

There were no hydrants in the area and water had to be shuttled by tanker trucks. The house and contents valued at \$225,000 were a total loss.

Figure 78.

The two young men in figure 79 are Vernon Peterson age 14 and August Peterson age eight. They were presented with plaques by the Lehi Fire Department for their quick thinking on August 8 when their house caught on fire. Ironically the boys came home from school after listening to a fire prevention class given out by the fire department. The boys told



Figure 79

their mother that they need a fire escape plan. The family met and talked about what to do in case of a fire. A couple of days later the boys were home with family members when a fire broke out in the family room. Vernon went to a neighbor's home and called the fire department while August took other family members out of the house. Both boys were honored for saving the family and keeping the fire to a minimum. The fire started from a light bulb being too close to the paper. Fire prevention Captain Rick Worthen said this is proof that fire training and education pays.

Bret Hutchings was the first fireman from Lehi to be certified as Firefighter One. Bret spent several weeks in Tooele while he finished his training.

The year end report submitted to the Lehi City Council by Chief Smith stated that 1986 was the busiest year yet. There were 156 calls of which 22 were structure fires. There were 83 grass fires, ten vehicle fires, five hay stack fires, 14 gas spill or natural gas standbys. There were 22 false alarms. Dollar loss was \$319,570. Chief Smith said the 27 members on the department volunteered 4,800 hrs. during 1986. The department instructed more than 2,500 children in fire prevention in the schools, churches, and scouting programs. Business, churches, schools, and

private residences were inspected.

For 1987 the president and officers were retained for a second year with some changes to committees. Chief Smith reported that the city was planning to build a larger fire station. The plans were in the preliminary stage and the city was looking for property. Grant also said that the new brush truck had arrived. The fire department

purchased a 1987 Ford one ton chassis. They also bought a utility bed and put the two together. The utility bed held two air packs and all the necessary fire fighting tools. A

250-gallon tank was installed in the back with a pump and

hose reel with 150 feet of one inch hose on top of the tank. Figure 80 1987 Ford brush truck



This truck was the first truck out to all fires. Figure 80.

Members of the Lehi Fire Department for 1987 were left to right: Berl Peterson, Karl Zimmerman, Kerry Evans, Jim Smith, Knollin Haws, Calvin Urry, Michael Southwick, Doyle



Figure 81 Member of the Lehi Fire Department in 1987

Kohler, Mike Southwick,
Bret Hutchings, Dale Ekins,
Rod Olsen, Kip Peterson,
George Reynolds, Ned
Wilson, Lewis Smith, Fawn
Sampson, Rick Worthen.
Kneeling: Mac Powell,
Chief Grant Smith and Lee
Barnes.

Absent from the photo were: Woody Berry, Stan Gordon, Ken Chamberlain, Stan Lewis, Dale Walker and Bert Wilson. Figure 81.

The fire department started 1987 with a couple of house fires. The Troy Zimmerman home at 186 South 500 West sustained \$4,000 damage, caused by a flue pipe that was installed too close to combustibles. The second fire was at the John Day residence. Grease left on the stove burned the kitchen cabinets beyond repair. Damage was more than \$3,000. On June 26 the department responded to the Mendenhall Ranch on S. R. 68. \$1,200 dollars' worth of hay was burned up. That fire was attributed to one of the workers smoking in the area.

Members of the fireworks committee worked long and hard putting together another great fireworks show. Things were going well until a spark from one of the rockets landed on a tarp covering the finale. The spark burned through starting everything on fire. The public didn't notice anything and the firemen didn't see anything, they were too busy ducking for cover. It was quite a ground show. Everybody had a good laugh when it was over. Mostly because no one was hurt.

A transient by the name of Dee Miller was arrested by police after he started an old abandoned house on fire by the forks of the road. Miller waited around to see what would happen when fire crews arrived. Miller admitted to setting the fire and was jailed for it.

The fire department under the direction of Dale Ekins started the first baby sitter class. All kids over the age of twelve were invited to attend. It was quite a success. The classes lasted for several weeks. Topics were fire safety, police safety, medical, child care and entertainment, classes were taught by members of the fire department, police department and the Lehi Ambulance. When the class was over each attendee was given a certificate of attendance.

