

It was announced by the Independent Insurance Agents of Utah that the Lehi Fire Department was being named Volunteer Fire Department of the year. The Lehi Department was named from 20 different departments throughout the state by a panel of state fire authorities. The criterion for the award was determined by the number of personnel,



Figure 66 Chief Max Ray accepts award

regular training conducted, vehicle inspections and maintenance, fire prevention, school drills, business inspections and community service projects. The Lehi Fire Department rated high too excellent in the categories and won top honors. Pictured are members of the department and Doyle Huber President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Utah. Figure 66.

Glue fumes that were ignited by the pilot light of the water heater was the cause of a fire at Mayor Blaine Singleton's residence on November 16, 1978. Cabinet workers were installing counter tops when the fire occurred. The fire gutted the kitchen. Damage was estimated at \$25,000.

Due to the retirement of Dean Kirkham an opening on the department occurred. Calvin Urry was voted onto the department. Wes Dalley quit the department due to conflicts with training and his business. James Smith was voted onto the department to replace him.

Lehi firemen elected officers for 1979 seated left to right: Fawn Sampson vice-president, Kerry Evans president. Standing: Grant Smith, Bert Wilson, Stan Lewis, and Knollin Haws (absent) as directors. Max Ray would lead the department as chief, and Karl Zimmerman as assistant chief. Captains were Ken Chamberlain, Mac Powell and Harold Hutchings. Lieutenants were Bert Wilson, Stan Lewis and Dale Ekins. Grant Smith was the communications officer. Figure 67.



Figure 67 Officers for 1979

A barn and hay stack were destroyed in this fire at the Cox residence 300 West and 300 South. A fireman drags a hose to help extinguish the fire. Arson was suspected. Figure 68.



Figure 68 Cox fire at 300 West 300 South

The Lehi Floral was destroyed by fire on July 15, 1979. The first fire started in the early evening and was put out by Lehi firemen. The investigation was on going when the fire department was called back at approximately 3:00 a.m.. The building was totally engulfed in flames on their arrival. Lehi Firemen extinguished the fire and continued with the investigation. Arson was suspected in both fires. Figure 69.



Figure 69 Two fires in one night destroyed the Lehi Floral

On Wednesday, July 25, 1979 while firemen and their wives were at Wines park enjoying a feast at the annual Summer party the fire siren sounded, calling the firemen away to one of the biggest fires in Lehi history. The Evans cereal mill located at 433 West 300 North was engulfed in flames. Three units from Lehi and one from American Fork responded. Twenty-five men fought the fire late into the night. The 60-year-old building was built with heavy timbers and was full of grain and machinery. Firemen were on scene for three days putting out spot fires. Fireman Stan Gordon was overcome by heat and smoke and was taken by ambulance to

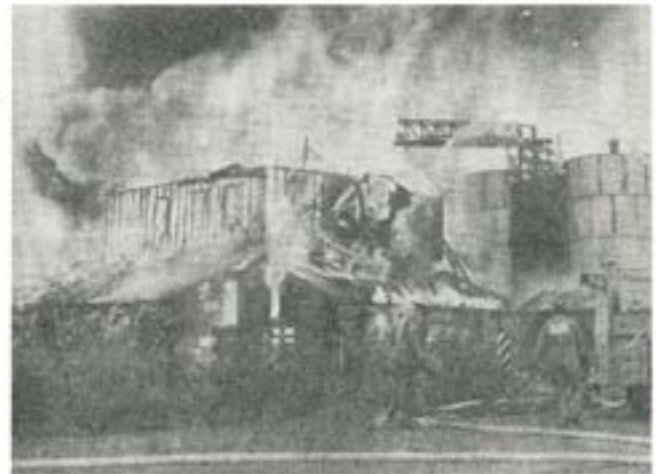


Figure 70 Evans cereal mill

American Fork Hospital. Stan was treated and released. Damage was estimated at about \$200,000. It was reported at the time of the fire that there were neighbor kids playing in the mill. Figure 70.

