



THE BUGLE



Summer 2024

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 30, Number 3

IT'S LUAU TIME

BY JOAN OLIVER

Sunday, August 25, 2024, 3:00 - 7:00 PM the Museum will be hosting it's Luau Fundraiser. This event will be held again on the Veranda at Lago Custom Events in a tented venue nestled between the Aloft Hotel and Ernest & Young building in a lovely outdoor area above the Flats with breathtaking views of the lakefront.

A ticket entitles you to partake in an assortment of appetizers, a lavish Luau style buffet dinner, complimentary wine, beer and tropical punch. Retired firefighter and museum member Bob Shimits will be the DJ and entertain us with a variety of musical selections. Tickets may be purchased in advance at \$50.00 per individual, \$100.00 per couple and will include \$5.00 worth of free Chinese Raffle tickets per person. Tickets purchased at the door will not include the Raffle tickets.

Tables for ten people are available at \$500.00. Included will be a Tito's Toss courtesy of Tito's vodka, a wine toss, a 50/50 Raffle, a Chinese Raffle as well as a Silent Auction. Valet parking will be available for \$7.00 through ASV valet services & Lago Restaurant.

This is our major fundraiser for the year and we hope everyone will turn out to support this fun event. The beautiful location and wonderful food is provided by Lago through the Salerno group and Board Member, Andrew Czarzasty and is gratefully appreciated.

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).



Crowd Anxiously Awaits the Silent Auction Winners

PRESIDENT'S LOG

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

It is at this time of year I always wonder where has the summer gone? The Museum has been extremely active with a number of successful events starting with our support of the Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride the end of May and continuing with our participation in Cleveland History Days in June. We held a very successful Dalmatian Day at the Museum with many wagging tails. A few weeks later we held a well attended Apparatus Day which, like Dalmatian Day, was blessed with perfect weather. We had a very large number of Museum visitors that day. The Museum has also held several different sessions of Boy Scout Merit Badge training over the late spring and summer. Another accomplishment of the Museum this year was finally revising and reorganizing our By-Laws. Special thanks go to Board member, Pat Poole, who took on this project and saw it through to a conclusion.

Financially, the Museum has continued to maintain a solid base. We have had more visitors come through this year and we have increased revenues from gift shop sales. On the other hand, our expenses keep rising with inflation including the cost of our auxiliary storage space and the cost of our standard contracts such as cleaning the building and elevator maintenance. In our last newsletter I reported that we were about ready to obtain City approval and an occupancy permit for the second floor dormitory. Unfortunately, the City of Cleveland suffered a major computer hack at the time they were supposed to schedule our inspection. This has set everything back, although we are now told an inspection should be scheduled before the end of August. We already have groups waiting to rent our dormitory space. (Continued on page 2, see Log)

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

Published by The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center, 310 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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NEW VENUE FOR ANTIQUE FIRE ENGINE SHOW

BY KENNY RYBKA

The event in September with WRBA had to be moved! Due to construction at Wendy Park, the “Antique Fire Engine Show and Safety Day” on Saturday, September 7th had moved to a new location: Merwin’s Wharf/Rivergate Park, 1785 Merwin Ave in the Flats from 10am – 2pm.

Scheduled events include: Classic fire engine displays with pumping demonstrations, children’s activities and games, a demonstration by Cleveland FD’s fireboat, a performance by the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes and Drums and MetroHealth Medical Center’s Trauma and Burn Injury Prevention display.

Kenny Rybka Photo



Aerial View of New Location

Apparatus owners can email WRFBA1972@gmail.com to receive a registration form if they would like to participate. Otherwise, we hope you’ll join us for fun-filled day.

LOG

(Continued from Page 1)

Also in our last *Bugle*, I mentioned the Museum’s participation in a fire apparatus muster and show. Please note that the location of the September 7, event has been changed to Merwin’s Wharf on the Cuyahoga River. See the article above. Last, but certainly not least, is the accident that occurred with the funeral caisson Memorial Day weekend. I have spent most of the summer fighting with the insurance company and discussing caisson options. Please see the separate article about the caisson in this issue. For future activities, please plan to attend our Fire Prevention Week Open House scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2024. I hope to see you all at our Luau fundraiser on Sunday, August 25 as described in the article in this *Bugle*.

