

We Salute
The Dyersville Fire Department
on
125 **Years of**
Service



Dyersville
Commercial

Wednesday, August 9, 2023



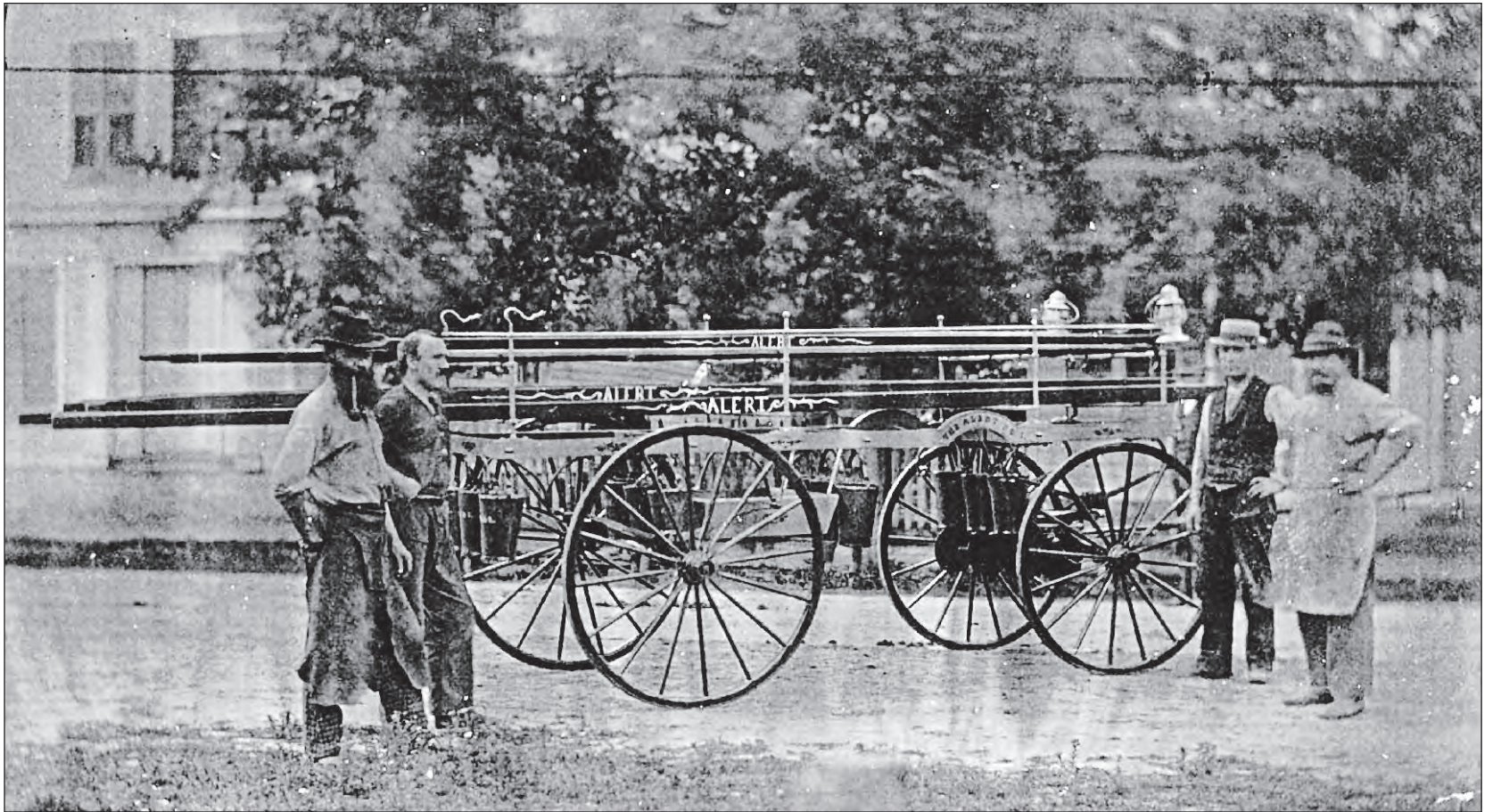
A brief history of the early years of the Dyersville Fire Department

Courtesy of the Dyersville Area Historical Society

The following is a history of the Dyersville Volunteer Fire Department, with notes, not necessarily in chronological order, taken from past issues of the Dyersville Commercial, the records of the minutes of the meetings of the Dyersville City Council and the available records of the Dyersville Volunteer Fire Department.

The earliest records of any sort concerning the organization called the Dyersville Volunteer Fire Department were the references made to such an organization in the minutes of the Town Council meetings of the Town of Dyersville. The first of these minutes of record were in the year 1886. These minutes named three men who had joined the Fire Department and quite possibly organized it on July 19, 1882. They were Wm. Machogan, A. D. Holbrock, and Geo. McGowan. The first Chief of the Department was Wm. Machogan.

Several references were made about this time to a source of water supply, which was evidently a cistern located under the Engine House. No location is given on this Engine House, nor is there any record of the Department owning any engines. On July 4, 1886, an appreciation day was held. Money raised on this day was for the use and benefit of an Engine House. Dec. 5, 1886 minutes stated that the cistern under the Engine House was completed and repaired. Alderman Forckenbrock was appointed Superintendent of



Contributed Photo

During a photo taken in 1930 or 1931, the Red Jacket Fire Engine is inspected by the Dyersville Fire Department. "Though supplanted by modern fire apparatus, it is still in serviceable condition and in possession of the local fire department," the postcard reads.

the Cistern.

The earliest record of any equipment seems to have been a hose cart and pumper, pulled to the fires by the members of the Department. This cart carried hose and a pumper, and at the fires, two to four men on each side did the pumping. At a large fire, this could become very strenuous work, which probably accounted for the large membership of the Department in the early days. Records of

1908 show membership of 51 members, 1909 membership was 59.

The following is the roll of the Department in 1900: J. H. Denkhoff, Frank Augustine, John Luensmann, Edwin Cunningham, Pat Warren, Ed Harris, Henry Luensmann, Peter Nachtmann, Geo. Kramer, Geo. Steger, Will Cunningham, Henry J. Lippert, Mat Parrish, Andy Ernster, Will McGowan, C. F. Pattison, D. W. Armstrong, August Goerd, John

Engler, John Gerken, Adam Stoeckel, Henry Schlarmann, Nick Ernster, Geo. Huberty, B. H. Tauke, Edw. Brueckner, J. H. Kramer, Henry Goerd, Jr., Louis Gerken, Frank Hittenmiller, J. H. Krapfl, John A. New, J. A. Schneider, Will Loosbrook, Frank Drexler, John Fitzgerald, John Feldman, Henry Summers, Will Rohenkohl, Frank Steger, Ed Krapfl, Chas. Kramer, John Kriebs, Andy Woerdehoff, Peter Duster, Chas. P. Roth,

Jos. Meyer, Henry Burger, Tony Henry, Will Drexler, F. X. Mayer, Frank Gerken, Louis Ament, L. C. Smith, Chas. Goerd, Albert Bauer, Albert Meuhe, Will Jaeger and Frank Ament.

