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The Older Generation Can Always Teach You Something

By Bruce Secrist

When you look at this photo you see two older gentlemen. They are observing some of the younger guys working on an accident scene.

Rest assured, their hair may be gray and they may not move as fast as they once did, but the firefighting knowledge that they have is impeccable.

Pictured on the left is my father Glenn and on the right is Earl Dawson Jr. Between these two life members of the Cordova Volunteer Firemen's Association, Talbot County Station 50, they have obtained over 110 years of firefighting/pump operating experience.

Please don't get me wrong, the state fire training facilities do an excellent job at preparing our youth to be firefighters, but regardless how much you think you know, the older generation can always teach you something.

Think about this -- they used to do the same job that we do now, only with a lot less..... They had a helmet, coat, ¾ boots (no bunker pants), no breathing apparatus, no hydraulic tools for extrication and heavy wood ladders. The pumpers only had 500-750 GPM pumps (today's pumps are twice that size), limited water supply (300-500 gallons) and you had to ride on the tailboard regardless of the weather.

I was fortunate enough to ride the tailboard when I first joined, and that is an experience all in itself, something today's generation will



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(L to R) Glenn Secrist and Earl Dawson Jr. life members of Talbot County Station 50, the Cordova Volunteer Firemen's Association, working a call at Route 328 at Three Bridge Branch Road.

Photo by Bruce Secrist

"Think about this -- they used to do the same job that we do now, only with a lot less"

never experience. I guess the moral of the story is, listen to what the old timers (no disrespect) have to say and take their suggestions.

After all they have served their time and managed to do the same job we do now with nowhere near the equipment.

At the end of the call, the fire was out, the patients in the accident were at the hospital and everyone

went home!

"The best thing an old firefighter can teach a young firefighter is how to be an old firefighter." ~ Unknown

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The President’s Corner

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” — Winston Churchill

By Michael A. Davis, President, MSFA.

How many times have you heard “Because we’ve always done it that way....” at the firehouse? I think I do probably once a week or so. For many things, it may be true; there are several standing traditions that we (or the older folks as some say) like to keep in our stations, such as driving privileges or station duties that we prefer the probies to do!

We’ll always have a right of passage style of mentorship, or at least I hope we will, in the fire service. It’s just like any job you take on in life, you have to earn your keep.

However, with the quick pace of technology, the increasing call volumes, and the growing shortage of volunteers, we need to change our ways to some extent.

Winston Churchill had many great quotes and I feel he couldn’t be more right. “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” He stated many times throughout his life. He also stated “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” We need to evolve with the ever-changing fire service and that takes looking at it with the right attitude and from many angles.

Year after year, I keep hearing how the

same issues and problems are plaguing the volunteer fire service. The world around us is changing faster than we can

or possibly care to change with it. We’re not in a society so much any more that fosters volunteerism or giving back in general like we once were. Our populations have increased and call volumes have followed. People are working two or more jobs to make ends meet or keep up their lifestyle.

Some of our traditional methods of keeping those folks around the firehouse more or trying to get more activity from them is not an effective retention tool so much. Many times, the new members come in and can’t keep up with the enormous training requirements. Several never make it to a riding state and just loose interest because it can easily take a

year to be able to get the basic qualifications to ride.

We have to find new ways to combat these issues to recruit and retain folks. We have some issues that we need to take a stand on that have negative impacts to volunteer membership. We also have issues that need more done to help protect life and safety. In the end, we need to do all that we can do to help our neighbors when the time comes. We can do this by looking at these issues with a different attitude, in a new light, and make a change.

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Let’s continue for another 125 years

Harford County Honor Guard Performs Duty at Fire Service Funeral



In the October issue of the *Volunteer Trumpet*, we had an article by Ron Watkins about the Harford County Volunteer Fire & EMS Association Honor Guard celebrating the unit's 15th anniversary. In December we attended a funeral for Fire Service Chaplain Hipkins and the unit was there to perform a solemn duty as the Water Witch Fire Company member was laid to rest. In this photo (L to R) EMS Chief Wayne Tome Sr., Water Witch; Herman Schweers, Mary Worthington, Ed Haden, Zachary Coyle, Ed Benesch, Water Witch Chief Greg Miller and Water Witch President William Dill. Individuals are members of the honor guard unless indicated otherwise.

