

Shavertown Firemen To Have Open House Sunday At 1

Company Was Organized In 1925 As Shavertown Chemical Co. No. 1

Jacob Rau Was Elected President At Meeting In Shavertown Grade School

The original suggestions for the formation of a fire company in Shavertown came from a group of men known as the Men's Club of Shavertown which later became The Shavertown Improvement Association.

According to the official seal of the Shavertown Fire Company the company was organized in 1925 and incorporated in 1926. The name was Shavertown Chemical Co. No. 1 and the first meeting was held May 8, 1925 in Shavertown grade school where it was agreed that the fire company would meet on the first and third Fridays.

Early records uncovered by President Edward Carey and Secretary Fred Malkemes show that Jacob Rau was first fire chief and Bernard Bush president, W.H. Morgan, secretary, Sam Woolbert, treasurer and Al Ray, financial secretary.

Trustees were: Benjamin Hicks, Luther Major, Leo Swartz, Hale Carey and William Hoffman. Albert Bush was first fire chief and Bernard Bush first fire captain.

Committees were named at the organization meeting to solicit funds to purchase the necessary apparatus, which was mounted on a Winton Six chassis donated by Bernard Bush.

FREE OF DEBT IN 1927

In 1927 a new chassis was purchased and guaranteed by the trustees and at a special meeting, held in the form of a smoker, the final note was burned by Henry Shaver, freeing the company of indebtedness.

In 1931 the membership decided to come before the community once a year for funds and called the event a Community Day. The affairs were huge successes and within three years the company had raincoats, insurance for members, new tires and other incidentals necessary to an up-to-date fire company.

A Relief Association was organized in 1930 and chartered by the Court. Officers were: Andrew Fischer, president; George Shaver, vice president; Scott Van Horn, secretary; Ralph Bertram, treasurer; George Prater, Howard Appleton and Henry Shaver, trustees.

Other early presidents of the Fire Company were: H.H. Hill, H.S. Van Campen, L.T. "Red" Schwartz, William Gary, Andrew Fischer, George Prater, and Cortez Jennings.

The above was largely taken from a chronology published in a program by The Dallas Post for the fifth annual Community Day held on the

Shavertown school grounds and in the M.E. Church building on Saturday afternoon and evening, August 24, 1935.

Leo T. "Red" Schwartz, one of the four living charter members of the original organization has been a valuable source in filling in the early history. Other living charter members are: Herman Van Campen, Jacob Rau and Sam Anthony. Deceased charter members were: Charles Hoffman, Albert Bush, Hale Gary, Ralph Bertram.

Ladies Auxiliary

It is noted the 1935 Community Day program that Ladies Auxiliary was organized in 1934. However when the new building was completed in 1954 it was discovered that the Ladies organization had never been chartered and it became necessary to go through this legal process some twenty-eight years after the Auxiliary came into being.

1935 officers of the Ladies Auxiliary were: President, Mrs. Martin Bilbow, Vice President, Mrs. George Prater, 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Thomas Davis, Secretary, Mrs. William Dierolf and Treasurer, Mrs. George Shaver.

Officers of the company in 1935 were: President Cortez Jennings, Vice President P.M. Malkemes, Secretary, Daniel Shaver, Treasurer, Harry Seigel, Financial Secretary, Horace Hall, Trustees, Harry Goeringer, L. T. Schwartz, H.S. Van Campen, Ralph Bertram and Harold Lloyd. Fire Chief was H.S. Van Campen; Assistant Chief George Shaver; 2nd Assistant Charles Gosart and Captain Steve Johnson.

"Red" Schwartz recollects that the fire company always had a hard time raising the necessary finances even though they were providing a vital service for the community. Their first chore was to raise \$900 for the chemical tanks. These were placed on the old Winton chassis with the members of the fire company donating their services for the installation. Plumbing, carpentry and sheet metal work was all done by the membership.

The first home that the fire truck occupied was the private garage of Herm Van Campen.

