

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Brandon



Fire Department

1889-1989

Firemen wouldn't let Jake quit

by Joyce Bock

A meeting was held of the Brandon Fire Department on a Monday in May of 1899, when Chief Jake Tamble tendered his resignation after serving faithfully in that capacity for ten years.

The department would neither listen nor consent to his resignation and after much persuasion he finally consented to serve another year. Mr. Tamble had been an efficient, reliable and tireless worker in the department

and he was a "model presiding officer and a fellow the boys obeyed explicitly," stated the press release. Tamble agreed to be Fire Chief for one more year.

Tamble was recommended to the city council for re-appointment in January of 1900. At this time the following men were unanimously re-elected: E. Larsen as Assistant Chief; L. Knaff as Secretary; and Theo. Olson for Treasurer.

COVER PHOTO

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN IN 1900 were (front l-r) Dr. Cappelan and O.F. Olson. (back l-r) Berndt Trombel, Chief Jake Tamble and J. Seidlinger.

A Beginning

Man drawn hose cart

by Joyce Bock

A man drawn hose cart and a stationary fire engine run by steam were the first pieces of equipment which the Brandon Fire Company used back in 1889.

Otto Johnson held an organizational meeting at his lumber yard office on January 4, of that year. Thus began the long history of the present Brandon Fire Department.

George Myron, one of the first town clerks and publisher of the Brandon Echo chaired the first meeting. L.E. Williams filed as secretary.

Men wishing to join the company signed up that first night. The group met the next week and voted to call themselves the Brandon Fire Company. It wasn't until June of 1984 that the name was changed to Brandon Fire Department.

Three men, Charles Foslien, P.J. Seidlinger and John Kotcehvar were appointed to look into the state laws for forming a fire company and they were to write up the constitution. Offices

(Continued on Page 11-B)

Congratulations

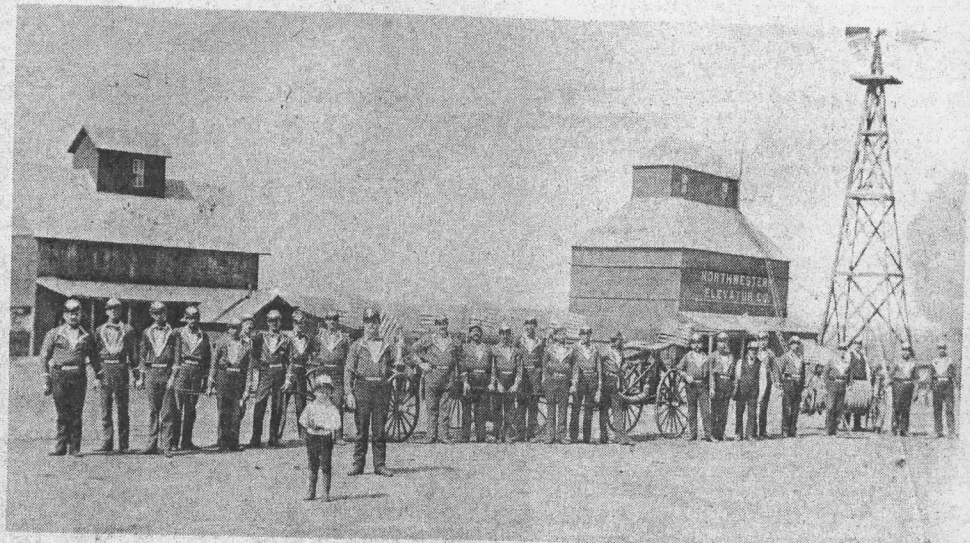
on your Centennial BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Home Cooking
Sunday Brunch
Soft Serve Ice Cream
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Bluegill Inn

Downtown Brandon 524-2271



BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1890. Chief Jacob Tamble stands in front.

Congratulations

Brandon Fire Department

On 100 Years Of Dedicated Service

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Insurance
Agencies, Inc.**
Alexandria & Brandon

We thank you
Brandon Fire Department
for your faithful service to the community
for the past 100 years

**St. Ann's
Catholic Church**

Equipment - Constant Upgrading

by Joyce Bock

What began as a hose cart pulled by men who filled it from a hand dug well has become a fire department with six trucks at the ready to serve its community. The process of securing these vehicles and equipment has been a long one involving many man hours. Each gas mask, pair of boots, set of hats and coats had to be voted on and sent to the city council for approval. Some transactions were:

1943-began looking for a portable pump...agreed to buy one gas mask.

1946-discussion held on new fire truck, Holmgren and Henry Hanke to go to Illinois to check on truck. Motion made to check on fire coats at a cost of \$12-\$14's each.

1948-offered old fire truck for sale, letter received from Luverne Fire Apparatus Co. in regard to new truck. New truck would need a written guarantee on the pump capabilities.. estimated cost \$4,950.

Luverne Fire truck was lowest bid at \$3,000 for body and \$1900 for international truck.

1949 bids asked for on old chemical tank fire truck and hose, motion made to turn over hook and ladder truck to Larson provided he keep the Brandon Fire Department name on. Special meeting called to fix old fire truck. John Korkowski to get

price on painting.

1950 inquiries came in in regards to old hose carts, Chief to try and get \$5 each. He sold for \$8 each-city council asked to purchase a portable pump.

Feb 1955-new lanterns were bought and monuted on running boards, agreed to purchase water tanks with department funds.

1956-Council okayed order for 2 smoke masks, 6 raincoats, 2 helmets and 2 nozzles-special meeting called to order a used truck and gasoline tank to be used as a water tanker.

1959-Chief to ask council about buying another fire truck.

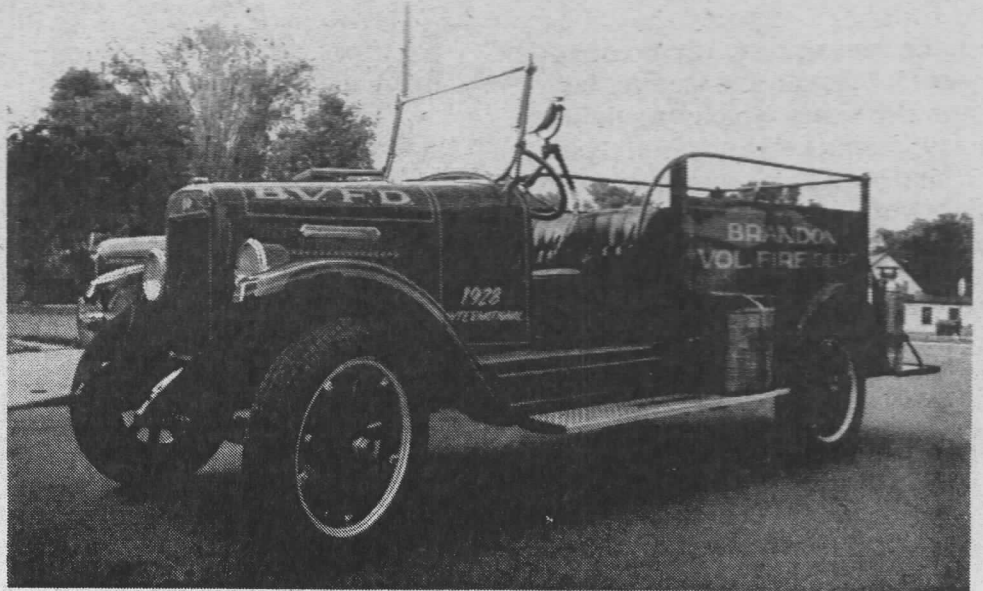
1977-discussion held on a portable pump and holding tank also more coats, boots and helmets.

