

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2013

#- 3-2013

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HERMAN R. BISHOP, EDITOR



L-R, Jose Salas, Jim Tuma, Sam Trujillo

NOTICE! FUND DRIVE

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP. DUE TO RECENT DAILY OPERATING EXPENSES IN ADDITION TO PUBLISHING THE QUARTLY NEWSLETTER, OUR TREASURY IS PRACTICALLY DEPLETED OF FUNDS TO OPERATE

AS WE ARE STRUGGLING TO PUBLISH THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PUBLISH THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE DONATIONS SOON.

PLEASE ASSIST US BY SENDING YOUR DONATIONS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOUR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF OUR GREAT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION.

SEND TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO: AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION C/O JOHN SERINO, 1504 HERMOSA SE, ALB. NM. 87108

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AFD RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ANNUAL PICNIC/REUNION

ON SATURDAY 8-24-2013 MEMBERS OF THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION HELD THEIR ANNUAL PICNIC/REUNION AT ROTARY PARK, DOWNTOWN, BERNALILLO, NEW MEXICO. THE EVENT WAS WELL ATTENDED AND THERE WAS LOTS OF GOOD FOOD. WE DARE SAY, NO ONE WENT AWAY HUNGRY. IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE OUR FAMILY MEMBERS TO ATTEND AS WELL. WHAT A GREAT DAY TO REMINISS AND RE-LIVE THE OLD WAR STORIES THAT GET BIGGER AND BETTER EACH TIME THEY ARE TOLD.

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



Sam Trujillo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By: Sam Trujillo

My message to you this quarter has to do with our financial status. As you know, we have operated strictly on your financial donations for the past thirteen years since we started the AFD Retiree's Association. We are at a very crucial point regarding operational costs. Our main expense has been the printing/ mailing costs associated with the quarterly newsletter that we have published since 2000. The cost of printing the newsletter has doubled since we started. We used to pay less than \$500 to print and mail the newsletter and now we pay close to \$900. This is partially due to the fact that we have more retiree's on the mailing list and our printing costs have increased. In the mean time our donations have remained the same over the years. We have had a couple of fund drives in the past years with much success. Other than the newsletter we have incidental office supplies and minimal expenses. Over the years we have been able to purchase table, chairs, a barbeque grill and a trailer to transport this equipment. This has eliminated the renting or borrowing of these items for our annual Christmas Party and summer picnic. We have these items that are available to be loaned to our members.

I am asking you to please lend support to **your** association and help us with a regular donation. Our options may include the current quarterly newsletter being sent semi-annually, annually or worse case completely eliminated. We get feed back that our members enjoy receiving the quarterly newsletter so I'm hoping we get regular donations that will allow us to continue publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis.

I also want to remind you to keep me informed (899-1500) on any address / telephone number changes. This includes e-mail address changes. Our e-mail network has grown extensively and this allows us to communicate with our members on a daily basis if needed. Thank you for your support !

ALBUQUERQUE'S LATEST APPARATUS



Albuquerque L-17, 2013 Seagrave (2013)

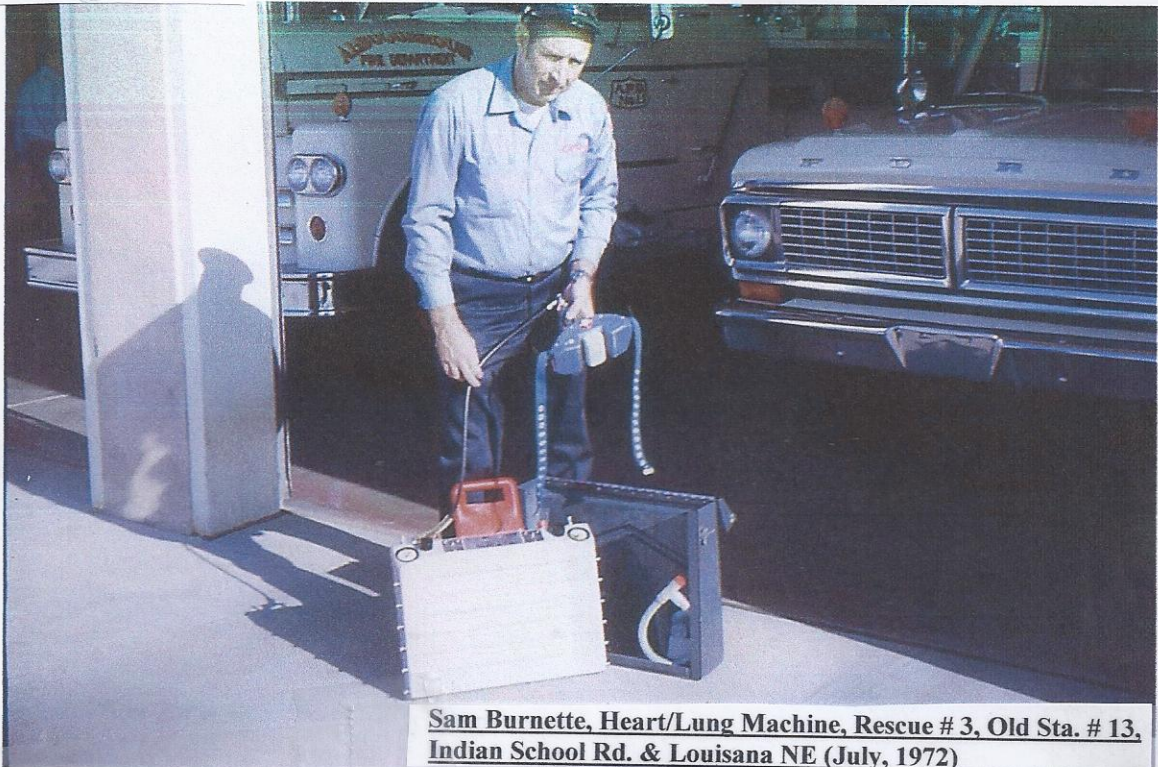
PHOTO BY: Steve Lindquest

Rescue 9



Albuquerque Rescue-3 (2013)

