

# The First Ten Years

CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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Administration



Operations



Training



Communications



Fire Prevention



Personnel



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## Chief A. V. Streuli

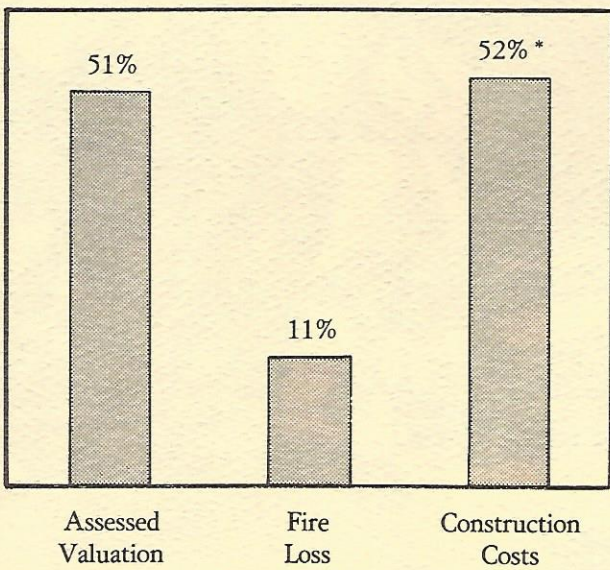
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1974 marks the tenth anniversary of the Contra Costa County Consolidated Fire District. The District is the result of the consolidation of eight fire districts in the central County. It is considered a success by citizens, governmental administrators, and employees. Through the analysis of fire protection concepts and philosophies, the application of sound innovative approaches to modern fire protection problems, the direction of the Board of Supervisors and the Fire Commission and support of District staff and employees, we have been successful in providing to the community a high level of professional services at one of the lowest costs for fire protection within Contra Costa County.

Some of the financial benefits of consolidation include a 12.1c tax rate reduction from 87c in 1964 to 74.9c in 1974 for a total savings to the taxpayer of \$7,486,795. A fire insurance classification from a high Class VII in portions of the District to a Class III overall rating has been achieved, resulting in additional savings in the form of reduced insurance premiums. Other benefits include the elimination of duplicated services, personnel and equipment; greater response strength due to larger resources from which to draw; the elimination of artificial boundary lines; and improved fire ground operations through the standardization of training, apparatus, and equipment in the 185 square mile District. In addition, specialized

1969-1974



\*Dept. of Commerce Composite Cost Index



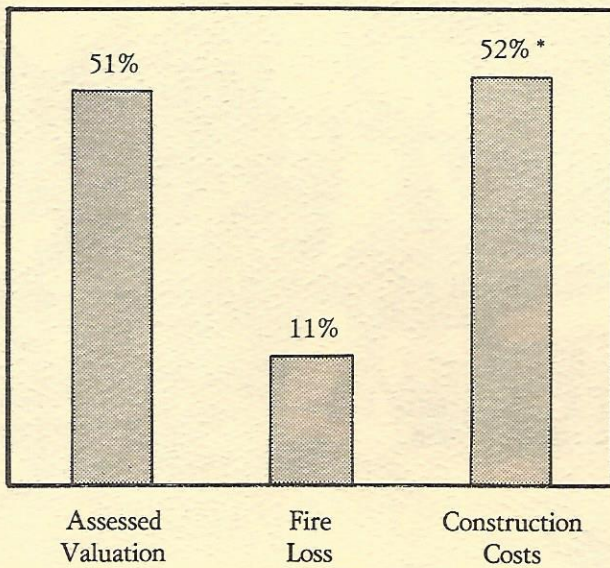
apparatus, such as tankers, aerial ladder trucks, wildland units, and fixed wing aircraft are available to all areas of the District, which previously did not receive that type of coverage.

Consolidation enabled the District to provide stronger programs for the community. In brief, the programs and activities that have been strengthened include department training, public education, fire prevention inspections, fire alarm dispatch and communications, staff specialization, apparatus maintenance capabilities, and specialized equipment availability.

Consolidation in our community has produced an improved professional fire service at a reduced cost to the taxpayer. The District will continue to modernize operations, upgrade the level of fire protection, and continuously evaluate our goals and priorities to meet the changing needs of the community.



1969-1974



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Bob Sibilia

# Administration

## Fire Commissioners



Richard F. Holmes



Ralph L. Aldrich



Robert I. Schroeder



Leo F. Smarsh



Harold E. Wildes

Population . . . . . 258,720  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 185  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$973,290,576

### CONCORD

Population . . . . . 91,600  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 24.0  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$264,433,442

### CLAYTON

Population . . . . . 1,770  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 0.7  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$6,841,155

### WALNUT CREEK

Population . . . . . 48,050  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 15.19  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$212,907,313

### UNINCORPORATED

Population . . . . . 50,000  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 103.8  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$257,486,604

### MARTINEZ

Population . . . . . 18,250  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 7.5  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$64,415,595

### LAFAYETTE

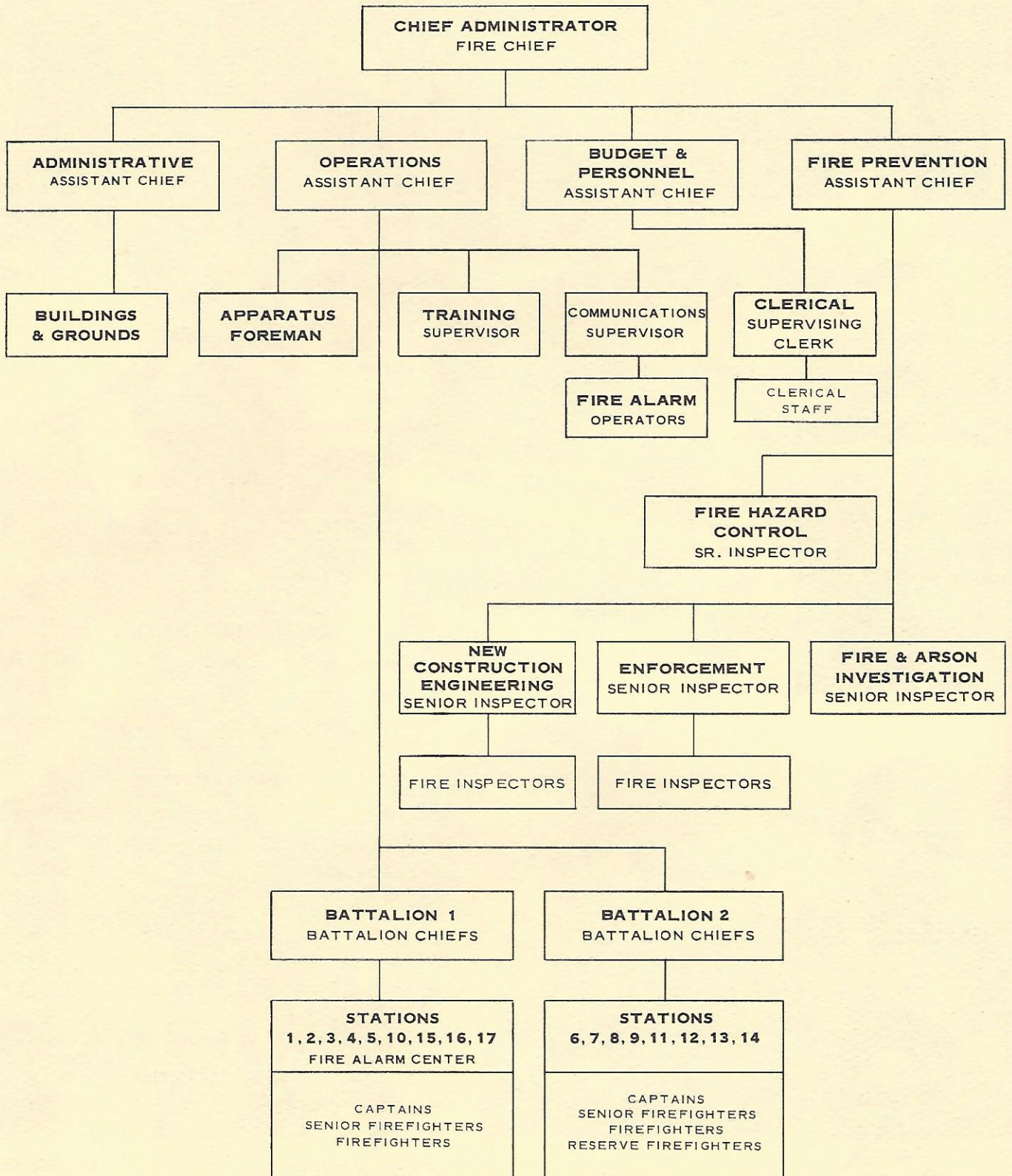
Population . . . . . 20,800  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 13.0  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$92,725,075

### PLEASANT HILL

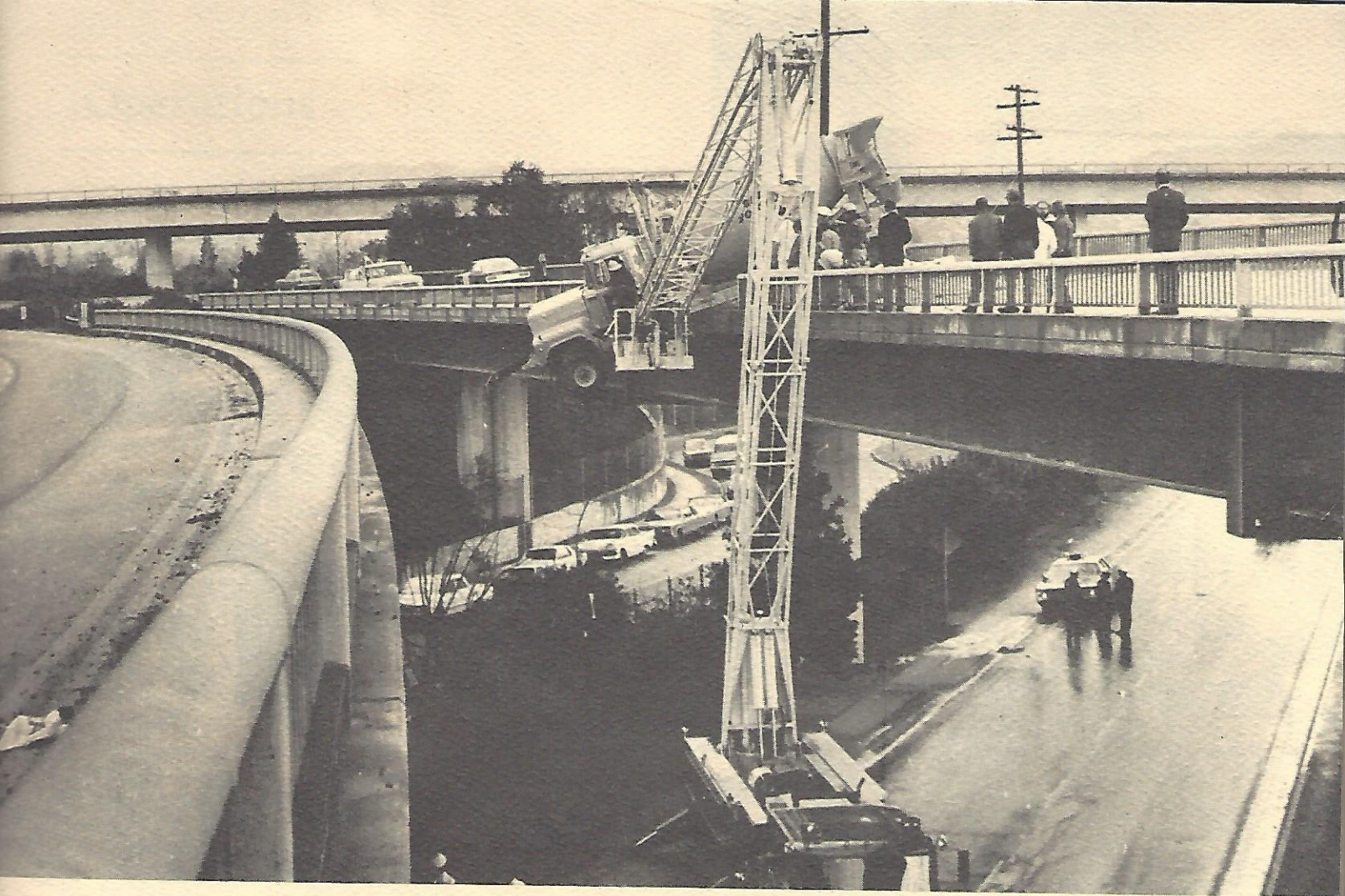
Population . . . . . 28,250  
 Sq. Miles . . . . . 7.0  
 Assessed Valuation . . . . . \$74,481,392

Past Commissioners: Larry Boehmer, Daniel Boatwright, Alvin Liming

# Organizational Chart







Bill Anderson

## District Tax Rate

From the inception of the District in 1964 to the present fiscal year the tax rate has been reduced 12.3 cents or 16.42%. At the current assessed valuation of \$973,290,576 there is a savings to the taxpayers of \$1,197,147 for this year alone and a total accumulated savings of \$7,486,795.