Hoffman Bakery Burns

Red was of the opinion that the first fire chief was Charles Hoffman. Nonetheless when Hoffman was fire chief one of the first serious fires destroyed the Fire Chief's building and

bakery, located on Main and Franklin Streets. Clarence Miers and family lived on the second floor but were not at home when the fire broke out. Their furniture was saved by the firemen but the building was a total loss.

Parsonage Destroyed

The next serious fire destroyed the Methodist parsonage on Pioneer Avenue located where the present parsonage now stands.

Still another fire interrupted the ball game held between the single men and the married men of the community. The ball game was never finished and occasionally controversy still flares as to who was the victor in this game.

Buy Own Building

About 1930 the Department bought the former Fire Company building on Main Street from Frank and Eugene Platt who had operated a garage at that location for some time. The building was bought for \$4,500. A house-to-house canvass, swelled by funds from subsequent Community or Field Days raised the funds for remodeling, about \$3,000.

It is interesting to note that the Community Days were held on the lot where the Back Mountain Hardware Lumber and Coal and Wyoming National Bank and the Postoffice now stand. This property cost the fire company \$450. The membership had planned to use it for the construction of a roller skating rink and bowling alleys, but this venture never materialized. The ground was later sold for \$2,000, a handsome sum in those happier days.

Somewhere about this time a second hand truck was purchased and new pumping apparatus was installed on it, through the aid of Civil Defense. Committee was: Hod Woolbert, Bert Stetzer and Reverend Edmondson. Equipment was gradually improved throughout the next few years with no noteworthy additions on any given date but the fire company continued to grow on a more substantial basis.

Buys Fine New Pumper

In 1954 it was thought that a new fire truck was vital to the community. A fund-raising drive was organized to finance the project and Edward Hall was named chairman. Cost was placed at \$15,000. Civil Defense agreed to pay \$5,000 if the balance could be raised by popular subscription. The effort was successful and a brand new Peter Pirsch fire truck, equipped with tank and pumper, was bought.

Members of the fund raising committee were: Granville Sowden, Sheldon Evans, Ross Williams, John Baur, Daniel Shaver, Charles Mannear, Dr. Malcomb Borthwick, Dr. Michael Buten and Thomas Graham. Honorary members of the com-

Community Leaders Accept Symbolic Key To Building



Dr. Marshall C. Rumbaugh, representing Back Mountain Lumber & Coal Company, presented a symbolic key to the building to Edward

Carey, president of the Fire Company, in the presence of Fire Company, and Kingston Township Community Ambulance Officers.

Left to right: Tom Hefferman, Jr., John Chapel, Joseph Youngblood, Fred Malkemes, Gordon Austin, Granville Sowden, Dr. Marshall C.

Rumbaugh, Ed Carey, Bert Pugh, Martin Porter, Andy Roan, William Fredericks, Bill Kreisler, and Harry Smith.

Everybody Is Urged To Come To Open House

Firemen To Explain Apparatus; Auxiliary To Serve Refreshments

The entire Back Mountain Community is invited to attend the Open House conducted by Shavertown Fire Company from one until six this Sunday.

Delegations from Wyoming Valley Fire Companies and friends from a distance are also expected to be present according to Edward Carey, President of the Company.

Members of the Fire Company and Kingston Township Ambulance Association will be present to explain the modern equipment and to greet old and new friends.

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary will serve refreshments consisting of coffee and cake and soft drinks for children.

This is a community project, explained Mr. Carey, and we want everybody to learn how the fire company operates and learn how to cooperate with the fire company when placing calls for assistance.

Mr. Carey paid tribute to the genuine spirit of cooperation that exists between all fire companies of the Back Mountain area in keeping fire losses to a minimum wherever they may break out.

Our equipment is designed not only to take care of our own needs but to fit in with the equipment of all other companies with whom we fight fires when needed or who come to our assistance when we need help.

If you are new in the community Mr. Carey said, and have never attended a Fire Company meeting or taken part with us, come out and get acquainted. You are cordially invited.