The first self-propelled unit seemed to have been an REO truck equipped with a 500-gallon tank of water. When reaching a fire, this tank was tipped over and this caused the water to mix with soda, creating a foam that was used to extin-

guish the fire. When the tank was tipped, the entire 500 gallons had to be used regardless of the size of the fire.

When the Department was first formed, the members called themselves "The Dyersville Red Jackets." In May 1886, the Red Jackets received an invitation to appear in a parade and compete in a tournament of the state firefighters held in Dubuque. The boys took their

HISTORY ~ turn to page 15B

Happy
125th Anniversary
Dyersville
Fire Department!



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Dyersville Fire Department



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The proud legacy of the Red Jackets

Courtesy of the Dyersville Area Historical Society

Dyersville's past has hallowed memories of enviable accomplishments, which, buried in the pages of history, would ever remain there were it not for an occasional reference. In her hall of fame are printed side by side, the names of statesmen, soldiers, athletes and benefactors of various kinds. But, among others indelibly printed on that scroll are the names of men whose laudable acts and praiseworthy achievements will never be forgotten. They are the names of the charter members of Dyersville's fire department and the men who, in that organization in 1885, 1886, and 1887, brought national, as well as state honors, to Dyersville.

Dyersville in 1881, a town of less than 1,000 inhabitants, had no fire department to protect the lives and property of her citizens. In 1882, due much to the efforts of William Machogan, the Red Jacket Fire Engine company was formed with the following charter members: Machogan, A.D. Holbrook, John Higgins, George Krapfl, J.B. Litchfield, John McGowan, William McGowan, John Nix., L. Schemmel, Joe Trick, William Crowder, Frank Chesterman, Mat Fischbach, Frank Fromm, J.K. Freiburg and Henry Muehe.

In July 1882, six public-spirited citizens — Machogan, C.D. Alsop, A.H. Holbrook, J.B. Litchfield, Joe Trick, and George Holbrook — met with Dyersville's first mayor, William Trick, to discuss the feasibility of organizing a fire department. The result was that it was considered imperative that a company be formed. Each member of the six on the committee

agreed to get two more men who would be willing to become members of a fire company. On July 19, 1882, the above-mentioned 18 men met and organized what was then called the "Alert Hook and Ladder Company."

Jerry Warren, a local blacksmith at that time, made the first hook and ladder and cart for the company. Two years later, the company purchased a Button band engine and cart at a cost of \$1,500. The new engine was called the Red Jacket for which reason the organization now assumed the name of the "The Red Jacket Engine, Hose and Hook and Ladder Company, No 1". They took for their motto: "Faithful and Fearless."

New fire apparatus, young blood, and unbounded ambition stimulated the company to enter the state firemen's tournament in June 1885. Inexperienced in tournament contests, but efficiently capable, the young men left for Davenport to contest their skill against the oldest, the most experienced, and best companies in the state. Briefly stated, three successive victories in as many succeeding years were necessary to gain permanent possession of the coveted trophy, the championship. This trophy had been in the possession of various companies for the six preceding years. Storm Lake, recognized as the strongest contestant, had held it for the past two successive years and was determined to retain it. But, the small town of Dyersville, unheard of before the tournament, not only wrested it from Storm Lake but emulated the latter's former record and established a national record for themselves and the Button hand engine company.

The Dyersville Commer-



Contributed Photo

Hose Cart No. 3 wins a race on Aug. 13, 1913, during "\$1,000 Day."

cial, then edited by M.J. Farley, wrote the following about the event:

"About a month ago our boys decided to go to Davenport to contest for a prize at the tournament. It was their ambition to secure the first if possible, and for that purpose went into active training and, under the skillful training of Foreman Machogan, the boys did so well at practice that our citizens felt confident that they would get there all right. Nor were they disappointed. Although Wednesday was the day fixed for the trial of hand engines, for some reason, it was put back until June 11. The boys were never in better trim for work, as was shown; they having beaten any previous record and beating the steamers throw by over 11

feet.

"The contestants, besides our company, were: Wilton, Waterloo, and Storm Lake, three of the oldest and best-drilled companies, supposed to be, in the state, and our boys feel prouder of their victory on that account. The time allowed to each company was 20 minutes, and they were to play through 150 feet of hose. While the other companies occupied time, ours took but three trials, lasting in all about 11 minutes, and it was nearly the same every time.

"The following is the distance thrown by each: Dyersville 232 feet 5 inches, first prize, \$150, and sweepstakes, \$25; Waterloo, 210 feet, second prize, \$100; Wilton 207 feet, third prize, \$50. The Storm Lake's distance was

205 feet.

"After our boys won, they procured a number of brooms, and under the command of Chief Limback and Foreman Machogan, they paraded through the principal streets, where they were met with a grand ovation from all."

The company had many experiences and established an excellent reputation for efficiency. A Dyersville newspaper of February 4, 1888, carried an article about the contests that the Red Jacket company entered and won. The much sought-after prize in these contests was a broom, which symbolized a "clean sweep." In order to keep permanent possession of the broom, the company had to win it for three successive years, and this the Dyers-

ville Company accomplished.

"Faithful and Fearless," those heroes of 1886 prepared for their last contest, which was held at Sioux City in June 1887. "The best-disciplined company in the state," excellently trained in their individual roles, in the prime of physical strength and mentally alert to their responsibilities, left Dyersville determined to win. Special Train Incidentally, a special train on the Chicago, St. Paul, and Kansas City railroad, took the 75 champion Red Jackets to Sioux City. A car was freely contributed by the company to convey the hand engine. This train was the first to cross the company's new bridge, then erected across the Cedar River at Waterloo. Represented at the tournament besides Dyersville were: Waterloo, Storm Lake, Independence, and Wilton. Dyersville's confidence in her heroes was not misplaced, for they not only outdistanced their former rival, Storm Lake, and all other companies, and were acclaimed state champions for the third successive time, but they also climaxed their successes by winning a spectacular hand engine race. These contests, in which they covered themselves with glory and gained permanent possession of the trophy, are best told by an eyewitness, the reporter for the Sioux City Tribune. "The Red Jackets of Dyersville distinguished themselves today by winning for the third successive time the prize in the hand engine contest. They will carry the broom home with them to keep as a grand trophy of their skill and merit."