PHOTO BY: Steve Lindquest



Sam Burnette, Heart/Lung Machine, Rescue # 3, Old Sta. # 13, Indian School Rd. & Louisiana NE (July, 1972)

PHOTOS BY: DAVE WINDLE



Old Fire Station # 13, Louisiana & Indian School Rd. NE (July 1972)



Albuquerque E-9, 2013 Seagrave (2013) PHOTO BY: Steve Lindquest

Engine 317



E-317, Albuquerque Brush Truck (2013) Photo By: Steve Lindquest

August Monthly Meeting- At 7:10 P.M on August 14, 2013 the 156 th monthly meeting was called to order by President Sam Trujillo. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. After roll call Sam introduced our guests, Maria and Alisa, granddaughters of Raymond Carillo. Mark Chavez' nephew Austin was also our guest. Sam welcomed recent retirees Kerry Horton and Tim Marshall. Welcome guys, please come back.

Retirees Ross Aranda and Henry Chavez invited everyone to attend the rally, "Pete Dinelli for Mayor," September 8th, on north Fourth Street N.W. Mr. Dinelli is a friend of the firefighters and he is asking our support in the Mayor's race.

Sam reminded everyone of the annual picnic/reunion on Saturday August 24, 2013 which will be held in downtown Bernalillo, New Mexico at Rotary Park. He thanked Eddie Torres and Ray Flores for chairing the picnic committee to ensure it's success. Sam worked with the Union representatives in preparing the traditional firefighter axes which will be presented to the 2012/2013 retirees at the picnic.

Secretary Fred Casias gave the minutes of the July, 2013 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Eppie Ortega and was seconded by Ralph Sedillo. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. As our Treasury is almost depleted of funds it will be difficult to publish our quarterly newsletters. He asked our members to sign a pledge to give monthly donations on an annual basis. Hopefully our members will respond. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Fred Teupell and was seconded by Eddie Torres. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop thanked our friend Frank Maestas for donating numerous door prizes for the annual picnic. Eddie Abeita and Ralph Sedillo are coordinating tickets for the door prizes. See Eddie or Ralph for tickets. Herman gave a report on some old department log books (1939-1949) provided by Commander Scott Esposito and retiree Charles Alderette. The September 1939 log Reported 44 firemen and three fire stations. A full report will be made on the information found in these logs in a future newsletter.

Later this month Chaplain Mark Chavez and fellow retirees will be making a trip to Prescott, Arizona to present a special handmade quilt to the families of the fallen firefighters who died in the tragic forest fire near Prescott recently.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Chris Garcia and the August meeting adjourned @ 8:55 PM.

AFD RETIREES' ASSOCIATION PLEDGE FORM

In an effort to provide a predictable funding program for our Association to cover it's operating costs, I'm pledging the following monthly donation.

\$20 __ \$30 __ \$40 __ other ____

SEND TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO: AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
C/O JOHN SERINO, 1504 HERMOSA SE, ALB. NM. 87108

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

FORM PREPARED BY: LOUIS C. TRUJILLO

E-Mail _____

June Monthly Meeting - On June 12-2013, @ 7:10 PM the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo called the 154th monthly meeting to order and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer and a moment of silence was held for our deceased members. After roll call Sam Trujillo introduced Eric our guest, the grandson of Leroy Barboa. Sam introduced and welcomed fellow retiree Chris Garcia who attended his first meeting with us. Chris is also a volunteer Chaplain and serves with fellow Chaplain Mark Chavez.

Our guest speaker was Robert Jaramillo, fellow retiree who spoke to us about the recruiting drive he is conducting for the American Legion, post # 69. Nationwide there are 2.4 million members. To be an eligible member, one should have served at least one day during a war-time era. The American Legion was formed in 1919 and promotes Veterans Rights. They were instrumental in getting the U.S. Congress to pass the G.I. Bill of Rights which was signed by the President. Their main purpose is to promote: National Defense, Veterans Rights, Youth Development, Patriotism, and Community Service. If you would like to join please call Robert @ 459-1306. Membership dues are \$ 33.00 annually.

Sam Trujillo reported that the retirees have been invited to address the Fire Cadet Class on June 25, 2013. Retirees are invited to the Cadet Graduation on Friday June 28, 2013 at the Kimo Theater, downtown. Sam advised that the election for Vice President, Treasurer, and Historian is due to be held. As there were no opposing candidates for these positions L.C. Trujillo made a motion that Bill Raupfer, Vice President, John Serino, Treasurer, and Herman Bishop, Historian be voted in for those positions by acclamation. A second was made by Ray Flores. The motion carried. The officers will be sworn in at the July 10, 2013 monthly meeting.

Fred Casias, Secretary, read the minutes from the May 8, 2013 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Eddie Torres and was seconded by Leroy Barboa. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurers report for May, 2013. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Joe Costales and seconded by Eppie Ortega. The motion passed.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He reported that the Bernalillo County Retired Firefighter's Association was formed on May 15, 2013. Officers are as follows: President, Ron Martinez, Vice President, Tim Lett, Secretary, G.K. Massara, and Treasurer, Denny Sanchez. Their monthly meetings will be held on the third Wednesday, @ 7:00 PM, Firefighter' Union Hall, Local, 244, 4100 Edith NE.

