

New Fire Truck - cont'd from page 14

Bob Mathison, fire chief, and "Happy" McInnis, past fire captain, of Atikokan, were here to see the new equipment demonstrated.

These are the facts, but to Schreiber, this 'fire engine' represents much more, in the protection it offers, as compared with the first fire fighting equipment in the town, which organized by the C.P.R. shop department, was simply a reel of hose on hand-drawn wheels.

About 1931, Reeve J.E. Sheehan's appeal for a volunteer town fire brigade was answered by Cyril Sparkes, Hubert Weaver, Hugh Stewart, Albert Gauthier, Floyd Caldwell, and Lester McCuaig, with Don Rossie, Bill Hawker and Charlie Firman soon joining.

Under Floyd's direction an old Ford sedan was transformed into the town's first fire truck and well-served its purpose, supported by the old reels.

Due to this new protection the fire insurance rates, from an intolerable cost was reduced to just another item in the family budget.

But the grim record of Schreiber fires remains to admonish any who would question the money spent on protection.

On January 28, 1909 the Queen's Hotel, the McCuaig block, the Beamist Syore, a tailor shop, a candy store and a dwelling, all on the front street were burned; in 1911, the King Edward Hotel, in the west, went; in 1919, the rink; in 1917, the CPR station, in the 1920's the CPR Boarding house and the Webb block, both in the centre of town went; in 1924, Message's Store, the McCuaig block and part of the Bank of Montreal; in 1957, Birchwood Motors, with apartments above it and in 1962 the Mayfair Hotel.

This does not take into account the private homes which burned down.

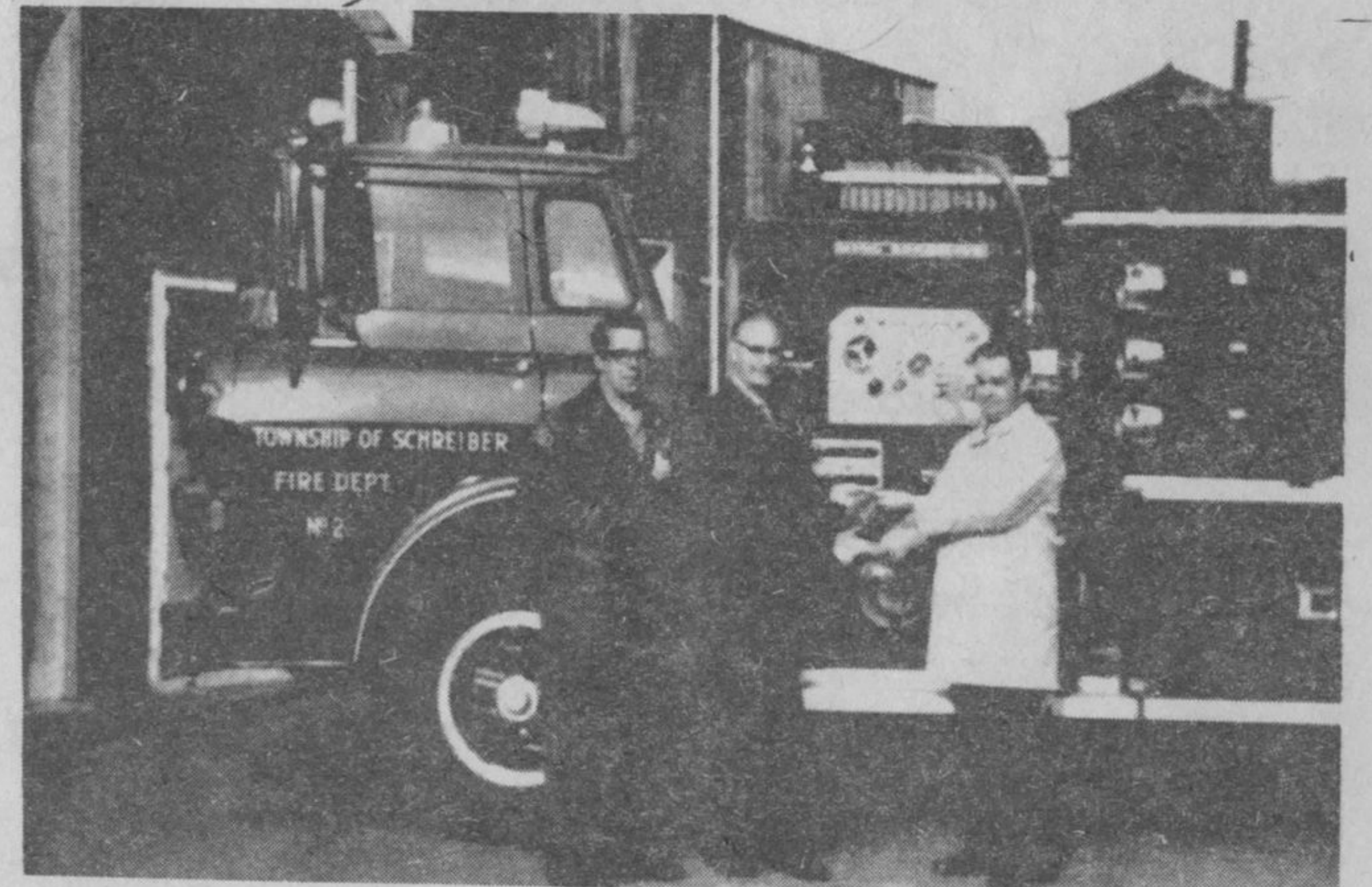
The first, new fire truck, was purchased in 1948 and served well.

