

AFD RETIREE NEWS

March 1, 2018

1-2018

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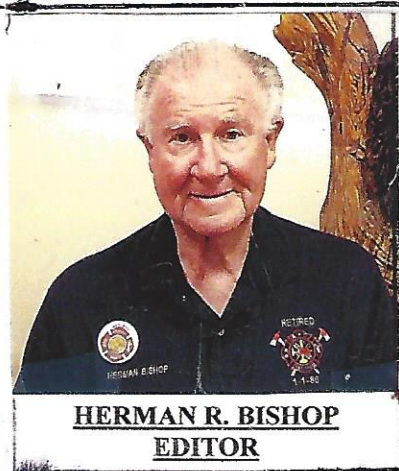
Dalmation Dog, Fire House Mascot - In this issue we pay tribute to the dalmation fire dog, usually recognized as the fire station mascot who attends fires. Our most famous fire dog "Thor," served the Albuquerque Fire Department at the old station # 4, 5th & Mountain Road N.W. (Circa 1957 - 1959) See Adolph Lucero story, Page 4, this issue. Also see fire service legends and lore, Dalmations, P- 6.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

IN THIS ISSUE WE REMIND OUR RETIRED MEMBERS THAT IT IS TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL FUND DRIVE. DURING THE PAST 17 YEARS WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE DONATIONS OF OUR MEMBERS WHICH HAS KEPT OUR RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION VIBRANT AND SUCCESSFUL. WHEN WE FORMED THE RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION IN JUNE, 2000 WE CONSIDERED SEVERAL OPTIONS TO FUND THE ASSOCIATION. WE MADE THE DECISION TO OPERATE ON DONATIONS RATHER THAN ANNUAL DUES OR MEMBERSHIP FEES. WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS AND WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT OUR ASSOCIATION IS ALIVE, SUCCESSFUL, AND WELL. PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO : "AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION," C/O SAM TRUJILLO, TREASURER, 5318 LA COLONIA N.W. ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87120.



PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION

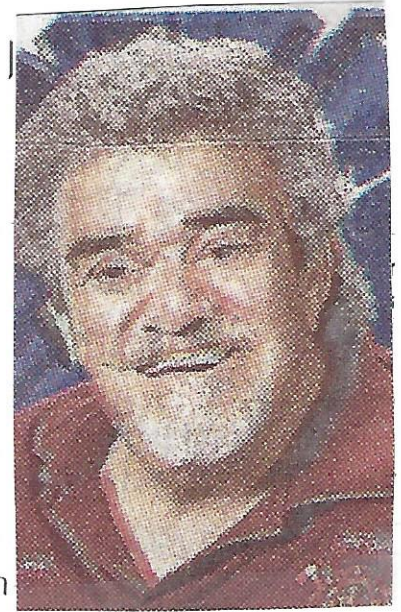


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Salomon Jojola Dies - Recently we were notified that our brother firefighter retiree Salomon "Salo," Jojola, Age 82, passed away on Sunday December 3, 2017 in a local nursing home after suffering a long term illness. "Salo," as he was known was a personable, jovial, positive, and well liked firefighter. He loved training and was always assisting the new firemen he worked with. He was hired on October 20, 1956 and retired on July 7, 1981 after serving 25 years with the department. The new fire station one at 8th and Silver SW had just opened and the department was growing. Salomon was hired by Chief Westerfeld along with several new men to staff the new fire station. During October 1958 he was promoted to fireman 1st class after successfully completing probation. In January 1959 he was promoted to driver and was assigned to floating crew # 5. on the east side. As floaters their crew filled in for the firemen at Station # 3, # 11, and # 5 on their days off. He successfully passed the Lieutenant's test and on (2-17-64) he was promoted to Lieutenant. After serving on engine companies and ladder companies in the field for several years he was assigned to his dream job, instructor at the Fire Academy. He spent the last few years of his career at the Fire Academy where he schooled numerous fire cadets through the academy and conducted countless hours of in service training for firefighters in the field. Our sincere condolences are extended to the entire Jojola family.



Salomon "Salo" Jojola

Florenio "Flo" V. Sanchez Dies - We received notice that on Thursday December 7, 2017 retired firefighter Florenio "Flo," Sanchez, age 91, passed away after a long term illness. He was the longest living retiree. He joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in April 1, 1955 and after serving 26 years of faithful and dedicated service to his community and to the Fire Department he retired on July 1, 1981. Florenio was hired by Chief Art Westerfeld along with three other firemen, Nick Aragon, Esequiel Padilla, and Tom Krupjiak. They worked at Fire station # 1 located in the old City Hall at 2nd Street and Tijeras NW. As there was no fire academy in 1955 the new men were given on the job training for about a week by a senior Lieutenant who was the supervisor on engine one. At that time firemen were hired at 3rd class level and after 2 years on the job they were promoted to Fireman 1st class. When "Flo" joined there were about 250 men in the fire department and 7 fire stations. The pay was about \$250.00 per month. He spent most of his career working at station # 1 downtown and the last few years he worked at the Highland station # 2 at High Street & Silver Avenue S.E. Florenio was a faithful and dedicated fireman and he loved his job. He was a rather quiet man who was liked and well respected by his fellow firemen. When the AFD Retiree's Association was formed in 2000, "Flo" became an active and supportive member for several years until his health failed and he was no longer able to attend monthly meetings. On behalf of all members of the AFD Retiree's Association we extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Florenio Sanchez family.



