



National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter

Message from the President

Welcome to Newsletter Number 6. I had actually planned on this being issued in February but the press of other activity has prevented me from achieving my goal! Anybody else out there suffering from the same fate? Nonetheless, I am putting together the information that I have accumulated that you might find useful in your ongoing interest in the preservation of America's fire profession memory. There are a lot of short articles included that will fill you in on things that have happened. Hopefully some of you will provide me with feedback on additional areas of interest or provide me with input for future newsletters.

I am still working with Rod Slaughter on the development of a better format for this newsletter, but for now, it will still be the pdf format. Rod is working on some new ideas but he is experiencing the same overload that I described in paragraph 1.

Read on. I hope we are sharing some things with you that you will find useful.

By the way, we are putting these newsletters up on the website. If you have anyone who has expressed interest in our organization, please direct them to go to <http://www.nationalfireheritagecenter.org/>.



Ronny J. Coleman
President, National Fire Heritage Center

Editor's note – sources include the local library, museum, state museums and historical societies.





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Report from Mick Kernan

For those of you that had a chance to meet Michael Kernan, he is the historian and archivist for the fire service college located at Moreton-in-the-Marsh. He has filed a copy of his preliminary report entitled "The Display, Archiving and Preserving of Fire History". We have an electronic copy that will be posted on our website in the near future.

Bear in mind that the finished report will be coming along shortly. To quote from his report, Kernan states "the scope for future cooperation between the UK and the US would seem to be almost endless.

Both countries have strong and less strong areas. As a start both fire museum national bodies could cooperate by: A. Exchanging newsletters, publications and events. B. By each organization attending the others annual conference, and presenting a paper. C. By sharing of expertise in specialist fields, for example, fire boats, manual or hand pumps, fire marks, etc".



We will keep you posted on this as it unfolds. The picture is of Mick and his wife Jane.

Membership Brochure

We are extremely pleased to announce that our first official membership brochure has now been printed and distributed to various locations. Working with the National Fire Academy, brochures are currently made available on campus. Ken Farmer and other staff members at the academy have helped with this.

Secondarily, NFHC was given an opportunity to present our brochure to the Executive Fire Officer Program, when they held their meeting at Carlisle Military Heritage Center. Thanks to Chuck Burkell we were able to advise a large crowd of EFO graduates.

Also, Ron Siarnicki invited us to attend the NFFF workshop in Tampa on Memorials. A presentation was made to that group. Copies of the brochure have been sent to board members to get the word out. If any member would like copies that they can distribute to other organizational settings, please feel free to send me an email. I will follow-up instantly.





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Conducting Oral History

By Rodney Slaughter, NFHC Director

"I have received numerous comments from people who want to start engaging in oral history projects. Here is a set of guidelines on how you might wish to start that locally and globally." RJC

The American Fire Service is fascinating in terms of the breadth of its history, the richness of its traditions, and the deeply imbedded values and beliefs of those that serve this profession. The National Fire Heritage Center exists precisely to document and hold in trust the history and culture of the American Fire Service for future generations to study, explore, and enjoy.

Much of our historical information is carried from one generation of firefighters to the next by our oral histories. The National Fire Heritage Center's Board of Directors realizes that we must not wait to begin gathering these life stories. We must begin in earnest, to collect our oral traditions, one individual firefighter and fire service leader at a time. Collectively we will capture important features about our fire fighting culture that is seldom recorded or preserved. This type of information will expand our knowledge on the profession and be a value to future generations of fire service professionals and historians.

This article provides a guideline for those who share our passion for collecting American Fire History before it is lost to the ages. This is not the definitive source for conducting oral interviews (see suggested resources at the end) but does provide a good working understanding of the subject.

The Importance of Oral Histories

Every day we create history, individually and organizationally. It is the insights of our leadership, the deeds of fellow firefighters and the people we serve which are equally valuable as the resource within our written records. Oral interview techniques provide a "living history" of not only the individual but also of our fire-culture, our organizations and of each of us individually.

Your own story and the stories of the people around you are a unique resource for your family, your community and your profession. This collective information may one day serve as a survival guide for the firefighters that come after us and for a generation of firefighters yet unborn.





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An oral history is a systematic collection of living people's testimony about their own life experiences. These histories are often compiled by professionals in history, anthropology, or folklore who conduct personal interviews to capture an individual's personal history as a tool to verify and validate the written historical record.

The concept is easily understood-- to collect information about the past from people who had lived it. The effort captures data that is not always available in written records about events, people, decision making processes, and personal belief systems. This qualitative information is often buried deep in the memory of the person being interviewed. As such, the oral interview is a very subjective methodology that captures the historical perspective from the individual being interviewed as they perceive and remember their experiences.

