

# THE BUGLE

Winter 2018

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 24, Number 1

## It's A Go...Museum Now Open Visitors Welcomed to Activities on the First Floor

By Paul Nelson

A monumental event! The first floor of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center is now open on a regular schedule, Wednesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Enter through the main doors on the Memorial Plaza. The Entry Hall is the renovated day room of Fire Station 28 that fire fighters first occupied in 1926. The nearby fire apparatus floor of the fire station houses our exhibit "From the Bucket Brigade to the Big Red Machines." On display are fire buckets, hand engines, hose reels, an 1873 steam fire engine, a 1915 Ford Model T chemical fire engine, a 1919 White pumper and other fire fighting memorabilia. It illustrates fire fighting history from the days of early settlers to the introduction of motorized fire apparatus. The exhibit in part was made possible from a matching grant from the Cuyahoga Arts Council (CAC).

Joan Oliver photo



Exhibit on the Apparatus Floor

In the adjacent bay fire safety education is featured with interactive programming. Our new Safety Education Director, Lt. (Ret.) Bob Szabo from Cleveland Heights, has prepared a series of programs appropriate to all age groups from youngsters to seniors. The area includes a smoke bedroom and a hazard kitchen along with other fire safety related items.

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This newsletter is dedicated to informing the members of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center of its activities and events.

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### President's Log

By Roy P. Ziganti, Jr.

The idea for a Fire Museum came about in the early 1970's with a group of Buffs. It was thought that it would be an edifice for the region and it would include all of the Fire Departments of the Western Reserve. I became a member of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center January 2004. At the time, I had been a member of the Cleveland Fire Department for 23 years. When I started to work, the building was still in the demolition stage - it was early 2005. We thought that the Museum would open three years after that but due to many unforeseen circumstances and a lack of cash it took another ten years to finally open the doors for good; this occurred on Wednesday, December 27, 2017.

Several years ago, a decision was made to include all of the departments of the Western Reserve to receive our quarterly periodical "The Bugle" so they would be able to see what was going down on the corner of Carnegie and Ontario Avenues. The hope was that the Organization's membership would rise and there would be greater involvement from the Firemen of the Western Reserve. Perhaps there had not been as much of an interest as anticipated because we were not open but that is not the case any longer. "We are open" for the long haul.

(Continued on page 2, see Log)

## It's A Go

(Continued from page 1)

To receive our official occupancy permit from the City, a great deal of renovation was required to meet building codes. Since the building now has a different use than a firehouse, all current City codes had to be attained ranging from ADA compliance to fire alarm smoke detectors to fire stops of open areas to visitor safety. New bathrooms were constructed, electrical and plumbing were totally upgraded, floors in the apparatus bay and the adjacent safety area were completely removed and replaced, a new entry created and historically correct lighting installed.

WRFM&EC is a stand-alone 501(c)3 non-profit Ohio corporation responsible for all improvements to the building with a long-term lease from the City of Cleveland. To reach this plateau, it took thousands of hours of volunteer labor, contribution of goods and services from corporations, a series of grants along with financial donations from individuals, foundations, corporations and payroll deduction programs from Cleveland and suburban fire fighters from the very beginning of Museum planning. We extend our most sincere thanks to all who helped us reach this milestone.

This is only the beginning and there is still much to do. Work has started on renovation of the second floor. The old dormitory is being remodeled to house exhibits but also can be used for space rental for

outside groups. The alarm office area will be the last to be completed. To be able to have the second floor open for public use, the entire building must have sprinklers per code. The building needs to be air conditioned. Exterior restoration includes fabrication of historically correct apparatus bay doors, decorative balconies and lanterns over the doors along with completion of the window replacements. A Capital Campaign is currently underway to address these needs.

There are many items in the planning stage for the future. Contact is being made with schools for field trips to the Museum and a possible summer camp at the Museum. Birthday parties at the Museum should be possible later this year. (This has become a very successful program at the Columbus Fire Museum.) Special events outside the Museum are in the planning stage for the summertime. In keeping with the plan to rotate exhibits, a new exhibit will be prepared for the late fall. And finally, the Museum has received a matching grant from the Cuyahoga Arts Council (CAC) to present a series of illustrated programs in 2018 at the Museum. They will focus on various components of Cleveland fire fighting history and how that has affected life in the City and the residents of the various areas of the City.

Plan a visit to the Fire Museum. Some of the items you will see on the apparatus floor.



