

History

Fire Station 33, Lake Sherwood

The first local fire protection service at Lake Sherwood came in 1941. Patrolman Tom Moody was assigned to the Lake Sherwood area, along with a pickup truck.

Tom and his new bride moved into a house on the lake. Mrs. Moody said the little house on the point was not just a home; it was a firehouse too. Even the fire department pickup got the garage and their new car was parked outside. Tom Moody served the department over 29 years before retiring in 1962 as the Battalion 3 Chief.

The first and present fire station was built in 1949. The property was given to the County by J. C. Dellinger of the Hidden Valley Deerwood Stock Farm, which is known today as Ventura Farms. The property is just west of the station and had been previously used as a small rock quarry, providing rock for the roads in the area.

The new station cost \$29,000 and was first assigned two men with 10 volunteers. Engineer Casey Roper was in charge of the station. He and his family lived in the two bedroom house built with the station.

The fire department's first fireboat was launched at Lake Sherwood. Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Canterbury furnished the small boat and motor. The department installed a pump and hose reel that carried 300 feet of one-inch hose onto the boat.

In 1952 heavy rains hit the area, washing out the homeowner's private bridge that served 50 homes on the south side of the lake. Firefighters became responsible for food and transportation by boat from the fire station landing to the other side of the lake. The fire station became the mail and information center until the bridge was rebuilt.

In 1956, a brush fire started in Thousand Oaks, on the south side of Hwy 101. Fueled by strong east winds, the fire went over the mountain ridge into Lake Sherwood, burning a number of homes along the lakeside. The fire front hit Station 33. Sparks blew through the station and set a lawn swing on fire that spread to the station house. Firefighters at the station quickly knocked down the fire.

A month after the brush fire, snow fell at Lake Sherwood making roadways difficult to travel. A four-wheel drive unit was moved to Station 33 from Ojai until the snow melted.



*Fire Station 33 first engine
#276, 1942 Mack, 500 gpm
skid mount pump and 400
gal. Water tank.*

*1953 International 1500 gal.
water tank tank 3 – (water
tender).*