

THE BUGLE

Winter 2019

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 25, Number 1

A New Year...A New Exhibit Early fire fighting in Cuyahoga County

By Paul Nelson

During early strategic planning at the Museum, it was decided that exhibits on the apparatus floor would be changed periodically. That would give visitors the opportunity to see something new and a reason for a return visit to the Fire Museum. To date the Museum has had an exhibit recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the Cleveland Fire Department, A Fire Engine T Party (Model T fire engines) and From the Bucket Brigade to the Big Red Machines (early fire fighting history). One of the Museum's mission statements is to promote fire service history in the Lands of the Western Reserve. With that in mind, we chose to feature two departments that emerged in a rapidly growing 20th Century Cuyahoga County.



Paul Nelson photo

Fairview Village 1924 American LaFrance

The new exhibit is entitled **Sound the Alarm...Suburbs Respond to the Need for Fire Service.** The fire departments of Fairview Park and Parma will be featured, both established in 1924. On display will be the engines from both communities, firematic items, historical displays of the fire departments, the apparatus builders and community history.



Parma FD photo

Parma 1924 Ahrens-Fox

The Fairview Park engine is the Village's original engine in original condition. It is now owned by Museum member Steve Hildebrandt and was driven to the Museum for the exhibit. The Parma engine is the second fire engine acquired by Parma. It was reacquired by Parma fire fighters who undertook a complete restoration of the pump. It also was driven to the Museum for the exhibit.

The other main component of the exhibit will feature an early fire department in Cuyahoga County that merged into the Cleveland Fire Department. The Village of Collinwood established a fire department in 1905 as the community grew. It would face its biggest challenge in 1908 at the tragic Collinwood School fire. The exhibit will describe the fire and the historical background of the community. A horse-drawn, gasoline-powered engine, similar to the engine used by the Collinwood Fire Department, will be on display. Adjacent to each major exhibit component will be a video on the community's history. (Continued on page 2, see Exhibit)

President's Log

Greetings from the Fire Museum. I hope you are well and enjoyed a very special and meaningful holiday season. The Museum is humming along with activities, some of which you will read about in this issue of The Bugle. The biggest news is the installation of our fire protection system. The Museum has been closed since late December in order to install a fire sprinkler system throughout the building. This is a big step towards completing the second floor and being able to host events and ceremonies. We anticipate completion of the sprinkler system installation by the end of February. While we have been closed, we have been putting the final touches on our 2019 Exhibit. For the upcoming year, the Museum is highlighting suburban fire departments here in the Lands of the Western Reserve. Watch our website www.wrfmc.com for the announcement of our reopening. Likewise, we will schedule our Annual Membership Meeting once we get open.

In other news, the Museum has lost the lease on our storage warehouse on W. 3rd Street. The Executive Committee is diligently looking for new accommodations and have identified two or three facilities that would suit our needs. We need to vacate our present building very soon. If you get a call requesting help, please be ready to jump in!

(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.

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Exhibit

(Continued from page 1)



Cuyahoga County in 1808

Other items will be on display in the Jack and Lilyan Mandel Gallery to complete the fire fighting history story. Story boards will trace the development of Cuyahoga County from 1803, the annexations of communities by Cleveland, information on the current fire departments in Cuyahoga County and selected fire department histories of departments that no longer exist. The interactive fire safety area adjacent to the gallery will be open with some new components to add to the regular items.

The Fire Museum will reopen on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 with its regular schedule of Wednesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm. On Sunday March 24, 2019 a special program will be held at 1:00pm officially opening the 2019 exhibit season. Representatives will be on hand from the featured communities participating in special events. The Museum Annual Meeting which was originally scheduled to be held in conjunction with the opening of the 2019 Exhibit will now be held later this spring. The new date will be announced shortly.

Log

(Continued from page 1)

The Executive Committee conducted election of officers at our last meeting. The officers remain unchanged for this year: Dan Martone – Vice President, Ray Kotecki, - Treasurer and Andrew Czarzasty, Esq. – Secretary.

As always, we need volunteers to help at the Museum. Please consider donating your time and your talent, even just once a month. You can contact me at firebell58@yahoo.com or through the Museum website at www.wrfmc.com.

Take care.

