

# AFD RETIREE NEWS

News 1

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION  
# 1-2011

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## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

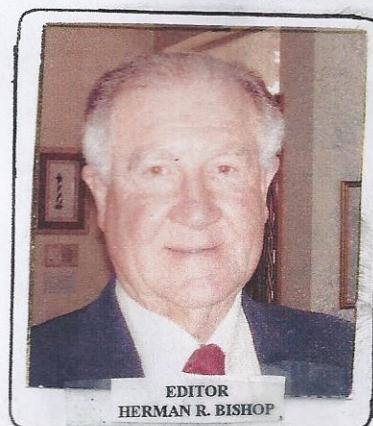
The AFD Retiree's annual Christmas party was held on Saturday December 11, 2010. The celebration was well attended and was held at the Community Center in downtown Bernalillo, N.M. Santa Claus (Leroy Barboa) met the children, Took their requests for gifts and gave them all a nice goodie bag of candies and Other surprises. The excitement on the faces of the children was priceless, Especially the young ones. A big thank you goes to Eddie and Viola Torres and To Ray and Merry Flores for their hard work and efforts in getting the meeting Hall, coordinating the food preparation and over all ensuring that the party was A success. A sincere thanks goes to all who brought food, assisted in setting up Tables and chairs, and helped in the final clean-up.



AFD RETIREE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 11, 2010



PUBLISHED BY  
THE AFD RETIREE'S  
ASSOCIATION



EDITOR  
HERMAN R. BISHOP

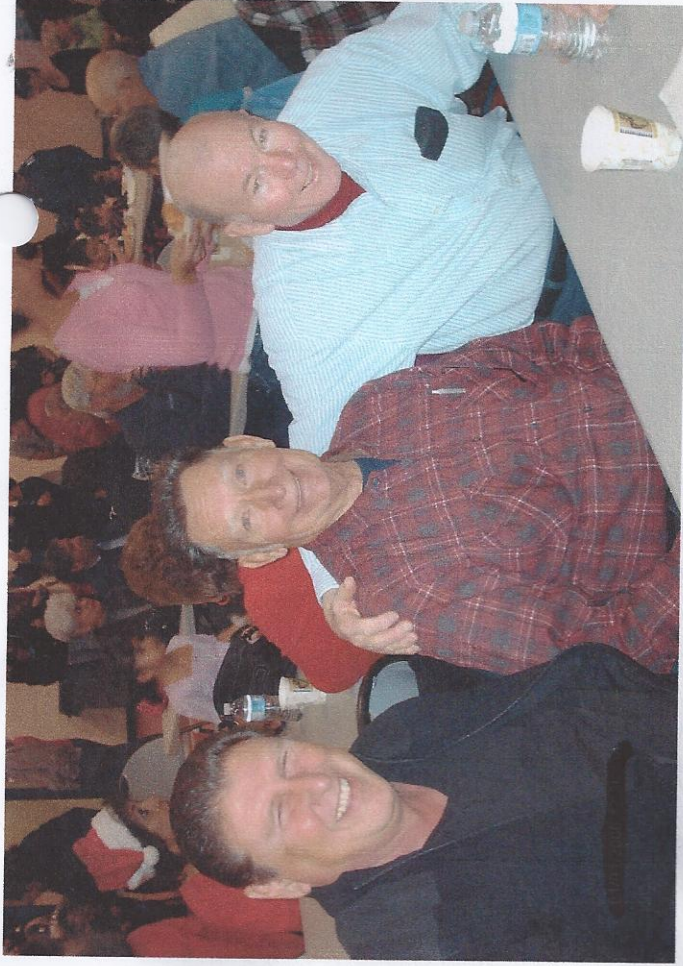
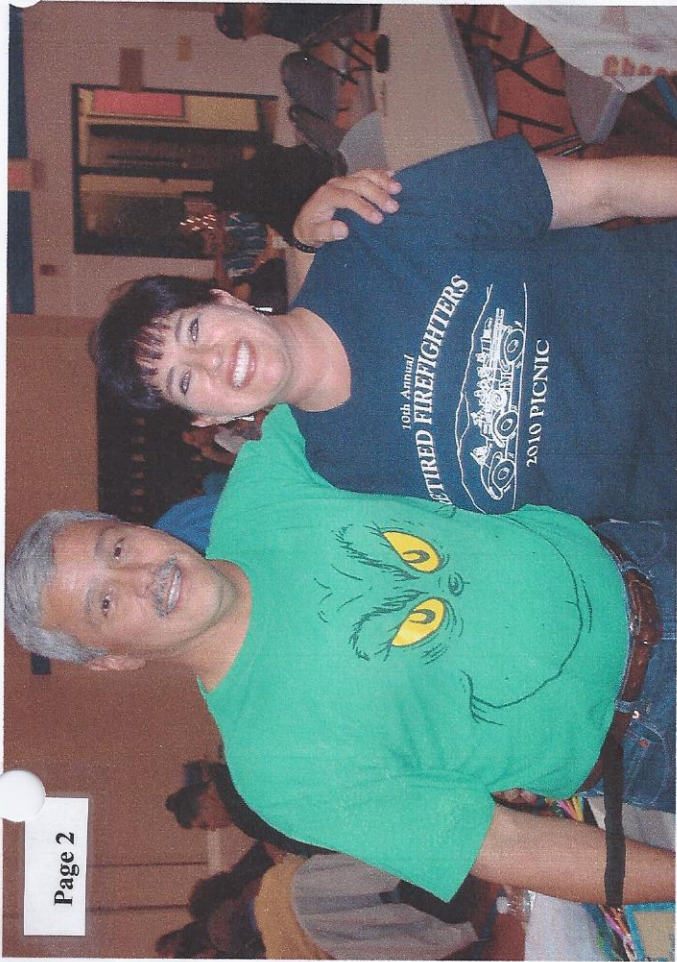
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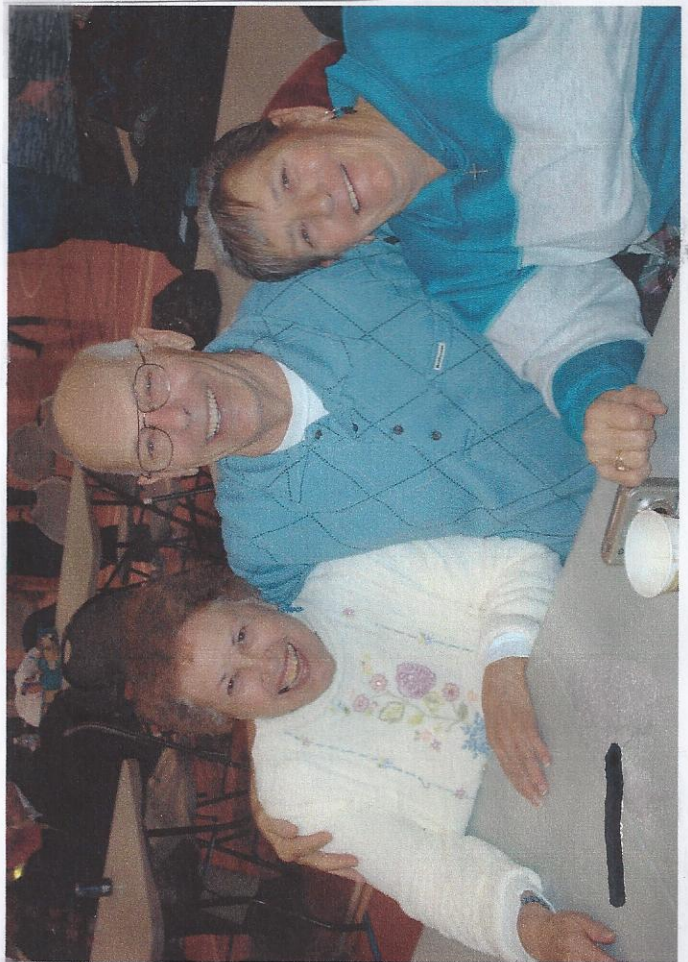
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AFD RETIREE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 11, 2010





