

# THE BUGLE

Fall/Winter 2015

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

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## Historic Restoration East Façade Completed

By Paul Nelson

When the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center was established, part of its Mission Statement included a goal to restore the structure to its original historic appearance. Station No. 28 and the Fire Alarm telegraph office and dispatch center was built in 1925-1926 and opened on August 26, 1926. It was finished in Berea sandstone quarried in South Amherst and included cast iron decorative balconies outside the second floor windows on three sides.

The entire sandstone surface was cleaned about 10 years ago removing decades of dirt and grime. The sandstone was also stabilized where loose stone was reset and recaulked where needed. The west apparatus bay door opening on the Central Viaduct Roadway side was returned to its original orientation after being relocated for a roll-up door.

The first major work on the east façade facing the Ontario/Carnegie intersection took place with altering the two dayroom windows to new openings for an entryway. Adaptive restoration is considered historically acceptable if done in a style the complements the structure and does not change the original footprint and appearance of the structure. The Museum has attempted to carefully adhere to these principles in our restoration projects.

A decorative canopy and signage were added above the new entry doors. The base of the canopy columns were covered in Berea sandstone quarried at the same site as the original construction stone. Two Cleveland fire alarm street box shells were modified to serve as illuminated coach lights on either side of the entrance doors. (Continued on page 2, see Historic Restoration



Dan Hayden photo

Installing new balcony

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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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## President's Log

By Roy Ziganti, Jr.

Greetings from the corner of Carnegie and Ontario Avenues. Work continues to progress slowly but surely on the first floor. Members of FS #4 including Joe Sheffey and Kevin Barry installed the cabinetry in the classroom. Meanwhile, board members Stu Warner and Dan Martone worked on the concrete floor staining it to give it a marble-like appearance. Retirees Bill, Richard, and Kenny have been hard at work buttoning up the smoke detection system with the help of Bill Boettcher of Zenith Systems.

Mark Bauman and Scott Hendrix began to work on the second floor bathrooms so we continue to progress upward. Soon Shawn Flannigan will begin work on the display case openings in the dormitory. To finalize this project, we will be looking for assistance with moving debris and for specific trade skills that may be needed. I hope these requests will be honored as they have been in the past.

We continue to work diligently on searching for sources of funding but Mother Nature and some other uncontrollable events have significantly slowed our success compared to

(Continued on page 3, see Log)

# Historic Restoration

(Continued from page 1)

Windows in the structure were 4x3 steel casement windows with an opening in each. Window restoration will use the same appearance except the windows will not open. Some windows, including the east façade have been replaced. The building will be temperature controlled with a new HVAC system, thus eliminating the need to open the windows.

The final step to complete work on the east façade was to replace the decorative cast iron balcony on the second floor. The original balconies were removed in the late 40's - early 50's and were long gone. The only hard piece of evidence of the original ironwork was a railing around an opening to windows in the basement for the original kitchen. That gave the color (green) and some characteristics of the balconies.

Museum Board Member Stu Warner managed the program of recreating the balconies using original architectural drawings and photos of the exterior of the building. Precise measurements were established to carefully recreate the structure and the intricate curves and bends. The well-respected Rose Iron Works of Cleveland fabricated the balcony and created a pattern that can be used to manufacture the remaining five balconies when funds become available.



Paul Nelson Photos

Original green iron railing



WRFM Photo Collection

310 Carnegie Ave. 1926



CFD Archives

310 Carnegie Ave. 1949



Paul Nelson Photos

310 Carnegie Ave. 2002

Installation of the balcony was a challenge since it weighed about 500 pounds and was bulky in nature. Museum Executive Director Dan Hayden contacted an acquaintance Chris Camererie of Agile Sign and Lighting Co. asking for help in installing the balcony. As a result of that inquiry Tim Ruff of Agile Sign and his son-in-law Brian Arko of the Yesco Sign and Lighting Co. offered to help hang the balcony. Brian is also a Mentor firefighter. They and other volunteers completed the work on Saturday October 31st hoisting it in place and installing bolting through the original holes in the wall. The Museum east façade restoration was now complete.

