

# THE BUGLE

Fall 2018

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 24, Number 4

## Fire Museum Hosted Fire Prevention Week Kick Off

By Joan Oliver



Fire Prevention poster

October marked the beginning of Fire Prevention month and to kick it off the Fire Museum held an Open House on Sunday, October 8th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Admission to the Museum was free that day. The plaza was the focal point of the event with food and festivities for all attendees. Bob Shimits, retired Solon Firefighter and Fire Museum member, supplied the music. His wife Mary along with their two Dalmatians, Ember and Arson, greeted visitors as they walked up to the plaza.



Future fireman at work

Children got to try their skills at putting out the flames on our wood house with a smaller version of an authentic fire hose. Fire Museum member, Jeff Campbell brought his 1979 ALF down for the children to climb on and pretend to drive.

Mentor Fire Department's Public Education Specialist, Jerry Craddock, was on hand with the "Comfort 54" Fire Engine. A reserve 2001 American LaFrance engine that Mentor converted into a cancer awareness tribute to those that are battling cancer, have lost their lives to cancer, or have managed to beat cancer altogether. Any one attending the event that day who has been affected by cancer was afforded the opportunity to write on the truck, giving their own personal tribute. (Continued on page 2, see Fire Prevention)

## President's Log December 2018

Exciting times are ahead for the Fire Museum. Every day brings new challenges and projects to keep the Fire Museum moving forward. One of our biggest challenges is installing a fire sprinkler system throughout the entire building. This project is particularly important as we cannot open the second floor to the public without this protection in place. Recently, the Fire Museum received a quote from a vendor who can install a sprinkler system. The quote was favorable and the Executive Committee is discussing the possibility of proceeding with the installation. However, as good as the quote is, it still means the Fire Museum will be spending close to \$90,000! That amount will severely deplete our capital improvements account. We still have other big-ticket projects to complete, as well as finishing the renovation of the dormitory and fire alarm office. The Fire Museum needs to raise more money...and quickly. Therefore, I am presenting a challenge to you. **The President's Challenge.**

I am willing to personally donate \$2,000 to the Fire Museum. I challenge everyone who receives this newsletter to match my donation. I have already spoken with the Board of Directors and challenged them to contribute. Now I am challenging all of our members to help provide for the financial security of the Fire Museum. I am asking you to dig into your pocket, find a corporate donor, ask your rich uncle, do whatever you need to do to meet my challenge. (Continued on page 2, see Log)

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

Published by The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center, 310 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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# Fire Prevention Week

(Continued from page 1)



Bob Szabo's fire safety program

Bob Szabo, Fire Museum Education Director, gave fire safety lectures every hour. There were gift bags for the kids as well as activities and games for them to play. Docents (Jim Bell, Frank Novak, Pat and John Zangerle) were on hand to give tours. Debbie Hubbard and Stan Socha worked the food table as the Fire Museum provided hot dogs, popcorn and beverages for everyone who came out that day.

We had over fifty people participate in the festivities. We would like to thank all those who came out as well as all those who volunteered that day to make the event a success. We look forward to seeing you again next year.



Embers and Arson



Frank Novak explains exhibit



Mentor's Comfort 54



Paul Nelson Photo

Original Mentor's 2001 ALF Metropolitan

## Log

(Continued from page 1)

Much of the work that has been accomplished was done by our wonderful volunteers. But, some of our future work will have to be completed by licensed, skilled trades workers. As we come to the end of the year, I know many of you give to charities and worthy causes. I hope you, our members, can rise to the occasion and contribute. Let's all work together and meet The Challenge!

Thank you!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Jim

## Capital Campaign Needs Year End Support

By John Zangerle

This year more than ever we need robust year end support for our Capital Campaign. The Board has approved moving forward with the sprinkler system that will ultimately enable us to utilize the second floor for both exhibit space and rental events. The contractor's estimates will seriously deplete our current Capital Fund as well as unrestricted cash reserves. However, the opportunity to finally install the sprinkler system at this time is too compelling to pass up. Doing it sooner rather than later will jump start completion of the second floor.