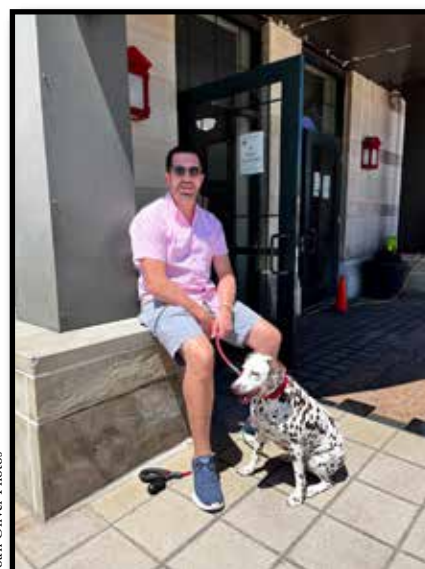
DALMATIAN DAY 2024

BY JIM BELL

June 15 was a bright and sunny day here in Cleveland, Ohio. A perfect day to gather with our 2-legged and 4-legged friends from the Western Reserve Dalmatian Club. Once again the Fire Museum held it’s annual Dalmatian Celebration on the front plaza. From 10:00AM until 2:00PM the plaza was full of happy, wiggling, spotted Dals from all across northeast Ohio. The Fire Museum provided popcorn, hotdogs, water and soda pop for our many guests. Several visitors mentioned they did not know about the dalmatian visit and were completely surprised when they arrived and saw the pups. The dogs even had their own splash pool where they could go to cool off or get a drink of water. A fun time was had by all and we will be doing it again next year.



Dalmatian Owners Pose with Reps from Brutus Bone Broth



Joan Oliver Photos

Dan Martone with his pooch

PAYROLL DEDUCTION - THE TRADITION CONTINUES

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

Payroll deduction is the keystone to the Museum's continued success. It started nearly twenty years ago when firefighters on our Board of Directors suggested that CFD members would support and contribute to a payroll deduction program in spite of the fact the City administration was contemplating layoffs at that time. Our firefighters stepped up and gave the payroll deduction program overwhelming support. This started a tradition that has continued to this day.

The payroll deduction program not only provides a steady flow of income for the Museum, but it also demonstrates the overwhelming support the Museum has among our firefighters. That show of support, in turn, has helped us raise money from foundations and grants. The program must be continually reinforced as the first generation of payroll deduction supporters are retiring. Now we turn to the new cadet classes to continue the tradition and pick up from those who have retired.

This summer the Cleveland Division of Fire sent the current cadet class to the Museum so it could learn more about the history of firefighting and of the department. During the visit, the museum explained its payroll deduction program to the cadet class through retired CFD members Keith Devine, Dean Murad, and Chris Sheehe who regularly volunteer at the Museum. We are very pleased to report that this class, like the ones before it, overwhelmingly joined the payroll deduction program. We thank them and welcome them aboard as our newest group of Museum members.



Joan Oliver Photos

Pres. John Zangerle Welcomes Cadet Class



Keith Devine Talks About the Benefits of Giving

HOME ELECTRICAL FIRES ARE NO JOKE

BY JOAN OLIVER



The home should be a safe haven for family members, however, there may be hidden dangers that compromise the safety of its residents.

Electrical fire pop up frequently on the news and are no joke. According to Hartford Insurance electrical malfunctions or failures account for 34,000 home fires a year. The National Fire Protection Association says annually they can contribute to 440 deaths and \$1.3 billion in property damage.

The homes that are most vulnerable to fires are older, structures that were not built to withstand the demands of modern living. Nationwide Insurance says that half the homes in the U.S. have outdated insufficient electrical systems. The Electrical Safety Foundation goes on to say homes built before 1973 with overloaded systems poses a number of safety threats.

Besides overloaded circuits, damaged wiring that is worn, frayed

or loose can cause fires. Malfunctioning or poorly maintained appliances, improperly installed extension cords and power strips, and faulty outlets or switches are another contributor as well.

Homeowners can reduce the risk of electrical fires by doing the following:

- Install fault circuit interrupters to help prevent fires caused by nicked or frayed wiring. They will cut off power when an electrical problem is detected before a fire can start.
- Conduct a home electrical inspection. All homes over 40 years should be inspected to make sure their electrical systems can handle modern demands.
- Setup a monitor on your home's electrical network. These are smart plug sensors designed to detect hazards and will warn you of any arcs and sparks that develop which are precursors to electrical fires.
- Use timers or smart devices to control electrical components in your house such as lights and appliances. This enables users to turn on or off appliances to reduce overheating and other possible risk factors for electrical fires.
- Use a professional electrician rather than doing electrical work yourself can help considerably reduce electrical fire risk. They know how to work on electrical systems safely to prevent damage to wires and components, and most importantly safeguard against shock.