Officers nominated for 1980 were Jim Smith president. Calvin Urry was elected vice-president, with Victor Gordon, Dale Ekins, Rick Worthen and Kerry Evans as directors. Members of the Fire



Figure 71 Member of the Lehi Fire Department in 1980

Department for 1980 were left to right: Bert Wilson, Stan Gordon, Alvin Broadbent, Chief Max Ray, Stan Lewis, Ned Wilson, Dale Walker, Karl Zimmerman, Grant Smith, Mac Powell, Jim

Smith, Calvin Urry, Rick Worthen, Victor Gordon, George Reynolds, Dale Ekins and Ken Chamberlain. Standing on the Truck were Berl Peterson, Knollin Haws and Lewis Smith. Absent when the picture was taken were, Wes Turner, Mike Southwick, Kerry Evans, Fawn Sampson and Wayne Allred. Figure 71.

The Lehi Fire Department responded to a fuel truck rollover that killed the driver. The truck lost control on icy roads and overturned spilling more than half of the 9,500 gallons of gasoline. "Lehi fire crews did an outstanding job keeping the gas from igniting" stated one official. The crews used foam to cover and dilute the gas to keep it from igniting. Firemen



Figure 72 Tanker truck rollover

stood by until the tanker was emptied and rolled back on its wheels. Figure 72.

Minutes from the April 2, 1980 business meeting reported that for the first time in the history of the fire department it was discussed that each fireman have his own turnout coat and gloves. Prior to this there were several coats for use at fires but for only those that were directly involved with extinguishment. Each man had coveralls to wear at the fires. The purchasing committee would check into the price of each coat and bring the information back to the department for further discussion. The coats were bought in September and issued to the firemen.

Lehi experienced a rash of home arson fires in 1980. On May 13, the fire department responded to a residential fire on 405 North 900 East. Arson was suspected. Damage to the house and contents was estimated at \$70,000. On July 5, the department responded to two arson fires.

Cliff Miller, long time resident and theater owner experienced two arson fires at his home. The Joseph Bourne home was set on fire along with several other homes in Lehi. After a thorough investigation, Henry Carl Smith from Goshen was arrested by Lehi Police Officer and Fireman Kerry Evans for arson. Figure 73.



Figure 73 Arson fire at the Cliff Miller residence

In June, 1980 three members of the Lehi Fire Department were honored by the Utah State



Figure 74 Firemen receive honors

Firemen's Association for twenty-five years of service. Lewis Smith, Grant Smith and Knollin Haws, were given twenty five-year pins for their service. They were honored by members of the Lehi Fire Department in August at the annual summer party. Figure 74. Victor Gordon moved

out of town, which left an opening which Kip Peterson long time business owner and resident filled.

In 1981 Calvin Urry was elected president to lead the Fire Department. Doyle Kohler, vice-president, with Mike Southwick, Grant Smith, Jim Smith and Bert Wilson as directors. Dale Ekens and Bert Wilson were made captains. Harold Hutchings announced his retirement after serving twenty-four years. Harold joined the fire department in February 1957. Harold was awarded his helmet and boots so he could display them at the museum with the hand pumper.

Ned Cutler was voted onto the department to replace Harold.

January 25, the Lehi Fire Department responded to the Richard Adams' residence to extinguish a fire in the chimney. The fire burned into the house and caused \$5,000 in damage. The cause of the fire was determined to be an improperly installed flue pipe.

The department responded to the Frank Sorenson trailer home on March 17, 1981 to put out a trailer house fire. The cause was a water heater that exploded and destroyed the trailer valued at \$25,000.

Mac Powell, Chairman of the fireworks committee, reported that the cost of the fireworks show that year would cost \$1,750 up from \$1,500 last year for the same show. Mac also stated that even though we get a few complaints every year from the public about the salutes, we will continue to fire them off at 6:00 a.m. The citizens should be a little more patriotic.

A hay stack in north Lehi was destroyed by kids playing with fireworks. The hay belonged to LaMar Cloward and valued at \$400 was lost. Firemen spent two hours putting the fire out and finished at 2:00 a.m.

On September 3, 70 tons of hay belonging to Dale Clark west of Lehi was lost. The fire was started by a spark from Dale's tractor. The loss was estimated at \$4,500. Firemen spent several hours spreading the hay out so they could extinguish it. Firemen responded to yet another hay stack fire. This time it was at the Steve Smith farm. Firemen let the sixty tons of hay burn itself out. \$10,000 was put as the value. It's believed that spontaneous combustion was the cause of the fire.

Chief Max Ray reported that the fires were up from the last year. 1980 showed 107 fires. 1981 there was 111 fires. The majority of the fires continued to be grass, brush and trash fires.

