

Brief History Of Jefferson County Fire Department (2nd Edition)

1945 to 1951

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Al Ring with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc. Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. *The Courier-Journal*, *The Louisville Times* or one of the *Voice* publications.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they must get permission from the source.

If you have additional information on the Jefferson County Fire Department that you would share, please contact me (Al Ring) at ringal@comcast.net.



Explanation

In 1945 discussions started about forming a Jefferson County Fire Department for the whole county. Eventually County government did form a department and it was active until 1950. Some of the very people who suggested and started the department became it biggest enemies and helped end it. Politics also entered into its demise. As it turned out for the next 50 years the Volunteer departments who provided the fire service in Jefferson County were probably overall providing some of the best fire service in the country.

There are articles and photos we haven't been able to find and would appreciate any help anyone looking at this information might give. Just contact Al Ring ringal@comcast.net.

Special Thanks To—

Rick Albers

Kyle Brown

Joe Hardesty, Louisville Public Library

Otto G. Mock

Jack Monohan

David Morgan, Jefferson County Archives

Mike Noon

Al Ring

All the others that contributed to this section

TIMELINE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

February, 1945—B. H. Sublette of Middletown Fire Department and president of the Jefferson County Volunteers Firemen's Association approached Jefferson County Judge James Mark Beauchamp about establishing a Jefferson County Fire Department. There were 11 volunteer departments in Jefferson County at that time. The idea was to have 3 or 4 strategically placed fire stations manned 24/7 to help the existing and future volunteer fire departments at that time. Judge Horace M. Barker became the County Judge and really established the Jefferson County Fire Department.

August, 1945— First Jefferson County Fire Department Chief Claud D. Thompson was appointed Chief. He was a veteran of the Louisville Fire Department and Curtis-Wright Plant Fire Department with 26 years experience. Part of that time he was Captain of Louisville Quad 6.

March, 1946— B. N. Sublette of Middletown and J. H. Buttermann of Buechel and others filed a restraining order against the County from purchasing 3 pumpers. Their main complaint was the location of the proposed 3 county fire stations. This started the feud between the volunteers and the new department that was never able to be overcome.

By August, 1946— These firefighters ran the Jefferson County Fire Department, locations for stations had been decided, and 3 districts set up, and 3 pumpers bought:

Chief Claud Thompson 26 years 8 months experience. Claud was born January 13, 1900 and died January 1981. The 1930 census shows him the son of Nace and Jennie L. Thompson married to Thelma L. living on Hemlock St. and a Captain with the City Fire Department.

Captain J. D. Thompson, 1st. County District, in Middletown, brother of Chief Thompson. 21 1/2 years as a Lieutenant and Captain with the Louisville Fire Department and a Captain of the Standiford Field Fire Department.

Captain William Gurk, Newburg Fire Station, 2nd county district 26 years with Louisville Fire Department, 23 years in training at 20th and Garland. During the War he was Lieutenant at the Standiford Field Fire Department. The 1930 census shows him on Lydia St. a City Fireman, married to Gertrude E. He was born February 26, 1889 and died August 1971. He was from Pennsylvania and had a 9 year old child Frances C. The 1946 Caron's directory him with Gertrude a County fireman living at 1126 Ellison Avenue.

Captain George Andrews, 3rd County District, Pleasure Ridge Park, 24 1/2 years with the Louisville Fire Department most recently at Hook and Ladder No 2. The 1930 census shows him married to Lillie, from Greece, born about 1893 and 37 years old and a city Fireman with a 6 year old, Elaine M.

January, 1947— Judge Horace M. Barker, looks back at first year of Jefferson County Fire Department and , 3 firehouses are under construction.

March 1948— By now Bill Rice of Buechel Fire Department was head of the Firefighters group. Attorney R. Davis McAfee was their attorney. They worked hard to work out agreements with the County and the Volunteer Fire Departments.

January 1950— Judge Boman L. Shamburger became Jefferson County Judge and eventually shut down the Jefferson County Fire Department during this month. He dismissed all 30 men who were employed at this time.

Some Of The People Involved With Jefferson County Fire Department

County Judge James Mark Beauchamp— Courtesy, http://books.google.com/books?id=pXbYITw4ZesC&pg=PA79&lpg=PA79&dq=james+Mark+Beauchamp,+Louisville,+KY&source=bl&ots=bxC6uNOiUd&sig=tM5MC0aEo6A6N7XoQMM6nRrudkal&hl=en&ei=VBzKS6SHE4-CsgOR5LS_Aw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=9&ved=0CBwQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Born Taylorsville, Kentucky, January 22, 1883, Died Louisville, Kentucky January 2, 1966. Jefferson County Judge. Beauchamp was the son of Isaac Dudley and Louisa Katherine (Alexander) Beauchamp. His father owned a flour mill, which he ran until his death in 1920. Beauchamp attended public and private schools in Taylorsville and at the age of eighteen went to Massey business college in Louisville. He graduated from the college and went to work for the Louisville Car Wheel & Railway Supply Co. as a clerk for one year.

He then went to work for the *Courier-Journal* in the advertising department. He stayed with the newspaper for nine years, until 1912. During that time he earned a degree from the Jefferson School of Law in 1907 and was admitted to the Louisville bar that same year. Beauchamp married Florence Caruthers, a native of Montgomery City, Missouri, on April 20, 1912. The couple had two children, Mark Junior and Jane C. Beauchamp.

Beauchamp, a Democrat, served two terms as Jefferson County judge, from January 1, 1938 until December 31, 1945. In the 1937 election he defeated Republican George J. Mayer by 15,200 votes out of the more than 123,000 cast. During his administration, Beauchamp was responsible for the development of a nationally recognized playground and recreation program in Jefferson County. As county judge he appointed the first Playground and Recreation Board in 1944.

Beauchamp ran for a third term in 1945 but was defeated by 924 votes in a hotly contested primary race by Democrat Edwin C. Willis, who was the local party organization's candidate. Beauchamp's campaign manager was Mrs. Lennie W. McLaughlin who later secretary of the democratic County executive and served as head of the party for many years. Beauchamp, alleging voter fraud, contested the nomination, but Circuit Judge Gilbert Burnett ruled that Willis had been nominated. During the race-week trial it was revealed that fraudulent votes had been cast for both candidates. Willis eventually lost the November election to republican Horace M. Barker.

Beauchamp also served as judge pro tem of the Jefferson County court and was chairman of the Jefferson County Democratic Party and a member of the Democratic State Committee. He was appointed to serve on the Board of Alderman in 1925 after the Kentucky Court of Appeals nullified the 1923 election. He also was elected aldermanic president during the term and served as Mayor Pro Tem for one month before the November 1925 special election. Beauchamp was Louisville's director of Law for four years before becoming county judge. He also served a county commissioner for eleven years, from 1950 until he retired from politics in 1961. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.



BEAUCHAMP MARK
500-509 Realty Bldg
BEAUCHAMP MARK JR.
500-509 Realty Bldg
Becker W D 400 Lou Trust Co Bldg
Bedinger H G 504 Ky Home Life Bldg

Caron's 1936 Directory:

County Judge Horace M. Barker— http://books.google.com/books?id=pXbYITw4ZesC&pg=PA67&lpg=PA67&dq=County+judge+horace+m.+barker,+Louisville,+KY&source=bl&ots=bxC6uNRbY9&sig=5WGAyFjJpft27IRc71CoF2EQwE&hl=en&ei=dCXKS4WuDZLasgOw6o31Ag&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CAoQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false

Born Irvine, Kentucky, March 31, 1898, did Louisville, Kentucky, July 28, 1980. Jefferson County Judge. Barker attended Kentucky Wesleyan College and received his law degree from Washington and Lee University. He was admitted to the Louisville bar in 1930.

Barker was Jefferson County Judge from January 7, 1946 until January 1, 1950. He defeated Democrat Edwin C. Willis by 684 votes out of the more than 110,000 cast. The Republican won nearly every city and county office in 1945, with the exception of the mayor's office, which was won by 204 votes by Democrat E. Leland Taylor. Barker did not run for reelection in 1949.

In January 1946 Barker insisted and investigation of the county police department that eventually led to the dismissal of several officers, some of whom were eventually reinstated. Barker requested the help of the federal Bureau of Investigation to reorganize the county police, and more stringent hiring criteria were adopted. The FBI also helped the county to start a training academy for new officers. Barker launched major road improvement programs and acquire new park and timberlands for public use. **He also established a county fire department, but it was abandoned by subsequent administrations.**

Barker married Edith Bealmear on July 2, 1932, in Louisville. The couple had three children: Patricia Ann, Lawrence B., and Bruce D. The family lived on Osage Road in Anchorage. He died at Baptist East Hospital at the age of eighty-two and is buried in Calvary Cemetery.

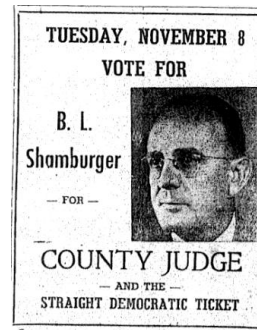


PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THIS STORY

County Judge Boman L. Shamburger — All we have on Judge Shamburger was he was born June 15, 1905 and died March 1975. His last address was at 40205 zip code in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as Jefferson County Judge starting January 1, 1950.

From the 1936 Caron's Directory:

SHAMBURGER BOMAN L.
1936 Ky Home Life Bldg



B. L. Shamburger
Democratic Candidate For
County Judge

April 15, 1949, **Lieutenant Lester M. Nevin**, District 1 Of 2330 Village Drive, married to "Jo". Involved with accident with one of the County apparatus in St. Matthews. In the 1930 census he was the son of Joe and Rose Levin who was a furniture salesman, lived on 3rd Street and had other family members, Sylvia, Herbert, Lillian, Maurice and Helen.



Chief Claud Thompson



Courier-Journal Photo
G. H. PARKER
Discusses fire risks

'Corn Huskin' Contest At Fairdale Nov. 12

On November 12 the people of Jefferson County will be treated to the third annual "Huskin' Bee" sponsored by the County Recreation Board.

Everyone will be able to enjoy a full program of fun and entertainment as the County Board is planning several feature numbers for this all-county event.

The evening will be highlighted of course by the open "corn huskin'" contest. Invitations have been sent out to the surrounding counties to send their champion corn huskers to take part and try to win one of the beautiful trophies offered to the winner and runner up in the contest.

In addition to the main contest such as corn-shelling and basket-filling contests will be offered to those present.

Several acts of entertainment will be offered to those people attending. The last part of the evening's entertainment will be turned into an old-fashioned square dance. Square dancing has become one of the most popular recreational activities in the county. The best callers and string band will be present to assure each and everyone a good time.

Those desiring to enter the open "Corn Huskin'" contest must notify the Jefferson County Recreation office by November 8. This can be done by either calling Clay 2618 or Clay 6671-extension 455, or by writing to the office indicating this desire to enter.

This is one of the big events in the fall recreation program sponsored by your County Board. Put this date down as a must! Everyone is invited—everything is free except refreshments.

Apparatus Facts of Jefferson County Fire Department

All three units were 1947—Seagrave 750 G.P.M. Pumpers, Model 66 EB, the District 1 serial number was D-0855 the others would have been just before or just after that number. They were made in Columbus, Ohio by Seagrave Corporation.

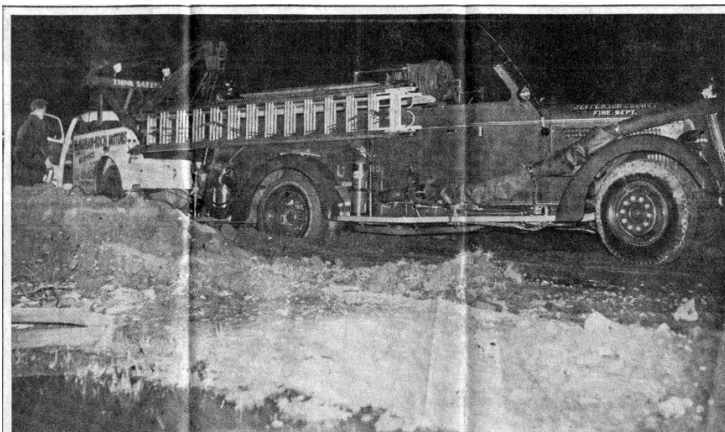
When the department was discontinued in 1950 all three pumpers were stored in the Louisville Armory until they were sold by the County.

District 1 Pumper (Middletown): This pumper was sold to St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department in November/December 1952. St. Matthews used it until 1978 when it was sold to Duffield Virginia Volunteer Fire Department. This photo courtesy *The story of Louisville's neighborhoods, by the Courier Journal*, —Firefighters christened a new truck with a bottle of 7-up as part of the dedication of a new fire station in Middletown, 1944. Note the date is wrong, this is probably 1947. The person with the 7-up bottle is Chief Claud Thompson. NOTE: The county loaned STMFD the pumper sometime in 1950 for use in the

fire service. The department used making tape to cover the name on the hood and took no pictures of the pumper until it obtained ownership.



Note name—Jefferson County Fire Department.



County Fire Department Pumper Runs Afoul of St. Matthews Sewers

It required almost two hours and two wrecker trucks to free this county pumper from the gooey mire as it attempted to reach a fire in St. Matthews last night. Answering an alarm from 4024 St. Germaine, Fire Lt. L. M. Nevin and his crew got as far as Norbourne Boulevard and Sherrin. The fire, a minor one in a garage, was extinguished with a garden hose by neighbors. Two days ago the Fiscal Court ordered no more openings made on the sewer projects until contractors fill existing open excavations.



1949, This became a STMFD pumper known as S1 and 8821

Apparatus Facts of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 1 Pumper (Middletown):

Plaque off the side of our old 1947 Seagrave (S1).

It is a copy of the exact lettering and layout from the original plaque.

Courtesy Jack Monohan

**JEFFERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
HORACE M. BARKER
JUDGE
E. P. WHITE, JR. – EDWARD TORSTRICK
MILES R. THACKER
COMMISSIONERS
SAMUEL STEINFELD - COUNTY ATTORNEY
CLAUD THOMPSON – FIRE CHIEF
1946**

Apparatus Facts of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 2 Pumper (Newburg): Was first sold to Jeffersontown Volunteer Fire Department which felt it was to big for their use. Edgewood bought the 1947 Seagraves from Jeffersontown Volunteer Fire Department June 18, 1959 for \$3,500, but may not have taken possession until October or November of that year. This was Edgewood's second truck and it helped them separate form Camp Taylor Volunteer Fire Department, as they no longer needed assistance of a second engine from them. This truck served Edgewood well and even outlasted the 1957 Ford Pumper bought new. When Edgewood took possession of a new 1971 Ford the old Seagrave was sold to McCulloch Fire Association, Jeffersonville, IN for unknown price. From there it eventually would up in Indianapolis at the Fire Museum of Indiana and now is owned by Rodger Birchfield and we have been told is in bad shape.

Courtesy Kyle Brown:

In photo is 1957 Ford and the 1947 Seagrave.

To the right is the movie screen, Edgewood was known back in the early 60's to show movies to the neighboring children for fund raisers even though they were a taxing district, funds were raised for fireman's fund. (1960 –1962)



July 1966



Apparatus Facts of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 2 Pumper (Newburg): **Courtesy Kyle Brown:**

EFD Nov 1967, Seagrave used to set in the rear of the station by this time, at one time there was 4 trucks in the station, the 1957 Ford was sold in July 1967 a few months before this photo. How they got four trucks out on a fire? Their roster was always good back then...



This is July 1962, the two EFD trucks were at a training burn (w/ Okolona) on Fern Valley Road across from Ford Motor Co. Interesting the Seagrave was used for supplying the Okolona Truck not the newer Ford?



Courtesy, present owner (2010) Rodger Birchfield.



Apparatus Facts of Jefferson County Fire Department

Courtesy John Bailey, The old 1947 Seagrave sold to McCulloch Fire Association:



Apparatus Facts of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 3 Pumper (Pleasure Ridge Park): Pleasure Ridge Park Volunteer Fire Department bought this pumper. It eventually was hit by a truckload of soldiers and the front end was completely demolished. It was sent back to Seagrave in Columbus, Ohio and rebuilt new from the dash forward. It looked almost brand new. It was eventually sold to a department in Southern Indiana. The Pleasure Ridge Park history on the web site states the following: Before our department was formed in February 1950, this area was covered by the Jefferson County Fire Department which consisted of three districts with one pumper in each district. Southwest Jefferson County was considered district three. The County donated its third district pumper to the newly formed Pleasure Ridge Park Fire Department to use as its only apparatus. The vehicle was stored in a Quonset hut that was shared with the Jefferson County Police where the present Southwest Government Center is located at 7219 Dixie Hwy.

May 19, 1965, Courtesy, John Bailey, Fairdale:



Bessie, left, is 20 years old and ready for retirement. That's her replacement, at right.

Bessie Has Made 3,000 Fire Runs But That's Over; Now She's for Sale

By KELLY COCANOUGH
Louisville Times Staff Writer

She has been a noisy old gal, never much to look at, but always exciting.

The men in her life call her Bessie. A siren in the strictest sense, Bessie has been a source of pride for 15 years in Pleasure Ridge Park as the district's best-known firetruck.

She has responded to more than 3,000 fires—as many as 16 in one day—and only once in that time needed a push to get started.

Bessie was the district's first piece of firefighting equipment, bought second-hand for \$800 raised by donations. A 1946 model, she is now too old to pass Kentucky inspection standards and is up for sale.

Replacement Is \$35,000 Truck

The replacement is a \$35,000 truck, a steamlined, custom-built pumper that typifies the progress the department has made.

The unincorporated area had no men and no money for firefighting in early 1951. Now it has four fire stations, 112 firemen, 16 pieces of equipment and is the biggest volunteer department in the state.

As one of 20 volunteer departments in the county, it protects a five-mile square area that sits astride Dixie High-

way, extending from Shively on the north to Valley Station on the south and Manslick Road on the east to the Ohio River on the west.

The area embraces approximately 5,000 pieces of taxable property and 18,000 inhabitants.

Pleasure Ridge Park insurance rates in those 15 years have dropped from 10th class to sixth class, said Bob Bohler, secretary of the fire department.

Bohler's dad, Ernest, is chief of the department. It was he, along with Frank Murphy, now a retired postmaster, who led a door-to-door drive 15 years ago to obtain money to get the department started.

Now equipment and facilities are valued at \$380,000.

Only 3 Firemen Are Paid

Only three firemen are paid—three radio operators who maintain a 24-hour alert. The 109 volunteers include merchants, insurance men, welfare workers, manual laborers, two professional firemen with the City of Louisville, and four ministers who serve as chaplains.

Pleasure Ridge Park has its own alarm system, separate from the county's central alarm system. The telephone number is 921-0624.

The four firehouses, strategically located throughout the area, are all modern brick, complete with kitchens and offices.

At least one two-hour training exercise is held each week and it includes first-aid classes and rescue practice. And once each year 12 men attend a state fire school to learn special firefighting techniques.

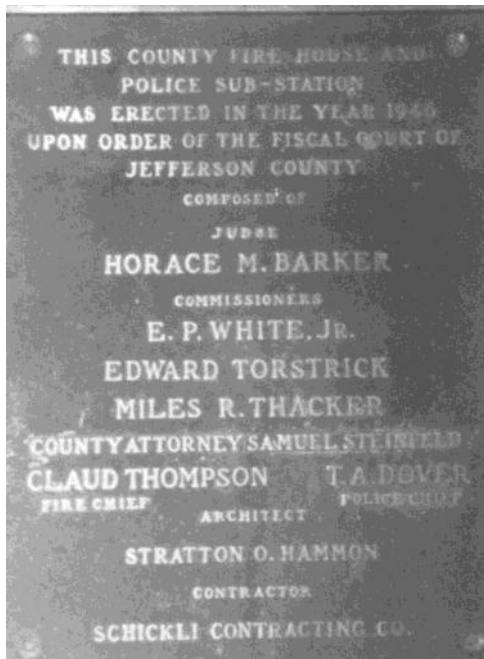
On top of that there is a departmental pride as fierce as fire-engine red.

Fire Stations of Jefferson County Fire Department

All three building were newly built after the department was formed and were joint police and fire stations.

District 1: The original Middletown Volunteer Fire Station was on the South Side of Shelbyville Road and eventually became Bob Martin's Muffler Shop. The new county police and fire station was built right next door to it on the east side at 11704 U. S. 60, (Shelbyville Road). When the department was shut down it remained a police station for awhile but eventually became the Middletown Volunteer Fire Station and Bob Martin got the old one.

Reverted to county to be police stations except Middletown 11704 U. S. 60



Building plaque from original fire station built in 1946. to the left. Station one prior to renovation which the county built as Fire/police station in 1946. About 1985.



1964 ——— 1966



1970



Fire Stations of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 1: October 1956, *The Courier-Journal*:



June 11, 1964, *The Voice Of St. Matthews*:

County police await decision from firemen

Which of two organizations—Jefferson County Third District Police or the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department—will continue to occupy their present quarters in Middletown after this fall.

The two organizations jointly occupy a brick building on Shelbyville Road, and officials of both organizations say the only thing for certain at the moment is that one of the organizations will move, and the decision is for the Fire Department to make.

County Judge Marlow Cook has said that the county-owned building will be occupied, that if the Fire department moves the Police Department will remain, that if the firemen stay the police will move.

Also somewhat figuring in the decision is the Middletown Civic Club which owns the land on which the building is located and has an option to purchase the building.

The Fire Department has delayed a decision waiting for an answer to a request that the Civic Club purchase the building using their resources, including whatever the building can be adjusted to meet its needs.

Civic Club officials say they have taken no action as to buying the building, mainly because they say they are not sure of the intentions of the Fire department.

Actually, the Fire Department has been remodeling in recent weeks buying land on which to build, fire (rest of article just a few lines is unreadable)

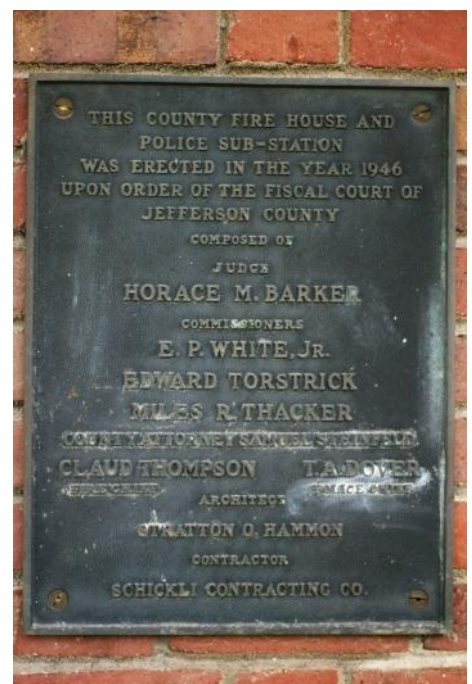
Fire Stations of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 2: The County owned the County Works Department land in the Newburg area and that is where the new Police/Fire station was built. The address was 3528 Newburg Road and the location is still owned by the county today. Near the end of 2009 the building was torn down and a new Animal Shelter was built their.

1995 taken by Kyle Brown, the Newburg Station:



At the time of the photos, the Co Police were using the building to install equipment in new police cars, one room was full of old Yankee light bars, they were stacked to the windows... They would pull new vehicles into the bay, I guess they also took old equipment off old cars in there too. The farthest I made it into the building one time, was in the bay.



Fire Stations of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 2: 1995 taken by Kyle Brown, the Newburg Station:



Fire Stations of Jefferson County Fire Department

District 3: Built at 7219 Dixie Hwy the new Police/Fire station was built. It reverted back to just a police station after the fire department closed and the building was eventually torn down.

Major Bowman 4/22 agrees with the fact that it was a quanset hut

This is a picture from the 1977 Jeff Co Police yearbook, I believe it is taken outside the Dixie Sub station, looks like early 50's from the few that I know in it? Kyle Brown



This is also in the yearbook, That is Bobby Crouch (Back row, glasses) , who became Chief. It was taken inside the Dixie Sub station early 60's.



February 23, 1945, *St. Matthews Sun & The Jeffersonian*: Volunteer Firemen Ask For County Department — Will Present Resolution to The Fiscal Court

Following a discovery by B. H. Sublette of Middletown, president of The Jefferson County Firemen's Association, that an act of the Kentucky legislature empowers the Fiscal Court to set up and operate a county fire department, a survey is being made by the county firemen which will be used in drawing up a resolution for presentation to the Jefferson County Fiscal Court at an early session. The resolution says Sublette, will indicate the pressing need of a county fire fighting organization about which various community volunteers groups can be built to afford the county providing the protection.

"Already," said Sublette, Fayette to County has availed itself of the opportunity and set up an efficient program. In Jefferson County the fire hazard is much greater, the population denser and fire loss more costly."

"We have eleven community volunteer departments operating in the county now, but their scope of operation is limited. In Middletown, Shively, Anchorage, and other centers, fire apparatus cannot be taken out of definite limits and therefore must refuse to make many calls."

"This is distasteful to every volunteer fire department," explained Sublette, "because our inclination is to render aid wherever we can. But we cannot, in Middletown, for instance, go outside of Middletown Water District."

"This installation of county-wide fire fighting equipment remedies this situation. With three or four 24 hour fire stations set-up by the Fiscal Court at strategic points in the county, it will be possible to make runs anywhere in Jefferson County, thus reducing insurance rates and affording maximum protection."

The enabling statute which Sublette ascertained was passed in 1942 is simple and succinct in its language, stating that "if any county elects to operate a fire department the fiscal court may purchase whatever equipment is necessary...lease or purchase any property or building necessary...employ a sufficient number of persons deemed necessary...fix salaries of the persons employed and to pay said salaries in monthly payments out of the general fund of the county."

A meeting of the executive committee of the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association will be held in the office of J. H. Buttermann on the Bardstown Road at Buechel, Wednesday evening, February 23, to frame a resolution to be presented the fiscal court. This committee is composed of one member of each of the eleven volunteer fire departments in the county.

Volunteer Firemen Ask For County Department

WILL PRESENT RESOLUTION TO THE FISCAL COURT

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B. N. Sublette

March 23, 1945, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Residents Ask For Fire Department

Much interest has been aroused in Jefferson County by the announcement that an establishment of a county fire department was possible and legal under a recently enacted state statute.

Inquiries have been received at The Jeffersonian office from residents who have wanted to know just what measures were being taken to insure prompt action, what affect the county department would have on fire insurance rates and how complete such a county fire fighting organization might be.

Answers given were limited by the amount of information available, but conversations with B. N. Sublette, chairman of the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and Davis McAfee, secretary, indicated that steps were being taken to insure better county fire protection.

A meeting is to be held Tuesday evening, March 27, at the Hikes Graded School of the county fire association, to which all persons interested in the establishment of a Jefferson County Fire Department are invited. At that meeting the proposal which is to be placed before the Fiscal Court will be discussed and probably drafted.

Several residents have protested that although they live comparatively close to present county community departments that the fire insurance rates are no lower than before they had this protection. In many cases this is because such fire departments are prohibited from answering calls outside a prescribed area.

The opinion of those who have made some study of the situation is that with the establishment of an efficient county fire department a substantial saving will be effected in fire insurance rates. A member of a county volunteer department stated that his opinion after consultation with several authorities was that the amount saved to county property owners in lower insurance rates would far exceed the cost of setting up and operating a fire department.

The extent to which the proposed fire department will be developed depends on the importance the Fiscal Court places on the project. If the Court adopts an effective plan, placing com-

(Continued On Page 2)

March 30, 1945, *The Jeffersonian*:

Volunteer Firemen Present Petitions

Over one hundred county residents met with the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Tuesday night at Hikes Graded School and heard N. B. Sublette, chairman, report on his findings in regard to the establishment of a county fire department as provided by Kentucky law.

With the exception of the Anchorage Fire Department, every volunteer fire-fighting unit in the county was represented.

Davis McAfee, secretary of the organization, reported hundreds of petitions signed by county residents asking the Fiscal Court to set up a county fire department in Jefferson County had been delivered to the association.

It was decided by unanimous action to present these petitions to the next session of the Fiscal Court, Tuesday, April 3.

An alarm of fire was sounded while the firemen were holding forth, and a fire which destroyed a nearby garage and two automobiles, was prevented by the prompt action of the Buechel fire department from spreading to the nearby dwellings.

COUNTY RESIDENTS ASK FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued From Page 1)

plate equipment and personnel at strategic points in the county, and giving such aid to present and future volunteer organizations that will assure the effectiveness of these community units. It is possible that a county-wide coverage can be obtained.

However, much depends, said Chairman Sublette, on the general demand of the people. "I hope all communities having volunteer departments will be represented next Tuesday evening at our meeting," said Sublette. "And we are anxious for representatives from other sections that realize their need of fire protection to be present. I would like to see many farmers attend. Their interest in protection from fire is very great because they have so much at stake."

Sublette is planning to visit Fayette county this week to inspect the county fire department there. He will report the findings of his visit at the Tuesday meeting.

May 11, 1945, *The Jeffersonian*:

Court Delays Action On Fire Department

The committee appointed several weeks ago by the Fiscal Court to draw up a suggested plan for the establishment of a county fire department made its report to the court last Monday but no action was taken.

Meeting the approval of the majority of the court members, and receiving praise from Judge Mark Beauchamp the resolution provides that a competent fire chief be employed for Jefferson County to coordinate and assist the present volunteer departments.

That sufficient equipment be purchased to supplement the apparatus now operated by volunteer fire fighters. That the Fiscal Court furnish equipment or financial aid to the amount of 50 percent of the sum raised by any community in establishing a fire department and that a plan be effected whereby cisterns, ponds or reservoirs be installed to supply ample water reserves. And that the services of the county fire

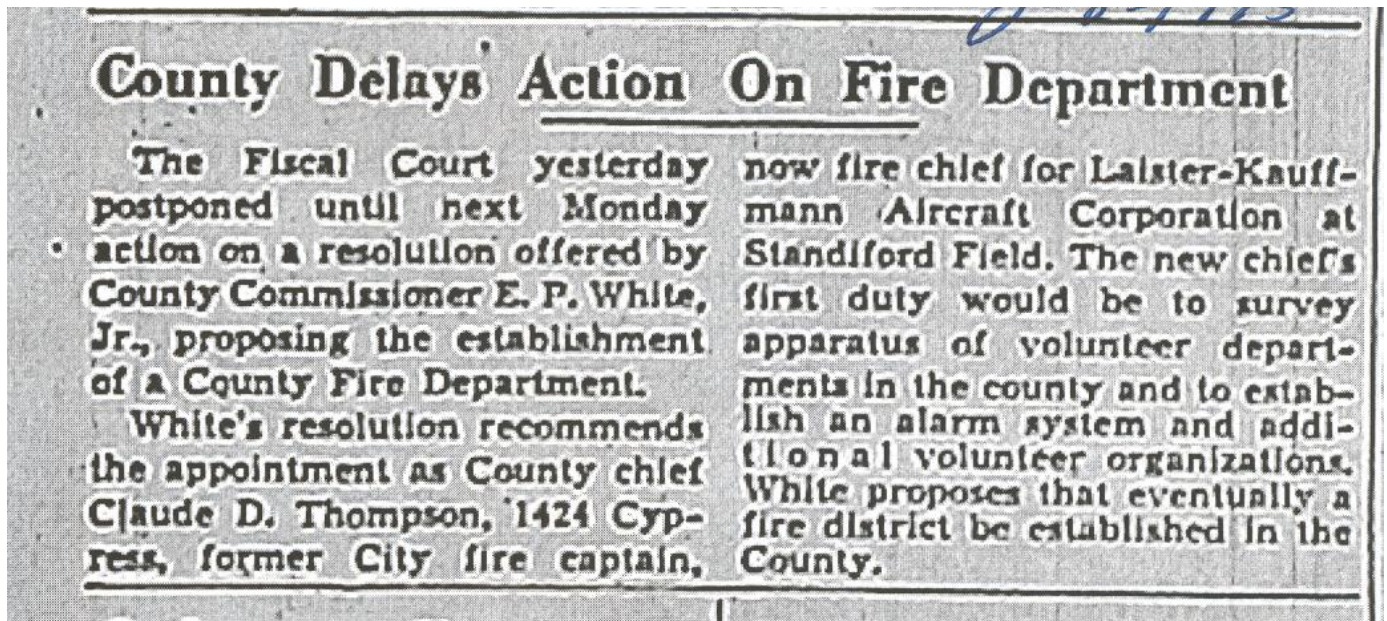
department be made available to all sections of Jefferson County outside of incorporated areas.

County Commissioner E. P. White, Jr., who encouraged the organization of local volunteer fire-fighters, said yesterday that it was probable that the court would take action on the resolution next Monday.

Meanwhile the county is considerably concerned over the adoption of some program looking forward to better fire protection in the county.

1945

August 8, 1945, *The Courier-Journal*:



The Courier-Journal
August 8, 1945

County Delays Action On Fire Department

The Fiscal Court yesterday postponed until next Monday action on a resolution offered by County Commissioner E.P. White, Jr., proposing the establishment of a County Fire Department.

White's resolution recommends the appointment as County chief Claude D. Thompson, 1424 Cypress, former City fire captain, now fire chief for Laister-Kauffmann Aircraft Corporation at Standiford Field. The new chief's first duty would be to survey apparatus of volunteer departments in the county and to establish an alarm system and additional volunteer organizations. White proposes that eventually a fire district be established in the County.

August 5, 1945, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Fire Department Chief Named

Claud Thompson to Get \$3,600-a-Year Salary

Organization of a County Fire Department under direction of the Fiscal Court started yesterday when Claud Thompson, 1424 Cypress, was appointed department chief by the court at a salary of \$3,600 a year.

The resolution naming Thompson, a Republican, was introduced by Republican Commissioner E. P. White, Jr., and was adopted unanimously.

Although no money, other than the new chief's salary, has been appropriated by the court, Thompson's duties as outlined in the resolution include a survey of present fire-fighting apparatus; establishment of districts of jurisdiction; setting up of an alarm system to notify various private fire-fighting organizations; education of the public in fire prevention; co-ordination of all fire protection facilities, and establishment of fire districts.

Zoning Hearing Set

White included in his resolution that the new chief would be required to report to the court every Monday.

The court received the first report on a proposed adjustment of a zoning plan since reinvesting itself with the right to review such action by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The plan submitted covered the area around St. Matthews as recently adopted by the commission. For lack of a second, a motion by Commissioner James Henning to approve the adjusted plan was defeated. The court then adopted a resolution for a public hearing on the proposal to be held in the Fiscal Court at 2 p.m., August 22.

Joe T. Morgan Wins

The Courier-Journal
August 15, 1945

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Zoning Hearing Set

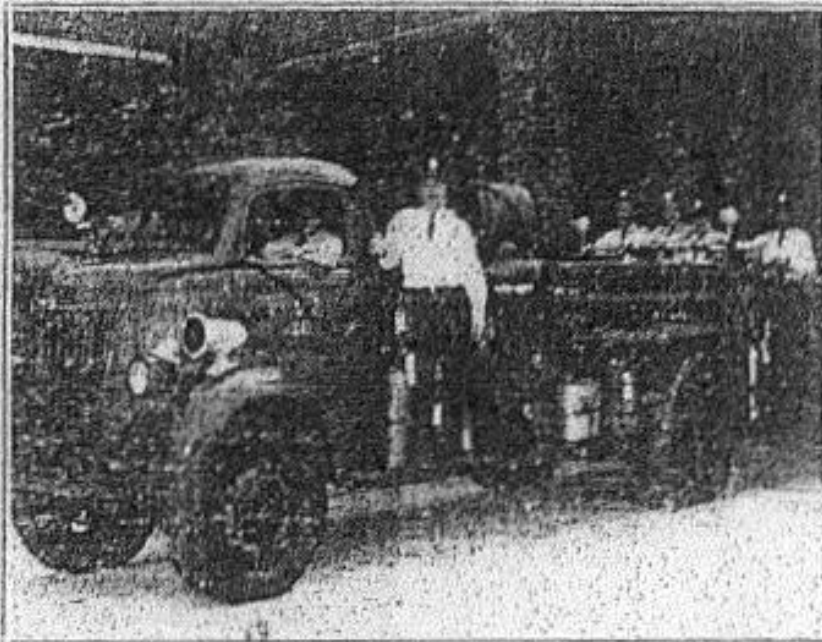
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August 31, 1945, *The Jeffersonian*:

COUNTY FIRE CHIEF TAKES OVER



Chief Claud Thompson Standing on Running Board

Last week the first Fire Chief of Jefferson County started upon his duties with headquarters in the Fiscal Court Building.

Chief Claud Thompson, a veteran of the Louisville Fire Department, and latterly in charge of fire prevention at the Corniss-Wright plant, is said to be thoroughly conversant with all features of fire-fighting, and while he is without a department to preside over, he will act in an advisory capacity to, and as liaison officer between the county volunteer fire departments and the Fiscal Court which has an undetermined relation to the community organizations.

Meeting with the executive committee of the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association last week at Buechel, Thompson explained that because his office was entirely new and that he had no precedents to follow, it would be necessary for him to move slowly at first in determining just what his program would be.

First, said the new chief, a comprehensive survey must be made of the county, existing fire-fighting agencies, population densities and emergency needs. Thompson stated also that he believed that his office could be of

service in helping to bring the present volunteer companies to a high standard of efficiency and in promoting the organization of more volunteer fire departments.

After a complete survey of the county from a fire-prevention angle is made, Thompson said the next step would be a list of suggestions to existing departments with regard to water supply, the digging of ponds at points accessible by roads, and the training of personnel.

Much enthusiasm was displayed at the meeting where every county department was represented except Worthington and Lake Dreamland.

A regular meeting of the members of all the county fire departments will be held at the St. Matthews fire house, Wednesday evening, September 12, at which Chief Thompson will explain further the functions of his office.

Thompson to Suggest County Fire Station

Following a survey made of Jefferson County from a standpoint of adequate fire protection, Fire Chief Claud Thompson will ask the Fiscal Court to approve the establishment of a twenty-four hour fire station at Pleasure Ridge on property now owned by the county.

Chief Thompson said yesterday that besides serving the immediate area, the proposed fire department would be able to act as an auxiliary to a number of volunteer departments in the Third Magisterial District.

"The purpose of my office," said Chief Thompson, "is to reduce the fire hazard in the county. I am sure that I will have the understanding cooperation of every resident in accomplishing the highest degree of effectiveness along this line."

"After a careful examination of the problem of county fire protection I am prepared to praise very highly the volunteer departments that have been doing an excellent and unselfish job of protecting their neighbors from loss through fire."

"But, I also find a number of communities with no protection whatever and where attempts to organize local volunteer departments have failed for some reason or other."

"Pleasure Ridge is one of these

communities where fire losses have been high and protection lacking. We have the site owned by the county practically in the center of the Third District. I am going to ask the Fiscal Court to establish a 24-hour station there with two competent engineers, one on duty at all times. With a 750 gallon pumper, and two auxiliary water tanks and a crew of trained volunteers I believe we can give a maximum of protection in this area."

Thompson explained that one of the most necessary operations in the county is the mapping and study of available water supplies in every community. He said he would urge the digging of ponds at farms strategically located for fire-fighting.

The cooperation of volunteer units will make it possible, said Thompson, to give Jefferson County complete fire protection without exorbitant cost. "A central 24-hour station in each magisterial district is a goal I hope to see reached in the near future," he explained.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCT. 7 to OCT. 13

October 7-13 is Fire Prevention Week and a campaign to decrease fire hazards in the home and public buildings is being conducted throughout the country.

In Jefferson County, Fire Chief Claude Thompson and representatives from the State fire marshals office are visiting schools, distributing pamphlets and showing motion picture films describing common fire risks and methods of eliminating the danger of disastrous conflagrations.

Chief Thompson Asks Fire Prevention Aid

This week is national "Fire Prevention Week" and County Fire Chief Claude Thompson has been making the rounds of county schools, distributing literature and posters, and speaking to pupils and teachers on methods of eliminating fire hazards.

Chief Thompson found, he said, a gratifying response from school faculties and students and believes that an effort will be made in the county to reduce the danger of fire by increased caution on the part of individuals.

"The school can do much toward making the county safer against destructive fires," said Thompson. "After all, fire protection is a science, and careful study and practice of this science will result in the saving of life and property. There is no better place to instill the knowledge that is needed to combat the danger of fire than the school room."

"Three films depicting graphically the ordinary fire hazards about the home," said Thompson, "were shown at the Jeffersontown High School Monday morning. They were repeated until every student had viewed them. Principal J. H. Priestly was cooperative and interested and fully persuaded of the value of fire prevention information."

"Every school in the county will be visited," said Thompson, "and we will make return calls wherever requested."

An official of the state fire marshal's office accompanied the local fire chief on his rounds.

November 9, 1945: *The Jeffersonian*:

County Fire Fighters Want Paid Supervisor

The East Jefferson Lions Club whose membership is composed largely of Jeffersontown, Fern Creek and Buediel residents, has appointed a committee to present a petition to the Jefferson County Fiscal Court asking for paid personnel to be stationed at county fire departments.

While the action in which the club is particularly interested pertains to the three volunteer fire departments in the communities named, any affirmative step taken by the Court will include other units in the county.

Club officials stated that the opinion of its members was that 24-hour service was essential at county fire departments and while manned in the main by volunteers, as in the past, the county should furnish a sufficient number of men to insure constant watch and immediate answer to fire calls.

The paid members of each community staff would be responsible, under the Lions' plan, for the maintenance of equipment and apparatus and for training volunteers.

County Fire Chief Claud Thompson, appointed recently, could not be reached for a statement, but it is believed he will recommend the favorable action by the court.

Chairman N. B. Sublette, Middletown, of the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association was also not available for comment.

November 20, 1945: *The Jeffersonian*:

Fiscal Court Debates Problem Of County-wide Fire Protection

State Law Called Inadequate Now

The question of providing fire protection for areas outside the City limits was raised again yesterday at the Fiscal Court meeting, payment of election expenses was authorized, and jobs for Republicans instead of Democrats caused a brief flare-up.

Coast Guard Lt. Comm. A. W. Medcalf, representing the East Jefferson Lions Club, asked the Fiscal Court to provide fire-fighting facilities, including a paid force, for Buechel, Fern Creek and Jeffersontown.