GOOD TURNOUT FOR APPARATUS DAY

BY JIM BELL

The Fire Museum held it's yearly Apparatus Day on Saturday, July 13th Under blues skies and sunshine we welcomed several vintage rigs to our front plaza. It is always nice to see fire trucks sitting outside of an old fire station. Among the visitors American LaFrance, Mack, McCoy-Miller, Pierce and American LaFrance were well represented. The museum supplied food and beverages and the building was open for tours. As always, we want to thank the apparatus owners for bringing their rigs to share with us and thank our volunteers for making this wonderful day a success. We hope to see even more apparatus owners next year. We would love to see fire trucks up and down the street!



Joan Oliver Photos

Mike Brown's friends and family pose beside rig



Greg Oesch with visitors beside newly restored rig

MUSEUM TAKES PART IN CLEVELAND HISTORY DAYS

BY JOAN OLIVER

This is an exciting year for the Museum as this is the first year that we participated in Cleveland History Days. This year we partnered with The Soldiers and Sailor Monument and the Cleveland Police Museum on June 26th to offer a walking tour entitled "Walk the Beat with Cleveland's Hero's". The tour focused on Cleveland in the 1890's and what it was like to be a firefighter, police officer and in the military during that time period. We offered two tours that day at 1:00pm and 1:30pm. The tours started at the Fire Museum then proceeded to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument with the final destination being the Police Museum. Greg Palumbo, Executive Director of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and Mazie Adams, Executive Director of the Police Museum conducted the walking part of the tour once it left each Museum. On this part of the tour the guides explained what these areas looked like back in the 1890's and focused any significant events during that occurred that time period. We had over 20 people for each scheduled tour and it was received well by participants.

For our part of the tour, docents dressed up in the daily work uniform of a Cleveland firefighter during that time period. Retired CFD firefighter, Keith Devine spoke that day on the setup operation of the Cleveland Fire Department, life at the fire station, and their response to fires. Docents Tom Kulick and Frank Novak were also on hand to answer questions. All participants in the walking tour that day were allowed to come back to Museum after it ended and get a more in depth tour of the Museum. It was an exciting event for all and all three museums look forward to participating in Cleveland History Days and offering it again next year.



Joan Oliver Photos

Mazie Adams & Greg Palumbo Pose Before Tours Begin



Docent Tom Kulick Dressed & Ready for Questions



Keith Devine Talks about CFD Fire in the 1890's

ELMER TAYLOR: FATHER OF THE WARRENSVILLE HTS. FIRE DEPT.

PART 1 OF A 2 PART SERIES

BY KENNY RYBKA

Elmer C. Taylor was born on September 21st, 1900 to George and Mary Taylor in Willoughby Twp. He was raised in Lakewood, where Elmer's love of the fire service began at an early age. George Taylor, himself a fire buff, often took his young son to visit fire stations and to an occasional fire. Elmer's grade school was located across the street from a Lakewood firehouse. One day when the fire siren went off, Elmer got up from his desk, ducked out a window, and followed the rigs to the fire. He returned to school later in the day smelling of smoke, covered in soot and was soaking wet.



Chief Taylor in 1924

Elmer graduated from Lakewood High School and went on to serve with a state-side unit of the US Army during World War I.

Elmer, along with his mother and four brothers, moved to Miles Road in Warrensville Twp after his father passed away. His aunt and uncle, Frances and William Corben had a farm there. The township, which covered twenty-five square miles southeast of Cleveland, was established in 1816 and remained mostly rural/agricultural throughout the 19th century. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the village was recognized as the "Geranium Center of the U.S.," with eight large greenhouses located along Emery and Richmond Roads. The postwar migration from Cleveland eventually turned the once agricultural region into a modern suburb. As the Cleveland metropolitan area expanded, Warrensville Township was divided to include parts of Cleveland, Highland Hills, Shaker Heights, Beachwood, Warrensville Heights, North Randall, University Heights, and Cleveland Heights.

