



Photo Courtesy of RRFD

The way it was

Members of the Round Rock Hook and Ladder Co. pose with their equipment in 1907. The first 100 years of the Round Rock Volunteer Fire Department (1884-

1984) were commemorated last week with the dedication of a historical marker at the Central Fire Station. A photo of the marker is on Page 12A.

Century of service recognized as fire station marker unveiled

By **WILEY GILMORE**
Leader Staff

Curtis Tunnell, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission, was the featured speaker Sunday at the dedication of a historical marker commemorating the centennial of the Round Rock Volunteer Fire Department.

The dedication of the marker, which recognizes the first 100 years of the department (1884-1984), was an official Round Rock event of the Texas Sesquicentennial.

Robert Griffith, the volunteers' chaplain emeritus, was master of ceremonies for the dedication, held in front of the Central Fire Station on Commerce Boulevard.

Mayor Mike Robinson welcomed guests at the ceremony, including Williamson County Judge Don Wilson, Precinct 4

Commissioner Jerry Mehevec, past fire chiefs, retired firefighters and members of the First Ladies Pumper Team.

Additional remarks were made by Lerlene Womble Ward, ~~chief woman~~ ^{MEMBER} of the Williamson County Historical Commission and author of a history of the Round Rock Volunteer Fire Department.

Tunnell reflected on his youth in Turkey, Texas, and his memories of the town's fire department, to which his father belonged.

According to Ward's history, Round Rock's first firefighting organization was the Hose and Hand Pump Company, formed in 1884. Its original equipment, a manually operated pumper, is now maintained as a historical relic at the Central Fire Station along with a 1939-vintage engine. The latest inven-

tory of primary firefighting equipment includes four engines, one ladder unit and several other supporting vehicles at the two Round Rock stations, plus modern equipment possessed by the Jollyville and Sam Bass Volunteer Fire Departments.

Former locations of the fire department include one near the current downtown water tower; the site of the current city offices at 214 E. Main St.; and the 300 block of South Blair Street (now Station No. 2).

The Round Rock Fire Department employed its first paid firefighter in 1978 when Bruce Watson joined the force. Watson is now a lieutenant in charge of C-shift at the Central Station. The Round Rock department currently numbers 26 paid and approximately 35 volunteer firefighters.

June 19, 1986

Round Rock Leader
June 19, 1986