

#### ADULTS CHARGED WITH CARELESSNESS

A cross-section of the nation's Fire Chiefs have debunked "pennies in the fuse box" and "children playing with matches" as leading causes of home fires. Instead, they put the blame squarely on the mothers and fathers of America for letting a billion dollars and 12,000 lives go up in smoke each year.

More than 48 per cent of the veteran Fire Officers participating in the nation-wide survey branded "careless smoking" as the leading cause of home fires in their communities. Less than 20 per cent rated faulty wiring and electrical appliances as the prime cause of residential fires, and only 13.2 per cent of the officials put the major blame on defective heating equipment.

Fire Prevention Committees or Bureaus need to carry on a continual hounding of their citizens if the rising home fire problems are to be curbed. Automatic appliances and heating equipment seem to have lulled the home owners into an unconscious state, that their equipment will do everything for them, even think for them.

There are hundreds of reminders that fire danger is ever present, no matter how modern our homes are, and we must use every precaution possible to not overlook one fire hazard as there are many, many things including life itself than cannot be replaced by poultry insurance dollars. Get your messages across that fires are the home owners responsibility as well as the Fire Department's.

#### FIRE INSPECTION TRAINING

The Fire Training Committee headed by Chief Irvin B. Bowen met in Jamestown Fire Headquarters recently to formulate plans for a Fire Inspection Training School to be sponsored by the Advisory Board during February and March. The course will be enhanced by the appearance of several outstanding speakers who will discuss specific hazards and review the more common problems encountered by Fire Inspectors.

It is desired that every Chief Officer, as well as regular inspectors, attend the training sessions. School locations will be announced.

#### RADIO INSTALLATIONS COMPLETED

With radio installations now complete in Findley Lake Engine 216, Sinclairville Tanker 13 and Sherman Tanker 22, the technicians involved have just about finished installing all of the 31 mobile and 11 walkie-talkie units ordered last year; we now have a total of 119 mobile and 16 walkie-talkie radios in our Fire Service Communications System.

You are again reminded to call or write Coordinator Hughes, 302 North Main Street, Jamestown, New York; business phone, Jamestown 4-939 residence phone, Jamestown 59-205, when you need the services of a radio technician. DO NOT REPORT radio trouble to the Fire Control Center.

This is the beginning of a New Year. Looking back over the past twelve months, it would seem that we have much to be thankful for, socially, economically, politically. We are grateful to all members of the Chautauqua County Fire Service for making this past year the most outstanding in the long, busy life of our County. Many thanks to all.

We know a couple of young firemen in Sherman who spend their time off tinkering with misses in their motors! Yet they do win races. Bang!



### LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The annual Legislative Clearing House of the Fireman's Association of the State of New York recently proposed the following amendments of interest to be considered by the current session of the Legislature:-

1. To amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law to make the blue light exclusive for all fire service in the State of New York.

2. To introduce a bill similar to the one introduced last year to extend the coverage for ambulance personnel on emergencies and private calls.

3. To amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law to provide that every omnibus operating on the public highways in the State of New York having a passenger carrying capacity and every motor vehicle engaged in the transportation of flammable liquids or materials shall be equipped with a manual switch attached to the dash convenient to the driver (operator) to disconnect the vehicle battery completely in case of any emergency so that there will be no chance of a battery spark causing a fire.

4. To amend the Firemen's Benefits Law to increase the death benefit from \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00.

5. To approve the bingo bill which was passed by the Legislature in 1955.

6. To add a new Section 40 to the Social Welfare Law to require owners or persons in charge of private proprietary nursing homes to conduct fire drills so as to clear the home in the shortest possible time without confusion or panic, with inspection at least semi-annually for fire hazards to be made by the local fire department, fire corporation or the County Fire Coordinator.

### AUTOMOTIVE PROGRESS

Automatic transmissions in place of manual "gear shifting" have become so commonplace as to almost be considered standard equipment for cars and trucks, although fire apparatus still employs transmissions requiring manual shifting. Many individual fire fighters drive private automobiles with automatic transmissions and thus may be more familiar with this type of vehicle operation than with fire apparatus. These facts should encourage Chief Officers to direct more time for the training of apparatus drivers.

However, since many pieces of fire apparatus are built on commercial chassis, it is necessary to look forward to the time when a considerable number of fire trucks will have automatic transmissions. This obviously presents some engineering problems, especially where pumping engines are concerned. Yet engineers are already at work adapting automatic transmissions to fire service apparatus.

At the International Association of Fire Chiefs Convention last November, one manufacturer demonstrated a 750 g.p.m. pumping engine using an automatic transmission for driving both the rear axel and the pump. This was automotive progress and a forward step in fire fighting.

### RADIO INTERFERENCE

Be patient men! It's nothing to hear of a grass fire in Pasadena, California, or listen to them fire "torpedos" from South America. We warned you last February that sunspot activity was on the increase with peak trouble expected during this coming year. Grin, but please don't try to shout over it. Our dispatchers are going mad now with the noise.



Raymond H. Hughes  
County Coordinator

THE  
B O O S T E R  
LINE

Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

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#### BEFORE YOU BUY

Mr. Robert Tanner, County Director of Civil Defense, requests that all Fire Officers consult with him before purchasing items for which they wish to obtain Federal matching funds. It seems that on a few occasions generators, radios, general alarm sirens, etc. have been ordered that do not appear on the Federal Civil Defense Administration approved lists. Consequently matching funds have been denied, and Fire Departments have had to pay the full amount of the purchase.

Mr. Tanner points out that the Federal approval lists contain most standard products but there have been instances where a certain fire equipment item is not listed or approved. Consult before you buy!

#### FIREMEN SIGN UP

Chief Irvin B. Bowen, Chairman of the Fire Training Committee, reports that to date 78 firemen have signed up for the Fire Inspection Course which is scheduled to get underway the latter part of this month. Since the response has been so general, plans call for the establishment of two concurrent schools which will be more convenient for all concerned. Course schedules will be distributed within the next two weeks to Chief Officers so that plans may be made for attendance.

#### SPORT NEW TANKER

Portland firemen are the proud owners of a new Series 6400 Chevrolet chassis upon which has been mounted the tank from their older unit. Chief Rizzo tells us that the tank situation is a temporary measure for it is planned to construct a new and larger tank in the near future.

The new apparatus will have the same County Number, Tanker 23. This marks the second new truck placed in service by the Portland Fire Department in as many years. Congratulations to a progressive outfit.

#### "I SMELL SMOKE"

A worthy project has been undertaken by the County Fire Chiefs Association in bringing Fire Prevention a little closer to home for all of us. A book titled "I Smell Smoke" by Paul W. Kerney has been purchased in sufficient quantity so that one copy will be placed in each public library within the County.

This, we believe, to be a unique project and one that deserves many compliments. Perhaps this action will encourage libraries to give some thought to offering more books and literature on Fire Prevention.

#### FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

With this issue of THE BOOSTER LINE we begin our fifth year of publication. Yes, we changed our color to "goldenrod" at the suggestion of Chairman Wilson; hope we don't blind you and that you will continue to enjoy our feeble attempts at news, comments and laughter. Thanks a million for your help and suggestions; have a good fire safe year.

We thank all members of the Sheriff's Department, Mayville firemen and the dispatchers at all of the locally owned Base Stations for operating or assisting our Fire Control Center throughout the past year. Also the Fire Departments deserve credit for their fine cooperation on Tuesday night radio tests which have been running smoothly and consuming a minimum amount of radio time. We truly have a great Fire Service.