Photo by Dixon



THE MSFA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In September 2014 the MSFA received a grant to help recruit 10,000 new members as well as retain the members we currently have. In an effort to report our results and to improve ongoing communication with our existing members the MSFA has created a new member database and this is where we need your help. We need to populate this database with your members information. There are two ways to accomplish this. First, each member can go directly to www.MDFirefighters.org and complete the simple form. They will only be asked to select their county and company and then enter their name, month and year they joined the company, and to provide contact information. The second method is an excel spreadsheet that can be completed by your company Secretary or membership person. To request this form please send an email to volunteer@msfa.org and one will be sent to you.

Here are answers to two frequently asked questions. First, your data will not be shared with any third parties. Second, you will not be sent a lot of unnecessary emails about upcoming events or fund raisers. You will only get important emails from the Association that you really need to read.

One really important note. We also need to know anyone that has joined your company after September 2014 that is no longer a member. We have to reach a goal of 10,000 recruits in order to meet the requirements of this grant and those who joined a company after September 2014 but are no longer members still count towards this requirement. If you know of anyone who fits this category, have your membership person or Secretary enter their data as well.

Time is of the essence, so please complete the data entry by the end of January. We would like to have this information for the February Executive Committee meeting.

Feel free to reach out to Skip Mahan (443) 907-9649 or Mike Faust (443) 262-6896 with any questions about the website or the database.

Thank you for your help!

MIEMSS NEWS BRIEFS

By James Brown MIEMSS

Out-of-Hospital Sudden Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee — MIEMSS has an Out-of-Hospital Sudden Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee to address multiple components that occur during a cardiac arrest event including 9-1-1 dispatch, pre-hospital provider treatment, community response, and data collection and reporting. Subcommittees have been created to focus on the EMD, EMS, and Public (Layperson) components. The Public Subcommittee continues to work to educate laypersons on recognizing sudden cardiac arrest and learning Hands-Only CPR. This Subcommittee is working with MIEMSS and has launched a Hands Only CPR advertising campaign that is being implemented which includes 30-second radio clips, MTA bus advertisements, and digital advertising.

Implementation of the New Maryland EMS Licensure System — The new MIEMSS Licensure System is now self-service and allows users to log in and perform electronically many of the functions that previously could only be accomplished by the MIEMSS Licensure and Certification staff. MIEMSS is now at the point where those who will be using the system need to create their individual profile within the system. Once a profile is created, providers will be able to access a number of applications that are operational and available for use. In order to begin this transition to the new Licensure System, MIEMSS is requesting all EMS providers access the System to update their profile. Instructional how-to videos are available on the MIEMSS website homepage. If you need additional assistance or have any questions, please contact Licensure Support at 410-706-7381 or Licensure-Support@miemss.org .

SAVE THE DATES

EMS and Prevention Educational Programs for 2017



Winterfest EMS Conference 2017- January 27 – 30, 2017 – Tilghman Island, Md.

Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar – Pre conference - March 10, 2017 - Conference –March 11, 2017 – Rocky Gap Conference Center

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar – March 25, 2017 – MFRI Headquarters, College Park, Md.

Statewide Volunteer Recruitment Day Open House 2017– April 23, 2017

EMS Care 2017- April 26 – 30, 2017 – Ocean City, Md.

Point/Counterpoint 2017 – May 11-12, 2017 – Baltimore, Md. Please go to: www.mdcot.org

MSFA Annual Conference and Convention – June 17 – 23, 2017 – Ocean City, MD

2017 Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference – September 26, 2017 - The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Rd, Laurel, MD

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The Volunteer Trumpet

This periodical is issued six times a year by the Maryland State Firemen’s Association. It’s purpose is to publish interesting and informative articles for the volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of Maryland.

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The Volunteer Trumpet
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Chip's Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

Who's On First?

by Chief Clarence "Chip" Jewell, III

One of my favorite comedy skits of all time is the great Abbott and Costello's "Who's On First" about the confusion of who the players are on a baseball team. Some clarification of who is first in Maryland fire service annals of history poses the same frustration for clarity.

In the August column, I highlighted the Ancient and Honorable Mechanical Company as the "first" fire company and "technically" the oldest fire company in Maryland as the company has continued to meet since 1763. I have a personal saying, "never say never, never say always" and I am adding "... never say first". As my friend Charlie Cadle in Annapolis has reminded me, there may always be another "first". So, who's (on) first?

