

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

Willis K. Wilson
Chairman, Advisory Board

Volume 69

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

January 1, 1956

ARE MAINTENANCE GRIPES JUSTIFIED?

The Advisory Board is aware of the radio maintenance problem and herewith presents a few facts for your consideration.

Chautauqua County firemen have today one of the largest radio networks in this Country consisting of over one hundred mobile and portable radios, thirty-eight station house receivers, and seven base stations. With few exceptions this entire system is maintained by one technician who is employed by the County on a part time basis.

In addition to required maintenance, the technician is required by law to run frequency and modulation checks on all transmitters every six months, and he is frequently called upon to install radios and conduct tests throughout the County. For the past year the technician has been burdened with the problems of installing and constantly fixing the selective calling system.

It is difficult to estimate the time required for an average service call, for in some respects radio repair is like fire fighting; no two jobs are alike. It is also difficult to plan service trips thereby saving travel time, as a mobile unit in Clymer may need attention at the same time Irving's station receiver refuses to work. The size of our County alone presents no small problem, and the technician consumes considerable time going from one job to another. Often upon arrival at a fire station, the technician has to spend time locating the keys to the house or in finding an Officer who can give him information on the nature of the trouble.

At present the technician is able to spend about sixteen hours per week, or about two full working days out of every seven, on the radio system. For this he receives a fixed salary of one thousand dollars per annum and a mileage allowance of eight cents per mile with a maximum of \$250.00 allowed. This means that our technician receives about \$1.30 per hour; the salary of an average municipal laborer.

If the Fire Departments in this County honestly feel that we need a full time radio technician, then it is up to you to acquaint your Supervisor with the facts and solicit his support, so that we may go before the Board of Supervisors to present a united appeal that has been discussed and determined to be basically sound.

A FEW ITEMS OF INTEREST

Falconer firemen have placed in service their new emergency truck which carries a large variety of equipment for first aid, fire and rescue calls. The new rig will have a radio and the call is M-41.

Three auxiliary generators have been contracted for by the Civil Defense Committee of the Board of Supervisors. Each unit has a capacity of 3,500 watts, and they will be installed in the Sheriff's office, the Mayville school bus garage and in the Court House. Normally the generators will operate on natural gas, but they have carburetors designed to use gasoline and liquified petroleum gas (bottled gas) as well.

After a full year of pleading and relentless griping on our part, Motorola finally sent us an engineer in the person of Mr. Alex Kornish to study our selective calling problems and advise remedies for the system. His recommendations: all fire stations should have roof-top antennas regardless of location, our technician should be furnished with a \$90.00 Motorola test set and a \$600.00 signal generator should be purchased by the County.

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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 estimators 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.

ASHVILLE - Voters in the Town of North Harmony Fire District have approved the expenditure of \$15,000.00 for the purchase of a new Engine which will have a 500 g.p.m. pump, a 1,000 gallon booster tank and many other well designed features. County Number will be Engine 310.

ELLERY CENTER - Firemen of this community expect delivery of their new Engine around the first of February. The rig is being constructed on an International chassis by Young Fire Equipment Co. of Buffalo and will have a 500 g.p.m. pump, a 1,000 gallon booster tank and a radio. The County Number of this unit will be Engine 411.

SILVER CREEK - Commissioner Velzy advises us that their new tanker is now equipped with a radio and the call is Tanker 15.

FALCONER - Chief Lathrop is having salvage cover troubles having recently been plagued with fires in which salvage operations were a dire necessity. However, the humor in the matter is that after each fire the Falconer Village Board authorizes the Chief to purchase a couple more covers, and according to fire house rumor, the F.F.D. will now have 12 tarpaulins and Jamestown will be calling Falconer for covers.

GERRY - At the recent radio bid opening before the Advisory Board's authorized committee, the low bids of the Radio Corporation of America for both mobile and portable units were accepted unanimously.

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February 1, 1956

OUR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

As we begin our fourth year of publication we wish to express our sincere thanks to our many readers for their interest, enthusiasm and contributions that have made The Booster Line a reality. Demand for this little paper has continued to grow, and we now have 177 "subscribers" several of which are outside of our County and State.

This year, as you can see, we are again using pink paper such as was selected for our first year in print, and we hope you will welcome the change. Our color in no way indicates our politics, for we try to be democratic like our great Fire Service.

We will always welcome your comments and suggestions. This is your paper, and we want you to enjoy and profit by it. May you all have a good year marked by low fire losses and absence of human tragedy.

FIRE SERVICE ACTIVE IN '55

The annual alarm report compiled by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz reveals considerable Fire Service activity during 1955. The data is compiled from alarm records at the Control Center and includes both cities. As was true last year, most fire and public emergency calls appear to occur during the Summer months with the heaviest toll during the month of April due to grass fires.

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 given emergency.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FIRE ALARMS</u>	<u>NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES</u>	<u>REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID</u>
January	55	28	4
February	62	37	10
March	71	31	4
April	202	33	10
May	80	42	8
June	80	48	8
July	195	59	11
August	102	48	12
September	61	35	10
October	65	48	5
November	67	29	3
December	73	47	17
1955 Total	1,113	485	102
1954 Total	1,081	354	151

DISPATCHERS DESERVE CREDIT

We thank all members of the Sheriff's Department and the Mayville firemen who have operated our Fire Control Center throughout the past year. These men deserve great credit for they receive no compensation from this added duty other than the reward of helping others.

Such fine cooperation between Fire and Police services is unique.

SUNSPOT CYCLE TO AFFECT COMMUNICATIONS

The Federal Communications Commission has announced that a sunspot cycle is just being entered which will result in more interference to most of the radio reception of the public safety services. TV reception may also be affected.

Already reports indicate that police and fire radio systems have been disrupted for several hours at a time, and the F.C.C. says that we can expect similar disruption for the next several years.

As sunspot activity increases over the next eleven years, interference will continue to increase with peak trouble expected during the Winter of 1957-58. A similar cycle was experienced in 1937-38 at which time communications were seriously hampered.

FIRE CRITIQUES

Many Fire Departments miss an important training phase by failing to follow up actual fires with a critique or review of the fire fighting action. Mistakes are often made in the haste of fire combat which must be analyzed and corrected, if the Department is to improve its fire fighting operations, and a review of the fire problem can highlight the good and not-so-good operational sequences.

Perhaps more important are the lessons in strategy that can be learned from such analysis of fires. A good post-fire analysis allows fire fighters to profit from the experience of the Fire Chief who was in charge of the action, and the Fire Department which has regular critique sessions will undoubtedly develop the best trained officers.

The purpose of such reviews is not to criticize decisions which were made during a fire, when commands probably were given on the basis of what could be seen, or supposed, and decisions made more from experience than from analysis of the action.

The objective of any fire critique, or analysis, should be to provide a training media for firemen and less experienced officers. There are two basic types of analysis, one for staff officers and the other for firemen. The two groups are interested in different aspects of fire control. The officers are usually interested in learning the work of the Chief and the firemen in bettering their skills and learning the duties of company officers.

