Fall 2019

#### SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 25, Number 4

### FIRE MUSEUM 2020 EXHIBIT

FEATURES WESTLAKE AND SOLON FIRE DEPARTMENTS

By Paul Nelson



Westlake 1938 Ahrens-Fox pumper

In keeping with our plans to offer new exhibits on a regular basis, in the first half of 2020 the Fire Museum will feature the fire departments of Westlake and Solon and how they developed to meet the growing population. It continues our theme of Sound the Alarm...Suburbs Respond to the Need for Fire protection. The 1938 Ahrens-Fox of Westlake and the 1929 Ford Model A of Solon will be on display in the apparatus bays. Both rigs have been beautifully restored and represent early fire apparatus of each community. The Collinwood exhibit continues telling the story of the tragic school fire in 1908 and the Collinwood Fire Department. On display also will be a gasoline-powered, hand/horse drawn pumping engine similar in design to the Collinwood engine but a different builder and later 1918 model. It helps to illustrate how small was the only engine that responded to the school fire.

There will be storyboards that tell the history of each department and the apparatus on display. As included in the current exhibit there will be narrated videos about the community's history.

Westlake was part of Dover Township in the original plat of Cuyahoga County while Solon was part of Solon Township. Fire fighting began in these townships in the 1920's as families began moving out from Cleveland, starting out as loosely organized volunteer departments.

Plan to visit the new exhibit that will run from January to the end of May when another exhibit will be installed. That will focus on Summit County and have vintage fire apparatus from Macedonia and Twinsburg on display. Also there will be a large display on Akron's fire fighting history.



Solon 1929 Model A

### PRESIDENT'S LOG

BY JIM BELL

As 2019 comes to a close, I want to remind you to consider a year-end donation to our capital campaign. Without the generous support of our members and friends this museum would not exist. 2019 has been a good year for the museum. Every month we see more and more visitors. We have expanded our programming to include more educational opportunities. Our biggest success in 2019 was the installation of our fire protection system. All three levels of the Museum are now protected and this paves the way to complete the second floor and open it to the public. All of these activities cost money. The museum is constantly looking for grants and gifts from local and national philanthropic foundations. Each of these organizations wants to know how much money we have raised from our own membership. Your donation is extremely important to us. The museum has added more fire departments to our payroll deduction program. With the help of Bob Gahr and Roy Ziganti, Jr. we have signed up more departments to help contribute to our financial stability.

The next major renovation project is the installation of an air conditioning system so we can cool the building and control dust and humidity. This project will be very expensive and is projected to cost close to \$250,000. Every dollar contributed moves us closer to our goal. Please help the museum and make a generous contribution before the end of the year. The museum is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization and your contribution is tax deductible. Please use the contribution form on the cover page and send in your check today. Thank you, Jim Bell.

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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
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Phone: (216) 664-6312 www.wrfmc.com

# SPECIAL 9/11 EVENT AT SHERWIN WILLIAMS

By Dan Martoni



(l to r) Brian Cullen, Dan Martone, Louisa Martone WTC Steel at Sherwin Williams Warrensville Heights

This past September 11th, the Sherwin Williams Company held a beautiful ceremony at the Warrensville Heights Automotive/R&D site honoring those who gave all on that fateful day. The ceremony was hosted by Brian Cullen, HR Vice President, and followed by keynote speaker Louisa Martone, Marketing Director, Strategic Initiatives. The Fire Museum, on behalf of Education Director, Bob Szabo, loaned a piece of steel I-beam from the WTC ground zero for the event.

Each year Cullen shares a story of a hero who tragically passed on that day and this year he shared the heroic deeds of Rick Rescorla. Rescorla was head of security for Morgan Stanley, whom anticipated attacks on the towers would happen again after the 1993 truck bombing occurred and in response created, trained and implemented critical evacuation procedures. He is credited in saving thousands of lives largely due to his relentless practicing of evacuation drills and overall heroism on 9/11. After successfully evacuating most of Morgan's 2,687 employees, Rescorla reentered the building and was last seen heading upward shortly before the collapse.

