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Compiled and Narrated
by
Mattie Kilborn Webster for
The Two Hundredth Anniversary
of the
Town of Merrimack NH*

EPISODE 19 - Presented by Josiah N. Henderson

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

1899 After much preliminary work, by several interested citizens; an article was placed in the Town Warrant at the march Meeting in 1924 which read as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to purchase a fire apparatus, and raise and appropriate money for the same; or take any action thereto." This article was favorably acted upon by the Town, A Com was appointed. After many tryouts they purchased 1 Howe Reo triple combination fire engine and 2000 feet of hose.

Complying with the State law, the Selectmen appointed Fire wardens. Chief J. N. Henderson, Deputy Arthur G. Gordon and Clerk Norris E. Henderson. A list of 35 names was selected by a Com. And they were invited to become members of the Fire Department. At the first regular meeting 3 more men appeared, and wanted to become members. They were accepted making the membership 35. They decided to give it the name of "The Merrimack Volunteer Fire Department," and to serve without pay the first years if the Town would provide insurance in case of an accident or injury. It was voted to hold regular meetings, the second Monday of each month, and during the first 10 years no meetings were omitted. They started their Treasury with 4 cents, but soon held their first New Years Ball, which for many years was an annual social event.

Another get together has been the annual 4th of July Dinner. At one of the Charles L. Young gave a sum of money to purchase a flag for the Club Room and a suitable pole and fixture were installed.

At the town meeting in 1925 the Town voted to buy a hose truck, and another Reo was purchased; a hydrant was placed in front of the Library thus giving good protection to the Library, Church, town Hall and School House. At a try-out one Thanksgiving morning it threw water over the Church spire without difficulty. They also purchased from the Club Funds one of the most modern inhalators. Owing to serous damage, repairs have had to be made in order to keep this equipment up-to-date.

In 1944 a group of interested and progressive resident of South Merrimack wished more adequate protection, and by subscription donations, entertainments etc., they raised a sufficient amount of money to purchase equipment with a pump. After much hard labor, which was all given, a building was built to house it.

1945 - At the March meeting in 1945 the Town voted to accept this donation and equipment from the South Merrimack Association.

At the present time the Department with its three trucks compares favorably with other towns of its size in the State.