

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

Number 213

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Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

January 1, 1962

HOSE POOL DEPLETED

For several years a County reserve hose pool has been maintained at the Lakewood Fire Headquarters for use by any Department needing a "dry load" after a serious fire. The pool hose was donated by a number of Fire Departments with Jamestown as the principal contributor.

A couple of weeks ago Lakewood firemen tested all of the pool hose and had to dispose of 600 feet as it would not withstand the Underwriters recommended test pressure of 200 pounds per square inch; in fact over half of the tested hose burst at pressures of less than 50 pounds. The condition of this hose is understandable when we realize that much of it was over thirty years old, and one length in particular was stamped with the date 1918.

When the hose pool idea was originally conceived it was planned to establish a pool at Lakewood and a pool at Fredonia; thus permitting more convenient access to all Fire Departments. Moreover, it was felt that at least 1,000 feet of 2½ inch hose should be stored at each location. But when all donations of hose were finally received there was only enough for one pool, and since the majority of hose donated had "Jamestown Thread" couplings (not National Standard), it was decided to keep it in Lakewood.

Recently the County Fire Chiefs Association issued an appeal for hose donations so that the existing pool could be replenished and one established at Fredonia. To date, however, no donations have been made and it appears that our Fire Departments are not interested in the project. If each Department would donate just one 50 foot length, we would then have sufficient hose for the two pools; about 1,200 feet for each.

From records kept at Lakewood, we find that during the past five years hose was borrowed from the pool eighteen times. The records further indicate that none was ever borrowed by Lakewood, but that it was loaned as far away as South Dayton in Cattaraugus County. From this information it appears that there is a need for hose pools, and we appeal to you to assist in reestablishing and expanding this project.

MAPLE SPRINGS ORDERS NEW PUMPER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Maple Springs Fire District have signed a contract with the Ward LaFrance Truck Corporation of Elmira Heights, New York, for delivery of a new pumper apparatus at the bid price of \$15,381.66. The pumper will be constructed on a Ford F-950 chassis having a 266 horsepower motor with 534 cubic inch displacement. The pump will be a single-stage centrifugal having a capacity of 750 g.p.m., and the booster tank will hold 750 gallons of water. The new engine will also feature a 1,000 watt "Power-Pack" to supply power for portable floodlights directly from the pumper's generating system.

YOUR ROVING REPORTER NOTES THAT-

William Doty was recently elected Chief of the Celoron Fire Dep't. and Chief Doty's telephone number is Jamestown 96-738.

Chief Charles R. Dorman, Assistant Director of the State Division of Fire Safety, visited relatives in Lakewood over the Holidays.

Cassadaga firemen have put their new ambulance in service; it finally came through from the manufacturer in the right color (white).

It's about time we wish all of you a Happy and Fire Safe New Year.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

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January 15, 1962

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A well-established volunteer department involves considerably more than apparatus and a group of trained firemen. The men at the firehouse can maintain and improve equipment and discharge their other responsibilities. But who is to produce the considerable monies which are required? Who will see to it that the organization is properly insured? Who is to handle the publicity necessary if the community is to be kept advised of the department's progress and special matters in which all residents are interested? Who is to establish and maintain books of account which will show precisely what the organization's overhead is, what income is needed, how fast equipment is depreciating and what reserves are available for the improvement or replacement of equipment?

A volunteer department can put just about every skill or talent to good use. Any bazaar will show how creative interests of any kind can be utilized to provide not only moral support for the organization, but financial assistance as well. In short, the volunteer Fire Service offers a tailor-made opportunity for everyone, of whatever age or skill, to help in one way or another. The imaginative and progressive department finds ways to tap this potential reservoir of business experience, sound judgment and good will.

Last, but by no means least, a word must be said about the volunteer's wife. She is very much a part of the service, if only because of her tolerance, and quite aside from her activities in the Ladies' Auxiliary. The average volunteer fireman spends a great amount of time on his organization's affairs and offers correspondingly less help and companionship at home. Society can be grateful to his patient spouse. Without her cooperation, the volunteer Fire Service would be impossible.

The one single fact of which you can be absolutely certain is that your siren will sound again. When it does, the call will be answered by men who have learned to live with fear, who will know that they may be unable to gain control, but who will do the best they can. Every minute they spend on that call will be matched by endless hours devoted to getting ready for it. Remember that. Remember it always!

TO GET NEW AMBULANCE

The Village of Bemus Point has signed a contract with Armbruster and Company of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, for delivery of a new ambulance for use by the Fire Department. The ambulance will consist of a 1 ton Chevrolet panel truck converted for carrying up to four persons. Bid price of this unit was \$6,545.42, and delivery is expected in April.

FROM HERE AND THERE

A Radiological School will be held at the Busti Fire Headquarters beginning Monday, January 15th, at 7:30 P.M. All firemen are urged to attend this six weeks course.

The Wattsburg, Pennsylvania, Fire Department meets their operating expenses by hauling water for farmers at the rate of one cent a gallon.

Ray Hughes attended a State sponsored, regional County Fire Coordinators Conference in Attica, New York, on Saturday, January 6th. One of the principal topics discussed was the establishment of a State-wide Fire Service radio communications system between county control centers.

Said one Fire Chief to another:

"Who was that cute little readhead I saw you outwit last night?"

ANNUAL ALARM REPORT

The annual Alarm Report prepared by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz indicates that the County Fire Service experienced another busy year during 1961. The figures below are compiled from alarm records at the County Fire Control Center and include both cities. It will be noted that the number of Non-Fire Emergencies increased slightly over the previous year; a trend that has been experienced ever since accurate records have been maintained.

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, highway accidents, rescue calls, 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	95	100	39
February	75	103	7
March	157	90	1
April	104	89	4
May	91	90	6
June	47	75	7
July	83	128	7
August	69	141	10
September	79	101	8
October	91	101	15
November	92	81	11
December	65	110	11
1961 Total	<u>1,048</u>	<u>1,209</u>	<u>126</u>
1960 Total	1,179	1,153	96
1959 Total	1,179	1,053	129
1958 Total	1,153	934	103
1957 Total	1,252	815	142
1956 Total	1,000	632	102
1955 Total	1,113	485	102
1954 Total	1,081	354	151

TEN YEARS OLD

With this issue of The Booster Line we begin our tenth year of publication. It has been a real pleasure to bring you the news (although some may have been stale) and offer suggestions for improvement of our Fire Service. We sincerely thank the Sheriff's Department, the local radio dispatchers, Fire Chiefs and firemen for their assistance and cooperation during the past year. We have a real working team!

One favor we ask of all Fire Chiefs - please post one of the two copies of our little paper on your fire station bulletin board so that all firemen will have an opportunity to read us.

FALCONER - Frank Waddington has been appointed Chief of the Falconer Fire Department. Chief Waddington's phone number is Jamestown 63-295.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

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ANTENNAS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

In spite of the fact that nearly ten years have passed since our County Fire Service Radio Communications System went into operation, there is still a widespread misunderstanding about antennas for our station house receivers; one of the important parts of our selective call system for activating general alarms from the Control Center.

