

THE BUGLE

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A Groundbreaking Moment for the Fire Museum Construction begins with elevator and restoration of the exterior

By Scott Carpenter

On June 5th the Fire Museum broke ground to begin renovation of its unique historic building. The evening event took place in front of what will become the new entrance to the Fire Museum. Sam Miller, Co-chairman of Forest City Enterprises and the Honorary Chairman of our Capital Campaign, was on hand to take part in the groundbreaking and unveiling of the architect's plans. Some of the Fire Museum's biggest sponsors were also in attendance including many representatives from the construction trade unions, Donely's Construction, Eaton Corporation, Doan Pyramid Electric, PEPCO, Leff Electric, as well as State and local officials, and many others.

Channel 3 news even covered the event with a live feed on the 6 o'clock news. You can see the video on our website. Log onto www.wrfmc.com and click on "News" at the top of the home page.



John Zangerle, Sam Miller, and Dan Hayden take up their shovels at the Groundbreaking.

On the morning of what was planned as an outdoor event, the weather did not look promising. The forecast looked better for the afternoon, but this being Cleveland and with clouds and a few water droplets in the morning, the decision to set up outside was very difficult. Nevertheless, the decision was made and volunteers started setting up outside for the evening ceremony.

The stage was set at the east end of the building with the American flag hung from the roof as a backdrop. Groundbreaking shovels were thrust into some dirt just to the right of the stage. Behind the shovels and dirt was placed a six-foot tall sign displaying the names of the many donors who have contributed or pledged support for the project. To the left of the stage was a six-foot wide illustration of the new entrance, covered for the unveiling during the ceremony.

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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 John Zangerle

As we reach the midpoint of 2008, I can say that the Fire Museum has made enormous strides in the first half of this year. Our expanded Board has been meeting and adding new members. Our annual Flea Market at the Fire Training Academy was both a financial and social success. We again partnered with the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Rally which experienced a record turnout. Our volunteers have continued to work diligently at cataloging our journals and collection. We have received major contributions from several new sources. Having said all this, the highlight of the first half of the year was clearly the Fire Museum's groundbreaking ceremony Thursday evening, June 5th.

The groundbreaking ceremony put our accomplishments in focus as we saw a terrific turnout of Museum members and friends. Sam Miller was our featured speaker with a number of leading members of the political community also addressing those in attendance. The impressive ceremony included the Cleveland Fire Department Color Guard as well as the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes & Drums. Fire Museum member Steve Hildebrand brought his beautiful newly restored mid-1800's hand drawn

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GROUNDBREAKING

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When guests started to arrive, the skies had cleared and except for the heat and humidity, it was looking like a terrific night. Everyone who came walked into the engine bay past the 1952 LaFrance pumper donated by Rick Rogel and Steve Hildebrand's newly restored hose cart. Inside guests had refreshments served by Fire Museum volunteer bartenders, Bonnie Hayden, Danielle Hayden, and Portia Mason. While they ate finger food made by Cleveland Firefighter Ed Nar, many guests had their pictures taken with Stuart Warner's Model T Cedar Point fire truck.

Taking pictures during the event were volunteers, Cleveland Fire Department Captain Debra Scheoder and Firefighter Justina Saxby. You can see more of their work including pictures of our many guests on the Fire Museum website at www.wrfmc.com, just click on "Photos" at the top of the home page and then click on the "Groundbreaking" button for a slideshow of the entire event.

The ceremony was started with a bellowing announcement from Firefighter Marty McGinty the leader of the Cleveland Fire Department Color Guard. With the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes & Drums providing the music, the Color Guard led the procession leading everyone to the stage where guest speakers gathered. God Bless America was played and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited to start the ceremony. Cleveland Firefighter Lt. Bill Staab gave the Invocation and Captain Roy Ziganti, as the master of ceremonies, introduced the speakers. The speakers included, Sam Miller, Board President John Zangerle, project manager Scott Carpenter, Cleveland Safety Director Martin Flask, Cleveland City Council President, Martin Sweeney, State Representative Matt Dolan, and Assistant Fire Chief, Timothy O'Toole.

After hearing the speeches, which included heartfelt promises of support, John Zangerle and Executive Director, Dan Hayden, unveiled the Architect's illustration of the new entrance. Sam Miller stood by and with the crowd he applauded the design. The three then walked over to the shovels and with an order from Captain Ziganti they broke ground marking the start of construction.

