

Pioneer Mutual News

Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society
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Pioneer Mutual News Table of Contents

- 1 Building Search for the Sacramento Fire Museum by Forrest Adams & Two Memorial Services by Pamela Basurto
- 2 Restoration Shop News by Gil Aymeric & Treasure's Report by Craig Barmby
- 3 The Seamill Fire & Hail to the Chief by Forrest Adams
- 4 **February 9, 2018 Crab Feed Flyer**
- 5 Crab Feed article by Doug Lent & Firefighter First - Life Happens
- 6 Two Memorial Services, continued
- 7 Board of Directors and Membership Application



Pioneer Mutual News

Winter 2017

Building Search for the Sacramento Fire Museum

*By: Forrest Adams, SFD (Ret.)
PMH&LS Chairman,*

Board members Ric Doris and Ed Basurto have been working very hard to find us a building to either buy or lease. A few months back we adopted a five-year plan to lease a building and get started on our 27-year quest to establish a fire service museum. The purchase of a building would be ideal but we don't have a sufficient revenue stream to support buying at this time so, the five-year business plan will allow us time to build up that revenue stream.

We are looking at a building in West Sacramento on Industrial Blvd. next the Port of Sacramento. Sacramento County warehouse type building prices have sky rocketed due to their demand for commercial marijuana grow houses. Yolo County is planning to allow the grow houses only in unincorporated areas.

We are getting close to making a decision on the lease. The building is a former packing and distribution business owned by the Plumbers Union and has been vacant for 10 years. It's 13,640 square feet. They have dropped the price down to .58 cents a square foot.

The building will hold all our current rolling stock and all our artifacts. We have established a partnership with the Firefighters Burn Institute to present fire safety public education programs on the site. To solve our revenue issues, we will copy what the California Auto Museum does by renting the building out for events and conferences. The plan is to get aggressive bringing corporate sponsors onboard, increase membership dues (our basic membership is only two dollars month, you can't even buy a latte for that!) In addition, we will work hard to grow the membership, seek grants and continue to promote the Capital Campaign drive, this campaign was established to raise money from generous donor/members to contribute \$5000 on a one-time donation or a graduated payment plan.

More on this project later.....

Two Memorial Services Honoring Firefighters

By: Pamela Basurto



On September 30, 2017, the 15th Annual California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony took place at Capitol Park in Sacramento, California. This ceremony honored 31 firefighters who

paid the ultimate sacrifice after devoting their lives to serve their community.

Some of those honored at this event passed away many years ago, such as Leonard Nathan Winslow. He lost his life at the age of 23 from a car accident while in route to a fire on December 18, 1932. Others date back to 1947, 1961, and 1964, and all the way up to June 5, 2017 when Kelly Ka Lai Wong, a two-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department and a former Ruby Mountain Hotshot, passed away while working at the Rancho Park Fire Station. Kelly graduated from the academy earning the award of "Top Academic Recruit" for finishing as the top academic performer in his class.

This memorial recognizes the men and women, heroes who lost their lives in order to save lives and property. We treasure their memories by engraving their names in stone on this beautiful memorial in Capitol Park in Sacramento. We honor them by never forgetting their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families.

On October 14, 2017, another memorial took place. The 28th Annual Firefighter Memorial Program was held at the Exempt Firemen's Plot in Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery. This event started at Sacramento Fire Station 5 where breakfast was served to all who attended. A parade then formed to march to the cemetery which in-

Restoration Supervisor Gil Aymeric

From the Restoration Shop

The Restoration Gang is maintaining a steady work pace in the shop. We recently sponsored a lunch party for the Sac. Metro Fire Training Division instructors in appreciation for their years of cooperation and assistance to Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society. It was a nice affair.

Little known facts...

-- Is it American-LaFrance (with a hyphen) or American LaFrance (without a hyphen)? In 1955, American-LaFrance merged with Sterling Precision Instrument Corp. From this merger came a new non-hyphenated name—American LaFrance Corporation.

Do you remember the names of these California apparatus builders?

--Crown Firecoach Division of Crown Body & Coach Corp. (Los Angeles and Chino 1951-1985). Their advertising slogan was "The Royalty of Fire Apparatus".

--P. E. Van Pelt, Inc. (Oakdale 1925-1987). Mr. Van Pelt was a local Dodge Bros. sales agent, and at the request of the Oakdale Fire Dept. in 1923, built his first fire apparatus on a Graham Bros. truck chassis.

--S.S. Albright Co. (Sacramento 1920's, 1930's) Albright operated an auto construction plant, where they also built school buses and fire apparatus. The fire rigs were built on various types of commercial chassis and were equipped with small rotary gear pumps.

