



## NJ FIRE MUSEUM & FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL NEWS



Organizational Notice – The New Jersey Fire Engine & Equipment Museum Inc, is a 501C (3) non-profit corporation originally chartered by the state of New Jersey to establish and operate a fire museum and fire safety education center at Allaire State Park. The organization is comprised of the NJ Fire Museum and the NJ Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. NJ Fire Museum & Fallen Firefighter Memorial News is our newsletter to museum patrons. Comments and newsworthy articles are invited. Please contact the editor at the address listed in the "How to Contact Us" box in this issue.

Issue 8 Volume 1

Visit the website at: [www.njfiremuseum.org](http://www.njfiremuseum.org)

Fall 2010

### Acquisitions for the Museum and Fund-raising Events for the Fallen Firefighter Memorial

Hello Friends and Supporters!

The future is looking brighter for The New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighter's Memorial!

Through the efforts of past president Don Mulligan, the groundwork is in place for a project truly worthy of being a focal point for the fire service in New Jersey.

As the new President, I am in the enviable position of guiding the organization through the implementation phase of the project. Several of our initiatives are coming to fruition and soon you will see the beginning of what will be a world class museum and memorial.

It has been a while since our last newsletter as the editor relocated due to the closure of Fort Monmouth. We apologize for this lack of regular communication.

As you read through this newsletter, take note of the variety of projects we are currently working on. I hope you will find a reason to participate in or otherwise support our activities.

Sincerely,

*Bob Burns,*

President



*(Above) Loading the Silver Ghost parade carriage for its return trip to New Jersey. There's no actual silver in the carriage, but we are happy to preserve a piece of NJ Fire-fighting heritage!*

*In this Issue:*

*News from the Memorial and Volunteer Committees*

*New Additions to the collection*

*World Trade Center steel*

*Promotional Video now Available*

*Ernie Day's Humor*

Board of Directors

- Dale Bennett
- Albert E. Burdge Jr.
- Helen Burns (Secretary)
- Robert Burns (President)
- Skip Carr
- Judy Carr
- Roger Demareski
- David W. Horsnall (Vice President)
- David C. Horsnall
- Irven G. Miller Jr. (Chairman)
- Don Mulligan
- David Napier
- Mary Ann Naused
- William Naused
- Fred Richart (Treasurer)
- Sam Robinson
- Timothy J. Smith
- Richard Skinner
- Whitey Swartz (South Jersey)

*New Members on the Fire Museum and Memorial*

We are pleased to welcome several new members to the Fire Museum and Memorial Board of Directors!

Each comes to us with expertise that will help us achieve our goals.

We look forward to greater accomplishments with their assistance.

Congratulations, and welcome to our new Directors:

- Richard Skinner of Lanoka Harbor
- Bill and Mary Ann Naused of Howell
- Sam Robinson of Bedminster
- Art Hance of Long Valley

*WORLD TRADE CENTER STEEL FOR MEMORIAL*

Late in 2009 we requested a piece of steel from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's **WTC artifacts program**.

