SLINGER FIRE DEPT.


The Schlesinger Fire Department adopted its constitution and by-laws at a meeting on July 23, 1912, presided over by Theodore Koenigs, temporary chairman, Ben Klug, secretary, and John Miller, treasurer. Officers elected in February, 1913, were Fred Eggert, chief, Ben Klug, secretary, and John Miller, treasurer. At this time the Village Board appropriated $50.00 annually for the maintenance of the fire department.

In March, 1913 Albert Thiel was elected Secretary to fill the unexpired term of Ben Klug. The previous Constitution and By-Laws were declared null and void and a committee was appointed to draw up a new Constitution and By-laws, which were adopted at the May 3, 1913 meeting.

On May 3, 1914 the firemen moved the fire bell from the engine house to the Village Hall tower.

Five fire alarms were turned in during the year 1914, four within the village limits. In 1915 the firemen responded to two fires, and in 1916, one. In comparison, the fire department responded to thirty-seven fires in 1968.

A hose truck was purchased from the West Allis Fire Dept. in May, 1916 for $25.00, and new ladders were purchased in February, 1917 for $150.00. In March of 1918 a hook and ladder truck was purchased for $225.00. New fire hose was purchased in 1922 (400 feet) and three new hydrants were placed in 1923. The electric siren was received in 1926 at a cost of $600.00. In 1933 hats were purchased at a cost of $1.25 per hat. Hats purchased in 1968 cost $4.95 per hat. In 1935 a new truck was purchased with a total price of $2,656.77. Throughout the years many pieces of equipment have been added to add to the efficiency of the department. The latest purchase is a Ford Pumper truck received in March, 1969. The truck is equipped with a John Bean Hi-Pressure Fog Pump and a Volume Pump. The unit, when fully equipped, will cost approximately $26,000.00.

Oscar Thiel was elected Chief in January of 1930. John Feutz took over as acting Chief in November, 1930, and was Fire Chief until January, 1947. At that time, Roland Miller was elected Chief, and remained so until his retirement from the Department in 1965.

Oscar Kratz served as Secretary of the Department from June, 1938 until November, 1962. He retired from the Department in 1964.

The present Fire Chief, Cy Wolf joined the department in April, 1953. He was elected Chief in 1965. Assistant Chief Al Kohl joined the Department in February, 1957, and was elected to his position in 1965.

The current secretarial position is held by Ralph Wolf, and Russell Schauer is Treasurer.

The Department at present has 42 active members and 17 honorary members.
In the year 1893 a number of volunteer firemen from Cedarburg and other departments met with their brother firemen in West Bend. It was in the summer time, and the men met socially with the idea of exchanging information on the present equipment, etc., how to improve the methods of fire fighting, etc.

This was the beginning of the Association, which was to be called the Washington-Ozaukee Firemen’s Assoc.

It was decided at this meeting that departments be invited to attend another meeting to be held in West Bend in the fall of 1894. The meeting was held in West Bend on Oct. 3, 1894, when it was definitely decided to call the organization the Washington-Ozaukee Firemen’s Assoc. Later it was changed to add North Milwaukee to the title, and still later on to the then title of that of Waukesha. In the year 1906 the name of the organization was voted to be that of the present day, “The Badger Firemen’s Assoc.”

No definite minutes or proceedings are available due to the fact that they are missing. The information herewith printed was gathered mostly from the words of the old-timers.

The first available record of officers as found in the book was shown at a meeting held at Jackson in Sept. 1896. Officers elected were: Wm. H. Fitzgerald, Cedarburg, pres.; Wm. H. Froelich, Jackson, sec.; F. Hill Hartford, vice-pres.; Peter Klumb, West Bend, treas. The first constitution and by-laws were adopted the year previous in 1895.

The very first picnic and convention was voted to the Cedarburg Department, held on June 16, 1895. Then it was followed by Hartford in 1896, Jackson in 1897, Kewaskum in 1898, Grafton in 1899, Slinger in 1912, West Bend in 1901. Prizes for the various events were generally donated by local businessmen, such as merchandise, cash or a small trophy.