When the radio receivers were first purchased by the County, it was understood that each Fire Department would furnish the proper antenna and install same in the best possible location. This agreement was made because each fire station location presented a different problem as to the type, height and kind of antenna needed to insure proper functioning of the radio receiver under most weather and distance conditions.

For example, the Mayville Fire Department situated less than a mile from the Control Center Base Station does not need an antenna of much height or of a special design. On the other hand, the Forestville Fire Department located approximately 24 miles (as the crow flies) from the Control Center should and must have a more elaborate antenna mounted at considerable height above the ground level.

Many of our troubles in the past and even today can be traced to inadequate or improperly placed antennas. The station receiver must receive a fairly strong signal from the Control Center Base Station in order to operate properly. In other words, the tone signals must be picked up with sufficient strength so that the decoding device within the receiver will trip the small relay that, in turn, sounds the alarm.

All Fire Departments, particularly those that have experienced continual difficulties with their receivers, should install a good antenna. We have found one make of antenna that works exceptionally well and can be purchased for about \$35.00 plus installation. If you are interested, please contact our County Radio Technician, Mr. Peter Lascell (Car 70), and he will advise you as to the antenna mentioned and the best installation for your particular location.

NEW BASE STATIONS TO OPERATE

The Westfield Fire Department recently received their license from the Federal Communications Commission to operate a base station at the Westfield Fire Headquarters. The call for this new station is KBS-950.

Fluvanna and Cherry Creek firemen have filed applications with the F.C.C. for licenses to operate base stations at their respective fire stations. Fluvanna plans to incorporate a system of home radio receivers for each fireman along with their new station.

FILM EXPLAINS LIFE SAVING TECHNIQUE

Fire Department rescue teams now have an opportunity to receive an important new teaching aid to help them bring back to life thousands of persons who die needlessly each year.

"Life in Your Hands," a film available from the Medical Film Center, Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, 1500 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia 1, Pennsylvania, was produced in cooperation with the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution and explains the use of a life saving technique to revive hearts too good to die. Called closed chest cardiac massage, or manual heart compression, the technique is performed without surgery, and is a recent development of the Johns Hopkins Institute.

FIRST LINE OF CIVIL DEFENSE

The press had some interesting observations to make about the recent Fire Service's National Civil Defense Staff and Command Course conducted in Battle Creek, Michigan.

In an interview with Chief Engineer Keith E. Klinger, of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Fire Chief William F. Murray, of San Francisco, and former Chief Henry Thomas, of Hartford, Connecticut, a newspaper reporter, John L. Walters, reported that they were agreed that there must be further recognition by the Federal Government of the critical nature of the nation's defense.

Chief Murray explained that the object of the course was to set up an organization to train people who could step into any area and take command of a mass fire defense.

"We need," said Chief Murray, "a top fire coordinator at the national level and fire coordinators at the regional level. We are pretty well set at the local and state level, but we get a little lost when we think higher than that," he said.

Chief Klinger said federal recognition must be in the areas of standardization of equipment and training, in financial assistance to build up equipment reserves that could be moved to any area where they might be needed.

"We don't think the federal government fully realizes what is going to happen when it comes to fire following a nuclear attack," said Chief Klinger. (Hamburg's fire storm of World War II haunts the sleep of all fire professionals.) "The fire department will be the first line of civilian defense," he added.

Mr. Thomas said there has been little recognition of a 2,000,000-man army now trained and ready to go in an instant--the nation's professional and volunteer firemen.

"This army of men is dedicated to saving life and property. Without these men and the Fire Service, there is no civil defense," Mr. Thomas declared. He was quick to add that it cannot stand alone, nor can any of the other vital agencies--health, police and public works.

The 57 men attending this course--known as the National Fire Staff and Command School--weren't concerned with learning how to operate fire fighting apparatus--they know. They were concerned with how it was going to be used on the mass scale necessary in the event of a nuclear attack. They have some ideas already from Chief Klinger's operation in Southern California where, as the Chief puts it, "We get to practice about every year"---on forest (brush) fires.

In the Los Angeles area Chief Klinger must operate much as a general would in battle. He has foot soldiers, mobile equipment and an especially equipped air force at his command in up to seven counties, many municipalities and with federal fire fighting forces in addition to his own in the battle to contain these canyon fires. These men consider equipment standardization all important.

Chief Murray noted that "the threads on the fire hose connections in one city may not fit the fire hydrants in another city." (Every department must carry adapters even to use township hose on city mains in this area.)

It is interesting to note that in the five county area comprising Erie, Warren and McKean in Pennsylvania, and Chautauqua and Cattaraugus in New York, there are eleven different fire hose threads in common use.

George V. Blackstone
Editor- Publisher

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John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

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COUNTY CHIEFS REQUEST HELP

The County Fire Chiefs Association has asked your Editor to assist in soliciting donations of 2½ inch fire hose for the County Hose Pools. Thus, in cooperation with the Association, each Chief Fire Officer will receive a self-addressed and stamped postal card with this issue of the Booster Line.

We ask, Dear Chief, that you fill out the questions and sign your name on the back of the card then mail it as soon as possible.

At the present time, we have 700 feet of 2½ inch hose in the Lakewood Pool and 50 feet of 2½ inch hose in the Fredonia Pool. The Chiefs Association will deeply appreciate each Fire Department donating one or two lengths of hose to the pools so that an inventory of at least 1,000 feet will be available in each Hose Pool.

FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULED

The County Training Coordinator, Donald A. Sales, has prepared and sent out the 1962-63 Fire Training School schedule. Mr. Walter R. Burr and Chief Frank A. Estep, III will teach "Essentials of Firemanship" at Cassadaga beginning April 1st, at Celoron beginning April 2nd, at Chautauqua beginning April 3rd, and at Westfield beginning April 4th. The courses will run for twelve weeks or a total of 36 hours. It should be noted that the evening classes begin promptly at 7:30 P.M. while the one Sunday school begins at 9:00 A.M. (Father Burr will lead the prayers at the Sunday School.)

Firemen attending the courses are required to furnish a pen, pencil, and an 8½" x 11" 3-ring notebook. Workbooks will be supplied by the State Division of Fire Safety. Let's make this a banner year for attending fire schools in Chautauqua County, and, don't forget, our neighboring Pennsylvania firemen friends are invited to attend also.

TWO MORE COUNTIES ADMITTED

The County Fire Mutual Aid Plans of Essex and Chenango counties have been recently accepted for admittance in the State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan. This brings the total number of participating counties to 34.

As a preliminary procedure, the County Fire Coordinator of each county prepares a local plan for coping with large fires. If this plan meets or exceeds the requirements for the State Fire Plan, the county is admitted. The State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan is an aggregate of all county plans; and, to a great degree, its successful operation in the event of a State-wide disaster will depend upon whether or not each county has submitted its plan of operation to the State Division of Fire Safety.

We wonder why the Chautauqua County Plan has never been submitted for approval and acceptance.

CHIEF DORMAN IN HOSPITAL

Many of you may not have known that Chief Charles R. Dorman, formerly a member of your Advisory Board while Chief of the Jamestown Fire Department and now Assistant Director of the State Division of Fire Safety, underwent surgery for a back injury several weeks ago. After a set-back caused by a postoperative infection, Charlie returned home but we've been informed that he is back in the hospital with complications.