Florenio "Flo" V. Sanchez

December Monthly Meeting - On December 13, 2017 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton @ 7:05 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance Tom Romero led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members.

Roll Call- President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, and Historian, Herman Bishop. Treasurer, Sam Trujillo was absent due to an illness. Retiree Jesse Gonzales attended his first retiree's meeting. Welcome Jesse.

Our guest speaker was active duty firefighter Ryan Irizarry, who is also a representative of Medicare United Healthcare. As an agent he assists active duty and retired firefighters with questions regarding Medicare, benefits, and switch enrollment options. He also works with all the major medical insurance providers to coordinate benefits and services with firefighters. If you need his services please call him, Ryan Irizarry: @ (505) 363-9080.

President Horton reported that because former Fire Chief David Downey took a job in Hillsboro, Oregon, the Albuquerque Fire Chief's job is open. Applications are now being taken from staff within the department. Kerry said that recently fire administration staff donated old photo I.D. cards, newspaper articles, and fire department pictures to the AFD Retiree's Association.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report. A motion to accept was made by John Serino and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried. Due to the absence of Treasurer Sam Trujillo, Kerry Horton gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept was made by Joe Martinez, and was seconded by Toby Pino.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. He reported that the grandson of Manuel Aragon inquired about his grandfather who served with the department from 1966 to 1974. Unfortunately he passed away from a major illness in 1974. We provided basic information about Manuel to his family including his employment record and photos. Herman said that he talked to Bill Raupfer who is in the Veteran's Hospital and that he is recovering and hopes to be home soon. Sam Trujillo is recovering from back surgery and hopes to be fully recovered in the future. We wish both Bill and Sam the best during their recovery period. Frank Maestas sends regards from Colorado and will not be attending the Christmas dinner due to some health related issues.

Eddie Abeita reminded everyone that our retiree's Christmas Dinner will be held on December 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Moose Lodge located on Edith Blvd. N.E. So far 108 tickets have been sold. We are looking forward to visiting with our retired friends and their families. A big thanks to Eddie and Roberta Abeita for coordinating this event.

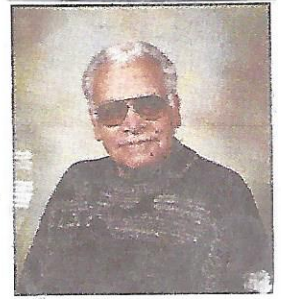
Kerry Horton presented Morris Gutierrez with an official AFD Retiree's Association flag to fly on the new flag pole erected in honor of our deceased members (244 fireman). The flag pole is in front of Morris' shop, Cosmos Hair & Nail Salon, 2721 San Mateo NE. Wednesday night's raffle was won by: Mike, Fox, Bernie Martinez, Roberta Abeita, and Jesse Gonzales.

The closing prayer was led by Tommy Romero. The December meeting adjourned @ 8: 35 PM.

***** SPECIAL NOTICE *****

Retired Firefighter Morris Guterrez announced that on Sunday June 3, 2018 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. a dedication ceremony will be held to honor all deceased members of AFD. He has erected a special flag pole in front of his business, Cosmos Hair & Nail Concepts, 2721 San Mateo N.E. with name tags of our deceased members. All retired and active duty firefighters and their families are cordially invited to attend. The Mayor, City Councilors, Fire Chief, and other dignitaries have been invited to attend this dedication ceremony as well. Refreshments will be served. " Please plan to attend !"

Adolph Lucero Dies - We regret to announce the death of our brother and fellow retired firefighter, Captain Adolph Lucero, Age 92, who passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 after a short term illness. He joined the department during November 1957 and after serving 25 years of faithful and dedicated service to his community and the fire department he retired on March 30, 1982. Adolph was also a United States Army Veteran. He was promoted to firefighter first class in 1959 and on April 18, 1960 he was promoted to driver. During July 1964 he was promoted to Lieutenant. He successfully passed the Captain's examination in early 1968 and was promoted to Captain on June 17, 1968. As a Lieutenant he served as an engine officer mostly on the west side of Albuquerque. During the last years of his career he served as Captain he was assigned to Engine 4 where he commanded Engine 4, Ladder 4 and Rescue 4. He was the right hand man to Assistant Chief Jack Major and served as acting chief for several years during Chief Major's absence. He was an outgoing and personable officer and was liked by the firefighters who worked for him and the Chief Officers as well. As Captain at Station # 4 he worked with the Captain at Station #1 setting up weekend drill evolutions at the Fire Academy on the week ends, Saturday and Sunday, for company officers and their crews who were assigned to the west side stations. He was an active member of the AFD Retiree's Association when it was formed in June, 2000 and attended monthly meetings and functions for the retiree's for several years until his health declined. On behalf of our members we extend our sincere condolences to the Adolph Lucero family.



