

Herman G. Bogenschutz



Herman G. Bogenschutz was born on January 22, 1907. He was the youngest of 11 children. His father Lawrence C. Bogenschutz served as police and fire commissioner in Covington from 1889 through 1906. Herman like his father was destined to public service.

On June 15, 1942 “Bogey,” as he was affectionately called by family and friends, was hired as a firefighter by the Covington Fire Department. For twenty six years of his career with the Covington Fire Department Bogey worked at Company One on Sixth Street. In 1947 he was promoted to Lieutenant and made Captain in 1953. Bogenschutz was promoted to Assistant Chief on August 1, 1963. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1975.

Herman Bogenschutz was married on November 11, 1931 and he and his wife Mildred were happily married for 45 years until his death on December 22, 1976. They had one daughter Stella and two grandchildren Lisa and Steve. Bogey was a devoted family man but he had two families, his personal family and his firefighting family. Sometimes the two families merged. Often times Chief Bogenschutz could be found at the Covington Fire Station with his grandchildren showing them the big red fire trucks and on special occasions allowing them to slide down the fire pole.

Herman Bogenschutz was extremely active in the fire service, both locally and throughout the state. He spent fifteen years as secretary of the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association and also served as president of that association in 1960. He served as secretary of the Kentucky Firefighters Association from 1948 to 1963. In 1955 Bogey

served as both Secretary and Treasurer of the KFA, a very rare feat indeed. In 1964 he served as Co-Chair to the convention of Warner Cox. At that conference he was elected Fifth Vice President of the KFA and served five years in the progression of vice presidents, culminating in his election in 1969 to the position of President of the Kentucky Firefighters Association. Bogey also served on many committees in the KFA including the Legislative Committee and even after his retirement in 1975 he continued his service to the KFA on the Advisory Committee.

Bogey spent 20 years as an instructor at the Kentucky State Fire School. In 1950 Bogenschutz was one of three fire experts to lobby in Frankfort in support of a fireworks control bill. He served on the Governor's Safety commission, was a member of the city of Covington fire and police examining board and was a charter member of the Northern Kentucky Chapter of Kentucky Colonels.

Bogey was active in the Boosters organizations of two high schools in Covington, served on the Board of Directors for the Holy Cross Federal Credit Union and taught first aid for the American Red Cross. Bogey would do almost anything to help others. In fact in 1934 he played the role of the "Old Maid Aunt" in an all male play sponsored by the Ludlow Volunteer Fire Department titled "Womanless Wedding."

Tonight we will posthumously induct Herman G. Bogenschutz into the Kentucky Firefighters Association Hall of Fame. He becomes the first member of the Covington Fire Department to be selected to the Hall of Fame. Presenting the Hall of Fame Awards to the family of Herman G. Bogenschutz are KFA President Sam Stacy and former KFA Treasurer Terry Keller.