

Pioneer Mutual News

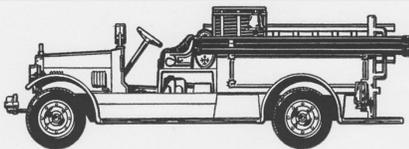
Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society
3230 J Street
Sacramento, CA. 95816

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The Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society



15th Annual Swap Meet

Sunday - September 17, 2017
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sacramento Metro Fire Station #21
Drill Grounds,
7641 Greenback Lane,
Citrus Heights, CA

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Pioneer Mutual News

Fall, 2017

Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums

By: Art (Frenchie) Leclair



Firstly, Thank you Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder for the opportunity to tell our story of the Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums.

Before we go into the brief history of the Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums, here is the history of piping in the fire service.

Bagpiping in the American fire service has its roots in the mass migration of the working class Irish to the U.S. during the “great potato famine” starting in the early 1840s and lasting about ten years. The Irish immigrants brought with them the tradition of piping at their countrymen’s funerals. At that time, firefighting and police jobs were mostly filled by Irish immigrants and the tradition of bagpiping, at the far too frequent funerals, became woven into the fabric of public safety. This migration mostly affected the east coast of the U.S.; you didn’t see a lot of piping in the fire service on the west coast prior to 9/11.

In Sacramento, bagpiping in the fire service started in 2002 when a handful of Sacramento Fire Department members decided that we had to start giving back to the fire service community some of the traditions that lacked in the region. We felt that there was no better way to give back than to honor those that have given their all. Bagpiping adds to a funeral what a sermon, the last alarm bell, or the fireman’s prayer does, and many would argue that the pipes and drums ground that funeral and can be the most emotional piece of any funeral.

Shortly after starting the band, we were pressed into service for a brother Sacramento Firefighter, Matt Bera, who lost his battle with cancer. After performing at that funeral, it was clear we had made the right decision to start a bagpipe band and cemented our resolve to become the premier pipe and drum band for the entire region for all



public safety. Since that first event, we have led hundreds of processions for every public safety agency in the region including SFD, SMFD, CSD, Folsom FD, El Dorado Fire, Roseville FD, Davis FD, SPD, SSD, and CHP. We have also received many requests from outside our area and have performed for Santa Rosa FD, Petaluma FD, Pinole FD, Oakland FD, Contra Costa PD, and many more.

Every piper and drummer in the Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums comes into the band with the primary goal of giving back. New members in the band spend hundreds of hours learning their instrument and most members in the band have spent thousands of volunteer hours learning, practicing, and perfecting their instrument. This of course does not include the hundreds of hours of travel, preparation for specific events, as well as

Continued on page 3

Restoration Supervisor Gíl Aymeric

From the Restoration Shop

The preservation of the 1942 FABCO continues. The exterior of the rig has been buffed and polished as well as possible.

The Restoration Crew is working on reassembling metal parts that have been removed and cleaned. Headlights, grill and bumpers have been cleaned. Running boards with new rubber and welting are being installed. Major electrical wiring systems have been replaced and are now working properly. Pump panel and gauges are scheduled to be cleaned up soon. New upholstery of the driver's and officer's seats should be installed by the time you read this article.

Part of the crew has spent time as directed, doing odds and ends in the Museum, as requested by the Museum Director.

Most of our motorized antique fleet is currently being housed in temporary quarters waiting to be relocated to a permanent home. Availability is difficult to access, thus maintenance work is lagging.

We need a permanent location!!

Don't forget our Annual Swap Meet
September 17, 2017 8:00 A.M—1:00 p.m.
Sacramento Metro Station 21
7641 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights

Treasurer's Report Craig Barmby

As I am sitting here writing this fall article and it sure doesn't seem like we are close to fall yet. I was thinking about our Red Shirt event, Gold Rush Days, with predicted temperatures over 100 degrees for the weekend. Let's hope we all survive.

