

Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association

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Board of Control: Harry Houser, Fremont, chairman; Jacob Goehring, Seward; E. W. Parkhurst, Lexington; Ray Frost, Stanton; Thomas Jeffrey, North Platte.

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

Edited by Lloyd C. Thomas, state publicity chairman.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEEMEN

Albion—H. E. Hallstead.
 Bertrand—C. H. Frakes.
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Departments are requested to forward names as fast as publicity man is appointed.

STATE NEWS

A barn on the G. H. Toxley property at Newman Grove was badly damaged by fire on March 10. The fire department got two lines of hose on it and saved the building although at first it looked completely hopeless. A horse was burned to death.

G. C. Miller, an aged widower at Holbrook, lost his house and contents, valued at \$1200, by fire on March 11. The blaze is supposed to have started in the chimney. Mr. Miller is eighty-four years old.

The value of a speedy fire engine was well demonstrated at Fremont on March 10 when the chemical motor truck was called to the Beebe residence on North 8th street. Although the fire had a good start before the truck was called, they arrived in time to get it out before serious damage resulted.

Fire broke out at 3 o'clock March 13 in the James Adams home, 1303 West Sixth street at North Platte. The fact that the fire did no serious damage is credited to the auto truck, for the nearest fire plug was four blocks away. With the use of the chemical the loss was confined to a few out-buildings.

The Albion fire department met in regular meeting at the city hall on Monday, March 9. After a short session of the Board of Control, President Ray Whiting called the meeting to order to transact the regular business. Mayor Poynter at this time responded to a call from the Chair and gave the firemen a few words of encouragement. The administration has agreed to present to the volunteer firemen a late model chemical engine, which has already been ordered, and which is expected to arrive soon. The engine is similar to those used in the larger cities, and will be a valuable auxiliary to our already splendid equipment. The general business of the department was taken up and disposed of. It was voted to give the firemen and their wives and lady friends a banquet about the first of April, and a committee was appointed to start the ball rolling. An effort is being made to secure Deputy State Fire Commissioner Ridgell, from Lincoln, to address the meeting. Chief Lester Martin reported favorably on an ordinance which he placed before the City Council for approval and passage. The ordinance is sent out from the state fire commissioner and appoints the chief and his assistants as city fire inspectors of all buildings in the city, and requires that the inspections be frequent.

The heating stove in the primary school room at Grant fell to pieces on March 10 while the room was filled with children. There was a fire in the stove and if the larger boys had not been brave someone would undoubtedly have been injured. The boys grabbed a bucket of water and under the direction of the teacher put the fire out.

The residence of Editor Lorkosky of the Leader at Sargent was damaged to the amount of \$200 by fire last week.

Bertrand was visited by a serious fire on March 10. The Armstrong livery barn and the P. C. Schroeder lumber yard were totally destroyed. The fire started in the livery barn and was not discovered until it had gained great headway, and by the time the alarm was given by ringing of the firebell the flames had already communicated to the Schroeder building and the lumber piles. Fanned by a stiff breeze from the north, the fire was not only fast and hot, but sent burning embers into the alleys and onto the roofs of other buildings for a distance of two blocks. Several incipient blazes started in this way were nipped in the bud by watchful citizens. The meat market and pool hall both caught fire, although half a block away from the burning buildings, but prompt work saved them. The firemen worked hard at the fire from the west and east sides, and a good deal of water was used in bringing the flames under subjection. A distressing feature was the burning of four horses in the livery barn. Some others that were running in the corral at the rear were gotten out, but one was so badly burned that Mr. Burkey had it killed. Besides the horses the barn contained about a carload of baled hay, buggies and other equipment, none of which was saved. Burkey's loss was about \$1000, partially covered by insurance. The barn was owned by J. V. Armstrong and was one of the first structures built in the town, having stood about 23 years. It was valued at about \$2500 and insured for \$1,000. The traveling agent of the Aetna company happened to come to

town the same morning following the fire, and the loss was adjusted that day. W. H. Westfall is the local agent. A good deal of the lumber in Schroeder's yard is only partially burned, but is in such condition that it has little or no market value. His building, besides its other contents, had stored in it two organs and a piano-organ. Altogether his loss is between \$4,000 and \$5,000, with an insurance of \$2,500.

Fire at Elkhorn destroyed the saloon, store building and dance hall owned by Fred Diestel March 9, at 3 o'clock in the morning. Five minutes after the fire was discovered the firemen had two streams of water on the blaze, which by this time had spread over the largest part of the building. Seeing that it was useless to try to stop the fire, the fire boys took off one hose and turned the water onto the neighboring buildings. It was only by the brilliant work of the firemen that these buildings were saved. In about three hours after the fire started hardly a board was left standing. A proof of the good work of the firemen is the summer kitchen and the stage of the dance hall which are still standing. The buildings with stock and fixtures were valued at about \$10,000, which is partly covered by insurance. Everything was burned but the cash register and part of the clothes of the family.

