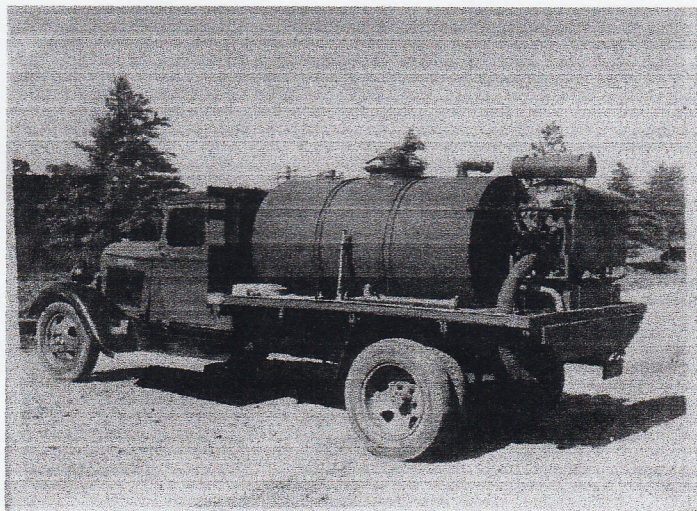


We had a young member who started fires when things were quiet and this became a problem. We didn't wish to report him to the police. I arranged for another member attending the next fire to grab him by the shoulders and legs, swinging him towards the fire saying "*you like fires, in you go*". Of course we didn't let him go but it sure cured him forever as there were no suspicious fires from then on.

A local landowner offered us a generous fee for burning off adjoining property. Unfortunately the lady who owned the block refused permission. There were no laws on hazard reduction in those days for us to rely upon. We had an idea to send a member on his bike to light up the bottom paddock when it was quite safe weatherwise. We were assembled at the Station, training and ready to respond. Unfortunately the member sent on his bike was so keen to get back that he left before making sure that the fire had taken hold. When he arrived back at the station, we responded, only to find that there was no fire. Thankfully we did not possess flashing lights and sirens in those days. An old Dodge tanker and crew still make a bit of noise. The lady came out to see what was going on. As I was always taught that honesty was the best policy I suggested that someone approach her and admit to what we had in mind. the answer was "*it's your idea Tim, you do it*". So I explained to the lady that "*if we could light it, any other person may light it at a time when we were not available and this could cause danger*". I also explained that with a tanker and crew we could burn it safely within two hours. My explanation worked and we received our much needed donation.

Our Fire Brigade had a very good safety record, having only one serious accident. Leo Langtry caught his hand in the radiator fan of the pump motor and sustained damage to his fingers.

In 1953 the Board of Fire Commissioners took over the Station. Those members of the old Brigade who lived and worked locally and were able to respond on a basis of 24 hours per day, seven days per week were able to apply to join the Board's new team.



Original Bush Fire Water Tanker