

History of the Sequim Fire Department 1914 to 1984

By Stephen S. Vogel, Fire Chief Retired

The earliest fire suppression (1890's to 1914) efforts were performed by early settlers living in the Sequim Valley. Unfortunately, there is little accurately recorded fire department history available. It is believed that the earliest settlers used a horse drawn cart that carried leather buckets to the fire. Many of the buckets were brought from homes. Men would make long lines and hand pass the water filled buckets to be thrown onto the fire. Most of the water used to fight fires during those days came from the local irrigation ditches. The majority of the homes burnt to the ground. The City of Dungeness never had a fire department and relied upon Sequim Fire Department to fight its fires. After the railroad that ran through the City of Sequim was built in 1916 (Sequim became an official city in October, 1913), the population and business center transferred from Dungeness to Sequim.



Photo donated by Conrad & Naomi Kirner April 30, 1998.

Driving from Sequim to Dungeness was slow and the roads were narrow, the main road going to Dungeness required crossing the Dungeness River (no bridge) approximate location was at the current Herd Creek Fish Hatchery located on North Fasola Road to access Ward Road, which was the main road going to New Dungeness.

The first fire department in the valley was organized in 1914 called the Sequim Fire Company. The first fire suppression apparatus was a manual powered hose reel that was pulled by six to eight men. The City of Sequim acquired a small garage that was converted into a one bay fire station located at Maple Street and Sequim Ave. It was a single story frame structure with wooden floor and cedar shingle roof. A wood burning stove is located on the apparatus floor. There were electrical lights and it had a sliding door.



The Sequim Fire Department was re-organized under the Washington State Board of Firefighters on March 23, 1923. Sixteen members of the Sequim Fire Company adopted a set of bylaws signed by Mayor J.S. Bugge on April 4, 1923. On November 5, 1923 Mayor J.B. Bugge appointed Jim N. Otto as Sequim's first Fire Chief (Under the new by-laws) and Chief Otto appointed Calvin Lighthouse as Assistant Chief and Fred G. Evans as Secretary/Treasurer under the re-organized Sequim Fire Department.

Raising funds for the department was to be a never ending problem. The members approved a motion in a meeting on June 25, 1923 to hold a dance on the "slab" in the Park on Saturday evening of July 28th. But due to the death of Calvin Lighthouse, it was decided by the dance committee to postpone the dance for a week. The first of many fund raising dances was held Saturday August 4, 1923.

At a meeting on July 30, 1923 Chief Otto appointed Leslie B. Towne to fill the vacant position of Assistant Chief. Other actions at the meeting included organizing a siren committee and approval to purchase an additional Type F, Sterling siren from the A. G. Long Company for \$42.25.

The Siren was to be blown to a peak, shut off, then immediately started up again and blown in this manner several times. This was followed by a short pause then short blasts or blast for the number of the zone. The report was accepted and the committee was asked to put this plan into operation, notifying the public of the plan. At the next month's meeting, the committee decided that, if and when the fire signal was needed for all Zones, they were to use many short blasts.



Photo Taken 1924 or 1925 – Front row left to right: Dr. Albright, Walt Millet, Lloyd Fisher, Archie Brown, Jens Bugge, Fred Evens, Hammond Keeler, Lester Town, Mel Button. Back row left to right: Herd Lehman, Noel Sprague, Frances Ward, George Priebe, J.N. Otto, Jack Cross. Bill Alton was not present.

On November 26th the Siren Committee made the recommendation to divide the town of Sequim into four zones with Sequim Avenue being the north/south line and Washington Street the east/west line.

- Zone 1: Included the Southeast quarter consisting of the US Post Office, lumber yard, and the depot, etc.
- Zone 2: Included the southwest quarter consisting of the hotel, Tom Matthew's residence, the Godfrey residence, Sequim Garage etc.
- Zone 3: Included the Northwest quarter composed of Seals store, IOOF Hall, Angus Hay residence, and the schools.
- Zone 4: Included the Northeast quarter Priebe's, the bank, Charles Allison residence, Sequim Press, and the Methodist Episcopal church.

To report a fire it would go through the Fire Alarms System. There was no municipal fire alarm telegraph system. Reporting of fire usually came through the local telephone exchange, the operator would sound a siren which is located on a building in the mercantile district. A switch for the siren was also located in the street. The siren was heard generally throughout the town. One telephone line extended to the town hall which was used for all purposes. Volunteers would respond to the fire station, with one of them assigned to call the operator to receive the report.

The population of Sequim was 500 and the telephone exchange had 4 party lines. More than half of the residents in the valley did not have a telephone, so reporting a fire also increased response times. There was one Town Marshal, who was on duty only as night street patrolman From 7 pm until 5 am. There was only 4 miles of street within the town limits. They were all 60 feet wide, graveled, and in fair condition but rough. It wasn't until the 1950's residents began to protest against the conditions of the City streets and hard surfacing was begun. The first City paving project was completed in November 1957.

