Spring 2018

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 24, Number 2

Luau Fundraiser - Museum Goes Whole Hog

By John Zangerle

After the winter we have had it is nice to think about tropical breezes and Polynesian food. The Museum is making that a reality with its

Hawaiian Luau fundraiser on Sunday, May 20. The Luau will run from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Camp Forbes Party Center, 25440 Harvard Road, Highland Heights, OH 44122. This catered event will feature an authentic Hawaiian style pig roast, roasted chicken, three sides, plus beer, wine, and intoxicating island punch. For those who make a "pig" of themselves, they can work off their calories to the music of Bob Shimits, the Firehouse Rock DJ.



Our featured entertainment will be authentic Hawaiian and Pacific island dances courtesy of Manivic's Dance Company and the

American Asian Pacific Islander Organization. There will be door prizes, a raffle, silent auction items, and more. This is the perfect way to kick off the summer and support this year's Museum fundraiser. Tickets are on sale now for \$50.00 for individual tickets, \$95.00 per couple. Please call the Museum at 216-664-6312 or stop by to pick them up when the Museum is open (Wednesday-Saturday). Hawaiian attire is optional. Join us and "pig out"!

President's Log

By Jim Bell

Spring is often thought of as a time of new beginning, a time of renewal. Such is the case here at the Fire Museum. The Executive Committee recently held its election of officers and with that came a change in the leadership and a new beginning for 2018. I would like to thank two members of the Executive Committee for their service to this organization. Roy P. Ziganti, Jr. who served as President for the last five years. Under his watch the Museum has made many advances including securing grants, renovating the first floor, and opening our doors to the public.

John Zangerle has held multiple positions with the Museum. He has served as President, and for the past five years has been Vice President. John's background as an attorney has been invaluable to us in the preparation of legal documents and keeping the Museum on safe ground from a legal perspective. Both John and Roy will continue on the Executive Committee as members-at-large.

Moving into the Vice President position is current Executive Committee member Daniel Martone. Dan has most recently been serving as our Treasurer. Dan is an Operations Manager with Walmart Corporation and brings a financial and administrative acumen to our organization.

Raymond Kotecki will assume the role of Treasurer. Some of you may remember Ray from his past time serving as the Museum's Treasurer. He is retired from his position as Vice President of Tax Operations for Eaton Corporation. He currently sits on our Board of Directors and recently joined the Executive Committee. (Continued on page 2, see Log)

tly held its election of

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Another Flea Market...the 34th

The Annual Firematic Flea Market started 34 years ago in the side bay of the Cuyahoga Heights fire station under the sponsorship of the Western Reserve Fire Buffs Association. It soon outgrew the available space at CHFD and moved to the Fire Training Academy of the Cleveland Fire Department. Then Fire Chief Jim McNamee arranged for the move. Since then the first Saturday in March is always the date of the event.

WRFBA members Bob Gahr and Steve Hiltebrant organized the first flea market and have continued to be the driving force ever since although Steve has pulled back a bit. Bob Shimits has taken over much of the work previously done by Steve and Dale Cohen has also has assisted.

This year the event on March 3rd was a great success again, thanks to a lot of volunteers who help make it work. Manning the entry desk and Museum tables were Joan Oliver, Debbie Hubbard and Karen Soldini, with Jim Bell manning the table offering surplus Museum items for sale. Paul Nelson manned the Museum information table. Bob Szabo provided activities for our young visitors and future fire fighters. The kitchen operated under the guidance of John and Pat Zangerle assisted by Ken and Cathy Jordan, Stan Socha and Diane Bauman.

The Fireman's Bugle door prize was won by Gene Kleinholz, retired fire fighter from North Ridgeville. Many attendees were seen carrying their newly acquired possessions to the parking area. Look forward to seeing you next year, same time and same place.

Our sincere thanks to Battalion Chief Tom Schloemer of the Training Academy and the Cleveland Fire Department for their help and use of the facility.



(Continued from page 1)

I have been voted in as President of the Museum. I am a retired Lieutenant/Paramedic with Cleveland Heights and Russell Township fire departments. I have a degree from Lakeland Community College, graduated from the Ohio Fire Executive program, and am credentialed as a Fire Officer IV.

