



FULLY INVOLVED

Volume 1, Issue 5

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FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

Hello Everyone. I continue to be impressed with the amount of public service projects our employees and retirees are involved in and how you are serving others. As I write this article I am thinking of these various activities and how many people are served by your actions. I know many of you are involved in church and/or civic groups. Many of these groups are involved in outreach projects within our community. You are serving others. I have seen you work with the youth of our community. This past month, as we focused on fire prevention efforts, you spent time talking and working with the young people to help spread the message of "Fire Safety." And our new fire safety house at Safety City is helping us share this message to thousands of children every year. You are serving others.

You wore "pink" and worked long hours to help bring awareness to various women's cancer issues. You are serving others. You cooked and served chili for the Ben Richie Boy's Ranch and helped with this year's United Way efforts. Again, you are serving others.

I truly believe it is this desire to serve others that makes the AFD such an impressive group to work with. I know you are appreciated by those you serve and I am proud to be associated with each of you.

Thank you for all you do in service to others.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and joyful New Year!



KEN DOZIER
FIRE CHIEF

We want AFD families to stay in touch with us and with each other by letting us hear from you. Send your stories, pictures, and questions to us at:
abifire@abilenetx.com
(325) 676-6676

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- Danish FF Niels Faurby
- LT Larry Lambert
- CAPT Michael Burden
- LT Guy Turner
- LT Randy Scalf
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MILESTONES

AFD Remembers...Retiree Otis McCoy passed away November 18, 2009 at the age of 91. Services were held at North's Chapel in Abilene and burial followed at Midway Cemetery. Otis was born in Hawley, Texas to Willie Carl and Lena McCoy. He is survived by his wife, Helen (Nixon) whom he married July 3, 1927 and two sons, Ricky & Ron, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. He served in the US Army during WWII and retired at the rank of Senior Firefighter serving with the AFD for 33 years of service.

Retiree Octamus J. Dukes' prayers were answered October 10, 2009 when he went to join his Lord and Savior at the age of 92. Services were held at the Northwest Church of Christ where he served as an elder for 31 years and a deacon from 1996 until his death. Burial followed at Elmwood Memorial Cemetery. Octamus was born in Jack County, Texas and lived all over the state of Texas. He graduated from West Texas State with a BA degree. Married to Maxine Street for 47 years and Vera Cash for 17 years, both preceded him in death; he is survived by 8 children, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. An active volunteer, he was also a medic/veteran of WWII and attained the rank of Lieutenant serving on the AFD for 26 years.

Retirements...Firefighter Frederick A. Bradford served the citizens of Abilene for over thirty-one years retiring August 31, 2009. He began the academy October 3, 1977 and during his tenure acquired EMT-B, and Advanced Firefighter certifications. Firefighter Bradford said he would fry up some fish for Station 8 and have an informal "Send-Off" celebration TBA. We wish him a long, healthy retirement at his future home near the Texas coast.

Firefighter Douglas W. Cory served the citizens of Abilene for over twenty-one years. He began his tenure at the academy May 24, 1988 and acquired EMT-B, and Advanced Firefighter certifications. Doug retired October 25, 2009 and tried to sneak away but his family had other plans and threw him a shindig November 21st. Best wishes and good luck keeping up with those grandchildren!

Firefighter Charles "Beetle" E. Bailey served the citizens of Abilene for over twenty-six years. He began the academy March 16, 1982 and during his tenure acquired EMT-B, and Intermediate FF certifications. Beetle retired November 17, 2009 without fanfare. He is smiling and staying busy. We wish him the best on a long and happy retirement.

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ONE OF THE BETTER DECISIONS

Recently four Danish firefighters visited Abilene on their 'Tour of Texas' seeing 'Texas Style' fire service first hand. On the Frederikshavn Brandmandsforening (translated Fire Association) website FF Niels Faurbye posted a travel log of their time in Texas. It's clear from the Danes' perspective Abilene was on the top of their list of places they visited in Texas. The following is taken from two essays (one Danish & one English) written by FF Faurbye.

