



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone (715)425-0900
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AGENDA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, October 13, 2016
5:30 p.m.
City Hall – Training Room

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
July 13, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Related Topic

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Discussion Regarding Disposition of 1939 River Falls Fire Engine
2. Story Map Edit
3. Plaque for Mel's Midtowner
4. Prairie Mill Chronology
5. Discussion for Possible Dates for the Home Movie Day Spring of 2017
6. Historic Preservation Conference
7. HPC Members Vacancies

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Items for November 9, 2016 Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

*Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.
No official Council action will be taken.*

Notification: River Falls Journal, 10/07/16
Post: City Hall Bulletin Board and Library 10/07/16



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Tony Steiner, City Planner
DATE: October 13, 2016
RE: September Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda Items

- Item 1: RE: Discussion Regarding Disposition of 1939 River Falls Fire Engine**
The HPC has discussed interest in preserving the 1939 River Falls Fire Engine. Last month Chief Nelson came to the scheduled HPC meeting. The Fire Department has no claims or plans for the fire engine. The issue is a matter of storage. We can discuss further at our meeting. Chief Nelson also gave us a copy of the History of the Fire Department and I am attaching it for your information.
- Item 2: RE: Story Map Edit**
Tyler has been working on the Story Map and will be reviewing format changes and updating you on the progress.
- Item 3: RE: Plaque for Mel's Midtowner**
Jayne and Heidi will be discussing the status of background work for Plaque preparation of Mel's Midtowner.
- Item 4: RE: Prairie Mill Chronology**
Mark was to meet with Neil Anderson and discuss the chronology and verbiage. Neil has an abstract that may be useful in our research. Mark will report on the meeting.

- Item 5:** **RE: Discussion for Possible Dates for the Home Movie Day Spring of 2017**
Jayne has been in contact with Amy Sloper about setting up a time for Home Movie Day in 2017. She has been in contact with another archivist who is interested in helping with the event. Jayne will update members at the meeting and will discuss setting a date for the event and timeline for logistics.
- Item 6:** **RE: Historic Preservation Conference**
Staff has registered three members for the October 21st -22nd Conference at Wisconsin Dells, Heidi, Jayne and Pam. Hotel rooms are reserved and we can discuss details at the meeting.
- Item 7:** **RE: HPC Member Vacancies**
We have two vacancies on the HPC. We need to discuss recruitment of new members. Please think about community members you may know who have an interest in historic preservation and are willing to serve and contribute.



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MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 13, 2016
5:30 pm
City Hall - Training Room

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting convened at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Jeff Bjork, Mark Anderson, Pam Friede
Members Absent: Jayne Hoffman– Excused, Rebecca Prendergast

Staff Present: Tony Steiner – *City Planner*, Tyler Galde – *GIS Intern*
Others Present: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

MSC Bjork / Friede to approve the minutes of the June 15th meeting - unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Bjork passed around copies of “Legacy of a Family” documenting the history of 306 North Main Street.

Heidi Heinze stated that she talked to Dan Geister and he indicated that he is not interested in serving on the HPC at this time, but may be at a future time.

Heidi Heinze indicated that she would be available for the presentation to council on the HPC on August 9th.

OLD BUSINESS

Plaque for Mel’s Midtowner

MSC Friede/Bjork to postpone discussion on Mel’s to August.

Prairie Mill Chronology

The Prairie Mill Chronology was put on hold last year. Most of the information has been assembled. A draft chronology has been written. Mark Anderson met with Neil Anderson. Neil has an abstract and will make it available to Mark. Neil would also like to think further about the plaque verbiage.

Story Map Edit

Commission members are providing edits to Tyler. Tyler will continue to work on project. Tyler will also send out a link to members in case they don't have one. Tyler will give an update at the August meeting.

Update on Historic Preservation Sub Grant- Swinging Bridge Nomination

Tony discussed the RFP that has been sent out. Staff expects to receive several proposals. Commission can discuss logistics of choosing a consultant at the August meeting.

Foster Cemetery

The commission discussed Foster Cemetery. Concern regarding balancing accessibility and preservation issues was discussed. Members suggested putting this item on the annual joint meeting with the Park Board for further study.

Local History and Preservation Conference

Staff discussed the agenda sent out for the Tenth Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference in Wisconsin Dells on October 21-22. . Currently Jeff and Heidi indicated an interest in going.

NEW BUSINESS**Agenda Items for July 13, 2016 Meeting**

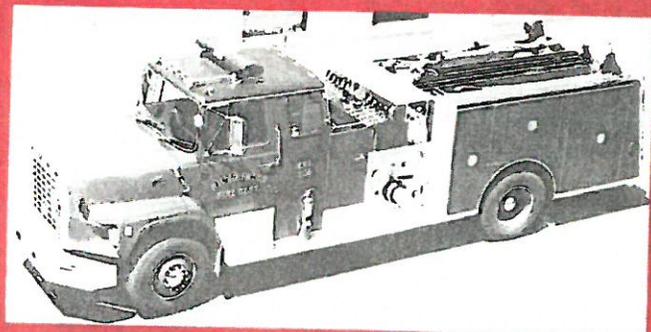
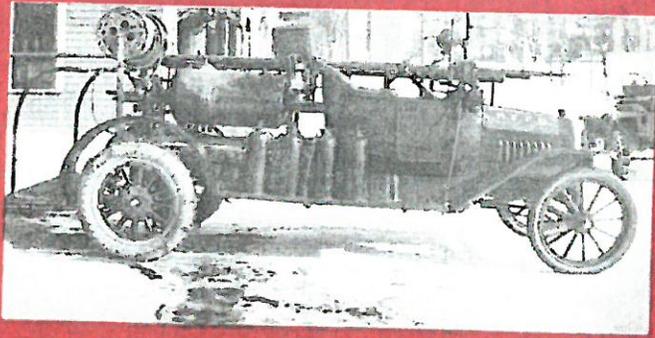
- Plaque for Mel's Midtowner
- Prairie Mill Chronology
- Story Map Edit and Ideas
- Consultant Selection for Swinging Bridge National Register Nomination.

ADJOURNMENT-

MSC Bjork /Friede to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. - unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Steiner, City Planner



DEDICATION

We dedicate this book, this celebration, this centennial to those members, past and present whose names are listed below and to every volunteer fireman who has answered the call to duty.

W. S. Armstrong	Servert Sierr	W. P. Knowles	E. C. Brown	Oscar Sunde
W. H. Putman	Irvin Well	H. J. Schiek	Sam Nelson	Michael P. Early
Otto G. Anderson	O. H. Rollins	A. J. Jenson	George A. Hutchins, Jr.	Willard H. Black
A. M. Nelson	H. L. Boomer	R. W. Freeman	Percy Pace	Carroll A. Lindquist, Jr.
M. Denneen	Fred Toal	R. L. Hagg	Robert E. Dumond	Milton Senzig
John Keely	C. B. Gray	Bert Symes	H. E. Simpson	Arnold Greback
Norval McGregor	M. Hathaway	C. J. Barthalamew	Bernard McLaughlin	Russell Bowen
J. Edward Johnson	August Burkey	F. L. Baker	Edward A. Tronnier	Leroy H. Vieth
Curtiss Johnson	J. Knowlton	W. H. Currin	Arthur K. Betterley	Robert G. Smith
William H. Tozer	A. E. Snipps	H. J. Richards	John A. Meyer	DeLone A. Halverson
Olaf O. Halls	O. T. Bang	H. E. Nelson	Orin E. Hanvelt	Wm. H. Goodier
O. A. Opsal	C. Butley	W. F. Green	Wm. H. Seraggi	Frank J. Lubich
Fred Lord	Loyd Tobias	A. E. Champman	John Tyler	Charles Kahut
Orin Lord	E. Whitehead	C. E. Shepard	Burtis Pearson	Roman P. Thom
W. H. Avery	H. G. Lien	W. S. Smith	Leon Dean	Myron Morrow
J. S. Wadsworth	George Corwell	James P. Peterson	L. J. Finn	Paul R. Stokke
A. C. Anderson	Robert Johnson	George A. Hutchins	F. R. Hawkins	Maurice A. Fern
H. H. Eaton	C. W. Anders	Oscar J. Weberg	H. L. Baker	Roger N. DeLong
W. S. Dodge	A. G. Hickok	Henry Zorn	J. A. Kahut	Ted Nicholson
J. L. Havens	F. A. Howe	Andy Nelson	W. J. Gardner	Glen H. Duven
D. Burnath	M. Gunderson	M. L. Briggs	Fred O. Sheldrew	John Malmer
J. J. Foster	C. Bouck	A. L. Chinnock	Harry J. Winn	Charles Kelly
Chas. L. Rollins	CLarence Dodge	Frank L. Moser	Herman T. Hagestad	Jerry Wilkens
Wm. Knapp	John Eaton	N. M. Sutherland	George Legler	Bill M. Deiss
D. W. Rollin	B. E. Weeks	Raymond Roehl	Ray E. Freeberg	Harry Deal, Jr.
K. J. Rafuse	H. Huterig	Marvin Johnson	R. Laatsch	James J. Filkens
H. N. Elwell	B. Vanderpool	F. E. Ramer	Manley B. Healy	Melvin L. Florer
D. E. Cameron	C. Hanson	W. S. Oligney	Frank Brickner	Dan Reis
W. G. Campbell	Spence Shepard	J. L. Wasson	Stanley Johnson	Robert J. Petricka
E. L. Dodge	George Wall	H. C. Krueger	Earl E. Weishaar	Michael McLaughlin
John W. Barrett	James Hale	H. E. Clark	Harold A. Segerstrom	James J. Killian
W. A. Fisher	F. J. George	Carl Pearson	Lyman Healy	Jim Tyler
W. A. Thelander	W. J. Williams	Ira Wilcox	Turner Standish	Ray Fredrick, Jr.
G. M. Hale	H. A. Fordy	J. F. Richards	William Frank	Don Foley
J. S. Wadsworth	Charles Puttman	G. G. Schwalen	Donald A. Larsen	Gordon Pechacek
A. W. Lund	Fred Williams	Kenneth S. White	Robert E. Engdahl	LeRoy A. Larson
A. W. Kaler	Hans Wiger	Orson Pratt	Robert F. Aide	Dennis Schultz
W. A. Tozer	G. A. Rasmussen	Stanley Chinnock	Harvey J. Herrick	Gerald J. Kolasinski
F. M. White	George Holter	Wayland J. Oligney	Donald Johnson	Wm. T. Murphy
A. A. Smith	R. S. Williams	Arthur Muckenhausen	Ed Erlandson	Paul Whiteside
George T. Smith	Louis A. Lien	Arthur J. Dodge	Thomas W. Chapman	Wayne Svoboda
P. L. Annis	W. Thayer, Jr.	Cliff Symes	Clifford Cole	Ronald Johnson
Ed Anderson	B. C. Nelson	Harry Scott	John F. Murry	Carl H. Gaulke
S. C. Peterson	Ed Anderson	George C. Simpson	John Kolasinski	Terry M. Slattery
W. K. Nobel	D. McKeen	A. J. Phillips	Wm. Obermueller	Thomas H. Segerstrom
J. S. Nelson	J. M. Hymers	E. A. Foster	Ernest Purfeerst	Lawrence C. Purfeerst
Geo. J. Dodge	J. W. Curtis	Roderick Chinnock	J. W. Richardson	Gene Slama
C. W. Davies	A. V. Lovely	Harry J. Jackman	Harvey A. Chapman	Frank G. Holter, Jr.
Percy Ap Roberts	B. F. Rosenberg	Harry C. Johnson	LaVern K. Wallian	Mike Stuttgen
R. Wilcox	W. A. Nelson	Leonard Carolan	A. Evertt Chapman	Thomas R. Bowers
S. F. Moody	A. Benson	Ray Ensign	Arnold E. Johnson	John R. Smith
Louis A. Platt	G. A. Williams	Lloyd M. Hanson	William R. Junkman	Gary A. Eloranta
Frank Beers	Edward Shepard	John G. Hunter	Edgar W. Parker	Gene McKahan
T. D. Ensign	T. Gassert	George Lovell	J. E. O'Connor	John Overland
Wm. Simon	Fred J. Christianson	P. T. Paynter	Kenneth W. Larson	Mark Larsen
Howard Pratt	E. E. Buck	Ernest Ritrum	Frank O. Swanson	James D. Dawson
Caley Krauth	Walert J. Patterson	B. L. Lord	Gordon E. Hanvelt	David C. Peterson
H. E. Chinnock	H. W. Morrow	Al Hawkinson	Boyd S. Peterson	Pete D. Herpst
CLifford Halls	John Wilson	Reg Roehl	Gerald W. Malmer	Richard Cashman
D. Bennett	James R. Fuller	James Ritrum	Glenn E. Kotts	Paul Cudd, Jr.
N. B. Nelsson	H. Walker	Clarence W. Betterley	Loyd E. Ostness	Tom Schwalen
Emery Hill	George B. Skogmo	Roy O. Segerstrom	Robert E. Moody	Thomas M. Foley

