

HISTORY OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT:
By Edward Dodson, July 1990.

On September 4, 1923, at a meeting at Columbia School, the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department was organized. The meeting was presided over by Dr. H. C. Corbett, president of the Arlington Citizen's Association. After a detailed description of the Ballston Department by Chief Plara, an organization modeled along the lines of that department to be separate from any of the civic associations of the community, was turned over to the following officer.

John R. Mossburg was elected President, R. E. Johanson Vice President, J. W. Head Secretary/Treasurer, Ralph Snoots Chief, B. W. Chamberlin Deputy Chief, and T. J. Delaschmutt, H. N. Young, A. E. DeGroot were chosen to serve as trustees of the newly formed department.

Twenty-seven new volunteers contributed \$100.00 to help fund a chemical engine of the latest design, carrying two forty gallon tanks with auxiliary hand tanks and bucket to replace two wheel hand pulled chemical cart that was kept in Chief Snoot's barn.

On April 17, 1924, the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated. The officers that signed the papers were John P. Agnew, Alered DeGroot and Harry Young as Directors, J. Mossburg President, R. Johanson Vice President, and J. Head as Secretary.

In that year, a 1924 Model T Ford Chemical was placed in service. This truck was placed in an old wooden building next to the bank at Columbia Pike, and what is now Walter Reed Drive. In 1929, the company purchased a 1927 Rio 350 gpm pumper.

In 1930, the company completed plans, drawn up by then Company Chief Scheffel, and purchased land at 1041 S. Edgewood. This building was completed on May 7, 1930.

In 1930, the County Board of Supervisors purchased a 1930 American LaFrance 600 gpm pumper. All three pieces were kept in the new house.

In 1937, the county took the Rio to the county shop, and with a frame from a 1937 GMC truck, and the body and pump of the 1927 Rio, made a 1937 350 gpm pumper. The 600 gpm and the 350 gpm pumpers were kept in service until the early 1950's.

The company now has eighty-five members. Six are certified active Firefighter/EMTs, and headed by Chief Dennis Margan.

Do not add new to the Walter Reed Drive 350 gpm