--C. C. Douglass (Bakersfield 1952-1960's) Clint Douglas ran a used car and truck dealership after WWII. In 1952 he began converting used telephone installer trucks leading to the development of a low-profile truck body that became popular with fire departments for patrol pumpers and rescues.

--O.N. Hirst Co. (Placerville 1920's) Ollie Hirst moved the company to the Sacramento area in 1932. In the mid-1930's, they began using the name Challenger. The company closed during WWII.

--Robeson Custom Fire Trucks, Inc. (LaMesa, 1933-1990's) LaMesa Sheet Metal started business in 1933. In 1945, Gene Robeson, son of the company's founder, built a fire apparatus for a local department.

They went on to build pumpers, tankers and rescues on a variety of commercial chassis.

-- Yankee Motor Bodies Co. (Los Angeles 1930-1971) The company started building fire apparatus. In the 1940's they added airport crash trucks to their product line. Yankee built their last rigs about 1971. Several employees went on to form fire-X.

GOOD NEWS: (1) The sink hole next to the Museum has been filled! (2) Looking forward to filling everyone's sink holes at the PMH&LS Crab Feed, February 9th At the Scottish Rite Center. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter.



Treasurer's Report Craig Barmby

Winter Newsletter time already and that means our annual Crab Feed is just around the corner. It sure seems like the older I get the faster time goes by. Anyway, I know everyone is busy around the holidays and you're probably not thinking too much about what you will be doing in February but it will be here before you know it. Crab Feed tickets are on sale now so give me or Ed Basurto a call and reserve your seats soon. All the information is on the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

In September Pioneer Mutual co-sponsored the annual Swap Meet at Sacramento Metro. Station 21. We had good weather, a pretty good crowd and a good time. We managed to sell some surplus items and a couple of street boxes and made \$1121.00.

As I have in the past, I always acknowledge the memorial contributions made during the last year. We received a contribution in honor of Martin Palmer. On behalf of Pioneer Mutual thank you for this contribution.

Here's wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope to see you at the crab feed in February.

Continued from page 1

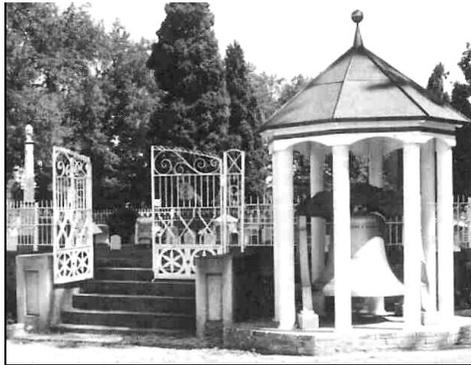


cluded the Sacramento Area Firefighter's Local 522 Honor Guard, Sacramento Firefighter Pipes and Drums, the Pioneer Hook & Ladder Red Shirts pulling a restored hand drawn ladder truck, fire trucks, and fire personal in dress uniform and their families.

Deputy Chief Niko King introduced the speakers for this event which included: Father Guillermo Hernandez, City of Sacramento Councilmember, Steve Hansen, and Fire Chaplain for the Sacramento area, Captain Kevin Snider.

Names of the fallen firefighters were called out one by one and each time the fire bell rang loud and clear. This honorable tradition of ringing the last bell symbolizes that their duties are done and they have completed their task; that they have gone home.

The Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums concluded this memorial service by playing a beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace".



Jay Bowdler, Brad Hansen & Dave Donley

Please go to:
sacramentofiremuseum.org
 to see Pioneer Mutual News
 in color

The Seamill Fire

By: Forrest D. Adams

Sacramento FD, Retired & PMH&LS Chairman

The O’Leary family had a number issues with the City of Sacramento concerning their properties in Oak Park and North Sacramento. What follows below is an excerpt from *Balance of Assignment*, by Retired Battalion Chief Leon Juarros Jr. The Chief has given me permission to use excerpts in future newsletter articles. If you want a copy of the story of his 37-year career with the Sacramento Fire Department the ISBN is 978-0-533-16241-3 and can be ordered online:

In May 1985, the city was again visited by the O’Leary’s—in the form of a dilapidated and leaky boat. A surplus World War Two minesweeper called the “Seamill” was illegally moored on the waterfront, near the I Street bridge.

Gene Cartwright, the owner of Sherwood Harbor Marina, a down-river facility, had evicted the O’Leary’s earlier, for non-payment of dockage fees and other accumulated bills.

The family lived on board with several dogs. Garbage and debris, as well as raw sewage, were thrown overboard. The vessel had no functional toilet or fresh water supply.

The city legal department mandated the immediate removal of the ship. However, there was no compliance. The Health Department, as well as the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, directed them off the leaky and powerless boat.

