

The Back Step

The Newsletter of the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum

Vol. 6, No. 1

All the News We Feel Like Printing

April 2017

Sprinkler System Dedication

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum sprinkler system was dedicated on Saturday, April 8. About 200 people attended the open house and ceremony, including local and county leaders and fire officials, leaders of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and Capitol Region Fire Sprinkler Association (CRFSA), and representatives of the companies that donated materials and did the installation.

To accommodate the expected crowd, all of the apparatus was moved out onto the apron. Chairs were brought in from Vigilant Hose Company, and we appreciate all of the help provided by members of VHC to move chairs to and from the museum.

The dedication ceremony began at 11:00 AM; National Fire Heritage Center President Ronny J. Coleman served as master of ceremonies. Among the speakers were Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs; Frederick County Councilman Kirby Delauter; Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci; NFSA President Shane Ray; and CRFSA Chairman Terry Victor. Employees of Livingston Fire Protection, Reliance Fire Protection, and Tyco/Simplex-Grinnell, who had worked on the installation of the sprinkler system, were recognized; several of them were in the audience, in some cases with their families. A special presentation was made to Jay Livingston, founder of Livingston Fire Protection, recalling his days in the Silver Spring Fire Department. Finally the large red drape was removed, and the sprinkler system was revealed in all its splendor.

After the formal ceremony, some stayed to inspect the new sprinkler system, while others adjourned to



Unveiling the sprinkler system. (L-r) Jay Livingston, Ron Coleman, Terry Victor, Shane Ray, and Wayne Powell.



Part of the crowd on hand for the dedication.

the Emmitsburg Senior Citizen Center next door. There, lunch had been prepared by the ladies of the Junior Fire Company Auxiliary, under the direction of Jane Bopst. Cold drinks and coffee were provided by the brand-new Prince Georges County Fire Department Rehab 803, which was on display outside the museum for all to inspect.

Following lunch came the lively part of the day's activities: a side-by-side burn demonstration showing the effectiveness of residential sprinkler systems. The demonstration trailer had just been built in Pleasant View, TN, and was being delivered to the New Jersey chapter of the NFSA. The trailer consists of two identical rooms, with identical furnishings; the only difference is that one room is equipped with a sprinkler system. When a fire was started in the sprinklered room, the sprinkler system activated and snuffed out the fire before much damage was done. When a fire was started in the unsprinklered room, the fire continued to grow, destroying the furnishings and eventually flashing over (at which point members of Vigilant Hose Company stepped in and extinguished the fire!)

Many groups and individuals contributed to the success of the day's events, and we hope we haven't forgotten anyone: The Emmitsburg Senior Citizens, for offering the use of their facility; Vigilant Hose Company No. 6, for use of their chairs, lectern, and flags, and for standing by during the burn demo; Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company, for standing by in case they were needed (fortunately, they weren't!); the Junior Fire Company Ladies' Auxiliary; Prince Georges County FD Rehab 803; and all of the people who came to share the day with us. Special thanks and appreciation to the NFSA and the CRFSA, who helped plan the event, sent out many invitations, and underwrote all of the expenses of the day.



Learning about the sprinkler system - - - from some of the folks who installed it!



Side-by-side burn demo, just after the unsprinklered side flashed over.



Part of the crowd watching the side-by-side burn demo.

(All dedication photographs by John M. Buckman, III, of Wildfire Studios, courtesy of the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

In This Issue:

- Sprinkler Dedication – 1
- LODD Display – 3
- Museum Leadership – 4
- Smokejumper Exhibit – 4
- Here 'n' There - 5
- Thank You! – 5
- Coming Events – 5
- Recent Activities – 5
- Rig from the Past – 6

LODD Display



The Frederick County Line of Duty Death display.

The long-planned Frederick County Line of Duty Death display made its debut at the museum opening on April 1. Thanks to a lot of legwork by Chip Jewell and Joy and Jim Deater, descriptions of the 23 Frederick County firefighters and EMS responders who died, and pictures of 19 of them, were obtained, formatted, printed, matted and framed, and hung on the north wall of the engine bay in the museum. A formal dedication of the wall is planned for September or October.

The display would not have been possible without the financial support of Stauffer Funeral Homes, P.A., which underwrote the cost of printing, matting, and framing. We deeply appreciate their generosity, and their appreciation for the sacrifices made by Frederick County first responders.



Shown presenting the check for the LODD wall are Doug Stauffer (l) and George Stauffer; Joy and Jim Deater received the check for the museum.

Copyright © 2017, Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum and Preservation Society, Inc., Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Museum Leadership

President: Jim Deater

Vice-President: Kathy Knipple

Secretary: Joy Deater

Treasurer: Paul Stull

Directors:

Tim Ayres

"Doc" Kinney

John Maly

Cindy Rupp

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum is located at 300B South Seton Avenue (Business Route 15) in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Hours are 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM, Saturdays and Sundays, April through October.

To arrange a special tour for a group, please contact Jim Deater at 301-639-1290 or by e-mail at jdeater@comcast.net.

Smokejumper Exhibit

Although smokejumpers are not used to fight wildland fires in this part of the United States, they are a crucial part of the wildland firefighting effort in the mountainous western states. So when the museum and the National Fire Heritage Center had a chance to host the traveling exhibit of the National Smokejumper Association (NSA), we took advantage of the opportunity.



