

**From:** [John Nelson](#)  
**To:** [admin](#); [CHRIS Bennett](#); [Jan Cummiskey](#); [Mary StGermain](#); [Debbie Skeldon](#); [paulfstuder@gmail.com](#)  
**Cc:** [judynelson44@cox.net](#)  
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Please see the attached Auxiliary History Notes. This document was discussed at last Saturday's Auxiliary meeting. It was prepared by a previous Auxiliary Historian, and covers 1977 to 1991. It makes for pretty interesting reading, highlighting how import the Auxiliary has been in the Forest Lakes community for many years. Many of the donations to the fire district are also documented. We certainly wouldn't be where we are today if it had not been for the loyal members of the Auxiliary over the years.

It must have been a huge amount of work by the preparer to go back through all the old minutes and write up this summary. But I am glad they did it!

Regards ...john

John Nelson  
Chairman of the Board, Forest Lakes Fire District  
Cell/Text: 602-686-4243

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## Forest Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary history notes

### 1977

Permits for outdoor fires were required.

Meetings were held in members' homes.

The department of Transportation was contacted to help enforce the 55 mile and hour speed limit through Forest Lakes.

### 1978

Harvey Buller retired from Fire Chief position due to health problems.

### 1979

So far the earliest minutes record I've found is March 30, 1979. Since the early notes were hand written, I may have trouble. I beg forgiveness if I misspell anyone's name. In addition some nick-names were used, a testimony to this small community where every one knew every one's name.

The minutes reflected the planning of the Memorial Day Saturday bake sale, the July Picnic, and the drafts of the By-Laws. The donations for the picnic were interesting, especially the four 50 lbs pigs for the greased pig chase loaned by Jim Lidford and 2 kegs of beer from Dan Olney; everything from hair cuts from the Rim Resort to garbage bags; sheet cakes, and tubs for donated ice. By-laws were discussed, as was a meeting place.

At the April 4, 1979, meeting the By-Laws were approved by those present, and officers were elected.

President: Mary Henderson

Vice pres.: Esther Prettyman Secretary:

Secretary: Louella Hirni

Treasurer: Effie Prewitt

Historian: Sandy Edgar

The treasury, it was decided, would not be turned over to the Fire Department but would be managed in an account by the Auxiliary and spent at the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Auxiliary for needs of the FLVFD, for a needy family, for disaster purposes, or for Auxiliary supplies. A checking account was opened for the Auxiliary on April 16, 1979. In May the treasury contained \$57.00 in memberships, \$2 in the disaster fund, \$84.25 from the bake sale. (This must have been one of the first projects, I can't find a planning discussion) Expenses that month were for greeting cards which were sent as sympathy, or congratulations to F.L. residents. Later that year there was a Flower Fund.

In those days they had frequent Auxiliary and Fire Department dinners and a Christmas party and, they met at the cinder shed! The picnic was on July 1 at Karl Odendahl's after discussion of having it near the Steak House.

A membership issue came up that year, and it was recommended that those who could attend only four meetings a year, could have an Honorary Membership- they were known to work- and were nick-named "week-enders". And that July the Fire Department gave the Auxiliary permission to use the Fire House for meetings rather than the Cinder Shed. Some of the members included Jeri King, LaVern Girdley, Shirely Arthurs, Loretta Wilson, Joy Gerzabek, Lavonne Nelson, Carla Crowder, and Dorothy Snow. Some of these served on committees before they became members.

Results of the picnic were several accomplishments!

