

The time was right to start a fire department

When it all began.....

In 1867 the Village of Glendale Council made the decision to purchase the following equipment to provide for fire protection in the village:

Two forty-foot ladders

One twenty-five-foot ladder

6 fire extinguishers

Twenty-five rubber buckets

Later they added some type of chemical fire engine (most likely a horse drawn cart) that was kept in the Town Hall. The horse to pull it was kept in the basement of Town Hall. After some rather serious fires in the community the citizenry of Glendale decided that a more efficient way of firefighting was needed. So, in a letter to Council written in 1894, describes the formation of some twenty young men to furnish the fire protection to the village in an orderly fashion. A great deal of the credit goes to the Reverend Cleveland K. Benedict who was instrumental in organizing the fire department.

The first fire truck was purchased in May 1917. It was an REO Speed Wagon which carried hose and ladders. Then in 1928 the purchase of the Ahrens Fox ladder truck. It carried a full complement of ladders and had a pump installed on it. These trucks were kept in the fire station in Village Square where the Village Office is now located.

In 2019 the Glendale Fire Department will be celebrating their 125th anniversary (Quasquicentennial). In preparation of this milestone we are looking for any information that anyone may have about the Glendale Fire Department. We are beginning the planning for this event along with the Glendale Historic Preservation. Pictures of the people and equipment of the fire department would also be helpful.

Be watching for more information as the plans are put together.



Information from "Village of Glendale Ohio Centennial 1855-1955"