Louisa Martone presented a different account of her experience of 9/11 from abroad. In an emotional speech she shared how she, as a twenty-year old, experienced the attacks on freedom, the losses and aftermath that followed the tragedies of 9/11 from 5,000 miles away. Her most vivid memories were that of images she saw in the newspapers that depicted streets where every house proudly flew a US flag, families being united, a spirit of unison that could not be broken. She then went on to share about her first visit to the USA in 2008 and how much she was taken aback by the

public display of gratitude people paid forth to their military, armed forces, first responders and veterans. Explaining to the people attending that the level of gratitude and pride people of the United States have is nothing like she has ever experienced elsewhere and how humbled and blessed she feels to call the USA her home.

The 9/11 exhibit was an intrinsic part of the memorial service and brought the tragic events that occurred 18 years ago back to life for those attending. Many people stood in line to view the I-beam and remained in awe by the sheer force required to contort the solid piece of steel to its current shape. Both Cullen and Martone expressed their sincere appreciation to Bob Szabo and the WRFM for allowing the exhibit to travel to Warrensville Heights.

# ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES LANTERN NIGHT

Because of our sprinkler system installation project last year, we skipped the usual January Fire Museum Annual Meeting. This year Museum Board Member Dan Martone suggested that we try for an evening meeting with a little more pizzazz. As a result, we are planning a Saturday evening event at the Fire Museum featuring "Lantern Night" with illumination in the building provided by a number of fire lanterns from our collection and from some of our members.

The event will be held on Saturday evening, January 25, 2020, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Of course, we will have our usual collection of snacks and goodies. We encourage our members to bring their favorite appetizer to share. The Fire Museum will provide beverages.

In addition to providing a unique atmosphere, we will also have a short business meeting and discuss plans for 2020. Entertainment will include videos of vintage fire fighting. Put it on your calendar and join us for an interesting night out.

By John Zangerle



# PUT A FREEZE ON WINTER FIRES

By Bob Szabo

This year's winter fire safety catch phrase from the National Fire Protection Association is "Let's Put a Freeze on Winter Fires". Home fires occur more in the winter months than in any other season. As you spend more time indoors staying warm and cozy, be fire safety smart.

- Half of all heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February.
- Heating equipment is involved in one out of every seven reported home fires and one in every five fire deaths.
- Remember to keep portable generators outside, away from windows and as far away as possible from the home.
- Install and then test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into an electrical outlet.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney, vents and fireplace every year.
- If you use a wood burning fireplace store COOLED ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the container outside at least 10-feet from any structures.
- Refer to our Fire Museum website in December for tips on Putting a Freeze on Holiday Fires.

By Jim Bell



Blue Streak Ensemble performs in the Education Wing

The Fire Museum was pleased to host the Blue Streak Ensemble on September 23rd. This group of professional musicians performed a number of original compositions, all created by the musicians themselves. The music was performed on a wide range of instruments including bassoon, trumpet, clarinet, violin, cello, flute and percussion. The evening's performance was a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Cuyahoga River fire. After the performance the musicians and guests enjoyed homemade pastries and sparkling wine while they toured the museum.





After concert reception



Composer Greg D'Alessio salutes the Ensemble after world premiere of his composition *River Music* Artists include Mari Soto-Violin, Yael Senamaud-Viola, Anna Bowman Hurt-Cello Gunnar Owen Hirthe-Clarinet, Larry Herman-Trumpet





# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE

October marked the beginning of Fire Prevention Month and to kick it off the Fire Museum held an Open House on Sunday, October 6th from 11:00 am to 3:00pm. Even though the day looked like rain, that did not stop people from coming down to participate in all the fun activities. The theme this year was "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!" Bob Shimits and his wife Mary brought down their Dalmatian, Arson to greet the guests and supplied the music to rock the day away. There were all sorts of games and activities for the kids including a Museum Hide 'n Seek. Bob Szabo, the Education Director, gave fire safety lectures every hour for the whole family. For those children brave enough, there was a Junior Firefighter Challenge to try and master. When everyone worked up an appetite there were hot dogs, chips and scrumptious Honey Hut ice cream to enjoy.

We would like to thank those who ventured out that day as well as all our volunteers who helped to make the event a success; and, we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Bob Szabo's Fire Safety Program









By JOAN OLIVER

Junior Firefighter's Challenge Event



Westlake was part of Dover Township until 1940. It was created in 1803 (Range 15; Township 7) and was settled in 1810. In 1901 the Village of Bay split off followed by North Olmsted in 1912 leaving a smaller Dover Township. It became a Village in 1913. A group of volunteers organized a horse drawn wagon to carry water pails in the brigade, and hoped for the best.



