

# Firemen Win State At Lincoln And Ottawa

## Enthusiasm of Fire Fans Surpassed Basketball Hysteria

Mt. Pulaski won its first state tournament at Lincoln, Aug. 6, 1891, with their hose team in the record time of 37 3/5 seconds.

The state firemen's tournament held at Ottawa the week of Aug. 29th, 1892 was again won by the Phoenix Fire Department of Mt. Pulaski and a large sum of prize money went with the winning of the different events.

The following newspaper account contained in the Mt. Pulaski Weekly News tells the story very personally:

The members of the team that made the trip were: Treasurer Maurice J. Myers; Secretary Frank Snyder; Manager C. W. Lincoln; Chief J. M. Hopkins; Foreman W. Y. Saunders; Pipeman John Klotz; Plugman Fred Bobell; W. B. Lyon, Louis Danner, Irwin Pool, Fred Starr, C. A. Lucas, Gus Drobisch, Louis Weidenbacher, Charles Turley, Louis Howard, James Ryan and John Miller, team members.

The first day furnished several plums for the encouragement of our boys. They went to Ottawa in excellent condition (with the exception of W. B. Lyon, who was weak from recent illness) took good care of themselves, and were in shape to do good work.

The first event in which Mt. Pulaski competed was the 100-yard foot race. 1st prize was \$10 and State Championship badge; 2d, \$5. W. Y. Saunders easily walked away with first; time 11 seconds.

A great roar was raised and a protest entered by two or three soreheaded teams who insisted that Saunders was a professional sprinter and as such should be barred. He easily demonstrated that he had been a citizen of Mt. Pulaski for several years as a member of our team almost from its organization, and a member of the cigar manufacturing firm of Beidler & Saunders, the past year. The judges, being sensible and well-posted gentlemen, held that the word "professional" applied only to persons engaged in racing for a livelihood, and Mr. Saunders was not, so the protest was not allowed. A protest against either of the complaining teams would have resulted differently, for each of them was padded with non-resident runners, hired for a few weeks, specially for this occasion. But Mt. Pulaski is not given to pleading the baby-act, so no counter protest was entered. For the benefit of the kickers we will state that Mr. Saunders was not paid one penny for training or running with our team in this tournament.

### Klotz Wins Second

Mt. Pulaski's second bite was at the couplers contest: 1st prize, \$10 and State Championship badge; 2d \$10, John Klotz of this place had to content himself with second prize in 6 2/5 seconds; Beaver of Mt. Carroll getting there 2 1/2's of a second quicker. "Jona" did nobly, and would probably have won first but for an unfortunate circumstance. His coupling was found to have a broken lug and was ruled out, thus leaving him to work with a strange coupling which undoubtedly placed him at a great disadvantage. However, he made no kick.

The Novelty hose race next tempted our boys with \$75 first money and \$50 second. They decided that first money was good enough for them, and calmly raked it in; time 36 2/5 seconds. Effingham was second with 39 seconds.

### Win Novelty Hose Race

This was followed by the Novelty hub-and-hub race, open to Mt. Pulaski and Effingham as the teams making the best time



**MT. PULASKI STATE CHAMPIONS. TIME 37 3-5 SECONDS.**  
LINCOLN, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 6th, 1891.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, Top Row—Frank Smith, Louis Howard, Fred Starr, Steve Weckel, Chas. Turley, Louis Weidenbacher. Second Row—Irvin Poole, F. E. Danner, John P. Hopkins (chief) W. Y.

Saunders (foreman and trainer) Gus Drobisch, L. A. Danner. Sitting—L. F. Bobell (plugman) John Klotz (pipeman). At the time this record of 35 2/5 was made it was necessary to lay 200 feet of hose.

in the Novelty hose race. Our boys did the job in 16 seconds, taking the \$50 and considerably leaving second place for Effingham.

The second day opened with the Free-for-all hose race—three prizes—\$75, \$45 and \$25. Mt. Pulaski was one of seven teams entering, and lowered the state record to 31 1/2 seconds. Lincoln and Effingham tied on 34 seconds, thus having to run off a hub-and-hub race to decide which would be entitled to second place and second money. Effingham won, and thus was entitled to entry with Mt. Pulaski in the Free-for-all hose race with two purses—\$60 and \$40. In this event Mt. Pulaski as usual won first, in 25 seconds, leaving second for active Effie.