The ceremony was concluded with a few more acknowledgements including recogniz-



Sam Miller, honorary chairman of the capital campaign, displays his fire helmet after the groundbreaking.



ing some of our guests including: several of our board members, State Representative Tom Patton, Councilman, Kevin Conwell, Mayor of Bay Village, Debra Sutherland, and Meredith Turner representing United States Senator Sherrod Brown. After a few waves and applause for our distinguished guests, Jim Wichman, past president of the Fire Museum, gave the Benediction and a blessing for the future.

With the ceremony ended the party and hard-hat tours began. Many of the guests were shown the building including stops in the alarm office and in collection storage where firefighters and their families took a look at the Fire Museum's fantastic collection of firehouse journals.

Having received approval from the City for our plans, construction will begin on the first two of six construction phases. Phase one and two include work on the elevator,



Above left Sam Miller looks on as John Zangerle and Dan Hayden unveil the illustration of the restored Fire Museum. Above firefighter Pat Logan warms up his bag pipes before the ceremony.

restoration of the exterior, some infrastructure work including electrical, fire alarms, and sprinkler system.

In the meantime our capital campaign committee will be raising funds needed for the four remaining phases. If all goes as planned the Fire Museum should open in the Fall 2009.

From the Desk of The Executive Director

Remember back when the TV show the “A Team” was on, Hannibal Smith, the leader of the group used to say “I love it when a plan comes together”. That’s how I feel about the Fire Museum project and its volunteers. I made a lot of phone calls in the last month to muster volunteers for the Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride to set up and sell food and refreshments. I also called on our volunteers to help with the groundbreaking ceremony on June 5th.

The Fire Museum wouldn’t be where it’s at today if weren’t for our volunteers. I would like to thank all those who helped with the Memorial Ride — Jim Byrne and his cooking team, Shayna Sharpe, Bob Gahr, Bill and Mark Storch, Jim Bell, Dean Murad, Pat Poole, Karen Sodini, Scott and Sam Carpenter, Pete and Allyson Ziganti, Kim Marshall, Dave Zimmerman, Steve Nedrich, and especially my family: my wife Bonnie, son Douglas, and my daughters Danielle and Laura, Tom and Fran Hayden, John and Patty Hayden and their sons, Elloit and Evan, and Joe Mason’s family: his wife Portia, their granddaughter Cassie Stargen, and her friend Sidney Battle. And if I have missed anyone I am sorry, please let me know if I’ve forgotten you.

After all the work put into the Memorial ride, a week later I called our volunteers to help with getting the Fire Museum cleaned up for the Groundbreaking ceremony. And again the response was great. Over three days I had help from Jerry Madden, Bill and Mark Storch, Chris Cook,



Rob Sheldon, Karen Sodini, Cheryl Davidson. Dale Davidson, Dick and Tom Bowman, Ray Ross, Paul Bobak, Bill Marconi, Roy Zigante, Stu Warner, Joe Mason, and Paul Nelson.

And I would like to thank my wife, Bonnie, who has put up with my volunteering, phone calls, meetings, running down to the Fire Museum for anything and everything. She and our children have helped out with the Fire Museum in so many ways and when I have asked she has always been there to help.

If you would like to become a volunteer and take part in making history, give me a call the Fire Museum at (216) 664-6312. We would be happy to have you aboard.

— Dan Hayden



Above: Fire Museum volunteer Kim Marshall flips burgers. The middle photo shows Dan Hayden with volunteers getting ready to serve more than 500 burgers and hotdogs. Left: Cheryl Davidson and Karen Sodini greet guests to the groundbreaking.



Danielle Hayden, Portia Mason, and Bonnie Hayden

LOG

(Continued from page 1)

hose cart. Also capturing the attention of the photographers was Board member Stu Warner’s ex-Cedar Point Model T. I want to especially thank the Groundbreaking Planning Committee of Pat Poole, Dan Hayden, Roy Ziganti, Paul Nelson, Stu Warner and Scott Carpenter who did a terrific job. Scott Carpenter in particular wore many hats and made sure everything came together. The social side of the evening was handled by Joe and Portia Mason with much help from the Hayden family. Our caterer Ed Nar of Engine 39 provided a wonderful spread so that no one went home hungry or thirsty.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony was a milestone for the Fire Museum. All members can take great pride in this accomplishment which was made possible only because of our broad-based support, especially that of the Cleveland Firefighters. Our next landmark will be even more exciting, that will be the ribbon cutting when we open our Fire Museum and Education Center.

