

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 5, No. 4

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

December 2014

Result of November Meeting

San Jose's "Old Fire Station One" Placed On National Register of Historic Places

On November 7th, at a meeting of the California Historic Resources Commission in Sacramento, the Commission unanimously approved San Jose's "Old Fire Station One" to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This important vote of approval automatically includes the listing of Old Fire Station One on the State of California Register of Historical Resources.

This action will secure Old Fire Station One as a significant historic structure in downtown San Jose, forever! The final step will be

the logging of this nomination in Washington, DC in the Federal Registry.

The San Jose Fire Museum is excited about this recognition. Now that we will be the owners of this building in the near future, it will be our responsibility to protect and preserve the historic heritage that this building will bring to San Jose's downtown district.



President's Message

By John A. McMillan

The year of 2014 has come to a close and it was an up-and-down year for many of us.

The San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) celebrated its 160th Anniversary back on January. Over 300 guests, including many of you, attended this gala event. Held at the San Jose Elks Lodge, it was a great evening celebrating the Department's 160th Birthday. We were appreciative of all 22 sponsors that participated, including our major sponsors: Summerhill Homes, Brandenburg Properties, Gonsalves & Stronck Construction, Association of Retired San Jose Police Officers and Firefighters, Premier One Credit Union, Garden City Construction, Campbell's Towing, and Williams Rentals.

Over the course of 2014, we grieved at the loss of 21 active and retired San Jose Firefighters. May they all rest in peace.

One of our brothers to pass was Retired Fire Captain Dennis Madigan. Dennis was

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The meeting was held in the council chambers of Sacramento's historic City Hall. Representing the San Jose Fire Museum were its president, John McMillan; Founder Emeritus Sam Seibert; and volunteer John Whitaker with his wife, Liz. John McMillan took the opportunity to thank the Commission for its consideration and reminded the members of the significance of this historic landmark designation. In addition, he described the

intended future use of the 1950s structure by the Fire Museum.

"A fire department collection is not complete if you don't have a fire station to go along with everything else," said McMillan, president of the San Jose Fire Museum. "Our goal is to restore this beautiful, historic Old Fire

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Museum Continues to Participate in Events



In November, the Museum's Founder Emeritus Sam Seibert rode in the Veterans Day Parade with SJFD Chief Ruben Torres.



The Museum's 1951 Mack fire engine appeared at the Santa Row Shopping District in support of the Bomberos' Holiday Toy Drive.



Fire Museum President, John McMillan, spoke before members of the California Historic Resources Commission noting the significance of their important decision.

Old Station One Added As Historic Building

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Station One and make it a destination attraction in downtown San Jose."

A significant change in the original application for this action included changing the name on the application from Old Fire Station One to "San Jose Central Fire Station", which was the original signage located on the front of this historic building when it opened in 1951. The signage can be seen above the apparatus doors in the photo on Page 1 of this newsletter.

The former San Jose Central Fire Station, known today as Old Fire Station One, is located at the northwest corner of North Market and West St. John Streets in downtown San Jose. Situated on the southern end of a

city block adjacent to its modern replacement, this large, modern, two-story fire station (inactive since the year 2000), is within the City's downtown district — an urban area of moderate to large commercial and government office buildings.

San Jose's Central Fire Station was designed in a modernistic way as a reflection of the ambitions and goals for the future by an optimistic City. The architectural firm of Binder & Curtis was commissioned for the design. The project remains one of their last and finest legacies in the six decades that the firm operated in the city. It remains as one of the most well-executed and unique examples of post-World War II designs in San Jose.

The San Jose Fire Museum wants to send out a special "Thank you" to Franklin Maggi and his staff from Archives & Architecture, LLC for all their help and support in completing this application.

Collection Corner

1914 ALF Aerial to Be On Loan to San Francisco

The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) has received a request to loan our 1914 American LaFrance Type 26 Tillered Aerial Ladder Truck to the City of San Francisco. In February, 2015, San Francisco will be celebrating the Centennial of the Panama Pacific Exposition. Held back in 1915, it was the official opening celebration of the newly completed Panama Canal. The year-long event featured many state-of-the-art displays, feats of daring, and a wide variety of innovations that heralded the future.

Our example of firefighting technology was built in 1914 by American LaFrance for the Exposition along with an American LaFrance City Service Truck. This aerial truck was one of 10 American LaFrance apparatus that were rented and manned by the San Francisco Fire Department.

After the 1915 Exposition, our aerial was returned to American LaFrance and, shortly thereafter, was sold to the Fresno Fire Department. In 1926, Fresno sold the aerial to the Salinas Fire Department. Later, the apparatus was privately purchased by Desman Johnson and he gifted it to the San Jose Fire Department Muster Team in 1976.

The SJFM has agreed to deliver our tiller to the City of San Francisco for their opening ceremonies on February 21, 2015. We plan to leave this great apparatus there on loan as a display for a total of 6 months.



Rare Badge & Photo Donated

The granddaughter of former SJFD Chief Engineer Bernard Ward recently donated his original badge and a rare photo of our 8th Chief Engineer. He was a member of Empire Engine Company No. 1 and served as Chief from 1874 to 1875.



In Memoriam

SJFD Captain Luke Goodrich Passes Away



Captain Luke Goodrich passed away this past summer. In 1975, Luke was president of the San Jose Muster Team, predecessor of the San Jose Fire Museum. Luke was proud that the team was very competitive and won events all over California. Luke emphasized a family atmosphere and insisted that everyone have a good time. The team's motto was "Work hard and play hard." He will be missed.

