

THE BUGLE

January-March 2007

WWW.WRFMC.COM

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ANNUAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

Although it was a typical cold and snowy January day, about thirty members and a number of guests braved the weather to attend the January 28 Annual Meeting. In keeping with our tradition, plentiful good food was available before the meeting allowing our members to compare notes and catch up on the latest news. The long distance award goes to member Tim Bowden, who is the Historian of the Toledo Fire Museum.

Our treasurer, **Ed Hawk**, started the meeting by reporting that the Museum is in a very solid financial position. He stated that while our expenditures slightly exceeded our income, keeping our expenses under control allowed us to end the year with strong financial reserves. **Ed Hawk**, in his role as membership chairman, reported that our membership has remained strong, exceeding more than one thousand members again this year. No changes were recommended in membership classes or dues for this next year.

John Zangerle provided the President's Report by giving an overview of the Museum
(Continued on page 5, see MEETING)

Photo by Chief Photographer, City of Cleveland, Donn R. Nottage



Media coverage of the Museum project, events, and programs will continue throughout 2007. This photograph was taken at the 2006 September 11th ceremony at Cleveland City Hall. Both of the artifacts being video taped, a piece of steel from the World Trade Center and the FDNY fire helmet, are from the Fire Museum's collections.

PRESIDENT'S LOG

By John Zangerle

In the words of Frank Sinatra, 2006 was "a very good year". The Museum has achieved several milestone accomplishments. Perhaps foremost is the completion of our architectural plan for the renovation of the building. This is the result of many meetings and now makes it possible for us to move forward by entering the construction phase of our project.

Another milestone is the extensive demolition work completed by the volunteers. I don't think anyone kept track of the number of dumpsters that we filled, but I can tell you there were an awful lot of them. Volunteer efforts such as this have saved the Museum thousands of dollars in what would otherwise have been labor costs from outside contractors. Efforts such as this demonstrates that the commitment of a devoted group of volunteers can and will serve the Museum well in future activities.

The Museum also continued down the path of fulfilling its mission of public education and fire prevention in 2006. The excellent display in the City Hall rotunda

demonstrated to everyone our great capacity for putting together a first class exhibit. The Christmas tree fire demonstration for the media also started us on our mission to educate the public in fire prevention. Equally important, both of these efforts showed our ability to work as partners with the Cleveland Fire Department. Finally, we continue to produce a first class newsletter for our members as well as provide information through a column in the Local 93 newsletter. I have no doubt that these good communications are one reason why our membership remains at all time high levels.

While we have accomplished a great deal in 2006 the challenge for 2007 is even greater. We are in the process of establishing a capital committee to conduct major fundraising this year. We have just received word that we will finally be given the long awaited Block Grant monies from the City of Cleveland. We have started the year with a new Code of Regulations that will allow us to improve our organizational structure. We are also undertaking an ambitious capital campaign

(Continued on page 6, see LOG)

IN THIS ISSUE

That's the Way It Was.....	2
Project Progress.....	4
Executive Director's Report.....	6
Flea Market.....	7
Calendar of Events.....	8

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

This is a publication of
The Western Reserve
Fire Museum and Education Center
310 Carnegie Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: (216) 664-6312

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS...1906

by Paul Nelson

There probably are not many among us who remember what was happening 100 years ago. A look in the pages of history show Cleveland was bustling with new buildings and new businesses and a population pushing 400,000 residents. By 1906 living space was moving both eastward and westward from the central city. Lots of confusion existed thanks to a 1905 City Council Ordinance that changed the names of city streets. All the north and south streets were changed to numbered streets. "Roads," "Avenues," and "Boulevards" were created and street numbers were changed to reflect the separation by numbered street blocks. That explains what appears to be the establishment of many new firehouses in 1906 when actually it was only an address change of the same structure.

It was a year of two serious fires for the city. On February 2nd a 6-story factory, the N.J. Rich Co. who manufactured fine knitwear, and 21 frame dwellings were completely destroyed on the east side. Fire broke out on the 5th floor of the building at the corner of E. 17th Street and Payne Avenue in a scrap yarn pile. An ADT private alarm was activated bringing companies to the scene at 4:30 p.m. The fire spread rapidly through the interior wooden construction and within 30-minutes floors and exterior walls collapsed. All the workers escaped safely.

