



# ON BEHALF OF FIRE CHIEF JEROME GAINES, WELCOME TO THE TALLAHASSEE FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

## MISSION

The mission of the Tallahassee Fire Department Museum is to acquire, document, research, exhibit, and preserve the heritage of firefighters and their equipment, with emphasis on the Tallahassee Fire Department, for the purpose of education and enjoyment.



## BRUSH 3



Brush 3 is a 1961 Ford F250 with a skid package. It originally came to TFD from the U.S. Navy in Pensacola under the Civil Defense Act. It eventually was converted to a Brush truck in the shop behind old Station 2 at 224 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It was purchased by Mr. Ron Czaplicki in 2016 and donated to the TFD Museum in February 2018. Ron is a retired City of Pembroke Pines, FL, Fire Chief and ex-President of the Florida Antique Bucket Brigade.

# OVERVIEW

The Museum was founded in 2009  
by Senior Fire Plans Examiner  
(Retired) Maurice Majszak (left)



with a lot of help from Lt. Billy  
Fox (Retired).



# OVERVIEW

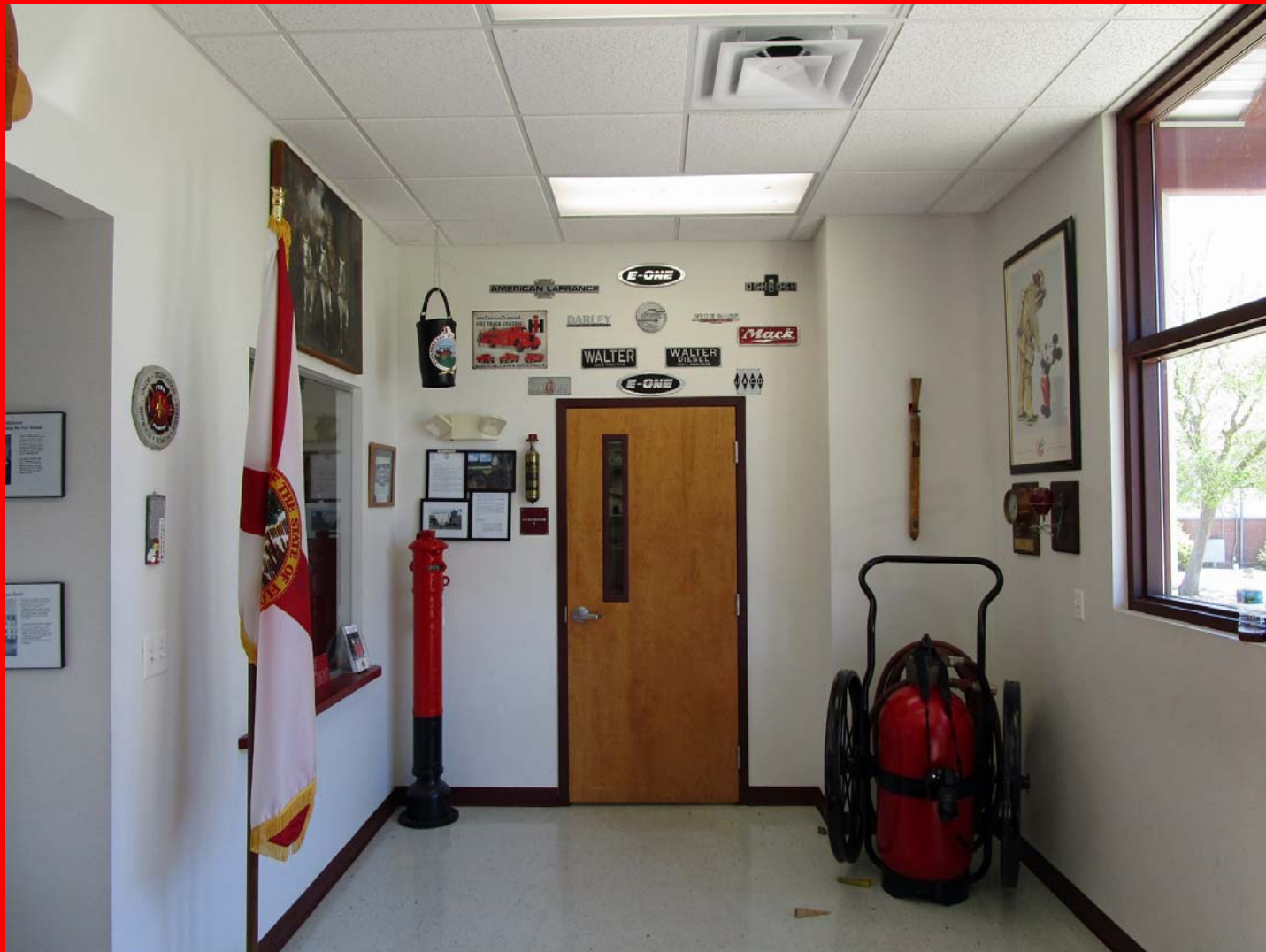


When the Tallahassee Regional Airport was opened in 1961, underground hydrants were installed along the runways. They were enclosed in steel boxes and took a special wrench to operate as the box was only big enough for the hydrant. Through the years the boxes were paved over. This hydrant is the last known hydrant from the Tallahassee Regional Airport. Thanks to Lt. William "Billy" Fox (Retired) for finding this for the Museum.

# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW





# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



# DID YOU KNOW?

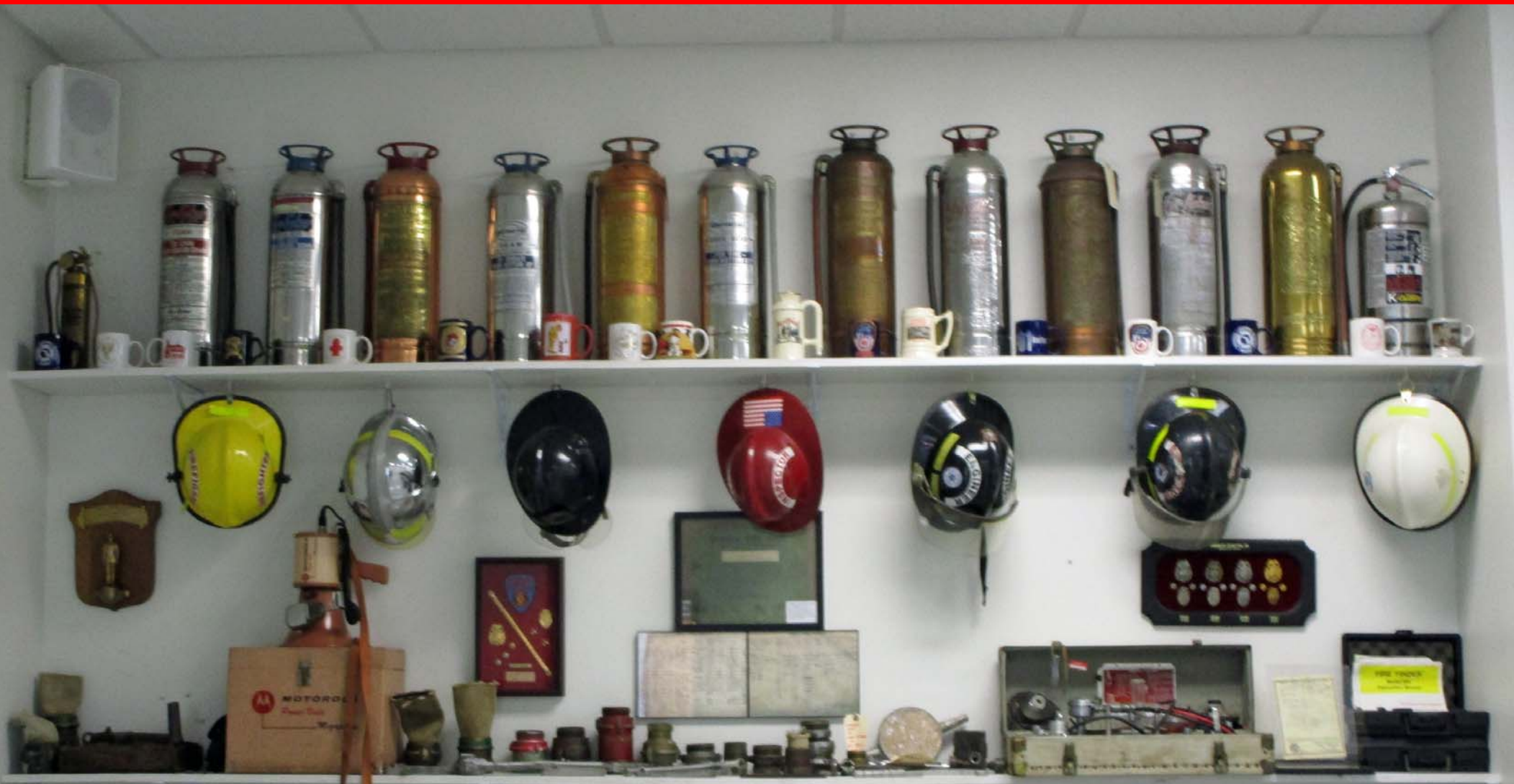
- The first week of October, also known as **National Fire Prevention Week**, marks the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of October 8, 1871.



# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW



Note the yellow color on the bottom of the hose nozzle and the green and red colors above the hose couplings. The colors corresponded to the engine the equipment came off of.



# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



The first recorded use of an Indian Fire Pump by the Tallahassee Fire Department was in 1940. Donated by Lt. Billy Fox (Retired).



Bicentennial Fire Extinguisher. Made for one year only. Donated by R&R Fire Equipment.



# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



**Babcock Fire Extinguishers are the first documented fire extinguishers purchased by the City of Tallahassee. On March 26, 1873, six were purchased at a cost of \$61.00 each. Donated by Ron Czaplicki, City of Pembroke Pines, FL Fire Chief (Retired).**



**This Red Star fire extinguisher is the only fire extinguisher in the museum that was in-service at the Tallahassee Fire Department. Donated by a retiree who wishes to remain anonymous.**

# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Oldest fire extinguisher in our collection is from B.F. Keith Theatre. The theater was in operation in Boston from 1896 to 1924.



Special to the City of Tallahassee is this Seminole Fire Extinguisher. The Indian Head at the top of the extinguisher says "Chief Ocoola."



This fire extinguisher is called a "Torpedo" fire extinguisher because there is no riveted seam going from the top to the bottom.



# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



This Shur-Spray Fire Extinguisher was removed from the old Florida State Capitol when it was remodeled in 1947.



This Pyrene Fire Extinguisher is very rare. Stamped in the plate is a patented date of November 11, 1913 and another date of September 21, 1915.

# DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1843 Tallahassee had a great fire. Flames leveled over 90 buildings included in a seven block area on both sides of Monroe Street north to Park Avenue. Fire Prevention started in Tallahassee as a result of this fire.



# FIRE GERNADES

In the late 1800's a new kind of fire grenade that used carbon tetrachloride housed in a glass orb became a popular firefighting tool in homes, factories, and even trains. These grenades worked well on small fires, but unfortunately the heat of a larger fire could convert the carbon tetrachloride into a phosgene gas which is toxic to humans. Remember, there was no self-contained breathing apparatus back then.



The Red Marvel fire grenade to the left is from a sewing machine factory on 28<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Miami, Florida. Donated by Maurice Majszak







# FIRE NOZZLES

Tallahassee fire hose nozzle



The 19 lb nozzle on the left in the picture on the right is off old Airport Unit 7. It was a Ford and our second Crash Truck. It had a blabber mouth 450 GPM turret. Donated by Lt. Robbie Mckenzie (Retired).

BLABBER MOUTH TURRET



The smaller nozzle on the right is a U.S. Navy straight stream/fog nozzle. This nozzle was once on TFD's Truck 4. Donated by Lt. Robbie Mckenzie (Retired).

# FIRE HOSE CARTS



Hose carts were first used in Tallahassee in the 1890's when the City Council approved the purchase of two hose carts. The left two hose carts are off of a plantation in Leon County and donated to the Museum by Lt. Jimmy Byrd (Retired).

# FIRE SPRINKLERS



Leonardo da Vinci designed a sprinkler system in the 15th century which actually worked and put out a fire. The bottom row are upright sprinkler heads, middle row are pendant sprinkler heads and the top row are sidewall sprinkler heads. The sprinkler head rack was made and donated to the Museum by Inter State Fire Equipment.

# FIRE HELMETS



Top row are all TFD Helmets. Second row are all TFD helmets except the last two on the right. Centered in the bottom row is Assistant Chief Reese Revell's helmet (donated by his wife Helen).

