

AFD RETIREE NEWS

June 1, 2017

2-2017

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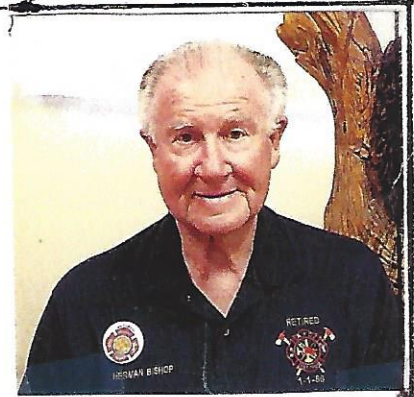
PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



WILLIAM S. SANGUINETTE
AFD VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF
(CIRCA MID-1890'S)

ALBUQUERQUE'S FIRST FIRE CHIEF, 1882

After the railroad reached Albuquerque in April 1880 the population grew creating fire problems. During February, 1882 the Albuquerque "Volunteer Fire Company" was formed and William S. Sanguinetti a local businessman was elected as the volunteer Fire Chief. He was re-elected in July, 1882 and the name of the hand drawn fire company was re-named, "The Albuquerque Hook & Ladder Company." In November, 1885 the first hand-drawn hose company was formed and Chief Sanguinetti was re-elected. By 1886 there was two hose companies and a ladder company. Again, William Sanguinetti was re-elected to serve as Chief. He came to Albuquerque from Leadville, Colorado where he was a peace officer. He ran a grocery store at 115 North Sixth Street. He was a member of the first Albuquerque National Guard Company. Mr. Sanguinette died on January 18, 1918 at his home after a long term illness.



HERMAN R. BISHOP
EDITOR

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ANNUAL PICNIC

The retiree's annual picnic will be held on **August 19, 2017, 11:00 AM, at Rotary Park in downtown, Bernalillo, NM. There is no charge, Donations Accepted.**

During the 1970's and 1980's the New Mexico Professional Fire Fighter Magazine was the official publication of the United Professional Firefighters of New Mexico. The editor was Albuquerque Firefighter Allen N. Rhodes, President of UPPFNM. The following article is a re-print from the December, 1982 fall issue from that magazine. "Las Vegas, New Mexico Volunteer Fire Department," 100 years old.

Fire Company Is 100 Years Old

LAS VEGAS, N.M. — "Volunteers: Always Watchful," is their motto. During their first 100 years of continuous service, the volunteer firefighters of E. Romero Hose and Fire Company have responded to at least a quarter million calls without fail.

Founded in January 1882, the fire company is the oldest volunteer fire department in New Mexico. For 88 of its 100 years, it existed entirely on the donations of the residents of Las Vegas, and for 80 years company drivers, on duty 24 hours a day, were funded entirely by private contributions.



1890s Officers Pat McElroy, William Wood Seated Are Cecilio Rosenwald, Alex McElroy

Of the more than 28,000 volunteer fire departments nationwide, E. Romero is one of the oldest, according to James Monihan of the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Monihan said E. Romero is definitely one of the 500 oldest volunteer organizations still in operation west of the Mississippi River.

It was established 30 years before New Mexico became part of the United States and 21 years before the town of Las Vegas was incorporated.

It began with 25 members who were issued uniforms and a key to the "hose house." Volunteers, upon hearing a fire bell ring, raced to the firehouse and pulled a two-wheeled hose cart to the fire, providing there was a wooden water main nearby to attach the hose to.

Today, there are still 25 members, and the company still uses the same constitution and set of bylaws drafted

in 1882. Now, as in 1882, volunteers receive no pay for their services.

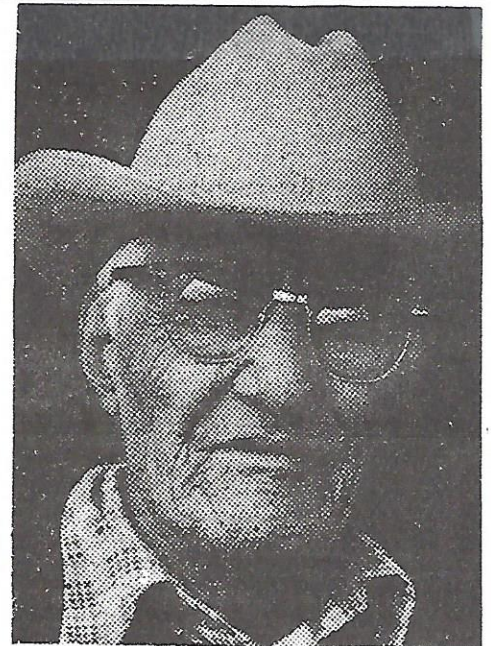
In 100 years, there have been only four elected chiefs of the E. Romero Hose and Fire Company. The first, Eugenio Romero, served 25 years. Romero was a member of an influential business and political family in Northern New Mexico, and one of the company's founders.

The second chief, Ludwig Ilfeld, served the E. Romero company for 53 years as top man. He, too, was one of its original founders.

"He was a wonderful man who got along with his men fine," recalls Ben Ortega, who at 86 years is the oldest living member of E. Romero. "He gave us good advice and told us what to do and what not to do."

Ortega served as a volunteer for 45 years under two chiefs, Ilfeld and George Maloof Sr., the company's third commander.

Maloof is the uncle of the late George Maloof, prominent Albuquerque



Ben Ortega, 86
Oldest Member of Company

que businessman. Maloof, 68, has served E. Romero for 46 years, in-

(Continued)



Members of the E. Romero Hose and Fire Company About 1916

cluding six years as chief. He is also a past president of the New Mexico State Fireman's Association, an organization which Ludwig Ilfeld helped found in 1923.

Maloo, a pupil of Ilfeld, helped groom E. Romero's current chief of 16 years, Tony E. Ludi Sr. Ludi, 53, served under Ilfeld and Maloo and is a 35-year veteran of the company.

During the tenures of E. Romero's four chiefs, no volunteer or driver has ever lost his life in the line of duty, an amazing record considering most of the homes and businesses in Las Vegas are about as old as the company, and most are of wood construction. Heating with firewood is still widely used in the Meadow City, as it has been for more than 100 years.

Shortly after E. Romero was founded, a corresponding fire department was established in the city of Las

Vegas, just across the Gallinas River to the east of the town of Las Vegas. For more than 50 years, Company No. 1 also served Las Vegas without government aid as an all-volunteer company.

Both companies worked together, fighting fires and responding to many other emergencies on both sides of the river. During those years, friendly and sometimes fierce competition resulted between the two, usually in the form of races to see who could arrive at the scene of a fire.

