

## Roseville Register Articles

- Saturday December 7, 1907 pg. 3  
The Roseville Fire Commissioners met Saturday night to organize a fire department. W.B. Musson, former chief of the fire department at McCloud, was elected Chief, and W.T. Butler Assistant Chief. These two will select the men needed to man the two hose carts. *Note : RFD organized November 30, 1907.*
- Saturday, January 25, 1908 pg. 2  
The community is now enjoying the benefit of nineteen 32-candle power incandescent street light located at every principle street corner about town; also 25 standard fire plugs, 2 hose carts, each equipped with 500 feet of hose.
- It appearing that the board of underwriters had an agent here to look into the matter of fire protection in order that insurance rates might be reduced, it was ordered by the chamber that Chief Mussen and Assistant Butler immediately organize a company of firemen, all the other fire apparatus being in evidence. We understand a company has been selected and will drill as soon as the weather permits.
- Saturday February 8, 1908 pg. 2  
Fire Department came in for its share of criticism and it seems that the firemen have been selected but no organization has yet been effected. Mr. Browning was appointed a committee to confer with Fire Chief Musson and get the company together right away and have a practice drill A.B. McRae and Jerry Shelley volunteered to buy the necessary ropes for the carts if the chief and his assistants would attach the ropes to the carts. The new fire district was pointed out by Secretary Hill on a map and shown to take in the old town of Roseville and all new additions thereto. Attention was called to the election February 15<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of raising \$2500 for fire and other purposes.
- Saturday February 8, 1908 pg.3  
There was a slight explosion in the junction saloon lunch counter Wednesday morning, when something went wrong with the gasoline stove there. The fire made no progress and an hour afterward you would not have known anything had happened.

- Saturday, February 22, 1908 pg.2

The committee on fire company organization reported the company organized and was discharged. It was suggested that the company turn out stronger than it did last Sunday if much drilling is to be done. The fire commissioners were instructed to draw up an ordinance against the use of gasoline stoves within the fire limits of Roseville, it being shown that not less than six explosions have occurred here recently.

- Saturday, March 21, 1908

The fire department also was raked over and a committee was appointed to gather up wrenches and fix ropes on the church bells and make all necessary arrangements toward fighting a fire in case one breaks out. There will be an election of fire commissioners the first Monday in April and the chamber of commerce will put a ticket in the field at their next meeting, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Saturday, April 4, 1908

Notice - All persons hereby warned not to use fire hydrants, under penalty of law, only firemen who are members of fire department, and then only in case of fire, are allowed to use hydrants except by written permission from the fire department or water company. In the future strict attention will be paid to this and any person using a fire hydrant will be prosecuted.

Roseville Water Co.

- \$20 Reward - For information that will lead to arrest and convicted of any person damaging fire hydrants or using same illegally.

Roseville Water Co.

- Be sure and vote Monday for the three new fire commissioners to be elected. The polls will be open in the Register office from 8 to 5. The chamber of commerce have put J.H. Herring, Forest Hill and C. W. Anderson in the field. We haven't heard of any other ticket. Note : *All three were voted in and took office April 14, 1908.*

- Saturday, May 30, 1908

H.L. Bissell spoke of selling firecrackers. Moved by him that chamber suggest to fire commissioners that this be stopped.

- J.H. Herring spoke of danger from fire caused by 3 barrels of oil on the alley behind Odd Fellows Hall.

- A Morning Fire : Dr. J. H. Stineman's pretty new bungalow is a mass of ruins. Yesterday morning he got up at 6 o'clock and built a fire and went out on the tennis court. Fifteen minutes later he was startled by his wife's cries of fire and saw his pretty little home enveloped in flames. The fire must have caught from a defective flue and the whole roof was in flames before the fire department arrived. They did good work when they got there and soon had the fire under control. Practically nothing in the way of household furniture or clothing was saved. Dr. Stineman had on his poorest suit of clothes and Mrs. Stineman got out in her night clothes. There was no insurance on the furniture but the house was insured for \$1000. The people of Roseville sympathize with the Stinemans as the loss is no small one. The Roseville Fire Co. did good work and had the alarm been given 15 minutes earlier the fire would never have got under headway.
- Saturday June 27, 1908 pg.2 The  
 alarm of fire at 11:30 last Monday morning called out Musson's company of firemen in short order and they arrived at Miss Pitcher's store with their hose cart in less than three minutes time to find the fire out. It had started in a summer kitchen in the rear of the store and burnt off the awning but they got water on it immediately and put it out. Had it got a fair start it would have done a vast amount of damage, as the whole block facing Lincoln and Atlantic streets would probably have burned. Geo. Butler had the cart and hose on the ground from Clark's stable even before the other hose cart got there.
- Saturday July 25 1908 pg.2  
 P.L. Lockhart had the misfortune to lose his house and contents except some bedding and a few minor articles, by fire Thursday evening about 8:30. The family were away from home and no fire had been in the house during the day. A hobo was seen going to the house late in the afternoon. A large force were on hand at the fire, but too late to check its course. It is not as hard a blow as it might have been, as the house was heavily insured we understand.
- Saturday August 1, 1908 pg.2  
 A third hose cart and 500 feet more hose is being ordered by the fire commissioners for the King and Thiele additions. R.F. Thiele has agreed