Smokejumpers parachute to wildland fires in extremely remote, mountainous areas where there are no roads. Working in very small teams, and using only basic hand tools like shovels and Pulaski tools, the smokejumpers put out fires while they still are relatively small. Once the fire is extinguished, the smokejumpers make their way to the nearest road, carrying all of their tools and equipment in packs that sometimes reach over 100 pounds. The first smokejumpers were recruited in 1939, and began fighting fires in 1940; in those days, they jumped from Ford Trimotor airplanes. Today the aircraft are more modern, but the basic techniques remain the same.

The NSA is an organization made up of former smokejumpers, including a handful that live in Maryland. The complete traveling exhibit consists of 23 information panels, plus some tools and a fully-outfitted mannequin. Because of space constraints, we chose eight panels that give a basic description of the smokejumper program; to save shipping costs, we provided the mannequin and firefighting tools.

The NSA smokejumper exhibit will be at the museum until the end of June. Be sure to stop in and check it out!



Here 'n' There

“Doc” Kinney continues to work on the United hand pumper. He has very patiently uncovered what we now think is original gold striping, using solvent and Q-tips. He also has cleaned and greased the steering gear and pumping mechanism, and the damaged top planks. Now he is starting to work on the wheel bearings.

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum is now a member of the nationwide Fire Museum Network, and should soon be listed on its Internet directory of fire museums. We are hopeful that this will result in more visitors for the museum.

Thank You!

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum would like to thank the following Frederick County Fire and Rescue Companies and Auxiliary for their donations:

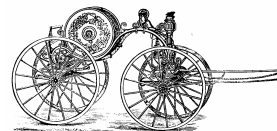
Independent Hose Company No.1, Frederick
Junior Fire Company No. 2, Frederick
United Steam Fire Company No. 3, Frederick
Citizens Truck Company No.4, Frederick
Middletown Fire Company No.7, Middletown
Myersville Fire Company No.8, Myersville
Woodsboro Fire Company No. 16, Woodsboro
Libertytown Fire Company No.17, Libertytown
Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance Company No. 19, Brunswick
Jefferson Fire Company No. 20, Jefferson
Wolfsville Fire Company No. 21, Wolfsville
Lewistown Fire Company No. 22, Lewistown
Urbana Fire Company No. 23, Urbana
Urbana Fire Company No. 23 Ladies Auxiliary, Urbana

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum also would like to thank the Clarence “Chip” Jewell family for its donation.

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum also would like to thank the following businesses for their donations:

Stauffer Funeral Homes PA – sponsored the “Frederick County Fallen Firefighters and Rescue Personnel” Memorial Wall at the museum
Liberty Emblem Company
FSM, Inc. Jefferson Md.
American Military University
Trophies Unlimited Inc.

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum also would like to recognize the Town of Emmitsburg and Vigilant Hose Company No. 6 for their continued support throughout the year.



Coming Events

May 11	Museum committee meeting, Junior FC, 7:00 PM
June 3	Chesapeake Antique Fire Apparatus Assoc. muster, Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster.
July 8	Pennsylvania Pump Primers muster, Riverfront Park, Harrisburg
July 13	Museum committee meeting and work session, at the museum

(Note that the Museum Committee normally meets on the *second* Thursday of the month, except during the summer months.)

Recent Activities

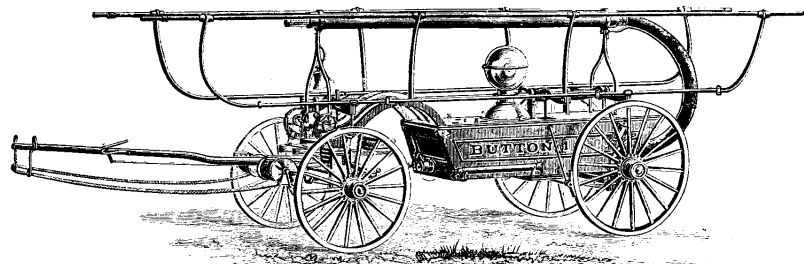
While a lot of the activity at the museum in recent months has centered around the sprinkler system, there have been other activities as well.

Santa Claus (the Chief of the North Pole Fire Department, don't you know) made his annual appearance at the museum during the Museums by Candlelight/Toys for Tots event on December 10. Joined by the Frederick County Fire Prevention royalty, Santa presided over the festivities and kept an eye on the fire-themed Christmas tree in the engine bay.

Bell and History Day, the official opening of the Frederick County museum season, was not put on by the museum consortium this year. However, a number of self-proclaimed "rogue museums" (somehow that sounds like an oxymoron! – Ed.) chose to hold the event anyway on April 1. The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum was one of the groups participating, and a number of visitors came that day as a result.

There have been several work sessions at the museum, leading up to the opening on April 1. Among the projects undertaken were starting to place paving tiles along the north side of the building; mounting the LODD display;

We continue to host groups occasionally, including classes from the National Fire Academy and the recent recruit class from Frederick County DFRS. Most recently, a group attending the Executive Fire Officer Symposium across the street came in on a Friday evening, and spent a couple of hours touring the museum.



Rig from the Past



The first tanker owned by New Market District Volunteer Fire Department, Co. 15, was this 1959 International. It was purchased from the Sunoco Oil Company in the late 1960s, and served New Market until the late 1970s when it was replaced with a new, even larger International tanker. It was still around about ten years ago, sitting along Route 80 between Urbana and Buckeystown.

The original TA15 carried 2500 gallons of water. It is remembered by most of the men who drove it as being tough to handle because of the amount of weight riding on the single rear axle. Even so, it saved many barns in the New Market area during its time in service. And check out the dual beacon lights on the cab – you could see this baby coming!

In the next issue: an early rig from Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Company No. 16.