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THE AFD RETIREE'S  
ASSOCIATION



EDITOR  
HERMAN R. BISHOP



NOEL BACA (3-14-14)

Noel Baca recently joined the Honor Guard of the AFD Retiree's Association. He was one of the first members of the Retiree's Association and has served 14 years. Noel joined AFD in July, 1958 and retired as a Captain in December, 1985 after serving 27 years with the department. He said, "it is fun to be back in the uniform and I am looking forward to my new assignment. I am happy to still be Part of the fire service."

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**ANNUAL FUND  
RAISER**

**WE ARE CONDUCTING  
OUR ANNUAL FUND  
RAISER. YOUR  
ASSISTANCE  
WILL BE MOST  
APPRECIATED.  
SEND DONATIONS  
TO AFD RETIREE'S  
ASSOCIATION  
C/O JOHN SERINO  
1504 HERMOSA S.E.  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108**

**KENNETH KELLY-** On February 22, We received notice that Kenneth "KK" Kelly age 77 passed away. He served honorably in the U.S. Military. He joined AFD in March 1964. After Serving his community and the department for 18 years he retired in July, 1982. Kenneth was very personable and he liked to entertain his fellow firefighters with great stories laced with a good deal of humor. As a firefighter he was strong and husky and we Always liked having him as part of our crew. He was hired by the late Fire Chief Simon Seligman. The department opened the old fire Station # 13 in the spring of 1964 at Indian School Road and Louisiana N.E. He Was part of the new firefighters hired to bring the department up to Strength for the new station. Our sincere condolences to the Kelly family.

	<b>ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>		
	5429 MAN NUMBER		
NAME KENNETH E. KELLY			
05/11/37 DOB	M SEX	BROWN HAIR	
HAZEL EYES	6'0" HEIGHT	210 WEIGHT	
SIGNATURE OF CHIEF SWORN MEMBER		SIGNATURE <i>Kenneth E. Kelly</i>	

**March Monthly Meeting-** On March 12, 2014 the 163rd monthly meeting was called to order by President Sam Trujillo @ 7:12 P.M., at the firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. Last Alarm- A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased retirees.

After roll call Sam welcomed our guests Pat McCarthy and John Moore . Tom Romero introduced Pat McCarthy a retired firefighter who spent his career in the fire service with the Wauwatosa, Wisconsin Fire Department. Pat now lives in Albuquerque and he was given a hearty welcome by our members. Mark Chavez introduced his guest from Gallup, John Moore. Sam also recognized fellow retirees Joe Tonorio, Dave Clark, Toby Pino, and Bernie Martinez who have recently joined us at the monthly meetings.

Chaplains Pat McKinney and Mark Chavez made a presentation on the Chaplain's program for members of AFD and The Retiree's Association. They explained that the Chaplain program is all volunteer and is comprised of AFD Retiree's and citizens of the Albuquerque community who freely donate their time. There are 14 chaplains and they extend assistance to our fire family members in need during family crisis, illness and the loss of a loved ones. They meet regularly with the fire cadets and willingly extend their services 24 hours a day. Call Mark Chavez @ 440-8148 for assistance.

Recently Sam and Kerry Horton met with Chief David Downy and gave him an update on the project Kerry is heading to place photos and names of fire cadet classes from Class # 1 to present date at the Fire Academy. Chief Downey gave them a warm welcome and pledged his support for this worthwhile project. Chief Downey plans to attend our April 9<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. Sam thanked the honor guard and all who supported and attended the annual Blue Mass at St. Pius X High School on March 4, 2014. The recent fund raiser for fellow retiree Joe Castillo was a success, thanks to all who supported Joe. TLC Uniforms has the retiree logo, suitable to sew on a jacket of your choice for \$45.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report. A motion to accept was made by Leroy Barboa and was seconded by Jimmy Candelaria. The motion carried. Due to the absence of Treasurer John Serino who was out of town, Sam Trujillo asked for a motion to suspend the Treasurer's report for March.

A motion was made by Ed Abieta to suspend the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Noel Baca. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop said he has received requests from firefighters who are enrolled in Fire Technology classes for information on the history of AFD. He is working with Fred Casias to post a brief history of AFD on our retiree web site. Herman introduced fellow retiree Al Armenta who is working on a project to compile a comprehensive list of nick names of AFD firefighters. Currently Al has collected close to 100 nick names which are most interesting and brought back lots of memories. If you would like to provide a list of nick names contact Al Armenta @ 688-0436.

Our members extend sincere condolences to retiree Phil Candelaria who recently lost his mother. Bill Raupfer advised that the cart for the Ceremonial Fire Bell is in for modification/repairs. Larger more functional wheels are being installed allowing the cart to be moved across rugged terrain.

The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The March monthly meeting adjourned @ 8:55 P.M.



L-R, Mark Chavez, Sam Trujillo, Mike McKinstry, Pat McKinney (2-12-14)

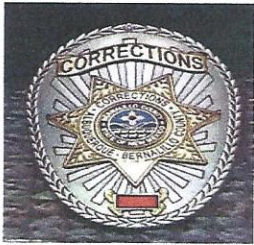
Members of The Random Acts of Kindness presented Sam Trujillo with A chain saw carving for his support and assistance to The Random Acts of Kindness program during the past few years. Sam said, "what a wonderful surprise. I am happy to be selected to receive this beautiful Award."



7th

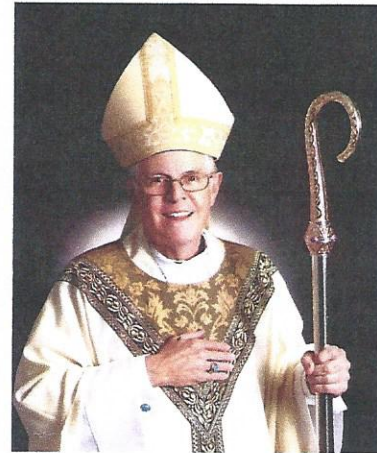
# Annual Blue Mass

March 4, 2014



## THE 7th ANNUAL BLUE MASS

Tuesday, March 4, 2014



**Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan**

**Archbishop of Santa Fe**

As we gather here today for the Blue Mass, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your service to the communities on behalf of the people of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Your commitment to serve and protect our communities is greatly appreciated. I know you put yourself in harm's way protecting us, while making our communities safe for us to live in. I know the sacrifices your families also have to make. I pray that God will protect and keep you safe as you continue to serve our communities. May the peace and love of God be with you and your families.

Yours in the Risen Lord,  
*Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan*

### A POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER

Lord I ask for courage  
 Courage to face and  
 Conquer my own fears...  
 Courage to take me  
 Where others will not go...  
 I ask for strength  
 Strength of body to protect others  
 And strength of spirit to lead others...  
 I ask for dedication  
 Dedication to my job, to do it well  
 Dedication to my community  
 To keep it safe...  
 Give me Lord, concern  
 For others who trust me  
 And compassion for those who need me...  
 And please Lord  
 Through it all  
 Be at my side...  
 --Author Unknown

### A SOLIDER'S PRAYER

When I am called to serve, Dear Lord,  
 Wherever war may be,  
 Give me courage to fight the battles,  
 My country may ask of me.  
 Grace me with Your presence,  
 And know that I love You,  
 While I fight the enemy,  
 My country needs me to.  
 Help me protect my comrades,  
 As You expect me to,  
 And keep me in Your loving hands,  
 While I do what I must do.  
 I want to do my duty,  
 And to give the best in me,  
 To do what I've been called to do,  
 And protect our liberty.  
 And if, according to Your will,  
 I must give up my life,  
 Please bless with Your protecting hand,  
 My children and my wife.  
 Fred White  
 Chief Warrant Officer  
 U.S. Army (Retired)

