

Winter 2008-2009 WWW.WRFMC.COM Volume 15, Number 1

# The Ups and Downs of the Fire Museum Project



### **By Scott Carpenter**

In the fall issue of the Bugle I reported on the fantastic support of three companies that contributed their services to clean and tuck-point the exterior of the Fire Museum. M-A Building and Maintenance and VIP Restoration did a spectacular job cleaning the building's sandstone walls and white granite base after which Coon Restoration started tuck-pointing, working first on the east face. Then winter hit and work moved indoors. Since then the project has experienced some major ups and downs.

We are all experiencing the effects of the downturn in the economy and this major recession, the likes of which only a few of us can remember. The Fire Museum is not immune to this recession and the pummeling of the financial markets. In fact many if not all of the foundations and individuals we have been talking with and seeking help from have been dramatically impacted by this recession. When the market crashed in September two foundations were considering major gifts to the project. As a direct consequence of the dismal economy one of those requests was turned down, and the other was postponed, hoping for better times down the road.

Then in January the Fire Museum got a major lift, and took delivery of its new elevator. The photo in this article shows a crew from Otis unloading the elevator from the delivery truck. Otis and other elevator manufacturers were asked by Forest City Enterprises to help the Fire Museum by providing quotes for the elevator. Otis was particularly interested in helping out and provided the equipment and

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### PRESIDENT'S LOG

By John Zangerle

I want to thank everyone who braved the winter weather to attend our Annual Membership meeting on January 25. It takes planning, time and energy to organize a successful meeting and those who attended seemed to enjoy the event. More of our members should take advantage of this opportunity to learn what is going on with the Fire Museum and provide their input. Additionally, the food and socializing warmed up a cold winter afternoon. Where else could you hear first hand stories about the adventures of the Pipe Band at the Inauguration?

The Fire Museum and Education Center made significant progress in 2008, but 2009 will be a much more difficult year. We are now starting major construction projects inside the building that will have to be done by professional contractors. Scott Carpenter has done a wonderful job of finding donated labor and materials and our volunteers are continuing to pitch in. We have to rely on these alternative approaches because the traditional sources of funding have been drying up in the financial crisis. If any of you have contacts with any of the construction companies that have helped us, please be sure to thank them. If you work for or have contacts with companies that

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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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### **PROJECT**

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installation at a deeply discounted price. They made it so inexpensive that it allowed us to upgrade to the largest elevator available for our facility. It also allowed us to increase the capacity of the cab by more than 40%, bringing the total weight allowed to 3,500 pounds. This increased size and capacity will

make moving collections from floor to floor much easier. No, we won't be moving fire trucks to the second floor but moving heavy exhibits and artifacts won't be a problem with our new elevator. And when the second floor is open to the public the increased size will also make it much easier to move small groups of people from floor to floor.

But before the elevator can go up, the apparatus bay floor must come down. Over the more than 70 years of service, Fire Station no. 28 had many fire apparatus and service vehicles parked in its bays and every winter the salty water, ice, and snow dripped onto the floor, soaking into the cement and wreaking havoc to its steel reinforcement. The result is a severely weakened apparatus bay floor. Early on in the estimating process for rehabbing the facility, it was determined that something had to be done to stabilize the floor and repair the beams. After having three different engineering firms and several concrete restoration companies look at the floor, and after running a number of tests and calculations on its integrity, it was decided that the most cost effective way to restore the floor was to replace it. By the time this issue of the Bugle is published the demolition of the floor will be completed and the floor replacement will be well underway. You may follow the progress online at the Fire Museum website: www.wrfmc.com.

Precision Environmental is doing the floor demolition. The floor and beam replacement is being done by Norris Brothers with a donation of labor from the Cement Masons Local #404 which will have a crew on hand to do the cement pour and finishing. All of the companies and unions working on the floor replacement are either making in-kind contributions or are doing the work at cost. The cement will be donated

and we are working on getting a donation of some of the other materials like the steel reinforcement and forming materials. With the generous support of the contractors and suppliers the floor replacement should be an uplifting experience for everyone involved.