Save the Date SJFD's 161st Birthday Celebration

January 23, 2015 — 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.
San Jose Fire Museum Warehouse
Brief ceremony at 5:00 P.M. Refreshments to follow.

President's Message

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one of the most significant members of the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM). For over 20 years, Dennis worked very hard with little staff and support to protect and preserve our great collection. For most of those 20 years, Dennis was a Director for the SJFM. After Dennis retired from the SJFD, he slowly reduced his involvement with the SJFM Board, yet he always seemed to be there trying to help us move along. When Dennis passed away in September, he held the title of Director Emeritus for the SJFM. The SJFM plans to write an article in the Spring newsletter to officially and appropriately recognize his contribution to the Museum.

The SJFM hosted our first of two Firefighter Memorial Services. One was for Robert Cocilova in the early summer, and, just recently on November 6th, for Kenny Hernandez. Both were well attended with over 200 guests attending each one. You could sense how well respected each of these great San Jose Firefighters were by all the conversations, the attendance, and all the kind words offered during the ceremonies.

Our restoration shop was a busy place. We were able to do some minor repairs and clean-up on our 1958 American LaFrance engine. As a result, the 2-tone, white-over-red, former SJFD Engine One looks like it just came off the fire line. We want to thank the SJFM's friends Rob Bettencourt and Retired SJFD Assistant Fire Chief Lee Sues for their monetary donations to assist in this transformation. And, of course, we need to thank the members of the History San Jose restoration crew for their many hours of dedication and donated labor.

In July, the Cliff and Sheila Smith family gifted to the SJFM a 1951 Mack Fire Engine

that served the Salinas Fire Department as their Engine One for about 25 years. What a beautiful piece of equipment! We have already had this apparatus at some public events and we look forward to presenting it in future parades and activities in San Jose.

Another special donation we received this year was a picture of SJFD Chief Engineer Bernard Ward. Bernard served as our 8th Chief Engineer from 1874 to 1875. Along with the photo was Chief Ward's badge from Empire Engine Co. No. 1, that he wore when he was a young volunteer firefighter. This is a tin badge and is the same style as the original SJFD badge from Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1. The donation came from his granddaughter, Retired SJPD Officer Jennifer M. Dotzler. We share a photo of this donation on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Update On the Purchase of Old Fire Station One --

Now Contingent upon the approval of the Successor Agency to the City of San Jose Redevelopment Agency

Probably the biggest and best news of 2014 is all the activity surrounding Old Fire Station One in the last couple of months.

It all started when a partnership between the Brandenburg Family and the SJFM came together about 3 years ago. Committed to finding the funds necessary to purchase Old Fire Station One, this effort has been off-and-on for some time. But, this past October, our friend Lee Brandenburg met with Jim Carter and myself at Old Fire Station One. Lee told us he was now prepared to help the Fire Museum purchase Old Fire Station One and he would completely fund whatever amount was decided upon during the appraisal process. Lee also stated that he would pay for the required appraisal fee and he

started a Phase One Environmental Impact Report. We shook hands and moved to the next steps.

Jim Salata of Garden City Construction was asked to do an evaluation of hazardous conditions in the building (asbestos and lead paint), and that was completed immediately. The findings were not surprising. The building has substantial asbestos and lead paint contamination. The bid for remediation is \$106,000 and the cost for this work will be the responsibility of the SJFM.

After weeks of appraisal evaluation, a completed appraisal was submitted to the Fire Museum and the value was \$1,000,000. We discussed it with Lee Brandenburg and, on December 5th, I received an e-mail from Lee stating that his family will fund the entire \$1,000,000 and with the SJFM should taking ownership of Old Fire Station One around March 1, 2015.

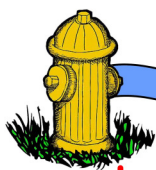
So, now we sit tight and wait for the Successor Agency to the City of San Jose's Redevelopment Agency to approve and process this action. The Successor Agency will meet on January 22 and should approve the appraisal value and our offer to purchase.

I just need to be very clear on this purchase. It is not a done deal until the Successor Agency approves the appraisal and our purchase offer. So, it sounds great, but it is not a done deal yet! In the mean time, the SJFM will be working on our "Fill the Hose" Capital Fund Raising Program. The next step is to find \$106,000 so we can start the building's remediation.

As you can see, 2014 was a very busy year with a lot of emotion, tears, and celebration. The SJFM looks forward to the year 2015 with hopes that we will hear from you with your presence and support.

"Fill the Hose" Update

PHASE 1 GOAL: Funds to purchase "Old Fire Station One" have been successfully acquired !

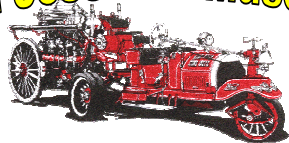


\$0 \$125K \$250K \$375K \$500K \$625K \$750K \$875K



\$1 Million Goal

San Jose Fire Museum

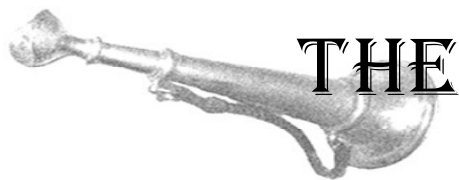


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CELEBRATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1854-2014

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 10, 2015 Larry Cunningham Memorial Service
- Jan. 13, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- Jan. 23, 2015 SJFD's 161st Anniversary Celebration
at the Museum (Time TBA)
- Jan. 24, 2015 Jim Allen Memorial Service
- Feb. 10, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- Mar. 10, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- Aug. 9, 2015 SJFD's 10th Annual Car and Motor-
cycle Show (Details TBA)

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