

# Bonanza's Fire Department Has New Look



FFA CLUB MEMBERS and Bonanza shop students are pictured beside the new look in fire prevention. The high school is in the background and the young tricycle at the left is the son of the school janitor. He's all set to chase the new fire truck to its first fire.

## Rail Peace Parleys Held

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House announced Saturday that negotiations aimed at settling a two-year dispute between the nation's steel and railroad and three big unions have been under way for the "last several days."

Dr. John H. Steelman, acting defense mobilizer and long-time labor mediator, led President Truman's last separate with union chiefs and heads of three major carrier groups Friday and Saturday at the White House. The union are the Amalgamated, the conductors, and the firemen, with a total membership of about 150,000.

There was no official progress report, but union sources predicted "agreement of some kind" within two weeks.

The dispute started more than two years ago over wage and working rules and led to government seizure of all the nation's class one roads in August, 1950, to prevent a threatened strike.



THE OLD LOOK in fire prevention at Bonanza is shown by Fire Chief Roy Warfield.

## Umatilla Goes To Republican

PENDLETON (AP)—Republicans have recaptured the lead in Umatilla County's voter registrations disclosed Saturday.

The total is 19,591, of which 9,812 are Republicans, 9,859 Democrats. In 1950 there were 9,671 Democrats and 9,653 Republicans.



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By DAVE UNDERHILL

It's been said a town isn't worth living in till it's burned down once. Well the windswept town of Bonanza has reached that point—at least once over—and is determined a disastrous fire won't occur again.

Standing next to Roy Warfield's gas station on the highway through town are two examples of the old and new in fire prevention at Bonanza. Roy, by the way, is chief of the department. Assistant chief is Roy Fernlund and Jack Kelly is secretary-treasurer.

Talking about old things and old times—the last time Bonanza nearly burned down was in 1929. At that time the flames started up in the blacksmith shop and spread through the Postoffice, John Bradley's general store, Lentz cafe, the drugstore and dance hall. Even after that fire, there wasn't any fire equipment in the town for quite some time.

Then in the middle '40's when Mayor (Mr.) Owen People took office a move was started to correct the situation.

First thing purchased was a fire siren placed on top the Postoffice building. Next came two chemical tank-type fire extinguishers. Those two tanks—to the present time—have been carried in various fashions to many fires, but have been of little help. They contain only 35 or 50 gallons of solution.

With additional funds raised, a pickup truck was purchased in 1947 and used to pack the extinguishers from station to fire. Then a year later the pickup was traded in on a ton-and-a-half flat bed truck, and the tanks were transported by that means.

The same year, December 20, 1948, to be exact, the first meeting of Bonanza Volunteer Department was held with election of O. C. Wells as president; Harry Bray, vice-president; Lloyd Sparks, secretary and John Horn, treasurer. From a membership of 20 persons Wells was named fire chief and Dick, assistant chief.

First fund raising activity of the organization was a dance in April of 1949. Then in November of that year elections were again held and Wells returned as president, with an administration of Harry Bray as "veep," Ted People, secretary and Horn still treasurer.

Wells kept on as chief with Jack Kelly, assistant chief.

TURNING POINT  
February of 1950 saw the turning point from the old to the new of fire prevention at Bonanza.

The old foam extinguishers were sold in favor of some steel. The steel is part of what comprises the "new," gleaming white 800 gallon pumper truck standing beside Roy Warfield's gas station.

An interesting story in itself, is how the gleaming white fire truck evolved from the flatbed truck purchased in 1948.

After the steel was purchased, a hydraulic pump was also obtained in September of 1950.

Then late in 1951, the students

of Bonanza high school decided to give the fire department a helping hand in building their truck.

Early this year pupils of Tom Blackman's 10th grade general shop class, and FFA members in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades spent their shop periods building the 500 gallon water tank on the truck bed, enclosed it and put on the hydraulic pump.

Then they painted the truck white and put on a siren and lights and let-

tered both doors on the cab to read, "BONANZA VFD."

But the "new" truck is not destined always to stand out in all kinds of weather. At the last election a mill levy was carried by townspeople for fire department funds.

And a fire station is actually on the drawing board and out of the dreaming stage.

So with the kind of cooperation from the people of Bonanza that has built the fire department to

its present stage, it seems a certainty the needed fire station will soon be built. Then, no doubt, the next stage will be procurement of another fire truck, to really make sure Bonanza won't have another one of those disastrous fires. One is enough, two is one too many, and three—well that's unheard of these days.



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