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# the General Alarm

July 2012

**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

## Joint Arson RFD/RPD Training

On July 16, the first formalized joint Training exercise for RFD Fire/Arson Investigators took place. The focus of the training was officer safety, crime scene procedures, and field tactics. This was a joint training operation which included our Public Safety dispatchers, RPD ID Techs, RPD Training officers, and a homicide sergeant. RFD participants included all our Fire Investigators and E4C. The simulated incident was a fatal fire with cooperative and agitated witnesses, a suspect carrying a concealed weapon, and bystanders attempting to compromise the integrity of the inner perimeter setup by fire crews. Captain Terry Miller wanted to give a special thank you all for the participants' dedicated time and professionalism with the Fire/Arson Investigators training session! Special thanks to Lieutenant Bruce Loftus and Officer Mike Bucy, Division Chief Robert Bock and Sr. Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief Karen McCoy for making this training possible! Terry said the training was outstanding, and he looks forward to more in the future.





July 2012

**Email from Gaye Hawkins, Celebrate Freedom Producer at Magnolia Baptist Church, to Chief Earley on July 2:** Chief Earley and Chief Diaz; I have looked back on the written notes and emails that I have written every year following our Celebrate Freedom event at Magnolia Avenue and I seem to say the same thing every year:

- (1) Your people do an outstanding job as they join us and become our partners in this event.
- (2) Your people are the consummate professionals and represent your departments in the finest fashion.
- (3) Your people are a pleasure to work with.
- (4) Your people give of their time and talents to help us as volunteers, just as they do "on the job."
- (5) Our event would not hold the same significance and the same impact without "your people."

So, don't want to become redundant, but I have to just say it again. Thanks for sending us your fine people to help us again this year. You should be proud of them.



**Email from Scott Ventura, Fire Chief Palm Springs FD, to Chief Earley on July 12:** Chief Earley, I would like to express my sincerest "Thank You" for your assistance on the Cornell Fire on July 11. Your agency provided Captain Miller and Holly for our investigation. I would like you to know that they operated with the upmost safety and professionalism. You should be proud. Without your assistance, our investigation would have taken months to complete.

## With Sympathy...

**Gale Schulte's** father, Mr. Don Cropper, peacefully passed away at home at 0030 on July 7 under the care of hospice. He was 80 years old and had been suffering from the end stages of CHF. Gale and her family want to thank the crews of Fire Stations 8 and 12 for the professional and compassionate care they provided to her father over the years. A memorial service was held on July 12.

Our thoughts go out to **Captain Tony Robbins** who lost his mother, Elizabeth Robbins, to a seven year battle with cancer on July 21.

Lillian Syms, the mother-in-law, of **retired Captain Charlie Luna** passed away on July 29.



## Birthdays



July 2012

### July Birthdays

<i>Fred Bayer</i>	8/28
<i>Hector Calvillo</i>	8/6
<i>Garrett Coryell</i>	8/9
<i>Todd Gooch</i>	8/8
<i>Tim Heying</i>	8/17
<i>Chris Ingalls</i>	8/26
<i>Tim Kessel</i>	8/14
<i>Andy Lanyi</i>	8/3
<i>Josh Lavin</i>	8/10
<i>Don Lee</i>	8/6
<i>Herb Mercer</i>	8/11
<i>Dave Olivas</i>	8/12
<i>Dan Richmond</i>	8/28
<i>Tim Rise</i>	8/17
<i>John Sierra</i>	8/18
<i>Chris Stamper</i>	8/11
<i>Jason Tinsman</i>	8/27
<i>Brent Wilkins</i>	8/24
<i>Paul Young</i>	8/24

### Rest in Peace



Sadly, "Shop Kitty" was found passed away on the morning of Monday, July 9 when Joe arrived to work. Vince, Joe, and Dean had "adopted" Shop Kitty over 2 years ago. They took him to the vet to be neutered and kept him fed and out of the elements. In return, Shop Kitty was the unofficial mascot of Fire Maintenance. I know, personally, he brought a smile to my face when we would pull up to the shop, and he was outside ready for some petting. He will be missed greatly by the mechanics and other animal lovers like myself. Rest in Peace.



