

The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

Volume Seven

Number Three

Summer 2014



Iola Fire Department



Shown above is the replication of Iola's 1901 firehouse which was constructed at the Society's Historic Village in 2007. The original structure only had bays for two pieces of fire fighting equipment while the Society's has three.

Members and guests in attendance at the Monday, March 31, 2014, meeting of the Iola Historical Society were provided with a historical overview of the development of the Iola Fire Department focused on its first 50 years. The presentation by member Clifford Mishler and present fire chief Charles Fritz, was accompanied by the display of recently acquired Iola & Rural Fire Department engine number 924 and recently retired engine number (92)4. The retired equipment had been acquired in 1992 at a cost of \$210,000; the cost of the replacement engine was \$360,000.

What follows is a timeline outline detailing selected major activities recorded for the Iola Fire Department from September 3, 1892, through April 30, 1942. It is annotated with a historical record of the three major pieces of historic Iola firefighting equipment that have been featured on display in the replication of Iola's 1901 Firehouse located in the Iola Historic Village complex that was inaugurated in 2007. These are the horse drawn 1912 Waterous Pumper, the 1924 Ford Model "T" hose truck and the 1938 Reo Speedwagon based pumper and hose truck.

A Chronological Time Line

Sept. 3, 1892-Village Board appoints fire protection resolution committee; Adopted at October meeting.

Nov. 5, 1892-\$22.62 paid for purchase of ladders; first village owned firefighting equipment.

Feb. 4, 1893-\$6.75 approved for purchase of two dozen buckets.

Apr. 24, 1894-Bid of \$238 accepted for construction of a fire "Watch House."

June 22, 1894-Special election voted 22 to 6 for village to install a system of fire protection.

Nov. 18, 1894-Accepted and made settlement with the Chemical Fire Extinguisher Company for a chemical engine.

Dec. 4, 1894-John G. Frogner asked to prepare a vehicle for transporting chemicals and complete a tank for mixing them. Committee appointed to procure the use of H.A. Hermanson's bell for fire alarm.

Feb. 19, 1895-Village passed ordinance requiring

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Memorial Day Pig Roast

A theme of patriotism dominated the Iola Historical Society's inaugural Memorial Day Pig Roast, as did the long lines that queued up to enjoy the feast. This event was coordinated with the activities of Sheveland-Taylor Post of The American Legion. The featured pig roast was cooked up by Bill Opperman (above lower right). In attendance for the unveiling of the reinstated Lee Nelson exhibit were family members Suzanne and Jon Nelson (left) and Martha and Brad DeYoung (right) flanking Lyle Mork.

President's Message

Over the past 90 days or so there has been a lot of activity going on around the Iola Historical Society. Here's a quick glimpse at some of the highlights:

Attendees at the Monday, March 31, meeting were treated to overviews of the Iola Fire Department of yesterday (Clifford Mishler) and today (Chief "Chuck" Fritz). At the Monday, April 28, meeting members and guests shared historical and curious items of personal with others in attendance. An I-S National Honor Society team on Wednesday, May 7, dedicated an afternoon of community service to readying the recently acquired lot at West State and Oak streets for seeding and mowing.

Building of the R. I. Anderson machine tools display area in the Machine Shed building was polished off in mid-May by Charles Thompson; final arrangement of the tools and aligning of lighting remains. A very successful inaugural Memorial Day Pig Roast honoring Iola's military veterans was hosted on Monday, May 26. The arrangement of permanent

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Iola Historical Society

210 Depot Street

P. O. Box 412 . Iola, WI 54945

Officers

Clifford Mishler, President

Lyle Mork, Vice-President

John Bertelson, Jr., Secretary

Tom Fucik, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Greg Loescher, Doug Watson

Stella Strand, Director Emeritus

Lyle G. Mork, Historian

Doug Watson, Window Design

Become A Member

Individual Membership \$20 yr

Family Membership..... \$30 yr

Supporting Membership... \$50 yr

Individual Life Membership \$200

Direct remittance payable to:

Iola Historical Society

P. O. Box 412, Iola, WI 54945-0412

iolahistoricalociety@tds.net

www.iolahistoricalociety.org

Phone: 715-445-IOLA (4652)

The Old

Acquired in 1992 at a cost of \$210,000, engine number (92)4 had a water capacity of 750 gallons, with a maximum pumping capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute. Two firefighters could ride inside and two outside.