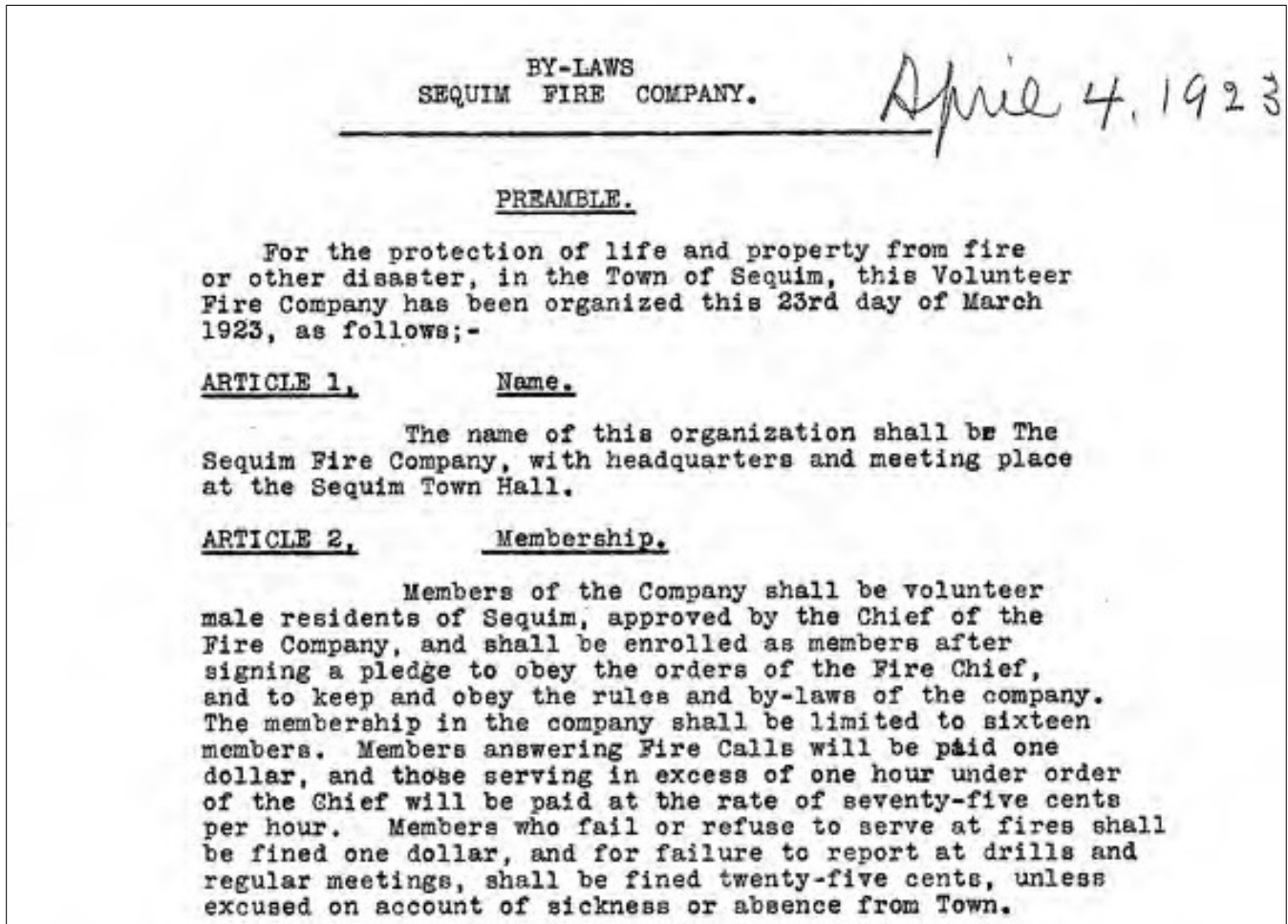
At a meeting in December 1923 a decision was made that additional equipment needed to be purchased. They discussed buying another hose reel, but it was finally agreed to purchase a used Model T Ford Truck for \$250 and to sell the old truck for \$50. Additional dances were held on March 1, and September 12, 1924 to raise the funds needed for the acquisitions.

On October 23, 1924 Bylaws were amended. It was decided to call the organization the Sequim Volunteer Fire Department rather than Sequim Fire Company. Article 2 of the document was amended as follows by adding: Members who fail to report at three consecutive regular meetings will be dropped from membership in the department. (Regular meetings are held once a month).

To be a member in 1923 and in 1924 a firefighter must abide by the following rules:



Sequim Fire Department 1930 – Left to Right: Lloyd Fisher, Jens Bugge, Bill Merrill, Ted Kanatzer, Jim Hogan, Merle Bowles, Iris Marshall, Ed Hagerty, Bob Vorse, and Del Ray.