Once the apparatus bay floor demolition is nearly complete, the elevator shaft will go up. Norris Brothers will begin work by digging the elevator pit in the basement





These photos were taken of the underside of the apparatus bay floor. They show the exposed steel reinforcement of the beams and the concrete deck. This deterioration was caused by water soaking into the concrete and rusting away at the steel reinforcement. The rusty metal then expanded causing the cement to crack and fall off. All of this will be replaced making it safe again to park fire apparatus on the bay floor.

and cutting the walls for the new doorways to the elevator. And as soon as bricklayers can begin building the elevator shaft walls the masonry contractor, Zavarella Brothers Construction Company, will be on site loading in materials.

In preparation for the work on the elevator, volunteers have removed all the glass block windows in the basement and one on the second floor. Zavarella Bros. is going to use these windows to load in cement block and mortar in the basement and on the second floor. With the elevator shaft built the bricklayers will brick up the basement windows and contractors will water proof the exterior wall and fill in the window wells in preparation for the new entrance way on the east side of the building.

Otis will then return to install the elevator. Here again Forest City Enterprises

helped by securing a donation from Gateway Electric. Gateway is supplying the electrical connection to the new elevator. Along with the electrical connection, the elevator will also need to be connected to the fire alarm system that is being donated by Doan Pyramid Electric. Doan is supplying a state-of-the-art Siemens fire alarm system and all the materials and labor to install it. This in-kind contribution is worth almost \$40,000.

While the elevator is being installed work on the primary electrical feed to the building will begin. Eaton has donated the switchgear and power distribution panels and has given \$10,000 in cash to the capital campaign. Pepco, the premiere electrical supplier in northeast Ohio, is working with Eaton to supply the electrical equipment and materials needed on the project. In addition Leff Electric, Gatto Electric, Coleman Cable and many others are donating lighting and electrical supplies.

So, even though the economy may pose some challenges for the project, the Fire Museum should experience more ups than downs in 2009.

I am especially looking forward to the spring when the work moves outdoors again and Coon Restoration returns to finish tuck-pointing the building.

For more information about the project, and to follow the progress of all of the work being done indoors and out, log onto our website at www.wrfmc.com.

Meanwhile, a very heartfelt thank you to everyone helping with this project. Because of you, your hard work and generous support, Northeast Ohio will soon have a much needed fire museum and education center.

# Fire Museum Holds Annual Membership Meeting at the FTA

### By John Zangerle

On January 25, 2009, the Fire Museum held its Annual Membership meeting at the Fire Training Academy. The meeting was moved to the FTA because of construction and parking issues at the Museum. Approximately forty members attended the meeting. Following the recommendation of Board member, Pat Poole, we conducted this meeting on a tight time schedule. While our target was for an hour we were able to conduct the entire meeting in less than an hour and a half! Ample time was left for good eats and lots of socialization and stories. The Quiznos chili and sandwiches were a big hit.

President John Zangerle chaired the meeting. Treasurer Ed Hawk reported that the Fire Museum had not lost any money in the 2008 financial crisis and that we are continuing to carry significant cash reserves that will be used to pay for this year's construction. The major expenditure for 2008 was the purchase of the Otis elevator for the building which has been delivered but is not yet installed. Ed also gave the

membership report showing that we are still holding our membership at slightly over one thousand members. He pointed out that the majority of the membership are Cleveland Firefighters who have continued their overwhelming support of the Fire Museum through payroll deduction.

A brief summary of major activities in 2008 was presented by

John Zangerle. He also discussed the extremely difficult financial climate making fund raising very hard for nonprofit organizations like ours. He pointed out that for





As you can plainly see from these photos the only one left hungry at the Annual Membership Meeting was the Fire Museum's mascot, Cinder. Otherwise everyone was well fed with both good food and plenty of good information about the Fire Museum.

2009 the Fire Museum will have to continue to rely heavily on "in kind" donations from contractors as well as volunteer labor.