We are thankful for new friends and brothers from the Frederikshavn Brandmandsforening.



LT Clifton Morrison & FF Matt Self with Danish FFs Hans Schou and Tom Monk

Four Danish Firefighters on a Texas road trip to meet our Texas Firefighter Brothers.

After we went to Gainesville and Wichita Falls, from there to Abilene where we passed Station 1 and decided to visit, *it proved to be one of the better decisions.* We continued our 10 days trip in Texas, that brought us to Abilene, where we visited station 1 and got a nice tour of the station by Russell. *Abilene fire Department seemed the most professional and well-organized fire Department we visited on the tour,* there is little difference between an American and Danish fire Department, many of the methods are similar, the biggest difference is how a fire department in the United States is organized, at the tactical area, I think we will be able to gain much from sharing experiences.



Captain Russell Pope took courage and gave us the big tour, Abilene is a city with 120,000 inhabitants and eight manned fire stations. The Abilene Fire Department currently makes around 12,000 rounds from which 85% are EMS calls. There are four Marshall's who are armed firefighters who work with the investigation of suspicious fires. *The fire brigade we visited is most professional and structured,* and works from the ISO standard.

Tuesday morning when the guard was over we drove along with Russell and three of the firemen out in the Wild West with an arsenal of weapons, gunpowder and bullets that would make the Allies on D-Day envious. We were preparing to target shoot and about to fire the weapons and Russell gave a short briefing then finishing with a casual remark that we should beware of stepping on rattlesnakes, it could be enough we switched our sandals with real shoes :-). *We were so lucky that the guys from Abilene spent some time on us; they took us out shooting, something that would be quite impossible in Denmark, unless you want to go to jail.*



FF Dave Clark visiting with the Danes at St. 1

*Hi Abilene Fire Department,
After a very nice trip to Texas we are back home in Denmark with a lot of good memories, about the Texas hospitality!
I have been around the world; no place beat Texas when it comes to friendly people and a special thanks to Russell Pope.
FF Niels Faurbye (Email note sent to the AFD)*



FFs Hans Schou, Tom Monk, Jimmy Pedersen and Niels Faurbye

After an entire morning with target shooting a B-1 bomber flew over our heads from a nearby airbase, and then we went back to Russell's where he prepared lunch which consisted of wild pork, salami made from deer, beans and salad, everything was washed down with a *choice Texas beverage* ... not bad. **We ended the day with a good lunch with the guys it was the best day on the whole trip.**

One thing is certain the boys at the Abilene Fire Department are the most hospitable and friendly people we have met. We hope once to have the opportunity to reciprocate their hospitality.

From Abilene, we drove to Fredericksburg and San Antonio where we visited the Alamo, from home, I had read little about the Alamo, and found out that the Lone Star flag was made by a Dane, his name was Charles and he emigrated to America in 1833. In 1835 he volunteered for The First volunteers in Lynchburg, Charles was among the 189 volunteers who were killed during the Battle of The Alamo, therefore you can see the Danish flag in the Alamo.



The Great Dane's in West Texas

MILESTONES...Continued from Page 1

Our AFD Family is Growing!

Congratulations to our proud parents...

FF Tony & Julie Hay on the birth of Logan Anthony who was born November 24th at weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 3/4" long.

FF KC & Brandi Morris on the birth of Ralston Cooper who was born October 22nd weighing 9.2 lbs and was 22" long.

FF Kenny & Angelita Follis on the birth of Miles Ray who was born on September 10th weighing 8 lbs and was 20" long.

