

THE BUGLE

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Fire Museum Project Turns a Corner M-A Building, VIP Restoration and Coon Restoration Leading the Way

By Scott Carpenter

The once blackened, soot stained fire station and alarm office now looks new again with its buff sandstone walls and white granite base. With donations from M-A Building and Maintenance and VIP Restoration, two of the best exterior restoration companies in Northeast Ohio, our historic building has been transformed. The work began early in the morning on Tuesday August 26th when the company crews arrived from the Bricklayers Local #5 and the Laborers Local #310. They went right to work on the North face washing away 80 years of dirt.

The two crews worked in opposite directions until they each turned a corner on Thursday August 28th. Once around the east and west ends of the building the lifts were moved to the front of the Fire Museum.

The two companies worked on the building for two weeks. Project Architects, Doty and Miller, arranged for the



cleaning materials to be largely donated by PROSOCO, the national leader in specialty masonry and concrete cleaners. The cleaning process consisted of two chemicals, one the cleaning agent and the other a wash to neutralize the cleaning agent. The two crews lathered up the stone with the cleaning agent and let it set for a couple of hours. Like paint stripper the cleaning agent softened the dirt, soot, and stains. They then power washed away the cleaner using the second chemical. As they went from top to bottom the original color of the sandstone was revealed. The result is a clean building that retains its historical patina and scars of time.

On the last days of cleaning the two crews divided up the remaining work. M-A Building and Maintenance worked through the weekend and finished the face and the bottom half of the hose

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PRESIDENT'S LOG

By John Zangerle

It is never hard to find subjects for the President's Log because so much continues to happen at the Museum and Education Center. The most obvious development since our Groundbreaking is the stone cleaning of the entire building. What a difference that makes! If you haven't seen it in person, look at the pictures on our website. While the cleaning is the most outward sign, we have just completed the process of ordering the elevator. It is estimated that it will be available for installation in approximately three months.

Another major development is a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs Association to jointly promote public education in fire safety and prevention. This should be a win-win for both organizations. We are currently planning a jointly sponsored media event about Christmas tree safety. A number of other initiatives are on the drawing board.

Last, but not least, a new addition arrived at the Museum this week. We are proud to feature an 1888 Ahrens steam fire engine from Amherst, Ohio that is on

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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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The two crews from M-A and VIP started work on the north face of the Fire Museum and quickly turned the corner to the east and the south faces.

The photo on the top right shows Benjamin Laureano and Robert Massa from M-A Building and Maintenance working from a lift on the first day of cleaning. In the middle right photo David Greer of VIP Restoration is cleaning the hose tower working from a lift lent by Coon Restoration.

The bottom photograph shows cleaning being completed around the engine bay doors.

Photos by Scott Carpenter

**For more photos like these
and other Fire Museum
events and activities log
onto our website:
www.wrfmc.com**



CLEANING

(Continued from page 1)

tower. But to reach the remaining portion of the tower the cleaning crew needed a taller lift. After a couple of phone calls and a favor from our friends at Forest City Enterprises, one of the companies restoring the Terminal Tower agreed to lend us a lift. Coon Restoration delivered the equipment on Monday morning and on Tuesday afternoon the VIP team finished the job.

The project manager from Coon Restoration was so impressed with the project that he offered to do tuck pointing and stone repair. They began working in October and will continue until the weather no longer permits. They started with tuck pointing the east face of the building and the parapet wall of the fire station. Materials are being donated by Coon Restoration and Essroc, a leading cement producer in North America. We hope to see the Coon crew in the spring to complete the work.

Cleveland construction trade unions were represented by Bricklayers Local #5's David Greer of VIP, Benjamin Laureano, and Robert Massa from M-A. The crews on the lifts were supported by VIP's Calli Frehmeyer of Laborers Local #310.

For a day-by-day account of the cleaning process see a photo slideshow at www.wrfmc.com. Click on "Photos" and follow links to the cleaning.



Fire Museum Becomes Training Academy for Hard Hatted Women

By Scott Carpenter

In many ways the Fire Museum has been very fortunate. Cash gifts have been very hard to get. Nevertheless the project continues to garner support. From firefighters to construction workers, foundations and businesses, support for the Fire Museum con-



tinues to grow. Recently our friends from Hard Hatted Women (HHW) offered to help. Calli Frehmeyer of Laborers Local 310 asked if we had support from HHW. Calli is the president of their board. She works for VIP restoration and was the ground crew for the cleaning team. She arranged a visit from HHW at the Fire Museum. After very little arm-twisting I was convinced they could help.

On Saturday morning, October 4th at 8:00 am 15 women showed up at the Fire Museum to lend a hand. They were from the HHW Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program. This class prepares women for the various skilled trade apprenticeship programs, such as carpenters, plumbers, masons, and electricians. Leading the crew was union carpenter Pamela Hunt. Pam had help from Katie Klostermeyer, Lynne Martin, and Tina Myers. We met outside the building and after a tour of the facility Pam and the other bosses organized teams and got right to work.

