

HERE WE HAVE FREEDOM

This is the story of a Fire Chief who dared to speak the hard, crushing truth before a PTA meeting immediately following a fire in the local grade school which claimed the life of a little girl.

"Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"Ordinarily I would apologize for being late, but I have just seen a child die because certain people in this city are more interested in school politics than in protecting the thousands of children given over to their care in our schools. I don't feel like apologizing. I'm mad as Hell! I'm going to give you and the people of our city a piece of my mind, and I sincerely hope you won't like what I am going to say!

"This isn't the first time I've addressed one of your meetings. On three separate occasions in the past, I have told you tactfully that your school fire alarm signal system was grossly inadequate and in violation of State Law. I predicted tragedy if you took no action. What did you do about it? Nothing!

(At this point a lady rises to her feet and attempts to interrupt.)

"Don't try to contradict me, Madam! I've read the minutes of everyone of your meetings for the past three years. Sit down! (The lady resumes her seat, sputtering in consternation.)

"Today, because you and the school officials couldn't be bothered with such unpleasant matters as fire safety, a little girl lost her life in the kindergarten of the Parkway School.

(Here several women leap to their feet. There were frightened cries of "Who was she?" and "What's her name?" When the Chief told the name of the child, a young woman flung her arms into the air, screamed "My Baby! My Baby!" and collapsed. Women nearby rushed to assist her. Four mothers dashed from the hall. The stricken mother was carried to another room, and when the hub-hub subsided, the Chief continued.)

"I hope that so long as God permits you to draw breath, you will never forget what you have just seen. Can you imagine how that young mother feels? No, you can't, because your children are alive and safe ...this time! Do you think that after today you can ever again interest yourselves in vapid tea parties and silly rummage sales while your children's lives are needlessly in danger?

"The Fire Department spends hundreds of dollars every year to supply every school child with important printed matter on fire prevention. What happens to it? You know very well what happens to it. You throw it in the waste basket!

"My men work 72 hours per week, yet in their own off-duty hours they go into the schools to teach your boys and girls the simple rules of fire prevention. They ask the children to induce you, their parents, to remove the fire hazards from your homes, your schools, your churches and your places of business. The children are impressed, but do you listen to them! No! You're too busy listening to the radio, or watching television, or gossiping with the neighbors or gadding about! When your children see that you attach no importance to fire safety, they lose interest, too. How can it be otherwise?

"Parents teach their children by example and by precept. How many of you can hold your heads high and say, 'I have done my best for the safety of my loved ones? How many must bow your heads in shame?'"

As we enter a New Year let us pause and give thought. Have we given full consideration to the safety of our children in Chautauqua County?

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

Willis R. Wilson
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 142

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January 15, 1959

F.C.C. ORDERS CHANGE

The Public Safety Services of which our Fire Service is a part have been ordered to modify their radio communications equipment by the year 1962. This may seem to our readers to be a premature advisement, but in spite of the time element, we feel that you should be informed as to the change required, the cost and the amount of work entailed by this Federal Communications Commission order.

The change does not effect the present frequencies, and we will continue to operate on 46.10 and 46.22 megacycles. At the moment, however, all of our radio equipment is designed to allow no more than a 15 kilocycle deviation plus or minus the center frequency. The new order requires that our equipment be modified to allow no more than 7½ kilocycle deviation plus or minus the center frequency. In other words, we will be using only one-half the band width now permitted, and the F.C.C. will be able to utilize and assign many more frequencies in the spectrum to the ever growing demand for frequency modulated communications.

Age of radio equipment will, to some extent, determine the cost of conversion because the newer sets purchased during the past two to three years will not require as many new parts or as much labor as the older sets. One manufacturer has developed a modification kit that currently sells for about \$65.00, but we anticipate a reduction in this cost as the demand increases during the next year.

It will be necessary to modify both receiver and transmitter in all radios. Unfortunately, our Fire Communications will be greatly impaired, and at times impossible, during the change over period which we estimate to take at least six months. The reason for this is that a wide band (present set-up) receiver will not pick up intelligibly a narrow band (future set-up) transmitter and visa versa. Our Technician further advises that each radio will require an average of four hours labor to modify.

We hope that the modifications can be accomplished with a minimum amount of troubles, and in the meantime, we can console ourselves in remembering that every Fire, Police and Public Safety service in the United States must comply with this Federal Commission order.

BROCTON ORDERS NEW ENGINE

The Village of Brocton recently ordered a new 750 g.p.m. pumping engine from the Young Fire Equipment Company of Buffalo, New York. The specifications call for a Ford C-800 chassis, a 600 gallon booster tank and enclosed compartment body. Bid price of the new unit was \$19,569.93 and delivery is expected in April. This pumper will replace Engine 212.

WELCOME TO "THE DELUGE"

We extend a warm welcome to The Deluge, a new monthly publication of the Livingston County Fire Advisory Board. Mr. J. F. Beuerlein is the Editor of this fine paper, and we wish him every success with this new venture. Chief Gil W. Jenkins is Coordinator of Livingston County; a good friend whose interest and participation in our local fire functions on frequent occasions has endeared him to us with lasting memory.

Instructor Hickey at the close of the first Basic lesson in Chautauqua was heard to say, "Class is dismissed for tonight. Please don't bray as you walk out." Then a friend of ours who rarely sleeps alone observes knowingly that one good turn usually gets most of the blanket.

FIREMEN HAVE BUSY YEAR

The annual Alarm Report released by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz reveals an increase in Fire Service activity during 1958. The figures are compiled from alarm records at the County Fire Control Center and includes both cities. As has been the trend for the past several years, a continued increase in Non-Fire Emergencies indicates a greater public demand or need for rescue type service and ambulance or first aid work.

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

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>FIRE ALARMS</u> | <u>NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES</u> | <u>REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January | 64 | 64 | 6 |
| February | 71 | 79 | 10 |
| March | 91 | 62 | 9 |
| April | 302 | 75 | 10 |
| May | 125 | 91 | 3 |
| June | 51 | 92 | 6 |
| July | 58 | 81 | 8 |
| August | 88 | 84 | 15 |
| September | 50 | 63 | 7 |
| October | 98 | 93 | 8 |
| November | 79 | 73 | 9 |
| December | 76 | 77 | 12 |
| 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 |

OUR SEVENTH YEAR

With this issue of The Booster Line begins our seventh year of publication. We wish to thank the Sheriff's Department, local radio dispatchers, Fire Officers and all firemen for their fine assistance and cooperation during the past year. It has been a pleasure to bring you bits of news and comment about our great County Fire Service, and we hope you will continue to read us and enjoy our little publication.

FIRE FIGHTERS PREPARE CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM

A Government advisory committee has began a drive to protect cities from the enormous fires that a nuclear attack might ignite. The group of 21 fire fighting experts opened its campaign by meeting with Leo A. Hoegh, chief of the Office of Civil Defense and Mobilization.

Among other things, the committee hopes to promote a single national standard for threads on fire hose and hydrants. It also plans to encourage private fire departments at industrial plants and to purchase protective clothing and radioactivity detecting instruments for firemen.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

Willis R. Wilson
Chairman, Advisory Board

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WHAT IS THE MALTESE CROSS?

The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection....a badge of honor, and its story is hundreds of years old.

When a courageous band of Crusaders, known as the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land, they encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but horrible, device of war; it wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters for the Cross.

The Saracens' weapon was fire!

As the Crusaders advanced on the walls of the city they were struck by glass bombs, containing naphtha. When they became saturated with the highly inflammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming tree into their midst.

