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# **Finding Aid for the Robert Veit Fire Department photographs Collection 134**

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Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections  
Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator:</b>	Veit, Robert
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Veit Fire Department photographs
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 134
<b>ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:</b>	142
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1927-1983
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.33 Linear Feet Eight boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Robert Veit (1920-1987) served the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Fire Department for forty years, beginning in 1944. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1948, Captain in 1949, District Chief in 1952, Deputy Chief in 1961 and Chief in 1967. He retired in 1984. This collection consists of photographs, 1927-1983, depicting fires and other disasters (such as tornadoes), which required the aid of the Grand Rapids Fire Department. Also included are images of fire department equipment, personnel and buildings and numerous Grand Rapids street scenes. The collection also contains business cards from Chief Veit and certificates for Lieutenant Verbrugge. Additional unprocessed material associated with Veit await future processing.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Robert Veit (1920-1987) served with the Grand Rapids Fire Department for 40 years. He joined the department in 1944 following military service. He began working in the department's blacksmith shop turning brass couplings for hoses. He became a Lieutenant in 1948; Captain in 1949; District Chief in 1952; Deputy Chief in 1961. Veit was promoted to Chief in 1967 upon the retirement of former Chief Meyers. Veit retired in 1984.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection currently contains only the photographs associated with Robert J. Veit and the Grand Rapids Fire Department.

Unprocessed accession 1989.024 contains other items of interest concerning Grand Rapids fire fighting, including a history, department yearbooks and reports, department training literature, department rules, fire safety booklets from several national organizations, city ordinances, conference programs, city charters, some trade literature, and general miscellaneous items.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Dee Veit. Accession numbers 1989.024 (part still unprocessed); 1990.037; 1994.011

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Information on fires can be found in many of the archival collections. Two general photograph collections to routinely check are:

Coll. 054, GRPL Photographs Collection. Coll. 125, Robinson Studio Collection.

See also Coll. 273, Father Dennis Morrow History of Grand Rapids Collection. Father Morrow serves as Chaplain for the Grand Rapids Police & Fire Departments; his father worked for the local fire department for many years. Morrow's own collection includes information on his own role associated with fires, and also images. Father Morrow did the initial processing and additional identifications for this Veit Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Fires -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Fire departments -- Photographs
- photographs
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.). Fire Department

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I. Photographs

#### Scope and Contents

This is the primary series processed to date for this collection. Included are images of Grand Rapids, Michigan area fires, firemen, fire equipment and fire stations. A separate subseries follows on the main series for the fire station houses.

Title/Description	Instances	
Robert J. Veit	Box 1	folder 1
Unknown Fire	Box 1	folder 1

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New equipment, 1927	Box 1	folder 2
Hazelton fire, 1938	Box 1	folder 2
McInerny fire, 1939	Box 1	folder 2
Engine, 1940s	Box 1	folder 2
Berkey and Gay fire, Nov 23-24, 1943	Box 1	folder 2
Grand River and others, 1930s and 1940s	Box 1	folder 4
McInerny fire, Oct 30, 1939	Box 1	folder 4
Night Alarm, 1940s	Box 1	folder 4
Unknown practice fire, 1950s	Box 1	folder 4
GR Lumber fire, Jul 4, 1946	Box 1	folder 5
Cody Hotel fire, Nov 23, 1946	Box 1	folder 5
Ritzema's fire, Dec 18, 1948	Box 1	folder 5
Demonstration, Oct 11, 1950	Box 1	folder 5
Lansing fire, Feb 8, 1951	Box 1	folder 5
Multiple Alarm fire, Mar 12, 1951	Box 1	folder 6
2018 Division fire, May 14, 1953	Box 1	folder 6
1514 Wealthy fire, Jun 24, 1954	Box 1	folder 6
Scotty's Bar fire, Feb 13, 1957	Box 1	folder 7
VFW Hall, Apr 12, 1959	Box 1	folder 7
No. 1 Engine House, Jan, 1960	Box 1	folder 7
Excelsior fire, May 30, 1961	Box 1	folder 8
No.1 Fire Station	Box 1	folder 9
Purchase Electric fire, Aug 10, 1962	Box 1	folder 9
Meijer fire, Sep 7, 1962	Box 1	folder 9
Madison and Hall fire, Oct 16, 1962	Box 1	folder 9
Unknown Practice fire, 1960s	Box 1	folder 10
Replacing floor at No. 1, Nov 1962	Box 1	folder 11
Renovation of No. 12 Engine House, 1963	Box 1	folder 11
Wilburn Co., April, 1963	Box 1	folder 11
Krampe Platting and Bursma Radio fires, Mar 15 1963	Box 1	folder 12
Art Theatre fire, Jun 13, 1963	Box 1	folder 12
Kent Country Club fire, Jun 17, 1963	Box 1	folder 12

