

50 YEARS PLEASANT DALE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



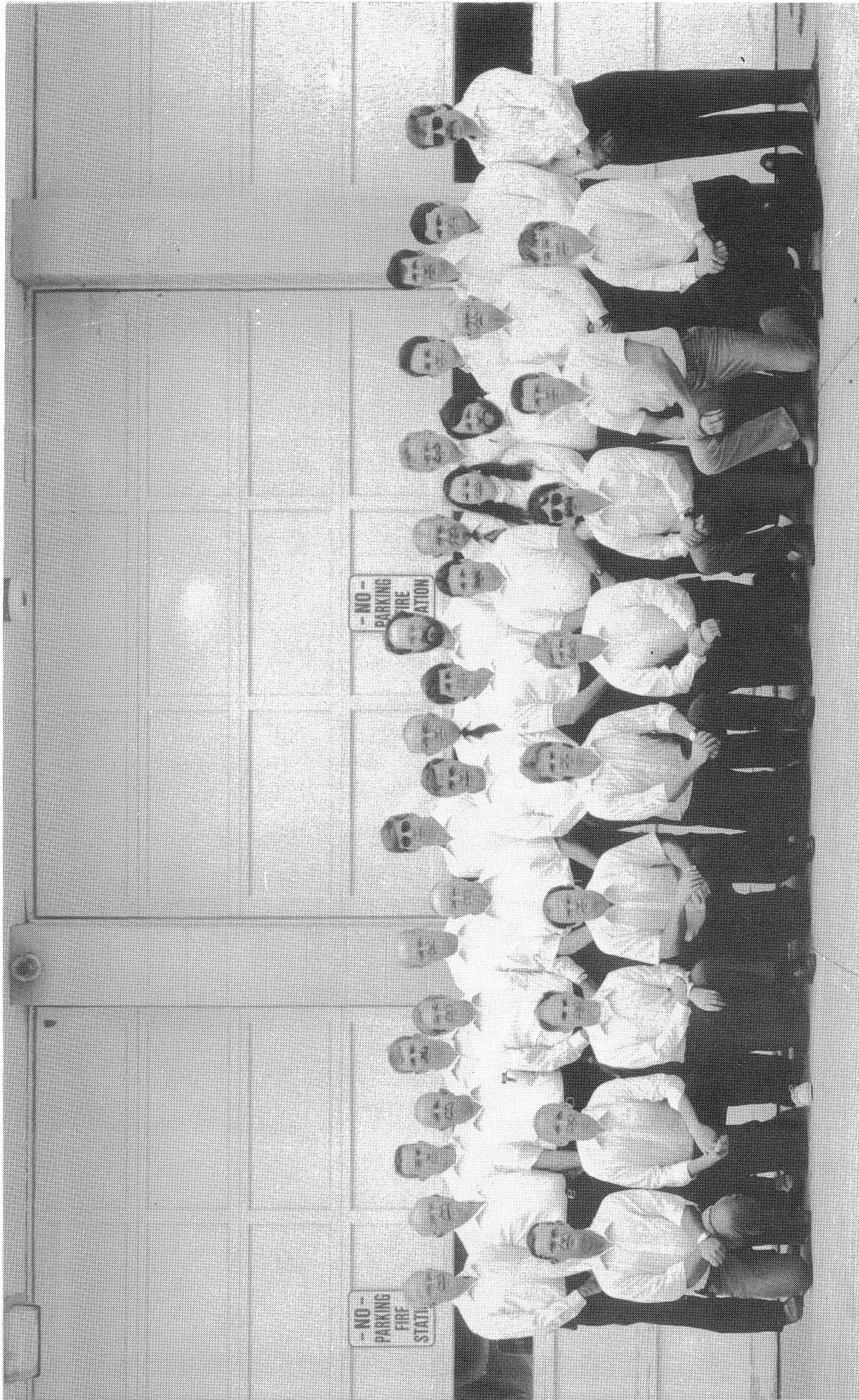
MAY 1942-MAY 1992

PLEASANT DALE, NEBRASKA

**FIFTY YEARS
OF SERVICE**

**PLEASANT DALE
RURAL VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

MAY 25, 1942 - MAY 25, 1992



**PLEASANT DALE
1992 FIREFIGHTERS**

Back row: Vernon Lemmert, Walter VanAndel, Jeffery Oehm, Elmer Dankers, Harlan Dankers, Gary Harral, John Reid, Arthur Piening, Dale Matthes, Edward Gottschall, Earl Lohmeier, Ricky Schneider, Gary Brhel, Robert Upton, Vernon Piening, Pamela James, Richard Matheson, William James, Michael Schepers, Earl Mitchell, Duane Burd, Joseph Zochol, and Kenneth Minzel. Front row: Thomas Vance, Wesley K. Reil, LeRoy Trease, Lawrence Lawton, Corey Trease, Clinton Thomas, Lucas McMullen, Roger Michaelis, and Ernest Krenk Jr. Not Pictured: Ronald Kapke, Douglas Smith, Darren Blaser, Eugene Blaser, Lori Cooper, Ronald Piening, James McNally, Anthony Liesveld, Dean Minchow, Dan Kester, David Ficke, Terry Kehm, and Steve Howe.

1992 FIFTY-YEAR CELEBRATION COMMITTEES

50 Year Committee	Vernon Lemmert, Chairman Earl Lohmeier LeRoy Trease Thomas Vance
Banquet April 4	Gary Harral, Chairman Dean Minchow Ronald Piening
Awards April 4	Gary Brhel, Chairman Rev. Douglas Smith
Soup Supper May 16	Dale Matthes, Chairman Roger Michaelis Ernest Krenk, Jr.
Street Dance June 13	Michael Schepers, Chairman William James Corey Trease
Golf Scramble July 19	Ricky Schneider, Chairman Clinton Thomas Robert Upton
Horseshoe Tournament August 15	Earl Lohmeier, Chairman Vernon Lemmert
Children's Competition August 15	Lori Cooper, Chairman
Fire Competition August 15	Duane Burd, Chairman Eugene Blaser Darren Blaser Gary Brhel Vernon Lemmert Thomas Vance
Pancake Feed August 16	Clinton Thomas, Chairman Harlan Dankers Ronald Kapke Ernest Krenk, Jr.
Parade August 16	Joseph Zochol, Chairman Rev. Douglas Smith
Raffle August 16	Anthony Liesveld, Chairman Walter Van Andel
Bunker Ball Game August 16	Jeffery Oehm, Chairman Kenneth Minzel
Anniversary Book February - October	Joanne Lostroh Doris Lostroh

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The fifty-year committee wishes to thank those persons who contributed to the success of our year-long celebration.

The climax of this event is the following information compiled by various members through interviews and facts from records of the past fifty years of the Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

We express our thanks to all those who submitted pictures and other memorabilia used throughout the book. We also thank photographers Lu Ann Lohmeier and Helen Busboom.

Finally we express our special appreciation to Joanne Lostroh and Doris Lostroh who helped, edited, and advised in the production of our history book.

Thanks for a successful year.

Vernon Lemmert, Chairman
Thomas Vance
Earl Lohmeier
LeRoy Trease



Fifty Year Anniversary Committee: Vernon Lemmert, Thomas Vance, Earl Lohmeier, LeRoy Trease.

ORGANIZATION

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

With the assistance of interviews as well as some written materials, come with us on our time machine back in time to observe the birth of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department. As you step aboard, watch your step and when everyone has found a seat we will be on our way.

As the machine comes to a halt, the year is 1932. Although there is no written information as to the time of purchase, Pleasant Dale did have its first piece of fire fighting equipment, a two-wheel hose cart, fifty feet of canvas hose, a hand pump, and a hard suction hose ten feet long. The village did not have an organized Brigade, as they were called in those years, but neighbor helped neighbor in the event of crisis. The hose cart was housed in a lean-to building behind Fred Shaw's Grocery. Whenever a fire occurred in the village, the men would get the hose cart and pull it to the fire. If water was not available, a tank or vat would be placed by the hose cart while men, women, and children formed a bucket brigade taking water from a cistern to the tank or vat. With the aid of the hard suction hose, men pumping the hand pump would draft water into the hose to the nozzle men. We were told that it was effective in some cases, but many times the fire had such a head start that all efforts failed.

On a warm April evening in 1932, at approximately one o'clock in the morning, the village was awakened to discover a fire that had started behind Tom Best's Pool Hall. The hose cart was in the lean-to located across the street. The fire quickly spread, and before anyone could get to the hose cart, the lean-to was engulfed in flames. The town not only lost the hose cart, but a large portion of the village. What a dark day it was for the residents of Pleasant Dale!

Our time machine moves forward seven years to 1939. During our travel of time we notice that the village has slowly recovered from the massive loss, and with the end of the great depression, everything and everyone is returning to normal. Life in communities in the Midwest has a group of businessmen, residents, and local farmers who like to have a morning cup of coffee while they sit around discussing the latest gossip and solving the world's problems.

Such a group existed in Pleasant Dale. In late 1939 and early 1940 war clouds were on the horizon. However, at this time this had little effect on the lives of people in and around Pleasant Dale. This beautiful morning we see five men sitting around a table having a very serious discussion. Let's move in a little closer so we can eavesdrop on the conversations.

1st Man: "The other day we attended a birthday party for my wife's uncle. We really had a good time. I got to talking to one of her cousins and he was telling me how their community just started a fire department. I'll tell you it was very interesting and my wife and I discussed it on the way home. We both got to thinking about us here, and if we had another incident like we did in '32 it might ruin this town and maybe even wipe it off the map."

2nd Man: "It's interesting because the other night my wife and I got into the same discussion, but you know we've just come out of the depression and all. I don't think the people in this community are ready for anything like this. Maybe in a couple of years. Right now I don't think so."

3rd Man: "You're right. Besides, that would take quite a bit of money, and the way things look overseas we could be at war tomorrow."

4th Man: "I have to agree that we can't afford anything like this, but I also feel we can't be without some type of protection. We still have a couple of good businesses and they deserve some kind of protection."

5th Man: "We've gotten along the way we are for so long I don't see us getting into a tizzy over this here fire department. We'd better sleep on this."

As we move forward we observe the same group having their morning coffee, discussing the latest happenings and gossip. I'm sure the topic of the Fire Department was cussed and discussed several times. But this morning the discussion becomes more serious.

1st Man: "We've talked a lot about this town having a fire department. I think it's high time we got the ball rolling and did some serious talking to the people in the community."

2nd Man: "My main concern is where in the h_____ are we going to get the money to finance and maintain such a venture. They surely don't give equipment away."

3rd Man: "Maybe if we approached the village board they would help us out. They always seem to have money for everything else."

4th Man: "I still say that the businesses would benefit the most from having a fire department in the village. I'm sure their insurance rates would go down considerably and if they would kick in the difference, it would be a start."

5th Man: "I don't think it will work. I've talked to some of the men of this village and they see no reason to have a fire department."

As we travel forward, another year has passed, and our same "Coffee-Cuppers" are still discussing the problems of the world. However, this morning they are joined by a sixth member of the community. The usual pro and con discussion of a fire department is being carried on while our 6th man just listens. Finally, after some time in the discussion, the 6th Man said, "I've been listening to your discussion and I think you have a great idea. It's something this village needs. Now if you fellows can get the men in this village and the surrounding area interested in forming this fire department, as a member of the village board I'll use my influence with the other board members and see what we can do for you. How does that sound?"

The "Coffee-Cuppers" agreed and started to lay out their plan of action for the village and surrounding area.

It was not an easy task. "Cuppers" were sworn at and at times were even kicked off property. There were even those who wouldn't talk or associate with the neighbor because of the project. However, time has a way of healing the hurt, and those who scoffed at the

project were later great backers as well as good members of the fire department.

On the evening of May 25, 1942, eleven men sat around a meeting room, and the dreams of the five "Coffee-Cuppers" became a reality. One of the "Coffee-Cuppers" and two of his best friends on that same evening were out in the surrounding community recruiting men to join the new fire department, while at the meeting the eleven men elected their first officers and created the first by-laws which were signed by ten present. Later the three men from the recruiting committee signed the by-laws making a total of thirteen men on the original Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department.

In the beginning, the department had very little equipment except for the 2-1/2 gallon buckets that were used as a bucket brigade. The village board member was true to his word, for the village of Pleasant Dale and the city of Wayne, Nebraska negotiated in regard to the purchase of a 1927 La France fire truck.

Modern firefighters would find that this unit had a lot to be desired since it had three fifty-gallon tanks each filled with soda and water. Acid was added to the tube on the top of each of the tanks. When the firemen were ready for water to be put on the fire, the tank would be turned over, releasing the acid and creating pressure to the liquid. The major problem was that when the tank was tipped and pressure was created, there was no saving the liquid. "You got it all." Another problem occurred if the tank was not tipped over correctly and would then have no pressure. Our forefathers mastered this piece of equipment, and, as with all departments, they suffered major losses, but it was noted that the unit saved the old school house, the telephone office, the E.J. Newton house, and Mrs. Sipp's house which was in the rural area.

As we move along, the young men are coming home from the war, and they begin to join the ranks of the firemen. Our state legislators passed a law that would allow communities the ability to create rural fire boards and districts. The department formed a committee to go around the rural area as far south as into Saline County and east into Lancaster County to get people to sign a petition to form a fire district. Although Saline County did not get into the rural fire district, twenty-two square miles of Lancaster County were included into the Seward County Rural Fire District, and to this day this area is still served by the Pleasant Dale Rural Fire Department. Oh yes, the department's name was changed from the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department to Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

The Department re-wrote their by-laws adding a Board of Directors, and this has allowed the department to be considered a non-profit organization. With a loan from Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, the department purchased a 1950 International truck and had it equipped as a pumper by Luverne Fire Equipment. They later added a new quonset building that housed the fire equipment. It wasn't long before the department decided that it needed a water wagon, and the LaFrance was sold and a 1950 Chevrolet chassis was purchased. Pleasant Dale contacted Milford Tech School who then built a five-hundred-gallon tank which was mounted on the Chevy, and for many years this was the water wagon.

Not only are there other changes in the department, but new terminologies are being heard: "Rural

Fire Board", "Mutual Aids", "Nebraska Fire Service", "Grand Island Fire School", "Nebraska Firemen and Fire Chiefs Associations". While training on the equipment was held by the Department, firemen attended "Basic Firemanship", "Advance Firemanship", and "Officers Training and Budget Courses".

By 1960's the Clark McNary Act gave the department the ability to obtain excess military trucks which were to be converted into fire fighting units. Pleasant Dale used this plan and had several units at various times. (Clark and McNary were the senators after whom this program was named).

In 1972, the Village of Pleasant Dale replaced the quonset building with a new building, a Community Hall/Fire Station, and the quonset building is now used by the village board as a maintenance building.

By 1976 another landmark was reached by the fire department. Seventeen men completed a Crash Injury Management Course and thus established their First Responder Group. Since then several department members have gone on to complete their EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) courses that better the First Responders.

The department established another first in Seward County by including the first woman on the active fire department's roll. Shortly after her joining the department, the State Firemen's Association at its convention changed the term "Firemen" to "Firefighters" which we are known as today.

As we approach the '80's and '90's we see changes in fire units as well as change in personal equipment. Today's firefighters are dressed in boots, pants, coats, hoods, helmets and gloves as well as self-contained breathing apparatus. Other new terms are now being heard: "Hazardous Materials" and "Incident Command System". The latter is used in both mutual aid departments involving operations at an incident.

Now the time machine comes to a halt, and we have completed our journey. Even though the first fifty years went by quickly, one thing we noticed was that even though faces have changed and equipment and techniques have been updated, the original goals of our "Coffee-Cuppers" have not changed: 1. Save lives. 2. Protect your fellow firefighter. 3. Cover all the exposures. 4. Put out the fire.

It's too bad that our time machine couldn't take us into the future to see the changes that will occur, but we can only wish our fellow firefighters the best of luck and Godspeed, and hope that they never lose sight of the concept created by the "Coffee-Cuppers".

Vernon Lemmert

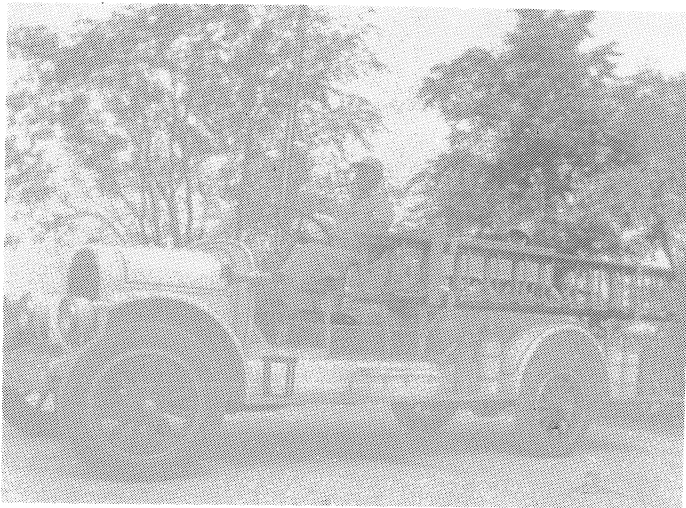
EQUIPMENT

Over the years the department has seen many changes in vehicles as well as personal equipment. Many of these changes have come about due to federal and state laws as well as requirements of insurance companies.

The following descriptions are of vehicles the department has owned or in which the department shared ownership. These do not include the four units now in service.

1942 – The village of Pleasant Dale purchased a 1927 LaFrance fire truck from the city of Wayne, Nebraska. This unit was a chemically activated supply, and

it carried three fifty-gallon supply tanks. Each tank was separate and filled with a mixture of water and soda. Acid was placed in the vial in the top of the tank. To create the necessary pressure needed, the tank would be turned over, releasing the acid and forming the necessary pressure for the hose line and nozzle.



Earl Mitchell driving the department's first firetruck - 1927 LaFrance.

There were several things about this system that usually occurred. 1. If the tank was not turned over correctly, there would be limited pressure and firefighters would have to make an attempt to re-turn the tank. 2. Another problem occurred if the tank turned prematurely. For example, if, in responding to a call, a tank not secured properly might flip which would activate the system. The unit would have to stop and relieve the tank pressure before proceeding to the incident. 3. When a tank was activated, the firemen would get the whole fifty gallons whether it was needed or not. There was no stopping its flow. I am sure that many times, in the case of a small fire, the men were reluctant to activate a tank.

This truck was maintained by the department until 1953, at which time the unit was sold by the village board and the proceeds were applied to a 1950 Chevrolet chassis. It is unknown, since no official records were located, to whom this unit was sold. However, the city of Wayne has in its possession this unit and displays it in parades and other special functions.

1953 – The department purchased from DuTeau Chevrolet Company of Lincoln a used 1950 Chevrolet truck chassis, and contracted with Milford Technical College to build and mount a 750 gallon tank for the main purpose of being a water hauler to supply the pumper. The department plumbed the tank and added an auxiliary portable pump attached to the back plate of the unit. This 100 gallon-per-minute Darley pump was used to transfer water, or draft water to the tank from a water supply, as well as to supply water to nozzlemen, to be used on grass or wildland fires.

One unique feature of this truck was that it had no baffles in the tank, and when starting up, the water would slosh back and forth creating a jerky movement making it difficult to handle the unit until the water leveled off. Another feature was that the truck had vacuum brakes and they would fail at any time for no explained reason.

One of the stories relating to this truck was that

one fireman recalls that there was a call to a barn fire northeast of Pleasant Dale. It was his first experience driving the unit, and when he approached the driveway to turn into the place, he found that he had no brakes. He ended up going a half mile on past before he could get the unit slowed down enough to turn it around. He commented upon arrival, "I came back in second gear so I could make the turn into the driveway".

This unit was maintained by the department until 1968, and it was then sold to a local well driller.



Earl Lohmeier and the department's 1951 1-1/2 ton Ford (returned in 1973).

Clark-McNary Act Vehicles 6x6 GMC

In July 1973 the department received and put into service its third unit by removing the tank, pump and other equipment from the 1951 Ford. This unit was then used and in time it was replaced by the famous "HOG".

6x6 Five-Ton (White)

The department viewed a 6x6 five-ton chassis, and after a lengthy discussion, the board of directors voted that this unit not be kept but returned to the Forestry Department.

Four-Wheel Drive Power Wagon

In May 1975 the department received and accepted their fourth unit, a four-wheel drive Power Wagon. This unit was fitted with a two hundred gallon round tank for the purpose of grass fire suppression. This unit was maintained and then returned in 1978. It was replaced by a 1978 Chevrolet grass unit.

6x6 Five-Ton International

This unit is affectionately named "THE HOG". With the assistance from the Seward County Rural Fire Board's bond issue, the department contracted with Morrison Equipment of Des Moines, Iowa, who built the tank and compartments, and also plumbed and painted the unit. It was quite a trip to Des Moines and back for the truck committee. The unit had a 1500-gallon tank capacity. When this unit was replaced, the tank and compartments were transferred to the current unit 42 in April, 1989. The unit called "THE HOG" was the last Clark-McNary vehicle the department has accepted. Current unit 42 is a 1974 Mack truck purchased by the

department from Nebraska Truck and Equipment Co., Inc. of Emerald, Ne.

What is in the future for the department? We do know that with the sinking fund set up by the Seward County Rural Fire District we will be eligible for replacement funds for the department and the community. One idea that has been mentioned is to replace unit 31, the pumper. However, by that time there may be a need to replace one of the other units.

OUTSIDE UNITS

Our department owns its own equipment and there are times when specialized units are needed. These units are needed mainly in the case of medical emergencies.



Milford Rescue Unit 99.

Unit 99 and Unit 95 - Milford

Unit 99 is the newest rescue unit that belongs to Milford Fire Department, and is the unit seen most often in our area when we need to transport a person to the hospital either in Seward or Lincoln. If unit 99 is on a call, Milford has unit 95, their older rescue unit, which can be put into service. We have been blessed with the working agreement with the Milford rescue squad.



Life Flight Helicopter.

Life Flight-Helicopter

This unit is housed in Omaha at St. Joseph Hospital. When there is need for this unit, the helicopter can be on the scene of the incident within forty-five minutes or less, depending upon the weather. A registered nurse or nurses, as well as a doctor, can be summoned, depending on the seriousness of the incident. There is also

another unit called Sky-Med which is housed at the University of Omaha Hospital that will respond if requested.

Eastern Ambulance

These units come from the city of Lincoln and are privately owned rather than being manned by volunteers. They have two types of units, those with paramedics (ALS) and those with EMT units (BS).

Vernon Lemmert



Unit 31 - Pumper.

PLEASANT DALE'S FIRST NEW TRUCK (UNIT 31)

On December 27, 1948 a committee headed by George Yank and John Vagts was formed to look into buying a new fire truck. Nothing more was recorded about the truck until December 1949. At this time it was decided to have the board of directors and officers serve as the buying committee. The board of directors at this time were Wiston Merrill, John Vagts, Chester Shaw, and Elmer Dankers. The elected officers were Edward Lebsock- president, Harry Johnson- vice president, Glen VanAndel- secretary-treasurer, George Yank- chief, and Lester Ficke- assistant chief.

On January 3, 1950 a special meeting was held to decide what type of truck to buy, and an International truck was decided on - no other types being considered. The truck was ordered from Walter Becker of Emerald Service Inc.

A special meeting was called by Wiston Merrill on January 13, 1950 to look at bids received from five manufacturers of fire-fighting equipment which could be mounted on a truck chassis. The bids were as follows:

Darley	\$6,388.72
Anderson	\$6,599.10
Luverne	\$6,200.00
Am. LaFrance	\$6,692.00
Central	\$6,932.00

The first vote was a tie for Luverne and Am. LaFrance, but it was finally decided to order from Luverne.

The order stated that delivery of the equipment was to be made three weeks after the International chassis was delivered to the Luverne factory in Luverne, Minnesota.

It was never recorded when the new truck went into service, but from that time until the later years it was used for all fires. With the expansion of the Department and equipment it is now used only for major building fires.

Thomas Vance

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE OF PLEASANT DALE RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

1992 OFFICERS:

Fire Chief Jeffery Oehm
Assistant Fire Chief Kenneth Minzel
President Michael Schepers
Vice-President Harlan Dankers
Secretary John Reid
Treasurer Edward Gottschall
Training Officer Vernon Lemmert
Truck Captain Unit 31 Ronald Kapke
Truck Captain Unit 42 Larry Lawton
Truck Captain Unit 43 Clinton Thomas
Truck Captain Unit 64 Corey Trease

Fire Chief – Has the authority and control over the fire fighting and first aid incidents as well as overseeing all training, and giving assistance in the case of tragedies, accidents, disasters, and civil uprisings.

Assistant Chief – In the absence of the Fire Chief has the same authority.

President – Conducts with authority all regular/special meetings of the Department as well as acting as the ex-officio chairman of the Board of Directors.

Vice-President – In the absence of the President has the same authority.

Secretary – Has the duty of maintaining minutes of all regular/special meetings of the Department and other needs of communication for the department, as well as maintaining minutes of all meetings with the Board of Directors and Officers' meetings.

Treasurer – Maintains and keeps financial books of all revenues and expenditures for the Department.

Training Officer – Under direct supervision of the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief, will conduct regular monthly meetings for purpose of training in fire fighting techniques, fire prevention, and rescue and emergency services. He is also responsible for setting up additional training sessions from various training facilities.

Truck Captains – Originally selected as Board of Directors. There are four members whose responsibility is to oversee the conduct of the meetings, and at various times will act as a committee for the purpose of purchasing equipment. They may have other duties as directed by the Department.

The original by-laws in 1942 consisted of two paragraphs. The first part was a statement in regard to the method of handling all appropriations and the method of handling expenses to be paid. The second paragraph was made in regard to the addition of new members.

The by-laws over the past fifty years have been changed three times, in 1949, 1974, and in 1980. The 1949 change was made to allow the department to become a corporation adding four members to the board of directors. Application was placed with the Secretary of State and the department was approved as a non-profit corporation which it still is to this day. The 1974 change concerned the age limit, increased the number of members, and created a new office of Training Officer. The 1980 change was again the age limit, and other minor changes.

Election of Officers – From the original organization to the current time, each office must be voted upon at each annual meeting held on the last Monday in January. No member can hold more than one office at a

time. However, it is interesting to note that in the original meeting, Alden McFadden was elected to the office of president and also elected as our first chief. This was rectified by a motion that no member could hold more than one office at a time. In the early years 1942 thru 1945 the offices changed on the first Monday of June. The office of secretary and treasurer were separate in the first meeting. However, the first treasurer never became a member of the department since he was the local banker. Some time between 1942 and 1946 the office was combined and known as secretary/treasurer. In 1974 the change to separate the two offices was made and since then has been unchanged. In 1949 a change was made to add the office of Board of Directors. This change included four members elected to two year terms, with two new members being elected to the board each year. In 1980 the title of Board of Directors was changed to Truck Captains. The final office that was added to the department was that of Training Officer in 1974.

Although the following were not in the by-laws of the original department, motions were made to include them into the operation of the department:

Fines – In 1942 a motion was made to charge each member who missed a meeting a fine of 25¢. This was changed in 1974 to 50¢. In 1980 the fines were dropped from the by-laws.

Dues – In 1942 a motion was made to have each member pay \$1.00 dues at the annual meeting. In 1974 the dues were dropped, mainly since the state tax laws changed, dropping the poll tax.

Membership – In 1942 the motion was made to limit the membership to twenty-five. This was changed in 1949 to ten members per unit, which increased the number to thirty members. In 1980 the membership was changed to forty active members.

Age – The age for membership has been changed several times since the state laws changed. At the beginning, a person had to be twenty-one years of age. In 1974 the age was changed to nineteen, and in 1980 it was changed to eighteen.

The 1980 by-laws also eliminated any sexual discrimination in membership.

The most interesting fact about our Fire Department is its unique structure. From the beginning, the department has been its own separate entity, and has never been under any political subdivision. The Department has always maintained its revenue and met expenses that occurred, although in recent years insurance has been combined with the village of Pleasant Dale to save both entities money. This also enables the Department to share in the errors and omissions insurance for its officers.

Another unique status of offices is the division of the responsibilities. The fire chief, assistant fire chief, and training officer are in charge of fire fighting, training and emergencies. The president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer act as the administrative section. The truck captains, as noted, are our board of directors.

On October 21, 1972, at the dedication of the Community/Fire Station, a member of our Department made a speech on behalf of the Department. Here is a portion of his text: "During the past thirty years we have been honored to have many great leaders in our department, and I know that today they would stand back with

great pride to see the building that has been built in which to house the equipment."

We must not forget the various chiefs who have served the department with great leadership. I once heard the explanation of a chief: In a Volunteer Fire Department a chief must be the same as a college coach. The chief has individuals under his command at various levels of efficiency and ability. He/she must take this group and mold them into a team that will work together with great efficiency regardless of the situation.

Vernon Lemmert

FIRE DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

From its origin until just the last few years the department struggled to keep income and expenses in balance.

From the beginning, the department has kept two sets of books, Operation and Activity Funds.

In the early years, the Operation Fund was built from donations, dances, Community Hall rent, firemen's picnics and other events in which the whole community participated. The Activity Fund consisted of monies taken in from yearly dues and fines from missed meetings.

Early donations came from members of the community, I and J precincts, and every other year the village board would give to the fire department monies collected for fire protection within the village.

It is also important to note that even though there were all of these revenue-makers, it became a necessity for the firemen to reach into their own pockets to keep the department afloat.

In 1949, with the creation of the Seward County Rural Fire Protection District, the department received twice a year the taxes collected for rural fire protection. Although this money was to keep the department with a balanced budget, it was noted by past treasurers that many times the monies in the activity fund had to be used to pay bills.

When the department started receiving a fixed income, they made a change in their fund accounts. They moved dance receipts from the Operations Fund to the Activity Fund, and the taxes collected from Seward County Rural Fire Protection District were put into the Operations account.

Other Incomes

During the years of 1942 through 1948, the department, with the blessings of the village board, used the basement of the Community Hall to house the fire truck and handled the renting of the Community Hall for parties, wedding receptions, and other events. (In the years previous to the time the fire department used the building, it had been used for dances, free movies, and always by the school for class plays and commencement exercises). It was interesting to note that a good month may have netted the department \$20.00 to \$25.00. Along with the responsibility of scheduling events, the department agreed to keep up the cleaning and maintenance. In 1947-48 minutes, discussions were held by the department whether or not this venture was wise. In 1948 the department voted to no longer keep the Community Hall and gave it back to the village board.

Donations

Even today the department receives donations for its services in the case of emergencies. The department is very appreciative of these donations which are placed in a special fund to help buy equipment. In the case of medical emergencies this money goes to keep the necessary medical supplies as well as to update equipment on the unit. In the early years donations were received from I and J precincts, and also funds were collected from taxes by the village.

Dances

The early department had quite a discussion on the subject of holding a dance. Many members said that it would not work, that people would not come, and the department would lose money on such a venture. Finally, one member of the department took it upon himself to rent the Pla-Mor and hire a band. Thus the first dance was held. It is interesting that this first dance netted that person \$300.00 after all expenses were paid, and he gave the profit to the department.

This initial venture proved to the department that this was another source of money, and the department responded by having a yearly firemen's dance. Although there is no record of the various bands that played for the dances, it was noted that name-bands, although they cost more, would bring the department more revenue. Such bands as Dick Wickman, Jerry Haggett, and Paul Moorehead were hired. Those bands at Pla-Mor would net \$500 to \$800 per dance after all expenses were paid. The department did hold two of these yearly dances at the Flying-V ballroom at Utica. The first year the Flying-V was just getting started and gave the department such a good deal that, with Dick Wickman as the band, we netted \$3,000 after expenses were paid. The department went back the next year to the band of Paul Moorehead and we netted only \$800, with the same size of crowd as the previous year. After that the department decided that Utica was too far out of the district and the amount received wasn't worth the inconvenience.

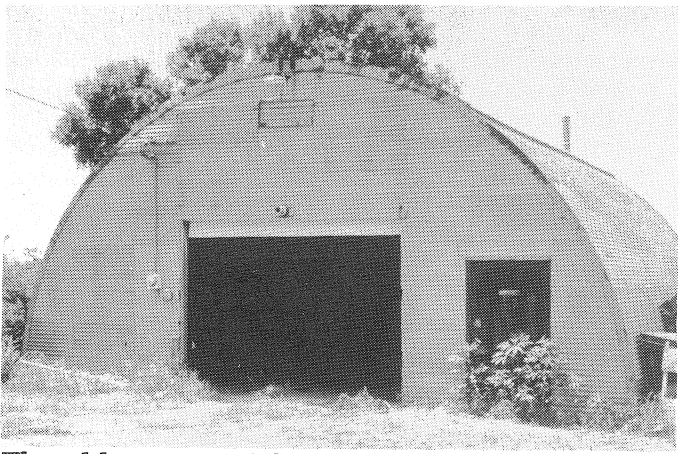
Several more dances were held at Pla-Mor, but the income from them dropped to where the department would just break even or make only a little profit. The department, in spite of the disappointment of the community, did away with the annual dance.

Then came the age of the street dances. The department has had several street dances that helped purchase communication equipment and create a fire-works fund. These dances are well attended if we get a band that we can afford and it has a good following. These dances net the department \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Hog Roast

Another venture the department went into was what has become our annual hog roast in October. The department, in the years that they have had the hog roasts, has been blessed with excellent weather. It has met with tremendous success, because we have people from surrounding communities always asking the firefighters, "When is the next hog roast? Don't forget me. We have friends we are bringing next time." This venture has been good for the department even with all the hard work. Much of our personal equipment has been purchased from this revenue.

Vernon Lemmert



The old quonset, Pleasant Dale's first fire barn (picture taken in 1992).

FIRST FIRE BARN

The planning for the quonset building was started on February 23, 1948. A motion was made to write to a quonset dealer in Crete about the possibilities of building a quonset for a fire barn. On February 27, 1950, a committee was formed to begin planning the building, and it was decided to order a building without insulation. The department decided to order the concrete and pour it themselves. The vote was seventeen votes for a quonset and one vote for a cement block building.

After the quonset was built, the firemen insulated it by pouring bag after bag of insulation between the double walls.

Gary Brhel

CISTERNS IN THE OLD PLEASANT DALE

I have talked with some of the earliest firemen, and I have found that there were at least four cisterns in Pleasant Dale prior to 1950. One was behind the old Lutheran parsonage, one was behind the new Methodist church, and one was behind the old fire barn, (the quonset), and is now under the present fire barn. Billy Kapke says there was a cistern on his property. When he added to his house he had to fill the cistern with dirt. The cistern in the park was put in in 1951 or 1952.

The cistern behind the old fire barn was piped into the building so the fire truck could be filled from inside the barn. I do remember filling the new 1950 International fire truck several times from the cistern in the park.

After further research about the old cisterns, I find that the one that was by the old fire barn was originally put there so the barber had water for his shop in the old bank building (the brick building), or else a building just south of the bank. The barber had a pump fixed to the cistern so he could pump water to his shop. Later, after the shop was gone, the cistern was used for the fire barn.

The cistern behind the Methodist church, the one back of the old Lutheran parsonage, and the one at Billy Kapke's home were for emergency use in case of fire in those parts of town. If I am told correctly, at one time they had a hose cart, a two wheel affair, and when the buildings on the west side of the park, where the present fire barn is, burned, the fire hose burned too.

The cistern in the park was dug after the new 1950 model truck was purchased. We could then pump water from the cistern to fill the fire truck.

Earl Mitchell

WATER SUPPLY

Water supply has always been a problem for a rural fire department.

In the beginning years the department realized that they needed water reserve to assist with fires not only within the village but also in the rural surroundings.

There originally was one cistern in the south part of the village which was located behind the Ezra Newton house.

With the help of people in the village, the village board and the fire department members made four more cisterns.

The first cistern made was in the village park. It is currently located south of the well house. Water to this cistern was from the original city well in the park and today overflow from the village well still feeds this cistern.

The second cistern was made northeast of the Methodist Church. It was smaller than the rest, and since it is no longer used, has been filled up with rocks and dirt.

The third cistern is located northeast of the old Lutheran parsonage. Several years ago it began to leak and it has been drained.

When the quonset building was built, the department made a cistern on the northwest corner. It had to be filled by hauling water from the cistern in the park.

Since the village water system was installed in 1965, these cistern water supplies are no longer used.

When the department has a rural fire, farm ponds are used if at all possible. Otherwise, water shuttle runs are made from village hydrants to the fire.

Vernon Lemmert

FIRE-TELEPHONE OPERATORS

These are the ladies who at some time have served, or still do serve, as fire-telephone operators for the Pleasant Dale fire department: Helen VanAndel, Erma Timme, June Woebbecke, Judith Nobbman, Hally Sullivan, Mary Yank, Ann Lawton, Jackie Harral, Carla Jo Vance, Diane Irwin, Barbara Lemmert, Marge McMullen, and Marilyn Allen.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS' MEMORIES

Before the dial telephone system went in, the operator at the telephone office would blow the siren. We would call the operator to find out where the fire was. The wives would help their husbands get dressed, open garage doors, sometimes even get the pickup out and ready to hurry them on their way. After the dial system was begun, the telephone operators' husbands had to help themselves. Three operators were given 1/3 of the list of firemen. We called each man on our list, and if one operator was gone, the other two would divide her list and do her calling.

One time at about 2 A.M. we received a call from a man saying he had "heart burn" and wondered what the fire department could do for him. He sounded as if he had enough alcohol in him to create a fire from his heart clear down to his toes.

My greatest worry has always been (when they use the fire-phone) to keep the party on the line long enough to get correct information and directions. We received a

call one Sunday morning, shortly after the calling system began, from a very excited man who said that the chimney in his house was on fire. He gave his name which none of the operators knew. Then we asked him for directions from Pleasant Dale. He just said, "South". We asked whether it was on the highway south, and if so, how many miles? Then the trouble began. In his excitement he began giving directions in Czech (we assumed it was directions). Finally we got him calmed down and asked who his neighbors were. In his broken English we got a name we could identify, and sent the fire department.

I have remained an operator since the system began, with the exception of a short time after Glen's death.

Helen VanAndel

One of the first things I remember happening after we moved to Pleasant Dale was a fire call when there were no firemen available to drive the truck. First, Carleton "Shorty" Bishop attempted the task but was replaced by Dwaine Novak to get to the fire. Then they didn't know how to operate the pumps to get water, but after some delay put out the fire.

Helen VanAndel, June Woebbecke and I (Erma Timme) were the three original telephone callers for the firemen. We each had our list of names and numbers of the firemen to call and inform about the fire. If one of the callers was not available, we would call the men on her list also. We also had a fire phone in the grocery store so if there was a fire while at the store I would call the firemen from there.

During the summer, in the daytime when men were at their jobs in Lincoln and those on the farm were in the fields, it was sometimes difficult to find someone to drive the truck. After Kenneth joined the fire department, he drove the truck most of the time because he was usually in town.

