

1991

1991 March 12 “Hendrum Landmark Destroyed by Fire:

A county landmark was destroyed by fire on March 12, 1991, in Hendrum when fire took the historic old Hendrum House just west of Highway 75, once a hotel built in 1897 to serve busy train traffic in and out of Hendrum.

Flames were coming out of the living room windows when the fire department arrived.

Owner of the house, Lee Lang, had left the house at 12:00 noon. The cause of the fire was probably electrical.” (The Last One Hundred Years in Norman County, Minnesota, 1900 – 2000, A Century of Change”, Heritage Publications, © 2000)

1992

1992 August 11 One of the oldest buildings in Norman County, the Go-Far Gun and Shoe Repair Shop, was torn down with a new building going up on the site. The old building had been razed by a fire earlier. The old building had been the second depot.

1993

1993 January 5 The Ada Fire Department was called to the Hadler Elevator. A belt apparently got hot and caused combustion. There was not a great deal of damage.

1993 May 11 The Ada Fire Department was called out to a grass fire west of Hadler.

1993 November 30 The Ada Fire Department responded to two fire calls. A snowmobile owned by Jim Teal was totaled in a fire. A fire at the Ada-Fargo Truck Line shop east of Ada caused extensive damage to five semi trucks and smoke damage to the building.

1994

1995

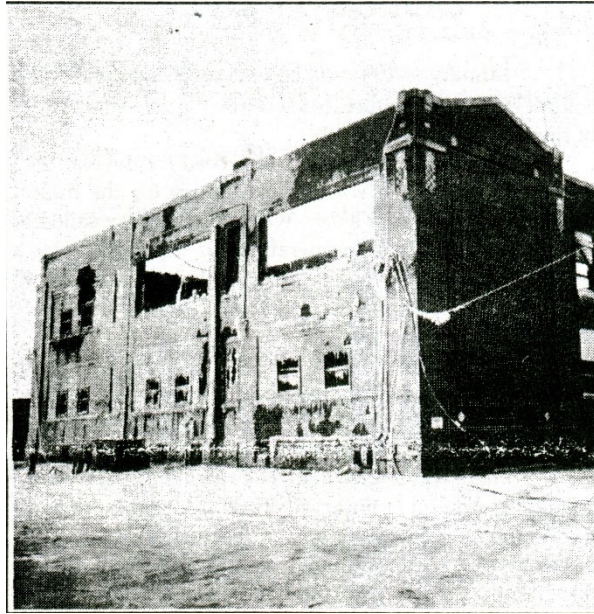
1995 December 26 “Twin Valley School Burns in 1995 –

An accidental fire destroyed the old portion (south building) for the high school in Twin Valley, December 26, 1995.

Fire fighters worked through the night to control the fire in the 1923 gymnasium, former elementary wing, and the new school addition under construction on the north side of the school, and surrounding homes. People on scene could only watch as flames consumed valuable school property and materials and the home of many memories for the people of Twin Valley.

Fire departments from five local communities assisted with fighting the fire, including Ada. Water was hauled from Ada to Twin Valley as the level in the community's water tower dropped from firefighting efforts.

The following morning the school and surrounding buildings were a mass of ice. Through the day a steady stream of current and past students and the curious, walked and drove past the school to see the destruction and mourn the loss of the old school." (The Last One Hundred Years in Norman County, Minnesota, 1900 – 2000, A Century of Change", Heritage Publications, © 2000)





Demolition of the 1923 portion of the Norman County East High School in Twin Valley proceeded well late this past week. The building was destroyed in a December 26 fire.

1996

1997

1997 October 14 The new Fire Hall addition in Hendrum is officially open.

1998

1999

2000

2000 April The Wild Rice Dining Emporium (originally Chi-Chi's and later Bob's Café) and the American Federal Bank, Ada, was destroyed by fire. (Norman County Index, February 27, 2001)

2001

2001 April 9
Park –

“Halstad Fireman’s Relief Association donates \$1,500 towards City

Last month, President of the Fireman’s Relief Association Rod Olson presented park committee chairperson Renae Horning with a \$1,500 check to assist with the Halstad City Park project. Rod was pleased to present the award that he hopes will help demonstrate the association’s commitment to community efforts and area-wide youth. The donation follows another also made by the Relief Association last month to the Hendrum Elementary School athletic program for help in constructing the new gym floor. Members of the Relief Association are proud to show their support for community programs that promise to support and provide a source of activity and encouragement for Halstad’s youth. Ms. Horning was excited to receive the gift that will help the park initiate a number of fundraising programs scheduled to begin as early as May.” (Halstad’s Valley Journal, April 9, 2001)



2001 April 23

“They Came to Watch it Burn –

Citizens of Ada on Saturday, April 14th gathered around what was described as the ‘neighborhood eyesore’ to bid their final respects to a derelict house that should have been, as one eyewitness stated, ‘demolished years ago.’ The old home had been vacant for about a year after serving as a temporary residence for many, many migrant laborers.

Neighbor residents claimed that long before the house was unoccupied, it was unfit to live in and posed serious safety risks for the inhabitants. ‘We’ve been trying to get rid of that place for years now,’ stated one resident. ‘I’m here to watch it lit up!’

Firefighters from Ada, Halstad and Twin Valley set fire to the house for training purposes. Varying degrees of fires were started and later extinguished to simulate the

experience and allow firemen to witness multiple firefighting scenarios. Firemen from the Fargo and Moorhead Fire Departments were present to conduct the training and help oversee the burn.

The finale of the training exercise involved a blitz designed to tackle a total house fire. After many successful extinguishments, the house was finally set fully ablaze. 'I won't miss it,' stated one observer as an entire wall crumbled under the flames. 'Letting the firemen train and all... it's a good way to get rid of it.' Story by Michael Thompson, Writer. (Halstad's Valley Journal, April 23, 2001)



Onlookers observe the house fire that was started as part of a fire fighters training session. Firefighters from Ada, Halstad and Twin Valley set fire to the house for training purposes.

2001 May 28

(Halstad's Valley Journal, May 28, 2001)



Dave Meyer on behalf of the Fireman's Relief Association presents a check to Lee Helgersen, Lions Club member, for the construction of a new medical clinic to be located in Halstad. The proposed clinic will be attached to the Halstad Lutheran Memorial Nursing Home and Heritage Homes, providing continued service to Norman and Traill County residents by MeritCare.

2001 November 12
defibrillator –

“Perley-Lee Township Fire & Rescue Squad purchase new

Perley-Lee Township Fire & Rescue Squad has been accepted into the Prudential Helping Hearts Program and has completed its fund drive to purchase a defibrillator unit. The efforts of the members of the squad and generosity of individuals and businesses in the community and the Prudential check for \$1,000 have made it possible for the Perley-Lee Township Fire & Rescue Squad to purchase a defibrillator. The cost of the defibrillator was over \$2,000.

The Prudential Helping Hearts Program provides monetary grants to help volunteer emergency medical service (EMS) squads purchase semi-automatic cardiac defibrillators. The purpose, very simply, to save lives. More than 250,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest each year, according to the American Heart Association. Studies indicate that most of the people could be saved if they received prompt treatment from a defibrillator.

Unfortunately, many volunteer EMS squads operate on tight budgets and have not been able to purchase portable defibrillators. The Prudential Helping Hearts Program has helped to address this need.

During a sudden cardiac arrest, abnormal electrical signals can throw the normal heartbeat so far off that the main pumping chamber, the left ventricle, goes into spasmodic contractions called fibrillation. During fibrillation, plenty of electric activity is present in

the heart, but it's totally disorganized. Without organized rhythmic electrical signals, the heart cannot pump blood. A victim of cardiac arrest has little chance of survival after 6 to 8 minutes of fibrillation. The portable defibrillator determines when to jolt the heart with a brief but strong electric current, a process called defibrillation which can shock a chaotically beating heart back into a normal rhythm.

The Prudential Helping Heart Program works by making grants of \$1,000 available to volunteer EMS squads to cover the cost of a new portable defibrillator. Squads must raise the rest of the purchase price themselves, typically through community fund-raising efforts.” (Halstad’s Valley Journal, November 12, 2001)



Fred Martin receiving letter of exception from Prudential Insurance. Presented by Jim Drummond.



Wayne Radke, Doug Ohren, John Hinkley, Ron Hiller,
Fred Martin. Front: Dean Johnson.

2002

2002 April 2
Friday –

“Air Ambulance forced to make landing in Norman County on

A LifeFlight plane carrying a patient from Roseau to Fargo was forced to land at the Norman County Airport on Friday when the pilot reported smoke in the cockpit.

The Ada Fire Department and Norman County EMS were called to the scene as a precaution, but there were no problems with the landing. A LifeFlight helicopter from MeritCare was sent out to pick up the patient and there were no problems, according to MeritCare spokesman Darren Huber.” (Norman County Index, April 2, 2002)



A Life Flight plane from MeritCare was forced to make a landing at the Norman County Airport on Thursday because of smoke in the cockpit.

2002 May 8

“Ada Police report for April –

04-06-02 – Person called in with complaint related to a neighbor’s chimney being a fire hazard and smoke nuisance, talked to the chimney owner about the problem...” (Norman County Index, May 8, 2002)

2002 June 18

“Fire destroys house in Borup last Wednesday –

Fire destroyed one of the older houses in Borup last Wednesday (June 12th) afternoon.

Borup Fire Chief Randy Pallum reported that the fire at the home on Main Street was reported at 12:30 p.m. The Ada Fire Department was called to assist, with the drive longer than normal for the Department, with the flood water over Highway #9 necessitating a detour to CSAH #24. The Perley Fire Department also arrived with water to help fight the fire, which was extinguished at about 3:30 p.m.

The house was rental unit owned by Fred and Tammy Berg of Valley City, and was not occupied at the time of the fire.

