

# SLINGER FIRE DEPARTMENT

By: David Retzlaff

The Schleisingerville Fire Department was formed on July 20, 1888 and adopted its Constitution and By-Laws on July 23, 1912. A hose truck was purchased from the West Allis Fire Department in May of 1916 for \$25.00, and a new ladder truck for \$225.00 in March of 1918.



11.14A SFD Children pulling Schleisingerville's fire pumper through the main intersection around 1900. This was the same pumper that would later be restored by Ed and Norman Klefft.



2.2 JS Schleisingerville Fire Department. Circa 1910. Left to right, front row; Red Klefft, Anton Katzfey, Ed Duehning, Sr., John Basler, John Kippenhan, Arnold Wicker Back row; Fred Egger, Alex Rosenheimer Charlie Storck, Gust Meister, Albert Thiel, Sr., William Tolzman, Al Leverance, Ted Kohl, Frank Ganns, John Miller, Ferdinand Mergenthaler, Otto Bartelt, Henry Wenzel, and Dr. Alvin Klefft.

In March of 1969, the department purchased a Ford pumper equipped with a John Beam Hi-pressure fog and volume pump. The unit cost approximately \$26,000, when fully equipped. The truck is still used by the department today.

The Slinger Fire Department consists of 42 active volunteers and 91 honorary members with Bob Schaefer serving as chief. On the average, they respond to between 55 and 65 calls per year and cover 25 square miles.

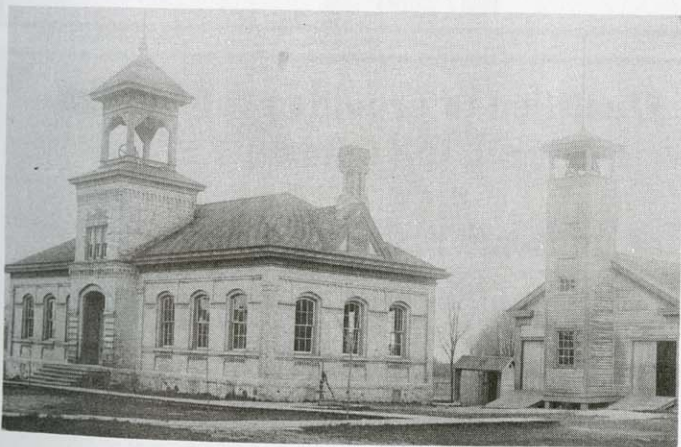
The current fleet consists of:

1. 1972 Sutphen Aerial Tower powered by a 365 horsepower Cummins Diesel and outfitted with a Hale 1500 gpm single stage pump and an 85' ladder.
2. 1989 GMC 1 ton 4x4 grass fighter and command unit with a 200 gallon John Beam slide on the unit.
3. 1986 IHC with a Welch "Equalizer" 3000 gallon tanker.
4. 1980 Oshkosh pumper with a 1250 gpm 3 stage pump and a Welch body.
5. 1974 Ford equipment truck.
6. 1993 Freightliner 1700 gallon tander with 2 side dumps and one back dump.

The department members are dispatched through the Washington County Sheriff's Department paging system. The revenues are generated through contracts with the Village of Slinger and the Townships of Polk and West Bend.

In 1982, the department built a new station. The building can house up to 8 trucks and has a hose tower capable of drying about 1900 feet of hose at a time. The building also serves as the offices for the chief, his officers and various committees. It also contains a conference room, communications room, meeting room, tool room and a SCAB maintenance room.

The department uses Life Guard personal distress devices on all SCBA units. It also has an incident preplan committee that meets once a month.



5.20 MS Slinger's grade school built in 1885 to replace a log school that had been built in 1861. This building was razed in 1982 to make way for a new fire station. On the right is Slinger's first fire house.

In May of 1921, the Schleisingerville Fire Department was renamed the Slinger Fire Department. The department purchased its first electrical siren for \$600.00 in 1926. The first piece of motor apparatus was a 1935 Ford pumper with a total price of \$2,656.77. This vintage engine can be seen today at the Hall of Flame in Phoenix, Arizona. The truck still runs and is used in parades by the museum. On August 11, 1953, the department put into service a 1953 FWD pumper with a 240 horsepower, 6 cylinder Waukesha engine with a waterous 2 stage parallel centrifugal pump. The truck cost \$14,391.00 and was in service until December 18, 1979 when it was replaced by a 1980 Oshkosh pumper.