On Friday evening, March 6, the St. Edward Volunteer Fire Department held their first annual banquet at the White Hotel where they entertained as guests the members of the Commercial club and State Fire Commissioner W. S. Ridgell of Lincoln who was the speaker of the evening. At 8 o'clock sharp the doors of the hotel dining room were thrown open and the assembled guests gathered around the banquet table at which plates were laid for eighty and where Landlord Smith served one of the best suppers ever placed before the public of the town. The room was tastefully decorated in green and red and the same color scheme was used in table decorations. After supper President Fellers of the fire department took charge of the assembly as toastmaster and toasts were responded to by H. Gerson Gross, Dr. O. H. Flory, Hon. A. A. Smith, Chief Krokstrom and Ex-chief Blakeney. Mr. Ridgell was then introduced and gave a most instructive and entertaining talk on the work of the Nebraska Fire Commission, the prevention of fires and volunteer fire departments and their work.

Fire at Pawnee City destroyed the home of J. E. Atkinson at the North-edge Nurseries on March 10. There was a private water system on the place but it did not furnish the firemen with enough water to do much work. They saved the nearby buildings.

OSMOND NOTES

(By E. S. Kiernan, publicity man)
 The Osmond Volunteer Fire Department, organized in 1902, now has a membership of twenty-six, comprising two companies. The department has an extra fine equipment consisting of two chemical engines, two hose carts, and a hook and ladder wagon. Regular drill during the open season keeps the boys in trim and we are able to make good time on runs. Strict discipline is the rule.

The department own their own brick building; the lower floor of which is devoted to the fire fighting paraphernalia, and the second story, recently re-finished on the inside and rescaled, is used as an opera house. It being the only house in town, the department derives a nice income in rentals.

We are planning a big banquet and smoker in the near future for firemen, their wives and sweethearts.

VERDIGRE NEWS

(By W. H. Bruce, publicity man)
 At our last regular meeting, Mar. 11, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: J. J. Schmidt, chief; Frank Drassal, assistant chief; L. J. Bartak, treasurer; W. A. Bruce, secretary and publicity man.

We wonder how many departments in the state have complied with the request of Mr. Stubbs, who you will remember, talked to us at Columbus on fire prevention. When the inspection was made here, the school house was found to be in excellent condition as were the majority of the other public buildings, and, at the present time, all will pass a rigid inspection.

We wrote the Nebraska Pyrene Company of York for the agency of their extinguisher and in event that we could get the agency for them to send a demonstrator. We have just received a letter from them saying

they will have a man here this week. Wouldn't a question and answer department be quite a help to the younger departments of the association? We are but two years old and think that questions would arise from time to time that would be of benefit to us. What do some of the other departments think of the proposition?

FREMONT DEPARTMENT

The Fremont Volunteer Fire department, in equipment and efficiency, is unsurpassed by any city of the same size as the enterprising capital of Dodge. In paraphernalia it is the glowing pride of our municipality. With every essential for successful fire-fighting in the line of material conveniences, and with 183 stalwart saviors of life and property, the department might well challenge any sister community to produce its superior. Eight companies compose the department: Frantier Hook and Ladder company, Engine Company No. 1, Chemical Engine company, Cleland Hose company, Dorsey Hose company, Mechanics Hose company, Manufacturers Hose company, Mercer Hose company. For combating the dread element these heroic men have in addition to their own splendid qualities one auto chemical hose wagon, two hose wagons, one hook and ladder truck, three hose carts, and have available 4,000 feet of hose the estimated value of the equipment being \$16,250. The only needs at present are 1,000 feet more of hose and a new hose house for the Mercer Hose company.

The Famous Auto Wagon

The auto chemical wagon is of great value to the department. Fremont was the first city in the state to purchase this modern, up-to-date fire extinguisher, and Omaha, Lincoln, Columbus and Grand Island followed the admirable example. The auto carries sixty-five gallons of chemical, and uses one gallon of gasoline to eight miles of travel. It has three chemical tanks, one holding fifty-five gallons, and the other two auxiliaries having a five-gallon capacity. One thousand, five hundred feet of hose accompany the swift machine in its distance-annihilating "scorch" to the scene of a conflagration "swifter than arrow from the tartar's bow." Its magical record in transportation and extinguishing is well known and appreciated.

