



Winter 2021

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 27, Number 1

VOLUNTEER WORK CONTINUES DURING PANDEMIC

By Joan Oliver

While the whole country was in a state of turmoil as COVID-19 spread across the U.S., the dynamic trio of Ken Jordan, Bill Deighton, and Richard Lash, all retired CFD volunteers, have been busy working on various restoration projects throughout the Museum. These three have been actively involved with the Museum since its inception and are continually volunteering their time and labor to help whenever and wherever they're needed.

Most recently the three have been concentrating their efforts on the second floor dormitory. There they have been busy plastering and repainting walls, framing in windows with drywall and plaster, repairing and plastering the coving around the ceiling, and removing and cleaning the radiators for repainting, just to name a few. The transformation has been remarkable.

While hard at work there, the Museum had a problem with the boiler system with a leak in one of the return lines and the three came to the rescue again helping us to replace the valves on existing radiators, and with putting in a heater in the northwest stairwell. After the radiator had to be moved from the west wall



Volunteers Ken Jordan, Bill Deighton, and Richard Lash

(Continued on page 2, see Volunteer)

PRESIDENT'S LOG

By Jim Bell

Greetings members and friends! There is not a lot to report to you as the museum has been closed since late last year. We hope to re-open in March with our new 2021 exhibit. We are finalizing the displays and are putting together a first-class presentation. There has been a slight change in the fire departments we will be highlighting this year. Macedonia Fire Department has had some technical issues with their antique Seagrave apparatus and is working to overcome those problems. Meanwhile, Hudson Fire Department has graciously stepped in and will be loaning us their 1948 L-model Mack and will round out our trio of Summit county departments. We look forward to seeing the Macedonia Seagrave very

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated volunteers and illustrate the amount of people it takes to make this museum run. Without all of the people who donate their time and talent, this museum would not exist. To everyone, I am eternally grateful.

Board of Directors

- * Daniel Martone
- * Andrew Czarzasty, Esq.
- * Raymond Kotecki
- * Capt. Daniel Hayden (Ret.)
- * John Zangerle, Esq.
- * Roy P. Ziganti, Jr. Chief Johnny Brewington Lt. Jim Bryne

Duane F. Bishop

Bryan Draga Dr. Anjay Khandelwal MD Timothy McGinty, Esq. Lt. Dean Murad Patricia Poole, Esq. Paul Sabataitis Elaine Straub Angela Timperio

Executive Committee (Continued on page 2, see Log)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Remembering Chief McNamee, Sr3
Ring in Fire Safety3
Cleveland Articulating Platforms4
Captial Campaign5
Boy Scout Training5
Remembering Chief Simecek, Sr5
Funeral Caisson6
Memorial Pavers6
Calendar of Events7
CFD Trivia7
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
Cieveiand, Onio 44113-2816

Phone: (216) 664-6312

www.wrfmc.com

LOG

(Continued from Page 1)

Events/Fundraising

The Bauman Family Johnny Brewington

Andrew & Aubrey Czarsasty

Bob Gahr
Larry Gordon
Pam Hawkins
The Hayden Family
Debbie Hubbard
Ken & Cathy Jordan
Ray & Diane Kotecki
Louisa & Dan Martone
Joe & Portia Mason

Dean Murad

Paul Nelson Frank Novak

Ioan Oliver

Patricia Poole Ken Rybka

Chris Sheehe

Stan Socha Karen Sodini

Bob Shimits Bob Szabo

John & Pat Zangerle

Funeral Caisson

Daniel Hayden, Coordinator

Jeff Campbell
Bob Derritt
Bob Gahr
John Heiman
Joe James
Jeff Lash
Kim Marshall
Ed McAdams
Marty McGinty
Dean Murad

Dan Reagon Paul Sabataitis

<u>Staff</u>

Paul Nelson, Historian Joan Oliver, Office Administrator Lt. Bob Szabo (Ret.), Education Director