The Albuquerque Public Library Association, Edith & Central Avenue NE has invited AFD Retirees to attend the 2013/2014 lecture series every 2nd Saturday, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Botts Hall. The lecture topics are about the forming of Albuquerque and the various neighborhoods from 1540 to the early 1960's Nuclear Age to present. Herman is scheduled on the lecture series on July 12, 2014, "An Early History of the Albuquerque Fire Department."

Herman recently spoke to retiree Arthur Pitsford and his wife Dorothy who travel around the country in their RV home. Currently they are living in a mobile home park near Chandler, Arizona. Art said to give all his old fire buddies his best regards.

Fred Casias made a presentation regarding the new photo I.D. card system we recently purchased and showed off our new public address system that we purchased as well. Now we can make our own Photo I.D. cards and the public address system will be helpful at funerals and other public events conducted by our association. He was assisted by: Noel Baca, John Serino, and Pablo Garcia Jr.

Bill Raupfer reported that Commander Skip Tangenero is working with the Chief's office and the retiree's association to develop written guidelines on proper protocol for active duty and retired firefighters funerals and other firefighter ceremonial functions.

"THANKS TO EDDIE TORRES AND RAY FLORES FOR HEADING THE PICNIC/REUNION."

Sam commended active duty and retired firefighters, Mark Chavez, Tom Romero, Pablo Garcia Jr. Steve Lamoreux and Will Manus who recently returned from assisting in the recovery efforts for victims of the Moore, Oklahoma Toranado Disaster. Mark Chavez led their efforts through the "Random Acts of Kindness," program. A "BIG THANKS," goes out to all of you.

Results of the June raffle: Flash Light, Noel Baca, Table Lamp, Joe Martinez, Carving Knife, Fred Casias. A "BIG THANKS," to Eddie Abieta and Ralph Sedillo who conducts the monthly raffles.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Chris Garcia. The meeting was adjourned @ 9:00 P.M.

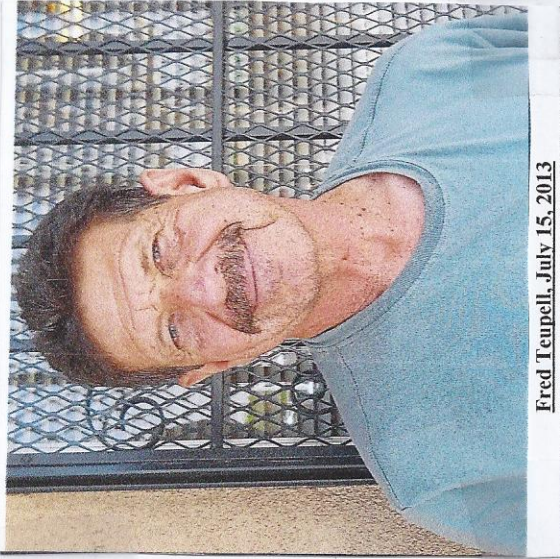
**LIFE AND TIMES OF
FRED TEUPELL**
(By Eddie Abeita)

July 15, 2013

**"After the Sandia Hotel Fire
I was uncertain if I would
lose my arm or leg."**

Fred Teupell.

Fred started his firefighting career in March of 1972 under the training division staff of Chief Joe Maldonado and Captain Joe Gonzales. Fred said, "That's where I met my first firefighter Friends in training and decades Later we are still together." He Smiles and said, "just think, no Other career is like ours, it's Great to see the troops at our Retiree's meetings and they are Unforgettable."



Fred Teupell, July 15, 2013

When asked about his firefighting experience he said: I remember my very first fire it happened on my first shift a second alarm at a cabinet shop on Candelaria. Gerald Fleming and I were pipemen it was a hot smoky fire a real snot hanger. The fire got so hot and smoke so bad Gerald and I ran out of the building escaping it. Chief Ray Kuhn stopped us and yelled out "why you guys running?" Gerald responded "because we can't fly!" At the time his answer made sense to me

The next year we had the Sandia Hotel fire another multiple alarm fire it was an abandon building. I guess the building should have been torn down years before but there it stood and homeless slept inside. With the combination of the building age, fire, hose lines and master streams the building collapsed. The bad thing was when the walls came down I ended up under one.

What I understand the boys worked frantic in their efforts to dig me out. During the rescue I could hear them yelling at me while they were rescuing me. I had broken bones from being crushed and I hurt like hell. I was transported by our rescue to Presbyterian Hospital's Emergency Room(ER). In the ER I couldn't get an aspirin the nurse repeatedly said no medication until the doctor sees you....

Fire Chief Kuhn arrived at the ER and asked how I was doing I said I need something for pain I hurt like hell....the ER nurse repeated nothing until the doctor sees you. Well Chief Kuhn hit the roof got in the face of the ER staff and said, "You give him something for pain NOW!" They immediately started with shots, which helped a lot (thanks chief).

Recovery was another story it was uncertain if I would lose my arm or leg so return to work was not even considered at that time. Well I said no to what the doctors wanted to cut off, because the fire service was my family and I had to go back. I fought hard all the way through rehab and light duty....and made it back....so here I am. That's why I feel the retirees meetings are therapy for me just thankful being with all my brothers... so I am happy-to be here.

Fred said, some funny things that I've seen in my career and maybe I was part of cannot be put into print. No one was ever safe from practical jokes or getting a nickname sometimes you forget a person real name but always remember their nickname.

Some humor Fred remembered and wanted to share. While assigned to Engine 7 our driver was nicknamed "Look-Alive", because he would fall asleep anywhere....One day neighborhood kids came by for firebees, cokes or whatever and saw Look Alive on the couch. One of the little boys said "I think he's dead!" Well he looked kind of like that at times.....

