



THE BUGLE



Winter 2020

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 26, Number 1

LANTERN NIGHT SHINES LIGHT ON ANNUAL MEETING

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

The Fire Museum traditionally holds its Annual Meeting on a Sunday afternoon at the end of January. Last year, there was no meeting because the building was closed for the fire sprinkler system installation. This year it was decided to try a new twist by having the annual meeting on a Saturday evening and promoting it with the theme of Lantern Night. Bob Gahr, Jim Bell, and John Zangerle brought their personal antique fire lanterns to the Fire Museum, but no one could compete with member Steve Hildebrandt who is an avid lantern collector. Steve brought more than a dozen beautiful working antique lanterns including many that had “split globes” with red, green, or blue on top and a clear bottom. These were used to signify different officers or companies before the days of radio.

Most impressive was Steve’s four-sided engine lamp which would have been mounted on top of a very early hand or horse drawn fire engine. Its colored etched glass was truly beautiful when lit. With the lights out and the lanterns lit, the main apparatus bays took on a completely different atmosphere bringing to mind firefighting in the 1800s. The lanterns also produced an authentic haze and smell. (The smoke detectors did not activate.)



Paul Nelson Photos

One of the “split globe” lanterns hung on the Waterous engine

While the lanterns flickered in the main exhibit area, the Annual Meeting was held in the Education Wing. The assembled thirty-three members were provided with a full financial update by Fire Museum Treasurer, Ray Kotecki. Dan Hayden reported on the latest funeral caisson activities and Paul Nelson gave a report on historical projects and the Bugle. Continued on Page 2 (Please see MEETING)

PRESIDENT'S LOG FEBRUARY 2020

BY JIM BELL

The year 2019 has come to a close and I would like to recap the activities the Fire Museum has been involved in. Although the Fire Museum was closed for the first five months of 2019, we continued to be involved in many activities. Our single biggest activity during early 2019 was moving out of our storage facility on W. 3rd Street. The landlord canceled our lease, forcing us to find a new storage facility. Thankfully, we found a warehouse on St. Clair Avenue in Collinwood. However, we had to cull our collection so we could shoehorn our artifacts from an area that took up 4500-square feet, into an area of about 1500-square feet. The move-out and transition was accomplished by May.

In March we held our 35th Annual Firematic Flea Market. Started by volunteer Bob Gahr back in 1984, this event kicks off the fire flea market season all across America. From there the Fire Museum partnered with the Cleveland Cavaliers to video a fire safety message that was projected from the giant screen/scoreboard. We closed out March with another partnership with the Cavaliers. The Cav’s honored three Cleveland Fire Dept. female firefighters who are close to retiring, plus a recent female cadet who is starting her career.

April and May were equally busy months for our organization. In early April, the Fire Museum received a donation from the Shaker Heights Fire Department of a 1991 Simon Duplex/LTI 75ft. aerial. This truck will be used to enhance our marketing and promotion. The big event was our luau fundraiser at Lago Restaurant. Despite the rainy, windy weather, we had a very successful event that raised much needed funds for the Fire Museum. Continued on Page 2 (Please 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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www.wrfmc.com

MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)



The meeting concluded with President Jim Bell's summary of the many activities of the Museum in 2019 and a preview of planned events for 2020.

As is our Annual Meeting tradition, the attendees were very well fed. Museum Members brought appetizers and desserts, but most appreciated was the delicious pasta and meatballs donated by Lago Restaurant, courtesy of member Andrew Czarzasty. The leftovers fed our very happy volunteers the following week.

The meeting was a great opportunity to talk to friends and fellow members. The evening concluded with several videos of turn of the century firefighting. We look forward to seeing you at our next activity.



Lanterns and Information at the Annual Meeting

LOG

(Continued from Page 1)

Thank you to Andrew Czarzasty, and the luau committee, for their dedicated help. At the end of May we participated in the CFD Fallen Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Rally. Again, we were met with bad weather conditions, but our volunteers prevailed. Despite rain and wind, we sold food and beverages to the intrepid riders who came out to support the monument and the Fire Museum.