There was plenty of discussion on whether to buy badges this year. Most of the members

questioned if they needed them. It was decided that fourteen badges would be bought this year and the remaining badges would be bought next year.

On November 4, Stan Gordon announced his retirement from the department after serving the community for twenty-five years. Stan served as fire chief and held many other positions while a member of the department. Stan became a member in September 1958.

It was announced that long time Lehi businessman and fireman Wayne "Tuff" Allred had died. Wayne retired from the fire department in 1983 after 21 years of service.

The Lehi fire Department responded to 157 calls in 1987. Of the 157 fires, seventy-one were in the county.

Officers for 1988 were Bret Hutchings president, Rod Olsen as vice-president, Calvin Urry as secretary. The board of directors were Woody Berry, Berl Peterson, Stan Lewis, and Lee Barnes. Rick Wilson was voted onto the department to replace Stan Gordon. The minutes of the March 2nd, business meeting stated that plans for the new fire station/police building were still being discussed and were not yet finalized.

Members of the department were still discussing whether to discontinue using the siren altogether, or use it in combination with the pagers. Some of the older members still liked the siren while others just wanted to use the pagers. It was decided to use both until everyone got used to the pagers. The siren was eventually phased out and is no longer used.

On February 1, \$17,000 damage occurred to the Jo May Jessop residence by the Jordan River. Her children were playing in the closet with matches and started the fire. The children escaped without injury but part of the house was destroyed. Another "kids and matches" fire burned down a barn loaded with hay and machinery at the Andrews' residence on 700 North

causing \$12,000 in damage.

A trailer house caught fire in the trailer park on 200 West State. The response by the fire department was fast but the trailer was destroyed by the fire. The occupants escaped through a back door. After an extensive investigation it was determined that aluminum wire connected to copper wire in the utility room caused the fire.

Mac Powell discussed the new training on safety, special training, and fire fighting procedures. Ned Wilson said the final changes had been made on the new fire station. It would be located on the north east corner of Center Street and 200 North.



Figure 82 Garage fire

Kids smoking in John Kolans garage started a fire that gutted the garage and destroyed most of his tools. Several thousand dollars in damage occurred. Figure 82.

There were 118 fire calls for 1988 of which 88 were county calls.

The 1988 board of directors were held over to 1989. Bret, Rod and Calvin did a good job leading the department. The bylaws were voted on to change the yearly elections and to make them every two years. The change affected the president, vice-president and board of directors, The fire chief would still be every four years.

Lewis Smith announced his retirement from the fire department on January 1, 1989 after serving for thirty-four years. Lewis started on the fire department on May 9, 1955. Lewis was given a plaque of appreciation for his service. Two new firemen were voted onto the department in March. They were Jeff Kunz and Chad Smith.

The department purchased a 1989 Ford truck to help in fighting brush fires. The new truck was the same as the one bought in 1987. It was decided that both trucks would be outfitted the same to avoid any confusion. Figure 83.



Figure 83 1989 Ford brush truck

On February 6, a fire caused by carbonization of the interior wall next to the wood burning stove caused \$75,000 damage to a home at 350 South 300 West. The fire department was on scene for six hours putting the fire out and investigating the cause. The temperature was minus fifteen degrees. Several trucks and most of the hose froze while fighting the fire.

On April 10, the fire department responded to the Juanita Miller home at 1835 North 500 West to a house fully involved in fire. The fire started in her son's basement bedroom. The subject was attempting to commit suicide by smoking near a gallon of gas he brought into the room. When he stepped outside to talk to his brother, the gas ignited in the room. The fire caused \$25,000 damage. Arson charges were filed against the son by Kerry Evans. The house was eventually demolished.

A fire in a cabinet shop on East Main caused \$3,000 damage. The cause of the fire was determined to be oily finishing rags that spontaneously combusted.

M13 construction won the bid for the new fire station. Construction would start soon and take about a year to finish.

Several pieces of new equipment were purchased. A heat gun was bought to detect hidden

fires in walls and attics. It would be kept in truck 601. New vest type bladder bags were purchased. They held five gallons of water and would be easier to wear. Jeff Kunz was let go by the board of directors for failure to attend training meetings. Robert Littlefield was voted onto the department in his place.

