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(USPS 262-480)

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Firemen's Association To Create And
Promote Good-Will Among Its Members

THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

VOLUME 45 NO. 3

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

November 1996



We
wish
you
all a

Merry
Christmas
and a Happy New Year

* * **NOTICE** * *
FROM HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Our committee needs to know how many Indiana firemen would be interested in purchasing a deluxe hard back historical book covering 1946 -1996. The book will be sold at cost. We hope to hold the price to \$15.00. We DO NOT want any money at this time. We only need to know how many books to print. Please indicate on a postcard how many books you would want, along with your phone number, and send the postcard to:

Willie M. Parish, P.O. Box 15, Francesville, IN , 47946

We need your reply on or before January 1, 1997. Remember, don't send any money, just tell us how many books you would like. Thank you.

Historical Committee Report

The following people have sent in for a historical book:

William Kinsey, Ft. Wayne; Paul W. Martin, Plymouth; John Davies, Fillmore; William E. Carman, Indianapolis; Byron Jones, Indianapolis; Phyllis Bretz, Boonville; Lewis D. Osborne, Cayuga; Ivan Bousman, Winchester; James R. Bruner, Mooresville; David A. Francoeur, Indianapolis; Willie M. Parish, Francesville; Charlie Baker, Indianapolis, David Israel, Greensburg; Dale Gibbons, Rochester; Ronald Good, Lake Station; Keith Thomas, Leiters Ford.

"HEAVEN IN '97"

Convention '97 - Indianapolis - June, 1997

THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

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November 1996

ADVERTISING RATES

\$7.50 per column inch in one color - black or red. \$8.40 per column inch in 2-color - black and red.

For any advertiser who contracts for 4 consecutive issues: the advertising rate will be \$6.00 per column inch in one color, black or red. \$6.90 per column inch for 2-color, black and red.

Pictures that must be converted into halftones for use in ads will cost \$6.90 each for small and \$9.00 each for large ones.

SEE PAGE 17 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RATES.

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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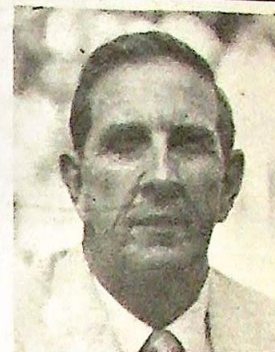
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- Willie M. "Mitch" Parish**
P.O. Box 15
Francesville, 47946
(219) 567-2639

Chaplain's Corner



Charles J. Baker

Today's Prayer

God of all Creation,

Heed now our prayer of thanks for all the blessings we have received over the past year. Grant us understanding of Your will in our lives. Give us purpose as we pursue our common goal of protecting the lives and properties of our citizens. Allow us to be content with what we have and with our mission while here on earth. Praises be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Amen

Minute Message

From his work entitled "Active Spirituality" published in 1994, author Charles Swindoll gives us good advice regarding contentment. Let's read what he says about it.

Contentment

When was the last time you met someone who was truly content and at peace with the world? There are many such people! They usually got the wisdom to be that way by learning from the experiences of an active spiritual life. They discovered a sense of inner peace and contentment through their walk with God. But many folks eat their hearts out, suffering from the contagious "If Only" disease. Its germs infect every slice of life:

- If only I had more money
- If only I could make better grades
- If only we owned a nicer home
- If only we hadn't made that bad investment
- If only I hadn't come from such a bad background
- If only she would have stayed married to me
- If only our pastor were a stronger preacher
- If only my child were able to walk
- If only we could have children
- If only we didn't have children
- If only the business could have succeeded
- If only my husband hadn't died so young
- If only I would've said "No" to drugs
- If only they had given me a break
- If only I hadn't had that accident
- If only we could get back on our feet
- If only he would ask me out
- If only people would accept me as I am
- If only my folks hadn't divorced
- If only I had more friends

The list is endless. Woven through the fabric of all those words is an attitude that comes from the simple choice to see the negative side of life, the choice to be unhappy about almost everything that happens. Taken far enough, it leads to the dead-end street of self-pity—one of the most distasteful and inexcusable of all attitudes.

Contentment, on the other hand, comes from another one of those simple choices, one that doesn't allow ourselves or others to listen to our list of woes. We simply choose to create a different kind of list—a positive one—for if we don't, people won't stay around us very long. Discontented souls soon become lonely souls.

-Charles Swindoll

IVFA

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Please make a note of these.

The apostle Paul writes in First Timothy with more good advice (6:6):

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction."

* * * * *

We will soon be entering another holiday season. As usual, our prayers are that you will be thankful at Thanksgiving and into the spirit of Christian giving at Christmas.



Happy Holidays to you all!



Lessons In Leadership

How to break people's spirit and initiative

By Al Mozingo

Of course, we don't really want to break people's spirit and initiative. But having been in the fire service for 20 years, as a lieutenant, captain, battalion chief and trainer, I knew the sarcastic approach would attract your attention.

With the following information you can destroy initiative and wreak havoc on the morale of the department. Thus you will destroy trust, cooperation, understanding and morale — and you will probably be as unhappy with your crew as they are with you.

HOW TO BREAK PEOPLE'S SPIRIT AND INITIATIVE

1. Use intimidation and coercive behavior with your people.
2. Never treat people with respect.
3. Don't allow for any input from your people.
4. Put people down whenever you can.
5. Criticize everything your people do.
6. Catch your people doing something wrong and chastise them.
7. Don't show you care for your people.
8. Never listen to your people.

Anyone with some common sense at all would say this is not the way to treat people. However, day in and day out people do just that! They allow their egos to get in the way of doing what is right. They need to allow for the development of their people, and the encouragement they can provide will assist in that development.

As a leader in any organization, it is incumbent upon us all to help our people, to assist them in their own development, to develop future leaders in the organization to take over the reins, to keep a positive atmosphere for input, to keep morale high, and to communicate "what's going on".

Now how can we overcome those eight terrible points that have been presented?

Mostly try to use some common sense and leave your ego out of it. It seems as a person gains more & more rank, he or she develops more & more ego. What they say is the gospel; they have all the answers and they want more and more control. If they exercise proper leadership principles (principle centered leadership) with proper leadership techniques (situational leadership), they can become an effective leader.

I hope the following is something that can help in this endeavor.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE, INSPIRE AND DEVELOP YOUR PEOPLE

1. You can get more out of your people with cooperative and understanding behavior. This will help create better morale.
2. Treat people with respect. This is the first step toward receiving their respect.
3. Allow your people the opportunity to provide input whenever possible. This will create a more effective team with a feeling of ownership in its success.
4. When you greet your people, try to say something positive. This will help develop a positive atmosphere and help develop trust.
5. Encourage your people with everything they do, and minimize your criticism. This will allow your people to grow and develop some initiative.
6. Try to catch your people doing something right. This is the cornerstone of the "One Minute Manager's" concept of management. It will help develop your people's initiative and drive.
7. Try to show your people you are an advocate for them and that you have their best interests in mind. Exhibit a caring attitude. This will create cooperation.
8. Get to know your people. Talk to them and listen (really listen). Don't have an open-door policy with a closed mind. This listening will show your people you care and will develop dedication.
9. Always applaud your people's efforts. Encourage them to grow and be all they can be. The totality of your actions will create the organizational environment and the morale of your people. If you want to be an effective leader, you must do what is right. Your actions will have a profound result on the rest of the organization.

You need to create a positive, caring atmosphere that will allow people to thrive and grow. In essence, this will help develop an organization that is effective and will allow the morale to be positive rather than negative.

Many people perpetuate a negative, coercive, distrusting, intimidating climate by their actions. This is not appropriate behavior for a leader.

COMMUNICATING WITH TRUST

The major function of a leader is quite different from that of a manager. The manager directs, controls, coordinates, plans, administers, implements and is task oriented.

The leader may also be a manager, but also must motivate, interact, develop, inspire, challenge, be a visionary and be people oriented.

The leader should understand that the proper handling of problems and/or situations deals primarily with people. Therefore, the leader must consider psychology and interaction with his/her people. This deals with communications and teamwork.

The information in the above three sentences sometimes is overlooked. A smooth running organization is not just that way by mistake. It took the leader some effort and planning to develop it.

You cannot be just technically competent and task oriented, you must also be competent in people skills to be an effective leader. Most problems and/or situations deal with people, not the equipment, buildings, methods, processes, etc.

Therefore, there is a great need to develop people skills. Being able to conduct effective communications with tact is very difficult at times. A large part of communication is emotion and that tends occasionally to get in the way. However, emotion is what is needed at times. You have to develop a feel for knowing the difference.

When interacting and communicating with others, there are many factors that will break down communications. One major barrier to

communications is lack of trust. A leader must try always to develop a climate of trust.

Below is a checklist to help us toward that endeavor.

COMMUNICATING TRUST

1. Try to help your people whenever possible.
2. Always show that you care for your people.
3. When communicating, strive for understanding.
4. Be a good listener when interacting with your people.
5. Always show respect toward your people.
6. Be impartial, unbiased and nonjudgmental.
7. Try to be as honest as possible.
8. Be tactful in your conversations.
9. Show consideration toward others.
10. Be open, receptive and flexible in your thinking.
11. Exhibit a positive attitude.
12. Be kind and courteous toward others.

The above can be summed up in the Golden Rule. "Treat others as you would want to be treated." The leader must always strive toward this and must communicate with trust.

The leader must utilize all the skills, he/she has to facilitate, rapport, cooperation, understanding and good interpersonal relationships.

The organization, after all, runs because of the people.

Note: Al Mozingo is an author, consultant and trainer. He is a captain in the City of El Cajon, California Fire Department, has an associate's degree in fire science and a bachelor's degree in technical education. He teaches at a Community College in El Cajon and is an instructor for the National Fire Academy.

Reprinted from
National Fire & Rescue
Submitted by Westville VFD

Length of Service Award Plan Victory

Length of Service Awards for Volunteers are Now Tax-Deferred On August 20, President Clinton signed H.R. 3448, legislation, which was entitled the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (popularly known as the Minimum Wage Bill).

This measure also contained several tax provisions. Among them was a provision that will defer taxation of Length of Service Awards for volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel until such time as they are actually paid.

Under the new law, the IRS tax code is amended to provide a tax deferral for any plan paying solely Length of Service Awards to bona fide volunteers (or their beneficiaries) on account of fire fighting and prevention, emergency medical, and ambulance services performed by such volunteers.

An individual is considered a "bona fide volunteer", for the purposes of this law, if the only compensation received by such individual for performing such services is reimbursement (or reasonable allowance) for expenses incurred in the performance of such services, or customarily paid

by tax-exempt or governmental employers in connection with the performance of such services by volunteers.

Under the law, a Length of Service Award Plan will not qualify for this special treatment if the aggregate amount of Length of Service Awards accruing with respect to any year of service for any bona fide volunteer exceeds \$3,000. The provision applies to accruals of Length of Service Awards after December 31, 1996.

Passage of this legislation is the culmination of more than three years of efforts by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), its members and other fire service organizations.

This is a great victory for the volunteer fire service in America.

Length of Service Awards can now be implemented with the confidence that they will act as an incentive for individuals to volunteer their time to protect the lives and property of their communities.

The NVFC is currently

involved in these other volunteer issues:

FLSA: (H.R. 94 & S. 324)

This legislation would allow paid firefighters and rescue squad workers to volunteer their services at a location where they are not regularly employed. Current Department of Labor regulations prevent paid firefighters from volunteering their time in their communities without receiving overtime pay.

Rural Community Fire Protection:

The Rural Community fire Protection (RCFP) Program provides rural volunteer fire departments with direct financial assistance for training and equipment.

Tax-Exempt Financing for Volunteer EMS Organizations: (H.R. 282)

This legislation would allow volunteer emergency medical service organizations to purchase their emergency response vehicles with the same tax-exempt financing which is afforded to volunteer firefighting organizations.

1997 BRIDGEPORT SCHOLARSHIP REQUESTS

Just a reminder that NOW is the time to start preparing your scholarship requests for 1997. By the time you receive the notice in the February issue of the paper, there may not be enough time left to get it completed before the deadline.

DEADLINES

The application MUST MUST MUST be in the IVFA State Secretary's office no later than -

MARCH 1, 1997.

(NO EXCEPTIONS)

Unless mailed by CERTIFIED MAIL with a date NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 1997 ON THE MAILING LABEL.

Applications are available from all District Chairmen, or through any elected Officer of the IVFA and the Scholarship Chairman.

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

FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

Indiana F.I.R.E Equipment, Inc. is growing again. We are now hiring 4-5 more account representatives full and part time for all areas of the state. If you like to travel, meet new people and share your knowledge with others, give us a call today.

Join our team and begin enjoying the rewards of our commitment to the fire service.

1-800-671-3473

1911 Lafayette Street
Anderson, Indiana 46012

District Meetings

DISTRICTS 1&2

Location - Union Township
July 17, 1996
The meeting of Districts 1 & 2 was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by District 1 Chairman Bill Howe. Pledge to the Flag was led by PRNW Howe.

Guests included: Ivan Nevil, Past-President; Mitch Parish, District 9B Chairman; Buzz Koehler, District 2; Auxiliary Chairman Anne Moss, District 2; Chairman Larry Stott, District 1; Secretary Jerry Schmitt, Districts 1 & 2 Treasurer; Clarence Moss, and 50-Year Gold Card Member Julius DeMick.

Department History was given by John Kephshire of Union Township.

Evening's Program was given by Mark Slonaker of the Hobart Fire Department.

Treasurer's report was given.
Roll Call: District 1 had 41 members representing 12 departments and District 2 had 26 members representing 9 departments.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as corrected.

Communications: Thank You letters from IVFA Miss Flame Runner-Up Lisa Vaught and District 2 Miss Flame Karine Hughes were read.

Past-President Mitch Parish thanked the districts for hosting the 1996 convention.

Ivan Nevil stated that the Fire Prevention Week Kick-off will be October 4th in Wayne Township.

District 9B Chairman Buzz Koehler thanked everyone for their support in the election.

Midwest Awards winners, Johnny O from Dyer, District 1 and Dennis Wilkening from Cedar Lake, District 2, were recognized.

PRNW Howe stated that dues must be paid before July 31st and the paper will be in the mail by August 1st. Also support the officers that we elected at convention.

There will be a final convention meeting on July 30th at the Radisson Hotel.

New Business: A moment of silence was held for departed firefighters Ted Hansen, Jr, of Merrillville and Duane Betz of Union Township.

A presentation was made to the Lake of the Four Seasons Fire Cadets for taking 1st place in the nation at competition. A motion was made and seconded for the districts to reimburse the cost of the plaque made for the presentation. Motion passed.

Elections - The following people were elected to office for the districts: District 1 Chairman, Bill Howe; District 1 Secretary, Jim Bradford; District 2 Chairman, Larry Stott; District 2 Secretary, Lu Anne Schmitt; Districts 1 & 2 Treasurer, Clarence Moss.

Good of the Order - Bob Esserman wished to thank all for the fine job done on this years convention.

August 10th Wheatfield Dance, August 17th Lake Dale Hog Roast, August 4th Lincoln Township Waterball, Aug. 17th Washington Township Open House and Dance.

Next Meeting Morgan Township, August 21.

Attendance Trophy Winners: District 1 Beverly Shores and District 2 Lakes of the Four Seasons.

50/50 Winners were Glen White and Billy Butterfield,

Washington Township.
Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by,
Lu Anne Schmitt
District 2 Secretary

Location - Morgan Township Volunteer Fire Department.
August 21, 1996

The meeting was called to order by District 2 Chairman Larry Stott at 7:45 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by PRNW William Howe.

Guests included: President Dick Glant, District 2 Auxiliary Chairman Ann Moss; Districts 1 & 2 Treasurer Clarence Moss; PRNW William Howe and District 1 Chairman Bill Howe.

Treasurer Jim Brown from Morgan Township VFD gave the history of the department and introduced the department members. Also introduced was Morgan Township Trustee Roger Click.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Lu Anne Schmitt, District 2 Secretary.

PRNW Bill Howe discussed the following: the up-coming Public Safety Conference; the new Training Standards Bill that was signed July 19 and goes into effect August 19; the six hour update class for all PR area instructors and that all must have the class; the deaths of two firefighters in the state, one by drowning on the way to a call and one shot and killed at the scene of a call; the fact that PSTI will honor current training standards for three years; and that the legislature will re-hash the Bingo Law again.

President Glant gave us a big thank you for the great job we did on the convention.

Roll Call was taken with District 1 having 39 members from 13 departments and District 2 having 23 members from 7 departments.

Treasurer's report was given.
Bill Howe reported that we have in excess of \$3500 left over from the convention. The committee will have a small party and any left will go into 50-50 fund.

Chairman Larry Stott reported one death in the last month, that of Ted Grochak from Pine Township. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

Good Of The Order: Merrillville Fire Department reported an Open House to be held on October 6. New Chicago Fire Department will have Waterball September 2 and a kids Waterball on August 31.

50-50 collected \$98. Scott Bush from Morgan Township VFD won the \$49.

Our next meeting will be on September 18, 1996 at South Haven.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jim Bradford
District 1 Secretary

DISTRICT 4

July 26, 1996
The meeting was called to order by John Ferro. The Pledge to the Flag and Prayer were led by Virgil Loucks.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was given.
John Ferro reported that if you missed the convention, you missed a very good one.

President Richard Glant stated that the convention will back the Cleveland Township resolution

against annexation, which means our lobbyists will work for a state law in this area.

Election of officers was held and the results are as follows:

Greg Freed, Chairman; John Ferro, Vice Chairman; Secretary - Vacant; Russell Peterson, Chaplain.

A motion was made to ask Pat Akers and Paul Kuhns if they would be interested in the position of Secretary. An election will be held at the next meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

There was a question raised whether the IVFA would pay for a hearing aid lost during a fire. John stated the department needed to fill out a clothing damage report.

Names are needed for the Midwest and Ollie Sandberg awards.

Bill Kinsey will be the new Treasurer for the IVFA.

Richard Glant will be our Public Relations Director after January 1, 1997.

Meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Rick Vandergrift, Acting Sec.

DISTRICT 5

September 12, 1996
Location, Aubbeenaubee Fire Department, Leiters Ford, IN

The meeting was called to order at 1935 hours by Chairman Don Kissinger. Charlie Baker, Chaplain, led the group in prayer. The Pledge to the Flag followed.

Roll Call showed 22 members present representing 12 departments.

Guests included Bill Kinsey, North East PR; Charlie Baker, IVFA Chaplan and Mitch Parish, Past President, IVFA.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as presented by District Secretary Kent Trickle.

Communications - Bill Kinsey reported on his taking over as Treasurer of the Association at the beginning of the year. Transition was going smoothly, but he knew it was going to be hard to take over for someone who has filled the position for so many years.

The 800 number into the IVFA

state office has not been working from the 219 area. AT&T knows of the problem and is working on it.

Charlie Baker thanked those who helped and attended the Institute picnic. Over 1,000 were in attendance.

Rule changes affecting the training have been signed into law. This will cover the change over from the old red book standards to the NFPA standards.

Don Kissinger stated that when dues are sent in to be sure that all information is correct. This can be the cause of members not receiving their newspaper.

Also went over department listing to check for addresses and chiefs.

Reviewed the new procedure which will be going into affect next year on getting IVFA license plates.

A new IVFA booklet was passed out explaining what the IVFA is about.

Mitch Parish talked about the IVFA historical book being put together and that it is ready to go to the publisher.

Also reviewed the Bridgeport Fund and how it came about.

Good of The Order - Discussion was held on problems with keeping departments properly funded and equipment in good working order.

Fire districts and governing bodies were talked about by Bill Kinsey.

Be sure to get out and vote. The IVFA can be heard through elections.

Next meeting will be at Burket Fire Department on November 14, 1996.

Meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Refreshments were served by the host department.

DISTRICT 9A

July 25, 1996
Democrat Township Volunteer Fire Department, Cutler, IN

The July meeting was called to order by Chairman Charlie Cline at 7:30 p.m. The Invocation was given and the Pledge was taken.

The minutes were read and approved.

Guests were Bob Mauck, Paul Zilz, Bill Howe, Ted Enoch and Mitch Parish.

Roll Call was answered by 31 members from 12 departments in attendance reporting 118 alarms.

It was reported that between 1100 and 1200 people attended the State Fire Services picnic at Wayne Township on July 14th.

The 1996-97 dues must be in by August 1st or benefits will not be paid.