The increase was not much but year after year the number of fires continued to climb. The dollar loss also increased.

Elections were held once again. President Urry conducted the meeting. Chief Max Ray's four years were up beginning in 1982, and it was time to nominate another chief. The department thanked Max Ray for the four years he donated for Lehi City. He would be awarded a plaque at the Christmas banquet.

Grant Smith was elected for yet another term as fire chief. Doyle Kohler was elected as president. Kip Peterson was elected as vice-president. The board of directors for 1982 were Calvin Urry, Stan Lewis, Dale Ekins, and Mac Powell.

In January 1982, Fire Chief Grant Smith took over the reins of the fire department. Grant appointed Mac Powell as the assistant chief. Calvin Urry replaced Ned Wilson as secretary.

Chief Smith promised more training this year. Mac said he would start a driver and pump operator class and those interested would be certified as pumper driver/operators. Michael Southwick jr. became a member of the fire department.

Lehi Firemen responded to a house fire on February 4, at the Carl Harris residence on a bitter cold winter night. The fire was started by a floor furnace. Damage was estimated at \$25,000. It mostly gutted the house. Eleven days later another house fire was extinguished by the fire department. The Marie Greenwood house sustained \$50,000 damage. The fire started in the kitchen.

For the first time, members of the fire department participated in "water polo" during the June celebration days. Firemen on opposing teams using inch and one half hoses with pressure from the pumper attempt to force a ball into the opponents' goal. Team members of the Lehi Fire

Department took first place honors.

The fire department put on another great fireworks show. The cost of the fireworks was held to the same amount as last year. The fire works committee consisting of Ken Chamberlain, chairman, Kerry Evans, Kip Peterson, and Bert Wilson were thanked by the department for a job well done.

The fire department received a resuscitator call at Max Rays' house on July 11th. Firemen arrived and started CPR until the ambulance arrived. Max's six week old granddaughter died of a possible crib death.

After a rash of unexplained grass, hay, and shed fires, members of the Lehi Fire Department were responding to the Cedar Valley area when they noticed smoke coming from a house on West Main Street. Firemen stopped and put the fire out. Although \$30,000 damage occurred, had the fire gone unnoticed the home would have been a total loss. A juvenile suspect was found and arrested in the Arson fire.

On August 30, an American Fork man was killed when he drove his car into the west side of the La Casa Supper Club. The car ran over the gas meter causing natural gas to fill the La Casa and the car. Members of the fire department responded to "stand-by" in case the building caught fire. Cause of the accident was unknown at the time. In October, the family had the deceased exhumed for insurance purposes. The autopsy showed the driver died of an apparent heart attack prior to the accident.

The president of the Lehi Fire Department for 1983 was Kip Peterson, vice-president was Michael Southwick, Fawn Sampson, Jim Smith, Ken Chamberlain, and Doyle Kohler as directors. Calvin Urry continued as secretary. Mac Powell was the chairman of the purchasing committee,

Stan Lewis was chairman of the party committee and Kerry Evans was chairman of the fireworks committee.

An afternoon controlled burn turned costly for a north Lehi City resident. The land

owner was burning off some dead grass when the wind came up and blew into a pile of building material valued at \$1,500. Figure 75.



Figure 75 Building material fire

Lehi added two new firemen onto the department in 1983. Lee Barnes was voted in on March 4, and Bret Hutchings in November.

Another house fire devastated a Lehi family. The Larry Baum family lost their home to a fire that was caused by a propane heater. Propane leaked into the house and was ignited by the pilot light. The house was gutted. Figure 76.



Figure 76 Larry Baum house fire

Wayne "Tuff" Allred announced that he would retire from the fire department at the end of the year, after 21 years of service. Wayne hired onto the department on July 10, 1962. He was given a plaque of appreciation for his years of service at the annual Christmas Party.

Elections were held on December 7, 1983. The new officers would lead the department for 1984. Elected to president was Michael Southwick, vice-president was Lee Barnes, directors were, Bert Wilson, Wes Turner, Lewis Smith and Kip Peterson. Calvin Urry continued as secretary. The department was plagued by chimney fires. During the winter months when

everyone turns to fireplaces for heat. A warning was placed in the paper for home owners to make sure to clean their flues out.

Firemen responded to this fire south of Lehi. The fire burned 5 acres before it was controlled. Authorities suspect it was arson. Figure 77. The fire department began to respond to a number of arson fires involving grass and brush along Redwood Road and the Lake Mountains.



