



THE BUGLE



Spring 2021

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 27, Number 2

2021 EXHIBIT IS UP AND IN FULL SWING

BY JOAN OLIVER

Our 2021 Exhibit, "Sound the Alarm, Suburbs Respond to the Need for Fire Protection" featuring Akron, Hudson & Twinsburg is up and in full swing in the Mandel Gallery. With state and local mandates being lifted and the CDC guidelines relaxing guidelines, it's a great time to come down and take in this exciting new exhibit.

In the center of the gallery is a wonderful pictorial history of the Akron Fire Department; beginning with its formation in 1839 as a Volunteer Fire Department, the evolution into a paid department in 1876 all the way through to present day. It follows the history of the various fire apparatus used through the years from different manufacturers, as well as some of the significant fires they battled. Also on display are a 1948 Mack Pumper from the Hudson Fire Department and a 1934 Ford Model BB Pumper that was used by the Twinsburg Fire Department and now owned by the Simecek

(Continued on page 2, see Exhibit)



Bob Gahr Photo

2021 Exhibit in Mandel Gallery

PRESIDENT'S LOG

BY JIM BELL

My heart has been heavy over the last few weeks and the news from yesterday has only made it worse. My colleagues in Geauga County fought an early morning house fire that resulted in three fatalities. Two adults and one child killed by the ravages of fire. I am sure many of the firefighters are asking themselves questions... "What if we had got there a few minutes sooner?", "Did we do all that we could?" There will be reflection and uncertainty for a long time yet to come.

Likewise, the Western Reserve Fire Museum community has been touched by tragedy. One of our Board members had a family member perish in a house fire. We see and hear of death and misery every day but it takes on new meaning when it happens so close to us.

With these recent tragedies I am reminded of the fire safety education that we in the fire service have been preaching for decades. I ask, no I BEG, everyone who is reading this message to redouble your efforts to keep you and your families safe from fire. Do you have working smoke detectors in your home? When was the last time you checked the batteries? Now is the time to upgrade to the new style, 10 year smoke detectors.

Do you have a fire escape plan for your house? You must plan two ways out of every room. Where is your family meeting spot? When was the last time you practiced your plan?

Do you have fire escape ladders in every bedroom above the first floor?

Do you have fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage and furnace room?

When was the last time you had an electrician look at your home for poor wiring and defective outlets?

NOW is the time to make your house and family fire safe. It is too late after the fire starts.

Take care,
Jim

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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

EXHIBIT

(Continued from Page 1)

family. The history of these two fire departments is revealed through beautifully illustrated storyboards and artifacts showcased on display tables throughout the Museum.

With new guidelines in place, masks are no longer mandatory at the Museum for those who are fully vaccinated. We have also started booking group tours again and have reverted back to our regular hours,

Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm.

Many new exciting programs have been planned for the summer and fall. You can find details on all of our upcoming events on our website at www.wrfmc.com or by visiting our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WRFMEC/>. We look forward to seeing you and hope you'll come down and visit downtown's newest attraction.

RETURN OF THE ANNUAL LUAU FUNDRAISER

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, August 29, 2021, 3 - 7 PM on The Veranda at Lago Custom Events next to the ALoft hotel for the Museum's third annual Luau fundraiser. The Museum had started planning for last year's fundraiser when Covid shut us all down. We want to celebrate the resumption of social gatherings with a grand event at a beautiful venue. For those who missed the 2019 Luau, the event was held under a large tent in a patio area above the Flats with a marvelous view of the lakefront. We are returning to the Veranda with a more desirable August date to hopefully avoid the inclement weather we encountered in 2019.

Your ticket entitles you to partake of the Luau buffet, plus complimentary wine, beer and punch. We will provide music and special entertainment (not involving Hawaiian dancers). Purchase your tickets in advance at \$55.00 per individual, \$100.00 per couple and also receive \$5.00 worth of free Chinese Raffle tickets per person. Advance

purchase is requested as seating is limited and tickets purchased at the door will not include the raffle tickets. Tables for ten people are available at \$500.00. Included will be a 50/50 Raffle, a Chinese Raffle as well as Silent Auction items to bid on.