Jim

Guardian Mile Run 2019

The Fire Museum will be partnering with the organizers of the Guardian Mile Run again this year. The 1-mile run starts at the western end of the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge and ends right in front of the Fire Museum. The purpose of the run is to raise awareness about making healthy lifestyle choices and eating healthy foods. This year the organizers are looking to add a special division made up of fire fighters, police officers and first responders. So, lace up those running shoes and start training! The race is scheduled for Saturday, August 17, 2019. Watch for more details as this event approaches.

Memorial Paver Update

The next installation of new memorial pavers in front of the Fire Museum is scheduled for early April after the weather improves. Orders are now being accepted for inclusion at that time. Pavers are available at \$250.00 and at \$200.00 for Museum members. There is more information on the website at www.wrfmc.com about the pavers and forms to assist you in creating the content of the inscription. Additional assistance can be obtained by contacting Joan Oliver at oliverj@wrfmc.com or at 216.664.6312. The memorial pavers offer a great opportunity to remember relatives and friends.

Members Respond to Capital Campaign

By John Zangerle

In November of 2018 the Fire Museum started a year-end appeal to support its Capital Campaign. Our President, Jim Bell, issued a challenge to members that he would match up to \$2000.00 of contributions. Jim's challenge was quickly accepted and members contributed in amounts ranging from \$10.00 to \$10,000.00 at year-end. In all, sixty members made special Capital contributions to the Museum totaling \$33,140.00.

Our year-end Capital Campaign was extremely important this year because we are moving forward with the installation of the sprinkler system throughout the building. Without the extra contributions, we would not have had enough financial reserves to complete the sprinkler system and other work associated with the system.

A special and heartfelt thank you goes out to all of those who made contributions of any size supporting our Capital Campaign. Without your financial support this major step forward would not be possible. With the sprinkler system installed, we can look forward to completing work on the second floor restrooms and dormitory.



Save the Date for Luau 2.0 Sunday May 19, 2019 Annual Fire Museum Fund Raiser

By John Zangerle



Paul Nelson photo

Audience participation at last year's Luau

Are you ready for a party? Last year's fundraising Luau turned out to be a great party and it is being brought back by popular request. This year's Luau will take place Sunday, May 19, from 3:00 to 7:00pm at Lago Custom Events on the East Bank of the Flats. This year's Luau will be catered by Lago Restaurant and will include the conventional pig roast plus plenty of Hawaiian themed side dishes. Valet parking will be available.

Our new venue will allow us to hold the Luau under a large tent with great views of Lake Erie shoreline. In the event of inclement weather the festivities maybe moved inside. Our outside venue will allow us to have corn hole games and other outside activities.

Also planned are games of chance and a DJ as well as Hawaiian dancers. We will again have a great collection of baskets to win as Chinese auction prizes. In addition, we will have some special live auction items such as Browns' and Indians' tickets. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. This year we are offering a special incentive to those who purchase tickets by April 1 at \$85.00 per couple, \$45.00 per individual. After April 1, the standard ticket price will be \$95.00 per couple and \$50.00 per individual ticket. Tickets can be purchased online through the Museum's website, or picked up at the Museum by arrangement with Joan Oliver. Contact her at oliverj@wrfmc.com.



Lago photo

Venue at Lago Custom Events

Fire Safety Notes

By Bob Szabo

With the Fire Museum currently closed as exhibits are changed...there is no shut down as far as fire safety education is concerned. The holiday season is now behind us and with the start of a new year, the Education Center of the Western Reserve Fire Museum would like to remind everyone about safety in your homes when it comes to heating choices.

- Make sure your furnace is functioning properly and, if it needs to be serviced, contact an HVAC professional. Also, be sure to check the filters.
- Never use the oven as a heat source for a room.
- If you use space heaters, do not leave them unattended. Leave plenty of clearance space around the entire 360 degrees of the unit.
- Kerosene heaters may have inherent problems. They are not a recommended heating source for inside your house.
- Because carbon dioxide (CO) gas is a byproduct of some heating sources, be sure you have a CO detector in the house...and check the battery.

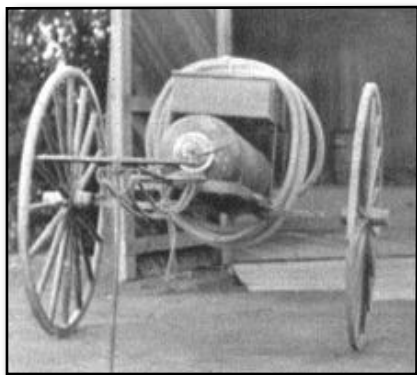
Last month the Museum's Education center had a PSA (Public Safety Announcement) filmed right here in the Fire Museum. It focused on fire safety during the holiday season especially Christmas tree safety and holiday lighting.

