

Wilder Community FD / Wilder City FD / Wilder Rural Fire Protection District History

1916 – 2023 as compiled by Steve Rhodes, Fire Chief

In 1916 – 1919 the Wilder Community established the first area volunteer fire department. The elected Chief was J.J. Marsh, the Assistant Chief was G.H. Robinson and Secretary/ Treasurer was H.B. Jones. The department consisted of twenty-eight volunteers and was divided into three companies: a Hose Company, a Chemical Company and a Hook and Ladder Company. In 1919 Wilder was incorporated but the Fire Department didn't become funded under the City Board of Trustees until **1936**. This action was initiated after a large structure fire that destroyed the Wilder Mercantile with second story apartments, which was where the Head Start is now. Was always thought to be arson due to a feud between the building owner, Mr. Small and the owner of the bar across the street (Hop House), Doc Young.



Prior to **1939** fires were fought with a hose cart and 30-gallon fire extinguisher on two wooden wheels. The fire extinguisher had a short hose and a pump, but it was too large to get into a structure. Water was supplied by only a 70 ft. water tower with only 31 lbs. of pressure. They were stored in the back of the old jail house, currently the Wilder Museum.

No structure fire could be extinguished without calling for an engine from Caldwell. By the time they arrived the structure had burned down. Thus, the beginning of the motto, "Wilder Fire, we save the foundations."

In **1939** Wilder City purchased a 1919 White pumper with an open cab. It had solid rubber tires front and rear and would get stuck every time it went off road. It was later refitted with balloon tires. Had only a pump and a hose bed, but no water tank. The original engine overheated and ruined the engine. They installed a ford flat head V8 (1936) and transmission. Also added was a 200-gallon tank and a hose reel. It also carried 2 round bottom fire buckets. These were used to carry water from stock tanks to the

pumper to fight fires. The Fire Chief at this time was Charles Farley and remained so until 1948.



Chief Glen "Tiny" Osborn, Carl Mayes



Chief Osborn

In **1948**, in an attempt to raise some revenue, a subscription plan was offered to local farmers for \$25.00 each. If you subscribed and had a fire, there was no charge to fight it. If not, they were sent a bill. That same year the Fire Department Chief Link Noe announced they had bid on and got another fire engine. It was a 2-ton Ford with a 500 GPM, 3-cylinder, John Dean high pressure pump (1000 psi), and a 250 GPM pump to draft. This truck was purchased from the Universal Safety Appliances Co. out of Boise and driven to San Jose, Ca by Assistant Chief, Dean Laughridge for assembly. The completely equipped truck cost \$8,500.00. \$2,200 for the chassis and \$6,300 for body and equipment.



During this time, the Fire Department did not adhere to any type of municipal boundaries and would run all over the area to fight fires.

In September **1952** Link Noe stepped down and on January 15th, 1953, Lee Bowman was elected Fire Chief and Glenn "Tiny" Osborn was placed in the Assistant Chief position. At the same time 400 feet of 2 ½ in hose and 200 feet of 1 ½ in hose was installed on the new truck. The old hose was used to equip the old truck. Seven firemen attended this meeting and established a series of meetings from that point on to be on every other Wed. A contest was set up by Chief Lee Bowman with the winner of each three-

month time period receiving a wristwatch. It was also announced that the department was in need of more volunteers to be at full strength, 10 to 12. The first meeting on January 21, had Caldwell Fire Chief, Lynn Krall as a guest speaker.



First Christmas Party was held at John Price's house at the Bureau of Reclamation Office. The City of Wilder began donating \$100 for the Christmas Party. Part of it was used to purchase a turkey for each fireman.

Chief Osborn, Lee Leadbetter, Mark McGuire, John "Socks" Price, Bernie Pollard, Jack Coles, Pete Hammons, Wally Clinton.

In **1954** Lee Bowman resigned and Glenn was appointed Wilder City Fire Chief.