Another incident Fred remembers was a shift at Engine 6 when Juanito Vigil laid his watch on the kitchen table and said look it stopped working can you fix it? Freddie Mora said Juan got and get the fool box and I will fix it for you...so Juan did. Freddie took out the ball pin hammer and smacked the watch....pieces flew all over the table....and Freddie said it's fixed! If you knew the two, you would say that's like them.

Working in the fire stations the noon meal was the highlight of the day, Fred said I seen a lot of good cooks with their own cooking styles and recipes. I remember at station four (4) Juan Sandoval was the cook and made a pot of green Chile stew. Boy what he put in there was HOT like fire, so hot it was hard to eat.....Tom Baca with sweat all over his face got his bowl and threw it in the trashcan and said, anyone who can eat this and suffer must be crazy!

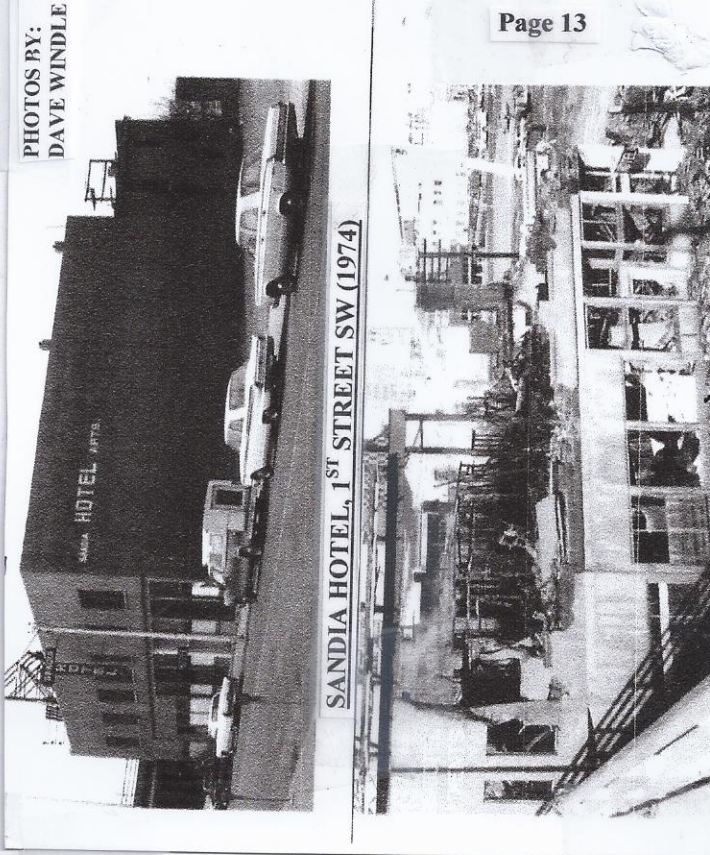
Building inspections could be an interesting field function. I remember one incident with Capt. Jerry Hinton we were going to inspect a bank. The captain was dressed in his white shirt, white cap and clip board in hand. He looked real professional until he walked directly into the glass door at the bank....and bounced off it.....clip board, eye glasses and his hat flew in different directions. The captain said "dam that was the door.....right? The humor about this is..... if you can remember Jerry's voice.

Fred was asked how hard it was to adjust to retirement and what his hobbies are. He said it took me a whole 10 seconds to adjust to retirement, I was ready. After retirement I thought it would be neat to try another career such as working with the Border Patrol or other agencies involved with drug enforcement. Well that did not happen so next best thing is going to our retirees meetings.

I did like deer hunting but that all changed with one hunt in Corona NM Fred said. While out in the forest I heard a whiz over my head, it was a bullet. I saw hunters across the canyon so I yelled and started waving my arms at them....then another shot was fired it hit near my feet....I took off running and still I heard more shots ringing out over my head. I ran into someone's camp, it turned out to be Eugene Baldonado's camp. I know he still remembers my physical and mental state they settled me down. After my escape from the mountains I shared the story with the troops back in the fire station.....however the immediate response was, "they must have thought you were a "mule deer" with them ears. That's why I took up fishing just careful with the sharp hooks.

Fred said, the thing about my ears came along time ago and included my brother Albert he was called the 737 and I was the 707. I guess the size of the plane's wings....or something like that.

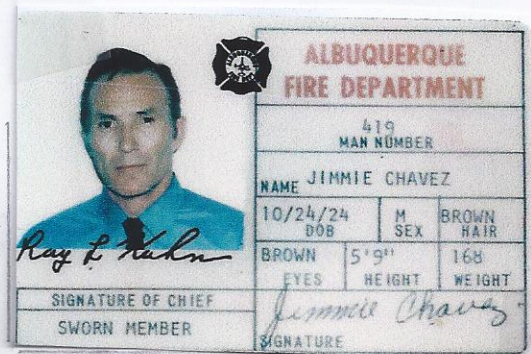
I love to golf when I have time and it's been safe so far.....however the most important thing is, I love helping family, being around friends and helping my neighbors. It's also good to meet other retirees and friends at Barrales Coffee Shop.



**PHOTOS BY:
DAVE WINDLE**

RETIRED LIEUTENANT JIMMY CHAVEZ DIES

On June 14, 2013 retired Lieutenant Jimmy Chavez age 88, passed away after a long term illness. He joined AFD on July 9, 1951 and retired on July 1, 1983 after serving 32 years on the department. He was hired by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld because the department was expanding. Station # 6 and Station # 7 had just opened in May, 1951. There were less than 200 firefighters on AFD at that time and there was no fire academy, no fire prevention bureau or an arson unit. Although the firemen ran rescue calls on the pumpers and chief's cars, there were no EMT/ Paramedics or even rescue squads. He was promoted to driver during August, 1956 and promoted to Lieutenant in October, 1959. He worked on pumpers, aerial ladders, the supply room, and was active in the annual testing of the fire hoses. Jimmy was an easy going fellow and was well liked by his fellow firemen and supervisors alike. He was usually in on the fire house pranks but his buddies liked to pull pranks on him as well which he accepted graciously. He spent the last few years of his career at fire station # 1 and was a good mentor to the young firefighters coming into the department. Losing Jimmy along with many of his fellow firefighters who have recently passed reminds us of the passing of an important era of our fire department. Jimmy and his co-workers laid the groundwork and built the department to what it is today. Our most sincere condolences and sympathies go to the entire Chavez family.



