

## Firemen's 100 Years 'Turn-Out'

By a staff reporter

A BEACON in the history of Sheffield fire-fighting will be the centenary of the municipal fire brigade in July.

Before 1869 fire services were run by insurance companies on the principle that if you didn't hold a policy they would let your house burn down.

Councillor Alan Blake, chairman of Sheffield Fire Brigade Committee, said that in 1379 there was an arrangement to flood Barker's Pool: to stop the spread of fire: Leather buckets were provided at, the parish church and the Town Hall.

The municipal take-over deal of 100 years ago was settled for a few hundred pounds. The brigade's equipment was a single manually-operated engine housed at Norfolk Street. Running costs were £300 a year, compared with £460,000 now.

"Today we have an extremely efficient fire department and we want to commemorate its centenary in a manner; which will express the pride of all Sheffielders in the brigade," said Coun. Blake.

The celebrations of the city: brigade will coincide with the opening of Sheffield's seventh fire station, at Rivelin Valley.

Open days will be held at stations. Brochures illustrating the history of the brigade are to be issued. And firemen hope to take part in the Lord Mayor's Parade.