"We can't do that for some communities without making it county-wide," protested Commissioner James W. Henning.

"We don't have any objection to the whole county getting protection," Medcalf replied.

Henning suggested that Fern Creek and Buechel might organize a fire district, under present State law. The district would be supported by taxes levied by the district trustees.

Jeffersontown would be excluded from this arrangement because it is an incorporated town, Henning explained.

Problem Is For Legislature.

Court members and Medcalf then consulted statutes and provisions of the fire-district law printed in a small leaflet and after some discussion decided that the law is inadequate.

Judge Mark Beauchamp, court chairman, said the law should be amended so that the County can contract with volunteer departments or fire districts to help protect private property.

Sailors Protest At Being Jammed Into Small Ship

Portland, Ore., Nov. 19 (AP)—Nearly 1,000 sailor and Seabee

This should be brought up at the coming session of the Legislature, Beauchamp added.

County Commissioner E. P. White, Jr., proponent of a County-wide Fire Department for some time, declared, "If police protection is necessary and is provided by the County, so then is fire protection. If we spend \$103,000 a year on the Police Department maybe we should spend as much of a Fire Department. The people are entitled to this protection."

Election Costs \$21,462.

The court authorized payment of \$21,462.43 election expenses, which would make the cost per vote two weeks ago approximately 30 cents. Biggest item was the \$7,820 payroll of the Board of Election Commissioners, followed

Warning Signs Planned Near Bowman Field

Permission to erect two large caution signs on Beauchamp Road (unofficially Cannons Lane) warning motorists of airport runways at Bowman Field was granted by the Fiscal Court yesterday at the request of Col. Perry Griffith, Bowman Field commander.

County Clerk Clem P. Thelsen was killed several weeks ago when the car in which he was riding was crushed by a B-17 which plunged off the end of a runway. A warning light on the road at the end of the runway was not working at the time.

by \$3,441 for employees of the County Clerk, such as certificate and sheet writers. The bill of Grieb Printing Company for printing ballots was \$3,869. Smallest bill submitted was that of the Automatic Voting Machine Company, \$13.98 for parts and service for voting machines.

White voted against approving the salary of a County patrolman reappointed by Beauchamp to serve a year. He voted similarly last week.

Horace M. Barber, Republican, is County Judge-elect. White also is a Republican.

"What do you want us to do, just let these appointments lapse, even if it reduces the number of men on the County police force?" Henning asked.

Torstrick Breaks Deadlock.

Republican Commissioner Edward Torstrick broke in then with a vote in favor of reappointment of the patrolman, William A. Richy, at the recommended salary of \$1,800 a year, and ended the deadlock.

Torstrick differed from his Republican colleague on another question, that of accepting the low bid of \$1,080 of George Kilt to repair the Armory roof. White said he did not think Kilt could do the job properly.

After C. A. Taylor, County purchasing agent, submitted a report showing Kilt has done satisfactory work recently for both the City and County, Torstrick changed his vote against accepting the low bid.

County Road Engineer E. Allen Galbreath reported that Milburn Tong, regulation clerk in the Road Department before he entered service, has announced his intention of returning to work November 20.

Water-Hauling Troublesome.

In accordance with a previously approved Fiscal Court order, employment of Fred Ewald, now filling Tong's place, will be terminated. Ewald recently was accused of negligence and carelessness in a shortage in the Road Department's water-hauling fund. Galbreath reported that the County may have trouble ending its water-hauling service, which is slated to stop January 1. There are few persons interested in providing the service to County homes, Galbreath said.

The court will send a letter to all users of the service asking them to report what arrangements they make for getting a water supply.

"They'll be pretty irate if you just cut off their water, so to speak," Henning said.

The Courier-Journal
November 20, 1945

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1945

December 6, 1945: *The Courier-Journal*:



The Courier-Journal
December 6, 1945

Fire-Fighting Setup Sought For County

Plans for a County Fire Department employing six men and the purchase of three pieces of fire-fighting equipment, will be submitted to the Fiscal Court for approval soon after January 1, County Fire Chief Claud Thompson announced yesterday.

Thompson said he will recommend the purchase of three trucks that have 500 gallon built-in water tanks. The trucks, which cost approximately \$10,000 each, are also equipped to use hydrants or pond or cistern water where available.

He will suggest employment of six full-time firemen, to work 24-hour shifts at each of three fire houses to be established, one in each of the County's magisterial districts, Thompson added.

The firemen will co-operate with volunteer fire-fighting units in combating fires, and will be trained by paid firemen, he said.

January 1, 1946:

January 1, 1946: Claude Thompson, County Fire Chief, said they were going to buy 3 fire trucks and hire 6 men, 2 at each of the 3 fire houses.

In 1946 Jefferson County Government decided they would furnish fire protection in the county, so they bought 3 fire trucks and put one in Middletown, one in the center of the County and one out in the Pleasure Ridge Park area and called this the County Fire Department. Needless to say this just didn't work and by 1950 it folded.

County Fire Chief Asks Xmas Caution

"Many families that will be reunited this Christmas for the first time in many winters may be separated again by fire, unless people are more careful than they have been other years," Fire Chief Claud Thompson warned today. He pointed out that December has the worst fire record of any month in the year and many of these fires occur during the holidays.

There's no need to do away with the festivities, "but we do need to take some precautions," the Chief declared.

"To begin with, the Christmas tree burns very easily when it is dry. So set it up in a basin of water, away from heat, open flames, or electric sockets. And put the tree where it won't block exits.

"Another thing to be careful about," continued the Chief, "is the decorations used on the tree and walls. These days people can buy safe decorations, such as glass balls for the tree, metal tinsel, and flame-proofed wreaths."

The Chief was particularly emphatic about open flames. "Candles and unprotected fireplaces may look pretty to some people," he said, "but I call them dangerous at any time, and particularly at Christmas. Protect the fireplace with a screen, and don't use candles at all.

"Electrical decorations are safe if they are in good condition and carry the approval label of Underwriters' Laboratories and if care is taken not to overload the circuit," he continued. "Christmas wrappings left lying around are as dangerous as they are colorful so pick them up as soon as the packages are opened. Be a careful smoker, and provide plenty of ash trays for your guests. And then, just because accidents can happen in spite of everything we do, keep your fire extinguisher handy, where it will

[Continued on Page 3.]

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January 11, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*: Part of article missing:

COUNTY FIRE CHIEF ASKS XMAS CAUTION

(Continued From Page 1)

not be cut off by a fire in the tree or decorations, and check to see that it is in good working order. And be sure everyone in the house knows how to call the fire department."

The chief concluded with a warning to those who plan to celebrate in a night club or other public place. "Be careful in picking your 'night spot.' Remember the fire in the Coconut Grove, where more than 400 people died in a few minutes because the exits could not be reached. Look around for the nearest exit when you are seated. And remember that, in a fire, panic is your worst enemy."

January 18, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

Bids On County Firehouse And 3 Pumpers Authorized

The Fiscal Court yesterday authorized a call for bids on construction of a new firehouse at Pleasure Ridge and on purchase of three new pumpers—steps designed to lead to establishment of a County Fire Department.

Before the action was taken, court members heard Walter Shackleton, representing the Jefferson County Volunteer Fire Association, plead that establishment of three proposed fire stations manned by paid firemen in the county would "lead to disintegration of the present 11 volunteer county units."

County Fire Chief Claude

on the proposed purchase of the three pumpers, to be located in the county's three magisterial districts. Commissioners Edward Torstrick, E. P. White, Jr., and Judge Horace Barker voted in favor of the measures.

Budget Causes Concern.

Court members expressed concern over budget matters when it was revealed that pay increases to many County employees and creation of new jobs has reduced the \$70,000 contingent fund to \$33,000. Nearly half this fund is made up of a \$16,000 repayment from the Health Department.

The commissioners refused requests for increases in wages of recorders in each of the magisterial districts from \$200 to \$250 a month.

A proposal to repair the County Jail was tabled until legality of use of money from the contingent fund for the work can be determined by County Attorney Sam Steinfeld. Purchase of kitchen equipment, mattresses and beds was authorized last week.

An offer to rent the auxiliary armory on Cedar for 65 months at an annual rental of \$3,600, made by Dad's Root Beer Company, Chicago, was taken under advisement by the Court. The building is now leased for \$1 a year to the State Militia.

Land Swap Suggested

Louisville should try to swap the land on Zorn Avenue which the Federal Government plans to purchase from the Louisville Water Company for a veterans hospital for Lincoln Park, the Fiscal Court agreed yesterday.

Thompson replied that the proposed Fire Department would "embrace and support volunteer units."

Bid Call Authorized.

By a 3-to-1 vote the court authorized Stratton O. Hammon, architect, to ask bids for the Pleasure Ridge building, expected to cost \$19,500.

County Commissioner Miles Thacker voted against the measure, declaring, "I want a copy of matters coming before the court and I won't vote on matters I'm not informed on."

Thacker declined to cast a vote

The Courier-Journal
January 18, 1946

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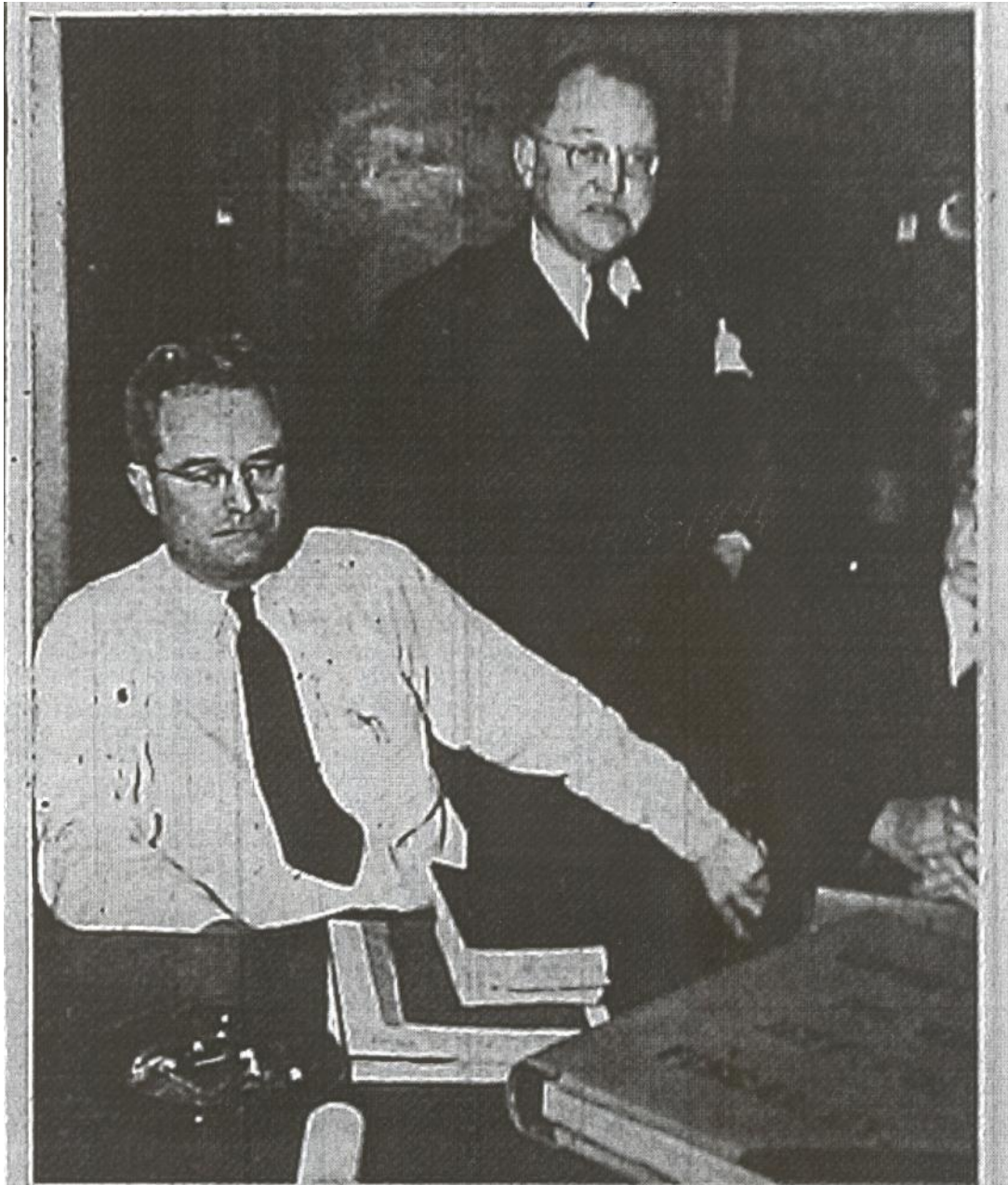
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Thacker declined to cast a vote on the proposed purchase of the three pumpers, to be located in the county's three magisterial districts. Commissioners Edward Torstrick, E.P. White, Jr., and Judge Horace Barker voted in favor of the measures.

1946

January 18, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:



Courier-Journal Photo.

BIDS for a firehouse at Pleasure Ridge, urged by County Fire Chief Claude Thompson, left, will be taken despite the opposition in Fiscal Court yesterday of Walter Sheekleton, right, representative of volunteer fire-fighting units.

January 25, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*: need rest of article February 1, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*:

Dixie Highway Gets First Fire Station

The first 24-hour fully equipped, full salaried fire station to be established in Jefferson County will be erected at Pleasure Ridge on the Dixie Highway, midway between Shively and Orell.

This location is the choice of Fire Chief Claud Thompson, who pointed out to the Fiscal Court that besides serving a large area which has no volunteer fire organization, the Pleasure Ridge Department will be able to make runs effectively anywhere in the 3rd Magisterial District.

Chief Thompson said yesterday that the new station was the first project in a program for fire prevention in Jefferson County and that he hoped to see, in time, a sufficient number of fire stations operated 24 hours to serve the entire county.

Some opposition was voiced by a few individuals, among them, Shackleton, a member of a volunteer department in the Worthington section, objected to the new plan of regularly established fire departments, saying that such professional organizations would discourage the several volunteer units in the county.

Chief Thompson declared however that Shackleton's objections were baseless. "The county fire departments and the volunteer groups will be expected to supplement each other. I expect to see the integrity of the volunteer organizations preserved and as for effectiveness, that of the volunteers should be increased.

"My job," said Thompson, "is to decrease the fire hazards in Jefferson County. My purpose is to save lives and property. I have a high opinion of the volunteer units and would like to see more

such groups organized in the county. It will be a long time before Jefferson County has sufficient fire-protection and the county will not be able for many years to blanket the county with 24-hour stations."

Fire Fighting Lessons Planned For Police

County Fire Chief Claude Thompson announced this week that arrangements had been made with County Police Chief Tom Dover for the training of county patrolmen in fire fighting and handling fire apparatus.

Chief Thompson told *The Jeffersonian* that the overall plan for county fire protection provided for the establishment of a number of 24-hour stations which would also be used as district headquarters for police.

"It is possible," said Thompson, "to give the county adequate fire protection economically although it will take time to complete the full program. Chief Dover has assured me of his interest and cooperation in the establishment of stations to be used as headquarters for both police and firemen.

"Our plans include fire-fighting instruction for members of the county police force which will enable them to assist in the operation of volunteer apparatus and county equipment.

"I would like to remind the public at this time that it is impossible to place county equipment everywhere it is needed in the county. This phase of county development has been neglected so long that a huge liability has accumulated. Finances prevent the construction of the number of fire stations actually needed, so we must proceed gradually placing a few stations at strategic locations, and depend on the volunteer firemen who are doing an excellent job to bear the brunt of the responsibility.

"The volunteer organizations will be a necessary feature of county fire protection for many years and with their untainted cooperation, I hope to see the fire loss in Jefferson County considerably decreased.

Chief Thompson is preparing a survey of the county to determine those sections where fire has caused the greatest damage, where fire is most recurrent and where fire protection is needed most.

February 3, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

Volunteer Fire Fight

By RICHARD
Courier-Journal Cou

BATTLE lines are forming for a knock-down fight on the proposed Jefferson County Fire Department, with members of the Fiscal Court and some of the unorganized public on one side, and the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association on the other.

Walter Shackelton, ex-co-ordinator of civilian defense, hinted yesterday that it will become a no-holds-barred battle the minute the County proposes to build fire stations or accepts a bid for the purchase of fire trucks. Bids will be opened February 21.

The volunteers, who have nine units in nine communities in the county, contend that without either glory or money, at personal risk and financial sacrifice, they have battled every fire in the county in recent years.

Anything is done, it should

be to make their work easier and life more enjoyable, with attendant reduction in risk, the volunteers say. They want the County to aid financially the volunteer units, instead of organizing a department of paid fire fighters.

What They Want

This proposal was put before the Fiscal Court:

1. That the County appropriate \$15,000, of which \$1,000 would be allotted each existing volunteer unit, to be paid on application for the purchase of equipment. The remaining \$6,000 would be used to help start volunteer units when communities are ready for them.

2. Insurance on volunteers to be paid by the County. This in-

February 3, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

ters Burning Under A

D OBERLIN,
ourthouse Reporter

surance would pay \$1,000 for loss of life, \$15 a week for no more than 52 weeks in case of injury, \$500 medical expense for any one injury, and would cost \$60 a year for each unit—or a total of \$540 a year for the organizations now functioning.

3. Purchase by the County of liability and property damage insurance on all firefighting equipment owned and operated by volunteer associations, which would cost \$44 a year for units with a fire pumper installed on a truck, and \$60 a year for those with a trailer-carried pumper, or an estimated \$550 a year.

4. Installation of a county-wide fire alarm system.

5. Establishment of a fund of \$5,000 for each community for

the purchase of firefighting equipment and/or the construction of buildings to house such equipment.

Thompson Says 'No'

This proposal was referred by the Fiscal Court to Fire Chief Claud Thompson. Thompson told B. N. Sublet, chief of the volunteers, that it just wouldn't do.

Thompson's contention has been that Jefferson County, a metropolitan area, needs metropolitan firefighting equipment and methods. He wants a small, paid staff of fire fighters to work with volunteers.

Thompson proposes three central locations be selected and a modern fire-house be located there. Pleasure Ridge on Newburg Road and near St. Matthews are sites proposed.

An architect will present cost

Ax Threat

estimates on a fire station at Pleasure Ridge at the Fiscal Court meeting Thursday. It may be then that the volunteers will start swinging. Or it may not be until three weeks hence, when the fire-truck bids are to be opened.

Rough guess of the architect, Stratton Hammon, is that the simplest fire-house will cost at least \$10,500. Multiply that by three such houses, and you get a total cost of \$58,500. Then there are the three pumpers, which Thompson estimates will cost at the very least \$10,000, and which representatives of manufacturers say could run up to \$20,000. Taking a conservative guess at \$12,500, that makes another \$37,500, or an original total cost to start the department of \$96,000.

February 3, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

Volunteer Fire Fighters Burning Under Ax Threat
By Richard Oberlin
Courier-Journal Courthouse Reporter

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That the County appropriate \$15,000, of which \$1,000 would be allotted each existing volunteer unit, to be paid on application for the purchase of equipment. The remaining \$6,000 would be used to help start volunteer units when communities are ready for them.

Insurance on volunteers to be paid by the County. This insurance would pay \$1,000 for loss of life, \$15 a week for no more than 52 weeks in case of injury, and would cost \$60 a year for each unit—or a total of \$540 a year for the organizations now functioning.

Purchase by the County of liability and property damage insurance on all firefighting equipment owned by volunteer associations, which would cost \$44 a year for units with a fire pumper installed on a truck and \$60 a year for those with a trailer-carried pumper, or an estimated \$500 a year.

The establishment of a county-wide fire alarm system.

Establishment of a fund of \$5,000 for each community for the purchase of firefighting equipment and/or the construction of buildings to house such equipment.

Thompson Says "No"

This proposal was referred by the Fiscal Court to Fire Chief Claud Thompson. Thompson told B.N. Sublette, chief of the volunteers, that it just wouldn't do.

Thompson's contention has been that Jefferson County, a metropolitan area, needs metropolitan firefighting equipment and methods. He wants a small paid staff of firefighters to work with volunteers.

Thompson proposes three central locations be selected and a modern fire-house be located there. Pleasure Ridge, on Newburg Road and near St. Matthews are sites proposed.

An architect will present cost estimates on a fire station at Pleasure Ridge at the Fiscal Court meeting Thursday. It may be then that the volunteers will start swinging. Or it may not be until three weeks hence, when the fire-truck bids are to be opened.

Rough guess of the architect, Stratton Hammon, is that the simplest fire-house will cost at least \$19,500. Multiply that by three such houses and you get a total cost of \$58,500. Then there are the three pumpers, which Thompson estimates will cost at the very least \$10,000, and which manufacturers say could run up to \$20,000. Taking a conservative guess at \$12,500, that makes another \$37,500, or an original total cost to start the department of \$96,000.

March 7, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

Volunteers Sue Court To Halt Engine Purchase

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Maneuvers between the Fiscal Court and the Jefferson County Volunteer Firemen's Association reached the confusion stage yesterday when the volunteers sued the court to prevent purchase of three fire engines, while two volunteer units offered to donate land for firehouses and police substations.

Chancery Judge Lawrence Speckman granted a temporary restraining order to prevent the purchase, sought by J.H. Butterman, Buechel, J.M. Monohan, Jr., St. Matthews, and H.B. Sims, Brownsboro Road, and set next Wednesday for a hearing on a permanent injunction.

Notice of the restraining order was served just before the Fiscal Court session opened. It caused an amendment to be made to the order authorizing purchase of the pumpers from the Seagrave Corporation, and delayed start of construction of a combination firehouse-police substation at Pleasure Ridge.

County Gets Choice.

George E. Miller, representing the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department, offered to donate land in the center of the community for a fire station and gave the County its choice of sites.

He proposed that the volunteer's equipment be housed with that of the County. There was only one condition to the offer, he said, that County equipment not be used for fighting St. Matthews fires.

County Judge Horace Barker suggested the unit submit its proposal in writing. Then B.N. Sublette, president of the volunteer association, said similar recommendations from other communities would be ready next Wednesday, when the association will meet at 8 p.m. at Hikes's School, Buechel.

Butterman Makes Offer.

Butterman, one of the filers of the injunction suit, said he would give land at Buechel for a fire station.

The Wehr Construction Company was authorized to build the Pleasure Ridge firehouse and police station, but work will not commence until after the injunction suit is heard.

County Attorney Samuel Steinfeld submitted an amendment to the order purchasing the fire pumpers that makes the deal contingent on the 1946-47 budget providing funds for payment of the equipment when it is delivered. Franklin Fitch, attorney for the company, said the condition was satisfactory.

One argument of the injunction suit is that there is no provision in the 1945-46 budget for fire pumper purchases.

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Two motorcycles for the County police were purchased by the Fiscal Court at a price of \$642.57 each from the Cunningham Motorcycle Company, 1818 W. Broadway, although low bidder was the Indiana Motorcycle Sales & Service Company, Shively, at \$475.50 each.

Police Chief Tom Dover in a written recommendation said that the police force now has six cycles of the type purchased in operation and servicing will be facilitated if all those used are the same type.

Repair of the four court rooms of Magistrate Rollin Gibbs was authorized after Gibbs explained that plaster falls from the walls and must be repaired every year or two. Other minor repairs also were approved.

Armed Bandit Robs Richmond Store of \$3,200

Richmond, Ky., March 6 (AP)—

An armed bandit who waited until all employees except the manager had left the store tonight took \$3,200 in a robbery at the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company store here.

Chief of Police William J. Mason said Ernest Helbert, store manager, reported he was alone in the grocery counting the day's receipts when the bandit came up behind him and ordered, "Stick 'em up."

Helbert stated the loot included \$1,500 in receipts for the day, \$1,200 previously on hand and \$500 normally kept for making change.

Burning of Dormitory Causes Housing Lack

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Shelbyville, Ky., March 6.—An acute housing shortage today confronted Lincoln Institute near Simpsonville after destruction by fire last night of a three-story dormitory.

Damage was estimated at around \$90,000. Origin of the fire was undetermined. Burning in the basement of the dormitory caused the fire to spread.

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1946

March 11, 1946: Board meeting:

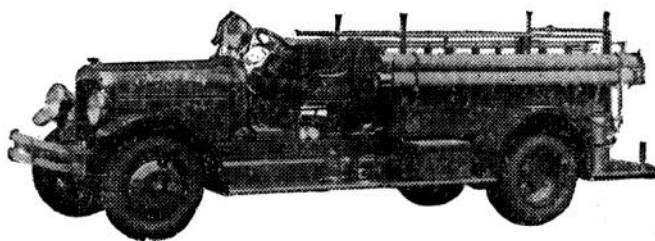
ST. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

Incorporated

OFFICERS

John M. Monohan, Jr., President
E. Leland Wilson, Vice President
Fred H. Boss, Treasurer
L. Churchill Matthews, Secretary

Mrs. Margaret B. Marsh
Assistant Secretary
3832 Frankfort Avenue



DIRECTORS

John M. Monohan, Jr.
E. Leland Wilson
Fred H. Boss
L. Churchill Matthews
Louis H. Schweitzer
Dr. James E. Winter
E. N. "Bud" Andriot
George Miller
R. C. Schlich

P. O. Box 115
St. Matthews, Ky.

March 11, 1946

Minutes of the Meeting of the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Ass'n.
held on March 6th, 1946 at the Fire House.

The Meeting was called to order by the President Mr. John Monohan. The Treasurer was unable to attend so his report was passed to the next monthly meeting.

There were no minutes available for the last meeting, held on February the 6th, 1946.

Mr. George Miller and Mr. John Monohan reported on a meeting they had with Mr. Martin and Mr. Clemens of the Actuarial Bureau. Mr. Martin and Mr. Clemens advised Chief Thompson of the County Fire Department that they did not approve of the County set-up as put forward and that if any of the present Volunteer Departments were forced out, all credit extended because of such Departments would be cancelled and tenth class rates would apply. If the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association would employ a man to be on duty at the Fire House 24 hours a day, that the limits would be extended to one and a half miles.

Mr. George Miller reported on a meeting with the County Fiscal Court held on March 6th, 1946 and advised of a proposition which he had made to the Fiscal Court to incorporate the County Fire Department's Service and Action with our association service in the St. Matthews Area. Mr. Miller submitted a letter to be mailed to the Fiscal Court outlining his and our recommendations as to the County Fire Department setup in this area.

Mr. Miller's letter was approved unanimously by the directors present, and the Secretary was instructed to mail said letter to the Fiscal Court.

Dr. Winter is to check on the Clinic option with Dr. Cox and if he finds that their option is not going to be exercised and feels that this property can be obtained thru them for our building, a special meeting will be called to approve such actions.

"ORGANIZED FOR YOUR PROTECTION"

March 15, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*:

Sublette States Case Of Volunteer Firemen

B. N. Sublette, of Middletown, and J. H. Buttermann, of Buechel, appeared before the Fiscal Court recently with a restraining order, signed by Judge Lawrence Speckman, forbidding the purchase of three fire pumpers by the Court.

Earlier, it is said, a meeting was held with Walter Shackleton, of Worthington, and former County Commissioner James W. Henning and representatives of the local actuarial bureau present and plans were laid for the injunction.

That fire protection is inadequate for the 100,000 residents of the county is undisputed. A number of volunteer departments, many of them organized since Pearl Harbor with the encouragement of civilian defense authorities, have done and are doing excellent and public spirited work in serving their immediate communities.

Recently the appointment of County Fire Chief Claude Thompson an experienced fireman with 26 years of fire-fighting behind him, encouraged county tax-payers to believe that this long neglected side of county welfare was to be given expert and professional attention.

It was generally accepted that the appointment of a fire chief was a step toward establishment of county fire stations with modern equipment and full time personnel, and the county at large was pleased with the information that the Fiscal Court had decided to buy three pumpers as a start and to set up a fire station in eachmagisterial district in the county.

At this point however objections were raised by some members of volunteer fire-fighting units who protested the purchase of the pumpers.

Questioned concerning the viewpoint of the volunteers, B. N.

Sublette, of Middletown, chairman of the Jefferson County Volunteer Fireman's association, explained that the principal criticism was directed at the arbitrary location of county fire stations at points away from population centers.

"A station at the county quarry on the Brownsboro Road," said Sublette, "is not located at a strategic point. It should be closer to St. Matthews. The one to be placed near Nwburg is not located properly.

"We object also to the manner in which the volunteer departments are ignored in the county fire chief's plans. After all there are eleven volunteer departments in the county. Members of these departments have given their time and money to the cause of preventing disastrous fires. They should be considered.

"Out of these appropriations for fighting fire the Fiscal Court should provide funds for improving the equipment of the volunteer departments."

Sublette said that the Middletown Volunteer Department declined to be a party to any action against the court.

March 16, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

Barker Urges County to Buy Fire Gear

Would Purchase Items From Volunteer Units

County Judge Horace M. Barker announced yesterday that he will propose purchase by the County of fire apparatus owned by the volunteer fire units of St. Matthews and Middletown.

Then a plan will be made to provide fire protection for St. Matthews, Middletown, Eastwood, Anchorage, Jeffersonstown and Lyndon, Barker said.

He said he will propose that one of two pumpers owned by St. Matthews be left there and the other one be made available to another community. To support the St. Matthews unit, one of the large new pumpers recently ordered by the County would be stationed at a combination fire and police substation at Middletown.

The County could arrange with Anchorage to give fire protection, for a monthly fee, to O'Bannon and Lyndon, Barker explained. The plan would give ample fire protection to approximately 40 per cent of the county in which more than half the out-of-city population is centered, he said.

The Courier-Journal
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August 1, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

Three Veteran Louisville Fire Captains Appointed to New County Department

Equipment Due Oct. 1

Three former Louisville Fire Department captains were employed as captains of the Jefferson County Fire Department.

Selected by the Fiscal Court were J. D. Thompson, 42, of 1111 S. Shelby; William Gurk, 57, of 1126 Ellison, and George Andrews, 52, of 4104 Sunset.

County Fire Chief Claud Thompson, a brother of J. D. Thompson, explained he wanted the captains on the pay roll so they could become acquainted with the magisterial district each will be responsible for "before three pumpers purchased last spring arrive and actual fire-fighting starts. The equipment is expected October 1.

Two Draw Pension.

Thompson described the three men as "... experienced, efficient captains in the Louisville Fire Department," with many years experience.

Gurk and Andrews are on pensions from the City Fire Department, according to Chief Thompson, who said his brother was in charge of Consolidated-Vulcan's fire protection at Standiford Field during the war.

Chief Thompson said the new captains would receive \$175 a month. Thompson said he did not believe the pensions of Gurk and Andrews, who each worked for the Louisville Fire Department 22 years, would be affected by their new jobs. J. D. Thompson worked for the City department over 17 years.

Thompson Cites Law.

The pension law, Chief Thompson said, requires a person to be 51 years old and to have been a member of the City department 20 years to be eligible.

Members of the Court, including the County judge, the Commissioners and the County Attorney held closed sessions both before and after the regular meeting, which was delayed 55 minutes by the first closed session. Court officially was declared adjourned before the second privy meeting.

Land at Middletown offered as the site of a police substation and

firehouse was accepted by the Fiscal Court.

The commissioners voted against paying part of the hospitalization for all County employees because they are prohibited by State law from paying part for those paid \$5,000 a year, or from paying for any of the many persons employed for a term at a fixed salary. They voted, however, to allow pay-roll deductions for hospitalization for any employee who wants it.

A proposal of the Daniel Boone Post, American Veterans of World War II, to provide playground equipment on the Courthouse lawn for the benefit of mid-town resident children, was rejected as "thoroughly impractical."

Sam Priddy, clerk of Quarterly Court, reported a heavy increase in the court's business and asked for more office help.

Architect Wants \$21,666.

Since January 1 his office has collected \$21,354 in fines in 1,344 civil cases and 1,700 criminal cases, Priddy said. There were 600 civil and 400 criminal cases handled in the same period last year, according to his records. County Attorney Sam Steinfeld was asked to give an opinion on legality of employing clerks in the office, which is authorized by statute to employ only five deputies.

A request by Walter Wagner, architect, for payment of \$21,666 for completed plans for a new Courthouse and Courthouse annex, was referred to John Tinnell,

Jr., controller, and Steinfeld, to see if payment conforms to the County's contract with Wagner.

He was employed to draw plans and supervise construction a year ago, when a need for more office space was listed by County officials as an emergency.

The court created another new job, that of storekeeper, on recommendation of Tinnell. The storekeeper would be responsible for receiving all goods ordered and making it "Property of Jefferson County," Tinnell explained. Much County property is not so marked, he added. The amount of salary was not immediately decided.

Dump Project Pushed.

Gordon Winburn, rights-of-way agent for the court, was authorized to obtain signatures of 14 owners of property that would be affected by the proposed Big Run public dump near Arnoldtown and St. Andrew's Church roads. The property owners requested straightening of the creek, which resulted in the proposal to land-fill the crooked section left if the stream is straightened.

County officials were elected officers of the new Jefferson County Equipment Corporation, nonprofit, organized to enable purchase of much machinery on bank loans to the corporation.

Officers are Judge Horace Barker, president; Commissioner Edward Torstrick, vice-president; County Attorney Steinfeld, secretary, and County Treasurer James Tierney, treasurer.

Constable Admits Gunplay Followed 'Couple of Drinks'

There was some target practice with pistols around the Courthouse early last Sunday morning, Second Magisterial District Constable Edgar B. Gelger admitted yesterday, but it wasn't as bad as the rumors made it.

Gelger said he stopped by the office about 2 a.m. and joined his deputies in "a couple of drinks."

They started admiring a new .38-caliber revolver he had, Gelger explained, so they decided to try it out. All the shooting

was done at the ground outside the Courthouse, he declared.

Courthouse gossip had a County patrolman being shot at and the Second District office pockmarked with bullet holes.

Magistrate Herman Jorris said he had heard reports there was a little shooting because the men had been drinking, but it quieted down with nobody hurt so he didn't want to investigate further.

Gelger identified the deputies involved as William Ebbs, Hubert Sillwell and T. J. Bates.

Good Food Is Good Health

1946

August 1, 1946, *The Courier-Journal*:

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The Courier-Journal

August 4, 1946

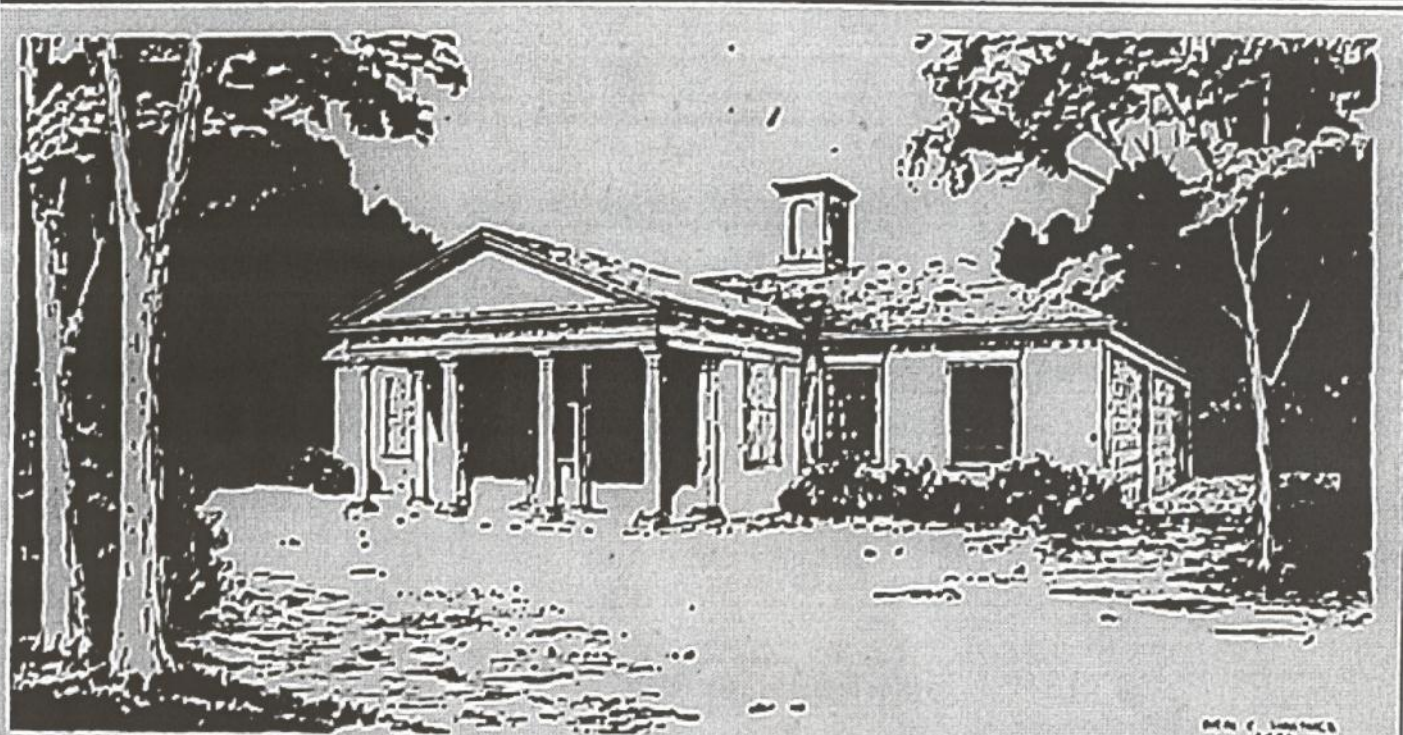
(Caption: This sketch of how joint fire and police stations in Jefferson County will look is by N.C. Hammon.)

Fire Houses Look Like Homes

Jefferson County fire engine stations which will resemble residences in appearance and which will also house county police substations will soon be completed at Pleasure Ridge; at Newburg Road & Bashford Manor Lane, and at Middletown. The first is half finished; the second's foundation has been poured and bids are being taken on the third. The same set of plans, prepared by Architect Stratton O. Hammon, will be used of all three. The fire department is County Judge Barker's "pet project," Hammon said.

1946

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This sketch of how joint fire and police stations in Jefferson County will look is by N. C. Hammon.

Immediate Delivery
on *Sunfire*
GAS CONVERSION

August 9, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Fire Staff Has 100 Years Experience

The combined experience of the four men comprising Jefferson County's fire department staff at the present time amounts to 98 years and 3 months of supervision, training and organizing in the Louisville Fire Department.

County Fire Chief Claude Thompson with 26 years ex-

perience as a fire fighter, most of this in specialized work, is matched in length of practice by Capt. William Gurk, recently appointed in charge of the Second County District with headquarters at the Newburg fire station, now building, who served in the Louisville Fire Department for 26 years and for 22 years was superintendent of training at the instruction station at 20th and Garland. During the war Captain Gurk was lieutenant at the Standiford Airfield Fire Station.

Captain George Andrews, appointed in command of the third county district at Pleasure Ridge, where the new fire station will soon be completed, is a veteran fireman with 24½ years service, most recently in charge of Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, in Louisville.

Captain J. D. Thompson, of the first county district, brother of the chief, who will take charge of the station to be erected at Middletown, has 21½ years under his belt as lieutenant and captain in the Louisville Fire Department and as captain of the Standiford Airfield Fire Department during the war.

It is evident that the county in its initial stage of organizing the county fire department will be served by a staff of able, efficient firemen whose services would be an asset to any fire organization. That county companies will be stream-lined is a certainty and according to Chief Thompson's plans rural Jefferson County will possess a fire prevention and fire fighting program second to none.

September 6, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*:

Fire Dept. Completes County School Survey

The Jefferson County Fire Department has completed a survey of county schools and made a number of recommendations to the school board.

Chief Claude Thompson said this week that while none of the county schools presented any great fire hazards that in many cases there were minor corrections that would do much to eliminate the probability of fire damage.

"Our inspection," said Chief Thompson, "was conducted according to the regulations approved by the National Association of Public School Business Officials, the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs."

"The inspection of schools is department routine as is the examination of places of public entertainment and churches. Wherever we can point out even minor fire hazards we are helping to safeguard life and property."

Recommendations contained in the school fire inspection report included the provision of fire extinguishers at most of the schools; flue repairs; fire alarms; fuses changed to lower ampereage; additional exits; doors changed to open outward; moving stoves away from walls; the cutting of

weeds; the cleaning of basements and stairway recesses and other similar precautions which will probably be effected immediately by the school board.

It was also urged that at least one fire drill each month be held in all schools.

Blanks have been distributed to all school principals asking complete reports on fire prevention methods as now practiced.

Principals of the various schools are asked also to see that a monthly inspection be made by the school custodian in company with a member of the faculty.

Inspection of county churches is now in progress under the direction of Chief Thompson and Captains J. D. Thompson, Wm. Gurk and George Andrews.

The county fire department has been in consultation with County Forester Paul Yost regarding methods of preventing and fighting costly timber fires in the county forest area where annually such fires destroy trees and animals.

September 20, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*:

FIRE MOVIES PLANNED AT FAIRDALE FAIR

The Fairdale Community Fair which is held annually will occur this year on Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5.

Major Paul Yost, county forester, announces that two motion pictures depicting fire hazards will be shown on both dates. The movies which are equipped for sound are sponsored by the State Fire Marshal's Office, County Fire Chief Claude Thompson, and Major Yost.

The subject of one film is fire in communities showing the manner in which disastrous blazes spread from house to house while the second depicts the violence with which forest fires destroy timber and precautionary methods that should be established.

Fire Prevention Week Coming October 6-12

By Chief Claude Thompson

President Harry S. Truman and Governor Simeon Willis have designated the week of October 6-12 as "Fire Prevention Week". In reality every week should be Fire Prevention Week just as the Spirit of Christmas should not be limited on the calendar to December 25th. Anything worthwhile, to be truly effective, is dependent on continual day to day application. This is especially true in fire control for by concerted daily thoughtfulness 90% of all fires can be prevented just by observing a very simple rule—mainly good housekeeping. Saving our lives and property from fire is as simple as that.

Every minute of the day and night, someone's home or place of business is destroyed by fire in the United States. Communities and their homes may be well planned, but fire will occur when we are generally careless.