The Museum is responsible for all restoration costs to the building which has been designated as a historic landmark by the Cleveland Landmarks Commission and Cleveland City Council in 2005. The east façade restoration was made possible in a large part by two generous grants from the Reinberger Foundation. Our sincere thanks to the Foundation for their assistance. The Museum is currently seeking grants that will help in completing the restoration of the remaining balconies, remaining windows and the five big apparatus bay doors.



Paul Nelson Photos

Final restoration completed  
October 31, 2015

## Log

(Continued from page 1)

past years. Several years ago when the hardscape was designed for the exterior of the building we were fortunate to have Pavers installed on the Plaza in front of the building. This gave us the perfect opportunity to use the Plaza as a source for fundraising. Commencing with the annual CFD United Way campaign, the Western Reserve Fire Museum has begun to sell "Pavers on the Plaza" and as of this writing over 65 have been sold. We are offering Pavers to museum members for \$200. There are over 1,700 spaces on the "Plaza for Pavers" so it will take a while for the project to be complete. I have asked that all Board members purchase two Pavers, and I would also like to ask of all Museum members to remember your Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle or friend, who was a fireman with a Paver.

Lastly, I spoke with several groups during the United Way campaign about the need for Cleveland Fire members on the Museum Board. According to Museum rules, there has to be a member of the CFD on the Board and with the retirement of two members I am the only one left. I think that it is important that there be new blood infused in our network.

## ANNUAL HUDSON MUSTER

By Paul Nelson

The annual memorial Fire Museum and Fire Buffs fire engine muster was held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at the Barlow Farm Park in Hudson. Once again Jerry Varnes, Chief of the Hudson Fire Department and Parker Browne of the Museum arranged a fun event and perfect weather. As usual a moment of silence was held as names of Ohio fallen firefighters were read with prayer offered by Museum member Rev. Jim Wickman. Jim Bell had command of the grill and Bob Shimits provided the sound system. Ron Zendarski of the Hudson Fire Department provided aerial shots of the muster from the Hudson Sutphen tower.

This year two hand engines pumped. One was the 1859 Button and Blake engine of Hudson and the other was an 1885 European hand engine built by William Knaust of Vienna and owned by Tom Doyle of the Little Wiz Fire Museum in Medina. The motorized apparatus paraded through town with the chance to make a little noise on the outskirts of downtown.

The date has not be finally established for next year's event but will be about the same time. Watch future issues of The Bugle and our website for details. The muster is open to any interested owner of a fire truck who would like to participate including area fire departments.



Hudson's 1859 Button & Blake



Future firefighter



Dan Hayden and Jim Bell

## Museum Participates in Veterans Day Parade

The Fire Museum participated in Cleveland's Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2015. Member Ken Rybka provided his 1956 Mack pumper that carried the Museum's banner in the line of march. This is a relatively new event for Cleveland was not very well publicized. Organizers indicate that next year it will be a more significant event to honor the local men and women who have served in the armed forces.

Members of the CFD Honor Guard pose in front of the pumper before stepping off in the parade. They are (left to right) Ron Jenkins, Derrick Tripp, John Verzi and Dean Murad.



CFD Honor Guard

## Set in Stone

The first several rows of Memorial Pavers were installed in early December taking advantage of our mild weather. The paver project has been very well received and the Museum is very pleased with the results. The pavers show a variety of messages remembering individuals, events, and commemorating personal milestones. Check out the photos below, or better yet, stop by and take a look at our first rows of pavers. Now is the time to order your own personalized paver for the next scheduled installation by contacting Joan Oliver at the Museum, 216-664-6312, or emailing [pavers@wrfmc.com](mailto:pavers@wrfmc.com). You can also check for paver information on our web site at [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com).



