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THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

VOLUME 45 NO. 2

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

May 1996

Fire Destroys Landmark Building

**Blaze started in
Baseball Cards And
More, spread to
Fagen Pharmacy in
the Forsythe Building**

By Dan Pressler
Republican Staff Writer

Wednesday, March 20, 1996
Rensselaer - Washington and
Van Rensselaer streets were
speckled with ashes and fallen
bricks, and baseball cards float-
ed in pools of icy blackened
water, after an early morning fire
that started in Baseball Cards
And More, spread to Fagen
Pharmacy, and left both busi-
nesses gutted within two hours.

Firemen from Rensselaer and
Marion Township, Keener
Township, Lincoln Township,
and Remington Fire
Departments, had the fire under
control at around 2:40 a.m.,
about two hours after it started,
said Rensselaer Chief Martin
Shuey.

They continued to battle the
fire as it flared up throughout the
morning.

The fire was reported at
12:40 by surveyor Mike
Kingman, finishing a night shift
at his South Van Rensselaer
Street shop, Rensselaer police
said.

Rensselaer firemen responded
immediately, and began forcing
water into the baseball card
store, Shuey said.

The fire spread from the base-
ball card store, to the rear area of
Fagen Pharmacy, where bottles
of compressed medical oxygen
heated up and exploded, Shuey
said.

"Once it got to those oxygen
tanks, it went fast," Shuey said.
When the tanks caught fire,
Shuey said he moved
Rensselaer's aerial ladder truck
to protect Brands Flower Shop
from the fire in Fagen Pharmacy.

"We had to make a stand at
Brands, to save that whole block.
That's where we stopped it,
between Brands and Fagen,"
Shuey said.

Electricity to the building was
shut off soon, Shuey said.

"We saw a few sparks, but
there was no danger. A couple of

Continued on page 26



Republican photo by Dan Pressler

When the smoke cleared Wednesday morning, Rensselaer residents found Fagen Pharmacy and Baseball Cards And More destroyed by an early morning fire. No one was injured in the blaze. Fire officials said the cause of the fire has not been determined, but the State Fire Marshal's Office has been called to investigate. More photos on page 26.

History gone in overnight fire

Wednesday's early morning
disaster may have been the worst
fire to hit the old Forsythe
Building, but it certainly wasn't
the first. This is at least the third
fire there, according to a local
historian.

The building, which turned
100 years old this year, survived
fires in the 1920s, when it was a
department store, and in the
1930s, when it was a dress shop.

The structure destroyed today
was built the same year as the
Jasper County Courthouse, and

prior to 1896 the lot was home to
the only hotel in town.

The other building that was
lost was also a major contributor
to downtown life. The tiny one-
story shop had been a starter for
at least 2 substantial local busi-
nesses.

For almost 40 years the build-
ing housed Campbell's Printing
and then was home to Jerry's Gun
Shop.

Condensed from article by
Melissa Laughlin, Rensselaer
Republican Staff Writer

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CONVENTION INFORMATION

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"50 YEARS OF PRIDE RETURNS HOME"

Convention '96 - Merrillville - June 19 - 22, 1996

THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

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May 1996

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SEE PAGE 17 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NEW RATES . . .

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- Robert Widmar**
155 Beechwood Drive
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Geneva, 46740
(219) 368-7432
- Willie M. "Mitch" Parish**
P.O. Box 15
Francesville, 47946
(219) 567-2639

Chaplain's Corner



Charles J. Baker

Today's Prayer

Our Father In Heaven,

We pause from our busy and often times hectic lives to thank You for the gift of life; a life not earned by our goodness or our deeds, but by the Grace of the Creator of all that we see, hear, feel, taste and touch. Watch over us all, Lord, so that our missions of mercy and responses to cries of alarm shall be timely and efficient. Let all our thoughts and deeds reflect the Glory of our Lord in the pursuit of our duty.

Amen

Two Big Events

The 50th Annual IVFA Convention will soon be here and our Convention Hosts, Districts One and Two, have expended a great deal of time and energy to assure a comfortable and memorable event. Be sure to attend!

Also, the Second Annual Firefighter and EMT Appreciation Day Family Picnic will be once again at Westlake Park on Indianapolis' west side on July 14. Make plans to be there.

Minute Message

I happened upon this passage recently and wish to share it with you. It is taken from the New England Primer, published as a textbook in 1777. Structured alphabetically, in those days the letters J and V were often omitted. This is how young people were instructed back then.

AN ALPHABET OF LESSONS FOR YOUTH

A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasures and trouble therewith.

Come unto Christ all ye that labor and are heavy laden and He will give you rest.

Do not the abominable thing which I hate saith the LORD.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of GOD.

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and that which is to come.

Holiness becomes GOD'S house forever.

It is good for me to draw near unto GOD.

Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

Liar shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivereth them out of them all.

Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which sees in secret shall reward thee openly.

Quit you like men, be strong, stand fast in the faith.

Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.

See thou a man wise in his own conceit, there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Trust in GOD at all times, ye people, pour out your hearts before him.

Upon the wicked, GOD shall rain a horrible tempest.

Woe to the wicked, it shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Exhort one another daily while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Young men, ye have overcome the wicked one.

Zeal hath consumed me, because thy enemies have forgotten the word of GOD.

New IVFA Addresses and Phone Numbers

IVFA Central Office

**1 N. Capitol Avenue
Suite B2
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-692-9458**

New State Secretary

**Thomas C. Hinkle
314 Linnwood Avenue
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-246-6569
Pager: 800-589-6030-50535**

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL FLAGS

**ORDER FROM IVFA DISTRICT 11B
Chairman, Larry Bartlow
1423 East Street
P. O. Box 12
Montezuma, IN 47862
(317) 245-2125**

PRICE

**One-Side \$5.00
Two-Sides \$10.00
Shipping \$3.00**

From the President



Richard Glant

Hello Fellow Firefighters and Friends,

Finally 'Spring has Sprung', at least for us in the northern part of the state. I'm not sure about the southern part. Without a doubt, you have had much more snow than we have.

I know for a fact in our area, the grass, brush and field fires have been rampant. I'm not sure how many counties have the ability to put a burn ban in effect, but our county's is now in place.

It doesn't take a lot of effort to get this done. Have your County Fire Chiefs get together with your County Commissioners, and they should be able to put an ordinance together for you. It may be too late for this year, but look to the future.

The 1996 Convention is just around the corner. I look forward to seeing you there.

Districts 1 and 2 are working very hard to have a great 50th Anniversary Convention. Please plan to attend. It's your Association, and needs your input.

Remember, Spring and Summer are upon us. So, let's watch our driving, as children will soon be out of school and playing.

There is **NO** fire worth an accident. (Yes, I'm guilty, too).

Rescuers now have right to sue

By Jim Beck
Courier staff writer

The Indiana Supreme Court has modified a 100-year-old rule that in most cases prohibited public safety employees from suing when they are injured while rescuing someone.

Personal injury lawyer Barbara Barrett, who argued the case, said the court's ruling is a major victory for police, firefighters and emergency medical workers.

Those workers were originally kept from bringing a lawsuit for injuries under what's called the "fireman's rule."

The rule states that professionals whose occupations expose them to particular risks cannot hold someone negligent for creating the situation to which they respond.

For example, if a fireman was injured while battling a blaze, he could not sue the owner of the building.

However, the high court ruled December 22 that the rule, first recognized by the state Supreme Court in 1893, does not always prohibit public safety employees from seeking damages.

The court decided that when someone is rescued by a public safety employee, the person receiving treatment should act responsibly once the rescue has begun.

"This case marks a significant change in the law," Ms Barrett

said. "For the last 100 years it was rare for anyone to bring a case because the fireman's rule kept them out."

The Supreme Court's ruling arose from a 1992 case filed in Pike County Circuit Court by James and Carol Robey, Ms. Barrett's client, against Lawrence Heck and Peabody Coal Co.

Robey was a paramedic for Warrick County EMS when he was injured January 16, 1990. He and a partner responded to an accident in which a pickup truck landed in a ditch, upside down, at the Squaw Creek Mine.

The lawsuit alleges that the driver, Heck, was drunk and working for Peabody at the time.

When the rescuers tried to remove Heck, he allegedly began flailing his arms and legs. The other paramedic had to hold Heck down, while Robey lifted him.

The lawsuit claims that Robey, who no longer works as a paramedic, suffered a back injury during the rescue. His spouse claimed she lost her husband's "services, society and consortium."

Pike Judge Marvin D. Stratton allowed the lawsuit to proceed, but his decision was overturned by the Indiana Court of Appeals, which said the lawsuit was prohibited by the fireman's rule.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case and overturned the appeals court, sending the case back to Stratton.

Attorney Keith Wallace, who represents Heck, said the Supreme Court's ruling is confusing and may require clarification. It is unclear, he said, what the court will consider a "positive wrongful act."

Wallace said there are many questions, including what if someone in shock strikes a rescuer, or should a rescuer be allowed to sue a person who was intoxicated at the time of the rescue?

Evansville Courier

CLASSIFIEDS

Departments are entitled to (one) 1 free ad of 50 words or less per issue. One item only. Additional items or words will be billed at current rate.

RATES:

Twenty-five (25) words or less including name and address is \$6.25.

TERMS:

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1977 Ford Station Wagon Police Handling Package, 460 CI Engine, Auto Trans, Federal Light Bar & Siren, Federal Yellow with Brown Interior, 10,500 actual miles, \$3000 asking price Ainsworth Deep River VFD. Call 219 942-5300, Leave message.

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If you have some sales experience and have fire service knowledge, and are willing to work on commission basis, we would like to talk to you. Full or Part Time. (812) 299-2565

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Contact: Shirley FD, Martin Ebbert, Box 381, Shirley, IN 47384, 737-6497

IFIA Duneland School of Fire and Emergency Services

March 16 & 17, 1996

Chesterton, Indiana

The 1996 Sixth Annual Duneland Fire School is now history and the school committee was very pleased with the huge participation by area emergency responders. Final attendance figures are not in yet, but preliminary student count was around 800!!

The committee would like to express a huge thank you to all of those that attended.

The weather was mostly clear, but chilly, but that didn't put any damper on the outside training activities such as vehicle extrication, Amtrak safety course, water supply, or pump testing class.

The indoor training programs went very well, and a huge turnout for all of the Public Education programs, including

the juvenile & adolescent fire safety classes was a great boost to the annual school.

One of the most popular classes included the Responding to Amtrak Rail Emergencies, where a day was spent in the classroom and a day spent actually rescuing "victims" from an Amtrak train.

Another well attended class was Residential Tactics. Many other training opportunities were presented and students were very pleased overall with the caliber of training available.

One of the reasons for the continued success and growth of the Duneland Fire School is the availability of instructors from around the country.

Instructors from all over Indiana as well as Boston, MA; Las Vegas, NV; Houston, TX and Washington, DC presented a wide variety of topics.

Once again the school committee wants to thank all of the students, instructors, Indiana Fire Instructors Association staff, and most of all, a big thank you to all of the Chesterton Fire Department members headed by Chief Skip Highwood. They are a most professional organization and make this school run smoothly every year.

Make plans to attend the Seventh Annual Duneland School next spring.

Please send your ideas to us, as we are already making plans for another great learning opportunity, and want to present the topics that YOU want presented.

Contact Doug Miller, 116 Country Club Drive, LaPorte, IN 46350.

Ben Franklin Silver Medal

The Ben Franklin Silver Medal raised over \$1.8 million to help the American fire service. Seven charitable foundations, representing major fire and emergency services organizations, each received more than \$200,000 - money to be spent directly on research or programs to benefit the fire service.

Letter To The Editor

The following letter was sent to Fontaine Equipment Company:

Francesville VFD
P. O. Box 743
Francesville, IN 47946-0743

President of Fontaine:

On September 30, 1995 we had a corn field fire and burnt the fiberglass bed on our Rescue and Brush Truck very badly on one side.

On October 9, 1995, Mr. Dave Dingess from your company faxed me a quote on a replacement box. I asked him to order it and he said at the time, he would do so. I was told 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. This would have made delivery by December 15, 1995 at the latest.

On December 1, 1995 we were asked for color code from the cab of the truck so you could match the colors.

Near December 10, 1995 we were told the body would not be here until February 1, 1996.

Now we are told it will not be shipped until the week of February 26, 1996

On November 10, 1995 I received a sales order and was told I needed to sign a contract on the body. Why did it take a month if this had to be done before it would be ordered?

This is a Rescue and Brush Truck. We need to get it back into service, not have it sitting in the station out of service for 5 months.

We feel the Fontaine Equipment Company has done our department wrong by taking the order in October and then having a contract sent in November that had to be signed before it was ordered.

Donald Markin
Very Disappointed
Assistant Fire Chief
Francesville Vol. Fire Dept.
Francesville, Indiana 47946

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District Meetings

DISTRICT 5

March 14, 1996
Location: Claypool Fire Department, Claypool, IN

Meeting was called to order at 1937 hours by Chairman Don Rissinger, with the Pledge to the Flag following.

Roll Call: 27 Members representing 11 departments

No guests were present
Minutes of the previous meeting were read by District Secretary, Kent Trickle and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Rissinger gave a legislative up-date on several bills, including the proposed car and clothing allowance being increased to a minimum of \$100 each.

The Fire Service Picnic will be held on July 14, 1996 in the same place as last year.

Reported the proposed fund raiser by a telemarketing group was voted down by the Association.

Chairman Rissinger gave an update on the Fifty-Year Anniversary Convention coming up at Merrillville. Also reviewed new rules which were being proposed for the games at the convention and a Truck Muster will also be held this year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Layne D. Warren, of the Claypool Fire Department, was presented with a 50 year IVFA Gold Life Membership card.

The next meeting will be at the Bourbon Fire Department on May 9, 1996.

With no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 2005 hours.

Refreshments were served by the host department.

DISTRICT 9A

The January 25, 1996, meeting of District 9A was called to order by Chairman Charlie Cline at the Burlington Fire Department. The Invocation was given by Charles Baker, State Chaplain. The Pledge was given and the minutes read and approved.

Sixty members representing 15 departments answered the Roll Call reporting 152 alarms.

Guests were Mitch Parish, Past President; Jack Zeeks, Jr., Vice President; Carolyn Zeeks; Bill Howe, PRNW; Linda Baker; Charles Baker; Buz Koehler, 9B Chairman.

Jack Zeeks encouraged everyone to attend the convention in Merrillville. He asked that letters be sent in for Mr. IVFA and the Ollie Sandburg Award. He said that the speaker at the Institute dinner was a Captain from Oklahoma City who gave a touching presentation on their work at the bombing of the Federal Building there.

Buz Koehler said that there is a lot of money behind lobbyists against legislation that would aid firefighters and we have to do the best with what we have against them.

Mitch Parish reported on 6 pieces of legislation coming up, including some not advantageous to the volunteer fire service either by their content or how items are grouped into one bill. He stressed that the Bridgeport Scholarship applications must be in by March 1st and postmarked before then. It is recommended

that fire department Standard Operating Procedures be renamed Standard Operating Guidelines as that is less restrictive to a department in court.

Bill Howe had 50 Year Anniversary hats, shirts and medallions. Registrations and reservations need to be in soon for the state convention. Each department has 3 votes at the convention for candidates running for state offices.

Charles Baker spoke on the FDIC display dates and the Ben Davis Fire School in April. Linda Baker commented that this meeting's attendance is the largest so far in this part of the state.

Mitch Parish responded to questions. On changing the name to the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters' Associations, he said that we would have to disband, lose the treasury and start over to do this. On a raise in the license plate fees, he said that did not pass and the BMV has the final say on this.

Fire Safety Services of Indianapolis gave a program on SCBA maintenance and operation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15. Next meeting is March 28 at Camden at 7:30 PM.

Dee Mauntel, Secretary

March 28, 1996

Before the meeting at the Camden VFD, State Senator Katie Wolf addressed the group. She expressed thanks for the dedication that volunteer firefighters give to their communities. She reported on recent legislation that passed. Firefighters are now covered by insurance on mutual aid calls whether there is a written agreement or not. Insurance benefits have been raised for accidental death injury and loss of personal property.

She stated that these congressional acts result from action taken by the IVFA. She said that our lobbyist, John Shanks, does a great job coordinating all the people and resources needed for success.

Following a buffet meal, the meeting was called to order by Chairman, Charlie Cline. The Pledge was given and the invocation was led by Max Rule.

Thirteen departments answered the Roll Call with 52 departments present responding to 153 alarms.

Guests included Bill Howe, Buz Koehler, Mitch Parish, Lawrence Swartz and Bill Cannon, the Liberty Township Trustee and representative from that fire department.

Lawrence Swartz reported that 36 Bridgeport Scholarship applications were received.

Bill Howe gave the Fire Instructor's Association number, which is 1-800-235-0282. Debbie Nulinger is Secretary and Dan See is the President.

The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic is July 14, at West Lake Park in Indianapolis.

Mitch Parish reported that this is the 50th year Anniversary of the IVFA. Dues are \$13.00. This goes towards benefits such as the \$3000. death benefit, clothing & personal property losses and to pay for the lobbyists who write legislation.

The next meeting is May 30, at Clinton Twp. VFD.

Submitted by,
Dee Mauntel, Secretary

DISTRICT 15

The January 16, 1996 meeting was held at McCutchanville Fire Department.

The meeting was called to order by Chariman Wargel at 19:30 hours, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Barbara Kerney introduced guests Linda Nero and Charlene Tolbet from the Evansville Newspaper and Sara Robb, 1995 District 15 Miss Flame. Chairman Wargel introduced guests Tom Hinkle, IVFA State Secretary; Ken Bowes from Sternburg E-1 and Bill Tracy from M & S Fire and Safety.

Barbara introduced the 1996 Miss Flame contestants Ellen Biehler, McCutchanville; Angila Harden, Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue; and Jamie Riley, German. Barbara explained that the contestants will be interviewed and questioned by Linda Nero, Charlene Tolbet and Steve Anderson.

Roll Call was answered by 28 members representing 6 depts.

Minutes were read by Secretary Kerney. A motion was made by John Buckman and seconded by Harry Logan to accept the minutes as read.

The Treasurer's report was given. A motion was made by John Buckman and seconded by Rod Meeks to accept the Treasurer's report as read.

A discussion was held on the District Fire School. Chairman Wargel asked for suggestions on the type of training wanted. Bruce Bauer suggested Total Quality in The Fire service, geared to the company officers and potential officers. Tim Holman from Ohio has such a presentation. It was suggested that we try to have a different guest speaker monthly. Chairman Wargel appointed a committee of himself, Bruce Bauer and Jack Kerney to look for sponsorship and locations for these seminars.

Chairman Wargel explained the IVFA Scholarship Program. Secretary Kerney handed out several applications.

Chairman Wargel asked for names for the Mid-West Award be

given him by the end of the meeting. He must turn in our nominee at the February State meeting.

The Indiana Fire and Emergency Services Dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis on Jan. 21, 1996.

Chairman Wargel read the House Bills regarding railroad crossing and pagers in public schools for volunteer firefighters.

Dates to remember:

January 20 the Vincennes Sausage Supper.

January 27 the New Harmony Sausage Supper.

February 3 the Ft. Branch Fireman's Ball.

June 19-22 IVFA Convention.

Chairman Wargel asked Miss Flame Chairman, Barbara Kerney, if her judges had made a decision on the 1996 District 15 Miss Flame. Linda Nero, the spokesperson for the Miss Flame judging announced that Jamie Riley of German Township Fire Department was their decision for the new District 15 Miss Flame. Chairman Kerney thanked all of the contestants and the judges for their participation and released her committee.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bruce Bauer and seconded by Donna Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 20:13 hours.

The March 18, 1996 District 15 meeting at Boonville was cancelled due to bad weather.

DISTRICT 17B

The regular meeting of District 17B was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on February 21, 1996 by District Chairman Luke Kluender at the Spencer Fire Department.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by the District Secretary, Paul Smoot. He then followed with roll call. There were 14 members from 4 departments present. Jack Zeeks, IVFA Vice President, was also present.

The minutes from the December meeting and the Treasurer's report were then read and approved.