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Campau Sq. Building fire, Jan 6, 1964	Box 1	folder 12
Stedman fire, Mar 5, 1964	Box 1	folder 13
Division and Pleasant fire, Apr 3, 1964	Box 1	folder 13
649 Fountain fire, Apr 3, 1964	Box 1	folder 14
Rose Mfg. Corp., May 29, 1964	Box 1	folder 14
Fruehauf Trailer Co., Sept 14, 1964	Box 1	folder 14
Practice at Drill Field, 1960s	Box 1	folder 15
Chiefs Veit and Shears, 1960s	Box 1	folder 15
Aerial Practice, 1960s	Box 1	folder 15
F.D. display, 1960s	Box 1	folder 15
Aerial Practice, 1960s	Box 1	folder 16
Squad 1 Equipment compartments, 1960s	Box 1	folder 16
Engine 7 on SE side, 1960s	Box 1	folder 16
Training fire, 1960s	Box 1	folder 16
Apparatus room at No.1, 1960s	Box 1	folder 16
Training ground, Oct 9, 1964	Box 1	folder 17
Barn fire, 1136 28th SE, Nov 2, 1964	Box 1	folder 17
1129 Fountain NE, Dec 16, 1964	Box 1	folder 17
934 Grandville, Dec 28, 1964	Box 1	folder 17
1222-24 Division, Jan 28, 1965	Box 1	folder 17
Practice fires, 1960s	Box 2	folder 1
Training at Bond and Crescent NW, 1965 or 1966	Box 2	folder 1
Food Mill fire, May 16, 1965	Box 2	folder 2
Grand Rapids Lumber Co., Jul 16, 1966	Box 2	folder 2
Gas tanker explosion, Mar 7, 1967	Box 2	folder 2
Tornado, Apr 21, 1961	Box 2	folder 2
Kent Printing, Jun 17, 1967	Box 2	folder 3
Chief Meyer's retirement, Aug 1, 1967	Box 2	folder 3
Incendiary fire, Sep 16, 1967	Box 2	folder 3
Dedication of truck at City Hall, Oct 9, 1967	Box 2	folder 3
641 Grandville, Nov 21, 1967	Box 2	folder 3
Squad 1 at Drill Tower, 1968	Box 2	folder 4