Due to the lack of funding available through the city, in **1954** some of the local farmers got together a petitioned the Canyon County Commissioners to hold an election to form a taxing fire district. Boundaries were established, the election held, and the Wilder Rural Fire District was formed. Glenn Osborn was appointed as the first District Fire Chief. At this time, the policy of fighting fires all over the area stopped, and except for mutual aid, only calls within the District were responded to.

On November 18, **1955**, the Wilder Rural Fire District recorded the first use of their "resuscitator". Doyal Nall, the owner of the Serve-U-Well service station poisoned himself with carbon monoxide. After developing a headache, difficulty breathing and dizziness, he was rushed to the fire station where they used the resuscitator on him for 2 hours until he recovered.

In **1959** the District bid for and purchased an International America LaFrance from Starline Equipment in Boise. It had a 1000-gallon tank and a 1250 GPM midship pump and a gear drive, 1000 psi, high pressure pump. Traded in the 1948 when they received it.

In the beginning there were two fire departments, Wilder Rural and Wilder City. Several of the areas had a rural and city department. At one time there were around 30 individual City and District Departments. All of the city departments were extremely underfunded and most of them had the same Chief and Firefighters, but two separate budgets. In late 1955, Wilder was one of the first to abolish the City Fire Department and annex into the District.

In **1963** a new Ford pumper was purchased with a 1000-gallon tank and a small high-pressure pump.

On the morning of **April 18, 1965**, the fire station, which was located at the base of the current water tower, caught fire and destroyed the **1963** Ford and severely damaged the **1959** International. During the fire, the starter shorted on the International and it drove itself out of the fire.



After the fire had destroyed the pumpers, Starline Equipment loaned the District a used 1960 America LaFrance pumper that was located in Hagerman, ID. It was an open cab engine, and the firefighters took turns driving it back due to the low temperatures. After getting it back to Wilder and the firefighters showed how to run it, it was parked in the garage of a Newell's Service Station, where the jewelry store now stands, so it wouldn't freeze. Shortly after it arrived all the volunteers met to be shown how to operate it. Shortly after finishing the training, the wiring shorted out and it caught fire. The fire was extinguished right away, and it was kept in use until a new truck could be purchased. The District was contacted in October 2023 by United Heritage Insurance Company of Meridian. They advised us that they were in possession of the old LaFrance that we were loaned from Hagerman. They had refurbished it and used it for advertising in parades. They knew the history and wanted to donate it back as a piece of our history. We accepted and took possession on 10/16.



In working with Starline Equipment the District was advised that an insurance company located in Twin Falls, ID had an engine on order, a **1965 Ford America LaFrance**, and was willing to divert it to Wilder and they would order another. Wilder Fire District accepted the offer with the only change to add a hose reel. Due to not having a station, this truck was stored in a volunteer's garage. The cost to the District was \$18,000 plus equipment.



Part of the insurance money received from the fire and a years' worth of labor, the International was rebuilt and put it back in service. It remained in service until 2001 when a new engine was purchased.



The District had operating engines at this point but was still in need of a station. In 1959 a new dial system had been installed by the phone company and there was no longer a need for operators. The land where the phone company had been located had been vacant since that time. The owner, Harper Saunders, donated it to the District to build a new station. The Fire District was unable to afford a new building or borrow to build one, so the Wilder Building Association Inc. was formed to guarantee a loan to them (\$18,500) to build a 98' x 35' building. An open house/dance in Nov of 1966. The \$3.00 fee dance funds went to start the first burn out fund. In 1980 a 80' x 22' extension was added to the building at a cost of \$30,000.



