CHESTERTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

AN INTERESTING SUMMARY OF THE DOINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS

We stand, tonight, at the threshold of a new year, another milestone has been reached, we have gathered for the prpose of taking an inventory, that those of us in whom the affairs of this organization have been entrusted might render an account of their stewardship during the twelve months about at an end.

Before going into detail as to the duties assigned me, as Chief, and the achievements of the "fire-fighters" or active members of this company; I feel constrained to pause, if but briefly, that we may together review the records and note the progress of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Co. during the past five years. Let us drift back to the summer of 1922, at which time, in the quarters below, there stood, as Chestertown's only protection against loss by fire, some three or four hose reels on which were several hundred, possibly 1000 feet of hose, a ladder wagon with three cumbersome, and I might add, quite out-of-date, ladders, a damaged and discarded chemical cart, and our much cherished old relic, the hand pumper, of the "vintage" of 1804—a woefully inadequate equipment for the needs of Chestertown.

It was in the month of August, the twenty-second day and the year 1922, that a meeting of the citizens of Chestertown was held, over which our past President, Mr. M. Wilbur Thomas, presided, ways and means were discussed, plans made and efforts put forth for the purpose of raising funds with which to procure a piece of motorized fire-fighting apparatus for Chestertown. I need not mention, it being too well known to many of you, the difficulty experienced in securing the necessary funds, however, after a time, or sometime in the Spring of 1923, the committees named to solicit donations were able to report that pledges for sums equal to or around $3000 had been secured, to this amount The Chestertown Volunteer Fire Co., pledged the sum of over $1400 which it had on deposit, thus insuring funds sufficient to purchase an engine; order was placed and in the early fall of the same year Chestertown boasted of a real fire engine. No sooner had Truck No. 1, or the International, been "parked" in her "stall" in the engine room when the boys of the company took on new life, all of the old members of the organization manifest an increasing interest, with the result that at the annual meeting, held on January 21st, 1924, a rejuvenation and reorganization took place, at which time, our president, Mr. Wm. G. Smyth, was placed at the head of this organization to direct and govern the destinies thereof; from that date to the present, practically every undertaking of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Co., has been attended with success. At present we possess apparatus and equipment equal to that of any town, of like size, in the State, a company of fire-fighters equalled by few and surpassed by no organization of volunteers anywhere.

During the past five years, in addition to the remedeling of our home, in which we have placed a heating plant, shower baths, sleeping quarters, kitchennette, meeting, recreation and club room, added two pool tables, card tables, radio; we have also added an up-to-date hose dryer, two pieces of fire apparatus, making in all three pumpers, capable of delivering more than 1500 gallons of water per minute. I doubt if a town on the shore has the equipment to equal this pumping capacity.

Looking at the above from a financial viewpoint, I feel it but a conservative estimate to say that the building with the added improvements and contents, be placed at $10,000 the three pieces of apparatus cannot be duplicated or replaced for $15,000, we have gilt edge securities in the sum of $7500, a working balance on deposit of over $1600, with no indebtedness. Exclusive of the $4000 or there abouts, which was the purchase price of Truck No. 1, $1400 of which coming from the company's treasury, the accumulated assets as set forth above, of between $30,000 and $35,000 has been accomplished by this organization since 1924 and of which we are very proud. Now, let us place credit where credit is due—'tis true the citizens of the town and community and the members of the town council have all been solidly behind the "boys," yet, to the President of the company and to the boys, the fire fighters of this organization, belong the greater or lion's share of the glory. Chestertown can justly be proud of its fire company.

During the past year the fire-fighters have responded to 35 calls, 16 of which were town, the remaining 19 being country calls. The country calls called for the travel over the county and state roads of 302 miles. The town fires were as follows: two chimney fires, three autos, straw stack at Peerless Fertilizer factory stables, the warehouse and office at steamboat wharf, which was largest fire of the year, the burning of kitchen shed, at J. T. Dixon's also called for some real action, the remaining fires in the town were minor blazes, a number of which being out when company arrived. The country calls or fires were attended with greater losses, a number of valuable buildings being lost, such as dwellings, barns, stables, chicken houses, etc. The company however rendered valuable assistance in protecting nearby property. The number of calls to chimney fires both town and country were fewer this year than last.

I think it worthy of note to state that since Chestertown received its first engine, Truck No. 1, there has been but one building in the town, within the reach of water supply, to burn to the ground, that being the house in Lynchburg, which was the work of a fire-bug. It might be of interest also to state that the approximate loss during the year, based on a population of 2700, per capita is less than 2 cents, per fire while the per capita loss, per fire, over the period of five years, will be much less.