TESTING OF PUMPING APPARATUS

Considerable interest is being shown throughout the County in conducting periodic tests of pumping apparatus. In New York State every new pumper of 500 g.p.m. or greater capacity is required to be tested upon delivery by the Rating Organization. Results of these tests are forwarded to and kept on file by the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization; the agency responsible for determining fire insurance rates and the classification of Fire Departments.

The delivery tests, often called acceptance tests, are usually conducted by the apparatus manufacturer's representative or delivery engineer. Frequently an engineer of the Rating Organization will witness a test and assist in its conduct, but such procedure is not required. However, the Chief Fire Officer or his assistant should be present at the tests to witness the results and make sure the apparatus meets the Underwriters' requirements.

Until recently, the vast majority of pumping apparatus received this one initial test only, and during the next twenty to twenty-five years it was assumed that the apparatus would continue to meet the original pumping specifications. When firemen started running tests on a regular basis year in and year out, they discovered some very startling deficiencies and alarming troubles. Like any piece of complicated machinery, pumping apparatus wears out and, most important, it fails to function properly because of lack of use.

With few exceptions, every Fire Department in Chautauqua County has experienced humiliating embarrassment when an engineer of the Fire Insurance Rating Organization suddenly showed up to conduct pump tests. Very few pumpers could meet the requirements of their original rating, and many had to be taken out of service for lengthy and expensive repairs. Besides jeopardizing efficient fire protection, such breakdowns imposed a severe expense problem that was not in the community or Department budget.

We do not advocate that you conduct a full three hour Underwriters' test, but rather a condensed version achieving the same results in, say, one hour at least once a year. We further realize that many Departments do not have the necessary or proper equipment to conduct a pump test, such as nozzles with 1½ inch tips, pitot gauges and hand revolution counters. However, this equipment may be borrowed from a neighboring Department or secured through your Battalion Coordinator. If assistance is needed in setting up the tests, do not hesitate to ask your Coordinator or Fire Advisory Board.

Briefly an Underwriters' tests consists of drafting water with a ten foot lift with the pump delivering the following capacities and pressures: (Class A pump requirement)

1. 100% of the pump's rated capacity at 150 p.s.i. pressure.
2. 70% of the pump's rated capacity at 200 p.s.i. pressure.
3. 50% of the pump's rated capacity at 250 p.s.i. pressure.

The pump should also be able to draft and discharge water from this 10 foot lift in thirty seconds. Dry vacuum tests with no water in the pump should develop 22 inches of vacuum and hold this for a period of ten minutes without a loss of vacuum greater than ten inches. It is good practice to "work" the relief valve, transfer valve in multi-stage pumps, and check out all valves and drains.

It is amazing what an oil can will do to improve your apparatus!

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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RECEIVERS ON THE COUNTY NET

As more and more interest appears in the use of Fire Department home radio receivers, a number of problems face the County Radio Network and the individual Departments purchasing same. It would seem that it is high time for us to sit down and pre-plan the overall home receiver use before we unintentionally jeopardize our Fire Service Radio Communications System and upset our individual plans to have an efficient alerting system.

Not only is it costly to suddenly find that we must change a radio frequency, but it is more important to work out a plan of mutual benefit so that neither the County nor the respective Fire Department will suffer from jammed and overloaded communications.

One Fire Department in the County already has \$7,056.00 invested in firemen's home receivers and plans to purchase fourteen more units this year. Six other Departments already have one or more receivers in operation, and three Departments contemplate the purchase of receivers this year; one of which plans to buy forty-eight units. At this time, we estimate that there are 146 home radio receivers in use either on the County frequency of 46.10 megacycles or on a "private" frequency of 46.18 megacycles. Perhaps we are already a little late in pre-planning.

If a Fire Department uses the County frequency to alert its members, it is imperative that such an alerting system be of the selective call type utilizing a tone or tones to activate the receivers, otherwise the firemen will be constantly annoyed by most of the radio communications in the rest of the County and even from other counties. To impose more tones, however, on the County network may pose problems to the operation of our present Fire Department selective calling system.

By utilizing a so called "private" frequency, such as 46.18 megacycles, eventually a number of receivers on this same frequency would cause problems of annoyance and inconvenience and might even get to the point of confusion. It may be that the Federal Communications Commission will issue licenses to operate on other frequencies, but we doubt this in view of the limited frequency spectrum and the great demands.

Your Editor strongly urges the Advisory Board and the Fire Chiefs Association to jointly undertake a study of the home receiver problem so that a comprehensive plan of benefit to all can be established. No one person can determine the best solutions; it must be a joint effort.

REKINDLES CAN BE DANGEROUS

From time to time we hear about rekindles or fires which break out a second time after the apparatus has returned to its quarters. Experienced fire fighters know that rekindles are likely after serious "working" fires and accordingly a watch line or detail is usually left on the premises after the apparatus leaves.

A very good practice followed by many Fire Departments is for an officer to return to the fire scene after a few hours have elapsed and carefully look over the property. Some advantages of this procedure are; the property owner will be more composed and may give more information as to the origin and circumstances of the fire, the officer will be better able to review the evidences of fire travel, etc., and if any heating or hidden fire is detected, the apparatus may be recalled before serious damage is done. There is nothing quite so embarrassing as to have a good "save" turned into a complete loss by a rekindled fire.

TRAINING SCHOOLS LACK INTEREST

The State Fire Training Program which is sponsored by the Advisory Board has not attracted as large an attendance as was anticipated, according to a report from Donald A. Sales, County Training Coordinator. Only 88 firemen have signed up for the four current schools.

At Cassadaga 28 men are enrolled, at Chautauqua 24, at Celoron 20, and at Westfield 16 are taking "Essentials of Firemanship." We hope that the Fall program beginning August 12th at Brocton and Frewsburg will draw more interest from all of the County Fire Service.

SAFETY ON THE HIGHWAY

At the onset of Mutual Aid planning in our County, the Chief Fire Officers were unanimous in their opinion that fire apparatus should not exceed the speed of 40 m.p.h. when responding to Mutual Aid emergencies. This safety factor was and is deemed necessary to protect human lives and insure that the apparatus reaches its destination without mishap.

The recent terrible accident near Dayton, New York, in which two firemen were critically injured and the apparatus burned to a total loss may not be indicative of excessive speed, but surely brings to our attention the need for caution and control of our apparatus at all times. Last week a nearby Pennsylvania Fire Department suffered the total loss of their three week old pumper while responding to a rural fire. Fortunately no one was seriously injured when the apparatus was driven too close to an embankment which gave way under the weight of the apparatus causing the truck to drop nearly fifty feet upside down.

Not only is speed on the highway unnecessary, but good common sense in the handling of apparatus is imperative. All too often we go to park our trucks too close to the fire scene resulting in scorched paint and cracked windows from the heat of a fire out of control. Be safe; use common sense in driving heavy fire apparatus.

