

125th Anniversary

UNION BRIDGE



FIRE COMPANY



CARROLL COUNTY, MD.

www.ubfc8.org



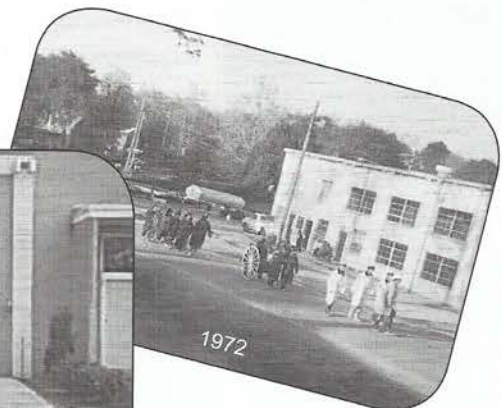
Schedule of Events

Opening Ceremonies	10am
Presentation of Colors	Honor Guard
Nation Anthem	sung by Cheryl Keeney
Memorial Service of Deceased Fire Company Members	Chaplain Richard Michael

Rededication & Introduction of Guests

Open House: Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

Parade Sunday 1pm sharp & awarding of prizes 4pm



HISTORY*of the***UNION BRIDGE FIRE COMPANY, INC.**

The town of Union Bridge suffered its first major fire loss on December 3, 1868, when the Western Maryland Railroad Shops burned with a total loss of buildings and contents. This was a major setback for the town of 1,000 since it was the main employer for the town's citizens. Over the next few years, the town purchased two extension ladders, two hooks and fifteen rubber buckets, which were kept in the old scale house, owned by Joseph Wolfe, near the Western Maryland Railroad yards.

On March 10, 1887, thirty men pledged themselves to the duties as firemen, to organize a volunteer fire company and the Union Bridge Fire Company was formed. This was also the first year that the members held a festival during the first week of June, to raise funds for the fire company. We continue that tradition today, by holding the annual firemen's carnival for one week, starting on Memorial Day, the last Monday of May.



After the company's organization, the town furnished two hose reels and a hook & ladder wagon. This equipment was kept in the engine room of the town hall on E. Broadway and meetings were held on the second floor. Members were delegated specific positions that they would be responsible for during fires. From the time the company was organized until 1925, when the first motorized apparatus was placed in-service, the company responded to 34 alarms.

In 1889, the fire company purchased the hardware store belonging to William H. Wood, a member of the company, on Main Street. The company also became incorporated and changed its name to the Union Bridge Fire Company, Incorporated. Many renovations were made so that there was a meeting room and a place to store the hose reels and the hook & ladder wagon. In 1891, a tower and bell were built on the roof to summon the firemen when help was needed. No alarms were called for until May 19, 1891.



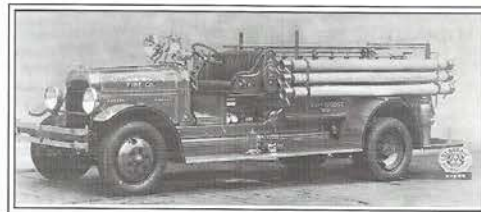
Then, in 1893, a meeting was held by several fire companies from across Maryland, in Frederick. The Union Bridge Fire Company, Inc., became a Charter Member of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, along with eleven other fire companies from across the state. We are still a member of this Association and have had many members serve in various positions within the MSFA.

The Fire Company remained on Main Street until January of 1925, when the building was sold and the town hall on E. Broadway was purchased for \$3,500.00. This was done so that the fire company had room for its first piece of motorized equipment, a 1925 Stutz pumper. The pumper had a 400 gallon per minute fire pump and carried 1,000 feet of 2 1/2" hose.

A bell tower was added and the bell from the 'Main Street' firehouse was placed into the tower. This bell is now located in our 'Fire Service Memorial' near the front of our current fire station. In February of 1926, a Packard car was converted into a Service Truck by the Hoover Wagon Company in York, Pennsylvania. It was used to carry extra equipment, a 35' and a 20' extension ladders and a portable pump.