**Dispatcher Durden Funeral:** On July 20, the Riverside City FD participated in the funeral for RVC Sheriff Dispatcher Durden who died in a motorcycle accident. Durden was also a volunteer firefighter in Moreno Valley years ago and was a videographer for the City of Riverside for a short time.

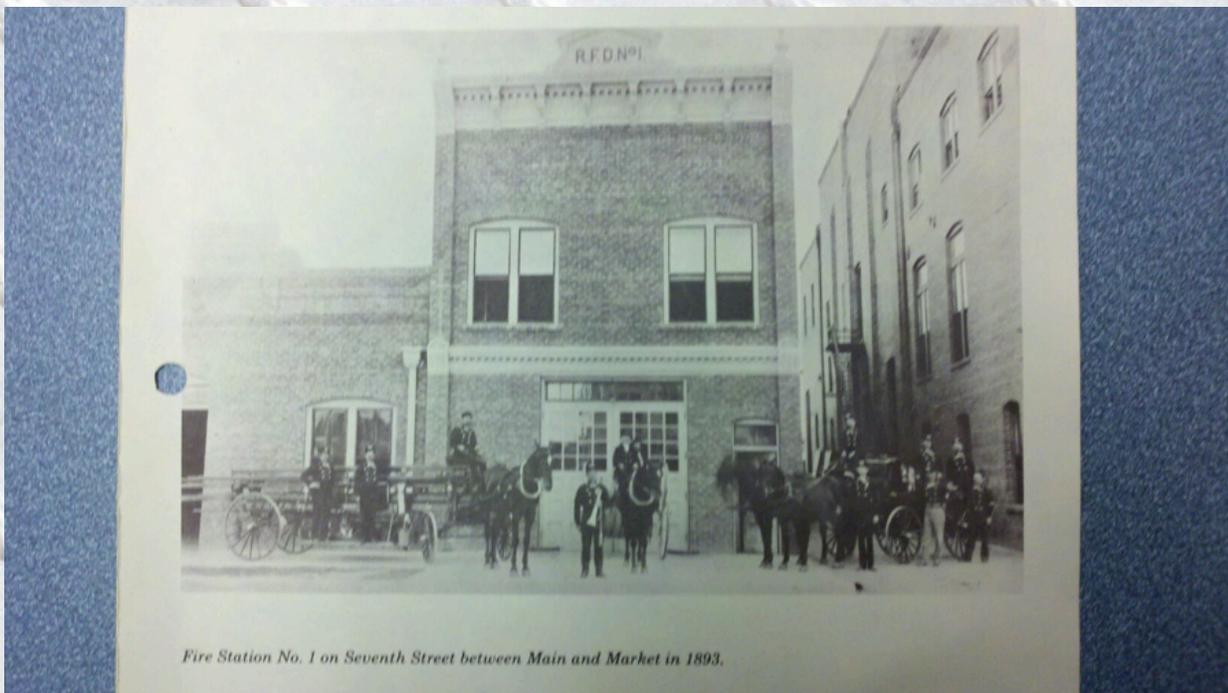
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## Then and Now... (by Tim Kessel)

The first three photos in last month's *General Alarm* were current pictures of the original Station 1, which is still standing. Everything was horse drawn from this station. There was a front view, side view, and a shot of the hay loft.

Below is a photo of old Station 1 with the crews standing in front of it. The station was in use from around 1890 to 1906. The large building to the right of the station is the old Loring Opera House, which burned down in 1991. The station is still there, and you can see the old hay loft.

The photo of the Pizza Hut is where the next Station 1 was built. It was in use from 1906 until the current Station 1 was built in 1957.



*Fire Station No. 1 on Seventh Street between Main and Market in 1893.*

Then and Now...  
(cont)

July 2012



What is the connection between this location and this pool table?  
Answer will be in August edition.