Fire protection was lacking in the township in the early days. In 1920, Elmer was working nights at the Erie Railroad as a bridge operator when he and his uncle decided to purchase a used 1917 Ford Model T chassis to convert into a chemical fire engine. The family funded the entire project and even paid for items needed to keep the truck operating. The engine was stored in their garage, meaning that the family car had to sit outside. A telephone was set up to receive emergency calls in their home. A switch in one room would allow Aunt Frances to sound the fire siren located at Miles Ave. and Green Rd. She would then go through her list of phone numbers to dispatch the newly recruited volunteer firefighters to the scene as Elmer and his uncle responded with the Model T. Grass and barns fires were the most numerous types that the men fought at the time.



Taylor Next to Twp's Second Chemical Engine

In 1923, the family purchased a used Ford 1-ton truck chassis that was longer and could carry a hose reel. Used chemical tanks were purchased from American LaFrance and some parts were taken from the original Model T to complete the conversion.

It was during these years

that the township trustees started to support the fire department and would help raise funds for supplies and equipment by accepting donations and holding dances and dinners. The trustees appointed Elmer as the Assistant Chief, and he was put in charge of the east end of the township. In 1927, a portion of the township broke away and the Village of Warrensville Heights was formed. Elmer was appointed as Chief of the 12-man volunteer fire department at that time with a salary of \$60 per year. He also served as the town's electrical and plumbing inspector while continuing his career at the railroad at night.

With the help of other volunteers, two more fire rigs were built. One was a 1924 Federal 2-ton truck chassis that was purchased from a junkyard. The volunteers equipped it with a salvaged Hudson motor and a second transmission was installed to operate a small pump. In 1927, a chassis was donated to the department which was rebuilt by the volunteers who added a second transmission to drive the truck's pump. Chief Taylor later recalled about his home-made fleet: "It's a good thing we built them, or we'd never been able to figure out how to operate them."



L to R Chief Taylor on 1913 ALF, 1920's Model T, & 1924 Federal

Elmer married Elizabeth Fischer, the sister of one of his volunteers, in July of 1928. They moved into their own home on Northland Drive in 1930 where Mrs. Taylor became the dispatcher; taking calls, notifying the volunteers, setting off the siren and keeping track of who was responding.

In the early 1930's, an old store located on Warrensville Center Road just north of Miles Ave. was converted into the first official fire station. It housed equipment including an American LaFrance engine and city-service ladder truck that were purchased from the East Cleveland FD, the first pieces of fire apparatus that were not built by the department members.

During those years, a custodian resided on the second floor of the town hall. When he received an emergency call, he would sound the fire siren at the fire station, then call Mrs. Taylor, who would set off the fire siren at the east end of town and call the volunteers by telephone. When the custodian was not available, someone would have to be home at Chief Taylor's residence in case an emergency occurred. Regular dispatchers were eventually employed, but they would still call the Chief's home to report fires, and Mrs. Taylor would take over the duties of notifying the volunteers and sounding the siren. This system was utilized into the 1960's.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: VAUGHAN MILLER

BY JIM BELL

In this issue, we would like to shine our Volunteer Spotlight on Vaughan Miller. Vaughan volunteers as a docent but is willing to jump in every time he is asked for help.

Chief Vaughan Miller (ret) served 35 years (1984-2019) with the Ventura County (Calif.) Fire Department. Starting in 1984, he promoted through the ranks, specializing in structural firefighting, urban search and rescue, water rescue, and wildland firefighting. He retired holding the position of Deputy Fire Chief in charge of all day-to-day operations. He is qualified as a ICS Type 1 Incident Commander. During his career as a firefighter he began building houses for himself, eventually he returned to school and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA (1995). After graduation, he moonlighted for a private architectural firm several years and was a partner in ArchFX, a business that specialized in architectural visualization until 2010.

Chief Miller was involved in two projects that significantly impacted the fire service. In 2005, he co-founded the Heat Issues Working Group. The Group was responsible for the redevelopment and redeployment of single-layer wildland PPE in a design that is currently worn as a station uniform. From 2009-2019 he was also a key proponent in developing a common operational platform for

wildland firefighting, where real-time incident information is shared widely among incident responders. The program is in use today, using real-time infra-red imagery that gives responders up to the minute fire information.