**JAMES HENRY COSGROVE JR. AFD FIREMAN TURN OF THE CENTURY (1900's)**  
 (By Herman R. Bishop)

Recently we were contacted by Mr. Neal Middlebrook of N. Bend Oregon. He inquired if we had Records of his uncle James Henry Cosgrove Jr. Who had served as an Albuquerque fireman at The turn of the century, early 1900's. Mr. Middlebrook has an undated Albuquerque newspaper article and several photos of his uncle which he inherited from his grandmother. Mr. Cosgrove served in the fire department from the late 1800, s through About 1915. He attained the rank of Assistant Chief. About 1915-1917 he went To California. He was born in Albuquerque in 1881 and died in the age of 82 in Los Angeles During 1962.

Here is what our research found. As a young man Fireman Cosgrove played baseball with the Browns Baseball team in Albuquerque. In the late 1800's He joined AFD as a volunteer and was a lantern boy With the fire wagon. After serving several years as a volunteer he became a paid fireman in the early 1900' s and was hired by Chief Ruppe. On the daily Handwritten logs from 1901 to 1915 fireman Cosgrove is listed numerous times.

May 16, 1901 a new log was begun. The crew was Fire Chief Bernard Ruppe, Captain E. Southerland, Lieutenant James Cosgrove, Driver L.H. Hanlin, Sub volunteers, F. Hungate, and E. Hale.

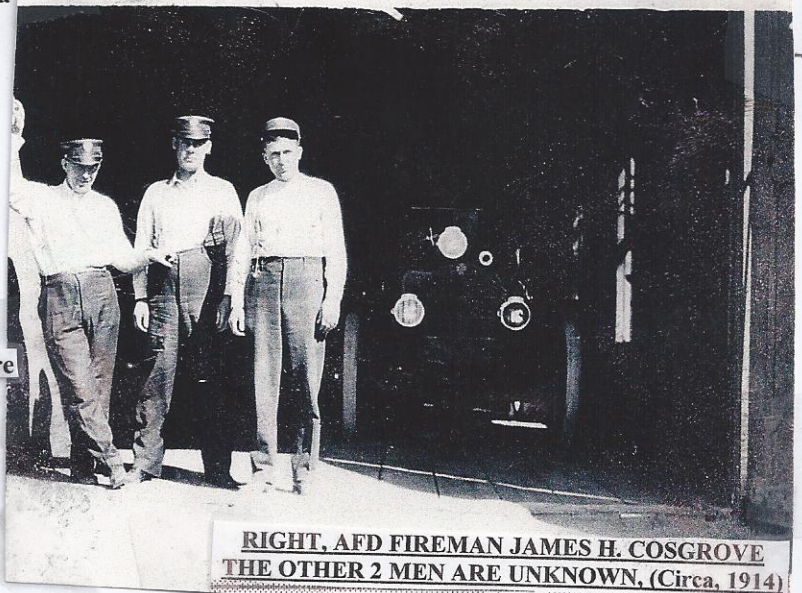
October 14, 1901 Chief Ruppe "Gave Lieutenant James Cosgrove very indignant orders in regards to The men leaving the firehouse without letting the Fire Chief Know about it. January, 1902 Chief Ruppee "orders no man to ask for more pay from anyone But him. Also no man is to be antagonistic to the Police Department.

During September, 1908 the Highland station (# Two) went into service. An Assistant Chief's position was authorized for the new station. On April 18, 1910 Jacob Klein is appointed to Fire Chief. He replaced A.C. Burtless who had served as Chief, 1904 to 1910. At the same time James Cosgrove was promoted to Captain, Station # 2. Sometime in 1910 it appears that James Cosgrove was promoted to Assistant Chief and was assigned as the officer in charge of the Highlands Station.

In January 1916 A.C. Burtless replaced Jacob Klein as Fire Chief. An un-dated newspaper article at that time reports a big Fire Department investigation by the City Council causing a change of Fire Chief's. Although the dates are not clear it appears that the firemen were attempting to unionize. This attempt by firemen to unionize is reported in later AFD logs and from 1916 through 1920 . The turmoil resulted in several Fire Chief's removal and new Chiefs appointed in their place .