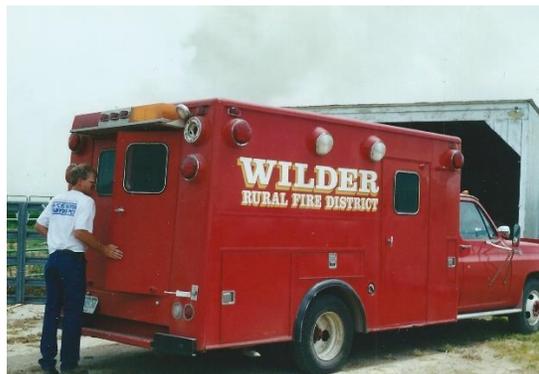
The water tender that had burned if the station fire was replaced through the Federal Surplus Property Program. The District received three retired Army 6x6 trucks and mounted water tanks in the bed. Of the three received the District was able to put together two that were operational. One had a single tank the held 900 gallons and the one pictured below held 800 gallons. They were delivered with 24-volt DC electrical systems that were less than reliable. One was converted to 12 volt and the other left 24. Top speed loaded was 45 to 50 mph, empty was 55 mph. Both had pull start, Briggs and Stratton 12hp water pumps mounted on them for off-loading. With the limited speed and reliability, water supply was always a concern and mutual aid was requested on every structure fare for water supply.



Our “Parade Tanker.” It had a right fender seat and a hand operated rotary bell used for the 4th of July Parades.



The original equipment van acquired by the Fire District was a 1960's model Chevy Suburban school bus that had been painted red and filled with any extra firefighting equipment that the District. It was mostly obsolete and never used. It was in pretty poor condition and was eventually donated to a local church to transport members to church on Sundays. The Canyon County Paramedics offered to donate a used ambulance to the District to be used for an equipment van. The only stipulation was that we removed all the medical devices and made it incapable of transporting patients.



At the time there really wasn't a lot of equipment to carry. The District had only two working SCBA's (Self contained breathing apparatus), and one spare bottle for each. These were very old Survivair, “elephant trunk” style with all steel bottles (left). Firefighters that were putting forth much effort extinguishing the fire would burn through both bottles within 30 – 45 minutes. After that we became

the old time “Smoke Eaters” until the fire was out. As a member of the Canyon Fire Chiefs Assoc., Wilder had gone in with the other members to purchase a high-pressure compressor to refill our bottles. The only downfall to this was the fact it was installed in what is now called Caldwell Station #1. We would have to take our empty bottles to Caldwell to refill. These two old units were later replaced with upgraded Survivair models with lighter aluminum / them composite materials (right). It was less weight for the firefighters to deal with and less exposure to the smoke. They were 2200 psi bottles.



Unfortunately, we still had to take the empty pack bottles to Caldwell to fill. In the fall of 2012, we got the opportunity to purchase a high-pressure (5000 psi) compressor form the Hailey ID. Fire Department. They had received a grant for a new system and had surplused their old one. When it was picked up, they also included their old fill station and storage bottles at the cost of \$3,500. This was the first time we had the ability to fill out own bottles.



In 1977, in the wake of a study conducted in 1975 by the National Transportation Department, on morbidity and mortality from motor vehicle crashes. The State of Idaho established the State EMS Division under the Direction of the Department of Health and Welfare. During the next several years millions of federal dollars were distributed nation-wide to establish EMS units within existing fire

departments / districts. The Wilder Rural Fire District had several members of the community attend a local EMT class and formed the Wilder Quick Response. The first EMT's were not cross trained as firefighters and there was very limited interaction between the two. Firefighters complained about being woken up for all the medical calls so in working with Canyon County Dispatch, Wilder was given two pager tones so that only the Quick Response could be paged for EMS calls. Fire wasn't even paged for motor vehicle crashes unless requested by the QRU. Due to the inability of the Fire District to purchase a response vehicle, these EMT's carried medical supplies and responded to calls in their private vehicles. After about a year of this and under threat to discontinue EMS service, the State of Idaho awarded a grant to purchase a van to use as an EMS response vehicle. It was equipped with all the equipment required by the State at that time. In the beginning training and equipment were much more trauma related than today's requirements. The extrication equipment provided through State grants consisted of hand or air operated tools with very limited power and was all about technique and training.