Luke talked about starting a district newsletter. He would like input from each department on this.

Luke had IVFA Convention T-Shirts and Collector's Coins on display. He also had the new rules for the Convention Games.

He has registration forms for the convention, order forms for the Collector's Coins, and Convention schedules if you need them.

IVFA Office is now open in Indianapolis, if you need information or help with IVFA matters.

We still need a Miss Flame contestant from our district.

Chairman Kluender talked about Indiana Weekend at the Fire Academy, Jasper Fire School March 9 & 10, Indianapolis Fire School April 13 & 14, Fire Chief's Orientation March 2 at Madison Fire Department and March 16 at Terre Haute Fire Department. There is lots of good information for chiefs and new officers.

Chairman Kluender also discussed Bills in legislation that the IVFA is following.

We would like input from district departments on how we can increase attendance at our district meetings.

Following our regular meeting we had a SIDS Training Class.

Next meeting will be held on April 17, at Fruitdale.

DISTRICT 9B

The regular meeting of District 9-B was called to order by Chairman Koehler at 8:20 p.m. at the Remington Fire Station in Remington, IN.

There were 45 firefighters present and 8 guests for a total of 53 in attendance. There were 123 alarms among the 13 departments answering roll call.

The following items were discussed: Fire Marshal's mailing, 1996 IVFA Convention and Games, Legislation effecting the fire service, Firefighter's Appreciation Day Picnic on July 14, Dan Lee is the new President of the Fire Instructors Association, NFA "Indiana Weekend" is June 25 & 26, hearing to be held on Firefighter 1 & 2, news for IVFA newspaper due in by April 10, and 17,280 members in the IVFA.

An updated chief's listing and meeting schedule for the next 2 years was handed out to those departments in attendance.

Mike Whitaker presented a program on the Trunkline Gas Company.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next meeting is May 9, at the Reynolds Fire Station, 7:30 p.m. Dennis Risner, Sec./Treas.

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DISTRICT 11A

At the district meeting in January, which was held at the Sandcut Volunteer fire Department, our Miss Flame contest was held.

The winner was Tiffany L. Lingenfelter of the Otter Creek Volunteer Fire Department. Tiffany, who is a Junior at North Vigo High School, is the daughter of Gary and Jane Lingenfelter.

The runner up was Ellen May of the Sandford Volunteer Fire Department. Ellen is a Freshman at West Vigo High School and the daughter of Don and Debbie Vermillion.

We held our last district meeting on Sunday, March 17 at the Burnett Fire House. We had a real nice turn out. The ladies served a delicious meal. We thanked them all for hosting the meeting & showing us a nice time.

We talked about some of the bills and also the convention to be held at Merrillville in June. Hope to see some new departments at convention this year.

We also talked about the fire service dinner and the seminars that were held before the dinner.

After our meeting, some of us went up to Lyford, where they had just dedicated their new fire house earlier in the day.

Toddy Michl, our Public Relations man, presented them with a clock from the IVFA.

They have a nice fire house. The members are proud of it and they have a right to be. They did a great job.

We lost one of our firefighters. He was Benjamin Vaira from the New Goshen Volunteer Fire Department. We extend our sympathy to his family, friends, department and community.

There was a Memorial service in the evening at Mattox-Bedino in West Terre Haute. Our Dist. Chaplain Estile Shedler gave a beautiful memorial service.

Our Dist. Chairman Bob Hays and Assistant Chairman Pete Taylor, presented his wife with a Bible, grave marker and a rose.

I'm sure you are all ready for Spring by now. I know I am.

Our next meeting will be held on May 19th at Otter Creek Fire House #1.

Bob Hays, Chairman

DISTRICT 11B

The March meeting was held at Madison Township Fire Department, west of Greencastle.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by District Chairman Larry Bartlow. Prayer was offered by District Chaplain Con Mankin and Pledge of Allegiance by Sergeant-at-Arms Brent Bush.

Guests included Toddy Michl, West Central P.R. and Bob Hays, District 11-A Chairman.

Lunch was served by the host department.

After lunch, we held our business meeting. Roll Call was answered by 16 members from 5 departments. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as was the Treasurer's report.

The Fire Caucus Dinner was discussed. Thought the OSHA Seminar was very informative and eye-opening. Also held some discussion on legislative action that had taken place.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

On March 17, 1996 attended the dedication of the Lyford Volunteer Fire Department's new four bay fire house. Presented the IVFA Dedication Clock to Department President Clayton Potts and Chief David Miller.

Our next meeting is May 8, 1996 at Fairview Volunteer Fire Department at 7:00 p.m. Please note that this is a Wednesday night meeting.

The July meeting is at Lyford Volunteer Fire Department on the 10th at 7:00 p.m. This is also on a Wednesday night.

Our picnic will be September 8, 1996, at Raccoon Lake State

Thanks for EMS service

On February 3, we had the privilege to attend a dinner given in honor of seven members of the Monroeville EMS who have each given 20 years or volunteer service to a much-needed service.

I'm sure our community joins us in expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation to each of the following EMTs:

Max Meyer, Bob Lasch, Dean Rothgeb, Lois Ternet, Barb Bleeke, George Paul Morton and Ross Bowen.

Congratulations to each one of you on your 20-year recognition. Keep up the good work. Our community is grateful to you and to all of the other members of our EMS.

Rose & Jerry Jacobs
Monroeville
Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel

Wind helps spread fires

No one hurt over weekend

Cathy Behrendt
The LaPorte Herald-Argus
Sparks from a train are believed to have set off a fire which burned up to 250 acres of property near the Kingsbury Army Reserve Center Saturday afternoon.

The fire was discovered at about 1 p.m., Kingsford-Union Volunteer Fire Department officials said.

Gusts of wind spread the fire, which burned 200 to 250 acres. Firefighters from Kingsford-Union, Kingsbury, Noble and Pleasant Township departments helped battle the fire.

Several firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation, and one firefighter apparently broke an ankle. No further information on those injured was available today.

Two other weekend fires were reported:

The wind was also apparently responsible for a Range Road barn fire Saturday afternoon, Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department said.

Michael Arvay, 5382 N. Range Road, was apparently burning brush on his property at 6850 N. Range Road. At 2:15 p.m., the wind spread the fire to the barn.

A small charcoal grill caused a fire Sunday at 5:21 p.m. at 649 Holton Road, Center Township Volunteer Fire Department officials said.

The renter of a third-floor apartment, Dan Buck, apparent-

ly used the grill at noon and left it on the apartment deck.

The fire was contained to the third-floor apartment, with two other apartments sustaining smoke and water damage.

The apartment house is owned by Greg Ake; damage was estimated at \$15,000 to the structure and \$10,000 to contents.

Firefighters from Coolspring, Scipio and LaPorte Fire Departments assisted Center Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Assistant Chaplain



Duane D. Lantz

Scripture-Matthew 28 Verse 20

Jesus said to His Disciples, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Well, here we go again, spitting snow outside, but spring is just around the corner. In summer when the windows are open, moths, butterflies and wasps often fly in. Many are unable to find the way out again, and land on the window ledge.

When I see the moths and butterflies alive and trying to escape, I catch them in my hand as gently as possible. (I don't attempt this with the wasps!!) and release them through the open window to freedom. But, frightened, they try frantically to avoid my grasp as I reach out to help them.

I feel this may be a parable of how many people resist God. We fear that God may change our lives and prevent us from enjoying ourselves, when actually the opposite is true. God loves us and wants to set us free to enjoy life in all its fullness, just as I seek to free the moths and butterflies into the garden where they belong.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

My 80th Birthday was April 2, and my wife and children gave me a real party. The children all wrote a special letter to me, and they put it in book form. It will always be a special keepsake and I will treasure it. I want to thank those who attended from the IVFA. It was hard to send invitations to all. I guess we should have put a notice in the paper.

I was really touched by all who were there, and all of the thought and effort that was put into making it such a special day for me. One of my daughters even arranged a special horse and buggy ride for me, as she knows how crazy I always was about horses. I even got to drive the team.

Prayer

Grant us the ability to witness to others in a way which will show them that loving and obeying You brings joy and peace and life abundant. Amen

Since it has been my lot to find,

At every parting of the road,
The helping hand of comrade kind,

To help me with the load.
And since I have no gold to give,

And love alone must make amends,

My humble prayer is, while I live,
God make me worthy of my friends.

This Sunday, go to the church of your choice. You'll like it.

YOU CAN SEND ARTICLES DIRECTLY TO THE IVFA NEWSPAPER

Our Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 437
Crown Point, IN 46307

Our Shipping Address:
1027 E. Summit Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Our Phone:
(219) 663-0722

Our Fax:
(219) 663-6860

Deadline for the August Issue is July 10, 1996.

Please get all your information to us on or before the deadline. Thank you.

Robert Laney,
Editor

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FERRARA FIRE APPARATUS

CONVENTION EXTRA

SITTER SERVICE AVAILABLE

Not only will we be offering a children's party this year, we have something extra. The Children's Party will be held during the Banquet, as usual, on Friday, June 21, 1996. It will last from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

In addition, if requested at the registration tables, we will have teenaged (14 years or older, local) girls to babysit afterwards.

They will also be available for Thursday 6:00 pm to 2:00 am for \$20.00 per Room/Family. Friday 10:00 pm to 2:00 am the cost will be \$10.00 per Room/Family.

This will free mothers and fathers to party and relax even if they wish to bring their children. If you feel you may be using this service, please drop a line to the Convention Committee to help us plan how many sitters we need to have on hand.

IVFA Convention '96: P.O. Box 369, Schererville, IN 46375
Shelley Vaught, Convention Committee
Children's Party Chairman

New Regulations State Games Committee

The IVFA Men's and Women's State Games Committee met, recently, and adopted new regulations & guidelines for games during annual convention. The following will be implemented at the next convention.

Women may participate on men's teams as long as they are current members of the IVFAA.

All participants in games must be a member in good standing of the IVFA.

All participants in games must be 18 years of age.

At least one member of each team shall attend the business meeting during convention.

If there are more than 16 teams entered in Waterball, we will have single elimination.

All participants on men's waterball teams must wear standard firemen's coat, firemen's boots and firemen's helmet. No alterations to coat or boot's will be allowed. Womens gear per National Rules. Entries should be in hands of games committee no later than June 1. No entries will be accepted after opening joint meeting of convention.

Drawing will be held after joint meeting and will be closed to all but committee members. Team entry fee's will be \$20.00 per team, per contest. Team member's not registered for convention will be required to pay \$15.00 registration fee to participate in games.

Team captains responsible for verification of IVFA membership and convention registration.

Committee members in attendance at meeting Al Mendal, Virginia Wilson, Mike Engle, Toni Sorg, Mike Mackin, E.J. Smith.

Convention '96 Bulletin

We need to know how many of you attending the '96 Convention would be interested in a riverboat cruise on Thursday night. If you are interested, please indicate this when you send in your reservations.

Contestant Entry Blank

- Hose Replacing Contest
- Water Ball Contest
- Cart Race

Our fire department will have a team to compete in one or more of the following contests:

**Water Ball, Hose Replacement or Cart Race
Merrillville, Indiana on Sat., June 22, 1996**

An entry fee of \$20.00 in each contest. The \$20.00 entry fee will be kept by the State Association to help defray expenses. Please check in each square the contests entered by your department.

Dept. Name _____

Signed _____

Chief or Secretary

NOTICE

All contest entry blanks should be in June 1, 1996 to be eligible. All departments that plan to enter should fill out entry blanks along with \$10.00 entry fee for each contest entered. Send entries to:

**Al Mendel
6608 E. Country Rd 151 N
Plainfield, IN 46168
317-272-7932**

Please bring your own rain gear for each event. Trophies for Water Ball, Hose Replacement and Cart Race. Safety measures to be enforced at contests. Drawing for position Thursday night, after the opening meeting.

Each participant in the contests must be registered at the Convention. Those coming on Saturday must also register at a fee of \$5.00 in order to participate. All team captains must be sure that team members are IVFA members. Any team not conforming to the rules and regulation shall be disqualified.



**1996 IVFA CONVENTION
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

JUNE 19-22 "50 YEARS OF PRIDE RETURNS HOME"
DISTRICTS 1 & 2

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00/PERSON (Deadline is 6-1-96)

LATE AND ON-SITE REGISTRATION FEE: \$50.00/PERSON

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES - BANQUET TICKET AND DANCE

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
FIRE DEPARTMENT/COMPANY _____
COUNTY _____ TOWNSHIP _____ DISTRICT _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (IF REGISTERING) _____

TYPE OF REGISTRATION:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------|----------------|
| | YOURS | SPOUSE | |
| STATE OFFICER | _____ | _____ | TITLE _____ |
| AUX. OFFICER | _____ | _____ | TITLE _____ |
| DISTRICT CHAIR. | _____ | _____ | DISTRICT _____ |
| DELEGATE | _____ | _____ | |
| IVFA MEMBER | _____ | _____ | |
| IVFA AUX. MEMBER | _____ | _____ | |
| GUEST | _____ | _____ | |

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ FOR _____ REGISTRATIONS

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CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR ACCOUNT WITHIN 30-60 DAYS

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RM. 1 _____ RM.2 _____

KING BED _____ 2 FULL BEDS _____ KING BED _____ 2 FULL BEDS _____

ANTICIPATED DATE OF ARRIVAL _____ TIME _____ AM/PM

ANTICIPATED DATE OF DEPARTURE _____ TIME _____ AM/PM

CHECK IN CANNOT BE ASSURED BEFORE 4 PM - CHECK OUT TIME IS 11 AM

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED BY ENCLOSING THE FIRST NIGHT'S DEPOSIT OR GUARANTEED THROUGH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CREDIT CARDS.

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_____ AMERICAN. EXPRESS

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ PHONE _____

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RETURN ADDRESS: IVFA CONVENTION 96
P.O. BOX 369, SCHERERVILLE, IN 46375
QUESTIONS CALL 219/322-4158 OR 219/736-8825

ATTENTION CAMPERS

CAMP SITE CHARGES WILL BE \$16./NIGHT PLUS TAX. CANDY STRIPE CAMP SITES HAS SECURED A BLOCK OF SITES FOR THE IVFA UNTIL MAY 19, 1996. IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE A SITE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT WITH A CHECK FOR \$16.80 FOR THE FIRST NIGHT BEFORE MAY 19 TO: CONVENTION '96 P.O. BOX 369, SCHERERVILLE, IN 46375

CANDY STRIPE CAMP SITE
CHECK IN 12 NOON

Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Type of unit _____ Length _____ No. of persons in party _____

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1995 - 96

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COMMITTEES FOR 1995 - 96

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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| 1995 MISS FLAME Sara Steckler (D18) | | PARLIAMENTARIAN Virginia Wilson (D13) |

IVFAA President



Phyllis Vargo

Dear Members and Friends,
Happy Spring!

It's been a long, cold and snowy winter for most of you, but hope everyone is feeling much better since the days are getting longer and warmer. We have all had more than our fair share of health problems this winter and I hope you are all feeling much better by now.

Convention '96 is a little more than a month away. Hope everyone has their reservations and registrations in by now.

This year's committee has worked very hard to make sure you have a great time. Many special events are planned for you. Please take advantage of as many things as you can while you are in Lake County.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the help you gave me these past two years.

But most of all thanks for all your love and dedication to the fire service.

It's because of you that my term of office as your President has been so enjoyable.

Keep up the good work.
Love to you all.

DISTRICT 11A

District 11A met at Burnet Firehouse on March 17th.

There was a really good turnout and it was a sunny day for a change.

Burnet really went all out to entertain our district. It's been a long time since we have been there. Things were made to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Our meal was so good!! Thanks to all the ladies who helped prepare it.

After the meal, we held our meeting and discussed several issues pertaining to the State Auxiliary. Burnet will be coming back into the Association again, when it's time to pay dues.

After our business meeting, Beverly Taylor, our district Vice-Chairman, gave a demonstration on how to make a rose bud from candy kisses. It was very interesting. Everyone got to make one and take it home. We thank Beverly for showing us how.

At our next meeting, our Miss Flame, Tiffany Linkenfeler, and runner-up, Ellen Taylor, are going to give a demonstration.

We are hoping this will bring more interest to our meetings. If anyone has ideas, we are open to suggestions.

Here is some food for thought: Some kid's idea of a seven course meal is six cookies and a glass of milk!

Please try to attend all your district meetings. You just might be glad you did.
See you next time.
Helen Michl
Chairman

DISTRICT 11B

At the time of this writing, winter just will not give up and go away. It has been a very long winter it seems, but you know before we know it, spring will be here and then not long until Convention.

I hope you have sent in your reservations and registrations. Remember, to take advantage of the lower registration fee, it must be in by June 1, 1996.

We are hoping for a large attendance this year. Merrillville is putting forth a great effort to make the 50th Annual Convention of the IVFA a very special and memorable one.

Another reason to attend is to support your Miss Flame contestants. Let them know you are really behind them and give them your encouragement and support.

At this time of year, fire departments and auxiliaries are busy planning and having fund raisers. It is a very busy time for all. We must remember that as we work and travel to these activities, safety must be in mind. Let's not take risks that will compromise our safety and that of our friends and family.

Please keep in mind that District 11B firemen and auxiliaries meet on the second Sunday of January, March, July, September and November at 1:00 p.m. The May meeting is on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

The September meeting is the annual district picnic. We would sure like the attendance at these meetings to increase. We are open to suggestions as to how this can be accomplished. A good way to advertise your activities and fund raisers is to attend the district meetings. You will be surprised how fast news travels through our fire service family.

Looking forward to seeing our "annual friends" at the Convention.
Eula Bush
Chairman

NVFC Offers Free Materials

The National Volunteer Fire Council offers free legislative information packets regarding FLSA and LOSAP.

The Fair Labor Standards Act is an issue which NVFC has taken the lead in supporting much needed reforms.

The length of Service Award Programs is an incentive to volunteers -- did you know that your award could be taxed before it is vested? A loophole in current IRS codes may allow for the taxing of your award. Read more about the issue in NVFC's LOSAP information packet.

For more information, contact the NVFC National Office at 202-887-5700

IVFAA Chaplain



Joann Hays

*The Lord watches over you
the Lord is your shade at the
right hand;
the sun will not harm you by
day,
nor will the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from
all harm,
He will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over
your coming and going,
both now and forevermore.
Psalm 121: 5-8*

I know you're glad winter has passed and you are looking forward to the warm weather.

It's good to have changes of seasons. It gives us a chance to do many things that we couldn't do otherwise.

Isn't that how it is with God; He gives us a chance.

I pray that we have a good convention, because I know they have worked so hard to make this 50th anniversary of the IVFA a good one.

I pray, also, that all of our volunteer fire departments grow in strength and faith, and that no harm has come to any of them. May they pull together as one family, because you are all the greatest.

Bless each and every one of you.
Love and Prayers

Grants Available

Grants are available for injury prevention programs including programs advocating seatbelt use, providing child-safety seats to the needy, fire prevention initiatives and bike safety education.

Grants typically range from \$500 to \$10,000.

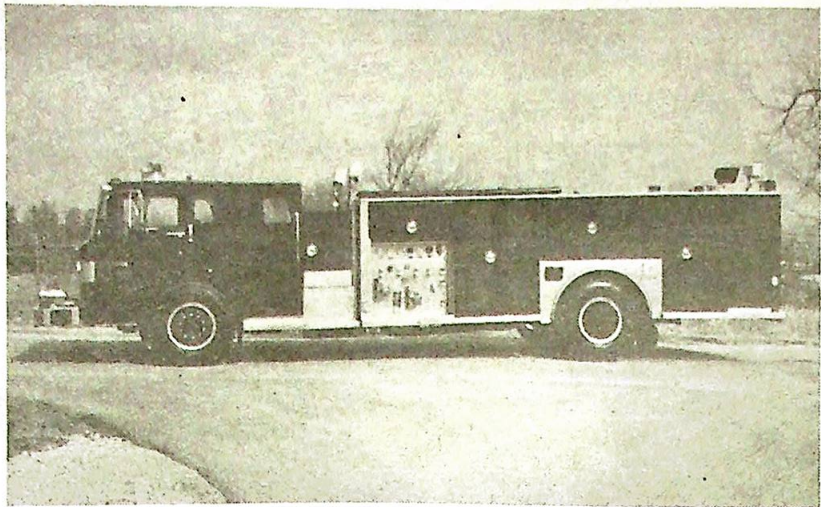
Write to:
The Allstate Foundation
2775 Sanders Road, #F3,
Northbrook, IL 60062
or call (708) 402-5502.



