



(Continued from preceding page)

round the square and hydrants attached to form the first important step in fire protection for downtown store buildings. This was displaced a number of years later when the city erected the present splendid water tower.

At these meetings the members after roll call and a reading of the minutes, spend the time in discussing ways and means of combating fires under different conditions, calling attention to fire hazards about the city and arranging for inspection of various public buildings so as to be familiar with the arrangement in the event they are called to fire duty there.

Watch Details Carefully

Recently a fire alarm was sounded at the grade school and several members of the department were there to make suggestions as to how the exodus of pupil and teacher could be the bettered but the efficiency of the principal, Miss Zimmermann and her corps of teachers, emptied the building so quickly that the members had little to offer but praise. One suggestion that shows just how much good can come from these meetings and their discussions was the meeting following the drill as to the condition of the fire hose at the school. The committee stated that it looked all right but it was decided that they would have a pressure test made at once to see whether or not the fabric was too old to hold up in case of usage.

Give Country Service

A few years ago when the new fire truck was purchased a number of persons residing in the country contributed to the fund and that they too might receive the benefit of fire protection as far as road conditions and water supply would warrant. Many country fires have been handled by the local department to the gratification of these rural residents.

Members Serve Without Pay

The members of the department do not receive a salary for their work which is purely volunteer. The city appropriates \$900 a year to the department for upkeep and the organization retains a balance of \$500 in the treasury at all times and whatever amount above that they have on hand at the close of the year is given to the members in the form of a bonus.

Always Had Executive Member

Since the organization of the state Illinois Firemen's Association 46 years ago, which in its infancy consisted of only 13 departments, it has grown to 400 departments and Mt. Pulaski has had a representative on the executive board continuously. John M. Hopkins, Fred E. Danner and M. J. Myers having had this honor conferred upon them. The last mentioned is now serving as vice-president.

Mt. Pulaski has every reason to be proud of its fire laddies, and is.

ROSTER OF MEMBERS SIGNING UP TO ORGANIZE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Phoenix Volunteer Fire Company of Mt. Pulaski, Ill., was organized at a meeting of the following persons at the office of F. V. Nicholson, Friday night, March 13, 1885:

John F. Schick
F. E. Danner
George Jenner
Andrew Bertrang
D. J. O'Brien
George Wind
Phil Schweigckhardt
C. T. Snyder
George Brookmeier
B. F. Pletz
J. M. Hopkins
George Schafer
John Klotz
H. F. Gordon
E. Meads
J. H. Newton
Otto G. Bekemeyer
W. H. Stafford

A temporary organization was effected by the election of John J. Schick as chairman and Otto G. Bekemeyer as secretary, and on motion a committee of three was appointed by the chair to draft a constitution and by-laws. On March 16th, three days later the following officers were elected:

Captain—W. H. Stafford
1st Lieutenant—J. M. Hopkins
2d Lieutenant—C. T. Snyder
Recording Secretary—Otto G. Bekemeyer
Financial Secretary—Phil Schweigckhardt
Treasurer—John F. Schick
1st Pipeman—George Jenner
3d Pipeman—D. J. O'Brien
Engineer—J. M. Hopkins
Asst. Engineer—Geo. Schafer
Steward—George Wind
Standing Committee—John F. Schick, Phil Schweigckhardt, Geo. Jenner, Otto G. Bekemeyer, J. M. Hopkins.

VOTERS APPROVE NEW FIRE HOUSE BOND ISSUE

(Sept. 18, 1947)

Residents of Mount Pulaski gave ample proof of their deep interest in the welfare of their city, when they went to the polls on Tuesday and voted 189 to 75 to issue bonds in the amount of \$20,000 with which to erect a new fire house.

