



Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting

<http://HallOfFlame.org>

Ahrens-Fox Model Display finds a new home at the Hall of Flame.

Collector, Bert Hansen of Boulder City Nevada, donates his beloved display.

In February of 2020 the Hall of Flame acquired an impressive new exhibit. Currently on display in Gallery II is an 8-to-1-scale model of a 1933 Ahrens-Fox C-T-4 pumper, a commercially produced collector's item nearly identical to a model on display in our video theater, marked "Covington." Our new exhibit, however, has some striking custom features that make it unique.



The piece was donated by Bert Hansen, a leading citizen of Boulder City, Nevada,

and the proprietor of Hoover Dam Mercantile, the souvenir shop at the iconic hydroelectric dam on the Nevada/Arizona border. Bert's many interests included collecting models of vehicles of all sorts, and he had a particular enthusiasm for Ahrens-Fox, the Cincinnati, Ohio-based fire truck manufacturer most famous for its powerful front-mounted piston pumps, topped with their characteristic spherical air chamber.

He therefore had a beautiful wooden stand, topped with a plastic display case equipped with LED lighting, constructed to exhibit his model. He also had the "Covington" markings on the model's hood replaced with "Boulder City Fire Department" and "Boulder Canyon Project," to reflect how the vehicle would have looked in his community in the early '30s.

Another modification to the model came about accidentally. Somehow the model's round air chamber was knocked off during a house cleaning at Bert's home and landed on the floor. Bert, who was legally blind, found the ball on the floor and, thinking it was a dropped ornament from his recently removed Christmas tree,

discarded it. When he later realized his mistake, he commissioned a Nevada jeweler to custom-make a replacement for the part in sterling silver, with the words “Ahrens-Fox” inscribed on it. Bert admitted that he had the sphere made slightly larger than accurate scale, simply because “I always liked them.”

Late in 2019 Bert contacted the Hall of Flame, asking if we might be interested in taking his model as a donation. With characteristic bluntness, he said “I’m going to die soon, and I’m afraid when I croak [the model] will end up getting sold at auction for fifty bucks and some kid will have it in the sandbox, and I’ll be turning in my grave.”

So in February of this year Hall of Flame staff and volunteers traveled to Boulder City to accept the donation at a meeting of the Boulder City Sunrise Rotary, of which Bert was a longtime member and former president. The model and its 600-pound display case was then crated and brought by truck to the Hall of Flame, where it now resides in Gallery II, alongside the real-life 1931 Ahrens-Fox Type N from North Tarrytown (Sleepy Hollow), New York.

We were saddened to learn that Bert’s prophecy about his death came true sooner than he expected—he passed on at the age of 80 at a hospital in Henderson from COVID-19 on April 10.

A native of Sloan, Iowa, Bert grew up in South Dakota and graduated from the

University of Nevada, Reno, before settling in Boulder City, where he was a vendor for the Business Enterprise Program for the Bureau of Service to the Blind and was involved in many civic and charitable organizations in the community, in addition to his successful business career. Although Bert’s association with the Hall of Flame was brief, we were glad to get to know him, and honored to give a home to an item in which he took great pleasure and pride.



Museum takes advantage of closure to spruce things up!

Fresh paint and new flooring give museum renewed look.

In common with museums throughout the Valley, across the U.S. and indeed around the world, The Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting closed its doors to the public in March in response to the global Coronavirus pandemic. We regret being temporarily unable to offer our

collection first-hand to visitors from around the world.

In a facility as large as the Hall of Flame, however, it is possible for a small number of staff members and outside contractors to practice social distancing with ease. Therefore, the Museum staff have not been idle; we have taken the opportunity to make progress on a number of long-postponed projects to improve the building.

In mid-April the museum contracted with Valley commercial painting firm All Finishes to repaint the public restrooms off the gift shop, as well as the “Safety House” located in the museum’s Kids’ Area at the rear of Gallery Four. The Safety House color scheme was changed from yellow to a cool gray, with the same bright red accents on the door and window trim, and expanded to the railings, to maintain the connection to fire service tradition. In addition to a vibrant new color, the lavatories have had “diamond plate” accent panels added, which also helps to suggest the atmosphere of a fire station. New artwork and decorative touches have been added to both of these areas.