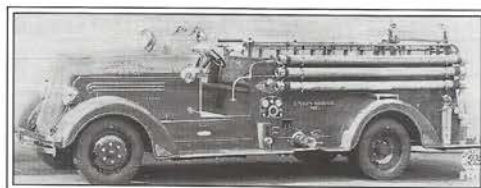


In January of 1931, the company purchased a 500 gallon per minute, Seagrave pumper which was delivered by railcar in March of 1931. The Packard Service Truck was taken in trade. Another 1,000 feet of 2 1/2" hose was also purchased for this pumper.



In May of 1934, the Stutz pumper was sent to Eckenrode's in Westminster to be repainted. The company also purchased the school grounds and portable building at Whyte Street and W. Locust Street (current fire station location) in 1935, from the Carroll County School Board. The portable building (dining room) was enlarged and a permanent 'amusement building' was built in 1936, so the property could be used for banquets, dinners, festivals and the carnival. During this year, Lehigh Portland Cement Company donated the first "fire siren" to replace the bell for alerting members to an alarm.

In March of 1937, the fire company ordered a 1937 Seagrave pumper with a pump capacity of 500 gallons per minute, 1,200 feet of 2 1/2" Supply Line and 1,000 feet of 1 1/2" hose. It was delivered on April 30, 1938 and the Stutz pumper, along with all of its equipment (except for the 2 1/2" Supply Line), was sold for \$1,200 to the Fort Ashby Volunteer Fire Company in West Virginia. An "Emergency Reel" was also placed in-service in case both fire engines were answering alarms "in the country". This reel was housed in a garage at 'The Pilot Building' (local newspaper office), just across from the fire house on East Broadway.



During this time, the fire company had 45 active members who were always on the alert to do their best in saving lives and property. The company was well equipped for parades, having 45 uniforms, all purchased in 1938. Since the addition of motorized fire apparatus, the company had responded to 378 alarms from 1925 to 1938.

Though a group of women, mainly the firemen's wives, had been helping to raise funds for the fire company since the early 20th Century, there was no official organization until November of 1939, when the Ladies Auxiliary to the Union Bridge Fire Company, with 19 charter members, was organized. Today, both women and men are part of this organization that holds fundraising events to help financially support the fire company.



In 1947, the company took on a new role, a service that the local funeral home had provided for many years. A 1934 Oldsmobile ambulance was donated by D. D. Hartzler & Sons Funeral Home, so that injured or ill people could be taken to the hospital in Frederick. The donated ambulance was soon replaced by a brand new Flxible Buick ambulance (Model B22) in 1948, sold by the Flxible Company of Loudonville, Ohio. Since the early days of ambulance service in Union Bridge, our company has been a

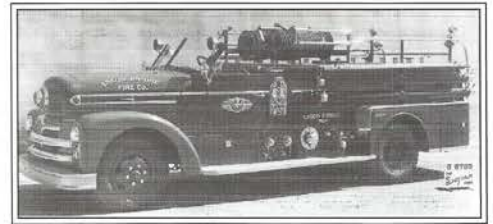
training leader in Emergency Medical Services. In 1972, the first Emergency Medical Technician class was held in Baltimore County, Maryland and several of our members were in that class. By the mid-70's, Union Bridge had half of the EMT's in the Carroll County.

The Union Bridge Firemen and Ladies Auxiliary, participated in the Maryland State Firemen's Convention parade, held in Frederick, Maryland, in June of 1946. Proudly, Gordon Fogle drove the company's 1938 Seagrave, 500 GPM pumper, with H. H. Bond, the only surviving charter member of the Union Bridge Fire Company, by his side. Proudly, the marching units of the Union Bridge Fire Company and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Union Bridge Fire Company, followed their newest piece of equipment and their only living charter member. Each of the marching units brought home the coveted 1st Place prize as the Best



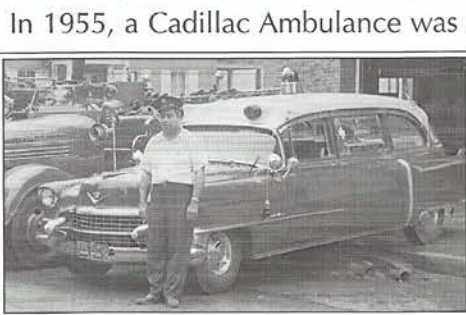
Appearing Marching Units. Though he was retired at the time, H.H. Bond continued to serve the fire company by attending the MSFA Conventions as a Delegate for the fire Company, starting in 1893, for 55 consecutive years. H. H. Bond died in December of 1947.