Pallum said the cause of the fire was not known as of last week, and the fire marshal was called in to investigate.” (Norman County Index, June 18, 2002)



*Borup and Ada fire fighters battle this noon. The house was totalled by the fire.
house fire in Borup last Wednesday after-*



Ada fire fighters worked to control the flames at a fire at an old vacant farmstead along Highway #3 near Lockhart on Thursday night.

2002 June 25

“Ada fire fighters worked to control the flames at an old vacant farmstead along Highway #3 near Lockhart Thursday night.” (Norman County Index, June 25, 2002)

2002 July 2

“Ada couple injured in accident at Highways 9 and 200 intersection –

An Ada couple was injured in a collision with a semi in Ada on Monday morning, July 1.

Injured in the accident were the driver, David Kappes, who was transported to Bridges Medical Services for treatment, and a passenger, Marcella Kappes, who was airlifted to MeritCare Hospital in Fargo.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, the accident occurred at approximately 10:25 a.m. The Kappes vehicle, a 2000 Ford Taurus, was traveling west on Highway 200 when it was broadsided in the intersection by the south bound 2002 Kenworth driven by Peter Leukam of Sauk Center, Minnesota. The Patrol said that the truck did not stop for the stop sign at the intersection on Highway 9. Leukam was not injured in the accident.

The Ada Fire Department was called to help extricate Mrs. Kappes from the vehicle, which was struck on the passenger side door. Her condition was not available Monday afternoon.” (Norman County Index, July 2, 2002)



Ada Fire Department volunteers use person at an accident scene at Highways extraction equipment to free an injured 200 and 9 on Monday morning.

2002 July 9

“The Twin Valley Fire Department responded to a barn fire at the Joe Anderson residence east of Twin valley last Wednesday afternoon, which destroyed the barn. The Ada Fire Department assisted at the fire.” (Norman County Index, July 9, 2002)



The Twin Valley Fire Department Wednesday afternoon, which destroyed the responded to a barn fire at the Joe barn. The Ada Fire Department assisted at Anderson residence east of Twin Valley last the fire.

2002 July 9

“Sheriff’s report for June –

06-12-02 – responded to a house fire in Borup and assisted the state fire marshal with the investigation. The matter remains under investigation...”

06-20-02 – responded to a house fire in Lockhart township where an abandoned house in Section 19 was destroyed by fire...” (Norman County Index, July 9, 2002)

2002 September 2

(Halstad's Valley Journal, September 2, 2002)



Shown is the burnt out remains of the kitchen area of the Danny and Bambie Manthey home west of Shelly. The fire started behind the stove which is now removed. The Manthey's were featured in the August 12 issue of the Valley Journal telling about triplet calves born on the farm.

2002 October 7

(Halstad's Valley Journal, October 7, 2002)

HENDRUM FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Mike Smart	Don Kries
Tod Harrington	Brian Gunderson
Del Schnabel	Brent Vanderplaats
Tim Mohr	Jeremy Tommerdahl
Darrell Torgerson, Jr.	Jeremy Paulsrud
Jerry Nelson	Mike Person
Stash Hempeck	Brian Forsberg
Chris Aronson	Tim Mohr, Jr.
John Kolness	
HILLSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Jamie Reed	Tom Olsen
Brad Aune	Richard Haugen
Ray Weber	Larry Mueller
Dave Sather	Tracy Buzick
Mark Steenson	Jon Gadberry
Paul Anderson	Wade Willison
Dan Christianson	Marc Connelly
Chris Johnson	Rod Brekken
Dan Hoganson	Tom Olson
Mark McLean	
PERLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Doug Ohren, Chief	Ron Nelson
Wayne Radke, Asst. Chief	John Lowe
Dan Patenaude, Training Officer	Mike Pritchard
Teresa Johnson, Sec./Treas.	Fred Martin, Fire & Rescue
Ron Hiller	Chris Strand, Rescue
Bryan Hest	Cris Iverson, Rescue
Dean Johnson	Lloyd Manley, Rescue
SHELLY FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Eric Larson, Fire Chief	Freddy Garza
Shane Grove, Ass't Chief	Kym Grove
John Gillie, Sec./Treas.	Chris Keller
Barry Malme, Training Officer	Myron Moen
Deloris Anderson	Jeff Neil
Bob Anderson	Keith Swenson
Norris Anderson	Len Nelson
Kristen Brohaugh	Jonithan Meyer
Gene Dybing	James Bowling
Marilyn Dybing	

2002 November 5

“Sheriff’s report for October –

10-31-02 – responded to a barn fire at a Wild Rice Township farm along with the Twin Valley and Gary Fire Departments, Twin Valley Police and Twin Valley Rescue Squad...”

(Norman County Index, November 5, 2002)

2002 December 10

“The Ada Fire Department were called upon to assist with the cleanup of an accidental diesel fuel spill at the Ada Junction last week.” (Norman County Index, December 10, 2002)



The Ada Fire Department were called upon to assist with the clean up of an accidental diesel fuel spill at the Ada Junction last week.

2002 December 17

“Firefighting skills practiced at burn near Borup on Saturday –

The Ada and Borup fire departments, as well as a number of students from Northwest Technical College of Moorhead took advantage of the unseasonable weather to get a little firefighting practice in this past Saturday as a practice burn just north of Borup.

The Ada Fire Department hosted the practice burn, and Chief Steve Petry said the day went real well at the house provided by Kevin Anderson. “We had four instructors here from Northwest Technical College and they brought 17 students along to get in some practice,” he said.

The group practiced extinguishing a number of fires upstairs in the homes, with the students practicing Level I, or one room fires upstairs in the house.

Local volunteer firemen practiced on extinguishing Level II burns, which involves fires in numerous rooms in a house.

At the end of the day, the house was set ablaze and Steve said a number of “Blitz Attacks” were practiced in controlling fires from when a building is consumed by fire. The Ada Department had 15 volunteers taking part in the exercise and fire volunteers took part from the Borup Department.

Steve also reported that fire fighters had the opportunity to work with new thermal imaging equipment, which is something that the county department hopes to acquire in the future with grant funds.” (Norman County Index, December 17, 2002)



Smoke pours from the interior of this old home near Borup where fire fighters practiced extinguishing a number of different fire scenarios on Saturday.

2003

2003 January 7 “Three people survive plane crash in Rockwell Township on Saturday –

Three local people survived a plane crash in Rockwell Township on Saturday (January 4th) evening.

The pilot of the Cessna aircraft, David Resnick, 48, of Twin Valley and his two passengers, Zepher Resnick, age five, and Lowell Miller, 26, of Mentor, were transported to Bridges Medical Center Saturday night for treatment of injuries received in the accident. David Resnick was later transferred to MeritCare Medical Center in Fargo.

The Norman County Sheriff's Department reports a cellular 911 transfer call from the Minnesota State Patrol was received at 8:45 p.m. Saturday reporting the downed plane, with the message that the plane was one mile south of the Ada-Twin Valley airport and that there were three injured people who were walking around at the site.

An off-duty Norman County Deputy responded and located the crash site, which was three miles southeast of the airport, in Section 3 of Rockwell Township.

The Sheriff's office notes the aircraft was traveling north and came in contact with the tops of trees to the south of Norman County Road #33, slid across the county road, and came to rest upside down in a field to the north.

The Federal Aviation Administration arrived on the scene Sunday, January 5, and is continuing their investigation into the cause of the crash. There was light freezing rain at the time of the accident.

The Norman County Ambulance, Twin Valley Rescue Squad, Twin Valley Fire Department, Twin Valley Police, Minnesota State Patrol and Norman Sheriff's Department all responded to the accident scene." (Norman County Index, January 7, 2003)



Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration investigate the wreckage strewn site of the plane crash southeast of the Norman County airport on Monday morning. The pilot and two passengers survived the crash last Saturday evening.

2003 January 8

“Ada Police Report for December –

12-03-2 – responded to a two-vehicle accident at intersection on Second Avenue East and Highway #9, assisted fire department with a fuel spill at the Ada Junction...” (Norman County Index, January 8, 2003)

2003 March 26

“District Court –

Teresa Johnson, 31, Perley, pleaded not guilty to the felony charge of theft of public funds at District Court in Ada on Wednesday, March 26. The complaint against Johnson alleges that between December 1997 and March 2001, while Secretary of Perley-Lee Township Fire Department, she transferred funds totaling approximately \$14,000 from the Perley Fire Department to her own account. Johnson’s pre-trial is set for April 23.” (Norman County Index, April 1, 2003)

2003 April 30

“District Court –

Teresa Johnson, 31, Perley, pleaded guilty to felony theft of public funds at District Court in Ada on Wednesday, April 30. Date of the offense was between December 1997 and March 2001, when the complaint notes that Johnson, while serving as secretary-treasurer of the Perley-Lee Township Fire Department, made unauthorized transfers totaling approximately \$14,000 from the fire department’s account to hers and members of her family. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and sentencing is set for June 4.” (Norman County Index, May 6, 2003)

2003 June 4

“District Court –

Teresa Johnson, 31, Perley, was sentenced at District Court in Ada on Wednesday, June 4. Johnson pleaded guilty in April to felony theft related to a complaint that Johnson made unauthorized transfers of approximately \$14,000 from the Perley-Lee Township Fire Department fund to accounts in the name of herself and her family. The court stayed imposition of sentence for 10 years, and placed Johnson on supervised probation. Terms of probation include performing 160 hours of community service, fine and fees of \$95, and pay restitution of approximately \$14,000.” (Norma County Index, June 10, 2003)

2003 July 15

“Emergency exercise will be held in Ada July 21 –

Don’t be alarmed by the scream of sirens, flashing lights, and smoke in the air in Ada on Monday afternoon, July 21. Emergency vehicles and personnel from around the county will be converging on Ada to take part in an emergency exercise.

Environmental and Emergency Services Officer Kevin Ruud said the Sheriff’s Department, Ada Police, Twin Valley Police, and fire departments from Ada, Borup, Halstad, Perley and Twin Valley, as well as the ambulance service and a number of rescue squads will take part in the exercise.

