

Hall of Flame

News



Volume 8 Number 2

Spring 1997

Two American La France Model 400s Join Exhibit

Considered by many as America's most beautiful fire engine design

Last year museum trustee Bernie Lowe donated a fine 1935 American La France Model 400 fire engine to the Hall of Flame. He was then in the final stages of restoring a second Model 400 which he also owned. In March, Don Hale

restored the original white paint and gold leaf striping. This is extremely valuable, since the truck's original paint and striping has been entirely removed.

While the Norfolk rig is in the shop, Bernie has loaned his restored 1938 Model 400 to the Museum for display in

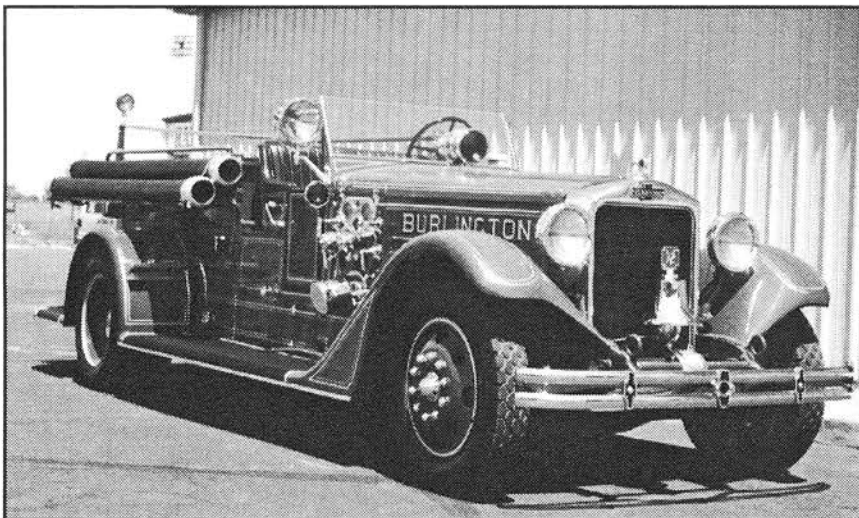


Museum Receives Novel Alarm System

In January the Protectowire Company installed an exhibit in Gallery III that demonstrates a little known but important type of fire alarm system that the Protectowire Company introduced during the 1930s and has improved to the present day.

The system uses long lengths of specially built thermal cable that can be strung in any environment. The cable

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Above: Bernie Lowe's spectacular Model 400 arrives at the museum.

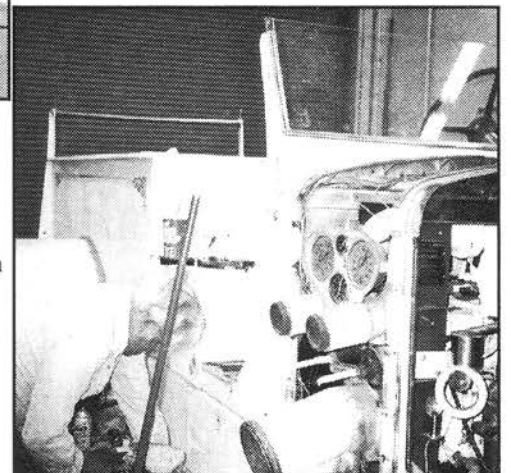
Right: Don Hale is well into the restoration of the museum's Model 400.

drove the white Norfolk, Nebraska rig into his shop for a complete restoration.

Although in excellent mechanical shape, it needs new paint and decoration, and most of the chrome pieces need replating.

As Don removed some of the fittings from the pump panel he uncovered sec-

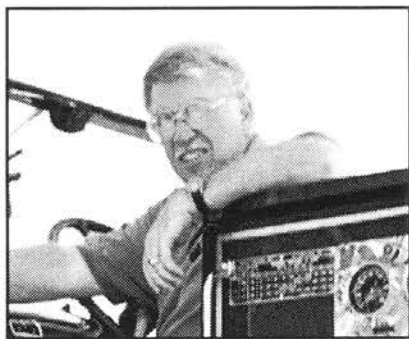
Gallery IV. Originally used in Burlington, Iowa, the rig wound up in dilapidated condition in a barn in eastern Colorado. After a year of hard work, Bernie has restored it to original condition. The rig will be on display through July.



Nation's largest Museum of Firefighting



From the Director . . .