Often times, this memory is shaped not only by the persons past but also by their present circumstances. An example would be interviewing a retired firefighter who can recall the days when using self-contained breathing apparatus was scorned by "real firefighters"- but recognizes, after decades of experience, that this practice had exposed them to health hazards many years later. The bravado of past practices, in this case, is reinterpreted by the person being interviewed as a result of his or her knowledge of current practices and contemporary information.

The important thing for anyone who sets-out to record an oral history is that the interviewer allows the person being interviewed an opportunity to tell his or her story from their perspective. The interviewer needs to respect the person, their story and their perspective.

Ethical Considerations

If there is a contemporary interview style that you could easily identify with and effectively adopt, it might be that of a mental health care professional. A psychologist, or psychiatrist, will first establish a safe environment for the interviewee and provide an appropriate atmosphere for a person to tell their story. The person being interviewed is thoughtfully allowed to tell the story with carefully crafted follow-up questions asked by an attentive interviewer.

As an interviewer you should never exploit the person you are interviewing or their story. An interview example that many of us see on television is the techniques used by investigative reporters. But this type of interview technique is not the best example on how to conduct a historical oral interview! Investigative reporters are all about their story-- regardless of who gets hurt in the process of getting to the "truth."





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You are not an investigative reporter. The story you record will not be on the six o'clock news. As an interviewer you have a moral and ethical responsibility to respect and protect the rights and dignity of the people you interview.

Modern media provides another interview technique that we should avoid—that of a criminal defense attorney. Once again this is not the best example of a historic interview technique. You should not ask questions that would hurt the feelings of person you are interviewing or probe into their motivations or attack them personally.

You also need to respect any information that you are asked not to share. Confidential and off-the-record comments and remarks should be kept off-the-record. There is no crime that you are trying to solve or real mystery that needs to be unraveled. Your effort should be simply to record the historical information re-told by someone who lived it. The best protection against abuse of an individual is to transcribe the interview and allow the interviewed person to read and correct the transcript before you finish your own fact check, analysis and before it is published. This is also a good time to ask the interviewee if they would like to expand on their information.

The person being interviewed should understand, at the outset of the interview, why you are collecting their story, and what you intend to do with it once you are finished. To this end, it is important to get written permission through a copyright release form (see attached sample at the end of this article) to archive and/or publish their story. The release form should also include any material collected during the interview such as:

- Interviewer Notes
- Audio Tapes
- Video Recording, and/or
- Personal Photographs.

The National Fire Heritage Center will not publish or release any oral interview histories without the expressed written permission from the person being interviewed.

Preplanning Your Oral Interview

There is a pretty good chance at this point that you already know a person that you would like to interview. If not, look around your organization and you will probably find an active member of your





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department in their 60's, 70's and even 80's. These people have the institutional knowledge of your department that would be a great historical benefit.

Look also around your community. There maybe survivors of past disasters or victims of emergencies that would like to tell their story too. Surviving family members of department personnel who have recently passed away may also be interesting interview subjects. There is really no end to the interview possibilities in your own community.

But, conducting the interview is only a part of the task before you. To be successful you need to develop a pre-plan by doing a little research on the person you are about to interview. This research would include collecting background information about the person. Web-searches, recommendations and information from other people who know the person will be very helpful.

Your background research should also include major events that occurred during the careers and in the life of the person you are about to interview. Archived stories of major events can easily be collected from the local newspaper or your local historical society. A chronology of events will help narrow your research ideas and will provide a prompt for follow-up questions.

An example question might be: What was your role in response to the Grand Hotel Fire on Main Street in November 1979? Other questions could also revolve around technological advances being introduced to the department such as: What was the initial response of the firefighters when brass couplings and nozzles were replaced with aluminum alloys? Having a chronology of historical events and technological advances in the fire service will better prepare you to as an interviewer.

In your initial research you may find archived newspaper, magazine articles and photographs that you can copy. You can use this archive material to help successfully jump start your interview. Ask your interviewee if they can identify any of the people or describe the event in a picture or article. The interviewee may have additional pictures that they will let you borrow and copy. Be sure to scan, catalog and return them promptly afterwards.

The pre-plan of your interview should include:

- Learn as much as you can about the person you are about to interview before the interview.
- Bring a file folder of archived material.
- Be prepare with a set of questions to help get the interview started and to keep it going.





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- Check audio and/or video recording equipment before going to the interview and check it again just before the interview session begins. Start each recording with the date, place, and participants including you the interviewer.
- Keep and use notes of names, places, events, and dates.
- Listen carefully to the interviewee:
 - Follow leads in the conversation.
 - Know when to move on to the next question by recognizing when the subject has been fully discussed. You can return to your list of questions at this time.
- Be reassuring and aware that when telling stories- memories and emotions may surface (joy, sadness, anger). Respect the interviewees' feelings and be gentle.