The leading causes of fires year after year are carelessness with smoking and matches; the misuse or failure to repair defective electrical equipment; sparks on roofs; defective chimneys; spontaneous ignition of rubbish such as papers, rags, magazines, old furniture and the like accumulated in attics, basements and closets; defective heating equipment; lightning; inflammable liquids, such as cleaning fluids, etc., used or stored in the home.

The National Fire Protection Association has pointed out that fire losses during 1945 were greater than in any of the preceding 16 years and that the estimated loss for the first four months of 1946 is 60 per cent greater than during the first four months of 1945.

The increased losses are attributed largely to substandard construction and installation, inadequate protection and maintenance, inadequate fire departments and the cessation of critical inspections.

The association is apprehensive of a further increase in fire deaths because "of the housing shortage, as we rot up large old residences and permit people to sleep in attics and elsewhere without adequate exit facilities and fire protection." They warn against the laxity in building codes to permit emergency housing and the use of inflammable materials in alterations and new buildings.

Percy Bugbee, general manager of the National Fire Protection Association, has declared that when it comes to safety, "Americans are too prone to 'lock the barn after the horse is stolen,'" and that "the public thinks too little about fire until it's too late."

Fire Prevention Week offers everyone an opportunity to join in the war against fire. It is an excellent time to put our domestic house in order and to crack down on fire hazards.

In this country, regardless of occupancy or special hazards, fires have been and continue to be a burning shame.

Let us recognize fire as the danger it is, and ever remember that eternal vigilance is the price of safety.

"Matches have heads but no brains. When you use THEIR heads, use YOUR brains."

September 27, 1946, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Fire Chief Lists Home Hazards

By Chief Claude Thompson

I want to talk to you today about fire prevention in the home. This is a vital problem which, if properly solved, will not only have its effect on reducing fire losses but will develop a carefulness in all walks of life for what we do for the safety of our lives and property in the home, we will carry into our business and social activities.

Now I want each of you to take an imaginary trip with me through your own home, let's see how many fire hazards can be eliminated.

First we enter the living room. How cheerful that open fireplace looks, but it has no screen and is definitely a fire hazard.

The little girl playing with a celluloid doll is in great danger as she is too near the fireplace.

That electrical outlet is much too overloaded, and that extension cord which has a frayed covering should be thrown away.

Now let's look in the bedroom. There on the dressing table we see an electric curling iron that could easily ignite the celluloid brush that is near. That bedlight with the drop cord should not be wound around a metal bed.

Most bedroom closets are small so be sure that your electric light globes do not touch the clothes.

Let's move to the kitchen. Such a familiar and dangerous habit—drying dishcloths over the stove—and I'll bet most of you are in your kitchen now visualizing that.

The matches here are too low; they should always be kept out of the reach of children and in a metal container.

The clothes that you are drying on that clotheshorse are much too near the stove for safety.

The chimney fluehole is too close to the ceiling and the smokepipe should be supported. Let me say right here, never, never, start fires with kerosene.

When your telephone rings, always remember not to leave your iron connected on the ironing board. That oil mop should be in a metal container and left in a cool place.

Let's run up to the attic. Here we see a crack in the chimney, and the old magazines and papers

are too close to the chimney and the drop cord is hung over nails.

Now follow me into the basement. Here we find the furnace and smokepipe too close to unprotected wood floor joists. The furnace pipe sags, which indicates it needs cleaning. That wood should be piled neatly, and the ashes kept in a non-combustible container.

Let's hurry on to the garage and shop. First, we notice the unguarded light globe on the extension cord. The gasoline and kerosene isn't properly stored, and an automobile backfire might ignite any leakage.

If gasoline or kerosene must be stored, it should be stored in one-gallon "Underwriters Approved" self-closing metal safety cans.

The spontaneous ignition hazards are oil-soaked rags, old paint brushes, turpentine and linseed oil, rubbish and litter.

I believe we as American citizens should see the necessity of becoming fire conscious in our homes and communities, as nine out of every ten fires start from the most simple and easily-remedied fire causes.

The majority of fires in the home can be traced to seven principal causes:

1. Rubbish—spontaneous ignition.
2. Defective chimneys and flues.
3. Sparks falling on combustible roofs.
4. Defective heating equipment.
5. Careless smoking and matches.
6. Gasoline, kerosene and other inflammable fluids.
7. Electrical defects and misuse of electricity.

Have fire prevention on your mind, so you won't have it on your conscience. Do your part and fires won't start.

1946

December 4, 1946: Board meeting for STMFD:

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association was held on Wednesday, December 4, 1946 at 8 o'clock in the evening.

The following directors were present:

John M. Monohan Jr.
Geo. A. Miller
Louis H. Schweitzer
E. N. Andriott
R.C. Schlich

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 6, 1946 were read and approved.

It was suggested that Mr. Andriott get a letter from Kentucky Inspection Bureau and one from Capt. Krusenklau to the effect that the Jefferson County fire departments would not be recognized as sufficient protection to insure the same insurance rates as are now in effect in St. Matthews.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Schlich were appointed a committee on dues and assessments.

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was on motion duly made and seconded adjourned.

1946

December 13, 1946: *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

How to Report Fire In the County

Chief Claud Thompson of the Jefferson County Fire Department has requested the POST to remind its readers that when reporting a fire in the county care should be taken to give as near as possible the exact location.

A fire should be reported in the following manner:●

"I wish to report a fire on the north side of Briscoe Lane between the Old Shepherdsville Road and Smyrna Road."

Failure to give exact location means delay in answering and more fire loss.

Report fires at once to JA 1171, Jackson 1172 or to the nearest volunteer fire department.

January 10, 1947, *The Jeffersonian*:

Barker Reviews Year Of County Government

CITES PROGRESS MADE AGAINST CRIME

A backward look over 1946 on law enforcement and the conduct of Jefferson County fiscal affairs was taken by County Judge Horace M. Barker in a radio broadcast over WAVE Monday evening. Reviewing the first year of his administration, Judge Barker said, "Not every crime was solved, but a younger, hard-working Police Department solved 97 per cent of all reported crimes in the County, outside of Louisville, and brought law-breakers to justice."

Among 3,500 cases involved, there were just 3 per cent dismissals and fines collected amounted to \$25,000.

The Judge, assuming that juvenile delinquency "exists in direct proportion to adult delinquency," said the situation calls for a strong general law enforcement program, and went on to point out salient points of his program, and that of associates, now in effect.

Trained workers are employed in the Juvenile Court and the Probation Department. The Children's Center is no more a dumping ground but a clearing house.

Pointing out that the County recreation program had received national recognition, Judge Barker congratulated Director Charles Vettner and the Recreation Board.

Referring to Sunshine Lodge for dependent children at Jeffersontown, he told his listeners that its primary purpose is to get the merely dependent children out of the Center.

William Pennycook, director of welfare was praised for enlisting services of clubs, veterans' organizations, homemakers' clubs and individuals, whom the speaker said had "contributed nobly to this fine project."

The Fiscal Court authorized an expenditure of \$100,000 for equipment to be used by the Road Department, setting up an equipment corporation to handle payment over a three-year period.

It is expected to widen all bridges on County roads this year, resurface approximately 150 miles, ditch all roads and cut weeds on rights-of-way every month.

The drainage program for soil conservation is progressing and when completed, within the next two or three years, will drain the County from St. Matthews to Salt River, releasing 50,000 acres of land and releasing other thou-

sands of acres for cultivation.

The County forest was established in 1946, now comprising over 1,000 acres of land. This is expected to be increased to include some 15,000 acres.

Judge Barker referred to the newly established County fire-fighting system, in charge of Chief Claud Thompson, stating that there is now under construction a district firehouse in each of the three magisterial districts, which will also house district units of the County Police.

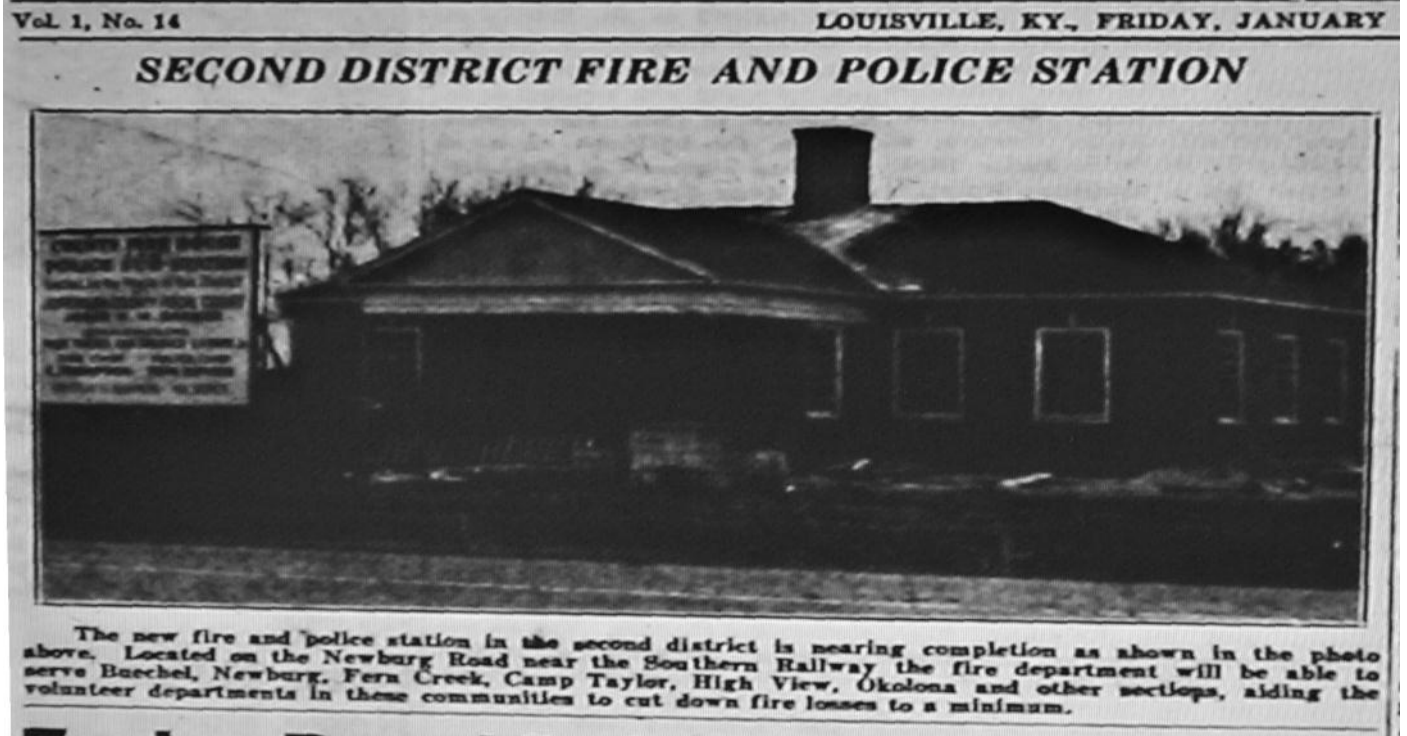
Among major expenditures were nearly \$50,000, allocated for County jail repairs, and an approximate total of \$200,000 to other building repairs and construction. All voting places were provided with voting machines.

At the beginning of his administration, Judge Barker appointed a non-political Good Government Committee, which was organized and holds regular sessions to hear suggestions from County residents and discuss possible improvements to the system of County government. He referred to the committee as a means of "widening participation of our citizens in their local government."

Several thousand dollars were spent during the year for renovating and painting the County Home here. Fire hazards were removed by installing hospital-type fire escapes.

1947

Believed to be January , 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:



Colonel Claud Thompson, Chief of the County Fire Department, in a letter to the Court, asked the Court to juggle his account so that he might have money available for equipment purchase of things to augment the efficiency of the three new fire trucks which will be in Jefferson County before February is out. Court approved.

On request of Floyd Wheeler, 4717 Bradley Avenue, the Court agreed to let him have scrap rock at the Quarry to fill up some holes

January 31, & March 7, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

Camp Taylor Home Burns

A fire started by a coal oil stove destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Aubrey on Bickel Lane in Camp Taylor, Sunday afternoon at 3:45.

County Fire Chief Claude Thompson who answered the alarm praised the work of the Camp Taylor Volunteer Fire Department which responded promptly and succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading.

"The department worked like professionals," said Thompson, "and a blaze which could have destroyed several homes adjacent was handled efficiently."

MARCH 7, 1947

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'Wet Water' And 'Fognozis' For County Fire Departments

County Fire Chief Claude Thompson announced this week that the first county fire station will be in operation on or about April 1, if no unforeseen delays occur.

This station located at Pleasure Ridge on the Dixie High-

way will be equipped with modern fire-fighting apparatus designed to give the greatest efficiency for the territory to be covered.

"It might be interesting to county residents," said Chief Thompson, "to know that the very latest methods will be employed in fighting county fires."

"We have followed the recommendations of the National Fire Protection Association for both city and rural methods and apparatus."

"The first fire station in the county and others as they are completed, will be invested with a Triple Combination Pumper carrying a portable booster pump of 250-gallons-per-minute capacity to draw water from wells, ponds or streams and a 500-gallon booster tank of water instead of the standard 100-gallon tank used on most equipment."

"The new nozzle called 'Fognozal' which is invaluable in reducing water damage and which cuts the supply of water needed will be part of the equipment."

"The recent discovery 'Wet Water', a chemical wetting agent will be used. This process has had remarkable success in the east where it was developed during the war."

With the equipment designed for Jefferson County, Chief Thompson believes that prompt reporting of fires will result in a large reduction in county fire losses. Ninety percent of all residence fires are extinguished, according to statistics with less than 100 gallons of water. The extra water supply together with the "Fognozal" and "Wet Water" method will enable county firemen to successfully combat stubborn blazes caused by burning hay, gasoline and oils and other highly inflammable materials.

Residents of the county are invited to inspect the three fire stations as they are erected. A "house warming" is planned at the Third District Station when it is completed.

April 16, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

Fire Tower Planned On Holsclaw Hill

Jefferson County yesterday leased land for a fire tower on Holsclaw Hill near the Bullitt County line. Owner of the site is J. W. Holsclaw. Paul A. Yost, County forester, said a 90-foot tower, to cost \$3,000, would be built. From it, he said, a wide area could be watched for forest fires.



Photo by Howard Wills.

HEAVY SMOKE billows skyward a few minutes following an explosion of gasoline at this Stoll Oil Company filling station at 575 Eastern Parkway. Pieces of concrete and other debris litter the street in front of two firemen who stand their distance for fear of another blast. The gasoline truck parked by the side of the station was saved.

Children Pass Corner Only Moment Before Explosion At Filling Station

Traffic Officer Has Close Call

An explosion of an underground gasoline tank caused damage estimated between \$2,000 and \$3,000 at a Stoll Oil Company filling station, 575 Eastern Parkway, at 7:53 a.m. yesterday. The blast almost demolished the station, and falling pieces of concrete narrowly missed Patrol-

man W. M. Coleman, who was directing school children across the intersection at Bradley and Eastern Parkway. A group of children crossed to the opposite side of the street a moment before the explosion.

An automobile owned by Virgil Shields, 39, of 519 Wainwright, attendant at the station, was destroyed in the fire, and another on a grease rack was damaged. It is owned by D. D. Hastings, 532 Lilly.

Firemen said the blast occurred

when fumes from gasoline being poured from a truck into an underground tank drifted to an oil heater in the station. Leon Thomas, 39, of 2607 W. Ken-lucky, driver of the truck, and Shields fled when flames shot from the tank.

Coleman said he ran to a near-by church to call the Fire Department. He said it took him 5 minutes to get his number because a voice on the phone kept saying, "Is this an emergency?"

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April 16, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

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The Courier-Journal
April 16, 1947

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Coleman said he ran to a near-by church to call the Fire Department. He said it took him 5 minutes to get his number because a voice on the phone kept saying "Is this an emergency?"

May 8, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Chief Offers Fire Assistance

Force Adequate To Aid Suburbs, Thompson Says

Col. Claud Thompson, County fire chief, said yesterday his department could adequately serve those suburbs which City firemen may no longer protect.

Thompson said three stations now are ready for engines. These are located at Pleasure Ridge on Dixie Highway; Newburg Road at Bashford Manor, which can serve both Buechel and Camp Taylor, and Middletown, which can also serve St. Matthews. There are plans for nine stations in all, he added.

Hydrants, Mains Are In.

The suburbs, he said, are equipped with water mains and hydrants which can be used by his pumpers.

Thompson said the City had been answering calls more frequently since it started its efforts to annex large areas of the County. None of the fire stations of the County are included in the areas covered.

"County police tell me it has been hard to get the City out to fires previously," he said, "except where they had a contract."

It has been recommended to Mayor E. Leland Taylor that the City keep its fire service within the city limits.

\$8,100 for New Main.

Fiscal Court yesterday learned that it was about to spend \$8,100 for a water main to its Fire Station on Newburg Road without getting enough water to keep the engine wet.

The 8-inch pipe line would produce no more than 200 gallons of water a minute. The new engines will pump 750 gallons a minute.

"They would suck air all the time," Thompson said, after A. S. Augustus, Louisville Water Company engineer, made his estimate.

Fiscal Court asked Thompson to look into digging a well or building a standpipe.

It also declined to fix subdivision roads in St. Matthews, saying the people must form a road district and do the job themselves.

1947

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May 9, 1947, *The Jeffersonian*:

Water Main Too Small For New Fire Engines

Jefferson County Fiscal Court wrestled Wednesday with business details affecting the annual budget. A contemplated \$8,100 expenditure for a water main to its fire station on Newburg Road developed that the proposed 8-inch pipe line would deliver no more than 200 gallons of water a minute while new fire engines pump 700 gallons a minute.

The Court asked Claude Thompson, county fire chief, to look into digging a well or building a stand pipe. A. S. Augustus, Louisville Water Company engineer, furnished the estimate on the pipeline capacity. Fire engines would just "suck air" through an 8-inch pipe line Chief Thompson said.

The Chief further declared that his department can adequately serve those suburbs which city firemen no longer protect. Three stations are now ready for engines, he said, located at Pleasure Ridge, on Dixie Highway; Newburg Road, at Bashford Manor, which can serve Buechel and Camp Taylor; and Middletown, which can serve St. Matthews. Nine stations in all, he said, are contemplated.

The Court declined to repair subdivision roads in St. Matthews, saying property owners must form a road district and do the job themselves.

May 10, 1947, The Courier-Journal:

Fire Engines Due Soon For 2 County Stations

Two County fire engines will arrive late next week to be placed in stations at Pleasure Ridge and on Newburg Road. A third engine has been bought for the station being completed at Middletown.

The engines will be placed in operation immediately. The County Fire Department now consists only of Chief Claud Thompson and three captains. A lieutenant, two engineers, and four additional men must be employed to man each station.

County Judge Pro Tem Franklin S. Fitch said the other personnel probably would be employed at next week's Fiscal Court.

Expects Insurance-Rate Cut.

County Judge Horace Barker said the Fire Department should bring a reduction in insurance rates in the county. Chief Thompson said the reductions should run as much as 40 per cent for property fully protected.

The County budget for next year will include \$75,000 for operating the department, providing eight men for each station. This is slightly below Thompson's estimate of \$27,000 for each station.

The budget does not provide for operation of additional stations. However, Judge Barker said there is money set aside to build three more and Thompson's plans call for nine in all to cover the County completely. At the cost of the present stations, \$225,000 a year would be required to operate all.

Barker said that if necessary the County could divert funds from other sources next year to man additional stations if they are built and equipped.

Also Used By Police.

The firehouses now being completed also serve as police stations. They cost about \$30,000

each. The engines cost about \$11,000 each. Fitch said the new ones would cost more on account of price increases.

The County engines are equipped to operate without water mains. They pump 750 gallons of water a minute from a hydrant or can use a 500-gallon tank that will spray a fine stream for 22 minutes. Thompson said 85 per cent of fires are put out with less than 100 gallons of water.

The City has indicated it will no longer answer fire alarms outside Louisville.

Children's Home Asks For \$315,000

The Louisville and Jefferson County Children's Home yesterday asked the County for \$315,000 for the year beginning July 1. The County Budget Commission promised about \$315,000 from County funds.

The home's total budget is \$682,000. It is supported by the City and County, with some income from other sources.

Henry Offutt, of the home's board of managers, said the increased budget was an effort to restore the standards of the home to previous years. He said it had fallen down on some of its work because short funds forced it to release children too soon.

Offutt gave one illustration of the home's plight. He said it was forced to provide schooling for its children and its teachers were paid about 10 per cent less

A Bill Must Be Paid One Way Or Another

THERE is a handy lesson that citizens frequently pay through the nose when economizers in office, or in position to apply pressure on those in office, shy away from providing adequate public services. We are looking at the item which tells of the costs of poor protection against fires.

The City of Louisville has supplied free fire protection to property beyond its limits. This has resulted in lower insurance rates for suburban property owners. Now the City is suspending this service, and the County is assuming the burden.

There is, of course, no suspicion that the Fiscal Court is disposed to let matters slide, or to stint its support for this facility. But the illustration is too pat to ignore. Suppose, for example, that the dictates of economy or actual inability (under existing tax rates) to do a complete job, will keep the service meager. In that case, the natural consequences are plain, as actuaries hasten to point out. Insurance rates in suburban areas would be increased automatically. Instead of paying the County in his tax bill for protection, the property-owner would pay insurance companies, and probably would pay more.

For lack of flood protection, which might look like a costly enterprise in the beginning, there is a familiar record of property loss. Insufficient support for public health services often brings contamination or a plague scare, to say the least. A hole in a battered street breaks a spring, or gashes a tire. When sewers are overtaxed, the result is unpleasant. We could go on, but the point becomes all too plain.

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The Courier-Journal Editorial Page May 10, 1947

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May 15, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Hires 17 Firemen; Needs Engines

The County hired 17 men yesterday for its Fire Department. Now all it needs to start putting out some fires is engines. It expects two of them next week.

"It's a dream come true," said Claud A. Thompson, fire chief for the County, as Fiscal Court approved three lieutenants and 14 privates to man three fire engines. One more engine has been ordered and is expected soon.

Thompson and three captains complete the present force. The engines will be assigned to three stations already built or nearly built—at Pleasure Ridge, on Newburg Road, and in Middletown.

Can't Protect V.A. Hospital.

The City is "too broke" to furnish free fire protection to the proposed Veterans Administration Hospital on Zorn Avenue, Mayor E. Leland Taylor yesterday told two V.A. representatives from Washington.

"However, that property is in an area the City wants to annex," he said, "and when we do you'll get free fire protection."

He explained that the City expects to stop fire protection outside the city limits after July 1 except to those firms with whom the City still has a contract.

The V.A. representatives said that V.A. could not make such a contract. They told Taylor they would take the problem up with Washington to see what could be worked out.

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1947

June 20, 1947, *The Jeffersonian*:

**No Charge Is Made
For Fighting Fires**

"Certain rumors are being circulated," County Fire Chief Claude Thompson says, to the effect "that the Jefferson County Fire Department makes charges for runs in case of fire. As a matter of fact, and for public information, let me say these rumors are untrue. There is no charge for these runs."

August 8, 1947, *The Jeffersonian*:

**County Fire Chiefs
Invited to Meet Monday**

Fire chiefs of all paid and volunteer fire departments in Jefferson County have been invited to a meeting to be held in the County Court House, at 2 p.m. next Monday. County Judge Horace Barker, in whose office the fire chiefs are to meet, has issued the invitation through Col. Claud D. Thompson, chief of the County Fire Department.

A letter to the fire chiefs, sent out by Col. Thompson, states that, "We believe that there is an opportunity to reduce fire insurance rates in Jefferson County by cooperation of effort in fire protection."

May 6, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

MAY 16, 1947

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Thompson Denies Story Published In Daily Paper

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Chief Claude Thompson of the Jefferson County Fire Department, has stated that he was misquoted in an article in a Louisville daily which reported that the chief oked the Louisville withdrawal of county fire aid.

"This is not so," said Thompson. "I will always welcome aid from any group in fighting county fires. Fire is a terrible threat to life and property and I could not be callous enough to fail to give help anywhere I could or to accept it when such aid was offered."

"It is true that the completion of the county fire department program will, in my opinion, give the county the maximum in fire protection, but even then I would welcome the cooperation of the Louisville department."

"So bitter has become the attitude of Louisville officials," was the comment of a county resident, "that Judge Gilbert Burnett can suggest that the city refuse its fire department the privilege of making runs to the county. All this stems from the attitude of

county residents in the matter of annexation."

Judge Burnett is said to have admitted that the resistance of county areas to annexation prompted his stand.

It is said however that runs to the county by the city fire fighters have been very few. And that those runs made outside the city were in most cases to plants having contracts with the city fire department.

Judge Burnett also expressed his astonishment that the water company was furnishing water to fire hydrants in the county without charge.

Eleven volunteer fire departments operate in the county in addition to the three county stations which will soon be in operation.

1947

May 23, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

1st County Firehouse To Be Dedicated Tomorrow

The first county fire station in Jefferson County, located at Pleasure Ridge on the Dixie Highway, will be formally dedicated Saturday afternoon, May 24, at 2:30.

County Judge Horace M. Barker will make the principal address in which he will outline contemplated expansion of the comprehensive department and other projects of interest to county residents.

The state fire marshal, Clyde Smith, will speak on the relation between his office and the county fire department and County Fire

Chief Claude Thompson will accept the keys of the building from Stratton O. Hammon, the architect in charge of construction.

The public is invited to attend the ceremonies and inspect the building and apparatus which has
(Continued on page 9)

Friday, May 23, 1947

County Firehouse To Be Dedicated

(Continued from Page 1)

been installed. The new 500 gallon pumper of latest design will begin its official career Saturday and residents of the surrounding community can be confident, said Chief Thompson, that the new fire company on duty 24 hours each day will make that section of the county more secure against fire.

The second fire station in the county, on the Newburg Road near Buechel will be put in operation in two weeks and the third, at Midtown, will be completed and in action in about two months.

Each station will serve also as a county police station. All police cars and fire apparatus will be equipped with 2-way FM radio.

1947

June, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

POST-SENTINEL Friday, June 6, 1947

COUNTY OFFICIALS AT DEDICATION



The dedication of the first Jefferson County fire station at Pleasure Ridge drew a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Above are left to right: Seated, County Attorney, Sam Steinfield; Fire Chief, Claude Thompson; Police Chief, Col. Tom Dover. Standing, Miss Leona Gutermuth, principal Mill Creek School; County Welfare Director, Wm. Pennycook, Jr. (behind hat); Commissioner Miles Thacker; Commissioner E. P. White, Jr.; Judge Franklin Fitch; Commissioner Edw. Torstrick; County Judge Horace M. Barker.

June Unknown & June 20, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

County Firemen Quench Fire at City Limits

The newly established fire station at Pleasure Ridge, in operation since May 24 has answered a number of alarms, one to a home located on the city-county line where the Louisville Fire Department refused to go, in accordance with the dictum of City Law Director Gilbert Burnett.

The ruling of the Louisville official is expected to bring up similar problems where fires are reported at or near the city limits.

County Fire Chief Claude Thompson when questioned said: "The County Fire Department will answer calls whenever they are within driving range of our stations. Our attitude will remain that of cooperation with every agency that is working to decrease loss of life and property by fire."

Two automobiles and a motor-

cycle on fire at various points in the county were the cause of three runs. A weed fire at 425 Kenwood was halted and a chicken brooder blaze close to a residence was put out saving other buildings from loss. The Lake Dreamland volunteer department answered this call also.

An alarm at Dant & Dant Distillery on Bernhelm Lane brought the Shively Fire Department, the County Fire Department and the Louisville Fire Department. This was a sprinkler alarm, it is said.

Chief Thompson Squashes Rumor

The Jefferson County Fire Department is a public organization supported by the county and at the service of every county resident in case of fire.

However, because of several cases of misunderstanding regarding the county fire department's functions, Chief Claude Thompson has issued the following notice:

"Certain rumors are being circulated to the effect that the Jefferson County Fire Department makes charges for runs in case of fire.

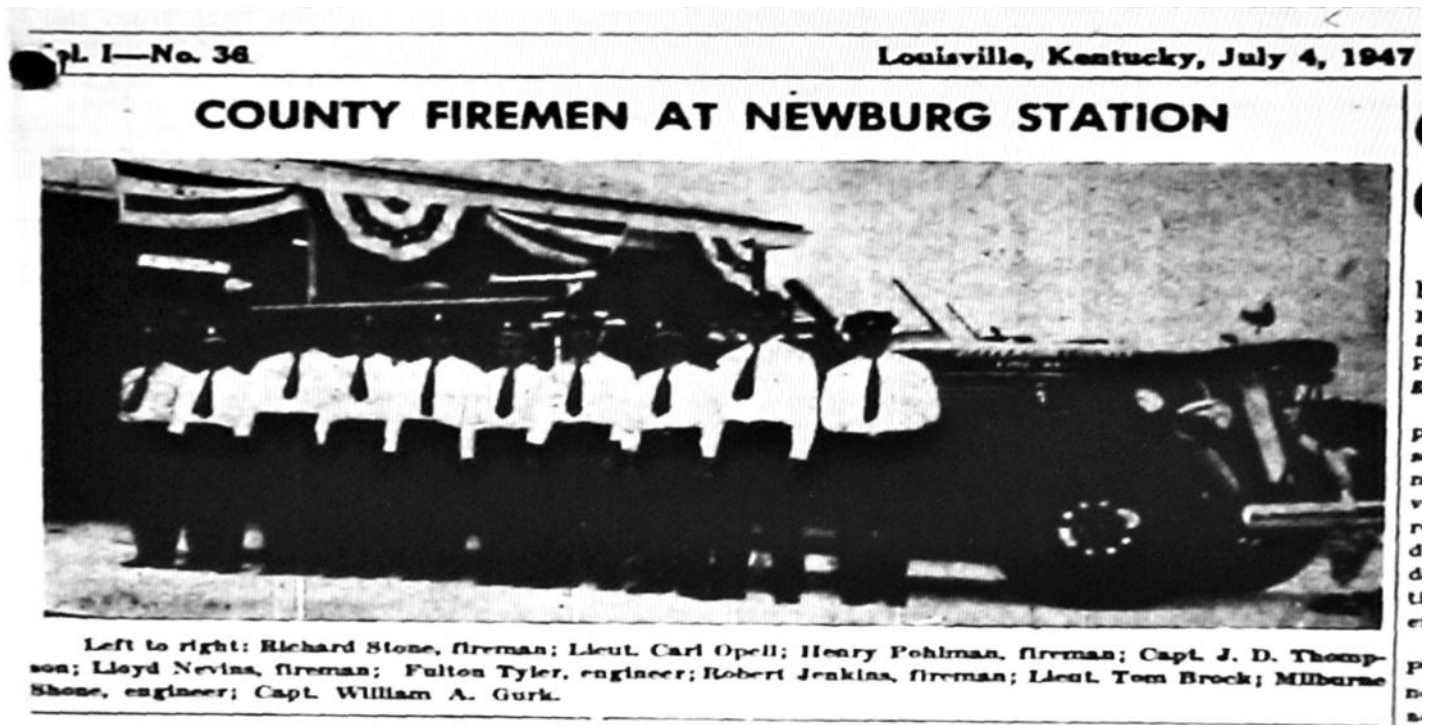
"As a matter of public information, these rumors are false.

"There is NO charge for these runs."

Chief Thompson urges residents to visit the two fire stations now in operation, at Pleasure Ridge and Newburg Road near Buechel, to get acquainted with the staff and to inspect the equipment.

1947

July 4, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:



1947

August 8, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

August 16, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Fire Dept. Praised For Service

When lightning struck the stone crusher and the 70-foot high structure that housed the equipment, Sunday evening, July 27 at 9:10, of the Louisville Crushed Stone Company at 4200 Poplar Level Road, alarms were sent in to the Camp Taylor Volunteer Fire Department, and the Louisville Fire Department.

Finding the blaze so far advanced that help would be needed, the Camp Taylor chief called the county station at Newburg at 9:25 and Camp William A. Gurk's squad responded with the result that the flames were put under control in a short time.

The Louisville fire department sent No. 20 Engine Company to the scene but finding the situation in hand by the county firemen and the volunteers, the city equipment returned to its station without getting into action. This is said to have been one of the very few runs made in the county by city apparatus.

The following letter from Gilbert C. Brunnhoeffter of the stone company was received by County Fire Chief Claud Thompson after the fire:

"Jefferson County Fire Depart-

ment:
"I am at a loss for words to express my appreciation for the work you did in putting out the fire at the Louisville Crushed Stone Company.

"Like most tax payers, I read in the paper about the fire fighting equipment that Jefferson County had purchased and the stations and systems that they were installing, however, least did I think that I would be so grateful to see this equipment come in on our property. A person never realizes what a fire is until he actually has one, then it brings it home to him very clearly how necessary it is to have good equipment and an organized fire department at his disposal.

"In closing I want to say I have nothing but praise for your department and I must say that your department operated very efficiently at our fire and I think the tax payers of Jefferson County

Fire Inspection Urged For Schools In County

County Judge Horace Barker yesterday asked that schools in the county be opened for inspection by the Fire Department before classes start in September. A similar inspection was made last year. On their tour, County firemen will inspect all public buildings.

The Courier-Journal
August 16, 1947

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September 6, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

Volunteers Declare They Beat Paid Firemen

Volunteer firemen from five stations last night claimed they consistently were beating paid County firemen to sub-urban fires.

Meeting in Buechel, volunteers said the County's recently commissioned department had won only one race against volunteer units.

Present at the meeting were volunteer fire officials from Okolona, Fern Creek, Buechel, Camp Taylor, and High View. Their purpose was to decide whether the volunteers would accept the County's offer to train crewmen and provide more equipment for volunteer stations.

Stations to Decide.

The volunteers said they already were more efficient than County firemen, who they

charged were inept, partially disabled in some cases, and not acquainted with County roads. The volunteers finally voted to let each station determine whether to accept County help.

However, they indicated that all would shun any County tie-up on the theory that it would detract from their efficiency. The group voiced the opinion that the County was trying to "take over" their service.

William Rice, Buechel, said he had written Attorney General Eldon S. Dummit to learn whether County fire officials have any jurisdiction over volunteer firemen when both meet at the same blaze.

Rice said he understood many County firemen were disabled men who had been placed on pen-

sions by the City Fire Department. "And the trouble is," lamented Richard Burn, chief of the Fern Creek volunteer unit, "it's legal. They could put on a guy with both arms off if Fiscal Court approved."

Says Rates Lowered.

The volunteers also said they had succeeded in lowering insurance rates in some of their communities, and thought they might go up again if the County took control. D. R. McAfee, of the High View volunteers, quoted figures purported to show County firemen's salaries might balloon to a total of \$500,000 a year if plans are completed to erect 10 stations. The County now has two stations and a third will be opened next week.

The volunteers discussed what

they said was the "sale" of three Seagrave fire trucks to the County by Acting County Judge Franklin Fitch. Fitch later said he had been an attorney here for the Seagrave Corporation for 20 years, but "I'm not exactly an agent." Fitch said Seagrave was granted the three-truck order on the lowest of four bids submitted to Fiscal Court.

'Awful in the County.'

Fitch charged some volunteer firemen were "in the contribution racket" in that they received upkeep and certain salary donations from community residents.

"It's getting awful in the county," said Fitch. "There are volunteer fire departments almost everywhere you turn."

County Judge Horace Barker said he did not doubt that volun-

teer firemen arrive first at most county fires. The explanation is, he continued, that volunteer fire stations are usually closer to the fires since the two County stations are widely separated.

Denies Pensioner Charge.

"Even at that," Barker said, "we've tied them several times." He denied the charge that some County firemen were City Fire Department pensioners. "We've obtained some ex-City firemen," he declared, "but they were men who quit during the war to enter war plants. None of them are aged or disabled."

Barker said the County had considered the possibility of "adequately training and equipping" volunteer firemen with the idea of further reducing county fire-insurance rates.

1947

September 5, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

Middletown Fire House To Be Dedicated Sept. 8

The third fire station in Jefferson County will be dedicated Monday evening, September 8, at 8 o'clock at Middletown with appropriate ceremonies and County Attorney Sam Steinfeld presiding.

Rev. Arthur Digby, pastor of the Middletown Christian Church, will give the invocation and the principal address will be delivered by County Judge Horace M. Barker whose topic will be "County Fire Protection."

Stratton Hammon, architect, will formally deliver the building to Chief Claude Thompson who will install Capt. J. D. Thompson and his staff which will include Lieut. Carl Oppel, Engineers Milburn Schone and Fulton Tyler, Firemen Lloyn Nevin, Calvin Wilson, Boyce Hildebrand, Douglass Swan and Stanley Swincher, Jr.

Refreshments will be served by

the women of Middletown and members of the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department will be presented to the audience.

The county will have three fully equipped and manned fire stations in the county when the Middletown department begins to operate. The other two are located near Buechel at Newburg and at Pleasure Ridge Park on the Dixie Highway.

Sub-stations are planned for future expansion of the county fire protection program and fire hazards will be considerably reduced through the cooperation of 11 volunteer departments in Jefferson County.

September 9, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:



Courier-Journal Photo.

CHRISTENING of a fire truck was part of ceremonies surrounding dedication of the new County fire station at Middletown last night. Doing the honors was County Fire Chief Claud Thompson, extreme left. Behind Thompson are, from left, William H. Day, D. K. Swan, Lt. C. W. Oppel, partly hidden; Boyce Hildebrand, Capt. Jake Thompson, Fulton-Tyler, Milburn Schone, and Herman Wilson.

Barker Denies County Firemen Are Disabled Louisville Pensioners

House Dedicated At Middletown

County Judge Horace Barker went to the defense of the County administration last night, replying to what he termed "sniping attacks on me and the administration."

Speaking at Middletown at the dedication of the third new County firehouse built in recent months, he denied recent charges that:

1. County firemen are disabled

pensioners of the Louisville Fire Department. "We do have several who retired from the City department," he said, "but they started at an early age and are still in their prime."

2. Sale of three Seagrave fire trucks was made to the County because County Judge Pro Tem Franklin Fitch is attorney here for Seagrave. Barker said Seagrave submitted the lowest bid on the equipment.

3. The County Fire Department is inefficient. "Since the first of the new firehouses was opened in May, the 75 calls answered by

firemen have saved property equal in value to the cost of all new firehouses, equipment, and firemen's salaries," he declared.

Barker was termed "the finest judge this County has ever had," and the County was said "to be in the finest condition it has ever been in" by County Attorney Sam Steinfeld, who introduced Barker.

Other speakers included County Commissioners Edward Torstrick, E. P. White, Jr., and Miles Thacker; Col. Tom Dover, chief of police, and Fire Chief Claud Thompson.

September 12, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

Newburg Firemen Make Four County Runs

The Newburg Fire Department made four runs last week, one, a test run to Okolona, one to a burning barn on the Bardstown Road, one to a dwelling in Camp Taylor and the fourth a repeat run to the Bardstown Road scene where it was falsely reported the fire had again broken out.

The barn was on the property of Dr. William E. Fallis, near Fern Creek. The alarm was received by the county department at 6:50 p. m., Saturday, Sept. 6.

When the blaze was reached it was found that the Fern Creek volunteers had arrived and the fire had gained such control that the building was destroyed with an estimated loss of \$3,500.

Later the Buechel and High View Volunteers came on the scene.

Efforts of the firemen were centered on preventing the spread of the fire.

At 9:45 a second call came in, with the report that the fire had broken out again. The run was made but the report was un-

grounded. The firemen found the smoldering ruins of the barn guarded by William Fallis, Jr.

Sunday morning at 2:10 a. m. a call was received from Camp Taylor where a one-story frame dwelling was on fire. The fire had been put out by the Camp Taylor volunteers and the county firemen returned to quarters after inspecting the building from basement to attic.

The county fire department which is manned by experienced firemen with long records of service has offered to set up training schools for volunteer departments where methods of cooperation would be worked out.

The test run was made to Motherheads ice cream plant in Okolona, Sunday afternoon.

Vottinor Is Chosen II

October 7 & 8, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

City-County Fire Changes Are Proposed Central System Of Alarms Is Discussed

Reorganization of fire protection service in Jefferson County areas was proposed yesterday at a conference of City and County officials.

Principal provisions of the proposal, made by the Kentucky Inspection Service, included: 1. Extension of areas covered by the County Fire Department, 2. Extension of City Fire Department protection to three "fringe" areas, and 3. Inauguration of a central alarm system to cover all of Louisville and Jefferson County.

Taylor Attends Conference.

Attending the City Hall conferences at which the plan was presented were: Mayor E. Leland Taylor, County Judge Horace Barker, City Safety Director Joseph A. Murphy, City Fire Chief John Krusenklau, Assistant City Law Director Lawrence Duncan, and members of the Kentucky Inspection Service. The service is backed by fire insurance companies in the State.

According to Mayor Taylor, no specific action was taken. He said the plan was turned over to the two fire chiefs who are to study the proposals.

Purpose of the plan, according to J. L. Thompson of the inspection bureau, is to clear the way for fire-insurance-rate equalization and reduction.

Volunteers In Some Areas

Under the present setup, some county areas are covered by County Fire Stations, others by volunteer fire-fighters. It was suggested at the meeting that County protection be extended to some areas covered by volunteers.

Mayor Taylor said the "fringe" areas for which City protection was sought were the area around Mellwood and Zorn where the Veterans' Administration soon will build a 150-bed hospital; the area near the Naval Gun Plant on the City's southern border, and the Bell's Lane Industrial area.

2 From W.A.A.

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Fireman Is Injured In Hay-Bale Fire

Lt. Charles Roach, of the Jefferson County Fire Department's Third District, suffered burns on the left arm at 1:20 p.m. yesterday in fighting a hay fire at the farm of H. J. Woltz, Murrays Lane near Hunter Trace Road. The blaze destroyed 100 bales of new hay, but the farm residence, garage, and chicken house were saved. Roach was given first aid by members of his unit.

