



# THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 14, No. 2

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

April 2023

## 1923 TORPEDO IS 100!

The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) celebrates the 100 year anniversary of our 1923 American LaFrance Brockway Torpedo Fire Engine. Today this apparatus is used for public viewing at events and parades. It spends much of its time stored at the SJFM Warehouse.

In 1921, American LaFrance began producing firefighting apparatus on a Brockway Commercial Truck Chassis. They made four (4) different types between 1921 and 1927 at their factory in Elmira, New York. This 1923 model was originally a triple combination (hose wagon, 300 gpm rotary pump and pressurized chemical tank).

This apparatus was purchased in 1923 by the Myach Lodge Resort, in Clear Lake, CA for their Fire Protection District. It was later obtained by the East Side Lions Club for parades and fun. In 2006, the club found they did not have a use for this apparatus, nor did they have the time or funds for a restoration. It was then stored in Gilroy until it was offered to SJFD Retired Fire Captain Sam Seibert for the SJFM.



THE SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM 1923 AMERICAN LAFRANCE BROCKWAY TORPEDO FIRE ENGINE  
PARKED IN FRONT OF THE EMPIRE ONE FIRE HOUSE AT HISTORY PARK IN SAN JOSE.

The SJFM made the decision to do a combination restoration and retrofit of the fire engine so it could be used for parades and promotional events. It was photographed for reference, dismantled and every piece was sandblasted and cleaned. A newer Toyota motor and automatic transmission replaced the existing driveline to make it easier to maintain and easier to drive in parades.



The Torpedo was painted at Elmwood Detention Center, the hard rubber tires were made in Lodi and the radiator was rebuilt at Oakridge Radiator. The pump was redesigned to work with a garden hose so that children could “fight” fires at public education events. Authentic gold trim by Rory completed the apparatus’s restoration.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



By John A. McMillan

Spring is here and the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) is anxious for better weather. We want to get going with new projects and events at Old Fire Station One (OFS1). We want to remind you that OFS1 is available to you for different types of uses whether it is a family event, birthday party or wedding. We offer discounts to all firefighters.

We mentioned to you about the SJFM moving forward with a Seismic Retrofit, new roof and meeting required ADA Handicap guidelines. Well we are on our way starting with design. Read the article updating this project later in this Newsletter.

While continued restoration of OFS1 is happening, we are still working on developing our future story line. We reported awhile back that our Board of directors had agreed on five (5) firefighting eras as storylines. They included Hand Drawn, Horse Drawn, Motorized (Post 1906 Earthquake), Post World War II and the Computerized Era. We have now decided to add a sixth era called The Future in Firefighting. So we wanted to update you on the status of this project. We are all ready installing displays that will tell the story of Post World War II, with the 1950's Seibert & Fire Chief Galleries. Also, for the Computerized Era, we created the Fire Captains Office Display from the 1980's. All three (3) of these displays are set in their original location at Old Fire Station One (OFS1). By the way, it is significant to point out that OFS1 is our center of focus for the Post World War II Era, because it went in service in 1950. April Halberstadt is leading the way further developing the Horse Drawn Era. She is developing the final layout that is focused around Franklin Engine Co. No.3 Company (The Fire Engine that saved San Jose).

OFS1 was the site for a few events during the past three (3) months including a SJFD Recruit Graduation Ceremony on February 3, 2023 for 10 new firefighters and then a SJFD Dispatcher Graduation Ceremony on March 10, 2023 for two (2) new dispatchers.



**ROD & WHEELERS MEMBERS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) BOB MCULLOUGH, DUANE VERHAEGE AND DON CLARKE VOLUNTEERED TO REPLACE OLD INCANDESCENT BULBS WITH NEW LED BULBS ON THE APPARATUS FLOOR CEILING WITH THEIR OWN FUNDS & LABOR.**



**ROD & WHEELERS MEMBERS DON CLARKE AND DUANE VERHAEGE VOLUNTEERED TO DETAIL & WAX OUR 1958 SJFD AMERICAN LAFRANCE FIRE ENGINE ONE.**

# OFS1 RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT # 1

## *Update on “The Next Big Step”*

The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) has some important updates for you on the remodel of Old Fire Station One (OFS1). First it is still our top priority to take “The Next Big Step” to get OFS1 upgraded. We want the first floor safe and all Americans with Disabilities requirements met. Next we want to get a new roof on OFS1 and at the same time have the entire structure upgraded with a Simple Seismic Upgrade. We have a team including Cavagnero Architecture, Duquette Structural Engineering, and Garden City Construction with our Board to develop architectural & structural drawings that will lead to permits and eventually construction.

We now have a CAPs Property Inspection Report from an architectural firm that clearly defines any ADA Handicap deficiencies on the first floor and two staircases at OFS1. We have accepted the findings and asked Garden City Construction to move forward with an architectural firm to create drawings, obtain City of San Jose Permits and then make the construction changes. At this point we are not far off from compliance.

We also, have met with our design & construction team to discuss how we are going to complete the seismic retrofit and new roof. We agreed that first we needed to make some program changes. The SJFM wanted to simplify the program and by doing so reduce our overall construction costs while maintaining our Downtown Fire Museum goals. We have agreed to make the new exhibit building in the back yard a completely separate structure and therefore eliminate/minimize seismic considerations between OFS1 and the new building. As we stated in the last Winter Newsletter, the new building will be designed and built later. Another major decision is to locate the elevator within OFS1 in the former Fire Captains Dorm & Tarp Drying Room. The other decision is to keep the former Boiler Room and convert it to additional restrooms.

In closing, please keep in mind that we do have one million dollars to get this project going, but will still need an additional 2.5 million dollars to complete the restoration of OFS1.



DESIGN TEAM FOR THE OFS1 RESTORATION PROJECT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JIM SALATA, GARDEN CITY CONSTRUCTION, STEVE DUQUETTE, STRUCTURAL ENGINEER FROM DUQUETTE ENGINEERING, JOHN MCMILLAN, SJFM AND CHRIS CAMPBELL, ARCHITECT FROM CAVAGNERO ASSOCIATES.

## IN MEMORY OF SAN JOSE FIREFIGHTERS - 2022

*William S. (Ski) Bartosiewicz*

*Marcel J. Lassalle*

*Rudy Cabigas*

*Eduardo E. Medina*

*Walter M. Capp*

*Michael M. (Mike) Moffett*

*James K. Christensen*

*David D. Moseley*

*Chuck Cosce*

*Leland Petersen*

*Scott M. Fey*

*Edward T. Schneickert Jr.*

*Gerald Gradia*

*Robert S. (Bobby) Vermillion*

*Virgilio Hernandez*

*Clarence (Bobby) Wells*



NEW SJFD FIRE DISPATCHERS JOSH TOLNAY, ACADEMY 21-02, ON LEFT, AND SAMANTHA LEE-LUKE, ACADEMY 21-01, ON RIGHT RECEIVED THEIR BADGES AT OLD FIRE STATION ONE CEREMONY ON MARCH 10TH, 2023.

**San Jose Fire Museum**



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*Vol. 14, No. 2 The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum April 2023*



*DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT*

## **WE ARE OPENING!**

**This is our official announcement that we will open the doors to the San Jose Fire Museum this June, 2023. It will be a limited opening on the first floor space only.**

If you would like more information, please contact Jim Carter or John McMillan.

### **"The Museum Trumpet"**

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### **Newsletter Layout**

Accent Graphics

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