

AFD RETIREE NEWS

News 1

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2013

#- 1-2013

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SPECIAL EDITION

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

(By Herman R. Bishop, Historian)

Since The AFD Retiree's Association was formed on June 9, 2000 over 200 firefighters Have retired. We felt it appropriate to re-visit the early origins of our department Beginning in 1882 which was precipitated by the coming of the railroad, an expanding Population, and the numerous new fire hazards that a new and growing city entails.

First, let's have a brief review of New Mexico and Albuquerque history leading up to The need to create a fire department. Albuquerque took it's name from the Duke of Albuquerque, Viceroy of new Spain who spelled his name with an extra (r), Alburquerque

The Albuquerque area has been known for human habitation for at least 12,000 years. Clovis and Folsom Indians camped here. From 1540 – 1542 the Spanish explorer Coronado led an expedition through New Mexico and the Rio Grande river valley in search of gold and the seven cities of Cibola. After the Spanish colonization of New Mexico in the early 1600's, Pope the famous Indian leader led the Indian revolt in 1680 Driving the Spainards out.

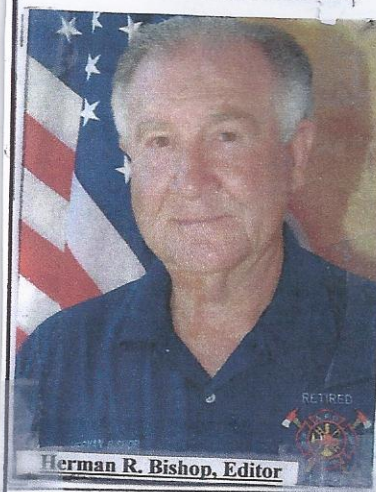
(Continued on Page 2)



Albuquerque Public Library Picture Collection, P - 143
 The first Albuquerque Fire Company, 1882, Montezuma Saloon at 2nd St. & Railroad Ave, The Town of Albuquerque prior to incorporation in 1885. Hand-drawn ladder wagon



PUBLISHED BY
 THE AFD RETIREE'S
 ASSOCIATION



Herman R. Bishop, Editor

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ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

This month we kick off our Annual fund drive and request For donations. As you know We operate on donations from Our members and supporters. We depend on you !

Please help by sending you tax Deductible donations to: AFD Retiree's Association, C/O John Serino, Treasurer, 1504 Hermosa S.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87108. Any amount you can Donate will be most appreciated.

THANK YOU !

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



Sam Trujillo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By: Sam Trujillo

In 2013 I want to remind our members to take time to make sure that your family is aware of your last wishes and to make sure that they understand that you have a paid up insurance policy that was part of your retirement package. Members that also have their health insurance through **The N M Health Care Authority** also have a paid up policy of \$6,000 . In assisting the families of some of our recent deceased retiree's I have found some families were not aware of these benefits. I will continue to assist the families of our retiree's as needed. Make sure your family has a copy of your DD-214 if you were in the military and also let them know that **The AFD Retiree's Association** is there to help them in their time of need . I have driven a few of our older retiree's to City Hall because they did not have a copy of their paid up Insurance Policy . Anyone needing information or assistance can call me @ **899-1500**.

The 2013 New Mexico Legislative Session is underway and there a few Legislative Bills that relate to our **PERA Pension Fund** that have been introduced. We are lending support to **IAFF Local 244** in their legislative endeavors. I encourage each of you to know whom your Legislators are as we may need to ask you to contact them and ask for their support on PERA Legislation. We can expect to see a decrease in our **COLA** from the current 3% to 2% however we will continue to fight for our earned pension. Know that **IAFF Local 244 Union President Diego Arencon** is working to protect our **PERA**. I will post e-mail updates on PERA issues as needed. I encourage you to provide me with your e-mail address if you are not receiving my e-mail updates.

I also want to remind you to keep us informed on any address / telephone number changes. This includes e-mail address changes. Thank you for your support!

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR ASSISTANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN OUR ANNUAL FUND DRIVE WHICH BEGINS THIS MONTH. THE SUCCESS OF OUR ASSOCIATION IS DEPENDANT ON YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO: AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, C/O JOHN SERINO, 1504 HERMOSA SE, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108. ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN DONATE WILL BE MOST HELPFUL. THANK YOU !

In 1696 the Spaniards re-took Santa Fe and New Mexico. Credit is given to New Mexico Territorial Governor Francisco Cuervo y Valdez for the founding of Albuquerque in 1706. The original Albuquerque was on the site that we know as Old Town.

New Mexico was under Mexican rule from 1821-1846. The Spanish revolt led to independence in 1821. U.S. Army General Stephen Watts Kearney took possession of Santa Fe in 1846 without a shot being fired. Kearney with 700 U.S. Army soldiers marched into Santa Fe, raised the U.S. flag and claimed New Mexico for the United States.

A railroad survey party arrived in Albuquerque in 1843 led by Lieutenant Arneil Whipple, U.S. Army. They were surveying a railroad route from Fort Smith Arkansas through Barstow, California along the 35 th parallel. The Atkinson, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad reached Albuquerque on April 25, 1880.

Initially railroad officials had selected Bernalillo, New Mexico as headquarters for the railroad. Because of high land prices in Bernalillo they selected Albuquerque to serve the main route where land prices were much more Reasonable by local land owners.

The railroad by-passed Old Town Albuquerque and came through what is now known as First Street and Central Avenue. Central Avenue was known as Railroad Avenue and First Street was known as Front Street. Beginning in 1880 the coming of the railroad created an entire new town some two miles east of Old Town within a relatively short time. A large population explosion occurred. New buildings and businesses were too close together. Shanties, tents, shacks, and buildings of sub-standard construction were built. This faulty construction and lack of planning created serious fire problems. By late 1881 the need to establish a volunteer fire brigade was obvious. Therefore in early 1882 the early origins of the Albuquerque volunteer Fire Company was established.

Sources: "Albuquerque," A narrative history by: Marc Simmons, "Albuquerque, Remembered,"
By: Howard Brian.

Next: We present a brief history of the Albuquerque Fire Department from 1882.





Sixth

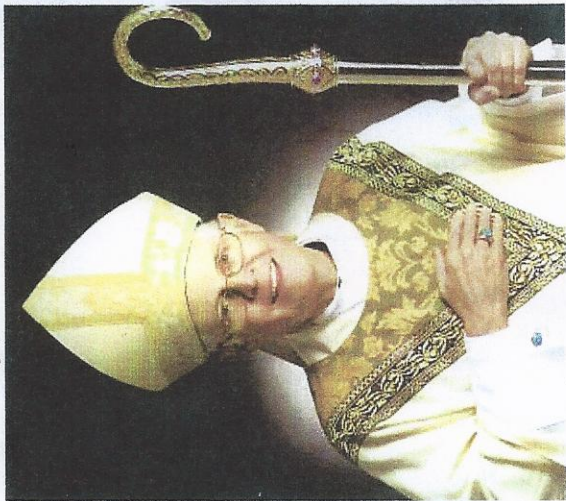
Annual Blue Mass

February 12, 2013



ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AFD RETIREES PARTICIPATED IN THE 6TH ANNUAL BLUE MASS HELD AT ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL, 5301 ST. JOSEPH'S PLACE N.W. THIS WAS AN ALL-FAITH'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATION FOR THE UNIFORMED MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE AND PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR COUNTRY. RECOGNIZED WERE THOSE WHO SERVE IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE SERVICE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL BLUE MASS Tuesday, February 12, 2013



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

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

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

THE MOST REVEREND MICHAEL J. SHEEHAN, ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE, CELEBRANT, OFFERED THE SPECIAL BLUE MASS AS A TIME OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING TO ALL FIRST RESPONDERS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRY. SPECIAL PRAYERS WERE OFFERED FOR THE FAMILIES OF FIRST RESPONDERS.

History, Albuquerque Fire Department

By Herman R. Bishop, Historian
(March 1, 2001)

Part 1- The beginning of a Fire Department.

The first reference to an organized fire brigade dates back to 4000 B.C. in China. By 2000 B.C. Egypt had an organization for fighting fires. The great London fire of 1660 destroyed London Bridge and resulted in the passing of a building code and fire regulations. In the United States organized fire departments were popular as early as 1653.

Boston had the first real fire organization by 1715. They had six fire companies. During the 1850's New York and Cincinnati had paid firemen. Albuquerque has had an organized Fire Department since the late 1800's. At that time the firemen were volunteer including the Fire Chief. The Chief usually was a local businessman.