Executive Director Dan Hayden thanked our many volunteers for their fantastic accomplishments in 2008. He pointed out that approximately

2000 of Cleveland Fire Department Journals have been cleaned, wrapped and inventoried. Our inventory of donated magazines has been completed. He also commended volunteers for their work on the Firefighters Memorial motorcycle rally, the Groundbreaking ceremony and for help with various projects in the building. Dan also thanked Rob Sheldon for his leadership in the process of converting the 1980 ALF to a funeral caisson.

The "feature presentation" of the meeting was Project Director Scott Carpenter's slide show summary of 2008 accomplishments complete with TV news clips referencing the Fire Museum. Scott pointed out that the Museum had achieved a much higher level of public visibility in 2008 and that it had participated in major public education initiatives, including the Christmas tree safety program and the "Citizen Heroes" awards.

Major news for the Collection Committee report was the loan of the North Amherst 1888 Ahrens Fox steamer from the Western Reserve Historical Society. The loan was arranged by Board member, Stu Warner, and adds a very important piece of local history to our collection.

The publication committee report featured our new and improved version of the newsletter that was published in December using a new printing source. Three issues of "The Bugle" were printed in 2008, falling short of our goal to publish four issues per year. The first issue in 2009 is projected to be out by March 1. The committee also reported that the web

site was substantially upgraded in 2008 and is an excellent source for current news and information about the Fire Museum.

Bob Gahr and Steve Hiltebrant passed out flyers and solicited help for the 25th Annual Flea Market being held Saturday, March 7 at the Fire Training Academy. A list of other forthcoming activities was provided for those in attendance and can be found in the calendar in this newsletter.

Special thanks go to Board member Captain Roy Ziganti for arranging for the use of the FTA as well as opening and closing (and cleaning) the building. Thanks also go out to Steve Nedrich who played several of his outstanding Cleveland fire videos for the group after the meeting.

### Cleveland Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association

**By Paul Nelson** 

Cleveland had just turned 100 years-old in 1896 and City officials were planning a number of events to celebrate the occasion. There were balls and parties and a giant parade was being arranged for July 22<sup>nd</sup> to march down Euclid Avenue to Public Square. The

Fire Department would have several three-horse hitch steamers in the parade along with ladder trucks and the new water tower that would be pulled by a beautiful pair of matched white horses.

A group of men who had been members of the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department also wanted to be part of the celebration. Some 150 members of the volunteers, disbanded in 1864, held an organizational meeting on March 20, 1896 and decided to form an association. It would be known as the Cleveland Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association (C.V.V.F.A.) with Hon. E.S. Flint being elected

The photo dated 1898 shows the C.V.V.F.A. and their engine in front of the Carrington House carriage barn. The Museum has one of those specially designed high-eagle helmets in our collection. WRFMC Photo Collection

to serve as chairman of the organization and J.D. Akers was elected secretary. It is not known on which company they served, but neither were chief officers in the Department.

The association decided that they would participate in the Centennial Parade and J. Dwight Palmer was named chairman of the committee to handle the arrangements. Palmer was a member of the volunteers but not a chief officer. He was a City Councilman and the steamer of Engine 4 was named for him when it was placed in service in 1863. A Cleveland Plain Dealer story on March 21<sup>st</sup> about the meeting reported that Miller M. Spangler was elected Chief of the Association. He had been Chief Engineer of the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department from 1842-1843, 1844-1845, 1847-1848,

and 1850-1852. The volunteer chiefs were elected annually by members of all the companies. J.P. McMann was elected Assistant Chief but was never a chief officer in the Volunteer Department.

A Cairns high eagle helmet used by the Cleveland Veterans Volunteer Firemen's Association now in the Museum's collection. posing with their engine in front of a building now on Franklin Avenue opposite Lutheran Hospital. It was believed for many years that the structure had been a firehouse. Later facts revealed it was a carriage barn adjacent to the Carrington House at Vertig & Franklin moved to its present location by the hospital in the 70's. Possibly the association was permitted

barn.