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1947

October 15, 1947, Letter:

October 15, 1947

Rev. Richard W. Burn
Buechel, Kentucky

Dear Rev. Burn:

A few days ago, I read an article which you placed in the Point of View Columns of the local press concerning cooperation of the City, County and Volunteer Fire Departments in a program of fire fighting and fire insurance rate reductions.

In the article, you questioned the advisability of a meeting or arrangements for a meeting, involving such cooperation, to which the Volunteer Fire Departments themselves were not invited. While I think the news papers are very bad channel for such discussions, I agree with you that the Volunteers should have been invited to the meeting. It so happens that neither your County Judge or Col. Claud Thompson, Chief of the County Fire Department, knew what was to be done at the meeting. It was arranged by the Kentucky Inspection Bureau which issued the invitations itself to those who were there represented.

The position of your County Government is that we should lose sight of individual differences of opinion and lose sight of all other considerations than that of saving lives and property and, second, an adequate reduction in fire insurance rates for all of our citizens in Jefferson County.

We have, as you know, no control over our fire insurance rates. These are controlled by the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, subject to the action of the State Insurance Commission. The Kentucky Inspection Bureau personnel is selected and the expenses of the Bureau paid by the Insurance Companies. It is obvious, therefore, that if we are to accomplish a reduction in fire insurance rates we must cooperate among ourselves against what could easily turn out to be the common enemy. Critical discussion in the news papers is not conducive to such cooperation. Honest and free discussions among ourselves, meaning the Volunteer Departments, the City and County Fire Departments, is conducive to proper understanding and cooperation toward both goals hereinabove mentioned.

1947

October 15, 1947, Letter:

To: Rev. Burn
Date: October 15, 1947
Page: - 2 -

A copy of this letter is being sent to the heads of other Volunteer Fire Departments for the simple reason that your County Government feels that it is in a position to assist the Volunteer Fire Departments in Jefferson County in a program which we all participate. It feels that it can co-operate possibly by furnishing some types of equipment and, possibly, connect all departments under a common dispatcher, agreed upon by all concerned.

The plan submitted in a meeting a few days ago by the Kentucky Inspection Bureau is a rather complicated plan which is now being studied by Col. John Krusenklau, Chief of the City of Louisville Fire Department and Col. Claud Thompson, Chief of the County Fire Department. It is our purpose as soon as the plan can be studied and understood, to suggest to the Kentucky Inspection Bureau that the Volunteer Departments, as well as the City and County Departments, should be consulted in plans promulgated which all will thoroughly understand and in which each and all can thoroughly participate.

In reference to your letter to the Point of View, you will be glad to know, I am sure, that after the meeting Col. Thompson called Mr. Clemens, in charge of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, and personally inquired why the Volunteers had not been invited to the meeting. Mr. Clemens answered that he thought the plan had not been worked out in sufficient detail to be properly presented to the Volunteers at that time. I think it is the position of everyone concerned that as soon as the plan of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau is definitely formulated, all concerned will get together and discuss it. In the meeting Col. Thompson called attention of Mr. Clemens to the fact that the insurance companies had forwarded checks to the Volunteer Fire Departments from time to time in recognition of the good results they obtained in so many cases.

You will recall, that at my request to all of the Volunteer Fire Departments, the heads of five of them met in my office some weeks ago. At that time we discussed some possibilities as to cooperation with each other, but I have not had any communication concerning the discussion.

If there is a real spirit of cooperation among the Volunteer Fire Departments, I can assure you of a reciprocal feeling on the part of your County Government. I feel that the Kentucky Inspection Bureau will invite repre-

1947

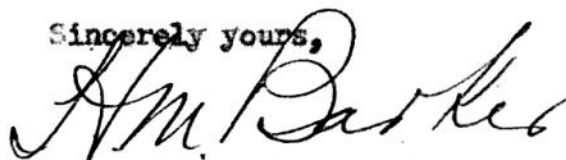
October 15, 1947, Letter:

To: Rev. Burn
Date: October 15, 1947
Page: -3-

sentatives of the Volunteer Fire Departments at any future meeting and I also feel that a plan can be worked out in which all can participate and cooperate and which will give us better fire protection and result in accomplishment of a considerably lower fire insurance rate for our citizens. I shall be glad to hear from you further in respect of the matter.

With kindest personal regards to you and yours, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Horace M. Barker, Judge
Jefferson County, Kentucky

HMB:pgn

CC: Col. John Krusenklous
Col. Claud Thompson
Mr. Albert Clemens
Mr. Payton Westerfield, Chief
Camp Taylor Fire Department
Mr. C. E. Lane, Chief
High View Fire Department
Mr. Teddy Travelstead, Chief
Lake Dreamland Fire Department
William H. Kihnley, Chief
Okolona Fire Department
Mr. John M. Monahan, Chief ✓
St. Matthews Fire Department
Mr. Bill Rives, Chief
Buechel Fire Department
Mr. Raymond Herrick, Chief
Middletown Fire Department
Mr. Carl L. Chamberlain, Chief
Worthington Fire Department
Mayor E. Leland Taylor

October 17, 1947, *Jefferson Post*, courtesy Kyle Brown:

County Firemen Hold Fire Drills at Schools

County fire departments have been making test runs to the various county schools where fire drills were held and the children allowed to inspect and even take a short ride on the apparatus.

Fire Chief Claude Thompson, stated that such drills will be held at intervals and that every effort would be made to acquaint the children of the county with common fire hazards and methods in which they could cooperate to prevent fires.

As the county apparatus is

equipped with two-way radio, these test runs and drills could be held without breaking contact with the central alarm station.

The following schools have been the scenes of such runs recently:

Middletown, Lyndon, Dorsey Colored, Eastwood, Griffeytown Colored, Forrest, Mill Creek,

(Continued on Page 7)

County Firemen Hold Fire Drill at Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

Penile, Fairdale, Greenwood, Auburndale, Cane Run, Valley High, and Kosmosdale.

In the first district, Capt. J. D. Thompson in charge, a run was made October 5, to the Floyd's Fork Hill near US. 60 where a milk truck broke down and spilled 1600 gallons of milk on the road.

In the third district Capt. Andrews reported the following runs:

Oct. 4—Dixie Highway. Mrs. C. Austin locked herself out of her home. The department used ladders to get in second floor window.

Oct. 6—A leaky gas line was the cause of a motorcycle blaze on the Stonestreet Road between Elevins Gap Road and 3rd Street Road. Owner, Morris Thornhill, Valley Station. Damage—Approximately \$100.

Oct. 7—Murray's Lane between Lower Hunters Trace and Cane Run Road. One-story frame barn

full of hay, owned by J. H. Holz, Shively. The adjacent residence, garage and chicken house, valued at \$7,500 were saved. The damage to the barn and contents was approximately, \$1,000.

October 25 & 26, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Tentatively Decides On Bowman Field Fire Station

Jefferson County officials yesterday agreed, tentatively, to establish a full-scale fire station at Bowman Field.

Although the station mainly would give protection to the airfield and its 567-unit veterans' housing project, it also would cover the county area within three miles.

The decision to set up the station, made at a conference in office of County Judge Horace Barker yesterday, will be subject to final approval by the Fiscal Court and the City-County Air Board.

Under the plan drafted at the meeting the County will employ 10 firemen to staff the station. The Air Board will provide the

building and the equipment for the station. To help finance the station Nicholas Dosker, head of the Mayor's Emergency Housing Commission, which operates the Bowman Field housing project, said his group could pay the County \$8,000 a year in lieu of taxes.

Lampe Ridicules Opponent's Claims On Fire Services

Stuart E. Lampe, Democrat, yesterday called an "absurdity" a claim by his Republican opponent for County commissioner that the County Fire Department caused no additional tax burden.

"Of course we don't get something for nothing," Lampe said over WKYW. He cited the rise of the county tax rate from 38 cents four years ago to the present 50 cents.

Lampe criticized the County Fire Department for having failed to bring about a reduction of insurance rates and for not co-operating with volunteer fire companies. He pledged himself and his running mate, Robert A. Fihe, to bring about teamwork between paid and volunteer fire services if elected.

Fire Fighters Ask Attitude Of Candidates

Judge Barker Calls Meeting 'Political'

Democratic candidates for County commissioners were "quizzed" last night on their attitude toward volunteer fire departments.

The candidates, Stuart E. Lampe and Robert A. Fihe, attended a meeting at Buechel with representatives of the nine volunteer units serving Jefferson County.

Arrangements for last night's meeting touched off an exchange between Richard W. Burn, a volunteer from Fern Creek, and County Judge Horace Barker, a Republican.

Judge Barker wrote nine volunteer leaders that the meeting was "politically inspired." He said last night that there had not been a meeting in some time and that since only Democratic candidates were invited the nature was "obvious."

Burn replied to Barker in a letter accusing the County of preaching co-operation, but not practicing it. He said the County Department often duplicated rather than supplemented the work of volunteers.

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The Courier-Journal
October 25, 1947

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October 30, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Gives Its Fire Chief A Peace Plan

Agreement Sought With Volunteers

Fiscal Court yesterday referred to County Fire Chief Claud Thompson a proposed agreement to end bickering between the County Fire Department and volunteer firemen in nine communities.

The proposal was submitted to County Judge Horace Barker at a meeting with volunteer fire leaders at Buechel. Judge Barker said they followed suggestions he made several weeks ago for coordinating City of Louisville, County, and volunteer fire-fighting.

Would Limit Duties.

The proposal covers seven points:

1. The County Fire Department to be primarily responsible for fires beyond the radius of volunteer operations.
2. The volunteers to be primarily responsible for fires within their radius of operation. (Usually this has been fixed at three miles from the firehouses.)
3. Each to give mutual aid when called upon by the other.
4. The County to keep its department out of areas for which volunteers are primarily responsible unless called on for help.
5. The County to equip volunteer trucks with radios to coordinate operations.

Volunteer Funds Hampered.

6. Reports to be dovetailed and systematized.
7. Removal of signs inside volunteer territory that give the County department's call number.

Barker said he would ask the Kentucky Inspection Bureau to attend a meeting of Fiscal Court representatives and volunteers. The bureau governs insurance rates.

The County and some volunteer organizations have been at odds for months. Barker told the court one problem was the fact that having a County Fire Department made it more difficult for the volunteers to raise funds.

December 4, 1947, *The Courier-Journal*:

Court O.K.'s Bowman Fire Station After Being Told of Moral Obligation

Informal Pact Is Upheld

Fiscal Court yesterday authorized a fire station at Bowman Field. Ten men will be required to run it.

Action came after County Attorney Sam Steinfeld told the court it would show bad faith not to go through with an informal bargain made with the Air Board and the Louisville Municipal Housing Commission.

Two court members, E. P. White, Jr., and Edward Torstrick, attended a conference in late October where it was agreed that the County would man a fire station if the Air Board furnished the building and the Housing Commission paid \$6,000 in lieu of taxes. Steinfeld said these two agencies had filled their obligation to the letter.

White Refuses to Back It.

White refused to second Torstrick's motion that this station be set up when contracts with the Air Board and Housing Commis-

sion are signed. Judge Barker, absent from the October meeting, said he had not understood the County would establish another full-fledged fire station. The yearly salary of the 10 men will be about \$19,000. Comptroller John W. Tinnell, Jr., said through next June, when the agreement ends, the County would pay about \$10,000.

The Air Board has turned over the equipment to the County. There is a fire engine used by the Army when it operated Bowman Field and a crash truck.

Judge Seconds Motion.

Barker said he felt that White and Torstrick, since they had made the agreement without the presence of the other two court members, should sponsor the motion. When White refused and Steinfeld repeated that he felt the court had morally bound itself by previous actions, the judge seconded the motion himself. It was passed, with Commissioner Miles Thacker refusing to vote.

The Court heard County At-

torney Steinfeld rule for the third time that it would violate the law by building driveways or installing culverts connecting private residences with established County roads. Steinfeld said exceptions could be made when the County, in remaking a road, or in deepening ditches, broke a previous connection. His ruling followed introduction of a resolution last week to share with owners expenses of constructing connecting drives to new residences.



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was agreed that the County would man a fire station if the Air Board furnished the building and the Housing Commission paid \$6,000 in lieu of taxes. Steinfeld said these two agencies had filled their obligation to the letter.

White Refuses to Back It.

White refused to second Torstrick's motion that the station be set up when contracts with the Air Board and Housing Commission are signed. Judge Barker, absent from the October meeting, said he had not understood the County would establish another full-fledged fire station. The yearly salary of the 10 men will be about \$19,000. Comptroller John W. Tinnell, Jr., said through next June, when the agreement ends, the County would pay about \$10,000.

The Air Board has turned over the equipment to the County. There is a fire engine used by the Army when it operated Bowman Field and a crash truck.

Judge Seconds Motion.

Barker said he felt that White and Torstrick, since they had made the agreement without the presence of the other two court members, should sponsor the motion. When White refused and Steinfeld repeated that he felt the court had morally bound itself by previous actions, the judge seconded the motion himself. It was passed with Commissioner Miles Thacker refusing to vote.

The Court heard County Attorney rule for the third time that it would violate the law by building driveways or installing culverts connecting private residences with established County roads. Steinfeld said exceptions could be made when the County, in remaking a road, or in deepening ditches, broke a previous connection. His ruling followed introduction of a resolution last week to share with owners expenses of constructing drives to new residences.

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December 5, 1947, *The Jeffersonian*:

Fire House Authorized Court Is Divided

At its regular meeting Wednesday the Fiscal Court authorized another county fire station, to be located at Bowman Field. Ten men to man the station with annual salaries aggregating \$10,000 is expected to be required.

County Attorney Sam Steinfeld told the court that, in the light of previous implications by members of that body, it would show bad faith not to establish the new station. Although Commissioner E. P. White, Jr., refused to second a motion made by his colleague, Edw. Tornstrick, to set up the station, County Judge Horace Barker himself seconded the motion. But there was further hesitancy in effecting the move when Commissioner Miles Thacker refrained from voting on the measure.

Repeating previous rulings, relative to the County driveways and installing culverts at private dwelling entrances off county roads, Attorney Steinfeld told the Court that it would violate the law in making such expenditures. Steinfeld said that exceptions be made in instances where such private road connections were broken by the County in ditching or remaking public roads.

December 13, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

Agreement for Fire Station at Bowman Field Approved

Fiscal Court yesterday approved an agreement for a fire station at Bowman Field. It agreed to limit the fire-fighting to within three miles of the station.

The limit was placed at the request of the Municipal Housing Commission, which is paying \$6,000 through next June 30 to help finance the station. The County will put 10 men at the firehouse, and used equipment turned over to it by the Air Board.

Cost \$20,000 Per Year.

N.H. Dosker, adviser to the Housing Commission (missing section)...of operations on the other three firehouses. The new station will open Monday. If continued, it will cost about \$2,000 a year.

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of operations on the other three firehouses. The new station will open Monday. If continued, it will cost about \$20,000 a year.

The court decided, on advice of County Attorney Sam Steinfeld, to refuse to send representatives to a meeting Wednesday at Pond Creek bridge on the Jefferson-Bullitt line. Bullitt County has begun legal steps to force Jefferson to help rebuild, largely at Jefferson's expense, a bridge on Catherine Station road on the line. Steinfeld said he did not consider the bridge advisable, since it now serves a dead-end road. Calling a meeting at the bridge is a step to force reconstruction.

Milk Fund Goes Up.

The court was told by Welfare Director William Pennycook that the 1-cent-a-quart added to the price of milk this week would cost the County \$221 a month in serving welfare cases. Pennycook said budget readjustments would be needed.

Court Can't Play Santa Or Even Have a Tree

The Fiscal Court can't play Santa Claus.

County Attorney Sam Steinfeld yesterday said the Court of Appeals decided this several years ago when former County Judge H. I. Fox wanted to have a Christmas tree for the County's wards.

Steinfeld's ruling was on a proposal to have Fiscal Court erect, light, and decorate a tree in front of the Courthouse.

December 5, 1947, *The Jeffersonian*:

Court Asks Aid In Settling County Fire Fighters' Row

Fiscal Court yesterday called for help in settling the dispute between the County Fire Department and volunteer fire companies.

The Court asked the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, an agency set up by fire-insurance companies, and the National Board of Fire Underwriters to survey the situation and suggest a remedy.

In a 4-hour session the court also:

1. Refused by a 2-2 vote, strictly on party lines, to approve the \$200 salary claim of Controller John W. Tinnell, Jr., for the first half of January. Legality of Tinnell's job is under fire in a Circuit Court suit.

Appraisers Appointed.

2. Appointed appraisers to fix the value of land needed to extend the Louisville floodwall into the county south of the city.

3. Was notified that the Welfare Board will need about \$52,000 over its original budget to continue payments to needy families with small children.

The dispute between the four companies of County-paid firemen and the 11 volunteer organizations involves a charge by the volunteers that the County department has caused a reduction in gifts by which volunteer companies are supported and volunteer claims that County department has not replaced the need for volunteer protection.

Called Unhappy Situation.

County Commissioner Stuart E. Lampe said the situation was an "unhappy one" and moved that the insurance companies be asked to help.

Tinnell's salary claim was passed along with other routine bills but later Democratic Commissioner Robert Fihe found it and said he could not approve it. He was joined by Lampe, also a Democrat.

Both said they felt the County's authority to hire a controller was in doubt. Lampe suggested the court wait until the Circuit Court suit was acted on by the Court of Appeals.

Tie Vote Blocks Payment.

County Judge Horace M. Barker and Commissioner Miles Thacker, both Republicans, voted to honor the claim. The tie vote meant the claim could not be paid.

County Attorney Sam Steinfeld said he would take legal action to have a decision on the matter by the courts speeded up.

Barker in urging payment of the claim said the County was a \$3,000,000 business and requires an officer to keep check on its "needs, expenditures, budget, procedure and efficiency."

Thacker said the suit contesting legality of Tinnell's job was

"purely political." The suit was filed by B. F. Veith, once County auditor and now City controller.

Get \$25 a Tract.

The court appointed Charles B. Jenkins, Allen Meyer, Victor Williams, and A. B. Fortner, Jr., to appraise land for the floodwall. They will be paid \$25 a tract. About 80 pieces of land are needed.

The floodwall would protect Rubbertown and other industrial areas as well as much of the residential property along the lowland in the Shively area.

William B. Pennycook, Jr., director of welfare, explained that the County for several years had added a contribution to the allowance the State has made to needy families with small children. Most of the cases, he said, are in the City of Louisville.

Auditor J. G. Hennessey reported that the County's income had been exceeding budget estimates. He said the excess might run to \$150,000.

January 15, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

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Auditor J. G. Hennessey reported that the County's income had been exceeding budget estimates. He said the excess might run to \$150,000.

Bridwell Is Elected

Election of Allen Lee Bridwell as chairman of the Third District Colored Democratic Organization was announced yesterday. The meeting was at headquarter, 918 W. Walnut. The announcement said 160 members attended.

Taylor's Thrifty Drug Store

January 23, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*:February 5, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

Masonic Building Here Is Damaged By Fire

Rendering what may prove to be practically a complete loss of the Jeffersontown Masonic Building, the second fire within the past week was caused by a defective flue Thursday afternoon. The fire started in the east wall and spread around the rear wall, burning for about an hour.

Besides the local Volunteer Fire Department, the Middletown Volunteers and the Middletown section of the County Fire Department, answered the call.

Much of the Masonic equipment, which was in the lodge room on the second floor was damaged, although most of the furniture was carried to safety. The first floor was occupied by the Jeffersontown Upholstering Company, whose equipment suffered some damage.

The building is owned by Jeffersontown Lodge 774, F. & A. M. The lodge carried insurance. For many years the first floor of the building housed the congregation of the First Baptist Church here, when the church owned the property jointly with the lodge.

* * *

Subsidizing Fire Units Recommended

Chief Would Integrate Volunteers, Paid Groups

The County will have to subsidize volunteer fire companies to make an integrated Fire Department serving all the County, Fire Chief Claud Thompson told Fiscal Court yesterday.

He said he would try to incorporate some of the "strategically located" volunteer companies into the County department, which now has four stations, manned by paid firemen. Most of the individual volunteer firemen would keep their status of serving without pay, he said.

County Commissioner Stuart E. Lampe said he wanted all volunteer fire units to have an opportunity to make recommendations for co-ordinating the work of the volunteer and paid fire units.

Will Be Given Outline.

"After all," he said, "they were here first and have brought insurance rates down some. We have not brought them down any further with our paid department."

Thompson said a rough outline would be sent all volunteer companies for study.

The County now employs 40 firemen.

The court again refused to approve the salary of County Controller John W. Tinnell, Jr. County Judge Horace Barker said he felt the salary of \$200 each 15 days should be paid until a court clears up Tinnell's status. The job has been attacked in a lawsuit.

"You are using his services," he said, "and by not paying are violating your contract."

Case to Be Tried.

Commissioner Lampe said he felt the contract was not a legal one.

County Attorney Sam Steinfeld said the Court of Appeals had sent the case back to Circuit Judge Lawrence Speckman for trial. It will take 60 to 90 days, he said, to get a final ruling. Meanwhile, Tinnell is working without pay, he added. Lampe said Tinnell would be paid in full if the job is held legal.

Expense accounts of \$77.50 for 10 investigators of Barker's liquor-control staff were approved after half an hour of discussion. Commissioner Robert Fihe questioned the item. Barker said the expenses were incurred in purchases made to give the investigators a reason for being in places.

February 13, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*:

Suggests Subsidy For Volunteer Fire Dep'ts.

A suggestion that the county subsidize volunteer fire departments was made this week by County Fire Chief Claud Thompson.

In a report to the Fiscal Court Thompson said such a move was necessary "to make an integrated fire department serving all the county." He said he hoped to incorporate some of the strategically volunteer departments into the county fire department. The county fire department now has four stations manned with paid firemen. The individual volunteer would continue to serve without pay, he said.

All volunteer units should have the opportunity of making recommendations for coordinating the work, according to County Commissioner Stuart E. Lampe. He added that "they were established first and were responsible for insurance rates being lowered. We have not brought them down further with our paid department," he added.

Meanwhile a committee from the St. Matthews Chamber of Commerce is endeavoring to get fire insurance rates lowered here. Most St. Matthews residents pay eight and tenth class rates.

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February 18, 1948, Letter:

KENTUCKY INSPECTION BUREAU

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

February 18, 1948

Mr. Edwin H. Stierle, Clerk
Jefferson County Fiscal Court
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

FIRE PROTECTION - JEFFERSON COUNTY

In compliance with your request of January 20, we have made a very thorough study of the fire protection facilities in Jefferson County, and submit, for your consideration, the enclosed list of general recommendations for coordinating the county fire protection.

Compliance with these recommendations will warrant a fire protection grading in the various areas varying from sixth to approximately nine and one-half class, depending upon the relative amount of protection available in the individual areas.

We shall be pleased to cooperate in any way possible in working out the details involved in complying with these recommendations.

Yours very truly,

MANAGER

Dictated by Mr. Thompson;mf

Enclosure

February 18, 1948, Letter:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COORDINATING FIRE PROTECTION
IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

At the present time, the protection in Jefferson County is afforded by one metropolitan fire department which protects the City of Louisville and a fringe area contiguous thereto, four full-paid county companies whose operations are scattered over the entire county, and twelve community fire departments whose operations are mainly limited to their individual communities. In order to afford protection to the entire county, and also increase the degree of protection now afforded certain of the smaller communities, the fire department operations within the county should be coordinated as follows:

1. Arrangements should be made for the full-paid companies (both county and municipal) to protect an area within five miles by road of each company, and first alarm response of such companies should be limited to such an area.
2. The volunteer community fire departments should protect an area within three miles of the individual department, but only those departments having at least two pieces of equipment should arrange to respond outside the community limits.
3. A move-up program should be inaugurated whereby a definite running card is established, providing for first and subsequent alarms, and for cover-up by adjacent companies in case of a second fire in any individual territory. A paid fire company should respond to all alarms of fire in territories protected by volunteer departments. Normally, these companies will not be needed, but will be available in event of an unforeseen delay or if additional equipment or hose is needed.
4. Where additional companies are required to fill in gaps not properly protected, as indicated under the foregoing distance requirements, these should be installed on the basis of limiting first alarm response

February 18, 1948, Letter:

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to not over five miles by road where companies are full-paid, and to a maximum of three miles where companies are call or volunteer. Equipment suitable for protecting the individual areas should be provided, with particular reference to negotiating road conditions within the area.

5. A centralized fire alarm headquarters should be provided for handling all alarms, with a sufficient number of telephone trunk lines to adequately take care of the service. Direct telephone lines should be extended to each of the county stations and to each of the cooperating community departments. In addition, two-way radio equipment should be provided for all department houses and on apparatus. A large map showing the entire protected area, with location of fire companies, streets, etc., should be provided.
6. Where water protection is to be provided, the minimum main size should be 6-inch, with due consideration being given to the quantity of water available for the individual area under protection. Hydrant spacing should not exceed 600 feet and should be closer in heavily built-up areas.

In rural areas where cisterns are provided, the minimum size should be 3,000 gallons, and suitable provisions should be made for road approach and for keeping cisterns filled. Proper consideration should be given to the location of cisterns, with reference to buildings being protected.
7. Suitable building laws and fire prevention regulations should be set up for the individual areas, and provisions made for fire prevention inspections in all property other than dwellings and farm property.
8. Detailed sectional maps of the various districts should be provided in each engine house. These maps should show the various roads,

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February 18, 1948, Letter:

- 3 -

water mains, fire hydrants, cisterns, and all other auxiliary water supplies which might be utilized by the departments.

9. Complete records of all fires, fire methods, losses, apparatus, and all fire department matters should be kept. Such information should be available at a centralized location.
10. Arrangements should be made for the county police department to cooperate with the fire department organizations in reporting fires, controlling traffic, preserving of order at fires, and the reporting of buildings under construction without permit and in violation of safety standards. Portable fire extinguishing equipment should be provided on all police cruisers for fighting incipient fires, including those on automobiles and trucks.

KENTUCKY INSPECTION BUREAU
Louisville 2, Kentucky

February 18, 1948

1948

February, 1948, Letter:

Judge Horace M. Barker
Chairman, Fiscal Court
Louisville, Ky.

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Dear Judge Barker:

The plan for the coordination of the County Fire Department with the Volunteer Fire Department units which we represent which you submitted to us and which general plan we understand meets the requirements of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, meets with our wholehearted approval.

It is our understanding that the adoption of this plan will not only bring about a more efficient method of protection to the people in the area, but bring about material savings in insurance rates.

It is our understanding that this plan does not contemplate the taking over of the Volunteer units by the County, but would only be the means of assisting us in setting up our departments with trained men and equipment which would enable all the departments in the area to function as one unit in fire fighting.

We realize that this plan will give added protection to both life and property in the area we serve.

Therefore, the undersigned request that this plan be submitted to the Fiscal Court for their approval, with the hope that it will meet with favorable action on the part of the Court, so that details can be worked out and put into operation.

Yours very truly,

/s/ John M. Monohan, Chief St. Matthews Fire Dept

/s/ Carl L. Chamberlain, Chief Worthington Vol.
Fire Dept.

/s/ Marshall Floore, Chief Jeffersontown Dept.

/s/ Raymond Herrick, Chief Middletown Dept.

February, 1948, Letter:

MEMORANDUM OF ITEMS AGREED UPON TENTATIVELY WITH THE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTING UNITS.

1. When a fire is reported in an area covered by a Volunteer Unit, that unit will be first called to fight the fire. If assistance is needed the County Fire Department will support that unit. All calls are to be handled by a central dispatcher who will direct which companies to answer the fire alarm.
2. The voluntary units' fire trucks are to be equipped with radios and placed on the same radio band as our County Fire and Police Departments.
3. A central alarm system is to be worked out so that when a person desires to report a fire he simply says so to the operator. The operator then directs the call through to the dispatcher without delay. It is thought that the telephone company engineer can arrange to have all fire calls directed to the dispatcher through the trunk lines now operating between his office and the County Fire Department Units.
4. When a fire is being fought in an area covered by a volunteer unit, it will be fought under the direction of the volunteer chief. Any fire outside the areas particularly covered by the volunteer units is to be fought under the supervision or direction of the County Fire Chief or the captain in charge.
5. Equipment being used by the Volunteer Units will meet the standards required by the Kentucky Inspection Bureau and maintained in that status. The County will have the right to inspect any equipment which it furnishes to the Volunteer Fire Departments and, if necessary, will make repairs thereto.
6. It is understood that the financial contribution of the County Government to each of the Volunteer Units will amount to probably \$1500.00. This can be set up by way of a drawing account, which is a simple detail to be agreed upon.
7. The County Fire Department is to assist in the training of men in the Volunteer Units and assist in bringing other and outside instructors, if necessary, for this purpose, in order that the training of the men will enable them to be more efficient in the fighting of fires and in the handling of fire fighting equipment.
8. It must be understood that the County Government will, in no wise, interfere with the operation of the volunteer fire house or a volunteer organization. It is to independently handle its own affairs and has no connection with the County Government, except for the purpose of fire fighting efficiency and the reduction of fire insurance rates. In other words, it will continue, as in the past, to handle its own affairs without restriction or interference in any way by the County Government. On the other hand, the purpose in making these agreements is to bring about close cooperation in the matter of fire fighting, establishment of better trained men and better equipment, in order to effect the closest cooperation to a more efficient overall system of fire fighting and for the purpose of reduction in fire insurance rates.

February 26, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

New Fire Setup For County Urged

Rate-Fixing Agency Recommends Co-ordinating of Present Equipment

Fiscal Court yesterday received recommendations for organizing fire-fighting in the County to bring lower insurance rates.

The recommendations came from the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, which fixes rates for fire-insurance companies.

At the same time, the court was urged by Bill Rice, Buëchel, president of Volunteer Fire-fighters, Inc., that the County's own paid department be disbanded and the fire engines sold.

Court Takes No Action.

The court took no action on any of the recommendations.

The Inspection Bureau suggested a co-ordination of fire-fighting by the Louisville Fire Department, Town departments of Shively and Anchorage, four fire companies supported by the County, and the 14 volunteer organizations. Its recommendations included:

1. Limiting response by paid companies to five miles on first alarms by volunteer companies to three miles.
2. Volunteer companies to stay within their own limits on second alarms unless they have more than one piece of equipment.

Urge Additional Companies.

3. A move-up system to protect an area when its own fire company is busy.
4. Additional companies to be installed where gaps are created by the limits on answering calls. (Three County companies now respond to calls anywhere. One limits itself to three miles from Bowman Field.)
5. A central station for all alarms.

Rice's recommendation

where necessary to volunteer departments.

He charged that County fire engines were not adapted to rural fire-fighting, that stations, with the exception of one at Pleasure Ridge, were poorly located, that firehouses were too costly, and the cost of supervision was too high. A chief, four captains, and four lieutenants, he said, draw \$22,600 a year and 32 privates draw \$1,800 each or \$57,600.

The court asked that a proposal be worked out, if legal, to join with the City of Audubon Park in maintaining Audubon Parkway. William F. Clarke, attorney for Audubon Park, said opening of a new subdivision road had turned Audubon Parkway into a through highway which Audubon Park is no longer able to keep up properly.

February 28, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

Plan to Add 4 Fire Units Is Studied

County Chief To Seek Approval Of Fiscal Court

Greater fire protection for Jefferson County is sought under a plan now being studied to add four fire stations to the County system and to man them jointly with paid firemen and volunteers, County Judge Horace Barker said yesterday.

Under the plan, paid firemen at each of the three permanent County stations would be reduced from 10 to "eight or nine." Engines owned by the County would remain at these stations. Paid firemen transferred from the three stations, and those from the temporary Bowman Field station, would join volunteers in manning four new stations to be located where a survey finds they are most needed.

Central Alarm System Planned.

Barker said the plan is being studied by County Chief Claud Thompson to present to Fiscal Court. It also includes:

Furnishing key volunteer units with two-way radio equipment and special nozzles they may need for their own engines.

A central alarm system.

A system of moving equipment into an area when the area's own equipment is busy.

Contracts with Louisville, Anchorage, and Shively to protect property near their limits.

Barker said he felt this could be done at no great added expense in operating the County department and that no extra paid firemen would be needed. Such an enlarged system would cost no more than \$100,000 and should reduce insurance rates enough to justify the cost, he said. The present pay roll is \$80,000 a year.

Notes Saving of Property.

"This will protect \$100,000,000 worth of property outside of Louisville," he declared. "Our department so far has saved \$2,000,000 worth of property threatened by fire. It would have burned if there had been no protection," he added.

Barker said the plan would limit initial response of all stations to the radius fixed by the agency setting rates for insurance companies. This agency, Kentucky Inspection Bureau, made recommendations to Fiscal Court Wednesday for a county-wide fire program.

Barker said President Harold F. Petty, of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, had called on him about unionization of the County's firemen.

O.K.'s Union Membership.

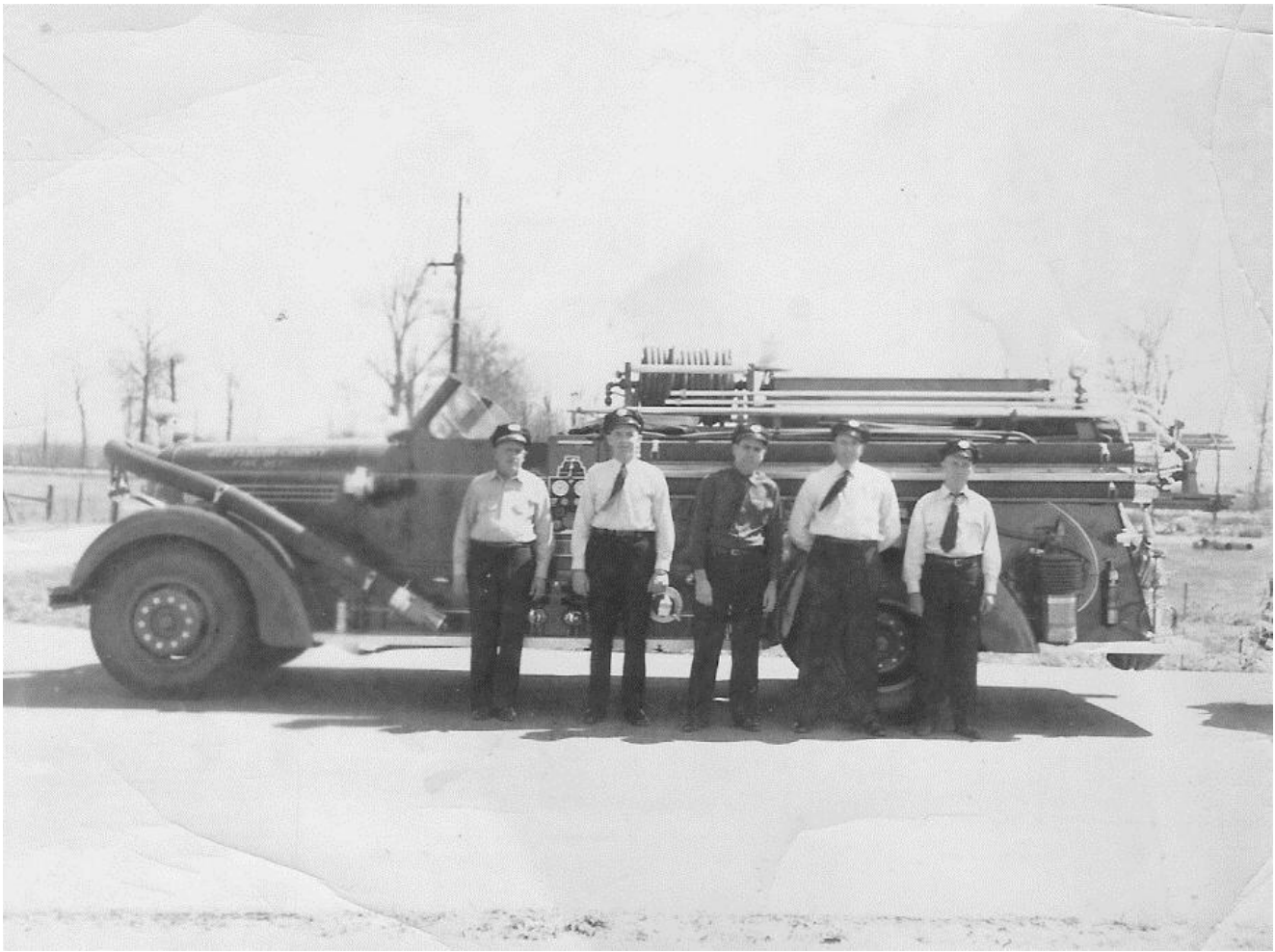
"I told him anybody could join a union without danger to his job," said Judge Barker. "The Fiscal Court will be glad to have the co-operation and advice of the union, but it cannot bargain with it as a union under our law. It must make its own decisions after weighing its responsibility to the whole body of citizens."

There are 41 County firemen, including Chief Thompson. Petty estimated more than half have joined the A.F.L. - International Association of Fire Fighters, which has organized the City of Louisville firemen. Pay of County firemen now starts at \$150 a month.

1948

Courtesy Otto Mock, Camp Taylor Fire District.

Jefferson County Engine 2 stationed off Newburg Road 1948



Jefferson County Fire department—Newburg Road Station, 1948

Firefighter on left is Alfred “AC Humm who was a member of the Jefferson County Fire Department. He eventually was a member of the Edgewood Fire Department.

March 11, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

Volunteer Firefighters Given Voice In Planning

Fiscal Court yesterday agreed that Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., could name a representative to help work out preliminary plans for giving the entire county fire protection.

The association directors will meet tomorrow night to name someone to work with Fire Chief Claud Thompson and representatives of fire-insurance companies.

The request for volunteer participation was made by Louisville attorney R. Davis McAfee, whose home is in Fern Creek. McAfee said the volunteers felt that they would get the "run-around" if not in at the beginning.

Insurance Firms Study Plan.

County Judge Horace Barker said Thompson's recommendation for using three County stations as a base and extending coverage with about 15 volunteer companies was in the hands of the insurance companies. Barker said the plan proposes keeping County stations, with paid crews, at Middletown, Newburg Road, and Pleasure Ridge. He said four or five new volunteer companies would have to be formed and as many stations built to house them.

Architect Walter Wagner was authorized to prepare plans for closing skylights on the Armory roof and mending the roof. It has been leaking.

Road Engineer Charles F. Bradbury was asked to include in proposals for rural-highway construction by the State an

above-floodwater road leading from below Shively to Dixie Highway. He said two estimates had been made, one for \$60,000 and another for \$50,000 about two years ago. The construction would cover about a mile of highway in each case.

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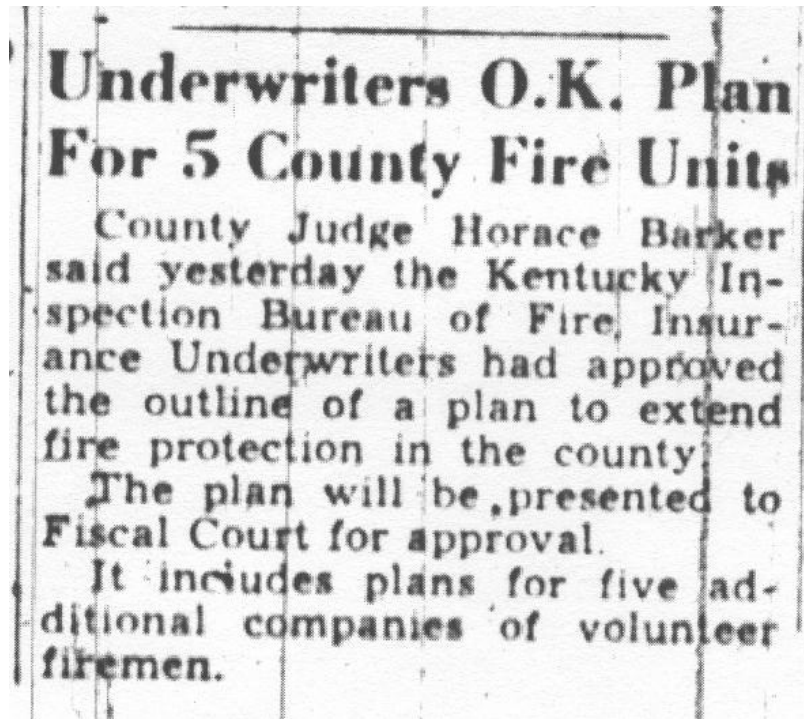
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March 13, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:



The Courier-Journal
March 13, 1948

Underwriters O.K. Plan For 5 County Fire Units

County Judge Horace Barker said yesterday the Kentucky Inspection Bureau of Fire Insurance Underwriters had approved of a plan to extend fire protection in the county.

The plan will be presented to Fiscal Court for approval.

It includes plans for five additional companies of volunteer firemen.

JUDGE BARKER, VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS IN SQUABBLE

It appears, from the reverberations throughout the County during the past week, that the wrangling between the organized volunteer firemen and County Judge Horace Barker continue to go places but get no where in particular. It is evident that a publicly supported fire fighting force and local volunteer organizations just can't get along together.

Judging from what has been happening recently and the continuing clashes between the Volunteer Firefighters' organization and public authorities, particularly Judge Barker, the County's entire setup of fire fighting facilities is likely to be thrown into a state of confusion. Much comment is now going the rounds relative to the lack of harmony observed during the past several months between the different agencies, which appear incompatible.

The public has begun to wonder what the new situation adds up to. Most people have a good word for the volunteers, and give them credit for doing a good job. The big question is, will the County do a better job, with the thousands of dollars of public funds that are being poured into the establishing and maintenance of a paid fire department.

The most recent developments came out of the Fiscal Court's action voting to allow a representative of the volunteers to sit in at meetings of officials of the County Fire Department and the Kentucky Inspection Bureau. With this Judge Barker dissented.

Bill Rice, Buechel, who is president of the organized Volunteer Firefighters, gives his version of the Court's action and the pro-

ceedings that followed, in a letter to *The Jeffersonian*.

Rice's letter follows:

On March 10 our attorney, R. D. McAfee, appeared before the Jefferson County Fiscal Court and requested the Court's permission to allow one of our members to act as our representative in any further discussions between the officials of the County Fire Department and the Kentucky Inspection Bureau. The purpose of these meetings were to work out a plan of cooperation between the County Fire Department and the Volunteer Departments.