Adolph Lucero



AUG 1958

**"THOR" THE FIRE DOG AND ADOLPH LUCERO, AUGUST 1958
OLD FIRE STATION # 4 (5 TH AND MOUNTAIN ROAD NE)**

Story 7, "Thor The Fire Dog"
By Adolph Lucero (March 13, 2002)

What I found out when I came to Fire Station Four, in 1958, was that Thor was given to Lieutenant Carl Macaluso. At that time Carl was the Fire Department Mechanic. I was assigned to Station Four. Later Macaluso was promoted to Assistant Chief.

Thor was a very smart dog. I am sure with more training he would have been a super dog. He took me as his master. He would bring me the paper and I used to bathe him. When he brought the paper to me, I used to reward him with a treat. He got smart and he would bring four or five papers from the neighbors. At that time the postmaster was Mr. Warner. Every Sunday he would come to the station for his paper. One day he said he would choke me or Thor for having to pick up his paper every Sunday at the Fire House.

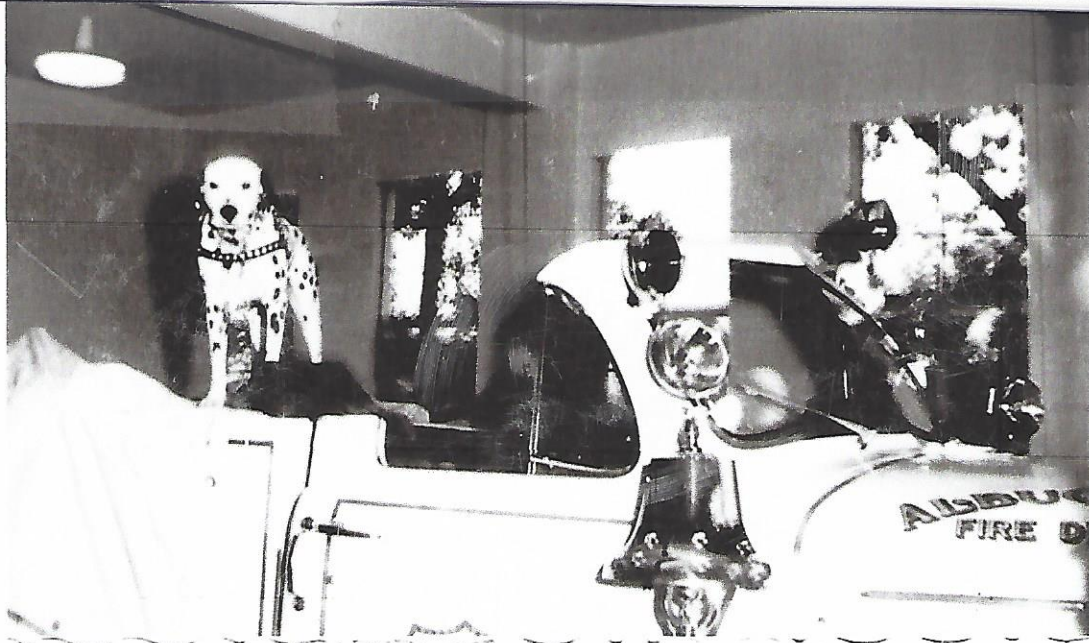
The love of Thor's life was the pumper. He could be two blocks away and hear the fire bells. He was the first on to be on top of the truck. We had to keep the door on the office side open. He was a typical fire dog. He loved to go to Martinez town (Dog Town) and fight.

He was known in different parts of the country. A couple on their way to California stopped to see him and measure his spots. A fellow from Budweiser's team of horses stopped by and asked me if he would like to ride with the horses. I said probably not, because the Fire Truck was the love of his life.

Folks at Thunderbird Fire Equipment Company made him a Fire Department vest, but he lost it. At night when he was ready to go to sleep, he would drag his blanket to where we were. I would put it on his back and take him to his bed.

Finally the time came when we had to get rid of him. I was going to take him home with me because my yard was big enough for him to roam. A fellow by the name of Cordova said that Macaluso had given Thor to him. After a few weeks passed by I stopped to see him. I felt so sorry for him, he was tied.

One time he swallowed a rubber ball and was in the hospital for four weeks. The City paid the bill. He developed cancer in the head and later died. He was a wonderful and smart dog. He was named after the God of Thunder. "Thor."



FIRE SERVICE LEGENDS AND LORE DALMATIAN DOGS

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.

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."



THE DALMATION

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 caring 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.

Sources: Adolph Lucero, Herman Bishop, M.P. "Tiroteo" Byrne, Isreal Morales, AFD, Retired Firefighters. "Reminisce Magazine," June, 1992, P-18, "Dalmatians," "Fire Almanac," January, 1984, P-724, "Fire Dogs," "Encyclopaedia Britannica," Volume 3, P-859, "The Dalmation Dog.

ANTIQUÉ GLASS FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

(By Herman R. Bishop)

January 5, 2018

Antique glass fire extinguishers originated in England and came into use in the United States in the 1870's. They were used until about 1910 when they were replaced by early versions of modern day fire extinguishers, which were usually made of more durable metal. The new and more sophisticated hand pump or pressure operated containers were designed to dispense the contents directly on a fire.

