

THE BUGLE

Spring 2017

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

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The Time Has Come Museum prepares to open this fall

By Paul Nelson

It's been a long journey. Starts and stops. Unexpected pit falls and delays. The road now looks a lot better and clearly visible but there still is a lot of work to do. The Museum plans to open finally during national Fire Prevention Week in October. Watch our website at www.wrfmc.com for specific details. It will include a full exhibit on the main apparatus floor and an operational fire safety education program in the adjacent space.

The Museum's Executive Committee held a walk-through of the building with our General Contractor. To open the first floor of the Museum, certain steps must be taken to meet codes and ensure fire safety. Detailed action items were identified in each room with steps needed for remediation. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is committed to finishing this task. Finally, a series of inspections are then required before a final occupancy permit can be issued by the City.

We still need volunteers to assist in completing some of those tasks. If you could spend some time helping us, contact Roy Ziganti or Joan Oliver. Or, leave a message on the phone at 216.664.6312 or email at info@wrfmc.com.

Plans call for public open days Wednesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Group tours can be accommodated during those hours. Other tours could be arranged by request. Admission charge is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (3-16) and under 3 free. Discount coupons will be available on the internet. Museum members are admitted at no charge.

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WRFMC Photo Collection

It all began with buckets

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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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Presidents Log

By Roy P. Ziganti, Jr.

One of the purposes of a Museum is to research and catalog history, the Western Reserve Fire Museum is not any different. Since the beginning of our organization, we have done not only that, but have preserved to the best of our ability much of the history of the Fire Departments of the Western Reserve especially the Cleveland Fire Department. Our chief (no pun here) source of records are the company journals received from the city (Cleveland) and from individuals who came across these books at some point who in turn donated the journals to the Fire Museum. We have preserved all Fire Department records and memorabilia that has come our way and will continue to do so, but we are always on the lookout for more.

Many of our members have continued to research other avenues and also researched much of our collection to try and comprehend, grasp the history of FIRE in the Western Reserve in order to tell the story of the past in the best location in the Nation. I am at this time asking for all members of this organization to help us out to create a thorough history of events that have transpired. Not only have there been numerous incidents that have occurred most tragic, but I am sure that events have transpired that had a very pleasant ending.

(Continued on page 2, see Log)

Time

(Continued from page 1)

The exhibit is titled "From The Bucket Brigade to the Big Red Machines." The visitor when entering will walk through a series of displays and fire fighting apparatus. It will trace fire fighting history from the use of fire buckets by civilians as the first defense against fire to the evolution of motorized fire engines of the early 20th Century. The display will include hand drawn and hand pumped fire engines as well as the horse drawn steam fire engine. It covers the period of 1800 through 1920 in the Lands of the Western Reserve that mirrors earlier periods of settlement in the Colonies. Visitors can leisurely walk through the hall reading the storyboards or be guided by a volunteer docent. The exhibit is partially supported by a grant from CAC (Cuyahoga County Arts Council).

The fire safety education area includes an interactive smoke bedroom and safety kitchen that illustrates steps to be taken in case of fire and to keep the home fire safe. There are activities for smaller children including a chance to dress up in miniature fire turn-out gear and "extinguish" a fire. Group tour activities for children, adults

Log

(Continued from page 1)

I, being one of the senior members of the Cleveland Fire Department, have had the occasion to speak to many very elder members who have in turn told me stories of the past. In the city of Cleveland there have been four major hiring's based on the needs of Cleveland. In 1919, the city saw the formation of organized labor in the Fire Department, but also the change from a six day shift out of seven days, to a one day on, one day off. Our records cannot determine exactly how many members were actually hired but the numbers probably doubled. The city's population grew significantly over the next 25 years and in 1946 the division hired an additional 277 members to replace the pre WW1 and 1919 hires. In September 1950, the city had another change in hours where the one day on, one

and seniors include structured programs presented by our Education Director.

There will be some growing pains as we begin to operate but we will soon create a first class fire museum and fire safety education center for the region. Work will continue in finishing the second floor for exhibit space and meeting room space. Work will also continue on the exterior restoration of the building, designated as a landmark structure by Cleveland City Council, to its 1926 historic appearance.

Our opening offers an opportunity for individuals to serve as docents, meeting and greeting visitors or assist in other tasks. You do not have to be proficient in fire fighting technology. We will provide training on details of our exhibits. Hours are flexible. Request more information by emailing to info@wrfmc.com.