Hundreds of the Knights were burned alive. Others risked their lives to save their brothers in arms from dying painful, fiery deaths.

Thus these men became our first firemen, and the first of a long list of courageous fire-fighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Crusaders who awarded each hero a badge of honor; a cross similar to the one firemen wear today.

Since the Knights of St. John lived for close to four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the cross came to be known as the Maltese Cross.

When you see a fireman, ask him to let you look at the Maltese Cross he wears on his hat.

The Maltese Cross is your symbol of protection. It means that the fireman who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for you, just as the Crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago.

The Maltese Cross is a fireman's badge of honor, signifying that he works in courage....a ladder-rung away from death.

ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTED

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following to serve as members of the Fire Advisory Board during 1959-60:

Willis R. Wilson of Westfield, John Washington of Cassadaga, George V. Blackstone of Lakewood, Thomas Bretz of Ripley, Rolland H. Taft of Kiantone, Ivan I. Velzy of Silver Creek, Robert Tanner of Sinclairville, Samuel Lord of Fluvanna, Chief Irvin B. Bowen of Ashville, and Edward Bulman of Celoron.

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

Meetings of the Board are held the third Thursday of each month and all Fire Officers, firemen and other interested persons are welcome to attend. Only by your suggestions, comments and ideas can we function.

NEW CHIEFS ELECTED

Chief Kenneth F. Schunk was recently elected to head the Cassadaga Fire Department, and Lewis Rice is the new Chief Officer of Ellington. Departments having selected new Chief Officers since the beginning of the year are requested to advise your Battalion Coordinator so that we may keep our records up to date and have the Control Center file correct

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

March 1, 1959

INFORMATION OF IMPORTANCE

At the January meeting of the County Fire Chiefs Association, the question of directing fire fighting operations where radioactive or nuclear materials are involved was discussed with great interest. As a result of inquiries posed by several Chief Officers present regarding the proper authority to notify in the event of a fire involving radioactive materials, our good friend, Robert "Doc" Webster, has supplied us with the following information.

"The Atomic Energy Commission issued a press release on June 26, 1958 advising government agencies that, while highly unlikely, it is possible that an accident involving a nuclear reactor or radioactive materials, either in use or shipment, could result in the release of radioactivity in such manner and quantity as to be hazardous to the public. This could happen at some fixed location or while being transported by train or truck. The Commission is now in a position to supply assistance in such cases, and if a radiation incident occurs, local officials should ask advice and assistance from the nearest Atomic Energy Commission office or the nearest military installation."

In the event of such an accident in Chautauqua County, telephone calls should be made immediately to:

New York Operations Office
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
70 Columbus Avenue
New York, New York
Telephone - PLaza 7-3600 and
ask for the "Radiation Officer".

AND

Officer-in-Command, Niagara Falls,
New York, Air Force Base.

"Doc" Webster further emphasizes that, "At the time of the call, it would be helpful if information can be given concerning the accident details or any available observations at the scene and this should be confined to facts rather than theories. The Radiation Officer will then be in a position to make suggestions and give advice for the immediate handling of the matter, pending the arrival of a team of radiological specialists who will be sent if necessary."

INVITATIONS EXTENDED

Chief Charles R. Dorman wishes to extend to all Fire Officers and firemen in the County Fire Service a cordial invitation to attend the forthcoming Eastern Association of Fire Chiefs Convention to be held in the City of Jamestown on May 21, 22 and 23. This invitation includes the Annual Banquet, all Technical Sessions or Discussions, and all other functions of the Convention. Those who are not members of the Eastern Association will be furnished with badges or other identification by Chief Dorman so that you may attend any or all programs as you may desire. We hope you will accept this generous invitation.

NIAGARA MOHAWK MAKES PLEA

The Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. requests that Fire Departments do not attempt to fight fires involving sub-stations or transformer installations, but should concentrate on protecting adjacent exposures.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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N.B.F.U. PRODUCES NEW FILM

In New Haven, Conn., one day last October, firemen deliberately set four fires. Their purpose was to demonstrate good and deficient practices in fire protection and salvage. They were acting in a staged filming for the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

While cameras ground, the firemen-turned-actors fought a dwelling fire, a fire in a store, a fire in an upstairs apartment, and a warehouse fire. Each fire, with the exception of the warehouse blaze, was filmed on a specially constructed set in a condemned tenement, which the City had marked for razing. The warehouse fire was staged at the New Haven Fire Training Center. Each demonstration emphasized the fireman's duty to protect property, a duty that does not end when the flames are extinguished.

The film, "A Tale of Two Towns," has been produced and is now ready for distribution. Members of the Fire Department played difficult roles, and, in some instances, they had to overcome their normal efficient reactions in order to stimulate carelessness and indifference to their routine salvage duties.

In every case, the reactions of the private citizens involved are shown. Naturally, those whose places sustain unnecessary damage as a result of neglected salvage procedure felt distressed. Those whose losses were minimized by good salvage work were truly appreciative of a service which went beyond the routine of fire extinguishment.

NEW ENGINE ORDERED

The Village of Bemus Point recently ordered a new 500 g.p.m. pumping engine from the Ward LaFrance Truck Corporation of Elmira, New York. Specifications call for an International Model V-206 chassis powered by a 256 horsepower motor and an 800 gallon booster tank. Bid price of the new pumper was \$17,318.56 and delivery is expected in July. This new unit will be designated as Engine 416.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE

It is the obligation of every Fire Department, paid or volunteer, to see that the first alarm response to every fire is adequate in the number of men and equipment dispatched, taking into account the type of district from which the alarm is received and the nature of the call.

Any alarm of fire is an emergency at which both lives and property may be at stake. The Fire Department is organized and pledged to save lives and property. When an alarm is received there is no justification for procrastination or a limited ineffectual response.

IT'S TIME, NOW

Spring is just around the corner (honestly) and the annual clean-up campaign should reach into every community. Again this year, the National Fire Protection Association has prepared attractive and useful materials that will assist you in promoting your Spring clean-up campaign. Remember that Fire Prevention is your job too and well planned campaigns always win new respect for your Fire Department and yourself.

LILY DALE firemen have purchased a 1942 Chevrolet pumper from the City of Dunkirk which is now being refurbished and should be in service soon. SUNSET BAY firemen recently elected Robert E. Irons as Chief Officer of their Department. JAMESTOWN has a new RED Chief's Car; the envy of all.

FIRE ALARM SERVICE

Some ready means of summoning Fire Department apparatus and men to the scene of a fire is essential to the effective functioning of every Department, and it is the intent of this short article to discuss some of the present day aspects of fire alarm service.

It is recognized by those who have made a study of the American Fire Service that there is no surer or more dependable means of calling a Fire Department than a municipal fire alarm system, with street boxes, circuits and current supply separate and distinct from any other form of communication system or service. In fact, the Underwriters allow a substantial credit in those communities having an approved box alarm system that is properly maintained.

That the telephone has been and will continue to be used for most alarms of fire can not be denied. Such service has proven of worth and is recognized today as the most valuable auxiliary means of notifying the Fire Department of a fire. This is especially true in residential areas and in the vast rural territories where telephones are in common use. It is also realized by firemen that the telephone has certain limitations, and many of us have experienced difficulties with the more modern dial system, including the even newer long distance dialing.