Chief Grant Smith's term of fire chief was over on January 1, 1990. Nominations for new fire chief were held on November 1, 1989. Ned Wilson, Knollin Haws, and Kerry Evans were nominated. Each candidate would be invited to discuss his platform.

Members of the department voted Ned Wilson in as the new fire chief for the next four years starting on January 1, 1990. Grant Smith was given a vote of thanks for his dedication to the citizens of Lehi and members of the fire department. Rod Olsen was voted in as president, Rick Wilson, vice president, Rob Littlefield, Kerry Evans, Woody Berry, and Bret Hutchings as board of directors. Calvin Urry would continue as secretary.

Starting in January 1990 Chief Ned Wilson reorganized the fire department. For the first time in the history of the department a fire chief made the decision to have two assistant chiefs to assist him. Chief Wilson chose Dale Ekins and Kip Peterson as assistant chiefs. Chief Wilson also cut two captains and two lieutenants from the rosters. He chose Stan Lewis and Kerry Evans as captains and Woody Berry and Lee Barnes as lieutenants. Grant Smith as fire marshal. One new fireman was voted onto the department. Kim Beck would start immediately.

Members of the Lehi Fire Department for 1990 were Lee Barnes, Kim Beck, Ken Chamberlain, Dale Ekins, Kerry Evans, Knollin Haws, Bret Hutchings, Doyle Kohler, Stan Lewis, Rob Littlefield, Rod Olsen, Berl Peterson, Mac Powell, Fawn Sampson, Grant Smith, Jim Smith, Michael Southwick, Mike Southwick, Calvin Urry, Dale Walker, Bert Wilson, Ned Wilson, Rick

Wilson, Rick Worthen, and Karl Zimmerman.

Lehi Fire Department responded to Fairfield on February 14, to fight a stubborn house fire in freezing weather. The log cabin style house belonging to the Burch family started on fire and was destroyed. Firemen had to shuttle water to the scene because there were no fire hydrants. The cause of the fire was undetermined.



Figure 84 House fire in Fairfield

The loss was estimated at more than \$150,000. Firemen and neighbors check out the damage in Figure 84.

On April 4, 1990, firemen moved the trucks and equipment into the new fire station located at 176 North Center. The station was built with three large bays, a meeting room, a radio room, offices, a kitchen and storage. Figure 85.



Figure 85

Lehi Fire Department

Discussion took place over several months in 1990 in regards to changing a portion of the department bylaws. Because of the growth of the

city, the boundaries are always changing. It was voted on to accept the changes that members need only live in an area that has a good response time and not within a specified distance. Prior to the change, members needed to be within one and one half miles of the station.

The fire department responded to the Victor Kolan residence on a garage fire that was being fueled by gasoline containers, and acetylene and oxygen from his welders. The fire was extremely hot and difficult. Firemen had to force open the garage door to make entry. By the time the fire was extinguished everything in the garage was lost. The cause of the fire was determined to be a faulty wood burning stove. Figure 86.



Figure 86 Kolan garage fire

On September 17, Dean Willis lost 500 tons of hay valued at \$40,000. The hay stack was located South of Lehi. This fire along with other hay stack fires in the area were caused by an arsonist. Von Larson lost a mink shed and equipment valued at more than \$7,000. The fire was caused by a propane heater. The fire destroyed old equipment used for pelting. No pelts were damaged in the fire. The Lehi Fire Department responded to 109 fires and calls for assistance in 1990.

1991 started with the election of three new board of directors. Kim Beck, Karl Zimmerman, and Rick Worthen would assist president Rod Olsen. Two new firemen were voted on. Chad Smith, and Kevin Beck were the new members. Berl Peterson and Dale Walker announced that they were retiring July 1, 1991.

Berl started on the fire department on April 4, 1964 he would retire with 27 years of service. Dale Walker started on February 23, 1960. Dale retired with 31 years of volunteer service. Both men would be honored at the annual summer party in August.

A house fire at Berna Wathen's on 500 West caused \$10,000 damage. A hay stack

belonging to Lehi fireman Stan Lewis was set on fire on April 22. The fire destroyed several tons of hay and the stack yard valued at \$2,500. On April 23, the arsonist struck again. A hay stack belonging to Kenneth Webb 9150 West S.R. 73 was set on fire causing a \$10,000 loss to 100 tons of hay. Firemen spent seven hours spreading hay out to extinguish it. On April 26, a barn loaded with hay and machinery at the Mary Gooch residence, across from the Ken Webb fire, was destroyed. The fire started from the outside of the building.