In June and July, we participated in the Tunnels2Towers stair climb, CFD cadet class visit to the Fire Museum, Safety Day at the Zoo, MLB All-Star Game (complete with WKYC-TV broadcasting from our roof), and Grandparent's Day at Luke Easter Park.

August and September included the Guardian Mile Run across the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge, CFD cadet class graduation, our annual muster in Hudson, and the Blue Streak Ensemble musical presentation in the Fire Museum.

October and November included our free, open house kick-off to Fire Prevention Month on Sunday October 6, our Volunteer Recognition picnic, and our participation with CFD during their United Way/Charity Giving week.

Our year concluded with our Santa and Mrs. Claus visit in mid-December, and Public Education Director Bob Szabo providing Fire Safety merit badge training to Boy Scouts from across northeast Ohio.

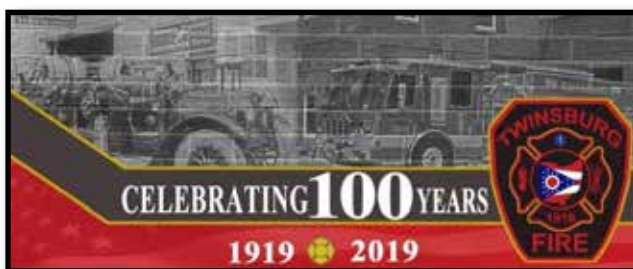
Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize our Caisson Crew. Headed up by Capt. Dan Hayden (retired, CFD), the Fire Museum provided final transportation for sixteen Brothers and Sisters who passed away during the course of 2019.

All of these activities were accomplished on top of the Fire Museum being open four days a week. Our volunteers rock! You too could be a part of all of this.

Come join our team. Be a part of the fun and excitement. You'll love it. Jim Bell

TWINSBURG FIRE CELEBRATES THEIR 100TH

BY PAUL NELSON



Congratulations to Twinsburg Fire that has served the City and Township in northern Summit County for 100 years. The area was one of the original townships of Summit County when it was created in 1840.

First apparatus for the department was a 2-wheel chemical extinguisher that was towed behind any available volunteer's car. Twinsburg will be one of the fire departments featured in the next Fire Museum exhibit that will be open in the fall this year. It will be part of our on-going series on the growth of suburban fire departments.

AN AFTERNOON WITH SANTA

BY JOAN OLIVER

It was a beautiful winter's day, when Santa arrived at the Fire Museum on Sunday, December 15, 2019 via special firefighter escort on Engine 28 with lights flashing and sirens blaring. Families lined up in front of the Museum to wave and cheer him in. Children's faces lit up with smiles as he shook their hands and greeted them, making his way through the Fire Museum to the special reception area.

Once inside, families lined up for their visit and to give him all their special Christmas wishes after Mrs. Claus checked her naughty and nice list to make sure they had been good this past year. Each child was given a little gift and the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There were cookies and other scrumptious treats available for families to enjoy while they were waiting and looking around.

Education Director Bob Szabo, along with volunteer Larry Gordon were on hand to pass out holiday fire safety materials and answer any questions families might have on fire safety. Children could try out the Safety Bedroom and practice what to do to make it out of the house safely should fire break out. There was a play area where they could dress up in turn-out gear, sit behind the wheel of a miniature fire truck, play with toys or color pictures. The exhibit gallery was open for the parents and older children so they could walk around and explore apparatus and displays on firefighting history.

Once the afternoon was over, Santa said he would definitely stop by again next year to visit with all the wonderful children, so mark your calendars for next year's visit.



Joan Oliver Photos

Hi there !...Have you been good this year ?



Wow! Did you all come to see me??



Bob Szabo and Larry Gordon talk about fire safety



This beats my sled

COME TO THE FLEA MARKET

It must be Spring...firematic items come out of hibernation and wend their way to the 36th Annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market. It is a regular event just like the buzzards returning to Hinkley every Spring. It began at the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Station, then moved to the Cleveland Fire Training Academy at 3101 Lakeside Avenue. Doors open at 8:00am. There will be a wide variety of antique and modern fire memorabilia, books, photos, patches and toys as well as collectables and apparel. If you have some choice items you would like to dispose of, bring them along. Our vendors/collectors are always looking for choice things and often are willing to buy or swap.