Flea Market

Dale Cohen Bob Gahr Steve Hiltebrant

Bob Shimits

Building Renovation

Roy Ziganti, Jr., Coordinator

Mark Bauman John Blazek Brad Campbell Anthony Caruso Tony Caruso Bill Deighton Larry Gordon Ken Jordan Rich Lash

Roger Manzuk

Cleveland FD volunteers

Docents

Dan Bambic Larry Gordon Dan Hayden Frank Novak Bill Shaw

Collection/Archives

Debbie Hubbard Chris Sheehe

As you read through this list you will see several people's names under multiple categories. These are the core volunteers. We always need more help. Docents, tradespeople, anyone. Please consider volunteering and make this organization even greater!

Thank you,

Jim

VOLUNTEER

(Continued from Page 1)

in the Education Wing to the east wall, they completed the finishing work to plaster and repaint the walls to look as good as new.

Just when they thought they would be able to go back to working upstairs, we needed their assistance again in building display panels for our 2021 Exhibit on Firefighting in Summit County featuring Akron, Twinsburg and Hudson. Without giving it a thought, they

jumped into help and were able to come up with a unique illuminated design that will be a great addition to the Mandel Gallery for future exhibits as well.

The Museum is truly fortunate to have the services of dedicated volunteers such as Ken, Bill and Richard who have helped and continue to help transform this building into a first class regional fire museum.



Richard Lash busy plastering dormitory walls



Bill Deighton repairing walls



Ken Jordan working on exhibit display

REMEMBERING CHIEF JAMES J. McNamee, Sr.

By John Zangerle

The Museum was deeply saddened to learn that retired Cleveland Fire Chief James J. McNamee, Sr. passed away February 13, 2021 at age 88. Chief McNamee joined the Cleveland Fire Department in 1959 following his service in the Navy. He worked his way through the ranks from Engine 14, Fire Prevention Bureau, Engine 25, Engine 30, HDQ, Battalions 3 and 8, and Asst. Chief to become Acting Chief of the Cleveland Fire Department in 1981, and Chief in March, 1982, succeeding Chief William Barry. He became the ninth Chief of the Division of Fire.

During his tenure as Chief, he made many significant changes in the department including the opening of new fire stations 10, 11, 13, 20 and 30. He oversaw the upgrading of the fire apparatus fleet with the purchase of new custom apparatus replacing the prior commercial chassis equipment. Importantly to many of us, he returned apparatus to a traditional white over red replacing the white, yellow, and "slime" green apparatus from the 1970s.



James McNamee speaking at 1992 IFBA Conference

One of his most significant contributions was the formation of the first hazardous materials unit (HAZMAT) in 1982. Today HAZMAT has grown significantly and plays an ever larger role in the fire service. He recognized the importance of adequate Air Supply at fire scenes and added an Air Supply vehicle to the department in 1984. He also oversaw the complete refurbishment of the



Chief McNamee

Mobile Command Post and established a third rescue squad (Squad 1). In 1985 Chief McNamee and the department took a huge step forward by adding 10 women to the incoming class of cadets. He retired as Chief in April of 1991 and was succeeded by Chief Walter Zimmerer. Following retirement, Chief McNamee was appointed by the governor to the position of Ohio State Fire Marshall where he served for 8 years.

Chief McNamee was a great supporter and advocate of the Western Reserve Fire Museum. Many of our members enjoyed talking to Chief McNamee who was very welcoming and loved to talk about the fire service. He was a speaker at the 1992 International Fire Buffs convention that the predecessor group to the Museum sponsored in Cleveland. The Museum's funeral caisson had the privilege of carrying him on his "last alarm" along with the CFD Honor Guard in tribute to his years of service to the Division of Fire.

RESOLVE TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER IN 2021 RING IN FIRE SAFETY

If you are like most of your friends and most of the country, you may be starting off the New Year with a resolution to improve your lifestyle. It is also time to consider one additional step to maintain and prolong your life: Fire Prevention. We here at the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center are urging you to make 2021 a fire-safe year.