There will be a Fire Prevention program at Wayne Township on October 4th.

Burlington Fire Department will have a tractor pull on September 13th at 6:30 p.m.

The Burlington Fall Festival will be September 30th.

Bob Mauch from Liberty Township Fire Department then gave a program covering the American Eagle plane crash at Roselawn that happened in November of '94.

Chairman Cline presented the District 9A Fireman Of The Year Award to Dave Shedran of the Walton Fire Department.

The Chairman called for the election of officers.

Nominated for Chairman was Charlie Cline. There being no other nominations, Ike Hollingsworth gave the unanimous vote.

Nominated for Secretary/Treasurer was Dee Mauntel. There being no other nominations, Chairman Cline cast the unanimous vote.

The next meeting is September 26th at Delphi Tri-Township Fire Department.

Submitted by
Dee Mauntel

The meeting of District 9A was called to order by Chairman Charles Cline on September 26th at the Delphi Volunteer Fire Department, Delphi IN.

The Invocation was given by State Chaplain, Charles Baker, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Chairman Cline said he had copies of the Miss Flame program.

The minutes were read with one correction made, that Bob Mauck is from Lincoln Township.

Guests were Tom Hinkle, Bob Dean, Charles Baker, Larry Hamby and Mitch Parish.

The Roll Call was taken and 29 members from 13 fire companies were present. They reported a total of 139 alarms answered since the last meeting.

Charlie Baker reported on the upcoming fire school at New Haven and Lafayette.

Continued on Page 5

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DISTRICT 9A

Continued From Page 4

Larry Hamby spoke on the need for instructors to attend the update classes in order to teach new programs. This must be done by August 1999 or they can only teach the 24 hours class after that.

Mitch Parish asked Larry if he would write an article for the IVFA newspaper to help clarify this.

Also, Paul Covington, the chairman of the Board of Standards, would be able to answer any questions.

Chairman Cline asked if all departments had received their new Hazardous Materials handbooks. Larry Hamby said that 44,500 books were given out and they are out of stock.

Bob Dean reported that the investigation districts have been changed in the state and he handed out the maps and representatives of each one.

Tom Hinkle, IVFA State Secretary, said that the executive office in Indianapolis handles the dues and license plates. If license plate request forms are lost, contact them and they will send a new form to your home. This will take about a week.

You can also subscribe to their E-mail and receive information on what is going on in the Indiana fire service regarding firefighter fatalities, injuries, training, etc.

He said that the Fire Marshal's office has a fire investigation starter kit with forms that coincide with what the Fire Marshal's office uses, evidence collection ideas, etc. He had applications for these so that they can keep track of how many people are getting the kit and if this is beneficial.

Chairman Cline asked for suggestions of what to do with the treasury. One suggestion was to pay for tickets to send two representatives to the January Legislative meeting in Indianapolis. To award these tickets, a drawing would be held at the November meeting of those 9A members interested in attending that meeting. There being no other suggestions, Keith Fallon made the motion and Scott Session seconded. Passed.

It was noted that Barker Davies of Fort Wayne, a fire investigator and instructor, had passed away. Also Craig Phillips of Porter County, HazMat director, died.

Following the meal, Larry Hamby presented a program on Clandestine Drug Labs. These are crime scenes and the fire service can become involved by coming upon them on fire calls and responding to complaints of odors in the area. Special care must be given to watch out for booby traps and the possibility of toxicity and explosions due to the chemicals involved. This reinforces that every alarm you respond to is a HazMat incident until proven not to be. Defensive actions only should be used. Refer to the handout for more information.*

The next meeting will be December 5, 1996 in Flora, IN, at 7:30 p.m.

*Call 1-800-451-0303 for a 15 minute video called *Kitchen of Death* put out by the International Association of Firefighters.

Respectfully submitted by,
Dee Mauntel, Secretary

DISTRICT 11A

Those of you that missed our picnic sure lost out on some good vittles and fellowship. Thanks again to you who worked so hard on the planning and preparing.

Our meeting for November 17th is NOT firm as of this writing. We have talked with Farmersburg, but until they have a meeting, we can only say it is tentative. Watch for your cards, or call one of the officers.

We have reached the time of year where, although we sometimes feel down, we are all able to find some blessings to be thankful for. We would hope that each of you enjoy the family gatherings and dinners over the Thanksgiving period.

We are told there are still some slots open and needing to be filled on committees for the June '98 convention. How are you able to help?

Christmas is close, and we remind everyone that in the hurry and scurry, it is not the time for us to forget our personal safety habits. We in the fire/rescue service are well aware of these dangers. PLEASE, have a wonderful and safe Christmas Holiday Season.

Are you looking for a young lady to represent your department and be a Miss Flame candidate? We have been invited to Coalmont for the January 19th meeting, where we will have the

Miss Flame competition. Please plan to attend and support the gals.

We are looking for some more input from the firefighters as to what you think can be done to help make District 11A meetings a place we want to be. Let us hear from you!

Do you want to see and hear Neal McCoy? Come to the Shakamak High School, Sunday, November 24th at 2 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving; Happy Hanukkah; Merry Christmas; and Happy New Year!!

Respectfully submitted by,
Red Morris, Chairman

DISTRICT 15

The July 16, 1996 meeting was held at New Harmony Fire Department.

The meeting was called to order by District Chairman Tim Wargel at 19:30 hours. He then led the members present in the Pledge to the Flag.

Chairman Wargel introduced our guest Alex Smith from M&S Fire and Safety.

Chaplain Barbara Kerney gave a spiritual reading.

Roll Call was answered by 9 departments with 14 members present.

Secretary Jack Kerney distributed the minutes of the May 21 meeting. A motion was made by Barbara Kerney and seconded by Harmon Feather to accept the minutes as distributed.

Jack Kerney gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Harmon Feather and seconded by Bruce Bauer to accept the report as presented.

Convention Treasurer Harry Logan presented the district with a check for \$2,325.39. Harry stated that this will close the convention account.

Chairman Wargel gave a report on the Merrillville convention. Jack Zeeks was elected President; Jack Cox, Vice President; Charlie Baker, Chaplain; Tom Hinkle, Secretary; Bill Kinsey, Treasurer; Bill Bush, Sergeant-At-Arms and Jack Kerney, PRSW.

Steve Anderson was awarded the District 15 Midwest Award, Mr. IVFA was awarded to Charlie Baker and the Ollie Sandburg Award was awarded to Diane Harrison.

Barbara Kerney was elected to Recording Secretary for the IVFA Auxiliary.

Chairman Wargel opened the

floor for nominations for District 15 Officers. John Spears made a motion to keep the present officers, seconded by Bruce Bauer. All agreed to keep their office. They remain: Tim Wargel, Chairman; Jack Kerney, Secretary/Treasurer; Barbara Kerney, Chaplain and Harry Logan, Sergeant-At-Arms.

Jamie Riley from German Township represented our district as the Miss Flame contestant.

A discussion was held on having a "political forum" at our next meeting at McCutchanville Fire Department. We would invite Representatives and Congressmen from all four counties to attend.

Chairman Wargel will contact the politicians and Jack Kerney will send out the mailing to all departments. We will need all departments to attend and support this activity.

The Fire and Emergency Services Appreciation Family Picnic was held on July 14, 1996 at Westlake Picnic Grounds at Wayne Township.

Kerney handed out information on teaching fire prevention to "special children". This information can be used to gear your training to the handicapped or slow learners.

Total Quality Officer Training School Committee is still working on this project. We are trying to schedule a name person in this field to conduct an 8 hour school. The school will be geared to "marketing your fire department to your community."

A discussion was held on the new clothing and automobile allowance passed by the last legislature. House Bill 1235 states that the volunteer firefighters clothing allowance in now a minimum of \$100 and automobile allowance is also a minimum of \$100. This must be in your Trustees 1997 budget.

Kerney gave the new rules that will have to be followed to obtain the 1998 IVFA License Plate.

Jack also gave an up-date on the new firefighter certification program.

District 15 Waterball is to be hosted by Marrs Township. Everyone will be notified of the date.

Door prizes were donated by M&S Fire and Safety. Hat winners were Mike Skokeland and John Spears. The flashlight went to Harry Logan.

Kerney and Wargel went to Indianapolis and picked up 400 1996 Emergency Response

Books. All departments present were given books for their departments.

Fort Branch used "De-Fib" for the first time on a vehicle wreck at Dead Man's Curve on U.S. 41.

McCutchanville responded to a two semi-truck accident on Hwy 57 and Oak Hill Road. Wadeville saved a 70-year-old man with CPR.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bruce Bauer and seconded by Harmon Feather to adjourn the meeting at 21:25 hours.

50/50 pot won by Harmon Feather.

The September 17, 1996 meeting was held at the McCutchanville Fire Department.

The meeting was called to order by district chairman Tim Wargel at 19:00 hours.

Chairman Wargel led the group in the Pledge to the Flag, followed by Chaplain Barbara Kerney's spiritual reading.

Roll Call was answered by 9 departments with 31 members.

Secretary Jack Kerney distributed the minutes from the July 16 meeting at New Harmony. A motion was made by Harmon Feather and seconded by Donna Thompson to accept the minutes as distributed.

Jack also gave the Treasurer's report, after which a motion was made by Mike Skokeland and seconded by John Spears to accept the report as presented.

PRSW Kerney gave the report on the August 10 State Meeting. Discussion was held on the new Miss Flame application, update on paid up IVFA membership, fire school costs, Board of Firefighter Standards and Education's new rules, new legislation needed, and Emergency Response Books available from Jack Kerney or Tim Wargel.

Wargel stated he is going to write legislation to allow Blue Lights on dash boards of vehicles. We do have legislative help on this bill.

IVFA news articles for the November paper are due October 10.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Harmon Feather and seconded by Harry Logan to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jack Kerney, Secretary

A Night With Volunteer Firefighters And Your Political Candidates

District 15 along with McCutchanville Fire Department hosted "A Night With Volunteer Firefighters & Your Political Candidates". It was held on September 17, after the District 15 meeting.

It was attended by thirty-one members of the IVFA representing nine departments from Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties.

Political candidates attending the meeting included: Jonathan Weinzapfl, 8th District Congress; Larry Lutz, State Representative; Betty Herman, County Recorder; Bob Brennan, County Commissioner; Dr. Brown, County Coroner; Marsha Abel, County Clerk; Jeff Hatfield, County Council; Phil Hoy, County Council; Ed Witte, County Surveyor; Ed Bassmier, County Council; Tony Greubel, County Treasurer and J.D. Strough, School Board.

A special thank you to District 15 Chairman Tim Wargel, IVFA PRSW Jack Kerney and the McCutchanville Fire Department for providing us with the chance to meet with our political candidates.

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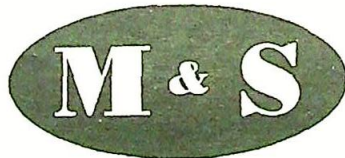
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Scripture - Matthew 22, verse 37

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Man wonders about his primary duty to God. Jesus came that he might teach us an acceptable way in which to worship and serve.

Once we have related our lives to God through faith, our Lord would encourage us to be motivated by His love.

The distinguishing characteristic of the Christian religion is that it is built upon and expresses itself in terms of love. The very heart of the gospel is that God loves man and has revealed His love in the gift of Jesus Christ.

On August 27, all those in Districts 1 and 2 who had worked on our 50th Convention met for a meeting and discussed the good and the bad things that took place. There were many letters complimenting the convention and what a good time was had. There were a few complaints.

Grace and I were very honored to be there and were thrilled that they asked us to be Grand Marshals for the parade.

We rode in a 1923 fire truck. The driver was concerned that the truck would not make it through the parade because they were moving so slow. He didn't have to worry, I was there saying a prayer or two, and we made it.

At the meeting, Grace and I realized how many dedicated people it took to make the convention a great success. These people have a great love for their fellow firefighters and the IVFA to give us so much of their time.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated people in our organization. The next time you see them, be sure to tell them what a nice convention it was, and we should all thank them for making it such a great success.

As we start this new year, with our new officers, let us all give them all the help that we can.

It is not an easy task to do all of the things required by our

rules, and sometimes a word of encouragement helps a lot.

TAKE TIME

Take time to think, it is the source of power.

Take time to read, it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to play, it is the secret of staying young.

Take time to be quiet, it is the opportunity to seek God.

Take time to be aware, it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved, it is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream, it is what the future is made of.

Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth.

Author Unknown

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

18-year-old gets badge for birthday

By Melissa Andrade

Hamlet - A teenager's 18th birthday is usually a special one and for Bobby Goetz his was exceptionally special.

The Oregon-Davis senior was sitting in school on May 10 when he heard sirens outside. It wasn't much later when he was excused from his class and escorted to the school's entrance. He was surprised to see the entire Hamlet Fire Department there waiting for him, along with a newscaster from Channel 22.

The firefighters were there to surprise Goetz with his badge and welcome him onto the department.

According to Fire Chief Todd Leinbach, Goetz has been hanging around the department since he was four years old because his dad is a firefighter.

"He just loves it," Leinbach said.

Goetz said he was completely surprised by the birthday gift.

"I can't believe they are going to put me on," he said. "I've been looking forward to this day for a long time."

Oregon-Davis High School Principal Sam Cullison said that he is very proud of the 18-year-old.

"We are always asking students to get involved with the community and what better way to do that," said the principal. "I also think it's great that Bobby has fulfilled his lifelong dream."

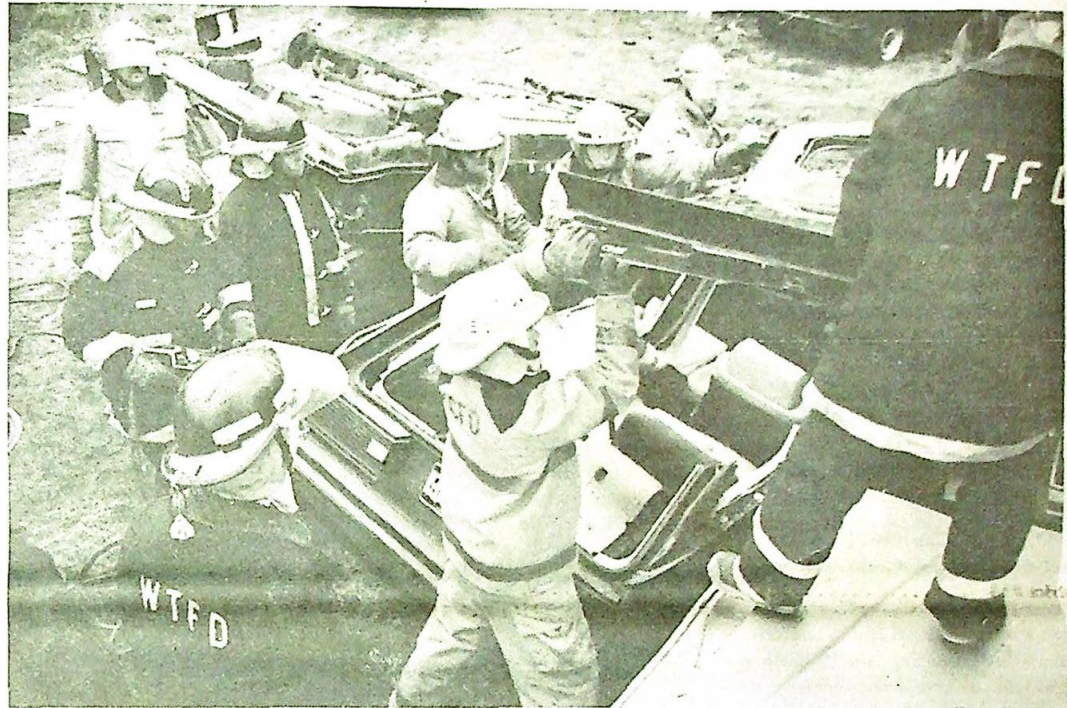
Goetz is currently completing the training required for his state certification.

Reprinted from The Leader

Knox area firefighters certified Second Class



Second Class Graduates. Back row (l-r): Steve Guriel, Bobby Goetz, Brian McLaughlin, Robert Sims, Dusty Smith. Center row: Clint Noren, Tim Burton, Brian Baker, Tina Norem. Front row: Russ Laraviere, Bob Leffert, Tom Goetz.



Students perform extrication training for Second Class certification.

By Terry Turner
Knox - The Starke County Firefighters Association (SCFA) held an honors ceremony last week for thirteen Starke County Volunteer Firefighters who completed their Second Class certification, the first stage in a firefighter's rating.

Included were volunteer firefighters from Hamlet-Davis Twp., Bass Lake, Washington Twp. and Koontz Lake-Oregon Twp.

SCFA President Chuck Lovins said, "This was a great effort on their part. It takes a lot of time out to take these classes and these guys showed the dedication to become a volunteer in our county."

Lovins commented that bringing new, younger firefighters into the fire departments can only help the departments protect the county better.

Those completing the county's

annual fire school were Brian Baker, Tim Burton, Brian McLaughlin and Bob Sims, Jr. from the Knox Fire Department.

Steve Gorrell, Bob Leffert and Clint & Tina Norem were from Washington Twp. Bobby and Tommy Goetz and Dusty Smith were from Hamlet. Bruce Parks from Bass Lake and Russell Laraviere from Koontz Lake-Oregon Township also completed the school.

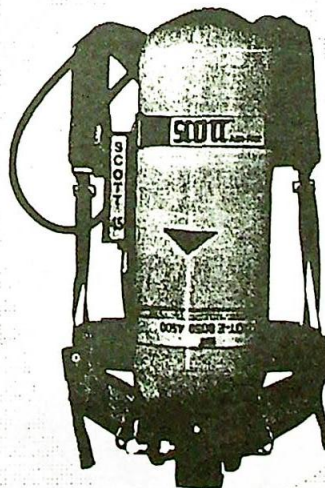
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IVFAA President



Lou Bartlow

Hi Ladies,
Seems hard to believe Fall is upon us. It has been a beautiful time, but I think it is fast coming to a close.

We have been busy working to update the association.

Our Recording Secretary, Barbara Kerney, has put the entire membership on a computer. It's been a lot of hours of work. Now, what she needs from each member is a complete address—not just your town. We also need to know what year you joined the State Auxiliary, not your local auxiliary. Your district chairman is supposed to be checking on this so, help her out and give her the information.

We also have a By-Law Committee working on the By-Laws to bring them up-to-date and make them work better for the Association. As always, your input is needed and wanted.

Once again this year, we'll have the Doe Doll as our only money-making project. Our Vice President Faye Sallee is chairman of this. Help her and the Association out and sell lots of tickets.

Convention '97 is being hosted by Wayne Township at the Adam's Mark in Indianapolis. I am unable to give you much information at this time, because I haven't received any yet.

I want to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, since this is the last paper before the holidays.

You all take care and have a safe and warm winter

Message from Lois Boaz Award Committee

We had a lot of letters this year. Thank you to everyone who sent them.

But, please, do not stop, just because your lady didn't win this year. There is another year, so please help us to nominate a winner by getting busy and writing your letters NOW.

Fire departments and auxiliary members, get behind your ladies.

Your committee members for this year are:

- Miriam Schaekel, Chairman
5789 W. 300 N.
Greenfield, IN 46140
- Eva Gottsche
2084 E. US 40
Brazil, IN 47834
- Phyllis Vargo
7756 Durbin Street
Schererville, IN 46375

I know someone out there deserves this award.
Miriam Schaekel, Chairman

DISTRICT 3

Our meeting was held on September 19, 1996 at Scipio Volunteer Fire Department.

There were 23 members from 6 departments and one guest, Betty Morris, present.

Chaplain Carolyn McCarty gave the Invocation.

Miss Flames sashes were received. IVFA '96 Convention Memorial Service photos were available for presentation.

Scheduled upcoming events announced include: Coolspring, December Craft Show; Kingsbury, Pancake Breakfast October 27; Michiana, Pancake Breakfast October 13; Noble, grocery raffle; Scipio, Pancake Breakfast, September 20; and Springfield, Pancake Breakfast September 20.

Michiana won the attendance award.

Our guest, Betty Morris, and Leona Uryga received awards.

Jimmy from "The Country Gamblers" entertained the group with several selections.

Our next meeting will be November 20, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department. Judging for Miss Flame candidates will be held at that time.

Charlotte Sly, Noble, will be the Auctioneer for craft-bake sale fund raiser.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lucille Cohen

DISTRICT 11B

As I write this, we are enjoying a beautiful October. The fall foliage was at its peak last week, but still colorful & beautiful.

