

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



is a publication of the

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District

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Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost

Accident/Car Fires

Page 4

House Fire

page 5



Photo by Sheryl Drost



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

Welcome to summer!

Congratulations to all the graduates. School is officially out for the summer and it was an honor to be asked by the Kinnikinnick School District to participate in their end of the year parade. The class of 2020 will go down in history of “the class that did not”. They were unable to have the recognition deserving of them that they worked so hard to achieve. But to all the graduates, never forget, all of you worked hard and earned that diploma.

To all our communities, your fire department has been continually active while keeping in touch with not only you, but our partners in the community. The coronavirus will go down in history as the pandemic that changed the norm. We, like many of you have had to learn different ways to meet, train, and respond so that we protect our personnel from this virus. Many events have and continue to be canceled. It is a breath of fresh air however to see small businesses starting to open. I encourage us all to support our local businesses when at all possible. They all play a crucial role in our communities and support many events, school functions and nonprofit organizations.

Pride is defined as a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one’s own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired. To be especially proud of (a particular quality or skill).

Over the past 80 years, our history has always been and remains, to recognize personal achievements, benchmarks and has had a history of members who take pride in the job they do. Pride does not just happen, it takes work. It takes ownership in what you do and what you want to do. The pride in the fire service is one of a feeling you get at the end of a job, the end of a class, and that feeling you get when talking about your fire department. Doing this for the past 38 years, I have come to respect many individuals based upon the pride

they have and show for the fire service. I have always believed that all of us build upon the foundation of our success, and over the past 80 years we have had many individuals, that because of the pride and ownership taken in this fire department built it to what it is today. It is and will continue to be our responsibility to continue building pride in our up and coming members to keep this tradition alive.

We greatly appreciate all your continuous support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Do not forget to keep up on the progress of your fire department by visiting our website. www.harlemroscoefire.com. And even like us on our Facebook page.

Let us not forget all the DADS. I find myself reflecting more of my parents everyday and cherishing the memories of time spent with my dad. This is for all the dads. May you enjoy your day on 6/21.



A dad is a person who is loving and kind,
And he often knows what you have on your mind.

He’s someone who listens, suggests, and defends,
A dad can be one of your very best friends!

He’s proud of your triumphs, but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient, helpful, and strong.

In all that you do, a dad’s love plays a part,
There’s always a place for him deep in your heart.

And each year that passes your even more glad,
More grateful and proud just to call him your Dad.

Thank you DAD for listening and caring,
For giving and sharing.

But especially for just being
YOU.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU BY BATTALION CHIEF JAY ALMS

The return to normal!

We all hope that comes sooner than later. With that being said, I realized that what we have been doing has not fallen on deaf ears. I actually had businesses calling and saying you missed my annual inspection. We were to believe that all businesses were shut down, but in fact the one, two, and three-man operations were continuing to operate. They were part of the group keeping “essentials” operating. Essentials require several layers to maintain normalcy. I realized our community businesses design, manufacture, fabricate, assemble, package, etc.... all of which is essential to maintaining basic functions of our everyday lives.

The problem with the Fire Protection Bureau operations is that it's made up of retired professionals that were in that “RISK” group. It is our responsibility to protect our members so the Fire Bureau personnel were furloughed until we reached that 3rd phase of re-opening the business community.

Now that the time has come to re-open, we plan on getting out there and assuring the retail, industrial, commercial and residential community is safe to operate and exist.

So now we're playing catch up. Be assured that no one is operating unsafely. The history of the Fire Protection Bureau has left a footprint on our business community. Business owners have come to expect our inspections year after year. The business owners try and prepare for the inspectors and make sure the normal life safety operating procedures are compliant.

We will continue to protect ourselves and those we inspect with the mandatory provisions of masks, eye protection, gloves, and hand sanitizer. We will sanitize daily the equipment and vehicles used in everyday operations.

Many of the practices we have adopted I hope we continue as the environment determines. Wearing

masks and other protection during the “flu” season should drastically reduce the spread of this virus yearly and hopefully shorten the season.