While I am talking about the Red Shirts, I would encourage anyone who might be interested in maybe joining our group to contact one of us to see what it's all about. There are no requirements for attending every event. We put out a notice and whoever can attend shows up. Sometime we only need three or four people, sometimes it's more. None of us make all the events, but when we do attend, we always have a good time.

As far as Pioneer's finances are concerned there is not anything exciting to report on. The annual dues checks are still coming in and I hope our membership numbers continue to grow. Memberships are our largest source of income and your support is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to mention our annual Swap Meet coming up September 17th at Sacramento Metro. Station 21. It's a great event for anyone interested in the history of the fire service or fire memorabilia. Hope to see you there.

**Go to: sacramentofiremuseum.org
to see Pioneer Mutual News in color**

Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society Presents

“the Best” CRAB FEED

We have booked a new band for this event: SLY FOX

**Mark your calendar for next year: Friday, February 9, 2018
at the Scottish Rite Center, Carlson & H Street**



Please consider including Pioneer Mutual in your trust or will. There may be tax advantages in doing so, and it would be a great way to perpetuate Pioneer's goal of keeping alive the history of the fire service in the Sacramento Valley region. ☺

2016—2017 Board of Directors

- * **Chairman** **Forrest Adams**
- * **Vice Chairman** **Phil Reif**
- * **Secretary** **Ric Dorris**
- * **Treasurer** **Craig Barmby**
- * **Collections Manager**
 Randy Wootton
- * **Restoration Supervisor**
 Gil Aymeric

Members-at-Large

- * **Ed Basurto** * **Dennis Powell**
- * **Dave Dolson** * **Doug Lent**
- * **John Dorris** * **Lloyd Ogan**
- * **Jan Dunbar** * **Henry Ogg**
- * **Dana Hunt** * **Jonathan Williams**

Sacramento Fire Department 2017 Open House Schedule

All Open House Events run from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturdays.

September 9, 2017	Station 18	746 North Market Blvd.
September 16, 2017	Station 19	1700 Challenge Way
September 23, 2017	Station 56	3720 47 th Avenue
September 30, 2017	Station 57	7927 East Parkway
October 7, 2017	Station 15	1591 Newborough Drive
October 14, 2017	Station 60	3301 Julliard Drive
October 21, 2017	Station 20	2512 Rio Linda Blvd.

For more information, please call 916-808-1011.



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VoiceMail: 916-859-4181
Email: pmhls@rcip.com
Web Site: sacramentofiremuseum.org

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (or membership renewal form)

Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society was founded on April 24, 1990 to establish a fire museum in California's capital, Sacramento. To join our noble effort, please fill out this application and send it, with your tax deductible contribution, to:

PIONEER MUTUAL
HOOK & LADDER SOCIETY
3230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Indicate your contribution level:

\$24 Contributing (yearly)
(Pipeman)

\$50 Sustaining (yearly)
(Engineer)

\$500 Life (one time)
(Foreman)

\$750 Patron
(Assistant Chief)

\$1000 & up Benefactor
(Chief Engineer)

501(c)(3) IRS tax exempt I.D. Number 68-0256228

*Relief from Sacramento
(The 1892 Woodland Fire)
Woodland Democrat Article
Submitted by: Forrest Adams*

Recognizing that the situation was exceedingly desperate, Chief Prindle, Mayor Rose and M. Diggs sent telegrams to Sacramento asking for aid, a few minutes after an alarm was sounded. The following is the Bee's account of what followed:

"The fire department lost no time in answering the appeal for help. Engine No. 3 at 19th and L Streets station, was ordered in readiness, members of The Fire Commission waited upon Division Superintendent Wright and readily received aid from that official, in the shape of a special locomotive, flat car and caboose. The fire engine and hose cart were rapidly driven to the freight sheds, where they were placed on the waiting flat car, the horses being returned to the stable. Assistant Chief Montgaillard and Foreman J.W. Guthrie and Engineer Forbes, of No. 2, accompanied by several members of the department, the Bee reporter and about 20 others boarded the caboose. Engineer Fred Stevens took charge of the locomotive, and in a short time the relief train was speeding like the wind towards the afflicted town. Not a stop was made from Sacramento to Woodland. At Davisville there was a slight slowing up to enable the train to take the Woodland switch but all the rest of the trip was an exciting race. Section hands rested on their shovels to watch the flying train as it passed and then rolled away into perspective, leaving behind a cloud of dust and loose grass that had been sucked up by the air cutting train.