Initial Paver Installation



Granite Border Installation



Finished Pavers in Place

## Dedication of Andrews Memorial Bench

**By Paul Nelson**

The James Andrews Memorial Bench on the Museum's Firefighters Memorial Plaza was dedicated on October 7, 2015 in a moving ceremony. Members of the Andrews family joined active and retired Cleveland firefighters and guests as emcee Bill Deighton recounted the many aspects of Jim's legacy at IAFF Local 93 and the Fire Department. Several other speakers took part in the program as the CFD Honor Guard stood behind the podium. A reception was held in the Museum following the program. The memorial bench is located next to the area that will contain the Museum memorial paver blocks.



Active and retired Cleveland firefighters



Steven Nedrich Photos



The Andrews family

## Museum Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Museum, 310 Carnegie Avenue in Cleveland. The Museum's Code of Regulations states that such a meeting be held once a year to update members of Museum activities and provide an opportunity to see the progress in the restoration of the building. It is always held on the bye week before the Super Bowl so you won't miss any football. A social hour begins at 1:00pm followed by the meeting at 1:30pm. Plan to visit and see what is happening at your Museum. An invitation is also extended to anyone interested in learning more about the Museum and exploring volunteer opportunities. There will be activities in the Fire safety Education Area for young children.

# WINTER FIRE SAFETY

By Annamae Kacsandi



Just by following a few simple steps, you can help ensure your home and family is safe this winter. Why is this a concern? In 2014 there were 3,275 civilian fire fatalities in the US with 84% in homes. There were 15,775 civilian injuries due to fire with a property loss of \$11.6 billion.

October – National Fire Prevention Month – came and went very quickly! The annual campaign headed by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) used the theme “Hear the Beep Where you Sleep” this year to emphasize that every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm. Each year, the NFPA uses a different slogan to highlight an area of home fire safety awareness. Many people know that the official Fire Prevention Week occurs the same

time every year to commemorate and remember the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. But promoting fire safety awareness in October is also convenient timing. October typically brings colder weather and colder weather brings many fire hazards for the home.

The Western Reserve Fire Museum is committed to increasing fire safety education to the public. For this quarter, I would like to focus on home fire safety tips, especially with the winter holidays and cold weather upon us in Northeast Ohio.

## Holidays

The winter holidays are a wonderful time of year full of celebrations, family and friends, and decorations. Time to light candles, untangle massive quantities of string lights, and cook enough food for an army. As you decorate and entertain, take time to pause and ensure you are following proper fire safety practices. For example, when purchasing new decorations, be smart this season and choose only flame resistant or flame retardant ones for your home. Candles are a dangerous fire hazard so always make sure to keep candles AWAY from children, pets, and any items that can burn. Matches and lighters should be stored in a safe and high place, away from curious children.

What would the holidays be without all the lights? When purchasing new lights or putting up old ones, remember that some strands are for indoor use and some for outdoor use, NOT both. Always replace strands of lights with worn cords, loose bulbs, or frayed edges. Finally, turn all lights off before leaving the house or going to bed.

If you are hosting family and friends this season, make sure to test your smoke alarms before they arrive. Take an extra step and inform all overnight guests of your home fire escape plan. Ask all chefs to stay in the kitchen while cooking and keep their sleeves rolled up. Ask smokers to go outside to smoke and to use an ashtray. Wet all their cigarette butts and ashes before disposing.

## Heating Season

Winter in Northeast Ohio can be a miserable time of year. I think we can all recall last winter’s frigid temperatures and massive amounts of snow. As the snow falls and temperatures drop, we will spend more time at home and more effort into heating ourselves and our home. It’s important to pay attention to the hazards to keep us and our loved ones safe this season.

Many of us have old homes and they become quite cold and drafty during winter. Furnaces should be inspected and serviced by a qualified professional once a year. If you are using portable space heaters, read and follow all manufacturer’s instructions. Make sure to turn off space heaters when you leave or go to bed. Purchase ones that have an automatic shut off just in case. Also, remember to think THREE FEET. Space heaters should be placed three feet away from anything that can burn (for example, paper, bedding, walls, etc.). Never use extension cords for portable space heaters; they should be plugged directly into an outlet.