**/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///**

## EMS: Where did "GS" originate?

I'm sure you have heard of the term. Hey Bob, let's GS the patient to the gurney. Ever wonder where the term came from? GS is an abbreviation for Georgia Street. Great, now what is or where is this mysterious Georgia Street. In Los Angeles during the late 1800's to the 1960's almost every LAPD Jail had a small hospital. The hospital was considered an emergency medical room. At the LAPD Georgia Street police station, there was a 40-room bed. 20 beds on the first floor for civilians and 20 on the second floor for Police Officers and Firefighters. It was staffed by an LAPD surgeon and several nurses. Each LAPD jail was assigned an ambulance and they were labeled G-Wagons, in reference to G-Street.

For more than a century, the central receiving hospital provided emergency care and later paramedic services. Many police officers and firefighters owed their life to this frontline first aid station for those who needed to be stitched up and or needed advance care, before being sent off to bigger hospitals. In the 1960's and early 70's the services were transferred from LAPD to the Fire Department.

Back to the term GS, as the ambulance arrived at the loading dock of the hospital, the back of the ambulance did not match up to the loading dock. The two attendants would pick a patient up by having one person reach around the patients chest and grab their arms while the other person picks them up from the knees, we refer to this as "GS'ing" them, or Georgia Streeting them.

Know when you are asked what does GS mean, you got the answer!



**Congratulations**

**the General Alarm**



**July 2012**

## Optimist Club Respect for Law Award

Each year the Optimist Club recognizes firefighters and police officers for their contributions to the community. Captain Tim Odebralski has been selected to receive this year's "Respect for Law" Award (Fire category) from the Riverside Optimist Club. Tim's selection was based on his efforts with the Fire Explorer Program.

Captain Odebralski was honored by the local chapter at their monthly luncheon on Aug 1 at Canyon Crest Country Club. In addition, Tim was selected as the recipient of the award at a regional level and honored at a brunch in Temecula on Aug 5.



### Other Accomplishments

6 Month Probation: Zachary Pettikas

Truck Certification: Steve Hallgren

This was for a single car accident on Magnolia at the 91 Freeway overpass on July . The crews were E-12 (Weatherbie, Sean Smith, Wescott, Fike) and T-2 (Reynaud, Mullen, Vanderhorst).





## FAMILY AFFAIR

July 2012



History in the making...there are three generations of Fishers who have served on the RFD. From left to right: Retired Division Chief Mike Fisher, Probationary FF Stephen Fisher, and retired Captain Bob Fisher

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Engineer Brian Davis with his father at Fire Station 3





**NEGOSE FAMILY**

[REDACTED]  
Riverside, CA. 92505

Fire Department  
3085 St. Lawrence Street  
Riverside CA. 92504

**DEAR CHIEF:**

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, a team from your fire station responded to an emergency call at our residence. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Words fail to express what we want to say yet in our feeble way, we will attempt to do so.

The team that responded to our crisis was awesome! Your workers were professional, thorough, proficient and most of all kind. They exuded an atmosphere of calm in our home that we very much needed at such a frightening, critical and emotional time.

Our special needs daughter, who is non-verbal, non-ambulatory and is limited in her cognition was non responsive and in apparent distress. Your team took excellent care of her and it was apparent to us that this was not just a job to them. They are excellent representations of your department.

I want you to know that we value the services that you provide in our city. As a whole, our city would have a higher mortality rate if it were not for your sacrificial interventions every day. Please thank the team for us and if they are a sample of what your department has, Wow!

It is our prayer that God will bless you and continue to sustain each of you as you serve our city.

**WITH MUCH APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE**

*Lavern Negose*  
Lavern Negose (Mother of Desiree Negose)

July 19, 2012

July 2012

## Puppy Love by Scott Wilson

While riding out with me, my son Christian and Ron Rondero procured this little girl from a homeless person whom couldn't care for her. She now is part of the loving Rondero family. Both the puppy and the Ronderos are reported to be very happy, but "who rescued who?"

The Ronderos have named their newest family member "Jetta".



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**Helping Sadie:** RFD personnel gathered \$210 in donations towards food and supplies from InKahoots for Sadie, a horse that was abandoned at a foreclosed home and then rescued by a UCR police officer and his daughter. The horse was very underweight and required medical attention. Thanks to all who gave...