It was not long before Woodland was sighted. An ominous cloud of black smoke rose from the center of the town and the passengers knew that the fire was still burning. Engineer Stevens turned on the whistle, and these real blasts announced to the people of Woodland that relief was near at hand. While the train was yet dashing ahead at full speed, steam was started in the fire engine and when the depot was reached smoke was curling heavenly from the stack.

A cheer went up from the citizens assembled at the depot and then a splendid sorrel team was driven up on the platform. The engine was quickly landed, the horses attached, and in less time than it takes to tell it, the fire engine was dashing up Main Street towards the burning buildings, followed by the hose cart and Sacramento firemen.

The appearance of the relief party had a magical effect on the Woodland laddies, who had worked until almost exhausted and were disheartened at their helplessness to combat the flames. Woodland's single engine puffed and shook and panted, with the fire across the street to the Beamer block and threatening to lay it to ruin as complete as those of the block occupied by the opera house which was first attacked.

Directly the Sacramento engine was pumping, and the hose was brought into the Beamer block. Montgaillard and Guthrie are old hand at the business, and they gave orders that meant something. The Woodland

Continued on next column

boys rallied to the new leaders and worked manfully.

From the moment the relief party started to work, matters began to look better for the town."

BEGINNING OF THE END

When the relief party arrived from Sacramento, the Woodland boys were fighting the fire in the Beamer and Dietz blocks. Some delay was occasioned by incorrect information furnished to Chief Prindle in relation to a fire in the Armstrong and Alge block. He sent the Sacramento engine to the corner of First Street and Lincoln Avenue, but the alarm proved to be false and the engine was recalled and set at the corner of Fourth and Main. Chief Prindle directed Montgaillard and Guthrie to fight the fire in their own way, and the Woodland boys directed their whole attention to the Dietz Block, and by the half past 4 o'clock the long fight was over and the firemen rested from their labors.



*The 1892 Woodland Fire
& the July 1, 2017 Reenactment
By: Forrest D. Adams
Sacramento FD Ret.) & PMH&LS*

1890's Mutual Aid

On July 1st 1892 the City of Woodland had a conflagration in their downtown district. The famous Woodland Opera House was destroyed by the fire and many other businesses and homes had gone up in flames. Woodland's only line of duty death occurred at this fire, Fireman W. W. Ported was killed when a brick wall from the Opera House collapsed. The Woodland Volunteer Fire Department telegraphed the Sacramento Fire Department for assistance and we came to their aid and saved many structures. See article to the left, (Relief from Sacramento) the account from the Woodland Democrat, a newspaper that is still published today.

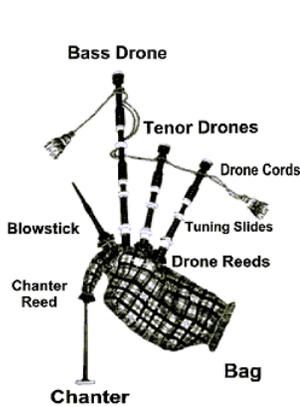
On July 1st 2017 the Sacramento Fire Department was invited to the commemoration of Woodland's Great Fire of 1892. Chief White and Engine 3 were in attendance. Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society and the Gold Rush Fire Brigade participated in a reenactment of Sacramento's response. Pioneer and the Gold Rush Fire Brigade responded with a horse drawn steam fire engine, horse drawn ladder truck and a horse drawn hose wagon. At the end of the event the Sacramento Fire Department was presented with a plaque thanking us for assisting WVFD. The plaque reads, "IN GRATITUDE FOR THE INVALUABLE SERVICE RENDERED ON JULY 1ST 1892".