The glass fire extinguishers were made of very light and fragile glass, easily broken. They were commonly referred to as "Hand Grenades." They usually came in pint and quart sizes and were mounted on wall hangers, easily grabbed by hand and thrown on to the fire. Their shapes were designed to be decorative. Colors were usually green, blue, clear and amber. They were generally shaped like light bulbs, but some were cylindrical or had other shapes. Some were suspended from the ceilings of a structure, about 10 feet apart. Some had fusible links which usually operated when exposed to heat about 135 to 200 degrees. Others had heat actuated seals which operated when exposed to fire.

These primitive extinguishers were used in homes, factories, warehouses, industrial buildings, schools, hotels, farm buildings, barns, and even in railroad cars. Some major manufactures were: Harden, Babcock, Hayward, Larkin, Coment, Little Giant, and Barnum. Today they are collector's items and may range in price from \$25 to \$500, or more. (See Craig's list, many are listed for sale.)

The contents were initially salt water to prevent freezing. Others used Bi Carbonate of Soda, others used carbon tetrachloride an effective extinguishing agent. It is dispersed as a liquid and then turns into a gas and extinguishes the fire. Carbon tetrachloride was banned for use as a fire extinguishing agent throughout the United States in the early 1950's because of its toxicity and danger to human life. Some of the later types used dry chemical powder as their extinguishing agent.

Common uses of carbon tetrachloride are as a cleaning agent by dry cleaners and as a refrigerant cooling agent. "Caution," Careless exposure may cause damage to the lungs, kidneys, and the brain. It is absorbed by skin contact or breathing.

A word of caution to collectors who may have glass extinguishers filled with carbon tetrachloride. Handle with caution because if they break one could be overcome with toxic fumes. When exposed to heat the product turns to deadly phosgene gas. It was used as a chemical weapon during World War II.

January Monthly Meeting - On January 10, 2018 the 209th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:05 P.M. After the Pledge of Allegiance Chaplain Mark Chavez led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. Recognition was given for retired fire Captain Adolph Lucero who passed away on December 19, 2017.

Roll call was conducted by President Kerry Horton. Executive Board Members attending were: President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo and Historian Herman Bishop. President Horton stated that there are 12 candidates who have applied for the Fire Chief's position, all candidates are from within AFD. Selection of the new Fire Chief is pending.

Active duty firefighter Elliot Knighton is a bag piper and has volunteered his services to the retiree's association when the need arises. Retiree Morris Gutierrez is working with members of the retiree's association to have a dedication ceremony for the new flag pole honoring all our deceased members at the Cosmos Hair and Nail saloon, 2721 San Mateo N.E. sometime in June, 2018. Details to follow.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report and a motion to accept was made by Eddie Abeita, and was seconded by Bill Raupfer. The Motion passed. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report and a motion to accept was made by Joe Martinez and was seconded by Adrian Glass. The motion passed. Sam also stated that there is a need for our association to consider purchasing an electronic trumpet to play taps at funerals for our deceased members as well as for other special occasions. He will report his findings at a future meeting.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He announced that our annual fund drive is underway and asked our members to please be generous this year. Operating expenses for the retiree's association costs a considerable amount of money each month to fund the newsletters, presentations of plaques, routine mailing costs, annual picnic, Christmas Dinner, uniforms, badges, caps, patches, coffee, drinks, food, refreshments at monthly meetings, tables, chairs, Bar-B-Que grills, P.A. systems etc. Make donations to "AFD Retiree's Association," C/O Sam Trujillo, 5318 La Colonia N.W. Alb. N.M. 87120. Telephone: 899-1500.

President Kerry Horton welcomed our good and faithful members back, Bill Raupfer and Sam Trujillo who have both missed our last few monthly meetings due to long term illness and lengthy hospital stays. They both look good and we are happy to report that they are on the road to recovery.

Eddie Abeita, Chairman of the Christmas dinner reported that it was well attended and was a great success. Total tickets sold were 108. He thanked members who assisted in arranging the dinner, assisting in setting up and decorating the hall. He gave a special thanks to our faithful and dedicated wives who made the celebration a success.

John Serino made a request to members for some one to take over the project of procuring and selling of hats, shirts, patches, badges, plaques photos, etc. for the association. He has health issues and failing eyesight which will cause him to give up this job in the near future.

Wednesday's raffle was won by: Toby Pino, Jesse Gonzales, Frank Ortiz, and Mark Chavez. The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Mark Chavez. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

"We Started Filling Little Tea Cups with Water to Fight the Fire"

The Mike Fox Story

by Eddie Abeita

[Mike had many traumatic emergency response calls during his career however for this article he wanted to look at the lighter side of his career. Eddie Abeita Newsletter Writer]

Mike started his career with Albuquerque Fire Department September 1982. His first assignment was the Fire Academy which was located at 1510 Kit Carson SW, he held the rank of fire cadet. The academy staff consisted of; Assistant Chief Ted Allred, Captain Frank Chavez, Lieutenant Art Loera and Driver Mel Vigil. Two of Mike's academy friends who he has kept in touch with over the years are Morris Gutierrez and Edward (Gonzo) Gonzales. Morris recently started a project dedicated to deceased firefighters called "Firefighter Memorial Pole". Morris said I needed help and who better to ask for help from was my academy friend Mike Fox and I also asked Pablo Garcia because of their unending talents. Mike said, it was an honor to help Morris with the Firefighter Memorial Pole.