The first Albuquerque Fire Company was organized in early 1882. An old photo dated February, 1882 of the "Albuquerque Fire Company," a hook and ladder company, in front of the Montezuma saloon was taken prior to the incorporation of Albuquerque in 1885. The ladder wagon was hand-drawn. The saloon was located at the SW corner of Second Street and Railroad Avenue (Central Avenue).

The Albuquerque Morning Journal on February 24, 1882 reported that the Albuquerque volunteer hook and ladder company was headed by Chief William Sanguinette. It was reported that "The Hook and Ladder Company," is efficient but a better water supply is needed. A big fire was reported on March 9, 1882. "The pump of the R.R. news company proved of much service." The pump was used to fill hundreds of fire buckets.

On July 13, 1882 William Sanguinette was re-elected to Chief. The fire company name was changed from "Albuquerque Fire Company" to "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company." John Borradaile was named Foreman, and James Blanchard was named Secretary. Names of inactive members were removed from the membership roster.

From a newspaper column entitled "Nubs of News," on October 8, 1882, it was reported that the "Fire Boys," are erecting a building for a new truck on Front Street (First Street), opposite Holiday and Sanguinette saloon.

The first Fireman's Ball was held on March 17, 1883 and the men wore their uniforms. The lady's attire was not reported and the name of the band is not known. The location of the Fireman's Ball is unknown nor the number attending. The Firemen received their first badges on April 17, 1883.

A Railroad fire company was organized on August 12, 1883. It was called the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company in those days. At this time the firemen tested it's first fire hose and the test proved successful.

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A City Waterworks Company was proposed on August 12, 1883. At that time the City water Company was not sufficient to supply fire hydrants but the hand-drawn fire carts and horse drawn fire wagons carried their own water. On September 28, 1883 a bad fire was reported at the Hub Saloon.

No further information was provided. Later in the year on December 8, 1883 an improved Water Works Company was decided upon. The on December 11, 1883 the King Building sustained heavy losses after a big fire.

The Maiden Store suffered heavy fire losses on April 22, 1884. A new type ladder was purchased and arrived on June 13, 1884. It was called a fire escape ladder (extension ladder). This ladder apparently was similar to a 40 foot Bangor ladder. It is described as having sections held together by brackets which allowed the sections upward and downward mobility. The first fireman's tournament was held on October 3, 1884.

The election of June, 1885 allowed the citizens to vote on whether or not to incorporate Albuquerque as a town. The citizens voted in the majority to incorporate. Just five days after the election a contract for installation of a city water system was awarded.

William Sanguinette was re-elected Chief and the first hose company was organized during November 3, 1885. This hose company was comprised of 23 volunteer members. Two hose carts were approved for purchase by the City Commission during December, 1885. Also awarded in the contract for the two hose carts was 1200 feet of 2 1/2 inch fire hose. The name, "Scott Moore Hose Company" was adopted for the hose company in early January, 1886. (Scott Moore was a prominent local businessman who contributed money to the volunteer fire company as was another prominent businessman, Angus A. Grant).

To provide fire service to the south Albuquerque area, on January 18, 1886, a second hose company was organized. The name, "A.A. Grant Hose Company" was adopted. At this time the ladder company was known as the "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company. The Company's fifteen volunteer members elected C.E. Cramer as Foreman.

The two new Gleason and Bailey two wheel hose carts arrived on February 15, 1886. The "Scott Moore Company," hose cart was cream colored and the "A.A. Grant Hose Company," was colored brown.
(The cart wheels measured 6 feet 3 inches).

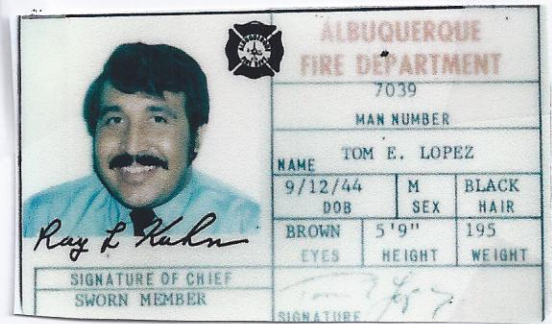
On February 15, 1886, volunteer members of both hose companies, "Scott Moore," and "A.A. Grant," held their first practice drill along with the "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company." Although the Water Works was not complete at this time, the volunteers were able to hold their drill with hoses hooked up to new fire hydrants. The drills were reported a success by all three companies.

An election was held in March, 1886, and William Sanguinette was elected Fire Marshal by members of the three fire companies. 1) "Scott Moore Hose Company," 2) "A.A. Grant Hose Company," and 3) "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company."

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DEATH OF TOM E. LOPEZ

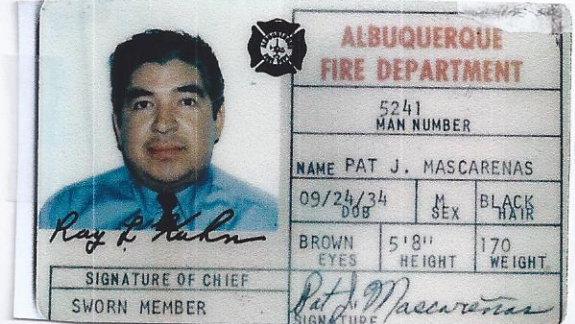
On February 4, 2013 retired firefighter Tom E. Lopez, age 68, Passed away after a long term illness. He joined AFD in March, 1966 He was a great public servant and firefighter and retired After twenty years in the fire service. Tom was hired by the late Fire Chief Simon Seligman and the Training Chief was Ray Kuhn. Firefighter training was only 8 weeks long then. There Was 14 fire stations and about 350 firemen.



Like the average firefighter Tommy worked at most fire stations throughout the City. However, he spent most of his career at Station # 1 downtown. He was husky, strong, and had great physical strength. In High School he was a great athlete and excelled at football and baseball. He brought his athletic skills to the fire department and served as a member of AFD'S baseball team for many years. He enjoyed giving tours of the firehouse to school children and showing them the equipment and fire trucks. Tommy had a quick smile and an easy going manner. He was liked and respected by fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. We are honored to have known Tommy and to have him As a member of our brotherhood of firefighters. Our sincere condolences go to the Lopez family.

Pat Mascarenas Dies

Our friend and brother firefighter Pat Mascarenas age 68, passed away after a short term illness on February 8, 2013. He was hired By the late Fire Chief Simon Seligman on September 16, 1963. After Serving in the fire service for 23 years he retired during April, 1986. There were 12 fire stations when Pat joined the department and just Over 300 firefighters. Firefighter training was only 8 weeks long And the department used 2/12 inch hose. During training the rookies Layed miles and miles of hose. Firefighters jumped off the tail board, Hose in hand and caught a fire hydrant on the run. He was a good Firefighter and was liked by both firefighters and his supervisors. Our most sincere condolences to the Mascarenas family.



FEBRUARY MEETING- ON February 13, 2013 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was Conducted by Deacon Santos Abeyta and a moment of silence was observed for our deceased retirees. Our brother retirees Tommy Lopez and Pat Mascarenas who passed away during February were remembered. Retiree's Paul Gonzales, Wayne Lucero, and Jim Summers, were recognized. In recognition of his years in the fire service, Paul Gonzales was presented the traditional firefighter's axe by Sam Trujillo on behalf of the Firefighter's Union, Local 244.

Our guests were: Pete Dinelli Mayoral candidate, Rainier Perez, AFD Commander and Pat McKinney AFD retiree. Pat McKinney announced that shortly he will be appointed to Director of the AFD Chaplain's Division. He will be filling the job vacated by Chaplain Jerome Rael who recently retired. Pat will direct the 13 volunteer Chaplains who serve AFD and will look forward to working closely with members of the AFD Retiree's Association. He retired from AFD in 2000 at the rank Of Captain. In recent years he has been active in the Ministry and has a degree in religion. He is also active in the Promise Keepers Ministry as well.

Pete Dinelli - addressed our members and announced that he is running for Mayor of Albuquerque in October, 2013 for a four year term. He is a New Mexico native. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, earned a Juris Doctorate Degree and has been a licensed attorney in the State of New Mexico since 1978. He is a former City Councilor, City Attorney, Public Safety Director, Workers Compensation Lawyer and Judge. His goals as Mayor is to bring economic development, reduce law suits against the City, bring the film industry back, work to improve our Public Safety Departments and to fully support Public Safety personnel, to ensure financial accountability of City Government and to improve the quality of life for the Citizens of Albuquerque.