Renewing your membership now will help, but please consider adding a tax-deductible year end donation. Any amount will be especially appreciated. The Fire Museum has worked hard to complete these construction projects as cost efficiently as possible, but the sprinkler work must be done by certified professionals, not volunteers. Your support now will be a great way to help the Fire Museum start the new year.



# Fire Museum Hosts National Fire Museum Conference

By John Zangerle



Paul Nelson photos

For many years our Fire Museum has been an active member of the Fire Museum Network (FMN), an association of fire museums across North America. The FMN holds an annual conference hosted by museums from across the country. Recent conferences have been held in Buffalo, San Antonio, and Orlando. The Western Reserve Fire Museum was honored to be selected to host the 2018 conference in Cleveland. The conference was a four-day event held in early September.



Joan Oliver photos

Cleveland Fire Chief Angelo Calvillo greets attendees

The Museum used the Hilton Garden Inn one block east of the Museum as the host hotel. We kicked off the event with a well-attended open house reception at the Museum. The following day, after being welcomed by Cleveland Fire Chief Angelo Calvillo, seminars were held at the host hotel. At the end of the day a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was followed by a cruise on the Goodtime III. The next day we hosted the organization's annual business meeting as well as additional seminars.



Opening Ceremony



President Bill Hall



Sarah Crocker, Denver



Ted Elder, WRFM



Steve Hildebrandt, WRFM

The afternoon started with a very tasty lunch at the Museum catered by Gatherings Kitchen. The afternoon was spent at the Crawford Auto Aviation Museum and Western Reserve Historical Society. An orientation lecture was presented to the group by the WRHS museum curator.



Western Reserve Historical Society and Crawford Auto Aviation Museum activities

Capping the event was Small Museum Sunday, starting the day with a visit to the old B&O roundhouse, home of the Midwest Railway Preservation Society. A tour of Museum member Donn Zaleski's firematic collection was much anticipated by the group. Donn's wife, Barbara, was a terrific hostess to the women in the group and a great time was had by all. Following a lunch at the fire-themed Hoof & Ladder restaurant in Olmsted Falls, we finished the day with a stop at Tom Doyle's Little Wiz Museum in Medina. The feedback from the group was extremely positive and the more than 50 attendees left with good comments for Cleveland, the program, and our Museum.



Donn Zaleski's Museum



Midwest Railway Preservation Society

Special thanks go to Fire Museum administrator, Joan Oliver, who did an exceptional job "herding cats" to pull all the personnel and activities together. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who helped with the reception, driving the vans, providing Museum tours, and assisting with all the activities. Many of the attendees expressed their appreciation for the hospitality and were impressed by how far our Museum has come. Next year's conference is scheduled for Los Angeles.