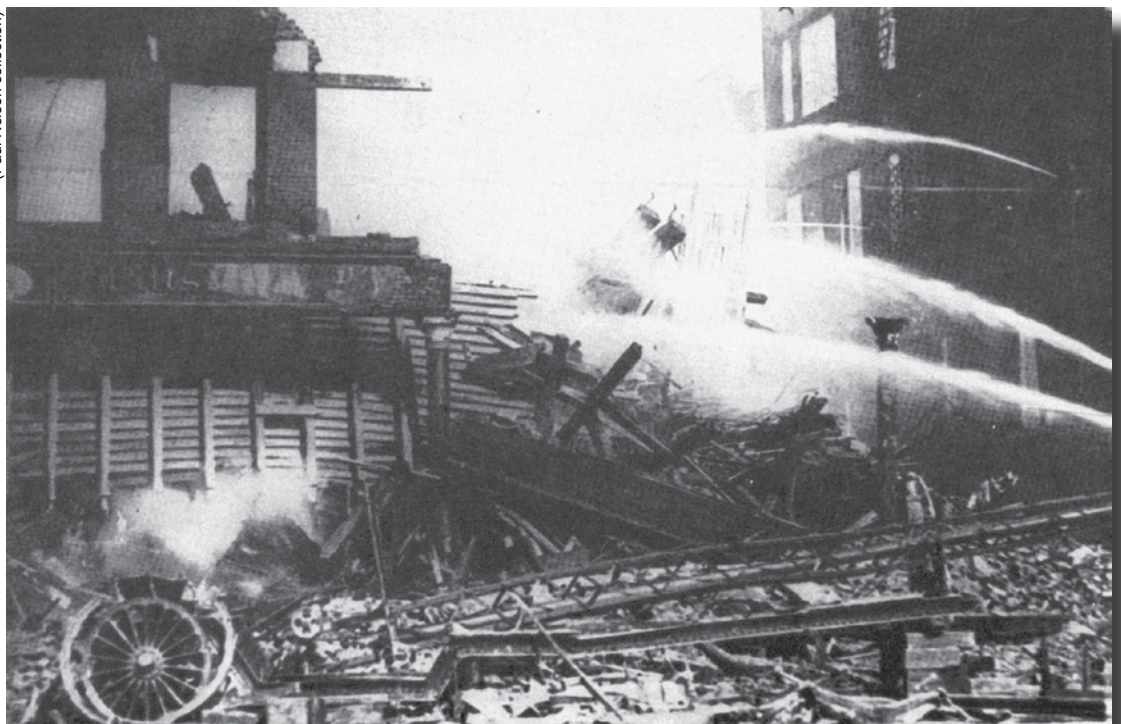
Intense heat and flames fanned by strong winds caused the fire to jump to houses on the east side of 17th Street and across Walnut Avenue to houses on the west side of 17th Street. A total of 21 houses were incinerated with 6 more badly damaged leaving over 100 persons homeless. Three alarms (maximum) and a special



1894 Champion 75-ft Tower on run in 1906

for three steamers were sounded. Loss was set at \$500,000.

On September 28th Box 167 was pulled at 2:45 a.m. for a fire that eventually destroyed the 6-story Bradley Block (W. 3rd Street at Noble Court) occupied mostly by PPG who manufactured paints and glass windows. A second alarm was sounded at 2:47 a.m. and third at 3:06 a.m. that brought 17 steamers to the scene. The fireboat (Engine Co. 15) pumped into the water main through the header at the river bank.



Tower No 1 under Bradley Block walls

At 10:30 a.m. the front wall fell into W. 3rd Street demolishing Water Tower No. 1 operating in front of the building. The tower was manned by members of Ladder Co. 1 all of whom were injured but without fatalities. The steamers of Engine Co.'s 13, 17 and 28 were also damaged at the fire.

Other significant events during 1906 included the death on March 10th of Fire Fighter/Assistant Engineer **William D. Rowe** of Engine Co. 3. He was injured on the previous day in an accident between the steamer and a trolley car on Central Avenue opposite the firehouse while returning from a call on Huron Road. New Ladder Co. 10 was established at Station No. 13 on May 16th, the first new ladder to be placed in service since 1894. Ladder Co. 4 was relocated from Station No. 25 back to Station No. 11 at that time where it had been located from 1876 to 1895.

Ladder Co. 8 received a new 2-horse aerial ladder from American LaFrance. The 65-foot spring-raised ladder cost \$3,500. City Council authorized the damaged water tower to be rebuilt at a cost of \$4,000 using some of the salvaged equipment. They also authorized purchases in the amount of \$19,000 for two new 1st-size steamers, two new hose wagons with chemical tanks (a first) for steamers, one plain hose wagon for a steamer and two new 80-gallon chemical engines (one-horse) to replace four existing condemned chemical engines.