Year	Assessed Valuation	Tax Rate	Total Reduction	Savings
64/65	309,505,100	.872		
65/66	346,005,475	.820	.052	179,922
66/67	387,136,440	.799	.073	282,609
67/68	467,261,505	.750	.122	570,059
68/69	511,848,935	.730	.142	726,825
69/70	537,776,337	.725	.147	790,531
70/71	597,244,119	.724	.148	883,921
71/72	633,313,187	.724	.148	937,303
72/73	707,974,254	.747	.123	870,808
73/74	851,764,282	.749	.123	1,047,670
74/75	973,290,576	.749	.123	1,197,147

Total Savings 7,486,795



# Operations

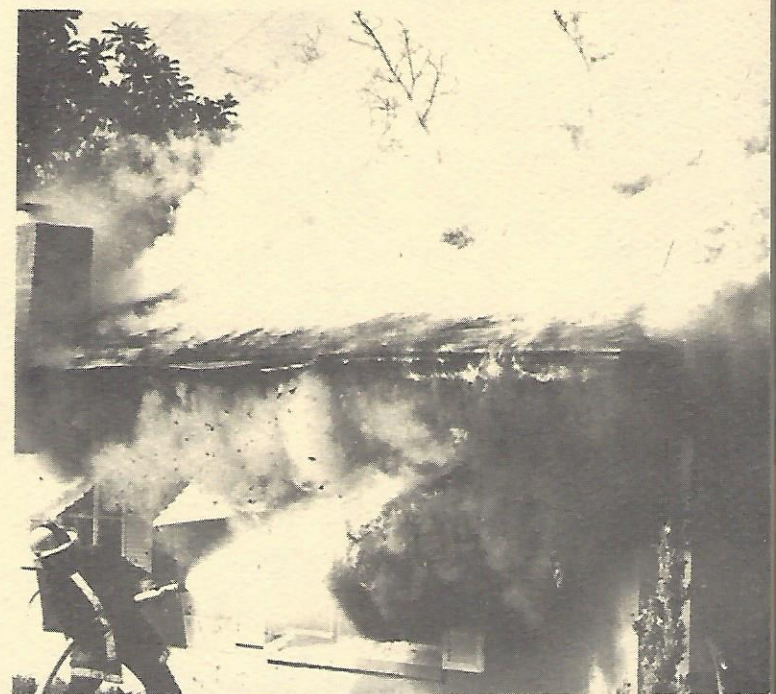
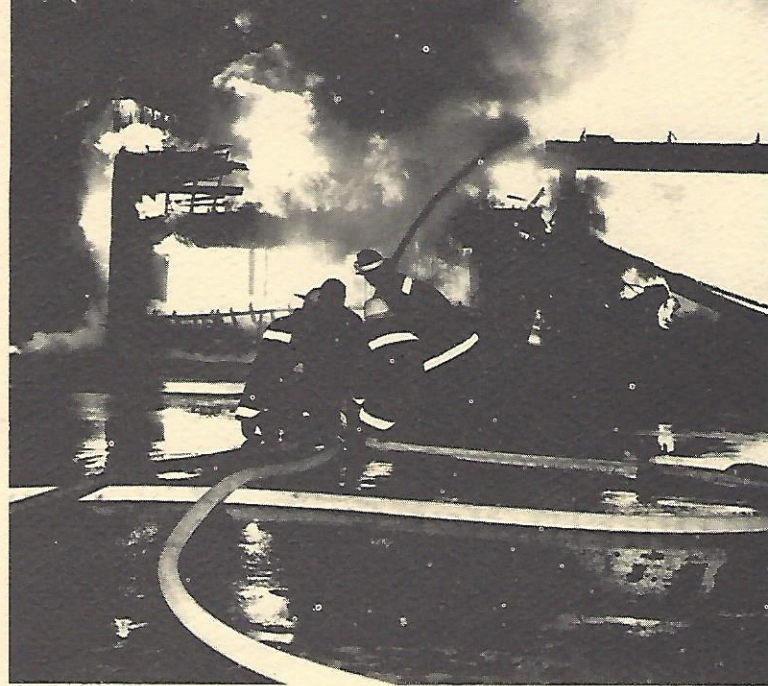
At the inception of consolidation in 1964, fires were fought with a potpourri of apparatus, equipment, and methods. Firefighters brought a variety of philosophies, skills, and attitudes with them to further complex the problem. Efficiency and performance were wholly unpredictable.

## Structural Fire-Fighting

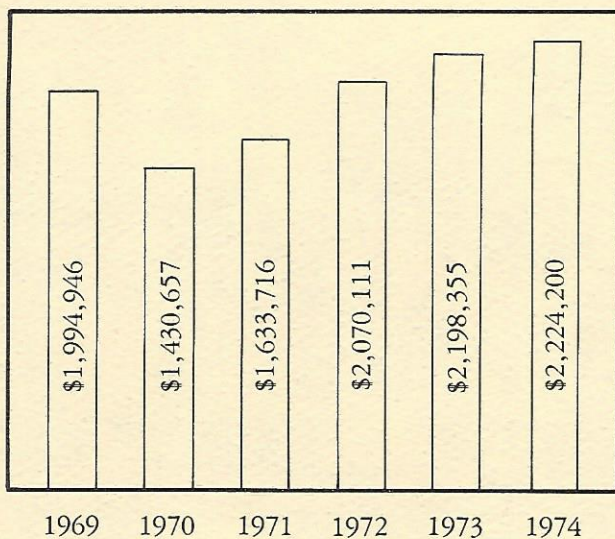
After ten years, structural fire-fighting has been refined into a highly organized operation. It is based on an analysis of the District's structural fire problem and the most effective application of the District's resources.


All apparatus carry a standard inventory of equipment. Personnel are trained to specific performance standards in the use of the equipment. On the fireground, they operate under one method of organization which progresses smoothly from a single alarm operation to a major multi-alarm fire.

A three-man crew is standard. Any fire-fighter can go to any station and function at full effectiveness in any crew. A highly capable force of 60 Reserve Fire-fighters are available for major fires.



Total Fire Loss in Buildings





*The strength of character which a  
firefighter must bring to his  
duties has to be so potent as to  
bring into conformity members whose  
personal standards of conduct  
are at a lower level.*

## Wildland Fire-Fighting

Wildland fire-fighting has evolved into a truly integrated system which became operational in 1974. The system components consist of response, apparatus, equipment, fire methods, communication, and training. This system is also based on objectives derived from the definition of the District's wildland fire problem.

The development of this system is a tribute to the men of the Department. Given objectives and constraints, they planned and re-modeled apparatus; designed and fabricated equipment such as hose carrying packs and portable tanks; researched and developed evolutions; and participated in thousands of manhours of training.

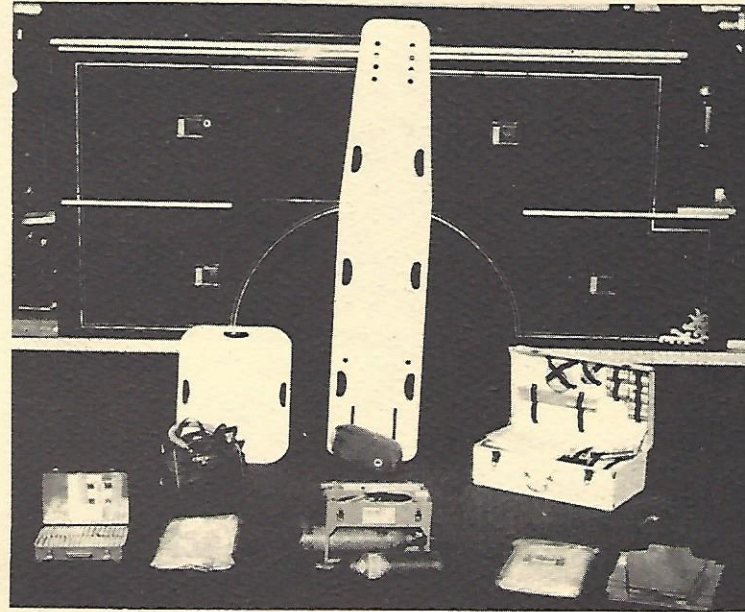




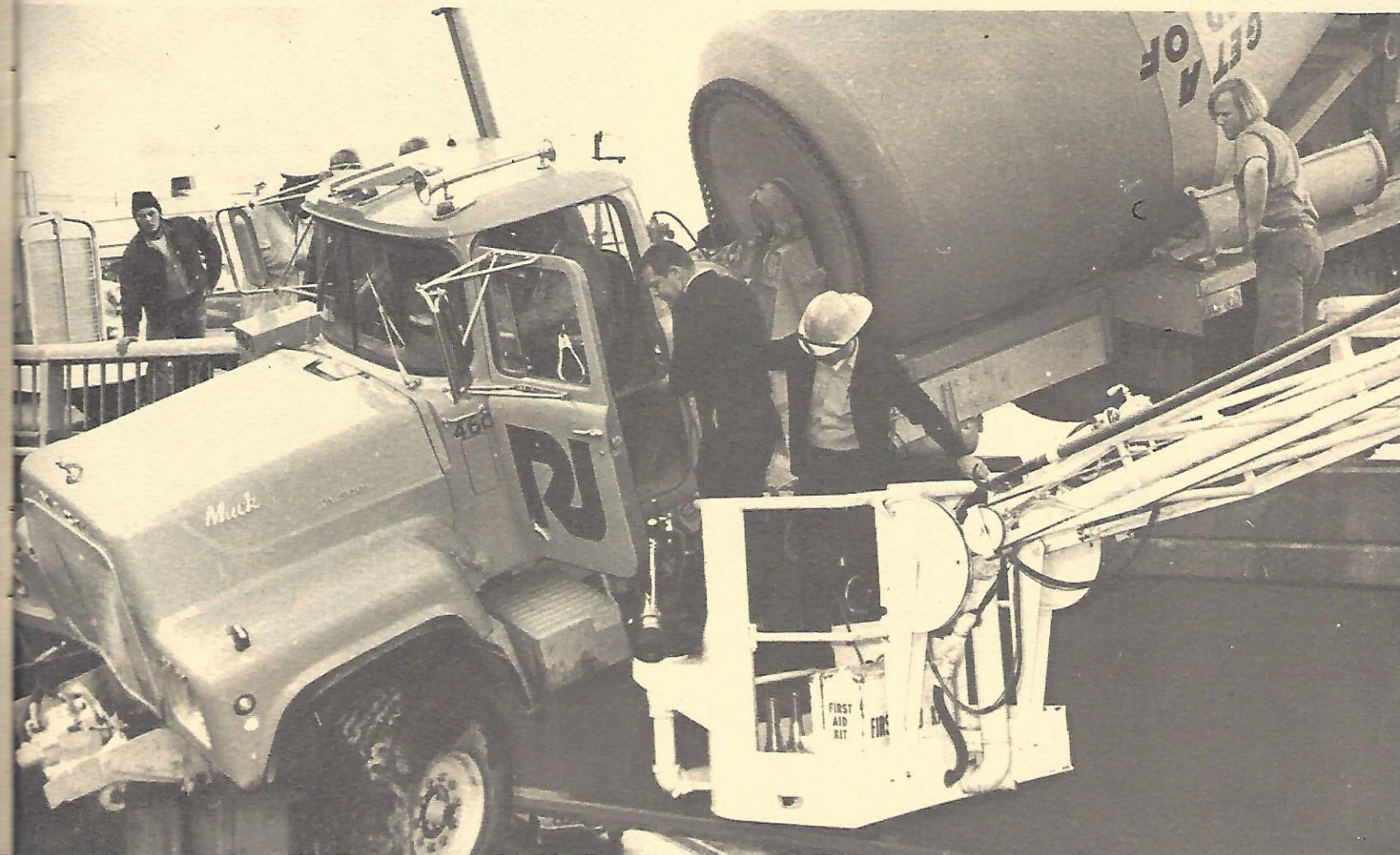
## Rescue

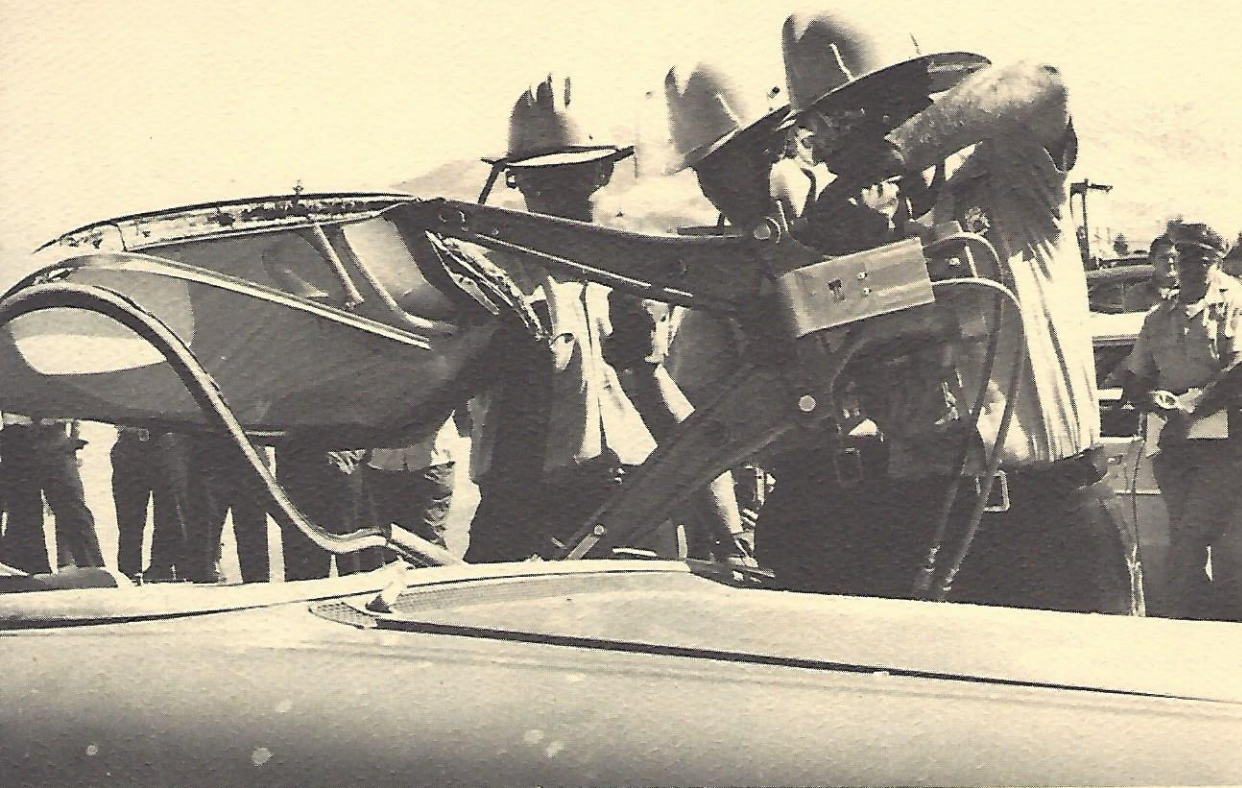
In 1965, the District responded to 404 rescue or medical emergency calls. In 1974, there were 1,907 responses, an increase of almost 500 percent.

District interest and effort toward lifesaving and emergency care has increased proportionately. Among the "first" introduced by the District were large custom first-aid kits, spineboards, mouth-to-mask breathers, resuscitation boards; the introduction of cardiopulmonary resuscitation as a standard technique; and being selected by the Heart Association to train cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructors. The District was the second fire department in California to purchase the Hurst Rescue Tool for extrication.



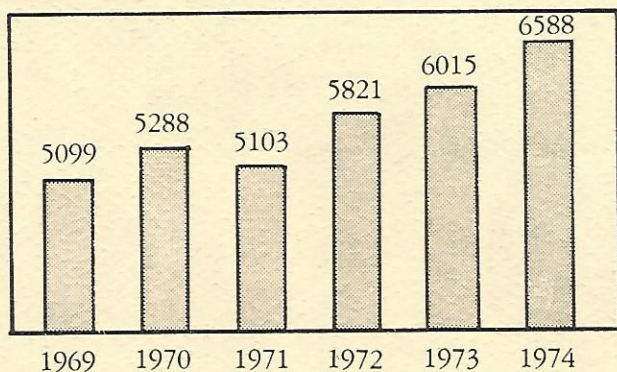
Bill Anderson





Training has been intensified also. The District's training exceeds legal requirements; also includes hundreds of hours using extrication tools on smashed vehicles in wrecking yards. Inter-agency training with ambulance and police personnel has been introduced in an effort to maximize service to the injured citizen.

