



NAME YOUR NEWSLETTER!

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

January 2009
Volume 1, Issue 2

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Hello everyone, I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and a great start to the New Year. When I look back on 2008, I am grateful for a safe and productive year. One of the best parts of serving as Chief, is the opportunity I have to talk to so many people who have been served by our department. Each month I have received numerous calls and letters telling me how the AFD made a difference in the lives of so many individuals. I appreciate all you do and the service you provide to so many citizens. Looking forward in 2009, I know we will continue to be a positive influence in this community.

Speaking of 2009 let me share some exciting plans. We should have our three new engines delivered soon. I hope to have these in place by the time we issue our April Newsletter. (Maybe we can “show-off” our newest additions in that newsletter.) We also will monitor the construction process of our newest ladder truck. (An order has been placed

for a 100’ Sutphen Aerial truck. We do not expect delivery until the spring of 2010.) We continue to work toward a complete replacement of all our bunker gear. Hopefully, by the end of 2009, everyone will have a set of gear no more than four years old. We are fortunate to have some very good equipment.

As I write this article, we are planning a promotional ceremony for our newest Lieutenants: Jeremy Williams and John Brunett. This is an important milestone in the careers of these two individuals. Congratulations to Lieutenants Jeremy Williams and John Brunett, (*pictures on page 2*). We are proud of you!

We are also planning an awards program- a special event in which we recognize the outstanding achievements of some of our current employees. A selection committee will choose the recipients from a long list of nominations. Chaplain Hale will assist with this event.

KEN DOZIER

Newsletter Name Contest!

Submit your newsletter name to: abifire@abilenetx.com by April 1, 2009. The winner will be selected by a panel and will be revealed in the April 2009 issue! The winning individual will receive a \$50.00 gift card and a DVD of the movie “Fireproof”. Get your suggestions in!

We want AFD families to stay in touch with us and with each other. So, please let us hear from you. Send your stories, pictures, and questions to us at:

abifire@abilenetx.com

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A Quarterly Publication

MILESTONES

AFD Remembers...Horace Max Key, 85 a life-time resident of the Potosi/Clyde area, died November 7, 2008. Horace was born March 14, 1923. He attended school in Potosi, graduated from Wylie High School, and was hired as an Abilene Firefighter March 26, 1951. He retired from the AFD March 28, 1988 with 37 years of service. He was a member of the Potosi Baptist Church and a former U.S. Merchant Marine. He is survived by one son, Kenneth Key of Wichita Falls; a daughter, Nancy Key of Baird; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son, Harrold Key, one daughter, Cynthia Key Lyon, three brothers, and four sisters.

November 3, 1958...A milestone day in AFD History. It was the first day of the first AFD Training Academy.

Leaving AFD...FF/EMT-I Michael Brandon Fuller and his family will be moving to be closer to family. He served the AFD for over four years and we wish him the best as he continues his fire service career with the Arlington FD.

Retirement... Firefighter/EMT Gary W. Collins retired January 17, 2009. Thank you for twenty-seven years of service and best wishes for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Abilene Police Academy...In our last edition we mentioned Asst. Fire Marshal/Capt. Tony Morris and Lt./ Fire Inspector Jeff Renfro both graduated from the 47th APD Academy. Tony and Jeff finished at the top of their class placing first and third respectively. Jeff was the sharp shooter of the class receiving the “Top Gun” award, which is the highest overall rated marksman of the class. Just as these two finished the 47th Academy, Lt. John Brunett entered the 48th Academy and is doing a great job as well.

Service Awards thru March

15 Years—FFs Todd Altum, John Gallagher, Jimmy Hall, Danny Moore, and Matt Self, Capts. Randell Clark and Jim Moore, and Asst. Fire Marshal/Capt. Tony Morris.

20 Years—FF Phil Williams, and Lts. Steve Brasel and Greg Goettsch.

25 Years—FFs Gary Hamner, Margarito Ramirez, and Joe

Tidwell, Lt. Randy Doan, Capts. Eddie Chrane, James Webb, and Rick Wright, Fire Marshal/Capt. Ed Williams, BC Phil Hay, and Chief Ken Dozier.

Our Family is Growing!

FF Aaron and Rachael Barr are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Reagan LaShay Barr. Born November 28, 2008 born at 11:17am, weighing in at 8 lbs 4 oz and 19 3/4 inches tall. Mom, Dad and daughter are doing fine.

FF Ryan Hanson and Lacey Hunter were blessed with a healthy baby girl 12-4-08, 6lbs. 3 oz and 19 inches long, Emery Jane Hansen. Mom, baby, and Dad are doing fine.

Lt. Jeremy and Heather Williams welcomed their daughter Addison LeAnn on October 27th 7 lbs. 8 oz. and 19” long. Everyone is doing great.

Can you name the five current Abilene firefighters who have the longest tenure?

