



## **National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter**

### **Introduction**

Here we go again! If the third time is a charm, I guess the fourth time is a miracle. I am attempting to get this out before we have our board meeting at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial. This newsletter is going to contain a lot of miscellaneous information that will hopefully help you gain an understanding of what we are attempting to accomplish and what you might be able to do to help us accomplish it. From my perspective, we are still in our formative stages. Ideas about how we can continue to mature are badly needed. So, after you receive this newsletter, please feel free to give me a holler or send me an email so we can continue our journey together.

### **Booth at FRI**

Our booth at FRI was a success. We met a lot of people who are already aware of our efforts and we made a lot of new friends that heretofore did not know much about us. The Treasurers Report, which will be filed after our board meeting, is likely to indicate that we raised about \$3,000. In addition, we added a lot of new members. The accompanying photos illustrate some of the parties that came by to visit us. Attached at the end of this newsletter is a listing of new members.

Kudos were already given to Bill Killen and Jim Tidwell in a previous newsletter but they need to be reinforced again. Both of these gentlemen performed admirably at the conference. And, not to leave anyone out, Wayne Powell and my wife Marie became experts at conning people out of a twenty dollar bill. I am not sure if there is a class on salesmanship for lottery tickets but all four of these individuals could develop a curriculum if need be.

**Figure 1 – Bill Killen and Diamond Member Mark Lawler**



**Figure 2 – Ron Coleman and the Deadly Duo, Ed and Di Kaplan**



**Figure 3 – Wayne Powell, Ron Coleman and Diamond Member Forrest Craig**





the items generated by our profession. It is hard to find a home of a firefighter that doesn't have some memorabilia displayed. Initially many people start off by collecting anything they can get their hands on. But they then become focused upon some aspect of specialization. For example, I know individuals who have extensive collections involving the following specializations:

- Patch collectors
- Badge Collectors
- Apparatus and equipment Collectors
- Toy Collectors
- Helmet Collectors
- Photograph collectors
- Book Collectors
- Textbooks
- History books
- Personal Papers
- Other collectors
- More specialized

Furthermore there are groups that have been organized to support these specializations. For example, if you collect fire stamps you need to know about the following:

Fire Stamp Collectors:

John Zaranek, 81 Hillpine Road, Cheectowaga, NY 14227, 716-668-3352,  
[iczaranek@roadrunner.com](mailto:iczaranek@roadrunner.com).

If you are a person who collects fire apparatus, you should be part of SPAAMFAA, Keith Franz, President, P. O. Box 2005, Syracuse New York, 13212-2005.

As you are likely aware, there are hundreds of fire museums located around the United States. Some are affiliated with state associations others are in fire stations or homes. Our organization the National Fire Heritage Center recognizes the importance of all of these collections. However, our priority is not in competing with them, but rather enhancing what these collections mean to society in general. The National Fire Heritage Center has taken its clue from somebody more contemporary than Ms. Browning.

Simon and Garfunkel penned a song "50 Ways to Leave your Lover". What this means to the National Fire Heritage Center is that no matter how much a person loves their collection, when they are gone the decision to dispose of that collection is left up to

others. Granted, there are many multi-generational families that have kept collections alive, but some of our leaders and most creative thinkers have had their personal papers sent to a landfill or recycled.

What a tragedy. We need to do something about that. Our organization intends to.

One question that we often face is how a person can make sure that their collection is not dismantled and destroyed. Look to this newsletter in a future column on how you can put a provision in your will that provide some form of security against that occurring.

## Annual Meeting

This is just another reminder that we will be conducting our annual Board of Directors and Officers meeting as follows:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Location:                     | The Old Ambulance Building<br>300 South Seton<br>Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727                 |
| Date:                         | Friday, October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2009  |
| Time:                         | 10:00 am  |
| Expected Duration of Meeting: | 4 – 6 Hours   |
| Agenda:                       | To be provided prior to attendance  |
| Lunch:                        | For Board Members, you have been invited to attend a sponsored lunch at the Carriage House. |

## The “MARS” Light

The following is a brief article about MARS Lights that someone sent me via fax many years ago. Billy Goldfeder mounted a MARS Light that I have in my office as a reminder of my early years driving a Seagrave.

No doubt some of you have all seen the TV program “Connections”. The history of the development of the “Mars” light has its own interesting connections: railroads, fire service, and a candy company. Both the fire service and the railroads have similar problems in warning motorists of approaching apparatus or trains.

Before there were “ditch lights” on the railroads, there were “Mars” lights. During the spring of 1936, an astonishing sight stopped motorists and attracted crowds of curious spectators to highway overpasses along the Chicago & Northwestern line from Chicago to Minneapolis. The engine was one of the railroad’s rebuilt Pacific type set aside for service on the famous “400’s” but the oscillating blue light flashing from the top of the smokebox was definitely something new.

