

**Tucson Fire Department**  
**2019 TFD and Surrounding Area Trivia**



## Trivia Question

### **(1) Contrary to popular opinion who was the first chief of TFD?**

**Chief Samuel Baird, 1881-1882**

**NOTE— Chief Jack Boleyn was in the first group of volunteers in 1881, and was foreman of the Tucson Hook & Ladder Company. The department disbanded in 1883 and the new Tucson Volunteer Fire Department was formed with Chief D. J. “Jack” Boleyn in 1883. Many historian felt the start of the department was at this time, but in reality it started in 1881 and there were 2 chiefs before Boleyn. And 4 after were unknown until 2013.**

**Chief Thomas A Hallahan, 1882-1883,**

**Chief Harry Gutsch, 1884-1885,**

**Chief Jack J. Blinkhorn, 1886,**

**Chief John Hart, 1886-1887,**

**Chief William Reid 1887-1888.**

**That is 5 new chief’s plus the first one making it 6 chiefs that were unknown.**

### **(2) In the mid 1880’s what private agency in Tucson had a fire department that helped TVFD at many fires?**

**Southern Pacific. As a matter of fact, for many years they became part of the TVFD and responded when they could. L. V. Russell served as Chief of the Southern Pacific Fire Department and was also a member of TVFD. An article in the November 7, 1958 Arizona Daily Star headline said, “S.P. Railroad Fire Brigade Disbanded.” A few of the larger fires they assisted were Southwestern Wholesale Co. in 1946, Tank truck is struck by Train fire in 1940, Arizona Flower Mill in 1937, Southern Pacific shops in 1910, San Xavier hotel in 1903, and Radulovich building in 1898.**

### **(3) How many horses served with the TVFD & TFD?**

**12**

**(4) What firefighter in January 1934, recognized Russell Clark of the Dillinger Gang at the Congress Hotel fire helping to lead to their arrest and also became famous after his TFD service?**

**William L. Benedict (1927 to 1936)**

**A few years after leaving TFD he became Chief of the Hickman Field Army Air Force base on the fringe of Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941, he headed to the fire station from home and found it was in ruins, with one fire truck burning but the other OK. “We hid the fire truck and I went to the hospital to check it out then drove to Hanger 7, where I was shot five times during two Jap strafing's, was wounded by shrapnel from Jap bombs while I was 60 feet away while unconscious and twice was reported as dead.” He was taken to the base hospital, got treatment that saved his life. He felt a little funny when the Honolulu Advertiser came out and reported I was dead. Following all this he made assistant fire marshal for the entire Hawaiian department and later was promoted to marshal of air force bases in the islands. It was during this period that he toured the Pacific organizing fire fighting schools as American forces advanced westward. He returned to Tucson in 1946 and was appointed court bailiff. Then in 1948 he becomes Chief of Tucson Municipal Airport fire department.**

**(5) In 1951 the Oil Information Commission donated which apparatus to TFD?**

**The first Rescue Unit was delivered and was donated by the Oil Information Commission and the Tucson Auto Racing Association.**

**“Some 7,000 persons are expected to flock to the Rodeo Grounds to witness the presentation of a rescue truck to the TFD.**

**(6) Can anyone name any of the 7 civilians (6 men 1 woman) who have been awarded an honorary membership and badge by TFD.**

**HINT— Miss Anna Charouleau received hers in April 1952 for her philanthropy to the Department.**

**The other people holding honorary badges include**

**Monte Mansfield,**

**Jack Mulcahy,**

**Andrew Martin,**

**Frank O’Rielly,**

**Ralph Bilby,**

**Forrest Priser,**

**Joe McAllister.**

**“She has helped us in a variety of ways anytime she has had the opportunity.”**

**(7) What was the name of the woman’s auxiliary to local 479 that started in 1960?**

**Sparkettes**

**(8) In the 1960s and 70s who became TFD’s only resident fire dog and at what TFD Station?**

**Duke, Station 6.**

**(9) In 1969 who became the African American to join the TFD?**

**Jimmy R. Davis, who also became the first black Battalion Chief and is believed to be the first Battalion Officer in the state.**