The bucket brigade wagon

In 1926 Mayor Bailey appointed 11 men as volunteer firemen and George Jackson as fire chief. Volunteers were paid for time working at fires.

Records of the Boyer Fire Apparatus Company, Logansport, IN, show a chemical engine delivered to Dover Village in 1926. It was built on a Federal Knight commercial truck chassis with a Willys Knight motor. The engine had four 35-gal chemical extinguisher tanks, two mounted in the body and the other two on each rear fender. A chemical engine was chosen as the Village did not have a water system.

A Village Ordinance of February 16, 1928 officially established the Dover Village Volunteer Fire Department. Realizing a need for a pumping engine, Fred Sauer, an Assistant Chief of the volunteers and auto garage owner, built a pumper in 1928 on a 1926 Cadillac automobile chassis. It had a small pump, probably a rotary-gear Northern, similar to many small pumpers of that era.



Chemical engine (left) and pumping engine (right) Fire station built onto end of police station/jail

In 1936 18 firemen and policemen were awarded Red Cross First Aid Diplomas. Dover Village was one of only six communities chartered by the American Red Cross in Cuyahoga County.

In 1937 the Dover Village Council named Frank Sauer the Village Fire Chief in charge of the volunteer fire department. He would remain fire chief until 1957 with Edmund Geiger then becoming chief.

Dover Village Council purchased an Ahrens-Fox pumper in 1938 at a cost of \$7,000. The Model VR was built on a Schact chassis with a 500gpm rotary gear pump. It was designated Dover Village Engine 1. At that time the pumper built on the Cadillac chassis was retired.



Dover Village Engine 1 1938 Ahrens-Fox

In 1940 Dover Village became Westlake Village, the name change to differentiate it from Dover in Tuscarawas County. The fire department became the Westlake Village Fire Department and the name on the Ahrens-Fox was repainted to Westlake Fire Department.



1938 Ahrens-Fox pumper on station ramp with the Westlake name on hood

Another Ahrens-Fox pumper was acquired in 1949. This was a Model VC 500gpm centrifugal pump. It had a 5-man cab with entry to the rear seat by folding down the front right seat. The pumper was designated Engine 2.



Engine 2 1949 Ahrens-Fox pumper

In 1955 a new fire station was built as part of the municipal complex at Dover and Hilliard Roads. It was a 2-bay station at the right end of City Hall. Three full time firemen were hired marking the establishment of the fire department that exists today. Westlake became a City in 1957. A Willys Jeep was acquired in 1958 and used as a grass fire truck.

In 1960 a Seagrave triple combination pumper was acquired and designated as Engine 1. Delivered on August 26th the engine had a 1,000gpm centrifugal pump and carried 500-gal water. With this addition to the fleet, the 1938 Ahrens-Fox pumper was placed in reserve and designated as Engine 3. The department now had 11 full time members along with 13 part timers.



Engine 1 1960 Seagrave 1000/500

Prior to 1967 ambulance service in Westlake was provided as needed by Jenkins Funeral Home. In 1967 the City bought an International ambulance and assigned it to the Fire Department to operate. Fire fighters were trained in first aid offering citizens new assistance in medical emergencies.



The 2-bay fire station with ambulance on ramp

The first aerial for the Department was acquired in 1972 with the arrival of the popular Sutphen Aerial Tower (85ft/1250/300) to meet the demands of a growing community. It was designated Truck 71. Staffing at the Fire Department had now reached 21 full time members and 5 part timers. The fire station at Dover and Hilliard Roads was enlarged with the addition of a third bay in 1974. Ample space was now provided for an additional pumper added in 1977, a Sutphen/Ford (1000/500). It was designated as Truck 72.



Fire station enlarged to 3-bays in 1974
Apparatus (l to r)
Truck 75 1980 GMC grass truck – Medic Unit Truck 74 1988 Pierce 1500/500
Truck 71 1972 Sutphen Tower - Truck 73 1978 Pierce/GMC Rescue/Utility
Truck 72 1977 Sutphen/Ford1000/500

Paramedic service was implemented in 1976 with the addition of a new medic unit. The Fire Department placed a specialized rescuetype vehicle in service in 1978. It was a Pierce on a GMC truck designated as Truck 73. In addition to carrying an assortment of tools, it also carried Purple-K and foam. In 1980 Robert Patton became Fire Chief. A Pierce Lance pumper (1500/500) was added in 1988. It was a 4- door model, the first for the Department, now providing enclosed riding space for all responders. The pumper was designated as Truck 74.



