

Book sales to benefit NFHC

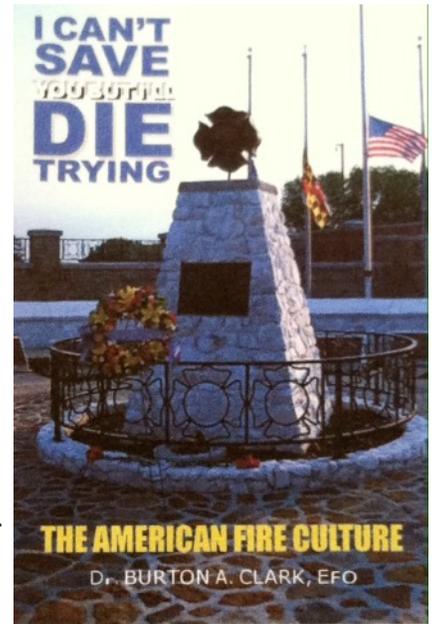
A portion of the sales proceeds from Dr. Burton A. Clark’s book, *I Can’t Save You, But I’ll Die Trying: The American Fire Service Culture*, will benefit the National Fire Heritage Center and the Firefighters Cancer Support Network.

The book is a collection of essays representing years of fire service experience, including operations, prevention, education, safety, leadership, culture, and philosophy – giving readers, both civilian and firefighters, a new understanding of our fire culture,” according to publisher Premium Press America. The book reveals important changes society must make to provide a more fire-safe environment for firefighters and the public, “ the publisher says.



“I want the book to help change how society thinks and feels about fire death,” says Dr. Clark. “When a civilian is killed by fire, it is not an act of God,” he says. “When a firefighter is killed, it is not part of the job. When there is a fire death, something went wrong.”

Author Clark is well-known to the fire community, including NFHC members. After 45 years of fire experience, EFO Clark retired from the National Fire Academy as Chair of Management Science. (For a profile of Dr. Clark, see the History Makers Feature in the *National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter*, 2014, No. 1)



The 306-page, soft-cover black and white book is available from the Nashville-based Premium Press America for \$29.95. Orders can be placed by calling 800-891-7323 or online at orders@premiumpressamerica.com.

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Message from the President

“Predicting the future is very difficult.” That was supposedly stated by physicist Niels Bohr. He followed that up with “especially about the future.” That is why history is so much fun. It is not about prediction, but rather interpretation. Literature is full of predictions that never came about. Literature is even fuller of interpretations that do not agree with each other.

For example, my collection of books on Benjamin Franklin reveals a wide variety of perceptions of the man. We in the fire service tend to give him credit for creating the American fire service. In fact, fire services had been invented 1700 years previously in Rome. Franklin’s admirers gave him credit. His detractors, not so much.

In a sense of the word, the National Fire Heritage Center is like a score keeper at a sporting event. We get to sit on the sidelines and keep score, but we don’t have to be on the field. Our way of doing that is to get as much first person information as we can to tell the story when an event is happening rather than being reviewed in the distant future. That is what makes our archives exciting. We are now adding a lot of information to the library that comes from personal work of individuals who have made personal contributions. Our program on Legends, Legacies and Leaders is accumulating information on what leadership really looks like instead of using the definition of leadership.

We still have many challenges as an organization. That allows me to now go back to talk about our

future. We have a need to improve our participation in our membership. We have a need to improve our revenue. We have a need to obtain more participants in the process of pursuing the goals and objectives of the NFHC. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a consideration I am currently looking at. It might meet your needs also.

I call it the **Ambassador Program**.

I would like to locate someone in each State of the Union who is interested in preserving the past, who can also represent the NFHC at the local level. I recently experimented with an individual who represented our interest at a State Fire Chief’s Association and he did an admirable job. I have had several individuals ask how they can help us pursue our agenda of “preserving the perishable” who are associated with museums.

So, I would like to hear from some of our members if they would like to serve as an NFHC Ambassador. I have prepared a packet of information for any potential volunteers that will help them tell our story. If you are interested, merely send me an email (ron@fireforceone.com) and I will provide you with the Ambassador kit.

I don’t want to argue with Niels Bohr, but I will make a prediction. If we can get a few more ambassadors working on our agenda for the organization, we will meet our goals much faster and truly represent the efforts of those who contribute to the fire service.

Ronny J. Coleman
President, NFHC

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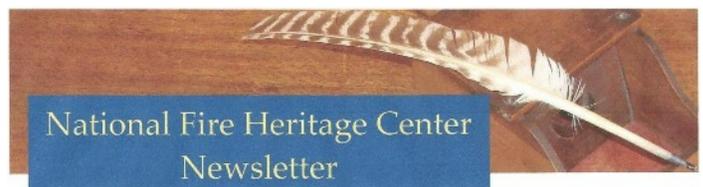
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NFHC Salutes Its Members, Donors, and Contributors

We congratulate current members on their achievements and welcome renewed and new members. As always, we thank those who donate materials to the National Fire Heritage Center.