Recently relocating to Cleveland to be close to his daughters in college, he works at the WRFM on weekends and is employed by K2M Design in Ohio City, where he is a public safety specialist in designing fire stations. When not working, he occasionally drafts small architectural projects on the side, but mostly enjoys golf, playing guitar and spending time with family and friends.



Vaughan Miller

FUNERAL CAISSON OUT OF SERVICE

Memorial Day weekend the funeral caisson was returning from a funeral on I 90 West in heavy holiday traffic. The caisson driver was cut off by a box truck which pulled in front of him and immediately hit its brakes. This caused a multiple vehicle accident, and the front cab of the funeral caisson was seriously damaged when it collided with the steel lift gate on the box truck. The good news is that our driver was not injured nor were any other injuries reported. No citation was issued to our driver, and he was able to drive the caisson back to its storage space.

Since that time, we have gone through a roller coaster ride of issues over the repair and the future of the caisson. Member Kenny Rybka arranged to have the caisson evaluated for repair by a professional fire apparatus repair shop in Akron. Their evaluation was that it was "totaled" from an insurance perspective, and it would cost in excess of \$150,000.00 to repair it to its pre-accident condition. The company said the only effective way to repair the truck was to remove the entire cab, find a "donor" cab, and then replace the original cab with the "donor" cab which would have to be restored. We also talked with several other sources about repair, but the estimates were beyond the Museum's ability to pay. Another issue was that the stated value of the caisson in our insurance policy was only \$15,000.00. This goes back to the early days of the restoration by the many volunteers who worked on the caisson. Even at that low number, the insurance company was not willing to pay the stated value. After much haggling and getting other estimates for the insurance company they finally agreed to pay based on stated value. The problem was that 1980 American LaFrance fire trucks generally do not have very high values.

All these problems caused the Board to take a hard look at the operation issues of maintaining a funeral caisson. The fact of the matter is that caisson usage has declined dramatically in the last several years as more people have scaled back funeral costs and cremation has become more common. We also considered



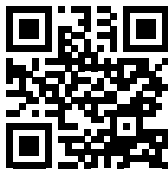
replacement with another vehicle but realized that the cost of modifying and repainting another fire engine would be prohibitive. The Board ultimately decided that the Museum would cease operation of the funeral caisson. This was a difficult and very painful decision since the caisson has served the Museum well over the years and was a source of pride for our members. For those who do not know, the caisson was a major project that took many skilled volunteers several years to complete. The truck was stripped down to bare metal and completely primed, repainted, and re-stripped. The truck was modified for caisson duty by removing the tank and the body was specially reinforced. It would be impossible to replicate this project under current circumstances. While arrangements are not yet final, it appears that one of our members intends to purchase the caisson for its salvage value and will personally attempt to restore it. We feel this is the best outcome for what was a very unfortunate accident.

The Museum cannot forget the time and effort volunteers led by Stu Warner put into restoring the caisson which was followed by the time and effort of the Caisson Committee originally led by Danny Hayden who was then succeeded by Dean Murad. Committee members took time out of their schedule to maintain the caisson and take it to many funerals always in spotless condition. Special thanks also go to John Heiman and Jeff Campbell who led the maintenance work on the caisson over the years. The caisson will be missed by all.

