

# **Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1**

## **The History of a Community**



**Nancy McDaniel**

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## ***The History of a Community***



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**This book is dedicated to all firefighters, EMTs, commissioners, administrative staff and Fireman's Helpers who helped make Jefferson County Fire Protection District #1 a reality and success. Thank you for being there when it was important.**





## Prologue

There are only a handful of the original firemen of Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1 left. I was pretty lucky, because I knew just about each and every one of those men even though I was just a kid. I was especially lucky because my uncle and my father were two of them. I attended Fire Commissioner meetings as a kid. My mother was the fire district secretary for over 25 years, and when I was too young to stay home alone, I went to the Commissioners' meetings too.

There was something about the fire department that I remember to this day. The unique odor of the combination of smoke, big trucks, and cotton hoses can't be duplicated. As you walk into the truck bays even now, that smell triggers memories of Santa Claus arriving on the trucks and the sound of the Plectron going off in the middle of the night. It reminds me of men who were truly disappointed if they had been away and missed the call to go out to a chimney fire or the occasional structure fire. It was exciting for a kid to grow up around that.

The sound of the steel door on the front of the building hasn't changed. It has the same squeak in the hinges that it has had since the 1950s. It has been painted multiple times, but as long as I can remember, it has always been red. If that door could talk, it could tell tales of firemen who walked in that door. Notices to the public or to firemen were usually posted there. There are still notices posted to that door.

There are now dozens, if not hundreds of firemen, who volunteered at some time in the department's history for various reasons. Some stayed until their age would not allow them to be actively involved. Some stayed a few months. All are part of this history, whether they are named in this book or not.

Some died as firemen. One was killed in the line of duty fighting a fire. Some died of cancer or heart problems. One died on Mount Rainier. All are part of this history.

The commissioners who in effect volunteered their time to oversee a growing, critical entity such as the fire department are part of this history. There was one commissioner, who when he finally tendered his resignation, was the longest-serving fire commissioner in the State of Washington.

There was the Ladies Auxiliary and the Firemen's Helpers who provided monetary and moral support. They raised thousands of dollars over the year to buy equipment and make sure the firemen knew they were appreciated. They are all a part of this history too.

The "Chimacum Fire Department" was the focus for a growing community. To this day, what was Jefferson County Fire Protection District Number 1, and what is now part of East Jefferson Fire and Rescue, still serves as a focus for the community.

In any historical account, there may be details that are not described with the same perspective as those held by the readers. In any historical account, there is the potential for misquotes, misstatements, or mistakes. This historical account is no different. There may be all of those deviations from what should be here. I apologize now, even before I have written the first word of the main text, if those "misses" become part of this. If they are there, they are not intentional. Many photos appear throughout this history – some are credited to the photographer. Most of the photographers are unknown, however.

As in any history of this type, you run the risk of leaving somebody out. That was not intentional and I apologize for that in advance. I know that there are many who "didn't make it into the book". That was not intentional. However, this is a "work in progress". As history continues to be made, there will certainly be an opportunity for inclusion on a subsequent printing.

Nancy McDaniel  
(Daughter of a fireman and the District Secretary)



*Front Door—it still sounds the same as it did  
in the 1950s.*



## Chapter 1

### **Early 1940's: No Trucks, No Firemen, No Hoses**

In the Chimacum Valley, during the 1940s there was no fire department. There were no trucks, there were no firemen, and other than garden hoses attached to people's homes, there were no fire hoses. There was a fire department in Port Townsend, but waiting on Port Townsend trucks and volunteers to arrive was a long wait. It was a long wait especially during some of the some significant fires that happened during that time.

The Rhododendron Dance Hall, located near what is now Fiesta Jalisco Mexican Restaurant, burned to the ground in 1946. On September 2, 1949, a large barn burned on the old Glendale Ranch. The Glendale Ranch, located off Center Road about a half mile from the Chimacum intersection was one of the largest dairies and creameries in Western Washington. When the Chimacum School, including the cafeteria, the gymnasium and finally the entire school, burned to the ground, having fire protection took on a higher priority.

Port Townsend Fire Department responded to all of these, but by the time the first trucks arrived, the structures were fully involved and all were lost. The Navy's Fire Department on Indian Island had trucks and fire fighters, and responded when possible. Response times, however were too long to make much of a difference. Before Port Townsend Fire Department could respond to anything in the county, they had to have permission from the city council. Before the Navy fire resources could respond, they had to have the permission of the commander before the trucks could leave the Indian Island base.

While there were no trucks, firemen, nor hoses, there were some concerned citizens who began to organize. William Matheson, who would later become the Department's Assistant Chief, described some of the first efforts.

"Anyway, some of the citizens in Hadlock became very concerned about the lack of fire protection, so a group of men led by Win Williams, Jr, organized a small fire fighting unit. There was Win Williams Sr., and Win Williams Jr., Kip Curry, Lyle Eldridge, and Alvin Schier, Alvin Jenkins,



Alvin Schier Photo courtesy of Diane Gray

and Mel Kivley and myself (William Matheson) involved in that. "

William Matheson continues: "Our equipment consisted of the old Navy surplus hose cart. This hose cart is now on display in front of the Chiacum fire hall, mounted in concrete. Our approach to firefighting was kind of a band-aid approach because there was not much we could do if it was a big fire, but our concern was to protect exposure of other buildings, and keep the fire from spreading.

I remember we'd gather in the evenings after work and we would plan our strategy and how we'd use this hose cart. We did have fire hydrants but there was very little water pressure in them, but we thought we could stop small fires with this hose cart before they spread, and before the Port Townsend Fire Department got there". (Marriott, 10)



Hose Cart, Photo by Nancy McDaniel

At the same time Hadlock residents were discussing how to fight a fire, there were community leaders who were addressing the possibilities of forming a fire district. Undoubtedly, there were many informal discussions prior to what would turn out to be the first meeting of the Jefferson County Fire District No. 1 on June 24, 1948. It is almost a certainty that the brevity of the minutes was in no way directly correlated to the length of the meeting.

# MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

June 24th 1948

Meeting called to order at the home of J. T. Lay and Dave Bengtson was elected chairman, J. T. Lay was elected secretary and Gurdon Bill was elected fire chief.

Moved and properly supported that Jefferson Co. Fire District No. 1 make application to the War Assets Admin. for a fire truck and other necessary fire equipment.

Meeting adjourned.

Dave Bengtson  
Chairman

*Minutes of Meetings, Jefferson County Fire District No 1*

J.T. (Jack) Lay was the County Engineer, Dave Bengtson operated the Grange Warehouse Company in Hadlock, and Gurden Bill, was a co-owner of Bill's Garage in Chimacum.

The War Assets Administration appeared to be a good source of equipment. Established in 1946 for the sole purpose of the disposal of excess government property after World War II, the Seattle office had facilitated several transfers of property.

The Commissioners moved in August of 1948 to make application for a truck and other supporting equipment through the Seattle office of the War Assets Administration. By June 1949, however, the Administration had been abolished, and with it the opportunity of obtaining the District's first truck through that channel.

August 10th 1948

Meeting called to order by the chairman at Bills Garage.

Moved and properly supported that Dave Bengtson be authorized to file an application at U. S. War Assets Admin. 1301 2nd Ave., Seattle 1, Wash. for a surplus fire truck and /or other fire equipment.

Meeting adjourned.

Dave Bengtson  
Chairman

*Minutes of Meetings, Jefferson County Fire District No 1*



Obtaining a fire truck was critical. Recruiting a cadre of volunteers was just as critical. In retrospect, it was a “chicken—egg” project. It was difficult to obtain a truck without a budget. It was difficult to recruit volunteers without a truck. Without a fire station in which to house the truck, it would be difficult to have anything. The Commissioners focused on a trio of issues—finding land for a station, finding a truck, and developing a cadre of volunteers. It was an ambitious endeavor. However, there was a common bond that community members shared whether they were from Hadlock or Chimacum. They all recognized that structures would continue to be lost if they did not take the first steps, albeit small, to develop a fire fighting resource.

The July 1949 minutes of the Board of Commissioners indicated the first budget for Fire District No. 1 would be \$1,179, based on taxation at “4 mils”.

**Resolution No. 1**

**Chapter 254 Laws of Washington 1947**

**Budget**

Purchasing Fund	694.00
Realestate and building supplies	200.00
Insurance	150.00
Office Supplies	50.00
Office hire	10.00
Commissioners expense	<u>75.00</u>
Total	1179.00

*Minutes of Meetings, Jefferson County Fire District No 1*

## **Chapter 2**

### **1950s: Land, Trucks, Buildings, and Volunteers**

It was time to begin organizing. On August 19, 1953, William and Steve Bishop's barn burnt to the ground as a result of arson. Several extremely valuable Quarter Horses used for cutting competition and other prize animals were lost in the blaze. Included with these horses was a valued stallion from South America brought to this country for the sole purpose of standing at stud on the Bishop ranch. Clawson's Café, (on the site of the present Chimacum Café) burnt on September 27, 1954. The Chimacum Valley Tavern, burned on November 22, 1954. Several homes were lost in and around the Irondale – Hadlock area. The need for a fire department was becoming more critical as the community grew.

The Commissioners had continued to address taxing district and budget issues. Although modest, the budget was steadily increasing, the 1954 budget for the district was \$1,720.

On October 6, 1953, a public meeting was called at Chimacum School to begin the process of forming a voluntary fire department. Representatives of Nelson Equipment Company were available to present ideas on forming the department, on sources for used fire trucks, and to showcase the fog nozzle.

Men from throughout the community stepped up to the responsibility of fighting fires, getting some training, and being instrumental in recruiting the first cadre of volunteers. The first chief, Charles (Chuck) Nelson was elected on October 6, 1953. Bill Sparks assumed the duties of Assistant Fire Chief, and A. J. "Bud" Ammeter was elected Assistant Fire Chief.

Howard Eldridge offered to donate land for the fire hall. A committee of Chimacum citizens was formed consisting of Howard Eldridge, Bob Jackson, Jr, and Mrs. Kathleen Bishop. Their mission was to get the word out about the next public meeting where interested volunteers could come and learn more about the duties of being a volunteer fireman.

Momentum was building. Within two weeks, Albert Klemann, a new member of the Board of Commissioners, reported that the Navy had a truck on Indian Island that was to be surplused. It was a Buffalo Fire Truck--"It pumps 750 gallons a minute, holds 480 gallons of water and came with 200 feet of hose. The truck can carry 1,300 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose and 400 feet of 1 1/2 inch hose". (Minutes, dated October 15, 1953) Although no concrete action was taken on this truck, the hunt was on for a truck.

The discussions continued over the winter about whether a used truck or a new truck would be sufficient. The Port Angeles Fire Department indicated they had a used truck which would go on the auction block in May 1954. Local dealerships came to the meetings and discussed the options available and the costs of a new truck. The general consensus was that a new truck would be the first preference—funding a new truck would require some quick action and a renewed emphasis on publicity. A bond issue could raise the required funds and a special committee to address the idea of a special bond election was formed. Lloyd Good, Bob Allen and Alice Strater were appointed to serve as the publicity committee.