1978-6 more coats and boots purchased, tanker fire truck paid off.

1979-discuss purchase of new equipment van-agreed to purchase more coats and boots and hose and new MSA breathing apparatus, discussion held on purchasing a new volume pumper.

1980-bids let for sale of 49 pumper, radio installed in new equipment, purchased two portable radios, sold pumper for \$1500, proceeds go towards new Pirsch.

1981-new 4X4 pickup purchased



1928 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK, pride of the Brandon Fire Department.

for a grass rig, new pump put on unit #5

1982-foaming set purchased, talk of upgrading Unit #3 to 1250 gallons, resusitator purchased by Community Club.

1983-hose drying rack built by Lynn Thompson, purchase a new step van.

1984-discuss buying a John Bean 1,000 gal pump, 4,000 watt generator purchased, buy 20 new helmets, new base station radio bought.

1985 air tools purchased, hoods ordered.

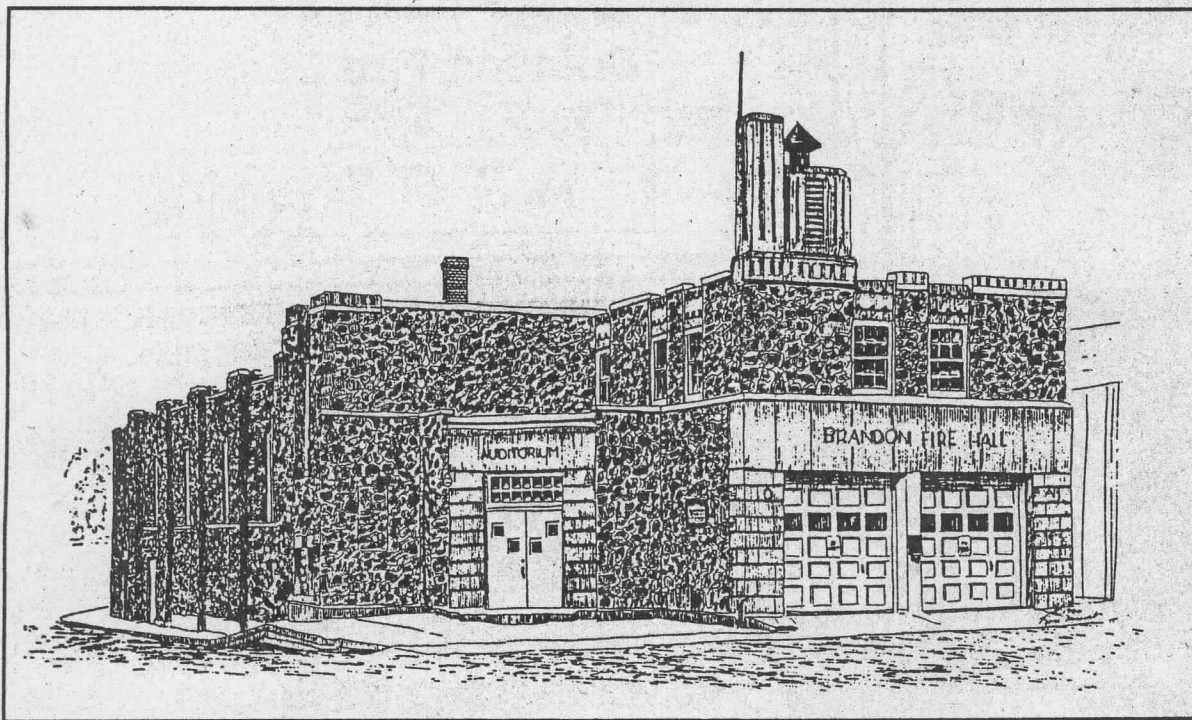
1986-boots ordered, purchase of first responder gear.

1987-trailer purchased for hauling 28 International

1988-new office and lockers completed, chimney brushes purchased.

Keeping the vehicles, gear and equipment up-to-date is an on-going process which the department must continually pursue. The men are responsible for maintenance as well as being trained on use...and all of this is volunteer!

Thank You Brandon Fire Department



For giving
Brandon a
Class A
Rural
Fire Rating

City of Brandon

A Great Place To Live Since 1881

A firefighting arsenal

By C.A. Ray

The Brandon Fire Department currently houses all of its equipment in the fire "barn" or fire house which was built in 1980. The building also includes meeting rooms which are used not only by the Fire Dept. but also by other local organizations, including the Senior Citizens.

In the Brandon firefighting arsenal are seven trucks, including an equipment van, a grass fire pickup, a high pressure pumper, a high volume pumper, two tanker/pumpers and a 1928 International Parade truck and chemical wagon.

The equipment van responds to all calls. It houses the emergency medical equipment and specialized firefighting equipment such as oxygen tanks for entry into smoke-filled buildings.

The pickup often acts the role of chiefs car. It goes ahead of the other trucks to locate the fire and lead fire trucks to it by radio. The pickup has a tank and hoses for small grass fires.

The big #2 truck is a high pressure Bean pumper. It can produce 800 to 900 lbs. of water pressure and specializes in fighting interior fires.

The #4 truck is a Pirsch high volume pumper. It has a 500 gal. tank but its main feature is its

ability to pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute direct from fire hydrants.

The #3 truck is a 1,300 gallon pumper/tanker.

The #6 truck is a 1,800 gal. pumper/tanker.

The fire dept. also owns a 1928 International fire truck. this truck was at one time the main fire fighting truck of the department. It was used as a hose

carrying truck until retired in 1969.

The International has been completely rebuilt and will be used exclusively in parades.

In parades the '28 International will tow a trailer that at one time was pulled by men. The chemical trailer features wooden wheels and is virtually a fire extinguisher on wheels. A two-chamber tank mounted on

the trailer carried chemicals that when mixed, by turning the tank over, produced a soda under pressure that put out many a small house fire.

The Brandon Fire Dept. is contracted to serve all of the village and township of Brandon as well as 2/3 of Moe and 1/4 of Urness township.

The department operates on a \$35,000 a year budget.



Serving the Community Together

Brandon Fire Department

1889 - 1989

Dave Thompson

Brandon Fire Fighter
Since 1965



Moe-Urness-Lund Mutual Insurance

SINCE 1883

You've done a heck of a job so far.

Keep up the good work!

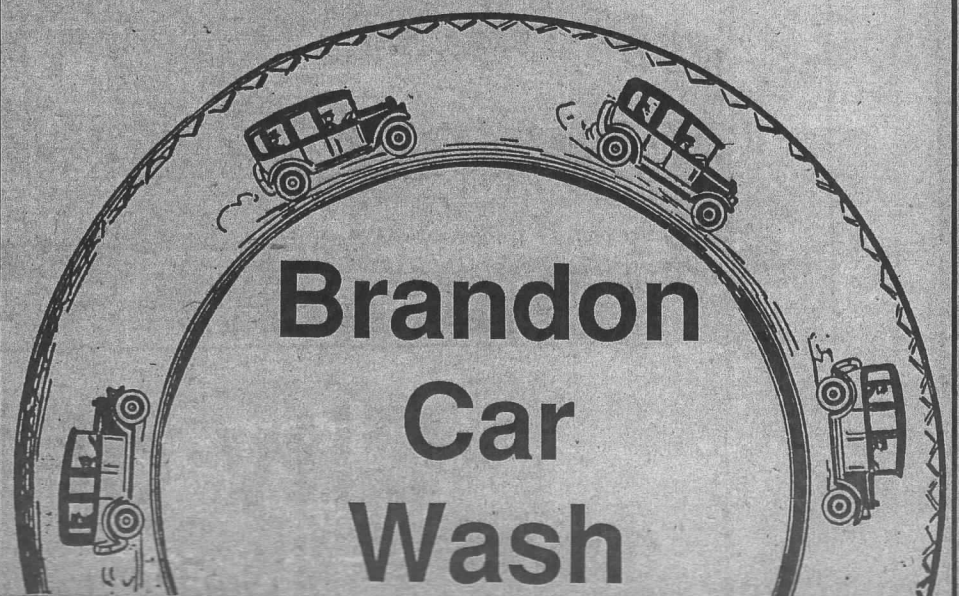
Brandon Fire Department

1889 - 1989

A & R Welding



THANKS FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE
BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT



First Responders

August, 1983 - At the Brandon Firemen's monthly meeting Dave Thompson reported he had checked into getting a 1st Responder Course for the Brandon Fire Dept. through Moorhead Tech. School. He said Moorhead Tech. would need at least 20 firemen in the class before conducting it. He added that Brandon could ask other departments to send firemen to the course to make the 20 number.