For the early arrivals, there will be coffee and donuts available for purchase. At lunchtime, Fire Museum gourmet hot dogs can be found along with genuine Firehouse Subs.

If you do not need anything new, or have anything to relinquish, come on by anyway and see some of your friends you have not seen since last year.



Paul Nelson photo

I like that...how much ?

TIME TO SPRING INTO FIRE SAFETY

BY BOB SZABO

“In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.” Mark Twain

You cannot stop April showers, or spring storms, but you can prepare your home and surroundings for severe weather and more. Spring is famous for rapidly changing weather and that can mean severe winds, rain and damage. Help get your home and family ready with these tips:



- Clean garage of rubbish and stored items that can fuel a fire.
- Test and clean your smoke alarms.
- Replace batteries if needed with brand new batteries.
- Keep outdoor vegetation, tree limbs and debris away from the house.



- Gasoline for lawn equipment should be stored in small amounts, in proper containers and stored in a shed or detached garage.
- Gasoline should be used as a fuel only, not a cleaning agent.
- Go indoors during a storm.
- Stay away from downed wires of any kind.
- Have an emergency kit ready in case of power outages. Flashlight with good batteries, first aid kit, supply of water and food and a charged cell phone.

FIRE MUSEUM RENOVATION UPDATE

BY JIM BELL

As most of you know, in early 2019 the Fire Museum was able to get a fire sprinkler system installed throughout the building. This was a monumental task that took almost five months to complete. However, this was a necessary step towards completing the renovation of the building.

In consultation with our resident expert (and retired CFD member) Mark Bauman, we have a schedule of projects to complete. Next on the “to-do” list is getting inspections from the City of Cleveland. After their approvals, work can be done to close up the walls and ceiling in the upstairs restrooms. Simultaneously, we need to install ductwork for future HVAC in the entrance lobby and family restroom on the first floor. The electrical contractor will be working on installing a sub-panel in the storage room on the second floor.

As the work above is being completed, we have other jobs that need attention. The window sills upstairs need to be replaced. For that we need someone good at cutting and polishing slabs of marble. The walls of the dormitory need to be spackled and painted, and the ceiling plaster molding needs repaired to its original splendor. If you know anyone who is skilled in these trades and is willing to help us, please call the Museum at 216-664-6312.



Paul Nelson Photo

Regular volunteer Kenny Jordan at work

MEET A NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Fire Museum welcomes Cleveland Fire Lieutenant Dean Murad on becoming a member of our Board of Directors. Dean is no stranger to Fire Museum activities as he often serves as a driver for the Funeral Caisson and has been a volunteer for Museum construction projects. Some of those projects go back to 2003 when we first began demolition at 310 Carnegie Avenue.

He is a 31-year veteran of CFD assigned to Ladder 30. Dean serves as Ceremonial Officer for CFD, a member of the CFD Honor Guard for 21 years and Vice President of the CFD Memorial Committee. He also is Adjutant for the Sons of American Legion Firefighters Squadron No. 339. We look forward to his expertise and insight for the many ongoing projects at the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center.



CFD Lt. Dean Murad, Ladder 30

THE EARLY DAYS OF STATION NO. 4

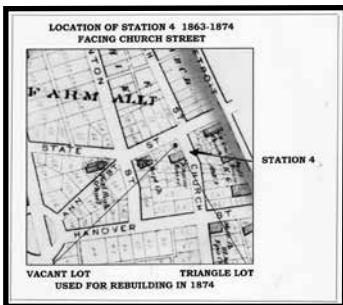
BY PAUL NELSON

For those of us who delve into fire history, new reference material shows up in the strangest places. It is known that CFD Station No. 4 when opened was the former quarters of the Volunteer's Hand Engine Washington No. 9. The firehouse was on Church Street, a short distance from State (W. 29th) Street, opening onto Church Street. Its position was known by plat maps but a photo of it has not been found.

In looking through "sold" items about Cleveland on Ebay, a stereo optic photo card (a pair of photos that when viewed through a viewer would give a 3-D image) was found showing a steam fire engine. The name on the frame was partially obscured but on closer examination it was JOHN MARTIN. That would make it the 1873 Silsby steamer of Engine 4. The fire station was not the familiar Station No. 4 on State Street that still stands today. It was a partial view of the original Station 4. Two new pieces of information on Cleveland fire history. An image of old No. 4 and a photo of a Cleveland steamer that previously did not exist.

