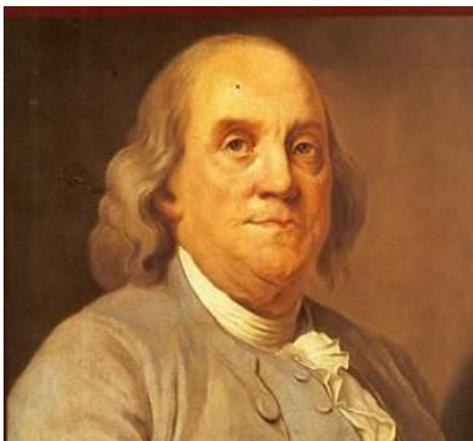


National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter

Ben Franklin Writer's Award Winners

The National Fire Heritage Center has selected recipients for the 2015 Ben Franklin Writer's Awards.

The top prize winner for 2015 was **Ricky Brockman** of the Navy Fire and Emergency Services for his lengthy and comprehensive work on the *Department of Defense*



Newsletter. The newsletter has been under production since 2002 and provides an invaluable source of

information to those who are part of the military fire service. His newsletters are both informative and entertaining and in the spirit of Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

The second place has been awarded to retired Novato, CA, **Fire Chief Marc Revere**, for his work in producing frequent contributions to fire magazines on a wide

variety of subjects for a period of over 35 years. He has authored over 100 articles in journals and periodicals. He was a co-author of a guidance manual for professional mentoring.

The third place has been awarded to **Michelle Tanzola** of the Austin Fire Department for her original work contributing to the fire service's better understanding of the use of social media titled "You Can't Post That," published in the January 2015 issue of *Fire Rescue Magazine*.

Nominations for 2016 candidates are now open. For further information on the program please contact Ron Coleman at ron@fireforceone.com.

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Message from the Vice President

We've Been Busy!

The NFHC team has been quite busy since our annual meeting in Emmitsburg last October, especially our Executive Director **Wayne Powell** and Archivist **Frank Schmearsal**.

The days following our annual meeting were quite unpleasant for me -- beginning with a kidney stone attack on Saturday. Shortly after arriving home in Tennessee, I was hospitalized with a urinary tract infection, high blood sugar, and high blood pressure. I passed a large kidney stone shortly after being admitted to the hospital and six days later passed a second stone. OUCH!!

November and December were major improvements for me health wise and -- as stated in my opening sentence - Wayne and Frank were busy. A major achievement was bringing the donations from the late **Harvey Eisner's** estate to Emmitsburg, with the assistance of **Susie Nichol** of *Firehouse Magazine*.

Another milestone was two trips to Takoma Park to Secretary **Fred Brower's** home to retrieve extensive materials Fred donated to the NFHC library. The NFHC was well represented at the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute annual meeting and dinner in Harrisburg, PA, by Executive Director Wayne Powell and Archivist Frank Schmearsal.

December 14th, we hosted a meeting at the museum with the Director of Tourism for Frederick County **John Feiseler**. Attendees included Emmitsburg **Mayor Don Briggs**, **Assistant Town Manager Jerry Muir**, **Sonny Scarff**, Executive Director Wayne Powell, Archivist Frank Schmearsal, and myself.

Following the meeting Executive Director Wayne Powell, Archivist Frank Schmearsal and I discussed fund raising strategies, committees, and concepts to increase interest, membership, and visibility of the NFHC at the national level.

The Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders program was discussed and the HLLL Committee chair will be submitting recommended changes and additions to the program in March 2016.

Several members of the NFHC board were asked to accept Committee Chairmanship assignments. Three board members responded affirmatively and accepted assignments which will be discussed in a future newsletter.

The presentation of the Franklin Award on behalf of **President Ronny J. Coleman** scheduled for January 22nd was postponed due to the record snowfall that shut down Washington, DC, for several days. The presentation will take place at a later date with ample notice provided to the NFHC membership.

I gave a presentation to the attendees of the organizational meeting of the **East Tennessee Fire Historical Society** in Morristown, TN, on January 30th, along with Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA) Vice President **Tommy Herman**.

