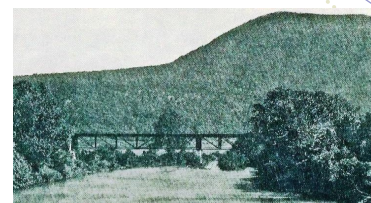


Strasburg Heritage Association



Volume 17

Summer 2017

Issue 2

Strasburg, Virginia

NEWSLETTER

strasburgvaheritage.org

“Through the Lens of Rich Cooley”

Join us for a program to be presented by well-known local photographer Rich Cooley. Rich's professional career spans 35 years since he began photographing our community for the NVD. His interest started with his Dad's 35mm Kodak rangefinder camera and has continued as he has documented events and life throughout Shenandoah County and our area.

His program will focus mostly on pictures from the last fifteen years as he shares stories and photography tips.

Sunday, June 25, 2017

2-4pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church

193 W. Washington St. Strasburg

Hosted by Strasburg Heritage Association

The public is invited.

Join us for fellowship and refreshments

President's Message

Tim Taylor

This is my first message as President of the Strasburg Heritage Association and the first thing I want to say is a big "Thank You!" to Barbara Adamson for her leadership as president since 2009! Barbara did an outstanding job and I am very happy she continues to serve on our board! She has been very helpful during the transition and continues to assist as I learn the ropes of the position.

I want to welcome our new board members, George Hoffman and Nick Racey. They are great additions as I know their appreciation and love of local history. I want to thank outgoing board members, Wendy Pieper, Dennis Hupp, and Randy Painter for their contributions through the years!

I want to recognize Jackie Weitman, the librarian of Signal Knob Middle School and the SKMS staff and students that organized "Strasburg Days - Celebrating Our Valley," which was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017. The day was full of local history displays created by students and parents. There were "talks" on the local history provided by community members in which many of them are current SHA board members. There were many historical facts, videos, and images shared throughout the day! It was great to see local history being emphasized in the school. So, I want to commend Ms. Weitman for her leadership in making this successful event happen. My understanding is they hope to have this event again next year!

Finally, I hope everyone will make an effort to attend our June Program Meeting on June 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg. The program will highlight the photography of Rich Cooley, who has worked for the Northern Virginia Daily for over thirty years. Rich's quality work has documented much that has occurred in our community. Rich will share some of his pictures and share stories from his photo experiences. It is an opportunity to honor Rich for all he has done for the Strasburg community! I hope to see a big turnout for this event.

I hope everyone has a great summer and if you have an interest in our community's heritage, do not hesitate to contact a board member to find out how you can contribute to the Strasburg Heritage Association!

Sincerely - Tim Taylor - SHA President

SHA Board of Directors

2017

Tim Taylor

President

Laura Ellen Wade

Vice-President

Sue Foster

Treasurer

Barbara Adamson

Secretary

Kathy Kehoe

Newsletter Editor

George Hoffman

Dee Keister

Nick Racey

Marie Spence

Carla Wallen

Joan Williams

Linda Williams

Polly Wilson

Christmas in June?

By Joan Williams

Not really. We just want to make you aware of a great event Saturday, December 9th. We are excited to present our 2017 Strasburg Holiday Heritage Homes Tour. We truly hope you join us in visiting some lovely heritage homes in downtown Strasburg. In the coming weeks, we will provide detailed information on the homes open to visitors this year. Mark your calendar now and stay tuned. You will not want to miss this year's Tour.

SHA is hosting a Community Meal, Wednesday, August 16, St. Paul Lutheran Church, at 5:30pm. The public is welcome to attend. Free will offering. Some of our members may have a special recipe for a dessert they would like to share at our community meal. If you are one of those, we would love to add your specialty to the desserts we offer.