The other members of the Executive Committee are Daniel Hayden (retired Lieutenant from Cleveland Fire Department and Stuart Warner (a retired Safety Director who was active in the private sector). Dan is in charge of our Funeral Caisson Program. He continues today to help families of our deceased brothers and sisters. Stu has been very involved in the renovation of the building. He has graciously given of his time and talent to get the doors of the Museum open to the public. He is currently co-ordinating the construction of the external balconies for the building. Previously, he designed and supervised the installation of the dormitory display windows. In addition, he is building a child-sized Model T fire truck for the Kids Korner. I again thank all of the Executive Committee members for their contribution to making the Museum a reality.

Together, the Executive Committee will continue to advance the mission of Saving History...Saving Lives. In order to meet that mission, the Museum needs volunteers. We are always are looking for people who would like to serve as docents, get involved in the renovation of the building, become fire safety instructors, or be that bright, shiny face to welcome visitors at the front lobby desk.

Likewise, we are always looking for additional funding for the Museum. Do you have special skills as a fundraiser? Perhaps you know of funding sources in the business world? The Museum would welcome you, or a friend, to be part of our Development Committee. The Museum is faced with two large, expensive projects. We need to install a fire sprinkler system throughout the entire building. That means a basement and two floors of public space. Additionally, we need to install a HVAC system to cool the building and control humidity and dust. These two projects will need in excess of \$300,000 to complete. If you have any connections to funding sources or philanthropic organizations, please contact me or call the Museum.

One of my goals is to run an open, transparent organization. I feel the best way to operate is to communicate, answer questions, and be truthful. If anyone has any questions or concerns feel free to contact me via email at firebill58@yahoo.com or call the Museum at 216.664.6312.







Opening Day at the Ballpark

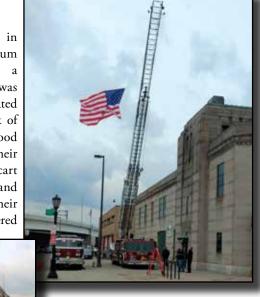
The first day of baseball in Cleveland each year is a big event for the City. With the Fire Museum now open, it seemed like a good idea to do something special on that day for our neighbors on the "Other" corner of Carnegie and Ontario in downtown Cleveland.

How about an aerial ladder on the platform flying an American flag and a refreshment stand nearby to promote the Museum. Encourage people on the way to the ballpark to have a look at the Museum. The aerial ladder became a reality with the help of the Shaker Heights Fire Department. It had been retired and was up for sale. Chief Pat Sweeney and several members of the Museum had kicked around the idea of having it loaned to the Museum (unless an offer to purchase was received). A proposal was taken to the Mayor and City Council who approved it. They even wanted the SHAKER HEIGHTS nameplate on the aerial left in place to give the City a little publicity.

Opening day was in the 30's with wind gusts forecast at over 40mph. The ladder was raised but

to their seats in the ballpark.

On the triangle in front of the Museum entry doors, a refreshment stand was set up. It was operated by Carey Morlock of Mor-Like Home Food Services, LLC. Their "Thirst Aid" cart offered lemonade and hot chocolate. Their food stand offered



fries and an awesome customized hot dog with coleslaw and bacon. Thanks to Carey for sharing some profits with the Musuem.

Plans are being developed to do it again on some of the daytime

ballgames dates this year It is a great opportunity to promote the Museum and tell our story. We always are looking for volunteers that might like to help us on those dates. Check with Joan Oliver or Jim Bell if you would like to volunteer.

With the aerial ladder truck housed by the Museum, it will be available for other Museum events in the community. A plan is being developed for such usage. There is a cadre of volunteers who are either active or retired fire fighters that are familiar with ladder operations and capable of safely using the apparatus. Our thanks to the Shaker Heights Fire Department and the City of Shaker Heights to help us promote fire safety and awareness of steps to take in a fire emergency.



attaching the flag in a small gale was a bit of a challenge. Chief Sweeney took command of the Incident and helped make it happen. Aerial extended and flag flying straight out, it made a statement to all who passed by.

