

IMAGES

... then and now

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

The Semple Award

In 1953 the Village of Indian Hill received from Dr. and Mrs. William Semple, of Shawnee Run Rd., a \$1000 bond to establish a fund for recognizing outstanding service within the community. The capital amount was to remain untouched, with the interest income to be given to deserving members of the fire or police department serving Indian Hill.

A committee of Council has made recommendations as to whom the award should be presented. Over the last 44 years, it has been given 14 times. A cash award, ranging from \$25 to \$500, has been granted for special acts on regular duty or for recognition of years of exemplary service. Presented at Council by the mayor, the Award was given 3 times in the '50's, 8 in the '60's, and 3 since 1970.

The first winner, Sergeant John Diekmeyer, was commended for saving the life of a man who fell into a cistern on Blome Rd., and for his contribution to the efficiency, reputation, and "esprit de corps" of the Rangers. His excellent pistol marksmanship was mentioned, as well, in the presentation by Mayor Thomas Haydock in 1954. Also recognized for outstanding work in a specific incident were Ranger Clarence Smith, who prevented a suicide, and Fireman Edward Lewis, who successfully resuscitated a five-year-old boy who had fallen into an unattended swimming pool.

In 1960, two Rangers were granted awards simultaneously for their exceptional police work in connection with the apprehension and conviction of several burglars. Only one other time were there dual recipients of the Semple Award for joint effort. In 1967 Mayor John Perry gave grants to both Fire Chief Clifford Behrman and Ranger Chief John Diekmeyer, in recognition of the work done by both organizations during the accident which took the life of Hulbert Taft, Jr. Rangers and Firemen joined in the rescue effort following an explosion at Taft's bomb shelter, and were recognized for their teamwork.

Several members of the Madeira and Indian Hill Fire Department and the Rangers were given the Semple Award for loyal and faithful community service ranging from 24 to 44 years. The most recent recipient of the Semple Award was Patrol Officer Michael Aaron. His unique contribution saved the Village thousands of dollars when he volunteered for the special duty of upgrading and modernizing the Ranger dispatch console, and training other personnel in the use of the console and computer system.

Winners of the Semple Award have received cash and a public testimonial—for heroic action, years of service, or a special project. The civic-minded generosity of the Semples, who established the award, has over the years made special recognition of the Village's public servants possible.

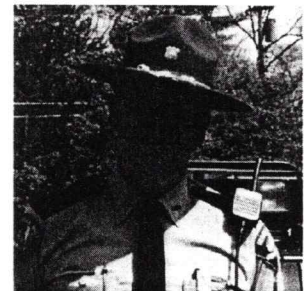
Semple Award Winners

John Diekmeyer
Clarence Smith
Edward Lewis
Richard Valentiner

William Barnett
Floyd Nelson
William Williamson

Clarence Smith
Fred H. Meyer
Clifford Behrman

John Diekmeyer
John J. Diversi
Edward Lewis
Michael Aaron



Michael Aaron

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