Tools of the Trade

Your pre-plan should include a number of supplies that you should bring to record the interview which may include:

- Digital video and still cameras and/or audio recorder
- Extra memory storage
- Extra batteries and/or extension cord and power strip for all the equipment
- Towel to fold over the external microphone to muffle ambient noise
- Pencils and writing pad to take notes and to write down follow-up questions
- Your list of questions and your pre-researched chronology of events
- Digital watch or clock (an interview should not last longer than two hours)

Interview Questions

With an interview pre-plan mapped out in advance, you are ready for your interview. Make sure you pick a quiet and comfortable location. If at all possible choose a location or schedule a time when you are alone with the person you are going to interview. Explain the tools and equipment that you brought with you as tools to help accurately capture the person's interview. Begin with simple questions and small talk to make the person comfortable and to establish a rapport. Your first question, after you've settled-in, should be one that elicits a long response. From this point on you should also:





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- Ask one question at a time. Do not ask compound questions that require more than two separate answers or thought processes.
- Allow silence to work for you. Wait for an expanded explanation.
- Be a good listener, using body language such as looking at the interviewee, nodding, and smiling to encourage and give the message, "I am interested."
- When necessary, use verbal encouragements such as "This is fascinating information!" or "How interesting!"
- Ask for specific examples if the interviewee makes a general statement and you need to know more. Or you might say, "I'm not sure that I understand. Could you explain that in more detail?"
- Never be afraid to admit that you do not know something or to ask for clarification.
- Ask for definitions and explanations of words that the interviewee uses and that have critical meaning for the interview. For example, ask a wildland firefighter how they define a "hand line?" How was it used? What was its purpose?
- Rephrase and re-ask an important question several times, if you must, to get the full amount of information from the interviewee.
- Keep the interview no longer than one or two hours. Interviewed subjects are complimented when you have to return a couple of times for several short interviews. This builds trust and confidence in your interviewee and shows your continued interest in them. The time spent between interviews allows you to review your notes and develop some follow-up questions.
- If an interviewee suggests other resources such as articles or books for you to get more information on your topic—do the follow-up and develop some questions before you return for the next interview to show that you've been paying attention.

Open Ended Questions

The types of questions you ask are critical to the success of your interview. Open-ended questions are questions that encourage people to talk about what is important to them. They help to establish rapport, help you gather additional information and increase your understanding. An opened ended question is one that cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no" response.

When asking open ended questions, listen carefully to the answers to your questions and do not interrupt. Be prepared to respond to and discuss issues you had not anticipated.

The following samples of opened ended questions can be used as a starting point in the development of your own questions or be used as back-up questions in your interview:





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1. How did you initially get involved with the fire service?
2. How did your military experience prepare you for a career in the fire service?
3. By what measure was a firefighter considered a success (or failure) back then?
4. What are the differences between the fire service back then and today?
5. Who mentored you (took you under their wing or took an interest in your training and development)?
6. How was new technology introduced in your department?
7. Can you describe your role in the _____ emergency in 19XX?
8. Has the role of the firefighter changed over the years?
9. What were the challenges that you faced in your career?
10. Who did you and other firefighters turn to for answers in your department?
11. How did the firefighters cope with the death of a victim?
12. How did you and other firefighters deal with the death of a member from your own department?
13. What did you and your fellow firefighters do around the station in your down-time?
14. Is there a single emergency within your community or within the country that changed your department?
15. Do you remember the first engine that you rode on when you first started out?
16. What do you consider the most significant change in the fire service?





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Mop-Up and Publishing

Once you've completed all of your interviews you are about two thirds finished with your project. The next step is to transcribe the interview into a written format. Offer free copies of the tape and transcripts to your interviewee. Let them know how the interviews will be used and invite them to any public presentation of the materials.

This transcription, your original notes, audio/visual documentation, and release form all become part of the historical record and should be donated to a museum or historical society like the National Fire Heritage Center for safe keeping.

Not all interviews go as planned. You should review your audio/visual documentation and notes and think about the way you asked questions and about the questions you could have asked instead. Learning from one interview to the next makes the process a little easier every time.

With your own research, organize the chronology of events in this person's life and career. You can color in the record with factual information about events surrounding this individual's narration. At this point you can begin to develop a descriptive narrative as the basis for an article based on the oral history of your selected subject.