Constitution and By-Laws

...OF...

Pioneer Fire Co. NO. 1.

Of the City of River Falls.

Ammended June 4th, 1906.

Organized June 1st, 1885.
Re-Organized, Spring of 1888.

River Falls, : : Wisconsin.

Time of Meeting.

First Monday Evening of Each Month.

	P. M.		P. M.
October	7:30 o'clock.	April	7:30 o'clock.
November	7:30 "	May	8:00 "
December	7:30 "	June	8:00 "
January	7:30 "	July	8:00 "
February	7:30 "	August	8:00 "
March	7:30 "	September	8:00 "

Order of Business.

1. Roll call.
2. Reading minutes of last meeting.
3. Unfinished business.
4. Propositions for membership.
5. Balloting for members.
6. Report of Finance Committee.
7. Report of Special Committees.
8. Collection of fines and hearing excuses.
9. Report of Treasurer.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Roll call.
12. Adjournment.

Constitution.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, In all well regulated Institutions certain laws or rules are necessary for the government thereof, we, the members of the PIONEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1, of the city of River Falls, do for the purpose of furthering the object for which we are united, agree to support the following Constitution and By-Laws:

ARTICLE I.

This company shall be known and designated by the name of the PIONEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Company shall consist of a Foreman, First and Second Assistant, Secretary, Treasurer and Tillerman, to be elected annually in April, and balloted for on separate tickets. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to form a choice.

SEC. 2. If any vacancy should occur among the officers of this Company it shall be filled at the next regular meeting; and if a vacancy occur at a regular meeting, it shall be filled at the same time.

ARTICLE III.

No person shall be admitted into this Company under the age of eighteen, and the number of active members shall not exceed Thirty (30).

ARTICLE IV.

The By-Laws shall be equally binding with the Constitution, and no amendment shall be made to either, unless proposed in writing at a regular meeting, which amendment shall be laid over till the next regular meeting, and require the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLE V.

No member shall be expelled without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting; nor shall he be expelled without an opportunity to defend himself, and when expelled shall not be re-elected without the consent of a majority of those present at a regular meeting.

By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.

THE uniform of this Company shall be a black leather hat with red frontispiece, raised Hook and Ladder, and figure "1" on hat; red leather belt, with "PIONEER" thereon in raised black letters.

ARTICLE II.

FOREMAN'S DUTY.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Foreman to preside at all meetings, also to see that every implement belonging thereto is kept in complete order and during the winter months to see that the Engine house is kept warm; he shall have charge of the apparatus at all times; he shall see that every member does his duty and shall report at the next regular meeting of the Company any member who shall refuse to obey his orders; he shall have power to grant leave of absence to a member at any time; he shall have power to call a meeting when the interests of the Company require it; he shall also convene the Company at the written request of any five members.

SEC. 2. He shall have the privilege to nominate any member to preside at any meeting; he shall not allow more than one person to speak at a time, nor permit private conversation at a meeting; he shall have the casting vote in all cases except it shall interest himself, in which case it shall be the duty of the officer next in rank to preside until the vote is taken; he shall also exercise a general supervision over the affairs of the Company; he shall have the power to order the Secretary to draw on the Treasurer for all bills of \$2.00 or less. For neglect of any of the above duties, he shall pay a fine of One Dollar.

ARTICLE III.

DUTIES OF FIRST AND SECOND ASSISTANT.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the First and Second Assistant Foreman to aid the Foreman in the discharge of his several duties, and in his absence to officiate in his capacity; and specially to adhere to all the duties of that office, under like penalties while acting in that capacity.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Tillerman to guard the Truck at all times, and to see that nothing is taken therefrom, except by a member, and returned to its proper place. For neglect of any of the above duties he shall be fined Fifty Cents.

ARTICLE IV.

SECRETARY'S DUTIES.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call the roll after the fire, or alarm of fire; to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting; to call the roll; to keep the following accurate lists:

1. Active Members.
2. Exempt "
3. Non-resident Members.
4. Deceased "
5. Expelled "

And to have the same posted in the Engine House; to give notice of all meetings, and to serve all the notices that may be ordered by the Company. He shall receive all moneys due the company for fines or contributions, and pay the same to the Treasurer within five days, taking his receipt therefor in a book provided for that purpose. His books shall be open to the inspection of the Finance committee at all times. He shall render said Committee such other assistance and information as they may require; he shall notify in writing every newly elected member of his election within three days after the time thereof, and shall furnish him with a copy of the By-Laws of this company.

ARTICLE V.

TREASURER'S DUTIES.

The Treasurer before entering upon his duties, shall, if required, execute to the Company, acceptable to the Foreman and Finance Committee, a bond for the faithful performance of his duties as Treasurer. He shall receive and safely keep the money and funds of the Company, and shall pay over the same to the Finance Committee whenever required by the Company. He shall pay all orders drawn on him by order of the Company, duly signed by the Foreman and countersigned by the Secretary, and none others; and in case of his absence from the city he shall be empowered, and required to appoint a substitute to act in his place during such absence, and for whose acts the Treasurer shall be responsible. He shall keep the accounts in a fair, legible manner, exhibiting the sources and amount of receipts, with the purposes and amounts of disbursements. He shall report at each monthly meeting the state of the Company's affairs. The books shall be open for the inspection of members at every regular meeting. At the end of each term he shall have his accounts closed, and shall submit a full statement thereof to the Company, and shall deliver to his successor in office, when legally called upon to do so, all the moneys, vouchers, etc., etc., belonging to the Company.

ARTICLE VI.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

There shall be a Finance Committee, to consist of three members, to be elected annually, whose duty it shall be to examine all bills over two dollars previous to their payment and if correct to endorse the same. Also to examine the accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer quarterly, and report the same to the Company at the next regular meeting. The chairman failing to report shall pay a penalty of Fifty Cents.

ARTICLE VII.

Any officer of this company abusing the authority invested in him, may be impeached and expelled from his office, provided two-thirds of the members vote therefor.

ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. Any member proposing a person for membership must do so in writing, stating his age, residence and occupation, to be balloted for at the next regular meeting of the Company, and should he have two-thirds of the votes cast he shall be declared duly elected.

SEC. 2. Every person elected shall sign the Constitution on or before the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. It is the duty of each member, upon an alarm of fire, to repair immediately to the Engine House to get the apparatus out, and to render all assistance in his power, and he shall not forbear such assistance without permission from the officers in command, under a penalty of Twenty-five Cents, sickness or death in the family the only excuse, except by direct vote of the Company.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the oldest member at a fire (in case no officer is in attendance) to take command until the arrival of an officer.

SEC. 3. No member shall, after arriving at the fire, absent himself therefrom without permission of the Foreman or officer in charge.

SEC. 4. Any member, for disobedience of orders, or interfering with the officer in command, giving counter orders, or commencing a quarrel with any member, or who shall become intoxicated, shall for the first offense, be fined One Dollar, for the second Two Dollars, and for the third shall be expelled, provided a majority are in favor of such punishment.

ARTICLE X.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The Monthly Meetings of this Company shall be held in the Engine House on the evening of the first day Monday in every month. Should any meeting occur on the evening of any national holiday, or on election day, it shall be postponed until the Monday following.

SEC. 2. The Annual Meetings of this Company shall be held at the Engine House on the evening of the first Monday in April, at which time the officers and standing committees for the ensuing year shall be elected.

SEC. 3. No smoking allowed in the meeting room during business hours, under a penalty of Twenty-Five Cents.

SEC. 4. Any question of parliamentary law arising as to the conduct of any meeting shall be decided by reference to Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XI.

DUTIES AT MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The roll shall be called precisely at the time specified, a majority of the watches present deciding the time and if ten of the active members are present (which members shall constitute a quorum) they shall, in the absence of the Foreman and his Assistants, appoint a Charman pro tem. and proceed to business.

SEC. 2. Any member not answering to his name at roll call shall pay a fine of Twenty-five Cents, sickness or death in his family, or being out of the city at the time of the meeting, the only excuse, except by direct vote of the Company.

SEC. 3. When there is not a quorum, it shall be the duty of the oldest member present, in the absence of the officers, to call the roll at the appointed time, mark the absentees, and adjourn.

SEC. 4. Any member leaving the room without permission of the Chairman shall be fined Twenty-five Cents.

SEC. 5. Any member addressing the Chair shall stand in an erect position. No motion shall be entertained unless the above is strictly complied with.

SEC. 6. Any member not obeying the call to order shall, for the first offense, be fined Fifty Cents, and for the second be expelled from the Company, providing two-thirds of the members present vote therefor.

SEC. 7. Any member having fines and dues against him standing over three months, shall be notified by the Secretary, and if not paid within thirty days after such notification he shall be expelled from the Company, provided a majority of the members present vote therefor.

SEC. 8. No member shall vote at any election for officers, nor for the election or expulsion of members, without permission of the Company, if there remain against him any fines or dues of sixty days standing.

SEC. 9. For using profane or indecent language or any personalities toward any member during a meeting of business, he shall pay a fine of Fifty Cents.

SEC. 10. Any member of this Company who shall inform any person not a member, of any business transaction, or personal remarks made at a meeting of business, shall be fined One Dollar.

SEC. 11. Any member not answering to roll call for three months, and not being absent from the city or not having sickness in the family, shall be expelled from the Company, providing a majority of the members vote therefor.