President Sam Trujillo reported that the retiree's association and AFD Firefighter's Union, Local 244 are working together to support Senate Bill # 317 in the NM State Legislature to secure the future of the PERA's retirement system including the Annual COLA. All retirees are asked to contact their State Representative and State Senator to support this bill.

The Secretary's report for the month of January was suspended due to the absence of Secretary Fred Casias. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report for the month of January. All bills for the month of January have paid. John reminded all that we are still dependant on monthly donations. He is most appreciative when our members send checks which are tax deductible to support the retiree's association. Joe Martinez made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and a second was made by Pablo Garcia Jr. The motion passed.

Eddie Abeita and Ralph Sedillo have started a monthly raffle for gifts donated by our members. Generally the raffle tickets are only \$1.00 each. The raffle will be held at each monthly meeting. All members are asked to participate, also they are looking for items that our members are willing to donate. Contact Eddie or Ralph if you wish to assist.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. Lots of good comments were made commending Louis Trujillo for reading the "F.F. Proclamation," and Striking the 4-5's Bells and the Honor Guard, Bill Raupfer, John Serino, Mike Murphy and Joe Martinez who all made impressive presentations at both Tommy Lopez' funeral and at the Blue Mass the following day. Ray Flores played the echo taps along with another trumpeter. "Great job Guvs, You made us all proud!!"

Bill Raupfer, Vice President did an excellent job filling in for President Sam Trujillo who was out of town attending a funeral for a relative. Bill coordinated funeral services For Tommy Lopez and led the Retiree Honor Guard at the Blue Mass. The closing prayer for the February monthly meeting was led by Juan Sandoval. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Part 1. Sources: This information was taken from Official Albuquerque Fire Department hand-written ledgers dating prior to the turn of the Century (Late 1800's). Credit is given to Dave and Linda Windle who presented a mini-research paper on AFD history on May 30, 1978. Another research paper was prepared by a UNM Student, Marilyn Lobdell on December 1, 1978 and presented to the Albuquerque Museum. Information from both papers was used in this article.

Part 2. The Paid Fire Department is Formed

Just prior to the turn of the Century, in 1898, records show that Albuquerque's Volunteer firemen used leather helmets. An early version of a fire alarm system was installed in 1897. The population of the town of Albuquerque in 1882 was 3500 people.

At the turn of the Century, in June, 1900 the City of Albuquerque was three square miles, boasted a population of 6,238, and records show one fire station in the downtown area. There were three volunteer fire companies including a Hook and Ladder Company.

The requirements for an improved fire service had generated the need for a paid fire department in this growing City. On June 6, 1900 the Fire Committee of the Albuquerque City Council recommended a small paid fire department. At this meeting the recommendation was approved by the City Council.

Under City Management the volunteer fire companies were re-organized and re-named the Albuquerque Fire Department. Two men, Eugene Sutherland, and Tony Ortiz were hired full-time. Their salaries were \$ 65.00 and \$60.00 respectively. Twenty on-call men were authorized and were paid \$40.00 per year. The agreement allowed four on-call men to live at the fire station. A Fire Chief was included in the new organization and he was authorized payment of \$100.00 annually. Bernard Ruppe was a part-time Fire Chief, full-time local business man (A Pharmacist).

When the City took over the Fire Department there were three hose companies, and one hook and ladder company. There was a four-wheel hose wagon, hand-drawn by the firemen. The wagon had a large reel mounted on the back, with 1200 feet of 2 1/2 inch, which could be reeled out quickly attached to a fire hydrant, and stretched to the fire scene for a rapid fire attack.

At this time the City Council approved the purchase of a pair of fire horses and a set of hanging harness. The first fire horses were named Tom and Jerry. It was customary to weigh the horses daily to ensure their health and well being. The horses were exercised twice a day, once at 7:00 A.M. and the second at 5:00 P.M.

Today if a fire apparatus is out of service a spare unit is used as a replacement to keep the company in service. Entries in the daily logs at the turn of the Century show that arrangements were made with the local livery stable owners to furnish spare horses when the fire horses required new shoes, were sick, or were out of service for some reason.

The first paid Fire Chief (Part-Time) was Major Bernard Ruppe(Ruppe's Drug Store, 807 4 th Street S.W). Mr. Ruppee was of German descent and was born in New York in 1863. He was a graduate of the New York College of Pharmacy and graduated in 1880. He served in the Army during the Pershing

punitive expedition into Mexico. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army and later was promoted to Major. He was reported to have spoken Spanish fluently.

Major Ruppe's Obituary in 1957 reported that the time of his death he was the oldest practicing Pharmacist in New Mexico, age, 74. His first Drug Store was located in Old Town. In 1882 Ruppe's Cosmopolitan Pharmacy was located on Railroad Avenue(Central Avenue). That same year the Pharmacy was flattened by fire, sparking Mr. Ruppe's interest in firefighting. Later the Pharmacy was moved to 115 2 nd street S.W. Mr. Alarid bought the store in 1951 from the Ruppe family. In 1964 the Ruppe Drug Store was moved to Hazeldine and 4 th Street S.W. in The Barelas Community. (Alb. Journal, P, E-10, (5-22-1983).

Chief Ruppe was elected to five terms as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department prior to 1900. When the Fire Department came under City Management in June, 1900, he became the first paid Fire Chief of the Albuquerque Fire Department. Major Ruppe served as a council commander of Woodmen of the World Lodge, and on the New Mexico State Board of Pharmacy. He also served a term on the New Mexico Territorial Legislature. (Source: Alb. Journal, May 22, 1983, page, E-7).

Photos from the period of 1886 to early 1900 show the "Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company" This hand-drawn fire wagon was led by the Fire Chief, sometimes by the Foreman(Captain), and was accompanied by about twenty volunteer firemen. The Chief and the Foreman are shown holding pewter speaking trumpets(Megaphones) used for barking out orders at fires. The rank insignia's used on the badges of today's fire personnel came from the use of the early speaking trumpets in use prior to the turn of the Century. (1 Trumpet Lieutenant, 2 Trumpets, Captain, 3 Trumpets, Assistant Chief, 4 Trumpets, Deputy Chief, 5 Trumpets, Fire Chief).

The daily log on October 1, 1900 showed the crew on duty: Chief B. Ruppe, Firemen E. Sutherland, Tony Ortiz, and Ed Hale. The November 4 th log showed that fireman Tierney brought one bar of stove polish.

A special meeting was held on November 14, 1900 to organize the fireman's masquerade and dance to be held on Thanksgiving eve. It was decided to ask some of the ex-volunteer firemen to serve on the reception committee. Some names of note were as follows: P.J. Murphy, W.H. Erickson, E. Scotti, Dr. Mc Beth, C.O. Young and P. Lillie. Later that year the firemen built a bathroom on to the fire station from December 21 st to the 30 th.

The Harvey House was engulfed in a terrible fire on May 7, 1901, heavy losses were reported. The City Fire Department responded and due to the extent of the fire, assistance was requested from the Railroad fire companies who made a quick response to assist their neighbors.

A new log was begun on May 16, 1901. The crew consisted of Fire Chief, B. Ruppe, Captain, E Sutherland, Lt. Cosgrove, Driver L.H. Hanlin, F. Hungate, sub (volunteer), E. Hale, sub (volunteer). The horses were exercised at 7:00 A.M. and at 5:00 P.M. for one hour each time. Other log entries showed that Albuquerque Steam Laundry returned the laundry with the following bill: 5- pillow slips, \$-10, 5-sheets, \$-15, 4- towels, \$5.04, 1- table cloth \$0.05, 2- curtains, \$-20. The total bill for the laundry service came to \$-54.

