

1962 - 83

History of

the

Green Lake

Township

Volunteer

Fire

Department

In 1962, seven men gathered together with one common goal in mind--to have a Fire Department in Interlochen. We can now look back and reminisce on the memories, and remember the men and women who have kept the department in service for over two decades.

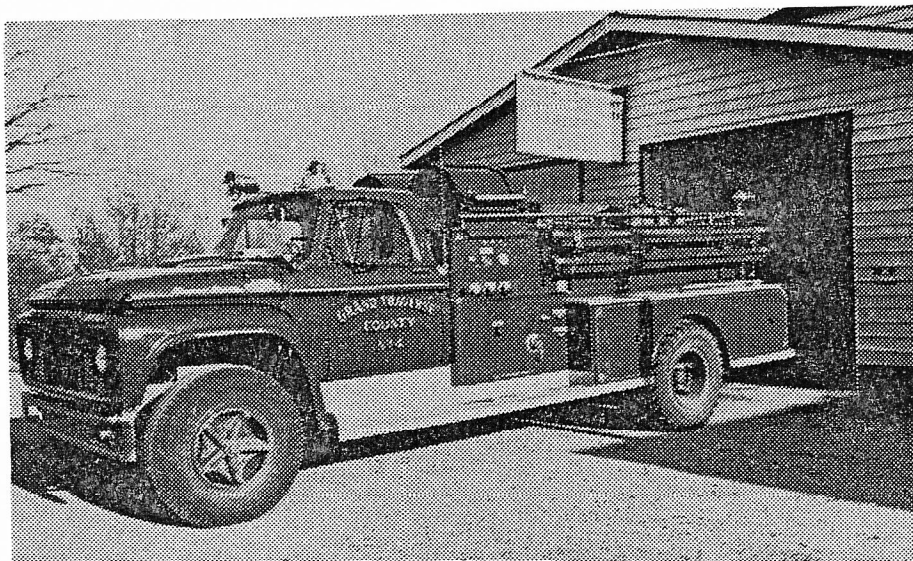
To start a Fire Department there are a few essentials needed: 1) by-laws, 2) equipment, 3) men willing to volunteer their time to operate the equipment. When formed the by-law committee consisted of Marvin Bush, Donald Corbin, and Joe DeLorme. These three men wrote, and presented the by-laws to the department. They became official as soon as they were passed by the other members in the department; Donald Hanes, Jerry Marceau, Ray Joppich, and Sonny Bossingham.

The equipment rambled in piece by piece, with the first Fire Truck coming from Karlin, a 1948 Reo. The seven men who volunteered their time to man the truck were led by President Joe DeLorme, and Fire Chief Donald Corbin. Ray Joppich was elected Secretary, and Donald Hanes put in charge of the money as Treasure.

Fundraising began almost immediately with teenage dances being held weekly at the Green Lake Township Hall. As soon as enough money was raised a work bee was organized to build a Fire Hall on the east end of the Green Lake Township Hall. The Hall had two stalls, and was heated by an oil burner to keep the water from freezing. A 1948 LaSalle ambulance, resuscitator, and a siren were also purchased at this time. In 1964 with the remaining dance money, and the money from the sale

of the old ambulance, a 1956 Cadillac Ambulance was purchased.

In 1965 the county took the old Reo Fire Engine away and replaced it with a 1964 Ford chassis, and a John Beam Pump Unit. The tank on the new truck will hold 750 gallons of water, which can be dispersed with either a misty fog, or a steady stream of water. The pressure from this new truck and pump is so great that it can knock a grown man down.