"While climbing was in progress in front of the judge's stand, over in the circle of the

REDJACKETS ~ turn to page 14B



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Contributed Photos

At the Krapfl fire in April 1985, adequate water supply was a problem and the department had to use water from town by tankers until a line was run into a nearby creek.



An oil truck catches fire five miles northeast of Dyersville in 1949.

Spectacular fire demolishes Ertl building

Reprinted from the Dyersville Commercial

An early morning blaze on April 6, 1974, destroyed the Ertl building, in the Dyersville Industrial Park. The only thing left standing after the six-hour fire was the office area in the front part of the building.

The blaze, reported by the night crew of the Noble Corporation at the Ertl building was called in at 2:10 a.m. Four firms used the building on Fifth Street NW: Noble Corporation, a plastic fabricating firm; Curran Hydraulics, both of whom used the building for manufacturing, Frerick's Transport and the landlord, Joseph Ertl, who used the building as a storage facility.

Damages to the building and equipment were anyone's guess — estimates varied from \$500,000 to more than \$1 million. The building consisted of 20,000 square feet constructed in three bays. The intensity of the fire quickly broke through the walls and en-

gulfed the entire structure. The building was valued at \$100,000. The Noble firm had several machines valued at several hundreds of thousands of dollars. Ertl said he had machines stored in the building. The Frericks firm had a pick-up truck, Jeep and a car stored in the southwest corner of the building.

Four fire departments were on duty throughout the night and into the morning hours. In addition to the Dyersville Fire Department, mutual aid calls were answered by Worthington, Farley and New Vienna.

A light shift of employees was working at the time the fire started, but the workers left the building quickly.

Ertl bought the building in 1972 from Coil-Wal Division of Modernfold, which moved to a new plant just north of the buildings. Coil-Wal's predecessor had bought the property in 1959. During the early 1940's it was used by Mack Manufacturing to build farm wagon chassis.



The "Swing Inn" catches fire in 1970.

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Contributed Photos

The 1983 Dyersville FD: front row from left, Bob Funke, Merle Clemens, James Meyer, Howard Konzen, Ron Theisen, Bob Platz, Pat Scherrman, Tim Pins and Roger Kearns; back row, Al Neuhaus, Don Lakeman, Ray Olberding, Wayne Milz, Lawrence Bildstein, Larry Drees, Wayne Wieneke, Dan Platz, Tony Wagner, Bob Fitzgerald, Greg Wallton, Doug Tauke, Jerry Even, John Spofford, Ken DeBrose, Herb Link Jr., Lee Mescher, Dennis Felton, Dan Honkomp, Dan Tegeler and Bill Willenborg.



The Dyersville FD shows off some of the new equipment it received in 1970.



Firefighters rush to the scene of a blaze near Earlville in 1949.



A firefighter puts on a breathing apparatus during a Jan. 25, 1970 fire at the "Swing Inn."



An oil truck catches fire near John Bildstein's farm in 1949.



After being gutted by a fire in 1950, hundreds turn out for a "fire sale" at J.C. Penny.



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Dyersville's downtown decimated by fire

Disastrous blaze struck Aug. 14, 1907

Reprinted from the Dyersville Commercial

Fire practically wiped out one of the principal blocks of Dyersville early Wednesday afternoon and for a while, the flames threatened to destroy the city completely. The loss is estimated at \$35,000.

Dyersville has never experienced such an experience in history and many citizens carry scars of their battle with the raging flames as they leaped from building to building, growing bigger with each bound, until it was believed the town was lost.

ORIGIN A MYSTERY

Shortly before one o'clock, the fire was discovered in a barn in the rear of Hittenmiller's saloon on Main Street. A strong wind was blowing from the south and fanned the blaze. The barn soon was entirely consumed and the flames spread rapidly, reaching the residence path of the Hittenmiller building, owned by Mrs. John Hittenmiller. The rear of the structure was of frame and was shortly enveloped.

FIGHTING THE FLAMES

The Dyersville Fire Department, assisted by every able-bodied man of the town, fought against the great odds.

It was evident at this juncture that the fire would become a conflagration and destroy the city. A small one-story frame building adjoined Hittenmill-

er's went up in smoke.

The firefighters labored strenuously to overcome the flames but all efforts were unsuccessful. The German State Bank, "Doc" Gehrig, cashier, was next and the fire soon caught the rear of the building and destroyed that part. The big windows in the front were broken and the roof burned off.

The heroic work of the citizens alone prevented the consummation of the bank building proper.

NEWSPAPER IN RUINS

From the bank building the flames jumped to the building occupied by the Dyersville Commercial and owned by the editor and publisher, Chris Smith. With a roar and a new burst of activity, the raging fire swallowed up the structure and gutted it completely.

The presses, type, office furniture and stock were completely destroyed. Desperate efforts were made to save the Commercial but to no avail. The fire had grown beyond the control of the firemen and citizens and was in the height of its maddened frenzy when it struck the Commercial structure. The loss to Mr. Smith is believed to have been practically complete.

The Commercial was a democratic weekly, established in 1872. The publication is well known locally, having a wide circulation in this section. Chris A. Smith, the present editor and publisher, is known to many Dubuquers. As publisher of the Commercial he is the successor of Frank Farley, formerly of this city.



A fire decimates several buildings on Aug. 14, 1907.



A blaze ripped through Dyersville Aug. 14, 1907.

DESTROYS GENERAL STORE

From the Commercial building, the fire spread to the adjoining structure occupied by the firm of Koelker and Drexler, general merchants. The building was one of the best in Dyersville and the most spacious. The firm was one of the leading in Dyersville commercial life, handling dry goods, groceries and all kinds of merchandise.

The firm carried a big stock, which was completely destroyed. The building was owned by Chris Smith, and the loss on it was almost total.

OTHER FIRMS WIPED OUT

The frame storehouse of the Power and Light company, which was filled with electrical supplies, pumps, etc., was burned to the ground and the stock entirely lost.

McHogan's marble works, occupying a frame one-story structure, was wiped out completely and the stock practically ruined.

Klinkner's photograph gallery was last in the block and

was burned to the ground.

The Great Western passenger station and the Pennsylvania House, owned by John Gebhart, was badly scorched.

RIVER STAYED PROGRESS

After Klinkner's photograph gallery was destroyed, the flames stayed at the bank of the Maquoketa River. There were no more buildings near by and the flames gradually died out and late in the afternoon the various buildings were naught but smoldering ruins.