Again, seek a qualified professional to clean and inspect all chimneys and vents. Only use dry, seasoned wood in your fireplace or wood stove and store all cooled ashes in a metal container ten feet from any building. Also, keep children and pets three feet away from all fireplaces, stoves, and space heaters.

It is extremely important to have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarms should be placed on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. Carbon monoxide alarms should be on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area.



## Museum Receives a New CFD Artifact

By Paul Nelson

The Museum continues to receive artifacts that will be displayed in the second floor exhibit area (former dormitory) when completed. Through the efforts of regular Museum volunteer Ken Jordan, a display panel containing all the helmet front pieces used by Chief James A. Granger during his career (1931-1947) has been donated. It apparently was a presentation by members to the Chief to hang on the wall in his office at Fire Headquarters. One of the front pieces is a rare shield from Chemical C. Others include his first frontpiece at Engine 1 when he was appointed in 1898; Lieutenant at Engine 1, Captain at Engine 1; Battalion Chief in 10th battalion, 1st Assistant Chief and Chief of Department.



The plaque displays Chief Granger's career in the Cleveland Fire Department spanning 55 years. The front piece second from left is from Chemical Co. C that operated out of Station No. 4 from 1885 to 1913.

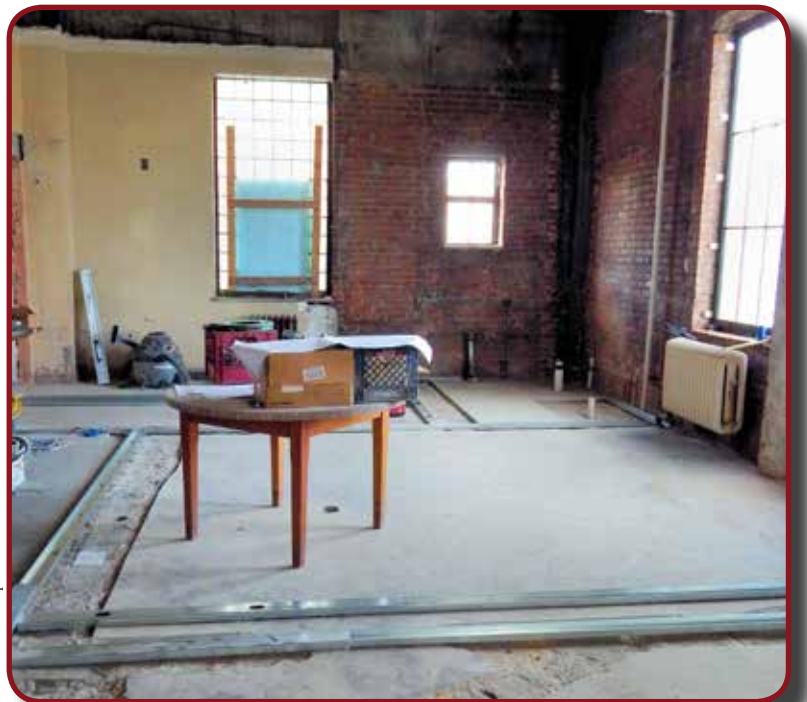
Ken secured the artifact from Jerry Schieve, a friend on Ken's softball team where he is considered the MVP. Chief Granger was the Godfather of Jerry who tells stories of ridding to fires in the chief's car as a young boy. After Chief Granger's retirement in 1947, he moved to Florida where Jerry spent his summers. The Chief died on July 28, 1975 at the age of 100, 55 years of which he spent as a Cleveland firefighter.

This panel will be displayed along with his chief's helmet, badges and other memorabilia that are in our collection already donated by Jerry Schieve. The Museum continually seeks artifacts that will help tell the history of firefighting in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Plans call for the former dormitory to house firematic displays in a series of cases and exhibits. The area will also be used as a multi-purpose room with exhibit material from the center of the room capable of being moved to allow use of the room for rental functions such as business meetings and social events. The wall between the dormitory and the alarm office area will be opened up to provide space for large display cases. Guests will be able to enter the alarm office either by a couple of stairs or an inclined handicap ramp. At the other end of the room there will be access to the new bathrooms and the elevator.