Commissioner Stuart Lampe stated that he thought our request reasonable and made a motion that was promptly seconded by Commissioner R. A. Fihe, that we be allowed to have one representative present at these meetings. Judge Barker bitterly opposed the motion but after 45 minutes of argument by Judge Barker, a vote was taken on the motion and the three Commissioners voted in favor of it.

In spite of the Fiscal Court's action (Judge Barker being the Chairman) on March 11 the next morning, Judge Barker and the County Fire Chief met in a three hour session with representatives of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau without a representative of

(Continued On Page 2)

JUDGE BARKER, VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS IN SQUABBLE

(Continued from Page 1)

the volunteer group being present.

On March 10 Commissioner Lampe requested the County Fire Chief to secure a map and recommendations that he had delivered to the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, turning same over to the Volunteer Firefighters to be reviewed at their meeting March 12 at the Lake Dreamland Station. When the representatives of the Volunteer group called at the Inspection Bureau for the papers he was informed that both the map and recommendations were in the possession of G. H. Parker of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, who was in conference with Judge Barker and the County Fire Chief. However, at 4 p. m. the representative of the Volunteer group was handed a copy of what was supposed to be the original recommendations but was refused the map.

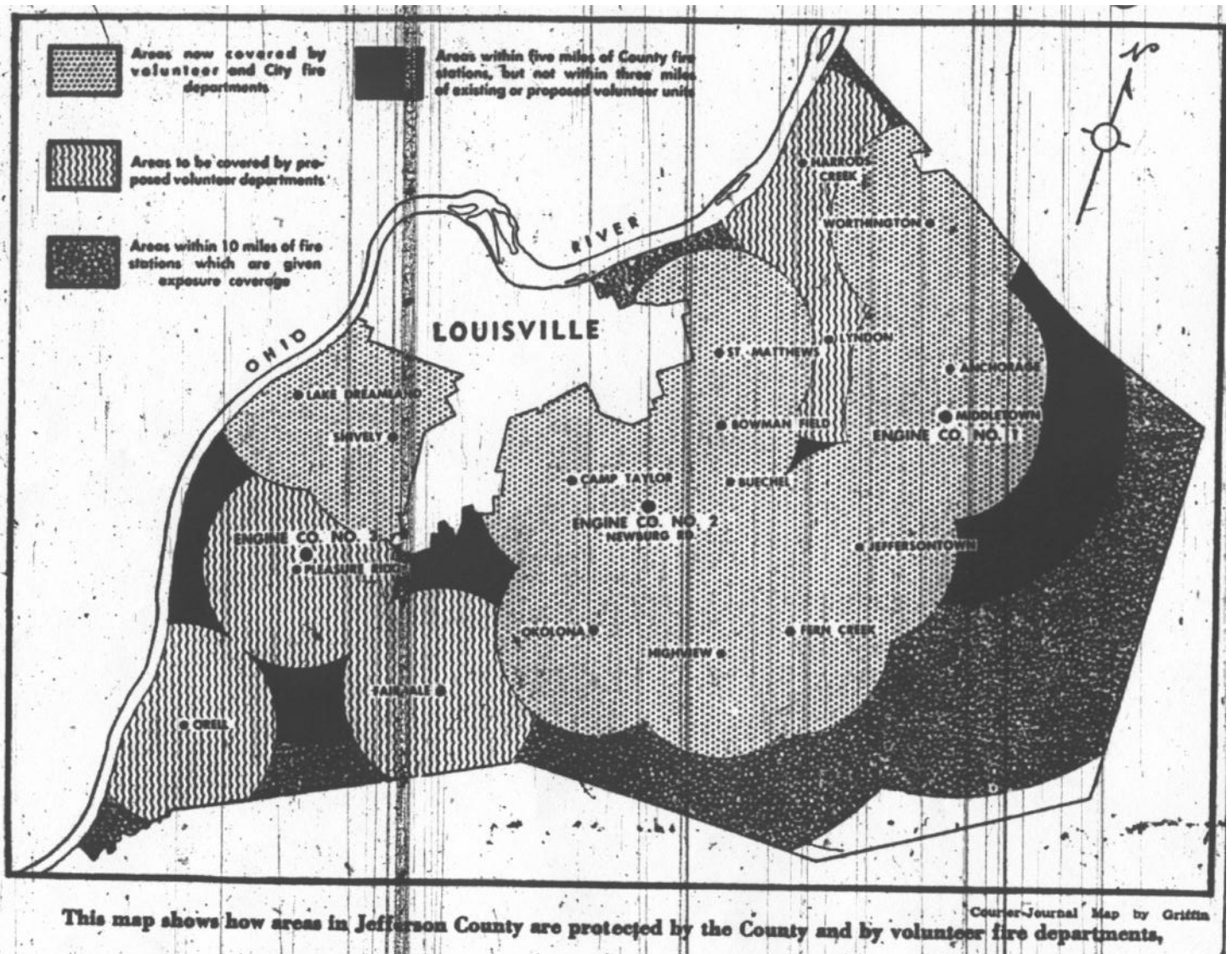
How is it possible to work out a plan of cooperation between the County and the Volunteer Departments and make it work, when Judge Barker refuses to abide by the actions of the Court, of which he is Chairman?

Volunteer Firefighters, Inc.,
By Bill Rice, President.

1948

March 21, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

Thompson Offers A Plan To Integrate Jefferson Fire Protection



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This map shows how areas in Jefferson County are protected by the County and by volunteer fire departments.

By SAM MOSS, *Courier-Journal Staff Writer*

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In principle, Thompson's plan proposes to take three stations which the County now operates, 10 companies of volunteer community firemen, the City fire departments of Anchorage, Shively and Jeffersonstown and the Louisville fire department, and mold them into a working organization.

Ahead of him lie some obstacles. But on his side is the experience other localities have had, that with proper co-operation, the job can be done and insurance rates cut sharply. The experience of small communities clustered around Covington and Newport bears this out.

Has His Own Plan

Thompson's plan differs from the one in those communities. There, each fire department retains its autonomy, and is responsible for protection in its own area. The other departments simply stand by to help when called.

Here, except for the Louisville, Shively and Anchorage departments, it is proposed that the volunteers in effect be adopted into the County Fire Department. Their officers would be approved by Fiscal Court, and one or two men would be paid by the County to keep the equipment in shape and to drive it when answering calls.

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In North Kentucky, the person with a fire calls his own department. Here, the insurance-rate men have suggested a system where all alarms go into a central place, possibly the Louisville fire headquarters, which then would send a company. The volunteers already have expressed themselves strongly against this method.

Most fundamental difference between the plan here and in North Kentucky is this: Thompson seeks to give the entire county some protection. In North Kentucky, only participating areas benefit. The rest of Campbell and Kenton Counties are not benefited.

In all cases, there would be needed a "move-up" system so that no section ever is left without some fire company to protect it. Putting this into effect merely calls for the setting-up of an automatic system whereby another company assumes the responsibility for answering calls in an area whose own equipment is out on a run.

Five Demands Made

Fundamentally, the fire-insurance-rate bureau demands, for giving an area low rates, this situation:

1. Each volunteer company and the ones in small cities must answer first alarms no farther away than three miles.

2. Enough additional stations must be established to give the built-up areas of the county a volunteer station within three miles or a paid station within five miles.

3. County companies, manned altogether by paid men, may go

anywhere in their three magisterial districts if there is sufficient backing to take over the areas they leave unprotected.

4. No rate reduction will be effected unless there is an adequate water system with hydrants where needed. A system of cisterns is being considered where central water is not available.

5. A move-up system must be approved as part of any program of rate-reduction beyond what already has been granted.

There are not now enough fire stations to protect the entire county adequately. The present County fire department, because it "roams" anywhere it is needed, is putting money into the pockets of insurance companies by putting out fires, but saving no money for property owners in insurance rates. The County fire

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Go to top of column 2

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A Fourth County station was established at Bowman Field just before the last election. It uses housing furnished by the Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board and equipment taken over from the Army. It is not contemplated that this station be

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They Pass the Hat

Spotted about the county are other companies of volunteers, some thoroughly efficient and well-equipped; others using what they can afford and what manpower they can raise. They are

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Continued on Page 18

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THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 1948.

Fire-Protection Plan Is Up Against a Human Factor

Continued from Page 12

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Four new volunteer stations would be needed to fill the biggest gaps; Thompson's preliminary proposal suggests that these be formed at Harrods Creek, Lyndon, Orell and Fairdale. He proposes a fifth volunteer company at Pleasure Ridge, to give the County fire station there a backstop.

Two Big Obstacles

The insurance-rate bureau has approved the plan, if it can be worked out.

Principal obstacles are two: money and human nature.

As to money, County Judge Horace Barker estimates that the job can be done for little more than the cost of the present County fire department. With Bowman Field's station, this is running at the rate of \$100,000 a year. It includes 43 men, plus Chief Thompson. The pay roll is approximately \$45,000 a year. Judge Barker thinks the Bowman Field station can be eliminated, saving 19 men, and that two men can be taken from each of the other stations now supported by County funds. This would provide 18 men to distribute around among the volunteer stations. However, it is hardly possible to get by with fewer than two paid men for each volunteer company, since standard working time is a day on and a day off. To place two men at each volunteer station would require 30 men. Thus, instead of 42 men, including a chief, 56 men would be needed. At the present fireman's salary of \$150 a month—and no one expects the firemen to put up with that pay much longer—the 14 extra men would cost \$28,200. And there would have to be at least one over-all supervisor.

Equipment Is Expensive
Pay roll alone would go to at least \$110,000 a year at this figure. Perhaps some volunteer companies now serving would not be taken in. There might be a saving there.

This figure is for bare pay roll. It does not include expensive equipment such as radios, special nozzles and pump hose, gasoline for operations and an elaborate



Chief Claud Thompson
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telephone system, all of which run into money nowadays.

It does not figure in the cost of contract service with Louisville, Shively, Anchorage and Jeffersonton, nor does it figure in the cost of maintaining fire hydrants.

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The cost has been in the minds of Commissioner Robert A. Fife and Commissioner Stuart E. Lampe, members of the Fiscal Court. Both have become sensitive to the growing drain on the County of what amounts to City services paid for by the County. The sensitivity arises from the fact that Louisville and the other incorporated cities provide these services for themselves—and Louisville provides a lot more for its citizens at their own expense. In paying for a County fire department, incorporated areas would pay both for protection they got and for protection they did not need. Louisville would bear about 75 per cent of the cost and get nothing in return, since city-dwellers pay 15 per cent of all County taxes.

Should the financial problems be worked out—and Lampe has insisted that the cost be known by May 1—the principal problem is one of human nature. The relations between the volunteers and the County fire department have been strained, to put it mildly. Charges have ranged from the plausible—that people won't support volunteers any

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April 15, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

KIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KY.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1948

Fire and Water Plague Fiscal Court

Fire and water plagued Fiscal Court yesterday.

Its 4-hour session brought these developments:

1. Six volunteer fire companies called quits on efforts to work out a County-volunteer program to fight fires.

2. A dozen delegations demanded that something be done to keep their farms and homes dry.

3. A.F.L. construction workers protested against letting building jobs on bids that didn't carry prevailing wage rates.

Program Collapses.

Buechel, Camp Taylor, Fern Creek, Lake Dreamland, Okolona, and High View volunteers notified the court that negotiations to join a unified Fire Department were off. For some weeks volunteers and County Fire Chief Claud Thompson have been discussing a program to work the County's paid firemen and the volunteers into a team to protect the whole county.

R. Davis McAfee, attorney speaking for the volunteers, gave two reasons:

1. Insurance rates will not be reduced, no matter what the County Fire Department does, within practical limits of cost.

Don't Need County Help.

2. Volunteers can get further reductions without County help.

John L. Thompson, of the insurance companies' rate bureau, wrote the court, however, urging that negotiations be continued. Several commissioners said they felt the talks should go on. Commissioner Stuart E. Lampe said the main obstacle was expense. The County department will cost \$100,000 next year at the present strength.

Help One, Hurt One.

The delegations complaining about water asked that the County arrange to do a better job of drainage. Road Engineer Charles F. Bradbury said this was both expensive and difficult. The difficulty, he said, was in relieving one complaint and getting another.

Typical was a problem at Chen-

oweth Lane and Fairy. Last December the County opened a culvert across Chenoweth Lane. Water from the west side began to drain to the east. Mrs. Tom Moore said it had all been dumped on her lot on Fairy. Bradbury said that to take it away would cost \$2,500—and

might flood somebody else.

Similar complaints came from all over the county.

The bid complaint was made by attorney Herman Cohen of the Louisville Building Trades Council. The law requires, he said, that each bid form carry the "prevailing" rate for work needed on the job. Bids were received

to repair the Armory roof without rates attached. No immediate action was taken on Cohen's proposal that all bids be rejected and readvertised.

The court then decided not to open bids on a road into the County Forest at Wallace Lake until bidders agree to pay "prevailing" rates.

April 16, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*:

Firefighters Abandon Plan To Cooperate

Declaring that, as for them, negotiations looking toward a unification of the County operated fire fighting forces and the volunteer units were off, Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., told the Fiscal Court, at its Wednesday afternoon session, that the different elements could not agree. For several weeks County Chief Claud Thompson and representatives of the Volunteers have been discussing a program whereby efforts of all forces might be correlated.

R. Davis McAfee, attorney, speaking to the Court on behalf of the volunteers, said that investigations had revealed that no additional reduction in insurance rates can be obtained by reason of the operation of the Jefferson County Fire Department. He explained that by complying with rules and regulations set up by the Inspection Bureau, volunteer units had secured rate reductions and that other units were working out compliance schedules calculated to lower the rates in their respective communities.

The Firefighters organization submitted a written report to the Court, outlining proceedings of their negotiations with Chief Thompson and consultations with Inspection Bureau representatives.

In reporting the findings relative to the overall situation of firefighting facilities, to the Fiscal Court Volunteer Firefighters, Inc. reviewed the past two years' experience. Stating that they had attempted to work out a system of fire protection for County residents during the period that would justify, in the eyes of the Inspection Bureau, reduction in insurance rates.

Firefighters contended in their report that the County Fire Department had proved to be a "hindrance rather than a help," in its manner of organization and methods of operation, which was the reason they gave for having urged, from time to time, changes in the County Department's operations. They regarded therefore as futile any attempt to correlate the forces, since efforts toward cooperation had failed.

Pointing out that some communities in the County, maintaining their own volunteer fire departments, have met requirements of the Inspection Bureau and have secured rate reductions for their constituents. Recommendations from the Bureau have been given other communities and, through compliance, these communities are also expecting rate reductions. Having gone into the matter of rate reductions thoroughly, Firefighters told the Court that, "We find that no additional reduction can be obtained by reason of the operation of the Jefferson County Fire Department."

Carrying, as it would, "a considerable degree of control by the County Department," members of the Firefighters group deemed it "unwise" to enter into any co-operative plan, fearing, as they said, "that the standards of operation might eventually fall to the present standard of operation maintained by the County Department." And if such proved to be the case an increase in rates could be expected.

The report stated that following the inauguration of the County Fire Department difficulty was experienced in obtaining voluntary contributions for support of the volunteers, to which was attributed, the fact that much publicity having been given operation of the County Department, resulting in the conclusion on the part of many County residents that the County Department could take over and do the job. The report says, however, that two years' experience has convinced a majority of the residents seeing the two systems in actual operation that, "The County Department, as presently constituted is inefficient and not competent to handle the job." Thus it is, the report declares, that the Volunteers are now "having no difficulty in raising the necessary funds to operate and improve our present systems."

Declaring that with an outlay to date of more than \$200,000 and with the prospect of an annual operating cost to exceed \$200,000, the County Fire Department is failing to prove itself a good investment to the taxpayers.

April 28, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

Jefferson Firemen Receive Thanks Of Oldham Man

Jefferson County Fire Department and volunteers who went to Crestwood to help battle a \$75,000 fire were thanked yesterday for "neighborliness." Crestwood is in neighboring Oldham County.

Milton C. Stoess, partner in a business firm whose building was damaged, said "men of heart" still thrived in a troubled world.

Claud Thompson, County fire chief, said volunteers from St. Matthews, Middletown, Worthington, and communities in Oldham County helped fight the fire. "And," said Colonel Thompson, "they really did a great job."

June 26, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

A County Commissioner Tells Why He Opposes The Fire Department

To the Editor of *The Courier-Journal*:

Since the tie vote in the Fiscal Court on continuing a fully paid County Fire Department or establishing a department with limited personnel to foster and co-ordinate the Volunteer Fire Departments was along party lines, many persons may conclude that the division was over politics and overlook the real issues involved.

Jefferson County has for several years levied the maximum tax rate. County government has become more expensive under Judge Horace Barker's administration in tax rate, assessment and amount spent. For the fiscal year ending June 30, general fund expenditures were \$2,066,656. Proposed by Judge Barker and his budget commission for the coming year is a general fund of \$3,348,658, an increase of 62 per cent.

This proposed budget accounts for the expenditure of all the money that the maximum tax rate on the highest assessment in history will produce. We have reached the stage where we can no longer expand services through raising the tax rate. Instead, we are compelled to select the more essential services and to curtail, if necessary, the less essential.

For many years the people of Jefferson County have failed to obtain the full benefit of Federal and State spending have failed to recover a fair share of the money we pay in Federal and State taxes. Now the Federal Government is desirous of spending millions on the county section of the floodwall and State and Federal Governments are ready to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on our roads. In order to be assured of this aid, Jefferson County must contribute its share of the right-of-way cost. Our immediate right-of-way needs are as follows: Floodwall \$260,000, inner belt highway \$100,000, Taylorsville Road \$60,000, Buechel sidewalk, Johnson or Grade Lane and high-water road in southwestern section \$0,000, a total of \$450,000. The proposed budget provides only \$234,200 for this purpose. We should not delay these projects as suggested by some members of the Fiscal Court. Delay in building the floodwall could be disastrous. If the projects are delayed, we may lose forever some of the funds now available. We must, therefore, determine the relative importance of other functions.

The department that has least justified itself is the County Fire Department as now operated. Although approximately 75 per cent of the cost is borne by city taxpayers, they receive no possible benefit from it. Indeed, only a relatively small number of county residents receive any appreciable benefit.

In two years the department has not accounted for so much as one cent reduction of fire insurance rates. If a fire department is effective, the Kentucky Inspection Bureau must recognize it for rate reductions. Based on actuarial experience, credit is not normally given to any fire department unless the runs it makes are limited to three miles along paved roads from the fire station. In Jefferson County we have property as far removed as twenty miles from any of our three County Fire Stations. It has been estimated that twelve to fifteen fire stations would be required to cover the entire county. The outlay for such a number of stations is out of the question.

There are ten Volunteer Fire Departments in the county, all but one of which has been able to qualify for insurance rate reductions in the communities they serve. In Buechel, Middletown, Jeffersontown and Camp Taylor the basic rate has been cut from 74 cents to 30 cents. The tax-supported County Fire Department is deceiving residents into believing that it supplies their fire protection. Contributions to Volunteer Fire Departments are falling off. If we lose ten volunteer while we gain three paid departments, will the people of Jefferson County benefit by an annual expenditure of almost \$100,000? Insurance rates are in danger of sky-rocketing in communities now served by volunteers.

The County Government has attempted something beyond its reach. Louisville taxpayers pay \$1.50 city tax rate plus 50 cents county tax rate, \$2 for local governmental services. Taxpayers outside of the city pay 50 cents for local governmental services. No one yet has devised a means whereby 50 cents will purchase the same services that \$2 purchases.

Before the Volunteer Fire Department movement is destroyed, while there is time to prevent disastrous increases in insurance rates in certain communities, we should place our County Fire Department on a sensible, workable basis and save for all of the people of Jefferson County projects the Federal and State Governments are ready to sponsor.

STUART E. LAMPE, County Commissioner.
Louisville.

1948

August 20, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*: Volunteer Firefighters Propose Rate Reduction Plan For County Areas— The Volunteer Firefighters, organization of volunteer firemen in this county, are working on a program of cooperative protective effort that is calculated to justify a reduction of the insurance rates throughout the area. They propose, as the first step, to so coordinate their forces between the Taylorsville and the Preston Street Roads to further reduce the hazard in that area to secure a late reduction there.

This was revealed this week in a letter sent by Bill Rice, president of Volunteer Firefighters to G. H. Parker, manager of Kentucky Inspection Bureau. The letter outlined the plan evolved by the Volunteer's and requests the Bureau's consideration specified reductions.

In acknowledging the request of the Volunteers, Parker stated that he is looking forward to the day when practically all if not all of Jefferson County will receive varying degrees of credit _____ for the protection which I sincerely hope will be available." The Bureau head stating that the working out of a plan would practically pleasing to him, said that through the plan now operative in Northern Kentucky the fire fighting forces are in absolute harmony, all the alarms to go to one point, and fire companies are dispatched, backed up and staffed as though the entire area were in one city.

Continuing his reply, Parker stated that, "Unfortunately we haven't the harmony, the esprit de corps, the control system for dispatching companies, and there is confusion and delay in reporting alarms." He spoke of efforts on the part of the County's Fire Department to develop a plan for securing credit for most of the First Magisterial District, Later Parker has in mind a similar plan for the Second and finally the Third District.

Rice's letter to Parker, outlining the proposed program by the Volunteers follows:

"As you know we have been working on a program for fire protection for the rural areas in Jefferson County for the past several years and your office has been kind enough to cooperate with us in developing a system of fire protection which has justified great insurance rate reductions to limited sections of Jefferson County. You have granted these rate reductions wherever our program has been sufficiently efficient to justify it."

"We therefore feel quite confident that you will be delighted to cooperate with us in extending these benefits to additional areas. We have evolved a plan which we believe will eventually justify an insurance rate reduction for the entire boundary of Jefferson County. However, we do not at this time ask for a blanket rate reduction, but have selected the area bounded by Taylorsville Road on the east, Preston Highway on the west and lying between the City limits of Louisville and the Jefferson County line, because this area has now in operation a sufficient number of strategically located, approved and adequate Community Fire Departments, and we suggest this territory as an experimental area for a blanket rate reduction, to be extended later to the balance of Jefferson County."

"In this area we have now in operation six community fire departments, which could be included in a plan of cooperation which is now giving adequate fire protection to the entire boundary above specified."

"No. 1 Camp Taylor, which you have approved for eighth class for a restricted area, they now operate two fire trucks. No. 2 Buechel, operating two fire trucks, now has a seventh class rate for a limited area. No. 3 Jeffersontown now has seventh class rating and maintains one fire truck. No. 4 Fern Creek, now has a ninth class rate for a limited area and operates one fire truck. All of these departments have been recently inspected and approved by you. No. 5 Okolona is now in the process of acquiring, and has contracted for, an additional approved fire engine, which will give them two fire trucks and we believe will justify a rate reduction for a limited area to sixth class. No. 6 Highview is now in the process of developing a department that will meet with your approval. They are following a program as outlined by you, although they have not progressed as far as the Okolona Department."

"These departments have been cooperating for fire protection for this entire area for more than two years and have developed adequate "back up systems," modeled after the one now in operation in Kenton and Campbell Counties. (You have given blanket rate reductions to the area protected by the Community Volunteer Fire Departments in that area.) In addition to these efficient approved Community Departments, the Jefferson County Fiscal Court maintains a County Fire department with one truck on Newburg Road near Bashford Manor Lane and although you have not considered that this department meets with your standards and have refused to give it any recognition for rate reductions in its neighborhood, and although it is badly located, and at a great distance from any built up community, we believe that the County Department could not and would not refuse to cooperate in our program and we believe that it would be of some value in backing up the community departments."

"The community departments above named had been giving fire protection not only to their immediate areas, where you have granted rate reductions, but under the back up system now in operation these departments have been affording fire protection to the entire area as outlined in this program, and although they have saved a great deal of insured property, the areas outside of the boundaries of the local community are now paying tenth class insurance rates as if they had no fire protection at all."

"In view of the progress and plan above outlined we believe that the entire area as above set out is entitled to a blanket insurance rate reduction to ninth class, and in view of the efficient operation of these departments during the past two years we believe that the areas immediately adjacent to these various departments are entitled to additional rate reductions as follows. Camp Taylor District—sixth class, Buechel District—sixth class. Jeffersontown—sixth class. Okolona District—sixth class. Fern Creek District—seventh class. Highview District—eighth class. We believe that this program now in operation in this area meets with your approval and specifications and we therefore call upon you for the rate reductions set out and we feel sure that upon your inspection and examination of this plan you will grant these reductions at once."

"Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, we are. Yours very truly." Volunteer Firefighters, Inc. Bill Rice, President.

August 20, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*:

Volunteer Firefighters Propose Rate Reduction Plan For County Areas

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for the protection which I sincerely hope will be available." The Bureau head, stating that the working out of a plan would be particularly pleasing to him, said that through the plan now operative in Northern Kentucky the fire fighting forces are in "absolute harmony, all the alarms to go to one point, and fire companies are dispatched, backed up and shifted as though the entire area were in one city."

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(Continued on page 4)

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PROPOSE RATE REDUCTION

(Continued from page 1)

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August 20, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*:

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Jeffersontown — sixth class. Okolona District — sixth class. Fern Creek District — seventh class. Highview District — eighth class. We believe that this program now in operation in this area meets with your approval and specifications and we therefore call upon you for the rate reductions set out and we feel sure that upon your inspection and examination of this plan you will grant these reductions at once.

"Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, we are,

Yours very truly,"

Volunteer Firefighters,
Inc.

Bill Rice, President

1948

September 10, 1948,
Letter:

KENTUCKY INSPECTION BUREAU

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

cc: Mr. John Monohan

September 10, 1948

Judge Horace M. Barker
Jefferson County Court
Court House
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Judge Barker:

I am very glad you called the meeting last night, and after our frank discussion, I am confident that the plan for protecting the First Fire District will be consummated very soon.

As soon as our friends have agreed upon the details and the telephone company carries out its part of the bargain, I am going ahead with our part of the plan, even though it may be some time before individual departments are trained up to the required standard. In other words, I am going to depend upon Chief Thompson and the volunteer chiefs to do the needful. Incidentally, why can't Chief Thompson start the training right now for I feel sure that with a little financial assistance from the County, it won't be long before the volunteers will be holding contests to see which is best.

After you left, I made a suggestion which seemed to meet with the full approval of the firemen; namely, that each County fire company carry a small supply of salvage covers. They would not cost much, and real salvage work, such as covering furniture, rugs, clothing, and personal effects, draining off the water after a fire, putting a tarpaulin or some roofing paper over a small hole burned in the roof, will win the everlasting gratitude of those who live in the County, particularly the housewives.

I believe it will also remove the objection of some of the chiefs who seem to resent the County Department's responding in their territory. Under the new plan the County will respond and if the volunteers don't need help in fighting the fire, the County company will simply act as a salvage company. On the other hand, if the fire appears to be serious, one or two of the County firemen can jump off with the salvage covers and with the aid of neighbors cover up the contents while the other County firemen with the County pumper assist the local company in extinguishing the fire.

Judge Barker

-2-

September 10, 1948

I wholeheartedly agree with the eight items contained in the "Memorandum of Items Agreed Upon Tentatively with the Volunteer Fire Fighting Units," which you handed to me last night, now that it is agreed that on other than automobile, brush and outside fires, both the volunteer company and the County company will respond.

I wish to thank you and the other commissioners and the various fire chiefs for inviting me to meet with you and discuss something which I know will be a wonderful thing for our County.

Kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

MANAGER

September 10, 1948, *The Jeffersonian*:

Fire Protection Plan Promises Volunteer Aid

The publicly controlled firefighting forces of Jefferson County and the organized "Firefighters" (volunteers) are finding it difficult to see the protection needs of this area alike. The latest move on the part of the Fiscal Court, with Judge Horace Barker taking the initiative, promises a subsidy by the County of five volunteer departments in the First District.

The plan would extend financial aid, in the amount of \$1,500 annually to each of the volunteer bodies, providing arrangements can be made to have them function with the County Fire Department as a single unit. Agreement is said to have been reached in general terms at a conference held Tuesday. Final consummation of the proposed plan in detail will probably hinge on further consideration by local community authorities and Fiscal Court members and approval of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, which body recommends fire insurance rates for Kentucky insurance companies.

Judge Barker indicated that the plan could be made to apply in other county areas if and when other volunteer departments join in the agreement.

The Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., who prefer a volunteer setup entirely, submitted their cooperative program, with coordinated forces between the Taylorsville and Preston Street Roads, to G. H. Parker, manager of the Inspection Bureau, recently. Volunteer Firefighters claim that Judge Barker and Parker chose the First District area for their program "because they can be reasonably sure that the program will fail in that area, whereas it might succeed in other areas in Jefferson County."

"There are several reasons for this assertion," said Bill Rice, Firefighters' militant president, "one, that the program, although giving no rate reduction to Jeffersonstown and Anchorage, requires them to assume primary responsibility for all fires from three to five miles outside of the corporate limits of those towns." Rice doesn't believe that residents of these two suburbs are going to agree to assume the responsibility involved "for the sole purpose of justifying the existence of the County Fire Department."

However, Rice asserted today that, with the program to which the Kentucky Inspection Bureau has committed itself, "we are pleased, on the whole," since he and his associates assume that if they can grant Anchorage and Jeffersonstown the right to go three to five miles outside of their city boundaries, "and still leave their present low insurance rate in effect," they will not be in position to refuse permission to extend present boundaries of the existing Volunteer fire departments. On such basis they are demanding a rate reduction for Lake Dreamland for an area of three miles from the Lake Dreamland fire house. They would regard a refusal to grant the reduction as "rate discrimination."

Concluding his comment, Rice stated, "We are preparing to institute the necessary proceedings to bring about a blanket rate reduction in Jefferson County, and in view of the commitments in this program we believe we will be able to force the insurance companies to reduce their rates."

The Volunteers' plan is patterned after a setup now operating in the Covington-Newport area of Northern Kentucky, which is said to be giving generally satisfactory service.

1948

September 21, 1948, Letter:

KENTUCKY INSPECTION BUREAU

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

To: Mr. John Monohan, Fire Chief, St. Matthews

From: Mr. G. H. Parker, Manager

September 21, 1948

Judge Horace M. Barker
Jefferson County Court
Court House
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Judge Barker:

I have hastily read over the copy of the agreement which is to be entered into Friday night, and I shall study it carefully this evening. At this time I have only one criticism, that is, the volunteer companies are assigned territories running to the edge of the county, which in some cases means a distance of probably ten miles.

I believe this is asking too much of the volunteer companies, and I would suggest that they be asked to respond only as far as the limits of the area which is going to be given credit for protection, which is five miles. The county, of course, will respond to alarms beyond the boundaries set up in my recent letter.

I am planning to attend your meeting next Friday evening and would thank you to advise me as to what time I should be there.

Very truly yours,

MANAGER

KENTUCKY INSPECTION BUREAU

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

To: Mr. John Monohan, Fire Chief

From: Mr. G. H. Parker, Manager

September 22, 1948

Judge Horace M. Barker
Jefferson County Court
Court House
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Judge Barker:

A conversation with a volunteer fireman this morning leads me to believe that the reference to five miles contained in the second paragraph of my letter of yesterday may be misunderstood.

In laying out this area, we plotted three mile circles for each volunteer company except Worthington, where the distance was reduced because at the present time it is weaker than the other companies.

The National Grading Schedule provides for a three mile response for motor apparatus over improved roads. I felt that because of the unusual conditions existing, including the fact that two fire companies will respond in every case, we could accept the layout which we proposed, even though it meant that some volunteer companies might occasionally have to run up to five miles. There are a few points even a little farther, but they are mostly farm land.

Very truly yours,

MANAGER

September 22, 1948, Letter:

1948

September 24, 1948, Letter:

KENTUCKY INSPECTION BUREAU

For: Mr. John Monohan, Fire Chief
St. Matthews, Kentucky

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

From: Mr. G. H. Parker, Manager

September 24, 1948

Judge Horace M. Barker
Jefferson County Court
Court House
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Judge Barker:

Mr. Thompson tells me that you had a very successful meeting last night, and he is very hopeful that Anchorage will agree to participate in the plan.

There seemed to be some question as to the territory which had been assigned to Anchorage for protection, and the thought has occurred to me that this question might be raised by some of the other departments.

As you know, Colonel Thompson, in one afternoon, laid out the territories to which each department would respond, so as to have the information ready for you the next morning. In other words, he did not have an opportunity to consult with the different chiefs.

We understand that the territories to which the companies are to respond are only tentative, and that the various fire chiefs will divide among themselves the territory to be protected. As soon as possible, they will agree on some division point along the various roads which will make the assigned territories most accessible to the individual departments.

Very truly yours,

MANAGER

March 11, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Judge Presents Agreement To Firemen

The Town Council of Jeffersontown heard County Judge Horace Barker outline an agreement proposed to be entered into by the County Fire Department, through the Fiscal Court, and the Volunteer Fire Departments of the County's First District, at the regular meeting of the Council Monday night.

Col. Claud Thompson, head of the County's fire fighting organization was present also at the session. Pointing out that he had come to the town meeting on invitation of members of the Council, Judge Barker said that he was not asking the municipal authorities to enter into the agreement. But if they wanted to do so it would be "all right." He said that he is determined to get fire insurance rates reduced for county residents and if this plan isn't worked out he has another in mind.

The agreement, roughly, seeks to link the volunteer units in the First District with County outfits, operated through the authority of the Fiscal Court under the direction of Col. Thompson. The proposition purports to so correlate the combined fire fighting forces as to equalize the coverage over the entire area. A subsidy is offered by the Fiscal Court to each of the volunteer units of \$1,500, or "maybe \$2,000," in lieu of voluntary contributions which the Volunteers would otherwise probably receive.

Judge Barker explained that there would be no change in the present status of the volunteer units, but that they would go along, functioning as they now are, with the exception that local boundaries would be designated. These boundary lines would be drawn approximately midway between the Volunteer stations. In case of major fires in one local area, adjoining stations would be alerted to stand by for call if the emergency demanded. All the units would be hooked in to the two-way radio system which is maintained by the County.

Proposed stations for the First District network include Jeffersontown, Middletown, Anchorage, Worthington, and possibly one or two more.

Asked if the Inspection Bureau authorities were in accord with the provisions of the proposed agreement, Judge Barker said that they were. While none of the volunteer units has, as yet, signed, it was intimated that they were considering the proposition favorably.

Barker said that politics had been injected into the matter by a few who were opposed to seeing the agreement successfully carried out. The Judge said that he was very much opposed to the political angle and that political affiliations had been ignored in building the County Fire Department.

One matter under considera-

tion by the Council and which promised difficulty in handling was settled amicably when Mrs. Flossie Yeager, proprietor of the UBSee Food Market, waived objections which she had come to voice, to paying truck unloading licenses imposed by town ordinance on all trucks, owned by wholesale houses making deliveries to merchants within the Town. UBSEE, being a merchants cooperative, organized under a nonprofit charter, as outlined by I. G. Spencer, manager, who appeared before the Council with Mrs. Yeager, makes it imperative that the storeowner pay the license. Since the matter proved to be highly technical and controversial, Mrs. Yeager agreed to assume responsibility for paying the license, thus relieving the tension and bringing the matter to a happy conclusion.

All members of the Council were present, with the exception of Mrs. Ida Burden, who was confined to her home by illness.

The Council approved the agreement conditionally, permitting fire chief Marshall Floore to enter into the contract, providing that the other units of the District agree to become a party to it.

March 18, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Pledged Better Fire Protection, Rates

An "even better" system of fire protection was pledged Jefferson County home owners and business men by Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., by Bill Rice, president of the organization, following a meeting on March 11, when it was reported

loss was held to a minimum of \$69,000 in the six communities protected by volunteer departments.

At the monthly meeting held at Junior Order Hall, Buchel, 77 members were present, representing Buchel, Fern Creek, Camp Taylor, Okolona, Lake and Highview Volunteer Fire Dreamland and Highview Volunteer Fire Departments. These six Volunteer Fire Departments now have a combined enrollment of 137 active crew members, all of whom pledged themselves to continue mutual assistance for an even better system of fire protection in Jefferson County.

"The total fire loss for the combined large area, protected by these volunteer departments, as reported by the respective chiefs, was only \$69,000. The Camp Taylor Department officially announced that it had recently secured a seventh class insurance rating, which is quite a reduction in insurance for this area.

Richard Oberlin, news director of Station WHAS, was present and was given a miniature fire truck and made a life member of the Volunteer Firefighters as Assistant Chief of all departments. As further recognition of his consideration for the Volunteer Fire Departments, Carter Fields, Fern Creek, presented him with a badge. Maj. Harold Foster, chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau, guest speaker, gave an interesting and enlightening talk on fire prevention, following which two motion pictures on fire fighting was shown by Inspector Merle Brown, of the Louisville Fire Department.

March 18, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

Volunteer Firefighter Groups Prefer Separate Operation Plan

Volunteer fire fighter groups of the area, in acknowledging receipt of a recent letter from Fiscal Court, reiterate their earlier stand for rejection of the proposed plan to join in support and co-operation of the County Fire Department.

In a joint response they repeat their unwillingness on grounds such a move measures up to a hindrance rather than an advantage; that a tie-up

with a changing political set-up might jeopardize gains already made in the fight for lower property risk rates, and in conclusion, an assertion that a contribution by the court was welcome provided no political strings were attached.

The letter, dated March 12, follows:

Jefferson County Fiscal Court
Fiscal Court Building
Gentlemen:

The chiefs of our member departments, each received a letter from you dated February 25, 1949, asking that they join in a plan to support the Jefferson County Fire Department. In the second paragraph of your letter you admit that there can be no "Expectation of a reduction in insurance rates" unless the County Fire Department is supported by the volunteer units. As you know, we have believed all along that you would fail to give any real fire protection or to reduce insurance rates with a department such as you are now operating, although you have expended a huge sum of money, while on the other hand our member departments have effected the following rate reductions, based on frame, stucco or brick-veneer homes with approved roofs, Buechel from 74 cents to 30 cents—Camp Taylor 74 cents to 30 cents—Fern Creek

74 cents to 43 cents. Okolona is in the process of obtaining a reduction from 74 cents to 30 cents.

We will shortly secure an additional reduction for both Okolona and Buechel to 22 cents (home owners in these communities will actually be paying a little less than home owners in the City of Louisville.)

If you will refer to your records, you will note that we notified you April 10, 1948, that we did not want to negotiate further on plans of cooperation with your fire department, giving as our reason, that we felt the County Department was a hindrance rather than a help, and that we could accomplish more by having no connections to the County Department, our success in saving lives and property and reducing insurance rates has proved the wisdom of our action. We do not want to jeopardize the gains which we have already made by tying ourselves to a politically controlled unit of the County Government.

Our departments are supported by voluntary contributions and if you care to contribute to fire protection in Jefferson County, any or all of our departments would be willing to accept a voluntary contribution from the Fiscal Court if no strings are attached.

Yours truly,

Volunteer Firefighters, Inc.,
Bill Rice, President.

1949

March 31, 1949, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Firemen Hold Meeting To Begin Union Organization

Members of the County Fire Department held the first of two union organization meetings last night at the Labor Temple.

Another meeting will be held tonight to complete the election of temporary officers. The group then will apply for a charter as a local union of the A.F.L. International Association of Firefighters.

Edward H. Weyler said about 30 County firemen, all but one of those eligible, had joined the union. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, joined with the organizing committee of the Louisville Central Labor Union and business agents

of several A.F.L. locals in organizing the firemen.

The same union now has a local composed of City firemen. The County men will make up a separate local. An A.F.L. union of County policemen recently was formed.

Weyler said the first aims of the two new locals would be higher wages and job security. He explained that the groups would press for enactment by the Legislature of a law permitting Civil Service for County workers.

City firemen are paid \$27.50 a month below than the average in cities of comparable size, Weyler said, and the relative pay of City police is "just about the same." The County forces, he added, "are even further behind."

State Believes Brevity

The Courier-Journal
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April 15, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

Judge Barker Throws Hat Back Into Ring For County Judgeship

Citing need for another term to further his plan for a progressive program in county government, County Judge Horace Barker this week tossed his hat back into the ring for re-election. His petition had 30 signers.

"Much remains to be accomplished," the jurist said in a formal statement after filing, and at the same time he issued in pamphlet form a report entitled "Know Your County Government—A Report From Your County Judge."

Among samples of progress claimed under his administration were: A nationally recognized model recreational program, a county forest, real police and fire protection, mobile health clinic, commercial development of Standiford Field Airport, modernized accounting and a record system.

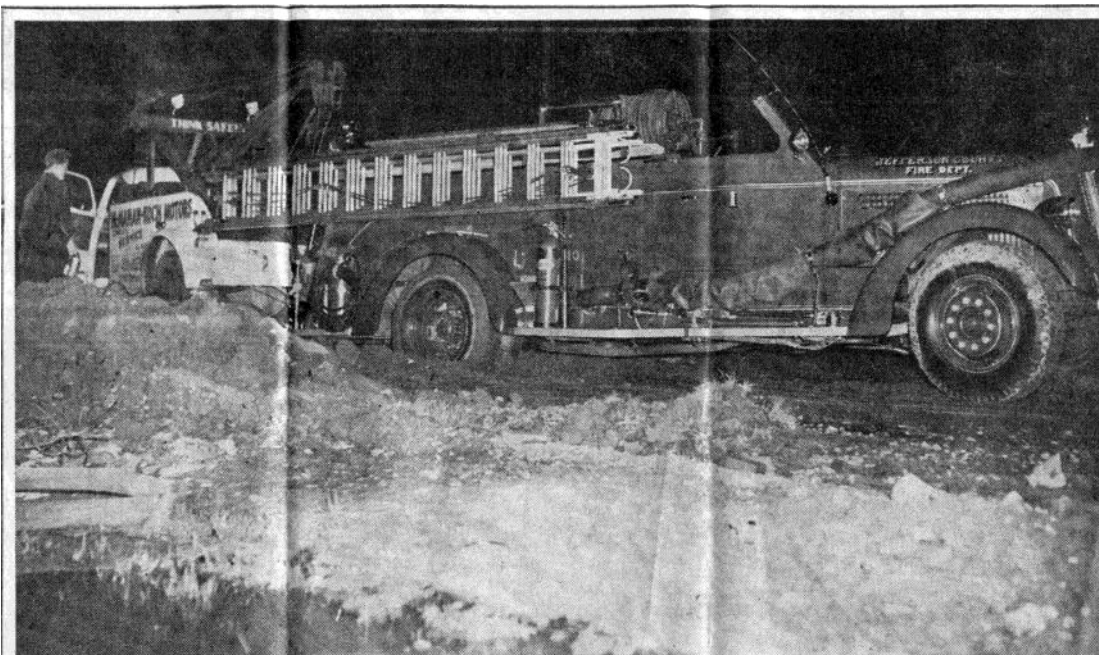
Further Judge Barker cited road improvement in welfare, agricultural work and transportation.