Some of the old-timers we could mention are John Armbruster and Wm. P. Jochem of Cedarburg; Chas. Moser and Phil Zimmerman of West Bend; M. Kostermann and Geo. Mueller of Hartford; H. W. Krahm and N.J. Mertes of Kewaskum; H. Froelich and Peter Gumm of Jackson; F. E. Bar and E. Hauser of Menomonee Falls; W. Weber and C.C. Doctor of Grafton; Jos. Rosenheimer and Val Fischer of Slinger. Space doesn’t allow the mention of many others.

The object of the Assoc. at the time it was organized was the cultivation of fraternal fellowship between the different departments and the promotion of the best interest of the five companies, the collection of information concerning the merits and practical workings of the different kinds of apparatus in use, merits suitable to their present conditions. It was a mighty hard struggle and hardship to keep any of the volunteer departments in good quarters and in the equipment they so much desired, in order to give their community some kind of protection from fire and other hazards.

A little progress was made in the Assoc. when the Hon. Barney S. Potter, Assemblyman from Wash. County procured a state aid in 1905 of $75. Gradually as the years went by the appropriations from the state increased and a trophy purchased from time to time.

In the year 1901, the late John Armbruster was elected sec. at the October meeting at Jackson. He served until his death in 1930, when he was succeeded by his son George, who has served up to 1960 in the capacity of sec.-treas.

George Kuehlthau of West Bend attended many prior meetings in his younger days and was elected as vice-pres. October, 1916, then elected pres. in 1917, and re-elected up to the year 1935. John Feutz was elected pres. in October, 1935 and in the same capacity to 1960. John was the chief of the Slinger Fire Department for many years. Ernest Schneider often attended the annual meetings and took part in the contests in the early 1900’s. He was finally elected vice-pres. in October 1921, re-elected yearly to 1960.

Among the old time officers we might mention Fr. Schoenbeck, George Mueller, Jos. Rosenheimer, Frank Tibborsky, E. T. Bluett, Henery Blank, Adam Held, O.F. Hogge, John Klumb, August Ploeger, George P. Boden, Wm. Weber, Frank Schwalbach, John P. Gehl, Chas A. Sauer, John A. Strack, etc.

1954 — 1969 Highlights

1954 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. held its annual meeting on Oct. 31, 1954, at Slinger, Wis. The officers were John Feutz, pres.; E.E. Schneider, vice-pres.; George Armbruster, sec.-treas. The speaker for the event was James Mohr, chief of the Milwaukee Fire Dept. 1955. The Badger Fireman’s Assoc. held its spring meeting at Menomonee Falls on March 20, 1955. The annual tournament was held in West Bend and the spring meeting at Cedarburg on Oct. 30, 1955. The pres. was John Feutz; vice-pres.; E. E. Schneider; sec.-treas.; George Armbruster; and Allen Bruederle, Pro Tem.

1956 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. started a new event with the Assoc. Bowling Tournament at Barton, Wis. The spring meeting was held at Menomonie Falls on March 18, 1956, and the tournament at Waubeka, Wis. The annual meeting was held at Boltonville on Oct. 28, 1956, with pres. John Feutz and Vice-Pres. E. E. Schneider present. This was the year the Assoc. lost one of the officers who had given many years of service to it. George Armbruster, who was sec.-treas., had passed away. Germantown F. D. showed plans for its new station.

1957 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. started with a new pres., Carl Peters; vice-pres., Ervin Arndt; and sec.-treas.; Allen Bruederle. The spring meeting was held at Random Lake on March 10, 1957, and a new aerial ladder was shown. The bowling tournament was held in Menomonee Falls and the tournament at Newburg. The annual meeting was held at Germantown on Oct. 27, 1957.

1958 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. started off 1958 with a bowling tournament at Grafton. The spring meeting at Random Lake on March 23, 1958 with the following officers: Pres. Carl Peters, Vice-Pres. Erwin Arndt and Sec.-treas., Allen Bruederle. The tournament was held in Mequon and the annual meeting at Newburg on Oct. 25, 1958. On hand was Wm. E. Clark who talked on the state of Wisconsin’s fire service training program which had just started in our state.