The work began in the basement. Everything there had to be moved to make way for construction of the elevator shaft and other structural repair work. A bucket brigade was formed to move the stuff from the basement

to the Alarm Office garage. One team was stationed in the basement, one on the steps, and a third was based in the engine bay. The move took less than 2 hours.

With everything out of the way, the basement team started to do some demolition work, clearing out abandoned plumbing,

steam pipes, radiators, and other unused or broken equipment. They then moved to the basement bathroom where they tore out the sink, toilet, and a wall.

The crew on the steps swept floors, carried out buckets of demolition debris, and generally kept the

work-site clear and safe for the entire team.

Meanwhile the crew on the first floor was busy organizing the piles of stuff carried out of the basement. When that work was finished they moved on to demolition work tearing out old electrical panels, conduit, and wires.

Since their first day the Hard Hatted Women contributed 4 days of service doing extensive field training at the Fire Museum and completing a wide variety of projects. Their work has saved the Fire Museum thousands of dollars in demolition costs.

To see the HHW apprentices at work log onto our website at www.wrfmc.com and click on "Photos" and follow links to Hard Hatted Women.

Thank you to Hard Hatted Women for its generous support of the Fire Museum and joining us in "Saving History, Saving Lives!" A special thank you to HHW Board President Calli Frehmeyer, Interim Co-Executive Director, Terri Burgess-Sandu, and State-wide Training Specialist, Shelly Richmond for bringing the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program to the aid of the Fire Museum. Last but not least, thank you to each of the apprentices for all their hard work.

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY Out in the Lands of the Western Reserve

By Paul Nelson

In its mission statement, The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center encompasses all of the fire service in northeast Ohio. From time to time we spotlight one of those fire departments in the lands of the Western Reserve.

Twinsburg Fire Department protects the City of Twinsburg and Twinsburg Township in northern Summit County bordering on the southeast side of Cuyahoga County and was established in 1919 with 25 members, no equipment and no firehouse. According to their website history page, "We had \$200 and were basically a bucket brigade, without a station."

By 1923, a REO chemical engine was purchased as the first motorized fire apparatus and the community leased property next to Bowman's Garage (SR 82 and 91) to house the truck.

That was followed by the addition of a 1934 Ford pumper with 300-gallon booster tank that is now owned and preserved by retired Twinsburg Fire Chief and Fire Museum member Dan Simecek. That pumper is often seen at area musters and parades. In the late 1950s two FWD pumpers were purchased, a rare breed for this part of the country. A Mack Model CF pumper joined the apparatus fleet in 1972.

Today, under the command of Chief Richard Racine who joined the Department in 1974, Twinsburg Fire Department operates with 48 members of whom 29 are full time, and two stations with 9 members on duty on 24-hours shifts. Their Headquarters is at

10069 Ravenna Road and Station No. 2 is at 2605 Glenwood Drive. Out of these stations the department operates 1990 and 1995 E-One Hush rear engine pumpers, a 2001 Ferrara Telescoping Platform 2250/300/RM109ft that replaced a 1978 Sutphen Aerial Tower, a 2001 Ferrara Quint 2250/300/109ft RM aerial, a 1988 RSI/Ford Mobile Command/Rescue, 3 ALS squads, a Technical Rescue modified from a medic squad and a variety of special equipment. Last year the Department responded to 2231 incidents.

Twinsburg Fire participates in an area-wide MABAS providing assistance to local Summit County departments as well as Solon, Oakwood and beyond in Cuyahoga County. It began providing EMS service in 1989 and constantly drills in firefighting evolutions as well as specialized technical rescue aspects of ice rescue, water rescue, confined space, high angle and rope rescue.

The Fire Museum salutes the Twinsburg Fire Department on being the first suburban department to have a payroll deduction program for its firefighters to support the Fire Museum.

For more information about the Twinsburg Fire Department visit their website at www.twinsburgfire.com.

AND, for one of the latest apparatus delivery in the area, Bedford is the proud owner of a new E-One for Engine 12.



1923 REO Chemical Engine. Photo from Daniel Simecek Collection



2001 Ferrara Quint 2250/300/109ft aerial. Photo by Paul Nelson



1957 FWD 750/1000. Photo by Paul Nelson



2008 E-One 1500/750. Photo by Byron Schultz

LIVING HISTORY

The SPAAMFAA Muster in Syracuse, New York

By Paul Nelson

The recent SPAAMFAA (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America) Muster in Syracuse, NY, the 50th Annual Muster, featured Museum member Steve Hildebrant displaying his beautifully restored 1878 4-wheel hose carriage from Cornwell, NY. His hand-drawn carriage joined about 125 other antique fire apparatus entries from around the nation and Canada providing a fantastic glimpse of historic apparatus.