# A Tale of Two Cities Their Fire Departments Become Part of CFD

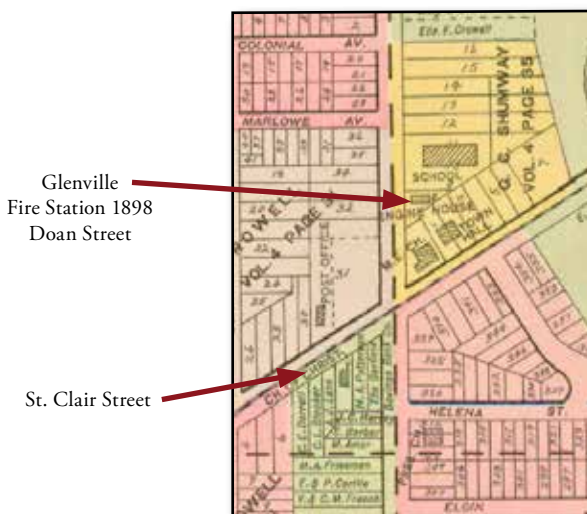
By Paul Nelson

## GLENVILLE VILLAGE



Glenville Village was established on October 4, 1870 along Lake Erie from part of Cleveland Township that also included the lakeside village of Bratenahl. When Cuyahoga County was established from the Lands of the Western Reserve after Ohio became a state in 1803, 18 townships were created. From those townships the current 59 communities of modern-day Cuyahoga would emerge. Glenville would become a thriving village with the creation of a volunteer fire department in 1875. A fire station was built by William Staley (location unknown) to house a hand engine (type and builder also unknown). A hand drawn chemical extinguisher was added in 1887 and the firehouse enlarged.

Feeling the need for a more permanent fire station, the Village built a new station on St. Clair Ave. at Doan (E. 105th) St. for the existing equipment. Two used hose carts were purchased from the Canton Fire Department in 1892. In 1897 Council built a Village Hall on that site and authorized construction of a 2-story fire station on Doan St. just north of St. Clair St.



It opened in 1898 built at a cost of \$14,067.36. Its design was similar to those being built in Cleveland, a single bay rectangular structure. In July of 1904 a one-story addition was added to the station at a cost of \$3,600. The Village purchased a steam fire engine, a 450gpm, 4th size, double piston pump from American Steam Fire Engine Co. in Seneca Falls, NY. It was accompanied by a 2-horse plain hose wagon. A service ladder truck was added to the Department. A fire alarm telegraph system was installed with street boxes. Glenville was the only suburban Cleveland community to have a steam fire engine.

While Glenville continued to thrive, there were conversations of merger being held with the City of Cleveland. Glenville was known for its Glenville Race Track (harness racing) and the Cleveland Golf Club. A series of agreements on merger were finalized and the merger became effective on June 19, 1905. Its 6,000 residents and its fire department would become part of the City of Cleveland.

The Glenville Fire Department included eight members with Henry Lathrop as Chief. The agreement called for members of the Glenville Fire Department to become members of the Cleveland Fire Department. All of the equipment and the fire station would also become the property of Cleveland. The fire alarm system would be incorporated into the Cleveland alarm system. But, all did not go well. Cleveland City Council declared it did not have money to pay for new firemen.

City Council continued to debate the matter with men and equipment in limbo. CFD would send existing companies into Glenville in case of an alarm. The Glenville firemen were designated as "Emergency Firemen" by the Director of Public Safety in order to get them on the job. They brought legal action to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. It took a while but on July 26, 1905 Engine Co. No. 30 was formally established in the former Glenville fire station with the address of 645 E. 105th Street.



Glenville and CFD Fire Station

Henry Lathrop became Captain. The steamer became Engine 30, the only American steam engine to see service in Cleveland. The 2-horse hose wagon became 30's wagon. The single horse service ladder truck was not manned. CFD listed it as an "Auxiliary Ladder Truck" on the roster and would be manned by the engine company if needed. A ladder company (Ladder 14) would not be placed in service at Station No. 30 until 1914 and it would be a motorized Peerless service ladder truck.

Engine Co. 30 was struck in service on July 26, 1905 according to the company journal and made its first run at 10:45am that morning to a residence on Eddy Road. They worked 1½-hrs at a fire with a loss of \$1,000.

Engine Co. 30 was motorized in 1918 with a 4-wheel Knox tractor. A motorized hose wagon was placed in service as 30's wagon in 1918, one of six South Bend wagons to run with motorized steamers. In 1920 the Knox tractor was sent to pull a new Seagrave aerial ladder and a 1914 Peerless 4-wheel tractor replaced it. In 1921 the company received a new Seagrave 750gpm pumper.

The original Glenville Station No. 30 would remain in service until August 8, 1981 when new Station No. 30 opened at 10222 St. Clair Avenue housing Engine 30, Ladder 30 and the 6th Battalion.