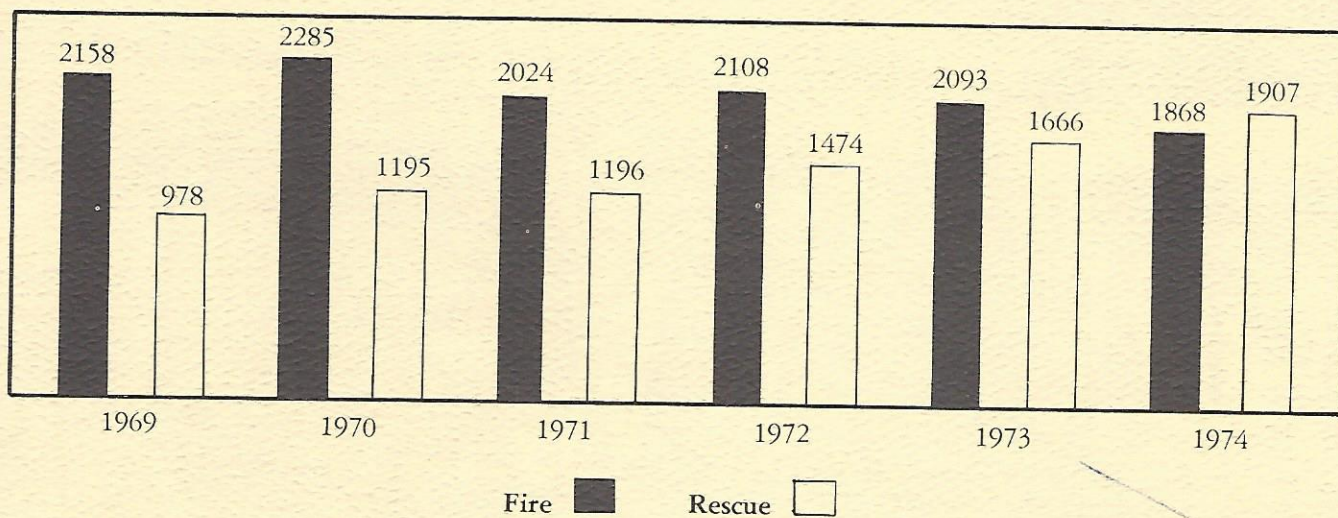
Total Responses







Rescue vs. Fire Responses



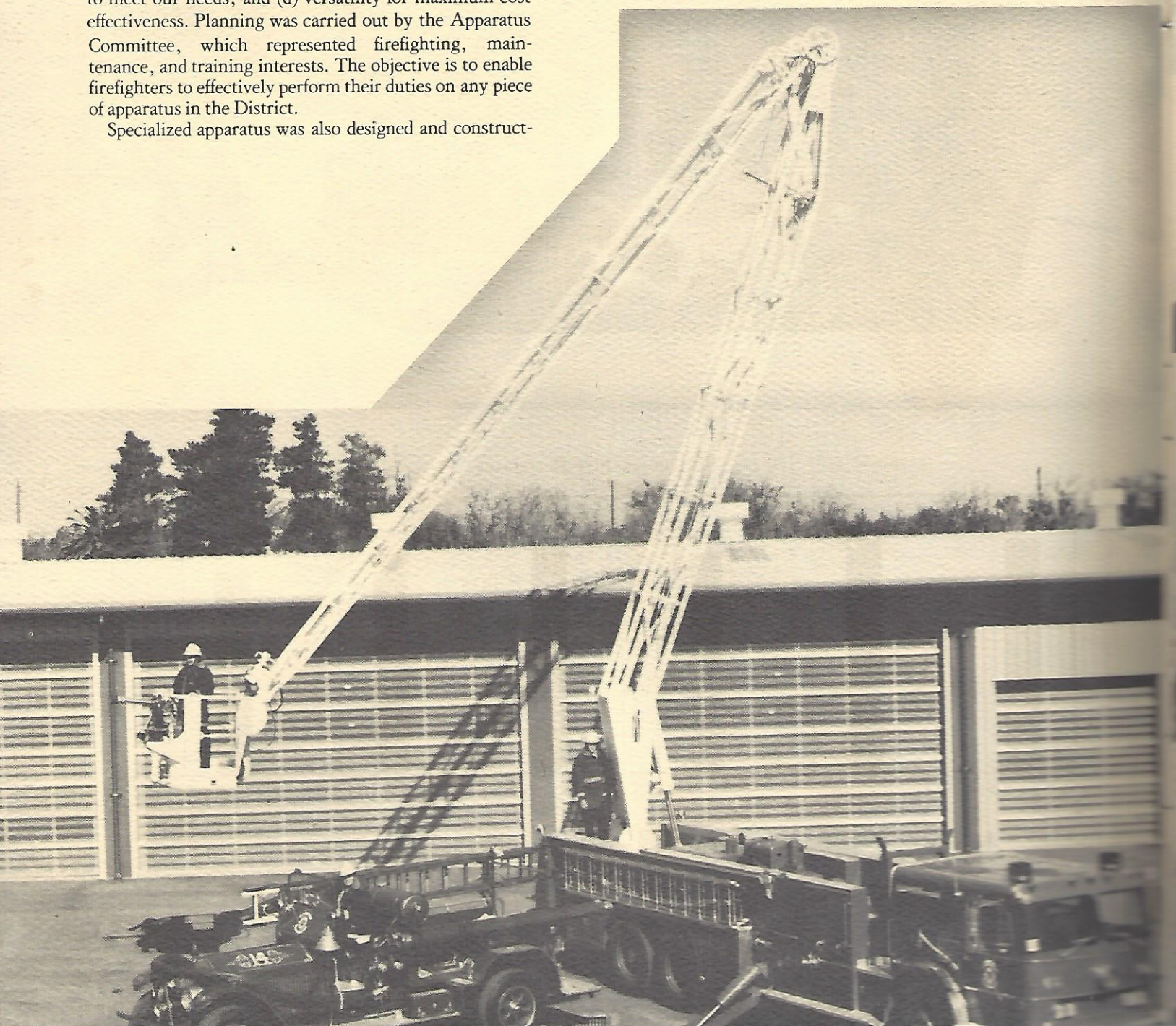
## Mobile Apparatus

Much of the pumping and aerial apparatus in the individual districts was designed to satisfy insurance rating bureau requirements. Many were under-equipped and inflexible.

Upon consolidation, a process of remodeling and standardization was developed which would provide (a) design based on the District's fire problem, (b) standardization of hose beds and storage compartments to simplify the training problem, (c) standard equipment inventories to meet our needs, and (d) versatility for maximum cost effectiveness. Planning was carried out by the Apparatus Committee, which represented firefighting, maintenance, and training interests. The objective is to enable firefighters to effectively perform their duties on any piece of apparatus in the District.

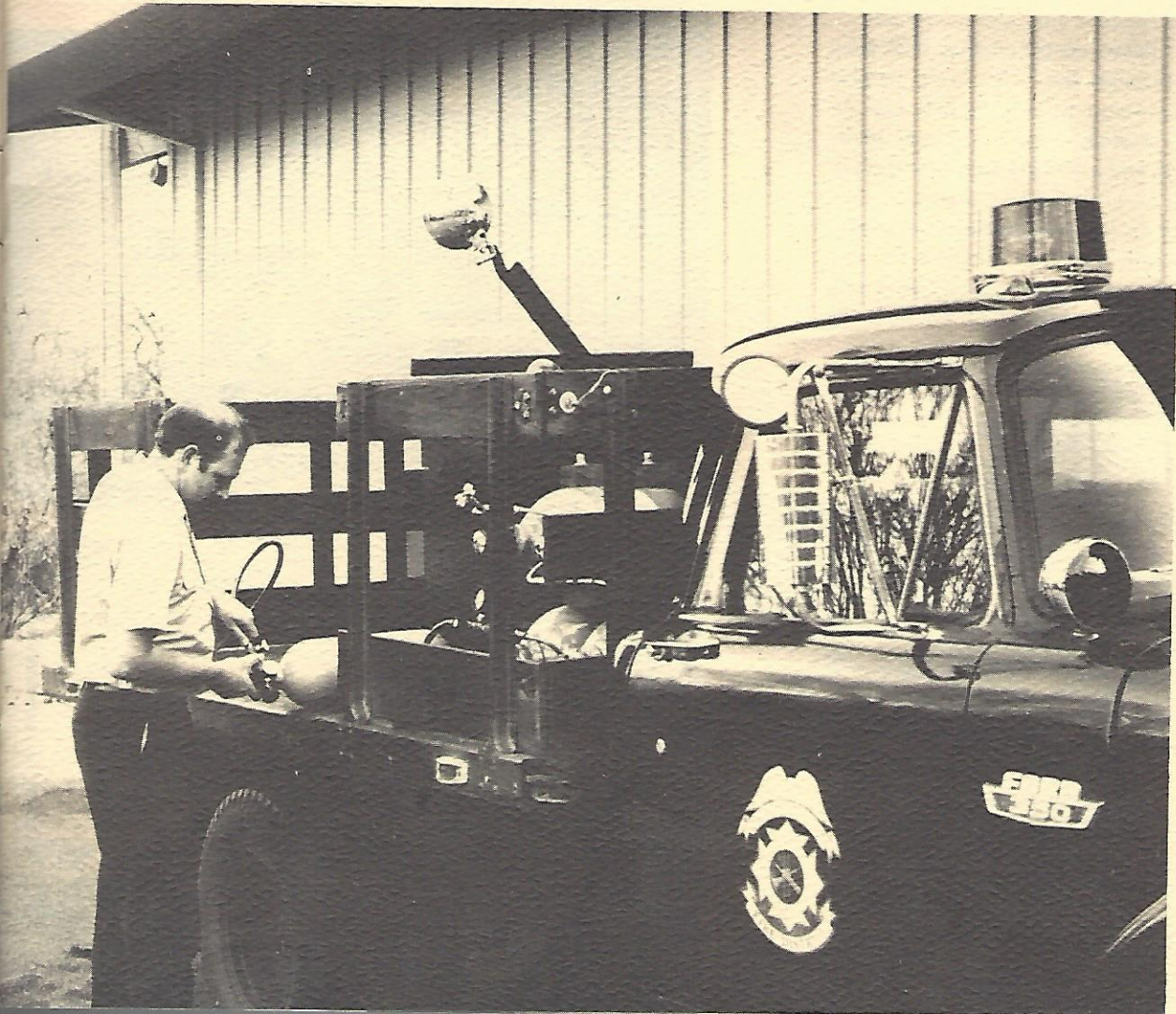
Specialized apparatus was also designed and construct-

ed to meet specific functional and performance requirements. As a result, the district now has three classifications of wildland apparatus: light and heavy attack, and mobile water supply. In addition, a wrecker, fork lift, air cascade, fire alarm repair crane, communications van, and aircraft have been placed in service. The wrecker, fork lift, and two attack tankers were military surplus returned to first class condition by the repair shop. These units have increased the District's operational capabilities.





Air Cascade Unit



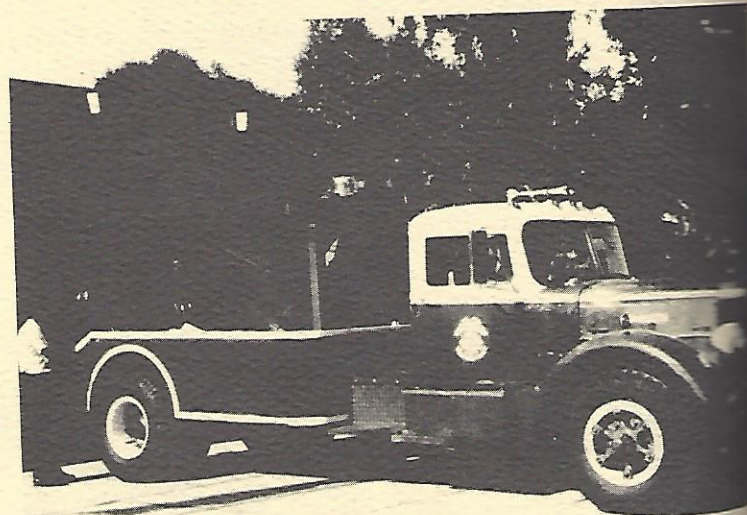


### Aircraft

A 1952 de Havilland Beaver single engine, high wing aircraft was acquired through the U.S. Army surplus equipment program at no cost to the District. District personnel serviced, painted, and installed radio equipment in the aircraft and it was put into operation in 1973.

The aircraft is piloted by 12 qualified members of the District and its objective is to reduce fire loss through early fire detection and to provide information concerning fire behavior to ground units involved in wildland fire fighting.

### Fire Department Wrecker



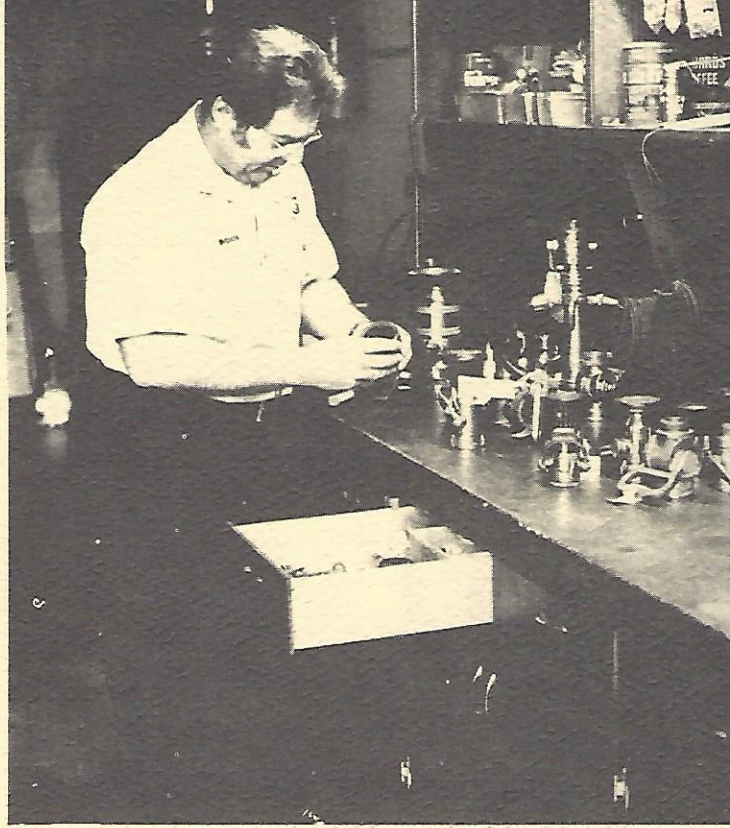
### Fire Alarm Boom Truck



## Auxiliary Services

The skills and abilities of District personnel are utilized to maintain and develop equipment necessary for the operation of the Fire District.

Some of the benefits of this efficient and economical system are wholesale purchasing, reduced out-of-service time, increased life expectancy, quality control, and the development of specialized equipment to fulfill our operational needs.