DSHS Certification...EMT-Paramedic - PFF Johnston

NFPA Hazmat Tech Certifications...FFs Fullerton, Hansen & Morris

TCFP Certifications...Intermediate – PFF Johnston; Advanced – FF Brooks; Masters – CPT Flores, FF Joyce; Instructor II – CPT Flores



**FF Niels Faurbye
Frederikshavn Brandmandsforening**

WEST TEXAS WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE FIRE 11.06.09

Below is a series of first hand accounts collected from the November 09' Points of Interest from some of the B Shift companies who were involved fighting the Warehouse Fire at 5th and Plum. Our guys did a fantastic job keeping the public, fellow firefighters, and all exposures safe.

Engine 2 –LT Larry Lambert

The most significant event that Engine 2 was involved in this month was the warehouse fire that occurred on November 16th at North 5th and Plum. We were dispatched on the initial alarm at 5:20 PM could see heavy smoke as soon as we left the station. When we arrived we first staged near the corner of North 3rd and Plum until directed by Command to lay a supply line from North 5th and Mesquite into Ladder 1. We used 500 feet of 5 inch hose for that supply line. Engine 2 then went to the southeast side of the fire scene and laid 700 feet of 5 inch hose for a supply line into Engine 2. With a supply line established and the help from Engine 7 crew we operated two 2 ½ inch hose lines and a deck gun for about two hours. AFD rotated crews throughout the night at the fire scene and Engine 2 returned to the scene at 5 AM and stayed there until almost 8 AM.

Ladder 1 –CAPT Michael Burden

Like most "B" shift companies, we made the warehouse fire downtown. I could go on about the size of the fire, but one thing all companies need to consider is opening up overhead doors. Opening the structure was our task during the first hour. We opened seven overhead doors, the PDQ saw ran continually. We carried two axes, a sledgehammer, haligan, PDQ saw and a chainsaw. Everyone had their share of equipment to carry around the building. We started on the west side of the structure and worked our way to the east side. We tried several cuts, but the first difficulty we faced was the height of the doors. Since this building was a warehouse it had loading dock doors all the way around, meaning they were all 2-3 feet off the ground. Our initial cut was a teepee cut; it created an opening but not a large enough hole to do any good. The next door we were able to force a couple of sections away from the wall since it has bolted to wood then connected to the building. This method worked on a few of the other doors.

Engine 4 –LT Guy Turner

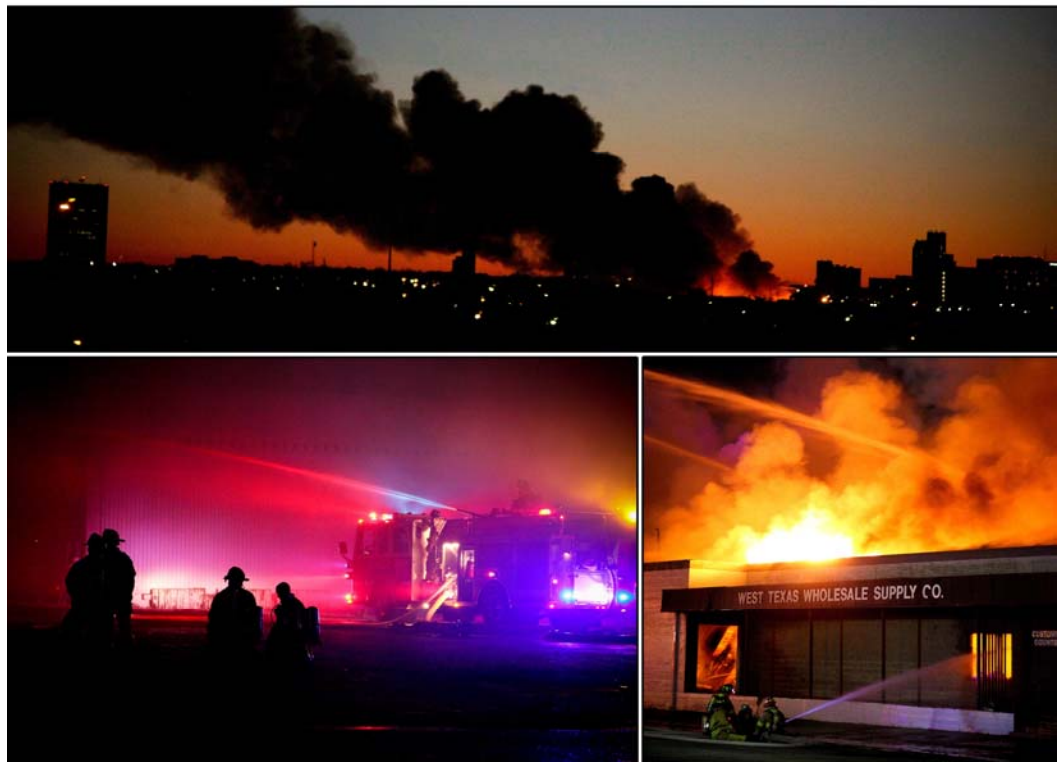
Station 4 B-shift responded to a second alarm fire call on Monday November 16th around 1730. Upon leaving station we could see large smoke cloud coming from North 5th and Plum area. When we arrived we were assigned to a 2 ½ inch hoseline on the southwest side of the heavily involved structure, unable to safely make an interior attack we assumed a defensive role spraying into the heavy smoke and flame. Through windows and doorways forced open by Ladder 1 crew. Unfortunately the large structure was a complete loss due to the heavy fire involvement prior to any fire crews arrival.

