

A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE RUSHFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Stanley Luce

(2005)

A Fire Co. was formed in 1886 after a family was burned out. \$300.00 was raised and two fire pumpers were bought the C.J Elmer and The Rushford along with 200 ft. of hose.

A Fire district was formed March 19 1912. The first meeting was held at the Agricultural Hall. Fire Commissioners were.

1. Myron Clause
2. Jennie A. Wescott
3. Earl D. Kilmer
4. Cathrine H. Tarbell
5. Watson W. Bush

A chemical truck was purchased in about 1915. Also a contract was entered into with Watkins L. James to rent for not more than \$50.00 a year the old store owned by him known as "The Old James and Benson Store" to house the equipment owned by the Rushford Fire District,. Now the Rushford Museum.

In 1915 a chemical fire fighting equipment was purchased from America La France Co. for a sum of \$300.00.

In 1924 a Ford Chassis was bought for \$335.00 to put a chemical apparatus on.

1928 saw a new model A Ford Chassis which was bought from Jerald Crowell for \$522.25 taken to Buffalo Fire Appliance and a new Ford Chemical apparatus was installed on it for \$777.75.

In 1931 a new Stewart Fire truck was bought with a 400-gallon tank.

March 19 1940 brought a new Chevy. pumper.

In July of 1946 a new 5 H.P. double head siren was purchased at a cost of \$450.00. (This siren was lost in the Methodist Church fire).

In 1947 a Stewart truck and tank was bought from Scott Bros for a sum of \$600.00 to be used as a tanker.

1950 saw a new siren bought from Young Fire Equipment for a sum of \$545.00.

In Oct 1953 foam nozzles and foam were purchased.

On August 16 1954 plans for a new town hall with provisions for fire trucks and

equipment were discussed.

In 1956 a new Int. Cab and chassis with John Bean High Pressure was purchased.

In Oct 1956 a 1954 Ford F700 chassis was purchased to put the water tank on in place of the old Stewart.

On March 15 1957 bids for the old Stewart Fire Truck were received. Budinger from Friendship was the high bidder and got it for \$130.00.

In 1958 the Fire Co. moved into the new town building on Main St. There they had a new meeting room and truck bays.

In May of 1963 a new tank was bought from Kaustine Tank for \$1552.00. It replaced the old glass lined tank and installed on an International truck.

In 1963, the county put new base radios in all of the fire halls in the county along with a base fire radio with a central dispatch center in Andover.

In 1967 a new Ford Pumper was bought from Young Fire Equipment.

In 1969 a rescue squad was formed and an ambulance was purchased.

In 1969 a new building was erected on the Labor Day grounds for the "I Got It" game.

1972 saw a tone alerting system purchased and installed. This was the Plectron and encoder to alert all firemen in case of fire.

In Feb 1972, the first pancake supper was held.

In Sept. 1972 first chicken B-B-Q was held.

1973 Labor Day bought 10 extra Plectrons.

In 1974, a "Fire Coordinator" was installed. This allowed giving a message and activating the siren straight from the fire phone. (10 of which were though out town).

1975 a second hand Ford C800 cab and chassis was bought for the tank and it was changed from the international.

1979 was our first Demolition Derby

In 1980 we took possession of a new American La France pumper.

In 1985 a 1978 international 10 wheeler was purchased and a 3000 gal. Milk tank was

purchased and installed on it for a tanker.

1986 The C.J. Elmer (1886 10 man brake hand pumper, see first paragraph this article.)was restored to its original condition and color in honoring our 100-year anniversary. The many trophies on the border shelves of the meeting room attest to its looks and condition.

1990 a 1982 Ford 10 wheeler cab and chassis with a 300 Cummins diesel was purchased and the tank was switched to it

1994 a 1984 Chevy, ton 4wheel drive pickup truck was purchased and a new J.C. moore slide in unit put on it for grass fire fighting and as a brush truck.

In 1994 we purchased a new K.M.E. pumper on a Freightliner chassis with a 300 Cummins engine and a push button automatic transmission. It supports a 1000 gal. booster tank, a 1250 gal. a minute single stage pump, and a 1000 gal. a minute deck gun.

Feb.1 1997 saw us move into our new fire hall located at 8911 Upper St.

May 10 1997 was the ribbon cutting for the new fire hall.

In May 2000 work was started on a new storage building that was built behind the new fire hall.

In 2001 a used beverage truck was bought as a utility truck to transport extra equipment to fires and auto accidents.

In July 2003 we took possession of a new K.M.E. pumper 1250 gal.per minute pump, 1000 gal. booster tank, 1000 gal. per minute deck gun, and a built in foam applicator and built in generator. Cost \$225000 fully equipped.

In 2004 we received grant money from the federal government to buy all new turnout gear for every fireman.

2004 the Jaws of Life was purchased for auto accidents with much appreciated donations from private citizens.

2005 another grant was received which bought us all new S.C.B.A. (self containing breathing apparatus) and an air pump to fill the bottles.

We now have 39 active firemen, 29 special members who help at fundraisers etc. and 5 Jr. Fireman. Officers of the dept. are Fire Chief, Wayne Hatch 1st asst. Duane Sampson,2nd asst. Wally Cook, Captain trk. 1 Danny Metcalf, Captain trk.2 Stanley Luce, Captain tanker Peter Hotchkiss, Captain utility trk. Sam Clark, Captain Brush buggy Peter Davies, president Kevin Armison, Vice chairman Paul Yox, secretary Frank Everett and treasurer Robert Heslin. The 5 fire Commissioners are chairman Dennis Bliss, vice chairman Kevin Armison, Secretary

Stanley Luce, Benny Bialy, and John Jessop. Robert Heslin is treasurer by appointment. The oldest fireman in the company is Donna Gilchrist with Danny Metcalf being in the Fire Co. the longest 52 years.