

AFD RETIREE NEWS

September 1, 2020

3-2020

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CONTENTS

- P-1 E-15 Apt. Fire, 1974
- P-2 Deaths, R. Milligan, J. Toledo, Cristobal Sanchez
- P-3 AFD, 1st SCBA'S, P. Graves
- P-4 Death, Paul Graves
- P 5 AFD Fire Districts, H.Bishop
- P-7 Training, Ed Abeita
- P-8 Retiree Celebrations, E. Abeita
- P-9 June Minutes
- P-10 AFR, New Fleet Maintenance Facility, By: K. Horton & H. Bishop
- P-11 July Minutes
- P-12 AFD Chemical Wagons, H. Bishop
- P-13 AFR Funeral Truck
- P-14 August Minutes
- P-15 Robert Duran Story, H. Bishop
- P-16 President's Message



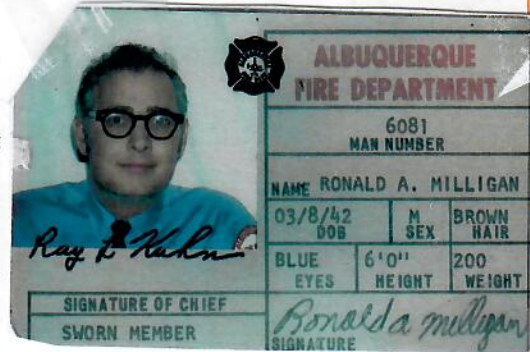
ENGINE 15, 1974 MOBILE HOME FIRE

(Photo By: Dave Windle)



BLACK DALMATION

Ronald Milligan Death – We regret to announce the death of our retired Firefighter friend Lieutenant Ronald Milligan, age 78, who passed away on Friday May 8, 2020. He was hired by Fire Chief Simon Seligman and joined Along with 16 other firemen on March 1, 1965. He went through training at the old drill tower at 1510 Kit Carson SW. Cadets were required to run up and down the tower dozens of times a day, lay miles and miles of fire hose, climb the 100 foot aerial ladder, jump into the life net and withstand the dreaded smoke room. Ron was promoted to driver during September 1974, and was promoted to Lieutenant on February 15, 1980. He was an easy going fellow, who liked his job and working with his fellow firefighters. He spent most of his career working at stations on the east side of town. After spending twenty years on the department Ron retired on July 1, 1985. On behalf of the members of the AFD Retiree’s Association we extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Milligan family



John George Toledo, Fire Chief Dies – Recently we received notice that Johnny Toledo, Age 88, retired fire chief of Las Cruces, New Mexico passed away on May 2, 2020 . He Was a former firefighter with the Albuquerque Fire Department. Johnny joined AFD on April 30, 1956. He was hired along with two other firemen at that time. There was no Fire academy then and the old fire station # 1 was located at 2nd Street and Tijeras NW. All City Departments were housed in the old City Hall, at that time, City Manager, Legal, City Clerk, Fire, Police, Personnel, Water, Parks and Recreation etc. The old seven story drill tower was located on a lot in back of station #1. Training was conducted by the Engine 1-A, Lieutenant and only lasted about 3 to 7 days. Most of the training was on the job, consisting of hose lays, ladder drills, jumping into the life net, ropes, knots, salvage and overhaul. After a basic crash course about 2 days The new firemen started going to fires right away. Johnny was an outstanding athlete while attending Albuquerque High School. He lettered in both baseball and football with the bulldogs. In 1956 the fire department had an outstanding baseball team and Johnny was recruited by Chief Westerfeld to play ball for the department. He was promoted to driver during January, 1960 and was promoted to Lieutenant on July 6, 1964.



John G. Toledo
Fire Chief, Retired

After serving eleven years of faithful and dedicated service with AFD Johnny had the opportunity to become Fire Chief of Silver City, New Mexico. He served as fire chief of Silver City for eight years, from 1967 to 1975. In early 1976 he was appointed to Fire Chief of Las Cruces, New Mexico. He served as their chief for 19 years from 1976 to 1995. While in Las Cruces he expanded the department by adding two new fire stations, and increased fire personnel. Overall Johnny had a successful and colorful fire service career. All total he served 38 years with three New Mexico Fire Departments.

Cristobal R. Sanchez Death. Regretfully we were notified of the death of retired firefighter Cristobal R. Sanchez, age 72, who passed away on April 29, 2020. Cris was a Viet Nam Veteran and he passed away at the Veteran’s hospital from agent orange complications. He joined the department on June 24, 1974 along with 16 other firefighters. He was a member of the 26 th fire cadet class. After serving the department and his community for over twenty years he retired on March 30, 1995. Cris was a very pleasant, easy going, quite individual who loved his job as a firefighter. He was promoted to driver on May 12, 1984. As a driver he always knew his district well and was always dependable. He was a good role model for the young firefighters coming into the department and was always willing to teach the new personnel the finer points of pump operations. He assisted his fellow firefighters in preparing for the up coming promotional exams for driver. He was good at drilling the guys on city streets over and over so they would be successful on the driver’s examinations. Those firefighters who worked with Cris considered him their friend because of his willingness to give them help when they needed it. On behalf of the members of the AFD Retiree’s association we extend our most sincere condolences and sympathies to the entire Sanchez family.