June, 1984 - Thompson reported that he had now heard from Moorhead Tech. about the proposed 1st Responder Course. Other departments will be asked to help fill out the class which could begin as early as September.

September, 1984 - A date of January 29, 1985 is set for the start of the 1st Responder Class. The class will be two nights per week till completed and will involve 41 hours of training. 15 Brandon firemen showed interest in the training.

April, 1985 - 11 Brandon firemen as well as firemen from Evansville and Millerville, completed the 1st Responder training.

September, 1985 - The Brandon Fire Department hosted a drill

involving the Brandon/Evansville football team. In the drill, a car carrying five young men, plowed into the bus carrying the team. The bus leaked gas and the Fire Dept. had to spray down a

protective foam as the Brandon 1st Responders tended to the trapped and injured. Included in the pretend injuries the 1st responders had to deal with were: broken bones, head and back

injuries, shock and internal injuries. Also adding to the problems were a couple of hysterical mothers at the site.



BRANDON FIRST RESPONDERS, (Standing L to R) Frank McFarlane, Roger Sammons, Bill Ness, Jerry Lee, Lynn Thompson, Rick Korkowski, Dana Baker. (Kneeling, L to R) Tim Grabow, Devin

Rusch, Tom Dingwall, David Thompson, Vern Kaufman, LeRoy Shea, Jerry Goodburn, Jim Peterson, Pat Shea.

Congratulations -

Brandon Fire Department

We're proud to be an active part of the Brandon Community



**Brandon
Business Center**

- J & J Stripping
- Berger Chiropractic
- Brandon Cafe
- Dental Health Associates
- ProTech Auto
- Arnie's Dairy

To be a fireman

By C.A. Ray

There was a time when almost every little boy wanted to be a fireman when he grew up. Although times and children's ambitions change, an all-volunteer fire department, like the Brandon Fire Department has allowed many a grown up boy to fulfill that childhood dream.

Though the life of a volunteer fireman isn't as exciting as it looks when viewed from a nine-year old's perspective, it isn't child's play either, and it does have rewards that are appreciated by those who are fill its ranks.

The 24 volunteers on the Brandon Fire Dept. come from all walks of life. From insurance salesmen to teachers, the only requirements are that they be at least 18 year old and have been resident of the community for one year. Volunteers may apply for the job but are accepted only after being voted into the organization.

Volunteer firemen are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They average 40 calls a year. Of those around half are fires with the other half being medical emergencies or accidents.



1989 BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT, (TOP L TO R) John Plaster, Lynn Thompson, Dana Baker, Don Bakken, Rick Korkowski, Chief Frank McFarlane, Bill Ness, Vern Kaufman, Roger Sammons, Jerry Klein, David Thompson, Jerry Lee,

(Bottom, L to R) Dennis Korkowski, Elphege Webskowski, Tom Dingwall, Jim Peterson, LeRoy Shea, Jerry Goodburn, Tim Grabow, Devin Rusch, Pat Shea. (Not pictured: Jim Korkowski, Doug Schjei, Scott Scherrer)

(Continued on Page 7)

Congratulations...

Brandon Fire Department

We're proud to serve the community with you in the

911

EMERGENCY SYSTEM



Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association

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Congratulations

Brandon Fire Department

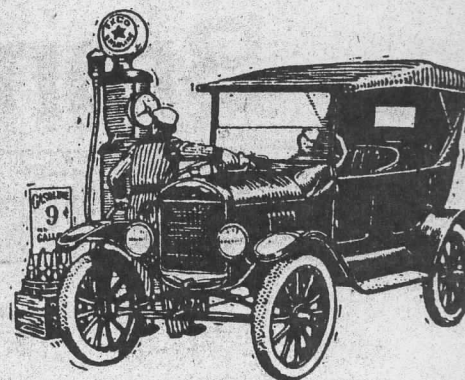
on 100 years of community service

Open 7 Days a Week
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A sincere Thank You and
Congratulations
on your 100th Anniverary
Brandon Fire Department



Knights of Columbus

Fireman (Continued From Page 6)

"When there's a call you never know what your getting yourself into," says Brandon Fire Chief Frank McFarlane. "It could be anything from a cow in a slough to a bad house fire."

The firemen attend one two hour meeting per month and four to five special training sessions per year. Training sessions are to learn the latest in firefighting techniques, how to work new equipment or just to keep up on their firefighting skills.

A recent training session was designed to give firemen practice in finding their way through smoke-filled hallways to locate inhabitants of a burning house. The exercise took place in a semi-trailer specially constructed for that purpose. TV cameras monitored the progress of the firemen as crawled through the smoke-filled maze that a unknown burning house becomes. The firemen wore self-contained breathing apparatus, in which they have been trained to operate in.

"Training will be even more demanding in the future as regulations go up," said Frank.

The pay isn't great either. If you stick it out for ten years you will be entitled to one-half the \$225 per year in retirement benefits.

After 20 years you can collect the whole \$225.

Of the 24 firemen, 14 are First Responders. These are firemen trained in handling medical emergencies. Not doctors, not paramedics, not ambulance drivers, they are a little of each and are trained to handle almost anything.

First Responders are exactly what the name implies. If there is an emergency, they are the first to respond. To earn the designation of First Responder a fireman must go through an additional 48 hours of classroom work and a 16 hour renewal class every two years.

"First Responders are very important to a small community," says McFarlane. "We used to do medical emergency stuff out of

necessity, but were always scared because the training wasn't there. Now we know more of what were doing and feel better about it. Also when someone's in trouble and they see us they feel better. They know we are there to help."

Brandon's Fire Chief (?) has seen many changes in rural fire departments in his 14 years at the helm. Perhaps the biggest of these is the cooperation with neighboring fire departments.

"All the departments are radio equipped," he explained, "if there was a major fire we could have 11 fire departments on the scene quickly."

This is particularly important during the working hours between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. when many of one town's firemen are out of town working. When your fighting a fire you can't have too many qualified firefighters, know matter what town they come from.

McFarlane says neighboring departments used to be rivals, now they find that cooperation is

the best way to get their job done. As an example he recalls the Garfield elevator fire a couple of years ago when several departments cooperated to fight the huge fire and prevented it from doing even more damage than it did.

He recalls a call which sent the firemen to a barn fire. The L shaped barn was going fast and McFarlane, acting in his capacity as Fire Chief, called for more water from a neighboring fire dept. With the extra water the firemen were able to save half the barn and all the other buildings that could have gone up had the entire barn blazed.

"There was a 70 year-old man who lived there," recalls McFarlane, "he was amazed at how fast we responded and the extra water came."