**\$119.00 made from a raffle on a Buffalo and \$100 was donated by Whitey and Mary Lou, all of which was placed in the disaster fund. Mr. Shafter and Mary donated an oxygen pack to the Fire Department**

**\*A net of \$2513.54 allowed gifts to the Fire Department of a Radio system, a Base Station, a Resuscitator, and repairs to Truck #1 including a metal top, mirrors, turn signals, and having the seats re-upholstered. How's that for a first year!**

In August it was voted to keep the flower fund separate from the disaster fund, which is used for cards or more extensive kinds of needs.. A Forest Lakes Fire Fighter, Austin Mayfield and his wife Lorraine apparently needed special help, so a Love Offering was suggested by Mary Grimmet, Nadine Shuman and Dianne Aldridget and a benefit dinner was planned. Sadly he died before the October meeting but the funds raised were of help to the family. They must have been a very special family.

Plaques for fallen firemen, and for Presidents of the Auxiliary were recommended by Shirely Arthurs, who also donated an American flag to the FLVFD. The historian, Sandy Edgar got a scrapbook started and called for anyone's pictures of events.

The first cook book got its start with a call for recipes, and Chairwoman Mary Henderson mentioned a need for typists and volunteered her typewriter.

The October meeting was spent clarifying the decision to institute Bingo as a money maker and where the funds should go.

The basic research was done for establishing Bingo at Forest Lakes.

The Goals were established at this meeting for the various parts of the Auxiliary treasury. Flower Fund; Donation Jars; Picnic Fund; Dinner Fund; Membership Dues; Disaster Fund; and the General Fund which contained prior membership dues from the Fire Department.

## 1980

Elected officers: (at a special meeting)

President : Jerri King

Vice-President: Della Pace

Secretary: Luella Hirni

Treasurer: Mary Henderson

Historian: Sandy Edgar

It appeared that regular Auxiliary meetings were a problem during the winter months but committees did go on. Quilt workers with Joy Gerzbek, quilted. And the recognition plaques were being made according to Shirely Authors. March 30 was set for the Auxiliary dinner. Cook book publishing was discussed as were other ways to make money. The same funds existed except that the general fund appeared to have been moved into the Picnic fund. Committees were set in place with chairwomen.

Bingo discussions evolved into rules being established, A Small Game Bingo license was applied for in April, and awarded in May. Subsequently two of the three the original names on the license as responsible for Forest Lakes holding and conducting the games were dropped. Edward King's remained and substitute names Mary Henderson, Les Gaskill and Jeri King covered the necessary roles on the license.

By Laws wording continued to be amended

In May EMS personnel offered CPR training, so since F.L.V.F.D. was host for the classes and the Auxiliary offered a free lunch. A second meeting was held in May to get Bingo on its way. The residents donated, of course, and the Auxiliary bought the drinks. The first project ear-marked from the proceeds was for **table and chairs for the Fire Department.**

First Bingo returns were good, 30 people came to the Steak House the first time.

The first cook books were so popular that they sold out if the first printing! And all of it hand done- no computers in those days.

A quilt made by the committee followed Joy Gerzabek's Pyramid pattern for which she had already cut pieces, sold at the Picnic bringing \$231.00 to the disaster fund.

In August the realized they'd have to get a Bingo license allowing a larger group than the original allowed. A bit of political campaigning happened when Karan English came to town.

**The Auxiliary bought the F.D. a generator, with extension cords, a smoke ejector with door bracket, flood lights, and 2 fire hydrants out of the Picnic fund AND 1 eight ft. table and eight chairs from the Bingo Fund.**

The Auxiliary explored the process of incorporating.

Naming our subdivision was a big issue at this time. The choice between Merzville and Forest Lakes generated opinions and the question of where we should receive our mail, the Heber Rte or our own.

## 1981

Eight members were present at the January meeting. Members met in each other's home in winter time.

**\*Gift to the FD: folding steps.** The list of gifts made during the first two years are very impressive!

Sympathy cards were regularly sent to families who had lost a loved one. Skeet was chairman of the picnic in 1981. Children's games were an important part of the picnic. An annual newsletter was suggested.