Ruud said the purpose of the emergency exercise is to judge where there may be weak areas in the county’s ability to respond to an emergency, as well as strengths. ‘An exercise like this is to show what kind of shape you are in. And to learn that, you either have an exercise or a real event. Knock on wood. We haven’t had an incident here since the Twin Valley school burned down where we had a large need for mutual aid,’ he said.

Kevin said it also provides the individual fire departments, law enforcement and rescue personnel information about where there may be crucial equipment needs.

The cost of the exercise is being covered in part by a state grant.

The equipment and vehicles will stage at the fairgrounds, and will likely begin between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Monday. The emergency exercise will be at the Ada-Borup School, with victims transported to Bridges Medical Services for treatment.

The scenario for the upcoming July 21st exercise will go like follows: The Ada-Borup School fire alarm goes off and at the same time the sheriff's dispatch center starts receiving calls from people in the school reporting that shots have been fired and there has been an explosion in the school.

Someone has broken into the school in an attempt to steal chemicals from the lab. But the person is caught in the act by a worker in the school. The intruder starts shooting, wounding two people.

The shots result in an explosion in the lab, but the intruder escapes harm. While trying to escape, his route is cut off due to the quick response time from local law enforcement and the intruder has holed up somewhere in the school. Law enforcement goes in after the intruder and an officer is wounded.

The explosion and fire in the chemical lab injured 30 people who were attending an adult education class in an adjoining classroom.

A call also comes to the dispatch that a vehicle has rolled over west of town. It is unknown at this time whether this accident is connected to the events going on in the school.

A debriefing will be held in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds following the exercise with food served to all of those who participated in the exercise." (Norman County Index, July 15, 2003)

2003 July 19

"Emergency exercise was a good learning experience –

Good cooperation between local law enforcement and emergency services were evident in the emergency exercise held this past week in Ada, with local fire departments, rescue squads, ambulance, police and the sheriff's department taking part.

'Everyone thought it was an excellent exercise,' said Environmental and Emergency Services Officer Kevin Ruud. 'We found out areas where things went real well, and also some weaknesses.'

The scenario went like this: The Ada-Borup school fire alarms sounds at the same time the sheriff's dispatch center receives reports of shots fired at the school, as well as an explosion. Someone has broken into the school in an attempt to steal chemicals, but is caught in the act. The intruder starts shooting, injuring people. The shots cause an explosion in the lab, resulting in over 30 people attending a class being hurt by the fire and explosion.

Some of the problems noted were with communication. Ruud said of the need to develop a command post faster, as well as a need to keep better communications between the different agencies. 'The problem was, not everyone knew what was everyone else was doing,' he said.

There were also compliments. Department of Emergency Management program coordinator Mary Hillibrand was impressed with the volunteer fire fighters, who took on the exercise in full turnout gear, including self-contained breathing apparatus. 'She noted that not many of the volunteers always wear full turnout gear during exercises like this,' Ruud said.

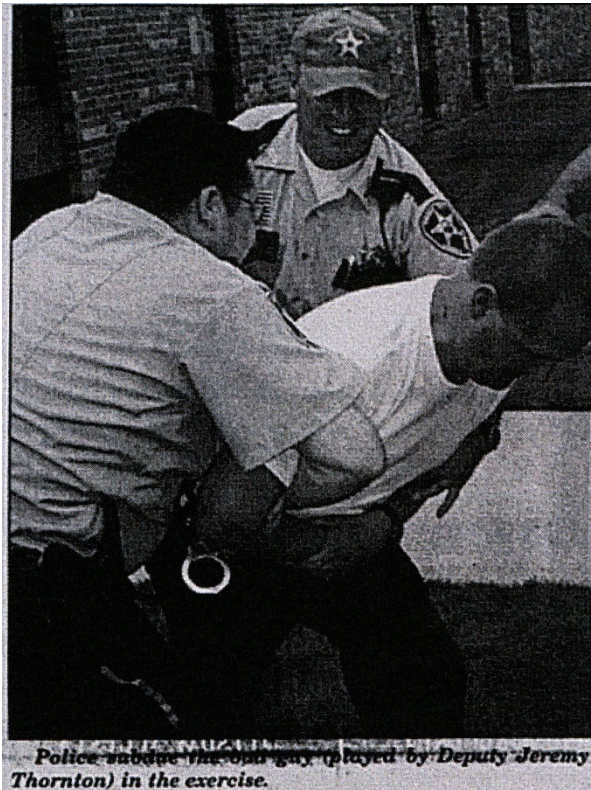
The firefighters not only wore the gear, but also really worked, carrying out volunteer victims from the smoke-filled school during a hot afternoon. Many of the victims looked pretty ghastly, thanks to make-up and work by the ambulance department personnel to create a number of different medical emergencies.

A new machine purchased created billowing smoke (pina colada scented) inside the school. Thermal imaging machines were also used to help find people in the building.

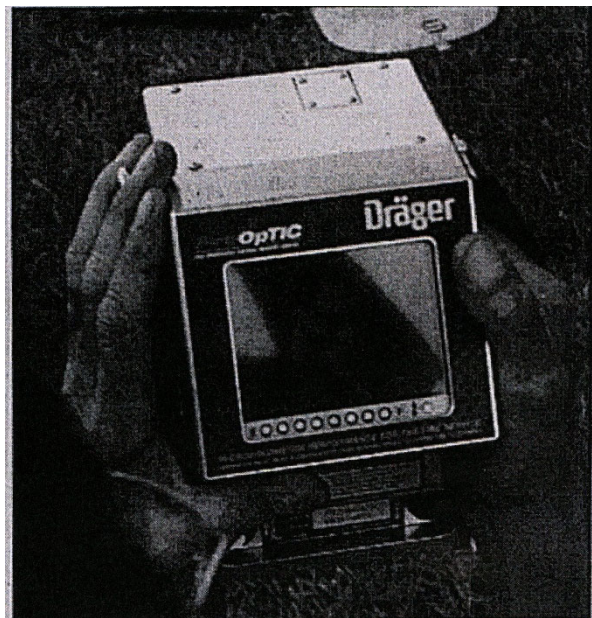
Rescue and ambulance personnel directed to wounded to a triage center in front of the school where they were treated or quickly taken to the hospital emergency room, depending on the seriousness of their injuries.

The intruder escapes harm in the exercise, and holes up in the school. Law enforcement found the suspect (played by Deputy Jeremy Thornton) in the elementary school and he was apprehended.

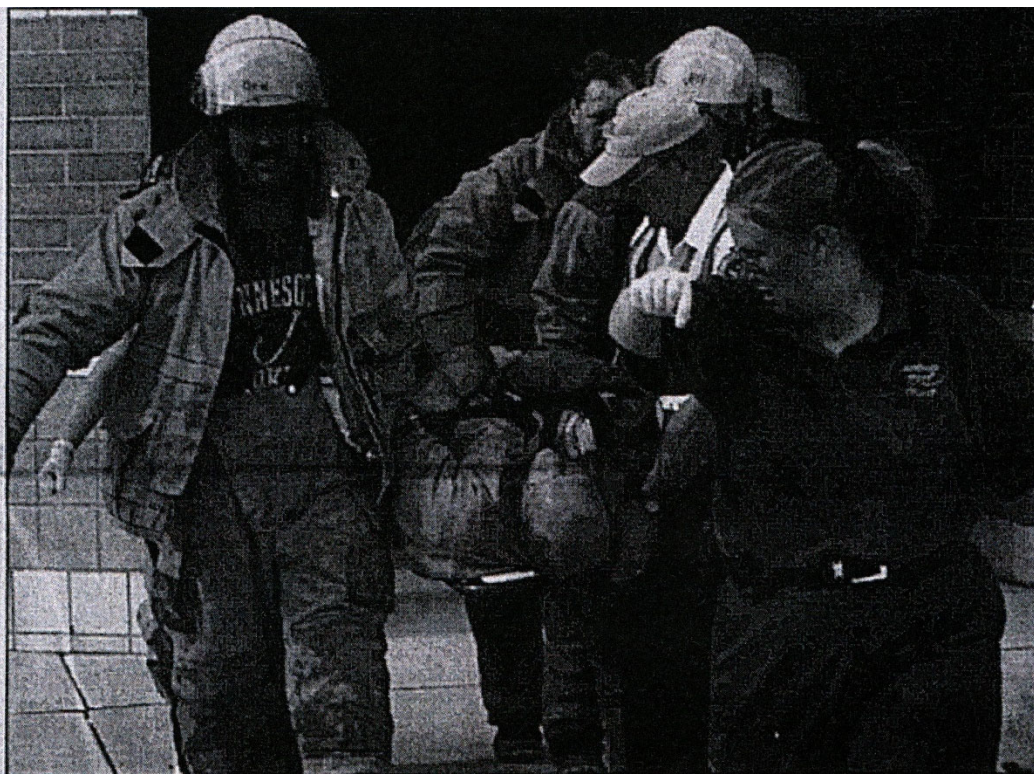
‘It was interesting and a good learning experience,’ Ruud said. ‘All the feedback I’ve had has been positive about the exercise.’” (Norman County Index, July 29, 2003)



Police subdue the bad guy (played by Deputy Jeremy Thornton) in the exercise.



A thermal optical machine was one of the pieces of equipment used in the exercise. The machine can help firemen search for victims in smoke filled rooms and behind walls by seeing their body heat.