Fire Museum members attending the event in Syracuse included Pat and John Zangerle, Steve Hildebrant, Jim Bell, Jim Byrne, Stan and Penny Socha, Donn Zalewski, Ted Elder, Ted Elder and Paul Nelson. Our Museum is a "chapter" of SPAAMFAA

continuing the early heritage of the organization when the Buff's Club attained that status in 1972. Museum member Tim Elder has served a term as national president and John Zangerle has served several terms as a trustee of the organization.

Some of the rigs might not be considered "really old" being built in the early 80s and certainly the attendees are not antique, but the oldest motorized apparatus belonged to the Lenox, MA Fire Department who displayed their 1910 American LaFrance (Factory No. 1). Another vintage rig came from the Sewell, NJ Fire Department with their 1915 Mack (ex Philadelphia) pumper. More than 30 pumpers drafted and pumped from two different venues and the parade included about 80 antique trucks.

Tours were conducted to two private museums (Station No. 4 Museum and the Syracuse Fire Museum). The larger Syracuse Fire Museum has an impressive collection of hand drawn and horse

drawn apparatus including a huge ornate parade hose reel standing over 7-foot tall, Button and Hale hand engines and a Silsby steamer.

Tours of the Syracuse Fire Department included fire houses, the training academy and repair shops, and the Department's AARF at the Syracuse International Airport. Syracuse Fire has an ISO Class 1 Department, the only one in New York and one of only 53 nationwide. The Department operates a unique multi-piece Rescue Company out

of their own 3-bay station downtown. It includes an ALF heavy (walk-around) rescue, a shop-built mini rescue on a Ford F-350 chassis, a 135-ft, 5-section rear mount long ladder aerial from E-One and a tactical rescue truck on an IH chassis. Seven men are on duty per shift at the rescue company with the officer making the decision on what apparatus to take depending on

the nature of the incident. The airport apparatus includes 4 CFRs and a variety of other specialized equipment.

It was a great event depicting fire fighting history—both in the classic old and the state of the art latest technology.

(All Syracuse muster and fire photos by Paul Nelson)



Steve Hildebrant's 1874 hose carriage, ex Cornwell, NY



Above: Historic member John Zangerle works on one of the draw ropes. Bottom: Syracuse AARF Stryker 3000 w/ Snozzle (left) and E-One Titan w/65ft ladder (right)



Above: 1899 Parade hose reel, Kip Hose Co., Rhinebeck, NY. Bottom: Apparatus on display and pumping at Syracuse Inner Harbor.

County Firefighters and Fire Chiefs Join Fire Museum in Third Annual Holiday Fire Safety Demonstration

This year marked our third annual Holiday fire safety demonstration and the inauguration of a joint Public Education Initiative between the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center and the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs Association.

It was attended by firefighters and fire chiefs from several Cuyahoga County communities like Bedford, Chagrin Falls, Garfield Heights, North Royalton, Parma, Solon, and of course Cleveland.

What's more Santa came all the way from the North Pole to visit some very lucky kids and to deliver some very important fire safety messages for the Holidays.

Families arrived at around noon and Santa flew in a short while later. With his sleigh and reindeer secured to the Fire Training Academy roof he made his way down to the FTA auditorium where the children were waiting. A familiar and warm HO! HO! HO! announced his coming. The little ones were in awe as Santa introduced himself, saying hello to everyone as he made his way around the auditorium.

Meanwhile in the fire training tower firefighters prepared for the demonstration. Captain Ziganti of the Cleveland Fire Department was in charge as the firefighters set up one of the rooms in the tower to look like a living room decorated for the Holidays.

Back in the auditorium Santa gathered the children and lead them, their families, the

fire chiefs, and the media outside to the fire training tower. He took them up the side stairs and inside to see the decorated living room.

When the children and other guests were safely outside again the firefighters lit the room on fire. In minutes it was completely engulfed in the flames.

Now unlike previous years where only firefighters were on duty to put out the fire, this year the media was invited to participate. So when the fire needed to be extinguished reporter Myrt Price from Channel 19 was suited up in turnout gear and mask, ready to go to work. Backed up by the firefighters, Myrt turned on the hose and put out the fire.

Outside the children watched as smoke billowed out of the tower windows while Santa talked with them about being safe during the Holidays. The children watched as firefighters opened the windows in the tower and threw out the burnt remains of furniture, Christmas presents, and the Christmas tree.

The day ended with Santa hearing the children's Christmas wishes and delivering a few more safety messages. The children and everyone there had a wonderful time and learned a lot about fire safety during the Holidays.

Santa's arrival and the Holiday Fire Safe-

ty Demonstration was covered by nearly all of the local news media. Channels 5, 8, 19, and 23 covered the event in video and Sun Newspapers sent a photographer to capture Santa delivering fire safety tips.