There was some discussion about motorizing fire apparatus as was observed in several cities across the country. It was only talk. It would be 1912 before the first motorized pumper would be acquired for Cleveland and not until 1925 when the last horse would be retired. And that's a snapshot of how it was...one hundred years ago. ✂

(WRFM Collection)



Tower No. 1 operating on W. 3rd Street before wall collapse

(WRFM Collection)



Ladder Co. 10 1894 Gleason & Bailey service ladder with tiller reassigned from Ladder Co. 8

PROJECTING PROJECT PROGRESS FOR 2007

by Scott Carpenter, Project Manager

This article will review, in brief, just how busy 2007 is going to be. Progress will be made on a wide variety of issues and aspects of the project including governance, collections management, architectural project management, volunteer coordination, public relations, ODOT, education programming, and fundraising. In order for this project to be successful in 2007, significant strides will need to be made on each of these fronts.

Taking them one at a time, one of the major hurdles for the organization has been governance. Fortunately, with the passage of the new Code of Regulations at the Annual Meeting, we have managed to take a big step in the right direction. The new Code of Regulations will make it possible to bring new people onto the Board who have the ability to help fund both the capital campaign and the ongoing operations of the Fire Museum and Education Center.

Collections management has already started and will continue to improve throughout 2007 with work progressing on the Log Books and other collections. Curatorial work like cataloging, organizing records, and storage must begin in 2007 so that we will not only



Photo by Bruce "Buzz" Shelton

Bob Derrit (center) discusses the goals of the log book project with volunteers Dick Bowman (left) and Bill Martin. The first days were spent figuring out just how to proceed and dividing responsibilities. To be completed successfully and in a timely manner, this project will need many more volunteers

doing everything from cataloging to minor restoration projects. We will also need help with events, educational programming, public relations, the capital campaign, and more. No matter what, there will always be plenty of work for our volunteers in 2007.

On the public relations front we will continue to get the word out about the project. Along with our various efforts to promote the Museum, the project and our programs and events, it is hoped that the trade unions and all of the vendors and contractors working on the job will take the opportunity to promote their organizations, their good deeds and their great work on the project.

As for ODOT and the I-90 bridge project, just this month Museum leadership met with **Governor Strickland's** regional representative to discuss the project and concerns we have for the new bridge and roadway changes. We also have a meeting this month with **Stephanie Tubbs Jones** to voice our concerns. Meetings like these with other elected officials are planned with both

State and Federal representatives and senators. This is an ongoing effort that will continue throughout 2007.

Even though we are not yet open to the public, we are beginning to produce some fire safety programming and planning for future operations. Our partnership with the Cleveland Fire Department in November was very helpful and made the "Holiday Fire Safety Demonstration" happen. More events like this one are planned for 2007. In addition, we will be working with the Department, the Red

(Continued on page 6, see PROJECT)



Photo by Scott Carpenter

Before: Collections storage and cataloging is desperately needed. This will be a major effort for 2007. Log Books like these are now being cataloged and properly boxed. Everyone's help is needed with this project.

know what and where things are, but also properly discern what we should keep and how best to take care of it.

With the beginning of construction in 2007 it is hoped that construction management will be accomplished with the help of a professional construction management firm, our Architect, Doty and Miller, and the Museum staff, working together to facilitate the mostly volunteer work of professional trades and in-kind contributions from vendors and subcontractors. This won't be easy and it will surely extend the construction period beyond the normal time frame for a project like this.

Our regular volunteers will continue to play an important roll in 2007. Until the professional trades begin work, volunteers will continue to perform minor demolition projects. In order to avoid conflicts once the trades are in the building, Museum volunteers may be asked perform routine building maintenance in off hours. Even if the professional trades do not need our help, there is plenty of other work for our volunteers. Volunteers can work on collections



Photo by Scott Carpenter

After: The goal is to get collections sorted, cataloged, and properly stored as depicted in this photograph showing the archives of another organization.