BUSY YEAR FOR FIRE SERVICE

The annual alarm report recently released by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz reveals considerable Fire Service activity during 1956. The data is compiled from alarm records at the Control Center and includes both cities. As was the trend last year, a substantial increase continues for Non-Fire Emergencies indicating a public demand or need for rescue type services including ambulance transportation.

In the table below, Fire Alarms include all actual runs made to extinguish fires. Non-Fire Emergencies include all runs made to assist the public such as resuscitator calls, drowning or rescue calls, highway accidents, searching for missing persons, etc. Requests for Mutual Aid may be for Fire or Non-Fire Emergencies and indicates the number of times more than one Fire Department responded to a specific emergency.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FIRE ALARMS</u>	<u>NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES</u>	<u>REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID</u>
January	59	38	13
February	58	34	5
March	75	78	14
April	184	48	11
May	60	48	5
June	58	48	5
July	61	69	13
August	61	46	1
September	73	47	4
October	132	59	11
November	109	54	13
December	70	63	7
1956 Total	1,000	632	102
1955 Total	1,113	485	102
1954 Total	1,081	354	151

FIREMEN'S BENEFIT LAW

On March 1st the new State Benefit Law becomes effective for all volunteer firemen. It is imperative that you become familiar with the several provisions of this legislation, and to help you gain a thorough understanding, we are enclosing a pamphlet prepared by the New York State Workmen's Compensation Board. We trust that you will not only study this pamphlet but also file it for ready reference in the future.

REVISED GRADING SCHEDULE

The National Board of Fire Underwriters have issued a revision of the Grading Schedule for all cities and towns of the United States. It is interesting to note that greater recognition is given to volunteer firemen, that credit is allowed for the use of preconnected 1½ inch hose lines, and that hose test pressures have been raised to 250 p.s.i. Also deficiencies will be considered wherein radio equipment is not installed on apparatus or is improperly used.

Check your Department and community now by obtaining a copy of the "Standard Schedule for Grading Cities and Towns of the United States" from the N.B.F.U., 85 John Street, New York 38, New York.



#### SCHOOL ATTENDED BY MANY

The first series of Fire Inspection Schools held in the City of Jamestown were exceptionally well attended by both paid and volunteer firemen. Of the 138 men who registered for the initial class, 135 were issued course completion cards at the final session on February 20th.

A second series of schools will begin on March 6th at the Fredonia Fire Headquarters for the convenience of firemen in the area. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the fundamentals of Fire Inspection work.

#### ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTED AND ELECTIONS HELD

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following to serve during this year as members of the Fire Advisory Board: Willis R. Wilson of Westfield, John Washington of Cassadaga, George V. Blackstone of Lakewood, Thomas Bretz of Ripley, Rolland H. Taft of Kiantone, Ivan I. Velzy of Silver Creek, Sheriff Charles C. McCloskey of Lakewood, C.D. Director Robert Tanner of Sinclairville, Samuel Lord of Fluvanna, Chief Irvin B. Bowen of Ashville, Edward Bulman of Celoron.

Chief Charles R. Dorman of Jamestown, Chief William Cybulski of Dunkirk, H. W. Wollemon of Sheridan, Merle Ferguson of Brocton, Chief Richard F. Lathrop of Falconer, John Sommers of Mayville, Chief Arthur Howles of Clymer, Chief Lloyd Johnson of Frewsburg, Ward L. Smith of Kennedy, and Harold Day of Dunkirk.

At the February meeting of the Advisory Board the following officers were elected to the positions indicated: Willis R. Wilson, Chairman for the seventh consecutive year; John Washington, First Vice Chairman; George V. Blackstone, Second Vice Chairman; Thomas Bretz, Recording Secretary; and Rolland H. Taft, Corresponding Secretary.

Raymond H. Hughes has been reappointed County Fire Coordinator for 1957 by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Carlton A. Winchester of Maple Springs and Lawrence Hodges of Cherry Creek were named as Deputy Coordinators in charge of Fire-Rescue activities.

#### THOSE LUCKY FIREMEN

Clymer firemen are the lucky owners of a brand new 500 g.p.m. pumper-tanker built by the Young Fire Equipment Co. of Buffalo, N. Y. The Engine carries 1,000 gallons of water in its booster tank and has a hose body for 600 ft. of 2½ inch and 500 ft. of 1½ inch hose. A Ford F-800 chassis is used, and County Number of the new unit is Engine 315.

#### EXEMPT FROM EXCISE TAX

A very unfair situation has now been corrected. Up until recently volunteer Fire Departments which purchased their own equipment have had to pay the 8% Federal Excise Tax. This tax applied to chassis, fire truck body, and electrical equipment such as sirens and lights. On a big fire truck, this tax would run between \$400 and \$500.

Fire Districts, cities and villages have always been exempt from this tax. However, it never seemed fair to exempt them and not the volunteer departments inasmuch as they all performed the same functions.

But now all is well. The Internal Revenue Department has issued Revenue Ruling 55-45 which declares volunteer Fire Departments and rescue squads to be exempt from the Federal Excise Tax when purchasing fire apparatus and equipment. Always file tax exemption certificates.



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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#### WALKIE-TALKIES TO BE NUMBERED

The problem of devising a county-wide radio call number system for walkie-talkies has been under consideration by the Advisory Board. At the last meeting of the Board, it was decided to number each portable radio consecutively starting alphabetically by Department. Thus Bemus Point would have "Portable 1" while Westfield will end the numbering system with "Portable 16". This plan should eliminate any confusion, especially when several walkie-talkies are in use at drownings or at the scene of large scale search operations.

Our Radio Technician has been instructed to mark each portable unit with its call number. Also a separate walkie-talkie radio call card is being printed along with a new mobile unit call card to further simplify the reading and locating of Fire Service radio units.

#### NEW DISNEY SAFETY FILM AVAILABLE

Walt Disney Productions has released its new cartoon "I'm No Fool With Fire". This highly entertaining 16mm sound cartoon in Technicolor features Jiminy Cricket, one of Disney's most popular personalities, as the master of ceremonies and teacher. In a running commentary, he explains the history of fire, its chemistry, the everyday dangers of fire, and how to prevent fires in the home.

The film was produced for youngsters in the hope that it would help children to understand the dangers of fire and thereby save lives and property. Copies of the film are available on free loan from the Bureau of Communication Research, Inc., 13 East 37th Street, New York 14, New York. Here's a fine opportunity to promote Fire Prevention by showing this cartoon in grade school assembly and children's programs.

#### TEST PROCEDURE RECOMMENDED

Dick Lovejoy, our Radio Technician, requests that all station house receiver volume controls be set at maximum (full on) during the weekly radio tests and then set back to about one-half volume setting for normal operation. In this manner a maximum test is achieved for if there is the slightest trouble with the receiver, it will show up more definitely with the volume control turned fully on.

We are still suffering from some feed back howl when mobile truck radios are used too close to the station house receivers. Please move your trucks away from the receiver or switch your transmitter frequency to F-2 during the regular Tuesday evening tests.

#### EDITOR'S NAME IN PRINT

The Advisory Board, by unanimous vote, has mandated that the name of the Editor - Publisher of this paper shall appear on each issue. To comply with this request and still not utilize valuable space, yours truly will take turns with Chairman Wilson and Coordinator Hughes at the heading as is started with this issue. We hope this arrangement will be satisfactory, and I thank Chief Charles M. Fales of the New York State Bureau of Fire for his very fine complimentary letter.

ERROR - In the last issue of this publication, the name of Chief Norman G. Becker of Chautauqua was erroneously omitted as having been appointed as a Deputy Coordinator in charge of Fire-Rescue activities. We hope you will forgive us Norm for this oversight; you weren't forgotten.