Learned procedures from this latest pandemic is essential to slow the spread because of all the medical emergency responses as well. There is so much interaction in the fire house that cleaning, sanitizing and social distancing was required to maintain the health of all co-workers. To help contain the Covid bug, crews were asked to leave their work clothes at the station, clean surfaces, door handles and vehicles several times a day. Crews were equipped with sanitizing machines to clean the ambulances at the hospital following transport, so not to have to travel back to the station in a “dirty” ambulance.

We take pride in how we responded to this pandemic and have learned procedures that will carry over to future issues were sure to face.

Please be safe in all your actions and know we will do all we can do to keep our community safe!

GAS GRILL FIRE PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

On May 16th, Firefighters extinguish a gas grill on fire on 3rd St. There was no damage to the home.



ACCIDENTS PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST & DUTY OFFICERS



05/03/20 Burden Rd. & West Lane Rd.

05/29/20 I-90



06/03/20 McDonald Rd. & Hwy 251 East Frontage Rd.

ACCIDENT AND CAR FIRE PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the intersection of Vaughndale Dr. and Silo St. in Machesney Park on May 25th. They arrived to find one of the vehicles, a Hyundai Tucson, fully involved with fire. The driver was already out of the car. The driver and a passenger of a the second vehicle, a Mazda CX-9, were transported to the hospital by ambulance.



CAR FIRE PHOTOS BY BC TOM AAKER

Firefighters extinguish a car fire on I-90 mm4.5 on June 7th. No one was injured.



HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to a structure fire on Pine Ln. at 1:30am on May 28th. Upon arrival they found occupants of the home spraying water on the siding of the structure. Fire had burned the vinyl siding and began burning the soffit.

Overhaul was initiated to assure the fire was extinguished. The fire appears to be accidental. There were no injuries to anyone and the home sustained no interior damage.

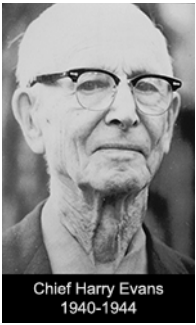




Celebrating 80 Years

Fire Chiefs by Sheryl Drost

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District has been guided by eight fire chiefs, all of whom have held different occupations. They may have come from different walks of life, but what stood out with all eight was their strong desire to serve their community, to continually improve the department, and make the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District the best fire district it could be. More information on each Chief can be found in our 75th Anniversary History Book. Next month's Issue - *Rescue*



Chief Harry Evans
1940-1944

Chief Harry Evans had the distinction of being the first Fire Chief of the newly formed Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District. Chief Evans ran a grocery store on Main Street, was a tax collector, and was in charge of the township cemetery for years. Everyone knew him and he led the old Roscoe Fire Department into a fire protection district which brought in new equipment for the first time including the first real fire truck.



Chief John Kelley
1944 - 1944

Chief John Kelley and his wife ran John L. Kelley & Sons, a gravel and excavating business north of Roscoe. They also donated property for the Kelley-Meyers Park in Roscoe. Chief Kelley's son, Mike Kelly, also served on the department in the mid-1960s into the early 1980s. Mike said, "I remember as a kid going with my mom to take coffee to my dad and the firefighters working a fire on the corner of Main Street and Harrison Street."



Chief George McDonald
1945 - 1952

Chief George McDonald also served as a firefighter on the early Roscoe Fire Department as well as when it became a fire protection district. He served as Fire Chief for seven years for the fire district.

Chief McDonald ran a car lot and was owner of the McDonald's Shell Service Station. It was just natural for him to want to help the community he knew so well. Chief McDonald would make keys available so firefighters could stop at the station and fill up the fire trucks whenever it was needed. His two sons, Richard and Roger both served as firefighters and his granddaughter Rhonda was a dispatcher.



Chief Cobby Rogers
1952 - 1965

Chief Howard 'Cobby' Rogers served on the department for 32 years and was chief for 13 years. Chief Rogers was a self-employed contractor, carpenter, mason, and owned a car repair shop. He also became the first Village of Roscoe President in 1965.