Dues and Fines

A system of dues and fines is rigidly maintained by the department. Each member is required to pay \$1 upon joining and contribute ten cents per month. Absentees from fires are each fined twenty-five cents for missing a day fire, and fifty cents for "stopping" a night fire, without a reasonable excuse. This may be pleaded on the ground of sickness, absence from the city, or imperious business demands. A voluntary and designed truancy is considered a grave offense. There are members who have not missed a fire for any cause since enrollment. This is a remarkable as well as a commendable record, worthy of a medal.

Roster of Fire Chiefs

The chiefs who have been in office and who have been makers of history in the long existence of the department are: H. J. Lee, J. Towner Smith, Cornelius Driscoll, J. C. Cleland, A. C. Hull, James Lowrey, Jerry Dierks, Fred De La Matyr, Fred Lang, Wm. Mercer, T. B. Cummings, J. D. Johnson, M. M. Mortensen and Harry Hauser.

The Departmental Memorial Fund

The department has founded a nucleus memorial fund for the erection of a monument to the memory of its sixty deceased members, whose revered ashes repose in their last resting place. This proposed shaft is to cost \$2,000 or more, and is to be placed in the firemen's lots in Ridge cemetery. Some influential members of the organization suggest instead the placing of a head stone at each grave. The fund is slowly growing from the revenue derived from insurance taxation and from that which flows into the coffers of the department from the various companies' dances.

Fire Chief Hauser

Entering the sixth year of his chieftainship, too much praise cannot be accorded Harry Hauser, the ubiquitous, energetic, unsparring, self-effacing fire chief, "the youngest chief in the state." Here, there and everywhere in the interests of citizens and department, he is the servant of all, and is never so happy as when he has the privilege of serving.

Social Features

The sunny-hearted firemen believe in and practice a social fellowship which drives moonshine out of the head and puts sunshine into the heart. They have their own quarters in parlors allotted them by the city, finely furnished, and containing portraits of eminent firemen and chiefs who have done yeomen service in the past, and trophies of prizes awarded in tournaments to local contestants, companies' silk banners, and a record of local fires. In such attractive headquarters the "fire ladies" hold their business meetings, enjoy mental companionship, and engage in social games and pastimes. Refreshments are sometimes served there, and incense burned to "My Lady Nicotine," while an occasional banquet at popular restaurants is indulged in. The periodical company dances also furnish social delight, and few members of the department fail to "trip the light fantastic toe" in terpsichorean grace when the signal is given: "On with the dance! let joy be unconfined."

All kinds of jokes, badinage and mirth are hilariously enjoyed, and not infrequently "Laughter" is observed "holding both his sides." Every company has its monthly business meeting generally followed by refreshments and "smokers." Once a year the whole department, accompanied by ladies, meet in a grand banquet, with racy and side-splitting speeches, and ending in a memorable ball. As many as five hundred firemen, wives and sweethearts, and guests have participated in these annual festivities. On New Year's day the firemen keep "open house" in their parlors, where etables, drinkables and amokables are discussed,

and where the fun grows fast and furious.

Father of Association

John C. Cleland, who is called the "father of the association," has had the closest of relations with the state at large and the department at home. In his own local guild and in the greater assembly abroad he is universally regarded as a Nestor, whose experience, wisdom and sage counsels have commanded respect and veneration. This veteran fireman became a member of the Frontier Hook and Ladder company in 1872. Later he held the office of president of the company, whose honorary certificate he possesses. From 1877 to 1885 he was chief engineer of the fire department and resigned upon leaving the city for six years. He was one of seven men representing six different departments in the state who organized the state association in 1883, and became its first president. He held the office three successive terms and is honored with life membership by virtue of twenty-five years' good standing—the first certificate ever earned. The "boys" all wish him a renewed lease of life, with health, happiness and a full cornucopia of blessings.

The Department's Evolution

The evolution of the fire department is most interesting and significant. It has been "going some" since the early days of its history. At that primitive period (1868) the "Bucket Brigade" was all the army it had to combat the "red scourge" and put an extinguisher on the flames, yet even with this handicap and limitation the brigade often did efficient work, and its deeds of heroism and daring are among the most cherished legendary folk-lore of firemen's history. The first chief was Henry J. Lee, and the second Towner Smith. Only a few charter members of the early organization survive in this city or sister communities. City water was put in in 1886. The "Mud-sucker Engine," formerly called the "Tornado," was procured in 1872. It came from New York city and was purchased second hand. The hose was made of leather riveted at the joints. The "Mudsucker," after doing creditable service for several years, was sold to Newman Grove, and subsequently was taken out to a farm for irrigating purposes. Then it was brought back by the Fremont department and kept as a relic.