Engine 5 –LT Randy Scalf

On the 16th we, along with a lot of you, made the great warehouse fire on N. 5th and Plum. The thing that makes this a POI for us was the way in which our crew was used.

We were second engine in and brought the initial supply line, which we laid into E-1. E-1 had a problem and could not pump so E-5 became the attack pumper, which meant shutting down and rerouting the supply line and the attack lines. Galco was left manning the ship while me, Tye Brooks and James Henson were reassigned to open an overhead door. After that, we were assigned to operate L-1 and started aerial master stream operations. During this time, we acquired Lewis Washburn. That lasted a while and was quite the experience watching all that fire from over head and also watching the crowds of citizens gather below to see their department in action. Meanwhile wild Chuck Galco was having a grand old time playing with his deck gun and shooting his stream over Chief Joeys head every time he walked through as safety officer resisting the urge to, well, you know. After a brief run through in R&R we were assigned to a ground attack line and sat on a 2 ½". We were eventually released to start shutting things down and rolling our lines up. We gave Lewis back and left the scene to go eat super at 10:00, like everyone else.

It's good to have a well-balanced and capable crew that can be given any task.



*Photos by Lindsey Cotton of Cotton Photography
Lindsey is the wife of PFM Ben Cotton.*

HE MISSED NOTHING

Chief Dozier received a series of handwritten stories from one our retirees anonymously. Thank you for sharing your memories and history.

At the time Paul Edwards was a captain on A shift. I was on C shift but would trade out with his crew. I remember thinking this man is quieter than I am, he never says anything. He would read the whole shift, but let me tell you, he missed nothing.

He was very good in the books, in life and firefighting. I was totally amazed one time when I was working on his shift and we had a grass fire. Remember we were an Engine Co. with only 300 gals of water not 500 gals like the famous boosters of our time.

We pulled up on the grass fire which was going pretty good with plenty of fire and smoke. Capt. Paul told me to grab the booster line as we were coming to a stop. Before I could hit the ground from the jump seat, he took the line, turned and literally ran through fire and smoke to the burnt side and didn't stop until he was through and the fire was out. I thought man, this guy really is good. Capt. Paul was very smart and later made District Chief. I got to be his driver for awhile. Another Great!



District Chief Paul Edwards earlier in his career.

LUCK OF THE IRISH

FF Willie Myers and his daughter Rachel recently took the trip of a lifetime to Ireland. They saw Ireland's beautiful and rugged sea line, rolling green hills and castles among other sites, most of all they enjoyed spending time together.