All the citizens were greatly excited and the town is in a state of nervousness and fatigue.

HITTENMILLER IS BURNED

While holding the nozzle of a hose John Hittenmiller, the well-known saloonkeeper, was



seriously burned about the face and chest. Others were injured and burned more or less in their efforts to check the flames.

The origin of the fire remained a mystery up to a later hour. It is known it started in the barn in the rear of Hittenmiller's saloon but no one has been able to fix the cause.

There was talk of arson but citizens discount this theory.

Up to a late hour, it was found impossible to get an accurate estimate of the loss entailed in the conflagration. A conservative estimate of a Dyersville businessman placed it at forty thousand dollars, but a detailed estimate brings it up to about thirty-five thousand.

It is probable that steps will be taken immediately to rebuild the destroyed buildings.

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Four fighters injured in early morning downtown blaze

Reprinted from the Dyersville Commercial

A fire causing \$40,000 worth of damage ripped through downtown Dyersville businesses in January 1917.

The drug store building of Rosenthal and Wangler, together with its stock was totally destroyed, the Weigel building adjoining was badly damaged and the drug store of Edw. Brueckner was almost entirely ruined by fire and water and the adjoining stocks and buildings suffered considerable damage.

A group of about 12 firemen had a narrow escape from the fire. One of the men discovered that there was a fire underneath and warned the others. They had been off the spot for just a few moments when the roof caved in.

Four firefighters were injured by the blaze. Henry Nesler, overcome by inhaling smoke and gas, was taken to his home early in the morning. For a number of hours, his condition was critical and hopes for his recovery were given up.

Deacon Harris was injured early during the fire. While at the nozzle in front of the building, a piece of glass falling from the transom, struck his hand and severed an artery. He was hurried to the office of a physician for attention. Fred Holscher received a bad cut on the forehead at the same time by the falling glass.

Ben Evers received a severe gash in the wrist, later in the evening. A number of others were overcome by inhaling smoke and gas and were in serious condition.

The origin of the fire is unknown, it was thought to have started in the basement of Rosenthal & Wangler's drug store. It may have started from either an overheated furnace or a gas explosion in the furnace — neither cause was proven though.

Shortly before 11 p.m. Mary Weigel, who resided in the second story of her building adjoining Rosenthal and Wangler's drug store, noticed the smoke and ran down the street toward city hall screaming fire where Anthony Lippert rushed over and set off the fire alarm.

When the fire department arrived and entered the basement it resembled a roaring furnace, due to the paint, oil and drugs that were stored in the basement. The floors soon were undermined and dropped into the basement and the fire rapidly spread to the second floor.

It was feared that the fire would spread beyond control and help was asked of Farley, Manchester and Dubuque, firemen from all three places responding with equipment.

Prospects were grave and it was feared that a good portion of the town would be destroyed, but the work of the firefighters was effective and they succeeded in keeping the fire from spreading to the Brueckner drug store and the H.R. Flam-mang Jewelry store. The fight was continued past 3:30 a.m. when the fire was under control.

The equipment of St. Joseph's Court No. 500 C.O.F. whose meeting rooms were in the second story, were total-

ly destroyed. The Weigel building was badly damaged by fire and water and the studio owned by Miss Weigel was practically wrecked as were also her household effects and a new piano. The large stock of Edw. Brueckner, the druggist on the first floor and the stock of H.R. Flam-mang jeweler were about totally ruined by smoke and water.

In the Aug Muehe and Son hardware store all the hardware was tarnished by smoke and water and nickel parts of ranges, stoves, etc., were ruined and had to have factory retouching. The basement was flooded with water.

To the west, the first building was the Farmers State Bank which had a solid firewall for protection. The flames did not get in the building, although the mop boards along the floor in the second story were scorched due to extreme heat. The floor in the second story was covered with creosote, ruining it. The bank was filled with smoke and flooded. The damage in the law office was only that by smoke but was an inconvenience. A considerable collection of the large library was moved out.

The First National Bank building and the offices of Dr. W.J. Hierstein and Dr. C.G. Rosell were filled with smoke and the basement of the bank building was flooded.

This fire was the first test of the new municipal well. It met up with its expectations of the officials pumping about a quarter million gallons of water during the seven hours it took to put out the blaze.

A year without fires

While 125 years is certainly an anniversary to be proud of, nearly 70 years ago the Dyersville Fire Department celebrated another span of time that it wouldn't mind repeating.

According to the April 27, 1955, Dyersville Commercial, on April 23, the DFD observed "a unique anniversary — that day marked a year since the department was called out to extinguish a fire, in this city, that caused any property damage."

The department did respond to several grass fires, where in one instance a parked car was slightly damaged, but nothing that constituted a disaster.

"Fire Chief Jake Nebel said he attributes this record to periodical checkups and carefulness of the citizens," the paper stated. "This new record is the best established by the group — a total of \$95 damage was listed for the previous record year."

LOCAL, LOCAL, LOCAL...



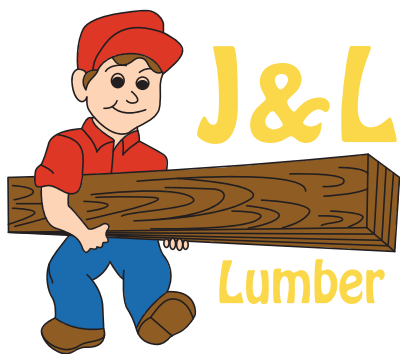
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Dyersville Commercial

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Dylan Kurt • Staff Photos

The 2023 Dyersville FD: front row from left, Chris McAllister, Jim Wessels, Jeremy Honkomp, Tim Deutmeyer and Tim Kronlage; second row, Brandon Farrell, Drew Scherbring, Rob Honkomp, Tony Reinert, Zach Prier, Bobby Fangman, Josh Tegeler, Tanner Lueck, Colten Wessels, Tony Scherbring and Tim Gansemer; third row, Rob Recker, Ryan Koopmann, Jared Brunsmann, Blake Burkle, Mike Fitzgerald, Ryan Leibold, Al Wessels, Terry Drees, Steve Lansing and Derek Bahls; back row, Troy Thier, Bill Willenborg, AJ Glaza, Dave Naber, Dustin Smith, Mike Brown, Caleb Phillips and Joe Willenbring; not pictured are Tim Herbers, Austin Burchard, Kurt Osterhaus, Tyler Damm, Ben Samek and Travis Gaul.