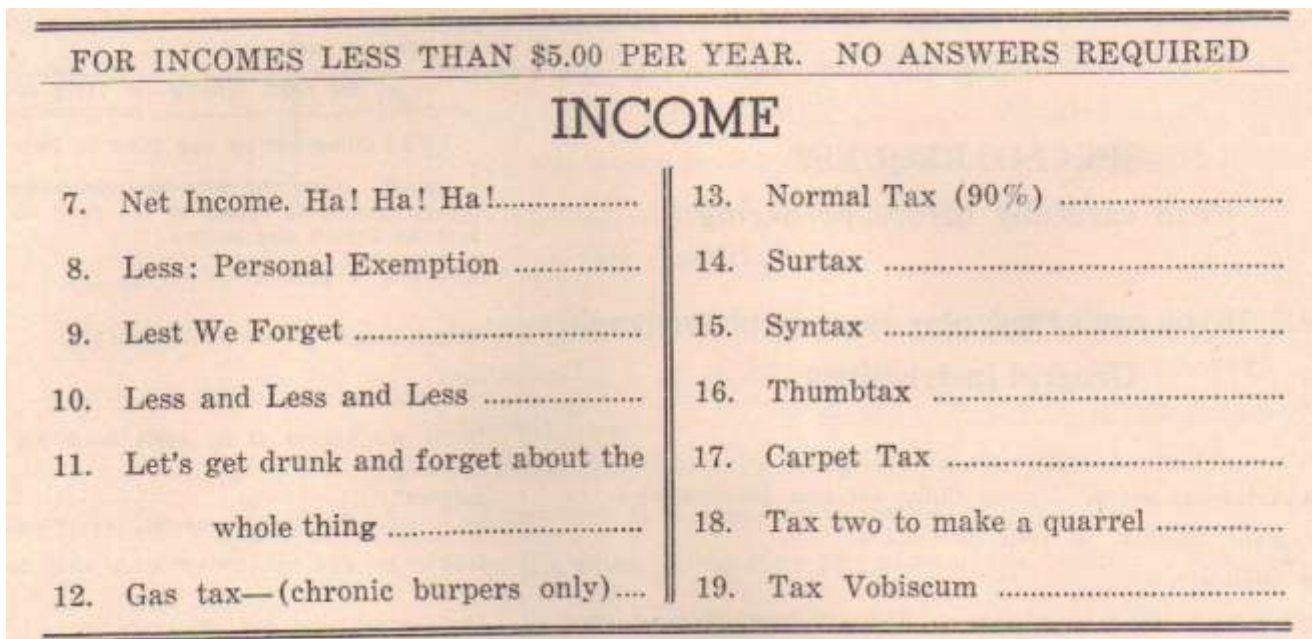
Due to the media and web postings advertising this program, the Port Authority was overwhelmed with requests.

During July 2010 we received the final approval from them for our request.

We are hoping to put the WTC steel on interim display while we work on final approvals from the state to build the permanent **Fallen Firefighter's Memorial**.

*From the Ernie Day Archives, some of his humor*

Below and elsewhere in this newsletter are samples of his humor in the placards that he offered as "novelties" to put on the bulletin board (and to keep his company name in mind in the days before Facebook!).



## *The Sleeping Beauties Video is Now Available!*

Board Member Dave C. Horsnall has prepared our first-ever NJ Fire **Museum video**. It's a short video that gives the viewer a glimpse of the historic fire equipment in the museum collection.

We are distributing the video widely in order to increase public awareness of the significant and historic items that await museum construction.

**We aren't hiding anything; most of these rigs are seen in their current rough condition;** a not very good reflection of the care the state has provided since taking custody of them many years ago. We are working with the state to improve the storage conditions but the real solution is to build the museum!

Some of these rigs are best preserved in their current original state. This is especially so for the hand-drawn and horse drawn apparatus. Some TLC is needed to gently clean them and restore the damaged or missing wood, leather and brass items.

Most of the motorized rigs are deteriorated to the point that ultimately, a full restoration will be required.

Long term plans include rebuilding these rigs in the museum shops with volunteer labor as funds become available.

We are grateful for the work of Dave Horsnall to make the video a reality!

The video is currently on YouTube, and is available thru a link on our website, or at any of the events we attend. We can also provide you with a copy to present to your department.



*The sleeping beauties shown in the video include some of our hand drawn and horse drawn rigs as well as several motorized rigs. Shown above is a 1909 Model T from the New Jersey State Home for Boys, Jamesburg, NJ, that was part of the Ernie Day collection. Like many of the motorized rigs she will need restoration.*

### MEMORIAL PAVERS

#### *A LASTING TRIBUTE*

Dozens of fire companies have recently ordered pavers. Our website shows the actual engravings registered to-date. We usually have a sample paver with us at public events, look us up or check the website for photos.

When the WTC steel is brought to our site, we are hoping to build a least a portion of the plaza.

We suggest that memorial pavers are an excellent alternative to flowers when honoring a deceased department member. Your tribute will be part of the memorial plaza for future generations to see and appreciate.

The order form is available on the website.

### *Looking for used equipment*

New Jersey Fire Engine and Equipment Museum is seeking donations of used equipment for its operations. Items such as cars, trucks, open and enclosed trailers, tractors, backhoes and ride on lawn mowers may be of use to us. We are a 501C3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. You can contact Sam Robinson at [srobinson@njfiremuseum.org](mailto:srobinson@njfiremuseum.org) or 908-623-0284

**Knights of the Inferno Motorcycle Benefit for Fallen Firefighter's Memorial**



We are extremely grateful for the support of the Knights of the Inferno motorcycle club which sponsored their second benefit for the memorial

Once again, Rob Laberta, President, and the officers and members of the club organized and operated a poker run through central New Jersey, and presented us with a check for \$2,500.