And, finally...we are excited to be able to open the first floor of our Museum. Plan to visit us this fall as one of downtown Cleveland's exciting venues.

day off, went to one day on, two days off. So the biggest one day class in the history of Cleveland, 177 members were hired, followed by another 40 in October 1950. Many classes were hired over the next thirty years but the biggest one of all was one that was close to me. In April of 1980, 4200 signed up to take the test in June, of which 325 were hired over the next year and a half.

There are many members of this organization that have much to tell us, you have stories, you have memorabilia. We have much to learn about the history of FIRE on the north coast. I ask that if you would like to add your story to our story, please contact me at royziganti@gmail.com to add your story to ours.

Need Help at Motorcycle Ride

Once again the Fire Museum will be running a food tent at the Annual Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride on Sunday May 28, 2017. As always we need volunteers to help serve and carry out set up and tear down activities at the site. Hours are from 7:30am to about noon after the riders leave. If you can help that morning contact organizer Jim Bell at 440.220.0412 or email at firebell58@yahoo.com. Location is at Alfred Lerner Way (off E. 9th St.) and the CFD Firefighters Memorial between Browns Stadium and the Science Museum.

All the proceeds benefit the Fire Museum. Mark and Diane Bauman manage the grilling and Joe Mason works on securing vendor tables and food donations. It's a fun time. Join us.



Bob Gahr photo

Annual Flea Market

The Annual Fire Museum Flea market was held on Saturday March 4, 2017 at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy. As always the event was choreographed by Bob Gahr and Steve Hildebrandt. John and Pat Zangerle managed the hot dogs and chili. And, lots of other folks volunteered to set up, sell raffle tickets, man tables, set up, tear down and clean up. It is a little difficult to say much else that has not been said over the past 33 years about this event. Everyone seemed to have a good time, meeting old friends and acquitting treasures.

Rather than trying to write captions for the photos, insert your own comments for the scenes of some of the folks you might recognize.



Paul Nelson photos

On the floor of the Flea Market

Fire Museum Welcomes New Neighbor



The Fire Museum welcomes Engine Co. No. 2 to the neighborhood. They were placed in service at "new" Station 28 (BEARS) at 312 Carnegie Avenue on April 3, 2017. Engine 2/21 was taken out of service at Station 21 on June 20, 2011 in a Department reorganization. Their reinstatement was a result of the passage of the income tax increase by voters. The engine company is responsible for operating Engine 21. They received a new 2017 Rosenbauer pumper 1500/500 when placed in service.



Paul Nelson photos

Akron Fire Historical Tidbits

By Paul Nelson

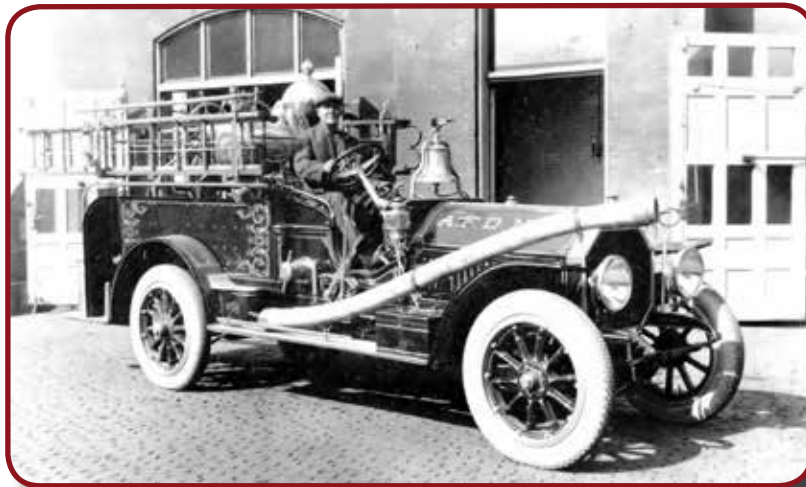
First motorized apparatus in Ohio

Akron Fire Department was the first municipal fire department in Ohio to have motorized fire apparatus. In 1908 three Webb chemical engine/hose wagons were delivered to run with horse drawn steamers of Engine 1, 3 and 5. Cost was \$13,500 for the three rigs. They were built on Thomas (Buffalo, NY) auto chassis with water cooled, 4-cylinder vertical type engines.

The hose wagons had 40-gallon Holloway chemical tanks and carried 250-ft of 1-in. chemical hose. They carried 1,000-ft of 2 1/2-in. hose and had a 3-way deluge gun mounted on the left side. Also carried were a 20-ft extension ladder and a 12-ft roof ladder. The apparatus had Goodyear pneumatic tires.



