

Fire Department's Redesigned Equipment



Left to right, Tommy Elliott, R. Carl Ballard, Fire Chief Allen E. Erwin, Capt. W. C. Rice and Chuck Gibson try out the old fire truck which has been remodeled under the direction of Chief Erwin.

W. P. Sun
May 26, 1955

Local Fireman Saves Life At Avalon Fire

One of the untold stories of the disastrous fire that demolished the Avalon Hotel in Orlando Monday morning, has yet to be told.

One of Winter Park's firemen—W. C. Rice, Jr., was probably the means of saving the life of one of the Orlando firemen.

The local fire department was called to the fire about 3:06 Monday morning. Rice was second man on a 50 foot ladder reaching to the roof of the hotel, with an Orlando fireman above him, and two other men below him.

When the roof of the hotel caved in, flames belched through the windows. In the intense heat, the man above Rice let go. Rice grabbed him as he fell back, and held on to the fireman until help

Fire Department Redesigns Old Truck To Meet Needs In Fire Equipment

What do you as a property owner of Winter Park know about the fire department?

Do you know where the fire station is located and approximately how long it would take a fire truck to reach your home or place of business?

Do you know how many or to say it another way, how few men ride the first and second truck?

Do you have any idea how long it takes to notify and assemble the volunteer section?

Is the fire phone number posted near your phone?

Are you interested in knowing the cost of fire protection in relation to the insurable value of property?

The first five minutes of a fire are generally more important than the next several hours.

It is tremendously important that you call the fire department immediately upon discovering a fire or suspected fire.

With the small number of men of duty at the fire station it is urgently necessary

nozzles attached are connected to the pump. Upon arriving at a fire, either one or all three hoselines can be placed in operation in a matter of seconds. This method speeds up attack and control of fires over the old method where the truck dropped hose off at the fire and laid a line to the hydrant, connected the pump to the hydrant, requiring several minutes.

Should the fire be of such magnitude as to exhaust the water supply in the tank, the second pumper lays a line from the first to the nearest hydrant or lake replenishing the supply.

The redesigning, body and tank dimensions, piping hook-ups and much of the other work was done by the members of the fire department under the supervision of Chief Allen Erwin.

The building of the tank, welding on the body and paint job was let out on contract.

The entire job came under the watchful eye of Acting City Manager Clark Maxwell. Each time bids for portions of the work were submitted, Mr. Maxwell and

Fire Department To Sponsor Scout Troop

Acting City Manager Clark Maxwell has given his approval for the local fire department to sponsor a Boy Scout troop in Winter Park.

With this city blessing, an official of the Boy Scout office in Orlando will meet with the fire department this week and explain organization procedure to them.

Any local boys who are not already affiliated with the Boy Scout movement, and who are interested in becoming Scouts are asked to get in touch with either Chief Erwin or Carl Ballard at the fire department.

W. P. Sun
July 15, 1954

Boy Scout Troop Being Formed By Fire Department

Carl Ballard has been chosen as Scoutmaster for the new Boy Scout troop under organization by the local fire department, according to an announcement by Fire Chief Erwin. James Osteen will serve the new troop as assistant scoutmaster; Allen (Chief) Erwin as institutional representative, and William Rice Jr. as chairman of the Winter Park committee.

Committee members will be C. W. Graves, Morris Parker, Richard Baldwin, Tommy Elliott, Art Hopcroft and Donald Cook.

C. D. Caldwell, Scout executive for the Central Florida Council, and Henry Curry, chairman of district organization and extension work, met with members of the fire department Friday night and explained the organizational set up.

Patrols of five boys each will be set up, and all boys in Winter Park or vicinity who are interested in joining the Boy Scouts are asked to contact Carl Ballard at the fire department on West Lyman Avenue. As soon as five boys have been signed up, the troop will be eligible for its charter.

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It is tremendously important that you call the fire department immediately upon discovering a fire or suspected fire.

With the small number of men of duty at the fire station it is urgently necessary that the fire truck arrive at fires while they are still small. The fire department cannot restore lives, property and other valuables, after they have been destroyed by fire.

To in some measure offset the limited manpower situation, the fire truck in the foreground was redesigned by the fire department. The body was widened and lengthened to accommodate a water tank of 570 gallons. The tank is piped to the pump, then through a series of valves and piping, 1 one-inch hose line with nozzle attached and 2 one-and-one-half-inch hose lines with

nozzles attached are connected to the pump. Upon arriving at a fire, either one or all three hoses can be placed in operation in a matter of seconds. This method speeds up attack and control of fires over the old method where the truck dropped hose off at the fire and laid a line to the hydrant, connected the pump to the hydrant, requiring several minutes.

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The building of the tank, welding on the body and paint job was let out on contract.

The entire job came under the watchful eye of Acting City Manager Clark Maxwell. Each time bids for portions of the work were submitted, Mr. Maxwell and Chief Erwin made a careful study to arrive at quality of work within a price commensurate with the job.

Two thousand dollars was budgeted for the conversion job, but only \$1,460 was spent. Several fire apparatus representatives have visited the fire station and expressed the opinion, had the entire job of conversion been contracted out, it would have cost several thousand dollars.

The fire department is grateful to the city manager and through him to the mayor and members of the city commission for their understanding and co-operation in this project.

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