

The following poem was written in 1938 by Barbara Fenwick Martz, for Daleville's Centennial News, a special edition commemorating Daleville's 100th anniversary.

Our Home Town

A hundred years ago, they say
This place in wooded acres lay.
By our forefathers, brave and loyal,
A town was built, through strenuous toil.
A few small homes, a village store,
But they kept adding more and more.
Families came and settled down;
The Youngs and Diltz's came to town.
Van Matres, Heaths, Cornelius, too,
Till the town just grew and grew.
As many came as they were able ---
McConnells, Shepps and lots of Schlegels.
People came year after year;
The Rinker brothers settled here.
Great grand-dad Saunders gave the
town, Some land for a burial ground.
After a time of this and that,
The town was all laid out by plat.
By a man named Dale, and for a whim,
The people called it after him.
Grandpa Fenwick with hammer and plane,
Built the old U.B. church on the corner of
Main.
Numerous industries began to appear,
Lefter's tile mill started its career.
Barber's factory of stoves "Ideal,"
The old schoolhouse with its clanging peal
Of a bell that had a provoking way
Of ringing just when we had started to play.
At Hugh Stewart's restaurant folks liked to
stop,
Then go across to Wessie's barber shop.
There was a brick yard, sawmill, planing
and flour mill,

The old skating rink gave us many a thrill.
We watched the old livery stable come and
go,
And give place to filling stations, three in a
row.
To our young minds it seemed our greatest
loss,
When they tore down our grand old opera
house.
The first old post office, the Commercial
hotel,
Where the traveling men all stopped to sell.
Oh, the good old times we had! Ah me!
If we could live in the past, but that is not to
be.
We must progress, and look on and on,
To the ever-changing of our hometown.
It is still the same in lots of ways,
As it was back in the good old days.
It is still quite small, yet we can say,
We have done our bit in our humble way.
In the great World War we sent our boys,
We have had our sorrows, we have had our
joys.
Folks have moved in, some have gone out,
We still have a few of the "boys" about.
Uncle "Bob" is our eldest one,
Ninety-four years and yet quite strong.
Now, we are having a party, and we are
asking you,
To come, and be merry; see old friends and
new.
Meet all the folks and say with a thrill,
That you're glad to be back in old Daleville.

STDEMS

Emergency Service Coming to Daleville

By KATHLEEN NICKLAUS
Special Correspondent

DALEVILLE — Although it won't have pom-poms and cheerleaders, there is a rally in the making for residents of Daleville/Salem Township. The spirit of the rally will be led by seven men, all members of the recently formed Salem Township/Daleville Emergency Medical Service (STDEMS) board.

This Wednesday, the group will hold its first public meeting to stir enthusiasm throughout the community for the planned purchase of an ambulance service to operate out of Daleville. It is also hoped that community organizations will volunteer to participate in a community fund drive for the project.

Twenty-one-year-old STDEMS board chairman, Rex Ramsey, who is also a life-long resident of Daleville, said he hopes the enthusiasm generated by the meeting, "will be the biggest thing ever to happen to Daleville." This includes the highly spirited, successful effort made by the town prior to 1976 to have Daleville declared a Bicentennial Community. It is hoped, Ramsey said, this fund raiser "is going to make the Bicentennial look like a church social."

The public meeting is the latest action taken in an effort to get a Daleville-based ambulance service for the area. Since the creation of county-wide ambulance service last year, many smaller communities such as Daleville were left without an ambulance based in the community because of a lack of county EMS funds. This is especially true in the southern part of the county. Presently, units from Eaton, Albany, Eaton and Gaston assist the Muncie Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in covering this area.

Ramsey estimated on a good day it takes 10 to 15 minutes for a Muncie ambulance to arrive in Daleville. That, he said, "is a long drive when talking about good response time." On occa-

sion, Delaware County will dispatch the ambulance in nearby Chesterfield in Madison County to Daleville. However, Ramsey said it's getting more difficult for them to respond because they are servicing their own people in their own rapidly-growing area.

The residents evidently aren't happy with their dependence on other communities for ambulance service. During last November's election, members of the fire department circulated petitions asking if voters wanted an ambulance based in their town. Seven hundred voters, which was 92 percent of those voting, said yes.

Ramsey presented these petitions to the county EMS board, who in turn requested six ambulances for the county. However, the state was able to provide only five of those vehicles. The county board gave one each to Gaston and Albany to replace worn out equipment, and three were kept in Muncie.

Carl Gresh, president of the county EMS board, told The Star recently that the board would like to help Daleville, "any way we can." However, he said funds were not available to purchase an EMS vehicle. "(Daleville) will have to have their own unit," he said. Although EMS recently received approval of an appeal for \$400,000 from the state tax commissioners to fund the EMS program, Gresh said this money is to be used on supplies and other EMS equipment, not for transportation.

Ramsey, who has been an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) since last April and has recently joined the Muncie EMS organization, estimates the cost of the ambulance will be \$30,000. Plans are to house it at the Daleville fire station. Originally, the fire department also offered to man the vehicle and to provide a board of officers. However, Ramsey said it was decided to keep the departments separate.

Therefore, although almost all the members of the STDEMS board are

Daleville firemen, the two departments are two different entities. "We have our own set of officers and volunteers," Ramsey explained. Presently, STDEMS has two certified EMTs with four others scheduled to take their state boards during March. Ultimately, according to Ramsey, the goal is to have 13 to 15 EMT volunteers from Salem Township.

Owning and staffing your own EMS ambulance is not exactly a new concept in Delaware County. The town of Eaton, which is just a few hundred people smaller than Daleville (1979 census), has owned and operated their own ambulance since last March.

Since that time, according to Eaton ambulance president Delphia Blair, the unit has required no maintenance beyond the usual gas and oil. Eaton's 11 volunteer EMT's average 9 to 16 calls per month.

The maintenance record is significant in the fact that the vehicle was already a two-year-old demonstrator when it was purchased from the National Coach Co., Knightstown, Inc. Because of this and the fact that the company was going out of business, Eaton purchased the ambulance for \$20,000. According to Mrs. Blair, all of the money came from within the community. She, herself an EMT, said the best thing about owning an ambulance is the feeling of self-reliance it gives the community.

As far as what Daleville/Salem Township will be able to accomplish is up to the residents, but if it follows the enthusiasm of Ramsey and the other six members of the STDEMS board, the community is in for quite a fund raiser.