Most of the races were staged events, and many of the two towns' residents would turn out to watch the affairs.

In 1959 the city of Las Vegas funded Company No. 1 with a one percent sales tax. In 1970, when the two towns consolidated to form the current city of Las Vegas, city govern-

ment began to contribute financial support to both companies.

Today E. Romero Hose and Fire Company and Company No. 1 share a yearly budget of about \$250,000, serving 16,000 local residents and responding to fires in rural areas as well.

But the backbone of E. Romero and Company No. 1 is still volunteer firefighters and private donations from city residents.

"We have always been very fortunate to have the total backing of the people of Las Vegas," Chief Ludi says.

And of the E. Romero volunteers Ludi explains: "We have some good people here who are solid and believe in what they're doing. I think they're unique.

"I'm damn proud of this fire depart-

ment. We have, on many occasions, saved a lot," exclaims Maloof.

E. Romero volunteers have fought some extremely bad fires. In 1969 a gas leak in a dormitory at the New Mexico State Hospital resulted in a fire that trapped hundreds of patients inside.

Chief Ludi recalls that firefighters made a split-second decision to cross-ventilate the dormitory. Fire investigation reports revealed that a difference of 10 seconds more would have resulted in a gigantic explosion that could have destroyed the entire structure.

As it was, six people died from burns and smoke inhalation. But volunteers saved hundreds of lives.

Another tremendous fire in Las Vegas occurred at Highlands University in the early 1940s. It was February and the temperature was 26 degrees below zero. Ortega recalls that the fire was so hot the

soles of the boots of the firemen crumbled.

Mist from the water being poured on the blazing building quickly turned to ice, coating firemen from head to toe, making it difficult to talk or move arms or legs. Ortega says one fireman and his helper, training a hose on the raging fire, became so covered with water they actually were affixed to a nearby building by ice and had to be chopped free. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured.

Sometimes E. Romero volunteers have not been so lucky. Maloof recalls several times when efforts to save people trapped inside burning homes were unsuccessful. He says he still carries those memories with him, tears welling in his eyes.

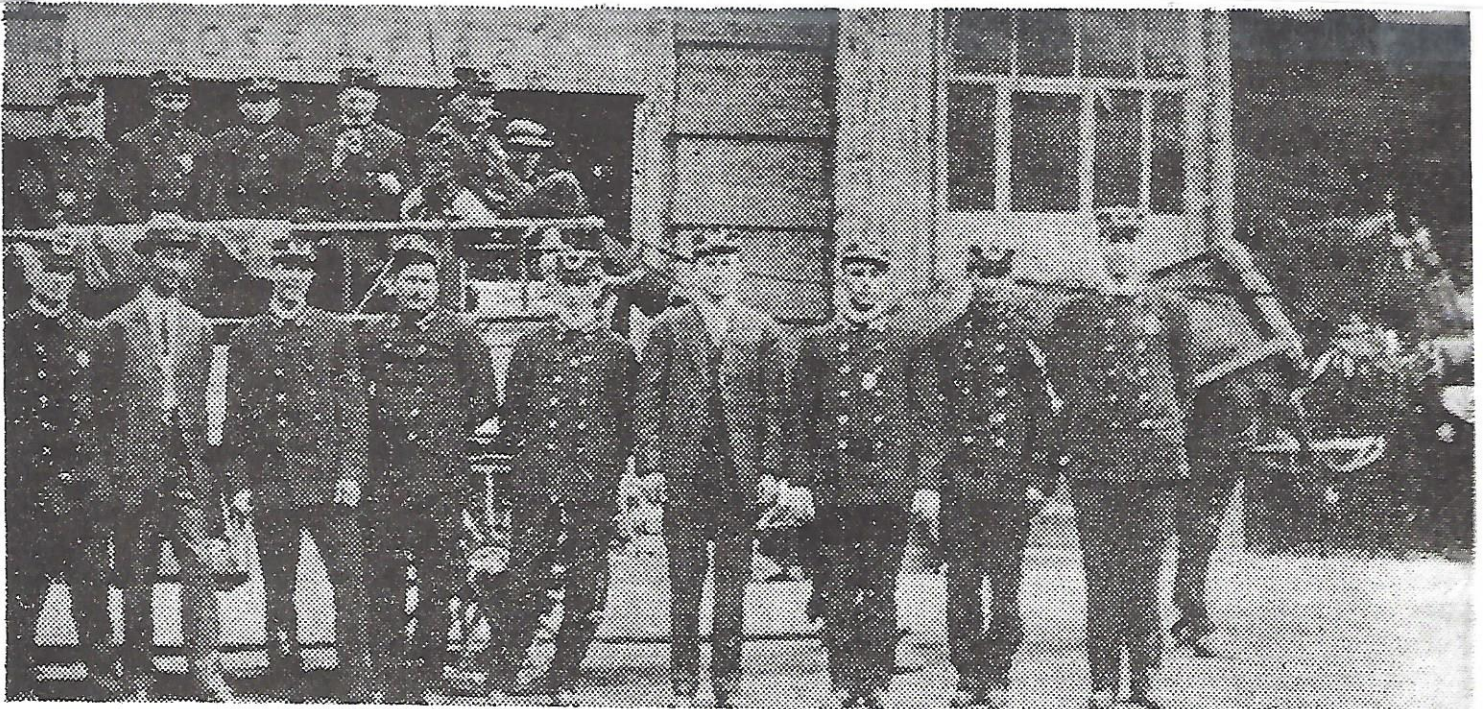
At a recent fire, fought in a rural area outside the limits for which E. Romero is responsible, volunteers

resounded anyway. They fought the house fire for seven hours in the dead of night. Winds up to 60 mph whipped the flames in every direction. The relative humidity was about five percent.

Three volunteers were injured, including one who inhaled superheated air when the wind shifted, blowing the fire into his face.

Some stories coming out of E. Romero's long history are not so solemn. A popular anecdote recalls the time, around 1916, when the firewagon horse team was replaced by the company's first motor-driven fire truck.

The "Fire Queens" as the horses were called, had been sold to a group of Gypsies who were camped outside of town. One night the fire bell



E. Romero Company Sometime Between 1909 and 1916, With "Fire Queens" and Fire Wagon

(From Page 26)

sounded and volunteers raced to the station.

When they arrived they found the

Fire Queens standing underneath their old harness in front of the fire wagon, waiting to be harnessed. Attached to their necks were the ropes

the Gypsies had tied them down with, along with portions of the tents they had been tied to.

Another story tells of a big poker game going on at the firehouse. A standing rule required the winnings would be split up evenly between the players in the event a fire call interrupted their game.