People feel safest at home, but the U.S. Fire Administration data shows that 83% of all fire deaths happen in the home and most of those fires are considered preventable.

Here is some safety information to help make 2021 a fire-safe year:

- 1. Smoke alarms can wake you up in case of a fire. Have smoke detectors on every level of your home.
- 2. Resolve to test all your smoke alarms. Replace your smoke alarms when they are 10yrs old. And replace batteries twice a year.
- 3. Cooking is the main cause of home fires. Stay in the kitchen while you are cooking. Educate everyone what to do in case of a kitchen fire. Have an ABC extinguisher in the kitchen.
- 4. If you have children in the home. Look for fire dangers from their point of view.
- 5. And lastly develop an updated escape plan for your family. Keep your plan posted and practice your escape plan regularly.

*Enter this link into your web browser https://wrfmc.com/fire-safety/ for a downloadable escape plan template and fill it out as a family.

By Bob Szabo



The iconic articulating elevated platform, introduced by Chicago Fire Commissioner Bob Quinn to the fire service in 1958, was quickly dubbed a "Snorkel:" It became the trademark of the Pitman Manufacturing Co. who built the first fire fighting Snorkel for Pierce. They mounted it on a 1957 Chevrolet 354 truck chassis for Chicago Fire. They had been building 50-ft utility "cherry pickers" for the construction industry since 1950. In 1960 the Snorkel business was spun off as the Snorkel Equipment Division. It was sold in 1964 and became a stand-alone company and the Pitman name disappeared. In 1973 it was acquired by A-T-O, parent company of American LaFrance. ALF and its LTI Subsidiary, under several ownerships, would go on to build over 1,500 Snorkels until nation-wide demand ended about 2000.

"Snorkel" became a generic term for all articulating fire platforms although other builders like Hi Ranger, Strato-Tower, Calavar and Simon could not use the trademarked name. When William Barry became CFD chief in 1963, the department began looking at articulating platforms. The only one in service locally was a short Snorkel on a Ford chassis in Lorain. After examining several options, he chose two Hi Rangers built by Mobile Aerial Towers with their welded, open tubular design that differed from Snorkel. They were mounted on cab forward Ward LaFrance Ambassador chassis and cost \$48,500 each.



1964 Ward LaFrance/Hi Ranger 70-ft platforms

The Hi Rangers were identified as 70-ft models but had an effective reach of 75-ft. They carried a full complement of ground ladders and were assigned to Ladder 6 and 18. They were designated as Snorkel 1 and 2 respectively illustrating the generic use of the term, but changed back to "Ladders" in 1968. The rig at Ladder 6 moved to Ladder 17 in 1970. The rig at Ladder 23 was placed in reserve in 1973 and later went to Ladder 17 replacing the other Hi Ranger, retiring in 1980. Both were repainted yellow.

Although adding Sutphen telescoping aerial platforms to the department in 1968 and 1970, CFD returned to articulating platforms in 1980 choosing American LaFrance/Snorkel. Both were 85-ft models with one having a pump as a quint. They were called "Ladders."

The 1500gpm quint was a Century Series model, white over red, and planned for Ladder 3. It did not fit into Station 9 and Ladder 3 moved to Station 7. It became Ladder 1 in 1983, "new" Ladder 7 in 1984 and ended up at Ladder 42 in 1987 before going to reserve in 1990.



Delivery photos at the FTA before adding company numbers

1980 ALF/Snorkel 85ft/1500gpm

1980 ALF/Snorkel 85ft



The other rig was all red and also a Century Model, similar to the 10 ALF pumpers delivered in 1979. It went to Ladder 17 replacing the Hi Ranger. It became Ladder 41 in 1983. Ladder 41 was disbanded in 1984 and the snorkel went into reserve status. It would be a spare at a number of ladder companies until removed from service in the early 1990's.