It would have been nice to have the original for our collection, being able to make a copy of it for historical record purposes, was equally important. Thanks to an unknown collector who paid a very expensive price to save a piece of Cleveland history.

And, now the rest of the story. It begins in Ohio City, that part of Cleveland's west side today, that prior to 1854 was a separate city. Ohio City started a volunteer fire department in 1836. It is believed their firehouse was located at Detroit and Pearl (W. 25th) Streets. Another station was built there in 1843 followed by one at Detroit and Wall Streets in 1847. In 1854 Ohio City became part of Cleveland and the fire company became Washington No. 9 of Cleveland. In 1857 the old fire station lot on Detroit Street was sold for \$1,000 and a new fire station built on Church Street for \$1,062. It was a 2-story, 2 bay brick station to house the hand engine and a hose reel. Their engine was a 22-manpower, 2d class 1854 Button engine. The second floor was used as a meeting room.



With the establishment of the paid Cleveland Steam Fire Department (its official name for 10 years), Volunteer No. 9 disbanded on April 21, 1863. Its 1859 Button, 32-manpower 1st class hand engine that previously was that of Red Jacket No. 6 became Cleveland property. When the fourth steam fire engine arrived in Cleveland, it was placed in service in the Washington No. 9 firehouse.

Interior alterations were made for housing of the horses, but the 2-bay station was perfect for the steamer and its hose carriage when placed in service on May 23rd



1873 Silsby 600gpm in front of old No. 4

The station was renovated for \$1,000 in 1865, a new roof added for \$600 in 1866 and additional renovation in 1868 to accommodate a newly established Hook and Ladder Co. No. 2. It was placed in service on September 9, 1868.

Not much can be seen of old No. 4. One of the bay doors was solid, the other had windows. The façade looked quite simple. A single gas light can be seen above the left bay door.

By 1874 it was determined the structure needed to be enlarged to accommodate the new, larger steam engine, two hose reels of the engine, the ladder truck, an exercise wagon and seven horses. Renowned Cleveland architect Walter Blythe was hired to design a new fire station. The City acquired the lot at the corner of Church and State Streets for \$6,000. The new station would face State Street. Much of the existing station would be incorporated in the new one.

City Council authorized the expenditure of funds on February 17, 1874. The lot was acquired on March 20, 1874, the new station was occupied on October 10, 1874. Total cost was \$21,000. With the exception of changes in the apparatus bay doors, it remained virtually unchanged for 105 years.



Station No. 4 in 1898

Two versions of the 1874 building



Station No. 4 in 1976

A tornado ripped through the west side in 1969 causing some damage to Station No. 4. It was decided to "modernize" the exterior and lower the roof line. That appearance remained until 1976 when Station 4 closed and companies moved to Lorain Avenue. It remained vacant for awhile, then it had several owners using it for offices and today has emerged as a coffee house and professional offices.

The 1873 Silsby steamer was larger than earlier Silsbys weighing 7,500-lbs. It was the last year Silsby built straight-frame apparatus changing to crane-neck frames in 1874. It was the last steamer in Cleveland to be named in honor of a local dignitary. The engine was used by Engine 4 until 1898, to Engine 24 in 1898 and to Engine 26 when the company was established in 1898.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

BY PAUL NELSON

The Executive Committee of the Fire Museum Board of Directors is currently evaluating the contents and outreach of our quarterly publication *The Bugle*. It serves as a traditional newsletter providing among other things information on up-coming Museum events and activities, on events that have occurred, information about members and articles on fire history. Your opinion, our readers, is extremely important as we seek your input on its make-up and appearance. Would you take a few minutes and tell us what you think. And, how can you do that?

Our survey response has three options. For those of you who receive *The Bugle* electronically, there will be instructions and a direct link to the survey on the cover sheet of the email. In the survey there are three opinion questions to check off and three other questions where you can provide specific information. In the printed and mailed version of *The Bugle*, you may find a pre-paid reply postcard. Our printer/mailer will make a random and scientific selection of names on our mailing list for that insert. If you find a card, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and reply. And finally, we do not want to offend those who do not fall into either category. You can write down a few comments the

old fashioned way and mail it to the Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-2816. Whatever works out best, your thoughts are important as we strive to make your *Bugle* appealing, interesting and useful.