Original Quick Response Members

Vickie Elliot, (from left) Barbara Fogg, Tom Elliott, Donna Bechick, John Bechtel, Robnie Simonsky, Bill Fogg, Chris Church and Sonny Sarceda of the Quick Response Unit stand along side of the new QRU van which was delivered last week.

This trend continued until the spring of 1989 when four firefighters attended an EMT class and became the Wilder Rural Fire Protection Districts first Firefighter/EMT's. During this time the Fire District was operating on a very limited budget and the purchase of many of our "extras" were made by the members themselves by way of an annual fund-raising pancake feed. This was held each fall and continued for several years. The Wilder Rural Fire District strived to be the best it could be and the EMS side of it was no exception. In the early 1990's, through fund raising efforts the members were able to purchase a Hurst extrication tool, "The Jaws of Life" through the Federal Surplus Program, and a set of

used cutters from a dealer. The Fire District assisted with the purchase of high-pressure hoses and air lifting bags and the Wilder QRU became the first “Heavy Rescue” west of Boise and remained so for several years. Mutual aid was provided as far away as McDermitt NV. For a plane crash. The original van was transformed through several modifications.



The QRU Van was operated in this configuration for a couple of years, but it was so overloaded it was difficult to drive and was not very safe to operate at high-speed responses. The Parma Fire District had a surplus ambulance and donated it to the Wilder Fire District to be used and a Quick Response vehicle as it was better able to support the weight of the equipment.



Both GI water tenders remained in service until 1997 when the District purchased a 3000-gallon water tender from S&S Fire Apparatus of Fairmount, Indiana. In line with the luck of the Fire District, it broke down shortly after leaving the factory and had to be towed to a shop for repairs. (Broken airline).



During the 1990’s the District was given an Engine that Caldwell Fire had retired. In addition to this engine the District acquired a used 1978 LaFrance engine that had been used in Freeport, New York. It had been reconditioned by a company located in Twin Falls. The tank was enlarged, and a hose reel added prior to the District taking delivery. Rather than passing a bond or taking out a loan, this engine was purchased by Chief Osborn’s wife, Shirley, for \$60,000. She was then reimbursed over the next couple of years.



The Caldwell truck (left) was used sparingly. It smoked so badly at start-up it took a half hour or longer for the station to clear even with the doors open. Was not used at all during cold weather do the heating costs. The New York engine was quite reliable and was used for several years.

In 2001 the District requested bids for a new engine. The bid was awarded to Boise Mobile Equipment (BME). The engine was purchased for \$225,000 and was the first new engine purchased since 1965. This was the -year the old International that survived the fire was retired.



In 2003 the Fire District purchased its first apparatus with the specific purpose of fighting brush / grass fires. It was constructed by mounting a 2003 GMC 2500HD Duramax Diesel pickup and a 250-gallon poly tank skid unit the bed. This was a fast attack/off-road truck but had a very limited water supply. This was partially offset with the addition of a foam injection unit that amplified the extinguishing properties of the water.



Also, in 2003 the Fire District contacted the Rosenbauer Fire Apparatus Company in Sioux Falls, SD. Reference the design and manufacture of a new dedicated rescue truck to be used to respond to all medical, trauma and rescue calls. The rescue body was built on a 2003 Ford F-550, 4x4 chassis and was

delivered and put into service in the spring of 2004. With the addition of the new rescue the old Hurst Tools were upgraded with new high pressure, 10,000 psi, hydraulic tools manufactured by TNT Rescue Systems. These tools were lighter and easier to use. The Hurst Tools were eventually donated to the White Bird, ID Fire District.



