The building of a town that would withstand one of the worst raids of plunder and slaughter in history. A town that would "RISE FROM ASHES" to become one of the leading cities in the State of Kansas.

Photo taken from Mt. Oread
NOTE: The absence of streets

SHOPPING CENTER FIRE
Lawrence firefighters using the Snorkel and three pumphers worked some 15 to 20 hours, shooting water into the flames engulfing Dillon's Foods and Calhoun's Clothing store at 1833 Mass. Street. Damage caused by the fire, which broke out late May 30, 1974, was restricted to the food store and clothing store. Damage Estimates $952,353.95 Cause Unknown.
DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the firefighters of long ago and the firefighters of today . . . those firefighters who are looking death squarely in the eye at any given moment, and are still willing to stand between his fellow man and disaster . . . The Men Of The Lawrence Fire Department.

TODAY'S ORGANIZATION

FIRE CHIEF

- Chiefs Secretary
- Assistant Chief
- 9 Company Officers
  3 Stations
- Fire Arson / Lt.
- Inspections 3 Lts.
- Fire Apparatus
  6 Pumpers, / Aerial,
  / Snorkel, / Tanker
- Fire Department Vehicles 12 Units

- Public Relations & Plans
- Chief Mechanic
- Drill Master / Lt.
- Training Officers 2 Lts.
- Line Personnel
  17 Officers 45 Men
PREFACE

This book represents many hours, weeks and months of research and collation from a multitude of materials. It has been a great experience, and I hope that you will enjoy reading it and that it will meet your expectations.

I knew that this book would be looked at and referred to from time to time, so I tried to put it together in such a manner that when opened each time it would stir great memories. I have tried to look at things from a firefighters point of view.

This book is not just about a fire-department, rather it is about the men of this department, the Lawrence Fire Department. I think you will find all aspects of our department covered here, the men, the buildings, and the machines.

The book is done now, and it must succeed or fail on it's merits. I have tried and hope I have succeeded. I want to thank all the personnel for all the information, pictures, and materials, that I have received from them. This book would not have been possible without their help.

A special thanks to the Lawrence Fireman’s Relief Association.

So here it is, the LAWRENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Phil Leonard
History

A FIREMAN’S PRAYER

When I am called to duty, GOD; wherever flames may rage — give me strength to save some life, whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it is too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect his property. And if according to your will I have to lose my life, please bless with your protecting hands, my children and my wife.
THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIRE ENGINE

There is an old familiar adage which says: "Every man to his trade." Yet, if the following-up of such instructions existed today, the world would be at a standstill and development in sciences, literature, art and mechanical ingenuity would remain in the dormant state which characterized the inactivities of what are historically known as the Dark Ages of Man. With the advancement of time, many advantages have resulted from modern discoverers fostered by researches, the result of delving into the realm of inventions and experiments. Modern wizards have given the world improvements and unthought of achievements of which our forefathers did not even dream. As the alchemist of poem and story was looked upon with horror for spending his dark nights pouring over devilish concoctions from which seethed strange mixtures fraught with death, so the modern genius was viewed askance and brought to ridicule when he talked of sending messages through the air, building tunnels under the sea, discovering over thousands of miles of space and showing the marvels of electricity. Yet these men have convinced a skeptical world that their inventions, instead of being impossible myths, are indeed marvelous realities.

The average citizen gives but little time and attention to the consideration of, what might say, the smaller things pertaining to the home, necessities which, in themselves, are as important adjuncts as wireless telegraphy, telephone and flying machines are to the world at large. We refer in particular to that material factor in saving human lives and many thousands of dollars in property — the evolution of the fire engine. Holland may be looked upon as the original home of the fire engine, inasmuch as it was here that the great inventor, Van der Heyde, developed the first squirt to take the form of the manual or fire engine as we know it today. It was there, too, that the same great inventor in 1670 created what is generally termed as fire hose by simply sewing together canvas strips so as to form tubes, a great invention in his day. Afterward he similarly sewed together strips of leather. With the creation of hose, an entire change came about in the way of dealing with fires; it was the great marked invention of the seventeenth century. The interest evoked in Holland in the matter at the time was very great. The subject was constantly dealt with at the time on engravings and pictures, and also on monuments. Hence it was only natural that the British fire protection committee obtained this wonderful collection for exhibition at the international fire exposition in 1903.

Provision for extinguishing a conflagration was made by the ancients who provided and used what are now known as fire buckets, while the Romans had leather water bags attached, from which streams were projected by pressing the bags. Nero, of Alexandria, about 150 B.C., described "Syphon used in conflagrations," which was a double cylinder manual fire engine delivering an intermittent stream through a branch pipe carried by a swivel joint. Little further advance was made during the following eighteen hundred years, but in 1670 Van der Heyde introduced the use of leather hose for the suction and delivery pipes; air vessels to give continuous streams were added at the same time. In England, till early in the eighteenth century, the only form of fire engine was the fire squirt, which held three or four quarts of water. In 1730, however, Richard Newsham, of London, introduced the typical parish fire engine, and the first engine in America was also of his make. The steam fire engine was invented by Breithaust in 1829, and was first used on a fire at the Gothic rooms in London in the following year. The general adoption of such engines only commenced in 1860, at which period also the floating engines on the Thames were introduced.

CHIEFS OF THE LAWRENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

*A. J. Sutton 1859 — 1862
*E. R. Chadwick 1869 — 1870
*W. MC Curdy 1870 — 1871
*G. Bennett 1871 — 1875
*E. Mander 1875 — 1889
*B. J. Whitman 1889 — 1894
*J. W. Shaw 1894 — 1901
*W. Reinsch 1901 — 1932
*E. J. Holland 1932 — 1932
P. Ingles 1932 — 1952
J. Miller 1952 — 1960
F. Sanders 1960 — 1973
J. Kasberger 1973 —

*(Deceased)
ANCIENT FIRE FIGHTING MACHINES

An illustration is shown here of the fire engine which Richard Newsham invented in 1721 in London. The apparatus has two single-acting pump barrels 4½ inches in diameter, with an 8½ inch stroke and a tall air vessel to secure a continuous discharge. The pumps are placed in the tank, which forms the frame of the machine, and the water to be pumped was brought in buckets and emptied into the tank. The suction inlet to the pumps is provided with a 2-way cock, by which the pumps can be arranged to draw either from the tank or a length of suction hose. Leather hose was patented in 1676, and Newsham used it by connecting his suction hose at the base and the delivery at the top of the casing enclosing the air vessel. The pumps were worked by men at the cross handles, but in addition, there were two trestle-boards upon which several more men stood and assisted the pumping by throwing their weight on the descending treads. These engines were generally adopted as shown by the following quotation from the English paper: "R. Newsham, of Cloth Fair, London, engineer, makes the most useful, substantial and convenient engines for quenching fires, which carries continual streams with great force. He hath played several of them before His Majesty, King George I, and the nobility at St. James with so general an approbation that the largest was at the same time ordered for the use of that royal palace."

It was remarked of Newsham by a writer in the London Magazine of 1755, that in his engines he "gave a nobler present to his country than if he had added provinces to Great Britain." Newsham subsequently received orders for his machines from all parts of the world.

The first steam fire engine made in England was the production of John Braintwait and John Ercisson in 1829. It consisted of a boiler and two direct-acting steam pumps mounted on wheels and drawn by horses. It weighed 5,000 pounds complete. The pumping apparatus was horizontal with steam cylinders 7 inches in diameter, and two pumps 6½ inches in diameter. They made from 33 to 45 strokes per minute. The quantity of water thrown was from thirty to forty tons per hour to a height of 90 feet through a ¾ inch hose nozzle. It was not, however, until 1852 that steam engines were adopted permanently in London. In 1840, P.R. Hodge, of New York, made what is said to have been the first steam fire-engine produced in America. It resembled a 4-wheeled wagon and was self-propelled. The boiler was of the locomotive type, with a Bury's firebox, and there were two outside cylinders 9½ inches in diameter, and 14-inch stroke, actuating the drive wheels.

When the fire was reached, one end of the engine was raised until the driving wheels were off the ground where they acted as fly-wheels. The pumps were placed tandem with the cylinders, and were directly driven by the piston rods produced backward. The delivery of water took place through from one to four jets, and the quantity of water thrown is stated to have been 250 tons per hour, to a height of 166 feet when using a ¾ inch nozzle, and drawing from a depth of 12 feet.

1859
THE ORGANIZATION OF REPUBLIC ENGINE COMPANY #1

With the chartering of the city, the very first thing in the new city ordinance was the call for an organized Volunteer Fire Department. The population now was nearing 1,000 and growing rapidly because of the Free State policy. Many people were building homes and businesses. Until the purchase of equipment and organization of a company, fire fighting consisted of no more than everyone grabbing a bucket and running for the nearest water, most usually the river. So just prior to the organization of the company, the city of Lawrence purchased, in the winter of 1858, the first Fire Department equipment. It was a steam engine called the "WASHINGTON" and a Hose Cart called the "LADY OF THE LAKE" from the city of St. Louis, Missouri. The "Washington" was made by John Kern of St. Louis. It was very heavy, weighing over 5,000 pounds, and required a minimum of three horses to pull it. After six months the city of Lawrence sent the steam engine "Washington" back to the city of St. Louis because it was too heavy for use on sand streets and required too much maintenance.

The "Lady of the Lake" Hose Carriage, originally purchased in 1850 by the City of St. Louis, Missouri, was a very fine four wheeled carriage, with two silver bells mounted in the front and a lantern on each corner of the carriage frame.

The "Lady of the Lake" Hose Carriage was also sold back to St. Louis, Missouri, along with the "Washington". (Note: The Lady of the Lake now stands in the museum of the Veteran Volunteer Fireman's Historical Society, St. Louis Missouri).

The "Washington" was broken up for scrap iron and kindling wood.
1862

THE REPUBLIC ENGINE COMPANY #1

DISBANDS

THREAT OF RAIDS — With the war going and Kansas always under the threat of raids from Missouri, the Fire Department was always kept very busy. Without pay, other than pride and self-satisfaction, the men were under a great handicap.

Lawrence did not have paved or even wood-block streets. The Steam Engine “Washington”, that was purchased in 1859, would only sink into the somewhat hardpan type sand streets. Shortly after buying the Steam Engine it was sent back to the City of St. Louis, Missouri, as it could not be used by the Fire Department.

BACK TO BUCKETS — The Republic Engine Company once again reverted back to the use of buckets. The Hose cart “Ladie of the Lake”, was of no value without the steam engine “Washington” to supply the water suction and power, so the City also sold the Hose Cart back to St. Louis.

Lawrence purchased another steamer around January 1860, but it was old and worn out when the City purchased it. Now without a Hose Cart for extra hose, it did very little towards a respectable showing of proper fire-fighting equipment.

EQUIPMENT FALLS APART — By early 1862, all the equipment the company had was falling apart faster than the men could patch it together. After many pleas to the City Council for more and better equipment, the answer was “no”. Their plea just fell upon deaf ears. The City Council’s only comment was “due to the City being small we do not have the money to update or maintain the equipment”. This was very true because of the war.

CAN’T PAY TAXES — A lot of families could not pay any amount of taxes. Most men were leaving Lawrence, in pursuit of one side or the other. It was all most men could do to keep their house and business going, let alone worry about a broken-down steam engine. In July 1862, the Republic Engine Company # 1 disbanded. They placed what little equipment left of value into the Livery Stable on Massachusetts Street.

WILLIAM CLARK QUANTRILL — Quantrill was born in Ohio on July 31, 1837. He became known as one of the most fearsome Guerrilla leaders and mass murderers of his day. Not only did he destroy Lawrence, Kansas, but many other towns as well. He was eventually killed in Kentucky a few years later.
WILLIAM CLARK QUANTRILL — Quantrill began an unsavory life in the town of Canal Dover, Ohio, on July 31, 1837. As a young boy he was considered a loner, having few friends, and never any close friends. His dream was to become very rich and have everyone know who he was. His father was a school teacher, and like his father he also became a school teacher at the age of 16. Even by the standards of that time, it was considered quite a task. Soon after he started teaching school, a group of local citizens decided to move to Kansas to homestead.

QUANTRILL LEAVES OHIO — Quantrill, being broke, persuaded them to let him come along. He promised to repay them for the expenses incurred during the trip as soon as he had his first crop harvested. The group of homesteaders from Ohio settled outside a town called Stanton. Quantrill even persuaded a family by the name of Terrill to loan him enough money to buy a small acreage of ground to farm. After trying to farm for a while, he quickly saw there was no money or fame in farming, so he moved to Mendota, Illinois. There he again taught school and worked in a lumber yard as a clerk.

QUANTRILL KILLS HIS FIRST MAN — It was there Quantrill had his first run-in with the law. He was caught stealing from the lumber yard and killed a man in his attempt to escape. He then went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and about two months later the word of his escape from Illinois forced him to move on. Quantrill then joined a cavalry troop as a guide and messenger. The cavalry troop was on its way to Utah to help settle the Mormon’s. Upon arrival in Utah he had to settle for a job being a cook because the Mormon’s would not let him teach school. He left there and tried his hand at the gold fields in Colorado, which was also unsuccessful, so he decided to steal gold instead of panning for it. This made his departure from Colorado imminent.

QUANTRILL MOVES TO LAWRENCE — Quantrill came to Lawrence in 1860, using the name Charles Hart. Only a few people knew his real name, such as Nathan Stone, who ran the Whitney House and was a friend with Quantrill when he lived in Stanton.

“CHARLES HART” — He never engaged in a regular occupation in Lawrence, but spent all his time loitering about the North Ferry Landing. There he became friendly with a bunch of “Border Ruffians” known as the “Jayhawkers.” These particular “Jayhawkers” would do most anything for money. They made many trips into Missouri along the border to plunder and burn small towns. While there they would kidnap slaves, hold them for awhile, and then sell them back to the Missouri’s. “Charles Hart” convinced the “Jayhawkers” he should be the one to make the contacts in Missouri for the selling of slaves. In doing so he became very popular in the towns along the border, so popular in fact the people from Missouri believed every thing Quantrill would tell them. To gain more popularity Quantrill would set ambushes for his fellow friends, the “Jayhawkers”. Quantrill became quite a master at playing both sides.

QUANTRILL SETS AMBUSH — On one such ambush he had set up for a band of slave “Jayhawkers”, three escaped on foot as their horses were shot. They tried to make their way back to Lawrence, but a negro slave saw them and reported their position to Quantrill. He immediately went after them, but when he reached them he found only two. He promptly shot them after he had staked them to a tree. The third man hid in the bushes until Quantrill left and then he made his way back to Lawrence. Upon his return to Lawrence the man told the sheriff of the ambush. The sheriff issued a writ for the capture of “Charles Hart” for murder, arson and stealing.

QUANTRILL ESCAPES — Upon the return of “Charles Hart” to Lawrence, he was confronted by the sheriff and taken to jail. Later he made good his escape with the help of a friend who ran the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith hid him from the sheriff. Quantrill returned to Blue Springs, Missouri, dropped the name “Charles Hart,” and again become known as Quantrill. It was not long before Quantrill had gained the confidence of many young Missourians. With his small band he began to raid small Kansas border towns. As his band grew in number he gained more popularity. It was not long before he had under his control the largest band of guerrillas on the Missouri Border.

QUANTRILL RETURNS TO LAWRENCE — Quantrill bussed many times about coming to Lawrence to completely destroy the town. Most historians disagree on just why he wanted to destroy Lawrence, but it was known as the “hot-bed” of the abolitionism in Kansas. On the 17th of August, 1863, he assembled his Captains and disclosed his plan to raid Lawrence.

THE RENDEZVOUS — The rendezvous for his band of guerrillas was to be on the Black River, in Johnson County, Missouri, at the farm of Captain Pardee. On the night of the 18th of August, every Captain arrived there with his command.