Another incident that happened was when Chet Shaw and Kenneth Timme were going to a fire east of Denton. As they approached the railroad tracks, Chet saw a train coming, but he knew if he said anything Kenneth would put on the brakes, so he didn't utter a word. After the truck went over the tracks, the Rock Island Rocket whizzed by right behind them. Vic Kahler was following them but managed to get stopped in time.

Erma Timme

There are many things that I remember about being a fire operator, but mostly I remember the fun times we had being involved with the fire department.

Of course there was the night the tavern was burning in Malcolm and they called for mutual aid stating that the town was burning down. So being the all-believing fire operator, I relayed that message to every fireman that I called, getting more and more excited with each call.

We had the fire phone in our bedroom, and on one particular night, coming out of a deep sleep, Gary and I nearly killed each other trying to get out of bed and to the phone.

There were the dry summers when the fire truck barely got back to the station before receiving another call for a grass fire.

Mary Yank

I was a fire-phone operator for several years until moving out of Pleasant Dale in 1976. We operators were a close-knit group—all friends—and our sense of support for the Department and the town was very strong.

Two things stand out in my memory. One was the fact that one farm family on my calling list, I had, strangely, never met. I always had a "visual" perception of them, and I wondered how correct I was. After all, I called them in the middle of many nights, I interrupted many mealtimes, and I disrupted many a workday routine. To this day, I've never personally met them, but feel I surely did know them.

The other was that on one Easter, as we were just getting ready to sit down to our family holiday meal, the fire phone rang with a medical emergency. After doing what was necessary, I returned to the table. My elderly grandmother remarked, "They even call you on Sundays? Easter Sunday???"

The hardest tasks were covering the fire phones on our firemen's annual dance nights, so we could all attend, teaching our small children and the babysitters "never to touch that phone". If someone informed the men that there was a hay fire, we all knew that meant many long hours ahead.

On one occasion, an elderly gent excitedly called in a grass fire, only to hang up before telling us where it was. We waited to see whether he would realize what he did and call back, but he didn't. Our fire truck went out searching, but returned after finding no smoke or fire.

I don't recall any serious house fires during my tenure, but I guess that experience was being reserved for later. On April 8, 1991, we lost everything when our home was struck by lightning. Those same men I used to call, along with new men and younger faces, were there when we arrived home. They are a very professional, compassionate group.

I'm very proud to have been a small part of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department.

Jackie Harral



Pleasant Dale Telephone Operators: Carla Vance, Audine Oehm, Helen Van Andel, Barbara Lemmert, Ann Lawton, Mary Yank, Judy Nobbman, Erma Timme.

The Pleasant Dale Fire Department phone was placed in our home in _____ after Kenneth Timme gave it up. I remember when the phone was first installed and we got our first calls, how I would panic when I was not always able to reach the firemen on my calling list. When I was not able to contact many of the firemen, I was hoping that the other fire operators were getting in touch with their people. It took some getting used to, having two phones ring in the house. I would catch myself going to our phone to answer it and then realize it was the fire phone which was ringing.

The time when CB radios were used to communicate with the firemen was probably the most interesting and exciting time. As an operator, I felt like I was a part of the action. The firemen would count on the fire operators to relay information to them. I do miss that part of it now, although, I do remember the time it took just waiting by the radio in case a fireman needed to relay a message. I also recall the many times the phone would ring at all hours of the night and I would push myself out of bed to call the people on my calling list. There were many sleepy "hello-o-o's" responding on the other end.

As time went on, we had a bell installed on the north side of our house so we could hear the calls when we were outside. We still have it today.

Today, having a fire phone is pretty simple. Since all firemen have their own pagers and plectron radios, almost all of the calls come through 911 and they, in turn, set off the plectron radios and pagers. A few calls still come through on the fire phone, mostly from people wanting a burning permit or inquiring about a Community Hall function. If an emergency call does come through on the fire phone, we in turn call 911 to have them set off the radios.

All I can say is, you had better stay off the streets of Pleasant Dale when a call comes in, because you can hear the wheels squealing and the tail pipes roaring as the firemen head for the fire station.

Ann Lawton

When the fire phone was first installed, it took some time getting accustomed to the shrill ring it had. It also took time to explain to all of our friends and family why we had two phones in the house.

When that phone rings, your stomach does a flip flop, and then you pick up that phone and find out that someone wants some information on the community hall, or what time the hog roast starts. But when it is an actual fire call, I always am glad to hear Helen's voice on the line. The hard parts are (1) trying to figure out what directions to give 911, and (2) the waiting between calling 911 and hearing that plectron go off.

Everyone in the house knows that when that phone rings, they get quiet. The kids have even learned to start heading out the door to get their dad from the yard or the garage. I've even laid the phone down and yelled from the front porch to stop him from going to work to go to a call.

Our household has had an added amount of noise over the last several years with the fire phone, the plectron, and the pager. Those quiet evenings sitting around reading the paper seem to disappear sometimes.

Audine Oehm

PLEASANT DALE DEDICATES FIRE STATION, COMMUNITY HALL

Pleasant Dale dedicated their new \$35,000 Community Hall and Fire Station Saturday, October 21, 1972. This day was also commemorated as the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department's 30th anniversary.

The cornerstone of the new building has the date 1942 as well as 1972. It was in 1942 that thirteen men organized the first Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department, as the community felt they needed fire protection. In December of 1949, Pleasant Dale joined the Seward County Fire Department District which was for the purpose of mutual aid for county-wide fire protection.

In 1950 Pleasant Dale built a quonset hut as a fire station to house the trucks. The Department has ordered a new 1,000 gallon truck which will be delivered in May of 1973.

There are now _____ members in the Volunteer Fire Department in Pleasant Dale. Gary Yank serves as Fire Chief and John Reid is the President.

The Milford High School band under the direction of James E. Kaiser, presented a concert at the beginning of the dedication ceremonies. Stan Matzke Jr., Sen. Jerome Warner, Rev. Darrel E. Berg, and Sen. Carl Curtis were all present and made remarks.

Inside the building, which is 75 feet by 26 feet, were fire prevention posters and letters written by elementary students at the Pleasant Dale School. The letters were written to Vern Lemmert, Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department member. Lemmert had presented a program to the grade school during fire prevention week.

There is a moveable partition between the area where the fire trucks will be housed and the kitchenette and meeting room. By pushing aside the partition, large functions will be able to be accommodated.

Refreshments were served following the ceremony. Restrooms in the new buildings are constructed so that they may be used by spectators from the baseball diamond which is located at the rear of the fire station.

(Seward County Independent)



New hall dedicated October 21, 1972.

Building Dedication & Grand Opening

of the new

Pleasant Dale Fire Station and Community Hall

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1972

Program begins at 12:30 p.m.



Guests will be :

Milford High School Band

Stan Matzke Jr.

Sen. Jerome Warner

Rev. Darrel E. Berg

Sen. Carl Curtis

The program will also feature displays of fire equipment and the planting of a memorial evergreen tree.

Gary Yank, Fire chief

John Reed, President of

Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department

Mayor, John Smith

Village Trustees:

Walter Thomas

Gary Harral

Daniel Kovar

Lawrence Lawton

BLUE SPRUCE TREE

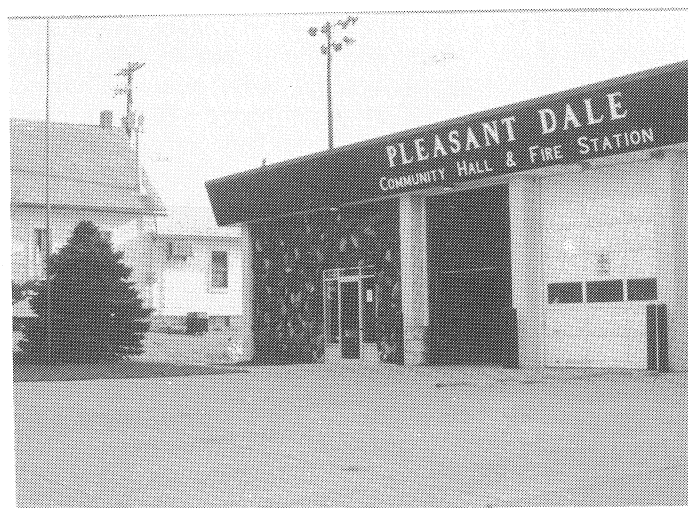
On October 21, 1972, Pleasant Dale mayor, John Smith, and Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department fire-chief, Gary Yank, planted this tree in front of the new Community Hall-Fire Station, on the day of dedication. The tree was supplied by the village board.

The blue spruce tree is a living memorial to all deceased firefighters who have been active members of the Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

Joanne Lostroh



The Blue Spruce Tree.



Blue Spruce Tree beside new building.

FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

On February 22, 1954 a motion was made to contact the mortuaries in this area and ask them whether they would contact the Pleasant Dale fire-chief when there is a funeral so the department could assist in directing traffic to the Pleasant Dale Cemetery. Usually three trucks and four men are involved.

Department members stop the traffic as the funeral procession approaches Highway 103, at the east edge of town, also at the junction of Highway 103 and Highway 6, and also Highway 6 traffic at the cemetery. Firefighters sometimes assist in parking cars at the cemetery.

In several instances in the past, when the deceased was an active member of the fire department, a fire truck was used to lead the funeral procession the entire distance to the cemetery.

Joanne Lostroh

UNIT NUMBERING

In 1978 the department units had grown to the current number of four. It was discovered that when using the radio, too much time was used for identification of the unit. This started the first numbering system used. The pumper was unit No. 1, the 6x6 tanker was unit No. 2, the 1973 Chevrolet tanker was unit No. 3, and the grass rig was unit No. 4.

In the early 1980's the Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters Association, at their convention, elected a committee to study a plan of numbering fire and rescue units the same state-wide. The following year, at the convention, delegates voted to accept the committee's resolution.

Although various Mutual Aids use various numbering systems, the numbering has been fairly consistent. For example, to show extremes, York County Mutual Aid uses a three number system. The first number is the village/city. The next two represent the unit type. If you see 930, this is Waco's pumper.

Since we are members of two Mutual Aids, Lancaster and Seward County, they also have their differences in the numbering system. Lancaster uses 1-19 for officers, while numbers 20 thru 29 are for grass rigs. The number one is the Chief, two is the Assistant Chief, and so on. In Seward, numbers 1-19 are not used for fire or rescue personnel, but numbers 21 thru 29 are used for officers, and numbers 60-69 are used for grass rigs. No. 21 is the Chief and No. 22 the Assistant Chief, and so on, confusing to say the least.

Pleasant Dale adopted their numbering from Seward County Mutual Aid. However, when we make a call in the Lancaster area, our Chief and Assistant Chief are 1 and 2, but in Seward County they are 21 and 22. (More confusion).

Since our pumper is considered a Class A unit, 500 GPM (gallons per minute) or greater, its number is Unit 31. We have two tankers: 1500 gallon "MACK" is Unit 42, and the 1,000 gallon 1973 Chevrolet is Unit 43. Since we are in Seward County, we adopted the Seward County numbering for our grass rig/first responder unit as No. 64. We did try alternating the unit number depending upon which county we were in, but this did nothing but confuse the radio operator, so we stayed with the one number.

The numbering system comes in handy at an incident, should mutual aid be needed. The call can come in for Nos. 42 and 43, meaning the request is for our tankers only, plus manpower.

Future numbering changes which would further identify the type of unit may be in the offing. One such suggestion in the pumper class is to identify the GPM the unit is designed to put out, such as 500 GPM, 1000 GPM, 1500 GPM or 2000 GPM. This method also helps the mutual aids to create an inventory of the types of units in the county and where they are located.



Old Unit 42 "The Hog"

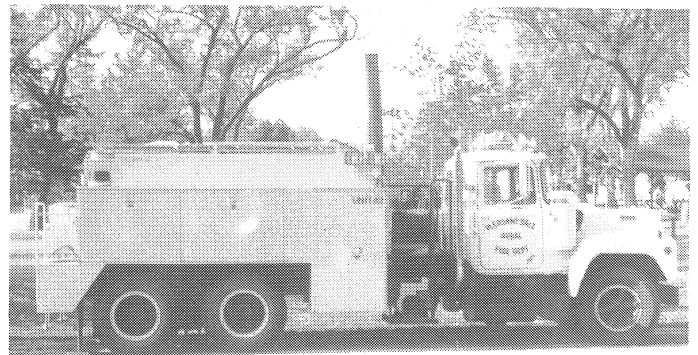
FIRE TRUCK #42

Fire truck #42 originated from a five-ton truck acquired from the forestry service. It was taken to Iowa to have a 1,500 gallon tanker installed on it, and also to get a new paint job. Compartments were put on both sides of the truck, a crosswalk was installed between the tank and cab, and there was an area on which to stand on the back. A portable pump was mounted below the crosswalk with a hose reel mounted on the crosswalk, making it possible to pump water out of the hose reel. A line was added to the rear of the truck so water could be pumped from the back of the truck. The truck was called "The Hog." "The Hog" quit running in Milford one day on a house burn and had to be towed to Pleasant Dale.

The Department decided they needed a new chassis to replace "The Hog". After looking at a variety of trucks, in April of 1989, it was decided to purchase a 1974 Mack from Nebraska Truck and Equipment. It was an old dump truck. The truck was gone through from front to back, except for the engine. The frame was stripped down and sent to Omaha to be painted. With the chassis being rebuilt, the tank from the old "Hog" was transferred to the Mack. Lights, a siren, and radios were installed on the truck to make it a nice 1,500 gallon tanker, which is our present #42 truck.

The light bar on top of the Mack truck was originally owned by former firefighter and EMT instructor, Vern Duncan. After his death the bar was donated by his family to the department.

Larry Lawton



The present Unit 42 Mack Truck.

Lancaster County		Seward County
1-19	Officers	21-29
20-29	Grass Rigs	60-69
30-39	Pumpers	30-39
40-49	Tankers	40-49
50-59	Light Rigs	50-59
60-69	Equipment Truck	80-89



1952 GMC 2-1/2 Ton M135, "THE BRUTE".

"THE BRUTE"

The Pleasant Dale Fire Department was called to a grass fire at Conestoga Lake near Denton, Nebraska. The Pleasant Dale fire department had a truck that was obtained from Clark McNary forest service. (It was called "The Brute".) It was an all-wheel-drive. While driving and spraying water on the fire, if there were trees in the path, the truck drove over them. Some tree trunks were two to three inches in diameter. They would bend over and the truck hardly noticed them power-wise. The trees would spring back up as if nothing had happened.

UNIT 43

In July 1972, the Pleasant Dale Fire Department decided it was time to look into purchasing a new fire truck. It was decided that the Board of Directors should look at the new truck that the Ceresco Fire Department had recently purchased from Smeal Manufacturing Company.

In August 1972, the Board of Directors arranged a meeting with Norm Savary, salesman from Smeal Manufacturing Company, to discuss and draw up the needed specifications. The unit would have a 1,000 gallon tank capacity with a cross-mount pump, which would be powered with a Ford industrial engine mounted in a "doghouse" in front of the tank.

The department then priced a truck chassis that would handle such equipment. With the help of Stan Thomas, salesman for Rediger Chevrolet at Milford, the department purchased a 1973 Chevrolet 6500 with a 366 cubic inch engine. The chassis had only a primer coat of paint on it.

Gary Yank and Larry Lawton drove the new chassis to Snyder, Nebraska, home of Smeal Manufacturing Company. Smeal then built the tank, added compartments, plumbed in the pump, and painted the unit.

During the time the truck was in Snyder, the department was divided on whether or not they should use this unit to replace the pumper. It was finally decided that since the new unit that was being built had only a 350 gallon per minute output, while the pumper's output was 500 gallons per minute, both units would benefit the department's needs.

Over the years, it has shown that this was a good decision, and that Unit 43 has been able to get to the fires quicker and be used as a quick response to putting out

fires, while the pumper was able to be used for containment and for overall usage.

Since Unit 43 is considered a tanker, modifications are currently under way to add a quick dump to the unit that will allow the 1,000 gallons of water to be dumped into a porta-tank and be used more in the area of shuttling water. Prior to this, the water had to be pumped off the unit, where now with the quick dump, there is a faster turnaround time in transporting water.

Lawrence Lawton and Vernon Lemmert



Unit 43.

TRUCK MAINTENANCE

Truck maintenance is as critical to fire trucks as water is to fires.

Over the years, truck maintenance has been done in many different ways. At first, all the firemen took care of the trucks. Later a truck detail was set. Every month two men were named to take care of the trucks. Today, truck captains, who are elected every other year, and the men assigned to that truck take care of them.

Everything is checked on the trucks. Not only gas, oil, tires, batteries, but all the equipment, such as ladders, hose, airpicks, etc. are checked. Today, with the different types of trucks in use there is a lot more equipment to check than before, like back boards, first aid kits, oxygen bottles, and other emergency equipment.

In reading the minutes of previous years, I have found that the biggest problem has been truck batteries. In the years that I have been on the department, I remember many times getting to the fire station and finding a truck battery dead. Now, to alleviate that problem, truck batteries are changed once a year.

Thomas Vance

QUICK RESPONSE UNIT #64

The fire department needed an equipment truck. This truck was needed to carry such equipment as air packs, air tanks, ropes, bunker gear, tools, hose, generator, and any other miscellaneous equipment that we use. The ideas for the type of truck were as varied as the number of members we have. They ranged from a pickup truck with storage compartments to a refurbished step van where firemen could walk inside to get away from the weather on winter fire calls. Some members thought it also needed a water tank and pump. We started talking about it in 1977. It was discussed the rest of that year and into the next.

At the September 1977 meeting a committee was formed in order to investigate the purchase of a new truck. The committee was made up of the Board of Directors: Marvin Dreeszen, Bill Stephens, Dean Minchow and Ralph Burd; Chief Wayne Ficke, Assistant Chief Ron Piening and President Gary Harral.

At the November 1977 meeting prices for the truck were: Ford- \$6,980.00 and Chevrolet- \$7,250.00

At the December meeting truck prices from dealers were as follows: DuTeau - \$7,065.00, Rolfsmeier - \$7,025.00, Rediger, \$6884.00, and Subway - \$6,850.00

The truck design that evolved was a compromise and combination of a lot of ideas. This truck was to become our primary medical response truck and grass fire unit. It was decided to purchase a one ton truck chassis and put a slide-on unit that had a pump and water tank with storage cabinets on both sides.

By the February 1978 meeting a 1978 truck had been purchased from Rediger Chevrolet in Milford for \$7,128.00 and a slide-in unit for \$11,254.00 from Smeal Manufacturing Co. in Snyder, Nebraska.

The chassis purchased from Rediger Chevrolet is a one ton, four wheel drive truck. It has dual fuel tanks. On this chassis we mounted the slide-on unit. In the same year that we built this truck, we qualified for some cost-sharing money in the amount of \$2,900.00 from the Nebraska Forest Service, which could be applied toward the slide-on unit. The rest of the money, \$14,000 at 7% interest, we borrowed from Farmers and Merchants Bank in Milford, to be paid back in \$1,000 increments annually plus interest. The president, Ken Dill, and treasurer, Gary Brhel, were appointed to go to the bank and arrange for borrowing the money. This committee was authorized to sign any papers.

Our truck was ready for Fire School in Grand Island. It was taken out there by Smeal to be displayed during Fire School. After Fire School we took delivery at Pleasant Dale.

The central portion of the slide-on unit is a 200 gallon water tank with a 75 gallons-per-minute pump. Above the water tank is mounted a hose reel containing 100 ft. of 1 inch rubber hose. The hose reel has an electric motor to roll up the hose. There are rewind buttons on both sides of the truck box and also one on the operator's console at the rear of the truck. Another short grass line is connected at the operator's platform. On the left side of the truck, on top of the cabinets, lies a 100 ft. 1-1/2 inch preconnected hose line. In front of the 1-1/2 inch preconnected line there are two 50 ft. rolls of 2-1/2 inch hose.

A foam injector system is also part of the equipment.

A 14 ft. extension ladder is mounted on the right side above the storage cabinets. Originally the ladder was the only equipment at this location. The ladder brackets were raised about eight inches to allow the space below the ladder to store our full length back boards. There are more backboards behind the seat in the cab. There are also a scoop, stretcher, and two half-back boards.

On the operator's platform can be found the fire ax, a 5 ft. pry bar, two spanner wrenches, a hydrant wrench, and two 40 lb. dry chemical fire extinguishers. On top of the operator's console we mounted a spotlight and a floodlight. This is in addition to the spotlight on top of the

cab which is original. A red light bar and siren are located on top of the cab.

An 8 ft. pike pole is inserted into the box from the rear of the truck. (A pike pole is 1-1/2 inches in diameter and has both a metal hook and a metal point on the end. It is used for pulling burning objects apart.) Also located at the rear of the truck is a switch to turn on the back-up lights for additional lighting.

The radios in the cab of the truck are a citizen band radio and an FM radio containing the following frequencies: 39.9 and 39.98 for contacting Lincoln Fire and the Seward County Sheriff, and 39.82 for contacting rescue units, and, if necessary, to communicate with hospitals.

The slide-in unit has six compartments, three on each side of the box.

The right front compartment contains:

1. Oxygen kit
2. Spare oxygen cylinder
3. Medical first aid kit
4. Suction pump
5. Air splint kit

The right middle compartment contains:

1. Two KED's (Kendrick extrication devices)
2. Blankets
3. Sager traction splint
4. Sand bags
5. Geiger counters

The right rear compartment contains:

1. Spider straps
2. Pads for head immobilization
3. Obstetrics kit
4. Partial medical kit

The left front compartment contains:

1. One air pack
2. Rope
3. Plug and dike compound
4. Chain
5. Red flags
6. Hand tools which include:
 - a. Hammers
 - b. Chisels
 - c. Screwdrivers



Quick Response Unit 64.

- d. Bolt cutter
- e. Hack saw
- f. Pry bars
- g. Tape

The left middle compartment contains:

- 1. Two air packs
- 2. Flares
- 3. Gloves
- 4. Orange vests
- 5. Paper towels

The left rear compartment contains:

- 1. Spare air tank for air pack
- 2. Wetting agent and defoamer
- 3. Blankets
- 4. Chock blocks
- 5. Extension cord

Gary Brhel

THE PLEASANT DALE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT QUICK RESPONSE TEAM

The Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department (PDRVFD) delayed involvement with EMS until 1976 because of fear that it would split the limited volunteer force between firefighters and EMT's as had been experienced in other departments.

The PDRVFD sought and was granted designation as a Quick Response Team (QRT) in early 1980. They received financial assistance for an EMT QRT Minimum Kit (Crash Kit) by the Communication and Transportation Committee in October 1980. Additional funding was received for the purchase of radio communication equipment and alerting devices. Additional specialized equipment has been purchased through matching federal funds and the generous donations of the community. The department purchased a new Chevrolet dual-wheel 4x4 chassis for use as a Quick Response Unit in late 1977. The body was built by Smeal Manufacturing as a prototype Quick Response Unit. It carried the primary medical equipment as well as a pump and two hundred-fifty gallons of water. The Quick Response Unit was delivered to the department during the State Fire School held in Grand Island in May of 1978.

Vern Duncan joined the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department as a certified EMT-A. He quickly became a prime motivator in encouraging the department to seek additional medical training and become more active in medical response. Wayne Ficke, Fred Petsch Jr., and Larry Stonacek were the first PDRVFD members to complete the 81-hour EMT course in December 1976. Gary Brhel, Will James, Ron VanAndel and Tom Vance completed the forty hour Crash Injury Management course and three of these men went on to complete the 81 hour EMT course in May 1980. Since then many firemen-rescue personnel have either completed the EMT training or joined the department with the training. At the time of this writing the department has fourteen first responders, two Nebraska state certified EMT's, and eight nationally registered EMT's. The Pleasant Dale Rural Fire Department and Quick Response Team responds to approximately two calls of a medical nature for every fire call received. Milford Rescue Squad and Eastern Ambulance Service provide transport to the hospital.

In the early years our First Responders (even though they had completed their course) were unsure of

themselves. When a call came in and Cecelia Thomas, a registered nurse, was available, Larry Lawton would stop by and pick her up and take her to the incident. Her help and patience were responsible for molding the First Responders into an excellent working unit.

The training and dedication of the Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department Quick Response Team will continue to provide the best possible emergency care. EMT's anticipate future training as a result of 1992 Legislation which permits medical procedures previously limited to hospital emergency room care.

LeRoy Trease and Clinton Thomas

COMMUNICATIONS Telephone Operators

Communications are the backbone of the department, and we have been blessed with individuals who through their dedication have become true professionals. They accomplished this under stressful situations of interruption of their daily activity as well as middle of the night's sleep. It is surprising how calm and collected these people were in notifying the fire fighters of the incidents.

Originally, the telephone operator at the telephone office would blow the siren and then engage the party lines with a long ring to notify everyone on the line that an emergency was occurring. With the dial telephone system, the department installed notification phones, three in personal houses, one at the grocery store, and one at the fire station.

The operators in their homes or places of business, after identifying the call, would then call all of the fire fighters on their lists, and if one of the operators was missing, they had to call the missing operator's list of names. Today the department still has the phone system that is used as a back-up in case the 911 center is unable to notify via radio communication.

Numerous operators have served in this capacity:

Erma Timme	June Woebbecke
Mary Yank	Jackie Harral
Judith Nobbman	Hally Sullivan
Diane Irwin	Carla Jo Vance

Marge McMullen

The current operators are:

Helen VanAndel	Ann Lawton
Barbara (Bobbie) Lemmert	Audine Oehm

We cannot give enough credit to these ladies for their service to the department. All we can say and mean with deepest respect is, "A job well done!"

Plectrons and Pagers

As these instruments progressed into the fire service, Pleasant Dale eventually purchased plectrons for all of their members. The plectrons were not portable units and needed direct electrical plug-in. They are kept in stationary locations. Although these are effective instruments, if the fire fighter is away from the notification location, he/she is unaware of a call.

Now comes the pager. This instrument is portable and you will see fire fighters with black or red pagers attached to their belts. These instruments run on batteries, and when kept charged, are excellent notifiers of emergency calls. However, the cost of these became prohibitive when purchased for every member to have one, but the department each year purchases some

which are given out to those who really need pager notification.

What's in the future? Today we see electronics changing by leaps and bounds. Some day the department will include a base station at its fire station. Tones will be activated via a high band VHF system to the local base station and the repeater will reduce to low band to activate the paging system, thus making stronger signals to those members of the department who have pagers.

Radios

The department always needs some type of radio communication between vehicles and members of the department. The first communication in which the department invested was CB radios. Most members had and still have CB's in their personal vehicles, and there is one in each of the department's trucks. By using Channel 12, communication could be monitored or discussed between units. With the amount of traffic and skip they became unreliable. With the addition of the 911 system (Lincoln Fire), the department has purchased low band frequency 39.98 radios for all trucks except for the pumper. (It is a 6 volt system and at least a 12 volt system is needed). Since the Seward Sheriff's department operates under frequency 39.9, the department added crystals for both channels. When the Seward Sheriff's department went to the 911 system, they added the 39.98 frequency and are now able to dispatch Pleasant Dale the same information as Lincoln Fire.

We have one unit that has a four-channel radio. This is in the first responder grass unit. Since the medical channel is operated under 39.82 frequency, this channel can be used by our first responder unit.

Vernon Lemmert

COMMUNICATIONS

Plectrons or alert radios were the first improvement to the calling system. They could be set off by Lincoln Fire, and the people who had them were all notified at the same time. Eventually all the firefighters got plectron radios. Some got Regency radios which did the same thing but didn't work as well as plectron types.

At first only the telephone operators and the officers had plectrons. We bought a few at a time until all had radios. Now we are replacing the plectrons and Regency radios with pagers, as the plectrons get too old to be repaired.

Some firemen have low-band radios in their private vehicles. These radios they purchased themselves.

All of the fire trucks have low-band radios so we can communicate with Lincoln Fire and the Seward County Sheriff's office. The pumper No. 31 has only a CB radio. All the trucks have CB radios.

Channels available on low-band radio are 39.9, 39.98 and 39.82 which is a medical channel.

The only scanner the fire department owns is in the communications room of the fire barn. It has a speaker near the ceiling in the fire barn so everyone can hear all the calls.

Someday all the plectrons will be replaced by the more expensive pagers.

As new members come in, they get plectrons. Pagers are given to people who usually are in or near town in the daytime.

Gary Brhel

MUTUAL AID

Our Department is a voting member in two Mutual Aid Associations, Lancaster County Mutual Aid Association and Seward County Mutual Aid Association. Each year the department must elect/select a member to represent its department at these organizations, and he is known as an executive officer.

Lancaster County Mutual Aid Association

This organization has two types of membership: one is voting membership, while the other is non-voting associate membership. Voting memberships are Ashland, Alvo, Bennet, Ceresco, Cortland, Claytonia, Crete, Douglas, Eagle, Firth, Greenwood, Hallam, Hickman, Malcolm, Palmyra, Pleasant Dale, Raymond, Southeast, Southwest, Valparaiso, Waverly Fire and Waverly Rescue. Associate Memberships are Lancaster County Civil Defense, Lincoln Fire Department, Eastern Ambulance, Nebraska Air National Guard Fire Department, Nebraska State Forester, Nebraska State Fire Marshal, and Nebraska State Fire Service.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. On even Mondays the executive officers meet. On odd Mondays the entire Mutual Aid meets at various locations. No meetings are held in December.

One of the many benefits we have enjoyed by being a member of this organization was obtaining our first low-band radio frequency 39.98, and having the ability to be paged by (Lincoln Fire) 911 center on fire or medical calls.

The officers of this organization are voted upon by the rank and file of the Mutual Aid but they are nominated from the executive branch of the organization. They also have active committees that are in the areas of Communication, Lancaster County EMS Service, and Lancaster County Hazardous Materials.

For the past several years they have held several classes for the benefit of the firefighters in the Incident Command, Hazardous Materials (identification and operation levels), and the use of tanker shuttle of water to pumper area.

Seward County Mutual Aid Association

Like Lancaster, the organization has two types of members, voting and non-voting. Voting members are Beaver Crossing, Bee, Cordova, Garland, Goehner, Milford, Pleasant Dale, Seward, Staplehurst, Tamora and Utica. The non-voting member is Seward County Civil Defense.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month with the exception of December, when no meeting is held. The executive officers of the organization also have a meeting once a month prior to the next mutual aid meeting.

Only one existing committee is maintained for the purpose of "Table-Top Sessions" that are held each year. Otherwise the executive officers act as a standing committee for necessary studies. (A "table-top session" is an in-depth study of an imaginary fire situation. Firefighters analyze the situation and determine appropriate action to be taken if the fire were real.)

Each year the executive officers prepare a request to be presented to the Seward County Rural Fire Board for funds for the department members.

Since monies for operation of the Department come through the Seward County Rural Fire Board from taxes

collected within our district, the Mutual Aid has become a sounding board for the rural board members. The Mutual Aid five years ago presented an in-depth study and wrote the procedure for the Seward County Sinking Fund, which was accepted by all departments and the Rural Fire Board.

The Mutual Aid has become active in the area of farm safety and fire prevention displays at the Seward County Fair.

Five departments in the county have ambulance or rescue units. They are: Seward, Milford, Staplehurst, Utica and Beaver Crossing. Pleasant Dale, Garland, Goehner, and Tamora have First Responder Units. Cordova does not have a First Responder Unit.

Seward County Mutual Aid has also developed through Seward County Civil Defense and Blue Valley Radio Club a complete network for severe weather warnings.

Early each spring at one of their meetings, Mutual Aid has a spotting program for the fire departments in Seward County. The speaker for the meeting is a civil defense coordinator or a person from the weather bureau. Films are shown of the clouds as they develop into tornado producing clouds. Information is given telling those present which part of the cloud is most likely to produce a tornado, and also shows the power of the fast moving dangerous storm.

Storm warnings are received from the Lincoln weather bureau. A three-minute blast of the siren is the warning to take cover immediately because a tornado has been sighted in this area.

Each fire department in Seward County is assigned various locations from which to spot tornadoes.

Pleasant Dale's locations, all of which are on hill-tops are: (1) two miles south of Pleasant Dale and one mile west, (2) one-half mile north of the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 103, (3) three-fourths mile west of Pleasant Dale, on Main Street, and one-fourth mile north. During tornado season many hours are spent by the firefighters at these locations.

As of this writing the Mutual Aid is doing a study on the supply of air. Fire departments have cascade systems (bottles of pure air from which the firefighters can refill their self-contained breathing apparatus). It is hoped that a mobile cascade system can be obtained for use throughout the county.

Vernon Lemmert

THE NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM

The fundamental responsibility of a First Responder and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is to conserve life, to alleviate suffering, to promote health, to do no harm and to encourage the quality and equal availability of emergency medical care. A First Responder is trained to rapidly respond to an illness or accident and stabilize the patient until an ambulance arrives.

A Nebraska certified Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance (EMT-A) is a trained ambulance attendant who has successfully completed the Department of Transportation's 81-hour or upgraded 110-hour course. The certified Nebraska EMT-A may choose to take the National Registry exam. National Registry certification authorizes the EMT to perform EMT-A duties in all states.

The firemen-rescuers must successfully complete a

state approved National Standard EMT-Basic Refresher Course, maintain Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification and complete thirty hours of medical continuing education training every three years to remain a current state certified EMT. The nationally registered EMT's must successfully complete the state approved National Standard EMT-Basic Refresher Course, renew their CPR certification annually and complete forty-eight hours of medical continuing education in a two year period.

People who required emergency medical attention prior to the organization of the Emergency Medical System (EMS) were simply transported to the nearest hospital. Active management of the patient before and during transport was not allowed by state law. Funeral directors were called upon for use of their station wagons for patient transport services. The personnel were minimally trained in first aid. Their equipment was limited oxygen and splints. Physicians and hospitals were not interested in changing the system. The prevailing attitude was "Bring the patients in and we'll save them."

The passage of the minimum wage and hour act forced funeral directors to pay on-call employees when they were not actually working. The monetary return for this service did not meet the costs. Many communities lost their emergency medical transport service within one year. The fire department in nearly every community responded to the need for emergency medical care.

The Nebraska EMS was established in the early 1970's. One of the goals of the EMS system was to make basic life support and good medical care available to everyone in the State of Nebraska within 10-12 minutes. The Highway Safety Act of 1966 provided federal funds to Nebraska for upgrading the training, equipment, and communications within the medical network of the state. The State of Nebraska used the money to purchase ambulances and train EMT-A's within volunteer units having rescue squads. An estimated 85% of the state was being covered by EMT-A personnel by 1974.

LeRoy Trease and Clinton Thomas

HEIMLICH MANEUVER

While my family and I were vacationing up at Glacier National Park in September 1990, I finally felt like I put to use some of the knowledge I gained from being a volunteer fireman. I was the third person to use the Heimlich maneuver on a man who was choking on food in a restaurant. My third attempt was successful. It's a good feeling!

Earl Lohmeier

THE FIRST SIREN

The first siren was on a wooden pole near the fire barn, then later transferred to a windmill tower. It was then replaced by the new siren on the windmill tower.

The old siren was carried up the tower on the back of one of the firemen. When the new siren was installed, it was too heavy to carry up. We asked the county, and they consented, to lift the siren up with their crane.

The old siren was replaced when it failed during a tornado alert. A fund drive was held throughout town to ask for donations for the new siren. Cans were placed in all the businesses to collect for the siren fund.