In 2013 the District recognized the need for a heavy brush/grass fire apparatus. OSCO Tank and Truck sales in Orion, IL was well known in the fire service for purchasing used chassis, refurbishing them and constructing custom fire bodies. They were contacted and advised of what the District was looking for and this was the resulting apparatus. It is a 1998 International 4x4 chassis equipped with a 1000-gallon water tank with an integrated 20-gallon foam cell. It has a 35 hp Hale fire pump that supplies hose reels, front ground sweeps and a remote-control front bumper turret. Not only has it been much needed addition to the Wilder Fire District, but it has also been requested for mutual aid as far north as Midvale, standby in Owyhee County and east to Boise.



The next purchase, in 2010, was to be an additional tender, however during the search, a refurbished 1994 Volvo/Quality, pumper/tender was located at Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, Union Grove, AL. Not only did this fill the role of an additional tender, but it also provided an additional pumper when needed. This truck would not fit in the old station and was parked outside until the completion of the current station.



I theory this was to be a useful piece of fire apparatus. In reality it was much too large and heavy to be taken from the paved roadways in any type of adverse weather condition. After limited use and being stuck on a couple occasions, it was sold to a fire district in New York state in December 2016.

It had long been recognized that the Fire District was outgrowing its current station. New apparatus was getting larger all the time and the building was not tall enough nor had it kept up with modern technology. With this in mind, the Wilder Fire Board of Commissioners had been saving back money in the budget for just this purpose. And in 2007, were able to purchase 3 acres of land on Highway 95 at the north end of Wilder City. With the land purchased and \$750,000 in the bank, the District placed a bond on the ballot. It passed with over 80% voter approval and the new building plans were put out for bid. The housing/building market had crashed, and it was uncertain as to how much of the building could be completed on the amount bonded for.

The bid was broken down into sections with each to be bid on individually. Part 1, Building and apparatus bays. Part 2, the downstairs and offices. Part 3, the upstairs which included the training room, living area, kitchen and bedrooms. And part 4, The outside parking lots, driveways, landscaping etc. To the surprise of all involved, when the bids were opened the District was able to complete all 4 parts. Additional Block Grants were received to allow for the construction of the roadway (Patriot Way), and the installation of an automatic start, back-up generator. The building was completed in 2011 and the building was officially occupied. An open house/dedication was held on September 30, 2011, with former Chief, Glenn Osborn as a special guest speaker. Thanks to the foresight of our then Board of Commissioners, Danny Renfro, Darrell Jackson and Wes Hancock and the generosity of our patron, we have a facility that will see the District well into the future.



Shortly after the Fire District moved to its new facility, the old fire station was donated to the Wilder Library District, who through fund raising event and a bond, remodeled it and was able to move out of the double-wide mobile home into its current location.



In the mid 2000's the District entered into an agreement with the Canyon County Paramedics to house a paramedic ambulance in our station during daytime hours when our volunteer EMS staff was limited. The District provided a bay for the ambulance to be parked and the crews stayed in our office. After a few months, the Ambulance District placed a portable office/living building in the parking area to the north of the station. This remained in place and the agreement continued until Canyon County was donated the building that had been occupied by the Post Office, 107 4th St. (Now Wilder City Hall). Canyon County Paramedics remodeled the building, adding 2 bays and kitchen/sleeping quarters. Once it was occupied, Canyon manned it with an ambulance, Medic 53. This was an attempt to provide a more rapid ALS response to the western end of the county. The lack of calls from this station and the ever-increasing call volume in the Caldwell/Nampa area caused this ambulance to be called into the busier areas, leaving this new station unmanned the majority of the time.

In 2010 it was becoming apparent to the Board of Commissioners and Administrative staff that the number of volunteers to respond to calls for service was becoming uncertain during the daytime hours. The District hired its first full-time firefighter/EMT on December 1, 2011. This firefighter/EMT was on duty for day shift during the week. After hours and weekends were still manned by volunteers. The following year a second full-time Firefighter/EMT was hired, and they were scheduled for 4, 10-hour days with Monday and Friday shifts being supplemented with part-time staff.

