

Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association

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A department devoted to the interests of the volunteer firemen of the state of Nebraska.

Edited by Lloyd C. Thomas, state publicity chairman.

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Departments are requested to forward names as fast as publicity man is appointed.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM W. S. RIDGELL

State of Nebraska
 FIRE COMMISSION

Lincoln, Nebraska, July 23, 1914.

To Members of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association:

As you are a member of the State Association and interested in the upbuilding of the Volunteer Fire Department of the state, I feel that you should know what is going on in this department.

This department will at all times work with the Volunteer Firemen and in my opinion the success of this department depends to a great extent on the efficiency and co-operation of the Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the state. You as Volunteer Firemen are interested in reducing the fire waste in the state and I want to say that the boys have co-operated with me in every way possible in the past 18 months and I realize this was done to a certain extent because Governor Morehead had recognized the State Association of Volunteer Firemen by appointing one of their members as the head of this department.

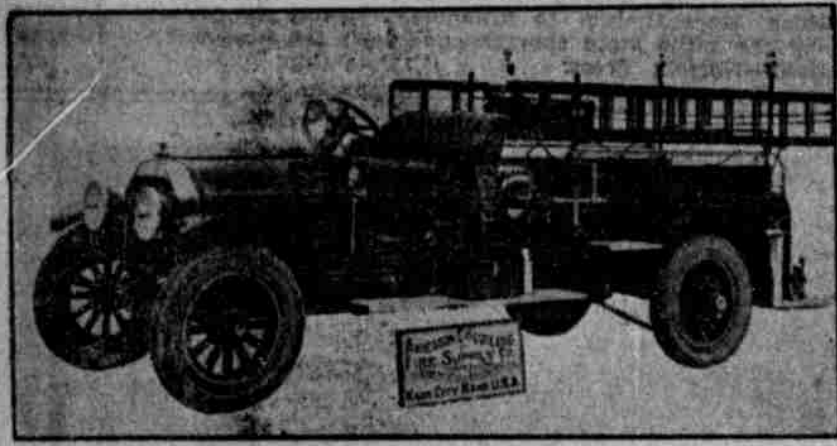
The Governor feels very friendly to the Volunteer Firemen of the state and I am satisfied that if nominated and reelected the firemen of the state will have a strong friend at the state house.

There will be some very important legislation before the legislature this winter, that we as volunteer firemen are very much interested in and I would suggest that you find out how your candidates for the legislature feel in regard to helping the fire boys with some favorable legislation. I am satisfied the governor will do what he can to help us in any reasonable and just bills that may be introduced for our benefit.

Let me hear from you and if you have any suggestions to make I would be glad to take them up with you at any time.

Yours truly,

W. S. RIDGELL.



Anderson Motor Fire Truck for Alliance Fire Department

Above is a cut of the Anderson Motor Fire Truck like the one purchased by the city of Alliance for the Alliance Fire Department. The truck is manufactured by the Anderson Coupling & Fire Supply Company of Kansas City and was sold by the Andersen Company of Omaha by Mr. C. J. Andersen.

The motor and chassis of the truck are made especially for the Anderson company by the Kissel Car manufacturing company and nothing but the Kissel chassis is used. The motor and chassis are of a heavier type than the regular Kissel stock cars. The balance of the car is made in Kansas City, Kansas, at the Anderson factory. Every detail of manufacturing the cars is looked over and attended to by Mr. S. O. Harpster, who has made this business a life study.

The Alliance car will be equipped with Goodyear Cushion Demountable tires. This tire is of dual construction, preventing the car from skidding. The car carries a chemical engine of suitable size, made of the best Lake Superior copper, fitted with by-pass system and 200 feet of chemical hose. This hose is placed on a reel above the chassis in place of a basket shown on the cut.

The car will be fully equipped with all tools, axe, crowbar, lanterns, extra chemical extinguisher charges, and also two 3-gallon hand extinguishers, a very large searchlight, and two front lights, one tail light, all of the lights being lighted by electricity from storage batteries.