More Abilene Fire Department History



In 1943, Doris Lindley, an 8th grader at Jefferson Jr. High School, won the Abilene Fire Department's Fire Prevention Essay Contest. Her essay was about the infamous Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire. She was presented with a ribbon at Station 2 on South 5th and Butternut and pictures of her and other area winners were taken on Abilene's largest ladder truck.

Recently, Mrs. Doris Lindley Ruebush visited the department and recalled how delighted she was as a child to have her picture taken on "such a marvelous, modern fire truck."

Doris still lives in Abilene and has followed stories and events of the Abilene Fire Department for years.

FF GARY HAMNER
PUBLIC EDUCATION



Doris Lindley and Ladder 1, in 2008



Doris Lindley and Engine 2, in 1943

AFD Log Entry - July 28, 1949

Box 414, 8th & Hickory, 716 Hickory, Used 3 scoops, 1 water scoop, 4 Brooms, 1 mop, 3 pike poles, 10' folding ladder, 16' Truss Ladder, 2 Pick Axes, 1 Claw tool, 1 Kelly tool, 2 mop buckets, 2 sponges, [sic] 1 shammie, 2 Gas Masks, 6 foot Roofing Paper, Salvage Tool Kit. Equipment used by Truck 1 - 1938 Seagraves.

Note: All spelling as in the log book.

Contributed by AC Alan Plumlee

According to the Abilene Reporter News Archives, the blaze occurred at the Fairy White Ice Cream Store on 767 Hickory. The store was owned by Guitar Industries. The owners refused to comment on the fire.

An Auxiliary Invitation:

All spouses (active, retired, airport, etc.) interested in supporting association fire personnel and our community are invited to a ***Meet and Greet*** membership meeting (a light dinner will be provided). Hosted by the Auxiliary to the Abilene Professional Fire Fighters. Please join us ***Tuesday, February 24 at 6 p.m.*** in the Station 1 Classroom at 250 Grape Street in Abilene. We will also host an Easter Egg hunt in March (date and location TBA). For more information contact Michelle Proctor at 665-9650.

Lts. John Brunett and Jeremy Williams being sworn in by Danette Dunlap on January 15, 2009.



John Brunett Jr., Lt. John Brunett, Lt. Jeremy Williams and Heather Williams after badge pinning.



The Newest Apparatus



The new brush truck is a 2009 7500 SFA 4x4 International with a 330 HP Maxx-Force

engine and an Allison 5-speed automatic transmission. The unit carries 1000 gallons of water and 20 gallons of Class A foam. The pump is a Hale HP200X-BD26. Also added to this unit are two bumper-mounted nozzles that are controlled from within the cab.

ALAN PLUMLEE
ASSISTANT CHIEF

Healthy Resolutions

As the new year begins and the first few months of the new year slip away, will you find your fitness resolutions slipping away as well? Beginning a new fitness program should be reasonably attainable so that you are setting yourself up for success rather than disappointment. You may want to try focusing on small intermediate goals that will ultimately lead you to your primary goal. Do not expect to be perfect. Aim for a healthy lifestyle that you will feel comfortable sticking with.

Here are few things that may help you in beginning and maintaining a fitness program for the new year.

TAKE SMALL STEPS:

Setting smaller goals will leave you with a more immediate feeling of success.

CHANGE FOR YOURSELF:

Resolutions are an opportunity for you to look forward in a positive way rather than to punish yourself for past behaviors.

BE CREATIVE:

Maybe you need to spend more time with your family. Try walking with a family member or bringing your

children along on bikes while you walk or jog.

BE REALISTIC:

Set your goals at reasonable heights so that you can reach them one by one without feeling overwhelmed.

ANTICIPATE ROADBLOCKS AND REWARD YOURSELF FOR SUCCESSSES:

If things like weather and illness will prevent you from sticking to your plan, make alternate plans for situations that you cannot avoid. Most importantly, do not let a missed day or two throw you completely off target.

BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM:

Get support from your family, friends and co-workers, but remember that you are your best supporter. You are trying to improve your own health. Appreciate what you have and then try to treat it a little bit better than you have in the past.

Hopefully these fitness tips will help and encourage you in achieving healthy goals and a healthy lifestyle for 2009.

FF JESS MADISON
STATION 2

It's Lean!

It's Mean!

It's Green!

And it was custom built by an Abilene firefighter. Be sure to find out more about our own custom car builder in the next edition of the "AFD Newsletter."



EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER—AFD STYLE

I have been extremely blessed to be a part of a great family. Many of you are aware I have been battling some health issues for awhile and some of the things around this old house needed repair. I was overwhelmed and shocked when I heard my fellow firefighters were coming over to work on my house. By 10 a.m. that morning the eaves were torn off and the entire fascia was removed. I was a bit taken back. In the back of my mind I wondered if they could get it all back together – They Did – because that's what firefighters do! It was great to see so many people working together, talking and sharing. I know this kind of camaraderie is truly special. We had a great lunch provided by Fred Bradford, who fed about 40 of us. There were so many people who helped and local businesses contributed. All I can say is, "Thank You" for being such a blessing to me. Thank you for everything. I am blessed and proud you are my family.