In 1953, the company replaced the 1931 Seagrave pumper with a 1953 Seagrave pumper, ordered on July 4, 1953. The pump capacity was 500 GPM and had two (2) hose reels mounted on top which were used as attack lines. The engine also carried 1,200 feet of 2 1/2" Supply Line and had compartments to carry extra equipment. This pumper is owned by one of our members and is still operating to this day.



In 1954, three (3) mobile radios and a base station were installed in the 1938 and 1953 Seagrave pumpers and the ambulance. This was done where they were and for units to get extra help if needed.

so units could let the firehouse know



In 1955, a Cadillac Ambulance was purchased to replace the old 1948 Buick ambulance and a new portable respirator was purchased in 1957. Another 'major first' occurred in 1957. The company purchased two (2) "Air Packs", made by Mine Safety Appliances. They were known as "Chemox" units, which basically had a canister that generated oxygen from the moisture in the breath of the user. There were two exposed soft bags or 'lungs' that stored the oxygen for the user. This allowed firefighters to enter a smokey building to perform rescues and to attack a fire.

Then, in 1958, replacement was needed for the 1938 Seagrave pumper. A 1958 Oren/GMC, 500 GPM pumper, was purchased. This new engine had a 500 gallon tank onboard. This engine also had compartments to store extra equipment and coats, helmets and boots were stored on racks beside the hosebed for use on calls.



In 1962, the company replaced the 1955 Cadillac ambulance with a new Cadillac 'Meteor' ambulance. The new roof design and larger motor provided members with more headroom and faster response and transport times. Also in the early 1960's, both the 1953 and 1958 pumpers and the ambulance, would receive new designations after Carroll County created a radio system and dispatch center to alert companies to emergencies. Until this time, each fire company had someone to take phone calls for help from their homes. The 1958 Oren/GMC received the designation of "Engine 81" and the 1953 Seagrave received the designation of "Engine 82". The ambulance was designated "Ambulance 89".

The first official "Junior Auxiliary Department of the Union Bridge Fire Company" was organized in 1901. There are few records as to how this group continued as the years past. However, another junior organization within the company fostered in 1962. The Union Bridge Junior Fire Company was organized by company members. Young men, ages 15 to 17, joined the group with hopes to become firemen as they got older. Since then, many of our members and Officers who were once 'Juniors', have been and continue to lead our company.

In 1964, the company purchased a Chevrolet Utility Truck. The truck could be used to obtain supplies or bring dirty hose and equipment back from fire scenes. In 1965, the 'Union Bridge Fire Police' were organized. Deputized by the Carroll County Sheriff, these men were responsible for everything from traffic control to crowd control. Though they had no arrest privileges, they provided the extra manpower needed to take care of non-emergency police duties.

In 2010, it was decided that the organization needed a "utility/pick-up truck" vehicle for supply procurement, equipment retrieval and snow removal during emergency and non-emergency incidents. Through a special program discount under Maryland's GSA contracting, we were able to purchase a 2011 F350 Ford, 4 x 4, pick-up truck with a crew cab, 8' bed and a 'Boss' snowplow. The unit has been invaluable on not only emergency alarms, but also relieves the need for the use of our member's personal vehicles to pick up supplies needed for the fire company. Its first response was to a barn fire on the afternoon that it was placed in-service. The unit is designated as "Utility 8-1".



Since the fire company's organization in 1887, it is with great pride, we report that many of our members have answered our nation's call to duty in the military, during times of conflict. From WWI to Afghanistan, we are proud of those who have sacrificed themselves for our freedom.

Many changes and technological innovations in the fire service have occurred over the years. We have proudly maintained a high level of training and state-of-the-art apparatus, including an engine, an engine/tanker, a rescue squad, a brush unit, a command/personnel transport utility, a work/personnel transport utility with a snow plow and an ambulance with ALS capabilities, to insure that our citizens receive the best service possible. Though our ambulance service uses paid EMS providers 24/7 and we have a part-time day shift fire apparatus driver/operators on the weekdays, we are still primarily a volunteer fire company. Our members still believe in our motto;

"Proudly We Serve"

*Submitted by: Christopher S. Harris
Circa 2012*



The Union Bridge Fire Company Marks 50th Anniversary

*This printing is from the original newspaper article for the
50th anniversary of the fire company.*

Union Bridge – The golden anniversary of the Union Bridge Fire Company, commemorating fifty years of meritorious service to the public, was celebrated at Clear Ridge Inn, near Uniontown, December 18, 1938. The company was organized January 14, 1887, by William Marshall. The only remaining charter member is H. H. Bond, aged 77, who has attended 47 State Firemen's Conventions and many county conventions.

