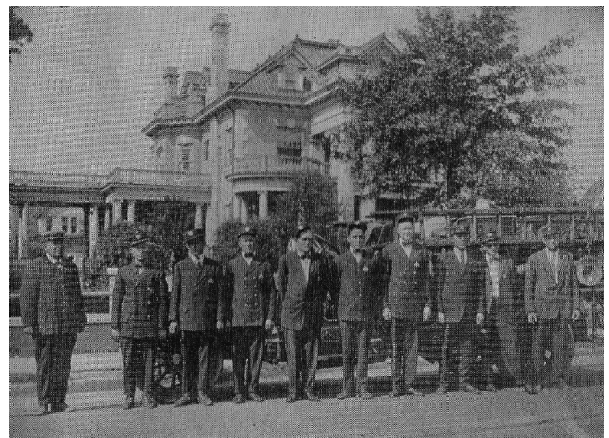
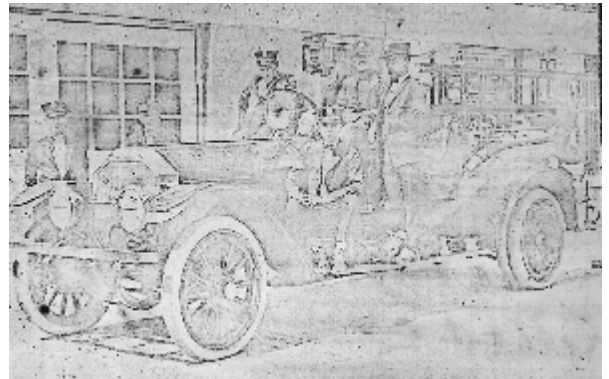


Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
Hattiesburg Cultural Center
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Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1773
Web Site: www.hahsmuseum.org
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REMEMBERING THE PAST, BUILDING THE FUTURE



Can you date these fire department photos? Do you know where the picture was taken? Which chief wore this badge? Answers inside on page 2.



Station No. 1 at City Hall 1953

Current Chief Webster said, "I believe that the new building will enhance the neighborhood. From this facility we hope to be able to build better relationships with the community as a whole and to aid in the revitalization and preservation of the downtown area." The new station may open by December 2009.



New No. 1 rises behind old bays

Fires, in early days, were fought by neighbors and citizens who came when the fire call sounded. In 1893, a major fire destroyed 26 business houses in downtown Hattiesburg. By 1904, the Mayor and Board of Alderman decided a paid fire department was needed. On April 15, 1904, long-time volunteer A. F. Potter was selected as the first paid fireman and chief. He would remain Chief until his death in the line of duty in 1921.

In 1905, a second fireman was hired. By 1906, three regular firemen were employed. Today the Hattiesburg Fire Department has 8 stations and 118 fire fighters.

Early history is sketchy since little was written down until Chief Barksdale published his book, *1904 - 1954 Hattiesburg Fire Department Fiftieth Anniversary*. (A history of early major fires can also be found in this small, interesting publication. You are welcome to visit the museum and browse through the book.) Even some of the more recent history has been lost due to damages during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The brief time line below has been compiled from Barksdale's book and items in the HAHS archives.

HATTIESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

1884 - Volunteer fire fighters
 1904 - Paid fire department - one man!
 1905 - Two man fire department
 1906 - Three man fire department
 1907 - Fire destroyed two blocks S. Main St.
 1910 - Fire department one of best in MS
 1914 - Purchased first motorized pumper
 1917 - Second motorized pumper purchased
 1917 - 1919 - Shelby soldiers help fight city fires
 1919 - H.F.D. consisted of nine men, one chief, two pieces of motorized equipment and one horse drawn wagon
 1921 - Third La France truck purchased
 1921 - Fire truck collides with streetcar on maiden run, Chief and fireman killed.
 1921 - C. E. Norsworthy named Chief
 1923 - Station One moved to new City Hall
 1928 - H.F.D. enlarged
 1929 - 2 Mack trucks and Station 4 added
 1930 - H.F.D. consisted of twenty-four men, one Chief, and two substitutes
 1937 - Ed J. Barksdale named Chief, Memorial Room established, history & relics collected
 1947 - H.F.D. consisted of 33 men
 1954 - Fiftieth Anniversary of H.F.D.
 1965 - John R. Jackson, Chief

1966 - Ray Bryant, Chief
 1970 - A. G. Sumrall, Chief
 1973 - Dewey Hatten, Chief
 1976 - Lloyd Odom, Chief
 1977 - Wayne Lee, Chief
 1991 - George Herrington, Chief
 2000 - James Fiero, Chief
 2006 - David Webster, Chief

(Some of you may have more information about H.F.D. to add to our archives. We will be glad to hear from you and welcome your additions and/or clarifications.)

Answers from Page One

Left column from top:

1. Volunteer Fire Department 1904
2. H.F.D. 1909 on Pine St. where Post Office is now
3. First Motorized Truck 1915

Right column from top:

1. Unloading new truck from train circa 1950
2. No. 1 Company 1917
3. H.F.D. in Front of Tatum House on Main St. 1919

Center top:

Chief Potter's Badge - first paid Hattiesburg Fire Chief circa 1904