The picture below is Willie, Rachel and a Firefighter from Station #1 in Dublin. An interesting difference between Irish and American fire service is fire hydrants are located under ground, they have to remove a small cover in the ground and reach down to connect a supply line.

The picture on the right is Willie and Rachel enjoying a day at the Blarney Castle. The Blarney Castle is most famous for the Blarney stone, which once kissed is said to

give the person the gift of eloquence. However, to get to the Blarney stone, Rachel had to lean backward (holding on to an iron railing) from the parapet walk going head first between the walk and the castle and with Dad holding tightly onto her so she wouldn't fall.



FF WILLIE MYERS E4/C SHIFT & DAUGHTER RACHEL MYERS

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Why Fire Hydrants are called Fire Plugs?

Fire plugs date back to at least the 1600s. This was a time when firefighters responding to a call would dig down to the wooden water mains and hastily bore a hole to secure water to fight fires. The water would fill the hole creating a temporary well, and be transported from the well to the fire via bucket brigades or, later, via *hand pumped* fire engines.

The holes were then plugged with stoppers, normally redwood, which over time came to be known as *fire plugs*. The location of the plug would often be recorded or marked so that it could be reused in future fires. The term *fire plug* is still used for fire hydrants today. After the Great Fire of London in 1666, the city installed water mains with holes drilled at intervals, equipped with risers, allowing an access point to the wooden fire plugs from street level. (source Wikipedia)



Check out Firehouse Chef Episodes on the web at: www.abilenefiredepartment.org

BELIEVING IN SERVING

Doug and I (Ann) went to Zambia this summer for 17 days with the **Zambian Medical Mission Team**. The months prior to leaving are spent loading containers, learning about the culture, “packing pills” (packaging medications for fast distribution at clinic sites) and learning key phrases and songs.

With layovers and missed flights we finally landed in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. While there, I interviewed with the Nursing Counsel for my temporary nursing license. Then we were back on our way, by car to the Namwianga Mission in Kolomo. Namwianga serves as our “home away from home” while we are in Zambia. It is the home of George Benson Christian College, Namwianga secondary and elementary schools, plus The Haven and Seven Fountains orphanages.

In Namwianga, there are very kind people, like our host homes, who sometimes give up their own bed for strangers.

Our hosts were Beatrice and Patrick Moonos. We had a 55 gallon drum shipped over with hopefully everything we would need while in Africa – it was waiting for us at the Moonos’. Beatrice has been a friend of mine since my first trip to Zambia seven years ago. She is a wonderful woman, tireless and generous in every way. She would wake up early in the morning to heat bath water for both of us. Beatrice sews to earn money to send her sons to college. Patrick teaches agriculture at the secondary school and works on the farm at Seven Fountains orphanage. They have four children of their own and three other children they have taken in after her sister died.

The next two days were spent making preparations for the mission. I had medical



team meetings and Doug had optical team meetings and he also practiced putting up canopies. Sunday we had church and a welcome fellowship with the Namwianga residents.

Monday morning we loaded up in buses, people movers, lorries and various others vehicles and started out for our first clinic site. The Zambia Medical Mission team is made up of about 200 people. 120 are Americans and the remainder are Zambians who volunteer their vacation time to work to care for their fellow countrymen. The roads in Zambia are bad, bumpy and very

narrow. Traveling cross-country (out in the bush) is interesting to see, but very dusty and really bumpy. Zambia in the winter looks a lot like west Texas. Along the way we come across people who are walking to the clinic sites. *It is good to see their faces – smiling because*



they know we have come to care for them with medicine, food and clothing. Along the way we have to make “pit stops” – over there we call them “geography stops.” Everyone unloads from the vehicles, men on the right, women on the left, everyone looks the other way. You may say “yuck” but in the middle of nowhere, I’ll take a “geography stop” any day.