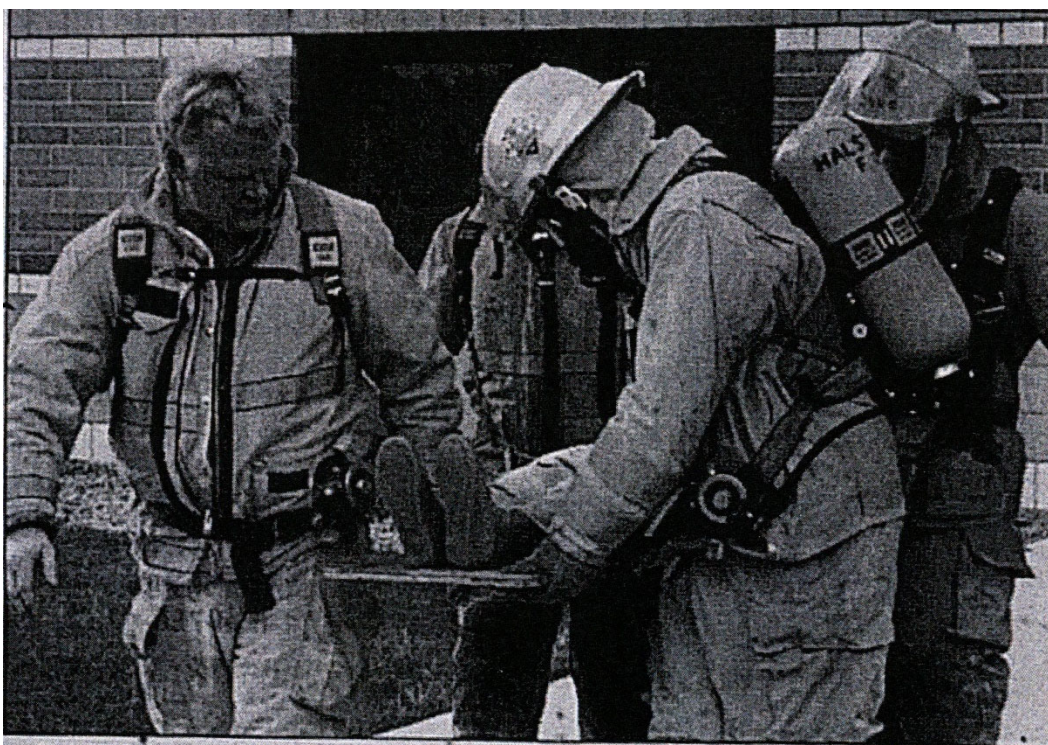
Fire fighters carry out a fellow fireman part of the exercise. with an emergency medical condition as



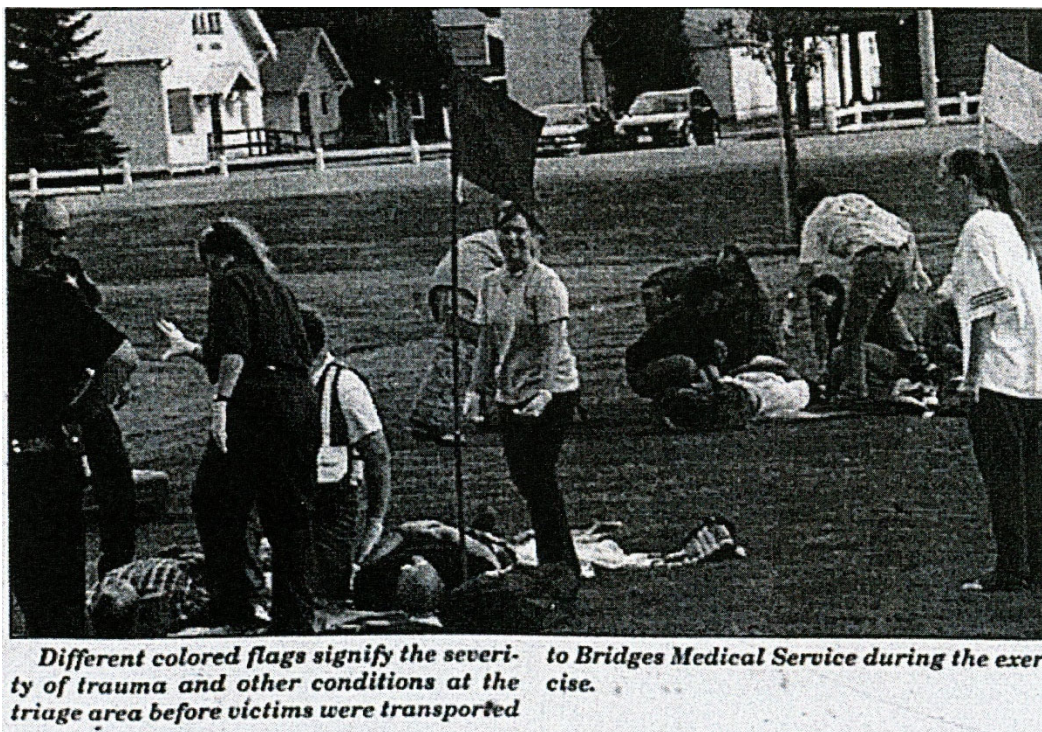
Rescue squad members pull a victim to the triage area during the drill last week.



Ada fire fighters carry a gun shot victim held at Ada-Borup High last week. from the school during the emergency drill



Halstad firemen carry a victim from the school on a back board during the exercise.



2003 September 09

“Sheriff’s report for August:

08-07-03 – responded to a house fire at a Lake Ida residence. It is believed the fire was caused by a child playing with scented candles. The Ada and Twin Valley fire departments responded as well.

08-31-03 – responded to a bale fire in Fossum Township when a stock of 500 bales valued at \$7,500 was completely burned.” (Norman County Index, September 09, 2003)

2003 December 16

“An early morning fire last Friday at the Tim Merkins garage in Ada left the building and contents a total loss.” (Norman County Index, December 16, 2003)



An early morning fire last Friday at the Tim Merkens garage in Ada left the building and contents a total loss.

2004

2004 May 4

“Sheriff’s report for April 2004 –

04-25-04 – Responded to a fire in Waukon Township with the Gary Fire Department and Gary First Responders. A fuel shed was on fire as a result of garbage and grass being lit earlier.” (Norman County Index, May 4, 2004)

04-25-04 – Responded to a grass fire in Shelly Township with Shelly Fire Department where approximately 30 to 40 acres were burned.” (Norman County Index, May 4, 2004)

2004 June 8

“Sheriff’s report for May 2004 –

05-20-04 – Responded to a fire at a Lee Township farm. Upon investigation, it is believed that a 48-year-old Perley man set piles of tires on fire. A citation was issued for burning without a permit. The matter was also referred to the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) for further investigation.” (Norman County Index, June 8, 2004)

2004 June 22

“Hendrum FD awarded \$31,000 grant –

The Hendrum Volunteer Fire Department will receive a \$31,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through their 2004 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program. Hendrum is one of two Minnesota fire departments receiving a total of \$62,415 in grants during this round of assistance to firefighters.

‘The men and women in our local fire department make up the front line in our war on terrorism and I am pleased that these funds will help two more of the Minnesota firehouses,’ said Norm Coleman last week, in announcing the grant awards. ‘Their duty requires them to be in harm’s way, and their willingness to help others in the face of danger is to be applauded. I will continue to support and work for grants like these that help support Minnesota’s brave firefighters.

The grant money will be used to purchase new equipment, train firefighters, and improve the fire operations and firefighter safety programs. Along with Hendrum, Mantorville was a grant recipient in Minnesota.” (Norman County Index, June 22, 2004)

2004 September 7 “Sheriff’s report for August 2004 –
08-17-04 – Received a report of alfalfa bales set on fire in Pleasant View Township. Approximately 160 bales were lost. Investigation is continuing.” (Norman County Index, September 7, 2004)

2004 October 5 Many thefts in monthly Sheriff’s report –
09-10-04 – Received a report of hay bales being burned in Pleasant View Township. Investigation is continuing.” (Norman County Index, October 5, 2004)

2005

2005 January 4 “Ada Police Department report for December –
12-13-04 – Alarm: Responded to a false alarm at school.”

12-29-04 – False alarm: Responded to a false alarm at the high school.” (Norman County Index, January 4, 2005)

2005 February 8 “Ada Police Department report for January –
01-16-05 – Natural gas leak: Evacuated residents in the 500 block of East Thorpe Avenue until natural gas leak was repaired by Aquila.

01-31-05 – Fire call: Assisted Ada Fire Department at a house fire on East 6th Street.” (Norman County Index, February 8)

2005 February 8



The Ada Fire Department had this home on Thorpe Avenue bathed in lights last Monday night while fighting a fire at the house. A space heater is believed to have caused the fire which resulted in a good deal of smoke damage in the upstairs of the rental home.

2005 March 22

“Hendrum awarded \$35,000 grant for firefighting gear –

The Hendrum Volunteer Fire Department recently purchased new firefighting equipment thanks to a \$35,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through their Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program.

The grant money was used to purchase new turnout gear for the local fire fighters, as well as pagers, personal safety devices (PASS), and also new hose and nozzles for the pumper truck.

Hendrum Fire Department volunteer Mike Person wrote the application for the successful grant award.” (Norman County Index, March 22, 2005)



Hendrum firemen in their new turnout gear include:

<p>Back, from left - Brian Gunderson, Del Schnabel, Darrell Torgerson, Danielle McCarty, Jeff Johnson, Chris Jacklovich, Patrick McCarty, Ryan Kolness, Mike</p>	<p>Person, Paul Luoma, John Kolness, and Curt Johannsen.</p> <p>Front - Co-Chief Tim Mohr, Co-Chief Brent Vanderplaats, and Assistant Chief Mike Smart.</p> <p>Not pictured - Todd Harrington.</p>
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2005 April 12

“Benefit planned for burn victims in Halstad –

The Halstad community is holding a benefit on Wednesday, April 20, to assist with medical costs for two city employees recovering from burns from an accident which occurred in Halstad last Tuesday. The benefit supper will be held at Norman County West High School from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Donations can also be sent to the Red River State Bank, Box 25, Halstad, MN 56548.

Flaming oil shot over the men when an old diesel-powered emergency generator exploded while being tested last Tuesday, April 5, blowing the cover right off the side of the engine.