Now they had to find a hand engine for the parade. All of the

Cleveland volunteer engines were gone but they were able to secure

one and proudly marched in the July parade. While there have not

been any photos found of the parade, there is a photo of the group

For years there was little known about the engine although rumors persisted that it was not a Cleveland engine and it had come

to store their engine in the

from Pittsburgh. Historians always looking to fill in the blanks and often find the answer the least expected places. In looking for a possible photo marking the opening Station No. 28 on Hill Street and the new Alarm Office on the third floor, a search was made of the Cleveland Leader newspaper micro-

THE FIREMEN'S TOURNAMENT

Photo shows the C.V.V.F.A. hand engine and hose reel at the North Amherst tournament. The photo is copied from the August 23, 1903 issue of the Cleveland Leader that accompanied the story. It was used on the first page of the second section right under the newspaper banner.

film in the vicinity of August 23, 1903. Nothing was found on Station No. 28 but in scanning the microfilm a story and photo popped up about C.V.V.F.A. participating in a firemen's competition and parade in North Amherst on August

19<sup>th</sup>. (Another interesting quirk is that North Amherst was the home of the steamer now on loan to the Museum for display.)

The story gave the pedigree of the hand engine. It was built in 1843 in Philadelphia and used by the Philadelphia volunteers. Although it was not stated, the engine had to be an Agnew engine based on the photos. Agnew was active from 1820 to 1859 building engines with double end-stroke brakes and a large vertical condenser case (wooden sheathing around the air chamber) in the center of the engine. It is appropriate that C.V.V.F.A. found an Agnew engine to use as the Cleveland volunteers did have a later Agnew engine used by Hope Engine Co. 8 (Clinton St., nr Huntington St.) from 1854 to 1860. It was a 60-manpower, 1st class engine.



Photo dated 1929 showing the hand engine and the hose reel at an unknown location, possibly at a firemen's festival. It is not a Cleveland station. Gone is the large decorative eagle on top of the air chamber. WRFMC photo collection

80's. Many similar organizations around the country had retired professional fire fighters join their ranks and continue the organization. That was not the case in Cleveland.

But what happened to the engines? That was a big question until recently. Museum President John Zangerle found the engines on a recent trip to The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Tucked away in the corner of one of the display rooms were the engine

and hose reel. There was no question about it. It still had the markings of C.V.V.F. ASSN and the 1896 date on the front of the hose reel. When it arrived at the museum and how it got there has been unknown until now.

Thanks to Jessica Miller, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford, we now know that the engine and hose cart were sold to the Lorain County Volunteer Firefighters Association in 1920. That association disbanded in 1928. Henry Ford purchased the apparatus in 1930.

The mystery has been solved, or has it? A final look at the hand engine. The boys had a good time, or did they—just look at their faces. Are their stoic faces hiding something? The engine in the photo below is not the same engine as in all the other photos. While



The 4-wheel hose reel from Lisbon, Ohio used by C.V.V.F.A. The builder and date of the reel is unknown and similar to those built by many different builders.

John Zangerle photo



1843 Agnew "Philadelphia-style" hand engine used by C.V.V.F.A at the Henry Ford Museum with the hose reel in the background. John Zangerle photo

The newspaper reporter continued the engine lineage indicating it was sold to Pittsburgh and then later sold to Lisbon, Ohio (about 50-miles northwest of Pittsburgh on route US-30). C.V.V.F.A. bought the Agnew engine from Lisbon along with their original 4-wheel hose reel. No dates of the move from city to city were found.

It is not known what happened to the organization. By then a young man at the time the volunteers disbanded would be in his



Undated photo of the second C.V.V.F.A. Agnew-type hand engine taken on Academy Street (W. 4th Street) adjacent to old Fire Headquarters.