Congratulations to member and director **Don Briggs** for being inducted into the Mount Saint Mary's University Hall of Fame. In addition to his very busy life, he was once the MSM Rugby Coach and a Grotto Council Member there, but it is for his impact on Mount Rugby and Mount Community that he was so inducted. The full article in Frederick News-Post can be viewed at http://www.fredericknewspost.com/z/content_type/news_article/emmitsburg-mayor-inducted-into-mount-hall-of-fame/article_94b460a4-7a31-5908-ac76-57b14f33b873.html

Thank you to **Chief Daniel B.C. "Boone" Gardiner** for his donation of prints of antique fire apparatus. The prints were distributed by the Cities Service Oil Company (of which Chief Gardiner's father was general manager). Cities Service was a regional oil supplier in the Northeast and was later purchased by Shell Oil.



Welcome to new member **Dan Madryzkowski** and thank you for hand-delivering material donated by **Chief Bruce Varner** related to the November 21, 1980, MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas. While at NFHC, Mr. Madryzkowski also purchased two bookcases for the library, one in his name and one in the name of his wife **Elizabeth Madryzkowski**.

Thank you to **Bernie and Mary Schwartz**, who recently provided NFHC with 19 cartons of books from the collection of the late **Dr. John L. Bryan**. Mr. Schwartz is a University of Maryland graduate.

My, How Things Have Changed

Ronny J. Coleman

I collect old magazine articles about fires. They often reveal attitude, philosophy, even tactics and strategy – and lessons to be learned. The following is a magazine article about 100 years ago.

I would like you to read the article very slowly. I have carefully blacked out the name of the Fire Chief who is mentioned because his name alone is part of the lesson. As you're reading this article, think about the modern fire service. Do you think that any modern fire chief would do what is reported on in this article? If they did what would be the consequences of taking that action? Lastly, if you've ever been to the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial, actually seen engraved names of those who died under circumstances very similar to those in this article.

Read on. I will be back with you in a few moments.

"The firemen in the police clashed at a bad fire under the Brooklyn Bridge last night. Fire Chief XXXXXXX led what was really a revolt. The police had a more humble representative in the person of Patrolman Apfel of the Oak Street station.

The fire started and Bridge Arch No. 2, just east of the Franklin Square station of the Second Avenue elevated railroad. It has three floors and a basement, and 8 feet of solid masonry separate the ceiling of the top floor from the roadways of the bridge. It is rented by the United Trucking Company, and every inch of space was packed with waste paper and cardboard in bundles.

Policeman O'Neill saw smoke filtering through the cracks around the iron shutters of the windows at 6:50 o'clock. He sent in the alarm.

As soon as the firemen found the sort of material they had to deal with they notified chief XXXXXXX. He arrived just after 7 o'clock and sent in a second alarm. The reserves of the Oak Street Police Station were called out and fire lines were established to keep back the large crowd which quickly gathered from the neighboring tenements.

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History Makers: Jim Crawford

About Jim

Jim Crawford is the project manager for Vision 20/20. He is a member of and former chair of the NFPA technical committee on professional qualifications for fire marshals. He is the author of *Fire Prevention Organization and Management* and author of the prevention chapter in *Managing Fire and Rescue Services*. Jim writes a monthly column on fire and life safety for *Fire and Rescue Magazine* and is often a speaker on the topic.

Jim retired from the active fire service after 35 years, ending his career as the Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal of Vancouver, WA. He is a fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers, past President of the International Fire Marshal's Association, and a life member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Jim has been awarded the R. Wayne Powell Excellence in Fire Prevention Award; the Fire Protection Person of the Year in 2011 from the Society of Fire Protection Engineers; and the Dr. Anne W. Phillips Leadership in Fire Safety Education award from the International Fire Service Training Association and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

Jim has an AS Degree from Clackamas Community College in Fire Science, and a BS in Management and Communications from Concordia University.

What first attracted you to working in fire safety?

As a young firefighter, a presentation from a neighboring fire officer and the local burn center impressed upon me the importance of prevention - and the need to help prevent the kind of damage we routinely saw as firefighters.

How did your career path change? What was your biggest surprise?

I loved being a firefighter - and thought I wanted to do that for the rest of my career. But the career change to prevention evolved from a local

need the fire chief saw to increase efforts at public relations and public education.