Sterling, Colo., North Platte, Nebr., and other nearby departments have the Anderson trucks and report them very satisfactory. Delivery will soon be made of the new Alliance truck and the Alliance department will then be fully equipped for coping with any fire that comes along.

Tournament at Petersburg

Petersburg, Nebr., July 23, 1914.

Dear Lloyd: Sometime ago I was chosen by our department as your correspondent, but up until this time we have never had anything that I thought of any real interest to firemen happen here. At our last regular meeting, however, it was decided to have a firemen's tournament here.

To begin with, the department met in regular session with Chairman Score presiding. After the opening of the meeting and some discussion of minor matters our chairman tendered his resignation. This was accepted. Louis Yoken was chosen to fill his place.

Following this Chief Anderson called for his diploma, which was granted. Joe Julick called for his diploma, which was also granted, both parties re-enlisting. Under the order of new business a tournament

was proposed and a committee appointed to investigate and see if the people of this town were willing to carry it through. At this writing the committee has reported most favorably and preparations are now beginning to care for the biggest tournament and baseball meet in this neck of the woods ever held. Committees are at work in all departments preparing to hold this big event. The dates set are August 27, 28 and 29—three big days. There will be something doing all the time. Ludwig, of Hose Co. No. 1, Petersburg, Nebr.

Schuyler Department Saves Elevator Tuesday evening at a little before 6, the elevator located on the sheep ranch just east of town was struck by lightning. The fire alarm was sounded and the department responded very quickly only to discover that the fire was beyond the water-

or limits. The chemical engine was put to use however and the fire was extinguished before it had gained any headway. But for the prompt work of the fire department, the elevator would have been a total loss.

The home of W. H. Ward at Hemingford was struck by lightning on Wednesday, July 27. The prompt action of the fire department saved the residence from total destruction by fire which followed the bolt.

From the Hay Springs News, July 31: Wednesday evening about 10 o'clock the peaceful slumbers of our citizens was broken by the clang of the fire bell. The cause of the alarm was the discovery of fire in the house owned by Mrs. Kubat on South Baker St. The fire boys got out on short notice, but soon after coupling the hose to a hydrant south of the track it was discovered that it would not reach so all that could be done was to make use of the chemical engine in keeping the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings. This was done to such good advantage that the barn, which stands about thirty feet from where the house stood, was saved. The house has been occupied for a few weeks by Mike Kadlick and family as Mrs. Kubat has moved to Crete. How the fire originated is and will probably remain a mystery, as no one was in the house when the fire was discovered. We have been informed that both house and contents were partly covered by insurance.

The Red Cloud fire department is figuring on arranging for funds to build a hall to furnish a place for their meetings and to care for their equipment. The city is paying rent for their quarters at the present time.

Plainview's fire department siren whistle has been installed. It is one of the latest makes and can be heard by all any place in that bustling little town.

University Place Firemen Celebrate From Havelock Times, July 30th: A large crowd attended the firemen celebration at University Place held last Saturday afternoon. The attendance being estimated at about 4,000. It was said to have been the largest crowd entertained by our neighboring city in many years. The entertainment was all that had been promised and the program was carried out as arranged.

The fire departments competing in the various events were the Havelock and Bethany departments and the Third ward fighters of University Place. The program for the day opened promptly at 1:30 with a big street parade, headed by the mayor of the Methodist city, city officials and business men in automobiles, firemen and fire apparatus and a thirty piece band. The band was composed of members of the Wesleyan university and the University Place high school bands.

Following the parade an address of welcome was delivered by the mayor of the city.

For a time the crowd was entertained by a hose wagon run made against time. The run was of 600 feet attaching hose to hydrant and the best time made was 42 seconds. Boys under 12 years of age engaged in a fifty yard dash, which was won by Dallas Johnson. The hook and ladder company gave an exhibition in which the ladders were placed high into the air and ladder climbers ran nimbly up and perched themselves at the top.

The first real contest was a hose cart race between Havelock and University Place in which Havelock won the 100 yard dash laying 150 feet of hose in 33 seconds.