The light was the brainchild of a Chicago **firefighter**, Jerry Kennely, who encounters with oncoming street traffic during emergency runs let him to tinker with various warning light devices. The most effective light he discovered swept the path of a horizontal figure eight motion that caught the attention of motorists, both in front and to the side of the truck. But it wasn’t until the Chicago **candy** magnet Frank Mars and his wife Ethel took an interest that Kennely’s invention became a reality.

Mars offered the inventor use of the candy company's machine shop to turn out prototypes and after Mars death, his widow continued financial support of the project. In working with a group of Chicago policemen, Kennely developed the device further, offering it to the railroads for use at highway crossings. Finally, it caught the attention of C&NW's chief safety officer; he agreed to mount a "Mars" light on engine #2908 assigned to the "400" service (between Chicago & Minneapolis). On one of its runs the 2908 struck a large bird, shattering the blue lens. A clear lens was located in Milwaukee and it was discovered that the white light was even more effective in catching attention. Gyrating in a horizontal figure eight that was 8000 feet in diameter, 1000 feet down the track, the new "Mars" oscillating headlight was adopted by the C&NW for its steam powered engines and despite the initial indifference of EMD (Electro Motive Division of General Motors...the manufacturer of diesel locomotives) officials, by the Rock Island for use of its first passenger diesels.

Variants of the light were manufactured for years by the Mars Signal Light Company for use on fire, police, ambulance and other emergency vehicles. "Mars" lights can still be seen on many emergency vehicles and are the forerunner of the "intersection clearing" lights now found on today's lightbars.

### **Publishers of Fire Service Textbooks**

At FRI, I was really impressed with the number of people who are now producing textbooks to enhance the body of knowledge for the fire service. If you are a person who follows the trends and patterns of training and education programs, you might visit these publishers and their websites to get an up to date catalogue. I was unable to get all of the names, addresses and websites, but this is a good start if someone is researching publications.

1. Jones and Bartlett  
40 Tall Pine Drive  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
[www.jbpub.com](http://www.jbpub.com)
2. International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA)  
Fire Protection Publications  
Oklahoma State University  
930 N. Willis  
Stillwater, OK 74078-8045
3. Brady  
1 Lake Street  
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458
4. McGraw Hill  
[Mhhe.com/onlinelearning](http://Mhhe.com/onlinelearning)
5. PennWell  
1421 South Sheridan Road  
Tulsa, OK 74112-6600

6. Emergency Film Group  
140 Cook Street  
P.O. Box 1928  
Edgartown, MA 02539-1928
7. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169
8. Thomson Delmar Publishing Group  
Executive Woods  
5 Maxwell Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-2919

### **Educational Opportunities**

Recently I was advised that our entire topic of understanding archives is a college level professional development series. A member of our organization forwarded to me four course descriptions that are currently available at the University of Michigan. They are as follows:

1. **SI 580 – Understanding Records and Archives: Principles and Practices, Winter 2009**

Keywords: records management, archival administration, records, archives, archival methods, archival technologies

Provides an understanding of why societies, cultures, organizations, and individuals create and keep records. Presents cornerstone terminology, concepts, and practices used in records management and archival administration. Examines the evolution of methods and technologies used to create, store, organize, and preserve records and the ways in which organizations and individuals use archives and records for ongoing operations, accountability, research, litigation, and organizational memory, participants become familiar with the legal, policy, and ethical issues surrounding records and archives administration and become conversant with the structure, organization, and literatures of the archival and records management professions.

#### **SI 626 – Management of Libraries and Information Services, Winter 2009**

Keywords: management, service, organizational behavior, management policies, information services, service delivery

Information practice demands knowledge of all aspects of management and service delivery. This course introduces selected theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science, and organizational behavior and their application to libraries and information services. Students develop skills in planning, organizing, personnel management, financial management, leading, marketing, stakeholder management, and coordinating

functions in libraries and information services. Students also have the opportunity to think critically about, and reflect upon, contemporary management practice in information organizations. Information professionals find that no matter whether they choose a career as a single entrepreneur, solo librarian, archivist, or whether they join a large organization, they become managers – of themselves, of clients or staff, and sometimes of substantial systems and services.

### **SI 640 – Digital Libraries and Archives, Winter 2009**

Keywords: digital archive, digital preservation, cyberinfrastructure, digital library, digital libraries, archival principles, digital collections, archive

This course focuses on the current state of “digital libraries” from a multidisciplinary perspective. Its point of departure is the possibilities and prospects for convergence of professions and cultures around the notion of digital media and content. The course covers the history of the idea of the digital library and the digital archive, especially its manifestation as projects and programs in academic, nonprofit, and research settings, and the suite of policy issues that influence the development and growth of digital libraries and archives. A foundation of core archival principles as applied in digital library and archives settings serves as an intellectual construct supporting the exploration of the related concepts of scholarly communication, digital preservation, cyberinfrastructure, representation, and standards/best practices. Students are expected to master a diverse literature, to participate actively in the discussion of issues, and to take steps, collectively and individually, to advance our understanding of future direction of digital libraries and archives.

### **SI 643 – Professional Practice in Libraries and Information Centers, Winter 2009**

Keywords: information, professionals, information practice, information environments, professional practice in libraries, librarians, professional librarians.

