

**FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 221: 1917
(HENRY C. HENLEY/F. M. GRISWOLD)**

By Richard Schulte

The twenty-first Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Washington, DC in May 1917. One of the items on the agenda was a report on the standardization of fire hose couplings. The report included a memoriam for Henry Henley, and also a reference to the work of F. M. Griswold on the issue of hose couplings. The following is a transcript of an excerpt from the Report:

"IN MEMORIAM

By Mr. Griswold.

Your Committee is again called upon to record the death of another of its highly honored members, the late Mr. Henry C. Henley, on the 20th of January, 1917, in his sixtieth year, and while in the active prosecution of his work.

The death of Mr. Henley marks the passing of the third active member of this Committee since its appointment in 1905; he was one of the original members of the Committee, and has served continuously since, as one who bore the heat and burden of its days of trial, and through his devotion to its purposes rendered invaluable assistance in not only firmly establishing its present solid foundation, but also in continued and efficient effort to bring to fruition acceptance of country-wide standardization.

Your Committee, therefore deems it proper and fitting to here record its sentiment of high esteem and regard which it tenders in appreciation of his high quality of manhood and of his capacity as a technical expert in fire protection and prevention, and to give expression to the conviction that in his untimely passing away, the profession of fire protection has been deprived of the services of one of its most valuable members, whose place it will prove difficult to fill with hope for equal capacity, in wide and well digested practical experience, marvellous tenacity of purpose, and ability to accomplish results of great public importance. He leaves as a heritage to the profession a record unique in accomplishment of worthy results which should serve as an inspiration for those who may follow him.

We deeply mourn his loss.

(Signed), J. H. Howland, Chairman; G. E. Bruen; F. M. Griswold; W. G. Lawrence; H. L. Stanton.

Mr. Howland: Subsequent to the writing of this report, we have received 170 of the special records from the State of Texas alone, so we have now over 300.

Mr. Hardy: In moving the adoption of this report and its reference to the Executive Committee, carrying with it, as it does, the suggestion of the Committee that it be permitted to commit hara-kiri, I want to call attention to the fact that this action is worthy of a moment's consideration. It represents, in a way, the normal development of a social or economic problem, a development which, while it makes for greater efficiency as we now term it, rather comes with a feeling of regret. "All institutions," says Emerson, "are but the lengthened shadow of a man." *Sometime, somehow, somewhere, there was some man who first conceived the idea that the hose couplings ought to be standardized and uniform throughout the country. Mr. Griswold denies the soft impeachment and says it was not he; but we all know that Mr. Griswold has contributed no small part to the making of this "shadow."* If it be a question of sufficient public importance, a reform started by individuals passes from a voluntary group to those who perhaps are better organized to handle it. That, Mr. President, is what we are witnessing today, an inspiration of the work of this committee through a series of years and its transfer now from a voluntary thing to a more stable enterprise. I move that a rising vote of thanks be tendered the committee with our adoption of this report.

Mr. Forster: In seconding that motion, I wish to bring to the National Board, if it is to take up that work, or to our very valuable committee, if it is to continue it, a word of cheer. I think many of you remember with pleasure the very genial speech which our Secretary-Treasurer made in New York at the dinner the Insurance Society tendered us five or six years ago. He related how his researches in Scripture had revealed certain promised compensations for the worker in fire protection. Let me also make a contribution to our stock of Biblical and philosophical lore. The other day, in reading Emerson, I came across these words: "In the transmission of the heavenly waters, every hose fits every hydrant." (Laughter.)

The Chair: You have heard the resolution offered by Mr. Hardy, which carries with it the approval of this report and memorial to our late deceased member, Mr. H. C. Henley, and a vote of thanks to Honorary Member Griswold and the Committee.

(The motion was adopted by a rising vote.)"

Henry Henley was with the St. Louis Fire Prevention Bureau.

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Source: *“Proceedings of the Twenty-First Annual [NFPA] Meeting”*, Washington, D. C., 1917.

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