Mike said I remember fire cadet training activities, which included a lot of repetitious drills preparing us for the field. Drill, drill, drill so it would become second nature, so you would execute your duties without hesitation under any circumstances. Hose evolution drills could drain the life out of you, the fire hose used for drills was cotton double jacket hose, with brass couplings and it was heavy dry and when it was soaking wet oh boy. However, looking back this also helped insure team work. During hose evolutions my job was to place the hose clamp on the supply line but I forgot it a few times and once the water came and no hose clamp to stop the water, it went directly into the hose bed, filled it up with water, it looked like an octopus with legs going all over the place. So, I would not forget the hose clamp the next drill the lieutenant said Fox hit the tower and with the order came, Fox take all your fellow cadets with you! My fellow cadets all knew one way or another it was just an excuse for us to run up to the 7th floor of the drill tower, another way for conditioning our legs and cardiovascular.

Mike said speaking about water we were drilling using the large rainbow pump, which was an industrial pump with a large pumping capacity. We had several hose lines in operation when a hose line broke loose and the stream of water knocked a chief's hat off and as luck would have it, the chief was Ted Allred, oh-oh the question was, what was going to happen, nothing did but until the end of the day there was a lot of suspense. We also did ladder bridging which was a means to get from one side of a ditch to the other side using a ground ladder like a plank. With water flowing under you it would test your nerves along with mud and water.

Mike Fox Story

By Eddie Abeita

One cadet reported to class without his name tag and could not come up with a good excuse when asked about it, so the lieutenant made one up for him. He told us, your fellow cadet lost his name tag most likely running around the park across the street so let's go find it.

The entire class went to look for it, here we go on our hands and knees looking for a name tag, so the Lieutenant asked again about his name tag. The cadet finally said to the lieutenant "I just forgot it" and the search was over. We remembered what we were told our first day of training; report fit for duty with your personal protective equipment (bunkers) and be in proper uniform. So, the "silver lining"; the day before we drilled hard and some cadets had sore muscles from the drills, I guess the slow bending and stretching helped the aches go away?

Mike's first field assignment was at station one assigned to the ladder company, Chuck Norine was the officer. Mike would float to other companies but mainly in house. While assigned to engine one Mike said I had my first fire late one night. A few of us were in the kitchen and we noticed smoke in the area so we went outside and saw both fire and smoke coming from a house behind the station. The alarm room was notified and full dispatched was transmitted, and we were off to fight the fire. After the fire was knocked down, we went to the second floor and started overhaul I carried a pike pole, the officer gave me an order to pull down the ceiling with the pike pole. I jammed the pole up through the ceiling and pulled and pulled until the ceiling gave-way with a large piece of sheet rock hitting me on the head knocking me down. I guess it looked funny because after the crew picked me up, dusted me off and checked to see if I was OK, then started to laugh and cheer, one said; alright Fox good job now you can use something sharp like an axe and you are promoted to cook. I did help cook Wimpy Burgers our favorite and of course with chili.... they were great.

Mike went into the paramedic program and later took his first promotional examination test for driver and did good, shortly after was promoted to driver and assigned to rescue three (3). Mike said back then we did not have as many rescues as we do now so our rescues had a lot of calls. It was not unusual when dispatched on a call, to have 3-4 additional calls back to back before returning to quarters. When the alarm room dispatched a call, they would provide you with the address and a phantom box number, the officer would look up the box number in the running card book which would show the closest intersection *sometimes!*

One particular night shift we received a full fire dispatch, it was in the Ridgecrest area, which streets could be a little tricky. While getting into our apparatus at the station the Captain on the pumper said we will follow you (rescue). Chief's car or rescue would slow down oncoming traffic at intersections it made it easier for the larger fire apparatus. The rescue officer had a bad habit of turning the running card book around to get north direction at the top of the book, not good if you are going south. Well we started out well but the rescue officer said left and maybe we should have gone right and now we were turned around not sure which way to go we wondered, now where did the pumper and other equipment go? We got lucky or I guess you would say "thanks for smoke" we saw the smoke and found the fire.

Mike Fox Story

By Eddie Abeita

It was a floor furnace fire and the pumper was a few minutes away, so we needed to do something quick, like search and rescue or put out the fire. After the search completed, extinguishment was the next step however no water. Behind us was the kitchen sink and no big containers available just some little tea cups so we started filling little tea cups with water to fight the fire just like the old saying like "peeing in the wind". It was getting real smoky so we went out of the house for some air and the next step grab the fire extinguisher from the rescue and try to control the fire. A good plan this time self-contained breathing apparatus was a must and attack the seat of the fire. The best place to attack the fire was through the crawl space under the house another good idea but after a few feet crawling under the house, I can tell you now "a firefighter could get stuck under the floor of the house"! With all that said, somehow you suck it in and force your way out, before it's you having to be rescued.