## CITY OF WEST PARK



West Park evolved from the original Township of Rockport established in 1819. Its creation included the establishment of Rockport Hamlet in 1892, West Park Township in 1900, a Village in 1913 and a City in 1921. Kamm's Corner was the center of activities of the community with Mr. Kamm opening a grocery store at the intersection of Lorain Ave. and Rocky River Road. A greenhouse and a post office were added to the area.

An attempt was made at fire protection in 1908 in the Township. Volunteers stocked two sheds with fire buckets; one was placed at W. 117th St. and another on the Town Hall lot. One report indicated that a small hand engine existed but that has not been verified. The Village thrived as individuals moved west from Cleveland. By 1916 City fathers decided it was time for a fire department. On March 12, 1916 the Village Council took the first step.

City Council authorized the sale of bonds in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase land, erect a fire station and purchase a fire engine. A tax of residents would be created to pay off the bonds by 1946. On July 5th a lot 90-ft x 145-ft, beginning on Lorain Ave. at the Iron Monument at the northwest corner of the Town Hall lot, extending westward to the NYC RR right of way was purchased. Cost was \$3,000. E. H. Beier was engaged on July 27th to design and build the firehouse. He became ill and was replaced by V. D. Croft.



West Park Historical Society

Original West Park fire station

With inadequate funds, additional bonds in the amount of \$50,000 were sold and Council authorized the purchase of a fire engine on September 5th. Cost would be \$9,000. Motorized fire apparatus now was well accepted and a pumper was ordered from American LaFrance. It was a Type 12, 750gpm rotary gear triple combination pumper (35-gal chemical tank) scheduled for delivery in 1917.



WREM Photo Collection

Original West Park engine

On December 5, 1916 an Ordinance created a fire department. It would include a Chief at \$1,400/year, an Engineer Fireman and Assistant Engineer Fireman at \$1,200/year and two Firemen at \$1,000/year. With the delivery of the pumper, the Department began operations.



CFD Archives

Eng 39 West Park Eng 1

The City continued to grow over the following years with more home and businesses. By 1922 Council deemed it necessary to add a fire station at the east end of town. Funds were allocated to purchase a lot on Lorain Ave. at W. 129th St. for \$7,325. A single bay fire station was erected for \$26,500 and a fire engine ordered for \$13,675. Seagrave was chosen to supply a 1000gpm centrifugal triple combination pumper. It would be similar to the nine Seagraves Cleveland purchased in 1920 and 1921 but would have a chemical extinguisher tank. The City had installed a fire alarm telegraph system with street boxes.

With the rapid growth, there was the concern that raising funds to properly operate the city and provide all the necessary services would be difficult. A merger with Cleveland would be the best option to take and voters in both cities would vote on the matter in the November election. The vote was affirmative and the merger took place on January 1, 1923. West Park would become Ward 33 of Cleveland. At the time of the merger West Park had a population of 3,560 and covered 12.5 sq mi.



CFD Archives

Eng 38 West Park Eng 2

As part of the merger the West Park Fire Department would become part of the Cleveland Fire Department including stations, apparatus, all equipment and firemen. WPFDD had a force of a Chief (James Johns), a Captain, three Lieutenants and 16 firemen. The Chief would become a CFD Captain and the remaining men would merge into similar ranks of CFD. Engine Co. 39 was placed in service at West Park Station No. 1 on January 4, 1923 with the 1917 ALF pumper. Engine 38 was established on January 4, 1923 at the new West Park Station No. 2 but did not go into service until July 1st. The pumper ordered by West Park in 1922 did not arrive until 1923. Although the West Park Station No. 2 was finished in 1922 it never saw service in West Park.

A tale of two suburbs with operating fire departments that became part of the Cleveland Fire Department as a result of a merger.

## Fire Museum Exhibit for 2019

By Paul Nelson

When planning for our Museum exhibits first began, a consensus was reached that when we opened, exhibits on the apparatus floor would not be permanently installed. We would create exhibits that changed periodically. It would encourage visitors to come back to see something new. In keeping with that plan, our current exhibit FROM THE BUCKET BRIGADE TO THE BIG RED MACHINES will close on December 19th with work beginning on the 2019 exhibit. The fire education side of the first floor will remain basically unchanged with new items added from time to time.