Bill Killen, CFO, FIFireE

The **National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter** is published four times yearly by the National Fire Heritage Center.

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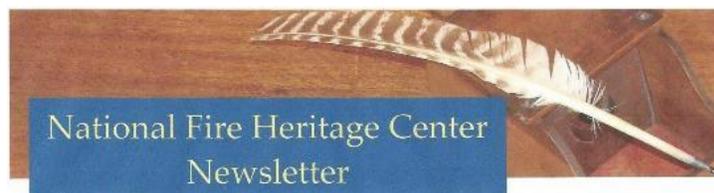
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Notes from the NFHC Archives

The State of the Archive

We entered 2016 with just over 10,000 cataloged items in the collection. In 2015 we received 90 donations of materials (up from 75 in 2014); we have a backlog of about 450 cartons of materials. We have obtained storage space for uncatalogued materials at the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company building, about half a mile away, and have moved about 150 cartons over there so far. (95 of those cartons came out of the 12 x 13-foot archivist's office!)

We also have a new volunteer assisting us at the Heritage Center. **Maury Grundy** works across the street at the United States Fire Administration, where she is responsible for the USFA website; in her spare time, she is helping to rearrange our pamphlet files.

Recent Acquisitions

As we become more well-known, materials come to the NFHC from all over the country. Among our recent acquisitions are about 400 embroidered patches from **John Coyle** of Sturgis, SD (see "Patches," on next page); 32 cartons of materials, including about 50 FDNY station logs, from the family of the late **Harvey Eisner**; a 2-foot by 7-foot photograph of Baltimore after the Great Fire of 1904, from **NFHC Secretary Fred Brower**; 13 cartons of materials, much of it relating to the creation of the *America Burning* report, from **Lou Amabili**; a collection of about 1,600 fire-related business cards, from **Bill Kehoe**; and other "neat stuff" from other friends of the NFHC.

Some of what we receive is relatively mundane; some is really special, but there is no doubt that we are *the* national archive of the history of fire in America

Bookcase Campaign Update

Since the last issue of the newsletter we have received bookcase sponsorships from NFHC Vice-President **Willie Shelton**, **Bill Kehoe**, and **Gary Long**. There still is room for more sponsors' names on the plaque, so we still are accepting sponsorships. Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation of \$150 to the NFHC (P.O. Drawer 76, Emmitsburg MD 21727). Become a bookcase sponsor today!

The Archivist's Wish List

The items on the following list are needed for us to view, process, and store items that are in the collection. If you can help the NFHC obtain any of these items, please contact

Executive Director Wayne Powell (waynepowellnfhc@gmail.com) or archivist Frank Schmersal (accobonack@aol.com).

- 16mm reel-to-reel movie viewer with splicer
- Fluorescent light box, 18 x 24 inches (or larger)
- Audio tape player/CD recorder (also known as a "dubber")
- U-matic tape player
- Video projector
- Copy stand with lights (to use for photographing accessions)
- Microfiche and microfilm viewers, preferably with printers.

Frank Schmersal, Archivist

So, What's an Archive?

"An **archive** is an accumulation of historical records or the physical place they are located. **Archives** contain primary source documents that have accumulated over the course of an individual or organization's lifetime, and are kept to show the function of that person or organization." (Wikipedia)

The definition applies equally to the National Fire Heritage Center or the Archives of the United States, shown below during construction.



Coyle Patches Travel Well over 1,600 Miles

Following a March 2015 phone call, from John Coyle to **Linda Hurley**, Director of Survivor Programs, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Emmitsburg, wheels began turning that eventually lead to the transfer of 415 embroidered fire and emergency services shoulder patches from Sturgis, South Dakota, to Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The patches from all around the nation were the property of Mr. Coyle, a past active member of the Sturgis FD, who has been dealing with serious health challenges of late and who wanted to be sure his collection, years in the making, found its way to a place where they would be seen and appreciated.