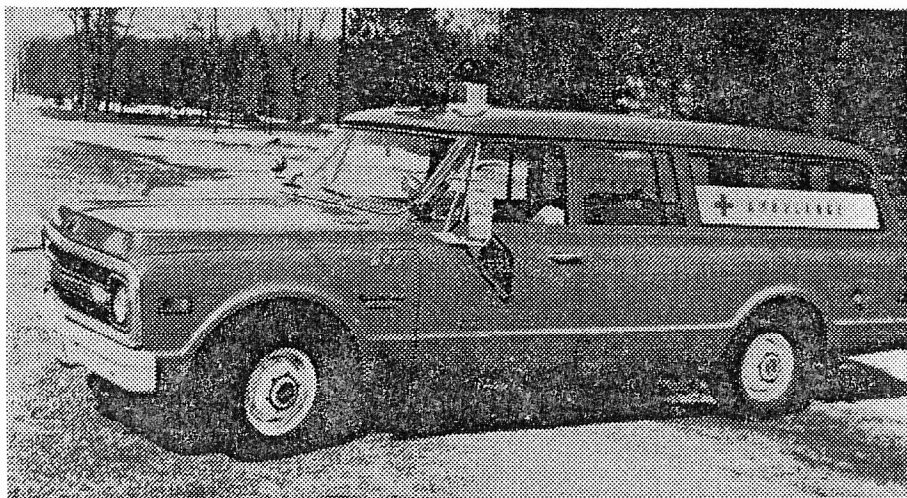
64 Ford

In the meantime the teenage dances were continuing, and the eight-hundred dollars received from them was used to help pay for an addition to the Fire Hall. With this addition, the hall now has four stalls, a bathroom, and a kitchen sink with hot and cold water. Other monies collected from the dances were used to purchase a portable resuscitator, one smoke ejector, two Scott Air Packs, one portable water pump, one portable generator, hoses, a chain saw, ropes, and many other useful items.



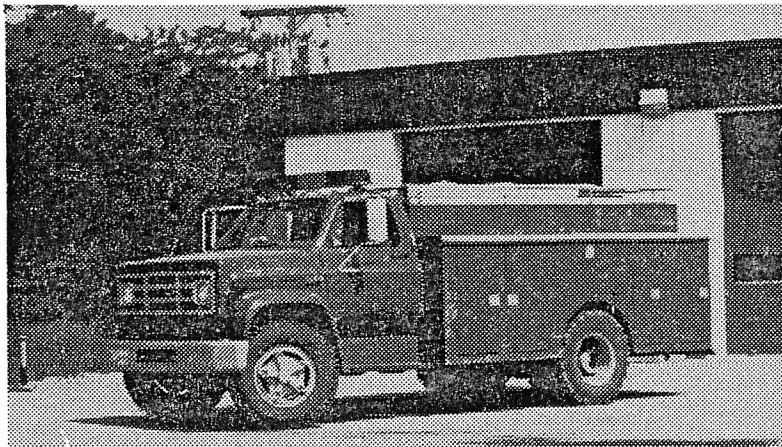
56 Cadillac

In 1968 with the money we had in the bank and donations from the people of Green Lake Township, the Fire Department purchased a 1956 International Power Wagon. We made the tank larger, and put a water pump on the truck. This vehicle is used mainly for Grass and Woods fires, as it has four wheel drive, and will go almost anywhere. In 1969, again with the support of the surrounding residents, and the Green Lake Township Board, the Fire Department purchased a 1970 Chevrolet Station Wagon, and converted it into a fully equipped ambulance. The 1956 Cadillac was sold to another fire unit.



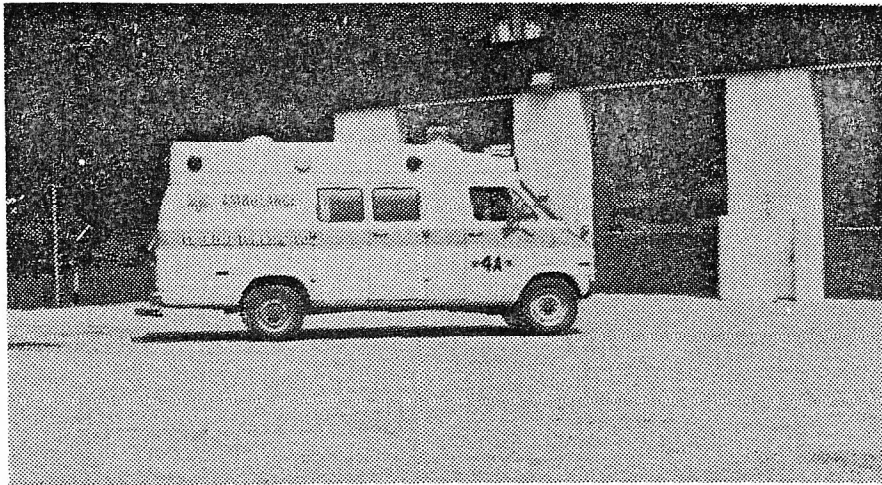
70 Chevy

In 1971 the department received a four wheel drive chassis from the Department of Natural Resources, and one-half of a tank from the County Fire Department. We closed the top of the tank and assembled these two. This vehicle was used for a tanker to carry water from the surrounding lakes, and rivers, and deliver it to the fire scene. In 1975 the D.N.R., took the tanker back because the repairs, which were needed to keep the vehicle operating safely, were too costly, and too great of an expense for our unit. The Fire Department now had nothing to haul water in, and because of this a 1975, 1400 gallon tanker was purchased by the County Fire Department, and Green Lake Township. This tanker was the first of its kind in the county, and was titled over to the Green Lake Township Volunteer Fire Department in 1975.