Gary Brhel

LIST OF ALL FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Name	Joined	Resigned	Yr.	Mo.
William Kapke Sr.	5-25-42	W.W. II		
	8- -48	12-31-53	11	7
	9-28-64	12-31-65	1	3
Benjamin Stern*	5-25-42	W.W. II		
	10-28-46	12-31-47	5	7
	5-25-48	12-31-48		7
Paul Breithaupt*	5-25-42	12-31-42		7
Glenn Oxley	5-25-42	12-31-53	11	7
George Zimmer Jr.*	5-25-42	12-31-51	9	7
Wiston Merrill*	5-25-42	3-16-72	29	9
John Vagts*	5-25-42	3-30-50	7	10
Harry Johnson*	5-25-42	4-30-50	7	11
James W. Pyle*	5-25-42	12-31-46	4	7
Alden McFadden*	5-25-42	12-31-45	3	7
George Yank	6-1 -42	12-31-53	11	7
Stuart Best*	6-1 -42	12-31-46	4	7
John Deden*	6-1 -42	12-31-45	3	7
George Gammel*	6-1 -42	2-24-47	4	9
Chester Shaw*	6-1 -42	12-31-69	27	7
Bernie Welch*	6-1 -42	12-31-45	3	7
Donald Kapke*	6-1 -42	12-31-45	3	7
Walter VanAndel	6-1 -42	6-30-43	1	1
	6-30-48			
Lester Ficke*	6-1 -42	W.W. II		
	12-31-47	3-31-50	9	10
Arthur Piening	6-1 -42			
Elmer Dankers	6-1 -42			
Wilmer Bishop*	6-1 -42	3-31-58	15	10
Ardell Minchow*	6-1 -42	4-30-50	7	11
	1-1 -53	3-31-54	1	3
C.F. Daberkow*	7-1 -42	12-31-45	3	6
Louis Brose	7-1 -42	12-31-45	3	6
Russell Burd*	7-1 -42	3-27-89	46	9
Wesley Zimmer*	7-1 -42	12-31-47	5	6
Neil Stahn*	9-1 -42	12-31-47	5	4
Neal Weeks*	9-1 -42	12-31-43	1	4
	2-1 -58	8-31-59	1	7
John Becker*	9-1 -42	12-31-42		4
	1-1 -48	12-31-53	6	0
Leonard Rapp	9-1 -42	2-28-48	5	6
	1-1 -49	9-30-55	6	9
	1-1 -56	1-1 -70	14	0
Ervin Sieck	10-1 -42	12-31-47	5	3
Melvin Ficke*	10-1 -42	12-31-47	5	3
Arthur Niewedde*	10-1 -42	12-31-47	5	3
Russell Yank*	2-25-46	9-30-47	1	7
Samuel Pennington*	2-25-46	12-31-47	1	10
Alex Kropp	9-30-46	12-31-47	1	3
Glen VanAndel*	10-28-46	12-31-70	24	2
Norman Clark*	3-25-46	9-30-47	1	6
Franklin Fontaine	1-1 -47	2-24-47		2
Edward Banning*	9-30-47	2-28-50	2	5
Richard VanAndel	9-30-47	3-31-50	2	6
Earl Kilday*	12-31-47	12-31-48	1	0
Eloth Stahn*	2-23-48	12-31-54	6	10
Raymond Nootz*	5-1 -48	1-31-49		9
Edward Lebsock Sr.*	5-1 -48	8-31-52	4	4
Henry Brt*	2-28-49	12-31-49		10

Gene Bauer	1-30-50	3-31-51	1	2
Eugene Berg*	1-30-50	12-31-54	4	11
Vernon Piening	1-30-50			
Donald Daniel	1-30-50	2-28-50		1
Ralph Burd*	1-30-50	4-31-80	30	3
Earl Lohmeier	6-26-50			
Kenneth Timme	10-2 -50	6-30-76	25	9
Gerald R. Allen	10-2 -50	11-30-55	5	1
	3-1 -64	12-31-77	13	10
Earl Mitchell	10-2 -50			
William Berg*	11-29-50	12-31-54	4	1
Vernon Lostroh	11-29-50	10-31-54	3	11
Albert Thomas*	11-29-50	11-30-54	4	0
Glenn Weeks*	11-29-50	11-30-65	15	0
Frank Kruger*	3-1 -52	12-31-52	9	10
Eugene Fougeron	10-1 -52	12-31-65	13	3
Orell V. Soucie*	10-1 -52	11-30-52		2
Kenneth Ficke	1-26-53	5-31-68	15	4
William Stern*	8-31-53	4-30-54		8
Elmer Madsen*	1-26-53	12-31-53		11
Leland Austen	4-26-53	12-31-78	25	8
Lawrence Ficke	1-25-54	12-31-55	1	11
	6-1 -57	9-30-60	3	4
Joseph Vance	4-26-54	12-31-68	14	8
Dale Ficke*	1-31-55	1-31-69	14	0
Fred Luckey*	1-31-55	12-31-55		11
Bill Wilson	1-31-55	12-31-55		11
	11-30-56	2-28-58	1	3
Lloyd Woebbecke	8-1 -55	7-31-81	26	11
Keith Bottrell	4-30-56	5-31-63	7	1
Charles Wiechert	3-26-57	3-31-81	24	0
Bernard Becker	11-25-57	6-30-66	8	7
Elmer Melichar	2-28-58	12-31-62	4	10
Harry Nobbman	2-28-58	12-31-62	4	10
Alvin Klug	6-30-58	12-31-81	23	7
Victor Kahler*	8-31-58	6-30-59		10
Vernon Lemmert	8-31-58			
Wayne Ficke	1-31-59	8-31-84	25	7
Eugene Hromas	12-31-60	6-30-63	2	6
Gary Yank	5-30-60	2-28-76	15	9
Milan Wolfe	12-31-60	2-28-61		2
Lawrence Lee*	3-31-61	12-31-65	4	9
Stanley Thomas	12-31-61	4-30-62		4
Vance Salisbury	12-31-62	5-28-84	21	5
Edward Lebsock Jr.	2-28-64	1-31-66	1	11
Donald Newell*	4-30-64	3-31-66	1	11
Vernon Sharp	6-30-64	6-30-68	4	0
Bill Daniel*	6-30-64	4-30-65		10
James Lee	9-30-64	1-31-69	4	4
Gary Blattert	8-31-64	8-27-90	6	0
Leo Martens	1-31-65	1-31-84	19	0
Dean Minchow	1-31-65			

Tim Stiefel	1-31-65	12-31-69	4	11	Robert Upton	7-30-79	Desert Storm		
Roger Thomas*	1-31-65	7-31-82	17	6		6-7 -91			
Arthur Vagts	2-28-65	10-30-74	9	8					
Gary Nobbman	8-31-65	9-28-81	16	1	Scott Lee	2-23-81	6-30-83	2	4
Gary Harral	12-31-65				Ronald Kapke	3-30-81			
					Terry Klug	3-30-81	3-7 -83	1	11
Vernon Cook	1-1 -66	12-31-67	2	0	Wesley K. Reil	3-30-81			
Conrad Koslowski	3-1 -66	8-31-67	1	6	Harlan Dankers	5-25-81			
Myron Piening	11-1 -66	12-31-77	11	2	Larry Nootz	6-29-81	9-30-83	2	3
John Reid	12-1 -66	8-15-92	25	8		12-29-86	12-31-89	3	0
					Rex Riley	7-27-81	10-25-82	1	3
Richard Sullivan	3-1 -67	7-27-81	14	5	Gary Lee	12-28-81	5-27-85	3	5
Victor Hladky	2-26-68	6-30-77	9	4	George Yeackley	5-31-82	5-25-88	6	0
Lawrence Lawton	3-25-68				Andy Worster	7-26-82	12-28-87	5	5
Kenneth Dill	7-29-68	12-31-77	9	5	Michael Schrodt	10-25-82	12-26-83	1	2
					David Davies	11-29-82	5-27-85	2	6
William Wiechert	7-28-69	10-31-72	3	3	Ron Carrel	11-29-82	6-27-83		7
Thomas Kapke	7-28-69	10-30-71	2	3					
William Kapke Jr.	4-28-69	8-31-71	2	4	Jeffery Oehm	3-28-83			
	9-25-72	12-31-72		3	William Knowlmayer	11-28-83	10-29-84		11
	6-26-89	4-30-90		10					
					Fritz Vernon	2-27-84	9-24-84		7
Marion Benes*	2-23-70	7-31-71	1	5	Pamela James	3-26-84			
Neil Hirsch	2-23-70	8-31-70		6	Jerry Johnson	5-28-84	6-26-89	5	1
Ronald Piening	4-27-70				Scott Saunders	5-28-84	1-28-85		8
Robert Hays	9-28-70	7-31-74	3	10					
Richard Pierce	9-28-70	12-31-71	1	3	Jeffery Ficke	3-25-85	5-27-85		2
Roger Pechtold	10-26-70	2-28-71		4	Roger Michaelis	3-25-85			
					Joseph Zochol	7-27-85			
Richard Burianek	3-1 -71	12-31-77	6	10	Terry Kehm	8-26-85	7-28-86		11
Thomas Vance	4-26-71	6-30-74	3	2		5-30-88			
	1-1 -75				Keith Graff	9-30-85	8-26-86		11
Clinton Thomas	6-28-71								
Clifford Irwin	8-30-71	8-30-82	11	0	Rev. Dennis Karius	2-24-86	5-31-88	2	3
Lynn Sellers	8-30-71	10-31-71		2	Brendal Maier	5-26-86	6-29-87	1	1
					Patrick Gerdes	8-26-86	8-5 -89	2	11
James Helter	1-31-72	12-31-80	8	11	Rudy Nieman Jr.	8-26-86	7-30-87		11
Larry Carpenter	4-30-72	7-31-74	2	3					
Stuart Piening	12-31-72	12-30-85	13	0	Jean Petsch	4-26-87	4-25-88	1	0
					Kurt Campbell	4-26-87	7-30-87		3
Clyde Kremer	4-30-73	5-30-74	1	1	James McNally	8-31-87			
LaVerne Dailey	4-30-73	7-31-76	3	3	Kenneth Minzel	8-31-87			
Ronald VanAndel	8-26-74	6-24-85	10	10	Edward Gottschall	3-28-88			
					Steve Howe	10-31-88			
Fred Petsch	3-31-75	11-31-79	4	8	Ricky Schneider	10-31-88			
Larry Stonacek	1-26-76	6-30-77	1	5	Michael Schepers	9-25-89			
Gary Brhel	2-23-76				LeRoy Trease	9-25-89	Desert Storm		
William Stephens	2-23-76	6-30-77	1	4		5-1 -91			
Marvin Dreeszen	6-28-76	10-31-84	8	4	Corey Trease	9-25-89			
William James	7-26-76								
					Marty Lincoln	7-30-90	1-28-91		6
Gerald L. Allen	5-30-77	10-31-83	6	5	Eugene Blaser	3-26-90			
	7-30-84	8-26-85	1	1	Richard Matheson	3-26-90			
Duane Burd	5-30-77								
Ronald Petsch	12-27-77	4-28-88	10	4	Rev. Douglas Smith	3-25-91			
Ronald Havlat	12-27-77	6-30-78		6	Darren Blaser	7-29-91			
Vern Duncan*	12-27-77	9-9 -88	10	9	Lori Cooper	10-28-91			
					Ernest Krenk Jr.	11-29-91			
Anthony Liesveld	9-25-78								
Dale Matthes	10-30-78				Dan Kester	2-24-92			
Michael Lemmert	11-27-78	12-31-80	2	1	David Ficke	7-27-92			
Lucas McMullen	5-27-79								

* Deceased

(List correct 8-16-92)

PLEASANT DALE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



Firefighters who have served as Fire Chief: (Left to Right) Gary Yank, Dean Minchow, Walter Van Andel, George Yank, Vernon Piening, Gary Harral, Jeffery Oehm, Wayne Ficke, Ronald Piening, Gary Brhel.

Fire Chiefs

Alden McFadden	1942, 43
John Vagts	1946
George Yank	1947, 48, 49, 50, 51
Wiston Merrill	1952, 53, 54, 55
Vernon Piening	1956, 57, 58
Glen VanAndel	1959, 60, 61, 62, 63
Ralph Burd	1964, 65
Walter VanAndel	1966, 67
Glen VanAndel	1968, 69
Gary Yank	1970, 71, 72
Ralph Burd	1973
Gary Yank	1974
Gary Harral	1975
Wayne Ficke	1976, 77
Ronald Piening	1978, 79, 80
Ronald VanAndel	1981, 82, 83, 84, 85
Dean Minchow (served out term for Ronald VanAndel)	1985
Gary Brhel	1986, 87
Jeffery Oehm	1988, 89, 90, 91, 92

Assistant Fire Chiefs

Glenn Oxley	1942, 43
George Yank	1946
Leonard Rapp	1947
Elmer Dankers	1948
Lester Ficke	1949, 50
Vernon Piening	1951
Earl Lohmeier	1952
Vernon Piening	1953, 54, 55
Wiston Merrill	1956, 57, 58, 59
Leland Austen	1960, 61, 62
Vernon Piening	1963, 64, 65
Glen VanAndel	1966, 67
Gary Yank	1968, 69
Victor Hladky	1970, 71, 72
Alvin Klug	1973
Lawrence Lawton	1974

Wayne Ficke	1975
Gary Harral	1976
Ronald Piening	1977
Fred Petsch	1978, 79
Gary Harral	1980
Vernon Lemmert	1981, 82
Ronald Piening	1983
Wayne Ficke	1984
Dean Minchow	1985
Gary Harral (Served out term for Dean Minchow)	1985
Vernon Lemmert	1986
Harlan Dankers	1987
Gary Brhel	1988, 89
Kenneth Minzel	1990, 91, 92

President

Harry Johnson	1942, 43
Ardell Minchow	1946
Russell Burd	1947
Earl Kilday	1948
Edward Lebsock Sr.	1949, 50
Elmer Dankers	1951
Glenn Weeks	1952
Ralph Burd	1953
Chester Shaw	1954
Walter VanAndel	1955
Earl Lohmeier	1956
Lloyd Woebbecke	1957
Leland Austen	1958
Glenn Weeks	1959
Ralph Burd	1960
Charles Wiechert	1961
Bernard Becker	1962
Chester Shaw	1963
Lawrence Lee	1964
Elmer Dankers	1965, 66
Arthur Vagts	1967
Charles Wiechert	1968, 69
John Reid	1970, 71, 72
Myron Piening	1973, 74
Gary Blattert	1975
Fred Petsch	1976
Gary Harral	1977
Kenneth Dill	1978
William James	1979, 80, 81
Duane Burd	1982, 83
Thomas Vance	1984, 85, 86, 87, 88
Kenneth Minzel	1989
Thomas Vance	1990
Duane Burd	1991
Michael Schepers	1992

Vice President

Paul Breithaupt	1942, 43
Wiston Merrill	1946
Arthur Niewedde	1947
Harry Johnson	1948, 49, 50
Earl Mitchell	1951
Gerald R. Allen	1952
Arthur Piening	1953
Leonard Rapp	1954
Leland Austen	1955
Dale Ficke	1956
Joseph Vance	1957

Eugene Fougeron	1958
Elmer Melichar	1959
Kenneth Ficke	1960
Alvin Klug	1961
Elmer Melichar	1962
Wayne Ficke	1963, 64
Gary Blattert	1965
Kenneth Ficke	1966
Roger Thomas	1967
John Reid	1968, 69
Elmer Dankers	1970, 71, 72
John Reid	1973
Gary Harral	1974
Richard Burianek	1975
Ronald Piening	1976
Roger Thomas	1977
William James	1978
Dean Minchow	1979
Clinton Thomas	1980
Ronald Piening	1981
Anthony Liesveld	1982
Thomas Vance	1983
Ronald Kapke	1984
Clinton Thomas	1985
Ronald Kapke	1986
Jeffery Oehm	1987
Roger Michaelis	1988
Thomas Vance	1989
Harlan Dankers	1990
William James	1991
Harlan Dankers	1992

Secretary

James W. Pyle	1942-43
George Gammel	1946
Elmer Dankers	1947
Glen VanAndel	1948, 49, 50, 51
Chester Shaw	1952
Vernon Lostroh	1953
Kenneth Timme	1954
Kenneth Ficke	1955
Eugene Fougeron	1956
Ralph Burd	1957
Elmer Dankers	1958
Walter VanAndel	1959
Vernon Lemmert	1960, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68
Dean Minchow	1969
Roger Thomas	1970
Ronald Piening	1971
Arthur Vagts	1972, 73
Dean Minchow	1974
Ronald VanAndel	1975, 76, 77, 78
Ronald Petsch	1979, 80, 81, 82
Gary Lee	1983
Ronald Petsch	1984
Jeffery Oehm	1985, 86
Ronald Petsch	1987, 88
John Reid	1989, 90, 91, 92

Treasurer

W.B. Stoltz	1942, 43
(non-member, banker)	
George Gammel	1946
Elmer Dankers	1947

Glen VanAndel	1948, 49, 50, 51
Chester Shaw	1952
Vernon Lostroh	1953
Kenneth Timme	1954
Kenneth Ficke	1955
Eugene Fougeron	1956
Ralph Burd	1957
Elmer Dankers	1958
Walter VanAndel	1959
Vernon Lemmert	1960, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69
Lawrence Lawton	1970, 71, 72, 73
Ronald Piening	1974
John Reid	1975, 76
Gary Brhel	1977, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85
Duane Burd	1986, 87
Lucas McMullen	1988, 89
Roger Michaelis	1990
Edward Gottschall	1991, 92

Training Officer

John Reid	1974
Myron Piening	1975
Vernon Lemmert	1976, 77, 78, 79, 80
John Reid	1978
Wayne Ficke	1979
John Reid	1981
Vern Duncan	1981
Thomas Vance	1982
Vern Duncan	1982
Vernon Lemmert	1983, 84, 85
William James	1986
Vernon Lemmert	1987, 88
Patrick Gerdes	1989
Ronald Piening	1990
Vernon Lemmert	1991, 92

Mutual Aid Executive Officer

Vernon Lemmert	1976, 77, 78, 79, 80
(Seward County)	
Vernon Lemmert	1981 (Seward & Lancaster County)
Ronald Petsch	1981 (Seward County)
Vernon Lemmert	1982, 83, 84, 85, 86
(Seward & Lancaster Co.)	
Andy Worster	1987 (Seward County)
Vernon Lemmert	1987 (Lancaster County)
Vernon Lemmert	1988 (Seward & Lancaster County)
Vernon Lemmert	1989 (Lancaster County)
Roger Michaelis	1989 (Seward County)
Vernon Lemmert	1990, 91, 92 (Seward & Lancaster County)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(In 1981 Title Changed To Truck Captains)

Director #1

Vernon Piening	1950
Kenneth Timme	1951, 52
Eugene Berg	1953, 54
Russell Burd	1955, 56, 57, 58

Kenneth Timme 1959, 60
 Walter VanAndel 1961, 62
 Russell Burd 1963, 64
 Chester Shaw 1965, 66
 Charles Wiechert 1967, 68
 Vance Salisbury (Served out
 term for Charles Wiechert) . 1968
 Arthur Vagts 1969, 70
 Dean Minchow 1971, 72
 Roger Thomas 1973, 74
 Vernon Lemmert 1975, 76
 Marvin Dreeszen 1977, 78
 Gary Harral 1979, 80

Truck Captains Unit No. 31

Elmer Dankers 1981, 82
 Anthony Liesveld 1983, 84, 85, 86
 Gary Harral 1987, 88
 Ronald Kapke 1989, 90, 91, 92

Director #2

John Vagts 1950
 Glenn Oxley 1951, 52
 Earl Mitchell 1953, 54
 Earl Lohmeier 1955, 56
 Arthur Piening 1957, 58
 Joseph Vance 1959, 60
 Vernon Piening 1961, 62
 Dale Ficke 1963, 64
 Glenn Weeks 1965, 66
 Bernard Becker (Served out term
 for Glenn Weeks) 1966
 Chester Shaw 1967, 68
 Lawrence Lawton 1969, 70
 Alvin Klug 1971, 72
 Earl Mitchell 1973, 74
 Roger Thomas 1975, 76
 William Stephens 1977, 78
 Vernon Lemmert 1979, 80

Truck Captains Unit No. 42

Roger Thomas 1981, 82, 83
 Dean Minchow (Served out term
 for Roger Thomas) 1983
 Ronald Piening 1984, 85
 Lucas McMullen 1986, 87
 Harlan Dankers 1988, 89
 Lawrence Lawton 1990, 91, 92

Director #3

Wiston Merrill 1950, 51
 Arthur Piening 1952, 53
 Kenneth Ficke 1954, 55
 Earl Mitchell 1956, 57
 Chester Shaw 1958, 59
 Leonard Rapp 1960, 61
 Alvin Klug 1962, 63, 64, 65
 Arthur Piening 1966, 67
 Gary Nobbman 1968, 69
 Ralph Burd 1970, 71
 Walter VanAndel 1972, 73
 Arthur Vagts 1974, 75
 Dean Minchow 1976, 77
 Wayne Ficke 1978, 79
 Dean Minchow 1980

Truck Captains Unit No. 43

Lawrence Lawton 1981, 82
 Gerald L. Allen 1983, 84
 Lawrence Lawton 1985, 86
 Clinton Thomas 1987, 88, 89, 90,
 91, 92

Director #4

Chester Shaw 1950, 51
 Walter VanAndel 1952, 53
 Wilmer Bishop 1954, 55
 Glenn Weeks 1956, 57
 Charles Wiechert 1958, 59
 Bernard Becker 1960, 61
 Kenneth Ficke 1962, 63
 Earl Mitchell 1964, 65
 Gerald R. Allen 1966, 67
 Gary Harral 1968, 69
 Walter VanAndel 1970, 71
 Ralph Burd 1972, 73
 Gerald R. Allen 1974, 75
 Ralph Burd 1976, 77
 James Helter 1978, 79
 Roger Thomas 1980

Truck Captains Unit No. 64

Wayne Ficke 1981
 William James 1982, 83, 84, 85
 Vern Duncan 1986, 87
 William James 1988, 89
 Gary Brhel 1990, 91
 Corey Trease 1992

(Records researched by Joanne Lostroh)

INCIDENT COMMAND

In the Incident Command System, different people are designated to do certain duties. The first person to arrive at the scene, other than the driver, is the incident commander. The incident commander never does the fire fighting. He stays away from the fire where he can see the entire area and talk to other fire chiefs as they arrive. Depending upon the size of the incident he can develop a "flow chart" as large or small as needed. The various officers under the incident commander may, in turn, be in charge of other firefighters.

In a very small fire one operations officer is in charge, and he puts the fire out. In a larger fire, the logistics officer, who is the resource person, is responsible for getting additional help if needed. The operations officer is to have the fire teams ready. The responsibility of the safety officer is the safety of the firefighters. The staging officer is responsible for directing vehicles coming into the staging area, and as they are needed, they are released from their standby position into the incident area. The finance officer is responsible for all expenses incurred, such as feeding the firefighters, obtaining additional material and making sure it is satisfactory, such as gasoline for the trucks, and an ample supply of foam. The planning officer is the right hand man of the incident commander, and he constantly reviews the scene and makes suggestions on how to handle the situation. The water officer is in charge of keeping the porta-tank full. Someone may be appointed to keep the crowd back, and someone may be appointed to take people who are involved in the incident aside to be kept

calm until further help arrives.

Doris Lostroh and Joanne Lostroh

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

With the evolution of equipment changes for personal protection, the firemen of yesteryear seeing the modern day dress of today's firefighters would think they are going to the moon or are in some other space activity.

Today's firefighters are covered from head to foot, leaving very little exposed portions of their bodies. With new style helmets, hoods, bunker coats, bunker pants, boots, and gloves, when firefighters don all the gear, they all look alike.

With the law passed by the Congress, and state directives just received this year effective July 14, 1992, all personal equipment must meet the requirements of the National Fire Protective Associations.

Bunker Coats

The first bunker coats were purchased from Sears & Roebuck. They were black raincoats. Each fireman had to pay 1/2 the cost. If he stayed in the department for five years, the coat was his to keep.

The first real bunker coats were purchased from Anderson Fire Equipment Company. Because of the cost, these coats remained on the fire trucks, and were given to those who arrived first and were front line firefighters.

Several times the department purchased, at minimal cost, bunker coats from Lincoln Fire Department, Seward Fire Department, and Beatrice Fire Department.

During one period, the department did offer to pay 1/2 the cost if an individual paid the other 1/2, and this bunker coat was then his personal equipment.

Today the department purchases the needed equipment for each firefighter.

Helmets

As with all equipment, cost was the main concern in having helmets available for all firefighters. The first helmet was the Civil Defense or World War II CD helmet. Several helmets were purchased. However, one year the department purchased twenty-four helmets (black in color) from Utica Fire Department.

Also, several members purchased their own helmets by way of the 1/2 cost sharing plan of the department.

Today you still find a variety of helmets, yellow, black, and red. Only the chief and assistant chief have white helmets.

Gloves

The early firemen used cotton gloves that they carried themselves or that were kept on the truck.

Today the gloves are specially designed gloves that give maximum protection to hands and wrists.

Boots

If you remember, the boots were five buckle overshoes, and you hoped you remembered to bring them along. Again the department purchased some boots and firemen also purchased their own. Today the department is in the process of making sure that each and every firefighter has good fire boots.

Two new items have been added to the personal equipment. These are bunker pants and hoods.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

A major change from the old smoke eater is SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus). Wearing this is required in fighting interior fires. This equipment has changed from the old "demand" type, which gives air only on demand, to the newer free flow type, where there is constant air in the mask, and now to the new lighter high pressure equipment.

What is in the future? There is constant change in equipment, giving better protection. However, the cost of getting rid of the current equipment and replacing it with new is a problem that will affect every department because of the new laws passed by state and federal governments.

Vernon Lemmert

TRAINING

Not only our department but departments around the state have found that training is one of the most valuable tools to become an effective fire/rescue unit.

As in all departments, various methods have been used to teach the responsibility to be a safe and valuable volunteer. It becomes hard for a volunteer who has his/her occupation day to day and then be expected to attend continuous education classes on firefighting or medical sessions for the first responders.

The early department education was handled by the chief who would select a day to have training sessions. These sessions were to instruct new firemen as well as refresh the memory of the older members on how to get water via the pumper and drafting. During these sessions the members also got the opportunity to handle hose lines and nozzles.

Another instructing method used is analyzing an incident, when all the firemen who answered the call gather at the station to get the equipment ready for the next call and then sit and talk about the good points and also the errors that were made on the call.

In the last ten years the department has established an office of Training Officer who, along with Chief and Assistant Chief, establish some formalized training for the members. Attempts have been made to set these training sessions for once a month with various topics that would interest all firefighters.

Due to the nature of today's fire fighting rescue work, it has become imperative that our volunteers need to continue their education with more formal training. Various organizations assist in putting on educational seminars and programs. These are Nebraska Fire Service, Nebraska Chiefs Association, Nebraska Fire School, National Fire Academy, and Mutual Aid Fire and Disaster Drills.

Nebraska Fire Service

This is a state financial organization which has established instructors who will come into your department for various courses:

- Unit 1 Fire Fighter I certification
- Unit 2 Fire Fighter II certification
- Incident Command
- Hazardous Materials
- Officer's Training
- Fire Prevention

There are various other miscellaneous courses.

We have taken advantage of some of these courses: October 1965 Basic Firemanship, twenty attended, ten completed. March 1979 Fire Fighter I, eleven attended, six completed. March 1980 Fire Ground Command, eighteen attended, eighteen completed. February 1982 Fire Fighter I, fifteen attended, seven completed. February 1984 Fire Ground Command, eight attended, four completed. March 1986 Fire Fighter I, six attended, four completed. November 1986 Hazardous Material, one attended, one completed. January 1991 Unit I Fire Fighter I Certification, two attended, one completed.

The total hours of continuing education for this period of time is 153 hours to completion.

Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association

Each year the Chiefs Association holds a 1-1/2 day seminar at various locations throughout the state. Departments bid for the opportunity to host this seminar. Starting on Saturday evening and continuing all day Sunday, each seminar will have two or three major topics for presentation and discussion.

Nebraska Fire School

This is always held in Grand Island on the second or third weekend in May. It starts on Friday, continues through Saturday until Sunday noon. This fire school is the second largest in the United States and departments from surrounding states send their firefighters to this annual event. The school has thirty to forty different classes firefighters can attend from Basic Fire up to Advance Officer and Board Members training, as well as good subjects on Medical Emergencies.

Mutual Aids

Mutual Aids have also assisted in continuing education through various weekend fire schools, and tabletop activities during winter months. They have also presented several disaster drills to test the departments on their response as well as for additional training.

Emergency Medical System

EMS (Emergency Medical System) has become an important part of the department. Since 1976 these medical calls have outnumbered the fire calls. Once a member has obtained his rank of EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), he or she must have recorded with the state health department a certain number of hours of continuing education as well as recertification every three years.

As you can see, the amount of time that could be spent on continuing education for both fire and rescue could be quite high for the average volunteer.

It is important to point out that if departments within our state do not take advantage of these courses, as in neighboring states, it will be forced upon the volunteer and the department.

Vernon Lemmert

TRAINING DRILLS

As mentioned in the article on training, various methods are used, such as classroom training, seminars, workshops, local training classes, and fire schools. Nebraska Fire Service instructors present topics, and sometimes on-hand training is used to equip the firefighters of today with knowledge and practice of their job.

Three methods also used are what the firefighters call controlled house burns, as well as disaster drills for medical emergency calls, and Seward County Mutual Aid has developed a table top drill for both fire disaster and medical disaster.

Medical Disaster

One of the main concerns of all first responders and rescue squads is the young people of our communities, since many of these young people spend considerable time on school buses going to and from school, as well as other school activities that require bussing.

An excellent drill was put on by the Milford, Seward, Beaver Crossing, Staplehurst, and Utica rescue squads, who invited all first responders from Goehner, Garland, Pleasant Dale, and Tamora to come and participate.

I had the great opportunity to be asked to help set up the bus incident along with a fellow firefighter from Pleasant Dale, who at the time was the EMS co-ordinator for the county.

After many meetings planning the scenario for this event, we began to put our ideas into action.

As in all drills, our plan was for safety of not only the rescue personnel but also our intended "victims". Our second objective was to make the incident as realistic as possible. The third objective was to involve the hospital. The final objective was to see whether our procedures in the field as well as at the hospital would go as well as planned.

We needed a school bus. No school district would lend us a bus for the purpose we had in mind, but finally Centennial school had a bus that was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. When they heard of this possible drill, they donated the bus to the cause. We literally tore the bus apart.



Pleasant Dale firefighters cutting hole in ceiling of school bus.

We next needed "victims". The committee met with Milford, Seward, and Centennial drama teachers, gave them the scenario of the incident and asked them to select the students who would participate and also write the scripts to be used. The surprising thing was that these teachers gave the information to their drama students who wrote the script to be used, and that three separate schools, having no contact with each other, were able to fit the three scripts together without any changes. The teachers worked with each group instructing what would transpire.



Preparing for the "bus accident" drill with the bus on its side.

The one thing that made this drill go well was the complete secrecy. Only the fire chiefs of the first responders were contacted two days before the drill. This enabled the first responders to be in the area without being paged. Rescue squads were paged as they were needed.

The morning of the drill the committee met with the drama students at 6:00 A.M. to begin to have make-up put on that, after a time, became very realistic looking, showing cuts, bruises, and even broken bones protruding from limbs.

Then came the two hours of coaching each individual in the way in which we wanted them to react, from being unconscious to being violent when confronted. One young lady was to be hysterical, as you will see later. We also had several older students along with the teachers who were to be "parents" of the "student victims".

Finally we transported the students out to the overturned school bus. Opening a window, the students slid through into the bus and into their places as instructed. The last student closed the window and locked it from the inside.

Then the page was sounded, first for Seward, and then for Milford rescue squads, who responded. Then, seeing the number of "victims", these squads sent calls out to Beaver Crossing, Staplehurst, and Utica for help.

That year's bus model did not have safety exits that buses of today have. The bus was on its side, the back door was jammed and there were "victims" piled up at

the rear door.

The Jaws-of-Life device was used to cut an opening in the top of the bus for entrance as well as exit. The squads set up a triangle area where each student was placed as he was first removed, then placed for further examination, and then for treatment.

The young lady who was to be hysterical really did her part. She began to run around annoying responders, trying to get them to help a friend (not seriously injured). At one time it took five responders to get her under control. Later, at the hospital, she disappeared from the emergency room only to be found running from room to room talking to patients.

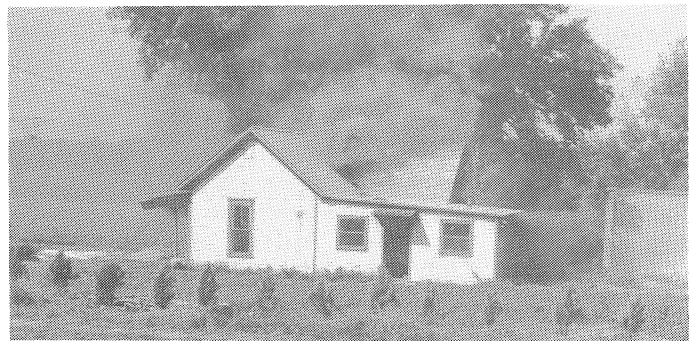
The "parent" students did their job interrupting the hospital routine inquiring about their "children".

In all, the drill was a great success not only from the rescuers' part, but also the hospital's ability to cope with the disaster.

As in all drills, we found problems which many of the squads have corrected. We all hope we never have the real incident happen.

House Burns

These drills are conducted on abandoned houses with permission of the owner. The building is set afire



Lebsock house burn.

several times in order to give the firefighters experience in putting it out. At the end, it is allowed to burn down while firefighters protect the surrounding area.

Here again the main concern is for the safety of the firefighter as well as spectators.

The officers of the department inspect houses or outbuildings for their potential for instruction as well as benefit for the firefighter.

One such event did occur in Pleasant Dale in which the department not only used the house for fire practice, but several times was able to get search-and-rescue practice for its firefighters.

In this house we were able to get some interior attacks, but over-zealous nozzle men sometimes wetted the room so much that we had a hard time getting it re-kindled.

After several attacks on the interior fires, and putting them out, the firefighters again started the interior fire and this time allowed the whole house to catch fire. Other practices were used from exterior attack as well as using the 2-1/2 inch line in the later stage of the fire.

Water was transferred from the hydrant on Main Street, and also, water was shuttled to a horse tank by unit 43. We did save the trees along the north side of the house.



Unit 31 drafting water from tank. Ronald Piening, pump operator, with Tony Liesveld.



End view of the Liesveld house burn.



Former home of the Anthony Liesvelds southeast of Emerald.



Liesveld house burn.

Table Top

This drill is put on each year by the Seward County Mutual Aid Education Committee. As in all drills, the main objective is in using Mutual Aid to give individuals practice in using radios and in making immediate decisions.

It gives an individual the ability to put into practice what he has been taught without the fear of losing a life or having other major injuries.

Also, it gives everyone the ability to see the whole picture, which doesn't happen on the fire ground at an actual incident.

Vernon Lemmert

"ELEVATOR HOUSE" BURN

A fire department deliberately setting fires! It seems a little unusual for a fire department to do this when they are so dedicated to putting out fires. But that is what most departments do from time to time. Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department is no different. Occasionally people in our area give us a house which they want removed. This gives us an excellent opportunity to set fires in it and give our members good training by putting out the fire in a non-emergency situation.

This is exactly what occurred with the house directly north of the Farmers Co-op elevator. We were able to practice our set-up procedures with the porta-tank and the pumper. We also learned the best way to deploy the hose lines. We practiced entering a burning building with a charged hose, with the nozzle spraying a fog pattern of water to knock down the fire using the heat of

the fire to convert the water into steam. This steam conversion displaces most of the oxygen in the room which puts out most of the flames. After the initial knock-down of the fire, we then can go back into the room and extinguish any remaining spots that are burning. Using a controlled burn like this we can also practice using our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). These allow us to breathe fresh air while entering a burning structure.

We set up the porta-tank south of the house on the elevator drive and parked the pumper next to it so we could draft water from the porta-tank. The porta-tank was kept filled by our two tankers shuttling water from our station a half mile away. We dropped two 2-1/2 inch lines from the pumper and at the end of the 2-1/2 inch lines there were "Y's" where two 1-1/2 inch lines were attached. We had a total of four 1-1/2 inch lines surrounding the house. We had all this set up before we set fire to and "played firefighter" with the house.

Due to the generosity of our neighbors, we are able to prepare ourselves for the times when there is an emergency.

Gary Brhel



The "elevator house".



The "elevator house" burn.

GRASS FIRES

There are many different types of grass fires. The common ones that we see are from controlled fires getting away from someone, sparks or hot carbon from the exhaust starting railroad right-of-ways afire, and Interstate 80 fires from careless drivers tossing cigarettes out of the windows.

Railroad fires are the most difficult to fight because access is limited. Sometimes it seems almost like you sit and wait for the fire to come to you. Interstate fires have traffic problems.

Jeffery Oehm

RAILROAD GRASS FIRES

Grass fires on the railroad right of way have been a big problem for the Pleasant Dale Fire Department. This is true for any fire department whose area has a rail line that passes through it.

Some of the problems with railroad grass fires included accessibility, train traffic, and piles of railroad tie butts.

Most of the tracks in our area are either in deep cuts through high hills or on hill fill areas. When a fire occurs along the tracks, it is necessary to climb up or down a steep grade to get to it. Sometimes the only way to get to the fires is by driving the fire trucks down the tracks. This brings us to another problem, the trains. Whenever we get onto the tracks, we call the rail dispatchers to shut down the rail traffic. Shutting off the trains has a desired effect. First, it creates a safer working environment for the firefighters, and secondly it seems as if the number of fires decreases. This may be only a coincidence but is welcomed by the firemen.

The fires are thought to be started by sparks coming from the exhaust of the diesel engines, although we have been assured by the railroad that all the exhaust stacks have spark-arresting screens on them. Another theory is that some fires were started by cigarettes thrown from the train. This has never been proven.

One fire that was in the deep cut about one fourth mile east of the overhead bridge southeast of Pleasant Dale on Highway 103 was especially difficult to reach. We parked on the hill near Bill Berg's home, and the fire was below us near the tracks. We discovered that not only was the grass on fire, but also the neat piles of tie butts the section crews created. (The section crews replace the ties under the rails by cutting each wooden tie in two places. Then it makes removing the old tie easier, as it is in three pieces. Then the tie butts are stacked in neat stacks every 100 yards or so.) The hill was so steep we had to hang onto the hose to let ourselves down to the fire. In the same manner we had to pull ourselves up by the hose to get out of the cut. It was difficult to stand on the side hill to spray water on the fire. At this particular fire, while we were putting water on a stack of tie butts and tearing them apart, we saw in the stack of tie butts the remains of a fusee, or flare, that the railroad uses. When we found this fusee we decided to call the railroad and have them send a railroad agent or investigator to the scene. When he got there we showed him our evidence. He didn't say too much while he was at the scene but we didn't have any tie butt fires the rest of that year.

One unusual thing about railroad grass fires is that

no matter how low the fire is in the grass, it is always hot enough to start the tie butts on fire. These are always hard to put out. It seemed that we could drown a tie in water, and then in about fifteen minutes it would be burning again. We solved some of this problem by putting a water wetter into the tank of water. The water wetter, or wetting agent, decreased the surface tension of the water so that it would penetrate the tie butts and thereby make it easier to extinguish the burning wood.

There were some memorable railroad grass fires. For a time it seemed we had an annual fire near the tracks around the overhead bridge near Roger Thomas's home. The easiest way to get to this fire was by taking the fence down and driving off the road, though the ditch, across the pasture, and then taking the railroad fence down and crossing it to get closer to the fire. One time we had fires on both sides of the tracks in this area, in Otto Becker's pasture and also in Havlat's pasture. This is one of the times we shut down the trains. We put the fires out once, but we were called back to the same fire three times. The third time all that was left burning were the tie butts on the Havlat side of the tracks. We shut the trains off all three times. The only way to get to the fire was to drive the 6x6 tanker onto the tracks. The third time we put wetting agent into the water to help put out the burning tie butts. While we were extinguishing tie butts a green railroad truck drove up. A man got out of it with a five-gallon Indian pump. He sprayed water on the fire also. When his can was empty he came up to the fire truck and asked whether we would refill his tank!

We always wished we had enough time to let these fires burn up all the grass around the tracks so we wouldn't have any more fires, but we always put the fires out. That would leave some fuel for the next fire.

Another railroad grass fire was near Denton, and extended at least two to three miles southwest along the tracks. This fire involved three departments, Southwest, Crete, and Pleasant Dale. There were numerous tie butt piles to put out after the grass fires were put out. It took about three hours by all departments to finally extinguish all the tie butts.

Gary Brhel

GENERAL INFORMATION

At the October 8, 1951 meeting, a motion was made that meetings be held more formally. The members were to sit on the benches at the rear of the building and the officers were to sit at the tables in the front.

Gary Brhel

INJURED FIREMEN

Glen VanAndel injured his ribs while trying to get on the back of a fire truck. He fell against the back end of the truck. The front of the truck was pointed down hill, which raised the rear. Glen was fairly short. He tried to jump up on the back and hit his ribs, possibly breaking one or two. He received workmen's compensation.

Larry Lawton, responding to an accident at the junction of Highways 6 and 103 fell and hurt his shoulder. He fell into a ditch at the end of a culvert. He broke his collar bone.

Cliff Irwin lost his glasses. Workmen's compensation paid for them.

Gary Brhel



House burn in Emerald January 28, 1990.

MONEY-MAKING EVENTS

In 1946 the fire department purchased a butcher hog from Russell Burd and sold raffle tickets at 50¢ per ticket, to gain funds for the department.

In the summer of 1980, the Fire Department raffled a 19 inch color TV. The raffle was held in order to raise money for the department. The TV was purchased for a good price and then we sold the chances on it.

A spaghetti supper was held September 27, 1986. It was co-sponsored with A.A.L., Aid Association of Lutherans, who matched the profits received from the spaghetti supper. The proceeds were to go for plectrons and alert radios.

The total money received from the spaghetti supper from the A.A.L. was \$1,650.48. Eight plectrons were ordered.