1852 Button hand engine



1839 Douglas hand engine



1919 White pumper

## Log

(Continued from page 1)

The first floor is operational and ready for business, as not only a Museum, but also a First Class Education Center equipped for the people of the Western Reserve. Our desire is that every child that goes through our program ends up on the curb along with the rest of their family should the unfortunate happen and they have a 111. (NCIS Code for a fire)

Along with the Cleveland Fire Department, we have had members of several suburban Fire Departments join to help us both with in-kind labor, but most importantly through a concept used for many years called payroll deduction. By far the largest percentage of members belonging to the Organization occurs this way; a couple

of bucks per pay goes a long way into purchasing a door, a window, or a sink.

We have attempted to reach to you out in the hinterlands, but with a few members actively doing so much it is a very difficult task to physically reach out to each and every Department's three shifts and volunteers.

At this time, I would like to challenge each and every one of the Departments of the Western Reserve to come and see what we have, become part of it. Reach out and not only lend a hand but also JOIN. This is the best location in the nation.

## Pulse Point...Life Saving App

By John Zangerle



Pulse Point is an application for smart phones that changes the way medical assistance can be provided. This app can be downloaded on your smart phone for free. The purpose of the app is to alert any CPR trained individual of a nearby cardiac emergency and allow them to respond before first responders arrive on the scene. It will also alert you to the precise location of every nearby AED. If you are CPR trained you will be notified of the need for assistance in the case of a sudden cardiac arrest event. It is a great melding of modern technology with Good Samaritan responders. The request for CPR assistance is only sent where the patient is in a public location and will automatically alert you to the location of the nearest AED to the patient in a map display.

Pulse Point is directly tied to fire department and EMS dispatch through the CAD (computer aided dispatch system). A notification is sent to your phone as immediately as it is dispatched to first responders with location of the incident and nature of the call. The app has a number of filters you can use if you are not a qualified first responder. It will still send out notifications of emergency incidents, including fires, traffic accidents, and medical emergencies.

The local Pulse Point app is underwritten by the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital and works with most of the major dispatch centers in the Greater Cleveland area. For example, I monitor the West Shore network in addition to Lakewood and North Olmsted. Lorain County is not yet affiliated with Pulse Point in our area. In Cleveland, Cleveland EMS is part of Pulse Point and identifies EMS auto accidents and fires. Cleveland Fire does not have a separate display. Hundreds of municipalities across the country have adopted Pulse Point and the system is portable if you are physically in an area covered by Pulse Point. If you have a smart phone, you might want to check out this app.

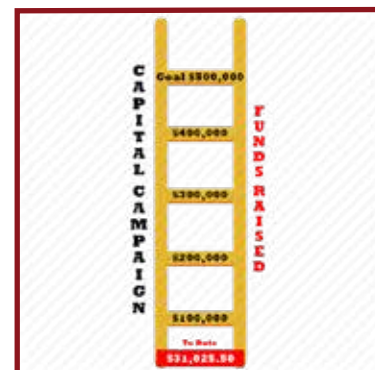
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## Capital Campaign Update

By John Zangerle

In the last issue of The Bugle we reported that the Museum had undertaken a \$500,000.00 Capital Campaign to complete work on the second floor, provide a sprinkler system for the building, and complete HVAC to include air conditioning. The Campaign has started well with year-end donations totaling \$31,025.50. These donations included several large donations but also many small donations from our members as part of our year end appeal.

As part of the Museum's Capital Improvement, member Stu Warner has contracted with fabricators to pay for the completion of the five remaining outside decorative balconies to be installed in March. Along with the new windows put in with Ohio History Connection grant money, the balconies will enhance the external facade of the building and allow us to complete interior work on the walls on the second floor. We will now be able to hang the building's original decorative lanterns marked "28" under the new balconies as seen in the original pictures of the building.



As you can see from our "ladder", we still have a long way to go, but we are off to a good start. A donation of any amount is important to help us achieve our goal.

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## Special Fire History Programs at the Museum



The Fire Museum has received a matching grant from CAC (Cuyahoga Arts and Culture) to prepare and present a series of illustrated programs on local fire fighting history. The programs are also designed to show the impact fire history has had on the community and how lives have been impacted. The programs will be

presented on Saturday afternoons at the Museum when visitors can also tour the exhibits. (Standard admission rates apply, no extra charge for the program; Museum members always admitted free.)

The first program is titled "Racing to the Alarm...The Horse-drawn Fire Fighting Era in Cleveland" and will be presented by Museum Historian Paul Nelson. The program is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 2:00pm and will be held in the Education area on the first floor. Dates and titles of other programs in the year-long series

will be announced when planning is completed. We hope you will attend and learn more about the rich history of local fire fighting activity.



## Cleveland Fire History Tid Bits

By Paul Nelson

There are some interesting stories found in the pages of company journals. Some of those are included here.