### THE FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

When I'm called to duty God  
 wherever flames may rage  
 give me strength to save a life  
 whatever be its age  
 Help me to embrace a little child  
 before it is too late  
 or save an older person from  
 the horror of that fate  
 Enable me to be alert  
 to hear the weakest shout  
 and quickly and efficiently  
 to put the fire out  
 I want to fill my calling and  
 to give the best in me  
 to guard my neighbor and  
 protect his property  
 And if according to your will  
 I have to lose my life  
 bless with your protecting hand  
 my children and my wife.  
 --Author Unknown

### CORRECTIONS OFFICER'S PRAYER

Lord, when it's time to go inside,  
 That place of steel and stone,  
 I pray that you will keep me safe,  
 So I won't walk alone.  
 Help me to do my duty,  
 Please watch me on my rounds.  
 Amongst those perilous places  
 And slamming steel door sounds.  
 God, Keep my fellow Officers  
 Well and free from harm.  
 Let them know I'll be there too,  
 Whenever there's alarm.  
 Above all when I walk my beat,  
 No matter where I roam,  
 Let me go back whence I came,  
 To family and home.  
 By Lt. Larry Peoples

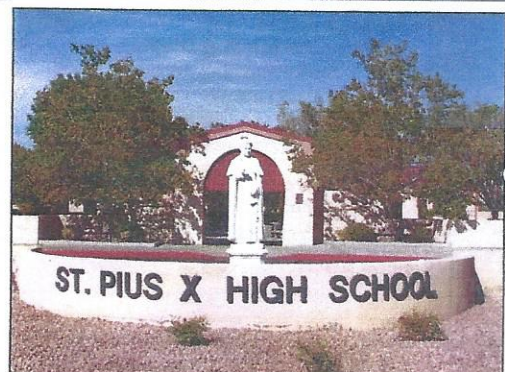
### Thank you to those who helped make this event special:

**Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe**

- Archdiocese of Santa Fe Diaconate Office*
- Blue Mass Task Force*
- St. Pius X High School, Staff & Choir*
- Knights of Columbus*
- Catholic War Veterans*
- Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Communication/Media*
- Albuquerque Fire Dept. Retiree's Assoc.*
- Office of Worship/Liturgy/RCIA*
- Cleveland High School JROTC & Civil Air Cadet's*
- Mama Lou's Catering*
- APD Police Service Aids*
- Lewis University*
- Bagpiper- John Willgohs*
- Taps- 1st SGT. Ralph Harris & Cesar Archangel*
- Gold Star Mothers*
- Blue Star Mothers*



*St. Michael the Archangel  
 patron of mariners, paratroopers & police*



**HERMAN JARAMILLO DIES**

(By: Herman R. Bishop)

We received notice that our retired brother firefighter Herman Jaramillo, age 78, passed away on May 3, 2014. He joined AFD in January, 1960. After spending 24 years on the department he retired in May, 1984. The department was expanding during 1960 and new firefighters were needed because of a shorter work week, increased rescue calls, and the opening of fire station # 12 on the east side of town.

His starting pay was \$300 per month and firefighters worked 60 hours a week. During his career he served under five Fire Chiefs. After serving 5 years as a line firefighter throughout the City, in 1965 he was promoted to fire alarm operator in the fire dispatch center. He worked under fire alarm superintendent "Lucky" Valdez along with other dispatchers, Joe Dauber, Horacio Quintana, Virgil Harcrow, John Brown, Greg Chavez, Jay Stadden and many others.



**HERMAN JARAMILLO**

Herman worked 19 years in the alarm room. During those years the fire department did not have a clerical staff. The alarm operators were required to manage records for payroll, for sick leave, vacation, and injury leave. They also maintained city street maps and maps of the fire hydrant system. In addition to handling fire and rescue calls the dispatchers were usually swamped with false alarms and crank calls. One time numerous calls came in reporting that the volcanoes were erupting on the west mesa. E 14 was sent to investigate they found lots of old car tires on fire. The fires were started by High School Students celebrating their graduation that year. He always did a good job as a fire alarm operator keeping track of the numerous fire and rescue calls, and dispatching the proper amount of equipment to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> alarm fires.

We recognize and appreciate Herman's service to the fire department and to his community. Our most sincere condolences are offered to the entire Jaramillo family. Last Alarm services will be conducted on May 8, 2014 at 9:30 A.M. at Calvary Chapel located at 4001 Osuna NE. Burial will follow at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

**BILL PEDIGO, DEATH**

(By Herman R. Bishop)

It is with sincere regrets that we report the death of our friend William T. Pedigo and Fellow Firefighter, retired District Chief, age 75. Bill passed away on Saturday May 20, 2014 after suffering a long term illness. He was born in Seattle, Washington and moved to Albuquerque after four years service with the United States Army where he served as a paratrooper with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. He was also a member of the "Green Berets," Army Special Forces. He joined AFD in March, 1960 and after serving 26 years with the department he retired during January, 1960.



**WILLIAM "BILL" PEDIGO**

Bill served under five fire chiefs and was hired by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. Due to the opening of station # 12 on the east side, a shorter work week and increased fire and rescue calls the department was growing and needed more firefighters to increase staffing. The National Board of Fire Underwriters who sets fire insurance rates for Cities required more fire personnel on the pumpers and ladder trucks. During 1960 four new recruit classes were held, lasting eight weeks each. Bill was in the first class in March, 1960. That year 75 new firemen were hired and after several resignations the department realized a net gain of 59 new fire personnel. In addition to learning basic firemanship, new trainees were required to jump into the life net from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the drill tower in order to certify as firemen.

Bill had a long and distinguished career with AFD. He served in fire suppression, rescue, civil defense, fire prevention, training and fire administration. He was knowledgeable in fire service practices and operations. He was a pleasant congenial person who was liked by everyone from the Fire Chief to the young firefighters coming into the department. After his U.S. Army service he continued serving in the local Army Reserves and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant while maintaining his certification as a paratrooper and as a green beret soldier. He enjoyed the annual two-week Army reserve active duty service and faithfully attended the monthly drills with his unit.

When he retired he moved to Dixon, New Mexico so he could be close to the mountains and live the laid back country life. It was not too long after he moved to Dixon that he joined the local volunteer fire department. True to his nature he was a leader in all endeavors which he pursued. Pretty soon he was selected to be the Fire Chief of Dixon, N.M. He served as Chief there for several years.

When the AFD Retiree's Association was formed in the year 2000, Bill was one of the first retirees to attend the organizational meetings and assisted fellow retirees in forming the new association. He was a strong supporter of the memorial plaque on display at the fire administration building to honor retired firefighters. He enjoyed attending the annual picnic/ reunion with his fellow retired firefighters. He was a true firefighter and he maintained his ties to his fire buddies until the end, even through retirement. A big thanks goes to Bill for his years service with two fire departments. We offer our most sincere condolences to the entire Pedigo family.

**ANNUAL RETIREE PICNIC- The annual AFD retiree picnic/reunion will be held from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday August 23, 2014 in downtown Bernalillo, New Mexico at Rotary Park. (Go to Calle Don Francisco, turn west go ½ mile) Prices are: \$5.00 Adults, children under 12 years of age, free. Call Eddie Torres, 867-2631, or Ray Flores, 898-8948 For additional information. All AFD retirees and their families are cordially invited.**

*Although I am miles away I still keep up with my old friends through the Retirees Newsletters.*

## The Art Loera Story .....by Eddie Abeita

Art Loera started his firefighting career with AFD March 1966, and retired in 1987. Talking with Art he looked back and thought about his various assignments within the fire department and said with a *smile*, it feels good to know that some of my ideas lead to practices and programs that are still in effect today.