"There's a common bond between firemen," said McFarlane. "I think its the best organization in the town. It has a worthwhile purpose and doesn't get the respect it deserves."

Otto Bremer Foundation Announces New Partnership Employees Join In Ownership



Your friends and neighbors who work at First American now are part owners of the bank. In May, employees of the 24 banks in the Bremer Financial Corporation purchased part ownership from the Otto Bremer Foundation. First American Bank now has even greater local ownership to better serve you.

Stop in today and meet the new partners!



First American Bank of Alexandria-Brandon

Member Bremer Financial Corporation

Original town hall housed fire department

by Joyce Bock

The original town hall was built in 1890. A special meeting was held on October 4, 1899, with President, Emil Larsen calling for a special tax for the purpose of building a village hall.

The selection of a lot owned by Olaf Solum which was on the corner of Block 1, was for sale at \$75.00 plus all expenses but it was decided at another meeting to pay \$300 for the lot back of the Larson and Petterson Store.

Bids were let for a building that would measure 24 feet wide by 60 feet long with 22 foot high walls. Bids were to be opened on August 30, 1890 at 10 am. John Gundberg and Jacob Nelson were the low bidders at \$1200 and they were to post a bond for \$500 to secure the work done.

The completed hall had a large auditorium with a raised stage on the east end and two anterooms and a stairway on the east end. The main floor consisted of storage for fire fighting equipment, a small jail and a large council room.

A bell tower which cost \$15.00 was added and in the next few years time and money were spent in furnishing the hall with a stove and chairs. The chairs were 45 cents each. An iron fence was put around the hall and two bunting flags, one for hanging

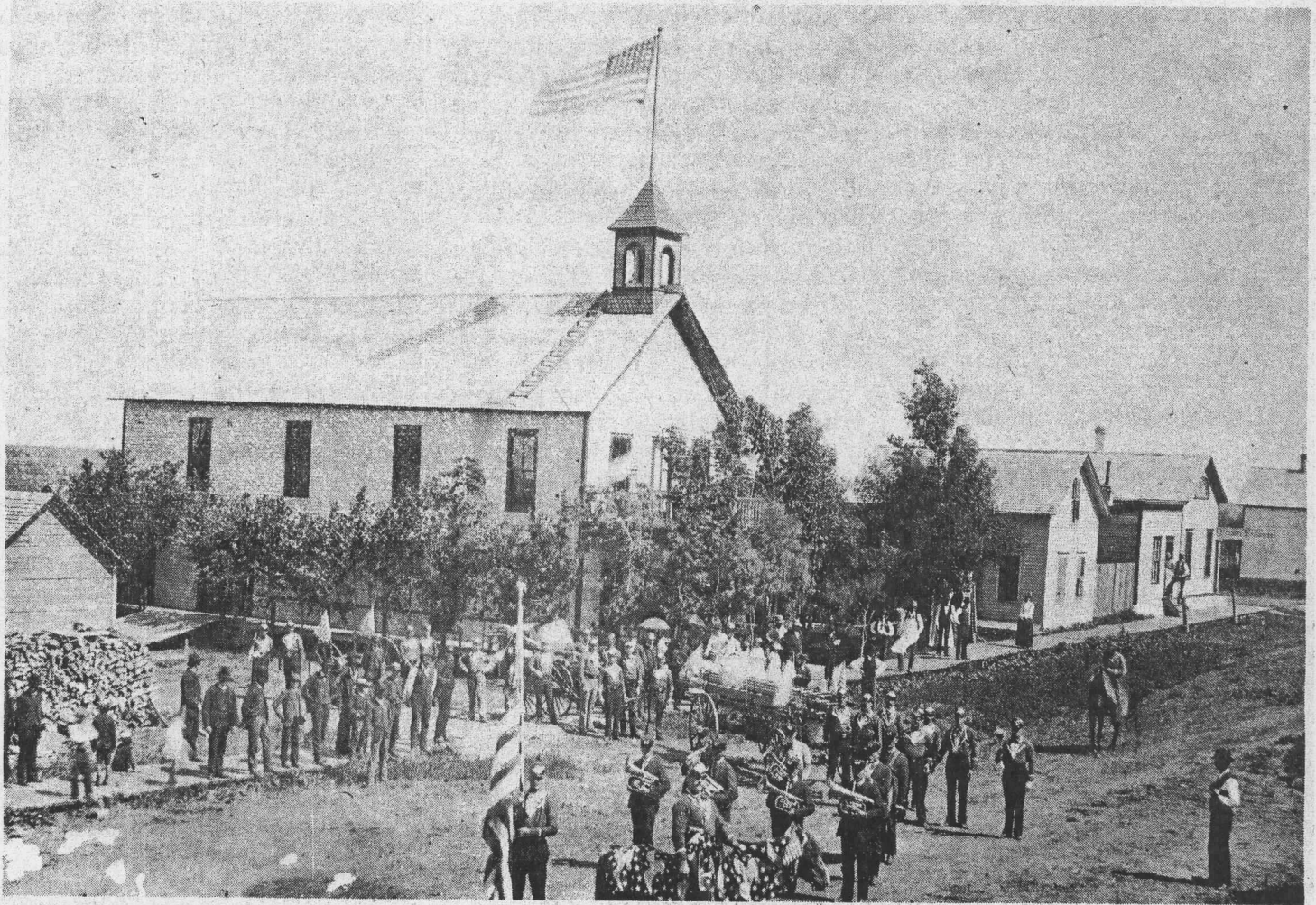
and one for parades were purchased.

In 1893, it was decided to put an eight foot addition in the rear and to remove the present

staircases. Jacob Nelson received the bid for \$98.00. The following excerpt appeared in the May 18, 1899 issue of the Brandon Echo, "Among the contemplated

improvements the village dads have under consideration is the enlargement of the fire engine

(Continued on Page 9-B)

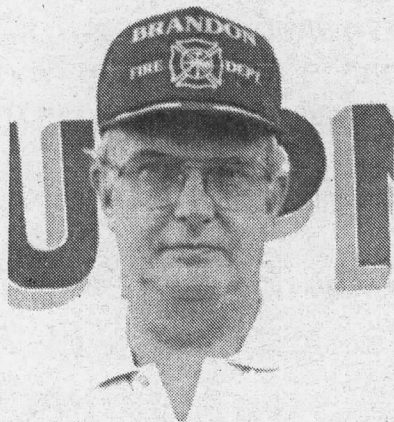


BRANDON TOWN HALL built in 1890.

Congratulations

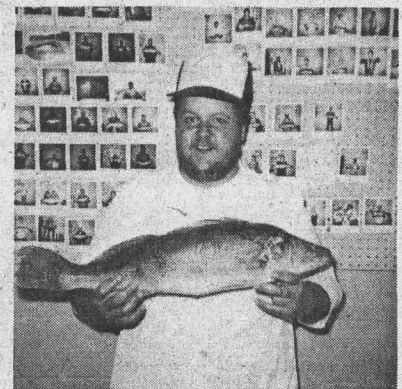
Brandon Fire Department

on 100 years of faithful service to our community



Fire Chief Frank McFarlane

We are proud to be a part of this Fire Department



Fireman Scott Scherrer

Brandon Supermarket

Frank - Jeanene - Scott - Julianna - Dave - Bernice - Yvonne

Fire Barn (Continued From Page 8-B)

house and the building of a large cistern directly underneath it. This improvement is very much needed and it will do away with taking the engine out of the building should its services be needed. During very cold weather it is hard to get the engine to do good work and the enlargement and new cistern would obiate (?) the necessity of taking it out of doors. It will be built large enough to allow one horse cart also in the room."

