

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 4. No. 1

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

March 2013

President's Message

By John A. McMillan

Spring News - 2013

We are already three months into 2013 and a lot has happened. We have celebrated history and then mourned the loss of our brother firefighters.

On January 26th, the San Jose Fire Museum hosted the 159th Anniversary of the San Jose Fire Department (SJFD). There were over 300 people in attendance.

A highlight of the day's activities included a surprise presentation to Father William Stout as everyone in attendance honored him for 40 years of dedicated service to the SJFD as the Department's Catholic Chaplain. Coincidentally, those in attendance also celebrated Father Stout's 80th Birthday during the same ceremony. Father Stout's birthday just happens to fall on January 27th -- the actual date the SJFD was first organized by the Common Council of the City of San Jose.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese attended and made some very nice comments about the SJFD and Father Stout's service. Also in attendance, were past San Jose Fire Chiefs Vince Clet, Dale Foster, Jeff Clet and Darryl Von Raesfeld. Current Deputy Fire Chief Gaudenz Panholzer was also on hand representing Fire Chief Willie McDonald's office. Active duty and retired firefighters were represented by past Local 230 Union Leaders, like Randy Sekany, and current President Robert Sapien along with many of the Union's Executive Board members. Also, attending, and representing the Association of Retired Police Officers and Firefighters, was President Jim Spence.

During the event, the San Jose Fire Museum unveiled its new acquisition -- a 1914 Knox Chemical Hose Wagon that was purchased last year. For the past 9 months,

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SJFD Chaplain Turns 80!

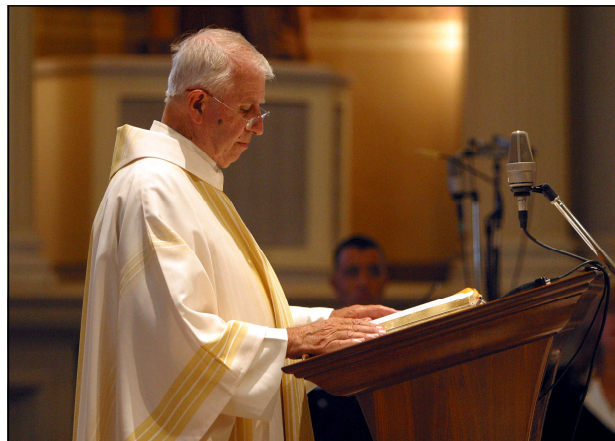
Fire Museum Honors Father William Stout for His Service

On January 26, 2013, during the 159th Anniversary Celebration of the San Jose Fire Department, San Jose Firefighters Local 230, The Association of Retired Police Officers and Firefighters, and the San Jose Fire Museum recognized SJFD's Catholic Chaplain Father William Stout for his 40 years of dedicated service. Joining in the event was Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese, who made a nice presentation and added some kind words on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors.

All the speakers commented on how much everyone in Public Safety appreciates Father Stout. Whether it's his Annual Firefighters Memorial Mass, attendance at emergencies, visiting fire stations, attending SJFD and Local 230 events, or simply being there when a firefighter needs someone to lean on, Father Stout can always be counted on to be there. Honoring Father Stout, and joining at the podium, were past SJFD chief officers and union leaders.

In addition to recognizing Father Stout for his 40 years of service, those in attendance also celebrated Father Stout's 80th birthday. What a coincidence -- Father Stout's actual birthday is January 27th, the same month and day that the SJFD was organized. It is a match that was obviously meant to be!

The next time you see Father Stout, wish him the best and thank him for his service to all San Jose Firefighters over the past 40 years -- and the many years to come.



SJFD's Catholic Chaplain Father William Stout is shown above presiding at the annual Firefighters Memorial Mass.



Local 230 President Robert Sapien led a "who's who" of dignitaries during a ceremony honoring Father Stout's 40 years of service to firefighters and their families.

2013 Has Been A Busy Year

Fire Museum Is Host to Many Group Tours



(Above) Many members of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America toured the Museum in March. They were the largest group to tour the Museum this year.



(Left) SJFM President John McMillan, Dave Wood and Jim Carter spoke to members of the Valle Del Sur Region of the Antique Auto Club of America who visited the Museum as part of their monthly tour of the Santa Clara Valley.

(Below, Left) Members of the San Jose - Silicon Valley Chapter of the Antique Caterpillar Machinery Owners Club enjoyed viewing our displays. Being self-described "tractor guys", they were especially interested in seeing our one-of-a-kind 1914 Knox Martin Tractor.

(Below) Young adults with special needs, and their caregivers, were recently hosted at the Fire Museum. It was especially rewarding to see their interest in our collection.



President's Message

Continued from Page 1...

it has been going through a top-to-bottom restoration, and the Museum brought it out for everyone to see.