These two contests netted our boys \$135 and lots of glory. The Champion hose race—the great event of the tournament—was the opening feature of the last day. 1st prize, \$100; second \$5; third \$25. Of this race the Ottawa Free-Trader says: "The rule required that the teams run 200 yards, attach hose to plug, lay 150 feet of hose and attach pipe. Mt. Carroll was the first team to make the run, but failed to make her points and was given no time. Clinton also made no time. Lincoln did clean work and did it in 38 1/5. Savana did it in 40 1/2. Effingham made an error and was content with 40. Then came the great team from Mt. Pulaski. They came down like a bullet and coupled in professional style in 36, beating the world's record."

### Lincoln Won Hub-and-Hub

The inevitable hub-and-hub for the two swiftest teams in above

contest followed, Mt. Pulaski and Lincoln being pitted against one another for a purse of \$50. Lincoln crossed the line in 28 3/5 seconds and captured the prize. Mt. Pulaski has the best of excuses for losing this race were she disposed to use them; but she didn't want the earth and was glad to see Lincoln get a finger in the pie. In this connection the Lincoln Courier and the people of Lincoln, with very few exceptions, prefer to see Mt. Pulaski enjoying the honors and possessing the prizes. They have practiced long and well, have kept sober and are modest in victory. They have demonstrated that 'what is worth doing is worth doing well.' There is no need of rawhiding the Lincoln boys. Receive them cordially, encourage them to continue their organization, and dive your hand down into your pocket to help them. This is the way Mt. Pulaski formed a team and it is the only way Lincoln can."

W. Y. Saunders easily won the Foremen's race, 100 yards, \$25, in 10 seconds.

W. B. Lyons, took second, \$5, in the 200-yard foot race.

The boys are enthusiastic over the city of Ottawa and the treatment accorded them by the Ottawans. It is an aristocratic city of 12 to 15 thousand people, with extensive manufacturing interests. The people had made most elaborate the costly preparations for the tournament. Symbolic decorations, flags and bunting festooned the entire town. Committees met the firemen upon their arrival, escorted them to their hotels and tendered them the freedom of the city. A grand banquet was tendered

the firemen on Thursday night by the citizens of Ottawa. Everything was of the highest style and the cost was probably \$1500.

### Grand Reception Here

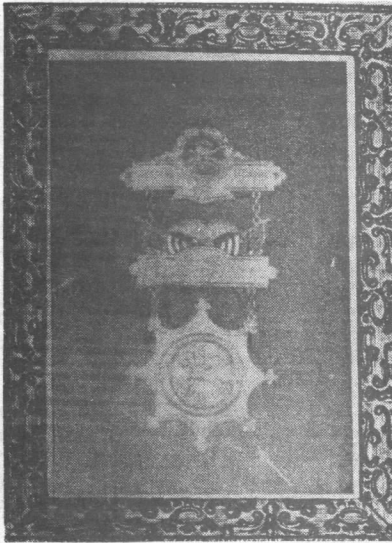
If ever the Mt. Pulaski team had any doubt as to the interest felt by Mt. Pulaski people in their achievements must have been effectually dispelled by the manner in which they were received upon arriving home on Friday morning. They got here at 10:30, and were received amid the booming of anvils, the ringing of bells (and belles), blowing of whistles. The town was decked in its gayest robes, and handsomely decorated floats were in waiting at the I. C. depot to carry the victors thru the final stage of their victorious march. Headed by the juvenile band, the triumphal march which went up Washington street to and around the square, receiving an ovation which royalty might envy. The balance of the day was given over to a jollification of Fourth of July proportions, with illumination, fireworks and bonfire at night.

### Complimentary Banquet

In honor of the victories won and safe return from the tournament, a banquet was tendered by the ladies of Mt. Pulaski in Firemen's Hall, Friday evening, to the Mt. Pulaski hose team. Forty plates were laid and the supper was most sumptuous. The ladies who composed the committee were: Misses Jane Newton, Inez Mathes, Medora Seyfer, Emma Daring, Levenie Newton, Hattie Shinneman, Jennie McKinley, Emma Huck, Mrs. Maude Huck, Mrs. Irvin Eminger and Mrs. Emma Summerville.



**JOHN P. HOPKINS**  
One of the First Chiefs



**PERMANENT CHAMPIONSHIP BADGE**