ARTICLE 3. Meetings.

Regular drill meetings shall be held at least once a month, and as often as called by the Chief. The Company's regular meeting shall be held on the last Monday of every Month at 7.30 P.M.

ARTICLE 4. Officers.

The officers shall consist of a Chief, and a Secretary-Treasurer, and shall be elected Annually in June, and to serve until their successors are elected.

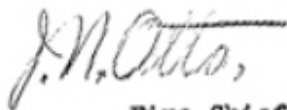
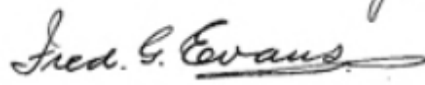
The name of member elected as Chief, shall be submitted to the Mayor of the Town of Sequim, with the recommendation that he be appointed Fire Chief.

The Secretary-Treasurer, shall be elected by ballot by majority vote.

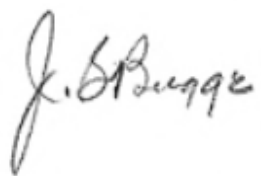
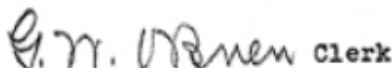
The Chief shall appoint an Assistant who shall assume the duties of the Chief in his absence, The Chief shall also appoint any other subordinate officers as he may deem necessary, for efficient fire protection. He shall have full charge of the Town Fire Department and his orders must be obeyed in fighting fires. He may submit rules and regulations, which when regularly adopted by the Company, shall be in full force and effect as by-laws.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the records of the Company, and a roll of membership, receive and pay all moneys when so ordered, attend to all correspondence, and perform such other duties as is customary for such officer. At every meeting and fire call, he shall call the roll of members and record the attendance.

The foregoing By-Laws were read at a meeting of the Fire Company, held at the Town Hall, Sequim, on 23rd March 1923, and adopted as read.


Fire Chief.

Secretary-Treasurer.

Approved by the Council of the Town of Sequim
in regular session, April 4th, 1923.

 Mayor.
 Clerk.

Sequim Fire Department had its first fire protection review through Washington Surveying and Rating bureau in 1923. That report has been lost but here is what was reported in 1924.

WASHINGTON SURVEYING AND RATING BUREAU

LEE McKENZIE, Prop. & Mgr.
BERT H. HARRIS, Asst. Mgr. J. K. WOOLLEY, Asst. Mgr.

SEATTLE, WASH.

PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Date of this report, November 17, 1924.
Date of last report, December 11, 1923.

Report No. 2.

SEQUIM
Clallam County
WASH.

Population 500

Summary

Adequate water supply from springs and ditch. Gravity system. Reservoir of fair capacity. Good hydrant spacing in mercantile district. Only one hydrant outside of that district. With 970 gals. flowing from a hydrant in mercantile district residual pressure in street main alongside was 48 lbs.

Fire apparatus consists of an improvised motor-driven combination double 35-gal. chemical and hose wagon now provided with 700 feet of 2½-inch hose. One hand-drawn hose cart with 250 feet of 2½-inch hose on it. One fire station; it is in mercantile district. Volunteer fire organization. Electrical siren fire alarm. Night street patrolman up to about 5 A. M.

Excepting a one story re-inforced concrete building all buildings in mercantile district are of frame construction none higher than two stories; grouped for the most part in four ranges of short to moderate length. Pronounced conflagration hazard, as detailed. Streets 60, 70 and 78-feet wide; not paved; graded; level; in mercantile district.

Electrical conditions as a whole are not approved. Gasoline for sale properly handled. No dynamite nor kindred articles found. Conditions of order and cleanliness are generally fair. Good fire record.

Detailed Report

WATER WORKS

WATER SUPPLY. Two sources of supply, both of them in regular use; one of them is from living springs; the other (the larger source) from an irrigation ditch supplied from Dungeness River; it is claimed this ditch is constantly supplied. These sources of supply are adjacent to each other; they are at a distance of about 8,000-feet southwest from mercantile district.

SYSTEM. Gravity throughout.

RESERVOIR. A two compartment re-inforced concrete reservoir; each compartment has a capacity of about 80,000 gallons or 160,000 gallons combined; average per diem domestic consumption from system in summer is roughly estimated at 100,000 gallons. This reservoir is located at or adjacent to sources of water supply. Elevation of reservoir above level of principal business corner is 274-feet. At this inspection, reservoir is in good condition and full.

SUPPLY MAIN. A single 8-inch wood-stave delivery main from reservoir to distribution system.

DISTRIBUTION MAINS. 8-inch and 6-inch; of wood-stave wire bound.