The museum plans to have monthly PSA's with fire safety tips that are pertinent to the specific month of the year.

Cleveland's First Chemical Engine

By Paul Nelson

The use of chemical extinguishers for fire suppression began about 1860 having been invented in France. It began to be seen in the US in the early 1870's and became quite common by the mid-1880's. The system consisted of a tank of water into which sodium bicarbonate powder was inserted. Tanks usually were 80-gallons in size. A charge of sulfuric acid was added to the tank when it was needed for a fire. The tank had a paddle inside connected to a wheel on the outside that was vigorously turned to start the chemical reaction in the tank. A large amount of carbon dioxide gas was created by the chemical reaction that served as the propellant for a stream of water. It was sent through a $\frac{3}{4}$ or 1-in rubber hose, directed at a fire. The fire was extinguished by the water (not the CO₂). Streams would reach 75-feet on average.



Typical chemical engine

When the tank was emptied, a recharge was necessary along with replacement water. Extra bags of bicarbonate were carried along with extra charges of sulfuric acid to repeat the process. It could extinguish a small fire, or, as envisioned, keep the fire in check until the steamer arrived and deployed significant water.

Chemical fire engines were either 2-wheel or 4-wheel wagon style and could be hand-drawn or horse drawn. In 1874 Chief Fire Engineer John A. Bennett decided Cleveland needed to examine the technology. He invited builders to send an engine to Cleveland for a demonstration. Babcock, Champion and Steiner sent engines for the test.



Hall of Flame Museum photo

1874 Steiner Chemical Engine

The test was held on Public Square on August 5, 1874 with the Chief, the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of City Council in attendance. All three engines performed well delivering streams of 50 to 75-feet. All were impressed but no decision was made to buy an engine.

The builders picked up their engines, that is everyone except Steiner. He never returned to Cleveland. Chief Bennett placed it in Station No. 10 for safe keeping expecting Steiner to return in the near future.

He did not. The engine remained in Station 10. In June 1875 the steamer at Engine 11 needed to be sent to Silsby for repair. Chief Bennet sent Engine 10 to Engine 11 and placed the Steiner in service as Engine 10 as no spare steamers were available. The Steiner had become CFD property by default. The area around Station 10 was still quite rural and the chemical engine could serve the need.

In December all the steamers returned to service. The Steiner went back into storage. It was not until March 8, 1882 that Fire Chief James Dickinson decided to use the Steiner in regular service. It had been sent to Waterous for refurbishing. It went into service as "Chemical Engine" at Station 2, manned by members of Engine 2 to respond with them on fire calls. It remained in service until November 7, 1885.

Two new chemical engines were acquired from Babcock. One became Chemical A at Station 2, manned by Engine, and the other at Hook & Ladder 5, manned by the truck. Chemical fire engine service would continue until 1913.



CFD Archives

1885 CFD Babcock (80-gal)

The Steiner Chemical Engine was unlike others. Steiner obtained a patent in 1872 providing additional equipment on the engine than other builders. His engine had a separate 80-gallon water tank that could refill the chemical tank when expended. It had a small pump to accomplish the task. He apparently never built another engine. The reason is not known.

Disposition of the Steiner is unknown as it disappeared from the roster after 1885. Fast forward...it now resides at the Hall of Flame Fire Museum in Phoenix. It is not exactly clear how it got there.



Hall of Flame Museum photo

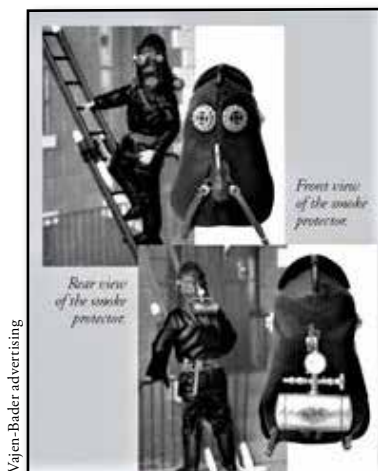
1874 Steiner Chemical Engine

A few facts are known. It was acquired by a private individual in Euclid at some time. It was then acquired by a private collector in Arizona about 1950. It was acquired by the owner of the Museum in the 60's and was restored. It is on display at the Museum. It is the only known horse-drawn CFD apparatus to still exist.

