

## From the Chief's Desk

By Fire Chief Don Shoevlin



2008 - current

I would like to start off by thanking everyone who had an opportunity to attend our annual dinner. The men and women of the fire department did an outstanding job as usual.

This is a special time as well with the celebration of "70 years of service to our communities". We will be using the theme of "Then and Now" throughout this newsletter.

Sheryl has done an excellent job of research and layout to try and accomplish this. My hat is off to her for her due diligence while accomplishing this task. I would also like to thank those of you who contributed, whether it was with interviews or memorabilia, to make this a success.

The Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District has come a long way since the days of its one fire truck and oversized two-car garage that served as the downtown Main Street fire station. This has been possible through commitment and dedication of its volunteer members and the support we receive from the community.

While the faces have changed over the years, the commitment by the men and women who put on their turnout gear at a moment's notice hasn't. It is a dedicated group of over 100 people when you include our administrative staff, chaplains, dispatchers, photographers, and fire prevention bureau.

We have taken delivery of our new ambulance this past week. It is a Medtec ambulance on a Chevrolet 4500 chassis. This ambulance will replace one of the older ambulances in our fleet.

We hope you find this newsletter not only informative but a little humorous. Remember you can keep up to date on the progress of the department and the individuals by visiting our website, [www.harlemroscoefire.com](http://www.harlemroscoefire.com). As always don't hesitate to contact me or stop by if I can be of any assistance.

## Harlem-Roscoe Fire Chiefs



Harry Evans 40-44

John Kelly 1944

George McDonald 44-52

Cobby Rogers 52-65

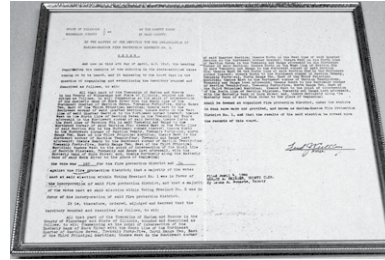
Ben Alexander 65-81

Jack Brown 81-82

Oscar Presley 82-2007

## Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District #1

"70 Years of Service"



Filed April 4, 1940

... shall be deemed an organized fire protection district under the statute in such case made and provided, and known as Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District #1 and that the results of the said election be spread upon the records of the court.

## Highlights by Decades:

**1940's** – Incorporated as a Fire Protection District, had 2-door fire station located at 10670 Main St. in Roscoe, and had three Fire Chiefs, Harry Evans, John Kelly, & George McDonald.

**1950's** – Addition built to fire station, department had three trucks, Cobby Rogers became Fire Chief.

**1960's** – Ben Alexander became Fire Chief and Inspection Bureau started.

**1970's** – First paramedic in volunteer fire department, first rescue truck, first volunteer department to purchase "Jaws of Life", second fire station built at 825 Ralston Road and pagers were added for notification of volunteers.

**1980's** – First true trauma units/ ambulances were purchased, three Fire Chiefs served -Chief Ben Alexander, Jack Brown, and Oscar Presley, bunker pants replace rubber hip boots, training division started, trucks now had closed cabs and riding on back of trucks was stopped, the Association's Spring Coon & Ham Dinner had to drop the coon from its menu.

**1990's** – Fire Station Three was built at 13974 Willowbrook Road, purchased thermal imaging cameras, first aerial truck was purchased, Station One was moved to 10544 Main Street, a department web site was developed and a monthly newsletter began.

**2000's** – Became an ambulance district, training burn tower and training facility addition, purchased three aerials including two Quints, preemptors installed, implemented a computer mapping and 24 hour in-house dispatching, Fire Chief Oscar Presley retired, Don Shoevlin became new Fire Chief, and advanced training directives were incorporated.