



# The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

*Welcoming Young & Old Alike to Join in Remembering the Past and Working for an Even Better Future*

*The District's Oldest Civic Organization –  
Founded December 7, 1865*

*Bulletin #110  
April 5, 2013*

## *President's Message...*

### *AOI's Attic...*

...was bursting at the seams in 1968 and costing the organization nearly \$10,000 a year in storage costs when then president Burton Langhenry, with the approval of the membership, decided to donate AOI's historic artifacts and curiosities to accredited institutions where the objects would be preserved and placed on display.

The Columbia Historical Society's Ulysses S. Grant, III accepted many fire department-related artifacts which, after 45 years, will soon be transferred to the Friendship Fire Association Museum on N.J. Avenue. The Smithsonian curators identified a number of pieces that would complement their transportation and innovation collections. Alexandria's Friendship Fire House Museum (107 S. Alfred Street) was the recipient of a number of framed, fire department-related photos and paintings. Many of the valuable pieces had finally found 'homes' where their heritage would be documented and preserved.



**Isacher Hughes' family baby buggy donated to the Smithsonian in 1968.**

## **April's Luncheon Event:**

### **Security Storage's Conrad Reid on "Moving the First Families"**



### *Please join us...*

Friday, **April 19**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU or Metro Bus 74 [Circulator Bus discontinued]), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (**\$24 per person** - please make your check payable to AOI and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact change).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., April 17, 2013.

**This voice mail box number is the only means to make a reservation.** Late reservations make planning very difficult for us and **failure by you to cancel prior to Noon on Thurs., 4/18, may result in you being charged.** Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest's names for name tags, your meal preferences (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef, Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute cancellation.

>>> See Security's replica van in Pier 7's driveway on 4/19 <<<<

## Future Meetings...



The AOI's 148<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

May 17, 2013 – Dianne Dale, “Anacostia: The Village That Shaped Us”

June 21, 2013 – Paul Leeper (Sgt., MPDC, Retired), “The Watergate Break-in and Other Behind the Scene Stories”

July 4, 2013 – Annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade

Oct. 18, 2013 – Cindy Janke discusses her book “A Guide to Civil War Washington”

NOTE: All meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. If our published RSVP line (202-342-1865) is not answering or appears out-of-order, please call 202-342-1638.

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor December/January

Note: The Board of Directors meets at the Heurich House Museum at 10 a.m. on the Monday immediately prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Be Advised: In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

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## If You Were Not At Our March Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the April 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 luncheon.]

AOI held its second luncheon meeting of the year on March 15, 2013 at the Pier 7 restaurant of the Channel Inn. President Bill Brown noted that this was the 148th year of its existence. There were 115 members and guests attending.

The draft minutes of the February meeting were printed in the newsletter. Bill asked if there were any additions or corrections for them. None were raised. **Austin Kiplinger** moved that the minutes be accepted as printed, seconded by **Kay Eckles**. They were accepted.

There were five new applications for membership since the last meeting. They were from **John George**, who read about AOI in the Washington Post; **Barbara Morgan**, nominated by Phil Pannell; **Betsy O'Day** nominated by Sally-Beth Bumbrey; **Abigail Wibenson** of DuPont Circle Village; and **Kathlyn Crittenden**, nominated by Chris Radziewski. **Phil Pannell** moved that the applicants be accepted, seconded by **Allen Beach**. The motion was approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. We are right on schedule in regard to dues renewals and contributions. Non-routine expenses year to date have been \$120 for 2 year dues to DC Federation of Citizens Associations; \$40 for 1 year dues to DC Federation of Civic Associations; \$141 to Early Cassidy

& Shilling for Directors liability insurance; and \$230 for purchase of 1500 printed return envelopes for membership applications/dues renewals. Our investment account has earned \$350 so far this year.

Following the treasurer's report, Bill introduced guests and announced items of interest. He mentioned that a recent article in the Washington Post on the history of the DC flag cited AOI Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder**.

**Jim Embrey**, AOI liaison for the DC Fire Department, said that our 1905 steam engine pumper would be in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday.