Summary

The National Fire Heritage Center is extremely interested in collecting articles based on the oral interviews that you have conducted, researched and have written. Articles submitted to the NFHC may be published in our monthly newsletter and will be posted in the archives of our web-site for public benefit. The collection of oral histories from firefighters all over the country will provide a benefit to students, researchers, historians, authors, the fire service and the public. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Resources

Braun, Willa K. "Transcribing and Editing Oral History," AltaMira Press (January 1, 1991)

Lasky, Rick. "Pride & Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job," Fire Engineering Books & Videos (June 22, 2006)





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Latour, Jane. "Sisters in the Brotherhoods: Working Women Organizing for Equality in New York (Palgrave Studies in Oral History)," Palgrave Macmillan (July 21, 2009)

Maclean, Norman. "Young Men and Fire," University Of Chicago Press (November 15, 1993)

Mackay, Nancy. "Curating Oral Histories: From Interview to Archive," Left Coast Press; 1st Edition (October 31, 2006)

Richie, Donald. "Doing Oral History" Oxford University Press, USA; 2 edition (August 7, 2003)

Smith, Dennis. "Firefighters: Their Lives in Their Own Words," Broadway; 1 edition (March 12, 2002)

Thompson, Paul. "The Voice of the Past: Oral History," Oxford University Press, USA; 3 edition (May 25, 2000)

Yow, [Valerie Raleigh](#). "Recording Oral History, Second Edition: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences," AltaMira Press; 2 edition (April 7, 2005)





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Historic News That You Can Use!

Cyclopedia of Fire Prevention and Insurance

Google search has also produced a document that was in four volumes published in 1912 by the Chicago American School of Correspondence. The four volumes cover a wide range of information. It was prepared by architects, engineers, underwriters, and practical insurance men. (You can bet that if we wrote this book today, it would say practical persons)

American National Fire Prevention Convention 1913

Another document that has come to our awareness recently is entitled "Official Record of the first American National fire prevention convention American National Fire Prevention Convention 1st Philadelphia 1913, Powell Evans". This document is over 500 pages long and has been placed on Google search for old books. You might want to look into it.

Quote of the Month

"If you want to have the imagination to see the future, then you'd better have the wisdom to appreciate the past." Henry Mintsberg

Thanks to Chief John Rukavina for providing the quote of the month.

Not So Poor Richards Almanac

A 1733 copy of Benjamin Franklins "Poor Richard Almanac" recently fetched \$565,500 at a Sotheby's Auction House. This is the second-highest price ever for a book printed in America. The bidder was anonymous. If you have a copy in your garage, please feel free to forward it as part of our fund raising efforts.

Jakey; What is it?

If you have been around any of the really large metropolitan departments such as New York, Chicago and San Francisco, you may have heard the term "jakey" being used to refer to firefighters. (also known in some areas as "jakes") I know when I first heard it I thought it was a pseudonym for an apparatus operator and was based upon the idea of the Jake break. However, that translation was not accurate. In general it is used to describe all firefighters in these departments. The question is, where did it come from and what does it mean?





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The Passing of Smoke Jumper Cooley

Seen from the height of a passenger jet, the mountains of Idaho and western Montana look like the grey, wrinkled hide of a dinosaur. Closer up, from a twin-engine aircraft, those wrinkles become thousands of conifers marching over the steep and broken ground. Closer still—"My God! My chute's not opening! Something's wrong!"—that's a spruce you're plunging into, your tardy parachute lines tangling round your neck and your flailing legs kicking off branches a hundred feet above the ground. Luckily, you're alive. Luckier still, you have a rope in your trouser pocket that lets you rappel down from the tree. And you haven't even got to the fire yet.

Such was Earl Cooley's introduction, on July 12th 1940 when he was 28, to the completely new science of smokejumping. After years spent trying to douse the forest fires of America's West from aircraft—labouring skywards with water stowed in five-gallon cans and beer barrels—this was the first attempt to parachute firefighters to blazes too remote to reach by road. In the 22 years Mr Cooley was to spend doing it, it was also his closest call. He reflected later that if the spruce had not saved him, the smokejumping programme itself would not have survived—let alone become the success it is today, with 1,432 jumps made for the Forest Service last year. Back then, too many people thought it crazy. One Montana regional forester, a big-shot called Evan Kelly, had already complained to Washington that it was a waste of "honest suppression money"—dollars spent putting out fires in the old, plodding, non-flamboyant way.



Mr Cooley's training for that first jump was minimal. He was fit enough: an outdoorsman raised in "awful" poverty in the Bitterroot mountains of Montana, after his family had lost their homestead in a bank collapse in the 1920s. From his hardscrabble boyhood he could hunt, set a trap-line, build with timber and make trails, skills he put to use for the Forest Service to see himself through forestry school. When he came to train jumpers himself, he liked to pick people who had done stints in brush camp or dealt with blister rust on pines. Once dropped to a fire, he could make his way through the mountains like a deer—





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a necessary skill, since smokejumpers, once the fire was mopped up, had to walk home. Digging trenches and felling trees to make breaks were second nature to him.