In the fall of 2011, with its first two EMT instructors, the first in-house EMT class was held. The 230-hour class lasted until late spring of 2012 when training and testing was completed. By conducting the classes in-house, the District could provide classes to the volunteers for half the cost of outside schools.



Wilder Rural Fire Protection Districts first EMT class. Began October 2011, finished March 2012.

Also, in 2011 talks between six agencies within Treasure Valley reference the establishment of an EMS System rather than individually licensed agencies. After much planning, bylaws and medical input, in 2012 the System was established and the agencies, Canyon County Paramedics, Nampa Fire, Caldwell Fire, Middleton Fire, Wilder Fire and Melba Fire began providing EMS care under a single license. This provided uniform training and medical care protocols throughout all of the agencies. This also had the benefit of bringing all the agencies up to ALS provider level.

In the fall of 2013, the Firefighters Association was approached by a non-profit group, Friends of Our Community who offered to sponsor a fund-raising event with the proceeds going into the Burnout Fund and the purchase of a thermal imaging camera. On April 26, 2014 the fundraiser was held at Wild Heart Springs event center just west of town. Friends supplied all the food and table service, while the Firefighters secured donations for both a live and silent auction. The Wilder Firefighters held the next three (3) on their own. Due to the extreme amount of work involved and the dwindling number of volunteers to help, it was decided to discontinue the event.

The response from the community to our fund-raising events had been so overwhelming it was decided to show our gratitude by holding an Open House at the Fire Station in April of 2019. The public was invited to join their First Responders to enjoy free food, station tours, fire truck rides and kids' games. During the open house, the District borrowed a "Learn Not to Burn" trailer from the Eagle Fire Department. This was set up to give demonstrations on how fire alarms and sprinklers work. In 2021 we again approached Eagle Fire to use it for our open house. They advised that we used it more often and was putting it to better use than they. The Eagle Fire Chief approached his Board, and the trailer was given to the Wilder District.



Also, in the fall of 2013 and spring of 2014, the Wilder Fire District assessed the need and possibility of purchasing an ariel apparatus to be used in the western end of Canyon County. There was a history of substantial commercial fires in the area, hop pickers, meat production and agricultural warehouses. The nearest ariel would be responding from Nampa. Several used apparatuses were looked at and eventually it was narrowed to a 1994 KME Ariel Cat with a 101-foot platform located in Irwin Pa. Two members flew to Irwin and drove it back to Wilder. After lettering, equipping and training, "Big Blue" was placed in service.



It was instrumental in the extinguishing of a large warehouse fire in Parma, a grain dust explosion just east of Wilder and an apartment fire in Homedale.



Unfortunately, with the increasing maintenance costs and a major structural failure to the chassis which made it incapable of use for fire suppression, it was declared surplus and sold in June 2022.

With the change in licensing and the increasing demand for the Wilder ambulance in the Caldwell/Nampa, in 2014 the Fire District began discussion with the Canyon County Paramedic Director to see if there was a better solution to provide service to western Canyon County. After much discussion between the Fire Chief, Fire Commissioners, Paramedic Director, Canyon County Commissioners and the medical director, an interagency agreement was drafted providing for the Wilder Fire District to purchase and man BLS ambulances while Canyon County Paramedics would house a paramedic in a non-transport response vehicle in the Wilder Station.

In searching for a used ambulance, one was located for sale from the East Side Fire and Rescue in Issaquah WA. This ambulance was a 2007 Ford F450 chassis with the body that was manufactured by Road Rescue and would only need limited work to be patient ready.



Upon the Wilder EMT's obtaining all of the necessary optional modules required for transport and meeting the expectations of the medical director, the District began transporting patients on May 9, 2015.

With there still being a decrease in local volunteers to respond to calls, In May and November of 2015, the District Board of Commissioners placed a bond on the ballot for a budget increase to hire four (4) more full-time employees. This would have manned the station full time on a 24/7 basis to respond to fire/EMS calls. The bond was rejected by voters on both occasions and has never been pursued since that time.