**AFD AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER (Circa, 1914)**



**RIGHT, AFD FIREMAN JAMES H. COSGROVE  
 THE OTHER 2 MEN ARE UNKNOWN, (Circa, 1914)**



The exact dates are not specific, but apparently sometime in 1916 or 1917 Assistant Chief James Cosgrove resigned and moved to Los Angeles. The undated newspaper article states that he was not part of the investigation by The City Council. During that time it was not apparent if Jacob Klein or A.C. Burtless would be Fire Chief. Assistant Chief Cosgrove was suggested to be Fire Chief to the City Council. Friends thought that Cosgrove should have been made acting Fire Chief when Chief Jacob Klein was suspended.

Reading between the lines of the news paper article of the day, Assistant Chief James H. Cosgrove Jr. Did not want to be part of the Fire Department controversy any longer and resigned.. Mr G.D. Hammond, chairman of the fire committee of the Council, confirmed the resignation of James Cosgrove. He announced that Captain J.A. Burnett, would be promoted to Assistant Chief and would be transferred from Station # 1 and would now be assigned in charge of the Highlands Fire Station. It was reported that James Cosgrove kept abreast of the times in fire fighting and was regarded as a valuable man to the department. After moving to California James Cosgrove went to work for the railroad as a car inspector. He died in Los Angeles in 1962 at the age of 82.

Additional Information: Nephew Neil Middlebrook provided considerable information for this article. James Henry Cosgrove Jr. was born May 7, 1881 in Albuquerque and was the son of James Henry Cosgrove Sr. and his mother was Amanda Marcella Hysell Cosgrove. August 9, 1904 James Cosgrove marries Lena Ann Seldomridge, age 18, in Albuquerque, by Catholic Priest P. Tommasini. In 1905 they have one daughter De Etta Cosgrove, born December 17, 1885.

Albuquerque Daily Citizen, April 23, 1896 - James played ball with the Albuquerque Browns Baseball team. He was 15 years old at the start of the 1896 baseball season and served as the Browns mascot and property manager. He played centerfield for the 1904 baseball season. It is not known how many seasons he played for the Browns but he must have been a pretty good player to play professional Baseball.

L-R, BILL COLLISTER, Mr. Mullins, Jacob Klein  
Driver, Windy Robinson, Arthur C. Burtless



*Albuquerque Fire Dept. 1906*

Three Former AFD Fire Chiefs In This Photo

1904-1910, 1915-1916 Arthur Burtless  
1910-1915 Jacob Klein, 1917-1922 William Collister



Albuquerque Fire Department  
James Cosgrove (Circa, 1895)  
Lantern Boy, Hose Company # 2



LETTER OF THANKS

NOTE: THIS FICTITIOUS STORY HAS BEEN AROUND THE FIRE SERVICE FOR OVER 45 YEARS OR MORE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF. THE FIRE HOUSE HUMOR AND THE ABILITY TO LAUGH AT OURSELVES MAKES MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE SERVICE A FUN AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

Dear Fire Chief:

I am taking this opportunity to thank you for putting out the fire in my house although you will note from my current address that I do not live in that house any longer. You fellows certainly don't fool around but I guess that's all part of putting the fire out. I can see now that a fire in the cellar is fairly easy to put out, you just fill it up with water. Too bad my fire wasn't in the cellar. Knowing very little about fires, I was surprised that a fire starting in my ironing board could cause so much damage!

I was quite worried until the fire engines arrived. Then there was a lot of confusion and running around. It's a good thing it was daytime or there might have been more accidents. I hope the man who fell off the fire engine as it came around the corner is all right. Then there was the man with the air tank that fell off and he was dragging it around by that hose and he seemed to be having a lot of trouble.

They really got the hose off the engine fast and piled it up in the middle of the road and started looking for the ends. One man pulled out one end, put a nozzle on it and ran into the house while another man found the other end and he put a nozzle on it and ran into the other side of the house. These men were shouting for water. I felt so sorry for the man who was left at the engine. He was wringing his hands and didn't seem to know what to do, so he got into the engine and drove it down the street out of sight.

After a while I thought it best to get some of my belongings because the fire was getting worse. I was putting together some of my more valuable possessions when two men with tanks on their backs and masks rescued me, your men were so thoughtful. They were in a very excitable state talking incoherently thru the mask, one pointed to a door; I tried to warn them that it was a closet, but it was too late. They opened the door and dashed in. I was able to get the bigger man out without too much trouble, but the smaller man's tank was caught in the wall. I immediately went to the window to attract attention. I knew there were a lot of men outside running around and yelling. Just then a man with Lieut. on his helmet and another man with Capt. on his helmet who were running around the house at top speed collided head-on. Some other men helped them up and it's a good thing they moved because that's where the big metal ladder landed when it fell over.

In the excitement someone closed the door to the closet where the smaller man was, and it wasn't until an alarm device on his tank started sounding that they remembered him. You people certainly think of everything. Imagine an alarm device carried on you that will sound loudly when you get caught in a closet. They got the poor man out but he almost suffocated when they attempted to revive him with that resuscitator machine. Then everyone started arguing how to use it, fortunately he had enough strength left to keep pushing it away or he might have smothered.

I went upstairs, it was very hot and smoky up there, but when I opened the windows it wasn't bad! Outside some men were struggling with a ladder caught in a tree. Someone had moved it or it fell. A man was stranded on the roof where all the fire was coming out now. Then I heard a lot of noise coming from the stairs, hacking, coughing, and swearing. The language was awful. A man was telling the others, "get up there." Through the smoke I could see a man lying on the top step. He shouted, "hey Lou, there's a lady up there." Then someone yelled back, "give her the line, maybe



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she can get a shot at it." Because of the difficulty I had with that hose line I would suggest that you have your bigger men hold these hoses and the smaller men run around with tools.

If you will remember, after the fire was out there was a rash of accidents. A man with a white hat came upstairs and berated the man with Lieut. on his hat for not throwing the debris out the window. A short time later there was a shout to stop. The man with the white hat got hit by a sofa. The officer's driver was injured and almost drowned when he fell into a hole into the cellar. A chair had been placed over the hole but the Chief told the fellow to remove it, because someone might trip over it.