Our records show 45 members on the active list assigned positions, the number to answer the calls of the siren the past year have averaged slightly over twenty. The following list will show the members, when each became associated with the company, the number of times in actual attendance at a fire, with their average.

C. A. Bacon	1908	26	74.286
Harry Baker	1924	29	82.572
Wm. A. Burke	1898	7	28.572
E. Blackway	1910	25	71.429
Harvey Blyman	1924	17	48.572
Herman Blackway	1919	24	68.572
Kennard Burke	1926	9	25.715
Wm. Blakeney	1925	7	20.
B. R. Bartley	1919	19	54.286
Maurice Crouch	1925	10	28.572
J. H. Clendaniel	1927	2	5.715
Earle B. Capel	1926	0	
Hyland Crew	1908	1	2.858
Earle Cooper	1924	9	25.715
George Cooper	1926	8	22.858
Richard Collins	1925	21	60.
R. Clarke Davis	1923	29	82.572
Levi Downey	1926	6	17.143
Harry Fowler	1924	10	28.572
Wm. L. Fowler	1898	0	
Frank Fowler	1926	11	31.429
C. Lee Gill	1922	20	57.143
William Goss	1913	21	60.
Jack Hendrix	1915	11	31.429
James Kirby	1925	23	65.429
Simmons LeCates	1925	26	74.286
Joseph Lewis	1911	6	17.143
Carl LeCates	1924	34	97.143
Robert Loud	1926	17	48.572
G. Nelson	1908	13	37.143
G. Pennington	1926	26	71.429
Andrew Perry	1924	30	85.715
H. Pennington	1924	17	48.286
F. S. Russell	1898	22	62.858
Frank Smith	1924	10	28.572
Wm. J. Smith	1925	4	11.429
W. R. Strong	1926	4	11.429
B. Schrieber	1926	23	65.715
H. S. Russell	1924	17	48.572
H. Schrieber	1924	19	54.286
E. S. Thompson	1924	21	60.
J. H. Thompson	1898	24	68.572
W. H. Thawley	1924	22	62.858
T. H. Wood	1925	1	2.286
R. Waddell	1925	5	14.286

Credit for the above facts and figures is due our official recorder and statestician, Mr. J. H. Thompson. A complete and detailed record of each fire is kept by Mr. Thompson, the company is thus in position to furnish, at anytime, the cause and extent of each fire, the number of men to attend to, no. of feet of hose, if any used, the source from which water supply is abtained, the loss sustained and insurance carried.

From the above it will be seen that the active list is made up largely of members that have come into the company since 1924; yet a few of the older members are still taking active part, four of the number having been in the company since 1898. I desire to call especial attention to the following who have made the best averages for the year: Carl LeCates, attending 34 out of the 35 fires, for an average of 97.143, Andrew Perry, 30 out of 35, average 85.715, Chief Engineer Davis and his assistant Harry Baker each at 29 fires for an average of 82.572.

During the year the active members have attended the usual number of carnivals held by neighboring fire companies took part in the State Firemen's parade at Elkton, winning $100 for most men, with band and apparatus in line; our annual carnival was held and more than $4000 was netted therefrom. Fire Prevention week was observed in October, at which time a mass of valuable material or data was gathered by the children of the county schools, we attempted our first town wide inspection, while this was not carried out as successfully as had been hoped for, yet several of the committees did complete inspection in the territory assigned them; all of this material is on hand, and I am persuaded that benefit derived from an educational standpoint, has already been felt in that we have had fewer calls to chimney fires; this program if carried out each year, will, I am sure, mean much to the community and the company also.

With the Kent County Ambulance assured the Fire Company having assurred the responsibility of operating the same and that we may the more fully live up to our motto, "Service For Others," a company of "First Aiders" has recently been organized with a captain and five litter squads, composed of Corporal and privates each. Our company surgeon, Dr. Simpers, has been designated and holds certificate from National Red Cross Association, as instructed. Members are receiving each Wednesday instructions in first aid, and upon completion of the course and penning of prescribed test, each will receive certificate and insignia as first aid. We have a squad comptent to tender first aid for emergency, this squad being members of the local Medical detachment, also members of the fire company.

There is one thing that has caused me considerable thinking, and that is a condition which exists within the town limits and beyond the W. S. & A. M. Culp lumber mill, at the old R. R. where the last fire plug in that direction is located, while beyond this point and within the co-operate limits of the town, there is some fifteen or eighteen pieces of property, from which the town is deriving a revenue in taxes, these residents have no fire protection, or I should say the protection to which they are entitled. Yet between the railroad crossing and Brooks' Mill there are located eight or ten gas and oil tanks; a fire at either of these plants would not only endanger the homes in the immediate vicinity but the whole town east of this point. This is a matter for consideration and I recommend that a committee be named to wait upon the Water Board and suggest also that they urge the placing of a water main of at least six inches, with at least four fire plugs between the points of the R. R. crossing and the Mill.