Among other aspirants on the Barker Republican slate are County Patrolmen Herbert H. Shanks and Charles J. Buddhu, each seeking the office of constable in the Third and First Magisterial Districts, respectively. County Clerk Louis J. Geiser was another filing to succeed himself.

Two Democrats, James J. Ross, insurance man, and Carl J. Lettigh, got into the race. The former would like to be State Representative from the Thirty-fifth District and the latter is seeking nomination for Sheriff.

1949

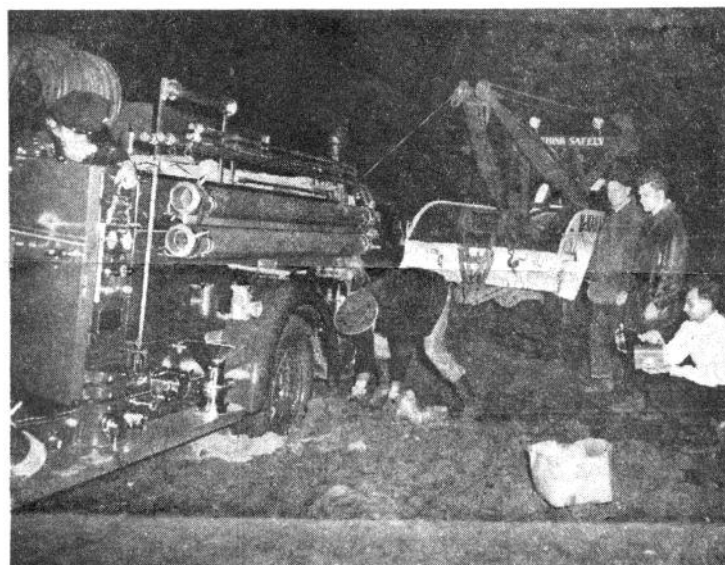
April 15, 1949, *The Louisville Times*:



By Times Staff Photographer

County Fire Department Pumper Runs Afoul of St. Matthews Sewers

It required almost two hours and two wrecker trucks to free this county pumper from the gooey mire as it attempted to reach a fire in St. Matthews last night. Answering an alarm from 4024 St. Germaine, Fire Lt. L. M. Nevin and his crew got as far as Norbourne Boulevard and Sherrin. The fire, a minor one in a garage, was extinguished with a garden hose by neighbors. Two days ago the Fiscal Court ordered no more openings made on the sewer projects until contractors fill existing open excavations.



Courier-Journal Photo.

TWO TOWING TRUCKS were summoned before this County fire pumper finally was freed from the mud soup of a St. Matthews sewer ditch on Sherrin Avenue last night.

Sewer Ditch Mires County Fire Truck; Neighbors Put Out St. Matthews Blaze

A County Fire Department pumper truck tangled last night with the quagmire of a St. Matthews sewer ditch.

The pumper didn't have a chance. It mired fast in axle-deep mud of the supposedly filled ditch. Both rear wheels sank as far as the construction of the truck allowed into the cut running squarely across Sherrin Avenue. Yesterday's rains may have contributed to the tough going.

One towing truck which came to pull the pumper out succeeded only in almost upsetting itself. Another and bigger towing truck was called to finish the job.

Meanwhile the pumper crew squirted away its 800-gallon cargo of water to get rid of the weight. The pumper from the Middletown station was

answering an alarm on a fire in a garage at 4024 St. Germaine. Its run was halted by the ditch at Norbourne Boulevard and Sherrin.

The firemen carried portable extinguishers to the garage, but the blaze had been put out by neighbors with a garden hose and buckets, said Lt. L. W. Nevin, in charge of the pumper.

The alarm was given at 8:05 p.m. The pumper was freed from the ditch at 10 p.m.

G. C. Cook, manager of Sanitation District No. 1 which is having the St. Matthews sewers installed, telephoned this statement on the matter to The Courier-Journal:

"The whole incident smells. The St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department wasn't called. That seems very unusual."

April 22, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Fire Test Call Brings Police But No Pumper To "Fire"

A test alarm for the Jefferson County Fire Department took the big county pumper, housed at Newburg, to the farm home of William Hume, on Dawson Hill Road in a few seconds less than 30 minutes, Monday morning. The alarm was turned in by Mrs. Hume at 10:07 o'clock. The distance covered was approximately 15 miles from the fire house at Newburg.

Observing the test were County Commissioner Stuart Lampe and A. W. Clements, chief engineer of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, both of whom complimented the five firemen operating the truck on the time made answering the alarm and reaching the destination. Beyond Seatonville where roads intersect, a few moments were lost in determining the direct route. A county police car led the fire truck to the scene of the supposed conflagration. Fire calls are taken at County Police Headquarters and relayed to the fire station in whose district the fire is.

Although unable to be present, County Commissioner Miles Thacker is said to have instituted the test in the interest of efficiency.

Following the test at the Hume place, which is in the extreme eastern section of the county, it was decided to make another from a point in the First District, and those in charge proceeded to the Lee Curry farm on the Eastwood and Fisherville Road. Mrs. Curry was requested to call the police headquarters and turn in the alarm. Thus began a real test, not along of the efficiency of the County's fire-fighting unit at the Middletown station, but of the patience of those on the project also.

It was almost one quarter hour before Mrs. Curry calling through the Jeffersontown exchange, was able to get the call through to police headquarters in Louisville. The line proved to be busy . . . busy . . . busy. Finally contact was made and specific instructions were given the man at the desk, by Mrs. Curry, for the apparatus to come straight out Highway 60 and turn right at Eastwood, from which point the

Curry residence is about two and one-half miles distant.

Within about half an hour a county police car arrived at the Curry home, to check to see if there really was a fire. The patrolman radioed the Middletown fire station to the effect that a test was being made and arrangements were made for Commissioner Lampe and Mr. Clements to go to the station, where they conferred with Col. Claud Thompson, chief of the County Fire Department.

Commissioner Lampe asked Thompson for an explanation why the fire truck was not dispatched to the scene or source of alarm. The Chief stated that the lady reporting the "fire" hung up before giving directions. But Lampe having been present when the call to headquarters was being made told Thompson that somebody must have misinformed him (Thompson) concerning the call. Chief Thompson then told Lampe that since they had received several false alarms recently he decided to have the report from the Curry place checked before dispatching the engine, and "endangering the lives of the firemen."

Commenting on the results of the test to his colleagues in his report to the County Commissioners Wednesday, Commissioner Lampe stated that in his opinion the fire department "is very ineffective at distances as great as 15 miles from the fire station." Assuming that it will always require approximately 30 minutes to make such a run, "there is great danger," said Lampe, "that any conflagration would be well under way by the time the fire equipment arrived at the scene."

County Judge Horace Barker, in a telephone conversation Thursday, told *The Jeffersonian* that in putting in the test call for the fire department, Mrs. Curry, "by laughingly reporting a fire," tipped off the police officer taking the call.

April 10, 1948, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Firemen to Get Course In New Methods

A five-day course in modern fire-fighting methods will be given for County firemen at Pleasure Ridge beginning tomorrow.

The course, to be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Friday, will be conducted by Capt. John E. Bertman, State instructor.

The course is open to County firemen at Pleasure Ridge and volunteer firemen in the county.

May 19, 1949, *The Louisville-Times*:

\$17,000 Pay Increase Asked For County Fire Department

Pay raises to cost about \$17,000 a year are asked for members of the Jefferson County Fire Department by the Jefferson County Fire Fighters Association No. 1018.

The request was referred to the County Budget Commission yesterday by the Fiscal Court. The raises were asked in a letter from a Fire Department Capt. George Andrews, treasurer of the association.

* * *

Increases asked were: Chief, from \$338 to \$416 a month; captains, \$230 to \$267; lieutenants, \$205 to \$255, and fire fighters, minimum and maximum, from \$155-\$180 to \$200-\$225.

The court by resolution demanded that the Budget Commission supply its members with budget recommendations by next Tuesday. Commissioner Lampe, who introduced the measure, said the court must take definite action on the budget by the middle of June and that time is needed for "deliberation and study."

* * *

The resolution said a statute requires a meeting of the commission by May 1, but that "

days have elapsed and no report has been received."

County Attorney Steinfeld, a commission member, said delay in getting reports in whisky withdrawals had held up work of estimating income for the new year beginning July 1. The body has met several times.

June 3 11, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

County Fire Department Worth Is Debated

Pointing out that no fire insurance rate reductions have resulted from operating the Jefferson County Fire Department during the past two years, two members of the Fiscal Court recommended discontinuing the department this week.

Commissioners Fihe and Lampe, considering the Fire Department a "luxury item," are willing to abolish the service.

The two Democratic commissioners think it would be more profitable to divert the \$52,000 proposed in the budget for fire department maintenance to the County's rights of way fund. This was their attitude, taken at a budget meeting Tuesday.

Col. Claude Thompson, County Fire Chief, informed fiscal court members that volunteer fire fighting units in the County, except those at Worthington, had failed to approve an arrangement, whereby they were to be given a subsidy by the County to fight fires cooperatively in their respective areas.

In attempting to cut proposed budget items for the new year, beginning July 1, so that funds might be provided for purchasing land for Federal and State flood-wall and highway projects the commissioners ran into difficulties. Lampe and Fihe said that the State had indicated readiness to go ahead this year on widening Taylorsville Road, Preston Highway and Grade Lane. Work could start also, it was said, on building a sidewalk at Buechel and raising Bethany Lane above flood level should county funds be allotted to purchase the required land.

June 3 & 10, 1949, *The Courier-Journal*:

Talk of Ending Fire Department Draws A.F.L. Fire

Two A.F.L. labor leaders yesterday wrote Fiscal Court they opposed any proposal to abolish the County Fire Department. Its 30 men are members of an A.F.L. union.

The Fire Department's future has been discussed at budget hearings of Fiscal Court, with some support for abolishing it and using elsewhere the \$82,000 a year it is costing.

Patrick Kirwan, Central Labor Union president, and E. H. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, wrote the letters to County Judge Horace Barker. Kirwan said if the department were abolished it would be viewed as "retaliation" against the men who joined the union.

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Court Asked To Kill County Fire Unit Club Would Put Fund Into Right-of-Way Till

The East Jefferson Lions Club last night asked Fiscal Court to abolish the County Fire Department and transfer savings to the right-of-way fund.

The Club adopted a resolution introduced by Maurice Luker, Buechel, at its meeting in Fern Creek.

Fiscal Court will have its final hearing on the budget today. The Fire Department budget of \$82,400 has been a source of controversy.

R. Davis McAfee, a club member, said the Okolona Volunteer Fire Department had effected a reduction in fire-insurance rates from a basic 74 cents to 30 cents for \$100 in insurance. McAfee said volunteer and City Fire Departments outside Louisville have led to rate reductions of 40% or more except at Worthington. Anchorage and Shively have rates as low as Louisville's for homes.

The Lions Club elected Paul Bates its new president.

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June 11, 1949, *The Courier-Journal*

Fire Units Are Saved By Tie Vote

Court Defeats Move to Abolish County Fighters

Fiscal Court yesterday by a tie vote defeated a move to end the County Fire Department as a fire-fighting unit.

County Commissioners Stuart E. Lampe and Robert A. Fihe, Democrats, supported the effort to cut the Fire Department's funds from \$82,190 to \$15,000 for the year starting July 1 and put the \$67,190 saved in the right-of-way budget. County Judge Horace Barker and Commissioner Miles Thacker, Republicans, voted against the proposal.

All Give Explanations.

Lampe offered the motion. Under it, the County Fire Department would have been reduced to a small group of men to help volunteer fire fighters only.

All the commissioners and Judge Barker made detailed explanations of their positions.

Lampe said the Fire Department had gained no fire-insurance-rate reductions in two years, while volunteers had.

Fihe said he was in favor of abolishing the department when he came on the court in January, 1948, and "I haven't changed my position one bit."

Judge Barker called their attitude one that "puts dollars above human lives and property." Thacker said he felt that the department's record justifies itself.

Department 2 Years Old.

Lampe said he felt that the fire protection to county residents would be improved without a Fire Department that "purports to give protection, but really can't." He said the right-of-way fund was critical.

The County Fire Department is 2 years old. It has engine companies in Fire Stations at Middletown, Dixie Highway at Pleasure Ridge, and on Newburg Road, it has 30 men and a chief.

Delegations from the county packed the courtroom to protest the plan to abolish the department.

R. Davis McAfee, attorney who represents some of the volunteer units, told representatives of fringe cities that they got low rates, not because of the County Fire Department, but because the City department in Louisville had promised the Kentucky insurance companies it would answer calls in the smaller cities.

Health Board Gets Cut.

The commission ordered the budget advertised with the Fire Department having its full \$82,190, and with a cut of \$35,000 from the first figures given the City-County Board of Health.

The budget must be adopted formally by Fiscal Court after it is advertised for 10 days. Lampe said another effort might then be made to transfer Fire Department funds to right-of-way funds.

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June 24, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

Lampe, Fihe In Statement Why They Favor Discontinuing Fire Dept.

"On the whole, the Jefferson County Fire Department is a luxury the taxpayers of Jefferson County cannot afford." Thus spoke County Commissioners Stuart Lampe and Robert Fihe in a joint statement following introduction of their reso-

lution to discontinue the Fire department under the present setup. The resolution would provide a sum of \$15,000 "to be used for a fire department, not of fully paid firemen, but rather a unit of the County Government which will foster the continued existence of existing volunteer fire departments and coordinate the activities of all fire departments to the end that actual rather than fancied reduction in fire insurance rates will be made available to the residents of Jefferson County."

At a session of the Fiscal Court on Friday of last week a tie vote defeated the move, on the part of Lampe and Fihe, to discontinue the present County Fire Department. County Judge Horace Barker and Commissioner Miles Thacker voted against the proposal, which was to have cut the Department's funds from \$32,100 to \$15,000 for the year beginning July 1. The saving of \$37,100 would have been put in the right-of-way budget.

The Lampe-Fihe statement, setting forth their reasons for offering the resolution, declares that "The County Fire Department as now established is inadequate as a fire-fighting unit," as attested by the fact that the Kentucky Inspection Bureau has "refused any rate reduction whatsoever because of this department." The statement claims that the Fire Department was established against the advice of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau.

It is the contention of the two Democratic commissioners that "Unless the money saved by this change (discontinuing present fire department) is allocated to the right-of-way fund of the

June 26, 1949, *The Courier-Journal*:

A County Commissioner Tells Why He Opposes The Fire Department

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal:

Since the tie vote in the Fiscal Court on continuing a fully paid County Fire Department or establishing a department with limited personnel to foster and co-ordinate the Volunteer Fire Departments was along party lines, many persons may conclude that the division was over politics and overlook the real issues involved.

Jefferson County has for several years levied the maximum tax rate. County government has become more expensive under Judge Horace Barker's administration in tax rate, assessment and amount spent. For the fiscal year ending June 30, general fund expenditures were \$2,046,658. Proposed by Judge Barker and his budget commission for the coming year is a general fund of \$3,348,658, an increase of 62 per cent.

This proposed budget accounts for the expenditure of all the money that the maximum tax rate on the highest assessment in history will produce. We have reached the stage where we can no longer expand services through raising the tax rate. Instead, we are compelled to select the more essential services and to curtail, if necessary, the less essential.

For many years the people of Jefferson County have failed to obtain the full benefit of Federal and State spending have failed to recover a fair share of the money we pay in Federal and State taxes. Now the Federal Government is desirous of spending millions on the county section of the floodwall and State and Federal Governments are ready to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on our roads. In order to be assured of this aid, Jefferson County must contribute its share of the right-of-way cost. Our immediate right-of-way needs are as follows: Floodwall \$260,000, inner belt highway \$100,000, Taylorville Road \$60,000, Buechel sidewalk, Johnson or Grade Lane and high-water road in southwestern section 30,000, a total of \$450,000. The proposed budget provides only \$234,200 for this purpose. We should not delay these projects as suggested by some members of the Fiscal Court. Delay in building the floodwall could be disastrous. If the projects are delayed, we may lose forever some of the funds now available. We must, therefore, determine the relative importance of other functions.

The department that has least justified itself is the County Fire Department as now operated. Although approximately 75 per cent of the cost is borne by city taxpayers, they receive no possible benefit from it. Indeed, only a relatively small number of county residents receive any appreciable benefit.

In two years the department has not accounted for so much as one cent reduction of fire insurance rates. If a fire department is effective, the Kentucky Inspection Bureau must recognize it for rate reductions. Based on actuarial experience, credit is not normally given to any fire department unless the runs it makes are limited to three miles along paved roads from the fire station. In Jefferson County we have property as far removed as twenty miles from any of our three County Fire Stations. It has been estimated that twelve to fifteen fire stations would be required to cover the entire county. The outlay for such a number of stations is out of the question.

There are ten Volunteer Fire Departments in the county, all but one of which has been able to qualify for insurance rate reductions in the communities they serve. In Buechel, Middletown, Jeffersontown and Camp Taylor the basic rate has been cut from 74 cents to 30 cents. The tax-supported County Fire Department is deceiving residents into believing that it supplies their fire protection. Contributions to Volunteer Fire Departments are falling off. If we lose ten volunteer while we gain three paid departments, will the people of Jefferson County benefit by an annual expenditure of almost \$100,000? Insurance rates are in danger of sky-rocketing in communities now served by volunteers.

The County Government has attempted something beyond its reach. Louisville taxpayers pay \$1.50 city tax rate plus 50 cents county tax rate, \$2 for local governmental services. Taxpayers outside of the city pay 50 cents for local governmental services. No one yet has devised a means whereby 50 cents will purchase the same services that \$2 purchases.

Before the Volunteer Fire Department movement is destroyed, while there is time to prevent disastrous increases in insurance rates in certain communities, we should place our County Fire Department on a sensible, workable basis and save for all of the people of Jefferson County projects the Federal and State Governments are ready to sponsor.

STUART E. LAMPT, County Commissioner.
Louisville.

July 15, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

Controversy Over County Fire Department Is Continued

The controversy concerning the Jefferson County Fire Department, like the proverbial brook, goes on, and on. The various angles of the dispute are many and lead in divers directions, affecting several public agencies, as well as all owners of private property subject to fire hazards in this area.

During the past two years the County has become rather deeply involved financially through the purchase of many thousands of dollars worth of equipment, erection of housing facilities and setting up of payroll and maintenance accounts.

Lower insurance rates are, naturally, one objective when fire-fighting facilities are improved to reduce the fire hazard in any given area. But, as yet, the paid County Fire Department has not effected such result. And that fact is one phase of the matter which is now provoking considerable discussion and particularly so, as between County Judge Horace Barker as head of the Fiscal Court and George H. Parker, manager of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, rate-fixing authority in the State.

In a letter to Parker, dated July 8, Judge Barker insists that the Fiscal Court be given "figures on premiums paid for fire insurance and losses paid by insurance companies annually in Jefferson County." These figures, according to the Inspection Bureau head, are not available. This data, says Parker, is not compiled by his office. But Judge Barker insists that since the Bureau makes rates it should be in possession of these figures.

Calling the "74-cent rate" outrageously high (all county rates are not that high; some are higher) Judge Barker says some property owners cannot afford to carry fire insurance. Calling Parker's attitude arrogant toward the public, in "eating your cake and having it too, in that you have the service of the fire department and have the high cost of fire insurance at the same time," Barker concludes his missive by insisting that "you make available to us the information requested."

In explaining his position, with reference to Judge Barker's re-

quest for the requested information, Parker explained yesterday that his office operates under State statutes that govern the procedure for determining fire insurance rates, based on State experience, divided into classes as set up in the report blank, "recommended by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and adopted by the Kentucky Division of Insurance." Parker pointed out that "State statistics are not broken down into counties or other small units." The law provides that the adjusters "shall not discriminate between risks in the application of like charges and credits."

The situation in municipalities, differing as it does from the rural picture, is handled differently. A town or city, the Inspection Bureau Manager points out, determines the rate class in which it is to be placed by the provision it makes for coping with local fire hazards, such as providing an adequacy of water supply and other facilities possessed for fighting fires.

Cities and towns of Jefferson County, outside of Louisville, have established rates ranging from sixth to ninth class. Anchorage enjoys sixth class rates, along with Shively, which has parts of its area rated sixth while other sections rate as high as ninth class.

Jeffersonton has the seventh class rate. Owing to certain provisions having been met and local improvements made to volunteer fire-fighting equipment and other local facilities in several of the County's towns within the past two years, better classifications have been obtained. Such was the case at Buechel, formerly in tenth class and now in seventh. Both Camp Taylor and Okolona have just recently earned seventh class, which has great advantage over the former tenth class rating. Likewise, owing to the efforts of its local volunteer firemen, Fern

(Continued on Page 4)

CONTROVERSY OVER COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

(Continued from Page 1)

Creek has progressed from tenth to ninth class.

Middletown, now under eighth and ninth class rating is expecting seventh class rating, owing to improvements to the local volunteer fire-fighting equipment. Improvements being put into effect will give most of that area a seventh class rating, it is believed.

Since these improved classifications have been secured by virtue of the fact that certain qualifications have been met and facilities added by the local volunteer fire-fighting units, it behooves residents of these several communities to see that the improved facilities are sustained. Should they drop below present standards of efficiency or the firemen's organizations degenerate in quality of service or disband, the classification status would drop and the Inspection Bureau would be forced to put them back into the "unprotected" class, according to Mr. Parker.

July 22, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

FIGHTING FIRES AND FIGHTING FOLK

Following an interview, last week, with Mr. George H. Parker, head of the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, this editor prepared a news story which was printed in our last week's edition. The story concerned the status of fire-fighting facilities in the rural and suburban areas of Jefferson County, as supplied through the County Fire Department and the several volunteer fire departments located in different community centers.

We hold no brief for the Volunteer Firefighters organization. (We do appreciate the fact that the volunteers throughout the County have done a fine piece of work in their respective communities; and have done it without hope for, or realization of, monetary remuneration). Neither are we concerned with the difference of opinion as are represented among the members of the Fiscal Court, as to whether there should or should not be maintained, by the County, a county fire department. Certainly, we have our opinion of the County Fire Department, based on what we have seen as its merits, and have expressed it. And that's that for whatever it is worth.

In the news story printed last week, we were concerned with what we endeavored to give as an impartial presentation of the facts of a controversial situation. And we went to some length to obtain the facts, in our line of duty to our readers, as a medium of the public press. Some said the story was factual and worthy of attention. Others said that we were straddling the issue and concealed the facts. That is usually to be expected—when effort is made to be fair to all concerned.

One thing is clear with reference to the County's fire department. Thus far, it has not been the means of securing a lower fire insurance rate. And, according to Mr. Parker, it never will be, so long as it is no better than it is at present. That is not saying that it hasn't any possibilities of doing good in certain limited areas. It is Mr. Parker's expressed opinion that, as it is today, the County just as well not have any fire department, in so far as concerns any reduction in the rates.

And judging from what it costs now to operate and maintain, to extend its facilities and to make it efficient enough to justify a substantial rate reduction would make of it an unprofitable investment.

Mr. Parker has suggested a plan which might prove feasible. That is to distribute the equipment which the County now has, judiciously among the volunteer outfits, and expand their potential coverage.

July 29, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

All County Shares In Fire Rate Reductions

Kentucky property owners got a break this week, when a blanket reduction in insurance rates was announced by the Division of Insurance at Frankfort. In this county alone, it is figured, the annual savings will exceed \$300,000, including the entire area.

State Insurance Director Spalding Southall said rate reductions will save policy holders throughout the State more than \$1,347,000, annually, representing, according to the Director, "the largest single reduction in the cost of insurance in the State ever effected by the Division of Insurance."

The revised rate schedule was submitted to the Division for review by the Kentucky Inspection Bureau, Louisville, of which George H. Parker is head, as representative of the insurance underwriters. The revision affects both city and farm property.

The rate reduction pays tribute, or at least implies as much, to the 200 Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the State for maintaining their efficiency as fire-fighting units in their respective communities. There are less than 20 paid fire departments in the State, two of which (Louisville and Jefferson County) are in Jefferson County.

The new rates, applicable to new and renewal policies, provide for an average reduction of about 18 per cent on dwellings located in cities, town and rural districts. The reduction amounts to about 12 per cent on farm property.

The rate on frame dwellings in the unprotected (rural) areas drops from 74 cents to 62 cents. For small towns subject to ninth class rating, of which Fern Creek area is an example, the rate will drop from 48 cents to 40 cents. Those subject to eighth class will come down from 34 cents to 28 cents. And towns, such as Jeffersontown and Buechel, whose status is seventh class will get a cut from the prevailing 30 cents to 24 cents.

At Okolona and St. Matthews where certain qualifications have recently been met by the local Volunteer fire-fighters, the credit allowed in addition to the blanket reduction will result in a cut from 74 cents to 24 cents on each \$100 of insurance carried.

Judge Barker Points To Good Record Made

In a radio address Monday night, Judge Horace M. Barker told his audience of the air that he was standing on his own record, in his race for nomination at the primary, to be held August 6.

The judge went into detail on many lines of progress that had been made since he took office, and especially praised the County Police, who he said were doing a magnificent job, but were underpaid. The Democratic Legislature, he said, refused to pass a statute permitting them to be put under Civil Service.

He also spoke of the great amount of road building done under his administration, and pointed out that "our 545 miles of County roads are in the best condition in their history."

In speaking of the Juvenile Court, he said the crowded condition of the Children's Center had been greatly relieved by the opening of Sunshine Lodge, Jeffersontown, and that he had urged the Fiscal Court to provide a similar lodge for colored children.

Judge Barker also had a lot of good things to say about the County Fire Department, which he said was approved for both rural and metropolitan fire fighting by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the National Fire Prevention Association. The prime purpose of the fire department, he said was to save lives and property, and the secondary reason is to reduce fire insurance rates.

The insurance rates are too high, he said, and legal action will be taken, if necessary, "to force the high handed, arrogant makers of these outrageous rates to be fair."

Speaking of the County's modernized accounting system, the Judge said: "Prior to 1946, many merchants would not bid for County business. They never knew when they would get their money." They do not hesitate to bid now, he said, "because they know the bills will be paid promptly."

By this accounting system, he said, "the County gets the benefit of competitive bidding, and also discounts to save thousands of dollars for needed services."

August 13, 1949, *The Courier-Journal*:

Shamburger Would End County Fire Department

B. L. Shamburger, Democratic nominee for County judge, last night said he favored abolishing the paid County Fire Department.

He spoke at Buechel before the Volunteer Firefighters, an organization of Volunteer Fire Departments in the county.

Shamburger said he believed in co-operation between Fiscal Court and the volunteer departments.

"There should be a fire chief and perhaps an assistant chief to co-ordinate the work of the volunteer companies, to train members, and to help organize new companies where needed," he said.

"Fiscal Court should give whatever financial assistance that is legally practical, but not enough to destroy the initiative of the communities in helping themselves."

Democratic County Commissioners Stuart E. Lampe and Robert A. Fihe have fought for abolishing the paid County depart-

ment for two years. County Judge Horace Barker and County Commissioner Miles Thacker, both Republicans, successfully have blocked its abolishment by Fiscal Court.

To Address Democrats.

The County now has three Fire Stations, with 10 men stationed at each. They are at Pleasure Ridge, Middletown, and on Newburg Road.

Shamburger will speak before the Democratic Luncheon Club at the Seelbach Hotel at 12:15 p.m. Thursday. He will be presented by former County Judge Mark Beauchamp, party nominee for County commissioner.

August 19, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*: Shamburger Says County Fire Department Must Go. There seems to be a divided opinion over the county concerning whether or not we should have a paid fire staff in Jefferson County. Last Friday, B. L. Shamburger, Democratic nominee for county judge, spoke at Buechel before the Volunteer Firefighters, an organization of volunteer fire departments in the county, and stated that he favored doing away with the paid organization.

Mr. Shamburger said the Democrats had fought against the county fire department, and wished to abolish them, but that they, the said departments, remained as functioning units because the Republicans refused to have them abolished. He said both Judge Horace M. Barker, and County Commissioner Miles Thacker has successfully blocked all efforts of the Fiscal Court to abolish the county departments, which are located at Middletown, Pleasure Ridge, and on Newburg Road.

In his letter of resignation last week at Buechel, William Rice, president of Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., said "Our greatest contribution to the people of Jefferson County was the stopping of incumbent County Judge Horace M. Barker from spending over a million dollars of taxpayers money in his proposed 14 county fire houses and a full-paid crew of 300 men."

Rice's resignation as president of the volunteer organization was to have taken effect August 12, but it was not accepted by the corporation.

Shamburger said "there should be a fire chief to coordinate the work of the volunteer companies, to train members, and to organize new companies where needed." The Fiscal Court, he said, should give whatever financial assistance that is legally practical, "but not enough to destroy the initiative of the communities in helping themselves."

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1949

October 7, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

Evans Fire Destroys 27 Saddle Horses

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed 27 head of saddle stock, valued at \$13,500 and a barn valued at \$10,000 on the farm of W. W. Evans near Fern Creek, last Sunday morning.

Awakened at 1:30 in the morning, members of the Evans family found the blaze had gained such headway that it was impossible to rescue any of the horses in the barn.

Among the animals destroyed were four brood mares in foal and a suckling colt.

Evans, an attorney with offices in the Kentucky Home Life Building, and formerly Police Judge pro tem, believed the fire might have started from a match carelessly dropped by hunters who stopped to lunch at the barn. Evidences of a party of this kind were present.

Firemen thought the blaze may have started in the hay stored in the barn loft.

The County Fire Department and the Fern Creek Volunteer Fire Department answered the alarm, but the fire had reached a stage where their efforts were spent in preventing the spread of the flames to other buildings.

Thirty-three other head of saddlestock on the Evans farm were housed in another barn.

November 4, 1949: *The Jeffersonian*:

WOULD BE JUDGE



B. L. Shamburger
Democratic Candidate For
County Judge

'Corn Huskin' Contest At Fairdale Nov. 12

On November 12 the people of Jefferson County will be treated to the third annual "Huskin' Bee" sponsored by the County Recreation Board.

Everyone will be able to enjoy a full program of fun and entertainment as the County Board is planning several feature numbers for this all-county event.

The evening will be highlighted of course by the open "corn huskin'" contest. Invitations have been sent out to the surrounding counties to send their champion corn huskers to take part and try to win one of the beautiful trophies offered to the winner and runner up in the contest.

In addition to the main contest such as corn huskin' for the ladies, corn-shelling and basket-filling contests will be offered to those present.

Several acts of entertainment will be offered to those people attending. The last part of the evening's entertainment will be turned into an old-fashioned square dance. Square dancing has become one of the most popular recreational activities in the county. The best callers and string band will be present to assure each and everyone a good time.

Those desiring to enter the open "Corn Huskin'" contest must notify the Jefferson County Recreation office by November 8. This can be done by either calling Clay 2618 or Clay 6671-extension 455, or by writing to the office indicating this desire to enter.

This is one of the big events in the fall recreation program sponsored by your County Board.

Put this date down as a must! Everyone is invited—everything is free except refreshments.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

VOTE FOR

B. L.
Shamburger

— FOR —



COUNTY JUDGE

— AND THE —

STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC TICKET

1949

November 11, 1949: *The Jeffersonian*:

November 18, 1949: *The Jeffersonian*:

Commissioners Study How To Cut Fire Dept.

Speculation as to the future of the County Fire Department has been rife since the election. With a new county judge elect who, before the election, expressed himself emphatically as being against it as a full time public agency, action of the

Fiscal Court as concerns the Department promises to be watched with interest.

The County Fire Department, which costs to operate as it is constituted at present, approximately \$80,000 a year has been condemned, by County Commissioners Stuart T. Lampe and Robert A. Fihe as far too expensive for the results obtained. Both have sought to cut deeply into appropriations for its upkeep, but were opposed by Judge Barker and Commissioner Miles Thacker, whose post is to be filled by Mark Beauchamp.

Both County Judge elect B. L. Shamburger and Beauchamp have said that they favor abandonment of a full-time department. Shamburger has said since the election that he is still of the same opinion but that he wants to study the matter further to determine the proper course to take.

One suggestion offered by Lampe is that the County keep one man on duty at each of its three stations, at all times, to respond to calls from volunteer companies when they need assistance. This would cut the present personnel to about one-fourth of its present numerical strength.

All indications given by members of the new court are that they favor giving to the volunteer departments such assistance as is practical and that is permissible under the functions of that body. Shamburger said that it might be feasible to dispose of the County Department's present equipment by making it available to volunteer departments.

Winning Streak For The County Democrats

It's all over, including the counting, and the responsibility is now all on one side of the fence. The Democrats were voted in all posts affecting county government, which is due to soon go under a new regime.

The leading county position of County Judge is to be

OUR JUDGE-ELECT



B. L. Shamburger

Voters in Tuesday's general election chose Roman L. Shamburger, Democrat, over Miles R. Thacker, present county commissioner, as Judge of Jefferson County.

filled by attorney R. L. Shamburger, who will preside over the Fiscal Court. Other county positions down the line will be switched to Democrats who were elected at the polls Tuesday.

Shamburger defeated his Republican opponent Miles Thacker by a margin of over 6,000 votes. Thacker, for the past four years, had been one of the county commissioners. Elected as a new commissioner is Mark Beauchamp, Democrat, and former county judge.

Republicans scored one notable success in the election of Freeman L. Robinson as State Senator. Robinson defeated Democrat incumbent Vincent J. Hargaden in the 36th district—county area outside of Louisville.

November 11, 1949, *The Courier-Journal*:

Stand-by Role Only Predicted For County Fire Department

The County Fire Department seems doomed as a full-time operation as a result of the election Tuesday.

County Commissioners Stuart E. Lampe and Robert A. Fihe have long wanted to cut it down to a "stand-by" department to assist volunteer fire companies when they need help. The two Democrats elected to the court, B. L. Shamburger and Mark Beauchamp, have both said they favor abandonment of a full-time department.

Lampe has suggested that the County keep one man on duty

with each of its three fire engines at all times to take it to help fight fires when volunteer companies need assistance. This would require about eight men instead of the 31 now on the department pay roll.

The all-Democratic court will take over January 2.

Publisher Named In Rochester

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 10 (AP) —Paul Miller today was named publisher of The Rochester Times-Union. He will continue also as editor of the publication, a post he has held since January. Miller formerly was assistant general manager of the Associated Press.

1949

December 15, 1949, Letter:

December 15, 1949

Mr. John M. Monohan, Jr.
3909 Elmwood Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Monohan:

I will appreciate it if you can meet with me and representatives of the other Volunteer Fire Departments on Monday, December 19, 1949, at 401 Louisville Trust Building. If you cannot be present, please send one representative from your department.

As you know, it is my plan to make some drastic changes in the County Government's participation in fire protection in Jefferson County.

I will need your advice and assistance in this matter. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you can see your way clear to meet with us to discuss the future of fire protection in Jefferson County.

Very truly yours,

B. L. Shamburger

BLS/mlc

December 16, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESSURE

There are indications that the matter of continuing and expanding the politically managed County Fire Department is being agitated and is receiving attention again. More pressure is, obviously, to be brought to bear upon newly elected members of the Fiscal Court to retain the fire fighting agency in full force.

County Judge elect B. M. Shamburger is committed to the position that the County Fire Department is not worth what it costs to maintain, having given expression to such policy during the election campaign. It is the opinion of the engineers of the Inspection Bureau that such position is justified from the experience of the Department since its organization. It would thus appear that Judge Shamburger should have no reason to change his mind since the election. County Commissioner Stuart Lampe has consistently fought the continuance of the Department, as it is, since he became a member of the Fiscal Court.

We understand now that a petition is being circulated to retain the Department. With this we are not surprised. Neither should we be surprised if hundreds of names were secured on the petition. Political officeholders and appointees are rolling up in numbers year after year. And with all of their connections, they can present a formidable front. It is possible for them to corral enough signatures to make no little impression upon members of the Fiscal Court.

It is to be hoped, however, that the good judgment of the Court will prevail against this, just another appeal for

government aid, regardless of its cost to the taxpayer, so long as it makes a few jobs.

This county has developed, from a nucleus of small units, a network of fairly efficient (as a whole) community fire fighting groups in the Volunteer Firemen. That they could use some assistance from the County in correlating their forces, and some limited finances to match local contributions, is not to be denied. But this certainly doesn't add up to any \$100,000 a year county appropriation to maintain a County department. Not by any means.

December 30, 1949, *The Jeffersonian*:

Fern Creek Volunteers Put Out Ricketts Fire

Fire damaged the roof of the residence of H. E. Ricketts, Pennsylvania Road on Christmas Eve. The fire discovered at 9:30 a.m., as Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts were preparing to go into town to do Christmas shopping, was brought under control and extinguished by the Fern Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

As they went out into the yard the Ricketts noticed smoke pouring from the roof and found that a fire starting from a chimney had ignited the shingle roof. The damage, estimated at \$200, was covered by insurance. Mrs. Ricketts, praising the Volunteers, said that it took them only about six minutes to arrive, and the fire was out in no time.

The County Fire Department was also notified, but the Fern Creek Volunteers proved adequate in handling the situation.

January 6, 1950, *The Jeffersonian*:

Fire Burns Kurtzingers Stock Room, Garage

FERN CREEK—Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the garage and stock room at Kurtzinger's store at Beulah Church Road and Fegenbush Lane, about 10 a.m. Tuesday morning. Mr. Kurtzinger had completed his inventory Sunday which included about \$3,000 worth of merchandise. He had insurance. The Fern Creek, Buechel, High View, and County fire trucks answered the call, although the County truck was detained by a utility pole that blocked the road, for a time. Flames blistered one side of the nearby store building.

1950

January 5, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:



Courier-Journal Photo

THE NEW, all Democratic Fiscal Court held its first public meeting yesterday, along with the new County Attorney Lawrence Duncan, left. From left the members of the court are: Stuart E. Lampe, Mark Beauchamp, County Judge Boman L. Shamburger, and Robert A. Fihe. Lampe and Fihe are holdovers. Beauchamp and Shamburger were elected in November.

January 5, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:

Action on County's Fire Department Delayed In Court at Labor's Request

Unions Oppose Personnel Cut

Fiscal Court postponed any action on the Jefferson County Fire Department for one week yesterday at the request of spokesmen for organized labor.

The labor group will file by Monday a statement supporting its contention that the department should be kept at full strength. Members of the court announced during last year's campaign for election that they favored cutting it down to a skeleton force.

The labor spokesmen were Edward H. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky Federation of Labor; Thomas Sands, Louisville Central Labor Union; Walter Freeman, Association of Kentucky Fire Fighters, and George Slipcum, representative of the National Association of Fire Fighters. All are American Federation of Labor affiliates. The 30 firemen at three stations belong to an A.F.L. union.

Resolutions Protests Cut

Sands said the Central Labor Union had adopted a resolution protesting a cut in the department. The Kentucky Federation

of Labor adopted a similar resolution at its recent convention, Weyler said.

"We believe that the retention of the department at full strength is of vital interest to the public and to our members," said Weyler.

County Commissioner Stuart E. Lampe, a holdover member, said he would be glad to receive the views of the labor groups.

"It is my belief," he added, "that the Fire Department as it has been operated has been an exorbitant waste of the taxpayers' funds." Lampe and Robert A. Figg, another holdover member, sought last year to have the department skeletonized as a supplement to volunteer fire companies.

Backed Cut In Campaign

The two new members, County Judge Berman L. Shamburger and County Commissioner Mark Beauchamp, took a stand for similar action in their campaigns for election.

Other business transacted at the first formal session of the new court included:

1. Thomas James, attorney who has directed the City's purchase of floodwall right of way, was employed to do a similar job on

the County section. The services of Floyd Thatcher, Jeffersontown, will be discontinued January 15. Thatcher now is directing the right-of-way program.

2. The court members agreed to arrange a meeting with the three magistrates and three constables to determine what can be done to improve service of papers in suits. Judge Shamburger said the Quarterly Court is swamped with suits that should be tried by magistrates. This is because service of papers cannot be obtained for trial in magistrate's courts, he explained.

To Meet on Right of Way

3. A meeting was called for January 18 to find out how much right of way is still needed for widening Preston Highway. The State has completed plans for the work and has funds available.

4. Proposals to change the Jefferson-Oldham and Jefferson-Bullitt County lines through legislation sponsored by the Fiscal Courts of the three counties were referred to County Attorney Lawrence Duncan for study.

5. About 75 new employees were put on the pay roll to replace those removed with the change of the County administration from Republican to Democrat.

1950

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1950

The Courier-Journal

January 12, 1950

Fiscal Court Spells Doom Of County Fire Department Members Plan To Vote Later To Abolish It

The Jefferson County Fire Department appears to be doomed.

While the four members of Fiscal Court took no immediate action at a hearing yesterday, all indicated they would vote later to abolish the department of 30 men and a chief created in 1946 by an all-Republican Fiscal Court. The court is now all Democrats.

The department operates three stations, one at Middletown, another on Dixie Highway near Pleasure Ridge, and a third at Newburg Road and Bashford Manor Lane. It costs about \$75,000 a year to operate the department. Its fire stations cost \$145,000 to build and its three pumpers about \$35,000.

Long Battle Climaxed

The hearing yesterday climaxed a battle of two years. County Commissioners Stuart E. Lampe and Robert A. Fihe have sought since 1948 to cut the department down to a skeleton force and depend on volunteer fire companies for protection outside Louisville. They were blocked by Republican members of the court.

The Louisville Federation of Labor presented a written argument to continue the department. The 30 men belong to the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1018. It is an A.F.L. unit.