But most of us can not afford to install a box alarm system, and it is doubtful if such would be practical in most of the areas we are bound to protect. There are those who make a good point of the fact that to be able to talk to the person reporting a fire helps the Fire Department in many ways to get a better location, an idea of the nature of the emergency and to get other information that may be of value to the responding companies. Thus the telephone is our most important fire alarm service, and even city records will show that they receive nearly all of their calls in this manner.

Our objective, therefore, should be to keep the public constantly aware of our Fire Department telephone number or numbers. Some effort is now being made to establish a nation-wide identical calling number for every Fire Department so that even tourists or visitors may readily summon help without having to look up the number and locate the community in which they are staying. This common number, we feel, will not be possible due to the great number of telephone exchanges and complicated inter-connecting lines used in the telephone service, but it is a step in the right direction. In Chautauqua County alone there are over sixty-seven different telephone numbers to call a Fire Department!

THRUWAY FIRE PROTECTION

The New York State Thruway Authority has announced that it will discontinue the use of Authority owned fire apparatus on the 450 mile highway. Eighteen fire trucks have been stationed along the Thruway and operated by maintenance personnel. Apparently the high cost of keeping these trucks operating and the great distances they cover have proven impractical.

In spite of this move, we are well aware that the nearest Fire Department was always or nearly always called when a fire occurred on the Thruway so that the situation will not change greatly. However, all protection on our super highway will now be in the hands of the local Fire Departments along its route. Additional approaches will be built by the Authority where needed to allow ready access for fire apparatus; some of these approaches are to be of the crash gate type near to roads.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
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Willis R. Wilson
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ANNUAL FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULED

The annual New York State Fire Training Schools are scheduled to get underway at Falconer on April 15th, at Brocton on April 17th, at Sherman on April 21st, and at Sinclairville on April 23rd. All Chief Officers are requested to advise their men of these schools which have been set up at as near convenient locations as possible throughout the County. We hope that your continued interest in training will again encourage many firemen to participate and maintain a good attendance.

County Instructors Walter R. Burr and Harry E. Hickey, both from Fredonia, will conduct the classes. Should you desire any further information relative to the training program, please contact Raymond H. Hughes, County Fire Coordinator, at Jamestown 59-205 or 4-939.

A NOVEL IDEA

For citizens of Oneonta, Alabama, it's easy to call the Fire Department by phone, no matter how frightened or confused they may be. Instead of having to remember, or look in the phone book for the Fire Department's number, they simply dial the exchange combination which precedes all local numbers and then dial F-I-R-E. For police assistance, they dial H-E-L-P and to summon a physician, D-O-C. For those who would rather do it the hard way, the ordinary Fire Department number is available too.

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE

We recently read an article which described in detail the serious brush fire problems experienced in Southern California. At one large fire last year, the Los Angeles County Fire Department lost two Engine companies which were consumed by the intense heat of a fast spreading brush fire. Undoubtedly the loss of these two trucks could not have been prevented due to the circumstances and nature of such fires.

This situation, however, is thought provoking, and should serve as a reminder to all of us to keep our apparatus a safe distance from all types of fires. There have been instances in our own County where fire trucks have been scorched by intense heat and partly destroyed by the flames we hoped to conquer. We recall one fire involving a semi-trailer truck when the responding apparatus drew a little too close, and when the gasoline tanks exploded, both men and equipment were almost involved in a catastrophe. Thus it would seem that more caution is in order if we are to protect our own lives and fire equipment.

Most Engine companies and other types of apparatus carry enough hose today to allow us to park our vehicles at a safe distance from a fire. There is no need to drive right up to the fire as if we were going to scare the fire into submission by the appearance of our bright red fire truck, with all its flashing lights and roaring sound. Let's keep our distance and avoid getting caught in a possible explosion or a sudden shift in the wind. It isn't easy to move a pumper once it is set up for operation, and none of us want to lose a good truck.

NATIONAL C.D. ALERT

A nationwide Civil Defense test alert will be held on Friday, April 17th at approximately 1:30 P.M. Just how the ten minute alert will be conducted in the County is to be announced by the Fire Coordinator. According to information received to date, all persons are required to observe the test by stopping cars and/or seeking some shelter.

MOTOR FIRE APPARATUS

Frequently Fire Departments undertake the construction of motor fire apparatus on used or government surplus truck chassis, and the entire unit is assembled by the firemen themselves; sometimes with the aid of a professional welder and/or mechanic. Most apparatus so constructed is of the auxiliary type designed to support first line trucks already owned by the Department. However, there have been instances where Fire Departments attempted to build pumper-tankers for first line use in their communities.

The attempt to construct any type of motor fire apparatus locally is certainly a commendable task in view of the many technical problems, many hours of labor involved and frequently hard to find materials. It is the intent of the Fire Advisory Board to recommend to those contemplating such construction a few advices that may be of value to you both now and in the future. In all cases, the prime consideration is to have a fire truck, regardless of type, that will do a good job and meet the Underwriters' specifications and requirements.

We recommend that all Fire Departments should have a copy of the National Board of Fire Underwriters Pamphlet No. 19, titled "Specifications for Motor Fire Apparatus", the latest edition having been revised to August 1958. This small booklet covers all types of apparatus, including pumpers, hose trucks, booster trucks, tankers, salvage trucks and ladder trucks. By following these specifications we can avoid a number of pitfalls or troubles, many of which may not show up for a few years after we put our new truck in service.

We further recommend to you that careful thought and study be given to any pump installation, whether it be front mount, midship mount or power take-off from the truck transmission. Perhaps the most important consideration here is the proper gear ratios or being sure the pump is designed for the horsepower and revolutions per minute of the motor without causing an overload or excessive motor r.p.m. to get the required water flow and pressures. All too many pieces of apparatus have been built that will not meet Underwriters' specifications and usually these same trucks give us no end of trouble with bearings, clutches, packings and restricted water flows. It may come as a surprise to know that there are about fifteen first line pumpers in our County today that will not produce full capacity even with the motor at top r.p.m., and some of these trucks are less than five years old!

To be sure of a proper pump installation, we recommend that you have a reputable manufacturer of fire apparatus do the work. This may cost a little more, but you will save many dollars in the long run and surely have a dependable fire truck pumping mechanism. Remember your Fire Advisory Board is always ready to help you with your motor fire apparatus problems; we are not experts but we know where the experts can be found for free advice.

RESCUE BREATHING

A 16mm. sound film in full color or black and white titled "Rescue Breathing" has been made by American Film Producers, 1600 Broadway, New York 19, New York. The film has a running time of 21½ minutes and shows the techniques of mouth-to-mouth and mouth-to-nose resuscitation adopted last year by the American Red Cross. It is designed as a training aid to teach rescue breathing to Fire Department first aiders.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
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Willis R. Wilson
Chairman, Advisory Board

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CLOSING A HYDRANT

The standing orders of a local municipal Fire Department recently called attention to some important methods of closing hydrants. At the request of the water department, it included the following instructions:

1. When closing down a post hydrant, the operator should not use undue pressure. No pipe or other extension to give added leverage should be employed. The seats of the valves are of soft metal for the purpose of permitting a tight bond. Any excessive pressure spreads and distorts the seat, permitting a constant leakage.

2. When shutting down a post hydrant, the atmospheric pressure will greatly assist in affording a drainage. Permit the outlet caps to remain off for a couple of minutes after closing the main valve, until it shows evidence of draining properly.

NEW FIRE BUREAU CHIEF

Chief Roswell L. Pooler of Scotia, New York, has been temporarily appointed to head the New York State Bureau of Fire Mobilization and Control with offices located in Albany. Chief Pooler was formerly a fireman on the Watertown, N.Y., Fire Department, and he served as a field representative with the State Fire Bureau for several years. We wish the Chief every success in his new position.

