

Skip Bold's First Day as Fire Chief

from an interview with Skip Bold

It was the first day of Skip's term as fire chief, having taken over for Don Yansen. He decided to get started by going around to all the fire stations and inspecting all the equipment to be sure all was in order. Everything was in good working order and Skip was pleased. He went off to bed that night but soon got a call about 1am alerting him that there was a fire at Henry Ellis's house where the Cedar Rock monastery is today. Henry Ellis had a brand new beautiful mansion there with a sort of hot tub room, a separate 30'x30' building below the main house that contained a massive masonry stove and large and luxurious hot pool. It was beautifully constructed by LaConner Lumber with a cedar shake roof and copper gutters and flashing. The stove went up to door height and then turned to a steel chimney where a chimney fire had got started! The fire had heated the copper flashing on the roof that had caught the shake roof and tar paper beneath on fire. Skip mustered his forces but the building soon burned to the ground. However, there was a cedar ramp from the main house down to the hot tub room that was ablaze, threatening to spread the fire to the main house. Not many firefighters had turned up that night but those that did managed to get all five trucks to scene. All the trucks were antiques but they were able to drive the tanker truck up to the Blake's pond to fill with water. They also filled the other trucks and soon had a system of driving trucks up to provide a steady supply of water. Somehow, the trucks moved seamlessly over the rough, wet ground without getting in each others' way! Skip was and is still amazed at this worked!