Truck 72 1990 Pierce Dash 1250/1000

Robert Anderson was appointed Fire Chief in 1989. He guided the expansion of the Department with the building of two new, identical fire stations in 1991 replacing the existing station. New apparatus added included a 1990 Pierce Lance aerial ladder (105-ft/1500/300) giving WFD a second ladder truck. A Pierce Dash pumper (1250/1000) was delivered in 1991.

On December 17, 1992 the Volunteer Fire Department, established in 1928, was officially disbanded. A new Sutphen Aerial Tower was acquired in 2002 (100ft/2000/300) to replace the original tower.



Truck 71 2002 Sutphen Aerial Tower

WFD is currently led by Chief James Hughes and Assistance Chief Michael Freeman. Line staff includes 42 fire fighters. Apparatus includes two 2008 KME 1500/500 pumpers; a 2002 Sutphen Tower (100ft/2000/300), a 2017 Pierce aerial (100ft/2000/300) and paramedic medical squads.



Truck 72 2017 Pierce Rear-mount Aerial



Hudson Fire and their 1947 Mack pumper

The Annual Bill and Ida Varnes Memorial Muster returned to Barlow Farm Park and was held on Sunday, September 8, 2019. There were over 15 rigs on display with close to 50 people in attendance. Hudson Fire Department and

several Fire Museum members came out with their apparatus to show their support. President Jim Bell, with the help of Museum member Dan Hayden, grilled the hamburgers and hot dogs to perfection. Attendees brought a dessert or side to share. It was

quite a nice spread. At 11:00 lunch was served followed by a special memorial service to honor Fallen Firefighters led by Jim Bell and Chief Jerry Varnes. After the service everyone proceeded to their rigs to take part in the parade around Hudson Square. Upon their return, the hand pumpers were set up at the pond so people could

take part in the pumping of rigs. It was a great day and the Fire Museum would like to thank Hudson for their support and to everyone who came out to make the event a success.



Ken Rybka's 1935 Mack pumper

#### Some of the sights at Barlow Farm Park







# SANTA PLANS A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM

By Joan Oliver



Word has just come down from the North Pole that Santa will be stopping by the Fire Museum again this year on Sunday, December 15, 2019 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm. Happily, Mrs. Claus was able to clear her schedule as well so she could join him. So, mark your calendars to come down and enjoy the festivities. Admittance to the Museum will be free on that day. There will be goodies for the kids with a chance to have their picture taken with Santa. Check our website for further details at www. wrfmc.com.



# LOCAL 93 HOLDS BLOOD DRIVE AT THE MUSEUM

Y JOAN OLIVER



The Western Reserve Fire Museum hosted Cleveland IAFF Local 93's William Walker Memorial Blood Drive Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 7:30am to 1:30 pm. Over 50 people came that day in honor of his memory to help ensure that blood is available whenever it is needed. The Red Cross and IAFF Local 93 appreciated the great turnout for such a good cause.

Cleveland Fire Lieutenant and Local 93 member, William Walker was ambushed and shot multiple times outside his home on the evening of November 3, 2013. He was rushed to the Metro Health Medical Center and blood was administered by ER staff. Despite the efforts of responding fellow firefighters, EMS paramedics, and ER staff, William sadly passed away from these injuries. This drive is held every year in honor of his memory.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, December 15, 2019 Cleveland, OH. Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center, 310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Santa Claus visit to the Fire Museum. 1:00 to 3:00pm. Info at www.wrfmc.com.
- Saturday, January 25, 2020 Cleveland, OH. Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center, 310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Fire Museum Annual Meeting. Note the change in day of meeting to Saturday evening. Begins at 6:00pm. See story on Page 2 of The Bugle. More info at www.wrfmc.com.
- Thursday Saturday, February 27 29, 2020 SPAAMFAA Winter Convention. Crowne Plaza Charleston Airport Convention Center, 4813 Tanger Outlet Blvd., N. Charleston, SC. Info at www. SPAAMFAA.ORG.
- Saturday, March 7, 2020 Annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market. Cleveland Fire Department Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Doors open at 8:00am. Info at www.wrfmc.com.

#### MORTON L. MANDEL

The members of the Fire Museum were saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Morton Mandel this past October. Mr. Mandel, with his brothers Jack and Joseph, were well known in the Cleveland community for their business acumen and their philanthropy. The Fire Museum was a recipient of their generosity and the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation provided much needed support for our building renovation. We join with many local organizations to remember Mr. Mandel and mourn the loss to our community.