This is our one and only major fundraiser this year and since we were unable to hold the Flea Market or sell food at the Motorcycle Memorial Ride, we need to have all of our members turn out to support this fun event. The support and wonderful location provided by Lago through the Salerno group and Board Member, Andrew Czarzasty is gratefully appreciated. Also thanks to Great Lakes Brewing for providing beer for the event.

Tickets may be purchased on the website, www.wrfmc.com, or by calling the Museum, 216-664-6312 (Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM).



John Zangerle Photos

Audience Enjoying Entertainment



The Veranda at Lago Custom Events



Audience Participation



Silent Auction Items

ANNOUNCING SPECIAL EVENT DAYS AT THE MUSEUM

BY JIM BELL

Mark your calendar, the museum is planning special event days to highlight our 2021 exhibit participants. Details are still being worked out, but we will be having special events honoring the fire departments from Hudson, Twinsburg and Akron. Watch our Facebook page and our web site (www.wrfmc.com) for details on these coming events.

MACK DAY AT THE FIRE MUSEUM

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

The Museum is planning a celebration of Mack Fire Apparatus on Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Mack Fire Apparatus, featuring its trademark bulldog symbol, was a very popular national brand built between 1911 and 1990. Our current exhibit features Hudson, Ohio's 1948 Mack L 85 Model pumper which is one of the best original Mack pumps of the era. We decided to gather some of the other local Mack pumps and put them all on the ramp of the Museum for visitors to see.

Planning to attend are Kenny Rybka and his 1936 Cory, PA BG Mack which was recently featured on the cover of SPAAMFAA's

Enjine! Enjine! quarterly magazine. John Zangerle is planning to bring his 1951 L 95 Mack originally from Sewickley, PA. Wayne Poussart will be showing his ex-Garfield Heights 1956 B 95 canopy cab pumper. Todd Wolf is planning to bring his 1968 CF ex-Chagrin Falls Mack. This will be an interesting variety of pre- and post-war Mack's restored and original. We are also encouraging any other area departments or owners with vintage Mack fire apparatus to join us. Every hour on the hour we will have a short presentation by one of the owners talking about the history of their Mack. We hope to see you there. Bulldogs welcome.



Joan Oliver Photo

Todd Wolf's 1968 Chagrin Falls Mack



Ken Rybka Photo

1936 Cory, PA BG Mack

LIFE AND FIRE SAFETY IN THE TIME OF COVID

BY BOB SZABO

Not to be confused with the novel by Nobel Prize recipient author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, these are strange times we are living in with the specter of COVID still a threat in the upcoming summer of 2021.

With some of the restrictions being lifted, we can all breathe a sigh of relief and get back to a somewhat more normal life. However, that does not negate the responsibility to still be safety conscious.

Every year we look forward to summer vacation, camping, cook-outs, and family gatherings, but summertime also brings fires and injuries due to summer activities.

The USFA's data center estimates that outside cooking and camp fires will cause roughly 6,000 fires with 170 injuries. In addition

to outdoor fires, improper use of fireworks will cause \$8 million in damage.

This summer not only be aware of COVID social practices, but also practice Fireworks Safety, Barbecue and Grilling Safety, and Campfire Safety. Videos on all these precautions can be found on the Museum's Facebook page.



DONATE FIRE MEMORABILIA

BY JIM BELL

Hardly a week goes by that someone doesn't stop into the museum and bring in a donation of fire-related memorabilia. Often, these artifacts are items from a member of the family of a deceased firefighter. The museum is grateful for these donations and we are always ready to accept such items. With these donations the museum is able to grow our inventory of artifacts and expand our ability to have pieces of history on display.