Ladder 17's Snorkel working at the 4-4-4 alarm Colony Theater Fire in Shaker Square, on October 3, 1981.

Ladder 42's Snorkel working at the 3-3-3 + specials Payne Building fire on St. Clair Ave. on February 21, 1989. This downtown fire was the last big "working fire" for a CFD snorkel while in front-line service at a ladder company. The articulating elevated platform era for the Cleveland Fire Department, as a primary fire suppression tool, had lasted only 26 years in its current 157-year history as a paid fire department.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THANKS ITS SUPPORTERS

By John Zangerle

We all know that 2020 was an extremely difficult year. Some of our members suffered from COVID and the Museum was forced to cease operation for many months. When we could resume operations we were limited by COVID restrictions and at the end of the year it was again necessary to shut down. It was a very difficult year for all non-profit organizations, particularly museums. We were unable to hold our annual fund raiser and lost revenue from the lack of museum visitors and gift shop sales. Nevertheless, we were open as long as possible and continued to publish The Bugle and post on social media to keep our presence in front of the public.

With this background, the Board of Directors made a Capital Campaign appeal again at the end of last year to support the Museum. The money was certainly needed because in addition to our second floor renovation we had an unexpected roof repair and boiler repairs as well as an elevator expense.

Fortunately our members responded to the request showing their dedication to keep the museum moving forward even in tough times. The year end campaign resulted in donations of more than \$37,000.00, including \$2,000.00 from the Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel Foundation and \$2,500.00 from The Sherwin-William Foundation. The contributions came from individual members, Board members, and friends of the Museum in amounts large and small. Some have contributed regularly in the past, but others made first time contributions.

We would like to thank the following individuals, listed in alphabetical order, who made significant contributions to keep the Museum alive:

Daniel Bambic Diane & Mark Bauman Jim Bell Duane Bishop Johnny Brewington Tony Caruso Bryan Draga

James Gielty
Larry Gordon
Tom Gteen
Daniel Hayden
David Haynes
Steve Hiltebrant
Debbie Hubbard
Raymond Kotecki

Daniel Martone Jim Mordaunt Emery Prior Donna Rozman Elaine Straub The Zangerle Family Roy P. Ziganti, Jr.

We encourage you all to help our Capital Campaign in 2021. You can contribute online by going to our website under the Support Us tab or by sending a check to the Fire Museum. Some of our contributions have come from IRA Qualified Charitable Donations. We 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 any support you can give and for all you do for the Museum.

BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE TRAINING RESUMES AGAIN

By Joan Oliver

On February 27, 2021 the Boys Scouts resumed their Fire Safety Merit Badge Training Program at the Museum after a brief hiatus due to COVID-19. 20 scouts took part in the program held on Saturday. They came from various troops scattered throughout Ohio with the furthest coming from Springfield, Ohio situated 25 miles northeast of Dayton.

Education Director, Bob Szabo who is in charge of the program handled the classroom instruction while Larry Gordon, Retired Firefighter and Museum volunteer, handled the hands on fire safety training in the Education Wing and provided a tour of the Museum.



Bob Szabo instructing scouts in classroom



Larry Gordon reviewing kitchen fire safety

Jim Vanderpool, Activities Director for the Boy Scouts of America coordinated this event and will be offering this program at least three times a year to area Boy Scout troops. The Museum offers a unique back drop for the training and is happy to provide this educational service to the community.

MUSEUM MOURNS DEATH OF DAN SIMECEK, SR.

