



THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 14. No. 4

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

October 2023

TWO SJFD VETERANS CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAYS!



BUD WIESE ON THE LEFT AND SAM SEIBERT ON THE RIGHT, AT BUD'S 95TH BIRTHDAY PARTY.

This past summer, two of our finest retired SJFD Firefighters celebrated their birthdays. First we celebrated Retired Fire Captain Bud Wiese's 95th Birthday at Old Fire Station One (OFS1) on July 29th. Then on August 24th, we celebrated Retired Fire Captain Sam Seibert's 104th Birthday (Sam's actual birthday is August 26th). Both gentlemen attended each others party and the gathering at each was about 70 guests. Many of you attended these parties and we can tell you at each event that your presence made each retiree very happy.

They are both characters in their own right! Sam's was very special because we have been hosting Sam's Birthday Party at OFS1 now for over 10 years and the Energy Bunny just keeps going.



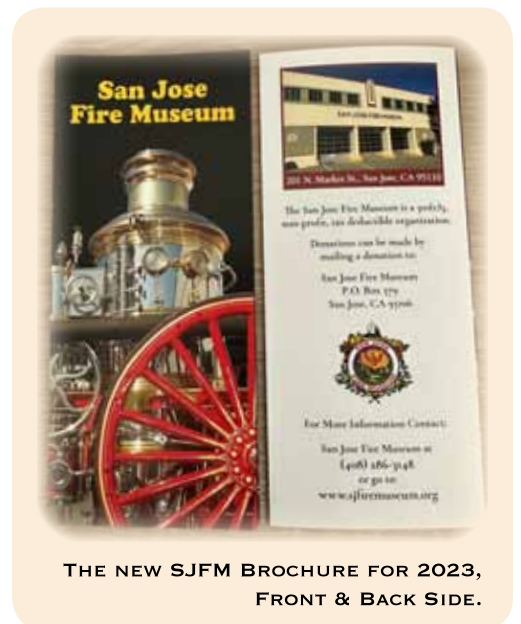
ANTHONY RADZANOWSKI, JIM TRUE AND JEFF WEBER PERFORM FOR SAM AT HIS 104TH BIRTHDAY PARTY.



SJFM VICE PRESIDENT JIM CARTER DRIVING OUR 1923 TORPEDO IN THE WILLOW GLEN HOMECOMING PARADE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD.



SAM GIVING THE SIGN FOR NUMBER 104!



THE NEW SJFM BROCHURE FOR 2023, FRONT & BACK SIDE.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR FALL 2023



By John A. McMillan

Well here we are, fall is here and summer is in our rear view mirror. It is very sad that the 22nd anniversary of 911 just passed us, and it still feels like it just happened yesterday.

The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) is once again very busy working on multiple projects. We have completed our ADA & Handicaps design and the drawings have been submitted to the City of San Jose for permits by Garden City Construction. We hope to have approvals back by mid October and start construction by November, 2023. One major decision we have made during this process was to not tear into the existing two (2) bathrooms (To make them ADA accessible) and maintain their original look and character. Now we have decided to move forward with a new design to create four (4) new bathrooms that will be located in the existing old boiler room, located adjacent to the kitchen & rear awning area. This new bathroom wing will include two (2) new ADA Bathrooms. Since we are in the early design phase of this project, our hope is we can get this built and finished by the early summer of 2024. While we are completing the new ADA Bathrooms, we will be renting a portable ADA Toilet to help us meet our ADA Guidelines.

We do have some very important updates for you.

- ❖ First we are delaying the “Soft Opening” we had announced earlier this summer. We still have a lot of preparation ahead of us including Docent Training, finish some display work and finally complete our ADA Handicap construction. Our plan is to officially open in late January, 2024.
- ❖ Second, our Board of Directors unanimously selected Retired SJFD Fire Engineer Randy Perez (Passed away) as a Lifetime Emeritus director.
- ❖ Finally, our Board of Directors unanimously selected Retired SJFD Training and Logistics Specialist Scott Boucher to be our new Director of Fleet.

We also continued to host and hold events at OFS1. There is an article about the two (2) birthday parties we hosted. Jim Carter brought our 1923 Torpedo to the 17th Annual Santos Car Show on September 2nd, 2023. Jim and Dave Wood also brought two of our apparatus to the Antique Autos in History Park on September 9th, 2023. On August 27th, we hosted the LGBTQ gathering at OFS1 just before the the Silicon Valley Pride Parade. We also continued to allow different groups to reserve and use OFS1 for community meetings.



JUST ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SJFM AS DIRECTOR OF FLEET - SCOTT BOUCHER.



THE LATEST STATUS OF THE CHEIM LUMBER FIRE PAINTING, SEPTEMBER, 2023. THIS PAINTING IS LOCATED UNDER THE REAR AWNING AT OLD FIRE STATION ONE AND IS ABOUT 15 FEET TALL BY 25 FEET LONG.

SJFD FIRE CAPTAIN WILLIAM F. TENNANT

CIRCA 1900



CAPTAIN WILLIAM TENNANT WHEN ON SJFD CHEMICAL NO. 4.

The following information was obtained from the Guardians of the Garden City by Richard L. Nailen. If you would like to read more on William Tennant, the book is available in the Museum store.

A young William Tennant is pictured as he appeared near the turn of the century. At the time, William Tennant was a Tillerman on Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 and later became a driver for Empire Engine Co. No. 1. He retired as the Captain of Chemical 4. His obituary in 1932 stated that he was Acting Fire Chief during the absence of Fire Chief Henry Ford who was out on sick leave. The photo is displayed on the conex box to the rear of the Fire Museum.

William Tennant began his career some time in the 1890's. It was stated by one firefighter during that time that Tennant did more for firefighters through laws and courts than any other man. Tennant's main focus was to call attention to unfair

treatment of Firefighters in a way to bring public attention to the fire service..

Tennant was transferred and demoted several times during his career for what some considered as trouble making. He consistently called attention to the actions of the Police and Fire Commission for inconsistencies in disciplinary actions and favoritism. He was demoted from the rank of Tillerman to Extraman for letting one of his horses fall while responding in a heavy rain storm to an early morning fire.

Several other instances occurred involving Tennant and the firefighters at Fire Station One on Market Street. During a response to a small fire on Bassett Street the crews of Fire Station 1 became tangled under the Light Tower. There were no injuries or damages but Tennant was suspended, there was a public outcry over the trumped up charges. Subsequent incidents and bad publicity resulted in Mayor Monahan attempting to suspend several Police and Fire commissioners, but the attempt failed.

William Tennant was to say the least a thorn in the administrations side but respected by firefighters for standing up for what he felt was the right thing to do.

A notable accomplishment of Tennant was as a member of a club called the "Two Platoon Club"

Its purpose was to force division of the Fire Department into two shifts or platoons. The two platoon system reduced the hours of the firefighters to an 84 hour week down from being on duty 24 hours a day six days a week with three hours a day off for meals plus two days off once each month. The campaign worked and voters approved the 84 hour work week.



WILLIAM TENANT AS A YOUNG SJFD TILLERMAN ON HOOK & LADDER CO. NO. ONE.

San Jose Fire Museum



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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SAVE THE DATE!

The San Jose Fire Museum will host a celebration for the 170th Anniversary of the San Jose Fire Department at Old Fire Station One. The date is set for **Saturday, January 27th, 2024.** We are working out the details, but we plan to have events taking place all day long!

Look for more details in the coming months. If you would like to help and volunteer for this event, please contact us.

"The Museum Trumpet"

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