# FIRE CHIEF T. P. COE'S FIRE BADGES AND RIBBONS



Fire Chief Thomas Pinkney Coe joined the Tallahassee Volunteer Fire Company in 1906 and served until April 30, 1940 (34 years) . He was appointed Fire Chief on July 12, 1912.



Chief Coe's hat badge.



Chief Coe's conference ribbons.

# FIRE BADGES



Deputy Chief James Howard Cureton, Jr. served just short of 30 years on TFD. During WWII he received the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally gallant service in the performance of duties as driver to his commanding officer while under enemy fire. Donated by his family to honor their father.

Badges donated by Engineer Roger Bynum (Retired). The Reserve Program was designed, developed and implemented by Captain William T. "Terry" Byrd. It started December 24, 1988 and lasted for 10 years. At least 87 reservists were subsequently hired by the Tallahassee Fire Department.



# DID YOU KNOW?

- The first American Fire Ordinance was issued in 1631. Believe it or not it outlawed the building of wooden chimneys and thatched roofs on homes.



# FIRE BADGES



This collection of fire badges was donated to the Tallahassee Fire Department by Mr. Jim Spalding. Jim was a Captain on a fire department before a back injury forced him out.



# FIRE MARKS

Fire Marks date back to the first fire insurance company in 1682. In 1736 Ben Franklin created the 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Department in America. By 1752 he had created an insurance company known as the Philadelphia Contributionship. They issued their insured a Fire Mark to be placed on the insured house. Other insurance companies soon followed suit. If the insured's house caught fire as well as their neighbors who had no fire mark, the fire company would try to put out the house that was insured first because they knew that they would get paid.



# FIRE HYDRANTS

M&H began making fire hydrants between 1862 and 1920 and continue to make them today.



This hydrant is known as a fill hydrant or flush hydrant. It is put at the end of a water line to periodically flush the line.



“The Cory” was made by the Rensselaer Volve Manufacturing Co., in Troy NY, from 1880 until 1969.

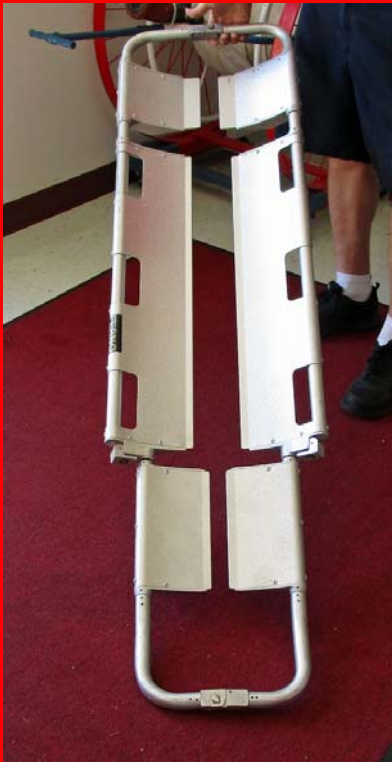


# FIRE ENGINE/TRUCK EMBLEMS



Displayed is Division Chief Tim Shealy's (Retired) collection of Tallahassee Fire Department engine/truck emblems which he has kindly donated to the Museum.

# TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT



Pictured Scoop stretcher model #65 was manufactured by Ferno-Washington Inc., Wilmington, Ohio on April 11, 1988. This stretcher was at Station 5 (Airport). Serial #: K74491.



Wood backboards for TFD were made at the Federal Correctional Institution located at 501 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee FL. Wood backboards would often break from the weight of patients and would have to be doubled up. Also, once blood got on them they could no longer be used. Because of these reasons, Tallahassee could not give them to our sister city or any one else. Chief Charles Dery spent an entire shift sawing them in half.

## EQUIPMENT



**Fire Chief T. P. Coe's axe which Assistant Chief Ridgway Coe believed that his father kept in his city car. T.P. served the City of Tallahassee and Leon County for 47 years (34 on TFD and 7 as the City Fire Inspector). Ridgway served on TFD for over 42 years.**



**This Gated-Y was made by Guy Raines in the Fire Department shop behind Station 2 located at 224 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Guy retired as an Assistant Chief with over 34 years of service. Note the Tallahassee threads (3 per inch).**

# EQUIPMENT



Prior to the invention of ladder trucks, it was not uncommon for fire departments to use ground ladders and pompier ladders. Pompier ladders were introduced in the United States in 1877. Pictured above is TFD's Pompier ladder.

