

THE BUGLE

Winter 2016

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 22, Number 1

Close to Home Fire Safety is Everyone's Job

By Roy P. Ziganti, Jr.

My articles always begin with the events going on at the Fire Museum. This time it will be different due to current events in Northeast Ohio. Fire safety is job: Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle, Aunt and you.

Today while at the Fire Museum buttoning up a few building items, a discussion started concerning an occurrence in one of our volunteer's neighborhood – a "5" alarm fire. In fire vernacular that is about as big as they come. As he told me about the incident his eyes welled; a beautiful four year old girl had passed away in the fire.

An incident such as this occurs regularly in the news, but rarely does it happen to someone you know. In our field, it doesn't matter if you know them or not, it is always a horrible occurrence to see a life pass. The mission of the Western Reserve Fire Museum is to ensure that everyone is out on the curb when the first piece of apparatus pulls up on the scene; unfortunately here this was not the case.

Often in smaller departments with limited resources, as you pull up on the scene you are immediately overwhelmed. Today, four of us were discussing the events of the night before. With over 125 years of firefighting experience the question was what do you do? Rolling up on the scene with a heavily involved building and people screaming and jumping from windows, everyone's answer was "protect" life, but with few firemen you can only do so much.

Statistics show the majority of all fire related deaths are in a residential environment; therefore, a home evacuation plan is a necessity. It is something that has to be learned and practiced on a regular basis – no excuses. Parents need to teach the young ones the right thing to do and the older ones need teach their parents. Along with this home safety plan ensuring that there is a clear route out of the house, a meeting point which is a safe distance from the building needs to be established. Don't forget the smoke and CO detectors: check them regularly.

To reiterate, our mission is fire safety and to teach the public their mission which is to be out of the building when we arrive on the scene.

Lastly, parents hug your kids because life is precious and please say a prayer for "Keagan".

Museum Receives History Fund Grant

By John Zangerle

The Fire Museum was notified in February that it had been awarded a grant from the Ohio History Fund for \$19,200.00 to be used for the installation of new historically correct windows in the building. The grant from the Ohio History Connection is a matching grant requiring the Museum to raise an additional \$9600.00 for the windows. The award was formally announced at the Ohio Statehood Day celebration, March 1, 2016 in the atrium of the State Capitol in Columbus. Treasurer Dan Martone and Vice President John Zangerle accepted the ceremonial "big check" on behalf of the Museum.

The award of this grant is a significant accomplishment for the Museum as it was the largest amount of any of the fourteen grants given. We were competing with sixty-

Ohio History Connection photo



John Zangerle and Dan Martone with "big check"

(Continued on page 2, see Grant)

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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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Grant

(Continued from page 1)



John Zangerle, Sen. Sandra Williams and Dan Martone meet after the program

three applicants from all over the state of Ohio. A Blue Ribbon panel of fourteen historians, curators, and architects reviewed the applications. The History Fund is composed of monies from the Ohio History Fund tax check-off on your Ohio State Income tax form and from the sale of Ohio History license plates. This relatively new grant is awarded when the Ohio History Fund has a large enough balance in the fund to distribute at least \$100,00.00 in grants. We are honored to be recognized by the Ohio History Fund as a worthy project and we encourage our members to consider contributing to the fund through an Ohio tax refund or an Ohio History special license plate.

Our Education Director, Annamae Kacsandi, learned about the History Fund while attending a conference and encouraged the Museum to apply. She not only did the research on the fund, but also worked hard with Office Administrator Joan Oliver to complete the application form and provide the necessary information. This is a prime example of how networking with other Museums and non-profit organizations can be a big benefit to the Museum.

As part of the application it was necessary to get upgraded quotes on our historically correct steel framed windows. Unfortunately these historic windows are quite expensive and under the terms of the grant, we were limited to a total cost of approximately \$30,000.00. The grant will allow us to provide new

windows for the second floor dormitory (future exhibit space convertible to rental meeting room) and the first floor classroom. We will be left with a smaller number of windows that still have to be replaced when funds are available.

While in Columbus, Dan and John stopped by the offices of area state legislators to make them aware of the Fire Museum project. They were able to meet with our State Senator, Sandra Williams, and thank her for the History Fund support while inviting her to visit the Museum.

