



SACRAMENTO, CALIF.  
SECRET

1888  
HORSES NEEDED 'PULL' — In the early 1890s when this photo was taken in front of the No. 3 fire station on 2nd Street, sturdy horses pulled equipment and fire fighting crews through the city's streets. In charge of the hose and reel, left, was Frank C. Yager, who became a fireman in 1888, and was known as the best horse team driver with the Sacramento Fire Department. In 1913 Yager was appointed assistant fire chief. At the time of his death in 1918 he held the department's record for long time

service, 30 years, during which time he attended virtually every major fire in the Capital City and the then suburban Oak Park district. Others pictured with Yager are unidentified. The No. 3 station building now houses a restaurant. The photo was submitted by Mrs. Walter E. Butler of North Sacramento, the former Miriam Bock and a niece of Yager. The Bee welcomes early day photographs and will consider all submissions for publication.

# FIRE FIGHTER IN SERVICE FOR OVER 25 YEARS



FRANK C. YAGER

BY ESTHER ELTON-STANNERT.

For more than twenty-five years F. C. Yager has answered fire alarms in Sacramento. Everybody clears the way for his red automobile when it comes whizzing down the street. He has done more speeding in Sacramento "within the law" than any other person.

January 5, 1888, he went on duty as supply man. The first of April of the same year he was taken into the department as a regular and soon became known as the best driver in the department.

He first became fireman at the Tenth street firehouse and later was called to drive the engine of the Second street department. There he remained until 1898, at which time he was transferred to the Sixth street truck house. In June, 1913, when Fire Chief Anderson was injured, Mr. Yager took his place as assistant chief. In that capacity, as assistant, he has remained ever since.

In relating his interesting experience, Mr. Yager said:

## DROVE THROUGH MUD

"I started in as a driver of a one-horse hose cart. In those days the streets of Sacramento were not like they are now. J and K streets were all that were paved and they were rough with cobble stones. In the winter time I have known the wagons to go down into the mud clear up to the fire boxes. Now it is safe to say that a call can be answered to any part of the city from three to five minutes.

"Some of the largest fires that I have experienced were the Saint Nicholas Hotel when seven lives were lost, and Weinstock's store about twelve years ago. The lumber yards and Chinatown also were large conflagrations.

## NEVER WAS OVERCOME

"I have never been overcome with fire, although the nearest that I came to it was in the middle of one hot summer when a big fire occurred on Fourth and Fifth, L and M.

"For over twenty-five years I have answered the fire calls of the city. Now I attend every one in Sacramento and Oak Park.

"Perhaps others, even in my place could tell many more thrilling adventures, but it is my nature to forget those things. To me they come and they go, and a duty once performed has its place in the past."

## HE NEVER SHRINKS

Although F. C. Yager is modest as to his own achievements and in a quiet, refined way, would make you think that he had never seen danger or done anything worthy of mention, still it is said of him, by those who know, that he is the first to venture where others shrink from going.

Upon his sleeve he wears five stripes and a star. Each stripe indicates five years and the star is the twenty-five year mile post. He has the honor of being the longest in the fire service of Sacramento, and when one thinks of the many, many times that he has fought the flames and risked his life for the lives and property of others, the name Hero applied to him is not a misnomer.

# RESCUÉ CREDIT

Sacramento firemen are querulous because, in newspaper accounts, it was stated that policemen rescued women from apartments above the Standard Furniture store, which was the scene of a fire Wednesday morning.

"The truth of the matter is that Assistant Chief F. C. Yager, the oldest man in the fire department, was the real hero," said Charles Taber, a representative of the Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine company. "Yager carried all the women down the stairway and the policemen simply carried them to the