M-A Building and Maintenance Company and VIP Restoration donate their services

The groundbreaking was the ceremonial start of construction but the first real work begins with cleaning the façade. The cleaning will be done with a generous gift from two of Cleveland’s best stone restoration companies M-A Building and Maintenance Company and VIP Restoration. These two companies are sharing the work and donating the majority of their services. The Chas. E. Phipps Company will donate many of the materials needed on the job. When the cleaning is finished and repairs made, a long-term deferred maintenance plan will be prepared so that the Fire Museum can plan for future work. With the stone cleaned and repaired and the Fire Museum sign over the new entrance, the results will be spectacular—old Station #28 will be the Fire Museum.

Our Donors Saving History, Saving Lives!

The Fire Museum would not be possible without the generous support of the many foundations, businesses, organizations, and individuals helping us in Saving History, Saving Lives! As of the groundbreaking 765 Cleveland firefighters have contributed to the project. To see the entire list of firefighters who have given to the project log onto www.wrfmc.com and click on "Project" at the top of home page, then click on "Our Pacesetters." Below is the list to date of donors who have joined us in our cause.

Lead Foundations

The Eva L. and Joseph M. Bruening Foundation
Jack and Lilyan Mandel Foundation
The Samuel H. and Maria Miller Foundation
The Reinberger Foundation

Foundations

The Plain Dealer
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Individuals and Families \$5,000 +

Rick Rogel
Stuart Warner
The John A. Zangerle Family
Mary Zangerle

Individuals and Families, \$1,000 +

Cleveland Firefighters
The Family of Edward & Rita Cain
Vienna Cain
Thomas R. Cannell
Christopher J. Geiss
R. Thomas Green, Jr.
Clark E. Hawk
Robert M. Long
Bill O'Brien
Patricia A. Poole
Ken Rybka
Robert C. Sheldon
Karen Sodini
Robert E. Taylor

In Memoriam

Ruth Bayus and Family in memory of
Frank Bayus
Margaret Burke in memory of
Thomas Burke
Carol Cushler in memory of
Norman R. Cushler
Ruth Kroll in memory of Larry Kroll
Marilyn McMonagle in memory of:
William J. McMonagle, Sr.
William J. McMonagle, Jr.
George A. McMonagle
Marilyn Richlak in memory of
Larry J. Richlak
Patricia Walter in memory of
Clyde and Helen Walter

Individuals and Families up to \$999

Susan Albers
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Howard Benes
Jim Bonfield
Richard J. Bowman, Sr.
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Madeline A. Cain
Vienna Cain
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Richard Stanton
Dennis Suhay
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John C. Toolis
Ronald A. Vargo, Jr.
Bill Varnes
Jennifer M. Weixel
Edward Whatley
Jim Wichman
Paul F. Wingenfeld
Thomas M. Woisnet
Leonard E. Young
Donn Zalewski
Edward F. Ziegler
Roy P. Ziganti, Jr.
Walter V. Zimmerer
Roxana Zollos

In Memoriam

History is a collection of facts on events occurring immediately preceding the reading of these words. They may be cold hard facts without emotion or feeling or they may have a more personal impact. Two of those events leave us with a void on the passing of Fire Museum friends Bill Varnes and George Cain.

5-5-5-5

Bill Varnes was part of the museum before it ever became a museum. In 1971 Bill assembled a small group of fire buffs that became the charter members of the Western Reserve Fire Buffs Association. In addition to all the things that fire buffs do, that early group envisioned a fire museum and began the long task that eventually saw it become a reality. Bill served two different terms as president of the buffs group.

When Bill returned to Hudson after a tour of duty with the U.S. Marines, the chief of the Volunteer Fire Department in Hudson asked Bill if he could drive a truck. When Bill said "Yes," the chief told Bill to go to the firehouse when the siren went off and drive the fire truck to the call. That began a 40-year plus career which saw Bill eventually become Assistant Chief. And, when Bill retired and moved to Macedonia he served that Department as a call fire fighter for another 10-years.