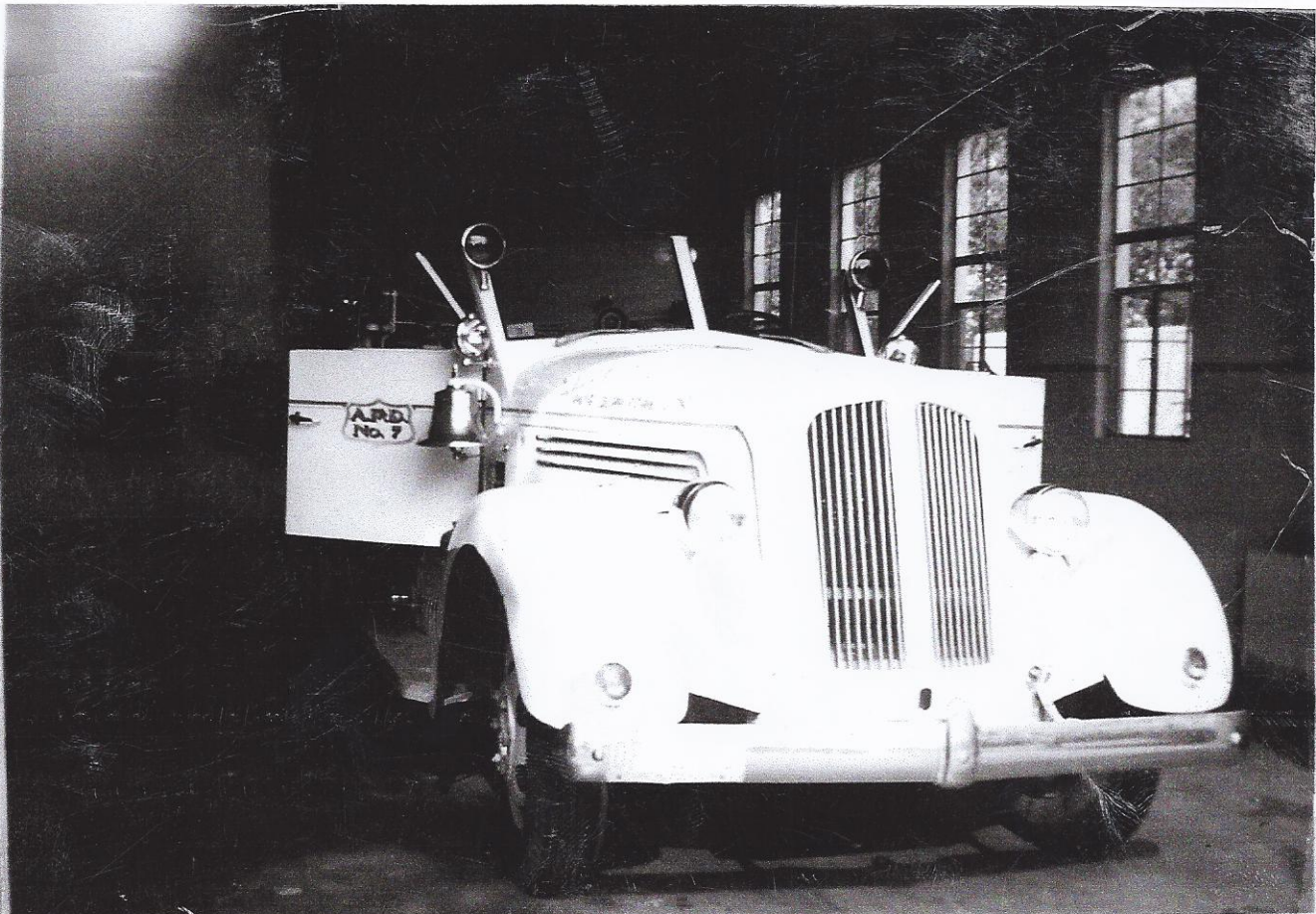
BICYCLE GROUP TO BE FORMED BY RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

The AFDRA is planning to start a bicycle group composed of Senior Firefighters. If you would like to ride a bike again or if you are riding now and would be interested in riding with a group, this activity might be perfect for you. It would be great fun, good exercise, and would provide companionship for all. All cyclists who join would be encouraged to participate in planning a schedule and to develop new routes.

At this point, the idea is to ride around Albuquerque at least once a week. This is a healthy and appropriate activity that can be added to the association's already established programs. In order to accommodate the needs of new and inexperienced riders, this cycling activity will start with short, slow rides. Adjustments can be made depending on the needs of participants.

With the goal to remain a casual, socially oriented group, with minimum structure and regimentation, we would have no designated leader, no formal planning committee, no officers, no dues, and no rules (except for the obvious ones relating to bicycle safety).

For more information, please contact John Serino at 505-266-1252 or 505-710-6030 or Elartesano@comcast.net.



JUNE 1957

PHOTO COURTESY FRED TEUPELL
OLD ENGINE # 7, 1951 SEAGRAVE 750 GPM PUMPER (JUNE, 1957)

"Driver Hele made complaint that Captain Southerland lost his head." Captain Southerland stated, "after speaking as plain as could be, there was no use driving around the block, but the driver has the habit of talking back and won't listen to anything that is said without talking back."

Chief Ruppe finally resigns during April of 1902. It is indicated that personnel problems are the reason for his resignation. He refuses to work under these conditions. Chief Ruppe is succeeded by Mr. Hubbs.

We do not have any information regarding the term Chief Hubbs served as Fire Chief (April, 1902 To March 1903). On March 3, 1903 the log shows that Mr. Nash took over from Chief Hubbs as Chief of the Fire Department. Shortly thereafter as was customary once each year Chief Nash took inventory of the Fire Department apparatus, equipment, tools, parts, and supplies. Although too lengthy to list in detail here, the following is a fair representation as to what the inventory contained: One Combination Chemical-Hose Wagon, One Hook and Ladder Truck, One Hose Wagon, 2,500 feet of fire hose, ten fire alarm boxes, five miles of # 10 fire alarm wire, one pair horses, six wagon lanterns, four fire buckets, four rubber coats, three pair boots, ten chairs, and five beds.

A big fire occurred on September 19, 1903 at the Santa Fe Railroad shops. The railroad maintained their own fire department. This particular fire overwhelmed their local department and assistance was requested from the Albuquerque Fire Department who made a prompt response which was effective in bringing this particular fire under control. (The loss was reported to be \$6,000.00). Note: Fires at the railroad shops were common in those days and the Albuquerque Fire Department was frequently called upon for assistance.

Another serious fire occurred in a frame building owned by Franz Huning on March 20, 1904 causing a reported \$5,000.00 loss. This was a hot smoky fire and it was reported that it took the firemen over two hours to bring the fire under control. We do not know the address of this fire.

After serving about one year as Fire Chief, Mr. Nash is succeeded by A.C. Burtless. The July, 1904 log shows A.C. Burtless as the Fire Chief. (Records show A.C. Burtless as Fire Chief from 1904-1910)

By late 1905 the demands for a full-time Fire Chief has arrived and it was decided to make the position fully paid as well. There were 6 paid firemen, and about 40 on call volunteer firemen serving the department at this time.

The following year, on February 27, 1906 a 2 nd alarm occurred at the Brick-Lemp Brewery Company owned by Bachachi and Company on First Street N.W. This fire was caused by sparks from a Steam locomotive passing by and the loss was reported to be \$4,000.00. The fire lasted three hours before firemen brought it under control. Firemen laid over 2,000 feet of hose and one section was ruined when a railroad switch engine backed over it. Log entries in those years showed numerous fires caused by sparks from steam locomotives along the tracks by the railroad yards.

A second alarm fire lasting over five hours occurred on August 15, 1906 at the Alvarado Hotel, owned by the Santa Fe Railroad.

-6-

Other log entries during June, July, October, and November of 1901 were: Received one ton of hay from T. Hubbell. Took horses to Korber's shop, (Tijeras & First Street) to put on new shoes. Chief Ruppe visited at 1:20 P.M. on October 14, "Gave Lt. Cosgrove very indignant orders in regards to the men leaving the fire house without letting the Chief know about it." Later in November the log showed receipt of the following: D.A. Bitter delivered 600 pounds of oats and one sack of brand. J. Korber brought one hoof brush, M.S. Tierney, brought one axe handle. A.J. Malloy brought 5-gallons of Kerosene Oil. Fire inspections are conducted at a Wool Scouring Mill and at the A.J. Malloy Tenement house. A load of hay and 2,000 pounds of coal is received on November 4, 1900.

Part 2 Sources: Information from this article was taken from two research papers, One, written by Dave Windle (5-30-1978), and another by Marilyn Lobdell (12-1-1978). Official Albuquerque Fire Department ledgers 1897 to 1901.

Part 3- The Early Paid Fire Department Continues

As of late 1901 Bernard Ruppe is shown on the daily log as Fire Chief. The daily Fire Department Routine activities continue and by now the ranks of Captain, Lieutenant, Driver and Firemen have been established.