The annual Covered Bridge Festival in Parke County had 10 beautiful days. Several fire departments in the area had fund raisers during the festival.

The Dana Fire Dept. held an Open House on Sunday, October 20 to show the public their new rescue truck. Refreshments were served to those attending. Door prize drawings were held. The department and auxiliary are very proud of their facilities and equipment and very appreciative of the community who supports them.

The annual district picnic was held in September. Hilmon Fire Department was host and served Mulligan Stew and the drinks. Everyone brought desserts and salads. It was a good time and a great day of fellowship. Another picnic is planned for next year on September 14, at Raccoon State Park, so mark your calendars.

Hey fire departments and auxiliaries, it is time to start your selection for Miss Flame. The district contest will be held February 15, 1997 at the annual Miss Flame Dance. Let's have about 20 contestants this year!

It is also time to start thinking about nominating someone for the awards to be given at the convention in June. I am sure that

everyone reading this knows someone who is deserving of the Lois Boaz, Mr. IVFA or Ollie Sandburg Awards. Get those letters in and make the committees work in selecting the recipients.

The next district meeting will be at Reelsville, November 10, at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. We would like to have someone there from every fire department and auxiliary in the district.

I encourage auxiliaries to give me a call and invite me to a meeting. I would like to just come and listen or lend assistance, if needed. Give me a call at 317-665-3213.

Since this is the last paper of the year, I want to wish each and every one a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year.

Eula Bush, Chairman

IVFAA Chaplain



Joann Hays

Scripture

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. —Psalm 56:3

I said a prayer for you today,
And I know God must have heard.

I left the answer in my heart,
Although He spoke not a word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
(I knew you wouldn't mind).
I asked for priceless treasures rare,

Of a more lasting kind.
I prayed that He'd be near you,
At the start of each new day.

To grant you health and blessings fair,
And friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you,
In all things great and small.
But that you'd know His loving care,

I prayed the most of all.

I will walk this day in faith,
dear Lord,

No foe nor storm I'll fear,
Because I'm trusting in Your word,
I know that you are near.

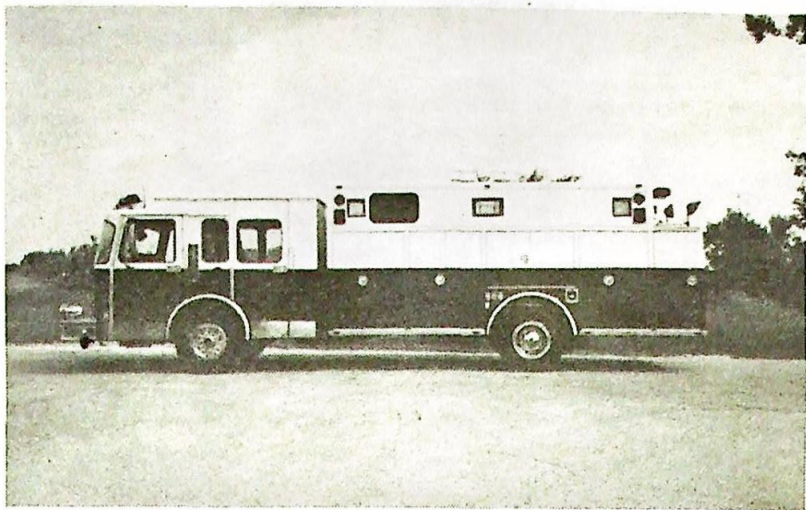
May the Lord bless all of you
and as the season starts to
change, may your faith in the
Heavenly Father make a change
in your life and trust in Him.
Amen.



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Thanks to Hoagland EMS



Thanks to Russia Volunteer Fire Department

Cass-Clinton Firefighters Honored at Wanatah Festival

Wanatah recently celebrated its Second Annual Scarecrow Festival September 27-29, 1996.

One of the events of the Fest was a Scarecrow Decorating Contest and the Cass-Clinton Volunteer Firemen were honored by one of the contestants.

Tricia Rosenbaum of Wanatah chose as her theme to honor the volunteer firemen and especially those of Wanatah.

Her setting for the display was the side of the Cass-Clinton Volunteer Fire Station. The scene depicted a fireman climbing down a ladder saving a child, and was complete with a Dalmatian fire dog. The sign read "In Honor of All Volunteer Firemen for Risking Their Lives to Save Ours".

The scene was awarded the "Committee's Choice" award.

Tricia has only lived in our community a few years and has no close relatives on the department. She was very creative and considerate in her display.

My dad was on the Cass-Clinton Volunteer Fire Department for 29 years until he passed away and my brother and husband are currently very active members of the department.

Until you've lived the life of a fireman's family, you don't know what it's like when the whistle blows - during work - during important meetings - during family holiday gatherings - any time of day or night the volunteers respond without hesitation and without fear. That leaves unfinished business, cold meals and worried family at home.

As all volunteer firemen know, this is a job without pay, and many times, thankless as well. Firemen are often criticized for putting out fence row fires that were intentionally started—if it's called in, it must be extinguished.



Tricia Rosenbaum created the winning scene at the Second Annual Scarecrow Festival in Wanatah. Her scene of a volunteer fireman risking his life won the Committee Choice Award. The setting for the display was the side of Cass-Clinton Volunteer Fire Station.

"Why didn't you get here sooner?", they're often asked. It's a job that has unpredictable hours and no vacations. Its rewards come in the form of helping and saving others and knowing that they are better people because of their service to the communities in which they live.

On behalf of all the wives, siblings and children of the Cass-Clinton Volunteer Fire Department, I'd like to thank Tricia Rosenbaum for thanking us.

The Cass-Clinton VFD was also very busy raising money during the festival and participating in the parade. A jar game and raffle were held at the festival, as well as the Second Annual Wanatah Volunteer Fire Department Toy and Sports Card Show. Approximately \$2,000 was raised to help fund fire fighting activities.

At the closing ceremonies four past firemen with over 100 years of total service were honored. Three retirees were honored with plaques—James Czerwonke, Ken Mohlke and Doug Reeves.

A plaque was also given in memory of James L. Mitzner.

As veteran firemen leave the department, new volunteers are always welcome and needed.

All in all, for the department and the community, the Second Annual Scarecrow was a huge success and plans are already underway for next year's festival, September 26-28, 1997.

Submitted by
Juli Charlesworth
Scarecrow Festival Publicity
Chairman

Gas Explosion Rocks Buildings

One worker is badly burned while either loading or filling tanks at a propane gas store; people working nearby report hearing between 12 and 15 explosions.

By Frank Wiget and Jeannine Athens

Chesterton - Gas tanks rocketed into the air like fireballs Monday, September 30, 1996, showering the rear of a propane gas store and parts of the street here with twisted metal.

Witnesses working nearby reported hearing between 12 and 15 explosions as buildings close to Ferrellgas shook and metal pieces flew up to 700 feet.

One worker was badly burned in the 9:20 a.m. explosions, which fire officials said could have turned into a disaster if two 30-foot propane tanks on the other side of the store had ruptured.

"If the big tanks would have gone off, this place would have been leveled," Porter Fire Chief Lewis Craig said as his Chesterton colleagues probed the cause.

Monday's drama began with Michael Major of Portage loading or filling 33-pound propane tanks on a stakebed truck on a loading dock at Ferrellgas.

The location, 15th Street and

Woodlawn Avenue, is where Chesterton meets Porter.

While the area is partially enclosed by railroad tracks, it is not believed that any freight or Amtrak trains were passing that could have sent sparks toward the store.

Few homes are close by, although the site is about a city block away from Porter's downtown buildings.

Claire Biesboer had arrived for work at Hauber's Video, 125 N. 15th Street, about two minutes before the explosions.

"The building shook, and I must have heard a dozen explosions before they stopped," she said. "When railroad cars bang together, the windows don't vibrate. I looked outside and saw fireballs and flames and smoke and heard a loud hissing noise."

The injured worker, Michael Major, 27, was listed in critical but stable condition late Monday afternoon at the University of Chicago Hospital Burn Unit, where he was flown by helicopter from Porter Memorial Hospital.

Hospital spokesman John Easton said Major suffered burns over 15 percent of his body, including his face and forearms. He was on a ventilator to ease his breathing, Easton said.

Chesterton Deputy Fire Chief Scott D. Wynder said Monday night it wasn't clear whether Major was loading tanks or filling them when the explosions occurred.

"We have to talk with him to determine the cause," he said.

While the State Fire Marshal's office has been contacted to assist in the investigation, Jim Bendt from the Chesterton Fire Department will work with Detective Lieutenant Harold McCorkel from the Chesterton Police Department on the cause of the explosion.

Fragments from the propane cylinders traveled as far as 700 feet, some landing across 15th Street, Wynder said.

The truck was destroyed by the fire, and there was some damage from fragments inside the loading dock, he said.

Businesses and a few homes within three blocks of the plant in Chesterton and Porter were evacuated immediately, although employees were back at work within hours.

Boyd H. McGathey, area manager for Ferrellgas of Liberty, Missouri, arrived at the scene within hours. He said Major was the only one near the fire and explosions.

Two other employees were in the office northeast of the two-bay loading dock, he said.

"We are still trying to figure out what caused this explosion," McGathey said Monday afternoon.

He estimated the damage at

\$26,000. Between 60 and 75 tanks were on the truck, he said, but it is not known how many were full.

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune
Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Pershing Township Fire Department faces building problems

"And the walls came tumbling down..." may be the song of choice at Pershing Township Fire Department in Freetown.

Recently a contractor has discovered major structural damage to the department's largest truck bay.

"We believe the damage is due to the excessive weight of snow this past winter," explained Chief Richard Blaker.

"Trusses are actually cracked and separated. This shifted weight onto the block wall in an improper manner that cracked and moved the wall."

Although the damage is covered to a great extent by insurance, the department faces the immediate problem of placement of fire apparatus.

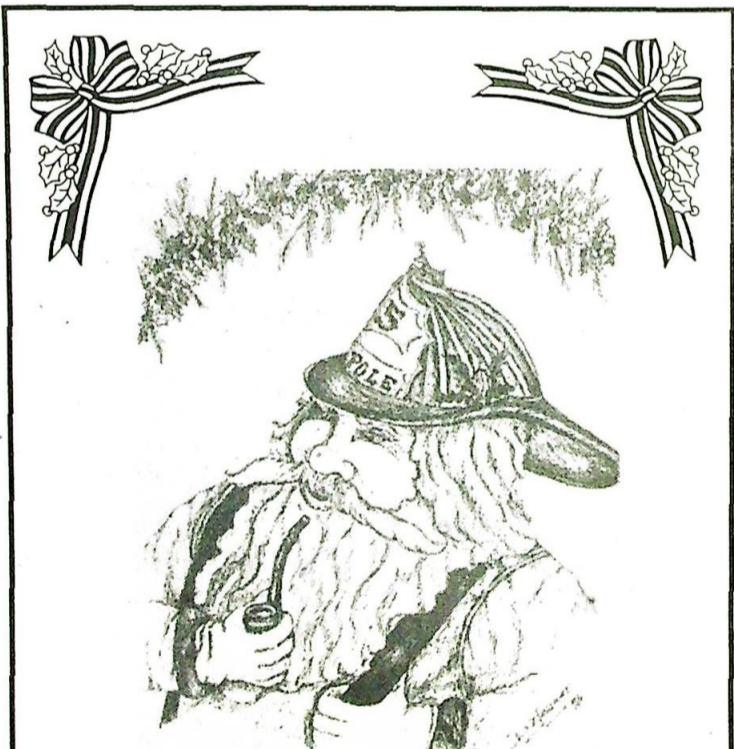
"We can't just park the trucks outside," said Captain Greg Sutton who doubles as Pershing Township Fire Department President. "The danger of vandalism and weather damage to the equipment is just too great."

"We knew something was very wrong when the ceiling fell in on top of the trucks," observed Deputy Chief Rebecca Scott.

"It wasn't a very good day around here to say the least."

"Right now our primary concern is housing our trucks in a convenient and efficient manner until this construction is complete," said Blaker.

Department construction workers are investigating the possibility of erecting a pole barn behind the existing firehouse to shelter the units. The barn would be utilized as a storage facility after the reconstruction of the truck bay is done.



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IVFAA STATE OFFICERS MEETINGS

Ramada Inn, Indianapolis, Indiana
August 11, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President Lou Bartlow, by asking Chaplain Joann Hays to lead the group in prayer. Joann opened with a poem, then offered prayer.

Sgt.-At-Arms Miriam Schaeckel led the Pledge to the Flag.

Roll Call was then given by Recording Secretary Barbara Kerney. It was answered by 18 officers with 7 guests present.

We were also introduced to a new District 11A Chairman, Jane Lingenfelter. (Her address and phone number are listed on page 7 under the district chairmen.) We all wish you well and welcome.

Lou said she received a phone call from Wanda Johnson who said she would not make the meeting because her parents had had a fire and lost everything. She felt she needed to go help them.

Minutes of the last meeting followed. They were approved as read.

Maxine Davies made a motion not to read the district reports and it was seconded by Mary Mackin. Motion carried.

Treasurer Dorothy Reiter gave her report.

Membership - Barbara Kerney said we have 44 auxiliaries, 619 members, 29 Individuals for a total of 648. We need to work real hard this year to get more women involved and get some auxiliaries started.

Barb explained the new forms. She put all the ones who have paid and their dates of joining on that sheet. It will be up to the chairmen to make sure these dates are correct. This will also help each chairman know who has paid and keep a more accurate record. If you make corrections, please let Barbara know. She only has records that go back so many years, and we know the organization was started in 1961.

There are also some Lifetime member card numbers that we need to know. Mary Mackin said she will talk to Catherine Mason and Ruth Fairfield and see if they can help out with some information.

Mr. Wilson handed out some pictures he had taken at convention. You have to watch when he is around. He is quite the camera bug!! Thanks for the pictures!

Chaplain - Joann Hays reported that since convention she has sent 1 get well, 5 sympathy and 2 thinking of you cards. She also needs to order some Bibles. She currently has 8 Catholic and only 1 Protestant Bible. A motion was made by Eula Bush to purchase 12 Protestant Bibles and seconded by Vivian Woodfill. Motion carried.

Auditing - Maxine Davies said all the books were audited and are in good shape. No problems!!

Games - E.J. Smith reported we had 13 Men's and 1 Women's Waterball, 9 Hose Replacement, and 7 Cart entries. The women decided not to participate.

Installation - Barbara Parker said we had a good time and everyone was installed, even though she goofed. She will try to do better next year, if she has that committee.

Financial Study - Maxine said no recommendation for any extra spending.

Miss Flame - Eula Bush said she had a great bunch of girls. They all got along together and the skit that Barbara Kerney prepared with the girls was just great and that it was just what everyone needed. Barbara Parker said if it can be arranged and time allows she thought it would be a good idea to have something again for the next convention. The girls sold \$635 in Doe Doll tickets. Eula apologized to Barbara & Jim Parker for omitting their names in the article in the paper, as they donated the Miss Congeniality award.

Eula would also like for everyone to throw away the Miss Flame applications they have now and use the new ones she passed out today.

Doe Doll - Lou Bartlow said we sold \$2156 and after expenses we had a profit of \$1950. District 2 had the highest tickets sales and won the \$25.

Faye Sallee, Vice President, said Tammy Sedwick will be donating the doll for next year. She will get some pictures and decide from there.

Barbara Parker reported she collected \$460.25 in the Chinese Auction this year. If we decide to do it again, she suggested that each district donate a plastic jar, decorated to their liking, for the tickets to be put into, instead of the bigger boxes. They will be easier to store. She will also set up on Wednesday because so many come in then. Phyllis Vargo made a motion to have the auction and Mary Mackin seconded it. Motion carried.

Lou took the paper and updated the list with names and addresses. Some of them were still wrong in the paper. Maxine Davies will retype them and then we can run copies.

Lou said the By-Law Committee still needs to hear your input, whether it be suggestions, gripes, or a comment. They would like to get this finished, so read it carefully and give one of the committee members a call or drop them a note. The new committee will be Eula Bush, Barbara Kerney, and Jane Lingenfelter.

Jewelry - Mary Mackin said we done real well!!! She sold a total of \$1432 at convention, so we are in the black with \$537. She has 24 charms and 29 tacks left from this year. She wondered if maybe we should reduce the amount we order because of the leftovers. It will be something to think about.

Nominating - We're Done!!!

Historian - Ann Moss said she just got the books last evening and had not had the time to look them over. Eula said it was because she was slow and old. But Ann said she still carries it well!

Lois Boaz - Miriam Schaeckel said Phyllis was the recipient and she did well. You need to get your letters in by April 1, 1997. Send family information, fire department involvement as well as community involvement. Also, send her jacket size.

Parliamentarian - Virginia Wilson said there was no report.

Old Business:

Joann Hays said she heard from Judy Hildebrand and she was doing fine and said to tell everyone Hi. But we should keep her in our prayers.

New Business:

Lou passed out the new list of committees for 1996-97. She purposely did not appoint a Games Committee because for the past 2 years, we have had only one women's team. If it gets close to convention and we see we need to, then she will appoint one.

She said she had one new auxiliary, 11B Lyford Volunteer Fire

Department Auxiliary, Welcome!!

Phyllis Vargo gave the convention report. She said they were glad it was over. She thought everything went well. They paid for everything, through donations and the districts. They did not take any money from the State. They even had money left over.

Lou asked that if any new chairmen have not filled out the insurance form, please contact Barbara Kerney and do so.

Lou also said starting this year, the Jewelry Chairman will handle all the jewelry, including the men's Past President's pin and the women's Past President's pin, as well as the Gold Cards. This way we will know where they all are.

Also, the Chaplain will hold the money for the flower fund. This way if she is notified, she knows to get the flowers.

Mary said we need to order Gold Cards, and so she will get prices to have at the next meeting.

Phyllis said they had a 30 minute tape of the convention and it was decided to show it Saturday night before our meeting. It will be hosted by Districts 1 and 2. Come have some fun, watch a short movie and have some popcorn.

Phyllis Vargo made a motion to adjourn and Leona Urgya seconded it. Motion carried.

Barbara Parker made a motion to just turn in our district reports to Diana Gray. Seconded by Phyllis Vargo. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be November 3. See you then.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 6:

We met at Churubusco Fire Department in Whitley County, July 18.

Roll Call was answered by six members from five departments, plus two Past State Presidents.

Picnic at St. Joe was discussed.

Held election of officers.

Next meeting will be at Arcola Fire Department on September 19, at 7:30 p.m.

District 10:

We met at Shoney's Restaurant on June 20, in Shelbyville.

Seven members attended representing four departments.

We discussed the fate of District 10 and decided to have the meeting at Shoney's, a central location, to see if we can rebuild the district.

The next meeting will be August 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Shelbyville.

District 11A:

Our meeting was held on July 21, at St. Mary's of the Woods Fire Department. The food was great.

Election of officers was held with District Chairman being Jane Lingenfelter.

Our picnic will be on September 15, at 1:00 p.m. at Hawthorne Park.

District 11B:

The regular meeting was held in July at Lyford. It was an evening meeting. The attendance was pretty good.

Election of officers was held. The slate remained the same for the coming year.

Our annual picnic will be on September 8, at Raccoon State Park.

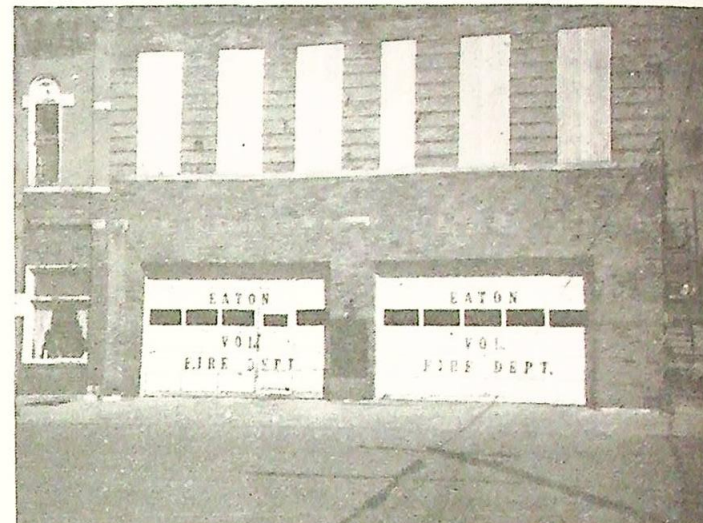
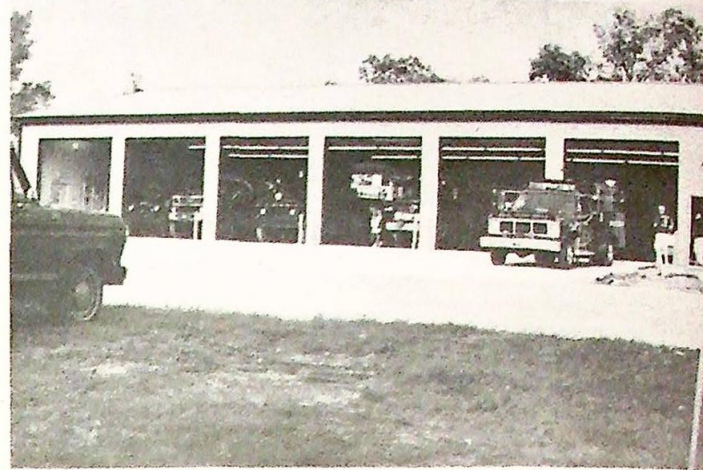
District 14:

We met at Jennings Township in Austin on July 17. They were presented with their membership certificate.