Photograph from the Sixties



Strasburg Little League

A Little Town History

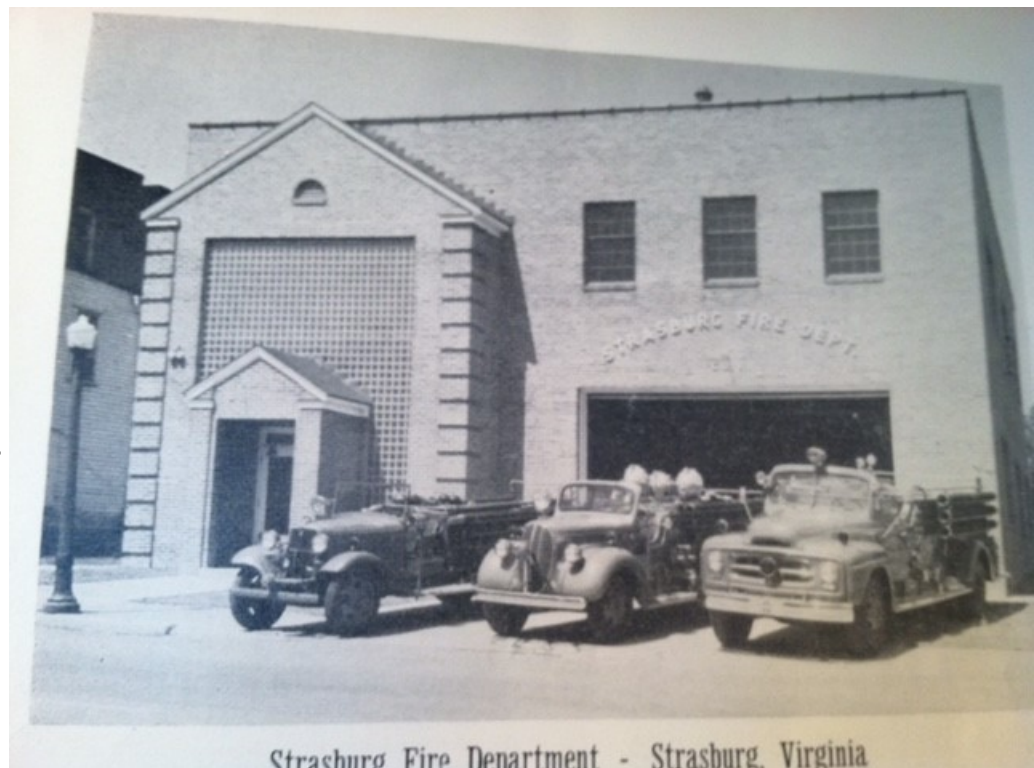
by Sarah Mauck

A Long History of Community Commitment—Strasburg Fire Department

Soon after The Town's water system was completed in 1906 the Massanutten Hose Company, Co #1 was organized as Strasburg's fire brigade. It consisted of a reel carrying 500 ft. of hose, nozzles, several large plug wrenches and about 25 hearty volunteers. The first reel-house on Holliday St. served as the fire station. It was a man-powered team. They ran to the fire station, got their equipment and ran to the fire. Seventeen of these firemen, known as the Red Devils reel team, won numerous races at local and State firemen's conventions. On Aug. 28, 1908 the team set a world record in regulation reel competition by making the run and hook-up in 27.1 seconds. Their record stands to this day. With the prize money the fire company started the Mahova Theater, Strasburg's first nickelodian which they operated profitably for years and with that money earned purchased half of the lot on the main street where our present day Fire Dept stands. The other half of the lot was bought by the Town. The wooden frame building with its unadorned additions housed the fire and police departments, a town government office and maintenance shop.

By 1921, the same year as Strasburg's first annexation encompassing much of the west side of town, a new fire company, the Citizens Fire Company No.1 was organized under the leadership of Dave W. Hupp. He was appointed First Chief and remained the leader for 25 years.

During the early 40's the organization changed its name to the Strasburg Fire Company. Then in 1946 a fundraising campaign began to construct a new building in honor of the "Soldiers of all Wars from Strasburg and Davis District." The structure was to serve as municipal building and fire house. On April 25, 1953 the modern 2 story brick memorial building was dedicated



The fire truck in the middle was purchased by Chad Sherman a couple years ago from a fire company in New England. After Strasburg replaced it with newer equipment the truck made its rounds in several other fire companies before coming full circle 30 years later.

Bill Walton joined the fire dept. in 1951, served as Fire Chief for 28 years and is still a member. Bill remembers how the county assigned Strasburg the number 51 which coincided with the year construction began on the new building.

In the early 1960's the Town Council dedicated the upstairs main hall as the Lemley Room in honor of Fire Chief Wallace Lemley who had recently died from a heart attack.

In June 1953, the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Fire Dept. (formed in 1940) hosted the annual Northern VA Firemen's Convention in their brand new facility. Ms. Hilda Rudolph, then secretary for the Auxiliary, wrote, "We now have one of the most modernly equipped kitchens in the valley," and could serve approximately 300 persons. For many years the auxiliary women served meals, banquets and ceremonies from this nowadays rather small kitchen raising money to help the firemen.

Today the SVFD continues to answer the call by men and women who give their time and energy to help others. Some of these member's grandfathers or great uncles were running that reel race over a hundred years ago. Familiar names echo in these halls: James and Lewis Machir; Harry, Lewis Keister; Ernest, Wallace Lemley; Paul, Clyde, Terry Neal; Bob, Fred, Louie Sonner; Sam, George, Walter Pollard; Earl, Leo, Lester, Paul Miller; Dallas, Ralph, Harry Keller; Robert, Bobby Funk; Artz; Baker; Beeler; Rickard; Pangle; Stover; Stickley; Mowery; Clem; Bromley; Hoffman; Horan; Hollar; Smith; Rhodes; and many many others answering the call to community commitment.



Strasburg's First Fire Truck; Northern Virginia Daily, September 18, 1970

This Brockway chemical truck, with compartment to carry water hose, was purchased from the Sarah Zane Fire Co. in Winchester in 1921. Completely overhauled and reconditioned, it replaced the old hose reels pulled by fireman. IN the drier's seat is the department's longtime chief, D. W. Hupp. The photo was taken in front of the old Fire House and Town Hall which was on the location of the present Municipal Hall and Fire Department.

Sarah Mauck is a member of the Strasburg Auxiliary and a past auxiliary historian.

Strasburg Heritage
Association

PO Box 525
Strasburg, A 22657

Strasburg Heritage Association

Www.strasburgvaheritage.org

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

MEMBERSHIP: _____Cost is \$20.00

Additional Donation: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please Mail Completed form to:
Strasburg Heritage Association
PO Box 525
Strasburg, VA 22657