Chief Harry Carpenter was very progressive, so he created a position which I filled for public

information and public education. I was referred to as the first PIEIO for Clackamas County Fire District Number 1 in Oregon (a suburb of Portland). Chief Carpenter was responsible for the beginning of my long career in prevention. And he opened doors for me that few fire chiefs would today for a young, smart albeit, obnoxious, know it all, pushy young firefighter.

In your view, what has been your greatest contribution to fire safety and why?

I couldn't say - it would be for others to judge. I just try to help - and hope it does.

Who were your mentors and how did they help you?

I was blessed with many mentors over my career. Olin Greene, the State Fire Marshal in Oregon, who later became the U.S. Fire Administrator. Harold Mace, the leader for many years at the International Fire Service Training Association. Pam Powell, my boss when I was on loan to the U.S. Fire Administration in the early 1980s. Jan Gratton, a pioneer in the fire and life safety education field. Mary Corso, the past State Fire Marshal in Washington State. Richard Small, the past administrator for Fire Standards Training and Accreditation in Oregon. Jim Dalton, a leader in so many fields and most recently with the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Nancy Trench, also a leader in many fields and now with the International Fire Service Training Association. Lynn Davis, the former fire marshal and Chief in Portland, Oregon.



There are too many others to mention - but they all taught me something about how to avoid impulse, act and think with a balanced view, and work toward important and often common goals.

What are the biggest challenges in the next 5 years? 10 years?

The biggest challenge facing the U.S. Fire Service is going to be figuring out how to implement community risk reduction (CRR) concepts while they get no additional resources to do so. Some will brand CRR as an excuse to cut resources, and it's not. Some will mistake CRR for another name for prevention, and it's not.

The more progressive will recognize that CRR is not a new concept at all, but a re-thinking of how we can INTEGRATE emergency operations and prevention strategies to improve public safety, manage our increasing call volumes, and enhance our relationships with the communities we serve. It is about finding the right tools to manage risk in the most efficient manner possible. Sometimes that is a full complement of emergency responders. Sometimes it's a fire sprinkler system. The key is in finding the right strategies that work for each community. In the end when we start comparing one fire department to another based on fire loss statistics - instead of the size of our fleet - we will have made measurable progress in becoming community risk management entities.

What is fire safety's biggest piece of unfinished business?

There are three. Not taking anything away from other ongoing prevention efforts (especially CRR), the fire service is currently waking up to the fact that there are far more homes without working smoke alarms than we imagined. We have to do something about nuisance or unwanted alarms, and we must renew public attention on their need.

The Vision 20/20 Project estimates there is a need for more than 100 million smoke alarms in the U.S. today. We won't get there with installation programs. We need to actively engage the public in purchasing, installing and maintaining their own alarms. We must

also support new technologies that help prevent kitchen stove top fires - it can move the national "bar" on fire incident rates in the U.S. significantly if we get behind them.

And finally, we will never be finished with the need for public education programs that measurably change behaviors when it comes to preventing fires AND other emergencies (like ground level falls) that constitute our major risk scenarios in the U.S.

We need to increase the number of professional public fire and life safety educators in the U.S. - especially in tight budget times - because we will need guidance on how to best formulate and manage our education/outreach strategies to be successful.

If you could start your career over, what would you do differently?

My career unfolded as it was intended - even though I didn't know it at the time.

Any regrets?

A million of them. But I'm blessed with good fortune, good friends and family, and a productive career. I know that, and I'm grateful every day. Even when I worry and am stressed.

What is your advice to those who are just starting a career in fire safety?

I have enough flaws of my own that I'm not too keen on advising others - but I would encourage people starting out to insulate themselves from the short term hot buttons that distract us from doing greater things.

Keep an eye focused on the longer term goals, and look for opportunities to help make them happen. Avoid the "dinosaurs" that are stuck in the past and hold us back. It helps if we can keep our egos in check - and recognize that credit does not always come to those who deserve it. It leads us to ask why we do the things we do - is it to get credit - or to do good? Everyone has to answer that question for themselves.

My, How Things Have Changed

Ladders were run up to each window, firemen swarmed them, and the shutters were thrown open. Then the windows were smashed, and as soon as the truck was dragged out enough space with their hooks to make room for their bodies they squeezed through the second-story windows.

The smoke became thicker, and soon a muffled cry for help arose above the din of the engines. It was John Licedivc of Engine 81 who called. Connor of the No. 81 and Hardy of No. 29 sprang up a ladder and were dragging Licedivc over the window sill when such a hot blast of smoke gushed forth that they had to shield their faces with their helmets. They got Licedivc out, but he was unconscious. Dr. Tomes of St. Gregory's hospital restored him.