Heading this company as its President for the past 32 consecutive years is Howard Gray. The toastmaster was Rev. A. W. Simms, pastor of the Methodist Church and a member of the company. A banquet was served at 6:30 o'clock to 88 persons.

Following the banquet, a handsome three-tier cake was presented to the firemen through the courtesy of Mrs. Belt, the owner and manager of the Inn. It was iced in gold and white with a large golden bell suspended at the top. The cake was cut by President Gray and each member took home a slice.

The opening prayer was made by the chaplain of the State Firemen's Association, Rev. James W. Minter, a Baptist minister of Baltimore. Special selections were played by Hartzler's Trio. The toastmaster, the Rev. Mr. Simms, also serves as chaplain of this company. The first speaker's privilege went to Mr. Bond, who recalled fifty years ago when a few men got together and formed the company. Their main strength was in their will to have a company, some money was

collected and a home purchased. The company is now equipped with two good trucks and a standing membership of 45, with a waiting list. He said he was looking forward to the Golden Jubilee to be celebrated in Frederick in 1942.

Gives History of Company

Charles E. Gray gave the following history;

"The earliest record of our fire company prior to the organization, was in March, 1887, when the purchase of two extension ladders, two hook ladders and fifteen rubber buckets was made by the town. The equipment was kept in the old scale house of Joseph Wolfe, near the railroad. The purchase of this equipment probably resulted from the destruction of the railroad shops by fire December 3, 1868, when all the buildings and local improvements, including finished and unfinished work, books and records, were destroyed. This was the first loss by fire in the town, it being a main source of income for many townspeople."

"On March 10, 1887, a volunteer fire company was organized, when about thirty of the men pledged themselves to the duties required by an organization of this kind. After their organization in 1887, the town furnished two hose reels and a hook and ladder wagon. They moved into the engine room in the town hall and held their meetings on the second floor. They remained there until 1889, when they purchased the building used as a hardware store by William Wood, remaining there until January, 1925, when they sold the building to H. Isreal and purchased the town hall, paying the city council \$3,500 for same. May, 1925, the company purchased a Stutz fire truck, 400 gallon pumping capacity; February, 1926, the company purchased a Packard service truck and portable pump."

"January, 1931, the company purchased a 500 gallon capacity Seagrave pumper. The Packard service truck was taken in trade. The Stutz pumper was sent to Westminster and repainted at Eckenrode's, May 3, 1934. The company purchased the school ground and portable building from the Carroll County School Board in 1935. The portable building was enlarged in 1936 and is used as a dining room for festivals and

carnivals. A permanent amusement stand was built in 1935 and enlarged in 1936."

"On March 3, 1937, a 500 gallon Seagrave pumper was purchased and delivered April 30, 1938. The Stutz was sold and delivered to a fire company in West Virginia in April, 1938. The engine room was enlarged after the purchase of the Seagrave pumper. The present equipment includes two 500 gallon Seagrave pumpers, 1,200 feet - two and one half inch and 1,000 feet - one and one half inch hose; also, one emergency reel with 250 feet - one and one half inch hose for use in town in the event that both trucks are answering alarms in the country. This reel is located in the garage at The Pilot Building. The company has forty-five active members who are always on the alert to do their best in saving lives and property. The company is well-equipped for parades, having forty-five uniforms, purchased in 1938. The total of fire alarms was answered by hand-drawn apparatus from May 19, 1891 to June 21, 1925, and 26 alarms were answered in 34 years. The total of alarms answered to date with motor apparatus were 378 in 13 ½ years."