In the days of horse-drawn fire apparatus tests of speed and skill were part of everyday operations and training. The log during September 1901 noted that the crew of the hose wagon responded out the door, caught a corner fire hydrant, laid 100 feet of hose in 27 seconds from the tap of the bell.

On November 4, 1901 Chief Ruppe and fireman E. Southerland visited a wool scouring mill for inspection purposes. Also they inspected the A.J. Malloy Tenement House, a new facility located on south 3 rd Street. That day November 4, 1901 the firemen received a load of hay and 2,000 pounds of coal.

The Fire Department Staff accepted delivery of a horse-drawn Combination Hose-Chemical wagon on January 13, 1902. This unit was tested and placed into service two days later. The daily log continues on January 14, 1902, "Orders from Chief Ruppe that no man is to ask for more pay from anyone else but him, and that no man is to be antagonistic to the Police Department." The writer responded that to his knowledge nobody had asked anyone for more pay other than the Fire Chief, and that firemen had treated the Police well, and showed them how to hang harness, and where the hay and feed was. "I think if the Chief would investigate he would find the same," explains the writer.

Log on February 9, 1902: Chief Ruppe left orders for Captain Southerland to resign at 7:00 A.M. on Monday. The next entry: Southerland relieved of duty at 7:00 A.M. Handlin called before City Council in the trial of Captain Southerland. A later entry shows that Captain Southerland won his case before the City council. Chief Ruppe Ordered Southerland back to work on Tuesday.

Alarm Box #4 came in on March 5, 1902, reported a fire in a barn rear of Vienna Bakery.

-5-

January Monthly Meeting- The 149th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was called to order on January 9, 2013, @ 7:10 P.M. at the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith N.E. by President Sam Trujillo. After the Pledge of Allegiance Deacon Santos Abeyta held the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held for our deceased members. After roll call of officers the meeting continued. There were no guests and no guest speakers.

President Sam Trujillo advised that the New Mexico State Legislature will convene on January 15, 2013 for a 60 day session. An item of concern for the retirees is the solvency and future of our retirement fund and whether or not we will be able to hold the line on our annual COLA (3 %). It has been proposed that the COLA for Public retirees be reduced from 3% to 2%. Our association will be working with the Firefighter's Union, Local 244, and the PERA Board Members to protect our retirement benefits.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report for the month of December. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Leroy Barboa. The motion was approved. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report for December and reported that the bills for the December newsletter and bills for the Christmas party have been paid. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Santos Abeyta and seconded by Michael Murphy. The motion was approved.

Historian Herman Bishop called attention to the new plaque "The Fireman's Prayer," now displayed in the Union Hall. Our friend Frank Maestas and his family presented the plaque to the Retiree's Association at the Christmas party. Frank, a former AFD Paramedic Lieutenant and his wife Dorothy, live in Buena Vista, Colorado but have maintained their friendship with our retirees.

On December 21, 2012 the City Fire Department dedicated two new fire stations, Station # 2 and Station # 7. These new stations replace the old fire stations which will be sold by the City. Sam Trujillo and Michael Murphy of our Honor Guard attended the dedication ceremonies.

As March 1, 2013 we will no longer run advertisement ads in our newsletter. The news of our members and the association continues to grow and we need the space to devote to more photos and news stories concerning our organization.

Eddie Torres reported that the Christmas Party was a success and that everyone enjoyed the great food and fellowship. Thanks to Santa (Leroy Barboa) who made the children happy by giving goodie bags and taking all their wishes for Christmas. Eddie and Ray Flores extend their most sincere thanks to the ladies and every one who so graciously assisted in setting up the hall and participated in the clean-up at the end. At an after Christmas sale Eddie purchased 100 goodie bags for ½ price for next year. "Good going Eddie !"

The Eloy Mascarenas family sent a nice letter of thanks to members of the retiree's association for the beautiful funeral service and last alarm respects we gave Eloy. Our assistance and support to the family was most graciously appreciated. Diego Arencon, President, AFD Firefighter's Union, Local 244 sent a nice letter of appreciation to Sam Trujillo, Bill Raupfer, and Fred Casias for serving as designated drivers at the Cadet Graduation party and at the Firefighter's Christmas party.

The closing prayer for the January meeting was given by Chaplain Mark Chavez.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

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

AS OF THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT PAID ADVERTISEMENTS. THE NEWS STORIES AND PHOTOS OF OUR ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO GROW AND WE NEED THE SPACE WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

Log, December 1908-

Station # 1 personnel: Chief A.C Burtless, Captain George Bassett, Driver, Roy Robinson, extra Driver, William Collister, Pipeman, Fred Russell.
Station # 2 personnel: Assistant Chief J. Klein, Lieutenant/Driver Donahue, Extra Driver Tom Walsh, Pipeman, George Boyle

As 1909 ends the paid Fire Department is well established and boasts two well equipped fire stations with nine paid men including a paid Fire Chief. There are lots of new fire hydrants, and a fire alarm box system. The year end fire alarms were reported to be 118 during 1909.

Jacob Klein is appointed to Fire Chief on April 18, 1910. He succeeded A.C. Burtless who had served six years as Chief from 1904 to 1910. James Cosgrove is appointed to Captain at Station # 2 and the other appointments remain the same.

As the modern Fire Department progresses it is determined that the Fire Chief needs a new horse and buggy for response to fire alarms and to conduct everyday Fire Department affairs. A Chief's buggy was purchased on June 1, 1910. On July 12 th the Chief received a new horse.

A lot of activity occurred in 1911 as the Fire Department modernizes and moves into the era of motorized fire equipment. On November 9, 1911 a contract is let to the American La France Company for an Auto pumping engine November 10 th a new switch board and fourteen boxes arrived for the fire alarm system. Shortly thereafter 55 battery jars, four fire alarm boxes, and a battery rack with insulators arrived. On December 18 the new fire alarm boxes are placed in service.

Fred M. Russell is named Assistant Fire Chief in December 1911. Years later Russell would be named Fire Chief of the Albuquerque Fire Department.

A new era began for the Fire Department on February 28, 1912. Albuquerque accepted delivery of it's first motorized pumping engine. This gasoline driven pumper was capable of pumping 600 GPM. It was manufactured by the American La France Company. Up to this date the Albuquerque Fire Department relied on water pressure from fire hydrants, hand-drawn hose wagons, and later horse-drawn hose wagons to deliver it's water supplies for firefighting. There are no records showing that Albuquerque ever used horse-drawn steamer pumps of hand fire pumps powered by firemen.

The Santa Fe Depot was involved in a fire on September 21, 1912. The fire lasted five hours, and was fought by both the Santa Fe Railroad Fire Department and the Albuquerque Fire Department. This fire caused \$5,000.00 in fire and smoke damage.

MOTORIZED FIRE TRUCKS VS. HORSES (A COST ANALYSIS)

Special Note: The following article was taken from the April, 1913 annual report submitted by Jacob Klein, Fire Chief to the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council. (Report Excerpts).

Gentlemen: I have the honor to herewith submit to your honorable body the annual report of the Fire Department for the fiscal year ending April 15, 1913. I deem it well taken to lay before Council the

This fire was caused by an overheated cooking range and required the combination services of the Santa Fe Railroad Fire Department and the Albuquerque Fire Department to bring it under control. The dollars fire loss was not reported in the daily log.

"While responding to a fire the Fire Wagon turned over. Fireman G. Bassett was thrown off and broke his collar bone." log entry dated November 3, 1906. Wrecks with fire apparatus was common in the old days and is still a danger to firefighters today.

The first pay increase for firemen was reported on December, 1906. The increases were as follows: Chief \$100 per month, Captain \$75 per month, Lieutenant \$70 per month, and Private \$66-\$70 per month. The logs show horses are still being used and are exercised twice daily, 7:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

An end of year entry in the December 1906 daily log shows the following personnel employed with the Fire Department: Chief A.C. Burtless, Captain, J. Klein, Lieutenant L. Howell, and two pipemen, G. Bassett, and W. Collister. A year later the December log showed the following personnel: Chief Burtless, Captain, J. Klein, Lieutenant G. Bassett, Driver, W. Collister, and pipeman E. Donahue. (Later Donahue joined the Police Department and was Bernalillo County Sheriff).

Part 3--Sources: Fire Department daily logs 1901 to 1907, research papers by: Dave Windle (5-30-78), And Marilyn Lobdell (12-1-78).