Ms. Hurley notified the NFHC to determine possible interest in the collection, at which point NFHC Home Office staff began making a series of phone calls and emails to determine how it could happen. Given that the patches were mounted on sheets of foam core, getting them packaged and shipped seemed a challenge, especially since students traveling to NETC from that far away arrive by plane.

The obvious approach was to see about making arrangements with an area firefighter who was planning on going to the annual "Bike Week" (motorcycle rally) in Sturgis who would be trailering their bike to the event and who might be willing, space permitting, to collect and then bring the patch boards back east.



Numerous contacts with motorcycle enthusiasts across the region found them either not attending this year or riding their bikes all the way out and back. Thus carrying a large awkwardly-shaped package was not practical.

A call to **Meredith Catchings**, Events Coordinator, Battlefield Harley-Davidson, Gettysburg, PA, proved very worthwhile. One of her friends, Jen Shade, was to be attending and graciously offered to help. A very popular radio show host on WQXA 105.7 FM in Harrisburg, PA, and her partner Ed saved the day. While in town for the rally, Jen and Ed stopped by the home of Mr. Coyle and loaded up the large package. And, true to their word, they saw that all the patches got safely back to Gettysburg where NFHC staff retrieved them.

Assisting in the transfer were **Fire Chief Tom Twigg** and personnel of the Sturgis Fire Department; NFHC Archivist Frank Schmersal; and NFHC Executive Director Wayne Powell.

A Conversation with John Coyle

Before he even joined the Sturgis, SD, Fire Department, John Coyle began waxing the trucks. As far as he was concerned, "Trucks aren't to leave the station unless they were shiny." The fire chief noticed his hard work and signed him up for a Firefighter I course. Once on the department, Coyle was assigned to tanker duty. But he made himself useful in many ways. For example, "I always knew where *everything* was, so people always asked me to get what they needed," he said.

He also began collecting fire patches around 40 years ago, while a member of the Sturgis Fire Department. He recently donated his collection of 415 fire patches to the National Fire Heritage Center.

His favorite patch? The one from Joe Foss Field, the airport in Sioux Falls, SD. Brigadier General Foss was a World War II Marine fighter ace, Medal of Honor recipient, and South Dakota Governor (1955-1959).

If you are headed anywhere near Sturgis, look him up. He has some great stories to tell!

Donovan Collection Comes to the NFHC

Joseph L. Donovan and his family have donated his life-long fire-related collection to the National Fire Heritage Center. Joe, as he's always been comfortable being called by family, friends and colleagues, served as Superintendent of the National Fire Academy (NFA) of the United States Fire Administration in Emmitsburg, MD, from 1982–1986.

Family members who helped coordinate the transfer of five cartons from the Donovan home in Orlando, FL, included wife **Jodie Donovan**, son **Jeremy F. Donovan** (Deputy Chief, Kissimmee, FL, Fire Department), and daughter **Julie Stevens** of Walkersville, MD. Ms. Stevens and husband, Dan, drove over 900 miles seeing to it that everything arrived in perfect shape. NFHC Home Office staff reported that the materials were the best inventoried / best organized of any received to date – and, that's saying something as many other collections have arrived in superb condition.

Importantly, it was with the encouragement of both **Dr. Denis Onieal** (then NFA Superintendent who now is the Deputy United States Fire Administrator) and **Robert Neale** (then NFA Deputy Superintendent who now is the Vice President for National Fire Service Activities at the International Code Council in DC) that successful coordination was possible.

NFHC Interim President **Bill Killen** said, "Chief Donovan's materials have great historical value to the NFHC and having them here in a community he so strongly embraced is wonderful." "Mementos of his service in the community along with numerous old fire training books he collected over the years are right where they should be," said Chief Killen.

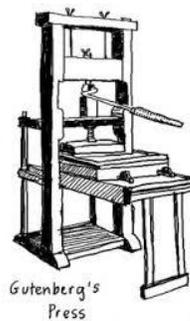
Chief Donovan's long career in the fire service began while he was in high school as a reserve firefighter in Natick, MA. Following graduation from Boston College, he served as a lieutenant and later captain in the U.S. Army assigned as Fire Chief of the McGregor Missile Range at Fort Bliss, TX. He also served as a paid on-call firefighter and officer in Hopkinton, MA, and was an active member in several national fire organizations.