Whoever is responsible for planning the critique should have access to all facts. Inspection reports of the building or property involved by the fire should be studied. The Fire Chief and company officers should be questioned about the numerous activities at the fire. A map of the fire site should be prepared on which can be drawn buildings, fire company locations, hose lines, water supply, streets and other important details. Weather conditions should also be noted.

The most essential phase of a critique is a question and answer period. Questions will arise on many aspects of the fire because the men will not have seen the operation in its entirety. Why not try a fire critique after your next fire; it will help to improve your Department and give your men greater knowledge for the next battle.

HOSE POOL PUT TO USE

The Lakewood hose pool was put to use the night of January 23rd by the Celoron Fire Department following a serious residential blaze, and 500 feet of hose was borrowed. Falconer has donated 100 ft. to the pool.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS IN ATOMIC DISASTERS

"Fire Department Operations - Atomic Disasters" is the title of a two page Special Interest Bulletin, No. 290, issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The Bulletin gives as excellent an up-to-date general summary of the effects of atomic and thermonuclear explosions as has yet come to our attention.

While the Bulletin is of general interest to all Civil Defense personnel, one of the final paragraphs of this summary is particularly applicable to fire fighting operations. It reads:

"Certain procedures should be kept in mind by fire fighters from neighboring communities as they approach areas seriously damaged by a nuclear explosion. Where there is radiological contamination, forward progress should be halted at the intensity level set by fire control headquarters.

"Fire fighting operations can be carried on in the regular way with radiological check every hour to see that tolerance doses are not exceeded. Firemen who are caught in a high intensity area may have to take shelter.

"The rate of exposure indoors on the first floor of an ordinary frame house in a fall-out area would be about one-half the level out-of-doors. In the basement the radiation level would be about one-tenth of that out-of-doors.

"The Fire Chief will have to consult with Civil Defense authorities to balance the need for early fire fighting in fall-out areas with the necessity for conserving fire fighting for more demanding operations."

LIVINGSTON COUNTY FIRE COORDINATOR PAYS US VISIT

Chief Gil W. Jenkins, Livingston County Fire Coordinator, recently paid us a visit and inspected several of our facilities. We were happy to have the Chief as our guest and be able to exchange ideas with the leader of the progressive Livingston County Fire Service. It is our hope that other neighboring Coordinators will visit us whenever possible; a cordial invitation always stands for all of you.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Chairman Hall R. Clothier of the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following members to the Firemen's Committee: Supervisor Walter J. Peterson, Town of Gerry; Supervisor Earl Cardot, Town of Arkwright; Supervisor Leon Button, Town of Harmony; Supervisor Byron Rouse, Town of Mina; and Supervisor Stanley Loomis, Town of North Harmony. Both Supervisors Peterson and Loomis served on the Committee during 1955.

The Mayville Fire Department has donated 100 feet of 2½ inch hose to the pool. Present hose inventory shows that we have 1,200 feet, and we are hopeful arrangements can be made soon for establishing the second hose pool somewhere in the First or Second Battalion.

We witnessed a remarkable diving exhibition at Chautauqua on February 7 when one of Becker's Boys descended through a hole cut in the Lake ice to a depth of about 25 feet and proceeded to walk around within a radius of 100 feet. Upon returning to the surface our fireman-diver remarked that it was warmer down there than standing on the ice and that there were lots of choice muskellunge swimming around.

We know a girl who said she would do anything for a mink coat
--and now she can't button it!

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March 15, 1956

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 Jamestown, Ivan I. Velzy of Silver Creek, Sheriff Charles C. McCloskey of Mayville, 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 and Chief Lloyd Johnson of Frewsburg. Raymond H. Hughes was re-appointed County Fire Coordinator for 1956.

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

EAST DUNKIRK - Firemen of the Town of Dunkirk Fire Company No. 1 have purchased a 2,000 gallon tanker formerly used at the Buffalo Airport. The unit is constructed on a 1946 Ford, ten wheel chassis and a 300 gpm. permanently mounted pump permits ready application of water from the big tank. County Number of the "new" rig will be Tanker 16.

WE ARE HONORED

A. J. Muench, Allegany County Fire Coordinator, paid us a visit recently and attended a meeting of our Advisory Board. We are honored to have had Mr. Muench as our guest and hope that he will return again soon when we can have more time to discuss Fire Service activities.

Again we extend a standing invitation to all Coordinators to visit us at their convenience. Exchanging ideas helps to build a better Fire Service in our respective counties.

RADIO PROCEDURE SCHOOLS

The County Training Coordinator has released the following schedule for Radio Procedure Schools to be held the last two weeks in March:

Maple Springs Fire Department on Wednesday, March 14th at 8:00 P.M.

Clymer Fire Department on Thursday, March 15th at 8:00 P.M..

Panama Fire Department on Wednesday, March 21st at 8:00 P.M.

Gerry Fire Department on Monday, March 26th at 8:00 P.M.

To date eight schools have been held throughout the County with attendance averaging fourteen per class. We appreciate your cooperation.

STATE THRUWAY TO HAVE APPARATUS

The State Thruway Authority has announced that it will establish its own fire fighting forces along most of the super highway. Bids are now out for the purchase of 18 fire trucks which will be stationed about 30 miles apart and operated by the 640 man road maintenance crew.

We are of the opinion that this is a move in the right direction, but unless more apparatus is ultimately placed in service and the large maintenance crew adequately trained, both volunteer and paid firemen along the Thruway will still have to fight the fires.

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April 1, 1956

FEDERAL GRANTS APPROVAL

The Federal Civil Defense Administration has approved matching fund monies for the purchase of twenty-four mobile and ten walkie-talkie radios for the County Fire Service. At the March meeting of the Advisory Board a resolution was passed requesting Defense Director Tanner to purchase the above radios from the Radio Corporation of America at the earliest possible date.

This long awaited approval will provide mobile radios for the four Departments not now having such equipment; namely Ellery Center, Hartfield, Sunset Bay and West Dunkirk. Following installation of the new radio units, Chautauqua County firemen will have 119 mobile and 14 walkie-talkie radios in service. It is contemplated that shipment of this current radio order will start arriving on or about May 15th.

FIRE SCHOOLS ANNOUNCED

The annual Fire School schedule prepared by the County Training Coordinator is now being distributed, and we are enclosing a copy for your information and posting. Your earnest support of the training program is solicited for we are anxious to maintain the real interest and good attendance of previous years.

April 19th marks the beginning of Fire Training with a school scheduled at Fredonia under the direction of Instructor Walter Burr. Next comes the Frewsburg school on April 22nd with Burr instructing. The Mayville Fire Department is the location of the third Basic Course planned to begin April 24th, and Lakewood winds up the schedule with a school beginning April 29th with Instructor Clarence Spute.

COORDINATORS PLAN GET TOGETHER

County Fire Coordinators of Western New York State are planning to hold a one day conference for the mutual exchange of ideas and plans for the betterment of Fire Service activities. The group, led by Chief Jenkins of Livingston County and Chief Hughes of our own County, includes the Coordinators of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties as well as Chautauqua and Livingston. No definite plans as to date and place of meeting have been set at this time.

SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME

Soon many Fire Departments will be launching their Spring Clean-Up campaigns. These yearly drives will be made most effective through inspection of industrial and mercantile establishments and other occupancies. We suggest that you write the National Fire Protection Association for attractive posters and literature to help your Clean-Up drive.

CATTARAUGUS BOARD PAYS VISIT

Several members of the Cattaraugus County Fire Advisory Board, including Instructor Howard Preston, attended the March meeting of our Advisory Board at Lakewood. Also present at this meeting was Civil Defense Director William Fuellhart of Warren County, Pennsylvania and Mr. Homer Haines, Radio Technician for the Warren County Fire Service.

Director Fuellhart personally extended sincere thanks to all members of our Fire Service for the generous assistance given during the recent flood disaster in the Borough of Warren.

HAVE WE TAKEN STOCK?

The Fire Service is dedicated to the protection of life and property from the ravages of fire. However, we seldom think in terms of self-preservation in order to carry out this dedication. It is advisable to frequently take stock of our own self-preservation or through neglect, we may find ourselves unable to perform the services for which we were created.

A recent fire destroyed a community's fire house and its two pumpers. One of these rigs was in service for only three years. This was a disaster in itself, but a post-mortem discussion brought out that the total insurance protection on the pumping equipment was \$10,000. Such a sum was slightly more than 50% of the amount required to replace just one new piece of apparatus to say nothing of a second unit or essential equipment such as hose, masks, tools, etc.

To add to the seriousness of such a problem, the obligations outstanding against most communities today and the legal limitations of bonded indebtedness would prevent replacement of apparatus for a long period of time. Only at great cost to the citizens can immediate replacement be achieved and this principally by public subscription.

A current inventory balanced against a sound insurance program won't extinguish a single fire. But if the fire happens to strike a Fire Department protected by an intelligent insurance protection program, the difficulties of the community during the rehabilitation period will be more of a momentary inconvenience rather than a crushing blow.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

Nelson Gorman was recently elected Chief of the Fluvanna Fire Department, and former Chief Roger Phillips has stepped down to First Assistant. We hope Chief Gorman won't throw his weight around!

Robert Stahley has been voted Chief of the Bemus Point Fire Department for the coming year. "Rex" Ward says he declined the nomination.

Byron Rouse, Supervisor of the Town of Mina, has been recalled to the armed forces and has resigned as a member of our Firemen's Committee of the Board of Supervisors. We wish our good friend the best of luck.

John Gollnitz, our well known Communications Coordinator, has been elected Chief of the Westfield Fire Department. From all accounts the Gollnitz family is well represented in the W.F.D., and we are wondering if John has any sisters in the Auxiliary.

WE TRADED AND GOT A NEW ONE

Yes, we traded and got a new typewriter. The old one was over 15 years in service, and it no longer could meet the "underwriter's" qualifications. This new job has everything but an electric primer, and we hope you will find the type a bit easier on your eyes.

The Booster Line nearly suffered extinction recently when your editor failed to agree with the policies of your County Coordinator and found his time and expenses involved infringement upon his work and pocketbook respectively. A change in employment and your many requests have prompted us to continue the little paper which, on occasion, may be limited to one issue per month, but we will try to keep it going. We hope our Coordinator will take a different view of things this year.

CONFUSION ON THE AIR

The Control Center dispatchers have requested that we give our community name either before or after our apparatus call number to help eliminate any misunderstandings or confusion. As more and more radio units are installed, it becomes increasingly difficult for the radio operators at Mayville to remember the many call numbers, and it is impossible to always relate these numbers with the Fire Department calling. Also we again request that you use the full apparatus designation such as, "Engine" instead of "E", "Rescue" instead of "R", etc.

Thus when calling KEB-909 from a mobile unit, please say for example, "Engine 10 Fredonia calling KEB-909", or "Celoron Engine 34 calling KEB-909", or "Tanker 24 Findley Lake is 10-7 at Headquarters". We also remind you to speak slowly, distinctly and do not shout into the microphone. Your help is necessary if we are to maintain good communications particularly under the stress of emergencies.

ASHVILLE ORDERS NEW ENGINE

The Ashville Fire Department has placed an order with the Ward La-France Truck Corp. of Elmira, New York, for a triple combination pumping engine to be equipped with a 750 g.p.m., two-stage pump, a 1,000 gallon booster tank and a 275 horsepower Waukesha motor. The new rig has been assigned County Number Engine 310. Delivery is expected in September.

Chief Dorman of Jamestown is sporting a new City owned car that was last reported flying South (or was that a yellow bird we saw). At any rate "it" should be seen if not heard, and we understand that Vice Counsel Inge Kihlberger officiated at the dedication.

Findley Lake firemen have placed in service a 1946 Dodge tanker having an 800 gallon water capacity. This "new" unit will be designated Tanker 27 and is a welcomed addition to the County Fire Service.

LIST OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS

The current list of Chief Fire Officers is regrettably inaccurate, as we have been unable to obtain the names of new Officers from all parts of the County at this time when elections are generally held. We are sorry too that many of the telephone numbers are incorrect, but the Jamestown Telephone Company is having to change several thousand numbers to conform with long distance dialing.

In spite of our troubles, we feel that you should have this new list which does name twelve new officers correctly. Next month we will send you a more up to date directory for your information. If your name is omitted or if your phone number is wrong, please advise your Battalion Coordinator at your earliest convenience.

RESCUE TRAINING OFFERED

Anyone interested in attending the State Rescue Training School at Albany should contact C.D. Director Robert Tanner. We understand that the State will pay transportation, room and board for the two week course. Several groups from the County are being organized now for attending the Spring and Summer sessions, and at least two Fire Departments are planning to have representation at the school beginning May 7 and ending May 18. We hope you will attend.

A STRIKING FIND

At a medical meeting held in Chicago recently, it was disclosed that large amounts of salt water taken by mouth are almost as good as transfusions of blood in preventing shock from burns. Dr. T. Howard Clarke, Northwestern University Surgeon, said the development, if definitely confirmed, will be of great significance in the event of a bomb disaster or serious conflagration when blood supply is scarce.

"It would make every burn patient his own doctor," said Dr. Clarke, "and the salt solution is easily prepared from chemicals found in every kitchen; a teaspoonful of table salt and a teaspoonful of baking soda for every quart of water."

"This drink should be taken until all thirst is satisfied, and, as thirst returns, more of the solution should be consumed. Started immediately after the burn and properly followed, this treatment should virtually eliminate the immediate need for blood and intravenous fluids in those patients with less than 50% total body surface burn," according to Dr. Clarke.

In learning of this striking find, we have discovered that the New York State Civil Defense Commission has included in its stockpiles of medical supplies accurately measured quantities of sodium chloride and sodium citrate and containers for the measurement of water used in the preparation of oral salt solutions for burns.

APPARATUS IN SERVICE

The West Dunkirk Fire Department has placed in service a new triple combination Engine equipped with a 500 g.p.m. volume pump, a high pressure piston type pump and a 500 gallon booster tank. The rig was constructed by the John Bean Division of Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation of Lansing, Michigan, on a Ford F-800 Series chassis, and it has been assigned County Number Engine 120.