In addition to this, the well-worn carpet in the Museum’s administrative offices was torn out, and the tile floors in the Hall of Flame library and the office lavatory were also removed. The Peoria flooring firm Timeless Flooring was hired to install the new tiles and completed the work in about a week’s time. Due to their appreciation of our mission to educate the public about fire history and safety, both Timeless Flooring and All Finishes made generous donations to the Museum in reduced labor and material costs, and we would like to express our gratitude.



At the same time that these physical improvements have been progressing, the Hall of Flame has also been attempting to continue, in so far as it is possible, to present the collection and programs to the public virtually. Thus we have launched the Hall of Flame YouTube Channel, giving viewers a video “tour” of some of the most notable exhibits at the world’s largest historical firefighting museum, and providing historical context on vehicles and artifacts ranging from our English Newsham manual pumper from 1725 to our elegant 1844 Bates/Jeffers pumper from Pawtucket, Rhode island to our 1904 “Metropolitan” steamer from Reno, Nevada to “Number One,” the 1924 American LaFrance truck which started the Hall of Flame Museum when it was given to founder George Getz as a Christmas gift in 1955.

The Hall of Flame YouTube Channel also serves to keep afloat the museum’s longtime tradition of entertaining and inspiring younger visitors with story times. Hall of Flame Curator of Education Mark Moorhead has recorded readings of such classic firefighting tales as *No Dragons for Tea*, *Hercules*, *Bravest of All*, *Fireboat* and *The Fire Cat*, among others. We are also attempting to broaden our scope with a Spanish language initiative. As of this writing, we have one story time in Spanish, read by Hall of Flame docent Claudia Garcia Quinones, and we plan to add more Spanish-language content in the near future. All of this content is available for free, and is a great go-to option for homeschooling in

history, or just for bored shut-in kids needing to pass the time.

Links to the Hall of Flame Museum’s YouTube Channel may be found at the Hall of Flame website: hallofflame.org.

**FROM SAFETY DIRECTOR
TO ST. PETER.**

*Longtime Hall of Flame Museum
Volunteer Docent Gary Bohling’s
Life of Service.*

If you asked for the life story of many of the Hall of Flame’s volunteers, most of whom are retired or former volunteer firefighters, you will often get a tale with adventures and experiences most people can’t claim. Gary Bohling, at 85 the Museum’s senior volunteer, is no exception. How many people, after all, can say that they have been mistaken for St. Peter?



A native of Columbus, Ohio, Gary studied business administration at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York. While in college in the 1950s, he joined Potsdam's Volunteer Rescue Squad, and also became an American Red Cross volunteer. He became an EMT, one of the first in the state of New York, in 1962.



This public safety experience would go on to influence the course of Gary's career. While working as an accountant at Chevrolet's Tonawanda Engine Plant, Gary was assigned to train the plant foremen in first aid, after several medical emergencies at the plant resulted in mass confusion. He also joined the Tonawanda plant's fire brigade.

Gary later accepted a position as Safety Director at Allied Chemical's plant in Buffalo, New York. He was also in charge of the plant's fire brigade and medical department. In 1972, he moved to the position of Safety Director at CWC Foundry in Muskegon, Michigan where, again, he was in charge of the plant's fire and EMS Squad. Settling in nearby Whitehall, he joined the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Department and the White

Lake Ambulance Authority as an EMT. By 1981 Gary was Whitehall's Fire Chief, and in 1983 he became a paramedic. He taught courses in firefighting, EMS and Hazmat as an adjunct instructor at Muskegon Community College. Gary, who has been married to his wife Gail since 1960, retired in 1997 and moved to Phoenix. He didn't leave behind his passion for safety work, however; he served as an EMT for more than ten years with Phoenix Fire Department's crisis response team, retiring in 2013 at the age of 80.