Chief Donovan was appointed by the Reagan administration as the third NFA Superintendent and later went on to serve as a chief fire officer with departments in Mississippi and Florida retiring in late 2009 after 58 devoted years to the fire service. Prior to joining the NFA, he served for years as the Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and was involved on the national stage on all manner of fire service training and education initiatives.

Fire Protection's Foundation Documents

We live in an era of information overload. No matter what the topic, a few keystrokes on the computer will send you down a pathway where you can pick and choose what you want to know about almost any topic in the world. But, it hasn't always been that way.

To the contrary. The written word was once an extremely rare commodity. A study of the body of knowledge of the human race has, as one of its benchmarks, the production of the Gutenberg Bible and the development of movable type. As a result, knowledge that was once closely held began to be widely distributed. This watershed event affected all fields of endeavor. Among those areas of improvement was in the creation of some of our first fire training manuals.



The Gutenberg Press was introduced around 1440. Obviously, it took a while before printing presses became popular and were readily available. By mid-1600, printing presses were in operation throughout most of Western Europe.

After this happy time, a single individual named James Braidwood, The Master of Fire-Engines in Edinburgh, Scotland, developed one of the

first training manuals for fire departments.¹

Braidwood, who was born in Edinburgh, was appointed as a full paid chief officer in Edinburgh by the time he was 26 years old. He was not the first paid chief, but it was during his tenure that the first text on fire protection was published.

One can easily claim that Braidwood's manual was the first definitive document to delineate the common practices of



a firefighting entity. His original work was on the construction of fire engines and fire apparatus. In the text, he refers to fire equipment from Paris, so obviously there was history prior to that. Braidwood included comments on such fundamental facts as where fire stations should be located, the tools to be carried on a piece of apparatus, specifications for fire hose, some fundamental hydraulics and even a

dissertation on relay pumping. Braidwood made some of the original statements regarding "the most important matters connected with a fire engine establishment, the training of a fireman".² Notably, he looked for his firemen to be recruited from slaters, house-carpenters, masons, plumbers and smiths. Surprisingly, there is even a section on the manual on firefighter safety, noting, "Two firemen who have lost their lives were rundown by their own engine".³

Lastly, Braidwood addressed fire prevention, even going to the extent of talking about causes of fire. Reflecting on the basic philosophy of workload, Braidwood stated that "it is much better that an engine should be turned out 20 times when it is not wanted, than be once too late."⁴

There never was a second edition of the book. Braidwood was recruited away from Edinburgh to become the fire master in London. Braidwood was killed while attending a fire near London Bridge on June 22, 1861.

¹ Braidwood, James, *On the Construction of Fire-Engines and Apparatus, the Training of Firemen, and the Method of Proceeding in Cases of Fire*, Bell and Bradfute, and Oliver and Boyd; and by WJ Tilley, *Fire-Engine and Hose Maker*, #166 Blackfires Road, London, 1830.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

However, Braidwood's work was not lost. Instead, it was significantly improved upon by the work of Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, Chief Officer of the London Metropolitan Fire Brigade. He published a new book entitled *Fire Protection, a Complete Manual for the Organization, Machinery, Discipline and General Working of the Fire Brigade of London*.⁵

The contents of Shaw's treatise are more comprehensive than Braidwood's. There is much more theory and science applied to the manual. There is a complete description of a six inch manual fire-engine and a much more comprehensive discussion of nozzles and their specifications. A person reading this manual today would recognize many of the illustrations as they are represented in basic technology and equipment we use still. Lastly, Shaw provided a "drill manual" clearly describing many of the physical aspects of firefighting.

One interesting aspect of Shaw's text is that there are over 60 pages of advertisement which makes the publication look remarkably similar to a fire magazine published today.