A demonstration of the University Place chemical engine was given in which the engine was pulled 150 feet where an imitation house had been built and set on fire. The chemical engine extinguished the flames in a remarkably short space of time.

Bethany and University Place engaged in a hose cart race of a 100 yard dash, laying 150 feet of hose in which University Place won in 36 seconds.

The hose race between boys of 14 years of age representing the First and Third wards of University Place, furnished good entertainment. The boys were given garden hose, placed them to hydrants and extinguished a fire which had been built in the street. The contest was won by the First ward boys.

The 400 yard relay race was won by Havelock in 47 seconds. Havelock and University Place each entered four men.

A twenty minute water fight between Havelock and University Place was decided to be a draw. A barrel was placed half way between the contesting nozzlemen and the contest was to see which could with a stream of water force the barrel over the line. The prize money for this event was equally divided.

At the close of the contests the firemen gathered at the engine house and enjoyed a watermelon feast. In the evening a lawn social was given on the Brodback lawn and the band furnished music.

The University Place firemen have signified their intentions of being present at the Gala Days celebration on August 14 and 15, and participate in the firemen's contest.

FIRE! FIRE! ATTENTION, FIREMEN!

Whenever your city is in the market for Fire Hose or Equipment, you should at once write us, as it will be to your advantage.

Also bear in mind that we sell Hand Extinguishers for automobiles, private houses, lumber yards and schools.

ANDERSEN COMPANY
 1115 Farnam St.,
 OMAHA, NEBR.

Firemen Celebrate Jointly From the North Platte Tribune:

The local fire department and the department from Lexington held a joint picnic at the points Sunday and they all report a fine time. About thirty-five firemen from Lexington attended and in all there were nearly one hundred in the crowd. The commissary wagon left in the morning for the points; during the forenoon several hay rack loads of firemen and their guests went out.

A big feed was served at noon and another in the evening, to which all did ample justice. During the day refreshments were on tap and several entertainment features were pulled off. Among the entertainment features was a ball game between the North Platte department team and the Lexington team. It resulted

in the score of 11 to 7 in favor of North Platte. It took eleven innings to decide the game the score standing 7 to 7 at the end of the ninth inning.

The Fullerton Department had a hard fight recently when the electric light company plant caught on fire. The quick work of the department was successful in saving the plant.

From the Fremont Herald: The Fremont auto truck again demonstrated its great value to the city when on Monday evening it was called to the artificial ice plant of the Fremont Ice and Sand Company, and quickly quenched a fire that for a few minutes threatened to consume the building. The damage amounted to about \$150.

Kearney Department Ranks High From the Kearney Hub:

In the insurance reports of the state of Nebraska just issued, Kearney is shown as ranking the highest of any volunteer department town in the entire state. The volunteer departments have been doing good work over the entire state, but the Kearney department is especially commended for their effective work. The losses in this city compared to the number of fires, is the lowest percentage of any city.

Especially since the purchasing of the automobile fire truck has the department been able to make quick work of extinguishing fires, but a short interval being necessary after the alarm is turned in until the department is on the scene and a good stream of water is playing on the fire. A great deal of experimenting by the council and the water commissioner, in order to obtain an efficient system of alarms and a sufficient pressure of water, has finally put the present system to a high point of efficiency.

With the electric gongs warning the driver, the fire boys sleeping in the truck quarters and the water works, everyone is on the job at the same time, and sufficient water pressure has been obtained to throw a strong stream when the faucets are first turned on. The work of the department and the thought and energy of the city officials have done much to make this the highest ranking fire prevention town in the state.

A large number of special agents have had occasion to visit this city the past few weeks, and there are none who are not loud in their praise of the department and its work, when talking to the local representatives, with the result that insurance is more readily granted here than possibly in any other Nebraska town with a volunteer department.

