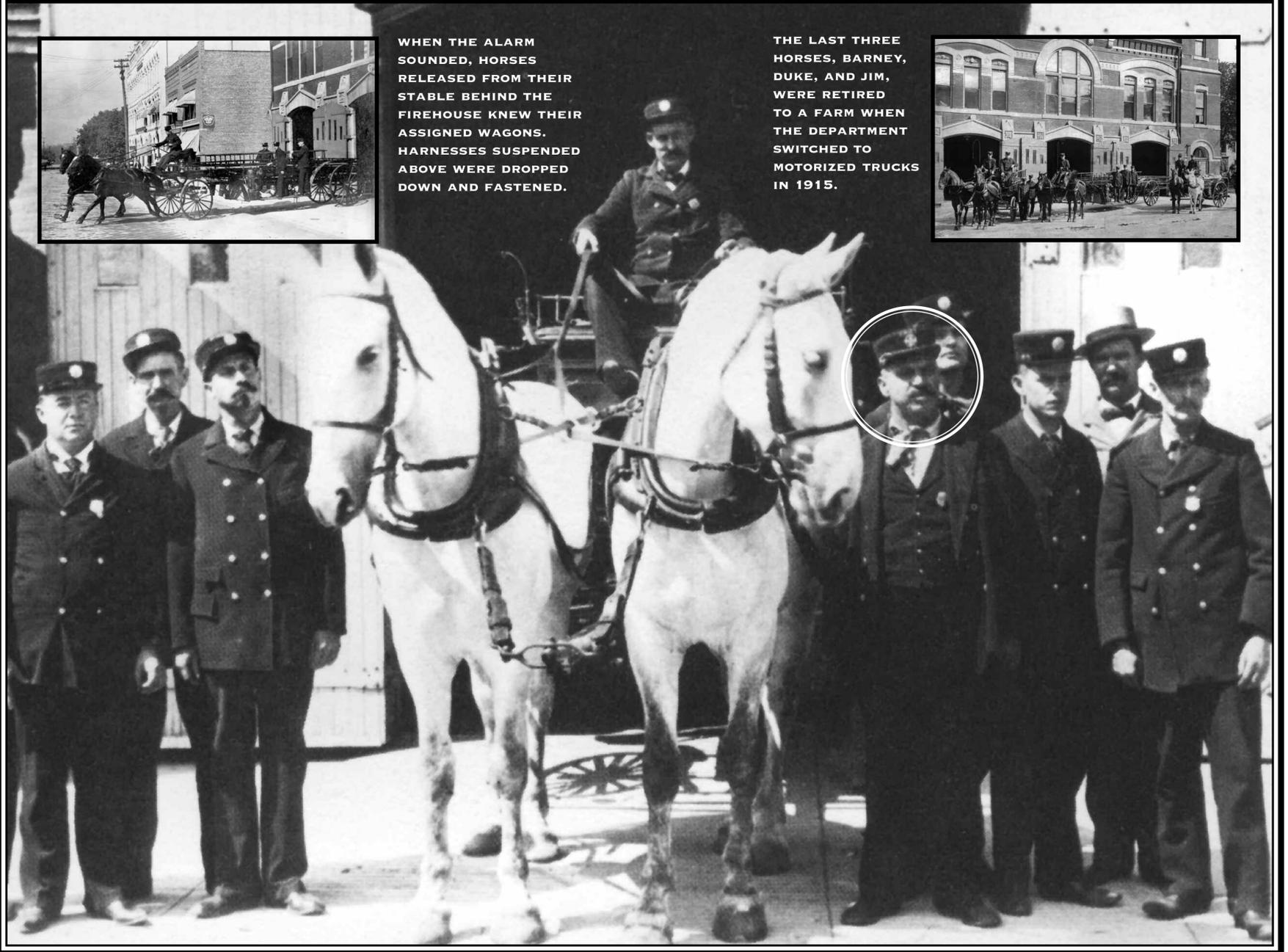


FIREFIGHTERS AT FIREMEN'S HALL, EAST HURON STREET, 1906



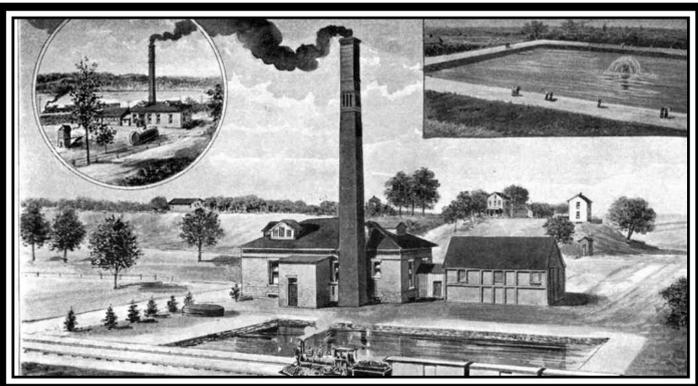
WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDED, HORSES RELEASED FROM THEIR STABLE BEHIND THE FIREHOUSE KNEW THEIR ASSIGNED WAGONS. HARNESSSES SUSPENDED ABOVE WERE DROPPED DOWN AND FASTENED.

THE LAST THREE HORSES, BARNEY, DUKE, AND JIM, WERE RETIRED TO A FARM WHEN THE DEPARTMENT SWITCHED TO MOTORIZED TRUCKS IN 1915.

ESSENTIAL CITY SERVICES

Fred Siple (circled) was the police marshal before he became the first full-time fire chief in 1889. His successor as chief, Charles Edwards, stands left of the horses in this 1906 photograph. Fires from oil lamps and wood-burning stoves were a constant worry in early Ann Arbor. At the cry of "Fire!" everyone came running with family water pails. By 1838 the village had two volunteer fire companies, two small engine houses, and a hand-operated fire pump.

More companies formed, with names like Eagle, Defiance, Mayflower, and Relief. Volunteers trained, cleaned equipment, and organized social activities at their engine houses. Fiercely proud of their uniforms and equipment, they delighted in parading through town. When Firemen's Hall was built in 1882, it had a large meeting room upstairs. With the gradual change to a full-time paid department, the room was converted to a dormitory.



THE CITY DUG WELLS AND LARGE CISTERNS AT MAIN INTERSECTIONS TO PROVIDE WATER FOR FIRE FIGHTING. BY 1886 THE DEMAND FOR A MORE DEPENDABLE SUPPLY WAS MET WITH 100 HYDRANTS INSTALLED BY THE NEW ANN ARBOR WATER COMPANY. FROM A STATION NORTHWEST OF TOWN (LEFT), WATER WAS PUMPED FROM THE NEARBY HURON RIVER UP TO THE SUNSET ROAD RESERVOIR. PIPES CARRIED WATER FROM THERE DOWN INTO TOWN. IN 1914 THE CITY PURCHASED THE COMPANY.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF DEFIANCE HOOK & LADDER COMPANY NO.1 (RIGHT) POSED IN THEIR PARADE UNIFORMS IN 1877.



SPONSORED BY THOMAS AND ELEANOR MOORE IN HONOR OF THEIR DAUGHTER MELINDA MOORE KERR, ANN ARBOR'S FIRST WOMAN FIREFIGHTER

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