to advance the \$300 necessary and wait till the first of November, when the money will be available from the special tax fund voted for fire purposes. W.G. Hemphill has also agreed to put in the necessary fire plugs and pipe, and wait till November for his money. These gentlemen are certainly deserving of a vote of thanks for their enterprise and accommodation in this matter. The territory mentioned certainly needs the protection and we will then have a pretty good fire system in Roseville.

- August 22, 1908 pg.2

G.M Hanisch started the next ball rolling by registering a kick against the fire department in three distinct chapters. First, the pressure at the fire in the Theile addition was not over 30 pounds, when it ought to be 70. Second, the fire hose was rotten and leaked in several places. Third, there were too many Sunday members of the fire company and not enough workers at a fire. By the way, we have noticed that Mr. Hansich is only present at chamber meetings when he has some grievance, real or imaginary, to bring before the public.

Mr. Hemphill replied to Mr. Hanisch's first grievance by stating that it would be impossible to maintain a 70-pound pressure at the end of 1,000 feet of hose and especially when attached to a 3 ½ inch main; also that the hose was improperly strung out and had some kinks in it, which would naturally reduce the pressure. Two hose lines being connected on a main would also have a tendency to reduce the pressure. The reasoning put forth by Mr. Hemphill was convincing to those present that we have no reason to condemn the pressure of the Roseville Water Co.'s mains. The second growl of Mr. Hanisch was answered by J.H.Herring, who thought that the rotten condition of several lengths of hose could readily be accounted for when it was called to mind what treatment the said hose had been subjected to. He was not alone in his remarks when he called attention to the fact that Mr. Hanisch had taken care of the hose cart and hose by letting it stand on his land and receive the benefit of the winter showers and when it was moved over to Mr. Butler's place the same condition of affairs still prevailed. Naturally when hose stands out in the rain and gets soaked through and is not taken off the reel and properly dried it is apt to mildew and rot. The hose under Mr. Musson's care was bought at the same time and was the same hose that the kick was registered about. No complaint is made of Mr.

Musson's hose and it shows that the care given the hose is responsible for its condition.

Regarding the third statement by Mr. Hanisch of the failure of fire company members to get in and drill, we think his grievance has some grounds to stand on.

The fire commissioners have used some effort to get members together and have meetings and we know that Chief Musson has also tried to get his company out for a drill, but it seems to be a hard matter to get them together and the fire commissioners do not feel able to hire an automobile and go around and gather up the members. They ought to take enough interest in fire matters to attend meetings and get out and drill. Mr. Hemphill says he will prosecute the next man he finds having anything to do with a fire plug who is not a member of the fire company and we expect he will do it.

As one of the fire commissioners we are willing to do all we are capable of doing to organize and maintain a fire company and we know that J.H. Herring and F.C. Hill, that other commissioners are of the same mind, but we cannot accomplish anything unless the people cooperate with us. We cannot force men to join the fire company nor get out and drill, so it is up to those interested in the company to stand in and help us. We have purchased a hose and cart for the Theile addition, and we are ready and anxious to purchase more and better hose for the town.

Mr. Hemphill suggested that we buy at once 1000 feet of 65 cent hose, guaranteed for three years. The suggestion is a good one, but the commissioners have no money of their own to expend for this purpose and the money we will have to draw on in November is practically spoken for, as there are plenty of uses for it, such as building a hose house and paying for the hose and cart already ordered and a balance due on fire equipment on hand. If some liberal hearted capitalist can see his way clear to put up the money and charge a reasonable rate of interest and take a chance on getting his money back from next year's fire tax, the question will be solved.

Considerable discussion was had over the matter by the members of the chamber and an adjournment was finally taken without having reached a definite conclusion. Mr. Hemphill agreed to give the hose a test at any time and the matter was left in the hands of the fire commissioners. The result appears elsewhere.

The matter of trainmen blocking the crossing came up and it was suggested that the matter be taken up by the fire commissioners with the proper officials.