Museum volunteers passed out information that included a discounted admission coupon for a future visit. Some people stopped in for a look deciding they had a little time before getting

Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride

This great event takes place this year on Sunday, May 27, 2018 as hundreds of riders gather to recognize fallen firefighters and then ride out into the countryside. The ceremony takes place at the Cleveland Fire Fighters Memorial on Lerner Way, off E. 9th Street and across from Cleveland Browns Stadium. Info on participating in the ride is available at www.

firefightersmemorial ride.com. The event draws close to 1,000 riders.

Each year the Fire Museum offers hot dogs, hamburgers, water, coffee and soft drinks as a fund raiser. That requires a lot of help. If you can spend the morning as a volunteer in the food tent, please call Jim Bell at 440.220.0412 or email the Museum at info@wrfmc. com. We need you at the site about 8:00am for set up and you will be done by noon as you watch the riders roar off two by two down the road. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Fire Museum also offers booth rental space adjacent to the food tent for selling merchandise or promoting your organization. Use the same Museum contact listed above for more information. The Museum also seeks donations to help defray the cost involved. Your involvement will be prominently displayed at the front of the food tent.



Peerless Fire Trucks



Made in Cleveland

By Paul Nelson

Much of the early conversion to motorized fire apparatus in Cleveland had the name PEERLESS on the front of the radiator. Chief George A. Wallace chose that builder to supply hose wagons for steamers, the "Flying Squads," a plain hose wagon, tractors for ladder trucks and service ladder trucks. A total of 17 Peerless vehicles were delivered to CFD in 1913 and 1914. Photos not seen before are taken from a recently discovered Peerless catalog.



Peerless plant on Quincy Ave. c. 1908

About 1911 Peerless developed a truck line that continued until after World War I. They supplied over 12,000 trucks to the U.S. Government during the war. With Cleveland Fire beginning the transition from horse dawn to motorized fire apparatus, Peerless had a lot to offer the Department in non-pumping fire apparatus.

Steamers would still need accompanying hose wagons and in

1913 Peerless supplied three 60hp, 6-cylinder hose wagons with 35-gallon Holloway chemical tanks for Engine 11, 16 and 28. They carried 650-ft of 2½-in. hose, 150 to 300-ft of 1-in. hose and 250-ft of 1-in. chemical hose but did not carry ladders.



Peerless was one of several automobile builders in Cleveland,

established at 43 Lisbon Street (later known as 2645 Lisbon Street) and continued production until 1931. The company began business

in 1869 as the Peerless Wringer and Manufacturing Company.

Three Peerless hose wagons at Station 16

In 1891 it became the Peerless Manufacturing Company adding bicycles to its line of wringer washing machines.

In 1902 the company changed focus and became the Peerless Motor Car Company. Engineer Louis P. Mooers designed the first automobile as well as proprietary engines. So successful was their new venture that in 1906 a new factory was built on a former farm of 5 ½-acres at 9400 Quincy Avenue. It was a complex of four buildings for assembly, a foundry and a blacksmith shop. In 1908 the plant size was doubled, located on both sides of the New York and St. Louis Railroad tracks along Woodland Avenue and then expanded again in 1910. Their factory was described as "one of the seven wonders of Cleveland."



Ladder 7 1913 Peerless tractor 1901 Rumsey Kaiser 75-ft aerial ladder with air hoist





1913 Peerless Hose Wagon/Chemical for Eng. 11



1913 Peerless Hose Wagon/Chemical for Eng. 16



1913 Peerless Hose Wag

A very plain, open box body truck was supplied in 1913 to Hose Co. 3 (later to Hose Co. 2) and remained there until 1939. Peerless also supplied a "High Pressure Hose Wagon and Chemical" to Engine 31, similar to other hose wagons but carried two ladders. It was longer with a 168-in. wheelbase compared to 150-in wheelbase for the standard hose wagons.

Two additional hose wagon/chemicals of the shorter wheelbase type were supplied to new Hose Co. 5 and 6, similar except that they carried two ladders on the side. They were known as "Flying Squads" operating as manpower rigs and precursor to rescue squads in 1927.