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Old Engine 2, 1968	Box 2	folder 4
1350 Jefferson, Feb 10, 1968	Box 2	folder 5
Plaster Mine, Jun 12, 1968	Box 2	folder 5
Capri Theater, Jun 24, 1968	Box 2	folder 5
2715 Leonard, July 12, 1968	Box 2	folder 6
533 Jefferson, Aug 3, 1968	Box 2	folder 6
Standard Lumber Co., Sep 1, 1968	Box 2	folder 6
Sulfuric acid spill, Sep 10, 1968	Box 2	folder 6
International pickup, 1969	Box 2	folder 6
Oxygen Trailer, 1960s	Box 2	folder 7
Old Squad 1 at No.1 Engine House, 1960s	Box 2	folder 7
Chevrolet Pumper, 1960s	Box 2	folder 7
Unknown incident, 1960s	Box 2	folder 7
Southbound US-131, Mar 15, 1969	Box 2	folder 8
433 Thomas, Jul 19, 1969	Box 2	folder 8
R.C. Allen Building, May 6, 1971	Box 2	folder 8
1000 Block Ionia NW, 1970	Box 2	folder 9
Kansas City aerial tower, 1970s	Box 2	folder 9
Truck 1 at unknown fire, 1970s	Box 2	folder 9
Truck 10 with cracked frame, 1971-1972	Box 2	folder 10
Opticom Unit on Engine 1, 1972	Box 2	folder 11
Opticom Unit on Squad 1, 1972	Box 2	folder 11
G&T Products, May 8, 1971	Box 2	folder 12
Park Place Apartments, May 15, 1970	Box 2	folder 12
Fulton Heights Grocery Store, Mar 18, 1973	Box 2	folder 12
47-49 Grant, Dec 8, 1973	Box 2	folder 12
321-23 La Grave, Jan 3, 1974	Box 2	folder 13
Gas explosion, May 13, 1974	Box 2	folder 13
SW Body shop, May 29, 1974	Box 2	folder 13
1953 Monroe, Aug 27, 1974	Box 2	folder 13
Squirt 1 at No.1 Engine House, 1974	Box 2	folder 14
2984 Bradford NE, June 23, 1974	Box 2	folder 14



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Unknown fire, Oct, 1974	Box 2	folder 14
Drill tower, 1970s	Box 2	folder 14
No. 3 Engine House, 1975	Box 2	folder 15
Occidental Hotel, April, 1975	Box 2	folder 15
Train Wreck, May, 1976	Box 2	folder 16
Classic Ahrens Fox Pumper, Sept, 1976	Box 2	folder 16
Train Derailent, Sept 2, 1976	Box 2	folder 16
Baxter Laundry, Nov 9, 1975	Box 2	folder 17
130 Prospect, Jan 23, 1977	Box 2	folder 17
1976 Corp. Fire, Jul 18, 1977	Box 3	folder 1
57 Logan, Jul 24, 1977	Box 3	folder 1
Rollover on Ford Freeway (I-196), Sept 14, 1977	Box 3	folder 2
Eberhard Store, Mar 2, 1978	Box 3	folder 2
New Engine 13 at City Hall, March 21, 1978	Box 3	folder 2
Leonard and Monroe, Nov 13, 1978	Box 3	folder 2
Eerdman's, Apr 2, 1979	Box 3	folder 3
Building under demolition, Apr 3, 1979	Box 3	folder 3
822 1/2 Nagold, Oct 17, 1979	Box 3	folder 3
Franklin St station, Dec 14, 1979	Box 3	folder 3
518 Sheldon Ave., Nov 5, 1979	Box 3	folder 4
Accident, Jan 14, 1980	Box 3	folder 4
904 Lafayette, Jun 19, 1980	Box 3	folder 4
Monument Sq. Building, Aug 24, 1980	Box 3	folder 4
Wm. Alden Smith Building., Dec 4, 1980	Box 3	folder 5
Engine 1, 1980	Box 3	folder 5
Joe Crump, 1980	Box 3	folder 5
Drill field, 1980	Box 3	folder 5
254 Spencer, Dec 19, 1980	Box 3	folder 6
1415 Dunham, Feb, 1981	Box 3	folder 6
I-96 at Fuller, Feb 18, 1981	Box 3	folder 6
Station at Plymouth and Leonard, May 17, 1981	Box 3	folder 6
No. 1 Engine House, 1981	Box 3	folder 6

