

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

Fire Department Equipment is Preserved

A recent donation by a generous Indian Hill couple will fund the rebuilding of both the Madeira and Indian Hill firehouses. Construction on the Madeira station, known as Station 64, will commence in 2015; and in 2016 the work on the Indian Hill structure, known as Station 65, will begin. Both buildings are in need of improvements. The Indian Hill firehouse was built in 1940. Additional bays were added in 1960 and 1982, and a conference/training room was added in 1994. The Madeira station contains some spaces that are 100 years old, and was remodeled in 1978 and 1992. Having new firehouses will greatly benefit both communities.



In preparation for the upcoming construction, a thorough inventory was taken of items in both stations. Chief Steve Ashbrock, who has been with the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire Department for 15 years, determined that some of the equipment that was no longer being used should be donated to local historical societies. He contacted both the Indian Hill and the Madeira societies and offered representatives seven historic items which were once used by firefighters in the area, but now have been replaced by newer equipment. Most of the devices were used in the first half of the twentieth century.

The oldest item, a brass *hose adapter*, was used to attach hoses of different diameters to fire hydrants in the 1930s. Interestingly, the letters “M-V” are engraved on the side of the adapter – an abbreviation for Madeira and vicinity. At that time, Indian Hill was known only as a vicinity. Two implements that were used in the 1940s were the *duck billed fog nozzle* and the *hose strap*. The former allowed firemen to change the spray from a solid stream of water to a fog-like spray. Usually two firefighters would operate this nozzle on a 2 ½ inch hose line. Every firefighter had a hose strap. It was used to steady the hose. It could be wrapped around a stationery object for stability. The hose strap has “M&IH Eng. 2” painted on its surface, which identifies the joint fire department and the engine which housed it. Control of the hose was important, as firefighters and bystanders could be seriously injured if hit by an uncontrolled wild hose.



The *play pipe with fog nozzle* was employed in the 1950s and was a newer version of the duck billed fog nozzle. Also from that decade was the *hose clamp*, which enabled the firemen to stop the water from going through the hose. The hose needed to be shut off if it developed a leak, when a change of nozzles was necessary, or when the water from the fire hydrant needed to be controlled. It also had “MIH E. 22” painted on the cloth.

The *short closet hook* was first used in the 1970s. Painted with the letters “MIH”, it was used in tight spaces to open walls and check for hidden fire therein. And the *axe* was utilized throughout the twentieth century and still is a commonplace implement on fire trucks today. The wooden axe has a decal of the Madeira & Indian Hill Fire Department. It chopped through roofs and floors of buildings on fire. The old model wooden handles have now been upgraded to fiberglass and polymers.

These seven items are currently on display at the office of the Indian Hill Historical Society, Buckingham Lodge, located at 8650 Camargo Road. The Society is grateful to the M&IHJFD for entrusting these implements of yesteryear to the organization, and is proud to show them to visitors.