A question and answer discussion followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Gray, Corres. Secretary

Eaton VFD gets new station



Eaton's old fire station



Building Committee for the new station.
Top row, L-R: Mike Cartwright, Monty Lechien, Mike Murray, Dave Shelly, Cecil Brown and Mark Clawson.
Bottom row, L-R: Fred Hollowell, Richard Haggard, Tim Sites and Noel Taylor.

ANNOUNCEMENT

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO TAPE "50 Years of Pride Returns Home" 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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Confined Space Rescue Class held

This past April (1996), Marrs Township helped SIGECO fulfill a requirement by OSHA in Confined Space Rescue.

OSHA requires manufacturing facilities with confined space entries to have a Confined Space Entry Team or the local fire department to fulfill the requirement.

SIGECO provided training and some equipment. Roco Rescue from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were the instructors for the class, which was a fourty-hour course on rope rescue, safety, rappelling and patient handling.

The class was open to thirty students. Fourteen were from Marrs Fire Department, with the rest coming from Wadesville Fire Department, Mount Vernon City Fire, Posey County, Perry Township, German Township and Evansville Fire Department, from Vanderburg County.

Confined space equipment has been purchased and some received from SIGECO. Assistant Chief Dale Wilzbacher has taken on the duties of coordinating the team and making sure we have the proper equipment and training in-service up to date.

Rappelling fifty to one hundred feet down a vessel or down the side of a building is an awesome feeling. If you ever question what it would be like, ask Assistant Chief Dale Wilzbacher or Chief Don Montgomery. They can tell you.

T'was The Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas,
When all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The bunkers were hung by the engines with care,
In hopes that no fire would burn on a dare.
The firemen were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of Hurst Tools danced in their heads.
I in my long-johns and Ma in her flannels.
We just set the scanner to all the right channels.
When out of my pager there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to hear what was the matter.
Away to the closet I flew like a flash.
Threw on my clothes and ran with a dash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow
Gave a shudder of dread from my head to my toes.
When what to my listening ears did I hear.
But a three alarm fire, across town, oh dear!
With my little ol'e clunker so lively and quick.
My blue lights were flashing, I'm gonna be sick.
More rapid than ever the flames did they rise.
When I got to the scene, I just shut my eyes.
Now hydrants! Now pumpers! Now nozzles and hosemen!
On bunkers! On air packs! On in there Go get 'em.
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now fight down those flames, fight with your all!
As dry leaves before the hurricane fly,
When met with the heat, they mount to the sky.
So up to the housetop the venters did crawl.
Their arms full of axes, pike poles, and saws.
And then with a yell I heard from the blokes.
The axing and prying, God look at that smoke!
As I drew on my coat and was turning around,
Down the sidewalk the Commander came with a bound.
He was dressed all in bunkers from his head to his foot.
His clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
An air pack and radio he had slung on his back.
He looked a bit tired, his face was all slack.
His eyes how they worried. His hose lines were freezing.
His commands did he bark, between all his sneezing.
His droll little mouth was drawn up in a cuss.
Put out that fire was a definite must!
The stump of a cigar he held tight in his teeth.
He stomped in the snow to thaw out his feet.
He looked all around, the flames they were licking.
He won't let this fire give his men a butt kicking.
He was smart and well-trained, a confident man.
But, I groaned when I realized the extent of his plan.
A bark of his voice and the nod of his head.
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
I spoke not a word and went into that fire.
Put out the flames of that stubborn ol'e pyre.
And heaving the hose line up over my shoulder,
I knew with a grin it was finally over.
We sprang to the engine, our air packs depleted.
Another night shot...A fire defeated.
But I heard it exclaimed as we drove down the road,
God bless the firefighter,
They're worth more than gold.

By Denise Yeager

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Explosion in Wakarusa

Building leveled

Pumping station blast critically injures one; residents asked to boil drinking water for now

By Dan Shenk and Kathy Carney

Truth Staff

Wakarusa - An explosion rocked Wakarusa about 4 p.m. Friday, October 4, 1996, seriously injuring Douglas "Doug" Purdue, the long time head of the town's maintenance department.

Purdue, 42, was listed in critical condition last Friday in the Trauma/Burn Unit of Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo, Michigan. He had been air lifted there early Friday evening from Elkhart General Hospital.

As a result of the destruction of the main pumping station, Wakarusa officials have placed a temporary ban on drinking the town's water until the Elkhart County Health Department checks out the situation Monday morning.

Purdue was inside the city's water-pumping station to shut off the dehumidifier when the explosion occurred, flattening the building and rocking the town. He was able to crawl out of the building and talk to persons who rushed to his aid.

Mark Esenwein, Wakarusa Fire Chief and paramedic, said Purdue suffered second and third degree burns over fifty percent of his body. No one else was injured.

In a state of shock, Purdue asked where his radio was. He also said that he had gone into the building to shut off the dehumidifier.

Apparently unknown to Purdue was the fact that the 20-by-40 foot pumping building had filled with gas during the previous 45 minutes after a gas line was accidentally cut across the street.

Tom Roeder, Town Manager, said late Friday that he had summoned Purdue to handle what appeared to be a "very routine" matter after a worker had accidentally severed a gas line 300 to 500 feet away, on the other side of Maple Lane on Wakarusa's east side. The station was on the west side of Maple Lane.

The worker was believed to be doing subcontracting work for AT&T; the site on the east side of Maple is an expansion facility of Holiday Rambler/Monaco.

Roeder said NIPSCO notified him that a gas leak had occurred, so he called Purdue, who was at home, to go to the scene to make sure no town water lines would be affected by further digging.

Roeder later estimated that the worker severed the line about 3:15 p.m., 45 minutes prior to the explosion.

However, according to Esenwein, the worker apparently also had drilled into a storm sewer, which is 'right beside' the gas line. Fifty pounds of pressure likely sent the gas into the storm sewer, which connected with the pumping station.

But the investigation is continuing, emphasized Esenwein.

The explosion "just annihilated the building," said Terry Newland, a Wakarusa police officer. "The whole town of Wakarusa heard it or felt it. It was pretty powerful."

Purdue's truck was sent flying by the blast; it lay on its side afterward. There was no other immediate indication of damage, but a

homeowner who lives a quarter of a mile southwest of the site said the blast knocked a potted plant off her window sill.

About 11:00 p.m. Friday, crews were able to get a back-up water-pumping station, with chlorinator, fully operational - after a false start at 8:30 p.m., Roeder said 12 to 18 hours worth of water was in the system at the time of the blast, so Wakarusans (hooked up to town water) who drank water between 4:00 and 11:00 p.m. Friday, should have nothing to worry about.

"It's not a major health risk, it's just a precaution," said Roeder, who noted that many people in the Wakarusa area drink their own well water, which is not chlorinated or fluoridated. He added that showering, bathing and doing the dishes with town water are still fine through Monday.

He recommended that drinking water be boiled, then cooled,

for safety's sake. Drinking bottled water, of course, is another alternative.

About twenty officials were still at the scene after dark on Friday. Among them were representatives of Lawson-Fisher of South Bend, Wakarusa's engineering firm.

The investigation was expected to continue throughout the day Saturday.

Roeder said efforts also are being made this weekend to "replenish our water towers that are drained."

He pointed out that officials will need to do a couple of days worth of work before the Monday inspection by the health department.

Of Purdue, Roeder said, "He's a good man and a good friend."

Note: Douglas Purdue, 42, and his wife Sue have 2 daughters. He has served the Town Of Wakarusa for 22 years, first as a maintenance dept. employee,

then for the past 15 years as the Wakarusa Maintenance Dept. Superintendent.

Douglas has also served as a Wakarusa Volunteer Fireman for 15 years, both as Assistant Fire Chief and an EMT.

Reprinted from
The Elkhart Truth

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The article which appeared in the last issue of the IVFA newspaper (August, 1996) entitled 'It Takes a Village To Raise a Child', enraged me just as the current people in Washington do. It is not the job of "the village" to control our youth. Parents should be

given that right back immediately before it is too late!

Since before the turn of the century, the National Education Association, many world leaders and our so-called socialist leaders in this country have been trying to take parental authority away by endorsing the new world order program where governments would take increasing control of our children.

The Bible tells us to raise our children in a family situation using discipline when necessary. There is no mention of government raising our children.

The morality issue in this country is very important and the family needs to be stressed as an answer for this problem.

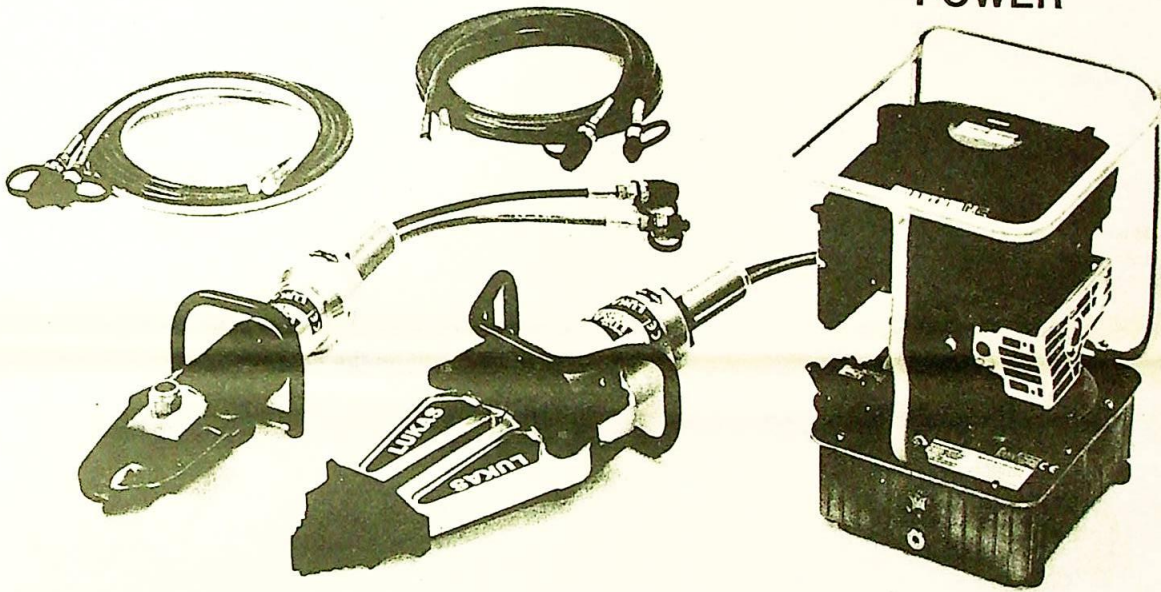
When, and only when, the public realizes this, will the situation of problem children be turned around.

David B. Patterson, Firefighter
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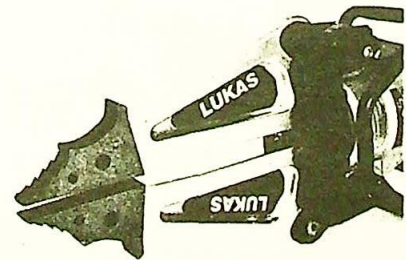
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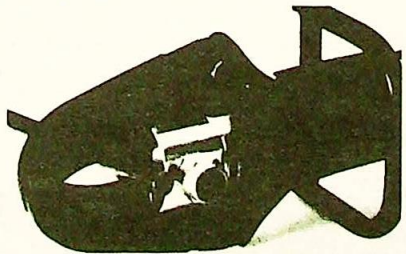
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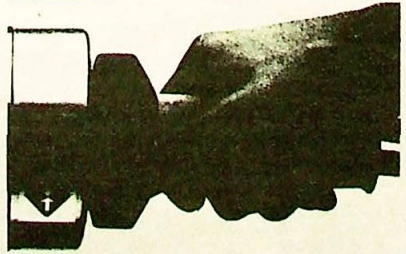
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MISS FLAME GUIDELINES

The purpose of the Miss Flame Contest is to select a Miss Flame and First Runner-up to represent the I.V.F.A. and the I.V.F.A.A. The Miss Flame Contest is held annually at the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention. The girls are judged by a committee of judges who are selected by the Convention Miss Flame Committee. The girls will be judged based on the rules, qualifications, and score sheets dated 8/96.

The State Miss Flame and First Runner-up are selected from District Miss Flame winners (one from each district). The District winners' applications along with two photos (black and white preferred) will be sent to the Miss Flame Committee Chairman by March 10. The girls selected will be representing the state, district and their local department. They will act as public relations representatives all over the state. On a best efforts basis, they will attend as many departmental, district, and state activities as possible. It is the responsibility of the departments, districts, and state to advise and invite them to their activities. The district winners will represent their districts and departments.

The behavior of all Miss Flame candidates and winners will always be becoming and appropriate to such representation.

When attending the convention, motel rooms are set aside for the Miss Flames. They must, however, make their own reservations and advise the Reservation Committee that they are a candidate. Each contestant will have a chaperone (parents or designated person) who will stay in the same room. Miss Flames and their chaperones may camp and again, they must make their own arrangements. They are responsible for paying for their own accommodations.

The itinerary for Miss Flames at the convention will be sent to the candidates by the Miss Flame Committee Chairman. Along with this, they will be advised of the recommended clothing to be worn at each activity. All Miss Flame candidates will attend the mixer on Wednesday evening, the judging and luncheon on Thursday. The judging will consist of personal interviews on Thursday morning and final judging on Thursday afternoon. Winners will be announced and crowning of the Miss Flame will be at the Opening Meeting on Thursday evening.

All girls will be expected to attend the men's and women's meetings, Memorial Service, and banquet on Friday. They will attend the waterball games and ride in the parade on Saturday (if there is one). They will sell doe doll tickets throughout the convention.

District Chairmen (men and women) will be responsible for providing rules and information to Miss Flame candidates. If chairmen need information, they should contact the Miss Flame Chairman.

JUDGING REGULATIONS

Judging will be based on fire department and community involvement, appearance, personality, poise, conversational ability, and ability to express ideas. All judging scores will be confidential.

All state contestants will be considered on the following percentage basis for "Miss Flame" state judging. No questions to be asked relative to scholastic ability.

- 25% on what she thinks are the benefits of a volunteer fire department in her community:
 - * her fire department role in community
 - * her relationship to the volunteer fire service
 - * her involvement with the fire department, and
 - * her family's involvement with the fire department
- 20% on personality and poise (includes carriage, composure, self-control and self confidence).
- 10% on ability to carry on a conversation in a personal interview and before a group.
- 10% on appearance (grooming, neatness).
- 10% on community involvement (4-H, church, school, etc.).
- Each state contestant should be familiar with the following topics. The judges will select three of the five (same three for each contestant) and ask each contestant to express her thoughts on them. 5% for each of the three topics.
 - *National Government
 - *Environment
 - *Quality of Education
 - *Inflation
 - *Juvenile Crime
- 10% on impromptu speech or last minute thoughts.

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IVFA MISS FLAME CONTEST QUALIFICATIONS AND RULES TO ENTER

- Father, brother, mother or sister must be a member of the I.V.F.A. or the I.V.F.A. Auxiliary or be a member herself.
- Entrant must be single and a non-parent.
- Entrant must be 15 years old but not more than 18 at the time of the I.V.F.A. State Convention. She must be a resident of the state of Indiana.
- There may be only one entry from each department in the District Contest.
- The department winner will be decided at the discretion of the department.
- Winner of a department will be entered in the District contest.
- District winner will be decided at the discretion of the District.
- District winner will be entered in the State Miss Flame Contest.
- District winner must have transportation to the State Convention and have a chaperone.
- District winner should be decided by March 1; application and two photos (black and white preferred) will be sent to the State Miss Flame Chairman no later than March 10.
- Department and District may have an alternate in the event the winner is unable to fulfill the title.
- I.V.F.A. Miss Flame will be selected at the State Convention.
- The Convention host department will provide judges to select the state winner prior to the opening meeting on Thursday evening.
- The Winner and Runner-up will be announced at the ceremonies of opening meeting on Thursday evening.
- I.V.F.A.A. will furnish appropriate District designation ribbons which will be presented to the District winners prior to the Judging on Thursday at Convention.
- I.V.F.A.A. will furnish winner I.V.F.A. "MISS FLAME" ribbon, flowers, trophy and a \$100 savings bond.
- I.V.F.A.A. will furnish I.V.F.A. "MISS FLAME RUNNER-UP" with flowers, trophy and a \$50 savings bond.
- Formal attire will be worn at the State Judging.
- Judging will be based on fire department and community involvement, appearance, personality, poise, conversational ability and ability to express ideas.
- It will be the responsibility of the parent or chaperone to pay their hotel/motel expenses.

"MISS FLAME" CONTEST OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLACK INK)

NAME _____ SS# _____
(Print in full)

ADDRESS _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Number and Street

PHONE _____ BIRTH DATE _____ AGE _____

PARENT'S NAMES _____

CHAPERONE NAMES (IF NOT PARENTS) _____

DISTRICT# _____ CHAIRMAN _____ (MEN) _____ (WOMEN)

FIRE DEPARTMENT SPONSOR _____ (NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER)

SPONSORING FIREMAN OR AUX. MEMBER'S NAME & RELATIONSHIP: _____

SCHOOL ATTENDING _____

WHERE EMPLOYED _____

HOBBIES: _____

I/we, the undersigned, do hereby declare that I/we are the parents and/or legal guardian of: _____ and do hereby give our consent to her participation in the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association "Miss Flame" Contest. The Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association Auxiliary are in no way obligated or under contract to any person/persons, or firms to supply any requirements for contestants, parents, legal guardians or chaperones.

_____ Date _____
Parent/Legal Guardian

I concur that _____ will represent District _____ in the State Miss Flame Contest at the annual Convention. I further concur that the sponsoring fireman/auxiliary member's dues are current with the I.V.F.A./I.V.F.A.A.

_____ DATE _____
DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

THIS FORM GOES TO THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN FOR THE DISTRICT CONTEST AND HE/SHE FORWARDS IT TO THE STATE "MISS FLAME" CHAIRMAN. Entry form for the state contest, two photos (preferably black and white) must be forwarded to the address below by the District Chairman no later than March 10.

Eula Bush
1419 W. 850 S.
Dana, IN 47847
317-665-3213

THE I.V.F.A. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE CONTEST UPON NOTIFICATION TO ALL PARTICIPANTS
REVISED 8/96

Dunreith firemen attend expo

Dunreith - Four representatives of the Dunreith Volunteer Fire Department recently attended Firehouse Expo '96, the 13th annual such fire house service show held in Baltimore, Maryland.

It is sponsored by the Baltimore City and County Fire Departments and EMS Services, Firehouse Expo and Firehouse Magazine.

Jerry Hartgrove, Ron Derrickson, Jason and Brenda Greene attended seminars over a three-day period that were presented by firefighters from all across the country and others knowledgeable about firefighting.

The latest in techniques, equipment, management, and public relations were among the subjects covered in this international event.

"We were especially interested in seminars that showed us improved techniques about protecting property and lives. We also learned a lot about firefighter safety and getting out alive," said Hartgrove, Assistant Chief at Dunreith.

"Firefighters are still burning up because they are still doing things the old way. It's all due to improper training. A lot of times someone shows a tape at the firehouse and that's all the training they get."

Derrickson and Jason Greene went on a ridealong in Baltimore County to see activities at the various stations of the host department.

