



# The **REGISTER**

Noteworthy News  
from the  
Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum



2nd Quarter April - June 2024



## -- Last Alarm --

# GHAFM Life Member Robert "Bob" Straw

Greater Hanover Area  
Fire Museum

The **REGISTER**

G. H. A. F. M. Officers

President: Gordon Lillich

Vice President: Jeffrey Cramer

Secretary: Gary Rickrode

Assistant Secretary: Jody Cramer

Treasurer: W. Hal Wyatt

Asst. Treasurer: John Lucabaugh

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Senior Advisor: Warren E. Peter

Historical Specialist: Edward Markle

Historical Specialist: Ashley A. Vandewater

Newsletter Editor: Ken Buohl



The **REGISTER** newsletter is produced by and distributed to all Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum members and supporters as part of their yearly dues payment. Articles may not be reproduced or distributed without permission from GHAFM.

Photos GHAFM or as noted.

Museum news and events may be emailed to the Editor, Ken Buohl at: kb1951@pa.net or

Mail to:

The Register Editor, Ken Buohl  
190 East Walnut St, Unit 12  
Hanover, PA 17331



The Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum was saddened to receive notice that our Life Member, Bob Straw passed away suddenly on February 19. He was very well known in the Emergency Services around York County having served as a firefighter then Director of The York County Emergency Management and The York County Red Cross. He was one of the founding members for the Old Fire Farts of York County and was very active in SPAAMFAA on the Conference and Convention Committee. Bob had a very humorous personality dating back to his Springetts Firebabies days. Our condolences to his wife Debbie and their children. God Speed Bob and keep smiling forever.

Area Fire Museum

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# \* At the FIRE MUSEUM \*

## GHAFM 2024 Officers



GHAFM officers for 2024 include L to R, Gary Rickrode, Secretary, Jeff Cramer, Vice President, Jody Cramer, Assistant Secretary, John Lucabaugh, Assistant Treasurer, Gordon Lillich, President. Missing is Treasurer, Hal Wyatt.

## Gordy Lillich Appreciation



GHAFM President Gordon Lillich was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his implementation and follow through with several Fire Museum projects in 2023. Projects include HVAC Mini Splits, a complete makeover of the storage shed and the transfer of ownership of the 1935 Dodge and 1961 International antique fire trucks. GHAFM Vice President, Jeff Cramer and Secretary, Gary Rickrode presented this honor to Gordy.

## IAFF #2045 Appreciation



GHAFM President Gordon Lillich presented Greater Hanover Professional Firefighters Association Local IAFF 2045's Jay Lally with a certificate of appreciation for their support. The Professional Firefighter have been great supporters of our efforts at the GHAFM. We sincerely appreciate all their efforts.

## Chris Lockard Wall Reveal



A new addition to our Chris Lockard Parlor is the Chris Lockard Wall with a variety of items symbolizing his dedication and love for his beloved Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum and the Hanover Area Fire service. Fire Museum members' Gordon Lillich, Jeff Cramer and Shane Baker were instrumental in creating and assembling the items on Chris's wall. Thank you all for making this wall a reality for Chris.

## Tony Funk Retirement



GHAFM President Gordon Lillich presented Tony with a framed Certificate of Appreciation for his 8 years of service as Assistant Treasurer from 2016 through 2023.



# \* At the FIRE MUSEUM \*

## Museum Visitors



Jean Massenheimer, right and Tina Main, left, wife and daughter of Past Fire Chief of Hanover Fire Co. No. 1, Ed Massenheimer III who passed away in 2023 enjoy some reminiscing in the 1935 Dodge.



The GHAFM welcomed a group of visitors from The Village at Utz Terrace. They enjoyed our train garden and the Fire Museum.

## Fire Museum New Signage



The Residential Life Enrichment Group from Spirit Trust Lutheran Home visited the GHAFM on February 4th. Jim Roth and Dwight Bollinger were their museum docents.



