

On June 4, the fire department responded to a hay stack fire near the Jordan River. The stack belonged to former fireman Stan Lewis. On arrival fire crews started to extinguish the fire but it had already worked its way into the stack. Crews worked throughout the night moving the hay to a different location to put the fire out. There



Figure 126 Hay stack fire

were 100 tons of hay worth \$13,000 dollars. Cause of the fire at the time was unknown. Figure 126.

The next day June 5, firemen responded to the Haws residence on Railroad Street to put out a house fire. The fire started on the rear deck and moved into the roof structure. The fire was quickly put out. The cause of the fire is unknown and caused \$50,000 worth of damage. Figure 127.



Figure 127 Haws house fire

On June 9, the Eagle Mountain Fire Department held their annual Pony Express day's celebration. The Lehi Fire Department was invited to participate in two of the functions; the make and break, a water polo type of contest and the bucket brigade. Members Jake Beck, Rebecca Ethington, Tim Robinson, and Jeff Smith from the Lehi Fire Department took first place in both events, bringing home two nice plaques.

Firemen were called out to a business fire Saturday night June 9, 2001 at the One Man Band Restaurant. The Restaurant was located on East Main Street. The fire started near the grill. The grease trap had not been cleaned. The cooks tried to put the fire out with salt! But were not able to. The fire department



Figure 128 One Man Band Restaurant

was called after the fire had been burning for over fifteen minutes. The fire vented through the roof and caused major damage to the interior. Damage estimates were more than \$150,000.

After many months of preparation the Lehi Fire Departments held its one hundred year anniversary celebration on June 30, 2001. A committee made up of current and retired firemen chaired by Kim Beck planned and executed the celebration. The ceremony started Saturday at 7:00 am with the pledge of allegiance followed by a 100 gun salute commemorating 100 years of volunteer service. A firefighter memorial was placed under the old fire bell and was dedicated by Chief Ekins with comments by retired fire chiefs Grant Smith and Ned Wilson. The north face of the monument has the names from the original 1901 members of the fire department on one side



Figure 129 Chief Ekins dedicates the monument

with the current members next to it. The south side of the monument will contain the names of every firemen that served more than five years. Figure 129.

Honored guests at the service were past fire chiefs and members of the department. Left to right: Mac Powell, Max Ray, Dean Kirkham, Grant Smith, Lewis Smith, Ned Wilson, Abe Ekins, John Broadbent and Jim Smith. Figure 130.



The dedication was followed by a parade of fire trucks, forty-three in all. There were brush trucks, pumper trucks, ladder trucks, Haz Mat trucks, tanker trucks, and antique trucks. Fire departments from Grantsville, American Fork, Orem, Provo, Springville, Payson, Plain City, Salt Lake County, UVSC fire and Rescue Academy, Lone Peak, Utah County, Sandy, South Jordan, Camp Williams, Smithsonian, Tooele County, Vernon, Dugway, Saratoga Springs, Spanish Fork, Eagle Mountain, and Lehi participated in the parade. Figures 131 thru 137.

The fire trucks were displayed after the parade at the open house sponsored by the Lehi Fire Department. A historical exhibit about the Lehi Fire Department was on display at the station.



Figure 131 Fire truck parade



Figure 132 Lehi Fire Department leads the parade



Figure 133 Spanish Fork fire truck



Figure 134 Springville City antique fire truck



Figure 135 Sandy City 1928 fire truck



Figure 136 Lehi engine 610



Figure 137 Lehi ladder truck 640

Committee Members left to right:  
Kerry Evans, Bret Hutchings, Rebecca  
Ethington, Kim Beck, Lily Southwick and  
Jake Beck. Figure 138.

The Centennial Celebration ended  
with a firefighters' muster at the Lehi  
Elementary School. The teams included  
Saratoga Springs, American Fork,



Figure 138 2001 Committee Members

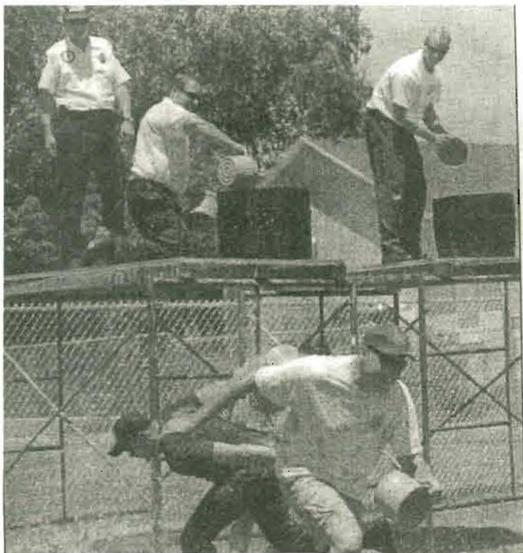


Figure 139 Lehi Fire Department

Every one had a great time including the  
soggy audience. Chief Ekins ended the  
celebration by thanking those involved in  
making the hundred year celebration, one that  
won't be forgotten.