City employees Tony Wolfe and Jim Suda were burned by the oil, as well as Ed Solarski of Minnesota Power. Utility Supervisor Dave Meyer also burned his hands as he heard the explosion from another room and rushed to help the injured men.

While Meyer and Solarski were treated at the Hillsboro Hospital and released, Tony Wolfe and Jim Suda were transferred to Regions Hospital Burn Center in St. Paul after first being taken to MeritCare in Fargo. They are in good condition and being treated for their burns. Both men were diagnosed with 20-30% burns on their bodies.” (Norman County Index, April 12, 2005)

2005 May 10

“Norman County Sheriff’s report for April –

04-05-05 – Responded to an explosion and fire at the Halstad Municipal Utilities building in Halstad.

04-24-05 – Responded to a structure fire at a Flom Township farm. A shed received damage to an exterior wall as a result of a garbage fire getting away.” (Norman County Index, May 10 2005)

2005 June 7

“Sheriff’s report for the month of May –

05-29-05 – Responded to a vehicle fire in Halstad along with the Halstad Fire Department. A Ford Bronco started on fire and was a total loss.” (Norman County Index, June 7, 2005)

2005 July 19



Ada volunteer firemen blocked off First Avenue East on a hot afternoon last week while a gas leak was contained in a rental home.

2005 July 26

“New fire truck arrives in Perley –

There was a picnic outside the Perley-Lee Township Fire Hall this past Wednesday evening as the local volunteer firemen and first responders celebrated the arrival of their new fire truck.

The Perley-Lee Township Fire Department was awarded a Homeland Security Grant for a new pumper truck approximately a year ago. The grant application was written by Jeff Loe.

‘We’re really happy to see it arrive,’ said Chief Doug Olson last Wednesday, as people were stopping to get a look at the new pumper.

The grant awarded the fire department totaled \$133,000, which left 10%, or about \$8,000 for the City of Perley and Lee Township to come up with to meet the \$148,00 price tag.

Assistant Chief Wayne Radke explained that the grant was specific on the requirements of a Class A Pumper. The new truck can pump 1,250 gallons of water per minute and has 1,000-gallon water capacity. The fire department does have to add some hose and other minor equipment to have the new pumper ready to roll. An add on was a deck gun which will come in handy for fighting grass and other fires.

Bid letting for the new pumper was held back on December 31, 2004. The Department purchased a T-300 Kenworth chassis from Wallworks Truck Center in Fargo, which was then delivered to Elite Power Products in Wisconsin for outfitting.

Doug said they were happy to get the new truck, noting he knew that there are a number of local towns working on similar grants. ‘We hope things go as well for them. People were very supportive on our efforts.’

The firemen will be sponsoring their third annual Pancake and Sausage fundraiser on September 11, which Doug noted has been a well-supported event to help raise money to make the new truck a reality.” (Norman County Index, July 26, 2005)



A number of the Perley-Lee Township Fire Department volunteers posed with their new fire truck this past week, made possible through a Homeland Security Grant.

2005 August, date unknown

“The (Halstad fire) department moved to 201 1st Avenue West, just behind the Noel’s Super Valu Store in August of 2005.” In 1983, the department was located at 320 2nd Avenue West, the same location for the last 101 years. “The move was of great benefit to the department. In years back, the fleet of trucks consisted of two pumpers and a tanker. A rescue van was added since then. The fire department along with Shelly, Hendrum and Perley joined forces and purchased a pick-up to be used as a Jaws of Life truck. With the growing fleet a new building was needed. The present building came up for sale and with that the move to a new building was in the works. After months of work, it became final and the building was purchased. The new firehall now houses three pumper trucks, a tanker. The West Norman County Jaws, a brush truck, a Chevy Blazer (to carry firefighters to and from fires), and the rescue van. With that, the new firehall is now full. We have a meeting room upstairs on the one side and a training room on the other side. An office and kitchen fill the rest of the space downstairs. The fire department still has 24 volunteer members, a number that has not changed since 1904.” (“Halstad... Another Quarter Century – The Memories Continue, 1983 – 2008”)

2005 September 13 “County Sheriff’s report for month of August –
08-14-05 – Responded to a vehicle fire in Wild Rice Township with the Twin Valley Fire Department. A 1989 Ford pickup started on fire as a result of straw collecting on the muffler.” (Norman County Index, September 13, 2005)

2005 September 13 “Council Approves Calling for Bids on New Fire Truck –
Ada City Council members gave the nod to calling for bids for a new truck at their meeting last Tuesday.

Chief Steve Petry reported that the truck committee has been looking at a number of different pumper trucks, and have decided on the major specifications. He noted that some of the major features will include a pumping capacity of 1,500 gallons a minute, a 1,000-gallon capacity tank, high sides with storage capabilities that would include the department’s emergency extraction equipment, operation center, and a five-man enclosed cab.

Petry noted that the cost of the new pumper will likely be in the \$190,000 to \$225,000 range, and will likely take about nine months for preparation and delivery after a bid is awarded. Bids will be opened November 3 at 12:00 noon at City Hall.

Petry noted the need for the additional pumper, besides the city’s current aging equipment, is to have the pumping capability to keep a good Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating in the City.

The Ada Fire Department is rated by the ISO. The ISO makes an independent evaluation of many Departments every 10 years or when major changes have occurred. Many fire insurance companies use the ISO rating as one factor in setting the amount of premium that is paid on commercial and public property. Ratings of departments go from a Class I (the best) to Class 10 (unprotected).

Due to insufficient pumping capacity, the ISO indicated that Ada’s rating would increase to a seven without making improvements. “With a new pumper we should get back down to a six, and hopefully a five,” Petry said of the ISO.

However, a new truck will also mean the need for a building to house it, and Petry requested permission to make a request for proposals for a lease/ purchase arrangement on a new building that could house the fire department, and possibly also the police department. City council members decided that they would like to look at proposed building scenarios first, and are planning later in the month to look at what would be considered.”

(The remainder of the article is omitted as it does not contain any further information on the Ada Fire Department.)

(Norman County Index, September 13, 2005)

2005 October 11 “Ada Police Report for September –
09-29-05 – Investigated fire at the baseball diamond grandstands.”

09-19-05 – Responded to a reported gas leak in the Cougar Addition, assisted by Fire Department.” (Norman County Index, October 11, 2005)

2005 November 15 “October Norman County Sheriff’s report –
10-14-05 – Responded to a vehicle fire in Wild Rice Township. There was extensive damage to a Jeep Cherokee. The Twin Valley Police Department assisted by the Sheriff’s Department.” (Norman County Index, November 15, 2005)

2005 November 15 “Ada and Borup Discuss Agreement to Combine Fire Departments-
City Council members moved to have an agreement drawn up to meld the Ada and Borup fire departments with the Borup department become a sub-station of the Ada department.

Chief Steve Petry reported that he, Assistant Chief Bruce Visser and Councilman Woody Roux have been meeting with Borup members to discuss how the agreement might work, and he said Borup is interested in becoming a sub-station or disbanding.

Petry said points discussed in creating an agreement proposal included: Borup members will be added to the roster and be eligible for Ada Relief Association (retirement); Borup personnel would have to comply with the same by-laws as Ada volunteers; costs of the Borup operation would be separate the first trial year to analyze costs; both departments would respond to all calls; current equipment would continue to be based where it’s at.

The motion passed by the Council called for the chief to work with Attorney Tom Opheim in drawing up an agreement for review next month.”

(The remainder of the article is omitted as it does not contain any further information concerning the Ada and Borup fire departments.)

(Norman County Index, November 15, 2005)

2005 December 13 “Bids for New City of Ada Fire Truck Came in a Bit Higher Than
Expected –

Ada City Council members heard that bids for a new fire truck in Ada were a bit higher than expected, with a low bid of approximately \$236,000.

Assistant Chief Bruce Visser reported that bids for the new pumper truck were opened on November 10. Five companies requested bid specifications and there were two bids received. The other bid was about \$26,000 higher than the low bid.

Visser said they are currently looking at financial options to purchase the truck, and information will be going to the townships in the fire association for their consideration. The surrounding townships would be picking up 45.8% of that cost, with the city responsible for the rest. Bruce noted that the townships have requested a break down of what each township’s share of the cost would be, which is being provided. The City’s share would be approximately \$127,000. It was noted the city has approximately \$107,000 in the long-range capital account for the project.

It is hoped to hear back from the townships by December 20, when the city is planning a special meeting. The bids are good until January 10. If the new truck is ordered in January, it will take nine or ten months to build and it is likely it would arrive in November of ’06.

Also related to the fire department, the Council approved the addition of Bob Blair and Mario Jimenez as new volunteers on the department.”

(The remainder of the article is omitted as it does not contain any further information concerning the Ada fire department.)

(Norman County Index, December 13, 2005)

2005 December 27



Minnesota Highway Patrol and Ada emergency personnel were on the scene of a semi/car collision just north of Ada on Highway #9 early Friday with conditions slippery and foggy. The driver of the car was transported from the scene by ambulance following the accident, which left debris strewn over the ditch and highway. There was no further information available from the highway patrol at press time.

2006

2006 January 3

“New fire truck in Ada should come in the fall of 2006 –

It will be a while before it arrives, but the community of Ada and surrounding townships will have increased fire protection with the purchase of a new pumper truck that has been ordered by the city.

Fire Chief Steve Petry reports that the new pumper truck will be able to pump 1,500 gallons of water per minute and will be equipped with a 1,000-gallon tank. He current truck has the capacity to pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute and is equipped with a 1,250-gallon tank.

The new pumper will also feature a deck or deluge gun and have a foam to every outlet. ‘By using foam, we can theoretically cut water use by a third, or use one gallon of water with foam it acts as three gallons of water. And once you put foam on a fire, the chances of a fire rekindling are much, much less,’ Steve explained.

