

David Hubbell
2508 Oak Hill Rd.
Chetopa, KS 67336

November 4, 2013

Chetopa City Council
Chetopa, KS 67336

To The City Council members,

After 43 years of service since July 29, 1970, I am retiring from the Chetopa Volunteer Fire Department effective November 1, 2013. I will also be retiring from the First Responders on November 6, 2013 after 20 plus years of service.

As a past Chief and fireman, I would like thank the present and past council members for their support of the Fire Department and First Responders.

The reality of so much time passing has hit hard. I never dreamed of the day when I would no longer be on the Fire Dept. It is literally in my blood. My dad, Elmer Hubbell, even served as Chief for almost 2 years in the late 1930s. My uncle, Ralph (Rocky) Watts, was Treasurer for many years. They took me to meetings and to fire calls with them when I was preschool age. I grew up watching their dedication to helping people. My life revolved around the Fire Dept. No matter what else needed to be done on the farm, at the slaughter house, or with family activities, everything was scheduled, postponed, or cancelled around the Fire Dept. That mindset never changed for me as an adult. As time progressed, I was fortunate to be able to hold every office in the Dept., being Treasurer for 19 years and then later becoming Chief. I raised my son, Josh, in the Dept. from the time he could walk. He joined the Chetopa VFD as soon as he was old enough serving until he moved away from home in 1999 when he became employed by the Neodesha Fire Dept. as an EMT and firefighter. He is now a Lieutenant on the Fire Dept. He will continue the fire-fighting legacy. My family has served a total of over 130 years on the Chetopa Volunteer Fire Dept. which includes participation in numerous community activities.

The fire department is more than one person. It is a group of dedicated people willing to give up their time and lives to protect their community. Even though I am retiring I will away, be a fireman. I will be there to advise and help if needed.

Sincerely,

David Hubbell
David Hubbell
Fireman CVFD

My father

*Rocky Watts was my Mother's
brother. not a Hubbell*

Chief Elmer Hubbell
Chetopa Volunteer Fire Dept.

Elmer Hubbell, age 32, served as Chief March 10, 1938 - Jan. 31, 1940 (5-6 weeks short of 2 y
(Also on 3-10-38, David's Uncle Ralph Watts (Rocky) elected Sec.)

March 24 Chief Hubbell called a special meeting. The committee to get bond for Treasurer reported they couldn't get the bond until the books were audited. Chief Hubbell appointed Roy James, Floyd Buvinger, + Ray Boyd to audit the books. A motion was made + seconded to take out \$1,000.00 bond for Treasurer. Four new members were voted in that day and 2 other members were voted out.

July 20, 1939 - re-elected Chief

Aug 3, 1939 - Chief Hubbell submitted Ed Rakestraw's application. He was admitted unanimously which brought number of members to 18.

Sept 6, 1939 - Chief Hubbell reported he had received a letter from KU at Lawrence about the State Firemen's meeting Oct. 3, 4, 5, 6. They decided 5 would go for 2 days out of the 4: Chief Hubbell, Fireman Smith, McReynolds, James, + Nicholson.

Oct 4, 1939 (night before went to KU) Special meeting called by Chief Hubbell at 8:15 p.m. Assistant Chief Ray Boyd resigned and A. Emert elected to succeed by acclamation.

Jan. 31, 1940 election of officers (was when Elmer went to work nights at the Ammunition Plant as fireman + inspector, so gave up position as Chief) but still a volunteer.

This is just info, shows how Volunteer F D's worked in the '30's

I'm sending a letter
from my brother
David recounting
the years our family
has given to the Fire
Dept.

Dad started with the
Volunteer Fire Dept in
Chetopa, Kansas in 1930
As his son became old
enough he joined him.
Dad also worked at
the Ammunition ^{Co.} Plant
during the war, but
continued as a volunteer
until he died.

David's son Josh joined
them when he was old
enough & then became
a professional fire fighter &
still is in Neodesha Kans.

We have run out of
boys now, maybe
Josh's daughter will
join them.

I thought this might
make a story for the
annual

Hubbells' fighting fires

~~for~~ since 1930

Is that too silly?

Myma Hubbell Kepford

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Josh and David



Elmer taken 42