- Saturday August 22, 1908 pg.3

*Placer County Winery Burned.* Last Sunday morning about 1:15 o'clock Stewart Clark was coming home from the dance when he heard a roaring sound down at the Winery and he rushed down there to see what the trouble was and was just in time to see fire breaking through the roof of the immense plant. He hurried at once to Superintendent Haman's house and awakened him, sounding the cry of fire as he went and in a short time the fire company and scores of willing workers were in the ground. Too late to save the main building, however, which was a mass of flames inside when Mr. Haman reached the building and tried to enter. All that could be done was to play the water on the brick building adjoining the main building, in which was stored between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons of sherry, and this was saved together with the distillery. The winery proper with its machinery and 200,00 gallons of wine in vats and barrels was destroyed and in less than an hour from the time the fire was discovered the whole thing was a mass of smoking ruins.

The fire company did good work and were ably assisted by a great many citizens, who took all kinds of hard chances and worked like demons to stay the fierce progress of the flames and they did nobly to save what was left of the wreck. The loss is estimated at close to \$225,000 and there was about \$73,000 insurance on the stock and buildings and machinery, \$20,000 of which was held by John Lagomarsino, who bought 125,000 gallons of last years crop. The fire is supposed to have originated from crossed electric wires, as no other cause can be assigned. The watchman who has been on duty right along, Happened to be off duty this night, on a leave of absence.

The loss of the winery is a severe blow to the community and especially at this season of the year as the wine grapes will be ready to harvest early in September and table preparations were being made to handle the crop. The winery was owned by local people here, of them grape growers and the majority of the grape men had a contract to deliver their grapes at this winery at \$15 a ton for 15 years and this is only the third year it has been in operation.

- The adjusters have been here this week adjusting the losses and had not yet got through yesterday. The stockholders met Thursday night and decided to rebuild immediately and handle as much of this year's crop as possible, but they released all grape growers from contracts for this year, and are to fix the price on grapes later. It was discovered that the sherry that was supposed to be saved was damaged by water. If cooerage could have been on hand a great deal of the wine which was held in check by the concrete basement could have been saved for brandy or alcohol, but it is thought it will be useless now, although a sample will be run through the still and tested. It seems a shame to see this veritable lake of wine going to waste. If it could have been handled at once it could have been converted into brandy or alcohol.
- John Herring went to the fire and worked like a Trojan last Sunday morning trying to help save his neighbors property and when he went home his wife asked him if he saved any of his stuff he had stored down there. Then he remembered that he had a bowling alley, a lot of bar fixtures, etc., representing about \$1,100 stored in the basement of the winery, all of which went up in smoke.
- W.G. Hemphill and the fire company and commissioners tested the fire hose Thursday and found that we had 600 feet of good hose and 400 feet that was somewhat leaky. The commissioners are now making arrangements to purchase 1000 feet of good hose and two more carts, which will equip the town pretty well for fire. They also hope to get the fire company's together and hope they will realize the necessity of understanding their duties and doing some necessary drilling.
- September 24,1908 pg.3  
The Roseville fire department received Saturday another new hose cart and 500 feet of new hose. It was put in the residence section in the southern part of town, near the new school house, and a new company will be organized among the residents there to handle it. Another cart and 500 feet more of hose have been ordered, and are expected daily. This will give Roseville four hose companies. A large number of new fire hydrants are being put in throughout town.
- October 15,1908 pg.3  
The fire commissioners this week received 500 feet of 65c hose and a \$135 hose cart. The fire system now has 1600 feet of first class hose

and for hose carts and as soon as they get their new building will have a fire department that will be a credit to Roseville.\_

- November 26, 1908 pg.3

The rope for ringing the fire alarm on the church bells is on the outside of the building and there is no need of breaking in the church door to ring the bell. This is not generally known and ought to be remembered by all who have occasion to ring the alarm.

- December 17, 1908 pg.3

The barn belonging to the Italian who conducts the vegetable market in Roseville Heights burned Monday morning about 4:30 o'clock and a horse was burned to death. The Fire Co. were in evidence and did good work. The fire started from a fellow dropping a lighted candle in some hay.

- Thursday January 21, 1909 pg.2

The question of reorganizing the fire company, with four hose company's under one fire chief was not brought up.

- April 5, 1909

Fire Commissioners voted in H. Stone, F. Cannon, and L. Ames

- April 10, 1909

City of Roseville Incorporated

- Thursday June 10, 1909 pg.3

The Roseville Fire Department certainly has an active Fire Chief G.A. Musson. He is always among the first on hand and a quick and capable worker at a fire.