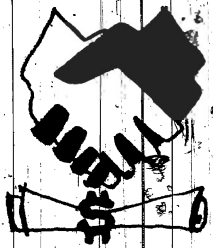


MONEY



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SHOW



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LIVING

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CHICAGO

# Sunday Sun-Times

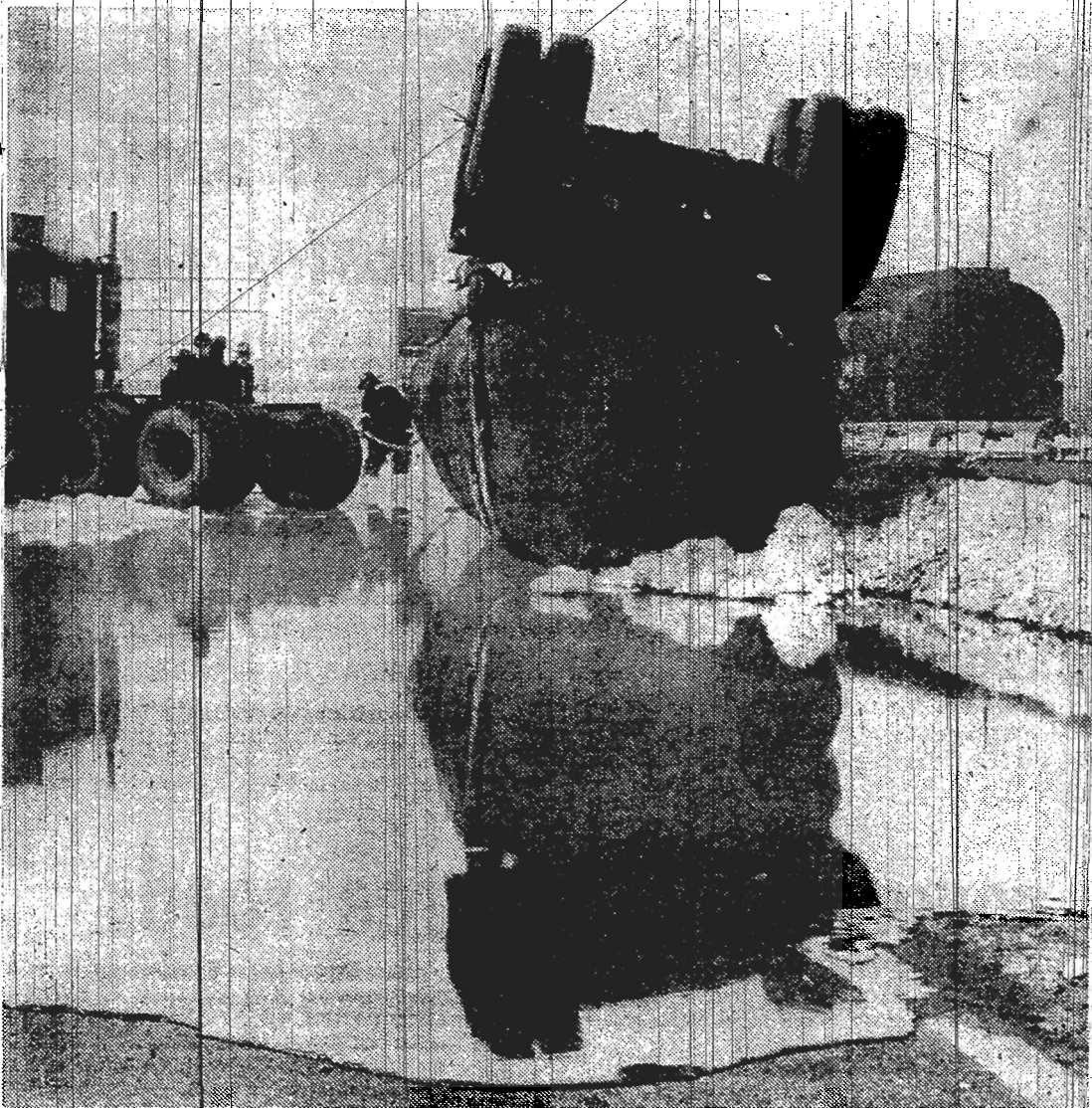
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Sunday, Feb. 5, 1978

60¢

# On-duty firemen hustle tickets for boss' band



Sun-Times Photo by Jerry Tomasek

## X-way slick

Furnace fuel oil pools on the Stevenson Expressway at Damen where a tank truck jackknifed and overturned Saturday morning. The truck carried some 6,000 gallons of oil and about half of it spilled over the four northeastbound lanes. The spill was sopped up with sand.

By Pamela Zekman and Zay N. Smith  
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Hundreds of on-duty Chicago fire fighters solicit funds for a charity that supposedly serves widows and orphans. But a major beneficiary is Fire Comr. Robert J. Quinn's ceremonial marching band.