Standard Lumber Co., Jul 8, 1981	Box 3	folder 7
223-25 James, Jul 19, 1981	Box 3	folder 7
Truck 3 and Squad 1, Sept, 1981	Box 3	folder 7
School House fire, Nov 11, 1981	Box 3	folder 8
Grand Trunk train derailment, Feb, 1982	Box 3	folder 8
415 Fourth, Mar 16, 1982	Box 3	folder 8
F.D. Honors Guard, Aug, 1982	Box 3	folder 8
Balloon launch, Aug, 1982	Box 3	folder 9
Ballooning, Sept, 1982	Box 3	folder 9
Truck 3 and Truck 4, Oct, 1982	Box 3	folder 9
New Monroe Ave Station, 1983	Box 3	folder 10
Engine 10, May 4, 1983	Box 3	folder 10
1016 Sibley NW, June 27, 1983	Box 3	folder 10
Adams House fire, Mar 26, 1983	Box 3	folder 11
725 Lafayette, May 30, 1983	Box 3	folder 11
Engine #9 lost a wheel on Lake Michigan Dr., Jun 24, 1983	Box 3	folder 11
Warehouse fire, Jun 26, 1983	Box 3	folder 11

## Station Houses

Title/Description	Instances	
GRFD Station no. 1, 38 LaGrave Ave. SE	Box 4	folder 1-2
GRFD Station no. 1, Administration, Dispatch, Inspection	Box 4	folder 3
GRFD Station no. 2, 332 Barclay Ave. NE	Box 4	folder 4
GRFD Station no. 3, 523 Front Ave., NW and 500 Bridge St, NW	Box 4	folder 5
GRFD Station no. 4, 125 Crescent ST NW and 1945 Kalamazoo Ave. SE	Box 4	folder 6
GRFD Station no. 5, 1181 Monroe NW	Box 4	folder 7
GRFD Station no. 6, 312 Grandville Ave. SW	Box 4	folder 8
GRFD Station no. 7, 816 Madison Ave., SE, Franklin St. Station, 115 Franklin St., SW	Box 5	folder 1
GRFD Station no. 8, 40 Lexington Ave., NW	Box 5	folder 2

## Scope and Contents

1. "#4" #8 Hose Wagon, Lexington & Veto. "2952" 4.5 x 6.5 Same image as 134-5-2-1

2. Engine no. 8, year unknown, ca. 1920's 7.5 x 9.5 Same image as 134-5-2-2

3. "#7". Eng 8, Year unknown, Lexington & Veto 4.5 x 6.5 Same image as 134-5-2-4.

4. Ralph Long, no. 8 steamer, Lexington & Veto, year unknown. 7.5 x 9.5 Same image as 134-5-2-3

5. No. 8 Station, Lexington & Veto. Morrow note: Motorized no 8 steamer, Truck 8—couple gear electric service truck. No. 8 Hose Wagon, Early 1902s.

6. Morrow note: 1926 American LaFrance Service Truck. Truck 7, ca. 1926-1938 at Training Center, 1101 Monroe N.W., ca. 1976.

7. Morrow note: Engine House no. 8, Kitchen, 40 lexington N.W., ca. 1950. Clockwise, L to R: Capt. Edward Ball, Macklin Gregory, Robert Woltjer, Joseph Stoddard, Chester Palasek, E.O. Joseph Shamony

