



Citizens of Mayhill organized, donated time and materials to build their own fire station.

fires if Mayhill had been dependent on Alamogordo for equipment.

Plaques and awards line the fire house walls, testifying to the accomplishments of the new department. These awards include one from the Zia Girl Scout Camp for the department's action in saving the Girl Scout Infirmary, an award for the department's excellent assistance in the Muscular Dystrophy fund drive in the mountain area, and one from a lady in Artesia, who became seriously ill from carbon monoxide poisoning when passing through the area. The department revived the lady.

The Mayhill Fire District extends to the Otero County line on the east, Cox Canyon School

FIRE FIGHTING . . . ✓

mountain style

In 1955, the citizens of Mayhill and the surrounding area had to go 45 miles for fire fighting equipment! They were dependent upon Alamogordo for protection from fires and began to realize that they needed their own fire department.

The local Farm Bureau chapter made plans for a local fire fighting unit and was assisted by Representative John Mershon, who was at that time a citizen of Mayhill. In the months that followed, nearly every citizen of the area volunteered labor, contributed materials, or both, to build Mayhill's first fire house. Finally, on October 23, 1956, the paper work had been cleared away, and the citizens

could properly organize the Mayhill Volunteer Fire Department. It was composed of 20 volunteer fire fighters, one secretary, one fire chief, and Len Vreeke of the Mayhill Mercantile Company, chief organizer for the group, who was later named fire chief.

The department is housed in a new concrete block building and has the very latest in fire fighting equipment. The group has complete equipment for rescue work throughout the mountain area, including a modern resuscitator. The new department has controlled house fires and been instrumental in suppressing brush fires that could have developed into major forest

House to the south, and Wimsatt Store to the west. Volunteer fire fighters are Chief Vreeke, curly Derrick, Assistant Chief; A. E. Bain, Doyle Scott, Lee Brantley, Billy Wayne Harrell, Homer H. Hughes, Jr., Buddy Milton, John L. Parker, L. J. Adkinson, Elzy Campbell, Everett A. Hadley, L. Oris Frizzell, Lee Payne, Clay B. Thomason, Lincoln Cox, Don Bilbrey, Jim Mahill, Jack Gibson, J. R. Sanford, and Bill Stanbrough. Most of the men have attended fire fighting schools and are well acquainted with modern fire fighting techniques. Mrs. W. C. Coleman is the group's secretary. — Walter Wade, Otero County Extension Agent, NMSU.