

## History of the Wetmore Fire Department

Originally formed March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1950 by 16 community members, the Wetmore Volunteer Fire Dept. continues to be a viable and effective organization.

At that original meeting \$310.00 was pledged and everyone signed a membership tally. I recently reviewed that membership listing with one of the later members and of the 57 men mentioned on the list 7 of them are still living. Brothers, sons and other family members of the first members continue to support this organization.

Past meeting minutes and other data show the first few years meetings were infrequent and unscheduled. A 1942 International Harvester Truck was the first fire truck with a Hale Pump unit on it.

Annual dances in the community started in 1951 to commemorate the new fire dept. and raise funds, (Dances for the fire dept. stopped in the 1980's). A parcel of land was donated in late 1950 and a building started in 1951 and possibly finished the same year. In 1955 another fire truck was bought, (possibly on old jeep pickup).

The fire dept. was re-organized in 1962 and a new truck obtained from the U.S. Forest Svc.. Title to the property for the fire dept. was cleared up that year and an addition to the fire dept. building was started. By-laws for the organization were initiated and also recent fires were mentioned.

Meetings continued on an irregular basis and interest waned in the organization through the end of the 60's on into the 70's. Renewed interest in the early 1970's brought about incorporation and not for profit status through state registration.

During the early 1980's the present older members of the board began entering the administration of the fire dept. and they still remain supportive and attend our meetings. Some of

these members have 35 or more years supporting this entity. Our present fire dept. meeting usually consists of 10-15 people including board members and community at large. Usually the monthly meeting lasts less than 2 hours and includes some fundraising issues and administrative functions, mostly involving economic matters. We have three to six fundraising efforts every year - volunteer breakfasts; chile supper; craft sales; concessionaire at auctions and a fundraising letter in the fall. Training usually occurs before meetings and lasts more than an hour every session. We are attempting to increase our training hours every month, but it is a struggle.

Part of this is from the history of the Wetmore Volunteer Fire Dept. according to Virginia Dunsmoor at the 1965 Open house for the fire dept. the rest is from personal anecdotes from long time members and ongoing research by the board members of the Wetmore Vol. Fire Dept.

Feb 2005 Groundbreaking  
March Foundation  
April still \$ bldg  
Construction  
July