MARK J. CHAVEZ

On June 29, 2013 retired Captain Mark J. Chavez was presented the Fire Service Recognition award by Deputy Chief David Downey at ceremonies held During the 83rd Fire Cadet Graduation at the Kimo Theater downtown. Mark joined AFD on July 11, 1983 and retired on December 31, 2006 after serving 23 years with the Department. He was Nominated for this award by Sam Trujillo, President of the AFD Retiree's Association. Sam said, "Mark is Deserving of this award for the following reasons:" He is currently an active Chaplain for AFD and the Retiree's Association. He is very involved in the activities that the AFD Retiree's Association is engaged in. On a regular basis Mark visits sick Firefighters and lends spiritual support where needed.

Mark is involved with "Firefighters Random Acts," And has helped countless families in need both locally And in other communities. He has responded to several Recent disasters including the California Wild Fires, Various hurricanes including post Katrina where he led A group of Firefighters and assisted in rebuilding Fire Stations in New Orleans. Recently he led a group of Retired Firefighters and active duty Firefighters to assist the community of Moore, Oklahoma following the devastating Toronados there. He is a talented artist that specializes in chain saw wood sculptures. Some of his beautiful sculptures are on display on the river Bosque at Coors and Montano here in Albuquerque. He has been married 26 years and has three children.



MARK J. CHAVEZ (6-28-2013)

July Monthly Meeting - The July 10, 2013 monthly meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mark Chavez gave the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed in honor of our deceased members.

After roll call President Sam Trujillo recognized recent retiree Marvin Gouch who addressed the members. Welcome to the retiree roster Marvin. He also welcomed guests Mrs. Mark Chavez, and their nephew Austin, along with Ray Carrillo's daughter, Tina. Mark gave a talk about his trip to Prescott, Arizona to lend support and spiritual guidance to friends and families of the 19 deceased firefighters who lost their lives at the Yarnell, Arizona wildfire on June 30, 2013.

In his President's report Sam Trujillo summarized the June 9, 2013 memorial held on July 9, 2013 in honor of the 19 Prescott, Arizona firefighters who died while fighting the Yarnell, Arizona wildfires. The memorial was an organized effort by local Albuquerque Area firefighters, both active duty and retired firefighters, of the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County firefighters. Sam commended the firefighters who attended along with their friends and families.

Sam recognized Eddie Abieta and Ralph Sedillo for the fine job they are doing by conducting the monthly raffle for our association. Because Eddie Abieta has taken an active role in association activities since his retirement Sam appointed him to the Advisory Board. Welcome aboard Eddie.

Fred Casias read the minutes from the June, monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Eddie Torres and was seconded by Eddie Abieta. The motion passed. Treasurer John Serino Summarized the June report. After paying the costs of the June quarterly news letter and the purchase of a new Public Address System and a new I.D. card machine our funds are getting low. John has requested members to send donations to fund our Treasury. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop and Sam Trujillo gave an overview regarding the formation of the EMT/Paramedic program as it is today. The fire department was running rescue calls on pumpers and Chief's cars during the 1920's and 1930's, 1940's, 1950's. The first Rescue Squad was established by Chief Art Westerfeld in 1957. By 1974 we had three rescue squads and then the first Paramedic class was conducted at the University of New Mexico Medical School. In 1977 District Chief R.D. Allyn was appointed as the first Paramedic Director. We plan to write a brief history of the EMT/Paramedic program in the future.

Recently we received a nice letter of support from retiree Bob Knevitt and his wife Honey who live in Moriarity, NM. We also spoke to Art Pitsford and his wife Dorothy who are living in their RV near Chandler, Arizona. Great hearing from you folks. Please keep in touch. Our sincere condolences go out to the Toby Pino family who lost his wife Lydia recently and to Victor Escarcida who recently lost his wife. Best wishes go to those members on the sick roster, Rudy Sanchez, Bart Vallejos, Jerry Barboa, Sid Garcia, and Eviristo Marquez.

We are looking forward to our annual picnic/reunion which will be held in downtown Bernalillo, NM On Saturday August 24, 2013. Many thanks to our Colorado friend, Frank Maestas, former AFD firefighter, Paramedic Lieutenant, who donated numerous door prizes for the picnic. Eddie Abieta and Ralph Sedillo held a drawing for door prizes at the July meeting. Winners: Carving knife, Fred Teupell, Noel Baca, fire truck picture frame.

Juan Sandoval led the closing prayer at the July meeting. Meeting adjourned, 8:25 PM.

CAPTAIN GEORGE M. CUNDIFF

(Written By: Barbara Cundiff Price & Matthew Price, June, 2013)

My family research has brought me to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Where, thanks to several newspapers published during the late 1880's and 1890's, I was able to collect quite a bit of information about my great grandfather.

I was very fortunate that my great grandfather was very popular with the press, as one news article states in 1894 "George Cundiff is truly the reporter's friend. Besides being a veritable walking encyclopedia, George always has a lot of fresh and interesting news notes about the movements of people and happenings of unusual nature."