A group of volunteer fire companies presented an alternate program. The volunteers, through Bill Rice, their president, and R. Davis McAfee, their attorney, proposed that the County get rid of its paid firemen and instead concentrate on building up volunteer units. The proposal suggested a "co-ordinator" to help communities organize volunteer companies.

Proposal Is Given

The volunteer proposal called for a maximum of \$2,000 a year to help each volunteer fire company. Volunteers have secured rate reductions on fire insurance.

At the hearing, E.H. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, and Walter Freeman, president of the Associated Fire Fighters of Kentucky, emphasized the argument for keeping the department intact:

Citizens of Louisville have no complaint just because they help pay for it. The property it protects is vital to

Louisville, although located outside the City. The department does not serve Louisville.

County people want the fire department retained.

It is well equipped and costs little in proportion to its benefits.

Insurance rates will be reduced when the department is expanded to give proper protection. The department has brought no rate reduction so far.

Volunteer fire companies cannot protect metropolitan communities.

Residents Carry Signs

With the volunteers appeared a group of county residents, who wore printed signs saying "Abolish It" and carried large signs that said "Demolish County Fire Dept."

Commissioner Fihe said the County had no money to expand the department. County Judge Boman L. Shamburger said the issue was fairly represented in the election campaign last fall, when he said while a candidate he would vote to do away with the department as now constituted.

Lampe said the department had destroyed the incentive to build community volunteer companies.

"And it hadn't taken their place and can't without money we haven't got."

Commissioner Mark L. Beauchamp said there were many legal problems in helping volunteer companies from the County treasury. The court will study these before deciding on a permanent program.

Question Is Referred

The court also:

Referred to County Attorney Lawrence Duncan a \$25,000 question: who is to pay for the voting-machine mechanics? The Fiscal Court has been meeting the expense. The County clerk may have to bear it, some court members think.

Learned that about half the right of way has been secured to widen Preston Highway.

Received from the State plans to rebuild Taylorsville Road from Jeffersontown to Fisherville – if the County will buy right of way. Cost of right of way was not estimated.

Instructed Thomas James, right-of-way agent, to go to Toledo to seek right of way from Gulf Oil Company for the County floodwall.

Fiscal Court Spells Doom Of County Fire Department



LABOR SPOKESMEN, E. H. Weyler and Walter Freeman, ask Fiscal Court to keep the County Fire Department. Weyler is secretary of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, Freeman president of the state fire-fighters' association.

Members Plan To Vote Later To Abolish It

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1. Citizens of Louisville have no complaint just because they help pay for it. The property it protects is vital to Louisville, although located outside the City. The department does not serve Louisville.

2. County people want the fire department retained.

3. It is well equipped and costs little in proportion to its benefits.

4. Insurance rates will be reduced when the department is expanded to give proper protection.

Column 8, back page, this section

Fire Agency In The County Faces Doom

Continued from First Page

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5. Volunteer fire companies cannot protect metropolitan communities.

Residents Carry Signs

With the volunteers appeared a group of county residents, who wore printed signs saying "Abolish It" and carried large signs that said "Demolish County Fire Dept."

Commissioner Fihe said the County had no money to expand the department. County Judge Boman L. Shamburger said the issue was fairly presented in the election campaign last fall, when he said while a candidate he would vote to do away with the department as now constituted.

Lampe said the County Fire Department had destroyed the incentive to build community volunteer companies.

"And it hasn't taken their place and can't without money we haven't got," he said.

Commissioner Mark L. Beauchamp said there were many legal problems involved in helping volunteer companies from the County treasury. The court will study these before deciding on a permanent program.

Question Is Referred

The court also:

1. Referred to County Attorney Lawrence Duncan a \$25,000 question: who is to pay for the voting-machine mechanics? The Fiscal Court has been meeting the expense. The County clerk may have to bear it, some court members think.

2. Learned that about half the right of way has been secured to widen Preston Highway.

3. Received from the State plans to widen and rebuild Taylorsville Road from Jefferson-town to Fisherville—if the County will buy right of way. Cost of right of way was not estimated.

4. Instructed Thomas James, right-of-way agent, to go to Toledo to seek right of way from Gulf Oil Company for the County floodwall.

New Army Step Readied On Racial Segregation

Qualified Negroes To Be Assigned Any Unit;
Quota System In Enlistments May Be Dropped

By JOHN F. DAY

The Courier-Journal Washington Bureau

Washington, Jan. 11.—The Army will announce within the next few days, probably Monday, a momentous step toward ending racial segregation in the armed forces.

The Courier-Journal learned tonight the Army will state that its new policy will be to use Negro man power according to skills and qualifications and to assign Negroes to any unit without regard to their race.

It was learned also that the Army subsequently will abolish, probably within the next few months, the 10 per cent quota system for Negro enlistments.

In announcing its new assignment policy the Army will state it will begin immediately to implement this in two ways:

1. It will establish a list of critical specialties, and Negroes having the qualifications will be assigned to any unit requiring those specialties.

May Go to Any Unit

2. With respect to all other specialties, commanding officers will be permitted to assign qualified Negroes to any unit.

Those two implementing steps will be the start toward abolishing Negro units and fully inte-

bring the Army to its point of view through demonstrating that its utilization of Negroes had proved inefficient and would continue to be so until segregation was eliminated.

Points 1 and 2 of the Fahy-committee program were adopted by the Army September 30. Number 1 was the opening of all military occupational specialties without regard to race. Before its adoption, Negroes were barred from a large number of specialties because, since Negroes form just 10 per cent of Army strength, there isn't the same diversity of Negro units as of white units.

Number 2 was the opening up of all Army service schools without regard to race. The committee had found there were quotas for Negro recruits in only 21 of 106 courses offered to men upon completion of basic training.

Point 3, the assignment to units without regard to race, is the keystone of the program. For

Courtesy *The Jeffersonian*, January 13, 1950:

Expect Fiscal Court To Abolish Fire Dept.

While taking no immediate action at Wednesday's meeting, members of the Fiscal Court indicated that they would vote to abolish the Jefferson County Fire Department. Created in 1948, the department has been under fire practically ever since.

County Commissioners Stuart Lampe and Robert A. Fife have sought since 1948 to cut the department to a skeleton force and to leave the rural protection-against-fire job in the hands of volunteer units. The Volunteers have proven their competency, it was argued by R. D. McAfee and others who went before the Court Wednesday, in the recognition they have received from the State Inspection Bureau, in securing insurance rate reductions.

At the hearing, E. H. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, and Walter Freeman, president of the Associated Fire Fighters of Kentucky, argued to keep the department intact. Although they claimed it costs little in proportion to its benefits, the Commissioners showed that, without further additions of personnel or equipment, maintenance costs are \$75,000 a year. The initial cost of stations and three pumpers totaled nearly \$300,000. With the three fire stations in operation the department did not serve to reduce the insurance rates.

County Volunteer companies, through their president, Bill Rice, and McAfee, their attorney, proposed that the County abolish the paid firemen and concentrate, instead, on building up volunteer units. With such a plan there would be a "coordinator" to assist communities in organizing volunteer companies and to insure an over-all coverage of fire protection for the County.

PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT A MISTAKE

Conclusive evidence was offered Wednesday, at a hearing before the Fiscal Court, to show that Jefferson County's paid fire department is a "white elephant." This expensive "arm of public service" has never earned its keep.

Regardless of whatever might have been the intentions of its creators, its creation was, obviously, a mistake. And if a mistake, why squander more and more funds to continue it at the expense of much needed services along other lines? The County Commissioners made it plain that to provide more fire stations with increased personnel is utterly impossible.

Members of the Fiscal Court, availing themselves of experience gained by volunteer firemen, information supplied by officials of the State Inspection Bureau and their own first-hand investigations will, doubtless, find a solution to the County's fire protection problem. In fact, it seems that they have a plan already formulated.

One thing has been proven, beyond the shadow of a doubt, since the County Fire Department was created. That is that a paid county department and the local volunteer units are incompatible. The people will not support both a paid county outfit, sufficient to do the job as required, and the local volunteers. It has been evident for months that contributions to the volunteers, with taxpayers' money going to maintain a paid department, would not keep them alive for very long. And this in the face of the fact that the present paid department is far from adequate.

January 14, 1950: The Jefferson County Fire Department was disbanded by Fiscal Court after less than 4 years of operation.

The *Voice* reported a \$22,000.00 fire that completely destroyed the Tavern Bar & Grill. There was an explosion in the boiler room which led to the fire. Two County units, one St. Matthews unit and one Middletown unit fought the blaze with six hose lines.

The house of Mrs. Alex Farnsley, aunt of the Mayor of Louisville, was damaged by fire. A child playing with matches on the second floor was believed to have been the cause. The entire second floor and attic were gutted. Damage was estimated to be \$10,000.00. The home was located at 255 Chenoweth Lane.

1950

January 14, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

Jefferson County Fiscal Court SATURDAY JANUARY 14th 1950

Present to Recess the Fiscal Court met on the above date at 10:30 A.M., with the following members present:

County Judge Boman L. Shamburger, Chairman; Commissioners Stuart E. Lampe, Robert Fife and Mark Beauchamp; County Attorney, Lawrence Duncan.

WHEREAS, It appearing that the Jefferson County Fire Department as now constituted is inadequate to properly provide fire protection for the entire County of Jefferson and that it further appearing that if the said Department as now constituted continues to operate, it will be an unnecessary, burdensome expense to the taxpayers of Jefferson County, and;

IT FURTHER APPEARING that during the two years existence of the County Fire Department on a fully-paid basis no insurance rate reductions whatsoever were obtained by reason of that department; and because of the actuarial regulations of the Kentucky Inspectors Bureau, no possible future rate reductions can be obtained by reason of the County Fire Department as now constituted,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that prior to the existence of the County Fire Department many volunteer units were established in Jefferson County, and that during the existence of the fully-paid County Fire Department not only did there fail to be any newly created volunteer units, but also at least one volunteer unit has been disbanded,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that a large percentage of the existing volunteer fire units are considering disbanding because they cannot exist so long as a fully-paid fire department conflicts with their continued operation,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that many of the communities serviced by these volunteer units now enjoy greatly reduced fire insurance rates because of the volunteer units, and that these communities are today threatened with the loss of those advantageous insurance rates,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that if the fully-paid Fire Department is disbanded not only will the existence of the present volunteer units be continued but also with the assistance of Jefferson County, new volunteer units can be established and all communities of Jefferson County will be afforded better fire protection and an opportunity to share in reduced fire insurance rates,

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: (1) That the services of the employees of the fully-paid Fire Department be dispensed with as of January 15, 1950, and

(2) That all of the equipment now owned by Jefferson County and located at the fire stations at Middletown, Newburg Road and at Pleasure Ridge or elsewhere, be placed in the fire houses until the further order of the Jefferson County Fiscal Court, and that a guard or guards as necessary be placed at each of said stations for the protection of said equipment, and

(3) That the employees of the said Jefferson County Fire Department be removed from the payrolls of Jefferson County as of January 15, 1950, and

(4) That Jefferson County Fiscal Court shall appoint such employees in the Jefferson County Fire Department so as to coordinate and work with the existing volunteer fire units, and to assist and advise in the establishment of new volunteer units and the locations of same within Jefferson County, and that said employees shall report to the Fiscal Court the progress that is being made, upon demand of the said Fiscal Court, and shall serve subject to the approval of the said Fiscal Court, who shall likewise fix their salaries.

It is the express intention of the Fiscal Court that all volunteer units now in existence be maintained and that new volunteer units be established in such areas as the citizens thereof desire; in order that all Jefferson County may be protected from fire. To this end the Fiscal Court of Jefferson County will lend its assistance, including financial assistance subject to the provisions of law.

"Carried" ✓

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

Mr. Thomas Thomas be employed as Senior Stockroom Clerk, his employment to be effective as of January 11, 1950, and his salary to be at the rate of \$260.00 per month, his employment to continue subject to the pleasure of the Court, and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That Mr. Thomas be requested to make an inventory of the existing fire equipment, said report to be submitted to the Fiscal Court.

"Carried" ✓

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

IT IS ORDERED: That the following resignations be noted of record;

NAME	DEPARTMENT	POSITION HELD	EFFECTIVE DATE
Wm. M. Sanders	Storeroom	Storekeeper	1-21-50
P.J. Watts	Garage		1-21-50

"Carried" ✓

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

The Court adjourned until one-thirty P.M., Wednesday, January 18, 1950.

B. L. Shamburger
PRESIDING OFFICER

1950

January 14, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

Jefferson County Fiscal Court—Saturday January 14th, 1950 357

Pursuant to Recess the Fiscal Court met on the above date at 10:30 A.M. with the following members present:

COUNTY JUDGE Bowman L. Shamburger, chairman; Commissioners Stuart E. Lampe, Robert Eihe and Mark Beauchamp; County attorney, Lawrence Duncan.

WHEREAS, It appearing that the Jefferson County Fire Department as now constituted is inadequate to properly provide fire protection for the entire County of Jefferson and that it further appearing that if the said department as now constituted continues to operate, it will be an unnecessary, burdensome expense to the taxpayers of Jefferson County Fire Department as now constitutes,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that during the two years existence of the County Fire Department on a fully-paid basis no insurance rate reductions whatsoever were obtained by reason of that department; and because of the actuarial regulations of the Kentucky Inspector Bureau, no possible future rate reductions can be obtained by reason of the County Fire Department as now constituted,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that prior to the existence of the County Fire Department many volunteer units were established in Jefferson County, and that during the existence of the fully-paid County Fire Department not only did there fail to ben any newly created volunteer units, but also at least one volunteer unit has been disbanded,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that a large percentage of the existing volunteer fire units are considering disbanding because they cannot exist so long as a fully-paid fire department conflicts with their continued operation,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that many of the communities serviced by these volunteer units now enjoy greatly reduced fire insurance rates because of the volunteer units, and that these communities are today threatened with the loss of these advantageous insurance rates,

IT FURTHER APPEARING that if the fully-paid Fire department is disbanded not only will the existence of the present volunteer units be continued but also with the assistance of Jefferson County, new volunteer units can be established and all communities of Jefferson County will be afforded better fire protection and an opportunity to share in reduced fire insurance rates,

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: (1) That the services of the employees of the fully-paid Fire department be dispensed with as of January 15, 1950, and

(2) That all of the equipment now owned by Jefferson County and located at the fire stations at Middletown, Newburg Road and Pleasure Ridge or elsewhere, be placed in the fire houses until the further order of the Jefferson County Fiscal Court, and that a guard or guards as necessary be placed at each of said stations for the protection of said equipment, and

(3) That the employees of the said Jefferson County Fire department be removed from the payrolls of Jefferson County as of January 15, 1950, and

1950

January 14, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

Jefferson County Fiscal Court—Saturday January 14th, 1950 357

(4) That Jefferson County Fiscal Court shall appoint such employees in the Jefferson County Fire department so as to coordinate and work with the existing volunteer fire units, and to assist and advise in the establishment of new volunteer units and the locations of same within Jefferson County, and that said employees shall report to the Fiscal Court the progress that is being made, upon demand of the said Fiscal Court, and shall serve subject to the approval of the said Fiscal Court,, who shall likewise fix their salaries.

It is the express intention of the Fiscal Court that all volunteer units now in existence be maintained and that new volunteer units be established in such areas as the citizens thereof desire; in order that all Jefferson County may be protected from fire. To this end the Fiscal Court of Jefferson County will lend its assistance, including financial assistance subject to the provisions of law.

On motion duly made, and unanimously carried;

Mr. Thomas Thomas be employed as Senior Stockroom Clerk, his employment to be effective as of January 11, 1950, and his salary to be at the rate of \$260.00 per month, his employment to continue subject to the pleasure of the court, and

IT IS FUTHER ORDERED: That Mr. Thomas be requested to make an inventory of the existing fire equipment, said repot to be submitted to the Fiscal Court.

“Carried”

On motion duly made, second and unanimously carried;

The Court adjourned until one-thirty P.M., Wednesday, January 18, 1950.

B. L. Lianbuger, presiding Officer

January 15, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:

County Fire Department Dies; Police To Use Stations

Fiscal Court's Vote Wipes Out 31 Jobs; Equipment Will Be Stored Until Sold

The County Fire Department goes out of existence today. Fiscal Court yesterday abolished the jobs of the 30 men and Chief Claud Thompson. The three Fire Stations at Pleasure Ridge, Newburg, and Middletown will be used as Police Stations. The equipment will be stored until sold.

The County owns the stations and three fire trucks. The trucks cost about \$12,000 each.

No Hard Feelings

"There are no hard feelings," Chief Thompson said. "I feel that the people of Jefferson County know the department has given them a much-needed service."

The four members of the Fiscal Court decided to put full responsibility for fire protection on volunteer units. A co-ordinator will be named later to help establish new units. If possible, some financial assistance may be given. This may require a change in the County Fire Department Law.

The court order said the department as operated could bring about no reduction in insurance rates and the County was unable to finance a department that would.

In addition, it said, the County department was destroying volunteer companies that had secured rate reductions. One volunteer company, at High View, has folded up. There are now fire companies without paid men at Fern Creek, Lake Dreamland, Worthington, Buechel, Camp Taylor, Middletown, Okolona, Jeffersonstown, and St. Matthews. Shively has a paid City department and Anchorage a City department with some paid membership.

Storeroom, Garage Consolidated

About \$36,000 of the County Fire Department's \$80,000 allotment for the present budget year

is unspent. This will be transferred to a fund to buy right of way.

The County Fire Department has been a source of controversy for two years. Two Democratic members of the Fiscal Court sought since early in 1948 to cut it to a skeleton force. Two Republican members blocked this until the court became all Democratic January 2. A group of labor spokesmen last week pleaded to save the department.

Fiscal Court also voted yesterday to consolidate the County Storeroom with the County Garage and named Thomas Thomas as clerk at the garage and storekeeper.

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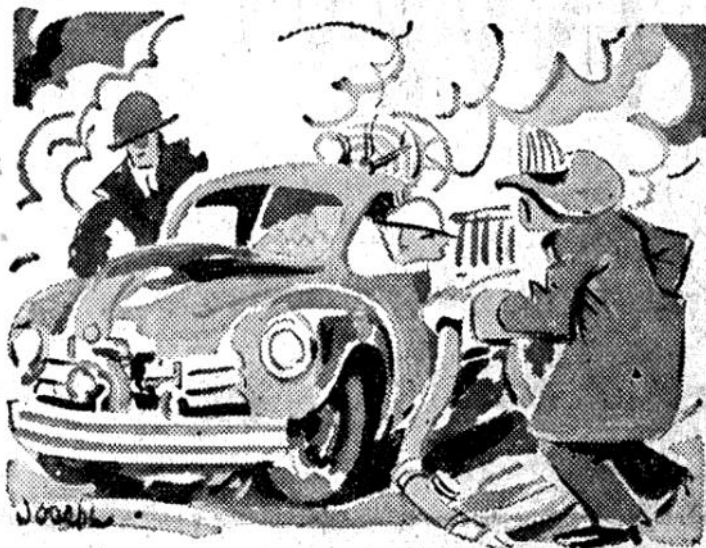
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January 16, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:

A Simple Rule to Cool A Burning County Issue

THE surprising thing about the discussion of volunteer vs. paid fire fighting in Jefferson County is the emotion that gets mixed up in it. There is an issue that could well be decided on simple business principles without demonstration by pickets on the fringe of the forum or the intrusion of hot words and political factors.

The experience of St. Matthews seems to show that the volunteer system works. Reduction of insurance rates has come there. This is found to be related to the availability of water supply, with hydrants and adequate pressure, rather than to the professional or non-professional nature of the fire



protection. When it comes to decide between the two systems, then, the matter of respective costs is to be considered. The evidence shows that a paid fire department in the county would be many times a greater consumer of public funds, when equipment, station houses and payrolls are counted up.

This, of course, assumes that there would be comprehensive protection, with all parts of the county covered. For obviously both systems cannot be maintained: a paid fire company in one location, volunteers in another. The very inducement for volunteer service would be removed under a plan of discrimination or selection like this, and the county would have a pretty piecemeal or inadequate system indeed. One argument, to retain the paid department for the jobs it provides, as advanced by union spokesmen, seems to us to miss both the point and the public interest.

The Courier-Journal
Editorial Page
January 16, 1950

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1950

January 18, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

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Jefferson County Fiscal Court WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18th 1950

EARL K. SNOW & CO. LOU. KY. 1950

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

IT IS ORDERED: That the following resignations be noted of record:

NAME	DEPARTMENT	POSITION HELD	EFFECTIVE DATE
Claud D. Thompson	Fire	Chief	1-15-50
George Andrews	"	Captain	1-15-50
Thomas E. Brock	"	"	1-15-50
Milburn K. Schone	"	"	1-15-50
Lloyd W. Nevin	"	Lieutenant	1-15-50
Charles E. Roach	"	"	1-15-50
Wm. K. Heise	"	"	1-15-50
John Arnold	"	Private	1-15-50
Leroy Anderson	"	"	1-15-50
August Bacigalupi	"	"	1-15-50
J.E. Bailey	"	"	1-15-50
Henry J. Bauer, Jr.	"	"	1-15-50
N.J. Bischof	"	"	1-15-50
Lee Bristoe, Jr.	"	"	1-15-50
R.F. Caffee	"	"	1-15-50
John Call	"	"	1-15-50
Earl Clark	"	"	1-15-50
Samuel Corbin	"	"	1-15-50
Wm. H. Day	"	"	1-15-50
H.A. Freudenberger	"	"	1-15-50
Jesse C. Gunn	"	"	1-7-50
C.E. Hilger	"	"	1-15-50
Robert J. Jenkins	"	"	1-15-50
Elza McGuffin	"	"	1-15-50
Jimmie T. Oller	"	"	1-15-50
Charles Redmon	"	"	1-15-50
J.B. Royalty Jr.	"	"	1-15-50
August Sauter	"	"	1-15-50
Henry C. Weiss	"	"	1-15-50

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1950

January 18, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

Jefferson County Fiscal court Wednesday January 18th, 1850 362

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Charles E. Roach	Fire	Lieutenant	1/15/50
Wm. K. Heise	Fire	Lieutenant	1/15/50
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Leroy Anderson	Fire	Private	1/15/50
August Becigalupi	Fire	Private	1/15/50
J. E. Bailey	Fire	Private	1/15/50
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N. J. Bischof	Fire	Private	1/15/50
Lee Bristoe, Jr.	Fire	Private	1/15/50
R. F. Caffee	Fire	Private	1/15/50
John Call	Fire	Private	1/15/50
Earl Clark	Fire	Private	1/15/50
Samuel Corbin	Fire	Private	1/15/50
Wm. H. Day	Fire	Private	1/15/50
H. A. Freudenberger	Fire	Private	1/15/50
Jesse C. Gunn	Fire	Private	1/15/50
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Elza McGuffin	Fire	Private	1/15/50
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Henry C. Weiss	Fire	Private	1/15/50

January 27, 1950—The Courier-Journal:

County To Aid Volunteer Fire Units

Lampe Offers Pleasure Ridge Use of Engine

Fiscal Court will offer to match funds with county communities wishing to start their own volunteer fire departments, County Commissioner Stuart Lampe said last night.

He made this statement at a protest meeting of 500 residents of Pleasure Ridge and other county communities who considered themselves "left in the lurch" when the Fiscal Court abolished the paid County Fire Department two weeks ago.

He also said, but not before 2 hours of complaints and accusations had gone by, that the court voted eight days ago to allow "any responsible group" at Pleasure Ridge to use the fire engine and firehouse for their own protection.

Engine Starts Argument

The fire engine that is sitting unused in the Pleasure Ridge fire station started one of the arguments that raged in the overflowing basement of St. Paul's School at Pleasure Ridge.

The meeting, said Frank Murphy, temporary chairman, was called principally to find out "what Fiscal Court is going to do for our temporary relief until we can get equipment and men for a department of our own."

Pleasure Ridge is completely without fire protection now that the County station has been abolished, he said.

Part of the question that caused the meeting apparently could have been answered at the beginning, since Lampe finally said he thought Murphy had known Pleasure Ridge could have the engine and fire station.

Never Got Answer

Never Got Answer

"I was promised an answer to my request for the engine, but I never got one," Murphy said. "Well, you were supposed to be notified in writing," Lampe said. "Somebody slipped up."

Mrs. Rodney Gray, Pleasure Ridge, then said County Judge Boman L. Shamburger told her several days ago that the engine would be sold and Murphy said he had proceeded under that assumption.

Lampe said he had no explanation for this.

Finally, Murphy was appointed permanent chairman of a committee to represent communities which need protection. The committee will plan to use the County equipment.

Although Murphy tried to keep the meeting devoted to the question of fire protection alone, dozens of speakers from the crowd rose to accuse Fiscal Court of political motives.

Denies Politics Involved

Lampe denied that abolishing the County department involved politics. He said the decision to abolish it was made after a meeting with volunteer departments in the county.

"They told us," Lampe said, "that if the County department were not abolished, they would have to fold up. The residents in the volunteer areas could not see why they should pay for a County department and also contribute to their volunteer departments. We had to choose between losing nine fire departments or three." Commissioner Robert Fihe, who also faced the questions of the 500, said the County department had not been as efficient as was claimed. And the court does not have the money to put in enough full-time fire stations to protect the entire county, he added.

Circuit Clerk Karl E. Rothrock then rose and said, "County Assessor George Trager told me the court will have \$220,000 more to spend this year than last."

He tried to go in, but was silenced by Murphy who said "We don't want this to get into politics." Rothrock is a Republican. Fihe and Lampe are Democrats.

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1950

January 27, 1950—*The Courier-Journal*:

The Courier-Journal
January 28, 1950

Dispute Arises Over Promise Of Fire Truck

Controversy arose yesterday over the promise of two Fiscal Court members that a County fire engine would be made available temporarily for a volunteer fire company at Pleasure Ridge.

Karl E. Rothrock, Circuit Court clerk, a Republican, charged that County Commissioners Robert A. Fihe and Stuart E. Lampe misled a meeting of citizens who protested the abandonment of the station there by the County.

Fihe and Lampe said the court had agreed to let a volunteer company be formed and use the equipment.

Plans To Change Order

But Rothrock pointed out an order adopted January (?) by Fiscal Court that the hose only be made available to Frank Murphy, resident of that section. He said the order made Murphy responsible for the hose. Lampe and County Judge Boman L. Shamburger said yesterday it was the intention of the court to include the other equipment. "I thought that was done," said Lampe.

A Fiscal Court order to store the engines with the City Fire Department was passed. At the last meeting Wednesday, this will be amended, Lampe said, to leave one engine at Pleasure Ridge. The other two engines were at Newburg and Middletown stations.

The new Democratic court abolished the department this month on the grounds that it was not serving its purpose. Volunteer firemen had threatened to stop operating if the County stayed in the fire-fighting business.

Criminal District Court Judge
Fred Oser.

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Court Abolishes Fire Department

Members of the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department and other similar units throughout Jefferson County today were solely responsible for fire protection beyond the Louisville city limits after the Fiscal Court abolished the County Fire Department.

The Court's action resulted in the dismissal of Chief Claude Thompson and 30 men employed at the three county fire stations located at Pleasure Ridge, Newburg and Middletown. These stations will be used as county police stations and the fire equipment stored. The stations and three fire trucks costing approximately \$12,000 each are owned by the county.

The court said the department as operated could bring about no reduction in insurance rates and the county was unable to finance a department that could. In addition it stated that the county department was destroying volunteer companies that had secured rate reductions.

Fire Dept. Weighs Purchase of Trucks

The St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association has under consideration purchase of certain fire equipment formerly used by the Jefferson County Fire Department, abolished earlier this month by the Fiscal Court. The equipment includes three fire trucks costing approximately \$12,000 each.

Fred H. Boss, treasurer, said plans called for the court to be approached to determine under what prices and terms equipment might be purchased. He also said that the department is seeking to secure property for the construction of a new fire house.

The treasurer revealed this information as the Association began its annual drive for subscribers. The fee is \$3.00 annually. Paid-up members of the Association are given fire protection by the Fire Department on call without further charges at any time and as frequently as needed. Non-members are charged for the use of the fire equipment at a maximum rate of \$100 for the first hour or any part thereof and \$25 for each additional hour thereafter.

He then referred to the Court of Appeals decision balking Louisville's annexation attempt and emphasized that responsibility for fire protection in St. Matthews rests solely on the shoulders of the Volunteer Department.

Boss pointed out that the Association has approximately 2,500 members, and that great savings to property owners have been made possible through reductions in insurance rates.

1950

Courtesy *The Jeffersonian*, January 20, 1950:

County Fire Houses To Become Police Stations

The Jefferson County fire stations of Middletown, Newburg and Pleasure Ridge Park, are being converted into county police stations. Discontinuance of the Jefferson County Fire Department last Saturday marked the end to a controversy which has been ____ for the last two years.

The County, unable to equip and maintain sufficient numbers of stations so that each unit should not have too much ground _____ proved to be unable to _____ lower insurance rates, or to substantially reduce the fire hazard, it was concluded. Just what step the Fiscal Court will take right away to assist, the volunteers to increase their efficiency other than to appoint a coordinator to direct consolidation of their services, has not been announced

Fire Chief Claud Thompson, reacting to the Court's order to abolish the Fire Department, said, There are no hard feelings. I feel that the people of Jefferson County know the department has given them a much-needed service.

At the meeting Wednesday the Fiscal Count appointed R. Davis McAfee as coordinator to work with the present Volunteer units and to assist to establishing new local departments.

February 2, 1950, *The Louisville-Times*:

County Fire Unit Outlook Studied

Harsh Words Hurlled at

Fiscal Court Hearing

LOU TIMES
Robert's Rules of Order were ignored at a stormy Fiscal Court hearing yesterday at which a committee of County residents demanded that the County fire department be restored to service.

County Judge Pro-Tem Lawrence Grauman repeatedly told speakers not to "indulge in personalities" and tried to limit the subject to future plans but harsh words were tossed about freely.

Fiscal Court members thought the hearing was for the purpose of working out plans for volunteer units to fill the gaps left by closing of the County's three fire houses. But the committee's main request was that the court employ six men at each of the fire houses with volunteers to help at fires. There were 31 men in the department when it was abolished.

* * *

The court took the request under submission after partisans of the department and those favoring volunteer units argued merits of the two systems for two hours.

Last word was had by Commissioner Beauchamp who told both groups: "I'm going to say this and I don't care a hoot what you think about it. Neither group is approaching the matter in the right spirit. What you need is an impartial arbiter."

1950

February 1, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

389

Jefferson County Fiscal Court WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY FIRST 1950

EARLE K. SNOW & CO. LOU. KY. 7102

written report to the Fiscal Court of said inventory.

"Carried" ✓

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried;

IT IS ORDERED: That the following communication be spread upon the minutes of this Court:

" Jefferson County Kentucky
February 1950

The residents of Jefferson County has suffered a great loss in the abolishing of the County paid Fire Department and believe it to be a backward move. We wish to place the following proposal before the Fiscal Court of Jefferson County for their consideration and action.

We ask that the three county paid fire departments namely, Middletown, Newburg and Pleasure Ridge be restored to active service, with six men to each station, thereby eliminating twelve jobs with a savings to Jefferson County of approximately \$24,000.00 per year.

This savings will permit each district served by the county Fire Department to be supplemented with additional volunteer units to act in conjunction with the County Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee.

Middletown

(signed)

Newburg

Pleasure Ridge

NELSON GOODIN
JIMMY E. BAILEY
CLARA BELLE DORSEY
JERRY LUCAS
WORDEN DORSEY, JR.
FRANK J. MURPHY
ALMA M. GRAY
MRS. ROBT. BALLARD
JAMES LINDSEY."

"Carried" ✓

Typed on next page—

1950

February 1, 1950—Courtesy, Dave Morgan, Jefferson County Archives:

Jefferson County Fiscal Court—Wednesday February first 1950—-389

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Middletown

Newburg
(signed) Nelson Gooding
Jimmy E. Bailey
Clara Belle Dorsey
Jerry Lucas
Worden Dorsey, Jr.
Frank J. Murphy
Alma M. Gray
Mrs. Robt. Ballard
James Lindsey.

Pleasure Ridge

“Carried”

1950

February 2, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*

**County Residents Heat Up Fire-Fighting Squabble
With Call for Protection
Six Men Instead of 10 Urged;
Savings Figured at \$24,000**

Supposedly dead and buried by official action two weeks ago, the County Fire Department issue was resurrected in a lively meeting before Fiscal Court yesterday.

Residents of areas formerly served by the three County fire stations asked that the stations be restored, with six men at each, instead of 10 as before.

This would cut \$24,000 a year from the cost of supporting a paid fire-fighting force, they said.

"If there's a fire in my area tonight, there will be no one there to fight it," declared Mrs. Robert Ballard, Pleasure Ridge.

Station Doors Locked

County equipment is still at Pleasure Ridge, Mrs. Ballard complained, but the doors are locked.

County fire stations at Pleasure Ridge and Middletown and on Newburg Road were abolished by the Fiscal Court January 15. Ten volunteer units serve various sections of the county, including Middletown.

Representatives of the volunteer departments told the court at the hearing that insurance rates have been reduced in their areas because of their efficiency as fire fighters.

Offer Services Elsewhere

They also said they would fight fires in districts other than their own, although a charge was sometimes made for this service.

"The County department was inefficient, and the inspection bureau (which sets fire-insurance rates) knew it," said Bill Rice, Buechel, president of Volunteer Fire Fighters, Inc.

Rice said he would be glad to confer with Frank Murphy, Pleasure Ridge, on helping set up other volunteer departments. Murphy is chairman of the citizens committee which asked for reopening of the County stations.

No Court Action Taken

Murphy and others of his group promised to see that other volunteer departments are set up, but they insisted on full-time, paid help being available from County stations.

The Fiscal Court took no action. They agreed to wait for the return of County Judge Boman L. Shamburger before making a decision. Shamburger was in Frankfort. Lawrence S. Grauman, former County attorney, served in his place.

County Commissioner Stuart Lampe, however, said that "If there is any way for you to have the benefit of the County equipment, I'd like to see it made available."

Promise disputed

Lampe, at a Pleasure Ridge meeting last week, said the court voted eight days earlier to allow "any responsible group" at Pleasure Ridge to use the County fire equipment there.

This promise was later disputed by Karl E. Rothrock, Circuit Court clerk, who said the court order merely made some hose available to Murphy.

Lampe said it was the intention of the court to include other equipment, and added the order would be amended to leave one engine at Pleasure Ridge.

Mrs. Rodney Gray, Pleasure Ridge, said the citizens' committee was "not fighting the volunteer departments." But she said only three volunteer stations serve her Magisterial District, the Third.

"I think we need about 12 departments to serve that area," she declared.

R. Davis McAfee, Fern Creek, organizer of volunteer departments there and at Buechel, defended the use of volunteers only, "so no politician can change the setup."

Jerry Lucas, who lives in the Newburg Road area, said there had been several disastrous fires in his section before the County department was installed.

"Someone should be at the fire house at all times," he said.

Nelson Goodwin, also of Newburg Road, agreed.

"I don't think the volunteers are so hot," he commented.

February 2, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*

Claims Volunteers Tested

Rice countered with the statement that all volunteer companies had passed inspection bureau tests requiring men to be at the station within 1 1/2 minutes after the sounding of an alarm.

Carter Fields, Fern Creek, one of the organizers of the volunteer department there, agreed with Rice.

"We have been tested, found efficient, and have answered quickly every alarm ever sounded in our district," Fields said.

Spokesmen for the volunteer firemen also told the Court that no volunteer, as far as they know, had ever been paid for his services. The volunteer departments are supported by private subscription.

Judge Pro Tem Grauman and County Commissioner Mark Beauchamp both suggested that differences be ironed out "calmly."

"It looks like a lot of people are just trying to discredit the other side," said Beauchamp. And Grauman warned repeatedly during the hearing, against bringing politics into the dispute.

Harold C. Haynes, Anchorage, was appointed Assistant County welfare director. He will become director February 15 when William Pennycook, Jr., now director, resigns. Pennycook is staying two weeks to help Haynes get started.

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MRS. ROBERT BALLARD
"No one to fight a fire."

Bill Readied For Volunteer Firemen's Pay

Allows Fiscal Courts To Assist Financially

The Courier-Journal, Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 1.—A bill to enable Fiscal Courts to give financial support to volunteer fire departments is ready for introduction in the General Assembly.

Senator Aaron J. Shaiken, Louisville Democrat, said he planned to introduce the measure tomorrow. It is designed particularly to cope with fire-protection problems in Jefferson County.

The Jefferson County Fiscal Court recently abolished its paid fire departments in favor of volunteer units. The court claimed that the County budget would permit operation of only three fire stations and these could not provide adequate protection throughout the County.

Could Sign Contracts
Shaiken said his bill would authorize Fiscal Courts to contract with volunteer units for fire services. The present law permits such contracts with Municipal corporations and legally established fire-protection districts.

Shaiken's proposal has the approval of Jefferson County Judge B. L. Shamberger. He countered with the senator here today on the matter.

Shamberger said he was considering only two other "County bills" at present. One is a measure being drafted by Shaiken and Senator Edward C. Gallagher to put the County police under a merit system. The other would increase the number of Quarterly Court clerks. The law now provides for five.

Shaiken today also disclosed he might propose a ceiling of 1 per cent (the present rate) on Louisville's occupational tax if the City asks the General Assembly for a bigger portion of the tax revenue to use outside the sinking fund.

Shaiken indicated he just wanted to assure the people that the tax would not be raised if a bigger portion of the sinking fund were diverted to the general fund.

Goal of \$50,000 Set For Heart-Group Drive
The first Kentucky campaign of the American Heart Association opened yesterday.

A tentative goal of \$50,000 has been set, but Dr. Emmet F. Horne, board chairman of the state chapter, said there is no definite objective since this is the first drive in the state and no precedent has been established.

About 3,000 plastic hearts are being distributed to stores in Louisville to receive contributions. Others are being placed in the state.

Poll Shows 95.9 Per. Read Paper's Front Page
A poll of 1,500 people here showed 95.9 per cent of them read the front page of the newspaper they buy.

The survey was made by the University of Louisville Psychological Services Center. Figures are read by 53.3 per cent of the 1,500, classified age by 56.7, news stories by 73.7 per cent, and editorial page by 71.3 per cent.



JERRY LUCAS
"Men should be at station."

help being available from County stations.

The Fiscal Court took no action. They agreed to wait for the return of County Judge Donor L. Shamberger before making a decision. Shamberger was in Frankfort, Lawrence S. Grauman, former County attorney, served in his place.

County Commissioner Stuart Lampe, however, said that if there is any way for you to have the benefit of the County equipment, let's like to see it made available.

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BILL RICE
"County was inefficient."

seniority map in District No. Three.

"I think they need another 12 departments to give that area," he declared.

R. Davis McGee, Fern Creek, organizer of volunteer departments there, said Beauchamp's statement that no politician can interfere with the setup.

Jerry Lucas, 1700 Locust in Newburg Road area, said there had been several quarters in his section where the County department was installed.

"Someone should be there all house at all times," he said.

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"I don't think the volunteers are at all," he complained.

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CARTER FIELDS
"We have been tested."

1950

February 3, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*

The Courier-Journal
February 3, 1950

Shamburger Says Fire Setup In County Was "Bad Business"

Jefferson County's three-station Fire Department was abolished because it was a "bad business investment," County Judge B.L. Shamburger declared in a speech yesterday.

He had completed a talk before the Rotary Club in the Brown Hotel without reference to the Fire Department. He then offered to answer questions. Someone asked him why the Fire Department had been abolished.

Shamburger said the three stations were not adequate to protect the 600 square miles in Jefferson County. He said it would take 20 to protect the county and the cost would be prohibitive.

Shamburger pinned his hopes on volunteer fire fighters. He expressed hope the Legislature would pass a bill he is sponsoring which would permit the County to enter into contracts with trained volunteer groups. The county then could furnish equipment and help pay expenses.

The speaker outlined his program for the County, which he said was based strictly on the platform he announced during his campaign.

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County to enter contracts with trained volunteer groups. The county then could furnish equipment and help pay expenses.

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Truman Approves Plan For Columbia Basin

Washington, Feb. 2 (AP)—Secretary of Interior Chapman said today President Truman has approved, with some modifications, an Interior Department-Army engineer plan for development of the Columbia River basin.

Chapman said the Budget Bureau advised him of Truman's approval and asked him to sub-

February 3, 1950, *The Jeffersonian*:

City Firemen Respond To Close-in Blaze

An estimated damage of \$6,000 or more was caused by a fire Monday at a residence, 2541 Sarasota Drive, just outside of the Louisville city limits. The residence was that of E. L. Bloom.

As has been the usual custom within this two or three-mile belt around Louisville, when a fire occurs, Louisville firemen were notified. Responding to the call, firemen of Quad Company 7 and Engine Company 20 put out the fire.

According to daily press reports, Mrs. Bloom was indignant over the fact that the County Fire Department had recently been abolished. But it was pointed out by members of Firefighters, Inc., organization of County volunteer firemen, that it has not been customary for fires in the fringe area to be handled either by the County Department or Volunteers.

There are no hydrants in the vicinity of the Bloom home. Firemen used small hose attached to faucets at neighbors' houses.

Still Want County To Provide Fire Protection

Still insisting on having the County provide fire protection by reopening the three fire stations which were closed two weeks ago, residents, mostly from the Pleasure Ridge Park area, put pressure on the Fiscal Court at Wednesday's meeting.

Those protesting the closing of the three fire stations at Pleasure Ridge, Middletown and Newburg suggested that six men, instead of 10, be assigned to each station, thus cutting operating costs about \$2,000 a month. The County Commissioners gave no definite answer to the plea, having heretofore contended that it is an impossibility to maintain a sufficient number of stations to give adequate protection all over the County.

Most of the larger community centers in the County, outside of Louisville, have been maintaining their own respective Volunteer Fire Departments. These volunteers, co-operating with the State Inspection Bureau and the Fire Marshal's office, have secured very substantial rate reductions on fire insurance. The three paid County units, maintained at widely divergent points, produced no effect on the insurance rates.