Aeroplanes and parachutes, on the other hand, were foreign. His teacher did no more than hang a chute on a tree and point out the parts, concluding: "We jump tomorrow." The old Eagle parachutes, after opening with a bang that knocked your breath away, were almost unmanoeuvrable in a wind. Small wonder that Mr Cooley was sick before each training jump. But he could "rightfully say that he was greatly thrilled" to find himself, at last, floating.

Hunting the fire

The jumpers were firefighters first and foremost: young men impatient to get to a fire. Like hunters, they aimed to "catch" it before it went "over the hill", or before it blew up from a spot fire to a raging "project fire" over 50 acres or more. Mr Cooley had a less impetuous side. For much of his career he was a district ranger as well as a fireman. Many saw him as the epitome of the old-fashioned ranger, with no graduate degree but full of knowledge from riding round his patch. He was a man of few, drawling words. Bob Mutch, another smokejumper, met him once on a mountain where his group had just landed in unseasonal August snow. Mr Cooley, from horseback, told them not to sit around too long, but to get on with mopping up the fire.

His expertise often gave him the job of spotter in a plane. He had to read wind speed, direction and drift; assess, from the speed of the lumbering Ford Trimotor aircraft and his watch, the size of the fire; find, and mark with streamers, a suitable place to drop that was free of "snags" (dead trees), felled logs, stumps or boulders; check every inch of kit and harness, every buckle and strap and pin, and then tap each man on the left leg to make him jump. Mr Cooley was not just a trainer of men (including quivering Mennonites and Quakers, conscientious objectors, who were sent to become smokejumpers during the second world war). He also felt responsible for seeing that they returned.

On one occasion, they did not. The summer of 1949 brought extreme fires to the West, and that August some of "his boys" went to jump a fire at Mann Gulch in Montana. As the spotter, he landed them safely. But the fire overran them, and 13 died. Mr Cooley, though innocent of any malfeasance, was overcome with survivor's remorse. A quarter of his history of smokejumping, "Trimotor and Trail", was devoted to the Mann Gulch episode. He had 13 crosses made of concrete and put them on the hillside where each body was found. Every year he would check on them. And he would look at the map again.





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His pivotal place both in smokejumping's worst disaster, and its tough beginnings, made him a living symbol of the programme. Every year, he proudly presented the jump pins and certificates to the freshman smokejumpers at his old base in Missoula. He was a legend to them, even if the stories of his jumps—"silk stories", as jumpers call them—tended to begin with a cuss, and a crash, and himself dangling from a tree.¹

His obituary is on file in our NFHC library.

¹ Reproduced from Obituary in Montana Newspaper, Originally printed in a Magazine called the "Economist" and the Missoulian





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Ordinance from City of Carlisle

During a recent visit with the City of Carlisle, NFHC was given a copy of an ordinance that may be among one of the oldest ordinances establishing a fire department and fire prevention bureau. The following is the body of that document.

Placing the Fire Department of the Borough of Carlisle under the supervision and control of a Marshal and three Assistant Marshals, subject to the Town Council of said borough, providing for the appointment of said officers, and prescribing their powers, duties and compensation.

Section 1 - Be it enacted and ordained by the Town Council of the Borough of Carlisle, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same: That the fire department of the Borough of Carlisle shall be under the superintendence direction and control of a marshal and three assistant marshals, who shall be officers of the borough, subject, however, to the town council of said borough.

Section 2 - Each fire company shall nominate a candidate for Marshal and return his name to Council at the regular May meeting of Council and at the regular June meeting of Council one of this number shall be elected Marshal and the other Three Assistant Marshals. The said officers shall be elected by the Town Council and shall serve for and during the term of one year, and until their successors shall have been elected by the said Council. The terms of the first officers so appointed under this ordinance shall commence on the first day of July, A D., 1895, and all officers so elected shall at all times be subject to removal by the said Council.