One night one of the company's officers and founders was winning big and reportedly had a fistful of aces and a big pot on the table. Suddenly the fire bell rang and the officer cursed loudly, saying it had better be a bad blaze or there would be hell to pay. The fire happened to be burning down his place of business.

Firemen in Las Vegas say it takes something special to be a volunteer. The hours are long, the job dangerous, the compensation nil. Volunteers spend money from their own pockets carrying out their duties.

Ludi says much of being a volunteer has to do with camaraderie and a sense of history associated with E. Romero Hose and Fire Company. Prospective firefighters are

carefully screened before being selected for a one-year probationary period. Rules of the company are strict, and fines for misbehavior are enforced.

After a year of probation, the entire company can vote to accept a new member if he is recommended by the assistant chief. If a volunteer is not recommended or is voted down, he is out.

"We're a very close family," Ludi explains. E. Romero Captain Robert Korte agrees.



Ben Ortega says being a volunteer involves a sense of duty to the community, the carrying on of a tradition.

"It's a patriotic thing. We joined the fire department for that. We didn't care who it was, we joined to save their homes," Ortega said.

Malooof and Ludi recognize that part of firefighting is the excitement and sense of challenge it presents. But to them the service rendered to the community is what is utmost in the minds of volunteers.

Service to families victimized by fire is a tradition long recognized at E. Romero. Ludi began a Christmas party for exceptional children 23 years ago. Then, nine children attended. Today more than 200 children come every year.

"To be a volunteer you've got to have it inside," Malooof says, pointing to the heart.

Letters of thanks to AFD Fire Chief Arthur Martinez. Reprinted from the summer issue, July, 1977, New Mexico Professional Fire Fighter Magazine

Chief Arthur B. Martinez
Albuquerque Fire Department
131 Adams NE
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

Dear Art:

I am writing to express my deep personal appreciation for the efforts of your Rescue Squad on May 14, 1977. The prompt and professional emergency care given to my father, George W. Beach, is a tribute to the abilities of your men and your department.

As a city employee myself, I am proud such a favorable image is projected by the men of the Rescue Squad to the citizens of this city. You are to be commended for your efforts in maintaining such high standards and excellent reputation.

Again my personal appreciation for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Beach
709 Ortiz NE
Albuquerque, N.M.

Fire Chief Arthur B. Martinez
Albuquerque Fire Department
Albuquerque, N.M.

Dear Sir:

Yesterday I had occasion to call for the assistance of a rescue squad from your Department for a juror who was suddenly stricken during a court session. In response to that call a rescue squad from your station at 724 Silver SW, headed by Lt. Santistevan responded.

I express my appreciation and respect for the prompt, efficient, and effective assistance rendered by all of the members of that squad. They were a credit to your Department and to the City of Albuquerque. I do not know the names of the other members of the team, but I hope you will express the appreciation of this Court to each.

Very truly yours,

Howard Bratton, Judge
United States District Court
Albuquerque, N.M.

THE NIGHT FIREFIGHTER'S CRIED

By: Frank Maestas, Former AFD Paramedic Frank T. Maestas

April 20, 2017

It was February 3rd. 1970 when I was notified if I wanted to work an extra shift on engine 2 graveyard. I don't remember what I was doing at the time. I accepted the assignment as I was raising a family and the extra money would come in handy. Little was I to know that this shift would involve me in ONE of the calls all firefighters dread.

I reported to engine 2 with Bunkers in hand, and met Lieutenant Mike Martinez. He welcomed me and I met the driver and the other 2 pipemen. I can't remember their names after all these years. Know they all welcomed me and the firefighter family was very evident as we talked and laughed about calls that we had gone to. All was nice and quiet until a little after 11:pm. We were in the kitchen BS' when the alarm came in at 11:12 pm, the speakers sounded the alarm. For some reason, I remembered I jumped. Maybe because It was a different station and different men I was working. The alarm came in "CHIEF 2, ENGINE2, Engine 1A ,Rescue 1, LADDER 1, 213 Broadway S.E"

In less then a minute, we were out of the station. The address was just a few blocks from the station, so we got to the fire in just a few minutes. The LT. ordered a hydrant catch as soon as we got to Broadway. We could hear and see a small house fully involved. Flames were shooting out everywhere. As we pulled to a safe stop, we could hear SCREAMS COMING FROM INSIDE THE SMALL HOUSE. This was above the noise from engine 2 running and preparing to pump water.LT. Mike asked for both 1 ½'s and we attacked the fire. Screams of AGONY were still coming from inside. Things were happening super - fast and still it appeared like it was in slow motion. We started pouring water on the full involved home. The other responding crews arrived and the fire was under control { manageable enough to penetrate inside with scot air packs on} Fire Chief Ray Kuhn said later, in a news release, that the fire had been controlled enough to be able to enter in about 2 minutes. I can't remember all the work I did, but I knew I was crying at one time for inside the home were a mother and 5 children. Firefighters had to enter the home through the front door as it was the only door they had. As the occupants of the house ,were brought out in the arms of firefighters, I remember all of them crying. They brought out the Mother, Patsy, age 28 and four kids ages from 5 to 8 years old.

I saw fire fighters place the children and mother down and started using mouth to mouth resuscitation and resuscitators trying to revive the victims with tears pouring down their faces. None were responding as firefighters worked feverishly. The Mother and these 4 children all perished at the scene.

