

Fire Learning Center/Museum

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The Historic Belmont Firehouse Renovation Project is a cooperative effort between Portland Fire & Rescue and the Jeff Morris Fire & Life Safety Foundation.

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Museum Specialist Provides Necessary Expertise

Museum Specialist Leann Arndt has joined the fire bureau in a part time, limited-term position to help organize, catalogue, and bring to use the many old items and artifacts that have been collected by the bureau over the years.

Leann brings a Masters Degree in Museum Sciences to the job, which will be a much needed skill in order to bring our many firefighting items, photos, and stories to life in the developing Fire Learning Center and Museum.

Primary to Leann's duties will be to work with the Museum Technical Committee, a group of inter-

ested persons being assembled to help sort out our collection. Volunteers for the committee are still being sought and can get involved by calling Don Porth at 823-3615 or Leann at 823-3862. If you have already signed up, please expect a call soon.

Leann grew up in Iowa but now resides in Vancouver, Washington. Her experi-



ence with museums began at the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia. After moving West, she has worked with the Pearson Air Museum in Vancouver. She also has just completed several months work with the city of Portland archives, focusing on the recently acquired police collection.

Leann says she is anxious to fully grasp the scope of our collection and organize it to the point where we can display our heritage and preserve the history of the fire bureau.

Leann's workstation will be located at the Belmont Firehouse.

McCormick & Schmick Fundraiser a Success

The October 6th fundraising event at McCormick & Schmick's Famous Seafood Restaurant at SW First and Oak was an unqualified success, raising over \$3,200 in the single day.

With over 75 volunteer hours given by fire bureau members, the day long event was

plenty of fun and made Portland Fire & Rescue look great in the eyes of the community.

Celebrity DJ's from 105.5 The Buzz and 1080 The Fan added a great attraction to the day. But by far the most popular celebrities were firefighters and fire bureau staff themselves.

The good folks at McCormick & Schmick's were so pleased, planning dates have already been set for 2005. Thanks to all those who joined in and made this a successful event to benefit the Fire Learning Center and Museum.

Belmont Firehouse Facts



CIRCA 1962

Did you know that the current Belmont Firehouse was built without a kitchen? Firefighters of the era either dined at nearby restaurants or lived in nearby homes.

The station came equipped with 10 horse stalls, even though motorized apparatus may have been assigned to the station as early as 1914.

The current kitchen stove occupies the space that was originally the “manure room.”

Four poles filled the original station. Two were placed in the front corners of the apparatus floor, one on each side, the current pole occupied the middle of the apparatus floor, and a fourth pole led from the “Living Room” (current day officers room in the SE corner) through the hay loft and into the stable area, which is now the kitchen.

The hose/watch tower was approximately 50 feet tall in the original configura-

tion. At some point, it was shortened by about 15 feet, probably due to rotting wood in the structure.

Wood was the surface of choice for the apparatus room. It has been said that prepping the wooden floor for the Chief’s Inspection was one of the most distasteful jobs in the firehouse.

A wooden structure occupied the same lot from 1898 until 1912.

“We felt the right place for the bell was back in the hands of the fire bureau”

Firehouse Bell Returns Home

On October 27th, a long, lost artifact was returned home to the Fire Museum by none other than the Oregon Maritime Museum.

The old gong-style wall bell, which may have been housed in the downtown fire station at 221 SW 2nd Avenue, had fallen into the collection of artifacts gathered by the foun-

der of Doty’s Appliances (known today as Standard TV and Appliance). He was an avid collector of maritime artifacts, although it isn’t known how this bell fell into that collection.

After his death about two years ago, the Maritime Museum, after receiving this portion of his estate, realized the

bell should come home to the Fire Bureau. The October 27th press conference allowed the bell’s return and additional publicity for both the Historic Belmont Firehouse, current home for the bell, and the Maritime Museum, located on the Sternwheeler “Portland.” It is docked on the Waterfront Park seawall.

Toy & Joy Drop Off at Belmont



As always, toys for the Toy & Joy Program can be dropped off at any Portland fire station. You can also drop off toys at the Historic Belmont Firehouse and enjoy the developing Fire Learning Center and Museum.

Safety Saturday, the second Saturday of each month, remains the best opportunity to drop in. Doors will be open from 10-3. You can also call for an appointment at 503-823-3615.