At the April meeting of the County Fire Chiefs Association, it was voted to sell the County Engine 7 to the Lily Dale Fire Department for the consideration of one dollar. This we feel was a very worthy move in view of the difficulties encountered by the Chiefs Association in maintaining the Engine. We hope that someday a more satisfactory arrangement can be worked out to keep a spare rig in service for everyone.

Jamestown firemen are looking down on everyone these days from atop their "new" 100 foot American LaFrance aerial truck. Truck 2, as it will be known, was purchased from the Elmira concern as a demonstrator having been constructed in 1954. The unit is known as a "straight job" without tiller, and in spite of its long aerial ladder, is only slightly longer overall than the present Truck 1; a 65 foot aerial. We are happy to see Jamestown get this fine ladder truck for we can now sleep soundly on the top floor of the Hotel Jamestown and not worry.

IT SEEMS NATURAL

We note with acclaim the growing interest in blue lights on fire apparatus and recall seeing such lights on all fire units in Buffalo. Although we have not made a study of the idea, we do believe that blue lights are very effective in combination with a red light or lights. There is no doubt that under existing State Laws, a blue warning light means "fire" to the average motorist whereas a red light may mean just another tow truck. It seems natural that we should promote the idea.

AIRCRAFT CRASH FIRE FIGHTING

The need for greater knowledge of aircraft crash fire fighting has long been recognized by the Fire Service of Chautauqua County. To meet this need the Fire Advisory Board together with the Fire Chiefs Association are now jointly planning the details of a one day trip to the Niagara Falls Air Force Base where training is provided for interested fire groups by Base personnel.

Chief Officers will be invited to participate in the initial trip, and if sufficient interest is demonstrated, a second trip will be arranged this Summer. The group(s) will travel to the Falls by bus on a Saturday, and as soon as definite plans are worked out you will be notified by your Battalion or County Coordinator. We urge you to consider this trip in view of the valuable training and experience to be gained.

OFF TO A GOOD START

Donald A. Sales, County Training Coordinator, reports that an average of 23 firemen enrolled in each of the four Basic Course training schools which began on April 19th. This interest in training is most gratifying and it is hoped that we can better last year's fine attendance records.

CHANGE IN C.D. WARNING SIGNALS

New air raid warning signals became effective on May 10th throughout New York State according to Admiral Alan G. Kirk, Chairman of the New York State Civil Defense Commission. There will now be two warning signals as follows:

ALERT SIGNAL: A steady blast of three to five minutes duration. This signal will be sounded by sirens, whistles, horns or similar devices signifying that emergency instructions or directions are about to be issued to the public from the Civil Defense organization by any or all means available.

TAKE COVER SIGNAL: A three minute warbling or fluctuating tone of varying pitch. It also will be sounded by sirens, whistles, horns or similar devices. This signal will mean that an enemy attack is imminent. Also, that all must immediately take cover in the best available shelter.

Admiral Kirk said that the signals will have no established sequence. He explained that either signal may be sounded to the exclusion of the other. No All Clear signal will henceforth be sounded.

APPARATUS INVENTORY SHOWS GROWTH

The recent apparatus inventory being sent to all subscribers of The Booster Line shows that Chautauqua County now has 134 motorized fire units. This marks an increase of 7 new pieces of apparatus since the last inventory was issued in September 1955.

WE THANK CAPTAIN HORN

We sincerely appreciate the many hours of labor donated by Captain Russell F. Horn of the Jamestown Fire Department in constructing our new electrically operated fire control map of the County. In addition to much intricate wiring, Captain Horn lettered 134 magnets which, when placed on the map, indicate the position of various fire units.

NOTHING STOPS VOLUNTEER WHEN THE SIREN SOUNDS

There was a party going on. The welkin rang, the rugs were rolled back, all was merry and gay. Suddenly a shrieking blast pierced the chill, rainy night.

Instantly the dancing stopped. Sentences were broken off half-spoken. The entire social-minded group of people became still; expectant. All except one man.

Before anyone could voice the customary, "It's a fire, wonder where it is?" our host had slammed his coffee cup down, pushed unceremoniously through two dancing couples, grabbed up his jacket and was out of the house like greased lightning.

Two male guests, coming to, rushed out to move cars parked in the driveway. They needn't have bothered, for after backing across the lawn, the human firehorse was by that time halfway to the fire hall.

He returned one hour later; smoky, smudged and smiling.

"We caught 'er in time," he announced happily, "Only burned the wainscoting and part of the floor by the stove. Good thing too," he said, becoming serious, "they had a couple cans of gasoline in the hallway. Just inviting danger, the dopes!"

For this man's prompt action and trained fire-fighting technique, and for thousands of similarly civic conscious men, remuneration is nil. They are volunteer firemen.

The harsh clang of the siren interrupts daily and nightly routine. The loss of just a few minutes may mean the difference between life and death, the spreading of flames to nearby buildings or an unchecked forest fire. They go as they are.

Volunteer firemen arrive at the fire hall with one cheek shaven, the other still lathered. They are barely dressed, or dressed for a party in best suit. They are awakened from sound sleep, leave hot dinners, half-painted floors, a humdinger T.V. program or a leaky faucet. And anyone in their path had best step aside quickly, or else!

Many persons judge the approximately 750,000 volunteer firemen in the United States on a basis of dress parades, county and state conventions (where they are never conventional) and their controversial bingo games and turkey raffles. Except, that is, by citizens whose houses they have saved from total fire loss or the parents of a nearly drowned child.

Not only do the fire-fighters give up time for training and stand by for instant response to the siren, but, employing every available fund raising device, they earn enough money to purchase a great deal (if not all) of their apparatus and equipment.

In addition, they are called upon regularly to cooperate or run beneficial community drives and campaigns. Whenever there is a local job to be done, "let's ask the firemen", is the first thought. But volunteer firemen don't usually wait to be asked--they volunteer.

Fire-fighting is self-inflicted duty; cognizance of community need; personal integrity or whatever. But let's be everlastingly grateful for our volunteer firemen. And when they ask for community understanding and assistance, let's be as nearly generous with them as they are with their time and in risking their necks for us.

Enclosed is an up-to-date list of Chief Fire Officers. If you note any discrepancies, please advise your Battalion or County Fire Coordinator.

NATIONAL C.D. ALERT SET FOR JULY 20

The Federal Civil Defense Administration has announced that "a Nationwide exercise for training civil defense, military and Government personnel to cope with the type of problems which would arise out of a nuclear attack on the United States will be held from July 20 through July 26, 1956." The exercise will include, for the first time, the use of military forces along with civilian volunteers and Government employees.

Target areas which have been selected in New York State include the cities of Binghamton, New York, Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo, where special emphasis will be placed upon evacuation, communications, assessment of damage and counter measure defense using support area aid. Fire Service activity will be announced by your County Fire Coordinator following receipt of more detailed information from the State Civil Defense Commission and Director Robert Tanner.

AIRCRAFT FIRE FIGHTING BULLETIN

Every fire fighter interested in how to handle aircraft crash fires will find much valuable information in the newly published National Fire Protection Association Aviation Bulletin No. 142. It describes 69 large loss aircraft fire accidents which occurred during 1955 in the United States, Canada, Alaska and off shore.