Chief Rogers always seemed to have something going on, from an aggressive anti-fire campaign to holding an extensive training program, to acquiring every piece of equipment possible in order to raise the insurance rating from the Illinois Inspection Bureau.

Chief Roger's career was cut short when he (55) and his wife, Gladys (52), were killed when their car crashed with a train in Rockton on December 23, 1965. In his honor, a memorial was built at the original Station One with flagpoles and a memorial plaque. The memorial was moved to the current Station One location when it was re-located in 1994. The memorial was expanded to include memorial bricks for any Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter who passes and has served more than ten years on the department.



Chief Ben Alexander
1965 - 1982

Chief Ben Alexander served on the department for 31 years and was Chief for 16 years. He was promoted to Fire Chief after Chief Rogers was killed in an accident. Chief Alexander worked for Barber Colman, served as a Village of Roscoe Trustee, and played ball for the St. Louis Cardinals farm team as a catcher. He served in the Navy in World War II and it was in the Navy that he learned firefighting. He fought his first fires in the South Pacific, and when he came home, he decided to help his town by putting his fire knowledge to work as a volunteer.

Chief Alexander led the department through a series of rapid changes in response to the challenges of a growing district. There was an addition to the original Station One in 1959/1960 as well as the building of the new Station Two in 1978. He oversaw the beginning of the new medical division with the addition of trauma units as well as the start of inspection and investigation bureaus. He was always seeking ways to improve response time and due to rapidly changing communication technology, he was continually updating the equipment. Chief Alexander retired on March 1, 1982, .



Chief Jack Brown
1982 - 1982

Chief Jack Brown was promoted to Acting Chief after Chief Alexander retired, but stepped down after just ten months citing increased demands placed upon him by his activities in the American Legion. He served 27 years with the department though with 15 years as Assistant Chief under Chief Alexander. The last two years Chief Brown served the department as an inspector. Chief Brown worked for a foundry in Beloit and was a firefighter in the Navy.



Chief Oscar Presley joined the department on January 10, 1966. He served for 42 years and was Chief for 25 of those years. On December 27, 1982 he became the department's seventh Fire Chief. On December 1, 1996, he became the first full time paid Fire Chief.

He owned barbershops in Roscoe and Rockton and was a barber for thirty-five years. He also served as the Roscoe Township Road Commissioner for ten years and was a Lion's Club member. He was a founding member of the E-911 Board and an active member in the Winnebago Fire Chief's Association as well as Past President of that organization.

Chief Presley's son, John Presley, followed in his father's footsteps and joined his father on the department.

Chief Presley pioneered the volunteer paramedic program in 1979 as a firefighter and served as a paramedic for twenty years. He also spearheaded the fundraising for the 1973 rescue squad and then for the purchase of the first trauma unit. He oversaw the move and construction of Station One to its current location as well as later additions to both Stations One and Two. He acquired a donation of land and oversaw the building of Station Three. Chief Presley's dream of a department training facility was also achieved and built behind Station Three. In 2004, Station Three training facility was dedicated as the "Oscar L. Presley Jr. Training Facility".

Chief Presley had a day dedicated to him by the Village of Roscoe, a tree planted in Leland Park in his honor, and Elm Street in Roscoe was re-named to Presley Place. He received the Paramedic of the Year for 1980, the Meritorious Service Award in 1999 and in 2003, and the State VFW Outstanding Firefighter Award. He retired on December 31, 2007 and on October 21, 2008 he was awarded his highest honor when the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association awarded him the Fire Chief Emeritus Award.

Chief Presley felt everything the firefighters did was history in the making and had it documented. He believed, "Nearly anything is possible if you set your mind to it."



Chief Don Shoevlin joined the department on December 15, 2001. He was promoted to Lieutenant on February 21, 2004, then Captain on September 12, 2004, and became the department's eighth fire chief on January 1, 2008.

Don began serving in the fire service in 1980 as a paid on call volunteer, previously serving on Cary Fire Dept. He has always been and continues to be a strong advocate in training and safety.