The hall served its purpose up until February of 1934. It was decided by the city council to issue to the State of Minnesota the bonds of the village to the amount of \$5000.00 for material for a new village hall.

Plans for the new hall included a one-story structure, 46 x 100 feet. Mr. Fred Pfeifer, a registered architect drew up the plans. The grand total estimated cost of the project per his report was set at \$37,791.60. Some materials were salvaged from the old hall.

Plans for the hall were approved on December 5, 1934. The labor for the construction of the hall was to be done by local people under the Civil Works Administration. All the sand and stone were hauled in by the area residents.

The work was completed in 1936 and the first council meeting was held in November of that year.



BRANDON AUDITORIUM is listed in the Minnesota Historic Places Library.

Fire Department - Here to serve

Residents of the area who have had need of the fire department have expressed their gratitude in many ways. The most obvious was to put a thank you in the local paper.

In September of 1899 the Brandon Echo ran this article on a fire at the Peter Stuberg farm. "What might have been a serious loss was happily prevented by the timely aid of the Brandon Fire Department on Sunday evening

last. Mr. Stubergs grandchildren had been playing with matches around the wheat stacks near the barn about supper time and the natural consequences resulted. They tried to put the fire out with the help at hand and several neighbors. Soon the barn and several acres were in danger. The Fire Department was called out about midnight. Engineer Winkjer and Chief Tamble with several of the boys took the

engine and one hose cart out and in less than half an hour all danger was past and the fire out."

A fire call which brought the department out to a Mr. Schaastad's farm proved to be one that didn't require their services as Schaastad's newly plowed field served as a fire break. This occurred in April of 1898.

Thanks appeared in the Brandon News of October, 1972

from the Strater family.

The Brandon News of July 17, 1975, relates the donation of \$100.00 given to the fire department in memory of Douglas Olson.

Fire reports and notes of thanks continue throughout the years as the efficient service rendered by the men was greatly appreciated.

**Carlos
Fire
Department**
Since 1904

**Evansville
Fire
Department**
Since 1884

**Forada
Fire
Department**
Since 1963

**Garfield
Fire
Department**

**Kensington
Fire
Department**
Since 1892

**Leaf Valley
Fire
Department**
Since 1959

**Millerville
Fire
Department**
Since 1917

**Alexandria
Fire
Department**
Since 1883

Congratulations

**on your
Centennial
Brandon Fire
Department**

Six lives lost in 1959 Kelly fire

By C.A. Ray

Scant information is available concerning Brandon's most tragic fire which occurred in January of 1959. Fire Department records for that period have been lost but a check of newspaper accounts recalls the tragedy.

The Wednesday morning house fire took the lives of a Brandon man and five of his children.

Killed were: Mark Kelly, 38; James, 15; Pat, 14; Dennis, 11; Marilee, 10 and Peggy, 2.

The only surviving member of the family was Mrs. Kelly who was treated for burns and

shock.

The newspaper account says that smoke awakened Mrs. Kelly at about 2:30 a.m. on that cold morning. She found the smoke coming from a davenport or lamp in the corner of the living room and attempted to wake the family. After waking her husband she told him to continue waking the family and get out of the house as she attempted to phone the fire department.

Mrs. Kelly could not reach the fire department and later said she may have been confused and dialed the wrong number.

Firemen speculated later that the phone lines may already have been burned through.

Mrs. Kelly abandoned the phone and raced across the yard to her neighbors the Weinrichs'. She pounded on the windows trying to wake them but raced back to her burning home before the Weinrichs' could respond.

Mrs. Weinrich was checking the doors and windows of her house to determine where the pounding had come from when she saw Mrs. Kelly coming back.

"All she had on was her slip

and her skin was all black," Mrs. Weinrich said. "We took her in and she told us the house was on fire. She begged us to save her baby. Otto phoned the fire department and then ran to the Kelly house where he tried to get in but was turned back by the flames."

Weinrich said, "It would have been suicide to try and get in."

The Brandon Fire Department arrived quickly but could not save the six Kelly family members trapped inside the house.

Present fire barn built in 1977

by Joyce Bock

The erection of a new fire barn (so called because in the early days horses were used to draw the equipment about) began at an April fireman's meeting in 1977. Lynn Thompson was asked to check with the department in Battle Lake to see how they had funded their new station.

Bob Lanners, Dan Rusch and Winston Johnson were asked in May to meet with the city council regarding the legal aspects. Lanners reported back at the June meeting.

Federal grant monies were available and discussed at an April 1978 meeting. A committee was

assigned to check on the cost of the building and report same to the September council meeting. A proposal from Dan Rusch Construction was given by Tom Linquist at \$65,000 for a 46 x 120 foot building. It was then decided to have the council contact an architect to see if the proposed plans would be acceptable.

In October, the council decided to put the new fire hall out on a bond issue for the next election. Bonds for the hall were printed in February of 1979. The bond issue was for \$70,000 and it was being paid for solely by the City of Brandon. The monies

would be available on June 1 for the new barn.

All bids were let in July of 1979 for construction of the hall to start as soon as possible. It was to be located on the lot next to the existing hall.

Completion date for the new hall was set at October 1, 1979. Wussow Construction of Garfield was the building contractor. An attempt was made to match up the stone of the old building but this was not possible so a contrasting stone, Coronado, was used.

The dimensions of the hall were 48' x 100' and this included a 36' x 32' multi-purpose room to be used for meetings but also to

be made available to the public. The senior citizens had expressed an interested in holding their weekly meetings there.

Two rest rooms, one with a shower were installed. Electric heat was also installed.

The hall houses three trucks and the equipment van. There is also room for a hose drying rack, drains and water fill for the trucks plus equipment storage. A ramp in the back allows easy access straight through the building.

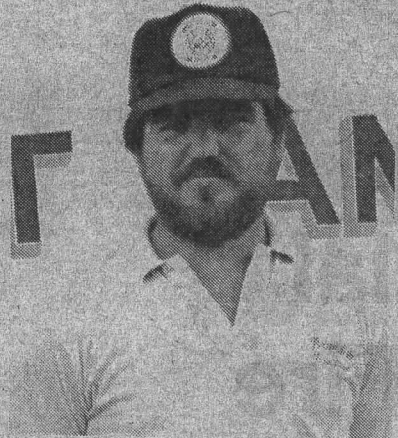
An open house was planned for May 3, 1981.

Congratulations

Brandon Fire Department

1889 - 1989

I'm proud to be a part of this fine organization



John Plaster

Plaster Sanitation

Congratulations

On 100 Years of Service to the Brandon Area



Brandon Truck Salvage Inc. & The Gift Boutique



Brandon Lions & Lioness Clubs salute the

Brandon Fire Department

on their Centennial

Minutes show history of caring

by Joyce Bock

Thanks to the present Brandon fire men for paging through many years of minutes in order to come up with highlights. It is surmised that about 20 years of minutes were lost but the department has always been futuristic and there is little doubt that a great deal of progress continued throughout those times.

The war years found such notations as these dated 1943: A motion was made to put up a flag for firemen in military service. Part of the truck fund was voted to be used to buy war bonds if they are needed to fill the quota for the village. The sum of \$370 was spent on bonds. A December motion was made to send Christmas cards to the boys in the army.

In 1944, \$25.00 was donated to the Red Cross. A vote was taken on March 12, 1945, to give the telephone girls a box of candy for Easter. It was agreed to blow the fire siren on V.J. Day.

An ashtray and a deck of cards were given to the department by Pete Hoplin in November of 1946. The siren which had been moved from the hall to the water tower was to be blown at noon and at 9:00 pm.