The 32 page bulletin has numerous dramatic pictures of fire involved planes. In addition to describing accidents, the booklet also reports on fire fighting procedures used by airport personnel and municipal fire departments who responded to crash incidents. Attention is also given to rescue work and to special types of apparatus in use.

Copies of this new Bulletin No. 142 may be obtained for \$2.00 each by writing to the N.F.P.A., 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Mass.

"IT WON'T HAPPEN HERE!"

Fire, tornado, cloudbursts, lightning and airplane crashes.....all problems for a fire department, and too many fire departments are solving these problems with a famous four word slogan, "It won't happen here!"

You have read or perhaps heard about a town that had a lumber yard fire when the city well suddenly went dry.....no need of you looking over your town for auxiliary water supply because "It won't happen here!"

Maybe you have lived in your town for twenty, thirty or forty years.....and you always have your fires behave real nice and come one at a time.....it's no use talking about mutual aid because your town will never have two or three fires at once...Nope, It won't happen here!

What's all this talk about aircraft crash fires.....it's a waste of time; the closest airport is thirty miles away..It won't happen here!

Then some darn fool will bring up the subject of tornadoes...whole towns being demolished.....in the eighty years this town has existed it never happened.....It won't happen here!

Here is another good one.....some guy tried to say we may have a gasoline transport fire in our town.....why we aren't even on a trans-continental highway, and the only gas transports that come to town make local deliveries. And talk about foam.....we'll take ours on beer.

In the cemetery is a nice fresh grave and a gleaming tombstone....
"Here lies Fire Chief Jones - He Always Said It Won't Happen Here!"

IS YOUR EQUIPMENT MARKED?

Now that we are in the midst of the Summer season when the frequency of drowning accidents may be greater and many Fire Departments involved in dragging operations is not uncommon, we wonder if your emergency equipment is adequately marked. When large quantities of equipment are brought to a disaster scene and pooled for maximum use, it is frequently difficult to remember what item belongs to which Fire Department. As a result of large scale operations in the past, we have lost valuable drag hooks, ropes and other important pieces of equipment because they were not clearly or permanently identified by some sort of tag, stamping or color code.

Recently Chief "Norm" Becker experienced an unusual incident when, after taking his Department's portable pump to the Warren floods, a pump was returned that did not appear like the original. The Chief was quite disturbed, as any conscientious Fire Officer should be, and after considerable investigation with the Warren County officials, he decided to write to the manufacturer of the pump and enclosed the serial number for identification. The reply stated that the pump in question had been purchased by the Chautauqua Fire Department, so all was settled.

Now we believe that marking your equipment is important and a very great time saver. One Department in the County marks their ropes with a stamped copper strip tightly fastened around each coil of rope. Another Department uses dog tags with small chains, and still another idea is the use of a die or dies for stamping your initials on metal surfaces. Please give this some thought - is your equipment marked?

FIRE DEPARTMENT VACATIONS

Our paid firemen readers may be interested to know that the Boston Massachusetts Fire Department has adopted a new system of assigning vacations for its paid fire fighters. The system is based on a nine year cycle of rotating vacation periods. Every member of the Department below the rank of Deputy Chief is assigned a vacation group number with the numbers running from 1 to 9. This is a permanent number assignment as long as the man is a member of the company to which he is assigned at present. If he transfers to another fire company, he assumes the vacation group number of the man whom he replaces.

The system is arranged so that every member will have a different vacation period each year. Every man will have a "good" vacation period about every third year. This eliminates the chance of men getting poor vacation periods continually if the vacation program is drawn up haphazardly, or "out of a hat."

VOLUNTEERS PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION

A study of fire prevention codes is being undertaken by volunteer Fire Departments throughout the country on an ever increasing scale.

Contrary to the old belief that the small town and rural Department could not be concerned with setting up fire prevention codes, the belief is growing that such codes are of even greater importance for the small town and rural area than for the city. By the same token, some of the smallest volunteer Departments are finding it expedient to set up fire prevention bureaus or committees as a part of their job.

A husband is what's left of a sweetheart after the nerve's been killed.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE

A few weeks ago we were on the air during a drill session and overheard a nearby Fire Department request an ambulance for an injured person. Shortly after the request was made, the base station dispatcher informed the Chief in command that there were no ambulances available, but if the case was serious the City of Jamestown would dispatch their Police ambulance; a procedure not normally followed unless unusual circumstances prevail.

It seemed to us that this situation was of a serious nature and one that should claim our attention and thought. Our first reaction was to wonder why anyone, particularly a Fire Radio Dispatcher, would question a Chief as to the seriousness of an injury after he, the Chief, had made the request for an ambulance. On second thought, however, we could easily understand the wisdom and reason for reluctance in sending the one and only ambulance left to serve some fifty thousand people!

Apparently we have reached a point where an emergency service is not keeping pace with public need. Alarm reports at the Fire Control Center indicate that there is a substantial increase of non-fire emergencies each year, and we note that several Departments have placed in service various types of emergency trucks to render first aid and, in some instances, to serve as ambulances. Have we overlooked the vital need of transportation for the sick and injured in our community?

From the standpoint of the Fire Department, ambulance operation produces many benefits. Aside from the obvious, there is the public relations angle, and Fire Chiefs are agreed that providing ambulance service is a good will builder without peer. Many Officers report that as a result of the popularity of their ambulance service, the firemen have never been turned down by their respective municipalities on any request for new apparatus or equipment they have made.

We would be remiss not to point out that there are grave responsibilities and numerous headaches attached to the organization and operation of a Fire Department ambulance service. We even hesitate to advocate the establishment of such a service because of the many legal problems, the high cost, and the possibility of having to limit service due to the demand or degree of illnesses. It would be asking a lot to request a volunteer Fire Department to transport a patient from here to a New York City hospital; even a paid Department would renege on this.

Still we can not deny that better ambulance service must be provided, and since private organizations, such as the undertakers in Warren, Pa., must give up the service for financial reasons, the Fire Service is the most likely group able to take over. Throughout the Country more and more firemen are operating ambulances, and it must be the conclusion of those who have seen the public's reaction to life-saving accomplished by skilled Fire Department ambulance crews that the service is a permanent addition to the Fire Service.

MAY DROP "CLASS B" PUMP RATING

The N.F.P.A. Committee on Fire Department Equipment has recommended that all Class B pumper ratings be dropped from the specifications for motor fire apparatus. This is a momentous decision in view of the many years a Class B rating has been used. We suspect that a new and higher rating of pumpers will be forthcoming before many months have passed; a rating exceeding the Class A capacity at 150 pounds pressure.

LIGHTNING BLAMED FOR FARM FIRES

Lightning's awesome flash is one of the great causes of farm fires according to J. Hansell French, President of the Pennsylvania Rural Safety Council. Each year lightning destroys much farm property and kills many persons in the United States.

"Farm and rural districts suffer especially heavy damage by that fiery menace from the sky," says French. "Lightning is one of the greatest single contributors to the country's annual \$100,000,000 farm fire loss."

The Council President says good lightning rod systems on buildings keep electrical charges from gathering over them. The systems provide roads over which these charges can travel to the ground. They are so made that the charges will use them in preference to walls, roof tops and chimneys.