By April 5th, 1954 a special meeting was called at Chimacum School to address the idea of a bond issue with the community. Thomas Motors, of Port Townsend, showed pictures of a 1954 F6 equipped with Seagrave Fire Equipment—it would cost about \$10,000. Rather than wait and see what results an election might bring, Chairman Bengtson asked for the opinion of the community. Nearly unanimous, the community felt that a new truck was indeed a priority and paying for it by a bond issue was the recommended course of action.

Only 20 days later on April 25th, the Commissioners voted to have the County Prosecutor draw up a resolution to call for an election to vote on issuing bonds to purchase a new fire truck. The issue would be presented to the voters at the November general election.

An additional group of citizens had been appointed to study potential locations for the fire hall. Appointed were Win Williams to serve as chairman, Reverend Cone of the Methodist Church, Jim Bunce, Bob Norton, and Mrs. Gladys Strater. Various locations had been suggested—most all agreed that the most important building that warranted quick protection from a nearby station was in Chimacum. The school was the highest priority for the community, and locating a fire station nearby was a popular consensus.

The committee came up with a number of alternatives. The Chimacum Grange offered to lease the new department the south fifty feet of their property for \$50 a year for 50 years with the proviso that the Fire Department would have to replace as much concrete of the tennis court as they would have to tear out. (A tennis court once occupied the area used currently by the Grange as a parking lot.) An additional piece of land 50 x 100 feet was offered by Mr. John Phillips for \$250. This piece of property was located behind what was then Jackson's Store at the Chimacum intersection. A third piece measuring 100 feet wide by 200 feet deep approximately 225 feet east of the Leonard McDaniel home was offered by Howard Eldridge for a total of \$250.

Discussion ensued about whether it was feasible to build on the leased Grange land. Discussion also addressed the cost of this lease, and the Commissioners voted to offer the Grange \$30 per year instead of \$50.

Other alternatives soon surfaced. On July 26, 1954 another tentative offer came before the board. Bill Bishop owned property on the road between the school and the intersection in Chimacum. This property, part of the Bishop Farm, measured 100 x 100 feet and would cost the district \$200. The only stipulation was that a driveway must be left between the station property and what was then the Martin Shaw place. Without further discussion, the Commissioners agreed that negotiations should begin to acquire the property. Chairman Bengtson quickly appointed Bill Matheson, Bob Matheson, and Ray Mosher to draw up plans for a fire hall "using concrete of pumice blocks".

Two days later on July 28th, a special meeting of the Commissioners was called at the Bishop's Ranch to negotiate the purchase of a tract of land. With all the commissioners present, negotiations were begun with brothers William and Steve Bishop. In less than an hour, the decision was made to purchase the property — with the only proviso that the "Fire Department would construct and maintain a substantial fence on the Bishop's side of the property . . . And that the Fire District would survey the property and furnish Title Insurance for the same. The agreed price for the property would be \$250." (Minutes, July 28, 1954)

Not losing sight of the third component, Chairman Dave Bengtson had appointed Eino Putas, Robert Jackson Jr. and William Matheson to assist the fire chief in recruitment and the formation of a volunteer fire department. Twenty-four volunteers had expressed interest, and training sessions were scheduled for every third Monday at Chimacum School. By March 1954, approximately 20 volunteers were

regularly attending training sessions. Fire chiefs from Sumner, Port Angeles and Port Townsend were attending and were leading discussions on fire fighting and safety practices.

The volunteers were also involved in procuring helmets, boots and coats. Various fund raisers ranging from turkey shoots to salmon derbies became regular events sponsored by the Chimacum Volunteer Fire Department. By August 27, 1954, the volunteers had begun to raise funds to purchase gear and equipment. Posters were placed in businesses indicating "Sheriff Tex and the Junction Jamboree" would be at the Chimacum Gymnasium for a public show and dance with proceeds benefiting the new fire department

September 27, 1954 will be remembered in American history for the premiere of Steve Allen's "Tonight Show". On the same night, however in Chimacum, the Fire District commissioners approved a budget resolution for 1955 totaling \$2,399. The Commissioners accepted a list of specifications to be included on a new fire truck as recommended by the Washington State Surveying and Rating Bureau. A call for bids on the new truck using those specifications was to be drafted with bid opening to be held in November.

Five bids came in and were opened:

Totem Equipment Company	\$12,325.24
Feenaughty	\$13,848.35
American La France	\$10,896.89
Howard-Cooper	\$12,308.50
Roney's	\$13,033.62

At a special meeting on November 29, 1954, the bid was awarded to the lowest bidder — the American-LaFrance-Foamite Corporation. L. N. Curtis and Sons, received the bid on some additional equipment needed for the truck. The First American National Bank of Port Townsend purchased the bonds for the amount of \$12,000 at 3% interest. The dream of a truck was becoming a reality.

Bids, specifications, and budgets were creating a filing cabinet full of papers. The three commissioners and a fire chief were finding that administrative tasks were becoming overwhelming, and the idea of hiring a fire district secretary surfaced. Chairman Bengtson volunteered to try and find somebody to do some typing, filing and some administrative work. By the end of November 1954, Aileen

McDaniel had been hired, at \$20 per month, to take over the tasks of typing, filing, recording the minutes, paying the bills, and correspondence. The truck was not the only thing that was becoming a reality. The building committee was working on the building after work and on weekends. Cement blocks were in place and beginning to define the first fire station consisting of two truck bays and a small meeting room. Progress was being made on a daily basis. On weekends when more volunteers were available to help, the building began to quickly take shape. By May 1955, Commissioner's meetings no longer were held in member's homes or at the school. The building was complete. Following a motion made by Jack Lay and seconded by David Bengtson, all future regular meetings were to be held on the 4th Monday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the Chimacum Fire Hall.

There was still more work to be done, and as the months went by and the weather became colder, the issue of a heating system was a high priority. Available from Olympic Hardware and Furniture Company in Port Townsend, a furnace was installed. The addition of a telephone was discussed, and it was agreed that one of the commissioners would contact the Jefferson County Telephone System. Ensuring that priorities were addressed, the Women's Auxiliary voted to raise money and install a bathroom.

At the same time, volunteers were continuing to train and devote hours to learning to become a fireman. In March 1955, the first list of firemen of Jefferson County Fire District No 1 was presented to the Board of Commissioners as the official list of volunteers. All were accepted pending a physical examination. The first list of volunteer firemen is presented below:

Robert Jackson, Jr	Eino Putas
Leonard McDaniel	Marvin Coulter
Albert Ammeter	William Sparks,
James Bunce	Robert Norton
Harry C. "Bill" Francis	Lawrence Coulter
Lloyd Good	Ernest Coulter
Clark Donald	Charles Nelson, Sr
Robert Allen	Grey Hamer, Sr
Walter Hall	Robert Boyer
William Matheson	Earl Edgecomb
Robert Matheson	James Malloy
Ray Mosher	Leon Lopeman
Albert Klemann	Maurice Bradley
Win Williams	

The Commissioners also voted to have 30 maps made of the district—one for each of the firemen to ensure that each fireman could find his way to the fire when called.

As the volunteers trained, questions over what role the new district would play in the community were addressed by the commissioners. The fire chief asked how far the truck could go out of the district to fight fires or to provide assistance to other fire districts, and if the Industrial Insurance covering each of the firemen would be in effect. Commissioners determined that insurance would continue to cover the volunteers whether in or outside of the district. Whether the trucks and volunteers would be dispatched to fires outside of the district would be left to the Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chiefs on a case by case basis. In those cases when the

truck would be out of the district, the Port Townsend Fire Department was to be notified and they would provide relief, providing that Jefferson Fire District had a minimum of two firemen and an assistant chief standing by at the Chimacum station.

### ***A Recollection***

*As a kid I can remember the telephone calling system. We were all on a party line. You knew the call was for you if it was the right combination of short rings and long rings. I remember our number was F-34. My uncle's number was F-32.*

*My uncle, Bud Ammeter, was an assistant chief and then became fire chief. My dad, Leonard McDaniel, was a fire captain. In the middle of the night, if my uncle's number rang, my mother would get up and wait for our phone to ring. My dad would be getting dressed and would be ready to go.*

*When our phone rang with a fire call, Dad was already dressed and just waiting for the location.*

*Then along came the Plectron. When that went off in the middle of the night, the same thing happened. My Dad got dressed and ready. My mother and I listened for the location, and reported to him the location of the fire.*

*Nancy McDaniel*

Notifying firemen that there was a fire was a challenge. An emergency fire number was listed in the telephone directory. This number would connect to the telephone switchboard operator in Port Townsend. The operator would then call Margaret Matheson, wife of Robert Matheson and one of the firemen. She would then call each fireman individually and tell them where the fire was. There were two lists of names—one list for fireman available at night, and the other list for fireman available during the day. The fire chief would always be called first, then the officers, and then the fireman. There were no radios, and although slow, it was the only way at the time.

By April of 1956, communicating with the firemen was becoming a priority. The fire chief, Charles Nelson, addressed the commissioners with the idea of installing a radio transmitter in the fire truck and receivers in homes of some of the firemen. He indicated that the equipment might be obtained by application to Civil Defense. Apparently there was a program whereby the State would pay 25%, Civil Defense would pay 50%, and the District would be obligated for the remaining 25%. Other ways may be feasible as well—perhaps a taxicab company or the State Patrol had spare radios to sell. The chief was tasked with getting more information.

The first smoke mask was also purchased that year, and six helmets, costing \$9.50 each, were purchased for use by the firemen. Volunteers were also eligible for a retirement plan through the State of Washington at the rate of \$12.00 per year. New volunteers including Earl Woodley and Don Thacker were also brought on board. Mr. Harry C. (Bill) Francis was also appointed as the Volunteer First Aid Captain. The commissioners set a maximum limit of 28 volunteers on board, and new volunteers could only be brought on board if a vacancy were to occur.

In 1956, locks were also installed for the first time on the doors at the station. Each volunteer and each commissioner were to have a key. The Department was beginning to outgrow the original building. The Building Committee was tasked with a draft plan for an addition as well as to get an estimate on building a cement ramp in front of the building. For a cost of \$550 in supplies, a ramp could be built with the work done by the volunteers themselves. For another \$800, blocks and the material needed for the addition to the building could be purchased. A hose tower would also be needed in the future.

The building project became a centerpiece for the Department. Replacing trucks and outfitting them was also an important focus. The Department had been using an old tank truck that by 1957 was worn out. Volunteers reported that “the truck had failed three or four times, it has no speed, transmission is worn out, tires nearly worn out, and that the brakes are gone”. (Minutes, September 4, 1957)

Robert Allen told the commissioners he had access to a truck that was in good condition and that could also hold the tank, and offered to sell the truck for \$600. The commissioners unanimously voted to purchase it. A 1944 GMC tandem axle truck was purchased.

In September 1958, Chief Nelson announced that he was moving out of the area.



Albert "Bud" Ammeter was appointed to act as chief with full responsibilities until the commissioners could properly address filling the position. At the following meeting in October, Bud Ammeter was appointed as the permanent fire chief with the provision that if "after six months, or a considerable length of time, he decides he doesn't want the position, he may revert back to his former status as assistant fire chief." William Matheson was appointed to fill Ammeter's position as Assistant fire chief.