The Vajen Smoke Helmet

An early self-contained breathing apparatus

By Paul Nelson



Vajen-Bader advertising

Vajen Helmet in use

While researching Akron fire history, Akron fire fighter/historian Doug King came across a bill of materials supplied by Pirsch for a 1920 city service ladder truck. The truck was a 3-ton White, No. 173, TCD-3. Pirsch supplied all the equipment for the truck. A total of 276-feet of ladders (8 ladders) including a 50-ft ladder and a 30-ft straight ladder. A large complement of truck tools (axes, ropes, cellar pipes, door opener, etc.). The very last item of a 32 item list was most interesting...1-Vejan Smoke Mask. The ladder truck was destined for Truck Co. No. 2 at Station No. 5 on Buchtel Avenue.

It is not known if it was a request by Akron or a standard package supplied by Pirsch for truck builders like White selling finished fire trucks. How often it was used is also not known. In reading newspaper stories of Akron fires, it was never mentioned. It is also unknown if Akron had additional Vejan Smoke Helmets.

No mention of the Vejan helmet in Cleveland. The Cleveland masks were Daiger, McCaa and Burell. The Moran Garrett helmet used in the water tunnel incidents was not used on a regular basis by CFD. That helmet looked similar except its air source was at ground level connecting to the helmet by a long hose.

The helmet was invented by Bader in 1891 who patented it as a "Firemen's Smoke Protector." In 1893 Vajen bought half interest in the helmet project. He modified it, obtaining a new patent and opened a factory in Richmond, Indiana. Over the years the name changed to Vajen-Bader Smoke helmet and the factory moved to Indianapolis. It also was used in the commercial market, especially in the mining industry. It continued to be sold into the late 20's. It was featured in several Fire Engineering articles.



Vajen-Bader advertising

The helmet was a double level affair, exterior fabricated with leather and the interior made of absorbent material. The bottom had weights to hold it down on the shoulder. The top was reinforced. Breathing air was contained in a cylinder mounted on the back of the helmet. It was filled with fresh air at ambient temperature and pressure by means of a hand pump (bicycle pump). The helmet and pump were contained in a wooden case with a flip top for carrying on the truck.

It was a fairly simple device to use. The cylinder valve was opened that allowed air to flow through a supply tube to the nostril area. The foul air was forced out under the hood by breathing and the incoming fresh air. The eye windows were made of mica. In later models each had a little "windshield wiper" turned by a small exterior knob. There were small openings near the ears to hear anything. The gauge on the cylinder indicated amount of air remaining. Duration of use was listed from 20 to 60 minutes probably depending on the cylinder size. Advertising indicated that the cylinder could be refilled in two minutes using the pump. Obviously if the wearer was in a smoke-filled room, replenishment would have to be accomplished outside. Total weight was 6-pounds.



AFD Archives/D. King

Akron Truck No. 2 1920 White

The Akron city service ladder replaced a 1908 Seagrave 65-ft aerial ladder motorized with a 1913 4-wheel Couple-Gear battery and motor tractor. It had a 35-gal chemical tank, typical of all Akron apparatus. AFD had chemical tanks on all hose wagons and all triple combination pumpers. Fire Chief Mertz was a strong supporter of chemical streams for fire suppression. He stated that over 60% of all fires could be extinguished in that manner. The ladder truck was used until 1927 when it was totaled in a motor vehicle accident.

White supplied Akron with a stand-alone chemical engine, two chemical/hose wagons and a triple combination pumper in addition to the city service ladder truck.

Visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus

By Joan Oliver



Joan Oliver photos

On Saturday, December 15, 2018 Santa Claus came down from the North Pole to make a special stop at the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center and, as a special treat, Mrs. Claus was able to accompany him on this visit. They were given an official escort to the Fire Museum by retired Cleveland firefighter, John Heiman, on a Simon Duplex/LTI aerial ladder fire truck on loan from Shaker Heights Fire Department. Families with small children stood inside the front doors anxiously awaiting their arrival. Santa took a moment out to greet several of the children on his way inside the building.