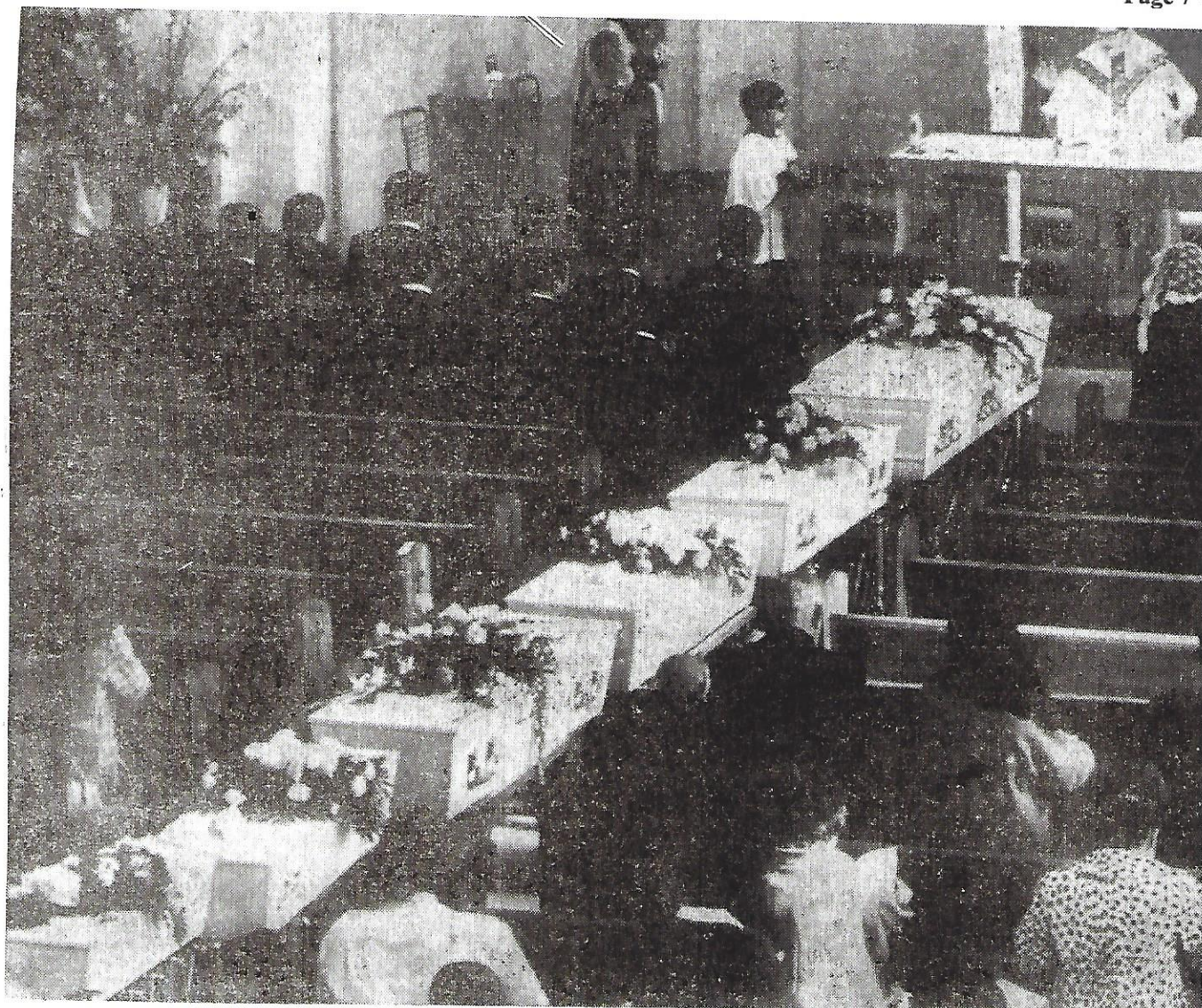
When the Rescue crew made a second sweep of the home, they found a 7 year old boy huddled under bedclothing in one corner of the front room. He was still alive. He had suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns on over 70% of his small body. He died the next day at Bernalillo County Medical Center at 8:15 am the next day. The 6th and oldest son, 10 years old, had gone to a movie with a friend. He was returning home when he seen his home in flames and fire crews attacking the DEVIL fire that was consuming his home. He was in shock and our firefighters tended to him too. The father, an EX-VIETNAM veteran Marine, was in California looking for work. He had found a job and was headed back to Albuquerque to move his family to California.

Fire Chief Ray Kuhn, Asst. Dist. Chief Rudy Buckner, and Fire Inspector Nick Gonzales probed the fire scene looking for a cause, and they found it. The fire that took the lifes of 5 children and a young mother was faulty wiring in the ceiling. Chief Rau Kuhn said in a news release:" In my 28 years of service in the Fire Department, I don't remember this many lifes perishing in a house fire."

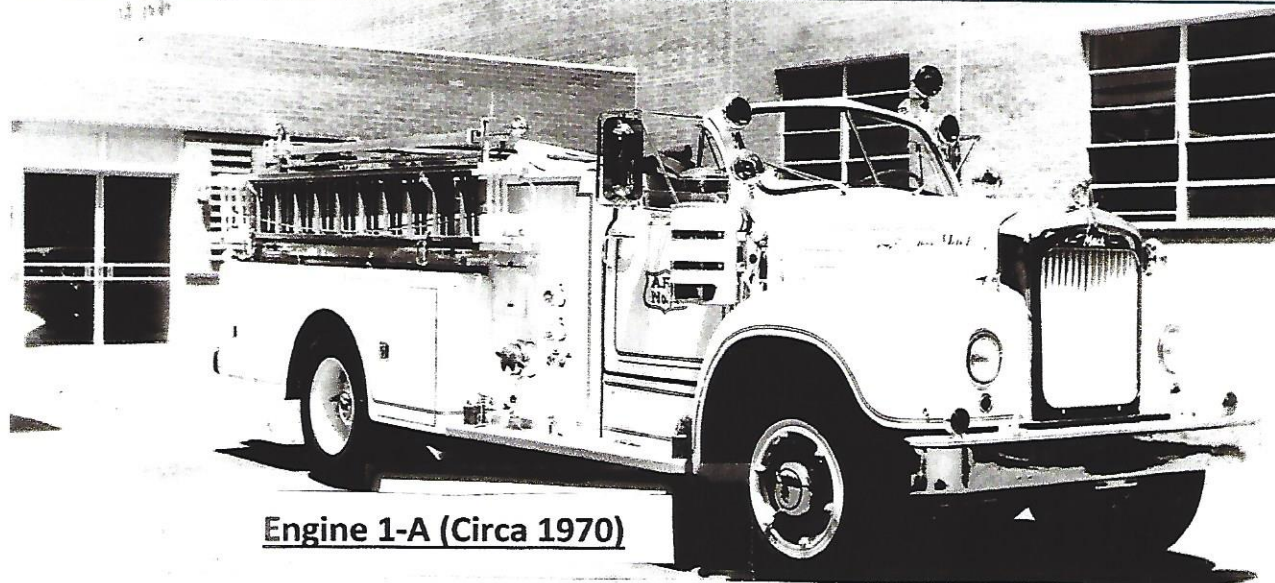
THAT WAS THE NIGHT FIREFIGHTERS CRIED ALONG WITH MANY NEIGHBORS AND SPECTATORS.

Lt Mike Martinez would later write a Letter of Commendation for my role at this fire. While I certainly appreciated it a lot, It seemed hollow at the time. Today I cherish his letter and remember when everyone cried and 6 angels went to heaven in 1970.

Information sources: Herman Bishop, Rudy Sanchez, Personal scrapbook.