ARTICLE XII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1. No officer or member shall contract any debt in the name of the Company without the consent of the same.

SEC. 2. Any member who shall accept an appointment on a committee and neglect to attend to the duties of the same after having been notified by the Chairman, shall be fined Twenty-five Cents. The Chairman of all committees shall be fined Twenty-five Cents for non-attendance to the duties of said committee. All committees shall report in writing.

SEC. 3. Any member taking or loaning any article from the Engine House without the consent of an officer of the Company, shall, on conviction, pay a fine of One Dollar.

SEC. 4. No resignation of membership shall be accepted unless the Secretary certifies that the member offering such resignation is not in arrears to the Company; and if any member so resigning shall at any time thereafter make application to re-enter the Company, such action shall be taken as prescribed in Article VIII of By-Laws, except that said member shall not be liable to initiation fee.

SEC. 5. All charges made against any member for any offense against the Constitution and By-Laws of this Company shall be made in writing at a regular meeting and shall lay over for one month in case where a member is on trial for an offense where the penalty is expulsion, and in all other cases immediate action shall be taken.

SEC. 6. The Secretary shall notify all members against whom charges have been preferred of the nature thereof and the date of hearing, within ten days after they shall have been filed, and for neglect of same shall be fined Fifty Cents.

SEC. 7. Any active member of this Company not attending the Annual Parade shall pay a fine of Two Dollars, sickness and absence from the city the only excuses, provided a majority of the members present vote therefor.

Special Rules and Regulations

...OF...

PIONEER FIRE COMPANY

— NO. 1. —

OBEY ORDERS, RIGHT OR WRONG.

1. In taking position at a fire the Company will be governed by the regulations adopted by the Fire Department.

2. A detail of four men will be made to place and guard the barricade rope.

The above duties shall not exempt the details from assisting in other capacities when not on duty.

City Ordinances.

NUMBER 21.

An ordinance to provide for a Fire Department. The Common Council of the city of River Falls do ordain as follows:

Section 1. The Fire Department of the city of River Falls shall consist of a Chief Engineer, two Assistant Engineers to be known respectively as First and Second Assistant Engineers, a Fire Warden, and such fire-hose, hook and ladders and sack companies as may be lawfully organized within the city.

Sec. 2. The Chief Engineer, the Assistant Engineers and the Fire Warden shall be elected annually by the common council and shall hold their respective offices until the second Tuesday of April next succeeding their election and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless sooner removed for cause.

Sec. 3. The Chief Engineer shall have full power and control over all persons whatsoever at any fire except members of the common council, and in his absence the First Assistant Engineer shall perform his duties. In the absence of the Chief and First Assistant Engineers the Second Assistant Engineer shall discharge them, and in the absence of all of the engineers the mayor or any alderman present may act as chief engineer.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Chief Engineer to direct at all fires such measures as he may deem most advisable for the extinguishment of the same, to have the supervision of all buildings and apparatus kept by the city for fire purposes, to report annually to the common council the condition of such companies and make such recommendations as he may deem necessary, to repair promptly all damages to any fire apparatus, and to report in writing to such common council as soon as may be after each fire all accidents of fires that may happen in the city with the cause thereof as well as can be ascertained, and the number and description of the buildings injured together with the names and occupants of such buildings, and such other information as he may deem best. All such reports may be filed by the City Clerk in his office. The Chief Engineer shall have power for purposes of investigating the causes of the fires, to summon any persons he may deem proper to testify as to their knowledge of any fires or the causes thereof.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Fire Warden at least twice in each year and as much oftener as he or the common council may deem necessary, to enter any building or premises within the city between the hours of sunrise and sunset and to examine the flues of such building, its stoves, stove pipes and all other apparatus likely to cause fires, and also places where ashes are deposited or where combustible or explosive materials may be placed or stored; and said Fire Warden may give directions in regard to any or all of the foregoing matters as he may deem expedient, either as to the removal, alteration or better care and management thereof, which directions shall be obeyed and complied with by the persons directed in that behalf at their own expense, and he shall make report of all such inspections and orders so made by him to the first meeting of the common council held subsequent thereto.

Sec. 6. Whenever any number of the residents of the city not less than twenty nor more than forty in number shall petition the common council for leave to organize any company contemplated by this ordinance, the common council shall take the same into consideration, and if it shall so order the persons petitioning shall be formed into such company and shall become members of the fire department of the city with all the rights and

privileges appertaining to the same, and each company so formed shall have the right to select its own members in such manner as it may prescribe by its by-laws.

Sec. 7. Such company shall proceed at once to adopt a code of by-laws for its government which by-laws shall provide for the election of a foreman, assistant foreman and clerk, with such other officers as it shall deem necessary, all of whom shall be members of such company. A copy of such by-laws shall be filed with the city clerk and shall be subject to the approval of the common council and when so approved the company shall proceed to elect the officers provided for in its by-laws. The term of office of all officers elected by such company shall terminate on the second Tuesday of April next ensuing their election.

Sec. 8. The clerk of any company organized under this ordinance shall annually on or before the first Tuesday of March report to the common council a list of the members of his company and the officers of the same, and shall also after every election report to the common council the names of the officers elected thereat.

Sec. 9. It shall be the duty of each member of any company organized under the provisions of this ordinance as often as a fire shall break out to repair immediately upon an alarm being given to the place of such fire with such apparatus and equipments as may be provided for the purpose and to report himself immediately to the acting Chief Engineer, to obey all orders of such engineer and take such measures and do such work as may be best conducive to suppressing the fire and preserving the property endangered thereby.

Sec. 10. The officers of the Fire Department shall be designated at all fires by such insignia or badges as may be ordered by the common council or the rules of the respective companies.

Sec. 11. Each person having charge of any church or school bell within the city shall cause the same to be rung continuously at each fire alarm for twenty minutes unless the fire be sooner extinguished.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of every person present at any fire within the city to obey the orders of any person duly authorized to make such order for the purpose of extinguishing such fire or to preserve any property endangered thereby, and it shall be lawful for any member of the common council or officer of the fire department to require the aid of any person present at such fire to assist in extinguishing the same and preserving the property.

Sec. 13. The acting chief engineer with two members of the common council may at any fire order the destruction or removal of any building or structure when in their opinion it is necessary for the purpose of checking the progress of the fire.

Sec. 14. It shall be unlawful to keep or deposit ashes in any building or any premises within the city in wooden or other combustible receptacles.

Sec. 15. If any person shall wilfully injure in any manner, or shall at any time interfere without competent authority, with any fire apparatus or equipments or building containing the same belonging to the city, the offender shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a penalty of not more than twenty dollars nor less than one dollar, besides being liable to an action for the recovery of the damage done.

Sec. 16. It shall be the duty of each police officer or constable within the city to repair at once to any place where a fire may be upon the alarm being given and to report himself to the acting chief engineer and take such measures as may best conduce to preservation of order, removal and arrest of suspicious persons and preservation of property.

Sec. 17. Any member of the fire department or person employed in said department who shall neglect or refuse to obey any order, direction or command of any officer having authority to give such order, or who shall neglect or refuse to perform any duty devolving upon him as a member of said fire department, and any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance, and any person refusing to obey any orders of any officer of the Fire Department lawfully given at any fire shall forfeit and pay a penalty of not more than twenty dollars nor less than one dollar.

Sec. 18. The common council may remove from office any member of the fire department of the city for willful violation or neglect of duty or other sufficient cause, due notice having been first given to such person and an opportunity for a hearing.

Sec. 19. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Passed June 2, 1885.

Approved June 2, 1885.

A. D. ANDREWS, Mayor.

Attest: ALLEN P. WELD, City Clerk.

What followed was a counter petition signed also by many firemen urging the Mayor and Council not to purchase a steamer as "we think the expense of maintaining a Steam Fire Engine will be too great a burden for the Taxpayers. It will discourage the erection of substantial Stone and Brick Buildings".

How harmony was reached is unknown but on Feb. 1, 1892 a resolution "was adopted at and spread upon the minutes of the fire department" showing "unanimous sentiment" in favor of purchasing the steam-operated pumper.

As a side note, the hand-pumper was sold to the Fire Department in Rock Elm, Wisconsin. Later, it was sold to the Ellsworth Fire Department. They have restored it and keep it as a momento of days long gone.

Early efforts of fire fighting were, at best, futile as fire brigades concentrated on saving adjoining structures. Keeping in mind that most structures were built of wood, fire fighting 100 years ago meant tearing down walls to create fire breaks and dousing wooden shingled roof tops with water. Their tools were axes, pike poles and many buckets used in the well known bucket brigade.

The hand pumper was able to deliver a steady stream of water from the river or a well while 6 men, 3 to a side, alternately raised and lowered their pumping bars which operated the pump feeding a supply of water to the nozzle men. The steamer was merely a mechanical steam-operated substitute for manpower.

Horses were often used to pull the pumpers to the scene of a fire but no precise record exists showing River Falls may have kept horses. Records do show the location of perhaps the first fire "barn" as being located at the Northwest corner of Main and Maple Streets. Across the street to the South was a livery stable and perhaps horses kept there were used in towing the fire equipment.

This first fire station was also the location of the fire bell which was installed in 1888. Apparently the bell was struck with a maul or hammer to summon the members of the department as no striker was purchased until 1917. Public law held the school master responsible for ringing the school bell for 20 minutes or until such time that the fire was under control.

In 1894 a water system was installed in the city providing 20,979 feet of water mains and 39 hydrants. The hydrant gave the firefighter easy access to water under pressure from which he could attach a hose and douse the fire. The hose cart, a hand-drawn, large 2 wheeled device on which hard rubber hose was reeled, was utilized by the River Falls Fire Department. One remains in its possession today much like the one used nearly 100 years ago.

Nozzles used in the 1800's and later were of the "straight stream" variety. Mostly they were made of brass, varied in length and in the size of the nozzle opening: the smaller the opening the further water could be sprayed. Some had shut-off controls, others could only be shut down at the hydrant.

The early 1900's produced the first automobiles and, of course, the first fire trucks. Early fire trucks were used for transporting fire hose or were "chemical trucks". The so-called chemical truck carried a tank amounting to a large soda-acid extinguisher, which, when charged, would produce a pressurized fire extinguishing agent. Smaller hand-held soda-acid extinguishers were mounted on the running boards of the truck. The very rear of the hose truck was a platform on which firemen could stand en route to a fire. However, if too many boarded, the front wheels would come off the ground.

We're not certain when the first fire hall was built but in 1911 it was located next to City Hall in that portion now occupied by the public library. In 1955 new quarters were built at its present site on Second Street where, ironically, a fire had destroyed the Langwear Clothing factory. An addition was completed in 1969 to accommodate the 85 foot snorkel truck. At the same time, a rear extension provided additional parking space and a lower level meeting room.

The first gas engine operated pumper was purchased in 1939. This white beauty was lettered with gold leaf and trimmed with an extensive amount of chrome. Its 600 gallon per minute pumping capacity was officially tested in 1982 at 602 gallons per minute - an outstanding feat for a 43 year old pumper. It was, nonetheless, retired in 1984 as repair parts became too scarce to keep it operable.