# HAVE YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE FIRE MUSEUM

The Fire Museum is pleased to announce that we will begin hosting Birthday Parties starting January 1, 2020. Parties can be scheduled for either Saturday morning at 11:00am or Saturday afternoon at 2:00pm. They will include a one-hour session in the Education Wing where children can dress up in fire gear, play games and receive fire safety training. The second hour will be spent celebrating the birthday in the special party room adjacent to the Education Wing.

Because we can only host two a week, we are sure demand will be high and book up quickly. To reserve a date and for pricing details, contact the Fire Museum at 216.664.6312 or visit our website at www.wrfmc.com.

#### PAPER OR DIGITAL?

Would you like to receive your copy of **The Bugle** electronically? A fairly significant number of our readers have chosen that option. If you would like to change, it is as simple as 1-2-3! (1) Send an email to our Museum Administrator Joan Oliver at oliverj@wrfmc.com. (2) Confirm the email address where you would like **The Bugle** sent. (3) Watch for the first issue of **The Bugle** in 2020 in your inbox. It helps to keep our costs down and maybe save a tree or two.

#### **CFD TRIVIA**

By Paul Nelson

#### Q: When did CFD respond to a scheduled airliner plane crash?

#### A: May 24, 1938 when a United Air Lines DC-3 crashed near Schaaf Road.



The only scheduled airline disaster to occur since airplanes began flying into Cleveland Airport in 1925 occurred on May 24, 1938. A United Air Lines twin engine, 21-passenger, DC-3 Mainliner (DST-A-207A) from Newark to Chicago with a stop in Cleveland (Flight 9) caught fire in midair and crashed into a ravine 8.5-mi east of the airport. The pilot was familiar with the area and attempted to crash land in a field but the left wing caught trees on approach, broke off and crashed. The site was identified as West Creek Road near the intersection of the Independence, Brooklyn Heights and Seven Hills borders. The entry in CFD Battalion 9's journal (BC Thomas McManamon) stated the Mayor of Seven Hills identified the site as being in Seven Hills. The location was described as north of Rockside Road and Crossview Road.

The flight last reported to the Cleveland Municipal Airport at 10:07 pm being at 4,000-ft over Parkman (40-mi east of the airport) and ok, approaching the airport. It had left Newark at 7:41pm. The official report from the Department of Commerce stated that fire in the right engine accessory section resulted from failure of #3 barrel feed from the right engine oil supply. It was determined the failure occurred over Bedford before impact at 10:17pm.

The Alarm Office transmitted Box 4797 at 10:20pm (Schaaf Road at W. 11th Street) as nearest to the location given by phone. Independence Village Volunteer Fire Department also responded to the area after receiving calls. CFD response was E: 24 & 42; L: 5; RS 4; BN 9. Crews were unable to bring apparatus close to the scene due to impassable muddy roads. Companies carried extinguishers and tools to the scene, extinguishing the remaining fire and removing bodies. Independence Village Fire also worked at the scene and were credited with saving most of the mail on the plane.

Seven passengers and three crew members including a stewardess died in the accident from trauma and burns. The last CFD apparatus, Rescue Squad 2, left the scene at 2.59am on May 25, 1938.



# Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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The Fire Museum is looking for fire related photos, articles, artifacts from Cleveland and all of the Lands of the Western Reserve as we preserve area fire history.

# Thank you for your continued support



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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

lease remember us when making

your year end contributions

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#### The Bugle Staff:

Paul Nelson, Editor John Zangerle Layout by Joan Oliver X2Media

#### Fire Museum Directors:

- \* James Bell, President Duane F. Bishop, Jr. Johnny Brewington James F. Byrne
- \*Andrew Czarzasty, Esq. Owen Donelon Bryan Draga
- \* Dan Hayden Anjay Khandelwal, MD
- \*Raymond M. Kotecki
- \* Daniel Martone Timothy J. McGinty, Esq. Dean Murad Patricia Poole, Esq. Paul Sabataitis Elaine M. Straub Angela Timperio
- \*John A. Zangerle, Esq.
- \*Roy P. Ziganti, Jr.
- \*Members of Executive Committee

#### Fire Museum Officials:

Paul Nelson, Historian Joan Oliver, Administrator Robert Szabo, Education Director

Website: www.wrfmc.com