A Lieut. was making a close examination of a wall when someone struck it from the opposite side with a heavy tool. The Lieut. seemed alright but his helmet was wedged on his head. They couldn't get it off. Afterwards he also appeared somewhat shorter.

The man with the white hat told me how lucky I was and pointed out to my neighbors and myself the importance of immediately calling the fire department in case of fire. Most big fires are the result of delayed alarms. Imagine what would have happened if I had waited.

In closing I would like to say we haven't had as much commotion and excitement around here since a little boy called in a false alarm. At that call the big ladder truck rolled down the hill and ran into the car with the siren and bell on the front. Thank you for your efforts and I will try not to leave the iron on the ironing board again. I sure would hate to see you and the firemen coming back to my house again.

Gratefully Yours,

Mrs. J.F. Smith, 203 Main Street North

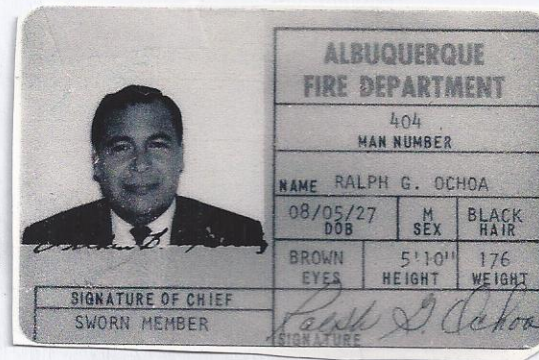


**1948 SEAGRAVE, 75 FT. AERIAL LADDER  
SERVED MONTE VISTA FIRE STA. #3 (1952-1972)**



**RALPH OCHOA DEAD AT AGE 83**

Retired AFD Deputy Chief Ralph G. Ochoa died on December 31, 2010 after a long term illness. He grew up in Gallup, New Mexico. After graduating from Gallup High School he came to Albuquerque. In 1951 he was hired as a firefighter when the Fire Department had only 85 personnel. His promotions came quickly and were as follows. 1954, Driver, 1957, Lieutenant, Captain, 1963, District Chief, 1966, Assistant Chief, 1973, and Deputy Fire Chief, 1980. When Rescue # 1 was formed in 1957 he served as one of the first Lieutenants on the new rig. He served in various stations the next few years throughout the City. After his promotion to Captain he opened the new Station # 13 near Winrock.



In 1973 Ralph was promoted to Chief of Fire Prevention. As Fire Marshal he is credited with computerizing fire incident and rescue incident reporting. When Arthur Martinez was promoted to Fire Chief in 1974 Ralph was promoted to Deputy Chief. In this position he upgraded the specifications for new fire apparatus and directed the building of several new fire Stations. After serving 29 years in the Department Ralph Ochoa retired On June 2, 1980. When the AFD Retiree's Association was formed in 2000 He was one of the first members and served honorably the past ten years.

**December Meeting-** President Sam Trujillo called the 124 th monthly meeting to order on December 8, 2010. The meeting was held at the Firefighters Union Hall 4100 Edith N.E. After the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Chaplin Mark Chavez a moment of silence was observed for our deceased retirees. After roll call Sam Trujillo recognized our guests, B. J. Martin, Eric Jones and Robert Aragon. There were no guest speakers.

On December 14, 2010 a special presentation was made to the Fire Cadets by the following retirees: Sam Trujillo, Zac Romero, Fred Casias, Tom Romero, John Serino, L.C. Trujillo, Ray Flores & Bill Raupfer.

**The Secretary's report** was given by Fred Casias and a motion to accept was made by Marx Deer and was seconded by Bill Raupfer. **The Treasurer's report** was given by John Serino and a motion to accept was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Juan Sandoval.

Reminder Joe Stone still has 2010 AFD calendars for sale, @ \$10.00 each.

**The historian's report** was given by Herman Bishop Recently we were contacted by Mr. Neal Middlebrook from N. Bend, Oregon requesting information about his uncle James Cosgrove who had served in AFD at the turn of the century (1900). In the records we found information about Assistant Chief Cosgrove and passed it on to Mr. Middlebrook. In return he sent photos of his uncle and several photos of the early fire trucks (1912-1914) used by AFD. Herman will run the James Cosgrove story in the March 1, 2011 newsletter. A big thanks to Mr Middlebrook for the information he sent.

**Fire Bell-** Pablo Garcia and his cousin Robert Aragon are almost finished with the fire bell which will be used for ceremonial purposes and funeral details by the Retiree's Association. The bell was donated by the Bob Murphy family. Bill Raupfer is assisting in this project.

Now that we have a new trailer (bigger & better) we are offering the old trailer for sale. Please contact Eddie Torres if you are interested.

Our sincere condolences to Ahren Griego, F.F. Union, Vice President who recently lost his dear mother. She was the wife of retiree Roman Romero. Our sympathies go to the Romero and Griego families. It was reported that Louie Padilla (Big Bird) was recently in the V.A. Hospital. Our best wishes go to Louie during his recovery.