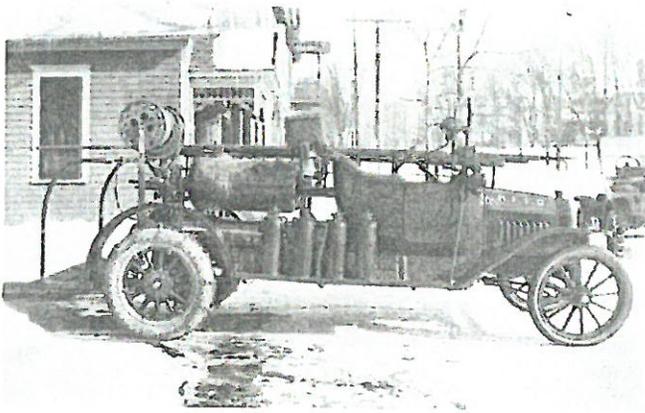
Prior to 1950, self-contained breathing apparatus was being used very little. Some use was made of gas masks of the Army variety which allowed firemen the opportunity to enter a smoke filled environment. In 1951, the fire department purchased its first Scott Air Packs. These "Scotts" allowed firemen to breathe fresh air which was carried in a high pressure tank on their back while full face masks also protected their eyes. Today's air packs are much improved versions of the older models with lighter tanks holding 50% more air, mask mounted regulators and harnesses designed to accommodate the newer style of clothing.

At the same time air packs were coming into being, new variable nozzles were developed which produced either a straight stream or a fog spray. The fog was shown to be more effective in cooling down a fire due to the finer spray absorbing more heat and dissipating it as vapor.

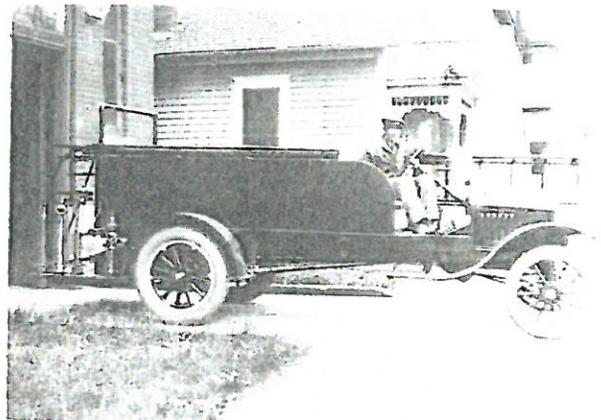
Air packs and fog nozzles are but two examples of the ever changing means of efficiently fighting one of man's oldest enemies, fire. Proper ventilation techniques, salvage operations conducted to minimize damage, heat sensors and other means are being employed to save, as much as possible, life and property threatened by fire.

In the past 10 years, fire science has come into being and only in recent times have basic experiments been conducted in order to determine the nature and conduct of fire. Technology has produced miracle fabrics and construction materials but very little is known about the nature of these products when subjected to fire. Often, the result is deadly to the firefighter or occupant of a burning building. Extensive testing is being conducted on such products, building codes are being revised or re-written and fire departments are studying their effects.

We believe River Falls is in the vanguard of providing the finest of fire service to the citizens of the River Falls area. We are committed to continue doing so. We welcome your support and thank you for the many kind acts of appreciation shown us over the past 100 years.



Possibly the first fire truck owned by the City, this Model "T" "chemical truck", likely utilized a soda-acid extinguishing system. Small soda-acid extinguishers are mounted on the truck's running boards.



This hose truck had a box on the back built by local firemen and was used to carry fire hose. Too many men on the rear would tip the front of the truck up. Note the nozzles, some with and some without shut-off devices.



Prairie Mill Fire

This article is reprinted from the **River Falls Journal** following a major fire on July 11, 1916 in which the Prairie Mill was destroyed. The mill was located on North Main Street near the Division Street intersection. It is noteworthy that River Falls once was a major flour milling city and, in fact, one year out-produced its "Mill City" rival, Minneapolis.

Prairie Mills Burned To The Ground

Splendid work by Fireman Saves Adjacent Property

The efficiency of the River Falls Volunteer Fire Department was never so well exhibited as on Tuesday, when, despite a stiff breeze, they saved the bran house, elevator and other adjacent property from flames which in a bare half hour had rendered the Prairie Mills on N. Main street a mass of charred ruins. It was an especially arduous task for the firemen on account of the intense heat, not only from the veritable furnace of flame, but to that was added the heat of the season's hottest day, 93 in the shade. It was in considerable contrast to the conditions on the night of January 24, 1900, when the elevator across the street was burned. Then the firemen were handicapped by the sub-zero weather, which froze their clothes into an armor of ice.

Tuesday's fire started about 3:30 p.m. It was first discovered by Nels Heyerdahl, who found flames bursting out from around an oil stove used for heating wheat. He attempted to smother them with a blanket, but in the dust and light timbers he was unable to check them and in a moment the entire interior was enveloped in a swirling mass of smoke and flame. The alarm was barely sounded before the entire building, from top to bottom, was ablaze. The firemen directed their efforts to saving the bran house and the elevator, and their success was phenomenal, considering the intense heat from the burning building, the wind which fanned the flames onto the buildings so close at hand, and the inflammable material which they were working on. At one time there were as many as five buildings on fire in the two blocks, and flying embers set fire to the Ritchey residence far back on second street. No building except the mill was damaged to any considerable extent, in fact all of the others escaped practically unmarred, even the bran house which adjoined the mill on the north, with nothing but a wood partition between.

The Prairie Mills were erected in 1854, with C. B. Cox as original manager, and the same building had been in use ever since.

The present management is under Colton Whitcomb and Walter Sutherland, the latter entering the firm

but little over a year ago. They state their estimate of the loss at about \$10,000, half covered by insurance.

They plan to rebuild the mill, but have not as yet determined upon the exact site. Through the installation of a 90 horse-power hydro-electric plant, now in process of construction and to be completed in about ten weeks, they will have their own electric power and may locate

the mill where they wish, not having to depend upon the water power, and they may decide to rebuild adjacent to their elevator, across the street.

Messrs. Whitcomb and Sutherland wish us to express their sincere and hearty appreciation and thanks to the firemen for the splendid work which saved the remaining buildings.



A scene from the Prairie Mill fire as people watch from the Cedar Street bridge.



As fire engulfed the mill building, spectators were pressed into service manning the hoses. At day's end, the mill was lost.

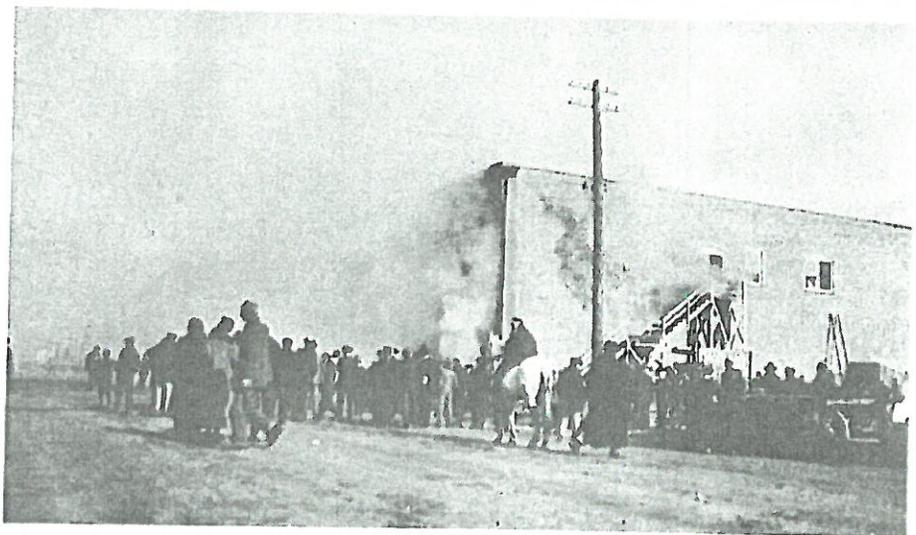
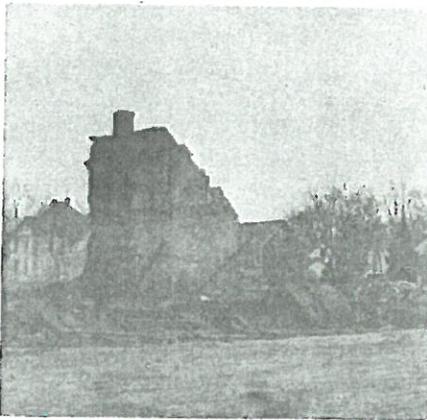
Stewart Building

What turned out to be one of the more interesting finds was this series of pictures of the "Stewart Building". The first photo shows the new building standing proudly at the corner of Walnut and Main Streets. The exact year of the photo is not known but judging from the number of horses and carriages, a good guess would be pre-1900.

The next picture shows fire, in its earlier stages, destroying the building in 1915. Large crowds seem always to be on hand when such excitement erupts; then, as well as today!

The last photo shows the ruins of the building totally devastated by the fire.

However, if one again studies the first photo then ventures down to the corner of Main and Walnut, he would see the same building as depicted on the first picture, resurrected from the ashes and housing the Snyder Drug store.



Fire Department 1913



Pictured is the River Falls Fire Department from April 13, 1913. The location of the fire hall was where the City Library now stands. From left to right: Standing; W. S. Smith, James Peterson, George A. Hutchins, Sr., A. E. Chapman, Ed Anderson, M. T. Richards, C. E. Shepherd, William Fisher, Joe J. Foster, Ben Rosenberg, F. L. Baker, H. M. Elertson, W. F. Green, Jim Richards and R. J. Roehl. Seated; Cliff Symes, George J. Dodge, R. W. Freeman, Ass't. Chief, J. W. Patterson, Chief, E. E. Buck, Ass't. Chief, B. A. Symes and A. F. Moody.