Figure 77 Grass fire in south Lehi

After several months two suspects were identified and interviewed about the fires. The suspects denied any involvement, but the fires stopped after that. Another arson suspect was identified and eventually arrested for a series of arson fires in several counties. The suspect was starting grass fires along highway 68.

Alvin Broadbent announced his retirement in July. Alvin became a fireman on April 30, 1946. Alvin was awarded a plaque of appreciation for his 38 years of service at the annual summer party. Woody Berry was voted onto the department to replace Alvin.

In 1985, Michael Southwick Jr. was retained as president, vice-president was Lee Barnes, directors were Bert Wilson, Wes Turner, Lewis Smith, and Kip Peterson. Calvin Urry continued as secretary. Captains were Stan Lewis, Stan Gordon, and Rick Worthen. Lieutenants were Wes Turner, Jim Smith, and Kerry Evans. Because of the number of arson fires the department experienced, Chief Smith assigned a committee to investigate suspicious fires. The committee consisted of Chief Grant Smith, Kerry Evans, and Stan Gordon.

The Lehi Laundromat was located at 77 East Main was partially destroyed by kids playing

with matches. The fire started on the east outside wall and burned into the building causing more than \$18,000 damage. The laundry mat is owned by Richard Flygare.

The Lehi Fire Department continued to put on one of the best firework shows in the state and as always, free to the public. The cost to put on the show increased each year. While the department used to ask for donations, they were now budgeting for the fireworks. The fireworks cost \$1,800 in 1985.

The fire department was called to Cedar Fort at the Kenneth White farm to extinguish a barn and hay fire. Two children playing with matches started the fire that destroyed 625 tons of hay, tractors, a combine, trucks and hay bailors valued at more than \$246,250 dollars. Eric White received second degree burns on his back while he was trying to remove equipment from the 30,000 square foot building.

The fire department continued to upgrade its training. Firemen were trained in all aspects of fire fighting including structure and wildland fires. Mac was training several of the new firemen in the area of driver/pump operators. Wes Turner resigned in August from the fire department. Wes was given a vote of thanks for his years of service. Rod Olsen was voted on to replace Wes. There was a total of 121 calls for 1985.

Chief Grant Smith's four year term as chief was up at the end of 1985. Because of his dedication and work as fire chief and after considerable discussion, the bylaws were suspended and Grant Smith was nominated for a second continuous term as chief. No one else made any nominations so they were left open for one month. Grant was reluctant to accept the nomination under the current bylaws but said he would consider taking another term if no one else was nominated. Grant was voted in as chief starting in 1986.

Other officers elected for 1986 were Lee Barnes, president, Bret Hutchings, vice-president, Dale Ekins, Jim Smith, Woody Berry, and Michael Southwick as directors. Mac Powell was retained as assistant chief and Calvin Urry as secretary.

Chief Grant Smith thanked everyone for their support for the past four years. He was appreciative of the department's confidence in him and then reorganized the department into six areas. #1 was Fire Prevention with Rick Worthen as captain and Bert Wilson as lieutenant. Committee members were Bret Hutchings, Lewis Smith, Ken Chamberlain, and Kip Peterson. #2 was Equipment Maintenance with Dale Ekins as captain and Fawn Sampson as lieutenant. Committee members were Berl Peterson, Woody Berry, Dale Walker, and Rod Olsen. #3 was Apparatus Maintenance with Jim Smith as captain and Michael Southwick as lieutenant. Committee members were Calvin Urry, Lee Barnes, Knollin Haws, and George Reynolds. #4 was Training, with Mac Powell. Committee members were Stan Gordon, Jim Smith, Ned Wilson, Mike Southwick and Doyle Kohler. #5 Fire Prevention Bureau with Kerry Evans as Fire Marshal. Committee members were Grant Smith, Karl Zimmerman and Mac Powell. #6 was New Fireman Training. Committee members were Stan Lewis, Stan Gordon and Lewis Smith.

On May 7, 1986, a house owned by Fitzgerald's at 1125 North Cedar Hollow Road was destroyed by fire during the night. The call came in at 3:45 a.m. High winds and lack of water hampered the efforts of the firemen in trying to extinguish the fire. The fire started near the dryer due to an accumulation of lint.



Figure 78 Fitzgerald house fire