Bold resistance to authority prompted a local judge to declare the Seamill a hazard to navigation and a public nuisance, earmarking the vessel for destruction.

The O’Leary’s cut the vessel loose!

The minesweeper, now floating without power, drifted for several hundred yards, grounding near O Street. The California State Lands Commission, a final authority in the harrowing naval saga, allowed a period for removal of personal property, then the vessel, using any means, was to be disposed of.

On July 25, 1985, an order was given to destroy the vacated boat by fire. A tug boat was hired to pull the hulk into an area called Squatters Lagoon, a wide section in the Port of Sacramento. Fire Department

and Police boats followed the tow, carrying the fire chief, the assistant city manager, and firefighters. An isolated spot was reached in the lagoon and boarded by those who were to set it ablaze.

Leaking diesel fuel had soaked into the framework below deck, creating a volatile atmosphere. Several lighted flares were simultaneously thrown into the hold to ignite the ship. Lingering fumes in the enclosed areas caused an immediate and terrifying explosion and fire. Flames and intense heat quickly engulfed the old wood of the ship, sending fire through every opening. The sudden and unexpected eruption trapped those on board. Arms and faces were slightly singed as they ran or jumped overboard to escape the overwhelming blaze. No one required medical attention.

As dozens of fulfilled citizens watched from the shoreline, the blaze soon burned the derelict vessel to the water line. The remaining steel keel, still afloat, was later removed by a salvage crew.

A vexing and incident-filled saga was over.



“Hail to the Chief”

Retired Sacramento Fire Department Battalion Chief Bill Bryant just became a Life Member and gave five additional Life Memberships to his family for Christmas.

A \$3,000 donation to
Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society!

New Life Members: Bill Bryant, Patricia Bryant, Kristin Bryant, Alexis Holihan, Kelly Holihan & Jack Holihan



Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society Presents

“the Best” CRAB FEED



Friday February 9, 2018

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H St. Sacramento

Tickets \$50

Live music by *Sly FOX* *you're gonna love this band!*

Plenty of on-site lighted parking!

6:00pm No host cocktails, full bar available

7:00pm Dinner begins

Antipasto, Salad, Pasta, rolls & yummy fresh crab!

For tickets contact:

Craig Barmby: 916-686-8395

Ed Basurto: 916-457-9998

Checks can me mailed to:

PMH&L c/o Craig Barmby

PO Box 545 Amador City, CA 95601-0545



Tickets can be held for you to pick up at the event

Please feel free to eat your fill, but we respectfully request that NO food is to leave the premises. We order our crab based on the number of tickets sold. This event is a fundraiser. We've kept our alcohol prices low so that you'll buy from us. Outside alcohol is discouraged and is bad karma. We will have an ample supply of quality beer, wine and hard liquor available for purchase. Must be 21 to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages. *Please drink responsibly.*

Doug Lent Member at Large

27th Annual Pioneer Mutual Crab Feed “the Best”

Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society is proud to present our 27th annual crab feed. We’ve heard many times that ours is the best, so we’re going with that unless and until some other event unseats us.

Again this year the feed is at the Scottish Rite Center at 6151 H Street, right across from Sacramento City FD Station 8. We’re fortunate to have this location for this event... it seats everyone with ease, has a nice stage for the band (more on this later), a good kitchen for the prep gang and plenty of lighted parking!

We’ve held the line on ticket prices again this year. Our tickets are still \$50 while other feeds are going for more, some of them a lot more. This is a fundraiser, and the money will go to a very good cause as we continue to negotiate for a building to buy or lease for our Pioneer Museum. Yes folks, we are getting closer to our original goal of having a real museum to display all of our artifacts and rolling stock.

We know that you have many choices on how you spend your hard earned dollars, and we hope that you’ll spend a few of them with us again this year.

More info on the band: this year we have Sly Fox playing for our event. You’re gonna love this band. They play a little of everything and are sympathetic to our wants and needs about music choices and volume. I’ve heard their CD, and, well, you’re gonna love this band’s demo.

← The crab feed flyer will provide additional information. Call Craig Barmby or Ed Basurto to reserve your tickets. Payment must be made in advance. Tickets can be held (this is actually the best way to do it) in will call at the door.

Bob Luttrell will once again be heading up the bar gang, and you know what a good job they do. We’re keeping our beverage prices lower than the other crab feeds so that you’ll be encouraged to purchase from us rather than bring in any of your own wine. Again, it’s for a good cause.

See you there..... Doug Lent

Life Happens

Life can take unexpected, unpredicted turns.
Will you be protected when life happens?



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Motorcycle



RV



Boat



Real Estate



Umbrella

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