Also, in 2015, the District entered a joint grant with Homedale Fire, Parma Fire and Caldwell Fire to Replacing our aging breathing apparatus with new, high pressure Scott air packs. These had all the current firefighter safety devices incorporated into a composite frame and composite bottles rated to 4500 psi. These SCBA's are still in use as of 2023.

Despite this setback, the District continued its commitment to provide the best fire and EMS service possible. The transport service being provided by the agreement between Canyon County and the Fire District was a great success. The increase in calls led to the purchase of a second ambulance in 2016. This was a 2007 Road Rescue Ambulance mounted on a Ford 450 chassis. This vehicle was better equipped for first responses and the original ambulance was moved to a back-up for second out calls for service. Eventually a 2008 Horton Medium Duty C-550 Horton was purchased and moved to the first out roll. The 2007 was moved to second out and the original was declared surplus and sold.





In 06/20xx, an engine became available through the Federal Surplus Property Program warehouse in Caldwell. It was a 2000 E-One Telesquirt that was located in Soto, Spain and was being surplused by the US Navy. It was equipped with a 50-foot ladder with remote control nozzle, a 500- gallon water tank and a 20-gallon foam tank. The cost to the District would be \$26,000 including the shipping from Spain to Caldwell. The truck was driven to the Wilder Station, ladder replaced and placed in service as a second out city truck.

With the addition of this engine, the older apparatus was declared surplus and sold. The old International La France that had survived the fire was sold to NOE Construction. The old 1965 Ford that had been diverted to the District after the fire was donated to the Jordan Valley Ranchers Association to help fight wildfires. The 1978 La France that had been purchased from New York was donated to the Sand Hallow Fire District.

In 2020, the increasing construction of large residential and commercial structures within the District were adding increasing demands on the equipment and apparatus owned by the District. With this in mind and taking advantage of changes in Idaho law regarding impact fees. The District joined in a multi-agency contracted with Galena Consulting to establish the future needs of the Wilder District to meet the future growth. It was determined that the District would need a new tender and a new high-pressure compressor for faster filling of the SCBA bottles in case of a large fire incident. These findings were presented to the Canyon County Commissioners and the Wilder City Council for approval, implementation of the appropriate ordinances and collections of the fees. The impact fees were approved by both entities and the District began collecting fees in the fall of 2020. Efforts were turned toward looking into the purchase of a new structure engine. Changes in Idaho Law required the District to go out for bid for this type of purchase. The District became a member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, (HGACBuy), in order to take advantage of the bidding process that had already taken

place. We received the specifications of the base model that had been bid on. Contact was made with Graham Fire Apparatus, who was our Rosenbauer dealer, to work on designing the truck to meet our needs. After several meetings, a design was agreed on and the truck was ordered with around a year delivery date. The District had been saving back funds for several years in the capital outlay line item for the purchase of a new engine. The problem being that the cost of the engines was increasing more rapidly than funds could be saved. It was decided to contact Zion's Banck and see if they offered a lease purchase plan that would be available to the District. It was determined that the funds saved by the District could be used to purchase the chassis outright, which reduced the cost by 10% and use our remaining funds and a \$200,000.00 lease from the bank to complete the purchase. With all the technicalities worked through, the Commissioners authorized the purchase of the new engine. In June of 2021, the District took possession of its brand new Rosenbauer rear mount Pumper. This engine is fitted with extrication tools, airbags and had tools to meet the needs of most any type of call we are dispatched to. In 2021 the District received a grant from the Firehouse Subs sandwich chain for nearly \$10,000.00 which was used to purchase battery powered extrication spreaders and cutters.



With the new addition, the Telesquirt and Rosenbauer were declared surplus and sold. The proceeds from the sale of these two apparatus were used to pay on the lease.