USE YOUR BREATH, MAN

It's getting so that the "smoke eater" hardly deceives anybody. Evidence of this showed in the cynical comment of a citizen who recently watched members of a local Fire Department attack a small, but smoky fire in a residence. A number of the fire fighters had entered the building without their gas masks, only to return to their apparatus choking from smoke inhalation. The citizen's comment went something like this: "Lookit them! They got masks on the trucks and they don't use them! Whatta bunch of actors!"

To avoid such public reaction in the future the Fire Service has two courses of action. Either all masks should be stored where the public cannot see them, or else all firemen should have the masks ready for quick use and wear them whenever they enter a building involved by fire.

Remember, breathing apparatus helps rescue efforts, guards the lives of firemen, cuts down fire losses and minimizes water damage. Only with proper breathing equipment can the origin of many fires be located early enough to prevent their spread to serious proportions.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs report that over 500 firemen were felled by smoke inhalation during a recent three month period in the United States. The Chiefs Association added that heart seizures superinduced by smoke inhalation resulted in several deaths.

CHIEF J. F. MARTYN RETIRES

Chief John F. Martyn of the Jamestown Fire Department retired on May 7th for reasons of health. He served the Fire Service for 43 years having joined the Jamestown force in 1919. In 1930, Jack Martyn was promoted to Captain, and in 1936 advanced to Assistant Chief. In 1960, he was named Chief of Department.

For many years, Jack was Department Instructor, and he maintained an intense interest in fire fighter training and operations throughout his career. He frequently attended both national and regional instructors conferences and contributed much to the benefit of the local Fire Service.

We will all miss Jack, and we wish him the best in health and happiness in his retirement.

AROUND THE COUNTY

The Cherry Creek Fire Department has been issued a license by the Federal Communications Commission to operate a new 60 watt base station. The call letters are KBW-774, and the firemen expect to have the radio in operation within the next 60 days.

Battalion Coordinators who run out of gas while responding to a fire should pay heed to the first rule of any Fire Department, namely "Be sure the rig is always full". However, a hasty mutual aid call did bring results, and our Coordinator was able to proceed to the scene.

During the recent heat wave and grass fire season, Asst. Chief Robert J. Fischer of the Lakewood Fire Department was leisurely enjoying a bottle of pop at the fire station when in came an alarm for a grass fire. The Chief nonchalantly boarded one of the trucks with pop bottle still in hand. Upon arrival at the fire, he jumped off the rig, shook the bottle a couple of times to build up pressure, and doused the fire completely. We understand that the Pepsi-Cola Co. wants to know if Chief Fischer is still sociable and thinking young!

We note that the Annual Banquet of the County Fire Chiefs Association is to be held at Ma's and Pa's Restaurant again this year. Must be that Elliot Anderson gets a slice off every steak. The date, May 23.

Maple Springs firemen have added a Ford Econoline truck to their collection to make the third new piece of apparatus purchased this year. The new unit will be used as a utility vehicle to carry all the odds and ends needed at most fires. We understand that the Ford Motor Co. is thinking seriously of opening up an agency in Maple Springs to promote their latest line of fire and emergency apparatus.

HAZARDS OF FIRE FIGHTING

Former Chief Don Loeb, now residing in Connecticut, sent us a newspaper clipping datelined New Britain:

"A blind New Britain attorney and his wife escaped safely from their burning home last night. The fire was in their basement.

"Three firemen trying to get to the blaze at the home of Julius D. Morris, 135 Marlin Rd., fell into a swimming pool.

"Capt. Francis Crowley, Acting Deputy Chief Raymond Gallati and Fireman Raymond Kelly, partially blinded by smoke, jumped a wire fence and landed in the canvas-covered pool. They managed to wade their way out and proceeded to fight the flames, dripping wet."

If it isn't swimming pools, it's burned through floors; thanks Don.

CARE OF FIRE HOSE

One of our most important fire fighting tools, namely fire hose, frequently receives little or no care and fails to withstand normal water pressures when it is most needed. Also the life of fire hose is considerably shortened if proper attention and care is not given to it, and, considering its value both as to current cost and emergency need, we cannot afford to neglect the hose we have.

Fire hose requires special care since it is made of materials which are susceptible to deterioration and wear. The following procedures are suggested in order to keep hose in good condition for its expected service life, and most of these procedures apply regardless of whether the multiple jackets are of all cotton, cotton filler threads of synthetic polyester filaments, or jackets of synthetic polyester.

CLEANING: After use, hose should be cleaned of all foreign matter. Clean water and brushing is all that will be needed in most instances, but when the jacket has been in contact with oil, tar, chemicals, etc., use a mild soap or detergent in the water.

DRYING: Hose should not be reloaded on apparatus when it is wet, particularly when cotton is used in the jacket, or mildew may set in and cause weakening of the fibres. Hose should be dried in towers, in cabinets, or on inclined racks, with adequate ventilation in all cases. The use of sidewalks, driveways or the apparatus floor for drying is not considered satisfactory as water may not drain completely. Outdoor facilities in warm climates, when protected from the weather, may be generally suitable. When towers are employed, hose should be hung by the coupling, or folded over pegs or saddles at the top of the tower. If racks are used, hose should be placed so as to avoid the dripping of water from hose on upper shelves onto hose on the lower shelves, as even a small amount of water in contact with a rubber lining can form an acid solution which may cause damage.

STORAGE: After drying, hose should be rolled and stored on suitable racks in a dry place away from heat. The male coupling should be inside the roll to protect the threads.

COUPLINGS: Couplings should be checked to make sure that they are tight on the hose and not "out of round", that the threads are in good condition, and that the swivel on the female coupling is free. If necessary, a small amount of graphite may be used on the threads and swivel as a lubricant; oil and grease should not be employed.

RELOADING: If not used at fires, hose should be removed and reloaded on apparatus each month in order to change the location of the bends so that the possibility of permanent set in the lining at these points will be reduced. In order to maintain the useful life of rubber lining, it is good practice to run water through the hose at least every six months.

CHAFING: Care should be taken to prevent chafing of hose, particularly near the pumper where vibration from the apparatus is greatest. Stones, glass or other rough material on the ground can weaken the hose jacket very quickly.

TESTING: Hose should be tested at least annually, to the maximum pressure normally used by the Fire Department, but not less than 250 pounds per square inch. Hose that has been repaired should be similarly tested before being returned to service. Moreover, an index card should be kept for each length showing the make, size, date tested, etc.

F.C.C. RULES ON USE OF POLICE FREQUENCIES

The Federal Communications Commission recently issued a public notice pointing out that it will not grant waivers of its regulations which permit combined fire and police use of police frequencies after October 31, 1963.

As of November 1, 1963, only communications which pertain to official police activities will be permitted on frequencies assigned to the Police Service. The date coincides with that when narrow-band equipment must be employed by all fire and police licensees under the FCC's channel-splitting program.

We mention this deadline only because it will seriously affect our neighboring County of Cattaraugus which will, under this ruling, have to change all fire radio equipment from the current police frequency to an assigned fire frequency. This move will entail considerable expense including the purchase and installation of a new Control Center base station.

STATE FIREMEN COMMENDED

The important role of both paid and volunteer firemen was emphasized by Lt. Gen. F. W. Farrell in his talk May 20th before 500 members of New York State firemen at the Town of Colonie's second annual fire conference. General Farrell, who is State Director of Civil Defense, termed firemen "the disaster group in any community," and said that this group could be counted as the first line of defense in the event of emergency. He further noted that about two-thirds of the fixed monitoring stations in the State are located in fire stations.