Chief Holmgren was selected

as commander of the local Boy Scouts in 1949. He was to give instructions on fire prevention for merit badge work.

A committee was organized to round up the Brandon Silver Streak basketball uniforms in 1952.

The men agreed to sound the fire whistle if a tornado approached. (May 1953)

A parade unit was needed for the State Fire Convention to be held in Alexandria in 1956. (note: Minutes from 1959-1976 were not available)

Discussions were held in 1977 and 1978 regarding building a new fire barn.

The City Council ordered that all new firemen must pass a physical before being accepted in the department.

Open House was held in the new fire barn on May 3, 1981.

Skip Brethorst gave a presentation on the new 911 system and stated that it would be operational in 1982.

The department took part in the Evansville Centennial parade in July of 1981.

Dennis Korkowski gave a demonstration in January of 1983 on how to use the new scanner and base station.

A First Responder Course was looked into by Dave Thompson in August of '83.

A new base station was purchased in December of 1984.

Doug Schjei purchased a life jacket and life ring to go on the Equipment Van in 1985 and the department was to host the Lake Region meeting.

The possibility of using Pull-tabs was on the March 1986 agenda.

In 1987 the new

RecussiAnnie and First Responder bag with supplies was picked up in Alexandria.

The parade unit #28 International was to be used in a parade in Ashby on July 16, 1988.

Members of the department were selected to serve on committees for the Centennial which will be celebrated during the annual Brandon SummerFest to be held on the weekend of August 4-5 and 6, 1989.

Man drawn hose cart (Continued From Page 2-B)

included: foreman, first and second assistant foremen, secretary and treasurer. The finance committee consisted of three members and a steward (who rang the fire bell for meetings).

The first by-laws stated that no one under 16 or over 50 could be admitted and the number of volunteers could not exceed 30. The number of volunteers was changed as they realized the chances of having a sufficient number to carry out the work was greater with more members.

A well was dug by hand and

lined with rocks and cement in order to have water. Beside it there was a large stock tank, where farmers could water their horses when in town

Drills were held every Wednesday to improve their skills. Meetings soon went to twice a month.

At the June 1884 meeting some reorganizing took place. They split into two companies, the Engine Company #1 and the Hook and Ladder Company #1. Each company elected officers and limited their numbers to 25 each.

Brandon Communications commends the Brandon Fire Department for 100 years of service to the community!



We are proud to serve the community as members of the Brandon Fire Department. Pictured above are members from Brandon Communications: Vernon Kaufman, Richard Korkowski, and Dennis Korkowski.

Fire Departments rely on the communication products we offer



GENERAL ELECTRIC

MPI portable radio comes through when the heat is on. It's small in size, high in performance, and low in price. The fast, error-free operation and high degree of reliability make it the radio of choice when close coordination and reduced response time is critical!

See us for all of your communication needs:

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GENERAL ELECTRIC



BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS

BRANDON, MINNESOTA 56315

612/524-2283

Fund raisers, socials part of early fire department history

by Joyce Bock

Back in the late 1800's when the Brandon Fire Department was first organizing, they held frequent dances to raise funds to purchase new equipment. A grand Thanksgiving Ball was held in 1891.

Following are excerpts from the Brandon Echo published in 1898.

Dateline January 6: "That annual party of rejoicing and good cheer-the firemen's party--on Friday evening was no disappointment and as usual the fire laddies and their lassies "swung round the circle" to the merry tunes of a string band until the morning hours. Substantial refreshments were of course, a feature of the evening--without which a fireman's party would be nil."

Dateline February 3, 1898: "The Hook and Ladder Co., of the Brandon Fire Department will give a grand public hop at the hall on Friday evening of next week, and are sparing no pains to make it the grandest, biggest and most enjoyable affair in the history of that swell association. The business end of the Department-the Hose Company-will, of course, patronize the affair which will add

prestige as well as coin to its success." Note this entry-"The grand ball given by the Hook and Ladder Company...on Friday last was both a social and financial success with the company clearing something like \$25 which will be expended for their personal decoration in the shape of a blouse. Members are thankful for the liberal patronage and to the village council for the free use of the hall."

Dateline February 24-The Barrett orchestra failed to put in an appearance at the masquerade dance held at the hall. It was well attended and a very social affair. Bernt Hammer lent his talents in place of the orchestra.

Dateline December 14-"At the Fire Departments monthly meeting on Monday evening it was decided that the annual social be held on January 1st. This event for the firemen, their wives and sweethearts has become an established fact and that they are eagerly looked forward to goes without saying. Formality is dropped and everybody, old and young, makes it the evening of social enjoyment."

Dateline December 15-"The annual social given by the fire department for its members will be held on January 4th. On that

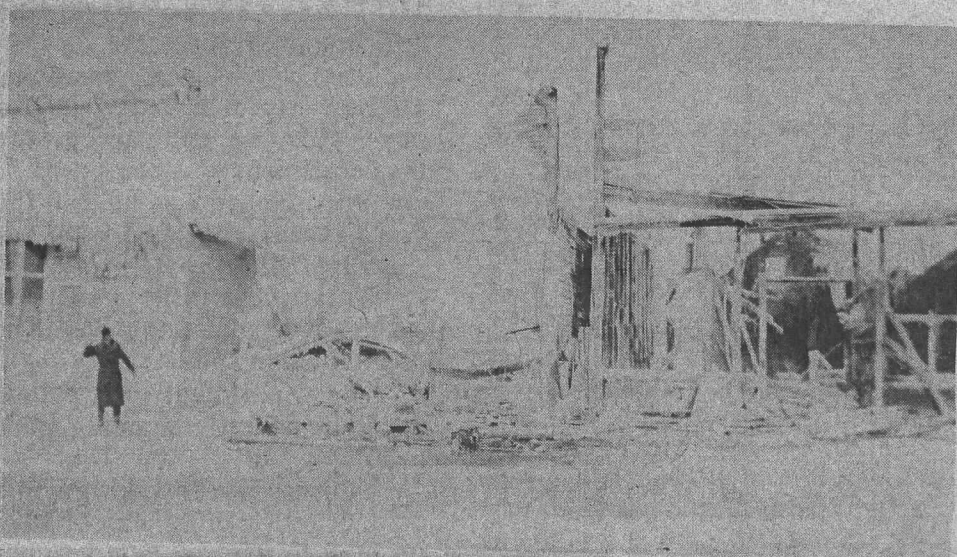
date falls the tenth anniversary of the department's organization and it is proposed to make the "blowout" the grandest of these annual gatherings ever held--and that is saying that it will be simply magnificent."

An entry in the column headed "Do You Ever Stop and Think?" had this note dated February 8, 1900, "That the Hook and Ladder boys wear a patronizing air since they condescended to ask the Hose lads to come to their party."

The holidays were celebrated as was noted in a July 5, 1906

issue-"The Firemen arranged for a family picnic at the park. Each family or two or three together had their lunch baskets and spent the day quietly and sociably among themselves, and most of them came home in the evening rested and feeling better for the outing."

The tradition of social gatherings and fund raisers has continued. Throughout its history, the Brandon Fire Department has continued to build companionship amongst its members.



A FIRE AT the Courier Cafe in 1943 destroyed the building. Oscar Pladson is standing in front of The Meat Market which was saved.

Thank You...

For Your 100 Years of Service

Brandon Fire Department



Bob's Standard

On the Corner Since 1931



For 100 years you've been keeping families safe. WE THANK YOU BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Douglas County Repair

HATS OFF!