Second Floor Construction

Work has begun in earnest on transformation of the second floor. The former assistant chief's quarters (office, bedroom and bathroom) were gutted a couple of years ago in anticipation of use as a bathroom. For ADA purposes and use of the former dormitory as an occasional meeting room, it necessitated the space being made into bathrooms. A men's and women's bathroom are under construction that will be fully compliant with ADA requirements. The metal studs were installed by Mark Bauman. Plumbing work is ongoing with the assistance of Scott Hendryx and Jim Carroll. Our regular electrical crew of Ken Jordan, Bill Deighton and Dick Lash have installed the electrical components. Eventually the remaining windows will be replaced, tile installed, a new ceiling hung and the floor finished. There will be a new small storage room on the north wall accessed from the elevator lobby.

The old dormitory is being converted to an exhibit hall that is also capable of being used as a rental meeting room with removable exhibit cabinetry. The glass block windows will be replaced thanks to the Ohio History Grant. Openings have been made in the wall between the dormitory and the alarm office for the installation of recessed displays cases. Ceiling and wall plaster needs replacement and refinishing. The goal is to have it all finished by mid summer.



New bathroom construction



Dormitory renovation

Paul Nelson Photos

New Donations

By Paul Nelson

Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department Helmet



Paul Nelson photo

Michael and Ray Jr. present helmet

The Museum had very few artifacts dating back to the Volunteer fire fighting days in Cleveland (1829-1864) in our collection. A significant addition occurred recently with the donation of a leather helmet from the Cataract Hand Engine Fire Co. No. 5 from the family of the late Ray Lukacs. Ray was an avid fire buff and collector of fire artifacts especially fire helmets. Ray's sons Michael and Ray Jr. made the presentation at the Museum Annual Meeting in January.

Ray acquired the helmet after a newspaper story and photo of his collection ran in the Plain Dealer (they spelled his name incorrectly). An individual contacted Ray about the helmet after seeing the story and donated it to his collection. The family now felt that the helmet belonged in the Fire Museum as an important piece of local fire history. Several of us "senior" fire buffs remember Ray who passed away in 1985. He was always interested in Cleveland fire history writing a history of CFD for a Master's Thesis. He was a guidance counselor at South High School.

Cataract Hand Engine Co. No. 5 was active from 1836 to 1863. In 1859 they built a firehouse on Champlain Street that became the firehouse of Steam Fire Engine No. 2 in 1863 when the paid fire department was established.

Unfortunately very few local fire fighting artifacts and general memorabilia has been preserved over the years. Pieces of early fire history were scattered and in many cases discarded or destroyed. As the Museum attempts to build exhibits for future use, we depend greatly in obtaining artifacts from donors like the Lukacs family. Donated items are recorded after accession in accordance with the Museum Collections Policy which is based on American Association of Museum criteria. Donors are given documentation for their gift.

Unfortunately very few local fire fighting



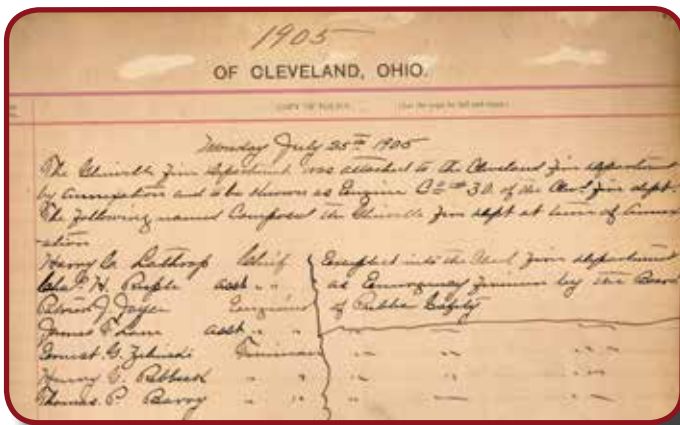
Cleveland Plain Dealer photo

Ray Lukacs helmet collection

First Engine Co. 30 Journal

The Museum has acquired the original journal of Engine Co. 30 when they were established from the Glenville Fire Department in a merger in 1905. The first entry on Monday July 25, 1905 describes the "allotment" of the Glenville Fire Department to the Cleveland Fire Department. Members of the Glenville Fire Department (Chief, Assistant Chief, Engineer, Assistant Engineer and three firemen became Cleveland "Emergency Firemen" by order of the Board of Public Safety. They would become regular members of the Department by act of City Council later.

Their first run was at 10:45am on that day for a still alarm on Eddy Rd. They worked 1 1/2-hrs through 600-ft of 2 1/2-in hose. H. C. Lathrop, former Glenville Chief, was in charge of Engine 30. All eight "new" firemen responded to the call.