## Work Begins on the Second Floor

With most of the major construction work finished on the first floor, attention now turns to making the second floor operational and useful. The area for immediate work is the former Assistant Chief's quarters that will become ADA compliant bathrooms.

That space was gutted by volunteers a long time ago and equipped with preliminary plumbing lines and new wiring. Work will begin soon on establishing walls and doors so that finish plumbing can be started. Mark Bauman has started the preliminary wall layout. A large amount of fixtures have already been donated for the project. Window replacement on the north side and floor restoration will also have to be completed. There will be space at the north end of the room for a separate storage area accessible from the elevator lobby. The project requires help from volunteers with trade skills. Contact Roy Ziganti, Jr. at <royziganti@gmail.com> if you can help.



Paul Nelson photo

Layout for bathroom walls

## CFD TRIVIA

By Paul Nelson

**Q:** What member of the Cleveland Fire Department was the only individual to be killed while on active duty during World War II

**A:** FGF Frank D. Centenni, Engine Co. No. 28



IAFF File, Washington, DC

Capt. Frank D. Centenni  
U.S. Army, 34th Infantry

Frank D. Centenni, residing at 3579 W. 49th Street and employed as a grocery store clerk, was appointed to the Cleveland Fire Department on August 1, 1939. He was assigned to Engine Co. No. 28, Station No. 28 at 310 Carnegie Avenue. Department records show he was granted a leave of absence on May 31, 1941 for military service and documentation from the Washington office of the IAFF reported that he was inducted on November 13, 1941 into the U.S. Army. He was chosen as a candidate for Officer's School and graduated as a Second Lieutenant.

By 1944 he had been promoted to the rank of Captain and was assigned to the Pacific area replacement depot in New Guinea. Captain Centenni was then assigned to command the 1st Platoon, 34th Infantry involved in the invasion of Corregidor. During the invasion, he was killed by enemy fire while leading members of the First Platoon up Malasla Hill on February 17, 1945. His remains were returned to Cleveland with a memorial mass held at St. Rocco Church on Sunday May 6th.

A story from the IAFF indicated that a memorial plaque would be installed at Station No. 28 in honor of Captain Frank D. Centenni. It is not known if such a plaque was ever installed in Station 28. When the Fire Museum took control of the building and inventoried the contents, such a plaque was not found. If any member of the Department who worked at Station 28 or the Fire Alarm Office after World War II until its closing in 2002 remembers seeing such a plaque, please let us know where it was.

## Calendar of Events

- **Sunday, January 31, 2016** - Cleveland, OH.  
The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center Annual Meeting at the Museum, 310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Social hour at 1:00pm, Meeting at 1:30pm.
- **Saturday, March 5, 2016** - 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](http://www.wrfmc.com).
- **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](http://www.donnandassociates.com) or Donn Zalewiski, 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](http://www.gliafaa.com).
- **Saturday, June 25, 2016** - Reynoldsburg, OH, Fire Expo and Muster. Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 S. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH. Info at [www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire).
- **Fri. - Sat., July 23 & 24, 2016** Frankenmuth, MI, GLIAFAA summer fire engine muster. Info at [www.gliafaa.com](http://www.gliafaa.com).
- **SPAAMFAA Events for 2016**  
**Midwinter Meeting, Feb. 17-20, 2016** - Houston, TX  
**Summer Convention and Muster August 10-14, 2016** - Middletown, NY,  
More info from John Zangerle, a SPAAMFAA Trustee, at [jpzangerle@gmail.com](mailto:jpzangerle@gmail.com).

## A PARTING SHOT

Quite often sunsets are quite spectacular looking out to the lake from downtown. This shot was captured from the roof of the Museum on an early Fall evening.



Paul Nelson photo

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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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Permit No. 1418

**FIRE MUSEUM TO OPEN SOON**  
See website for details



**Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year**

**From all of us at The Bugle and the Fire Museum**

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