QUANTRILL LEAVES FOR LAWRENCE — On the 19th the march to Lawrence began. Great caution was observed and extensive scouting was done to detect any Federal Forces. After riding 10 miles towards Kansas Quantrill stopped to address his troops numbering 294. At this point he told them where they were going and how it was going to be accomplished. Before it was dark the guerrillas were again moving. South of the Little Blue they came upon Colonel John D. Holt with 104 men, and they joined the expedition. At 7 O’clock on the morning of the 20th the band was at the head of the Grand River, four miles from the Kansas Border. Here 10 more men joined, bringing the total to 448. At 3 O’clock on the afternoon of the 20th Quantrill, moved toward the State Line from a dense wooded area. They crossed the State Line at the South Corner of Johnson county, near Aubry, which was one of General Ewing’s Posts of Federal Forces Commanded by J.A. Pike. Pike had about 100 men with him. Here began that strange list of unknown circumstances which so much aided Quantrill’s men during the raid. Passing Aubry, the guerrillas dismounted and allowed their horses to graze an hour. Resuming the ride they passed through Spring Hill and then to Gardner, which they reached at 11 O’clock.

GUIDES NEEDED — It was necessary to have guides, for which service the local farmers were impressed. When they no longer knew the roads they were shot. Ten guides were killed in a stretch of eight miles. One mile from Hesper, a Captain for Quantrill found a man named Stone and a young German named Suber. They killed Stone by knocking his head off and promised to do the same to the boy if he did not guide them to Lawrence.

QUANTRILL WAS READY — Quantrill sent five men into Lawrence to locate the two men he had sent to Lawrence some two or three weeks earlier. Here some of the men under Quantrill were ready to quit as they felt it was too risky to raid a town so large. Quantrill said “he would enter the town if he had the chance to do so, and when he advanced he was followed by his whole command.

LAWRENCE WAS HELPLESS — Lawrence was unprotected and helpless. Two camps of recruits were her
only troops, numbering less than 30 and also unarmed. The arms provided for defense of the town had been collected and locked-up by the City Fathers. Quantrell had been expected often but had failed to come, and it was their decided conviction that he would never come to Lawrence because of its size, nearing 3,000 people. But here he came. The first thing Quantrell's men came upon was a camp of white recruits, and instantly rode them down. The colored recruits fled at the sight of all the guerrillas and most all escaped with their lives.

THE SLAUGHTER BEGINS — The town was aroused by the horsemen galloping through the streets and the screams of men who were shot on sight. Fire was set to almost every store and house. Terror seized every man when they realized the situation, and were shot as they ran for cover. Stores were looted and the burning horses were ranamucked for plunder to carry back to Missouri. Women and children were stripped of jewelry, ornaments and keepsakes.

CAST INTO FLAMES — Husbands were torn from the arms of shrieking wives and murdered. Wounded men were cast into seething flames to die by fire. Some of the men who were once part of the Fire Department, rushed to the Livery Stable where the carts and horses were kept. They were caught and forced back into the Livery Stable, and the stable set afire. Quantrell's men laughed and drank until the screams of the men inside the stable were gone. After some 4-5 hours of murder and plunder, Quantrell and his band of guerrillas made their retreat back into Missouri.

HARPER'S WEEKLY 9-5-1863.

Photo courtesy Kansas State Historical Society

1868

City of Lawrence Purchased an Ahrens (Continental) Steam Piston Pump like the one above in the year 1868.

It took Lawrence some five years to gain back the stability it had before the Quantrill Massacre. During this time only small bucket brigade companies were formed from time to time. In 1868, the City Council, after constant persuasion by the local businessmen, could see some immediate action must be taken for more and better fire protection. The City Council voted to spend the sum of $6,525.00, for an Ahrens Steamer and two Hose Carts. With the equipment on order, the City Council called for the formation of a new organization of volunteer fire fighters. Selected to accomplish this task of getting men to act as volunteer firemen went to Mr. E.R. Chadwick, a member of the City Council. Mr. Chadwick immediately drafted a Constitution and By-Laws for the new organization, the name of the organization to be: "Head Center Hose Company". Upon arrival of the new equipment it was to be housed in a small barn on the corner of Quincy and Vermont. (Now known as 11th and Vermont.) The barn was owned by another City Councilman who sold the property to the city for the purpose of a Fire House, nicknamed "Old Engine Room". Mr. E. R. Chadwick then set about the task of getting 12 men to volunteer as fire fighters which must have been more difficult than expected, because it took until March 1, 1869, before the "Head Center Hose Company" had its first organized meeting.
HEAD CENTER HOSE COMPANY

The Head Center Hose Company was formerly organized on March 1, 1869, with the following members:

E. R. CHEDWICK  CHIEF
H. LEONARD  FIRST ASSISTANT
G. THOMAS  SECOND ASSISTANT
H. WHITMAN  SECRETARY
R. JOHNSON  TREASURER

MARKET HOUSE BUILDING

The Market House Building on the corner of Henry and Vermont was originally built as a “Market”. Due to the amount of money it took to build such a large building, before it was completed, the owner was forced to sell because of a shortage of money to complete it. Later the City purchased the building to be used as a City Hall. The name Market House Building was dropped and it became known as City Hall.

In June 1869, the City requested the Head Center Hose Company to move all the equipment from the Old Engine Room to the new City Hall. The Fire Department occupied the back of the building, with doors that opened onto Henry Street. The City offices, and the Police Department were in the front portion of the building facing Vermont Street.

The following taken from the original log books dated June 9, 1869

Constitution

and

By-Laws

of

Head Center Hose Company

of the

City of Lawrence
Order of Business

1. Reading of the Minutes
2. Finances and Disbursements
3. Report of Officers and Committees
4. Deferred Business
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Members
7. Miscellaneous Business
8. Roll Call

Constitution

Article 1

This Company shall be known as the Read-Officer Hose Company, of the City of Lawrence.

Article 2

The officers of this Company shall consist of a Foreman, Assistant Foreman, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Pumpers.

Article 3

The regular meetings of this Company shall be held on the first Thursday of each month, at half past twelve o'clock P.M., when twelve members shall constitute a quorum to transact business. Should an alarm of fire occur sufficient to interfere with its organization, or render its operations impossible, the meeting shall be held on the following evening at the same hour.

Article 4

The members of this Company shall be chosen by ballot, and after confirmed by the City Council, they shall become officers elected.

Article 5

Each member shall be liable to such fines and dues as the By-Laws may prescribe, and no resignation of member shall be accepted until all dues are paid or remitted.
Article 6.
Any member may be removed from office or expelled from the Company for non-attendance at meetings, for violation of these articles, for a breach of trust, for drunkenness, for profanity, for mischievous conduct, or for the non-payment of fines and dues.
A ten week's notice of full non-payment being first given, provided he is given an opportunity of making a defense before the Company.

Article 7.
The annual election of officers for the Company shall be held at the regular meeting in May of each year.
Vacancies may be filled at any regular meeting.

Article 8.
No alteration or amendment shall be made to these articles except by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Company.

By-Laws

Article 1.
Section 15. This Company shall be composed of twelve active members.
Section 16. Persons under the age of eighteen shall be eligible to membership.
The first twelve members shall be elected by the Company, three for each month, thereafter.

Article 2.
Duties.
Section 1. On the arrival of fire, all members shall repair immediately to the apparatus and assist in the necessary duties until the fire is extinguished, when they shall carry the apparatus to its proper place.
In case the alarm which caused the removal of the apparatus proves false, they shall return with it to the Engine House, and there remain until the alarm is called and the Company dismissed.

Section 2. No person shall be eligible to office who has not been a member for at least three months, unless by the unanimous consent of the Company.
Each member of the Company shall be liable for all assessments made by a vote of the Company, and to a fine of ten dollars for non-attendance.
Article 3

Duties of the Secretary.

Section 1. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Company, and shall report the same to the members at the next meeting. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the production of the minutes of the meeting at the next meeting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall have power to appoint all special committees, unless otherwise directed by the Company, and shall sign all orders for the Treasurer which shall have been previously sanctioned by the Company.

Article 4

Duties of the Treasurer.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a record of all money due, fees, and other claims of the Company. The Treasurer shall also present and report to the annual meeting of the members at the next meeting.
1869

HEAVY BURDEN

The city had promised Chief Chadwick that as soon as he had the new Fire Department organized and ready to fight fires they would buy a team to pull the new steamers and hose carts.

But when the company was ready, the city council decided there were not that many fires. The volunteers were receiving a total of $1.00 for each fire so they could push or pull the equipment to the location of the fires. This would save spending money on a team at this time.

The fireman worked like "little beavers" when the cry of fire was sounded, pulling and pushing the steamers and hose carts to and from the fires. As you can imagine in almost every fire, by the time the steamers arrived the building was totally consumed by fire. This was extremely alarming to the local citizens. They had a new steamer and two hose carts, yet every time there was a fire almost everything was lost.

Chief Chadwick complained so much that he and all his men were asked by the City Council to resign from the Fire Department. They did so on May 26, 1870.

Actual accounts taken from the original log books.

WHO’S IN CHARGE

(1869) — An alarm of fire at the Englishman’s store behind Vermont and Massachusetts Streets at 8 1/2 O’Clock. The company was at the Station House in good time and laid hose from the easterm Massachusetts Street to the house. Due to orders and counterfeiters from everyone involved, there was no stream of water deployed on the fire. In the meantime the house completely burned to the ground. The local citizens were roaring with laughter at the complete state of confusion the department was in.

FIRST ACCIDENT

(1869) — An alarm of fire was sounded at 9 1/2 O’Clock from the house belonging to a Mr. Schell of the firm of Schell & Bernier, dwelling built of wood. The fire was put by hand and at work not good person and the fire extinguished with damage to the building.

irrespective of the precautions and pay, they wanted no part of pulling or pushing that equipment down the streets. As they quit they hired their relation or a person of the same political belief to replace them. This created a political organization instead of qualified firefighters. The city had only personnel interested in exemptions or a political standing. Once again the City was forced to change the City Ordinances, but reluctant to release their political hold, the change was not radical. It read as follows: "Volunteer fireman who stay 5 years and attend at least 2/3 of all fires during that 5 years would then be exempt from the Personal Property Tax, Poll Tax and Home Guard for the remainder of his life as long as he lived in Lawrence, Kansas.

During this period the City went through some four Chief’s and more firemen than possible to count. Proper firefighting was practically a joke. No one knew what to do or how to do it. There were quite a few accidents and many fine homes were completely destroyed.

In 1875 when Mr. E. Mantie was elected Chief, the first thing he did was gain the support of the local citizens, who were already up in arms at the local politicians. Together the Chief and local citizens forced the City Council to delete from the City Ordinances that portion concerning exemptions from Personal Property and Poll Tax, keeping the exemption of House Guard and adding Jury Duty. They were also forced to purchase proper teams for the purpose of pulling the equipment of the Fire Department.
FROM THE RECORD BOOK

MUDDY STREETS

(February 16, 1870) Between 9 and 10 AM an alarm of fire was sounded from the south part of town. The house belonging to that of Mr. Adams, known as the Tanner House. The company was on hand in good time but due to the streets being soft the Steam engine and hose carts could only be pulled as far as the Satter House cistern. The men just could not pull the apparatus any further. All the department could do was stand and watch the fine house of Mr. Adams, with all the out-buildings burn completely down.

WHOOP'S FORGOT SOMETHING

(March 3, 1870) An alarm of fire was sounded at 8 O’Clock by the burning of two buildings between Warren and Barkley Streets. The company was promptly on hand and ready, but with the streets being very muddy the men had considerable difficulty in getting the engine and hose carts to the fire. When the Chief ordered suction hose to be put down the cistern they found to their surprise the suction hose had been left at the station house. A twenty-minute delay was caused by the return of firemen to the station house for the suction hose. By the time water was ready the two horses were completely destroyed.

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<tr>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRES IN 1869</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRES IN 1870</th>
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Total payroll for drills and fires $720.00 Total payroll for drills and fires $1,440.00
1871 — 1872

**FIREMEN PURCHASE FIRE BELL**

Taken from the Fire Department Record Books.

May 22, 1871, a letter from the Chief of the Head Center Hose Company to the Mayor and City Council: “To the Honorable Mayor and City Council: The Head Center Hose Company would like to inquire as to what action has been taken in regard to the purchasing of a suitable ‘Fire Bell’ for the City of Lawrence.

Some three months ago we tendered to the City money collected by the fireman of the Head Center Hose Company, towards the purchase of a ‘Fire Bell’, and unless immediate action is taken in regard to it we wish to withdraw our offer.”

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**LETTER TO MAYOR**

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The fire bell was eventually purchased by the city with the money the Head Center Hose Company furnished, from the Union Bell Company of New York in 1872.

Upon receiving the “Fire Bell” it became the job of the firemen to hand hoist the bell into the bell tower of City Hall, some 85 feet. The bell weighed 2,100 pounds and it took the twelve fireman seven days to hand hoist the bell to the top of the tower. According to the record book they would build one platform after another until finally reaching the top. The bell was used for all emergencies until 1880.

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**BELL USED VERY LITTLE**

The old bell was not used very much after the whistle replaced it. It rang on very special occasions such as when World War I was declared and again on Armistice Day. In 1903, when North Lawrence residents were threatened by the Kaw River flood, the bell rang out one midnight to summon the men in south Lawrence to come to the river front and man launches and row boats to help evacuate the people in North Lawrence who were trapped by the rising water. In 1919, material for the making of bells was in very short demand. The bell-makers were having a difficult time in filling their order for new bells. The Union Bell Company sent a letter with an urgent plea that the Lawrence bell be sold back to the company.

In the discussion that followed, Fire Chief Paul Ingers, who was also chief bellringer, refused to sell the bell.

Although the pressure from the City Council was strong he remained steadfast in his decision. According to Chief Ingers: “true the old bell was used very little, but it was one of the original items the Fire Department had purchased and it was going to stay with the department.”

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**OLD FIRE BELL BRINGS MEMORIES OF EXCITING, THRILLING EVENTS**

If you've never heard the fire bell when it hung in the bellry of the old Lawrence City Hall on 8th and Vermont Street, you have missed a thrill that you could never forget.

Sixty odd years ago, fires and fire-department were exciting and thrilling things. When a fire broke out, the bell rang out long and clear, then there would be a short pause, and then a peal of whatever word the fire was in, then more long ringing. This would then be repeated in case you didn't get the word number the first time. One ring was for the first word, two for the second, and so on. No matter what you were doing, meal time or other, when that exciting magic sound pealed forth, you dropped everything and ran to the corner to watch the horses bolt out and gallop down the street to the fire.
SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1800'S

CHARTLAND HOTEL BURNS

(January 6, 1875, 8h O'Clock) The Chartland Hotel burned. Firemen worked 4-hours in the coldest weather possible. Mrs Summerfield served the company "Red Hot" coffee which kept them going.

NEW CHIEF

April 5, 1875, E. Master was elected Chief of the Head Center Hose Company.

NATIONAL HOTEL BURNS

(November 12, 1875, 1 O'Clock) The National Hotel burned. Firemen worked 3-hours trying to control the fire. The company completely drained the cistern at the corner of Massachusetts and Winthrop.

TOTAL PAYROLL

During 1875, there were 13 fires and 24 drill periods for a total of $1,332.00

COMPANY GETS BADGES

July 17, 1876, Chief E. Master discussed the possibility of getting badges for the members of the Head Center Hose Company with the City Council. The City Council stated they would okay the badges if the men paid for them. Cost for the badges was $1.00 per badge.

SCHOOL BURNS

(December 5, 1876, 2 O'Clock) Quincy Street School burned. The firemen worked very hard in the cold weather to save the school but due to the shortage of water in the area all attempts failed.

NEW RESOLUTION

(February 7, 1881) A resolution was offered and passed by the company. It stated as of this date only members of the Head Center Hose Company may occupy the bed in the "Bunk Room." Also when a member of said company will not use said beds he must tender his resignation immediately.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

January 3, 1881, W. Wiederman submitted his resignation from the company after having served since 1870. The company voted to amend the Constitution to read, "The company may have HONORARY MEMBERS" by a unanimous vote of the company. William Wiederman was then voted the first Head Center Hose Company Honorary Member.

LUMBER YARD FIRE

(March 12, 1881, 11 O'Clock) An alarm of fire was sounded coming from the Hamilton-Shaw Lumber Factory at the corner of Quincy and Rhode Island. The fire made it very difficult in getting to the fire. Soon after the engine arrived, suction was put down and two streams were put on the burning building. After 4 hours of hard fighting the fire was under control. Total loss of the fire was $20,000.00.
AGAIN POLITICS ALMOST DESTROY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

1882 — Politics have always ruled how the Fire Department would be operated even who could or could not be hired as a fire-fighter.