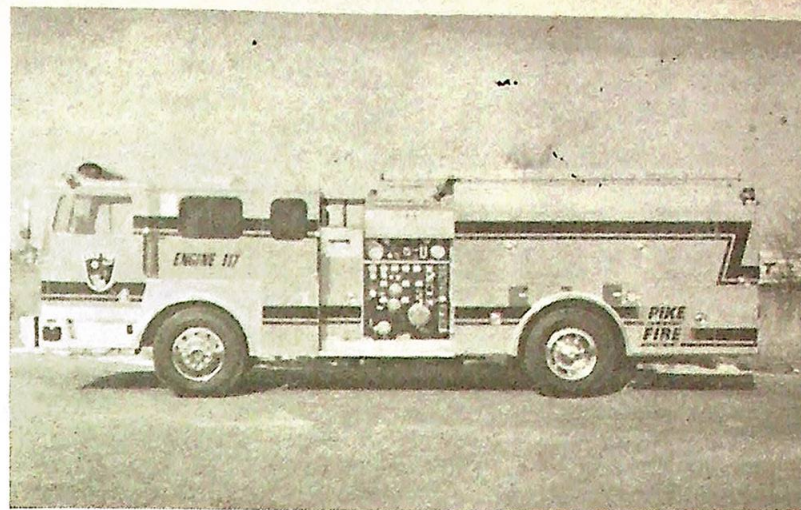
Tom Frederick
50956 Lincolnshire
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Pierce Fire Apparatus
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MIDWEST FIRE & SAFETY EQUIPMENT 1-800-382-9788



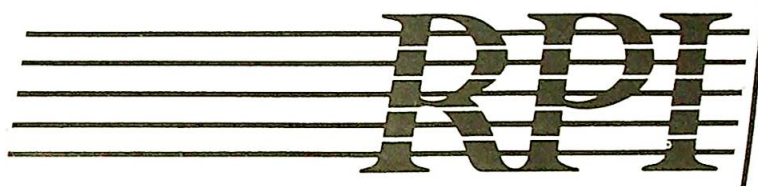
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Thanks to Pike Twp. F. D.

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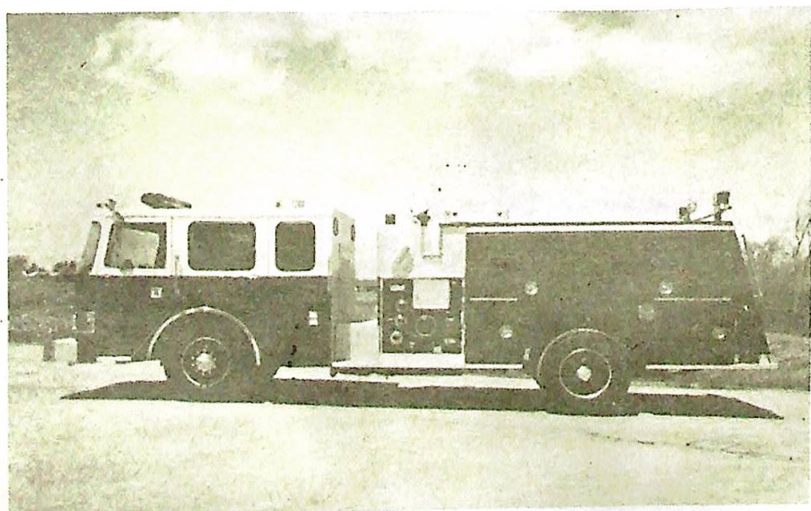
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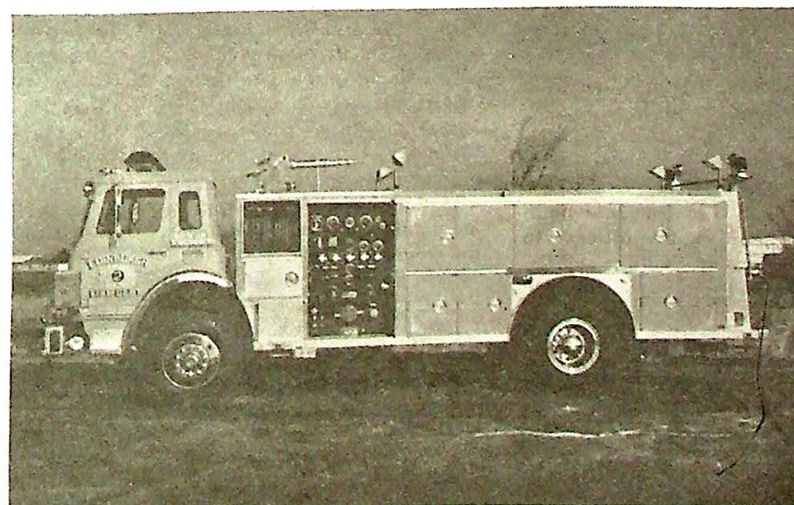
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Thanks to Indianapolis F. D.



Thanks to Edinburgh F. D.

Valparaiso landmark destroyed

Firefighters battle the blazing Lowenstines building for 16 hours.

Friday, February 16, 1996
By Frank Wiget
Staff Writer

Valparaiso - Fire experts say properly functioning sprinklers could have saved the century-old Lowenstines building, which was engulfed by a furious blaze that lit up the night sky for several hours Thursday morning.

Investigators are waiting for hazards to be cleared so they can sift through the charred shell of the historic landmark in downtown Valparaiso, seeking clues to what caused the \$1.5 million disaster.

"The fire could have been accidental or incendiary; we don't know at this point," said Deputy Fire Chief Sam Moser Thursday.

Three Valparaiso firefighters were hurt, none seriously, as they and colleagues from across Porter County joined forces to stop the inferno from spreading to neighboring stores.

City fire crews were still pouring water from pumpers into the three-story building at 63 S. Franklin St., across from the old courthouse, late Thursday afternoon, a full 16 hours after the midnight fire call.

Fire Chief Phil Griffith said if the sprinkler system inside the venerable building had been connected, "we probably would have had the fire under control just after we arrived. That was the first we knew it wasn't working."

Moser said investigators have talked with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms about assisting.

ATF Special Agent Jerry Singer said agents are on standby if Valparaiso police and fire departments need them.

While waiting to properly investigate the cause, city officials fear that neighboring buildings—which escaped the worst of the smoke and flames—may be unsafe.

"It may take a week or longer, but we can't get inside to look for the cause until the walls are down. They could collapse on us," Moser said.

Valparaiso Fire Department Division Chief Lynn Steimel estimated the damage to the brick building at \$1.5 million.

He said the fire was under control within four hours, except for hot spots from falling debris.

Franklin Street, between Lincolnway and Indiana Avenue, would remain closed until the charred walls are torn down, the chief added.

The former Lowenstines store's new owners - Merrillville accountant Thomas Krafft; Dr. Dennis L. Streeter, an osteopathic surgeon with offices in Merrillville and Griffith; and Dr. Angelo Bonaventura, Jr., an obstetrician with an office in Hobart - planned to remodel it for retail offices and apartments.

Moser said if the sprinklers inside had been working he believes the building would still be standing.

Griffith agreed, and said the owners were in violation of state fire code for shutting off the sprinkler system without first notifying the fire department and

obtaining a variance from the Indiana Building and Fire Commission.

He said the system was installed in the 1930s or 1940s. Moser said the sprinklers were working when it was Highland Department Store.

Authorities were alerted at 11:54 p.m. Wednesday. Jim Maryonovich of Valparaiso, co-owner of the Hidden Garden floral shop immediately south of Lowenstines, called 911.

"I didn't see any flames, just smoke, and firemen arrived real quick. We hung around for awhile and thought it was out."

Nick Thurnes, claims manager for the Valparaiso branch office of American States Insurance Company, said Thursday that "insurance coverage is significant," but wouldn't say how much.

"I'm not sure when the building will be taken down; hopefully, we can get started within a few days."

Thurnes said he was working with one of the building's three owners, Tom Krafft; fire officials; and Valparaiso Police Detective Sgt. Ron Kurmis, a fire investigator.

"We need to see some cost figures from a demolitions contractor," Thurnes said. "I'd like to know more about the possible origin of the fire, but with that amount of devastation we may be unable to determine the cause.... No one is pointing any fingers."

The Post-Tribune

French Lick Volunteers Are Getting a Little Help From Their Friends

FRENCH LICK, IN - "When the fire sirens wail, it's sometimes forgotten that the firefighters answering the call are our friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives. These men and women sacrifice many hours per month, not for money or personal fame, but because they want to preserve property and life in our community."

With those words, French Lick's local newspaper, the *Herald*, began the story of volunteer firefighters Mark Parks and James Merritt. What's more, the *Herald* agreed to run features on other members of the French Lick Volunteer Fire Department every other week.

This positive newspaper coverage is just one of many results from a community relations program launched by the department last year.

In early 1995, VFIS, a York, Pennsylvania-based company specializing in insurance programs for volunteer fire departments and other emergency service organizations, observed that the greatest threat to volunteer departments is local residents who don't understand or appreciate the importance of preserving the volunteer system.

And so, VFIS retained a public relations firm to create a program that would help volunteer fire departments persuade their neighbors that maintaining a volunteer department is everyone's responsibility, not just the few men and women who sacrifice so much.

And it's also a good value, compared to what a paid department would cost the community.

In the Spring of 1995, the

French Lick Fire Department was one of eight volunteer departments nationally to be invited to participate in a pilot program.

With guidance from the public relations firm, each participating department:

- Took a hard look at its relationship to the community: who was helping, who was not, what was needed.

- Created a community relations plan focused on a few realistic goals. One of French Lick's goals is to raise enough money to build a new firehouse. Regular, positive publicity is one of the steps in that direction.

- Identify and train members of the department or new volunteers to run the community relations program. French Lick was lucky to find John Aylsworth, a talented retired music teacher from the local school system.

The training includes individual and group training sessions, conference calls and a manual. The manual, which explains key skills needed in a community relations effort, will be one of the key results of the pilot program.

- Implementing the plan. Much the same as the Fire Department of French Lick, the other departments involved in the pilot program are dealing with the news media, making presentations to civic groups and creating special committees of local business leaders to help with fund-raising and other special challenges.

- Finally, participating departments will evaluate their community relations work periodically, to see what is working and what is not.

The pilot program has two strings attached to it.

First, the participating departments have agreed to help shape the pilot program so that it truly serves volunteer departments.

Second, once the program is ready, later this year, each participating department has agreed to help neighboring departments tell their stories. The point, after all, is not to help just eight departments, but to help the volunteer fire service.

Barry Winingier, Chief French Lick Volunteer Fire Department.

Rolling Prairie fire damages house

Cathy Behrendt
The Laporte Herald-Angus

Monday, February 12, 1996
Rolling Prairie - Keen noses helped save a Rolling Prairie family from a fire which severely damaged their home Sunday night.

Jerry and Peggy Rose, 4401 E. CR-700N, were in the bedroom of their two-story house when they smelled smoke at 10:43 p.m., LaPorte County Police said.

Jerry Rose went to find the source of the smell and discovered smoke coming from heating ducts. Smoke alarms in the home began to sound, and Rose evacuated his wife and two children, police said.

Once the family was safely out of the home, Rose went back in to further investigate, police said.

In the basement, he discovered the fire in the ceiling above the furnace, police said.

The home was extensively damaged by the fire, Kankakee Township Volunteer Fire

Department Assistant Chief Dave Surma said this morning.

The fire spread between walls and additions, causing difficulty for those attempting to extinguish it, Surma said.

Kankakee Township and New Carlisle Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the fire and were on the scene until about 3 a.m., Surma said.

The exact cause remained under investigation this morning.

The Rose family is temporarily staying with relatives in LaPorte, Surma said.

Learn Not To Burn a success

Indiana leads the nation in implementing fire prevention program

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES. In the Fall '94 issue of *Our Watch*, we reported on the establishment of the state's Learn Not to Burn (LNTB) pilot program in Clinton County. Just one short year later, due to the efforts of dedicated public safety personnel and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Indiana is now leading the nation in implementing this fire safety program.

A proven fire prevention pro-

gram developed by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) in 1973, Learn Not to Burn uses fun-to-learn educational material to reach youngsters in preschool - 3rd grade. By incorporating its fire safety lessons into the child's daily school curriculum, LNTB equips these kids with life-saving tools to remember and rely on when faced with a potentially harmful fire hazard.

National statistics sparked the flame of concern. In 1993, there were 4,635 fire fatalities in the United States, 63 of them Hoosiers. And, disturbingly, more than half of all fire fatalities are children under the age of 15.

To help prevent further loss of human life, the OSFM introduced LNTB to the state in 1994, and has since experienced phenomenal interest from the community at large.

While the figures have not yet been tabulated, several documented "saves" have already been credited to lessons learned through LNTB.

Just recently, a 9-year-old Indianapolis girl saved her family when fire broke out in their home. The girl, in a subsequent television interview, stated she knew what to do because she had learned it at school.

In another Indianapolis save, a 4-year-old boy who had participated in LNTB just two weeks prior, alerted his teacher to the fact that a girl had matches in her sock.

Continued on page 28

Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Association
50th Anniversary
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IVFAA STATE OFFICERS MEETING

Ramada Inn, Indianapolis
February 4, 1996

President, Phyllis Vargo opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. by welcoming everyone on the C-O-L-D February morning. She also thanked Wanda Johnson for a nice party last evening. It was a lot of fun and an enjoyable evening.

Chaplain, JoAnn Hays read a little story entitled "Divided Generation" and followed with a prayer.

Sgt.-at-Arms, Miriam Schaeckel led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Phyllis then welcomed a very special person from the past who is back as the new District 14 Chairman, Vivian Woodfill. Glad to have her with us!!!

Roll Call was given by Lou Bartlow, in the absence of Faye Salee, Recording Secretary. We had 23 officers and 5 guests present. Sorry Faye couldn't be with us, but her husband became ill on the way and they turned around and went back home. Sure hope Stan is doing better. We missed you, Faye!! Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Lou Bartlow. Barbara Parker made the motion to refrain from reading the district reports and Toni Sorg seconded it. They were approved as read.

Mr. Wilson came into the meeting and presented Phyllis with an 11 X 14 picture of her in the "Boxers", to be put in the office. Nice picture!!!

Treasurer, Dorothy Reiter gave her report. The Treasurer's report was approved to audit.

Dorothy thanked everyone for their cards she received during the death of her mother-in-law. They were greatly appreciated and meant a lot.

Membership - Lou said we have 94 auxiliaries, 1031 members, 48 individuals, with a total of 1079.

Chaplain, JoAnn Hays said she sent 3 Get Well cards and 2 Sympathy cards since the last meeting and had one Memorial in Columbia City, Dist. 6, with the help of Mary Mackin. She said her Bibles were getting low, she just opened the last case of Protestant Bibles.

IVFA President, Dick Glant came to visit - why else than about the hotel. But he suggested to keep errors down, make your reservations with a credit card guarantee and it should help. The next meeting will be the first weekend of May. So, if you have not done so, make your reservations NOW!!!

Auditing - Maxine Davies said all the books have been audited.

Games - Toni Sorg said the Games were discussed at the men's meeting last evening, but that Al did not get back to her, so she thought everything was the same as reported before.

Installation - Barbara Parker had nothing to report.

Financial - Maxine Davies said we are not to the point of making any large expenditures.

Miss Flame - Eula Bush said they are still trying to find a supplier for the ribbons. Ann Moss has talked to someone about silk screen print. They are going to try a couple of other leads and try to get the best price. The deadline for entries is March 10. So get them into Eula!

Doe Doll - Lou Bartlow had the doll with her today. She is very pretty. She has blonde hair and her name is "Bailey". She is 28" long and is valued at \$175. A lady named Virginia Russell from Framersville made her. She is also making the official doll for the Olympics.

Dollie said we have 2500 tickets and Lou said to get busy and sell them. There is no reason we cannot make \$10,000. on this project, when we have 10,000 - 11,000 firemen in this state. They could each purchase one ticket. So, get your tickets and start selling them, NOW!!!

By-Laws - Dollie Komoscar passed out the new copies to everyone and had some to spare if you need them. So far, she has no new By-Laws for Convention.

Jewelry - Mary Mackin said she has the new jewelry with her. It is very nice and colorful. She has sold some today and has some out on consignment.

The other By-Laws committee said they have it about half done, but the weather has not been real cooperative for them to meet. She did need to get the committees to turn a report into her on their duties. The By-Laws themselves will not change, it will just be the workings of the By-Law. They hope to have it done for the May meeting. So send those reports to her.

Bill Bush came into the meeting to have us sign a Get Well card for their Sheriff, who is also the Chief of the Clinton VFD. He was injured when hit by a car, while assisting at an accident. He is in pretty bad shape, with a lot of internal injuries plus broken bones.

Lois Boaz - Miriam Schaeckel said that Marilyn Smith is down with a bad knee. But she said to get your letters in as soon as possible about your favorite lady that you would like to see receive this award. Tell a little about her family, community interests, as well as fire department involvement. Also try to include her jacket size. Deadline is April 1st.

Parliamentarian - Virginia Wilson said there are no problems.

Nominating - Nancy Cushman will take over as chairman and JoAnn Hays will help her. She needed information on holding this position and Lou was trying to give her some pointers. I'm sure she will do well!

OLD BUSINESS:

Barbara Parker explained a little more about the trip to the Music Barn. She said it will take about 4 1/2 - 5 hours in total. She has reservations for 2:00 p.m. It was discussed and decided we would drive 3 or 4 vans and meet in the lobby at 12:30 p.m.

Bill Howe from Convention '96 came in to tell us a little more about how things were going. He made a point to tell us to get our reservations in and also the registrations. They use the money from the registrations to operate on and it is mighty expensive. There are still some rooms available at the Radisson. There will be a pork chop supper on Wednesday evening at Hidden Lake Park. Bus transportation will be provided. There will be beer there also.

There will also be a raffle, first prize being a 3 day & 4 night trip to Las Vegas. Second prize will be a \$500 value and third prize will be a \$250 value. This will be a nice raffle!! Tickets will be out in late April. Saturday there will be a Luncheon for the recipients of the Lois Boaz and Mr. IVFA awards. This will be for all of them and their spouses.

NEW BUSINESS:

All committees that need to have a meeting should plan to do so on

Saturday evening in May. There will not be a planned party for that evening.

At Convention, the Chinese Auction will take place again this year. We had such a great success last year, Barbara Parker decided to do it again, with the help of Vivian Woodfill, Barbara Kerney and Mary Ann Martin. She has 12 items donated. They will be all handmade articles.

Mary Mackin, Jewelry and Lou Bartlow, Doe Doll both need some help at convention. So, if you have a few minutes, please stop by and offer a helping hand. They would sure appreciate it.

We discussed the men's Past President's pin. We need to order some more. Eula made a motion to purchase 3 pins and have the ruby set. Lucy Stofer seconded it. Motion carried. It was then decided to have Toni get a price from Freeman's Jewelers and Eula will get a price form a jeweler and see if they can get a price cut. They will get their prices and call Mary Mackin so she knows what to do.

Maxine Davies made the motion to adjourn and Leona Uryga seconded it.

JoAnn Hays closed with prayer.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Line Officers meeting, May, Saturday evening, Phyllis' room 7:00 p.m.

Miss Flame Committee meeting, May, Saturday evening Eula's room at 8:00.

Pictures for convention book will be take at May meeting, for those who do not have a picture or would like to have a re-take. So come prepared.

District Reports:

District 3

Meeting was held at Lincoln Township Station on January 17. Miss Flame, Brenna Leonard and her mother were introduced. The Miss Flame raffle is going well.

Lincoln Township announced that they will celebrate their 40th Anniversary on Memorial Day weekend with an Open House.