SPECIAL NOTE: - Paul Graves is a retired AFD District Chief and now lives Victor, Montana where he has resided the past few years. He joined AFD on October 17, 1966 and spent 27 years with the department until His retirement on December 31, 1993. Prior to his retirement he wrote a history of AFD. During his research he interviewed several old timers, both Chiefs and firefighters. Paul submitted this article from an interview with former fire chief Ray Kuhn

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT	
NAME	Paul Graves
DOB	3/07/45
SEX	M
HAIR	Brown
HEIGHT	6'2"
WEIGHT	195 lb
SIGNATURE OF CHIEF MEMBER	
<i>Paul Graves</i>	



While doing interviews with fire chiefs just before my retirement Chief Ray Kuhn was perhaps the most informative, we talked for at least a couple of hours and covered a lot of history of AFD. One of the things I've been thinking about lately was the use of SCBA's. I asked Chief Kuhn when they came onto service, following is what he told me. We had been talking about a bad fire at the Sears store at 5th and Central and how they were ordered to go into the fire without breathing equipment.

Graves: That's one of the things I wanted to ask you about. When I came on we had two types of canister masks and the Scott air pack. When did the gas mask come on the scene and when did the Scott air packs come on the scene?

Kuhn: The filter canister, we must have had two per vehicle, probably in the 50's, prior to that only had two for the department and they were carried on the chief's car.

In the mid 50's, I don't remember the exact time, perhaps 1954,55 I was working part time at the Korber which was across the street from old number one's. I was working night shift on the department and this happened in the day time about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I saw the trucks go out, pretty soon Simon came over and told me they had a 2nd alarm and told me to go. The fire was in the 300 block of west Central in a department store called Hinkels, the fire was in the basement. When I got there the firemen were at the trap door to the basement with two 1/2" lines flooding the basement, the smoke was really black and heavy and we didn't have any masks except those canisters.

Note: *The canister can't be used in smoke conditions, because they were designed for specific gases and there had to be oxygen or you would suffocate.*

I knew the city gas inspector, a man by the name of Bob Williams, had a 15 minute Scott air pack because I'd seen it and he was at the fire so I asked Westerfeld if I could use the Scott and go down in the hole. I didn't know how to use it so Bob showed men. Carl Macaluco and Simon Seligman tied a rope around my chest and I went down with a 1 1/2" line. The water was up to my chest and I couldn't see anything so I just took the line and I'd open it up, if I didn't feel any heat come back I'd move it until I finally felt the heat come back then I could fight it. The fire was a bunch of boxes and clothes so I put it out. The city manager was a guy by the name of Ed Engle, he was there. Saw the whole situation and saw that I was able to go down with the fire wearing the Scott air pack and without it they couldn't have gotten the fire out, maybe the next month

after they filled the basement with water. When Ed Engle saw that he immediately order two Scott air packs for every vehicle we had.

We used to have a pretty primitive operation. When I went on the department we didn't have hose clamps. The truck would lay to the fire and when they rang the bell then you turned the water on. You always waited until you heard the bell, sometimes you would hear the bell of another truck and turn the on the hydrant when your truck wasn't ready. That always meant trouble.

Note: *The bells on fire trucks are from a bygone era and all but gone now. They not only signaled when to open the plug, they could be heard further than the siren and they rang out the solemn sound of farewell to a fallen fighter, which is still used today.*

Graves: Did you use the hard suction lines to pump out the Hinkel building?

Note: *the hard suction was a ridged rubber hose with coiled steel inside the rubber, 4 to 6 inches in diameter 8' long that connected from the plug to the truck intake. It was used when large volumes of water were needed to be pumped and it could be dropped into any water source t draft water into the pump. City departments don't use this equipment anymore.*

Kuhn: Oh yeah, we always did that. In fact I was working at 7's the next day and we were assigned to pump out the basement.

When I joined the department in 1966 we had the hose clamps but we didn't use the bell for a signal to open the hydrant. The largest hose we had on an engine then was 2 1/2". If the truck was in sight we'd wait until we saw the clamp in place or wait until the driver signaled us by swinging his arm around and around in the air. If the truck was around a corner we'd wait until someone came into view and signaled us. As Chief Kuhn mentioned if you opened the hydrant before the driver was ready "That always meant trouble" because the water would fill the hose bed and you couldn't pull hose to make your layout to the fire and you definitely didn't want the chewing out you were gonna get from your officer or especially the chief or the complaining and ribbing you'd get from the rest of the crew because the entire hose load had to be unloaded and hung to dry and new hose had to be reloaded.

If we laid parallel lines (two 2 1/2" lines at a time) we'd wait until the driver signaled us because he and the other pipemen had to connected two lines to the

truck.

In those days we had five men on an engine company (*don't be upset ladies by the term "pipemen" or "five men on the truck" we didn't have the talent of women on the department then*)

An interesting story for another time if you think it appropriate on how safety and life protection has changed through the years. I was working 12's in 1981 and we had a call to a house fire. It was a two story house and heavy black smoke was pouring out the second story. We didn't lay a line and pulled up to the house, we only had four men on an engine at that time. The driver got the air packs down, the other pipeman started pulling a 1 1/2" line I grabbed a air pack and was putting it on and the officer ordered me to take it off and come with him because someone said there were children upstairs and he was headed in the front door. I continued putting on my pack and was ordered once more to take it off and follow him. I disobeyed the order and I grabbed the hose line to advance it while the other pipeman put on his pack. By the time the other pipeman joined me the second engine arrived and all of the sudden an upstairs window broke and the officer was hanging out the window trying to get some air with his face and mouth black and nose flowing with black snot.