1959 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. started with Erwin Arndt as pres., H. Schaeffer as vice-pres., and Allen Bruederle as sec.-treas. The bowling tournament was held at Slinger. The spring meeting at Grafton on April 12, 1959, and the summer tournament at Barton. The annual meeting was held at Kewaskum Oct. 25, 1959.

1960 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. had the following events in 1960. The bowling tournament at Thiensville, spring meeting at Grafton on April 3, 1960, tournament at Random Lake and the annual meeting at Belgium on Oct. 30, 1960. The officers for the year were H. Schaeffer, Pres., P. Schneider, Vice-pres., and Allen Bruederle, sec.-treas.

1961 - The Badger Firemen’s Assoc. tournament winners went to the state fair this year to compete with winners from all over the state. Pres. P. Schaeffer, Vice-Pres. J. Riehle and Sec.-Treas. Allen Bruederle ran the
CONGRATULATIONS FROM

GRAFTON FIRE DEPT.
GRAFTON, WIS.

ANNUAL PICNIC
JULY 26-27, 1969
SPONSORED BY

RANDOM LAKE FIRE DEPT.

CEDARBURG FIRE DEPT.
SPONSORS OF
CEDARBURG'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

BEST WISHES FROM

BELGIUM FIRE DEPT. INC.
BELGIUM, WIS.

COMPLIMENTS OF

NEWBurg FIRE DEPT.
NEWBurg, WIS.

COMPLIMENTS OF

WEST BEND FIRE DEPT.
WEST BEND, WIS.

BEST WISHES TO SLINGER FIREMEN
FOR A SUCCESSFUL CENTENNIAL
AND FIREMEN'S TOURNAMENT

FROM

KEWASKUM FIRE DEPT.

HAPPY ANNIV. SLINGER FROM

FREDONIA FIRE DEPT.
FREDONIA, WIS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congratulations SLAGER ON YOUR 100th ANNIVERSARY</th>
<th>COMPLIMENTS OF PORT WASHINGTON FIRE DEPT. PORT WASHINGTON, WIS.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROM GERMANTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.</td>
<td>ANNUAL PICNIC JULY 18 - 19 - 20, 1969 THIENSCVILLE VOL. FIRE DEPT. WATERFIGHTS - FIREWORKS - SKYDIVING - BIG RIDES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST WISHES FROM WAUBEKA FIRE DEPT. WAUBEKA, WIS.</td>
<td>CONGRATULATIONS FROM CAMPBELLSPORT VOL. FIRE DEPT. CAMPBELLSPORT, WIS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIMENTS OF BOLTONVILLE FIRE DEPT. BOLTONVILLE, WIS.</td>
<td>GOOD LUCK SLAGER FROM FILLMORE FIRE DEPT. RT. 6, WEST BEND, WIS.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VILLAGE OF MENOMONEE FALLS VOL. FIRE DEPT. DIAMOND JUBILEE 1894 - 75 YRS. - 1969 MENOMONEE FALLS, WIS.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Saturday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m.  Drawing at 6:30 p.m.  
Prize Parade at 1 p.m.  Sharp on Sunday, June 29
Contests to Follow Immediately

CONTEST NO. 1 — RELAY COUPLING RACES
Team: Four Men (only one team from each participating department).

Two men each on scratch lines 200 ft. apart.  First man carries a nozzle to man on other line who in turn relays the nozzle to third man 200 ft. away who runs to fourth man who also runs the distance.  Runner is not to leave line until the nozzle has been delivered into his hands.  Last runner drops nozzle and dresses with coat, boots and helmet before breaking coupling and turning on nozzle.

The proper rules will be given the night of the contest.  Contest to be judged on elapsed time.

Prizes:  (1) Trophy, (2) $10.00, (3) $8.00 (4) $6.00, (5) $4.00.

CONTEST NO. 2 — GAS MASK RESCUE (Self-contained Demand Masks)
(Each participating department to furnish their own masks if possible.)  (Masks will be furnished by host department on request.)

Team: Two men from each participating department.