Bill Varnes

After an International Fire Buffs Association convention in Cleveland in 1992, sponsored by the local buffs club, the proceeds from that convention were used to form the first organization in the museum's development. Bill served as a transitional president and an active participant in museum activities.

Bill passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 6, 2008 at the age of 85. Ironically, he had spent part of that day cleaning a rolling fire extinguisher that he was donating to the museum. He also had a large collection of fire toys and other memorabilia which he had already had made arrangements to be donated to the museum.

The funeral was held at the Macedonia Methodist Church with burial at the Northfield Macedonia Cemetery. Following the service at the church, the procession was led by Macedonia's 1931 Seagrave pumper with the casket borne on Hudson's 1946 Mack pumper, a rig he and others had taken to local and SPAAMFAA musters. The museum was represented by member Bob Shimits' Buffalo pumper. Enroute the procession

passed under crossed aerials from Twinsburg and Oakwood, past apparatus and members from Northfield Village and past apparatus and members from Northfield Center with Chief (and museum member) Bob Derrit at the main gate of the cemetery. Bill was buried with full military and fire department honors.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife (and museum member) Ida, who was also very active in museum activities. May both rest in peace.

In honor of Bill & Ida, a memorial muster will be held in Hudson on Saturday, September 13th. For more information see the *Calendar of Events* on page 7.

5-5-5-5

George Cain, retired CFD Battalion Chief, passed away on March 1, 2008. When a member of Engine Co. 4, he responded



George Cain

to the East Ohio Gas Co. fire of October 20, 1944 and recounted his experiences of that fire. He was on a line forming a water curtain between the original exploding tanks and other storage tanks on the property when he heard another loud explosion. He knew he was OK because, "He heard the boom!" George told many stories of his assignments with five different com-

panies after his appointment in 1937 through his assignment in the 5th Battalion from which he retired in 1974.

George played a key role in the recent TV documentary "Streets of Fire," a production of Cuyahoga Community College, in which he was interviewed on the museum apparatus floor on his recollections of the East Ohio Gas fire.

The Fire Museum graciously extends its thanks to the family for a memorial contribution in his memory and for contributions in lieu of flowers from the funeral.

Cleveland Trivia... For What It's Worth

By Paul Nelson

The City of West Park became part of Cleveland on January 1, 1923 and Engine Co. 38 was established on January 4, 1923 when West Park Fire Department Engine Co. 2 was merged into the Cleveland Fire Department. Their 1922 Seagrave, 750gpm pumper that had just been delivered to West Park became the apparatus of Engine Co. 38 and the only Cleveland motorized pumper that had a chemical tank.

The first quint in the Fire Department was a 1980 American LaFrance 1500/300/100-ft rear mount (31F60) assigned to (old) Ladder 13 (now Ladder 31).

The first apparatus painted lime green (or whatever you chose to call it) was Engine Co. 5, a 1974 American LaFrance Pioneer II 1500/500/50-ft TeleSquirt (31F33).

The first apparatus painted white were three 1965 Sutphen/GMC, 750gpm front mount pumpers delivered to Engine Co's. 5, 13 and 40.

From 1923 to 1947 there were 13 Battalions in the Department. Battalion No. 13 consisted of Engine Co's. 25, 35 and 36 and Ladder Co. 16 (now Ladder Co. 36). The first designation of Battalions was introduced in 1880 with the creation of three but each was under the command of an Assistant Chief. On May 13, 1933 the Department began operations with two duty Assistant Chiefs, one running out of Station 14 and one out of Station 28. That was changed to a single Assistant Chief in 1967 running out of Station 3 (Station 28, 310 Carnegie was renamed Station 3 in 1967 when Engine Co. 3 moved to that house.)

The first white over red apparatus were two 1979 American LaFrance TeleSquirts for Engine Co's. 23 and 41, a color scheme that would become a standard for CFD.

The Fire Department operated their own fuel wagons until that service was taken over by the City's Motor Division.

Various companies have had mascots over the years with many of them riding the rigs in the "old days." The mascot of Engine Co. 17, part Dalmatian although perhaps only a small part, was named "Boots."

Ladder Co. 12 received the last wooden aerial for the Department, an 85-foot, tractor-trailer Seagrave (29F35) that also was the last open cab apparatus delivered to the Department.