Hose wagon for Engine 5



1913 Webb pumper/chemical engine

Akron then turned to Webb for triple combination pumping engines with four delivered between 1909 and 1913. They had a 700gpm rotary-gear pump and 35-gallon Holloway chemical tanks. Each pumper carried a 20-ft extension ladder and a 10-ft roof ladder.

They were also built on Thomas automobile chassis with 4-cylinder, 70hp water-cooled T head engines. The first engine went into service at newly established Engine Co. 8 in 1909.

In 1914 Akron became the first totally motorized fire department in Ohio with 7 pumpers, 2 aerial ladders, 2 steamers with motor tractors, 2 chemical hose wagons, 1 service ladder and a chief's car with a chemical tank. Birmingham, AL was the first U.S. city to completely motorize.

Long ladder



The 65-ft ladder thrown to the roof

Akron did not have an aerial ladder until 1902. Prior to that ladder service was provided with a service ladder with rear steer tiller. The 1886 Babcock ladder carried a 3-section, 65-ft extension ladder with Tormentor Poles.

The photo to the left shows the 65-ft ladder and poles in place at a fire at the Academy of Music on July 18, 1897. It has been thrown to the roof in what must have been a herculean task of fireman strength.

The fire in Akron's only opera house at 215 E. Market St. near Main St. occurred about noon on a Sunday when Box 5 was pulled. Fire started behind the ticket booth on the first floor and was incendiary in nature. The fire spread up through the structure burning through the roof causing a partial wall collapse. The adjacent grocery store also suffered fire and water damage.

Taking Up Water

By Paul Nelson

During WWII Cleveland depended on the U. S. Coast Guard for fireboat service. The two fireboats of Engine 15 and 21 had been shut down in 1934 due to deteriorating conditions. Across the country USCG and the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD), under provisions of the Wartime Emergency Act, provided fireboats to cities lacking waterside fire protection.

USCG would purchase boats and convert them into fireboats. For Cleveland the Coast Guard purchased a 1927 Lake Erie diesel-powered gill net fishing boat (the Mavret-H, U. S. Registry No. 227028). The 60-ft, steel hull boat was converted at the Stadium Yacht Basin in Cleveland in 1942 and equipped with eight OCD 500gpm skid mount Hale centrifugal pumps. It had a 6-cyl, 120hp Fairbanks diesel propelling engine and a draft of 4-ft, 6-in. forward and 6-ft aft.

Delivering water to supply bow deck guns was an interesting hydraulic exercise. The eight pumping units, each with its own V-8 Chrysler gasoline engine, were mounted on the deck. Six were installed aft immediately after the pilot house in three rows of two each under a protective shed cover. The installation pretty much occupied the entire 14-ft beam. The remaining two pumping units were mounted just forward of the pilot house. Since the boat was not built with an integral water intake, each individual pumping unit had to be supplied by hard suction hose dropped over the gunwales into the lake.

The fishing boat was basically striped down to the deck during reconstruction. The height of the gunwales were reduced about by half from near the bow to the stern. This was necessary in order to allow the suction hoses to be deployed without the impediment of being elevated above the intake. The pilot house and the covering above the pumping units were utilitarian at best. There were no quarters on the boat.



WRFM Photo Collection

Coast Guard fireboat playing away

Manned by Coast Guard crew members, it was a time consuming process to play water from the deck guns. First two sections of 6-in hard suction had to be dropped into the water as seen in the photo. Each pumping unit engine was started and the pump primed. This was repeated eight times if the full 4,000gpm discharge was needed. The forward deck gun had a 3-in. tip, the other two had 1-in. tips. Water was delivered from each pump's discharge into a series of piping and manifolds on the deck connected to the deck guns that could be operated individually or as a group. The piping also had outlets that enabled hand lines to be operated. Such was the case in 1944 when the boat supplied hand lines at the East Ohio Gas Co. fire.

Designated as CG64022F (F was the USCG mark for fireboat), the boat was placed in service at Station 21 on the river on October 29, 1942. Its crew was under command of Petty Officer Charles Hoskins, the original owner of the boat who joined the Coast Guard in 1942. CG64022F responded to box alarms that called for E 15 or E 21 on the running cards. They conducted drills with Hose 1 quartered at Station 21, with units of the Cleveland CD Auxiliary Fire Department and regular CFD units. The boat also made regular inspection trips on the river.

The fireboat worked at the EOG fire and at several 5-5 alarm fires along the river. Exact run and work totals have not been found in CFD archives. The boat and crew were decommissioned on November 15, 1945. The boat was sold to the City of Cleveland and became Engine 21 in regular service in 1946. The adjacent photo shows the boat as Engine 21 and illustrates positioning of the two forward pumping units. It was officially known as The Mavret by CFD but the name never appeared on the sides or the rear of the boat.