I am limited in what I can do but I assure you, I am only a phone call away – day or night.

LT. ALBERT WILHITE
STATION 1

If you'd like to see more pictures of the Albert Wilhite Extreme Home Makeover, AFD style, check-out:

<http://abilenefirefighters.org/albert/albert.html>



Aaron Barr and Jessie Horton



Camaraderie and Service

5-5-5 THE LAST ALARM

In honor of the firefighters of the Abilene Fire Department who made the ultimate sacrifice, this series of articles will remember each of the men from the AFD who died in the line of duty. These men are a part of our history, our tradition of service, and a part of the brotherhood that extends back to 1886.

O. R. Bill Sanders, was born on May 5th, 1919 in Thurber, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Sanders. He graduated from the Gustine public schools and attended Hardin-Simmons University.

He joined the Abilene Fire Department in February of 1941. He later served for 4 years in the U.S. Navy. He married Vera Palmer in Brownwood, Texas on May 31st of 1947 and was a member of the Baptist Church.

On the afternoon of July 29th, 1949, he and two fellow firefighters were responding to a trash fire at 2129 S. 2nd. The Butternut station fire



"Every firefighter performs an act of bravery once in his career. That is when he takes the oath of office. After that, everything else is in the line of duty."

FDNY Battalion Chief Ray Downey died in the line of duty September 11, 2001.

truck was turning left on S. 1st from Butternut when they were struck on the left rear tire by a Greyhound bus. Firefighter Sanders was riding on the back platform and was thrown 40 feet onto the railroad right-of-way. He sustained a skull fracture and was taken by Laughter-North ambulance at 9:45 pm to Harris Memorial Hospital in Dallas for emergency surgery. He never regained consciousness and died on

Monday, August 8th, 1949 at 11:00 am at the age of 30. His funeral was 10th at 4 pm at the Elliotts Chapel of Memories with W.R. Karkalits, Pastor of Tye Baptist Church officiating. Burial was at Elmwood Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Chief D. C. Musick, Fire Marshal L.A. Blackwood, Captain Howard B. Hill and Firemen O. O. McCoy, W.J. Caffey

**FF RONALD TEAL, STATION 8
ASSISTANT CHIEF JIM FRAZIER**

AFD Log Entry – July 29, 1949

Telephone to 2129 So. 2 used nothing No. 2 Booster had wreck with Gray Hound Bus at No First & Butternut St. Bill Sanders seriously injured.

AFD Log Entry – August 8, 1949

O.R. (Bill) Sanders died of injuries received July 29, 1949, in #2 Booster –Gray Hound Bus So 1st & Butternut St.

FROM THE TAILBOARD

One of the things I love about Abilene is the breathtaking sunsets. When the sun breaks across the West Texas horizon I am reminded of my smallness and the greatness of the One who created its beauty. At times when my world seems crowded and overwhelmed by the noise of life it is easy to take for granted these small blessings and glimpses of grace. Moments of blessing and grace take place around every corner of life, when a child is given comfort, an elderly person is given compassion, a life is saved, and a family's memories and security are being fought for and saved by our fire fighters. We find blessing and grace overflowing in a family's relief when their cherished fire fighter safely returns home from his/her shift. Grace filled moments are evident when a loved one smiles, our children's eyes light up when we walk into the room, the excitement of new things learned, and when our

children and grandchildren crawl up on our laps and want simply to be near us. These every day moments, whether on the job or at home produce the largest blessings and are truly glimpses of grace.

In 2009 I hope and pray we have the vision to see these moments as blessings in our lives and the lives of others. This past year has given us all a mixed bag of life - personal triumphs, professional successes, and grand moments in the lives of our families along with times of grief and disappointment. I find hope in our experiences of comfort and camaraderie. My prayer is to draw upon the moments of grace which see us through the mountaintops and valleys of life.

I recently read an Irish poet's perspective of what a blessing means, written by the late John O'Donohue in his book "To Bless the Space Between Us."

"[A blessing] touches the tender membrane where the human heart cries out to its divine ground. In the ecstasy and loneliness of one's life, there are certain times when blessing is nearer to us than any other person or thing. A blessing is not a sentiment or a question; it is a gracious invocation where the human heart pleads with the divine heart. There is nothing more intimate in life than the secret under-territory where it anchors."

This year as we encounter life in all its forms - I pray we are able to recognize our blessings and the grace we are given finding our anchor in the Creator's movement in every moment of life.

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance." 1 Peter 1:2

CHRIS HALE, CHAPLAIN