If you ride a bike, mark your calendar and plan on attending the next Poker Run on June 7, 2011.



**HOW TO CONTACT US!**  
Write to us at  
NJ Fire Museum  
PO Box 241  
Piscataway NJ 08855-0241  
Or send email via our website  
[www.njfiremuseum.org](http://www.njfiremuseum.org)  
Call or email for a packet  
of promo cards today!

*A Rabbit for Every Fireman !!*  
Dear Friend—  
I have just purchased a carload of Live Baby Rabbits! In order to dispose of them, I am shipping our several hundred to my friends and customers. In a few days you will receive one of these rabbits by parcel post. TAKE CARE OF IT and Feed it well. A HAPPY EASTER!  
Your friend,  
*Ernie Day*

*Ways You can Help the Museum and Memorial Projects!*

- Membership.

The membership application form offers a range of annual support for individual, family or corporate/Fire Dept.

- Cash contributions.

Cash donations of any amount are welcomed and we will provide receipts for tax-deduction purposes.

- Personalized granite pavers

Offered in standard and double sizes. Contributions for pavers are allocated specifically to the Memorial.

- Join the Volunteer Committee

Be part of the team working on any of the activities listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Download an application from the website, or contact Judy: volunteer@njfiremuseum.org or call 732-446-3728

You can support an ongoing function by working from home or help with planning and manning a public event.

You may have special skills we need! We are looking for folks with carpentry, mechanical, project leadership and or computer skills!



- Lapel pin, T shirt

(and other clothing items) are available so you can wear the logo and show your support.

- Donations of used equipment

Cars, trucks, trailers, etc. may be of use to us. Contact Sam at srobinson@njfiremuseum.org or call 908-623-0284

*Another Way You can Help the Museum and Memorial: Shop Online!*

If you shop online and who doesn't these days, did you realize that with a few extra keystrokes, you can benefit the fire museum

and memorial project?

Its true. At Shop For Museums, participating companies donate a

portion of their proceeds to the museum of your choice at no additional cost to you! Go To:

[www.ShopforMuseums.com](http://www.ShopforMuseums.com).

Under 'Museum Partners' select:

New Jersey Fire Engine and Equipment Museum

Scroll through the list of stores to click where you want to shop!

Its that easy.

Please make a habit of using ShopforMuseums.com often and spread the word to your family, friends and co-workers.



*Some of the retailers that participate at ShopForMuseums.com. Please visit their website today and make your first purchase to benefit the museum and memorial!*

## Ambassador Engine, Our Face to the Public

Our 1960 Mack C model triple combination engine (ex-Somerville, NJ) has been on the road to some public events this year.

Donated a few years ago by Mr. Richmond Shreve, a long-time supporter of the museum project, this rig is in fine operating condition but like any 60-year old rig, she demands a certain amount of TLC and care when operated.

It is obviously a classic open cab rig. What you may not know is that the C model Mack was unique among all fire apparatus built by Mack.

Mack was well known for building fire apparatus from the early days of motorization through the **last 1980's when Mack, along with several other famous marquis ceased apparatus production.** All Mack fire apparatus was built on an existing commercial Mack chassis. Mack modified some of the components for fire service, but the rigs shared their cab sheet metal with trucks serving construction, transport and general business.

The C model was different. When Mack purchased Beck, an Ohio company that built transit buses in the mid-50s, Mack got the current design of the late Ahrens Fox company as part of the bargain. Just before being sold to Beck, Ahrens Fox introduced a new cab-forward apparatus, hoping to get a new lease on life but the **company's business problems were too great.** The company was sold to Beck which in turn was sold to Mack.

Mack bought Beck for the bus and got the fire truck as a bonus. They recognized a good design when they saw one; they replaced the blue Ahrens Fox emblem with a red Mack emblem, installed a Mack driveline and pump and called it the "C model".

An immediate sales success, the C model remained in production through the late 1960s when Mack introduced the CF as a replacement. The CF was a modification of the F series high-way tractor, so like all the prior apparatus, it was based on a commercial chassis.

Only the C model stands as a unique fire apparatus design from Mack. We are proud to have a classic rig with such fine pedigree as our ambassador to the public!