New officers:

President: Jeri King  
 Vice President: Della Pace  
 Historian Mary Henderson

Treasurer: Joy Gerzabek  
 Sec. Prt Tm: Susan Olney  
 Secretary: LaVerne Girdley

The Bingo fund bought **another 3 tables and 60 more chairs** all together. In September LaVerne Girdley, Joy Gerzabek and Della Pace moved; so two board members and the quilt chairperson, Della, were lost to the Aux.

## 1982

Dinner get-togethers were still held with Fire Dept. and Auxiliary. Attendees paid for the meals and the tip - held at the steak house. Christmas boutiques were held each year.

**Katherine Price donated the American flag that draped her husband's casket. The dedication came after Skeet Wicka put up the flag pole. The Wicka's donated an Arizona flag to go with the American flag.**

Officers were

Pres. Donna Gaskill  
 Sec: Carla Crowder

Treas. Ed King  
 Vice Pres. Helene Wicka

That year it was voted that those desiring membership in the Auxiliary would fill out an application, and members would cast a secret ballot to accept or reject the applicant. Three nays would deny, and membership dues would be given back if they'd been paid.

**Window blinds and a large coffee pot were bought for the training room.** The Fire District wanted to publish a news letter and distribute to all property owners twice yearly. It was decided to hold pot-luck dinners for Auxiliary and Fire Department families every month, rather than the dinners at the Steak House.

Many hands made if not light at least well organized work of the July picnic. Most of the subdivision volunteered in one way or another. The department sent Booster T-shirts to Dewey Hopper and Willard Scott to be worn on their respective news casts. Many community vendors helped in exchange for advertising space or posters. There is well written account of volunteers and materials used, including food: a good guideline to use for someone new to the job of running a booth or even whole picnic.

Skeet Wicka, picnic chair, became so busy with Homeowners work and Helen Wicka, Vice. President, suffered from poor health, so they both gave up their posts to others who were willing to take them on. Katherine Price was elected to fill the position vacated by Helen Wicka.

**\*\$3362.00 donation of equipment to Fire Dept.!**

**Another CPR course was held at the Fire House. The Auxiliary made lunch for all participants.**

## 1983

The first meeting of the year appears to have been in February snow!

New officers nominated and elected by secret ballot 3/2/83 were

Pres. Donna Gaskill

Vice Pres. Carla Crowder

Sec. Mary Henderson

Treasurer: Ed King

Historian Helen Wicka

Committee Chairs were chosen as well.

Picnic plans were well organized in May, with all committees working or getting started according to the schedule. Meantime Bake Sales were being held.

Polishing touches were put on the plans June 1. Joint efforts to make the mixing barrel for raffle tickets were volunteered by Ed King and Glenn

Fredrickson, and Barbara Purtymun, Helen Wicka and Kay Price made posters.

**\*This year the Auxiliary gave \$4400.00 of first aid and fire fighting equipment; A substantial supply of bandages and dressings, adult and child blood pressure cuffs, two stethoscopes, 400 ft of 3" firehose, 4 woodland nozzles, a remote control for the base station radio, 100' of 1 1/2" firehose, 10 gallons of AFFF to fight flammable liquid fires, 2 salvage covers, a first aid injury kit, 2-1 1/2" fire fighting nozzles, 15' of soft suction hose, and a suction valve. In September, a desk, and two file cabinets were added.**

A pot-luck dinner celebrated the Picnic's success, and more committees were set to do more good work.

By-laws were amended to allow elections to take place in October since more residents are here than in April, but they would not take office until the fiscal year begins in April.

It was decided that this year the Christmas boutique should be held with the Bake Sale in September.

