



FedEx Delivers!

On the museum's birthday in October, FedEx Corporation delivered a generous present. FedEx pledged \$100,000 to be paid in three installments to upgrade the audio-visual equipment and technology in the museum's FedEx Fire Room exhibit. In 1995, FedEx was one of the major donors to the capital campaign when they gave \$100,000 to sponsor the Fire Room exhibit.

Since the museum opened in 1998, over 150,000 visitors have experienced the *heat* of the room and learned how dangerous a fire is. Watching the video of the living room being engulfed, first in smoke and then in flames, dramatically teaches how quickly a fire destroys.

As the saying goes, *a picture is worth a thousand words*, the FedEx Fire Room is the most effective tool in teaching fire safety. And, it is a unique feature of the museum -- no other museum (fire or otherwise) has a similar exhibit. The exhibit's equipment has run many times a day since the museum opened 65 months ago. The equipment had become unreliable. When we called on FedEx for help -- they delivered.

Showing FedEx's commitment to the Fire Museum, FedEx Express President and CEO David J. Bronczek said, "Safety is a top priority for FedEx, and helping our children learn how to be safe is of the utmost concern to us. FedEx is proud to be part of the life-saving work being done by the Fire Museum of Memphis."

The company knows that Memphis has an above average fire fatality

rate. Fortunately, in the last few years, it has been dropping -- from an average of 23 per year to 19. The last two years have had record lows. There were only 9 fatalities in 2002 and 12 in 2003. Memphis Fire Department's Fire Marshal Alvin Benson credits the fire safety program at the Fire Museum with being a factor in the reduced death rate. Par-

ticularly impressive is that no school age child has died in a fire in the last two years. Historically, children have been the group most vulnerable to fire injury and death. FedEx's gift will assure that the FedEx Fire Room exhibit experience continues to be the most important part of the museum's fire safety education program.

Fire Museum Board Announces Executive Director & Operations Manager

Brier Turner has been named Executive Director of the Fire Museum of Memphis effective April 1, 2004, by the Museum Board of Directors. She replaces Jim Hamilton who retires on April 1. Jim will remain as a consultant to the board through the end of 2004.



Turner

Brier has been with the museum since May 2002, where she has been working part-time as Director of Development. She previously held similar positions at the Pink Palace Museum and the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library.

Board chairman Thomas O'Malley said "Brier is an extremely qualified candidate and will help us as we move forward in our progress to continue the mission of the Museum. I know the board is excited about her fundraising capabilities and knowledge of the board." Brier's and the board's first priority is to raise the needed funds for

continuing the education fund to bring local school children to the museum.

Brier said "I am very grateful and enthusiastic about this great opportunity. Working with the fine staff and board of the Fire Museum will be a privilege. Together we will make the museum a vibrant attraction in our community and aggressively continue our mission of teaching fire safety education."

Bill Adelman, currently Fire Department Watch Commander, will become museum Operations Manager on April 1. Bill was the Fire Department's liaison with the museum while it was under construction. Bill brings a wealth of knowledge of the Fire Department, apparatus, and history to the museum. In this newly created position, Bill will report to the Executive Director and be responsible for the daily operation of the museum, gift shop, maintenance, exhibits and museum staff.



Adelman

Ahrens Steam Fire Engine – “E. H. Crump”

By Richard M. Adelman

The restored steam-powered fire engine now housed in old fire station No. 1 was purchased in 1910 from the Ahrens Fire Engine Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The engine is a “Continental” model and carries serial number 179. The engine was capable of pumping 900 gallons per minute @ 120 lbs. pump pressure. The large and heavy engine required three horses to pull it. The rig was in service as engine No. 9 at fire headquarters, Front and Union. It was named the “E. H. Crump” in honor of the mayor of Memphis at the time.

The engine required a crew of two men, a driver to handle the horses and an “engineer” to tend the boiler and



Builders' plate on Ahrens steamer now in Fire Museum.

pump. At a fire scene, the driver would unhitch the horses and take them to a place of safety away from the fire and then return to the engine where he usually took on the duties of the fireman, that is the one who kept the fire under the boiler going, while the engineer kept the pump operating properly.

The steam fire engines carried a small amount of coal and water. If it was the “first due” engine, the engine that is supposed to arrive at the scene first, the boiler fire was lighted before the engine left the engine house, and steam pressure to operate the pump was built up as the apparatus responded. Water in the boiler was kept hot at all times, by using a small water heater in the fire station, through which the engine boiler water was circulated. The engine boiler was designed so that it would quickly build up a head of steam. Usually, the engines worked with 90 or 100 psi steam pressure.