Section 3 - The Marshal shall, after an alarm of fire, have full control of the engines, hose and hose carriages, hooks ladders and fire apparatus generally, give directions how, when and where they shall be used in case of fire, direct where the hose shall be attached, place the engines, direct the streams and order the hose to the several engines. He shall have general supervision of the fire apparatus and shall have access

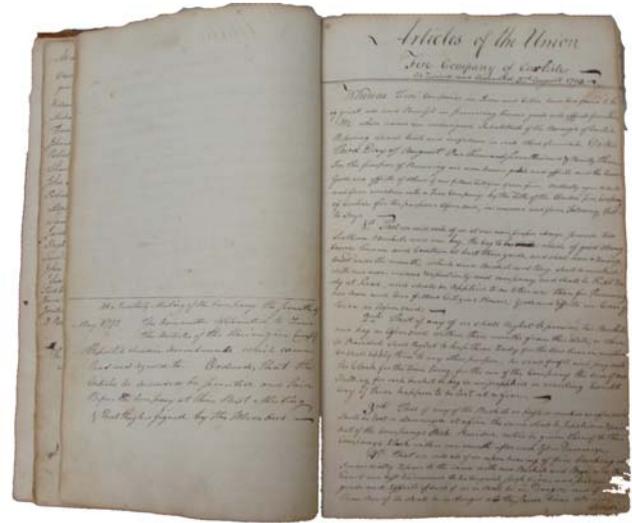




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thereto for the purpose of inspection in connection with the officers of the several companies, and he shall inspect the same monthly and report to council the condition thereof each month, or oftener if council so direct by resolution. He shall in conjunction with the assistant marshal, and the fire committee of council, submit to council for its approval, rules and regulations with proper penalties for the government of said department.

Section 4 - The assistant marshals shall aid the Marshal in the discharge of his duties, and in case of sickness or absence of the marshal the first assistant marshal shall act for him, and in case of sickness or absence of the marshal and first assistant marshal both, the second assistant marshal shall act for him, and in case of sickness or absence of the marshal and first and second assistant marshals, the third assistant marshal act for him.



The original, 1895 Carlisle, PA record book.

Section 5 - The compensation of the marshal shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per annum, and the compensation of the assistant marshals shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) each per annum, payable quarterly.

Section 6 - The marshal and assistant marshals elected under this ordinance shall wear suitable badges to designate their rank and title during the time they are in active service in the discharge of their duties, and they shall be invested with all the power and authority of police officers while in the discharge of said duties.





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Section 7 - There shall be appointed twenty patrolmen, subject to the marshal, with full power and authority of policemen during the time of all service at fires, said patrolmen to be appointed by council upon the recommendation of the several fire and hook and ladder companies, each company to name five, said patrolmen to wear a badge designating his rank during the time of actual service.

Section 8 - The marshal shall, before entering upon his duties, give a bond in the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100) for the faithful performance of his duties, said bond to be approved by the town council.

Section 9 - All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

Enacted into an ordinance this 23rd say of May, A.D. 1895

*C. W. Krise,
President Town Council
John R. Miller
Chief Burgess
Attest-S. C. Beitzel, Secretary of the Corporation*





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Fire Prevention Day and President Woodrow Wilson

Most people will remember that the Great Chicago Fire had a profound affect on fire prevention. Few remember when the first president acknowledged how important fire prevention is. For example, we talk about America Burning and the Truman Fire Prevention Conference. Most folks do not recall that it was Woodrow Wilson that made it official that we have a fire prevention week by Presidential Proclamation.

[FIRE PREVENTION DAY 1920.]

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS, the destruction by fires in the United States involves an annual loss of life of 15,000 men, women and children, and over \$250,000,000 in buildings, food stuffs and other created resources, and Whereas, the need of the civilized world for American products to replace the ravages of the great war is especially great at this time, and

Whereas, the present serious shortage of home and business structures makes the daily destruction of buildings by fire an especially serious matter, and

Whereas, a large percentage of the fires causing the annual American fire waste may be easily prevented by increased care and vigilance on the part of citizens:

Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, do urge upon the Governors of the various States to designate and set apart Saturday, October 9, 1920, as Fire Prevention Day, and to request the citizens of their States to plan for that day such instructive and educational exercises as shall bring before the people the serious and unhappy effects of the present unnecessary fire waste, and the need of their individual and collective efforts in conserving the natural and created resources of America.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done in the District of Columbia this 7th day of September, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States, the One Hundred and Forty-fifth.

WOODROW WILSON

By the President:
BAYBRETTON COBBY
Secretary of State.

[No. 173.]





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Firefighting Cartoon Book

Out here on the left coast, we have a very popular firefighting cartoonist named Captain Dave. Dave Hubert has provided a documentation of the humor of the American Fire Service for over 25 years. The following is an illustration of his book. He has recently made these available to the National Fire Heritage Center for sale as a fund raiser.

Civil Defense Monument

For those of you who have been on campus in Emmitsburg there is a monument dedicated to Civil Defense. Recently, I was given a copy of the original document that authorized that effort. It was HR348, the 106th Congress. It was approved on November 13, 1999. Interestingly, it was not signed by the Vice President but rather by Strong Thurmond. If you are interested in a photocopy of this document we will be posting it to our website in the near future.