TED NICHOLSON
7-9-64



GLEN DUVEN
8-5-64



DUKE DEAL
9-15-65



JIM FILKINS
10-31-66



PAT PETRICKA
7-1-68



JIM KILLIAN
1-7-69



DAN REIS
5-5-67



BERNIE PURFEERST
12-4-72



JERRY WILKENS
11-5-64



DON FOLEY
5-4-70

RIVER FALLS FIRE DEPT



TOM BOWERS
4-1-74



MIKE STUTTGEN
4-1-74



JOHN SMITH
5-6-74



GENE MCKAHAN
7-1-74



GARY ELORANTA
7-1-74



JOHN OVERLAND
11-3-75



MAI



LEROY LARSON
8-4-71



GORDY PECHACEK
11-4-71



JERRY KOLASINSKI
5-3-72



CARL GAULKE
9-11-72

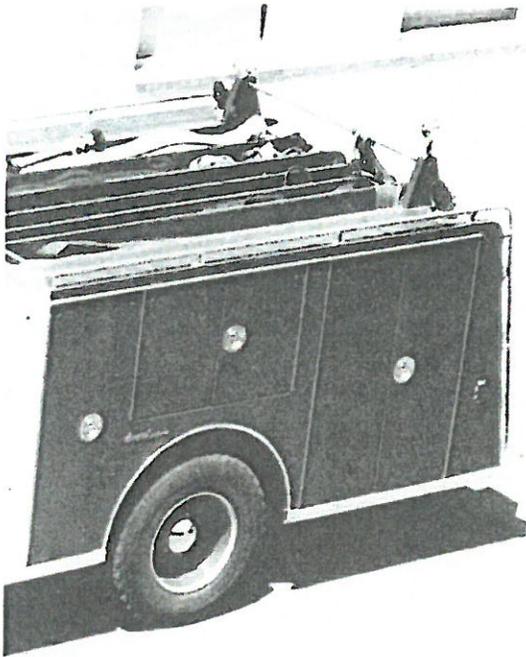


PAUL WHITESIDE
10-2-72



FRANK HOLTER
1-7-74

DEPARTMENT 1985



LOYD OSTNESS
8-1-81



BUTCH KAHUT
8-18-81



MAURICE FERN
5-13-83



ROGER DELONG
4-7-84

Officers

Dan Reis
Chief

Bernie Purfeerst

1st Assistant

Jerry Wilkens

2nd Assistant

Don Foley

3rd Assistant

Pat Petricka

Secretary

Jim Killian

Treasurer

Ted Nicholson

Tillerman

Butch Kahut

Fire Inspector



DAVE PETERSON
3-7-77



PETE HERPST
7-10-78



RICH CASHMAN
9-8-80



PAUL CUDD, JR.
3-2-81



TOM SCHWALEN
4-4-83



TOM FOLEY
9-10-84

Pat Patterson — A 50 Year Legend

J. W. "Pat" Patterson first signed the by-laws of the River Falls Fire Dept. in January, 1904. When he retired in April, 1954, he had established the greatest longevity of any member on this department.

Pat became the Fire Chief in 1912 and held that post until April 5, 1954 with the exception of one year, 1921. Prior to that he was an assistant chief from 1908 until 1912.

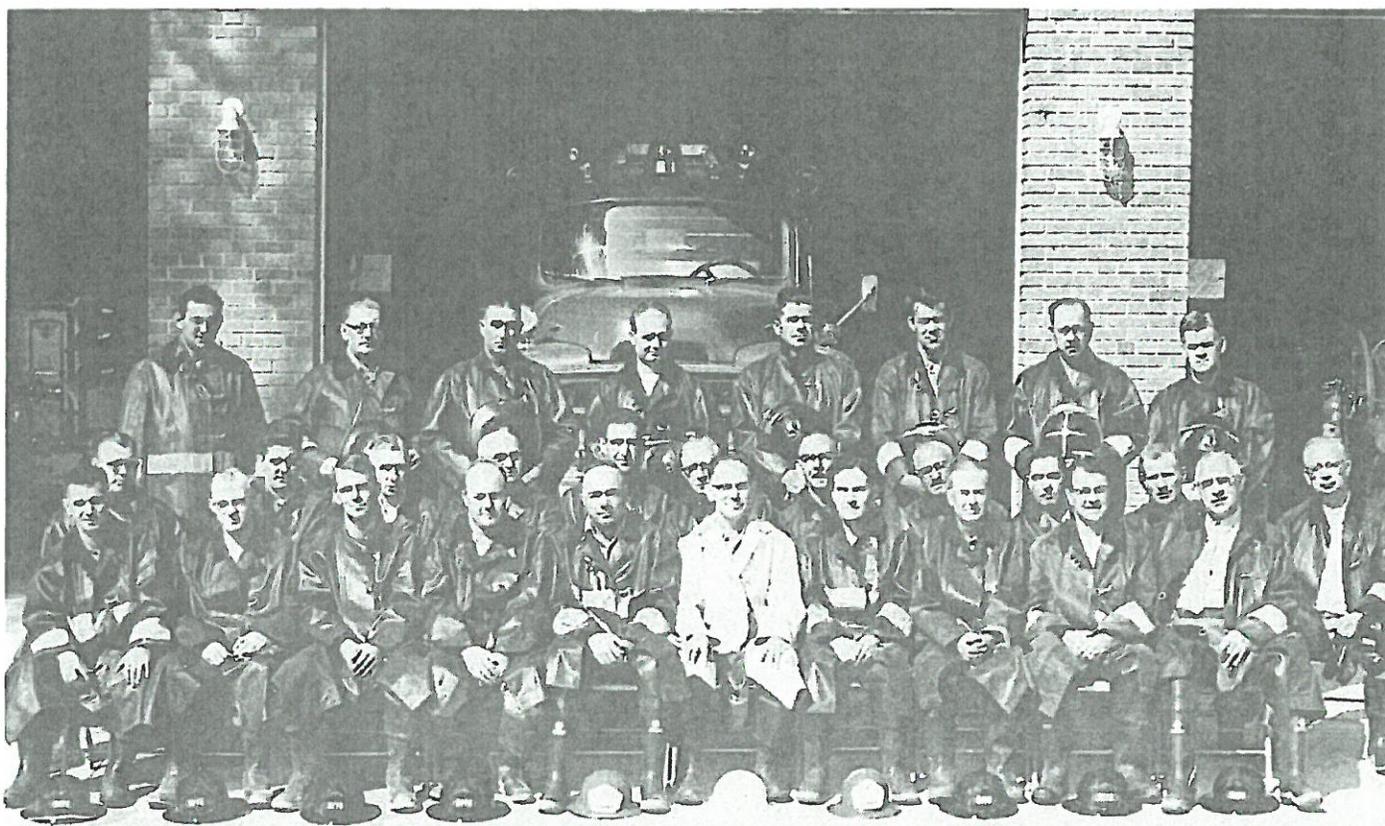
The years that Pat served as chief saw many changes for the fire department from hand drawn hose carts and hydrant pressure to full engine pumpers, fog nozzles and self-contained breathing apparatus.

Pat was a long time employee of the City Electrical Department and served as superintendent of the line crew for many years. He died in 1956 at the age of 74, having given, incredibly, over $\frac{2}{3}$ of his lifetime to firefighting.



This photo shows J. W. "Pat" Patterson at the official underwriters test for the "new" 1939 Ford 600 gallon pumper in Minneapolis, MN on May 19, 1939.

Fire Department 1955



The above photo was taken in 1955 following the move to the new fire hall. Pictured left to right: Back row; Milt Sinzeg, Leonard Carolan, Harvey Chapman, Arnie Gresback, Glenn Kotts, Gordon Hanvelt, Don Johnson and Frank Swanson. Middle row; Oscar Sunde, Mike Early, Ray Ensign, John Kolasinski, Tom Chapman, Bernard McLaughlin, Orin Hanvelt, Al Hawkinson, Don Larsen, Willard Black and Cliff Cole. Front row: Bud O'Connell, Gerald Malmer, Loyd Ostness, Robert Moody, Kermit Wollan, Ass't. Chief, Robert Aide, Chief, Frank Brickner, Ass't Chief, Arnold Johnson, Bill Obermueller and Ira Wilcox.

The "Ford Garage" Fire

It wasn't a question of "if" but a matter of "when". That may have been the extent of pre-fire planning in 1961 but it may have been all the River Falls Fire Department could do. On the night of July 29, 1961, the alarm sounded: the Ford Garage was on fire!

To this writer, it is a night one never forgets. While a friend and I waited on the Cedar Street bridge for traffic to pass, the alarm sounded. I remember instinctively looking toward the fire station and seeing flames at the rear of the Ford Garage building at the top of a ramp leading to the second story. We turned right onto Main then parked on Pine Street. By the time we had run to the front of the building, we saw the entire structure was engulfed. Its double planked floors, oil and gas soaked through the years, had carried the fire throughout the structure so rapidly no effort could save it.

Adjoining the garage was another auto dealer, Kohler Pontiac and two welding shops were located nearby: one to the south of the Ford Garage and one to the rear of Kohler Pontiac. By the time the sun arose, all those businesses were destroyed in perhaps the most spectacular fire ever seen in this area.

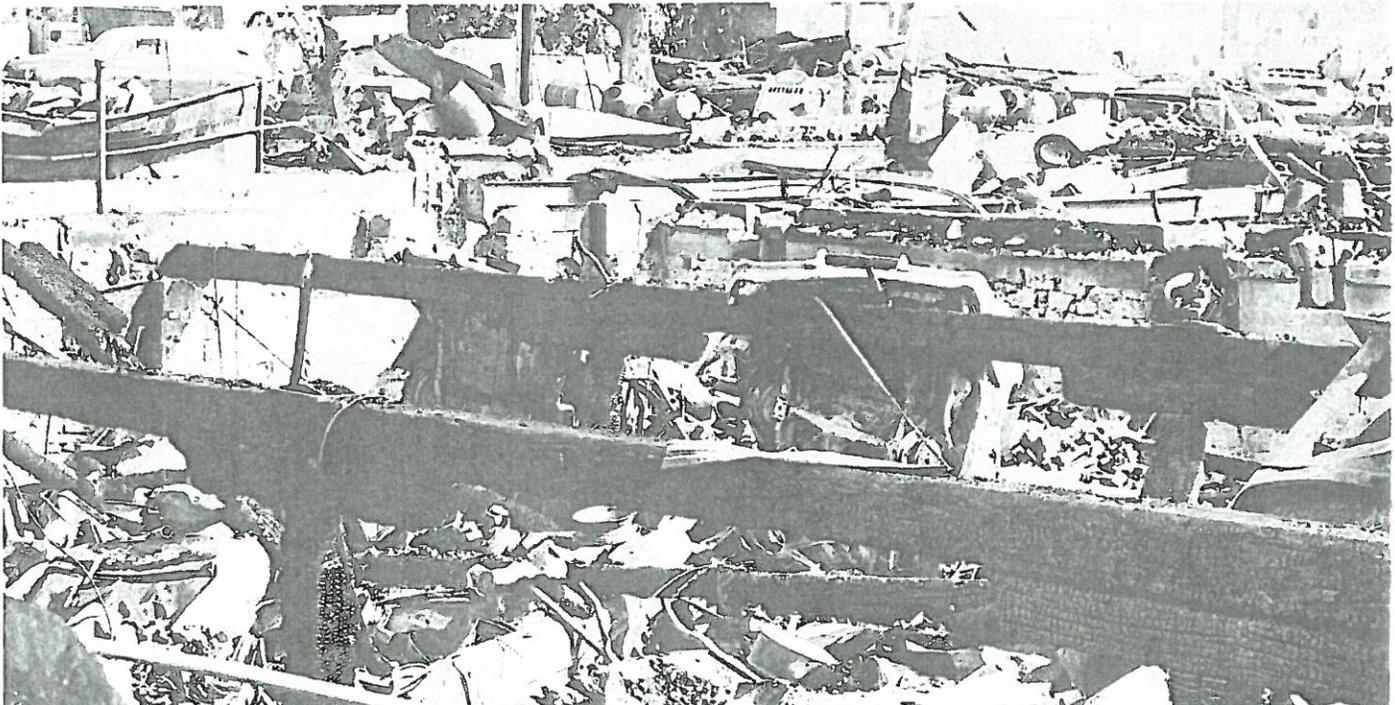
It was reported that people living in the Twin City area saw the glow in the sky that night and I would tend to believe it. Both auto dealers had large stocks of new cars stored in the upper levels of their garages awaiting fall introduction. Also, the main levels as well as the basements were full of vehicles. As gas tanks exploded, miniature mushroom clouds burst above the building sending debris even higher than the large column of orange flame which remained poised atop the structure for close to 5 hours.