*Dr. Peter M. Molloy,
Executive Director of
the Hall of Flame*

We have a lot of projects underway at the Museum, and several have reached completion or are very close to it. The new library reference room is now furnished and ready for use by members at the Black Helmet Brigade category and above.

At long last we can provide library users with comfortable surroundings to peruse the holdings and take notes. We have also equipped our theater with a multimedia projection system that will allow us to show both video tapes and digital presentations using software such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Lotus Freelance Graphics.

We are in the process of designing a new web site on the Internet to replace our existing one page site, and we have begun to create the storyline for a ten to twelve minute video presentation that will introduce visitors to the Hall of Flame's exhibits. Salt River Project, one of the major utility companies in Arizona, will be providing the technical support and editing to put the presentation into a professional form. We plan to have the video ready by late this year. Members interested in helping with this project are welcome.

This issue of the *News* has been created by one of the Hall of Flame's volunteers, Mr. Francis Cooper. Francis recently retired as a commercial real estate broker, which included a long association with museum founder George F. Getz, Jr. and his family. Francis enjoys desktop publishing, and his skills are evident with the design of this *Newsletter*, which we hope will be much more attractive to our members. If any of our members have suggestions for further improvements, I hope that they will write to Francis through the museum's address.

Museum restorer Don Hale is well underway on the restoration of the 1935 American La France engine donated to the museum last year by Bernie Lowe. While the rig is in Don's shop, Bernie has generously loaned the Museum his strikingly elegant 1938 American La France from Burlington, Iowa. Bernie's rig will be on display in Gallery IV until July.

The volunteers have been extremely busy. They helped the staff in a number of outreach programs, and recently organized a seminar in hazardous materials handling that netted almost a thousand dollars for the Hall of Heroes Exhibit Fund.

The Hall of Heroes gallery is now complete, and we are in the process of designing and installing an exhibit which will open in October. □

For our digitized members, I have recently changed my e-mail address. I can be reached at PeterMolloy@Compuserve.com

National Firefighting Hall of Heroes

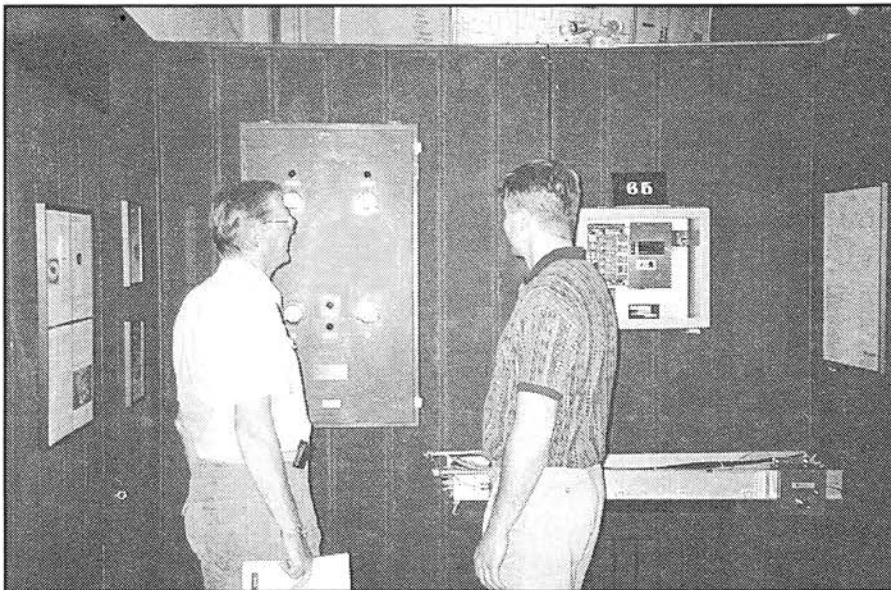
Planning is well underway for the Hall of Heroes. The exhibit will be installed in the 3,500 square foot gallery which was completed in 1996.

Part of the exhibit will address the social history of the fire service, with graphics and displays that describe the volunteers, career firefighters, wildfire and military firefighters. The remainder of the gallery will contain photos and awards of firefighters who have received national awards for heroism during the past three years. A computer work station in the gallery will contain additional

photographs and information about American firefighters who have been decorated for bravery at any period in our history, either nationally or locally. The computer will also contain a similar database of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

Visitors will be able to search these databases by name, state, city, or fire department, and printouts will be available.