STUDY YOUR WATER SUPPLY

The National Board of Fire Underwriters have issued a Special Interest Bulletin titled Water Supply, and the following excerpts are worth noting.

"Water supply is one of the most important tools available for use by firemen and the accessibility and strength of this supply is a significant factor in the control of most large fires. A good understanding of the water supply is necessary before fire officials can discuss and prepare effective operational plans. Therefore, a study of the water supply and distribution system by every member, and especially every officer, is of extreme importance in order that the fire force will have a thorough knowledge of this tool.

"Emergency provisions should receive consideration. The fire force should have a knowledge of all the sources of water which could be used in case the normal water supply is interrupted or curtailed. These emergency sources would include private well supplies, swimming pools, and private reservoirs at industrial plants as well as rivers, canals, ponds or other natural bodies of water. Provisions for the use of such supplies should be incorporated in the overall plan for Fire Department operations. These sources should be actually used whenever possible as part of the training and apparatus testing program of the Department."

Many local Fire Departments have prepared excellent maps of their respective districts showing every available water supply. A few progressive Departments have maps mounted in folders which are carried on the apparatus to refresh the officers memory while responding to a call.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

Number 225

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

July 1, 1962

STATE CHIEFS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

During the week of June 10th, your Editor attended the 56th Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs at Schroon Lake, New York. Chief Charles R. Dorman, who has held the office of President for the past year, conducted the meetings and received high tribute for his devoted work during the year at the annual banquet. At appropriate ceremonies, Chief Joseph W. Blackburn of Eggertsville, New York, was installed as President for the coming year.

Your Editor received the honor of election to the Board of Directors for a term of three years as a representative of the Volunteer Fire Service.

Among the several interesting and informative speakers participating in the Conference, was the Hon. Arnold W. Wise, Counsel to the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Department. He noted some of the regulations set forth by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles affecting the Fire Service. Mr. Wise pointed out that drivers of fire apparatus involved in an accident must now file an accident report in the same manner required of automobile drivers. This provision was not required previously. On the question of lights, he stated that warning lights on apparatus may be displayed (lighted) at any time the fire vehicle is in service. This includes drills, returning from the scene of an emergency or while on the way to the gas station. It remains a matter of local decision by the Fire Chief if such warning lights shall be displayed under all conditions mentioned, other than while responding to an emergency. One other point of interest is the Commissioner's ruling that volunteer firemen may now use revolving blue lights on their personal cars in lieu of flashing blue lights previously permitted. The candlepower of such lights, however, must not exceed 21.

Mr. Robert S. "Doc" Webster of Jamestown also spoke and gave his famously hard-hitting talk on Public Relations for Fire Departments which he presented at the Chief Officers' Seminar held in our County at Fluvanna a year ago last Spring.

Chief B. Richter Townsend, Executive Director of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, spoke on some of the problems faced by the Fire Service today. He also encouraged all Chief Officers to attend the forthcoming International Convention to be held in the City of Toronto, Ontario, on September 24-27, 1962.

The State Chiefs Conference was marked this year with the highest attendance ever; 842 persons registered for the four day conclave.

TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGED

The telephone number of the County Fire Control Center at Mayville has been changed to 753-2413. Please make note of this and advise all men under your command in the event they should have need to call the Control Center under emergency conditions. Collect calls will be accepted by the dispatcher on duty.

While on the subject of the Control Center, we wish to advise you that the base radio station was struck by lightning recently causing considerable damage and curtailing the power output until repairs were made. This marks the second time lightning has struck the station.

FIRE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT - The Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. will conduct a course titled Fighting Utility Fires at Oswego, New York, on July 11 and 12, July 18 and 19, and July 25 and 26. Interested? See Walt Burr.

TO HOLD SEMINAR

The Jamestown Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor a First Aid and Water Safety Seminar at the Y.M.C.A.'s. Camp Onyahsa on August 24 and 25. The Erie County, Pennsylvania, and the Cattaraugus County, New York, Red Cross Chapters will participate in the two day event, with special and realistic demonstrations by the Erie group.

There will be a \$2.00 registration fee plus a nominal or no charge made for meals eaten at the Seminar. Members of Chautauqua County Fire Department First Aid Squads are particularly urged to attend this very important and instructive session, and reservations made with the local Red Cross Chapter will be appreciated; especially if you desire over-night accommodations at the Camp.

A brief resume of the program is as follows:

Friday the 24th - Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

- Demonstration of all inhalators and resuscitators
- Film
- Bull session

Saturday the 25th - Breakfast at 7:15 A.M.

- Film
- Emergency bandaging and splinting
- Transportation of the injured
- Simulated casualties, including chain saw injuries, eye injuries, burns, stab wounds of chest, hand lacerations, and compound fractures
- Lunch at 12:30 P.M.
- Artificial resuscitation; all methods taught
- Roller bandaging
- Improvising stretchers, splints, bandages, etc.
- Emergency highway stations and mobile units
- Dinner at 6:00 P.M.
- Summation

DON'T
MISS
THIS!

DEWITTVILLE SIGNS UP FIREWOMEN

Chief R. Earl Pickard of the Dewittville Fire Department advises us that his organization has enrolled several women as active volunteer firemen (or firewomen). The ladies are currently undergoing training in the use of all Department apparatus and equipment, and they will respond to alarms well prepared to handle any situation.

Although two other Departments in the County have enlisted the services of female volunteers, their work has been confined to First Aid duty and some radio operations. Now, for the first time since the Ashville Fire Department enrolled women during World War II, we have a group of firewomen who will actually fight fire and render emergency service. If you hear a female voice on our radio network, boys, don't be alarmed; Dewittville has solved the daytime MANpower shortage.

RECHARGING AIR OR OXYGEN CYLINDERS

We are frequently asked what Fire Departments have facilities for recharging air or oxygen cylinders. The following Departments, to the best of our knowledge, have cascade systems and can recharge cylinders or tanks of the type specified. AIR - Fredonia and Mayville. OXYGEN - Celoron, Dunkirk, Fredonia, Lakewood and Jamestown.

NOTE: Your editor wishes to advise that there will be no Aug. 1st issue.

WEIRD SCREECHING SIGNALS

For those of our Dear Readers who did not happen to notice the editorial in the July 16th issue of the Jamestown Post-Journal, we reproduce the newspaper's comments as follows:

"This area is acquiring a strange conglomeration of weird signals on the emergency vehicles that serve our communities and the result threatens the safety of the public in its confusion. The toots, the shrieks, the wails and even gurgling sounds that come forth from the various ambulances, fire trucks, police cars and other emergency cars and trucks that serve the communities in this area will send the shivers up and down a man's spine but few of us can be sure whether to get off the road to make way or head for the hills to escape some fanciful monster.

"There was a time when there was a certain uniformity in the warnings from all emergency vehicles. The familiar siren had real meaning and its use by the public was forbidden to prevent confusion. Just how some of the terrifying noises emanating from today's emergency vehicles could be defined to limit their use to such cars seems impossible.

