



# THERESA



## OFFICERS

*Chief:*

Warren Stanke

*1st Assistant Chief:*

Scott Bernhard

*2nd Assistant Chief:*

Charles Trauba

*Chief Engineer:*

Daryl Koll

*Secretary/Treasurer:*

Eugene Koll

## FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

In response to a call by the citizens, Theresa Fire Co. No. 1 was organized in Lehner's Hall on November 22, 1895, with 42 members under chief Fred Jung. The first equipment consisted of a 12-man hand pumper and hose cart bought from Waupun.

Another hose cart and a four-wheel hook and ladder were added a few years later, all hand-drawn.

The firehouse was a rented brick building on the north side of Rock River Street near Church Street. Water was generally taken from the river, although several small cisterns were built.

In 1901, a fire at Bandlow's Brewery was driven through the business district by a strong southeast wind destroying six buildings, including the fire house, before aid from surrounding villages brought it under control.

To improve rural protection, the first motorized fire engine was purchased in 1924 by contributions from rural property owners and village funds. This International truck with



*Warren Stanke*  
Chief

Boyer equipment carried four 30-gallon chemical tanks, two 3/4" hose lines, etc. An electric siren was installed on the firehouse roof at this time.

In 1934, the village purchased a 350 gpm Pirsch Centrifugal Pumper on a Dodge chassis carrying 1200 feet of 2-1/2" hose, a 150 gallon booster tank and booster hose. Later, a used 1926 Reo 350 gpm Pirsch Rotary pumper

replaced the Minneapolis pumper and completely motorized the department.

In 1951, the township purchased an International chassis with a Seagrave 600 gpm pump, 500 gallon water tank, two booster hoses, 500 feet of 1-1/2" hose and 400 feet of 2-1/2" hose which was manned by the company for rural and local fires.

The chemical truck was then converted to a 300 gallon water tanker and the Reo pump rebuilt on a 1941 Chevrolet chassis.



*Scott Bernhard*  
1st Assistant Chief

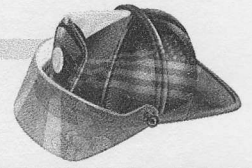
Four closed tanks for hauling water with private trucks were furnished by the township in 1953. The Village of Theresa completed a water system in 1955 including a 55,000 gallon tower, a 400 gpm well pump and hydrants covering all built-up areas. To retire the obsolete 300 gallon tanker, the township purchased a new Ford 1000 gallon tanker complete with portable pump.

In 1963, a new 40'x70' firehouse was built by the village. A 1968 Ford 850 tilt cab with 750 gpm pump was purchased by the village and later that same year a second well was added to the water system testing out at 620 gpm.

In 1973 the township purchased a GMC 750 gpm pumper replacing the 1951 IHC and in 1974 a Ford medium duty rescue vehicle was purchased by the fire department with the help of Civil Defense matching funds.



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In 1979, the department purchased a used IHC 4-wheel drive pickup which was built up for grass fires. In 1980, the township added a 2400 gallon tanker to replace the 1955 1000 gallon tanker, and in 1984, a 4000 gallon tanker was added by the township for improved rural capability. In March of 1988, the department took delivery of a 1987 Ford 4x4 rapid response vehicle purchased with fund-raiser monies and retired the IHC pickup.

In June of that same year, the department undertook yet another fund-raiser to purchase a Hurst "Jaws of Life" tool. The goal was met in November, just months later, and the department took delivery of the Jaws tool and complete accessories which is carried on the 1987 Ford for use in eastern Dodge County.

In July of 1989, a joint effort by the township and Village of Theresa was undertaken and construction of a new 80' x 110' firehouse was begun on the northeast edge of the village. The department moved into the new quarters in November of 1989. The facility includes meeting room, kitchen, office and radio room, shower rooms, hose tower, and a 80' x 90' garage area.

In October of 1992, the GTE Telephone Company donated a 1987 Dodge Van to the department which is used to transport our portable pumps to a waterpoint in rural areas.

In March of 1996 a 1995 Custom Fire Apparatus 1750 GPM pumper on a Peterbilt chassis was put into service retiring the 1973 GMC pumper.

In early 1999, the department received an anonymous private donation of a ISG thermal imaging camera. In August of 1999, the Township of Theresa purchased a 1994 Mack chassis and placed a new 2500 gallon tank on it with a 3-way Newton dump valve to replace the 1979 Chevrolet 2400 gallon tanker. After three years of

research, through a joint effort of the Township, Village, and Fire Commission, a 2001 Peterbilt 330 chassis and Marion 20' rescue body have been placed in service in April of 2001."

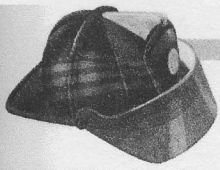
In 2002, the fire department was issued a Forest Fire Protection grant by the Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$9,968 which was used to outfit all members in wild land fire fighting gear including pants, coats, helmets, and goggles as well as 100 gallons of foam.

In 2003, the department received a FEMA grant in the amount of \$83,372 which the department matched 10% and was used to equip all members with new structural turn out coats and pants, acquired a TNT set of rescue tools and A.V. equipment for use in training, AED, rescue saw and a four gas monitor. 🚒



## THERESA EMS

In 2005, the kind folks sponsoring the "Lomira Area Men's Fundraiser" event each year raised \$37,117.00 and presented it to the Theresa Fire Department and Ambulance Service. With that unexpected money, the Fire Department was able to purchase a Polaris 6x6 ATV set up



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for wildland fire suppression and off-road rescues for snowmobile, farm, ATV and other accidents not accessible by roads. Part of the grass fire pump and skid was funded with a DNR Grant as well. These monies allowed the department to purchase this apparatus several years ahead of the anticipated service date!

Construction of a 30' splashboard/training tower began in fall of 2006 with completion in spring of 2007. The cost was held to under \$10,000.00 thanks to generous donations of \$2,000 by Luedtke Lumber, Inc. of Lomira and \$1,000.00 by Michels Corporation of Brownsville. In June 2006, the membership voted to refurbish our 1987 Ford 4x4 pickup truck for grass fires outfitted with a Contree pump and skid unit saving over \$30,000.00 compared to a new truck and skid. All mechanical and fabrication work was done by department members and the project was funded with donations and fundraiser monies.

Apart from firefighting, the company owns about eight acres of land at the west village limits on which trees planted 55 years ago now form a pleasant park. Available to the public, it provides 2 baseball fields and shelters for use by area organizations. 🏠

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