*Lupe and Art Loera*

Art remembers his early days as a fire cadet with his training officers Esequiel “Skippy” Padilla and Alfonso Lujan. Art mentioned comrades that attended the fire academy with him at the start of their careers, but also saddened by the loss of other brother firefighters. When we moved from Albuquerque Anthony Vigil kept me informed about other retirees and happenings, until Anthony passed away. However I still keep in touch with Mel Vigil and Zack Romero Art said. *Although I am miles away I still keep up with my old friends through the Retirees Newsletters.*

I remember one of my first assignments was at Engine 3 where Jack Major was the House Captain, at that time we rode the tailboard Art said. I knew that on fire calls if we had to go down any street with bumps or dips you better get some springs in your legs and tighten your hold on the grab bar because you would bounce 2-3 feet in the air. Another experience was catching the fire hydrant at 10-15 mph, when you bailed off the tailboard you hope; “there are no cars in front of the hydrant or loose gravel in the street.

As pipeman my first big fire was the Mason Temple Building. It was smoky, hot and to me big—a very big fire. I remember being ordered to sit on a 2 1/2 inch fire hose line; I directed the stream into the windows of the upper floors. It seemed like I sat there forever. I thought about the crew that was inside that did not come out until ordered to do so. You have to respect these AFD Firefighters for their courage and guts. Up to this day -- I still do Art said.

The Bosque Fires were tuff back then, it was SOP to have the firefighter with the least seniority to be sent to the river fires as extra manpower. So I was the person with the least seniority at Station 3 Platoon “B” for over 2 yrs. I always wished for a new cadet class hoping a new rookie would be assigned to Sta. 3, so I would have a little seniority over someone.

Art was asked about his favorite firehouse food and the cook. Art said with a smile .....I live in the Entertainment Capitol of the World, Las Vegas, NV, with many places to eat and some of the best Chefs in the world work in this city. However none of them know how to cook Alameda Goulash like Orlando Duran. Also they do not know how to cook Pork Chops and Noodles like Orlando did. Oh, the LV Chef’s advertise the Mexican dishes cooked with New Mexico Chile (?), but something is missing and that is the difference between them and AFD Firefighter’s cooking.

I asked Art about his most memorable assignment in AFD, Art proudly said the "Fire Academy (training division). I don't know where to start however one thing I can say is; I felt so proud when I saw or heard about cadets I trained, that have done so well with their careers. It was important during cadet training to instill the team concept and insure cadets are able to execute their duties at any emergency and do what is right.

I learned so much about training and education and all things associated with it Art said. One of my bench marks I proudly remember is, wanting to increase education for firefighters. I started articulation with Dean Joe Rodman at TVI (now CNM) about the possibility of a Fire Science Associates Degree Program. After days, months, years it happened. It was accepted by the powers to be and has grown into a great program.

While instructing a cadet class, Art wondered how to promote the fire academy training program. With more thought on the subject Art felt more emphasis should be placed on the cadets. Art said the cadet's work hard every day, how can we pay tribute to them? I had an idea of some type of painting or sketch to honor the cadet class, however I could not solidify what it should be Art said. *I've told fire cadets you need to be resourceful and ask for help when needed! Well,* that gave me an idea, ask a person with artistic talent to help so I did. In training was fire cadet Tim Tsoodle who was an artist so I did ask him for help. Tim created a *rendering* of the academy using the drill tower as the background and the New Mexico and United States flags crossed with a fire helmet on top of a fire hydrant. This was to symbolize the fire cadet's hard work and achievements while in training at the fire academy. I understand this started a tradition and has been a continuous project for all graduating cadet classes.

Now living in Las Vegas NV, Art talked about relaxation which included fishing trips to Lake Mead, Art said to insure legal fishing, its best to have 2 state fishing licenses. The lake is so big you do not know if you are fishing in NV or AZ. You have to be **careful** on the lake because it can get hot real quick up to 105+ degrees you can get a suntan without wanting one. Art said trips to the LV strip are minimal only when we have visitors, I do direct them to the best food deals that I know of. It's kind of funny *listing to* visitors when they say; "look they have a Albertsons and Smiths supermarkets here", I guess people think all we have is casinos...duh!

Art is proud to carry his AFD Retiree's Identification Card. One day Art was passing a fire scene in LV and started conversation with fire personnel. The chief officer was professional however not real friendly. In conversation Art displayed his AFD Retiree's ID card to the chief officer. This changed the climate of their discussion and the brotherhood of firefighters came alive! Wow what a big difference it was like I had retired from LVFD and we knew each other for years Art said!. Another incident involving him and his AFD Retirees ID card was when Art and a senior LV Firefighter were talking and Art showed his AFD Retirees card. The firefighter said "I want to thank you and all other retired firefighters who have given so much.... to make the fire service what it is today and a wonderful career!

Art and his wife Lupe now reside in Las Vegas NV where there son Art Jr. is living. Art Jr. had previously worked with Boulder Station Casino and now employed by the Venetian Resort Casino. Arts wife Lupe was employed with Nevada Contractors Association and now has become business partners with Art in AVG Corporation (**A**lexis-**V**anessa-**G**ilbert, the grandkids).

## AFD RETIREE STORIES

### **IT DID OR DID NOT HAPPEN.....by Eddie Abeita**

What were your plans after Retirement? Did it Happen or Did Your Plans Change?

Paul Garcia JR 2000 In my early years with AFD I enjoyed collecting fire memorabilia like hats, shirts and decals. I started experimenting with some of my own ideas in fire designs and it became a passion. It snowballed through my career and my thought was; When I retiree I want to do this full time, and yes **it did happen!**

Paul Graves 1993 Move to MT and do some farming.

**What happened was:** We bought a Christmas tree farm. Hooked up with the local volley FD and ran the ambulance for a few yrs and did wildland firefighting for 10 yrs until my body gave out. Started with and international Biblical drug and alcohol program called The Most Excellent Way in 1999., traveled coast to coast and Russia, Poland, and Romania to teach pastors and church leaders how to run the program. Have been doing jail/prison ministry for many yrs and started a church in a small community in MT called In One Hope Ministries. We jokingly say we should change the name to felony fellowship. I miss vacation days - I miss days off period. I'm a survivor of bone cancer and just keep plugging along with some other Agent Orange health issues.

One of these days I'm going to publish my book on the "Talking Chiefs" of AFD. I interviewed and recorded dept. chiefs back to Ray Kuhn and all the chiefs from Ray up to my retirement, a few other folks that were on the dept. in the 40's and a couple from the 60's - 90's, included is an interview with the nephew of Chief Ruppe. He gave me some interesting insights into the 1st dept. chief. All of the chiefs had some very interesting insights and comments about the workings of the dept. and the politics. **My plans did happen:** And then some. And I'm not done yet.

Toby Pino 1984 I had plans of working with the United States Postal Service or Drive 18 wheel semi trucks across the country with my wife upon her retirement. **Things Changed** The post office did not pan out and my wife's health started to change and her illness curtailed so driving the 18 wheelers was put on the back burner.

Mark Chavez 2006 Retirement plans were to pursue all of my art work including my wood carvings which are time consuming. **Things Changed** I started working with emergency disaster relief and Chaplin/ministry which required a lot more time than I anticipated. This also curtailed my basic home projects. **Other Things Did Happen** With limited time I zeroed in and defined specific projects of art to work on. Also had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country and interact with other disaster relief personnel. Bottom line I feel Blessed with this all!