Ahrens steamer during refurb process in Fire Department shop.

The “Crump,” as all other Memphis engines, was equipped with a “squirrel tail” suction hose, which was semi-permanently attached to the pump and wrapped around the front of the engine. The reason this type was used was because cisterns were available in downtown Memphis for fire service. They usually could supply more water than hydrants could and two or more engines could “draft” water from a nearby cistern at one time.

While many old Fire Department records are missing or incomplete, we are reasonably sure that the “Crump” was the last steam engine purchased and the last horse-drawn engine used by engine company No. 9. While the “Crump” was bought in 1910, the department’s first motor-driven engine was purchased only two years later, an indication of how fast technology was changing at the time. From records we have, engine No. 9 received a motor-driven engine in 1919, indicating that the “Crump” was only in first line service for nine years. After that, it was placed “in reserve” at old station No. 12, at Lamar and Woodward where it remained until the station was closed in 1940. The engine was then moved to fire headquarters and later was placed in a glass enclosed display at the

Memphis Zoo. It remained there until 1960 when it was moved to the new fire and police museum at Armour Center.

In 1975, the “Crump” was taken to the Fire Department repair shop on Adams, where it was disassembled and totally refurbished. The steam boiler was rebuilt and certified for use. In 1976, the engine was taken to the foot of Poplar where it pumped water into the tender of the “Freedom Train” when it

stopped in Memphis. The engine also “worked” at the Fire Department Instructors Conference and the craft show at the Pink Palace that year, much to the delight of hundreds of people, many of whom had never seen a steam engine at work before.

Prior to the opening of the Fire Museum, the engine was again taken to the fire department shop, where it was refurbished before being placed in old station No. 1. Since the opening of the Fire Museum, thousands of children and adults have viewed the “Crump,” and it remains a favorite attraction, 94 years after it first came to Memphis.

Richard Adelman is president of the local Fire Museum S.P.A.A.M.F.A.A. (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America) chapter. The Fire Museum newsletter will periodically publish articles on history of Memphis Fire Department and antique apparatus at the museum.



“Crump” steamer as it looked before going into the Fire Museum of Memphis in 1998.

Meet Carol Sheehan Museum Volunteer

As a youngster, when Carol Sheehan visited the Memphis Zoo, the first exhibit she'd run to was the E. H. Crump steamer in its glass display case. She never got tired of admiring it and its lifelike horses.

Now, as a volunteer at the Fire Museum of Memphis, she spends three hours a week with the steamer in its place of honor in old Engine House No. 1 – and still never tires of admiring it.



Carol Sheehan

Volunteering at the museum was a natural fit for Carol. She's been chasing fire engines since she was old enough to leave the yard.

"Nobody in my family was ever in the fire service," she said, "but I must have been born with an interest in fire engines and firefighting." She's been a member of The Commercial Appeal staff for nearly 39 years, and one of her first duties was to call the Fire Department every day for a list of the fire calls.

Carol enjoys discussing the fire service. "When visiting firemen come to the museum, especially out-of-towners, they like to tell you about their department and hear about ours. That's why I think it would be wonderful if some of our retired firefighters would volunteer. What stories they could tell!"

Carol is a member of Memphis Fire Buffs, a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America. The chapter is a support group for the museum. And as a member, Carol finally has "caught" a fire engine. "The club has a former Bells, Tenn., pumper. So I guess I own a share of it."

Carol does more than just volunteer. Recently, she donated 10 colorful hard hats decorated to look like fire helmets for young visitors to wear.

Save The Dates For 2nd Annual Red Door Event Friday June 25 and Saturday June 26

In June 2003 over 700 fire fighters and their families came to the museum to be celebrated and thanked for their generous support of the museum. Red-birds' game tickets, Ronald McDonald, PD Parrott, Rockey Redbird, fire truck rides, Moon Bounce, balloon sculptures, Baggo games and face painting were part of the fun. Not to mention the superb food thanks to Floyd Cupp's barbecue team.

Several door prizes were given away every hour with the grand prize being a week's rental of a condominium in Florida. All ages enjoyed the event.

This year it will be even better! Great food, great prizes for everyone. We promise a good time. Remember Friday and Saturday June 25th and 26th. Friday's hours will be noon to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday's hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We'll see you there. There are now 810 Red Door members! A record high with 42 fire stations participating at 50% or higher.