In conclusion let me commend the active members for their work during the year, also give expression of my gratitude for the whole-hearted support accorded me during my term as Chief, and to you Mr. President and officers and members, and to the citizens of the town and members of the town board I wish, in behalf of the active members, to express appreciation for the support and backing accorded us. To the Ladies Auxiliary, who have ever been on the job with hot coffee and sandwiches, which the boys have ever appreciated, we desire to extend sincere and grateful thanks.

Most respectfully submitted.

FRED S. RUSSELL, Chief.

Big Preparation for Bow Before Royalty

Presentation at court involves considerable preparation in advance and those who have been favored with this honor must adhere strictly to the details of the program, says the London Graphic. A few minutes' lateness is unpardonable and would, in all likelihood, result in the disappointment of the candidate for royal honor, which would be a tragedy indeed after having undergone the long and tedious process of preparation. This often means a long string of carriages and automobiles forming for hours before the time set for the reception. Here the debutantes and others to be presented wait sometimes for as long as three hours till the time for entering the palace arrives. It is still daylight when the blockade of cars forms and swarms of curious people walk up and down the Mall close to the curb and gaze through the windows of the vehicles at the faces and gowns of the ladies in their court dress. The scrutiny is far from timid and casual, in many cases quite impudent.

Toad's Marvelous Tongue

The Spanish toad that lives in the zoo has a tongue that moves faster than that of the busiest gossip. It moves so fast that observers could not see it pick up a worm placed before it recently. The worm simply disappeared, as if into the air. Furthermore, an ordinary slow motion camera failed to take a picture of that moving tongue. Another film was taken, this time at three times the speed, and in this the tongue was shown moving at a rate quicker than a sixtieth of a second, which means that if the Spanish toad could eat continuously he would devour nearly 4,000 meals a minute!

Timber From the Tropics?

It is recognized, says the American Tree association, that the forest resources of tropical America may be a very important factor in our own domestic timber problem. Some believe that those forests will be called upon to bridge the hiatus that is bound to exist between the exhaustion of our wild timber crop, and the harvest time of our man-managed forests. Others believe that they will form a permanent source of timber to replace some of our own special purpose hardwoods.

All are agreed that, in any case, we cannot fully and completely outline our own forestry problem without taking into consideration all the factors that may influence the outcome.

Special Oven for Pie

A huge brick oven was built in a disused corn mill near Hudderfield, England, so that the village of Denby Dale might surpass all its previous efforts in making giant pies. The pie dish, made locally of earthenware, was 15 feet long, 4 feet wide and 18 inches deep. The pie contained beef, mutton, kidney, potatoes and plenty of gravy. About 10,000 people partook of the pie. On the occasion of the last previous Denby Dale pie, in 1896, more than 60,000 people visited the village, which has a population of 1,500. A pie made in 1887 went bad, and was dragged by horses to a wood and buried in quicklime.

Moon's Movements

The Naval observatory says that the moon does not revolve in the plane of the earth's equator, but in a plane inclined to the plane of the equator at an angle that varies approximately from 18 to 29 degrees. In any month the moon may be seen at least 18 degrees south of the celestial equator, and after two weeks at least 18 degrees north of the celestial equator. In some years, as 1913 for instance, the moon may be seen nearly 29 degrees south of the celestial equator. The moon's rapid northerly progress occurs about one week later than its farthest south, and about one week earlier than its farthest north.

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YORK COUNTY FARMER OUTWITS ENGINEERS

Another perplexing problem has been solved for the farmer and the solution has not been worked out by an engineer or agricultural specialist, but by a practical tiller of the soil. It fell to the lot of a well known and progressive York County farmer, Edward C. F. Schaefer, of R. D. No. 3 York, Pa., to perfect a spreader which has proven to be everything that a spreader should be.

Patents in the United States and other countries have been granted by Mr. Schaefer on a positive "Non-Wrap" Manure Spreader and farmers who have seen it work are highly enthusiastic over its thorough and efficient performance.

The old adage, "Necessity is the Mother of Invention," was never more applicable to an invention than it is to the development of the "Non-Wrap" Manure Spreader. Mr. Shaefer knew that a manure spreader was necessary for soil fertility and maximum crops, but he also realized that his manure spreader would not produce an even distribution over the entire acreage, and therefore was not giving one hundred per cent. results. It was drecidedly obvious that the difficulty to be overcome was the continual wrapping of the beaters which caused irregular distribation, heavy draft, added labor and delay.

Mr. Shaefer reasoned that if the teeth of the steel beaters were given a withdrawing motion the centrifugal force would always keep the bars and teeth clean and decided to try out his theory.

