

90 Yrs TFD

Ninety Years of the Twinsburg Fire Department
by Chief Daniel Simecek, Ret. for the
Twinsburg Historical Society

The history of TFD from 1919 to 1967 is spelled out in the 1967 Sesquicentennial Blue Book. The department started in 1919 and the first equipment was the 1919 twenty-five gallon soda acid extinguisher cart that was purchased through the efforts of Assistant Chief C. H. Mowe.

In 1923 the first fire station was an addition to Bowen's Garage which was immediately on the Southwest of Rte. 91 and Rte. 82. Chief Earl Bowen was also a REO Dealership and our first truck was a 1923 REO. The funds of \$1,461.00 were raised by the Chamber of Commerce and that is when they purchased the 1923 REO. You can see Twinsburg Fire Department at: mytwinsburg.com.

Our second truck a 1934 Ford is still owned and operated by Retired Chief Simecek. The original 1919 extinguisher was carried on the 1923 REO and the 1934 Ford until 1947.

T.F.D. was all volunteer from 1919 to 1988. Chief Simecek was the first full time member and the department went half full time and half volunteer for a number of years.

Our second Fire Station Building was in the Township Hall which is now the Twinsburg VFW Building from 1939 to 1955. In 1947 volunteer members built what is now the Twins Days Office next door to fit our new 1947 Buffalo Fire Truck.

In 1954 the volunteer members took out a loan from Twinsburg Bank and built the Township Building next door which is now the Sheriff's Office and used that building from 1955 to 1977.

The volunteers also in that year helped build Station 2, Geauga Lake which became the Reminderville Fire Department with those thirteen volunteers from Geauga Lake.

The City of Twinsburg built the present Station 1 at 10069 Ravenna Road in 1977 and added the second floor in 1994 and the rear addition in 1997. In 2006 the city built Station 2 on Glenwood Drive.

I was on the department from 1957 to 1997 and went up the individual ranks to chief in 1985 and retired in 1997.

There were eight fire chiefs in the Twinsburg Fire Department History.

All volunteers were paid from \$1.00 per call to \$8.00 per call and all the payroll monies were donated back to the Fire Department well into the 1980's.

After a major fire in 1953 on Church Street, with no fire hydrants in town, the volunteers all signed a bank note for a loan at Twinsburg Bank and purchased a 3,300 gallon tanker truck and raised funds for several years to pay off the bank note.

The volunteer members were alerted by a horizontal fire siren located on the Northeast corner of the Township Square in the 1930's and 40's. From the 1950's through the 1970's a new vertical siren was mounted behind what was the Township Hall on the Northwest corner of the square. The siren rang ten times for two minutes for a fire and one ring for a rescue call.

In 1966 the volunteer members bought the Plectron Radio Alert System and thirty-five members had a home alert system. In 1980 pocket pagers were purchased by the city. Pagers are still used today to call off duty members for major calls.

Presently T.F.D. has three rescue squads, two ladder trucks, two engine pumpers, a brush truck and many support vehicles. Also all T.F.D. firefighters are paramedics.

For more information go to Twinsburg Library Oral History D. Simecek.

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