

## Fire Department

North Yakima was the first town west of the Mississippi to have an auto fire wagon says Fire Chief Dawson. In fact three years ago when Rig No. 2 was purchased by the city, there were very few auto fire rigs in the entire country. Such vehicles were few and far between and were considered as experiments more than anything else.

Rig No. 2 was something of a homemade affair. It was designed in North Yakima and the orders for the parts were sent to St Louis where the parts were made. The parts were then sent here and assembled. The machine proved to be a success from the start.

The movement of replacing hose drawn vehicles by self-propelled vehicles has rapidly gained in popularity so that now cities all over the country, east as well as west, are adopting the auto and relegating the horse to the back yard of city affairs.

The head of the fire committee of the Vancouver, Wash. fire department has just written Chief Dawson asking if North Yakima does not own an ~~automobile~~ auto fire chemical and how it operates and how successfully it is used and what the people think of it. The Vancouver people are thinking of buying an automobile. Yakima Republic, April 19, 1910.

## Fire equipment

Three bids on combination self propelled combination pumping engine and hose car were opened by the city council last night.

The figures named were \$9,000, \$9,250, and \$8,500. The council referred the bids to the fire committee and the fire chief to make recommendations.

An ordinance regulating the storing of gasoline and other hydro-carbon liquids within the city limits was read and aroused some discussion. It was referred to the fire committee. It had been drawn up at the instance of the fire chief.

An ordinance was passed providing for the purchase of lots 9 and 10, block 72 on Walnut street and Third street as a site for a new fire station.

An ordinance was passed raising the salary of the fire chief to \$125; that of the assistant to \$100; of the captains to \$90 and of the firemen to \$75 for the first year, \$80 for the second and \$85 for the third.

The fire chief has found a graduated scale of salaries necessary in order to keep his men.

He has had 16 men in the last year, better jobs being offered so they did not remain with the department.

The city attorney was instructed to draw up a resolution raising the salary of the chief of police to \$125 and the captain of police to \$100--Yakima Republic, June 24, 1910.



## Fires

Almost the entire wholesale district of North Yakima is in ruins.

Fire starting as near as can be learned from spontaneous combustion swept the entire territory from Yakima avenue to A street and from the Northern Pacific right of way to Selah street Saturday night. It was only through heroic efforts of Sheriff Grant that the district south of the avenue was saved.

Two men were arrested for refusing to obey the orders of the sheriff.

The loss is over \$200,000 and is only covered by a comparatively small amount of insurance.

### Losses included:

Pioneer Lumber company \$25,000; Yakima Produce company \$50,000; Yakima Milling Co. stock and building \$6,000; J.M. Perry and Co, total loss, about \$15,000; Northern Pacific freight house and platform together with six cars, \$50,000; R.S. Morgan & Co., \$10,000; Coffin Bros. warehouse No 2, \$5,000; Yakima Hardware co., \$50,000; Springdale creamery \$1,000; G.T. Aumiller, partial loss \$1,000...The Yakima Herald, May 9, 1906.

## Fires

The Janeck building on Yakima avenue was gutted by fire last Thursday morning, resulting in a loss of about \$15,000. W.E. Ayres' drug store was totally destroyed. Dr. David Rosser's office furniture and fixtures on the second floor were practically ruined and Dr. J.F. Stephenson, dentist, suffered loss of nearly \$400. Ayres' loss will amount to about \$11,000 and Dr. Rosser's \$200 and the damage to the building, about \$3,000 with sufficient insurance to cover all losses.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It was discovered by Dr. Wells who sleeps in a room over Hand's meat market. Beck, the photographer, also sustained a loss in the Yellow Drug Store--~~losing~~ losing a frame of pictures--Yakima Herald, April 15, 1902.

## Fire department

The city's new big iron gray team was hitched to the new chemical engine last Friday for a trial at pulling the big machine.