As I researched this article, I was reminded of a phrase used by one of my early training officers. Jerry Jones, a fire instructor in the early 1960s, used to constantly remind us that we should understand the history of how things have come about in order to understand how they work in a modern sense. He would often chide us with a question "Where were you when the pages were blank?"

Both of these documents are in possession of the NFHC library and we now have fundamental documents where the pages are not blank, but instead full of information that is both familiar and at the same time archaic. As we study the fire science of today we need to remember the efforts of our forefathers to fill in those blanks.

Ronny J. Coleman

⁵ Shaw, Eyre Massey Sir, Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, *Fire Protection, a Complete Manual for the Organization, Machinery, Discipline and General Working of the Fire Brigade of London*, London, Charles and Edwin Layton, Fleet Street, 1876.

History Makers: Nancy Trench

Nancy Trench is the oldest of three daughters and has always lived in Oklahoma. In 1974, she became a student in the Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology program at Oklahoma State University.

Highlights of her fire safety career include presenting and helping organize the first Airlie House Public Education Conference sponsored by the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration in the mid-Seventies and being the second woman (after **Cathy Lohr**) to present from the main stage at FDIC in Memphis. She served as an appointed member of the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors and was twice elected to the NFPA Board of Directors. She was the second recipient of the Dr. Anne W. Phillips award for national leadership in fire and life safety education.

She was instrumental in the establishment of the Education Section of the NFPA and the National Association of State Directors of Fire Training and Education. She is the Assistant Director of Fire Protection Publications at Oklahoma State University and is the chair of NFPA 1035, Technical Committee on Professional Qualifications for Fire and Life Safety Educator.

What first attracted you to working in fire safety?

I was studying engineering technology, but was a teacher at heart and wanted to help people. The fire safety information for children in the mid-1970s was primarily for 5th grade children, The Hartford Insurance Junior Fire Marshal Program. Other materials did not seem appropriate for young children. My son was a preschooler and I began to look for materials to teach fire safety to his class. And there was nothing.

So, I designed a flannel board story about a fire helmet who wanted to be another type of hat – “The Story of the Little Red Fire Hat.” The helmet wished to be a ball cap, a sun hat, or a cowboy hat and at the end of the story shared fire safety information with the children. The story included a pattern to make a fire helmet that fit a child cut out of 11”x 17” construction paper or card stock page. My Mom was a kindergarten teacher and the pattern came from her classroom materials.

How did your career path change?

I moved from being a public fire safety educator to managing the program that trains Oklahoma firefighters. In that position, I was a decision maker who chose to train firefighters to plan and deliver public education programs in their communities. When I left that work assignment, those programs ended. The next leader did not support the programs with budget or resources. It was not a priority.



What was your biggest surprise?

It has been very interesting to watch the evolution of fire and life safety education. There were several growth steps, such as:

- The inclusion of burn safety. There were debates about whether fire safety/fire prevention was the same or different than burn prevention. Can you do both with the same messages and materials?
- The inclusion of life safety education in fire and burn prevention. *Risk Watch*® led the way.
- The identification of fire and life safety education as part of the larger unintentional injury prevention community
- The shift from programs delivered and managed by the fire department to programs managed and delivered by other community organizations and working with them as partners.
- Transition from a single innovative motivated individual (we called them “spark plugs”), many who excelled in thespian, music, puppetry or other performing arts creating/designing a fire safety education to fire and life safety educators using

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materials prepared by national organizations with documented effectiveness

- Understanding that fire prevention education is most effective when it is part of an injury prevention strategy that includes the other E's (engineering and enforcement) of injury prevention.

In your view, what has been your greatest contribution(s) to fire safety? Why?

- Managing the **Oklahoma Fire Safety Education Conference**. This conference brought fire safety educators together for resource exchange, recognition of successful programs, and to build momentum for state programs and was a part of the U.S. Fire Administration's Public Education Assistance Program (PEAP). When federal funding ended, these conferences continued in Oklahoma for almost 25 years and became the de-facto national public education conference with participation from as many as 28 states, Canada and Puerto Rico.
- Focusing on **young children and developmentally appropriate practices**. I was always interested in young children and how to effectively teach fire safety messages and skills like stop, drop, and roll. I first (in the 1970's) extolled short attention spans, sitting on the floor, and working with small groups of children as best practices. Those very basic concepts made me an "expert" at the time.