Consequently no one studied fire fighting as it should have been. The men were not uniformed, they followed no rules and regulations. They only wanted to be good party workers. They only expected to hold their jobs a short while, which gave them no incentive to study the practical side of fire-fighting.

After the election of a new Mayor and City Council in 1882, almost every man on the department was asked to resign because they did not have the same political views.

Chief E. Manter refused to let his men resign or quit. He made a statement in the Journal World. — "NO LARGER WOULD THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BE A POLITICAL PAWN. FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE CITY OF LAWRENCE WERE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN POLITICAL VIEWS."

Immediately after the statement was published he received public support which saved his job. More importantly it immediately constituted a whole new aspect to the practical fire-fighting.

Training classes were established on proper fire-fighting, safety, and hose procedures. It also eliminated personnel interested only in a political gain.

Of course it was not all that easy to change the City's position, as Chief Manter was to discover. It seems immediately the support for funds to operate the department were in very short demand, in fact non-existent throughout the remainder of 1882 and most of 1883, the department was not to receive one piece of new equipment or any money to maintain what equipment they already had on hand. E. Manter remained Chief until 1889.

EQUIPMENT FALLING APART

1883 — The steamer and most of the hose the Head Center Hose Company had was purchased in 1869. Everything was getting old, the steamer could not hold much pressure, yet the hose was holding pressure but for how long? Without funds to purchase new equipment or repair the old, the Company could not handle a large fire at all.

After many requests from the Chief to the City Council, requesting the purchase of new or repair of the old equipment, the answer was always the same.

"After a close inspection by the City Councilmen it is our firm belief the apparatus and equipment look so good it could not by any possible means be bad."

(Entry taken from the Fire Department Record Book January 16, 1883, 2 o’clock) — The alarm of fire was given. All member of the company responded in good time and soon we were at the fire. The fire proved to be in the building off Massachusetts between Berkshire and Warren Streets. We soon had everything working but as the old engine was not able to carry over 80 pounds steam, the fire continued to get larger. Soon we ran out of water in the cisterns. We then moved to the cistern at the corner of Henry and Massachusetts Streets, and then the trouble really began. What rubber hose we had begun to burst and we were forced to leave the lines and began using buckets. As expected, we could not save much.

The Chief ordered the split-hose left in the middle of the street so that some of the near-sighted councilmen could see just what kind of tools they expected to work with.

OLD TIME ARSON

(Taken from the Fire Department Record Books.

(February 4, 1886) A fire alarm was sounded. The fire proved to be a small frame house on New Jersey, occupied by a Miss Banning. House was a total loss by the time the company arrived. The only thing the department could do was save adjoining property.

(A HARD NIGHTS WORK

(January 8, 1887) The alarm of fire was given at 11:30 P.M. The fire proved to be in the Millinery Department of Kahan-wiler Trade Palace. The company was on hand promptly and at the cistern in front of the building. Water soon failed here so the engine moved to the cistern at Lee and Massachusetts. Water failed there too so the engine moved to the Post Office cistern. At this time the hose lines froze, giving no water at all. The fire progressed and engulfed the adjoining buildings. The following is a list of stores that were completely lost: KAHN-WILER BROS, J.A. MONTGOMERY FOOD STORE, GEORGE FALLEY'S RESTAURANT, ASCELAIN'S, AND THE SALVATION ARMY.

The company worked all night using buckets to keep it from spreading further.

(February 9, 1886) A fire alarm was sounded. This time the corner of Lee and Massachusetts Streets to a small frame house occupied by a Miss Banning. "Same person as the fire on the 4th of February." After some hard talk and other persuasion the Fire Chief determined both fires were set on purpose by Miss Banning.

On the 10th of February 1886, the Mayor and the Fire Chief called upon Miss Banning and issued her with an alternative "either leave town while there were still some buildings left, or go to jail".

34
1887 — 1895

Taken from the Kansas Collection in Spencer Library University of Kansas

FIVE STORES BURNED

About half past eleven last night fire was discovered in the rear of A B KAHNWILER & BROS Dry Goods Store, efforts were made to extinguish it, and the Fire Department was promptly warned and on the grounds in a very short time. In spite of the tremendous efforts made, the flames spread rapidly, and in a short time the entire store was one vast sheet of flames.

A large crowd soon gathered, and the men worked like heroes in vain to check the advance of the flames. It wasn't long before the supply of water was exhausted, and the engine had to be moved to another location.

In the meantime rapid progress was made by the flames, and it became evident that the entire McCollough Block was doomed to destruction.

Kahnwilder store occupies two rooms, and soon Aceln's Grocery on the South and Falley Restaurant, on the North were ablaze in every part, the fire flames bursting from every window.

Aceln's Grocery and the Salvation Army were soon given up to the flames and Montgomery's Grocery on the South and Straffon's Drug Store on the North, were the limits of the fire.

If the progress of the fire had not been arrested at Montgomery's, no earthly power could have kept it from going into the Methodist Church corner. All of the McCollough Block and half of the House Block were consumed.

Much damage was done to the other half of the Latter Building. The origin of the fire was a mystery. A B Kahnwilder was seen by the reporter, and he said: "I don't have the slightest idea as to the cause. I just finished invoicing, and my stock was worth approximately $55,000.00 and only $35,000.00 was under insurance.''

1896 — 1899

Taken from Fire Department Record Books

When the fire reached the Keosauqua barrels in the Grocery Stores, a terrific explosion occurred, which shook the buildings and broke glass across the street. The Fire engine team that was attached to the wagon ran away through the crowd, scattering them in every direction. The team ran to the Pacific Express Office, where they broke loose from the engine, and ran it into a store. The team was finally stopped in the east part of town.

The success of the Fire Department in controlling the flames under such difficulties was remarkable. The engine had to be moved many times since little water was in the cisterns. But through determination on their part and with buckets in hand, they worked all night to extinguish the flames.

Taken from the Fire Department Record Books

(February 3, 1889) A small house at 945 New Hampshire, was discovered on fire and the alarm was at once telephoned into the Fire Department. Although the location of the fire at the corner of Quincy and New Hampshire was sent to the Department, the driver of the Hose Cart, I. Taylor, said he didn't believe it was there because he lived there.

He drove to the corner of Pinkey and New Hampshire. His house burned completely to the ground while he was at the wrong address.

(May 13, 1890) While responding to a fire, Fireman F.D. Cooley was run down by the Hose Cart, driven by H. Davis. Both of Cooley's legs were crushed so badly he never returned to active duty.

(February 2, 1895) While responding to an alarm, the Hook and Ladder Wagon hit some ice on Massachusetts Street and overturned, seriously injuring five firemen — A. Watts, broken Collar Bone and Crushed Chest, W. Reinisch, Ankle and Leg Smashed, F. Reinich, Leg Broken. A. Watts later died without completely recovering from the accident.

(June 6, 1898) After the fire to the Power Plant on the University, Water mains and new hydrants were installed on the University grounds. The company made test runs with the Hook and Ladder and Hose Car to the University Grounds.

(June 6, 1898) — Fireman Ed. Kieffe was selected to attend the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen convention at Pittsburg Kansas.

(January 30, 1899) — A special meeting called to decide just what kind of proper fire-fighting equipment was needed to help the men. The company decided to buy helmets, rubber coats and also try to buy the new Miller Smoke Proofers. The coats and helmets were purchased from the Olson Fire Protecting Company.

(May 5, 1899) — A special meeting the company voted to help pay Fireman William Beals medical expenses because of the injuries received in the fire at Donnelly's Livery Barn. The money to come from the new Relief Fund in accordance with City Ordinance 248.
OPERA HOUSE AFIRE
The Interior of the Building Gutted This Morning About 1 O'clock by a
Very Stubborn Blaze
THE LOSS WILL BE SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS.

This morning at 1 o'clock the fire alarm was sounded for a fire that when discovered had the entire north side of the opera house in a mass of flames which seemed to threaten almost inevitable destruction to the entire open house block. The fire department was at the fire in a very short time, and soon had water on the flames. The work for a time seemed in vain for it was almost impossible to hose the fire, and it had gotten a good start before it was discovered that the entire building was enveloped in smoke and the fire could be seen creeping out in innumerable places.

The firemen put out streams after another on the burning building till there were three big streams of water pouring upon the fire. This had some effect, but the work had to be continued a couple of hours before the danger was over and the fire extinguished.

Soon after the firemen got to work they saw that they had a big job before them, and put forth every effort to get the blaze under control. The fire seemed to hang along close to the roof after it left the stage, where it first started, and it was very hard to get under control.

The three streams of water and the vacuum pumps worked on the part of the改良 fire department and those who aided them, told on the fire fairly and was misleading.

The work of the firemen has been commented on all sides today. They were working against great odds, the fire having gotten such a start and burning through where it was almost impossible to locate it.

The water was thrown without judgment and even when the whole upper part of the building was alight it was the general expression that it could not be saved. In any case, the firemen were working like beavers, and did nerve the building. They kept the fire from all the walls except one north of and next to the stage where the fire broke out.

The elements had to contend with was many, and when the building was burned this morning everybody expressed the opinion that the result of the fire department's work was almost miraculously.

The members are being punished on the back by the whole town this more or, and every word of praise that is spoken of them is deserved.

ACTUAL NEWS PAPER ACCOUNT OF THE OPERA HOUSE FIRE
September 30, 1896

TWENTY HORSES BURNED TO DEATH
Fire Quickly Destroys Donnelly's Big Liv- ery Barn and Most of Its Contents.

STARTED IN THE CENTER OF THE LOFT.

The Fire Department Taxed to the Utmost to Confront the Flames to the One Building - List of the Owners and the Losers - Stable Will Be Rebuilt

At 9.40 last evening the fire department was called to Donnelly's livery stable on New Hampshire street, and on arriving found the whole of the main part one mass of flames. The stable burned, and in it were twenty horses, that could not be gotten out, besides a large amount of harness and some vehicles.

The fire swept along irresistible, and it was only the hardest kind of work on the part of the fire department that conduct the farmer to the one main building, or even made it possible to save the vehicles and other things that were taken from the burning stable.

The fire was seen first by Mr. Tom Donnelly, who was out near his own stable when he first noticed a little smoke coming through the roof of the livery barn. As soon as he realized what the matter was he hastened to the front of the stable to tell Mr. Donnelly that his barn was on fire, but before he could get there the alarm could be heard in the surrounding fire had burnt into flames and was rapidly devouring the stable.

The work of saving horses was commenced just as soon as the first alarm was given and four horses were successfully taken out. The smoke was so dense, and the fire so intense that further efforts had to be abandoned, and the firemen erected a platform on the roof of the barn left to worsen in the flames. It took a long time for the fire to spread so that it was impossible to do anything with the stable, and it was seen that none of the horses would have to perish.

Mr. Donnelly had a valuable trotting mare "Spirtula" in a box stall at the rear end of the stable that he himself made a desperate effort to save, but both he and his brother were driven back by the suffocating smoke, and hospitally got out of the stable in time to escape, but lost of the stable and Mr. Donnelly crowed so much, was one of those lost.

covered that the whole loft was in flames.

There were a number of stories about items that were supposed to have been lost, but nothing definite has turned up, and the origin of the fire was seen as much a mystery today as it was first discovered.

The effect of the fire was terrible. There was not the expected storming and wild stampede, but the plodding and subdued cries of the dumb beasts for liberty, стал, resolute charge to the bug crowd that gathered at the fire, but nothing could be done for the helpless creatures that perished in their stalls.

The fact that it was a beautiful day cannot mean so many of the good livery horses and stalls to be out of the stable and the fire became impossible to estimate the number of horses that were consumed in their burning graves. As soon as the fire was discovered search was commenced under the debris, and the searchers of twenty of the animals were found in their stalls where they met their death. Their bodies were dredged and burned, and there was every indication that the deaths that had come to them was in its most terrible form, and that frightful paroxysms of pain were endured during their dying moments; in most cases they were burned from the bodies, and only by the loss of the stable was it possible to recognize what one of the animals was.

Mr. Donnelly had a number of breeding horses at the stable, but owing to the day the greater number of them were saved and most of those taken out before the fire got too far along belonged to lessee brothers. Mr. Donnelly though some of the horses burned wore "horrors."

April 18, 1897
# Hose and Equipment Purchased

## 1876 — 1892

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Qty</th>
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<td>Five Dz Rrenches &amp; Play Pipe</td>
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### Yearly Report of the Head Center Hose Company

**Chief:** W Reinisch  
**Asst Chief:** F Doaur  
**Driver:** G Schultz  
**Driver:** W Beattie  
**Fireman:** J Hale  
**Fireman:** D Richardson  
**Fireman:** J Dunkley  
**Fireman:** C Henderson  
**Fireman:** F Wieman  
**Fireman:** G Fisher  
**Fireman:** W Hower  
**Fireman:** Z Haston

**Total Fires:** 44  
**Total Drills:** 12  
**Total Amount Paid for Fires and Drills:** $2,016.00

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Letter sent to Mayor and City Council by Chief W. Reinisch at the end of 1901.

Mr. Mayor and City Council

The following yearly report is submitted for your information and inspection.

Again, it is requested that the entire Fire Department be placed on a monthly paid basis. I have submitted for your concurrence a request for a fully paid department the last four months without any answer.

I request again the 12 members of the Head Center Hose Company be paid a monthly wage, the amount of the wages to be agreed upon by the City Council.

It is our greatest aim to be completely ready whenever called upon to serve the City in the capacity of "Qualified Fire-Fighters". As you can see from the following report this department has an average of over three fires a month. With this number of fires a person must be fully trained and a "Qualified Fire-Fighter" or we are going to lose some lives and property.

---

Chief William Reinisch
FIRE DEPARTMENT TAKES NEW CHIEF

As of June 1, 1901, William "Bill" Reinisch was appointed Chief of the Head Center Hose Company.

WILLIAM REINISCH

William Reinisch was born in Berlin Germany, in the year 1869. After receiving most of his formal education in Germany, his parents decided to move to the United States. Along with his parents, a brother and two sisters they made the difficult move from Germany to the United States in 1886, not long after arriving in the United States, his father heard of a University in Lawrence, Kansas. Mr. Reinisch determined his children were going to have a college education and as the West was growing he decided Lawrence was just the place to go. The Reinisch's arrived in Lawrence in 1889. Mr. Reinisch opened a Roof Tinning Shop at 1029 Massachusetts Street. William Reinisch enrolled in the University of Kansas and worked with his father in the tin shop at night.

William Reinisch was not happy at the University and convinced his father he could do better in a career rather than education. He wanted to become a member of the Head Center Hose Company, and worked in the tin shop with his father.

His first try at securing a job with the department came in 1892, at the age of 23. He would work with his father in the tin shop until the "cry of fire" was sounded and off he would go. As time went by he began to spend more time at the "engine room" than he did at work.

Because of his father's bad health, William Reinisch was forced to resign from the department in January 1893.

William took over the tin shop and in no time at all, he had made the business quite lucrative. After his father's death, he took on a partner in the business so he could once again join the department.

The experience he received from running the tin shop and dealing with people immediately showed. It seemed almost at once he took control of the department. By the third month after he had rejoined the department, he had drafted a plan for insurance for the fireman and asked the company to bring the matter before the City Council.

J. W. Shaw, Chief, appointed William Reinisch a committee of one to take the plan before the Mayor and City Council.

After many attempts to bring the subject up to the City Councilmen he was finally told "not to bring the subject up again as the City could not afford the cost for insurance for fireman".

But being German and a little "hard headed," he did not give up. He was sure he could get the insurance plan through somehow.

In 1895, he tried to organize a "Lawrence Fireman Relief Association". It was his idea to take the money received from the "Annual Fireman's Ball" and also to have fund raising dinners, take the money put it into the bank, draw interest and eventually it would grow into an insurance and retirement plan.