Upon arrival back to our station the officer charged me with insubordination for failing to obey an order and called the district chief to the station to have me suspended. The chief listened to the story from each of us and the other men on the engine. He didn't want to chew out the officer in front of us because they were friends and he knew he couldn't discipline me for not going into a burning building without an air pack orders or not. The chief tried to get me to say I'd never disobey and order like that again and I refused and told him I'd have to if the situation ever came up. He tried several times but I held my ground. There wasn't anything else the chief could do and he and the officer went outside and the chief left. I suspect the officer got a bit of reprimand and that was the end of it. Except a few months later the same thing happened and I was ordered to take off my pack an go with the that same officer into a two story building with a woman reported to be upstairs. I declined the order and I put my pack on and followed after him with another pipeman from the second in engine and a hose line by the time we got to the door the officer retreated once again with a blackened face and running nose because of the smoke, he had only gotten up a couple of stairs, the other pipeman and I started up the stairs and the woman was a little further up the stairs so I drug her out and the rescue crew was there and took care of her. Other crews entered the building as I was dragging the woman out. No insubordination charges were even mentioned that time.

When I became an officer I wanted my crews to pack up for car and dumpster fires, of course the grumbling was instant as we never did that before. I explained the dangers of the burning toxic gases from a car fire and who knows what is burning in a dumpster but that didn't quell the complaints and everybody thought I was crazy. Today, thankfully its SOP to pack up for those kinds of situations.

PAUL GRAVES DIES

(By: Herman R. Bishop)

Paul Graves, Death— We are sorry to learn of the death of our good friend and retired firefighter, District Chief Paul Graves who passed away on August 8, 2020. He was a Viet Nam Army veteran and had suffered from the effects of agent orange. He joined AFD on October 17, 1966, and after serving over 21 years with the department he retired on December 12, 1993. After serving his first 7 years in the department he took a break for a few years and was re-hired on April 9, 1979. After returning to the fire service he climbed the ladder of success quickly. He was promoted to driver in 1982, promoted to Lieutenant in 1985, promoted to Captain in 1988, and promoted to District Chief in March, 1993. He was hired by Chief Simon Seligman and went through eight weeks of rough and tumble physical strenuous basic firefighter training at the old drill tower at 1510 Kit Carson SW. Cadets laid miles and miles of 2 1/2 inch hose, completed hundreds of ladder raises and evolutions and climbed the 100 foot aerial ladder. At that time trainees were required to jump into the life net from the third floor of the drill tower. Of course they were made to run up and down the seven story drill tower dozens and dozens of times a day until their tongues were hanging out. The most difficult part of training was enduring the dreaded smoke room without breathing masks to build up their confidence in a fire and smoke filled environment.

Paul loved his job as a firefighter and later served as a training instructor at the fire Academy. He knew his job and always took time to mentor the younger firefighters in all aspects of firefighting, paramedic training, pumper/apparatus training, and other required firefighter skills. He was a good leader and was well respected by his fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. He was a model firefighter and was a good role model for his peers.

During his last years working in Albuquerque he worked at most fire stations throughout the city, especially all the stations on the east side while serving as A District Chief. After retirement he moved to Victor, Montana, a rural part of The State near the Bitterroot Mountains. He lived on a small farm and raised Fruit, and Christmas trees. He was also a forest firefighter there and a volunteer firefighter. He was a devout religious man and pastored a small local church. As Most retired firefighters do he maintained his friendships and bonds with his fellow Retirees. He loved receiving the quarterly newsletters and from time to time he Contributed news articles to our publication. He was a member of the retiree's Association for over twenty years. We will miss Paul and his contribution to the Fire service. Our most sincere condolences to his wife Trish and to the Graves family.

August 13, 2020

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DISTRICTS**(By Herman R. Bishop)**

June 5, 2020

HISTORY OF FIRE DISTRICTS

When the Albuquerque paid fire department was organized on June 6, 1900 there was not fire districts as we know them today. The City was small, just one fire district, the City itself. The population was just over 6,000 and the City limits was basically from 1st Street west to about 16th Street. The north/south City limits was south to Bridge (Avenida Cesar Chavez) and north to Mountain Road NW. Because the department was small, the Chief responded in the Chief's buggy to almost all fire calls day and night. In 1908 the Fire Chief received a new horse and buggy.

On August 18, 1913 the Fire Chief received the first motorized fire chief's car. By this time the City had grown to over 11,000 people and the Chief still responded to most fires however big or small. During the 1920's Fred Russell was the Fire Chief and records show numerous fire chief's cars during the next 10 years. Daily logs show the fire chief responding to most fires in town then.

On August 31, 1931 Fire Chief Fred Russell died while serving as Fire Chief. Shortly there after Art Westerfeld was appointed to Chief. The population was just over 27,000 people, 2 fire stations and 25 firemen. During the 1930's and 1940's the fire chief was still running to all fire calls throughout the City, routine fires, major fires, grass fires, car fires etc. There were two assistant chiefs at this time. Milton Grande and Simon Seligman. When Chief Westerfeld was on his days off, vacation or out of town, Assistant Chiefs Grande and Seligman took turns filling in for Chief Westerfeld. The fire chief had a chief's driver who would go with him to all fires and assist in administrative duties.

A group fire department photo taken in 1953 shows 87 personnel in the department, the fire chief, 2 assistant chiefs, twenty Lieutenants, and 64 drivers and firefighters. Between 1953 and 1957 the City Population had grown close to 200,000 people, stations ten and eleven were opened in 1956. The Fire Prevention Bureau was established in 1956. The first rescue squad was formed in 1956 and in 1957 the first training division was created and the the new station one was opened at 8th Street and Silver Avenue SW. Now there was 11 fire stations and about 265 firefighters. Firefighters worked 60 hours per week and operated on a two platoon system.

By 1956, because of the rapid growth of the fire department the administrative duties of the fire chief had increased considerably and he decided to create fire districts with in the City and turn the daily firefighting duties over to Assistant Chiefs. Three fire districts were created within the City, each headed by an assistant chief who would respond to all fire calls within their respective districts. Chief driver's positions were created and the drivers would function as aides to the assistant chiefs and drive the chief's car to all fires.