On March 30th there will be a Fish Fry and on February 23rd Michiana Shores will have a Chili Supper.

Next meeting will be March 20 at Noble Township.

District 6:

Meeting was held at Hudson with 11 members for 4 departments.

Money making projects were discussed. An update on convention was given.

A Christmas exchange was held, followed by refreshments.

The January meeting was held at Aboite Twp. with 12 members and 7 guests from 7 departments present.

The convention was discussed. Camping and registration forms were passed out.

The Miss Flame Contest was held with Kristy Meccia from Angola being chosen to represent District 6 at convention. Angela Bennett from Thorncreek Twp. was Runner-up.

Memorial service was conducted for Laura Braddad from Thorncreek Township by JoAnn Hays, State Chaplain, on January 15, in Columbia City.

District 10:

The meeting was held at Clay Township with 7 members representing 4 auxiliaries. We also had 6 guests present.

Miss Flame judging was held with John and Maxine Davies and Linda Cox as judges. Our new Miss Flame is Jennifer Isreal from Burney.

A discussion on money making projects for the year was held. Members voted to donate a gift

for the Chinese Auction at convention.

Next meeting at Clifford Fire Department on February 21, 1996

District 11A:

Meeting was held at Sandcut Firehouse. This was our Miss Flame contest. We had a good turnout this time. After a delicious lunch, we had our final judging. I'm glad I wasn't a judge. Besides being pretty, the girls are bright and intelligent. Tiffany Lingensfelser was crowned Miss flame with Ellen Taylor as Runner-up.

After the crowning, the women held their meeting. We are still trying to find out how we could do things better. I guess they are satisfied with what we are doing.

At our next meeting Beverly Taylor, our Vice Chairman, is going to give a demonstration. We are trying to make our meetings more enjoyable.

District 11B

The January meeting was held at St. Bernice. The business discussed was pretty much around the Miss Flame Dance to be held February 17th. We will raffle a CD Player, a Bond, and a handmade wooden piece.

Our next meeting will be at Roachdale on March 10.

District 12:

Meeting was held at the Steak and Ale on Shadeland Avenue and hosted by Lawrence Auxiliary. There were 13 members and 8 guests present.

By-Law change was read & discussed. Miss Flame contest will be held February 11, at Wayne Headquarters. There will be a pitch-in dinner before the judging. Ham, Bread and Drink will be furnished, everyone bring a covered dish. We will have 3 girls running for the title.

A short convention report was given. After meeting, a Christmas gift exchange was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be held at Decatur Twp. on March 11.

District 19:

Meeting in November was held at Morris Firehouse. Barbara Parker was present to install officers.

A Soup & Salad bar was served. Those present had a great time.

Next meeting will be at Sunman on February 13.

IVFAA Vice President



Lou Bartlow

Hi Everyone,

As I write this, today has been beautiful. Spring surely can't be too far away and I'm sure everyone is ready for it. Really been a long, cold, snowy winter, hasn't it?

We do have our Doe Doll and she is beautiful. She was donated by a lady from Farmersburg, IN. We really appreciate when the doll is donated and we also know there is quite of bit of value on these dolls.

Tickets were given to State Officers at our last meeting, so be sure to see them and purchase your tickets. This is the only money making project that the State Auxiliary does.

I was thinking that with the amount of membership in the state in both organizations, if each person bought one ticket, we would really make a profit. Want to give it a try? Might be interesting!

Seriously, we do need to get these tickets sold. My intentions were to try to get to each district to show the doll, but with Larry and I both working, it is almost impossible for us to make night meetings and still get up for work the next day. Sound familiar?

Want to encourage everyone to go to convention this year. A 50 year anniversary is something to celebrate and that's what we are doing this year. Should be a good time and seeing old friends is always great.

Until that time, take care, be patient and THINK SPRING!

IFSI PICNIC

July 14, 1996

Wayne Twp. Park, Indianapolis

Contests:

Firefighter Challenge • Waterball • Patient Care

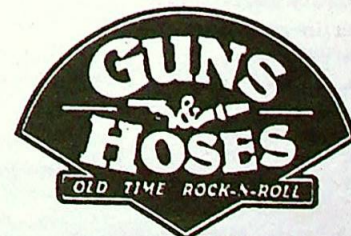
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Fire department Auxiliary recognized by Crown Point Civil Defense



Crown Point Civil Defense Director, Sheryl Laney, along with Civil Defense members present plaque to Crown Point Auxiliary President, Marge Baumgartner and other members of the Crown Point Fire Department Auxiliary

On February 28, 1996 the members of the Crown Point Civil Defense recognized the members of the Crown Point Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for their continued support and assistance at emergency scenes, by awarding them a plaque of appreciation.

The members of the fire department auxiliary have been an asset, not only to members of their own fire department, but also to mutual aid departments and other agencies, such as the local Civil Defense organization during extended times of an emergency.

The main function of the auxiliary is to begin the rehabilitation process by providing food, drink, a place to rest and to give moral support.

The Ladies Auxiliary is able to help with the support of the public through annual fund raising events and from the very gracious support of local businesses that donate the food as needed.

The Crown Point Ladies Auxiliary currently has a membership of sixteen women.

Andrew K. Houk dies at age 81

Thursday evening, February 15, 1996, the door closed for the final time on a life that had begun 81 years and 3 days before, that of Andrew K. Houk.

Born in the farming community of Jamestown, in Boone County, on February 11, 1915, Andy had dreamed in his first few years of becoming a firefighter.

His father was on the local volunteer fire department and as they lived close to downtown, on Main Street, Andy was able to see the fire department in action.

Firefighting in the 1920s and 1930s was a little different than today. In fact about the only two similarities are that they used a fire truck, a Model T Ford back then, and the fact that firefighters still do it because they want to help.

As the Jamestown area was primarily a farming community, combined with the fact that more manpower was needed, high school boys sometimes went to help the firemen, most of the time only to carry water to refill the tank on the truck.

Andy's first firefighting test, he has told, came on March 15, 1931. He was asked if he could put out a roof fire. This was the start of just under 65 years of service to the Jamestown community.

At the January, 1996 meeting of the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department, Andy requested that he be put on inactive status until after March 15, due to health problems.

At that time, Georgia, Andy's wife of 50 years, resigned from the department as a radio operator after nearly 19 years.

On January 14, 1996, an Open House was held for Andy and Georgia at the Jamestown Fire Station.

The town passed a resolution proclaiming Sunday, January 14, 1996, "Andy Houk Day". The proclamation was presented to Andy by Glenda Hieston, President of the Town Council.

The fire department present-

ed him with a plaque recognizing almost 65 years of service.

Andy has assisted in formation of the Center Township Fire Department and the Boone County Ambulance Service.

He became a Jamestown Deputy Marshal about 1948, serving as Marshal when the need arose.

He also was a Reserve Deputy Sheriff since the early 1950s.

In 1958, he was appointed to the position of County Director of the Civil Defense, which has since been changed to Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA).

These positions were still held by Andy at the time of his death.

He had also held various positions in the American Legion. He served with the Navy during World War II.

Andy is survived by his wife Georgia; a son, Andrew Keith Houk, who also served with the Jamestown Fire Department; a daughter, Sherry; and two grandsons.

As it happens so many times, they that have gone before have left us with a foundation on which to build. Now we must carry on with the building.

Larry Hieston, Chief
Jamestown VFD

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS

March 1st again brought the deadline for receiving the Scholarship applications. We received 36 applications this year.

They will be judged at the May Officer's Meeting with the winners announced at the Convention in Merrillville. The awarding of the checks will be done at the convention also.

As in the past, some did not meet the deadline due to late mailings. We do recognize applications sent by certified mail with mailing dates of March 1st or prior even if they are received after the deadline. When mailing your applications at the end of February, do not rely on regular mail service to deliver by the required time.

We also urge you to read the instructions carefully as many applications did not include the school grading information with Sat scores. These are required items and the applications are scored on the information they contain.

Congratulations to the winners for 1996. Now is the time to start on your 1997 applications. If you are not the winner this year, you are encouraged to try again next year.

Lawrence Swartz, Chairman
2665 W. Bunkum Road
Rensselaer, IN 47978
219 866-7769

National Volunteer Fire Council searches for Firefighter of the Year

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) awards those individuals whose outstanding achievements in the fire service and community provide examples of exemplary performance. At the Council's Fall meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, David S. Dwyer of Bethesda, Maryland received this prestigious award.

The NVFC Firefighter of the Year Award is one of only two awards which the Council distributes. Nominated by their peers, the recipients are awarded a plaque and a place in history with the NVFC.

If you are interested in nominating an outstanding firefighter, complete an application using the guidelines listed below. This year's Firefighter of the Year Award will be presented in Kansas City, KS at the Council's meeting which will be held in conjunction with Fire-Rescue International.

Deadline for submissions is June 1. For more information, contact the NVFC at 1-888-ASK-NVFC.

Candidate information should include:

1. Name
2. Address
3. City, State, Zip Code, Phone
4. Fire Service History
 - A. Department, City, State
 - B. Date Joined.
 - C. Elected Positions Held
 - D. Appointed Positions Held
 - E. Other Pertinent Department Information
5. Association History
 - A. State Level Service
 - B. Local/County Level Service
 - C. Other Pertinent Information
6. Family History
 - A. Wife/Husband
 - B. Children
7. Other Service to Community/State Government
 - A. Council/Board/Commissions/Legislative Service
 - B. Religious Positions
8. Past Honorary Awards Received

Send Submissions To:
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1101 Sherman Avenue
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CONVENTION '96

Districts 1 and 2 have been working very hard to make your stay in Merrillville this year a very enjoyable one.

The committees have a schedule that starts Wednesday, June 19, thru the Games and Parade on Saturday, June 22, which will conclude our 50th Anniversary Convention. (see schedule below)

The Convention Committee has again held the cost of registration to \$35 before June 1st, and \$50 thereafter. The hotel cost will be \$71/night with one (1) night deposit either by credit card or check to the Convention Committee.

All reservations must be made through the committee before May 19, 1996.

Rooms that are not reserved by that date will be released to the hotel and the rates will be higher. If you use a credit

card for your registration and hotel, the registration will be charged within 30 days. The hotel charge will not be added to your account until the day you have reserved your room.

The Committee has secured camp sites that are approximately 12 miles from Convention Center. These sites will also be held until May 19.

If you are planning to secure one of these sites, you need to fill out the form (see page 6) and mail it to the Convention Committee along with your check for \$16 which will cover the first night. Please be advised the local taxes will be added when you leave.

The Committee has all necessary forms for registration and to reserve a hotel or campsite in this issue of our paper. (see page 6) We would appreciate it if you used them early to prevent "I FORGOT" and to avoid

the last minute rush.

The Committee has scheduled for Wednesday evening a "Pork Chop" Dinner that will be held at Hidden Lake Park from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be no charge other than convention registration and your early arrival. There will be transportation provided from the Radisson for this event.

The Convention Committee has a couple of tours planned for Thursday, June 20. These tours will be leaving the hotel at 8:30 a.m.

The only requirements for your enjoying these facilities will be a dress code. Everyone is asked to wear long pants and have no open toe shoes. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this request.

Also on Thursday afternoon, the usual "Hot Dog/Beer Bust" will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Radisson, and

after the Opening Meeting there will be a dance.

The Annual Meeting, on Friday, will have a considerable amount of business.

We have scheduled the Men's Meetings from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

If not completed, the meeting will recess for the Memorial Service to be held at the East Lake Baptist Church. Busses will be provided for this event.

The afternoon is open for you to visit the Vender Displays. The Women's Meeting will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and will reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

After the evening Banquet, there will be a dance.

If necessary, the Men's Meeting will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. until all business has been completed.

The Games will start at 9:00 a.m. or 1/2 hour after the meeting is

adjourned.

Since this is our Association's 50th Anniversary, we felt that we should do a little extra for some of the people that walked the extra mile or put in the extra hour for the Association.

We decided to honor the Past Presidents, Mr. IVFA and the Lois Boaz award winners. We will be having a Luncheon in their honor on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Radisson.

Thank you in advance for your help, and we hope that you enjoy the 50th Anniversary Convention in June, 1996.

Your Co-Chairmen,

William H. Howe
Larry Stott
William A. Howe

1996 IVFA CONVENTION SCHEDULE JUNE 19 - 22, 1996 MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

| TIME | EVENT | LOCATION |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH | | |
| NOON to 4:00 PM | REGISTRATION | 2ND FLOOR LOBBY |
| 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM | HOG ROAST | HIDDEN LAKE PARK |
| THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH | | |
| 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM | REGISTRATION | 2ND FLOOR LOBBY |
| 8:00 AM to Noon | MISS FLAME JUDGING | RADISSON |
| 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM | TOURS | T.B.A. |
| 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM | SEMINARS | RADISSON |
| 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM | LUNCH | YOUR CHOICE |
| Noon to 1:00 PM | MISS FLAME LUNCHEON | T.B.A. |
| 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM | FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL & STD | RADISSON |
| 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM | MISS FLAME FINAL JUDGING | RADISSON |
| 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM | WOMEN'S OFFICERS MEETING | RADISSON |
| 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM | MEN'S OFFICERS MEETING | RADISSON |
| 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM | HOT DOG/BEER BUST | CELEBRITY BALLROOM |
| 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM | JOINT OPENING MEETING | RADISSON |
| 9:00 PM to ??? | DANCE | CELEBRITY BALLROOM |
| FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST | | |
| 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM | KOFFEE KLUTCH | RADISSON |
| 7:00 AM to NOON | REGISTRATION | 2ND FLOOR LOBBY |
| 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM | MEN'S MEETING | RADISSON |
| 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM | WOMEN'S MEETING | RADISSON |
| 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM | SHUTTLE BUSES TO CHURCH | PARKING LOT |
| 11:00 AM to Noon | MEMORIAL SERVICE | EAST LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH |
| Noon to 1:30 PM | LUNCH | YOUR CHOICE |
| 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM | DISPLAYS | CELEBRITY BALLROOM AND PARKING LOT |
| 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM | WOMEN'S MEETING | RADISSON |
| 6:30 PM to FINISH | BANQUET | CONVENTION CENTER |
| 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM | KID'S PARTY | RADISSON |
| 9:30 PM to 12:30 AM | DANCE | CONVENTION CENTER |
| SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND | | |
| 8:00 AM to CLOSE | MEN'S MEETING (IF NECESSARY) | RADISSON |
| 9:00 AM to ??? | GAMES | N.E. LOT |
| 8:00 AM to ??? | TRUCK DISPLAY | N.E. LOT |
| 8:00 AM to ??? | VENDORS WHO WISH TO DISPLAY | N.E. LOT |
| 11:30 AM | LOIS BOAZ, MR. IVFA & PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON | RADISSON |
| 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM | PARADE | STARTS AT RADISSON |

1996 IVFA CONVENTION SOUVENIR ORDER FORM

| CONVENTION T-SHIRT (ADULT) | QUANTITY | TOTAL |
|--|------------------|-------|
| Medium | () @ \$10.00 ea | () |
| Large | () @ \$10.00 ea | () |
| X-Large | () @ \$10.00 ea | () |
| XX-Large | () @ \$10.00 ea | () |
| XXX-Large | () @ \$10.00 ea | () |
| CONVENTION T-SHIRT (CHILD) | | |
| Small (6-8) | () @ \$7.00 ea | () |
| Medium (10-12) | () @ \$7.00 ea | () |
| Large (14-16) | () @ \$7.00 ea | () |
| CONVENTION SWEATSHIRT (ADULT) | | |
| Medium | () @ \$20.00 ea | () |
| Large | () @ \$20.00 ea | () |
| X-Large | () @ \$20.00 ea | () |
| XX-Large | () @ \$20.00 ea | () |
| XXX-Large | () @ \$22.00 ea | () |
| CONVENTION HAT (BASEBALL STYLE) | | |
| () @ \$10.00 ea | () | () |
| CONVENTION COFFEE CUP | | |
| () @ \$5.00 ea | () | () |
| CONVENTION GLASS STEIN | | |
| () @ \$8.00 ea | () | () |
| CONVENTION COIN (GOLD PLATED) | | |
| () @ \$20.00 ea | () | () |
| SUB TOTAL..... | () | () |
| SHIPPING (ADD 15% OF SUB TOTAL)..... | () | () |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE..... | () | () |

PLEASE PAY BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD
PLEASE NO CASH
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ADDRESS _____

TYPE: VISA MC AE DC (CIRCLE ONE)

ACCOUNT # _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

MAILING ADDRESS: IVFA CONVENTION '96
P.O. BOX 369
SCHERERVILLE, IN 46375

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 219 662-1977

1996 IVFA PARADE REGISTRATION FORM

JUNE 22

"50 YEARS OF PRIDE RETURNS HOME"

DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 1996

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name _____

Contacts Phone: _____

Contacts Fax Number _____

Number of Units Entering: _____

Line Up Will Start at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Radisson Inn
Merrillville, IN

Please Return Application ASAP

KOUTS FIRE DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 325
Kouts, IN 46347

Questions Call: 219 766-2114 or 766-2427
Fax: 219 766-3333

Blue Lake home destroyed by fire



Photo by Viv Rosswurm

Dryer lint was the reason cited by fire experts for a fire that destroyed the home of Jack Phillips, located on the corner of Blue Lake Road and C.R. 575N, near Blue Lake. Three area townships responded to the blaze which took place Friday morning.

While Blue Lake resident, Sue Holmes, was driving home Friday morning, she saw something that made her heart skip a beat. Black smoke was pouring out of a mobile home on the corner of Blue Lake Road and Rindfusz Road (575N).

Holmes ran to a neighbor's house and together they called 911. She then went back to the burning mobile home because she remembered that the occupant of the home worked third shift and usually slept during the day. Holmes said she was terrified that he might be inside, sleeping.

With the help of a utility gas man, who also stopped when he noticed the smoke, they kicked in the front door and yelled for the

owner, Jack Phillips, but there was no response.

Smith Township Fire Chief Chris Bair was the first to arrive at the scene at approximately 9:50 a.m. The first fire crew did a search and determined that no one was in the home.

According to Bair, the firemen had to "trench" or cut holes in the floors to extinguish the fire from beneath the mobile home.

The cause of the fire was determined to be a dryer.

"The back of the dryer had a lot of lint inside, which caused the fire," said Bair. "The dryer was vented underneath the home, which allowed the fire to be blown under the home."

The homeowners said they had, earlier, turned on the dryer

and smelled smoke, but investigated and found nothing. They later left the home with the dryer running.

The Allen County F.A.S.T. (Fire Arson Strike Task Force) was called to the scene to determine the cause of the fire.

Beside Smith Township, other firefighters who responded to the fire were Thorncreek Township and Washington Township from Allen County.

A Smith Township firefighter, Wade Bogard, was treated at the scene by Medic 21 for smoke inhalation.