When memorabilia comes into the museum we ask the donor to complete a form that identifies the donor and the items being donated. The artifacts are then inventoried, photographed and entered into our Collection Database. Each piece has an inventory tag attached and is carefully packaged to prevent damage, dust or sunlight from affecting it.

Recently, the museum received a large donation from the estate

of two deceased firefighter/EMTs. Both the husband and wife were members of the fire and EMS service and had collected a great number of items throughout the years. Their executor contacted the museum and arranged to donate pictures, books, scale models, fire extinguishers, hand tools, pike poles and Gamewell alarm equipment. What a wonderful donation!



Joan Oliver Photo

Estate Donation

The Western Reserve Fire Museum asks you to consider making arrangements to donate your fire-related memorabilia to our worthy organization.

COMING HOME TO STATION 28: A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY JENNIFER TRAMMELL & JOAN OLIVER

Monday, April 27, 1964

The watch log indicates records are up-to-date in preparation for the company going out of service.

A list of personnel and these directions follow:

You will report to the officer in command of said company at 8:30 a.m. May 1, 1964

Signed WILLIAM E. BARRY, Chief

Dennis Trammell (Tram) was one of the 17 firefighters reassigned when Station 28 was decommissioned. His name is listed in the log below that of his dear friend, Richard Baldi. Both were 1st Grade Firemen at the time.



Joan Oliver Photo

Dennis Trammell's Bday Cake

For nearly a decade at the beginning of his firefighting career, Tram reported to this station every shift. On Saturday, April 10, 2021, he unexpectedly returned. This time, to celebrate his 90th birthday at the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center.

Tram's granddaughter, Jennifer, put plans into motion months before, prepping family members with a detailed timeline and a subtle threat if they were the one to spoil the surprise.

Tram's son, Jeff, was a dairy farmer in Columbia Station, Lorain



Brooklyn Media Photo

The Whole Trammell Family

County, for more than 30 years. Even now, every Saturday morning, Tram eats breakfast out that way before heading to the farm to work. Good thing he didn't vary his routine this Saturday, because a

limo was in route to pick him up.

"I knew something was up when the limousine pulled into the drive," Tram said. "I was completely at a loss as to where we were going." When the limo made a wrong turn, Tram even pointed out the fire museum in downtown Cleveland. "I figured we were going to a ball game," Tram said. He was thrilled when they ultimately pulled up next to the museum, which he had heard so much about from his friends at the monthly retired firefighter lunches.

Considering COVID-19 concerns, the celebration was limited to 12 family members who came to surprise him. The group included Tram's grandson, Michael, who is now a firefighter himself for the City of Lakewood.

It really shouldn't be a surprise that Mike took this path. Firefighting is in his blood. Mike and his sister Jen can trace their lineage to the watch desk in the Station 28 garage.



Brooklyn Media Photo

Dennis & Lynn Trammell

When Tram reported for duty in 1956, Robert Gold was stationed at the wooden desk in the apparatus bay. Gold's daughter, Beth, married Tram's son, Jeff, in 1986. The two met at Chester Bizga's dental office in Parma.

Jim Bell and Bob Szabo guided the group on a tour of Station 28. The family was fascinated by the alarm room and the intricate system collecting alerts and dispatching service across the city. "I was amazed at how much work they had done at the museum," Tram said. "Being inside Station 28, my mind went back to a lot of the guys I worked with; some of them aren't with us anymore."

Tram gleefully became an honorary guide, adding his own memories and commentary to the tour. You could see the stories coming back to life in the gleam of his eye as he looked around the old station. Tram recounted how they once replaced the engine of a firefighter's car in the garage overnight, working quickly before another call came in.



Brooklyn Media Photo

Tram Reading Station 28 Log Book

When he pointed out where his bed was located in the dormitory upstairs, Tram shared how Chester Bizga, the dentist's father, shook him awake one night during his first year on duty. Tram's wife Lynn was in labor and going to the hospital. From the beginning, the firefighter families of Station 28 became woven into the fabric of the Trammell family.