Charlie Cadle is a dedicated member of the Rescue Hose Company of Annapolis and serves as the historian for the City of Annapolis. In the past, he has provided a plethora of

information of fire service history that was unknown to the masses. He is an excellent source of historicity as a highly respected analyst of history. In a letter to the editor of the Volunteer Trumpet, he has once again provided information to assure accuracy to help document our state fire service history for generations to come.

There are many versions of "first" for the fire service of Maryland. As so noted by Mr. Cadle, I will preface this information with "believed to be first" as with the many towns

"The hand pumper in Annapolis was paid for as a result of a lottery. The pumper was delivered to Annapolis by ship and was manned by volunteers."

in Maryland that predate the Revolutionary War, we may still uncover an unknown variable. The information provided by Historian Charlie provides documentation the first pumper arrived in Annapolis in 1755, a full eight years before he Ancient and Mechanical was organized.

The hand pumper in Annapolis was paid for as a result of a lottery. The pumper was delivered to Annapolis by ship and was manned by volunteers. Charlie further noted Annapolis

Mayor Garrett initially purchased a pumper with his own money prior to 1755.



According to an interview with Mr. Cadle in 2011 [available on-line], though the Annapolis Company bought another hand pumper in 1804, the actual organization of formal fire companies in Annapolis did not occur until 1839 with the formation of the Independent Fire Company.

The Independent of Annapolis disbanded in 1880, but reformed in 1884. The article noted the city relied on the U. S. Naval Academy in the interim. Adding to the confusion of who is actually first are the Easton Fire Department, the First Hagerstown Hose Company and the Independent Hose Co. No. 1 of Frederick.

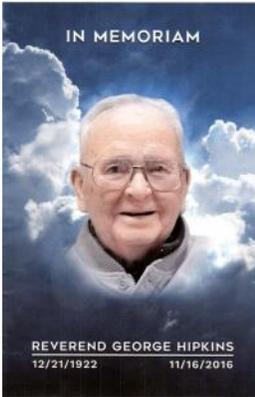
The Easton Fire Department claims 1808 as the date of formal organization after a major fire erupted in downtown Easton in February of 1808. The Easton Fire Department history notes several attempts to organize fire protection and conduct lotteries to purchase a fire engine as early as 1791. A fire company was formally or-

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"As my friend Charlie Cadle in Annapolis has reminded me, there may always be another "first". So, who's (on) first?"

Cecil & Harford County Pay Final Respects to Rev. Hipkins

By Mike Dixon



Rev. Hipkins

Port Deposit, Nov. 20, 2016 -- Under gloomy skies, on this chilly, wind-swept Sunday, the members of the Water Witch Fire Company, along with representatives of other Cecil & Harford county companies, gathered at West Nottingham Presbyterian Church to pay their final respects to Rev. George Hipkins.

The Presbyterian Minister, World War II combat veteran, and firefighter died at the age of 93 on Nov. 16, 2016. He was a member of the "Greatest Generation." Born in Havre de Grace in 1922, he grew up during

the Great Depression. During World War II he went off to fight for freedom in Europe, when he received the Purple Heart as a result of action during the Battle of the Bulge. Transitioning back to civilian life, the combat veteran came home to complete his education, start a family, and serve in other ways. After earning a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1942 from Francisco Theological Seminary, he was called to be the minister of the Port Deposit and Perryville Presbyterian Churches, which he pastored until he retired in 1988. He joined Water Witch in 1952, serving for some 64 years as chaplain, photographer, past president, and board member.

During the Memorial Service at West Nottingham Presbyterian Church company officers, including Chief Gregg Miller, President William Dill, and EMS Chief Wayne Tome, reflected on the "profound and lasting impact the Rev." had on their lives, the community, and the fire company.

Donning an old senator fire helmet, of the type worn in the 1950s and 1960s, Chief Tome said, "this is how I remember Rev. as he drove to calls in his personal vehicle with his helmet donned and ready. When I convinced him to upgrade to a yellow Metro 660 I had the honor of applying

the decals with photographer and chaplain on it. The real honor was receiving his smile of approval because he was so picky and reluctant to change."