Churubusco News

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- SEP** Managing Water Supply and Delivery®
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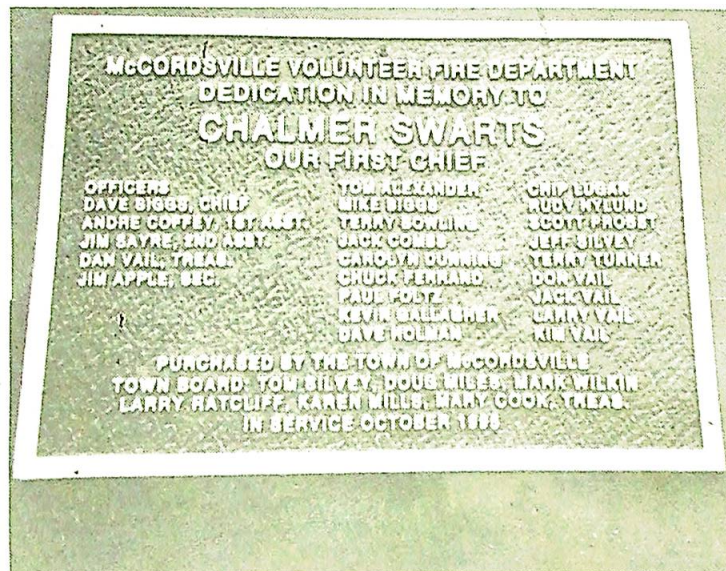
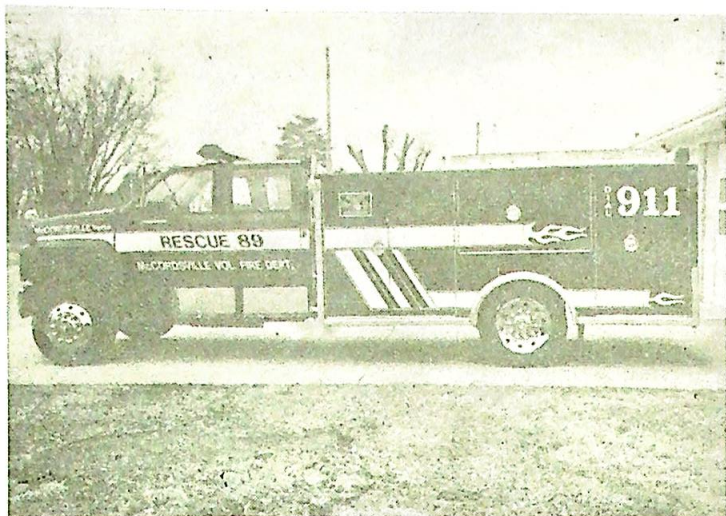
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McCordsville VFD dedicate new rescue truck



On February 18, 1996, McCordsville Volunteer Fire Department dedicated their new Rescue Truck. The newest piece of equipment was dedicated in the memory of Chalmer Swarts, who was a charter member of the department and the first fire chief.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Paula Mayberry. Chaplain Charles Baker of the IVFA, gave his greetings. Friends and family then shared their memories of Chalmer Swarts.

The fire department was started in Chalmer's garage when the department was first organized.

Memories were of Chalmer working hard for the department and how he was always ready to help when the community needed him.

Chalmer's wife, Mary Ruth, introduced family members and long

time friends and shared her memories of the early days of the department.

All present joined together to dedicate the Rescue Truck in memory of Chalmer whose dedication to the community was an example for all.

Chaplain Baker offered the Prayer of Dedication. The Benediction was given by Rev. Carl Cloud.

Refreshments were served afterwards.

Cat blinded by blaze

New York (AP) - In a motherly show of courage, a cat raced into a burning building to rescue her five kittens, one by one.

And then with her eyes blistered shut and her paws burned, she made a head count of her young ones, touching each one with her nose to make sure they were all safe.

The heroics of the cat nicknamed Scarlet have turned the once-homeless feline and her brood into the most coveted kitties in an animal shelter. While they recovered from their wounds Sunday, more than 700 people have called seeking to adopt them.

"We're still accepting inquiries," said Marilyn DeToro, an employee at the North Shore Animal League. "Our main concern is getting them the best possible home."

The story of Scarlet, so named for the patches of red that can be seen through her singed fur, began early Friday when firefighter David Giannelli found the feline family during a fire in the borough of Brooklyn.

He found two kittens a few feet from the side of the burning building and three more across the street.

"What she did was she ran in and out of that building five times, got them all out, and then started moving them one by one across the street," said Giannelli, who took the animals to the shelter.

Veterinarians say Scarlet

opened her eyes slightly Sunday and they believe she will recover her sight.

Her four-week-old kittens were doing well.

"She's a wonderful, gentle animal who did a courageous thing,"

said Marge Stein, the shelter's manager of adoption services. "It shows with all creatures, animals or people, there's no way of measuring a mother's love."

Reprinted from The LaPorte Herald-Argus

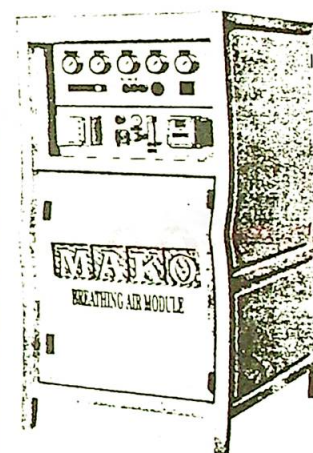
LOGO COMMITTEE

The following districts have been appointed to the Logo Committee.

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| District 2 | 1996-1998 | Term Expires Jan. 1, 1999 |
| District 6 | 1996-1998 | Term Expires Jan. 1, 1999 |
| District 18 | 1996-1998 | Term Expires Jan. 1, 1999 |
| District 21 | 1996-1997 | Term Expires Jan. 1, 1998 |
| District 13A | 1996-1997 | Term Expires Jan. 1, 1998 |

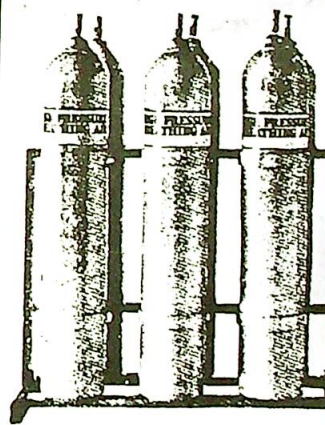
Anyone interested in using the IVFA Logo should contact one of the above District Chairmen for information.

PROFESSIONAL BREATHING AIR SYSTEMS



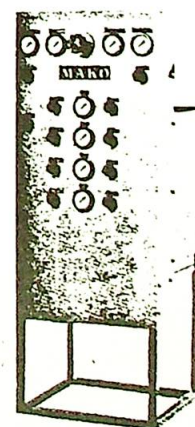
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Porter VFD's new equipment



New equipment being displayed by firefighters-rescue personnel. Pictured from L-R are David White, Kristen Gengnagel, Lewis T. Craig, Jr., David Sosh, and Tim Schweitzer.

Westchester Township Trustee recently purchased new rescue equipment for the Town of Porter Volunteer Fire Department. The new equipment will replace outdated Hurst equipment, purchased some time ago. New equipment was needed since the department does serve some of the most active highways in the state of Indiana, such as Interstate 94.

Lewis T. Craig, Sr. Porter VFD Chief

I.V.F.A. OFFICER NOMINATION SLATE FOR 97-98

PRESIDENT:
JACK ZEEKS

VICE PRESIDENT:
JACK COX
JOHN DAVIES
LEMOYNE (BUZ) KOEHLER

SECRETARY:
THOMAS HINKLE

TREASURER:
WILLIAM KINSEY

SERGEANT AT ARMS:
BILL BUSH

CHAPLAIN:
CHARLES BAKER

PR NORTH WEST:
BILL HOWE, SR.

PR NORTH EAST:
RICHARD GLANT

PR EAST CENTRAL:
DON CUSHMAN
LARRY PETRO

PR WEST CENTRAL:
LARRY BARTLOW
ROBERT MEYERS

PR SOUTH WEST:
JACK KERNEY SR.

PR SOUTH EAST:
JOSEPH A. CAUDILL

Fire Service Symposiums

The Phoenix Fire Department has been offering "state-of-the-art" training symposiums since 1988. This year is no exception.

We are very proud to announce our forthcoming fire service symposiums in Phoenix:

* June 23-26 - 9th Annual Health, Fitness & Safety Symposium, Arizona Biltmore Resort.

* September 8-10 - 6th Annual Incident Management System Symposium, Arizona Biltmore Resort.

* January 12, 1997 - 3rd Annual Change in the Fire Service Symposium, Ritz Carlton Hotel

Traits of Effective Chief Officers

* A willingness to make mistakes and take criticism

* A sense of responsibility that goes beyond the job, such as giving time to associations, students and small businesses

* Good listening skills

* Good networking skills

* Diverse reading interests

* Curiosity

* A sense of humor

* A positive, optimistic outlook

* The ability to stay focused on goals, priorities and plans

* A good work ethic

* Strong professional ethics

* Technical expertise

* Interest in business and management

* Computer literacy

* A desire to get things done

Reprinted from the IAFC Volunteer Section NEWS newsletter, Jan/Feb. '96 issue.

NVFC Submits RCFP Testimony

The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee recently held hearings to determine the 1997 funding levels for several federal programs. Among these programs was the Rural Community Fire Protection Program (RCFP). The National Volunteer Fire Council submitted testimony in support of this program that is vital to the health and safety of America's rural communities and forests.

NVFC encourages members of the volunteer fire service to contact their Congressmen and inform them of the importance of this program. Investment in the protection of the nation's rural communities and forests is critical. Providing essential emergency services enhances opportunities for rural economic development and healthy, productive forests so that a wide-range of goods and services can be realized. Uncontrolled fire poses one of the greatest threats to rural citizens and to their property.

As more Americans build homes and businesses in traditionally rural areas, fires become more dangerous and costly. Marshaling the resources to deal with this challenge in a socially acceptable manner is critical. The situation is critical because-

• People who live in communities of less than 2,500 people are almost twice as likely to die in a fire as are people living in larger communities;

• More than 50% of the Nation's population lives in communities outside of urban centers, many of whom rely upon rural volunteer fire departments staffed by highly motivated volunteers that have minimal training and only a few pieces of aging

equipment;

• Compared to urban residents, rural residents suffer more than twice the property loss from fire each year.

• Due to a lack of social and economic support, the volunteer fire service in America is decreasing at the alarming rate of 2% to 3% per year facing the taxpayer with a potential \$36.8 billion annual bill for paid fire protection.

The NVFC has been working on this issue for many years, only to see Congress slash its funding by 42% in 1996. The program had been funded at \$3.4 million since 1975, in 1996 only \$2 million was appropriated to fund a program that receives an average of \$24 million in requests annually.

This is not the time to cut back on this program, in light of recent fires in New York, California and Texas. Furthermore, Federal fire-fighting agencies have recently adopted a new policy that envisions a significantly reduced role for their firefighting forces in the area where wildlands and developed lands meet.

This means local fire departments will have to do more fire-fighting in this wildland urban interface area. It is imperative that the Federal government help defray some of the expenses that will be necessary as localities move to fill the role that Federal firefighters have played over the past decades.

The NVFC supports restoring the funding for this important program to its historic level of \$3.4 million in FY 1997. Congress and the Administration must recognize the integral part this program plays in the effort to protect our nation from the devastating effects of fire.

Watch for an action alert outlining who to contact and how.

For more information contact Bruce Beardmore at 1-888-ASK-NVFC.

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BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45434

New rescue truck for Prairieton



We took delivery of our new Rescue Truck in October of 1995.

We started in 1993 by looking at different department's trucks and what was available from different manufacturers at that time. We considered the equipment we already had and what we thought

we might need in the future.

Then after two years of searching, we decided on a basic design, got approval from our fire district to purchase the new truck, secured financing and ordered the truck.

The day the order went to the first company, it went bankrupt.

So the search was on again to find another truck builder that would use 3/16" aluminum throughout the construction of the truck.

Sycamore Fire & Safety finally found Southern Coach in Ocala, Florida.

The chassis was purchased from D.C. Marshal in Sullivan, Indiana and they delivered it to Southern Coach, who took approximately one month to build the truck.

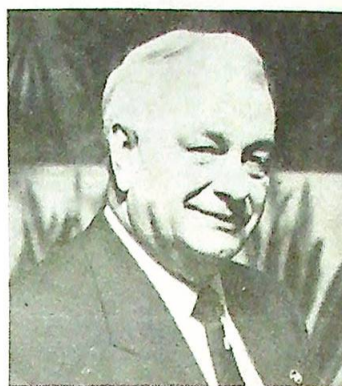
We went to Florida, picked up the truck and drove it back to Prairieton. About two weeks later, we put the truck into service, replacing a 1972 Ford truck that was originally used by P.S.I. Energy and then by Honey Creek Fire Department, who sold it to us for one dollar when we were just starting to make EMS runs.

The chassis is powered by a Cummins diesel engine and has an automatic transmission, which makes it much easier to operate.

We are very proud of the addition to our department and look forward to the good service it will give us in the years to come.

Monte Hunt
Fire Chief

Public Relations Northeast



Bill Kinsey

Welcome to Doug Baker, newly appointed Chairman of District 6. Doug has been a member of the LaOtto Volunteer Fire Department for many years, currently serving as President of his department.

He has served as District 6 secretary and is well qualified to bring new life into District 6. Doug's telephone number is (219) 357-6814.

On a sad note, Max Poling, a member of Adams Township Fire

Department for over 30 years passed away. Max was a former Recording Secretary of the IVFA and District 6 Chairman and Chaplain. Max was an asset to his department and the IVFA. He will be missed.

Look elsewhere in this issue of the paper for an article by Bill Nicholson, General Counsel for SEMA/DFBS regarding emergency vehicle safety. (see page 17)

The public is certainly watching the activities of the emergency service and we need to remember what we do in non-emergency situations are as visible to the public as our emergency activities.

We are looked at as the examples of safe conduct and when we do something stupid, we set the worst example to the public.

VFIS, the insurance company endorsed by the IVFA for Accident & Sickness insurance, has added another benefit to fire departments insured by that company by offering direction and assistance in community relations.

One of three departments initially assisted is the French Lick Fire Department. Using the support of French Lick's newspaper, the Herald, the profiles of two local firefighters along with an article reminding their readers that the volunteer firefighters responding to emergencies are our friends and neighbors who sacrifice many hours per month, not for money or personal fame, but because they want to preserve life and property in the community.

Many times volunteer firefighters become so involved in training and responding to emergencies that we forget that not everyone is aware of the sacrifices made by volunteers.

We can be our own worst enemies by not telling our story. Getting our message to the public can be a valuable tool in obtaining the needed community and financial support.

Chief Barry Wininger and his department's new community relations team are presenting a positive image to their community. The Herald has agreed to publish profiles of other members of the fire department every other week.

Most of us want our children to become firefighters when they grow up and a good public relations program presents a positive picture to young and old alike.

We need to tell our story if we expect to recruit and retain members. Think about it and then do something about it.

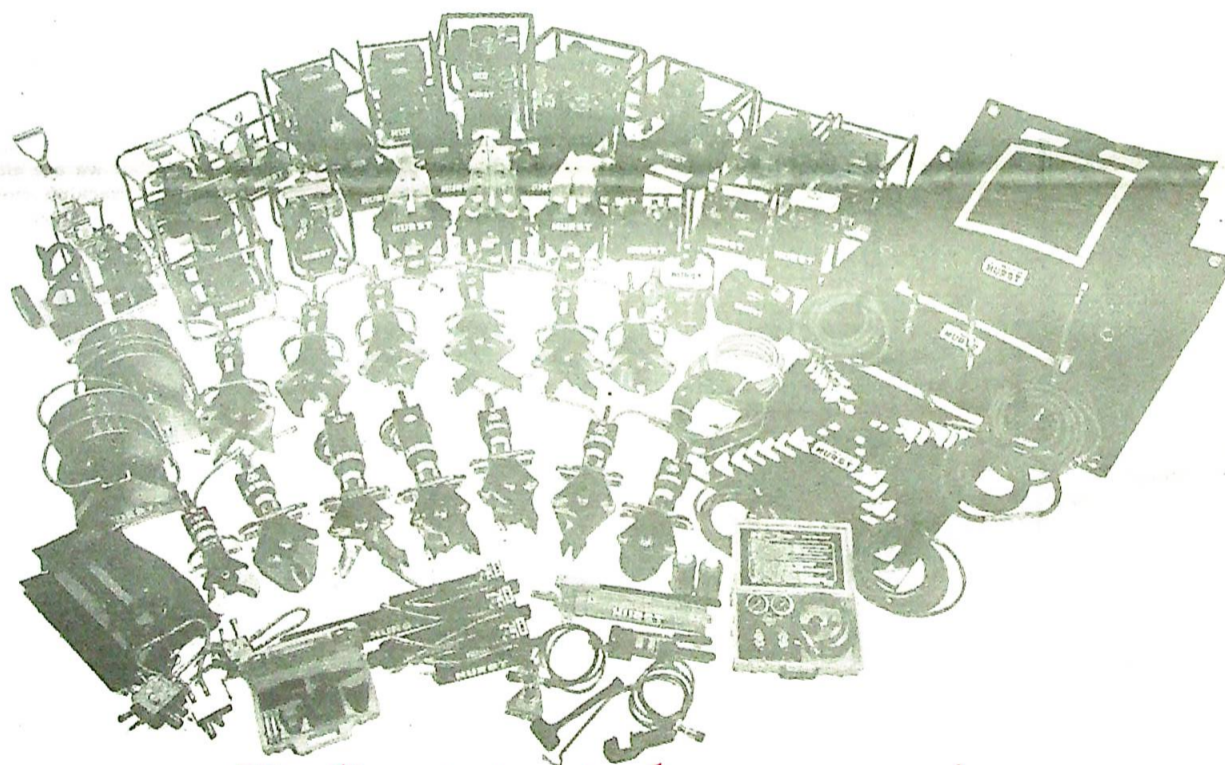
The National Volunteer Fire Council offers training grants from \$1,000 - \$2,500 to county, local and regional fire schools. For application criteria for NVFC Foundation Training grants, contact the NVFC National Office at (202) 887-5700. (see page 26)

The IVFA annual convention is coming and particularly this year, every volunteer fire department in Indiana should be well represented.

This year is a milestone in our history. Be a part of it.

This is not just our annual meeting, it is an opportunity to meet with firefighters from all over the State of Indiana and discuss issues. You can expect to have a good time!

Rescue Line.



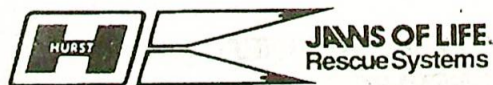
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The Whole World is Watching

by Bill Nickolson, general counsel for SEMA/DFBS. This column examines legal issues important to the building services, fire protection services, emergency medical services and emergency management communities. Its goals are to aid in understanding legal duties and to help solve legal problems before they arise. It is for your information only and does not constitute legal advice.

A few weeks ago, I witnessed a frightening, disturbing sight which made me furious. On that day, I drove up to a railroad crossing. Despite the closed barriers and flashing lights, an ambulance maneuvered around the closed bars and across the double railroad tracks.

The emergency vehicle was not running with lights and sirens. The train's slowly traveling engines were only 50 yards from the crossing.

This sight frightened me because, even though the ambulance wasn't hit, the next time the crew and their patient might not be so lucky.

I was disturbed because this reckless action by the ambulance's crew was clearly a serious violation of traffic laws which apply to all emergency vehicles, as well as the rules of the Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC) which apply to ambulances.

Finally, I was infuriated both because the crew should have known better and because their action gave a black eye to every law-abiding member of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) community.

I copied down the EMSC certification number and followed up on this incident by talking with the managing director of the service involved.

We talked about the provider's driving protocols and other steps the provider has in place to ensure that such violations do not occur. He assured me that the service has strong protocols in place, including coming to a full stop at every red light or stop sign as well as fully obeying any railroad crossing sign, even when running with red lights and sirens.

Other steps the service has in place include paying drivers who graduate from the EMSC's driver certification program an extra dollar per hour and disciplining drivers who disobey the service's rules.

The provider's director was concerned that I might file a complaint with the EMSC, which would result in unfavorable publicity and could lead to suspension, revocation or termination of the provider's certification.

In the provider's favor was the fact that they have a good history and preventative measures in place.

Since this incident was an apparent aberration, I did not file a complaint against the provider. I did remind the director, however, that all members of the EMS community have the duty to report violations of statute or EMS staff. A decision on what action to take, if any, regarding the crew is pending.

The director's final statements stuck in my mind, and every member of the public safety community, individual or provider, should remember them every time a run goes out.

He said, "We do everything we can to keep our drivers safe, but in the end it depends on the individual being responsible enough to obey the rules set down to control his or her actions. Whenever the public sees an ambulance crew behaving unsafely, all of us look bad."

Legally, any person driving an emergency vehicle has the duty to always drive with due regard for all persons using the highway.

The provider has the duty to ensure that its drivers know and adhere to their responsibilities under the law.

Again, all person in the EMS system have the duty to report any violations of the EMSC's rules to EMS staff. The telephone number is (317) 232-3983.

Never forget: The whole world is watching.