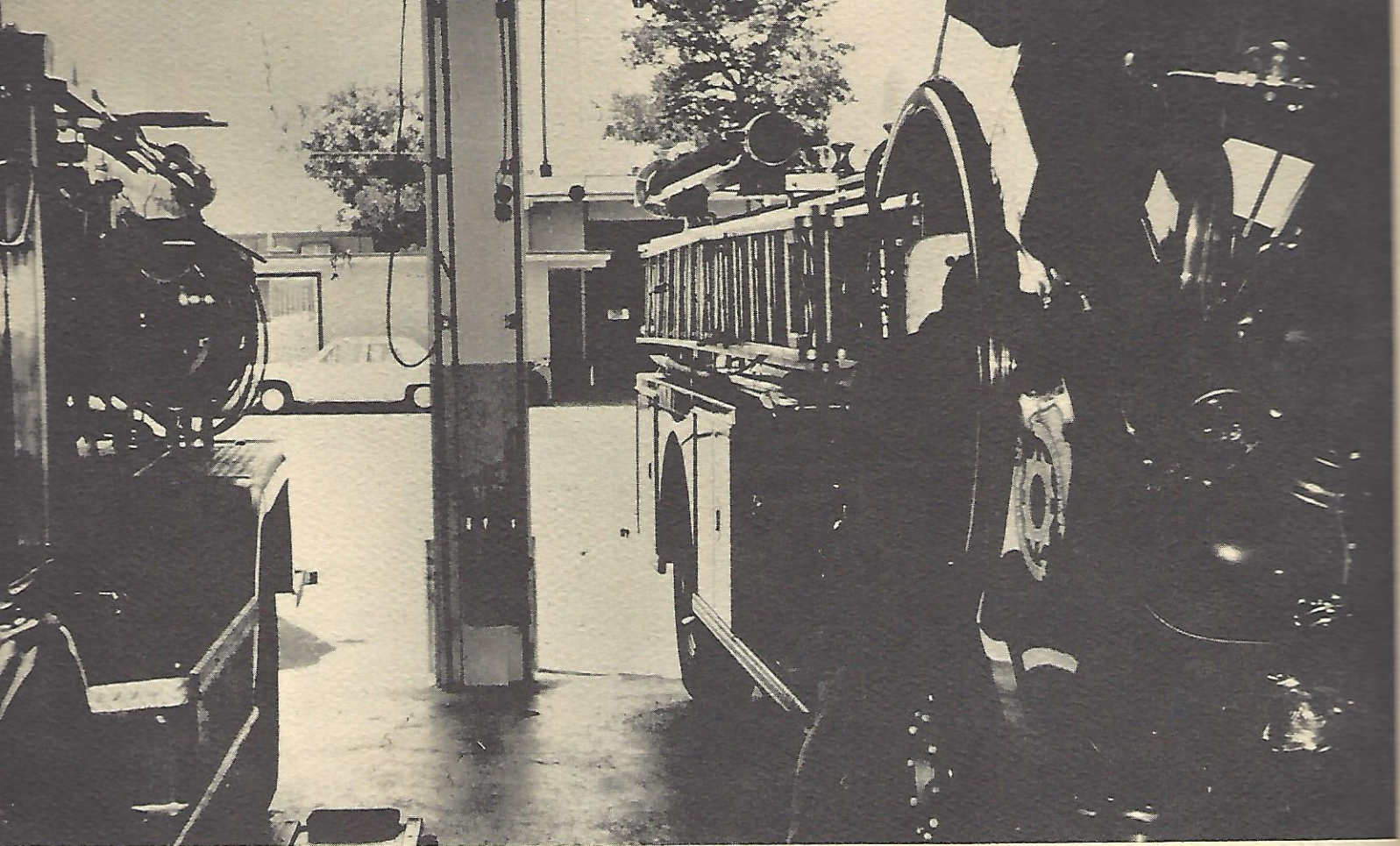


## Hose, Nozzles, and Hydrants

Effective firefighting is dependent upon a continuous supply of water. The best water supply, fire apparatus, and equipment are of no value unless all components of the delivery system are serviceable.

All fire hose, nozzles, hydrants, and related equipment are tested and maintained by District personnel on a regular schedule to assure their ability to produce effective fire streams when needed.





### Automotive Shops

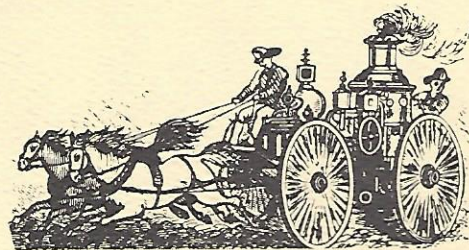
The automotive shops carry out maintenance, repair, and improvements of the District's engine powered apparatus, equipment, and tools.

In the years preceding consolidation, the individual districts maintained minimal repair facilities, manned by part-time mechanics. Any work other than minor repairs had to be sent out, resulting in extended periods of out-of-service time. Today the shop is a complete repair facility equipped with specialized tools and full-time specialists. Repairs are promptly made, resulting in greatly reduced out-of-service time.

Maintenance is programmed on a time, mileage, and/or use basis. Improvements in the inspection and servicing system are reflected in statistics which indicate that emergency breakdowns have been reduced by approximately 200% in the last three years. Reliability is our objective.

Many apparatus improvements have been made in the shops in the last ten years. These include air mask

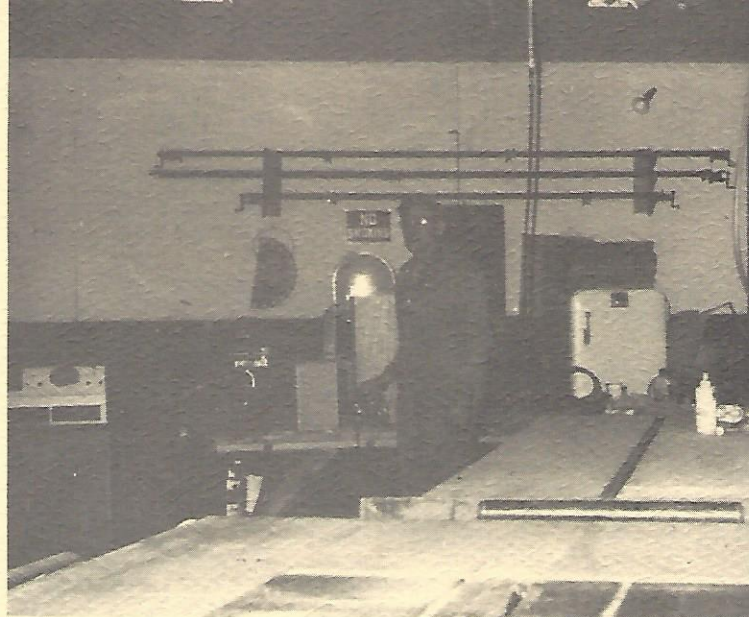
compartments, electrical generators, and ground fault interruptors installed on all pumpers, booster reel relocations, brake system improvements, pump control devices changed, repowering, improved booster pumps, simplification of controls, hydraulic system improvements on aerials, increased power and fuel economy through engine modifications.



## Wood Shop

Tight budgets had forced many departments to delay or eliminate badly-needed repairs and improvements. Following consolidation, a wood shop was put into operation and has provided the District with the remodeling and construction of facilities which includes training offices, communication consoles, warehouse storage shelves, gear lockers, partitions, storage cabinets, and work benches. These and many other improvements would have been impossible under independent operation.

The wood shop also builds training aids, emergency care backboards, resuscitator boxes, hose storage racks, sprinkler head wedges, cribbing blocks, and many other items necessary to District operations.



## Canvas Shop

When the canvas shop began operation, its sole purpose was to make hose bed covers for the protection of hose on fire engines. Canvas material was purchased in small quantities as needed and equipment consisted of a borrowed sewing machine.

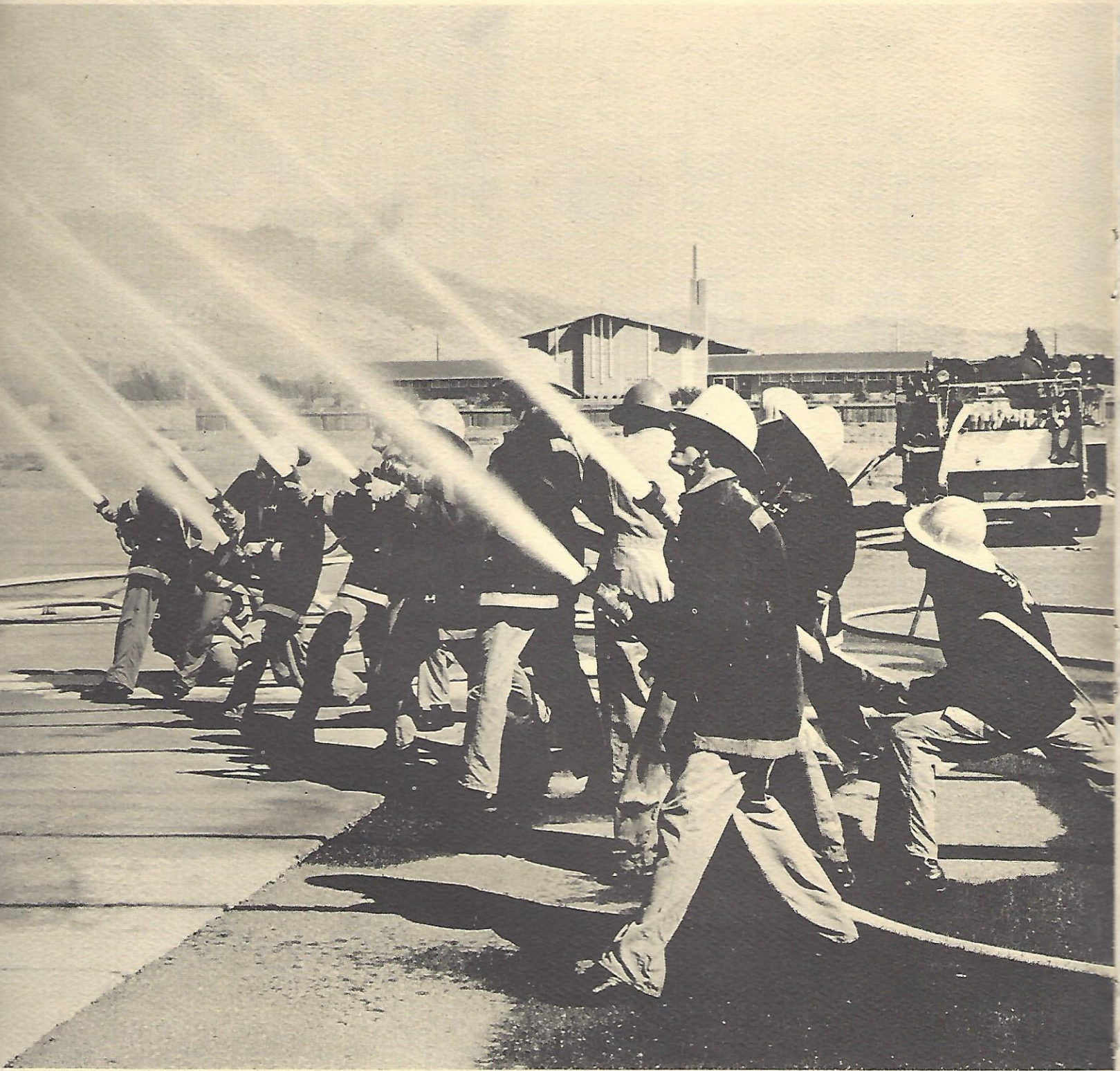
The shop has since been expanded and completely equipped to meet the needs of a growing fire district. Today, debris carriers, salvage covers, apparatus seat covers, upholstered chairs, hall runners, axe belts, hose carrying knapsacks, and many other items made of canvas, webbing, or vinyl are repaired, developed, and constructed by District personnel at a considerable savings to the community.



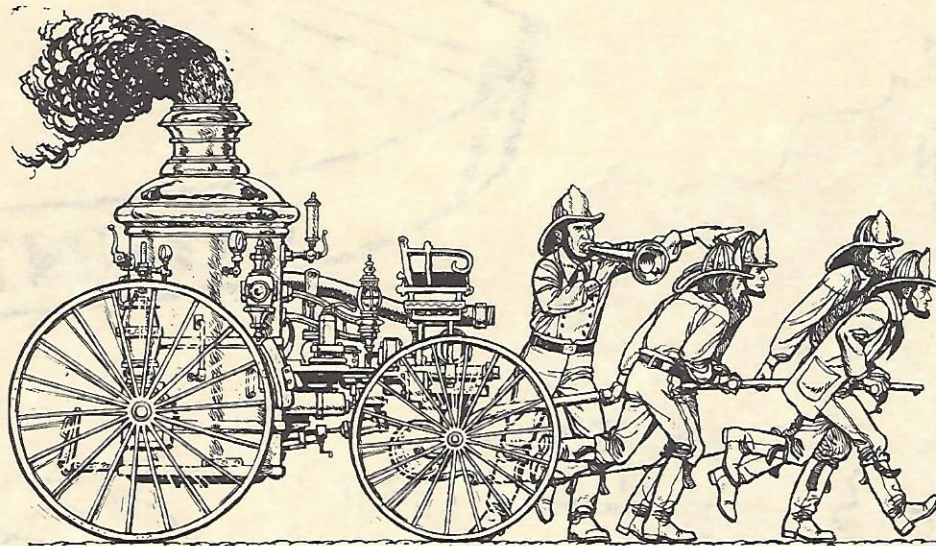
## Mapping

Accurate maps are vital to the operation of a fire district. They provide information pertaining to district boundaries, response areas, response routes, fire hydrant locations, and other sources of water. The Consolidated Fire District has developed a program that effectively meets the need for accurate mapping.









The Contra Costa County Consolidated Fire District lies in a rapidly-growing area of California approximately 30 miles east of San Francisco and north of Oakland. The District consists of 19 fire stations, 250 paid employees, and 70 reserve firefighters serving an area of 185 square miles of land which includes six cities ranging from 2,000 to 100,000 in population. The total population is approximately 250,000 people. Twenty years ago, the population was approximately 50,000 people. Within the Fire District is a thriving community complex with agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial components. In addition, growth has generated the development of shopping centers, apartment complexes, and large tracts of single family homes. Grass and accessible brush land are a part of the fire protection problem within the County District.

The first active consolidation took place in 1964 with the merger of the Central County Fire District and the Mount Diablo Fire District. Both Districts were organized under the 1961 Fire Protection Districts Act governed by the county Board of Supervisors.