75 Tanker

In 1975 the department also purchased monitors for department members, and two more Scott Air Packs. This was made possible because of the money raised through Bingo Games held at the Green Lake Township Hall. A porter pack was donated to the Fire Department for use in freeing passengers from their wrecked automobiles. Extra tools were purchased for the porter power with a portion of the money raised from the Bingo Games also.



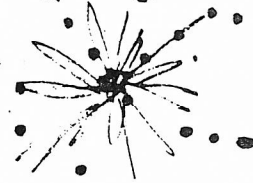
76 Dodge

In 1976 the first Red Four Jubilee was held. (See poster following page.) Among the items on the schedule of events were a breakfast, demonstrations, kids games, a pig roast, and a dance. The money raised was used to purchase a 1976 Dodge Van Ambulance. This van can haul up to four people if necessary, and has a special phone in which the volunteer department members can talk directly to the hospital that they are transporting patient(s) to.

RED JUBILEE

FUN
GOOD GAMES

DELICIOUS
ROAST PIG
STUFFING POTATOS BAKED BEANS
COLE SLAW ROLLS COFFEE
HOMEMADE PIES
AND CAKES



GUN RAFFLE



★ **ANTIQUE CARS** ★ **AIRPLANE RIDES**

★ **BOB BLACK'S MUSEUM** ★ **MAGICIAN**

★ **POLAROID PICTURES** CHILDREN W/ **FIRE TRUCK**

★ **AIRPLANE RIDES** ★ **BAZAAR TABLE**

★ **KIDS GAMES** + **PRIZES** ★ **QUILT RAFFLE**

★ **INTERLOCHEN HERITAGE DISPLAY** IN SCHOOL

★ **POP** ★ **HOT DOGS** ★ **BEER TENT** ★ **POPCORN**

★ **DONATIONS FOR NEW
FIREHALL BUILDING AND AMBULANCE**

COME ONE • COME ALL!

BREAKFAST MENU: HAM + Sausage
PANCAKES CORNFITTERS COFFEE + TEA MILK ETC.

BREAKFAST ADULTS \$1.75 KIDS 1.00 14 & UNDER
DINNER-SINGLE \$2.75-COUPLE \$5.00 KIDS 1.25

**BOOSTER
BADGES**

Qualify
Holder
To FREE
DINNER
&
BREAKFAST

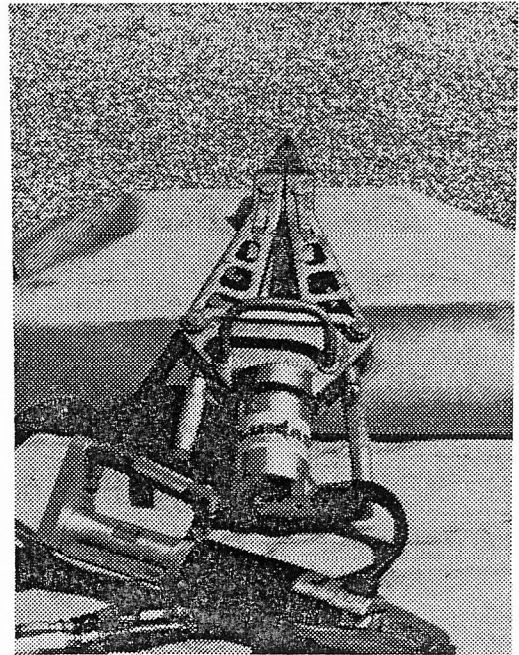
JOHN DOE
BOOSTER
RED 4 JUBILEE
JUNE 12, 1976