*(Above) the 1960 Mack that now serves as our primary museum operating apparatus. She needs a crew and we invite you to participate in maintenance or operations!*



*(Above) Don Christie's 1942 Ford getting a workout at the Hunterdon County Touch-A-Truck.*

Once again, the Fire Museum's display seemed to be the most popular attraction at the Hunterdon County Touch-A-Truck.

Kids of all ages lined up all afternoon for a chance to **put out the flames in our 'house-a-fire'.**

**In the background you can see Don's 1942 Ford Ward LaFrance drafting from a pond to provide water. The cold weather didn't keep anyone away!**

Thanks to the guys from the Glen Gardner Fire Company for taking over the line for a while so our knees could get a much needed break!

## Recent additions to the Museum Collection

We recently received a donation of a vintage indoor Gamewell fire alarm box in perfect working order from Mr. Herb Cohen of Point Pleasant.

Also the New England Fire and History Museum of Brewster, Massachusetts, closed its doors and liquidated its collection.

**We received several items: an 1850's four wheel parade carriage named the Silver Ghost that originally served Irvington NJ (shown on page 1), two pieces of wooden water main, several two wheel hose carts and chemical carts, some lamp posts from Seton Hall University and various other small artifacts.**

While we are glad to see these items coming back to New Jersey, we were saddened by the circumstances that brought them to us.

However, these items will greatly enhance our collection and we can't wait to put them on display.



## From our Archives, Ernie Day's Humor

Ernie Day's humor was unique. It permeated his personal, professional and business life. We pulled a few examples to give you a taste of his humor and a picture of life 50 years ago.

His humor wasn't subtle and was often pointed. This card promotes fire hose sales and recognizes a firefighter trait that even today causes us to put labels on



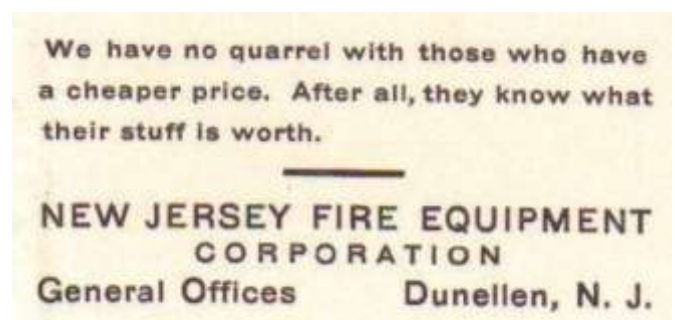
every piece of equipment we carry.

Signs like these were posted in many firehouses and got the New Jersey Fire Equipment Corp. name in front of hundreds of firefighters.

Ernie became something of a celebrity and was asked to speak at many events. After his speech he would often pass out a card and autograph it. If you have a **card with Ernie's autograph, you have a real piece of fire service memorabilia.** Ernie also used humor to ex-



press his personal views. Back in 1943 he became annoyed at the number of government forms he had to fill out. So, he sent a letter to his friends and attached his own eight page form. An excerpt is shown on page 2. If we used humor more often today, the world might not be any better but it just might be more interesting.



PRESERVING FIRE SERVICE HERITAGE,  
 HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES,  
 EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN



**NJ Fire Museum & Fallen Firefighter's Memorial**  
 P O Box 241  
 Piscataway NJ 08855-0241

Fall 2010

## Museum Membership Application Form

| <b>Regular (Please circle dollar value)</b>                |        |        |       |          |       |
|--|--------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
|  | Bronze | Silver | Gold  | Platinum | Other |
| Individual   | \$20   | \$40   | \$60  | \$75     | \$___ |
| Family   | \$25   | \$50   | \$75  | \$100    | \$___ |
| <b>Corporate/Fire Co/Dept (Please circle dollar value)</b> |        |        |       |          |       |
|  | Bronze | Silver | Gold  | Platinum | Other |
|  | \$75   | \$150  | \$300 | \$500    | \$___ |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(please be sure it is readable! Thanks!)*

Tel Number (optional) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** We would appreciate having your email address to send you the full-color newsletter electronically.

The newsletter is transmitted in PDF format.

*Please mail form and your check made payable to:*  
 NJFM  
 P O Box 241  
 Piscataway NJ 08855-0241  
*Or visit the website where you can pay online!*