Among the speakers was the Chief of the Phoenix, Arizona Fire Department who was involved in the Oklahoma City bombing.

"Different guys bring back different ideas to pass on to the others," said Hartgrove, who is a certified Second Class fire instructor.

Submitted by
District 13A

Don't forget
Deadline
for the
February
issue of the
newspaper
is
January
10, 1997

Please,
make a note
of it.

Founder, coordinator of county haz-mat program dies

By Steve Walsh
Times Staff Writer

Valparaiso - Greg Phillips was nearly ready to unveil a computerized evacuation system.

The Co. Environmental Coordinator spent months choosing a program capable of telephoning entire neighborhoods. He believed the county couldn't afford the system, so Phillips convinced local industry to pay part of the \$30,000 start-up cost.

"His true ability was not only to get industry to acquiesce to the rules, but make them among his greatest supporters," said David Hollenbeck, attorney for the County Environmental Dept. and Phillips' personal friend.

The founder of the committee that became the Porter Co. Local Emergency Planning Commission and only coordinator for the county hazardous material team, Phillips, 41, died at 10:45 p.m. in the Intensive Care Unit of Porter Memorial Hospital. Cause of death has not been determined.

He was rushed by ambulance at 9 a.m. from his office at the Porter County Administration Building. Hollenbeck said by 6 p.m., Phillips was alert and complaining about the prospect of staying over night in the hospital.

At 9:00 p.m., with intense internal bleeding, he was placed in ICU. Hollenbeck said his lungs filled with blood and his heart eventually stopped.

An autopsy authorized by the Porter Co. Coroner was inconclusive. Further tests have been authorized, according to a spokesman for Coroner Evans.

As a volunteer, Phillips formed

the first hazardous material committee in 1983, while he still worked as a firefighter for Bethlehem Steel, Burns Harbor plant. He helped form the hazardous material team in 1987.

Volunteers aided local fire depts. in cleaning roadsides, when they used to hose gasoline into roadside ditches. They had the training and equipment to safely contain chemical spills at Porter County industrial plants.

Two years later, Phillips left a job at the environmental firm, Correct Maintenance Corp., to become the county's first paid environmental coordinator.

He became the early advocate of a series of environmental ordinances. In 1989, Porter Co. began requiring spillers to pay for time & labor of a cleanup a year before the state passed a similar law.

A "lock box" ordinance passed in 1990 required industry to keep a list of chemicals and a map of the plant at the front gate in case of an emergency.

Phillips preferred to work with companies. This year Beta Steel, in Portage, became the first company he recommended be prosecuted. The box was not in place during an explosion at the plant March 27.

"I don't think he could have done things any other way," Valparaiso Deputy Fire Chief Sam Moser said.

The hazardous material team is made up of volunteers from industry as well as most of the local fire depts in Porter County.

"Before Greg, some of the departments tried to form their own hazardous material teams, but they didn't have the equipment or the manpower to pull it off," said John Wozniak, Chief of Washington Twp. VFD and a member of the Haz-Mat team.

"A lot of people didn't think it would work. There were too many jurisdictions, but it was really the only way."

Gary Colby, NIPSCO principal or corporate emergency planning, characterized Phillips as a "straight arrow." He said Phillips had the technical skill to ensure regulations were followed.

"I've never seen a guy more dedicated to his job," Colby said.

County Commissioner Jim Biggs said there has been no discussion of Phillips' replacement.

"I don't know how we are going to replace him," Biggs said.

Flags are flying at half staff at county buildings.

For the past year, Phillips was collecting money from fines and donations to build a permanent garage for Haz-Mat team equipment. Hollenbeck said half of the \$90,000 has already been raised to build the garage on county-owned land on Ind 2. A memorial fund is set up in Phillips' name to finish the project.

"Greg had a lot of supporters," Colby said. "I know the money will be raised quickly."

Reprinted from
The Vidette Times
August 24, 1996

Laid to rest

By Steve Walsh
Times Staff Writer

Washington Twp. - Outside the Expo Center, Joe McLees reached into the pocket of his Class A uniform and pulled out a handbill from a funeral in February.

The Assistant Valparaiso Fire Chief and former member of the Hazardous Materials team said he only wears the dress blues for weddings and funerals.

This time he was there to memorialize his friend, Porter Co. Environmental Coordinator Greg Phillips. Phillips did not die in the line of duty, but that did not stop 48 police & fire units from Porter, LaPorte & Lake Co. from lining up outside the Co. Expo Center to carry his body down Ind. 49.

"The team will keep going because Greg created such a firm foundation," McLees said. "It's like building a house. Once the foundation is there, building the house is easy."

Phillips died Thursday at 10:45 p.m. in the Intensive Care Unit of Porter Memorial Hospital. The exact cause of death is still under investigation by the Porter County Coroner. The lungs of the 41-year-old Phillips filled with blood after he collapsed at his

office that morning.

Co. Commissioners haven't discussed how to handle the dept. Phillips founded in '89 or the county-wide Haz-Mat team he founded in '87. The program's only coordinator, Phillips traded shifts with Ass't. Environmental Coor. Bob Casbon, who spoke at the service. The pair regularly worked around the clock.

"We are going to fill the position, but we're not going to replace the person," said Co. Comm. President Brian Gesse.

The program is partially funded by fees from deep well injection permits by the area steel mills. It's supplemented this year by a \$104,466 allotment from the county general fund, off-set by county-wide fees for underground tank removal and reimbursement from companies for equipment and man hours when the team attends spills.

When it was founded, the multi-agency task force was considered unique and unworkable, but local depts. have come to rely on the expertise. Nearly all of the

police & firefighters in Porter Co. have attended classes in haz-mat safety by Phillips & Casbon.

Gesse said he expected the county will continue the program. After the memorial service, the commissioners passed a resolution creating a Greg Phillips Memorial Fund for donations to build a \$90,000 garage to house equipment.

More than 400 people attended the memorial service. Phillips body was to be buried outside his hometown of Evergreen Park, IL.

As the procession rolled on, police and firefighters from the communities along the route blocked the intersections and saluted the man most of them knew personally. The service had been announced during the Friday 8:00 p.m. radio check.

Before climbing aboard one of the rigs, McLees adjusted his jacket. "People need to realize that emergency services are like one big family."

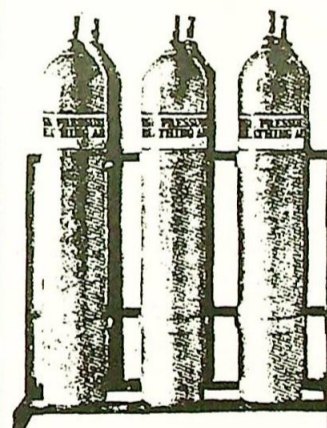
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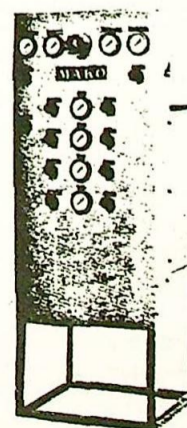
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Jackson Co. Fire Chief's Association involves community in Fire Prevention

The Jackson County Fire Chief's Association produced a number of public service announcements for radio to air during fire prevention week. The radio spots featured local dignitaries delivering fire prevention messages.

The effort involved three local radio stations WJLR, WJAA, and WQKC. Each PSA ran 30-45 seconds and were written specifically for each reader. Volunteer announcers were Dr. Rosemary Weir, MD; Dr. Clayton Boyer, pastor of Central Christian Church, Seymour; Darrell Bennett, Principal of Brown Elementary

School, Seymour; Vicar Jeff Grielle, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brownstown; Judge Frank Guthrie, Jackson County Superior Court; John Burkhart, Mayor of the City of Seymour; Father Joseph Sheets, St. Ambrose Catholic Parish; and Gary Ellerman, Dispatcher Jackson County Fire Dispatch.

The messages focused on smoke detector installation and maintenance and the need to yield right of way to emergency vehicles.

"We were fortunate to have such co-operation with our radio station managers," commented Rebecca Scott, Deputy Chief of Pershing Twp. Fire Department. "The spots were designed to fit the particular audience of each station. WJLR features religious programming and was the perfect platform for the clergy. The other readers are household names throughout our area."

The effort was sponsored by the Jackson County Fire Chief's Association and spearheaded by Chief Fred Hines of Seymour and Chief Richard Blaker of Pershing Township Fire Department.

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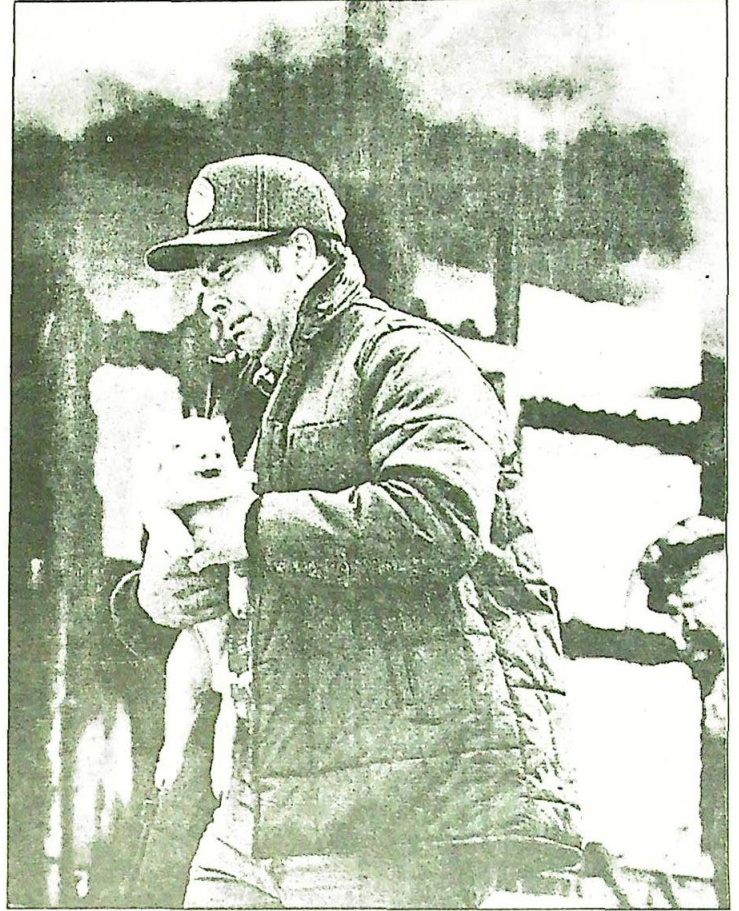
Twenty-five (25) words or less including name and address is \$6.25.

TERMS:

CASH with advertising copy. Include name and address in your ads. Submit legible copy. Publisher is not responsible for errors caused by illegible copy. Type or print all ads.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

Friends, strangers come through for farm family hit by blaze



Associated Press Photo
Michael Black tries to hold back tears while clinging to one of three piglets which escaped the flames of his burning barn April 9, 1996.

A photograph of Michael Black holding a pig that survived the barn blaze prompted many calls and letters of support.

The Associated Press

Fishers - Friends and even strangers offered help with condolences and money to a family whose barn burned down, killing dozens of pigs and causing thousands of dollars in damages.

Many letter writers enclosed money to help Jackie and Mike Black rebuild - \$5, \$50, \$500 - about \$2000 in all.

"We sat at the kitchen table and read the letters and bawled," Jackie said.

The Blacks lost eighty-seven pigs in the April 9, 1996 barn fire at their farm north of Indianapolis.

A photograph from the Daily Ledger newspaper of Michael Black holding a pig that survived was seen around the country and prompted calls and letters of support.

Investigators believe a heating

system in the barn started the blaze, which also killed two cats.

Insurance provided \$70,000 to help cover the loss, but some people offered to give the family pigs and kittens to replace the animals that died.

Friends and neighbors descended immediately to help. Women brought food while men went out to help Mike clean up.

He also had 350 acres to plant, and had to borrow money to buy a used tractor to replace one lost in the fire.

The couple used the \$2000 in gifts to help buy fifty-five pigs to replace those lost in the flames.

And on Saturday, the three Black children bought the pigs they'll breed for next year's 4-H Fair.

The Blacks are also building an equipment shed and plan to rebuild the hog barn in the fall.

"Getting on with life isn't looking out at a half-burned barn shell, Black said.

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune
Wednesday, July 31, 1996

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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 more information.

Prevention Saves Lives

says longtime Hamlet firefighter, Tim Krick

By Mary Allen Lynch

Tim Krick, of Hamlet, has been a firefighter for approximately twenty-three years. During that time, he has held about every position possible in the fire department.

For seven years, he served as fire chief, a captain and a lieutenant.

For the past fifteen years he has also served as Training Officer.

Born in North Liberty, his family moved to the Hamlet area in 1936, when his father took on the job as depot agent for the New York Central Railroad department.

Aside from his actual work as a firefighter, he has given a great deal to the area in terms of the educational programs concerning fire prevention and safety that he presented for several years in the Oregon-Davis School system.

Fire prevention and safety for children and their families is a subject about which he feels very strongly.

Tim Krick says, "Firefighting isn't all just putting water on the fire. You can do a lot of firefighting right there in the classroom. Kids need to know how to practice fire prevention."

Mr. Krick has been employed by the Oregon-Davis School system for approximately fifteen years, and during much of that time he has made use of the close access he had to the kids to teach fire safety in all the elementary grades from kindergarten through sixth grade.

He adds that he knows of several instances where lives were saved as a result of what the children had remembered from the presentations on fire safety.

He recalls a Koontz Lake family, where children acted quickly when their mother fell asleep, accidentally leaving a pan with grease heating on the stove.

When a grease fire occurred, the children remembered what they had been taught, left the house, got help and their mother was rescued.

He also recalls with sadness a North Judson mother who lost her three children in a house fire several years back.

The woman volunteered to come and speak at one of his fire safety presentations, making quite an impression on all those in attendance.

Tim Krick says that really with today's smoke detectors properly installed, there should be no chance for people to die in fires.

Unfortunately, many people become annoyed with the noise of false alarms if a detector is installed too close to the kitchen for instance and disconnect it, often at the expense of losing their own lives and those of their family.

He often tells the children to think of the smoke detector as their friend, "Blinky". "Blinky" watches over you all night long and if anything happens, "Blinky" will wake you up.

He tells the children that they should roll out of bed onto the floor and make lots of noise to wake up everyone, as well as alert them to their own location.

Mr. Krick also emphasizes that families should have a plan for

exiting the home, including at least two ways out, as well as a designated meeting place for family members once they are out of the house.

In his career with the fire department he has seen the results of many tragedies.

He remembers that when he first began as a firefighter, he often found it hard to be around the horrible wrecks and injuries that are a part of a firefighter's job. He found himself "getting dry mouth and nervous".

Then he said to himself, "This is silly. How can you help if you can't get yourself together? You didn't cause this fire or this wreck."

After a time, he developed the professionalism needed by those who work under such circumstances.

He does add, however, that when firefighters find themselves involved in a particularly traumatic event, professional counselors are sent in to help the department work through any psychological trauma they may have suffered themselves.

Tim Krick became a firefighter at the urging of a neighbor, Clarence Beninghoff.

He had thought about it for some time, and then one day, Clarence handed him an application to apply.

He remembered the admiration he felt when he watched firefighters battle a fire in his own home as an eight-year-old boy. It is, in fact, the same house that he and his wife, Pauline still live in today.

He made a choice that effected not only his own life, but the lives of many in the Hamlet area.

He is also quick to point out that there are many men locally who demonstrate the same dedication as himself to the area's fire departments.

All seven area fire departments belong to the Starke County Firefighter's Association, which is an organization that was created around fourteen years ago to address the needs of firefighters in the area.

He has hopes that greater funding and support will become available to local fire departments.

He also mentions that he does not feel that "firefighters should have to flip pancakes to raise money".

Considering that these brave individuals put their lives on the

line time after time for the communities that they serve, he has a point.

Reprinted from People Profile column

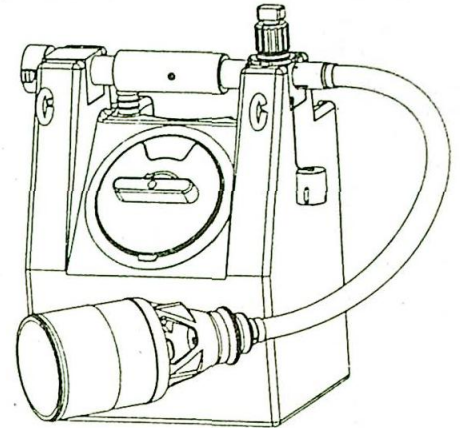
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NVFC Reunites FLSA Coalition

In 1995 a coalition was formed to address the problems that had risen out of the 1993 Department of Labor (DoL) interpretation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). DoL had ruled that paid firefighters could not volunteer their time & expertise in their own communities.

As this ruling is becoming enforced with increasing regularity, many communities are having greater difficulty staffing their departments with able and willing individuals.

The National Volunteer Fire Council was an original member of this group, simply titled the "FLSA Coalition" which includes fire service organizations, congressional staffers, attorneys and individual firefighters. The Coalition shares the common goal of revising the Fair Labor Standards Act to allow paid firefighters to volunteer their time & expertise in their communities.

The NVFC reunited the FLSA Coalition on September 20, 1996. The group discussed ways of giving increased visibility to this issue. Proposed methods included a large-scale petition to Congress and an extensive, grass

roots, letter writing campaign to be initiated by the Coalition. In addition, the group will formulate legislative strategy for H.R. 94 & S. 324 sponsored by Representative Bateman and Senator Warner respectively.

The coalition will continue to meet on a regular basis. For an NVFC action alert on FLSA, or to be put on a list to receive regular updates from the Coalition, contact the NVFC National Office at 1-888-ASK-NVFC.

Firefighters save teens swept away by swift current

The Hobart boys had gone into the water to retrieve a lost sandal.

By Karen Braedt Qasawa
Staff Writer

Hobart - What was supposed to be a fun Sunday at Festival Park in Hobart almost turned into a tragic afternoon for a Hobart family.

Two brothers and their cousin were at the dam near Festival Park on Old Ridge Road at about

5:00 p.m., when one of them lost a sandal, said Randy Smith, Assistant Chief of the Hobart Fire Department. Smith declined to identify the trio, all of whom live in Hobart.

While trying to retrieve the shoe, the 15-year-old teenager was swept away by the current.

The desperate 21-year-old brother attempted to assist him, but the current was stronger than him.

"They couldn't fight the swift current," Smith said. "It was 20 to 30 miles per hour." When the cousin, 17, tried to rescue the brothers, he was also brushed into the water.

Firefighters Arrive

After bystanders called 911, a Hobart police officer on duty arrived at the scene and struggled to get the young men out of the water. The officer's name was not available. After struggling, he also fell victim to the forceful current, Smith said.

Meanwhile, Hobart firefighters arrived at the scene and were able to pull three of the men out of the water to the shore, including the police officer.

The remaining teen was still in the water.

Ironically, Hobart firefighters recently underwent an advanced course on swift-water rescue and were able to use their skills for Sunday's rescue, Smith said. Tod Elias and Bill Dolan, two of the Hobart firefighters, assessed the situation.

Secured with ropes, head gear and wetsuit, they managed to get close to the fourth person. "He was standing, the water was up to his waist," Elias said. "However the current, the force, was over 500 pounds of weight at 20 miles an hour."

The young man had been in the water fighting the current for more than 30 minutes. At that point, he was trying to swim across, but firefighters Elias and Dolan told him to stay. Once Elias got a hold of him, he put a life vest on the young adult and roped him, while Dolan was backing them up. Slowly, they were pulled out.

Training Pays Off

"I had a job to do," Elias said. I felt confident, especially after the training. This is what we were trained for."

Within 15 minutes, the firefighters were able to save them. They were assisted by paramedics and taken to St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart, Smith said.

Smith, who was very satisfied with his team, said that the training most definitely paid off.

"It's ironic," Smith said. "We paid \$1000. to train four of our firefighters and now we've saved these people."

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune

Hobart Fire Department emphasizing increased training

By Karen Snelling
Staff Writer

Hobart - A year after firefighter Ted Hansen died in a house fire, Hobart's Fire Department is placing a new emphasis on training.

"We want to ensure the safety of our firefighters as they protect the lives of Hobart citizens," said Randy Smith, the city's Assistant Fire Chief in charge of training.

Since January, firefighters

have been drilled on everything from fire behavior and firefighting techniques to water rescues and procedures for handling hazardous chemical spills.