"A little variety in life adds zest but it seems to us that we could pass up zest in this field for the sake of understanding what the signals mean. There is a real effort being made to secure uniformity in traffic rules and regulations among the 50 states of the nation to prevent accidents and we recently commented on this and urged support for the move. And now we strongly urge a concerted move to make the warning signals on all emergency vehicles uniform and understandable.

"We are also fearful that the trend to classify emergency vehicles by agencies is going to add further confusion on our highways. Some ambulances, we understand, are using blue flashing lights instead of the familiar red signal. In order to give volunteer firemen some sort of signal to use when they are hurrying to answer an alarm in their private cars, the blue light was adopted. To extend this to official emergency vehicles which have the right of way in traffic would be exceedingly dangerous for those blue lights do not command the attention and respect of the red flashing lights.

"General acceptance and understanding of safety signals is essential for their effectiveness. Uniformity is a primary factor in safety programs. We strongly urge that the public safety officials of this area get together without delay to discuss and act on the signals being installed on their vehicles. It may be that residents of some of our neighboring villages have already learned the meaning of some of the weird moanings and blasts we have heard in amazement when an emergency vehicle has started out and probably Jamestowners have accustomed their ears to the new signal on the Fire Department's car, but we are concerned for the effect on strangers and on all traffic when these cars venture into less familiar areas.

"Let's not get so fancy that we frighten children and scare timid drivers and beginners into the ditch without anyone knowing just what is approaching. Those signals should have meaning as well as audibility."

Your Editor does not have room here to comment on the above editorial, but will do so in the next issue. In the meantime, it would be well to give some thought to the opinions and statements set forth by our local newspaper. We agree that discussion and action are desirable.

IN REPLY TO WEIRD SCREECHING SIGNALS

In the last issue of this paper, we reprinted an editorial that appeared in the Jamestown Post-Journal, and we promised to further discuss the opinions and statements contained in this editorial. We trust our views will receive equal newspaper space and treatment in reply.

It is claimed that there is a "strange conglomeration of weird signals" on our emergency vehicles, and such signals tend to confuse the public to the point of distraction. In a country such as ours, where free enterprise is cherished, it is fact that there are a number of independent manufacturers producing many types of warning devices for the emergency services. For several years these manufacturers have devoted research to the development of better signalling devices designed to produce greater decibel (noise) output and yet consume less electricity to operate.

The direct result of this product improvement caused the emergency services to adopt these signals for their vehicles. It may well be that many of these new signals have a greater noise output at a higher pitch than the old style conventional siren, but, in our opinion, they still sound like a siren warning signal; a sound not unfamiliar to the public.

There can be no denial that traffic conditions today on our highways and streets are an ever increasing problem to the emergency services. Normal noise levels are higher than ever and the modern automobile is better insulated against these penetrating sounds for greater comfort of the occupants. It was of necessity, then, that louder and more penetrating warning devices were required if emergency vehicles are to be heard and heeded by the public. In fact, it has been the experience of the fire, police and ambulance services that nobody paid any attention to the old style conventional sirens resulting in not infrequent accidents and serious delays in response.

The editorial further points out the possible effect on strangers visiting our communities when they hear these weird signals. To this we say there need be no worry because in our travels we have frequently visited both large and small towns where all emergency vehicles are equipped with the new type signals. In fact, our local emergency services have been a little slow to accept the latest signals in relation to other cities and villages throughout the country.

As for blue lights, we feel that they are an excellent means of identification for fire department operated vehicles. The City of Buffalo, New York, has used blue lights on all fire apparatus for a number of years; our own City of Jamestown installed them on both the Fire Chief's car and Engine No. 1; and at least one-half of the volunteer fire companies serving our county display blue lights on their trucks. These specific users and many other fire departments in New York State have long realized the public's utter disregard for the red light which has been brought about by too liberal legislation permitting every tow truck, utility truck and many others of nondescript variety to display red lights. The red warning light has become almost a joke to the public. The blue light, at least, commands some respect and definitely marks fire department vehicles. We regret that legislation does not permit other emergency services from using distinctive colored lights other than the misused and much too common red. We hope our safety officials will encourage greater use of new signals and keep blue lights.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 229

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Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

SCHOOL INSPECTION WORKSHOP

Chief Charles R. Dorman of the State Bureau of Fire Safety has announced that a School Fire Inspection Workshop will be conducted by him and officials of the State Education Department on Tuesday, October 30, at the Silver Creek High School beginning at 8:30 P.M. This workshop is being held for the benefit of Chief Fire Officers in Erie, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. Most of the session will be devoted to questions and answers with specific instructions being given on the preparation of inspection forms now required by the State.

Chief Fire Officers who are unable to attend the Workshop should make arrangements now for their Assistant Chiefs and/or Fire Department Fire Inspector to attend. Attendance representation from each Fire Department in the County is a must, and County Coordinators and their Deputies are also requested to be present. Make note of this date now.

NEW AERIAL IN SERVICE

The Westfield Fire Department recently placed in service a 65 foot aerial ladder truck purchased from the Mt. Kisco, New York, Fire Department. The truck is a 1942 model American LaFrance, and it is a welcome addition to the Fire Service. It will be known as Truck No. 21.

Westfield's old city service ladder truck has been sold to the Borough of North East, Pennsylvania.

ARE YOU READY?

With Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, just around the corner, we hope you are ready with a well-planned program for your community. It is our duty to direct public attention to the need for greater fire prevention and safety in every city, town and village. Leadership and direction in Fire Prevention activities belongs in the Fire Service.

The Fire Chief, and only the Fire Chief, knows his community's needs in fire protection and fire prevention. Because of this, he must be ever alert to all means for improving his community's fire protection and safety and to the various ways of encouraging others to do likewise. Your campaign will help to save lives and property, and remember, Fire Prevention is more than a one week activity. It must be a year around program to be really effective. Are you ready?

BATTERY TROUBLE ANTICIPATED

Of late we have noted a number of Fire Departments experiencing battery failure on their apparatus. Some even complain about the cost of replacing batteries, the trouble involved, and the apparent short life of same. In every case we have found that the "troublesome" battery or batteries are at least two years old!

Our experience has shown that the average life of a fire truck battery is eighteen months. True, some Departments find that about two years life can be expected while others have to change batteries every year. We even found one Department using the same batteries after 33 months; almost three years! Batteries should be replaced before they wear out and the only way to do this is to keep a record of the date installed. There is nothing so embarrassing as pushing a truck to get it started. Moreover, apparatus equipped with a Leece-Neville alternator and having a completely dead battery will not start or run no matter how far you push it because a small battery charge is necessary to activate the regulator. Anticipate battery trouble before problems arise.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

Number 230

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October 1, 1962

PRUDENCE IS GOLDEN

The representatives of fire insurance underwriting companies have urgently requested that all Fire Officers refrain from giving out estimated loss figures and information on the cause of fires to the press or radio. This may seem to be an unfair request in view of our desire to maintain cordial public relations through the good will and close cooperation of news reporters.