#### ANNUAL FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULED

The annual New York State Fire Training Schools are scheduled to get underway at Ashville on April 2nd, at Westfield on April 3rd, at Falconer on April 4th, and at Fredonia on April 5th. A complete listing of the schools is being distributed with the request that locations and dates of classes be brought to the attention of all firemen. We trust that your continued interest in training will again encourage many firemen to participate and maintain a high attendance record.

#### FIRST AID AND RESUSCITATION

There appears to be an increase in the number of calls on Fire Departments for first aid and/or resuscitator. In most communities more and more equipment and training are being devoted to these functions. Several reasons for this increase seem apparent:

1. Public knowledge that a call to the Fire Department can bring men and equipment to the scene of an emergency, regardless of its nature, with great promptness.
2. Public knowledge that Fire Departments can handle first aid and resuscitation problems quickly and efficiently.
3. A tendency on the part of hospitals and funeral directors to suspend or limit ambulance service.
4. Difficulty in procuring the immediate services of a physician.

It is probable that this trend will continue and will create a demand on even the smallest communities to provide similar services. The marked increase in travel by the public presents an increase in hazard which touches the smaller towns, and it is not uncommon to experience plane crashes, bus accidents and auto mishaps in the rural areas.

Fire Departments in the larger communities are in a favorable position as far as first aid training and instructors are concerned, but the smaller town may suffer by a lack of instructors and resulting deficiency in well trained or experienced first aid personnel. Yet most Fire Departments attempt to have all their men trained in first aid. Moreover, it is interesting to note that, regardless of size, most Fire Departments have one or more mechanical resuscitators.

We offer these comments as food for thought and in hopes that you will arrive at some conclusions that may assist the Fire Service in keeping up with the demand by providing improved aid to the public.

**CHERRY CREEK** - At the recent annual meeting of the Cherry Creek Fire Department, Donald Miller was elected Chief. His telephone number is Cypress 6-8944, and we wish Chief Miller a good fire safe year.

#### WARREN COUNTY IMPROVES RADIO

Our neighbors in Warren County have just about completed installation of a new Motorola selective call system for all Fire Departments. The system differs from ours in that each station radio unit consists of a 30 watt base transmitter and receiver.

To augment inter-county communications, a receiver on the Chautauqua County frequency has been installed at the Warren County Fire Control Center, and a receiver on the Warren County frequency has been installed at Mayville. Thus the two counties are tied in by radio, and Warren County Fire Departments may be called through our Control Center. We congratulate our neighboring firemen on this greatly improved system.



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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#### UNDERWRITERS STIFFEN REGULATIONS

Beginning with this issue and for the next two months, THE BOOSTER LINE will bring you a supplement which sets forth the rules and regulations of the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization affecting all Class B and Class C rated areas. This information is being distributed as a result of recent talks with Rating Organization field engineers which indicate a general tightening of requirements and closer supervision of Fire Department activities.

As a rule of thumb, Class B areas include all of those villages and towns having a municipal water distribution system with hydrants. Exceptions to this classification may be due to deficiencies such as improper spacing of hydrants, insufficient water flow, inadequate alarm system, etc. Class C areas include all other rural or suburban communities served by a fire district or fire protection district within a three mile radius of a Fire Department.

It has been found that some Fire Departments have failed to notify the Rating Organization that new or used fire apparatus has been placed in service. Consequently no credits are allowed, and the time and money expended by the firemen to improve their equipment is of no benefit to the residents of the community paying fire insurance premiums. During the past few years several well equipped gasoline tankers have been converted for Fire Department use, yet no record of these tankers has been filed with the Rating Organization.

It is anticipated that Underwriters' surveys will continue to be made during the coming months, and every Fire Department is advised to try to meet all of the requirements for your particular classification. We hope that all of us can improve or maintain our present ratings, and that no Fire Department will be faced with loss of credits which may result in increased fire insurance rates for the people we protect.

#### CALL CARDS ISSUED

New radio call cards have been printed and, we believe, issued to all Fire Departments. If any Chief Officers have not received these cards for their radio equipped apparatus, please notify Coordinator Hughes or your respective Battalion Coordinator. The cards are necessarily larger this time and are designed to fit on sun visors as a convenience. Walkie-talkie cards are separate but should be carried with the base station and mobile radio listings.

#### MUST WE COME TO THIS?

A local Westfield resident while visiting in Sao Paulo, Mexico recently witnessed where a fire truck and six firemen arrived in their slow manner at a fire as compared to this country. The resident says, "The truck stopped in front of a burning store, the driver hopped off, sounded his trumpet and the rest of the men jumped off and lined up in front of the driver. He took a roll call and then they all rushed into the building. It was just a small fire and in no time they came out. Again the driver sounded his trumpet, the men lined up and he took roll call and they drove off." Thanks to Pete Harmon for this tidbit.

With all the worthy organizations being undertaken; Fire-Police, Emergency Relief Squads, Fire Department First Aid Instructors, etc.; let us not forget that we are firemen first with certain responsibilities.



### SCHOOLS WELL ATTENDED

Our appeal for good attendance at the State Fire Training Schools has been met with exceptional enthusiasm at all four of the Basic Courses now in session. The Ashville school started off on April 2nd with 32 firemen enrolled. The next night at Westfield a total of 22 started Basic training, and on April 4th at Falconer 35 men signed up. Fredonia registered 32 students on April 5th to complete the full schedule. With 121 enrolled this year, we have the second best attendance on record, exceeded only by the registration of 202 men in 1954.

We thank you for your interest in training which has made, and will continue to make our Fire Service the best in New York State.

### NEW CHIEFS ELECTED

Since sending you a list of Chief Fire Officers in March, several Fire Departments have held their annual elections with resulting change in Chief Officers. The Brocton Fire Department recently elected Chief Levant Utegg whose telephone number is Brocton 2-733. Busti firemen have selected W. Chester Wilbur as their Chief, and Chet can be reached at Jamestown 57-165. Chief Roger L. Phillips will head the Fluvanna Fire Department, and his telephone number is Jamestown 32-696.

The West Dunkirk Fire Department elected Chief Donald Drummond whose phone number is Dunkirk 6-341. Please keep us advised if there are any other new Chiefs; it's difficult to keep up with the elections.

### PROTECT YOUR MEN AND YOURSELF

The officer in charge of a company of fire fighters is, to a certain degree, responsible for the men in his charge. He should at all times take heed of their safety as far as it is in his power to do so. If a fireman is climbing a ladder, which is not in proper position, he should correct it. The amount of smoke inhaled by men under him should be noted, especially if they are over 40 years of age and in the area of heavy smoke too long.

One important factor for the safety of his men is to see that they are properly clothed from head to toe at all times in order to give them the greatest safety possible. Always make sure that the men have the protection of their helmets on their heads; there is no protection possible with the helmet on the truck or carried in the hand. The ever present danger of a loosened brick falling or of an explosion even after the fire may be controlled is reason enough for wearing a helmet.

Curtail the hazards as much as humanly possible, then you have done your best, and that is all anyone can ask for your men's safety.

### SUPPLEMENT CONTINUED

Page 2 of the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization's rules are enclosed. These required records may seem to impose a considerable burden on the smaller Fire Departments, yet when we consider the value and responsibilities of the job we are doing, our records take on a much greater significance and a little study can reveal their need. As pointed out in the supplement, these records are required for all Fire Departments serving Class B risks and are strongly suggested for those Departments operating within Class C risks exclusively.

Does your Fire Department maintain a good public relations program?