This issue begins Volume 26. *The Bugle* began in 1994 when the organization was still known as the Western Reserve Fire Buffs Foundation. The first issues were a couple of pages that were xeroxed and mailed to members. A few photos were cut and pasted with copy and it got a little larger. It has gone through many variations over the years including our own manually printing, collating stapling, sorting and mailing. As our newsletter outreach has increased, that became an impossible task. Today we have the final product professionally laid out and printed after it is created, but its origin still rests with volunteers as it has for 26 volumes. Our current budget restricts *The Bugle* to an eight-page self-mailer with seven pages of copy and a mailing page.

We hope you will take a few minutes to help us make *The Bugle* the best it can be.

FIRE HISTORY TIDBITS

BY PAUL NELSON



Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society Photo

Cuyahoga Falls volunteers with 1837 ladder

Cuyahoga Falls formed one of the earliest fire departments in Northeast Ohio with a volunteer hook and ladder company in 1837. That would be before the present Summit County was created in 1840, splitting off from Portage County. It is believed that Canton had the first organized volunteer fire department in 1824. Cleveland formed a group of volunteers in 1828 and built a firehouse on Superior Hill in 1829. Newton Falls established a volunteer fire department in 1839 and acquired a small hand engine. That engine is presently on display at our Fire Museum.

Akron established a volunteer fire company in 1840 on the northside of "The Gore" and were known as North Akron Fire Co. No. 1. They acquired a "coffee grinder" type hand engine and built a firehouse in 1841. Hudson established a fire department in 1859 and acquired a Button & Blake hand engine. That engine still exists and is housed in the Hudson Fire Museum.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENDS ON A STRONG NOTE

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

The Fire Museum Board of Directors wishes to thank the many members who responded to our year-end appeal and made contributions to our Capital Campaign. At year-end we made an appeal for contributions over and above our members' dues and we received a remarkable response. In November, we received more than \$8,000 and in December more than \$25,000 was contributed. While these amounts include \$2,000 from the Mandel Foundation, the rest of the money came from individual members, friends, and Board members in amounts large and small.

These contributions are invaluable because our dues, admissions, and payroll deduction programs do not generate enough money to pay for our operating costs plus the ongoing construction expenses. For example, we have encountered a costly and unanticipated repair to our elevator and another unplanned expense to repair our boiler has strained the budget. We are looking at major roof repair in the spring. This is in addition to the ongoing work that our terrific volunteers are doing to complete construction on the second floor.

We would like to thank the following individuals, listed in alphabetical order, who made significant year-end contributions and helped make this happen. Daniel Bambic, Jim Bell, Duane Bishop, Johnny Brewington, Bryan Draga, Shawn Flanigan, Raymond Fredericy, Tom Gallagher, James Gielty, Daniel Hayden, Delores Koscher, Melvin Lowe, Frank Novak, Emery Prior, and the Zangerle family.

We encourage you all to help our Capital Campaign in 2020. You can contribute online by going to our web site or by sending a check to the Fire Museum. Some of our contributions have come from IRA Qualified Charitable Donations. We can also accept donations of appreciated stock. Several members have made donations that include matching funds from their employer. Some families have designated the Fire Museum for memorial contributions or have remembered the Fire Museum in their will. We are grateful for your support and for your help keeping the Fire Museum viable.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Saturday, March 7, 2020** – Cleveland, OH. 36th 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.
- **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 13, 14 and 15, 2020** – Cleveland, OH. Piston-Powered Auto-Rama, IX Center, 11-X Center Drive, Cleveland, OH. Huge display of vehicles, occasional fire engines and even airplanes. Info at www.pistonpowershow.com.
- **Saturday-Sunday, April 18 & 19, 2020** – Allentown, PA. Auction and Firematic Flea Market, Allentown Fairgrounds, Agricultural Hall, 17th and Crow Streets. Auction, Saturday, 9:00am. Info at www.donnandassociates.com.
- **Saturday, April 25, 2020** – Jackson, MI. GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, St. John's Elementary School Gym, 405 E. North Street, Jackson, MI. Doors open at 8:00am. Info at www.gliafaa.com.
- **Saturday, June 6, 2020** – Dover, OH. HRN Firefighter Field Day, apparatus exhibition and skills challenge. Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds, 259 S. Tuscarawas Avenue, Dover, OH. Starts 10:30am. Info at www.hrnfirefighterfieldday.com.
- **Saturday, July 25, 2020**– Frankenmuth, MI. Great Lakes Chapter SPAAMFAA Muster in Heritage Park. Info at www.gliafaa.org.
- **Wednesday-Saturday, August 12-15, 2020**– Rochester, NY. SPAAMFAA National Convention and Muster. Info at www.spaamfaa.org.
- **Wednesday-Saturday, August 26-29, 2020** – Nashville, TN. IFBA National Convention hosted by Box 55 Association. The Inn at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN. Info at www.IFBA.org.

