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"DEEDS NOT WORDS"

"Deeds Not Words" is the Motto that has become the aim and purpose of the Andover Fire Department. So let's delve back 3/4 of a century and see how the Fire Department started and it's slogan came about.

The first written record of a firemen's organization in Andover is dated December 19, 1893, the year following the Incorporation of the Village of Andover. The "smoke eaters" were known as the Dr. C. W. O'Donnell Hose Company with O'Donnell as the 1st president, L. A. Burrows, secretary, incorporated under the name of the Citizens Hose Company of Andover.

This company furnished the first Chief Engineer, J. Harvey Backus, after the Hook and Ladder Co. was formed in the last months of 1909 or early 1910. The last records of the Citizen Hose Co. are dated December 28, 1914.

The Hook and Ladder Co. then furnished fire protection to the Village of Andover and continued under this name until it was re-incorporated in 1945, as the Andover Fire Department.

In 1917, it purchased a "Model T" Ford with American La France Soda and Acid Chemical Tanks, which was believed to be the first motorized equipment in Allegany County. In 1920, a La France 300 - gallon Pumper was added to its equipment.

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