One evening there was a knock on the door at station three, a man was standing their asking to see Mike Fox. Mike said I am Mike Fox, the man said many years ago you saved my life and I wanted to "thank you" in person. I would also like to reenact_and_document on video you treating me just like you did when you saved my life, so we did accommodate him. After all that time with him he was so grateful and thanked us and left. The chief said good job everyone and asked Mike what was his name? Mike said well you know what chief, I forgot to ask!

Mike had wanted to do some instructing in fire subjects or emergency medical services. He became certified as an EMS instructor and jumped right in to help out with AFD's EMS training. Being a paramedic, it was a golden opportunity to instruct continuing education classes for paramedics and EMT-B refreshers. Mike was asked to teach one EMT-B course for new hires (AKA fire cadets) in which the one class turned out to be several cadet classes. Mike saw importance of AFD instructors teaching the EMT-B course in house as part of the fire cadet training program. Mike said it was rewarding teaching the course to future firefighters who would work with you side by side in the field, and instilling the importance of teamwork.

Mike was promoted to Rescue Lieutenant and later Captain. He had different assignments within district three. When Mike became eligible for the rank of Battalion Chief he started preparing for the promotional process. His crew(s) would ask how the preparation was going? Mike response was "I will try but no guarantees" however the crews had a lot of faith and respect for him and said you will do it! Mike told them if I make the list I will buy steaks for the district, with a laugh. Well he made the list and was promoted to Battalion Chief, now in good faith, he did buy steaks for all stations in district 3.

As Battalion Chief, Mike said when dispatched to fire calls things went well, when companies were on scene before my arrival, the crews knew their jobs well and needed little direction. The hard parts were administrative actions in personnel issues but we got through it Mike said.

Mike Fox Story

By Eddie Abeita

Mike said another position I was assigned to was in administration as Paramedic Division Chief which was a lot of work keeping up with normal problems such as; transport, patient care, arrival times etc. What compounded things were trying to provide solutions to request from the mayor's office. The one that came up a lot was for AFD to transport patients like the private sector to generate revenue. In theory sounded good but not practical keeping a rescue unit out of service for hours. I formed a committee to look at other ways in generating revenue however our suggestions never received a response or I guess a fruitless effort.

Mike started contemplating retirement when eligibility was on the horizon and of course the question; what would I do? One thing Mike said I thought for years I had been limited on time working with wood projects, but being retired I could devote a heck of a lot more time into it.

Mike said, when I was in high school I took woodshop and built different things. My cherished project was a beautiful grandfather clock I made for my parents. Back then I thought one of these days, maybe I could buy tools and do this as my trade. Well retirement happened and the woodworking craft was off and running. Projects started with building custom kitchen cabinets and right behind tables, chairs, bar stools, bedroom furniture and just about everything where wood is used.

His woodworking started out small however by word of mouth of satisfied clients it quickly grew to the point of having to turn down some request.

Mike takes pride in his work his creativity sometimes is shadowed by what the customer wants, may not be his vision of what would look good. It could be something simple as the color of the wood but Mike said, I just have to remember they are the customer and it's what they want.

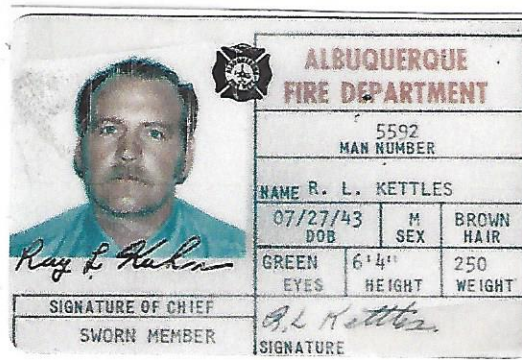
Mike's wife Lauri also worked in the medical field, a pediatric specialty care nurse at University of New Mexico Hospital where Lauri was in Pediatric Hematology Oncology Department. Now Lauri is retired and with all that nursing she did, she needed a rest.

Their son is an Albuquerque Police Officer who started his law enforcement career as a Public Safety Aid at the age of 18. His wife is a school teacher with APS. They have a daughter who is 6 years old and a son 3-years-old.

Their daughter Katie lives in Denver and graduated from Art Center Design College and currently employed as a Graphic Design Artist with an international company in Denver. Her husband served in the Navy where he worked with satellite systems and now as a civilian works in the same field with a contractor. They have a daughter 3 years old and son age 1.

Mike retired June 2003 and with wife Lauri they love spending time with their grandkids when possible, another favorite pastime is with Mother Nature to picnic or do some camping.

Richey L. Kettles Sr. Death- It is with sadness that we report the death of Richey L. Kettles Sr. age 74 who passed away at his home on Oct. 28, 2017 in Osawatomie, Kansas. His cremation and memorial service were held at the Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home in Osawatomie, Kansas on November 3, 2017. He was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM and was a 1961 graduate of Valley High School. After his marriage to Linda Powell in Albuquerque, they settled on a small farm in Osawatomie, Kansas. He was a cowboy and was passionate about horses. Richey joined AFD in June, 1964. He was promoted to driver in March, 1971. He was promoted to Lieutenant on June 20, 1977. After serving over 20 years with the Albuquerque Fire Department he retired on July 1, 1985. Richey was well respected by his fellow firefighters and Chiefs.