Museum members at the Annual Meeting - front row: **Dan Bambic**, second row: (l to r) **Frank Novak, Stu Warner, Bob Gahr, Steve Hildebrant**, third row: (l to r) **Bill Martens, Don Shaft, Donn Zalewski**, back row: (l to r) **Tim Elder, Ted Elder, Jeff Dudas** (partially hidden), **Karen Sodini** (partially hidden), **Tim Boaden** (partially hidden), **Dave Meegan**

the Code of Regulations. The President explained that the Board of Trustees felt that the revisions were necessary to bring the Museum in line with the model code of regulations recommended by the American Museum Association. He explained that professionals from other area museums had reviewed our Code of Regulations and suggested these changes. He referred the attending members to their packets that contained a copy of the Code with the changes while he discussed the proposed revisions. After some discussion of several of the proposed changes, the new Code of Regulations was unanimously approved.

The Board wants to thank all those members that attended this very productive meeting. The

MEETING (Continued from page 1)

events of the past year. He emphasized the terrific support the Museum has received from many different volunteers, including Cleveland firefighters, who helped to conduct very successful activities such as the Flea Market, Motorcycle Rally, and exhibit at City Hall. He also spoke about objectives for next year including the establishment of a Capital Campaign to raise money for the building's restoration. John thanked **Chief Stubbs** and the Fire Training Academy staff for their help with the Annual Meeting and the Flea Market.

meeting also provided an opportunity for members to present the Board with a number of valuable ideas for fund raising and Museum development. ✂

Executive Director **Dan Hayden** led the group in a moment of silence for last year's deceased members **Cheryl Novak, Carl R. Patfield, and Julius Oriti**. Dan discussed the success and accomplishments of the Thursday Workday Volunteers throughout the year. He also talked about the Museum's work on its 1947 American LaFrance pumper spearheaded by **Rob Sheldon** as well as the gift of a 1953 GMC American from the City of Cleveland.



Project Manager **Scott Carpenter** next presented an excellent power point program that highlighted the work that has been done on the building with numerous photos. Scott also introduced our architect, **Chuck Miller**, who reviewed the exciting plans for the building. The status of the proposed Innerbelt Bridge was reviewed by Scott. He emphasized that Bridge plans are still somewhat fluid and that the Museum is actively in discussions with ODOT. Finally, Scott mentioned the importance of public relations as part of the Museum's fire prevention mission. He showed the television video from a demonstration of Christmas tree hazards that the Museum had organized in cooperation with CFD.

Museum leaders present to the membership: (l to r) **Bruce Sidaway, Ed Hawk, John Zangerle, Dan Hayden**

The major item of new business before the meeting was the discussion of the revision to

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Dan Hayden

For the Annual Meeting I was asked to give a report on the volunteers who have been helping with the project. To do this I pulled out the alphabetical membership list and began with the "A's. I started to write down the names of those who have donated their time and effort. I got thru the "B's and realized that there simply was not enough time to read the whole list at the meeting. I already had 13 names. Wow! The number of people who have come down and helped in one way or another with the Museum is awesome. The value of volunteer labor is tremendous and has saved the project tens of thousands of dollars. **Scott Carpenter** estimates that we've saved more than \$150,000 on the demolition alone. Thank you all!!!

Also at the Annual Meeting I reported on the status of the '47 American LaFrance pumper. **Rob Sheldon** took the '47 to American Fleet Services in Valley View to have them check it out and find out if it is worth spending time and money on the pumper. It was very fortunate that the owner of AFS, **Joe Schuerger**, once had a '48 ALF and his shop had experience working on these vehicles. The report from American Fleet is very positive. One of their recommendations was to rewire the pumper. Rob has decided that this is something that he, and whoever wants to help, can do. So the rig is back at the Fire Museum waiting to be rewired. Any volunteers? Call the Museum (216) 664-6312 ✂

Photo by Bruce "Buzz" Shelton



Rob Sheldon is one of many volunteers working at the Fire Museum on Thursdays. He is also spearheading the effort to restore the 1947 La France pumper. There are never enough helpers on Thursdays so please, come down and give us a hand.

PROJECT (Continued from page 4)

Cross, and other organizations to more effectively implement the City's smoke detector program. These last two years have seen a dramatic increase in fire deaths in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. In a 24-month period ending this past December, Cleveland alone lost 44 people to fire. Our Fire Museum and Education Center needs to get more heavily involved and become a partner in curbing these tragedies and we simply can't wait for our facility to be finished.

