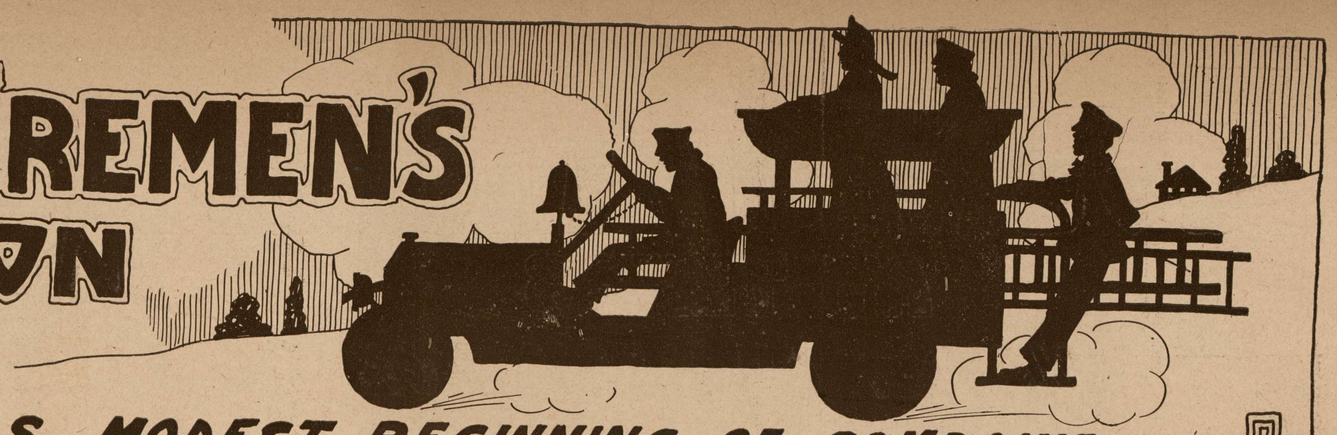
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S CONVENTION THURSDAY



RECALLS MODEST BEGINNING OF COMPANIES—

With highly polished and gayly decorated apparatus the Volunteer Firemen will all head for Violetville on Thursday, to hold their 17th annual convention and incidentally have a jolly good time.

When it comes to real public-spirited men, members of the various volunteer fire companys, scattered here, there and everywhere over the county, can be classed among the first, for they have done wonderful work in protecting the property of others.

No matter how humble the home or how insignificant the building, how great the distance or how bad the roads, just cry "Fire!" and they see red in a minute and never cease fighting until they have conquered.

The Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen's Association is in perfect condition for effective work—there are no factions and no playing to the galleries for company records. It is a fire-fighting machine that works as one unit, where only team work is recognized as of any real value in securing results.

When you come to think of it these fire fighting boys deserve the greatest encouragement, assistance and gratitude. It is difficult to imagine a greater service to the people of the county. The work of the volunteers is entirely disinterested and unselfish. They obligate themselves to go to the relief of anyone when most helpless and in urgent need of assistance, braving all sorts of weather conditions and defying risk and danger, serving without any pecuniary compensation or hope of reward.

Hats off then, to the Volunteer Firemen of Baltimore County. The Jeffersonian congratulates them upon their splendid organization and for their splendid and noble work, and sincerely hopes that the Violetville convention will be one long to be remembered, not only because of a successful business session, but because of their hospitable reception by the good people of that community.

Naturally Violetville is all "Het up" over the approaching event, and members of the 18 Volunteer Fire Companys are shining up apparatus and having their uniforms put into shape for the "great day" which will begin at 1 P. M. with a business session, followed by a parade and music galore. In fact, the day in Violetville has been "declared" a holiday, hence all business establishments will suspend all operations.

For more than 20 years there have been volunteer companies is Baltimore county, and prior to that time folks had to do the best they could to fight a blaze that occurred on their property, and the approaching annual convention of the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen's Association recalls the modest beginning of the various companies.

Eighteen companies now constitute the Association.

In the first days of the volunteers the hand-drawn apparatus was laboriously dragged over the roads to the scene of conflagration and in time horses were used until now every piece of fire fighting machinery used by the volunteers is motorized.

On February 4th, 1897, the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company was organized by the citizens of Pikesville, with a membership of 73 active and 14 honorary members, and immediately a temporary fire house was erected with bell tower on the property of Henry A. Davis, and the first fire to which the company responded was on the farm of John Waters. In August, 1900, the company moved to its new quarters, which was paid for through the generosity of the people of the community and in July, 1916, purchased an American-La France engine.

In 1900 the Cockeysville Fire Company was organiged. During the first years of its existence its members pulled a 40-gallon chemical and hand force pump with a rope over the country roads; later this was disregarded and a 25 gallon apparatus drawn by two horses, and a ladder wagon drawn by one lone horse were used. Today the company has a White motor fire engine and emergency wagon and owns its own building at Marble Hill.

On March 4, 1904, the Glyndon Volunteer Fire Company came into being and in 1905 a hand hook and ladder wagon was purchased and a permanent home secured. In 1912 the equipment was enlarged and in 1914 a motor apparatus was installed.

With 35 members the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company was organized in 1909 and for five years the activity of the organization was confined solely to the limits of Lutherville, but now its efforts are county-wide and with its motorized apparatus it renders assistance wherever and whenever needed.

It was in 1909 also that the Parkville Volunteer Fire Company came into existence with a membership of but 17. Purchasing a small hand-drawn apparatus, its little corps of workers trudged wearily over the roads to reach a fire until 1918, when they provided themselves with a modern auto engine.

Arcadia organized its volunteer fire fighting forces in 1912 and through the generosity of J. Franklin Armacost a permanent home was possible. Unlike most of the others the Arcadia Volunteer Fire Company started out with a motor fire engine.

With funds derived from picnics and carnivals the folks of Reisterstown were able to purchase a hand pump, hose and buckets in 1913, but it was not long before the energetic workers had backed in the engine house a motor fire apparatus of which any community could be justly proud.

Through the efforts of Louis Edelman and Louis Joh, the Violetville Volunteer Fire Company, who will act as host to the visiting companies for the 17th annual convention, was formed. In 1909 and like the majority, started out with hand-drawn vehicles.

The community of Essex was protected from the fire demon when the Vigilant Volunteer Fire Company was organized there in 1915, the first equipment comprising a horse-drawn engine donated by the County Commissioners, but two years later the company was motorized.

Boring organized a volunteer fire company after a number of disastrous fires had visited that community, likewise did Lansdowne and Halethorpe.

The present officers of the Association are M. A. Buttner, president; Homer C. Janney, vice-president; C. Ross Gill, secretary, and Wm. Foley, treasurer.

G. H. Stevenson is chairman of the executive committee.

The first president of the organization was James J. Lindsay, of Towson.

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