Top: 1922 Seagrave, 750gpm, 35-gal chemical tank (29F9), CFD Archives

Middle: 1965 Sutphen/GMC, 750/500 (4F4), Photo by Paul Nelson

Bottom: 1958 Ford Gas Truck (2L261), CFD Archives



Boots at the scene of a fire aboard Engine 17 in this 1962 photo, CFD Archives

Google a Gift to the Fire Museum

Making a donation to the Fire Museum has never been easier. With a new on-line feature, visitors to our website can now click on a "Donate" button and make a gift to the Fire Museum. It's quick and easy. To see how it works log onto www.wrfmc.com and click on "Donate" at the top of the home page. Once on the "Donate" page you'll see a Google Donate field and button. Fill in the amount you want to give and click on "Donate." Google takes care of the rest.

Calendar of Events

- **Wednesday, July 23 and August 27** – **Valley View, OH**, Quarker Steak and Lube in Valley View is hosting a motorcycle rally. The proceeds of the rally will benefit the Fire Museum. For more on the rally contact the restaurant at 216.986.WING (9464) Location: 5935 Canal Road, Valley View, OH 44125
- **Saturday, July 26** – **Frankemuth, MI**, Great Lakes Chapter annual muster at Heritage Park. Info: Bill Rausch, 248-625-8924; George Valrance, 734-632-0350; Walt McCall, wmccall@sympatico.ca, 519-252-0238; Great Lakes Chapter web site www.gliafaa.com. Friday: Registration and chicken dinner (advance registration required.) Probably some informal pumping. Saturday: Registration, flea market. Drivers meeting, 10:30 AM; parade line up 10:45 AM, start 11 AM; opening ceremonies at Heritage Park, 12 noon; mass pumping.
- **Wednesday, July 30 - Sunday, August 3** – **Syracuse, NY**, SPAAMFAA 50th Anniversary Summer Convention and Muster. Contact Gary Thurston (315) 487-1137, garythurston@hotmail.com
- **Saturday, August 2** – **Canton, OH**, Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Grand Parade. Starts at 8:00 AM from downtown Canton, Tentative: approximately Cleveland Ave. or McKinley Ave. and 6th St. SW; line up 7:00 AM or earlier. Info: Pro Football HOF Festival, 222 Market Ave N, Canton, OH 44703; (330) 456-7253, (800) 533-4302.
- **Saturday, September 13** – **Hudson, OH**, Bill & Ida Varnes Memorial Fire Buffs Muster, from 1:00 - 5:00, Barlow Farm Park Barlow Road, east of St. Rt. 91, City of Hudson, Ohio. Contact Parker Browne (330) 612-3567, brownfire@aol.com

The Fire Museum Honors Cleveland Teen Who Saved His Disabled Brother from their Burning Home

On Tuesday, April 8, 2008, the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center honored Jaiwan Woodley with its Citizen Heroes Award. The award was presented to Jaiwan at Heritage Middle School in East Cleveland. The principal of the school, Mrs. Beverly Bright Lloyd, arranged for the event to take place in the school gymnasium where hundreds of Jaiwan's classmates were assembled. His family, including his brother Jack came to see Jaiwan receive his award and gifts from Cavs, Browns, and Indians.

Afterwards Jaiwan and his brother Jack were taken for a ride in Fire Museum's 1952 LaFrance pumper.

The event was widely covered by local media and this video shows the wonderful coverage by our friends at Channel 3 News. To learn more about Jaiwan's story log on to the Fire Museum website at www.wrfmc.com and click on "News." There you'll find his story and links to photos and videos of the event.



With the award ceremony over, our newest Citizen Hero, Jaiwan Woodley, takes questions from reporters before going for a ride with his brother aboard our 1952 LaFrance Pumper.

The Fire Museum is Making News

As you have read in this issue of the Bugle, we have made a lot of news at the Fire Museum but not all of it is covered in this issue of The Bugle. For more Fire Museum news, events, photos, and video log onto our website at www.wrfmc.com.



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

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Fourth Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride

This year the Firefighter Memorial Ride had more than 1,000 motorcycles participating. The ride started at the new Fallen Firefighter Memorial and finished in Avon at the Lake Erie Harley Davidson Dealership. Fire Museum volunteers were out in force helping at the start of the ride. For details about the volunteers who helped with the event see the executive director's column on page 3. For more on the ride, including downloadable photographs of the start, log onto www.wrfmc.com and click on "News."

Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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