The volunteers did not have boots or coats. In October 1958, the fire district secretary was instructed to contact Goodall Rubber Company and obtain the price on fire boots. Twelve pairs were ordered the following month and provided to the chief, assistant chief, and other officers. As the months went by, nozzles, reducers and other equipment were ordered. The building was nearing completion. Jefferson County Fire District No. 1, was not only a reality, but it was also learning lessons and becoming effective.

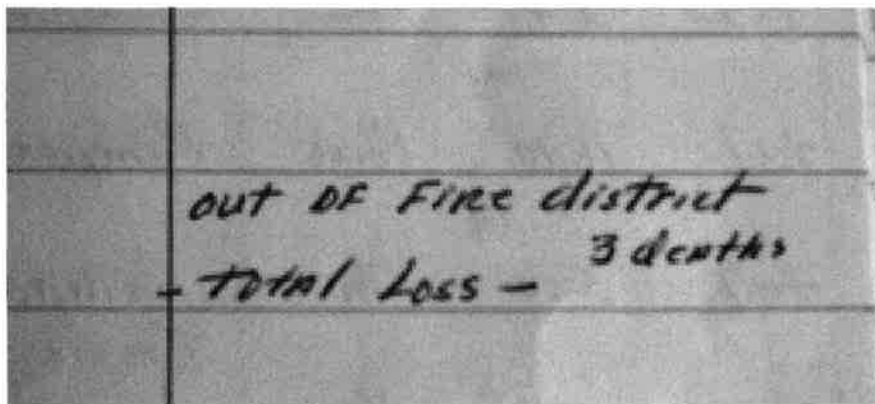


A Fire Record was kept. All calls were recorded along with information including date, time, equipment that responded, how long they were out, officer in charge, location, owner of the property, etc. An estimate of the damage incurred was also recorded.

In 1955, five calls were recorded in the book. — most were chimney fires or fires in a vacant lot. By 1956, the volunteers responded to 22 calls, and it increased each year. False alarms, chimney fires, and the occasional structure fire all received a line in the "Fire Record". Small notations in the record, although brief, are pieces of history.

On May 14, 1958, a small entry regarding a fire at Four Corners indicated that the volunteers had responded out of the district to assist Port Townsend and neighbors in fighting a structure fire. Notified at 6:20 by phone, the trucks arrived at 6:30, and spent four hours fighting a house fire.

Almost overlooked at the right hand side of the page a small notation indicated that the volunteers had been part of the community's life — and death.



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten text in dark ink. The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. It reads: "out of Fire district" on the first line, and "- total loss - 3 deaths" on the second line. The paper has horizontal ruling lines, and a vertical line is visible on the left side, possibly from a binder or folder.

## FIREFIGHTERS FROM THE 1950 & 1960s

It was difficult to obtain photos of all of the charter members and firefighters from these early years. Not all had photos available, some moved away from the area, and some could not be reached. Whether their photos have been included or not, they are still just as important and are still a part of the rich fabric that makes up Jefferson County Fire Protection District # 1.



*Charter Member A.J. "Bud" Ammeter*



*Charter Member Bob Allen*



*Charter Member Jim Bunce*



*Charter Member Bud Coulter*



*Charter Member Ernest Coulter*



*Charter Member Marvin Coulter*



*Charter Member Earl Edgecomb*



*Charter Member Harry C. "Bill" Francis*



*Charter Member Lloyd Good*



*Charter Member Leonard A. McDaniel*



*Charter Member William Matheson*



*Charter Member Bob Matheson*





*Charter Member Ray Mosher*



*Member Wally Westergaard*



*Charter Member Win Williams*



*Member Jack Marlow*



*Member Don Brecht*



*Member Jim Schauer*



*Member Jim Bishop*



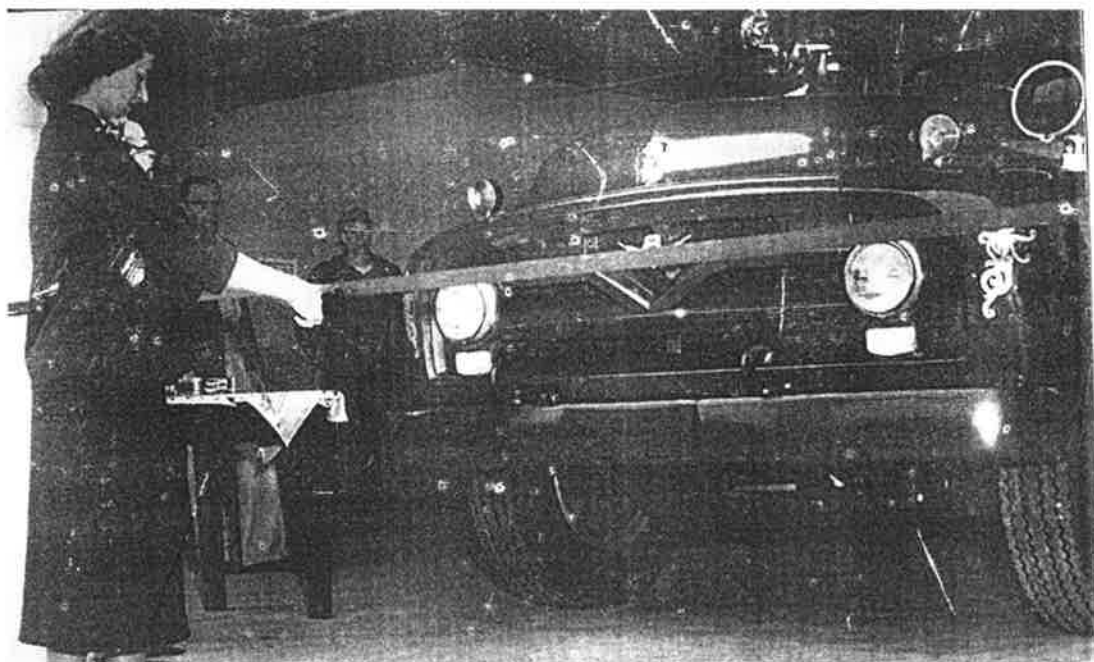
*Member Howard Delp*



*Member Ray Ondracek*



*Member Earl Butts*



*Rhododendron Queen Judi Davidson cuts ribbon at opening ceremonies of Chimacum Fire Station—Photo from Port Townsend Leader 1955 (exact date not known)*



*Ray Mosher, Ernest Coulter, Bud Ammeter (left side to camera), Bud Coulter*



BILL SPARKS

MAURICE BRADLEY

CHIEF CHARLES NELSON

BUD AMMETER

BOB MATHESON

LEONARD McDANIEL

BOB ALLEN

BILL MATHESON

ERNEST COULTER

GRAY HAMER

BOB BOYER

WIN WILLIAMS

BOB JACKSON

BUD COULTER

MARVIN COULTER

LLOYD GOOD

RAY MOSHER

STEVENSON COUNTY  
FIRE DISTRICT  
NO. 1  
CHAMOUN



*1954 Tanker—Currently located at Clearwater, WA (Jefferson County Fire District #7.*

*The truck in the background is the 1975 engine Jefferson County Fire Protection District conveyed to District #7 in 2001.*



## **Chapter 3**

### **1960s: Additions . . . and Losses**

#### **Part I: Additions**

As the Department and the community moved into the 1960s, there was a continuing emphasis on improving the facilities and upgrading the trucks. In 1960, the hose tower was added. The building was painted in the late summer of 1960 by Fred Amacher.

Shovels and small tools were purchased to assist in fire fighting. The fire chief was granted permission to attend a fire fighters convention in Yakima, and mutual aid agreements were discussed. Providing mutual aid to Indian Island was addressed as well as providing and receiving assistance to Port Townsend Fire Department and Jefferson County Fire Protection District #2 in Quilcene.

By 1962, replacing the old tank truck, was becoming increasingly important. Wally Westergaard and Bud Ammeter made a trip to Renton to inspect a potential candidate for the tank truck's replacement. After discussion and considerable shopping in the area, a 1956 Ford truck was purchased from Pope Ford. The purchase price was \$960 plus 4% sales tax. For a total of \$998.40. The old truck was offered up for bid and sold to Gus Erickson for \$555.

In the early 1960s, the "Plectron" was being purchased for use by the volunteers. A simple receiver, activated by the Port Townsend Fire Station, was in each of the volunteer's homes. Activated by a tone, it provided information on where the fire was located, and some information on what kind of fire it was. By 1962, more Plectrons were being purchased, and some were placed in local businesses owned by firemen to notify them during the day.

Communication systems between the trucks was becoming more critical as the District continued to grow. Mr. Richmond, of Richmond Radio, addressed the fire commissioners on two-way radio equipment for the trucks. Permission to operate the radios on City of Port Townsend frequencies was sought.

Port Ludlow was beginning to grow, however growth was happening without a

fire service. In May, 1962, the commissioners were approached by the president of the Port Ludlow Community Club, Mr. Mackenroth, and Mr. Max Hinton of Mats Mats to discuss the possibilities of annexing Port Ludlow into the fire district. No decisions were made, but all were in agreement that this would be a possibility after all legal issues were resolved. Port Ludlow, however, determined that distance from Chimacum would preclude an effective response time and set about the business of forming their own district, which would become Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 3. By 1966, a mutual aid agreement between Districts 1 and 3 was discussed.

Annexation of Adelma Beach was also first addressed in the summer of 1963. In October 1965, the commissioners voted to approved this addition and the petition was presented to the County Auditor for certification of signatures before presenting it to the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners. Adelma Beach was officially added in January 1966.

In 1964, annexation of the Center area was also addressed for the first time. Leif Larson, Chief of Fire District No. 2 and Bud Ammeter discussed the issue and approached the Commissioners. In 1966, the issue surfaced again, and the Commissioners chose to canvas the people in the Center area to determine their feelings on the issue. Center had become an island, located between Districts 1 and 2, it was not being served directly by either one. In November 1966, the Commissioners officially approved he annexation of the Center area into the existing Fire District No. 1 jurisdiction.

In 1967, yet another addition was addressed. Marrowstone Island residents expressed interest in being part of the District. Growing quickly, the commissioners and representatives of the volunteer firemen felt this should be discussed thoroughly, and the issue was placed on hold until it could be more properly addressed by both the commissioners as well as the volunteers. Volunteers and equipment were being spread thin as the district continued to grow.

Volunteers were giving both time and money to make sure their volunteer department operated as efficiently as possible. As the months went by, additions to the building were completed by the volunteers. Plumbing and flooring was installed by the volunteers. In the spring of 1967, commissioners addressed a potential addition to the existing structure. Harvey Christian presented preliminary plans and estimates on adding space to the back of the building.

Additional property was also considered for purchase. William and Helene Bishop owned the adjacent property and by June of 1967, the commissioners approved the purchase of 34.5 feet of this property at \$12.00 per foot for a total of \$416 which included the \$2.00 recording fee.

In November 1968, Robert Matheson submitted a bid of \$3,660 (plus sales tax) to construct a 15'8" x 35" addition to the present fire hall. The bid was approved and construction soon began on what is now regarded as the meeting room and kitchen area.

Volunteers continued to show up at each fire, come out for drill night, and give up extra hours to "check the truck". Assigned on a rotating basis, each fireman had a week to "check the truck" – starting it, checking oil and water levels, and making sure that critical systems were operational.