Part 4- Highland Fire Station # 2 goes in service: The Chief Gets a New Horse and Buggy

In June, 1908 the Fire Department continues expansion, modernizing and purchasing new equipment. An order was placed with Seagrave for a Combination Wagon and 1,000 feet of 2 1/2 inch fire hose from Eureka. The Wagon was delivered on September 17, 1908 along with a 50 gallon chemical truck. (It used Bicarbonate of Soda and Sulphuric Acid) equipped with 300 feet of fire hose.

There were two significant fires during the summer of 1908. On June 12 th a fire occurred at Continental Oil resulting in a second alarm fire and the loss was \$25,000. Then on July 13 th Another fire occurred at American Lumber Company. This fire alarm was unusual because the fire reportedly burned it's self out. According to a log entry, "The fire department never reached the fire scene owing to the wrong fire alarm box being pulled, causing irreparable delay.

During September, 1908 the Highland Station went into service with a crew of four men. It was called Fire Company # 2. An Assistant Chief's position was authorized at this time by the City Council and he served as a member of the crew and was in charge of the station. Station # 2 personnel were: Assistant Chief J. Klein, Captain G. Bassett, and Lieutenant E. Donahue. This month also saw delivery of a new team of horses, harness and a Seagrave Combination Hose-Chemical Wagon. The new Wagon went to Station # 1, and the old Wagon was sent to the Highland Station (Station # 2). This station was on Edith Street between Silver and Lead Avenues S.E.

At the home of Doctor and Mrs. Chamberlin, on October 14, 1908 a tragic fire occurred which was started by the ignition of gasoline. Their home was destroyed, resulting in the unfortunate death of Mrs. Chamberlin. It was a great loss to the community.

Mr. Frank T. Maestas & Family
24210 US Highway 285 S
Buena Vista, CO 81211

15 December 2012

TO:

Sam Trujillo, President
Bill Raupfer, Vice President
Fred Casias, Secretary
John Serino, Treasurer
Herman Bishop, Historian
AFDRA Membership

In memory of our departed brothers and sisters, who have died on their last alarm or from other causes, the Frank Maestas Family would like to present this Firefighter's Prayer plaque to the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirement Association.

It is also presented with much recognition and gratitude, of the AFDRA involvement in our departed brother's and sister's funerals. The membership and its leadership have made it possible for firefighters to have a most holy, memorable funeral.

You have made it possible for a fully dressed Honor Guard to be present to honor the firefighter, to have the firefighter ride their last alarm on a funeral fire truck, to toll their last alarm bells 4-5's rings at the cemetery or other appropriate site, to attend the services in large numbers and the all give condolences to those left behind, to attend a memorial meal after the services and to remember and honor the deceased firefighter.

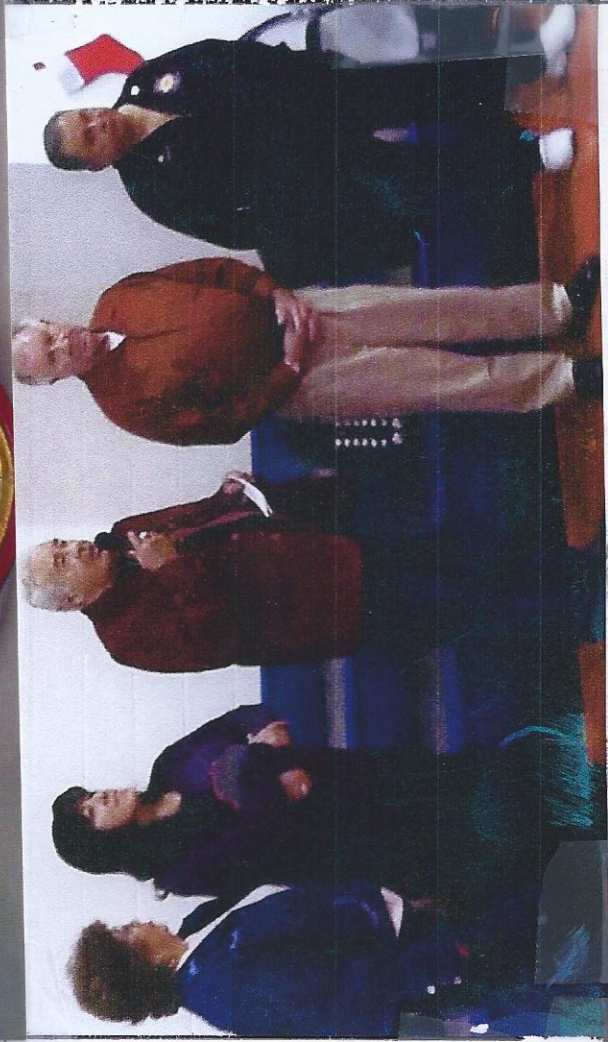
The Firefighter's Prayer on the plaque reads as follows:

*Whenever I am called to duty God
Wherever flames may rage
Give me strength to save some life whatever be it's age.
Help me to embrace the little child before it's too late
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate.
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.
And if according to my fate I am also to lose my life
Please bless with your protection my children and my wife.*

Amen

There is no other fraternity that is as closed knit as this brother/sister hood association. We recognize this and are proud to be associated with the AFDRA.

Gratefully,
Frank T. Maestas
The Frank T. Maestas Family



THE FRANK MAESTAS FAMILY PRESENTS A PLAQUE, "THE FIREMAN'S PRAYER," TO THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION (12-15-2012)

comparative estimate of up-keep between horse-drawn apparatus and the auto engine. The auto engine has now been in service thirteen and one half months. During this time the machine covered a total of 616.9 miles at a cost as follows:

\$84.64	Gasoline, 368 gallons @ .23 per gallon
\$35.70	Lubricating Oil, 60 gallons @ 59.5 per gallon
\$14.00	Charging Batteries
\$ 5.00	Readjusting Carburetor
\$ 1.50	Readjusting Carburetor
\$ 1.00	Vulcanizing Tire
\$.50	1- Can Tire Dough
\$142.34	Total Costs for Auto Engine

Five Horses, which this engine represents, will, during the same time, consume the following:

\$456.00	15.2 Tons Oats @ \$30.00 per ton
\$199.50	21.0 Tons Hay @ \$9.50 per ton
\$168.00	Horse Shoeing
\$ 50.75	Veterinary Service and Miscellaneous
\$874.25	Total Costs for Horses

\$874.25 Total Costs For Horses

\$142.34 Total Costs For Auto Engine

\$731.91 Auto Engine Savings Vs. Horses

A savings of the above amount, of \$731.91 is in favor of the Auto Engine. Governed as I am from the above stated facts, I would respectfully recommend that the entire department be converted to motor-driven apparatus.

Respectfully Submitted, Jacob Klein, Fire Chief

Part 4- Sources: Fire Department daily logs, 1908 to 1913. Research papers, Dave Windle (5-30-78), Marilyn Lobbell (12-1-78).

Part 5- The Fire Chief Gets a New Motor Car. Motorized Fire Apparatus Replace Fire Horses

On August 18, 1913, the City Council approved funding to purchase the first automobile for the Fire Chief. Imagine what a quick response this motorized Fire Chief's car could make to a fire compared to the horse-drawn Chief's buggy only three years previous.

Early the following year on March 1, 1914 the Santa Fe railroad had yet another serious fire and was labeled the biggest fire of the year. Both the City and Railroad fire departments jointly made their best efforts to quench this hot, smoky, damaging fire. This loss was huge, estimated at over \$27,000 in fire losses. This fire was reported to have lasted over five hours.

As fire calls increased along with the growth of the City, the need for a second motorized pumping engine was realized. On September 14, 1914 the American La France Company delivered a new

pumper truck to Fire Station #1. The 1912 fire engine was sent to the Highland Fire Station # 2. As the City did not have a reserve pumper as a back-up should one of the first line fire engines break down, arrangements were made with Trimble's Livery Stables to furnish a team of spare horses if either truck was out of service for some reason. The horses were hitched to one of the old horse wagons and placed into service.

The last regular fire call by Albuquerque's fire horses was made on October 18, 1914. On October 19, 1914 the second motorized pumping engine was placed in service and the 1912 engine was sent to the Highland station. Note: Although horses were officially replaced by motorized units, horses were used as back-up's until September 18, 1918, according to Fire Department ledgers.

The new motorized pumping fire engines were quite impressive. On October 2, 1914 the new truck was tested at 1st Street and Mountain Road. Later that month the new truck made a run and pumped for movie pictures. Finally that month the City Council formerly accepted the new truck.