In the spring of 2023, it was becoming obvious that the current high-pressure compressor was reaching the end of its usefulness and maintenance costs were becoming more than was feasible to put into it. An additional compressor was one of the items identified in the impact fee study that was needed. Bids were requested from several vendors and a new Bauer compressor was order from Weidner Fire. There were numerous delays in shipping and wrong parts, however in December 2023, it was finally installed and running.



Wilder Fire Chiefs

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|-----|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | 1916 -- ??" | J.J. Marsh (Community) | Assist: G.H. Robinson (Community} |
| 2. | 1936 – 1948: | Charles Farley (City) | |
| 3. | 1948 – 1952: | Lincoln "Link" Noe(City) | Assist: Dean Laughridge (City) |
| 4. | 1953 – 1954: | Lee Bowman (City) | Assist: Glen "Tiny" Osborn (City) |
| 5. | 1954 – 1956: | Glen Osborn | |
| 6. | 1956 – 1961: | Orliff "Tuffy" Kinley | |
| 7. | 1961 – 1995; | Glen Osborn | Assist: Arnold Waldemer, 1984 – 1995 |
| 8. | 1995 – 2005: | Arnold Waldemer | Assist: Doug Amick |
| 9. | 2005 – 2012: | Doug Amick | Assist: Steve Rhodes |
| 10. | 2013 - | Steve Rhodes | Assist: Chad Christiansen |

OVER THE YEARS





MAJOR FIRES INVOLVING WILDER RURAL FIRE

Peckham onion shed (Where Simplot Soilbuilders is located)



Wilder Feed Mill (concrete foundation still remains) east of Hwy 95



Wilder theater and part of downtown (Alejandro's and north)
Theater was where the Vetrens Park is now located.

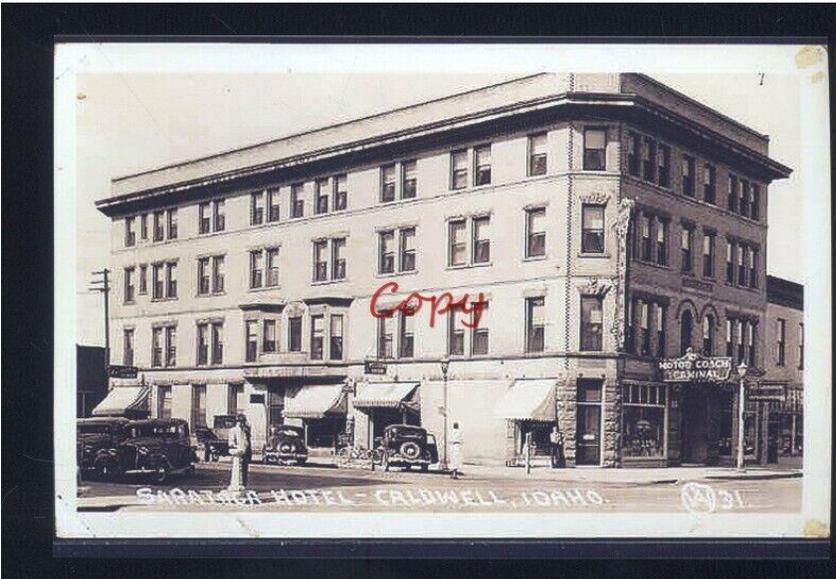


J.R. Simplot potato plant, Caldwell. 1973



SSI Foods, August 1988.

Saratoga Hotel Fire, Caldwell, 12/29/1990



Credits: Wilder, Idaho, Looking Back: The beginning through 1955

Compiled by Bonnie Cade, Wilder Librarian, 1990

The Wilder Herald Newspaper clippings.

Published from 1918 -1969

Former Fire Chief Glen Osborn Interview

Presented to the Firefighters by Chief, January 2007 fire meeting

Fire Chief Rhodes

Experiences during years of membership, 1989 – 2023.