The volunteers were also busy organizing the Oak Bay Salmon Derby, occasional dances, and sponsoring "donkey basketball" nights at the Chimacum School gymnasium. Volunteers were at the heart of all efforts of the fire district.

## **Part II. Losses**

On March 21, 1965, a volunteer gave his life fighting a fire. In the early morning, a call came over the Plectron notifying firefighters of a structure fire at the F.C. Baldwin residence on Marrowstone Island. Firemen responded, and extinguished the fire.

As part of the last checks to see if the fire was out under the house, Maurice R. Bradley volunteered to crawl under the structure. Standing water under the house had resulted from the fire hoses. As he crawled under to investigate, he bumped his forehead on a live wire, and was electrocuted. Power had been cut by firefighters when began firefighting operations, however, unknown power supplies remained creating a situation where power was still coming into the house.

Not knowing exactly what had happened to Bradley, firefighter Don Brecht, crawled in to pull him out. Luckily, he escaped a similar death. Apparently, when Bradley hit the exposed wire, the jolt bounced him away from the wire, thus breaking the electrical connection.



*Maurice Bradley, Firefighter*

## **Chimacum firemen proud of growth**

Jefferson County Fire District No. 1, Chimacum, review with pride its record of fire-fighting and accomplishments since the district's establishment.

With 26 volunteer firemen answering roll call, the entire community has become involved in one way or another as the firemen emphasize the assistance rendered by the Auxiliary.

As of Sept 23 [1967], the department rolled the trucks to 21 fires including brush and chimney fires in 1967. Brush fires were in the majority and firemen attributed the increase to the unusually dry weather conditions.

The department started in 1952 (?) with one pumper truck and a bare building constructed by volunteer labor. Three years later, a tanker truck was added and the Auxiliary went to work in earnest. Since state funds are used for maintenance only, much equipment was needed and through baked food sales and other money-raising projects and long hours of labor, this equipment has been provided. Thanks to an active Auxiliary and the co-operation of the entire community, equipment such as a resuscitator, boots and coats, smoke ejector and booster line hoses have been obtained.

A dining hall has been added to the fire hall with the Jefferson County Commissioners providing the equipment and the volunteers supplying the labor.

Two-way radios have been installed in two trucks and 26 receivers have been installed in the homes of firemen. Fire District No 1 is grateful to the Port Townsend Fire Department for monitoring and tripping the receivers for the district's fire calls.

In addition 96 square feet of land has been acquired next to the fire hall to provide a parting area and to provide for future expansion.

Ten men completed State Vocational Training relating to firefighting practices and techniques last March and all have had some training in various rescue techniques.

One man, Maurice Bradley, lost his life in the line of duty on March 21, 1965.

Roll Call for Fire District No. 1, Chimacum reads: A. J. Ammeter (Chief), J. Marlow, L. Coulter, M. Coulter, E. Coulter, E. Butts, R. Anderson, W. Williams, E. Martin, R. Mosher, E. Edgecomb, L. McDaniel, E. Snyder, R. Matheson, J. Bishop, W. Westergaard, J. Schauer, D. Brecht, L. Good, W. Matheson, J. Bunce, H. Francis, J. Lewis, F. Teitzel, R. Ondracek, and R. Allen.

(Note: This excerpt was retyped verbatim from the Port Angeles Evening News, Fire Protection Section, Sunday, October 8, 1967)



**CHIMACUM FIREMEN** — *Fire Chief A.J. Ammeter, of Chimacum Fire Protection District No. 1, stands second from left with Volunteer Firemen Schauer, left, Allen and Edgecomb*

## **Chapter 4**

### **1970's: Dreams Becoming Realities**

As the district continued to grow, a new truck was becoming a necessity. In June of 1970 the Commissioners approved a motion that a "call for bids" be run in the local papers on the proposed purchase of a truck. Fire Control Northwest, Inc. submitted the only bid for \$8,191.00 not including equipment. The total bill for truck and equipment together came to \$15,842.

The new truck purchase also coincided with the decision to accept the petition from Marrowstone Island for annexation. In September 1970, the Commissioners approved the petition and the process of annexation was begun. Mr. Bill Jansen and Mr. Ed Richey of Marrowstone presented a list of house numbers for the newly annexed area and the largest annexation to the district to date was implemented. Jefferson County Fire Protection District # 1 was growing and boundary lines were being refined during this year as well.

Up until December 1970, the Van Trojen Road area had been included in District 5's area of responsibility. This delineation required District 5 responders to enter District 1 in order to respond to fires. Carl Christian of the County Assessor's office supported this redrawing of the boundary lines for both districts.

As the district grew, additional trucks were added to the fleet. Bud Ammeter, Bill Matheson, and Win Williams flew to California and drove a new 1970 Chevrolet tanker home.

A Mutual Aid Agreement with Fire District #2 in Quilcene was signed in May 1971. Leif Larsen, representing District #2 appeared at the May 1971 board meeting where the agreement was presented. With this agreement, fire protection in the southern area of Fire District #1 and the northern area of District #2 was effectively enhanced.

The building was also enhanced with the addition of paneling to the commissioners room, new office furniture, landscaping of the grounds, and the hiring of a caretaker. Earl Butts accepted the job as caretaker at a salary of \$50 per month.

Education enhancements were also undertaken. Bill Francis, First Aid Captain, presented the idea of purchasing a Resusci-Annie to be used in first-aid instruction. Firemen, as well as community members, were to begin to receive instruction in first aid techniques. Plastic air splints, oxygen, and other supplies were also purchased.

Training was becoming a focal point for each volunteer. A new training course was to become a requirement for all volunteers beginning in January 1973.

Up until this time, each volunteer had contributed to his own retirement fund. By 1972, the Commissioners recognized the invaluable contributions the volunteers made, and voted to pay the retirement for each volunteer starting in early 1973.

The annexation of Marrowstone Island resulted in the decision to place a truck on the island for quicker response to that area. Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Bill Jansen of the Nordland area approached the board and indicated that a piece of ground owned by Hermine Wilson was available for purchase. The Commissioners authorized the purchase of this property for \$2,500. Construction of a building was a topic of discussion during the summer of 1973. Estimates indicated that the building could be constructed for approximately \$4.00 per square foot. Water availability for the building was key, however, to determining the feasibility of construction.

Water issues were resolved and in August 1974, a delegation from Marrowstone presented plans for the new fire hall. Bids were solicited and bid opening occurred at the September 1974 meeting. Mattson & Mattson Construction, from Redmond, WA were the successful bidders at a total bid of \$11,371.50.

In August of 1974, the issues of residential water availability on Marrowstone were becoming issues for the Commissioners. A Marrowstone resident requested that the fire district haul water to her property. She could not dig a well on that property and as a result was without water. After much discussion, the Board recommended that the District not comply with her request.

By 1974, the issue of providing an ambulance service was a focus of Commissioner's meetings. Volunteers were not in favor of taking on this responsibility, and the discussion was tabled. As the district grew, however, the issue was to come up again and again.





*Marrowstone Island Station*

The complexities of providing fire protection with volunteers to an ever-growing district manifested themselves in several ways. By 1974, compensation for "checking the trucks" was put into place. The Board agreed to pay each fireman \$20 per year for their services in checking the trucks. "If they do not carry out their duties, they must pay all or the portion not earned for retirement to the district each year" (July 8, 1974 Commissioner's minutes)

By 1975, the complexities of the country found their way to Chimacum. A bomb scare at Chimacum School in the spring of 1975 presented a new set of issues for the community and the fire department. Firefighters conducted a survey of the school which included entrances, exits, construction materials, etc. Volunteers were being asked to provide their services to more than just the occasional chimney or brush fire. Formal, mandatory training was becoming an ever-increasing focus for the department and its volunteers.

In August 1976, Chief Ammeter approached the board and indicated that due to recent health problems, he felt he should resign at the end of the year. Volunteers willing to take the position were to submit their names for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. In November 1976, the Board of Commissioners appointed Dick Shuff as Chief along with Firefighter Mike Orth as Assistant Chief.

Growth continued and by May 1977, the roster of firefighters was increased to 35.

As the Department grew, so did the expenses of clothing, radios, training, insurance, and new trucks. At the same time, the impact of the changing missions of the U.S. Navy in the area were becoming part of the horizon. Navy representatives met with the Commissioners in January 19768 to discuss potential grant funding to help ease the costs of population growth brought by the new Trident submarine mission at Bangor.

As the population continued to grow, new and more effective trucks as well as the continuing issue of emergency medical services continued to be part of the planning process.

Emergency medical services was a focal point for Marrowstone Island residents. Mr. Ted Buckland approached the Commissioners in May 1978 to discuss a proposal by the new Marrowstone Island ambulance service to build a building to house their ambulance on the existing fire district property. After considerable consideration, the Board requested he return the following month with building specifications and be prepared to discuss rental fees.

Expansion of the community infrastructure continued as additional hydrants were installed in Chimacum, Port Hadlock, and Irondale.

“ . . . Letter received from the Jefferson County Planning Department to the matter of providing “Ts” along the lines so that in the future fire hydrants may be connected to the lines.” (Commissioners Minutes, October 9, 1978)

“A motion was made and seconded that \$5,000 should be allocated for the first 5 hydrants plus an additional \$5,000 for more hydrants.” (Commissioners Minutes, November 18, 1978)

New trucks also became a part of the inventory. Chief Shuff, Assistant Chief Chuck Boggs, and Lee Short joined with Commissioners Earl Butts and Leonard McDaniel to explore the specifications for a new tanker. A call for bids was published and in June 1979 one bid for a total of \$30,546.39 was received from Sea-Tac Ford Truck Sales, Inc.

## Apparatus & Firefighters Over the Early Years







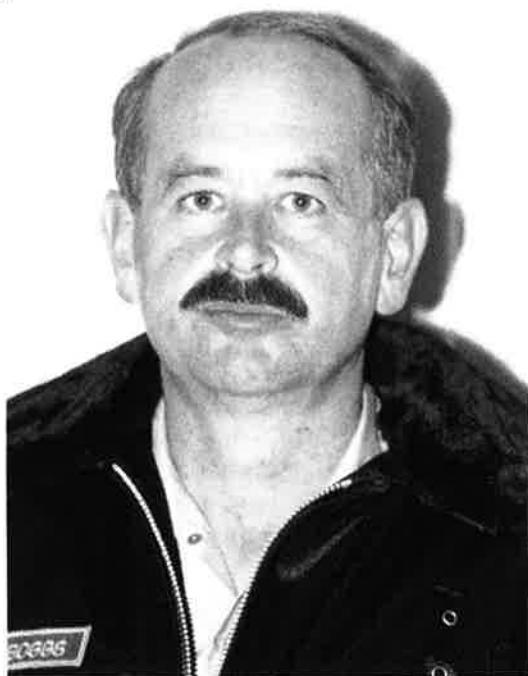
*Commissioners Leonard McDaniel, Earl Butts, Wally Westergaard. Fire District Secretary Aileen McDaniel*



*Dick Shuff, Chief*



*Mike Orth, Assistant Chief*



*Chuck Boggs, Assistant Chief*

## **1980s: Progress, Changes & Growth**

It's difficult to imagine a fire service, emergency medical system, or law enforcement agency today that does not work closely with the 911 system. In early 1980, however, the topic of 911 was just beginning to be discussed by the Commissioners. "Lee Smith (Sheriff) appeared to explain the 911 system (to the Commissioners)". (Commissioners Minutes April 14, 1980). As the 1980s progressed, changes and progress were the main agenda for both the Commissioners and the volunteers.