Smith said an average of 3 training sessions are scheduled every week.

Donald Kephshire, president of the union that represents Hobart's 48 firefighters, welcomes the more stringent training program. He and other firefighters had complained training was stagnant or non-existent under past city administrations. "There are a lot of people who want to better themselves," Kephshire said. "We're being trained to work in a safer manner."

Two weeks ago, firefighters in full gear with 30-pound air packs on their backs spent an afternoon crawling across the floor of a darkened room of a fire house filled with wire and debris. The exercise was part of a firefighter's survival course. "We were teaching the firefighters how to disengage themselves from hazards," said Smith, a Master training instructor.

"Something as simple as not being able to manipulate a switch on an air pack has cost firefighters their lives."

On Wednesday, 17 firefighters evaluated the potential threat posed by each building in the 200 and 300 blocks of Main Street. "The architecture of a building can present different hazards," Smith said.

"I want my firefighters to be able to pull up to a building and identify those possible hazards before entering."

Other training programs have taken firefighters outside the city.

Six rookie firefighters hired in January have on occasion been assigned to work with the Gary Fire Department to gain more extensive hands-on training.

"We obviously have more runs than Hobart, so people get exposure to more situations in a short period of time," said Gregory Melyon, Gary's Assistant Fire Chief in charge of training.

Melyon said Hobart firefighters are assigned to Gary's rescue squad, which responds to an average of 15 to 20 calls - auto wrecks to house fires - every shift.

Smith said that next year the department hopes to open a new training center on 2.5 acres of city-owned land at the 10th Street Fire Station. The cost to the city will be minimal since most of the materials and labor needed will be donated, he said.

Only Hammond, East Chicago, Munster and St. John have training centers.

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune
Monday, July 29, 1996

Vanderburgh County Firefighter of the Year

The East Evansville Kiwanis Club each year selects the Volunteer Firefighter Of The Year. This year's selection was Darol Watson, of Knight Township Fire Department.

Darol is retired, is married, has four children and five grand children. Darol was given this award because he is the best definition of a Volunteer Firefighter.

Darol is the Chief Fire Investigator, Master Firefighter and holds the rank of Lieutenant. He is on the Board of Directors of

the Survive Alive House of Southwest Indiana, a member of the Hadi Shrine Temple Hospital Staff, a Mason, Scottish Rite, Facilities Chairman for the North Side Congregational Church, Past President of the Indiana Refrigeration Service Engineer's Society, member of the Evansville Area Fire Investigators Association and a past member of the Indiana National Guard.

Other firefighters nominated were: Wayne Weiss of German Township Fire Department, Rod Meeks of McCutchanville Fire Department, Harlon Zillak of Perry Township Fire Department and Less Lantaff of Scott Township Fire Department.

Congratulations to Darol and all the nominees. They all were winners because, what we do as volunteer firefighters, good and bad, reflects on all of us.

Thanks for making us all look good.

Jack Kerney, PRSW

Volunteer Firefighter Stamp

In 1998, America will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Volunteer Fire Service. The Volunteer Fire Service has a long tradition of dedicated service to our communities and is an American institution.

Many of our founding fathers, such as George Washington, Paul Revere and Thomas Jefferson, served as volunteer firefighters.

Benjamin Franklin, considered the father of volunteer firefighting in America, organized the first volunteer fire company in America.

Recognizing this milestone, heightened by the recent Long Island fires, Congressman Michael Forbes (NY-01) introduced legislation to persuade the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp honoring America's volunteer firefighters.

"Nothing exemplifies the American spirit better than volunteer firefighting. Treating neighbors like family, coming to their aid in times of danger, embodies our national spirit of brotherhood and would be best illustrated by a stamp honoring them," said Representative Forbes.

The stamp legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 173, expresses the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued in recognition of the service rendered by the Nation's volunteer firefighters.

The resolution currently has 23 co-sponsors, but since its introduction was late in the legislative calendar it will probably not be voted on this year.

Today, there are over 800,000 volunteer firefighters organized in rural, suburban and urban communities, comprising approximately 80% of our nation's fire service.

To have the Postmaster issue a stamp to commemorate any event is a high honor. The last stamp issued in recognition of the fire service was in 1948 (shown below), celebrating the 300th anniversary of the Volunteer Fire Service.



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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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.

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Pershing Township celebrates

Independence Day in style



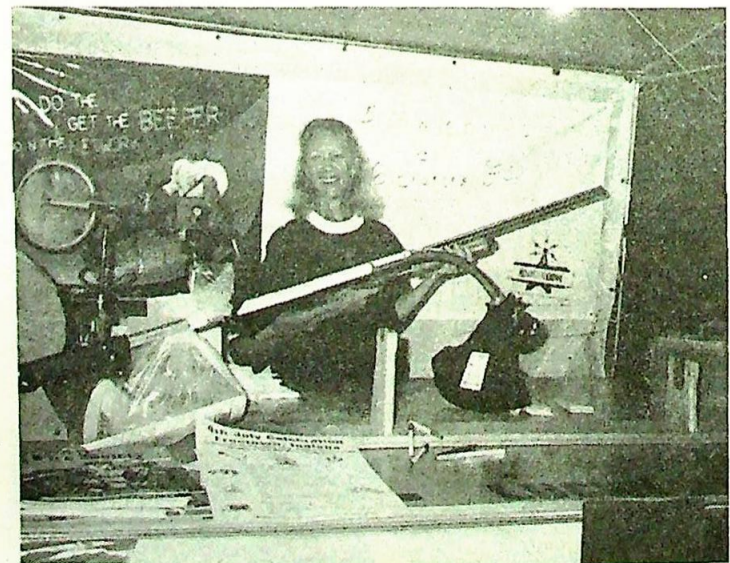
Pershing Township Assistant Chief Doyle Lyon (left) presents a 30 year plaque to Fire Chief Richard L. Blaker, Sr.



Pershing Township Auxiliary Chairwoman Debbie Rouse presents the "Woman of The Year" Award to Paula Henderson, a long time friend and supporter of the department.



Owen Township Assistant Chief Larry Thomas and daughters, Emmie and Tia, join in the parade and festivities.



Peggy Stilwell sold raffle tickets for a shotgun, weed eater, and a television that were awarded at the end of the event.

Pershing Township Volunteer Fire Department sponsored the annual July 4th Celebration in Freetown.

The event is the primary fund raiser for the all volunteer department with proceeds going to operate their medical/rescue operations.

The celebration is one of Southern Indiana's longest running observances.

The department provided games, concessions, auctions, rides, flea markets, free stage entertainment, and a parade.

Crowds jammed the streets of town to view the annual parade on July 4th.

Pershing Township Auxiliary member Kathy Rudolph served as Grand Marshal.

Several neighboring fire departments and civic groups joined in the parade.

National Guard units, car clubs, church groups, political candidates, emergency vehicles, horses, and even puppy dogs strutted their stuff in competition for awards in eighteen parade categories.

Auction Chairman Doyle Lyon estimated a \$1200 increase of profits over the 1995 auction.

"We are very pleased with our auction response," commented Lyon. Firefighters worked many man hours frying burgers, bread-ing tenderloins, and dunking french fries to feed the crowds.

"It sure is a bunch of hard work," said President Greg Sutton, "but we have to do it to keep our current level of services."

The Entertainment Co-Chairpersons were Marvin and Karen Fleenor.

They scheduled stage events, including a horseshoe pitch, a baby contest, a motorcycle show, karate demonstration, dancers, bands, a garden tractor pull, and a Karaoke contest.

Monica Myers was crowned 1996 July 4th Queen, in an elaborate pageant hosted by the fire department Auxiliary.

The contest is well attended and is a much anticipated part of the annual program. Contestants were judged on poise, appearance, and ability to answer judges questions.

A surprise was in store for Fire Chief Richard Blaker.

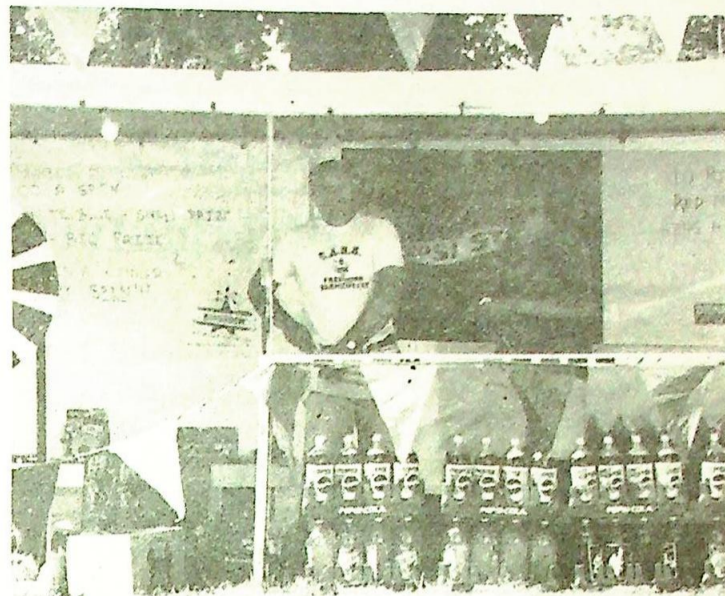
Firefighters presented him with a plaque honoring his 30 years as a Pershing Township Firefighter.

Blaker has been a participant in every July 4th Celebration since beginning his career. He has served as committee chairman, electrician, fish fryer, trash man, security guard, and financial advisor.

The department is already preparing for 1997's celebration.

All Indiana firefighters are invited to attend the 1997 Independence Day Parade on July 4th. Call Parade Coordinator Rebecca Scott at 812-497-3297 for information.

Committee members were: Concessions - Greg Sutton and Richard Blaker; Entertainment - Marvin and Karen Fleenor; Baby Contest - Karen Fleenor, Sarah Blaker, Missy McKinney and Angela Fleenor; Parade - Rebecca Scott, Joanne Fish, Jane Edwards, and Debbie Rouse; Fireworks - Jaff Ferguson; Auction - Doyle Lyon, Joe McDermid and Mike Rudolph; Games - Mike Hall, Travis Hall, and Kevin Hanner; Security - David Rouse; Flea Market - Tony Edwards and John Ferguson.



Firefighters Mike Hall and his son, Travis, at one of the game booths

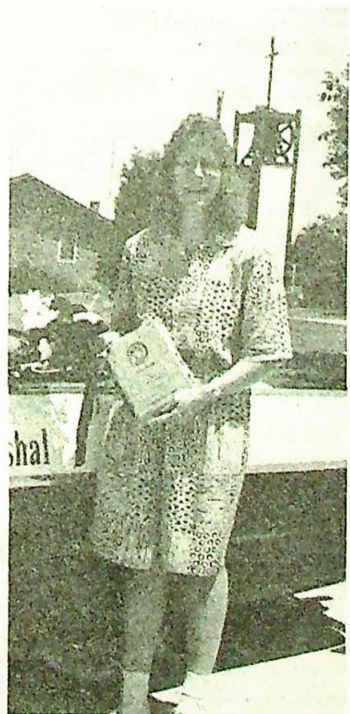


Cadet firefighter Angela Fleenor (left) and Auxiliary member Missy McKinney entertain the audience.



Monica Myers claims her crown as Queen of the July 4th celebration

Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal



Kathy Rudolph as the Parade's Grand Marshal

annual Freetown Fourth of July Celebration.

Mrs. Rudolph is a twenty year member of the Pershing Township Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary and is married to former Pershing Chief Mike Rudolph.

"I really like the kids," commented Rudolph. "Miss Kathy", as she is known by her students, teaches first grade.

"We see tremendous growth in the children in that first year of school. It is a rewarding job that I would not trade for any other."

Kathy, a native of Carmel, Indiana, moved to Freetown after completing her degree in elementary education at Ball State University. She later obtained a Masters Degree from Indiana University.

"Kathy has been such a great help to our department over the years," said Pershing Chief Richard Blaker.

"She really cares about our community and our fire department."

Kathy Rudolph, a teacher at Freetown Elementary School, was named the Grand Marshal of the

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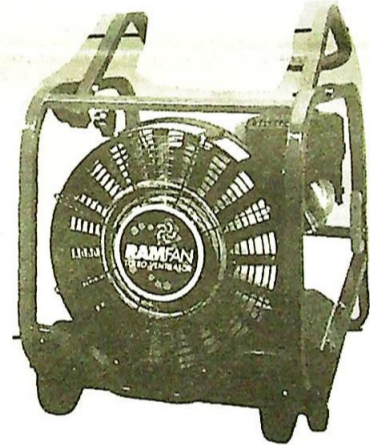
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Fire Guts Boone Twp. dairy barn

By Kim Steele
Times Staff Writer

Boone Township - Merritt Morrow's 90 holsteins had to wait a little longer than usual Saturday for their regular nightly milking.

Their dairy barn, at 1083 S. Indiana 231, was destroyed earlier in the afternoon by a fire that rapidly consumed about 10,000 bales of hay and straw. It was owned by Morrow and his brothers, Butch, John & Dean, who have been in the dairy business for about 30 years. The massive barn, built in 1994, contained 44 stalls and the cow's milking equipment.

"There's no ifs, ands or buts about it," Merritt Morrow said as firefighters slogged through standing water around the barn's remains and checked smoldering mounds of hay.

"The cows will have to be milked tonight, but they can be a little late this time. I think they'll understand. For tonight, we'll probably take them to a nearby farm to milk them," he said.

Hebron Fire Chief Dave Wilson said his dept. received a call about 11 a.m. that a small hay shed near the dairy barn was on fire. Hebron firefighter Perry Camp, one of the first to arrive at the scene, said the fire quickly

crossed through a connecting building and entered the dairy barn's hayloft. Authorities did not have a damage estimate or cause available Saturday.

"We knew it was in the hayloft, but we couldn't get to it," Camp said. "We went in and tried to do an interior attack, but the hay bales were stacked tight....It was a major fire. I've never been to one this big."

Firefighters from Crown Point, Lowell, Lake of the Four Seasons, DeMotte, Boone Grove, Lake Eliza, Kouts, Kenner Twp., Morgan Twp. and Washington Twp. also responded.

Firefighters said they used at least 30 loads of water (each about 2,000 gals) to fight the fire that spread in a matter of minutes and eventually collapsed the roof.

Pearson Williams, Lake of the Four Seasons firefighter, was credited with pulling Dean Houpt, a Lake Eliza firefighter, to safety during the fire.

Pearson said he had just come down after supervising firefighters from the roof and was about to send Houpt to take his place when it caved in. Pearson said that as it slid toward them, he grabbed Houpt's arm and ran from the building.

"We were working on pulling part of the barn down so the fire didn't get the rest of it, when I heard it start creaking," Houpt said. "He (Williams) grabbed me. The roof fell in, but all I got was a little hay on my gear."

Reprinted from
The Times

Special award for firefighter



By Jim Hale/Staff LaPorte Herald-Argus

Bill Feddeler (sitting) receives a surprise visit, August 22, 1996, as he is honored for long service as a volunteer firefighter. Saluting him are (standing l-r) Duane Lantz, Ass't Chaplain for the IVFA and Scipio Twp. fireman; William Howe, IVFA PR Director; and Ed Ritter, Ass't Fire Chief, Kingsbury VFD, who is presenting Feddeler with a small gold certificate celebrating over 50 years of service.

By Jim Johnson

The LaPorte Herald-Argus Kingsbury - Bill Feddeler has been retired from the Kingsbury VFD for the past 3 1/2 years. But he has put in more time volunteering in fire depts. than any other person in NW Indiana.

At Feddeler's home on Thursday evening Duane Lantz, Ass't Chaplain for the IVFA, William Howe, of the IVFA and Ed Ritter, Ass't Chief of Kingsbury VFD, rewarded Feddeler with the IVFA's Gold Card award for 50 years of service.

Feddeler, 80, started working in volunteer fire departments in 1935. He finished up his career with Kingsbury after serving as assistant fire chief and was a member of the Board of Trustees.

"He served the dept. in just about every capacity imaginable," Ritter said. "Of all the things you could say about him, the thing most people would say is that he's a caring man."

The Gold Certificate Feddeler received came after nearly 60 years of service. After going through records to check on how

many years some firefighters had volunteered, Ritter noticed that Feddeler was overdue for the award. "So, I got the ball rolling with the IVFA," Ritter said.

The Gold Card is one of the highest rewards a volunteer firefighter can receive for the amount of years of service.

Of all the things that Feddeler brings to a fire department, the two most important are knowledge and maturity, Ritter said.

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Robert E. Laney		October, 1996
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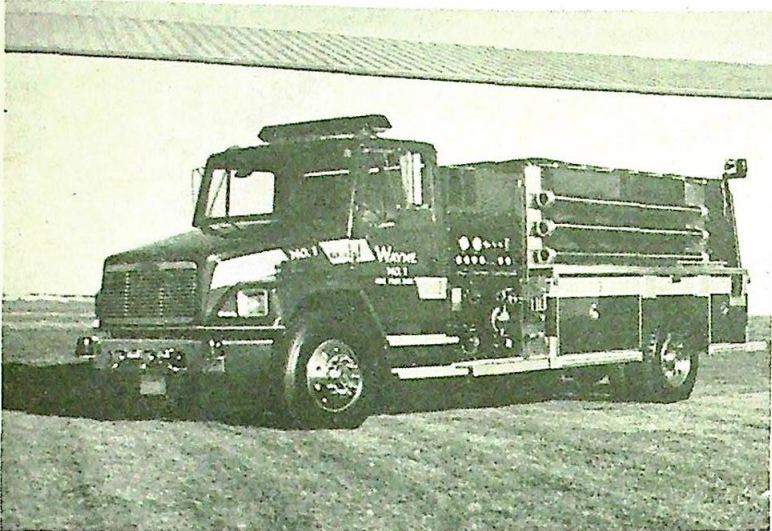
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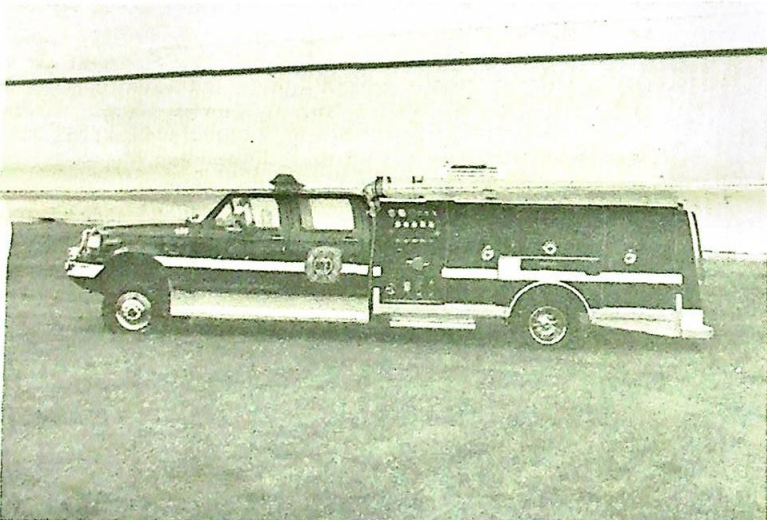
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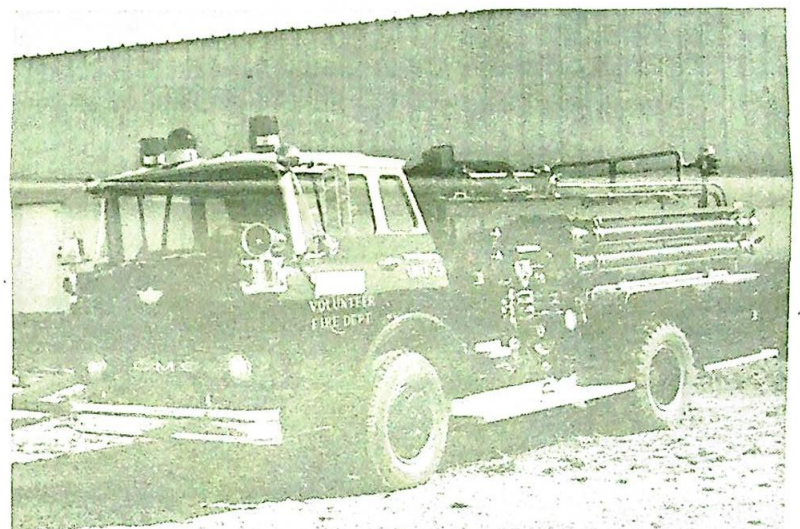
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Volunteer Incentive Program

Firefighters earn Master certification in Fire Service Management

Emmitsburg, Maryland - The Public Safety Training Institute is excited to announce four Volunteer Incentive Program courses: *Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers, Leadership and Administration, Fire Command Operations and Community Fire Protection: Master Planning*. Listed below is information of the VIP programs. If you wish more detailed information on any of these courses or have questions, please call us at 1-800-666-PSTI.