Also on February 14, 1914 the fire department records show two fire stations. The Highland Station # 2 and station # 1 downtown. On this date the Fire Department obtained new quarters when Station # 1 was moved into the City Hall building.

The Fire Department ledger shows Jacob Klein as Fire Chief during 1915. An excerpt from the April 19, 1915 annual report from the Fire Chief to the Mayor and City Council states as follows:

Gentlemen: I submit to your honorable body the annual report of the Fire Department for the fiscal year ending April 15, 1915. During the year the department has been entirely motorized. The second Street Fire Department has moved to modern quarters and a hose tower has been erected at each station which should greatly increase the life of the fire horse, a factor worthy of note.

Speaking of abolishing horses, I wish to call your attention to the low expenditures of maintenance for the motorized fire trucks. During the year \$230.50 was paid out for gasoline, lubricating oil, and \$486.35 for new tires for the Highland engine. These tires, however, were first required after three years service.

Eleven horses, five horses to each engine, one horse replacing the Chief's car, would, during that time require at least \$20.00 per month per horse for feed, or \$2,640.00 for eleven horses per year. Horse shoeing \$2.80 per month or \$369.60 for eleven horses per year, or a grand total of \$3,009.60 per year which leaves a balance of \$2,616.98 in favor of motor engines per year. I purposely did not mention harness repair and veterinary service, for I likewise omitted minor repairs for the trucks.

I respectfully recommend the purchase of a motor-driven aerial truck. At present the department is entirely powerless should a human life be endangered in the upper floors of one of our leading buildings. Note: A few years later when Fred Russell was Fire Chief, the City purchased a motor driven, 75 foot aerial ladder. It was delivered in 1922.

December Monthly Meeting - At 7:14 P.M. on December 12, 2012 the 148 th monthly meeting was called to order by Vice President Bill Raupfer at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo was off sick. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Morris Gutierrez. A moment of silence was held for our deceased members. A special prayer was given in memory of our two brothers who passed away recently, Jose Suarez and Eloy Mascarenas.

Bill Raupfer welcomed fellow retirees Dennis Louder and Jimmy Candelaria as we had not seen them for a while. There were no guests and no guest speakers. No President's report was given due to the absence of Sam Trujillo.

The Secretary's report was read by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Ramon Maldonado and was seconded by Jimmy Candaleria. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was given by John Serino. He requested donations to fund our annual Christmas party on December 15 th. John will also have Association T-Shirts, caps, and patches for sale at the party. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eddie Torres and was seconded by Eddie Abieta. The motion passed.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. On December 11, 2012 Members of the Retiree's Association addressed the Fire Cadets at the Fire Academy. Making presentations was Sam Trujillo, Bill Raupfer, Fred Casias, John Serino, and Herman Bishop. Herman gave a talk about the history of AFD. At the December retiree's meeting he gave a short presentation on AFD History as well.

Fred Casias reported that we received nice letters of appreciation from Lanny Doughty's daughter, Adele Doughty and Jose Suarez' wife Veronica Suarez thanking members of the retiree's association for the beautiful tribute paid to their loved ones and the firefighter's funeral given to them.

Eddie Torres and Ray Flores invited every one to attend the annual Christmas party on December 15, 2012. They reminded us to bring canned goods and non-perishable food items for those less fortunate than us this Christmas season. The party will be held in downtown Bernalillo, N.M. at the Community Center adjacent to Rotary Park. Santa Clause will be visiting with the children.

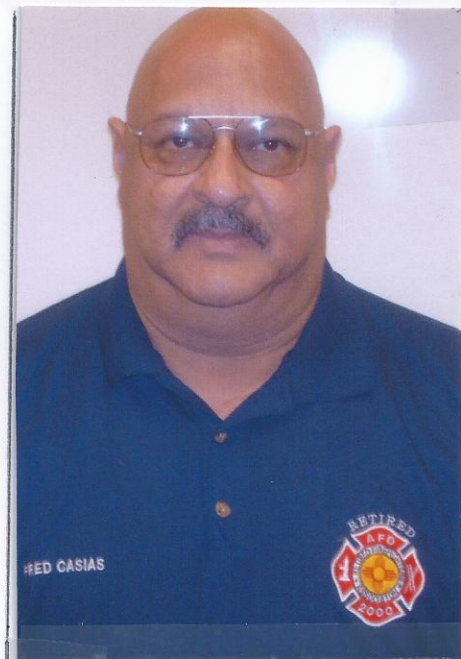
The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The December meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

AFD Fire Cadets Graduate - On December 14, 2012 ceremonies were held at the Kimo Theater downtown for the 82 nd Cadet Class. Nineteen Fire Cadets Graduated they were: Erin Brandow, Bryan Breeswine, Victor C De Baca, Jeffrey Dallman, Eric De La torre, Tuan Doan, Jonah Donnarumma, Hayden Fischer, Cody Harper, Jonathon, Harris, Benito Jinzo, Samuel Jones, Lane McConnell-Hand, Roderick Rennison, Fredrick Rivera, Eric Valdez, Zephyr Valverde, Zachary Webb, Joseph Zamora. Chief James Breen addressed the Cadets and Commander Kerry Hortor was the Key Note Speaker.

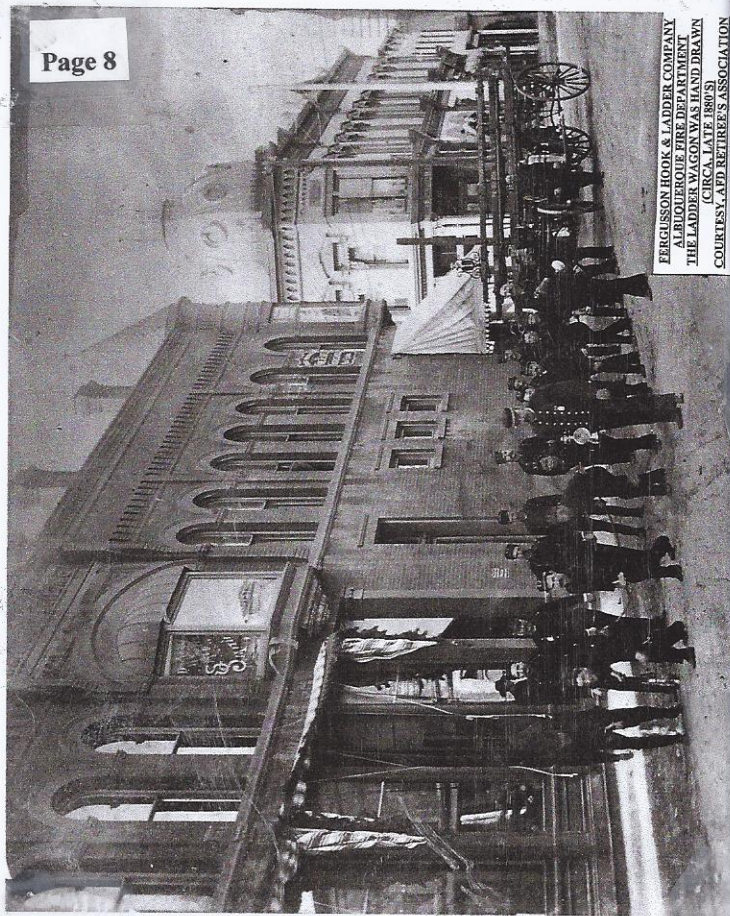
At the ceremonies fellow retiree Fred Casias was honored when Deputy Chief David Downey presented him with the prestigious "Fire Service Recognition," Award. Fred was honored for his 31 years service with the Albuquerque Fire Department and his continuous work with the Fire Service.

During the past Four years Fred has served as Secretary for the AFD Retiree's Association. He is a fire science instructor at (CNM) Central New Mexico Community College where he teaches hydraulics, water supplies, and handling hazardous materials for firefighters. Fred is an Adjunct Instructor for the New Mexico State Firefighter's Training Academy in Socorro, New Mexico. This past year he played a key role as an instructor by his active involvement in the 2012 Fire and EMS Exposition.