In the fall of 1980, the issue of ambulance service was also on the agenda. Special meetings were held to discuss the pros and cons of either contracting with a private ambulance company or providing a public service through the fire district. Nearly 30 people attended the September 15, 1980 special meeting where a special committee consisting of Betty Nicoli, Louise Nelson and Pat Cadero was appointed to get information out to the voters who would soon vote in a 1981 levy on providing emergency medical services. The levy would raise money to fund the following: \$48,480 to go to the Expense Fund, \$25,000 for Emergency Medical Services, and \$1,940 for the Reserve Fund.

Emergency medical services was becoming a pressing issue for the District. The decision to purchase an "aid truck" was made early in 1981. At the same time, the Marrowstone Ambulance Association contracted to provide emergency medical services to residents of Marrowstone Island and the Port Townsend Fire Department contracted with the District to provide emergency medical services to the remainder of the district.

As the fleet expanded it became necessary to enlarge the main fire hall structures to house the vehicles and to expand the facility's footprint. B.G. Brown offered to sell 100 feet of land adjacent to the Chimacum fire station for \$7,000, and the purchase was completed in the summer of 1982. At the same time, the Marrowstone Ambulance service signed a lease for property at the Marrowstone station on which to place a building to house their ambulance.

With more trucks, a growing district, and a cadre of dedicated volunteers, the Commissioners made the decision to expand the building once again. By 1983, construction was underway. John Lea & Sons, the successful bidder, began construction on the facility during the summer of 1983.





Firefighters were also offered the opportunity to obtain Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and many stepped up to this challenge. By 1985, Paula Varosos, representing the Emergency Medical Services began the search for an ambulance to serve the district. The Commissioners granted EMS the authority to contact anyone interested in trying to get the matter before the public.

Operating with an aid truck, the emergency medical services had responded to 19 aid calls during the month of December 1987. Discussions on emergency medical services were prevalent in each of the Commissioners' meetings. Indian Island Naval personnel had requested that Marrowstone and / or the fire district medics respond to aid calls on Indian Island when the assigned Navy corpsman was off duty. The District and Marrowstone both initially declined to respond to these calls due to liability issues and being spread too thin while responding to the Navy calls. As the months and years continued, however, emergency medical services were to become a more pressing topic and a more integral part of the mission of the fire district, and agreements were drafted to provide aid to Indian Island as needed.

In February 1988, after many months of deliberation, the first defibrillator, a Heart Start 2000 was purchased from First Medical Devices Corp. of Bellevue. At the same meeting, the decision was made to begin the preliminary evaluation stages to procure an ambulance. A standard ambulance would run the District approximately \$35,000, whereas a modular ambulance would cost approximately \$55,000. A call for bids was published in the newspapers in March and bids were opened in April 1988.

The issue of purchasing an ambulance was becoming an important focus for not only the District, but for the community as well. Following a lengthy discussion at

the May 1988 meeting, the decision was made to purchase the Road Rescue Promedic 3, for a cost of \$57,325, plus an additional add on cost of accessories for a grand total of \$60,560.08.



The ambulance would require approximately four months to construct to the specifications of the District. Marrowstone Emergency Medical Services approached the Commissioners in June 1988 and presented an agreement whereby the District would purchase their ambulance and operate it under District control. After lengthy discussions over liability, personnel, and the overall agreement, the ambulance once belonging to Marrowstone Emergency Medical Services became part of the resources belonging to the District for the purchase price of \$1. Emergency medical services was now an effective component of the Jefferson County Fire District #1.

The volunteers over the years since the district's inception had provided many hours of their personal time to not only create the District but to sustain it and have it develop into a centerpiece for the community. New trucks, new buildings, and a greatly expanded mission had come to the Chimacum area through sheer hard work. Many community minded volunteer firefighters had become part of a community legacy.



By 1988, many of the charter members had begun to retire from service with the fire district which they had carefully crafted back in the mid 1950s. Some were no longer physically able to carry out the duties of fighting fires, however many of them remained closely associated with the District after retirement through the Fireman's Helpers group which had been formed

to assist in funding needed equipment for the volunteers.

Retired Chief Bud Ammeter had been one of those charter members and had served as chief for 17 years. Following his sudden death in 1986, the volunteers voted in 1988 to dedicate the garden area of the new building to him. A plaque was mounted on a large rock outside of the fire station and remains there to this day.

As the 1980's came to a close there were several pressing issues related to the management of the District.

- Firefighters had contributed to a retirement plan for many years. With the addition of the EMTs to the District, the issue of coverage for a designated EMT was clarified. In late 1988, the Washington Fire Commissioners Association recommended that the EMTs be designated as Firefighters / EMTs. Although there was no requirement they respond to a fire as a firefighter, the designation would qualify them for the Volunteer Relief System.
- Hazardous materials responses were also an issue. The Jefferson County Commissioners designated the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department as the Hazardous Materials Incident Command Agency.
- In 1988, the Fireman's Helpers contributed to the purchase of dress jackets for each of the active firefighters. The jacket had embroidered names, the District patch and were tailored to fit each firefighter



- Attracting young, physically capable volunteers who were committed to obtain necessary training and be available for firefighting and regular meetings was becoming increasingly difficult. As requirements became more stringent and training became mandatory, finding individuals who were capable and motivated became a top priority.
- Appropriate equipment remained high priority for both the firefighting and the emergency medical services. District #1 EMTs submitted a need for MAST pants and for radio pagers. At the time, state matching funds were available for the purchase of both, and the Commissioners voted to accept the matching funds and obtain this equipment.

EMT training sessions were attended by many interested community members. Training sessions, such as this one in 1989 at the fire station, helped provide a cadre of EMTs who could respond to an ever-increasing number of aid calls.

The 1980s also found firefighters out in the community providing training on fire prevention and joining in community celebrations. Hadlock Days was initiated in the 1980s and the firefighters were celebrating as well.



*Hadlock Days Sausage Sale 1987*



*Hadlock Days 1987*

Another important event was the initiation of an annual softball game between Chimacum and Port Townsend Firefighters.



*Annual Softball Game 1987*





Statistics including the number of calls answered indicated that the district was growing. For the first three months of 1989, the district answered approximately 60 fire and EMS calls combined compared to only 31 calls during the same three months of 1988.

Aileen McDaniel resigned as Fire District Secretary in November 1986, after several years of service to the department. Barbara Getz succeeded her and became part of important transitions that were to come for the district.

By early 1989, Commissioner Westergaard noted that "not too far down the road, compensation should be paid to the EMTs who are on duty. Also, they should start thinking about compensation for the firefighters; perhaps work out a points system. It is Westergaard's understanding that several districts are already doing this". (Commissioner's Minutes, April 1989). In the same vein, various methods were discussed which would allow compensation for the EMS Medical Program Director who would oversee EMT training, protocols, and procedures.

By mid 1989, 75% of the calls responded to by District #1 personnel were for EMS. As a result, continued emphasis was placed on recruiting EMTs. Several people had expressed interest in advancing to the EMT program, but first they had to provide proof that they had passed advanced First Aid.

Issues which would prove to be longstanding community concerns also began to surface in the late 1980s. Trucks carrying hazardous materials and explosive materials had been observed stopping in Hadlock and being left unattended. The issue of explosive materials being transported to and from Indian Island would be a topic of discussion for the next twenty years as well.

## 1990s: Coming of Age

As the District moved into the 1990s, there were both challenges and accomplishments for firefighters and the Commissioners. As the 1990s ensued, however, the success of the department can be described by an annotation in the February 1994 minutes of the commissioners. Chief Shuff pointed out "The district has a waiting list for those who want to serve as a volunteer."

The 1990s provided continuing growth and accomplishments for the district. Mike Ryan was hired as the first paid firefighter, thus ensuring a 24 hours coverage which had never been experienced in the district to date.

On August 8, 1995, the work of an arsonist's hand destroyed the main building of Hadlock Building Supply. In addition to this fire, the arsonist also started fires throughout the Port Hadlock area including blazes at apartment houses and an optometrist's office. District #1 volunteers were assisted by Port Townsend, Port Ludlow and Quilcene Fire Districts in responding to this rash of fires which spanned several weeks.





In 1994, it was apparent that the district was growing quickly and the need to increase the number of full time firefighters was discussed by the commissioners. In 1990, the population within the district was 4001. The projected census for 1994 was 4,884. Utilizing state and federal levels of service, it was noted that the standard of 1.28 firefighter for each 1,000 residents would yield 6.4 fulltime personnel as the district approached 5,000 residents.

The commissioners noted that the workload that fell on the volunteers was increasing as the population grew and that maintaining a quick response time would be more difficult in the future. In 1994, the response time was 5-6 minutes within the Chimacum area and 5.43 minutes for Marrowstone Island. Municipal grading in 1994 was a 7, and the Commissioners discussed at length what it would take to get the district to a "6".

The merger of the Marrowstone EMS organization and the Fire District's EMS forces was also a top of discussion. The level of service to Marrowstone residents had always been high and they were reluctant to merge their dedicated service with the district's. The bottom line was that Marrowstone residents were proud of their ambulance service and they were reluctant to lose that dedicated service to their community,



#### **Chimacum Gains Aid Car**

Chimacum firefighters welcomed the newest addition to their staff last week. It completes a fleet that includes two other ambulances, and four fire trucks, including two pumpers and two tankers. Shuff and his wife, Patti, drove it home from Indiana. (The Leader)

*Fire District No.1 Chief Dick Shuff, right, and volunteer firefighter Jim Avery, left, show off the \$90,000 ambulance. (Leader staff photo)*

As these issues were sorted out, the district continued to grow and equipment became more sophisticated. Full time firefighters were provided a quarters to live in while on duty. Aid cars and additional vital firefighting and emergency medical response equipment were added to the inventory, often through donations from the community which the district served..



### Hot Pants

*It was the generosity of members of the SKP Park near Chimacum that produced this expensive pair of MAST Pants for the volunteers of the Chimacum Fire Department. Being modeled here by EMT-firefighter Peg Carlyle, the pants are tough and potentially life-saving. They are anti-shock trousers that pump up in the same manner as a blood pressure cuff.*

—Photo by Sandy Hershelman Anderson

(July 6, 1994 Leader article)



*Firefighter Dave Aman meets with community citizens*

It was in the 90s that community outreach efforts began in earnest. Firefighters were regular visitors at the schools providing future firefighters and EMTs with the basics of fire fighting and most importantly, instructions on how to save themselves and their families in case of a fire.

Many hours of instruction were spent at various school activities, day care centers and pre-schools on proper actions to take in case of a fire.



*Bob Coulter — Fire Prevention Week Activities*



Firefighters were providing training, and receiving training themselves. Attendance at the Fire Academy in North Bend became part of the basic requirements to becoming a firefighter.