#### CIVIL DEFENSE IN NATURAL DISASTERS

As you realize by this time, Natural Disasters may cause so much damage to property, so much injury to so many people, that the local governmental agencies, even with the assistance of the private agencies, cannot cope with the situation without still more help. When this happens, our New York State Law covering the use of Civil Defense personnel in Natural Disasters provides that, as need requires, and at the discretion of the local executive officers, all or part of their Civil Defense forces may be activated.

The law provides a guide for local officials to consult when considering the use of Civil Defense forces. For example, the law states that Civil Defense forces constitute a reserve to be activated to the extent needed only when the executive officer (the sheriff of a county or the mayor of a city) are convinced that the local governmental agencies and the private relief agencies cannot cope with the disaster without additional help.

Only those services actually needed should be activated. In a flood, for example, there might be no need for trained Radiological teams. But there would be a need for Medical, Fire, Welfare, Public Works, Communications, Supply and Transportation, and possibly others. In short, trained personnel should not be wasted.

Before any public official, such as a mayor of a city or the sheriff of a county, may call upon Civil Defense to help in a Natural Disaster, he is expected to use all the workers and resources of local, public and private agencies, including those of the local Red Cross organization. However, if he finds that the disaster is so great that he cannot handle it with his own agencies and resources, then he has the authority to direct his Civil Defense Director to call out all, or any part of, his local Civil Defense organization.

If the disaster is so great that it is clearly beyond the capabilities of the local services, then the mayor or sheriff, as the case may be, may request additional help from the Governor. The Governor would then order the State Civil Defense Director to mobilize and use any or all of the State Civil Defense forces. In addition to directing the operation of the State's Civil Defense forces, the State Civil Defense Director would be responsible for co-ordinating the aid and assistance of the various departments and agencies of the State, such as the Department of Public Health, the Bureau of Fire Mobilization and Control, the Department of Public Works, and so on.

If the disaster is sufficiently great, the Governor may petition the President of the United States to declare the catastrophe a "major disaster." If the President does so, the community would receive Federal assistance, either in the form of financial aid or of manpower.

Thus in brief is outlined the functions of Civil Defense in Natural Disasters. The Fire Service is a part of the Civil Defense team and would function in accordance with Mutual Aid planning both on a county and statewide level. Let us remain always prepared for Disaster.

#### INSTRUCTORS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

County Fire Instructors Walter R. Burr and Clarence Spute are leaving Sunday, May 19th, to attend the ninth annual New York State Fire Instructors Conference to be held at Plattsburgh, New York, for the entire week. Special training will be given in aircraft crash fire fighting by personnel of the U.S. Air Force base located at Plattsburgh.



#### BLUE LIGHT LAW

Governor Harriman has signed an amendment to the Blue Light Law, known as Chapter 960 of the Laws of 1957, which becomes effective July 1st and mandates that the blue light be reserved exclusively for use by the Fire Service of New York State. This change in the Vehicle and Traffic Law did not make the blue light authority for emergency right of way, and it is still a means of identification only. Fire apparatus equipped with blue lights should carry at least one red light to insure right of way privileges when responding to an emergency.

The passage and adoption of this legislation has long been sought by the Fire Service, and we can now enjoy the privilege of a distinct and exclusive colored light that will not be permitted on tow trucks, utility vehicles, snow plows, etc. The public must now be educated to the meaning of the blue light if we are to achieve the desired results.

#### STUDY YOUR WATER SUPPLY

A fireman should know his tools, and none is more important than an ample water supply. It is necessary, therefore, for every member, and especially the officers, to be able to study the water supply and distribution system of his community.

Each fire station should have a map, showing water mains, hydrants, fire ponds, rivers and creeks. Where hydrants are installed, the map should indicate the size of the mains and average water flow in gallons per minute. If fire ponds or streams are generally used, notation of suitable pumping sites or access roads is important data on the maps.

All Fire Departments should have a knowledge of a secondary source of water in the event the normal water supply is interrupted. This may mean planning for relays either direct through fire hose or by use of tankers in shuttle. A little preplanning will pay off, and we suggest that you now work out some Mutual Aid drills with your Coordinators.

#### INSURANCE RATING DATA

We hope the past few supplements reprinted from the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization requirements have been of help to you in better understanding Fire Department duties and responsibilities. We now enclose the next to the last page of the regulations which concludes Class C requirements. Let's stay on our toes for possible inspections.

#### NEWS AND VIEWS

Chautauqua will have a new 1,000 g.p.m. Engine in the near future; bids were called for on May 23rd, and Chief Becker is wading through the maze of specifications endeavoring to reach that important decision.

Must be they had a false alarm one night several months ago in Sherman; both the Assistant Chief and President of the Fire Department became proud Fathers within two days of each other. Nice work boys!

In Fluvanna the Chiefs spend their time chasing porcupines, and the other night while in hot pursuit of a spiny beast, the leader of the chase spiked his breaks; net damage was extensive to one Buick including near demolition of the fender mounted siren. Boys will be boys! Amen.

The Brocton Fire Department is sponsoring a non-profit fire equipment and apparatus display on Sunday, June 16th; should be both educational and interesting and a good chance to pick up some new ideas that might come in handy. It's Father's Day so we all have a good excuse!



## THE DANGER OF ELECTRIC WIRES

The question is often asked as to what procedure should a Fire Department use in connection with electric wires, particularly those on poles on the street which interfere with ladder work. There are also wires from building to building in extensive plants and the usual overhead service entrance.

Many Fire Departments have carried wire cutters with insulated handles and have rubber gloves, and various manuals have indicated that these can be used by firemen to cut electric wires. Where, as existed in connection with lighting systems using direct current (D.C.) the voltage, even on feeders, was low this procedure was reasonably safe. This is not true under modern conditions with alternating current (A.C.) used for practically all lighting and power. Systems run to high voltages, and even distributing wires may become charged with high voltage under conditions commonly found at fires.

It would be well for every Fire Department to place in a conspicuous place in each fire station the following statement made by the Safety Director of the Houston Lighting and Power Company:

"Work with electrically charged wires is not unduly hazardous providing the work is done by trained men with adequate, proper tools and under normal controlled conditions.

"Electric utilities or other large organizations do not even consider assigning a workman to 'hot line work' until he has served an apprenticeship under close supervision of old experienced foremen, and only experienced men who have proven that they are above the average in their ability to think quickly and clearly are given the jobs of working on trouble cases.

"Rubber goods---gloves, blankets, line hose, etc., in common use by most utilities are tested by manufacturers at 14,000 volts and recommended by them for use on voltages up to 10,000, but the usual rule in the field is to never depend on rubber for protection on voltages above 5,000. I have stood on the ground and seen linemen on a pole discard as many as five pairs of rubber gloves, temporarily defective because of moisture and this on 2,000 volts.

"Firemen, both paid and volunteer, should be exceedingly cautious when working around all wires. Remember that an accident resulting from the fire they are fighting may have caused otherwise harmless wires to become charged. When working from roofs of adjoining buildings, ladders or fire escapes, the firemen can easily come dangerously close to live wires and under no conditions should an attempt be made to clear such wires by cutting with axes or other fire fighting tools.

"A charged wire lying loose at one end can become as temperamental as a charged 2½" hose line under the same condition and with this added danger that you dare not touch it.

"Tools which would be considered adequate for this type of work by any utility would be worse than useless, they would be dangerous in the hands of the electrically untrained firemen and especially so under the abnormal conditions of fighting fire with water or chemicals.

"It is unsafe to recommend that any fireman be permitted to cut or otherwise handle live wires. Exceptions, of course, could be made in cases where the men have worked for or have been trained by electric utilities in this class of work. The most satisfactory plan is to make previous arrangements whereby utility service men or crews are called."



