Santa Cruz Sentinel

Tuesday, August 19, 1969

World's Oldest Volunteer Fireman

"I remember walking 21/2

intendent.

Sentinel Staff Writer

om

ors, fireman," will be proud to Calif., in 1908. shake your hand, in person, at the Bonny Doon Fire Team's annual steak barbecue Saturday miles to the country schoolfrom 4 to 7 p.m. on the Bonny the Doon School grounds off Pine Schoolhouse in Beverly, Calif.," Flat Road.

Moreover, it you can successof fully challenge Schoonover for rider in early-day movies." ten, the world's title, he and the other 23 members of the fire und team will treat you to a steak years, however, were spent in Saturday. We have seven pieces

"I really won't mind if I lose that title," Schhonover said. "If someone can take it from er to win it."

dent. He's now a vice president, for the City of Los Angeles. and he captains the rescue squad that provides emergency first-aid service at any hour of Bonny Doon School District.

"We wanted a little fire department up here," Schoonover said, "because of our remote location. The fire team was organized by the county's Civil tely Defense organization, and we are a Civil Defense Fire Team.

"The emergency rescue seright vice is important up here, too.

A person can bleed to death in ting a minute. Or suppose you need oxygen. If you are denied oxygen for five minutes you lose a part of your brain. If you are denied it for 10 minutes you become a vegetable."

> Schoonover has personal knowledge of the value of emergency rescue service everywhere. A few years ago he was hospitalized suddenly with an aneurysm and lost a leg.

His fire team duties include teaching Red Cross first aid and family emergency first aid in the Civil Defense program.

"One of the best classes I ever had," he said, "was at the Aptos Fire Department. Some of my students there are Red Cross instructors now."

Schoonover's parents brought

Schoonover, was postmaster of activities appear infinitely more Earl Schoonover, 74, the Beverly, Neb., in 1899 and be-important to the youngish, wiry "world's oldest active volunteer came postmaster in Beverly, "world's oldest active volunteer fireman" than reminiscences of other years.

"Our president is Stanton house in Beverly, Calif," Fraser and our fire chief is Schoolhouse in Beverly, Calif," Albert Swain," he said, getting Schoonover said. "They call the back to the Bonny Doon Fire with money raised through other chief. place Beverly Hills now, and I Team and its steak barbecue with money raised through othworked there a time as a trick this Saturday. "The team meets rider in early-day movies" the third Thursday of each schoonover's wife, Camille, is month at Bonny Doon School, an auxiliary member. Most of Schoonover's working where the food will be good this Schoonover has served with the volunteers since 1959. In 1960 he became its second presito inflatable plastic splints."

him to California from Nebras- However, The Bonny Doon and purchase of more equip-ka in 1905. His father, J. A. Fire Team and his gardening ment.

"Frank Hellenthal has given the fire team a half-acre for the firehouse," he said, "and we hope to build there some day.'

The Schoonovers live off Bonconstruction. He was a carpen of major equipment acquired ny Doon Road in a house he has ter, then a carpenter foreman, through the county and Civil remodeled over the years. then a heavy-construction super- Defense. Our biggest tanker Schoonover's passion for garbecause he's worked a bit long- fett Tunnel in Colorado, the 350 gallons ad 450 gallons. Our produces oranges, grapefruit, ting machine and he can now training like that." Glenville Dam in North Carolina, the Imperial Dam in Caltary ambulance, and it's filled Kadota figs. Ferns, fuchias and white ble as you are likely to see any-

> "I shot the first gun full of The barbecue is being held, Because Mrs. Schoonover that machine." concrete for the Metropolitan Schoonover said, to continue a Watsonville. Schoonover does ly. "That was quite a project." for construction of a firehouse He has another talent. Shortly the fire team's training is pro-Saturday afternoon.

holds 2000 gallons. We have dening is evident everywhere. after he lost his leg he trained vided by the California Division

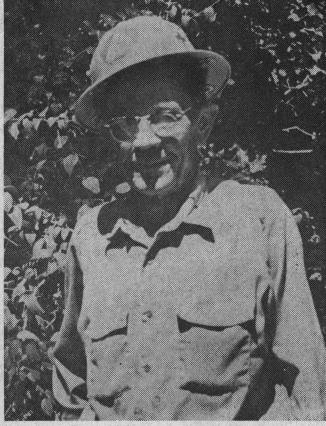
"I had to do something after grandson. I lost the leg," Schoonover said. 'It wasn't hard to learn to use

day or night in the sprawling Water Tunnel," he said proud- fire team drive to raise money the family cooking and canning, added, "did I tell you that all active member at the barbecue

He helped to build the Mof-trucks that hold 900 gallons and He has a 40-tree orchard that himself to use his wife's knit-of Forestry? You can't beat

Schoonover has a son, five grandsons, a grand daughter, a great-granddaughter and a great-

Though he may or may not be "the world's oldest active volunteer firearm." he'll be the "Speaking of learning," he Bonny Doon Fire Team's oldest



Earl Schoonover