WRFM Photo Collection

Boat as CFD Engine 21

Museum at St. Patrick's Day Parade



Wheels rolling at the parade

By John Zangerle

Dormitory Exhibit Windows Installed

The Museum renovation is a big project and it is always satisfying to check off a box for a completed item. When our architect, Chuck Miller, was discussing renovations for the upstairs dormitory, Stu Warner and several others thought it would be a good idea to build display case windows into the solid wall between the dormitory and the alarm office. The advantage of doing this was to allow illumination between both rooms while providing a much needed additional display area without taking up floor space in the dormitory. Since the dormitory will host a variety of events, it is important to have as much floor space as possible. Other displays in the dormitory will be mobile so they can be moved as dictated by events.



Two of four windows in dormitory



Tim Clark installing window

Stu Warner decided the best way to make sure this project was completed was to make a restricted donation to fund the display cases. Stu arranged with a master woodworker from Rocky River, Tim Clark Furniture Design, to make the cases to Stu's design specifications. This includes upper and mid-level lighting so the exhibits can be easily seen from either room. The display cases are made out of oak to match other oak trim in the Museum and can be opened from the alarm office side so that exhibits can be changed. The exhibits shown in the accompanying photographs are temporary exhibits to show what can be done with these cases. The Museum thanks Stu for his generosity and efforts in completing this project.



One of the exhibits

CFD Trivia

By Paul Nelson

Q: Where was Engine Co. M located?
A: Station 13 when it opened in 1877.

For some unexplained reason the Board of Fire Commissioners issued an Order on February 2, 1877 that all engine companies be identified by a letter (beginning at "A") rather than a number. Engine 13 was established on May 1, 1877 and assigned the designation of Engine M. The photo of the engine on the apron at Station No. 13 clearly shows "M" painted on the frame.



Engine M 1863 Silsby 400gpm rotary pump

The engine was also known as the J. D. Palmer originally delivered to Engine 4. The Board of Fire Commissioners was established in 1873 as the civilian management arm of the Fire Department and continued until 1903 when the Board of Public Safety was created to serve the same purpose.

Only the engines were given a letter but the designation was not used in any official Fire Department documents. Company journals all were numbered engine companies. The Annual Report prepared by the Board of Fire Commissioners did not make any reference to lettered companies. Alarm box running books designated engine companies only by a number as did the telegraph system.



Engine M

No further mention of the lettered engines was found in latter year's Annual Reports or Department records. It is one of the historical mysteries in Cleveland Fire archives but we know it existed based on the engine's lettering.

Calendar of Events.

- **Sunday, May 28, 2017** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Staging at 9:00 am, start 11:00 am 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 if you can help. Ride info at www.firefightersmemorialride.com.
- **Wednesday, June 21, 2017** – Cleveland, OH. Fire Museum participates at the Safety Council's Safety Day at the Zoo. **Volunteers needed.** Info on website at www.wrfmc.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.
- **Fri. & Sat., July 28-29, 2017** – Great Lakes Chapter of SPAAMFAA Fire Engine Muster, Frankenmuth, MI. Info at gliaffa.org.
- **Wed. - Sat., August 2-5, 2017** – SPAAMFAA Summer Convention and Muster, Watertown, NY. See the SPAAMFAA Web Site for details.
- **Wed. - Sat., August 23-26, 2017** – International Fire Buffs Annual Convention Indianapolis, IN. Info at www.IFBA.org.
- **Sunday, September 10, 2017** – Hudson, OH. Annual Western Reserve Memorial Muster on the Green in downtown Hudson in conjunction with the Hudson Fire Museum. Watch for details in the next issue of the Bugle.

A Parting Shot



ASSEMBLING THE WATER TOWER

Members at Headquarters in a drill setting up the 1894 Champion water tower (rebuilt in 1907) in this 1936 photo. It took 12 men to set the outriggers and then manually raise the tower. It remained at HQ into the 40's but was never used at a fire after 1929. Note that a few members are wearing the new style MSA helmets just introduced.

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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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FIRE MUSEUM TO OPEN
Scheduled for Fire Prevention Week
See details inside

WRFM Photo Collection



Webb hose/chemical running with the horses

Beginning in 1908 Akron Fire Department began converting from horse drawn apparatus to motorized apparatus. By 1914 the department was completely motorized. They became second in the nation to do so. Birmingham, AL was first. See story on page 5 of this issue.

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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