Continued from Page 1



the emotional toll hundreds of funerals can take.

The Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums has a pretty consistent current membership of around twenty full time and retired firefighters. I, for one, would like to thank these musicians for their tireless participation in what I believe has become such a high level standard and even an expectation in our industry.



As we have progressed into an award winning competition band, we are always looking for the next group of firefighters who would like to be a part of this tradition of giving back. This group could be playing events in under a year with the direction of an already established band and take seriously the words, tradition, and devotion to duty.

There is little or no cost to you to start learning, only the desire to be a part of something that you can build on for years to come. Finally, I would like to let everyone know that the band is a non-profit and survives financially with the help of donations from our fire service family. Also, because we are a 501C3 (Non-Profit), donations are tax deductible. Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums are allowed to receive payroll deductions no different than the ones you are probably already doing.

Please consider the Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums when you are looking to donate to a worthy cause, I assure you, we could use it.

Thanks again to the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder and all the veteran firemen in that organization that do so much to continue the tradition and show off the history of the best job ever.



The Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums Tartan

The tartan of the Sacramento Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums has a bit of Sacramento Fire Department history. One of the original band members, Fergus Johnson, was the driving force behind the design and registration of our tartan. The band members discussed different tartans, but Fergus felt we could design our own and register it through the Scottish Tartan Authority. With his enthusiasm, Fergus came up with several ideas, all with the fire service in mind. The colors he used have deep meaning to all firefighters and most law enforcement officers. We agreed on the pattern shown here, and Fergus had it registered in Scotland. We are currently one of a handful of departments in North



America to have our own registered tartan.

Each color has a special meaning in the fire service and to the culture we firefighters live by.

- The **WHITE** represents the Chief & Command Officers.
- The **RED** represents devotion to duty.
- The **YELLOW** represents the State Capital in Sacramento that we protect.
- The **GREEN** represents the Scottish and Irish heritage of the bagpipes.
- The **BLUE** represents Firefighters and Officers on the line.
- The **BLACK** honors all fallen Firefighters and Officers.

**28th Annual Firefighter Memorial
October 14, 2017
Exempt Firemen's Plot
Old City Cemetery, 10th & Broadway
Sacramento, California 95818**

Please come and join in with Sacramento Area Firefighter's Local #522 and the Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society to honor the fallen firefighters in California who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.

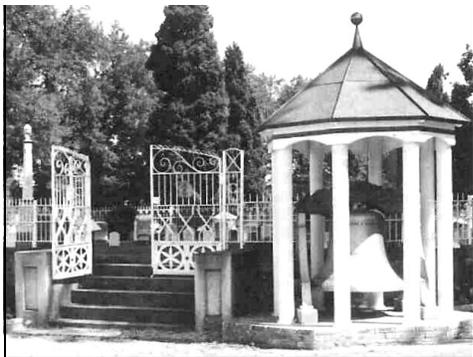
At this Memorial, we also pay tribute to current and future firefighters who carry on the tradition of unselfish service of protecting the lives and property of their communities.

A family pancake breakfast will be served at Station 5 from 7:00 to 8:30 am. Uniformed firefighters will muster at 8th and Broadway by 8:45 am and March to the Historic City Cemetery.

Opening of the ceremony and posting of the colors will begin at 9:30 am. Attendance in the last few years has declined at a steady rate, please put this on your calendar. It would be nice to see more of our Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society members at this event.

Note: The California State Memorial is being held on September 30th, go to their website at: cafirefoundation.org for more information.

By: Forrest Adams,
Sacramento FD (Ret) & Chairman of PMH&LS



Thank You Donna Wolcott!

Donna Wolcott, wife of Loran Wolcott, thanked PMH&LS for the article about Loran Wolcott who was the Chairman of PMH&LS for Fourteen and a half years. Donna made a donation to help the cause. She stated, "I know he would be pleased as PMH&LS was dear to his heart." She also said, "Thanks to you and all the other guys who work so hard to keep it going. I have no doubt that Sacramento will eventually have a genuine fire museum."