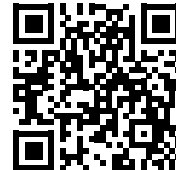
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Sunday, August 25, 2024** – Cleveland, OH. WRFM Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser. 3– 7pm. Held on the Veranda at Lago Custom Events, 1091 W. 10th St., Cleveland, OH. Hawaiian Luau style dinner, Chinese & silent auctions, 50/50 raffle, Tito’s Toss, Wine Toss and music. Valet parking through ASV Valet Services at Lago. Tickets will be \$50 Individual, \$100 Couple. Tickets can be purchased online at www.wrfmc.com or by calling 216.664.6312.
- **Saturday, August 31, 2024**– Dayton, OH. Miami Valley Antique Fire Apparatus Association’s 27th Annual Antique Fire Apparatus Show/Muster. Carillon Historical Park, 1000 Carillon Blvd. For more info. visit their facebook page <https://tinyurl.com/y75s93v8>.
- **Saturday, September 7, 2024** – Cleveland, OH. WRBA’s & WRFM’S Antique Fire Engine Show and Safety Day, Merwin’s Wharf/ Rivergate Park, 1785 Merwin Ave in the Flats Show/Muster. Classic fire engine displays with pumping demonstrations, children’s activities and games, a demonstration by Cleveland FD’s fireboat, a performance by the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipes and Drums, and MetroHealth Medical Center’s Trauma and Burn Injury Prevention display. For more info about display apparatus or event email wrfba1972@gmail.com.
- **Saturday, September 14, 2024** – Cleveland, OH. 2024 Patriot Day Emergency Vehicle Show put on by the Cleveland Police Museum and the Western Reserve Fire Museum from 10am – 3pm. Justice Center Plaza, 1300 Ontario Street, Downtown Cleveland. Displays of restored vintage police and fire vehicles, and active duty military and emergency vehicles. For more information and to register a vehicle contact Jim Traynor at 216.299.4444.
- **Saturday, October 5, 2024** – Cleveland, OH. Annual Fire Safety Week Open House at the Museum, 10am– 2pm. Free hotdogs, popcorn & beverages for all attendees. Helmets, goodie bags, games & activities for the kids including the Jr. Firefighter’s Challenge, fire safety presentations, & museum tours. Admission to the Museum will be free of charge during Open House hours. For more information visit our website at www.wrfmc.com.

You can use the QR codes listed below to access the websites referenced in the Calendar of Events



www.wrfmc.com



Miami Valley Facebook

MUSEUM OFFERS 1928 AMERICAN LAFRANCE FOR SALE

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

A number of years ago an ex-Cleveland Heights 1928 American LaFrance 1000 gpm Metropolitan series pumper was donated to the Museum. At the time all four tires were unusable and the fire engine was not running. The Museum has ultimately replaced the tires and replaced one wheel it needed. The fire engine is unrestored but fairly complete. The motor is free, but it has not been run for years. The Museum Board has decided that our storage costs must be reduced and that the Museum could not undertake a restoration project at this time. The fire engine will be sold “as is, where is”. The Museum has obtained an appraisal of this fire engine for \$20,000.00. Anyone interested in bidding on this apparatus should contact Joan Oliver, Museum Administrator, at 440-429-6208. Bids must be received by Saturday, September 7, 2024.

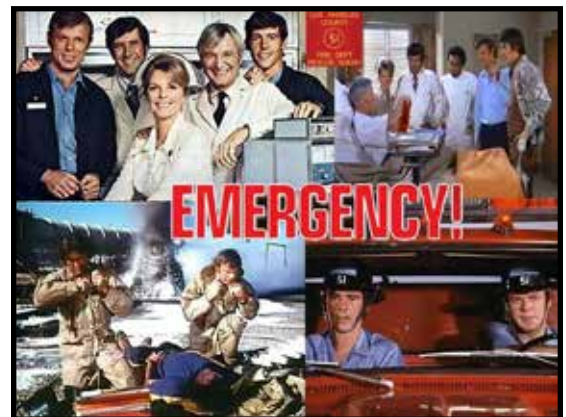
CFD TRIVIA

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

Q: Today there are a number of TV shows featuring fire departments in action. What TV show had the most impact on the fire service? When was it televised? Who were the lead actors?

A: The television show “Emergency” started on NBC in 1972. It aired for six years. The stars of the show were firefighter paramedics John Gage (Randolph Mantooth) and Roy DeSoto (Kevin Tighe).

The show was based on the newly established firefighter paramedics in LA County operating out of a fictional Station 51 with Squad 51, a Dodge utility vehicle, and Engine 51, a 1965 Crown Firecoach. The show was filmed at LA Station 127, but in deference to the program’s success, in 1994 LA renumbered Station 60 as Station 51 to honor the series. The significance of the show was that it graphically demonstrated and popularized the use of “on scene” paramedic assistance in saving lives. It influenced many departments to train firefighter paramedics who have brought a whole new component to the fire service.





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

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**Plan to Attend
Fire Prevention Week Open House
Oct. 5, 2024 10am - 2pm**

**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.



Fire Prevention Week Open House Saturday, Oct. 5th

Mark your calendars and join us on Oct. 5th as we celebrate Fire Prevention week! The Museum will be hosting an Open House that Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Admission to the Museum will be free. There will be all kinds of games and activities for the kids, junior firefighter challenge, fire trucks, fire safety lectures, museum tours, hot dogs, popcorn, beverages and more. Something for everyone! So, please come down and join the fun.

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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