What is it?

The Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) is an intensive, educational program designed specifically for the volunteer fire service officer. Since 1980, the National Fire Academy (NFA) has offered 2-week courses year round on its Emmitsburg, Maryland campus; courses that are considered the best fire officer training available anywhere. The problem is most volunteers can't take 2 weeks off to attend these classes. With VIP, that has all changed. The Academy has compressed two weeks worth of course work into 6 days, tailored it to the special needs of the volunteer fire officer and still maintained content, quality and integrity. VIP courses, the same as with other NFA courses, have recommended college accreditation through the American Council on Education. Students have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and information with colleagues from across the country in an informal setting outside the classroom. This program, along with the other resources of the National Fire Academy, insures a totally successful learning experience while keeping the time commitment to an absolute minimum.

Course Descriptions:

Fire Cause Determination For Company Officers.

New for 1996, this 6-day course addresses the basic skills needed to conduct fire cause determinations. Upon completion, students will be better equipped to determine the origin and probable cause of a fire. Subjects include, but are not limited to, behavior of fire; determining point of origin; accidental and incendiary fire cause determination; fire scene examinations and motives of arsonists; vehicle fires; legal aspects (court testimony); and handling/preservation of evidence. *This course is not designed for fire/arson investigators.*

Course Dates: December 1-6, 1996; February 2-7, 1997; March 9-14, 1997.

Leadership & Administration.

New for 1996, this course provides the appropriate skills for the volunteer emergency services officer to enhance community fire and rescue services through effective leadership and administration. A key component of this course addresses recruitment and retention of personnel.

Course Dates: December 1-6, 1996; February 2-7, 1997; March 9-14, 1997.

Fire Command Operations.

This course helps the command officer develop additional skills in implementation of an incident command system and in tactical operations on the fireground. The student will study fire command techniques for control and extinguishment of small residential structures to multi-occupancy commercial complexes. Other areas include problem identification, preplanning, mutual aid, interagency coordination, incident organization and management, and strategy considerations.

Course Dates: December 1-6, 1996; February 9-14, 1997; March 9-14, 1997; March 16-21, 1997

Community Fire Protection: Master Planning

This course provides volunteer fire officers the opportunity to experience the process of producing a comprehensive community fire protection master plan. This course is especially important for fire chiefs, directors, administrators and fire officers responsible for planning fire protection for the community.

Course Dates: December 1-6, 1996, February 2-7, 1997, March 9-14, 1997.

Who is eligible to attend?

Volunteer fire and rescue officers who meet the student selection criteria listed in the four course descriptions are eligible to attend. If a person has a dual affiliation as a firefighter, not an officer, in a paid/career department and is an officer in a volunteer department, that person is also eligible for the VIP program.

How much does it cost?

There are no tuition fees for VIP courses. All instruction, books, and housing are provided at no cost. Each student will receive a stipend to cover the cost of round trip coach airfare transportation. Students are responsible for the cost of the cafeteria meals provided (\$15.62 per day at the Academy cafeteria, cost subject to change), and for personal, incidental expenses. For those who drive, mileage reimbursement will be provided at the allowable rates (not to exceed the actual cost of round trip coach airfare from point of departure).

How do you apply?

Contact the Public Safety Training Institute at 1-800-666-PSTI. PSTI works with the academy for the recruitment and selection of VIP students. PSTI will send you an application, and can answer your questions on courses, eligibility, delivery dates, and application procedures.

All applications must be reviewed and approved by The Public Safety Training Institute and submitted to the Academy at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the course you wish to attend.

PLEASE NOTE: Each student is limited to one (1) course per fiscal year October 1 - September 30. If the accepted student is unable to attend the course for which he/she has been enrolled, the Academy requests the cancellation to be in writing and directed to the Academy office.



Photo by James Zollman

Back row, L-R: Bob Stone, Luke Kluender, Tom Foist, Instructor-Brad Lucas and Stan Gibson. Middle row, L-R: Rick Blaker, Randy Stainbrook, Jim Klamo, John Sweeney and Don Moffet. Front row, L-R: Ken Greenlee, Jon Thomas, Pat Papin, Rebecca Scott and Jim Renaker. Not pictured: Scotty Miller

These fifteen firefighters earned Master certification in Fire Service Management. During March, 1996, they gathered in Columbus, Indiana to

complete the course that was sponsored by the Bartholomew County Fire Instructors Association. The instructor for the course

was Mr. Stan Gibson. Ten individual Indiana fire departments were represented among the fifteen firefighters.

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Lightning fire damages home

By Frank Wiget
Staff Writer

Valparaiso - Assistant Fire Chief Bob Edgecomb got a jolt early Thursday, August 8, 1996, when he was called to a fire in the 400 block of Oak Street caused by lightning.

The home of Lee and Joanne Maynard is immediately east of the house where Edgecomb had lived for about 17 years. "I suddenly had flashbacks about the house and the family."

His first concern was that everyone was all right. "That was a relief," he said after firefighters worked feverishly to save most of the nearly century-old home.

From the outside, little of the destruction can be seen, but inside the fire ravaged debris all over.

"Thank God we were OK," Joanne Maynard said of their survival.

Lee and Joanne were sleeping only to be awakened by a loud clap of thunder about 2:50 a.m. Thursday. They didn't realize the lightning hit the attic bedroom where their son, Mike 46, would have been sleeping had he not been at work. "It hit about three feet from his bed," Lee Maynard said.

They woke up a second time after some ceiling tiles fell and Joanne called 911 while her husband checked for damage.

Lee found it strange, but the only area not damaged by Mother Nature's wrath was the second floor bathroom. The retiree spent two months remodeling the room.

Officials estimated about \$75,000 worth of damage to the home.

Joanne Maynard is a program director at the Spring Valley Center, a homeless shelter, and director of First Contact, an outreach program for people in need. "Usually I'm helping others with emergencies, but this time it was us," she said as she and her husband looked over the extensive damage to their home for more than 35 years.

The Maynards and their children gathered on the enclosed

back porch, which was spared damage except for the smell of smoke.

Edgecomb said the heat in the attic area was so intense firefighters couldn't get directly to the heart of the blaze without knocking holes in the ceiling at the top of the second floor.

He noted the Maynards had just added new shingles to their roof "and we had to chop a hole in it."

Thursday's storms also caused havoc in other areas around Porter County.

In Hebron, lightning hit the home of Lindsey Massoth in the 100 block of Elm Court at 6:54 p.m. Wednesday. The home survived, but electronics didn't, police said. Five television sets, the door bell chime, a telephone, alarm clocks and a citizens band radio antenna were zapped after an outside antenna was struck by lightning, officials said.

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune
Friday, August 9, 1996

Marrs Township Fire Dept. Water Rescue Program

In 1995 and 1996, Marrs Township Fire Department engaged in a water rescue program.

In the past, the county had to rely on the State Police, the conservation officers, or the neighboring Vanderburg County to provide any type of water rescue, whether it be a drowning, boating accident, or any type water related emergency.

In Posey County, several fire departments joined forces with Marrs Township Fire Department, forming a Posey County Water Rescue Team. Members along with Marrs Township are: Wadesville Fire Department, Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue and Mt. Vernon City Fire Department.

There are twenty-two certified rescue divers, along with many

surface support personnel in this group. Standard Operating Procedures are presently being written for the group.

The divers were trained by Brian Dempsey from Knight Township Fire Department in Vanderburg County. Knight Township has one of the premier water rescue teams in the Tri-state area. We thank them for their support in getting the group trained the last two years.

This past year the group has purchased or received a lot of equipment. Marrs had two Tigershark watercraft donated by Tigershark Mfg. and Honda Tigershark of Evansville, Indiana. Marrs also purchased a vehicle that has been designated as a water/rope rescue squad.

Mt. Vernon Fire Department and Rescue purchased a 20 foot boat, powered by a 90 horse power motor. Also they received two Polaris watercraft from the Polaris dealer.

One more important item to be pointed out. All the divers in the group purchased their own diving equipment. This amounted to about \$1200. This shows the dedication the members have in establishing the team.

Emergency Planning For Aircraft Disaster

The Bartholomew County Fire Instructor's Association, located in Columbus, Indiana, will sponsor a kickoff meeting where area emergency service providers will up-date and expand their plans of action in the case of an airplane crash locally.

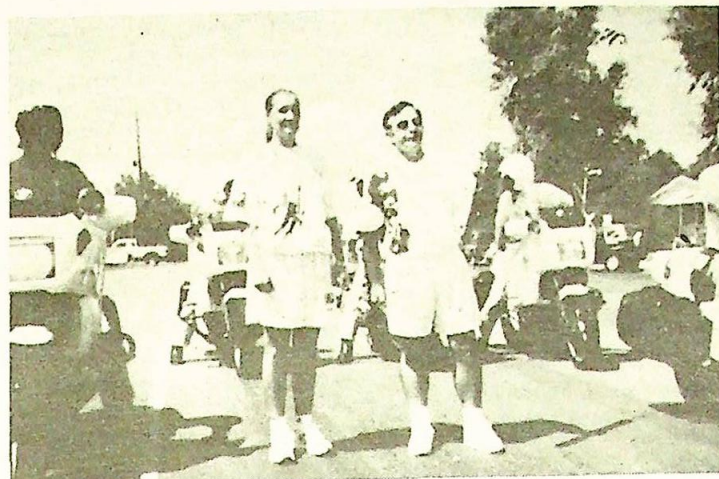
Featured speaker at the meeting, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 1997, at the Columbus Municipal Air Terminal building, will be Bob Mauck of Fire Incorporated in DeMotte, Indiana.

His presentation details the need for advance planning learned from the crash of American Eagle Flight 4184 last year in Roselawn, Indiana.

He points out the need for incident command and indicates the need for cooperation between a multitude of emergency service providers.

The public is welcome.

Firefighter Carries Olympic Torch



Brownstown VFD watched the 1996 Olympic preamble events with special interest.

One of their own, Andy Lockman had been chosen to carry the Olympic Torch on its historical journey from Olympia, Greece to Atlanta, Georgia.

Lockman was nominated for the honor by his co-workers at Kieffer Paper Mills in Brownstown. He was recognized for his outstanding contributions to his fire dept. and for his dedication to the foster parent program.

A crowd of 27 Lockman supporters attended the Sept. 5, run through Scottsburg. Among them were Lockman's wife Janice, several of their children,

co-workers, & fellow firefighters. Lockman completed his run, as well as filling in for another runner, who was unable to complete the distance.

Friends from Kieffers purchased the torch as a gift for Lockman.

Fellow firefighter, Bob Stone attended the program. "This is pretty exciting stuff and I am pretty excited they have a volunteer firefighter here running." Stone commented.

"This is a once in a lifetime." Lockman summed up his experience in typical understatement. "I had a lot of fun and it sure was nice to see so many people interested in the Olympics."

National Fire Academy Arson Detection for First Responders

As a follow up to the previous notification on the course location, dates have been established for the balance of 1996 and some for 1997. The 1997 dates will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Please take note of the dates and get the registration to us as soon as possible. Classes will be limited to the first 35 registrations received for any class.

THERE IS NO FEE FOR THE COURSE.

1996	
LOCATION	DATE
Angola	November 23 & 24
Noblesville	December 14 & 15
Eel River Twp.-N. Salem	December 14 & 15
1997	
LOCATION	DATE
Kokomo	January 4 & 5
Decatur, Adams County	January 18 & 19
White River Twp. Johnson County	February 8 & 9
Lafayette	February 15 & 16
Plymouth	March 1 & 2
Schererville	March 8 & 9
Greensburg	May 3 & 4
Georgetown	TBA
Rockport/Ohio Twp.	TBA
Sugar Creek Twp. - W. Terre Haute	TBA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS DATE

For course admission applications, please contact:

Public Safety Training Institute
Room E239, IGCS
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Indianapolis, IN 46204-2760
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Jack Kerney

In 1995, eighty-five firefighters died while on duty, a 15.4% decrease from 1994 according to the NFPA Journal.

Of the 43 fire ground deaths, 23 were due to heart attacks, 13 due to asphyxiation, 5 to burns, 1 to crushing injuries, and 1 to internal trauma.

Twenty-five were career firefighters and 18 were volunteer firefighters. Twenty-seven deaths occurred while responding or returning from an emergency, 17 were due to collisions and rollovers, 9 due to heart attacks and 1 from a stroke. Twenty-three of the 27 victims were volunteer.

Let's all be careful and promote safe emergency driving. Remember, it doesn't do us any good if the truck does not arrive on the scene.

Since the last issue of the paper, I attended the 6 hour instructor up-date class held at the EMS Conference. Scott Garrett did a fine job teaching 95 of us the new instructor regulations.

This quarter, Barb and I have visited District 15 meeting at New Harmony Fire Department, District 17A meeting at Worthington Fire Department, 17B meeting at Heltonville Fire Department, District 17A meeting at Sandborn Fire Department, District 18 meeting at Holland Fire Department, District 15 meeting at McCutchanville Fire Department, St Meinrad Fire Department's Open House, Dale Fire Department's picnic and Greene County's Firefighter picnic and games.

Congratulations to Chief John Buckman for being honored as Fire Chief Magazine's FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR. John is fire chief of German Township Fire Department in Vanderburgh County.

School Fire Safety A Nationwide Issue

By Hal Bruno

Judging from the mail, a recent column on school crime and fire safety hit a lot of raw nerves. A number of readers had some interesting comments and their reaction indicates that this has become a nationwide problem that deserves more attention.

The May column reported that school officials in some areas were more concerned with security than fire safety and were locking exit doors in an effort to keep out the hoodlums who have unleashed a violent crime wave in schools. It also revealed that some school systems have been caught in a budget squeeze and

allowed fire protection in buildings to deteriorate. The dangers include inoperable or malfunctioning fire alarms and fire doors, overcrowding, poor housekeeping and other code violations.

While sympathetic to the plight of the education community, the fire service has to be tough and uncompromising in the enforcement of school fire safety codes. A fire dept cannot ignore locked exit doors and the other violations that could lead to a tragic, multi-death fire. Part of the problem is that people are more afraid of crime than they are of fire; they don't understand what can happen when there's a delayed alarm and a school building fills with heavy smoke. The ultimate nightmare is the thought of panic-stricken children being unable to escape because exit doors have been chained or padlocked.

A Wisconsin teacher cites several fire disasters in non-school buildings where a delayed alarm and/or locked exits caused a large loss of life. He writes: "Violence in our schools is equated with beatings, stabbings, robbery and gunfire...Students, parents, teachers and school officials must recognize that school buildings though made of stone, steel, brick and tile are not immune from fire. And, the monthly fire drill must be returned to its true purpose - preparedness, protections and emergency response - rather than a statutory obligation and a temporary chaotic release from the classroom."

One fire he mentions is Our Lady of the Angels in Chicago, IL, where a delayed discovery, delayed alarm and open stairwell were responsible for the deaths of 92 children and three nuns.

I worked at that fire and, like everyone else involved, I'll never forget it. There were a lot of things wrong in that building, but the exit doors were open and hundreds of children were able to escape without injury.

That was 38 years ago and most educators have no personal memory of the fire. But they have plenty of experience with violent crime, because they confront it every day. They would do well to remember that arson is one of the many crimes that can be committed in their schools.

An ex-firefighter in Colorado points out that the panic bars normally found on exit doors should prevent them from being opened from the outside. The problem is that students often open the doors from the inside to allow outsiders to come in. He also suggests that special keys to open locked doors could be placed in boxes on the outside wall so that firefighters could gain entry when they respond.

But if there's a delayed alarm, all the firefighters will find are bodies piled up at doors that could not be opened from the inside. That is the bitter lesson from the fires that have taken thousands of lives in this century.

There is no compromise, no way to avoid the simple truth, *exit doors must be unlocked while school is in session.*

When it comes to deteriorating buildings and fire protection systems that don't work, a Maryland reader takes me to task for pointing out that schools are faced with the same type of budget cutting that has devastated many fire depts. His sympathy is with overburdened taxpayers and he describes himself as "steaming" over my comments about "cheap-skates who want to save a few bucks on their taxes" being partly responsible for unsafe schools and understaffed fire companies.

All across this country, local governments have been hit hard by the combination of economic conditions, tax and spending limi-

tations and politicians who cut budgets and taxes without regard for the consequences.

He cites Washington, DC, as an example of a money-wasting, bureaucratic school system and draws a contrast by arguing that DC Fire Dept. employees deliver service as they're supposed to do.

Maybe he's right about the schools, but he's wrong about the fire department.

The District of Columbia's firefighters are making a heroic effort to do their job under the

worst possible conditions. But the fire dept's capacity to deliver emergency services has been impaired by ruthless budget cuts imposed by a tight-fisted Congress and an incompetent city government.

Back to the schools, I've been listening to the fire radio while writing this column and, in the past few hours, there have been fire alarms at four different schools and a half-dozen EMS calls, including one for assault.

Fortunately, all the fires were minor. But it's a reminder of how

dangerous the schools have become & that fires, as well as crimes, are daily occurrences.

The warning is clear; school security is important, but every fire dept must be aware of a growing and dangerous problem that calls for aggressive inspections and strict enforcement of the school fire safety codes.

Hal Bruno, a Firehouse® contributing editor, is ABC News political director and served many years as a volunteer fireman.

Firehouse/July 1996

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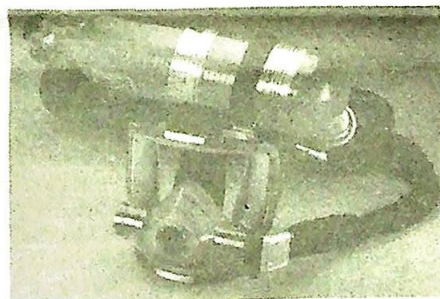
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Wanatah VFD Toy & Sports Card Show



The Second Annual Wanatah Volunteer Fire Department Toy and Sports Card Show was an even bigger success than last year's show. Held September 29, 1996, during Wanatah, Indiana's Scarecrow Festival, the Wanatah (Cass-Clinton) Volunteer Fire Department succeeded in reaching their profit goal of more than \$1,000. Paid admission was \$480 (\$1 per adult).

With the firemen, exhibitors, kids and "freebies" 700 people were estimated to have attended the show. Over 40 exhibitors displayed farm toys, banks, Nascar, trucks, construction vehicles, sports cards and memorabilia, and much more on more than 100 tables. Sixty-five percent of the exhibitors and tables were toy related with the remaining tables and exhibitors selling sports cards, sports memorabilia, star wars, and other collectibles. The majority of the interest of the attenders was in toys.

In order to attract attenders, the fire department sponsored a kiddie tractor pedal pull during the Toy Show and passed out admit one free coupons with a paid admission at the Scarecrow Festival on Friday and Saturday before the Toy Show.

Toy exhibitors felt the show was very good and look forward to coming back for an even better show next year. Sports card exhibitors said the show was fair and hoped future shows would attract more sports card enthusiasts. Four exhibitors have already paid for next year's show and several more stated they would send their registration in soon to insure their same location for next year.

Additional funds were raised selling concessions and raffle tickets for a John Deere Pedal Tractor and other farm toys.

Donations for raffle prizes were from The Toy Farmer; Triple J-Mar Petroleum of Wanatah; H&P Sales and Service, Valpo Ford New Holland, A&M Farm Center and Chester's, all of Valparaiso, Indiana; and from Mitchell and Schoppel of LaCrosse, Indiana.

The Wanatah Fire Department will use the funds to help with fire fighting activities. The department has no paid employees. The show is put on entirely by volunteer efforts. The Cass-Clinton VFD is a non-profit organization.

Next year's show will be Sunday, September 28, 1997 at the Wanatah School located at U.S. 30 & U.S. 421 in Southern LaPorte County. Admission will be \$1.00 for adults, 11 and under will be free.

Tables will be the same price as this year for those registering before September 18, 1997 - \$15 for the first table and \$10 for additional tables.

After the deadline, tables will be \$20 for the first table and \$15 for additional tables. Fifteen tables have already been sold for the 1997 Toy and Sports Card Show.

