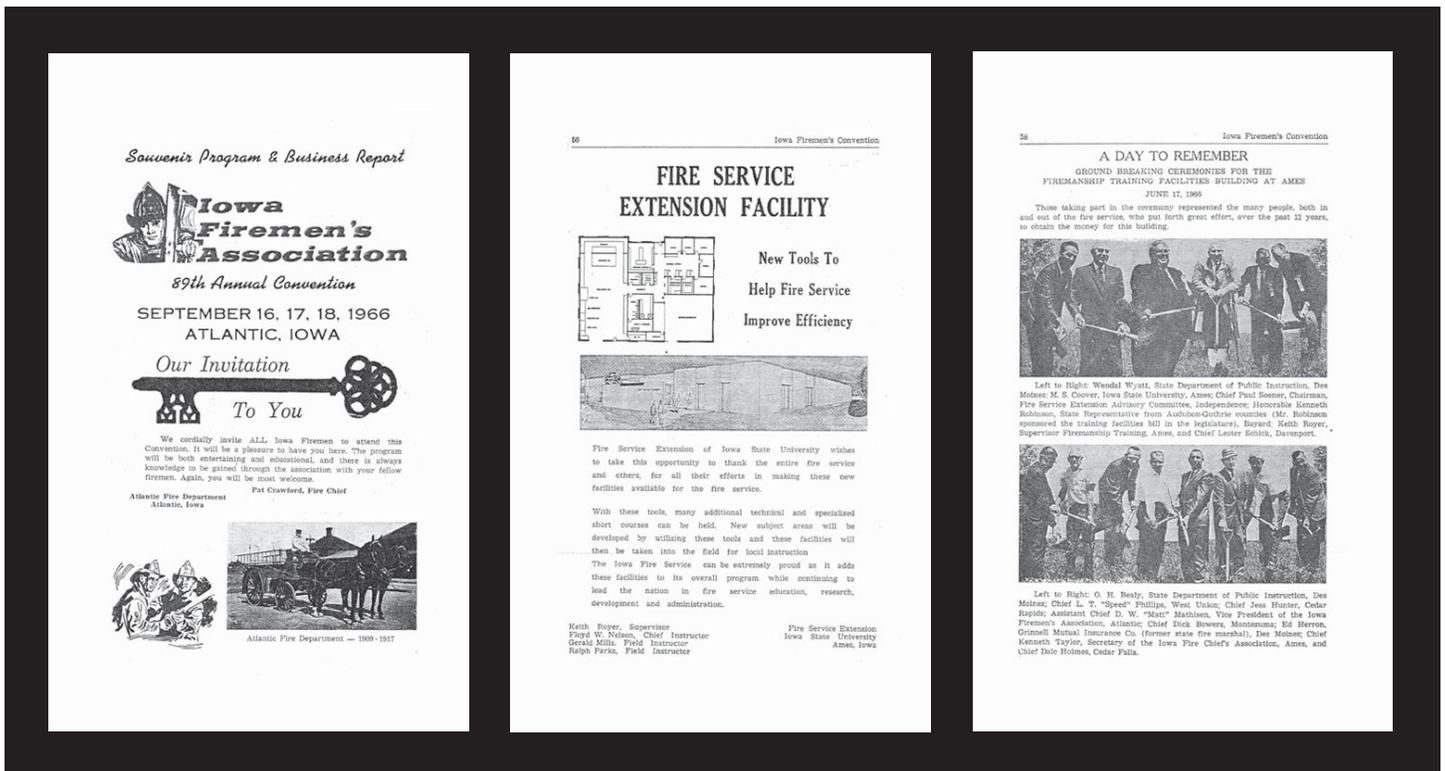


The Beginning: In 1923, a group of fire fighters came to Iowa State College and asked for educational assistance to improve their fire fighting and fire prevention skills. In 1925, the college's response was the First Annual Iowa State Fire School. That event marked the beginning of state-level fire service education and training in the United States.

This first fire school, titled "First Short Course for Firemen" (1925) provided four days of training. Topics included fire prevention, fire fighting, and first aid. The program was developed by the fire service, under the supervision of the Engineering Extension Department of Iowa State College.

Over the years, Fire Service Extension changed to the Fire Service Institute, a component of Iowa State University Extension. The annual fire schools continued to grow. The Institute offered many basic and advanced fire service training programs.



The Transition: In 2000, at the request of several state fire service associations, legislation was drafted to remove the Institute from Iowa State University, and relocate it with the Department of Public Safety. The Governor signed house File 2492 during the legislative session, and the transfer of responsibilities occurred July 1, 2000. The Institute was dissolved, and the Fire Service Training Bureau was created within the Division of State Fire Marshal.

While the responsibility and budget was transferred immediately to the Division of State Fire Marshal, the physical location of the Bureau continues in the Fire Service Education building on the Iowa State University campus. The Bureau has arranged to remain in this building until June 30, 2010.

Proponents of the legislation believed transferring the responsibility of statewide fire service training to the Division of State Fire Marshal would give the new Bureau a higher priority for increased funding opportunities needed to ensure quality training and education. Iowa State University Extension also supported the move, stating they wanted what was best for the fire service and the citizens of Iowa, and that this is what the fire service wanted.