

Fire and Police

There was no fire department or police department for nearly all of the history of our area. Only since the forming of a village was there any fire protection and that was next to useless until water mains with fire hydrants were activated. Until that time if the oil lamps or candles used for lighting caught the house or barn on fire all one could do was get out and try to save a few valuables. Everything you had would be destroyed. And there was no insurance. There were no phones to call for help.

The village hall was built in 1922. It is located at 5961 Beebe at Flynn. It first housed the offices of the village officials. It served also as a voting place. On the west side of this building was a small wooden structure that was sometimes used as a jail. The Warren Volunteer Fire Department was housed in an east addition to this building in 1946. An old foto I have shows the Warren volunteer fire dept in a Model T. If anyone has more on this please share it. Problem is people don't write history down.

In 1938 Chrysler Corporation donated a fire truck and the first fire hall was built (in 1939) next to the Township Hall at Van Dyke and 11 Mile roads. Soon from a modest beginning of volunteer firemen with no equipment to a volunteer fire department with two full time men Warren's fire department grew to one of the best in the country.

In 1939 Warren's first fire station was built.

Vern Lumex and William Van Hulle were hired as fireman. Salary was \$130 a month. They still had volunteer firefighters. In 1951 two more fire halls were built. In 1955 the Nine Mile and Federal fire hall was built followed some time later by the fire hall on

Twelve Mile Road by Hoover. In 1957 William Burr was hired as Fire Commissioner.

Policing which had been under County Sheriff moved to Warren Township control in 1950.

Locally elected Warren constables assisted the Sheriff until 1927. In the early 1920s the Sheriff established a Warren branch office with one and sometimes two regular officers and a few special deputies. In April 1927 Henry Kuhn and Charles Krause were the local sheriffs officers. The Town board appointed Ray Bush as Township Officer to work with the Sheriff's deputies. In 1937 Max Bookout and George Collins were appointed as our first Policemen at \$175 per month. Collins was appointed as Warren's first Police Chief.

The **Eighteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, established Prohibition** in the United States in 1919. It was **repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment in 1933.** During this time the Detroit area was a hotbed of illegal activity. There were **many speak-easys in Warren.** Clem's Pour House was one of many that were open 24-7. You could not get in unless you were known by someone inside. "As many as 25,000 illicit saloons, or "blind pigs," operated in Detroit area and did a \$215 million business.