Eddie Torres 1992 My Plans for retirement were to leave at 50 years of age, so **It Did Happen.** I still wanted to work a little but not an 8 to 5 hour job so I drove a bus for Bernalillo Public Schools which I did for 3 years. **Other Things Did Happen,** I built my daughter a house and my wife and I travel every chance we get, I thank "GOD"!

### **It Did or Did not Happen**

Raymundo Flores 1986 I had no definite plans with what I would do after retirement. However I did contemplate Upon Retirement to start playing with Los Reyes de Albuquerque a Mariachi group I co-founded. **Things Changed** I did start playing music again however I needed several surgeries and then diagnosed with cancer. This put a temporary change in my activities however playing music again helped me in recovery. **My Plans Did Happen** although I had no exact retirement plan, I was able to play music again, and my wife and I travel here and there. My illness lead me to re-evaluate my life and priorities, I play in the church choir, and honored to play "taps" for our departed brother firefighters and military personnel.

Herman Bishop 1986 **Plans after Retirement,** were not pressing or pursuing any household projects to work on. However being idol would be short lived because we have a good retirement our benefits are good that allowed my wife and me to travel to Europe. **Things Changed Four years later** I applied for the Fire Chiefs position outside the state of New Mexico, where I accepted the position in Hickory North Carolina. This brought me out of retirement just like it was a scheduled event. **My Plans did Happen,** retired again, life has been good and rewarding also being able to spend times with the 2nd family, my brother and sister retirees.

Bill Raupher 1990 **Plans after Retirement** was to have the basic thing of personnel enjoyment like doing some fishing, boating and camping. That happened for about 4 years straight; I thought it's about time to do some work so I took a job with the Veterans Administration. I worked with them for about 18 years and retired again. **My Plans did Happen** I have done what I wanted after the VA I build guns and spend time at the shooting range. I now enjoy being part of the Retirees Association something always comes along to keep me going!

Carlos Arqueles 2010 **Plans after Retirement,** I had planned on taking care of my grandchild and family things. **Things Changed** because of health concerns and rumors about cuts in our retirement placed me in the position to retire. **What did happen** was a nice retirement and another employment opportunity occurred working on computers at one of the local hospitals. Now waiting for my granddaughter to get older to take her to Disneyland.

Kenneth Burr 2013 **Plans after Retirement** was not anything solidified mainly to take care of my kids and do all those home repairs including painting. I have never enjoyed painting however just one of them things you do on your home. **Did it Happen** "Who Knows" but I am doing good.

Chester Fuller 2012 **Plans after Retirement,** I wanted to continue and devote more time into my business of marketing high school athletics. **It did Happen,** My wife works

**It Did or Did not Happen**

with the airlines so we travel a lot and spend time together which I feel so blessed. I play golf spend times with the kids and one thing I do miss is the firefighters I worked with.

Julian Gallegos 2013 **Plans after Retirement**, to continue working with my business with no other real plans. **It did Happen**, because things are just working out well!

Fred Garcia 2013 **Plans after Retirement**, I had no exact plans, because I knew with 3 kids I would be busy real busy. **Things Changed**, I am kept busy just repairing my kid's cars if you think about it, kind of humorous. I started with home repairs and remodeling it just never ends. One project that I enjoyed was redoing my backyard thanks Lowes and Home Depot! I also work a few days a week but only at selected times so I am enjoying it all. My wife is still gainfully employed with a pharmaceutical company for a few more years. **It did Happen** we still have time for family fun all together even keeping our big annual family trip to Pecos with brothers and sisters (roughing it in the motor home is tuff)! One thing I hope continues is to keep in touch with the old crew from engine 21. We rotate in hosting a card game at each other's house this kind of keeps in touch with one another.

Adrian Glass 2013 **Plans after Retirement**, I felt like I was in a different situation with things at home I needed to take care of my father who was ill. **Things Changed**, after 2 weeks being retired it was so different waking up not tired and no heavy stress level. So things did change for the best, I found quality time with my grandson, father and daughter. We have been able to travel some in great spirit. **It did Happen**, being with the family more "that's what it's about" love retirement!

Troy Hamby 2012 **Plans after Retirement**, continue to work but not too hard! **Things Changed**, we had another baby but that was a positive change which was great! **It did Happen**; great retirement, wonderful daughters (2 in high school), my wife and I get to travel around the country and to attend our big family reunion in Wash. DC.

Lee House 2012 **Plans after Retirement**, I had to start early plans for retirement buying military time because of my dad's illness. **It did Happen**, now retired I did provide care for my dad which was important for me and him. My dad shared stories about my granddad's business in downtown Albuquerque that gave me some personal meaning of the AFDRA Newsletter. Many years ago my granddad had an awning shop downtown Albuquerque. There were times when some places where the awnings were going to be installed were out of reach with his own ladders, so my granddad asked for assistance from AFD. The fire chief at that time was Chief Art Westerfield, so when I read the history in the newsletter with Westerfield's name I know my granddad and AFD had a relationship (good stories Herman Bishop).

**It Did or Did not Happen**

Kerry Horton 2012 **Plans after Retirement**, first I knew, complete the practical things first like the "Honey Do" list. However my travel trailer would be waiting for me because I am a landscape photographer and knew no more 8 to 5 work now I got the time. **Things Changed**, not really.....only thing is my wife will only spend 3 days out camping, where I can enjoy a week at a time. In September I will travel the country by pick-up truck and a tent. My wife will fly and meet me periodically at different locations maybe because of the tent. **It did Happen**, I planned well for retirement so this allowed me to enjoy retirement, just had to get use to a fixed income. Also my family was part of the plans, one son is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year with AFD and the other is a student at UNM on his own achievement. I try and keep in contact with other retired firefighters; we do lunch now and then. My AFD career was the best choice I ever made and the camaraderie was great!

Marvin Gouch 2013 **Plans after Retirement**, I had no real plans, I figure the Lord will provide or point me in the right direction. **Things Changed**, but for the best I became more of being a dad which was I guess what the Lord had in his plans. **It did Happen**, retirement was the right decision at the right time and I have adjusted to retirement quite well. I still work part time with UNM's Para-Rescue. The only downer it seems like I am paying more in income tax!

Gilbert Garcia 2013 **Plans after Retirement**, I knew after retirement that I would be able to devote more time with our adopted children and continue in my business of transporting sheds and mobile homes. **It did Happen**, good retirement doing the family thing. I do miss the fire department and my brother and sister firefighters that I worked with they were all so resilient. My wife is teaching special education while working on her Masters in Education.

Edward Abeita 1995 **Plans after Retirement**, my initial plan was to help my sister in providing care to our mother an easy job because my mother was a strong lady. I was unsure of other plans because I had what I would call "retirement doubt"; meaning "what if I don't get a retirement check"? However once I received my first check I knew retirement was for real. **Things did Change**, I received a call from Dean Joe Rodman of TVI (CNM) who said; we need you a Fire Service Instructor to teach the Associates Degree Program. I said not "eye", I just retired and resting. Joe Rodman could have been a used car salesman, I started the following Monday, I was employed for 3 years at TVI/CNM... I left TVI/CNM on Friday started a new career with Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs on Monday. **It did Happen**; retirement(s) are GREAT, things happen but what the heck that's life. I owe so much to AFD for my training and education mainly all my mentors who took the time to teach me the right way. Even some civilian AFD employees taught me things.