Thank you Brandon Fire Department for 100 years of service to the community

Ostlund Hardware Since 1958



Building of stone

Brandon city hall on National Register of Historic Places

by Joyce Bock

The Brandon Auditorium and City Hall which is built of beautiful local stone represents one of the most creative W.P.A.-era architecture examples in the state of Minnesota.

Construction started with the Civil Works Administration and then shifted to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and eventually ended up in the hands of the Works Progress Administration.

The building replaced a wood frame village hall constructed in 1890. The Brandon Auditorium and City Hall has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places, as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, lists buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects of national, state, and local significance.

The staff identifies and evaluates properties, which are then reviewed by the State Review Board and by the State Historic Preservation Officer and finally they are listed by the National Park Service.

Listing is only the first step. The properties must be cared for if they are to be preserved. Most of them are not owned or

controlled by the historical society. A state grant-in-aid program has assisted in the restoration of more than 170 buildings, utilizing both state and federal funds. Cooperative work with agencies and organizations is a key aspect of achieving better protections for these landmarks.

The Brandon Auditorium is a distinctive facility built by the WPA and is listed as a National Historic building. There is a movement a-foot in Brandon to restore the auditorium.

Minnesota's collection of historic properties is an important resource, imparting knowledge and a sense of history to a wide spectrum of people.

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION plaque dated 1936.

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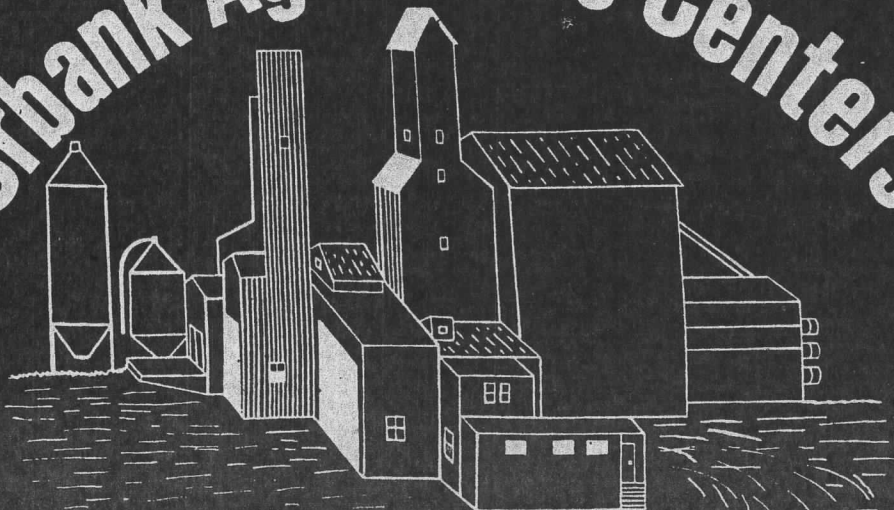
Minnesota's collection of historic properties is an important resource, imparting knowledge and a sense of history to a wide spectrum of people.

Congratulations

On Your 100th Anniversary Brandon Fire Department

FROM

Urbank Ag Service Centers



Brandon · Evansville · Alexandria

Fire Department does more than fight fires

By C.A. Ray

While the main job of the Brandon Fire Department is fighting fires and responding to accidents involving personal injury, the department also has an educational responsibility.

The department helps to provide educational material on fire safety to the Brandon School during fire safety week in October.

They also bus children down to the fire "barn" to view the trucks and learn their function.

"We also have someone

dress up in their firefighting gear to show the kids what the gear is used for," said Fire Chief Frank McFarlane.

McFarlane went on to say that showing kids firefighting gear can have added benefits. "Kids are often scared of a fully dressed fireman. They may hide when firemen are trying to get them out of a burning building. We like to show them there is just a man under all that scary looking stuff."



DANA BAKER, demonstrates the fire hose to students during Fire Prevention Week which is in October.

Fire truck depicted in Brandon Centennial coloring book

A coloring book which was designed through the efforts of Mr. Richard Kehoe and Mrs. Sharon Illetscho's Brandon sixth graders is on file at the Evansville Historical and Research Center.

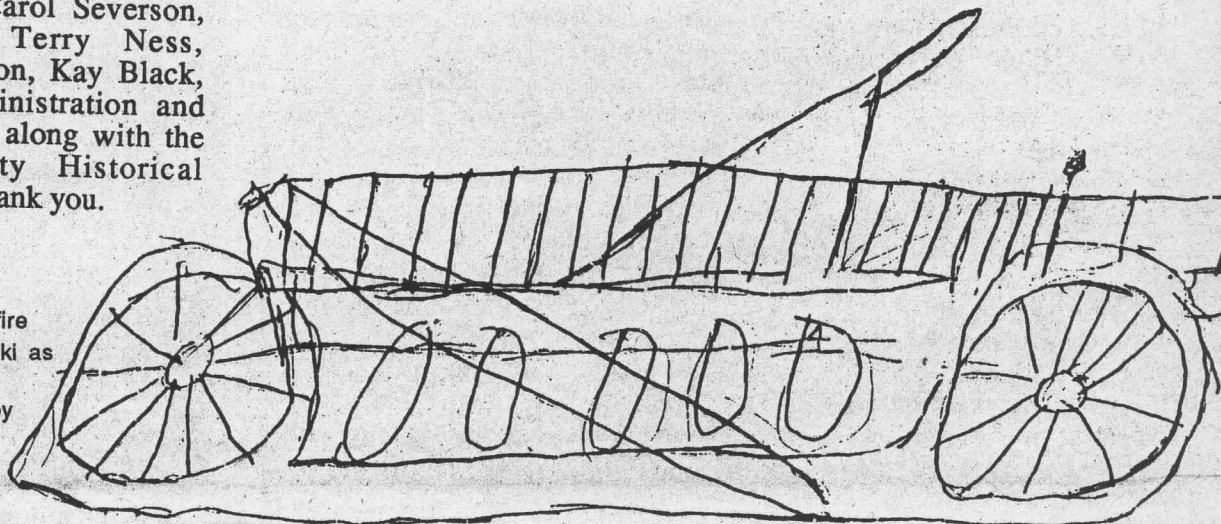
1981 was the year that Brandon celebrated its centennial and the students compiled this coloring book of original drawings of their town.

Included in the book is this sketch of a fire truck done by Jeff Jesnowski.

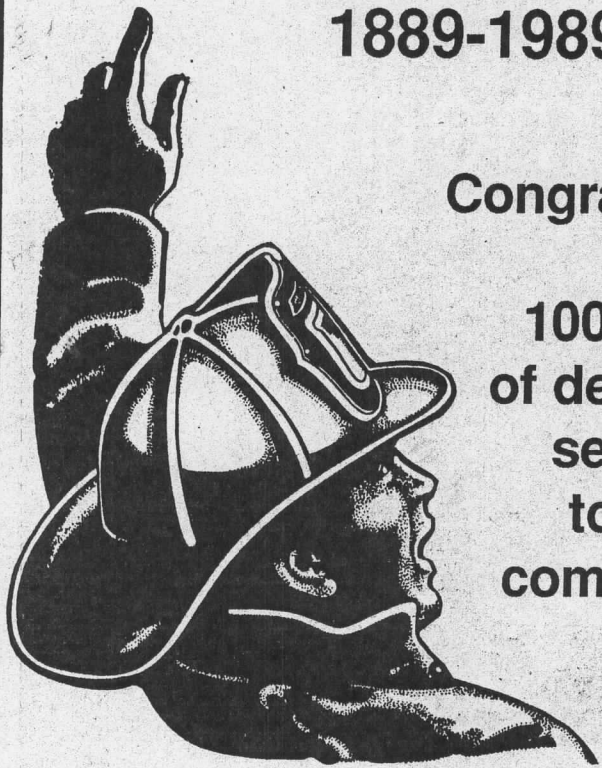
The students acknowledged the contributions made to their centennial project and included

DeEtte Field, Carol Severson, Karen Lund, Terry Ness, Dorothy Anderson, Kay Black, the school administration and Meredith Kehoe along with the Douglas County Historical Society in their thank you.