The GHAFM purchased five of these signs for directing visitors to the Fire Museum. They were placed on York and Baltimore streets and at the GHAFM by the Hanover Borough Public Works Dept. In addition, Main Street Hanover included directions to the Fire Museum on their Center Square maps.

## Building & Grounds

### Meet Dennis Weaver



The GHAFM is excited to announce Dennis Weaver has accepted the Building and Grounds Coordinator position vacated by Gary Rickrode. He stepped into his position on January 1, 2024 and is performing various weekly safety and building maintenance checks. Dennis is a wonderful addition to the GHAFM as demonstrated in the photo above, he is repairing a timer switch on the Fire Museum's coin operated children's fire truck. Thank You Dennis for your dedication to the GHAFM. We look forward to having Dennis keep our Fire Museum in tip top shape and safe for our visitors. Stop in the Fire Museum and give him a warm welcome.

**Please DONATE to GHAFM May 2 - 3**



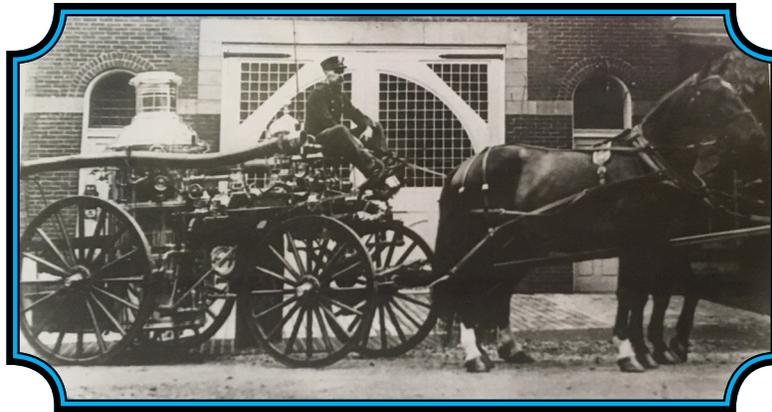
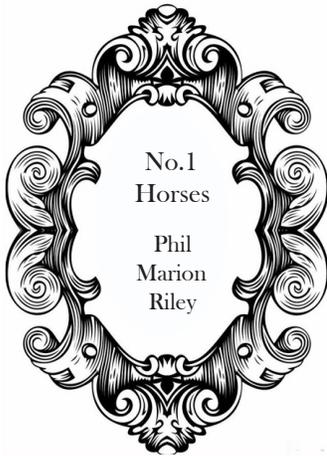


# “From the Archives”

## Those “MAGNIFICENT” Hanover Fire Horses



Hanover’s First Fire Horse  
Purchased 1903



Hanover’s Last Fire Horse  
Retired 1917





## A History of Fire Service Horses

In 1832, the New York Mutual Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 volunteers purchased a horse to pull their fire fighting engine. One of the reasons may have been due to a shortage of firefighters after a yellow fever epidemic. The other New York fire stations were unsympathetic. One evening a group of anti-equine firemen crept into the stable, shaved the horse's mane and tail and painted a white stripe down the horse's back, embarrassing the volunteer fire company. To add insult to injury, the Oceanus volunteers beat the horse-drawn Mutuals to a fire.

As steam engines gained popularity they grew in size and weight. Firefighters reluctantly accepted the need for horses. As Ditzel quotes: "A firehouse ain't no place for no stinkin' horse!" At first horses were stabled near the stations. When the alarm sounded, it took valuable time to unlock the barn, fetch the steeds and harness them to the engine. Before long, the horses lived at the station and the reluctance to accept them was replaced by a deep affection for the noble animals.

The stalls were positioned behind or next to the rigs. In 1871, a quick hitch was developed. Two years later, Charles E. Berry, a Massachusetts firefighter, created a hanging harness with quick-locking hames. His invention was so popular he left the fire department and sold his patented Berry Hames and Collars nationwide.

Not every horse could serve as a fire horse. The animals needed to be strong, swift, agile, obedient and fearless. At the scene, they needed to stand patiently while embers and flames surrounded them. They needed to remain calm while the firefighters fought the blaze. This was the case in all weather conditions and in the midst of a multitude of distractions.