The 2023 Dyersville FD officers: front row from left, Equipment Captain Jared Brunsmann, 1st Assistant Chief Jim Wessels, Chief Jeremy Honkomp, 2nd Assistant Chief Tim Deutmeyer and EMS Captain Bobby Fangman; second row, Secretary Chris McAllister, Public Safety Captain Rob Recker, EMA Director Steve Lansing, Training Captain Tony Reinert and Treasurer Tim Kronlage.



Best Wishes to the Dyersville Fire Department on it's 125th Anniversary!

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Dyersville Fire Department

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Dyersville Fire Department
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The 1938 Dyersville FD: front row from left, Ambrose Mock, Joe Steffen, Sammy "Ed" Cunningham, Paul Kramer, Leo Westemeier and Harold Kramer; middle row, George Necker, Gilbert Walters, Ray Wilhelm, Lawrence "Schwartz" Pettinger, Neil Buckley, Robert Ernster, Leo Zimmer, Emil Klosterman and Louis Christoph; back row, Sylvester "Butch" Grawe, Ray Arens, Emil Manthey, Alfred Gerken, Leo Pettinger, Clarence Beckman, Ray Manthey, Jerry Ernster and Jake "Clarence" Nebel.



The 1981 Dyersville FD: front row from left, Bob Funke, Hank Waechter, Bob Fitzgerald, Don Lakeman, Fritz Nebel, Roger Kearns, Syl Gansemer and Roger Mescher; middle row, Ken DeBrose, Jerry Even, Lawrence Bildstein, Ray Olberding, Tony Wagner, Larry Drees, Pat Scherrman, Wayne Wieneke and Al Neuhaus; back row, Howard Bruggemann, Jim Meyer, Dan Tegeler, Dennis Felton, Doug Tauke, Dan Honkomp, Bob Platz and Vince Drees.



The 1979 Dyersville FD: front row from left, Jerry Even, Jeff Kolls, Dan Willenborg, Doug Tauke, Tim Pins, Howard Konzen, Fritz Nebel, Bob Funke and Dave Kramer; middle row, Vince Drees, Ron Theisen, Roger Mescher, Jim Meyer, Pat Scherrman, Roy Fredricks, Bob Platz, Wayne Wieneke, Howard Bruggemann, Wayne Milz and Lawrence Bildstein; back row, Jake Nebel, Al Link, Al Neuhaus, Ray Olberding, Steve Boge, Dan Tegeler, Roger Kearns, Don Lakeman, John Spofford, Larry Drees, Herb Link Jr., Dale Fitzgerald, Tony Wagner, Bob Fitzgerald and John Bruggemann.



The 1987 Dyersville FD: front row from left, Leland Nebel, Merle Clemen, Tim Pins, Doug Tauke, Bob Platz, Rob Funke, Dan Honkomp and Tony Wagner; second row, Ron Theisen, Guy Knepper, Dan Platz, Jim Meyer, Larry Drees, Wayne Milz, Dennis Felton and Pat Jasper; third row, Dan Deutmeyer, Dan Willenborg, Kevin Kurt, LaVern Honkomp, Wayne Wieneke, Dan Tegeler, Duane Weber, Jim Koopman, Dave Johnson and Dale Fitzgerald; back row, Tim Gansemer, Wayne Meyer, Bill Willenborg, Mark Kronlage, Bart Schneck, Dave Schuster, Randy Recker, Lee Mescher, Bill Wilhelm, Father Rosonke and Rick Kroeger.

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Officers of the Dyersville Fire Department