Our theme for 2019 is SOUND THE ALARM!... SUBURBS RESPOND TO THE NEED FOR FIRE SERVICE. We will take a look at how the suburbs addressed the need for fire protection as people began to move outward from the City. Some suburbs would establish a fire department only to find that the community would merge with a larger city (often Cleveland) and that department would cease to exist. Some communities would establish a fire department and it would grow and expand as the did the City. There are currently 51 fire departments in service in Cuyahoga County (49 suburbs, Cleveland and Cleveland Airports AARF). Eight communities receive fire protection from a neighboring community.



Fairview Park 1924 ALF



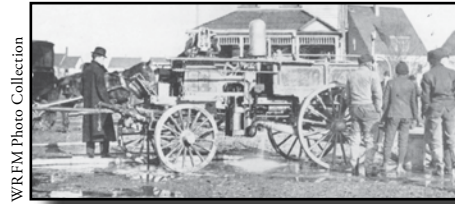
Parma 1938 Ahrens-Fox

Paul Nelson Photos

To tell the story we will focus on two established fire departments focusing first on Fairview Park and Parma with the plan to rotate others during the year. On display in the Jack and Lilyan Mandel Gallery will be vintage fire trucks from both departments.

They include the 1924 American LaFrance pumper from Fairview Village in its original condition now owned by Fire Museum member Steve Hildebrandt and the 1938 Ahrens-Fox centrifugal pumper from Parma recently restored by their Department. The exhibits will include history on the engines, the Departments, the apparatus builders (American LaFrance and Ahrens-Fox) and videos on the community history. Artifacts from those departments will also be on display.

Another part of the exhibit will be a year-long segment on the Village of Collinwood that became part of Cleveland in 1910. It will feature history of the community, its fire department and the tragic school fire.



WRFM Photo Collection

Original Collinwood engine

On display will be a 4-wheel gasoline-powered, horse drawn Howe pump similar to the pumper of Collinwood that responded to the school fire. On the large west wall of the Gallery will be historical story boards on the history of Cuyahoga County and some of the suburban fire departments. Featured will be a group of selected departments that merged into another department (Ohio City, West Park, Glenville Village, Parkview Village and original Brooklyn Heights) and a group of departments that remained in operation (Bedford, Lakewood, Gates Mills, Shaker Heights and Highland Hills).

A Grand Opening of the exhibit is being planned but at the time of The Bugle printing that date is in question. The Fire Museum has just been presented with the opportunity of beginning work on sprinkler installation in the building. That construction work will have an impact on completing the new 2019 exhibit installation. Watch our website and follow our Facebook postings for updates and the Grand Opening date.

### 'Tis the Season'

#### Some fire safety tips from our Education Director Bob Szabo

As Old Man Winter approaches don't be a statistic. Nationally every year, Christmas trees start nearly 250 house fires causing an average of 16 deaths and \$13.1 million in property damage. Although the number of fires started from Christmas trees is not extremely high, they are extremely serious and can ruin this joyous time of time. One out of every 15 reported fires that are a result of a Christmas tree ended up in a death.

#### CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Select a tree that is fresh, tree should be green and needles should not break.

Care for your tree. Keep trees away from a heat source, do not put the tree up too early or leave it up more than 2 weeks after the holiday.

Keep the stand filled with water.

Dispose of your tree properly.

#### HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Maintain and inspect your lights every year.

Do not overload electrical circuits.

Do not leave lights on when you are away from home.

#### CANDLES

Avoid using lit candles, extinguish all candles when you leave the room.

Never put lit candles on or near a tree.

Remember all your safety tips... make sure you have working smoke detectors and with your home all closed up for the winter, invest in a CO detector.