### RUNAWAY STEAMER



Engine 13 1873 Silsby steamer

On May 1, 1877 the steamer of Engine 13 was damaged in a strange accident. While on a run the driver was thrown from his seat and the horses galloped away on their own. They took the engine over the bank at the rear of the Cataract House and into a stone quarry in the 18th Ward. The horses were injured but not fatally. The 2,400lb steamer was pulled out of the quarry and sent to Silsby for repair. The 4-wheel Babcock hose reel with its crew followed the run-away steamer but could not catch up to it before it went over the brink.

a light brown gelding, a 6 year old named Crazy Horse who also stood 14 hands tall. Company members gave their horses names and in early days recorded them in detail. As the years went on horses were only recorded by their official City number, their descriptions omitted, as a little piece of fire tradition disappeared.

### OPPS!!!

At Engine 30, an interesting entry was found on February 1, 1909. The man on watch called the alarm office on Hill Street reporting they were going on a still alarm. Staging for the call was on the apron of Station 30 in Glenville. The alarm report in the journal indicated that a fire was discovered in the locker of Lt. English at the rear of the station. The engine was fired-up and members laid out 50-ft of 2½-in. line to the hydrant. A 50-ft length of 1-in. hose was deployed to the rear of the firehouse but not used. One of the members had taken a portable 3-gal chemical extinguisher from the hose wagon to extinguish the blaze. The journal recorded the steamer worked ¼-hour. Loss was \$17.00. Cause of the fires was "mice and matches."



Station No. 30 645 E. 105th St.

### NEW DRESS UNIFORM RULES

The Board of Fire Commissioners issued an Order on May 19, 1885 that all members of the Cleveland Fire Department were required to wear gray straw, derby-style hats as part of the official dress uniform for the summer. Whenever the company left quarters on an official event (parade, display, public event, etc.) or members appeared in public in uniform, the hats must be worn. Obviously they were not worn on fire calls. Each member had to buy his own hat at a cost of 80-cents.

### PAYROLL THEFT

The standard policy of the Fire Department in 1889 regarding payment of wages required the Captain of the company to go to City Hall to collect cash due each company member for the pay period. The amount due was calculated and recorded in the company journal. When members received their pay, they would sign the journal.

At the end of the May 1889 pay period, Captain William Crane of Engine 12 left quarters at noon for City Hall according to the journal entry. He was to collect \$593.49 due members of Co. No. 12. Company members began to be concerned when Captain Crane did not return in the afternoon. A call was made to City Hall that verified he had left downtown. He did not return by evening roll call, by the next morning roll call, or anytime thereafter.

Captain Crane had absconded with the payroll. He was never found and subsequently discharged from the Department by the Board of Fire Commissioners on June 20, 1889 for embezzlement. Company members petitioned City Council for reimbursement of lost wages but were rejected. No information was stated for the rejection.



Station No. 12 2020 W. 58th St.

## New Faces at the Museum

### Museum welcomes Bryan Draga to the Board



Bryan Draga

Bryan Draga is the Director of Marketing for the New Residential and Multi-Family Segments in The Americas Group at The Sherwin William Company. He has worked for Sherwin Williams since 1997, holding key management positions in Sales, Marketing and Corporate Development during his tenure. Bryan received his Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science in 1995 from Cornell University and obtained his Master of Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University, Weatherhead School of Management in 2004. Bryan is an avid Cleveland sports fan, enjoys working out, riding bikes, jogging and hiking and loves spending time with his family and friends. Bryan has four children - Cullen, Lily, Evan and Ashton, and currently resides in his hometown of Amherst, Ohio.

Bryan joined the Board in August, after being recommended by Board Member Dan Martone. The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center welcomes Bryan Draga to our Board of Directors.

### Paul Sabataitis joins the Museum Board

Paul Sabataitis is a Senior Financial Analyst in the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for Case Western Reserve University. Before joining CWRU in 2011, he spent 13 years with McDonald Investments Inc. as an Associate Vice President in equity research and portfolio management. He received his BSBA in Economics from John Carroll University and is finishing a Master of Arts in Financial Integrity from Case Western Reserve University. He has worked as a part-time Firefighter for the Village of Gates Mills Fire Department since 2015. He currently resides in Gates Mills with his wife and daughter.

Paul joined the Board in August, after being recommended by Board Member Dan Hayden. The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center welcomes Paul Sabataitis to our Board of Directors.



