it was used. CFD Annual Reports generally did not list its runs. One in 1888 stated it made 19 runs and worked 8 hours. Another in 1889 reported 17 runs and no hours worked. Possibly this reflects average yearly response. It was listed on active rosters through 1898, in reserve through 1905 and disappeared from rosters after 1910.

In the fascinating part of the story about cadet screening, it described the steps required to pass the agility test. It could only be taken if the candidate had already passed a complete physical examination by the Fire Department Surgeon. The main part of the test was the "run and climb test." First the candidate had to run 200 yards, then climb the Scott Uda in its upright position to a height of 65-feet. He was to touch a flag tied to the ladder at that point. The time to complete that evolution was graded. The other major portion of the test was hand over hand crawl across a suspended horizontal ladder. In this evolution the candidate had to traverse 30-ft of the extended Hayes true aerial ladder of Hook & Ladder No. 1. If all the scores totaled a prescribed amount, the candidate then would be hired as a Cadet subject to review in 30 days.

Actual training would take place at the company level under the supervision of the company Captain. At that time no formal training school for the fire department existed.

In the photo below taken April 20, 1902, members of Hook and Ladder No. 1 have ascended the Scott Uda as it would have been used in a real scenario. Chief George A. Wallace is in the group to the right. He had just been appointed Chief in 1901. And, that the way it was about 115 years ago in CFD history.



Cleveland Plain Dealer photo

Scott-Uda ladder fully extended

Museum News

Windows Update



Paul Nelson photo

View of Downtown

Earlier this year the Ohio History Connection awarded the Fire Museum a \$19,200 matching grant from the Ohio History Fund for replacing windows. It was predicated on a historically correct replacement of the second floor windows in the old dormitory and the windows in the first floor classroom. WRFM decided to also finish the windows in the new second floor bathroom (old chief's quarters) and the elevator lobby to complete replacement of all windows in the east section of the building. The Museum added about \$15,000 for the matching requirements of the grant.

Architectural plans were submitted to the Ohio History

Connection in Columbus for their review. After their comprehensive examination and additional architectural questions answered, final approval was granted by them in November. Work could now proceed on the window replacement program. The glass blocks are now being removed with temporary plywood fillers inserted. New exact replica window installation will be completed over the winter.

The Museum sought bids for the project as required by the grant details. Final review of the bids will result in a contract being awarded for construction and installation. Volunteers will be used for removal of existing frames and glass block for the installation of the new windows. When work is completed on the window installation, renovation of the old dormitory for exhibit space and meeting room with great view of downtown for rental space can move forward in earnest.

One of the mission statements of the Museum is to complete a historically correct renovation of the building to its 1926 appearance. The new windows are a major step in meeting that mission. Still to be addressed are the remaining major components including decorative balconies, windows in the alarm office/dispatch center and nearby offices and the large swinging apparatus bay doors.

Museum Partners with RB&C

On October 8, 2016 the Western Reserve Fire Museum, in partnership with Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, was the site for a smoke free detector distribution. The museum opened its doors for the day and assisted RB&C making smoke detectors available to the public. During the previous months, the RB&C Injury Prevention Center had been conducting safety programs throughout Greater Cleveland. Participants of those programs were given coupons that could be exchanged for a free smoke detector. The Museum was happy to support such a worthwhile project.

On that Saturday morning, the Museum provided a fixed location for the program and engaged visitors with fire and injury safety programs utilizing our Smoke Bedroom and Fire Safety Kitchen. Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to try on firefighter protective equipment (both adult and kids), and "put out the fire" with our flame house and bucket brigade. Along the way, Museum volunteers taught important safety lessons and the history of the American fire service.

If you would like to help the Museum with our fire safety programs, please call us at 216.664.6312.

Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Grant

Museum grant writers Al Poslet and Joan Oliver met with representatives of the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Council (CAC) earlier in the year to discuss grant opportunities. Following the

requirements set up by CAC, a grant proposal for \$10,000 (50/50 matching) was submitted for assistance in preparing a planned 2017 exhibit entitled *From the Bucket Brigade to Big Red Machines: A History of Early Firefighting*. The

exhibit on the main apparatus floor will be combined with interactive fire safety programming in the adjacent fire safety education area. Recently the Museum has been notified that the grant request has been approved for January 2017. The Museum also received a CAC Grant in 2013 for our exhibit recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Cleveland Fire Department.