We have our clinics at school sites because they are familiar to the villagers and the building(s) are centrally located between the villages. When we arrive at a clinic site the villagers greet us with dancing and singing songs of thanksgiving and praises to God for us coming to care for them. It is quite a sight to behold –

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very humbling and very emotional. ***I have a hard time deciding whether I want to cry or join in their rejoicing.***

Once we get to a clinic site we have to unload the lorries and move into our stations. There are canopies to put up and it is an organized, well orchestrated effort to get a clinic going within an hour of our arrival. Men, women and children are triaged into those who can wait in line and those who need immediate attention. Vital signs are taken, temperatures are recorded and everyone is weighed. Once all of the basics are taken care of then the lines are formed to the various stations between medical, dental, eyes, pharmacy, wound care and spiritual care. The lines are long. By the time all of the clinics are finished we will have seen **16,000 plus people.**

We work from about 8:00am until dark, which is about 5:30 pm. We have good, well-balanced, hot meals in the bush prepared by the cooks with their fully stocked kitchen who travel with us. After we eat, we have a short meeting and recap the day. We sleep in a “tent city” in sleeping bags. Earplugs are good to have because 200 people snore a lot. It gets quite cold at night so once we are in bed we are there until morning. We have makeshift showers and latrines that are modernized with potty chairs – a real luxury.

We traveled to four different clinic sites on our medical mission: Simalundu, where the people were the most poor, having less food and more illness; Kapaulu (pronounced Kapole); Kanchindu where the people were the most healthy; and Mboole.

Doug works in the eye clinic filling the optometrists prescriptions for glasses. There are hundreds, maybe thousands of glasses that are sent to Zambia. A lot of them are “readers” like you buy at Wal-Mart but a lot of them are prescription lenses that people



FF Doug Reno serving in the Optometrist Clinic

have donated. These glasses have been ‘read’ and they can be fitted to the people. Doug says that he really enjoys seeing the smiles that the older people get when they realize that they can see well again. They are so excited that they can read their Bibles. Some people are amazed when they realize that they can keep the glasses. Doug works hard all day but he doesn’t complain. He enjoys fitting those glasses and he enjoys working with the eye team.

I work on the medical team. We are made up of doctors, nurses, physician assistants and clinical officers. In Zambia, the part I play is the same as that of a doctor – I examine patients, diagnose and prescribe treatments (according to a formulary). These are things that would get me arrested here or at least help me lose my license. There are too many people to see to divide us into what our usual scope of practice is. The things that I see are pretty



RN Anne Reno performing exams in a Medical Clinic

common for this time of year – cold like symptoms, upper respiratory illnesses, allergies (from the smoke of open fires for heat and cooking), parasites of the skin like scabies, intestinal parasites like worms, high blood pressures, venereal diseases, headache, backache and stomach ache. I also see less common issues such as heart murmurs, downs syndrome, albinos and some central nervous system diseases.

The people that we see live far from regular Zambian medical clinics and some never see a doctor except when we are there. I wish we could afford to go every year to help, we are hoping to be able to do that once we both retire. ***I believe that Doug and I both have the jobs that we have because we believe in serving others.*** The Zambian Medical Mission is another way that we can serve others, and though it sounds cliché, we really do get as much back from this mission as we give.

**ANNE RENO, RN
FF DOUG RENO E2/C SHIFT**

LOCAL 1044 NEWS

Hello again! Your local union has been very busy since the last news letter. We had several members attend the TSAFF convention in Richardson where we got to see our own Chris Hale be named new Chaplain for the TSAFF.



LT Marty Sanders, FF David Standard, & LT Kevin Johnson

The association was asked to run the "Worlds Largest Chili Pot" at the XXVIII annual Chili Super bowl benefiting the Ben Richey Boy's Ranch. Before the event weekend we were busy trying to get sponsors, getting the pot repaired and getting organized. On the event weekend we had a great turnout of support from members, auxiliary members, retirees, and Dyess firefighters. I think everyone had a great time and we helped raise over \$62,000 for the Ranch.



