



The Smoke Eater

August 2022 - Volume 9, Issue 2

Published quarterly by The Old Fire Farts of York County, Pa.
SPAAMFAA Chapter - White Rose Fire Preservation of York, Pa.

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Editors Comments:

Please enjoy our 2022 3rd quarter newsletter. As mentioned before, ideas of things to add or feature are also always welcomed! Please submit anything to me via email at alwaysready1853@outlook.com

Kraig

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT.....

Our annual picnic was held this year at William Kain County Park on July 10th, and 24 of our members were in attendance. Darlene and Eddie Schwartz, who have so graciously opened their doors to host our annual picnic for many years, were unavailable to host our picnic this year. Unfortunately, due to a lack of elected officers in attendance we were unable to hold our quarterly meeting at the picnic. Instead, our quarterly meeting was held on August 6, 2022 at the Lincoln Engine Co. No. 9 engine house in York City.

During that quarterly meeting, we covered some important business. First, the membership in attendance unanimously adopted the new bylaws that the bylaws committee has been working on for quite some time. As a result, the annual meeting will now be held in the second quarter of the calendar year, and all elected officers will begin their one-year terms at the beginning of our fiscal year, on July 1st. The President is limited to three consecutive terms, and all other positions have had their term limits removed. Speaking of elections, if anyone is interested in serving as an officer of the organization, our elections are just three meetings away. We will also need to appoint a nominating committee, so if you would be willing to serve on the nominating committee, please let me know. This is my last term as President of the association, so there will be some positions that will need to be filled.

Also at the meeting, the membership approved for the association to host the 2024 SPAAMFAA summer national convention here in York. It will be held in conjunction with the American Truck Historical Society's national convention and truck show on June 6 to 8, 2024 at the York Fair Grounds. The Professional Car Society will also hold their 2024 international meet here as well. This will be a HUGE event that will take a lot of time and energy to pull off. Please mark your calendars now, and please consider donating some of your time to help with this event.

On Sunday, August 7th, we held our Bingo at the Dover Township community room to benefit our scholarship program. Bob Straw will soon be able to provide the final tally for that event. In addition, at our quarterly meeting, the membership approved the recommendation of our scholarship committee and awarded three scholarships, one each to Tyler Golden, Ryan Gibney and Elijah Singer. Those scholarships are given in memory of Rodney Miller, Paul Rehn and Richard Lehr.

Bob Straw and I continue to sit on a committee for the York County History Center which is tasked with restoring the city's firefighter monument of the York County Fire Museum, as well as developing a memorial to all fire and EMS personnel who have died in the line of duty in York County. Progress has been made, but there is still a lot more work to do.

Our next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on October 15th, possibly at Yorkana's new fire station, the Rodney J. Weitkamp Memorial Station on Mount Pisgah Road. Also, our annual Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 10, 2022 at and in conjunction with the Union Fire Company of Manchester. This was a great event last year, and one I suggest that you do not miss!

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting!

Greg Halpin
President

ATTENTION OLD FIRE
FARTS MEMBERS.....



Our 9th Annual York Fire Muster is scheduled for Sunday September 25, 2022 in beautiful downtown Fawn Grove, Pa.! Help will be needed at the Registration / Motorcade lineup, onsite for apparatus parking and other tasks. If you can help all or part of the day, please let Kraig know by September 20th.



The Old Fire Farts of York County are proud to announce the winners of the three scholarships that were awarded at the Firefighter's Association of York County 110th Annual Dinner on Friday August 19th at the York County Fire School. The winners are as follows:

The Chief Rodney P Miller Scholarship was awarded to Ryan P. Gibney from Eureka Fire & Ambulance Co. Ryan will be attending Lebanon Valley College in the field of Dr. of Physical Therapy

The Paul Rehn Scholarship was awarded to Tyler S. Golden from Airville Vol. Fire Co. Tyler will be attending York College of PA in the field of Nursing.

The Richard "Dick" Lehr Scholarship was awarded to Elijah Dinger from West Manchester Township Fire Dept. Elijah will be attending HACC and attending the EMT Program.

We congratulate all the winners and wish them the best in their education endeavors.

2022 Fire Muster Returning to Fawn Grove

The 9th Annual York Fire Muster will be returning to Fawn Grove's Ole Tyme Days Park on Sunday September 25, 2022. If you have any ideas on ways to improve our Muster or want to be part of the Committee, please reach out to Kraig Herman or Jeff Stauffer. Over the next few weeks, we are planning to have more information pertaining to the Muster. Please stay tuned to the Old Fire Farts Facebook page for more information!



Farts Spotted in Carlisle.....

An anonymous correspondent has reported to *"The Smoke Eater"* that recently the Old Fire Farts were spotted at the Carlisle National Truck Show for the 6th year in a row. The event was held August 5 through 7, 2022. The Old Fire Farts had 6 Engines on display in Building T as a featured group. Other apparatus that joined us were Ken Bacon with his open cab ALF, Jacobus Fire Co. and their Model T Ford with a hand pump mounted on it, Liberty Hose Fire Co. # 2 from Lykens with their International Pumper, and New Kingston Fire Co. with their GMC Darley Pumper. The Old Fire Farts were busy everyday with people asking about the fire trucks on display, promoting our organization, the York County Convention, and the 9th Annual York Fire Muster. \$200 in Muster shirts were sold over the course of three (3) days. *"The Smoke Eater"* was able to interview Old Fire Farts Master Bob Straw who passed wind to the fact that next year, the goal is to fill our space with 7 apparatus from Old Fire Farts members.

Thanks to our two members Mike Whitzel and Charles Riley for bringing your apparatus to display this year.