"We will miss your fire company and Port Deposit history lessons about lumbering, quarries, fires, accidents at the bottom of the hills, and flooding Rev.", he continued. "You have left your message! Rest in peace our friend we have it from here, loud and clear," he remarked with a touch of sadness in his voice as he remembered the chaplain to generations of emergency responders and his friend.

Rev. Hipkins was honored with long standing fire service traditions. The Harford County Volunteer Firemen's Association Honor Guard performed its solemn fire service duty. In some hushed moments toward the end of the service, the static of alert tones on the fire radio broke the silence with alert tones and the final message. After the transmission went unanswered, the dispatched announced Rev. Hipkins has answered his last alarm. Shortly thereafter, to the mournful strains of a bagpipe, family members, firefighters, and those bidding farewell to the chaplain began to file outside for a final ceremony, the combat veteran's last honor and the crossed ladders. Outside on this blustery November Sunday, were ladders of aerial units of the Water Witch and the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun stretched high into the dreary, winter-like sky.



Aerial units from Sta. 8 (Community Fire Company of Rising Sun) and Sta. 7 (Water Witch) honored the fire service chaplain with the crossed ladders at West Nottingham Presbyterian Church.

Photo by Dixon

A member of the "Greatest Generation," Rev. Hipkins will be remembered as a man who loved his work, the fire service, and the community. He enriched many lives and his many contributions to the community, first responders, and the church were acknowledge in the eulogies by mourners who came to honor the memory of their friend, colleague, and pastor..

President's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

The fire service is steeped in tradition; I'm not asking you to change that so much as I would like you to analyze the problems from someone else's point of view. As we celebrate 125 years of the MSFA, remember to take a look at our past. We've gotten this far by persevering the tough times, doing the right thing, and loving thy neighbor.

Let's continue for another 125 years. Sure we need to change some things. We probably could use a little attitude adjustment along the way, just never lose sight of the big picture.

We're in this together to help everyone out. Just remember, you can make an impact on someone at anytime in life,

no matter how simple it may be. I often wonder if the guys at Bridgeville, DE never let me in to buy a \$35 Coke on those summer nights while I sat on their old REO Speedwagon if I'd ever be so interested in the fire department. Or, when my best friend in high school drug me into Abingdon VFC to be an EMT...80 hour course then, good times!

Be safe,

I'll see you around the state!

President Davis

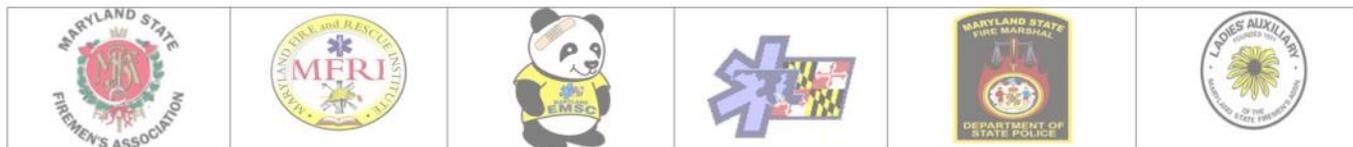
Maryland Life Safety Partners Present Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar – 2017

SAVE THE DATE

- WHEN:** Saturday March 25, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
- WHERE:** Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute Headquarters
4500 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20742
- WHAT:** Full Educational Day focused on Life Safety Best Practices
- WHO:** Fire & Injury Prevention Coordinators & Life Safety Advocates
- HOW:** Registration will be posted in late 2016 at www.mfri.org

-  Hot Topics in Fire Prevention and Life Safety: Safety for Seniors, NFPA 1035, Collections / Hoarding, Prevention & Advocacy;
-  Meet Flash Max & learn new strategies for teaching prevention;
-  Side by Side Burn & Update from the Sprinkler & Legislative Committees of the MSFA;
-  Coffee with state leaders & Networking Lunch to share ideas; and
-  Displays of the latest materials in fire & injury prevention

Full agenda to follow in the coming weeks



***The Maryland State Firemen's Association
and Maryland Department of Transportation***

Remind all Fire and rescue personnel to...

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- Never turn your back on traffic!
- Be seen – wear your high-visibility clothing!
- Distance is your friend – always keep sufficient distance from your vehicle and other responding vehicles

Be sure all your responders get the
TIM's Responder Training



This safety message brought to you by the MSFA –
Safety Committee, the Maryland DOT and SHA!