This team is considered the finest in or about the city and it was thought that if it could not pull the machine no team could. The result is ~~too~~ the trial demonstrated that the engine is too heavy for a common fire team, though the grays walked along with it. With six men on the engine the estimated weight is 7,500 pounds which is too much for the average team to pull while traveling at a gallop, especially when rough roads are among the conditions to contend with-Yakima Herald, Feb. 2, 1902.



.....Mayor Fechter said he thought it was time to establish a paid fire department for the city.

It was moved and seconded and passed that the city attorney be instructed to draft an ordinance for a paid city fire department of 5 to 6 men in accordance with the rules of the fire insurance companies. This will mean a reduction of 20 per cent in insurance rates and at the rate of expense the present volunteer fire department has been taxed the city the past two months will be much cheaper.

For July and August the fire department has cost the city over \$875....The Yakima Herald, Sept. 7, 1904.

Our far-seeing mayor recommends a paid fire department.

Shades of Ben McMurtry and old Marshal Cock with their long the lines of bucket brigades swiftly passing water from hand to hand and Dr. Hill raging up and down the line like a roaring lion urging the men and boys to greater exertion swifter movements, incidentally throwing bricks at the unfortunate wight who disobeyed orders

or wandered in the way. And then we had the "brake" cheese-box on which everybody double ended banked, "hitson, Cap. Holton, Reavis, (even Reavis worked on such occasions) and all others puffing, pumping perspiring by the hour but then they extinguished the flames with the assistance of Churchill's tonic, always so freely furnished!

Next the city made cisterns at the cross streets for fire supply but unfortunately these "blasted" cisterns possessed a remarkable facility for leaking and being as dry as a bone whenever they were needed. Then came Fred Reed and his brand new fire engine, the pride and boast of the town for many months. Following along the city procured the present fire apparatus and

"the chemical" operated by the loyal, active, devoted volunteer fire

department , young men of the city who on the first tap of the alarm bell dropped everything and regardless of the hour or the season, hot or cold, rain or shine, night or day, rushed in and for years have protected our fair city from the devastations of the fire fiend.....The Yakima Herald, September 14, 1904.



## Fire Department

B.M. Hauser, fire chief-I think by the first of January we will have our fire department so changed that this city will have first class fire protection; that is for a city of this size.

Of course we cannot expect to have what a metropolitan city can afford, but when all the contemplated changes are made we will be in a position to do excellent work; and the people will benefit by this, not only in the saving of property from destruction but in a reduction of insurance rates.

Many people make remarks about the time required for the firemen to put in an appearance at a fire after it has started; but in this they must remember that by the time a person runs 10 to 12 blocks as has been the case in a number of instances lately, to give an alarm, the fire is well under way before he reaches the city hall.

Then it invariably happens that the fireman must wait several minutes to ascertain the location of the fire, so you see there is a great deal of time lost. By the alarm system that will not happen-The Yakima Herald, Nov. 12, 1901.



Firemen

Fire brigade Yakima CITY

Plans are on foot to organize a fire company in Yakima City. The new fire wagon will be moved into different quarters in a short time and W.L. Gwin the well known city marshal is arranging to have the fire brigade organized.

The new fire wagon is capable of throwing a strong stream of water to a great height. The Yakima Herald, July 24, 1907

...Regular meeting city council....

The matter of the bad condition of the fire system was brought up and discussed at some length. It appears that in purchasing the team of horses a "gold brick" was palmed off on the purchasing committee of the old council. Since the new engine arrived attempts have been made to train the horses to pull it, but this proved a failure.

The team turns out to be a combination of "old plugs" and balkiness, a product of Kittitas county. When taken out on trial Monday all efforts to make them pull were fruitless. They would not budge.

Consequently Sinclair, Moran and Wyman were appointed a special committee to sell the team and purchase a new one. In the meantime H.L. Tucker will furnish a team--The Yakima Herald, Tuesday, February 4, 1902.



## Fire Department

The annual election of the members of the Yakima fire department was held Wednesday evening and resulted in Fred E. Rowe being chosen chief, W.H. Atherton assistant chief, Myron Ellis secretary and Chas. Gordon treasurer--Herald, July 11, 1889

fire dept.