Fundraising will play a vital role in 2007. To start work on the capital project we need more capital funds. Over the next several weeks, it is anticipated that the Board will grow to include a number of new faces; people that can help raise both awareness and funds for the project. In addition, the Capital Campaign Committee will be in place to guide the fundraising effort. The fundraising effort will not be an easy one—we are not going to get all our funds from just a few sources. In-kind gifts of labor and materials will be a huge help, but significant amounts of cash will still be needed to keep the project moving forward. Cash from government sources, foundations, and corporations will be sought and represent a significant portion of the funding pie. The largest portion of cash will most likely come from personal gifts. Cleveland firefighters have already set the bar for cash contributions—as a group they are our largest cash contributors. Now we need to identify and make requests to individuals with the financial capacity to make large contributions

like that made by our Pacesetters.

As you can see 2007 will be a very busy year. Please contribute to the project in some way. Make a contribution to the capital campaign in excess of what you are currently giving through your membership dues. Volunteer, everyone is welcome to help out. Call us with your ideas. Help us identify other people, companies and organizations that can help with the cause. Don't sit back waiting for the Fire Museum to be finished. We need your continued support and help to make this project happen. As always, we can be reached at (216) 664-6312. Please, get involved. Help make your Fire Museum and Education Center a reality. ✂

LOG (Continued from page 1)

for the first time. We will soon reach the stage where we switch from demolition to construction. Unfortunately, the continuing high toll of fire deaths in Cleveland and other Northeast Ohio communities in 2006 again demonstrated the pressing need for our Museum and Education Center. We are coming closer and closer to making this dream a reality, but we cannot do it without the continued support of our members. ✂

**THE WESTERN RESERVE
FIRE MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER
22nd Annual**

**FIREMATIC
FLEA MARKET**

**Saturday, March 3, 2007
8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**At The Cleveland Fire Training Academy
3101 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio**

Toys, Books, Patches, Videos, Helmets, Alarm Boxes, Fire Equipment, Collectibles,
Extinguishers, Parts, Models, T-Shirts, Radios, Photographs

Donation \$2.00 Per Person, Children 12 & Under Free

For Information Please Call Evenings:
Steve Hildebrant at (440) 835-1791
or Bob Gahr at (440) 286-6110

VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

VENDOR NAME: _____

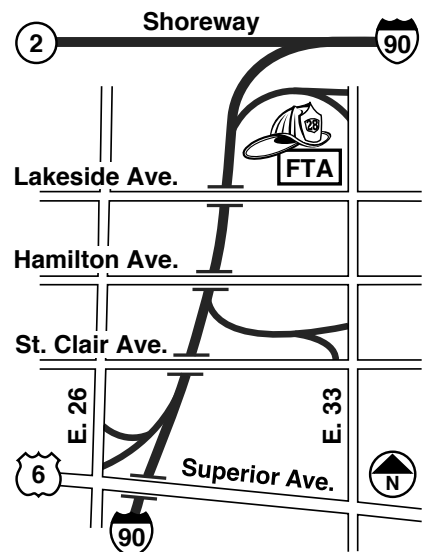
PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street, City, State, Zip

NUMBER OF SPACES REQUESTED: _____ Cost \$10 per 8 foot space.
Vendors must provide their own tables and chairs. Limited rental available
only with advance notice.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
The Western Reserve Fire Museum
P. O. Box 39251, Cleveland, Ohio 44139-0251

PLEASE REPLY BY FEBRUARY 24, 2007



Eastbound I-90 exit at Lakeside Ave.
(Exit 174A) Westbound I-90 exit at St.
Clair-Superior (Exit 173C) turn north
on E. 26 then turn east on Lakeside

Calendar of Events

- **Saturday, March 3, 2007 – Cleveland, OH.** The Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland will hold its 22nd Annual Firematic Flea Market at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy. 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information and/or to volunteer to help with this event, please contact the Fire Museum at (216) 664-6312.
- **March 9-10, 2007** – Southwest Ohio chapter SPAAMFAA annual auction (March 9) and Flea Market (March 10).
- **April 14-15, 2007** – **Allentown, PA.** Annual auction (April 14), flea market (April 15)
- **April 28, 2007** – **Jackson, MI.** Annual Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds, 8:00 AM, www.gliafaa.com
- **May 29, 2007** – **Cleveland, OH.** 3rd Annual Firefighters Memorial Bike Ride starting at Firefighters Memorial, details to be announced.
- **August 8-11, 2007** – **Cambridge, MA.** IFBA Convention
- **August 9-11, 2007** – **Burnsville, MN.** SPAAMFAA Summer Convention and Muster.

Don't forget Thursday Workdays at the Museum

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