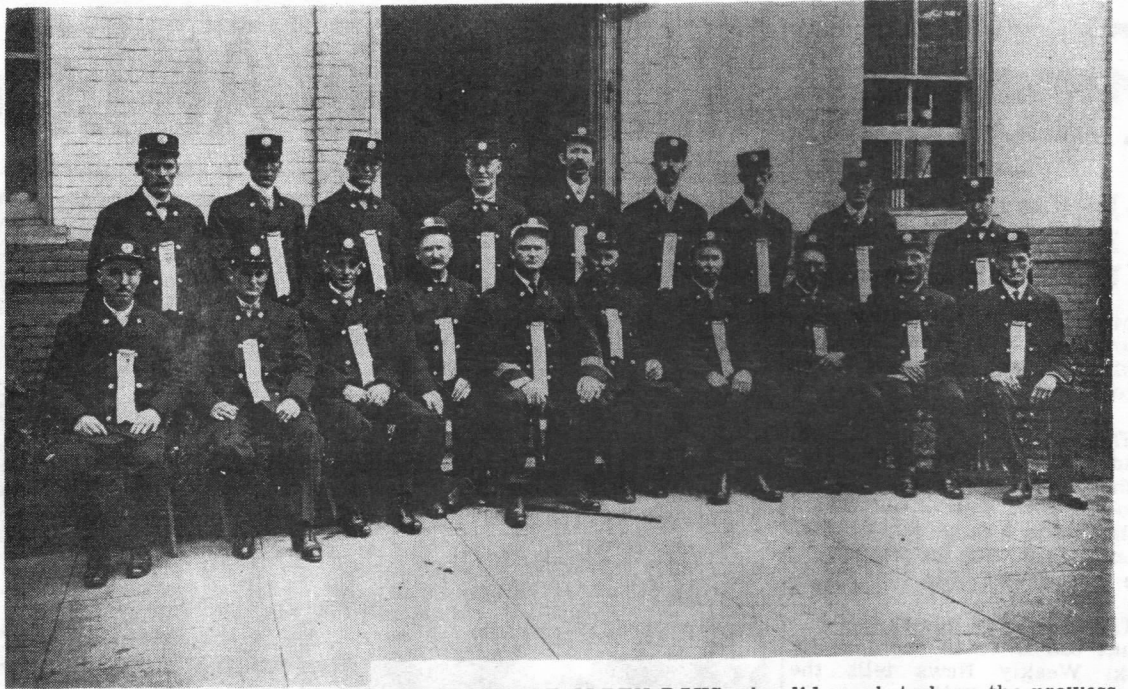
The need for a new fire house to care for the two new fire engines was the issue which most voters were interested in and they voted for fire protection.

FIRE DEPARTMENT STILL MAINTAINS NIGHT FORCE

(Jan. 30, 1936)

The fire department is still maintaining their nightly vigil at department headquarters and will continue to have four men on duty as long as the extreme weather lasts.

The men have been very grateful for the cigars, candy, a radio and foodstuffs sent to them by citizens who are deeply appreciative of their being on the job



FIREMEN OF OLDEN DAYS who did much to keep the prowess and reputation of the Phoenix Fire Department up to a high standard. Back Row, left to right: Gottlieb "Pacer" Zah, William Binder, David Landis, August Weidenbacher, James Anderson, Frank Snyder, George Snyder, Jess Barlow and Claude Holler. Front Row: George Neeves, Jacob Romer, Chris Kautz, James Ryan, Fred Danner, Chief; George Jenner, Ira Veal, John Zah, Gus Drobisch and William Clobes.



FIREMEN OF DAYS IN NOT TOO FAR PAST—Front Row, left to right—Chris Drobisch, Chester Hughes, Billy Binder, Fred Holmes, Chris Kautz, Claude Holler, M. J. Myers, Oscar Mayer. Back

Row—Fred Mayer, Jr., Wm. Kenner, "Pacer" Zah, Dean DuBoce, Earl Kinert, Kelsey Anderson, Ambrose Witt, Frank Snyder, Henry Kautz.—Times-News Photo.



Department Is Destroyed By Fire

Nation - Wide Publicity Given This Unusual Incident

(Feb. 27, 1947)

A rather ironical occurrence took place in Mount Pulaski early Tuesday evening, when fire broke out at the city fire department building and gained such headway before being discovered that the firemen were unable to use their own equipment to save their equipment. The country fire truck, which was the newer of the two trucks housed there, was completely ruined, while the city truck suffered minor damages.

The fire was discovered by Fred J. Roth about 5:40 as he was looking out of the east window of

his apartment on the west side of the square. Turning in a fire alarm, he rushed over to the fire house and seeing the predicament the local fire department was going to be in, called the Lincoln fire department. Fire Chief O. W. Mayer on his arrival, summoned the Latham fire department as well. The Lincoln truck covered the 11 mile trip in 10 minutes, and the Latham truck made the 6 miles from there in 6 minutes after being called.

The ground floor of the city hall on the east side of square, which houses the fire fighting equipment of the city, was soon filled with smoke and flames and firemen were unable to enter the

building to get at any of their equipment, and were powerless to do anything.

While waiting the arrival of trucks, efforts were made to drag the country fire truck out by using a wrecker, and two or three trucks. But their efforts were unsuccessful as the back wheels of the fire truck had sunk thru the burned floor.

The time the fire trucks arrived the flames were shooting out the front door at a terrific rate. It wasn't long, however, after the trucks arrived and had water playing on the fire that it was under control. The country fire truck was ruined and the interior of the building badly damaged.