

FIRE MUSEUM WATCHDESK

Autumn 2011



Collecting · Preserving · Educating · Interpreting



1856 John Agnew pumping engine on loan by Kelly Kinzle. Agnew is considered to be the best of the hand engine builders. Built for Pittsburgh, Pa., this unit is rare for its original and near-original paint and decoration. Photo by Josiah Wagener.

These two apparatus enhance the study resources of the Fire Museum of Maryland as they represent the crème de la crème of original (Agnew) and rebuilt (Maxim) American fire equipment.

1926 Maxim motor pumping car on loan by David and Nancy Brown. David drove this rig when he was a rookie in the Marion Co., St. Johnsbury, Vt., bought it many years later when it was almost a pike of rust, and restored it from top to bottom.
Photo by Lee Smith

Two new exhibits come to the Museum

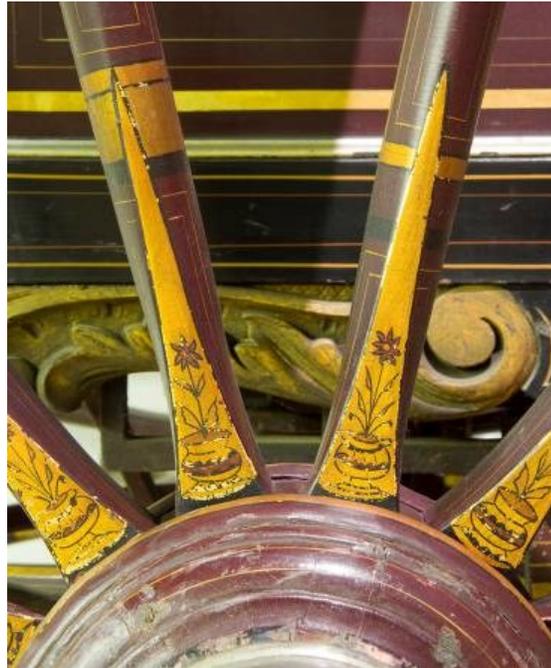




Josiah and Kelly (right) assembling nickel-plated crown. Photo by Tom Heaver



Photo by J. Wagener



Join Us!

A member of the Fire Museum receives:

- Unlimited admission for one full year (including annual members-only pizza party and Christmas train garden)
- 10% discount on all museum shop purchases
- \$20 discount on all birthday parties

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$55

(includes 2 parents or 2 grandparents and children/grandchildren under age 18)

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: \$15

SENIOR/FIREFIGHTER MEMBERSHIP: \$30

ENGINEER MEMBERSHIP: \$75

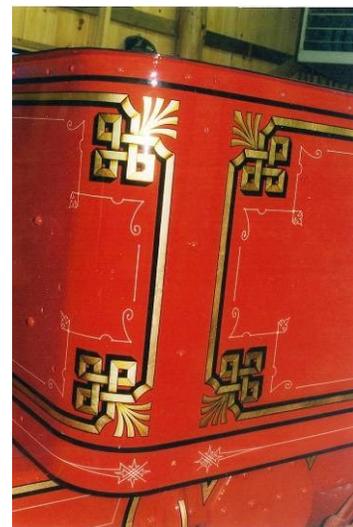
LIEUTENANT MEMBERSHIP: \$125

Your membership dues will help strengthen our educational programs and activities.

JOIN TODAY! You'll be glad you did!



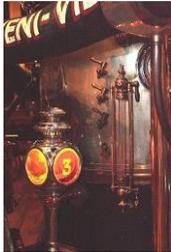
David and Nancy Brown showing off trophies from the 4th of July parade.



Decorator Peter Acorn did the fabulous gold leaf and detailed decorations on the 1926 750 g.p.m. Max-

Fire Museum of Maryland Events & Programs for 2011: "More than ever"

Let's walk through the many-splendored events of this year, but first we're going to start with Lantern Night as this Newsletter is printed in early October. About 25 staff members, both paid and volunteer, make these activities possible but we are supported by good friends who help each year. A tip o' the hat goes to the Harrisburg Museum crew and to Ted Elder!



LANTERN NIGHT 2010

This year (2011) Lantern Night will be on Saturday 29th October from 6 to 8 p.m. Experience the Museum collections in a whole new light! Wear your Halloween costume and get in half-price. Candle and kerosene lanterns will be lit. Bring a friend.