Turkey Shoot At Rod And Gun Club

A turkey shoot will be held Sunday at Harveys Lake Rod and Gun Club from 11 till dark, for large and small bore rifles.

Targets will be turkey cards and standing deer targets up to 200 yards.

Refreshments will be available at the club-house. The public is invited even if one is strictly a watcher.

Other such shoots will be held November 4 and 18.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS THE DALLAS POST

Frances Slocum Play Coincides With Naming Of Recreation Area

Folks in the Back Mountain who were not alerted to tune in on Channel 28 Monday morning at 9:35, missed a delightful pantomime, given in the main by local children, directed by a local woman, following her daughter's script, a reenactment of the capture of Frances Slocum by the Indians.

The pantomime, written by Deborah B. Rogers and directed by her mother, Mrs. Lewis L. Rogers III, who lives on the old Dr. Howell place outside Truckville, was taped Wednesday night at WBRE. A last minute substitution was made in the cast, Linda Bell taking the place of Nancy Jean Coleman who had the part of Nathan Kingsley, the white boy who was killed during the encounter in the woods.

Members of the cast were entertained after the taping at the home of Mrs. Robert M. Rosenbluth, senior president of the Frances Slocum Society, Children of the American Revolution.

Ted is a past president of the Fire Company and has always been active in its welfare. He has also acted as custodian of the Ambulance Fund and has born the responsibility of the distribution and collection of cards since the inception of the system.

Children were arrayed in costumes of the Revolutionary days of America, when little girls wore long skirts fashioned after the styles worn by their mothers. Mrs. Thomas Bobo assisted Mrs. Rosenbluth with the costumes.

Boys in the cast who have been letting it grow since rehearsals started in August, are now luxuriating in new haircuts.

Some of the boys' costumes, says Mrs. Bobo, presented problems. How to manage a naked scalp with a topknot, for an Indian, was solved by using tan lisle stockings, with a tuft of coontail lifted from a Daniel Boone cap, stitched down the middle, plus plenty of grease paint.

Deborah, 15, a student at Wyoming Seminary, and State Director for National Education of Children of the American Revolution, conceived the idea of a Frances Slocum pantomime last spring, and wrote the script.

The story of the last day that Frances Slocum spent with her family was played without benefit of scenery, but with authentic props, churn, grindstone, cradle and pioneer implements. Scalping of the boy Nathan Kingsley was carried out with a great deal of verve by a painted Indian flourishing a dripping tomahawk, which he wiped carefully afterward on his hunting trousers.

Patriotic Education Week, which started Monday and continues through Saturday, was designed to foster increasing respect for the country, the flag, and pioneer days. Restoration of the country's rich heritage of landmarks is one of the goals. A number of schools carried the T-V program Monday.

The Frances Slocum pantomime could not have been more timely, coinciding as it does with decision to name the new recreation area in Carverton for the young white girl who was spirited away by Indians in November of 1778.

The fair sex are better pedestrians than the males, says the Wyoming Valley Motor Club. Statistics show that men and boys are involved in seven out of every ten fatal pedestrian mishaps.

Congratulations...to the SHAVERTOWN FIRE CO.



NEW MODERN BUILDING...

... Completely Heated By Electricity, the Most Modern Method of Comfort Heating. The Luzerne Electric Division of UGI

joins with Business Firms and Friends in Extending Best Wishes to the Shavertown Fire Company. We are proud to be Associated with this Progressive Enterprise and the Community it serves.

LUZERNE ELECTRIC DIVISION UGI

Congratulations to the men of the SHAVERTOWN FIRE CO.

[and the women of the Auxiliary]

Your civic responsibility and friendly cooperation have resulted in bringing to this area one of the finest and most modern Fire Company buildings. You should be proud of this achievement as we at Back Mt. Lumber & Coal Company are proud of having had the opportunity to work with you in seeing this community project through to completion.

BACK MT. LUMBER & COAL CO.

SHAVERTOWN