To the general regret of the fire department and many business men and property owners, Jack Kauffman handed in his resignation as chief of the fire department at the last meeting of the department.

Since the reorganization about a year and a half ago Mr. Kauffman has officiated in the responsible position of chief and has proven competent and faithful. He is popular with all the fire boys who regret his action sincerely and vigorously protested against it.

Mr. Kauffman states that he resigned because he had all he wanted of the unpleasant duties of fire chief under present conditions. He does not think the members of the department are receiving the treatment to which they are entitled and he preferred resigning to "scrapping" with the council. No choice of a successor has yet been made. The department will elect a chief and submit the name to the council for confirmation. -The Yakima Herald, August 2, 1905.



## Firemen

Every year for the past 15 years the fire laddies have given a ball.

They do this because their treasury needs repletion as there is always some expense attached to the maintenance of a fire company.

This year it will be a mask ball of large proportions. It will be "Carnival of Fun" and will be held on Christmas night at the armory--The Yakima Herald, Dec. 23, 1902.

## Fire

Fifty-four hours after Yakima's half-million dollar Produce row fire of Friday night the city fire department was called out this morning and remained on the job all day battling smoke and flames shooting out from burning sawdust on the roof and between the walls of the Hafener building. Today's flames will result in the practical destruction of the \$50,000 Hafener building, originally estimated damaged to the extent of \$25,000 according to George H. Bradshaw of the Guaranty Trust company in charge of the property.

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Claim n to be driven b spirit voices, Vernon Neilan a box maker at the ~~Produce Row~~ Pacific Fruit & Produce company yesterday repeatedly confessed that he started the blaze that Saturday morning burned out a \$445,000 section of Produce Row.

At a preliminary hearing at the police station Sunday before Dr. John Nywening he was judged a victim of paranoia and ordered removed to the county jail. Prosecuting Attorney Sydney Livesey has recommended his immediate confinement in an institution for the insane.

Friday night before leaving his work at the Pacific Fruit & Produce company warehouse he had written a note to a fellow worker:

Dear Herb, the note reads, the Roche Fruit company burned down last night. "He explained at the hearing yesterday that he had written the note expecting it to be read the next morning. It was this note turned over to Fire Chief Harry Hawkins that led to suspicion Neilan knew about the fire. ..

It was Neilan's plan only to burn down the Roche Fruit company plant. Besides the impelling voices he was driven to set the fire out of an antipathy to the name Roche he said yesterday.



## City

### Firemen

The Yakima fire laddies propose giving a social hon on the 14th of February. In the afternoon there will be speed contests by the hose teams and a general drill of the department. In the evening the new city hall and engine house will be formally opened with a ball, which promises to be one of the social events of the season. The boys who run with themachine hope to see all of their friends present.--Yakima Herald, January 9, 1890.

Duly signed by Mayor Philip M. Armbruster on the behalf of the city of North Yakima the order for the first auto pumping fire rig in the northwest has at last gone forth.

The rig will probably not be here for four or five months as the company has three months in which to make it and considerable time must be allowed for shipment.

The rig will cost \$8,500. It will be made by the Webb Motor Fire apparatus company of St. Louis.

North Yakima leads the way in this departure in the Northwest just as she did a few years ago when she installed the first motor rig, the one now used at station No. 2

While other cities have auto rigs they are all chemical and hose carts. None of the cities have tried the pumping rig. A considerable number of them have been tried in the east and one was tried at Alameda, Calif. and another is in use at Manila, P.I

It was one of the reasons that the pumping rig had not been tried in Seattle that fire Chief Dawson thought the Seattle fire chief had no business to make him recommendations concerning the various makes of auto pumping rigs.

The rig will have a storage battery of its own and will be electric lighted. The siren whistle such as now make the night hideous when No. 2 makes a run will be another attraction.

