

OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Many people have asked about our Fire Department, how it was started and what it was like in the old days.

To begin with the people were the volunteer firemen and their apparatus were the buckets they carried in their hands. Many years ago when a fire broke out someone would run up and down the streets hollering fire. The church bells would ring and this was the signal for everyone to find out where the fire was and to come running with their buckets. The nearest hand pump was their source of water.

Later on in years they manufactured a chemical tank, that was erected on a two wheel cart with a hose attached. The volunteers would pull the cart or attach a horse and wagon to pull it to the nearest fire.

In 1892 the first source of water supply was built in McHenry. This gave the town fire hydrants, which meant a great deal to the people. It was not long after this the two wheel hose carts were brought into use. At this time it was only the town of McHenry that was in existence. There were no subdivisions surrounding the town like there is today. These two wheel carts were stationed in three different locations in the town. One on the west side of town, in back of where Staffels Insurance Agency is now located. One in the center part of town,

where Bolgers Drug Store now stands, and the third hose cart was located where Nye's Drug Store is today.

Also at this time there was the Borden Milk Co. plant located where Tonyan's Construction Co. stands today. This was the source of the alarms, the plant had

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