

RHODES VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Fire Department

This was taken from the council meeting of May 1, 1922. Lester Breunig was appointed Fire Chief. He is to pick twelve men to train for fire practice. What happened between the year of 1922 and 1930 no record was found. A special session was called on July 24, 1930 for the purpose of organizing a Fire Department. E.R. Dewey was appointed Chief with Wayne Hildreth Assistant Chief and Frank C. Bentley, Secretary-Treasurer.

Regular meetings of the Fire Department are to be held on the last Monday of each month. The first Volunteer Firemen were: C.O. Sween, C.V. Allen, J. Jacobs, A. Robinson, Wilbur Williams, L.J. Breunig, Dick Jewell, Frank C. Bentley, L.B. Overman, A.F. Pike, Jasper Wilson, E.V. Snowgren, E.G. Beye, Elmer Baie, William Smith, Dale Anway, R.N. Crabtree, Fred Cheville, L.F. Hix, Wayne Hildreth, Ray Murray, M. Everhart and E.R. Dewey. The finance committee

consisted of : E.O. Sween, Wayne Hildreth, L.F. Hix, William Everhart, William Smith and E.G. Beye.

In 1938 when the city council were women Ethel Luing and Betty Hildreth pushed for a fire truck. The first fire truck was then purchased.

In 1940 the fire department served the Alumni Banquet for 40¢ a plate. They paid the firemens wives \$2 for serving. At this time they had 13 active members.

In 1941, shares were sold for \$25 and to a non-member of the fire department they were \$40. They purchased three gas masks. Dances, trap shoots and pancake and sausage suppers were held.

In 1942 the firemen made a complete inspection of the elevator. They purchased a board and placed the names of all the men who had gone to the service on the inactive list. A new fire siren was installed and operated through the telephone office.

In 1951, the local department joined the Story County Fire Association.



Fire at the Rhodes Lumber Company.



Fire truck in 1939; standing, Keith Mallicoat.

In 1953, First Aid Kits and helmets were donated by the David, Ralph, Paul and Warren Buck families.

A second truck was purchased in the early 60's, being a 1937 G.M.C., purchased from the Perry department for \$1,500. Proceeds from a township levy enacted in 1952 to provide fire protection for all of rural Eden Township were used to buy the truck. Before the levy the Rhodes Fire Department provided service to township farmers who paid a \$5 "membership" fee. Non-members in rural areas were charged \$25 per service call. Now all township farmers are taxed yearly to support the Rhodes fire station and rural calls are made free of charge. Rhodes has an agreement with surrounding towns to provide mutual assistance if needed. At this time there were 17 firemen with Delmar Wilson being the Fire Chief.

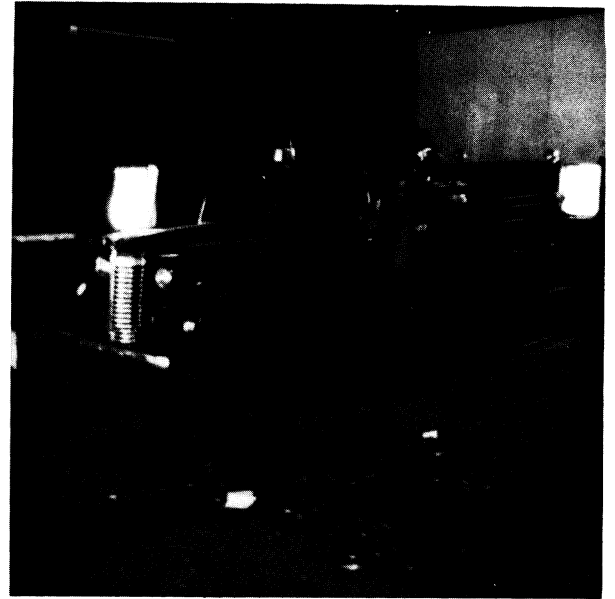
Through the years almost every able bodied man in town has belonged to the Fire Department. Many of them serving in every capacity and serving for many years.



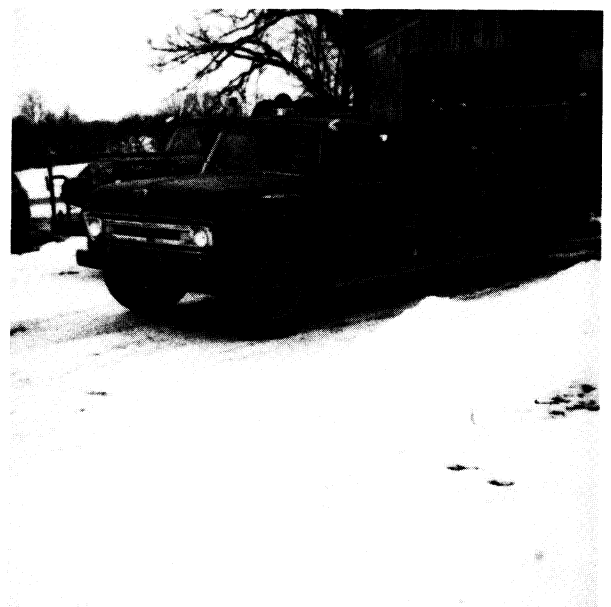
Fire truck in 1939, from the left; Delmar Wilson, Keith Mallicoat and James Hale.