#### RATES TO GO UP

Fire insurance rates will go up this year because underwriters have taken a 3.4% loss on the record \$989 million fire damage in 1956. Moreover, the National Board of Fire Underwriters says that the 1957 fire loss will probably top \$1 billion for the first time in the history of the United States. Are we ready to fight this ominous ruin?

It might be well for us to reappraise our training, equipment and ability to control fires so as to meet the challenge of this increasing fire loss. We must do better and strive to keep ahead of the common enemy. Remember we always welcome criticism and suggestions for the improvement of our County Fire Service.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION

New York State's Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz has ruled that volunteer fire department officers need not own property in the towns they serve. Some town boards throughout the State have previously balked at the election of volunteer officers who did not own property within the voting district of the political subdivision protected by the fire department.

The new ruling has statewide significance. In the Village of Greenport, L.I., three fire officers, the Chief and his two assistants, were put into office although none of them owns real estate in this incorporated village. The Lakewood Fire Commissioners please note!

#### STATE CHIEFS CONVENTION

Two weeks ago we attended the 51st annual convention of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs held in the City of Elmira. A number of very interesting papers were presented by eminent members of this Country's Fire Service, and we found the convention to be both interesting and educational. A good share of the time was spent in merriment yet when the business sessions were called to order, we noted an exceptionally good attendance and an obvious interest in the program.

Among the speakers was Chief Charles M. Fales of the New York State Bureau of Fire who outlined the progress of the State Fire Training Program and noted that the courses were undergoing revision for presentation next year. Chief Fales stated that workbooks would be ready soon for the Single Company Operations school.

General C. R. Huebner, Director of the State Civil Defense Commission, remarked that the United States now has 90% complete aircraft warning facilities but that we lack adequate shelters for public protection. He said that any shelter that would withstand a pressure of 30 p.s.i. would be adequate for protection from other than a direct hit.

Donald O'Brien, Assistant Editor of Fire Engineering, spoke on radio communications and pointed out most subtly that we had better quit complaining about all the radio interference caused by sun spots and other stations near and far. It seems that the Federal Communications Commission has had so many complaints from the Fire Service that they are seriously considering an order to change frequencies. This action would cost us a tremendous expense and possibly make our present radio system obsolete.

Chief Dorman of Jamestown was honored by election to the Board of Directors of the Association for a term of five years. Tours were conducted through both the American LaFrance and Ward LaFrance factories.



#### OLD RESUSCITATION PLAN

The Red Cross recently announced, after five years of research, that it has adopted an ancient method of artificial respiration as the best way to revive infants and small children whose breathing has stopped. It replaces the back-pressure, arm-lift method adopted six years ago. The new version is known as mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and it was used in Biblical times to revive apparently suffocated persons.

Steps in the mouth-to-mouth technique are as follows:

1. Clear the mouth of foreign matter with the middle finger of one hand. With the same finger, hold the tongue forward.
2. Now place the child in a face-down, head-down position and pat him firmly on the back with the free hand. This should help dislodge any foreign object in the air passage.
3. Place the child on his back and use the middle fingers of both hands to lift the lower jaw from beneath and behind so that it juts out.
4. Hold the jaw in the position described in Step 3, using one hand only.
5. Place your mouth over the child's mouth and nose, making a relatively leak-proof seal and breathe into the child with a smooth steady action until you observe the chest rise. As you start this action, move the free hand to the child's abdomen, between the navel and the ribs, and apply continuous moderate pressure to prevent the stomach from becoming filled with air.
6. When the lungs have been inflated, remove your lips from the child's mouth and nose and allow the lungs to empty. Repeat this cycle keeping one hand beneath the jaw and the other hand pressing on the stomach at all times. Continue at a rate of about twenty cycles a minute.

#### NEW APPARATUS PURCHASED

The Gerry Fire Department has signed a contract with the Young Fire Equipment Company of Buffalo, New York, for delivery of a new 750 g.p.m. Engine to be constructed on an International chassis powered by a 501 cubic inch motor. The pump will have three stages for hi-pressure operation, and the booster tank capacity will be 1,000 gallons.

Early this month the Young Fire Equipment Company began building a new 1,000 g.p.m. Engine for the Chautauqua Fire Department at a bid price of \$22,181.00. This unit will be powered by a 250 h.p. Waukesha motor having 779 cubic inch displacement. A 400 gallon booster tank will be featured along with a three man enclosed cab on this large rig.

#### POWER FOR HELMET RADIOS

The U.S. Army has announced that experiments conducted at Fort Monmouth Signal Corps laboratories proved that solar batteries could produce power for operating the miniature radio sending and receiving sets now installed in soldiers' helmets. The batteries convert the sun's rays into electricity. With success indicated for the helmet radios, the Army is considering using solar power for walkie-talkies and light field radios. It won't be long until we have radio equipped firemen.

WESTFIELD - We wish Instructor Spute a speedy recovery from his recent illness and hope that he will be back with us soon as our teacher and ever devoted friend of the Fire Service. Our best wishes "Shy" always.



### THE JOY OF BEING A VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

I won't give no hint as to the identity of the town where the scene of this little article is laid only to say that it is a suburb of the largest city south of Gerry, New York, and can be reached by motor from the midst of the large city referred to in 10 minutes.

Well, like practically every town of a population of 12 and upwards this town has got a fire dept. and like a whole lot of them, this fire dept. is what is known as a volunteer fire dept. which means that the members ain't supposed to get nothing but glory.

Well, they's a man living in this town who is in the jewelry business in one way and another and one day the chief of the fire dept. asked him would he join the fire dept. and he says yes on acct. of being public spirited.

So he bought himself a rubber coat and a helmet and a pair of rubber boots and staid home several nights with the windows open so as he would be sure and hear what is known in the town as the siren.

Well, the siren did not blow and did not blow and finely our hero, who we will call Mr. Kloot, recd. a card saying they would be a meeting of the dept. at the fire house the following night.

Well, Mr. Kloot attended the meeting and pretty near all the members was there and he knowed the most of them. The chief is a rural letter carrier and the asst. chief is the town's most prominent farmer. Others who he recognized was all well known citizens in various walks of life. Amongst them was a dentist, the supt. of the gas company, a plasterer, a painter, a mason, a paper hanger, an insurance man and etc.

Well, they sat around the whole evening and disgusted prohibition and the siren did not blow, but the meeting could not have been adjourned more than 5 or 10 minutes when it did blow and the firemen rushed back to the fire house and clumb aboard the 2 vehicles with which the dept. is equipped.

Mr. Kloot happened to board the same vehicle as the chief and the both of them was right close to the driver. "Whose place is it?" shouted the chief as the vehicle tore recklessly down the road. "L. M. Taylor's," the driver shouted back.

L. M. Taylor being the town's millionaire, worth more than \$150,000 "Well, what's your hurry?" shouted the chief and the driver slowed down a little, wile Mr. Kloot did not know what to think.

Well, they got to the fire and it did not look like a very big fire for such a big house and in fact Mr. Taylor's Chinese help had just about put it out with the aid of a few seltzer bottles, but the fire dept. seemed to think the danger was nowheres near over and wile some of them connected a couple of sections of hose, others entered the house through the 2nd story windows and begin wielding their axes vs. walls, closets and etc. to see if maybe they wasn't some concealed tongues of flame that would burst forth after the family had went back to sleep.

Mr. Kloot strayed into the bathroom and found the asst. chief cutting holes in the different pipes. "Safety first," said the asst. chief. "Many a home has burned to the ground on acct. of hidden flames in the plumbing." Next morning Mr. Kloot called up the chief and submitted his resignation. "But what's the idea?" asked the chief. "Nothing special," replied Mr. Kloot, "only that I'm in the jewelry business." (See you in Fredonia at the Southwestern Convention Aug. 7, 8, 9)



### COUNTY BUYS GENERATOR

Several months ago the County purchased through Federal surplus property a 10,000 watt, gasoline driven generator. The generator has since been mounted on a trailer and completely reconditioned by personnel of the Stockton Township Highway Department. The unit's output includes both 110 volts and 220 volts A.C.