1898-1900 Chief, Prof. J.W. Malvin Foreman, Matt J. Clemens	Asst. Chief, Ray Kramer Secretary, Emil J. Kremer Treasurer, Gerald Freymann	Secretary, Herb Platz Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	Asst. Chief, Dave Kramer Secretary, Alan Link Treasurer, Roger Kearns	Asst. Chief, Doug Tauke Asst. Chief, Merlin Clemen Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Gerald Even
1901-02 No records	1930 Chief, Ed Cunningham Asst. Chief, Paul Kramer Secretary, Emil J. Kremer Treasurer, Gerald Freymann	1955-56 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Emil Manthey Captain, Herb Link Sr. Secretary, John Wilhelm Treasurer, Gus Wilhelm	1977 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Roger Mescher, Secretary, Alan Link Treasurer, Roger Kearns	1996-98 Chief, Robert Platz Asst. Chief, Merlin Clemen Asst. Chief, Al Wessels Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Gerald Even
1903 Reorganized Dr. H.A. Sumpman appointed temporary chief Nov. 17, 1903. Nov. 20, 1903- Frank Augustine elected chief temporary.	1931-33 Chief, Ed Cunningham Asst. Chief, Paul Kramer Secretary, A.C. Link Treasurer, Gerald Freymann	1957-60 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Wm. Mescher Asst. Chief, Martin Bohlke Secretary, John Wilhelm Treasurer, Gus Wilhelm	1978-79 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Bob Funke Secretary, Alan Link Treasurer, Roger Kearns	1999-2001 Chief, Robert C. Platz Asst. Chief, Merlin Clemen Asst. Chief, Allan Wessels Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Mark Kronlage
1904-05 No records	1934-35 Chief, Ed Cunningham Asst. Chief, Paul Kramer Secretary, A.C. Link Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1961 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Martin Bohlke Asst. Chief, Wm. Lahey Secretary, John Wilhelm Treasurer, Gus Wilhelm	1980 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Dave Kramer Secretary, Alan Link Treasurer, Roger Kearns	2002-10 Chief, Merlin Clemen Asst. Chief, Al Wessels Asst. Chief, Bill Willenborg Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Mark Kronlage
1906 Frank Augustine Chief Secretary, Charles P. Roth	1936 Chief, Ed Cunningham Asst. Chief, Paul Kramer Secretary, Robert Ernster Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1962-1963 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Martin Bohlke Asst. Chief, Wm. Lahey Secretary-Treasurer, John Wilhelm	1981 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Bob Funke Secretary, Dan Honkomp Treasurer, Roger Kearns	2011 Chief, Merlin Clemen Asst. Chief, Al Wessels Asst. Chief, Bill Willenborg Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Tony Scherbring
1907 No records	1937-38 Chief, Paul Kramer Asst. Chief, Joe Steffen Secretary, Robert Ernster Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1964-1965 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Howard Bruggemann Asst. Chief, Wm. Lahey Secretary-Treasurer, John Wilhelm	1982 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Pat Scherrman Secretary, Dan Honkomp Treasurer, Roger Kearns	2012-15 Chief, Al Wessels Asst. Chief, Bill Willenborg Asst. Chief, Tim Gansemer Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Tony Scherbring
1908 Chief, Frank Augustine Secretary, Charles P. Roth	1939 Chief, Paul Kramer Asst. Chief, Joe Steffen Secretary, Emil Manthey Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1966 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief Wm. Lahey Asst. Chief Jim Meyer Secretary-Treasurer, John Wilhelm	1983 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Dan Honkomp Treasurer, Roger Kearns	2016-18 Chief, Al Wessels Asst. Chief, Bill Willenborg Asst. Chief, Tim Gansemer Secretary, Rob Honkamp Treasurer, Tony Scherbring
1909-13 Chief, Frank Augustine Secretary, Charles P. Roth	1940-41 Chief, Paul Kramer Asst. Chief, Herb Westmeier Secretary, Emil Manthey Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1967-1969 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Wm. Lahey Asst. Chief, Jim Meyer Secretary-Treasurer, Herb Platz	1984-87 Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Bob Funke Asst. Chief, Pat Scherrman Secretary, Dan Honkomp Treasurer, Tim Pins	2019 Chief, Al Wessels Asst. Chief, Bill Willenborg Asst. Chief, Tim Gansemer Secretary, Rob Honkamp Treasurer, Tim Kronlage
1914 Chief, Frank Augustine Asst. Chief, Ike Westmark Secretary, Wm. Drexler Treasurer, Joseph C. Sudmeier	1942-44 Chief, Paul Kramer Asst. Chief, Herb Westmeier Secretary, Clarence Nebel Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1970-1971 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, James V. Meyer Asst. Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Secretary-Treasurer, Herb Platz	1988-89 Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Doug Tauke Asst. Chief, Merlin Clemen Secretary, Dan Honkomp Treasurer, Tim Pins	2020-21 Chief, Al Wessels Asst. Chief, Tim Gansemer Asst. Chief, Jeremy Honkomp Secretary, Mike Brown Treasurer, Tim Kronlage
1915 Chief, Ike Westmark Asst. Chief, Ed Harris Secretary, Wm. Drexler Treasurer, Joseph C. Sudmeier	1945 Chief, Paul Kramer Asst. Chief, Herb Westmeier Captain, Ray Arens Secretary, Clarence Nebel Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1972-1973 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, James R. Meyer Asst. Chief, Dave Kramer Secretary-Treasurer, Herb Platz	1990-92 Chief, Bob Platz Asst. Chief, Doug Tauke Asst. Chief, Merlin Clemen Secretary, Duane Weber Treasurer, Tim Pins	2022-Present Chief, Jeremy Honkomp Asst. Chief, Jim Wessels Asst. Chief, Tim Deutmeyer Secretary, Chris McAllister Treasurer, Tim Kronlage
1916-18 Chief, Ike Westmark Asst. Chief, Ed Harris Secretary, Wm. Drexler Treasurer, Joseph C. Sudmeier	1946 Chief, Paul Kramer Asst. Chief, Syl. Grawe Captain, Ray Arens Secretary, Clarence Nebel Treasurer, Gilbert Walter	1974-1975 Chief Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief Dave Kramer Asst. Chief, Howard Bruggemann Secretary, Alan Link Treasurer, Roger Kearns	1993-95 Chief, Bob Platz	
1919-23 No records	1947-54 Chief, Clarence (Jake) Nebel Asst. Chief, Emil Manthey Captain, Herb Link Sr.	1976 Chief, Leland (Fritz) Nebel Asst. Chief, Bob Platz		
1924 Chief, Ike Westmark Secretary, M.J. Wieneke				
1925 Chief, Ike Westmark Asst. Chief, Henry Beitzel Secretary, M.J. Wienke				
1926-28 Chief, Guy Meyer Asst. Chief, Alfred Reiff Secretary, Emil J. Kremer Treasurer, Gerald Freymann				
1929 Chief, Guy Meyer				

Schedule of Events

The Dyersville community is set to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Dyersville Fire Department on August 12.

The event will feature bounce houses, a rock wall, waterball tournament, parade, live music from Boy Named Banjo, Matt McPherson, Cody Hicks, and more. The evening will come

to an end with a fireworks display following Boy Named Banjo's performance.

The event is free to attend and the majority of activities will take place at Legacy Square Park (214 1st Street SW).

The DFD will also host an open house from 10 a.m. to noon at the fire station, which includes

an auto extrication demonstration starting at 11 a.m.

The following will take place at Legacy Square Park:

1 p.m. - 6 p.m. — Waterball tournament and kid's activities including bounce houses, rock wall, dunk tank and more.

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. — Live music from Matt

McPherson

3 p.m. - 6 p.m. — Live music from Cody Hicks

6:30 p.m. — Parade

8:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. — Live music from Boy

Named Banjo

10 p.m. — Fireworks immediately following

Boy Named Banjo performance.

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File Photos
Black Hills Energy uses a controlled natural gas fire to train area first responders Sept. 19, 2017 at the Dyersville Industrial Park.



Doris Clemen watches her former residence go up in flames while members of the Dyersville Fire Department used it to train firefighters, both veterans and new members, in February 2012. She said there are a lot of memories going up in smoke, "but selling my house was the best decision I've ever made."

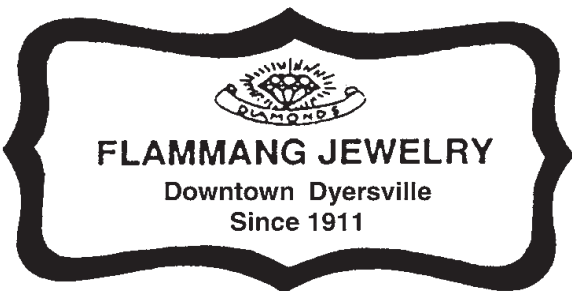


The Dyersville Fire Department poses for a photo during a training exercise in October 2015: front row from left, Bill Willenborg, Dave Naber, Merlin Clemen, Bobby Fangman, Al Wessels, Nick Oberbroeckling and Jeff Riesberg; second row, Tim Gansemer, Wade Cosselman, Tony Reinert, Tim Kronlage, Joe Willenbring, Tim Deutmeyer, Jason Phillips and Dave Leibold.



Volunteers of the Dyersville Fire Department put out the flames on a Rolfes Trucking semi, Aug. 21, 2012 in Petersburg. Brad Barnhart, the driver, blew out his back tire while traveling southbound on 300th Avenue. When he assessed his truck's damage, Barnhart discovered heat from the friction of the tires ignited the rear of his truck. Barnhart then drove to the nearest residence, the farm of Tom Millenkamp, where flames began emitting from the truck. Responders arrived at roughly 12:30 p.m. and, using foam, were able to tame the flames. No damage assessments were available. The Delaware County Sheriff's Department assisted.