HYDRANTS. Six 2-way 2½-inch Corey hydrants. Five of these hydrants are in mercantile district and but one in residential district. (The much needed hydrant in mercantile district referred to in Report No. 1 has been installed). Distances between hydrants in mercantile district are approximately 250, 275, 325 and 365 feet. The one hydrant in residential district is located on Washington Street about 1,000 feet west of mercantile district. It is a "dead-end" system.

FIRE FLOW AND WATER PRESSURE IN MERCANTILE DISTRICT. With 970 gals. per minute flowing from a hydrant in mercantile district residual pressure in street main alongside was 48 lbs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUMPING ENGINES. None.

COMBINATION CHEMICAL ENGINE AND HOSE WAGON. A motor-driven Ford double 35 gal. chemical engine and hose wagon now provided with 700 feet of 2½-inch hose and two shut-off nozzles.

HOSE CARTS. One drawn by hand or by volunteer vehicle and now provided with 250-feet of 2½-inch hose and two shut-off nozzles.

HOSE. 950 feet of serviceable 2½-inch hose and four shut-off nozzles.

FIRE STATION. One. It is located in mercantile district at 59 Cedar Street, block 36, Sheet 1, Sanborn Map.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM. An electrically driven siren; arranged so as also to be operated at Central telephone exchange.

FIRE ORGANIZATION. Volunteer; 14 members; not drilled. Not paid on call.

POLICE SYSTEM. Town marshal, but he is on duty only as night street patrolman up to 5 A. M. only.

MISCELLANEOUS

STREETS. 60, 70 and 78-feet respectively. In mercantile district and portions of residential district streets are graded; level generally including in mercantile district.

BUILDING LAW. None.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION IN MERCANTILE DISTRICT. Excepting a small one-story reinforced concrete building (with unprotected openings) all buildings in this district are of frame construction; none higher than two stories; and having composition or shingled roofs. These structures are of small or very moderate ground area, but are, for the most part, grouped in four ranges of short to moderate length; fir is generally used. Some of frame construction is old and in poor or indifferent condition, while some is of good to fair character.

CONFLAGRATION HAZARD. Yes, in mercantile district in blocks numbered 36, 43, 44, 49, 50 and 57 of Sanborn map (map, however, does not show newer buildings in those blocks).

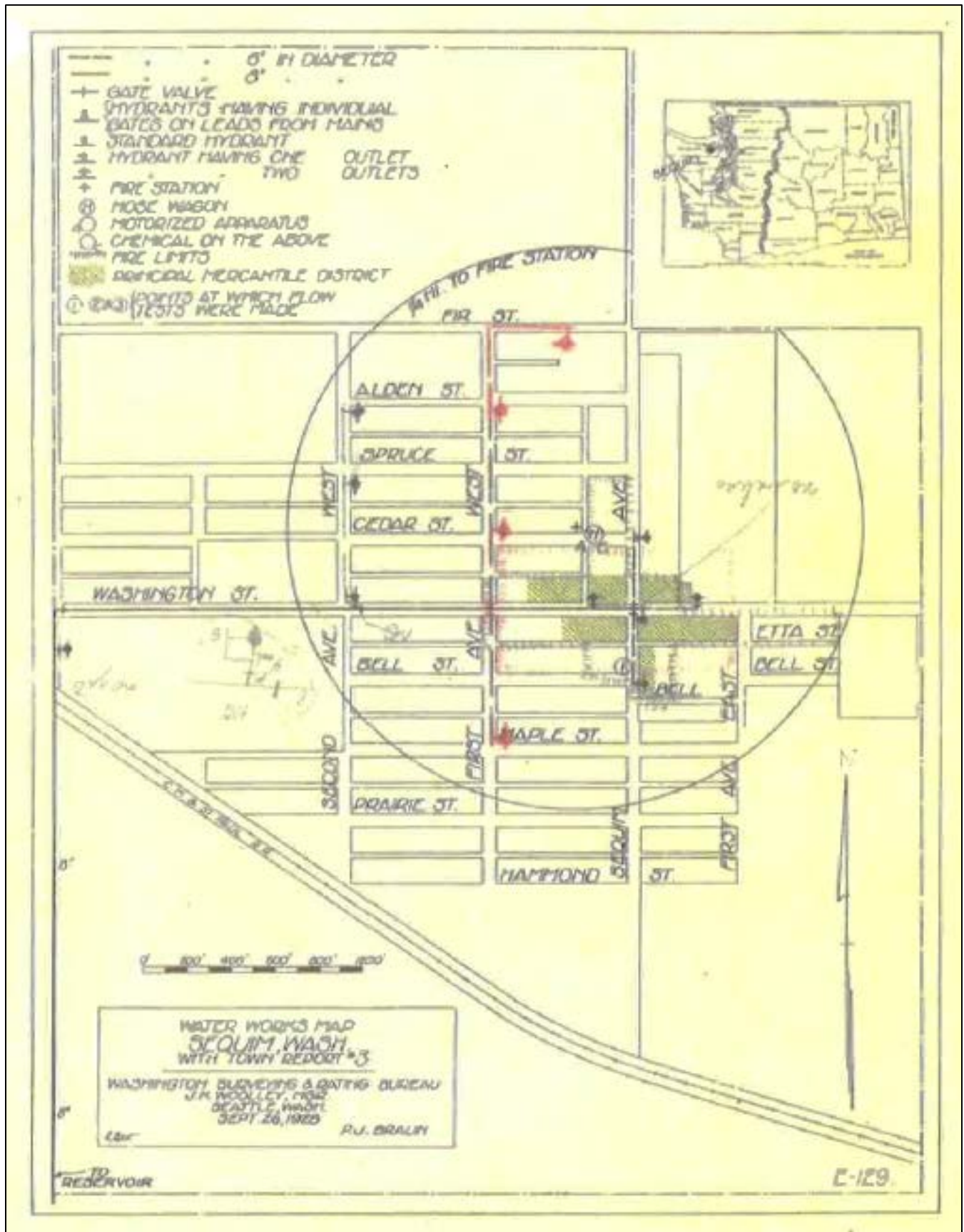
ELECTRICAL HAZARD. Electrical conditions considered as a whole are not approved.