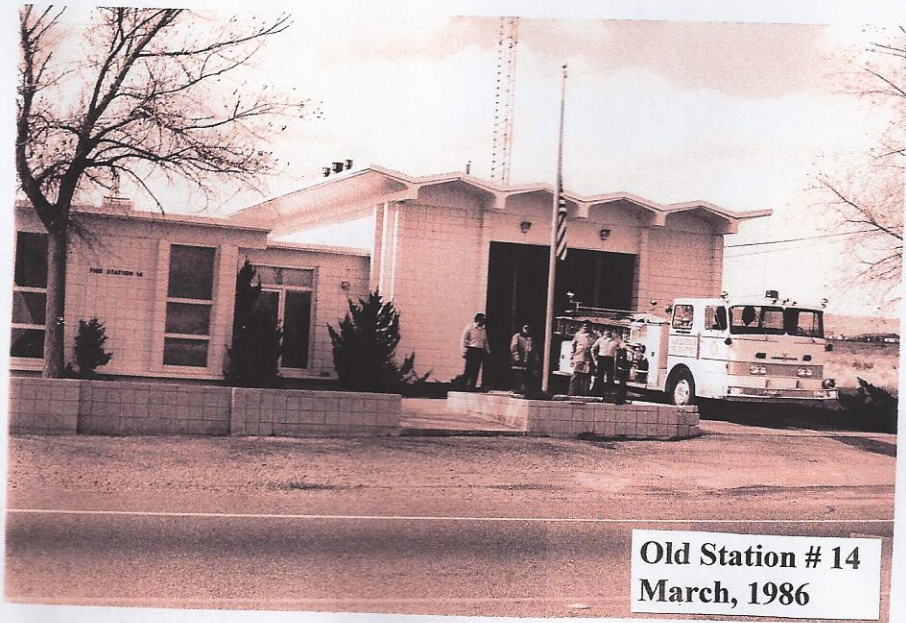
Ray Flores and Eddie Torres reported that the Christmas party will be held in downtown Bernalillo, New Mexico at the recreation center. It will be on December 11, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. Every one is invited. Santa will be there with goodies for the children

The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval and the December meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.



**CONDOLENCES**

Sincere condolences go out to the Kenneth Alvis family on the recent Loss of their daughter and the loss Of Kenneth's sister.



**Old Station # 14  
March, 1986**



**Drill Tower, (Sept. 1983)  
1510 Kit Carson S. W.**

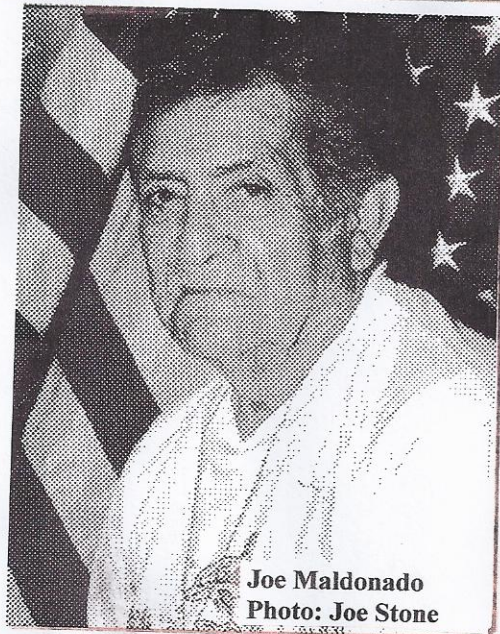


**Station Two  
March, 1986**

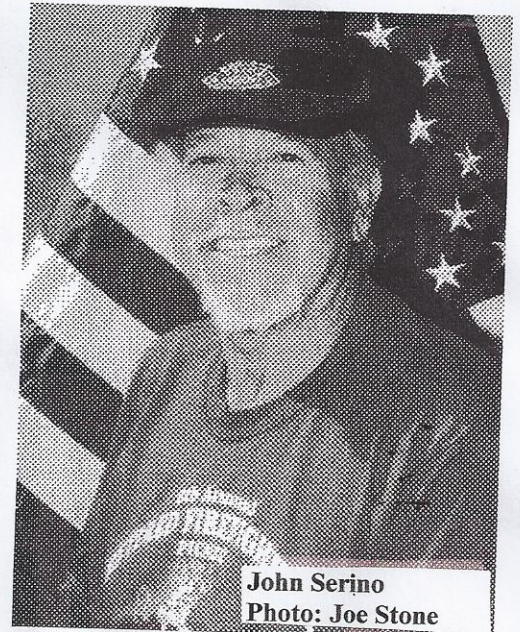
**RECOGNITION AWARDS**

On December 17, 2010 when the Fire Cadet Graduation ceremonies were held at the Kimo Theater, two AFD retirees, Joe Maldonado and John Serino were presented awards for their many years of outstanding fire service. The awards were presented by Deputy Chief David Downey. Joe Maldonado was nominated by Louis Trujillo and John Serino was nominated by Herman Bishop.

See Stories, P-11, P-12



**Joe Maldonado  
Photo: Joe Stone**



**John Serino  
Photo: Joe Stone**



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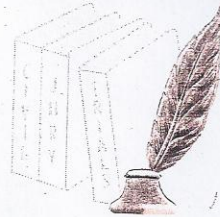
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 John Serino, @ 266-1252, or Sam Trujillo, @ 899-1500



December 10, 2010

**JOE MALDONADO, AFD RETIRED DISTRICT CHIEF**  
**FIRE SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD**

Joe Maldonado started his career with the Albuquerque Fire Department in August, 1953. He was hired by the late Fire Chief Arthur Westerfeld. He began as a firefighter 3rd class and progressed to firefighter first class. He successfully passed the driver's examination and was promoted during August, 1956. Within one month the Chief recognized his abilities and assigned Joe to be his personal driver.

In October, 1959 he successfully passed the Lieutenant's test and was promoted again. The department had just placed a second rescue squad into service at fire station eight and Lieutenant Maldonado served as the first officer on the new unit.

When the Captain's exam was given in February, 1964 Joe scored the highest on the test and was immediately promoted. The old fire station # 13 near Winrock was opened in April, 1964 and Joe was there to open the new station and served on Engine # 13.

Shortly thereafter Ray Kuhn was promoted to Fire Chief and called on Joe to serve in the training division located at 1510 Kit Carson S. W. near the Zoo. Joe was promoted to District Chief and at that time there were only two instructors, Joe Maldonado and Joe Gonzales. While serving at the training division Joe is credited for re-naming the fire training center as "The Albuquerque Fire Academy."

In 1966 after serving as director of the Fire Academy he was assigned back to the firefighting division as District Chief in charge of District # 1 one downtown.

Joe had a distinguished and colorful career and is well respected by every one he worked with. After serving the community and the fire department faithfully Joe retired in September, 1983 with over 30 years service.

After the AFD Retiree's Association was formed Joe was one of our first members and has been an active and faithful member for ten years. Because of his strong religious faith he is active in the church and serves as Chaplain of the retiree's Association. After his more than 50 years association with the fire service, Joe Maldonado is held in the highest regard by his fellow firefighters and associates.