Congratulations on your 125 year Anniversary!



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Dyersville Fire Department burns Gary and Lori Wessels' former house on 332nd Avenue, Oct. 10, 2015 as a training mission.



Members of the Dyersville Fire & Rescue team work to free Riley Fangman from the passenger seat of a car after a simulated head-on collision at Beckman April 26, 2019.



File Photos

From the left, Dyersville Mayor Jim Heavens, Bob Platz, Larry Drees and Merlin Clemen stand by as the mortgage for the Dyersville Emergency Building was burned on Oct. 5, 2008. Platz was chief of the Dyersville Fire Department when the resolution was passed, Drees took over the job of being in charge of the construction and Clemen is the current fire chief. Heavens told a large crowd gathered for the ceremony that 10 years ago, the Dyersville City Council adopted a resolution to enter into a loan agreement in the principal amount of \$400,000 to help build the new facility to house the Dyersville Fire Department, Dyersville Farmers Community Fire Department and Bi-County Ambulance Department. At the same time, a \$200,000 loan was obtained from the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

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99 years of service: Three volunteer firefighters retired after a combined 99 years of service in May 1978. From left, Herb Huberty (29 years), Jake Nebel (40 years) and Wilfred "Fritz" Scherbring (30 years).

Contributed Photos



Firemen use a tractor to haul equipment during a 1953 fire.



From left, Chief Jake Nebel, W.F. Lambach, Mayor Gebhart, Herb Link and W. Hale pose with the new firetruck in April 1951.



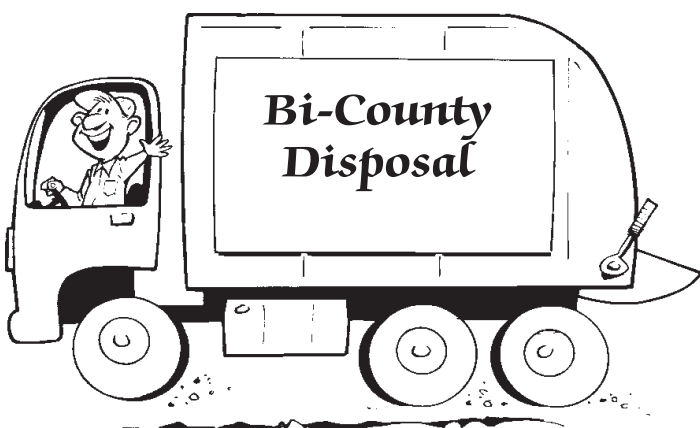
Crews direct water toward a fire at the Donald Helle Farm in June 1963.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

track was another contest in which one of the contestants was a very anxious participant. It was the Dyersville company. Two years ago, at the Davenport tournament, it wrested the broom from its present competitors and had from that meeting held it against all antagonists. At the Davenport meeting, it had made the remarkable throw of 235 feet, the best throw in the United States.

"To win today meant to hold for good the trophy. Three times winner is what they were figuring on, and of course, they were anxious. At the contest, as each company was given 20 minutes to make its final throw, the judges' measurements gave the Dyersville boys the trophy, and the manner in which they relieved themselves by shouts of approbation was startling. Storm Lake 198 feet 3 inches, Dyersville 213 feet 9 inches."

"Perhaps the most novel race of the day was the hand engine speed in which the Storm Lake spread its apparatus. Dyersville and Storm Lake boys were foes again. First and arrayed itself at the foot of the 200-yard stretch; Dyersville did likewise with an engine weighing 2,800 pounds and hose and reel accompanying. Both teams cleared away all right and came down the track just a humming as it were.

"To an inexperienced person, it would not be miscalculating to think that a team of firemen could whirl a heavy engine and make connections, pump water, and force it through a 50-foot hose, attach nozzle, and get there much ahead of several minutes. But the Storm Lake fellow covered the whole thing in less than a minute, according to the judges.

"The report sized up the timekeeper and felt a twang of disgusting jealousy. He imagined he had met the monumental liar of the universe. Before all this had happened, the honor had rested where it properly belonged. This fire business was sweeping away all records, upsetting old and establishing new honors.

"Notwithstanding all this marvelous work, Dyersville seemed undaunted as it leisurely strutted down the track to the starting point. After putting everything in running shape, with a whoop, the boys bent their stomachs to the mother earth and leaped out of the very air. Everything got hot at once. People fell back with wonder, awe, and dumb astonishment.

"Down came the flying Dutchmen from Dyersville like so many untamed beasts. They swept past the reporter, and the little hair he had was carried along with Dyersville. On they went, and when the tub of water was reached, there was the grandest scrambling of soldiers ever witnessed. The suction pipe went into the water with a professional splash, the hose cart flew along its fifty-yard stretch ahead, and then everything was in instantaneous and trembling motion. Down went the pumps. The thing commenced to "ciss," and in the twinkling of an eye, out burst a stream of water. What grand results come from patient practice. The time as given is as follows: Storm Lake, 51 2-5 seconds; Dyersville, 46 seconds.

"Mr. Machogan, who led Dyersville to victory on these three successive occasions, says in referring to events that transpired on the field of competition: "I lay our success to the untiring efforts of the members of the Red Jacket Fire Company and to their obedience to commands."

"Of our Red Jackets, it is needless for us to remark: They are as good a lot of young men as ever manned a brake. They are the embodiment, so to say, of the company's motto — 'Faithful and Fearless'. Add to these qualities those of strength, endurance, training, and we have a fire company without a peer in the state; one when harnessed for a contest has never been defeated — one that knows no such word as fail, and one when fighting fire, only says, 'give us water and we conquer.'"



Contributed Photo

These three men attended the three state firemen's tournaments in Davenport, Dubuque and Sioux City in 1886, 1886 and 1887. From left, J.H. Manley, Joe Clemens and Foreman William Machogan. The three are holding the broom awarded to the "Champions of Iowa, 1887," the brass pipe and nozzle used at the tournament and the foreman's speaking trumpet, used to communicate with and direct the men.



William Machogan, first foreman of the Red Jackets, served as Chief from 1896 to 1898 and is credited with founding Dyersville's first fire department.



William Machogan is considered to be Dyersville's first fire chief.

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HISTORY: First use of a smoke mask appears to be in a January 1926 blaze

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B

hose cart and pumper and joined the Dyersville Band for the trip to Dubuque to participate in the two-day event. They took an active part in the parade on the first day, and on the second day, they competed in firemanship events. Waterloo Dept. started the pumping, and their "Water Fire drill practice in front of the old fire station at City Hall" (The rest of the text is cut off and there might be more information in the original source.)