Overview of horse-drawn section basking in the lantern light



Twenty-plus staff and friends played a role in engaging visitors about various historical periods.

Birthday Parties



We have the very best birthday parties here at the Fire Museum with:

- A party room (with 4 tables covered with red vinyl)
- A play room (Discovery Room) — put on fire gear and climb on a real fire engine
- Fire engine rides in the parking lot
- Tours of the museum
- Visiting fireman in full gear to give safety talk

While mom is setting up the party, the kids can play in the Discovery Room putting on fire gear, climbing on a real fire engine and playing with dozens of toys.

We carry birthday party supplies and special birthday gifts in our Gift Shop. Call us early at 410-321-7500 to schedule a party — or check our website at www.firemuseummd.org.



Gene Reid explaining the watch desk to visitor

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of the FIRE MUSEUM NETWORK, 27 Oct.-1 Nov. 2010

About 80 representatives of fire museums in the USA and UK attended the largest event ever pulled off by the FMM. Coach tours included Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Alexandria, York, and Baltimore. Attendees took in Lantern Night as well.



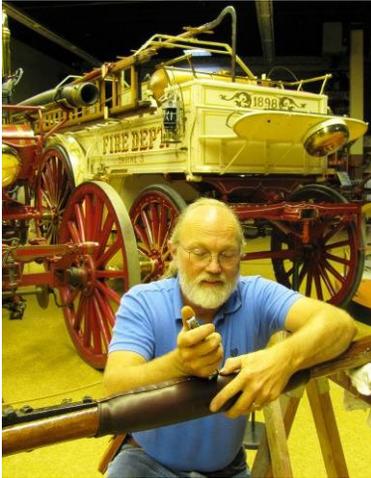


SANTA ARRIVES IN HIS SLEIGH

Join us on 26th November from 11 to 2 for a free photo taken by Melissa and David. Walt Mathers is our most wonderfully talented Santa and he is seen here wearing his custom Victorian suit made by Valerie Smith.

Also on Thanksgiving Saturday the Christmas Garden opens and remains open December Saturdays 3, 10, 17 and 27-31. The Garden is being refreshed as we write and is a Baltimore fire house tradition dating from 1917! Look for the automatic block signals and controlled locomotives.

POLE RESTORATION



Greg Hunt is making a leather horse buffer to fit into the original nail holes of the 1898 American combination wagon from Lawrence, Mass.

MACK REPAIRS



Howard Heiland spent most of the winter overhauling the exhaust manifold and heads of the 1949 L series Mack from Ridgeley, West Virginia.

STEAMER WHEELS TO BE GILDED



Steve and Lee stripping a rear wheel of our 1899 American 3rd size unit from Lawrence-Cedarhurst, N.Y. After Eric took the wheels to Whitmer's for tightening, they went into the Shop for stripping. Careful photos were made of each layer of decoration.



Here is an example of the extraordinary designs that we found and that match the one early photo in the Archives. Donors are being sought to pay for a gilder to come next spring. Est. cost per wheel is \$1,200.



Photo by Len Brown

THE GREAT BALTIMORE FIRE TOUR, 6 February

Photo of Wayne Schaumburg speaking to the registrants who travelled by coach to view the Burnt District and learn about how the City improved as a result of one of the most devastating fires ever to hit an American city.



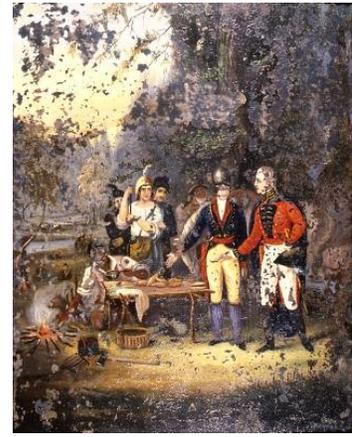
ANNUAL CLEANING DAY, 12 March

Kelly and Gnadi prepare the toy and model cases for the new year. All friends and supporters are invited to the Annual Cleaning Day. A special lunch is served.

Oil Paintings Investigated.