ROADWAY EMERGENCIES ARE A DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT

Photos From Around Maryland



Chief Tome talks about how he remembers Rev. Hipkins at e Memorial Service. See main article page 6



The Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company working a townhouse fire on Temple Drive in Bel Air on Dec. 16, 2016
Photo credit: John E. Gallagher, BAVFC Additional photo

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- **Physicals save lives**
 - Yours, Your Crew or members of your community

According to the NFPA 1582 requirement, physicals should be part of every Fire Department for the safety of all

Having a complete Physical may even save your life or catch a life-threatening condition you're not aware of !!!!!

Take advantage of the opportunity today as it may be state or nationally mandated within the next few years

Visit the MSFA website or contact Capt. John Fischer @ 443-880-4394 or Elaine Custead SAFER Grant Project Coordinator at: e_custead@msn.com

Chip's Firehouse Logbook

(Continued from page 5)

organized in 1808 but had breaks in service as additional companies followed. A reorganization meeting that led to the formation of the Easton Fire Department of today was held in 1858.

The First Hagerstown Hose Company notes the company was organized "as early as 1815", though the actual company was not chartered until 1823. The Hagerstown citizens operated as a bucket brigade from the individual member homes until they could acquire property for an engine house. The first hand pumper was purchased in 1836 from the John Rodgers Company of Baltimore and was nicknamed "Pet". The gallery engine is still proudly displayed by the First Hose Company in the museum located next to Engine 1 in Hagerstown.

The Independent Hose Co. No. 1 of Frederick was established in 1818 and has been in continuous operation since that time. The predecessor company to the Independent Hose Company is believed to be the Frederick Hose Company who received the hand pumper

"Grandfather" that was purchased with funds from a lottery in 1764.

Thus, we have a variety of "firsts": Annapolis Fire Department - Information provided by Charlie Cadle indicates the City of Annapolis is believed to be the oldest organized fire protection in Maryland dated at least 1755 with the delivery of the first fire engine. Formal fire companies organized in 1839.

The Ancient and Honorable Mechanical Company - Organized in 1763, it would be indicated to be oldest continually meeting fire company corporation in Maryland, though not providing fire protection services since 1859.

The Easton Fire Department – Easton documents their beginnings to 1808 but unable to maintain a continuous organization. Reorganization took place prior to the Civil War.

The First Hose Company of Hagerstown - Organized "as early as 1815" as a bucket brigade of citizens without an engine, formal organization not noted until 1823.

The Independent Hose Company No. 1 of Frederick – Organized in 1818 with an

engine of a previously organized fire company. The company has been in continuous operations since with no noted break in service, thus the claiming to be oldest continually operating fire company in Maryland. If you consider the predecessor fire company, the Independent Hose Company can claim continuous service with a fire engine since 1764.

The claim of the "oldest" or "first" fire protection/department/company/corporation in Maryland has led to near riot conditions between members of companies with opposing views in attendance past Maryland State Firemen's Association Conventions. Depending on your view of what is "oldest" will dictate who is believed to be first. As there are many towns in Maryland that predate 1755, the true answer may be the third baseman, "I don't know." My apologies to Charlie Cadle and Abbott and Costello.

BE SAFE. CHIP

Chief Jarboe Recognized for 60-Years Service

At the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department membership meeting held on December 14, 2016, they surprised Chief Jim Jarboe on his milestone "60 years" of continuous service to the department and community. He was presented with a plaque, cake and kind words from Chief Tom Musgrove, Life Member Steve Novik and Monsignor Sal Criscuolo. He thanked the entire group, and he hopes to make it to "70", like his good friend of many years Oscar Baker. Congratulations Jim! In addition at the Takoma Park Lions Club Annual Charter Night, State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci was in attendance, and he presented Chief Jarboe a certificate of recognition for his 60 years of dedicated service to fire and life safety needs of the citizens of Takoma Park and the State of Maryland. Brain is a member of the Takoma Park Lions Club, and a past President of the club.



Photo left Fire Marshal Brian Geraci presents certificate to the Chief; right—Chief Jarboe and Chief Tom Musgrove (l to r)



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**Representing the volunteer fire,
rescue and EMS personnel of
Maryland**



The Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company working a townhouse fire on Temple Drive in Bel Air on Dec. 16, 2016
Photo credit: John E. Gallagher, BAVFC

