

## The Giddings News

January 19, 1923

### Giddings Volunteer Fire Department Dissolves

At a meeting of the Giddings Volunteer Fire Department Friday night it was unanimously agreed by those in attendance that the organization would dissolve, effective February 1. The reason given for taking such action is the lack of interest shown by the general public and also by many of the members. There are 36 members on the roll and many times there is not a quorum present for transacting the business, and it also happened on several occasions that there were not enough at the practice meetings to take out the machinery. The machinery consisting of one steam pump one chemical and one hook and ladder wagon and hose was turned over to the City Commission.

In the passing out of existence of the Giddings Volunteer Fire Department, one of the landmarks of the town ceases to exist one that has worked for the protection of property at all hours of the day and night, in the heat of summer and the cold of winter, and without any remuneration except the knowledge of having done their part toward protecting the business houses, stocks of goods and wares, dwelling, public buildings depots and commodities from the devastating results of the flames. Their efforts, coupled with those of the citizens who always lend a helping hand in fighting fires will not be forgotten.

The members of the fire department desire to thank the public for the cooperation given in the years gone by and to say that the members feel that they have done their duty toward keeping up the fire department. Some have been members for more than twenty years and it is somewhat with a tinge of regret that they disband the department, but there are certain rules and regulation which must be observed if a fire department is maintained, and the membership feels that the public expected too much from the few who were active in their interest.

Many towns in Texas much larger than Giddings have volunteer fire departments because it is to the interest of every citizen of a town to maintain volunteer departments. If there is no fire department insurance rates will be readily advanced and thus the burden is shifted to the property tax payers, besides there is no protection in case of a fire. The apparatus of the Giddings Volunteer Fire Department has been quite useful in preventing the spreading of flames in both the business and the residential sections of our town and if there is no organization, the machinery will not be in good condition subject to use at any time.

August Biar, Paul Nerger, Otto Harms, Jr., F. L. Krauss, and Herman Gersch have been appointed by the City Commission to see just what can be done toward continued the volunteer organization and it is hoped that some means can be provided whereby Giddings can maintain her former standard of protection from fires.