Paul Sabataitis

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## Museum Annual Meeting



Paul Nelson photo

The Museum Annual Meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, January 28, 2018. Members and friends had the opportunity to see the new exhibit on the apparatus floor and items in the education area that will be used in the fire safety education programs. President Roy Ziganti, Jr. described the accomplishments of 2017, the most significant being the ability to finally open the Museum on a regular schedule. While the first floor is open, work will continue in 2018 on the second floor dormitory area and new bathroom.

Our new Education Director Bob Szabo talked about plans on fire safety programming that will be available to touring groups. We plan to have programs for both children and adults. Meeting attendees enjoyed light refreshments and the chance to meet old friends.

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## Fire Museum at Western Reserve Historical Society Gala

The Fire Museum was invited by the Western Reserve Historical Society to have an exhibit at their annual fund raising gala. The title of the event was "Somewhere in Time...Satin and Soot" depicting life in the 1870's. Many of the attendees were dressed in phenomenal period costumes. We were asked to display photographs and artifacts that represented fire fighting in Cleveland in the 1870's.

It gave the Museum a great opportunity to tell our story to a new group of people. We displayed photos of the construction work at the Museum and the exhibit now on the apparatus floor. Jim Bell and Paul Nelson represented the Museum.



Paul Nelson photo

## Firefighter Dutch Cole Honored and Laid to Rest

By Bob Gahr



Dutch Matthias Cole

A friend recently relayed this touching story to me which I felt should be shared with others. On a hot summer's day the Hambden Township Fire Department was returning back to the station from a structure fire in Chardon. The crew decided to stop at King Kone ice cream store to cool off. A little boy, Dutch Cole was very excited to see the firefighters and fire trucks. The firefighters learned that Dutch had a rare form of cancer and had been going under chemotherapy. They decided to surprise him on his upcoming third birthday and make him an honorary Hambden Township Firefighter.

The Hambden Township Fire Department pumper and squad arrived at his birthday party and presented Dutch Cole with his own Hambden Township fire gear with his name on the turnout

coat. They said if you looked at the smile on Dutch Cole's face you would have never have guessed he was battling a rare form of cancer. Dutch sat and rode in all the fire trucks and even handled a hose line squirting water to the joy of all. The firefighters said he was the best nozzle man on the Hambden Fire Department.

Sadly Dutch passed away a month later. Dutch had made a special bond with the Hambden Township firefighters. Dutch Cole's funeral was the following Thursday. In a post on Facebook the Hambden Township Fire Department said: Today we honored a very special young man that touched all of our lives forever. We would like to extend a very grateful thanks to all of the departments that assisted us today: Concord Township Fire Department, Chardon Fire Department, Middlefield Fire Department, Montville Fire Department, Munson Fire Department, Parkman Fire Department, Rome Fire Department, Thompson Fire Department, Windsor Fire Department, and Geauga County Sheriff's Office.

At All Souls Cemetery with tears in their eyes firefighters said goodbye to their new found friend and fellow firefighter Dutch Matthias Cole. What a special tribute, God Bless firefighters and emergency responders everywhere.

## Fire Museum Offers Fire Safety Programming

One of the Mission Statements of the Fire Museum and Education Center is to offer instructive fire safety programming on what to do in case of fire or other traumatic events at home. Our first emphasis is directed at the most vulnerable, the young and seniors. Home fires are the largest cause of injuries and deaths to civilians. Latest data for the US indicate a total of 3,280 fire deaths and 15,700 injuries from fire per year but the number is going down. One of the major reasons for that is an awareness of people on what to do in case of fire.

Programming has been developed to help that trend continue. Our Education Director Bob Szabo is a retired Cleveland Heights fire fighter, an instructor at the Tri-C Fire Training Academy, and a certified school instructor having taught in the Mayfield Heights safety career program. He brings real life experience to the Museum fire safety programs.

We encourage groups like pre schoolers, home schoolers, charter schools, parochial and public schools to attend one of our programs and visit the firematic exhibits. Others welcome include community senior groups, social clubs, church groups, scouts or just a group of friends interested in visiting the Fire Museum exhibit and learning about fire safety. The NFPA and the U.S. Fire Administration reminds us that fire safety is everyone's business.

Some of the activities involve our smoke bedroom and hazard kitchen, interactive 9-1-1 telephone, evacuation plans, fire prevention

activities for your home and playtime for our young visitors. Maybe putting on miniature turn out gear and "extinguish" a fire would be a blast, play with a toy fire engine on a "street" rug, use coloring books or puzzles of fire related scenes and other fun stuff. We won't ask our seniors to go through the smoke room, but we will help you be prepared and provide ideas to keep your home fire safe.



Museum Smoke Bedroom

Call the Museum at 216.664.6312 for more information or arrange a tour. If it's easier send an inquiry to [info@wrfmc.com](mailto:info@wrfmc.com).

