

# Hygiene firefighters celebrate 50 years

By Kari Keller  
Longmont Times-Call

**HYGIENE** — In 1960, brothers Orville and Rodney Sadar watched their friend's house burn to the ground.

At the time, the Longmont Rural Fire Department served Hygiene and charged \$50 to fight a fire outside of Longmont city limits.

Because of the distance required to travel from the station to Hygiene, it took a considerable amount of time for firefighters to arrive on scene. And when they did arrive, the fire trucks came with a faulty water pump.

"So a bunch of us friends got together and started the Hygiene Volunteer Fire Department," said Orville Sadar, 81.

On Saturday, the Hygiene Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The celebration, which is open to the public, will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the soccer field at Hygiene Elementary School. There will be fun activities and fire safety education for the whole family.

Sitting on a picnic table in the two-room fire station — the same building where the station was founded — charter members Rod-



**What:** Hygiene Volunteer Fire Department's 50th anniversary  
**Where:** Hygiene Elementary School soccer field  
**When:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday July 17  
**What:** Live fire demonstrations, educational presentations of fire-prevention and family safety techniques, kids' jumping castle, bucket brigade, free pizza and sodas from Abo's Pizza, and grilled brats  
**More information:** www.hygienefire.org or 303-776-2950

Left: Members of the Hygiene Fire Department on October 20, 1971.

Times-Call file

## JOIN THE CELEBRATION

ney and Orville recalled their early days as volunteer firefighters.

"When the department first started, we used a Jeep and a 6-by-6 Army surplus vehicle from the Forest Service as firetrucks," said Rodney, 76. "I remember spending quite a bit of time putting together pumps and old trucks."

To fund the building and buy equipment, the firefighters' wives sold homemade food at local farm sales. They responded to every call and made sure the volunteers returned from each fire to fresh coffee and cookies.

"They worked just as hard as any of us," Orville said. "They ought to

give a lot of credit to the Hygiene fire maids."

In the early 1960s, Hygiene positioned a World War II air raid siren in the middle of town. It served as a warning system to alert firefighters to a fire. The town uses the same system today. When the siren sounds, it can be heard as far as 20 miles away.

At first notice of a fire, the siren wails and the Hygiene firefighters are paged.

Before the siren was installed, firefighters relied on phone calls. Most members of the department were farmers and would bring a radio outside with them to listen to lo-

cal news while they worked.

"The goal among firefighters was to see who could be the first to get to the truck," Rodney said.

According to Fire Chief Bill Nelson, there was only one fire hydrant in downtown Hygiene in 1960. Today, there are 105 hydrants within the 48 square miles the department covers.

While volunteer firefighters now undergo 180 hours of training a year, Nelson and the Sadar brothers agree that not much else has changed at the Hygiene Volunteer Fire Department since 1960 — especially when it comes to the firefighters' dedication to protecting their community.

## T-C LINE

### Planes vs. music?

I would switch the loud planes up above where we live with the loud music coming from everybody's homes and cars. The planes aren't really that bad. The music is getting to the point where nobody can stand it any more.

### Too many bikes

I was calling in response to the "Too many bikes" in the Wednesday issue. I was calling to say that there is never too many bikes. That's why Colorado is one of the ... healthiest states in the country because of all the bicycling. And the beautiful valleys — a lot of people want to see Colorado. There is never too many bikes, and I request that person that complained about too many bikes get out on one of those bikes and see what God has blessed us with in the state of Colorado.

To the individual who visualizes that there's too many bicycles in Longmont, I don't see how you can have too many bicycles in Longmont. They don't make as much noise as parachute planes or trains — or how about a swarm of Harley-Davidsons? There, now you've got cheese and crackers to go with your whine.

### Post office lines

Wednesday at 4 p.m., there was one clerk working the window at the Longmont Post Office on Coffman Street. There are 25 people in line, and it's going to take any one of them a good half-hour to mail or retrieve their mail. When is the post office going to address this issue?