A soup supper was held on October 2, 1988. It was a fund raiser for the family of Vern Duncan, a firefighter who had recently passed away, and had some large medical bills. Will James, Tom Vance, and Wes Reil were the committee to coordinate collection of the food and organize the volunteers. A \$2.00 donation was asked for all anyone cared to eat. Donations of food were solicited. Over \$1,000 was taken in.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fire Department does not rent out the community building for social affairs. The town board does that. When the town rents the building out, the fire department is asked to move the trucks out for the time that the events are scheduled. The building is not rented out during winter months so the trucks need not be moved outdoors when the temperature might be below freezing.

Gary Brhel

OLD MINUTES OF MEETINGS

NAME OF PERSON TO WHOM ISSUED										DATE										AMOUNT																													
FOR WHAT PURPOSE DRAWN										Month										Day										Year										Dollars									

Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Dept.

Pyle Appointed Temp Chairman

Informal ballot for candidates for Pres.

Paul Brethaupt III Vice President
Johnson III
McGadden III
J Pyle I

Formal Ballot for Pres. Vice Pres.

A McGadden III Pres
Brethaupt III Vice Pres.
Johnson III

Informal ballot for candidates for Treas.

W B Stutz III
Ellen Opley II
Johnson I
J Pyle I

Moved by Brethaupt, seconded by McGadden to declare informal ballot formal and W B Stutz elected. Motion Carried.

Informal ballot for Secretary

J Opley II
J Pyle III
Johnson II
J D Shaw I

Moved by Brethaupt, seconded by Johnson to declare informal ballot formal. Carried.

Informal ballot for Fire Chief

J D Shaw III
J Opley III
McGadden III

Formal Ballot for Fire Chief
J D Shaw III Opley III McGadden III

Formal Ballot for Assistant Fire Chief
J Opley III J D Shaw II

Officers Elected

President - A McGadden
Vice President - Paul Brethaupt
Treasurer - W B Stutz
Secretary - J Pyle
Fire Chief - A McGadden
Assistant Fire Chief - Ellen Opley

Moved by Brethaupt, seconded by Vagts that Secretary & Treasurer serve without salary. Motion Carried.
Moved by Bimmer that Secretary & Treasurer obtain bond. No second.

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Vagts that Sec & Treas serve without bond. Motion Carried.

Moved by Brethaupt, seconded by Johnson that Dept consist of 25 members. Motion Carried.

The following are Charter Members.

Wm Kapke - 1.00 Pd 1942
Ben Stern - 1.00 Pd for 1942
Paul Brethaupt - 1.00 Pd " "
Ellen Opley - 1.00 Pd " "
Les Bimmer Jr.
Winton Merrill
John Vagts - 1.00 Pd
Harry Johnson - 1.00 Pd
J Pyle - 1.00 Pd
A McGadden - 1.00 Pd

Ken Yank 1.00 Pd
Stuart Best 1.00 Pd
John Beder 1.00 Pd

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Brethaupt that a meeting will be held on the first Monday of each month. Motion Carried.

Moved by Vagts, seconded by Opley that a fine of 25¢ be imposed on every member absent from Regular Meetings. Motion Carried.

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Brethaupt to give P.M. power to appoint committees for special occasions. Motion Carried.

Moved by Vagts, seconded by Pyle to charge \$1.00 annually for memberships in Dept. Motion Carried. Fee to be paid by first Monday in June each year.

By-Laws

No appropriation of any of the funds of this company shall be made except by vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting and no expenditures except on the majority vote. An order shall then be drawn on the Treasurer signed by the President and Secretary, specifying the object of the appropriation or expenditure when ordered by the company for all money so appropriated or expended. All new members shall be approved by two active members in good standing and their application shall be voted on at the regular meeting.

Feb. 23, 1953

Meeting called to order by the president. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Roll call showed 25 members present.

Motion made and seconded that Yank paint Fire Dept on top and no parking below on the door. Carried.

Motion made and seconded that the Chair appoint a Committee to make arrangements for the April 8 dance. Kenneth Thorne, Glen Van Andel and Eugene Fougerson were appointed. Carried.

Motion made and seconded that Elmer Banker and Glen Van Andel

MINUTES

see Perkins about annexing the part of Lancaster Co. where Ave. Circulated petitions to be part of our district. Carried

Arnell Minchew was made a fireman by unanimous vote.

It was decided that the chief and assistant start a record book to be kept in the truck about everything that is done to the trucks.

Motion made and seconded we adjourn. Carried.
Vernon Loatosh.

Special Meeting June 14, 1971

Subject: New Fire Barn

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Elmer Bankers, at 9:30.

A General Discussion followed concerning the location and type of building to be put up.

It was mentioned that the vacant street south of the Legion Hall could be used as a possible site. The possibility of using the southwest corner of the park was also mentioned.

Several possible building arrangements were presented. The general consensus was that three or four 12-foot wide doors should be used rather than two 16-foot wide doors.

After further discussion Gary Yank made a motion that the decision be left up to the Board of Directors as to the location of the building. Ken Hemmert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Walt Van Andel made a motion that we recess this meeting until the regular scheduled meeting on June 28. Kenneth Dee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 11:00 p.m.

Ron Preining

Passed by the village board of Pleasant Dale, Ne. on the 11th day of January 1972.

Whereas the village of Pleasant Dale is in need of the use of the fire fighting equipment owned by the Rural Fire Dept.

Whereas the Rural Fire Dept. must maintain the fire barn to house their equip.

Whereas there is a mutual interest for both the Village of Pleasant Dale and the Rural Fire Dept. to maintain a fire barn and working equip.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Village Board of Pleasant Dale propose to the Rural Fire Dept. that the Rural Fire Dept. sell and convey the present fire barn and lot to the Village of Pleasant Dale and that the Village of Pleasant Dale will thereafter assume with the ownership of the lot and buildings and maintenance cost, including the repairs, insurance, and utilities including gas to heat the building.

Motion was made by Ralph Brund seconded Walt Van Andel we sell fire barn and lot to the Village of Pleasant Dale for \$1 motion carried.

Motion was made & second to express our appreciation to the Village of Pleasant Dale for their work on fire barn & bond issue. motion carried

Chief Gary Yank reported we bought gasket for couplings and we got a new gate valve & nozzle

Truck detail for Feb. Russell Brund
Gary Notbman
Richard Sullivan

Motion made by Gary Lawton second by Richard Brund meeting adjourn. motion carried

Art Vagts

Secretary

OLD FIRE CALL RECORDS

Fire Calls

June 29-53 - 1:30 P.M. Alk Barchers
Grass fire on right of way. No damage.
Pumped for 15 min. Used 2 tank water
Used 1 kurb-haw.

July 19-57 Chas Yager - 3 fire along side
road. put out - Returned 5:10 P.M.

K. Jimmie Driver
Sept 7-57 Fire 1 mi east 2 mile north
east side road. Schmeltzer farm. Car
fire. Out 2:50 P.M. back 4 P.M.

K. Jimmie
Oct 25-57 6:10 P.M. Bernard Stern
electrical. No damage.

June 27-58 2:30 A.M. Fred Jack (Alvin
Sug) farm. Fire damage badly
but saved largest portion of house.
Richard Waller renter, boy over come
with smoke. Back in at 5:30 A.M.

K. Jimmie Driver

Dec 29-56 2:05 P.M. Grass fire Dist 45
out when we got there. Back in 2:25
P.M.

K. Jimmie Driver

March 2nd '57 12:50 A.M. Dist 17
reported burning - Upon arrival
complete mass of flames. No
chance to save. Back in 2:05 A.M.

K. Jimmie Driver

May 12-57 5:50 P.M. Fire call at where
Golden Brandt used to live

K. Jimmie Driver

Jan 3-58 5:18 A.M. 2 above Geo. Leo
Amson. 4 mi east of Dinton. Back
7:30 A.M. Machine shed completely
burned + equipment + other
contents in building.

Jan 6-58 4:15 P.M. P. Dale Elevator - Neal
Wheeler grain dryer - Damage \$500 to
milo + machine.

Dec 1st 1961

9 A.M.

Called to Lewis Service Center
at Emerald. Complete loss of
filling station. Luncaster,
Molester + Air Base helped
on the call.

Back in at noon.

Cause unknown
See Austin Driver

Dec 12th 1961

4 A.M.

Called to Wm Berg, Barn
and contents complete loss.
Saved other buildings
Back in at 7 A.M.
Cause heat lamps

See Thomas Driver

Feb 25, 1962

11:05 P.M. Fire call to Otto
Becker farm S.W. of Bdale
Roaring chimney fire. Standby
in case needed. Back in at 12:15 A.M.

K. D. Jimmie
Driver

June 28, 1962

9:20 A.M. Stubblefield
north mis Bailey house minor
damage. Back in at 9:35 A.M.
Both Trucks answered call
K. Jimmie

Sept 19, 1962

9:15 P.M. Car fire
at Plmer South gravel
road. Car total loss
Back at 10:50 P.M.

K. Jimmie Driver

Dec 12-1962

7:15 P.M. Dryer at Emerald
elevator - damage to dryer extensive.
Back at 9:30 P.M. Both trucks.
Jimmie + A. Van driver

Dec 16 - 1962 2:15 P.M.

House on farm owned by Elmer
Huang. House + contents totally
destroyed. Both trucks.

A. Van + Lemmert
drivers

OLD FIRE CALL RECORDS

Sept 9 - 1961 2:35 PM
 Called 1 mi. S. Benton for
 a corn crib fire. Bldg
 destroyed. Single, Cretz &
 AFB there. Returned 3:30

R T

Oct 13 - 3 P.M. Took
 the school kids for
 a ride in conjunction
 with Fire Prevention
 Week. Back at 3:50

G Van
 Art Piening

Oct 25, 1961

Fire call 6:20 AM
 Hedges farm. oil Heater
 Put out by dry foam
 Back in at 6:35 AM

12 Emma Shivers

Mar 15, 1966

3:15 PM Grass fire on shoulder
 of Interstate 80, 2 miles east of
 our pass. Under control and back
 at 3:45 PM

Vern Shoop

Mar 16, 1966

2:15 PM Grass fire on shoulder
 of road 1 mi south of railroad bridge
 two miles east 1/2 mile south. Minor
 damage. Under control and back
 at

Vern Shoop

March 13 - 1966 11:45 AM
 Mutual Aid Call to Milford
 for hauling alley fire. Both
 trucks responded. Trucks not
 used - men assisted in work.
 Back at 1:50 PM. Considerable
 damage.

Glen Van Andel

Lead in wire to Fire Barn
 downed by wind. Reported
 same.

Glen Van Andel

DATE: JUNE 28, 1970

LOCATION: RUSSELL BURPS
 FARM

TIME OUT 2:30 TIME IN 3:15

TRUCKS USED: ALL 3

DESCRIPTION OF FIRE:

~~Railroad~~ RAILROAD OF RIGHT-
 AWAY CAUGHT ON FIRE BY
 TRAIN. HAY SPREAD INTO
 WHEAT FIELD. BURNED
 APPROX 5 ACRES OF
 WHEAT. X

APPROX DAMAGE \$400.00

APPROX NBR MEN 10

DRIVERS LEMMERT - KAPKE -
 ?

Date Sept 3, 1970

LOCATION Bill Johnsons
 Farm

Time out: 10:30

Trucks used: all 3

DESCRIPTION OF FIRE:

BALED HAY BY SHED
 STRUCK BY LIGHTING

APPROX DAMAGE: 500.00

APPROX NBR MEN 20

6 firemen stayed until 4:00 AM

DRIVERS:

LAWTON, KAPKE, WALT
 VAN ANDEL

TIME BACK

INTER 12:30 P.M.

OTHERS 4:00 A.M.

OLD TRUCK MAINTENANCE RECORDS

DATE: Sept 6, 1970

LOCATION: MALCOLM'S TAVERN

Time out: 5:00 A.M.

TRUCKS USED, FORD & 6 BY

DESCRIPTION OF FIRE:

Completely gutted building downstairs and upstairs.

Complete loss

Raymond (2), Garland (2),

SOUTHWEST (2) SOUTHEAST (1)

MALCOLM (2) Responded to

fire

APPROX DAMAGE: \$ 25,000 TO \$30,000

APPROX NBR MEN 25 to 30

DRIVERS: RUSS BURD & LARRY

LAWTON

Time BACK

FORD AT 7:30 A.M.

6 BY AT 8:30 A.M.

Nov 17, 1964

TWO NEW TIRES PUT ON FRONT 4369 MILEAGE READING

ALSO 3 GALS ZEREX WAS

PUT IN. FIREMEN PUTTING ON

TIRES WERE DEAN MINCHOW, DON

NEWELL AND GARY YANK.

NEW BULB WAS ORDERED FOR FRONT LIGHT (REVOLVING) Gary Yank

We have now earned our gold badges) Gary Yank Don Newell Dean Minchow

12/

1st truck checked

Feb, 3, 1965

Drained pump.

Jankus Wiechert

Fuse blown

Tues Feb 9

B Becker

Fuse blown Sun Feb 14

Trucks E. Wiechert

2 new lantern batteries installed
4 more ordered.

B. O. Becker

Nov 16 Both trucks started and run. OK.

Gary Yank
Ed Von

Nov 22, 1960

Installed different siren on Chev. Had a switch to control it in cab. Both trucks started. Check brakes on both trucks also.

Check water in tanks. Oiled gauge on in line propeller. Checked gas in booster pump.

G. V. H. & G. Y.

Nov. 27 Checked & started trucks. OK.

G. V. H.

Aug 20, 1965

Checked Truck put in battery Filled Water Filled Gas, checked oil down just a little.

Roger Thomas

Please use truck to flush sewer Filled tanker with water & gas Aug 21 65

B. O. Becker

Aug 24 1965

Checked both trucks gas oil OK. battery water low small truck filled same.

Water tanks Small Truck leaks. Called Ralph about Tank leaking.

L Vance
Rodger Thomas

QUOTATIONS FROM MINUTES OF MEETINGS

April 27, 1953: "Motion made and seconded that a committee meet with the town board to try to convince them to sell the old truck and apply the money on a used pickup on which a 500 gallon tank could be mounted."

Vernon Lostroh, secretary

July 27, 1953: "Motion was made and seconded that the secretary write the State Fire Marshal about condemning the Community Hall."

Vernon Lostroh, secretary

October 27, 1953: "Meeting called in regard to buying the extra truck for a water wagon. Wiston Merrill gave a report of the truck in question. Motion made and seconded we vote 'yes' or 'no' on this particular truck. Vote was 20-1 for buying the 1950 Chevrolet for \$497."

Vernon Lostroh, secretary

February 22, 1954: "It was moved and seconded that we contact the mortuaries, and that they contact the Chief so that he could appoint committees of 3 to direct traffic at the cemetery."

Kenneth Timme, secretary

February 25, 1955: "Motion was made and seconded that Lee Austen buy two 12 ft. chains with 1/2 in. links and grab hooks." February 25, 1955: "Motion made and seconded to sponsor a boy to Boy's State." (Stephen Oxley)

Kenneth Ficke, secretary

July 25, 1955: "Motion made and seconded that we have the Chief of First Aid come out and give his course."

Kenneth Ficke, secretary

January 30, 1956: "Motion made and seconded to buy 1/2 dozen \$6.95 raincoats and hats. Chester Shaw appointed to buy them."

Kenneth Ficke, secretary

March 26, 1956: "\$10 donation from Volland Mortuary was received. Motion made and seconded to put a heater in Chevrolet truck for \$10."

Eugene Fougerson, secretary

May 28, 1956: "Motion made and seconded for every member to learn to operate truck and equipment."

Eugene Fougerson, secretary

April 29, 1957: "Motion made and seconded to use trucks to wash houses in tornado area when they wanted it done. Carried. Discussion about new telephone system to work out some kind of fire alarm."

Ralph Burd, secretary

May 27, 1957: "Motion made and seconded to blow siren long wailing blast for tornado warning."

Ralph Burd, secretary

August 26, 1957: "Mr. Eggers of the Telephone Co. was present to explain new dial system of telephone for fire alarm to replace old style."

Ralph Burd, secretary

April 25, 1960: "Harry Nobbman donated two stretchers to the department." October 31, 1960: "Harry Nobbman donated siren for Chevrolet truck."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

August 28, 1961: "A talk was given by Ralph Burd on lighting the baseball diamond. No motion nor action taken."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

August 28, 1961: "Watermelon feed sponsored by Timme's Store and Pleasant Dale Lumber Co. followed meeting."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

October 30, 1961: "New keys were made for the International truck, to be placed in various locations."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

January 29, 1962: "Ralph Burd suggested we have a dance March 17, 1962 with proceeds going to the lights of the ball diamond. Ralph was selected as chairman of the committee."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

January 7, 1963: "Earl Mitchell moved that we get pliers to cut hot wires. Seconded by Glen VanAnel. Carried."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

April 29, 1963: "Mr. Austen remarked that the wire cutters were too expensive and that regular tree trimmers would be less expensive and would do the job we want. Wiston Merrill made a motion to purchase the tree trimmers. Seconded by Glen VanAnel. Motion carried."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

June 24, 1963: "Ralph Burd suggested the Department purchase a uniform for the Legion ball team. Art Piening made the motion to purchase a baseball suit. Seconded by Dale Ficke. Carried."

February 24, 1964: "Charles Wiechert made a motion to sell all extinguishers at \$1 above cost to anyone who purchases in our community. Seconded by Wiston Merrill."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

June 29, 1964: "Ralph Burd made the motion to order two fire helmets with face shields. Seconded by Dean Minchow. Carried. Discussion held on donkey ball game."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

February 22, 1965: "A checklist has been included on the bulletin board for checking the trucks."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

March 29, 1965: "Dance tickets were given out for the dance to be held April 28 at Pla-Mor. Men will again have door duty and someone at the window (to sell tickets)."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

April 26, 1965: "Charles Wiechert made a motion to raise our dues from the original \$1 to \$2 per year to help pay for the accidental death (insurance coverage) from \$2000 to \$5000. Seconded by Arthur Piening. Carried."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

October 25, 1965: "It was reported that Harry Nobbman would be willing to put on (the pumper truck) a set of used West Coast mirrors for approximately \$20."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

February 28, 1966: "Glen VanAnel got 6 chairs to be added to the Department at \$.75 a piece = \$4.50. Earl Lohmeier will give \$1 for top of the display case. Received from Air Base a 5 gal. Indian pump and 4 sections of 2-1/2" hose." Discussion was held on the dance April 1st. Dick Wickman will play for the dance at \$350. \$75 will be the rent of the hall (Pla-Mor). Advance tickets \$1.25 and \$1.50 at the door."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

April 27, 1966: "Chief reminded the members that tornado alarm is 3 longs for 'Take Cover' and 3 shorts for 'All Clear'. Fire Drill was set for May 15 by call on phone system."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

May 31, 1966: "Motion made by Leland Austen to purchase a transistorized radio and mount in the pumper truck with at least channels 12 and 20. Seconded by Vernon Sharp."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

August 29, 1966: "Report from Chief on railroad fires. Motion was made by Ralph Burd to bill the railroad \$25 per unit for each call. Seconded by Walter VanAnDel."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

September 26, 1966: "Motion made and seconded to buy a revolving red light for the International truck. Carried."

Glen VanAnDel, acting secretary

February 27, 1967: "Chief's report: Check received from Burlington Railroad for \$787.50. Send letter of thanks."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

March 27, 1967: "Suggestion made that each man is to bring a gunny sack to the next meeting." "Gary Blattert reported that through the Clark McNary Act we are in line to get a 6x6 truck. Dean Minchow made the motion that the vice-president select a committee of 5 members to go down and look at the 6x6 truck, and if they like it, bring it back. Seconded by Ralph Burd. Carried."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

September 25, 1967: "Fuel pump was replaced on the Brute/Beast. Warning was given not to drive over 45 miles per hour since it will shimmy with a load. Discussion was held on the painting and the type of lights wanted on the truck."

Vernon Lemmert, secretary

April 29, 1968: "Ralph Burd made the motion to purchase 39.9 radio for \$150. Seconded by Walter VanAnDel. Carried."

Dean Minchow, secretary

August 26, 1968: "Motion made and seconded that pipe be put on all the way around the tank on the '51 Ford for hand holds. Carried."

Dean Minchow, secretary

October 28, 1968: "Report on moving siren from tower to top of barn was given by Glen VanAnDel. Bracket is being made for top of barn." "Mr. Keller from the Seward County Civil Defense gave a report on how to use a 39.9 radio and gave a demonstration. Mr. Keller also offered to give training on how to use a Geiger Counter."

Dean Minchow, secretary

November 25, 1968: "Report was given by Glen VanAnDel on how to hook truck to a hydrant."

Dean Minchow, secretary

February 24, 1969: "Report was given by Wiston Merrill that we will receive \$2800 from the fire district, but \$1200 is to be put into a fund for buying major fire equipment."

Dean Minchow, secretary

December 29, 1969: "Report was given by Gary Yank that members of the fire department can have a blue flashing light on their cars, but each member has to send an application to the sheriff's department."

Dean Minchow, secretary

January 26, 1970: "We received an oxygen tank from Milford Fire Department on loan until we can get one of our own from Clark McNary." "A discussion was held about a new building. The board of directors will

meet with the town board."

Roger Thomas, secretary

May 25, 1970: "The fire operators will call for a truck clean-up and wax one of these Sundays."

September 28, 1970: "Vern Lemmert stated that Milford will be glad to serve Pleasant Dale area with their rescue squad."

Gary Yank, acting secretary

November 30, 1970: "Dean Minchow gave a report on the Mutual Aid meeting. At the next Mutual Aid meeting they will show a film of the Watts riot."

Dean Minchow, acting secretary

May 24, 1971: "Ralph Burd made a motion that we have a secret ballot to decide whether we want to build a new building, extend the existing building, or leave it as it is now. Tom Vance seconded, the motion. Carried. Results: New building 19, Extending existing building 3, Stay as is-1."

Ronald Piening, secretary

August 30, 1971: "Gary Harral made a motion that we change the number of meetings that can be missed and still be a member of the Fire Department from 6 to 3, and the fine for missing a meeting from 25¢ to 50¢. Dick Sullivan seconded the motion. Carried."

Ronald Piening, secretary

December 28, 1971: "Art Piening bought an aluminum scoop shovel to be carried on the fire truck."

Dean Minchow, acting secretary

May 27, 1974: "Gary Yank explained some of the activities that will be held on July 4 celebration in Pleasant Dale, and asked if firemen would be interested in a water-fight, and to supervise the display of fire-works."

Dean Minchow, secretary

August 26, 1974: "Motion was made by Ron Piening that we change the age for joining the fire department from 21 to 19. Seconded by Roger Thomas. Carried."

Dean Minchow, secretary

March 31, 1975: "It was decided to meet the 7th of April at the new school to see the general design in case of fire."

Ronald VanAnDel, secretary

November 24, 1975: "John Reid showed a film on CPR. He will hold classes on December 9 and 11 to instruct members of the Department."

Ronald VanAnDel, secretary

December 29, 1975: "Ralph Burd moved that we pay on the new truck to make the balance owed \$1000. Charles Wiechert seconded. Motion carried."

Ronald VanAnDel, secretary

January 26, 1976: "Clint Thomas moved that we keep the active membership to 40 members under age 65 covered by life insurance and workmen's compensation, and keep the men over 65 years of age on the department, but covered by workmen's compensation only. Earl Lohmeier seconded. Motion carried."

Ronald VanAnDel, secretary

February 23, 1976: "Roger Thomas, Dean Minchow, and Ronald Piening found a 300 W portable generator through Farmland for \$360. Ralph Burd moved we buy the generator. Sam Harral seconded. Motion carried."

March 29, 1976: "An anonymous donor donated a

portable generator. It was decided to mount one of the generators on one of the trucks."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

June 28, 1976: "Vern Lemmert mentioned that we can apply for a grant through the village board for a 50-50 cost share on small equipment. Bill Stephens moved we apply for the grant. Kenneth Dill seconded. Motion carried."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

October 25, 1976: "Bill Stephens moved that we get 500 stickers for the telephone showing the number of the fire department. Vernon Lemmert seconded. Carried."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

March 14, 1977: "A special meeting was called to order by president Sam Harral. The meeting was called to discuss the purchase of plectrons for the Department. Sam gave a short report about the past Lancaster County Mutual Aid meeting. He said that we could get two 39.98 radios and 6 plectrons valued at over \$2400 for \$416.67

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

March 28, 1977: "Walt VanAndel moved that we put a fire phone with a buzzer instead of a bell in the grocery store. Bill Stephens seconded. Carried."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

October 31, 1977: "Ronald Piening moved that Will James and Fred Petsch set up a first aid kit including air splints. Tom Vance seconded. Carried. Dean Minchow moved we donate \$250 to Milford for help in purchasing their new rescue equipment. Walter VanAndel seconded. Carried."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

December 27, 1977: "John Reid bought a fire protective suit for \$150 with an extra pair of pants for the department if we want it. Cliff Irwin moved we buy the suit. Marvin Dreeszen seconded. Carried."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

February 27, 1978: "Fred Petsch reported on the new truck. The truck detail bought the truck chassis from Rediger Chevrolet Co. for \$7128. The slide-in unit was bought from Smeal for \$11,254. The entire unit may be ready before Fire School in May."

Gary Brhel, acting secretary

April 24, 1978: "Ralph Burd moved that we get a grill guard and running boards for the new truck. Larry Lawton seconded. Carried."

September 25, 1978: "Tom Vance moved that we have the pig roast on Saturday, October 28. Dick Sullivan seconded. Carried."

Ronald VanAndel, secretary

March 26, 1979: "Ron Piening moved that the department buy 4 orange reflective vests to carry on the trucks. Vernon Lemmert seconded. Motion carried."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

May 28, 1979: "Plans for Fourth of July were discussed. A raffle for smoke alarms will be held. The water fight will be held again this year. All members are encouraged to participate."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

July 30, 1979: "On August 13 a training session on hazardous materials will be given by Wayne Ficke. On September 10 will be a presentation by Rollie Schnieder on farm safety. Mutual Aid meeting will be held at Pleasant Dale in October."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

January 28, 1980: "Gary Blattert moved to purchase the EMT books for the 4 people attending classes now and the 2 previous members who have taken EMT. Earl Mitchell seconded. Carried."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

February 25, 1980: "Larry Lawton moved to buy 100 ft. of 2-1/2 in. hose and an electric rewind reel for the 6x6. Vernon Lemmert seconded. Carried."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

April 28, 1980: "Marvin Dreeszen moved to paint No. 2 yellow provided it will cover the red. Vernon Lemmert seconded. Carried."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

December 29, 1980: "Chief Ronald Piening discussed the calls for December. It was decided that when a call comes in on the fire phone, 911 be called as to key the plectron."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

August 31, 1981: "Vernon Lemmert reported on the Lancaster Mutual Aid meeting. He talked about the problems with the communication system. Rollie Schnieder will be here for the September 16 Mutual Aid meeting at Pleasant Dale discussing farm machinery extrication. The dates of September 19 and September 26 were selected as days to cut wood for the hog roast."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

January 25, 1982: "John Reid demonstrated the proper use of the self-contained breathing apparatus after the officer elections."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

February 22, 1982: "Discussion of the Pleasant Dale Centennial celebration was held. Larry Lawton moved to donate \$100 to the Centennial Fund. Earl Mitchell seconded. Carried."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

April 26, 1982: "Assistant training officer Vern Duncan reported on a session for training people to handle heat exhaustion for the 4th of July Centennial celebration. Next training session is May 10."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

June 29, 1982: "The meeting of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department was called to order at 9:50 P.M. after a work session to ready the Fire Department for the Pleasant Dale Centennial celebration July 2, 3, and 4, 1982. Duane Burd called the meeting to order."—"Vernon Lemmert moved to buy trophies for both men's and women's teams for the 4th of July water fight. Ronald Piening seconded. Carried. Clint Thomas, Ronald Piening, and Gary Brhel volunteered to help set up water fights for the 4th of July and volunteered to be a back-up team if needed. Gary Brhel, Jerry Allen, Vern Duncan, and Larry Lawton volunteered to drive the fire trucks for the 3rd of July parade. Vernon Lemmert and Vern Duncan will take Unit No. 4 to the August 7 parade in Milford."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

January 31, 1983: "Vern Duncan reported that Clinton Thomas has completed his EMTA and passed his national. As of midnight tonight, Eastern Ambulance will take the place of Bryan Heart Team in the rural area."

April 25, 1983: "Larry Nootz moved to purchase a pair of inflatable pants to be given to the Milford Rescue

Unit in appreciation of their supportive services. Seconded by David Davies. Carried."

Scott Lee, acting secretary

May 30, 1983: "Ronald VanAnDel will check on flood lights of Unit No. 3."

Gary Lee, secretary

August 29, 1983: "Gary Brhel reported on a request from Pleasant Dale Methodist Church to provide Unit No. 4 for support services at their CROP Walk on October 2. Andy Worster moved to do so. Seconded by Vernon Lemmert. Carried."

Gary Lee, secretary

December 26, 1983: "Ronald VanAnDel moved to pay telephone operators \$10 each for Christmas. Seconded by Gary Brhel. Carried."

Gary Lee, secretary

February 27, 1984: "Pam James submitted her application as a member of the Fire Department."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

April 30, 1984: "Chief Ronald VanAnDel reported on the fire calls for the month of April. Several questions came up about responding to fire calls that are out of the district or that may be questionable. Chief stated that Pleasant Dale will always respond to the call and to ask questions later."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

July 30, 1984: "Vernon Lemmert discussed the Mutual Aid meetings for Lancaster and Seward Counties. His discussion centered around how to handle bomb threat situations."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

June 24, 1985: "President Tom Vance read a letter from Hill Hatchery the day their well went down, and they sent us a check for \$300 for our assistance."

Jeffery Oehm, secretary

February 24, 1986: "There was a fire call during the meeting for a truck on fire on Interstate 80."

Jeffery Oehm, secretary

July 28, 1986: "Jerry Johnson said there is a house behind the elevator that the fire department could burn. There was a discussion. Will James made a motion to burn the house August 9 if the paper work was completed. The motion was seconded by Robert Upton. Motion carried. The alternate date will be August 23."

Jeffery Oehm, secretary

December 29, 1986: "Chief reported on taking a survey of the town to see if they are in favor of blowing the fire siren each day at noon."

Jeffery Oehm, secretary

March 9, 1987: "Luke McMullen moved to forego the 45th year party in lieu of a 50th year party to be held in 1992. This motion stipulated that a separate fund for this purpose be created. Motion seconded by Sam Harral."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

September 28, 1987: "Vern Duncan reported on AIDS awareness workshop for September 30 at Southeast Community College, Lincoln." "Additional discussion was held on the hog roast scheduled for October 24. Wood needs to be cut soon."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

October 26, 1987: "Chief Gary Brhel read thank-you notes from Marilyn and Melvin Giles. Another note was read from Melvin and Joanne Lostroh and John and Kathleen Frohner for putting out (burning) hay bales."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

November 30, 1987: "Duane Burd reported that Unit No. 4 is paid off." — "Discussion was held on creating a sinking fund for buying a new truck. Clinton Thomas moved to place \$3000 back in savings for this fund. Jeffery Oehm seconded. Motion carried."

Ronald Petsch, secretary

January 25, 1988: "Will James reported on results of the hog roast ticket sales. It was also reported that Pamela James, Vernon Lemmert, and Ronald Petsch completed the CPR class."

May 30, 1988: "After discussion, a motion was made by Luke McMullen to have officers serve as the committee to select bunker gear, get bids, and purchase bunker gear. Motion seconded by Gary Brhel. Motion carried." "Chief Oehm reported on the purchase of 4th of July fireworks."

December 12, 1989: "Jeffery Oehm reminds drivers to start the motors and pumps before leaving the barn in cold weather."

John Reid, secretary

April 30, 1990: "The motion was made that ten percent of the dance profits be donated to the ball diamond light fund. The motion was seconded and passed."

John Reid, secretary

May 28, 1990: "There are still some 'Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department' caps available. They are solid red, not vented material, caps with gold lettering and cost \$5. See John Reid if you are interested in purchasing one."

John Reid, secretary

August 27, 1990: "Kenneth Minzel reported on the hog roast. After discussion, it was decided to cook the hogs in rotisseries instead of the pit, on a trial basis. October 13 was set as the date for the hog roast."

John Reid, secretary

April 29, 1991: "Chief Oehm reported on hand-held radios proposed for purchase for the Chief and Assistant Chief. A motion was made and seconded to buy two hand-held radios and four pagers. The motion carried."

John Reid, secretary

July 29, 1991: "Vernon Lemmert suggested to start planning a celebration for the fire department's 50th anniversary."

John Reid, secretary

October 28, 1991: "Gary Harral gave a report on the (50th anniversary) committee's work and asked for direction from the members."

John Reid, secretary

Quotations selected by Doris Lostroh.

BURNING PERMITS

Burning permits are issued to persons wanting to do some burning on their property, so that dispatchers in Lincoln and Seward do not send units to controlled burns when smoke is seen and someone may call in an alarm.

All permits are issued by Helen VanAnDel, who informs Lincoln and Seward of who has a permit, where the burn is taking place, and at what time.

If someone is caught burning without a permit, the sheriff or fire marshal is notified and a ticket may be issued with fines and court cost.

Jeffery Oehm

BROODER HOUSE FIRE

In the mid-1940's, Neal and I lived on the family farm about four miles southeast of Pleasant Dale.

As did most farm families in those days, we ordered baby chicks from a hatchery in the spring, and put them into a brooder house where they were kept in a circular enclosure made of a long strip of corrugated cardboard. They were kept warm by an oil heater in the center of the enclosure. There was a metal canopy around the heater and chicks usually stayed under it where it was warmer.

In the spring of 1944 when we had just received five hundred baby Leghorn chicks which were only a few days old, and had put them into the brooder house, something happened that made the brooder heater malfunction, and the litter material on the floor ignited. The boxes in which the chicks came from the hatchery were still nearby, and we scooped up handfuls of chicks and hurriedly put them into boxes and took them into the house.

We called the Pleasant Dale fire department and they came, but the brooder house was too badly burned to save it. They did protect our house from burning.

We spread newspapers on the living room floor beside the oil burner, which was the source of heat for the house. We made a pen using table leaves, and that was home for the chicks for about a week, until we could buy a new brooder house (ready made, octagonal in shape) and have it ready on the opposite side of the house.

Irene Weeks

BARN FIRE AT BECKERS

On July 10, 1954, very near to midnight, a very loud boom awakened us. We had been to a free movie in Malcolm, so had not been sleeping too long. Being awakened, we looked out to see a ball of fire. The lightning rods were still attached, but the barn was aflame all at once. Firemen called it a "direct hit".

I was so nervous I couldn't think to call the fire department, but I finally reached Mrs. Scott who called the fire department for us.

The Lincoln fire department was the first to arrive on the scene followed by the Pleasant Dale fire department. The Lincoln fire department said they couldn't stay for a "bonfire" so the bulk of the work was carried by the firemen from Pleasant Dale. We lost three hay racks, bedding, hay, and a lot of milking equipment. We lost our dog and puppies, and a calf. We were able to save some of the milking equipment and all of the milk cows. We were lucky that heavy rain kept all of the rest of the buildings safe from new fire, but sparks kept falling on the front porch and we were concerned.

Many, many friends and firemen helped in many ways to see that the chores got done and that we had equipment to do it with.

We were thankful for the many hours the Pleasant Dale firemen put in to help us and we were very grateful.

Pearl Becker

STONE-BARN FIRE

At 1 A.M. on May 7, 1952 I returned home from attending an Ag class at Pleasant Dale High School. I had just gone to bed and was asleep when it started to thunder and lightning.

Alvina got up to shut the windows and check on the children. As she looked outside, she saw the yard all lit

up and noticed the stone barn was on fire from lightning. She left the children asleep as they were not in any danger.

We called Pleasant Dale fire department. I went outside to see what could be done. Russell Burd saw the flames and came over. He was the first one to arrive. Russell and I moved a feed bunk which was close to the barn.

Pleasant Dale fire department arrived with the new 1950 International firetruck. We did not have a bridge at that time, so they came in the north driveway from Highway 6.

The department placed the auxiliary pump in the creek and so had plenty of water to fight the fire.

I operated my Farmhand loader and raised the firemen up so they could reach the fire better with the hose.

Sparks were going to the corn crib, but then it started to rain so the corn crib was not in danger. Burning straw and hay also lit on the big barn and the fire department extinguished that.

Frank Kruger, who ran the tavern in Pleasant Dale at that time, ran out of cigarettes, so it was a long night for some of the firemen. After that, cigarettes were always in the fire truck.

The barn was an 18-inch thick sandstone house which had been built by the Burd family who lived here previously. The inside of the house was torn out and it was converted to a barn. The barn was totally destroyed.

Alvina prepared coffee and sandwiches for the firemen.

The sun was coming up when the firemen left with the firetruck.

The fire started up again the same afternoon about 4 P.M. I put water on it and extinguished the fire.

Vernon Piening

AMEN FIRE

JANUARY 3, 1958 5:15 A.M. 20° BELOW 0

The fire department received a call to Leo Amen's farm just east of Denton. One fireman got about three miles from home and the truck radiator froze up. It was lucky another fireman's house light was on, so the driver stopped and picked up some newspaper for the front of the radiator, which quickly thawed out. He arrived at the fire to find that the reel, hoses and nozzles were all frozen. The building and its contents were lost, except for a bin of oats. Firemen scooped the oats onto wagons (there were plenty of volunteers). The firemen returned to Pleasant Dale at 8:00 A.M.

A few days later, the fire department received another call from Mr. Amen. This time it was a pleasure call, to a steak supper and happy hour, enough to feed a small army and which will long be remembered by many firemen.

P.S. With twenty-five men in the fire department at that time, twenty-three were at the fire.

Earl Lohmeier

BERG FIRE DECEMBER 12, 1961

The fire department was called to a fire at Wm. Berg's farm. The fire was first seen by another fireman returning home from work. A building, a new Chevrolet pickup truck, several little pigs and their mamas were

lost. However, a large stack of hay bales close by were saved by firemen moving them. The heat was so intense that paint was blistered on a nearby building. The weather was bad with heavy snow and snow banks to break through. The temperature was COLD!

Earl Lohmeier

RALPH BURD HOUSE FIRE

MAY 17, 1960

Our family will never forget the experience of calling the fire department for help in the summer of 1960. All five of us were asleep upstairs and there were no fire alarms. Duane woke us up with his coughing from the smoke coming up the stairway. Being trapped upstairs, we were lucky to have a door to get out on the roof. Then there was no way to get back inside the house to phone for help. We went to Russell's to call the Pleasant Dale fire department. Ralph broke out a window and used an outside water hose to try and fight the fire in the living room until the fire department arrived.

An electrical outlet which had a lamp plugged into it was the source of the trouble and fire had broken out in the wall. By the time the firemen got there, woodwork had begun to burn, and the fire was getting close to draperies.

Neighbors were quick with good help too, and I remember that Dale Ficke and Eugene Fougeron mentioned the kitchen floor soaking with water, and the ceiling of the living room mighty warm.

We had a close call, and we thank the fire department of Pleasant Dale. We had smoke fumes for a long time which were hard to get rid of. Do have a smoke alarm – it is needed!