NOTED BY OUR RAMBLING REPORTERS

The other day we happened to walk into one of Jamestown's leading banks and there, behind an officer's desk sat the Fire Chief from a thriving community located somewhere between Ashville and Clymer. He evidenced all of the dignity of the bronze sign on the desk which said "Vice President and Cashier", and we were quite taken aback by the discovery that here we had, at last, a really successful Chief Officer who had made the grade. We trust our friend made good financially.

Then it has come to our attention that we have great artists in the Fire Service; men who have the ability to paint signs large enough for speeders on the Thruway to read. So it was that such a sign ably constructed and hung from an overhead bridge announced, "Radar Speed Trap Ahead", and the State Police became flustered with no arrests. It remains a fact that our local Fire Chief, with the poor motorist at heart, had tried his best even though it cost him \$10.00 of hard earned cash. We think this escapade illustrates the fine initiative and regard for the public that all Fire Chiefs should display while on duty.

EASTERN FIRE CHIEFS CONVENTION

We are happy to report that the Eastern Association of Fire Chiefs Convention to be held in the City of Jamestown on May 21, 22 and 23 has all indications of being one of the best attended, successful and most informative gatherings ever held in our County. Again we encourage you to attend the meetings, look over the many manufacturer's exhibits and join in the entertainments. A fine program has been developed for you.

SCHOOLS WELL ATTENDED

The State sponsored County Fire Training Program started off this year with 31 men enrolled in the Falconer school, 37 in the Brocton class, 19 at Sherman and 21 attending the Sinclairville course. This makes a total of 108 firemen receiving instruction; a real good turnout.

SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY

We list below the recommendations made by the Coroner's Jury following the tragic Chicago school fire in hopes that these procedures will assist you in making inspections of public, private and parochial schools in your respective jurisdictions.

1. Install approved automatic sprinklers in all schools and equip systems with water flow detectors and alarm devices.
2. Enclose all vertical passageways with incombustible construction.
3. Remove all over-door transoms or replace transom glass with wired glass and nail shut.
4. Install automatic-operating building alarm systems which will alert school occupants and the fire department.
5. Extend public fire alarm system to all schools.
6. In locales where there is no city fire alarm system, a conspicuously marked alarm control or a fire telephone should be placed at the school entrance and connected directly to the fire department.
7. First-alarm apparatus and manpower response to all school alarms. (This means all apparatus should respond in small communities)
8. Enforce local or State fire prevention code relating to proper number and correct type of approved fire extinguishers properly distributed in schools.
9. Subdivide hallways over 300 feet in length by swinging smoke barrier doors.
10. Make it illegal to block or wedge open any fire safety doors.
11. Install automatic heat or smoke detection units on intake of exhaust fans and discharge of air supply fans.
12. Prohibit nailing of screens over school room windows.
13. Train school personnel in fire safety.
14. Correct all fire hazards even though not specifically covered by ordinance.
15. Require monthly fire drills without advance notice.
16. Require that all exit doors open in direction of travel.
17. Provide proper waste paper disposal.
18. Cover all combustible trim and acoustical materials with fire-retardant paint.

NEW FIRE TRUCK ORDERED

The Busti Fire Department has signed a contract with the Ward La-France Truck Corporation of Elmira, New York, for delivery of a new pumping apparatus at a cost of \$14,613.30. Known as the Fireball model, the new engine will feature a seven man enclosed canopy type cab, a 500 g.p.m. two-stage pump, a 500 gallon booster tank, and a 150 inch wheel-base for shorter turning radius. The new unit will be powered by a 205 horsepower Chrysler Industrial motor, and it will replace Engine 37.

SEVERAL TO ATTEND CONVENTION

At least six local Fire Officers and their wives are planning to attend the 53rd Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs to be held at Saratoga Springs, New York, on June 7, 8, 9, and 10. A very interesting and educational program is being offered to the membership, and a County Fire Coordinator's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th. We will endeavor to inform you of the highlights of the Convention program in a future issue of The Booster Line.

THE REAL DANGER FROM FIRE ISN'T FIRE

Strange as that sounds, it's true; more people lose their lives from the smoke and fumes given off by a fire than from the actual flames. Here's why:

A fire out of control rapidly consumes the oxygen in the air and, at the same time, gives off carbon monoxide and other poisonous gases. These, super-heated by the flames, rise until they hit the ceiling (in a two-story house, they quickly flood the stair well to reach the upper floor), then mushroom, spilling into rooms via open doors or seeping over sills.

The speed with which they can kill is phenomenal. A few deep breaths of air containing two per cent carbon monoxide can cause death on the spot. And since many dwelling fires occur at night (about 30 per cent start between the hours of nine P.M. and six A.M.), combustion gases often have more than enough time to accumulate in deadly concentrations before the fire itself is discovered. In one case on record, a young couple awakened to the smell of smoke. Having instructed his wife to rush the children out of the house, the husband ran to a neighbor's house to call the Fire Department. The firemen responded in minutes, but the wife and children were dead. They'd been asphyxiated by rising combustion gases, though the room where they lay was untouched by flames.

These gases present another danger. In a very short time, they may become hot enough to kill on touch or to start secondary fires far faster than the original fire can travel.

Firemen say that the most dangerous fire, insofar as combustion gases are concerned, is the smoldering type, which produces great quantities of carbon monoxide. In the home, such a fire often starts when a cigarette butt or a smoldering match falls on upholstered furniture. The fire may smolder for hours before it bursts into open flame. By that time, the occupants of the house may be dead.

What can you do about it? The first and most obvious move is to free your home of fire hazards and keep it that way. Next, take some simple precautions. Always sleep with your window partly open, to let fresh air in and, in the event of fire, to let poisonous gases out. If possible, keep your bedroom door closed. If a fire starts elsewhere, the door will keep most of the deadly gases out for a while, give you a chance to escape. If you awake to the smell of smoke, feel the door before you open it. If it's warm, brace yourself against it and open it just a crack; then wait to see what happens. If you feel pressure, slam the door shut. Just outside are searing, deadly gases that could knock you over, kill you before you took a step. If the door feels hot, don't open it in any circumstances. Escape through the window if you can, or stay in the room and shout for help. Fire experts strongly urge that children especially should be shown how to use alternate escape routes from the house--windows, porch roofs, outside fire escapes, etc.

Above all, if and when a fire does start, GET OUT. Phone the Fire Department immediately, if there's time, but don't stop for anything else. Nothing is worth saving if it kills you.

The subject of discussion among the girls was the effect of alcohol upon them. One remarked, "If I take one drink, I can feel it. If I take two drinks, I can feel it a little-but three drinks-anybody can feel it."

CONVENTION REPORT

The New York State Fire Chiefs Convention held in Saratoga Springs on June 8, 9 and 10 turned out to be a highly successful conference and one of the best attended meetings of the Association. Hot sultry weather and some poor hotel accommodations were the only real hardships to dampen the spirit of the Convention.

On Monday morning, Director Bligh of the State Division of Safety, spoke at length on the necessity of good public relations between the Fire Service and the public it serves. He also mentioned that the Governor will soon call a Fire Prevention Conference together at Albany to review legislation and devise a course of action for Fire Prevention campaigns in all communities. Mr. Bligh noted the difficulties most Fire Officers experienced in filling out the School Inspection forms, and he promised that a new form had been developed in cooperation with the State Education Department to simplify inspection work for 1959.