A bit of the Revolutionary War. Left photo is from Senate Building in Washington, done by John Blake White (1781-1859). Our 1850 Rodgers hand engine has a painting modelled after the White painting (right photo). The engine painting is by Richard H. Sheppard (1818-1859) who was a well-known miniaturist working in Baltimore ca. 1850-56.



THE 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BEGINS 9 April

We are vastly proud of our stewardship of such an important collection as the one started by Stephen Sr. and Stephen Jr. back in 1971. The development of the exhibits is a story unto itself! Early photographs reveal a very different complex forty years ago.



Pat Ichniowski, long-time donor; John LaCosta, Superintendent of Fire Alarm; Lee Smith, President of the Board, greet guests.



The Discovery Room set up for a concert by David Hildebrand, early music specialist, and the dessert course.



Jill Feinberg, representing Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, presents a citation to Lee Smith for the Museum's outstanding service to the community for forty years.



AHRENS-FOX FIRE ENGINE COMPA

Apparatus came by truck and under its own power for two days in advance and departed for two days after. The Museum, its yard and the Md. Road, led by the 1911 A-F steamer from Woodberry, N.J., pulled by percherons provided by Walt Rice. After lunch the piston





NY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS: 1911-2011

State Fair Grounds were used for storage. Ahrens-Fox buffs came from all over North America. We had our first-ever special parade on York pumpers lined up for a cannon-ball photo. Photos were taken by David Crandall, Lee Smith, Tom Herman and Tom Heaver



CHARLES STREET BY-WAY DEDICATED

The City and County are collaborating on bringing more tourists into the Charles St. corridor. E49 responded to the dedication ceremony at the Washington monument. The FMM will be the northern Gateway when the 695 exchange is finished next year.



MUSEUM SIGNAGE

A bright red sign has been installed at the SW corner of the main building thanks to Jack Day. At the same time, the main York Rd. sign was lighted at night. Heaver Plaza is giving the electricity.

34th ANNUAL STEAM SHOW, 7 May



Photos by Wendy Henry

Opening day for the season is always our muster for hand and horse-drawn equipment as well as steam engine models, children's contests, Dalmatians, food and good times. 1899 American performed beautifully as always. Walt Rice's team of Percherons drew the 1898 combination wagon and gave rides. The Hale water tower was in service as usual. Visiting apparatus is always welcome!





WAR OF 1812: FORT HOWARD, 4 September

For the first time ever we took the Pat Lyon hand tub to this annual "Defense of Baltimore" event. The Lyon served Annapolis, replacing a Newsham-Gibbs tub in 1806 so this is the only extant apparatus in Maryland that is pre-1814. For the first time (we believe) in 150 years we tried to make leather hose with copper rivets. What kind of hat do you think fire fighters wore in 1814?



CRUISIN' FOR OUR HEROES MOTOR MUSTER & SHOW, 10 September

Chairman Sheriff's Deputy Bob Brown promised a bigger show than ever and boy, was it good! This is our salute to the men and women who keep us safe year around. There were modern and antique cars, motor cycles, custom model display and heavy vehicles from every Service; gave rides; had a flea market; had a good time pumping water; and of course enjoyed the exhibits of the Museum. We thank the many sponsors that support this event! Here is a super photo taken by Charles Lewis of Central Alarmers, of three generations of towers



**CITY F.D. THRILL SHOW,
FIRE PREVENTION
MONTH, 1 October**

Honorary Board Member Chief of Department James Clack invited us to help Engine Co.2 pump water to several demos. The 1922 Ahrens-Fox was one of 27 Foxes in Baltimore, 1914-1963.



Photo by Holton Brown

CONSERVING THE 1819 HOSE CARRIAGE

Through a generous gift from James A. Marsh, we hired conservator Josiah Wagener to work here for three months to begin cleaning and coating the silver, both solid and wrapped, on our very rare parade hose carriage. Made by a coach maker, Jeffries & Nuttall, in Philadelphia for the Southwark Hose Co., it was repainted and the bells added in 1823. It was brought to Baltimore in 1893 by the Veteran Fireman's Assn. More money is needed to complete the silver and to replicate the hose reel cover. Contact the Curator. The reel cover would be \$400.



Before Treatment



After Treatment



EDUCATOR'S NOTES BY ROB WILLIAMS

The FMM offers a dynamic series of educational tours and slide-talks for all ages. Fire fighting history, the Great Baltimore Fire, fire safety, choosing democracy, and decorative arts are some of the topics covered.