But this idea didn't set well with the other firemen at all. It had always been the procedure in the past to split all funds received by the department among themselves. They wanted an insurance and retirement plan, but not with their money. As indicated in the Fire Department Records "Quote — Why should we put our money in a tin box in the bank when we can use it to buy cigar's and other things?" So without funds, and no apparent way to obtain them the "Lawrence Fireman Relief Association" folded. Later that same month he wrote a letter to the Mayor and City Council, requesting permission to visit Mr. J. D. Bowersocks in the State Capital. After several discussions with Mr. J. D. Bowersocks, he drafted a resolution, to be introduced by Mr. Bowersocks to the State Legislature in hopes of getting a State Law passed to read "All Fire Insurance written with the fire districts of any city in the State of Kansas, of the total money received for such insurance would be returned to the State and in turn would be returned to the city in which the fire insurance was written, to be used as a retirement and insurance plan for that city's Fire Department, the money was to be controlled by a State Organiza-
tion known as "Kansas Fireman's Relief Association".

At once the insurance companies organized in an attempt to forestall the bill, and without other department's in the State support the bill was defeated. William Reinisch began writing all the departments within the State asking for their support and help in lobbying the bill in the State Capital. The bill was finally passed in late 1895.

After notification of the passage of the bill, the City immediately passed a City Ordinance stating "any money or funds received by the Head Center Hose Company from the State would be sent immediately to the City Treasurer." The City Treasurer was supposed to keep the funds received by the department separate from City Funds and to be used only for insurance, equipment, and a retirement program for the fireman. William Reinisch was against the City Ordinance because it allowed the City to keep the interest from the money, and all the Fire Department got was the actual amount the State returned, but as the department was not large and had no say so what so ever, the City maintained the money. According to the Fire Department Records the first check received was in the amount of $672.00.

Because of his continuing effort to not only improve his own department but other departments in the State, William Reinisch was awarded in 1896, "Outstanding Fireman of the State". In 1897 he became Assistant Chief and Chief in 1901.
FIremen INJURED

(March 31, 1902) Firemen Howser badly injured one of his eyes in a fire at 711 New Hampshire when the dwelling gave way trapping firemen Howser in the debris. It is not known how long firemen Howser will be out with his eye injury.

HASKELL FIRE

(October 12, 1902) The company was called at 7:10 P.M. by an alarm of fire at Haskell Institute. As it was not the department's practice to help Haskell with fire protection because it was out of the fire districts, there was some confusion as to whether we should go or not. The Chief said we should go because there may be someone inside the building.

The run was made as soon as possible, but due to the long distance of the run, the department found the Main Barn completely engulfed in flames.

There were 24 horses in the barn, with only two escaping death. There were also some Indian boys in the building, but Haskell would not furnish the department with any information on them.

It is almost positive they were trapped in the building and were consumed by fire.

RECIPIENT MEEIETINGS

(March 13, 1902) Fireman saved only the walls of the J.B. Watkins Music Hall, on the corner of Massachusetts and Berkley, this afternoon after a fire almost completely destroyed the building.

The upper part of the building was used as a religious meeting hall.

The fire started downstairs in the back part of the building by a small boy trying to learn how to smoke. His mother was in a religious meeting upstairs.

Loss to building and contents $10,000.00. A very expensive lesson.
OLD WINDMILL BURNS

(April 30, 1905) The alarm of fire was called at 5:00 P.M. by the burning of the Old Windmill on the West end of Warren Street.

The company was promptly on hand and made the run in good time, but upon arriving at the fire, discovered we did not have enough hose to reach the fire from the corner of Main and Warren — the closest hydrant.

Two members were sent back to the engine room after the second hose cart for more hose. After they arrived with sufficient hose, everything was connected and the water turned on, but due to the distance and quantity of hose it took to reach the fire, the water pressure was not great enough to extinguish the new roaring fire. The very best we could do was keep adjoining property from becoming involved.

Cause of fire is unknown, although it is believed to have been set by parties smoking in the basement of the old mill. It is a sorrowful thing to have the old mill gone.

OLD WINDMILL A SOURCE OF POWER

The windmill was constructed in 1863, by Twelve (12) Swedish immigrants brought from Sweden just to build the mill. Not only were the men imported so were all the tools and building materials to construct the mill. The mill was octagonal and cone shaped, and stood five (5) stories above a basement. The foundation was Forty feet (40) across, the revolving dome and cap was Twenty Feet (20) in diameter, the width of the canvas covered arms or style was Ten Feet (10) and Fifty Feet (50) in length.

With the wind blowing at 20 miles per hour the capacity of_Cap

ing of men and women. The Swedish men were unarmed and none could speak English so they could not find out just what was going on but knew they must reach safety. All 12 men lived in the same house in the 800 block of Kentucky. As they ran to the house for safety, they passed many men and women coming in the other direction. Upon reaching the house they all scrambled for the basement of their home.

Some of Quantrill's men approached the house and asked a young boy if there were any men around. The boy replied sure the basement is full and they are all armed.

Either the guerrillas did not want to have a conflict with a basement full of armed men, or they just did not believe the young boy is not known, but they left without harm to the Swedish immigrants.

Quantrill's men did, however, attempt to burn the mill, but as it was not completed they only succeeded in burning the new lumber and no real harm was done to the mill.

After completion of the mill in 1864, and during full operation, it employed about 75 men. By 1880 however, it has ceased to be a paying operation, and the mill was only used on a part time basis. The mill made its last run in July 1885.

WHAT NO PARKING METERS?

Massachusetts Street looking North to Bridge from Warren Street. Photo courtesy Mrs P Jones

HORSE BARN — Building built in 1877, used to keep Fire Department horses, hay and also used as a early-day jail.

Building was in the back of the old City Hall at 8th and Henry. Building was torn down on February 1st 1920.
MAJOR EVENTS

TAKEN FROM THE RECORDS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Lawrence Journal World

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION
1905

(September 5, 1905) W. C. Brown was terribly burned and Miss Katherine Harris was dangerously injured in a fire at the Lawrence Planetarium at 7:55 P.M. caused by the explosion of gasoline. The two parties were cleaning with gasoline when it exploded.

Mr. Brown was covered at once with fire, he ran out of the building a mass of flames. Miss M. Norris threw a bucket of water on Miss Harris which no doubt saved her life. Mr. Brown nearly burned to death before he could be stopped from running.

The explosion was so great the building now has no windows left. It is not for the prompt action of the Fire Department there would be no building at all.

TROUBLE LEAVING THE STATION
1907

(October 19, 1907) An alarm of fire was sounded about 7:40 A.M. by the burning of a one story house at 640 Indiana Street.

The company was promptly on hand, but as we were leaving the engine house, the harness broke on the horses which resulted in a complete change, making a delay of at least twenty minutes in getting to the fire. House was completely destroyed. Cause unknown, damage $4,000.00.

OLD HOME WEEK
1906

(October 1st thru 6th, 1906) Old Home Week, an annual event held under the auspices of the "Lawrence Committee," was of unusual interest to the members of the company this year on account of the "State Firemen's Tournament" being held here during the week.

The City Council granted the members pay of $1.00 per day for the entire week.

The Chief, with assistance of the whole company, devoted their entire time to entertaining the visiting firemen.

During the week the company was called out to South Park to a fire in a pile of boxes which was to be used as a fire for an exhibition run by the Lawrence Fire Department.

The following evening the company made the run in the remarkable short time of two minutes and twenty seconds till the water was put on the fire.

During the week the company had one other team that made a creditable display, that being Ottawa, Kansas. There were visiting firemen from nearly all parts of the State, and they were royally entertained by the company.

HASKELL WANTS FIRE PROTECTION
1907

(August 1, 1907) Haskell made arrangements with the Mayor and City Council today for permanent fire protection from the Head Center Hose Company.

A NEW TEAM
1907

(August 12, 1907) The company received a new team of horses today. Cost $450.00. The new team will be assigned to the Hook and Ladder Wagon.

IN EARLY 1900'S

CHIEF WANTS NEW BUGGY
1907

(December 30, 1907) A special meeting was called today -- all members present. All members were asked about getting the Chief a new buggy.

The Chief had requested the buggy be purchased from City funds but was refused by the City Council. The Chief would like to buy the new buggy from funds received from the "Annual Ball."

The membership voted to wait and see if there were going to be enough funds collected from the ball to purchase a buggy. If not each member would have to share equally in what ever other cost involved.

FIRST CAR FIRE
1910

(September 17, 1910) The company was called out at 4:35 P.M. by an alarm of fire from 1201 Ohio Street.

The company was promptly on hand and found the fire to be that of an automobile belonging to Doctor H. T. Jones.

As there were only a few cars in town, this was their first automobile fire and they did not know just what procedures were required in putting out an automobile fire.

The company finally had the fire out, but not before the car was totally destroyed. Cause — gasoline leaking on the engine. Loss $700.00.

MEETING ROOM

This room was used for all monthly meetings of the Headquarters Hose Company, also all fund raising dinners and a few of the first annual balls.

A BILL FOR REPAIRS ON THE HOOK AND LADDER

C. G. SCHULZ
General Blacksmithing, Horseshoeing
Carriage and Wagon Repairing and Rubber Tying

This page is not fully legible, but appears to contain an advertisement or notice for C. G. Schulz's services.
FIRE DEPARTMENT BECOMES MOTORIZED

After many, many months of continuous persuasion and many requests from Chief W. Reinhich of the Lawrence Fire Department, the Mayor and City Council agree to the purchase of a modern motorized Fire Truck. The truck is equipped with two 35 gallon chemical tanks and hoses specifically designed for the use in fighting fires.

The truck will be ordered from the White Motor Company, of Kansas City Missouri. The cost of the modern chemical truck will be $5,000.00.

The money was taken from the Firemen's Relief Fund loaned to the City for the purpose of purchasing the motorized truck.

The City promised to pay the department back when the taxes were collected at the end of the year.

From all indications in the fire department's records, actual cash was not paid back, instead the City furnished the fire department City Improvement Bonds in the amount of $5,000.00.

DEPARTMENTS REQUEST FOR FULL PAY

FROM THE LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD

AUGUST 1ST 1915

Chief W. Reinhich, finally gets his way with City Council — Lawrence has a fully paid Fire Department.

Chief W. Reinhich after requesting every year since 1902 — Now has a first class department.

Today the City Council voted unanimously to have a fully paid fire department. I believe the City is overdue in recognizing the fact we were as a city too large for a volunteer department.

The department has in the past served the City outstandingly. I am sure this change will only improve the department.

52

LAURENCE FIRE DEPARTMENTS HOOK AND LADDER — 1914

HOOK AND LADDER CREW — From Left to Right (Driver) Paul Ingles, (Captain) Clarence Sutton on seat, — on running board Left to Right Bill Schulmeyer, Fred Wiman, Fred Harris, Ed Freiliger. Horses Johnnie on right and George on left.

Johnnie and George were the very last teams sold by the Fire Department.
CITY'S FIRST FULLY PAID DEPARTMENT

CITY FIREMEN AT HEADQUARTERS

Standing from left to right: Standing—Fred Harris, Ed. Proctor, Lawrence Roller, Fred Wizeman, Wm. Shumyzer. Sitting—Paul Ingels, H. R. Wagner, Chief Wm. F. Reimisch, Assistant Chief Ralph Lawrence. Clarence Sutton, J. P. Jennings.

Photo courtesy Spencer Research Library University of Kansas (Kans Collection)

FIRE DEPARTMENT GET'S SECOND MOTORIZED TRUCK

OCTOBER 10, 1916

Today Lawrence received the OK from the Mayor and City Council to purchase a 500 gallon pumper truck.

The City Councillors have spent one week in Kansas City, watching the Kansas City Fire Department demonstrate their 500 gallon pumper truck, and it was their decision to purchase one for Lawrence.

The truck will be purchased from the White Motor Company of Cleveland, Ohio, and the cost of the pumper will be $6,400.00

HORSES ARE SOLD

Fire Department will sell all their horses except for the team assigned to the Hook and Ladder.

Almost everyone will want to bid on the two horses Chief W. Reimisch has been using for the Chief's buggy—Rock and Rowdy.

Time for the sale will be at 12:00 noon on the 10 day of January 1917.

All horses will be sold to the high bidder.
### SOME OF THE LARGER FIRES FROM 1915 — 1918

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-8-15</td>
<td>2:00 P M</td>
<td>West Winthrop St. (Res)</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-11-15</td>
<td>3:40 A M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Sogus Furniture Store)</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6-15</td>
<td>4:15 A M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Royal Cafe)</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-11-15</td>
<td>1:30 P M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Merchants National Bank)</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-13-15</td>
<td>1:00 A M</td>
<td>Haskell Grounds (Haskell Institute 2-Bldgs)</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-25-15</td>
<td>2:32 A M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Grand Theater)</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-26-15</td>
<td>4:50 A M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Varsity Theatre)</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-29-15</td>
<td>6:25 P M</td>
<td>15th Delaware St. (Old School House)</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-5-15</td>
<td>3:45 P M</td>
<td>830 Conn (Res)</td>
<td>Child Burned to Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-27-16</td>
<td>1:00 P M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Round Corner Drugs)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-6-16</td>
<td>0:55 P M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Lumber Yard)</td>
<td>$8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-28-16</td>
<td>5:00 P M</td>
<td>Conn (Lawrence Canning Factory)</td>
<td>$70,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-29-16</td>
<td>2:30 A M</td>
<td>Massachusetts St (Peelless Garage)</td>
<td>$16,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15-16</td>
<td>1:15 A M</td>
<td>Vermont St (Congregational Church)</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-24-17</td>
<td>8:30 P M</td>
<td>Cona (Colored Masonic Lodge)</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9-18</td>
<td>10:45 P M</td>
<td>Kansas University (Flower Shop)</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DECEMBER 31, 1920

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE FIRE CHIEF

To the Mayor and City Council

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to herewith submit the Annual Report of the Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1920.

This being my nineteenth year as Chief of the Lawrence Fire Department. I would like to take this time to thank the Mayor and the City Council, for the effort and time they have given to the Fire Department and also their fine cooperation.

It is my desire to make this department the very best Fire Department not only in the state but in the country.

With the accession of the motorized chemical car and pumps there is no reason why this department can not compete with any Fire Department in the state.

I would like to plead with the Mayor and the City Council to seriously look into the matter of a new station to be located in the South portion of the city.

I am also submitting the attached petition. I am sure the Mayor and the City Council will look into this petition and grant the membership the salary increase they so deserving require as indicated in the petition.

I would also like to invite the Mayor and all Council members to attend the Annual Ball, and supper. This is something the entire membership look forward to each year.

Yours,

S. Reinisch
Chief
Lawrence Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT

APPARATUS IN SERVICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automobile Combination Chemical and Hose</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile Combination Pump and Hose</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile Aerial Truck</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief's Car</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

HOSE IN SERVICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Length (Feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 ½ Inch Hose</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ Inch Hose</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Hose</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted Station Supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATISTICS OF WORK PERFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1920

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Feet of Hose Laid</td>
<td>20,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Feet Ladders Raised</td>
<td>2,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Chemicals Used</td>
<td>2,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Movers</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of False Alarms</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Private Alarms</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount of Fire Loss</td>
<td>$65,514.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Alarms</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PETITION TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Gentlemen:
The undersigned Committee, representing the entire membership of the Fire Department of the City of Lawrence, respectfully represents and shows to your honorable that the salaries now paid to the firemen in this city are insufficient to enable them to maintain their families properly, and to pay their just debts. That this situation is due to the fact that the cost of the necessities of life have increased materially, and are still increasing, since the scale of salaries now in force was adopted.

The committee further respectfully calls your attention to the fact the salaries now paid to the firemen in the City of Lawrence are considerably lower than the salaries paid to firemen in every other city of its class.