The New

Acquired in 2014 at a cost of \$360,000, engine number 924 has a water capacity of 1,000 gallons, with a maximum pumping capacity of 1,250 gallons per minute. Inside capacity for transporting six firefighters.



IOLA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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new buildings or those moved into the business blocks be "built of either stone or brick or brick veneer or covered with metal . . . all roofs shall be covered with metal, slate or some fire proof material . . ."

Oct. 1, 1895-Payment of \$3.60 to Hermanson "for broken bell."

Oct. 6, 1896-First fire company formally organized with G. Amunson designated as Chief; Chief of Pail and Bucket Squad, George C. Taylor; Chief of Hook and Ladder Squad, Albert Weinmann; Chief of Chemical Squad, Gilbert Gullickson

Mar. 1, 1897-Motion passed authorizing Weinmann to purchase two axes and six pails.

Dec. 5, 1899-Steam fire engine and associated items purchase from the W. S. Nott Company authorized; "The whole cost (to be) \$1421 and give in exchange the Chemical Engine at a value of \$521 . . ." (Include 4 Chief's hats, 3 Fireman's rubber coats, etc.)

Feb. 7, 1900-Nott Steam Engine has "capacity of 350 gallons of water per minute, and to stand a steam pressure of 125 pounds and a pressure on the pumps of 140 pounds to the square inch, and to throw a stream over the flag pole of the I.O.O.F. Hall from a 3/4 inch nozzle, held by a man standing on the ground."

July 12, 1900-"The whole company numbers about 35 members. The Village will be called upon to furnish the hook and ladder and trucks, also one or two hose carts in addition to those already on hand. Iola will hereafter be equipped with one of the best fire departments in the county."

Oct. 16, 1900-Johnson and Thompson's \$1,432.34 bid for engine house on State Street accepted.

Jan. 10, 1901-First meeting held at the new engine house. Fire company now "entitled to two percent on all insurance premiums in the village; a sung little fund for the members."

Jan. 15, 1901-Public Property Committee instructed to "procure a bed and springs, a lamp and arrange for heating bedroom of engine house, also to procure piping for drying hose, a pump for the cistern and the necessary lanterns for the fire department."

Aug. 8, 1901-Two cisterns built for fire protection at a cost of \$800.

July 26, 1913-Village Board met with Waterous Engine Company representatives to discuss purchase of a 1912 horse drawn No. 6 gasoline fire engine with full equipment.

Aug. 13, 1913-Borrowing of \$2,250 for purchase of engine authorized; decommissioned in 1942. Sold to Hobie Edmonds at Edmonds Dock on Waupaca Chain O' Lakes. Passed to Hobie's son, Don, at sale of business following Hobies passing. Acquired from Don by Chet Krause in mid-1970s. Sold to Doug Olgilve, president of Pierce Manufacturing, in 1988. Presented to Iola Historical Society by Pierce on Feb. 3, 2005.

Oct. 3, 1915 -Village purchased one dozen firefighters rubber coats and hats at \$2.50 each.

Oct. 5, 1920-Village is asked to provide new hook and ladder truck to replace the old engine, but action not taken until nearly six years later.

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Dec. 3, 1923-Fire Department offers "Village money at the same rate of interest as they get from the bank" if they see fit to buy a fire truck.

June 18, 1926-Purchase of used Ford Model T truck chassis for \$550 F.O.B. Iola authorized. Sold to Melvin Forseth for \$340 at public auction on Mar. 9, 1944. Sold to M. Hasse of Waupaca in 1950. Sold to Ward Hanson of Stoughton in 1967. Sold to Armin F. Meyer of Madison in 1985. Sold to Mike Mazemke of Iola in 2001. Sold to Chet Krause in 2002. Gifted to IHS by Chet Krause in 2005.

Feb. 2, 1931-Shortly after this date the fire calls record book indicates rural calls are being responded to.

Sept. 14, 1931-Motion made "that the truck be equipped to carry the ladder on top of the truck."

Apr. 30, 1942-Purchase of used 1938 long wheel base 1-1/2 ton Reo



Attending the March 31, 2014, meeting of the IHS with their new engine were (left to right) Joel Barden, Firefighter; Charles (Chuck) Fritz, Fire Chief; Wes Mork, Lieutenant; and Jim Irish, Firefighter.