Education accomplishments include OSFM certification in FF II, FF III, Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, Fire Officer III, Chief Fire Officer, Fire Service Vehicle Operator, previously EMT-P, currently EMT-B, with numerous classes in management, safety, rescue, fire investigation and training. Don has completed the Statewide WMD Unified Command Course and NIMS Classes.

He is a member of the Winnebago Fire Chiefs Association, MABAS Division 8 (board member), Illinois Fire Chief's Association (board member), International Fire Chiefs Association, currently appointed to the Winnebago County 911 board, and on the governance board of Prairie Shield.

Chief Shoevlin was the first recipient of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Good Service Award in 2004 and was the VFW Firefighter of The Year Award recipient in 2007.

He felt honored in 2010 when his son, Stephen, joined the fire department to follow his father's passion.

He realizes that the foundation of this district was built by those who served before him and continues to be strong because of the continuous support of all the citizens of the district. He believes the success of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District is because of all the members with their outstanding dedication and commitment to what and who we are. He always tells the fire personnel, "We are who we are because of you!"





HANDS ON TRAINING NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

BY LT. JORDAN STARK

The fire service is one of the most versatile job fields in the world. Firefighters need to know a wide variety of skills including firefighting, technical rescue, EMS, extrication, knowledge of building construction, and water rescue just to name a few. Each of these skills can be broken down into many sub-skills. The amount of times we are subjected to these tasks on a daily basis can create a problem of skill sharpness. One of the best ways we combat this in the fire service is by hands on and classroom training.

Training is the key element to any fire department in keeping its personnel sharp and able to perform their required tasks efficiently and safely. Making training as realistic as possible is vital to obtaining these goals. The fire service has the benefit of having a large number of people that are or have been in the trades as well as people that are hands on and innovative which has created an abundance of realistic training props to simulate just about every situation imaginable.

Hands on training in the fire service is one of the most crucial aspects. To help with our hands-on training we use training props. Training props are devices or structures that can help replicate real life emergency scenarios. These props have several benefits. They help build muscle memory, broaden our skill sets, and increase the firefighter's ability to complete a task quickly, efficiently, and safely should they encounter a similar situation on the job.

To help achieve this, the training Chief and I are working on props to give the department more training opportunities. The first project being worked on is a roof prop simulator that will incorporate several props into one, as well as cut down on expenses for the training division. The prop will incorporate a pitched roof, flat roof, garage door prop, and window ventilation prop. We will also have the option to add an overhaul prop

and forcible entry door in the future. This would help us to simulate every type of ventilation performed in the fire service.

I am also working on mapping the training grounds to plan for future expansion. Some possibilities for future props include class A burn building, silo rescue prop, railway tanker, collapse house and confined space, drafting pit, and trench props. My goal is to give our department and any department that would like to use our training facility the ability to get hands-on realistic training on as many topics or situations possible.

DECK FIRE

PHOTOS BY BC TOM AAKER

Firefighters responded to Danica Dr. on May 26th for a deck fire. The fire was extinguished and the cause seems to be from smoking materials.



FIRE ALARM

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to the Walmart on Rockton Rd. for a fire alarm on May 30th. Workers and patrons had evacuated the store when units arrived. The building was searched and it was found that construction work in the store had set off the alarm. The all clear was given and everyone was allowed back in the store.



FIRE ALARM

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to Metric Dr. for a fire alarm. A key holder arrived on scene and the building was searched. No fire was found.



ROSCOE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters participated in Roscoe VFW Post 2955 Memorial Day Service held at the Roscoe Cemetery on May 25th.