Yet even THAT retirement didn't end Gary's devotion to the fire service. Around 2002, he became a volunteer here at the Hall of Flame Museum. He's been here ever since, becoming one of our most valuable docents: conducting countless tours for children and adults, informally educating visitors to the Museum and participating in many other Museum activities from parades to sweeping the floors. He claims the experience has been broadening. "During my service as a docent," he notes, "I have met people from all fifty states and about a dozen different countries." This suits his personality, as he and Gail are avid global travelers, having visited countries ranging from Turkey to Morocco to Italy to Tahiti.

Asked if, out of his years of public service, he has a favorite story, Gary recalls an incident from his time in Michigan:

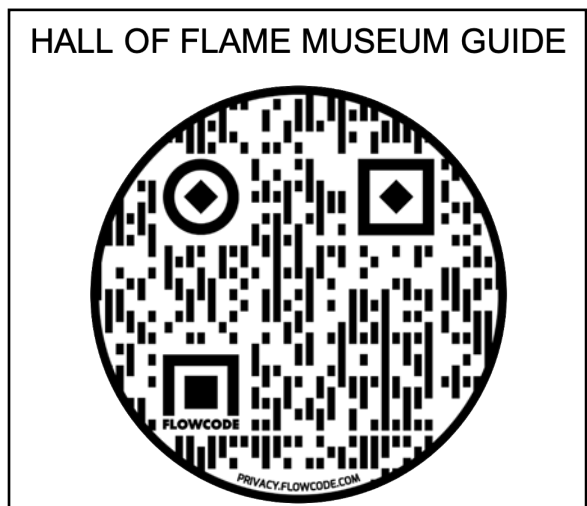
"Sometime in the 80's I was working the paramedic shift for White Lake

Ambulance Authority in Whitehall, Michigan. In those days there were only five paramedics in the whole community and only one of us was on duty at a time. We had a basic EMT driver.

Hospital, which was about 25 miles away. While I was bending over him, auscultating him with my stethoscope, he opened his eyes wide, looked directly into my eyes and said 'Are you St. Peter?' I assured him that he was still alive. Lloyd made a full recovery. Later, on several occasions I saw Lloyd after his release from the hospital and he always addressed me as St. Peter."



We were dispatched to a code at the VFW Hall in Montague. Upon arrival some volunteer firefighters were doing CPR on a 60 year old gentleman. I did a quick look through the paddles, found VF, and shocked him. He converted to a sinus rhythm and started to breathe on his own. I put him on a high flow of oxygen, started an IV, and loaded him in our ambulance and started toward Hackley



Scan the QR code above with a smartphone to view our museum guide

Thanks for your membership support!

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Associate

Raymond Antolik	David Robb
Kenneth Don	Frederick Sutton
Bill Fort	Mike Yencich
Dennis Kauach	Alexander Zentgraf
Gerald Magnan	
Terry Miller	
Melvyn Musson	
Neil O'Brian	

Black Helmet Brigade

Joseph Siaki	Jinks Family
Robert Shannon	
Tammy Ellis	

Red Helmet Brigade

Gary Groomer	William Page
Steve Pilafas	Kevin Walsh
Sandra Martinez	Bernard Punte
John Ferry	
Kevin Walsh	
Kyle Linn	

White Helmet Brigade

Lynn Hardin
 Chuck Montgomery
 Michael Piekarski

Contributing

Kingman Firefighter Assoc.