George Milton Cundiff was born Jan 12, 1866 in Carrollton, Carroll County, Mo. A news article celebrating his birthday in 1893 describes his birth as "Away back yonder, on the banks of a beautiful cat fish stream in one of the great corn-raising states he first saw the light of day. It was very cold that morning, so George states, but he woke up the old folks and they gave him succor..." He was the oldest child of three children born to George W and Julia Cundiff.

When I first discovered my great grandfather living in Albuquerque, it was from an 1883 directory of that city. He was listed as a bartender, at the Journal Hotel. Later in 1884 through 1886 he was living in Kansas City, Mo. In January, of 1886 he married Olga de Mojean a German comedy actress, and their first child Willard was born in 1887.

George came back to Albuquerque, in Sept of 1888. Being a "well known mixologist from Kansas City" he took a position at Hope's European. In early January 1889 George returned to Kansas City, where his wife and son were temporarily living to find his wife had given birth to a baby girl, his second child Georgia was born December, 1888.

In September 8, 1891 the Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company was organized. David Rudolph, Walter Boyd, John Arntzen, John Neeland, F. B. Harsch, William Hye, and John Jacoby of the Shenfield Hook and Ladder, were instrumental in organizing the Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company. W. T. McCreight was the foreman. Among those who joined in forming the new company in addition to Dave Rudolph and six others mentioned above were George M. Cundiff, Jake Gainsley (George's brother-in-law), Armijo, McCanna, Ernus, R.K.Gentry, and Carey. In 1895 there were a total of 25 men.

George served for many years with the Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company, as secretary, chairman, and in 1895 becoming foreman.

The second anniversary of the Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company was celebrated October 1893 at their hose house and included the dedication of their new truck. A news article telling of the celebration states that "Capt. George Cundiff acted as master of ceremonies and right well did he perform his duty."

During their fourth anniversary celebration in September 1895, George acting as foreman introduced H. B. Fergusson, who the company was named after, and was applauded when he took a moment to say "that his company was the best in the southwest, yes in the country."

SPECIAL NOTE: Recently we were contacted by Barbara Price who lives in Moro, Oregon inquiring about her great grand father, who served with Albuquerque's Fergusson Hook & Ladder Company during the 1890's. In the old handwritten ledgers we found Mr. Cundiff mentioned but little information about him. Thanks to Mrs. Price and her husband Matthew who researched her family history, they shared their story and photographs of Mr. Cundiff with us. A gracious note of thanks goes to Mr. & Mrs. Price for providing this important piece of the Albuquerque Fire Department history to us.

LOCAL FIRE SERVICE MEMORIAL FOR THE FALLEN ARIZONA FIREFIGHTERS

On July 9, 2013 Albuquerque Area Firefighters held a memorial service at Albuquerque Fire Station 7, at 57th Street and Central Avenue N.W. honoring the 19 Prescott, Arizona "Hotshot" firefighters who died while fighting the Yarnell, Arizona wildfire on June 30, 2013. Sam Trujillo, President of the AFD Retiree's Association was master of ceremonies. He introduced Albuquerque Fire Chief Jim Breen, Bernalillo County Fire Chief Frank Barka, and Gabe Blea, Local 244 IAFF Vice President. All three officials paid tribute and honored the 19 brave firefighters who gave their lives on that fateful day in the service of their community and their country.

Chief Breen and Chief Barka read the names of the deceased firefighters" Robert Caldwell, Travis Carter, Eric Marsh, Jesse Steed, Travis Turbyfill, Clayton Whitted, Andrew Ashcraft, Dustin Deford, Christopher MacKenzie, Grant McKee, Sean Misner, Scott Norris, Wade Parker, John Percin Anthony Rose, Joe Thurston, William Warneke, Kevin Woyjeck, Garret Zuppiger. Retiree Chaplain Pat McKinney read a prayer in memory of the deceased firefighters. The AFD Retiree Honor Guard performed a ceremony, "Ringing The Four Fives. "The memorial was well attended by both active duty and retired members of the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Fire Departments along with their families.



Bernalillo County Ladder Truck



AFD Retiree's Honor Guard, "Ringing The Four-Fives." (7-9-2013)

FOUR HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS DIED WHILE RESPONDING TO 5- ALARM FIRE

We pay tribute and remember the four Houston firefighters who died Friday May 31, 2013 while responding to a massive 5-alarm fire at a motel. The four firefighters were: Captain Matthew Renaud, Engineer Robert Bebee, Firefighter Robert Garner and a rookie firefighter Anne Sullivan. The fire broke out just after the noon hour at a restaurant and club in the Southwest Inn on U.S. 59. One of Houston's most heavily traveled expressways. Flames spread to the motel part of the building. The firefighters were searching for people they believed trapped in the building and were killed when the roof collapsed. Fourteen additional firefighters were taken to the hospital and treated for injuries, one firefighter was in critical condition. About 150 firefighters responded and brought the fire under control after two hours. Sincere condolences to the firefighter's families.

Through many of the newspaper articles I have read about the Albuquerque volunteer firemen during the 1890's is that they took great pride in the department and strived to always make it the best it could be. This is especially evident in the procedures they took to raise money from the fairs, the balls, and the Firemen's Tournaments, winning the belt three times in succession that it became their property permanently during the tournament in July 1896. George was a prominent figure in supporting and promoting the fairs and the firemen's tournaments. A news article in 1894 about Albuquerque's firemen raising money for an alarm system is a good example of George's enthusiasm and support for the volunteer firemen. George Cundiff, of the Hooks, says "There is plenty of magnificent musical and theatrical talent in the city who will volunteer their services for such a good cause as this. We can and will make the fair a grand success. I will go right out now and hustle."