Figure 1 - Mike Whitzel's 1942 Ford / Darley



Figure 2 - Charles Riley's 1988 Pierce Arrow

City Garage Destroyed by Fire

By Gregory C. Halpin

On February 27, 1973 at 6:09 p.m. on a Tuesday evening, fire bells in the city fire stations started to ring from Gamewell Box #82, then located at Broad and Walnut Streets. As the apparatus was responding to the alarm, phone lines at York County Control were lighting up with reports of an explosion and fire at the City Highway Garage, located at 340 Walnut Street. Firefighters arrived to find a wall partially blown out by an explosion, and a well involved fire in the building. The fire escalated to three alarms, bringing city fire apparatus as well as mutual aid units to battle the fire. By 6:30 p.m., about 125 firefighters were on the scene of the fire.



The building was reported to be locked and secure by city workers at 4:30 p.m., with nothing unusual noted until an explosion in the Sewer Department's storage area on the south side of the building. Flames raced along the underside of the roof, and amongst the vehicles and materials stored in the building. Firefighters were able to contain the majority of the damage to the east end of the building. A diesel truck was mysteriously found running while firefighters battled the fire, presumably started by the heat of the fire.



By morning, the extent of the damage had become clear. Essentially all of the public works vehicles were inside the building at the time of the fire. Fire department records show thirty-two vehicles in the building at the time of the fire. Public Works Director Elgin G. Radcliff reported the following vehicles damaged or destroyed: two Electrical Bureau trucks, two mobile air compressors, all of the snow removal equipment, including two tractors and two snow blowers, a Sewage Department disposal truck, a pickup truck, a grader and a paver. A front-end loader was also damaged by the fire. The fire loss from the incident was estimated to be in excess of \$247,000.00.

I have a personal recollection of this fire. As a wide-eyed twelve-year-old, I can remember sitting at the supper table when the alarm was

sounded. When the fire was reported as at the Garage, my father, at the time the maintenance officer in the Fire Department, immediately left the table and drove to the scene, as he had keys to access the building. Shortly after, we could smell the smoke from the fire at our home, and eventually my mother took me to see the fire. It was the first time I could remember seeing outside fire companies at a fire in the city.

Family Legacy Uncovered...It All Started with An Old Helmet

By Kraig Herman

I remember has a young boy, not even 10 years old yet, once I year I got to wear an old fire helmet during a parade as I sat atop a 1965 American LaFrance 900 series engine that belonged to Liberty Fire Co. No. 1 in North York. It would be years until I was told this helmet once belonged to by grandfather (PopPop), Harris Herman. Over the course of the next 30 plus years, I would periodically see a picture of a young boy holding a sign that said "Fire Meeting Tonight" as he stood next to another gentleman, who was pointing. I had never heard any names of the boy or man. And remember, I said "picture", not a news article.



The only thing I knew about the picture for years was exactly what it was saying; fire meeting tonight. This meeting was to organize Liberty Fire Co. No. 1 of North York Borough. Thanks to *Newspapers.com* I would learn that the Herman name was involved in Liberty for many years, starting with my grandfather, herein referred to as PopPop, Harris Herman. I had located various articles pertaining to Liberty that would list the officers of the Company. I learned not only did PopPop serve on North York Borough Council, but he also held various administrative offices for the fire company. I thought this was the start of the Herman Family affiliation with Liberty Fire Co. In late Winter 2022, I was fortunate enough to take possession of some memorabilia from Liberty after the department closed. While looking through some framed photos, I came across the "fire meeting tonight" picture again. Only this time I noticed there was parts of what looked like a caption under the picture. After I got home, I once again turned to *Newspapers.com* in hopes I would find the article associated with the picture. I found it and the caption floored me.....

The young boy holding the sign was Earl Herman, who would later become a Lutheran Pastor. Through previous research on my family ancestry, I did not recall coming across the name. I left it at that. A few days later, I was driving home from work and began thinking about this picture again. A HA! I remembered I was forwarded a digital copy of the charter establishing Liberty Fire Co.. I never really looked it over closely but as soon as I got home, I did. Lo and behold, as I perused the signatures of those chartered members, I came across the name S.H. Herman and that looked familiar. Back to *Ancestry.com* I went and there I found gold. Simon Henry Herman, my 2nd great- granduncle and Earl was his son. I was ecstatic! Then another question popped into my mind.....

Could it be the Herman name was a part of Liberty Fire Co. of North York since its planning and formation? A look back at articles I saved and after about two hours of work, I was able to confirm that indeed, the last name Herman was on the membership rolls of Liberty Fire Co. No. 1, North York Borough Pennsylvania for its whole life..... 122 years. A family legacy to be proud of and at least for me, started with an old helmet.

2022 Joint Christmas Party

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2022

6PM

LOCATION: UNION FIRE CO. NO. 1 MANCHESTER

Watch your email and the O.F.F. Facebook page for more details in mid-November!



Former York County Ladder Trucks

Some randomly selected images of ladder trucks that were formerly in service in York County fire companies.



Figure 1- Dillsburg's Seagrave ladder truck, Ladder 64



Photo from the
Len Sasher collection
scanned by Frank808323@msn.com

Figure 2- Emigsville's Seagrave ladder truck, Ladder 24



Figure 3- Hallam's Mack ladder truck, Ladder 21

A rarity, a city service ladder truck in service in York County



Photo from the
Len Sasher collection
scanned by Frank808323@msn.com

Figure 4- Red Lion's American LaFrance ladder truck, Ladder 34. Formerly York City Ladder B



Figure 5- Shiloh's Hahn ladder truck, Ladder 2



Figure 6- York New Salem's Pirsch ladder truck, Ladder 8