Fire Departments from six communities lent their hands in fighting this huge fire. Every nearby hydrant was in service, city water was diverted to the fire and one department was pumping from the river. Another department even drafted water from the gutter and pumped it back onto the flaming buildings but still the fire raged on.

At one point it seemed the entire block was doomed, so the order went out to evacuate all structures to the south. As in days of old, standers-by were pressed into action and soon lines were formed from inside the endangered buildings to the street where property was passed from one to the next until every occupancy of every building was stripped of its goods. But by then the tide had turned as a wall of water laid between two buildings succeeded in halting any advance of the flames.



Probably the most published photograph ever to come out of River Falls was this scene of North Main Street during the Ford Garage fire. The new street lights had long fluorescent fixtures with plastic coverings which, when subjected to immense heat, took on the appearance of dripping candle wax. Used cars parked across the wide Main Street suffered broken headlights, cracked windshields and blistered paint.



All that remained was twisted auto frames, engine blocks and other substantial metal parts which could withstand the heat of the fire. Today the Red Owl grocery store

and part of the Holt building stand where the Chapman Welding Shop, Ford Garage, Kohler Pontiac Garage and Hauth Welding Shop once stood.

Mutual Aid

In the same spirit that developed firefighting centuries ago, communities have developed means whereby they agree to assist one another in serious fire situations. Like their ancient forefathers who developed "contributionships", surrounding communities have developed compacts or agreements to assist one another.

Generally, these agreements call for no exchange of money or consideration. The help is given willingly and generously, for no fireman would turn down the excitement of attending a large fire!

As mentioned in the article about the Ford Garage fire, departments from no less than 6 surrounding communities responded to the need in River Falls. These departments fought on through the night side by side with our fire department and their help was most welcome. Had they not helped, it is probable the entire block would have been lost.

River Falls, too, has been called. In recent years a large fire in Ellsworth destroyed a restaurant with an upper level apartment. River Falls arrived on the scene to find most of the building totally engulfed and assisted it keeping the fire confined to the one structure.

Several fires in Hudson necessitated the calling out of our Snorkel truck. At Sam's Bowling Alley in North Hudson, the long arm of the Snorkel was extended across the wide expanse of roof to reach flames where other equipment was incapable. At the Hotel Dibbo, a 3 story structure in downtown Hudson, the Snorkel truck again was used along side a ladder truck from the St. Paul Fire Department. And at a rural country mansion near Hudson, the Snorkel was again called and was credited in helping to save the glorious landmark.

Just over a year ago, fire took an old former hotel building in Prescott and the River Falls Fire Department again responded with several units and fought through the night with units also called in from Hastings, MN.

Under a Mutual Aid call, the home fire department continues to take charge of the fire and directs the responding departments to areas where most needed.

We want to thank those people who had foresight enough to realize that we do not stand alone in our battle against the ravages of fire but, rather, joined together we form a stronger front.



The River Falls Fire Department Snorkel truck in action at the Hotel Dibbo in downtown Hudson, WI. The ladder truck alongside is from St. Paul, MN.

And We've Saved Some...

Upon reviewing much of the material we've prepared for this publication, it might appear to many a reader that as a fire department, River Falls has lost many buildings through the years. We realize that simply is not the case, so we'd like to take this opportunity to give ourselves a bit of a verbal pat on the back (with the reader's indulgence, of course!).

Preface these remarks with an understanding that the form and substance of firefighting has changed drastically in the past 40 years. Our bucket brigade and nozzlemen forebearers would jealously desire the equipment we have today.

Because we can transport vast quantities of water to rural settings, it is no longer necessarily true that a barn in full blaze is considered a total loss. We have at long last concluded that the majority of value in a dairy barn is below the hay mow. We now make every attempt to clear the smoldering hay from the mow floor and save that valuable lower level. In one such save, the farmer missed but one milking and was using his own barn, minus a second story, the next night.

The self-contained breathing apparatus (air masks), fog nozzles and better protective clothing have proven their worth in many fires. At the West Wind Supper Club in 1983 and Kulstad's Clothing Store in 1985, firefighters made their way to the source of the fire and extinguished it despite the obstacles encountered like falling ceilings and smoke so dense that visibility was zero. Feeling their way toward the heat, they were soon able to bring under control fires which in both cases would have left those structures totally lost just 30 or 40 years ago.

House fires and more so, mobile homes, have been completely filled with smoke when the fire department arrived. Because of equipment and firemen well trained in its use these homes remain habitable today where they would have been written off previously.

But most of all, firemen today, as always, place the value of life before any property. It is to the credit of this department that some of its members have been involved in life-saving and have had the proper training to see it carried out properly and successfully.

River Falls Area Ambulance

"FOUR-NINETY-FOUR, WE HAVE A 10-50 WITH P. I., 10-33!!"

With that summons over the pager system, members of the River Falls Area Ambulance Service drop what they're doing and scramble for the fire hall.

Firemen, too, respond as this is a car accident with injury; an emergency where the tools of rescue may be needed. The protocol calls for full fire response if extrication is used or if the danger of fire exists.

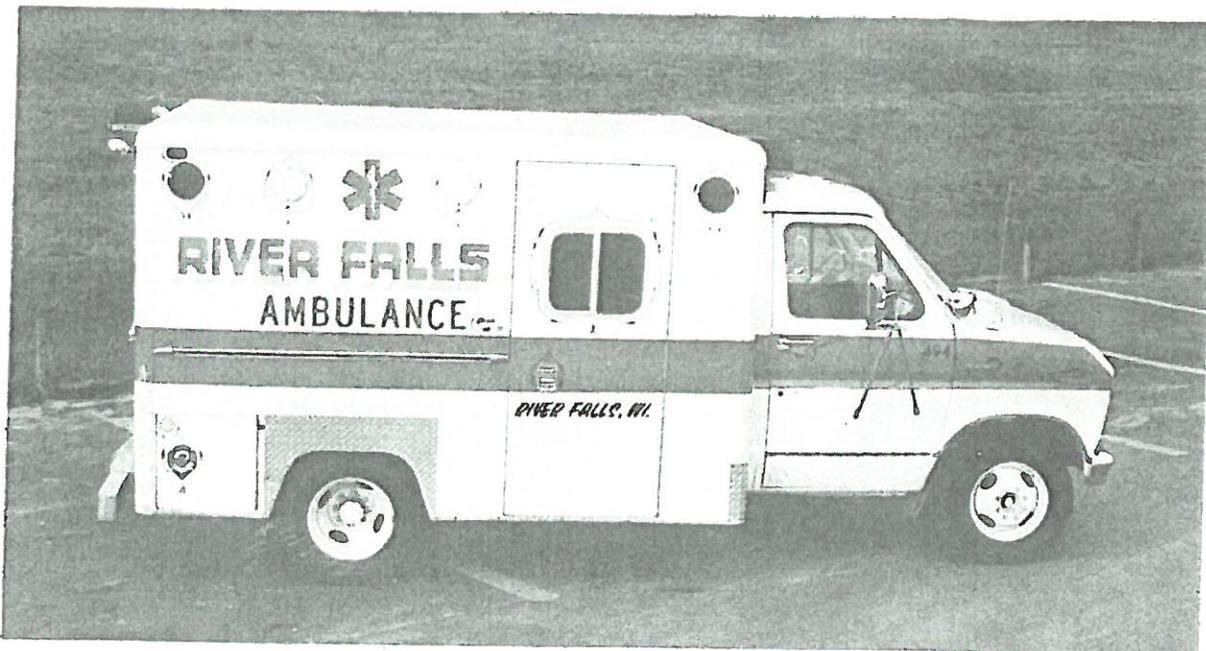
The ambulance service became the orphan child of the fire department in the early 1970's when the private service retired. In 1974, a used ambulance was loaned to River Falls until a new one was ordered and delivered. While firemen served as the first attendants, a small core of ambulance personnel, both firemen and non-firemen, was developing a separate and distinct entity.

With the same cooperation shown in the development of the Rural Fire Association, an Ambulance District was formed consisting of the City of River Falls and the surrounding townships. A one time levy on \$1.00 per person was enough to boost the service into being. Continuing operational expenses are met from fees and generous donations from grateful patrons.

The original group took its task seriously and began training as Emergency Medical Technicians. This course requires 130 hours of training over a 6 month period followed by a rigorous test. Continuing education and recertification is required of all E. M. T.'s. Remarkably, the core group of E. M. T.'s from 10 years ago remains active on the ambulance today.

The service responds to over 400 calls a year. Many of these are transfers but an increasing number are life-threatening situations. The fire department rescue vehicle carries extrication equipment like the "jaws of life", cutting torch, chains and ropes while the ambulance and personnel are well equipped to handle the medical needs.

This year a new ambulance is being purchased and the older one will be kept as a back-up unit. As demands for vehicle space increase, new quarters will have to be built. A site along side the current fire hall is the contemplated spot as the cooperative efforts of fire and ambulance services continue to meet the needs of the River Falls area.



The current ambulance, "494", now nearing retirement as the third unit operated by the ambulance service. The first was a loaned vehicle from Wood-

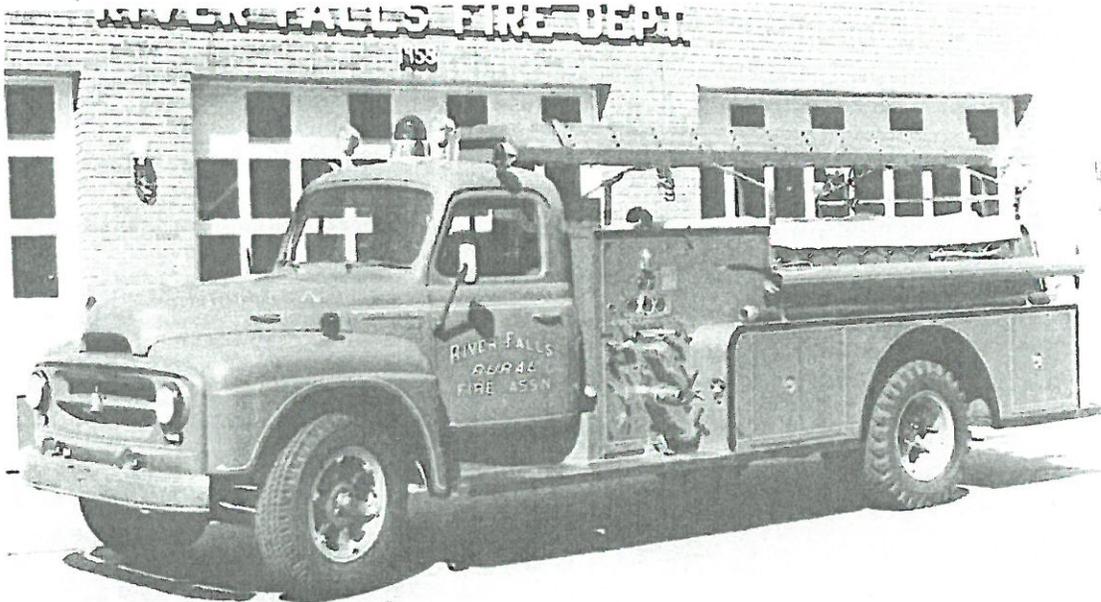
ville, Wis. The newest is currently in production at Road Rescue in St. Paul, MN.