Four-wheel, 4-cylinder T-head, 32hp Peerless tractors were used to convert horse drawn aerial ladder trucks to motorized operation. In 1913 Peerless tractors went to Ladder 2, 3, 6, 7 and 11 with two more in 1914 to Ladder 5 and 8. The last Peerless tractor was retired in 1931 at Ladder 11 pulling a 1907 American LaFrance 65-ft aerial. Four of the 1913 tractors were removed from ladder trucks in 1920 and placed under steamers at Engine 2, 28, 30 and 33. CFD records were very vague in tracing exactly the assignment of each tractor.



1913 Service Ladder for Lad. 13

Peerless built the first motorized service ladder trucks for the Department, delivering one to Ladder 13 in 1913 and one to Ladder 12 in 1914. Both remained in front line service into the 1930's with the 1913 Peerless retiring from Ladder 16 and the 1914 Peerless retiring from Ladder 15 in 1935. Long ladders carried included a 3-section 50-ft extension ladder, a 30-ft straight ladder with a complement of eight ladders totaling 214-feet.

Peerless sold apparatus to other departments but delivery records are non-existent. It is known that Peerless hose wagon/chemical engines were used locally in Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, East



1913 Peerless tractor/19087 ALF 65-ft aerial Ladder 11

Cleveland and Shaker Heights.

In 1915 Peerless merged with the General Vehicle Company of Long Island City, NY and the name Peerless Truck and Motor Company emerged. Following the war production focused on passenger cars. The Great Depression reduced demand for luxury cars and production slowed. They built cars to appeal to those not affected by the depression and operated reasonably well in the 1920's. By 1930 demand dropped significantly with the last car produced in June of 1931.



1913 Peerless combination for Cleveland Heights

The plant stood idle until 1932 when the Carling Brewery Company of London, Ontario negotiated the rights to convert the 8-acre plant into a brewery operating under the name of Brewing Company of America.

The new operation acquired the rights to the Carling name and began Carling production in 1934. In 1971 Carling closed the plant. It was then operated by C. Schmidt & Sons, Inc. of Philadelphia beginning in 1972 and operated until 1984 when they ceased production. The site now is occupied by the newly-built Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, Juvenile Justice Center.



on/Chemical for Eng.31



1913 Peerless "Flying Squad" for Hose Co. 5



1913 Peerless "Flying Squad" for Hose Co. 6

Fire Museum to Host Annual Fire Museum Network Conference

By John Zangerle

The Museum has been an active member of the Fire Museum Network (FMN) since its early inception. Former Fire Museum President, Jim Wichman, was an FMN Board member and for a time President of their Board. John Zangerle is a current FMN Board member and has represented the Western Reserve Fire Museum at the Network's annual meetings for more than fifteen years. The Network's annual meeting is designed for fire museums from all over the country to get together to exchange ideas and learn from the seminars.

Now that we are open, it is our turn to host the annual meeting and seminars. The dates are September 6-9, 2018. The nearby Hilton Garden Inn will be the host hotel. We are planning an opening reception for attendees, Thursday evening, September 6, at the Museum. Friday we will have seminars at the hotel with topics that include, "Lighting the way: a guide to the history of fire lanterns and engine lamps," "From Steam to STEM," and "Adding the WOW factor to your exhibits." Other events will include tours of local museums and time to network with other representatives of big and small museums from around the country.

For those who can stay for a bonus event on Sunday, there are several options. We will have "Small Museum Sunday" that will include stops at the former B & O Roundhouse, home of the Midwest Railroad Historical Society, and Steve Hiltebrant's office collection of fire memorabilia with his restored steamer and Fairview Park's 1924 ALF. After lunch planned at the Hoof and Ladder Restaurant in Olmsted Falls, Donn Zalewski will open his private museum and a final stop is planned for the Little Wiz Fire Museum



Attendees at a FMN meeting in Aurora, IL

in Medina. For those heading home by car, the annual Hudson muster will provide an alternative attraction with the opportunity to tour Hudson's fire museum in the vintage fire house in their old city hall.