The engine will be of 90 horse power and designed to run at speeds of not greater than 35 miles an hour; the ordinary speed will be 35. It will weight 3,000 pounds.

When the engine is disconnected from the driving apparatus and is connected with the pump it will pump 800 gallons of water a minute. Through two 50 foot lines with 1 1/8 inch nozzles it will pump 500 gallons



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a minute at a pressure of 200 pounds. It will throw water  
over the highest building or church steeple in the city.  
Yakima Republic, August 12, 1910.  
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speed will be 35000 35. It will weigh 3,000 pounds.

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foot lines with 1-8 inch nozzles it will pump 500 gallons

North

Yakima's volunteer fire department passed out of existence last Wednesday night. At that time there were twenty firemen in the company and in their treasury was the sum of \$135 which was divided among them equally.

Some of the volunteer firemen will become members of the city's reserve force and be paid for work actually done at fires. Others will retire from the fireman's strenuous life and when the alarm bell wakes them from peaceful slumber and sweet dreams will laugh to think it is their privilege to turn over in bed and go to sleep again.

Chas. M. Hauser whose appointment as chief of the paid fire department was confirmed by the council last Tuesday evening began his duties as chief bright and early the following day. He has found a great deal to do in a short time to get the department in shape for the time being and will keep busy until it is all that a paid department in the growing city of North Yakima should be.

Quarters for the firemen who are required to be at the department headquarters day and night have been comfortably and conveniently arranged just over the engine room. The floor has been covered with linoleum and new beds and bedding have been furnished.

"Do the four men appointed at the time your nomination was made meet with your approval?" Mr. Hauser was asked.

"Yes," he said, "I am glad to say they do...."

The paid firemen are E.G. Dawson, J.J. Miller, J.P. Bowman, and H.C. Dawson. The latter was appointed after a conference between the mayor and new chief. There is a reserve company



who will keep in practice and who will be paid for every fire attended, made up partly of new men and partly from the old volunteer department, composed of R.T. Liggett, Dave Clark, Harry Mull, Henry Neal, W.D. Walker, Robert Billups, H.R. Mitchell, F.D. Clemmer, Albert Bender and J.C.C. Coombs--The Yakima Herald, Sept. 7, 1905.

reserve force and be paid for work actually done at fires. Others will retire from the fireman's strenuous life and when the alarm all wakes them from peaceful slumber and soon sweet dreams will laugh to think it is their privilege to turn over in bed and go to sleep again.

Thomas M. Hansen whose appointment as chief of the paid fire department was confirmed by the council last Tuesday evening began his duties as chief bright and early the following day. He has found a job at hand to do in a short time to get the department in shape for the time being and will keep busy until it is all that a paid department in the growing city of North Yakima should be.

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## Fire Department

Red and Colonel and the other two horses of the North Yakima fire department will soon go under the hammer. There has arrived here a piece of automobile fire apparatus which will put them out of commission so far as their responsibilities as city servants go.

The horses will of course remain until the new apparatus is in service and tried out. Then they will go, but they will not be pensioned. They will become daily toilers in other lines of activity. Perhaps the fire department boys will be the only ones who will regret their downfall for it is a downfall from the thrill and glamor, the dash and the romance of fire fighting to hauling perhaps, the lettuce laden wagon of an alien market gardener.

The change will not be made in one move but is almost inevitable unless and that would not be so bad from an artistic point of view, the four beats are crushed to death under the falling wall of the next or an early alarm.

Old Red will make a splendid saddle horse for some man or woman as he is a gaited animal. The black is the prettiest beast of the lot. Old Colonel is a faithful gentleman good enough to share any home while the big white faced bay should become a driving <sup>animal</sup> for some gentleman who would appreciate appearance, style, action and just a trace of impetuosity. They have about done their duty for the city and are on the eve of being converted into cash in which respect the city profits more than if they were human servants. Apart altogether from speculation and sentiment the fact is that the horse wagon is going out and the horseless wagon is coming in--The Yakima Herald, February 7, 1912.