Reprinted from Our Watch, Legal Beat

MARSHAL'S MEMO

February, 1996

The new fire code was adopted by the Commission on Tuesday, February 6, 1996, so you should have it to work with by around May. We also will be providing some education updates on the new fire code in the near future. One new feature

to remember about this code is that the Indiana amendments will be integrated into the code itself, no more pink or yellow pages, Hallelujah! Also, some time this fall, the new codes, fire and building, will be available on CD-ROM for you computer geeks, pretty cool, huh?

Speaking of computers, we're on the "Net" now. You can get information on a wide variety of State agencies, ours included, on Access Indiana on the Internet, so if you're out there surfen', check us out.

I need to clarify something for you concerning the amended "spiller pays" statute. You need to be aware that the only vehicle fires that are now covered under the statute are those that are a "chemical or hazardous material related fire." The copy of the statute that is attached to the notice of "spiller pays" charges contain the new language in the first sentence.

And finally, an update on the legislature. The bills have passed from the 1st House to the 2nd House and things are moving very quickly. I anticipate the session will end about March 8.

A few bills that might be of interest to you are:

B 1236 - Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education variances and continuing education requirements. Provides authority for the Board to grant variances to its rules, and require continuing education as a condition to renewal of certification for all levels of "instructor" certification. It passed the House 3rd reading 99-0 on Jan. 29, 1996, and was assigned to Public Policy in the Senate. It passed out of the Senate Committee 6-1 and is up for 2nd reading on Mon., Feb 12, 1996.

HB 1175 - Fireworks regulation. Establishes 2 "shooting seasons" (6/15-7/10; 12/15-1/2) during which almost every kind of firework can be used. Permits the sale of formerly prohibited fireworks to consumers by wholesalers who will be able to act as retailers of fireworks not approved for sale at a retail

stand. These retailers, operating out of permanent structures, will not be required to obtain any kind of permit from OSFN. Fireworks not approved for sale at a retail sales stand may not be purchased by anyone under 18 years of age, and there is only a penalty against the purchaser, not the seller, for violations of this provision.

This bill passed the House on 3rd reading on February 1, 1996 by a vote of 55-43. It has been assigned to Public Policy in the Senate.

HB 1196 & SB 305 - These bills both deal with residency requirements for Police and Firefighters and also have language in them that allows residence in contiguous counties. Both of these bills have passed 3rd reading and are proceeding in the 2nd house.

SB 45 - Safety regulations affecting exit doors in public buildings. Amends the existing "Fire Safety in Public Buildings" statute to allow exit door locking systems for use in non-emergency situations, so long as the systems comply with the rules of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission. Allows hospitals and nursing homes to use exit locking devices that comply with NFPA 101 as used for federal Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement certification purposes.

This bill passed 3rd reading 48-0, has been assigned to Public Safety in the House and is going to be heard in committee on Monday, February 12, 1996.

SB 176 - Revised "Good Samaritan" Law. Amends the "Good Samaritan" law to cover accidents as well as emergencies.

This bill passed the Senate 49-0 on 3rd reading. It was assigned to Judiciary in the House & is now on 3rd reading.

These are just a very few of the bills that we are either supporting or tracking closely, but space does not permit us to go into too much detail.

Be careful out there, and remember there's no such thing as a "routine house fire."

M. Tracy Boatwright

Rate Schedule For Indiana Volunteer Fireman

Effective: January 1, 1994

The Paper is of tabloid size, Publisher & Editor Robert Laney, P.O. Box 437, Crown Point, IN 46307.

Quarterly Issues are printed for February, May, August, November, ALL copy MUST be in the hands of Lawrence Swartz or the publisher Mr. Laney by the 10th of the month preceding the month of issue.

Rate Schedule Per Single Issue

\$7.50 per column inch for one color - either all red or all black. \$8.40 per column inch for two color - red and black.

EXAMPLE: Your ad is two columns wide and two inches high = 4 column inches, 4 times above rate schedule will give the amount of the ad cost.

Full page ad consists of 80 column inches. Single issue billing would be 80 X Rate

Rate Schedule For Four Consecutive Issues

\$6.00 per column inch for one color - either all red or all black. \$6.90 per column inch for two color - red and black.

EXAMPLE: Your ad is three columns wide and eight inches high = 24 column inches, 24 times the above rate schedule will give the amount of ad cost.

Full page ad consists of 80 column inches. 4 issue billing would be 80 X Rate

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\$6.90 for pictures up to three by five - \$9.00 for larger ones. If ad is run more than one time consecutively, only one charge applies.

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\$6.25 per ad for 25 words or less, over 25 words will be charged at the column rate. The above word limit includes name and address of advertiser.

Member Departments of the Association are allowed one (1) free ad for one item only of 50 words or less per issue. Overages will be billed at the current rate charges.

Terms

New advertisers will be required to submit payment with ad copy. Advertisers MUST have their account paid prior to the next issue of the paper or their ad will be deleted until payment is received, unless prior arrangements are made.

All checks are to be made payable to INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

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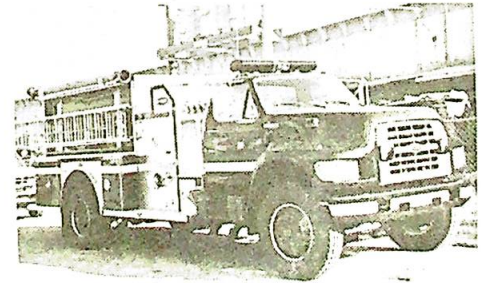
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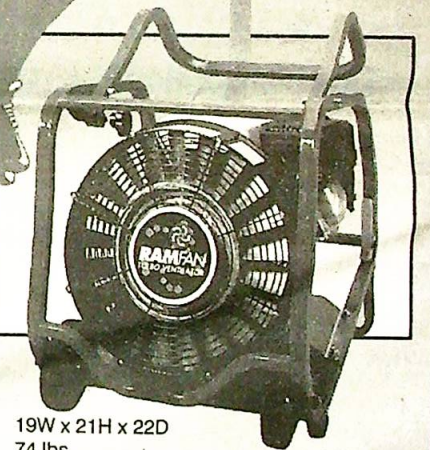
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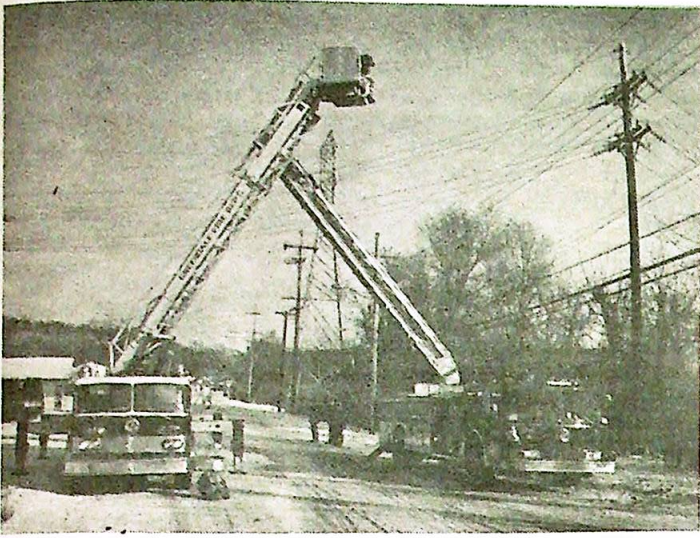
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Firefighters pay respect to former chief



Staff (Abner) photo

Firefighters ready the aerial ladder "arch" that Carroll "Dusty" Miller's funeral procession drove under on Ridge Avenue in Greendale, Wednesday morning, January 3, 1996, on its way to Greendale Cemetery. Firemen from four local departments paid tribute to Miller, who was Greendale's fire chief 13 years, 1964 to 1977.

Four Dearborn County fire departments sent Carroll "Dusty" Miller to his final resting place with all the dignity a former fire chief deserves.

Miller, 83, who was chief of the Greendale Fire Department for 13 years, 1964 to 1977, died at his Greendale home Sunday, December 31.

Funeral services for Miller, who joined the fire department in August 1951, were held January 2, 1996 at Fitch-Denney Funeral Home in Greendale.

Despite snow-covered streets and wind chills pushing temperatures into single digits

Wednesday morning, eight fire trucks from Greendale, Lawrenceburg, Aurora, and Miller-York Fire Departments joined the funeral procession.

Two fire engines, one with a wreath and black flags attached to the grill, led the procession the several blocks from the funeral home to the Greendale Cemetery.

Near the Ridge Avenue entrance to the cemetery, the Greendale and Lawrenceburg aerial trucks parked on either side of the street with their ladders forming an "arch." The funeral procession drove under

the arch and into the cemetery where Miller was laid to rest about 11:00 a.m.

Retired Greendale firefighter Bill Kerr, who was Greendale Fire Department President for 23 years, served with Miller on the department and remembered him as a great person and firefighter.

"He was a very efficient fire chief. He was tops, as far as a chief goes," said a somber Kerr Tuesday afternoon.

Miller designed the ladder on Greendale's aerial truck and the company which made the fire engine built the ladder to his specifications, said Kerr.

He said Miller at one time or another held about every post the fire department had to offer, including vice president, lieutenant, captain and assistant chief.

Family and friends also remembered Miller as a quality auto mechanic. He was "one of the best around here," said Kerr.

Miller worked for a time at the former Ward Brothers' Garage in Aurora. He also worked at Robinson & Sons Trucking, 6000 Schenley Place, Greendale, said his daughter Carol Robinson.

Miller, a Dearborn County native, is survived by his daughter; his wife Shirley; a brother, Donald Miller, Aurora; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Greendale Fire Department. Dearborn County Register

Basement Fire Destroys Home

Woman and grandkids unhurt

By Aubrey Woods
Tribune Senior Writer
Wednesday, March 6, 1996

A rural Freetown couple lost what they called their dream home to a fire that caused an estimated \$338,000 in damages on Tuesday.

"We'd always wanted this house and were able to buy it six years ago," Mona Black said from the front yard of her home as it burned Tuesday afternoon.

She watched with family and friends, as firefighters from five departments scurried about the lawn, laying hoses, transferring water from tanker trucks to a holding tank and spraying back the flames.

Black, 38, said she was home watching two grandchildren at the time the fire started.

An explosion in the basement alerted her to the fire.

"I opened the basement door and smoke came pouring out," Black said.

"I called 911 immediately."

Black and the two grandchildren, Ariana York, 4, and Patrick O'Conner, 10 months, were able to escape the two-story frame and stone house at 4270 W. 840 N. without injury.

Firefighters from Pershing Township responded to the report at 9:44 a.m. and were

later joined by units from Hamilton, Brownstown and Owen Townships in Jackson County and Southwest Township from Ogilville in Bartholomew County.

Pershing Township remained at the scene until approximately 6:25 p.m. Tuesday.

Black's husband, Ulysses "Butch" Black, is a truck driver and had left for Henderson, KY on Tuesday morning.

Two older children were away at school at the time the fire began.

Several items were pulled from an attached garage, but nothing was saved from the house, Black said.

Pershing Township Fire Chief Richard Blaker said Black planned to stay with relatives in Seymour.

The fire caused an estimated \$250,000 damage to the house and \$88,000 to its contents.

Hamilton Township Fire Chief Donald Schnitker said firefighters attempted to enter the basement early in the call.

"It beat us," Schnitker said. "We tried to put it out in the basement, but when the guys opened it up, the fire came to meet them. We had to pull them out."

Basement fires pose a particular danger, he added.

"There's only one way in and only one way out," Schnitker said.

Firefighters had to haul water to the scene from Freetown. Because of soil conditions, they were unable to get a truck to a nearby pond.

The Tribune, Seymour

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Jack Kerney

Finally, I am back on the same time as the rest of the state. In January, I attended the District 15 meeting at McCutchanville Fire Department, the District 18 meeting at Haysville Fire Department, the District 17-A Sausage Supper and meeting at Vincennes, the New Harmon Fire Department Sausage Supper, and the Fire Caucus Dinner at Indianapolis. My congratulations to Jammie Riley for being selected the District 15 Miss Flame representative. Jammie will represent German Township Fire Department. In February, I attended the IVFA State Meeting and the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis. In March, I attended the dedication of the new fire station at St. Henry, in District 18, the Jasper Fire School, the District 19 meeting at Anderson Township, the District 17-A meeting at Whetland, and the combined convention meeting in Indianapolis. St. Henry's new fire station is a real nice facility and shows what a community and fire department can do together. The

time and effort by all involved shows in this new station. Thanks to John Buckman for coming to Whetland and explaining the IAFC Volunteer Section Organization and its benefits to us as firefighters. I really enjoyed the home-made ice cream and cake the firefighters from Whetland prepared. The Jasper Fire School had good attendance and I enjoyed the Confined Space Rescue Class I attended. The instructors were great. The Vincennes Sausage Supper was well attended and I enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I hope everyone is planning on attending the 1996 Convention. This represents our 50th year, and returns to where it all started. The Convention Committee has gone to great strives to make this a memorable 50th Anniversary. Keep me informed of your dedications, fund raisers, and other department activities. Barb and I will be glad to attend.

Miss Flame Contest

Sixteen young ladies are preparing to participate in the 1996 Miss Flame Contest. Their photographs appear on page 22 of this issue of the paper. The Miss Flame Committee and the Convention Hosts are actively planning to make this a very enjoyable time for them. The contestants and the Committee want to encourage all convention delegates to attend the final judging to be held in the afternoon on Thursday, as well as the crowning of Miss Flame and First Runner-up in the evening at the opening meeting. Eula Bush
Miss Flame Chairman

Coolspring Township V. F. D.

In August of 1955 Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department was established to better serve the community in it's efforts toward fire suppression and protection of property. While still in its infancy the department became an outlet for those who maintained that "living on the edge" mentality and remains so today. Firefighters as we all know are not known for their common sense since the sensible thing to do when a house is on fire is to run out and we run in to face those dangers both known and unknown without regard or even a passing thought for our safety, all of this to protect the life or property of a stranger.

It has been said that some people will do anything for money, but what is the driving force behind a volunteer firefighter? If you ask their spouses, you may hear anything from "adrenalin junkies" to "they're just plain crazy." If you ask a firefighter he will tell you it's a feeling inside he just can't describe and when the fire is out and the smoke has cleared that feeling of pride in a job well done, outweighs the exhaustion and aching muscles that you feel after confronting and conquering the beast. It takes a special man or woman to do this job although you'll never hear one of them admit to that, to a firefighter it's all in a days work. Missed meals, countless hours away from loved ones, birthdays, anniversaries, and family gatherings that go on without you because of a little red pager with

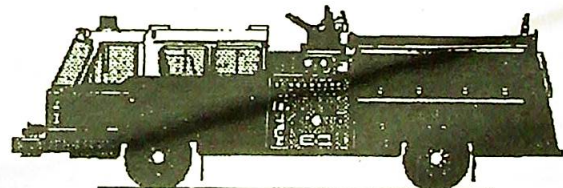


Three generations of Childresses, Tim, David and John.

a piercing tone that springs you to your feet and out the door to face the unknown. In December of 1960, a young fellow named John Childress joined this department. John is a lifetime resident of Coolspring Township, and retired from Joy Manufacturing after 33 years as a crane operator. John now in his 36th year of active service to this department has held the positions of Assistant Chief, Board Member and is a Master Firefighter in 5 categories. John's wife Irene has been an auxiliary member since 1965. John and Irene have 4 children. David Childress decided to follow in his father's footsteps and joined the department in January of 1970. David in his 26th year of active service is a First Class Firefighter, Master Training

Officer, has held office of Assistant Chief, and is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors. David and his wife Charlene are residents of Coolspring Township and have 2 children. Both John and David have given unselfishly of themselves for the betterment of the community as well as the department. In September of 1995, the baton was once again passed to a member of the Childress family. Tim Childress, the son of David and grandson of John joined this department, at age 22 this young man has stepped into boots that will be hard to fill, but knowing the dedication of the 3 generations of Childress men, we can only expect great things to come for this young man. Respectfully submitted,
Deborah M. Checolo
Coolspring Twp. VFD

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IVFA State Officer's Meeting

Feb 3, 1996, Ramada Inn South, Indianapolis

The meeting was called to order by President Glant and the invocation was given by Chaplain Baker. The Pledge to the Flag was led by Vice President Zeeks.

President Glant introduced the guests present.

Jim Bradford from District 1 spoke about the new changes to the rules on the Waterball Contest held at the convention. He had some questions concerning these changes and presented a petition signed by 23 names along with a resolution not to accept the changes as printed. A motion was made by Paul Covington to table this project. Seconded by Frank Daunhauer. The motion carried by a hand vote.

President Glant called for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made by Charles Cline to accept the minutes as printed. Seconded by Don Cushman. Motion carried by a hand vote.

OFFICER'S REPORT

President Glant stated he attended the Caucus Dinner. The winter season has slowed his travel around the state.

Vice President Zeeks said he was trying to get to as many district meetings as possible. He too attended the Caucus Dinner. He requested that all names for the Midwest Award be turned into him as soon as possible.

Assistant Sec Davies said that he had attended six district meetings, the Caucus Dinner and was a judge at Dist. 10's Miss Flame contest.

Chaplain Baker reported the next Fire Services Institute picnic would be held on July 14 at the same location. He solicited help for assistance at the picnic. He thanked Father Lantz for all his assistance.

Sgt-at-Arms Bush spoke on comments he had received about the new downtown office. He is now on his way to recovery following his operation.

Secretary Hinkle gave the new 800 number for the downtown office. It is 1-800-692-9458. He also has a new 800 number in his residence, it is 1-800-465-6050. He reported the transition on the moving the secretary's office to the downtown office was going very smoothly. He also reported the association has 17,250 paid members with 15,176 paid on time. He has issued 11,368 license plate forms and there are 727 departments paid on time.

PUBLIC RELATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NW Howe stated he had made all of the district meetings and the attendance has been good.

NE Kinsey said he had attended the Caucus Dinner and attended the Fire Institute Board meeting. He did not make all of his district meetings during the winter season.

EC Cox reported he had not traveled much due to the weather. WC Michl said he made all of his district meetings and he had his 50th wedding anniversary in January.

SW Kerney reported he had traveled 1017 miles, attended 7 district meetings and attended the Caucus Dinner.

SE Caudill said he made all district meetings and attended the Caucus Dinner and the afternoon seminars.

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN REPORTS

D21 Martin reported 1 death in the district and attended the Caucus Dinner.

D20 Palmiero was absent.

DI9 Covington reported 1 death in the district and attended the Caucus Dinner.

D18 Daunhauer said there had been 2 district meetings since the last officer's meeting.

D17B Kluender stated he attended the Caucus Dinner and the meetings in Odon and Vincennes.

D17A Harker said he attended the Caucus Dinner, had 2 district meetings and the attendance was good and went to the EC Fire School.

D16 Hickman was absent.

D15 Wargel reported he attended the Caucus Dinner. Will have a fire school in Jasper March 10. The district had a Miss Flame contest.

D14 Ehlers said he attended the Caucus Dinner, had 2 deaths in the district and the district held a Miss Flame contest.

D13B Franklin was absent.

D13A Cushman reported 1 death in the district, activity was slow.

D12 Johnson reported 2 deaths in the district, he also attended Toddy's 50th wedding anniversary.

D11B Bartlow reported 1 death in the district and he attended the Caucus Dinner. He also has IVFA memorial flags available with him.

D11A Hays reported holding 2 district meetings and got a new department to join the association.

D10 Israel reported he attended the Caucus Dinner. Attendance at district meetings had been good. Held a District Miss Flame contest.

D9B Koehler reported 4 deaths in the district, missed the Caucus Dinner due to these deaths. Had attended some department meetings.

D9A Cline reported 1 death in his district, attendance at last meeting was good.

D8B Petro reported he went to the Caucus Dinner, held 2 district meetings since our last meeting and attended several dept. meetings.

D8A Fleenor was absent.

D7 Sorg reported 2 deaths in his district. He also attended the caucus dinner and seminars.

D6 Baker reported he had been appointed to fill the vacancy of Straws who had resigned.

D5 Kissinger said the district had held 2 meetings, everything was quiet in the district.