February 3, 1970 - St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Mass for fire victims,
Mrs Joseph Valdez and her five children, 213 Broadway S.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico



Engine 1-A (Circa 1970)

March Monthly Meeting - On March 8, 2017 the 199 th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:10 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mark Chavez led the opening prayer and a moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call- President Kerry Horton, Vice President Bill Raupfer, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer Sam Trujillo, Historian Herman Bishop.

Kerry welcomed retiree Shane Turpin who attended his first meeting and recognized retirees Lynn Reule, also Juan Sandoval who is recovering from an automobile accident. Guest speaker Chaplain Mark Chavez, representing "Random Acts Of Kindness," addressed the group and asked for volunteers to assist in building a handicapped ramp at Cecilia Flores home, for a handicapped family member. The group will meet on Saturday morning March 11th, 10:00 AM at the trailer park just directly west of Volcano Vista and I-40.

SPECIAL NOTE: On March 11, 2017 Kerry Horton reported that the "Random Acts Project" went well with eight retirees assisting in building the handicapped ramp at the home of Cecilia Flores. Those who participated were: Mark Chavez, Mike McKinstry, Eugene Baldonado, Joe Solis, Tommy Romero, Eulogio Lucero, Mike Deherra, Kerry Horton, and a gentleman named "Bo."

Kerry Horton reported that he and Pablo Garcia Jr. updated our brass tags for the 2016 retirees at the AFD Fire Museum. He also reoported that the automated slide program at the museum is now complete and operational. He invites members to go see the updated retiree board and the slide show. Representatives of the firefighter's Union Local 244, is working with State Legislators to pass House Bill #137 which will make benefits available to firefighters who suffer from job related PTS which includes: deprssion, suicide, stress related illness, cancer and heart attack, etc.

The Secretary's report for February was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Eddie Abeita and was seconded by Toby Pino. The motion carried. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. He reminded everyone that we are conducting our annual fund drive. Your donations are much appreciated and will assist in keeping our retiree association strong. Many thanks to those of you who have sent your donations already. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Joe Martinez. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He thanked everyone for the positive comments he received regarding the March neswsletter and how much they enjoyed the retiree news. He offered CD's of our retiree's (Photos) from the past, including fire apparatus, and fire stations for \$10.00 each. Call Herman if you would like a copy.

Bill Raupfer reported that the annual Blue Mass usually held in March has been post poned until further notice. Eddie Abeita announced that the retiree's annual picnic will be held on Saturday August 19, 2017 at Rotary Park in Downtown Bernalillo, NM. Eddie Torres has reserved the picnic grounds already. More on this later. Election committee chairman Louis Trujillo assisted by Noel Baca, and Ralph Sedillo, is requesting nominations for Vice President, Treasurer, and Historian. Please call Louie if you would like to nominate some one for these positions.

Best wishes go to our members on the sick roster: Gilbert Roybal, Ray Flores, Tony "TV" Jaramillo, Ross Escarcida, James Dahl and Juan Sandoval. The Wednesday night raffle was won by: Eugene Baldonado, Fred Casias, and Lynn Reule. Santos Abeyta led the closing prayer. Meeting Adjourned @ 8:40 PM.

“the hand crank kick-back could break your thumb or arm”

Gabe Sanchez’s 1942 Power Wagon

by Eddie Abeita

The first vehicle I restored was a 1942 Dodge Power Wagon Ambulance; some people have called it a MASH ambulance Gabe said. The story starts with my brother who was ready to close on a house that had this old yellow colored military vehicle in the back yard not what you would call exciting or beautiful. The owner said it may have been a school bus on a reservation somewhere, that’s the reason for the yellow paint. Somehow the power wagon’s history started to gel about the variables of restoration. The owner said give me \$200.00 and it’s yours so the deal was made. Somehow I felt if things don’t work out there could be \$200.00 in scrap metal Gabe said with a smile.



This particular vehicle had an electric starter as well as a hand crank starter. When I was moving the power wagon to my house the hand crank was used to start the engine. So now and then I would use the hand crank to start the power wagon and one thing the old story; “the possibility of the crank kick back could break your thumb or arm is true”! The vehicle had its original drive train, flathead six motor, 4 speed transmission, four wheel drive, 5:86 geared rear end, 6 volt electrical system and 900x16 split rim wheels. The interior was shot, the floor boards were metal and had rusted out but it ran. I drove it around a few times which was an experience however top speed was 40mph and hard riding, also the steering and braking were difficult. The ride was hard and bumpy, but I am sure at one time like in 1942 it had a nice ride. I liked the body design but the chassis needed a serious change, Gabe said.

Gabe said the challenges with the Power Wagon gave him a plan of attack. The plan was to start body work, which sanding came first. The yellow paint started to slowly fade away as sanding was accelerated and the military green was starting to show through and a big Red Cross emblem was now in view. I knew this is just the start Gabe said still thinking, I need to do something so I can enjoy driving it; I held that thought all the time. As the metal was being exposed identification/serial numbers were visible, I have tried to research the origin of the power wagon but not a lot about this particular power wagon.

The decision to replace the chassis became solidified I was able to find a ¾ ton Chevrolet with a 350 CID engine and automatic transmission. I knew the suspension would support the power wagon’s body weight. It took a lot of cutting and welding but with the talents of retired firefighter William Mora he made the Dodge body and Chevrolet chassis fit like a glove.

Gabe Sanchez 1942 Power Wagon continued.

By Eddie Abeita

The power wagon needed a customized bumper and once again a firefighter, Brian Jackson to the rescue he came thru, designed it and made one that looks great. Next was to work on the body finish, the goal was to maintain the overall appearance of the actual military ambulance so color was a factor. Of course green would be the color for the body paint however not the drab looking military green. There are dozens of green so I settled on green polyurethane satin finish with metallic gold. Next step I felt a need to place on the military power wagon a painting to show what the power wagons were designed for in 1942. I worked with a local artist Jim Pearson who assisted me in finding a suitable print, the selected print was based on the Invasion of Normandy with ships, planes and soldiers said Gabe.

The completion of the 1942 Dodge Power Wagon took approximately 10 years which I consider "Backyard Built" I always had a passion to restore a vehicle which the power wagon was not my first choice. My want was always to restore a 1930 Chevrolet Sedan and **guess what?....**It is happening right now; I am sanding the 1930 Chevrolet down!

Career with AFD

I started my career with AFD May 1989 and retired December 2011 the academy staff was composed of Assistant Chief Robert Otero, Captain JD Chavez, Lieutenant Eddie Abeita, Driver Brian Levie, EMT instructors Lieutenant Mike Fox and Andy Hatch said Gabe.