Aurora Department Reorganized From the Aurora Republican:

The Aurora fire department has taken on a new lease of life. The membership has recently been increased to 60 and the boys are perfecting themselves by frequent practice runs in the use of their apparatus. The two hose companies gave a very pretty exhibition last Thursday evening, each running one block on the east and west sides of the square respectively and throwing water. The performance will probably be repeated this evening.

The boys will reorganize the hose companies with eighteen men each, leaving twenty-four for a hook and ladder company which will be formed if the city council can see its way clear to furnish the necessary equipment. A petition will be presented to the council soon for additional

hose, nozzles, lantern racks, ropes, axes and other articles necessary to put the department in good fighting trim. It is probable that a movement will be started later for the construction of a city hall and engine house where the carts and equipment may be given proper care. The department has rendered an excellent account of itself whenever called out, in spite of the fact that it has had very little encouragement from the general public. With its increased membership and proper equipment it should become one of the strongest volunteer fire fighting organizations in the state.

The following old members, many of whom have seen years of service, will remain with the reorganized department: Fred Uhn, E. A. DeWaters, R. M. Mitchell, A. E. Houser, Carl Travis, Frank Coykendall, Fred Jeffers, John Powell, J. H. Grosvenor, H. E. Bogardus, Oscar Oberg, Walter Wilkins, George H. Houser, John McAllister.

New members: Harry Sims, C. M. Moss, R. W. Nowlin, W. C. Mower, M. J. McDougall, W. H. Kellermeier, Charles Wents, Fred Beltner, H. M. Grosvenor, George A. Ross, W. M. Collins, T. C. Larimer, Harry Stewart, A. W. Applebee, J. J. Tryner, "Doc" McCoy, E. S. Munson, Steve Powell, Ralph Davidson, Ernest Eddy, John Quinn, John Cassell, Fred Stewart, Charles Bertz, George Billinton, H. H. Hutton, George Bahn, Lou Blue, Guy Brown, Walter Spray, M. J. Rathman, H. J. Hansen, L. Grosvener, C. W. Stokesbury, O. L. Hickerson, H. Grosshans, A. M. Hiett, Jack Maxfield, Ed L. Hedges, M. Larson, H. E. Toof, C. Otto, Guy Huffman, Joe Gilson, L. Baldwin.

E. A. DeWaters is chief of the department with Oscar Oberg president, George Houser secretary and Fred Kuhn treasurer. W. H. Kellermeier, the new manager for the Aurora Lumber Company, is a veteran fireman who has seen service at Seward, Talmage and other places, and he is lending valuable assistance in the work of reorganization.

Ice Plant Destroyed by Fire

Guido Rock, Nebr., July 25—Fire of unknown origin destroyed the ice plant at the rear of Fred Wait's meat market this afternoon. The loss was approximately \$8,000, with half that amount of insurance.

The chemical truck of the Red Cloud department was loaded on a freight car, but the fire was under control before the train left Red Cloud and the call for help was withdrawn. Many people came from neighboring towns in automobiles to watch the fire.

Ed Cady, owner of a notion store a short distance from the ice plant, suffered some loss when his stock was carried to the street when his building was in danger from the flames.