D4 Ferro was absent.

D3 Uryga stated he had been out of the area due to his employment. The district secretary was handling the functions in his absence. Attended the Caucus Dinner and seminars.

D2 Stott reported 2 deaths in the district, attendance at last meeting was good.

DI Howe reported 1 death in the district, he spoke on upcoming fire school in the district. He attended the Caucus Dinner and seminars also the convention & planning meetings.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish stated he had attended the Caucus Dinner & seminars.

Bruns thanked Chaplain Baker for a memorial service held in his area. All other past presidents in attendance passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Editor's Assistant - Howe reported the February's issue of the paper

is at press now. Have no problems. April 10th is the deadline for the next issue of the paper.

Nat'l. Vol. Fire Council - Stofer said he had received a letter stating that the US Tobacco Co has some money forthcoming from them. He stated he sees problems with this grant. The next meeting will be held in April in Austin, Texas. The next convention will be held in Kansas City.

By-Laws - Parker reported that the committee met this morning, reviewed the areas that needed correcting. Operation procedures need to be changed and spelled out.

EMS - Stott reminded everyone that the state will no longer supply EMS report forms.

Membership - Bruns passed.

Bridgeport Scholarship Fund - Stofer reporting for Swartz stated that clarification in the area concerning guidelines of membership records of deceased members whose children are eligible for scholarship funds is needed. A decision is needed from this board on the subject. Bill Kinsey read the current rules. A motion was made by Jack Kerney to follow the rules as printed. Seconded by Bill Kinsey. Motion carried by a hand vote.

Historical - Parish stated the committee met last night and was still working very hard to meet the target date.

Standards & Education - Covington reported the last meeting was held January 22 and he was elected Chairman of the Board. The Governor has a list of proposed board members in his office. Watch for the dates for public hearings to be held. A question and answer session followed his presentation.

At this time, President Glant introduced Tammy Sedwick of the downtown office of the IVFA who spoke on her responsibilities and also gave the office's 800 number. She stated that she had received numerous calls concerning license plate forms. If you desire a form, just call her office 800 number and make your request to her.

President Glant suggested a monthly newsletter to take the place of the current newspaper. He passed out samples of existing newsletters that are printed at the Indianapolis office. A decision is not needed at this time, he asked for those in attendance to just think of the possible replacement idea to the current situation. He stated the association will be looking for a new editor at the end of the year. Following the sample review a question and answer session was held.

Fire Services Institute - Parish spoke on the dinner and proposed combined fire services convention. The possibility of 1000 members combined to attend this proposed convention. Each organization would hold their own business meetings, only opening ceremonies & banquet would be a joint venture. Next meeting will be held March 30.

Convention Committee - Howe stated there are still rooms available. Camping sites are also available. He gave a tentative schedule for the convention. He brought convention items that are for sale with him.

Games - Mendel spoke on the minutes of the recent game committee meeting. President Glant remarked on several questions that had been brought to this meeting on the committee's meeting minutes. Al Mendel explained items of concern and why the increase in fees were justified. A motion was made by Don Johnson to accept the recommendation on the monetary changes by the games committee. Seconded by Jack Harker. The motion carried by a voice vote. A motion was made by Jack Kerney

that we use the international water ball rules except we clarify that the clothing has to be intact and adding an amendment made by Tom Hinkle that a standardized waiver form be used. Seconded by Paul Covington. The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer Stofer gave his year end report for 1995. He then submitted his 1996 budget proposal. A motion was made by Bill Howe, Jr. to accept the recommendation of the treasurer to disburse the authority of check writing of the association. Seconded by Larry Bartlow. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Legislative - Parker read each of the recent House and Senate Bills that have been introduced. Copies of these bills were passed out to those in attendance.

President Glant recessed the meeting at 9:30 p.m. to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Sunday

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President Glant with the invocation given by Chaplain Baker.

President Glant called on Tim Wargel who spoke on the activities of the I.F.C.

President Glant then called on Buz Koehler who spoke on a new proposed IVFA booklet.

President Glant called on Charlie Baker who spoke on upcoming fire schools that are coming on line for the year. 1-800-235-0282 is the information number for these schools.

President Glant then called on Miriam Schaeckel, the IVFAA Sgt-at-Arms who spoke on the Lois Boaz Award and requested that letters and information on a deserving lady in the state be sent in by April 10th.

President Glant called on Jack Kerney who presented Gene Stofer a check for \$4,000, the amount borrowed to host the 1995 convention. A motion was made by Buz Koehler to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Larry Bartlow. The motion carried by a voice vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parish who called for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made by Jack Cox to suspend with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed. Seconded by Don Cushman. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Chairman Parish called on Treasurer Stofer who spoke on the 1996 budget proposal he has submitted. Chairman Parish at this time tabled the budget and called on Buz Koehler who addressed the board on the booklet which has all sorts of information about the IVFA. He quoted prices per the quantity printed depending on the amount the board approves. A motion was made by Larry Stott to order 5000 booklets with additions. Seconded by Nelson Ehlers. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Chairman Parish stated the next item for discussion was the secretary and treasurer's compensation. Chairman Parish read an amendment presented by Charles Baker to pay the secretary and treasurer's offices ten cents per member compensation effective January 1, 1996. Chairman Parish opened the floor for discussion on items on the proposed budget. A motion by Paul Covington to increase the officer's allowance from \$4000 to \$8000 to cover the secretary and treasurer's allowances and to increase the fire school allowance to \$12,000 with \$10,000 going to the state and \$2000 to the districts for fire schools. Seconded by Perry Martin. The motion carried by a hand vote. A motion by Nelson Ehlers to approve the budget as amended. Seconded by

Bill Howe, Jr. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Chairman Parish called on Ivan Nevil who spoke on the current activities of his office in the Fire Marshal's office. FDIC expo in Indianapolis, mentioned that Paul Covington was elected Chairman of the Board for the Standards & Education Commission. He also stated that all former PSTI personnel were gone, however, the training is still functioning as in the past. He also stated that June 29 & 30 are the dates for the Indiana weekend at the academy, information will be in the March mailing. The fire chief's orientation information will be in the next mailing. The next mailing from the Marshal's office will be February 14 or 15.

Chairman Parish read a letter from Lee Kissell to President Glant concerning the association's property still in his home that he would purchase for \$170.00. He also offered a software maintenance agreement to the association for \$600.00. A motion by Bill Howe, Jr. to accept the offer for the used property. Seconded by Jack Cox. The motion carried by a hand vote.

A motion was made by Bob Uryga to allow Tim Downey permission to get rid of the association's copy machine. Seconded by Bill Kinsey. The motion carried by a hand vote.

A motion was made by Bill Howe, Jr. to accept the contract for the software maintenance agreement. Seconded by Bob Uryga. The motion carried by a hand vote.

A motion was made by Larry Petro to accept the telemarketing project as discussed at the last officer's meeting. Seconded by Perry Martin. The roll call was taken by Assistant Secretary John Davies with the vote as follows:

| Dist. | Vote | Dist. | Vote |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1 | Nay | 11B | Nay |
| 2 | Nay | 12 | Nay |
| 3 | Nay | 13A | Nay |
| 4 | Absent | 13B | Absent |
| 5 | Yea | 14 | Nay |
| 6 | Absent | 15 | Nay |
| 7 | Yea | 16 | Absent |
| 8A | Absent | 17A | Yea |
| 8B | Yea | 17B | Nay |
| 9A | Yea | 18 | Nay |
| 9B | Yea | 19 | Nay |
| 10 | Nay | 20 | Absent |
| 11A | Nay | 21 | Yea |
| PRNW | Nay | | |
| PRNE | Nay | | |
| PRWC | Nay | | |
| PREC | Yea | | |
| PRSW | Nay* | | |
| PRSE | Nay | | |
| President | Yea | | |
| Vice Pres. | Yea | | |
| Secretary | Nay | | |
| Treasurer | Yea | | |
| Chaplain | Yea | | |
| Sgt-at-Arms | Nay | | |
| Chmn-Board | Yea | | |

*Director Kerney had 3 dists. voting nay & 1 dist. voting yea.

The totals were Yea 13, Nay 21, 6 absent.

At this time, Chariman Parish opened the floor for discussion on the Washington, DC trip April 29 thru May 1.

A motion was made by Joe Caudill to accept going to Washington, DC for 10 officers, seconded by Charles Cline and carried by a hand vote. Those names drawn for the trip were: Tom Hinkle, Bob Uryga, Bill Howe, Jr., Mitch Parish, Charles Baker, Richard Glant, David Israel, Joe Caudill, Luke Kluender and Nelson Ehlers.

Vice President Zeeks read the list of districts who have not turned into him the names for the Midwest Award.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Kinsey, seconded by Jack Cox and carried by a hand vote.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Baker.

Respectfully submitted,
John Davies, Ass't. Sec.

1996

MISS FLAME CANDIDATES



Alisha Vaught
Schererville Fire Dept.
District 1



Karine L. Huys
Crown Point Fire Dept.
District 2



Shannon Mahoney
LaCrosse Fire Dept.
District 3



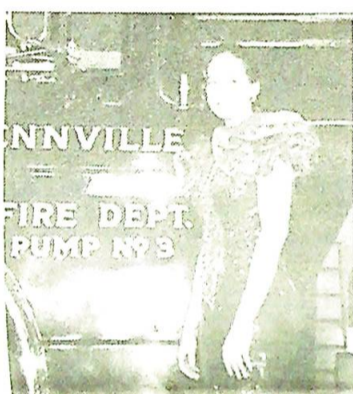
Nicole Barden
LaPaz-North Twp. VFD
District 5



Kristy Lee Meccia
Angola Fire Dept.
District 6



Cynthia Bultemeier
Poe VFD
District 7



April Frazee
Pennville VFD
District 8B

GOOD



Jennifer Israel
Burney Fire Dept.
District 10



Tiffany Lingenselser
Otter Creek #1 FD
District 11A



Michelle Miller
Lyford VFD
District 11B



Christina Thomas
Decatur Twp. VFD
District 12

LUCK



Angela Fleenor
Pershing Twp. Fire Dept.
District 14



Jamie Riley
German Twp. VFD
District 15

!



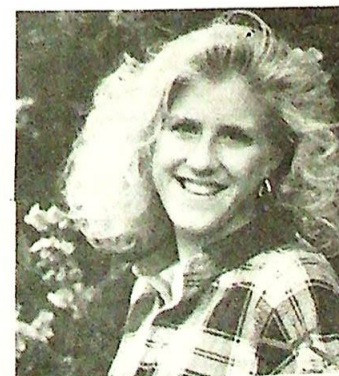
Sara Schwenk
Ireland Fire Dept.
District 18



Janeta Scheele
Morris Fire Dept.
District 19



Angie Lister
Sheffield Fire Dept.
District 21



1995 Miss Flame
Sara Steckler
St. Henry VFD
District 18

CONGRATULATIONS!

Family and friends remember moment their world exploded

By Laura Lane
H-T Staff Writer

In Heather Cooper's nightmares, she dies in the propane gas explosion that splintered her father's Owen County farmhouse last month.

In her dreams, 16-year-old Heather is astride her horse Dundee, maneuvering at a quick pace around barrels in a show arena.

In reality, the Edgewood High School junior lies in bed at an Indianapolis hospital as her body recovers from being blasted out of the house January 29, a cold winter evening.

She suffered burns on the upper portion of her body. Both legs are broken just below the knees. Her right ankle is broken; her left ankle, shattered. She has fractures in her lower back and pelvis and a broken arm.

Surgeons spent seven hours the night of the explosion piecing her bones back together while relatives and friends gathered at Methodist Hospital prayed for her survival.

A week later she was taken off the ventilator that had assisted her breathing. A week after that, Heather moved out of the critical care unit and into the hospital's rehabilitation wing.

There she will spend the next two months healing. After that will come months of therapy as she learns how to walk again.

A chance encounter

The last thing Heather remembers before the explosion is going into the kitchen about 5 p.m. to get something to eat.

About that time, Mike Burke was leaving his rural Owen County house to go on duty at the Wayne-Harrison Volunteer Fire Department in Gosport.

"I had just turned the corner up here and I felt a jolt and saw a fireball shoot about 150 feet into the air. As soon as I crested the hill, I saw that the house was gone. Completely. There was nothing left. Just spot fires, spread around to the east and to the north. It was burning down in the basement."

It looked as if a bomb had gone off, "like an 8-inch round landed right in the middle of the place," Burke said.

It was 5:05 when he radioed for help from his car. The message was simple. "Start an engine crew this way. I have a house that has exploded and I need a crew as soon as possible."

He pulled over, got out of his car and approached what was left of the front porch. His father, who lives nearby and heard the explosion, appeared.

"He came up and as we looked around, we both spotted her at the same time. Everything was still, then I saw her move her arm. I told dad to grab the blue bag from the trunk of my car."

Heather was sprawled on the southwest corner of the house foundation with a floor joist lying over her. Her blue jeans were intact but her shirt shredded. Her face was blackened and burned.

He called for an ambulance. He also requested that Methodist Hospital send its helicopter.

"She was conscious and knew that no one else was in the house. There was still propane spraying everywhere from the tank. I knew we had to get her out of there."

With help from neighbors, Burke and his father got Cooper onto a piece of plywood and carried her away from the burning

remains of the house.

"She said she was hurt and cold," he said. The fire station is about 10 minutes away, so took awhile for the truck and another emergency medical technician to arrive.

Another five minutes and Owen County's EMS ambulance and paramedics arrived.

Soon after, came the helicopter. Volunteer firefighters with flares marked a spot for it to land in a soybean field adjacent to the house. "It got here before the EMTs got the IVs started," Burke said.

A grandfather's nightmare

Jim Cooper and his son Jeff, Heather's father, were loading a semi truck with grain that evening, quite a distance from the house, as dusk approached. The heavy sounds of augers and truck engines filled the air.

"I thought I heard something, a big bump that shook the ground, but I looked at my boy in the driveway and he didn't seem to have heard anything," he said.

It wasn't long before he noticed his youngest son Chris' truck barreling toward the grain bin, headlights flashing,

"He came up at a pretty good rate of speed and told me Jeff's house blew up. I got Jeff and we went toward the house."

It was a short frantic drive. "Our first thoughts and hopes were that Heather was not at home, that she might have come home later after school like she sometimes does," the grandfather said. "But we saw her car."

He ran to his granddaughter, "I could tell she was in pretty bad shape. I could see the burns on her face and stuff. She thought she had been in a wreck."

Soon, the helicopter took her away.

A mother's anguish

Lisa Keith, Heather's mother, had just dropped her son J.T. off at Edgewood Junior High School to practice for a music show. She drove home and heard the phone ringing as she entered the door.

A former sister-in-law was on the line. "She said Jeff's house had blown up and that Heather was in there and that they took her to Methodist." They went and found Keith's husband, Steve, who was feeding the horses, and they drove to Indianapolis—fast.

Heather was being treated in the emergency room when they arrived. At 10:15 p.m., just before they took her to surgery, Keith got to see her daughter.

"All we could see was a portion of her face, all blackened with soot. They took her away to surgery then."

About 15 family members and friends waited through the night. Surgeons updated them by the hour.

Both she and Heather's father stayed at her bedside. Keith is still in Indianapolis, staying in a hotel connected to the hospital. She stays with Heather through the day and leaves late at night after her daughter falls asleep.

"She woke up one night while I was still there and said, 'Am I alive?' She had a dream that she died in the fire."

Friends and family have made the ordeal easier. More than 200 cards have been sent.

"The other night she wanted me to read them to her, all of them. She wanted to see the pictures too, so I read them to her until 2:30 in the morning."

Edgewood High School principal Gary Boyd has visited Heather several times, as have

several carloads of students.

Cheerleaders collected \$360 for the family at a recent varsity basketball game. Collection jars in Ellettsville and Spencer businesses also are collecting money to offset Keith's expenditures while staying in Indianapolis.

She has given up her school bus driving job for the rest of the year so she can be with Heather.

"She is so lucky to be alive. There is a lot of therapy and pain for her in the future, but all she wants to know is if she'll be able to ride her horse again," Keith said.

Heather is a competitive rider in the National Barrel Horse Association.

"She's already kidded us and said that as soon as they get her into a wheelchair, she's going to set up three trash cans and start racing around them to keep in practice," Keith said.

A tough survivor

Fire investigators say a spark from the furnace motor apparently ignited propane gas that collected in the basement from a leak.

No one can explain how Heather survived the explosion that left nothing bigger than a 10-by-10 foot piece of wall, found 150 feet away where it flew through a barn door.

Plaster from the house was

driven an inch into surrounding trees. Pieces of plywood impaled the rock hard frozen ground. Just one piece of furniture, a chair found 100 feet across the road, survived intact.

"She has a hard teen-age head, I know that," Keith said. "And I think God was wrapped all around her when this happened."

The Herald-Times

Firemen, rescue workers, police officers...people who work with tragedy as part of their daily lives, couldn't believe anyone would survive such a disaster.

In the early hours, doctors gave the family only a glimmer of hope for survival...and possibly even less hope for saving the victim's shattered legs.

Facing a monumental battle with burns and multiple broken bones, teenager Heather is now beginning to hear some positive answers about her condition and her future...including her prime concern of being able to continue her love for riding horses. According to her doctors, Heather will ride again...not soon...but she is apparently now moving into the early stages of a very long, difficult recovery.

Heather, 16, has been in the Critical Care Unit at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis ever since Monday, January 29.

In the days following her LifeLine flight to Methodist, Heather's survival became statewide news...prompting one

news source to describe her survival as "nothing short of a miracle." The house was reduced to just bits and pieces by the blast, but Heather somehow was spared, found amid the debris.

With such serious injuries, it might seem difficult to find "good luck" in such a tragedy, but Heather will someday realize her guardian angel was resting on her shoulder when it came to the first person on the scene. Wayne-Harrison-Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Mike C. Burk was just east of the home when it exploded, and was on the scene in a matter of seconds. Not only did Mike rush to Heather's aid, but his training as an EMT made it possible for him to know what to do and how to do it to provide immediate care until emergency crews arrived. Mike isn't big on accepting the designation as a hero, but there is no doubt that he certainly made a difference in the teenager's life.

Heather's family said this week she is steadily improving, undergoing daily therapy to her arms and legs. One of her first questions involved whether or not she would ever be able to ride a horse...even before she questioned her ability to walk.

Heather remains in the Critical Care Unit at Methodist. Her mailing address is; Heather Cooper, Methodist Hospital, Pediatric Critical Care Unit, 1701 North Senate, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Condensed from an article by Tom Douglas, EW Editor, Evening World Spencer

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Indianapolis, IN

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Adult - Men, Women & Mixed Teams
National Waterball Rules will apply

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The All American "Hoosier" Firefighter Challenge

Teams & Individuals

(Teams Play first - Individuals second)

Entry Fees: \$20.00 Team Entry (Waterball & Challenge)

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DRAWING FOR POSITIONS WILL BE DONE ON JULY 9, 1995

A Team Representative is welcome to attend the drawing.

Drawing will be held at Wayne Twp Headquarters @ 3 P.M.

KID STUFF TOO!

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Centre Township's Chief Hertel Helps Improve Day Response

Chief Tom Hertel of the Centre Township Volunteer Fire Department, along with Township Trustee Gail Waltman and Advisory Board Members recognized the need for additional help during daytime hours and have implemented a plan to hire two paid firefighters by mid April of this year.

Centre Twp. faces the same challenge as many departments today, finding adequate daytime volunteers. The addition of two full-time paid firefighters during the day will strengthen the departments capabilities during those hours.

Chief Hertel has led the department in many advances since being elected in 1994, including the completion of a major addition to the fire station and 3 new trucks.

He joined the department in 1977 and has always displayed a high level of professionalism, serving as a model for his men. Tom, along with his best friend, Lew Kimble, who is a 25 year veteran of the department, always take the extra time to help train new recruits and those less experienced.

The department's apparatus includes two pumpers, a 1993 KME, a 1973 American LaFrance, two Tankers, a 1993 Laverne, a 1954 International, two Rescue Trucks, a 1993 EVI Heavy Rescue, a 1990 Suburban Light Rescue, two Grass Rigs, a 1989 Ford F350 and a 1973 Jeep.

