

Michigan Firehouse Museum

Firehouse NEWS

SUMMER 2009, PT. 2



TYNG

The Value of Preservation

Time sure goes by quickly! What happened to summer - is this it? Things are moving so fast that if we don't watch out, it'll all be over before we can say what a great time we had. But I *know* we still have some good days ahead, so I'm really look forward to enjoying each one of them. I hope you are too!

In this fast-paced world of ours, it seems like people are running all directions, attempting to cover all the bases all at once (and not having much success at doing it). It's like feeling completely overwhelmed about the whole situation.

There's a lot of pressure these days to do everything quicker and cheaper. In certain instances, like getting to a fire or car accident to save someone's life, quicker is definitely better.

However, doing it faster may not be better, particularly when it involves what we value most. For example, sacrificing the quality of fire or rescue equipment could seriously result in injury or death to those in distress or those doing the rescuing. The hardware or clothing or device must yield maximum performance at all times, day in and day out - because people lives may be hanging in the balance.

To build quality equipment means taking whatever time it takes to do the job right. Quality moves at its own pace, and everyone has a different rate or method to achieve it.

When I think of the work that goes into the restoration of many of the fire rigs we have in the Museum, it's truly amazing the amount of dedication and commitment people make to restoring the apparatus. It's impossible to do this work unless one cares about what they are doing. If you get close enough, you can actually see the care that went into the restoration.

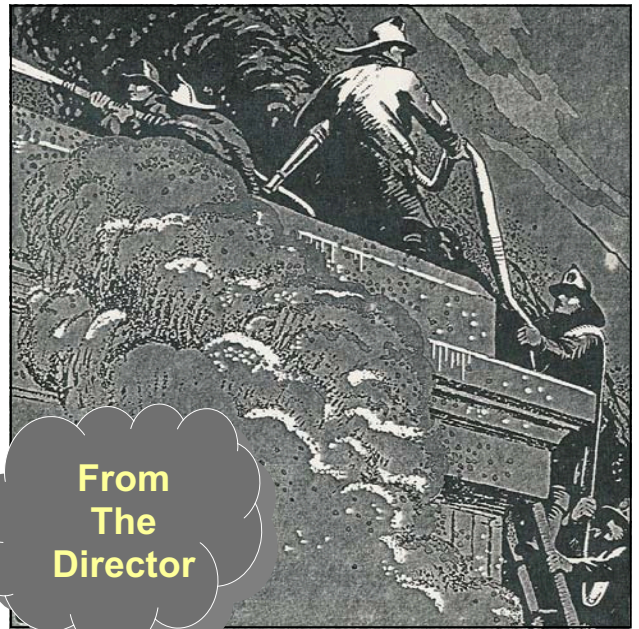
Usually a decision is made regarding each piece to either restore or leave in original condition (or just forget about it); basically, determining what would give it the highest value.

On The Cover A modified version of the original "The Youth's Companion" regular issue for June 29, 1911, billed as "Fourth of July Number 1911" (below), with artistry by TYNG, courtesy of Bill Ericson.



The Michigan Firehouse Museum is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Support the Museum's mission to preserve firefighting history and promote fire safety by becoming a member. Contact us by phone, at our website or use the application within this newsletter.

Our next scheduled issue is Fall 2009; as with the change of season, to be here before you know it!

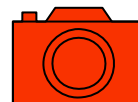


From The Director

Above: American LaFrance illustration from the late 1920s.

Right: Museum visitors John Knapp and granddaughter Mandy pause on their way up to the Mezzanine.

Below: There's always some great photo opportunities, inside or outside the Museum!



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 Tues - Sat 10 to 4 Sun 12 to 4 Closed Mondays
 Adults \$3.00 FF/Seniors/Students \$2.00
 6-15 \$1.50 Under 6 Free

MFM FIREHOUSE NEWS
 Steve Wilson, Editor

But the value of a restoration can also be as part of an educational process, allowing people to experience up close and personal how it was back then and how it evolved over the years.

Such understanding can inspire improvements in quality and make it even better for generations to come.

Looking at our cover, one can see the enthusiasm generated by the fire engine as it raced through the street to a fire. Back then, when there was no television or Internet or other mass media, events like that were the excitement and inspiration.

Hopefully some of that thrill will not be lost on future generation and the work effort to get there will not be lost either. Some good examples of that effort are demonstrated within this newsletter and on display at the Museum.

As I mentioned, it's great having the ability to restore older fire apparatus back to their better than new condition.

It's a shame they can't do it with people (although they're trying pretty hard these days).

That's why it's important to enjoy and appreciate what we have now.

...Howard



Top Right: The Detroit Fire Cadets after getting a tour of the Museum.

Middle & Directly Right: Learning how to do it over 80 years ago. (photo courtesy of Matt Lee).

Below Right: Museum volunteer Harvey Miotke doing what he loves to do - bring out the beauty in historical fire apparatus.

Below: Just before the Heritage Parade with former Ypsilanti fire-fighter Paul Woodside's granddaughter and great-grandsons.