## Calendar of Events

- **Sunday, January 27, 2019** – Cleveland, OH. **NOTE CHANGE...**The Annual Meeting of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center **will not be held** due to sprinkler installation in the building. Watch the website [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com) and Facebook for a **new date**.
- **Wed. - Sat., February 27-March 2, 2019** – No. Charleston, SC. SPAAMFAA Winter Convention. Info at [www.SPAAMFAA.ORG](http://www.SPAAMFAA.ORG).
- **Thur. - Sun., February 27-March 3, 2019** – Daytona Beach, FL. CFD 2019 Embers Reunion. Holiday Inn Resort, Daytona Beach, FL. Info at [zims1956@yahoo.com](mailto:zims1956@yahoo.com) or 216.403.1515.
- **Saturday, March 2, 2019** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market, Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Doors open at 8:00am. Info at [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com).
- **Sat. - Sun., April 13 & 14, 2019** – Allentown, PA. Auction and Firematic Flea Market, Allentown Fairgrounds, Agricultural Hall, 17th and Crow Sts. Auction, Saturday, 9:00am. Info at [www.donnandassociates.com](http://www.donnandassociates.com).
- **Saturday, April 27, 2019** – Jackson, MI, GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI. Info at [www.gliafaa.com](http://www.gliafaa.com).



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



## CFD Trivia

By Paul Nelson

**Q: How many men to raise a 50-ft extension ladder?**

**A: Four to carry, five to raise.**

From a drill on W. 4th St., adjacent to Fire Headquarters in 1939, members are seen raising a 50-ft, 2-section extension ladder carried on all hook and ladder trucks.



50-ft ladder raise

The training manual shows a diagram of four men carrying the ladder, two on each end. The photo shows a fifth man footing the ladder during the raise, two on the tormentors and two walking the ladder. At that time all outside training was done at Headquarters (inside or outside) or at Municipal Stadium.

## Time to Renew

It's time to renew your membership for the coming year. You can use the form below to renew or if it more convenient you can renew your membership on-line at the Western Reserve Fire Museum website at [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com). Please consider making a yearend donation to help complete the renovations to open the second floor in 2019.



## Membership Renewal/Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  Discover  Amex

Charge Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renew Automatically:  Yes  No

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please consider an additional yearend tax deductible donation. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

The Western Reserve  
**FIRE MUSEUM**  
and Education Center

Individual Member  \$25

Family Member  \$50

Additional Donation

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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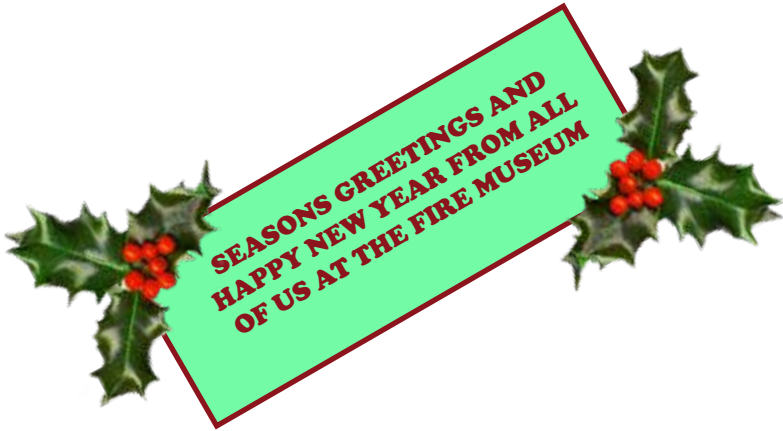
The name and address of your membership  
and/or donation must match that of your  
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Special from North Pole

**Santa to Make Special  
Stop at Fire Museum**

Word has just come from the North Pole that Santa will be making a special stop at the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center on Saturday, December 15th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. As a special treat Mrs. Claus will be joining him. There will be goodies for the kids with a chance to have your picture taken with Santa. So, don't miss out on the fun! Check our website for further details at [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com).

**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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