Marie Burd

CAR WRECK IN EMERALD

On September 23, 1960, Carol Gerdes, the future Mrs. Ted Kossask, was parked at Lewis Service Center gas station in Emerald getting gas. She and Christine Kessler were in the car and Ted was standing there talking to them. A car with four male passengers came over the hill from the west and swerved to miss a car in Emerald. It went into the station drive and hit Carol's car and the gas pumps, knocking them over. The car then went back into the road and hit another car, knocking it into the ditch by the schoolhouse.

Carol was cut quite badly and had to have extensive plastic surgery. Christine wasn't hurt too badly. Larry remembers helping the ambulance driver get the man out of the car in the ditch.

Gasoline ran all over the drive and the Pleasant Dale fire department came down and washed the gasoline off the drive.

Larry and Linda Lewis

DECEMBER 1, 1961 GAS STATION FIRE

Larry was at the Surplus Center in Lincoln and as he was leaving, the fire trucks went past.

He followed the fire trucks to Emerald. When he reached NW56 street, he could see that the fire was in Emerald. At about the time he reached the Middle Creek bridge, he knew it was the Lewis Service Center gas station burning. He parked in front of the Emerald school and went over to the shop. The fire was so hot it

was bubbling the paint on the front of the building across the street. He thought everything that was in the station, three race cars included, was gone. Later he found out that his car, a '32 Ford, had been saved, but not one belonging to Marv Crewdson.

The Pleasant Dale Fire Department was on the scene the whole time.

The station was immediately rebuilt, out of concrete blocks this time.

Larry and Linda Lewis

THE EMERALD BOWLING ALLEY FIRE

I was working as a cocktail waitress at Two-Eyed Jacks the night it was destroyed by fire. I think the date of the fire was 1978. The bowling alley and the lounge were connected by a regular sized door entry. The serving bar was located on the east wall between that connecting entry and the south front door to the lounge. There was also a door on the north wall to the left of the band stage. The lounge was split into two sections by a partition wall. This wall had spindles from ceiling to a waist high wall running east and west across the room. The fire began on a Sunday night, which was always the busiest night of the week. The lounge was filled with few, if any, empty tables. I'm guessing the time the smoke was noticed was approximately 12:00 A.M.

I was at the bar with a drink order when the bartender said she heard something about smoke in the bowling alley. I could neither see nor smell the smoke at that time. As I questioned her about what was smoking, thinking something was overheating, I could begin to smell and see the smoke slowly coming through the connecting door. At that time the band was informed of the fire and announced to the patrons that there was a fire in the bowling alley and to evacuate the building immediately. I headed to the bar and the bartender told me to go outside. I vaulted over the bar to retrieve my purse and the one belonging to Rose, another waitress. As I jumped over the bar again, Rose was there and we headed to the north exit because the main south entrance was packed with people leaving. I remember people leaving in a very orderly manner. There was no



The Emerald Bowling Alley and Two-Eyed Jacks Lounge fire.

pushing or people screaming, "Fire!" People just looked somewhat bewildered and were talking among themselves. Rose and I walked toward the band. The dance floor and north portion of the lounge were clear and most everyone moved to the south door. The band members were quickly dismantling their equipment. We jumped out the doorway to the ground. There were no steps from the door to the ground, but the drop was only about three-four feet.

I looked back in and noticed most everyone was out of the building. The smoke was rapidly spreading throughout the lounge so I assume the connecting door was left open. The band members were loading their equipment into a trailer that they had backed up to the door. Exploding cans sounded like gun shots. Rose and I walked east around the lounge and bowling alley toward the front. We went to a group consisting of other Two-Eyed Jacks employees. Everyone seemed to have gotten out safely. There was not much of a crowd. Almost everyone left the parking lot.

Lee Ann Lauenroth

Southeast Fire Department came with their big snorkel truck but didn't dent the fire. Malcolm, Pleasant Dale, Raymond, and Southwest Departments also responded. For the refills of water, the Malcolm pumper went back to Malcolm, and the two Pleasant Dale tankers went back to Pleasant Dale. Raymond, Southwest, and Southeast Departments refilled at a hydrant near Congress Inn on West O Street. All departments dumped water into the porta-tank so firemen could use it. Pleasant Dale and Malcolm departments kept the school house wet so it wouldn't burn.

We made coffee for the firemen later, from 1-2 A. M. when they took turns and rested a little.

Heat from the fire was so intense that later we left the fence in our yard, which is across the street from the bowling alley, and watched from the patio.

Julia Lee Melichar

INTERSTATE METAL PRODUCTS INC., FIRE JANUARY 7, 1980

A building and an estimated \$700,000 worth of welding and sheet metal equipment were destroyed in a fire Monday afternoon at Interstate Metal Products Inc. half a mile west of Emerald.

Fire inspectors termed the building, valued at approximately \$100,000 a total loss. Items destroyed in the fire included tools, a semi-tractor and a bobcat loader, which were all stored inside the building.

Art Reddish Jr. of Lincoln, owner of the company, said the blaze was discovered shortly after 3 P.M. by workers returning to the shop area from a break room in the front part of the building. None of the twelve people in the building at this time were injured.

Reddish said the fire apparently broke out during the 15-to-20 minute period the workers were on their afternoon break.

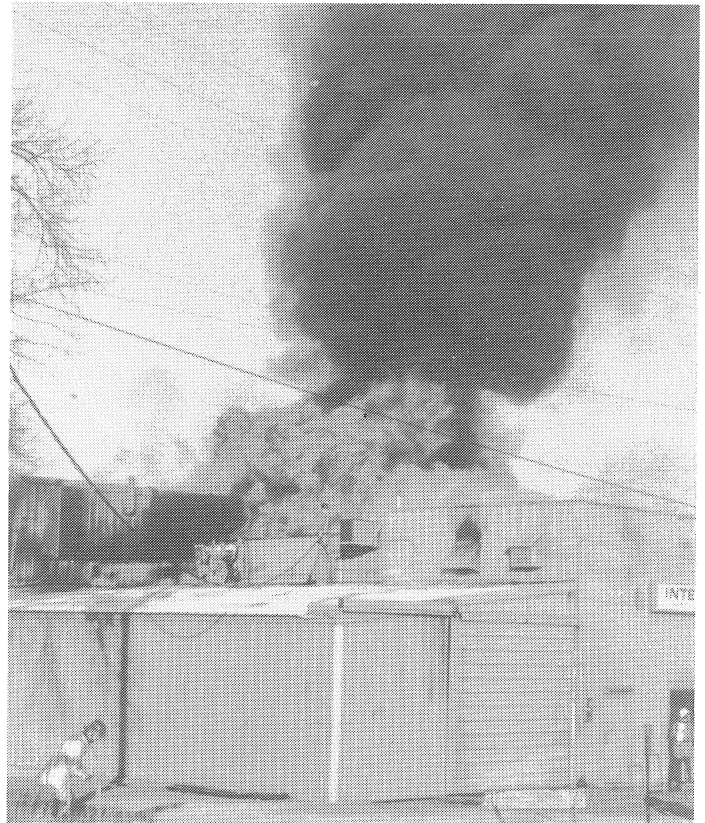
Firefighters may have prevented an explosion from occurring when they carried several gas tanks containing oxygen from the burning building, said fire inspector Kenny Kraus of the state fire marshal's office.

Authorities from the fire marshal's office were investigating to determine the cause of the blaze.

(Lincoln, Neb. Star)



Firefighters at top attempting to control fire.



View from west side of building.



Fire at Interstate Metal Products, Inc.

1982 ELEVATOR FIRE

The year 1982 was a bad year for elevators. In mid-year two large terminals in Texas and Louisiana exploded, resulting in large fires. Shortly after these incidents, a grain terminal in Council Bluffs, Iowa had an explosion and fire loss.

On November 16, 1982 the Raymond elevator exploded, and many departments in our area were called in to give medical assistance as well as to haul water and to relieve the hose line personnel.

I can say that all the firefighters were, shall we say, a little "gun-shy" when the word came of an incident with an elevator.

The inevitable happened on November 23. The workers at the Pleasant Dale Co-op elevator were drying milo and then transferring it to bin #2 for storage. Although grain dust and smoke sometimes look alike, attention was turned toward the head house where puffs of dust or smoke could be seen, although not constantly.

A worker climbed the 125 ft. tube to the head house on an outside ladder only to find that it was smoke coming from tube #2. Almost immediately the dryer and outside transfer were shut down and the fire department was summoned to the scene.

With the modern communication of low band radio it wasn't long before UP and AP had picked up the call on the wire. As one firefighter told me later, he didn't hear the original call, but heard it on his tractor radio. The fire phone rang continuously with various media sources inquiring about the extent of damage.



Pleasant Dale Fire Department at Pleasant Dale Co-op Elevator.

At the scene decisions had to be made in order to stabilize a possible tinder box without stirring up the grain dust which could cause an explosion.

The first decision was to shut down all electricity to the plant. Due to power shutdown, mechanical means of moving the grain to minimize the stirring of grain dust was impossible.

There is a cleaning trap door on each tube approximately ten feet from the bottom of the bin. It was decided to open this door and let grain flow out slowly. Firefighters, elevator employees and interested bystanders took turns with scoop shovels and brooms, moving the grain to the pit area of the elevator some ten feet away. Another person was assigned to check the grain for burned grain or for excessive heat. Since the work area was rather small, only four workers could work at a time. Believe you me, this was one time when even the Chief and Assistant-Chief took their turns on the end of a shovel to give needed rest to fellow firefighters.

The Chief, upon being called, immediately requested the state fire marshal to come to the scene. He, along with fellow officers, planned their approach should a fire break out. Southwest and Malcolm fire departments were called for tanker service, while Milford responded with a pumper and tanker.

North of the elevator and on down the hill, both the Pleasant Dale pumper and a Milford pumper were set up to draft water from two separate porta-tanks. These tanks were filled and tankers were assigned which porta-tank they would keep full. 2-1/2 inch lines were laid from the pumpers to the involved surrounding area. These lines were not broken down to 1-1/2 inch lines as we normally would do at a fire scene.

At approximately 5:30 P.M. we began to encounter extremely warm grain that could possibly mean we hit the burning section. Because of dust and possible smoke, attempts to look up through the trap door even with flash lights were of no avail.

At this time, the pit was shut off in order not to allow the overheated grain to get down into it. I don't remember whose truck we used, or whose grain auger we used, but when it showed up, the unburned grain was loaded onto the truck with constant visual inspection by those assigned to inspect the grain.

The next decision was how we were going to get the grain out of the last ten feet of the bin. Finally it was decided that we would contact Tamora Elevator. They had a vacuum that would lift the grain up and out. Because of its size and slow speed, the unit took almost three hours to arrive.

Once it was set up, and when an operator got into the bin, it took about an hour more for the grain to be completely removed from the bin.

There was a relief of tension and there were tired firefighters at the fire station after all equipment was taken down and other departments returned to their stations. The next day the elevator employees found a bearing which had become hot on the outside leg from the dryer where chaff and dust were still burning in the leg. Since this has been repaired, we have encountered no problems.

With the number of bystanders and press people who came, my hat goes off to one of the older members of the department who blocked off the road leading into the elevator. No one got past his post, including a deputy

county sheriff. Credit also goes to our publicity officer who kept the press in the assigned area and did relay information to them, and to the firefighters who, under unknown circumstances, risked their lives to keep the situation (which could have been serious) under control.

I also noticed after this incident that many of our firefighters began attending elevator burns put on by fire departments and Nebraska fire service instructors.

Vernon Lemmert

ARSON FIRE

July 16, 1988 was the kind of day that all firefighters dread. During this period arsons were on the increase, and this has carried over into the '90's.

On this morning at 2:57 A.M. pletrons sounded in the homes of the firefighters. A fire call in Denton at a tavern requested mutual aid with Southwest Fire Department.

Even in that early morning the temperature was in the high 70's and humidity was already in the low 90's.

Twelve firefighters answered the call and four hours later returned to Pleasant Dale not only tired, but exhausted by the humidity, to remove wet hoses and ready the equipment for the next run.

Twelve hours later, at 2:55 P.M. pletrons sounded again, this time in the Pleasant Dale area. Being one of the drivers, when I approached Highway 103 and looked east, I could see the column of smoke.

We arrived at the site of a vacant farmhouse that was totally involved. By this time of the day the temperature was in the high 90's with 70% humidity, and there was little or no wind.

It was discovered that not only the house was on fire, but also the barn, which was back in the trees behind the house.

Southwest Fire Department was summoned for mutual aid, and when they arrived they were to attack the barn fire.

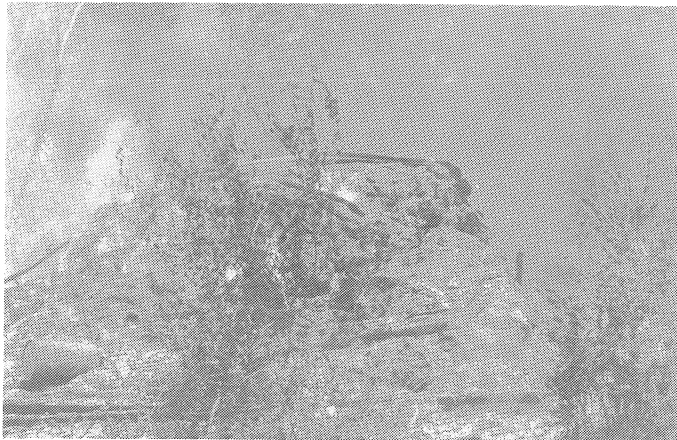
Two Southwest firefighters became overheated and suffered from smoke inhalation. They were taken to the hospital for observation.

We were able to stop the fire on the house with about 70% of it still intact. Southwest was able to stop the fire in the barn and damage was held to a minimum.

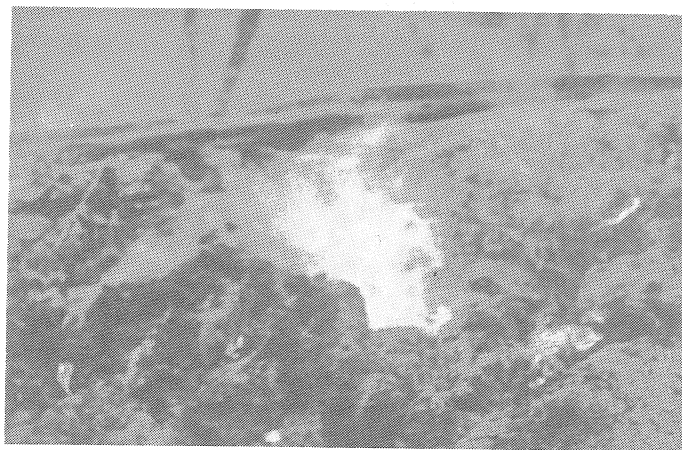
One other incident that happened was that unit 42 (The Hog) decided that it needed to rest. It quit running about two miles from the fire with 1500 gallons of water on it. When this occurred, the Malcolm Fire Department was summoned for tanker service.



Moving the burning hay.



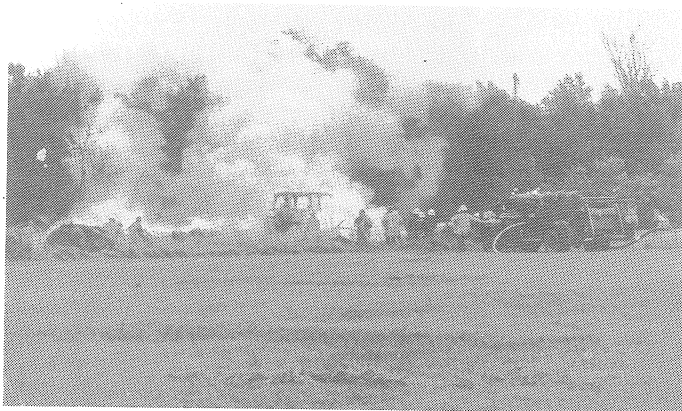
The burning hay inside the barn.



Completely burned hay.



Bulldozer at the scene of the barn fire.



The overhual after the fire.

Again a tired band of firefighters returned to Pleasant Dale at 10:00 P.M. only to have to wash hose and reload the truck with dry hose.

All of the work went for naught when Sunday morning at 8:25 the plectrons sounded again with a call to the same location. This time the barn was burned to the ground, and again we summoned Southwest Fire Department for help.

It was felt we needed to get a bulldozer in and move the hay around so we could extinguish the smoldering fire. Gary Nobbman assisted the department when he brought his bulldozer in and moved the smoldering hay and building posts so that they could be extinguished. After four and a half hours, again the tired firefighters returned to their loved ones, tired and totally exhausted.

Vernon Lemmert

FOUGERON FIRE OCTOBER 21, 1989

We were just finishing our noon meal when we heard a loud explosion. Looking outside, we saw flames coming from the grain dryer between our two grain bins. Our dryer was ablaze!!

The men ran down to turn off the propane tank and we called 911. The firemen were preparing the pork barbeque for the annual firemen's supper that evening, so a lot of them were at the firebarn. Several pickups and a truck where here within minutes. We had things under control, but they checked things over before leaving. We were grateful for their quick response.

Evelyn Fougerson

THE CATTLE-TRUCK ACCIDENT ON I-80

A cattle-semi-truck was rear-ended by a semi-truck carrying blocks of cheese.

The cattle were all Holstein heifers. The cattle-truck driver pulled off onto the shoulder of the highway so that he could sleep. He had the running lights on but didn't have any flares out. He pulled over near reference post 388, west bound, just west of the Pleasant Dale exit. A refrigerated truck from Wisconsin hauling boxes of cheese blocks about one foot in diameter came from the east also. The driver of the cheese-truck thought he was following a pair of tail lights, which were actually those of the parked semi. He hit the cattle-truck in the rear. Some of the cattle got loose. The cattle-truck driver got out of the tractor before it started burning and was unhurt. The cheese-truck driver had some injuries. The cattle-truck tractor and trailer caught on fire. Some of the cattle also burned.

Black and white cattle were loose on the Interstate. The accident occurred about 2:00 A.M. Cattle were found as far as two miles west from the wreck at mile marker #386. Some cattle went east and walked up the entrance ramp and went north up the gravel road. They were found three miles north of the Interstate. They got into a pasture with someone else's cattle. In the morning the farmer didn't know how he acquired the Holsteins. A person on horseback was used to gather the cattle.

Some of the cattle were injured. A state patrolman was asked to shoot them. One heifer was trying to get up and couldn't do so because she was injured too seriously. The patrolman finally shot her with his 44 caliber pistol. After the cow lay there for twenty minutes, she tried to get back up again. Later Dr. Robert White came out and shot all the injured cattle with his 22 rifle. None moved

after that. Several close calls were reported later about drivers not seeing cattle on the road.

The cab of the cattle-truck melted completely. (It was fiberglass.) There was nothing left but the engine and frame. We had to put foam on some of the wheels because we thought they were magnesium and would explode if we put water on them. We had to shut down the Interstate, and we rerouted traffic to Highway #6 till after daylight.

There was diesel fuel spilled on the road. We put some foam on it to try to wash it off the road, but it didn't work very well. Later that morning a Department of Roads truck with a sander put gravel on the fuel spill. The truck burned so hot that it damaged the asphalt shoulder of the Interstate. The damage could be seen for many years.

Many cattle were loaded up in a trailer and hauled somewhere for safe keeping. Swingles got the dead cattle.

Gary Brhel

THE GIN TRUCK ACCIDENT

It was a very foggy morning on March 10, 1990. Malcolm received a call and Pleasant Dale responded as mutual aid for a semi-truck accident on Interstate 80. Because of the state girls' basketball tournament, traffic was heavy.

In the fog a Toyota 4-Runner sideswiped a vehicle parked on the shoulder of the highway and knocked it into the ditch, resulting in the Toyota's front end facing east. A semi coming from the east, loaded with alcohol, collided with the 4-Runner and overturned.

Several people were injured and they were transported to a Lincoln hospital.

Alcohol was leaking out of the tanker, and so a valve was shut off and Pleasant Dale firefighters sprayed foam all around the outside of the truck. Then HIT 1, the hazardous material unit from Lincoln, arrived with FFF foam which is high in intensity and concentration. HIT 1 made contact with the manufacturer of the contents and found out that it was 100% gin alcohol enroute to California to be used for alcoholic beverages.

Interstate 80 traffic westbound was routed to Highways 6 and 34 alternately because of heavy traffic.

A truck from Norfolk came to transfer the alcohol from the overturned truck into its tank, which took most of the afternoon.

Malcolm and Pleasant Dale secured the accident area until 7 o'clock P.M.

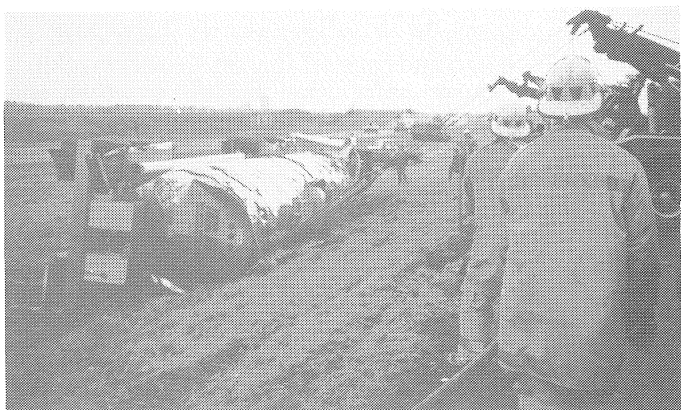
Doris Lostroh and Joanne Lostroh



Toyota 4-Runner.



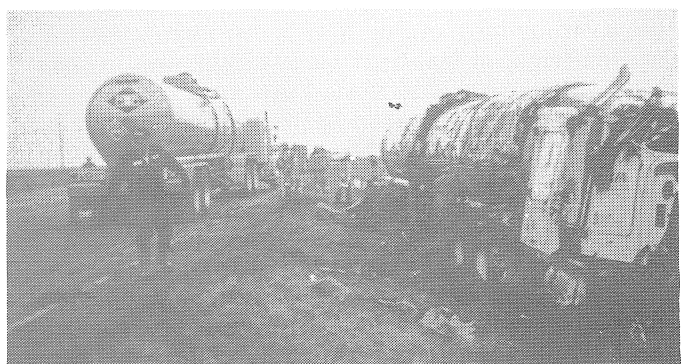
HIT 1 arrives at scene.



Overturned semi being pulled by wrecker.



Wrecked semi in upright position.



Tanker truck arrives to transfer alcohol from wrecked semi.

FIRST PLEASANT DALE WOMAN FIREFIGHTER

In the late seventies my husband, Will, and I owned the, small full-service grocery store and meat market. Things in the world were changing drastically for women and therefore for men. Women had begun to fill roles in jobs they hadn't touched since the "Rosie the Riveter" days of World War II. These "uppity" women were the source of conversation at the store occasionally when a woman would challenge the systems and norms enough to rock the boat and get in the news. Should a woman firefighter in New Jersey have been fired for having her baby sitter bring her infant into the firehouse restroom at break time so she could breast-feed her baby? Should a woman miner who had been spied on in the shower through a peep-hole be vindicated? Lawsuits were plentiful in the papers, and made interesting topics at the store while we packed and carried out the groceries, and all this seemed remote from our sleepy little town so full of pride and tradition.

I didn't join the department to make a statement. It was very much more practical than that. Farms were in tough times, and more and more local people were having to find paycheck work to offset the bad farm years and land devaluation. Many of our department's most dedicated firefighters were getting on a bit in years, and appropriately limited themselves to providing support functions to more active firefighters. The town's population didn't include a lot of young people who were at home during the day. All these factors meant a great decrease in bodies able to fight a daytime fire, or answer daytime rescue calls. A huge risk was taken every day the department went on with less than a full force. Since I was one of the few citizens available in the daytime, I was recruited to become the first woman firefighter on the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department. Things were changing forever, even in the small community of Pleasant Dale.

I love this town. Because we owned the store we knew practically everyone in the area. It just didn't make sense to let the risks of having our friends lose more of their property in the daytime to a fire or suffer from an injury for a longer period until someone could be reached to come in from the field. I was proud that the department cared more about their purpose than some taboo. I volunteered for the same reasons all volunteer firefighters do, because we care. We each bring skills to the department, and find our niche. For some it's organizational, or technical. Others bring brute strength or quiet methodical capability. But everyone fills a purpose.

Firefighting is exciting, scary, and exhausting. I've learned a lot about myself and the men I've worked with from being a department member. In case you're wondering whether I have delusions of being a firefighter equal to the men, let me explain. Despite my calling on all my inner strength for "macho" at a fire, I still can't touch their physical strength or speed. I was very grateful to hear even Chris Evert admit that women don't have a prayer on a men's tennis court. Being a good firefighter means recognizing your own limitations and working with your strengths. Every firefighter has them. Firefighting is a team effort requiring everyone do a part to work together. That I can do!

I also think the weight of bunker gear has got to be tackled by some better scientist! Those weighty boots are the pits, but they'll literally save your skin! I do contribute all I can at fires, and always regret I don't have more energy. The smells of wet soot and hot coffee make a strange reflecting mixture. We all do our best; sometimes sweat, laugh, and suffer together, and there is a special bond in doing that.

Rescue calls are more intimate and exacting. As in firefighting, each member takes on a role to deal with the critical situation. The admiration I have for the EMT's on our squad is immense. They all care so much and give willingly of their time and talents, keeping up their education and responding as appropriately as possible to the victim's needs. It is amazing how people cope. The concern and carefulness in each face is evident on every call.

I feel that some feminine qualities help me greatly in dealing outright with the pain the family endures when a tragedy strikes their home. Social norms for women allow me to let my guard down and open up to the human side of the emergency. I hug someone, explain what I can, and help them in my best way to cope with loss, injury, illness, and sometimes death. My skills in this area are probably the strongest ones I bring to the department, and I'm pleased to contribute.

The department is a wonderful team. I am honored to serve Pleasant Dale in the company of such outstanding and dedicated volunteers. It is humbling to stand among them.

Pamela James



Pleasant Dale Women Firefighters: Jean Petsch, Pamela James, Lori Cooper.

TYPES OF FIRE CALLS

In the early days of the Pleasant Dale volunteer fire department, the most frequent calls were to fight railroad fires. This has changed since members have taken EMT training. Now the most frequent calls are for medical assistance.

Following are some of the types of calls answered through the fifty years of the department.

There were several chimney fires. Some chimney fires were just monitored by the firemen and there was not any damage, but others did considerable damage to the house.

Some house fires resulted with minor damage, some with major damage, and some homes were com-

pletely destroyed. One house fire many have been caused by arson. Lightning contributed to starting at least one house fire and caused a large amount of damage. A night-light shorted, and started a fire in another home.

Most barn fires resulted in the barns being totally destroyed. At least one barn fire was started by fireworks and two barns were struck by lightning. Another barn was ignited by an uncontrolled grass fire. Two barn fires were started by faulty electrical wiring.

Two schools, District 17 and District 38, were too far gone when the department arrived and could not be saved. Pleasant Dale Elementary School fire, District 5, was put out without much damage to the building. The St. Mary's Catholic church and rectory in Denton were engulfed in flames when firemen got there and could not be saved.

Some corncribs were completely destroyed, and also some chicken and brooder houses. However, the fire department saved many other buildings which were close to these buildings that burned.

Miscellaneous fires include a furnace explosion, a fire resulting from poor fireplace insulation, fires in grain dryers at elevators and fires accidentally started by children. Electric fences started some fires. Lightning striking bales of hay in the field started at least two fires. Possible arson caused some bales to burn in the field. Some fires were started by faulty electrical wiring.

Vehicle fires, including both cars and trucks, have resulted from accidents and explosions, from engine backfiring, from vehicles being stuck in the snow and catching fire. Many vehicles have burned from defective electrical wiring and in turn this caused grass fires. Many of these accidents have occurred on Interstate 80.

Miscellaneous calls include high voltage lines down, and searching for boats on Twin Lakes.

Quite a few tractors have been on fire during the past fifty years. One tractor was located in a shed. The tractor was destroyed, but the shed was saved by the fire department.

A number of grass fires have occurred along the Interstate, and there were several fires burning at the city dump before the beginning of garbage pickup service. Unattended fires have gotten away and burned pastures and prairies. Electrical sparks from a power pole started one grass fire.

Numerous railroad fires have been responded to by the department. One such fire was a box car which burned along with its cargo. One end of a railroad bridge, ties, grass, stubble fields, pasture land, and meadow fires have burned along the railroad right-of-way. A huge railroad fire was on May 9, 1966 when there was a railroad right-of-way fire from two miles west of Emerald to two miles east of Milford. Later that same day there was another fire located between Pleasant Dale and Milford. In May 1966, the department responded six different times to railroad fires. On April 28, 1967 there were six separate fires burning along the railroad. On August 19, 1967 the right-of-way was burning from Emerald to one-half way to Milford.

Pleasant Dale fire department has responded to two incidents involving air plane crashes. The department was called to the Lincoln Air Force Base on November 17, 1956. The firemen sealed off the area where a Navy jet plane had crashed. In the crash, two Air Force planes were damaged. One of them was a B-47.

The second air plane crash was July 12, 1986. It happened southwest of Pleasant Dale, when a spray plane crashed and severely injured the pilot, Ricky Roth.

The department's EMT unit is called for many medical problems which include: heart attacks, dog bites, falls, seizures, back pains, choking, electrical shock, confusion, disorientation, falling off the curb, broken bones, boating accidents, obstructed airways, allergic reaction to medication, diabetic shock, stroke, head concussion, unconsciousness, convulsions, heat exhaustion, and delivering a baby. They have also attended to numerous persons with breathing problems, possible carbon monoxide poisoning, a person who had been run over by a tractor, persons who have fallen and are unable to get up, farm machinery injury accidents, and injuries occurring at the ball diamond.

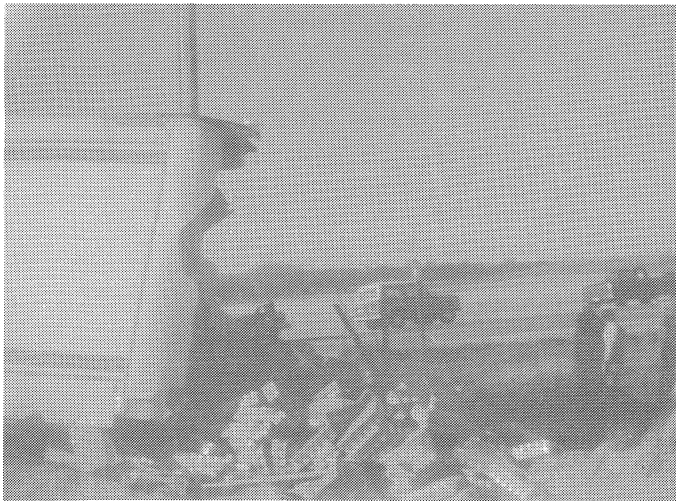
Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department is composed of forty active firefighters who are constantly helping people of the area, in many different types of emergencies.

Joanne Lostroh

TWO-TRUCK ACCIDENT AT THE JUNCTION OF HIGHWAYS 103 AND 6

One truck was loaded with grain and the other truck was loaded with pet food from the Alpo Pet Food plant in Crete, Nebraska.

The driver of the pet food truck, which was a PST truck, claimed that the other truck had its right turn signal light on as it came from the east. The driver assumed that the other truck was going to turn right, but it did not, and the pet food truck did not wait until the grain truck cleared the intersection. They collided, and the Alpo truck went into the ditch with its trailer



Spilled cans of pet food.

sheared off the tractor. When it hit the ditch, the front of the trailer came off, and cans of pet food were scattered in the field.

The grain truck's tractor was lodged against the pet food trailer, and the tractor of the pet food truck came around and lodged on the other side of the grain truck tractor. This caused the grain truck driver to be trapped in the cab. To get him out, the windshield of the tractor was removed. It was a good thing that there was no fire, and neither driver was injured, but Pleasant Dale firefighters were there for assistance.



Grain truck trailer lodged between tractor and trailer of Alpo truck.



Collided truck trailer.

WAYNE'S MEMORIES

The year was nineteen forty-two,
P. Dale started a fire-fighting crew.

Their first "Red" fire truck was white,
Today it would have been a sight.

The truck was used, the men were few,
Who signed the by-laws 5-25 of '42.

The legislature passed in 'forty-nine,
A law for marking fire district lines.

This gave the power to levy a tax,
To buy gasoline, equipment, and maybe an ax.

In nineteen fifty, January nine,
Articles of incorporation fell into line.

George, John, Glenn and Wiston too
Were some that signed the charter – they were just a few.

In nineteen fifty, someone may have said,
"It's time we get a fire truck that's red".

A pumper with five hundred G.P.M.,
On International chassis, was their whim.

Class A Pumper; classified,
RED! The color they did decide.

There was no home for this new truck,
So the department built a quonset hut.

A Chevy truck in nineteen fifty-three,
Made its new home in old P.D.

Hauling water was its mission,
Driven with the Chief's permission.

Clark-McNary and Salt Wahoo
Helped obtain water wagon number two.

A 'fifty-one 6x6 G.M.C.,
Increased the fleet, now to three.

In 'sixty-eight the Chevy was retired,
A Ford two-and-a-half ton truck was hired.

The quonset hut was getting small,
For trucks, equipment, meetings and all.

In 'seventy-two the "hut" was moved,
Sell it to the village was approved.

The 'fifty-one in nineteen seventy-three,
Was returned to Clark-McNary.

A new fire barn - community hall,
Was built, dedicated, and enjoyed by all.

This was completed in nineteen seventy-two,
Thirty years since nineteen forty-two.

In nineteen seventy-three a Chevy chassis was the
deal.
Lacking tank, pump, and hose, it went to Smeal.

It came home a fine machine,
But its color was a yellow-green.

White, and red the trucks have been,
Now this crazy-color is the trend.

Now there is a quick responder team,
EMT, CPR, and BP is their theme.

For hauling water, equipment, and whatever more,
The Department bought a Chevy four-by-four.

For minor fires or giving aid,
This first-responder truck was Smeal made.

This latest truck on the floor,
Increased the total now to four.

Telephone number 795-3250,
The emergency number, one needed to know.

The phone-operator girls received the call,
Then relayed the information to us all.

Now it's number nine-one-one,
To put four trucks, men and women on the run.

Raffle tickets, barbecued pork,
I know it was a lot of work.

Firemen's dances at Pla-Mor and Flying V,
Are now just a memory.

Age twenty-one, in nineteen fifty-nine,
I joined this volunteer fire-fighting line.

In 1984 I did retire,
From quick-response and fighting fire.

For fifty years of organization,
I am thankful for this celebration.

Wayne A. Ficke

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNIVERSARIES (WIFE APPRECIATION NIGHTS)

The eighteenth year was celebrated with a dinner
at Kings Buffet on July 25, 1960, honoring firemen and
their wives.

The twenty-five year anniversary party was held
June 23, 1967 at the American Legion Building in
Huskerville (now Air Park) for all members who had
belonged from 1942 to 1967.

The meal was catered by Hobbs Cafe of Havelock.
Twenty-five year membership pins were presented. A
three-piece band played for dancing later in the evening.

The fire department's thirtieth year anniversary
was in 1972. The thirtieth anniversary coincided with
the building of the new fire station. Construction on the
building began in the summer of 1972 and it was ready
for dedication on October 21. The new building was large
enough to house four fire trucks.

1982 was the anniversary of forty years of service
by the Pleasant Dale fire department. This was a special
year for the fire department as well as for the village of
Pleasant Dale.

Pleasant Dale celebrated its one hundredth birthday
with special events on the Fourth of July weekend,
which included a large parade, (the fire trucks were
driven in the parade), an outdoor community church
service with a community choir, held at the ball diamond,
which was followed by a pancake breakfast in the com-
munity hall and fire station. A fun-run was held. A water
fight between Pleasant Dale and Malcolm firemen was
held. (The department purchased trophies for men's and
women's water fights.) A watermelon feed and a tractor
pull were part of the activities. Also, antiques were on
display.

Then the big Fourth of July fireworks display was
held, which was magnificent! The fire department do-
nated money to the centennial fund and also were in
charge of igniting the displays and watching so no fires
occurred.

Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department
was very actively involved in the Pleasant Dale Cen-
tennial celebration. Special courses had been taken by
the firefighters to learn about heat exhaustion in
preparation for the centennial.

Joanne Lostroh

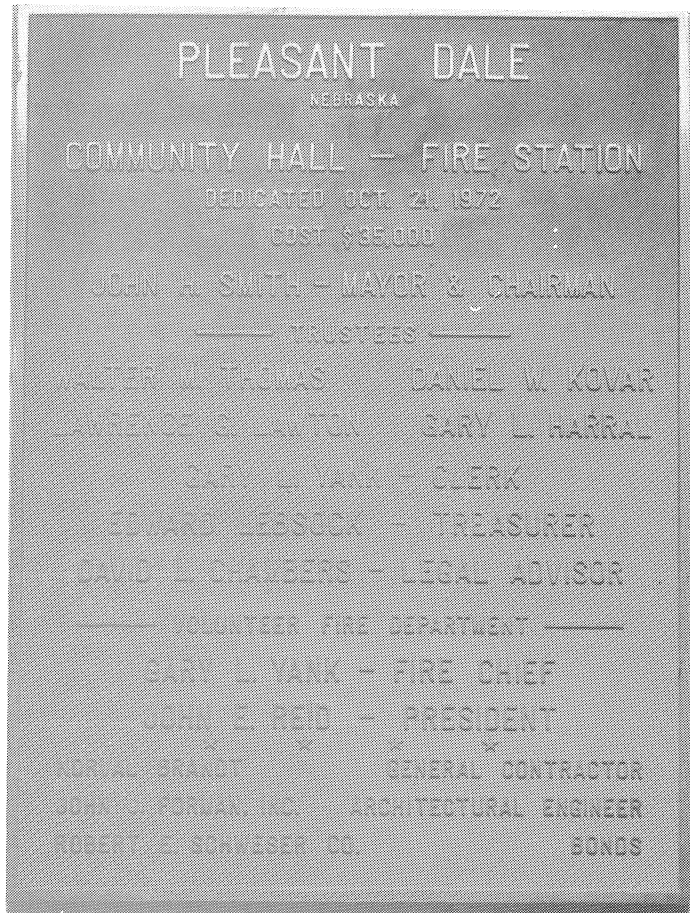
FIREMEN'S APPRECIATION NIGHT

The Pleasant Dale Firemen held a supper on Saturday evening, March 31, 1979 at the Community Building for the firemen, their wives and other guests. After a dinner hosted by Lee's, Ron Petsch was the master of ceremonies with Gary Brhel leading the group in prayer. Helen Zimmer and Amy Merrill as wives of the late charter members, Wiston Merrill and George Zimmer, were present. Helen Van Andel was honored as one who has helped the fire department many times and has also put up with a lot of smoke from practice burning.