The committee, therefore, earnestly petitions your honorable to grant an increase in salary to the membership of the Fire Department, in the amount of Twenty Five Dollars ($25.00) per month for each member of the department, effective the first day of January 1921. We also ask that an ordinance providing for such increase in salary be adopted.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of December 1920

COMMITTEE

Lawrence Fire Department
TAKEN FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECORDS

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 1922

January 14, 1922 — Alarm was rang at 7:40 P.M. a fire in the basement of the Barber Shop at 927 Mass St. Before we could get the fire under control a total of Ten (10) business were involved: HOUKS BARBER SHOP, BELLUS MUSIC STORE, STOFFER DRUGS, WARD'S FLOWER SHOP, WELCH AND WELCH CHIROPRACTORS, DOCTOR TIBBETS, VOGETS, DOCTOR GIFFORD, MRS. WAGGONER SHOP, AND BITTIE FARM ASSOC. Total Loss $42,000.00

May 14, 1922 — House at 1208 Mississipi St.; the Kansas University Girls Cooperative. Total Loss $26,000.00

October 19, 1922 — The Fire Department and City Offices fire due to spontaneous combustion in the coal bin. Total Loss — Lot of Embarrassment and $7,500.00

December 22, 1922 — Westminster Assoc for Biblical Study. 1221 Oread Ave. University of Kansas. Total Loss $10,000.00

December 31, 1922 — Houses 1404, 1406 and 1408 Tenn St. All three (3) houses were totally in flames by the time the department arrived. Arson suspected. Total Loss $35,000.00

Just a few of the old hand written records that helped in completing this book. Most of the records are in quill pen. All the old records will be preserved in the Kansas University Spencer Library.
STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Feet Ladders Raised</td>
<td>1,163 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Feet Hose Laid</td>
<td>21,700 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Hours and Minutes Pumper Used</td>
<td>150.30 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Gallons Chemical Used</td>
<td>2,260 gal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Miles Driven to Alarms</td>
<td>260 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Automotive Fires</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of False Alarms</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Alarms Answered</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Loss for the Year 1925 $50,650.00

TAKEN FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECORDS

IMPORTANT FIRES IN 1925

January 3, 1925 — The Beta Gamma Pi house at 1200 Louisiana St. Total Loss $25,000.00.

January 7, 1925 — The Douglas County Shops at 1024 Mass St. Totally destroyed from a gasoline explosion. Total Loss $40,000.00.

January 20, 1925 — Residence belonging to Prof. Rice at 1304 Ohio St. While unloading coal in the basement a piece of coal broke a gas line which resulted in the house exploding completely. The driver of the coal truck was hospitalized for two (2) weeks. Total Loss $15,000.00.

May 24, 1925 — Alpha Delta Chi house at 1245 Louisiana St. Total Loss $20,000.00.

TAKEN FROM THE JOURNAL WORLD

FIRE TRUCK HAS COLLISION

May 2, 1925 — The City Fire Department Chemical Truck and a Chevrolet Touring car driven by Harlan Conrad of Parkers Kansas, collided at 8th and Kentucky, about 8:30 P.M. The Fire Department was out on a false alarm call at 1424 Kentucky, when the collision took place both car and truck will require extensive repair.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SPONSORS CARNIVAL

The special representative of the ISLER SHOWS arrived in Lawrence today and immediately started a publicity campaign for the carnival. The appearance of the carnival company here will be under the auspices of the Fire Department and for the benefit of the Fire Department Relief Fund. Some of the headliners for the show are, a complete wild animal act even a gorilla, (two (2) enormous snakes, the Rustus Jorgan Dixieland Minstrels, and the world famous Oscar Larson and Babette Riders do their death-defying stunts in the motorhome.)
**Personnel Assigned**

The new station will have one pumper assigned immediately with a crew of three men.

Captain Bert Jones will be in charge of the new station. Assigned to work with Capt Jones will be Firemen Charles Beebe and Firemen Jim Dresser.

All photo's courtesy Mrs. B. Jones

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**FIRE TAKES FRATERNAL AID BUILDING**

Fire, cause unknown, today destroyed the second and third stories of the Fraternal Aid Union building, at 8th and Vermont street, leaving nothing of those stories and the roof but blackened walls, empty windows and charred office equipment and woodwork, the latter lodged on the second floor which did not give way.

Loss caused by the blaze was not estimated as officials of the Union were awaiting an opportunity to enter the building to see if their vaults or papers had been damaged by the fire. All papers were kept in the vaults or in fireproof cases.

Firemen were busy at intervals keeping other buildings from catching fire from flying sparks. The roof of the Old City Hall building and the sign of the Chamber of Commerce were extinguished with water from the ladder truck.

The first floor remained intact and damage there was caused more by water and smoke than by flames. Efforts of the firemen to put out the blaze on the second floor, prevented the fire from coming down to the first floor.
FIRE TAKES UPPER STORIES OF F.A.U.
Blaze starting in F.A.U. Hall is discovered about 7 A.M.

PARTY LAST NIGHT

The cause of the fire could not be determined. The annual dance of the Miami Triad composed of the Beta Theta Pi, Phi Delta Theta, and Sigma Chi, fraternities were held in the building last night. Workmen were also busy installing a new vault door in the basement but had left before 6 o'clock. J. Frank Davis, janitor, who closed up the building last night about 2 o'clock this morning after making a check up, noticed nothing out of the ordinary. No lights were on at the west end of the dance floor and no electricity was used there.

Walls May Be Unsafe

When it became apparent that the fire could not be extinguished on the third floor, the efforts of the firemen were directed forward preventing the complete destruction of the building. Streams of water played thru the windows of the second floor were effective in stopping the fire at that level. This result was a surprise to many onlookers to whom it appeared that the fire could not be checked until the entire structure was destroyed.

Damage on the first floor was confined to that done by water. Fire Chief William Reinisch said water was being pumped out of the cellar of the building this afternoon by the pumper trucks.

Chief Reinisch urges that every one keep away from the building. The condition of the walls is unknown but there is danger from loose bricks and other debris. A scaffolding was to be erected around the upper part of the walls that are a menace.

Gave First Alarm

Bob Williams, janitor at Muzzey's cafe, was passing the building about 7 o'clock this morning when he noticed smoke coming out of the top on the west side. He informed the police department who in turn notified the firemen.

Firemen from Number 1 station went to the top floor and found the stairways filled with smoke. They were unable to locate the blaze. Smoke began pouring out of the building in heavy volume followed by the blaze breaking out. The first whistle at the water department was blown, calling in the off duty shift.
1930

SOME OF THE LARGER FIRES AND YEAR END STATISTICS OF 1930

Taken from Fire Department Records and Records in Watson Library University of Kansas.

CATHOLIC PARSONAGE BURNS

January 22, the Catholic parsonage is completely destroyed by fire that started in the basement of the parsonage at 3:30 this morning. Firemen fought the blaze for four hours before putting it out.

Two (2) firemen were injured seriously in the blaze by Capt. E. J. Holland and Fireman C. Parker were hospitalized from severe cuts and possible broken bones. Total Loss $10,000.00.

FRATERNAL AID UNION BURNS

February 8, the Fraternal Aid Union burned today at least the top two floors were totally destroyed and the third damaged by water and smoke. Loss $79,132.00.

DICKINSON THEATER BURNS

July 12, the Dickinson Theater burned, cause of the fire is unknown. The stage, and stage equipment, part of the talking picture mechanism, and wiring and lighting equipment were completely destroyed. The seats and lobby were damaged by smoke and water. Loss $40,000.00.

Statistics for 1930

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Feet Ladders Raised</td>
<td>1,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Feet Hose Laid</td>
<td>27,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Miles Driven to Alarms</td>
<td>268.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Hours and Minutes Pumpers Used</td>
<td>190:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Alarms in 1930</td>
<td>221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fire Loss for 1930</td>
<td>$177,446.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1932

WILLIAM F. REINISCH FIRE CHIEF, RESIGNS AFTER 38 YEARS ON THE DEPARTMENT

William F. Reinisch, veteran chief of the Lawrence fire department, today tendered his resignation to Mayor W. C. Ellis, bringing to a close nearly 40 years of service during which time he established an enviable record.

In a letter addressed to the Mayor and Commissioners Chief Reinisch ascribed ill health as the cause of his retirement. He has been off duty for the past week and following treatment in a Kansas City clinic was confined to his home for a time.

Mayor Ellis said today that a successor to Chief Reinisch has not been chosen. For the time being, he said E. J. Holland, assistant chief, will be in charge of the department.

Reinisch has been active in the growth of the department and has seen motorized equipment replace the horse drawn vehicles of the early days. Years ago he was a familiar figure as he hurried to fires in a buggy drawn by a fleet horse.

During his regime many improvements have been made. In 1927, the double platoon system was adopted and a few years ago station number 2 was built in South Lawrence.

The best motorized equipment has been added and today Lawrence has one of the best fire departments in the state and the city benefits thru reduced losses and lowered insurance rates.

The last official act of Chief Reinisch was to accept the new 750-gallon pumper delivered this week which he checked in yesterday.

Chief Reinisch sat in his office this afternoon reminiscing as he cleaned out his desk to make way for his successor. "You don't know what it means to me to do this," he said, "after so many years. But I realize that my health will not permit me to go on." These youngsters who fight fires now do not realize what it meant in the old days. We had no warm clothing, no rubber suits to keep us dry and no equipment with which to do much. If we got a hot one it meant getting soaked to the skin and staying with it, winter or summer. "I guess some of that is showing up now that I'm getting old."

ILLNESS IS FATAL TO W. F. REINISCH

Veteran Fire Chief Dies Within Month of Resignation

March 21, 1932 death early today claimed William F. Reinisch, 62 years old, who retired March 1, after nearly 40 years service with the Lawrence Fire Department. His death occurred at Memorial Hospital at 1:30 a.m. and was caused by Bright's Disease.

E. J. HOLLAND APPOINTED CHIEF MARCH 1, 1932

Today the Mayor appointed E. J. Holland Chief to replace W. F. Reinisch. Chief Holland has been on the department for 28 years and has served as assistant chief for the last 5 years.

CHIEF E. J. HOLLAND DIES MAY 12, 1932

Fire Department has lost two chief's in less than four months. Chief Holland died from a massive heart attack. Chief Holland was only appointed chief March 1, this year. He has served the department for 28 years. His death is a great loss to the city.
FIRE DEPARTMENT'S NEW PUMPER IS GIVEN TEST TODAY

The new fire-fighter is known as an American-La France Spartan and embodies the latest features in fire fighting design. Motive power for high speed thru the streets and for pumping service at the scene of fires is provided by a 150 horse-power engine.

The new pumper recently purchased for the fire department was tested out at the city water plant for about three and a half hours today. City officials present were Mayor W C Ellis, Commissioners G F. Wetzel and J T. Constant, Fire Chief Ingles and the American LaFrance Company representative.

SHOOTS STREAM 200 FEET

With the tip which was used on the nozzle this morning a heavy stream of water can be directed for 200 feet on the horizon. Any size standard tips, from 1 inch in diameter up, can be used on the nozzle.

PAUL INGLES TAKES COMMAND

Today the Mayor W C Ellis, appointed Paul Ingles Chief, of the Lawrence Fire Department. This is a landmark for the city to have three chief's in the same year.

Paul Ingles said "although I am greatly saddened by the loss of two of my best friends both of which I have worked with since the early 1900's I am happy about the appointment."

Chief Ingles also said he will continue to strive to make the Lawrence Fire Department the best in the state.

HARD TIMES FORCES THE CITY TO CUT WAGES

Salaries of all city employees were cut today by the Mayor and City Commission. In the meeting last night it was their decision to cut wages instead of letting people go. The fire department personnel will take a 15% cut in their wages the new pay scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>New Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIEF</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR CAPS</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR CAPS</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST CLASS FIREFR.</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND CLASS FIREFR.</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BLAZE DESTROYS BELL’S MUSIC STORE

$18,000.00 DAMAGE

Employee Burned

Mr. Hampton was burned by fire that was coming thru the elevator shaft before he could escape thru the rear of the store.

1935

PAUL BECOMES CHIEF OF CHIEFS

Paul Johnson Lawrence fire chief shown above, was elected president of the Kansas Fire Chiefs' association at Hutchinson last night. In 1935 he was chief of the Lawrence department for five years and has been a member of the department for 25 years.

YEARLY TESTING OF THE PUMPERS

TESTING CONDUCTED AT WATER WORKS

Bell’s Music Store was at this location for 23 years.
LAWRENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS NEW PUMPER

LAWRENCE IS HOST TO KANSAS STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
NEW FIRE TRUCK SEES ACTION IN MANY WAYS

Scout in Action

Scout used for Fire Prevention

Left to Right on rear of truck — P. Williamson, C. Roche, H. Henley, A. Stumitowski, E. Miller (Capt.) Left to Right in Front — F. Brown, M. Perez, C. Brubaker, K. Perez, A. Anderson, R. Gordon, P. Ingles (Capt.) J. Miller (Capt.) C. Parker (Capt.) F. Kiffin (Capt.) J. Dresner, F. Clark, B. Swain

Photo: courtesy D.L. McClure
K U. Girls find out what and how the Fire Department works

Inspecting?

How to use a hose?

Chief Ingles with Chief's Car

ANNUAL NEW YEARS DINNERS STARTED BY CHIEF W. REINISCH

Firemen draw quite a crowd while training with the new 100' aerial ladder truck

Chief Ingles demonstrates to the Mayor and City Commissioners how the new 100' aerial ladder works

LAWRENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NEW AERIAL TRUCK

Mayor hands over a check for $18,944.00 to American LaFrance Representatives

All of the above photos courtesy P. Ingles
SOME OF THE IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE 40'S

Taken from the Lawrence Fire Department Records

December 3, 1942 Local Newspaper owner loses barn and garage to fire W. C. Simon's has Loss of $3,000.00

January 3, 1943 Sawype Dress Shop was totally destroyed by fire Loss $10,000.00

December 26, 1942 Plymouth Church hit by Lighting, roof and interior burn Loss $5,000.00

February 4, 1944 American Legion Dorsev- Liberty Post donates to the Fire Department a new device called "Inhalator". (NOTE: This inhalator is still in use by the department today. The original cost of the inhalator was $180.00)

February 22, 1944 Three (3) downtown stores burn: Hannas Radio Shop, A A A Office, and Riling Riling Law Office. Loss $30,000.00

March 3, 1944 Kansas University Chemistry Building Loss $10,000.00

March 11, 1944 Bartelde Warehouse, firemen fought the fire for some 5 hours Loss $50,000.00

March 1, 1945 Starling Furniture Store the building was saved but the contents were totally destroyed Loss $20,000.00

GIFT TO FIREFEED

Station number 2 gets new crew
Left to right: J. Brown, E. Miller (Capt) and J. Dresser

New crew takes truck number 18 to station with them

July 2, 1946 Green Lantern Cafe destroyed by heavy blaze. Loss $20,000.00

August 10, 1946 College Inn Cafe burned Loss $7,000.00

February 1, 1948 Lawrence Fire Department purchase oxygen masks and tanks "Scotts", the same Scotts are in use today by the department.

March 3, 1948 Green's Dress Shop totally lost to blaze Loss $20,000.00

April 2, 1948 Temple Hall University of Kansas Loss $15,000.00

June 6, 1948 Derby Grain Elevator Fire Loss $45,000.00

December 8, 1949 Dyche Hall (Museum of Natural History) University of Kansas Loss $5,000.00

December 15, 1949 The State of Kansas awards the Lawrence Fire Department "Certificate of Merit" for outstanding services during the Fire Prevention Week

December 29, 1950 Acacia Fraternity House, University of Kansas. Two (2) firemen injured when the roof caved in. Chief P. Inglis and Charles Snow injured. Loss $60,000.00
LAWRENCE TO RECEIVE NEW STATION
OLD STATION BUILT IN 1859

AFTER 92 YEARS OLD STATION IS ALMOST GONE

Trucks parked in street while old building is being torn down.

Ready for action in the new station — Aerial, Scout and 17A

From left to right: Art Stimmerman, C. Fiery, John Kasberger, B. Bowen, C. Brubaker, small boy kneeling, L. Stimmerman, other small boy.

WHAT A CREW — What ever became of them?
Art Stimmerman — Retired, C. Fiery — Retired, now working with Kansas Public Service Department, John Kasberger — New Chief of the Lawrence Fire Department, B. Bowen — Deceased C. Brubaker — Retired, now working as a State Fire Inspector. L. Stimmerman — now a Lt. on the Lawrence Fire Department serving as arson investigator, and building inspector.
CHIEF INGLES TO RETIRE
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 1952

Mayor writes a letter to Journal World

Chief Paul Ingles, 62, an employee of the Lawrence fire department for 40 years, and department chief for half that period, will retire this August.