Although this rig is not an original piece of SJFD apparatus, it will represent a key part of our Department's history. Chemical companies played an important part in our history from 1894, when Chemical Co. No. 1 went into service, until 1947, when they were all replaced by engine companies that carried a pump, water tank and hose.

Our restoration team is now in the process of getting the transmission and engine operating and doing the final paint detail, pin striping, and lettering. We intend do a full article on this Knox Chemical Engine in our Summer, 2013, newsletter.

Over the past few years, one of the Fire Museum's traditions has been to announce our "Volunteers of the Year". For 2012, we selected Firefighter Mike Igno and Retired City Employee, Margaret Wisinski. They both deserved this recognition since they stepped up to the plate to take on tasks that help the Museum to reach its goals and continue its mission of preserving history.

Also, every year we select a "Memory Company". This recognition is based on how long a fire crew worked together, along with the teamwork and the unique personality of each member.

For 2012, we have selected Truck Co. 4B. Over a 20-year period, Retired Fire Captain John DiQuisto and Fire Engineer Richard Gonzales served the citizens of San Jose on Truck 4B. During the first ten years, the remaining three positions of their company were split amongst Danny Holmes, Carmelo Gonzales, Earl Santos, Dick Gore and Lloyd Benson. In the last ten years, or so, Walter Bugna, Keith Kjeldson and John Hodges filled out the crew.

Finally, we took a moment to recognize the passing of Retired Battalion Chief Lawrence Campbell -- a great firefighter in our Department's history. Perhaps you noticed the article on his remarkable career that appeared on the front page of our last *The Museum Trumpet* newsletter.

Joining us for the memorial was his daughter, Minerva Rockhold, and Lawrence's grandson and granddaughter-in-law. For

1877 Gamewell SJFD Firehouse Gong Donated To Fire Museum

The antique Gamewell Fire Alarm Gong, shown in the photo to the right, was located in Fire Station No. 1 at 35 North Market Street. On November 27, 2012, the Bradford Family gifted this alarm gong to the San Jose Fire Museum in the memory of Retired SJFD Fire Captain, George Bradford, Sr.

Background: The Gamewell Fire Alarm System was the first municipal electric fire alarm system in America. This first practical city fire alarm utilizing a telegraph system (known as the "Electromagnetic Fire Alarm Telegraph for Cities") was developed in 1852 and a patent was awarded two years later. In 1855, John Gamewell of South Carolina purchased regional rights to market the fire alarm telegraph and obtained the patents and full rights to the system in 1859. By 1886, Gamewell Systems were installed in over 250 cities in America.

Local History: On November 27, 1876, the Common Council of San Jose awarded a contract to Gamewell Systems, represented by the owner George L. Ladd, and the National Fire Alarm & Police Telegraph Company, represented by M. Merriman of Indiana. The contract was awarded for \$4,750 with Merriman managing the day-to-day operation of the alarm system.

the event, the Museum volunteers created a display case exhibiting many of the documents and other contributions that Lawrence has left us. Drop by the San Jose Fire Museum and take a look. These items will remain on display through June, 2013.

By now, many of you have probably noted the numerous retired San Jose Firefighters who have died in the first three months of this year. As of this newsletter, we have lost six former firefighters, including: Earl Conyers, Gerald McDonald, Gerald Johnson, Gary Bogue, Keith Malech and Joe DeLise. I know many of you have attended their funerals or memorial services.

Please take a moment and think about their families, friends, and the Department's historical loss. The amount of information that these individuals took with them is nothing short of staggering.



San Jose's 1877 fire alarm gong from Station 1.

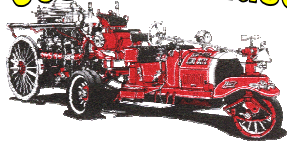
On June 25, 1877, a second contract was entered between the City of San Jose and Gamewell Systems for the furnishing of a Bell Strike at \$1,000, and seven or more 15-inch diameter gongs that were installed in a walnut case and priced at \$250 each.

The San Jose Fire Museum's recently acquired fire gong was one of these original seven alarms purchased in 1877. It was installed upstairs in the original Fire Station One, located at 35 North Market Street in downtown San Jose, and remained in service at this location until the original Fire Station One went out of service in 1950.



The Museum's 2013 SJFM membership pin commemorates the 100-year anniversary of San Jose's original Fire Station No. 5. Built in 1913, the building is still located at 255 N. 8th Street.

San Jose Fire Museum

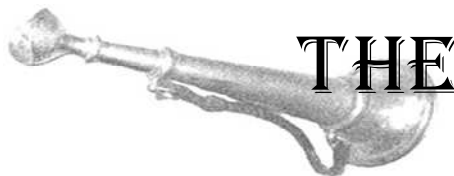


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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calendar of Events

- April 9** SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- May 14** SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- June 11** SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- Sept. 21** San Jose Firefighters' Car and Motorcycle Show will return to San Jose History Park. Join with your family and friends for a fun day.



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