Once inside the Museum, each child was given the opportunity to visit and tell him all about their Christmas wishes. They were also given a small gift and had an official picture taken with Santa. There were cookies and punch for families to enjoy. Education Director, Bob Szabo, was on hand to pass out holiday fire safety materials and answer questions. On his way out, Santa said he would definitely stop by again next year to visit with all the children. So, keep your eyes posted and mark your calendars.



Santa visiting with some of the children

WRFMC/CAV'S NIGHT 2019



The Western Reserve Fire Museum has partnered with the Cleveland Cavaliers for a special promotion night on Tuesday, March 26. The night is called Firefighter's Rescue Night and is sponsored by Jack Daniel's Distillery. The Cav's and the Fire Museum are planning joint activities to promote Jack Daniel's newest whiskey, labeled Tennessee Fire. The Museum will be sending out further information and we hope you will come to the game and support your Cleveland Cavaliers and the Fire Museum. The Museum will have fire safety education activities, take-home safety information and photo opportunities for kids and adults. This event will result in a monetary donation to the Museum and an evening of fun for our members and friends. Come join us!

Calendar of Events

- **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.
- **Sunday, March 24, 2019** – Cleveland, OH. Museum Annual Meeting and Opening of 2019 Exhibit. Special program at 1:00pm with participants from communities featured in the exhibit. Annual Meeting follows. Info at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Tuesday, March 26, 2019** – Cleveland, OH. Cleveland Cavaliers First Responder promotion at game. Fire Museum will have a table exhibit at the Q. Info at Museum website 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.
- **Saturday, April 27, 2019** – Jackson, MI, GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI. Info at www.gliafaa.com.
- **Sunday, May 19, 2019** – Annual Fire Museum Fundraiser event. Hawaiian Luau at Lago Custom Events, East Bank Downtown Cleveland 1111 W. 10th St. Discount tickets now available.
- **Sunday, May 26** – Annual Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Staging begins at 7:30am. Ride starts earlier this year at 10:00am. Fire Museum needs volunteers to help in food tent beginning at 6:30 am. Done before noon. Leave name and number at www.wrfmc.com or 216.664.6312. Ride info at www.firefightersmemorialride.com.



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



CFD Trivia

By Paul Nelson

Q: How was Foam Truck No. 1 used?

A: On special alarm calls.

Following the end of World War II and disbanding of the Civil Defense Auxiliary Fire Department, CFD took possession of the most usable auxiliary fire trucks for various purposes. Some were converted to delivery trucks or CFD shop trucks. One was converted to a spare engine used by Fire Prevention for education purposes. A few wound up in other City departments used as general trucks.

CFD converted a pumper (1940 Chevrolet COE) into a foam tower truck removing the front mount pump. It carried a 50-ft tower that could be placed over the top of a gasoline storage tank. It also carried foam generators and multiple foam cans.

On January 23, 1963 Box 4241 was sounded at 10:29am for a gasoline truck burning after an accident at Independence Road and Fleet Avenue. 1,200 gallons of flaming gasoline was cascading down the street with exposures. A special alarm was sounded for 5 engines, 1-ladder and Foam Truck 1 (from Station 13, manned by Engine 13).



CFD Archives

Foam Truck No. 1 1940 Chevrolet COE

Initial attack was made to control the burning flow. On arrival the Foam Truck set up 2 2½-in. lines from two foam generators; 1 1½-in. line from 60-gal foam pipe flowing 3% foam @ 325gpm; and, 2 2½-in. lines fog lines sprayed on fire fighters advancing foam lines. Estimated 12,150-gal water supplied for foam concentrate. Used 20 cans of 3% liquid foam and 60 cans of foam powder. The fire was contained to the flowing gasoline in the street with no extension to exposures.

**Western Reserve Fire Museum
at Cleveland, Inc.**

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**SAVE THE DATE...SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019
ANNUAL FIRE MUSEUM FUNDRAISER
HAWAIIAN LUAU AT LAGO CUSTOM EVENTS
EAST BANK DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND
EARLY DISCOUNT TICKETS AVAILABLE**



Paul Nelson photo

Annual Firematic Flea Market

The annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy located at 3101 Lakeside Avenue. Doors open at 8:00am with coffee and donuts available for earlybirds. Lunchtime offers hot dogs or Firehouse Subs. Great opportunity to add a few items for your collection and a chance to visit with old friends. A \$3.00 donation at the door lets you in and out all day. Wraps up about 1:00pm.

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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