It will be indeed a difficult task to replace a man so experienced and able in the art of firefighting as Chief Ingles. That intense loyalty and desire to render top service without regard for personal gain and loss are just two more major reasons why we hate to see him go.

A real veteran fireman, Chief Ingles is a veteran of almost every type of firefighting from the bucket-brigades of the old days right up to the scientific handling of blazes today.

In 1918, only six years after joining the department, Ingles was named captain. He served in that capacity until he became chief in 1932, and has been at the helm since.

It is indeed with regret I accept this letter of resignation.

Mayor, Kraft
Lawrence Kansas

CHIEF INGLES MAKES LAST NEW’S CONFERENCE

Fireman’s First Requirement
Is Honesty, Ingles Believes

By Rich Clarkey

Paul Ingles pushed back the chair of his new steel desk and looked out through the doorway of his emerald colored office.

"There’s a man that’s changed a lot during the past few years," said the 62-year-old retiring chief of the Lawrence fire department. And with that understatement of the day, the ex-scoutmaster firefighter, who has known no other profession, began to muse over his eventful career as a Lawrence fireman since 1913 and as chief since 1932.

Ingles joined the department in the days of horse-drawn fire wagons, one or two and then only the horses. The alarm bell, now so familiar, was in the old days the signal to summon the fire fighters.

The first firemen owned their own wagons. Little money was spent on equipment until it was taken down three years ago to make way for the new ultramodern stations.

"The firemen would load the provisions in his carriage and wagon and the firemen would respond by going directly to the blaze. The location of the fire was determined by the alarm bell. A series of rings would inform them what ward of the city the fire was in. The three drivers would spread the wagons to the fire."

When the first motor-driven truck was purchased for the department in 1934, Ingles was the first driver. From that time until he was made chief, he drove all of the fire wagons, both pumper trucks and the ladder truck which was replaced just after the war.

When Ingles, who has served under 16 mayors, took over as chief, there were 12 men on the force making three trips. The present crew consists of 32 firemen on four trucks.

Ingles is quick to give praise to the other members of the department and to express his appreciation to the many newspapers and publishers of the Lawrence Firemen’s Association, and to the Firemen’s Association, and to the local newspapers which have helped in combating fires and keeping fire hazards.

"They all have been grand."

"Ingles’ pet project is the installation of fire alarm systems in all buildings in the city which are occupied by large numbers of people.

When we made inspections, I’ve tried to sell these people on the idea of safety and put make any demands of them," Ingles explains. He has personally made about 50 inspections a day, every year since taking over as chief.

The department has also cooperated with the university and organized houses in the construction of fire drills, many times during the early hours of the morning.

"The Lawrence fire department has an outstanding safety record, not only in terms of traffic accidents, but in reducing sustained while fighting fires.

"When it comes to injuries, it’s all part of the game," Ingles said. "You just expect it to happen every now and then but it’s never on your mind."

Ingles himself has been injured frequently in fighting blazes.

"For as long as I can remember, I’ve had a good heart and a good pair of lungs as much as any first-line man."

"But the first requirement is honesty. A fireman can’t have sticky fingers," he said. "Do you realize that the fire department is the only function of the city government that has access to private property whilst the owner is not present? There has never been a case of any property being taken by a member of the Lawrence fire department.

"And you know, a fireman has to keep in shape just like a football player. His actions must be taken seriously as he can make the difference between life and death."

"Ingles’ pet project is cleaning up after firemen. A large number of years of community service is coming to an end."

"Every fire is different. We’ve had a lot of big fires—some have more than 100 people, but we’ve never given up on others—those are the really big fires in our book."

Ingles looked out into the station at the three shiny trucks. A career of forty years, he said, "is coming to an end."
JOHN MILLER TAKES COMMAND

From the Journal World

Lawrence's first new fire chief in 20 years, John W. Miller, officially took over the reins of the local department August 1, 1952.

Miller, a 24-year veteran with the department succeeds Paul Ingles.

Chief Miller, who has been assistant chief since June 1, took over his new post, he announced the name of the men he was appointed to serve as executives of his staff.

Included are two assistant chiefs one for each of the two daily shifts; four captains two each for the Number One and Number Two stations.

Named as assistant chiefs by Chief Miller are John Kasberger, and Fred Sanders. Both assistants will serve out of the Number One station.

Captains at the Number One station are Clarence Flory, and Lawrence Hodson. Captains at Number Two station are Foy Brown and Chester Cohron.

Chief Miller, 47, is a native of Leavenworth County and has been a resident of Lawrence for 32 years.

December 23, 1952

SKYLINE NIGHT CLUB BURNS TO GROUND

LOSS WILL BE OVER $30,000.00

Chief Miller directs the attack on the club. Assistant Chief in leather jacket (F. Sanders) who was off duty helps a fireman direct hose.
December 26, 1952
RAGING FIRE GUTS OLSON BUILDING

Firemen Battle Feverishly For Control; Loss About $50,000.00
All Hands To The Scene.

A fire that raged out of control about two hours, gutted the building housing the Olson Bros. Plumbing Co., 934 Mass St., and caused heavy smoke and water damage to two neighboring businesses.

There were no serious personal injuries. Several members of the Fire Department however, suffered minor cuts and bruises from the furious struggle with the flames and most had irritated eyes, lungs, throats and faces due to the heavy smoke.

All four tracks and all members of the Fire Department were called to fight the blaze, which broke out shortly after 8 a.m. and sent smoke skyward.

Local firemen fought the fire until about 10:45 before finally bringing it under control. Even then great clouds of smoke continued to rise from the building.
1953 — 1954

TRAINING IN THE 1950'S

FIREMEN IN TRAINING — One of the phases of training for members of the Lawrence fire department includes use of the safety net by which firemen can save persons forced to leap from burning buildings. Members of the department also must learn to jump into the net correctly as part of their training. Ordinarily the jumps are made from the tower at the rear of the fire station, 8th and Ky Sts., but Monday they were made from the roof at the front of the building. The picture shows Firemen Ben Bowen on his way to the net as others brace themselves to catch him.

TAKEN FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT RECORDS

October 5 1953 — 7:28 A.M. Alarm of fire for the residence at 7th and Grant North Lawrence, house was totally engulfed in flames when the fire department arrived. Charles John Higgins lost his life in the fire. Cause determined to be an oil stove.

On October 7th at 1:26 a.m. an alarm of fire was sounded for an apartment above the Rankin Drug store at 1101 Mass St. Mrs. Bessie Burris was burned in the fire on the arms and face, cause of fire unknown loss approximated $3,000.00

“Blackie”, gets his first taste of what a firedog's life is all about — “Blackie's first run came on the morning of October 23, 1953 at 2:10 a gas leak around the hot water tank caused the explosion of this trailer house at 6th and Mich.

Almost every child wants to try on the Fire Chief's hat. Morry Nenninger did just that, when Chief John Miller and his dog Blackie went to Bonner School.
August 24, 1954

DOWNTOWN FIRE ROARS THROUGH STERLING STORE

Firemen Hold Blaze to Second Floor of Furniture Building

LOSS OVER $50,000.00

Fire swept through a second-story storage space of the Sterling Furniture Co., 938 Mass. St., shortly after noon and raged out of control about 45 minutes.

No firemen were reported seriously injured in the fire but several of them had to retire from the fight temporarily when they were nearly overcome by the smoke and heat.

Fire Chief John Miller, who went up the fire escape at the rear to battle the flames, several times shouted to various men to go and rest when it became apparent they were showing signs of heat exhaustion.

Men working from the front of the building had to don oxygen masks to go inside the building because of the intense smoke.

Firemen still were battling the smoke and heat at 1:30 — more than an hour after the blaze was discovered, but the flames appeared to be under control.

SMOKE, HEAT OVERCOME FIREMEN

Dense smoke and terrific heat coupled to form an added hardship for firemen battling a major nocturnal fire in the Sterling Furniture store. In the rear firemen Chuck Cassidy is shown after he collapsed on a rear fire escape while battling the blaze. Cassidy was one of several fire fighters who collapsed after working in the smoke which had let up momentarily. Fire Chief John Miller (white helmet) and four unidentified firemen are shown as they poured water from two hose lines into the rear of the building.

All photos are courtesy D. McCerry.
On December 5th at 3:15 p.m. an alarm of fire was sounded for the Church of Christ. The morning cold had frozen the water in the hydrant at the corner of the church and firemen had to use the plug at Mass St. CPD. worked some four hours to contain the fire. Cause unknown loss approximated at $20,000.00.

A total of 1500 feet of hose used by firemen in holding the blaze in the church.

Total feet of hose laid ........................................... 38,200
Total feet of ladder raised ...................................... 314
Total miles driven to alarms ................................... 737.5
Total hours and minutes pumpers used ...................... 248:30
Total amount of fire loss ....................................... $244,661.00
Total fire alarms .................................................. 306

MAJOR EVENTS IN 1954 — Taken From Fire Department Records

On February 11th at 5:19 p.m. an alarm sounded for the Phi Beta Pi house on the University of Kansas. The cause of the alarm unknown and the approximated loss $5,000.00.

On February 15th at 5:10 p.m. an alarm sounded because of lightning striking a girls dorm at Haskell, the loss approximated $4,000.00.

On March 14th at 6:50 a.m. an alarm of fire sounded for the Derby Grain Elevator in North Lawrence, cause unknown the loss approximated $5,500.00.

On June 21st at 9:03 p.m. an alarm of fire sounded for Rusty's Food Store at 1117 Mass St., cause electrical wiring, loss approximately $6,000.00.

On August 24th at 12:25 p.m. Sterling Furniture Co., cause unknown, loss approximated $60,000.00.

On October 12, 13, 14 and 15th Annual Fire School at Hutchinson Kansas, personnel attending — J. Miller, F. Sanders, B. Bowen, C. Brubaker.

On November 2nd at 5:25 a.m. an alarm of fire sounded for the New York School, cause unknown but suspected arson, loss approximated $6,100.00.

On December 4th at 9:04 a.m. an alarm of fire sounded for a house in North Lawrence. Fireman Robert Nightingale received 1st and 2nd degree burns on his face and arms.

On December 5th at 3:15 p.m. an alarm of fire for the Church of Christ. Cause unknown, loss approximated $11,200.00.

On December 27th at 1:50 an alarm of fire sounded for Vincents Inc., 706 Mass St., the basement was full of smoke and fire spreading rapidly, cause unknown, loss approximated $10,000.00.
SMOKE BELLOWS FROM PATEE
HUNDREDS SEE BLAZE WHICH WRECKS PATEE THEATER

Hundreds of spectators gathered in the 800 block on Mass. St., to watch a fire that raged out of control for almost an hour in the front portion of the Patee Theater.

Loss approximated at $60,000.00. All available firemen were called to the scene to keep the fire from spreading in the business district and virtually every local law enforcement officer lent a hand in controlling the crowd.

Chief Miller said, "It was fortunate no injuries resulted from the fire, terming the interior very dangerous after the fire had damaged the front part of the structure. A section of the balcony, which extends about two-thirds of the way out over the main floor, was dropped onto seats below." Cause of the fire is unknown.

The Patee Theater was the second motion picture theater in the nation when opened by Clair M. Patee in 1903 in the 700 block on Mass. St. It was often called the "Nickle" theater because of the admission price and due to the large replica of a five-cent piece that hung outside. It was moved to its present location in 1915. Several less serious fires have taken place in the historic theater considered the first ever to operate west of the Mississippi River.

April 18 — 1955
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
STRUCK BY FIRE
LOSS $115,000.00

[Images of the Trinity Episcopal Church and surrounding area after the fire]
NEW ADDITION ARRIVES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lawrence's New $27,250 pumper arrives May 17, 1955

Chief Miller checks to see if unloading of new pumper is going alright.

Here a salesman for American LaFrance Co., manufacturers of the truck, drives it off a loading dock.

Chief Miller inspects new pumper before accepting the new truck from the manufacturers.

Here a four (4) hour acceptance test is given to the new pumper.


CREW AT NUMBER TWO STATION — Left to Right — C. Cohnen, J. Kasherger (Asst Chief), J. Miller (Chief), F. Sanders (Asst Chief), F. Brown, 7, K. Dunn, (Chief) (Brozakos), C. (Happy) Candy, L. Smerzakos, L. Burns B. (Red) Fronters Dogs Biscle & Sally
September 10 — 1955

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HAS A SPECTACULAR FIRE

TOTAL LOSS WILL GO OVER $100,000.00

A spectacular fire of undetermined origin almost destroyed the Plymouth Congregational Church.

The Plymouth Congregational is recognized as the oldest organized church in Kansas and celebrated its centennial year with the city 1954. It was established in Lawrence 101 years ago October 1955. The present main structure of the church was erected in 1870 at a cost of $45,000.00. The parish house was added in 1916, during the pastorate of Rev. Noble S. Elderkin.

Every member of the 25-man crew of the Lawrence Fire Department was called to fight the blaze in a battle which began about 3:30 a.m. and continued for 2½ hours. All firemen were to receive tetanus shots because of the numerous scratches suffered during the battle...

Chief Miller stands on some repair to the drive in front of number two station.

Lawrence fire department receive a rescue boat — From left to right, J. Preston, (lady unknown), J. Kasberger (Asst Chief), and C. Backlaker Chief in car

One of the many times the Southern Psi is on fire. Number Two station does not have very far to go on this call. The Southern Psi is directly across the street from the station.

Unidentified firemen setting ladder truck to reach the flames that were coming thru the roof.

Here firemen setting the desired stream of water.

Here three (3) firemen light blaze from roof of building.

Here Two (3) firemen light fire thru side window

Here two (3) firemen drag hose for a side attack.
1960
DERBY GRAIN ELEVATORS HIT HARD BY FIRE
High Winds, Low Water Pressure Hamper Firemen’s Efforts
TOTAL LOSS WILL BE OVER $130,000.00

A wind-whipped fire of undetermined origin destroyed the feed mill and office section of the Derby Grain Inc., at 301 Locust in North Lawrence today.

The Lawrence Fire Department got the call at 11:51 a.m., and responded quickly with a maximum effort. However, low water pressure in city lines hampered the firemen in their determined efforts to combat the fast-spreading blaze and keep it from claiming storage elevator facilities immediately to the east.

At 2 p.m., the fire was still burning but had been brought under control and the rest of the grain facilities appeared to be safe.

Two firemen were knocked down by flying power lines and debris, but no one was seriously hurt.

WAKARUSA FORMS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Here is the first Wakarusa Fire Truck

CHIEF MILLER TO RETIRE

Lawrence Fire Chief John Miller will end more than 32 years of service to the city on October 11, 1960.

The chief’s retirement was announced today by City Manager Harold Horn who said, “It’s hard to reconcile ourselves to the fact that he must retire.” There’s no question that he’s built one of the best fire-fighting operations in the state. We constantly are hearing comment about the Lawrence department and the efficiency and skill with which Chief Miller handles the department.”

Miller’s 32 years as a fireman all have been with the local department as a fireman. He started May 8, 1928.

Promotions in those days came slowly, but by 1939, he had worked up to the rank of captain. In 1952, two quick promotions came to him. On June 1, he became assistant chief and in August of the same year, was raised to chief.

FRED SANDERS APPOINTED CHIEF

Fred (Fritz) Sanders today was named as the Chief of the Lawrence Fire Department to succeed John Miller.

Chief Sanders appointment was announced by City Manager Harold Horn, who commented of the Chief, “He’s a really top man for the job.”

Sanders is a department veteran, having served 19 years with the Lawrence force. He began September 7, 1941, as a fireman, working up to captain on June 5, 1952. In August of that same year, he was promoted to assistant chief.

A native of Douglas County, Sanders was born 51 years ago in Lone Star.

Chief Sanders will name his assistant chief, and other manpower changes necessitated by Miller’s retirement within the week.
LAWRENCE TO HAVE AUXILIARY FIREFMAN

Lawrence's Auxiliary Fire Department — Members of the auxiliary fire department pose for their first group picture in front of the city No. 1 Fire Station. Members of the group are (left to right) Willie McCleland, Thorne Way, Paul Gardner, Michael Bostrom, Marcus Winner, Leo Llewellyn, Martin Heery, Howard Lodges, Art McKinnick, Joe Zimmerman (Chief). The auxiliary fire department was the brainchild of John Kasberger (Act. Chief) and Art McKinnick, who formerly worked for the American LaFrance Company fire truck manufacturer.