Upon graduation from the academy I worked at different stations and responded with crews to many different emergencies. I remember one in particular it was a residential structure fire with reports of occupants still inside, upon our arrival rescue operations were in progress. Our crew was going to enter the structure but was met at the doorway by firefighter Matt Gutierrez exiting with a small child in his arms heading to the rescue to start treatment. Firefighter David Mowery and I met 2 other firefighters inside the doorway bringing out the mother they needed help so we grabbed her and carried her to the rescue and started to work on her she was unresponsive. Upon so many countless efforts the mother and child expired. After many years it seems calls like this never leave your mind completely.

Upon promotion to driver Gabe said I was assigned to fire station 14, the crew consisted of Lieutenant Pat Leon, firefighters Mike Sedillo and Marco Salas. This station had a little of everything including types of calls like calls to Rio Puerco. The officer Pat Leon had a good sense of humor but he had a different nature when it came to station duties and working emergencies. We had good cooks which was nice the alarm room would call us to get on our chow list. They were not far away so we would call them and say "come get it while it's hot"!

I transferred to Ladder 21 which was great but after a while I knew it was about time to start thinking retirement, which I did after 22 years of service. Being retired I was able to devote more time to family and of course my power wagon project. At that time our family was going to softball games a lot. Our daughter was playing softball at Volcano Vista so that kept us busy. Today my wife Cynthia is still employed however we still make time to enter the power wagon into car shows, in and out of state. Our son Robert is a student at CNM and completing his Associates Degree. Our daughter Jaclyn is employed and her husband Mike is an officer with Albuquerque Police Department. Now we have a wonderful beautiful 2 year old granddaughter, Natalie who makes life great!

Wednesday Night's Raffle(s)

By Eddie Abeita

January 27, 2013 Ralph Sedillo and Eddie Abeita addressed the AFDRA Executive Board to request permission to start a monthly raffle. Reason for the raffle was to support the motion made at the December 2012 retirees meeting.

The motion made and passed by membership "provide monetary thank you contribution" to Retiree Honor Guard and identified participant(s) after each retiree funeral..... contingent on available retiree funds.

The retirees association being nonprofit and operating by donations from the membership and other supportive individuals would welcome any additional contributions. The thought by Ralph and Eddie was to sell raffle ticket(s) at a modest cost and ask the membership for help in this worthwhile cause by donating prizes. This would minimize the need to purchase prizes for the raffle.

The first raffle was conducted at the February 5 2013 retirees meeting. Now (2017) in its 5th year of this endeavor of supporting our retirees honor guard the raffle has become an icon of each monthly meeting. The raffle continues to gain support from the membership and visitors who support the cause. Prizes for the first raffle were donated by Ralph and Eddie.

Over the years the memberships has been so generous in donating prizes for the raffle. Some of the prizes have been ladies purse(s), lipsticks and perfume, cowboy hats, bags of beans picnic baskets, many donations of beautiful crystal pieces. In addition, ladies complete cosmetics cases, mop and bucket, popcorn popper, several pieces of glassware, hand tools have been donated. Also items from the picnic and Christmas dinner have been given as raffle prizes. As Eddie continues to tell the membership; we will take those gifts you got for Christmas or your birthday that you are hiding in the closet or under the bed, bring them to us and we will raffle them".

In addition Ralph had any idea for a monthly prize, a polo type shirt with our retiree's logo; gift certificates were purchased for the monthly drawings currently 24 have been given as prizes. The generosity of the membership has been overwhelming; one person who won a gift certificate for a polo shirt returned the certificate to be raffled off again (he said I have several shirts). Ralph Sedillo donated 2 sets of biker leather jackets that were auctioned off which was a big hit that night with the membership. Mark Chavez went toe to toe with Jeff Elks in the auction, looked like to oil millionaires wanting the same well..... (All in good spirit and \$\$\$)

Since the start of the raffles in 2013 the ticket sales have gradually increased every year. The cost of the ticket is \$1.00 and the purchaser need to be present to win, which has been good practice. At the end of 2016 the raffle tickets sales total were approximately \$3,600.

2016 Picnic Report

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association (AFDRA) held its annual picnic, Saturday August 27 at Rotary Park Bernalillo NM. AFDRA President Sam Trujillo appointed Eddie Abeita to chair the picnic committee; AFDRA Treasure Kerry Horton verified funding availability. Retiree Eddie Torres acted as liaison with the Town of Bernalillo to secure the picnic location.

Approximately 190 people were in attendance. Tickets were not sold however cash donations were accepted which was profitable. Lucy Sedillo was instrumental in RGCU donating funds for the picnic. Local 244 Provided Axe's and rings to the 2015 retirees.

2016 Picnic Committee Members: Ray Flores, Louie Trujillo, John Serino, Fred Casias, Leroy Barboa, Victor Sanchez, Ralph Sedillo, Tom Tucker, Kerry Horton and Chairperson Eddie Abeita. Support Personal, Sam Trujillo, Phil Lovato, Johnnie Marquez, Herman Bishop.

Donations

Roberta Abeita	Green Chile Stew, Corn/ Squash, Cucumbers, Green Chile, Tea
Mary & Ray Flores	Fudge Brownies
Marcella & John Serino	Red Chile
Carmen &Herman Bishop	Watermelons
Bea & Louie Trujillo	Green Chile
Phil Lovato	16 Bags of Ice
Darla & Earl Gleason	Fruit Salad Dessert w/ whip cream

Non Food Donations

Dorothy & Frank Maestas	Door Prizes
Irene & Joe Serna	Door Prize
Roberta Abeita.....	Table cloths, Table Decorative Center Pieces

Food Organizers, Preparers, Servers and Decorating Experts

Merry Flores, Roberta Abeita, Rozena Sanchez, Marcella Serino, Carmen Bishop, Bea Trujillo, Theresa Barboa, Amberly Mirabal and Sofia Mirabal.

Picnic Assignments

Grill Master(s)	John Marquez, Susanna Cordova, Jay Abeita
Tables & Chairs	Louie Trujillo
Pre Clean Up and Trash Disposal	Kerry Horton
Drinks/ice Transport and Setup	Phil Lovato
Hand Wash Stations	Eddie Abeita, Mathew Sanchez
People Counter	John Serino
Food Shopping	Ray Flores, Leroy Barboa, Victor Sanchez
Finance/Payments	Sam Trujillo
Door Prizes	Ralph Sedillo
Music	Fred Casias and His Dreamers

LOCAL 244 Participants

President Diego Arencon, City Chapter VP Justin Cheney, Sergeant at Arms Miguel Tittmann and City 1st Stewart, Alberto Ortega.

