

HISTORY OF THE CHELSEA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first fire building was built May 4, 1888 in the back of the town hall. The size of the building was 20x40 ft., 10 ft. high, covered by corrugated sheet iron, suitable for storing fire apparatus. Cost of the building, \$344.65, which included \$4.00 for painting building.

The first fire apparatus purchased was a hook and ladder truck (hand operated), and one dozen rubber buckets, July 20, 1888, manufactured by Rumsy & Co., N. Y., for the sum of \$268.

The first meeting called to organize a volunteer fire department was March 19, 1889, consisting of approximately 50 men. The first fire chief was J. A. Palmer.

May 3, 1889 the village purchased two chemical wagons for the sum of \$1,108.45, which made a great improvement in the fire protection of the Chelsea area.

Preceding the year 1917 the Department moved to a wood frame building in back of Merkel Bros. Hardware, where the equipment was kept till the horseless carriages were bought.

On July 1, 1918 the Council received bids and accepted from the American LaFrance Fire Engine Co. of Syracuse, N.Y., covering a combination chemical and hose cart, mounted on a one ton Model T Ford truck chassis for a price of \$2,000 delivered to Chelsea. At this time the new equipment was stored at Palmer Motor Sales at the rental rate of \$7 per month.

In 1928 a Graham Paige pumper engine was purchased, and in 1943 the present Chevrolet pumper engine was delivered. It had been purchased during the war and delivery had been delayed. The latter still is in use. In 1945 the village remodeled the Municipal Building and made provisions for a new fire barn, large enough to house the three trucks and an area for monthly meetings.

As the years passed the fire barn in the Municipal Building was outgrown and the need for a new building was apparent. Through the efforts of several past Councils and Firemen this new building was possible, at the cost of \$34,000.

By the spring of 1964 the Department is going to have a new Dodge 4-wheel drive chassis with a Bean fire apparatus to help give the community more fire protection.

DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE of Chelsea's NEW FIRE STATION



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1964

4:00 p.m.

200 West Middle St.

Chelsea, Michigan

VILLAGE OF CHELSEA COUNCIL

President Robert I. Daniels
 Clerk George L. Winans
 Treasurer Wallace C. Wood
 Assessor Thomas C. Smith

TRUSTEES

Paul Bollinger J. V. Burg II Larry Chapman
 Stephen Clark Howard R. Haselschwardt Clarence Wood

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CHELSEA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief James Gaken
 Assistant Chief Charles Hafner
 Captain George W. Atkinson
 1st Lieutenant Mac Packard
 2nd Lieutenant Arthur Paul
 Secretary David Longworth

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FIREMEN

Paul Bollinger Donald Hafner Donald Mshar
 Ray Johnson Merle Leach Ronald Branham
 Marvin Schiller Paul Hankerd David Elkins
 Claude Spiegelberg Richard Rogers Lavern Hafner

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AUXILIARY FIREMEN

Glenn Erskin Ishmael Pickelsimer Don Alexander
 W. D. Brown Robert Dorer Dick Harvey
 Philip Roy Jim Hafner Byron Smith
 Alton Gieske

P R O G R A M

"The Star Spangled Banner" Chelsea High Pep Band
 Invocation The Rev. Robert A. J. Livingston
Pastor, Congregational Church
 Welcome Robert Daniels
Village President
 Speaking for the Fire Department James Gaken
Fire Chief
 Presentation of American Flag V. F. W. Auxiliary
 Presentation of American Flag Chelsea Junior Chamber of Commerce
 Remarks Forrest Holcomb
*President of South Michigan Association
 of Fire Chiefs and Firemen*
 Music Chelsea High Pep Band
 Address Sgt. Joseph Terze
State Fire Marshal's Dept.
 Cutting of Ribbons Robert Daniels and James Gaken
 "America" Chelsea High Pep Band
 Benediction The Rev. Fr. Francis Maliszewski
Pastor, St. Mary's Church

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Architect for Fire Station Arthur L. Lindauer
 General Contractor Frederick Belser
 Heating Contractor John Steele
 Plumbing Contractor F. D. Rowe & Son
 Electrical Contractor Village of Chelsea
 Cost \$34,000
 Money spent by Chelsea Firemen to finish Fire Station \$1,242
 Village Council representative during construction Clarence Wood

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Dedication Chairmen:

George W. Atkinson Paul Bollinger