Training in the Incident Command System is part of each firefighter's training and further emphasized at the academy

One of the most important elements of Jefferson County Fire District #1 which was implemented in the 1990s was the first full-time paramedic system. Reprinted below verbatim for legibility is an article from *The Sun*, authored by Ray Miller, that appeared on July 27, 1997.

Come Monday, two fire districts in east Jefferson Sounty launch the county's first 24-hour, seven-days-per-week paramedic system.

It will provide more than 11,000 residents in Fire Districts 1 and 3 advanced life support services.

Initially, the new service will consist of one advanced life support vehicle, staffed by three medics, based at the District 1 fire hall in Chimacum.

A manufactured home has been installed on station property to house medics during their shifts

The service area includes the communities of Irondale, Hadlock, Chimacum, Marrowstone Island, Mats Mats Bay, Port Ludlow, Paradise Bay, Shine, and surrounding areas.

"Basically, the new service will make available more treatment options for people suffering such things as acute respiratory distress, heart attacks, allergic reactions, and acute pain," said Peg Carlyle, a District 1 volunteer Emergency Medical Technician.

"We should be able to transport patients to the hospital a lot faster in more serious cases. This should save lives. We hope so," she said.

Currently, EMT's attempt to stabilize seriously ill or injured patients until a paramedic can arrive from a neighboring area, usually Port Townsend.

Under the new system, a paramedic will arrive on scene with the EMTs. If not needed, the paramedic will return to the station.

Paramedics are highly trained in the provision of advanced emergency medical services. Acting under directions written by physicians, called "protocols," or under verbal directions from a doctor over a telephone or a two-way radio, paramedics are able to provide a level of

care normally provided only by a doctor.

Prior to the institution of this new service, the districts were dependent upon medic services from Port Townsend and as far away as Kitsap County, under mutual assistant agreements.

The backbone of the two fire districts' EMS system has been the volunteer EMT's like Carlyle, whose regular job is that of laboratory technician at the Jefferson County Hospital.

"As a matter of fact, the volunteers are the backbone of our entire firefighting service here," said District 1 Chief Chuck Boggs.

"The volunteer firefighter service has built as sense of community in our District," he said. "When we go on a call, it is to help our friends and neighbors."

Boggs is serving as the district's interim chief and has been a volunteer in the district 26 years.

Fire District 1 has one full-time paid firefighter and 46 volunteers. Last year, the department responded to 612 alarms.

District 3 has five paid employees and 29 volunteers, and last year responded to 275 alarms.

Wayne Kier took over as fire chief at District 3 earlier this month. He has 19 years experience as a firefighter and came to the district from the Auburn Fire Department.

The new service is made possible through a levy passed in September by 64% of those voting in District 1, and 76% in District 3.

Both Boggs and Kier believe the jointly sponsored service will lead to other cooperative ventures between the two districts.

"The taxpayers really benefit from this type of cooperation," Boggs said.



*Firefighter / Paramedic Steven Steele — and Medic 13*

The following article published in a July 1998 edition of *The Leader* discussed the successes of Medic 13. The article has been retyped verbatim to ensure legibility.

## **Medic 13 Anniversary Celebrated**

July 28 the Medic 13 Paramedic System celebrated its first year of service to Jefferson County fire District 1 (Chimacum) and Port Ludlow Fire and Rescue (Fire District 3).

This system launched the county's first 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week paramedic system and would not have been possible without the cooperative efforts of the two fire districts and citizen volunteers. Even the moniker, "Medic 13," a combination of District "1" and District "3", is an indication of the joint spirit of the two districts. The Medic 13 logo is a handshake superimposed over a Maltese cross (the fire service logo) further symbolizing the joint system.

The first Medic 13 paramedics were per-diem medics from Kitsap and Clallam counties and Port Townsend Fire Department who worked shifts on their off-duty time. By November 1997, after testing and interviewing, three paramedics were hired as official Jefferson County Medic 13 personnel. Tim Manly had served as one of the original per-diem medics during the first three months of the program and was hired full time in November along with Jim Eddings, who had worked for a private ambulance company in Oregon. The third paramedic, Bill Jerrell, moved from Indiana and has family in Jefferson County.

This past year the medics have responded to more than 542 alarms of which 298 were advanced life support, classified as paramedic-level calls.

"That means we have people alive today that might not otherwise be here," stated

Chief Boggs of Fire District 1. "It's also important to know that because patients are receiving advanced care in the field, they may also have a better quality of life after they leave the hospital."

Residents of other Jefferson County Fire districts have also benefited from this system. Medic 13 paramedics have been called to medical incidents in neighboring Jefferson County fire districts or have been called to meet aid units on route to the hospital.

These paramedics have provided an important service, and they are the first to say what they do is built on the solid foundation of good basic life support care provided by the emergency medical technicians.

"Most of these people are volunteers and they have been doing this work for the community for a long time. They do a great job," boasted Manly.

"The Medic 13" system was established to provide advanced care to our citizens and that is what it is doing," declared Chief Wayne Kier of Fire District 3. "The cooperation to keep it working is most obvious in the field, but it is ongoing at all levels in the two fire districts."

*(Reprinted from "The Leader")*



A "changing of the guard" took place in 1997 when Chief Dick Shuff stepped down and retired. Chief Shuff had guided the firefighters through years of change and implemented numerous positive, effective changes. He proved his competence as a volunteer and further proved his leadership as Chief. Implementation of the emergency medical resources within the Department came about as the result of his careful management and his dedication. New apparatus were added to the inventory, and training accomplishments proved their worth.

His retirement celebration was attended by other chiefs and firefighters from around the local area and the state as well.



*Retirement Party for Chief Dick Shuff*



Dick and Patti Shuff, although retired, did not leave the service of the fire district. In 1998, upon the 50 year celebration of the department, Patti Shuff stepped up to the task of designing a 50 year patch. The following article and pictures appeared in *The Leader*. The article has been retyped for legibility and reproduction.

## **Shuff designs Chimacum fire badge**

*By Sandy Hershelman*

To an artist's eye, the five foot tall antique soda acid "Fyr-Fyter" fire extinguisher was irresistible. Bright red, with massive wheels, its simple yet recognizable lines were recreated by Patti Shuff in her submission to Jefferson County Fire Protection District 1's contest for a design for the commemorative patch celebrating the district's 50th anniversary.

Commissioners Frank Linley, Wally Westergaard and Chairman Jess Bondurant picked Shuff's design from the contest's four submissions.

"They were all real good," said Bondurant. "Of the four, hers was the most representative of the history of the fire department."

The old extinguisher once sat on the dock at

lower Port Hadlock.

"This is an honor to have been picked," Shuff said. "They've done so many nice things for us," she added. Her husband, Dick was the district's last volunteer fire chief, and a firefighter for 26 years

Although plans have yet to be solidified, the commissioners plan to celebrate the district's 50th with events involving community participation.

"We're going to start out by giving Patti a check for \$100," Bondurant said.

Linley couldn't quite convince Shuff to laminate the check and frame it. She thought cashing it was a better option.



*Patti Shuff's design for the commemorative 50th anniversary of Jefferson County Fire Protection District 1 was inspired by this old fire extinguisher. From left, Shuff, commissioners Frank Linley, Jess Bondurant, Wally Westergaard and chief Chuck Boggs—Leader Photo by Sandy Hershelman*





With Chief Shuff's retirement, the era of an entirely volunteer department also ended. Assistant Chief Boggs served for a few months as an interim chief, but was soon hired as the district's first full-time paid chief.

On May 1, 1998, the rescue and quick response efforts of Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1 made the national news. Seven Jefferson County children were playing on a newly constructed dock in Lower Hadlock. An explosion caused by fumes, possibly ignited by an open flame resulted in the dock explosion and three seriously injured children being airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.



*Fire district rescue workers treat one of seven children injured when the deck of a wooden barge exploded about 5:25 p.m., May 1 (1998) at Port Hadlock. Those identifiable in this scene are District 1 Fire Chief Chuck Boggs (standing at far left), Bruce Tillman of Marrowstone Emergency Services (kneeling at left) and Jim Cable of Fire*

Within minutes of the incident, Jefferson County Fire District 1 firefighters and medics were on the scene. Ultimately about 25 personnel from five fire districts responded.

The Chimacum fire crew handled incident command while the Cape George fire district prepared a landing zone at Chimacum High School.



Airlift Northwest flew two victims to Harborview and later returned to transport a third child from Jefferson General Hospital to Harborview Medical Center.

Accomplishments of both the District and individuals were recognized by the Department as the 1990s drew to a close. Wally Westergaard was recognized by his fellow commissioners and firefighters for his 40 plus years of service to the department. He had been present in the early years as a firefighter and as a Commissioner. His years of dedication provided a centerpiece for the annual awards ceremony. Many were recognized for their contributions that evening. The event underscored the long years of dedication that many in the department continued to have for the district and its volunteers.

The following article, reprinted for legibility from a clipping from *The Leader*, sums up some of these accomplishments.

### ***Chimacum firefighters honored*** **Westergaard noted for 40-plus years of service**



*Wally Westergaard was honored by the men and women of Jefferson County Fire Protection District 1 for his 40-plus years as a fire commissioner. Pictured are (from left) Chief Chuck Boggs, Westergaard, Commissioner Jess Bondurant, May Westergaard and Commissioner Ed Davis—Photo by Sandy Hershelman, (The Leader)*

*Article continued from previous page*

The setting sun glimmered through the windows of the Chimacum Fire Hall as volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics greeted friends. The guitar music of David Rostberg, pastor of the Evangelical Methodist Church, added to the ambiance.

The occasion was the 12th annual appreciation banquet for Jefferson County Fire District No. 1, an affair catered by Randy Unbedacht.

"The board of commissioners would like to thank the hard-working men and women of this fire district for their continued service to our community," the program stated. "This evening is in recognition of your service."

Rostberg, also the evening's guest speaker looked around the room and acknowledged his insurance salesman, a QFC clerk and a woman who works in a local clinic — all volunteers with the Chimacum fire district.

"Some of you guys here tonight, if you look back, there was probably something in your childhood that led you to want to volunteer or to be a fireman," Rostberg said as he launched into humorous tales of his own prank-filled childhood.

"This next year, as you strive to serve the community better, remember: On behalf of the community, I want you to know you guys are probably the most-appreciated service in the community," Rostberg said. "For without you, we would truly be in the physical dark ages."

Chief Chuck Boggs listed a few of the major changes since last year: Dave Aman and Chris Kauzlarich were hired to join Mike Ryan on the staff. Steve Steel joined the paramedic crew, which now has a new Medic 13 truck. Denise Manly was hired as the district secretary. Fund-raising for the Lifepak 12 defibrillator / monitor was launched, and a new ambulance was ordered, its arrival slated for November.

Richard Marshall was honored for five years of service; Bob Kelvy, 10; Jim Avery 15, Bob Coulter was cited for 20 years of dedication to

the district.

For more than 40 years, Fire Commissioner Wally Westergaard has kept a tight hold on the purse strings of the district. He was honored by his peers for his enduring devotion.

"I have a lot of good support right behind me here," Westergaard said. "You really have a great organization here. You have some people who have been here even longer than me — there's Marvin Coulter, Ray Moser, and Bill Matheson."

Westergaard recently gave everyone a scare when his heart acted up.