**FIREFIGHTER TRAINING PROGRAM**  
**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
(By: Herman R. Bishop) January 21, 2014

A firefighter training program for the Albuquerque Fire Department has existed since the first fire department was organized during February, 1882. The first fire company was named the "Albuquerque Hook & Ladder Company." The company consisted of 15 - 20 volunteer firemen who by use of ropes attached to the ladder wagon would pull the fire apparatus through the streets of the City responding to fire calls. The company was headed by a Foreman (Captain) who would assemble the company, bark out orders and coordinate their efforts. Drills were held on a regular basis to alert the firemen, assemble the team and they were timed on their response and coordination.

At the beginning the ladder wagon carried a full compliment of leather fire buckets and were used to form bucket brigades at fires. Water was drawn from ditches, wells and cisterns. This required the firemen to have regular and coordinated training. During drills they were closely watched for efficiency and were highly competitive which required much team effort.

In December, 1883 the City approved the Water Works Company and began installation of fire hydrants for fire protection. In June, 1885 an improved City water system was approved. And more fire hydrants were added to the system.

In 1885 the first hand drawn hose company was formed and it consisted of 15-20 volunteer firemen who pulled the apparatus by use of ropes attached to the wagon. Later that year a contract was approved to purchase 2 hand drawn hose carts. The carts had two wheels, 6 feet 2 inches high and had 1200 feet of 2 ½ fire hose. The hose carts were named the "Scott Moore Hose Company and the "Angus A. Grant Hose Company," after two prominent local business men who donated money for the hose carts and were also volunteer firemen.

Shortly after the arrival of the new hose wagons in 1885 more fire hydrants were added to the system. The firemen trained on hose evolutions, laying hose connecting to fire hydrants and getting water for firefighting. In addition to routine hose drills by each team the firemen had competitive tournaments to determine which fire company could lay hose and get water first. Prizes were awarded to the champions.

In 1900 after the coming of horse drawn ladder wagons and hose wagons the firemen continued daily drills for ladder placement, laying hose, and forcible entry practices. Drills were frequent, competitive and firemen training was mostly on the job .

When the motorized fire pumpers arrived in 1912 the department added driver training, pump operations formalized hose drills and evolutions as part of the training program. The training was not formal such as a fire academy that we know today. Records were kept on each firemen and how many hours training he received on a weekly basis.

Usually the Lieutenant assigned to Engine # 1 was designated the training officer. When new firemen were hired, sometimes one, five or ten the engine officer would teach them fireman ship, Hose drills, ladder practices forcible entry. Here again training was short and mostly on the job.

Through the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's new firemen were assigned to the Engine # 1 Lieutenant for initial and indoctrination of firemen duties. The initial training lasted three days to a week. A large part of the training was laying 2 ½ inch hose and connecting to the hydrant. The driver would drive at about 5 mph and the officer would signal the new man to jump off the moving truck with 2 ½ inch hose in hand and he would then connect to the hydrant and turn on the water.

As each evolution continued the driver increased the speed of the truck, sometimes to 25 mph, until the man would fall and skin his knees and elbows. No matter how strong, agile, or athletic a man was, they drilled him until he took a spill. He was then certified on hose laying.

Some time in the 1920's the City purchased and installed a seven story fire drill tower located on the lot behind the old fire station #1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Tijeras N.W. Here the firemen could simulate fires in a multi-story building, practice ladder raises, jump into the life net from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, rappel with ropes, practice firefighting tactics and learn forcible entry skills.

During the late 1950's and early 1960's the department was expanding and hiring additional firemen. The work week went from 72 hours to 60 hours per week. New fire station # 12 was opened on the East side of town and a second rescue squad had recently been formed. Also the National Board of Fire Underwriters evaluated the fire defenses of the City and its ability to cope with major fires and fire conflagrations. This was done to determine the fire insurance rates on commercial and business properties. The underwriters determined that additional firemen should be hired to maintain the most favorable insurance rates according to national standards. Their recommendations included increased staffing of firefighters on both engine companies and ladder companies.

In the late 1950's the height and weight requirements for a fireman in Albuquerque was: he must stand 5 feet 8 inches tall and must weigh 140 lbs. (Of course hiring women was not allowed). As the need to hire new firemen arrived the city had difficulty hiring enough local people to fill the firefighter shortage. As a result the City began recruiting firemen from out of State in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Up to 1957 new firemen were sent to Station # 1 and the Engine 1-A Lieutenant conducted their training. (Two pumpers were housed at Station #1, Engine 1-A and Engine 1-B. A Captain was assigned to Engine 1-B). A training facility was non-existent and one was badly needed. During the 1957 budget year Fire Chief Art Westerfeld was successful in getting a bond issue passed creating funding for fire grounds and a fire training building. The new training grounds was located at 1510 Kit Carson S.W. adjacent to the Zoo. Also included in the new facility was a pumper testing pit where driver training was conducted and fire pumpers could be tested and certified. The fire drill tower was re-located from 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tijeras N.W. to the new facility.

A new classroom was built (20 feet X 50 feet). It included an office, bathroom and seating for 30 students. Also included in this modern building was a blackboard, a 16 mm movie projector a 35 mm slide projector and a typewriter. Ray Kuhn was promoted to Captain and was the training director. They still referred to the new facility as the drill tower where firemen training was conducted. New firemen were referred to as fire trainees or recruits. The terms fire academy or fire cadets was not used then.

In 1957, 58 new firemen were hired and given 52.5 hours of training. They also received the standard American Red Cross First Aid training. Additionally they were taught firemen ship, hose laying, ladder placement, forcible entry, salvage and overhaul, jumping into the life net and rappelling with ropes from the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the drill tower. Captain Kuhn conducted advanced first aid training and first aid instructor training for senior firefighters. As part of the formalized fire department training program he placed 8 volumes of Oklahoma A & M fire service training manuals at each fire station.

Subjects included : Chemistry of Fire, Hose Lays, Ladder Practices, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Operation, Forcible Entry, Ropes & Knots, First Aid and Rescue Practices. Accurate training records were kept on each fireman. At each fire station the officer in charge was required to conduct 1.5 hours of fire training on a daily basis.

In his March 1, 1961 letter to the City manager Edmund Engle, Chief Westerfeld outlines the annual report for 1960. The department personnel was increased by hiring 69 new firemen bringing the total fire department strength to 279 firemen, 12 fire stations and the addition of a new rescue squad. The fire department served a city population of 201,189 people. The new training facility was dedicated in June, 1960.

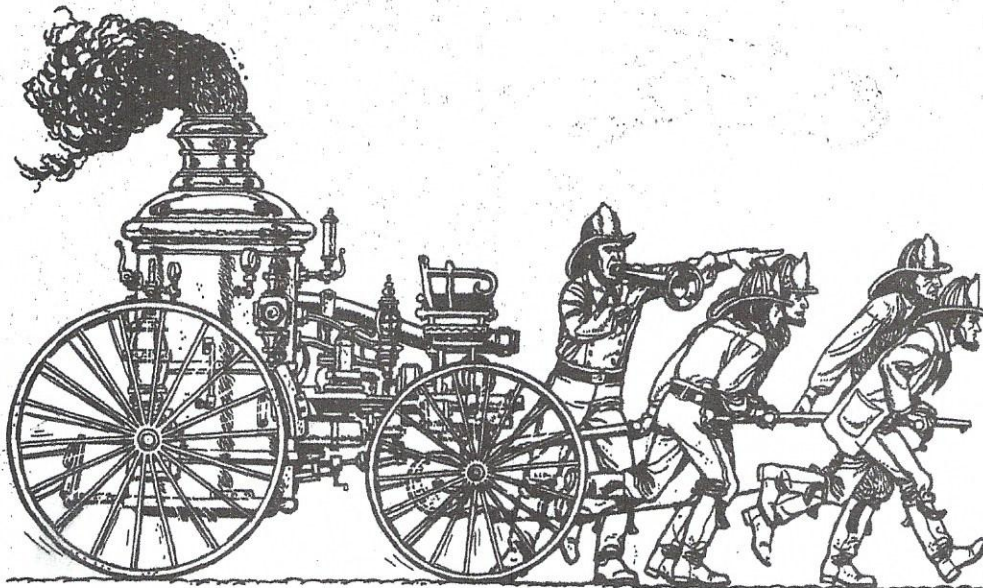
During 1960, four eight-week recruit classes were held. 75 new firemen reported for duty, and the department realized a net increase of 69 firemen. Six men were released for not meeting normal Fire Department Standards and requirements. The eight-week training course for new firemen covers all basic evolutions for firemen to become proficient in the use of department tools and equipment, theory of fire, rules and regulations, merit ordinance, arson detection, use of smoke masks, fire ground safety, First Aid, and actual fire-fighting in the flammable liquid pit fires.