After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch at the museum, catered by Gatherings Kitchen of Lakewood. Family and friends from Florida to Minnesota sent videos sharing their birthday wishes with Tram.

"Many thanks to the Western Reserve Fire Museum, especially Jim Bell, Bob Szabo, and Joan Oliver, for bringing the special memories of our grandfather back to life at Station 28," Jennifer said. "We couldn't think of a better place to celebrate my grandfather's birthday, I am glad it's available to rent for special occasions such as this."

SOME MEMORABLE CLEVELAND FIRES AND, VINTAGE FIRE APPARATUS

BY PAUL NELSON

November 11, 1943 Warren Refining & Chemical Co., 9420 Meech Avenue



CFD Archives

The 4-story brick structure of the company included mixing operations, a raw material warehouse, a finished goods warehouse and a laboratory. A series of explosions occurred at 10:55am with Box 3356 struck by the Alarm Office. By 11:10 the fire had reached a 5-5 alarm with the second and fourth alarms skipped. Three additional special alarms were sounded bringing a total of 14 engines, 4 ladders and a rescue squad to the scene. About noon the south wall collapsed following another series of explosions. Before being brought under control, all four floors pancaked into the basement. Four employees died in the fire and 17 others suffered injuries. Loss was set at \$200,000. The company was a major supplier for strategic WWII materials.

The 1941 Buffalo 750gpm pumper (Engine 35) was one of 18 similar 4-door cab engines supplied to CFD between 1941 and 1948. They were “streamlined” models with enclosed pump panels.

March 10, 1958 Economy Furniture Warehouse, 1898 E. 55th Street

The 2-story brick furniture warehouse was destroyed by fire with loss set at \$500,000. It started in the loading dock area apparently by juveniles playing with matches. Box 2317 was struck at 8:22am reaching a 5-5 alarm by 9:15am. Over the next 30 minutes, four special alarms were sounded bringing a total of 15 engines, 5 ladders, a rescue squad and a hose company to the scene. The fire broke through the roof eventually leaving only the north and south walls standing. Fire suppression included two ladder pipes, seven multiversals and six hand lines.

The 1939 Seagrave 100-ft TDA is Ladder 7, one of two identical ladders delivered that year. They were the first metal aerial ladders for CFD. Ladder pipe operation then was different from today. A ladder pipe had to be mounted on the ladder. A 3-in. line was stretched to the ladder pipe and it was operated by fire fighters on the ladder. Today ladder pipes for aerial ladder trucks have pre-piped waterways and can be controlled from the ground.



Cleveland Public Library Collection

December 17, 1949 Central Market, 2399 Ontario Street



John McCowan Photo Collection

The historic Central Market, a 93 year-old landmark of multi-retail stalls in downtown Cleveland, was on the verge of closing in 1949 for construction of the Willow Freeway. Fire started at 8:57pm of unknown cause in a trash bin and extended to nearby wooden beams. Box 2166 was sounded, a 3-engine/2-ladder/rescue squad/hose company box. It also activated the High Pressure Pumping Station. The fire quickly spread across the open-truss ceiling and into the roof. A short 14 minutes later the fire reached a 5-5 alarm level. Three minutes later Chief Elmer Cain ordered a special alarm for five additional engines. Total response included 20 engines, 4 ladders, a rescue squad and a hose company.

The roof collapsed causing the exterior walls to fall inward. Engine 2, a 1929 Seagrave 1000 gpm pumper, was first due from its nearby quarters on Huron Road. Operating on E. 4th Street, fire blew out from the structure, engulfing Engine 2. The blast also dislodged live trolley car wires that fell on the pumper that was completely destroyed. No one was injured in the incident. Before being brought under control at 10:30pm, the fire had extended to the adjacent 4-story brick Glenville Paper Co. causing extensive damage.