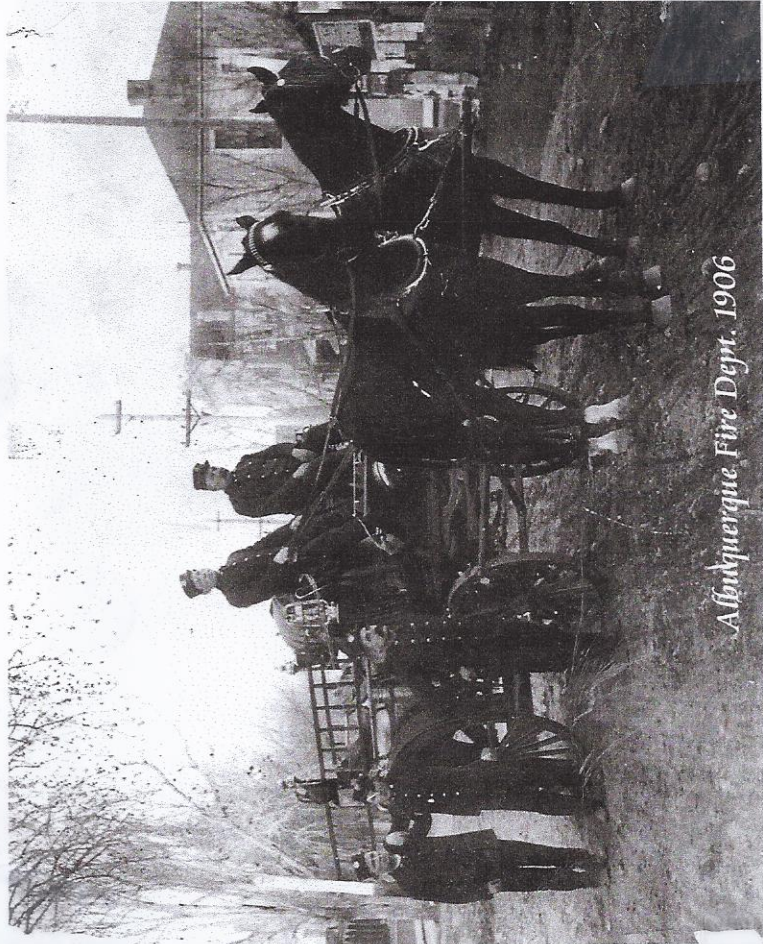
Fred lends his computer expertise to retired members. As a community leader he is an excellent role model for young firefighters to emulate.



FRED CASIAS



FERGUSSON HOOK & LADDER COMPANY
ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE LADDER WAGON WAS HAND DRAWN
BY THE COMPANY
COURTESY ALBUQUERQUE RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION



Albuquerque Fire Dept. 1906

I would respectfully recommend better hours and an annual vacation of reasonable time and with pay for the firemen. Respectfully Submitted: Jacob Klein, Fire Chief.

Mr. Cohen resigns as Chairman of the Fire Committee on July 19, 1915. The Fire Committee represented the interests of the Fire Department and made recommendations to the City Council. The Chief usually worked jointly with the committee on budgets and other improvements.

On December 6, 1915 Fire Chief Jacob Klein was removed from office by the Mayor and City Council due to some type of disagreement. He had served five years as Chief from 1910 to 1915. He was replaced by A.C. Burtless. Mr. Burtless had previously served a six year term as Chief from 1904 to 1910.

Early in the year on January, 1916, J.W. Burnett was appointed to Assistant Fire Chief and H.P. Dennis was appointed to the rank of Captain. Chief A.C. Burtless term lasted little more than a year. At the April 17, 1916 meeting of the new Mayor and City Council, A.C. Burtless was discharged from his duties as Fire Chief and was replaced by J.W. Burnett. At this time the following people were shown on the official Fire Department roster: William Collister, Assistant Chief, H. Fredericks, Captain, H. Dennis, Lieutenant, Fred Renfro, Lieutenant, Ray Serna, and Tom Collister.

Turmoil continues at the helm of the Fire Department in 1917. In March, 1917 Fred Russell is appointed Fire Chief, a position he would hold for several years. He replaced J.W. Burnett who had served approximately one year as Fire Chief. (Attempts to Unionize by firemen caused the turmoil).

By May of 1916 benefits for firemen were improved. They were given every 6 th day off. Formerly they only had every 8 th day off. Their duties included more than firefighting, training, and equipment upkeep. Additional duties required firemen flush City sewers periodically.

Continental Oil Company went up in smoke on July 22, 1917. This was a pretty tough fire which taxed the strength and stamina of the firemen. Damage was estimated at \$25,000 dollars.

During September, 1917, two important events occurred. The firemen got a pay raise, and an election was held to pass a new City Charter. The electorate voted to pass a new City Charter by a majority of 156 votes. A short time later on November 6, 1917 New Mexico citizens voted to become a dry State by a majority vote of 20,000. Bernalillo County voted to go dry by a vote of 490 in the majority.

As 1917 ends the following members are shown on the Fire Department roster: Fred M. Russell, Chief, H. Fredricks, O. McMullen, Chic Anderson, J.W. Ryan, D. Grande, William Collister, Fred Renfro, O. Larson, Ed Donahue, and Ray Serna.

Sources: Fire Department ledgers, 1913 to 1917, Fire Department Annual reports: 1913, 1915, Research papers: Dave Windle, (5-30-1978) Marilyn Lobdell (12-1-1978).

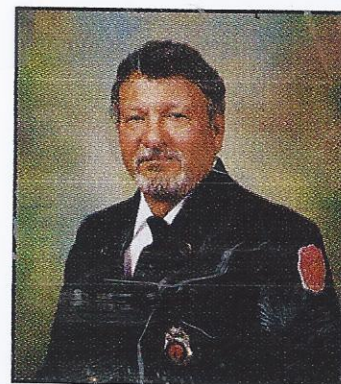
Special Note: At the end of this era Fred Russell is Fire Chief on and off through the early 1920's. Finally in the early 1920's Fred Russell is appointed Fire Chief permanently (exact dates unknown). He serves as Fire Chief until his death in 1931. Art Westerfeld becomes Chief (1931-1962).

DEATH OF JOSE S. SUAREZ

(By Herman R. Bishop)

Regretfully we report the death of our fellow retiree, brother and friend, Jose S. Suarez on Sunday November 25, 2012. Jose was age 73 and had suffered a long term illness. When the retiree's association was formed in June, 2000, he became a faithful and active member for many years until his illness prevented him from attending association functions and monthly meetings.

He was born in San Benito, Texas and was raised in Minatare, Nebraska. As a young man he joined the United States Air Force and after completion of his military service he chose Albuquerque as his home. In March, 1964 Joe joined AFD and after 22 years service to his community and the Fire Department he retired with the rank of Lieutenant during December, 1986.

**JOSE S. SUAREZ**

Joe was an outstanding firefighter and was well liked and respected by his supervisors and fellow firefighters alike. He was a good role model and mentor for the young firefighters that he trained and supervised. His son Joe Suarez is an active duty firefighter with the Albuquerque Fire Department and is proud to follow in the footsteps of his father. Our most sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the entire Suarez family.

DEATH OF ELOY MASCARENAS

(By Herman R. Bishop)

Eloy Mascarenas "Masky," age 80 passed away after suffering a long term illness. He was a United States Army Veteran and served during the Korean war. After completion of his military service he joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in November, 1955. He served through the ranks of Firefighter, Driver and Lieutenant. After serving 29 years service with his community and the Fire Department he retired in January, 1984 at the rank of Lieutenant. When he joined AFD Art Westerfeld was the Fire Chief and pay for beginning firefighters was \$ 285.00 per month. There was only 11 fire stations and about 250 firemen. There was no official Fire Academy and training was mostly on the job experience. The first week or two on the job new firefighters wore heavy work clothes and shoes until their fire turnout gear and boots were ordered.

Eloy spent most of his career working at fire stations on the West side of town mainly at Station # 1 as a Driver and Lieutenant. He spent the last few years of his career as a Lieutenant at fire station # 10 on Rio Grande Blvd. As a Driver he taught pump operations and was a good mentor and role model for young firefighters. As a Lieutenant he was well respected by supervisors and coworkers alike for his job knowledge, fairness and even temperament. He was quick to smile and greeted everyone with courtesy and a pleasant demeanor.

**ELOY A MASCARENAS**

He was active in Saint Martins Catholic Church and was part of the building committee which was successful in the building and completion of the new church. He was always proud of the work he did during the church construction. He was an active member of the retiree's association for many years until his health declined and he was no longer able to attend the association functions and meetings. Our most sincere condolences and sympathies go out to the entire Mascarenas family.