Also included in basic training is : Hose laying, Life net training, Salvage & Overhaul, Ropes & knots, forcible entry, ladder practices, fire prevention, Smoke Room Training and Rappelling by ropes from the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the drill tower.

1960 saw the training grounds used for in-service driver training for pumpers and aerial ladders. The test pit and test facilities were used throughout the year to re-certify our in-service fire pumpers. We also assisted neighboring fire departments to certify their pumpers including Bernalillo County, Belen, Magdalena, Las Cruces and Las Lunas. Mr. George Thompson from the City Safety Department conducted safety classes for in-service fire companies at the training grounds.

Lieutenant Esiquiel "Skippy," Padilla from Engine # 7 was assigned to assist Captain Ray Kuhn during the eight weeks fire recruit training program. Four recruit classes graduated during 1960.

It was not until about the mid- 1970's When District Chief Joe Maldonado Director of training and his assistant Captain Joe Gonzales re-named the drill tower and training grounds of the fire department. It was re-named "Albuquerque Fire Academy." About that time the new recruits or fire trainees were referred to as "Fire Cadets." This was along the same time that the National Fire Academy was dedicated in Emmitsburg , Maryland. It seemed that the time for our training facility to come into the modern era and a new name was designated along with a beautiful logo, "Albuquerque Fire Academy."



FIRE BUFF

BY DAVE WINDLE

JUNE 1974

Two months ago, after finding that no one had previously researched the history of the Albuquerque Fire Department, my wife, Linda, and I sat out to do so. We have learned that it can be a time consuming and sometimes difficult job, but also a satisfying and interesting one, and would like to pass along some of the information we have turned up so far.

The first paid employees of the Albuquerque Fire Department were hired in June of 1900, fire protection before that time being provided by three hose companies and one ladder company, all volunteer. Two men were hired full-time and several extra men were employed for relief purposes, their pay consisting of free lodging in the fire station.

Fires were pretty few and far between, of course, (a total of 42 fires in 1902, for example) so most of the men's time was spent on regular duties or just waiting. A typical day in the Spring of 1902 consisted of each man going for breakfast at home sometime between 6:00 and 8:00 am, exercising the horses between 8:00 and 9:00 am, a visit from the Chief (who was essentially a volunteer) during the morning, lunch sometime between 11 am and 1 pm, exercising and care of the horses again in the afternoon, plus any housekeeping duties, and supper between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Dave Windle came to Albuquerque in the early 1970's on a job assignment and is what we call a "Fire Buff." During the 1970's and 1980's Dave photographed lots and lots of major fires of that day. He also photographed almost all of AFD's fire apparatus, pumpers, rescues, and aerial ladders. Much of his apparatus photos was in action at fires and rescue calls. Dave and his wife Linda, also a fire buff, researched a brief history of the department during the horse drawn apparatus era. This article is a reprint from New Mexico Firefighter Magazine, 1974. Today Dave is an "Honorary Member," of the AFD Retiree's Association. A sincere thanks to Dave for his stories and fire apparatus photos of our fire department.

Because there were only three paid men on duty during 1902, only one man could go for meals at a time, and therefore got about 40 minutes. Days off were pretty scarce, too, with each man getting a full night off about every 8 days. For this continuous duty, the men were paid from \$45 to \$65 per month.

The hazards of responding to fires aren't unique today, either. For example, this entry in the log of August, 1903. "While responding to fire, turned wagon over and broke it. Taken to Ortiz to fix". Or the note of November 3, 1906. "G. Basset thrown off of wagon-broke collar bone.

Some present day fire fighters might find the following entry hard to believe, but this was duplicated by many departments in the days of horse-drawn equipment. "Made hitch, layed 100 feet of hose from Tijeras Road and Second Street, form tap of the gong in 27 seconds". This street corner was the location of the fire station, by the way, but even today this is pretty good time! The harness itself could be hitched in six seconds, incidentally, and was a special quick fastening unit mounted from pulleys from the station ceiling.

With the following entry, I'll close for the month, and hope to hear from any of our readers about their own department's history, apparatus, or other items of interest. Form the log of May 15, 1905, "Still alarm from corner of 3rd and Marquette at 12:40 pm-manure pile on fire-no damage". Except to the firemen's noses, perhaps!

AFD HISTORY, TIMELINE

(By Herman R. Bishop, Historian)

December 10, 2012

The following information was taken from Albuquerque Fire Department daily logs hand written and maintained by firemen at the Fire Station.