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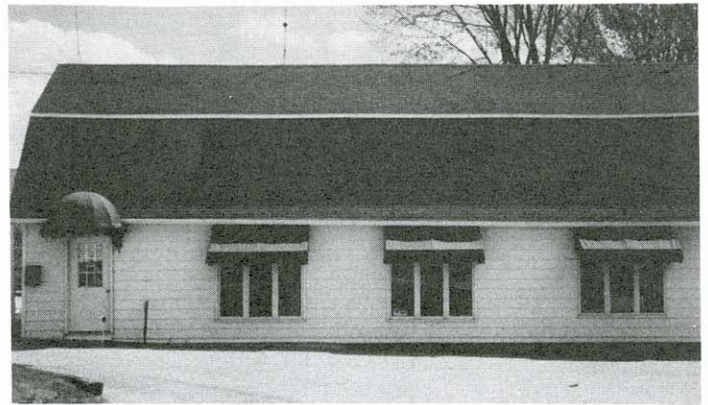


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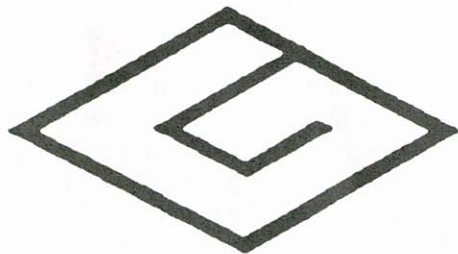
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The Slinger Fire Department participates in the Badger Firemen's Association bowling, golfing and baseball tournaments. They belong to the Washington County Fire Chief Association, the Washington County Fire Investigator Association and the Northwestern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin Firemen Association. The department has two waterfighting teams that compete all summer long ending with Southeastern Wisconsin State Waterfight Tournament. They also compete in the Hustisford Toilet Bowl tournament held on New Year's Day. The department also runs a stand at the Washington County Fair.

On May 15, 1991, the Slinger Fire Department started an Auxiliary with 20 members.

On July 1, 1992 a Phoenix rescue tool, commonly known as the "Jaws of Life", was put into service.

As of 1993, over half of the department members are State certified as Firefighter 1 and are working on becoming State certified as Firefighter 2. Some members are also EMT certified.

The officers for the Slinger Fire Department are:

Chief -	Robert Schaefer
Assistant Chief -	Scott Risse
Captain -	Chuck Ruetten
Captain -	Daryl Otte
Lieutenant -	Al Retzlaff
Lieutenant -	Greg Bayer
Secretary -	Ken Reiser
Treasurer -	Doug Thiel

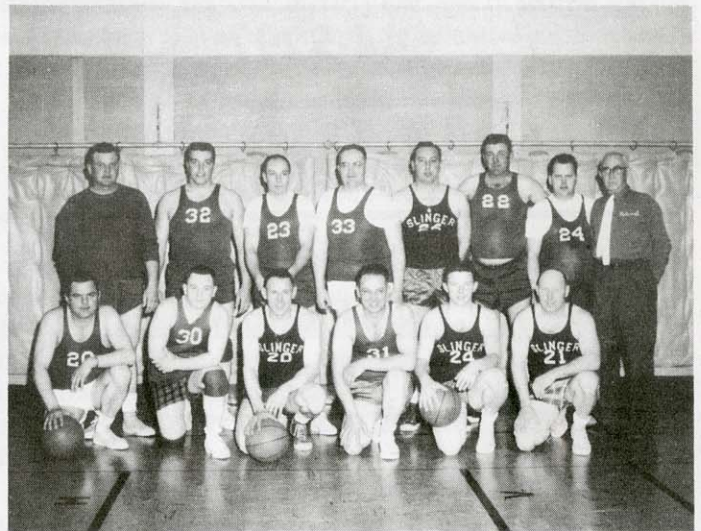
**Fire Chiefs:**

Charles Roth	1888-1894
Fritz Kletti	1894-1897
Charles Roth	1897-1906
August Storck	1906-1914
Fred Eggert	1914-1930
John Feutz	1930-1947
Roland Miller	1947-1965
Cyril Wolf	1965-1978
Norton Risse	1978-1985
Donald Mechenich	1985-1992
Robert Schaefer	1992-

With all the labor being volunteered, the Slinger Fire Department is proud of its department and the community support it receives.



10.36 NK Members of the 1962 Slinger Fire Department: Left to right, top row: Melvin Brahs, Bill Langenecker, Ernie Schwendiman, Roy Wolf, Norman Kletti, Fred Thiel, Norman Schall. Middle row: Ed Kratz, Glen Dhein, Ralph Wolf, Harold Beine, Ray Peil, Jerry Faust, Roland Miller, Cy Wolf, Oscar "Slim" Kratz, Frank Kachelmeier, Melvin Bohn, Dale Otte, John Feutz. Bottom row: Edgar Ganns, Gib Bayer, Gene Mechenich, Bill Guernadt, Lawrence Tennes, Doc Held, Bill Condon, Russ Schauer, Roy Gundrum, Richard Rosche, Gene Zwirlein.



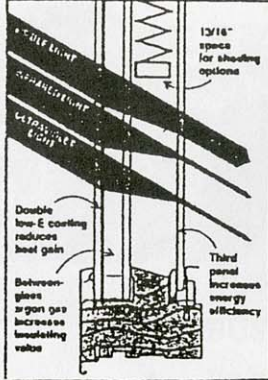
11.24A JG The Slinger Fire Department played games against the faculty to raise scholarship funds for high school students. The 1961 Fireman's team pictured here, left to right, standing, Harold Beine, Ralph Wolf, Eugene Schall, Fred Thiel, Cy Wolf, Bill Duehning, Dale Otte, Roland Miller. Kneeling: Bill Langenecker, Doc Held, Melvin Bohn, Gene Mechenich, Bill Condon, Russ Schauer.



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