The fire fighters leave their companies unmanned, often for weeks at a time, to sell tickets door to door for golf outings sponsored by the Firemen's Fund Foundation. The fund claims to have raised well over \$300,000 since 1971 for widows and orphans of Fire Department personnel.

But records obtained by The Sun-Times and the Better Government Assn. during the Mirage tavern investigation show the fund has actually diverted a major share of the donations to maintain the



Turn to Page 6

## • The Mirage fades away

Not before a few close calls; Page 7

## • Key findings, response

City, county, state, federal probes under way; Page 8

## • Officials' job is clear

—An editorial, Burck cartoon; Page 7, Views

## 'Gang' murders; 2 found frozen

One is crime figure Moretti; Page 3

5 1978

# 'Ticket duty' perils city fire protection

Continued from Page 1

Chicago Fire Department Band, a pet project of Comr. Quinn.

Federal income-tax returns and other records for the last seven years indicate the fund has spent a total of \$89,000 on eligible widows and orphans — and another \$89,000 on the band.

The Internal Revenue Service records indicate, in fact, that the widows and orphans did not receive a single penny, from 1971 to 1975.

Frank Gadzala, the fund's accountant at Bansley & Kiener, discounted the IRS records when confronted with them on Friday. He told The Sun-Times that the fund at one time had a second bank account that paid an additional \$106,000 to the widows and orphans. Records of that account were misplaced for four years, he said.

Gadzala added that the fund's prior accountants, Peter Shannon & Co., had inexplicably failed to report these additional donations to the IRS.

A spokesman for Peter Shannon & Co., which handled the fund's books until 1975, would neither comment nor offer proof that this money was paid out. "I don't care what you do," he said. "We're not going to talk to you."

Officials of the fund admitted the fund has spent \$89,000 to maintain Comr. Quinn's band. The money, they said, has gone for instruments, uniforms and the \$5,000 annual salary of its director.

The fund, which says it distributed \$43,000 to widows and orphans this last year, has a leftover bank balance of \$79,000. There are 1,446 widows and orphans eligible to receive



The Sun-Times and the Better Government Assn. ran a Near North Side bar, the Mirage, for four months to investigate corruption and fraud in the tavern business. This is the final article of a 25-part series.

money from the fund, according to Fire Department records.

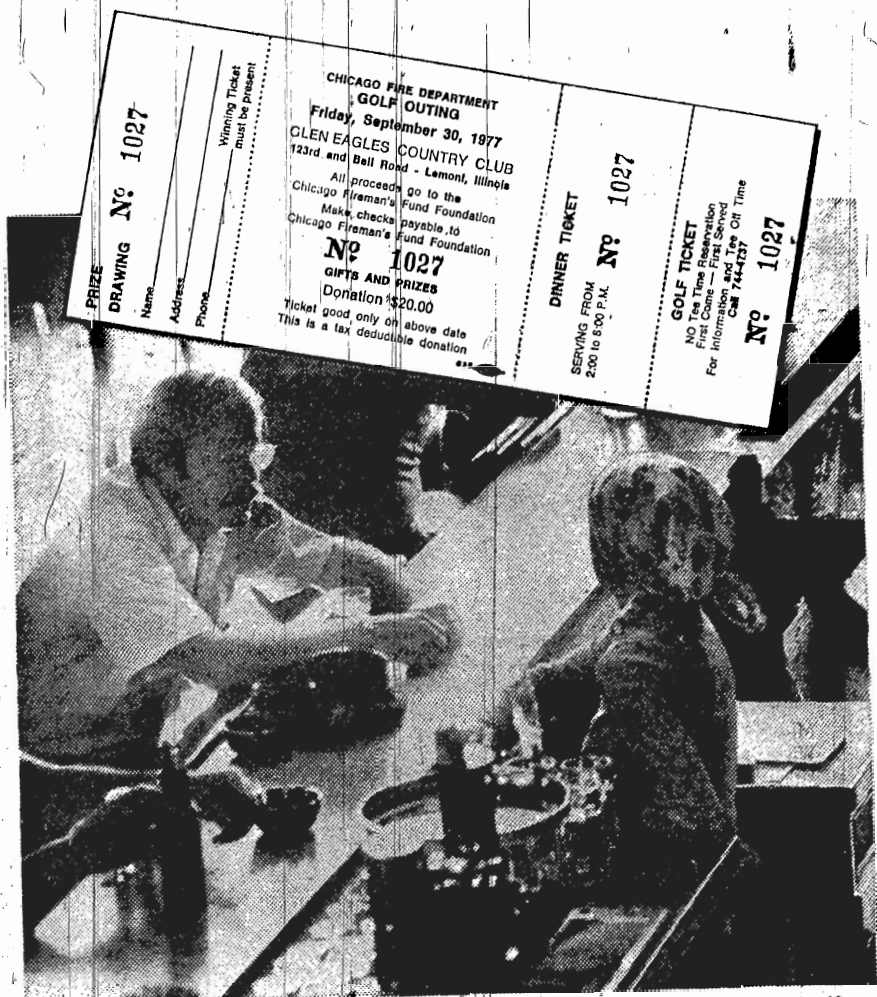
The fund is registered with the Illinois attorney general's office as a charitable trust "exclusively in aid of the relief of distressed members of the Chicago Fire Department and their dependents including education, shelter and supplying the necessities of life."