Page 1 of Engine Co. 30 Journal...1905

The engine was the former Glenville steamer, a 2-horse American piston 450gpm engine with a plain 2-horse hose wagon. On March 4, 1908 Engine 30 responded on a still alarm to Collinwood for the Collinwood School Fire that killed 172 students and two teachers. After the 7-mile run, the engine pumped through 800-ft of 2 1/2-in line. It was the only engine at the fire other than Collinwood's small 300gpm gasoline-powered, horse drawn engine.

The journal came from Chief (ret.) Michael Forte of Mayfield Heights. His father worked at Engine 30. After the station closed in 1981, he went to the firehouse while it was under demolition for

a last look and found the journal in the rafters. The contractors told him to take it. The journal book was actually a ledger book of the Washington National Insurance Company that must have just been handy. The book was used until 1912.

Flea Market...2016

By Paul Nelson



Steve Hildebrant describes a fire lantern

It was the 32nd annual Firematic Flea Market, a fledgling effort started last century by the Western Reserve Fire Buffs Association using the back room of the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Station. Steve Hildebrant and Bob Gahr were the organizers then and they are still going strong at it. Sooner or later they are going to get it right! Bob had to miss the actual event this year as he was away as best man at a family wedding. There were remarkably a number of the old buffs group still involved 32 years later and others still visiting. A great social event.

This year there were over 30 vendors from a wide area with the furthest away coming from Keokuk, IA. Other travelers to the flea market came from Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia and Toronto, Canada. The obligatory March snow made its appearance but caused little problems. The attendees seemed to be pleased as they carried their treasures back to their autos. There were items as big as a life net and as small as a miniature fire engine model and everything in between.

Joan Oliver managed the entrance and was assisted by Debbie Hubbard and Karen Sodini. John and Pat Zangerle kept the hot dogs and chili flowing in the kitchen with help from Stan Socha and Chris Sheeche. Dan Hayden and Jeff Campbell were the raffle ticket sellers. Jim Bell manned the Museum table and operated the sound system. Bob Shimits, Dale Cohen and Stu Warner helped lay out the booth spaces. A lot of people helped to make this fund raising event a success.

Our sincere thanks to Cleveland Bn. Ch. Tom Schloemer, Director of Training, for his help at the Fire Academy and to Chief of Operations Wayne Naida, Jr. and Department Chief Angelo Cavillo for arranging the use of the facility.



Visitors examine the many offerings at the Flea Market

Paver Deadline Quickly Approaching

By Joan Oliver

The Museum installed its first batch of pavers and is currently busy taking orders for the second batch of pavers which are scheduled to be installed in the Spring. If you haven't already done so, come down and see how beautiful they look. They are truly magnificent. The black granite border provides the perfect accent to make a striking pathway leading up to the entrance of the building.

The Pavers are 8-in. x 8-in. and are a perfect way to remember individuals, events or commemorate personal milestones. The cost of each paver is \$200.00 for members and \$250.00 for non-members. Forms may be downloaded from our website at www.wrfmc.com and emailed to pavers@wrfmc.com or mailed to the Museum at 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115.

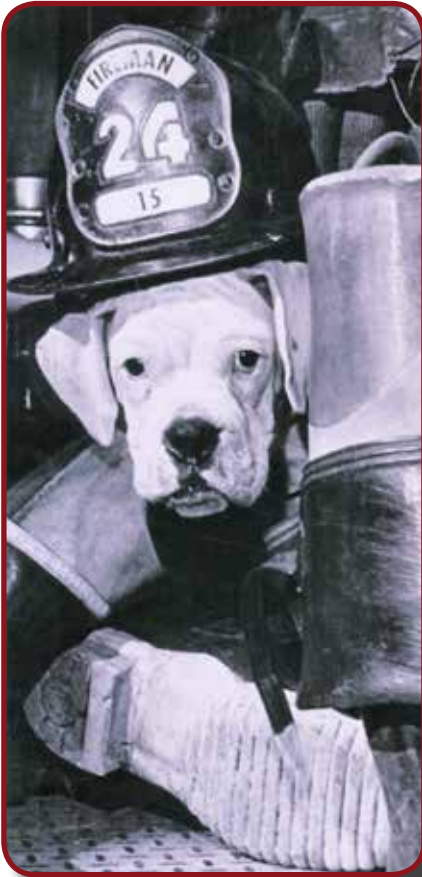
Don't delay, please take a moment out to show your support and order your paver today!