EXPLOSIVES AND INFLAMMABLES. Gasoline for sale is generally contained in underground tanks located outside of buildings. No dynamite appears to be regularly kept in stock within corporate limits. Conditions of order and cleanliness are generally fair.

FIRE RECORD. Good 5-year record.

LEE McKENZIE.

Early 1920's Map of the City of Sequim along with Fire Hydrant locations.



The Members made a decision to hold an annual ball on or near Washington birthday. The first ball was on February 21, 1925. Due to their need for funds, they also held a dance at F.P. Holland's barn on June 13 and one in the park on August 8 of that year.

It was agreed at the May 25, 1925 meeting to purchase a Rio 1-1/4 ton truck. On May 26, 1925 Sequim purchased their first fire engine, which was a Reo Speed wagon chassis from the Lamping McDonald Motor Company. To be delivered through the Sequim Garage, J.S. Cross agreed to build a hose cart body and mount the equipment without any additional expense to the department.

The Reo Speed wagon was equipped with a seat and hose cart body and mount. The Purchase price was \$1,465. Sequim Paid \$900 down, with the balance of \$565 to be paid on June 16th, 1925. The Model-T Diamond Reo fire engine had a large brass chemical tank mounted behind the seat, which contained 35 gallons of soda water solution. When the fire engine arrived at fires, the firefighters would turn the handle on top of the tank and break a seal on a jar of acid that would mix with the soda water. This would start a chemical reaction and pressurize the water in the tank for firefighting.



Sequim Fire Department 1930 – Picture taken at Carrie Blake Park with the 1919 REO Fire Truck. Front row left to right: Francis Ward, Walt Millet, Del Ray, Lloyd Fisher. Second row left to right: Bill Alton, Hammond Keeler, Noel or Newell Sprague, Archie Brown, Fred Evers, Herd Lehman, George Priebe, Jens Bugge, Lester Town. Top Row: J.N. Otto (in fire hat), Jack Cross.

1925 the same officers were re-elected. The following year on June 28, 1926, L.B. Towne was elected Chief and Fred Evans, Secretary –treasurer. Appointed assistant chief was M.P. Button. In February 1927 L.B. Towne resigned as chief and M.P. Button became Chief and J.S. Bugge was appointed Assistant Chief.

The department purchased a LaFrance Chemical hose reel from A.G. Long Co. at a cost of \$75 May of 1926. A pumper was needed and the first of many discussions was held in August, they considered buying a Ross pumper from the City Fire Department located in Olympia for \$380. Discussions continued through the next year and in July, 1928 they wrote for prices on a Barton pumper for the fire truck. On February 15, 1925(Date Conflict) they finally obtained a Barton pumper.

The fireman decided in January of 1931 not to have their annual ball near Washington Birthday because Port Angeles was having their fireman's ball on February 21st. They decided instead to have a dance in the park each summer. In November of that year, the department paid dues for 1929-30 to Washington State Fireman's Association. The dues were three dollars a year with a total paid of six dollars.

At the election held on June 27, 1927 Jens S. Bugge (who owned a local Grocery store in Sequim) was elected Chief and Fred Evans secretary – Treasurer. These two men served together until J.S. Bugge resigned upon assuming the office of Mayor of Sequim in January, 1933. Bugge appointed Loyd Fisher as Chief to fill his unexpired term.