RIVER FALLS RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION

Since 1954, the River Falls Rural Fire Association has been an integral part of firefighting in the River Falls Area. The association is a separate fire district consisting of the townships of Kinnickinnic, River Falls, parts of Troy, Clifton, Martel and Pleasant Valley.

The association owns and maintains its own equipment, operates under an appointed board of directors and controls its own budget. Their vehicles and equipment are housed at the River Falls fire hall and are manned by the personnel of the River Falls Fire Department.

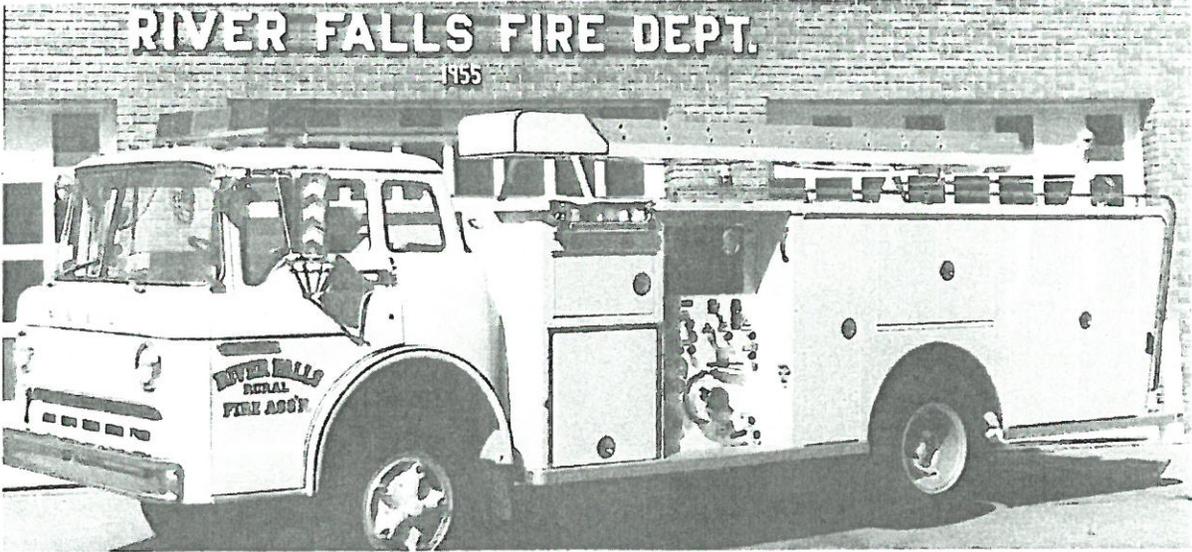
This cooperative arrangement has proven beneficial to both departments. The rural association receives the benefit of a central location with available manpower trained to handle their needs. The city department can use the pumping and water-carrying capacity of the rural department in meeting its needs for recommended fire protection. The result is an operational cost which, on a per capita basis, is about the lowest in Wisconsin among communities of comparable size.



1955 IHC 500 gallon pumper built by LuVerne Fire Apparatus Co. LuVerne, MN. Semi-retired in 1978 as a back-up unit.



1968 IHC 2200 gallon tanker. Tank rebuilt in 1984 by Custom Fire Co., Osceola, WI.



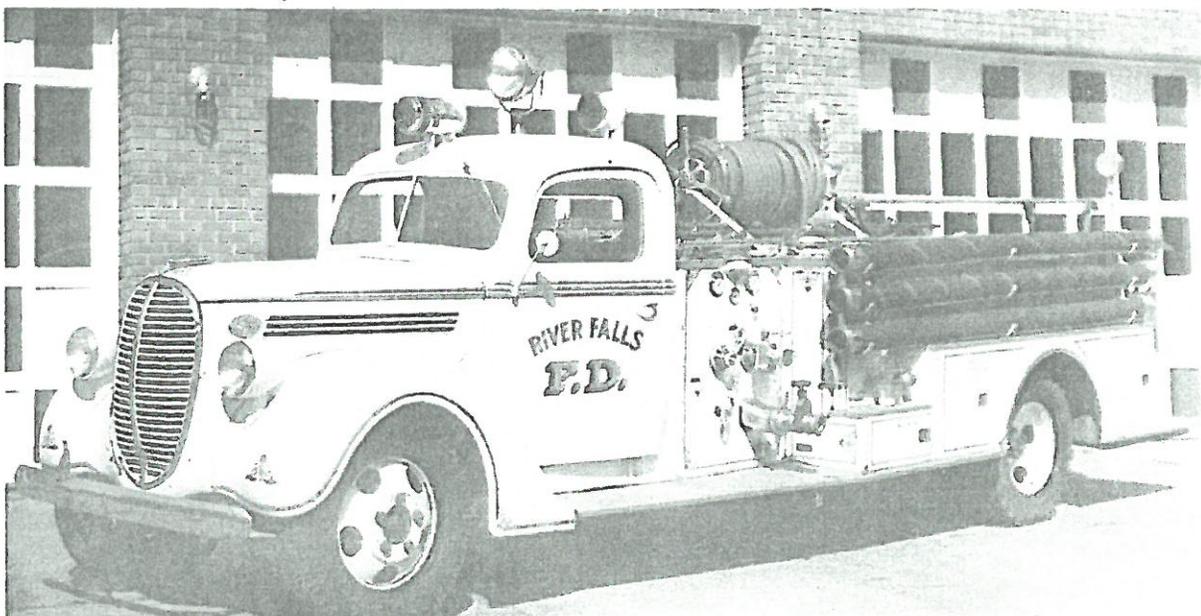
1975 Ford 750 gallon pumper. This primary pumper was purchased from General Fire Safety Equipment Co., North Branch, MN in 1976.



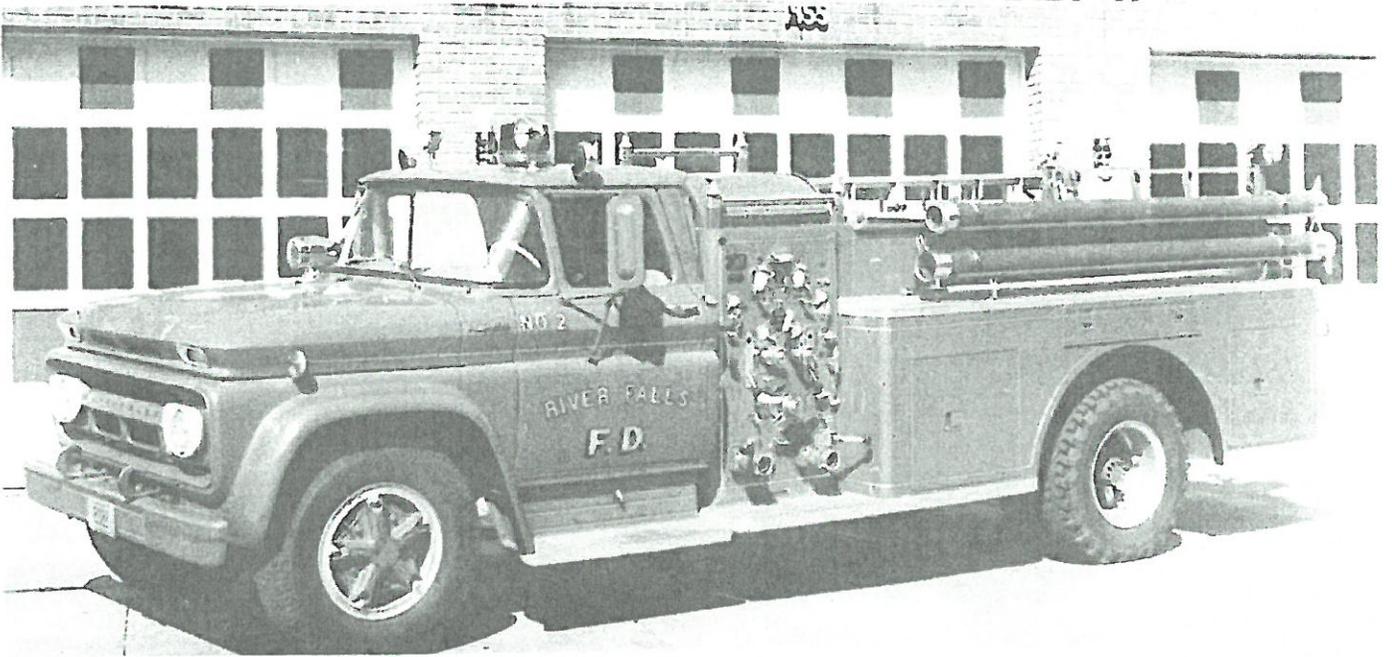
1975 Ford 1500 gallon tanker. Put into service in 1983 as a faster back-up tank truck capable of supplying a sufficient amount of water in a short period of time.



1976 Ford 4 x 4 first responder/brush buggy. Equipped with a 250 gallon tank and pump, it serves as a versatile vehicle in fighting grass fires, car fires and small structure fires.



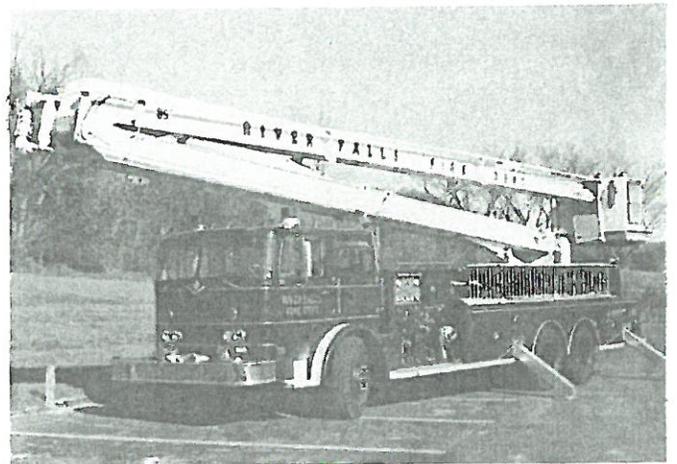
1939 Ford 600 gallon pumper. Purchased in 1939. Built by Flour City Body Company, Minneapolis, MN. Cost \$3,117. (Retired in 1984)



1962 Chevrolet 750 gallon pumper. Purchased in 1962. Built by LuVerne Fire Apparatus Co., LuVerne, MN.



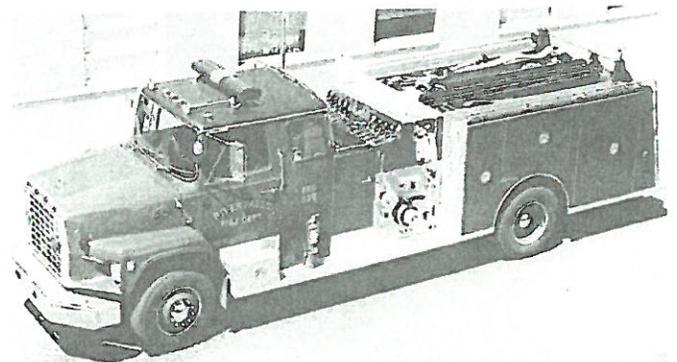
1969 Ford Econoline Van. Purchased in 1969. Formerly in use as a rescue/equipment truck, it is now used as a back-up equipment vehicle.