2017 AFDRA ANNUAL PICNIC (MARK YOUR CALENDAR)

The 2017 retiree's annual picnic will be held Saturday August 19, 2017 @ ROTARY PARK, DOWNTOWN BERNALILLO, N.M. FROM 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. THE PICNIC IS FOR RETIREES AND THEIR FAMILIES. COST WILL BE BY DONATIONS AND COLLECTED DURING THE PICNIC. VOLUNTEER HELPERS ARE NEEDED. CALL EDDIE ABEITA @ 250-7895 OR 869-3082 FOR QUESTIONS. E-MAIL: edabeita@gmail.com

April Monthly Meeting, 2017 - On April 12, 2017 the AFD Retiree's Monthly meeting was held at the firefighter's union hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. Vice President Bill Raupfer called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was led by Louis C. Trujillo and a moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. Roll Call- Vice Pres. Bill Raupfer, Fred Casias Secretary, Sam Trujillo, Treasurer, Herman Bishop, Historian, President Kerry Horton on Vacation. Pablo Garcia addressed the group and said he had an offer for the association to purchase four antique leather fire helmets that was used in AFD in the early 1900's for \$500. Ed Abeita made a motion to purchase the helmets and the motion was seconded by L.C. Trujillo. The motion carried.

Fred Casias read the Secretary's report for the March meeting. A motion to accept was made by Ralph Sedillo and was seconded by T.V. Jaramillo. The motion carried. The treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. Our annual fund drive was successful and Sam thanked all who donated. If you have not sent your donation in for this year Sam is still accepting donations. Make checks to AFD Retiree's Association C/O Sam Trujillo 5318 La Colonia NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87120. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried. The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He is still looking for AFD photographs from your career's and also welcomes any member to submit a story from their AFD experiences. Stories should be about 2-4 pages, including photos about the story.

We received a nice letter from Lucy Sedillo and Cynthia Borrego thanking AFD retirees for supporting them when they ran for the Board of Directors positions at the Rio Grande Credit Union. " They won!" Both Lucy and Cynthia are strong supporters of members of the AFD Retiree's Association. Bill Raupfer reported that the annual blue mass usually held in March has been postponed until further notice. The funeral truck is now housed at Station # 22 (Paradise Hills Station).

Eddie Abeita announced that the AFD retiree annual picnic will be held at Rotary Park, downtown. Bernalillo New Mexico on August 19, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. All retirees and their families are invited. There is no charge, however, donations will be gladly accepted. Contact Eddie for more information @ 869-3082. We extend best wishes to the following retirees who are on the sick leave roster: Santos Abeyta, Toby Pino, Ross Escarcida, Frank Ulibarri, Ignacio Perez, Tomas Velasquez, and Harry Martinez. The raffle was won by : Juan Sandoval, Eugene Baldonado, and Gregg Armenta. The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval, Meeting adjourned, 8:25 PM.



FIRE SERVICE LEGENDS AND LORE DALMATIAN DOGS

BY HERMAN R. BISHOP

LEGENDS

What do you know about Dalmatian dogs our traditional fire station mascot? The Albuquerque Fire Department has had several fire house mascots over the years. Perhaps the most famous fire dog was "Thor" a Dalmatian that lived at the old fire station # 4, located at 5th Street & Mountain Road N.W. "Thor" was the mascot there during the late 1950's.



THE DALMATIAN
"Thor."

Retired Fire Captain Adolph Lucero was his main caretaker.

Adolph said, "the love of Thor's life was the fire pumper. He could be two blocks away and hear the fire bells. He was always first on top of the fire truck. He went to all the fires with the crew of Engine # 4." Unfortunately he roamed the neighborhood too much. Many times he would bring the neighbors newspapers to the firehouse. He liked to go to Martineztown and fight with other dogs. After a while he became difficult to control and to care for and we had to give him to a private owner. Later he developed brain cancer and died. Captain Lucero remembered, "He was a wonderful and smart dog. He was named after the Norse God of Thunder, "Thor."

When the old fire station #8, located at Graceland and Menaul N.E. opened in late 1954, a picture showed a fire Dalmatian named, "Lady Night." Not much is known about this dog or what ever happened to her.

The old fire station #13 opened in the spring of 1964 at 6400 Indian School Road N.E. just west of Winrock Shopping Center. After a few months the firemen adopted a Dalmatian puppy. At first everyone was excited to have a mascot at their station. After a short time, because the dog was young and untrained, the firemen became tired of carrying for him and cleaning up the messes he left behind. One of the firemen agreed to adopt him and took him home.

During the early 1960's another well known dog mascot, but not a Dalmatian, lived at the old fire station # 5 located at Chico and Dallas N.E. His name was "Mucher." This black and white mongrel just showed up one day, tired and hungry. The firemen fed him and gave him a bath. He liked the firemen and stayed around for a while.

He lived there for several years but was just a house dog. He never went to fires. Because he was an old dog his teeth finally fell out. The firemen ground his food for him and gave him soft foods. Even in his old age he was a good guard dog. One day the telephone repairman came by the station to do some work. "Mucher" didn't know him and went on the attack. Much to his surprise the repairman didn't feel any pain from the bites and there was no damage to his leg. The firemen called off the attack and explained that "Mucher" didn't have any teeth. Everyone had a good laugh. "Mucher" finally died of old age after a few years.

Dalmatians have a history dating back over 200 years as guard dogs, coach dogs and fire house mascots. It is believed that the dogs originated in Southern Europe. This breed came from Dalmacia, a province of Austria, bordering on the Eastern coastal side of the Adriatic region. Some say the breed was named after a 16th Century poet, Jurij Dalmation because he had many of the Dalmation dogs. Named "Coach Dogs" they were first used in Scotland, Wales and England.

In the days of stagecoaches, horse and buggies it was found that the Dalmatians formed especially strong bonds with horses. The theft of horses and valuables was common and stagecoach drivers used the dogs to guard against thefts. Because Dalmatians were so protective they made excellent security guards. When the coachmen wanted an undisturbed good night's sleep they could always rely on the trustworthy guard dogs to protect their property during the night.

Once the Dalmatian realized he was a part of the team, no thief would dare think of stealing a horse or other valuables. Traditionally these dogs were bred and trained to run long and hard over long distances along side horses pulling the coaches. They could easily cover 20 to 30 miles a day.

Dalmatians are born pure white. Three to four weeks later black or brown/liver colored spots occur. Some call Dalmatians polka dot darlings because they have spots all over their bodies. They have spots on the bottoms of their paws and even inside their mouths.