WRFMC Photo Collection

it appears to be an Agnew engine, at least in style, it is smaller, has a narrower air chamber, has decorative molding below the air chamber "roof," has a decorative eagle on top of the air chamber, does not have a mural on the side of the air chamber and does not have a nozzle connection on the air chamber roof.. Their name is painted on the molding and the helmets are the same as seen in the other photos. At some time the Association had two hand pumpers. Maybe they used this engine for a photo-op. The name plate seems to be bowed and maybe temporary. The eagle is not typical for this type of hand engine as a nozzle connection usually is mounted on top of the air chamber. Most of the mystery is solved except for this photo which the Museum received as a donation.

# Fire Museum Is Santa's Helper

By Paul Nelson

Santa Claus and even Mrs. Claus (both Fire Museum members by the way) got a little help from the Fire Museum over the Christmas season. At the Flats Oxbow Association silent auction, Cleveland elementary school teacher Mrs. Williams won the bid to have the Fire Museum's fire engine bring Santa Claus to visit the students. The activity reflects one of the Museum's many activities to help other non-profits in their fund-raising activities.

Dan Hayden drove the ALF to the school on Castle Avenue on the west side with Ioe and Portia Mason (aka Santa and Mrs. Santa). Stepping off the engine, they were greeted by the children bundled up but excitedly waving to the visitors in red. Mr. and Mrs. Claus then went inside where they sat down in front of the assembled crowd and told stories. Before they left they visited with each child listening to their Christmas wishes. A great time was had by all as the three photos attest.

Top: Santa Clause steps off the Museum ALF to greet the waiting children.

Middle: Santa tells the kids he left his sleigh at Burke Lakefront Airport and rode the fire truck to visit with them.

Bottom: Santa and Mrs. Clause wait to hear from one of the children. Little Danny Hayden waits in the background reading a story book while waiting for his turn to see Santa.

Photos by Paul Nelson







### LOG

(Continued from page 1)

might be able to help in the future, please let Scott Carpenter know.

The financial climate makes every dollar of contribution very important. During 2008 we received well over one thousand dollars in memorial contributions from several families who named the Fire Museum as a "donation in lieu of flowers". We want to thank those of you who did name the Fire Museum and encourage all to think of us when doing your pre-planning.

Everyone knows that the first true sign of Spring is the Annual Firematic Flea Market at the Fire Training Academy. This marks the 25th year of the Flea Market that was originally sponsored by the Fire Buffs and is now organized by the Fire Museum. Bob Gahr and Steve Hiltebrant have done yeoman duty in coordinating these events and promise the 25th Anniversary will be terrific. You won't want to miss this one. Much help will be needed so please check out the information elsewhere in the Bugle and let Bob or Steve know what you will be able to do to help. See you there.

# Fire House Journal Project Nearly Finished

It was reported at the Annual Membership meeting that the Journal Project had reached a milestone. Volunteers had sorted, cleaned, cataloged, boxed, and inventoried 2,000 journals. Since that announcement an additional 300 more journals have been inventoried. With an estimated 3,000 journals in all, the volunteers should easily complete their work in time for summer vacation.

A very special thank you to the volunteers who are working on the Journals. Leading the way are Dick Bowman, Cheryl Davidson, and Karen Sodini. Helping this triumvirate of journal junkies are Dick Bowman's wife Kay and his brother Tom. And early on in the project we were lucky to have Cheryl Davidson's brother Dale helping out.

A story about the Journal Project, along with other volunteer efforts, will be featured in the next issue of the Bugle.

If you would like to help with this or any other volunteer projects please call the Fire Museum at (216) 664-6312.