1970 IHC 1,000 gallon pumper/snorkel. Purchased in 1970. Built by General Safety Equipment Corp., North Branch, MN at a cost of \$73,934.



1979 Ford rescue/equipment truck. Purchased in 1979 from Advance Ambulance Sales, Bloomington, MN.



1984 Ford 1,250 gallon diesel powered pumper. Purchased in 1984. Built by General Safety Equipment Corp., North Branch, MN. at a cost of \$104,111.

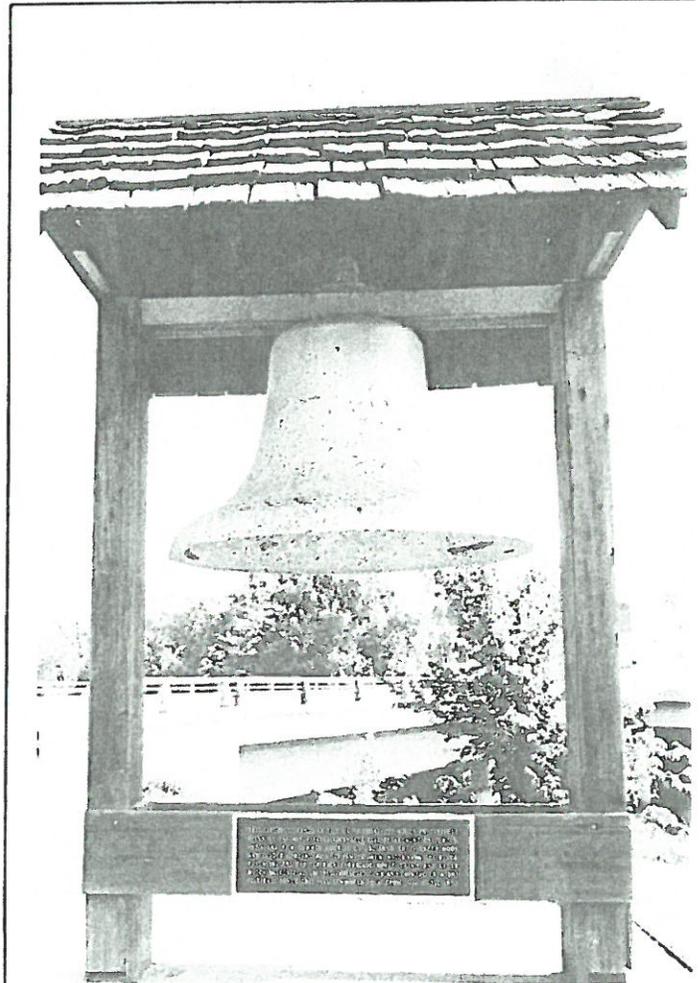
Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs

Fire Chiefs

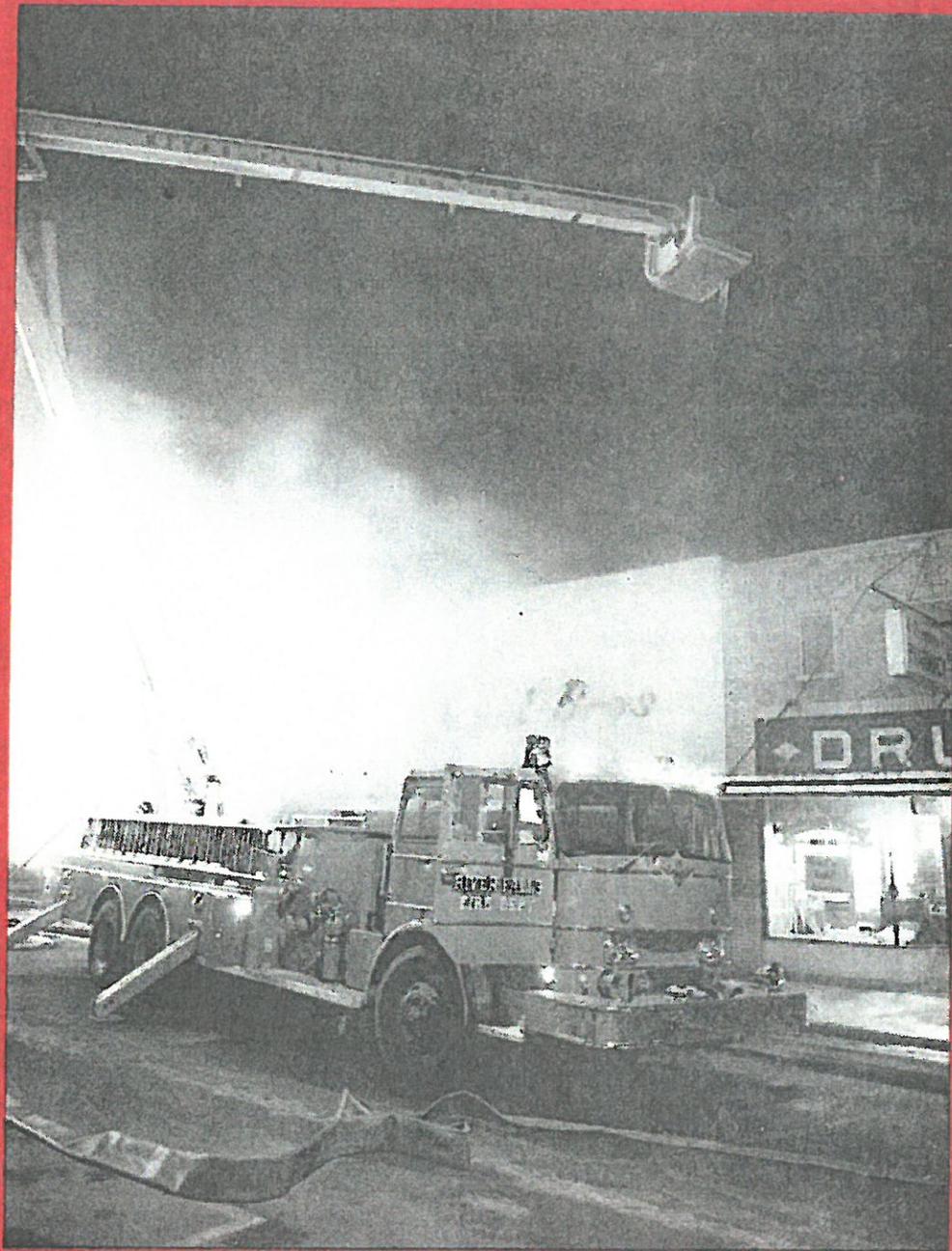
W. S. Armstrong	1885 - 1886	Walter (Pat) Patterson	1912 - 1921
Norvval McGragor	1886 - 1886	Charles Bartholomew	1921 - 1922
W. H. Tozer	1886 - 1888	Walter (Pat) Patterson	1922 - 1954
A. W. Kaler	1888 - 1891	Robert Aide	1954 - 1967
J. W. Barrett	1891 - 1893	Paul R. Stokke	1967 - 1974
J. S. Wadsworth	1893 - 1897	Harry (Duke) Deal	1974 - 1976
Ferris White	1897 - 1902	Charles (Butch) Kahut	1976 - 1985
George T. Smith	1902 - 1912	Daniel Reis	1985 -

Assistant Chiefs

David Burnett	1st Assn't 1885-1887	Jerry Wilkens	2nd Assn't 1976-
	2nd Assn't 1888-1890	Daniel Reis	1st Assn't 1981-1985
Joe Foster	2nd Assn't 1885-1888	Lawrence Purfeerst	3rd Assn't 1981-1985
Curtiss Johnson	1st Assn't 1887-1888		1st Assn't 1985-
J. S. Wadsworth	1st Assn't 1888-1893	Donald Foley	3rd Assn't 1985-
	2nd Assn't 1906-1908		
W. Hutchins	2nd Assn't 1890-1891		
Marcus Gunderson	2nd Assn't 1891-1894		
William Tozer	1st Assn't 1893-1901		
Mark Samelenson	2nd Assn't 1894-1896		
James Hale	2nd Assn't 1896-1905		
George T. Smith	1st Assn't 1901-1902		
M. B. Signne	1st Assn't 1902-1906		
Harry Chinnock	2nd Assn't 1905-1906		
Frank D. Ensign	1st Assn't 1906-1908		
J. S. Wadsworth	2nd Assn't 1906-1908		
Walter (Pat) Patterson	2nd Assn't 1908-1912		
Ernerst Buck	2nd Assn't 1908-1909		
	2nd Assn't 1910-1912		
	2nd Assn't 1913-1915		
	2nd Assn't 1919-1920		
	1st Assn't 1915-1918		
H. M. Eertson	2nd Assn't 1909-1910		
R. W. Freeman	1st Assn't 1912-1915		
	2nd Assn't 1915-1918		
A. E. Jensen	2nd Assn't 1912-1913		
Caharles Bartholomew	1st Assn't 1918-1920		
Shepard	2nd Assn't 1918-1919		
Walter Sutherland	1st Assn't 1920-1925		
Henry Zorn	2nd Assn't 1920-1925		
	1st Assn't 1930-1954		
Jim Peterson	1st Assn't 1925-1926		
Harry Jackman	2nd Assn't 1925-1926		
	1st Assn't 1926-1927		
	2nd Assn't 1936-1954		
Robert Hurd	2nd Assn't 1926-1929		
Art Muckenhausen	1st Assn't 1927-1930		
	2nd Assn't 1931-1932		
Ray Ensign	2nd Assn't 1929-1930		
B. Carolan	2nd Assn't 1930-1931		
O. M. Johnson	2nd Assn't 1932-1935		
Ray Roehl	2nd Assn't 1935-1936		
Frank Brickner	1st Assn't 1954-1964		
Kermit Wollan	2nd Assn't 1954-1959		
Thomas Champman	2nd Assn't 1959-1964		
	1st Assn't 1964-1972		
Frank Swanson	2nd Assn't 1964-1972		
Harry (Duke) Deal	2nd Assn't 1972-1972		
	1st Assn't 1972-1974		
Charles (Butch) Kahut	2nd Assn't 1972-1974		
	1st Assn't 1974-1976		
Loyd E. Ostness	2nd Assn't 1974-1976		
	1st Assn't 1976-1981		



The firebell stands as tribute to countless hours unselfishly given by the River Falls Volunteer Fire Department. On June 5, 1885, the Common Council established the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. It's pumper drew water from the river, replacing the earlier bucket-brigade. Horse-drawn and later motor-driven fire engines protected town and country. From the city hall tower, this bell summoned them from 1916 until 1957.



**RIVER FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT
CENTENNIAL
JUNE 1, 1985**