

Member News 2010

Fire Engine Update

November 9, 2010

COMMUNITY

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The Western News



Courtesy

Marcia Fantozzi, Bull Lake Fire Auxiliary secretary/treasurer, presents a check to board member Gerald Wallace for the purchase of the Angel Island fire engine.

Bull Lake FD adds pair of fire engines to its fleet

The Western News

The Bull Lake Fire District recently upgraded its fleet to include two Type 2 fire engines. One of the acquisitions is stationed at Angel Island and replaces a 42-year-old engine. The other will be assigned to the new Majestic View station.

"Through our affiliation with a neighboring fire department, we were able to negotiate the purchase of two Type 2 engines made available from the California State Emergency Management Agency's Surplus Equipment Program," the

fire district's Gerald Wallace said. "Fire district personnel drove to Sacramento to facilitate delivery of the fully-equipped units."

After the fire engines arrived in Montana back in October, they underwent comprehensive service testing, modification and adjustments. They were put into service on Dec. 2.

Wallace said the Bull Lake Fire Auxiliary's purchase of the Angel Island engine was made possible through proceeds raised from three events – the fun day and auction held at the Bull Lake

Rod and Gun Club, the baked goods booth at Nordicfest and a sizeable garage sale held over the summer.

The Majestic View fire engine was purchased by Majestic View Ministries in support of the fire district and is staffed by personnel in that vicinity, Wallace said.

"The addition of these engines assures the reliability our firefighters expect as they strive to improve fire protection to our Bull Lake community," fire chief Clyde Miller said while expressing appreciation to the auxiliary and board.

Remembering Mel Syth

1923 – 2010



Melvin V Syth, 87, died peacefully at home in Helena on August 15, 2010. He was born February 9, 1923 in Greenwood, Wisconsin, the son of William and Helen (Stoneberg) Syth. The family moved to Girard, Montana when he was a toddler and then moved to Heron, MT in 1938 where he graduated eighth grade, going on to High School at Noxon, Montana.

He attended Northwestern Business College for about six months when he was called for induction by the Draft Board. Rather than going into the Army, Mel thought the Navy would be more to his liking, so he enlisted on May 15, 1943. He had boot training at USNTS Farragut, ID from there to NT school (R) U of Idaho next to Communication School PhibTrac. (Pac), then to USS Alabama (BB-60), and was honorably discharged from USNB, Bremmerton, WA on March 8, 1946.

He married a wonderful lady (Anita) in July 1947 and became an instant father to three children from Anita's marriage to Jessie Stevens (deceased). They had three more children; all have grown up with families of their own.

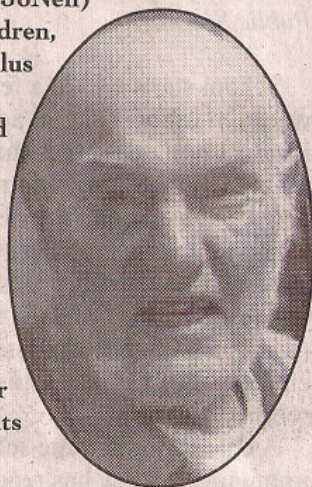
He worked four years with Flathead County, primarily on roads and bridges. He spent eight years with the Montana Highway Department in Kalispell and Libby and then worked for the City of Libby until his retirement in 1979.

After retirement, Mel and Anita moved to Bull Lake where they were charter members of the Bull Lake Ambulance Service. Mel also served thirteen of his retirement years on the volunteer fire department. His retirement years allowed him to enjoy many community activities, travel around the United States to visit relatives or see new sites, and to enjoy the outdoors.

He is survived by children, Charles Stevens (Ruth) Haydon Lake ID., Mary Thomas (Dave) Helena MT, and Gregory Syth (Tina) Cheyabogan MI, siblings: Alta Esler, Missouri, Gerald (DeEtte) Syth, Montana, Verlyn (JoNell) Syth, Idaho, and Billy (Grace) Syth, Idaho. Several grandchildren, great grand children, and great-great grand children plus numerous cousins, nieces & nephews also survive.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Helen Syth; wife, Anita Syth, sons, Larry Syth and Kenneth Stevens. Daughter, Doris Batten, siblings: William and Wayne (twins), Ted Syth, Grace LaMont, Bernard Syth, Alma Rowe, Hugh Syth, Kenneth Syth, May Allen, Marjorie Zuhnter, Lyle Syth, Esther Mischel, and Arthur Syth.

Graveside services will be held Friday, August 20, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at Milnor Lake Cemetery in Troy. In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to the Bull Lake Volunteer Ambulance and to the local search and rescue. Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

A special "thank you" to all the volunteers in the fire department auxiliary for their hard work and dedication in organizing and putting on a successful fund raiser July 10, 2010 at the Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club. There was lots of good food, a bake sale, auction, and horseshoe tournament as well as other activities. The gun raffle was also very successful and the rifle was won by Troy VFW.

Even though overall attendance was down from last year, we raised more money this year even with the lousy economy. We are very grateful to the whole community for their contributions, dedication and support of the fire department even in these tough times.

CHALLENGE GRANT

We applied for a grant from Plum Creek Foundation to use in updating our equipment. They awarded us a "challenge grant" wherein they would match funds that we raised elsewhere up to \$3000.00. With the successful fund raiser, we were able to meet the full \$3000.00 challenge and have sent notice and proof of our success to Plum Creek. We expect to receive those funds within the next 30 days.

We want to thank Plum Creek Foundation for their generous grant donation to Bull Lake Fire Department.

OTHER NEWS

We have also applied for several other grants as well. We were unsuccessful in our 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through FEMA. We have re-applied for 2010 AFG, but will not be notified on that until this winter.

We also were not successful in getting a grant from MT Community Foundation. They were overwhelmed with requests and did not have funding to meet all the requests.

We also requested a grant from Stimson Lumber Company several months ago and we have had NO response at all. This seems to be a pattern with Stimson.

A donation request was also made to Genesis Mining Corp. They are looking positively at making a donation to Bull Lake Fire Dept.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fire dept. can do so by sending a check to the dept. address or make a credit card donation through Paypal.

We thank one and all for their support!!!


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## Remembering Robert L. Morck

1935 - 2010

After moving to the Bull lake area, Bob devoted many years to BLVFD as a firefighter and a member of the Board.

He served a number of years as secretary/treasurer of the board and held that position until he decided it was time to retire in June of 2009. Bob was always available to answer questions if needed and kept in touch with what was happening in the department.

He is survived by his children Catherine of Troy and David of California.

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Computer Donation by Kootenai Valley Federal Credit Union



"COMPUTER DONATION: Betty Willman, Kootenai Valley Federal Credit Union manager, left, presents Gerald Wallace of Bull Lake Volunteer Fire Department with a computer. The credit union recently upgraded its computers and operating system while the fire departments computer was outdated and no longer serviceable. With funding for equipment, maintenance, and training always a challenge for a small volunteer fire department, we are extremely grateful to the credit union for the generous donation, Wallace said."