Doug Lent - Member at Large

The following is from the book *Memories of the Fire Service* by Capt. H. M. Heiser published in 1941. Heiser was in the Sacramento Fire Department, and his book chronicles many interesting facets of the fire service in the early days. Most of the below article is quoted directly from Heiser's book, although I did paraphrase a small part of it to condense the article. As you can see, arson was a big deal many years ago, and the dollar amounts mentioned would be much higher these days.

Depredations of a Pyromaniac - By: H. M. Heiser

The history of one of the most notorious pyromaniacs on record may be of interest to the reader. His known depredations ran into the millions of dollars and his unknown can only be conjectured, but is probably a pretty heavy additional amount.

The pyromaniac referred to is Clifford Bramble, known under such aliases as Cliff Burns, Cliff Mathis and Milton Dean. His crimes not only cost the city of Sacramento enormous sums of money, but months of unrest.

But with all the fires that were attributed to him, he was smart and cunning enough never to jeopardize any lives. Did not confine his acts to the city of Sacramento alone but brought havoc and ruin to Woodland, Roseville, Davis, Lodi, Isleton, Rio Vista and Lake Tahoe.

In most cases before setting fire to a building he would commit robbery, but his real and only desire was to see the building burning. He was a braggadocio type of fellow with a pleasing personality. Inclinations were strong for the fair sex. At times he was moody and melancholy.

In his confessions to the police, he attributed his acts to love disappointments, but the police inclined to think he was a dope addict; this was not proven, but it was plainly seen from his acts that he was a sex case.

In 1915 Bramble served a term in Alcatraz military prison for desertion.

In 1917 Bramble was committed to the state penitentiary in North Dakota for grand larceny, but in 1918 he was sent to San Quentin penitentiary in California. He was later transferred to Repressa, California, better known as Folsom. He was transferred to other prisons over the years, and escaped from several of them. He was eventually captured and returned to Sacramento for trial.

At the time of trial he displayed his usual foxy tact, only this time he tried to convince the jury that he was insane but was ultimately found guilty of arson and sentenced under the habitual criminal act to life on several charges.

Thank You Setzer Family!

Longtime friends of the Sacramento Fire Department, the Setzer Family, came to Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society's rescue when we lost storage space for four of our restored rigs.

When the California Auto Museum's display that featured: "To the Rescue! The Fire Trucks and People that Saved Our Cities," ended on June 19th, Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society found out that their long-term original storage space would no longer be available. There was a rush (panic) to find an emergency storage space for four of the large rigs on display at the museum. Ed Basurto arranged a meeting with City Councilman Steve Hansen and a meeting was held at the Auto Museum.

Those present included: Councilman Steve Hansen, Sacramento Fire Department Chief Walt White, California Automobile Museum Executive Director Delta Pick Mello, City of Sacramento Economic Development Department Senior Project Manager Leslie Fritzsche, City of Sacramento Convention & Cultural Services Director Jody Ulich, Steve Hansen's assistant Samantha, Forrest Adams, Ric Dorris, Chris Harvey, Henry Ogg, and Ed Basurto. After brain storming ideas, Councilmen Steve Hansen contacted Jeff Setzer and with no hesitation, Jeff donated space large enough to store all the homeless rigs. Thank you for coming to the rescue!

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

PMH&LS SWAP MEET - September 17, 2017 8:00 A.M - 1:00 p.m. Sacramento Metro Station 21 7641 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights

California Firefighters Memorial 15th Annual Ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 30th, 11:30 a.m., at the site of the California State Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Capital Park near 15th and L Street, in Downtown Sacramento. On Friday, September 29th, there will be an (electric) candlelight march leaving at 6:00 p.m. from the north Side of the Capitol and will proceed to the memorial.

The 28th Annual Firefighter Memorial Service
October 14, 2017 - See details on page 4



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Thank you Firefighters First Credit Union

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