COLLECTING AND SAVING FAMILY FIRE HISTORY

BY BOB GAHR

The Western Reserve Fire Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing history of the fire service, firefighters and communities of the Western Reserve. In addition the fire museum educates visitors on safety procedures at home, work or at play. One of the advantages of being a docent volunteer is receiving first hand family history from those visiting the museum. This is just one of those stories.

Recently the Kocevar family toured the new museum exhibit and shared a photo and story of their father, Cleveland firefighter, Lawrence A. Kocevar. The photo of Lawrence is the only photo the family has of him in his turnout gear. The photo was presented to his wife Elsie at his funeral in 2014 immediately bringing her to tears.

Lash who worked with Lawrence to learn the following. Firefighter Kocevar was stationed at 17's house located at East 66th and Chester Avenue. Lawrence was the driver on Snorkel 1 on B-Shift. If anyone at the station called him Larry he would always reply "My name is Lawrence not Larry Kocevar." On his days off he was a Catholic school teacher.



Lawrence Kocevar

Remember the Western Reserve Fire Museum is dedicated to "Saving History and Saving Lives". Join us by volunteering or becoming a supporting member.

I interviewed museum volunteer and retired Bat. Chief Dick

FIREFIIGHTERS MEMORIAL RIDE RETURNS

BY JOAN OLIVER

Even though Cleveland still had mandates in place on social gatherings downtown, the Firefighters Memorial Ride was able to return this year in the form of a poker run. One of the stops for the riders was located by the Firefighters Memorial statue next to First Energy Stadium. In charge of this station was the Bowman family, here riders would stop, draw a card for their poker hand, visit the memorial and perhaps even have their picture taken. The top five riders with the best poker hands at the end of the run would each win a cash prize.



Photo Op in Mini Truck

with flag flying to wave the riders in. They also had an information table set up with promotional materials, so riders could learn about the Museum. Museum member and volunteer Bob Gahr brought down his miniature fire truck and many riders took advantage of the opportunity to have their photo taken in his little truck.

It was a beautiful day for the ride; a big thank you goes out to Jeff Campbell and John Heiman for bringing the aerial truck down to the event. In addition, we'd like to thank Bob Gahr, Pat Poole, Jim Bell & Joan Oliver for volunteering their time to work the information table.

And an even bigger thank you goes out to the Firefighters Memorial Ride for putting on this event every year and for the support they give and the donations they make to various organizations and in the memory of fallen firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel.

In support of the ride, the Museum brought down their aerial truck



Riders Posing for Photo by Memorial



Museum's Aerial Truck w/Flag Flying



Bowman Family at Memorial Ride Stop

SEPTEMBER 11, REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

BY JIM BELL



CFD Honor Guard Lowering Flags at Start of Ceremony

2021 is the twentieth anniversary of the horrible events of September 11th. The museum will be holding a Remembrance Ceremony on Saturday September 11 at 11:00 on our front plaza. We hope that you will come down and join us. Please check the website at www.wrfmc.com for further details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Wednesday- Saturday, , July 14 - 17, 2021** – Portland, OR. SPAAMFAA National Summer Convention. Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. <https://spaamfaa.org/calendar/> for information or email mlt162@yahoo.com.
- **Saturday July 31, 2021** – Frankenmuth, MI. Great Lakes muster, Heritage Park, Featuring Ford Model Ts, Information: <https://spaamfaa.org/district/great-lakes>. Bill Rausch, 248-625-8924; Eileen Moelker, 616-214-6124 or Walt McCall, 519-252-0238.
- **Saturday, August 7, 2021** – HRN Field Day, exhibition & skill challenge, Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds. 9:00am – 4:00pm. Information: <https://firefighterfieldday.org>; 330-432-6706.
- **Sunday, August 8, 2021** – Pump-In and Muster, Pump-In with Parade at Glamorgan Castle. Part of Carnation Festival. 9:00am – 4:00pm, Parade at 1:00pm. Information: Lt. Bill Yarnell, 330-704-7914.
- **Saturday, August 14, 2021** – Mack Day at the Museum, Cleveland, OH 10am – 2pm. Mack Antique Fire Apparatus on display outside on plaza. For more information check our website at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Sunday, August 29, 2021** – WRFM Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser, Cleveland, OH. 3–7pm. Held on The Veranda at Lago Custom Events, 1091 W 10th St. Ticket \$55 Individual, \$100 Couple. Information: www.wrfmc.com. Tickets can be purchased on our website or by calling 216-664-6312.
- **Saturday, September 25, 2021** – 32nd Antique Fire Apparatus Muster, Reynoldsburg, OH. Held at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E Main St. Hosted by the Central Ohio Chapter of SPAMFAA; starts at 9:00am. Information: cofaaa@gmail.com.
- **Saturday, October 9, 2021** – Annual National Fire Safety Week Open House at the Museum. Cleveland, OH, 11am – 2pm. Games, fire safety presentations, handouts and goodies for the children. plus the Jr. Firefighter’s Challenge. Admission to the Museum will be free of charge during Open House hours. For more information check our website at www.wrfmc.com or call 216-664-6312.