The Mirage — a tavern operated for four months by The Sun-Times and the BGA at 731 N. Wells — became interested in practices surrounding the fund after talks with fire fighters who visited to tattle and sell tickets while on duty.

A subsequent investigation showed that the Fire Department gears up like Ticketron whenever the fund plans a major outing. Each division receives 2,000 tickets with orders that they be sold. The Chicago Fire Prevention Bureau also receives 2,000 tickets that are sold by men on duty, according to an official there.

Fire fighters who unload large amounts of tickets are given time off — sometimes measured in weeks — with pay. They remain on the duty roster but are nowhere to be found when the fire engines roll.

It was also learned that candidates at the



"TICKET DUTY," according to fireman Wayne Godsted (above, talking to Sun-Times reporter Pamela Zekman), enables him and "about 300 other firemen" to avoid varying amounts of fire-fighting duty. Godsted sold the Mirage a \$20 ticket to a three-day suburban golf outing. For this and other sales, Godsted received time off, even though official records listed him as on duty.

Chicago Fire Academy have been pressured into selling allotments of tickets or buying tickets for themselves.

Officials of the fund say that only "20 or 30" fire fighters are involved in the ticket selling. But numerous sources indicate the number goes far higher than that.

Several division fire marshals, asking that their names be withheld, told The Sun-Times that such ticket selling often leaves their engine companies dangerously undermanned.

"Our companies are going out short," one said. "And it concerns me greatly."

Another marshal said the ticket selling aggravates a chronic manpower shortage in the department. "There should be six men on a hook-and-ladder and five on an engine," he said. "We've been running four men on each — and when ticket sales come, it gets even worse."

The fire fighters are also kept busy selling tickets for other groups, including Mayor Daley's Youth Foundation. Or as Comr. Quinn told The Sun-Times: "If that's what you're after, I'll tell you this. We'll even sell tickets for you if it's a worthy cause."

Quinn, who serves as president of the Firemen's Fund Foundation, defended the fund as a "wonderful cause" that helps the city's "unfortunates." But John George, attorney for the fund and a member of the law firm of Daley, Reilly & Daley, conceded to BGA investigator Douglas Longhini that the fund may not have been aggressive in donating to widows and orphans.

"Maybe they should have given more money to the widows and children," he said. "You could call it poor judgment. The fact that they sat on their hands doesn't mean they did anything illegal. It just may be bad judgment."

What about the \$89,000 being diverted to support Quinn's marching band?

"The way the band functions leads people to know about the golf outings," George said. "It's good public relations for the fund."

Quinn's band has 60 members drawn from Fire Department ranks. They wear regular fire fighter's uniforms, with special hats and

extra gold braid, and provide martial music for events including the city's St. Patrick's Day, Columbus Day and Christmas parades.

The band has been the object of controversy before. An investigation in 1974 by the BGA and the Chicago Tribune showed that Quinn was giving band members compensatory time off every year that equaled the salaries of 17 fire fighters. The late Mayor Richard J. Daley responded by ordering Quinn to stop the manpower drain.

But the band played on. The Mirage learned early to expect fire fighters soliciting at its door. Owners of small businesses in the neighborhood said the fire fighters come around regularly selling tickets for golf outings and other civic events. "Make sure you buy a ticket," one said. "It's a wise investment. They'll put you on a list and give you a pass on your next fire inspection."

The Mirage was not able to find any evidence of such a list. But it seemed a common assumption among businessmen.

Fire fighter Wayne Godsted arrived at the Mirage on Aug. 24 to drink while in uniform and try some salesmanship. He ordered a beer and said he was selling tickets, at \$20 each, for a three-day golf outing starting Sept. 29 at Glen Eagles Country Club in Lemont.

"The money goes to the widows and children of dead firemen," he said.

But Godsted did more than sell. He lingered for about three hours and talked about how "ticket duty" works. He said he loved the system. It enables him and "about 300 other firemen" to avoid copious amounts of fire-fighting duty.

"I only play fireman about 40 per cent of the time," he said. "That's a pretty good deal. Like, I remember a few years ago, they came up to me and said they had a few hundred more tickets they wanted me to sell, and I said, fine, if you give me two more months off. That's how you work it."

The fire fighter sells the tickets. Then he gets to spend his duty time as he pleases for a

Turn to Page 8



THE FIREMEN'S Fund Foundation, chartered by the state to raise money for widows and orphans, has spent a major portion of its money on the Fire Department's band, shown here parading down State Street during fire-prevention observances last October.