Guests were Lt. Doug Ahlberg and Lancaster County Deputy Ed Bryson, Les Lukert, Nebraska Fire Service instructor, and his wife Faye. They were presented DeKalb caps with a lot of fun along with the presentation.

Completing the Crash Management Program were: Ralph Burd, Gary Brhel, Ron Piening, Ron Van Andel, Tony Liesveld, Duane Burd, John Reid, Tom Vance, Fred Petsch, Vern Lemmert, Alvin Klug, Will James, Cliff Irwin, Gary Blattert, Dale Matthes, Wayne Ficke, Vern Duncan, Clint Thomas and Ron Petsch. These awards were presented by Vern Lemmert, fire training officer. Wayne Ficke is a training officer also.

Completing an eight week course in Basic Firefighting were Ron Piening, Gary Brhel, Vernon Lemmert, Vern Duncan, Tom Vance and Michael Lemmert. Ron Piening, fire chief, showed a plaque with the charter members' names listed from May 25, 1942. Harry Johnson and Benny Sterns were charter members who were present.



Plaque presently in Pleasant Dale Community Hall and Fire Station.

Ann Lawton, Hallie Sullivan, Diane Irwin, and Marilyn Allen were honored as the telephone operators and for doing such good work. Russell Burd, Ralph Burd and Duane Burd had their picture taken, representing three generations in the fire department. The women were asked to sign a paper if they were interested in starting a Fire Department Women's Auxiliary.



Duane, Ralph and Russell Burd.

Florence Lebsock was honored as the person who worked hard at selling dance tickets and usually sold the most. The Firemen's Dance is coming up on May 12 at Pla-Mor Ballroom, with Dennis Wesley playing.

An award went to Unit No. 4 as the unit doing the best job. Captain is Wayne Ficke. Members are Jerry Allen, Gary Brhel, Vern Duncan, Sam Harral, Cliff Irwin, Will James, Alvin Klug, Ron Van Andel and Tom Vance. Winners of the 4th of July water fight contest were Unit No. 3: Ken Dill, Ron Petsch and Clint Thomas. Having served 25 years in the fire department were Russell Burd, Elmer Dankers, Chet Shaw, Walt Van Andel, Ralph Burd, Earl Lohmeier, Earl Mitchell, Lee Austen, Vernon Piening, Kenneth Timme and Art Piening.

Vern Lemmert read an article of some funny things that happened to firemen.

Seward County Independent

THANK YOU, WIVES!

All dressed up and no place to go -- does this sound familiar??? You stay home or else you go alone and explain why hubby can't attend with you because he is attending another one of the local fire department's meetings. Maybe he's doing "truck detail", a fancy name we have for cleaning fire trucks and making sure they are ready to go when the fire call is received. Or he is attending a meeting to learn about fire fighting, hazardous materials, emergency medical treatment, arson etc. And then there's always a new meeting which soon becomes another regular meeting. Some of these meetings are close to home, but some require time to drive to them. All of these meetings leave you wives alone when there are places you would like to go, and have your husband be your escort.

When we firemen are on the scene at a fire, and it burns for many hours, you devoted wives make sandwiches, cookies, lots of hot coffee when it's a blustery cold

day or night, and you take gallons office tea and Gatorade on those hot and humid days when the men are dehydrating in the sweltering heat at a fire.

We must not forget the dirty, smoky clothes we firemen bring home for you to launder. The smell of our fire-fighting clothing reeks of stale smoke, and we ourselves have this strong smoky aroma when we finally can return home. When a firecall comes when we are in dress-up clothing, it is hard for you to get the clothing and shoes cleaned up afterward.

You telephone-operator wives dropped whatever you were doing when the call came over the plectron and you notified the firemen on your list quickly and efficiently. This resulted in some burned baking which was in the oven, and burned meals.

It isn't only the men who get up early and work late at the annual hog roast. Some wives get up at 4 A.M. and make scrambled eggs or pancakes for the firemen's breakfast. You wives also bring cinnamon rolls and coffee during the morning break. Wives are there at 8 A.M. to prepare the beans, sauerkraut, and help cut the pork. You also help with setting up the tables and chairs. Some of you wives also help with the serving in the evening if your husband is at work and can't be there for his work shift. When this long day is nearly over, and everyone is tired, as you are helping clean up the fire barn, the plectron goes off and there go the guys!!!! -- and you know who is left behind to finish the cleaning -- of course, it's you faithful wives.

And speaking of the plectrons, they work very well waking up the sleeping children in the middle of the night, and then the children can not get back to sleep, so you wives spend the night calming the children's fears. You also get to explain to the children at other times, why daddy isn't going to be able to attend their school programs and ball games.

Firemen do make fun of their wives' huge purses, but they have been known to give their pager to their wife to put into her purse!!

Wives always attend the street dances, but we know you don't do any dancing as the firemen are always working, which leaves you without partners.

Wives have a hard time watching their weight as Pleasant Dale firemen return the favor of attending money making projects at other fire departments in the area. But of course you don't have to cook dinner that evening!!

Fire calls aren't limited to just one call a day. Sunday, March 1, 1992 is an example. A fire call came before 11 A.M. for a grass fire. Early in the afternoon firefighters were called to the same grass fire area, and then a little later that same afternoon firefighters responded to an emergency medical call. You wives didn't see much of your firemen on that Sunday!!

It's not easy for you to watch your husband walk out the door to answer a call for an unknown danger, and you do worry and wonder until your firefighter returns home safely. Wives must also make sure the children's toys are put away in the house, and not left on the sidewalk and driveway so your husband does not fall on these toys as he rushes to go to an emergency call.

Sometimes when your firefighter is at home in the evening, he's so exhausted from medical emergencies and fire calls that he sits in his big recliner, puts his feet up and promptly falls asleep -- no conversation with that

fireman husband again tonight!!

We know you are very proud of the volunteer work your husband does, saving homes, buildings and helping those who are ill and involved in accidents. We firemen want you wives to know that we are proud of you also.

Wives, we thank you for all of these things you have been doing to help your firefighter and the Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department. Without you, your help and your sacrifices, the department would not have attained the success it has during these past fifty years. Thank you wives!!

Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Firefighters



Cornerstone of Community Hall and Fire Station. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer firefighters are kept on the go with their personal lives, their occupations, and they devote a lot of time to the fire and rescue calls received by the department.

You have read in this book about the many heroic deeds these firefighters have done, but they have also given of their time and talents and donated money from the department for the community.

Some examples of their generosity are:

For a time in the late 1950's the firemen allowed teen-agers to use the quonset fire barn for a recreation facility.

In 1955 and 1958 the department sponsored or co-sponsored a local boy to attend Boy's State.

In March of 1962, the department decided that the proceeds from a dance they sponsored would go to the fund to purchase lights for the local ball diamond.

In June of 1963, they voted to purchase some uniforms for the American Legion softball team.

In the 1960's they sponsored donkey ball games for entertainment for the community.

The department donated money various times for fireworks for the enjoyment of residents of the Pleasant Dale area. They were also in charge of igniting the fireworks.

In the 1970's, money was donated for a range hood and ladder for the kitchen area of the community building.

In several consecutive years in the 1980's, firefighters gave an October Sunday afternoon to take a firetruck to Pawnee Lake for the annual CROP walk sponsored by area churches. The firefighters manned a check point mile marker where the walkers were provided with a cold drink of water, so they could continue walking part of or the entire ten mile walk.

In 1990 the members voted to donate 10% of their dance profits to again go to the ball diamond lights fund.

Joanne Lostroh

DONKEY BALL GAMES

During the summer of 1965 the Pleasant Dale fire department sponsored several donkey ball games. Twelve or fourteen donkeys were brought in trailers, and were turned out to graze behind the quonset fire barn where they were near water to drink.

The firemen were happy to see a crowd of people come to watch them urge the donkeys to go from base to base after the batter hit the ball. If the ball went to any out field, the player in that position had to ride his donkey to get the ball.

Of course, you have heard the saying, "As stubborn as a mule", and usually something was needed to get the animal to move.

I remember that one donkey in the outfield rolled over on his back, and it made a long game.

A few donkeys had to wear muzzles or they would bite.

Everyone had a lot of laughs seeing the men being tossed to the ground and, at the same time, they kept their distance from the donkey's back feet.

Many of the current firemen would have been too young to remember these games.

Maybe there could be another donkey ball game before the year 2000!

Marie Burd



"We can't get to first base this way!"

PLAYING IN A DONKEY BALL GAME

I remember my experience as a player in a donkey ball game between Malcolm and Pleasant Dale. The game was played at Pleasant Dale.

I had a cigar in my pocket, and to make a friend of the donkey, I fed the cigar to it. The donkey loved the "treat".

After I hit the ball, I got the donkey to stand still by picking up his front foot, and then, while dropping it, I jumped onto his back while he was regaining his balance. I coaxed him to move toward first base. After a few jumps forward, he bucked me off. I landed on my feet, and again I picked up his front foot, dropped it and jumped onto his back. We started toward first base where he again bucked me off, but I landed on my feet and the umpire called, "Safe".



"Oh, please!"

Someone else got a hit, and my donkey and I had to get to second base. Ralph Burd was the announcer, and he shouted, "Look at that boy headed for second!" When we were almost there, the donkey again bucked me off, and this time the umpire called, "Out".

For some reason, the donkey let me ride all the way back to home plate with no problems. In fact, he acted like a pet!

Leonard Rapp

ROTH AERIAL SPRAYING PLANE CRASH

July 12, 1986

It started as an ordinary Saturday morning. I was looking forward to sleeping in and getting a little extra rest before starting my normal weekend activities. I was lying in bed, half asleep, thinking what I would like to accomplish that day. It was a warm summer morning. We had the house open to draw in some cool night air before we turned on the air conditioning. During the night we had about an inch of rain. Also, during the previous week we had had showers almost every night. The rain amounted to about 5"-6" for the week. These were good rains for the middle of July. As anyone who lives in Nebraska knows, when you have rains in July you also have high humidity. The midday temperatures usually equalled the humidity 90°-95°=90%-95%. This was the way it was that day, but little did I know that what was going to happen in the next fourteen hours would change my whole outlook toward myself, our fire department, and government agencies. But, I am getting ahead of myself.

So here I am, lying in bed half asleep, resting, and in the distance I hear a spray plane climbing and turning and descending, performing a service to one of the nearby farmers in trying to control some pest in a cash crop. At the time I didn't think much about it. This is a common occurrence in the farming community, and I have often heard the planes.

At about 7:30 A.M. Saturday, July 12, 1986, the electron went off. As usual, no matter what time of night, I sat straight up in bed. The call was for the Pleasant Dale Fire Department to respond to a plane crash 3/4 mile west and 1/2 mile south and 1 mile west of Pleasant Dale. I got up in a hurry, put on my protective pants and

boots, and carried my helmet and coat to the car to respond to the incident. Here I was, a green-horn Chief with six month's experience. A million things were racing through my head about what we needed to be doing before we got there and what to do after we got there. As I approached the town square, I could see that three bays of the fire station were empty. The two tankers and the quick response unit were enroute to the scene. As I continued west, I caught up with the 6x6 and then followed it to the scene.

As I approached the scene, from about one-fourth mile away I saw a plane's tail sticking out of a patch of sunflowers. There was only about 10'-12' of the plane's tail above the sunflowers. The sunflowers were 8'-10' tall and in full blossom. Their stems at the base were at least 1-1/2" in diameter.



Firefighter being sprayed with water at scene of spray plane crash. Tail of plane protruding from sunflowers (upper center).

I parked my car and made my way to the trucks.

When I arrived I was told that the pilot, Ricky Roth of Milford, Nebraska, had been spraying a field of milo with Parathion to control greenbugs. He was making a turn to continue on another pass when the plane lost airspeed and crashed into this field. The site was on the southeast side of the intersection of two county roads, about 300 feet from the north road and 150-200 feet from the west road where all of the fire trucks were parked.

Due to the presence of Parathion (a hazardous material) we tried to get everyone into full protective gear before they went to the scene. This included bunker boots, pants, coat, helmet with a liner, and a self-contained air pack. We had one of our two-way hand held radios at the plane and one on the road to assist in communications to the rescuers. We laid a two-inch hose line down to the plane to control any possible fire and also to rinse the pilot free of Parathion. From ten to fifteen minutes may have elapsed and I was advised that Milford Fire was enroute with their rescue squads.

In the meantime we were setting up a porta-tank as a site to decontaminate the firemen and save the contaminated water as they emerged from the site.

Extrication of the pilot from the plane required a hack saw, bolt cutter, and tin snips. It took about forty minutes to effect the rescue. There was a path going down to the plane through the tall sunflowers. As soon as the rescuers got fifty feet into the sunflowers, they vanished from view.

The pilot was brought out of the field on a full back board, lying on his stomach, carried by six firemen. When they got to the ditch they rinsed him once again, cut off all his clothes, rinsed him again, and placed a backboard on top of him, so as to sandwich him between two boards in order to turn him over on his back to finish removing his clothing and rinse him off again. I heard one of the firemen remark as they were turning him over to be careful because he was slippery. They didn't want him to slip out from between the boards. Their intention was to minimize movement to his back and spine when he was lying on his back and rinsed again with the fire hose. After the final rinse, the contaminated rescuers carried him to the edge of the road and he was transferred to uncontaminated personnel. They switched from our O₂ supply to the ambulance's O₂. He was placed on the rescue squad's gurney. He was then taken to a hospital in Lincoln.

All the rescuers were told to step into the tank to be sprayed down. They were told to remove all contaminated clothes and protective gear. They were rinsed with water, and then they were wrapped in blankets. The fifteen firemen were loaded into the second rescue squad vehicle and taken to the hospital for a checkup. They were treated and released.

While the rescue was under way the following people were notified of the crash: Nebraska State Fire Marshal, Department of Environmental Control, Seward County Civil Defense, and the Federal Aviation Agency. Representatives of each of these agencies arrived and assisted in assessing the situation.

To contain the spill, all contaminated or suspected-of-being-contaminated material was left in or near the porta-tank and the area was roped off. The Seward county maintenance personnel erected barricades on the west road to restrict traffic from driving through the fire trucks' area.

About 10:00 A.M. the authorities left the scene with me to go to the fire barn to relocate the command post and make phone calls to get recommendations for clean-up.

It was decided to ask HIT 1 of the Lincoln Fire Department (the Hazardous Material Unit) to come out and lend their expertise on how to handle the situation. It was decided to let HIT 1 take charge of the situation and follow their recommendations. HIT 1 was called about 10:30 A.M. They arrived at 1:00 P.M. Despite the presence of numerous government agencies, the most help we got from them was advice. The Pleasant Dale Fire Department was left with the task of trying to clean up their equipment.

After a discussion with HIT 1 personnel, we decided on the following procedure to clean up our equipment:

1. We had two washing tanks with a rinse after each wash and scrub.
2. We used a solution of Clorox and ERA soap to neutralize the Parathion.
3. We had crews of five men at washing and scrubbing stations, then rinsing, going to progressively cleaner water.
4. Scrubbers were clothed in rubber suits with hoods, bunker boots and rubber gloves, all taped together with duct tape to waterproof their gear. Goggles and paper masks were also used.

(I would like to again remind you of the time of year which was mid-July when temperatures were in the mid- 90's with 90% humidity.)

5. We tried to scrub everything, but some items we discarded. They included: a. Gloves; b. Nylon webbing on air packs; c. The trauma kit with all contents bagged and prepared for disposal; d. All personal clothes. All personal effects such as billfolds, etc., were removed and bagged and saved. Any porous material, nylon, cloth, or leather items were to be discarded.
6. The crash site was to be quarantined for forty-eight hours at least.
7. Road blocks were set up by the county to try to isolate the area and keep the public at a safe distance from the contaminated area.
8. Law enforcement personnel would patrol the area hourly. (No permanent guard was set.)
9. Due to the short life of Parathion, forty-eight hours was thought to be enough time in which to decompose the chemical that was spilled.
10. Each scrub shift was short because of heat and humidity. Much Gatorade and water was consumed by the workers after decontamination and disrobing of rubber suits.

When all the bunker gear was washed, it was hung on the ball diamond fence to dry overnight. The porta-tank was also scrubbed and rinsed.

The hose was washed by putting one gallon of Clorox and one container of ERA in a 1000-gallon tank of the truck, and the pressure hose cleaner was used on the end of a 2-1/2 inch line.

When the field-decontamination was done we returned to the firebarn at about 6 P.M.

Assistance from other departments:

1. Seward Fire Department brought down two wading pools which we used for washing the

contaminated articles. They also loaned us several air tanks to be used as spares on our self-contained air packs.

2. Milford Fire Department brought two rescue units, a fire truck, and an equipment van to the scene, and, provided valuable help in effecting the pilot's rescue.
3. Southwest Fire Department brought a pumper to the station in the afternoon to protect our area while our three units were detained at the scene of the accident.
4. Utica Fire Department brought a van load of people to Pleasant Dale in the evening to help clean the trucks and finish cleaning other items. Their help was a Godsend. We were all getting quite tired by evening.

The bunker gear was later moved to the top of the fire barn. We realized that there still was a smell of chemical in the coats and boots and they would need to be aired out for a longer period of time. The sun was good for breaking down the Parathion, and if it rained it would help rinse the clothing more.

The hose was rewashed back of the fire station and also placed on the roof to dry and sun.

The porta-tank was re-rinsed and placed on the grass at the rear of the fire barn to dry and sun.

The air tanks and air packs were washed with alcohol, to further decontaminate them. We had a recommendation that green soap was good for washing air packs but we didn't have any.



Back at the station cleaning the trucks.

All the trucks were cleaned and refilled with water and put back into service at 10:30 P.M., fifteen hours after the initial call.

It was recommended by other departments that any bunker-gear that was soaking in Parathion solution for any length of time should be discarded. We tried to air out and let the bunker-gear stay on top of the fire barn for about two weeks, and it still smelled of Parathion.

On July 21, I received a letter from the Department of Environmental Control regarding the decontamination procedures for our coats and boots. They assured us that the methods we used should have been successful, but they agreed to test some sample items to be sure.

A letter dated August 11, from the DEC, relayed a different story. The outside of the rubber boots showed no Parathion but the inside ranged from 5.9 to 7.1

micrograms. The coats showed 14.4 to 31.8 micrograms on the outside and 19.5 to 62.9 micrograms of Parathion on the inside.

These items were later discarded. They were temporarily replaced by donations from other fire departments until we could replace our own.

In communications with the insurance company for Roth Aerial Spraying, these are some of the following items that were listed as loss:

Items	No.	Unit Cost	Total
Fire gloves, rubber, dozen	1	\$70.00	\$70.00
Helmet liners, Cairns	6	17.00	102.00
Chin straps, Cairns	6	10.00	60.00
Bunker Coats, 7.5 oz. Nomex	7	150.00	1,050.00
Bunker Boots	9	62.00	558.00
Service, clean, rewebb frames on self-contained air packs	7	523.81	3,666.68
Wading pools	2	8.99	17.98
Unit No. 4 Oxygen Unit:			
Oxygen unit case	1	92.95	92.95
E oxygen cylinder	1	105.00	105.00
Yoke type oxygen regulator	1	106.00	106.00
Cylinder hand wheel	1	8.50	8.50
AMBU Mark III resuscitator	1	118.00	118.00
AMBU Bag reservoir	1	24.25	24.25
AMBU Mask only (child)	1	33.95	33.95
AMBU Mask only (infant)	1	33.95	33.95
Emergency air way kit	1	5.95	5.95
Medium concentration oxygen mask (adult)	2	1.25	2.50
Medium concentration oxygen mask (pediatric)	2	1.65	3.30
Medium concentration oxygen mask (infant)	2	1.95	3.90
Non-rebreathing oxygen mask	2	1.85	3.70
Nasal canula	2	1.05	2.10
Oxygen supply tubing	2	.60	1.20
Oxygen supply tubing couplers	2	.65	1.30
Convenience bag	4	1.20	4.80
Yankauer suction tip	2	1.75	3.50
Suction catheter (10 fr)	2	.65	1.30
Suction catheter (14 fr)	2	.65	1.30
Suction catheter (18 fr)	2	.65	1.30
Spiral note pad	1	.59	.59
Bic ball point pen	1	.49	.49
Unit No. 4 Miscellaneous:			
Non partical masks, box	1	19.00	19.00
2" fabric duct tape rolls	3	4.99	14.97
Standard long spine board (wood)	1	105.00	105.00
Long spine board straps (108")	4	24.00	96.00
Short spine board straps (96")	2	22.80	45.60
Heavy blankets	5	12.50	62.50
Cotton-polyester sheet	2	3.50	7.00
Jeans	8	20.00	160.00
Shirts	4	15.00	60.00
T-shirt (gray sleeveless)	2	10.00	20.00
Socks, pair	3	2.00	6.00
Underwear	2	2.00	4.00
Leather belts	3	20.00	60.00
Billfold	3	15.00	45.00
Handkerchief	1	1.00	1.00
Pliers pocket	1	5.00	5.00
T-shirt	2	10.00	20.00
Rubber boots, pair	1	30.00	30.00
Leather shoes, pair	1	30.00	30.00
Tennis shoes, pair	1	60.00	60.00

Cotton gloves, pair	1	3.00	3.00
Eye glasses	1	40.05	40.05
Pocket watch	1	10.00	10.00

The Fire Department members' wives prepared sandwiches for lunch at noon for anyone who was helping with the accident.

The department put together a presentation about the plane crash. It was a slide show with a 1-1/2 hour lecture presentation. It was given to the Falls City fire department, Dewitt fire department, and the 1987 Fire School at two different classes, one at the Incident Class and the other at the Hazardous Material Class.

This plane crash was probably one of the largest incidents with which the Pleasant Dale Fire Department has had to deal in terms of time, money, and equipment expended.

It was discovered that about forty gallons of Parathion mixture were released at the crash site. Experts told us that the chemical would break down within forty-eight hours or so in the air and with exposure to sunlight. It was also suggested that agricultural lime be added to the spill area.

Sometime during the week following the crash, the plane was removed and the lime was spread over the area.

The lime could be seen on the ground the following year. It didn't appear that too much grew in this spot the next year.

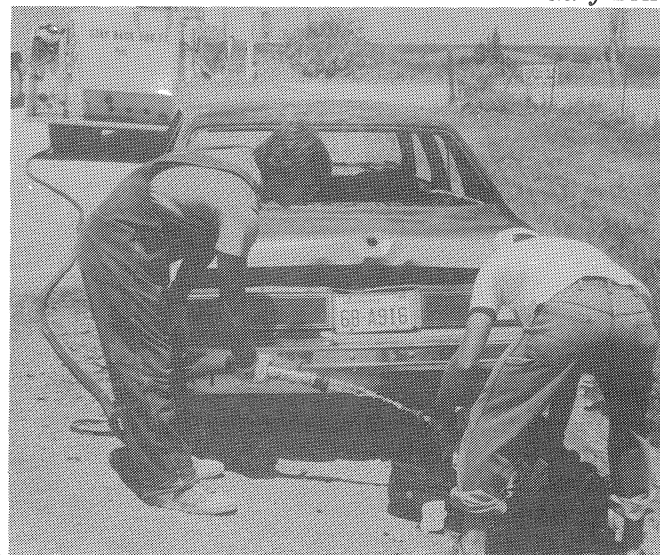
Due to the heavy rains the week before the plane accident, the ground was quite soft. When the plane hit the ground, it buried the engine below ground level. The plane was probably five feet into the ground. This may have contributed to lessening the injuries to the pilot. However, he was severely injured.

When the plane was removed, a barrel of liquid (oil, gas, and chemical mixture) was removed by Roth Aerial and taken to their disposal site.

A comment from the hospital was that the victim had been cleaned very well in the field.

The insurance claim for loss of equipment, time spent by firefighters, and use of fire trucks No. 42, No. 43, and No. 64 was settled in December of 1986.

Gary Brhel



Pleasant Dale fire truck and fireman Andy Worster hosing smoldering luggage at Interstate Exit 388.

PLEASANT DALE QUICK RESPONSE TEAM BRINGS GOOD THINGS TO LIFE

Undoubtedly the most rewarding call answered by the Pleasant Dale Quick Response Team was received at approximately 5:10 A.M. August 3, 1987. Everyone in the community knew Marlene Beacom was pregnant. Everyone in the community knew Marlene had a history of quick deliveries. Everybody on the Pleasant Dale Fire Department prayed she'd make it to the hospital. She didn't. When the call "woman in labor" came over the plectron, nobody bothered waiting to hear "where". We just headed for the Beacom's residence. Initial assessment of the situation assured the team that Marlene was going to deliver "here and now". The O.B. kit was opened and the bedroom became a delivery room. While a team of five "attending physicians" may seem like an unnecessary luxury, Terry and Marlene didn't mind. Actually, each team member assumed an assigned task and went about his business. Vern and Clint handled the delivery, Jeff provided the needed calming effect by assisting Terry as Lamaze coach, Harlan managed the O.B. kit, providing the equipment on request, Ron assisted Harlan and acted as messenger and runner by requesting and receiving needed supplies such as towels, blankets, etc. from the remaining responders outside the room. The responders outside the bedroom provided needed supplies upon request, and communicated with Milford Rescue for transport of the patients after delivery. It was a smooth, quick, "textbook" delivery, but the "week" between delivery and baby's first cry was the longest three seconds in the history of the Pleasant Dale Fire Department. As the first cry began, a unanimous sigh of relief was released, and before the cry ended, Marlene yelled, "What is it?" We were proud to tell her they had a little girl and that all parts were there and functioning.

We know we speak for our late friend Vern Duncan and the rest of the Pleasant Dale Fire Department Quick Response Team when we say this was truly the most gratifying call we ever answered. One Lindsey Beacom makes up for all the 3 A.M. fatality accidents, multiple broken bones, and failed attempts at CPR. Thank you Lindsey, for letting us be a part of your life.

Clinton Thomas, Jeffery Oehm,
Harlan Dankers, Ronald Petsch

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOG ROASTS

This is my recollection of the start of the Pleasant Dale Firemen's hog roasts.

At one time, we had as a member on the department Fred Petsch. Fred invited me to an annual hog roast that was held by another group, and it was a great meal.

We suggested to the department that we have a hog roast. As in all such ventures we had the skeptics who didn't feel that this was a good venture, and besides, after all the details were explained, it sounded as though it would be too much work.

The first year was really exciting. We dug four holes 4 feet by 4 feet and they were supposed to be five feet deep. In the area we picked, at 3 feet we ran into sandstone. After picking and shoveling we broke through the sandstone layer and the digging became easier. We almost had our hole seven feet deep before we stopped our shoveling.

Another thing we did prior to digging the holes was

to cut wood on weekends and haul the wood to the hole location.

For our first hog roast, hogs were donated to us. The week before the Saturday roast, and even as late as Thursday, we would butcher the hogs. Several times this became quite a task!

On Friday morning at approximately 3:00 A.M., several members would start burning wood in the holes. This was kept up all day until there were 3 feet of coals in each hole. That afternoon at about 4 o'clock, a group would arrive at the grocery store and cut the meat into five-pound pieces. It was seasoned and wrapped in foil, covered with burlap, and tied with twine.

When the holes had the necessary amount of coals, they were leveled off and the coals were covered with sand, and then the packages of meat were laid on the sand. The holes were then covered. With the use of re-bar (reinforcing bars) across the holes, tin sheeting was placed over the holes and covered with dirt. These were checked during the night to make sure no steam was escaping from the dirt-covered mounds. If this happened, it was necessary to throw more dirt on the tin.

The next day when it came time to uncover the first hole, one of the doubters about this method of cooking pork was there to help uncover the hole. As we were uncovering it, Fred told the doubter to be careful because the tin would be hot. The doubter felt the tin, and he exclaimed in a concerned tone that the tin was cold! He was feeling the outer edge of the tin!

One other process that is done and is still done to this day is to have the first package taken off or out of the hole, opened on the site, and tasted by those who help uncover and remove the meat. The old saying is, "If it tastes good, then you'll have a successful day."

Ron VanAndel took a bite of meat from the first package and he exclaimed, "Boy, do I raise good hogs!"

For the first couple of hog roasts we cut the meat while we were serving. As in all good things, changes have been made and the task became more specialized.

After our first venture in digging holes by hand, we later had Nick Roth of Milford with his back-hoe dig a trench twenty feet long, four feet wide, and three feet deep. Again we cut wood on weekends before the time to burn. As they did the first time, a detail started the burning early in the morning, and by 6:00 P.M. the pit would be ready for leveling and spreading of sand on the coals. After the meat was put on, it was covered with re-bars and tin with a little dirt and straw bales on top of that.

When the meat was removed, it was cut up, and immediately placed in roasters. Some meat was covered with special barbeque sauce and the rest was left plain.

The main difference in the way we do today is that we cook the meat in roasters rather than in the ground.

The people who I feel are forgotten are the wives of the firefighters who take time from their busy schedules on that Saturday, put together the beans, kraut, and the roasted meat to be served that evening.

Other persons who should receive credit are those who plug roasters into their own electric systems and pay the extra cost of electric charge for that day.

Today we use about thirty-five roasters that contain the meat, beans and kraut. There are several places that we get these roasters each year: Pleasant Dale Fire Department, Pleasant Dale Men's Club, Pleasant Dale

United Methodist Church, Pleasant Dale Lutheran Church, Crete Fire Department, Goehner Fire Department, Tamora Fire Department, Milford Fire Department, Utica Fire Department, and as a standby, Seward Fire Department, and many local individuals, should they be needed.

These roasters are cleaned and washed on the night of the hog roast and the following day they are returned to the location from which they were borrowed.

I will say that although there is a lot of work involved in having the hog roast, it is one of the best public relation events in our community. We need more of such events to thank one another.

Vernon Lemmert

PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S HOG ROAST

The first hog roast was in the fall of 1977. It was to be a fund-raiser to substitute for the annual firemen's ball, which was declining in popularity at that time. The department thought it might be time for a change. Amid mixed feelings this new project was pursued.

One of the members knew of a way to cook the meat that was foolproof. That was to bury the pork in the ground to cook it for twelve to fourteen hours, then dig it up and serve it. As it turned out, the method was FOOLPROOF, thank goodness.

Toward the end of October in 1977 we dug three pits. They were supposed to be about 4'x4'x4' deep and were dug by hand. Some ambitious firemen dug them deeper. Wood was burned in these pits for about twelve hours to build up about a 2'-3' bed of coals. The amount of wood required was about two or three hayrack loads. The first time we started burning wood we started the fires about eight or nine in the morning the Friday before the roast. Then the coals would be ready about 1:00 A.M. on Saturday morning.



The pit and the woodpile ready near Helen Van Andel's house.

It seemed that the wood burners always had a hard time starting the fires in the pits. We could put them out easily but starting them was another matter. The first time we were burning wood it was 10:00 P.M. Friday night and we had already run out of wood. We didn't think that we had enough coals in the pits to cook the

pork and it was too early to put on the meat. What were we going to do for three hours?? We decided to get some more wood, and so at 11:00 P.M. we borrowed some firewood from a neighbor. We got another pickup load to add to the fire. We went out with our flashlights and headlights of other pickups to load up the wood. (The neighbor didn't know that some wood was "borrowed" until we brought a pickup load back to replace it.)



"Isn't this too deep??"

When the coals were ready, we used a rake to smooth them in the bottom of the pit. Then we placed a layer of gravel on top of the coals to separate the packages of meat from the burning coals.

The first year we butchered our own pork. We had five hogs that we slaughtered. Some we bought and some were donated. The slaughtering process was quite an experience for some of the firemen!

The butchered pigs were cut into 8-10 pound chunks at the grocery store in Pleasant Dale. Then a crew of about 5-8 people seasoned the meat with salt, pepper and meat tenderizer. The chunks of meat were wrapped in aluminum foil and then wrapped again with burlap and tied up with sisal twine. The bundles of pork were loaded into grocery carts and placed in the store's cooler until the pits were ready.

About 1:00 A.M. the cooking pits were declared ready for the meat. The bundles of pork were placed on the gravel layer. The pits were then covered with tin, usually corrugated tin. Then a layer of dirt was shoveled onto the tin for insulation. Six inches of dirt was usually enough insulation. Then we would turn off all the lights and use a flashlight to shine over the pits to check for heat leaks in the soil. Whenever a leak was detected, more soil was shoveled onto the pit to seal the leak. Then the headlights were turned out again to check for more leaks, and more dirt was added to seal the pits. When we were satisfied that the pits were sealed, we all went home to catch some needed sleep.

Saturday morning was the time to clean the fire barn and community hall. The tables were set up also at this time. This was also the time to prepare the baked beans and sauerkraut. These were prepared in electric roasters and cooked slowly the rest of the day.

About 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon we opened the pits to take the pork out. The first pit was opened by scooping the soil off the tin. When some tin was exposed, the chief at that time knelt down to feel how hot the tin was. He stepped back with a long face and declared that it was cold! We didn't know whether to continue or not. Others of us were trying to figure out how to cook 200 pounds of pork further. We continued to scoop soil off and when we finally got over the pit, the tin was hot. We pulled the first bundle of pork out and immediately opened and sampled it. The meat was so well cooked that it fell apart and fell off the bones.

We took the meat from the first pit to the fire barn and started cutting it up for serving. That first year we cut up the meat just before we served it and placed it in electric roasters to keep it warm. We continued to cut up meat during the serving time because it took longer than we expected. We even got some help from other firemen from other departments.

The menu for the first roast was two pork sandwiches, baked beans, sauerkraut, potato chips, and a choice of coffee, iced tea, or beer to drink.

In 1977 we served meals from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. and fed about 230 people. Basically, everything went quite well and it was decided to make this into an annual event.

Over the fourteen years there were some things that changed while others didn't. The menu was one of the things that didn't change. Sometime during the years we added dill pickle spears, and pop and milk to the list of drinks that were available.

Cutting wood is one of the projects that didn't change much until recently. It used to be that we spent three or four weekends cutting and gathering enough wood to burn in the pit. During some of the early years there was always the problem of not enough wood. One year we went out in the dark with headlights and lanterns and dull electric chain saws to gather more wood. Through the years we got more organized with wood gathering and we didn't need to have midnight wood cutting parties.

The amount of wood needed increased from three or four hayrack loads to eight to twelve truck loads. All the creeks close by were gleaned of all the dead wood. The biggest boon to gathering wood was when a power line was built across one of our fireman's land and they had to cut a lot of trees down to clear a path. We hauled a lot of precut wood in a short amount of time with two trucks with hoists. We also used a tractor and loader to load the wood, which made a lot less work. When we got a good stock pile of wood we changed our cooking methods which didn't require as much wood.

Another change was that we started burning the wood earlier and therefore we were able to put the meat on to cook sooner. We started burning wood at 5 A.M. on Friday, and then the meat could go into the pit by 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock that evening. We always did have trouble lighting the fires to burn the wood.

Through the years the hog roast got bigger in terms of numbers of people served. That required a larger pit because more meat needed to be cooked. The first year we served about 230. This increased to a high number of almost 1000. We soon realized that we couldn't keep digging the pit by hand because it had to be too large. We graduated from shovels to a tractor-mounted 3-point

hitch backhoe, to a Bobcat, to hiring a professional trencher with a truck-mounted backhoe.

The size of the pits went from 3 small ones 4'x4'x4' to a large one 45' long x 4.5' wide x 4' deep. The later pits were dug with a one foot lip on the edge to help in sealing the tin with earth and re-bar, and steel fence posts were used to support the tin and soil.

We were getting increasingly more mechanized as the roasts got larger. One year we even used a tractor and loader to put dirt on the tin. That was probably the year we had to scoop more than a foot of soil off the tin. That was deemed by many to be too much. Then we struck upon the idea of putting hay bales on the tin and sealing the cracks with soil. That probably was the best idea we had.

During the first few years the pits were left open after the hog roast, and some of them continued to burn well into December. One year the coals went out during the next week following the roast. This was blamed on poor quality wood and wet gravel being placed on the coals. This led us to collect harder wood and use dry gravel.

In the later years the pits were covered up, the tin hauled away and the field cleaned up the day of the hog roast, or at the latest, on the next day.

On the day the hog roast was held, there was usually a home football game. The theory was that we might catch some traffic from the game. This was especially true when the hog roast was announced during the game. A date in September was chosen one year but we had a problem with flies that year, so it was moved back to October.

The first few years we had to report ticket sales so we could know how much pork to cook. In later years we just figured for between 800-1000 meals. We still push for advance sales but a lot of the ticket sales are now coming at the door. We allow the firemen to use some of the fire trucks to take tickets to the rural areas around town. We allow this with the provision that the trucks are filled with gas before they are returned to the station.

We usually had the tickets printed at one of the local newspaper offices. We decided not to have them numbered because it was an extra expense and the numbering machine usually broke down in the middle of our order, which gave us some anxious moments when we needed tickets to go out. We found out that gluing the tickets into pads was very convenient.

Some years we gave two free tickets to each of the Seward County fire departments and other departments that provided special services for us. This practice was discontinued in later years.

In 1991 ticket prices were \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the door. In 1991 the children's prices for age 12 and under were \$2.00 in advance and \$2.50 at the door. Also, in the later years we had a family ticket price. No family would have to pay more than \$17.50. A family consisted of mother and father and all children living at home.

In 1990 we radically changed our cooking style. We quit burying the meat in the ground and used three above-ground roasters. This did several things for us. First and most importantly, it reduced our wood consumption by 99%. This was just after we had stockpiled a lot of wood! This created a small problem of what to do

with all our wood. Solution: sell firewood to the members who burn wood in fireplaces. We got rid of much of the stockpile in that way.

Another advantage of using the cookers was that the meat took less time to cook. We put the meat in the cookers at 3:00 A.M. and by 8:00 A.M. it was usually finished. This was a lot less work because we didn't have to cut much wood. We no longer had to dig a pit and burn large quantities of wood, and when the meat was cooked we didn't have to fill in the pit.

One thing that greatly improved the quality of our product was that we cut up the meat starting at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday morning and put it into electric roasters to simmer the rest of the day. At first we had barbeque sauce separate from the meat and people added it as they were served. Later we prepared 3/4 of the roasted meat with barbeque sauce and left the rest plain. (It takes about 4-4 1/2 hours to cut up all the meat. We encourage everyone who can to help on Saturday mornings, because it is a large job.)

In the early years two or three roasters of meat, beans, and kraut were enough to feed the crowds. Now it takes at least ten roasters of meat, twelve to fourteen roasters of beans, and ten to twelve roasters of kraut.

We quit butchering our pork and started buying pork shoulders from a commercial packing house. The quality of the meat is better, and since we needed around 950 pounds of meat, no one had time to butcher that many pigs. We also got a better yield from the pork shoulders.

As was mentioned earlier, we need about thirty-five electric roasters to hold all the food. This presents a problem of where to get them. There are a few in town (about ten). We need about twenty-five more. Some years we rented electric roasters. In later years we have borrowed them from other fire departments in the area. When it comes to taking them back, a pickup with a shell on it is usually full to the roof with borrowed roasters.