Our speaker for today's meeting was internationally distinguished author, lecturer, historian, former Smithsonian official, and AOI member **James M. Goode**. His books are the standard basic references for Washington outdoor art and architecture. His latest book is "Capital Views: Historic Photographs of Washington, DC, Alexandria and Loudoun County, Virginia, and Frederick County, Maryland." He told us the interesting story of how this book was created. In January 2001 he was asked by B. Francis Saul II to write the history of the Saul Company (founded 1892) He worked as the company's historian, archivist and curator for the past eleven years. The Saul family came here in 1851 to work for Andrew Jackson Downing, who designed the landscaping for the National Mall. The B.F. Saul Company today owns 101 buildings in 8 states--hotels, office buildings, and shopping centers. When their new main office was opened in Bethesda, James was asked how the lobby should be decorated, and he suggested an exhibit of historic photographs of the Mall. He organized a very successful exhibit. When the Kennedy-Warren was renovated James suggested an

exhibit on Washington in the 1930's for decorating their lobby. This went on for 8 different historic photographic exhibits in 8 buildings. James asked for and was granted consent to publish this in a book, to which he contributed much original research. His talk today was mainly from the chapter on Washington in the 1930's, and that on Loudoun County history. The presentation is based on outstanding photographs which James has woven into an extremely fascinating narration. It truly was a special opportunity to see these slides and to hear his descriptions of the history around them. Having written all the captions for the exhibits and books, together with his splendid informal delivery, he gave us a wonderful experience in hearing about and seeing history that was extremely enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted  
*Seymour Selig*, Secretary



### ***President's Message Continued...***

Among the more curious pieces was a steel-rimmed wheeled baby carriage crafted by Isacher Hughes in Richmond, VA in 1808. After 6 generations of use, James Wilden Hughes donated the buggy to the AOI in 1921. It was transferred to the Smithsonian in 1968 and continues to reside there today.

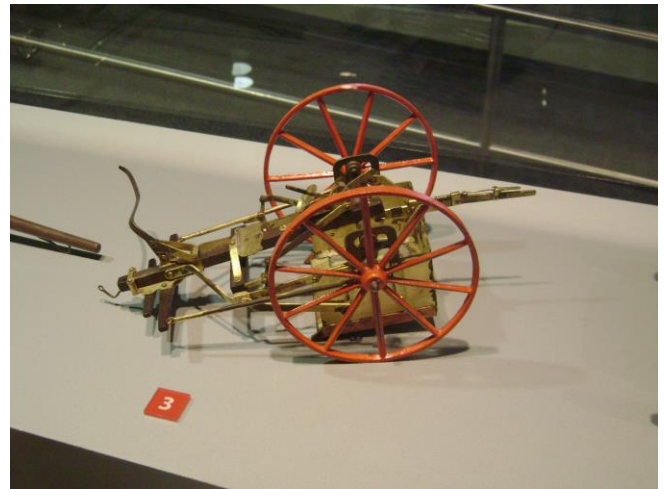
The AOI's treasured Veteran Volunteer Firefighters Association and D.C. Fire Department-related pieces (the 1905 American La France Steam Pumper, an 1857 Rogers hand operated pumper, a man-drawn hose reel, Chief Engineer's buggy and two bells) remained in AOI's inventory, were carefully stored at Security Storage for nearly 30 years and are now in safe keeping through an agreement with the D.C. Fire and EMS through a memorandum of understanding entered into with the AOI in 2006.

AOI's records from 1968 indicate that the decision to donate these historic artifacts was a difficult one to make; however, in retrospect and with the goal of preserving these items being of paramount importance, I believe most all will agree it was a prudent decision.

*Bill Brown*



**An early ballot box, using colored marbles, was part of AOI's extensive collection of 'curiosities.' It is at the Smithsonian.**



**An 1879 patent model of an early road scraper has recently been on display in the Museum of American History's "America on the Move" exhibit.**

Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply "Google" 'Governor Shepherd' and we'll pop-up!

Our e-mail address is: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com)

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



AOI's newsletters are printed and assembled by the staff of:



*Address Correction Requested*

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The Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society is open under the direction of Library Director Jennifer Krafchik. Check HSW's web site: [www.historydc.org](http://www.historydc.org) for events and hours.

View AOP's web site at: [www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org) or email us at: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com)



The Heurich House Museum is the former home of the Historical Society of Washington and served as AOP's headquarters from 1956 until 2003.