First batch of pavers in place

They Called Him Knobby

By Paul Nelson



Roy Jech Collection

Knobby as a pup

He was a purebred, white Boxer dog, the offspring of a seven-time champion father. Cleveland fire fighter Roy Jech decided that Knobby should be the mascot for [old] Station 24 on W. 25th Street next to Riverside Cemetery. He was six weeks old when he arrived at the firehouse in 1966 and would become the beloved mascot of Engine Co. 24's members and a favorite in the local community.

Knobby would soon settle into a routine of greeting neighborhood kids, patrolling the house and joining the crew for meals. The men said he learned the box numbers that were a "go for 24" as the bells tapped out over the Gamewell. Just like the old fire horses they said.

He rode the red Seagrave and the white Sutphen/GMC. And, when he wasn't on a run, he would wait for the kids by the door after school and accompanied them home stopping by a neighborhood shop or two for a little snack. He would also walk home with a neighbor lady who worked late at a local shop. He seemed to know when she would appear.

The firehouse also had a cat. When she had kittens they would be offered to the community. Company members printed a "FREE KITTENS" sign of the window shade and pulled it down when it was time. In August 1969 a new litter was ready for adoption. They pulled the shade down and put Knobby and a few kittens on a chair just outside. An iconic photo



AP Wirephoto

Knobby the celeb

was taken and sent out over the AP wire service. Over the next few weeks letters were received from all over the country and Canada from people who saw the photo in their hometown paper.



John McCowan Photo

Knobby at work

He would often be seen on the fireground keeping an eye on the men and the pumper. The photo on the left shows Knobby at work during a call fire on June 27, 1972 next to the firehouse. The fire was in a block that housed a beauty supply company and a garden supply firm. It was said that Knobby returned home that day with a new hairpiece after he checked out the ruins. When he returned to quarters he would often stop at the faucet outside the door for a drink rather than use his water bowl in the kitchen.

Knobby died in October 1973, a devastating loss to his fellow comrades and to the community as well as word spread. Knobby would not be there. Company members decided he would not be forgotten and a lasting tribute to him would be created. Kotecki Monuments located just down W. 25th Street donated a stone marker and engraved its message. On November 7th the stone was put in place just off the station platform with a fitting ceremony attended by fire fighters and community members. Over 75 people gathered for Knobby's last alarm. Our thanks to Roy's widow Mary Jane Jech for photos from his collection and a donation of items to the Museum as well as to Museum volunteer Ken Jordan for arranging it.



Roy Jech Collection

Knobby's last alarm

Farewell...Annamae Leaving for Florida

By John Zangerle



Paul Nelson photo

Annamae and Joan Oliver share the "big check" with John Zangerle

RTA's "Downtown Amazing Race" promotion last fall. She also helped arrange and run our popular "Ghost Tour" stop at the Museum and represented the Museum at several professional organizations in the community.

One of Annamae's most recent contributions to the Museum was to discover the availability of a History Fund grant from the State of Ohio. She and Joan Oliver worked hard on preparing the grant application and followed through to its successful conclusion as reported on page one of this issue of the Bugle. The preparation required historic documentation of the building's original appearance and verification that the replacement windows for the project were historically correct.

With all of her accomplishments it will be very hard to find a replacement for Annamae, but we will now start looking. In the meantime, we wish her the very best as she, her husband, and their beloved dogs head to Orlando for a new adventure. She will be missed.

Our very successful Education Director, Annamae Kacsandi, has accepted a full time job in Orlando, Florida working for the USO establishing their new USO presence at the Orlando airport starting early March. We will miss Annamae very much. As our Museum's first Education Director, she brought great enthusiasm and vitality to the position. She developed programs for a variety of different age groups and audiences and also obtained her certification as a Fire Safety Instructor through the State Fire Marshal's office. She helped with the planning of our Fire Safe kitchen and bedroom exhibits and worked on our Safety Day at the Zoo programs. Another of her initiatives was to write our first "Junior Fire Brigade" newsletter for children. She helped develop the children's birthday party program that will become a major fund raiser for the Museum.