OLD CHIEF — NEW CHIEF — AND CHIEF TO BE — Here Chief Miller turns over all the files to the newly assigned Chief Sanders. Assistant Chief John Kasberger looks with some typical.

CHIEF SANDERS MAKES HOME INSPECTIONS

Home inspections by the Chief is an old tradition started by Chief W. Reinisch in 1901.

NOT ALL FIRES ARE IN THE HOME OR IN A BUSINESS

Here a bridge is burning east of Midland — The fire was set by some small boys playing with matches Sheriff Rex Johnson watches the action.

GRANT TOWNSHIP HAS IT'S SHARE OF FIRES
BLACKBURN’S SERVICE STATION FIRE

Lawrence and Wakarusa fire departments team together to fight a service station fire owned by Mr. Blackburn — the building was a complete loss.

POPCORN PLANT TOTALLY DESTROYED

Loss will be over $250,000.00

OUT OF CONTROL — Lawrence firemen used all available equipment to bring the fire at T-N-T Products Inc., under control today. The battle lasted more than seven hours. The fire was discovered at 3 a.m. at least a million pounds of unwrapped popcorn was stored on the second story of the two-story brick building. The present T-N-T corporation was formed in 1952, but popcorn operation is the building date back to 1950, when the company was part of Eastside Feed Co. The feed company was started by the Bartleson family in 1967 in Lawrence.

CITY FIRE LOSS RECORD IN 1965

Lawrence this past year suffered through the worst fire loss of its history, for a total of $395,219.00. Fire Chief F.C. Sanders annual report shows. Previous high was 1955, when two large churches burned to push the loss total to about $123,000.00.

In addition to the heavy loss to buildings and contents, two persons died in separate fires.

Biggest fire loss last year was when T-N-T Food Products Inc., was lost. The second "Heaviest damage" fire in 1965 was a house fire at 1631 III. St., three other $10,000.00 plus fires helped boost the 1965 total to its record peak. Contents loss in '65 was estimated at $252,146.00, while building loss was estimated at $163,073.

The Lawrence Fire Department answered 367 runs in '65, 406 in '64, and 361 in 1963.

Causes of the record fires in '65: Flammable liquids, 43; cigarettes, 26; electrical, 59; grass and trash, 45; children playing with matches, 12; chimneys, 18; fireworks, 2; lightning, 12; undetermined, 47; miscellaneous, 60; gas waxes, 26; arsenic, 1; 23 false alarms, and 11 rescue and medical calls made by the department.

Last year, firemen spent 4,284 hours drilling and an additional 8,334 man hours cleaning station and equipment, 813 man hours were spent on maintenance of fire apparatus.

NOT ALL THE DAMAGE IS DONE BY FIRE

Here are a couple of the Boo-Boos
December 28, 1966
MAMMOTH FIRE DOWNTOWN
WORST IN CITY

— $1 MILLION LOSS —
— 3 MEN INJURED

The Three Injured Firemen

Capt LeRoy A Spence, Capt Donald Knight and Fireman Doyle Headley — Headley was listed in fair condition today, with a fractured right leg, possible back injury and cuts on his head. He is in the acute care center. Spence was in good condition with burns. Knight was in good condition with smoke inhalation.

Upper and Lower photo's taken the next day about noon.

BUSINESS INVOLVED

Independent Laundry
WREN Building
Miller Furniture Co.
FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES
A NEW 85' SNORKEL

Chief Sanders shows the new snorkel — Photo taken in the rear of Number 2 station.

Taken from the Fire Department Records:

The firemen became alarmed over the seemingly unconcerned actions of the city in obtaining new equipment, additional men, and other pertinent things. The fire loss was growing by leaps and bounds, primarily due to not having proper equipment, and enough men to work.

After several unsuccessful attempts to convince the city of the many problems, the men took the only action they knew how, by forming a union.

The members of the union immediately sent a letter to the chief requesting additional equipment, additional man power, a change in the insurance policy and a revised retirement policy. The chief forwarded the letter to the Mayor and City Commissioners.

The city refused to recognize the men as a legal union Although the following did occur:

The purchase of a new Snorkel
Four (4) additional men added to the department
In 1968, the addition of Two (2) new stations
The purchase of Three (3) 1,250-gallon pumper.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE TWO NEW STATIONS; TWELVE MEN TO BE ADDED TO DEPARTMENT AND THREE NEW 1,250-GALLON PUMPERS.

Front view of station Number 2, located at 19th and Haskell St.

Taken from the Fire Department Records:

MAJOR EVENTS FROM 1966-1969

January 4, 1966 — The Charter signed by Local #1596 — (Union Formed)
February 20, 1966 — A residence fire at 426 Neb. loss $30,000.00
March 13, 1966 — Hillcrest Shopping Center fire, stores involved:

Raney's Drugs
Borga Liquor Store
Hillcrest Hardware

loss $510,000.00

December 28, 1966 — Downtown fire buildings involved:

Independent Laundry
Wren Apts
Miller Furniture
Brimans Jewelry
Zitz Drug Co.

loss $1,000,000.00

Total number of alarms in 1966: 452
Total amount of fire loss in 1966: $1,881,750.00
January 10, 1967 — The purchase of a new SNORKEL and Four (4) men added to dept.

February 9, 1967 — Centenary Methodist Church fire, loss $42,000.00 and Two (2) firemen slightly injured — Kendrick and Steeneman

May 17, 1967 — Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity fire loss $243,000.00 and Two (2) firemen slightly injured — Asst. Chief K. Basinger and Steeneman.

Total number of alarms in 1967: 533
Total amount of fire loss in 1967: $765,000.00

January 12, 1968 — McCoy Shoe Store fire, loss $10,000.00

January 1968 — The building of Two (2) new stations
January 1968 — The purchase of Three (3) new 1,250-gallon pumpers

March 12, 1968 — McCoy Shoe Store fire, loss $10,000.00

Total number of alarms in 1968: 432
Total amount of fire loss in 1968: $83,000.00

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April 23-1969

HILLCREST SHOPPING CENTER HAS ANOTHER FIRE; THE YUK-UP YUK-DOWN BILLARD CENTER HAS $200,000.00 FIRE.

LAWRENCE ENTERS INTO BAD TIMES

THE 1970 RIOTS
GAMBLES GUTTED BY FIRE
LOSS OVER $150,000.00

FIRE BOMB THEORY
IN GAMBLES BLAZE

Taken from the Fire Department Records:

Firemen battled the inferno with an intensity that almost
cost one man his life. If Lt. M. Pearson had not been flung
against fireman D. Wilmoth when a hook and ladder truck
tipped over, fireman Wilmoth would have been thrown from
the ladder to the sidewalk.

Both Wilmoth and Pearson were taken to the Lawrence
Memorial Hospital. Although neither man was injured, and
both returned to the scene of the fire.

Lawrence firemen crawled through the smoking wreckage
and clung perilously to window ledges three stories above
the street.

The firemen were very thankful that the Ladies Auxiliary to
the fireman's union were there with coffee and doughnuts,
for the exhausted fire fighters.

FIRE CAME IN AS A FIRE BOMB IN THE ALLEY
BEHIND GAMBLES —

Fragments of glass believed to be part of an incendiary
bomb were found in the charred wreckage of Gambles Fur-
rine Store by state fire investigators.

Above Assistant Chief J. Kusberger uses a pike pole
to find some fire hid in the ceiling.

Above firemen J. Scruggs is asking for more
equipment.

Above fireman R. Nixon is putting on a "Scot" breathing apparatus in preparation of
entering the smoke filled building.

Above firemen receive help from the Safety Patrol in hold-
ing down a 2½ hose line.

Photo at left was taken at the instant the jack holding the hook and ladder broke —
Fireman Wilmoth on bottom side of the ladder and Lt. Pearson trapped on top of him, also
the nozzle is hanging over electrical wires as it broke loose from the ladder.

All the above photos are courtesy of Ron Bishop.

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KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE LOSS OVER $200,000.00

WHY? 1225 OREAD AVE (OLD WHITE HOUSE)

The house at 1225 Oread Ave, more commonly known as the "Old White House", belonged to Mr. Daniel S. Ling, who rented it to the students at the University.

The fire department made a total of 10 trips at the request of April 1225 Oread Ave, and 17 runs before the house was completely tore down by the University.

Photo at left shows why? — An unidentified rotor throwing a "hot bomb" at the "Old White House", just one of many.

Photo at left shows some unidentified rotor being arrested and on his way to jail.

OLD LINCOLN SCHOOL HIT BY SUSPECTED FIRE BOMBING

The National Guard stands guard while fire is extinguished.
STUDENT UNION BOMBED

APRIL 20, 1970
LOSS OVER 1-MILLION DOLLARS

Taken from the Journal World

HUNGRY FLAMES RISE FAST — At 10:25 p.m. a Kansas Union employee checked the Pine Room he noticed nothing out of the ordinary.

Five minutes later, someone smelled smoke in the area, and by 10:30 p.m., vicious orange flames were blazing from that area, and a disastrous fire was under way.

Frank Hurge related the series of events to Lawrence Fire Chief F.C. (Fritz) Sanders.

Sanders said it might be several days before the state fire marshal’s office ventures an opinion about the cause of the blaze. “But from the way it burned and from what I’m told it was definitely a case of bombing.”

Photo at left shows the man who discovered the fire standing in the door way.

Taken from the Fire Department Records:

At 10:28 p.m. on the 20th of April an alarm of fire came in to the fire: “The Kansas Union has just been bombed and is full of fire.”

The department immediately responded with three pumps, the Smork and the Ladder Truck. Immediately a Code 3 fire was called by the Chief and all “off duty” personnel was notified to respond.

At 10:40 p.m. on the 20th, the fire was completely out of control and breaking thru the roof in several different locations, the Smork and Ladder Truck were set and the maximum amount of water was being played upon the fire.

At 1:30 a.m. on the 21st, the fire was contained to the older portion of the Student Union and primarily to the “bull room” area.

At 2:00 a.m. on the 21st, most of the firemen were becoming exhausted from the intense heat and smoke. Most of the firemen had been on duty anywhere from 24 to 30 hours, because of the numerous “fire bombings” and other small fires that were started by various groups all over town.

Although tired and exhausted by 10:30 a.m. on the 21st, another “fire bombing” call at 1225 Oread, (Old White House)

At 4:54 p.m. on the 21st, another alarm of “fire bombing” at Cordley School at 1647 Vermont St.

At 7:19 p.m. on the 21st, again another “fire bombing” at 1235 Oread, (Old White House)

At 8:20 p.m. on the 21st, again another “fire bombing” at 1235 Oread.

At 9:20 p.m. on the 21st, alarm of “fire bombing” at 1241 Oread, (Gas Light).

At 10:30 p.m. on the 21st, alarm of “fire bombing” in the 1300 block of Texas St.

At 11:50 p.m. on the 21st, alarm of possible “fire bombing” of a vacant 3-story house at 7th and Lincoln. House completely destroyed.

Photo at right shows the fire that engulfed the old Student Union. A 35-foot column of flame and black smoke shot into the sky from the top of the building. The fire destroyed the roof, the floor above the second floor, and the attic.
FIREMEN STRUGGLE AT UNION FIRE FOR 12 HOURS

A portion of the roof at the KU Memorial Union collapsed soon after 1:15 a.m. after two aerial streams of water were played on the blaze. Two students went into the union shortly before the collapse and helped a Lawrence firefighter from the fourth floor after he was overcome by smoke.

All photos courtesy Ron Bishop.
AP REPORTER REVIEWS LAWRENCE'S TURMOIL

This is an excerpt from the Journal World.

A special assignment reporter for the Associated Press spent four days in Lawrence gathering information for the following news analysis: "Lawrence Kansas, would seem to be the least likely place for terror and death. It is a University Town situated in the heartland of America. Now it is wracked by violence and its story may be the story of the revisions haunting much of the United States."

Our philosophy has been said City Manager Richard M. Watanabe Jr. "That the least enforcement is the best enforcement."

Now the atmosphere of fear and lust is seriously threatened in Lawrence - this once serene university town of 43,000 tucked away in the lush farmlands of northeastern Kansas.

The long, dry summer has brought terror and violent death. Now people are remembering that the land of Eisenhower, Amelia Earhart and the Wizard of Oz was once known to the nation as "Bloods Kansas" before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Since July, two persons - once a 19 year old black militant. The other a white University of Kansas student have been killed by gunfire. Snipers and assassins have been active. Arsonists have tossed fire bombs at many local businesses and homes opened up with effect on firemen while performing their jobs of extinguishing the fires. Threats of bombing are almost a daily occurrence.

RENN APARTMENTS BURNS WITH FURY

Rescue Operations - A young 19 year old University student is removed from the Renz Apartments after fire broke through injuries on the young woman and caused some $30,000 in damage. The student suffered third-degree burns to at least 60 per cent of her body.

Vicinity's apartment above is the one which a young girl of 19, rescued prior to the fire at the Renz Apartments. At right persons on balconies throw out belongings and try to determine how to get to safety themselves.

SUMMERFIELD HALL BOMBED

GROUND ZERO - The bomb, which caused extensive damage to Summerfield Hall was placed somewhere in the approximate area where firemen are checking. Chief Sanders and two firemen check for further damage.

AMERICAN LEGION HONORS FIRST FIREFMAN OF THE YEAR

Lt. Paul Findley, 10 years has been selected outstanding Fireman of the Year* for citation by the Denny-Liberty American Legion Post.

Lt. Findley was selected for his outstanding achievements, and will be presented the award by Cmdr. John Pizzi of the American Legion.

Lt. Findley, has served the fire department 10 years, is drill master at number 2 station.

This is the first such award presented by the Legion. The ceremony will be an annual event.

SACAJAWEA HALL DESTROYED

*Fireman of the Year

** Students at Middle Indian Junior College helped some at first thought bushes of apple of water on a fire which destroyed Jackson Hall with the wooden American Legion Post.
THE AUXILIARY RESPONDS TO EVERY MAJOR FIRE ALARM

HOT JAVA FOR A COLD NIGHT — The ladies of the firemen’s auxiliary dispense coffee to firemen at the scene of all major fires.

The temperature may dip to eight below zero, and the chill index hover near zero, or below all right. But whether it is cold or not, Lawrence firemen must answer the call when the alarm sounds. And so does the ladies of the firemen’s auxiliary.

While their men fight the fire, the ladies help the men fight the cold. Throughout the long hours they stand by, as they have at all major blazes, with hot coffee, hot chocolate, doughnuts and an extra pair of gloves for the men.

The men have nothing but lavish praise for the women who make fighting the fires a little easier.

The Gumble’s fire was the first run for the auxiliary which had been organized only a few months earlier in January 1970. Since then there have been many other runs.

Because it helps out mainly in the case of a Major Fire, the ladies auxiliary is a unique group, it is one service organization that hopes to have as few calls as possible.

LAWRENCE LAUNDRY FIRE — LOSS EXPECTED HIGH

The fire department was dispatched at 11:33 p.m. The fire started inside and near the front of the two-story brick building used for commercial laundry facilities.

Flames were shooting out the front windows of the building by the time the first truck arrived and broke through the roof at one location.

Four pumpers trucks, the snorkel unit and 34 men fought the blaze for about an hour before bringing it under control.

Firemen remained at the scene until about 3 a.m.

ARSONIST’S BLAZE HITS OLD LIBRARY

FIRE AFTERMATH — Lawrence Fire Chief F C (Fritz) Sanders, left and Larry Steeniman, arson investigator for the fire department, check an area under the stairwell in the old public library where the fire started. Damage estimated at $10,000.
The fire was discovered at approximately 3:30 a.m. when Sgt. Charles Green, Lawrence Police Department, was on routine patrol and saw a fire in a trash can at the school. While investigating, Green noticed the door to the gymnasium slightly ajar. He opened the door and found the room full of smoke and fire.

The fire department was immediately dispatched and on the scene in 4 minutes, the fire was under control in 30 minutes and considered completely extinguished in one hour.