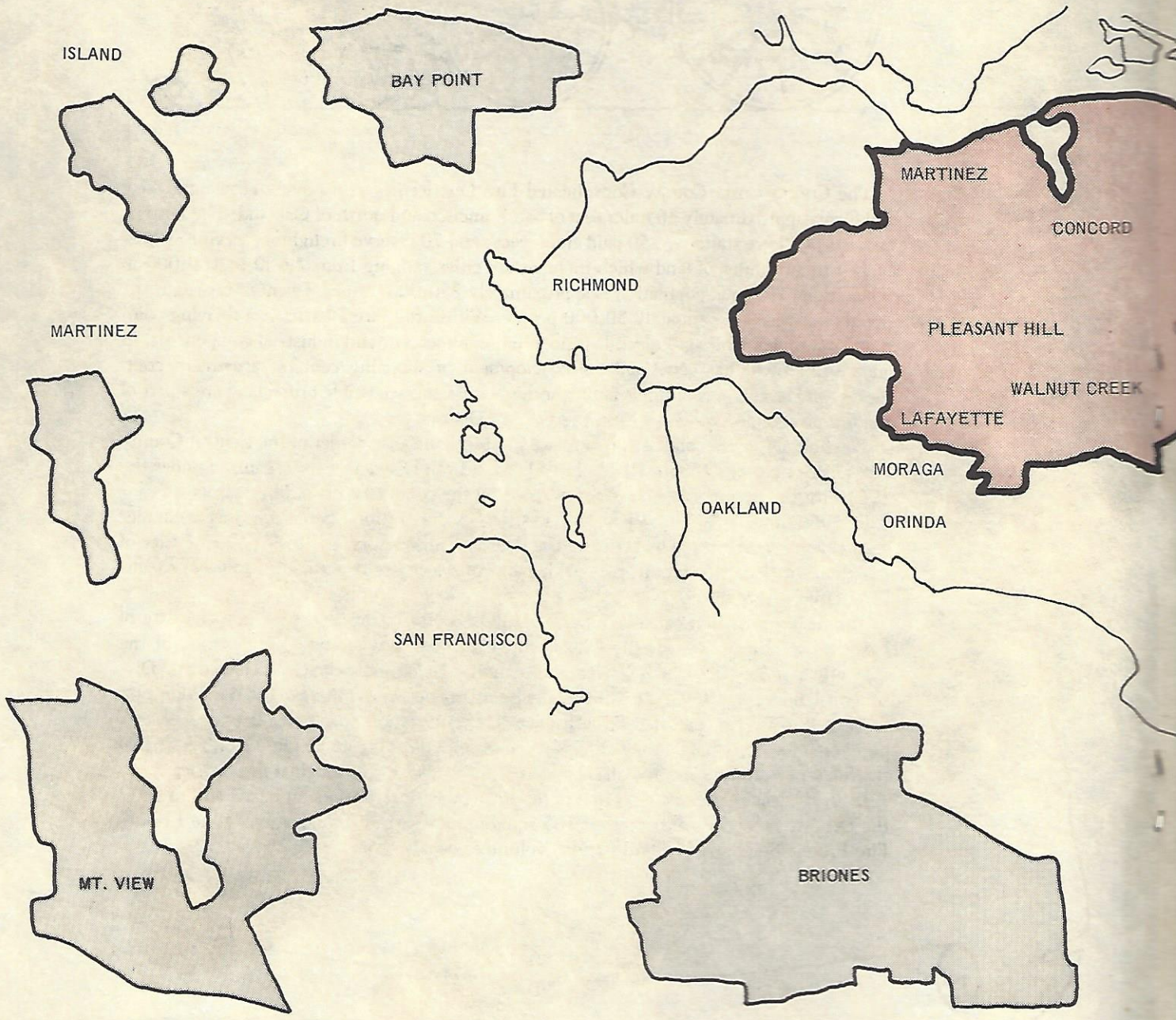
In 1966, the Mountain View Fire District, a one-station, part-paid, part-volunteer department, was annexed by action of the Board of Supervisors. In July 1969, the City of Martinez, with a two-station, part-paid, part-volunteer fire department, annexed to this District by a vote of the people.

The next annexation came about as a result of a city incorporation. When the City of Lafayette was incorporated, the City Council initiated and promoted annexation of the Lafayette Fire District which was an autonomous district, into the Consolidated Fire District on January 1, 1969. At that time, the Board of Supervisors merged the Bay Point Fire District into the Consolidated Fire District. This annexation was a result of the Navy's purchase of a safety buffer zone around its ammunition depot, an action which eliminated the town of Port Chicago and all but a few square miles of the original fire district.

In 1970, Island Fire and a portion of the Briones Park Area were annexed and in 1971 the District expanded to its present 185 square miles with the annexation of the Briones Fire Protection District, a one station, volunteer department.

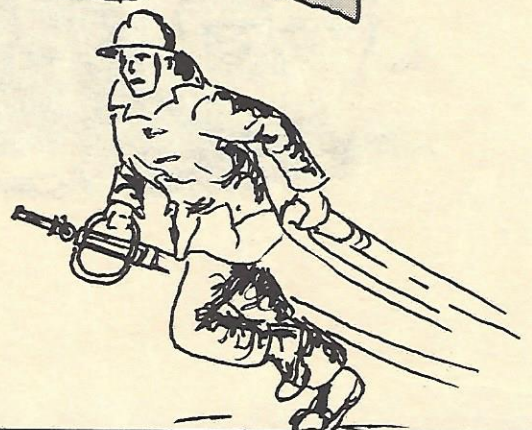
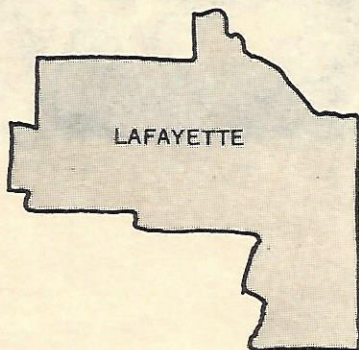
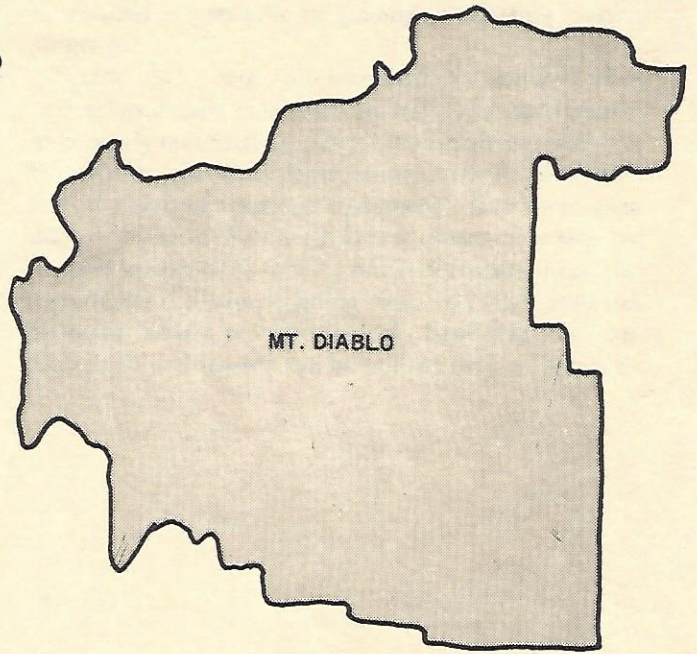
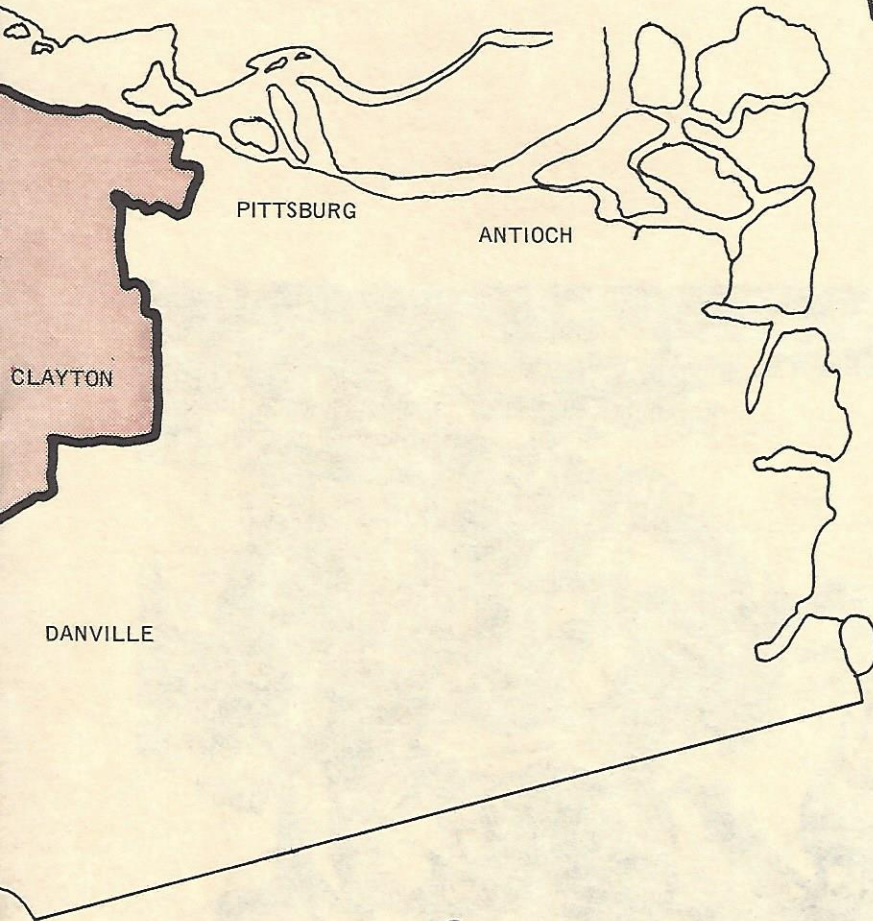
CONTRA COSTA

