

Ruggles & Troy Townships Volunteer Fire Department Nova, Ohio

One would assume that in very early times neighbors would respond to help one another in any emergency and in all probability was the situation in this area. A newspaper clipping from the 1920's:

Nova organized a Fire Company last week with the following officers present: Pres. Pleasant Phillips; Vice Pres. Leon Pixley; Secy. J. L. Bruder; Treas. Carl Motter; chief R. Krebs; Cap. Charles Heath; 1st Lt. Addie Biddinger; 2nd Lt. Sid Motter; 1st and 2nd Ladder Men Earl Kiplinger and A. S. Smith. This company is organized under the laws of Ohio and through the advice of an Ashland lawyer.

There was purchased by public subscription a 2-wheeled cart with a 40 gal. soda-acid type extinguisher with 100' of soft hose and an extension ladder long enough to reach the roof of the Town Hall and the two churches. This equipment was stored in the basement of the Town Hall. We have learned from the older residents that after pulling, usually with a Model T Ford pick-up truck, or pushing it by hand to the location the extinguisher would not function. This was deemed as inadequate protection and professional protection was secured from the New London Fire Department as was the situation for many years.

The present Ruggles & Troy Townships Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1956 with the Nova Lions Club taking the initiative to notify the residents of the area of a meeting held in the Town Hall with Robert Cole serving as the moderator and Harold Bechtel recording the proceedings.

The response to this meeting was very enthusiastic resulting in the election of Robert A. Cole president, Delmar Rife chief, and Charles Keith assistant chief. Equipment Committee: Delmar Rife, chairman; Carlton Willard, William Frazier, Carl Fast, C. B. (Bud) Morris. Finance Committee: Franklin Wamack, chairman; Alpha Riddle, E. A. Eaton, Andrew Lacy, Lloyd Carpenter. Building Committee: John F. Romine, chairman; Donald Biddinger, Lloyd Rife, Donald Crist, Charles Keith. Legislative Committee: Lois Fox, chairman; Freda Baker, Evelyn Marquette, Cloyd Smith, Howard Stentz. Reporter: Don V. S. Biddinger. Rule Committee: DeVere Thudium.

After much discussion the "Hart" garage was purchased to house the equipment and many hours of love, labor and much of the needed supplies were donated to make this a reality. We are still at this location of State Route 511 just south of the intersection of U.S. 224.

The original equipment consisting of a new International pumper and a used Dodge chassis with a fuel tank as a tanker. Our initial cost of the two pieces of equipment and the building was paid for by a bond issue of \$20,000.00.

The first Trade and Industrial Training was in 1956 with the following names appearing on the

certificate: Howard B. Andrews; Richard C. Andrews; Jack Austin; *Joseph W. Austin; *Donald J. Biddinger; Wendell Biddinger; Richard Bowerize; Ralph A. bright; Edwin Carpenter; *George Clouser; *Robert Cole; John E. Cook; Gary Fagert; *Wm. H. Fagert; *Herschel C. Fulk; *Richard Fox; David Heitzman; * Kenneth Haberman; Charles W. Keith; Leo Lautzenhiser; *Richard Lautzenhiser; George Linhoss; *Duane McBride; Norman McClafflin; *Chester Middling; *Delmar C. Rife; *H. P. Riffle; Bob Ritter; *Richard Robertson; *John F. Romine; *Roy Ropp; C. W. Stuart; *DeVere Thudium; Franklin Wamack; *George Willard; Carlton Willard; George Yenni.

*Those marked are still active in the department.

When the Department was formed in 1956 we answered 1 car, 1 house and two barn fires.

The Department has added four pieces of equipment since it's organization:

#3 – a tanker pumper built by the members at a cost of \$2,592.33

#5 - a four-wheel drive unit for grass fires – cost \$2,291.27

#6 – a rescue vehicle to haul the necessary equipment necessary to cope with the increasing emergencies – cost \$1,765.50

#2 – a stainless steel tanker to replace the original #2 tanker which had served the department for many years – cost \$11,804.14

We have 3,900 gallon of water on rubber ready to toll when needed.

An Auxiliary was organized in 1970 and adopted the name of "Cool Flames". There are twenty-four members: Ruth Austin, Frances Brown, Yvonne Daniels, Lois Fox, Mary Fox, Mildred Finch, Donna Gern, Annette Lautzenhiser, Diana Massie, Irene Runkle, Mildred Romine, Jan Schneider, Maxine McBride, Rita White, Gladys Thomas, Carolyn Yenni, Alice Muck, Dorothy McConnell, Dorothy Hip, Pat Canfield, Evelyn Crow, Virginia Wenger, Helen Biddinger, Ann Cole. They are a great asset to the fire department by serving delicious coffee and food when needed at larger fires.

Their many projects permit them to purchase needed equipment for the service of their community.

The junior Auxiliary "Cool Sparks" was started in 1975. Members are: Cindy Brown, Gloria Brown, Jodi Yenni, Kathi Yenni, Susie Schneider, Terri Daniels.

The rescue squad was formed in May 1971 and squad training taken that same year. The aforementioned rescue vehicle was purchased in March 1973.

In 1974 we answered three barn, four house, and three vehicle, 1 garage and eight grass fires. Also 1 accident, two squad calls, one honest mistake, one false alarm and 1 storm watch.

Since the original trade and industrial training we have had advanced training in 1964 and 1967 plus participation in many regional fire schools.

Major fires or disaster in our area include a fire car/truck accident in which a father and two small

children perished. The Jacobs foundry fire had the greatest monetary loss. Disasters include the July 4 flood of 1969 and assistance to Savannah in 1973 when a tornado touched down in that area.

The annual Firemens Carnival is held the first part of August featuring a smorgasbord supper on Saturday evening. This annual event also serves as a homecoming for the residents to return each year for this occasion.

1975 Officers

Chief – Robert A. Cole

Assistant Chief – Delmar C. Rife

Captain-Joseph Austin

1st Lt.-Alvin (Wimp) Wenger

2nd Lt.-Ralph E. Smith

President-Richard Leutzenhiser

Vice President-Walter Runkle

Secretary-Phillip Schneiter

Treasurer-E. Roger McConnell

Firemen	Jerry Rife	Burrett Brubaker
	James Hawley	George Clouser
	Kenneth Long	George May
	Lawrence Gosser	George Willard
	Basil Gill	Kenneth Robertson
	Arthur Walter	Richard Robertson
	William Lehling	Robert Stanfield
	Homer Wilson	Wayne Hawley
	Robert Daniels	William Brown
	H. C. Fulk	Donald Robertson
	David Brown	Kenneth Thomas
	Richard Yenni	Lloyd Carpenter
	Ted Conley	Jeffrey Brown
	Phillip Bohland	Donald J. Biddinger
	Willard Smith	John F. Romine
	Keith Frymier	Gerald Dietrich
	Richard Fox	Joseph Yenni
	DeVere Thudium	Kenneth Soact
	Gary Smith	William Fagert
	H.P. Riffle	Roy Repp
	Duane McBride	Chester Middling
	Terry Bohland	Kenneth Drushell
	Dean White	