Mr. Charles Fake of the State Education Department reviewed some of the work he is doing to insure compliance with our inspection reports when deficiencies or hazards are noted. He also brought out the provision of the Law which states that all school fire alarm systems must be directly connected to the local Fire Department in villages, cities and towns where there is a local municipal alarm system.

On Tuesday Mr. Milton Alpert, Assistant to the Attorney General, and Mr. Charles Potter, Attorney for the Joint Legislative Committee on Fire Laws, spoke on many phases of legislation, both now in effect and pending. One of the principal points made by Mr. Potter is that volunteer firemen must not sign Conservation Department payrolls for work performed at grass, brush or forest fires. By so doing, volunteer firemen become paid firemen and they are not entitled to any of the provisions of the Firemen's Benefit Law. Moreover, it was pointed out that no volunteer fireman should accept any form of pay for standing by overnight at a fire or for any other duty connected with fire fighting.

On Wednesday during the election of officers, Chief Charles R. Dorman of Jamestown was elected Second Vice-President of the Association. We congratulate Charlie on this important position and the fact that he is also Second Vice-President of our County Fire Chiefs group.

NEW AMBULANCE IN SERVICE

The Jamestown Fire Department has placed their new Ford Amblewagon in service at Fire Station No. 1. The ambulance is a converted station wagon complete with rolling cot, two resuscitators, first aid supplies and other emergency equipment. Two firemen will operate the unit for resuscitator calls, and the ambulance will also be available in extreme emergencies when the Ambulance Service is not available. Total cost of this unique vehicle was \$4,800.00, and it replaces the old Police wagon.

NEW TANKER IN SERVICE

The Ashville Fire Department recently placed in service a new 1,200 gallon Tanker mounted on a Chevrolet 6400 series chassis. A top mounted 40 ft. 3 section ladder, a 300 g.p.m. portable pump, and a 150 g.p.m. power take-off pump is some of the equipment carried on the unit. County Number is Tanker 313, and it is the 4th truck owned by Ashville.

We just heard about an unhappy musician who worked hard on a new arrangement, and then his wife decided not to leave town after all.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
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Willis R. Wilson
Chairman, Advisory Board

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RED CROSS APPROVES NEW METHOD

The American Red Cross has approved the mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration method as best for adults as well as children in a move to cut summertime drownings. The Red Cross adopted the method for babies and children two years ago.

The organization said it recommended the system for adults after a committee of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council backed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation unanimously.

The Red Cross gives these instructions for mouth-to-mouth respiration:

1. If there is foreign matter visible in the victim's mouth, wipe it out quickly with your fingers or a cloth wrapped around your fingers.

2. Tilt the victim's head back so the chin is pointing upward. Pull or push the jaw into a jutting-out position. These maneuvers should relieve obstruction of the airway by moving the base of the tongue away from the back of the throat.

3. Open your mouth wide and place it tightly over the victim's mouth. At the same time pinch the victim's nostrils shut or close the nostrils with your cheek. As an alternative, close the victim's mouth and place your mouth over the nose. Blow into the victim's mouth or nose. The first blowing efforts should determine whether or not an obstruction exists.

4. Remove your mouth, turn your head to the side, and listen for the return rush of air that indicates an air exchange. Repeat the blowing effort. For an adult, blow vigorously at the rate of about 12 breaths per minute. For a child, take relatively shallow breaths appropriate for the child's size, at the rate of about 20 per minute.

5. If you still do not get an air exchange, quickly turn the victim on his side and administer several sharp blows between the shoulder blades in the chance of dislodging any foreign matter in the airway.

DO YOU KNOW HOW?

In an emergency, do you know how to notify your Fire Department?

A Long Island, N.Y., newspaper recently commented on a fire in its community. Because of a delayed alarm, two children narrowly escaped with their lives. The editorial said that, "The fire, of undetermined origin, was discovered by the terrified mother at 9:30. However, the dispatcher at fire headquarters was not alerted until 9:51 - 21 minutes later."

One reason for the delay, it explained, was that the wrong Fire Department was called; a neighboring company some three miles away. A local Fire Department station was located barely one block from the scene, but this Department had failed to "educate" the public as to the proper calling procedure. Has this happened to you?

To avoid tragedy, every homeowner should have the Fire Department emergency number pasted to the telephone or close to the instrument. Many Chautauqua County Fire Departments have made great effort to inform the public by distributing tags or stickers on which is printed in large letters the local fire emergency number(s). This practice is indeed commendable in view of the many summer residents who are totally unfamiliar with the location and manner of calling the Fire Department.

FIRE PREVENTION - The National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John St., New York 38, New York, are now offering free Fire Prevention materials.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
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George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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NEW STATEWIDE WARNING SYSTEM

Governor Rockefeller recently opened the State's newly expanded Civil Defense Warning System, under which alerts can be heard simultaneously and instantaneously in New York City and each of the fifty-seven counties outside of the City. We feel that this new system is a marked improvement over the previous alerting method and should be of interest to the Fire Service.

During the opening ceremonies, the Governor spoke to all New York State Civil Defense Directors at their local warning points. In his talk, the Governor congratulated the State Legislature for providing the \$80,000.00 required to complete the closed circuit system, and he also stated, "This extension of the National Warning System to all of the counties throughout the State is truly a milestone in our progress toward effective Civil Defense."

HOME INSPECTIONS

A new booklet, "Home Inspections by Fire Departments," has just been released by the Federation of Mutual Fire Insurance Companies. It was prepared to give Fire Departments some practical information on conducting home inspections.

The booklet describes the inspection programs of a number of Fire Departments, outlining the step-by-step procedure. In addition, "how-to-do-it" examples are given to help fire fighters correct hazards.

Fire Departments can get free copies of this booklet by writing to the Federation of Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. We recommend this publication as an aid in planning and practicing our Fire Prevention activities the year around.

RADIO TROUBLES?

Regular Tuesday evening radio tests continue to indicate that many of us are experiencing troubles with our communications equipment, and we frequently hear reports of receivers or transmitters that have been out of service for as long as a month. This disturbs us not a little, and we are wondering if you are following our trouble report instructions which have been outlined several times in this publication.

To again remind you, we ask that you notify your County Fire Coordinator, Raymond H. Hughes, in writing by postal card or letter. In this manner the proper Radio Technician will then be advised promptly of the trouble. Also the post card or letter should give definite information as to the mobile unit number, transmitter or receiver failure and any other symptoms that may assist the Technician in locating the trouble. By having the report in writing, a definite repair schedule can be worked out, radios with chronic illnesses will be watched more carefully, and a follow-up can be maintained.

We ask your cooperation in this matter, and don't forget that we have the largest radio network of any county in New York State.

SPRINKLERS IN SCHOOLS

It has come to our attention that apparent hard work on the part of local Fire Officers and firemen has convinced school officials of the need and value of automatic sprinkler systems. At least two large public schools in our County will have this fine protection for opening in September. We hope that sprinklers will be considered by all school boards and before many years they will be installed wherever possible.

FIRE APPARATUS IN PARADES

It's all right for firemen to take their trucks on parade, as long as someone is watching the store. So said Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz in a formal opinion requested by the State Safety Director, Walter E. Bligh.

Bligh asked for Lefkowitz's opinion after State Comptroller Arthur Levitt said that Fire Commissioners could be held personally liable for fire damages in their district while fire trucks were on parade.