However, when we stop to consider a few of the facts, it appears that the insurance interests are fully justified in asking for our help. For instance, Fire Officers are frequently pressed to make a loss estimate while the fire is still in progress or before a thorough investigation can be made of the premises. Sometimes articles of considerable value, such as antique furniture, are destroyed unbeknown to the Officer, and, as a result, an inaccurate estimate of loss is made which often upsets the process of insurance adjustments.

Fire cause has always been difficult to determine unless obvious circumstances remain after the embers have cooled. Here again, most Fire Officers will admit they have been hard pressed many times to answer a reporter's questions, and none of us like to admit that we just plain don't know. It is better to say, "the cause is undetermined", than to attribute the fire to careless smoking, faulty electrical wiring or spontaneous ignition when we really aren't sure. Accuracy is essential, for the cause you determine is always considered by insurance people in making loss payments.

Let us leave loss estimates and fire causes up to the insurance investigators and adjusters. It is no reflection on your ability as an Officer, but rather a commendable duty to help keep this information out of the newspapers and off the air. The citizens you protect will benefit from more equitable payments when fire strikes their property.

BATTALION MEETINGS ARRANGED

Your County Fire Coordinator has arranged to hold two meetings in each of the four battalions during the Fall and Winter months. Chief Fire Officers will be asked to attend to discuss whatever problems they may have and to review our Mutual Aid planning, radio communications and general Fire Service operations.

For a long time it has been the opinion of many Fire Officers that there really has not been an opportunity to sit down with Officers of neighboring communities and the County to discuss mutual problems or matters of concern locally. These meetings will fill this gap and will promote better understandings among all of the Fire Departments. Your Battalion Coordinator will contact you for the date, place and time.

BUSTI ORDERS NEW TANKER

The Busti Fire Department has placed an order with the Ward LaFrance Truck Corporation of Elmira, New York, for a new 1,000 gallon tanker. The apparatus will be mounted on a Ford C950 chassis having a 266 horsepower motor with 534 cubic inch displacement.

Pumping equipment consists of a 300 g.p.m. power-take-off driven, single stage centrifugal pump mounted midship in the chassis. A 1,200 watt, 110 volt "Power-Pack" will be provided for portable floodlights and driven by the truck motor. Total cost of the new unit is \$15,294.95. Present Tanker No. 31 will be replaced by the new tanker in March 1963.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 231

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Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

October 15, 1962

FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP

Leadership is everything that you do to make those under you have confidence and respect in your ability. Your leadership ability is brought into play in every situation where you are dealing with other people. Your ability to use efficiently the skills and experience of those entrusted to your charge will be the measure of your leadership.

Good leadership is hard work and responsibility. It is meticulous attention to details. It is knowledge used skillfully so that your men will work efficiently. No unit, however small, can function without a guiding hand. The leader is the force that gives direction to the unit. Without good leadership, the group operates at random with its efforts dissipated in all directions. Success or failure is dependent on the man in charge.

The Fire Officer has full authority and power to enforce his will upon those he commands to accomplish his objectives. These should be used as secondary means. Dependence should be placed first upon strength of character and ability to lead.

Encourage the men to work with you rather than for you. At the same time, hold them to the mark. The work must be done, hose must be stretched, ladders must be raised, fires must be put out. There must be discipline. A healthy, living, positive discipline is ideal and is to be sought.

Values must be established in the men which are real and lasting. The work which has to be done is dignified by its worth to the Fire Department. Each job is important for it contributes to the over-all efficiency. Each man is important, for the organization is built upon its foundation, the men in it.

The leader should point his efforts always toward the ultimate goal: bringing the men to the point where they operate under self-imposed discipline. Men who operate under self-imposed discipline are ideal members of the Fire Department. They do the work because they know it is the right thing to do. They do the work whether the supervisor is watching or not. They know that it is their personal responsibility to do their jobs to the best of their ability. They seek improvement by study and practice. They know the satisfaction derived from a job well done.

The leader should instill pride in his men. Personal pride is doing things well and correctly; followed by pride in the accomplishments of the unit. Show by good example of word and deed that you think the Fire Department is a fine organization. The Fire Department gives a man the opportunity to serve his community and the public. The saving of life and property is a noble mission and is done every day in the Fire Service and is something of which all members can be proud. The road leads to progressive steps from the instilling of personal pride, to esprit de corps, to self-imposed discipline, to success.

MONTE OKERLUND NEEDS OUR HELP

One of our fellow firemen who is an active member of the Sinclairville Fire Department has been stricken with leukemia and is currently undergoing treatment at the Jamestown General Hospital. It is hoped that Monte can be sent to a Buffalo hospital for specialized treatment in the near future. A card or a note from you will be most appreciated.

YOU'RE A VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S WIFE

The dinner is ready, the children are fed,
Your husband is passing the daily bread,
The soup is hot, the meat is steaming;
And then -- The siren starts screaming,
The kids make a dash for the wide open spaces,
And with them the cloth, (one of your very best laces!)
Your husband is struggling into his boots that won't fit,
His cigar's on the rug -- yep, its still lit!
So -- Your kids are all acattered,
Your dinner is spurned,
Your best cloth's in tatters,
Your rug is all burned.
But do you bemoan your haphazard life?
Oh no, you're a VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S WIFE!

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Chief David England of Cassadaga recently had a mobile radio installed in his automobile, and the County call number is Car 54 (where are you?). Well somebody was bound to get this choice number assigned to him sooner or later, and we can't think of a nicer guy.

Falconer firemen have placed their new 65 foot Memco aerial in service, and Chief Waddington reports everything "go" with the new unit.

The Ashville Fire Department has voted to purchase 20 home radio receivers and a tone generator for use with their base station. This will give their men a better chance to "hear" alarms in Ashville's far flung Fire District and will be the second radio alerting system to be installed in the County.

There are 12 base stations, 52 station house receivers, 49 portable, and 168 mobile radios currently in use on the County Fire Service communications system. Moreover, your Coordinator reports that the frequency of 46.14 megacycles has been granted by the regional F.C.C. coordinator to take some of the load off of our present channel of 46.10 megacycles. This new frequency will be used for home receivers as well as a number of local fire command and county officer's cars.

Sinclairville has purchased a used 1958 Ford F-600 tanker having a capacity of 1,200 gallons. The firemen are presently refurbishing the unit for active service. It will replace Tanker No. 14.

Walter R. Burr and Frank A. Estep III, our County Fire Instructors, attended the annual State Instructors Conference held in the City of White Plains during the week of October 15th. A new course titled "Fire Inspection Practices" was taught at the Conference and will now be available for local training schools.

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

The Lakewood Fire Department was recently called to extinguish a fire in a diesel locomotive on the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad. The fire was confined to the crankcase of one of the engines of a "B" unit, and an attempt was made to extinguish the fire with Carbon-Dioxide portable extinguishers. This proved to no avail, and a 1½ inch foam line was set up. The foam playpipe was directed at the crankcase fill opening, and, in very short order, the fire was put out. It was later learned that such practice may cause the crankcase to explode - a good lesson!

OLDEST VOLUNTEER COMPANY

What is the name of the oldest volunteer fire company in the United States and where is it located? That question is often asked by the public, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs says the answer is as follows:

The oldest volunteer fire company in the United States in continuous operation is Relief Fire Engine Company No. 1, of Mount Holly, New Jersey. It was organized July 11, 1752 and has been in operation ever since.