We anticipate that the National Firefighting Hall of Heroes will open in October of this year. □



A pair of visiting firefighters examine the Protectowire system. At left is a restored console built by Protectowire in 1948. At right is an operating modern Protectowire console. By pressing a button in the tray like device, which simulates a group of telephone cables, a strobe light and audio alarm indicates the distance of the alarm from the console.

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is connected to a console at the central station of a large installation, for example a power plant.

If a fire damages any part of the cable, it sends an alarm to the central station, which measures its distance in feet or meters from the alarm console. The central station operator then knows the fire's exact location. Protectowire systems monitor for fires in bridges, con-

veyer systems, telephone exchange buildings, and other structures with large, often hostile environments. The Gallery III exhibit contains an operating system which shows how the cable and console system operates. We are grateful to the Protectowire Company for installing this excellent exhibit.

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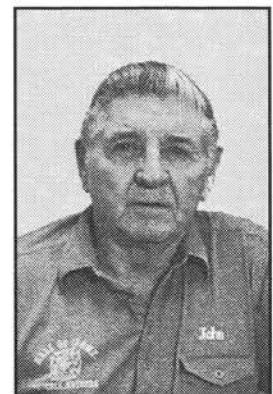
Theatre Under Way

After a long search for the appropriate technology the Museum has acquired a multi-media projector and related equipment to place its theater into operation.

The projector can be mounted near ceiling level and produces a high quality image about ten feet on each side. It can run video tapes, of which we have many, and can also project computerized slide shows created with a variety of software. In the future we anticipate the completion of several shows of this type.

We plan to show several videos that will interest visitors. One of these is the video magazine *Firescene*, which appears quarterly. *Firescene* covers a wide variety of fire related topics, all of them very well done. When the Museum's own video is completed late this year it will also be available in the theater.

The theater is a 600 square foot room which was carved out of Gallery I. It contains seating for 45 people, as well as two large display cases of fire helmets and uniform items from all over the world. It is conveniently located for visitors to view videos before touring the galleries. □

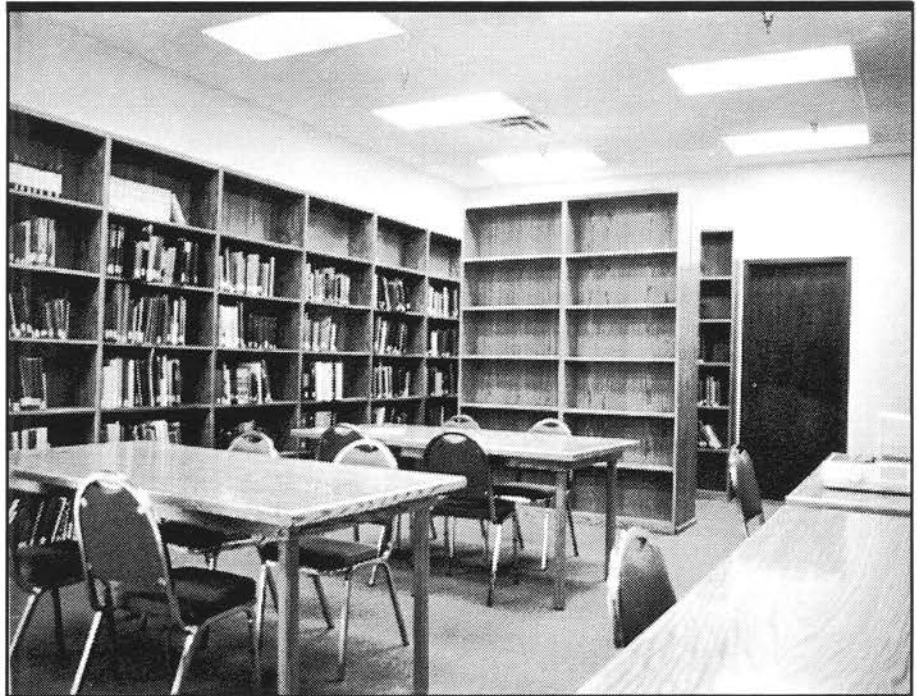


John McLean retired as a Lieutenant in the Elgin, Illinois FD. He has been the museum's assistant docent since 1983.