The truck will feature a five-man cab, with the SCBAs (air packs) integrated into the seats. Petry explained that this will be a real time-saver when fighting fires. It means the fire fighters can put on gear and be ready to go when they jump out of the truck, instead of having to pull the air packs out of a side compartment.

The five-man command cab is fully enclosed. The pump operator will be inside and it will be quieter so they can hear what’s going on. ‘The guys will also have a place to get inside and warm up when fighting fires in cold weather. In the summer, the cab is air conditioned, so it will also be a spot to cool off,’ he said.

The intention is also to have sufficient storage room to carry the fire department's 'Jaws of Life' extraction equipment, which will replace the older van which currently carries this equipment.

The truck also has an 8,000-kw hydraulic generator to operate power tools, lights and other electrical equipment.

It will also arrive with a ladder hydraulic ladder rack, which allows having a larger water tank on the truck. There will also be room for other firefighting equipment to go with the extraction gear.

The additional pumper provides Ada the added benefit of lowering the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating in the community, which should mean lower insurance costs for commercial and business coverage. This rating for firefighting ability in a community is based on the department's pump capacity, training, and other factors, Steve explained.

The new \$236,000 fire truck was purchased from Central States Fire Apparatus of Lyons, South Dakota. 'It will likely be a couple of months before they get the chassis, and hopefully they will get the truck built and we'll have a delivery date around November of 2006,' the Chief said. (Norman County Index, 2006 January 3)



This new pumper at the Sebeka Fire Department is equipped about the same as the new pumper Ada has ordered.

2006 January 10

"Norman County Sheriff's report for December –

02-18-05 – Responded to a structure fire at an Anthony Township farm. Hay bales in a barn were started on fire and were burning. The Halstad Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire." (Norman County Index, January 10, 2006)

2006 April 18

"Norman County ESO thanks Halstad fire fighters for retrieving

monitors –

The Norman County Environmental Service Office would like to thank the Halstad Fire Department for their efforts in retrieving the four computer monitors that were dumped into the Red River at the Perley bridge.

The nine fire fighters who went down and retrieved them from the unsafe ice on the river are to be commended for the environmental service they provided for Norman County.

So, if you happen to come across a Halstad fire fighter, let them know that their efforts were and are appreciated.

Thanks again from the Norman County Environmental Services Office.

Kevin R. Ruud

Norman County Environmental Services Officer

816 East Main Street

Ada, MN 56510

Telephone (218) 784-5493, Fax (218) 784-3430

Kevin.ruud@co.norman.mn.us



Halstad fire fighters retrieve computer monitors off the river near Perley after cut-

2006 July 11 “Ada Police report for the month of June –
06-14-06 – Responded to assist at a house fire with people injured in Hendrum.”

2006 July 11 “Sheriff’s report for June –
06-14-06 – Responded to a house fire in Hendrum.

06-22-06 – Responded to a house fire in Hendrum Township.” (Norman County Index,
July 11, 2006)

2006 August 22 “City of Ada Police Report shows busy July –
07-30-06 – Alarm: Responded to false alarm at the High school.” (Norman County Index,
August 22, 2006)

2006 December 5 “November Sheriff’s Report –
11-14-06 – Received a report of hay bales being set on fire in Hegne Township.” (Norman
County Index, December 5, 2006)

2006 December 12

Department Building –

“Council Calls for Bids on Proposed New Fire Hall/ Police

Ada City Council members approved calling for bids for a new City Fire Hall and Police Station at their meeting held December 5.

Representatives from MBA Architects met with the Council with an updated estimate and plans. It was noted that with the exception of a little dirt work that will be required at the site due to soil conditions, “the plans are identical to what we put in the drawer last fall,” he said of the fire hall project. The cost estimate is in the range of \$600,000.

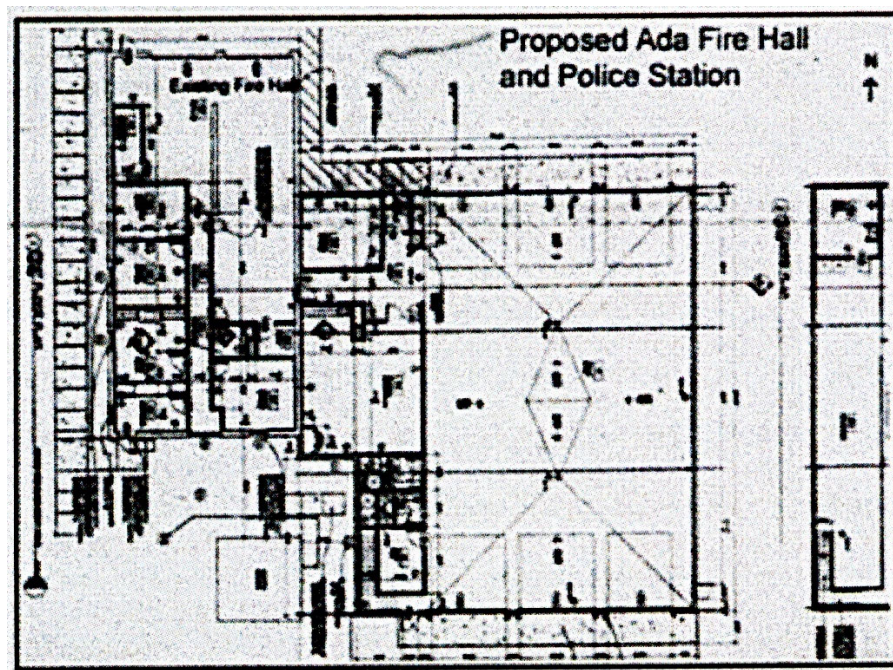
The Council has been negotiating with the railroad for property adjacent to the current fire hall to build the new structure, which would be connected to the current building. The property is for sale; however, the railroad wants more than the city wants to pay (\$1 per square foot) for the property. The City Council decided to move forward with the bid letting on the new fire hall to make the final determination if the city wants to go forward with the building.

The bid opening will be set for 2:00 p.m. on January 18 at City Hall.

The Council also discussed notifying the partnering townships served by City fire protection about plans to go forward with the bid letting.

Fire Chief Steve Petry reported that they were testing the pumps on the new fire truck last week and the Fire Department personnel would be going to pick the truck up later this week. After training, the pumper will go into service late this month or early in January. For the time being, the truck will be parked in the public works building, since it will not fit in the current fire hall.”

(The remainder of the article is omitted as it does not contain any further information concerning the Ada fire department.)



(Norman County Index, December 13, 2005)

2007

2007 January 1 “Holiday home fire displaces family of six in Perley, MN –

The Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross Disaster Team responded to a fire at 1877 170th Avenue in Perley, MN, Sunday, December 24th. The disaster team arrived in the morning of December 24th to find the Robert and Jocelyn Laymon family home completely destroyed by a late evening fire. The fire left the Laymon family of six without a home for the holiday season. Red Cross disaster workers contacted a local hotel and made arrangements for several days of temporary lodging and also provided financial assistance for food, clothing and medical prescriptions while the family begins their recovery. Over the next several days, Red Cross disaster staff will work with the family to ensure their immediate needs caused by the fire are met.

American Red Cross Disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of this fire and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call 1-800-HELP NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.” (Halstad’s Valley Journal, January 1, 2007)

2007 January 2 “Holiday home fire east of Hendrum displaces family of six –

Fire destroyed a house east of Hendrum last Saturday, December 23, displacing a family of six.

Investigators are waiting to determine what caused the fire that destroyed the home of Robert and Jocelyn Laymon, about seven miles east of Hendrum. The home was in flames when the fire department arrived at about 7:00 p.m. that evening. The family was not at home at the time of the fire. Fire departments from Hendrum, Perley, Halstad and Ada responded to the blaze.

The Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross Disaster Team responded to the rural fire. The disaster team arrived in the morning of December 24.

The fire left the Laymon family of six without a home for the holiday season. Red Cross disaster workers contacted the local motel and made arrangements for several days of temporary lodging and also provided financial assistance for food, clothing and medical prescriptions while the family begins to assess their needs and begins their recovery. Red Cross disaster staff will work with the family to ensure their immediate needs caused by the fire are met.” (Norman County Index, January 2, 2007)

2007 January 2 “It took about a year, but impressive new Fire Department pumper truck arrives in Ada –

It took about a year, but Ada’s new fire truck has arrived and will be a great asset for the community and surrounding area.

Fire Chief Steve Petry reports that the new pumper truck is able to pump 1,500 gallons of water per minute and is equipped with a 1,000-gallon water tank. The current

truck has the capacity to pump 1,000 gallons per minute and equipped with a 1,250-gallon tank.

The new pumper will also feature a deck or deluge gun, and have firefighting foam to every outlet. 'By using foam, we can theoretically cut water use by a third, or use one gallon of water with foam it acts as three gallons of water. And once you put foam on a fire, the chances of a fire rekindling are much, much less,' Steve explained.

The truck will use a lighted gauge on the side which allows fire fighters to see how much water is in the tank of the truck.

The truck will feature a five-man cab, with the SCBAs (air packs) integrated into the seats. Petry explained that this will be a real time-saver when fighting fires. It means the fire fighters can put on gear and be ready to go when they jump out of the truck, instead of having to pull the air packs out of a side compartment.

The five-man command cab is fully enclosed. The pump operator will be inside and it will be quieter so they can hear what's going on. 'The guys will also have a place to get inside and warm up when fighting fires in cold weather. In the summer, the cab is air conditioned, so it will also be a spot to cool off,' he said.

The new machine has sufficient storage room to carry the fire department's "Jaws of Life" extraction equipment, which will replace the older van which currently carries this equipment.

The truck also has an 8,000-kw hydraulic generator to operate power tools, lights and other electrical equipment.