## 1984

As nearly as I can tell, the membership was about 41 men and women. 13 of which were members of the Fire Department. Donna Gaskill was acting president until elections when I believe the slate read

Pres. Donna Gaskill

Vice Pres. Carla Crowder

Sec. Peggy Pudlas

Treas: Ed King

Historian: Sandy Edgar

*please correct me if I'm wrong*

There was **\$5959.31 in the ambulance fund**. Storage was needed for Auxiliary materials. Several money raising events took place including a rifle raffle, Bake sale, Boutique, and a special dinner. The Christmas party included Ken McLaughlin's guitar and singing leadership and Tim Grier reading stories to the children. Ed King was the man in charge of Bingo. The F.L.V.F.D. asked for and received **tires for the ambulance and a 6 watt radio**

**1985**

Pres.: Cathy Pancheri  
 Sec: pro tem: Dorothy Schildts  
 Sec: Peggy Pudlas  
 Historian Sandy Edgar

Vice Pres. Marie Netherton  
 Treas: Donna Gaskill

Bingo: Ed King

Lot number signs were discussed. There were 39 members.  
 A cook book went into the planning with Mary Henderson asking for typists.  
 Fire Chief Barret Edgar suggested a kit or prebuilt building. He also presented a list of needed items for the Fire Department. That list was not found.  
 The Auxiliary continued the practice of making and delivering food and toy baskets to needy families in Heber.  
 Bob Hayes offered an 8 X 16 tandem trailer to be used as a storage shed. It needed tires.  
 No list of gifts to Fire Department was given in the minutes.

**1986**

Pres. Linda Barvitz  
 Sec: Peggy Pudlas  
 Hist. Sandy Edgar

V.P. Dorothy Schildts  
 Treas: Donna Gaskill  
 Bingo: Ed King

Karen English, county supervisor chairwoman, was scheduled to visit Forest Lakes to have a meeting of the fire district. This was deemed to be a good time to propose the plan for a 106 acre park in Forest Lakes. No camping would be allowed, but would be used for public enjoyment, as explained by Les Gaskill who was to present the Pilot plan.  
 No list of gifts to F.L.V.F.D. was included in the minutes. But roasters were definitely needed for Auxiliary use at July picnic.  
 By-Laws were amended to state that the board would not be responsible for the acts done by members.  
 No list of donations given to the Fire Department

**1987**

Needy families in Heber continued to be of concern of the auxiliary, but giving the single residents in the subdivision baskets was an idea that was not well received. The trailer needed work- it is not clear if this is the one offered by Mr. Hayes.

President: Judy Lecher  
 Sec: Rose Sorenson  
 Lorrie Buller  
 Historian:

V.P. Helen Wicka or Marge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Treas Ed King  
 Bingo: Ed. King

Amendments were made to clarify wording in the By-laws  
 Discussions were held regarding the way money was spent for supplies but the issue was resolved.  
 No list of donations to the Fire Department

## 1988

As far as I could find, there was only one hand written page of minutes for this year. It addressed needs for the July picnic. Apparently Polly Black had written a very helpful booklet to help picnic chairmen and workers. Christmas parties were an annual affair for the Auxiliary and Fire Department.

## 1991

Pres.: Lois Robinson  
Sec:Dot Gerhart  
Historian

V.P. George Leavitt  
Treas: Ardis Fagan

A total of 70 Auxiliary members!

L.M. Watkins was chair of the July picnic.

The fire house got painted. Joe Kezele headed that group of volunteers.

Jack Dunn, fire chief, asked that the Auxiliary fund **EMT training** and found willing membership. Another cook book was put into process.

No more minutes were available

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Impressions from your historian.

Apparently many more men and members of the Fire Department joined the Auxiliary than do now. They not only joined but, as now, were willing to work at Picnics, Bake Sales and even Boutiques, besides making bulletin boards, benches and many other projects needed. Many of the women's names came through again and again taking positions of responsibilities. Both the women and the men deserve medals!

Some secretaries did a fine job of recording minutes, almost but not quite as good as Mary Reed!

I do hope that future secretaries will clearly enumerate the donations of the auxiliary to the Fire Department.

It has been a pleasure to read the history of the Auxiliary and although I goofed on knowing many of the names of the hard workers through the years, I am in absolute admiration of all of them.

Thanks for the opportunity to do this interesting job.

Respectfully submitted



Ellen C. Huft  
March, 1996