But, it can easily be believed that the proudest man at the presentation of this new equipment was Cyril Sparkes, who starting 46 years ago, with hand drawn reel is still on the fire brigade in Schreiber.

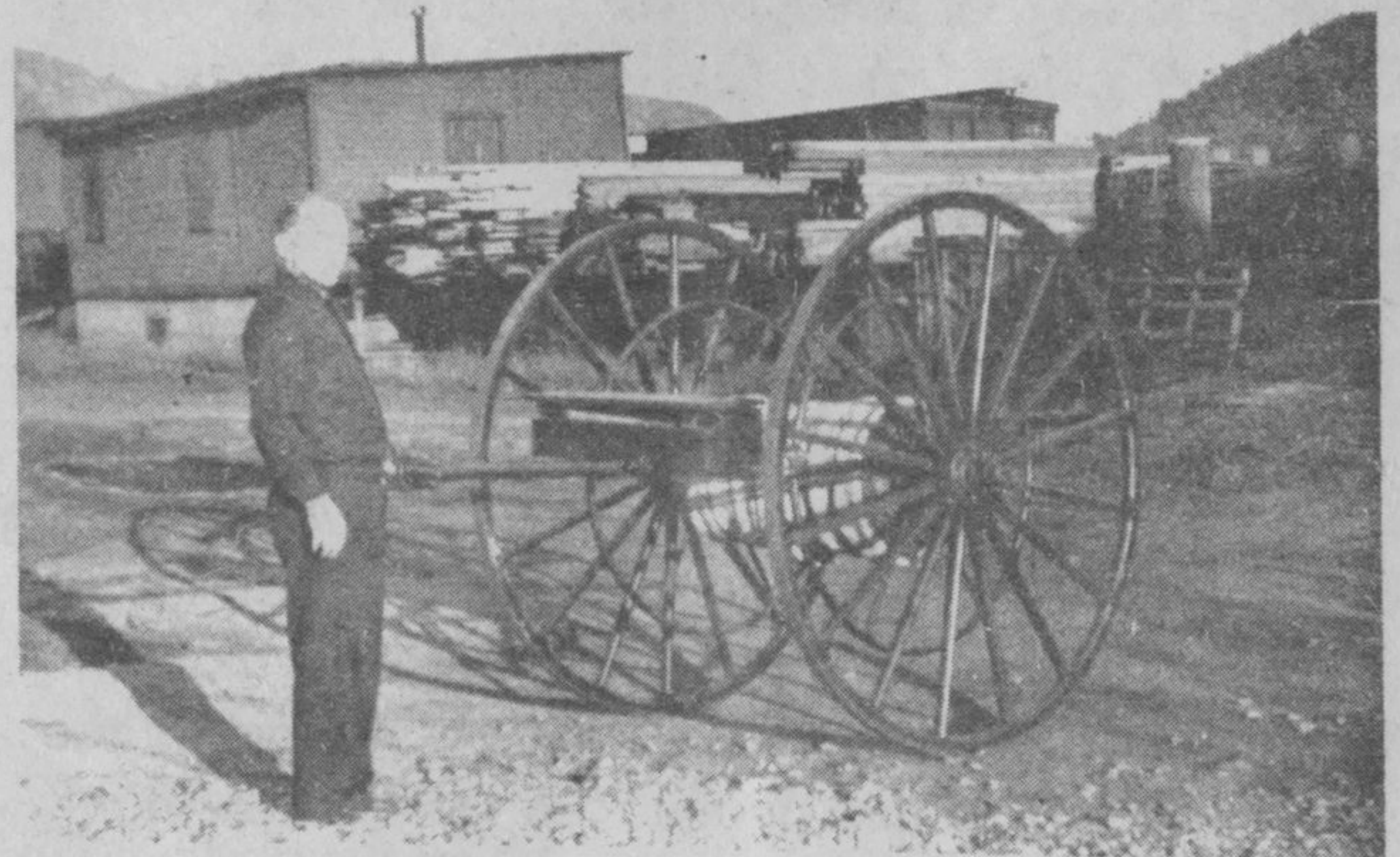
1st photo next column --- fire brigade with fire truck purchased in 1948 - Wes Clemens, driver, fire chief; back - first man unknown, Jack Richardson, Floyd Caldwell, Albert Bourguignon, Burton Phillips - front - Hugh Stewart, Pete Halonen,

George Riley, missing - Cyril Sparkes.

Fire Chief Peter Doig, Reeve F.V. Harness, Grayson E. Champeau who presented equipment.



Hugh Stewart with first old hand drawn reel.



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SEARCH AND RESCUE CREW

The crew of the helicopter Search and Rescue and members of the local search party who found Dominic continued page 17