

Fire Department

June 2017

From Krum Texas The Story of a Small Town By Della Davis 1976

The first Fire Department in Krum was a bucket brigade. At the cry of "FIRE" men, women, and children grabbed their buckets, lined up at the nearest well, and passed the buckets, hand-to-hand, to the source of the blaze. But their valiant work did not prevent almost every business house and many homes (all wooden structures) from going up in flames in the early days.

In 1947, a group of citizens concerned at Krum's dependence on men and equipment from Denton, Ponder, and other neighboring towns, to fight her fires, "passed the hat," and the first fire truck was bought. Allen Butane Company donated a tank, which was mounted on a second hand truck chassis, and John Morris permitted the use of one of his vacant lots on which to build a fire hall. Mrs. John Morris deeded the lots on which the fire hall stands to the city in 1974 in memory of her husband.

Today (1976) the department is well equipped with two model trucks, one purchased in 1966 and another in 1974. A smaller piece of equipment was added in 1975 to be used in fighting smaller fires. There are 17 to 20 well-trained men serving as volunteer fireman.

Krum Volunteer Fireman Proud Of Truck, Record Denton Record Chronicle March 30, 1950

"You should have seen us when we answered our first call to a fire," one member of the Krum Volunteer Fire Department said.

"It was cold and freezing when the call came in and we lit out. We had anti-freeze in the water in the tank, but somehow the nozzle had frozen on us. Of course we were all nervous and then we had to work with the nozzle getting it defrosted before we could get a stream of water on the fire. But we saved the house. What a record that would have been if we had lost our first case."

The Krum Fire Department was formed about two years ago after Grace-Barrow Co. of Denton sold the citizens a school bus chassis at cost. Then Allen Butane Co. of Denton donated a 1,500 gallon tank to install on the body. From that time to now the truck has answered 32 calls in and around Krum and two to Ponder.

There is no real volunteer fire department in Krum in the strict sense of the term, R. C. Cole, fire chief, said. The keys stay in the truck all the time and the first person there gets the truck started. When a call comes in, just whoever gets to the truck first goes on the call. Every businessman in town in on the fire department, but maybe they cannot all go at the same time.

When the proposition came up with the Krum citizens to get a fire truck, their approval was overwhelming. In one day \$3,000 was donated to purchase the truck and the equipment that was needed.

The truck is equipped with all the firefighting equipment that it can carry- axes, fog nozzle, 150 pounds power take off, ladders, everything. Never has more than 600 gallons of water been used on one fire, and yet there have been no losses if the fire was reported soon enough.

The firemen will answer calls as far as 15 to 20 miles from Krum and once joined the Justin and Ponder trucks at Ponder and joined Ponder two other times. Ponder has aided Krum at Krum twice since Krum has had the truck.

All calls for the fire department go to Cole at the Cole Oil Co or to his home. Since the truck has been in Krum, Cole said, there have been at least 10 houses or their equivalent saved.

Only recently, a fire station at which the truck may be protected from the weather has been built. It is a concrete block and brick structure near the center of town, easily accessible by all merchants. (Note: Now attorney's office)

The Krum firemen are proud of their truck and firefighting equipment, "it is the best that any town our size has," they say. "And they don't make the fire that we will back away from."

Fire Department Gets Six Modern New Uniforms

Denton Record Chronicle

Dec 5, 1954

“What the well-dressed fire man will wear,” will describe members of the Krum Volunteer Fire Department when they get decked out in their new uniforms. Some of the best equipment obtainable has been secured for the firemen, through the purchase of Army surplus materials. The equipment will completely outfit six firemen with trousers, coat and helmet.

The material is waterproof rayon, with extra wool lining that is detachable. The plastic-fiber helmets are painted “fire engine” red.

The complete outfits cost \$300 new, but were purchased for \$65, Fire chief Cotton Cole said.

When the new uniforms are cleaned and finally ready to wear, Krum firemen won’t have to take a “back seat” to any neighboring fire department. Heretofore, they wore overalls, work clothes or just plain shirts and trousers when they went a-firefighting.



Weldon Cole & Krum Fire Truck