This fire and many more were found to be intentionally set. Damage was \$3,500. It was to the point that farmers had armed themselves and were sleeping on hay stacks to try and catch the suspect. It turned out that the suspect was a son of a Lehi fireman and an employee of a government fire entity. He was eventually arrested, charged and imprisoned for his acts but not before he set dozens of fires throughout the Wasatch Front.

A fire caused by a candle in a ceramic skull caused \$20,000 damage to the Rymer home on 8730 West. Kids left the candle burning in the room. The fire gutted the basement.

Elections for 1992 brought new firemen to office. Rick Wilson was voted as president, Kim Beck as vice-president, Calvin Urry remained secretary. Rod Olsen, Kerry Evans, Bert Wilson, and Chad Smith were directors.

A new fire truck had been put out to bid. The truck would be built by Smeal in Nebraska. Mac and Grant went to the Smeal plant for an inspection of the truck.

Firemen responded to a house fire at 665 West State. The fire located in the kitchen was caused by a cooking pot left on the stove while the owner went to the store. When she came back, the kitchen was on fire. Damage was estimated at \$22,000. She got her new cabinets. The department responded to another house fire on March 18, that started in the kitchen.

When the firemen arrived they could see a pair of legs from the knees down standing in the smoke. They found a Lehi Police Officer and fireman standing in the kitchen without breathing apparatus on. He was taken to the American Fork Hospital for smoke inhalation. \$8,000 damage was caused by a malfunctioning toaster.

The fire department responded to a fire at Industrial Management Engineer office building at 3280 North Frontage Road. The fire caused an estimated \$75,000 dollars damage to the structure and office equipment. The fire started in the waste basket at the secretary's desk possibly caused by a cigarette from the ashtray she emptied into the trash.

Fire prevention week was slated for the first week in October. Rick Worthen, fire prevention officer, was asking for help conducting school drills and classes for the students. Every year Lehi firemen conduct fire drills and classes for Lehi children. Several hundred students were taught fire safety each year in the schools and at the fire station.

Grant, Mac, and other members of the department made several trips to the Smeal plant to pre inspect the new fire truck. They reported back with the progress of the truck. Everybody seemed excited about the new addition. Chief Wilson reported that \$92,000 had been paid on the truck. The truck was to be delivered in February 1993.

A ten-year-old playing with matches caused \$40,000 dollars damage to the family home. The fire started in the family room just before Christmas.

The president, and officers were retained for a second year. For 1993 Rick Wilson would remain as president, Kim Beck as vice-president, Calvin Urry remained secretary. Rod Olsen, Kerry Evans, Bert Wilson, and Chad Smith were directors.

A fire on the afternoon of January 29, caused \$150,000 damage and destroyed the house

belonging to Ronald Nelson. The fire started in the basement and moved through the house. The house is on Redwood Road and there were no fire hydrants in the area so water had to be shuttled. In March the department battled a large pallet fire at General Refractories. The crews worked for three hours pulling down stacks of pallets to extinguish the fires inside the wood. Rick Worthen, general manager of the refractories was also a fireman.

A 1992 Smeal pumper truck at a cost of \$90,000 and another \$25,000 to equip the truck arrived at the department in March. The truck was outfitted with all the latest hardware. It had a midship pump that can pump 1,750 gallons a minute. It had six seats and an enclosed cab for firefighters with air packs mounted in the seats. It was



Figure 87 1992 Smeal fire truck

a big change from the 1978 Ford pumper that was bought previous to this one. Figure 87.

Crews responded to a fire at the Carl Mellor residence. The fire was started when a stove that was left on and ignited flammable materials that were left on the stove. Damage was estimated as \$15,000.

Two children playing with matches lit a fire in a wood pile next to a trailer house belonging to Shaleen Maupin. They thought it was out when they left but the wind kicked it up and burnt the trailer house up. The fire caused more than \$15,000 in damage. Firemen inspected the ceiling of the Maupin trailer for hot spots. Figure 88.