"I had a chance to try out the new ambulance the other week. Who would think a \$100,000 ambulance would ride like a lumber wagon?" he asked the chuckling crowd. "They were real quick and very efficient. Once they are there, they take charge and are in control. I was really proud of these people."

Proud enough to continue his duties as commissioner for a few more years.



## Some Firefighters of the 1980s and 1990s



*Dave Aman*



*Dave Amdahl*



*Bill Anderson*



*Doug Anglin*



*Jim Avery*



*Luther Bland*



*Barry Brown*



*Lynette Campbell*



*Bob Coulter*



*Ernie Coulter*



*Vicki Escene*



*Ray Gonzales*



*Ed Good*



*Tom Hammock*



*Dave Johnson*



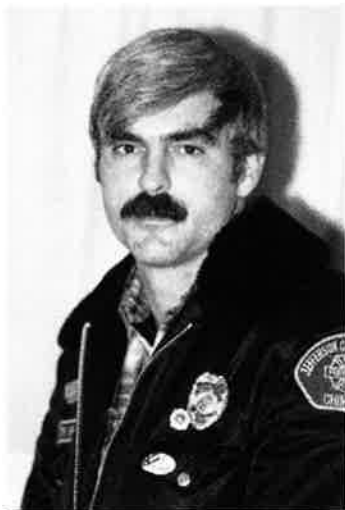
*Bob Kely*



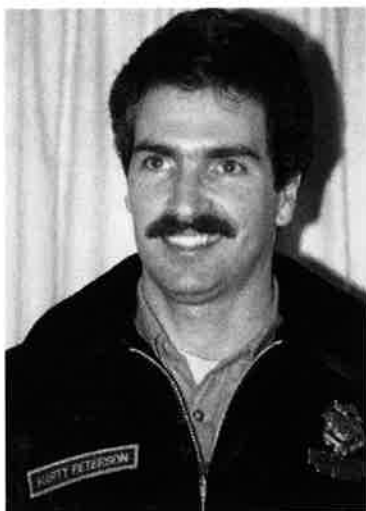
*Gret Lalign*



*Jack Marlow*



*Neil Morgan*  
*Firefighter & Commissioner*



*Marty Peterson*



*Cecil Quackenbush*



*Ken Radon*



*Sally Radon*



*Ron Riggle*



Gary Rowe



*Cal Schipper*



*Mike Sweet*



*Steve Van Cleve*



*Paula Varsos*



*Jerry Weidner*





Mike Zehren  
Assistant Chief



## Fireman's Helpers



The Helpers organized the pancake breakfasts, rummage sales and spaghetti feeds which became an important part of the community. "Thank you" does not come close to adequately describing the contributions of these vital "members" of the department over the years.

The contributions of the Fireman's Helpers have been an important part of the history of the fire department. Many spouses, retired firefighters and friends of the department gave untold hours to ensure that funds were raised to purchase items for the firefighters including uniforms and a wide variety of equipment.



As noted in the 1995 8th Annual "Thank You" Banquet program, members included at that time:

*Liz Ammeter  
Dave & Janie Amdal  
Earl and Nancy Butts  
Darlene Good  
Cecil Gustin  
Bob and Pattie Kelvy  
Kevin and Sandy Lemmon  
Thelma Malloy  
Frankie and Bill Jansen  
Leonard and Aileen McDaniel*

*Swanie Miller  
Bill and Roberta Meyer  
Jeff and Tammi Othoudt  
Mary Simpson  
Dick and Patti Shuff  
Ed and Alene Thompson  
Dorothy Traister  
Marjorie Willard  
Win Williams*

## **Firefighters in Training (FIT)**

In 1999, the Fire District began its participation in a program offered by Olympic Community College called Fire Fighters in Training (FIT). The program offered prospective firefighters a two-year degree in Fire Science. Candidates were required to pass a written and physical agility test, which was followed by an interview by experienced fire personnel.

Fire service agencies from counties around the state sponsored students by paying their tuition. When the students were not attending classes, they worked regular shifts alongside career firefighters thus gaining experience for the student and additional staff for the District.

By 2002, Jefferson County Fire District No 1 had had three FIT students working alongside firefighters in the district.

## **Losses to the Force**

As the 1990s drew to a close, there were members who had faithfully served, but had answered the last call.

These members included:

**Dan Coulter**

**Vickie Escene**

**Ed Good**

**Mike Orth**

**Keith Shoemaker**

The served their community, and will be remembered for years to come.

## **2000s: A New Millennium of Service**

Call volume was on an ever-increasing trend, Between 1997 and 2002, the fire district experienced a 61 % increase in alarm volume.

In the fall of 2001, the District was able to obtain voter approval for a permanent EMS levy of fifty cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value. Voters in the district recognized the valuable services the district was providing and overwhelmingly approved the levy with a near 90% "yes" vote.

Staffing by 2002 included one fire fighter / emergency medical technician (FF/ EMT) and one FF / Paramedic on duty 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Forty-two dedicated volunteers responded from the Chimacum station and from the volunteer staffed station located on Marrowstone Island.

Firefighters and paramedics had logged a significant 2,864 hours of training by 2002 in everything from grant writing for the commissioners and fire district support staff to incident management, hazardous material operations, wildland fire classes, and a myriad others.

By 2002, apparatus included everything from the original 1955 Ford engine (which had been reserved for parade service only) to a 2000 Pierce Triple Combination Engine. Apparatus were assigned at the Chimacum station (designated as Station 11) as well as the Marrowstone Island (designated as Station 12). Vehicle extrication equipment including hydraulic cutting and spreading tools were available, and firefighters were trained and ready.

Two ambulances were assigned to Station 11 and a third ambulance was assigned at the Marrowstone Station (12). All three ambulances were outfitted with automatic ventilators and automatic defibrillators.

Communications to all responders were provided with tone/voice pagers. These pagers enabled response from almost anywhere in the district. Many responders also carried 2-way portable radios. All apparatus had mobile radios and all engines, ambulances and command vehicles were equipped with cellular telephone.

District 1, as part of a complex system of mutual aid with other fire districts in East Jefferson County and other neighboring counties, also had radios which were re-

peater capable to enable response to other districts in the area.

Service provided by 2002 was exemplary and constantly growing. The following statistics provide an insight into this level of growth and the change in emphasis from fire to aid calls.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Fire</b>	92	121	94	82	61
<b>Medical</b>	393	453	497	493	508
<b>Hazardous Conditions</b>	—	—	13	18	17
<b>Service Calls</b>	—	—	40	42	77
<b>Good Intent</b>	—	—	59	117	100
<b>False Call</b>	—	—	18	24	31
<b>Other Calls</b>	—	—	2	4	1
<b>Average Response Times:</b>					
<b>Fire:</b>	<b>7.02 minutes (District Average)</b>				
Station 11	<b>6.55 minutes</b>				
Station 12	<b>8.15 minutes</b>				
<b>EMS:</b>	<b>5.49 minutes (District Average)</b>				
Station 11	<b>5.27 minutes</b>				
Station 12	<b>10.37 minutes</b>				

The district's role in the community was becoming more important with each passing year. Cooperation through mutual aid agreements existed with all of the surrounding districts. Coordinating with the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management was emphasized. In 2000, the responsibilities of Emergency Management were being shared by Bob Minty and Bob Hamlin. When serious illness plagued the Brinnon fire chief, the commissioners ensured that Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 1 resources were to be made available when feasible to help out,

New Firefighters / EMTs were brought on board in 2000. Chris Kauzlarich and Mike Beery were hired to fill full time positions in the department. Training requirements increased and equipment was purchased to ensure firefighters were equipped to fight wildland fires.

In late 2000, Chief Chris Piper of Fire District 6 approached the Board of Commissioners to ascertain whether Fire District #1 medics could take on the transportation of aid calls in that district. At this point in time, the City of Port Townsend Fire Department and Fire District #6 had begun talks to potentially merge their districts. District # 6 was experiencing a shortage of responders, and covering both fire and aid requests was becoming increasingly difficult. In December 2000, Fire District # 6 Commissioner Grey Pohl approached the board and asked if District No. 1 would respond in the case District #6 did not have responders available. Chief Boggs replied "We would not put anyone's life or family in any more danger than they are already in" implying that the district would always respond to assist other surrounding districts when and where it was needed.

The issue of which district would respond to calls at the Port Townsend Paper Mill became a focal point for discussion. Stan Cupp and Joe Shaw from the Port Townsend Paper Mill addressed the Board of Commissioners and indicated that Port Townsend Fire would no longer respond to the paper mill in case of fire. The mill had an emergency response agreement with District 6, however it was becoming readily apparent that response might not be available from District 6. Despite the mutual aid agreement in existence with District 6 there were limitations. Chief Boggs explained that the District 1 & 6 Mutual Aid agreement did not allow one entity to provide mutual aid to another to benefit a third party. Basically, District #6 could not call District #1 for mutual aid to the Paper Mill. Without a contract, District 31 would only respond with one engine company consisting of no more than four firefighters. The firefighters would provide support only on the exterior

of the mill. District #1 would not assume command or provide interior attack support. The commissioners opened the door for further discussion regarding a contract between the Mill and Fire District #1. After negotiation and legal review, a contract with Port Townsend Paper was signed in May 2001 delineating what services could be provided.

Consolidation of districts began to become a topic in spring of 2001. District #6 and Port Townsend had been discussing possible consolidation opportunities. District #6 and District #1 had conversations about the ramifications of consolidation / merger. District #1 and District #3 had also begun an exploration of what consolidation would mean in each district.

New apparatus were also becoming a requirement. In February 2001, the Board started the process to issue a notice of intent to purchase a new engine. The estimated cost of the vehicle would be approximately \$250,000, however additional equipment required to make the engine usable would total approximately \$325,000. The Board agreed that the financing term should be 10 years, and the first steps towards purchase of the new engine were taken. With the assistance of an engine specifications committee, the Board of Commissioners unanimously accepted the bid from McPherson Supply in the amount of \$288,922.48 for a Pierce Triple Combination Pumper.

The headquarters station at Chimacum was rapidly running out of room to park ambulances, other apparatus, and parking for citizens doing business. Training space was also at a premium. Preliminary discussions began on the topic of procuring additional properties where another station could be built. A sight on Rhody Drive , an additional site near Ness Corner Road, and a site on Chimacum Road near the jail were discussed as potential locations for a new building.

The longstanding discussion of how the 911 system should be reimbursed became an important topic for early 2001. Essentially, any time 911 (Dispatch) "tones" an agency, a fee would be generated. In the event of a mutual aid situation, all agencies dispatched would receive a charge. This form of reimbursement would remain an source of discussion for many years to come.

The Board of Commissioners met on September 11, 2001 to discuss regular business. Mobilization of fire crews was of particular interest due to the terrorism that had struck New York City and the Pentagon. Chief Kier noted that he did not think there would be a mobilization of crews from Western Washington, however,



he had held his off going duty crew over that morning as a precaution in the event more terrorism took place – this time closer to home.

In 2002, the 1975 Ford Engine was transferred to Jefferson County Fire Protection District #7 at the “West End” of the county. District #7 was in need of equipment, and with only a very limited tax base, raising money to purchase new or used equipment was almost impossible.