Lay-Out:  Building mockup shall be laid out 16 ft. square partitioned in the center with a door opening at one end.  A live victim shall be placed on a cot.  Obstacles such as chairs, tables and other furniture or suitable articles shall be placed in this enclosure to simulate conditions that would be encountered at a fire.

Problem:  It is assumed that the building is heavily charged with smoke and that a search must be made to remove the victim.

Procedure:  Two men, dressed in full protective clothing, coat, boots, helmet, gloves, with mask on and in operation, but the viewing lenses completely blocked out with an opaque material, shall stand outside the door of the simulated building.  At the go signal they shall enter the building, through the door, and proceed to the victim, and bring him to the outside through the same door, in the proper manner.  Time shall start with the go signal and shall stop when the contestants are again out of the door.  Contestants will be judged on (1) proper handling of the victim, (2) proper search procedure and (3) time.  Judging will be on a point system.  (10 down for each category handling, search, and time.)

Winners will be the team with the most combined points.  Proper rules will be given the night of the contest.

Prizes:  (1) Trophy, (2) $10.00, (3) $8.00, (4) $6.00, (5) $4.00.

CONTEST NO. 3 — INDIVIDUAL BUCKET & LADDER CLIMBING

No more than three men to be entered from participating departments.

Each department to furnish their own ladder men.  Starting line shall be 100 ft. from base of raised ladder which will be held by 6 men at an angle of more than 60 degrees.  Barrel of water to be placed 10 ft. from ladder.  Contestants must fill bucket and carry it to the top.  Time will be called when he touches the top rung.  At least one gallon of water must remain in the bucket.  Failure to touch the bottom rung will cost 1 demerit, less than 1 gallon in bucket will cost 2 demerits.

Prizes:  (1) Trophy, (2) $10.00, (3) $8.00, (4) $6.00, (5) $4.00.

NOTE:  All contestants for any contest are asked to furnish their own coats, helmets, boots if possible.  However, these items will be furnished by host department if requested.  Any department entering at least two of the three contests will receive a $5.00 minimum for entering.

TOURNAMENT CONTEST RULES
will be held
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>CHIEF</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allenton</td>
<td>Allen Konrath</td>
<td>Allenton, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>George Lanser</td>
<td>817 Main St., Belgium, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boltonville</td>
<td>Elmer Belger</td>
<td>R.R. Kewaskum, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Deer</td>
<td>Lt. Ralph Moeller</td>
<td>Brown Deer, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbellsport</td>
<td>Lester Butschlich</td>
<td>Campbellsport, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedarburg</td>
<td>Wm. G. Rilter</td>
<td>603 N. 3rd, Cedarburg, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fillmore</td>
<td>Carl Hauch</td>
<td>R.R. 1 Fredonia, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fredonia</td>
<td>Paul G. Meyer</td>
<td>Fredonia, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germantown</td>
<td>Harold Schoetzel</td>
<td>R.R. 1 Germantown, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td>Francis Sievers</td>
<td>1919 Rochelle Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grafton</td>
<td>Carl Wegner</td>
<td>1516 12th Ave., Grafton, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Lyle Butzke</td>
<td>Jackson, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kewaskum</td>
<td>Armin Opperman</td>
<td>Kewaskum, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menomonee Falls</td>
<td>Alfred Arnold</td>
<td>N88W16044 Park Blvd., Menomonee Falls, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mequon</td>
<td>Manfred Sperber</td>
<td>10839 N. Sherwood Dr., Mequon, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburg</td>
<td>Milton Wilkens</td>
<td>Newburg, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Washington</td>
<td>Leo Bruecher</td>
<td>504 N. Wis., Port Washington, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random Lake</td>
<td>Erwin Arndt</td>
<td>Random Lake, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saukville</td>
<td>Paul Albinger</td>
<td>Saukville, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slinger</td>
<td>Cy Wolf</td>
<td>Slinger, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thiensville</td>
<td>John Helm, Jr.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 94, Thiensville, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waubeka</td>
<td>Ralph Maechtle</td>
<td>Waubeka, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bend</td>
<td>Wm. G. Oelhafen</td>
<td>Fire &amp; Police Station, West Bend, Wis.</td>
</tr>
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