Photos by Karie Meiser

The Union had a booth at the West Texas Fair selling T-shirts, Calendars, koozies, and pink lemonade. It was a long rain filled week, but overall sales were pretty good.

After the fair, Pink Shirts were the main focus! Thank you to everyone who bought shirts and wore them proudly! At the start of the Pink Shirt campaign we purchased 1,000 shirts and hoped to sell most of them. Before the month was over we had sold over 2,200 shirts, and had pink signs on almost every fire engine. Everywhere you went in Abilene, someone was wearing one of our shirts! Together we raised over \$20,000 to split between the Susan G. Komen for

the Cure Foundation and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network.

Thank you to everyone that helped with all of these events. We will continue to sell the non-pink AFD T-shirts while supplies last, just contact Kevin, Marty, Ernie, or Jess.

FF JESS MADISON, E2/C SHIFT
APFFA LOCAL 1044 SECRETARY

AFD Log Entries for Truck 1 a 1938 Seagraves 65' Aerial

01-24-1950

Telephone alarm 601 No. 13th didn't make it - Had wreck on 8th & Pine (Caffey)

02-15-1951

Raised ladder to top building. Shovel snow off used aerial 10 min used two scoops. (Johnson)

Contributed by AC Alan Plumlee

Fire Report

Fire at Street No. Locust & So. 12th
 Date November 21, 1932 Time 6:00-7:36PM
 Name of Owner C. Bell
 Address of Owner _____
 Occupied by _____

Cause of Fire? _____
 Place of Origin? Kerosine and child!
 Confined to Place of Origin? kitchen
 Extended to Other floors? no
 Extended to Adjoining Property? roof
 Extended Beyond Adjoining Property? no
 How Was Fire Extinguished? Chem. and Engine lines
 Did Sprinklers _____
 No. of Sprinkler Heads Open _____
 Were inside Stand-pipes available? _____
 No. of Hose Leads Used? #3 Chem, #2 Siamese lines.
 If Cause Suspicious State Why. 1 2 1/2" & 1 1/2" lines.
 Building Occupied as A Dwelling
 Class of Building Child playing in jar of Kerosine, lit and go boom.
 Interior Finish 1 story frame
 57 Blocks
 12" Ladder
 35 Gal. Chem.

CONTRIBUTED BY
FF SCOTT RIGGINS, E7/C SHIFT

PURCHASE YOUR AFD CALENDAR TODAY!



The Abilene Fire Fighters' Auxillary is selling 2009-2010 calendars! Proceeds are being donated to help raise money for the fight against breast cancer.

CALL 325-437-7700 OR EMAIL LINDSEY.COTTON@GMAIL.COM TO PURCHASE YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

SAVE THE DATE...

You are invited to the AFD Auxiliary Meetings
Date: 2nd Tuesday of each month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: AFD Station 1 Training Classroom

5-5-5 THE LAST ALARM

Billie Ray Smith, of 2601 Marshall, was born Dec. 11th, 1927 in Taylor County. He graduated from Abilene High School and attended Abilene Christian University for one year before enlisting in the Navy in 1946. He served in the Navy until 1948 before returning to ACU for 2 more years of study.

From 1950 to 1954 he worked at his father's Dairy farm. He married Leslie Havens on June 18th, 1950 in Abilene.

He was a Deacon at South 11th and Willis Church of Christ. He joined the Abilene Fire Department on Nov. 1st, 1954 and was a Senior

Fireman at the McMurry Fire Station at South 19th and Highland. He was a member of the Abilene Fire Fighters Association.

On August 12, 1978 Billie Ray arrived for duty at Station #3 shortly before noon. On this particular day, like so many other days in that era, the engine would be manned by only two firefighters. On duty with Smith that day was Henry Richter.