The fire departments carefully selected their horses. Veterinarians for the departments evaluated each animal. Both stallions and mares were eligible to serve. A favorite breed of fire departments was the Percheron, a carriage horse known for its strength and serene disposition. Many Percherons are dapple gray, fading to white as they age, and engines were often drawn by handsomely matched teams.

In Detroit, weight requirements were issued for the animals. Those pulling hose wagons must weigh 1,100 pounds, to haul a steamer 1,400 pounds, and to cart a hook and ladder 1,700 pounds. Stations also tried to create matched teams of two and three horses when possible.

Some cities had training stables but most provided on-the-job training. Detroit had a horse college. They claimed to be the only fire department that trained their horses by this method. Ditzel says: "There was a fire station with apparatus, training stalls, hanging quick hitches, a feed room, a horse hospital, and a 700-foot racetrack." Each horse received progress reports and report cards at the conclusion of their training. The horses that successfully completed their education were placed in the city's fire stations. Departments added horse ambulances and horseshoeing wagons to their city's rigs. A horse might work at a station for four to ten years. In 1858, the Philadelphia Fairmount Engine Company gave their fire horses a vacation. This became a tradition in the Philadelphia fire department. This was long before firefighters received vacations.

In the fall of 1872, a form of distemper, called epizootic spread among the horses. Within a period of twenty-four hours, 300 horses died in Buffalo. The epidemic spread rapidly to many cities. The cities relied heavily on horses for transportation and became paralyzed. Fire became a major concern. It was late October in Boston. Out of a total of 75-90 horses, four had died and 22 were unfit for duty. Until the epidemic ended, firefighters with the aid of citizen volunteers often found it necessary to drag the equipment to fires manually. On November 9, the Great Boston Fire burnt continuously for sixteen hours. It consumed 776 buildings, left 20,000 unemployed and 1,000 homeless. There were fourteen fatalities, including eleven firefighters. A century later John P. Vahey, a Boston fire chief, wrote about this catastrophe and renamed it the Epizootic Fire, after the disease that felled so many horses.

It was a sad day at the fire station when a horse was declared unfit for duty. Many retired fire horses continued to work for the city in less strenuous positions. Some were put out to pasture. Occasionally the noble beasts were put up for public auction. The gallant steeds might be purchased by junk drivers and delivery men. At times, the fire horses would forget their new roles and charge down the streets hauling a wagon after hearing a fire gong.

### References:

Ditzel, Paul C. *Fire Engines, Firefighters: the Men, Equipment, and Machines, from Colonial Days to the Present*. New York: Crown, 1976.

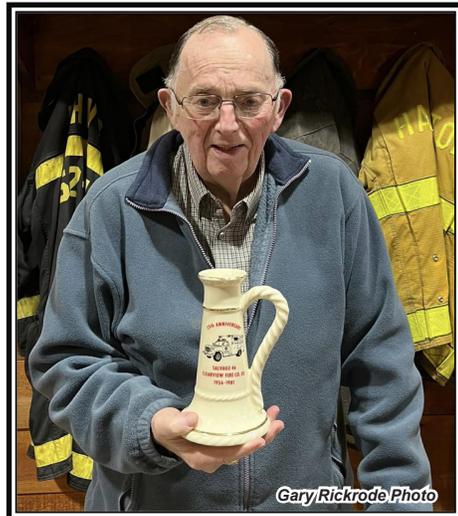


# Fire Museum....Do You Know!

## Donations



GHAFM Life Member Jim Derstine presented the Fire Museum with two limited edition prints from the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum. They are paintings of the PA state capital fire and the Reily Hose Company No. 10 in Harrisburg, PA. Thank you Jim for your generous donation to GHAFM.



GHAFM Life Member Donald Jamison presented the Fire Museum with this 25th Anniversary Clearview Fire Co. of Hanover PA collectors mug. Thank you Donald for your generous donation to our mug collection in the Fire Museum.