For the person complaining about the post office line, why don't you go to Hygiene? It takes somewhat longer to drive there. They have a nice parking lot. There's never a line. It's well worth the trip.

I've never stood in line 40 minutes at the post office substation. Why don't you consider that?

### Dogs from Mexico

With thousands of dogs being euthanized daily in the United States, it is utter insanity that garbage dump dogs are being transported from Mexico to the Longmont Humane Society. The money that was spent transporting these dogs could have been put to much better use. And it's about time we let Mexico solve Mexico's problems.

I have concerns over undocumented canines brought to Longmont. Will they work for Kibbles and smaller bits? Will they lead the blind, sniff for drugs, sit and roll over, displacing native pooches? This hounds me.

### Move forward

There's value in both liberal and conservative ideas. There's no value in condemning people because they have a different view than you do. Let's look for the best from both camps and move forward for our children, not for our egos.

### No taxes?

Colorado Springs is a perfect example of governments small enough to drown in a bathtub. The problem is the citizens are going down the drain with it. If you still demand that there be no taxes, I invite you to move to your ideal city and leave the rest of us with the services we enjoy.

### Econ 101

Here's Econ 101. If businesses don't begin hiring, who's going to buy their stuff? Entrepreneurs are supposedly risk takers. Actions speak louder than definitions. Hey, if you want a job, move to Canada. They're hiring.

### 720-494-5485

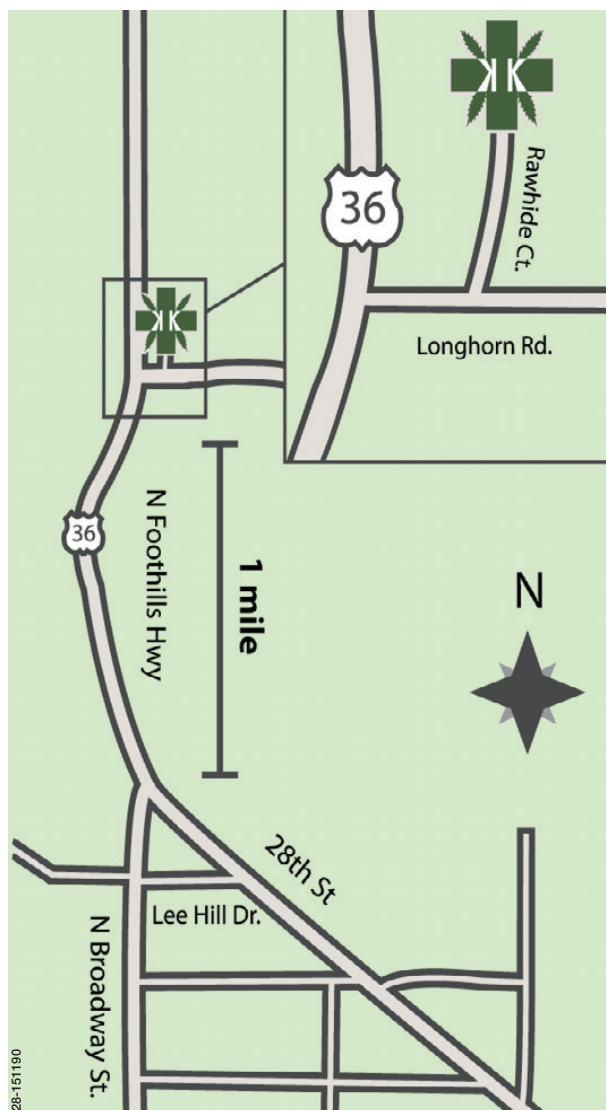
Sound off, but please remember:

- Don't reference locally written opinions.
- Don't reference criminal or civil court cases.
- Don't attack private citizens.
- Don't reference candidates for office.
- Keep it brief.
- Calls may be shortened.
- We don't publish all calls.

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