With AFG funding, I was finally able to explore developmentally appropriate fire safety education best practices with child development and early childhood education faculty at OSU. The results of three years of funding are in fact best practices to inform the fire station tours, classroom visits, and equipment demonstrations conducted by firefighters and educators across America each day.

- **Helping bring home fire safety to people with disabilities**. *Solutions 2000* was a report produced that outlined next steps to move fire safety forward specifically for high fire death and injury risk populations. **Sharon Gamache** and I decided on key items that OSU could propose for AFG grant funding. This was the first step to creating a home fire safety for people with disabilities "center for excellence" at OSU. Funding has continued off and on for more than 15 years and we are considered the experts in planning, delivering, and evaluating home fire safety programs

for this high risk population. This included producing a home fire safety video presented in American Sign Language. 12,000 copies of the 1st video were distributed in Oklahoma and throughout North America. The updated edition is on YouTube with copies available.

- Providing technical expertise in fire protection and safety. Many times, I am the most fire protection technically oriented person in the room. I remind people of basic principles of fire behavior, bring to the table the findings of new research, and explain how new technologies work.
- Staffing the first **Airlie House National Fire Education Conference** in 1976. I left OSU and moved to Virginia for a short time to serve as an IPA (intergovernmental personnel agreement) in the Public Education Office at USFA. I worked for **Laura Buchbinder** and **Richard Strother**. The conference planning was underway and was scheduled soon. Laura and Richard were both out of the office on Public Education business. There were questions about the conference and work to be done to organize and manage it. Unofficially that work all came to my desk and I began to make decisions and was the ex-officio conference manager.

"I was studying engineering technology, but was a teacher at heart and wanted to help people."

Who were your mentors and how did they help you?

Harold Mace was influential in my life and in my career. He was the Fire Service Training and Fire Protection Publications Director at OSU. He was identified to me as "an important person you should meet." I had a job interview one day and chose to drop by his office and introduce myself. He encouraged me to stay in school for a 4 year degree, gave me a part-time job, and encouraged me to explore my interest in fire safety education for children. I left school and went to work for him in Fire Service Training. Harold had been a school principal in Oklahoma City. He read my resume and had respect for the high school I attended. My status as a valedictorian caught his

attention.

What are the biggest challenges in the next 5 years?

Single station residential smoke alarms have fallen behind in the technology needed to protect people in their homes. The features that manufacturers have incorporated in their designs to distinguish their product from others create confusion among end users, especially older adults and people who use English as a second language. North America needs a better smoke alarm.

Reaching high fire death and injury risk audiences is NOT EASY. It is not successful through group presentations and other methods that fire departments use. It is among audiences with a plethora of other social problems that contribute to the home fire and life safety concerns. Effective programs move the fire service educators out of their comfort zones.

What are the biggest challenges in the next 10 years?

Can social media impact adult safety behaviors? How do we deliver it and compete in a digital world with lots of “noise” and programs competing for attention of the target audience?

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

Including fire and life safety knowledge and skills in job requirements to hire and train firefighters. It is the most important and cost effective work they will do – we need to hire and train to excel in the skills needed for fire prevention and fire and life safety education.

If you could start over what would you do differently?

I tend to overcommit. I should have said no more often. Celebrate success before you set out to climb the next mountain!

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

Learn about your community demographics, child and human development, injury prevention interventions, find partners, ask more questions of the target audience, and listen more. Involve other experts –classroom teachers or a curriculum specialist, for example. Learn another language. Slow down. Go slow. Interaction with older adults and people with disabilities must not be hurried. Take your time.

A February Fire

On February 28, 1913, a night time fire at the old Dewey Hotel in Omaha, NE, claimed twenty lives. Because the hotel register was destroyed by the fire, the identity of many victims was never known.



Newspaper clips from the *San Francisco Call* in the *California Digital Newspaper Collection*.