Bill Rice, Buchel, president of Volunteer Firefighters, Inc., told the Court that "The County department was inefficient, and the Inspection Bureau knew it." Rice said he would be glad to confer with Frank Murphy, Pleasure Ridge, on helping set up other volunteer fire units in the County. Murphy is chairman of the citizens' committee which asked for reopening of the County stations.

County Judge Boman L. Shamburger was not present at the meeting. While the Court took no action, County Commissioner Stuart Lampe said, however, that "If there is any way for you to have the benefit of the County equipment, I'd like to see it made available."

Citizens of the Lyndon community have announced that a meeting will be held there tonight, in the school auditorium, to discuss organization of a volunteer fire department for that area.

1950

February 4, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*

The Courier-Journal
February 4, 1950

Lyndon Residents Decide They Want Fire Department

A group of Lyndon residents decided last night to organize their own volunteer fire department. They immediately started collecting money to buy equipment.

More than 100 residents met in the gymnasium of the Lyndon School and heard talks on the virtues and organization of such departments. Curtis Fry acted as temporary chairman. There will be another meeting soon to form a permanent organization.

The group will be aided in its plans by David McAfee, Fern Creek attorney and organizer of several volunteer departments in the County, and Capt. V.A. Beam, co-ordinator of firemen training for the State Department of Education.

Several Lyndon men who already have volunteered to serve will meet with Beam Monday night, when he goes to Jeffersontown to give training to the volunteer department there.

McAfee told the group they would have to raise about \$3,500 to buy a pumper, hose and other necessary equipment. The area has about 400 families.

In his remarks Beam said there now are 227 Fire Departments in Kentucky, all but 31 being volunteer units.

Lyndon never has had a volunteer department and has been depending on the St. Matthews and Middletown units to fight fires, according to Benedict Finzer, one of the men who started the movement that led to last night's meeting.

Says Volunteers Not Called

In *The Courier-Journal* January 31 Mrs. E. L. Bloom, 2541 Saratoga Drive, said: "It was a sin and a shame to abolish the County Fire Department on Newburg Road."

Mrs. Bloom is receiving an 8th class insurance rate because the Louisville Fire Department responds to all alarms in this section and has done so for many years. If the county put a fire station in Mrs. Bloom's backyard and the city discontinued responding, her insurance would be increased over 50 per cent.

Had the County Fire Department still been in operation, it is very doubtful that it would have received this alarm as the county police had no record of this fire and the county police and fire departments had the same telephone number. If Mrs. Bloom had called this number, the county police would have sent a volunteer company to her fire as the police have a map and the telephone number of the volunteer central fire alarm. No volunteer fire company received the alarm on this fire.

BILL RICE,
President, Volunteer Firefighters.
Buechel, Ky.

February 4, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:

A Case for Volunteer County Fire Fighters

COUNTY JUDGE BOMAN SHAMBURGER's order abolishing the County Fire Department has aroused a torrent of protest from citizens living in neighborhoods formerly served by the three fire stations. Understandably, these people object to the loss of their only fire protection, and some have threatened political reprisal if the County does not re-establish the fire department. Judge SHAMBURGER, however, has announced that he will stick by his original plan, and for our money his reasons for doing so make sense.

Actually, Judge SHAMBURGER's decision was made for him by a lack of money. It was not influenced by the argument between volunteer and paid fire-fighting units, or a preference for one system over the other. The county had to choose between a system of volunteer units which were already in being, or an enlarged system of county-supported, full-time fire-fighting companies which could take the place of the volunteers. Since it could not afford the full-time system, the choice was automatic.

Before they were closed by Judge SHAMBURGER's order, there were three fire stations in the county, at Pleasant Ridge, Newburg and Middletown. These stations cost the county \$150,000 to build, \$35,000 to equip and \$75,000 to operate annually. And, of course, they furnished protection to but a small part of the county. To give equal protection to all county residents would have required establishment of approximately 20 stations, at an initial cost of almost \$1,000,000, not including equipment (another \$250,000) or operating expense (at least \$750,000 a year). Even if the County could find this much money, it is doubtful that it would be justified in spending it on such a program. For nine volunteer fire companies are already furnishing to a large part of the county services which would be the purpose of an expanded county fire department. And they are doing this without cost to Fiscal Court.

But the volunteers have notified Judge SHAMBURGER that they could not continue to operate in competition with full-time companies. Either the County Fire Department goes, they said in effect, or we go. For, they point out, county residents will not pay volunteers for protection as long as they can hope to receive county service for no more than taxes. Citing the case of St. Matthews, where they managed to get fire insurance rates reduced for residents under their protection, the volunteers declare they can do the job for the entire county providing they can get the co-operation of the Fiscal Court.

This is a hard argument to beat. So is the contention of Judge SHAMBURGER that people living in the more sparsely settled county, and paying relatively lighter county taxes, can hardly expect the same services as people who pay city taxes. If county residents want fire protection, their best bet would seem to be with the volunteers. And members of Fiscal Court have already shown an interest in a plan for selling their present fire equipment to volunteer companies and otherwise giving these companies all the help possible.

March 22, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:

Independent Fire District To Be Studied

Plans for an independent fire district supported by assessments will be discussed by residents of four Jefferson County communities at a meeting at 8 p.m. today at Valley High School.

Communities affected are Pleasure Ridge, Valley Station, Orell, and Kosmosdale.

James V. Lindsey, chairman of a committee to organize the fire district, said a paid fire-fighting force would be created if approved at the meeting. Assessments to support the force would be levied by trustees of the communities. The communities have been without fire protection since the County Fire Department was abolished in January, Lindsey said.

The proposed fire district would be bounded by Rockford Lane, the Ohio River, Kosmos-

April 16, 1950, *The Courier-Journal*:

Fiscal Court Preparing Plans To Aid Volunteer Fire Units

Fiscal Court is working on plans to aid volunteer fire companies in more complete coverage of Jefferson County outside incorporated cities, County Judge Boman L. Shamburger said yesterday.

A 1950 State law that permits contracts among the Fiscal Court, City Fire Departments, and volunteer fire companies has become effective, under an emergency clause, he said.

The plan involves two basic ideas as far as the Fiscal Court is concerned:

1. To match, to a reasonable figure, funds raised by communities for the support of their own volunteer companies, and to extend the area of this coverage.

2. To contract with City Fire Departments for coverage of rural areas outside the limits of the cities.

In this way, said Shamburger, protection that would result in

lower fire-insurance rates, could be extended to areas not now covered. The County Fire Department, abolished by Fiscal Court early this year, had not affected insurance rates, he said.

The County also faces the problem of using its three former fire stations at Pleasure Ridge, on Newburg Road, and at Middletown. The equipment, including three fire pumpers, must be sold or leased.

Pueblo Man Sworn In As Colorado Governor

Denver, April 15 (AP)—Walter W. Johnson, 45-year-old Pueblo insurance man, became Colorado's 32d Governor today in a 5-minute ceremony. Johnson, a Democrat, succeeds William Lee Knous, who had resigned the post to become U. S. district judge for Colorado, effective only minutes before the ceremony.

1950

May 16, 1950, letter:



A. E. FUNK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
FRANKFORT, KY.

May 16, 1950

ASSISTANTS

GUY L. DICKINSON
W. OWEN KELLER
WILLIAM F. SIMPSON
ZEB A. STEWART
SQUIRE N. WILLIAMS, JR.
WALTER C. HERDMAN
H. D. REED, JR.
M. B. HOLIFIELD
HAL WILLIAMS
GARDNER ASHCRAFT
CLIFTON J. WADDILL
JO M. FERGUSON
JOHN TALBOTT
ARMAND ANGELUCCI
JOHN M. KINNAIRD
RUDY Y. YESSIN

Mr. John M. Monohan
3909 Elmwood
Louisville 7, Kentucky

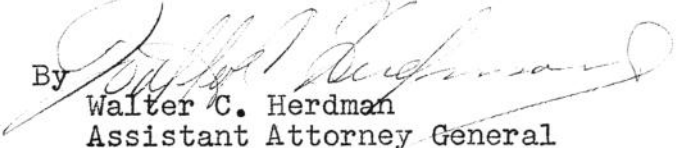
Dear Sir:

This is in answer to your letter of May 9 in which you state that the Fiscal Court of Jefferson County is going to advertise for bids to sell 3 pieces of fire equipment from the fire department that was discontinued in January, 1950 and you desire to know whether or not the City of Louisville is eligible to bid on said equipment.

There is nothing in the statutes to prevent the City of Louisville from bidding on the above mentioned equipment. Under the provisions of KRS 95.260 the Department of Public Safety may purchase necessary equipment for the Fire Department and, of course, the City Buyer of the City of Louisville has the authority to purchase necessary supplies and equipment for the various departments of the City under the provisions of KRS 91.120.

Very truly yours,

A. E. FUNK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By 
Walter C. Herdman
Assistant Attorney General

1950

August 30, 1950: Letter:

JEFFERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

BOMAN L. SHAMBURGER
COUNTY JUDGE, CHAIRMAN
MARK BEAUCHAMP
ROBERT A. FINE
STUART E. LAMPE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 30, 1950

EDWIN H. STIERLE, CLERK
JOSEPH G. HENNESSEY, AUDITOR
JAMES E. TIERNEY, TREASURER
HARRY D. DAUB,
PURCHASING AGENT

Chief of Fire Department
St. Matthews, Kentucky

Dear Chief:

The invitation to bid on the fire equipment owned by Jefferson County has heretofore been sent to you. If you desire to buy one of the advertised pumpers or any of the equipment, special consideration will be given to your bid, if you agree to use the equipment within the boundaries of Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Very truly yours,

HARRY D. DAUB
County Purchasing Agent

R. D. McAFEE

P.S. So that there will be no confusion, the pumpers are to be sold STRIPPED.

1950

September 6, 1950: Letter: Bid on Future STMFD S1.

St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association

3900 FRANKFORT AVENUE
ST. MATTHEWS, KY.

September 6, 1950

Fiscal Court of Jefferson County
Louisville, Kentucky

SUBJECT: BID NO. A-424

Gentlemen:

We wish to make the following bid for Truck No. 1, Model 66 EE, Serial No. D 0885 as made by the Seagrave Corporation, Columbus, Ohio, together with all the listed equipment, hose ladders, etc. which are now on this apparatus which you have so kindly loaned us during our emergency.

For this apparatus and equipment, we offer the sum of FIFTY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$5,500.00) CASH.

In as much as it is necessary for us to build a new fire house or an addition to our present house, providing the present owner will permit us to do so, we wish to offer an alternate bid in case the above bid will not be accepted.

assign
We offer that the Honorable Court agree on an amount that would be suitable to them and to ourselves, this said amount to be paid from the allowance from the County until said amount is paid in full, we to ~~send~~ to the County these funds as they are allotted to us for fire protection.

It is our understanding that in the past the County on previous bids has adopted the policy to permit any bidder who has submitted a bid to raise the bid at the time the bids are opened, if they so desire.

Thanking you for your kind consideration and trusting we will be awarded this equipment which is desperately needed, we are,

Very truly yours,

ST. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

John M. Monohan, Jr.
President
George E. Miller
Secretary

September 13, 1950, Letters:

September 13, 1950.

Jefferson County Fiscal Court
Louisville, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

I have been instructed by the Committee appointed by the Court to, and I hereby recommend that the offer of the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department for the No. 1 Pumper be accepted.

Very truly yours,

R. D. McAfee
Co-ordinator

Jefferson County Fiscal Court
Louisville, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

At the request of Mr. R. D. McAfee to clarify our bid on the No. 1 Pumper heretofore submitted, our bid is \$5500.00 for said pumper as advertised and explained in Mr. McAfee's letter dated August 30, 1950.

ST. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION

RDM/mlc

BY

John M. Monohan, Jr.
President

January 5, 1951, *The Jeffersonian*:

Local Volunteer Fire Dept. May Buy New Rig From County

It was announced yesterday that the Jeffersontown Volunteer Fire Department is again in position to make runs, at a reasonable distance, outside of town. According to James L. Bowles, chairman of the Town Council, the new arrangement is made possible through the courtesy of the Fiscal Court.

Daniel Boone, director of fire protection for the County, has been negotiating with members of volunteer fire units who might be interested in the purchase of certain pieces of equipment of the disbanded County Fire Department. The County has three fire trucks on their hands. One of these is being loaned to the Jeffersontown Volunteers for a trial period and may be purchased by the local unit.

At a meeting last Friday evening of the Volunteer Fire Department, with members of the Town Council present, it was decided to incorporate the Department, and to increase the enrolled personnel. A membership committee was appointed by Fire Chief Robert Ruckriegel, Sr., consisting of James L. Bowles, Buddy Roemele, Lloyd Roemele, and Joe Jones. It is hoped to boost the company membership to at least 30.

The next meeting of the Jeffersontown Volunteers is to be held January 18, in the Engine House. Those desiring to become members of the local unit are asked to be present at that time.

The Jeffersontown Board of Town Trustees, at its meeting Tuesday night, voted in favor of turning over the Town's fire truck and all fire-fighting facilities to the Volunteers, providing the Department maintains standards set up by the Fiscal Court and the Kentucky Inspection Bureau.

If the proposed arrangement becomes a reality a new fire district will be established for the local area and a majority of property owners will be in line for a substantial reduction in fire insurance rates, it was said.

1951

November 13, 1951: Bid on County Fire Truck, to become STMFD S1

November 13, 1951

Fiscal Court
Jefferson County,
Louisville, Kentucky

Gentlemen:

We are submitting herewith our bid for the Truck No. 1, which we now have in our possession in the St. Matthews area.

We wish to bid for this truck the sum of FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,500.00) and we are going to explain our situation as we want to have the privilege of making an alternate bid if necessary.

We will be forced to pay for this equipment on the installment basis. I think the Court knows that at the present time we have purchased ground on St. Matthews Avenue and are now accepting bids on the erection of a new fire house which is absolutely necessary that we have.

It is also necessary that we maintain three pieces of equipment to hold the rates which we have obtained in this area from the Insurance Bureau.

We propose to pay for this equipment on a basis of \$1,800.00 Cash and \$1,000.00 per year until it is paid. If our revenue should be such we will pay it off in larger amounts.

We are endeavoring to take in two or three sections additional territory which is not covered at the present time and which Mr. Boone is acquainted as the people in this section have prevailed upon him and the Fire Association in order to get a better rate.

We now make runs to Ormsby Village, Kentucky Children's Home, Central State Hospital, Jefferson County Garage and the Cherry.

(Page -3-)

We trust this will all be considered in accepting our bid as it is necessary that we have this piece of equipment and we trust the Court will arrange it so that it will remain in our possession.

Thanking you for the kind consideration shown us in the past, we are,

Yours truly,

John H. Monohan, Jr.

JHJ:ds

1951

November 14, 1951: Jefferson County Fire Truck become STMFD S1:

Louisville, Kentucky

November 14, 1951

\$3,000.00

For a valuable consideration, we promise to pay to the order of the JEFFERSON FISCAL COURT, Louisville, Kentucky, \$3,000.00, in three annual installments of \$1,000.00 each, beginning November 14, 1952, payable at the Jefferson County Fiscal Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

This being the only note mentioned in a mortgage of even date from the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department to the Jefferson County Fiscal Court.

ST. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

By _____
John Monahan

CHATTEL MORTGAGE

THIS CHATTEL MORTGAGE, made and entered into this 14th day of November, 1951, by and between THE ST. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC., hereinafter called the MORTGAGOR, and the JEFFERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT, herein- after called the MORTGAGEE.

WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the herein- after mentioned loan, the MORTGAGOR hereby conveys to the MORTGAGEE, the following goods and chattels, situated in the State of Kentucky, County of Jefferson, and more partic- ularly described as follows:

One (1) Seagrove Truck, 750 O.P.M.
19 Model No. 66 E B
Serial No. D-0855
195 Kentucky License No. _____

The MORTGAGOR covenants that it is the lawful owner of said property described above; that it is free of all encumbrances and that it has full right and power to mortgage same.

PROVIDED that this conveyance is made for the following purposes and upon the following conditions:

(1) The MORTGAGEE has sold to the MORTGAGOR the hereinabove described property. The MORTGAGEE having made a \$1,500.00 down payment leaving a balance of \$3,000.00 still due and owing to the MORTGAGOR.

(2) The MORTGAGEE has this day executed a note payable to the MORTGAGOR in the amount of \$3,000.00. This note is payable three(3) years from date hereof.

1951

November 14, 1951: Jefferson County Fire Truck becomes STMFD S1:

(3) The MORTGAGEE covenants to pay at least \$1,000.00 each and every year until the full amount of the note is paid,

(4) This note shall bear no interest whatsoever, however should the MORTGAGEE fail to perform subsection (3) above, the MORTGAGOR may in its descretion declare that portion of the note which is unpaid, due and payable, and may proceed to take possession of the hereinabove described property and sell same in the manner prescribed by law in order to pay first the expence of such foreclosure and secondly the remaining principal on said note.

(5) The MORTGAGOR further covenants that until said note is fully paid, it will keep the property herein conveyed insured against loss by fire and windstorm to the extent of the remaining principal on said note.

(6) The MORTGAGEE shall not attempt to sell or otherwise dispose of the property herein conveyed so long as this mortgage remains in effect.

NOW, should the mortgagor well and truly pay off and discharge the note aforesaid and perform all the covenants and stipulations of this instrument, the mortgagee shall release this mortgage on the request and at the expence of the mortgagor,

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness the signature of the mortgagor the day and year first above written.

ST. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.

State of Kentucky }
County of Jefferson)

I, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for the State and County aforesaid, do hereby certify that on this date the foregoing Mortgage was produced to me in said County by John Monahan, Fire Chief, St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department, party hereto, and acknowledged and delivered by him to be his act and deed.

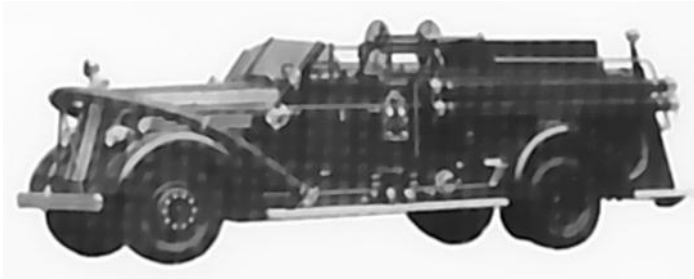
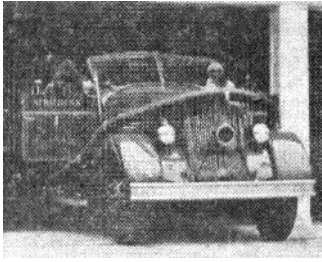
The Testimony Whereof, witness my signature this _____ day of February, 1952.

My commission expires _____.

Notary Public, Jefferson County,
Kentucky

1951

November 14, 1951, 750 G.P.M. Seagrave Fire Truck, Model No. 66 E B Serial NO. D-0855, total cost \$4,500.00.



1952

January 11, 1952, Letter:

R. DAVIS MCAFEE
COORDINATOR

FISCAL COURT:
JUDGE B. L. SHANBURGER
ROBERT A. FIHE
STUART E. LAMPE
MARK BEAUCHAMP

JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE PROGRAM

ROOM 404

FISCAL COURT BUILDING
LOUISVILLE 2, KENTUCKY

CLAY 6671 Ex. 211

DANIEL B. BOONE
DIRECTOR

January 11, 1952

Mr. John Monohan
905 Elmwood
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Chief,

The information that you furnished concerning the numbers off of your truck recently purchased from the County has been misplaced either in my office or in the County Attorney's office. Could you please check the chassis number and the type of truck that you purchased from Jefferson County and furnish same to this office in order that we may draw up the Chattel Mortgage and give you title to the truck that you purchased.

Very truly yours,

Daniel B. Boone

DANIEL B. BOONE
Director

DBB:JW

THE NUMBER FROM THE ENGINE WE PURCHASE FROM THE
COUNTY ARE:
SEAGRAVE 750 G.P.M.
MODEL 66 EB
SERIAL N° D-0855

MADE BY THE SEAGRAVE CORP
COLUMBUS, OHIO,

TRUSTING THE ABOVE THE INFORMATION YOU WISH

John Monohan
1/14/52

July 4, 1954, *The Courier-Journal*:

Volunteer Firemen Save Jefferson Money

More Protection Is Provided At Less Cost

By IRVING KALIN

Most Jefferson County residents are now getting better fire protection than ever, and saving money to boot.

For a small fee, usually \$5 per year, most county homeowners get this:

1. In case of fire, two pumpers with at least eight men on each truck.
2. Fire equipment, including trucks, not over five years old.
3. Volunteer firemen with professional training.
4. A saving of 38 cents per \$100 of fire insurance—24 cents per \$100 instead of 62 cents.

Situation Reversed Before '50

Before 1950, however, the situation was reversed. County fire protection was so limited that most homeowners were paying 64 cents per \$100 of insurance.

Credit for the difference, volunteer firemen will tell you, is the Jefferson County fire program, begun in 1950.

According to Director Daniel D. Boone, the program is designed to offer volunteer fire departments enough money for a start and the incentive "to get out and hustle the rest."

The scoreboard indicates that the volunteers have "hustled." Prior to 1950 there were eight volunteer fire companies in the County with eight antiquated fire trucks. Today there are 19 companies with 37 trucks, of which only three are older than 5 years.

Professionals were Obstacles

Volunteer fire departments fared badly before 1950 because of the competition from three professional fire companies provided by the County. They were stationed in Middletown, Pleasure Ridge Park, and near Newburg.

Because these professional fire fighters were paid with tax money, they had to respond to a fire anywhere within the county. The Kentucky Fire Inspection Bureau, which sets fire-insurance rates, thought so little of this protection that they set 10th-class rates for most of the county—64 cents per \$100.

The cost of maintaining the professionals, according to Director Boone, was \$92,000 a year, plus the cost of three buildings—combined fire and police stations—at \$125,000 each.

Taxpayer psychology was largely to blame for the lack of growth of volunteer fire departments.

John M. Monohan, chief of the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department, explained, "Taxpayers felt they had paid for fire protection and saw no sense in

laying out more money for volunteer fire companies."

County Starts Over

In 1950 Fiscal Court scrapped the professional fire companies. Into effect went the current program, which offers volunteer fire companies:

1. A contract to take care of County property, such as schools, \$1,800 a year.
2. \$1,800 toward the purchase of a fire truck, if the volunteers match that sum.
3. On a match-sum basis also, \$1,000 toward a firehouse.
4. A radio-telephone for the fire truck at a rental cost of \$17.50 per month to the County.
5. Ten hours of professional training a year for each volunteer from Louisville Fire Department's chief drillmaster, Capt. Robert L. Catlett.

11 New Companies Formed

Suburban communities snapped at the bait. The eight original companies expanded, and 11 new ones sprang up.

Boone said there are now about 600 volunteers in the county, plus about 150 women auxiliaries.

He also noted that a total value is now about \$365,000 in trucks, about \$145,000 in firehouses (usually built by the volunteers), and about \$32,000 in firehouse equipment, such as boots, helmets, extra hoses.

Each volunteer fire company is almost identical in its setup. Each is a nonprofit corporation with a board of about nine directors, with at least four of them firemen.

The company sells fire protection by contract. The company will answer fire calls for those who have not contributed but

will then charge between \$50 to \$100 for the run.

As part of the deal, Fiscal Court has the right to inspect any company's books to see that County funds are spent as provided.

Boone said the County's program is a 14-year cycle. During the first seven years expenditures will rise as more companies are formed and more equipment is purchased.

Last year Fiscal Court put out \$50,300 to volunteer fire companies. Other expenses included Boone's salary of \$4,500 and the rental of radio-telephones, \$3,780.

Boone estimated that during the current fiscal year, which started July 1, the County would give about \$52,000 to the volunteers.

But around 1957, Boone said, County expenditures will begin to drop as less new equipment will be bought. And as the companies pay off the costs of their equipment, he added, subscribers will pay less for fire protection.

Boone estimated that during the second seven years the cost to the County will be about \$20,000 annually.

While most of Jefferson County has fire protection, there are areas which are not considered protected by the State Fire Inspection Bureau.

The bureau's standards limit a fire company's area to a 3-mile radius of the firehouse, over hard-surface roads. Thus, areas in the southern part of the County, mostly farmland, are not covered.

Also, there are some gaps, mainly along Taylorsville Road, where fire companies' areas do not overlap. These areas must pay the 10th-class insurance rates.

Boone also said that seven sixth-class cities, mostly east of Louisville, prefer to contract protection from the Louisville Fire Department. They pay Louisville 27 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of their properties and have eighth-class insurance rates—29 cents per \$100.

October 7, 1956, The Courier-Journal:

Work Made Easier, Offenses Cut by

City Traffic Drove 'Em Out, Chief Explains

By FRED MINSHALL

Like so many other folks nowadays, the Jefferson County Police are moving to the suburbs and spreading out.

Chief Walter Layman says they are moving to the country—by decentralizing many of their activities formerly carried on at the Courthouse—because they are “tired of fighting this Louisville traffic.”

At the same time they are spreading out their man power by shifting from two-man to one-man police cars in many instances—because personnel

shortage has made that necessary.

The result, since decentralization began July 1, has been more efficient policing of the county areas, Layman says.

Offenses, Losses Decrease

The rate of major offenses and property losses, as well as number of accidents and injuries, has dropped off. For example, there were 121 major offenses and \$22,000 total property loss in June, compared with 111 offenses and \$21,000 loss in August.

There were 345 accidents and 104 injuries in June. In September the totals were 308 and 91. To start the movement back to the suburbs, the detective headquarters at the Courthouse was broken up July 1.

Capt. Frank Quick, who had headed the detectives, was re-

assigned to the post of head of safety and education. He has charge of school guards and handling safety around the schools.

18 Were Reassigned

Eighteen detectives were reassigned, six to each of the three county district offices, leaving five others assigned to the chief's office at the Courthouse.

The detectives working out of the district offices operate two one-man detective cars in each district on an around-the-clock basis. Formerly each district had one detective car each on 24-hour operation, but each car carried two men and operated out of the downtown headquarters. They lost time in Louisville traffic getting to and from their districts.

At the same time, Layman changed two-man traffic cars to

one-man cars. The districts now have a total of 12 instead of six.

There remain three two-man cars in each district. They are “beat cars” and handle such assignments as hospital runs, fights, vandalism, and other routine that often calls for more than a single policeman.

Prefers 2-Man Details

Layman says he is not entirely sold on the idea of one-man cars. The work can be more dangerous, for one thing. But he says his personnel is well experienced and knows what to do in an emergency. If “anything looks wrong” they are instructed to call for help, Layman says.

There is a national trend to the one-man patrol. It is generally used by Kentucky State police and by some Kentucky cities, as well as other cities over the nation.

Manpower

man car for exar is all right do the j says. W two det as many

If the ing in tl no more may be present assign t cars. Bt man sys work, w as long

Headq

The m —or “pu where t accompa better d

by County Police Move to Suburbs

Manpower is lost when a two-man car checks a filling station, for example, to see if everything is all right. A one-man car could do the job just as well, Layman says. With twice as many cars, two detectives can watch twice as many filling stations.

If the population keeps growing in the county and if he gets no more men, Layman says he may be forced to break up his present two-man beat cars and assign their riders to one-man cars. But the chief said the two-man system will be used on this work, which is more dangerous, as long as possible.

Headquarters Improved

The movement to the suburbs—or “putting the county police where they belong”—has been accompanied by development of better district headquarters.

Formerly the district headquarters was used only for the men to change shifts.

In future, they will become complete police stations in themselves, according to Layman. Teletypes are being installed. They will have a complete set of copies of all records available at the downtown headquarters.

Each will have a captain's office, and personnel will be on duty day and night so that a person going to the district post for help can be sure to find someone there.

The district offices are:

District 1, Middletown; District 2, Newburg Road at the Southern Railway crossing, and District 3, Pleasure Ridge.

Firemen shared the buildings when the county operated its own fire department. Volunteer

fire units still occupy parts of the Middletown and Pleasure Ridge buildings.

Most headway has been made at the Newburg Road district office. A kitchen formerly used by firemen has been torn out and is being converted into a captain's office. A former firemen's dormitory is being made into an assemble room.

Teletypes and record systems are being installed at the District 1 and 2 offices.

Little has been done at the District 3 office. Layman says a policeman is there during the day, but not at night.

Volunteer firemen at the District 3 post are raising funds to build their own station. When they move, the office will be turned into a complete police station.

The district offices would be more convenient for persons

whose property is stolen. They could reclaim this in their own district under the new system and not have to go downtown to get their car or other property recovered by police.

District officers are:

First, Capt. Douglas Littrell, Lt. James Tully, and Lt. William Kamber; second, Capt. Edward Richardson, Lt. Victor Senninger, and Lt. John Aisor, and Third, Capt. Carlos Johns, Lt. Warren Pool, and Lt. Harry Allen.

Forty-two men are assigned to the first district and about 50 to each of the other districts.

Each district now has more men than the entire County Police Department had when Layman first joined the department in the early 1930's, he recalls.

February 22 1957, *The Courier-Journal*:

INSPECTION BUREAU RANKS VOLUNTEER FIREMEN LOWER THAN OUR REGULARS

But Setup Now Is Called Better Than Before

By ROBERT HERMANN

How good are our volunteer fire departments?

The question becomes more important every day as new settlers fill up suburban areas beyond the range of Louisville firemen.

Added attention was focused on the nonprofessional fire fighters last week as:

1. The City of Jeffersonton and the Jeffersonton Volunteer Fire Department wrangled over how much the City should pay the department. (A compromise settlement was announced.)
2. At least five small cities in the Strathmoor area debated whether to continue buying Louisville fire protection, at greatly increased rates, or to sign up with some volunteer unit.

Rates Protection

A little-publicized organization—the Kentucky Inspection Bureau—also found itself in the news when pressure was exerted on it to raise Jeffersonton's insurance rates during the dispute there. (The rates were not raised.)

The K.I.B.—maintained by fire-insurance companies doing business in Kentucky—has the job of deciding just how good the fire protection is at various Kentucky locations.

It rates the fire risk on volunteer-protected dwellings here just one notch above the risk in Louisville, on a 5-point scale.

Comparisons Inevitable

But for commercial and public buildings, the K.I.B. sets the suburban risk 4 points above the Louisville risk, on a 10-point scale.

Comparisons of unpaid volunteer fire fighters with Louisville's paid firemen are almost inevitable. Indeed, some volunteers invite the comparison.

But G. H. Parker, K.I.B. manager, said in an interview, "There's no comparison between a volunteer and a professional."

Several Drawbacks

And it's the volunteer who comes out second best, said Parker. He gave these reasons:

1. A professional fire department has men on duty at the firehouse at all times. Volunteers, scattered at their homes or businesses, have to drive several blocks before an engine rolls.

A volunteer usually has to



RACING to a "fire" are members of the Lake Dreamland Volunteer Fire Department. At left is Teddy Travelstead, past president of Volunteer Fire Fighters, Inc.

change clothes. A professional is always dressed for duty or ready to jump into his "nighthawks."

'Better Organized'

2. Once at a fire, the volunteer, even though he drills regularly, doesn't match the professional in skill. For instance—

"A paid fireman never throws water at smoke, because that isn't where the fire is. A volunteer will."

"You notice the volunteer at a fire is standing. A City fireman gets down on his tummy and crawls in."

3. Professionals are better organized. Louisville sends a battalion chief to direct the fighting of every fire.

But with volunteers, "a lot of times you'll see a chief that's got hold of a line taking it in"—instead of supervising.

'Good Volunteer Chiefs'

Parker commented, however, "We have some awful good volunteer chiefs" who study hard and keep up to date.

He added, too, that volunteers cannot afford to take the personal risks that professionals can. A Louisville fireman knows, Parker said, that if he's injured he'll be in a hospital within 10 minutes and will be taken care of until he's well.

Volunteers lack this assurance.

"I don't want to criticize the volunteers," Parker said.

The K.I.B. boss agreed that the present network of 19 accredited volunteer fire departments is superior to the old County Fire Department setup it replaced.

Move Called Ideal

Under the County setup, abolished in 1950, professionals in three stations attempted to cover the entire unincorporated part of the county. The K.I.B. then rated the County area as unprotected for insurance-rate purposes.

Fiscal Court now gives the nonprofit volunteer companies up to \$2,500 on new equipment, up to \$1,000 for firehouse construction, and up to \$1,800 a year for operating costs, all on a basis of matching by community funds. It spends less this way than on the old County system, and property owners have lower insurance rates.

Parker described as "ideal" a move that volunteers have consistently resisted—placing a couple of full-time, paid firemen in each volunteer company.

Such men could keep pumper trucks ready to roll at all times, he said.

The full-time men could also

get equipment cleaned up immediately upon returning from a fire, Parker said.

This idea was rejected again last week by an official of Volunteer Fire Fighters, Inc.

Teddy Travelstead, immediate past president of the county-wide volunteers' group, told a reporter it would damage the volunteers' most important asset—morale.

Garland Miller, chief of the Buechel volunteers, agreed. He said it might lead to an attitude of, "Let the paid men do it."

'Spirit Important'

Travelstead said "spirit" is more important to a volunteer department than money or man power.

"If you can keep the spirit of the men high by little pep talks and patting them on the back when they're kind of getting down in the dumps," he said, "that strengthens you more than money or man power."

Travelstead was asked if volunteers can match professionals. He replied:

"Some of the departments are well-trained and they're eager any time they have an occasion to train and would stand up against about the best departments. But any department that doesn't train can't get in there and pitch together like men who are organized for the job."

Solicit for Funds

Travelstead is a member and former chief of the Lake Dreamland Volunteer Fire Department. He is director of fire service in the Third Mobile Group, a civil-defense unit here.

Volunteer departments here raise funds by soliciting voluntary donations from protected property owners, usually \$5 a house. Parker said it might be well to have some fire-protection districts, which can levy a tax for fire protection.

One such district might profitably be created in the Buechel-Highview-Black Mud-Fern Creek area, with two small paid fire companies augmented by volunteers, Parker said. Such a setup might bring lower insurance rates on business buildings there, he added.

Makes No Suggestions

K.I.B. is making no suggestions about the situation in the Strathmoor area at present, said Albert Clemens, a K.I.B. engineer.

Five small cities there have until March 15 to tell Louisville if they want to keep its protection at the doubled price. Some of them have indicated interest in a contract with the Buechel volunteers.

Formation of a new volunteer

February 22 1957, *The Courier-Journal*:

INSPECTION BUREAU RANKS VOLUNTEER FIREMEN LOWER THAN OUR REGULARS



Courier-Journal Photo
G. H. PARKER
Discusses fire risks

unit in the Strathmoor area, west of Bowman Field, has been mentioned as another alternative.

Louisville pays the Buechel volunteers \$600 a year to protect an area north of Bashford Manor Lane that is beyond the 3-mile limit from a City firehouse. A new City firehouse under construction at Bowman Field will cover this area.

Ratings Designated

To qualify for the best insurance rate, a building must be not more than three miles, over hard-surfaced roads, from a firehouse.

Dwellings beyond three miles get the 10th-class rate, which makes insurance on an ordinary frame house cost 62 cents per \$100. Only a few areas on the eastern and southern edges of the county have this rate.

A house within three miles of a volunteer fire department, but more than 1,000 feet (over hard-surfaced roads) from a fire hydrant, pays the ninth-class rate, 40 cents.

Within 1,000 feet of a fireplug and within three miles of a volunteer firehouse, the rate is seventh-class, 24 cents. This applies to most suburban homes here.

Considering Proposal

Under Louisville protection—within three miles of a firehouse and 1,000 feet of a fireplug—the rate is sixth-class, 18 cents.

Actually, the lowest rate is called first-through-sixth, lumping the six lowest rates together in an average. Thus there are really only five separate dwelling rates and one of them—eighth-class—is not used here.

Fiscal Court has under con-

sideration a proposal that it seek lower fire-insurance rates for some residents of Jefferson County. Daniel Boone, co-ordinator of county fire services, suggested this week that reduced rates be requested for property owners outside the regular territories served by the 23 volunteer fire stations in the county.

Something Else Again

The "mercantile" rate, for business and public buildings, is something else again. It is basically the same for all buildings in one fire-protection area, but each building is inspected and adjustments are made for a myriad of special factors.

The mercantile rate is third class in Louisville and seventh class in volunteer-protected areas.

Why the big difference in mercantile rates, when dwelling rates are only one step apart in Louisville and the suburbs?

Parker said the bureau considered the volunteer departments adequate to handle house fires, but somewhat less adequate for larger fires. (They can and do pool their resources for some fires. And the Louisville department occasionally goes beyond the city limits in an emergency.)

'Wonderful Department'

No city in Kentucky has better than a third-class mercantile rate. Few cities anywhere have second class, Parker said. Louisville has certain disadvantages such as narrow streets, blocks of crowded old buildings, and a deficiency of water for fire

fighting in some areas, Parker said. He added:

"We've got a wonderful Fire Department here—they're doing an awful good job. The Water Company is making improvements. We hope to get Louisville soon to second class."

September 8, 1960, *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Barker announces for County Judge

Aligns self with Goepper for Mayor on GOP ticket

Former county judge Horace M. Barker, Anchorage, yesterday announced in a formal statement he will seek the Republican nomination for county judge in the May Primary election.

In his statement he aligned himself with William H. Goepper, 939 Kerwick Blvd., who announced his candidacy for mayor of Louisville. Mr. Goepper also issued a

to hold the office — is the only announced candidate for judge on the Republican ticket.

Mr. Goepper, a retired executive of American Standard and Radiator Co., said in his statement he was fully aware of the "grave and vexing problems which face our city, and which will confront the next mayor."

He said some of the problems are adequate financing of city services and institutions, proper pay for all city employees, and he added that the City of Louisville needs a constructive plan to make Louisville a better place in which to live and to do business.

Mr. Goepper said he soon will spell out a platform upon which he will make his campaign. "It will be so worded that no one will have any doubts as to where I stand on all matters of public interest," he added.

Mr. Goepper said he was "disturbed by the obvious lack of cooperation between our city and county governments." He said it is the duty of both branches of municipal government to work together for the welfare and progress of the city and county.



Horace M. Barker

formal statement in which he said he and Mr. Barker would seek the respective offices as a team.

Judge Barker said in his statement that many problems present themselves in "a great, growing and merging community, such as ours." He added that "they cannot be solved by constant bickering among city and county officials, which we have now. They can be solved in reasonable measure by cooperation, flavored with a good sprinkling of common sense."

"William H. Goepper and I, as mayor and county judge, can and will work together. Neither of us is obligated to any political machine, but are making the race with the assurance, or organized support of hundreds of party workers," Judge Barker said.

Judge Barker, who was county judge from 1946 to 1950 — Jefferson County's last Republican

Music program at Plantation

Plantation Swimmers, Inc., is presenting a Christmas Choral program Friday, Dec. 9, at Plantation Swim Club, on Westport Road.

Featured will be the Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus and the Star Quartet in a program of holiday singing.

The program starts at 8 p.m. and the admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

1962

September 27, 1962, Unknown: Looks like Chief Thompson became Chief of Appliance Park Fire Department.



FOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS in the vicinity of Appliance Park each received \$500 contributions last week from General Electric Company. John F. Simons, second from left, manager of Relations and Utilities at Appliance Park, is shown presenting a check to Frank Harden, chief of the Black Mudd Fire Department. Behind them are, from left: Lieutenant G. L. Smith, Buochel; Chief R. J. Stark, Highview; and Chief Tinsley Roman, Fern Creek. At right is C. D. Thompson, chief of fire protection at the Park. The checks are annual payments for standby services.

February 1971, *The Louisville, Times:*

Letters to The Times

2/71

The Volunteer Firemen's Side

When I read the Feb. 5 letter of Mr. George Metcalf Sr., concerning volunteer firemen, I felt I had to reply.

As the wife of a volunteer, I cannot remain silent when someone tries to give these men a bad name. The volunteer fireman is basically a man who is trying to help his neighbor, without asking for pay or even thanks.

Even though their work may not be quite as professional as the Louisville Fire Department's, what does one expect for nothing? The volunteers put in long hours of training, caring for equipment, as well as fighting fires. The taxes the county residents pay go for better equipment, not to the men.

Those men who are so quick to criticize should ask themselves if they would give up their time, sleep and family life, all at the sound of an alarm, to give their neighbors fire protection, lower insurance rates, as well as a good, old-fashioned helping hand.

Maybe Mr. Metcalf would rather go back to the days of the bucket brigades.

Mrs. HARRY MONTGOMERY Jr.
3506 Nellie Bly Dr., Louisville

Defends the Volunteers

George's Metcalf Sr.'s letter seems to say that volunteer firemen are very incompetent men, and that back before 1949 a paid county fire department did a real fine job. Since I am a volunteer fireman, I don't like to be rated as incompetent.

I think Mr. Metcalf should grow up and realize that this is 1971, and the population and dollar value in the county is much larger than it used to be, and three firehouses and a handful of men couldn't do the job that we are doing. The citizens of Jefferson County have over 20 volunteer fire departments, some of the finest fire-fighting equipment and some of the finest-trained fire fighters in the country. They get this at a cost of hardly anything, but then I guess people like Mr. Metcalf would love to pay the price for a paid fire department.

If anything, I feel Mr. Metcalf and all the citizens of Jefferson County should praise the volunteers and be thankful we have them.

ALAN D. RING
25 Westport Terr., Louisville
(Lieutenant, St. Matthews Volunteer
Fire Department)

Read First

Jefferson County's Firemen

In answer to a very prominent member of one of our outstanding TV broadcasting companies, I will advise him when the Jefferson County Fire Department was born.

When Horace M. Barker, a Republican, was elected judge of Jefferson County, he built three fire houses and equipped them with the best fire-fighting equipment that could be bought at that time. These engine houses were staffed by competent men around the clock. They were paid salaries by the Jefferson County Fiscal Court.

In 1949, Judge Boman L. Shamburger, a Democrat, fired every man in the Jefferson County fire department and turned these engine houses and everything with them over to a bunch of the most incompetent men that ever walked into a firehouse. These men called themselves volunteer firemen.

GEORGE D. METCALF Sr.
4010 Franklin Dr., Louisville