February Monthly Meeting -The 210 th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's association was held on Wednesday February 14, 2018 at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. The meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton at 7:10 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Jose Salas. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. A tribute was given to fellow retiree Richie Kettles who passed away on October 28, 2018. Roll Call: President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo and Historian Herman R. Bishop. There were no guests and no guest speakers.

Kerry Horton gave the President's report. He reported that on February 7, 2018 he and members of our executive board met with Fire Chief Paul Dow who was appointed by Mayor Keller on January 22, 2018. Chief Dow introduced his top Assistant Chiefs, Gil Santistevan, Sean Frazier, and Sean Elks. On behalf of the AFD retiree's association we congratulated them on their new positions and gave them our best wishes. Chief Dow expressed an interest in working with members of our association and will give us his support. He will continue providing the funeral truck and on duty firefighters to work with us in the future. He is supportive of AFD Honor Guard members working with members of the retiree Honor Guard to coordinate our efforts at funerals and at special events. AFD is creating a new web page and the Chief wants us the retiree's association to have a section on the new site.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report and a motion to accept was made by Eddie Abeita. It was seconded by Ralph Sedillo. The motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. He reminded us that we are beginning our annual fund drive on March 1st. He hopes members will be generous. He expects to hear from you soon. A motion to accept was made by Joe Martinez. A second to the motion was made by Noel Baca. The motion passed.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. Frank Maestas sends a big hello to our members and gave special thanks to Fred Casias our Secretary for sending him a nice get well card. It was most appreciated. Herman gave thanks to member Mel Archuleta who provided information about the death of our retired member Richie Kettles. The March newsletter is finished and will go to print this week. Expect your copy by the first week in March.

Member Bernie Martinez reported on a project he is working on to provide a small plaque, about 6 inches in diameter to be placed on the head stone of our deceased firefighters. He is working with Local 244, Union staff to complete this project.

The raffle was won by Fred Casias, Joe Martinez and Mike Murphy. Eddie Abeita and Ralph Sedillo thanked members who donate monthly prizes for the raffle. Since it's inception the raffle has been successful and has been a good fund raiser.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Pat McKinney. The meeting adjourned @ 8:20 PM.

FIRE CHIEFS, ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT (1882-2018)

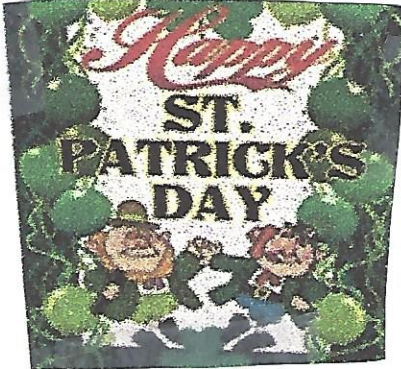
(By Herman R. Bishop, Historian)

- February 24, 1882 - Chief William Sanguinette: On February 24, 1882 the Albuquerque Morning Journal newspaper reported that the Albuquerque Volunteer hook and ladder company was headed by Chief William Sanguinette.
- July 13, 1882 - William Sanguinette was re-elected to Chief (1)
- March 1886 - William Sanguinette was re-elected to Fire Marshal by the three fire companies
 - Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company, Scott Moore and A.A. Grant Hose Companies (2)
- October 1, 1900 - Charles Bernard Ruppe Fire Chief (logged in the official F.D. ledger, this date) (3)
- April 1902 - Mr. Hubbs named Chief after Chief Ruppe resigned resulting from personnel problems (4)
- March 1903 - Mr. Nash took over as Fire Chief from Mr. Hubbs. (5)
- March 20, 1904 - Mr. A.C. Burtless succeeded Mr. Nash as Fire Chief. Chief Burtless served (3-20-1904 to 5-18-1910) (6)
- April 18, 1910 - Jacob Klein appointed to Chief. He succeeded A.C. Burtless. Chief Klein served as Chief until 12-16- 15 (7)
- December 16, 1915 - A.C. Burtless appt. to Chief when Jacob Klein was removed of office by the Mayor and City Council (8)
- April 17,1916 - J.W. Burnette appt. to Chief when A.C. Burtless was removed by the Mayor and City Council. (9)
- March 1917 - Fred M. Russell appointed to Fire Chief and replaced J.W. Burnette (10)
- April 17, 1917 - F. M. Russell resigns after the City Adm. fired all the firemen when they tried to organize a Union. (11)
- April 17, 1917 - William Collister was appointed to Fire after Chief Fred Russell resigns (12)
- April 29, 1922 - William Collister was shown on the daily ledger as Fire Chief. (13)
- 1922 to 1924 - It is not clear when Chief Russell was re-appointed as Fire Chief. The 1925 annual report is signed by Chief Fred Russell. On may 24, 1927 , Pumper #1 and the Chief's car collided, then hit a street car while responding to a false alarm. Chief Russell and Fireman Simon Seligman, were both seriously injured but recovered. (14)
- August 21, 1931 - Fire Chief Russell passed away after serving several years as Fire Chief. (15)
- August 28, 1931 - W.A. "Art" Westerfeld appointed to Fire Chief after the death of Chief Fred M. Russell. (16)
- February 20, 1962 - W.A. Westerfeld, dies after a long illness. He served 31 years as Chief and 43 yrs. w/ AFD.
- Note: On the day Chief Westerfeld died Astronaut John H. Glen made a three-hour space orbit and became the first American in space orbit. (17)
- February, 1962 - Simon Seligman appointed Fire Chief after the death of Chief Westerfeld. (18)
- September 9, 1968 - Ray L. Kuhn appointed Chief after Chief Seligman retires.(19)

