

FALCON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. INC.
7030 N. Meridian Rd.
Peyton, Colo. 80831
495-4050

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10 Year Anniversary

The Falcon Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc. (El Paso County Station # 4) was organized Jan. 27, 1975 by a group of Falcon residents concerned that Station # 1 which covered this area was too far away (vicinity of Woodman Rd. and I-25) and covered too large an area to be very effective for the fast growth of their area and that of Falcon's. Heading that group was Jerry L. Manley, and included Eldon, Boyer, Marge & Robert Jardon, Jan & Ken Schuetz, Rex Weir, Sue Bolte, Shirley & Earl Fox, Chuck Brenner, Chuck Petersma, Ruth Pate, LaVern Kauffman, Phyllis & Art Anderson, Mildred & Henry Douglas, Gene McPeak, Cindy Good, Eldon Harper, Doris & Leon McQuiston, Larry Humphrey, Jerry Marriott, Lonnie Butler, G. Milton, Jerry Paintin, C.W. Reinhart, Donald Becker, Gilbert Garcia Jr., Morris & Roberta VanDyke, Tom McDonnell, Jim Edwards, A. Pendergraft, and Larry Thurman. The Department became operational with about 20 members in July of 1975 with the arrival of the 1st. truck. Courtesy of the Forest Service. It was a wrecked 1953 "open air" Dodge Army Weapons carrier. The members repaired it, nicknamed it "Jezebel" and this was the beginning of the Dept. The first alarm was for a grass fire along the railroad tracks by Highway 24. Just one fire call of three made that day, keeping firefighters busy until well after midnight. (Whew!) The Dept. was then housed in Conover's "Old Mule Barn" on highway 24 and Cottontail Dr. It was cold, cramped and had no facilities. The members put up wallboard, a heater, and electricity, and poured black top for floors. In Dec. of 75 they recieved a 1000 gallon tanker (nicknaming it "Big Bertha") from Civil Defense. They purchased a 3/4 ton "Rapid Response" Ford brush truck. A 1948 International pumper truck was donated by Latigo Corp. The members spent much of their time on initial training when not answering a wide variety of alarms, including medical calls, tornado destruction, auto accidents, plane crashes, house, trailer, barn, and grass fires, at any time of day or night. With thoughts to the future and building their own building, the members took time to tear down two buildings in Colo. Springs. The Alfred's Mobile Home Sales building on 8th St. and Shambone's on 19th St. for the block and the steel & concrete T's (beams) for use in

the new building. They also salvaged some materials at Ent Air Force Base. With these materials and approximately \$3000.00 from a building fund drive, plans for the station were started. After many setbacks, they finally received a building permit and groundbreaking ceremonies were held on Nov. 18, 1979 at the new site at 7030 N. Meridian Rd. and building began. Due to the inability of the Dept. to obtain sufficient money through fund drives and fund raising events, the Falcon Fire Protection District was formed (a tax supported district) on Dec. 1, 1981. A bond issue was passed by voters to allow the District to purchase the land and to finish the station. Volunteers and community members donated services and equipment to do all possible work to minimize the cost. The District purchased two new pumper fire trucks. One 1981 Ford and one 1981 G.M.C. The latest addition in Dec. 1983 was a 1973 Chevy non-transporting rescue van fully equipped, and was purchased from Ivywild-Cheyenne Canyon Fire Dept.

Many of the original 20 members are still active, including LaVern Kauffman, Shirley & Earl Fox, Chuck Petersma, Rex Weir, Jerry Marriott, Phyllis Anderson, & Tim Keiser. Other present members include Troy Branham, Mike Rossi, Ken Tompkins, Kathy & Rick Wildman, Esther & Curtis Kauffman, Bud & Mark Kucers, Clark Gaddie, Mike Ayer, Ray Smith, Don Watts, Dan Kupferer, Lanny Coleman, Laurie Fox, Laurie Smith, Mike Hare, and the newest "Probie" Winona Watts. Jerry Manley & Jerry Miller are on leave of absence. The department has two deceased members, Robert Jardon and Charles Brenner. Eldon K. Boyer served as Chief from 1975-79. Jerry L. Manley served as Asst. Chief from 1975-79 and as Chief from 1979-83. LaVern Kauffman as Asst. Chief from 1979-83 and as Chief 1983 to present time. Present Asst. Chief is Earl Fox. The Dept. received non profit status on Aug. 27, 1975 and became Incorporated March 25, 1977.

The present FALCON FIRE DISTRICT board members include- Eldon K. Boyer, Clyde Vagneur, Joe Walker, Jessie Boyd, and Jim Aubonshon. These members handle the finances and make the decisions for the FALCON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

The fire fighting Volunteers are a group of hard working, conscientious people who have put forth a lot of time and energy with no thought of personal gain or reward. They have shared a lot of experiences, including playing unexpected overnite host to nineteen stranded motorists in the Christmas Eve blizzard of 1982. The menu was not much more than

peanut butter and crackers. (The larders have since been better stocked.) The members have some good memories, and a few bad ones, such as the loss of fellow members and the death of a former Falcon School teacher, Gladys Evans, in a fire at her mobile home on Falcon Highway. The volunteers continue to train on fire fighting skills and Advanced First Aid, with 5 more people completing E.M. T. training in Jan. 85. We have a mutual aid agreement with all the other volunteer departments including Ellicott, Peyton, Cimmaron, Black Forest, and Station One. Meaning that they assist us when needed and we assist them when needed. We work closely with the Sherriff's Office, and the ambulance companies, and Flight for Life. Dr. Wayne Gage is our Physician Advisor. We have come a long way in 10 years, and the community can be justly proud of their new station and the Falcon Volunteer Fire Dept.