Speedwagon chassis authorized. Purchase price of truck chassis was about \$350. Cost of centrifugal pump, booster tank, other manufactured parts about \$300. First of 24/26 fire trucks crafted by R. I. Anderson in his State Street shop.

Feb., 1976-Reo fire truck taken out of service. Sold to Chet Krause for \$1,650 at public auction held in July 1976 during the Iola Old Car Show. Gifted to Iola Historical Society in 2005.

May 28, 2007-Replication of 1901 Iola Firehouse dedicated as a \$150,000 Iola Historical Society project.

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display cases in the museum area was substantially expanded over the winter, crafted by Jim Jenson, Roger Olson and Gene Wasrud.

At the Memorial Day event Lee Nelson's WWII aviator career exhibit was reinstated, and a new exhibit of DeLyle Omholt introduced; they and another under development dedicated to the Ray Elmer Towne Native American artifacts collection are the work of Lyle Mork and Doug Watson.

Our meeting on Tuesday, May 27, was held in the nearly finished Robert R. & Stella Strand Resource Center, a project that was built out by Charlie Wasrud over the winter. The Iola-Scandinavia elementary school third grade classes were hosted to tours of the Iola Historic Village & Museum on Wednesday and Thursday, June 4 and 5. Another successful Iola Strawberry Fest, the 30th annual, was held on Sunday, June 22.

Donors & Loaners

April • May • June

ARCHIVAL DONATIONS: Jane G. Cooper (old Iola Herald news photos), Joel Edler (wood advertising promotion level) Ted Gjertson (1923 Waupaca County plat book), Betty Hafemann (Iola Homemakers record book), Chester L. Krause (1909 IHS graduation class photo, 1924 Model T fire truck photo, Wipf Family Haviland china dinner setting), Clifford & Sally Mishler (Weinmann bedroom furniture), Philip A. Strand (local interest book and manuscript). **DONATIONS FOR CASH AND IN-KIND:** Mark Beske (cash), Community Insurance (raffle prizes), Crystal Cafe (raffle prize), Brad & Martha DeYoung (cash), First National Bank, Iola (raffle prizes), Iola Old Car Show (raffle prizes), Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce (raffle prize), Iola Sentry Foods (raffle prizes), JD's Corner Bar (raffle prizes), James Jenson (donated labors), Gerald Johnson (raffle prize), Chester L. Krause (cash), Krause Foundation (cash), Lashua Excavating (free excavating), JoJo's Little Norway (raffle prizes), Gregory J. Loescher (cash for signage, raffle prize), The Millstone (raffle prizes) Clifford & Sally Mishler (cash), Phyllis Morris (cash), Chris Mortenson (cash), Jon & Suzanne Nelson (cash), Niemo's Manawa Septic Service (in-kind), Roger Olson (donated labors), Shoemaker Companies (discount), Silver Lake Lanes (raffle prizes), Sons of Norway (cash for heritage map), Philip A. Strand (cash), Sweet Medicine Prescriptions Plus (raffle prizes), Charles Thompson (donated labor and materials), Topsy Steer (raffle prizes), Charles Wasrud (donated labors), Gene Wasrud (donated labors).

2014 Supporting Members

The Iola Historical Society wishes to extend special recognition and thanks to the following individuals and organizations for the extra financial support their ongoing status as Supporting Members provides to the Society's activities: Doris Beier, Mary Bennett, Bark L. Beske, Scott & Karri Bestul, LeRoy & Carolyn Borth, Robert & Beverly Ellingson, DeRonda & Patricia Engebretson, Helene M. Furst, John & Yvonne Gurholt, Leonard & Irene Haroldson, Iola & Rural Firefighting Service, Lee & Ruth Johnson, Thomas & Linda Martin, Phyllis Morris, Joan & Richard Niemiec, Barbara Egner-Pelmar, David & Ruth Strand, Philip A. Strand, Forrest & Virginia Torgerson, Roger Voie, William & Jacqueline Wilker.

2014 Events Schedule

Monday, July 28, 2014

5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting

6:30 pm IHS General Meeting

Saturday, August 23, 2014

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Special Program

Waupaca County Country Schools
by Joan Paulson and Don Hansen

Monday, August 25, 2014

5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting

6:30 pm IHS General Meeting

Saturday, August 30, 2014

Noon - 3:00 End of Season

Historic Village and Museum

Monday, September 29, 2014

5:45 pm IHS Board Meeting

6:30 pm IHS General Meeting