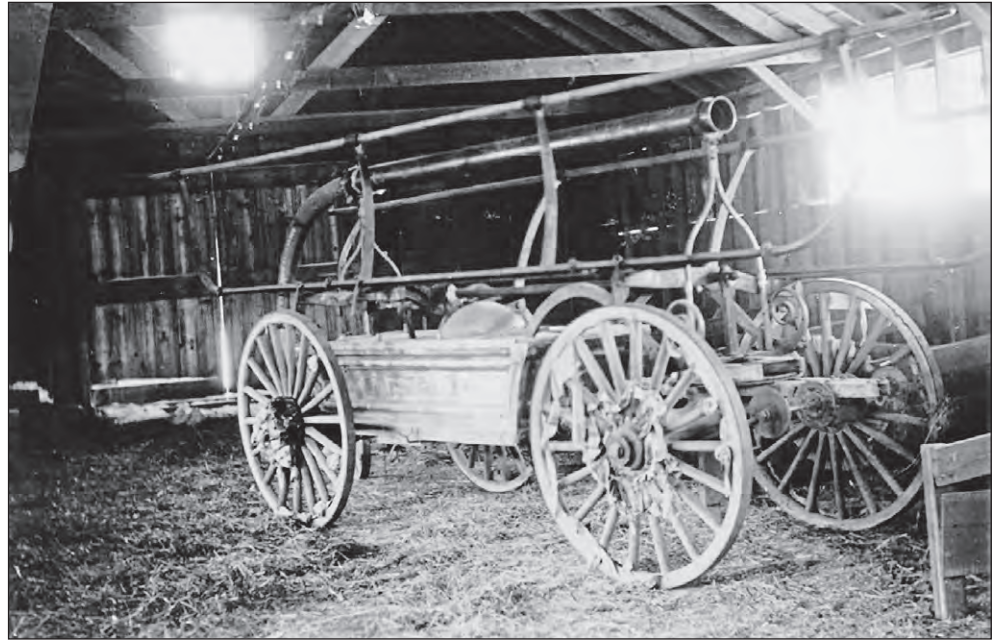
The witch pumper threw a stream of water 134 feet and then broke down. Independence was second with a stream of 154 ft. Next was Dyersville's turn. They broke down also, but only after throwing water for 196 feet and becoming State Champions. For their efforts, they received a broom, symbolic of a clean sweep, and a cash prize of \$150.00. The broom is still in the possession of Mr. Ray Goedken, a local businessman.

Upon returning home from the tournament, Mrs. Anna Utt and other ladies of the community presented bouquets to the Firemen and then held a banquet for all in the Dyersville City Hall. Several other tournaments were held at various places in which Dyersville participated. On July 8th, 1936, the Dept. went to Worthington to compete in a test run for hook-up and water pumping. The Departments participating in this test included Dyersville, Worthington, Cascade, and Farley. Dyersville won this test with a time of 1 minute and 45 seconds. Another State contest was held sometime earlier than this (dates not available) at Oelwein, Iowa. The Dyersville Department loaded their hose cart and pumper on a Great Western railroad car and shipped it to Oelwein for the contest. Again, the Red Jackets came back State Champions.

The first use of the smoke mask at fires seems to have been at a fire in the basement of the U.S. Bank on January 5, 1926. Chief Ike Westmark, wearing the mask, was able to go into the

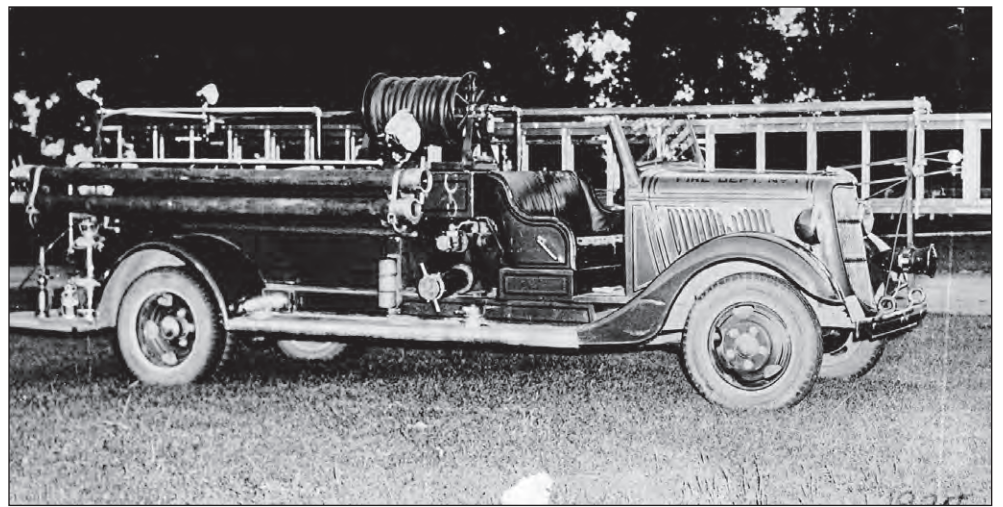
basement and remain there to put out the fire, while other firemen had to get out because of the heavy smoke. Thus through his efforts and the use of the mask, the fire loss on this one was kept to a low of only \$20.00.

The first Resuscitator was purchased through the efforts of the Fire Dept. and public donations in 1948. This is still in use in the Department along with the new Emergency Vehicle. All of the other equipment of today is considerably improved from that of the early years of the Department. Today the Department has one City Fire Truck, one Community Fire truck, one tanker with pump and booster hose, and a very modern Emergency Vehicle which is equipped with the latest in rescue equipment. The Department has a base radio station from which it can contact any of the above-mentioned radio-equipped mobile units, the Dubuque County Sheriff, the Dubuque County Civil Defense Director, any of the Fire Departments in Dubuque County, and many other radio stations out of Dubuque County. This equipment is used for many and various calls besides fire calls. One of the most important of these uses is the Tornado watch, which occurs quite often during the summer months. The alerts come in from the weather department by way of the Civil Defense Director. The fire department then sends its radio-equipped trucks to the high points on the outer edge of the town where they can spot oncoming storms and report to the base station. This information can then be relayed to the surrounding towns and to the Civil Defense and the weather bureau. If necessary, the Tornado alert siren can then be sounded warning the citizens of Dyersville of the danger. The first siren was purchased and installed in 1925, and several improvements have been made in the alert system since then, the latest of which is the equipping of the individual firemen with radio monitors which can be kept in their own homes or can be carried in automobiles.



Contributed Photos

The prized Red Jacket Fire Engine from 1884.



The Dyersville FD truck from 1935.

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