Our Fire Museum members are encouraged to register to attend the Fire Museum Network activities. We will definitely need volunteers to help with the registration, the Thursday night reception, the hospitality room at the headquarters hotel, and providing transportation. Additional help Wednesday and Thursday that week at the Museum will also be appreciated as we will have extra visitors. Please contact Joan Oliver if you can assist by calling the Museum, 216-664-6312, or email at oliverj@wrfmc.com.

Registration information and schedules will be available later this spring on the Museum web site, www.wrfmc.com and the Fire Museum Network web site, www.firemuseumnetwork.org.

News from the Education Center

By Bob Szabo

The newly named STATION 28 KIDS KORNER...as part of the education center, has been opened and getting rave reviews. Since January the kids play area has received a new book shelf and new fire related children's books. New signage and artwork have been placed on the walls along with a large bulletin board for children's artwork and event notices. What appears a big favorite with the kids is the bucket brigade play area where kids get to throw simulated water (plastic balls) at the mock-up of a house with flames showing in three areas.

Fire safety education "on the road." Recently the education center was invited by the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad to participate in one of their in-service training events for their on-train volunteers. The training was to be on the use of fire extinguishers for any train emergencies. Both Class A and Class C fires were discussed and all participants that were interested in using our Bull-Ex extinguisher simulator were given the opportunity. The class consisted of more than 60 people but the with ease of use and rapid turnover, all participants were able to get this hands-on training.



FAIR ON THE SQUARE was held on Monday evening April 9th. Members of WRFM were on hand at the Annual Fair on the Square held in the State Theatre on Playhouse Square. The Fair on the Square is a free, one-stop field trip expo where educators from throughout the surrounding area have the opportunity to meet with more than 50 Northeast Ohio arts, science, cultural organizations and museums. The visitors learned about possible field trips and curriculum enriching opportunities. The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center handed out a lot of program brochures and received positive feedback from many of the educators. One prevailing statements was, "I never knew we had a Fire Museum." To which the WRFM representatives were more than happy to give them a little history lesson on our Museum and its Mission.

Calendar of Events

- Sunday, May 27, 2018 Cleveland, OH. Annual Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Staging at 9:00am, start 11:00am at Alfred Lerner Way by CFD Firefighters Memorial. Need volunteers as the Fire Museum operates food tent. Leave message at info@wrfmc.com or 216.664.6312. Ride info at www.firefightersmemorialride.com.
- **Saturday, June 23, 2018** Reynoldsburg, OH. Central Ohio SPAAMFAA Muster at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH. Info at www.coafaa.org. **Note date correction.**
- Fri. & Sat., July 27-28, 2018 Frankenmuth, MI. Great Lakes SPAAMFAA Muster at Heritage Park. Info at www.gliafaa.org.
- **Wed. Sat.**, **August 1-4**, **2018** Cherry Hill/Pennsauken, NJ. Summer SPAAMFAA Muster and Convention.

 Info at www.spaamfaa.org. **Note date correction.**
- **Sunday, August 5, 2018** Alliance, OH. Annual Alliance fire muster and fire parade. Muster and flea market at 9:00am. Parade at 1:00pm. Contact info later.
- **Wed. Sat., August 22-25, 2018 –** Racine, WI. International Fire Buffs Annual Convention. Info at www.ifba.org.
- **Thurs., Sun., September 6-9, 2018 –** Cleveland, OH. Fire Museum Network National Conference hosted by the Western Reserve Fire Museum. Info at www.wrfmc.com.



The Fire Museum is a member of IFBA and the Greater Cleveland Chapter of SPAAMFAA



Lecture Series on Historic Fires Continues

The next four illustrated lectures in the "They Battled the Flames" series will focus on some of the most notable fires in Northeast Ohio's history. The second program in the series is titled "The Great Flats Fire of 1884...The Largest Fire in Cleveland History. Help Called from Outside," and will be presented May 5, 2018 by Paul Nelson, the Museum's Historian.

Learn about The Flats in the 1880's and how it had become a repository for huge amounts lumber being loaded off of cargo ships on the river. Lumber was stacked three stories high and arranged in a steet-like maze. When fire broke out it began to move from pile to pile until everything was a blaze.

