



# Beaver Creek Township Fire Department

*Serving proudly since 1946.*

## **HISTORY OF KNOLLWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

John Scott (owner of Knollwood Garden Center) organized the first fire brigade in Beaver Creek Township. He equipped a company truck with some Indian pump tanks (backpack type) and a few buckets. When a citizen needed help they would call the garden center, John and a few volunteers would respond to the fire and do what they could. Sometimes the brigade would put the fire out, and sometimes the brigade would remove valuables until the fire drove them out. In 1946 John Scott went to the Beaver Creek Township Trustees and proposed plan for the birth of the Beaver Creek Fire Department. Trustees placed a bond issue on the ballot to raise funds to support the fire plan. The bond issue passed and two sister fire engines were ordered.

The plan would form two stations with two new 1946-fire trucks; one station would be in the Knollwood area and one in the Alpha area. The Alpha station was actually a bay in the Marshall brothers' garage, which stood at the corner of Factory and Dayton-Xenia Rd. The Knollwood station was on South Central Dr. (still there). With a little money left over from the bond issue, Trustees purchased cement block. In anticipation of the arriving fire trucks, volunteers from the Knollwood district built a two-bay station with the cement block.

Once the new fire trucks arrived they were turned over to the fire fighters, who had trained intensely in anticipation of their arrival. The first fire truck was issued to the Alpha station, thus they became Station #1. When the second engine came in it was issued to the Knollwood station, thus they became station #2. Vision came with the birth of the Beaver Creek Fire Department. With little money and a lot of ingenuity the firemen would create support vehicles: a grass fire jeep and a rescue truck. Once the vehicles were placed in service the fire fighters would donate them to the Township. The Township then would support their operating costs.

A few men in New Germany (located at Grange Hall and Colonel Glenn) decided they would create a support vehicle. They developed a water hauling truck for the fire fighters. Because the new fire engines carried only 750 gallons of water, it became difficult to extinguish large fires that required more water. They took a dump truck one of the guys owned and put a water tank in the back of it and a 500-gallon per minute pump on the front bumper. It would then respond to fires as an additional water supply.

They ran the water truck out of a barn that belonged to one of the fire fighters. In 1953 Station #3 came into existence. Again the Township would purchase the cement block and the



volunteers would build the station. For engine #3 the Township Trustees purchased a used fire truck from Van Buren Township (now Kettering).

John Scott envisioned a need for his community. As Beaver Creek began to grow John envisioned the need for some kind of fire protection; he began organizing a brigade of men to respond to fires. By establishing the first responder system, he inherently set up the first dispatch system. Residents who became victims of fire would call his florist shop—The Knollwood Garden Center—and report the fire. John or someone would sound a siren mounted on a pole at the shop and the men would respond to a designated shop truck. The truck was equipped with buckets and backpack type pump tanks, and a crew of three or four would respond to the fire. Because of a lack of equipment and means of delivering large amounts of water to the fire, the brigade would sometimes resort to removing valuables from the burning structure—as many as they could before being driven out by the extreme heat.