- 1706- Albuquerque founded (site now known as Old Town)
- 1843- A railroad survey party arrived in Albuquerque surveying a route from Ft. Smith, Arkansas through Albuquerque along the 35 th parallel, to Barstow, California.
- 1880- Atkinson, Topoka and Santa Fe railroad reached Albuquerque on April 25, 1880.
- 1882- The population of Albuquerque in January, 1882 was 3,500.
- 1882- In February 1882 origins of the Albuquerque Volunteer fire company was formed and was headed by Chief William Sanguinette. The railroad brought many people and numerous fire hazards creating the need for an organized fire department.
- 1882- William Sanguinette was re-elected Chief in July, 1882. The name "Albuquerque Fire Company" was changed to "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company."
- 1882- The newspaper "Nubs of News," reported on October 8, 1882 that the firemen erected a fire building on Front Street (First Street).
- 1883- The first fireman's ball was held in March, 1883.
- 1883- In April, 1883 the firemen received their first official badges.
- 1883- August, 1883 the Atlantic and Pacific railroad organized a fire department. (Separate from AFD).
- 1883 A City Water Works Company was proposed in August 1883 due to limited water supply.
- 1883- In December, 1883 a Water Works Company was approved.
- 1884- The Maiden store suffered a heavy fire loss during April, 1884.
- 1884- A new 40 foot fire escape extension ladder (Bangor, Ladder) arrived during April, 1884
- 1884- The first fireman's tournament was held in October, 1884
- 1885- Albuquerque citizens voted to incorporate in June, 1885
- 1885- A contract was approved to install an improved City water system in June, 1885.
- 1885- The first hand drawn hose company was organized in November, 1885. (comprised of 23 volunteers) William Sanguinette was re-elected to Chief.
- 1885- A contract was awarded in December, 1885 to purchase 2- hand drawn hose carts equipped with 1200 feet of 2 1/2 inch fire hose.
- 1886- The hose carts were named, "Scott Moore Hosc Company," and "Angus A. Grant Hosc Company," in January, 1886. Mr. Moore and Mr. Grant were prominent business men and members of the Volunteer fire department.
- 1886- In February, 1886 two new Gleason and Bailey 2-wheel, hand-drawn hose carts arrived. The "Scott Moore," hose company was cream colored and the "Angus A. Grant" hose company was brown. (The cart wheels measured 6 feet 3 inches high).
- 1886- During February, 1886 volunteer members of both hose companies held their first drill. Joining the Drill as well as the members of the "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company."
- 1886- An election was held in March, 1886 and members of both hose companies and the ladder company Re-elected William Sanguinette Chief.
- 1887- An early version of a fire alarm street box system was installed in June, 1887.
- 1887- Records in late 1887 show Albuquerque's volunteer firemen wore leather fire helmets.
- 1900- In June, 1900 Albuquerque's population was 6,238, the City was 3 square miles and there was one Fire Station downtown with 3 volunteer fire companies.
- 1900- By mid-year, June 6, 1900 the City Council approved a small paid fire department. The volunteer Fire companies were re-organized and re-named, "Albuquerque Fire Department."
- 1900- June 6, 1900 2 men were hired full time, Eugene Southerland and Tony Ortiz. Their salaries were \$65.00 and \$60.00 per month respectively.
- 1900- When the fire department was re-organized 20 volunteer on-call firemen were authorized and they were paid \$40.00 annually. Four on-call firemen were allowed to live at the fire station.
- 1900- Along with the new fire department in June, 1900 a part-time Fire Chief was included and was Authorized payment of \$100.00 annually. Bernard Ruppe was the first paid Fire Chief. He was A local business man/Pharmacist; part-time Fire Chief.
- 1900- There was one fire house in June 6, 1900, a four-wheel hand-drawn hose wagon, 2 hand-drawn Hosc carts, and a hook and ladder company. The 4 wheel hose wagon had a large reel mounted on the back with 1200 feet of 2 1/2 inch fire hose which could be quickly reeled out and connected To a fire hydrant. (each fire company had about 23 volunteer firemen assigned).
- 1900- Shortly after the new fire department was in place (June, 1900) the City Council purchased a pair Of fire horses and a set of hanging harness. The first fire horses were named Tom and Jerry and Weighed about 1200 pounds each. The horses were weighed daily and exercised twice daily at 7:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The horses were given routine check-ups by local Veterinarians.
- 1886-1900- Photos show the "Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company," which was hand drawn. Usually it Was led by the Fire Chief, sometimes by the Foreman (Captain). It was accompanied by 20-23 Volunteer firemen.
- 1900- October 1, 1900 the daily log shows the crew on duty: Chief Ruppe, Fireman Southern, Fireman Ortiz, and Fireman Hale.

# For Whom the Bell Tolls

The nation's only black fire truck serves to honor our fallen former firefighters.



Photo by Don James/ATM

**T**hey wanted to pay tribute to our fallen heroes—their companions.

Sam Trujillo, president of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association, would often run into fellow former firefighters. They would catch up with each other, often discussing which of their firefighting brothers had passed on.

"A lot of people don't read obituaries," Trujillo says. "One of our goals was to remain united."

The AFDRA was formed in June 2000, the same month and year the Albuquerque Fire Department celebrated 100 years in service. A few years later, the AFDRA found a way to pay homage to their firefighting comrades who are no longer with them. AFD donated an old fire truck to the Retiree's Association, and a black paint job was applied to the truck. The water tank was removed and replaced with hydrau-

lics. These were to lift a casket. The fire truck was made to resemble trucks used by AFD in the 1980s.

"We put it into service in '06," Trujillo says. "We strictly use it for funerals."

The truck rests inside Fire Station 27, near the intersection of Paradise and Unser on the Westside. It's called upon when needed, and carries a fallen hero to their final resting place. At the funeral services, the AFDRA honors their fellow firefighter by "Striking the Four Fives."

Before there were radios, speakers, or cell phones, "bell strikes were how messages were transmitted," Trujillo says. The Four Fives is four series of five bell strikes. This specific bell command indicated final honors to a departing firefighter. The announcement that a fellow firefighter had passed away would follow.

The AFDRA initially used an actual fire truck's

bell, but in many instances were unable to bring the bell close enough to be heard. "So, we developed a portable bell that we carry with us," Trujillo says.

The AFDRA typically provides these services for former AFD members, but they've been called upon to provide memorial services for firefighters who retired somewhere else and passed away in the Albuquerque area. Like true heroes, they are happy to help.

Trujillo says there are about 600 retirees on the AFDRA master list. Since forming the association at the turn of the millennium, they've laid to rest 91 retirees. They've lain to rest 66 retirees since putting the truck into service.

"It's about tradition, and if you see it, it's very breathtaking. It touches you," Trujillo says. —ADAM R. BACA

**Death Ralph Chavez**  
(By Herman R. Bishop)

On Wednesday April 9, 2014 AFD retiree Lieutenant Ralph "Dudley," Chavez, age 89, passed away. He joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on April 25, 1956. He had a long and distinguished career with the fire service. After 28 years serving the Fire Department and the citizens of Albuquerque he retired on July 18, 1984. After completing fire training he was given the title of Fireman 2<sup>nd</sup> class. When he completed one year probation he was promoted to Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> class. There were about 240 firemen in the department and only 11 fire stations. Beginning pay for firemen was around \$250 per month and they worked 60 hours per week. The shifts were two weeks day shift (8:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.) and 2 weeks night shift (6:00 P.M. -8:00 A.M.)



As a new firefighter Ralph was assigned to various stations around the City and gained valuable firefighting experience at fires and responded to rescue medical emergencies. The rescue squad was formed in 1956 and ran out of station # 1 at 8<sup>th</sup> and Silver Avenue S.W. In addition to firefighting duties Ralph was assigned to the rescue squad. A few years later a second rescue squad, rescue two was formed and ran out of fire station # 8 at Graceland and Menaul N.E. When he was promoted to driver in October 1959 he was assigned to rescue # 2. His supervisor was Lieutenant Joe Maldonado. Although the fire department ran rescue calls dating back to the 1920's and 1930's it was not called the rescue squad until 1956. At that time the department did not have EMTs/Paramedics as we know them today. In 1973 the fire department in cooperation with the University of New Mexico Regional Medical School started the first EMT/Paramedic class. Many of the people assigned to the rescue squads were given the choice to be re-assigned to the firefighting division or attend the medical school and become certified as EMT/Paramedics. Ralph transferred back to the firefighting division and spent the remainder of his career as a Lieutenant on pumpers and ladder trucks until his retirement in 1984. We recognize the many years service Ralph gave to his community. We extend our sincere condolences to the entire Ralph Chavez Family.

**April Monthly Meeting-** The April monthly meeting was called to order on April 9, 2014, @7:08 PM at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE by President Sam Trujillo. After the Pledge of Alligance Chaplain Mark Chavez led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held honoring our deceased fellow retirees. Fellow retiree Ralph "Dudley," Chavez passed away on April 9, 2014. After roll call President Sam Trujillo introduced recent AFD retiree Raul Marquez who was given a hearty welcome by our members.

Sam Trujillo reported that the upgrades and repair work on the fire bell is now complete. He also thanked the folks at Albuquerque The Magazine for publishing the article about our funeral truck in the April, 2014 issue. Fire Chief David Downey was not able to attend the March meeting due to an emergency incident involving a medical helicopter at the Bernalillo County Hospital.

The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Toby Pino and was seconded by Eddie Torres. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. The motion passed. We met our financial obligations for February and March 2014 including printing and mailing the March 1, 2014 quarterly newsletters. John thanked every one who participated in our monthly raffle fund raisers. A motion to accept the report was made by Leroy Barbon and was seconded by Noel Baca. The motion passed.

The historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He reported that our friend Frank Maestas who lives in Buena Vista, Colorado has been hospitalized this past month. Frank is recovering and hopes to be home soon. Our best wishes to Frank. Al Armenta is finalizing a list of nick names of our retirees which they were given during their AFD careers. If you know of nick names Al needs to complete the list please contact Al.

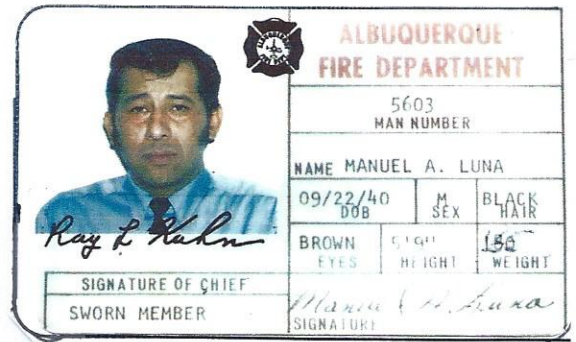
Fred Casias read a letter from Kenneth Kelly's family who sent a nice letter of appreciation for the honors paid to their father at his funeral and gave thanks to Sam Trujillo for his assistance in making funeral arrangements for Kenneth. Eddie Torres is making arrangements to reserve Rotary Park in Bernalillo, NM for our summer picnic. More on this later when the dates are set.

The AFD Retiree's Association now has a web site thanks to Fred Casias. The address is" <http://afdretirees.org/> Once the menu pops up click on AFD Retirees. There you will find a brochure about the AFD Retiree's Association, Brief history timeline of AFD (1882-1920's), Bylaws, Monthly Calendar, and recent obituaries of our deceased members.

Members who won the March raffle were: Ramon Maldonado- Pen Set, Leroy Barboa- George Foreman Grill, Toby Pino, Sports Hat. Sam Trujillo thanked Fred Teupell for faithfully bringing doughnuts to our meetings, and thanked Ralph Sedillo for tonight's Posole. Sincere condolences to Frank Chavez who recently lost his wife. Best wishes to those on the sick roster, Bob Knevitt, David Junick's wife, Joe Marquez' wife, Marvin Padilla's son. The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval and the March monthly meeting adjourned @ 8:40 PM

**Death Manuel Luna Sr.**  
(By Herman R. Bishop)

We were notified of the death of retired Paramedic/ Captain Manuel Luna Sr. age 73, on April 27, 2014. He joined AFD on June 1, 1964 and retired on May 31, 1987 after serving 23 years in the department. Manuel's son, Manuel Luna Jr. served with AFD for 22 years and retired in 2006. Manuel Sr's. brother is AFD retired Fire Inspector G.Q. Sanchez who served the department for 23 years and retired in 2008 . After the paramedic program was formed in 1973 Manuel underwent training at the New Mexico Regional Medical School and was certified as a firefighter/paramedic. He worked at most fire stations throughout the City and spent a major part of his career on the east side of Albuquerque. He was a sincere and dedicated Paramedic and was well respected by his supervisors and fellow firefighters alike.



He was hired in the spring of 1964 so the department could increase staffing to open the new fire station # 13 located just west of Winrock Shopping Center at Georgia and Indian School Road N.E. While assigned to Station # 13 he worked with Assistant Chief S.B. Skidmore and Assistant Chief Carl Macaluso and served on the ladder truck and pumper. He learned the ropes so to speak from those two old timers and was part of the fire department response to the Rio Grande Title Company fire located adjacent to Station # 13. He loved his job as a firefighter/paramedic and was a good role model to the young firefighters coming into the department.

When the retired firefighter's association developed the memorial plaque to honor retired firefighters which was placed in the fire administration headquarters, he was one of the first retirees to sign up to have his name placed on the plaque. He was proud to have the honor of having his name on the retiree plaque. He was a member of the AFD retiree's association since it was formed in June, 2000. On behalf of the AFD retiree's association our most sincere condolences go out to the entire Luna and Sanchez families.

From: [barcatfl@aol.com](mailto:barcatfl@aol.com)  
To: [samtruj@aol.com](mailto:samtruj@aol.com)  
Sent: 5/11/2014 10:56:36 A.M. Mountain Daylight Time  
Subj: Bill Pedigo

Sammy,  
wanted to share a couple of stories with his family and fellow fire fighters, if I may.

Bill, John Milligan and I went skiing in Taos. We were in the back basin bowl. Bill was in the chair in front of us. At the halfway point there is a loading platform to go back up: not for unloading (remember that). So what does Bill do? He jumps off at this point. John and I wonder what the heck is he doing? At the top, John and I start down and Bill sees us from the lift and hollers down to us to wait for him which we do (why I don't know). We stopped about halfway down the hill and waited. Here he comes straight down out of control. We know he is going to crash which he does. Skis, poles and Bill flying in all directions in a ball of snow. As he gathers himself and his skis the ski patrol finally catches up to him. One of his skis is broken. The ski patrol approaches and tells us not to go anywhere. Of course Bill can't with only one good ski, as good as he was. So the ski patrol brings him a loaner ski which would work well for a 6yr old as that was the size of it. Bill replies, I can't ski with this. They answered that is the point. Since you got off at the halfway point, skied out of control down til you crashed we want you out of here. They followed us to the bottom and made us leave and said don't come back! What a day.

Mel Vigil and I butchered a cow. We decided to pay Bill back for some of the pranks he had pulled on us. So we put the cow's head in a plastic bag and let it sit for a couple of weeks in the sun. Nice and ripe, phew!! Bill was working at the fire academy at the time and usually left his blazer unlocked! So we take it down there and put it in the back. He was furious and called Mel and me accusing us of this which we denied. He said he was going to report us to the game & fish for illegally killing a deer which he thought it was but it really was a cow's head with horns.

This is my confession to you my brother.

Thank you for the memories. John Barnum

My condolences to Bill's family. He was a great friend and fellow firefighter.

**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION  
5318 LA COLONIA N.W.  
ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO 87120**



Sam Trujillo

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### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

By: Sam Trujillo

It seems like we are attending many more AFD Retired Fire Fighter funerals .... As I stated before, we are losing the older generation of Fire Fighters that we worked with ... It saddens me to loose these men that were our friends, mentors and leaders in the earlier years of AFD History .... It also makes me very proud to see the support that AFD Retiree Association lends to the families of our deceased brothers ... As I've said in the past, no other profession remains as united as Fire Fighters ... We are family and our retirement only reinforces the bonds that we formed at the fire house ....

On a different note, I also want to remind our members to continue in lending financial support to our association as our cost of this newsletter continues to increase each year .... Our association operates strictly on your donations .... Please lend support to your AFD retiree Association .... Please send donations to AFD Retiree Association c/o 1504 Hermosa SE, 87108 ....

I also want to remind you to keep me informed (899-1500 or 400-3644) on any address / telephone number changes. This includes e-mail address changes. Our e-mail network has grown extensively and this allows us to communicate with our members on a daily basis if needed. In 2012 we had 28 AFD Retiree's, in 2013 we had 37 AFD Retiree's and so far in 2014 we have had 15 AFD Retiree's added to our mailing list .... Thank you for your support!

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**ANNUAL RETIREE PICNIC- The annual AFD retiree picnic/reunion will be held from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday August 23, 2014 in downtown Bernalillo, New Mexico at Rotary Park. (Go to Calle Don Francisco, turn west go ½ mile) Prices are: \$5.00 Adults, children under 12 years of age, free. Call Eddie Torres, 867-2631, or Ray Flores, 898-8948 . For additional information. All AFD retirees and their families are cordially invited.**