Submitted By: Louis C. Trujillo, Advisory Board Member  
AFD Retiree's Association



December 10, 2010

**JOHN SERINO, AFD RETIRED FIREFIGHTER**  
**FIRE SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD**

John Serino joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on June 24, 1974. He served most of his career in district # 1 at stations # 1, # 4, # 17, # 14, # 18, and # 16. During his 20 years of active duty fire service, John served on pumpers, ladders, and the Rescue squad as an EMT-A. John said, "of all my assignments, I enjoyed my 12 years on the Rescue most of all. We were busy all the time and we were able to help people in need on a daily basis."

John was an outstanding firefighter and is given due credit for his years serving on the rescue squad. He was well respected by his fellow firefighters and supervisors alike.

Unfortunately at the mid-point of his career, John suffered from alcoholism which seriously jeopardized his career. After going to re-hab he was able to turn his career around and became a model firefighter . He finished his career with honors. He is a recovering alcoholic and this year is celebrating 26 years of sobriety. John is a great mentor for his fellows and has counseled and lectured firefighters and retirees alike who have personal problems. During the tenure of Fire Chief Robert Ortega he was invited to lecture to active duty firefighters and assisted in the "Troubled Employee's Assistance Program."

After the Retired Firefighters Association formed John became an active member and has faithfully served as Treasurer during the past six years.

He remains active in the fire service with Homeland Security. After hurricane Katrina he volunteered to go to New Orleans to assist in the clean-up effort and found it most gratifying to be part of the team of firefighters that rebuilt fire stations # 7 and # 4.

Last year as part of Senior Softball Team USA John and his wife Marcela represented the United States by going to Havana, Cuba for the softball playoffs with the National Cuban softball team. More than representing Softball Team USA, John and Marcela Served as goodwill ambassadors for the United States.

During the 10 th anniversary celebration of the AFD Retiree's Association John was a key player in developing the "Retiree's Memorial Plaque," honoring over 400 AFD retirees. Today this plaque hangs in the lobby of the Fire Administration complex at 11500 Sunset Gardens S.W.

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



MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2010 MONTHLY MEETING

The January meeting was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith N.E. on January 12, 2010 @ 7:07 P.M. President Sam Trujillo led the Pledge of Allegiance and Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held for retired Deputy Chief Ralph Ochoa who passed away on December 31, 2010 after a long illness. Remembrance was given to all our deceased retirees.

After roll call Sam Trujillo introduced our recent retirees who attended the January meeting. They were: Michael Murphy, Anthony Nuanes, James Parra and Mike McKinstry. "Welcome aboard fellow retirees !" Special Guest: Yvonne Shoeman, daughter of Ray Flores.

A big thanks to the Firefighters' Union for their generous support for the Retiree's Association and for the use of the Union Hall for our monthly meetings.

Fred Casias gave the minutes of the December meeting and a motion to accept was made by L.C. Trujillo and was seconded by Marx Deer. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report and a motion to accept was made by Ralph Sedillo and was seconded by Santos Abeyta. The motion carried.

Historian's Report- Herman thanked Ralph Sedillo for tonight's display of model fire trucks which are replicas of AFD apparatus. Ralph has pursued this hobby for several years and his collection is most impressive. Thanks to Toby Pino for news articles about the Firefighters strike in 1973.

Recently Herman had both knees replaced and his recovery is good. He thanked his many friends who called to give their best Wishes, support, and prayers. Herman read a letter submitted by retired District Chief Joe Maldonado thanking the members of the Retiree's Association for nominating him to Receive the special recognition award which Was presented to him at the recent Fire Cadet graduation.

Eddie Torres reported that we sold our old Trailer to Freddie Teupell who was the highest Bidder. Enjoy your trailer Freddie.

Pablo Garcia, Bill Raupfer and Sam Trujillo Presented our new completed Fire Bell which Will be used for ceremonial purposes and at Funeral details. A big thanks to Pablo, Bill, Sam and Pablo's cousin Robert Aragon who Put it together. Thanks to the Bob Murphy Family for donating the bell.

Our best wishes for the following people who Are on the sick leave roster. Bill Raupfer's Wife, Toby Pino's wife, Teter Baca, Jimmy Baca, Louie Padilla. Knee replacements, Sam Trujillo Alvin Martin, Herman Bishop. Victor Sanchez Had a hip replacement. Closing prayer Mark Chavez. Adjourned @ 8:43 P.M.



12-08-10 18:44:40

Photo: John Serino



Valued today as collector's items, fire marks once meant the difference between receiving organized help in fighting a fire or no help at all.

Starting in Philadelphia in 1752, each fire insurance company developed its own distinctive fire mark which might be likened to a corporate "logo" today. As a firm designed its fire mark, it had copies cast in lead or carved of wood and painted. It then nailed one fire mark in a conspicuous place on each building it insured.

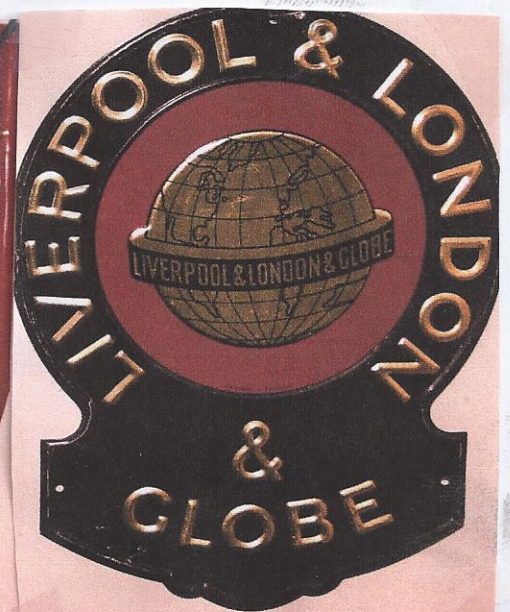
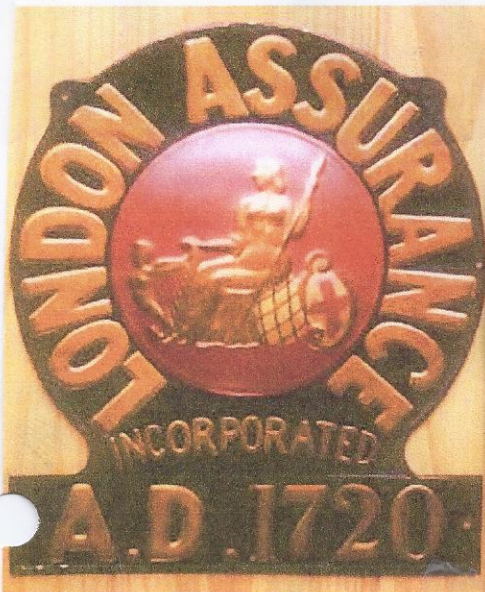
Insurance companies next began to offer rewards for fire fighting assistance in saving their properties. Fire marks — or their absence — helped competing fire brigades decide whether or not it was worth their while to try to extinguish a fire.