## **Calendar of Events**

- Saturday, March 7 Cleveland, OH. 25th Annual Firematic Flea Market at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Ave. in downtown Cleveland. Hours: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information call evenings: Steve Hiltebrant at (440) 835-1791 or Bob Gahr at (440) 286-6110.
- Friday-Saturday, March 27-28 Milford, OH. (Cincinnati). Friday evening Auction, Saturday Flea Market. Info: Howard Kuhnell, howdi@fuse.net
- Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19 Allentown, PA. Firematic auction and flea market. For more information contact Donn Zalewski at donndrz22@aol.com
- **Saturday, April 25 Jackson, MI.** Fire item flea market at Jackson County Fairgrounds. Tentative: Doors open 8 AM. Set-up 6:00 AM Saturday (none Friday). Info: www.gliafaa.com Contact: GLIAFAA, PO Box 510507, Livonia, MI 48151-6507; (734) 632-0350.
- Sunday, May 2 Lutherville, MD. Fire Museum of Maryland, Horse Drawn Muster. Info: Rob Williams, rcwilliams@firemuseummd.org
- Sunday, May 31 Cleveland, OH. 4th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride. For details log onto www. firefightersmemorialride.com.
- **Sunday, June 14 Strongsville, OH.** WRFBA visit (tentative).
- Saturday, June 27 Reynoldsburg, OH. Central
   Ohio Fire Museum & COFBA Muster, State Fire Marshal
   grounds.
- Wednesday-Saturday, July 15-18 Indianapolis, IN. SPAAMFAA Summer Convention and Muster hosted by the Indiana Chapter. Info: www.pppsi.org.
- Saturday-Sunday, July 24-25 Frankenmuth, MI. Muster with flea market at Heritage Park. Tentative: Info: Bill Rausch (248) 625-8924 or George Valrance (734) 632-0350 Great Lakes Chapter website www.gliafaa.com.
- Wednesday-Saturday, August 12-15 Washington,
   D.C. IFBA convention. Information at www.ifba.org
- Sunday September 20 Hudson, OH. WRFMC and WRFBA Bill and Ida Varnes Memorial Muster. Barlow Farm Park, 1965 Barlow Road. Contact Parker Browne, brownefire@aol.com.

# Having Trouble with the Fire Museum Website?

If you are getting an error message when trying to log onto the Fire Museum website you aren't alone. Last month the website was modified and now has its own web address, otherwise known as URL.

This problem occures because your web browser is looking for the Fire Museum's old web address. To fix the problem you will have to clear the cache of your web browser.

Each time you access a file through your web browser, the browser caches (stores) it. In this way, the files (including any images on the page) do not have to be retrieved anew from the remote web site each time you click the Back or Forward buttons. You should periodically clear the cache to allow your browser to function more efficiently.

Below is a list of commonly used browsers and instructions for each on how to clear the cache. If your browser is not in this list then go on line and use Google to find instructions for clearing the cache of your browser.

### **Internet Explorer 7:**

From the Tools menu, select Internet Options, choose the General tab. Under Browsing history, click Delete. Next to "Temporary Internet Files", click Delete files. Click Close, and then click OK to exit.

### Firefox 3 for Windows:

From the Tools menu, select Clear Private Data, and then check Cache. Click Clear Private Data Now.

### Safari:

From the Safari menu, select Empty Cache. When prompted click Empty to confirm that you want to empty the cache.

### Firefox 3 for Mac OS X:

In Firefox, from the Tools menu, select Clear Private Data. Make sure Cache is checked, and then click Clear Private Data Now.

Once you've cleared the cache in your web browser you can then enter the Fire Museum website in the address bar. Type in: www.wrfmc.com and tap the "enter" key on your keyboard. Once the site is loaded you can save the museum's URL as your new "Homepage" or you can create a new Fire Museum bookmark.

Afterwords don't forget to remove any *old* Fire Museum bookmarks you might have created.

# Google a Gift

With a new on-line feature visitors to the Fire Museum website can now click on "Donate" and Google a gift. Log on at www.wrfmc.com and donate to our capital campaign "Saving History, Saving Lives!"



# 25th Annual Firematic Flea Market

This year marks the  $25^{th}$  anniversary of the Fire Museum's Firematic Flea Market. It will be held Saturday, March  $7^{th}$  at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Ave. in downtown Cleveland. Hours: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information call evenings: Steve Hiltebrant at (440) 835-1791 or Bob Gahr at (440) 286-6110.

**The Bugle** is a publication of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center, 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. The entire contents © by Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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