GRFD Station no. 9, 527 Leonard St. NW	Box 5	folder 3
GRFD Station no. 10, 100 Hall St., SW, and 1734 Division Ave. S	Box 5	folder 4
GRFD Station no. 11, 1002 Chester St. SE	Box 5	folder 5
GRFD Station no. 12, 554 Hall St. SW	Box 5	folder 6
GRFD Station no. 13, 1169 E. Beltline Ave., NE, Leonard St. Station, 1755 Leonard St. NE.	Box 5	folder 7
GRFD Training photos, 1944-76	Box 5	folder 8
GRFD Fires and related incidents, 1924-49	Box 5	folder 9
GRFD Standard Oil Fire, 1440 Butterworth St. SW., 7-18-1919	Box 5	folder 10
GRFD Fires. Berkey & Gay 11-24-1943; 20th Century Bowling 4-8-1944; Unknown; Masonic Temple 5-30-1947	Box 5	folder 11
GRFD fires 1950's	Box 5	folder 12
GRFD fires 1960's	Box 5	folder 13
GRFD fires. 501 Paris Ave. SE 3-30-1970; 225 Graham St. SW 3-11-1975; 3391 Plainfield Ave. NE 3-2-1978	Box 5	folder 14
GRFD fires 28-30 Ionia Ave SW 12-4-1980; 415 Fourth St. NW 3-16-1982; 74 Ionia Ave. SW 6-21 1983	Box 5	folder 15
Personnel. Miller; Shears; Verbrugge	Box 5	folder 16

GRFD Group photos	Box 5	folder 17
City of GR Departments, agencies, utilities.	Box 5	folder 18
Other Cities and Agencies.	Box 5	folder 19
American LaFrance Co., Elmire, N.Y., sample firetruck photos, c. 1947.	Box 5	folder 20
Business cards for Fire Chief, Robert J. Veit.	Box 5	folder 22
Declaration of Meritorious Service certificate to Lt. Jacob J. Verbrugge (Housed at Collection 216, Box 6, Folder 10), 1934-02-15	Box 6	Folder 10
Photo. 1921 Firemen. Includes John Rittenberg; Joe Carlson; Ed Palmer, Captain; Walter Andrie; Lewis Johnson; Zernie Knappenburg; George Knol; Barendse, Lieutenant; Roy La Moin; Jacob Verbrugge; Herman Hansman; Willard Stormzand; Glenn Hill; Jack Gilder; William Dennstaedt	Box 6	

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## Series II. Ephemera.

### Scope and Contents

This series has been tentatively identified to provide a place for items found associated with this accession and housed elsewhere or yet unprocessed. When the remaining unprocessed materials can be processed, additional series are expected to be defined.

Title/Description	Instances
"Fire Service of Grand Rapids". Cover art for departmental history entitled The Grand Rapid Fire Department. History / by Carrie B. Jennings, 1889. Housed with the Unprocessed accession, along with this history. 1989.024 3/14/2002. See Archivist for access.	

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## Miscellaneous

Title/Description	Instances
Valves and Fittings for all Pressures and Purposes. Crane Co. (catalog no. 51), June 1923	Box 8
Mill and Factory Supplies (catalog no. 9). Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Co., 1922, 1922	Box 8
Michigan Federation of Labor Official Year Book, 1909 (book), 1909	Box 8
Building Inspectors' Handbook, Grand Rapids, 1909 (book), 1909	Box 8

Fire Service of Grand Rapids (booklet). Jennings, Carrie B. 1889., 1889	Box 8	folder 1
The History of the Grand Rapids Schubert Club Male Chorus.	Box 8	folder 2
Gifts (newsletter). Butterworth Foundation., Fall 1989	Box 8	folder 3
Tower Views (newsletter). Fall., Fall 1989	Box 8	folder 4
The Sinking of the Titanic (pamphlet).	Box 8	folder 5
John Ball Zoo guide book., 1989	Box 8	folder 6
City of Grand Rapids. Review (booklet)., 1924-1925	Box 8	folder 7
1) Facts about Grand Rapids, Michigan (pamphlet). 2) Large postcard, historic [1892] police station , 1) 1946 2) 1967	Box 8	folder 8
1) The Convict Ship "Success" guide book (pamphlet). 2) The Romance of Rubber (booklet). 3) Childhood of Hiawatha (cantata). 4) City of Grand Rapids, panorama (brochure).	Box 8	folder 9
Fire Service of Grand Rapids (cover art)	Box 8	folder 10
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Unprocessed material	Box 7	