From the Lieutenant ranks within the department the Fire Chief appointed six assistant chiefs to head the fire districts. Assistant Chiefs Simon Seligman and Joe Bowdich headed up district One. District one Chief was housed at Station #1, at 8th Street and Silver Avenue SW. Geographically district one included everything west of the railroad tracks, north and south to the City limits.

Assistant Chiefs S.B. Skidmore and Leo Renaud headed up district two. The District two chiefs were housed at Station #2 at 301 High Street SE. Geographically district two included everything from the railroad tracks, north and south, to the City limits, and east to University Boulevard.

The assistant chiefs in district two were called floating chiefs. They ran district two only a few days per week, and then filled in for the District one and district three chiefs on their days off.

Assistant Chiefs George Tafoya and Carl Macaluso headed up district three. District three chiefs were housed at the old station three at Bryn Mawr and Central NE. Geographically district three covered everything east of University Boulevard, north and south to the City Limits.

In the spring of 1964 a new fire station thirteen was opened west of Winrock shopping center, at 6500 Indian School Road NE. The Assistant Chiefs in district three were moved from the old station three to the new station thirteen, at 6500 Indian School NE and were housed in the new station with Engine thirteen, Ladder three, and Rescue three.

About 1966 (exact date unknown), the Assistant Chief ranks were re-structured. A shift commander's rank was created with the title Assistant Chief. The Assistant Chief headed up a platoon and had three district chief officers under him with the title Assistant District Chief. In late 1968 (exact date unknown) The Shift Commander, kept the Assistant Chief's title but the assistant district chiefs were re-titled, District Chiefs.

In 1972 a new station three was built on the University of New Mexico campus at Central and Girard NE. The district two assistant chiefs moved their headquarters to the new station three. Floating assistant chiefs were no longer needed and district two became permanent and we had three fire districts within the City.

By 1980 the fire department budget was over 18 million dollars. During the tenure of Mayor David Rusk it was decided with the approval of the City Council that it was necessary to reduce the fire department's annual budget by one million dollars. This resulted in abolishing one of the two engine companies from station one downtown. (Engine 1-A). Also the nine chief driver's positions were eliminated in the three fire districts.

Some time during the early 1980's headquarters for district one was moved from station one to station four at 3rd Street and Mc Knight NW. Now we had three district headquarters, District one at Station four, District two at Station Three and District three at Station thirteen. The platoon commander kept the title Assistant Chief, and there were three District Chiefs reporting to him.

I retired in January, 1986 and there was still three fire districts. As I recall there was a shift commander, Assistant Chief and three district chiefs who reported to him. After I retired, at a later date I believe the districts were re-aligned again. The rank of district chief was changed to Battalion Chief, and sometime later was re-titled Commander. I understand that today the rank of Commander is now titled, Battalion Chief.

***** TO BE CONTINUED*****

Fire Training Back to Basics

by Eddie Abeita

Back in the old fire days the fire training division (aka fire academy or tower) would send out a monthly training schedule so each officer could conduct in house classes for their company. The training division would also conduct a 24-hour in-service training class each year to meet state firefighter requirements. The monthly in-house training schedule mirrored things that were happening at that time of the year. In the fall subject matter could include review of fire prevention codes pertaining to the use of portable heaters. Many fires and deaths were caused by blankets or other bed coverings falling onto a portable heater and catching fire.

Preparing for in service training for all companies took some thought by academy staff. The first thing was to set a goal followed by the objectives to support the goal. In planning for an in-service training exercise input from staff was always needed.

Firefighter safety was always paramount, to insure this, it was always an objective. Firefighter deaths and injuries report obtained from the National Fire Academy were used as a guide. The majority of injuries were basic operational functions you see on a fireground, these are taught at entry level. What we need to focus on was ensuring that all responding units get from point "A" to point "B" safely. Our final plan did not seem dramatic to some however the objectives would have an impact on achieving our goal. This in-service drill was called **Back to Basics**.

Next Newsletter Edition, The Drill

Below 1992 Training Staff

Left-Right Lt. Brian LeVie, Sec. Johanna Castillo, Driver Glen Graham,
Lt. M.R. Sanchez, Commander Eddie Abeita, Lt. Martin Crespin



Future Celebration's

by Eddie Abeita

Retirees Picnic

COVID Virus the great pandemic that brought the country to a crawl. Yes, we will recover its our nature. The experts have said stick to the **basics**, wash your hands, wear a mask and practice social distancing, that within itself will do a world of good.

Our picnic liaison Eddie Torres reported the town of Bernalillo has cancelled their annual fiesta held in August however the town may have a parade as not to create large gatherings. For years our retiree's association used Bernalillo's Rotary Park for picnics however our request for use this year was uncertain.

Rotary Park became a popular picnic place with all retirees. The park has a large overhead canopy, restroom facilities, electrical power and trash receptacles. The nice thing is a small damage deposit or no charge at all for the park use.

President Kerry Hortinez had a concern with our large picnic gathering so he voiced his concerns to the retiree's executive board. The board also had concerns about the health and safety of retirees and their families. With all that discussed Kerry reported, we feel the need to keep to the **basics**, picnic cancelled. This year food preparation was going to be handled by Morris Gutierrez oh well, remember there is always next year, Morris!

What about our Christmas Dinner?

From the start of the retirees Christmas parties first held at the fire academy and later moved to Bernalillo Community Center, a lot of hours were involved in putting together the celebrations. Pot lucks were the big part of the parties including a visit from Santa Clause it was great. However, set-up, food preparation and clean-up, took its toll over the years on retirees and family members, a change was imminent.

