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- CALENDAR/2C
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SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

20th Years
THE STAR DEMOCRAT
1883

Eastern Shore Life!

75 Years of SERVICE

The Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company has been around for 75 years, and is ready to commemorate this historic moment.

Join the firefighters and the town of Hurlock at the Hurlock Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 2. A parade will begin at 9:30 a.m., train rides will begin at 11 a.m. at the town train station, and vendors will sell their wares. Also, fire truck rides and an open house will be held at the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company until 5 p.m. There will be 3 shirts, hats, and a television will be raffled.

Hurlock, incorporated in 1892, ranks as the second largest town in Dorchester County. It began from a Dorchester/Delaware Railroad station built in 1857. In 1859, John Martin Harper, on whose land the station was tracted and after whom the town was named, built a grocery store at the railroad crossing in 1871. Hurlock built his residence.

In 1884 a second residence, the Washington Methodist Parsonage, was built, and by 1887, five new homes and a hotel were constructed. In 1888, the Washington Church (now Unity-Washington United Methodist Church) was moved into the growing settlement from its original building site where it had stood for 75 years. At this same time the post office was moved into the town from Harrison Ferry, and the mill was moved from Williamsburg.

Hurlock's growth was greatly impeded by the construction of a second railroad, the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic in 1890. This railroad conveyed passengers from the Low Point Ferry out to Baltimore or Ocean City. Since 1890, Hurlock's population has grown from 100 to 1,681 people today. In 1898 the newspaper Hurlock Advance in 1900, the Hurlock Free Library was established. Both enterprises were founded by V.R. Walworth. In 1901 Hurlock had a saw buckler and ladder brigade. Hurlock was incorporated in 1924 as the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company.

In the early 1920s, several businesses began in Hurlock. In 1923, Col. Bradley moved his blacksmith shop from Indianer and along with his son, Harold, expanded into the sale of carpenter, the embarking and unloading business, a hardware store, a livery stable, a garage and a water company for a new town.

In this same year, William Henry Lee, along with two sons, A. Lee and Swain Lee (Lee Lee), moved into town and established the second largest canning business on the Shore. The operation, known as the Eastern Shore Can Company, consisted of 14 ovens at one time.

In 1929, the business was sold to the Continental Can Company. Joseph Andrews and his son, Harold, built a sawery for pressed millstones and iron products. In 1922, sold the business to the American States Company. The company family started a sawmill which provided the lumber for many of the houses on Hurlock Fire Company's trucks.

In the early 1900s, the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company rented space at Bradley's Garage on Broad Street (now K&A Grocery Store) for \$4 a month. In 1901, Hurlock had a ladder and bucket brigade and in 1905 the town purchased a hand pump.

On Jan. 14, 1924, Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company was organized with 30 members. At this meeting, Mr. Andy Christopher was selected to be Chief and Mr. Walter Wilson to be Chief Engineer.

In October 1928, a fire alarm switch was installed in the C&D Telephone Co. block Central Office Headquarters. The fire company was located under the

old Theatre building in the early years and until early part of 1947, at which time, it was moved to the present location.

In the 1920s, there was a large fire in Hurlock and the surrounding fire companies rendered their aid. Solitary sent a fire truck by railcar.

In February 1948, a new international fire truck was put in service. In 1952, the fire department headquarters were added expanded.

In October 1959, the fire company had a subscription plan whereby a family could enjoy full ambulance service for all family members up to 30 miles for only \$5.

In January 1963 a new Ford truck with Hahn body was delivered to Hurlock Fire Company. This has a 750 GPM