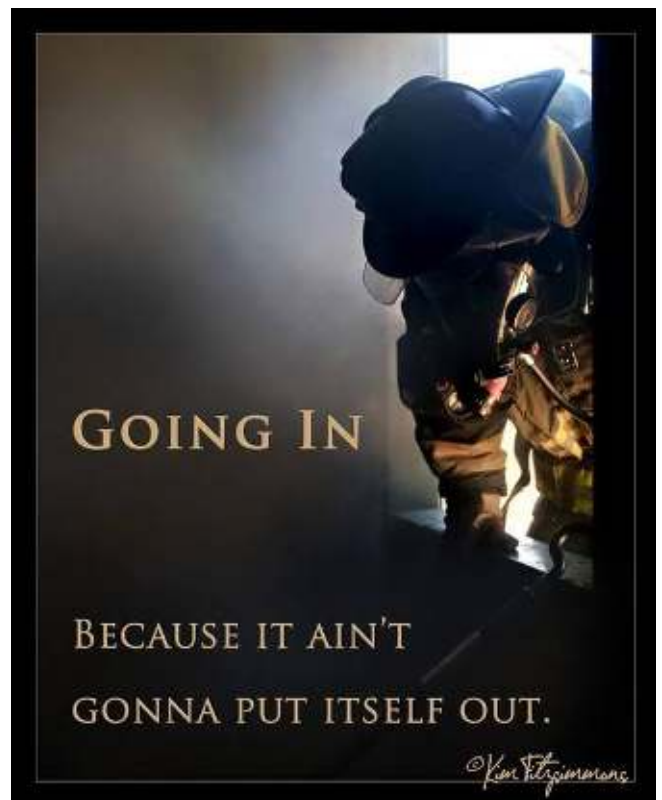


CERT TRAINING



CERT members Jeff Tietz, Jim Purpura and John Huddleston present Kathy Marinelli with her certificate.

Kathy Marinelli successfully completed her CERT Training. The training consisted of 40 hours of classroom & hands on training, first aid, fire, rescue, organization, terrorism, disaster psychology, 30/10 classroom/practical. Congratulations Kathy!



hAPPY BIRTHDAY



FF Christian Bush
May 3rd - 30th



Fire Prev. Ken Krause
July 9th - 70th



Capt. Tim Bergeron
July 21st - 50th



Birthdays



June 2020

Shannon Burbach 8th
Mike Huffman 11th
Jen Anderson 16th
Justin Harwood 19th
Sam McNames 22nd

July 2020

John Bergeron 1st
Ken Krause 9th '70th'
Greg Wernick 9th
John Morgan 16th
Taylor Larson 17th
Tim Bergeron 21st '50th'
Tyler Ebany 28th



Deputy Chief John Bergeron's son Dalton graduated from Carroll University with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Fire Prevention Bill Gindhart's Grandson's wife, Melissa Dellamater RN, BSN, Olivet Nazarene University.

CERT Member Cindy Steven's son Nathan Steven graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Criminal Science with an ROTC Marine Corps officer's award.

CERT Member Tracie McCormick's step daughter Jenna McCormick graduated from Harlem High School. She is planning on taking the year off due to the craziness in the world right now. She is planning on going into social work.

CERT Member ED Gioja's son Andrew graduated from Hononegah High School. He is moving to Spokane, WA and entering a Welding program.

Capt. Patrick Trollop's daughter Gabriella graduated 8th grade from Stephen Mack.

Firefighter Justin Harwood's daughter Olivia graduated 8th grade from Roscoe Middle School.

Firefighter David Leslie's son Timothy graduated 8th grade from Willowbrook Middle School.

Lt. Jordan Stark's daughter Maizie graduated kindergarten from Prairie Hill School.

The Firehouse Scene

The Firehouse Scene is a monthly newsletter produced by the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Prot. Dist. #1

Fire Chief - Don Shoevlin
Editor & Layout - Sheryl Drost

The Firehouse Scene is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the department's website after the second Sunday each month:

E-mail submissions to Sheryl: hfrdsdrost@gmail.com



Grilling Fire Safety

Knowing a few fire safety grilling tips will help everyone have a safe summer.



Only use your grill outside.

Keep it away from siding and deck rails.



Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill and campfire.

This will keep kids and pets safe.

Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.



Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.



Open your gas grill before lighting.

Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Never leave any of them unattended.



Stay fire safe this summer!

For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.