In planning for the 2016 Christmas Party an offer was made by the chairperson to all retirees, "we have a planning meeting, get involved bring your thoughts and ideas.

The main focus was a change of venue, to eliminate the physical aspect of cooking and cleaning. Retirees who attended the planning meeting had many ideas such as; find a place of business that would cook and serve food, insure they can accommodate our large group, make sure that it is in a modest price range and a centralized location, no contract or deposit required. Also change the celebration name from Christmas Party to Christmas Dinner, done.

The Moose Lodge expressed their desire to accommodate our retiree's association, which has turned into a great relationship between the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association and the Moose Lodge. The manager Anthony, has insured we have enjoyable Christmas Dinners. This 2020 Christmas Dinner will be contingent on New Mexico Governor's directives on gatherings. When a decision is made, retirees will be notified immediately.

Minutes, June 2020 - On June 10, 2020 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE. Although attendance was low, we had a productive and positive meeting. It was great to see everyone and to socialize. This is the first public meeting for the retirees since the initial State and Nation Wide lockdown as a result of the Corona Virus in mid-March, 2020. We wore face masks, de-sanitized items to the extent possible. We maintained social distancing by spacing chairs in the meeting hall far apart as was reasonably possible. No food or drinks was allowed. Many of our older retirees did not attend due to their low resistance to the virus. Hand shakes and hugs which is so common among firefighters were avoided.

President Kerry Horton welcomed everyone and called the 238 th monthly meeting to order at 7:05 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening prayer was led by Morris Guterrez. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased retirees. Sam Trujillo read the names of our deceased retirees during 2020. Robert A. Sanchez, Manuel A. Aragon, Fred Trujillo, Ross Escarcida, Frank S Gonzales, Ronald Milligan, and Cristobal R. Sanchez. **Roll Call** – President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary Fred Casis, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian, H. Bishop, and President Emeritus, Sam Truillo.

President's Report: Kerry reported that he along with Herman Bishop attended the grand opening of AFR's new Apparatus Fleet Maintenance shop at 7601 Los Volcanes NW on June 4, 2020. Kerry, Mike and Herman met with Chief Dow and his staff to discuss displays for the fire museum. Also they discussed the placing of displays at the new station # 9 to be opened in the late fall at Eubank and Menaul NE. Kerry received permission from Chief Dow to move the firefighter's memorial flag pole from 2721 San Mateo NE to the fire academy grounds. Currently the flag pole is on property owned by retiree Morris Guterrez. Morris will coordinate the move which will begin shortly. Working with the fire chief's staff Morris says the move should be completed during the month of June. Joe Tonerio and Emiliano Chavez have volunteered to serve as members of the retiree's honor guard. Kerry welcomed them to the service. A special thanks goes to the Rio Grande Credit Union for their donation of two new honor guard uniforms.

Kerry suggested we form a Fire Museum Committee. Sam Trujillo made a motion to create the committee and Mike Murphy seconded the motion The motion passed. The Chairman is Mike Fox. Members are Kerry Horton and Herman Bishop.

An election was held for the positions of President and Secretary for the AFD Retiree's Association. By acclamation Kerry Horton was elected to President and Fred Casias was elected to Secretary. At the June meeting Sam Trujillo swore in both Kerry and Fred for two year terms. Congratulations to Kerry and Fred.

The Secretary's report from the May, 2020 meeting was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abeita and was seconded by Robbie Sanchez. The motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Mike Fox. We recently received \$400 in donations for the museum fund during May and June. Mike thanked those who donated and said he is still accepting donations. A motion to accept was made by K. Goodyear and was seconded by John Serino. The motion passed.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. Retired District Chief Chris Lovato recently moved to Sun Lakes, Arizona. He keeps in touch and enjoys our quarterly newsletter. He sent \$100 to support our fire museum displays. Chief Dow is studying re-aligning the AFR fire districts through out the City. He asked Herman to write a short history of the fire districts. Herman's story will appear in the September issue of the retiree' newsletter. Herman and Kerry jointly wrote an article about the history of the fire department Apparatus Fleet maintenance shop which will appear in the September newsletter. **The closing prayer was led by Morris Guterrez. Meeting adjourned @ 9:00 PM.**

FACES FROM THE PAST



Pete Tartaglia

Willie Telles



Santiago Torres

Louis Trujillo

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT - RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

**FIREFIGHTER NICKNAMES
CROSSWORD PUZZLES
GAMES & FIREFIGHTER RECIPES**

**BOOK FOR SALE \$20, INCLUDING POSTAGE
CONTACT HERMAN BISHOP TO ORDER**

AFR Opens New Fleet Maintenance Facility By Kerry Horton and Herman Bishop

One of the most progressive things that the current Fire Administration has done, is to open the new AFR Fleet Maintenance Facility, located at 7601 Los Volcanes NW. Fleet maintenance is not the most exciting thing to discuss when talking shop in the fire service, but with over 200 vehicles in AFR's care, a new maintenance facility was long overdue.

AFR got its first motorized pumper in 1912, then quickly added a Chief's car in 1913, and then added another pumper in 1914. The department did not have an official apparatus maintenance shop, so repairs were made by the fire chief or on-duty firefighters who had mechanical skills. By 1918, the department was a motorized department, but not many people knew how to drive back then. World War I was instrumental in teaching young men how to drive and work on vehicles. In 1918, Fire Chief Russell hired W.A. Westerfield, a WW1 Navy veteran and good mechanic to be the department mechanic and apparatus driver. Over the next ten years Westerfield advanced through the ranks to the position of Assistant Fire Chief, all while serving as the department mechanic. While major repairs were sent out to local shops, or even sent back to the American La France factory in New York, most of the daily maintenance and repairs were done at Station One, then located at Second and Tijeras NW.

