

Historic Belmont Firehouse

Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

Issue 30
May 2009

The Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum is a cooperative effort between Portland Fire & Rescue and the Jeff Morris Fire & Life Safety Foundation.

For Information or appointments:

Don Porth

Public Education Office

503-823-3615

Belmont Firehouse

900 SE 35th Avenue

(at Belmont Street)

Portland OR 97214

Open the 2nd Saturday
of each month 10 till 3
or by appointment.

**No Safety Saturday
in July & August**

“Straight Tips”

“Poisoning Prevention”

It's amazing the things that can be poisonous. Even something as beautiful as a flowering plant can prove deadly. Let the beauty of spring also serve as a reminder of dangers that can lurk in plants. A handy number to have (besides 9-1-1) is the national poison center number, 800-222-1222. Consider putting it into your cell phone or land line memory.

Think Safe

Rose Festival and Portland Fire & Rescue

Portland Fire & Rescue and the Rose Festival have a long history together. From the first year of the Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade in 1907, the Portland Fire Department participated. Horse drawn fire equipment began the tradition but it quickly transitioned into motorized apparatus for years to follow. Somewhere in time, the tradition fell to the side but has been re-invigorated in recent years to include a horse-drawn fire apparatus that again participates.

Many photos were taken of the beautifully decorated fire equipment. The time and effort necessary became a great source of pride and was quite a competition between fire crews.



Horse-Drawn ladder trucks were a “lengthy” part of the festivities as well.

Engine 7 wins first prize on June 21, 1907 during the first Rose Festival Parade

Rose Festival Ladder Drill Team Members Die

The ladder drill team has been a part of the Rose Festival activities for many years. Today, it is a lively part of the Starlight Parade. Members perform a “center-of-the-room” ladder raise and, after climbing to the top, drop into a life net. This 1927 photo shows the drill team in action at Multnomah Stadium.

One year later, on May 20, 1928, Firefighters William McCreery and Charles Ryan both fell to their death when the belt tying them together broke. Both are remembered today through the Campbell Memorial and at the Historic Belmont Firehouse.

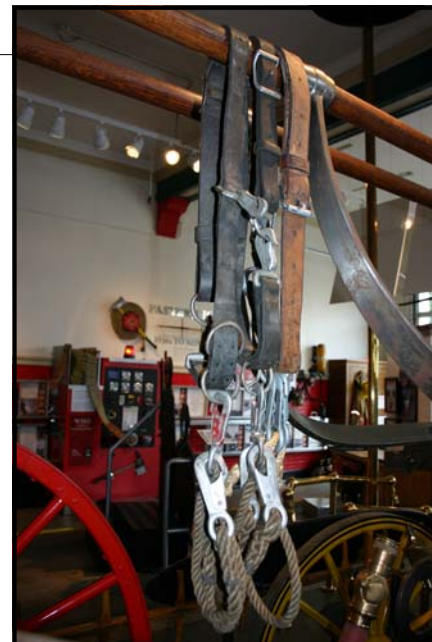


Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616

Remember This???

Hose belts and axe belts have been an important tool for firefighters in Portland (and in many other places) for many years. The hose belts pictured here (and displayed at the Belmont Firehouse) were created by A.L. Sherk, a Captain at Portland Fire & Rescue. His design proved so versatile and popular that the “Sherk Belts” lasted for many years. By the way, the deaths of Ryan and McCreery in the ladder drill team incident in 1928 was prior to the development of the Sherk hose belt.

Do you have a memory to share? Submit them to Don Porth at the Belmont Firehouse. Call 503-823-3615 or dporth@fire.ci.portland.or.us



Portland Fire History, Safety Learning Center Information, Foundation Background
Find it on the web at www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org

*** FIRE SALE ***



Rose Festival Red isn't really the name of the color of the bright red apparel at the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop. But since it's Rose Festival season in Portland, it might as well be. Several varieties of shirts (t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts) in both adult and child sizes are available at the gift shop. Stop in and see the full selection.

Visit the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop or shop on-line for the entire selection of clothing and gifts. All proceeds support the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum.

www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org

It's Not A Rose Bush, But It Is Red...

Picture here is a rhododendron created in the name of a Portland Firefighter. The “Fireman Jeff” is a rhody registered with the American Rhododendron Society. Friends of Jeff Morris had the rhody created after his death in 1974. It blooms red in color (of course) and is fairly hardy. After it's creation, several were planted in the flower beds of the Central Fire Station but they apparently died off over the years. Today, two can be found at the entrance of the Historic Belmont Firehouse with plaques commemorating Jeff Morris, The Jeff Morris Fire & Life Safety Foundation has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in support for fire and life safety education programs, Jeff's passions.



*** Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616 ***