In 1928 the Washington State Rating Bureau reported that the main station was still at Maple Street (Conflict with the 1924 Report) and reported on the apparatus: an improvised hose and chemical truck on a new Reo Speed wagon chassis placed in service 1925. It carried 1000 feet of 2 ½ “ hose, two 35 gallon chemical tanks with 300 feet of three quart inch rubber hose on a reel. A hand drawn hose cart loaded with 300 feet of 2 ½” hose held in reserve. It was equipped with 12 extra chemical charges, two oil lanterns, 10 water pail, one 5-gallon pump can, two axes, one crowbar, an extra tire, two shut-off nozzles, one 24 foot extension ladder, one, 1-quart pyrene, and 200 feet of garden hose, two play nozzles are carried on the hose cart.

The Sequim Fire Department covered the valley with fire protection until 1948. Response times were long because of the rough narrow dirt roads that jogged randomly throughout the valley. In 1930, it took an average of 30 minutes to respond from Sequim into Dungeness.



Sequim Fire Department (1920- 1925) – John Kirner (Top Row Far Right) John passed away in 2007 at 102 years old. Del Ray (Top Row Far Left). Photo donated by Conrad & Naomi Kirner April 30, 1998.

One of the more interesting earliest reported fire calls outside the city limits was the structure fire at the Dungeness Hotel and General Merchandise store on February 12, 1932. The Hotel was owned by C. Walker and the General merchandise store was owned by W.A. Moran. All structures in the block were destroyed. It was stated that: The buildings were not savable as the department was not called in time. Pumping water from the creek saved the adjoining buildings, which were also threatened.

The department joined the Washington State Fireman’s Association Widow and Orphans Fund on October 10, 1932 until 1982. The department paid for joining the fund, thereafter each member paid a small assessment upon the death of a member.

Loyd Fisher was elected Chief on July 31, 1933 and Frank Evans was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, Jens Bugge was appointed Assistant Chief. Fisher continued to serve as chief until his retirement in 1939. It was announced that the Washington State Fireman’s Association Annual Convention and Fire College would be held on July 26-28, 1934. Assistant Chief and Mayor Jens Bugge, W.L. Merrill, Dell Ray, and Lester Clayton attended the convention. This appears to be the first time the firemen attended the state convention.

In the fall of 1934, the firemen began discussions of ways to make money to buy turnout firefighting suits. By August 31, 1936 they raised enough money to order 11 turnout suits at a cost of \$9.95 and 12 helmets.

The Fire Department used the Rio many years, on August 31, 1939 Sequim purchased its first Ford Mercury 95 horsepower gas fire engine capable of pumping water from its 250 water tank; also a Seagraves 500 gallon pump and equipment from the Howard Cooper Corporation. The truck arrived on October 24,

1939. This truck is owned and currently used today by CCFD3 for fire prevention classes.



In the year of 1939, the fireman began discussing ways to rebuild the fire hall to accommodate two trucks. The building new was located east of the old City Hall on Cedar Street. During the year of 1947, the department moved into a station large enough for three trucks.

The following historical information reported by Doug Innes, was provided by Tom Lowe who started as a volunteer in 1966 and Lawrence Kettel, who started in the late 50's.

In the 30's, 40's and 50's fire calls went to the 24 hour telephone operator, whose approximate office location was 121 West Washington Street. The operator sounded the siren calling volunteers to the fire station where they phoned the operator to find out the location of the fire.

Most volunteers lived and worked in town. Over the years the local Barber Loyd Fisher left a lot of half shaven and half clipped customer in the chair when the siren sounded. Shoemaker Bill Merrill would run from his shop without locking the door.

Barn fires were fairly common back in the days when Sequim had several hundred dairy farms. The cause was usually "hot hay" put in before it was dry, leading to spontaneous combustion. Larry Kettel recalled a hot hay situation at Mantle's barn.



The hay was very hot and black like coal but not yet ablaze. Firemen hauled the hay out of the barn and it often burst into flame when it hit the fresh outside air, Firemen had to unload the hay out of the barn real fast to save it.

The Spath barn burned in the 1940's and volunteer Del Ray broke his neck while fighting the fire. Del was overcome by smoke while up on a ladder and fell on to a cement floor. For many years Sequim had the only fire truck in the east end of the county. A frequent source of water was to dam up an irrigation ditch and pull water from there.

Knowing the location of ditches and ponds was critical because trucks carried little water in those days. It was not easy to save buildings out in the country because of the distance, bad roads, and a lack of water. In addition, many homes did not have a phone, which often delayed the report.

In 1942 Sequim played a role in the war effort coordinated through the Civil Defense. There were dim out drills, and a permanent first-aid station was set up in the Presbyterian Church. In 1956 Sequim Volunteers joined the Washington State Pension fund.