Levitt's ruling came under attack from firemen, who like to parade their trucks at conventions and local Fire Department gala days. Levitt subsequently held that there would be no liability if Commissioners made arrangements for adequate protection while the trucks were absent.

Lefkowitz took the same line in his opinion, and said, "I conclude that, if reasonable provision is made for fire protection in the home district, whether, for example, by retention of a portion of the district's own equipment or through the Mutual Aid system, the Commissioners may authorize participation of apparatus in parades without incurring personal liability."

The Attorney General cautioned that Commissioners must consider local conditions in each case in deciding what "reasonable provisions" should be, and he urged the Division of Safety to undertake a study to determine standards for fire protection in such cases.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Despite the great emphasis being placed upon safety in schools today, it is surprising to learn how little is being done in the way of fire drills and evacuation procedures for school buses. In most instances, school district bus drivers receive no training in the use of fire extinguishers with which their buses are equipped, and the drivers have little or no knowledge of what should or should not be done in the event of an emergency.

Information concerning the evacuation of classrooms and school buildings is plentiful, but little has been devoted to emergency procedures for the buses. In view of this, we list below a few instructions that should be considered in the training of bus drivers.

1. The driver of a school bus shall be in complete command of all evacuations. It is mandatory that he act quickly, with assurance, and retain control of all occupants throughout the complete operation.

2. The bus shall be stopped, the parking brake set, engine turned off and red flasher lights turned on.

3. The driver will give one long (loud) blast on the bus horn to gain attention. He will then open the exit door. Unless otherwise specified, the "exit door" will be the front door used during normal loading and unloading of the bus.

4. Facing the rear of the bus, the driver shall move to the aisle abreast of the first occupied seats.

5. The driver will give the command: "Remain seated--fire drill!"

6. Still standing in the aisle between the first occupied seats, the driver will then turn, facing the front of the bus.

7. Starting with either the right or left seat, the driver will indicate which seat will move out first, second, third, etc. When the indicated seat has moved forward far enough to clear the aisle, the next seat should be allowed to begin evacuation until all are cleared.

8. The evacuation will continue as outlined until the bus is empty.

DEFINES LAWS FOR FIRE VEHICLES

Fire apparatus returning from a fire or heading to and from a drill may display red lights, the State Safety Division says. The only autos authorized to display red lights are those driven by a Fire Department Chief, a Deputy Chief, a County Fire Coordinator or a Deputy Coordinator.

The blue light display on an auto merely identifies the auto as fire equipment. A blue light, and only one per vehicle is permitted, does not give the driver license to speed or run stop signals. It gives him no privileges at all.

The State Division of Safety has reported these as interpretations the Motor Vehicle Bureau places upon sections of the State Vehicle and Traffic Law that govern display of lights. Director of Safety, Walter E. Bligh, issued the interpretations as a memorandum to guide both firemen and law enforcement officers. A Division of Safety official noted that State Troopers on occasion have ordered drivers not to display red lights when driving apparatus back from fires. The troopers are wrong, he said, pointing to the official Motor Vehicle Department rulings.

He said firemen are wrong, however, if they flash a red light on their autos and do not hold one of the four ranks permitted to flash red lights. He further stated that police may wave an auto with a blue light through traffic, but that the Motor Vehicle Department interpretation does not allow such an auto any official privileges, certainly not the privilege of running a stop sign.

In spite of the legality of displaying red lights on fire apparatus while returning from an emergency or while going to or returning from a drill, we feel that it is good policy not to do so. Such action is like crying "wolf", and we are never going to get the public's cooperation in giving us the right-of-way and respecting the red light if we flash red at them every time we move a piece of apparatus not on an emergency call.

RESCUE BREATHING

The Jamestown Mutual Insurance Company has purchased a copy of the film titled "Rescue Breathing" and has offered to loan the film to any Fire Department upon request. "Rescue Breathing" is a 16mm. sound film showing the techniques of mouth-to-mouth and mouth-to-nose resuscitation adopted by the American Red Cross. The film is designed as a training aid to teach rescue breathing to Fire Department first aiders.

DORMAN MAKES OFFER

Chief Dorman of Jamestown recently purchased a quantity of a new chemical which when sprayed on oil or gasoline spills completely emulsifies the petroleum product making it safe to wash down drains or gutters without the fear of fire or explosion. The Chief has offered to loan this chemical to any Fire Department in need, and all you have to do is notify his office by phone or radio. This offer is most appreciated, and the chemical may come in mighty handy if you should experience a large petroleum spill in your community.

TO ATTEND CONVENTION

The Second Vice-President of our County Fire Chiefs Association and your Editor are planning to attend the 86th Annual Conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

DISCIPLINE VERSUS TRAINING

We would like to begin this discussion by stressing two of our pet beliefs: First, discipline is the greatest single essential in any Fire Department--paid or volunteer; and Second, without discipline, no organization is worthy of the name "Fire Department".

As a matter of fact, a so-called Fire Department without discipline cannot even be rated as an "organization". It does not even class as a "gang", for the "gang"--as the term is understood in this country today, does have a brand of discipline, and it is usually enforced with a vengeance. The undisciplined Department comes nearer being a mere "mob"--it has neither discipline, direction or objective, and is always destructive.

"Discipline is education in conduct." And that is precisely what it means when applied to the Fire Service. It applies to the conduct of the fireman in quarters, on the drill ground, at fires, and in his every contact with the citizens of the community.

Outside of the military service, we know of no place where discipline is as necessary as in the Fire Service, and the man who cannot subject himself to discipline is a dangerous man in any Fire Department. We do not believe that the blind, unreasoning, obedience to orders of a superior that is demanded in the military service is either necessary or advisable in the Fire Service, and the intelligent fireman would be an utter fool to jeopardize his life, or the lives of his brother firemen in order to blindly obey the fantastic orders that may emanate from such incompetent leadership.

No Department is better than its leaders. Given competent officers however, every single fireman should be willing to submerge personal beliefs, antagonisms, ambitions and jealousies for the good of the Department as a whole. There must be a directing head, and his authority should be understood and respected. This is never the case in an undisciplined Department.

One of the greatest single factors affecting both discipline and efficiency in many volunteer Fire Departments is the antiquated system of electing officers yearly. In the first place no man can develop into a competent fire officer in a year. In the second place, it is contrary to common sense to expect a normal human being to develop or maintain much in the way of discipline, when he knows that at the end of his year someone else will take over and probably undo all the good he may have accomplished.

The modern college football squad will number from 100 to 120 men, of which perhaps only thirty are used in games. Can you imagine what would happen if the 120 elected the coach, and, not being satisfied with that, elected all the coach's assistants? We have a feeling that the non-players would all be on the varsity team the following year. We think you will readily admit that this doesn't make sense, yet isn't that exactly what the majority of our volunteer Fire Departments are doing? If you could not have discipline or efficiency in a football team that way, why in the name of heaven should you expect it in a Fire Department?

We know you cannot have adequate discipline or effective training in a Department that elects a new group of officers every year. We would make this plea: if you simply must elect a new Chief each year, at least give him a little break and let him select his own officer staff. Let him pick men who will work with him and not against him.

NO ONE IS IMMUNE FROM FIRE

Very likely there isn't a person reading this who hasn't been shot sometime in his life. In the arm, or the leg, we mean, and with a needle, for today medical science has us sold on the common-sense precaution of being vaccinated against contagious diseases. We know it makes sense, for our shots protect us from otherwise crippling or fatal illnesses. Well might we wish that the same could be done with fire!