In 1936, Carl Macaluso was hired as a firefighter and mechanic, working out of Station One until the original Station Four was opened in 1941 at 5th Street and Mountain Road NW. Station Four served as the mechanic shop until a new Station One was opened at 8th and Silver Ave. SW, with a mechanic/maintenance shop in the back of the apparatus bays. In 1956, AFR hired its first official mechanic, Marvin Wafer Sr., who served as the department mechanic for 24 years before retiring in 1980.

In 1979, the department purchased the Rust Tractor/ Caterpillar repair facility located on 4th Street NW. After extensive renovations, that facility became the fire department's maintenance shop, known as 4th Street yards. AFR used this facility for 41 years, even though the facility never had the infrastructure to properly service the heavy pumper and aerial apparatus in AFR's fleet. Many times, the apparatus had to be sent out to better equipped facilities to make repairs, at great expense to the city.

The new facility is a modern, six-bay drive through garage with lifting capability for the heavy apparatus, and with the well-trained mechanic crews servicing AFR's 200 vehicles, the department now has a true in-house service facility.



GRAND OPENING, ALBUQUERQUE FIRE RESCUE FLEET MAINTENANCE SHOP, JUNE 4, 2020 (Photo By: Kerry Horton)

Minutes, July, 2020 – On July 8, 2020 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's union hall, 4100 Edith NE. In keeping with the Governor's restrictions due to the Corona-19 virus we limited our numbers, sanitized contact items, maintained social distancing, and wore face masks. No food or drinks were allowed. Many of our senior members who are vulnerable to the virus did not attend. Hugs and hand shakes were avoided which is so common among fellow firefighters.

The 239th monthly meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton at 7:00 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Morris Guterrez and a moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President Mike Murphy, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian, Herman Bishop, and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo.

President's Report – Kerry reported that AFR has a new river rescue air boat. Currently they are developing operating procedures and are undergoing extensive training on the river. We received information that fellow retiree Rueben Collado has been diagnosed with cancer. Our prayers and best wishes go out to Ruben and his family.

Our PERA 13th check will be delivered, deposited, on July 31st with your regular July pension check. If you are over the age of 75, in lieu of a 13th check you will continue to receive your regular COLA, but it will be increased to 2.5 %. Please contact Kerry if you have any questions regarding this issue.

July is the month that the Retired Public Employee's of New Mexico dues are normally withheld from your pension check, but that deduction is no longer being made by PERA on RPENM's behalf. If you are not a member of RPENM, and you have no idea what I'm referred to, then ignore this part as your pension check will not be affected.

Kerry reported that he has had a discussion with Local 244 Treasurer John Roumpf regarding Presumptive Causation claims in the cases of brain cancer. Apparently three members who responded with NMUSAR During the 911 attacks have been diagnosed with forms of brain cancer. Our current Presumptive Causation Legislation states that brain cancer is identified as a protected cancer after 10 years. Kerry has requested John to address these questions to Local 244's attorney Fred Mowrer, as he is our expert on Presumptive cases.

The Honor Guard has met twice in the past month to practice their skills and formations, and they are looking very professional. A special thanks is given from all of us to the Honor Guard Members for representing us and for their Dedication and service to our retired members.

Morris Gutierrez is close to finishing his book on AFD firefighter nicknames. He is looking for some advice on publishing. The book will have recipes and games, along with the nicknames and stories behind some of the nicknames. If you have experience in the publishing world, please contact brother Morris, or Kerry. Hopefully this book will become a reality.

Secretary's Report/Treasurer's Report – Herman Bishop read the minutes from the June meeting due to the absence of Secretary Fred Casis. A motion to accept was made by Morris Guterrez and was seconded by Ed Chavez. The Motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Mike Fox. He reported that we have raised \$2,000.00 for the museum fund. The museum committee will use that money to build display cases for the museum. Mike requests members to contribute an additional \$500.00 to reach our goal for the display cases. A motion to accept was made by Robbie Sanchez and was seconded by Tobias Pino. The motion passed.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. The September quarterly newsletter is underway. Stories to be included: AFR's new vehicle maintenance facility, Report on AFR's fire districts: history, current status, future of fire districts. Construction of the new Station # 9 at Menaul and Eubank NE is making progress. A grand opening is planned by late fall.

AFD Retiree Picnic – An extensive discussion was held whether or not to have the retiree's annual picnic which is held each August at Rotary Park in Bernallilo, N. M. One major obstacle regarding the picnic is that the town of Bernallilo has closed the park for an indefinite period of time. Governor Michelle Grisham Lujan has issued guidelines which prohibits gatherings of large crowds, mandatory face masks are required, strict observance of social distancing is necessary, rigid sanitation practices will be observed, no hand shakes or hugging. A large number of our retirees are in the vulnerable age population, 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's. The final consensus was that due to the Corona virus 19 pandemic we feel that we should not put the health and lives of our retired members in jeopardy. A motion to cancel the picnic was made by Mike Fox and was seconded by Morris Guterrez. The motion passed.

Closing Prayer – The closing prayer was led by Morris Guterrez. Meeting Adjourned : 8:30 PM

CHEMICAL HOSE WAGONS

By: Herman R. Bishop (August 3, 2020)

Chemical Fire Apparatus came in use at the turn of the century (1900) when most fires were fought with streams from 2 ½ inch hose. Most cities had inadequate water mains or too few fire hydrants. The chemical wagons carried from 40 to 100 gallons of water, bicarbonate of soda, and sulphuric acid. When the water was mixed with magic chemicals and projected through 1 inch hose, the apparatus could extinguish most fires if the units arrived quick enough. For half a century chemical fire engines put out 80% of our fires, and saved untold millions of dollars worth of property.