By Joan Oliver

The Museum is deeply saddened by the death of Daniel J. Simecek, Sr. who passed away January 21, 2021 at the age of 84. Daniel

began his career with the Twinsburg Fire Department in 1957 and rose through the ranks to become Chief in 1985. He was named the city's first full-time Fire Chief in 1988. Dan served as Chief for twelve years until he retired in 1997 and was responsible for transforming the fire department from an all-volunteer department to the full service career department it is today. Even after



Chief Simecek

retirement, he remained actively engaged with the fire department and the community. He was adamantly devoted to preserving Twinsburg firefighting history and had an extensive collection of photos and equipment along with a 1934 Ford Model BB Fire Truck and Soda Acid Chemical Cart which had been part of the Twinsburg fleet. The 1934 Ford Fire Truck and Chemical Cart are

currently on loan to the Museum as part of the 2021 exhibit featuring Twinsburg, Hudson and Akron. Daniel was a great supporter and friend of the Museum. He will be deeply missed.



Dan Simecek with his 1934 Ford & chemical cart

FUNERAL CAISSON ENTERS ITS ELEVENTH YEAR OF SERVICE

RV IOHN ZANGERI E

It seems like yesterday, but in 2010 a group of volunteers stripped down and restored a 1980 American LaFrance pumper formerly from Fairview Park, Ohio. The caisson was modified for funeral service by lowering the hose bed. It was completely repainted and restriped. It has served as a funeral caisson for active duty and retired Northeast Ohio firefighters as well as uniformed public servants and active or retired military. The caisson is a special way to honor their life and service as it carries them to their "last alarm".

Last year, the caisson handled eighteen funerals including twelve for retired Cleveland Fire Department members. The caisson has now made 160 funeral runs for Cleveland and various suburbs throughout northeastern Ohio. It is an important part of the Museum's mission. A dedicated staff of volunteers led by Dan Hayden serve as the drivers and attendants. Like any old fire engine, the caisson needs constant maintenance and mechanical



work. Our mechanical team is led by Jeff Campbell and John Heiman who volunteer their time to keep her on the road. Most recently the caisson was used for the funeral of retired Twinsburg Fire Chief Dan Simecek, Sr. and retired Cleveland Fire Chief James McNamee who were both longtime members and supporters.

PAVERS THE PERFECT MEMORIAL GIFT

In the fall of 2015, the Museum started the "Paving the Way to the Future" Memorial Paver Program to help raise money for ongoing projects and operational support. Now over 5 years later, we are completing our 10th installation and will have installed over 300 pavers.

These special 8 in. x 8 in. memorial pavers outlined in black granite form a beautiful walk way leading up to the entrance of the Museum and are the perfect way to remember a certain individual, an event or to commemorate a personal milestone. So, if you haven't already done so, please take a moment out to show your support and order a paver today.

The cost of each paver is \$200.00 for members and \$250.00

for non-members. Pavers may be ordered directly online through our website at www.wrfmc.com or by downloading the forms, filling them out and emailing to pavers@wrfmc. com or mailing them to the Museum at 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115.



This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our supporters to become a permanent part the Museum and help us bring a first class facility offering the history and tradition of the fire service to the people in the Western Reserve.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Saturday, May 1, 2021 Lutherville, Maryland, Fire Museum of Maryland Annual Steam Show, 10am 2pm. Hose wagon rides, demos with hand & horse-drawn apparatus, working steam engines, antique models, working draft horses. Dalmatians & food vendors. For information www.firemuseummd.org.
- Saturday, May 15, 2021 Port Huron, MI, Great Lakes Annual Fire Swap Meet. NOTE: This replaces the cancelled Jackson Flea Market. NEW LOCATION: Goodells County Park, 8201 Lapeer Rd., Goodells, MI. Host Hotel, Best Western Port Huron Blue Water Bridge, 810-987-1600 (code: Antique Fire) Contact www.gliafaa.org or Ken Sieloff, 54redchevy@gmail.com for information.
- Sunday, May 30, 2021 Firefighters Memorial Ride Poker Run, Motorcycle staging begins at 9am at several different Harley Davidson Locations, 10am Run Starts, Cash prizes for best hand. http://firefightersmemorialride.com for information.
- Wednesday, July 14-Saturday, July 17, 2021 Portland, OR. SPAAMFAA National Summer Convention. Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. https://spaamfaa.org/calendar/ for information.
- Saturday July 31, 2021 Frankenmuth, MI. Great Lakes muster, Heritage Park, Featuring Ford Model T Fire Apparatus. Information: www.gliafaa.org.
- Saturday, September 25 Tentative Columbus, Ohio muster.