Fire claimed 11,400 lives in 1958 and caused painful and sometimes permanent injuries to thousands of other persons. But, unfortunately, there's no vaccine, no inoculation to stop fire injuries or deaths.

However, that does not mean that the only choice left is to be fatalistic, to shrug and say, "Well, then, let it come if it must." No, there is a defense against fire injury; a common-sense, rather obvious defense. Its effect, too, could be much like that of an inoculation. That defense is Fire Prevention.

Actually, it's easy to see why this is so, for at least 75% of all fires are preventable! These fires happen largely because of human carelessness, and they could be eliminated if all of us really paid attention to Fire Prevention.

Is fire a real threat to our families and our communities? Let's look at some figures on the damage done by fire in our country in 1958.

There were nearly 900,000 fires in the United States during 1958; 1,153 in Chautauqua County alone. They occurred everywhere: in businesses, churches, schools, industrial plants, hospitals, hotels, night-clubs, boats and in homes. There was an average of one home fire every two minutes.

As we said before, there were 11,400 fire deaths, and the principal victims were young children and persons over 65; somebody's children and somebody's parents. Fire is the principal cause of death in home accidents for all persons between the ages of one and 64 years.

And that's not all the damage fire caused, for there was over a billion dollars worth of property destroyed; damage equal to about \$6.00 a year for every man, woman and child in the United States, including YOU.

Obviously, the facts speak for themselves. Fire Prevention is everybody's business, for we, you and I, are the ones who suffer or lose when fire strikes. And we are the ones, in our homes, businesses, schools and churches, who can put a stop to this needless national bonfire! We can do it by practicing and preaching "human carefulness", not during Fire Prevention Week alone, but throughout the entire year.

Fire Prevention Week this year begins on October 4th, and we have a fine opportunity to plan an effective campaign in our communities to start now and continue every week during the entire year. All sorts of literature, posters, pamphlets, sample spot announcements and ideas for a continuing program may be had for the asking or a very small fee from the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the National Fire Protection Association. Let's get started now, all of us, on this critically important Fire Prevention program. The life you save may be your own.

A man with a wooden leg recently approached an insurance agent, asking for fire insurance on his leg. The agent, rather stumped, called his company underwriter to classify the policy risk. Shortly thereafter, the underwriter phoned back, stating that coverage could be provided by classifying this as a "wooden addition, protected by a sprinkler system!"

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

Several Chief Officers representing Fire Departments in Chautauqua County recently attended the Governor's Conference on Fire Prevention in Albany. Governor Rockefeller told those present that the economic toll taken by fire "adds significantly to the costs of doing business in New York State, costs which could well mean the difference between an industry locating or expanding in New York State or going elsewhere."

Moreover, the Governor pointed out that fire losses are reflected in insurance premiums and that insurance rates were raised recently in the State. "Fire insurance rates are, in the long run, reflections of our fire losses, and their relationship to business costs and the economic growth is obvious," the Governor said.

Among the speakers at the Conference was Mr. Percy Bugbee, General Manager of the National Fire Protection Association. Mr. Bugbee called for the creation of a State Fire Marshall to end what he termed confusion and division of responsibility. The General Manager said that the State is failing to control fire hazards effectively because the State's set-up for fire safety is a "patchwork of overlapping agencies and conflicting responsibilities." The result of this, he said, is that New Yorkers "are not getting all the protection they should have and could have."

Safety Division personnel told of forthcoming revisions in the State Fire Training Program. Also discussions were held on public school fire safety and fire prevention inspections.

SCOUTS HOLD EXERCISE

Following an intensive fire-rescue training course held at Camp Merz during May and June, twenty-seven Explorer Scouts practiced their first mobilization test of communications on Sunday, June 14th. A 100% turnout assembled at the Chautauqua Fire Headquarters within sixty-five minutes after the call went out at 8:00 A.M. The youths came from Mayville, Westfield, Busti, Bemus Point and Chautauqua.

NEW EXTINGUISHING CHEMICAL

A new chemical agent for combating gasoline and jet fuel fires has resulted from the crash fire research program of the United States Navy.

The new agent, called "Purple K Powder", consists of dense white clouds of very finely powdered potassium bicarbonate. The cheap, non-toxic and easily obtained material will be used in conventional fire extinguishers. It was given the name "Purple K Powder" because of its ability to change hot yellow flames to a cool lavender color during fire extinguishment. It is said to have double the efficiency of sodium bicarbonate powders.

COLD WEATHER EXPEDIENT

With Winter near at hand (heaven forbid) firemen are often faced with super slippery conditions at fires, particularly when large quantities of water have been used. As a suggestion, we recommend that you carry a 5 or 10 pound bag of ice cream salt or calcium chloride on each piece of fire apparatus. A little salt might save a nasty fall or give the men a better footing while holding a heavy hose line.

Whoever dares to smoke in bed is very apt to end up dead!
If you prefer to live, instead, then NEVER, EVER, SMOKE IN BED!

RADIOS ARRIVE

Under the provisions of the Federal Matching Funds Program, the County Fire Service placed orders for two base stations, ten mobile and seventeen portable radios during the 1958-59 fiscal year. All of these radios have now arrived, and the two base stations have been installed at Dunkirk and Falconer fire headquarters. The mobile sets will be installed following frequency checks by our Technicians within the next four to six weeks.

In accordance with Federal requirements, all of the new radios were ordered with conversion kits for narrow band operation; thus eliminating additional expense, except labor, when the time comes for mandatory narrow band transmissions. It is interesting to note that seven of the new mobile units are of General Electric manufacture; the first radios of this make in use by our Fire Service.

FACE DRAFT AS FIREMEN

The Fire Department in Rheinfeld, Germany, is having trouble recruiting volunteers. However, whenever there is a fire, dozens of citizens come out to watch, according to the newspaper Der Stern.

The Mayor has therefore ordered police to make a list of all male spectators at each fire. Each man whose name appears three times on the lists will be automatically drafted as a volunteer fireman.

HURRICANE AUDREY FILM

A film which tells the story of the recovery of communities struck by "Hurricane Audrey" in 1957 is now available from the Bureau of Communication Research, Inc., 267 West 25th Street, New York 1, New York.

Titled "Disaster File - Hurricane Audrey," the film shows the widespread damage done by windstorm, and the mobilization of emergency forces to aid the stricken area's comeback. The 15 minute color film is available on free loan, and should be interesting for a fire meeting or drill this Winter.

BROCTON RESCUE TRUCK

The Brocton Fire Department has ordered a new one ton Chevrolet chassis complete with special body which will eventually be fitted by the firemen for transporting all types of rescue equipment. The new rig will replace a smaller truck of 1947 vintage.

CHIEF LOEB TAKES OVER

Ass't. Chief Donald Loeb will take over full command of the Dunkirk Fire Department on November 1st. Chief Centner, whose term would normally expire at the end of this year, has accumulated two months of sick leave and vacation time, and he plans to "take off" for the rest of his term of office. Our best wishes to Chief Centner on his retirement.

COORDINATORS COMPLETE SCHOOL

All Battalion and special service Fire Coordinators recently completed a study of radioactive material hazards at the Lakewood Fire Headquarters. The eight hour course was taught by Warren County Fire and Civil Defense personnel, and was arranged through the courtesy and cooperation of the Warren County Fire Service.

Every 2 minutes fire damages or destroys someone's home in this Country.

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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WHAT HAPPENED IN CHICAGO?