George M Cundiff, along with John Borradaile, George Clark, C. H. Hawley, Edward Medier, and Theo. Zimmer, reorganized the Flambeau club in July 1891; the club was incorporated in October of the same year. George was second lieutenant and then later that same year in September became the captain of the club, holding that position until 1893. Their uniforms were white with red trim and they wore white helmets. The 50 members carried McCall's torches being the latest make provided with a blow and receptacle for powder, producing a stream of fire several feet high into the air. The club met twice a month for drill practice in vacant lots in the city, preparing for their torch light parade for the fairs. The Flambeau's put on grand balls to raise money for the club, challenged other clubs to tug-o-war games during the fairs, and put on their light shows for other ceremonies of Albuquerque.

In February 1892 the Flambeau club still existed and received a new member according to a news article "At 11:30 o'clock Thursday night a youthful Flambeau made his appearance at the residence of Capt. Geo. M Cundiff. Dr Wroth says it was the biggest boy for his age, he had ever seen ushered into life. There is no prouder father than George." This youthful Flambeau was my grandfather Milton Oscar.

In 1896 George M Cundiff held the position of secretary of the New Mexico Association of Volunteer Fireman, and Assistant Chief of Albuquerque Fire Department, still being a member of the Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company.

Between the years 1888-1899, George was involved in many different ventures in Albuquerque. He was not only popular with the press but also with the community as one article describes him as "Captain George M Cundiff, genial all-around good fellow." He was considered a finished mixologist and held that position in several establishments in Albuquerque in the early 1890's. They were The Mint, The Montezuma, The Armijo, and Zieger's Council and at one time he became the proprietor of The Branch. A news article on July 14, 1892 tells of his grand opening night, "George M Cundiff, captain of the Flambeau's and proprietor of The Branch saloon will give a grand opening tonight. The popularity of Captain Cundiff with the boys, and his gentlemanly qualities which draw to him many friends, will presage a most successful send-off in his new enterprise. This is a free show, and that means something with George. Nothing ever approached it except Murphy's grand opening night."

ALBUQUERQUE'S 83 RD FIRE CADET CLASS GRADUATES

Graduation ceremonies for the 83rd Fire Cadet Class was held on Friday June 28, 2013 at the Kimo Theater, Downtown. The "Master of Ceremonies," was Division Commander, Scott Esposito who heads the Albuquerque Fire Academy. After posting the colors by AFD's Honor Guard the Invocation was led by Chaplain, Denise Gilbert. Chief James Breen gave the guests a hearty welcome and made opening remarks. He introduced Albuquerque Mayor the Honorable Richard Berry who congratulated the new firefighters and welcomed them to the employment with the City of Albuquerque.

The keynote speaker was Doctor Brian Moore, M.D. who formerly served several years with Albuquerque Ambulance as an EMT/Paramedic prior to completion of medical school at UNM. Dr Moore had the opportunity to work along side by side with AFD Firefighters and EMT/Paramedics under field conditions responding to emergency medical calls. He has a high regard and respect for members of the Fire Department. He extended his most sincere congratulations to the new graduates.

The oath of office was administered by the honorable Judge Alisa Hadfield. Afterwards the new firefighters were presented their badges certificates and honors. Their family members, wives, brothers, sisters, boyfriends, girlfriends, mothers and fathers had the honor of pinning the new badges on the graduates. Captain Craig Deal presented the top cadet award to Doug Hearon. Congratulations to the following new Albuquerque Firefighters:

**Kenneth Barncastle, Ryan Cheshire, Christopher Fox, Doug Hearon,
Eric Jaramillo, Kevin Kenney, Stephen Likovic Ethan Lucero, Fabian Palma,
Jared Reeves, Lindsey Sheffield, Larry Tapia, Andrea Westerhold, Kyler Willoughby**

**RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS PRESENT
FIRE CHIEF JIM BREEN A SPECIAL
PLAQUE**

During ceremonies at the 83rd Fire Cadet Graduation on June 28, 2013 at the Kimo Theater members of the AFD Retired F.F. Association Presented Fire Chief Jim Breen A special plaque. Herman Bishop, Historian made the presentation Along with fellow retirees, Fred Casias, John Serino, Ed Abieta and Mark Chavez.



FIRE CHIEF BENARD RUPPE

"THIS CHIEF'S BADGE AND MEDAL FOR SERVICE ON THE MEXICAN BORDER WAS WORN BY ALBUQUERQUE'S FIRST PAID FIRE CHIEF BENARD RUPPE WHO WAS APPOINTED, JUNE 6, 1900. THE BADGE AND MEDAL WAS GIVEN TO CHIEF JIM BREEN ON DECEMBER 11, 2011 BY MR. ROBERT CASE, GRANDSON, OF CHIEF RUPPE. MR. RUPPE WAS APPOINTED TO MAJOR IN THE U.S. ARMY IN 1906. HE SERVED IN THE PERSHING EXPEDITION INTO MEXICO DURING 1916. THIS DISPLAY IS SPONSORED BY THE ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION. HERMAN R. BISHOP, HISTORIAN (JUNE 6, 2013)

George had a great interest in the fourth ward Young Men's Democratic club, which was organized in March 1893. He was elected as one of the vice presidents and also elected as chairman of the executive committee for the club. As the newspaper states at the time of his election "George is a corker and will be heard from during the campaign." As a delegate he was part of many city democratic conventions.

In May 1893 he became the manager of the Albuquerque Brown's baseball team and later in 1898 the secretary and treasurer of the team. From 1895-1896 he was the business manager of the First Regiment Band. In Oct. 1895 Col. Walter G Marmon commissioned George to be principal musician and leader of the band.

Through out his time in Albuquerque and earlier in Kansas City, Mo; George had been manager of opera companies and the Cundiff Cineographic Company. He was a playwright while living in Albuquerque, his melodrama "Juanita, The White Rose" was copyrighted September 27, 1893. Several of his plays were performed on stage as well.