When an electrical storm approaches follow these precautions recommended by the National Safety Council: Do not go out-of-doors or remain out during thunderstorms, unless it is necessary. If there is any choice of shelter, choose shelter in this order:

1. Large metal frame building.
2. Dwelling or other building which is protected against lightning.
3. Large unprotected building.
4. Small unprotected building.

If unavoidably out-of-doors, keep away from isolated trees, wire fences, hilltops, and wide open spaces and small sheds and shelters in an exposed location. Try to reach thick timber, a cave, a depression in the ground, a deep valley or canyon, or the vicinity of a steep cliff, if any of these are nearby.

Underwriters Laboratories says, on the basis of thorough experiments and tests "if lightning rods are made from the right material, and most important, installed right, they are virtually 100 percent efficient." In fact many engineers claim that lightning rods do their job more efficiently than any other mechanical device created by man. If you desire more information covering lightning protection write to the United Lightning Protection Association, Inc., 404 Jefferson Building, Syracuse 2, New York.

LARGE AREA PARADE PLANNED

The Jamestown Fire Department Association will sponsor a Fire Prevention Parade in Jamestown on Saturday, September 15th, at 6:00 P.M. This large parade will mark the beginning a month long campaign against fire which will be highlighted by the selection of "Miss Fire Prevention" and many other projects aimed at reducing fire losses.

All Fire Departments, drum corps, bands, marching units and fire apparatus are invited to compete for prizes totaling over \$1,500.00. Additional information is available from Captain Martin Hagstrom, Fire Station No. 2, Corner Winsor and Water Streets, Jamestown, New York.

FIRE DRIVER NEEDS NO LICENSE

You don't need a driver's license to drive a fire truck to and from a fire, but it's good insurance. Attorney General Jacob K. Javits, in an informal opinion said the legal definition of a motor vehicle excludes fire and police vehicles. But the State's chief law officer warned that an unlicensed driver of a fire truck may breach insurance.

ON REPORTING RADIO TROUBLE

In the past many of you have experienced difficulty in getting your radio equipment repaired within a reasonable length of time after you have made a trouble report to the Fire Control Center. To eliminate the possibility of future delays and to give you improved service, we ask that you notify your County Fire Coordinator immediately upon the failure of any of your mobile radios, walkie-talkies or station receiver. Do not report radio trouble to the Fire Control Center.

When you need the services of our Technician, Dick Lovejoy, phone or write to Coordinator Hughes, 302 North Main Street, Jamestown, New York; business phone, Jamestown 4-939 - residence phone, Jamestown 59-205. If there is no answer at either of these numbers, please telephone Jamestown 90-366. We suggest that you make out a small card with this information thereon and keep it near your station receiver or other suitable place where it can be readily seen by all firemen.

TOO NEAR FOR COMFORT

A recent editorial in the New York Herald Tribune points out that "the hurricane season begins late in July reaching its peak of intensity in August and September." Precautionary suggestions for individuals were given which, we hope, you are familiar with by now. But the article points out that "a surprising number of people" ignore common sense rules, and adds:

"Anyone thinking that there has been an increase of late in the number of tropical storms to hit this area would be perfectly right. The American Red Cross reports that the Eastern seaboard has turned into a 'hurricane alley' through an apparent change in weather patterns, a finding which points to an increase in devastating storms ahead."

RUSSELL TO HAVE NEW APPARATUS

The Russell Fire Department has placed an order for a new Ward La-France 500 g.p.m. Engine known as the "Fire Ball" model. A 500 gallon booster tank is specified along with many other modern features. We appreciate Russell's willingness to always lend a hand when called for Mutual Aid in Chautauqua County; we are always happy to reciprocate.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Since Fire Prevention Week is just around the corner, and it is time for us to begin planning our activities, we pass along the following tips which you may wish to reprint:

1. Never leave a fresh fire unattended.
2. Do not place heating equipment too close to wooden walls or in line with exits.
3. Make sure there is more than one way of getting to the ground floor from the second and upper floor levels.
4. Keep matches out of the reach of small children.
5. Check electrical equipment frequently to insure they are safe.
6. Do not use gasoline for cleaning purposes.
7. Above all, do not smoke in bed.

NIAGARA FALLS TRIP PLANNED

On June 1st we reported that a trip was being planned to the Niagara Falls Air Force Base. The tentative date has been set for Sept. 22.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

Willis R. Wilson
Chairman, Advisory Board

Volume 86

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Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

A CASE IN POINT

The Hon. Charles W. Potter, Counsel to the Joint Legislative Committee on Fire Laws, has advised us of an interesting decision handed down by the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court on June 14th. This decision, which is in line with our recent article on Fire Department ambulance service and the legal responsibilities thereof, is reprinted as follows for your information:

"Claimant was a member of the volunteer fire department of the Village of Waterford. He was injured when an ambulance maintained by the department became involved in an accident. Those in charge of the ambulance were answering an emergency call to transport a person suffering a heart attack in the City of Cohoes to the Cohoes Hospital. The call was made by a supervisor of the hospital upon the instructions of the superintendent thereof. The hospital was not maintained or supported in any way by the City of Cohoes.

"Appellants argue that the City of Cohoes is responsible for the payment of compensation under section 10 of the Workman's Compensation Law. This section provides in substance that where a volunteer fireman is injured while rendering assistance outside his own district upon a call from an outside city, village or fire district, the latter shall be responsible for compensation benefits. We think this section contemplates only an emergency of a public nature. A fire of course is such an emergency, for it may spread and endanger the lives and property of many people. A heart attack suffered by an individual, however unfortunate it may be from his viewpoint, is a private and not a public emergency. We conclude therefore that the statute cited does not apply"

IT'S WORTH A MOMENT OR TWO!

We are sending each of our reader's a small card titled "It's Worth a Moment or Two!" which has been sent to us by the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. Thanks to Chief Ward Bohner, Secretary of the Association, we have a good supply of these cards for your use. In view of Fire Prevention Week, we urge all Chief Officers to place these cards in each room of every hotel, tavern, inn or motel in your respective protection areas. See your County Fire Coordinator for a supply of these Fire Prevention cards. It's worth a moment of your time!

RADIO SHIPMENT ARRIVES

The thirty-one mobile and eleven walkie-talkie radios ordered last Spring have arrived. The delay in shipment was caused by an R.C.A. model change which in spite of our general dislike has provided us with the latest and improved radio equipment. Installation of this new equipment is scheduled to get underway by the first week in September. Ellery Center, Hartfield, Sunset Bay and West Dunkirk will get radios first to complete the network. We hope that more than one technician will be employed to hasten the work and permit continuous maintenance.

While on the subject of radios, we hope that the Board of Supervisors in their current budget sessions will give careful study and an increased appropriation for a full time radio technician for the Fire Radio Network. Please don't forget that Dick Lovejoy, on a part time basis, is now taking care of almost three times more radio equipment than the full time technician employed by the County Highway Department.

FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY

Acting State Civil Defense Director Joseph P. Hennessey has announced that "more than \$300,000,000 in U.S. Surplus Property will be donated to Civil Defense," and property that is new and/or in good condition is to be apportioned to the local Civil Defense Directors, the Fire Service, and other agencies engaged in Civil Defense work. A few of the available items are mentioned below:-

Communications Equipment: Portable and table model radios, intercoms, public address systems, field wire and battery operated telephone systems, portable radio equipment, tape recorders, motor generator systems, voice transmitters, and monitor receivers.

Fire Fighting, Rescue and Safety Equipment: Fire boats, fire pumpers and ladder trucks, nozzles, protective clothing, masks, fire extinguishers and charges, first aid kits, megaphones, adapters, and fittings.

Construction, Excavation and Transportation Equipment: Snowplows, jeeps, bulldozers, cranes, air compressors, trenching machines, tractor trailers, sheeting and pile drivers, portable bridging, and automobiles.

Electric Wire and Power Distribution Equipment: Electric extension cords, battery powered red flashing lights, generators of both portable and skid mounted type, line poles and accessories, insulated and plain wire, insulated and plain cable, transformers, and insulators.

Anyone interested in surplus property should contact your County Fire Coordinator for further details and information on procurement.

REPORTING TO THE CONTROL CENTER

Last June we requested all Chief Officers to advise the Control Center, as soon as possible following an alarm, of the type and extent of fire or emergency to which they responded. Some of us are forgetting this important detail, and the radio logs are not showing enough information for insurance interests and for compiling the monthly alarm reports which are submitted to the State and County authorities. It is particularly important to notify the Fire Control Center if an injury or death occurs at the scene. Details are not necessary; only a brief description of the situation is required, and we ask your cooperation.

HAVE YOU PLANNED A PROGRAM?

Have you planned a Fire Prevention program for your community? We hope you have given this matter serious consideration and are actively engaged in some type of program that will encourage your citizens to help prevent fires. The rising fire waste, with its tremendous sacrifice of life and its destruction of property, is a staggering national problem, and we can do something about this right here in our County.

Fire Prevention is your business. It is the business of every community, every home, and every individual. No Fire Department is too large or too small to undertake the education of the people it protects in the ways and means of safeguarding life and property.

Will you accept this responsibility? If so, the heritage you leave will not be built upon a mound of hot, smoldering ashes, but upon a record of service, a service that can defeat and annihilate the common enemy FIRE. This is your challenge and your duty as a citizen.

One slice of toast to another, "I haven't been so hot since I was bread!"

TOOLS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

It is a recognized fact that the fire fighting services need certain tools to perform their job - fire trucks, hose, ladders, etc. However, one of the least recognized tools, but most important to a Fire Department, is proper and adequate Ordinances and Building Codes. Too many municipalities have inadequate ordinances which give the Fire Department no, or insufficient, authority to require adequate fire protection measures to keep down the fire losses of the community.

The Chief Officers of all communities should make it known to the proper legislative body the need for these ordinances so that their Fire Departments can do a better job in protecting life and property.

PORTABLE KEROSENE HEATERS

With the Winter season approaching we must give some attention to what has been a constant source of loss of life by fire and asphyxiation; the portable kerosene heater. The National Board of Fire Underwriters have prepared a few general precautions which are listed below:

1. Appliances should be cleaned and necessary repairs made at the beginning of each heating season, and kept clean. Worn or damaged parts should be replaced promptly, preferably by the manufacturer.
2. Kerosene should be used for fuel. Gasoline should never be used.
3. The wick of the burner should be of the correct height and trimmed evenly. After lighting wait a few minutes for oil to saturate the wick, then adjust to even flame, and watch for 15 minutes to guard against smoking or too high a flame.
4. These appliances should be carefully leveled and never filled or carried while lighted.
5. Special care should be employed in placing the heaters to avoid accidental overturning and to avoid contact with combustible materials.
6. These devices should be equipped with a sheet metal tray underneath the burner as an integral part of the heater.
7. When in use, a source of adequate fresh air should be provided.
8. Portable kerosene heaters should be refilled out of doors.

NEW ENGINE FOR NEAR FUTURE

A new gas turbine engine that has a built-in torque converter has been developed by one of America's leading aircraft manufacturers. The 175 horsepower model has, under actual road tests, out-performed a 200 horsepower piston type engine by demonstrating a much faster get away, better hill climbing ability, and much less gear shifting to attain maximum speed.

Owing to having no radiator or cooling system, the gas turbine engine could start from a fire station and get to a fire more rapidly as it requires no warm up to obtain full efficiency. Moreover, no special training is needed for the operators, and it is practically service free having only one-tenth as many parts as a conventional piston type engine. For fuel, regular grade diesel oil has proven most efficient.

A gas turbine engine has already been successfully used by the U. S. Navy to power portable fire pumps rated at 500 g.p.m., and it is not difficult to start this engine with the same type of starter used with gasoline or diesel engines. The 175 h.p. model weighs only 330 pounds.

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

"For nearly three years our Radio Technician has been struggling with our Motorola Selective Calling System which was purported to be a most reliable means for quickly notifying Fire Departments of an emergency. Yet we seem to have the same frequency of troubles, failures, and absence of reliability today that we experienced when the system was first installed.

"I do not judge our Technician incompetent or at fault for not being able to eliminate the failures. I do, however, believe that many of the problems stem from a hurried acceptance of the system before sufficient trial, and from reluctance on the part of those responsible to insist that Motorola furnish us with properly engineered equipment together with competent trouble shooters during the first months of operation.

"It is granted that other counties have difficulties with their calling systems, but in comparison proportionately Chautauqua County suffers much more than our share. To some extent, I suppose, the failures in the system can be traced to the limited time our Technician has to work, but I can not condone the apparent endless search for the causes of trouble when even a little help or advice could be secured at nominal or no cost to the County. Initially the County invested about \$12,000.00 in the system. I would suspect that today the total investment is near half again as much for the man-hours, mileage and parts expended, and still no sufficient improvement is noted in the system.

"I am aroused to write of this matter due to the many complaints and loss of confidence expressed by so many members of our Fire Service in this vital system. I hope my views along with the facts at hand will stir someone to action so that we may enjoy the invaluable benefits of a somewhat more reliable selective calling system."

The foregoing article does not necessarily reflect opinions held by members of the Advisory Board either individually or collectively.

A JOB WELL DONE

During the last week in September the Dunkirk Fire Department was called upon to assist with the transportation of a person severely stricken with Bulbar Polio. The patient, confined to an iron lung, was kept alive during the journey to Buffalo by a portable generator which supplied power for the mechanical lung under the supervision of Dunkirk firemen who volunteered for the trip.

In noting this fine service, Clayton R. Webeck, who is the March of Dimes Chairman, says, "This is just another job that the Firemen have done on several occasions, but the Chautauqua County Polio Chapter sincerely appreciates the assistance rendered by Dunkirk and all the Fire Departments who helped us so many times in the past."

LAKWOOD TRIES HOME RECEIVERS

The Lakewood Fire Department has been experimenting with home radio receivers manufactured by the Plectron Corp. of Overton, Nebraska. The individual speakers remain "dead" until an 1100 cycle tone is transmitted from the local base station, then voice transmission is possible on a frequency of 46.18 megacycles. Latest reports indicate favorable tests on this, the first fireman's radio alerting system in the County.