Chemical apparatus were over rated and it was soon realized that water as an extinguishing agent was just as good. In Albuquerque by 1912, through the early 1920's, motorized fire pumpers gained prominence. The fire pumpers with a 150 gallon water tank, pump, and a 1 inch booster hose line was much more effective than the chemical wagons. Locally the chemical fire wagons were pretty much discarded from the mid- to late 1920's.

Albuquerque received it's first Seagrave Chemical hose wagon with 300 feet of 2 ½ inch fire hose on January 13, 1902. On September 17, 1908 a second new Seagrave, 50 gallon, combination chemical hose wagon, with 1000 feet of 2 ½ inch hose was accepted. Station # 2 had just opened in the Highland neighborhood at 218 Elm Street S.E. The old chemical wagon was sent from station # 1 to the new Highlands station and the new chemical wagon went to station # 1.

In March, 1924 the Sandborn Map Company assessed Albuquerque's fire insurance risks. In their assessment summary they listed Albuquerque's two fire stations and stated that that the department is fully motorized. At station # 1 they showed one 40 gallon Chemical and hose auto truck with 1200 feet of 2 ½ inch hose, in good condition. At station # 2 they listed a 40 gallon chemical and hose auto truck with 1200 feet of fire hose in good condition.



CHEMICAL HOSE WAGON, AFD (Circa, 1914)

For Whom the Bell Tolls



Photo by Don James/ATM

They wanted to pay tribute to our fallen heroes—their companions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The AFDRA initially used an actual fire truck's

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

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

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

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

R. BACA

Albuquerque The Magazine, April, 2014

LAST ALARM

"IN LOVING MEMORY, GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

O GOD SUPREME LORD OF THE UNIVERSE OF ALL MANKIND, WHO DISPOSES OF ALL THINGS IN ACCORD WITH THY DIVINE PLAN, HEED OUR SUPPLIANT PRAYERS FOR YOU.

YOU HAVE CALLED FORTH FROM THIS WORLD OF THE SOULS OF OUR FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS. MAY YOUR JUSTICE AND MERCY BE EXTENDED TO THEM IN JUDGEMENT SO THEY MAY ENJOY REST AND PEACE AND HAPPINESS WITH YOU FOREVER.

MAY YOUR TENDER COMPASSION BE GRANTED TO US, AND TO ALL THEIR LOVED ONES WHO MOURN THEIR PASSING FROM THIS LIFE. BESTOW ON US YOUR SPIRIT AND BLESSINGS IN ORDER THAT WE MAY EARN THE RIGHT TO BE REJOINED WITH THEM IN PASSING YOU FOREVER IN YOUR KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. "AMEN!"

August 12, 2020 Monthly Meeting – Again, our traditional August monthly meeting was cancelled due to the Corona-virus lockdown. President Kerry Horton called the 240 th monthly meeting to order on August 12, 2020 electronically. The meeting was conducted by our executive board. Participants were Vice President Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. President Kerry Horton communicated with members of the advisory board via e-mail. Kerry recited the Pledge of Allegiance and asked members to join him in a silent prayer in memory of our deceased members. Fred Casias submitted the minutes of the July meeting. Mike Fox submitted the July Treasurer’s report. The Secretary’s report and the Treasurer’s report was approved by the board members.

President’s report by Kerry Horton – On June 9, 2020 we celebrated the 20th anniversary since we formed the retired firefighters association. We would have had a big celebration at our annual picnic on August 15, 2020. With the approval of our executive board the picnic was cancelled due to restrictions on gatherings of large crowds due to the Corona-virus. If you have pictures of your families at your personal summer picnics send them to us and we will run them in one of our future newsletters.

A reminder that you should vote for the PERA election. Fill out your ballots and get them in the mail. We are working with AFR to get the Firefighter’s Memorial Flag Pole installed at the Academy. Mike Fox is working on the design outlays to build display cabinets at the fire museum. Sam Trujillo has been working with the honor guard polishing up their drill routines, meeting at his house and feeding the Guys. Thanks Sam! Special thanks to honor guard members for representing us and for their dedication. On August 7th we had a nice memorial service for our brother retiree, Ron Milligan. The honor guard represented us well and the family was very happy with the service. Let’s take a moment of silence for the Milligan family.

Historian’s Report – Herman has been working with fellow retiree Morris Guterrez on producing a book for our association, “F.F. Nicknames, Crossword Puzzles, Games and F.F. Recipes.” This book will be for sale @ \$20 per copy including postage. A big thanks to our friend, Frank Maestas from Colorado for his generous cash donation and the donation of three firefighter clocks for our raffle. Recently Herman wrote an article about Albuquerque’s Chemical hose wagons in use here from 1902 to the late 1920’s. Just finished is a book by Herman, “Legends and Lore of the Fire Service.” The book will be available for sale at \$12.00 per copy including mailing costs. Contact Herman if you would like to purchase either or both books.

For the past twenty years we traditionally close our retiree meetings with a prayer. As you read this newsletter we ask that you say a silent prayer in honor of our deceased firefighters, both active duty and retired members. This concludes the August E-Board reports and association business. The August monthly meeting is adjourned.
Approved by Kerry Horton, President, August 12, 2020.