Eight tour and outreach programs for adults and special-needs adults have attracted tour bus companies and travel agents looking for a unique experience for their clients. Once thought of as a great children's museum, people over 18 are discovering the rich histories and beautiful apparatus contained in the Fire Museum.

Retirement communities and seniors' clubs are scheduling tours at FMM and having lunch at nearby restaurants. The Education Department is working with other area museums in developing joint tour packages, offered to all ages. Antique and custom car clubs are making FMM a destination for their cruises.



Tour guide Tom Coleran explaining the facts and variables of breathing equipment.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR include the Fallen Heroes Ceremony, Members' Pizza Night, the Fourth of July Towson Parade, a car show in the front yard on 9 July and 17 September, selling tee shirts at the CAFAA Muster and the Harrisburg Muster, the Senior Citizens' Expo. (and if it hadn't rained) the President Street Station Civil War march.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING A MUST! BY STEVE HEAVER

The Board of Directors revamped its long-range plan this past February and prioritized the issues before us. Fund raising was critical because we need 2-3 more staff members to keep our programming vibrant. Building stronger community ties through advertising, installing more interactive exhibits, enlarging the communications exhibit and completing the Special Exhibits Gallery were also on the list. Installing a sprinkler system was included with a \$5,000,000 project that focused on a visitors' center and archives storage facility. Drawings have been prepared by Ziger, Snead. A new boiler will have to be built for our operating 1899 steamer. More volunteers will be sought to strengthen every aspect of the Museum's outreach.



State Farm Insurance Co. local agent John Holman presents \$5,000 check to Steve and Rob to underwrite tour admissions and school bus costs. Photo by Melissa Heaver.



WAR OF 1812 BY LEE SMITH

Imagine, if you will, that you were living in the United States during the early 1800's. There was daily talk of the increased tensions between Washington and England, the possibility of a war and the ongoing preparations for that war if it were come to pass.

At the same time you went about your normal everyday routine and dealt with the daily concerns, one of which was fire. Yes, you had your leather fire bucket, as every household was required to have at least one. And if you lived in one of the larger cities such as Baltimore, Annapolis, Easton or Washington there was likely to be one of those new "masheens".

On page 9 are snapshots of the volunteers from the Museum and the Pat Lyon at the annual Battle of North Point re-enactment at Fort Howard in Baltimore County.

On display was the 1806 Pat Lyon pumper that originally served in Annapolis, eventually being assigned to the Independent Fire Co. No.2. It is one of the oldest surviving pumpers and the only one used during the War in Maryland that still exists. While too fragile to actually pump water, Museum staff described that the tub still had to be filled by a bucket brigade before the water could be pumped onto the fire. One of the common questions was about the ability to draft water from a nearby pond or stream. This feature was not used for another decade and early pumpers, such as our Pat Lyon, were not equipped with suction hoses.

One of the next big advancements, after the use of a pumping masheen, was the invention of leather hoses to move the water to the fire. Again, Museum staffers conducted a hands-on demonstration on the making of riveted leather hose. Starting with a flat piece of leather and using copper rivets and a wooden mallet, children of all ages helped to make several short lengths of leather hose.

There is still much research to be done on the earliest days of fire fighting in the colonial United States. The Museum has committed to continue the interpretation at this annual event for the next several years as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

THE CHARLES T. HOLLOWAY LEGACY SOCIETY

Launched at the 40th anniversary party in April was the Holloway Legacy Society for estate planning. A brochure is available upon request. We ask that you consider leaving something in your Will for the FMM. Our goal is 3M as the dividends from this would provide an operating cushion. Donors who come on board before May will be considered Founding Members. Gifts to the Endowment today are also welcome and will enhance our operations immediately. Ask any board member for info.



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Superintendent of Fire Alarm
Vivian Emala
Web & Newsletter Design

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fire Museum of Maryland is to collect, preserve, display, and interpret historically significant apparatus and related artifacts, memorabilia, and records of the fire service in the United States; and to educate the public about the history, people, equipment and techniques of the fire service and about fire prevention and safety.

This newsletter is provided in part by Sir Speedy BWI in honor of the service of Dee Neighoff, Arbutus V.F.D.

**FIRE MUSEUM
OF MARYLAND**
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