Chicago's 4,000,000 population supplied an answer on the night of September 22nd, when over-zealous city officials set off air raid warning sirens at 10:30 P.M., to celebrate clinching of the American League flag by the White Sox.

More than 100 sirens wailed for five minutes. Thousands of terror stricken persons rushed into the streets and caused panic in almost every section of the city and Evanston, which is tied into the Chicago warning system.

The Illinois Bell Telephone Company reported its greatest overload since VE Day. Newspaper offices, radio and television stations were flooded with calls asking if the Russians were attacking.

In the confusion, Chicagoans failed utterly to follow basic Civil Defense emergency procedures, such as tuning in on CONELRAD for official information. The "Chicago Sun-Times" summed it up: "The incident should provoke not only indignation over use of the sirens to add to baseball hilarity, but should provoke discussion of the entire Civil Defense problem."

COMMAND CONTROL FREQUENCIES

There has been an ever growing need for so called "mutual aid" or "command control" frequencies among Fire Radio Service Licensees to provide a common frequency for those operations when more than one fire department is involved.

Under the present Federal Communications Commission Rules governing the Fire Radio Service, it is impossible for such licensees to secure such a common frequency for these operations. Therefore, it is being contemplated that a petition should be filed, in the very near future, with the Commission requesting an amendment of Part 10 of the Rules. The amendment would include a paragraph in the Rules governing the Fire Radio Service similar to that found in Section 11.255(e) governing the Police Radio Service.

This section provides that in addition to the frequencies assigned for mobile service operation, a base station frequency may be assigned as a "common frequency" to all licensees in a particular area to permit inter-system communications between base stations or mobile stations or both. It is believed that it would not be wise to specify any particular frequency, as has been done in the Police Radio Service, because this would run into the problem of existing users being on the frequency so designated.

New York State would have a relatively good beginning for such a command channel since many county systems are already using 46.22 megacycles as a mobile command frequency when mutual aid is in progress.

DRIVERS LICENSES REQUIRED

Recent amendments to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law have placed nearly all vehicles operated on public highways under the licensing provisions of the act, and effective October 1, 1959, all drivers of fire apparatus are required to be licensed.

According to Commissioner Hulst of the Motor Vehicle Bureau, persons hired by a fire department principally for the purpose of driving a fire vehicle must have a chauffeur's license. However, if driving is only an incidental duty, an operator's license will suffice until 1961.

SIZE UP

Regardless of how small a fire may appear on arrival of the Fire Department, certain factors must be considered before actual fire fighting operations are started. These factors may be either actual or potential. No efficient tactical or strategic attack can be instituted unless a well arranged plan is formulated by those in charge of the fire forces.

The average fireman often confuses size up with actual operations. Many of the factors or conditions in buildings where fires start should be in the possession of firemen long in advance of their being called to fight fires therein. This can be accomplished by personal inspections at regular intervals. The few moments spent in sizing up a fire before actual start of extinguishing operations will pay dividends in prevention of extension by having hose lines at points where this hazard prevails. This would not be possible if, without first knowing what the actual conditions are, hose lines were run to points beyond the fire area and the fire was extending to other points. This would entail delays in changing positions of lines to other points.

Fire does not wait for the firemen to correct tactical mistakes. Firemen attempting to fight a fire without first making a quick comprehensive survey of the fire-building or area can be likened to a general in warfare instituting an attack without first determining where the enemy is or where he may go. Failure is bound to follow such procedure.

IF WIRES ARE DOWN

The fireman should not attempt to move or touch any conductors or wires that are on the ground, dangling from poles or trees, or hanging slack between the poles, unless he is properly trained and equipped to do so and then only if such wires present immediate hazards to the public, to the fire fighting force, or to property. The fact that the wires do not sputter or spark is no indication that they are dead. They may appear totally inactive and silent yet may be most dangerous.

Keep the apparatus well away from areas where evidence indicates that wires may be down. This is particularly important at night when it is difficult to see the wires.

Care should be taken when getting off the apparatus where there is likelihood that wires may be down. The fireman may step on a charged wire, or the door or part of the apparatus may touch it and bring disaster. At night one should examine surroundings carefully with a flashlight before jumping off the apparatus. Jumping off the apparatus into a pool of water with a live wire in it may be just as dangerous as stepping on the wire itself. For this reason the fireman must be careful where he steps.

An apparatus insulated from the ground by its rubber tires may be energized from live wires in several different ways. It may be touching a car which in turn is bumper to bumper with other cars, one of which is in contact with a live wire. It may be on top of a live wire on the ground or a live wire may have dropped across it. If possible, the best method of eliminating this hazard is to break the contact by backing away from an energized car, driving on over a wire on the ground, or using a long dry stick to remove the live wire from the truck. If there is any chance that the apparatus is in contact with a live wire and a fireman must get off, he should be sure and jump clear.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
When down through the chimney all covered with soot,
Came the "Spirit of Fire" an ugly galoot.

His eyes glowed like embers, his features were stern,
As he looked all around for something to burn.
What he saw made him grumble, his anger grew higher,
For there wasn't a thing that would start a good fire.

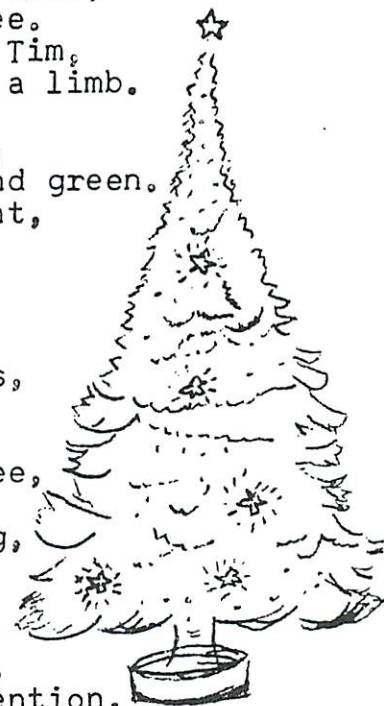
No door had been blocked by the big Christmas tree,
It stood in the corner leaving passageways free.
The lights that glowed brightly for Betty and Tim,
Had been hung with precaution so none touched a limb.

All wiring was new, not a break could be seen,
And wet sand at its base kept the tree nice and green.
The tree had been trimmed by a mother insistent,
That the ornaments used be fire resistant.

And mother had known the things to avoid,
Like cotton and paper and plain celluloid.
Rock wool, metal icicles and trinkets of glass,
Gave life to the tree; it really had class.

And would you believe it right next to the tree,
Was a suitable box for holding debris.
A place to throw wrappings of paper and string,
From all of the gifts that Santa might bring.

The ugly galoot was so mad he could bust,
As he climbed up the chimney in utter disgust.
For the folks in this home had paid close attention,
To all the rules of good "Fire Prevention."



LETTER TO ALL CHURCHES

Chief Dorman of Jamestown has sent a letter to all churches in the City requesting their cooperation in attempting to avoid the loss of life and property during the holiday season. According to the Chief, each church can help in the following ways:

1. At all gatherings in the church have one man in charge of safety with assistants as needed. These men should know the location and operation of all extinguishers, check all doors making certain they are not blocked or locked, and any other items effecting the safety of the assemblage. One man to be responsible for summoning the Fire Dep't.
2. Avoid the use of open flames, such as candles, around the decorations or stage settings. Check all wiring for frayed cords, etc.
3. Check the premises thoroughly after the service or other function is over and the people have returned home.
4. Remind your parishioners to observe fire safety in their homes.

To all of our wonderful readers, a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.