RESIDENCE FIRE, HERITAGE HILLS (1976)
(Photo By: Dave Windle)

**ALBUQUERQUE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION
FIRE SERVICE
LEGENDS & LORE**

St. Florian Patron Saint
Of Firefighters

Dalmation Puppy

Black spotted Dalmatian

BOOK FOR SALE, \$12, INCLUDING POSTAGE
CONTACT HERMAN BISHOP TO ORDER

July 16, 2020

Robert E. Duran

By: Herman R. Bishop, Historian, AFD Retiree's Association



Robert E. Duran

I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on September 26, 1960. I met Lieutenant Robert Duran when he was the officer in charge at the old fire station # 8 at Menaul and Graceland N.E. The station was sold years ago and is now a popular Mexican food restaurant, Duran's Station. My regular job was at the old station three at Bryn Mawr and Central N.E. When the crew at station eight was short I was sent to work a few days at station eight. Lieutenant Duran welcomed me to the station and gave me pointers about firefighting and was always willing to help me to learn the pump operations, street studies and other duties required of a firefighter. Then the department had 12 fire stations and 260 firemen.

Lieutenant Duran was a personable and friendly man and was quick to smile. I liked him and enjoyed working with him. He told me stories about the fire department and discussed the many fires he had gone over the years. I remember he had a really nice 1949 Chevrolet, it was in mint condition. He took pride in keeping it polished and was proud to show off the engine which was spotless, it looked like new.

When he joined the department in July, 1947 Art Westerfeld was the fire chief. He worked out of fire station one downtown located at 2nd Street and Tijeras NW. The fire department was in the old City Hall building and shared quarters with the City Manager, personnel department, legal department, water department, police department and other City departments. When Robert joined the department there was only five fire stations and 85 firemen. There was no fire academy and firemen were given 3 or 5 days training by the Engine one Lieutenant and mostly on the job training. A fireman's pay was about \$200.00 per month.

Robert Duran was a dedicated and faithful fireman who loved his job and was well liked by his fellow firefighters. He had a successful career. In July, 1949 he was promoted to driver, and six years later he was promoted to Lieutenant.

Here are some memories I have working with Robert at the old station eight. Interstate 40 had not been built in the early 1960's and the truck route through town was Menaul Boulevard N.E which passed by station eight. I remember at night hearing the eighteen wheelers stopping at the light on Menaul and Carlisle N.E. Coming up the hill from Carlisle towards station eight we could hear the eighteen wheelers changing gears maybe 16 or eighteen times as they went by the station.

One interesting fire we had at station eight involved a city garbage truck. At that time we had been having numerous fires in garbage trucks caused by people placing hot ashes in their trash. Several training sessions with the garbage truck drivers were given in order to prevent fires from destroying the trucks. When drivers discovered a fire in their truck they were instructed to go to a vacant lot and to dump the entire load of garbage there. One day we heard a garbage truck pull on to the drive way at station eight. His truck was on fire and he dumped the entire load of garbage in our driveway. Of course this blocked the fire truck from getting out. We started the fire pump and using water from the truck tank we got the fire out. Robert along with our crew got a good laugh out of the incident.

One pay day night we were robbed at station eight. There was a fire alarm box at San Mateo and Menaul N.E. Thieves knew the firemen were paid on Fridays. When the firemen went to bed they would lay their pants on a chair by the bed and of course their money from payday was in their pants. That night thieves pulled a false alarm up the street and another guy ran into the station and got all the firemen's pants and stold their money. After returning to the station we discovered we had been robbed and Robert called the police. A police officer was driving up San Mateo and discovered four pants with wallets but no money laying along the roadside.

Note: Recently AFR Deputy Chief David Mowery was contacted by: Lt. Robert Duran's daughter Jeanette Gallegos inquiring if the fire department had photos or stories about her father who died at home in March, 1967 while employed by the department. The above story was given to Mrs. Gallegos. Herman Bishop.

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PRESIDENT, KERRY HORTON

President's Message

By Kerry Horton

Hello everybody. I certainly hope that you and your families are all staying safe and making it through this isolated world without too much difficulty. Yes, that is exactly how I started the President's Message in the last newsletter, and the sentiment still applies. As soon as the State started opening up a little bit, the Covid-19 cases started spiking again, and here we are cancelling everything once more. As frustrating as this is, it is still better to be cautious than sick, and since most of us are in the high-risk group, we chose safety first. The most disappointing part of all this is that we are not able to celebrate our 20th anniversary of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association.

On June 9th, 2000, AFDRA was formed at the 100th Anniversary celebration of Albuquerque Fire and Rescue, held at the Convention Center. Fire Chief Morris Huling and his staff sponsored a reception and dinner that was attended by about 350 active duty and retired members. An election of officers was conducted by those present at the dinner, and the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association was officially formed. Of course, the idea of a retiree's association was formed during many meetings over the previous year by a group of dedicated retirees and Chief Huling. During this time, the purpose, ideology, and direction of the association was formed. Though we have amended a few things over the years, our Mission Statement has stayed true.

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the interests, rights and welfare of firefighters who have retired from the Albuquerque Fire Department. One of our primary goals is to honor our members and their families for their dedication and selfless service to our community.

I would like to acknowledge the original Officers and Advisory Board members, as their hard work and leadership paved the path that we follow today. President Sam Trujillo, Vice President Eddie Torres, Secretary Robert Murphy and in January 2001, Secretary Louis Trujillo, Treasurer Ralph Sedillo, and Historian Herman Bishop. Advisory Board members Vince Holcomb, Robert Cisneros, Bill Raupfer, John Herrera, Pat Cano, Frank Sierra, Charles Alderete, Victor Sanchez, Joe Martinez, and Noel Baca.

Stay safe, be healthy