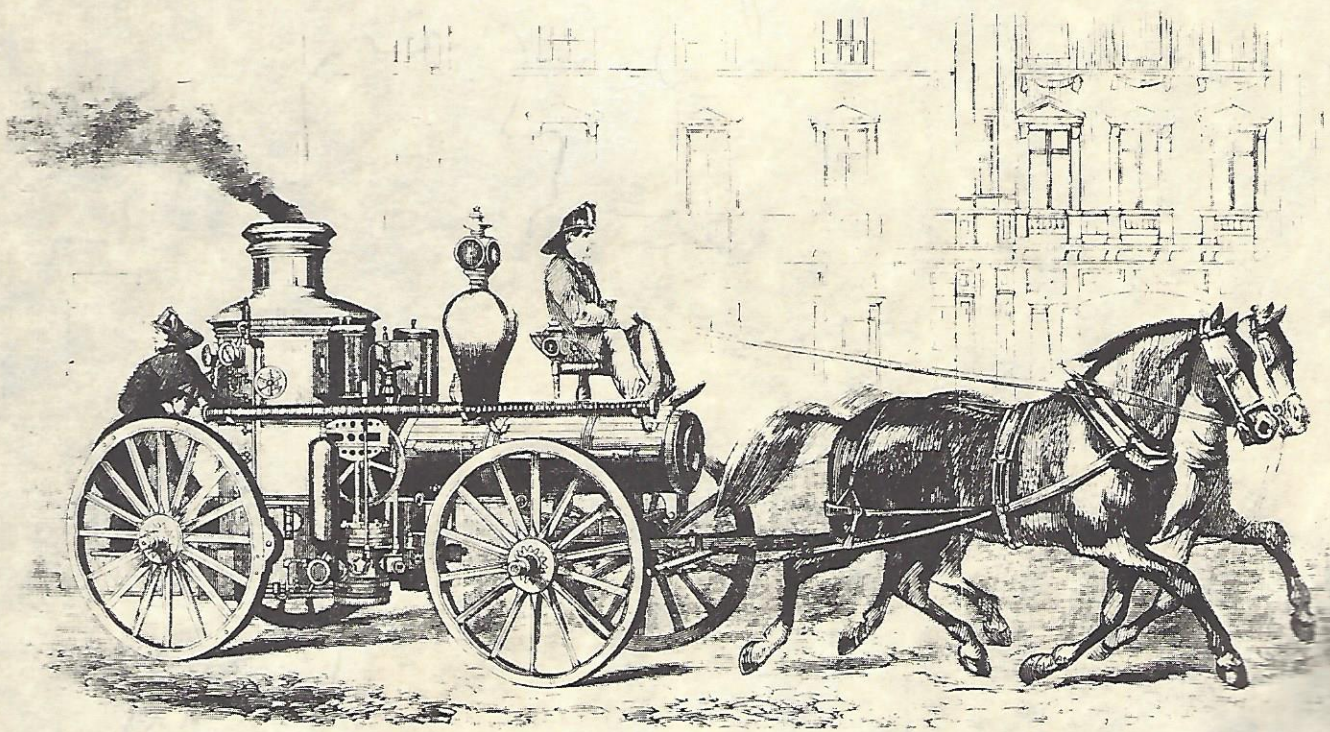
COUNTY CO



# FIRE DISTRICT

CONSOLIDATED





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# Training

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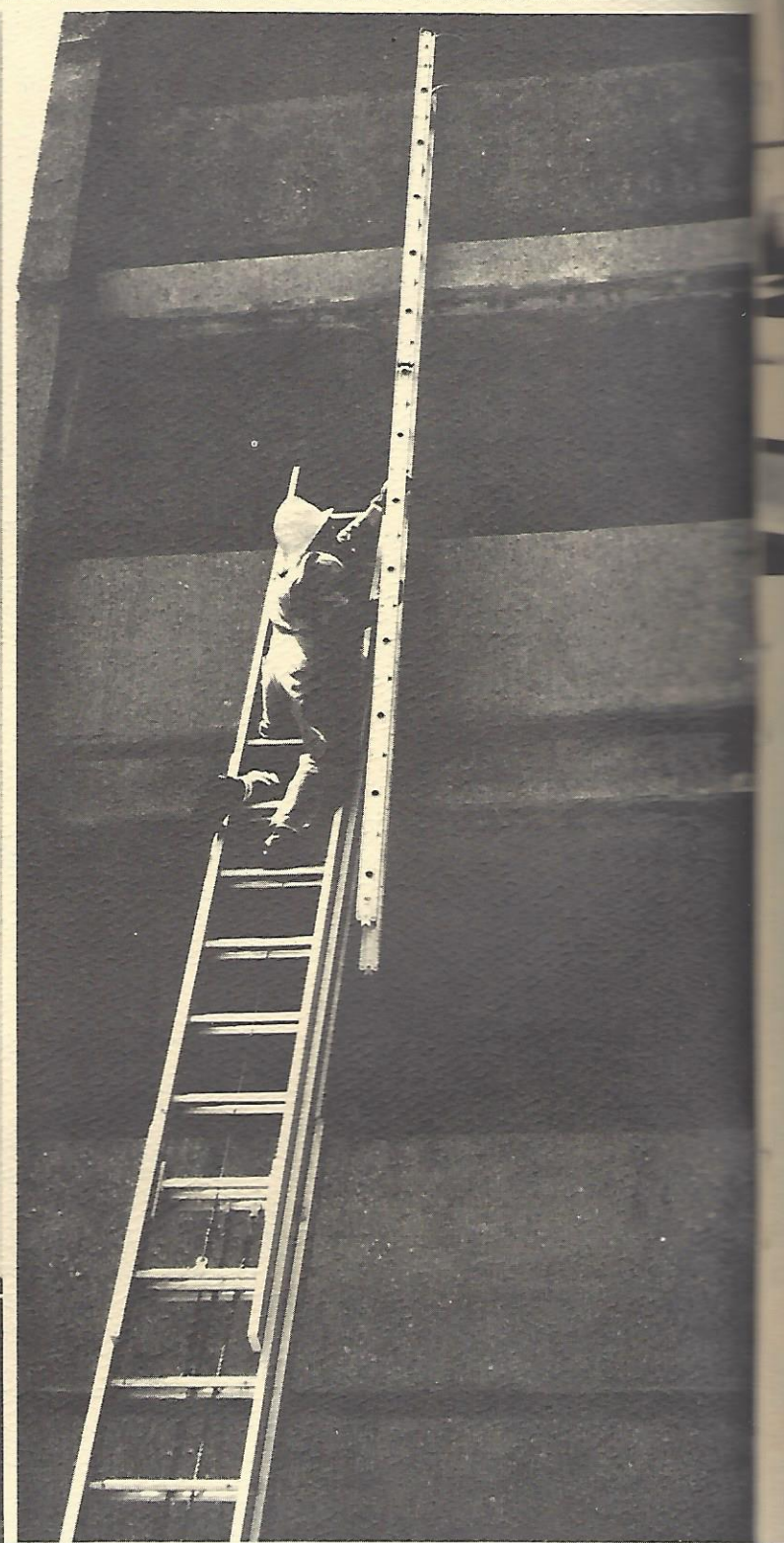
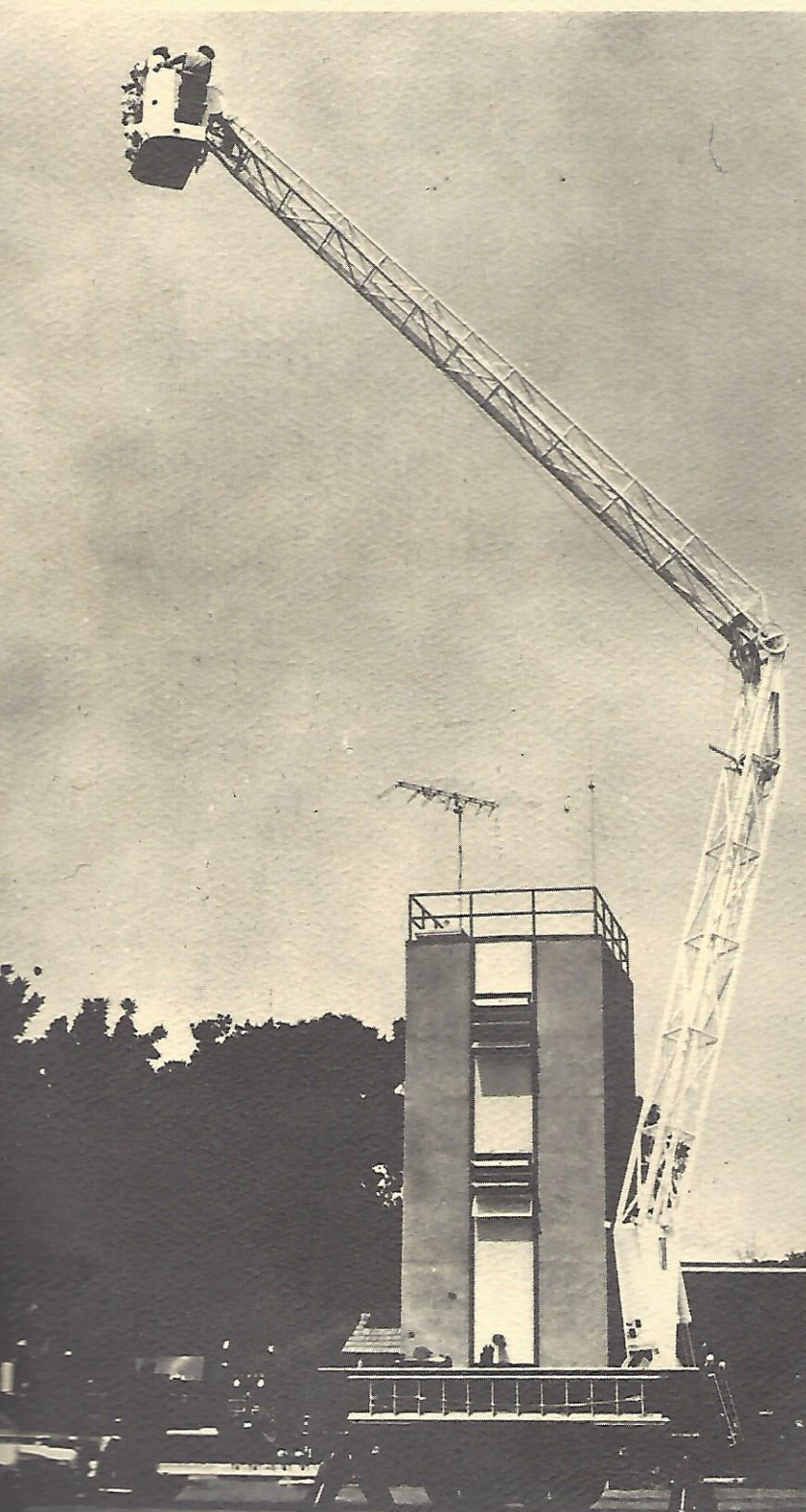
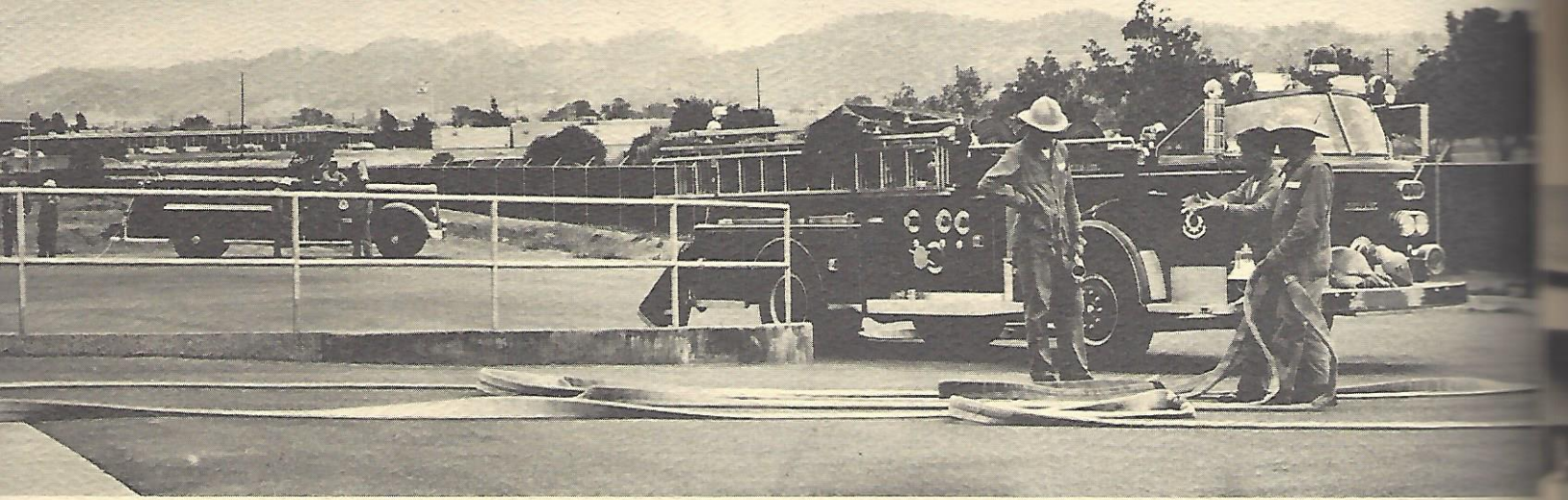
The development of a training program to meet the needs of a new Fire District was a major undertaking. New procedures, policies, skills, and tactics not used by any of the previous districts were implemented. This created a monumental training requirement. Immediate training demands far exceeded the capabilities of the training program. The analogy that was frequently used when referring to the new training program was that it was similar to a football team entering a game with the score already 35 to nothing.

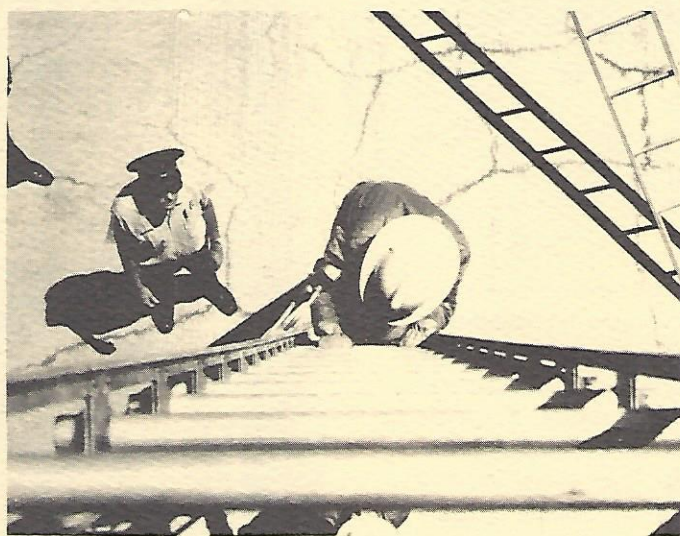
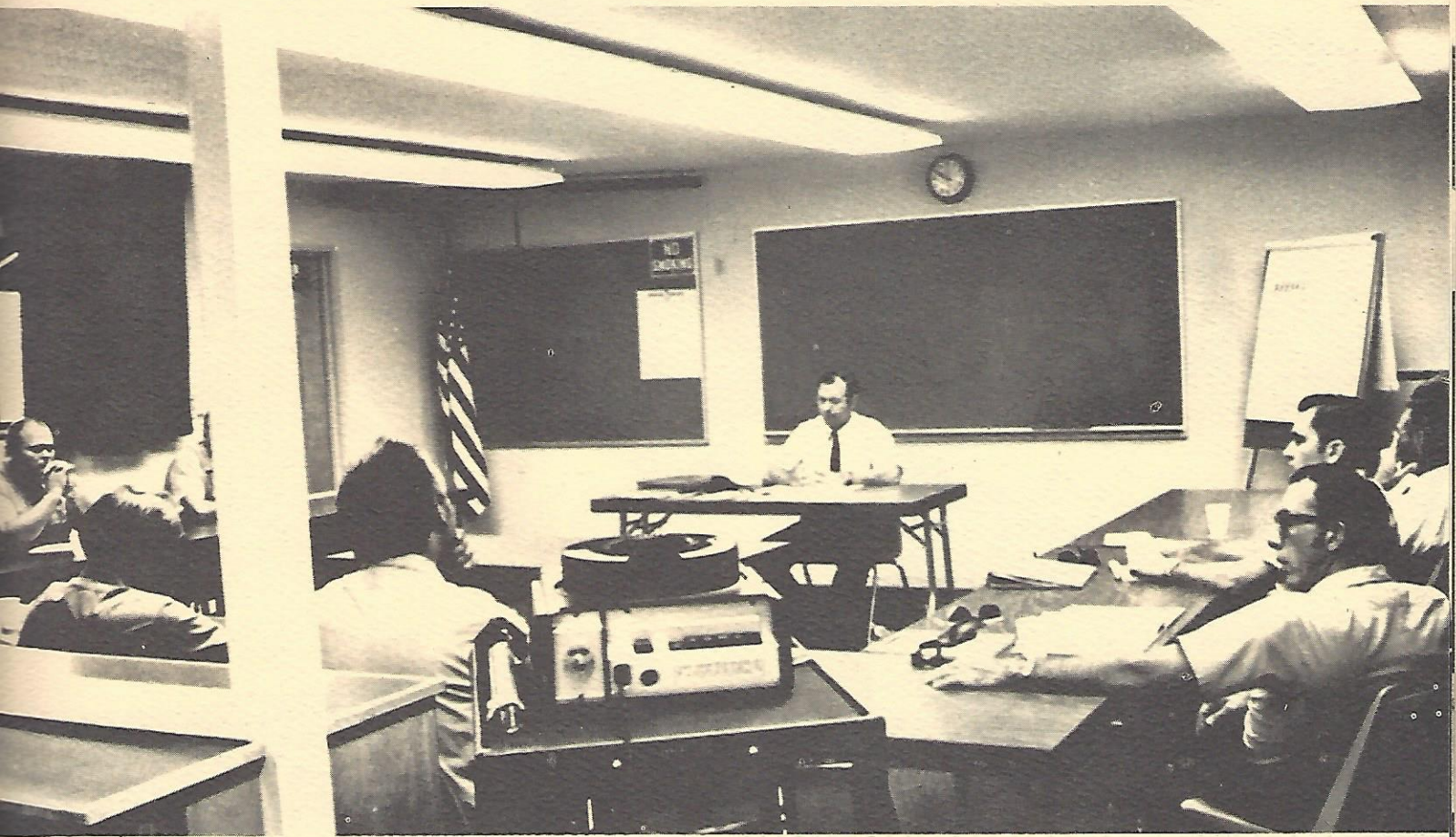
The initial blueprint for designing the training program was developed by Assistant Chief R. D. Starr. With foresight and understanding of the needs of the Fire Service, Chief Starr established the philosophy and priorities for

the District's training program. These ideals have proven to be as current today as they were 10 years ago and still are utilized as standards for guiding the existing training program.

At the start, there were no designed training facilities or developed training courses. In brief, training resources were nearly non-existent; they were simply too costly for the smaller individual departments. Armed only with a few old pieces of visual aid equipment, classes were conducted in station day rooms. Larger classes were required to meet in apparatus rooms, which necessitated borrowing additional chairs, training aids, and other material. Shopping centers provided the only large areas for company drills and these could be utilized only on Sundays.





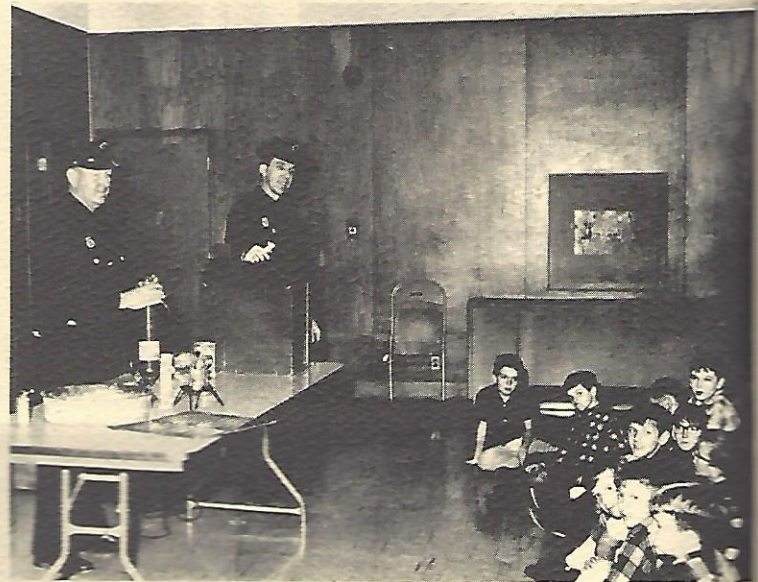




Since consolidation and the advent of a single budget, a broader tax base, and a capital improvement program, one of the most modern fire colleges in the State is being developed. The present program operates from a 12-acre training facility under the guidance of a training supervisor. The Fire College is to be a total facility including classroom, drill tower, drafting pit, driver training area, storage warehouse, and special problems area. It will provide means to train personnel that would never have been possible under independent operation.

Instructors now have a full range of training aids available to them. Our visual aid development capability is second only to school systems. There are also video tape recorders, fire ground simulators, mannekins, and mock-ups besides individual station and central reference libraries. A stimulus to instructors, the training aids have resulted in more efficient training.

Although all levels of the District's training program





have seen significant improvements, one of the most noteworthy is in the field of Recruit Training. Before consolidation, the training of new firefighters was primarily conducted on the job. In March, 1965, a two-week training course was established. This course has been upgraded over the years and today's recruit receives seven weeks of intensive training prior to assignment to a fire fighting company. The objective of the recruit training course is to develop an understanding of District operations and firefighter responsibilities and the ability to perform fire fighting and rescue duties.

If future goals or objectives of the District's Training

Program were to be stated, they would include:

1. The capability of providing the necessary knowledge and skill training for all individuals and groups at their various positions.
2. To provide training on a cost effective basis of a maximum amount of learning in the shortest possible time.