Grantsville, Smithsonian, and Lehi fire departments.  
Winners were Lehi best all-around team. Saratoga  
Springs took first in the Bucket Brigade. Lehi was  
second; first in Water polo went to Lehi with American  
Fork taking second. Figure 139 on the scaffold was  
Ricky Evans, Gary Smith, and Mike Powell. Figure 140  
was the American Fork team.



Figure 140 American Fork Water Polo team



Figure 141 2001 Lehi Fire Department Members

Left to right Kneeling: Tim Hunt, Kim Beck, Calvin Urry, Jake Beck, Charlie Walker, Jeff Smith, Lily Southwick, Jeanette Kirkham, Sharon Clegg, Mitch Benavides, Kevin Beck, Mandy Hadfield, Burdette Powell, and Gary Smith. Standing: Mark Loveridge, Bret Hutchings, Michael Southwick, Dale Ekins, Woody Berry, Shyloh Muhlestein, Jerry Lund, Harvey Bond, Ricky Evans, Rebecca Ethington, Kerry Evans, Steve Berendson, Arnie Hunt, Clint Carter, Rick Howard, Kurt Walker, William Loveridge, Scott Wilbur, and Robert Stanley. Absent was, Ron Berendson, Wade Berry, Ken Chamberlain, Ernie Curwen, Mark Powell, Mike Powell, Tim Robinson, Randy Wells, and Karl Zimmerman.

Every year members of the Lehi Fire Department put on the fireworks show and every year it gets better. In 2001 the fireworks committee put on another spectacular display of fireworks at Thanksgiving Point. Five hundred and sixty shots plus one sixteen inch shell was set off at 10:00 pm. and lasted for forty minutes. Fire department members put the tubes in place in preparation for the fireworks show. Figure 142.



Figure 142 Tube Preparation



Figure 143 Ready to go

Figure 142 members left to right: Tim Robinson, Robert Stanley, Kurt Walker, Mike Powell, and Kim Beck. Figure 143 shows the fireworks tubes loaded and ready to be fired.

Clint Carter and Ricky Evans on the “Mule” running errands and performing crowd control duties. Figure 144. Figure 145 shows part of the finale.



Figure 144 Charlie and Johnny



Figure 145 The finale

## In Summary:

Though lives have been lost in numerous fires in Lehi's history, the fire department has been fortunate never to lose a fireman in the line of duty. Much of this remarkable safety record can be attributed to the constant upgrading of both training and equipment. In 1956, two-way radio equipment (call sign K01404) was installed in the department trucks. In 1961, a two and a half ton truck with a 1000 gallon tank were obtained as surplus from the State Board of Forestry. The summer of 1964, fireman Lewis Smith drove a new \$27,000 pumper truck from the factory in New York to Lehi. This truck, equipped to discharge foam for electrical and gasoline fires, was purchased by the city through the sale of General Obligation Bonds approved by Bond Attorneys Chapman and Cutler of Chicago, Illinois. The old five horse power fire siren atop a tower on the police station was replaced by a new ten horse power model in the summer of 1966. This ten horse model could be heard virtually anywhere in the city. Individual pagers, first used by the department in 1972, greatly increased the efficiency of firemen in getting to the scene of the fire. The siren was eventually phased out and now every fireman, carries a pager. The original fire bell, which had hung in the city hall belfry since 1887, was mounted on a framework in front of the fire station in 1973. When the new fire station at 176 North Center was completed in 1990, the bell was remounted, and placed in front of the station. In 1976 the department obtained a \$58,000, American LaFrance pumper that could pump up to 1,250 gallons per minute, which was financed entirely with a federal grant. In 1992 Lehi purchased another state of the art pumper that could pump 1,750 gallons per minute. Several tankers (tenders) have been acquired and remodeled for use by the fire department. There are currently two tenders in use by the fire department, one is a Ford 9000 that carries 1,900 gallons of water and the other is an Air Force fuel truck that was