CAC's mission is to enhance, educate, enriching the quality of life and support the local economy. The grant will help further that goal by educating the general public on firefighting history of the area and providing the public with useful information on how to survive in a fire emergency and avoid serious injury. Children and seniors are the most vulnerable when fire breaks out. Watch the Museum's website www.wrfmc.com for opening details.



CFD Trivia

By Paul Nelson

Q: Who were the busiest units at CFD in 2016?

A: Eng. 1 Tower 1, TR-1 and BN 6.

Firehouse magazine annually compiles response data submitted by departments in the US and Canada. The CFD results are compared to the ranking of others.

Engine

CFD busiest, Eng.1, 4,353 runs, #37 ranking
Busiest, San Francisco Eng. 3, 10,853 runs
Busiest Ohio, Cincinnati Eng. 35, 5,156 runs,
#19 ranking

Ladder

CFD busiest, Tower 1, 3,824 runs, #13 ranking
Busiest, FDNY Lad. 26, 5,851 runs,
Busiest Ohio, Cincinnati Trk. 19, 2,437 runs,
#45 ranking

Heavy Rescue

CFD busiest, TR-1, 4,362 runs, #2 ranking and
Busiest in Ohio
Busiest, Brockton, MA Squad A, 4,880 runs
Next Busiest Ohio, Columbus R16, 4,045 runs,
#4 ranking

Chief

CFD Busiest, BN-6, 2,252 runs, #20 ranking
Busiest FDNY BN-9, 6,177 runs
Busiest Ohio, Columbus BN-3, 2,402 runs,
18 ranking

Wow! San Francisco Eng. 3 averaged 30 runs/day!

WKYC Channel on the Roof

WKYC NBC Channel 3 evening news broadcasts were conducted live from the roof of the Fire Museum before the home games of the 2016 World Series. Anchors Russ Mitchell and Sara Shookman along with Sports Director Jim Donovan stood for the broadcasts with the illuminated Progressive Field in the background. Already a bit cool, the howling wind across the roof made it even colder but no teeth chattering was observed.



Calendar of Events.

- **Sunday, January 29, 2017** – Cleveland, OH. Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center Annual Meeting at 1:00pm at the Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, OH.
- **February 22-25, 2017** – Alabaster, AL. SPAAMFAA Winter Convention. See the SPAAMFAA Web Site for the details.
- **Saturday, March 4, 2017** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market, Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3210 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Doors open at 8:00am. Info at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Sat. & Sun., April 23 & 24, 2017** – Allentown, PA. Auction and Firematic Flea Market, Allentown Fairgrounds, Agricultural Hall, 17th and Crow Sts. Auction, Saturday, 9:00am. Info at www.donnandassociates.com or Donn Zalewski, 440-331-5505.
- **Saturday, April 29, 2017** – Jackson, MI, GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI. Info at www.gliafaa.com.
- **Sunday, May 21, 2017** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Staging at 9:00am, start 11:00am at Alfred Lerner Way by CFD Firefighters Memorial. **Need volunteers** as the Fire Museum operates food tent. Leave message at info@wrfmc.com or 216.664.6312. Ride info at www.firefightersmemorialride.com.
- **Saturday, June 25, 2017** – Reynoldsburg, OH. Central Ohio SPAAMFAA Muster at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH. Info at www.coafaa.org.
- **SPAAMFAA Summer Convention and Muster**– Watertown, NY. August 2-5, 2017. See the SPAAMFAA Web Site for details.

A Parting Shot



Creative striping

Berlin Twp. Fire Department has taken the safety striping mandate for fire apparatus to a new art form. The side stripes end up in the form of a nozzle playing away. The rear striping frames a classy patriotic image of a bald eagle and colors. The 2014 KME rescue pumper has a two tone grey and red paint scheme.

**Western Reserve Fire Museum
at Cleveland, Inc.**

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CFD Archives

Glass Block Window Replacement Begins Soon

Thanks to a grant from the Ohio History Connection's Ohio History Fund, the glass block windows on the east end of the building are about to be replaced. See details on page 6 of this issue of the Bugle. This is another step in carrying out one of the Museum's mission statements...a historically-correct restoration of old Fire Station No. 28 & Fire Alarm Dispatch Center, a designated Cleveland Historic Landmark structure, to its 1926 appearance. (1979 photo when 310 Carnegie Ave. was known as Station 1)