Iris Marshall was elected as Fire Chief in 1939 and served in that position until March 27, 1968. Iris was fire chief for 20 years and served as a volunteer for 60 Years. Creighton Daniels was then elected Chief and Iris Marshall was elected Secretary-Treasurer, he held this position until 1984. Fred Evans served as Secretary-Treasurer from April 4, 1923 until his death on February 26, 1967.

At their scheduled meeting the next night, Ruby Trotter was elected and served as Treasurer until Iris Marshall was elected the following year. Lawrence Kettel was elected Chief on March 27, 1975 upon resignation of Creighton Daniels. Tom Lowe was elected Chief when Kettel resigned on June 25, 1979. In May of 1981 Tom Lowe was employed by the City of Sequim as the first Paid Fire Chief.



Sequim Fire Department 1973 – Front row left to right: Arne Swanson, Dennis Kettel. Middle row left to right: Conrad Kirner, Don Salomen, Bill Keller, Creighton Daniels, Ernie Lewis, Harold Kettel, Dale Cruse, Tim Echterkamp, Iris Marshall. Back row left to right: Robert “Spud” Sprague, Ben Gilbert, and Jack Campbell.

During a 1970’s – Interview with Dennis Kettel, he described the process he went through when joining the Sequim Fire Department on December 18, 1973. To become a member of the department you needed to be a business owner or have connections. Dennis’s father was already a volunteer and he grew up around the fire department. It was considered a social organization and you had to be invited to join. After you were invited then you needed to be voted into the department from the existing members. Tom Lowe said all members were given a white and a black marble. They required a 100% approval and each member would drop in a marble (white to approve or a Black to disapprove), if one black marble was to appear in the container, the applicant was not approved.

After approved new members were given a black canvas coat, a pair of boots, gloves and expected to respond. Within Dennis’s first week of joining Sequim Fire Department he said that he was riding on the tail board of a 1968 American La France fire engine and he was fighting fires. There was no fire training – you learned on the job.

The City Fire Department did not have any association or anything to do with Fire District 3. Neither agency responded to the other’s calls. The Sequim Fire Department had an emergency siren they tested twice a day -12 noon and again at 7 pm. It was located on the fire station/city hall roof, which was located on Cedar Street. When the siren blew, volunteers would drive to the fire station, walk next door and asked the dispatcher where the emergency was and get further details. The Dispatch Center was run by the Sequim Police Department which was also located in the City Hall.








Dennis only remembers responding to two emergency calls in the county during the 70's, one located on Carlsborg Rd and the other in Diamond Point. Both were structure fires. Sequim Fire Department only responded to fires, grass, structure fires and motor vehicle accidents but did not treat the injured. They were strictly firefighters. An interesting side note is that annually during the summer the volunteers would burn grass on vacant lots and fields within the City limits.

In the 60's and up to the early 70's emergency medical care was from Lester's Wrecking Yard located off Fifth Avenue just north of Tom Toms Grocery, which was located at the NW corner of Fifth Ave. and Washington Street. The Wrecking Yard had a Cadillac station wagon they used for a dual purpose. It was used both as an ambulance and also as a hearse. If you were injured you would be loaded into the back of the ambulance on a gurney, given some oxygen and transported to Port Angeles on the two lane highway.

Caroline Hogan and her husband started and Hogan's Ambulance also located on North Fifth Ave. They converted a bread truck into an ambulance. But due to a divorce the business was sold to Bill Littlejohn. In the meantime, Lyons Ambulance from Port Angeles started operations in Sequim but could not financially make a go of it, so they closed up operation. The owners Rick and Spence started working with Bill Littlejohn and Sequim Ambulance (also known as Olympic Ambulance), which began operations in October of 1971. Bill Littlejohn said that during the 70's, when the TV show Emergency was airing, the Fire District started training their firefighters to become Emergency Medical Technicians. That was around the time the fire service started responding to medical emergencies.

The last year of the Sequim Fire Department was 1982. Before Sequim Fire Department merged into Clallam County Fire District 3 it had 26 members (25 men of which 9 were E.M.T.'s and 1 female who was a part time paramedic with CCFD3). The members were paid 50 cents per call in 1923 and were paid \$5.00 per call in 1982.