Our present Fire Chief is J.D. Dannen, with Rick Thill as President; Jim Hoover, Vice-President and Lyle Eldridge as Sec.-Treas. The present firemen are; George Tuttle, Chuck Dannen, Dave Hall, Cyril Thill, Normen Wibholm, Bob Duff, Tom Cross, Jerry Klosterman, LaVern Karsjen Jr., Rick Raney, Bob Thoma, Carroll White, Danny Clement, Larry Shuey, Bill Overman, Jim Perin, Jack Pickard and Denny Kloppenborg.

Our present trucks are a antique 1939 Chevy, a 1962 Tanker, Ford and a 1973 Ford fire truck. The trucks were kept in the rear of the Town Hall until the past few years when the present site was bought from Emmett Brittain.



1939 (Chev) Rhodes Volunteer Fire truck, with Chief Jerry Dannen.



1962 (Ford) Rhodes Volunteer Fire truck.



1974 (Ford) Rhodes Volunteer Fire truck.

Inactive members still living in the community are; Emmett Brittain, James A. Hale, Fred Cheville, Wayne Hildreth, Charles Elliott, Russell Buck, Leo Malloy, Robert Richeson, Merlin Klaas, James F. White and Sam Clement.

Olden Days November 26, 1896

At the next council meeting December 7, 1896, the report of the committee which was appointed to look up the cost of getting a fire engine and other protection will be heard.

Alderman J. Saliday, Charles Jaroleman, Von Mackey, have heard from two manufacturers. Racine Concern offers a 30 gallon chemical engine for \$300 and a Des Moines firm offers to put in a 60 gallon combination chemical and water apparatus for \$350.

One other house is yet to be heard from.

Olden Days March 13, 1952

Called out to John Bears, March 7, for a small fire, Stew Failor blew it out before the Fire Department had a chance to use any water. The fireman turned out 100%

Memories

Fate Of My Suit

There used to be a big house, a beautiful home, the James Daughtery home, and it caught on fire.

It was the fall, kind of rainy out, and I had just been into Chicago with chickens, where they bought me a new suit. They didn't know what a suit was, I got that and was the "dude of the town". I had the suit, all the pay I got for running those chickens to Chicago.

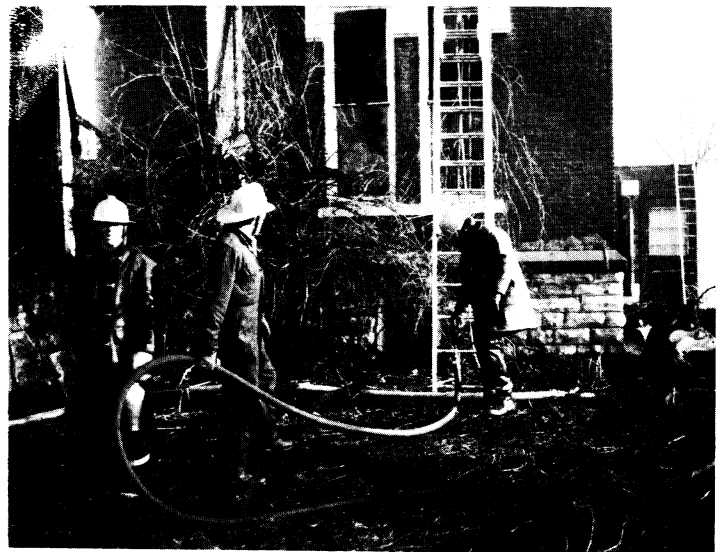
The fire came up, so I went with them to help, they had one of those things you pull out with your hands and put in the chemicals. When they put the chemicals in, it splashed all over my suit and I never thought anything of it.

A couple of days later my mother asked, "What happened to your new suit?" The chemicals ate right through it. It looked like a sponge. That was the end of that suit. I'll never forget that.

by Wayne Hildreth

Memories

October 29, 1982, Charlotte Howell had a fire at her house and had to call the fire department, but Phil Buck had put it out with his trusty garden hose.



Fire at the Rhodes School, April 20, 1975, from the left, Cyril Thill, Jim White and Joe Malechek.