Centre Twp. is located just south of South Bend along US 31 and covers approximately 25 square miles with a population of 13,000.

Last year, Center Township's 22 volunteer firefighters responded to 444 emergencies in both Centre and Greene Townships.

Centre Twp. VFD

Fire On The River

In the beginning, according to Greek legend, Prometheus stole fire from Olympus and gave it to man. Man used this gift to cook his food, warm his home, and fashion his tools. Zeus was infuriated: he felt fire should have been reserved for the gods. So, king of the gods that he was, Zeus decreed that fire would be a curse to man as well as a blessing.

One of the most dangerous occupations in the world evolved as man organized to fight fire when it threatened life and property. And so it has been throughout the ages all over the world.

Evansville, Indiana was no exception.

150 years ago, in August, 1845, the Town Board of Evansville ordered the Neptune and Phoenix fire engines from Louisville, Kentucky. Now a book chronicling the history of the volunteer fire service that began with that purchase is ready for publication. Through the 256 pages of this book walk the men who served their community as firemen up to 1871:

• James G. Jones, the first chief engineer of the department in 1846, who became Evansville's first mayor

• Elijah Perkins, the man who brought the first steam engine to Evansville in 1859

• John Smith Gavitt, the first president of the Washington Fire Company, who died in the Civil War

For fire buffs or genealogists, this book includes descriptions of early fire equipment, locations of fire houses, names of many early volunteers and personnel when the department began paying firemen and "runners," names of businesses and individuals who contracted work with the department, accounts of some destructive fires, a chief biography, and every-name index.

Fire on the River is dedicated to all the brave men & women throughout the ages who have served their communities as firefighters.

Through Town Board and City Council minutes and newspaper clippings the story of fire protection in Evansville emerges. In many ways their story parallels the story of fire protection throughout the Midwest and the

nation. In other ways, Evansville's story is unique. In many cities vol. fire companies operated independently of each other. In Evansville, from the beginning, one chief engineer commanded all the volunteer companies in the city. Cincinnati & Indianapolis disbanded volunteer companies and established paid departments. In Evansville, vol. companies worked along with paid steam fire engineers, and later with paid fire brigades.

I researched *Fire on the River* by reading minutes of the Board of Trustees & the Common Council of Evansville from 1836 thru June 1871. In addition to reading the minutes, my husband, Terry, and I scanned newspapers and read city directories. Piecing together the history from the minutes and newspapers led to other sources of information. While the rest of the family toured the Smithsonian on a trip to Washington, D. C. in 1991, I dug through fire history records in the National Museum of American History. The trip back to Evansville included a stop at the Nat'l. Fire Academy in Maryland. The Firehouse Museum, San Diego, California, had models of

many early pieces of fire apparatus, including an engine of the type that one of Evansville's volunteer fire companies used in 1855. Our family visited the Cincinnati Fire Museum and the Cincinnati Historical Society in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Illustrations include an early Latta steam engine, an 1865 Lane & Bodley, and an 1867 Silsby from Seneca Falls, NY. Other illustrations include news-

paper and city directory advertisements.

The book touches on trends in firefighting throughout the nation through excerpts from the *Evansville Journal* and other newspapers. One article in the *Indianapolis Sentinal* gives a detailed description of an early Latta steamer at the Marion County Fair.

For more information contact Sharron K. Brace, P.O. Box 14,



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VFIS is proud to announce a new association with Working Fire Video Training of St. Louis, Missouri. Working Fire is swiftly becoming the video training program of choice with departments across the country. VFIS is proud to endorse Working Fire Video Training to all policyholders and has completed a special underwriting arrangement in order to make Working Fire training available to VFIS policyholders.

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VFIS Authorized "Working Fire" Enrollment Form (Please print clearly.)

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Fire Dept. _____

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County _____

Phone () _____

Chief/T.O. _____

VFIS Policy No. _____

Check Enclosed _____ P.O. # _____

VISA/MC # _____ Exp. _____

Authorized Signature _____

Print Name _____

Fire destroys landmark building

Continued from front page

electrical department guys on the fire department got there and cut it off," he said.

Gas lines, however, burned until they could be mechanically crimped off.

"We had gas lines still burning in Fagen's. We had to dig up the gas line behind the flower shop and pinch it off," Shuey said.

High winds from the north both helped and hindered firefighters, Shuey said.

"The high winds were what caused us to lose that corner. Thank God it was blowing straight south, that kept it from extending into Brands Flower Shop," he said.

Rensselaer's aerial ladder truck, used to ventilate the roofs of the two stores, and to flush water into the fires, saved the day, Shuey said.

"It had a big role. Without the truck, I think we would have lost the whole block," he said. By 2:40 a.m., the fire was under control, but it may smolder a day or more before it is completely out, Shuey said.

Reprinted from the Rensselaer Republican

NVFC Foundation Offers Training Grants

The National Volunteer Fire Council Foundation is currently offering grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to county, local and/or regional fire schools.

Training can be held in a hands-on or classroom format and must benefit the volunteer fire service. The NVFC Foundation meets twice a year to review grant requests.

The Foundation was established in 1988 to promote greater understanding of the challenges facing the nation's volunteer fire service. supports research, educational and communication activities that impact more than one million volunteer firefighters who staff more than 32,000 fire departments throughout the U.S.

For application criteria for NVFC Foundation Training Grants, contact the NVFC National Office at 202-887-5700.

Outdated wiring and heating systems make extinguishing a fire a tough job

By Dan Pressler
Republican Staff Writer

Wednesday, March 20, 1996
Rensselaer - Rensselaer's historic 19th Century buildings can be as flammable as they are beautiful, as seen in the similarities between this morning's Fagen Pharmacy fire, and the December 30, 1993 fire that wiped out R&S Sporting Goods, Reflections decorating shop, and TJ's Unfinished Furniture, said Chief Martin Shuey.

One problem is that the electrical wiring in many buildings is as old as the building itself.

"All these buildings have the old wiring. It is just a guess which one is next," Shuey said.

Unlike new construction, the old buildings were made for coal heat, and usually have their gas meters and shutoffs mounted somewhere inside their basements.

"All their gas meters are inside. They're pretty tough to get to in a fire. The ones at R&S Sports were inside, and we had one heck of a time getting to them."

While Fagen Pharmacy and Brands Flower Shop were separated by a double brick wall, --so were Fagen's and Baseball Cards And More, where the fire apparently started. Unfortunately, there was also an old door in that wall between the two businesses that burned this morning, firemen said.

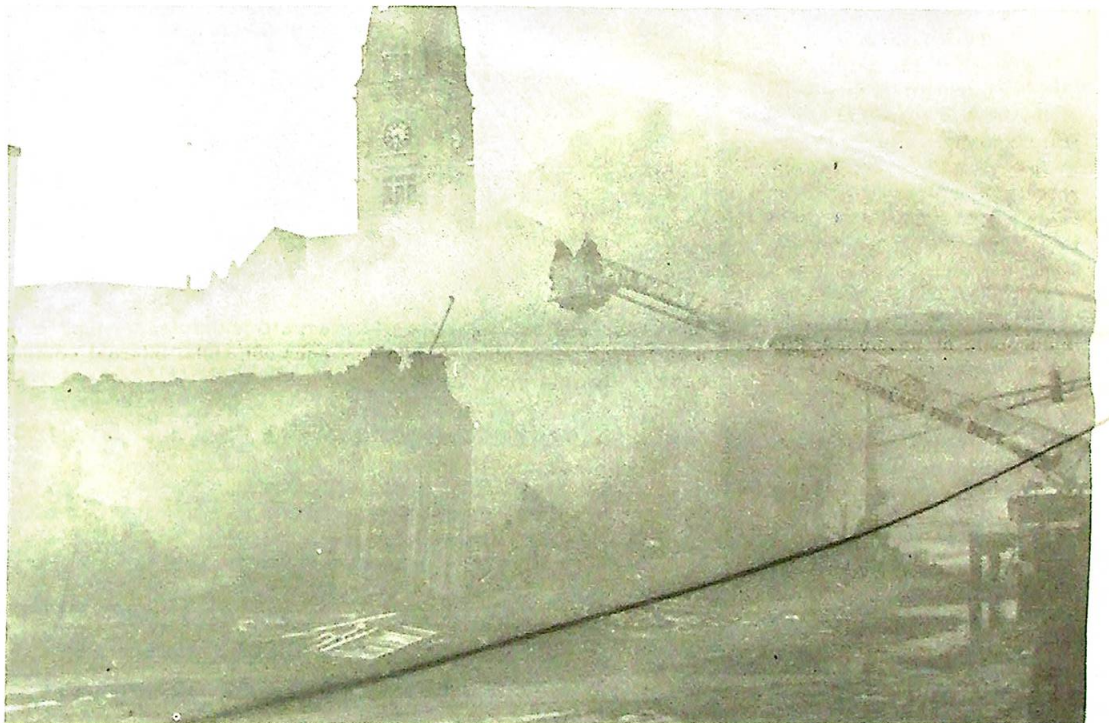
"Some had firewalls, some didn't. Most were double brick walls, where they built on another building," Shuey said.

The Rensselaer Republican

Old buildings pose special problems



Rensselaer's aerial truck, was once again credited with saving the downtown from devastation. Old structures like the Forsythe Building pose special problems for firefighters.



Firefighters douse the remains of Baseball Cards And More on Van Rensselaer Street and Fagen Pharmacy on Washington Street.

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NVFC Explores Retention and Recruitment Techniques

Recruitment and retention is a problem facing almost every volunteer fire department across the country. Statistics from the NFPA's annual survey of fire departments show a steady decline in fire service volunteers from 1983 (884,600 active volunteers) to 1992 (795,400 active volunteers).

For the past two and one-half years, the National Volunteer Fire Council and U.S. Fire Administration have jointly held regional workshops across the country on volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. This month, the final regional workshop will be held for several mid-western states.

Each workshop has brought together several fire service representatives from states in the region to discuss recruitment and retention problems and ways in which the problems can be addressed. The findings from these workshops show that recruitment and retention problems are generally similar across the country. Differences in problems are most notable between rural, suburban, and urban volunteer organizations.

Over the next few months, the *Dispatch* will share some of the major findings from these workshops. This article discusses some of the major areas which can affect recruitment and retention in any volunteer organization.

Leadership - Many retention problems can be traced back to inadequate or misguided efforts from department leadership. Effective leadership helps retain members as well as reduce dissatisfaction. Ineffective leadership is a common reason for a decline in membership. The Chief and line officers must be effective leaders on the ground and in the station. Officers who lack of technical, administrative, and personnel management skills usually drive members away. Some departments now require officers to take management

courses, and some fire academies are building these topics into their officer development and firefighter courses.

Management Style - Many volunteers have been driven away by problems with their chief or officer's management style. Volunteers prefer a participatory management style to an authoritative one. They often do not like to be "bossed around" while volunteering because they get enough of this in their regular employment. On the fire ground, a structured authoritative management style may be necessary; however, in the station chiefs should consider options other than the traditional military style of management.

Internal Communications - An important aspect of leadership is the quality of communication with department members. Some volunteers quit over matters of policy or requirements that have been misunderstood or not communicated to them at all. Policies and procedures that are in writing and available to all for reference can alleviate misunderstandings.

Additionally, other mechanisms to disseminate information quickly, such as newsletters and alphanumeric pagers, can improve internal communications.

Department Image - A favorable department image throughout the community and among its members is important to retention and recruitment.

One of the principle reasons that volunteers stay with a department is their desire to be members of an organization with a good reputation and positive image.

A good image can be created by wearing uniforms in public; training in public; conducting prevention activities in schools; maintaining apparatus; holding open houses; and sending newsletters to the community.

Attitude and Motivation of Members - Understanding the attitudes and motivations of volunteers is imperative to maintain their satisfaction.

Recognizing problems and expectations early can prevent problems that later cause members to quit.

There are a variety of ways to determine the needs of members as well as discern their problems.

Insights can be obtained through written surveys or informal discussions. Exit interviews are important to find out why someone is leaving.

The NVFC's April issue of *Dispatch* will discuss additional areas which affect retention and recruitment.

Some very interesting approaches to dealing with these problems have been identified and will be documented in a comprehensive national report which will be released in 1997. In the interim, however, a less comprehensive report can be obtained by writing Mr. Andy Giglio, U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Avenue., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 and requesting the *Interim Report on Firefighter Retention and Recruitment in the Volunteer Fire Service*.

NVFC Explores Retention and Recruitment Solutions

Last month's *Dispatch* discussed the problem of retention and recruitment of volunteers in the fire service. Many fire departments and rescue squads across the country are struggling to keep current members and bring in new ones.

The NVFC, under a program sponsored by the U.S. Fire Administration, has held a series of workshops across the country to explore recruitment and retention problems and solutions. Last month, we discussed how departmental leadership, management style, internal communications, image, attitude and motivation of members can affect recruitment and retention. This month we'll explore several other areas.

Training Requirements - The image of a volunteer department is partly formed by the requirements and standards it is expected to meet. Many departments establish training requirements as a framework for organization and performance. Requirements often instill pride, confidence, professionalism and consistency in training, but can be a barrier to retention if they are too rigorous or seem unreasonable. Officers should make sure

members understand the purpose of training requirements, and they should examine ones which seem to hurt retention or recruitment.

For example, some combination fire/EMS departments have adopted very high training requirements for members to participate in emergency activities, requiring EMS members to have firefighter training. In some cases they have found that this requirement is driving away members. Subsequently, they are changing their standard to require EMS members to have only EMS training.

Many departments have adopted nationally recognized training standards, such as those written by NFPA committees, as the baseline requirements for their members. Adoption of training standards helps ensure that volunteers meet nationally accepted requirements and often facilitates the transference of certificates to other states or localities.

Cohesiveness - Cohesiveness is one of the essential ingredients

that makes a fire department successful. Firefighters depend on one another for their safety, and it is important not only to work as a team but to feel like a team. Unfortunately, cohesiveness is not always easy to achieve.

Many factors can disrupt the peace. Cliques form; groups and individuals feel excluded; EMS and fire members clash; and career and volunteer members quarrel. Often these problems cause one or more volunteers to resign from membership.

Chiefs, line officers, and other members of the department's management team must try to promote an environment in which members work together as a cohesive unit to avoid retention problems that result from disagreements or conflicts between members.

In addition, departments must reach out to minority members (whether male, female, white, black, Asian, Hispanic, etc.) to make sure they feel welcome.

Continued on page 28

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****ANNOUNCEMENT****

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Convention '96 - Merrillville

Indiana based F.I.R.E. Inc., in conjunction with the Indiana Volunteer Fireman's Association, will produce a video program of the 50th Anniversary activities at the IVFA Convention '96.

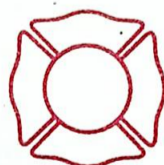
The program will highlight the activities, the people and the history involved with the celebration. The program will be a thirty-minute broadcast quality production and will be ready for distribution after July 15, 1996. The videos will be available for \$9.95, plus \$3.95 for shipping and handling.

To place your order for the 50th Anniversary Convention video, contact Debbie at F.I.R.E. Inc. at 219 345-5763.



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NVFC Explores Retention and Recruitment.....

Continued from page 27

Gender and race factors are the source of friction in some departments, damaging cohesiveness. This should not be tolerated.

Emotional Support - Supporting your fellow firefighter has been a long standing tradition within the volunteer fire service. Volunteers often consider each other as family.

Caring about the emotional well-being of volunteers and seeing them through life crises are things the leadership can foster to improve retention.

Conversely, not caring enough about members may cause them to drift away from the department. New members in particular need to be nurtured because recruits often have difficulty feeling accepted. Simply put, be considerate of members and their needs.

Members often need emotional support after stressful calls. Any firefighter may be exposed to emotional stress as a result of a call. For volunteers, it can be especially difficult because members often must answer emergency calls for people they know personally in their community. Encourage members to discuss stressful events immediately upon return from the scene, and consider using a stress debriefing team for major emergencies. Some departments have also made counseling services or employee assistance programs (EAP) available to volunteers. Chaplains may serve a similar purpose.

Next month's *Dispatch* will continue to explore factors that affect recruitment and retention. It is important to remember that any of these factors alone, or a combination of a few, can cause a member to quit or not join. Additional discussion of these factors is available in the *Interim Report on Recruitment and Retention in the Volunteer Fire Service* which can be obtained by writing Mr. Andy Giglio, U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

For more information, contact Heather Schafer at 1-888-ASK-NVFC.

Firefighters save Coolspring Twp. house from fire

The LaPorte Herald-Angus
January 3, 1996

Two firefighters were enveloped by smoke as they pulled a hose onto the roof of the home of Jean Buchanan, 2444 N. Forrester Road, at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The fire was extinguished within 25 minutes, but still caused about \$50,000 damage to the home, Coolspring Township Fire Chief Craig Seifert said, "It was a good stop. The house is salvageable," he said.

Two teenagers, Buchanan's grandchildren, were in the home but were not injured, Seifert said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but the teens are not believed to have been a factor, Seifert said.

Center, Scipio and Springfield Township Fire Departments assisted.

Learn Not To Burn a success...

Continued from page 9

"Telling someone older there's danger around" are the lyrics to an LNTB preschool song.

With the help of enthusiastic fire service representatives, the OSFM has gone beyond the "champion" method of dissemination used by the NFPA. Through the NFPA champion program, 60 fire service personnel are selected yearly to distribute LNTB through their area's school system, providing them with training and educational booklets. Through the Indiana OSFM method of dissemination, the state purchases the requisite material and aggressively contacts representatives in the field to distribute them, thereby increasing the amount of coverage and decreasing the time in which it's accomplished.

"The Clinton County pilot program was such a success that the decision was made to go statewide as quickly as possible," said State Fire Marshal Tracy Boatwright. "In April we purchased 1600 sets of resource books and quickly handed them out to interested fire departments. Our follow-up order of 1600 sets is nearly depleted, and we couldn't be more pleased."

Boatwright won't be content, however, until the state has reached every kindergarten - 3rd grade classroom in Indiana. With approximately 14,000 in Indiana (accordingly to figures from the Indiana Department of Education), and more than 12,000 classrooms nearly supplied, Boatwright is steadily nearing that goal. "I want Indiana to be the first state in the nation to get every classroom supplied with Learn Not to Burn material," said Boatwright.

But reaching that kindergarten - 3rd grade total won't end the state's LNTB drive. Preschoolers are also at risk for firesetting and injury, and LNTB instructional booklets have been created for this age group as well. And with 850 daycare centers within the state's borders, Boatwright plans to reach these children, too, with LNTB at its most basic level.

The Learn Not To Burn program was recommended for use in Indiana by Boatwright and the Indiana Juvenile Firesetters Task Force (JFTF). The JFTF, which is made up of public safety and social services professionals, meets on a bi-monthly basis to address and act on juvenile firesetter intervention issues. Their quarterly newsletter, *FIRE!*, is devoted to the juvenile arson problem as well as the Learn Not to Burn program.

Recognizing that the children are the logical conduits of change, Learn Not to Burn is creating an atmosphere of learning that wasn't obtained through traditional methods. And with the state's *modus operandi*, we are teaching a greater number of children that fire is not a toy. Indiana is fortunate to have the dynamic leadership behind it to bring our state to the forefront of this national fire prevention program.

For more information on Learn Not to Burn and the Juvenile Firesetters Task Force, call the State Fire Marshal's Office at (317) 232-2222.

Peggy Zimmer

Reprinted from Our Watch, a publication of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency and Department of Fire and Building Services. Jan/Feb '96 issue.

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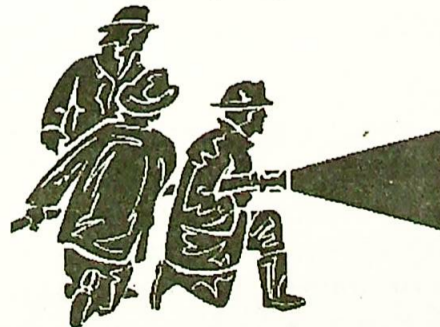
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