Builds on the conceptual framework of information needs and the use of information provided in SI 501. In that course the focus is on techniques that information professionals use to understand the needs of people who employ a wide variety of information systems. Emphasis is on professional practice. Professional practice occurs both in institutional settings (including public, academic, special and school libraries and information centers) and directly between information professionals and clients (such as information brokers). Prepares students for need-based, client-centered professional practice in a variety of information environments (including public, academic, special libraries and school media centers) in a period of major change. Professional practice consists of a variety of functions and practices which increase client access to information and knowledge. It is based both on an understanding of user information constructs and on knowledge of information systems and services. Course addresses concepts related to public libraries, academic

libraries, special libraries, medical libraries, school libraries, and information centers, strategy and strategies, competency, and competencies.

### **Take Care of Yourself**

One of the things I have noticed about our membership ranks is that we tend to be the more mature members of our organizations. As such, we have to watch our health carefully. While we are interested in obtaining collections as they become available we would like to delay the inevitable for the longest period of time. The following is some advice to consider.

### **Do You Have Aspirin by Your Bedside?**

#### ABOUT HEART ATTACKS

There are other symptoms of a heart attack besides the pain on the left arm. One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently.

NOTE: There may be no pain in the chest during a heart attack. The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep.

If that happens, IMMEDIATELY DISSOLVE TWO ASPIRINS IN YOUR MOUTH and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards, phone a neighbor or a family member who lives very close by and state "HEART ATTACK!!!" and that you have taken 2 ASPIRINS. Take a seat on a chair or sofa and wait for their arrival and....

# **DO NOT LIE DOWN!!!**

A cardiologist has stated that, if each person, after receiving this e-mail, sends it to 10 people, probably a life can be saved! *I have already shared the information!!! What about you?* Forward this message: IT MAY SAVE LIVES!!!

### **How Good is Your Latin?**

Last newsletter we threw out a challenge about a Latin term. I noted that we are big in the fire service on mottos and acronyms using Latin. I am collecting them all the time and I am preserving them in my history files. Recently, I attended the Woodland Community College Firefighter 1 Academy Graduation Ceremony. Their class motto was "Ex Fuma In Flamma Lunctus".

I didn't get any responses to this question. I will award a prize to the first three people who provide me with the translation of that term.

### **Mike Legeros**

At the North Carolina State Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Annual Conference, I met a young man who is doing an outstanding job of preserving the history in North Carolina. His name is Michael Legeros. He operates a website that provides information to his state firefighters that is excellent. Those aspiring historians among you would be well served to follow his path. [www.legeros.com/history](http://www.legeros.com/history)

### **Interview with Dr. John Bryan**

One of the great pleasures of working on a topic like this is the opportunity to speak with some of the legends of our discipline. One such opportunity just occurred last week. I had the pleasure of spending several hours with Professor John Bryan. I happened to be near Frederick and went by to discuss with him our organization. Stay tuned to Newsletter #5. I am preparing an article that summarizes Dr. Bryans' perspective on the past, present and future of the fire service discipline. It will contain some interesting anecdotes about his experiences and relationships over a career that spans a half a century.

### **Summary**

Our organization continues to grow. We are now starting to gain the support of those leaders and advocates that are making a difference in the fire service. If you have any ideas about how we can improve on what we are currently doing, please do not hesitate to communicate to us. We need your energy, your interest and your involvement to make this project a success. I look forward to hearing from you.



Ronny J. Coleman  
President, National Fire Heritage Center

## **New Members**

### **Brass**

Chief John Sinclair  
Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue

*Bruce Park*

Trixie Lohrke  
Dallas Fire

Brett Bingham

Chief Jim Linardos  
Austin Texas Fire

Chief Mark Wallace  
McKinney Fire Department

John Lee Cook, Jr.  
Cook & Associates

Ed & Di Kaplan  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Jeffrey Lindsay

Doug Brown

Paul Rottenberg  
FireStats

Ed Plaughter  
International Association of Fire Chiefs

Chief Kenneth Morgan  
Clark County Fire Department

Tim Rogers

Harvey Eisner

Bruce Moeller  
City Manager  
City of Sunrise

Dave Driscoll

Vickie Pritchett  
Common Voices

David S. Becker  
Vice Chair, IAFC EMS Section  
International Association of Fire Chiefs

Chief Donald N. Striejewski, CFO  
Robins AFB Fire and Emergency Services

Ray Russell

**Gold**

John Lindstrom

**Diamond**

Forrest Craig  
Div. Chief-Novato Fire Protection District - Retired

Mark Lawler



## National Fire Heritage Center Application Form

Name:

Mailing Address:

Please do not use PO Boxes unless absolutely necessary. Some postal delivery systems will not deliver packages to these boxes.

City:

State:

Zip:

Country:

Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Background, Resume or Experience in Field:

What area of interest do you have with regard to this topic:

- General Membership
- Committee Membership:
- Organizational Leadership