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Fire Museum Network

Since our last newsletter, the Fire Museum Network held a workshop in Phoenix at the Hall of Flame. During that event, the participants received a copy of a display and gift shop resource guide. It is a reference guide of gift shop items and display accessories and other fire related information. For further information contact Bill Hall, Fire Museum Network Board Member, Central Ohio Fire Museum and Learning Center, 260 North 4th Street, Columbus Ohio, 43215-2511, 614-464-4099, cofmuseum@aol.com.

Annual Meeting of the NFHC

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors for the National Fire Heritage Center was held on Friday October 2nd, 2009. The location was at Vigilant Hose Company Emmitsburg Maryland. Minutes of the meeting will be posted to the website once they have been approved via teleconference.





National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter

Planned Giving Information

Board member Rod Slaughter has been working with an estate planning attorney and has now produced a document for our review entitled "Planned Giving". Any comments, please feel free to forward them to our attention.

The preservation of the America's Fire History will take several million dollars to accomplish. Your heritage center needs a permanent and well equipped facility, professional archivist and preservationist, together with a small army of volunteers to sort and catalog large volumes of information for future generations. We have waited too long to make this dream a reality. Today we have in front of us 200 years of fire history to collect and catalog before it is lost forever.

The goal of the National Fire Heritage Center is to preserve the history of the American Fire Service. If you cannot contribute to the cause today, with careful financial preplanning you can still make a significant contribution to the cause you or your family members have dedicated their loves to. This preplan can be accomplished through planned giving.

With a planned gift to the National Fire Heritage Center, you can combine your desire to give to charity with your overall financial, tax and estate planning goals. Your planned gift gives a special connection with the National Fire Heritage Center. You will help those committed to preserving the history of the American Fire Service, for now and for years to come.

Typically a planned gift is arranged by you legally during your lifetime with the assistance and guidance of our estate planning attorney. The principal benefits would generally accrue to the National Fire Heritage Center at a later time, such as after your death or after the death of your primary beneficiaries. Planned gifts take many forms, providing additional income for you and/or your heirs, reducing income and estate taxes,² relieving you and your heirs of complicated financial management responsibilities, and most importantly helping to fulfill your personal humanitarian and charitable objectives. Planned gifts can be made in cash, real estate, stocks, bonds, personal property or life insurance.

² Due to the inaction of our Congress, as of January 1, 2010 federal estate tax as we know it has been repealed for the 2010 year. That means that unless and until Congress acts otherwise, there is no limit to the wealth that can be passed on to our heirs and beneficiaries without incurring federal estate taxes during 2010. There is, however, every indication that Congress will act to reinstate the federal estate tax, and in all likelihood reinstate the tax retroactive to January 1st of 2010.





National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter

*Perhaps the simplest planned gift is a bequest through your **will** in which you designate either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to the National Fire Heritage Center after other distributions. In addition to supporting the National Fire Heritage Center, such a gift would serve as an example to your heirs and family members of the values and ideals you hold dear. A bequest also can reduce the amount of your taxable estate (see footnote 1 below) which may serve to actually increase the remaining amount of your estate available to your loved ones.*

*Contributions of **life insurance** can provide a substantial gift to National Fire Heritage Center. Life insurance can be gifted during the lifetime of the donor, in which case the value of an ordinary policy at the time of the gift is tax deductible. If you continue to pay the premiums, such premium payments are also deductible as a charitable contribution. If a paid up policy is given, the cost of purchasing a new paid up policy at your current age is the value of the charitable deduction. A gift of life insurance can also be arranged following the death of the donor by naming the National Fire Heritage Center as beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.*

*There are several other, more sophisticated methods to make charitable gifts to the National Fire Heritage Center, which provide benefits beyond a simple charitable deduction. They include a **Gift Annuity** which is an irrevocable gift to National Fire Heritage Center which pays a fixed dollar amount to you during your lifetime as well as the initial charitable deduction; a **Charitable Remainder Trust** which transfers ownership and management of cash or appreciated securities to National Fire Heritage Center and provides you with a fixed annual income as well as the initial charitable deduction; or a **Pooled Income Fund** which acts like a commercial mutual fund, by combining your gift with the contributions of other fund participants, paying dividends to the shareholders in the proportion to each persons contributions. A gift to a Pooled Income Fund results in a tax deduction for the year your gift was made, elimination of capital gains tax if you invest appreciated property and reduction in estate taxes for your heirs.*

The National Fire Heritage Center will work with your estate planning attorney or accountant to explain the many gift opportunities available to you and the financial advantages of each. You are invited to contact the National Fire Heritage Center to learn how confidential, personal financial planning can help you achieve your goals while helping to preserve the history of the American Fire Service.