Chief Edward F. Deignan, as IAFC's President, recently visited its headquarters and reported that originally the town's name was Bridgetown, because it was built near a bridge over the meandering Northampton River, later known as the Rancocas.

At the time the company was organized, little more of the North American Continent was known than a comparatively narrow strip of land along the Atlantic Coast. The upper Mississippi Valley and eastern Canada to the north were under French domination. The thirteen British Colonies were in the center and the Spanish possessions were to the South. To the west were unknown lands.

The original name of the company was Britannia Fire Company. Its first "injun" was purchased and delivered to the company in November 1765; exactly 197 years ago. Stephen Girard, the Philadelphia merchant financier, who lived in Bridgetown while the British armies occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution, was a generous contributor towards its purchase.

After the Revolution, the company's name was changed to Mount Holly in honor of the mount, in those days still resplendent with a wealth of holly, that rose just north of the town. A few years later, Bridgetown changed its name to Mount Holly.

In 1805, the company again changed its name to Relief Company, by which it is known to this day.

We felt it appropriate to bring the above information to our readers at this Thanksgiving time 1962.

RADIOLOGICAL DECONTAMINATION

In case of enemy attack using nuclear weapons, contamination of fire apparatus, buildings, highways, bridges and other structures will occur due to fallout products or due to materials being made artificially radioactive. Essential vehicles such as fire, police, rescue, utility company trucks and ambulances must be decontaminated so that they can be placed in immediate service. Vital areas such as hospitals, food depots, communication centers, power plants, fire and police stations must have radioactive fallout removed from their immediate area.

Upon the Fire Department will fall the largest part of decontamination since the principle method used is that of applying a stream of water upon the contaminated area. This being the case, no Fire Department should be without knowledge of how to proceed with decontamination.

Fire Department personnel should be protected from radiation while performing this work, and one or more men should enroll in a civil defense course in radiological monitoring so that someone on the Department will be familiar with radiation and the use of detection instruments. Firemen engaged in this type of work must wear protective clothing such as regular fire coats, boots, gloves and helmets plus a mask.

CIVIL DEFENSE PLAN FOR CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

For your information and guidance, we publish below an exact copy of the Civil Defense Plan for Chautauqua County and the cities of Dunkirk and Jamestown.

- A. When information is received from the Mayville CD Control Center of an enemy attack, the following directive shall go into effect.
1. All Civil Defense Warning Signals shall be sounded and further warning shall be given by fire equipment and police sirens in each locality in the County.
- B. In case of attack or threat of attack, the best action shall be to STAY WHERE YOU ARE and take advantage of the nearest available cover.
- When ordered by the Civil Defense Directors (or their Deputy), the following actions shall be taken:
1. All school children shall be sent or taken home by school bus in the most expeditious manner. This warning will be received over the school voice warning system.
 2. ALL places of business and industry in Chautauqua County and the Cities of Dunkirk and Jamestown shall send their employees home at once.
 3. The Civil Defense Director, all Assistant Directors and heads of civil defense services and staff shall proceed to the Civil Defense Operating Center in Mayville and Jamestown in accordance with present plans and authority.
 4. All County employees, so assigned and issued shelter cards, shall report to the Emergency Operating Center at Mayville to set up emergency County Government.
 5. ALL Town and Village Directors shall man the local control centers where radiological instruments are to be read and reported to the control center at Mayville.
 6. All fire, police and auxiliary police, under the direction of the Civil Defense Police Service, shall assist in directing traffic in their own communities, so that the population may arrive at their homes as soon as possible.
- C. The head of each family shall provide protection for his family since there are no community shelters ready at present.
- D. The public shall tune all radios to CONELRAD stations 640 and 1240 for further information.
- E. This directive includes the City of Jamestown.

The Civil Defense Office at Mayville and Jamestown can furnish Federal pamphlets on how to build basement fallout shelters. Material for a small family shelter will cost approximately \$ 75.00.

Chas. N. Jones, Deputy Director
City of Jamestown

Robert Tanner, CD Director
Chautauqua County & Dunkirk

CELORON ORDERS NEW APPARATUS

The Celoron Hose Co. No. 1, Inc. has placed an order with the Maxim Motor Company of Middleboro, Massachusetts, for delivery of a new pumping apparatus. The truck will have a 750 g.p.m. pump, a 750 gallon booster tank, and be powered by a 300 horsepower engine having 817 cu. in. displacement. The \$21,500.00 unit will be delivered in five months.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 235

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THE CHRISTMAS STORY

To this day, there are some who remember it. It was the biggest Christmas party ever held. The schoolhouse was crowded. About 150 were present.

The entertainment, under direction of a teacher, had begun at eight o'clock. A Christmas tree, trimmed with cotton and colored tinsel, and beautifully lighted with small wax candles, stood in a corner.

Promptly at nine o'clock "Santa Claus" arrived, dressed in a cotton suit, trimmed with cotton and tinsel, and wearing cotton whiskers. He stripped the presents from the tree and gave them to the parents and children. But one particularly attractive gift at the top of the tree eluded his grasp. In order to reach it, he pulled down a branch. It brushed a candle flame and caught fire.

Frightened, he picked up a small toy chair and threw it at the burning branch. In doing so he knocked over a kerosene lamp. He tried to smother the flames with a coat . . . with a cotton stage curtain; in desperation, with anything. In his excitement he knocked over the tree and in that instant Santa's clothes caught fire.

Fire raced along the freshly painted ceiling, then over the walls.

A few of the more fortunate, able to get out through the doorway, tried to re-enter to rescue panic stricken others. The two groups collided headon, completely blocking the exit.

On the outside, others tried unsuccessfully - in those 12 minutes of panic and horror before the building collapsed - to pry window screens from their fastenings.

When the bodies were removed that Christmas Eve in 1924, they counted 33 dead in the ruins of the Babb's Switch School. Three other persons died later. In all, 18 children, 18 adults. The teacher was among them. Santa, too. Some 40 others were injured or burned.

Thus that community's biggest party became the worst Christmas Eve tragedy on record. And to this day there are those in Hobart, Oklahoma who remember it.

Out of this tragedy have come many improvements in building construction, fire regulations, and fire safety precautions. Your nation's Fire Service has helped to bring about many of these improvements as it daily helps to protect lives and property from fire. Yet conditions still exist that could cause an even greater loss in every community. We must stay alert this Christmas to insure a fire safe Holiday Season.

COMMUNICATIONS TO IMPROVE

The County has purchased a relatively new 150 foot antenna tower from the Erie, Pa., Airport Commission for use at the Mayville Control Center. The all steel tower will be erected between the Sheriff's Office and the Welfare Building and will carry antennas for the Sheriff, Fire Service and Civil Defense.

An appropriation has been granted in the 1963 budget of the Board of Supervisors to purchase a new 250 watt base station for the Fire Service Communications System. This station will be located in the County fallout shelter and connected to the new tower. It will be used for day to day communications as well as the old existing base station. Thus, we will have a spare transmitter in the event of mechanical failure which can be selected instantly by the Control Center dispatcher.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our readers and friends.