Library Expansion

The library addition contains three new rooms in addition to the original storage room and office. The central room has now been equipped with almost thirty units of oak veneer shelving built by Don Hale. Don has also built two large reading tables and two work station tables for a computer and microfilm reader. Librarian John Davee has transferred about 75% of the library's holdings to the new room.

The original room will continue to house fragile materials, collection records, and the graphics collection. The other two rooms will be equipped with shelving in future years. The library is available for use by members at the Black Helmet Brigade and above levels. We request prior notice to assure that a staff member will be available to assist. None of the library's holdings circulate. □



The reference room has reading tables, two workstations, and shelving for several thousand books.

Volunteers Show Youngsters How To Hit the Target

The volunteers have been active in a wide number of activities during the past few months. Volunteer Bart Thorp took the lead in establishing a new chapter of SPAAMFA (the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Motorized Fire Apparatus). The Phoenix (Hall of Flame) Chapter has been up and running since January. Members interested in joining should contact Bart through the Museum. It is not necessary to own a piece of apparatus to join SPAAMFA.

The volunteers helped to make a display of Hall of Flame apparatus at a local park a great success. The Scottsdale Center for the Arts organized a Desert

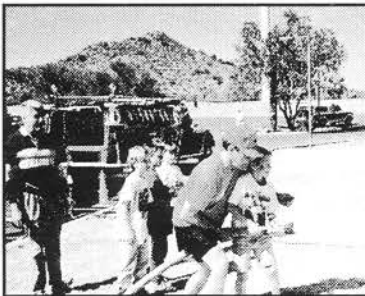
Information and Awareness Day that was attended by several thousand local citizens. Although its exhibits really do not match the goals of the event, we decided to send one of our pumpers and allow children to operate the booster line by knocking down a portable target loaned to us by Rural Metro Fire Department, which serves Scottsdale.

The volunteers operated the pump and hose line, and Bart Thorp drove his 1960 Ford pumper to the display and placed its booster line in operation to supplement the Museum's 1951 Mack. Kids (and many adults) enjoyed operating the booster hose and flipping the target.

The volunteers' largest project was the organization of a seminar for pest control professionals in hazardous materials handling of their chemicals. Volunteer Captain Ron Deutsch, who is in the pest control business, played a leading role in

organizing the event, which served as an accredited three hour training seminar for pest control professionals. Hazardous materials experts from Rural Metro Fire Department and from the State of Arizona made excellent presentations.

The event netted almost \$1,000 which will be applied toward the Hall of Heroes exhibit. □



Dave Riley shows how its done.



Ron Deutsch introduces Rural Metro Lt. Joe Early to seminar participants.

MUSEUM STAFF

Executive Director Dr. Peter M. Molloy
Curator Education Tamea Mikesell
& Pub. Programs
Restorer Don Hale
Chief Docent James Kirkpatrick
Docent John McLean
Publicist Donna Gilbert
Office and Susan Owen
Museum Store
Receptionist Geoffrey Johnson
Sunday Reception Matt Crane
Artisan Kevin Brown

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President George Getz
Vice President Bert A. Getz
Vice President Lynn Getz
Treasurer James L. Johnson
Secretary James W. Ashley
Member C. L. Lux

The Hall of Flame is in the Phoenix Papago Park, across Van Buren St. from the Phoenix Zoo.

The museum is open Monday thru Saturday from 9 to 5, and on Sundays from Noon to 4.

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Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Museum Acquires New Computing Power A New Web Site is on the Way

The success of the Capital Campaign has allowed us to update our computer resources.

In March the Museum purchased two Dell Pentium Pro computers to supplement the two 486 machines in use since the early nineties. The new machines are extremely fast and powerful.

We are in the process of networking the four computers with the assistance of volunteers Joe Bakas and Dick Stuve, both of whom are computer professionals. The network will allow us to share files, a great advantage for organizations which employ databases, such as the Hall of Flame.

We also have the laser printers, modems and scanners

that allow us to create in-house exhibits and publications, including a Museum-generated web site. The Museum has had a one page web site for over a year at (<http://mmm/arizonaguide/hallofflame>). We are in the process of designing a much larger multi page site which will allow user feedback and provide a lot more information about the Hall of Flame to web users.

We are also planning to update our Internet address so that we can be contacted at <http://www/hallofflame.com> instead of our present rather long address.



NATIONAL HISTORICAL FIRE FOUNDATION

6101 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008

Spring '97

Address Correction Requested