Thank you to the Cleveland Fire Department and the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs Association for their support of the Fire Museum and joining us in "Saving History, Saving Lives!"

A special thank you to the area firefighters who helped stage this important event:

- Captain Roy Ziganti, Cleveland FD
- Chris Novak, Bedford FD
- John Catani, Chagrin Falls FD
- Mary Meeks, Chagrin Falls FD
- Jeff Suhaj, Chagrin Falls FD
- Dean Dopslaf, Garfield Heights FD
- Missy Stepka, Garfield Heights FD
- George Erker, North Royalton FD
- Tony Dalesio, Parma FD
- Michael Higginbotham, Parma FD
- T.J. Martin, Parma FD
- Doug Turner, Parma FD

We also have to thank Santa's helpers, Elaine Straub and Stuart Warner. This is Elaine's second year helping with this event. She provided all of the treats and presents for the children. We are very lucky to have her warm and generous support. Stu was dressed in his old-time firemen's outfit and was Santa's escort, helping him off his sleigh and in and around the FTA.

Last but not least, thank you to Bob Shimits of the Solon FD for bringing the Fire Museum's mascot, Cinder.

To see the videos and photos of the event log onto www.wrfmc.com and click on "News" at the top of the page.



Calendar of Events

- **Sunday, January 25, 2009 – Cleveland, OH.** Western Reserve Fire Museum Membership Meeting. Due to construction at the Fire Museum the meeting will be held at the Cleveland FTA at 1:00. Refreshments will be served and reports given on status of the Fire Museum project and other news for 2009. Please RSVP by January 23, 2009 at (216) 664-6312.
- **Wednesday-Saturday, February 25 - 28 – Pomona, CA.** SPAAMFAA Winter Conference. For details log onto www.crownfirecoachent.com
- **Saturday, March 7 – Cleveland, OH.** 24th Annual Firematic Flea Market at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland. Doors open at 8:00 AM. For more information call evenings: Steve Hildebrandt at (440) 835-1791 or Bob Gahr at (440) 286-6110.
- **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 31 – Cleveland, OH.** 4th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride. For details log onto www.firefightersmemorialride.com.
- **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.

Google a Gift to the Fire Museum

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!"

LOG

(Continued from page 1)

loan to us from the Western Reserve Historical Society. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Board member, Stu Warner who arranged this loan. We also continue to receive other donations to our collection. Within the last month, General Electric Lighting Division donated three hand drawn hose reels and a large hand drawn extinguisher from a plant they are closing. We also continue to receive other photographs and historic artifacts from members and friends.



Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of the Museum. I want to recognize several who have made extraordinary efforts. Cheryl Davidson, Karen Sodini, Dick Bowman and Tom Bowman have organized, cleaned, boxed and cataloged over 1400 CFD journals dating back into the 1800s. Special thanks also go to John Heiman, our resident mechanic, for his extensive work on the 1980 American LaFrance. Rob Sheldon has been spearheading this project and has contributed both time and money toward making the ALF the Fire Museum's funeral and parade apparatus.

Coordinating all of our many efforts is our Project Manager/Man-for-all-Seasons, Scott Carpenter. He has done a great job with the website and continues to keep it updated, so check it out. Scott is also acting as liaison for all of our construction activities and is coordinating our Capital Campaign effort. In his "spare time" he is also doing the layout and production of the Bugle.

This September Paul Nelson and I attended a seminar in Chicago sponsored by the Fire Museum Network. We gained a great deal of valuable information, but it also served as a good benchmark for how we are progressing. I am proud to say that other museums were impressed by how much we have accomplished. It is also interesting to see that we are on a parallel track with the Chicago Museum which has recently started work on their building.

Please be sure to attend our Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25, 2009 for further updates and a chance to ask any questions you may have.



Firefighters United in Drive for the Fire Museum and Education Center

This November during the United Way drive Cleveland Firefighters continued their giving ways. Some Firefighters doubled their Fire Museum payroll deductions with one giving \$30 a pay. Cleveland Firefighters are now giving more than \$75,000 a year to the Fire Museum for a total of \$312,000 to date! For more on Cleveland Firefighter giving, the United Way drive, and other fundraising stories log onto www.wrfmc.com and click on "News."

Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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Left: This photo shows Firefighters arriving at the Fire Museum for the United Way drive. Many were surprised to see the building clean and being worked on by Coon Restoration. In September Coon Restoration joined the team of companies donating their services and is shown here working on the East face, grinding out the mortar and re-tuck pointing the stone. To read more about the exterior restoration turn to page 1 of this issue of the Bugle. You may follow this and other construction stories on our website at www.wrfmc.com.

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SAVE THE DATE!
Fire Museum Membership Meeting
Sunday, January 25, 2009
See Calendar inside for details.