### “Other Donations”

Hanover Borough donated several framed photos from council chambers and 50 years of newspaper articles and literature. Nancy and Timothy Carr, a Hanover Professional Firefighters challenge coin. Hanover Area Fire and Rescue, monetary donation and Penn Twp. Commissioners, candy canes.

### “Other Donations Continued”

Hanover Area Fire & Rescue Relief Association a state seal. Larry and Linda Sherfey, Deb Rickrode and Rob Brady, food donations, Deb Rickrode, Florence Hughes, Jody Cramer, Peggy Buehl, Darlene Funk, Vicky Bunty, Nancy Lockard, and Danielle Cole, cookies and Anita Buie a monetary donation. Thank you everyone for your generous donations they are very much appreciated.

## Above & Beyond

Members at the GHAFM share their skills and knowledge above and beyond for enhancing our museum. Let's share a heartfelt “Thank You” to the following members for their generous efforts; Jim Startzel, Gamewell repair, Randy Angel & Brian McDermitt, security camera maintenance, Mandy Smith, composed article for the Merchandiser, Joe Myers, Bob Houck and Jim Startzel for assisting with museum group tours and Deb Rickrode for chairing our new Fund Raising Committee. Tip of the Tin Helmet for all your wonderful efforts at the Fire Museum.

## Recognition



GHAFM Secretary Gary Rickrode was awarded this plaque for his dedication and support of the operations of the Southeastern Adams Volunteer Emergency Services. Great job Gary, we are proud of you.

## Trucks & Stuff



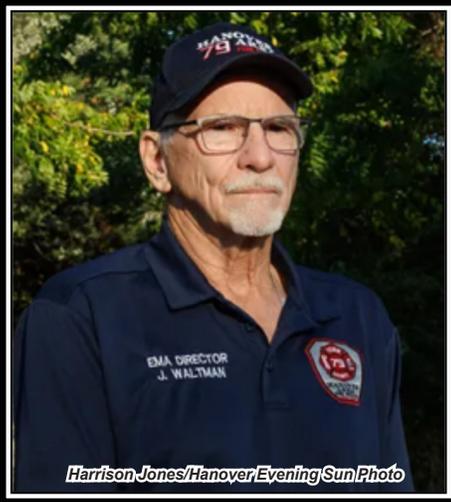
Our 1935 Dodge and 1961 International fire trucks in the Fire Museum are now officially PA Antique Historic Vehicles certified by their brand new PA DOT license plates received recently. To be registered as an antique vehicle in Pennsylvania, they are required to be a motorized vehicle 25 years or older.



GHAFM members Matt Boyce and Deb Rickrode prepared some funeral bunting for both of our Fire Museum antique fire trucks. They were placed in a labeled container located in the Fire Museum basement. Photo instructions for placing the bunting on each fire truck are located in the container. Tip of the Tin Helmet to Deb and Matt for their outstanding work on this project.



# Fire Museum....Do You Know!



Harrison Jones/Hanover, Evening Sun/Photo

GHA FM member Jeff Waltman was interviewed by Harrison Jones with the Hanover Evening Sun for an article about Jeff's Emergency Management Service with Hanover Borough. Jeff shared some great weather emergency tips with their readers and shared his passion for his Emergency Management experience. Jeff and his wife are both GHA FM Life Members.



Jody Cramer, Photo

Jeff Cramer GHA FM Vice President is shown in a Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum booth at the 70th Annual 2024 Home and Garden Show held at the North Hanover Mall on March 8 & 9. Several members assisted with the booth and introduced attendees to the GHA FM. A variety of 56 vendors attended the show. Attending this show is part of the GHA FM outreach plan for attracting more museum visitors and new members. Thank you everyone who assisted with this wonderful show, we look forward to attending next year. This is a great opportunity to volunteer.