Fire Professionals

James Morand
 Linden Massey
 John Patterson
 Nick Vacca

Family Member

Melissa Ainsworth	Bruce Hertzog	Carmela Pino
Jim Allen	Ty Hickman	Michael Pittman
Melissa Alsgaard	Angela Hill	Nichole Ploughe
Drew Arnold	Kim Hohol	Steve Polkington
Stan Baird	Kristina Holt	Edward Prouty
Dana Barbeau	Michael Jackson	Susan Resnek
Vera Bartolomey	Robin Johnson	Nathalie Reyes
Dale Bauer	Jennifer Johnson	Kevi Richardson
Alan Berta	Marlin Kath	Lisa Ristuccia
Juila Brokalakis	Ray & Arlene	Neil Rosenberger
Charlotte	Kellogg	Daniel Rothenberg
Brookstein	Keeli King	Mark Salcido
David Bruster	Gabriel Kovach	Mary Sandowski
Dennis Butner	Cari Ladehoff	Rachel
Sherry Cain	Joan Le Lievre	Sauelsberg
Peter Caracciolo	Aimee Le Sueur	Jenna Scott
Mark Carpenter	Faith Leonard	Jim Sharpe
Donald Chaves	Veronica	Stacey Simpson
Lindsay Collins	Leshchinskaya	Kieth Slattery
Clarín Collins	Dan Lessman	Katie Smaith
Jauet Colten	Kacie Lewenthal	Debbie Smith
Courtney Cronin	Roslyn Liu	Steven Som
Melissa Currie	Katharine Lohr	Jennifer Staples
Scott Dahmer	Olivia Love	Lee Streithorst
Bridgit Davis	Jim Lynch	Janette Suing
Elliott Davis	Charles Machado	David Swineheart
Emily Edington	Linda Madsen	Jeff Szubinski
Ron Ellett	John Madson	Paul Treasure
Petra Emerson	Jim Manley	Robin Trimble
Lee Engle	Ronald Marino	Alfredo Trujillo
Nancy Ervin	Mike Martinez	Alfredo Trujillo
Jesse Finney	Evan Mathew	Thomas Urjston
Regina Flynn	Dustin Mayfield	Deriv Vrable
Celeste Freeman	David McBee	Rachel Wainhaus
Laurence	Kimberly	Crystal Walker
Friedman	McMullen	Jeanne Walker
Tom Galvani	Matt Mendelson	Arthur Wall
Marcia Garnice	Janette Metzler	Richard
Emily Gonzalez	Dan Miller	Weizenberg
Arthur Greenleaf	Miranda Morgan	Larry Werner
Linda Hammond	Rick Mueller	Shawn Western
Jenna Harden	Brent Nebeker	Katy White
Kristina Harris	Barbara Nelson	Desiree Wilson
Cynthia Harrman	Jessica Nystrom	Jeff Winney
James Hawkins	Michael Ore	Aaron Woods
Michael Hensdell	Di Pearcy	Di Wu

NOTE

Due to current circumstances, membership renewals have undergone delays in recent months; we have also been working to streamline and improve the process. Our goal is to have the renewal process operational in July; until then, your Hall of Flame membership remains active; you will receive a renewal notice in a timely fashion.

WORLD’S LARGEST FIRE MUSEUM!!!



Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting

The Hall of Flame sponsors the National Firefighting Hall of Heroes, which honors firefighters who have died in the line of duty or who have been decorated for heroism, in nearly an acre of indoor Air-conditioned comfort, artifacts dating from 1725 to 2001.



6101 East Van Buren St., Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-275-3473 www.hallofflame.org

MUSEUM STAFF

Executive Director
Chuck Montgomery

Curator of Education
Mark Moorhead

Staff
Hillary Brodowski
George Dahl
Rick Goulian
Sharon Moore
Pat Schuller
Claudia Garcia Quinones
Robert Weedman

President NHFF
George F. Getz

Vice President NHFF
Bert A. Getz

Sec/Treasurer NHFF
Michael J. Olsen

Volunteer Board
Jay Iacone
Bob Bowers
Ralph Glasmann

Thomas Mc Linden
Paul Reichenbach
Ian Seivwright

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

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm.

Telephone:
602 275-3473 (Voice)
602 275-0896 (Fax)

E-mail:
webmaster@hallofflame.org
info@hallofflame.org

Web Site:
<http://hallofflame.org>

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
NATIONAL HISTORICAL FIRE FOUNDATION
6101 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix AZ 85008