The Fire Museum could not operate without the continuing support of the

firefighters -- since 1995 they have given over \$450,000. During 2004, the museum expects \$85,000 in donations. These dollars help maintain the exhibits, the Memorial Wall and the education program.

Don't Miss Out! You must be an active Red Door member (active and retired Fire Department personnel may join) in order to attend the celebration in June. Also, if you made a one-time donation to the Red Door Fund before June of 2003 you are not a

current member. To become a current member you must make an additional one-time donation of \$50 or more, OR make a minimum ongoing \$5 per pay period donation. We need your participation.

To join the Red Door Fund, call Brier Turner at 901-320-5658 or email brier@firemuseum.com. We look forward to having you with us on June 25th and 26th.

The following are Red Door members who have joined since last summer. We look forward to having all of you and your families with us in June.



Chandra Alexander	Robert H. Jackson, Sr.	Sam Posey
John Beasley	Odell Lesure, III	Henry Rutledge
Nickcolus D. Blakemore	Steven A. Lutts	Wardell Seals, Jr.
Jason Bolt	Patti A. Macken	Derric R. Shaw
Rickey C. Chambers	James M. Merryman	David T. Shelby
Christopher Coffield	Curtis Odom	Brian L. Simmons
Bob Coker	John Barry O'Neill, Sr.	Lawrence A. Smothers
Gregory S. Cole, Sr.	Derrick N. Pendergrass	Ronald E. Stafford
Steven Craig	Marcus D. Perry	Alexander Tyler, Jr.
Patricia Franklin	Steven H. Perry	Nathan Williams
Derek Haynes	Louie Porter	Charles Wilson



118 Adams Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103

Fire Museum of Memphis
118 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103
www.firemuseum.com
901-320-5650
FAX 901-529-8422
Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00-5:00
Closed Sundays
Adults: \$6 -- Ages 3-12, and 60+: \$5

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
PERMIT NO. 3487

Shelby County Commission Provides Free programs

The museum was given an early holiday present in December. In 1997 to help complete the museum facility and exhibits, the Shelby County Commission agreed to loan \$2.5 million to the museum's board of directors. The commission showed its commitment to fire safety education by swapping the value of the loan for Fire Safety Education program tickets for Shelby County school children. Commissioners Cleo Kirk, John Willingham and Deidre Malone were instrumental in convincing other commissioners that the life saving education program offered by the museum was more important than the money owed.

Any school group in Shelby County may come to the museum for the guided Fire Safety Education Program – FREE. The museum no longer has the grant that provides for transportation – but, the program is free.

Call 901-320-5650 to make a reservation for your group. You can thank the Shelby County Commissioners for this opportunity.

**Fire Museum
Board of Directors**

Thomas O'Malley, Chairman
W. Jerry Gillis, Vice-Chairman
Faye Stephens, Secretary
Nick Ringel, Treasurer
Alvin Benson, Fire Marshal
MFD
Hal Boyd
Jay Buckley
Dave Chase
Lance Fair
Jeff Flaherty
Jerome H. Hanover
Jim Hamilton
Donald K. Lefkowitz
Michael Lowe
B. Lee Mallory, III
Jack Mayer
TaJuan Stout-Mitchell
Terry Oldham
Steve Redden
Robert G. Snowden
Kimmie McNeil Vaultx

Recent Museum Donors

Jerry Hanover, In Memory of Flo Snowden Reynolds
B. Lee & Susan Mallory, In Memory of Flo Snowden Reynolds
Insurors of Memphis, In Honor of Fire Company of the Year, Truck 6A
Evelyn T. Mason
Jerry Hanover
Tony Bologna
Henry & Sally Brenner, In Honor of Jim Hamilton
David J. Cocke
John Pitts
Pat Colloredo, In Honor of Faye Stephens
Peter C. Voss, In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Casper J. Voss
Kelly Gunnels, Sue & Charles Lestage, In Memory of Dr. Tim Timanus
B/C Mark & Susan Boyd
David Chase
Theresa Tiscia Southern, In Memory of Captain Louis Tiscia, MFD 1949-1988
Donald & Rochelle Lefkowitz
Douglas, Sandra, Steven & Matthew Gabel, In Memory of Javier Lerma
AutoZone
Jim Hamilton
Jack Mayer
Guardsmark
Faye Stephens, In Honor of Thomas Malone
Hill Plumbing
Downtown Companies, MFD, In Memory of Robert Scott