Even though George moved to El Paso, Texas in August 1899, I think his heart was still in Albuquerque as this letter he wrote to W.T. McCreight, President of the Fair Association, proves.

"The Captain"

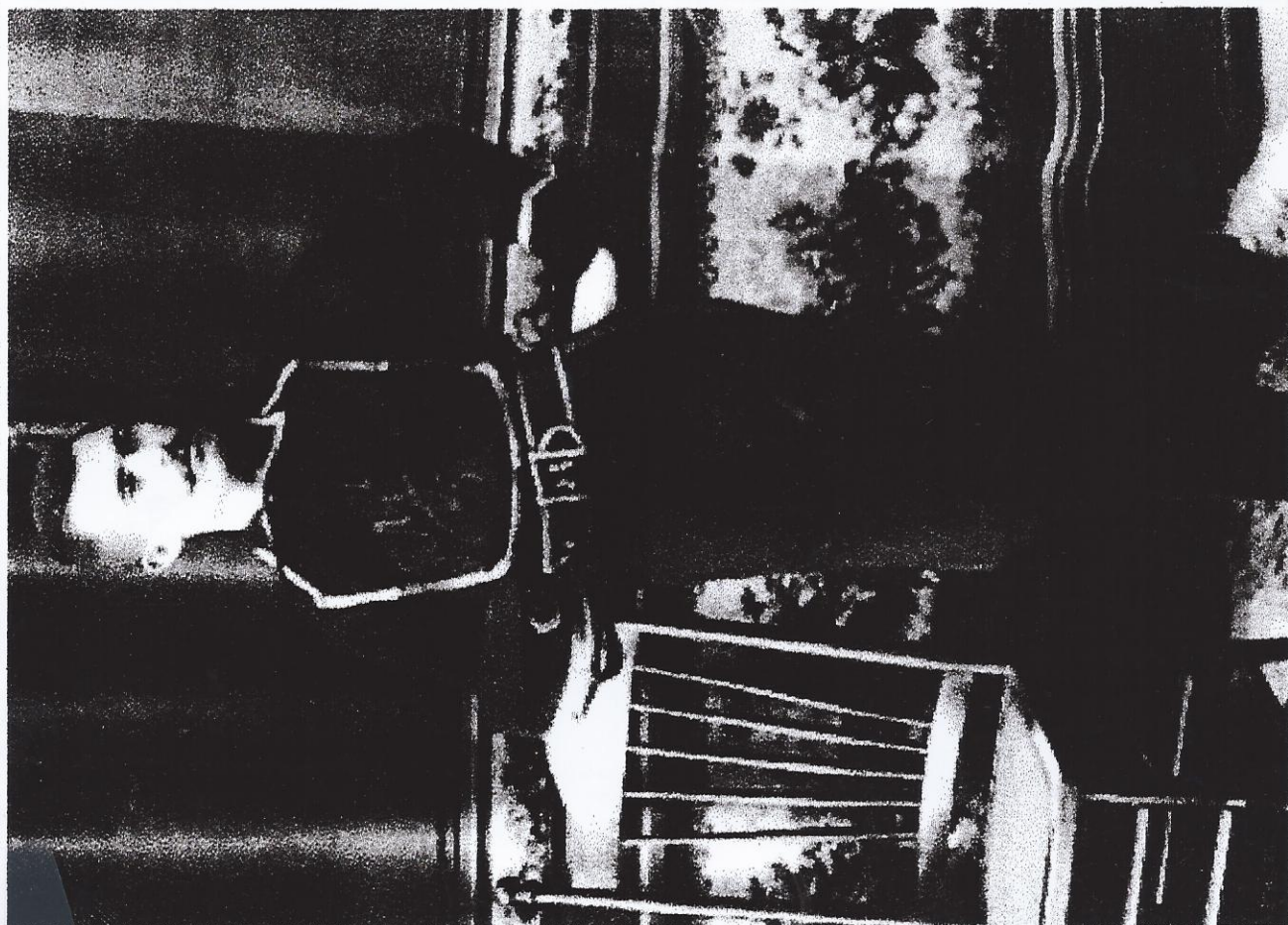
Geo. M. Cundiff, Now of El Paso, Writes a Few Lines.
El Paso, Tex., Oct. 10, 1899

Dear Sir: May I, at this late date, congratulate you and your excellent committee for the superb manner in which you brought off the great and grand street fair in your city, and I want to say to you in all confidence that there are a hundred or more ex-Albuquerqueans here who join me in giving three cheers and a good loud long tiger for you and your push (I mean by de push), the young men who composed the executive committee. You can not hear anything but words of praise from anyone who visited your city during carnival week, for the thorough and complete manner in which everything was carried through, especially does the members of the Gentry dog and pony show compliment you, saying "that it was the best street fair which they had ever seen."

The Albuquerqueans who are now residing here and who have at some time in the past been amongst the push are proud of you, and all hope that Albuquerque may next year be fortunate enough to secure a committee capable of carrying on the good work so nobly begun by yourself and committee. With best wishes for the future prosperity of Albuquerque, her liberal-spirited citizens, yourself and committee, I remain

Yours Truly,
The Captain

It has been a real pleasure for me to discover who my great grandfather was and what his life was like while living in Albuquerque in the 1890's. I am grateful to the earlier newspapers of Albuquerque, which includes the Daily Citizen, the Morning Democrat and the Evening Citizen, and to the people that have preserved these. If it wasn't for these newspapers I never would have been able to get to know Captain George M Cundiff.



GEORGE CUNDIFF, VOLUNTEER F.F.
FERGUSON HOOK AND LADDER CO.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, (CIRCA 1890')



FERGUSSON HOOK & LADDER CO. 1892