The truck has lots of compartment space in the firefighting module, thanks to a hydraulic ladder rack, which allows having a larger water tank on the truck and additional space on the sides. The ladders are carried above the tank, and can be lowered by the hydraulic ram when needed. This provides a lot of additional room for other firefighting equipment to go with the extraction gear, with doors that slide up and some gear mounted to roll out shelves.

The additional pumper provides Ada the added benefit of lowering the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating in the community, which should mean lower insurance costs for commercial and business coverage. This rating for fire fighting ability in a community is based on the department's pump capacity, training, and other factors, Steve explained. 'The City had to have at least a pump capacity of 3,000 gallons per minute, and with the new truck, and our other two trucks, we will be able to meet that now,' he said. 'We will have to resubmit with ISO and now that we meet the requirements, they will reclassify us.'

The new \$236,000 fire truck was purchased from Central States Fire Apparatus of Lyons, South Dakota.

The new truck is too high to fit in the current fire house, so for the time being, it is being housed out at Public Works. The city is currently looking at the potential of building a new fire hall/ police station adjacent to the current fire house.

Assistant Chief Bruce Visser said that trucks would have to be special ordered to fit into a conventional 10-foot door. However, it wouldn't come with the pumping capacity and options desired.

Petry said the equipment on the new truck is fairly common when fire departments like Ada's are updating equipment. 'They are putting the foamers on, bigger pumps, the enclosed cab, and a 1,000-gallon tank is pretty common. The enclosed command cab is

getting more and more common. The enclosed area also meets the legal requirements,' he said.

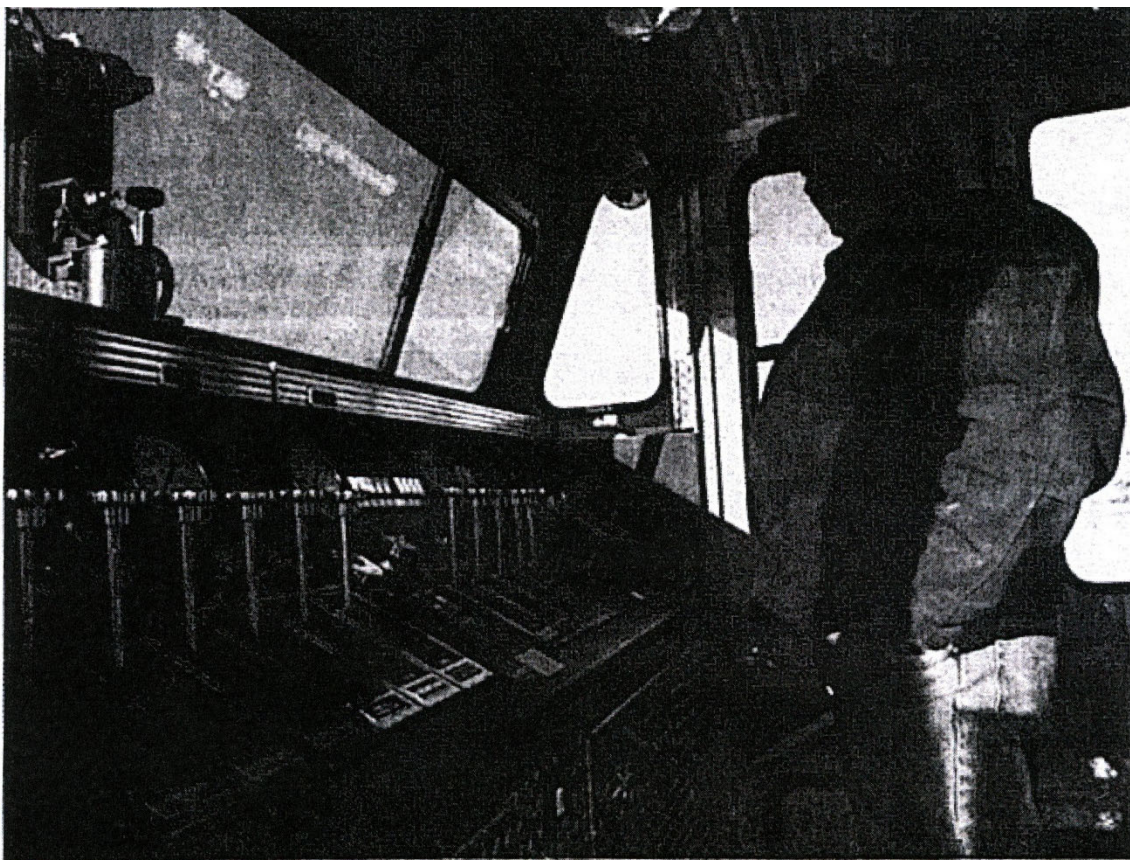
In the next few weeks, the decals and Ada Fire Department lettering will be put on the new truck.

The new truck is not in service at this time, but Steve and Bruce said this will happen after they get a chance to do some training with the local fire fighters using the new equipment. They also have to get some new hose for the truck. 'I'd guess sometime in January it will officially be put into service. If we need it now to pump water, it's available,' Steve said.

An open house will be planned in the near future to give the public a chance to see the new equipment." (Norman County Index, January 2, 2007)



Ada Assistant Fire Chief Bruce Visser and Chief Steve Petry pose with Ada's new pumper truck which is currently being stored at the Public Works Building. The new truck is shown with the hydraulic ladder rack in the down position. Storing the ladders above the water tank creates a lot of additional room for storage.



The enclosed command cab and pumping equipment installed in the new firetruck is impressive.



The new firetruck has lots of storage capacity, which will house the Jaws of Life extraction equipment in the future.

2007 January 9

“Norman County Sheriff’s report for December –

12-23-06 – Responded to a house fire in Hegne Township along with Fire Departments from Hendrum, Halstad, Perley and Ada. The house was a total loss. Investigation is continuing with the State Fire Marshal’s office.” (Norman County Index, January 2007)

2007 February

“Sheriff’s report for the month of January –

01-03-07 – Responded to a vehicle fire in Lake Ida Township along with the Ada Fire Department and Ada Police Department. A 1992 Ford automobile had started a fire and was a total loss.” (Norman County Index, February 2007)

2007 February 13

“Twin Valley awarded \$36,000 grant for firefighting equipment –

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced last week that \$34,562,495 in direct assistance grants have been approved to 391 fire departments and first responder organizations through the department’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Additional phases will soon be announced that will total \$485 million in AFG grant awards to approximately 5,000 fire-related organizations nationwide.

‘Emergency response is inherently local, and these resources support those who serve us all, our nation’s firefighters,’ said Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman. ‘By building emergency response capabilities through training and first responder equipment, the AFG program is helping to strengthen readiness throughout the country. These are smart investments that protect our firefighters and help to save lives in our communities.’

This round of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program includes awards to the following fire departments and emergency medical service organizations in Minnesota:

(Other communities deleted)

Twin Valley Fire Department – Twin Valley Operations and Safety, \$36,480.

(Other communities deleted)

Since 2001, the AFG has provided \$2.4 billion in grants to fire departments and first responder organizations for response equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles and fire prevention activities. DHS received more than 18,000 applications for nearly \$2.5 billion in requests in FY06.

The AFG program awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders throughout the country to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of first responders and citizens in the communities. AFG grants provide resources for training, first responder health and safety programs, and response equipment and vehicles.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the department's Directorate for Preparedness through its Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration, also a division within the Preparedness Directorate." (Norman County Index, February 13, 2007)

2007 March 27
accident Friday –

"Matt Babler and Nathan Purrington recovering from burns from

The community prays for a speedy recovery for Matt Babler of Borup and Ada-Borup High Ag Instructor Nathan Purrington. Both are receiving treatment for serious burns at the Regions Hospital in St. Paul following an accident at the Ada-Borup High School last Friday.

Matt Babler, who is a freshman of Ada-Borup High, was injured when his shirt caught fire in a welding accident in the Ag Department on Friday. His instructor, Nathan Purrington, badly burned his hands while trying to help Matt. Babler was airlifted by LifeFlight Air Ambulance to the burn unit at Regions Hospital and Purrington was also transported to the hospital for treatment.

People can visit Matt and Nathan's CaringBridge web site for an update of their condition and leave messages for them at:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanpurrington> and

www.caringbridge.org/visit/mattbabler." (Norman County Index, March 27, 2007)

2007 April 3

"City Council awards new emergency services building –

After trimming a few costs, the Ada City Council agreed to award bids for a new emergency-services building last Wednesday. The total cost of bids awarded, with the alternatives approved, totals \$548,022. This was the amount of the bid package after the Council made net cuts of \$10,500 at Wednesday's meeting.

Chief Steve Petry reported that everything appears settled with the townships in the aid association. One township he had not heard from was Spring Creek.

City Council members agreed that it was time to move on the project which will create an improved home for the fire department and new home for the police department. 'I don't think we will ever get a bid package that is better than what we've got,' Councilman Darin Ramey commented.

Some of the bigger ticket items the Council removed from the project included two doors and openers, which will result in one door on the south side of the new building and three doors on the north side. The Council also approved removing plans to place matching steel on the exterior of the present fire hall. It was also decided to put a galvanized roof on the new building instead of a colored roof. A fill system was also cut, with fire department personnel noting they can build their own piping system to fill the trucks.

Petry said one item the building committee would like to add back was interior sheeting on the walls, which he noted will make it easier to clean along with improving the appearance.

With the project awarded for construction, the Council will also have to purchase the land east of the present fire hall from the railroad. The Council moved to go forward with the previous offer from the railroad to sell the 26,000 square feet for the asking price of \$26,000.” (Norman County Index, April 3, 2007)

2007 April 10

“Hanson Home Destroyed by Fire –

Fire destroyed the home of Roger and Kelly Hanson this past Wednesday evening north of Ada. The family escaped harm, but the fire totaled the home.

Ada Fire Chief, Steve Petry, reported that the state Fire Marshal has determined an electrical problem was the source of the fire. ‘The structure is still standing but there was a great deal of smoke and water damage to the home,’ he said.