- NOTE: Chief Seligman was the first Fire Chief to retire from the Albuquerque Fire Department (20)
- July 1974 - Arthur B. Martinez appointed to Fire Chief upon the retirement of Chief Ray Kuhn (21)
 - March 10, 1980 - Leonard C. Ortega appointed to Chief after the retirement of Arthur B. Martinez. (22)
 - December 17, 1985 - Gerald Grimm Appointed Chief after the retirement of Leonard C. Ortega (23)
 - April 1990 - Tom Montoya former Asst. Chief, Denver Fire Department, appt.. Chief after the retirement of G. Grimm.(24)
 - December 1993 - Greg Chavez appointed to Fire Chief after the resignation of Chief Tom Montoya(25)
 - December 1995 - Carlos Dominguez appointed Fire Chief after Chief Greg Chavez retires (26)
 - December 1997 - Morris L. Huling appointed to Fire Chief after Carlos Dominguez retires (27)
 - December 2001 - Robert E. Ortega becomes Chief after the retirement of Chief Morris L. Huling (28)
 - December 2009 - James Breen becomes Chief after the retirement of Chief Robert E. Ortega who served 8 years . (29)
 - January 1, 2014 - David Downey appointed Fire Chief upon retirement of James Breen on 12-31-2013 (30)
 - January, 2018 - Paul Dow, Appointed Fire Chief upon retirement of David Downey on 8-23-2017, (31)

Sources

- (1) Albuquerque Morning Journal, July 13, 1882, P-2
- (2) Albuquerque Morning Journal, March 12, 1886
- (3) through (16) From the Albuquerque Fire Department daily ledgers. (14) Alb. Tribune, P, D-4, (9-1-1968)
- (17) Albuquerque Journal, February, 1962
- (18) Personal records, February 25, 1962
- (19) Albuquerque Tribune, September 9, 1968, P, A-2
- (20) Personal records, September 9, 1968
- (21) Albuquerque Journal, July 17, 1974, P, F-4
- (22) Albuquerque Tribune, March 10,1980, P, A-1
- (23) Albuquerque Journal, December 17, 1985 P, A-1
- (24) Personal records, April 23, 1990
- (25) Personal records, December 21, 1993
- (26) Albuquerque Journal, December 8, 1995 P, E-1
- (27) Personal records, December 18, 1997
- (28) Albuquerque Journal, November 16, 2001, P, A-1
- (29) Albuquerque Journal, November 25, 2009, P,B-1
- (30) Albuquerque Journal, December 25, 2013 P, C2
- (31) Albuquerque Journal, January 23, 2018 P, A-8



March 17, 2018



CHIEF PAUL DOW ASSIST. CHIEF SEAN FRAZIER

PAUL DOW APPOINTED FIRE CHIEF

On January 22, 2018, Mayor Tim Keller appointed Paul Dow as Albuquerque's Fire Chief. Dow is an 18 year veteran of the department and has served the past few years of his career as a Batalion Cmdr. Sean Frazier a 21 year veteran with AFD has been appointed as Assisstant Chief. Together Chief Dow and Assistant Chief Frazier have served the City well and they have the experience, education and technical knowledge to lead the department into the future.

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Kerry Horton

President's Message

By Kerry Horton

Hello everyone, Spring is almost here and it's time to start enjoying the outside again. Not that we've had much of a winter here in Albuquerque. I know that this is the retirees' newsletter, but I want to talk a little bit about events happening with our active duty Brothers and Sisters. Along with the City's new administration, AFD has new leadership as well.

Paul Dow has been appointed Fire Chief by Mayor Tim Keller, and I believe this is a very popular appointment. Paul joined AFD in 2000, and I had the pleasure of working with him from time to time before I retired. The best thing that I can say about Chief Dow is that he has always been a student of the fire service. He strives to improve the services that the Albuquerque Fire Department provides the City of Albuquerque, and works hard at assuring that his crews provide the best response, in the safest manner possible.

Chief Dow has staffed his administration with very competent personnel as well. His three Assistant Chief appointments are Gil Santistevan, Sean Frazier, and Sean Elks. If that last name sounds familiar, you are right. That's our very own Jeff Elks' son. A proud papa, I'm sure.

The AFDRA Executive Board had the opportunity to meet with Chief Dow and his staff on February 7th, and we all walked away happy that our great working relationship with AFD will continue for years to come. We discussed the continued future of the Funeral Truck, and the honor and dignity that the truck brings to our funeral services. Chief Dow also invited us to provide a page on their soon-to-be-developed web page so that people can get to know and understand who we are, and what we provide for our retired firefighter community.

In our next newsletter, we will introduce Chief Dow and his staff with in-depth stories about their careers, their hopes for AFD's future, and their retirement plans. That is if they have any, they are all so young. Until next time, stay healthy, and be safe.