For additional information,

phone (219) 733-2039.

The Third Annual Wanatah Volunteer Fire Department Toy and Sports Card Show will be held in conjunction with the Wanatah Scarecrow Festival which runs Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28, 1997.

Submitted by Juli Charlesworth & Jeff Mitzner, Toy and Sports Card Show Co-Chairmen

Ready or not, here I come...

newborn takes home over hospital, born into EMT's hands

By Michael Puente
Staff Writer

Dyer - Twice, Craig Felty assisted delivering a baby, once in a parking lot. But he never did it alone. Until Tuesday, August 13, 1996.

That was when the registered nurse and emergency medical technician with the Dyer Fire Department was the main man in the delivery of Kyle Joseph Conneen.

"This is definitely the highlight of my career," said Felty.

At 8:45 a.m., Felty and fellow EMT, Thad Stetler arrived at the Northgate subdivision home of Mike and Carol Conneen.

Carol Conneen, a registered nurse at St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Center North Campus

in Hammond, was in labor.

"When we got there, she was about to have the baby," said Felty, 25, a seven-year member of the volunteer fire department.

"This is my first solo. I just had to remember my training back at EMT school."

The couple planned to have the baby in Hammond, but Mike Conneen, 30, said he realized they would not get there in time.

In fact, the couple didn't have time to make it to the hospital's

south campus, just minutes away.

"Everything moved just a little too quickly," said Mike Conneen, a Dyer resident for five years. "About 8:40, we knew we weren't going to make it. I kept saying 'Don't push. Wait for the big guys to get here.'"

Carol Conneen said she felt contractions the night before but didn't think it was time to deliver.

Felty was assisted by Stetler,

Continued on Page 27



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Explosion Rocks Apartments

Residents flee after high-pressure natural gas fuels a blast that destroys a 12-unit building

By Frank Wiget
Staff Writer

Chesterton - A phone call Monday morning might have saved John McKenna's life.

McKenna lived in a 12-unit apartment building at the Chesterton Terrace Apartments. His building was destroyed after a natural gas explosion and fire.

Talking to his sister in Indianapolis, McKenna noticed fire trucks outside his apartment building.

"I got out about three seconds before the explosion; I had glass in my hair and on my back," he said.

Surprisingly, McKenna, 24, wasn't injured.

"My Bulls hat flew 20 feet in the air and I didn't look back," he said.

Another building in the four-building complex had serious damage to four apartments, and there were other, smaller spot fires caused by stove pilot lights that burst into 8- to 10-foot flames, said Jim Branham, spokesman for the Porter County Fire Association.

Most residents were evacuated from the buildings minutes after a paving contractor struck a natural gas vent around 11:30 a.m. in a shed in the complex's parking lot, making the gas pressure regulator malfunction and sending high-pressure gas into the apartment complex's four buildings.

Bob Schaefer, a spokesman for Northern Indiana Public Service Co., said the pressure regulator reduces the pressure from 45 pounds a square inch to about one-quarter pound.

NIPSCO was called at 11:46 a.m. and had the gas shut off within 10 minutes. The explosion occurred about noon in an apartment at 12th Street and Porter Avenue, Schaefer said.

Mike Simpson, manager of the 48-unit apartment complex, said the building at 1201 Porter Avenue was most extensively damaged by the explosion and fire.

There also was fire damage to the building at 1202 Jefferson Street, he said.

Simpson said he and maintenance workers evacuated about 30 people from their apartments.

Craig Willett, one of the apartment complex's residents, said he was helping a maintenance worker notify residents when, at one elderly resident's apartment, they saw flames - fed by the high-pressure gas - shooting from the woman's stove.

They grabbed a fire extinguisher from the hallway and doused the flames, Willett said, then helped the woman out of the apartment.

A few minutes later, the same building was hit by an explosion.

Chesterton firefighter George Tomlin, 29, of Porter and resident Betty Schultz, 73, of 1202 Jefferson Street, were treated at Porter Memorial hospital in Valparaiso for smoke inhalation and released.

Firefighters from Porter, Burns Harbor, Valparaiso and Chesterton, along with Porter, Liberty and Washington Townships, spent several hours at the scene, fighting stubborn fires that sent flames shooting sky-

ward from the Porter Avenue apartment and dark smoke billowing from two of the four buildings.

Simpson said he was notified about 11:30 a.m. by paving workers about smelling gas and learned they had hit a gas line while paving the parking lot. He had someone call 911 while tenants were evacuated from all four buildings.

Daniel Meeks, 48, and his wife since Saturday, Josie, 41, were deeply upset. They were warned by a neighbor in the Porter Avenue building about a fire. Daniel Meeks said he tried to use a fire extinguisher in the hallway, but it didn't work.

"We lost everything, everything, including my wedding dress," Josie Meeks said, fighting back tears.

Daniel Meeks maintained firefighters should have been checking every apartment unit to make sure no one was still inside.

Chesterton Police Detective Sgt. Dan Reynolds said firefighters could not stay in the building longer than about 10 seconds because of the gas.

Staff writers Tim Zorn and Matthew Tully contributed to this report.

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune
Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Volunteering is a labor of Love

Eric Love has been honored with the 'Gold Crusader' award for his hours of service.

By Karen Braedt Qasawa
Staff Writer

Eric Love was in the Lake Dalecarlia Fire Department when his beeper sounded.

Immediately the fire siren went off and Love ran to another room to put on his uniform.

Once dressed, Love and another volunteer firefighter jumped into the truck.

They cruised along 157th Avenue and in a few minutes arrived at the scene.

It was a grass fire. Love quickly put out the fire.

For Love, an emergency medical technician at U.S. Cable of Northern Indiana, was commended by the company for being one of the top community crusaders.

Love, who has been with Lake Dalecarlia for four years, was awarded this year's "Gold Crusader" for accumulating 122 hours of volunteering. For Love, who strongly believes in assisting others, volunteering is just part of his routine.

"I was raised to respect and be there for others," he said. "That's just what I do."

Prior to becoming a firefighter, he was a volunteer with the ambulance squad in Cedar Lake.

For three years Love drove the ambulances, transporting patients to the local hospital.

"It gets your adrenaline going," Love said. "You get to help people who need you."

Before he became part of the Lake Dalecarlia Fire Department, Love was on the Lowell waiting list for six months.

Although it's challenging to be a fireman, Love enjoys every single moment.

His job consists of training, operating equipment, checking fire trucks, assisting with medical drills and applying his emergency medical technician knowledge whenever needed.

Nancy Webb, captain of the fire department, knows she can

always count on Love, especially with the medical drills.

"He is always willing to help and sacrifice his own time to volunteer," Webb said. "Every time I need him for a medical drill, he is there."

Bob Carr, chief of the fire department, vouched for that.

"He is always down here, helping out," Carr said. "He is very dedicated and compassionate."

Once Carr and Love worked back-to-back on two cases, a car accident and a heart attack. Carr was more than satisfied with Love's skills.

"He is very calm and works very smoothly," Carr said.

Especially because it's very difficult being a fireman, because there isn't much gratitude involved and they are always faced with death and destruction, Carr said.

"I like the excitement," Love said. "Some people call me crazy, but someone's got to do it."

Although Love has a full-time job, and is busy building a new Lowell home for him and his wife, he always finds time to volunteer.

The fire department only works because of the volunteers who strive to work as a team, Love said.

"You can't single one individual out," Love said. "This is all about teamwork. You can't do things on your own."

Especially because firefighters trust each other with their lives, backing each other up, listening and learning from one another, Love said.

"He is someone you can always count on," Carr said. "as a fireman, as a friend."

Reprinted from
The Post Tribune
Bravo Section

President Clinton Honors Fallen Firefighters

Each October on the weekend immediately following National Fire Prevention Week, activities in honor of the firefighters who died in the line of duty the previous

year are held on the campus of the National Fire Academy located in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In order to kick-off the ceremonies planned in Emmitsburg, President Bill Clinton held a small ceremony in the Oval Office at the White House on Wednesday, October 9, 1996. The President met with key fire service leaders and two families of fallen firefighters.

National Volunteer Fire Council Chairman Fred G. Allinson attended the ceremony and was honored to be involved. "I am truly appreciative for the families' sake that the President was able to hold this small ceremony," said Allinson.

The Hinson family from Mebane, North Carolina was one of the families that was honored. Greg Hinson, 34, was a volunteer firefighter who was killed in a flood while trying to rescue a victim trapped in a car. He leaves behind his wife Lisa, and two children Sierra (12) and Alex (8). "We are truly honored to have met the President and participated in this ceremony," said Lisa Hinson.

The ceremonies in Emmitsburg included a Saturday seminar conducted for family members of the fallen firefighters. Professional grief counselors were available to discuss the grief process and assist family members in dealing with their feelings of loss. It was a time of sharing and caring for the families.

Following the seminar, family members along with friends gathered at the Memorial for an evening candle-lighting service.

On Sunday morning, family members attended a private chapel service, rich in fire service tradition.

Following the chapel service, family members joined thousands of fire service personnel, friends, and government officials for the national public ceremony at the Memorial site. The ceremony featured tributes to the fallen firefighters and included a message from the President of the United States.

Conceived as a tribute to America's fire service, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial is one of this country's most beautiful monuments to courage and unselfish service.

Constructed in 1981, the Memorial was officially designated by Congress as the national Memorial to career and volunteer fallen firefighters in 1990. It is a symbol of honor for those who carry on the tradition of service

to their communities.

On September 9, 1996, the NVFC donated \$50,000 toward the restoration of the memorial. With the tragic loss of firefighters each year, the Memorial is in need of restoration and expansion.

"We hope to aid in preserving the quality of the memorial as it honors America's true heroes for their unselfish acts," said NVFC Chairman Allinson.

\$50,000 donated to Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Washington, D.C. - On September 9, 1996, The National Volunteer Fire Council donated \$50,000 to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The Memorial, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, pays tribute to America's fallen heroes.

"This is the single largest contribution the Memorial has received. We are thankful to the NVFC for their generosity in helping to restore the Memorial," said Jerry Scannell, Chairman of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation.

The Memorial was constructed in 1981 and was officially designated by Congress as the national memorial to all fallen firefighters in 1990. With the tragic loss of firefighters each year, the Memorial is in need of restoration and expansion. "We hope to aid in preserving the quality of the memorial as it honors America's true heroes for their unselfish acts," said NVFC Chairman Fred G. Allinson.

Each year at the end of Fire Prevention Week, the U.S. Fire Administration hosts the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend. NVFC Chairman Allinson read some of the names of the fallen firefighters at the moving ceremony which took place on October 13 and 14.

The NVFC is a non-profit membership association representing the interests of volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel. The Council was able to make the donation through the NVFC 21st Century Fund. The Fund was established with corporate donations and is used to further the interests of volunteer firefighters.

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Pictured above are one half of the department's fifty active members. Eighteen members are active in First Responders program.
 1st row, l-r: T. Heckman, R. Poff, T. Cyphers, D. Checolo, D. Childress, S. Harvey.
 2nd row: S. Silcox, M. Dougherty, J. Barenthin, P. Laux, D. Zdyb, T. Pavlak, T. Lusco
 3rd row: K. Bos, B. Parkhouse, M. Frederich, J. Childress, J. Harrison, J. Barkow, D. Robb, B. Dean.
 Back row: M. Wroblewski, W. Schacht

Ready or Not....

Continued from Page 25

also a registered nurse, and members of the fire department who arrived a short time later.

"Craig and I were a little ahead in the game by being registered nurses. That's our livelihood," Stetler said.

Stetler said a home delivery is a rare occurrence. "In the 6 years I've been an EMT, it's only happened twice. This is probably one of the best things that's ever happened to me," Stetler said.

Kyle, who was born in his father's home office, weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces. "All I keep thinking was that I wanted to get this over with. The baby is doing fine," she said.

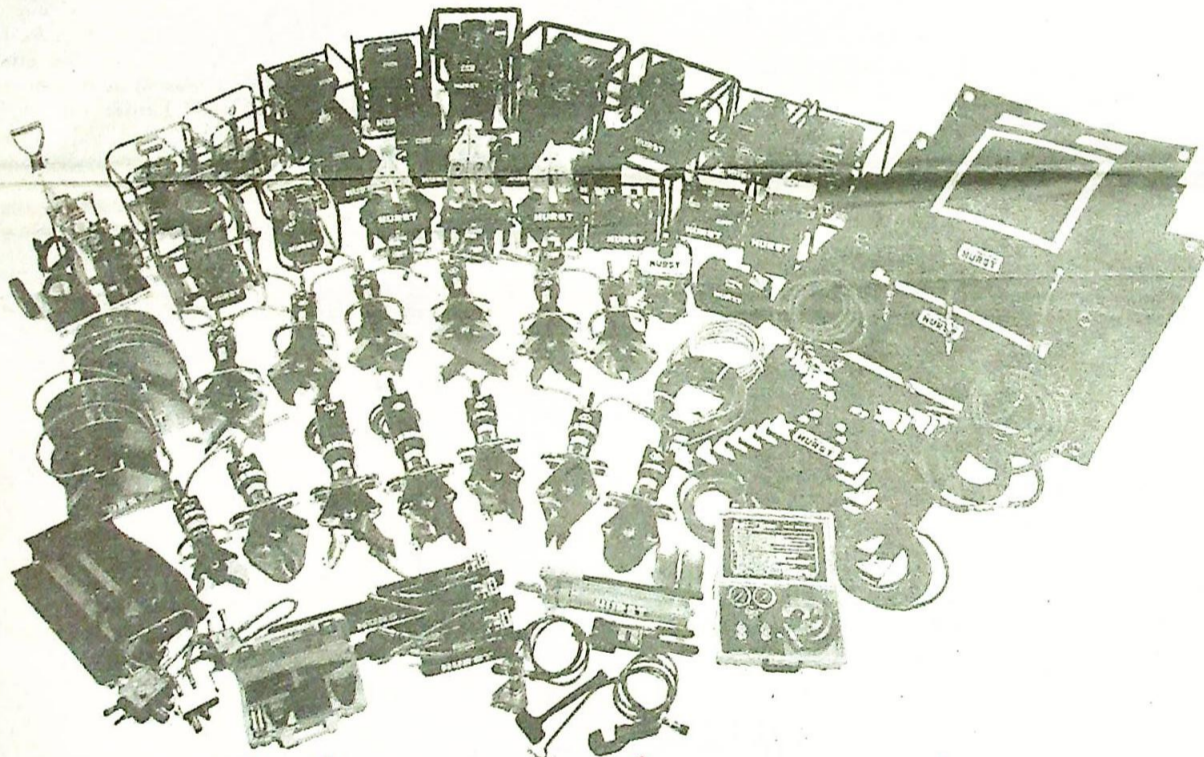
Mother and son were taken to St. Margaret South Campus. Both were resting comfortably Tuesday, surrounded by family members, including the couple's 5-year-old daughter, Rebecca.

Fire Lt. Jack Yamich, on hand for the delivery, said the experience was emotional. "Thinking of your own kids, it is kind of emotional," Yamich said.

Mike Conneen said the crew "did an excellent job. They were there promptly, and handled it quickly and professionally

Reprinted from
 The Post Tribune
 Wednesday, August 14, 1996

Rescue Line.



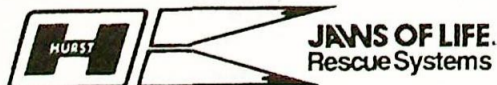
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Deadline for the February Issue is January 10, 1997.

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

Thank you.
 Robert Laney,
 Editor

NIOSH Respirator Users Notice

Safety Advisory on The Potential for Sudden Failures of Fiberglass-wrapped Composite Aluminum Cylinders Following Exposure to Acidic Chemical Cleaning Agents

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has recently been informed of an incident at the Humboldt Fire District #1, near Eureka, California, that involved the rupture of a DOT-E 8059, 4500 PSI, fiberglass-wrapped composite aluminum cylinder. Fortunately, no one was injured when the cylinder ruptured, but considerable damage was done to the fire truck on which the cylinder was being stored.

The Institute advises users of self-contained breathing apparatus about this incident and of the need to take the appropriate actions to prevent similar occurrences.

A forensic analysis of the failed cylinder, combined with follow-up investigations at the incident location, have determined the probable cause of the cylinder rupture to be exposure to an acidic chemical cleaning agent.

Authorities have determined that the failed cylinder was transported from a training exercise to a filling station in a flat bed trailer.

A container of a chemical cleaning fluid was present among the cylinders, and was later determined to have spilled during transit, allowing the fluid to come in contact with the cylinder.

The fluid was a commercially available aluminum cleaner which contains, among other ingredients, hydrofluoric acid, phosphoric acid, and sulfuric acid.

A number of similar cleaning agents are commonly available and used to clean chrome, aluminum wheels, and other metal surfaces.

The cylinder rupture occurred approximately 6 days after exposure to the fluid.

According to the forensic analysis, the cylinder failure "is consistent with environmental stress-assisted cracking of the fiberglass composite. Glass fibers failed due to the combined action of an acidic chemical environment and the stress caused by the internal pressure."

"This combination of chemical attack and stress acting over several days led to the failure of the cylinder."

The Institute wishes to advise users of all composite, fiberglass-wrapped Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinders that similar cylinder failures could occur if the end-user fails to take precautions to ensure that acidic cleaning fluids or other acidic chemicals do not come into contact with such cylinders.

Besides contact with acidic cleaning agents in common use, fiberglass-wrapped cylinders could be exposed to acidic chemicals during responses to fires at chemical plants, warehouses, and other hazmat responses.

Fiberglass-wrapped composite cylinders should only be used, handled, cleaned, maintained, and transported by individuals who have been made aware of the need to avoid exposing such cylinders to acidic materials.

If a fiberglass-wrapped cylinder is suspected to have come in contact with acidic chemicals, the cylinder should be immediately depressurized and removed from service.

The SCBA manufacturer should then be contacted for further instructions.

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From the National Association of State Fire Marshals

A new report on people, behaviors associated with cooking fires revealed that adults—especially those in the 30-49 age range—must pay more attention to what's cooking on the range-top, suggests a new report on a six-month study of people and behaviors associated with residential cooking fires. The study was conducted recently by the National Association of State Fire Marshal (NASFM) and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

"NASFM believes that this research is a meaningful contribution to fire prevention," said Minnesota State Fire Marshal Tom Brace, who is President of NASFM. "It offers several insights on behaviors associated with cooking fires that have not before been captured by other studies."

Among the findings reported in the study:

- Unattended cooking was cited as a factor leading to ignition in almost 2/3 of the fires, followed by grease, food left on the range, and combustible materials on the range-top.

- In nearly 2/3 of the fires reported, people in the residence left the area and did not attempt to fight the fire. But of those people who attempted to fight the fires, nearly half were identified as using improper methods.

While NASFM and AHAM suggest that the safest response to a kitchen fire is to get out of the house immediately and call the fire department from a neighbor's phone, public educators still must be prepared to address issues related to proper extinguishing methods.

- A larger percentage of cooking fires were caused by individuals in the 30-49 age range than their numbers in the population would predict. The good news is that safe cooking is a behavior issue that can be taught to this age group with minimal cost to the community.

"The study is intended to provide guidance for public educators as they direct cooking safety messages to their communities,"

commented AHAM President Bob Holding. "AHAM has used the study results as the basis for its 1996 'Recipe for Safer Cooking' Campaign, which will provide educational materials."

The survey collected data on more than 2,000 residential cooking fires between August 1995 and February 1996 in 10 U.S. communities: Baltimore; Boston; Chicago; Cincinnati; New Orleans; Portland, OR; El Paso; Houston; Prince George's County, MD; Monroe County, New York.

A summary of the study, *Ten-*

Community Study of the Behaviors and Profiles of People in Residential Cooking Fires, may be obtained by sending a written request to the Communications Department, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, FAX:312/984-5823.

NASFM, headquartered in Orlando, is dedicated to reducing deaths, injuries and property losses from accidental fire. Its members are the most senior fire officials of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia

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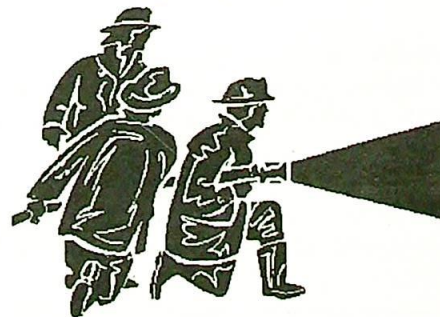
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