**(10) What iconic Tucson business burned on 4 separate occasions between 1960 and 1980? HINT? Only the sign remains today.**

**Grant Road Lumber Yard, June 4, 1960, May 14, 1968, December 18, 1972, August 25, 1980.**

**(11) In June of 1981 with the station lawnmower broke, Chief Dean Holland complaining about the high grass, what did Station 6 do to solve the high grass problem?**

**Firefighter Mike Rhyner hitched a GOAT to the flagpole for grass cutting duty. Chief Holland put a halt to that.**

**(12) In 1983 TFD lost who in a Ultralight Crash, and in 1969 TFD lost 2 members who died in a plane crash in the Chiricahua's?**

**Captain Dave Davis, 40 a 13 year veteran,  
Capt. Harlow Hollinger,  
Firefighter Wendell J. Wells.**

**(13) In 1993 what did Art Apodaca from TFD start ????? as a way to make money for charity.**

**Art Apodaca, Tucson Fire Fighters 1993 Calendar.**

**(14) Who was the first female 1) firefighter, 2) Captain, 3) Chief officer, 4) Deputy Chief, 5) Assistant Chief?**

**Deanne Lewis first female firefighter & fire inspector.**

**Carol Pranka first female Captain**

**Sharon McDonough first female Chief Officer, Battalion Chief.**

**Laura Baker first female Deputy Chief and first Assistant Chief.**

**(15) In 2005 what organization was established by retired TFD firefighters to serve all firefighters across the state?**

**Last Alarm Foundation**

**(16) A 2007 Daily Star 14 active TFD members of which extended family (ies)?**

**Elam Family**

**(17) What 4 members of TFD became Chief Officers of what neighboring Fire Department?**

**Mike Brandt,**

**Al Pesqueira,**

**Jim Grasham,**

**and Rick Evans,**

**All became Chief Officers of Northwest Fire.**

**(18) Who were the top 9 longest serving TFD members?**

**1 - Harold Mikola (AC) - 41 years - 6/1/1923 to 4/22/1965**

**2 - John Freeman (FC) - 40 years - 1/5/1924 to 4/21/1966 (includes break in service for WWII)**

**3 - Alex McNeil (AC) - 40 years - 6/5/1901 to 5/5/1942 (may have worked before 1901)**

**4 - Herbie Russell (BC) - 39 years - 6/1//1948 to 8/31/1989 (includes break in service for WWII)**

**5 - Orville Shook (Captain) - 39 years - 6/1/1923 to 6/20/1962**

**6 - Jim Russell (DC) - 38 years - 4/4/1960 to 7/31/1998**

**7 - Dave Ridings (AC) - 37 years - 8/29/1977 to 12/30/2014**

**8 - Mark Holmes (Captain) - 37 years - 8/29/1977 to 9/30/2014**

**9 - Dave Dorame (Engineer) - 37 years - 5/20/1974 to 5/31/2011**

**(19) What TFD members became Chief's of other departments?**

**William L. Benedict Chief of the Hickman Field Army Air Force and Tucson Municipal Airport.**

**Michael J. Brandt, Chief of Northwest Fire Department.**

**Leslie P. "Les" Caid Chief of Rio Rico.**

**Chief Jim Critchley, Acting Chief of Pendleton, Oregon.**

**Brian Delfs, Chief of Avra Fire District.**

**Anthony Gonzales, Chief of Nogales Fire Department.**

**Chief E., Dean Holland, Chief of Saginaw Fire Department.**

**Kevin Keeley, Chief of Tubac.**

**Chief Patrick T. Kelly Chief Cherry Hill Fire Department.**

**Randy Ogden, Chief of Mt. Lemmon Fire Department.**

**Asst. Chief Keith B. Richter, Chief of Contra Costa Fire District and Orange County Fire Authority.**

**Joe A. Roberts, became Chief of the Marana Army Air Filed department.**

**Battalion Chief John Ross, Chief of the City of Payson Fire Department, AZ.**

**Deputy Fire Chief Dennis AH. Van Auken, Chief of the Nogales Fire Department.**

# Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

## Thank you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Retired Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star*, The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