The department sold its hook and ladder truck to Scribner and purchased a new truck in the early 70's. Since that it has been rebuilt and made modern. The chemical engine company was then formed and its engine later was dismantled and a hose wagon was "evolved" from it. Then came the advent of the auto chemical wagon.

Kickapoo Worm Killer Expel Worms

The cause of your child's ill—the foul, fetid, offensive breath—the starting up with terror and grinding of teeth while asleep—the sallow complexion—the dark circles under the eyes—are all indications of worms. Kickapoo Worm Killer is what your child needs; it expels the worms, the cause of the child's unhealthy condition. For the removal of seat, stomach and pin worms, Kickapoo Worm Killer gives sure relief. Its laxative effect adds tone to the general system. Supplied as a candy confection—children like it. Safe and sure relief. Guaranteed. Buy a box today. Price 25c. All druggists or by mail. Kickapoo Indian Med. Co., Philadelphia or St. Louis.

INSPECTION TRIP WEST

Burlington Officials Left This Noon for Week's Trip Through Big Horn Basin Country

E. S. Koler, assistant general manager; T. Roupe, general superintendent of motive power, west of the Missouri river; and general Superintendent E. E. Young left this noon in their private cars for a week's trip over the Burlington's new line via Casper to Thermopolis and the Big Horn Basin country. They will probably return via Billings and Sheridan.

FILES COMPLAINTS

County Attorney Files Criminal Complaints Against Inmates of the County Jail This A. M.

County Attorney Burton filed complaints in the district court this morning against Harry Criley, charging him with burglary and against Charles E. Brennan charging him with abandonment of his wife and family. The complaint against Criley was sworn to by Richard Waters, trustee in bankruptcy, for robbing the building occupied by the R. Simmons stock of goods. The complaint against Brennan was sworn to by his wife, charging him with abandonment and failure to support his family.

HOUSES TO RENT

or lease. Land to rent or lease. Land or city property for sale. Phone 36.

C. W. JEFFERS

NORTHPORT NEWS

(By Herald Correspondent)

Northport, Nebr., March 21— All were very sorry to hear of the death of Frank Fork, conductor of the local U. P. passenger train. He leaves many friends who mourn his loss. J. Miller moved to this place from the east. They will make their home here.

Mrs. Smith returned from Greenview, Ill., where she was visiting with friends and relatives. She was accompanied by her brother, Jesse Fulton, and wife, who will make their home at this place. Miss Edna Shaw resigned her position as waitress at the Lee Restaurant a few days ago.

Bebauer Bros. have been doing some traveling. Alfred returned from a visit with his brother Paul of Raymond, Kansas, and sister, Mrs. Chas. Hammer of Ellinwood. Yesterday Oscar Gebauer, fireman of the C. B. & Q., left for a trip to the western coast.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kell, of Sandwich, Illinois, returned last night to their home. C. M. Cox, deputized by the Omaha Douglas county court, left today for Hemingford to serve summons on B. E. Johnson.

MONEY SAVED ON Millinery

A new stock of Millinery has just been received at the Quality Variety Store which will be sold at the opening of the season at money-saving prices. You do not need to send away or wait till the season is half gone in order to secure bargains in Millinery. We have them here now. Please call and be convinced that we can sell as low or lower than eastern mail order houses. We wish to call the attention of the ladies to our stock of Furnishings, including Collars, Caps, Aprons, etc. Our goods open for inspection.

Quality Variety Store

Mrs. I. B. Lotspeich, Prop.
 313 Box Butte Ave. Alliance, Nebr.

Where Will You Go This Coming Summer?

Will you make that grand tour of the Pacific Coast? There will be special Summer rates, and California hotel rates in Summer are generally less than in Winter.

Or, will you make a less expensive tour—of the Rocky Mountain country, including scenic Colorado, Yellowstone Park, or the newest scenic wonder, Glacier Park? It is not too early to be thinking over a vacation tour for next Summer. Then there is next door to you, Colorado, with its camping places and resorts, including beautiful Estes Park, just North of Denver. You will have to arrange early for accommodations in Estes Park. Send for booklet.

Will you make use of our information service? Describe generally the tour you would like to make, and let us advise you as early as the new rates will permit us.



J. KRIDELBAUGH
 Agent, Alliance

L. W. Wakeley, Gen. Passenger Agent, Omaha

SQUEAK AND GRIND

That auto needs attention. Our work is done by an expert who can diagnose car trouble like a physician does the human being. No matter what is the trouble, we can fix it. We save you money by saving time in doing your repairing. Our prices are very reasonable.

OUR WORK IS GUARANTEED

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