Although the Consolidated Fire District's Training Program has grown both in size and capabilities, it is recognized that it is still in its infancy when compared to the training needs of a modern fire department. The future offers an even greater challenge than the past.



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# Recruit Firefighters

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May 1971



October 1972

April 1973



May 1974



June 1973



August 1974

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# Communications

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## Fire Alarm Center

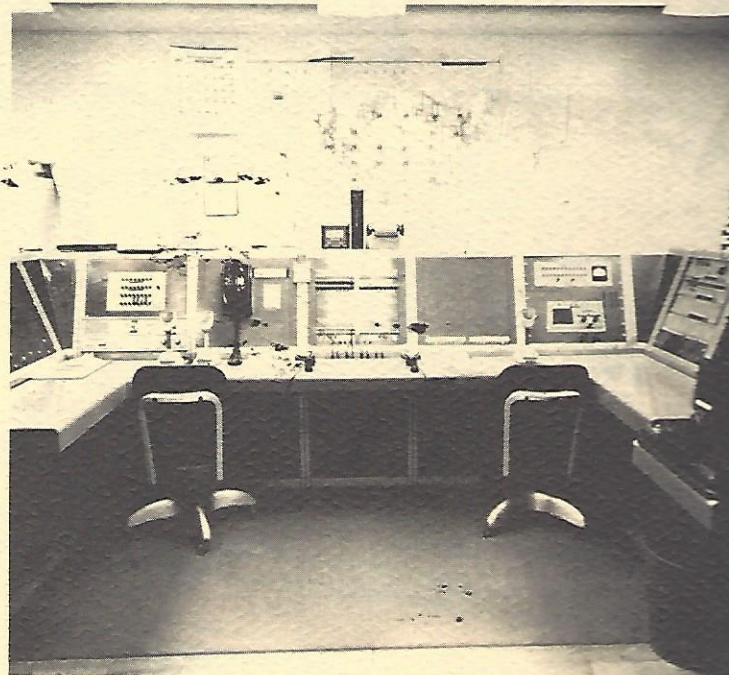
Fire Alarm is the nerve center of the Fire District. It is the control point at which all alarms are received and appropriate action taken.

During the first years of consolidation, dispatch operations were handled by personnel assigned to Station 1 in Walnut Creek and Station 6 in Concord. A centralized Emergency Operating Center (E.O.C.) built to Federal civil defense specifications commenced operations in the Spring of 1967. Due to rapid growth of the District, the E.O.C. has become too small for the day-to-day fire alarm operational requirements. Current plans call for re-modeling the present Administration Building into a fire alarm center when the new Administration Building has been completed and occupied. The E.O.C. will continue to house radio and alarm termination equipment and will serve as a back-up alarm center. Remote control equipment will be added to the re-modeled Administration Building. The additional space will meet present and future needs, including 911 and/or centralized dispatching.

## Communications Equipment

**Microwave System:** The District is connected to the County microwave network. This network provides access to several mountain tops as well as to the County Administration Building and OES Communications Center in Martinez and results in excellent radio coverage. Equipment was recently purchased to tie Fire Alarm into the new Countywide ambulance/hospital UHF radio network.

**Radio Equipment:** Old "tube-type" radio sets have been phased out in favor of "solid-state" equipment. Base station sets have been replaced with mobile sets and operate from "float-charged" storage batteries. This concept reduced base station space requirements and also provided for temporary substitution of a mobile unit should the normal base radio set fail and have to be removed for repair. Single channel tube radios installed in vehicles were replaced, in many cases, with multi-channel units with "simo-receive" capabilities. Hand-carried portable pack sets, weighing several pounds, were replaced with hand-held lightweight units. The small portables have been issued to all fire companies and chief officers and have improved fire ground communications.



Monitor receivers are installed in the various fire stations. These units are used as part of the dispatch system. Selective-call decoders activate the receivers to alert fire companies of emergency activity. Monitor receivers with selective call are also issued to all Reserve fire-fighters. Groups of Reserves can be called at one time to man their equipment. Monitor receivers are also assigned to chief officers and staff personnel for home alert purposes.

**Radio Dispatch:** In May of 1972, a new method of apparatus dispatch was introduced into the District. Prior to this time, companies were dispatched using a direct-line telephone system. The radio dispatch method is basically a one-way verbal announcement of an alarm. The companies due to respond are selectively alerted using coded tones and the location to which they are to respond announced. Companies acknowledge the alarm using their apparatus radio. Receivers installed in each fire station operate from commercial power, but in the event of a power failure, automatically switch to battery operation. This primary means of dispatch is backed up by the fire station operational channel monitor receivers.

## Fire Alarm Systems

**Municipal Wireline:** The District originally had three wire-line fire alarm systems, one in Walnut Creek, one in Concord, and one in Martinez. Due to increased costs in maintenance and the requirement for underground wires, the systems in Concord and Walnut Creek were removed from service and replaced with a radio box system. The Martinez system is still in service and due to its original size and coverage area, provides adequate service to the Martinez commercial areas.

**Municipal Radio:** A radio fire alarm box system is in operation and provides coverage to the commercial areas of the District. A maintenance shop for the radio box system and for the maintenance of other District electronic equipment is located at Station 13 in Martinez.





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# Fire Prevention

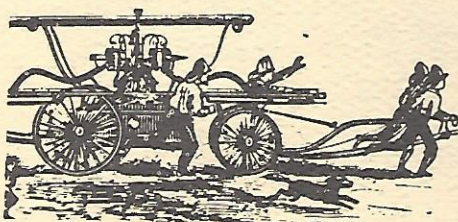
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Rapid community growth, consolidations, increased responsibility placed on local fire jurisdictions both in code enforcement and reporting, and the trend toward greater fire prevention activity within the District have resulted in an expansion of the Fire Prevention Bureau staff.

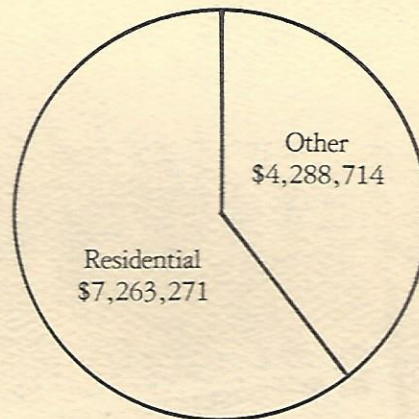
The members of the Bureau are specialists in the field of fire prevention, providing public education, inspections, plan review, fire investigation, code enforcement, technical research, records, and reports. Prior to consolidation, staff specialization was impossible within the smaller fire districts. Specialization has resulted in the development of highly-skilled personnel which provides for fewer errors, elimination of duplication of effort, increased productivity, and further development of individual areas of responsibility.

This expertise is evident in the refinement of existing programs and implementation of new programs. We have systemized and reorganized methods and procedures of work relating to fire prevention. It has been our objective to reduce the major factors that contribute to the cause and spread of fire. To achieve this objective, all personnel have been involved in the District's fire prevention programs.

The accomplishments of the past 10 years can be attributed to the sincere and dedicated efforts of the entire staff of the Fire Prevention Bureau. The Bureau will continue to improve methods and procedures in order to provide for maximum utilization of manpower and achieve our goal of providing a fire safe community.



Dollar Loss in Buildings  
1969-1974







## Public Education

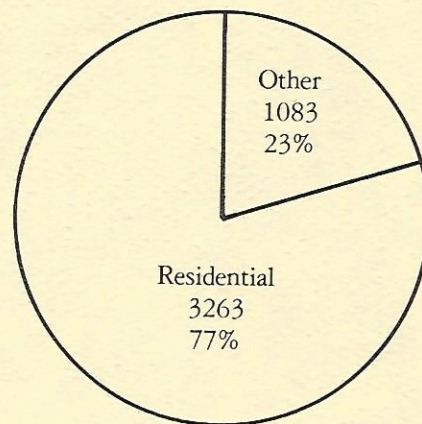
Among the many measures that can be taken to reduce fire losses, none is more important than educating the public about the hazards of fire. Recent years have seen an increased demand for public education and this demand has brought about a review of our educational programs to determine the most effective methods of reaching the public.

We are developing a year-round program designed to educate and motivate the entire community in fire prevention and methods of handling fire and other emergency situations.

Statistics indicate that three out of four structure fires and 97% of the fire fatalities within the District occur in residential occupancies. One method that is being utilized to attack this problem is to promote the extensive use of early-warning smoke detectors and pre-fire escape planning in family dwellings throughout the District.

We firmly believe that with the involvement and support of the total community, our programs can contribute significantly to the reduction of needless life and fire losses.

Structure Fires  
1969-1974





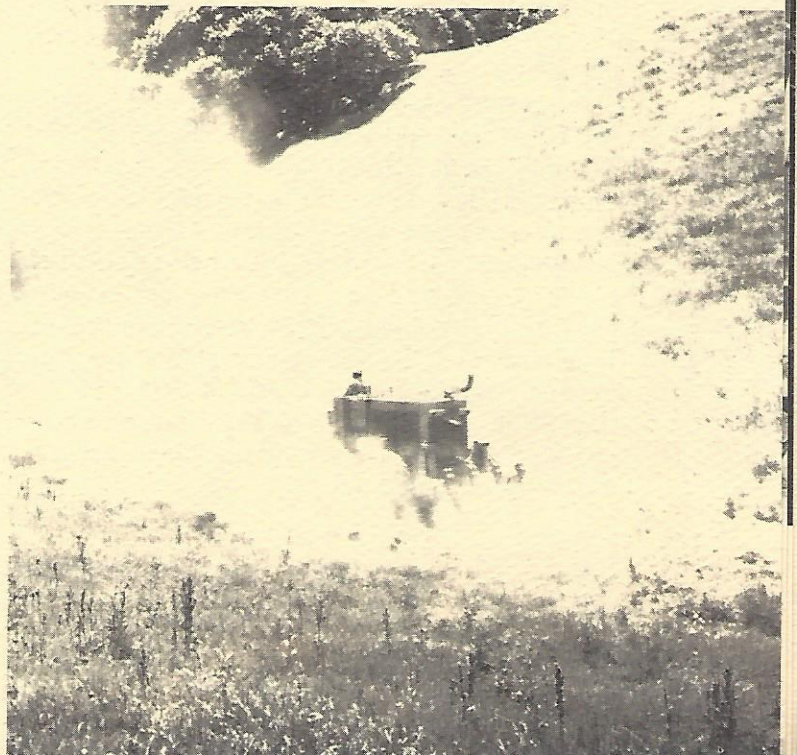
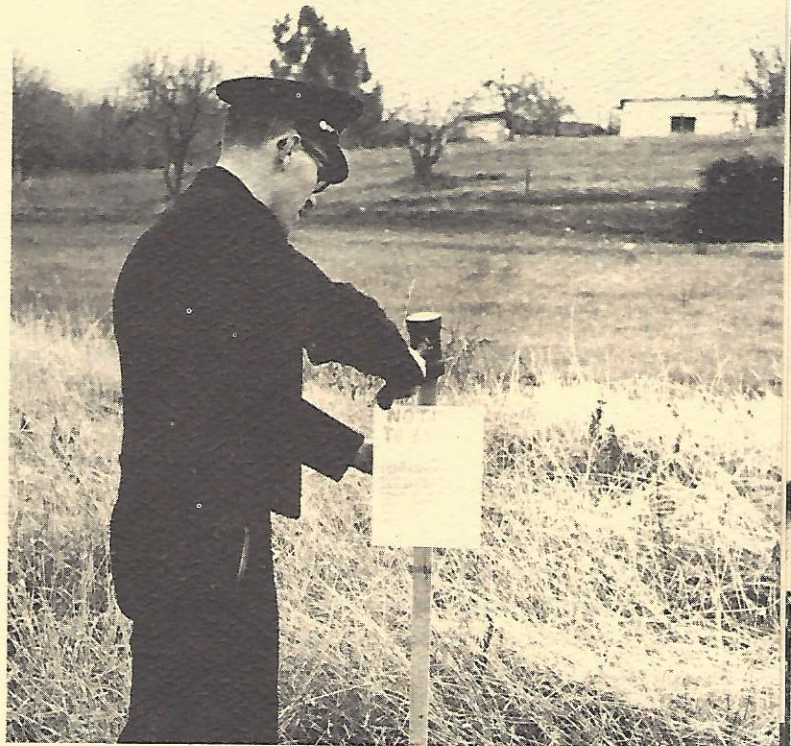
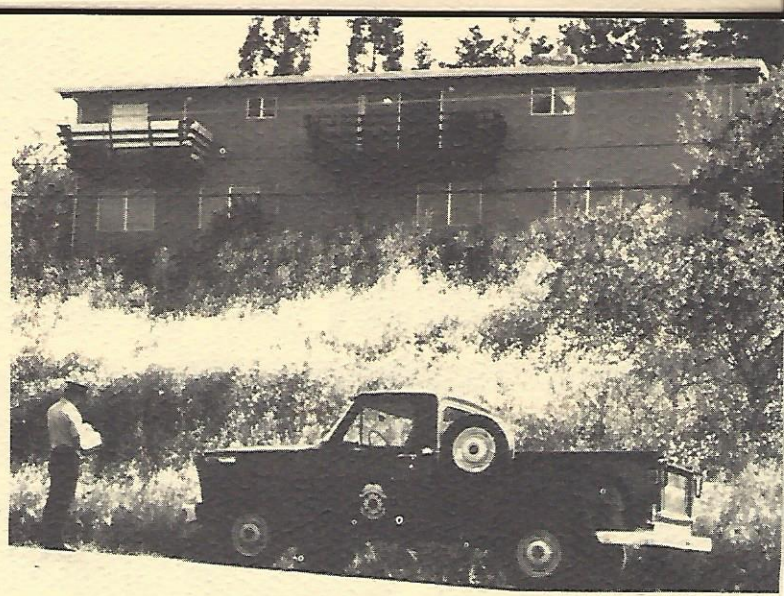
## Fire Hazard Control

The Division of Fire Hazard Control is responsible for enforcement of State and District regulations for the elimination and control of exterior fire hazards, primarily the abatement of weeds and rubbish.

The objectives of the abatement program are to prevent and eliminate grass, rubbish, and exterior fires which may endanger the lives and property of our citizens, and to reduce the size and severity of large grassland fires which may occur in the rural and open areas.

The Fire District is surveyed by District personnel three times each year for potential hazardous conditions. Those parcels not abated upon District inspection are assigned to the District contractor for abatement.

The abatement program is self-supporting, being funded by an administrative charge which is assessed against those properties where abatement by the Fire District is necessary.





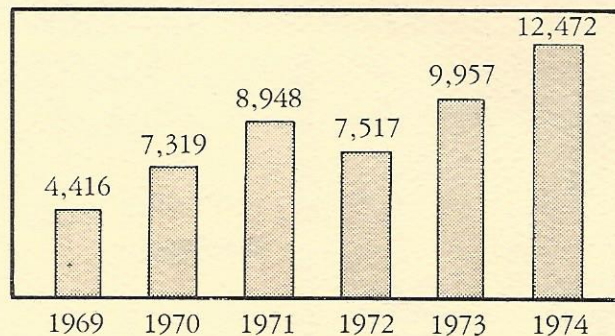
### Enforcement Division

The enforcement section has the responsibility to insure that State and local fire codes are enforced uniformly in schools, public assembly buildings, commercial occupancies, and State-licensed facilities throughout the District. The District's primary responsibility is to enforce the Uniform Fire Code and the State Fire Marshal's Regulations. These Codes are enforced through a systematic, supervised inspection of all occupancies within the District with programmed inspection assignments to Fire Prevention Bureau and engine company personnel.