Andy Hoffman/Photo

This is a photo of the area inside the Hanover Market House where the GHA FM is sharing a public space to promote our museum. The Fire Museum, Hanover Arts Guild, Hanover Historical Society and the Hanover Community Players share this great opportunity for introducing market visitors to our wonderful Hanover organizations. Volunteers are needed to assist on Saturdays. Please contact Gary Rickrode and sign up for a time slot.



## Our FUTURE is Built on MEMBERSHIP

Clip Out This Membership Form and Share It

Cut Here

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### GREATER HANOVER AREA FIRE MUSEUM HISTORIC HANOVER AND SURROUNDING AREA FIRE SERVICE MEMORABILIA

134 E. Hanover St. Hanover, PA 17331

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and/or DONATION INFORMATION



#### Type of MEMBERSHIP

- \$10.00 - SENIOR - 60 and OLDER
- \$20.00 - INDIVIDUAL
- \$50.00 - FAMILY
- \$200.00 - LIFETIME

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ (C) (H)

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BENEFACTOR: Monetary Donation Support Levels (Circle Level)

Junior Firefighter \$25.00 - Firefighter \$50.00 - Lieutenant \$100.00 - Captain \$250.00 - Chief \$500.00 - Fire Commissioner \$1000.00

\*Fire Dept. Affiliation if any \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to:  
GREATER HANOVER AREA FIRE MUSEUM



**Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum**  
 134 E. Hanover St.  
 Hanover Pa. 17331  
 hanoverfiremuseum46@gmail.com  
 Phone: (717) 637-6674  
 hanoverfiremuseum.com



“Where our Greater Hanover Area Fire Service History Thrives “

# HUMOR ON THE TAILBOARD



Hey Moe, What am I missing here, Yuck, Yuck, Yuck

**Dates and Times for Events are subject to change. Please check with the appropriate members for new dates and times or check the calendar in the Fire Museum or contact HAVFR or HAFRC.**

## Fire Museum & Other Events - Save A Date

- Wednesday Museum Open:** 9 am to 3 pm. every Wednesday.
- Saturday Museum Open:** 9 am to 3 pm, 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month.
- Other Visits by appointment. Call 717-637-6674 and leave a message.
- GHAFFM Monthly Membership Meeting:** 1st Thursday of each month, 7 pm at the Museum.
- April 4 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.**
- April 15 - 20 - FDIC International Conference, Indianapolis, IN**
- April 20 - 21 - Union Historical Fire Society Auction & Flea Market, Allentown, PA**
- May 2 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.**
- May 2 - 3 Give Local York County - GHAFFM Fund Raiser - Contact Rob Brady**
- May 4 - Fire Museum of Maryland - Steam Day. 10 am - 2 pm, Lutherville, MD**
- May 4 - 5 International Firefighters Day**
- May 17 - 18 Fire Expo, Harrisburg, PA**
- May 25 - Hanover Memorial Day Parade 8:30 am - Museum participation - 2 trucks - details to come.**
- June 1 - CAFAA Fire Muster, Pleasant Valley, MD 10am - 3 pm.**
- June 4 - 8 - SPAAMFAA Summer Convention - Saturday Muster Central High School, York, PA**
- Note: If you are interested in assisting at this event, contact the Fire Museum (717) 637-6674
- June 6- Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.**
- July 13 - PA Pump Primers Muster. 10 am - 4 pm. Harrisburg, PA**

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## What's Happening at the HAVFR & HAFRC

- \* **HAVFR Monthly Company Meeting:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 19:00. Use building rear basement door and ring door bell, someone will assist you.
- Apr. 11, May 9, June 13 - Membership Meeting at Clover Lane Station 2 basement.**
- \* **HAFRC Monthly Meeting:** 3rd Thursday of each month, 17:30. Use building rear basement door and ring door bell, someone will assist you.
- Apr. 19, May 16, June 20 - Commission Meeting at Clover Lane Station 2 basement.**
- May 18 - HAVFR Chicken BBQ - Prep Day May 17 - Details to come.**
- May 27 - Annual HAVFR & HAFRC Memorial Day Service at Wirt Park Station 8:00 am - Not Confirmed**