They come in two colors, white with black spots or white with brown spots. Because of their strength, high spirit, size, and need to be physically active, Dalmatians may not be suitable pets for young or small children. Although good natured, they need a good size lot with adequate room to play and roam about.

When full grown they weigh around 40 pounds and stand about 23 inches tall. They have a short haired glossy coat and are muscular. They are great work dogs and make their owners proud.

Throughout Europe in the 1800's Gypsy caravans used Dalmatians. They found the dogs to be excellent guards at night and could run all day with their wagons. They trained the dogs to perform tricks. They were great crowd pleasers which brought in generous donations of money after their shows. These dogs were excellent companions for horses to keep them company and to calm them.

The term "Putting on The Dog," came from the dogs running along side coaches, running under the wheel axels, in and out, and performing tricks at shows.

As fire departments in the United States became organized and expanded, it was common practice to keep Dalmatians at fire houses. They kept the horses company and accompanied them to fires. The Dalmatians were beautiful, high spirited, loyal companions who earned their keep. They loved running along with the horse drawn fire wagons to fires.

Fire dogs were given names after fire house lingo such as: Plugs, Cinder, Hydrant, Higbee, Steamer, Wheels, Lugs, Rags, Spanner, Hooker, Spot, Ember, Smokey, Flash, Speedy, Rookie, Captain, and Chief.

As motorized fire apparatus replaced the horse drawn fire wagons they were too fast for the dogs to run along side. They were then trained to ride on the fire apparatus. Still they were great companions and watch dogs to protect the apparatus and fire equipment.

The Dalmation is famous as a coach dog, watchdog, fire house mascot, companion, and pet. They are friendly intelligent, even tempered and loyal. Because of their keen sense of smell, many have been taught to hunt game.

SOURCE: Adolph Lucero, Herman Bishop, M.P. "Troteo" Byrne, Israel Morales, AFD, Retired Firefighters.
"Reminiscence Magazine," June, 1992, P-18, "Dalmatians," "Fire Almanac," January, 1984, P-724, "Fire Dogs,"
"Encyclopaedia Britannica," Volume 3, P-659, "The Dalmation Dog."

May Monthly Meeting 2017 - On May 10, 2017 the 101st monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's union hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. Vice President Bill Raupfer called the meeting to order @ 7:08 PM and led members in the Pledge of Alligence. The opening prayer was led by Louis C. Trujillo and a moment of silence was held in honor of our deceased members.

Roll Call: Vice President, Bill Raupfer, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, Historian, Herman Bishop. President Kerry Horton on vacation. We welcomed guests Frank Maestas, visiting from Colorado, and Cynthia Borrego. Member Roy Winchester was welcomed back after a long absence.

The guest speaker was Cynthia Borrego who is running for the City Councilor position in District 5. She asked for support from AFD retirees who live in district 5. She is a retired City of Albuquerque planner and worked for the City 28 years. Currently she is serving on the Rio Grande Credit Union board of directors and is a former member of the NM retiree's PERA board. She has a master's degree in Public Administration from UNM and is an avid supporter of public safety (Firefighters & Police Officers). She is a strong advocate for crime prevention and supports environmental protection.

The Secretary's report for April was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Mike Murphy and was seconded by Ralph Sedillo. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. He is still accepting donations for our annual spring fund drive. Send donations to: AFD Retiree's Association, C/O Sam Trujillo 5318 La Colonia NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Ed Abeita and was seconded by L.C. Trujillo.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report and said he was contacted by Mr. Lindsey Gallegos son of former AFD fire Lieutenant Larry Gallegos. He was seeking photos and information about his father when he served as and AFD firefighter. Herman provided three photos of Larry Gallegos, one when he was a Lieutenant on Ladder One, two, when he was a pall bearer at Chief Art Westerfeld's funeral and three, a group photo of AFD personnel from 1953 where Larry Gallegos was included and the department only numbered 83 personnel at that time. Lieutenant Larry Gallegos joined AFD about 1948, left the department 1953 and was re-employed in 1959. He left the department for the second time in 1963 and went to work at the U.S. Post Office where he made his career. Larry lived to age 90 and passed away during 2015.

Herman was contacted by Mr. Cecil Padilla through his cousin Louie Trujillo inquiring about information of former District Chief Rudy Buckner. Mr. Padilla's son married Chief Buckner's daughter and they have grandchildren in common. The grandchildren wanted information about Chief Buckner. Herman provided several photos to the family of Chief Buckner and gave copies of his employment record card to them. Chief Buckner joined AFD in 1955 and served in the ranks of firefighter, driver, Lieutenant, Captain and District Chief. After serving 25 years he retired in July 1979. Unfortunately he died after a long term illness during July, 1983 at the age of 54.

Sam Trujillo reported that Lucy Sedillo sent a nice letter of thanks to members of the AFD Retiree's Association for their support during the recent election for the Board Member position. She has the best interests of the retired firefighters at heart. Vice President Bill Raupfer is recruiting for members to join our Honor Guard to ensure that tradition is carried on. Call Bill @ 281-8478 for information. The raffle was won by: Phil Lovato, Joe Martinez, and Ramon Maldonado. The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval and the meeting adjourned @ 8:48 PM.

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



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President's Message

Kerry Horton

Hello everyone, I hope that you are enjoying a wonderful start of summer. It is the middle of April as I write this, due to my two month Alaskan adventure. As you read this, I hope I'm traversing the Top of the World Highway in Northern Yukon, a primitive gravel highway that offers no cell phone service, and beautiful vistas.

Our June meeting will be an important one with our yearly E-Board elections. The positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, and Historian are up for election. Herman is staying on as our irreplaceable Historian, and I hope that several of our members have stepped up to be nominated for the positions of Vice-President and Treasurer. I look forward to working with our new Officers when I return in July.

This summer is looking like a good one with several opportunities for us to get together and have some fun with friends and family. Eddie Abeita is busy organizing the annual picnic scheduled for August 19th, and he always does a great job of putting together a great picnic. Our attendance has been increasing every year, and I hope this year is no different. It is always a great time visiting with our brothers and sisters while wolfing down some great chow.

A week later, we are all invited to attend Local 244's Fire Muster at Balloon Fiesta Park. There will be different events throughout the day that you and your family can participate in, or just watch from the sidelines as you enjoy friends, family, and good food from some local vendors. This event is still in the planning stages, so I know more details will be forth coming.

I want to thank Sam, Bill, and everyone else who has stepped up to fulfill my duties as I meander all around the Canadian and Alaskan wilderness. This trip has been on my bucket list for a long time, and if I can stay off the bears dinner menu, I hope to bring back some wonderful memories. See you in July, stay safe, stay healthy.