These first ten years have produced a definite system of Company/Bureau inspection assignments for the more than 6,000 commercial occupancies within the District. Included in this system are a Company Inspection Manual, preprinted fire safety notices, a permit system, and other standard methods which have eliminated many hours of research and duplication of work effort, resulting in increased productivity and simplified record keeping. This is reflected in the increase in total District inspections from 4,416 in 1969 to 12,472 in 1974.

Considering the District's increased fire prevention activities, we can look forward to an effective and continually expanding program.

Total District Commercial Inspections



## Fire Investigation Unit

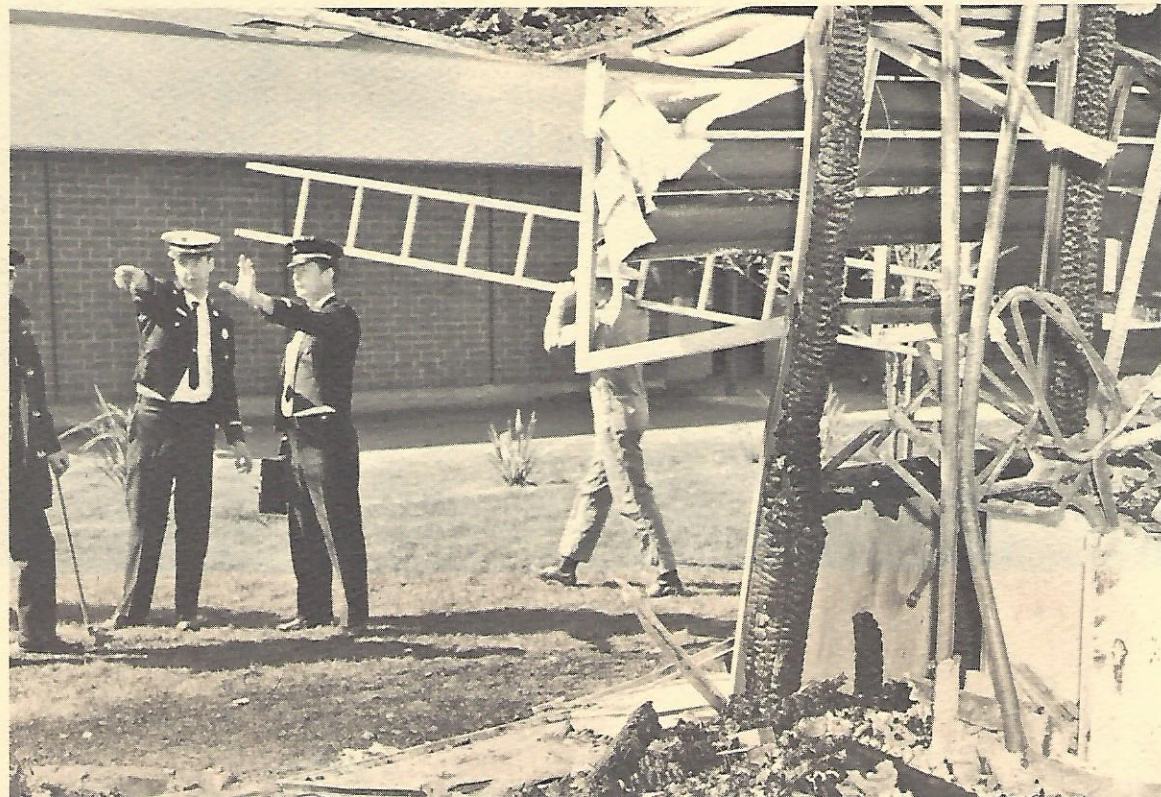
This unit is responsible for the determination of fire causation and responsibles involved in setting or causing fires. In determining causes and responsibles, the Investigation Unit has prepared and taken cases to the Municipal, Superior, and Federal courts. These cases have involved both civil and criminal charges.

In order for this unit to pursue cases in court, a fire cause and origin expertise was developed. Investigation procedures have been established for Bureau and company personnel which includes rules of evidence, fire scene analysis, report writing, and knowledge of laws relating to investigations. The unit has also provided investigations instruction for the State Fire Academy, Police Officers Academy, company officers, and has provided an investigator for other fire agencies within the County when needed.

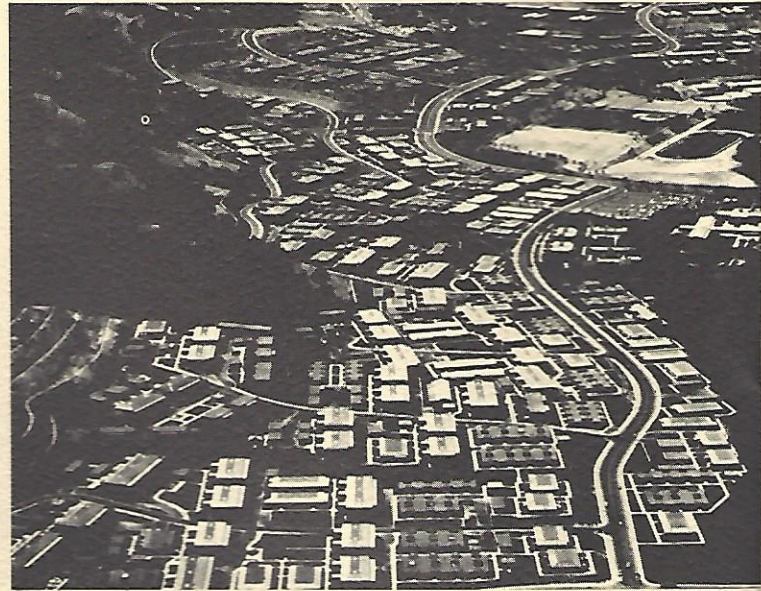
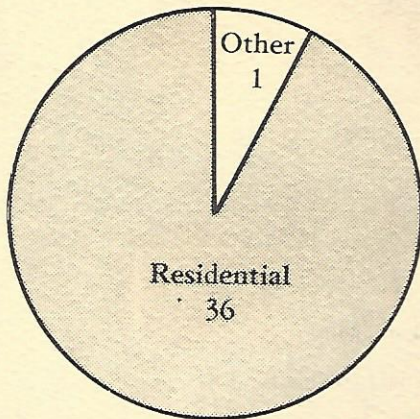
Within the past 10 years, more definite fire causes have identified the problem areas within the District. Juvenile offender files were developed for cross indexing in 1966 and in 1970, a similar adult file was established. The 10-year trend has shown an increase in incendiary fires which account for approximately 22 percent of all structure fires and 82 percent of exterior grass and brush fires.

## Cause Of Fires In Buildings 1969-74

<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Electrical Appliances .....	409
Heating Equipment .....	289
Electrical Systems .....	364
Cooking Equipment .....	864
Combustibles Adjacent to Heat .....	158
Open Flames and Embers .....	356
Smokers Material .....	579
Internal Combustion Engines .....	34
Incendiary .....	615
Miscellaneous or Unknown (Accidental) ..	347
Suspicious (No Known Accidental) .....	351



Fire Fatalities  
1969-1974

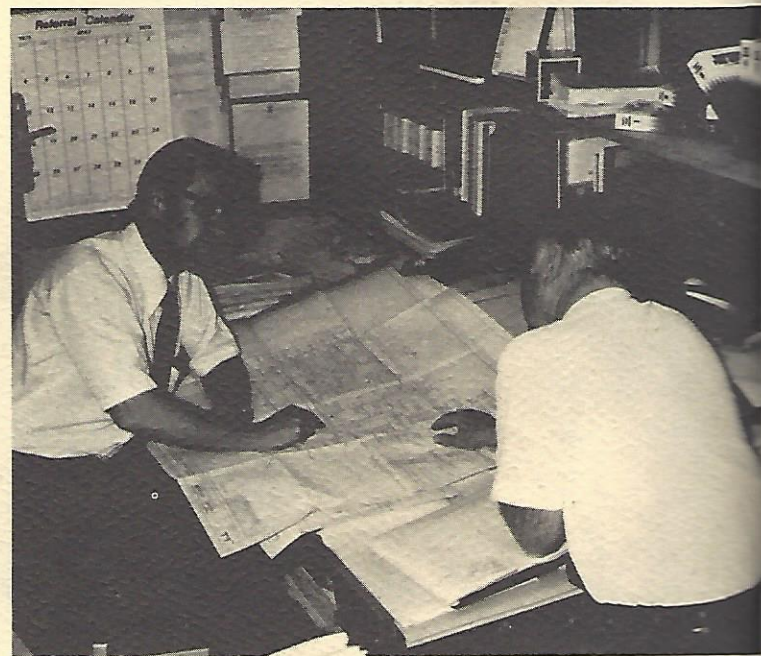


New Construction - Engineering

A division of the Fire Prevention Bureau responsible for new construction plan reviews and field inspections necessary to completion and final acceptance of all new construction and property development in the District. The type of plan reviewed may include building construction, private fire hydrant systems, sprinkler and fire alarm systems, and other fire protection systems.

The plan review and field inspections are a function to insure compliance with the minimum code requirements related to fire and life safety as set forth in applicable State and local ordinances, codes, regulations, and standards. Therefore, duties include responsibility for updating codes and necessary reference material.

Community growth over the first ten years has included oil storage facilities, a proposed gasoline refinery, industrial and light-industrial facilities, public assembly, schools, hospitals, high-rise buildings, and general commercial building development. Procedures and systems have been reviewed and improved to more efficiently handle the past and future growth.





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# Personnel

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A properly selected and trained employee is the District's most valuable resource.

Due to the upgrading of working conditions, salaries, and benefits, and the District's reputation as a progressive organization, candidates for entry-level positions have numbered in the hundreds. The result is the recruitment of highly-qualified firefighters.

In the Consolidated Fire District, there are many promotional opportunities as well as possibilities for specialization, which motivates personnel to participate in career development programs both in service and at the college level.

This competitive atmosphere has resulted in a corps of skilled professionals.



## Clerical Staff

The clerical staff has grown from one clerk at the time of consolidation to seven full time and two part time employees, who provide secretarial service for the entire District, including the administration staff, Fire Prevention Bureau, and Training Division.

The clerical staff has proven an invaluable component of the organization. Their superior record keeping, auditing, and production of printed materials has enabled us to produce professional communications and training materials.





## Summer Youth Program

In 1967, the District began a program in cooperation with the Office of Economic Opportunity to provide job training and experience to low income and minority youths within the County. After two years, the District assumed total responsibility for the program.

Today, as a result of intensive reserve firefighter recruiting campaigns, 15 youths from our reserve corps now man two task force units during the critical summer fire season. In 1974, these units responded to 169 fires and spent 1220 hours assisting regular firefighting crews in the suppression of wildland fires.

In addition to their use in firefighting operations, their availability for mop-up after fire control permits faster return to service of regular units.

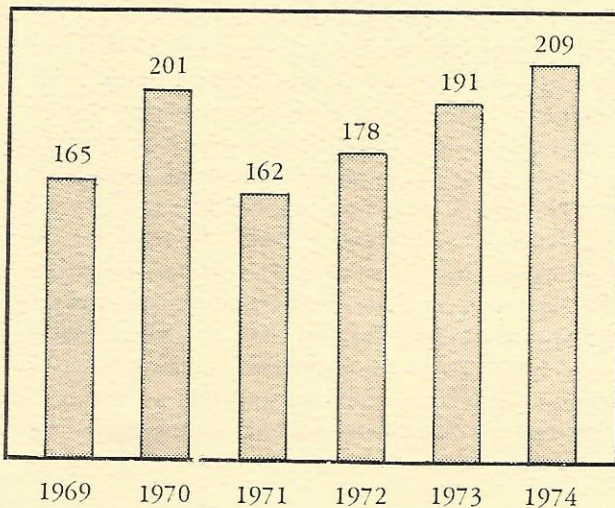
When not engaged in fire ground activity and training, these crews assist in District maintenance programs such as hydrant and station painting, gardening and the cleaning of apparatus and equipment.

Their youthful, energetic attitudes and abilities have proven to be a valuable addition to District forces.

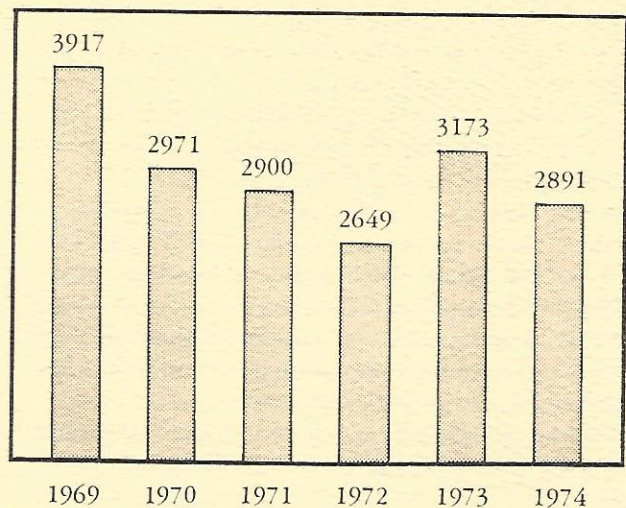


## Reserves

### Fire Responses



### Hours of Training





The last 10 years have shown continual growth in our Reserve Program. From the original 8 Reserves that manned one station in 1965, the strength has increased to 65 Reserves manning companies at five stations.

In 1966, 18 Mt. View Volunteers joined the District. To enable Reserves from different areas to work together more effectively at emergencies, greater emphasis was placed on standardized training.

The addition of 6 Martinez Volunteers plus an intensive recruitment program brought our strength to 49 Reserves in three stations by the end of 1968.

As the number of medical emergency responses increased, Reserve crews received additional training in the field of emergency care. Improved communications followed. Presently, all Reserves are issued Home "Alert" Receivers. This provides for quicker response, as crew members are immediately given both the nature of the emergency as well as its location.

1969 brought the recruitment of 15 Clyde Volunteers, increasing Reserve strength in the Clyde-West Pittsburg area.

The next improvement was the standardization of all Reserve apparatus and equipment. This program was completed in 1974 and has allowed all of our Reserve companies to function better as District firefighting team members.

Weekly Reserve training, which is administered by the station captain and his crew, is a balance of classroom instruction and training in manipulative skills. This training and the experience gained from emergency work has motivated many of our Reserves to seek a career in the fire service. Others have taken the promotional examination within the Reserve Program structure and attained the position of Senior Reserve. Senior Reserves are the assigned apparatus drivers and leaders within the group.

The success of our Reserve Program is the result of the combined efforts of the captains and crews who administer the training and the community-minded Reserves themselves. It is because of these men that we now have an effective 65-man reserve back-up force prepared for any type of emergency.



Bob Sibilis

## Code of Ethics

My fundamental responsibility as a "Protector of Society" is the safeguarding and preservation of human life and property against the elements of fire and disaster.

I will never allow personal feelings or danger to self to deter me from carrying out my duties. I will, to the best of my powers, recognize and uphold my responsibility, dedicating myself to this before God and the public, who have placed their faith in me and my chosen profession.

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