"Every firefighter performs an act of bravery once in his career. That is when he takes the oath of office. After that, everything else is in the line of duty. FDNY Battalion Chief Ray Downey died in the line of duty September 11, 2001.

Around midnight Smith and Richter responded to a small trash fire in the front bedroom of a house under construction at 3274 White Wing Way. The two men quickly got the fire out and set up an exhaust fan for ventilation. According to District Chief Paul Edwards, after the fire had been "tapped out" Smith returned to Engine 3 to radio for a fire inspector. After making the call, Richter saw Smith fall from the engine. An AEMS ambulance was called to the scene and Sr.

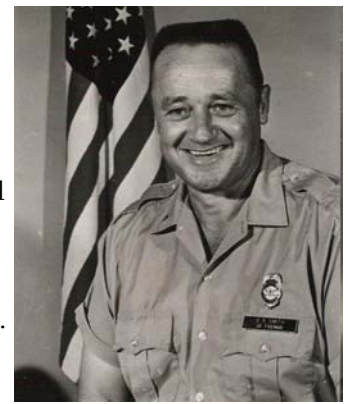
Fireman Smith was transported to Hendrick Medical Center. Billie Ray Smith died at Hendrick Medical Center at 12:20am, Sunday August 13th, at the age of 50. Cause of death was an apparent heart attack.

District Chief Edwards said the cause of the fire, which did minor damage to the room, was "apparent arson."

Services were held on Monday, August 14th, 1978 at North Funeral Home Memorial Chapel at 4002 Buffalo Gap Road with Dr. Neil Lightfoot and Dr. Bobby Joe Sims of S.11th and Willis Church of Christ, officiating. Burial was at Elmwood Memorial Park.

Survivors included his wife, Leslie Smith, 2 daughters, Karen Ann and Karla Lyn, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Van J. Smith of Clyde, and a sister, Loisteen Mays of Clyde. A son, Kevin, preceded him in death. Pallbearers were James Bragg, Dwight Caufield, Jerry Drennon, Ted Pemberton, Dave Spencer and Oscar Tannich. Members of the Abilene Fire Department were Honorary Pallbearers.

AC JIM FRAZIER
FF RONALD TEAL, E8/A SHIFT



SR FIREMAN
BILLIE RAY SMITH
DIED IN THE LINE-OF-DUTY
8/13/1978

FROM THE TAILBOARD

Christmas is a nostalgic time. Of all the Christmas shows that play non-stop this time of year *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is one of my favorites. What makes it memorable is the unmistakable jazzy Christmas music and a story that touches on experiences and questions most of us have at one time or another. Charlie faces disappointment, embarrassment and a series of mixed messages of what Christmas is supposed to be about leaving him confused and frustrated. Have you ever felt like Charlie Brown who says to Linus, "I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel." There are moments in life when Christmas doesn't seem like it should. This Christmas comes at a time when many of us have experienced disappointment and loss. And for some this season doesn't seem like it should. In Charlie's confusion and disappointment he asks a question many of us may ask during

the Christmas season, *"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"* While Charlie searches for the meaning of Christmas, Linus gives him a simple yet hopeful answer to his question. *"Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about."* Linus takes center stage with confidence and begins, *"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a*



multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Linus then picks up his blanket and walks toward Charlie and says, *"That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."*

This Christmas may pose different challenges for us: a loss, a disappointment, a failure, confusing mixed messages, a lingering memory of a heartbreaking fire or medical run, an empty chair at the holiday table or maybe it's the hurried, busy nature of the Christmas season.

Whatever challenges we encounter this Christmas season, let's be thankful for the reminders of hope (even in children's cartoons) and the assurance of what Christmas is all about.

This Christmas my family and I are reminded of and thankful for the great love and support we have received from my Abilene Fire Department family. We wish everyone a holiday season filled with peace and good will.

CHRIS HALE
FIRE CHAPLAIN