At the sound of a fire alarm, every brigade within earshot responded "in a furious dash," according to one writer. "It was the case of winner take all, the first company arriving having the undisputed privilege of dealing with the flames. If a house bore a fire mark — no matter whose — it was a guarantee that the brigade succeeding in beating the fire would receive its just due from the insuring company. Burning houses bearing marks therefore received energetic attention. But if a piece of burning property bore no fire mark, the gallant volunteers more often than not quickly left." (From "Fire Marks," copyright 1938 by the American Reserve Insurance Company, New York City.)

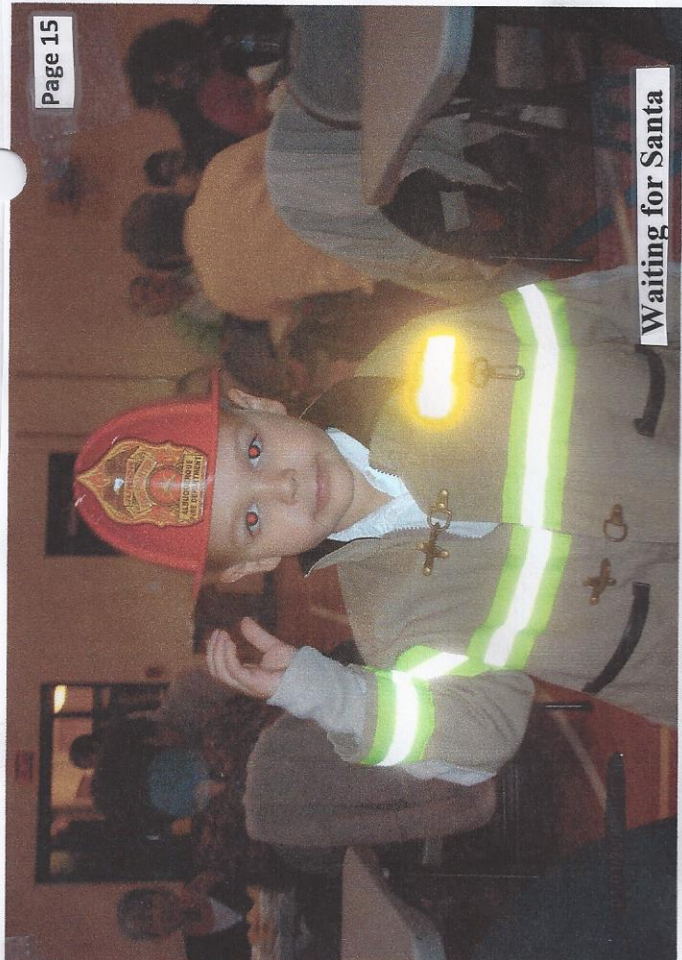
In 1752, the first fire mark appeared in America. This was also the year of the founding of the first American fire insurance company, the Philadelphia Contributionship. The new firm based its mark on a design used in London as early as 1714. The emblem was known as a "Double Hand-in-Hand," depicting two pair of hands, each hand grasping the wrist of another, with the resulting square formation mounted at an angle to form a diamond. The clasped hands were in an arrangement commonly known today as the "Boy Scout Grasp" or, in England, the "Lady-to-London" grip which is almost unbreakable, signifying great strength and said to also represent trust, faith and goodwill.

Some early insurance companies decided not to insure houses with trees nearby, because trees often caught fire and helped spread flames from one structure to another. Citizens who wanted both trees on their property and fire insurance organized the Mutual Assurance Company in 1784 and, almost inevitably, chose "The Green Tree" as their fire mark.

Following the Hand-in-Hand, Green Tree, American Eagle, and other early fire mark designs with ideological and patriotic origins, came marks reflecting developments in fire fighting. Designs showing a fire hydrant with hose attached, a fire engine, and a fire hydrant, reflected the gradual improvement in apparatus.







Waiting for Santa



Merry Flores, Viola Torres, Victoria

AFD RETIREE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 11, 2010



Leroy Barboa(Santa Claus), Wilfred Dominguez



Mrs. Joe Martinez, Mrs. Felix Garza





**Bill & Marilyn Raupfer**

**AFD RETIREE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 11, 2010**

**JOAQUIN, FUTURE FIREFIGHTER, NEEDS HELP**

On Sunday, February 6 th, there was an article in the Albuquerque Journal Regarding an 11 year old boy, Joaquin, who is presently with CYFD , (Children's Youth and Families Department). He is looking for foster or Adoptive parents. The reason this article caught my attention is that he says That he wants to be a firefighter. Since I am active in the AFD Retiree's Association, I figured there must be something we could do for Joaquin. I Brought the article to the Retiree's Association's monthly meeting. A crew From Engine 6 (C Platoon), along with Captain Ahren Griego, Vice President Of Local 244 , were in attendance. All want to do something for our "little Brother" including Mark Chavez Vice President of the Random Acts of Kindness division of AFD. If you have any ideas and/or if you would like to Assist or donate your time to this project, please contact me, John Serino @ 266-1252 (home), or 710-6030 (cell). I thank you in advance for your help. John Serino, Treasurer, AFD Retiree's Association

**NEW RESCUE UNIT 8 GOES INTO SERVICE, STATION # 8**

On January 29 th, 2011 Rescue 8 was dedicated and placed into Service by Mayor Richard J. Berry and Fire Chief James Breen. It is located at Station #8, on Tramway and Indian School Road N.E. It will serve the south Foothills and Four Hills area. Recently 12 paramedics graduated from the Fire Academy and made Staffing of the new truck possible. It was funded by the City's Capital Improvement Fund. \$380,000 towards the operating expenses was appropriated by The City Council. The new unit cost \$180,000.