Location **GREEN LAKE TOWNSHIP HALL**

**SATURDAY JUNE 12TH ALL DAY
7AM-7PM.**

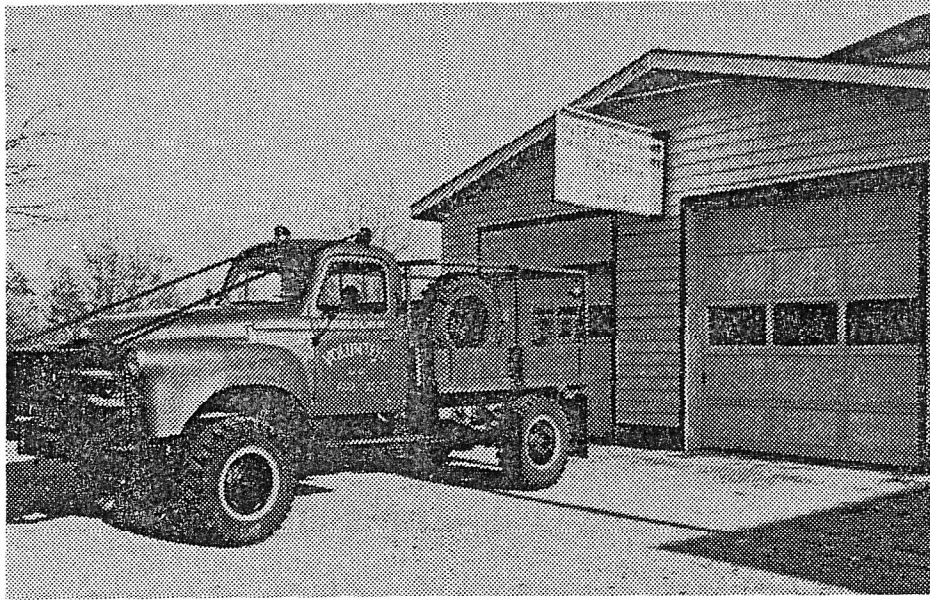


Rescue



Jaws

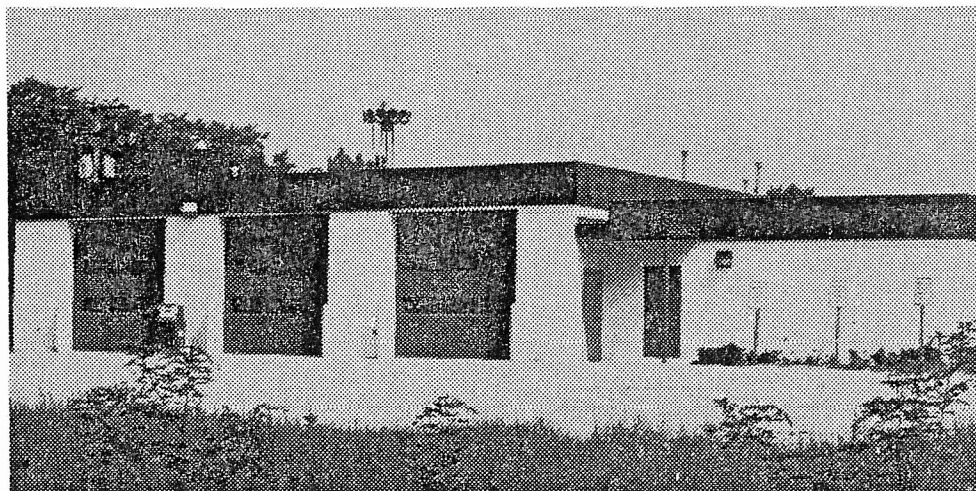
Other fundraising events included Pancake Breakfasts, more Jubilees, and in cooperation with Red 10 (Long Lake Township), and Red 5 (Grawn) the raffle of a 4-H Steer donated by a local business owner. The money obtained from these fundraisers was used to purchase various things. Among these is a piece of extrication equipment that can be used to free people trapped in automobiles easier, and quicker. One such piece is known as the Jaws of Life. These jaws are so powerful that they can cut up a car as easy as scissors cut paper. Also used is a set of airbags that can lift up to 5 tons. Some of the Department Funds are also used to host Annual Halloween and Christmas Parties for area children.



56 Power
Wagon

Old
Barn

In 1979 one of the biggest tasks ever undertaken by the Department was accomplished; a new Fire Hall was constructed. The hall is to the north of the old Fire Station, and is big enough to house six vehicles. It has a Community Room to the East. There is a sign that hangs in the building thanking anyone, and everyone, that so unselfishly donated something to make the building possible. Also included in the building are facilities to fill the Fire Trucks up at a rate of 60 Gallons per minute.



New
Barn

In 1980 the Grand Traverse County Fire Department was reorganized into two divisions, one for the Rural, and one for the Metro Fire Departments. A new Fire Chief was hired. It was felt that through this reorganization the members of the surrounding areas could be served better at a lower cost. Other changes include the reimbursement, on a small scale from the township, for the time volunteers spend on Fire and Ambulance runs.

In 1982 the International Power Wagon, which served the department for eleven years, was retired because lack of parts available to fix the truck, and the cost involved in repairing the truck. Also the township purchased bunker pants for the department members, which serve for warmth in the winter, and protection in the summer and winter. Another event that was started again in 1982 after not being held for a number of years is the weekly Bingo Games. They are held in the community room on Tuesday Nights.

In looking to the future many exciting events are happening. Among these is the selection of a logo for the department. There is also an county wide ambulance millage election in the fall which will have an effect on the department. Department members are also looking forward to the day a New Fire Truck will arrive, to replace the 1964 Ford, and be housed in the station at Interlochen.