GO ELECTRONIC

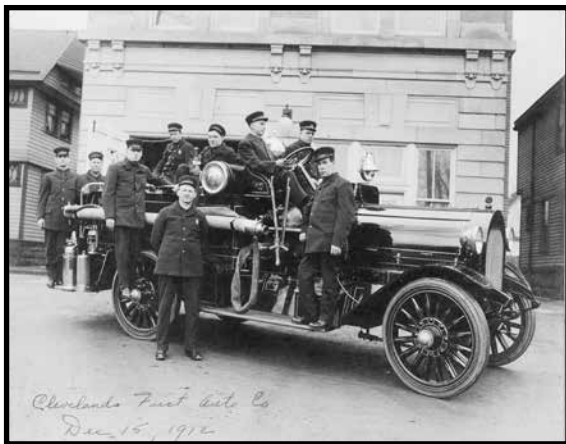
Just a reminder. The Bugle is available electronically four times a year. It's the same version that is mailed but you just cannot hold onto it. It really does help the Fire Museum reduce mailing cost and allows us to better use those dollars in our renovation projects. Send an email to Joan Oliver (oliverj@wrfmc.com) to change over.

CFD TRIVIA

BY PAUL NELSON

Q: What company was the first to be established without horses?

A: Engine Co. No. 34 on December 15, 1912.



Engine 34, 1912 Nott 600gpm

New Engine Co. 34 was placed in service at new Station No. 34, 12010 Ashbury Avenue, on December 15, 1912. It was 50 years later, minus one day, after Cleveland's first paid company, with horse-drawn steamer, was placed in service on Frankfort Street on December 16, 1862. Engine 34 also received the first motorized apparatus for the Cleveland Fire Department. It was a 1912 Nott, 600gpm rotary gear pumper. The Nott was chosen by Chief George A. Wallace because Nott had been the choice of New York City for their early pumpers. He said, "If it's good enough for New York, it's good enough for Cleveland." (It was the only Nott pumper acquired by CFD.) Engine 34 also was the first engine company not to have a hose wagon. Motorized apparatus was able to carry its own hose, unlike steam fire engines. The engine was delivered to Cleveland in June. The next six months would be spent on training members on how to drive, how to operate the pump and how to operate an engine company without a hose wagon.



Fire Station 34, 12010 Ashbury Ave.

The company was established with nine members shown posing in front of the rig. Front row: Bender, Lt. Herbert Snyder, Capt. Edwin Davis, Engineer Carl Patterson, J. Halladay. Back row: Michael Murphy, Carl Freiberg, Henry Sarbach, Fred Cummings. Carl Patterson was the first CFD member to drive a motorized fire apparatus. The new fire station was a typical Cleveland single bay "storefront" structure with a short apron.



Original company of Engine 34



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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**PLAN TO ATTEND
SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2020
36TH ANNUAL FIREMATIC FLEA MARKET
CFD TRAINING ACADEMY - 8:00AM**

**Don't Throw
That Away**

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.



Paul Nelson Photo

The 36th Annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market will be held on Saturday March 7, 2020 at the CFD Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Avenue. Doors open at 8:00am. Coffee and donuts early and hot dogs and subs for lunch. Find new treasures and meet old friends.

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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