After months of experimenting, he finally completed his model, placed it on his spreader, put it in use and discovered that his idea was right and that wrapping would not occur under any circumstances. The oscillating tooth bars place the pulverizing teeth in such position, when the beaters revolve, that they thoroughly break up and tear apart the manure and at the same time clean themselves and the tooth bars by centrifugal force.

Mr. Schaefer and his neighbor friends have made the most severe tests covering many severe months and found that the spreader was of lighter draft and made an even distribution whether they applied a light top dressing of four loads or the heaviest application of twenty-four loads to the acre. No matter whether the team is driven slowly, average gait or rapidly, the same efficient work is performed.

This worthy invention of Mr. Schaefer's will enable farmers everywhere to increase the uniform fertility of their soil and consequently be the means of producing maximum crops, as a spreader embodying this patented device is already in production by one of the oldest and largest manufacturers of farm implements.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

PLAN CERTIFICATION FOR TURKEY FLOCKS

Certification of turkeys for breeding will be the next forward step in the improvement of poultry production in the State, according to announcement from the Maryland State Poultry Association, following its annual meeting at Denton in December when plans were first projected.

The movement, it is said, comes as the result of requests from numerous turkey breeders for inauguration of the work and is an undoubted reflection of the revived interest in turkey production in Maryland during the past few years.

Requirements for certification, it is expected, will be along lines similar to those provided for chickens and will have to do in the main with good breeding, vigor, proper sanitation, etc.

According to W. H. Rice, poultry specialist of the University of Maryland Extension Service, a limited number of turkey flocks will be inspected during the next few weeks previous to the breeding season. Next year, it is said, the number of flocks to be inspected and cetrified should be larger.

While certification of turkeys has been conducted in Idaho and Wyoming and in some provinces of Canada, Maryland, will be the first state to inaugurate the work in this immediate section. Those interested in the project feel assured that certification will do as much to improve the turkey industry in the State, by raising the standard of breeding stock, as it has to improve the chicken industry.

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WORTON

Mrs. Wm. Pennington, of Philadelphia, is visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Smith are spending some time with relatives in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nichols, of Greensboro, spent Saturday with their son G. E. Nichols and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller and children, of near Locust Grove, spent Sunday with their parents here.

Mrs. Thomas Van Dyke spent part of last week with her daughter, Mrs. George Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Joiner were given a surprise party last Thursday evening a very enjoyable evening was spent by all.

Those on the sick list are Mrs. Charles Joiner, Miss Ann Taylor, Mr. S. J. Lee, Mr. B. F. Rash, Mr. C. G. Hadaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Cornelius, of Lynch, entertained the following at a card party last Wednesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. George Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Carter, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rasin.

The Snow had begin in the gloaming,
And silently all the night,
Had been heaping field and highway
With a silence deep and while.

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MILLINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Dyke and little son, Robert, Jr., of Kennedyville, visited Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rasin last Sunday.

Mrs. Kate Garton is the guest of relatives in Elkton.

Mrs. Eva Marvel is visiting relatives in Wilmington.

Among those on the sick list at this writing are: Mr. J. C. Vansant, Mr. James Moore, Mr. Ben Hart and Mr. Joseph Jones and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Heighe Hill and little daughter, Jean, of Chestertown, and Mr. Howard Stevens visited the latter's son and daughter in law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stevens, near town, on Thursday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Walker and little son, Noah, Jr., of Baltimore, were guests last week of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ahern.

Mr. William Vansant and family, of Elkton, spent last Sunday with relatives in town.

Mrs. L. A. Hurtt was taken in the ambulance of J. H. Tobin to the Homeopathic Hospital, Wilmington, on Thursday of last week when she was operated on Monday. Her many friends wish for her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Ben Hart and little son, Leon, spent a couple of days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Story, near Chestertown.

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Armstrong Genuine Felt Base Rugs in the new "QUAKER MAID" Accolac finish (double wear) - - - $10.00

The New Crex Rugs, Heavy Woven Grass - - $9.50

The Jap Grass Rugs, double cotton warp - - $4.50

The $18.00 New Art Rugs in pretty colors - - - $14.50

The $25.00 Body Brussel Rugs on sale - - - $19.50

The $40.00 Smiths Axminister Seamless Rugs - - $29.50

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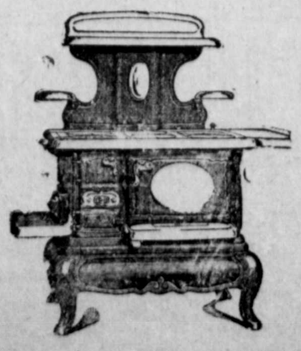

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