It was also a problem to plug all the roasters in at one time. The fire barn/community hall can accommodate only ten to twelve roasters. This leaves the rest to be taken to firemen's houses and other businesses around town. This also required a crew of people to stir the contents of the roasters during the afternoon. A round trip was usually made every hour to do this, and it took about that amount of time to make a round trip.

A modification that came early was to buy plates that were sectioned so the beans wouldn't run together with all the rest of the meal.

Using all the roasters, there is a problem to clean them. The kitchen at the community room is too small, and so is the hot water heater to accommodate the clean-up. In later years we heated water outside on a propane stove. This improved working conditions inside, and the roasters were also cleaned better.

The serving time expanded from two hours in 1977 to four and a half hours in the mid-1980's, and that continues to the present.

The kegs of beer used increased from about two at the start to a high of ten. Now we average about six kegs used per hog roast. The food we ordered is as follows:

- 962.8 pounds pork butts
- 10 pounds sugar
- 42 gallons pork and beans
- 20 bottles ketchup

- 34 pounds brown sugar
- 2 jars onions (minced)
- 1 pound black pepper
- 16 gallons barbeque sauce
- 1850 buns
- 42 gallons kraut
- 1 4-ounce jar of tea
- 2 2-pound cans coffee
- 5 pounds onions
- 30 1-pound packages of potato chips
- 11 canisters fountain pop
- 3 cases dill pickle spears
- 1 pound salt
- 3 jars caraway seeds
- Non-food items ordered:
- plastic table covers
- paper towels
- 100 plastic spoons
- 300 16-ounce cups
- 960 napkins
- 500 divided plates
- 1000 plastic forks
- 125 styrofoam plates
- 4 boxes 1-gallon size Ziplock plastic bags
- 1 large bottle dishwashing detergent
- 2 Scotchbrite sponges
- 3 packages Handiwipes
- 1 roll masking tape

When our operation was getting bigger we started setting work schedules during the dinner hours. This worked very well.

All in all, the whole department supported the hog roast. That is why it was a big success for many years. I believe we have made a better product every year and comments from the public support that statement. In a way I miss the old fire pit (but not much). I miss it mainly because some firefighters and their families used to bring hot dogs and cook their evening meal on the pit (provided they had a 10' weiner stick).

Gary Brhel



Water fight on Main Street in Pleasant Dale July 4, 1976.

WATER FIGHTS

A water fight consisted of hanging a barrel from the center of a high cable, and then two teams of three firemen each with 1-1/2 in. lines would try to push the barrel to the opponent's side of the cable. The first man on each team was the nozzleman who shot the water against the barrel. The man behind him would help drag the hose forward and back. The rear person kept the hose from kinking so there was a steady stream of water to the nozzle. (When the hose kinked it shut off the water supply.)

The water fights were held in the summer and the firemen had to wear bunker coats and boots which made it quite hot work.



Water fight on Main Street in Pleasant Dale July 4, 1976.

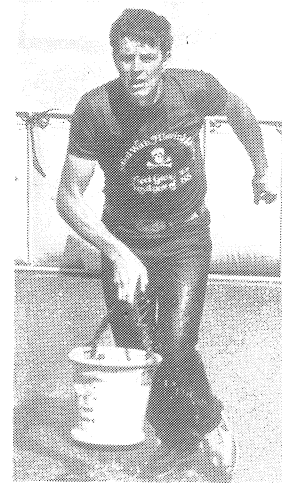
One time after the fire department was finished competing, some people in the crowd asked whether they could get a team together and compete, which they did. Then some women also decided they wanted to do some water fights, so they did. One year some sixth graders and older children were allowed to water fight.

At the Pleasant Dale Centennial we invited other departments to enter teams for water fight competition. That was when we used official water fight nozzles. These we borrowed from Malcolm. There were some women's water fighting teams entered in the competition. When the Pleasant Dale women were battling another team, they were getting beat. In the process, they dropped the hose and nozzle. This raised more than just the eyebrows of the Malcolm firemen. These nozzles were precision instruments specially made. They were straight-stream-nozzles with no adjustments and they would build up to ninety-five pounds of pressure.

Through the years, interest in water fights waned. We then turned to other contests. One was the 50 ft. hose lay. A team consisted of four members, a 50 ft. length of hose, and a nozzle. A 5 ft. pipe was screwed onto a hydrant and a steering wheel was attached to the top of the hydrant, so the hydrant could be opened faster. In the contest the first man was the hydrant man. He first removed the cap from the end of the pipe that was attached to the hydrant, and then started opening the hydrant. The second man grabbed one end of the hose and attached it to the pipe extension. The other two men grabbed the other end of the hose and attached the nozzle. Then they extended the hose to its full length and shot a stream of water at a ball set on a raised platform.

This was a timed event. The team to knock the ball off the platform in the shortest length of time was the winner.

Another contest is also a timed event. It is the bucket brigade. There are three members on the team. The equipment includes three buckets, a water source, and a destination barrel, usually on an elevated platform. The idea of the contest is to see how fast the team can fill the destination barrel using the buckets. The water source is about 30 feet away from the destination barrel. The buckets we use are made of canvas and rubber with a small hole in the bottom. We have two people carrying the buckets and the other person lifting and emptying the buckets into the empty barrel.



Roger Michaelis in the Bucket Brigade.

There are other timed events in which firemen compete. There are ladder events, a broken hose lay, and an ax and cellar-nozzle competition.

Pleasant Dale competed within the department with the bucket brigade and the 50 ft. hose lay on several 4th of July celebrations in the past. We also took a team to Milford a few years ago and competed in their contest. At Milford we brought home the first place trophy for the bucket brigade and second place trophy for the 50 ft. hose lay. When all the time periods in the events were added up, Pleasant Dale was awarded the over-all trophy.

Gary Brhel



Gary Brhel, Lucas McMullen, Andy Worster, and Jeff Oehm with trophies won at Milford Days July, 1985.

CHARLES WIECHERT'S MEMORIES

My first real connection with the Pleasant Dale Fire Department was my appointment to the Seward County Fire District Board with about twenty-two members. Ray Smiley, a member of the board, asked whether Leonard Rapp and I would serve representing Middle Creek and Denton precincts, as part of Lancaster County was now included in the Seward County fire district. Harry Welch and Oscar Alschwede were already representing the Pleasant Dale area.

Leonard and I were instrumental in getting the Pleasant Dale department's allotment raised to the same level as that of all other Seward county departments after several years of serious arguments, which did not help our popularity. At that time Pleasant Dale was receiving only about one-third the amount of the other districts, as the Pleasant Dale district was located along the very eastern edge of the county and the Seward County Fire District Board felt that the Pleasant Dale department did not serve a large enough area to receive as much as the other districts.

Each department signed a contract and then received its money. One year the treasurer of one department died suddenly without his department's check being deposited. Some time later a request was made for a second check to be re-issued. In the meantime, Ivan Blevins retired and Mr. Bartu accepted the position of Executive Director of the Seward County Fire District. New to the position, Mr. Bartu asked me to make the motion for re-issuance of the check. When the original check surfaced and was re-submitted, I challenged the payment as I recalled the check being re-issued. Even though the board was basically the same, no one seemed to remember, and it was inferred that I was "nit-picking", as they did not find any mention of it in the minutes or treasurer's book. With that statement, a motion was made that another check be re-issued. Trying to make my point, I asked permission to make a motion that if that motion passed, then all of the other departments would also receive duplicate checks. With that, I was granted permission to review the minutes and financial records which did reveal the motion and issuance of the duplicate check.

At that time Seward County was the only fire district in Nebraska that operated having a person from each precinct serve as a representative on the Fire District Board. A bill was passed in the Legislature in _____ creating a smaller board with only six members, eliminating Leonard's and my positions. As a precinct representative, I was attending all of the meetings, at which time Keith Bottrell suggested that I become a member of the Pleasant Dale fire department and if I couldn't afford the dues, he would pay my \$2.00. Walt VanAndel immediately stood up, passed the \$2.00 to the treasurer, and I believe that I still owe Walt the \$2.00.

The Pleasant Dale Fire Department, even though the Seward County Fire District was unaware of this, served a very large area. Malcolm served the area north of West O street, so the Pleasant Dale department covered the area from Pleasant Dale to the Lincoln city limits to the east, and south beyond Denton. In later years the Lincoln Southwest Fire District was formed and relieved the Pleasant Dale department of that area.

Some of the large fires were the bowling alley in Emerald, the Denton Catholic church, a farmstead north

and east of Denton, and the Interstate Metal Machine Shop in West Emerald.

It's hard to forget the intense heat created by these fires like the one of the Catholic church. Vern Lemmert arrived at the church in time to help remove many of the paraments which were carried way out into an alfalfa field a considerable distance from the church, but they burned anyway from the intense heat. The flag pole leaned to the east at such an angle that it appeared it might topple at any time, but after the fire cooled, it righted itself and stands today in front of the present church.

At the farmstead fire north and east of Denton, another fireman and I were standing some distance away after the fire was under control, and suddenly we heard a strange hissing sound. Before we could drop to the ground, a missile, unguided, flew above our heads. It turned out to be the gas tank from the tractor that was buried in the ashes.

The only house fire that I helped with was the former Nohavec home. It seems that the youngsters of a family renting the house were shooting matches out of the barrel of a BB gun at the open filler pipe of the fuel tank for the house. This was a sad Sunday game.

The night that Paul Berg's barn burned really got our attention. We were returning from a meeting in Lincoln with Everett and Velma Giles, and from a distance it appeared to be our farmstead. It was fortunate that the highway patrol was elsewhere, as the speed limit on West O was only 45 miles an hour at that time.

There were countless grass fires, mostly along the railroads in the Denton, Emerald, and Pleasant Dale areas. They were usually uneventful but very stressful, time consuming, and they occurred during the hottest part of the day, while the grass fires at Pawnee Lake were mainly at night and difficult to get to, much the same as the grass fires along the Interstate highway.

During my first year on the Department, 1957, the machine shed on the Leo Amen farm just east of Denton burned during February. It was extremely cold, -20°. They had oats stored inside and it was decided to get a tractor with a loader from Joe Amen's farm, about three miles away, to spread the oats out. I was sent with the truck to get water from a large cistern at the Carmen Brady acreage in Denton. The people living there weren't even aware of the cistern but they served us hot coffee and delicious cinnamon rolls. It was daylight by this time and it seemed a bit warmer, probably up to 10°. We arrived back at the fire in time to see them towing the tractor (without a comfort cover) with Keith Bottrell at the wheel. He was so cold they had to literally lift him off the tractor and they placed him in a warm truck to recover. I was driving one of the few new cars that I ever owned, and it wouldn't start when I was ready to leave which was very embarrassing as I had to be pushed over a half mile to get it started.

I served another 24-1/2 years in almost all positions except chief, but served as chairman two different turns. We had a good working relationship with the Air Base during those years. The civilian fire chief, Adrian Fiala, and the assistant chief, Everett Helficker, came several times to department meetings to keep us briefed on things we needed to know concerning aircraft fires. When the government installed the missile silos, we

were invited to the Seward community building, and the briefings were strictly for a select few for security reasons.

The years of the army surplus equipment were another new adventure. Some referred to the equipment as being great and others felt it was junk. Glen VanAndel, chief at that time, drove a station wagon full of men to Hebron to purchase for the 6x6 a water tank, which had been a container for a jet engine. The dealer was a lady and not an easy person to deal with, but Glen and Ralph Burd made a good deal. The next problem was transporting it back. Glen put railroad ties across his one-ton pickup bed and set the tank on that. That truck lasted until it was ruined getting through snow drifts and fighting a house fire just west of Shoemakers Truck Stop on Highway 6, during a blizzard that none of the other departments could get to. It is believed that the fire was "torched", but this was not confirmed.

Years pass and many events are forgotten, but I missed my visits with Leonard as we went to meetings when we no longer served, and I especially enjoyed visiting with all members at the monthly meetings. The Pleasant Dale department is a great group to work with and I congratulate them on a job well done and a great service to our communities.

Charles Wiechert

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

Memories are not too good, but there are some recollections of a Firemen's Picnic held in Pleasant Dale in the 1940's with rides for the children.

Two ladies, Mary Yank and Julia Lee Melichar, who were youngsters in the 1940's, remember a ferris wheel was located at the intersection of Walnut Street and Ash Street in Pleasant Dale, and they rode on the ferris wheel.

A man who was a youngster in the 1940's, Gary Yank, remembers a car raffle being held also.

Joanne Lostroh

Fire at Interstate Metal

When the fire was out, a couple of firemen were watching the building for any new flare-ups. They saw what they thought was a fire, so they sprayed water on it and it wouldn't go out. It was the turn signal blinker on a truck that was inside the burned building!

Also, inside the Interstate Metal building were oxygen bottles. They kept blowing up during the fire. It kept firemen at bay, because they didn't know when one was going to explode.

Gary Brhel

The Summertime House and Barn Burn East of Pleasant Dale

After the fire was mostly out, we were watching a man with a Caterpillar push the debris together. One of the firemen standing some distance from the fire was holding a hose near a connection. He did not realize that the connection was leaking into his boot because he was so absorbed in watching the Cat work. Every once in a while he would shake his leg to try to get the water off!

Gary Brhel

School District 38

The District #38 fire was caused by a portable toilet overheating. It was a chemical toilet—a heated chemical toilet!

Gary Brhel



District 38 school burning December 6, 1981.



Remains of District 38 schoolhouse December 7, 1981.

KENNETH TIMME'S MEMORIES

Reviewing my twenty-five years in the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department brings back many memories of that particular time. Being a volunteer and running the Pleasant Dale grocery store located close to the Fire Department, I felt it was my duty to answer a call as fast as possible, not knowing what one might encounter on arrival at the source of the particular call. By being so close to the fire trucks, it was my duty to respond by driving quite a bit of the time.

There is one experience I would rather forget but can't. We received a call at the grocery store and the adrenaline started to flow. I apparently misunderstood the name and location, and in so doing, I went west of town instead of east. Some one caught up with me approximately one mile out of town and got me turned around.

One night in March the Charles Stern chicken house burned. It was snowing and the wind was blowing in all its fury which made a very bad night to fight a fire.

We had many grass fires over the years. On one occasion, as we entered a field with the red International truck, which was carrying a full load of water, we

approached a very small ditch, and when the back wheels entered it we came to a halt. I stepped on the accelerator but nothing happened. Immediately I thought of a broken axle, but after shifting to super-low gear and with a little more acceleration I was able to drive on.

We also had a Sunday afternoon grass fire on the Dora Allen acres. Some of the volunteers were at the Methodist Church dressed in their best suits, but they still answered the fire call. One volunteer was Vernon Lostroh out there fighting the fire with all the rest, dressed in his suit. As I remember, Vernon told me it was a new suit.

One late night Eugene Hromas hit our front door with such great excitement that I thought he was coming right in. This particular fire was a granary at the William Berg farm with a brand new pickup inside the building. It was a total loss.

We as volunteer firemen answered calls at night, and at times we saw darkness turn to daylight and then saw a bright sun before returning.

The last item of which I write is the time Chester Shaw and I had our lives spared in crossing a railroad track in Denton just ahead of the Burlington Zephyr. I thank our Father in Heaven for giving us more time.

Kenneth Timme

FORMER FIRE CHIEF

In the quonset hut, you had to back trucks in so they would all fit, manipulating them so as not to damage a side wall. Then came the new fire station which was a boost to the fire department as well as to the community.

I remember when we got a new truck referred to as a Mid-Line Pumper. Of course, there was the annual firemen's dance which was used as a fund-raiser for the department, which sometimes worked in reverse. I remember, too, appealing to the Rural Fire Board for more county funds to subsidize our department.

It was a pleasure serving with the department as a fireman, officer, assistant chief, and chief.

My wife, Mary, and I enjoyed our many years' association with the fire department and the many firemen.

Gary Yank

MARCH 28, 1987 BLIZZARD

We had heavy snow and blowing snow all afternoon. That evening the Pleasant Dale fire truck was sent out on Highway 6 to see whether there were any stranded motorists. They themselves became stranded at the Pleasant Dale cemetery corner. A road patrol was sent out to help, but lost a tire chain 1/3 mile east of the truck. About 9 P.M. a wet, cold Clint Thomas rang our doorbell. All five other firemen and Clint came in, took off their wet outer layers, and had some hamburgers before retiring in our basement. We all had breakfast the next morning and some of the firemen helped us with chores and scooping snow. We helped them get going again after taking our Cushman Trackster to Pleasant Dale to get a new tire chain for the patrol.

Eugene Fougeron

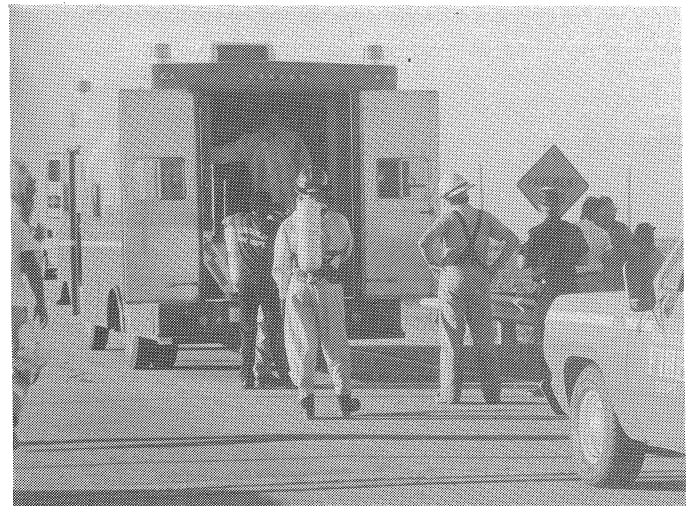
CHEMICAL SPILL

On July 26, 1988, a semi-truck belonging to Refrigerated Carrier Trucking Co. stopped on the exit 388 ramp of I-80. The load was barrels of hypochlorite solution. One fifty-three gallon plastic barrel split on the bottom and the solution was leaking onto the bed of the trailer. Mutual aid was needed and HIT 1 was called to the scene. The barrel was secured and caustic compound was put on the spill.

Doris Lostroh and Joanne Lostroh



Pleasant Dale firefighters at scene of chemical spill.



HIT 1 Unit at scene of chemical spill.

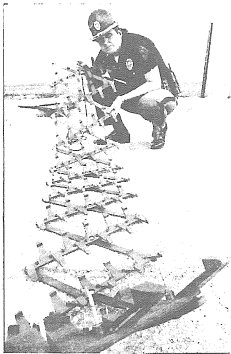
FUGITIVE CAPTURE

On Friday, May 1, 1992, at about 2:15 P.M., I got a call on my pager about a twenty-two year old man, Thomas Humphries from Lynnwood, Washington, who had been stopped by the State Patrol for speeding two miles west of Aurora, Nebraska. While the patrolman was checking for any warrants on the driver or the vehicle, Humphries drove away. There was a high speed chase from Aurora to Pleasant Dale with speeds of 85 to 95 miles per hour. The officer had been informed that Humphries was wanted in the state of Washington for a homicide investigation in the death of his girlfriend, Sheila Elaine Latta of Stanwood, Washington.

I called Lincoln Fire to send Eastern Ambulance and also to dispatch the Milford Rescue Unit.

Pleasant Dale's response time for the ten firefighters who responded was four to five minutes to get to the scene, which was about one-half mile west of Interstate 80 exit at mile marker 387.

Humphries's car ran over a tire-puncturing device which was placed between guard rails on Interstate 80 approximately four miles west of the Pleasant Dale interchange. (This device has large, hollow spikes which are designed to puncture and then break off in a tire. Air gradually escapes through the spikes, deflating the tires gradually while allowing the driver to maintain control of the vehicle. This device was used for the first time in Nebraska).



Patrol Sgt. Beth Hagemeyer displays a tire-puncturing device.

As the tires were deflating, Humphries drove off the road, through a fence, and into a farm field. He then tried to flee on foot.

The Seward County Sheriff and the State Patrol were there when the Pleasant Dale Fire Department arrived. One of the State Patrol's dogs brought the suspect down in the field. The fugitive realized he could not get away. He was carrying a "throwing-star", a martial arts star-shaped knife, and he approached the officers with the weapon above his head. He was told to drop it, but he acted as though he was going to throw it. Officers did not know what it was that he was going to throw. In self defense, one of the officers shot the fugitive below the sternum and the bullet came out on his right side. The officers handcuffed him and then the Pleasant Dale First Responders treated the victim by stopping the bleeding, administering oxygen, and checking his vital signs.

Life Flight, the helicopter based at an Omaha hospital, responded. The State Patrol had stopped all Interstate 80 traffic on the east bound lane so that Life Flight could land on the east bound lane. The victim was quickly transported to Lincoln General Hospital.

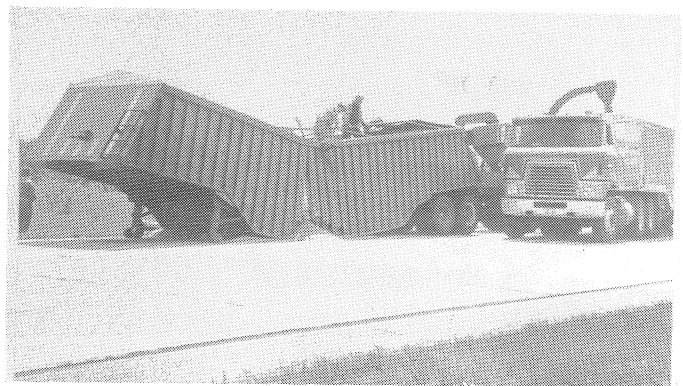
Kenneth Minzel



Life Flight Helicopter arrives to pick up injured fugitive west of Pleasant Dale Exit 388. (Bridge being rebuilt).



Pleasant Dale Firefighters at the home of Gary and Jackie Harral April 8, 1991.



Grain spill on I-80, Pleasant Dale Department called to direct traffic.

ANNIVERSARY YEAR EVENTS

FIFTY-YEAR CELEBRATION

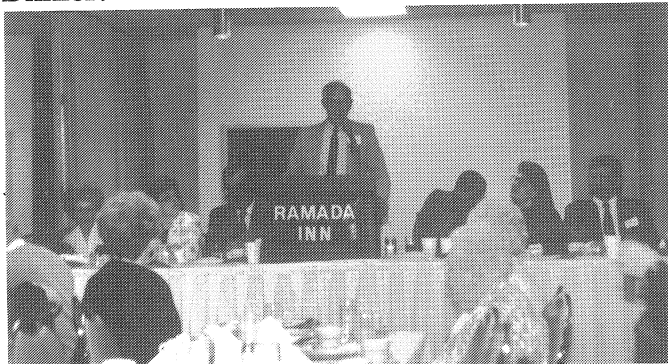
The Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department began its fifty-year celebration with a banquet on Saturday, April 4, 1992 at Ramada Inn in Lincoln, Nebraska. A social hour was held from 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. The invocation was given by Rev. Douglas Smith. The buffet style dinner included chicken, baked ham, roast beef, parsleyed potatoes, green beans, corn, tossed salad, pasta salad, a relish tray, and a dessert choice of apple pie or white cake.



Jeffery Oehm, fire chief (right) and Kenneth Minzel, assistant chief (left) in buffet line at Anniversary Dinner.



Rev. Douglas Smith and Fire Department President Michael Schepers at the Anniversary Dinner.



Vernon Lemmert speaking at the Anniversary Dinner.

50 YEARS PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



APRIL 4, 1992
RAMADA INN

Over one hundred thirty people attended the dinner which was followed by a program. The toastmaster was Thomas Vance. Speeches were given by President Michael Schepers, Fire Chief Jeffery Oehm, Assistant Fire Chief Kenneth Minzel, and Training Officer Vernon Lemmert. Awards Chairman, Gary Brhel, presented certificates for charter members, memorial certificates for deceased members, and service certificates for members who served ten years or more. Fire-telephone operators also received awards.



Guests at the Anniversary Dinner April 4, 1992.



Earl Mitchell talking to Lori and David Cooper at the Anniversary Dinner April 4, 1992.



Dancing after the Anniversary Dinner.

Dancing followed from 8:30 P.M. to midnite, with recorded music.

Other events planned for the celebration include a soup supper on May 16, a street dance on June 13, a golf scramble on July 19, a horseshoe tournament, a children's competition, and a competition between fire departments on August 15, and on August 16 a pancake feed, parade, bake walk, and a bunker ball game.

Banquet committee: Gary Harral, chairman, Dean Minchow, Ronald Piening. Awards committee: Gary Brhel, chairman, and Rev. Douglas Smith.

APRIL 4, 1992 BANQUET SPEECH BY THE FIRE CHIEF

Good evening, and welcome, everyone, for attending a special night for the Pleasant Dale Fire Department members and spouses.

The committee for the banquet asked, since I am the fire chief, that I should get up and say a few words. Almost every one I've talked to since I found out that I would have to give a speech knows how worried I was about doing this. I asked whether there was anything in particular I should talk about, and they said it would be all right to talk about anything I wanted, since they didn't have any particular topic. So, I remembered that I had only written one speech in my life and I got a pretty good grade on it. I thought that tonight I would share that topic with you (it's something that I once knew something about).

The topic is frog hunting. Frog season is between July and October. The frog has to be a certain length and you are not supposed to use flashlights and polers to catch them. You do need a fishing license to hunt them.

Seriously, tonight is a special night for everyone here, whether a past or present member of the fire department. You all know how tough it is when a call for help comes in — the firefighters scrambling to the call, and the wives or husbands at home are wondering how serious things are, whether their spouse will be home in a short time or whether it will take all day.

I don't know much about how things were fifty years ago. Today we have plectrons in everyone's houses. The plectrons, for those who don't know, are little boxes that are receivers that make all kinds of noise any hour of the day and night. At night when my kids were sleeping and the plectron went off, they used to think that they had to go on their own little rescue or fire call,

because every time I got home from the call there would be two more little bodies in my bed. They thought they needed to keep Audine safe. I'm glad we didn't have more kids.

There was also no interstate highway, and now we have to go up and down the interstate on fires and rescue calls. Normally the fires aren't too bad, but the accidents can keep you up at night thinking of the victim and how you did your best to help save a person, probably not ever hearing from them again because they are from some other state and never heard of Pleasant Dale until the night of their accident. Also, on the interstate there are more trucks carrying more and more hazardous materials that need to be taken care of correctly or you could end up with more problems. Over the years there have been more homes built around the area that need fire protection. We now have Highway 103 that has more traffic than the gravel road which used to be there.

I believe there is a little more training going on now than there was fifty years ago. Today we have CPR training, first responder and EMT training for medical emergencies. We also have fire fighter training for hazardous material and structure fires. Today we have self-contained breathing apparatus so we don't have to breathe all the smoke. The fire trucks today haul a lot more water than years ago, and they pump more.

Before I lose any more weight sweating up here, I'm leaving.

Jeffery Oehm

SOUP SUPPER

As part of their 50th year anniversary celebration, the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department held a soup supper for the community on Saturday, May 16th.

Approximately two hundred people attended the soup supper which had a menu including a choice of chili, chicken noodle, or cheesy-vegetable soup along with a ham sandwich and a choice of dessert. The event proved to be a successful fund raiser through a free will offering and raffles held occasionally throughout the evening.

The firemen were aided through the volunteer efforts of the Middle Creek 4-H club who provided table decorations, served drinks, and cleaned up tables. The 4-H club performs several community pride projects throughout the year as part of their 4-H pledge to serve their community.

Committee: Dale Matthes, chairman, Roger Michaelis and Ernest Krenk Jr.

Dale Matthes



The serving line at the May 16, 1992 Soup Supper.



People of the community enjoying the May 16 Soup Supper.

JUNE 13, 1992 STREET DANCE

Under a star-dotted sky two hundred-fifty to three hundred people attended the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department's traditional summer street dance on June 13, 1992.

The event was the third of six celebration days held during the year as part of the department's 50th anniversary.

An area was sectioned off in front of the firebarn on Ash Street.

The Shady Grove band played country music to a mixed-age crowd.

After the dance, firefighters' wives Audine Oehm and Jolene Zochol served a breakfast of eggs, sausage, toast and coffee to forty-five people.

Members of the street dance committee were: Chairman, Michael Schepers, along with William James and Corey Trease.

Michael Schepers

FIREMEN'S GOLF SCRAMBLE

On July 19, 1992 the fire department held the first of what they hope will become an annual event. The first Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department Golf Scramble was held at Hidden Valley Golf Course. The Tournament was open to firefighters and their guests. It was set up

with six teams of four members each. Due to one late entry and one "no show" there was actually one team of five and one threesome. Ricky Schneider, Bob Upton and I were the committee in charge of this event.

A "scramble" format was used wherein the best shot of the team was used as the starting point for the next shot. The only rules were that you couldn't improve the lie of the ball and the team had to use each member's tee shot at least once during the game. Prizes were given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. An award was given for the LCPS (lowest cost per stroke). The winning team consisted of Harlan Dankers, Jeff Oehm, Eldon Ficke, and Rich Mercer. Taking second were Bob Upton, Larry Lawton, Mike Schepers, Larry French and Mike Miller. Third place went to Dave Ficke, Joel Ficke, Ron Kapke and Duane Burd. The LCPS award was taken home by Clint Thomas, Wes Reil and George Yeakley. After the tournament everyone gathered for refreshments and passing out the prizes. It should be noted that during this gathering the roughs got rougher, trees got higher, shots got longer and the tall tales were unbelievable. The only consensus reached was that everyone wanted to do it again next year.

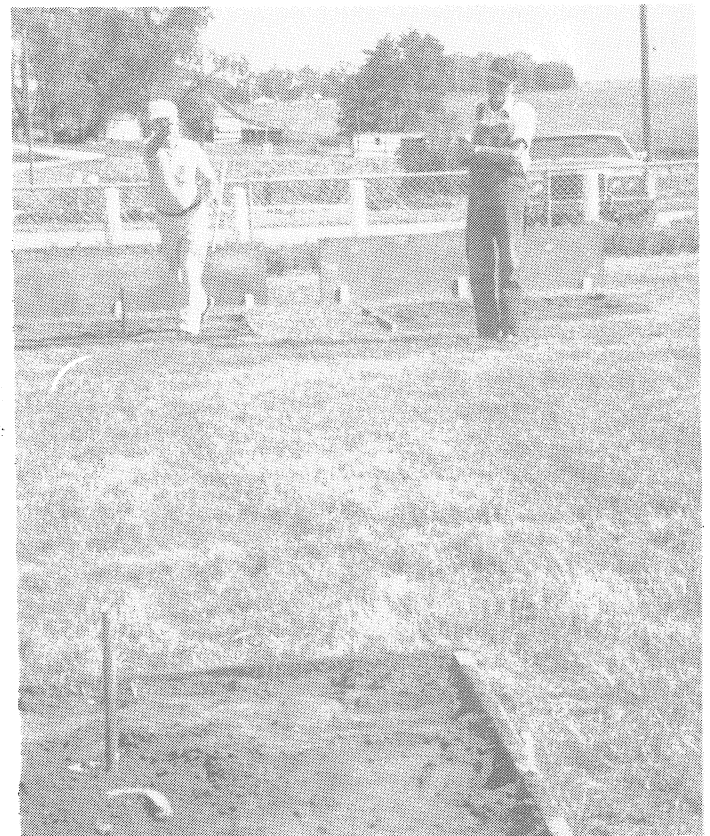
Clinton Thomas

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

The committee for the tournament were Earl Lohmeier and Vernon Lemmert.

Bob Ericksen of Lincoln supervised the tournament and set up the Round Robin schedule for the six players.

To establish the class he was in, each player was required to throw twenty shoes. Out of the twenty shoes, the percentage of ringers was calculated. Players were paired in classes of equal talent. Classes were designated A, B, and C.



Horseshoe Tournament.

The Round Robin was started and continued until they had a winner. A game ended when a player reached thirty points. The tournament continued until a total of five games were played. Scores were then totaled.



Horseshoe Tournament.

One man, Bob Bishop from Lincoln, won every game and received the first-place trophy.

The second place winner, Roy Fern from Lincoln, was 81 years old. He insisted upon throwing from the standard distance, forty feet.

The third place winner was Bob Ericksen.

Doris Lostroh

OTHER AUGUST 15 AND 16 EVENTS

On Saturday several people brought an array of articles for sale at a flea market.

The Middle Creek 4-H club, with Janet Krenk as leader, held a successful bake walk in the park on Sunday.



Flea Market on August 15.



Flea Market on August 15.



Bake Walk in the park.

On Saturday, the Methodist ladies had a food stand in the park, and on Sunday the Lutheran ladies had a food stand in the community building. Both groups served sandwiches and drinks.

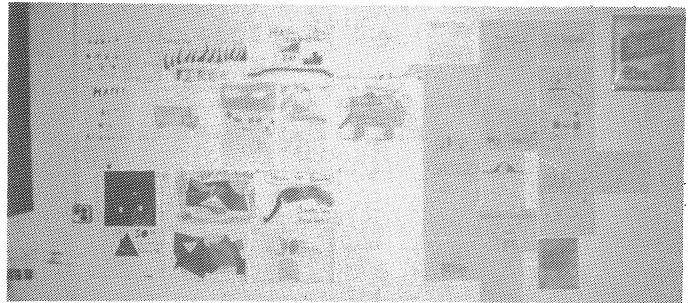
Doris Lostroh

FIRE DEPARTMENT DRAWINGS BY THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

The children of the Pleasant Dale Elementary School, kindergarten through sixth grade, also played a part in the fiftieth year celebration.

In May they were furnished an outline of the history of the fire department, and later they visited the fire barn and saw the present-day trucks and equipment. They then made free-hand drawings of any of the equipment they chose. Some also included the fire barn in their pictures.

These pictures were displayed in the fire barn in August for the public to see during the last days of the celebration.



Drawings by Pleasant Dale elementary school children.



Drawings by Pleasant Dale elementary school children.

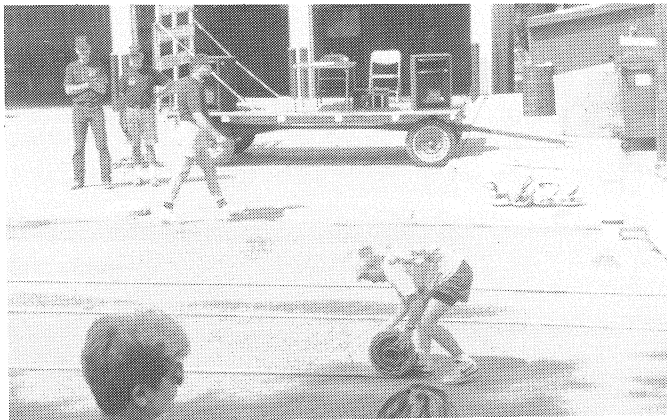
CHILDREN'S COMPETITION ON AUGUST 15, 1992

The children in the community got involved in the festivities Saturday morning when they participated in their own "firefighters' competition". The events were scaled down a bit to accommodate their smaller bodies. The announcer for this event was Vernon Lemmert.

The first timed event was for children ages 9-12, and it was the 1-1/2 in. Hose-Roll Relay. Each team consisted of four people and four hoses, each person rolling up his hose after the person preceding him finished his roll.



Hose-Roll ages 9-13.



Hose-Roll Contest.

The next contest was the Bucket Brigade, with five people on each team, four carrying water and one emptying it into the barrel. Children aged 9-12 used small plastic pails and carried the water from the porta-tank to the barrel 30 feet away. When the barrel held ten gallons, time was up. Children aged 13-16 did the same contest using canvas buckets, each with a hole in the bottom, and filling the barrel to twenty gallons before the time was up.



Preparing for Bucket Brigade. Tom Vance filling the porta-tank.



Bucket Brigade ages 9-12.

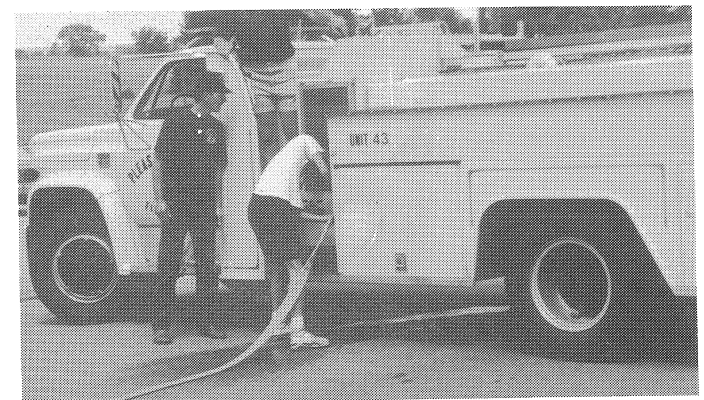


Bucket Brigade ages 9-12.

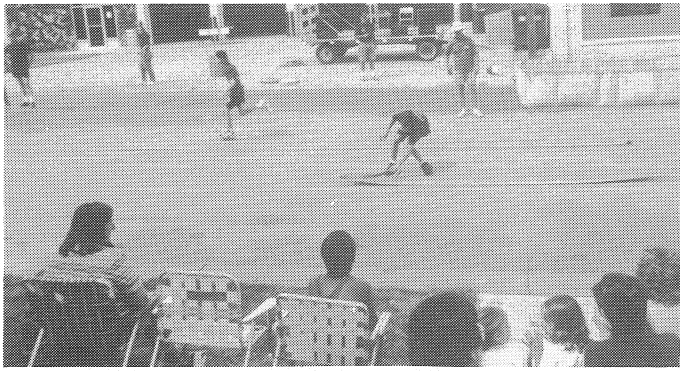


Bucket Brigade using canvas buckets.

During the Hose-Lay and Set-Up, the older children had to set up a hose line and knock a ball off a pedestal with the water stream. There were three people on each team. At the signal to start, one person attached the hose to the fire truck, one connected two hoses together, and the third attached the nozzle to the hose, and then all three lay on the hose and aimed the water stream at the ball. Time was called when the ball was knocked off. They got a little help from Gary Brhel and Tom Vance in connecting the hose to the truck and running the water pump.



Hose-Lay Set-Up. Attaching hose to the tanker, Duane Burd assisting.

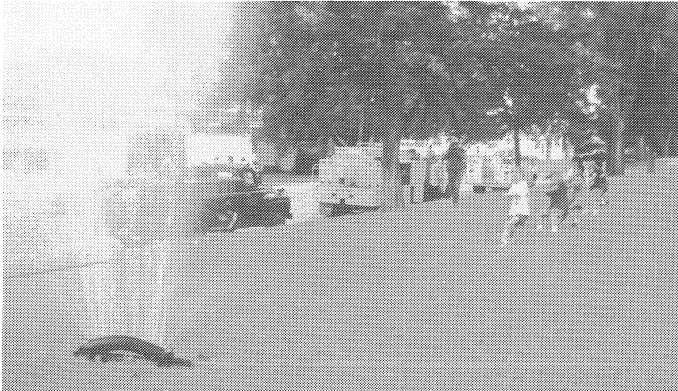


Hose-Lay Set-Up. Ready to attach hose.