Photo by GEORGE McGRATH

Hurlock Fire Company Highlights

- July 19, 1923, Town Meeting was called for the purpose of meeting Mr. Eisenberg, representative of the Hahn Hose & Fire Pump Co., to take up the matter of purchasing fire truck for the town of Hurlock. The price was set at \$2,200.
- Aug. 6, 1923, Wyatt Williams was appointed temporary fire chief of the Hurlock Fire Company. Walter Wilson was appointed chief engineer of Hurlock Fire Company.
- Nov. 19, 1923, a motion was carried that fire truck be kept at W.C. Bradley's Garage for the winter, compensation to be \$4 per month.
- Jan. 7, 1924, Commissioners decided in a town meeting for citizens of Hurlock for the purpose of organizing a fire company. Clerk instructed to see Mr. Harper and rent a hall for that date, also to have some posters printed as well as having notice put in the local paper and one Cambridge paper.
- Jan. 21, 1924, executive committee met the commissioners to appoint a fire chief and chief engineer for the Hurlock Fire Company. Andrew Christopher was selected as chief. Walter Wilson was selected as chief engineer.
- 1925, a new hose and ladder truck was to be added to the fire company's equipment. The new truck was built by the fire company with the Commissioners furnishing truck and materials.
- July 24, 1928, Town Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. of Baltimore City, relative to operating a fire alarm for the town of Hurlock. Found title of P. Arrow. Truck dated Dec. 17, 1930 to Hurlock Fire Co.
- Oct. 18, 1932, Record of Agreement found to consider sale of Fireman's Theatre to The Hurlock Theatre Co.
- Feb. 21, 1936, Hurlock Fire Company incorporated and adopted name Hurlock Volunteer Fire Co.
- 1944, fire company moved back under the theatre building. In Oct. 1944, the firemen went to Charlotte, N.C. to purchase a license to convert to an ambulance for Hurlock Fire Co.
- Jan. 17, 1947, international fire truck at a cost of \$5,540 carrying 11,000 gallons of water was ordered.
- Feb. 4, 1948, new international truck in service.
- Mar. 19, 1948, building committee engaged a contractor for construction of 1 new fire house, to cost between \$15,000 and \$16,000.
- May 6, 1949, the fire company moved to the new fire house, their present home.
- 1961, a new fire alarm system was installed (IC code equipment).
- Jan. 8, 1962, the fire company changed the meeting night from Friday to the 2nd and 4th Monday.
- May 28, 1962, the committee appointed to look into a new fire truck. They voted on Sept. 10, 1962 to purchase a red Hahn Red truck arrived on Jan. 30, 1963, costing \$15,946.23.
- Feb. 24, 1964, the fire company voted to buy two Survin Air Gas Masks.
- Mar. 9, 1964, the fire company voted to purchase a Blue ambulance from Georgetown, costing \$6,000.
- Oct. 26, 1964, a GMC bus truck was purchased from Civil Defense, Jessup at \$175.
- Dec. 9, 1968, the fire company voted to buy one more Survin Air gas mask.
- Oct. 13, 1969, the fire company voted to buy Truck chassis of tank truck.
- 1970, the company paid for a truck out of their general fund. The chassis cost \$5,608.82.
- Mar. 13, 1972, the fire company voted on a new yellow truck.
- Jan. 18, 1973, a motion was made to buy a Chevrolet Van.
- Mar. 28, 1973, trucks received, which cost 34,907.57.



THE OLD THEATRE BUILDING
Photo by DAN CORRIAN

The fire company was located under the old Theatre Building in the early years and until early part of 1947.

and 800 gallons of water. Their annual \$10 plate Fund Raising Dinner was started in October 1963.

In 1970 tank truck 606 was put into service. This tanker carries 1,600 gallons of water with a 500 GPM hand mount pump.

In March 1973, a Ford chassis with a Hahn body and 750 GPM pump and 1,000 gallons of water capacity was put into service.

In 1982, a new Engine Room was added to the existing building and in 1985 a Ford chassis with a Pierce 1,000 GPM pump and 1,000 gallons of water capacity was added to the equipment.

Their present fleet consists of the 1963, 1973 and 1985 pumpers, the 1970 tank truck and a 1983 international 10 wheeler. 3,200 gallons of water with 1,000 GPM pump, a brush truck plus an ambulance.

Centered in one of the best agricultural areas of Dorchester County, Hurlock's farming and farm-related businesses were and are the main industry. The Hurlock vicinity is said to have the greatest concentration of irrigator systems for any region. These produce such crops as asparagus, border corn, wheat, cucumbers for pickling, tomatoes for processing, plus fresh market produce. Bosphore Foods constructed a poultry processing, hatchery and feed mill complex in the 1970s. The complex has subsequently been sold to Country Pride, a division of Tempco Foods, Ltd.

In 1982, the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company once again expanded its building. Throughout the years, businesses established included a wholesale bakery, a milk creamery, a milk cooling station, a machine shop, a new Medical Center in 1980, which was dedicated to Gov. Milford Taves, and a new post office in 1987.



An ambulance boy was added to the Hurlock fire house in 1952.

In 1901, the Town of Hurlock had a Ladder and Bucket Brigade similar to the pictured. In 1905 the town purchased a Hand Pumper.

1924
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1999

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