# EQUIPMENT



Typical fire department bunker gear.



Pressure gauge off a 1926 manually operated Worthington Fire Pump. It is from the Ingram building in downtown Miami. Pump had to be changed out because it was not automatic.



Co2 fire extinguisher made prior to 1949. Donated by Mr. Ed Vasco.

# EQUIPMENT



When the Hotel Duval in downtown Tallahassee removed their hoses from the corridor cabinets they also removed the valves (two of which were donated to the Museum).



Above "Porta power" was used prior to the jaws-of-life. The first jaws-of-life in Tallahassee were owned by Mr. Horrie Culpepper Jr., a civilian, who chased fire trucks. He would let the fire department use any equipment that he had. He became known as "Tallahassee's best-intentioned Good Samaritan."



This 150 lb. BC fire extinguisher was manufactured by Kidde and once served in a City of Tallahassee power plant. Donated by Lt. Jay Kessinger.



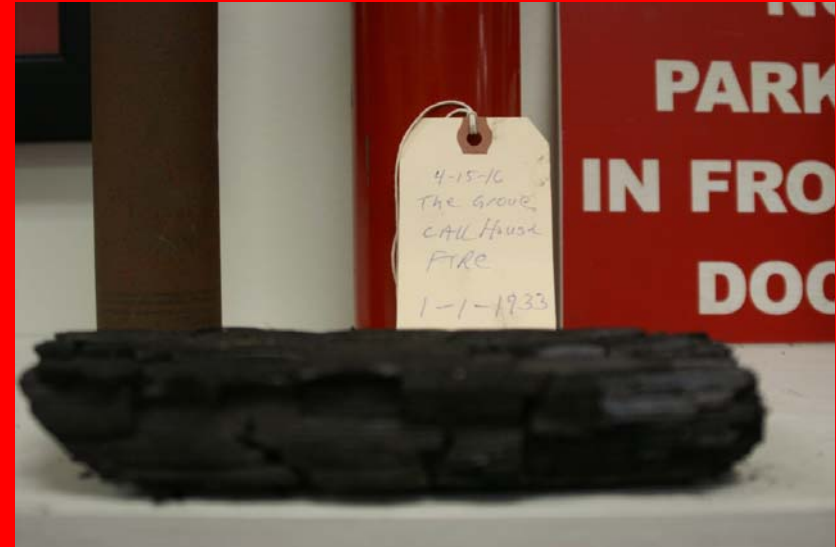
## ODDS & ENDS



Knob & Tube wiring can still be found in some of the older homes in Tallahassee.



The **bullet** is still in the chamber. Recovered from a trailer fire on Whipperwill Drive on October 26, 2010.



A charred piece of wood from the Call House fire on January 1, 1933.

## ODDS & ENDS



**“Eisenhower” jacket in the case was issued to Ridgway Coe in the fall of 1949. Assistant Chief Coe joined the Fire Department on November 17, 1941 at age 20. He was promoted to Lieutenant on November 1, 1952, Captain on January 19, 1963 and Assistant Chief on June 13, 1969. Assistant Chief Ridgway Coe retired on January 3, 1984 after 42 years, 1 month, and 18 days of service.**

**Eisenhower jackets were issued to all fire department personnel in the fall of 1949. The picture in the center shows the longer style jacket previously worn by all firefighters. Donated by the Coe family is Ridgway’s original Eisenhower jacket located in the fire museum.**

## ODDS & ENDS



The dining area also serves as our patch room. The bed spread was made by Ms. Kelly Wood and presented as a Christmas Present to Maurice Majszak in 2009.

No Museum would be complete without toy fire apparatus. We have our share.



**9-11-1  
NEVER FORGET**



# PLAQUES



The above plaque honors the men who served on the Tallahassee Volunteer Fire Company. TVFC was formed September 24, 1902 and disbanded on April 30, 1930.



The Tallahassee Fire Department was formed on May 1, 1930. It had 6 full-time firefighters and 6 volunteers who were paid only when they drilled or responded to a fire.