Mayor Berry said, "credit goes to Fire Chief Jim Breen, the City Council, the neighborhood association, and my staff who over the years Cooperated and worked hard to make this project a reality." The Mayor had high praise for Local Firefighter's Union President Diego Arencon and the firefighters who worked closely and diligently with His staff to ensure this new rescue unit is operational.

City Council President Don Harris said, "not only will this improve public Safety for the residents of these neighborhoods, but it will also relieve one Of the busiest rescue trucks in the city at Station 12.



**(1-29-2011) Dedication of Rescue 8- Station # 8  
Opening Prayer, Chaplain Jerome Rael**



### INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

Any of you who are interested in receiving back issues of our newsletters or copies of any photos published in the newsletters, we will make them available to you. The cost of mailing the information to you is as follows :

\$5.00 - Newsletters, per copy

\$10.00 - Photos, 8 X 10, Color or Black and White

**Note:** We have published our newsletters quarterly for the past 10 years and have saved all of them. If you want copies contact Herman Bishop, 294-7165.

**12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111**

February, 2011 Monthly Meeting - The February meeting was called to order by President Sam Trujillo @ 7:15 P. M. on February 9, 2011. This was the 126<sup>th</sup> meeting and it was held at the Firefighter's Union hall, 4100 Edith N. E. After the Pledge of Allegiance Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening Prayer, and a moment of silence was observed in honor of our deceased retirees.

After roll call Sam Trujillo welcomed retirees who have not attended recently, Eloy Maldonado, James Parra, Michael Murphy, Gerald Grimm, and Kenneth Sewell. There were two guests, Kenneth Borrego and our guest speaker Cynthia Borrego. Cynthia is running as a PERA board member and wants to represent the retirees. She is a retired planner with the City of Albuquerque. She along with Lucy Sedillo are both running as board members of the Rio Grande Credit Union. They both asked for votes from the AFD retirees.

President Sam Trujillo is working with the leaders of our Local 244 Firefighter's Union to appear before the New Mexico State Legislature, PERA Board Members and 27,000 New Mexico retirees To save our annual 3 % Cost of Living. Strong forces in the N.M. State Legislature are looking To the Retiree's fund to help solve the State's current financial crisis. Ahren Griego Vice President of AFD Local 244 Firefighter's Union spoke to the retirees and said he and the Union lobbyists are fighting long and hard to preserve retiree benefits for firefighters and especially to protect our 3% Annual COLA.

Because of limited time a motion to dispense with the January monthly minutes was made by Noel Baca, and seconded by Eugene Baldonado. The motion Carried.

Secretary's Report- John Serino gave the Secretary's report and thanked all who made recent donations, especially those who donated their time and money for the success of our annual Christmas Party. A motion to accept was made by L.C. Trujillo and was seconded by Marx Deer. The motion carried.

Historian's report- Herman reported that on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 the new Rescue # 8 was dedicated and placed into service at Station #8 (Tramway & Indian School Rd. N.E.). The department has ordered four Seagrave pampers, 2000 GPM, 500 gallons tanks, and powered by 500 HP Cummings ISM diesel engines. They are expected to arrive this summer. Also Mayor Berry announced that construction will begin in early summer on the new fire station # 7 at 57<sup>th</sup> and Central West. The new station will replace the old Station # 7. There will be a pumper, ladder truck and a rescue truck Housed in the new station. It is expected to open by December, 2012.

Recently Chief Breen announced that the AFD Year book has been cancelled due to lack of interest. We could not get enough participants to make it economically feasible. Those who placed their orders will have their \$50.00 refunded.

Chaplain Jerome Rael invited all retirees and their families to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Blue Mass to be held on Tuesday March 1, 2011 @ 12:00 Noon. Location: St. Pius X Gymnasium 5301 St. Joseph Pl. N.W. Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan will celebrate the Mass. The Mass celebrates all firefighters and public safety officers to pray thanksgiving for their service to our community and to pray for their families who love and support them. THE CELEBRATION IS FOR ALL FAITH DENOMINATIONS.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. Meeting adjourned 9:00 P. M.



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



Sam Trujillo

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By : Sam Trujillo

I would like to welcome all recent retiree's to our association. We are in our 11<sup>th</sup> year as the Albuquerque Fire Department Retired Fire Fighters Association and we are going strong. As we start the New Year (2011), I would like to remind our members of a few items that may apply to them .....

1 ... The members that have their health insurance through PERA - N.M. Health Care Authority are eligible to have their health care premiums (up to \$3,000.00) deducted from their PERA gross income. This was a federal law that was passed in 2006 benefiting both Fire Fighters and Police. The federal law was passed through the efforts of The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS (IAFF). The law was referred to as the Pension Reform Act - Healthcare Enhancement Local Public safety (HELPS - HR-#4). Please visit the local PERA office and sign up for this tax deduction benefit. PERA has offices in both Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

2 ... If you are a retiree that came into the Fire Department in 1964 - early 1965 and retired after July -1985 and you were penalized a large percent of your benefit when you started drawing your Social Security ..... **Please call me at 899-1500** as I have information regarding the Reagan era Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Act of 1985. Many of our members were penalized upon drawing their Social Security pension benefit.

3 ... PERA has sent out 1099's for 2010. The 1099's mailed to Retiree's that have signed up for the benefit as mentioned in #1 above are in error. PERA will be mailing revised (corrected) 1099's by mid February. **Please call me at 899-1500 if you have any questions.**

A brief reminder that our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month @ 1900. Please try to attend.