Annamae was always thinking of new ways the Museum could be involved in community activities and promote our presence. For example, she worked with RTA and made the Museum one of the most successful stops on



Paul Nelson photo

Annamae helping a future fire fighter put out a fire

New Classroom for Museum

By Paul Nelson

As part of the Museum's fire safety education program, the multi-purpose room adjacent to the safety education area has been renovated to serve as a classroom. The Museum is currently seeking grants to acquire audio visual equipment for the room. The classroom will provide the opportunity to offer special fire safety programs to older children incorporating STEM and CORE. It can also be used to present programs to visiting adult and senior citizen groups and can be used as rental space for small meetings by outside groups.

Most of that area of the Museum building housed racks of batteries used for backup for the Gamewell fire alarm telegraph system on the second floor. Over the years as rectifiers replaced the large number of batteries, that space was converted into repair space for fire alarm boxes and alarm equipment. When the system was deactivated a small area of batteries was still in service.

The room will also be used for children's birthday parties when they are offered next year. The room has a counter top with cabinets and a sink along with wall cabinets. Volunteers have installed them, fabricated the counter top, installed a hung ceiling with lights and finished the concrete floor. The windows will be replaced by part of the Ohio History Grant.



Paul Nelson photo

Space for new classroom

CFD Trivia

By Paul Nelson

- Q:** What was it with the blackboards on the front of old firehouses?
- A:** They were placed there to post messages of importance to neighbors and passers-by.



CFD Archives

Station No. 22 8119 Wade Park Ave. 1940

Some time in the teens blackboards were placed outside fire stations. There have been very few records found of directing company members to use the boards with directions probably sent via telephone. A specific Special Order was found on December 10, 1941 instructing the message REGISTER HERE FOR CIVIL DEFENSE be posted. Most of the time company members posted the score of the Cleveland Indians ball game on the boards.

Mystery Solved



WRFM Photo Collection

Engine 13 playing away

Earlier we ran a photo of a CFD front-mount 1965 Sutphen/GMC pumper using the front mount deluge gun on a structure fire. At that time the location of the rather rare sight was unknown. Museum member Chuck Muckley did a little digging and found the location searching through a 1968 Cleveland City Directory. The location was a block on Broadway (No.'s 5617 to 5641) south of E. 55th Street. Businesses involved in the fire were:

5633 Broadway Alvin's Jewelers

5635 Broadway Specialty Sandwich Shop

5641 Broadway Thom McCann Shoe Store

The pumper is Engine 13, the tower is the 1968 Sutphen Aerial Tower of Ladder 1. From that we found the fire was on November 20, 1968.

Calendar of Events

- **Sat. - Sun., April 16 & 17, 2016** - 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 30, 2016** - Jackson, MI, GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI. info at www.gliafaa.com.
- **Sunday, May 29, 2016** - 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, 2016** - Reynoldsburg, OH. Central Ohio SPAAMFAA Muster at Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main St. Starts 9:00am. Info at www.coafaa.org.
- **Fri. - Sat., July 29 & 30, 2016** - **Note corrected date.** Frankenmuth, MI, GLIAFAA summer fire engine muster. Info at www.gliafaa.com.
- **SPAAMFAA Summer Convention and Muster August 10-14, 2016** - Middletown, NY, More info from John Zangerle, a SPAAMFAA Trustee, at jpzangerle@gmail.com.
- **Sunday, Aug. 14, 2016** - Alliance fire apparatus Pump-in and contests at Glamorgan Castle, Glamorgan and Union Aves. Events start at 9:00am. Parade (Carnation Festival) of fire apparatus at 1:00pm. Info at Joe Young, 330.823.6711 or Craig Cobb, 330.206.7564.
- **Sunday, Sep. 11, 2016** - Hudson, OH. Annual WRFM/Varnes Memorial Muster at Barlow Park Farm, 1965 Terex Rd. Staging after 10:00am. Pot luck lunch (burgers/hot dogs provided) 11:30am. Parade through Hudson after that followed by pumping at the park. Info at brownfire@aol.com.

A Parting Shot



Paul Nelson photo

Out of the Water

CFD Marine 17, a 2012 Boston Whaler fire-dive-rescue-boat (1250gpm) getting ready to go to storage at Station No. 4 for the winter. During the summer it is located at the ODNR secure dock at E. 55th St. and operated by Technical Rescue 1.

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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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FIRE MUSEUM TO OPEN SOON
See website for details



Roy Jeck Collection

Knobby

He was the mascot of Cleveland Engine Co. No. 24 and a favorite of the west side neighborhood. See the story on page 5 of The Bugle about this character born 50 years ago..

The Bugle is a publication of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center. The entire contents © by Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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