The above general charitable giving information has been provided by Barbara J. Bender, Esq., Estate Planning Partner of Baydaline & Jacobsen LLP, 895 University Avenue, Sacramento, California 95825 (bbender@bayjaclaw.com). This information is not intended as legal advice. Appropriate estate planning advice can only be given after individual consultation with a qualified estate planning attorney in your area, and upon evaluation of your individual personal and financial circumstances, and your planned giving goals.





National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter

Barbara Bender

*Partner **Barbara Bender** heads Baydaline & Jacobsen's estate planning and probate law practices, which emphasizes asset protection and enhancement. Ms. Bender's practice area also includes the establishment of conservatorships and guardianships, and probate administration and litigation. Ms. Bender also has the ability and experience to assist her many clients in the complex areas of trust administration and trust litigation should the need arise.*

Ms. Bender also has considerable expertise in the creation, administration and implementation of Special Needs Trusts, and finds working with families with members who have special needs and special disabilities both rewarding and challenging.

Ms. Bender received her law degree from Lincoln Law School of Sacramento in 1991 and is an active member of the Estate Planning and Probate Sections of the State Bar of California, and the Sacramento County Bar Association. She has been a long-standing faculty member in post secondary education, teaching wills, trust, and estate taxation as an adjunct professor at law schools in Sacramento and Roseville, and continues to lecture in advance continuing education seminars.





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National Fire Related Events

The following is a list of national meetings that will occur in 2010. It is estimated that our NFHC members will be likely participants in one or more of these events. All events that have already occurred have been deleted.

EVENT	DATE (Month/Day)	LOCATION	CONTACT/TELEPHONE NO.
CFSI Fire Caucus Dinner	04/28-29	DC - Washington	
IAFC Fire-Rescue Med. Conference	05/01-05	NV - Las Vegas	
Ontario Fire Chiefs	05/01-05	ONT - Toronto	
IAFC Eastern Division	05/13-15	PA - York	
Northwest Fire Rescue Expo	05/14-15	OR - Portland	
Metro Chiefs	05/14-20	TN - Memphis	
IAFC Hazmat Response Teams Conference	05/19-23	MD - Baltimore	703-273-0911
Penna. Fire Expo	05/21-23	PA - Harrisburg	Tina Alexander: 717-464-3291
Quebec Fire Chiefs	05/22-25	QUE - Quebec City	
Health, Fitness and Safety Symposium (Phoenix FD)	05/26-28	AZ - Phoenix	
British Columbia Fire Chief	06/06-10	BC - Penticton	
NFPA World Safety Conference	06/07-10	NV - Las Vegas	
Fire 2010 (New York Fire Chiefs)	06/09-12	NY - Verona	703-934-4700
Manitoba Fire Chiefs	06/10-12	MB - Winnipeg	
Alberta Fire Chiefs	06/19-23	ALB - Edmonton	
IAFC Southeastern Division	06/24-26	KY - Louisville	
	06/25-27	MA - West Springfield	
Maritimes Fire Chiefs Conference	07/04-07	NS - Yarmouth	
IAFC Missouri Valley Division	07/07-09	CO - Colorado Springs	
Firehouse Expo	07/19-25 (Exhibits 22-24)	MD - Baltimore	Mary Velline: 800-827-8009
Texas A & M Municipal School	07/25-31	TX - College Station	
I-Women Conference	08/23-24	IL - Chicago	
IAFC Fire-Rescue International	08/24-28 (Exhibits 27-28)	IL - Chicago	Carrie Abernathy: 703-273-0911
FAMA Tech. Meeting	08/28	IL - Chicago	
Incident Management Symposium (Phoenix FD)	09/08-10	AZ - Phoenix	
New Jersey Firefighters	09/17-18	NJ - Wildwood	
Fire-Rescue Canada	09/19-22	NB - Saint John	
Firehouse Central/EMS	09/27- 10-01	TX - Dallas	Mary Velline: 800-827-8009
IAFC Southwestern Division	09/TBD		
Pittsburgh Fire/Rescue & EMS	10/02-04	PA - Pittsburgh	Kelly Simon: 800-747-5599
FAMA/FEMSA Fall Meeting	10/06-09	TX - San Antonio	
FireShowsReno	10/26-27	NV - Reno	
FIERO Fire Station Design Symposium	10/31- 11/1-3	NC - Charlotte	
IAFC Volunteer & Combination Officers' Symposium	11/11-14	FL - Clearwater Beach	