On June 30, 2018, Edward Kern, author of the "The Collinwood School Fire of 1908," will be our guest speaker. He will be giving a presentation on this horrific school tragedy that took place on Wednesday, March 8, 1908 and changed fire laws across the country. The fire killed 172 children and 2 teachers and Mr. Kern lost four members of his own family that day. He will have his book available for sale and signing after this event.

On July 28, 2018, the Museum will be giving a presentation on the Cleveland Clinic Fire of 1929. This fire released toxic fumes from burning nitrocellulose nitrate x-ray film. The fire and fumes trapped many and 92 people were injured and 125 people lost their lives.

Then on August 25, 2018, Paul Nelson will be presenting a lecture on the East Ohio Gas Fire and Explosion. This fire was a result of a massive explosion from a stream of leaking liquefied natural gas from a ruptured storage tank. It destroyed the plant, adjacent commercial buildings and decimated an entire residential neighborhood. It killed 130 individuals and injured 252 more.

All these lectures will be held in the Education Wing on the first floor on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 pm. Mark your calendar and we hope you will attend to learn more about NE Ohio's local firefighting history. Those attending will also have an opportunity to tour our exhibits. (Standard admission rates apply, no extra charge for the program and Museum members are always admitted free.) This series is funded in part by a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

CFD TriviaBy Paul Nelson

- Q: What was the only 5-5 alarm transmitted for a fire outside the City Limits?
- A: A fire in Cuyahoga Heights on July 24, 1947.

Fire broke out in the large, rambling Coatings Division of the Ferro Corporation, 4158 E. 56th Street, Cuyahoga Heights at the juncture of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Heights and Newburgh Heights. The fire started in the northeast corner of the structure at 5:55am with Cuyahoga Heights responding with their engine. Immediate assistance was called from Newburgh Heights who responded with their engine. Cleveland street box 4282 (E. 58th Street and Harvard Avenue) was pulled for the same fire at 5:55am. CFD responded with Eng: 11-13-25 Lad: 4 and BN: 7.

An attempt was made to use yard hydrants but available volume was limited. Relays had to be set up from hydrants about 1/2-mile away. Acting BC Neuman arrived on the scene with the box alarm companies and immediately requested a 3-3-3 alarm with heavy fire showing. That brought a response of Eng: 35-9-26-24 Lad: 10 RS: 1 and BN: 6 at 6:00am. When AC Nimmo arrived on the call, and realized the scope of the fire, ordered a 5-5 alarm be struck. That brought the response of Eng: 18-36-41-7 Lad: 3 and BN:4.

Chief Cain responded and special ordered Hose Co. No. 2 (527-1 4282) at 6:37am to respond and layout 3-in. lines for relay purposes. Companies worked about two hours before the fire was declared under control and companies began to be released. Loss in the fire was set at \$350,000. It was also the largest number of companies ever sent to an "Out of City Response."

Also Worthy of Note



This year is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of IAFF. Cleveland IAFF Local 93 was established on July 16, 1918 with C. A. Urbanowicz, President and John Stanton, Secretary-Treasurer. There

were 492 members of which nine were Charter Members.

Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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SUPPORT OUR MUSEUM
SUPPORT OUR MUSE Repeat to Sunday, May 20 from Auction, Music & More
Hawaiian Luau 20 from Auction, Music & More
Sunday, May Silent Auction, Music & More
Hawaiian Dancers, Silent Auction



Shaker Heights Ladder Relocates

Shaker Heights Ladder 2, a 1991 LTI/Simon Duplex 75-ft quint, has changed quarters from Station No. 2 to the Fire Museum. Thanks to SHFD Chief Pat Sweeney, the Mayor and City Council of Shaker Heights, the retired ladder truck has been placed on loan to the Museum for use in promoting Museum activities. It was out in front of the Museum on opening day for the Cleveland Indians. (See story inside on Page 3.) The aerial was raised with an American flag attached that stood straight out in 40mph gusts.

The Bugle is a publication of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center. The entire contents © by Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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