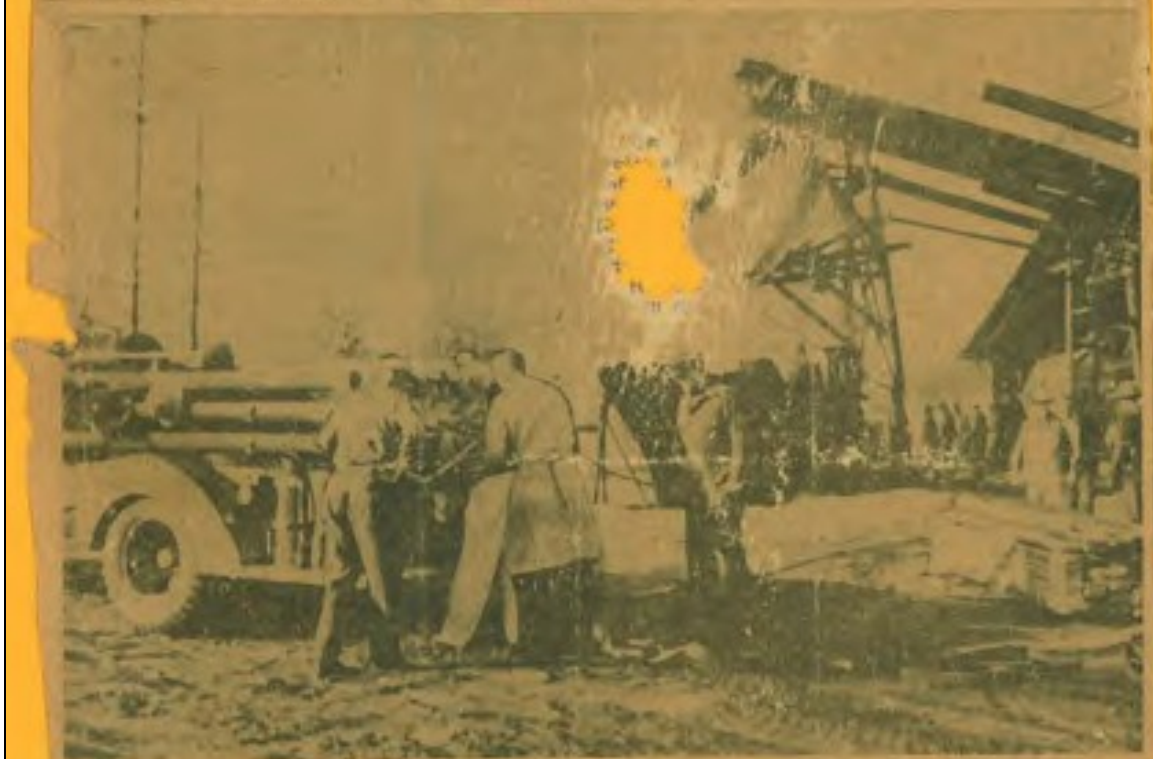
Following photos depict the Sequim Fire Department's Fire Chiefs.

 JN Otto 1923 – 1926	L.B. Towne 6/1926 -2/1927	 Jens Bugge 6/1927 – 1/1933	 loyd Fisher 7/1933 – 1939
	M.P. Button 2/1927 – 6/1927		
 Iris Marshal 1939 – 1968	 Creighton Daniels 1968 – 1975	 Lawrence Kettel 8/1975 – 6/1979	 Tom Lowe 6/1979 – 5/1981

Fire at Sequim Lumber Mill November 18, 1952



GOING, GOING, GONE—An old blacksmith shop by the Sequim Lumber and Supply Co. mill collapses as Sequim firemen pour water on the blaze, started during a high southeasterly wind last Thursday. Smoke rises from the blackened building which was a total loss. Sparks from the waste burner started the blaze. The blacksmith shop collapsed 10 minutes after the firemen arrived.



SMOKE HIDES BURNING BUILDING—Firemen couple hose at the No. 1 fire truck which attended a blaze last Thursday at the Sequim mill. Sparks from the waste burner shown in the background were blown against the old blacksmith shop where the fire burst out during a high wind. Mayor W. T. Adon is talking over to the truck where W. L. Merrill, Fire Chief, Irv Marshall and Robert Steger are coupling.

The Dresden Movie Theatre burned down around 1963 South side of Washington Street located where the Sunshine Café is located.

The Café was owned by the Taylor Family and bought by Forks resident Albert Fernandez.

The cause of the fire was determined to be an electrical fire that spread to the movie Screen.



Line of Duty Death:

Trooper Dale W. Kruse – Killed on August 30, 1978, while serving with the Sequim Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter, Trooper Kruse was killed in the line of duty while fighting a grass fire. Upon arrival of the Grass fire the Ford Pickup was shifted into Park when the transmission for some unknown reason shifted into reverse. Firefighter Kruse saw the truck rolling toward Firefighter Tom Lowe who was unaware of the danger while he was actively fighting the fire. Kruse ran behind the pickup pushing fellow firefighter Tom Lowe clear from the path of the oncoming fire truck saving Lowe's life while Dale Kruse was unable to get clear of the truck himself and was killed instantly when the moving vehicle ran over him.

References:

- Judith Butler Elliott who did a research paper – Introduction to Museology contract. March 1982
- Washington Rating Survey Bureau 1923 to 1949
- Interviews from Local past members of the Sequim Fire Department