"The service of Chiefs has been as follows; William Marshall, 1887-1891; Frank M. Ogle, 1891-1907; H. H. Bond, 1907-1925; M. L. Saylor, 1926-1928; Robert Lowe, 1928-1929; and M. E. Gray, 1929. The present officers of the company are as follows; Howard Gray, President; William D. Ogle, Vice-President; George C. Eichelberger, Financial Secretary; Lewis Baker, Recording Secretary; Emory G. Minnick, Treasurer; Rev. A.W. Simms, Chaplain; Trustees - W.R. Fowble, C.N. Bohn, William G. Crabbs, G.H. Fogle, Donald Bloom."

"The oldest member of the company is H.H. Bond, being the only charter member still in service. The oldest members in point of service date from June, 1893, are; M.L. Saylor, William D. Ogle and C.E. Gray."

George C. Eichelberger, Financial Secretary, gave the financial statement as of December 1, 1938, as follows: Real Estate, \$15,000; Trucks, \$10,000; Hose Reel, \$50; 3,000 feet of hose, \$2,250; Suits, \$1,000; Cash in Bank, \$500; Total, \$28,000; indebted to bank for note, \$1,000; Net present worth, \$27,800.

Greetings Extended

Greetings were extended from Horatio T. Wentz, who served 25 consecutive years as President of the Lineboro Company. He also served as State President of the State Firemen's Association.

Rev. Mr. Minter was heard in a short address. From the State Association, he extended greetings for the company's holiday season.

Edward O. Diffendal, President of the Carroll County Firemen's Association, told them they were one of the best companies in the county organization, and the reports showed the outstanding work they are doing. He congratulated Mr. Bond upon his service.

D.O. Martin, Hampstead, Vice-President of the county association, paid tribute to Mr. Bond's service; the President in his 32 years of service, and the men who made possible, the good reports. C.V. Griefsenstine, Manchester, extended his felicitations on the occasion. The Treasurer, Emory Minnick, told of the fine work conducted in the fire school by the members of the Union Bridge Company.

President Gray spoke of the pleasure he found serving this company for 32 years and the fine cooperation of all members. He said he was proud of the reputation of his company as being very prompt in responses to all fire calls. One record was the 14-minute run to Westminster upon the occasion of the Smith-Reifsnider fire. At the conclusion of his talk, the toastmaster expressed the wish that he would serve 32 more years. William D. Ogle, Vice-President of the local company, spoke briefly, as did E. Earl Eichelberger.

The fire instructor of the classes being conducted in the company, Robert Rumpf of Frederick, spoke of the modern teaching of fire fighting from the bucket brigade to the present, when firemen must be educated to save property as much as possible from water and smoke damage, as well as from fire.

Rev. P.H. Williams, pastor of the Lutheran Church, told the men they deserve credit in their willingness to make calls at all times, in all conditions, sacrificing for the sake of others and their properties. C.E. Engel, merchant, told how he had been proud to support the company for the past 38 years. The Recording Secretary, Lewis N. Baker, extended congratulations

to Mr. Bond and all the members. Hyman Isreal, a merchant, spoke of the loyalty and fidelity of the members and said that the businessmen of the town felt secure with their protection. Robert Lowe, a former Chief, also extended greetings.

President Gray then asked the following past Fire Chief, Luther Saylor and the present Fire Chief, M.E. Gray, to acknowledge an introduction; also the following businessmen: O.B. Devilbiss, Elmer Phoutz, Raymond Selby, E.W. Pittinger, Paul Niswander, C.B. Metcleaf, George Fowble, Charles Bell, Monroe Wilson, Herbert V. Anders, John Messler, William Saltzgaver, the Hartzler Trio, Postmaster Wilmer Baker, Roy Winters and Clinton Kelly.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Minter after which all sang, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

The members are as follows; Earl S. Bloom, Marlin Crabbs, H.B. Crawmer, D.T. Crawmer, Peter Drabic, W. Elmer S. Hahn, Frank Kennedy, John Kiss, Thomas Kiss, Gerald Lightner, John Mackley, Herbert Michaels, LeRoy Myers, Earl Otto, George Otto, Howard Otto, Thurston Phoutz, LeRoy Shifler, Marshall Singer, Rev. A.W. Simms, Harry Strawsburg, Paul Stone, W.H. Stone, Robert Spurrier, John Wetzel, Sterling Wilson, Roy Wastler, Russell Wetzel, Paul Yingling and Malcolm Yingling.

Ogle - Bond