The arson investigator found the fire had been started in at least three different locations. The fire gutted the office area and destroyed a part of the gym. Loss caused by the fires will be over $10,000.

**ARSON CAUSE OF NEW YORK SCHOOL FIRE**

**FIREFIGHTER HAVE FIRST LAWRENCE PLEDGE CENTER**

**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY WEEK PROCLAIMED BY COMMISSION**

The Lawrence City Commission proclaimed the week of August 27 to September 3 as "Muscular Dystrophy Telethon Week" at the request of the Fire Department.

Harold Morse and other firemen will operate the first Lawrence pledge center from September 2 until September 3 in conjunction with the Jerry Lewis nationwide Labor Day telethon.

Chief Sanders invited the City Commissioners to visit the firemen and others in answering calls. Reports on the progress of the Lawrence drive will be carried on Topinka and Kansas City television stations.

The pledge center at the station No. 1 will be held.

Gale Snyder, Rusty Sprigger, Bob Pullam, Rex Johnson and Don Stump are among those already signed up to man the telephones.

**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY DRIVE NETS $12,000 IN LAWRENCE**

Lawrence residents pledged over $12,000 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America in the annual Jerry Lewis Telethon.

Harold Morris, Lawrence fireman and organizer of the first drive, said he had planned to reach $10,000, and was "shocked — really pleased" at the final outcome.

The fire department has never announced a goal publicly, but said the group reached $10,000 in pledges at 5:05 p.m. Chief Sanders said the pledge figure included money collected by firemen and cheerleaders from Kansas University, Haskell Indian Junior College, and Lawrence High School.

The firemen were also giving rides to youngsters on an antique firetruck, in conjunction with the fund-raising drive.

The secretary of the firetruck, from left: Gail Heitz, David Burleson, Tammy Byers, Harold Morse Jr., Tamara Byers, Kathy Morris, and Tina Nelson.
LAURENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NEW 100' AERIAL

Above Scott Sales (driver) and Ray Allen (back) look over the new Aerial.

Polishing, from front to back are: Lt. Larry Cutman, Craig Cromer, Capt. Monte Pearson, Lt. Roy Gilliam, Kenny Wytick, and Mike Penner.

ADDED FIRE PROTECTION — A crew at fire station No. 2, 19th and Haskell, put some final polishing touches on a new $92,000 fire truck. The custom built ladder vehicle capable of reaching up 100 feet is a replacement for a 1946 truck.

Two firemen (Asst. Chief John Kastberger and Mech. Ralph Kendrick) drove the new vehicle 1,200 miles from Elmira, New York, to the Lawrence station.

Firemen demonstrate the new aerial ladder truck for the Lawrence City Commissioners. The replacement truck has a larger engine, automatic transmission and better supports to keep it stable when the 100-foot ladder is fully extended. The nozzle can spray 1,000 gallons of water per minute, can be adjusted from a spray to a steady steam from the base of the ladder.

$600,000 SHOPPING CENTER FIRE

DILLON'S SUPERMARKET AND CALHON'S CLOTHING STORE

The alarm of fire came in at 2:03 a.m. At 2:08 a.m. the fire department arrived and started setting the Skookum and Aerial.

By 2:15 a.m., the Skookum and three pumbers were set and using all available water on the fire.

He alarm of fire came in at 2:03 a.m. At 2:08 a.m. the fire department arrived and started setting the Skookum and Aerial.

By 4:00 a.m., the fire was almost under control. At 5:00 a.m., the fire was under complete control and small fires were extinguished with hand lances.

By 6:00 a.m. the fire was out and clean-up operations were under way. Loss over 600,000.00
FIRE CHIEF F.C. “FRITZ” SANDERS RETIRES

CHIEF F.C. “FRITZ” SANDERS RECALLS TWO MAJOR BLAZES

Two of the most expensive fires since Quantrell’s raid occurred in Lawrence while “Fritz” Sanders headed the Lawrence Fire Department.

“Fritz” Sanders reflected almost fondly upon the crises created by the burning of the Kansas Union in 1970, and the destructive blaze in 1966 in the 700 block between Massachusetts and Vermont.

The 1966 fire, he said in an interview, was the one that gave him the most gray hairs, a fire that began at the Independent Laundry, then spread to the Miller Furniture Co., and the WREN building.

When Chief Sanders arrived at the fire he found one of his men under a collapsed brick wall and thought he was dead. However, the man Doyle Headley, suffered a fractured leg and back injuries. Capt. LeRoy Spence was burned quite badly and Capt. Donald Knight was overcome by smoke.

The fire caused more than $1 million dollars damage, Sanders said. Had the fire department had more men, it might have saved one building, but the fire had such a big start a hundred men could not have saved them all.

When “Fritz” joined the force in 1942, it had 18 men. By the time he made Chief in 1950 there were 45, now there are 62 firefighters.

Advancements came rapidly for “Fritz” in 1952 he made Captain, a rank he held only three months, in August, 1952. Chief Paul Ingle retired and was succeeded by his assistant, John W. Miller, and Sanders was appointed Assistant Chief. Eight years later, Miller retired and Sanders moved up to Chief.

Time has brought several changes in the fire department in Sanders career. Equipment has been improved, hours have gone from 72 to 56 a week.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his career he said, “The people I work with.”

Taken from the Journal World

RETLRER CHIEF RELISHES LAUGHS AS GAG GIFTS HIGHLIGHT DINNER

Illuminat and gag gifts set the mood when a crowd of 130 persons, including firemen and their wives, met in Lawrence Fire Station Two for a retirement dinner for Chief F.C. “Fritz” Sanders. Firemen passed out gifts commemorating his most embarrassing moments, they were a red gasoline can and a color photograph of a snorkel truck and disabled traffic light.

I guess one of the special things about being a chief is that you can get away with things no one else can. One of the things Fritz got away with is that he’s the only Chief I’ve ever heard of who ran out of gas on the way to a fire. The snorkel photograph stemmed from the time Sanders was eager to try out the new truck and took it for a ride down Massachusetts street. The boom stuck out farther than on most trucks, and as he rounded the corner at 11th and Massachusetts, he picked up a traffic light with the boom.

JOHN KASBERGER APPOINTED CHIEF

The City Manager appointed John Kasberger Chief of the Lawrence Fire Department effective November 15, 1974.

In a statement the City Manager said “John Kasberger has been with the department since 1942, he was appointed Assistant Chief on August 1, 1952, and with over 20 years experience as Assistant Chief John Kasberger will make the City of Lawrence an excellent Chief!”
FIRE STATION TOURS

Station tours are almost a weekly occurrence at the fire station, and a welcome one. The men are very proud of their stations and are always willing to show them off.

—Lt. L. Stemmerman, P. Leonard, D. Stuffer and J. Sorensen

FIRE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

RALPH KENDRICK JR.

is the fire department mechanic. As all he is working on a power steering pump, just one of his many jobs.

ALICE FOWLER is the first woman ever assigned to the fire department. Alice was assigned over a year ago, since that time she has become so accustomed to the bells ringing, men moving and sirens wailing that she just keeps right on typing as if nothing was going on.

LADIES AUXILIARY AND THE JAYCEES

BESTOW GIFTS ON THE DEPARTMENT

Above: Norma Nixon presents Capt. M. Pearson with one of three Memorial Medallions donated by the auxiliary. The medallions have been used in servicelines on many occasions. Once again the ladies are there when needed.

V/Pres. of the Jaycees donate a Tape Recorder, Camera and Flash Attachment to the Arson and Inspection Department. Left to right — D. Anderson, Lt. L. Stemmerman and Chief J. Kasberg.

Fire Inspection Bureau

Lt. Larry Stemmerman — who heads the inspection department also doubles as Chief Arson Investigator.

Here Lt. Harold Maloney is checking out an electrical system.

FIRE PREVENTION, INSPECTION, ARSON INVESTIGATION

Fire scene investigation whether arson or accidental. Finding the cause of a fire is a proven way of preventing a recurrence. More than seventy investigations have been conducted since this division was put into operation.

The Lawrence Fire Department continues to provide professional fire protection and maintain a low risk/low rate Class 4 fire insurance rating. To obtain this level of service, fire prevention and firefighting have been the principal objectives of the department. The sirens, lights, and dramatic action associated with firefighting is often more appealing to the general public, however the often invisible prevention measures has produced a return in fewer fires and greater safety.

Lt. Ray Gilliam checks the tags on fire extinguishers. In his normal inspections of local business.
KEEPING READY IS

FIRE FIGHTERS — BETWEEN FIRES

The bright red truck, the flashing red lights, the sirens, have always held an excitement for everyone, from childhood on.

It's a glamorous job, with risks and some serious fights, but the less glamorous part, training, getting ready, keeping ready, and advancing in the ranks probably isn't as well understood.

In those quiet hours between fire runs there is other work to be done — study, classwork, tests, not to mention maintenance chores and duties about the fire station.

In fact, it's possible there may be a sense of escape at times, when there's a fire to go to.

And there's a sense of camaraderie among the men — common to men in uniform, who face a common danger together.

In order to explain their work a little better, views on this page show the men at some of their training duties.

Here Lt. Becker goes over the monthly and quarterly tests.

Here Capt. Findlay explains hydraulic problems to his shift.

A fireman review goes through Fire Aft training. Here Capt. R. Coleman demonstrates proper method of hoisting a 50' ladder.

Lt. Becker holds a class on the proper method of setting a 50' ladder.

Here, Lt. Becker gives Fireman Scott Sizemore a hand at setting the proper pressure on the gauges.

Problem in Hydraulics — some rather complicated math is involved in regulating pressure on a pumper truck. Here, Lt. Coleman presents problems for monthly testing.

Here firefighter Joyner goes through the necessary steps of setting up the 50' ladder.

Fireman Machan R. Kendrick explains just how the 100' ladder is used.

Fireman L. Pringle adjusts pressure on his hose as he plans stream from the 100 foot high training tower. On ground are D. Stuffer and F. Rieck.

Fireman W. Stemberger gives fire extinguisher classes to a local nursing home.

Firemen spread out to their assigned duties as they run an exercise from pumper truck. Looking east from training tower. Fire Station No. 3, with Mini Piazza in background.

Half the battle.

Here, firemen are having a ball fight. — In this drill a aluminum ball which sticks on a suspended cable gives firemen an interesting target as they practice handling high pressure hose. Object of "game" is to see which team can advance ball greatest distance in opposite direction. Occasionally the winning team gets backed off when stream "accidentally" misses ball and hits them.

Here, tower, firemen Carl Meyer and D. Stuffer (at top) hoist-up chain hose to try in heated hose tower.

Not all training is performed at the station.

Training on a real house fire. Photos at top and bottom show a house that was scheduled to be torn down is donated to the fire department for training purposes.
RETIRED FIRE CHIEF RETURNS AFTER 23

Taken from the Journal World and Fire Dept. Records:

Ret. Chief Ingles is 86 now. He walks slowly and speaks with an effort. But neither age nor infirmity kept him from a tour of the station, and a hop in his favorite pumper truck.

He came bearing gifts. An old, but unscratched white helmet, his badge and a scrapbook of momentos were donated to the firefighters archives.

With the aid of his scrapbook and a knife-sharp memory, he recently led a small gathering of firefighters on a hit-and-miss trip through his firefighting days.

His career, in the retelling, was marked with many demands. Ingles described a day when fires had to be battled on their own terms and fire safety materials were few.

The department evolved from a step above the bucket brigade to a mechanized and sophisticated firefighting unit in Ingles 40 years of service. He saw the transition from the horse-drawn chief's buggy to the engine-run pumper unit that drew water out of a city hydrant in powerful bursts.

While the trucks were nice, he said, the horses were missed when mechanization took over. Five four-legged friends were sold — four to the Army and one to a feed store owner.

The horses were well trained, when the alarm rang, those horses ran under their collars and all we had to do was snap them on. We had a 17-second record to touch the alarm, come downstairs, hook up the hoses and go.

Like an old firefighter, firehouse never learned to ignore the alarm. Much to the chagrin of the feed store owner, who purchased Rocky the animal assigned for years to the chief's buggy, occasionally took off to the station when he heard the alarm sound.

YEARS WITH GIFTS AND RECOLLECTIONS

In the audience listening to Ret. Chief Ingles were a couple of youngsters he hired in the early 1940's: Chief John Kasberger and Assistant Chief LRoy Spence.

Chief Ingles said, "I hired this boy, pointing a finger at the now Chief Kasberger. You know a lot of the boys I hired became heads of the department. It's nice to know your work wasn't wasted."

The firefighters were something, too. For years the volunteers brought home more money per month than the three paid monthly men did, the monthly salary was $50.00. The hours were enough to make today's unions cringe. Ingles spent days and nights for 40 years at the station, visiting his wife and home twice a day expect New Year's Day when he took several hours to lunch with relatives in Eudora.

Ret. Chief Ingles takes his first look at the new aerial truck.

A badge that last saw service 20 years ago, photographs from earlier staffs and well-preserved uniform pieces adorned a scrapbook of clippings and letters donated by Ingles to the firefighters archives.
LAWRENCE KANSAS

CHIEF
John Kanberger

FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF
Lobby Spencer

Lt. Larry Coleman
Lt. Roy Gillam
Lt. Robert Milonese
Lt. Robert Nixon
Lt. Larry Zimmerman

Capt. Lou Burey
Capt. Zeziik Clemmons
Capt. Robert Coleman
Capt. Paul Finley
Capt. Donald Knight

Capt. Walter Parmar
Capt. Lawrence Pearson
Capt. James Pracmel
Capt. Alvis Samuel
Lt. Donald Beckner

Roy Allen
Dwight Anderson
Israel Bernarde
William Braheker
Oscar Burton

Emmanuel Guana
Seth Griffin
Aron Hale
Lloyd Hammerschmidt
Thomas Harmon

James Lee
Ronald Lee
Phil Leonard
Michael Lindeman
Daniel Morrow

Donald Knight Jr.
Ralph Kundrick

John Raywick
Thomas Sales
Edward Sengster
John Scruggs
Clifford Smith

Michael Permer
Michael Price
Lawrence Pringle

Carl Treaden
James Tuckeer
Arthur Turner
James Underwood
Kenneth Wyrick

Dennis Store
Max Struck
Tommy Toogoo
Joseph Triboulet
FIRE STATION NO. 1


"Y" SHIFT — Left to right Oscar Burton, Aron Hafe, Theodore Franklin, Carl Fernandez, Lt. Harold Mahoney, Edward Sugiura, Clifford Smith, Lawrence Proule, Capt. Robert Coleman

"Z" SHIFT — Left to right (back row) Donald Oudes near, Michael Oudens near, Capt. Walter Purvis. (front row) Richard Carlin, Ronald Lee, John Ratcliff, Lloyd Hummerschmidt, Tommy Trigg. Not in Photo — Lt. Roy Gilliam

FIRE STATION NO. 2


"Y" SHIFT — Left to right Lt. Robert Nissen, Dwight Anderson, William Brebaker, Max Strunk, Michael Piere, Capt. James Francis, Carl Myer

"Z" SHIFT — Left to right Capt. Lawrence Pearson, David Harfield, Lt. Larry Coleman, Kenneth Wyrick, Michael Pinter, James Tucker, Dennis Stone.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the following people who helped to make this book possible. The success of a data-gathering effort of this magnitude was largely dependent upon the cooperation one receives from his friends and acquaintances.

I would especially like to acknowledge very important contributions from the following: Spencer Library (Kauai History Collection), University of Kansas, Watson Library, University of Kansas, The Lawrence Journal World, The Lawrence City Clerk's office, Retired Chief Paul Ingle, who supplied pictures and information, Mrs. John Miller, for her pictures; Mrs. Bert Jones, for her pictures; Fireman Harold Maltzu, who supplied information and pictures; Mr. Ron Bishop, for his collection of pictures; Mr. Mike McLeery, for his collection of pictures; Fireman Jim Lee, for his pictures, and Fireman Harold Maltzu, for his collection of pictures and scrapbooks.

It is this writer's hope that someone in the future will again update what I have written to preserve our heritage.

Phil Leonard
THE AMERICAN FIREMAN,
Facing the Enemy

THE AMERICAN FIREMAN,
Prompt to the Rescue