CFD TRIVIA

BY PAUL NELSON

Q: How many motorized engine companies were two-piece companies (wagon and pumper)?

A: Only one, Engine Co. No. 31.



Ladder 13 Hose Wagon 31 Engine 31

Two-piece engine companies were standard in the horse drawn era. A hose wagon accompanied the steamer since there was no room on the steamer to carry hose and additional company members. When motorized pumpers were introduced, a number of cities like New York, Boston, Washington DC and Akron locally kept the engine and wagon format. Cleveland tried it for a short time at Engine 31 before abandoning the idea. No specific information has been found on why the change occurred.

Engine 31 was motorized in 1913 when new Station 31 opened at 747 E. 152nd St. They received a 1913 Robinson 900gpm piston pumper as their apparatus. CFD purchased three Peerless hose wagons with chemical tanks in 1913. Two were sent to Engines 16 and 28 to accompany horse drawn steamers. The third was sent to Station 31 to run with the new Robinson pumper. The wagon had a 35-gal chemical tank and a ¾-in. chemical hose on a reel. It carried two ground ladders and a load of hose. The pumper also carried a full hose load. Shortly after the station opened Ladder 13 was established with a 1913 Peerless straight chassis service ladder.

The two-piece engine company lasted only until the middle of 1914. The wagon was sent to Engine 14 to run with their horse drawn steamer. No other time in CFD history did a two-piece engine company exist.

Engine 31 was established on September 20, 1910 after the annexation of Collinwood. They acquired Collinwood’s 300gpm horse drawn gasoline-powered engine, a hose wagon and a small service ladder truck also both horse drawn. They ran out of a fire station in the old Collinwood Village Hall on Collamer St.



Engine 31’s first house on Collamer St. looking north (E 152nd St.).



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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**SUPPORT OUR MUSEUM
PLAN TO ATTEND... SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021
ANNUAL HAWAIIAN LUAU FUNDRAISER
ON THE VERANDA AT LAGO CUSTOM EVENTS
TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**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.

**The Western Reserve Fire Museum
Presents**

HAWAIIAN LUAU FUNDRAISER

AUGUST 29th 3-7 pm
Hawaiian Luau, Beer/Wine
Silent Auction, Chinese
Raffle, & Entertainment

**on The Veranda
at Lago Custom Events**
1091 W 10th Street,
Cleveland, OH

Tickets
\$55 Individual - \$100 Couple
Advance Purchase includes (5) free Chinese Raffle
Tickets per Person

Our Annual Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser is coming up on Sunday, August 29th from 3-7pm. It will be held on The Veranda at Lago Custom Events located at 1091 W. 10th St. on the East bank of flats. Please join us for an evening of fun, good food, great entertainment while we raise money to help support the Museum's operations and programs. Purchase tickets online at www.wrfmc.com by click the link on the home page or by calling 216-664-6312.

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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