Double check website for possible cancellations due to COVID-19

CFD TRIVIA

By Paul Nelson

Q: How many fire apparatus builders have supplied aerial devices to CFD? A: A total of 15 different builders.

With the delivery of a Pierce platform in 2020, a look back in the pages of CFD history show 15 different builders have supplied aerial devices to the Department. By NFPA definition and specifications, an "Aerial Device" includes aerial (extension/two or more sections) straight ladders, articulating platforms, telescoping platforms and a combination of the last two. The first aerial ladder for CFD was an 85-ft., screw-raised, two-section ladder in 1885 from Hayes LaFrance.



Ladder 12 1912 American LaFrance 85-ft.



Ladder 17 1991 Grumman Aerial Cat 121-ft.

Other early aerial ladders came from Babcock, Gleason & Bailey and Rumsey-Kaiser. The Rumsey-Kaiser ladder was the only one with a compressed air hoist mechanism. American LaFrance has supplied a number of aerial ladders including the last horse-drawn aerial ladder truck (1912 for Ladder 12).

ALF would supply Tractor-Drawn Aerial (TDAs) along with mid-mount and rear-mount straight chassis aerials. Seagrave delivered their first aerials in 1920. They were to be horse-drawn, but Chief George Wallace placed Knox 4-wheel tractors under the aerials. The Knox tractors had been purchased in 1918 to convert steamers but were never used for that purpose.

Seagrave supplied the last wooden TDA in 1935, the first metal (steel) TDA in 1939 and the last TDA for CFD in 1984. Seagrave also supplied rear-mount aerials and a single mid-mount aerial. The last Seagraves were acquired in 1987.

Pirsch supplied the first aluminum aerial ladder in 1943, an 85-ft. TDA followed by others in 1969 and 1970. In 1971 they supplied the first rear-mount aerials for CFD. Other aerial ladder builders were Grumman with the longest aerials at 121-ft., LTI/Simon Duplex, RK Aerials on General/Spartan chassis, Smeal and Rosenbauer.

Hi Ranger on Ward LaFrance chassis and American LaFrance/Snorkel were the only articulating platforms for CFD. Sutphen supplied the only mid-mount telescoping platforms while rear-mount telescoping platforms were supplied by Grumman, LTI/Simon Duplex, Smeal, Rosenbauer and the recent Pierce.



Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

Non-Profit Org. US Postage PAID Cleveland, OH Permit No. 1418



That Away

The Fire Museum is lookin

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



Name:		onation Form	FIRE MUSEU and Education Center	
Address:			Individual Member	
City:	State:	Zip:	Additional Donation	
Phone:	Email:		Amount \$	
Please Charge my:	PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO: The Western Reserve Fire			
Charge Amount \$	Renew Automati	Museum at Cleveland, Inc. 310 Carnegie Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2618		
Card Number		Exp. Date:	IMPORTANT:	
Check here to receive elect	The name and address of your members and/or donation must match that of yo credit card.			
Please consider an additional	Membership & donation is tax deductible WRFMC is a 501 (c) 3 organization.			

If you haven't had a chance please take time out to renew your membership now. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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.

The Bugle Staff:

Joan Oliver, Editor
John Zangerle
Paul Nelson
Layout by
X2Media

Fire Museum Directors:

- * James Bell, President Duane F. Bishop, Jr. Johnny Brewington James F. Byrne
- *Andrew Czarzasty, Esq.
- Bryan Draga
- *Dan Hayden
- Anjay Khandelwal, MD *Raymond M. Kotecki
- *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