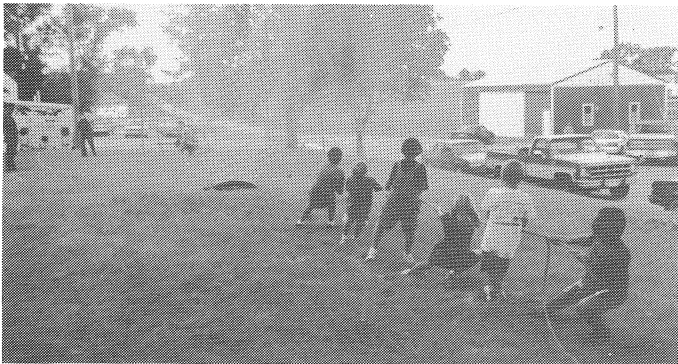


Hose-Lay Set-Up. Nozzleman aiming at the ball.

The Tug-of-War was set-up in the park with six people on each end of the rope. A water screen was the center point, and when one team was pulled into the spray of water, time was up. The losers got a good clean shower.



Tug-of-War ages 9-12.



Tug-of-War ages 9-12.

1st and 2nd place ribbons were awarded to the following teams: Bucket Brigade: ages 9-12 - 1st place- Chuck Fattig, Clayton Busboom, Dustin Ficke, Alyssa Matthes, Clayton Schluckebier. 2nd place- Jennifer Lund, Troy Ficke, Adam Kapke, Jake Schluckebier, Jonathan Piening. Bucket Brigade: ages 13-16 - 1st place- Valerie



Tug-of-War ages 13-16.

Piening, Hank Piening, Daniel Matthes. 2nd place- Andy Burd, Kurt Michaelis, Aaron Burd. Tug-of-War: ages 9-12 - 1st place- Jennifer Lund, Troy Ficke, Becky Busboom, Jake Schluckebier, Jonathan Piening, Adam Kapke. 2nd place- Chuck Fattig, Clayton Busboom, Amy Eidenmiller, Dustin Ficke, Alyssa Matthes, Clayton Schluckebier. Ages 13-16- 1st place- Hank Piening, Kurt Michaelis, Daniel Matthes. 2nd place- Aaron Burd, Andy Burd, Valerie Piening.

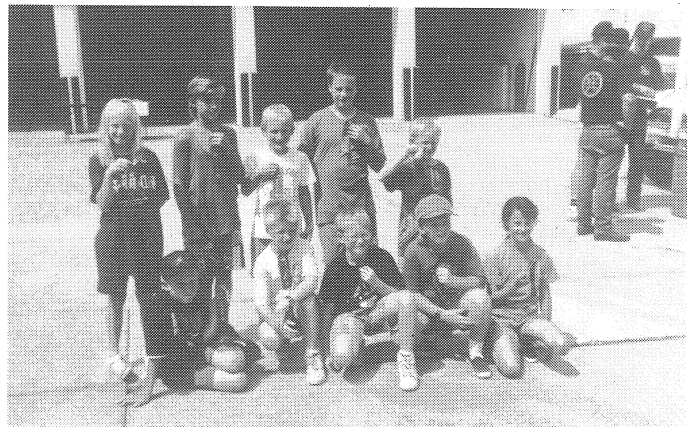
Hose-Roll Relay: ages 9-12 - 1st place- Jennifer Lund, Chuck Fattig, Jake Schluckebier, Adam Kapke. 2nd place- Clayton Schluckebier, John Piening, Alyssa Matthes, Troy Ficke.

Hose-Lay and Set-Up: ages 13-16 - 1st place- Daniel Matthes, Hank Piening, Andy Burd. 2nd place- Valerie Piening, Kurt Michaelis, Aaron Burd.

Lori Cooper, Chairman



Hose-Roll Relay. Blue ribbon winners standing. Red ribbon winners kneeling.



Bucket Brigade ages 9-12. Blue ribbon winners back row. Red ribbon winners front row.



Tug-of-War blue ribbon winners.



Tug-of-War red ribbon winners.



Bucket Brigade ages 13-16. Blue ribbon winners back row. Red ribbon winners front row.



Hose-Lay Set-Up ages 13-16. Blue ribbon winners standing. Red ribbon winners kneeling.



Tug-of-War ages 13-16. First place winners standing. Second place winners kneeling.

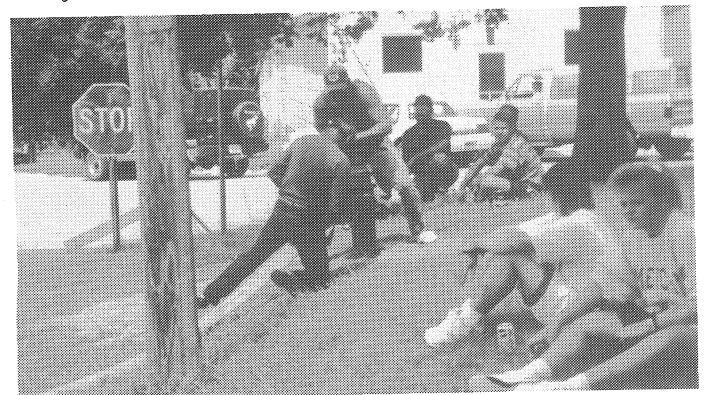
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPETITIONS AT THE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AUGUST 15, 1992

We had a couple of meetings to plan events. Vern Lemmert was helping organize a day with fire departments from surrounding areas invited. Bill Meehan, fire instructor from Southeast Community College, Milford, was asked to help decide on two events: 1. Hose coupling race with a 50 ft. hose and a straight stream nozzle. 2. Bucket brigade race with four buckets and a 25 gallon barrel.

Milford came and brought two teams. Their main reason for wanting to come was to reclaim the trophy that Pleasant Dale won at their water contest a few years earlier. We decided to award three trophies for each contest.

It was a perfect day for the contests, and the participants all seemed to enjoy themselves. Vern Lemmert explained the procedure and the rules and Tom Vance was the announcer for the competition. The fellow organizers were needed to make up the two teams for Pleasant Dale, but we did manage to win first place in the bucket brigade. Milford won the hose coupling race and shot the ball off the pedestal in 15 seconds. There were also women firefighters on both teams. The crowd on hand was entertained by contestants getting water splashed on them.

We used a steering wheel on the hydrant to speed up time, but it was a little too hard for some people to open the valve, so the biggest guys like Ken Minzel and Gary Brhel had to do it.



Hose-Lay Set-Up. Attaching hose to hydrant.



Firefighters' Hose-Lay Set-Up attaching two hoses.



Aiming at the ball.

The Pleasant Dale teams had good luck at the hydrant, but when the water was turned on, the last two men hadn't quite gotten the nozzle started on, and it blew off, drenching the firemen.



Firefighters' Bucket Brigade.



Emptying the canvas bucket.

After the events we coaxed two all-women's teams to try the hose coupling, one from Milford and one from



Ladies' Hose-Lay Set-Up. Pleasant Dale team attaching hose to hydrant and aiming nozzle.



Pleasant Dale ladies' team knocking ball off pedestal.

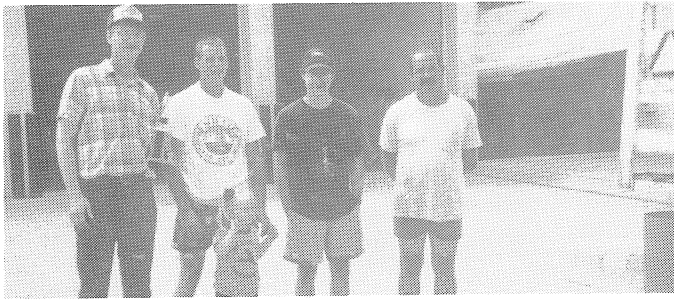
Pleasant Dale. Milford women won with a blue ribbon awarded and Pleasant Dale received a red ribbon.

In organizing the events, I had help from Tom Vance and Gary Brhel who printed and sent out rules and invitations. Darren and Gene Blaser got the trophies and also competed on the winning team.

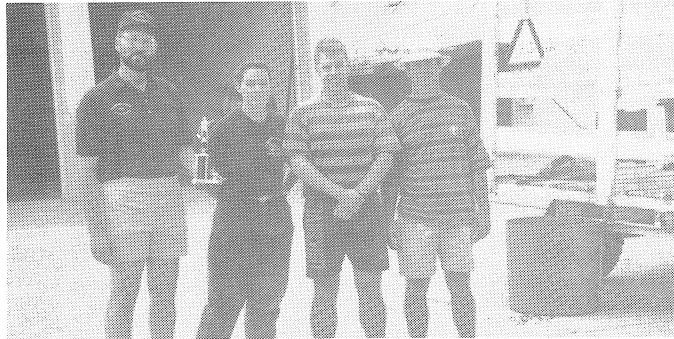
Duane Burd, Chairman



Firefighters' Bucket Brigade winners. Pleasant Dale, first place.



Firefighters' Bucket Brigade winners. Milford, second place.



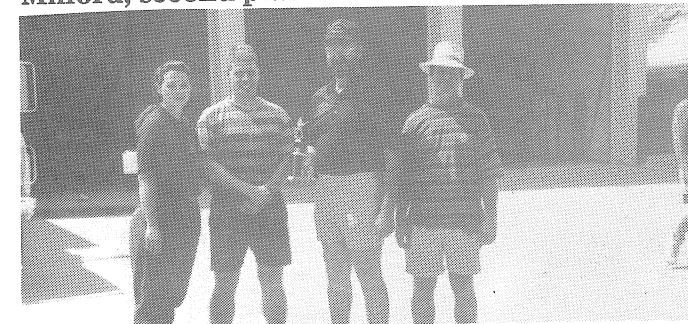
Pleasant Dale, third place.



Hose-Lay Set-Up winners. Milford, first place.



Milford, second place.



Pleasant Dale, third place.



Ladies' Hose-Lay Set-Up. Milford, first place.

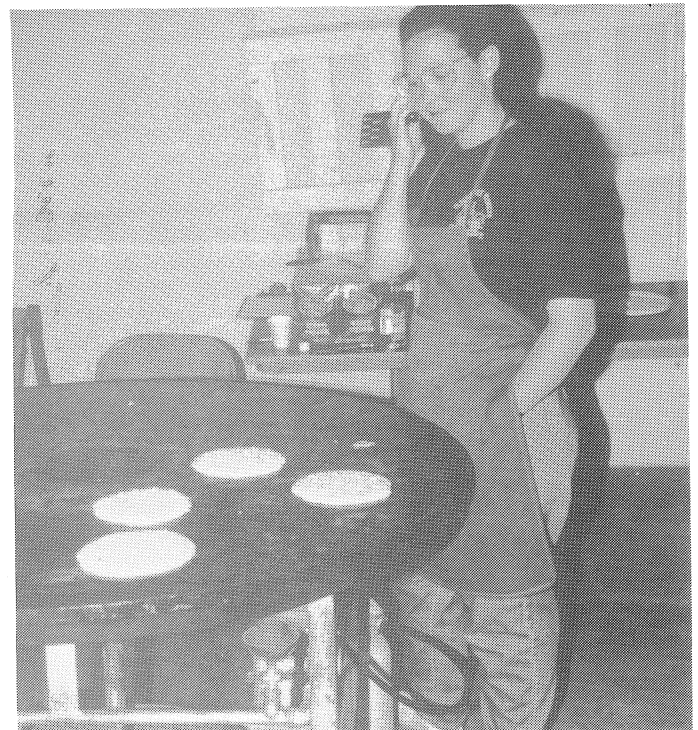


Pleasant Dale, second place.

ANNIVERSARY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On August 16, 1992, the Pleasant Dale Fire Department held a pancake breakfast for the community. The committee in charge of the breakfast consisted of chairman, Clint Thomas, with Harlan Dankers, Ron Kapke, and Ernie Krenk. One hundred seventy-two people were treated to a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and orange juice. In appreciation of the breakfast the community donated \$455.25 in a free will offering.

Clinton Thomas



Pancake Breakfast. Lori Cooper at Griddle.



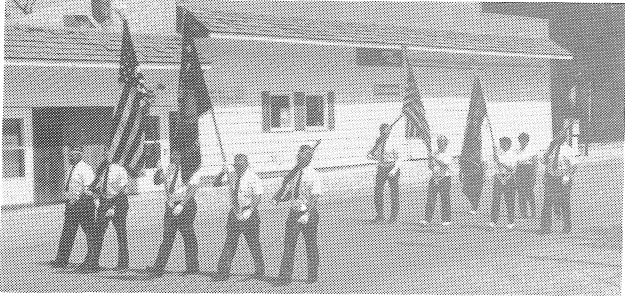
Pancake Breakfast.

PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

One of the highlights of the 50th anniversary celebration was the parade held on August 16th. Parade Chairman Joe Zochol and Rev. Doug Smith organized the event with a variety of entries including floats, fire equipment, and children entertaining those assembled. The announcers for the parade were Doug Smith and Tom Vance.

The parade was led by the American Legion and Auxiliary Honor Guards from Pleasant Dale Post 354. Members presented the American and Nebraska Flags. Marchers for the American Legion were Everett Giles, Eugene Kalkwarf, Vernon Lostroh, Thomas Sieck, and Dean Pillard.

Marchers for the American Legion Auxiliary were Ruth Burd, Darlene Gerner, Kathryn Liesveld and Dorothy Pillard. They were escorted by Legionnaires Landis Borchers and Donald Borgmann.



Pleasant Dale American Legion and Auxiliary Post 354.

The Grand Marshals of the parade, William (Billy) Kapke and George Yank, 1942 members of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department, were escorted by the four units of the department. They rode on the first truck, Unit 43, driven by Clint Thomas. Not riding in the

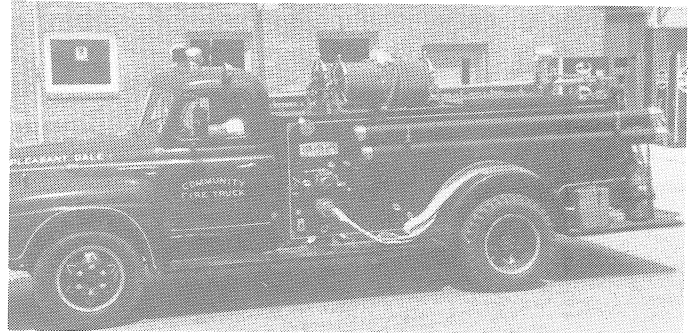


Grand Marshals riding on Unit 43.

parade, but members since 1942 were: Arthur Piening, Elmer Dankers and Walter Van Andel. Next was Unit 42 driven by Larry Lawton, followed by Unit 31 driven by Ron Kapke, and Unit 64 driven by Corey Trease.



Unit 42.



Unit 31.



Unit 64.

Fire departments from surrounding towns brought equipment, new and old, to the parade. The Columbus Volunteer Fire Department came with their 1911 Seagrave Chemical Wagon, the oldest running truck in



1911 Seagrave.

the midwest. Columbus also brought their 1923 Seagrave pumper, bought new by the department and still capable of pumping. Closer to home, the Southwest Fire District, serving Lincoln, Martell, and Denton, was represented by one of their trucks out of the Martell Station #2.

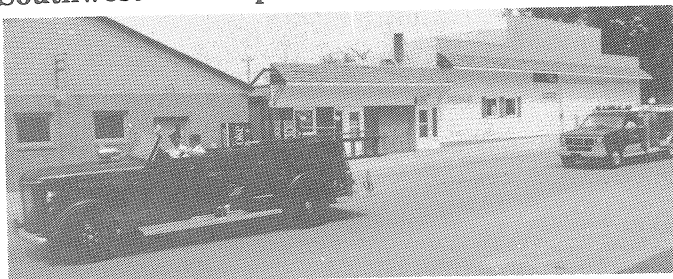
The Crete Volunteer Fire Department represented the old and the new with their 1946 LaFrance pumper/tanker, the first in Saline county. Representing the newest equipment was their new 1992 GMC First Response Vehicle made by Smeal Fire Equipment. The two vehicles represent forty-six years of service.



1923 Seagrave.



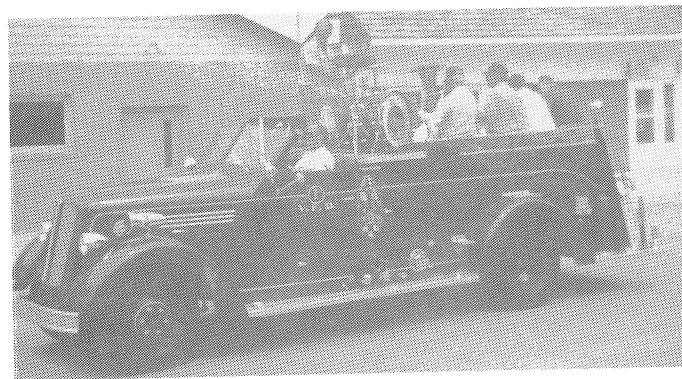
Southwest Fire Department Martell Unit 33.



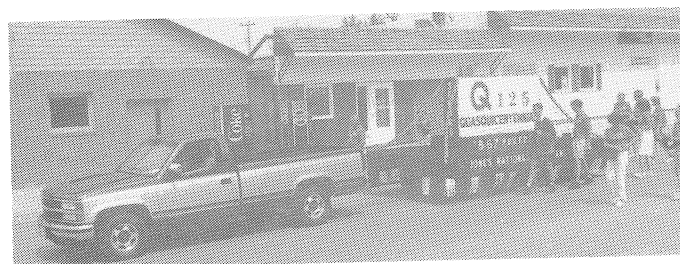
Crete Fire Department 1946 LaFrance, Saline's first pumper tanker followed by Crete Fire Department 1992 G.M.C. First Response Unit.

The Seward Volunteer Fire Department was represented with their 1949 Seagrave firetruck. The crowd was entertained by the Firehouse Five Plus Band which played a variety of music from the back of the truck both during the parade and at the conclusion in front of the reviewing stand. Overall, the fire departments from around the area and as far away as Columbus were well represented with old and new equipment.

Several businesses from the surrounding area participated in the parade. The Jones National Bank from Seward reminded the spectators of Nebraska's Quasi-centennial celebration of 125 years of statehood. Pleasant



Seward 1949 Seagrave.



Jones National Bank float. Bank employees giving free frisbees.



Pleasant Dale Quick-Stop.

Dale businesses, P.D. Quick Stop and Keller's II, promoted their businesses as well as congratulating the fire department on their 50 years of service.



Kellers II.

An important part of the parade were the organizations that participated. The Middle Creek 4-H Club float reminded us of the progress we have made in the last fifty years. The Denton American Legion Post 355, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion lent their support with

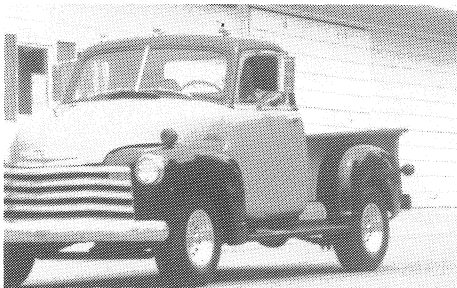


Middle Creek 4-H float.



Denton American Legion Post 355.

a float. The Pleasant Dale Men's Club was represented by Mike Morts.



Pleasant Dale Men's Club.

Two talented groups of young people entertained the spectators of the parade. Deb Bachman's twirlers, The Pleasant Dale Majorettes, ranging in age from five to twelve years, marched through the parade showing their baton talents along the way. Heather Smith's



Pleasant Dale Majorettes ages 5-12.

School of Dance also participated in the parade. These dancers, ages seven to fourteen, entertained the crowd with a hula number, "Hula Baby", complete with hula skirts and leis.



Heather Smith's School of Dance. Dancers age 7-14.

Children were also an important part of the parade. Besides part of the floats and organizations involved, several children brought their own entries. Bryant Geisler and Seth Ossowski from Lincoln, and Dawn and Jimmy Duncan from Pleasant Dale represented the Pleasant Dale Pumpers of the Future. Kurt Brandt showed his support with a float, and Clayton Busboom, driving a garden tractor belonging to his grandfather, Harold Busboom, pulled a float which showed his support for the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program.

Fire chief Adam Kapke and his Dalmation dog, (sister Katie), went through the parade on their fire truck showing the future of the fire department. Hallie Moser of Lincoln showed she was "cuckoo" for the Pleasant Dale Fire Department by dressing up as a cuckoo bird and rode her small bicycle through the parade.



Pleasant Dale Future Firefighters.



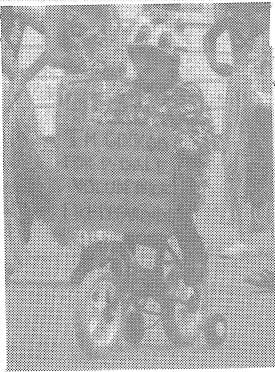
"Pleasant Dale Pumpers of the Future" followed by Fire Chief Adam Kapke with his Dalmation dog (sister Katie) on their fire truck.



D.A.R.E. Van.



Clayton Busboom and his D.A.R.E. float.



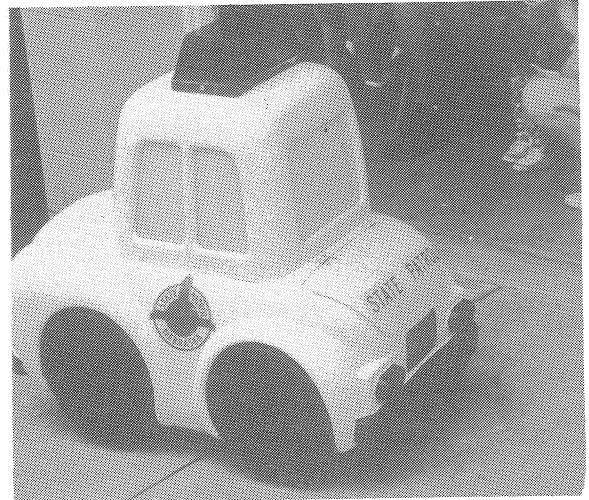
Hollie Moser "Cuckoo for the Pleasant Dale Fire Department".

The parade had a little bit of everything from old and new fire equipment to floats to children. The Seward County Sheriff's Department took part in the parade with their D.A.R.E. van and they entertained adults and children alike with a remote control robot "Dude". The

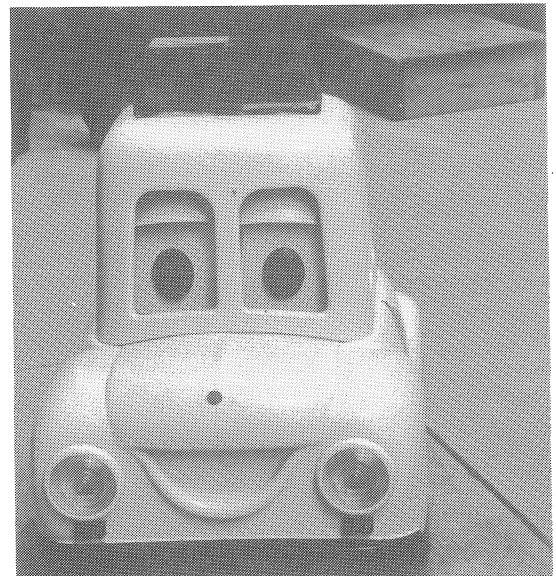


The robot "Dude".

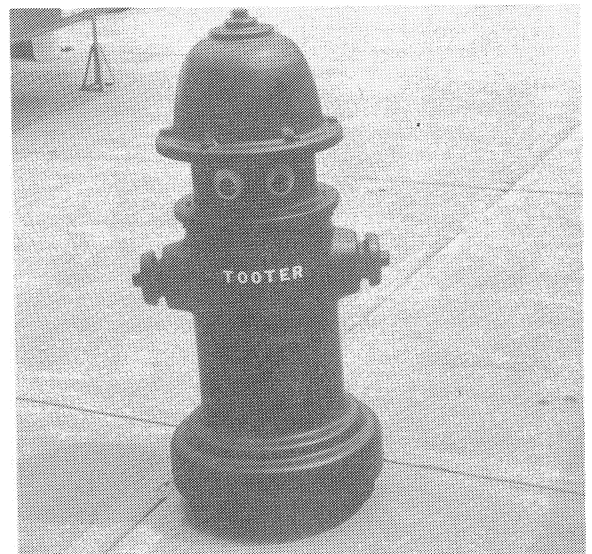
State Patrol had a robot car named "P.C." (Patrol Car). The State Fire Marshal had the fire hydrant robot "Tooter", as well as a van containing a demonstration of a smoke-filled room. The children were particularly interested in the talking fire hydrant and police car.



The robot, "P.C." (Patrol Car).



"Oh, those eyes!"



The robot "Tooter".



Announcers' stand at the parade.



Nebraska State Patrol, State Fire Marshal, Seward County Sheriff's Department vans.

Everyone was entertained by a band and was impressed by the local talent of baton twirlers and dancers. It could easily be said that "a good time was had by all!"

Rev. Douglas Smith

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RAFFLE

A raffle was sponsored by the Pleasant Dale Fire Department and the Pleasant Dale American Legion Post #354.

Tickets were sold at \$1.00 each. The drawing was held between innings of the bunker ball game the evening of August 16. Winners were:

1st prize of \$200.00 Jinny Braunels, Milford
2nd prize of \$75.00 Bonnie Schwaninger, Lincoln
2-3rd prizes of \$50.00 Joan Helter, Pleasant Dale and Roger Schleiger, Lincoln.

2-4th prizes of \$25.00 Chuck Genuchi, Palmyra and Gary Brhel, Pleasant Dale.

Winners of other prizes:

\$10 gift certificate from Shoemakers - Marge Hill, Pleasant Dale.

Pie from Shoemakers - Darlene Gerner, Pleasant Dale.

32 oz. steak from Porky's - Helen Zimmer, Pleasant Dale.

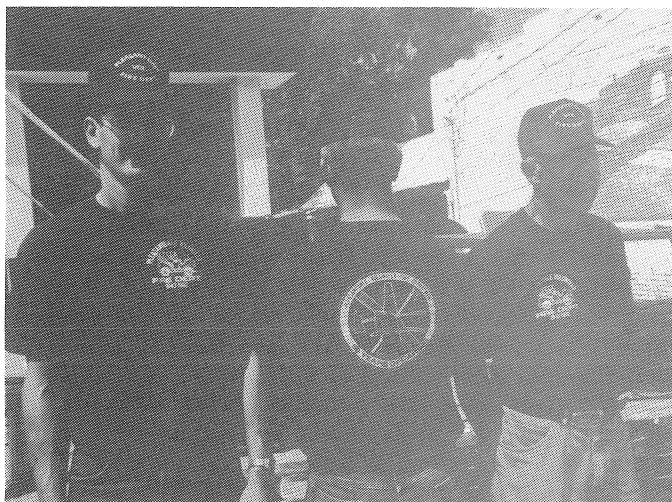
\$10 gift certificate from Keller's - Tom Lutze, Lincoln.

12 piece chicken basket from P.D. Quick Stop - Leslie Keller, Pleasant Dale.

Anthony Liesveld, Chairman
Walter Van Andel

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY T SHIRTS

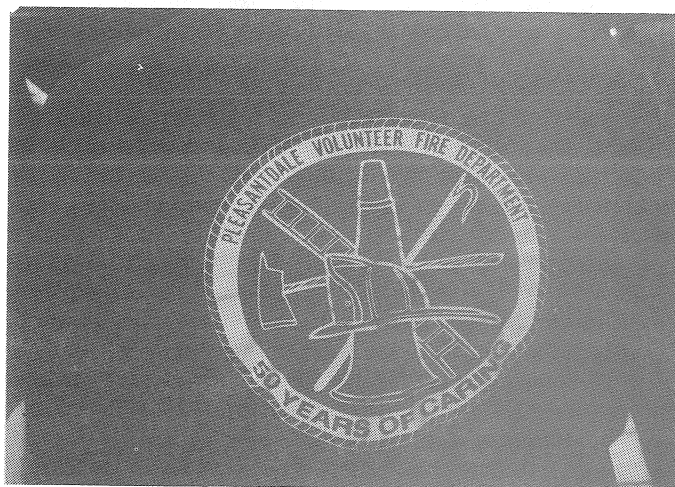
Many red T shirts with the words "PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 1942-1992" on the front and "PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 50 YEARS OF CARING" on the back were worn and being sold on August 15 and 16 at the celebration.



Duane Burd, Tom Vance, Vernon Lemmert wearing their Anniversary Shirts.



Front of the Anniversary T Shirt.



Back of the Anniversary T Shirt.



Part of the crowd at the Anniversary Celebration on August 16.

BUNKER BALL GAME

The last event in the fiftieth anniversary celebration was a bunker ball game between Malcolm and Pleasant Dale on Sunday evening, August 16. The announcer for the game was Tom Vance.

For the first inning, firefighters were required to wear their bunker pants and boots. These were put on by the batter after he hit the ball, and before he could run to first base. For the second inning they wore bunker coats, for the third they wore fire gloves instead of using ball gloves, and for the fourth they wore their helmets with the shields down. The fifth inning was played with both teams in full gear. The game was won by Pleasant Dale.

It was an unusually cool evening, with most spectators wearing jackets. The ball teams were not too uncomfortable in their heavy attire, and they were certainly very entertaining, an appropriate ending to the last day of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary.

Doris Lostroh

JUNE 15, 1992 TORNADO

Two tornadoes out of a single storm cell howled and twisted through Seward County Monday evening, June 15, causing an estimated \$2 to \$3 million in damage to homes, vehicles, farm buildings, equipment, crops and trees. At least 31 farms and acreages in Seward County sustained damage, ranging from torn siding, missing shingles and uprooted trees to total destruction of homes and property. Power poles and lines were knocked down and crops were damaged.

The damage occurred along a stretch of Highway 15 near the Saline/Seward County line and in a band running from three miles southwest of Pleasant Dale nearly straight north to three miles northeast of Garland.

Becky and Marc Tejral, who live three miles southwest of Pleasant Dale, said that three sheds were completely gone and two others were seriously damaged. "Our grain bin is a quarter-mile up the road", Becky said.

Pleasant Dale Fire Chief Jeff Oehm said that ten to fifteen spotters were stationed around the area watching for tornadoes amid the heavy lightning storm. However, when a funnel cloud was spotted, there was no power in the village of Pleasant Dale, and the tornado siren could not be sounded.

When Pleasant Dale's siren failed, fire trucks went up and down the streets sounding their sirens to alert residents, Oehm said. Between that noise and the sound of the tornado, most residents got the message.

Oehm said he saw the funnel cloud with two tails when it was on the ground south of Pleasant Dale, and watched it merge into one.

Among the first to report the tornado on the ground near Pleasant Dale was the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Twenty-four cars in a train of 110 empty cars were derailed by the funnel cloud at about 10:15 P.M. This derailment occurred three-fourth mile west of the Pleasant Dale Co-op elevator. The tornado knocked cars 24 through 47 off the tracks when it struck the west-bound train. Though the railroad's double track main line was blocked for a time, one track was reopened by 2 A.M. Tuesday, and the other by noon. Damage to the track was estimated to be \$3,000 and the estimated damage to the rail cars was \$140,000.

Pleasant Dale was spared the brunt of the storm, although there was minor tree damage.

Damage occurred on the Michelle Essex property, (formerly George Van Andel home), machine sheds were completely demolished at the Amy Merrill farm and at the Randy Pierce farm (formerly Mary and Dora Viets home). One of the original evergreen trees planted in the Pleasant Dale Cemetery over one hundred years ago was damaged, and several tombstones were knocked over. The David and Jeanne (Merrill) Otterman, Eugene Fougeron, and John Lohmeier farms were also hit.

A little farther north, the twister demolished two corn cribs, a large barn, one cattle shed, one machine shed and a garage at the Carol and Larry Schildt home. The tornado took shingles off their house and broke house, garage and car windows. They also lost three dairy cows to the storm. August Schildt, in his house on the same farm, was sitting near his living room window throughout the storm. Just south of the Schildts' farm another farmstead referred to as "the Mook place" lost several buildings, some of which housed equipment owned by the Schildts.

Taken from Seward County Independent and The Lincoln Star

On the evening of June 15, 1992 the Pleasant Dale firefighters were out at their designated areas spotting tornadoes. They spotted a damaging tornado in the Pleasant Dale vicinity. The news media said, "Take cover" because a tornado was located in the Milford area.

About 90% of the stories and pictures for this Firemen's 50th anniversary book "took cover" in our basement with us.

A large amount of tornado damage was only about two miles from our home.

On June 16th the material came upstairs so I could work on it. That evening again the news media said, "Take cover", so again the boxes containing the stories for this book went to our basement.

Mr. Zean Carney came to our home June 18th to pick up the material and take it to his printing shop. As he walked out of the door, he assured Doris Lostroh and me that he would take the material to the basement in case of a tornado!

Joanne Lostroh



Fire Department trucks parked on the street during an event in the fire station.



The Mack Truck Unit No. 42.

THANK YOU FIRE FIGHTERS!

You are a very dedicated group of people who give, and give, and give of your time and talents any time of the day or night. Hot meals are left sitting on your tables, you quickly get up and leave church services, fire meetings, holiday family gatherings, and various other meetings. The combine is left idle in the field as well as the tractor and field equipment. Business people leave their business places when the siren sounds, and you firefighters receive the message on your radios that "Someone" is having an emergency and needs your help. You firefighters are on your way to help her/him immediately!

When the fire department first organized in 1942, members were called only when the public had a fire which was uncontrolled. With the advent of EMT (emergency medical treatment), firefighters are called to many accidents on Interstate 80, Highway 6, and local areas, assisting until an ambulance can reach the scene, and you wait until the ambulance leaves the scene. Medical emergencies which occur in homes in the area bring firefighters to bedsides, giving oxygen and medical assistance while waiting for the ambulance to arrive, and you wait until the ambulance takes those who are ill to the hospital.

Where do you firefighters gain all of this knowledge? It is by attending the monthly local fire department meetings, fire schools, and training sessions for hazardous materials and medical treatment. These meetings are held in various locations - some are close-by and others are over one hundred miles away.

House burns are done to learn the skills required to fight an actual house fire. These are usually scheduled on weekends, possibly on Sundays.

My husband, Melvin, and I do not live in Pleasant Dale fire district, but we are close by. Thank you for assisting us with a fire a number of years ago which would have burned our entire farmstead without the aid of Pleasant Dale and Malcolm volunteer fire departments. During tornado season we feel much safer knowing that you too, are watching the clouds.

I salute you firefighters and your spouses. The spouses and your families are left with the hot meal on the table, family gatherings are interrupted, and that three o'clock in the morning siren which calls you away on a stormy night to an unknown danger leaves your family worrying until you return. They also spend lonesome evenings while you are attending meetings to gain knowledge to become an even better volunteer fire fighter. And for all of these things you do, there is not monetary payment, but instead there is the joy within your hearts knowing you have helped people in their time of need.

How proud the deceased charter members of Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department would be of the department if they could see it today!

Thank you fire fighters and your spouses!

Joanne Lostroh

TO THE FIREFIGHTERS

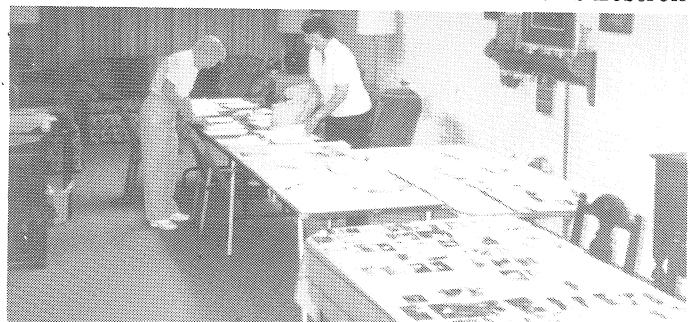
I was both pleased and honored to be asked to help work on your fiftieth anniversary book. I would like to add my praise for the Pleasant Dale Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

I have read all of your record books - truck and equipment maintenance records, minutes of meetings, and fire call records, the first dating back to 1942. They were very interesting and informative. I learned about the origin of the Department, its development, and its business affairs, and I learned some terminology that I had not known before, terms that firefighters use routinely in their work.

Also, I learned that firefighters have to be an intelligent and dedicated group of people in order to accomplish their many tasks. They spend a great deal of time taking courses, attending meetings to learn more advanced and improved methods, and evaluating their own work after calls. This is very time-consuming for people who have full-time jobs and are still willing to keep up the training, as well as to be ready to go on a fire call at any time.

You firefighters deserve much credit, and I hope that this book contains a satisfactory review of your years of working together for our community's protection.

Doris Lostroh



Doris Lostroh and Joanne Lostroh assembling pages of the Anniversary Book.

PLEASANT DALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dear Former Fire Department Member or Spouse of Former Fireman:

In 1992 the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate 50 years of service to Pleasant Dale and the surrounding area. To commemorate this date a 50th Anniversary Celebration has been planned.

DATE: April 4, 1992

LOCATION: Ramada Inn, 2301 NW 12th (I-80 Airport Exit)

TIME: 6:00 p.m. - Social Hour
7:00 p.m. - Buffet Dinner
8:30 p.m. - Dance

Your presence along with your spouse or guest is requested. Please use the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope and the lower portion of this invitation to express your intentions. Your response by March 1, 1992, is appreciated.

The Committee is compiling material to put a history book together. If you have anything to add, such as pictures, stories, etc., please include these along with your RSVP. (Pictures will be returned.)



Doris

Joanne

The material in this book,

"50 YEARS

PLEASANT DALE

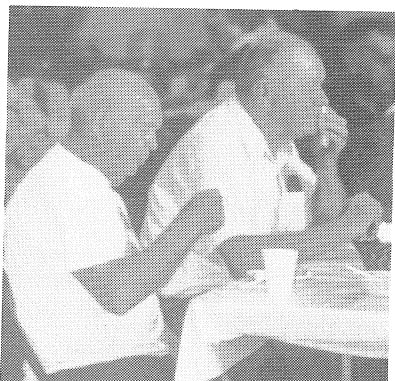
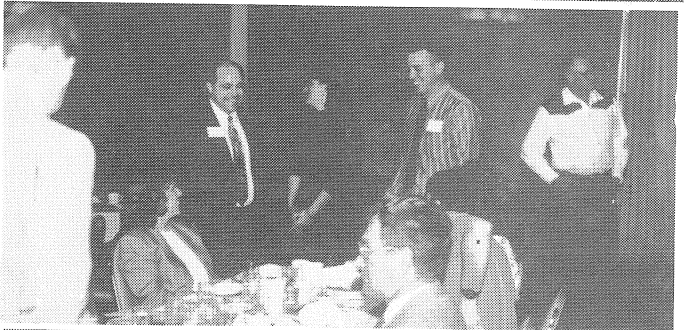
RURAL VOLUNTEER

FIRE DEPARTMENT"

was compiled and edited by

Joanne Lostroh and Doris Lostroh

PICTURES TAKEN AT THE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET APRIL 4, 1992



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