Along with the Ada Fire Department, the Gary Fire Department responded to the fire call.

The Hansons lost all their belongings in the fire and donations can be sent to Bank of the West, c/o Roger and Kelly Hanson. Donated items can be dropped off at Escape Salon in Ada. There is also a benefit pancake feed scheduled for this Sunday, April 15, with a free will offering at the Ada-Borup High commons from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.” (Norman County Index, April 10, 2007)



The Roger and Kelly Hanson home north of Ada is a total loss following a fire at the home this past Wednesday evening.

2007 May 8

“Sheriff’s report for April –

04-04-07 – Responded to a house fire in Spring Creek Township along with Ada, Borup and Gary Fire Departments.” (Norman County Index, May 8 2007)

2007 May 14

“April 2007 Norman County Sheriff’s Report –

04-29-07 – Responded to and investigated two vehicle personal injury accident in Sundal Township. A 1993 Chevrolet pickup being driven by Mark Lindberg of rural Fertile, MN, was traveling east on Norman County CSAH #1 and a 2002 Pontiac being driven by Dean Rasmusson of rural Fertile, MN, was traveling south on Norman County Road 111 when the vehicles collided. There were no passengers in the vehicles and both drivers were transported to Altru Medical Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota, for unknown injuries. The Norman County Sheriff’s Department, Minnesota state Patrol, Fertile Fire Department, Polk County EMS and Gary Rescue Squad responded to the accident. The accident remains under investigation.” (Halstad’s Valley Journal, May 14, 2007)

2007 May 29
services building –

Council approves land and financing agreement for new emergency

Work should soon begin on the new emergency services building with land and the Cenex building issues addressed last week by the Ada City Council.

‘Everyone involved is chomping at the bit to get started.’ Mayor Jim Ellefson noted. It was commented that if the start date for contractors extends past the beginning of June, it will likely mean additional costs for the city.

The Labor and Finance Committee met with members of the Cenex board of directors before the Council’s special meeting last Wednesday and came up with the deal for Cenex’s building on the property where the emergency services building will be built.

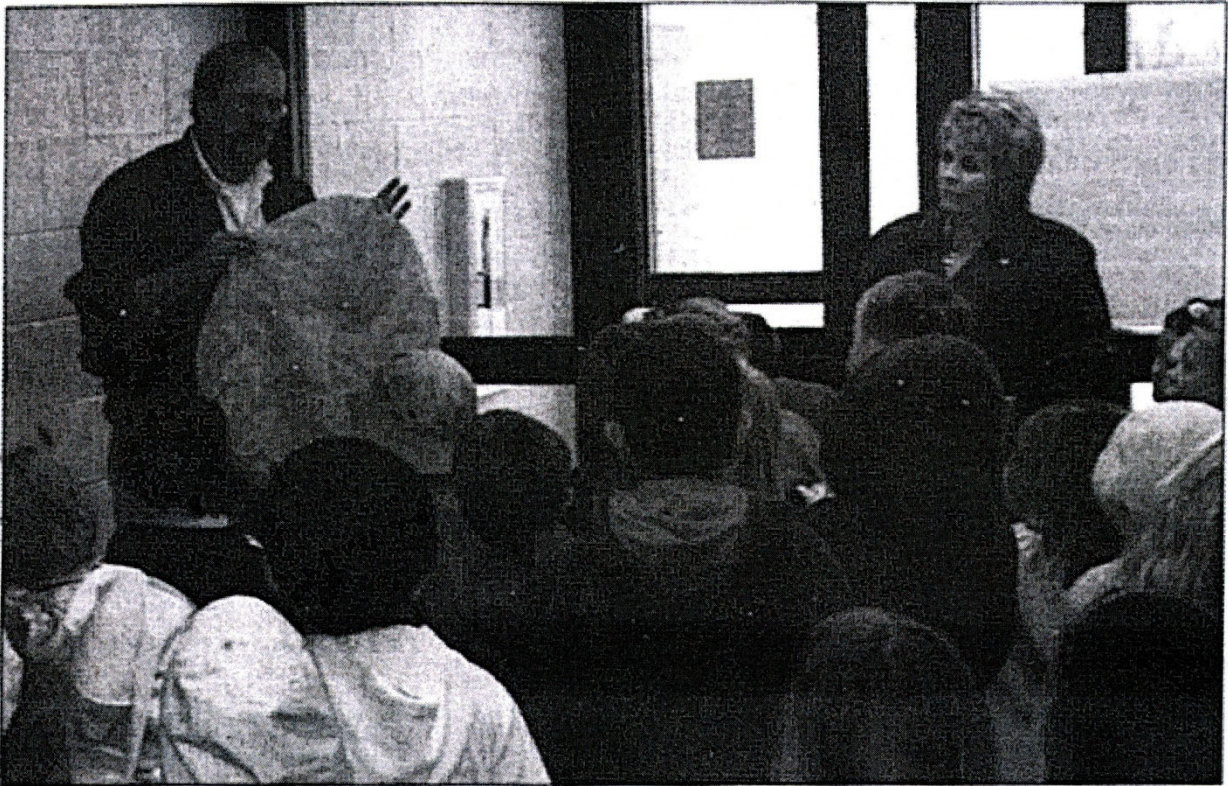
Attorney Tom Opheim noted that as a part of the purchase agreement with Burlington Northern, it is required that the City reach an agreement with Cenex, who leased the railroad property where the storage building sets.

The Council agreed to purchase the building from Cenex for \$10,000. Under the agreement, the north 35 feet (approximately) of the building will be demolished. The city then agreed to make the rest of the building suitable for use, and lease it back to Cenex for \$1 per year for two years. After that time, the city will likely demolish the remainder of the building. The Council also agreed to provide space in the northwest industrial park to Cenex (although they did not specify where) for construction of a new storage building. The Council also approved signing the purchase agreement with Burlington Northern for the land, which will total \$26,000 for the 25,000 square feet, plus a \$1,000 fee charged by BN.

Council members also heard that it is not necessary to call for bids for financing the project. The Council moved to go forward with the recommendation of the Finance and Labor Committee to go forward with a \$700,000 lease/ purchase agreement with the Bank of the West to finance the project. The lease/ finance agreement is over 20 years at a fixed interest rate of 4.65%.

The Council also went into closed session to conduct employee evaluations. (Norman County Index, May 29, 2007)

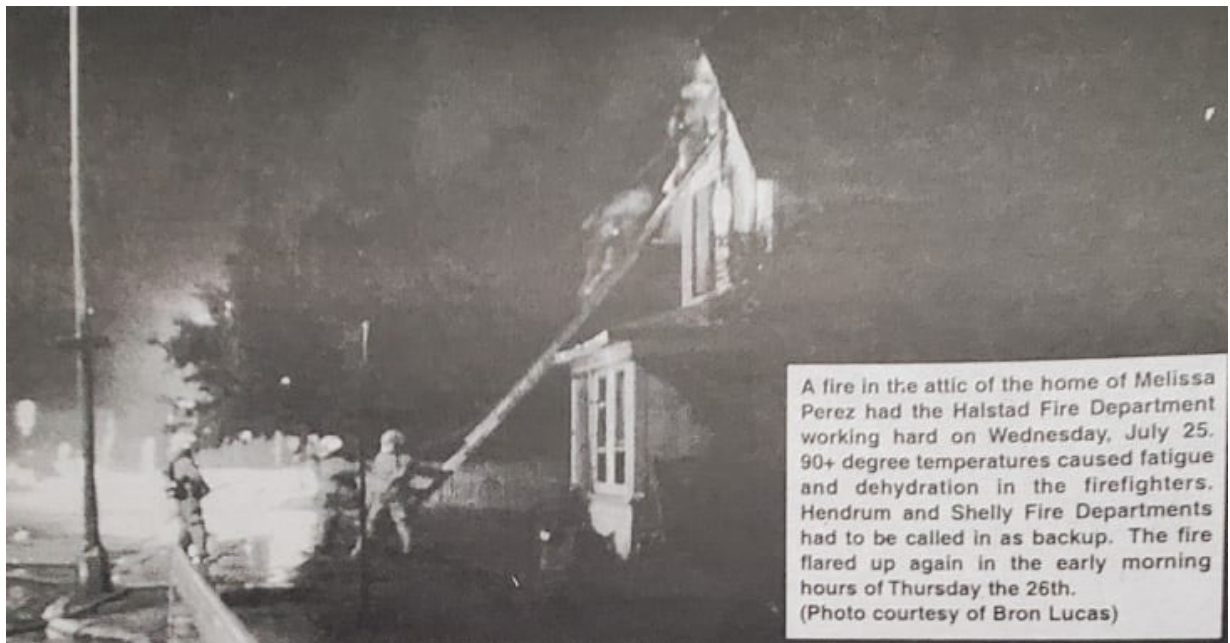
2007 May 29



Jerry Merkens of the Ada Fire Department gave a presentation at the Ada-Borup Elementary School last week on air bags and how they protect vehicle drivers and passengers, but also pose a possible danger to young passengers riding in the front seat of a vehicle. His demonstration included exploding an actual vehicle air bag which really got the kids' attention.

2007 July 26

(Halstad's Valley Journal, July 30, 2007)



2007 July 31



“Fire crews from Halstad, Hendrum and Ada responded to a fire in a machine shed owned by Kevin Paulsrud of Halstad on Tuesday, July 31. The shed housed a 4x4 tractor and other equipment along with a large quantity of straw bales. High winds and temperatures in the 90’s

made fighting the blaze a big challenge for both fire fighters and their equipment. No one was injured in the fire.” (Halstad’s Valley Journal, August 6, 2007)

Additional photos.





“Pumper trucks and tankers from all 3 fire departments along with flatbed trucks from the Halstad Elevator were used to haul water to fight the blaze. Portable tanks provide the pumper trucks with a water source as the tankers unload and make the trip back to town to reload.”