NEW RADIO CALL CARDS

Installation of new mobile radios is keeping pace with the arrival of units from the R.C.A. factory, and it is anticipated that all thirty one radios will be in service by December 1st. However, until this present group of mobile sets are delivered and installed, no new radio call cards will be printed or issued.

For your information and reference we list below the most recent apparatus to be radio equipped and not listed on current call cards:

FIRST BATTALION

CASSADAGA	M 16
CHERRY CREEK	Engine 119
FORESTVILLE	Tanker 17
IRVING	Tanker 11
SILVER CREEK	M 11
SUNSET BAY	Engine 118
WEST DUNKIRK	Engine 130

SECOND BATTALION

BROCTON	M 25
HARTFIELD	Engine 219
PORTLAND	M 27
RIPLEY	Engine 23

FOURTH BATTALION

ELLERY CENTER Engine 411

Also installed is a mobile unit in the car of the County Director of Civil Defense which is called Car 101. Walkie-talkies are now carried in Cherry Creek Engine 119, Silver Creek Engines 13 and 14, Maple Springs Engine 22, Westfield Engines 217 and 218, Bemus Point M 46, Fluvanna Car 53, and Gerry Engine 47.

CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer fire fighters, in case you haven't heard, are the biggest customers for the nation's output of fire engines. This and other revealing facts are disclosed in the September 10th issue of "The Wall Street Journal",

Fire truck manufacturers, according to the article, are not worried about overproduction as are their 'cousins' in the auto production field. On the contrary, suburban growth being what it is, the greatest concern of fire truck manufacturing people is how to increase the current 5,000 unit-per-year rate of output.

ASHVILLE EXPANDS FACILITIES

Within a very few weeks the Ashville Fire Department will offer added fire protection from a second station to be located at Stow. Engine 312 is to be housed at this new location, and additional firemen are being recruited from the Stow area to operate the apparatus. Residents of the North Harmony Fire Protection District outside of the present three mile limit will enjoy substantial insurance rate reductions by the establishment of this Ashville Fire Company No. 2.

RESCUE TRAINING SCHEDULED

The State Director of Safety has announced that the 1957 schedule of Rescue Training courses will begin on January 28 through February 8. Firemen interested should submit their applications to the New York State Rescue Training School, 17 Elk Street, Albany 7, New York, at least two weeks before the opening of the course desired.

TRAINING ACTIVITY REPORTED

Donald A. Sales, County Training Coordinator, has submitted the annual Fire Training School report for the period April through October 1956. The figures indicate that greater interest and participation was achieved over the previous year's training. Although the percentage of firemen completing each course dropped below last year, total attendance showed a marked increase. The following is taken from the report:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>REGISTERED</u>	<u>GRADUATES</u>
Basic	108	76 or 70%
Intermediate	94	69 or 70%
Advanced	58	51 or 87%
Single Company Operations	56	41 or 73%

We wish to thank all members of the County Fire Service for their continued support of the training program; we hope you found benefits.

BLUE LIGHT LEGISLATION

Considerable interest is being shown throughout New York State for an amendment to the Vehicle and Traffic Law which would make blue lights exclusive for the Fire Service. We believe that this interest is justified in view of the current promiscuous use of red lights on other than emergency vehicles, and we would like to see legislation of some type that would insure fire vehicles better identification.

HOUSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

The Chautauqua Lake Association recently sponsored a meeting to discuss a house numbering system for all of the County. Keen interest in the proposal has been expressed by representatives of the Fire Departments, and studies of various plans and costs will be undertaken. The Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. sparked the idea for the reasons of benefit to them and apparent success in other areas served by the public utility. Your ideas on such a system are earnestly solicited.

DUNKIRK HAS HARD LUCK

While responding to a box alarm on Halloween night, Chief Cybulski was involved in an accident with the 75 ft. Aerial Truck which resulted in serious injuries for the Chief, damage beyond repair to the City car and considerable damage to the Truck. The sad part of the incident is that the box alarm was false; probably the action of a prankster.

Again during the first week of November, the Truck suffered a second accident when some motorist failed to yield the right-of-way and stopped dead directly in front of the heavy apparatus. We do not have a report on any personal injuries but understand that more extensive damage was suffered by the Truck necessitating limited service only.

A late report informs us that Chief Cybulski, although discharged from the hospital a few days after the first accident, has had to return due to complications. We all wish the Chief a speedy recovery.

LAKEWOOD - Chief Miller now has a mobile radio installed in his car. The call is Car 56. Celoron Hose 31 is also radio equipped, and M 47 of Kennedy has a new 80 watt radio unit which should prove better.

MAKE CHRISTMAS SAFE

Every year 2,000 children die as a result of fire. Thousands more suffer painful burns or are maimed for life. One day last year, for instance, fire claimed 10 victims. It was Christmas Eve!

The Christmas tree, for one thing, is a potential fire hazard and caution should be taken in its selection, placement in the home, and maintenance. You can play it safe by choosing a small one. There will be thirty million on the market for your selection.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters says to keep your tree outdoors until a few days before setting it up. During that time occasionally throw water over it. This will keep it moist and fresh. When you bring the tree inside, cut the butt slantwise to open the pores, then stand it in a tub of water. Be wary of chemicals or other substances sold for "fireproofing" trees. In some cases this process is ineffective and has been known to hasten burning by drying out trees.

In placing the tree, it is best to avoid "hot spots" such as those near the fireplace, stove, television set, radiator, or electric bulbs.

Never use untreated paper ornaments or untreated cotton batting or gauze for decoration. Cotton and gauze can be made flame resistive by dipping in a gallon of water mixed with nine ounces of borax and four ounces of boric acid. Also, use only electric lights, never candles. Be sure, too, that wires are in good condition and bear the UL mark denoting Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., which shows they have been tested for safety. Frayed electric cords are a definite fire hazard.

The switch for turning on the tree lights should be placed some distance from the tree. Never use an outlet or plug under the tree or run electric trains around the base of the tree.

If decorations are used about the house, do not permit them to be around or near to chairs and other places where people may smoke. It is preferable to have them up near the ceiling, well above the head of anyone standing up. Keep plenty of ash trays about the house during the holiday season, as always. If lights are desired in windows, never use candles. Keep curtains and other flammable material pulled back at least six inches from any electric light.

Let's all have a fire safe Christmas in Chautauqua County!

ASHVILLE GETS NEW ENGINE

The Ward LaFrance Truck Corp. of Elmira, New York, has delivered a new 750 g.p.m. triple combination pumper to the Ashville Fire Department. Principal features of the large apparatus include a 285 horsepower motor having an 817 cubic inch displacement, a 1,000 gallon water tank, three-man enclosed cab, and a hose body for 1,200 ft. of 2½ inch and 500 ft. of 1½ inch hose. The two-stage centrifugal pump is equipped with electro-matic controls and 2½ inch gated inlets are provided for relay pumping. Front end design has been completely redesigned for 1957 and many new body innovations are evident.

County Number of this new apparatus is Engine 310; a radio will be installed within the next two weeks following acceptance of the pumper.

The Advisory Board, Fire Coordinators and Firemen of Chautauqua County
wish you a very

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S