## CFD Trivia

By Paul Nelson

**Q:** What piece of CFD equipment was painted black and grey?

**A:** The 1939 Fuel Wagon at Headquarters.



CFD Archives

The City of Cleveland created a Division of Motor Vehicles in 1938 that was responsible for purchase of City vehicles. Special vehicles like the fuel wagon were the "property" of the Motor Division and carried an "H" inventory number rather than the "F" inventory number. That City inventory numbering system (number-letter-number) was also created when the Motor Division was established. Prior to that time all CFD vehicles had an inventory number of CFD and three numbers.

Motor Division vehicles like the tow truck and other heavy duty equipment carried the paint scheme of grey with black fenders. That carried over to the CFD Fuel Wagon. The only thing that was red on the truck was a little torpedo siren just behind the cab.

It remained in service at Headquarters replaced by a Ford Fuel Wagon in 1958 painted red. It was repainted white later, moved to Station 7, then to Station 5 before being discontinued in 1975.

## An Unusual Mack for Akron



AFD Archives

The Akron Fire Department purchased a rather unique service ladder truck/chemical engine from Mack in 1927. It had a 35-gal chemical tank, a staple on all Akron motorized fire apparatus as well as a home-made windshield. It replaced a 1921 White service ladder truck at Truck No. 2 that was totaled in a traffic accident. Fire Chief John Mertz wanted an Ahrens-Fox service ladder, his favorite apparatus builder with seven Ahrens-Fox piston pumpers in service. However, the City Administration chose Mack instead of the Fox. Chief Mertz never liked the truck. He claimed it was underpowered and inefficient; it would only go 10mph up the N. Howard St. hill. Truck 2 got a new 1931 Seagrave service ladder and the Mack sort of disappeared.

## Calendar of Events.

- **Saturday, March 3, 2018** – 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](http://www.wrfmc.com).
- **Sat. & Sun., April 28 & 29, 2018** – Allentown, PA. Auction and Firematic Flea Market, Allentown Fairgrounds, Agricultural Hall, 17th and Crow Sts. Auction, Saturday, 9:00am. Info at [www.donnandassociates.com](http://www.donnandassociates.com) or Donn Zalewski, 216.780.4829.
- **Saturday, April 28, 2018** – Jackson, MI, GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI. Info at [infogliaffa@gmail.com](mailto:infogliaffa@gmail.com)
- **Sunday, May 27, 2018** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Staging at 9:00am, start 11:00am at Alfred Lerner Way by CFD Firefighters Memorial. **Need volunteers** as the Fire Museum operates food tent. Leave message at [info@wrfmc.com](mailto:info@wrfmc.com) or 216.664.6312. Ride info at [www.firefightersmemorialride.com](http://www.firefightersmemorialride.com).
- **Saturday, June 23, 2018** – Reynoldsburg, OH. Central Ohio SPAAMFAA Muster at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH. Info at [www.coafaa.org](http://www.coafaa.org). **Note date correction.**
- **Fri. & Sat., July 27-28, 2018** – Frankenmuth, MI. Great Lakes SPAAMFAA Muster at Heritage Park. Info at [www.gliafaa.org](http://www.gliafaa.org).
- **Wed. - Sat., August 1-4, 2018** – Cherry Hill/Pennsauken, NJ. Summer SPAAMFAA Muster and Convention. Info at [www.spaamfaa.org](http://www.spaamfaa.org). **Note date correction.**
- **Wed. - Sat., August 22-25, 2018** – Racine, WI. International Fire Buffs Annual Convention. Info at [www.ifba.org](http://www.ifba.org).
- **Thurs., - Sun., September 6-9, 2018** – Cleveland, OH. Fire Museum Network National Conference hosted by the Western Reserve Fire Museum. Info at [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com).

## A Parting Shot



Paul Nelson photo

The 700 Series American LaFrance that has been the Museum's activity truck has left Cleveland for Sandwich, Illinois west of Chicago. It originally was in service there and has been acquired by them. It will be repainted its original ALF red.

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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**PLAN TO ATTEND  
THE 34TH ANNUAL FIREMATIC FLEA MARKET  
Saturday, March 3, 2018  
Cleveland Fire Training Academy**



WRFM Photo Collection

**Annual Museum Flea Market**

The 34th Annual Fire Museum Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy, 3101 Lakeside Avenue just off the Inner Belt. Doors open at 8:00am with a \$3 donation. Coffee and donuts are available early and hot dogs later. Vendors from several states and Canada offer general fire memorabilia, photos, books, patches, apparel, alarm equipment and much more. Hope to see you there..

**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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