The July 2003 meeting of the Board of Commissioners also marked the end of an era for the District. Commissioner Wally Westergaard tendered his resignation from the Board after a 40 year commitment as both a firefighter and a commissioner. Mr. Terry Heineman was appointed to fill this position at the next meeting in August 2003.

Wally Westergaard’s service to the community was recognized by the State of Washington at a dinner as being the longest serving commissioner in the State. Following Mr. Westergaard’s death in February 2004, the Chimacum fire station was officially named as the W. O Westergaard Fire Station later that summer.

Changes in administrative staffing were also occurring during 2004. Crystal Tuson took over the administrative assistant duties from Denise Manly.

By 2003, discussions were becoming more frequent on the potential opportunities and problems that could come with merging the resources of Jefferson County Fire Protection District #1 with other adjacent districts. More available resources could provide more flexibility and more efficient utilization of resources. Discussions were held with District #3 and North Kitsap Fire & Rescue regarding potential mergers. Joint Board meetings were held to discuss the options and alternatives of such a merger / consolidation. Expansion of the Board from three to five members was considered as the discussions became more detailed and focused on the practical matters of such a merger. Representation at the table would be more equitable if the District was represented by a similar number of commissioners as compared to the other districts in the discussion. By September 2004, a recommendation was on the table to consolidate the three Boards’ scoping meetings into one meeting per month.

Names of the potential new district were discussed with “West Sound Fire & Rescue” surfacing as a potential choice. Organization charts were discussed regarding how the current chiefs would be aligned and to whom the administrative staffs

of each district would report. Funding issues, levy “lid lift” concerns and district preferences for existing policies and procedures were topics of long discussions. Chief Paul Nichol was appointed as the potential chief of the consolidated district and to lead future meetings. November 9th, 2004 was established as the “decision date” with full consolidation by January 1, 2005.

The November 9, 2004 meeting started at 8:00 p.m. Consolidation with Port Ludlow and North Kitsap became a “non-issue”. Commissioner L. V. “Red” Denson of North Kitsap read the following statement:

*“For the past several days, I have been agonizing over various aspects of the proposed consolidation between North Kitsap Fire & Rescue, Jefferson County Fire District # 1 and Port Ludlow Fire and Rescue. After in-depth consultation with Chief Nichol and other staff members, I have come to the conclusion that the obstacles presented by differing philosophies among the three districts’ elected officials far outweigh the potential benefits of this consolidation effort. It is my belief that this disparity in management styles would so adversely affect our staffs’ ability to function that the current effort simply could not serve the interests of North Kitsap Fire and Rescue’s taxpayers. Therefore it is my view that North Kitsap Fire and Rescue should discontinue discussions and negotiations at this time. I open the floor for motions from my fellow commissioners on this issue.”*

A call for a recess was made at 8:01 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 8:04 p.m. and North Kitsap Commissioner Leon Thomas moved that discussions and negotiations regarding consolidations would be discontinued. The Motion carried unanimously.

At the November 22, 2004 Board of Commissioners meeting, Richard Stapf, Commissioner of Jefferson County Protection District No. 6 addressed the District 1 Commissioners and asked them to state their vision for fire protection within Jefferson County. Commissioner Zayne Wyll stated that his vision was to have Jefferson County Fire Districts #1, 6, and the City of Port Townsend be consolidated in to one department. Chief Mike Mingee, new chief of Port Townsend Fire Department noted that the districts were similar and that the assembled group was “a good group to work with”.

Commissioner Bondurant proposed that District 6 and District 1 have their regular board meetings together starting in January of 2005, and both boards agreed. Administrative staff members were directed to work together and schedule times and

dates. The lines and boxes of organization charts were drawn and redrawn over the ensuing months. As firefighters, commissioners, and chiefs continued to meet the details of the new organization chart became a working arrangement as a new organization called East Jefferson Fire and Rescue.



Chief Mike Mingee assumed the role of chief of the new organization. Chief Chuck Boggs would assume the role of Assistant Chief (Support Services). Ted Krynski became Assistant Chief Training and Operations Division Chief. Assistant Chief Tom Aumock would oversee the Fire Prevention / Public Education Division. The Administrative Division, administered by Lonibeth Harbison (District Secretary) and Cherie Yarberr (Finance Clerk) manage an over \$3.1 million operating budget.



Resources, training, personnel management, were continuing topics as the once three districts merged into one entity. As the months went by, these details were addressed and the new entity of East Jefferson Fire and Rescue (EJF&R) began to operate as a seamless entity.

Firefighters, EMS personnel and administrative personnel were dedicated to making this larger entity a success. With the creation of East Jefferson Fire and Rescue came more opportunities to serve the community. The three chiefs rotated through a schedule of "Duty Chief" ensuring that there were senior leaders onboard 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to serve the community.



Managing a larger collection of apparatus and firefighters provided more flexibility and more efficiency in bringing fire fighting or emergency medical resources to meet the community's needs. With the advent of EJF&R, a marine unit which had been part of Port Townsend Fire Department was available throughout the district when needed for rescue or other incidents. A bariatric transport unit was established in 2005. Throughout the district, response times were reduced from an

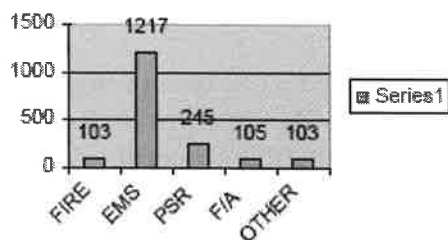
average of 7.1 minutes to 6 minutes. More paramedics were available for response as well ensuring community residents receive optimal service.

Throughout 2005 and into 2006 the wrinkles of undertaking such a consolidation of resources were worked through, and East Jefferson Fire and Rescue has become one of the premier fire departments in the State of Washington.

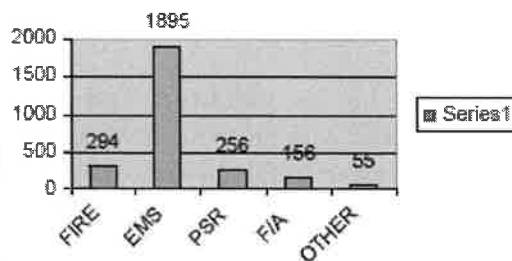


## Excerpts from EJF&R's 2006 Annual Report

**2004 INCIDENTS BY TYPE**



**2005 INCIDENTS BY TYPE**



## 2006 EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY

Legislative	60,500
Admin	694,400
Prevention	104,700
Fire	765,700
EMS	1,234,700
Capital	86,000
Reserve	43,000

## **A Brother Lost in June 2005**

There have been hundreds of men and women who have sacrificed to help build this department. Through this building process, the camaraderie has been an important cement allowing these contributions to become an enduring part of the community. It is this camaraderie which makes going to work a joy, and it is the same camaraderie that makes losses so difficult.

Integral to the success of every organization is the people who help build it and who become forever linked to its formation. One of those individuals was Michael Curtis Beery. A firefighter and EMT, Mike Beery brought a sense of adventure and dedication to the department.

On June 10, 2005, on a climb to the summit of Mount Rainier, Mike Beery fell to his death. Beery fell down Gibraltar Chute, one of the more popular routes to Rainier's summit. His partner in the department as well as on the mountain, Ryan Tillman was performing CPR when two rangers arrived, but Beery could not be saved. A helicopter removed him from the mountain.

As printed in his obituary, "To run from a passion in fear would mean being a coward, and Mike was no coward. Mike would not have chosen to leave us now, but it brings comfort to know that he spent his last minutes in his paradise".



## Still Serving After All These Years

This little fire department began with a few men and a hose cart not all that many years ago. The building was literally built brick by brick by volunteers. Trucks were washed, serviced, and driven by volunteers. Precious time with families was sacrificed to go to meetings, attend training, and “check the truck”. A volunteer was lost in the line of duty.

The little fire department that started in 1948 with a handful of volunteers has grown in the last 60 years to become one of the finest departments in the State of Washington. It was formed to meet the needs of a community and through its growth and the dedication of volunteers, community leaders, and friends, it became a part of the heart of the community.

The contributions of a few back in the late 1940s and 1950s became the foundation of Jefferson County Fire Protection District #1. Despite a name change and a new organization chart those charter members still provide service to their community through their legacy.

Most of those charter members have passed on, but their contributions have not. Their contributions remain as the foundation for a vital, growing community. They could have all done something else and would have probably been safer and would have had more time to spend with families and hobbies. It is because they did what they did that has preserved this community for the last 60 years.

Stop a firefighter, EMT, fire commissioner or administrative support person from either the past or the present and tell him or her thanks. They deserve it.





*Me'l Christensen*











*Combat Veteran Bikers Attend Pancake Breakfast April 22, 2007*





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- Pictures came from personal scrapbooks and other notebooks. In most cases, there is no way to identify the photographer.

## The Last Alarm

My father was a fireman,  
He drove a big red truck.  
And when he'd go to work each night,  
He'd say "Mother wish me luck"

Then dad would not come home again,  
till sometime the next day.  
But the thing that bothered me the most,  
Was the things some folks would say.

"A fireman's life is easy,  
He eats and sleeps and plays.  
And sometimes he don't fight a fire  
For days and days and days"

When I first heard these comments,  
I was too young to understand.  
Cause I knew, when people had troubles  
Dad was there to lend a hand.

Then my father went to work one day,  
And he kissed us all good-bye.  
But little did we realize that night,  
We all would cry.

My father gave his life that night,  
When the floor gave way below.  
And I wondered why He'd risk his life,  
For someone that he didn't even know.

But now I realize,  
The greatest gift a man can give,  
Is to lay his life upon the line,  
So that someone else might live.

So as we go from day to day,  
And we pray to God above.  
Say a prayer for your local fireman,  
He may save the ones you love.

*Author Unknown*

## About the Author

*Nancy McDaniel is the daughter of Leonard and Aileen McDaniel. Leonard was one of the charter members of the department, and a fire commissioner. Aileen was the Fire District Secretary for over 20 years. Her uncle, Bud Ammeter, was the second chief in the history of the department..*

*Nancy walked by the fire hall every morning on the way to Chimacum Schools and every night on her way home. She was part of the crowd of kids who met Santa Claus at the fire hall each Christmas and has been on many a ride on the back of the trucks when those sorts of things were still allowed. She 'helped' her Dad check the trucks when it was his turn to do so. While in high school, she took first aid classes with the fireman when it was allowed.*

*She graduated from Chimacum High School in 1971 went on to the University of Puget Sound (UPS) and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in 1975. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force the day she graduated from UPS. She obtained a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas in 1980. She served as a hospital administrator in the Air Force from 1975—1997 with her last assignment as Chief of Staff, Human Systems Center, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. She retired at the rank of colonel in 1997. Following her retirement, she joined Karta Technologies, a government contractor involved in the "Brooks City-Base" effort. She and her husband owned and operated Two Eagles Training Station, a race horse training facility in Lytle, TX from 1993 to 2002.*

*Returning to Chimacum, in 2002, she became involved as a volunteer, then became employed by the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management. She was appointed to the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Council of Eastern Jefferson County as a Consumer Representative in 2007.*

*She and her husband, Glenn L. Davis, Colonel, USAF, (Ret) reside on Van Trojen Road.*