1981 SKETCH OF a fire truck by Jeff Jesnowski as part of the Centennial Coloring Book created by his sixth grade classmates.



**We Salute
Brandon Fire
Department
1889-1989**



**Congratulations
on
100 years
of dedicated
service
to the
community**

**Ottertail
Power Company
Since 1909**

We appreciate all you do for us!



Brandon Fire Department

The students & staff of Brandon Public Schools

Congratulations!

On your Centennial
**BRANDON FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

**Anderson
Excavating
Plumbing & Heating**

524-2422

Ritchie Parts - Licensed & Bonded for sewers & water systems in Douglas County



Relief Association began in 1943

The Brandon Firemen's Relief Association was incorporated on Jan. 11, 1943. The Association started with dues of \$1.00 per man and Albert Holmgren as President. He served the Association as President until 1956.

The first State of Minnesota fire tax money amounted to \$65.00.

The fire dept. sponsored Friday night dances and the Silverstreak Basketball team as its relief fund fundraising activities.

The Silverstreaks were a team of mostly coaches from Brandon and surrounding towns who played other amateur teams as well as some colleges and professional teams. In the teams heyday of the late 1930's and early 1940's they won the Minnesota Gold Medal Championship and also beat the Minnesota Traveling Gophers in a game in Brandon.

In 1954 the Relief Association was able to put \$1,000 into a CD.

The first fireman to retire from the Relief Association was August Lehn in 1955 at \$200.

The City of Brandon began to contribute to the Firemen's Relief Association in 1958 to the amount of \$100. per year.

Since that time, Saturday night Bingo and recently Pull Tab Charitable Gambling have made the Relief Association their beneficiaries.

A Fireman's Prayer

Author Unknown

When I am called to duty, God,
Wherever flames may rage,
Give me strength to save some
life,
Whatever be its age.

Help me to embrace a little child
Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert
And hear the weakest shout.
And quickly and efficiently,
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor and
Protect his property.

And if according to Your will
I have to lose my life,
Please bless with your protection,
Lord.

"Best Fire Department in the County"

by Joyce Bock

The success of the Brandon Fire Department has been attributed to the dedication and responsibility of its volunteers.

The Alexandria Eagles Lodge selected the B.F.D. as the "Best Fire Department in the County" for the year 1982, and was cited for outstanding community service in the preservation of life and property through fire and rescue operations.

A county-wide drill was held which simulated the events that might occur in case of a chemical

spill. The drill involved fire and police departments throughout the county as well as the Douglas County Hospital and the Sheriff's Department.

Cheif Frank McFarlane felt that the drill helped the department to receive the award. McFarlane gave credit to the exceptional fire fighting equipment which the city owns.

It's the well-trained volunteer, who leaves his work or home the minute the siren sounds, that make the department an award winning one.

We're Singing Your Praises...

Congratulations and Thank You

Brandon Fire Dept.

on 100 years of service



Wagner Trucking

Fran & Ken

Hopfner Barbershop

Thank You Brandon Fire Department

**Congratulations
Firemen,
from all of us at
The Record
on your centennial
celebration! You have
performed an
outstanding service to
our community and we
salute you.**

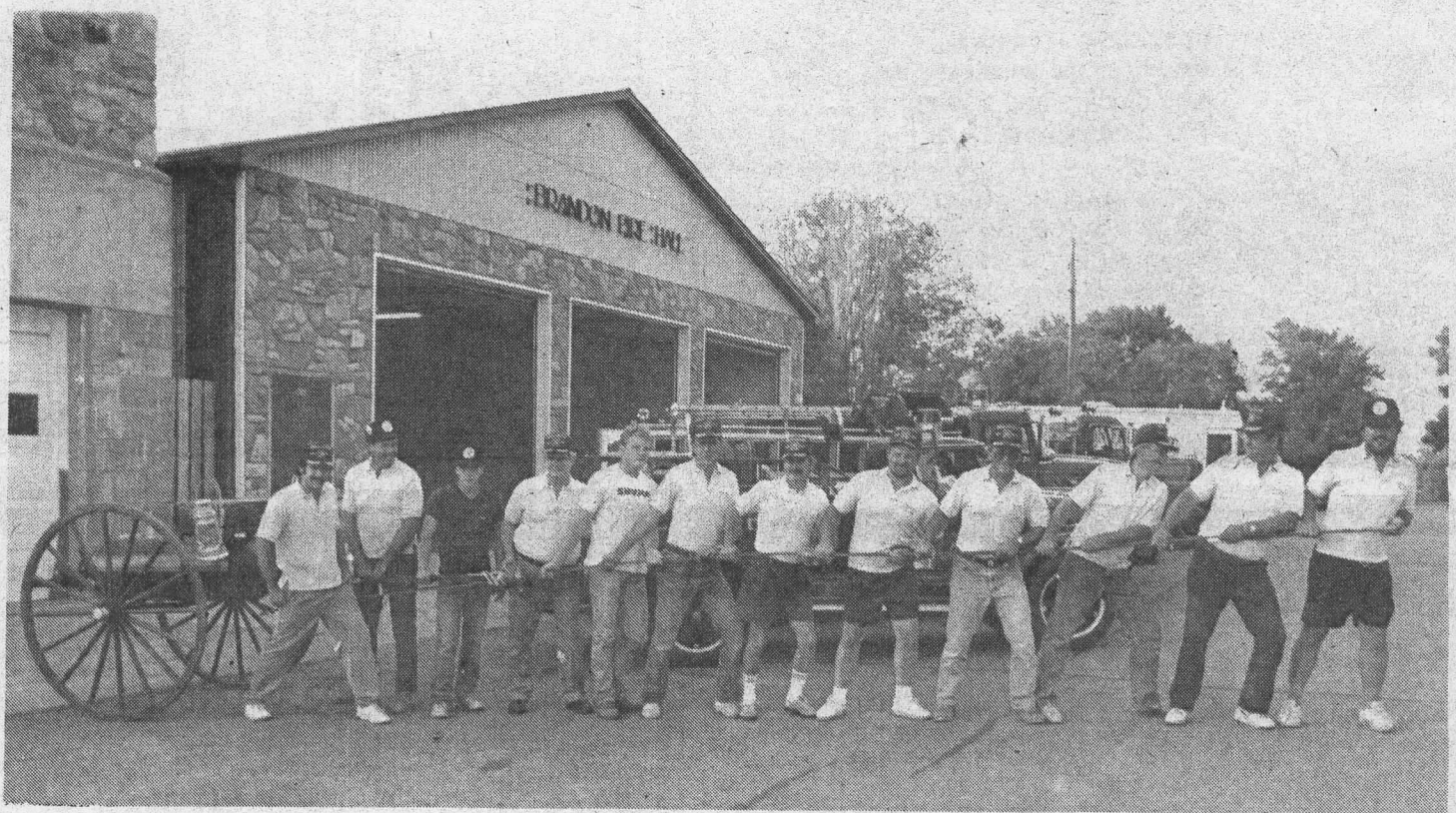


The Record

Beginning Our 11th Year

We're Proud

*to serve the community
with these fine men*



Brandon Fire Department

1889 - 1989

Brandon Community Club

Pulling together to keep Brandon a fine place
to live and work