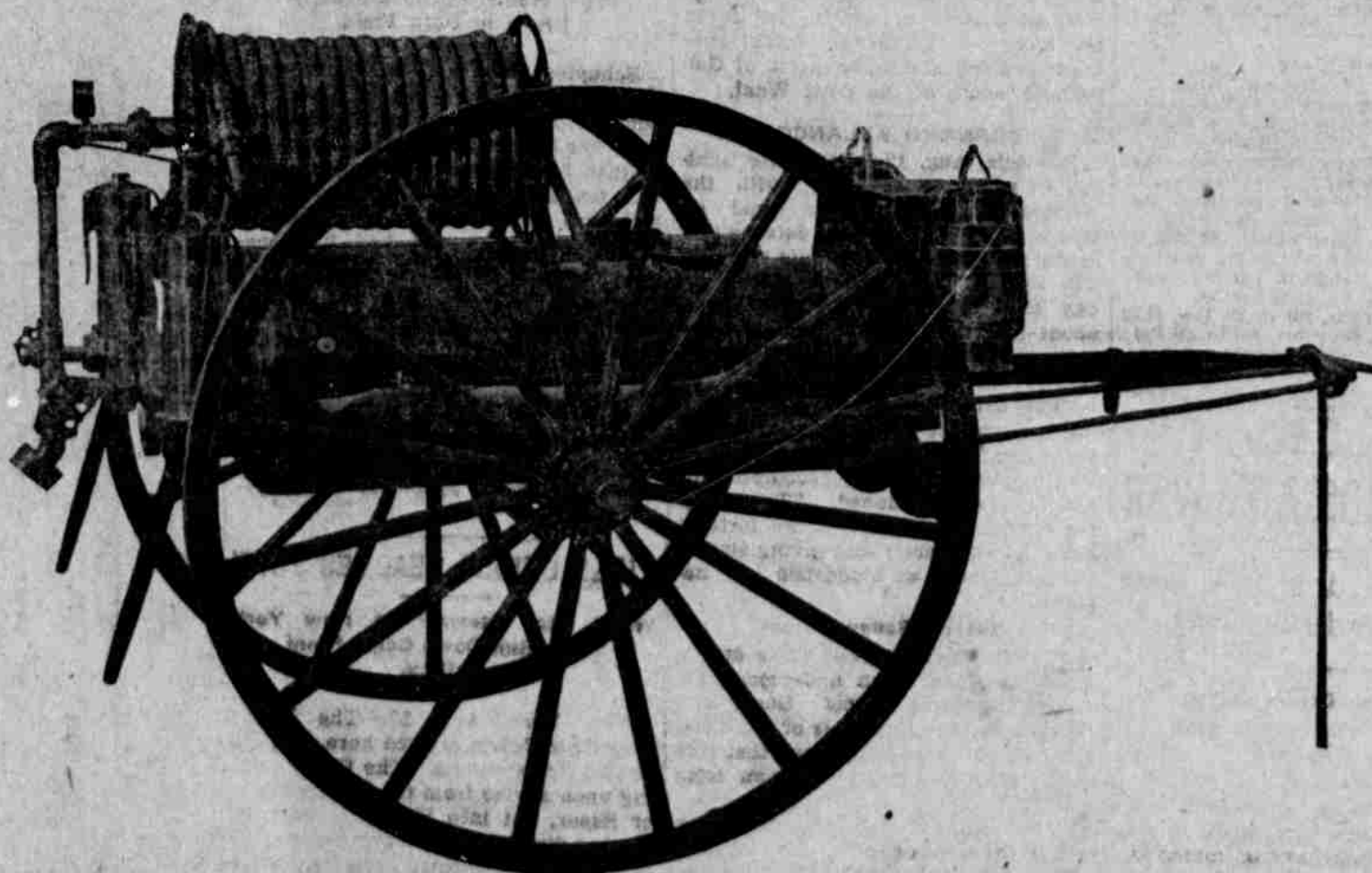
\$95,000 Fire at Grand Island

The dry goods store of P. Martin & Brother at Grand Island was completely gutted by fire on July 21. The building occupied by the store, 66x132 feet, was almost totally destroyed. The total loss to all was estimated at \$95,000, partially insured. All of the city's equipment was used on the fire which was put out after several hours severe fighting.

The Spalding department is planning on a three-days celebration soon. Their plans will be announced later.

The plant of the Argosy at Analey was destroyed by fire recently with a loss of \$5,000.

Fire Department Equipment



No city, town, or village can afford to be without a chemical engine of some kind. We sell the Anderson Motor Truck, equipped with chemical engine.

Cities and towns in Nebraska now equipped with motor apparatus are Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and Alliance. We sold all but two of these cities.

Our chemical equipment is acknowledged to be the best in the market. For towns and villages, we build hand-drawn apparatus as shown on above cut, in any size tank.

We ask all firemen interested to send to us for catalog. We are pleased to write you at all times.

Andersen Company

1115 Farnam Street

Omaha, Nebraska