rebuilt to carry 3,000 gallons of water. Both tenders are used throughout the summer months to shuttle water to dry areas while fighting fires. A seventy-five-foot Smeal "Quint" ladder truck was bought for approximately \$449,000 with an additional \$35,000 for equipment. This truck would enable the fire department to fight fires in high rise buildings, extricate victims of accidents, and could also be used for rescues. Over the years fire crews have fought brush fires North to the Salt Lake County line, South near Elberta, West to the Tooele County line, and East to American Fork as well as in the city of Lehi. Lehi started with a 1948 Ford truck that they used to ferry men and equipment to fires. Lehi Fire Department now has four brush trucks. Two older models will be used as reserves and two new Ford Trucks with the latest equipment used to fight fires. Firemen for decades have reported to the fire station for training. In 1901 department training was conducted on the first Saturday of each month. Sometime in the past the training meeting was moved to Wednesday night, and had been held each Wednesday since. The first Wednesday of each month had been set aside for business. The remaining Wednesday nights have been set aside for training. For years only one hour was spent on training, now two hours are set aside. The training committee schedules everything from Airpacks to Wildland fire classes. Firemen also take advantage of training classes at the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy, the National Fire Academy, and several sites around the state. In 2000 the fire department and the emergency medical services department were combined into the Lehi Fire/EMS department. The combined efforts of the two departments bring a more professional organization to the aid of Lehi citizens. There are two full time employees and 43 volunteer members that respond to fires and medical calls. Of the forty-three members thirty-three are cross trained firefighter and EMT's.

Aside from its remarkable one hundred years of fire protection, the Lehi Volunteer Fire Department has continually been involved in a wide range of community activities. For years the department has assisted in search and rescue efforts, sponsored youth activities, provided first aid and fire safety programs, school fire drills, baby sitter classes, conducted home and business inspections, “fire proofed” Christmas trees, washed bleachers at the rodeo grounds, hosed down dust at Main Street businesses, conduct “Miss Flame” contests, fireman balls, donated money and quilts to burn victims at the University of Utah Burn Center, donated money, toys and clothes to Sub-For-Santa, sponsored contestants for numerous city pageants, led parades (Christmas and the June celebration parades) escorted Lehi High School students into Lehi upon winning State Championships and sponsoring those families in need at Christmas time to name just a few. Since 1954 the sponsorship and conducting the Fourth of July firework display has been the fire department’s best known activity outside of fire fighting.

No one volunteered to be a firefighter for the fame or for the pay. Everyone that became a Lehi Fireman had a sense of duty to his community and a willingness to serve, many times sacrificing time away from their family and job, because someone needed help.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **1901 Constitution and Bylaws of Lehi Volunteer fire department**

#### **CONSTITUTION**

Article 1– This department shall consist of such persons as subscribe to this constitution and obey the by-laws, rules and regulations of the same, and shall be known and designated by the name of the Lehi Volunteer Fire Department.

Article 2– For the purpose of locating fires, Lehi shall be divided into four fire districts. That portion South and West of the City Jail corner (Northwest corner of 100 West and 200 North) shall be district number 1; North and West of said corner district number 2; North and East of said corner district number 3; South and East of said corner district number 4.

The fire bell alarm for said districts shall be for district number 1, 1 tap, for district 2, 2 taps, for district 3, 3 taps, and for district 4, 4 taps.

Article 3– the officers of this department shall consist of one chief, one assistant chief, secretary and treasurer, who shall be elected and qualified.

Article 4– There shall be an annual meeting of the department held on the first Saturday in March of each year for the election of officers. At all such meeting of the department each member shall be entitled to one vote, and a majority of all the votes cast shall be required to elect any officer of the department.

Article 5– The chief shall have the command, and shall preside at all meetings of the department, and sign all orders drawn on the treasure for the payment of money.

Article 6 – The assistant chief shall assist the chief in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence officiate for him.

Article 7– The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings in a book provided for that purpose, and shall countersign all orders drawn on the treasure for the payments of money and perform such other and further duties as may be required of him by the bylaws of the department.

Article 8– The treasurer shall receive and safely keep all the funds belonging to the department, and pay out of the same only on the order of the chief countersigned by the secretary.

Article 9– This constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the department present at any regular meeting thereof by a resolution in writing setting forth the proposed amendment which resolution shall be referred to a committee of three members, and shall lie over one regular meeting before being acted upon.

### Bylaws

1. There shall be a monthly meeting of the department on the first Saturday of each month.
2. Notice of a special meeting of the department may be called by the chief whenever he may deem it expedient, by ringing of the bell.
3. All officers of the department shall be held amenable to the department for the faithful discharge of their duties, and if proven incompetent, may be removed from office by two-thirds of the members present voting in favor of such removal, at any regular meeting.
4. Upon every alarm of fire each member shall immediately report to the city hall and the first member arriving there shall immediately proceed to the fire with the fire apparatus, and in case of the absence of both chief and assistant chief at a fire any member first arriving at the City Hall shall have the command until the arrival of the above named officers.