Mr. Robert Tanner, County Director of Civil Defense, was instrumental in obtaining the generator which he has turned over to the County Fire Service. At present, the portable power unit is housed at the Stockton Fire Headquarters where it is maintained by firemen of Chief Akins's command. Any Fire Department may use the generator by getting it themselves or by calling Stockton for delivery in an emergency.

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We are deeply saddened by the passing on of our beloved County Fire Instructor, Clarence Spute, whose death occurred July 28th at the Westfield Memorial Hospital. Few men have devoted as much time and energy for the benefit of our great Fire Service, and we have lost a true friend loved and respected by everyone who knew and worked with him. Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Spute and family.  
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### REPORTING RADIO TROUBLE

Several seem to have forgotten the instruction to notify Coordinator Hughes when you need the services of the Radio Technician as was published in the January 1st issue of this paper. You are again reminded to call or write the County Coordinator at 302 North Main Street, Jamestown, New York; business phone, Jamestown 4-939 or residence phone, Jamestown 59-205. Do not report radio trouble to the Fire Control Center at Mayville. Unless all fire personnel follow this rule, long delays may result in repairing your radio equipment. Chiefs take note!

### CARE OF FIRE HOSE

The National Fire Protection Association has announced publication of Standard No. 198 titled "Care of Fire Hose" which is available from the N.F.P.A. Publications Department at 50¢ per copy. This 44 page booklet presents recommendations for the care of woven-jacketed, rubber lined hose, hose with cotton and synthetic fiber yarn jackets, rubber hose, unlined linen hose and suction hose. It describes methods of using hard and soft suction hose, washing, drying and storage, presents diagrams of a typical hose tower and drying racks, and has recommendations on nozzles, couplings and gaskets. Hose record forms and suggestions for testing hose are also presented. The N.F.P.A. is located at 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts.

### FIRE PREVENTION PLANNING

Now is the time to start planning for Fire Prevention Week, October 12. The Jamestown Fire Department is planning a month long program beginning with a large parade on September 14th to which all fire units are cordially invited. Why not plan to attend this big parade and start your Fire Prevention program by ordering now posters and literature from either the National Board of Fire Underwriters or the National Fire Protection Association. Let's bring Fire Prevention "home" this year.



#### HOME RADIO RECEIVERS POPULAR

Several months ago we reported that a local Fire Department was conducting tests with home radio receivers in view of purchasing enough for each fireman and thereby augmenting the existing fire alarm system. Four different makes of receivers have been given lengthy trials with the result that Motorola was judged the best all around unit for the type of communications desired. As soon as financial arrangements can be made, this local Department will purchase about eighty of the Motorola radio receivers.

While investigating home receivers, representatives of this Fire Department visited a volunteer organization near Erie, Pa., where home receivers have been in use for several years. It was found that their value as an alarm system is outstanding and that maintenance is a very small cost. Recently your roving Editor visited two Pennsylvania outfits using receivers; one owned one hundred and ten while the other was more modest with only forty-three. Both Departments reported great success and time saving. We have also noted the use of home receivers in other parts of the Country, and we believe that the use of radio to transmit alarms to volunteer firemen will become even more popular within the next few years.

#### MUTUAL AID DRILLS?

We can't believe that Mutual Aid drills are unpopular, yet we are not aware that any have been held during the past three months. Some thought should be given to this means of training, and Chief Officers are to be encouraged to work out drills with their neighboring firemen.

It would be well to plan one drill each month and select for operations those fire hazards that are of peculiar nature or highly combustible. Plans should be made in cooperation with your Battalion Coordinator or the County Coordinator so that these men can assist you with your communications and general overall planning. We hope you will try to hold one Mutual Aid drill before snow flies this Fall.

#### NEW CIVIL DEFENSE WARNING SYSTEM

The nation's new Civil Defense warning system was put into operation during May. The "hotline" network is ready at a moment's notice to alert 200 key warning points. For the first time every region of the Country is connected with the national warning center at the Continental Air Defense Command headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

According to the Federal Civil Defense Administration, the new 28,000 mile telephone system cuts the warning time to about a minute. Five years ago it took about 20 minutes to flash an alert to all points.

Blanket commands for evasive civilian action, or commands directed to individual areas, can be transmitted over the two-way conference circuit which links the national center, two alternate centers and Washington, D.C., to the 200 key points. The alternate warning centers are located at Roslyn, New York, and San Francisco, California.

#### FIRE SERVICE AT THE FAIR

The County Fire Service will have booth and display at the County Fair which opens Labor Day. We will appreciate your visiting the booth and your comments and suggestions for improving the display are welcome. Also anyone able to donate a few hours time at the booth see Ray Hughes.



#### CLYMER TO INSTALL UNIQUE ALARM

Chief Howles informs us that the Clymer Telephone Company is converting to the dial system and that the local fire alarm will no longer be operated by Telephone Company personnel. To overcome the problem of transmitting alarms, the Clymer Fire Department has purchased an automatic device from the Stromberg-Carlson company of Rochester, New York, reported to have cost about \$500.00. The device will be installed in the telephone exchange building and will be connected to fifteen phones presently owned by firemen.

When a certain number is dialed to summon the Fire Department, the automatic machine will start all fifteen telephones ringing, even if one or more are busy at the time, and provide two-way conversation on selected circuits for receipt of the alarm location. The ringing device may be pre-set for from two to four minutes so that the phones will not continue to ring indefinitely. If the fireman is at home, he may stop the ringing immediately by lifting the receiver from its cradle. There is also a provision for opening all fifteen circuits so that the alarm message may be given to all firemen.

No additional telephones need be installed for this system as it utilizes existing equipment or phones already in use by the subscribers. Where private telephone lines are connected into the automatic device, a push button may be installed next to the phone for starting the general alarm siren. Chief Howles further advises us that these special machines come in larger sizes; assumed to handle up to 100 telephones.

#### A DUTY OF EVERY FIREMAN

Sell Fire Prevention to your Citizens--make them fire hazard conscious. Even some fire-fighters past and present ignore the fundamentals of fire prevention in their own homes by accumulating newspapers, paints, boxes, flammable liquids, unwashed cleaning rags, or oily mops.

Practice Fire Prevention in everything you do; you must be an outstanding example in your community if you are to get public support.

#### CHIMNEY CLEANER WARNING

A highly explosive chimney cleaner which is reported to be on sale in Western New York State is the object of research by fire prevention officials in many communities. The product, known as "Sootkleen", is termed very dangerous by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and all County Fire Officers are warned to be on the lookout for Sootkleen.

#### WESTFIELD BUYS SEAGRAVE

The Village of Westfield has purchased a new 1,000 g.p.m. Engine from the Seagrave Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, at the bid price of twenty-four thousand, one hundred fifty dollars. The rig will have an open type semi-cab, a 275 h.p. V-12 motor, 500 gal. booster tank, and many other modern features. A 1927 Ahrens-Fox pumper will be replaced by the Seagrave unit, and County Number, Engine 217, will be transferred.

#### COUNTY CHIEFS ENDORSE REGULATION

The County Fire Chiefs Association has gone on record to recommend to all Fire Departments that only duly licensed persons authorized to operate a motor vehicle in New York State be permitted to drive fire or emergency apparatus even though this is not required by the V. & T. Law.



#### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Thousands of Fire Departments are now making final surveys of their scheduled activities for Fire Prevention Week, October 6--12. Each year it is more and more evident that Fire Department personnel are improving their techniques of catching their public's attention through colorful activities of this historic week. Good use is being made of newspapers, radio and television stations, and sound public relations programs to stress the tremendous fire losses in the nation, particularly the numerous fire hazards and unsafe practices which lead to an annual loss of 11,000 to 12,000 deaths, innumerable burns and injuries, and property damage that is staggering in dollars lost.

This year's theme, "Don't Give Fire a Place to Start", is a good motto to pass along in your community, and we hope you will have planned a successful program even though it may be on a small scale. Every effort to stamp out carelessness with fire will be rewarding to you.

#### A WORD OF WARNING

A widely promoted type of resuscitator for Fire Department use produces breathing by means of a controlled electric current that stimulates the muscles of the diaphragm. We are now advised that there is some doubt as to the effectiveness of such devices when used on unconscious persons, and that the American Medical Association is soon to issue a statement on this subject. We caution our readers against purchasing such devices pending the release of the statement from the AMA.

#### RIPLEY GETS INTERNATIONAL

The Ripley Fire Commissioners have signed a contract with the Young Fire Equipment Company of Buffalo, New York, for delivery of a new 750 g.p.m. engine to be constructed upon a Model V-196 International chassis powered by a 256 horsepower motor. The engine will have a 600 gallon booster tank, an independent power take-off high pressure pump rated at 60 g.p.m. at 800 p.s.i., and full compartment type body. Bid price of the new rig was \$18,476.00, and delivery is expected in the early Spring. County Number of the new rig will be Engine 221.

#### FULL TIME TECHNICIAN

We hope this year that our Board of Supervisors in preparing the annual budget will make provision for the employment of a full time radio technician for the County Fire Radio Communication System. The limited amount of time that our Technician can devote to maintenance and repairs is frequently reflected in the long periods that essential equipment is out of service or not working properly. It seems infeasible to have an estimated \$125,000.00 investment and have it working in part a limited time; to say nothing of the essential aspects of assisting our many Fire Departments in their daily work of emergency nature.

To the best of our knowledge Chautauqua County has the largest radio network in number of mobile and walkie-talkie radios, station house receivers, and base stations in this part of the country without the services of at least one full time technician. There are several New York State counties supporting one full time and one part time radio technician with considerably less equipment to service and repair.

You're SMART When You're Careful About FIRE



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

THE  
B O O S T E R  
LINE

Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

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## WHAT IS A FIREMAN?

At the recent sessions of the American Association of Advancement of Science in New York City, the assembled scientists decided to help solve the problems created by the advancement of science. Among the new hazards cited were radiation, man-made chemicals, fumes and smog, deterioration of natural resources, and the potential of totally destructive war.

Scientists may devote some time to undo what their efforts have done, but still the Fire Departments are the ones whose shoulders the potential risks are on, and firemen will be responsible for the actual results in any emergency brought about by the over-use or careless use of any of these danger elements.

Thus the scope of a fireman is no longer a simple knowledge of extinguishment, but a complicated amalgamation of scientist, chemist, therapeutic, bone specialist, rescuer, acrobat, strong-man, engineer, teacher, endurance holder, mechanic, and over all community guardian.

As a scientist, the Fire Department profession is called upon to scrutinize and sense potential hazards, radioactive or otherwise. As a chemist the fireman is expected to know the chemical changes of various drugs, spray products, and plastics when combined with fire as well as the extent of hazard to themselves and the citizens they protect. As a therapeutic they must know the immediate antidote for poisons and burns. As a bone specialist a fireman must know the proper removal for a person with possible broken bones, including their own. As a rescuer he must first endeavor feats of heroism and climb to places unthought of in cases of fire or suicidal attempts. Firemen must be acrobatic of the first degree to scale walls, crawl through small areas, and cling to swaying ladders all under the most dangerous circumstances. They must be physically strong enough to lift people and objects of terrific weight to accomplish the results. The engineering ability is needed in the officers split second decisions, on the stresses placed on the burning building's timbers, brick walls or steel framework, to recall men before an accident happens.

Firemen must be able to teach others to have their same qualifications, and they must be able to teach little children the dangers of fire in view of prevention methods. They must be able to stay at their post around the clock, or just return from one tough alarm and speed with renewed vigor to the next. The fireman must be able to anticipate a fire, either intentional or accidental, order increased watchmen for extra hazardous plants, and realize what is vulnerable to enemy sabotage.

These are a few of the qualifications expected of firemen by their respective communities. Some localities are now trying to pass on the job of catching criminals, directing traffic, and general policing to the Fire Service. The only way this can be forever squelched is by lifting the esteem of the Fire Department personnel. Remember that our daily actions and duties are watched closely by our citizens, and we must keep on our toes to guard against criticism that may damage our profession whether we be paid or volunteer firemen.

We have a great and important work to do not often understood by the public, and we seldom come in direct contact with the man on the street while on duty. We are judged by our abilities, our acts, and our reactions usually under the stress of a fire or public emergency.



#### TRAINING FACILITIES STARTED

The Lakewood Fire Department recently completed the first of several projects at their new training grounds. A three story drill tower measuring thirty-five feet high and fifteen feet square has been constructed by the members, and adjacent to the tower, the firemen have built a pond that is 75 feet long, 50 feet wide and 6 feet deep for the practice of draughting water with pumpers. The pond is approximately two hundred feet from the tower and is both drain and spring fed.

Last year the Fire Department purchased the ten acres of land from the County on tax sale, and with the aid of a bulldozer, the firemen began developing the training grounds by removing brush, installing a roadway and building drainage facilities.

The next projects call for the installation of a model sprinkler system in the ground floor of the tower, and the construction of a complicated fire apparatus driver training course at one end of the property. Pits, an elevated tank and other training devices will be undertaken in the near future to make a well rounded training facility that can simulate nearly every type of fire encountered by today's modern fire department.

We salute the Lakewood Fire Department for their first to have developed a training ground in our County; a project of lasting value.

#### RAILROAD FIRE DETECTOR

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad has installed an electronic fire detector near its tracks at Norge, Virginia. The infrared device next to the rails checks the heat of car journal boxes as the wheels roll by.

Temperatures are recorded on a tape in the station. When the detector indicates a "hot box," the train is stopped.

#### AROUND THE COUNTY

No serious fire marred the activities of Fire Prevention Week, and we noted that several "tons" of literature was given out in the schools and to homeowners. The Junior Fire Marshall program sponsored by the Hartford Fire Insurance Company for elementary school children was particularly impressive and beat anything we have seen during F.P. Week.

The Kiantone Fire Department has voted to purchase former Engine 10 from the Buffalo Fire Department. The apparatus has a 1,000 pump and was constructed by the Buffalo Fire Appliance Corp. in 1942.

Fluvanna firemen are rapidly completing their new headquarters addition which will house three pieces of apparatus. Now it will be a distinct pleasure to drive Engine 49 to all fires and emergencies!

Station house receivers have been ordered for the East Dunkirk, Hartfield and Sunset Bay Fire Departments. Also nine receivers were included for the cities of Dunkirk and Jamestown where each station will be able to listen in on the County Fire Service Radio System.

Pennsylvania firemen have managed to get the State Legislature to approve blue lights even though the mounting of such lights on firemen's cars is restrictive. We also understand that flashing red lights on highway equipment is banned and that amber lights will be used instead.

The County has approved the employment of a second part time radio technician to assist Dick Lovejoy. Mr. Barris from Silver Creek will service all equipment within the First and Second Battalions, with one or two exceptions. This should improve the service facilities slightly.



#### INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS SOLICITED

In view of the necessity of appointing a new County Fire Instructor, the Training Committee of the Advisory Board requests that all interested persons make application for the position by not later than December 1, 1957. The successful applicant will receive State Civil Service status and be compensated at the rate of \$5.00 per hour while teaching, including transportation to and from classes. Listed below are the qualifications required by the Civil Service Commission:

1. Graduation from a standard senior high school and five years of fire fighting experience, of which either two years shall have included supervision over subordinate employees or one year shall have involved experience in the conduct of a fire control training program; or
2. Seven years of the above experience, including two years of supervision over subordinate employees, or one year of experience in the conduct of a fire control training program; or
3. A satisfactory equivalent combination of the foregoing education and experience.

The County supplies all necessary training aids, and course schedules are prepared by the Training Coordinator with the assistance of the Instructor. For one week each year the Instructor is required to attend a State sponsored training conference for which he receives expenses for travel, room and board.

All applicants are requested to submit their intentions in writing to either Chairman Willis R. Wilson of Westfield or Chief Irvin B. Bowen of Ashville. A brief resume of each candidates qualifications, etc. will be appreciated by the Training Committee.

#### BOOMING SUCCESS

It was 1793. In New York, President Washington was rounding out his first term. George III sat upon the throne of England directing a war against France; and, a little bespectacled London shopkeeper had an idea. He placed a charge of black powder at the bottom of a barrel of water, then strung strips of cord (first fusible elements) between the cracks of the barrel and spread the strips across the floor of his plum pudding and gin emporium.

One night a fire broke out. BOOM! Extinction was immediate. His merchandise was saved. Except for a gaping hole in one wall, damage was "slight". An axiom of fire control was demonstrated, viz. combustion can be controlled if water is placed on the fire immediately after inception. One hundred and sixty-four years have passed and automatic sprinklers have been perfected to an incredible degree.

#### WORTH MENTION

We think this prankster deserves honorable mention. On Halloween the Jamestown Police Department stopped a small truck which was transporting one of those necessities of life on the farm (a privy to you city slickers), and the Officer was about to make an arrest when the driver of the truck produced a legal bill of sale establishing ownership of the building in question. Of course no arrest could be made, and our hero continued on his way to deposit his cargo elsewhere.

One of our local Fire Departments are so imbued with the spirit of haste in responding to alarms that they drive their apparatus right through unopened fire station doors, and just before elections too!!



### TRAINING CENTER APPROVED

Construction of a training center, the only one of its type in the United States, was recently approved by the Suffolk County, New York, Board of Supervisors. Following the opening of bids on four major contracts, it was found that the total estimated cost of \$365,000 would not be exceeded and that the amount would be well within the matching fund allotment provided by the Federal Government.

The center will contain a number of unusual training facilities including a four story rescue and fire training tower, an enclosed fire fighting room and smoke house, special roads for driver training, and a classroom building. The facilities will provide training procedures and practical evolutions for the Fire and Rescue services. The center is to be constructed on 20 acres of County owned property in Yaphank.

### PLASTIC FIRE HOSE

Developed some three years ago in Europe, there is a new type of plastic fire hose which is now being tested in this Country. In the 2½ inch size, a 50 foot length of plastic hose weighs 18-¾ pounds as against approximately 58 pounds in weight for the conventional 2½ inch double jacket, rubber lined hose now in common use.

One further advantage, from the standpoint of the fireman, is that the new plastic hose is said to require little washing and no drying. In putting couplings on, the hose was tested to 512 pounds pressure and no defect was noted. Arrangements have been made to thoroughly test the new hose during the cold weather months under fire fighting use.

### THE EDITOR NOTES THAT

The City of Dunkirk has signed a contract with the Seagrave Corp. of Columbus, Ohio for the delivery of two 1,000 g.p.m. pumping engines at a total cost of \$48,352.00. When delivered these new engines will replace units now in service at Hose Co. No. 1 and Hose Co. No. 4. The engines will have fully enclosed three man cabs, 250 horsepower V-12 motors, and 400 gallon booster tanks. A separate, power-take-off high pressure pump rated at 40 g.p.m. at 1,000 p.s.i. pressure will also be featured on each new unit. Delivery is expected in April of next year.

The Ashville Fire Department has purchased a new 60 watt base station from the Radio Corporation of America, and it will operate on the County Fire Service frequency of 46.10 megacycles. Installation will take place this month with planned in service operation by January 1st.

As has been policy from the beginning, each Chief Officer in the County receives two copies of this publication. Many Chiefs have been kind enough to post their extra copy on the station bulletin board so that all members of the Department might read our paper. We sincerely thank those Chiefs who have continually made this effort, and we ask that the few others please post their extra copies as we are unable to send issues of The Booster Line to all members of the Fire Service.

Compliments are in order for Sheriff McCloskey for his excellent work in apprehending the several Halloween pranksters who set fires resulting in property loss and unnecessary work for the Fire Departments. At this time eight youths have been taken into custody and charged with third degree arson, and we understand others may ultimately be involved.

Christmas is just around the corner and thought should be given to planning holiday fire safety programs by all community Fire Departments.



#### FIRE ON SWEDE HILL

"The Fire Department caused a long run. Charles Erickson's house on Chapin Street, Swede Hill, caught fire from a defective chimney in the ell part of the house this morning about 9:30 o'clock. Some men who were walking on the railroad track between Dexterville and Piousville saw the smoke and gave the alarm at J. T. Wilson's office whence it was telephoned to the Exchange and from there sent to the fire department headquarters. The candle snuffer in the bell tower on Fourth Street was out of order but someone pounded it several times loud enough for a few of the firemen to hear and the rest were notified by word of mouth. The Hooks reached the scene of the fire first and was the only company that went to the house with its apparatus besides Rescue Engine Co.

"Eagle Hose Co. made the first and only attachment to the fire plug in Piousville at the intersection of Harrison Street by Winsor. The Prendergasts attached their hose to that of the Eagles, and Deluge lengthened the line by the addition of its hose. Although a half mile of hose was laid in all, it was not nearly long enough to reach the fire. However, the hydrant was opened and the road at the nozzle end of the line was wet down with water from the mains.

"The fire did but little damage except to the roof of that portion of the house and to the summer kitchen adjoining. Water taken from a pump in the yard and carried to the roof in pails extinguished the blaze. The loss will probably not exceed over \$200. There was an insurance of \$1,350 on the building and contents, the policy of which was written by S. E. Milspaw. The house was entirely emptied of its furniture, much of which was more or less injured by the removal.

"Much of the apparatus of the Hooks was put into use at the fire, and as the company's members were not all in attendance, the men of the other organizations assisted in the work of thoroughly wetting down the damaged portion of the building to prevent the possibility of the fire starting up again.

"The distance of the fire from Main Street was over a mile, and in covering the distance the firemen and horses were greatly exhausted."

The above news item appeared in the Jamestown Evening Journal on Friday, August 25, 1882, and is reprinted for your Holiday diversion.

#### PLANS MADE FOR TRAINING

At the November meeting of the Advisory Board it was agreed to set up and sponsor training programs for Rescue and First Aid, and for Fire Police. It is planned to hold the Rescue and First Aid training session on a date to be announced in January, and the Fire Police school will be held in February.

The Rescue and First Aid class will be conducted by medical personnel from Buffalo and emphasis will be given to treatment of heart cases with resuscitators and inhalators. The schools will be open to all firemen and fire officers.

#### IS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS

But not everyone sleeps for firemen know that fires at Christmas time are particularly tragic. Let's keep the Holidays real safe, and to our most wonderful readers we wish you-

A Merry, Merry Christmas