In quick succession these firemen, half suffocated, were carried down the ladder: Lieut. McGowan, Lyons and Bracken, of Engine 32; Neil of Truck 1, Woods and John O' Rourke of Engine 32, John Walsh and Dwyer of Engine 31, and Harry Knapp of Engine 9.

Fireman John O'Connor of Engine 9 was the last taken down the ladder. He was limp, and gasped hard for breath. A few minutes prior to this, Chief Croker had declared:

"No man of mine goes to a hospital this night," Policeman Apfel, without awaiting the Fire Chief sanction, had summoned ambulances from the Hudson Street and St. Gregory hospitals.

Dr. Williams was in charge of the Hudson Street ambulance. When the unconscious form of O'Connor was laid on the sidewalk a few feet east of the arch, Dr. Williams and the ambulance driver pulled out a stretcher. Chief XXXXXXXX was then engaged in directing the men and did not witness the preparation to take the man away.

Captain Rush of Engine 33, who had heard his chief say that his men were not to be taken to hospitals, did observe the preparations. He told XXXXXXXX. The chief strode down to the ambulance. The surgeon shoved the stretcher back into the ambulance, and he and the

driver half dragged, half carried O'Connor from the truck on which his comrades had placed him to the vehicle and hoisted him to the step, while the crowd at the lower fire lines shouldered each other to get a glimpse of what was going on.

"Get that man out of that ambulance!" roared Chief XXXXXXXX. "You're not going to take him to a hospital. He isn't in bad enough shape for that. Put him back on that truck. "

"No," replied Policeman Apfel. He's going to the hospital. We're going to take him there."

"He's in pretty bad shape," said Dr. Williams, "and I'm going to take him."

"No, you're not," shouted XXXXXXXX; then to Apfel: "Arrest that man," indicating Dr. Williams.

Apfel didn't budge.

XXXXXXX then summoned half a dozen firemen and shouted: "Take that man away from that ambulance."

The firemen seized O'Connor by the coat collar and dragged him 10 feet. Before they could go further, Policeman Apfel and three or four onlookers yanked O'Connor, still unconscious, bodily away from them.

XXXXXXX called a half a dozen more firemen, and Roundsman Smith summoned two or three policeman, and between them they got O'Connor away from Apfel and the outsiders. The latter were forced outside the fire lines. O'Connor remained unconscious and was at last taken to St. Gregory's Hospital.

When the chief was asked about this, he disclaimed the order and reiterated over and over again that he didn't think O'Connor's condition was serious enough to warrant taking him to a hospital.

(Continued on next page)

My, How Things Have Changed

Captain Rush was asked if he knew anything about it. He said that XXXXXXX had ordered that any man who appear to be badly enough off was to go to the hospital. The question had not been definitively settled at midnight the XXXXXXX was still declaring that he didn't think O'Connor was in a serious condition.

The fire chief talked a bit after the incident.

"I am here in charge of the firemen." He said. "The police have no right to summon ambulances. They are here to maintain the fire lines and keep back the crowd. If we need ambulances we will ask for them and we can get them just as quickly as the policeman can.

"Is there any rule about who shall summon ambulances?" The chief was asked. "An agreement for the firemen to do it was entered into by ex-police Commissioner McDoo and ask Fire Commissioner Hayes" was the reply.

Chief XXXXXXX then muttered something about reporters making the firemen too conspicuous, and something that sounded like "if I had my way they wouldn't be allowed inside the lines."

The fire was under control at 10 o'clock. At that hour trucks 8 and 20 were summoned to relieve to weary companies.

Chief XXXXXXX said the fire might smolder for two or three days.

Trolley cars on the bridge were blocked for an hour."

Now we can give you the examination.

Who was it that we should substitute for the XXXXXXX in this article?

I will give you hint that his name is considered to be one of those that we would place in the pantheon of leaders in the American fire service. If that hint doesn't help enough, let me advise you that he was on the scene of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire in 1910. Are you getting warm yet?

He has often been quoted in recruit Academy's officer development courses as being the author of a declaration that a person becomes a hero the moment they take on the badge. They do not have to wait for a fire to become one.



Okay, this article was written about New York City Fire Chief Ed Croker. He's one of my personal heroes too. And I'm not reproducing this article to say anything negative about him. Instead I think we need to focus on the lesson to be learned here.

If Ed Croker were alive today, would he be reading the literature of science and research and perhaps update his attitude and behavior relative to firefighter safety?

That's the lesson. I think he would. He would not be defending the good old days. He would not be advocating that we endanger lives out of a sense of weary and worn out clichés. Unfortunately, I believe there are fire departments today that could reproduce this scenario because of a lack of knowledge or leadership.

Of course, we have no way of knowing this, but I would like to believe that the "Chief Croker" of today will have adopted the motto of "Everybody Goes Home. "