

MORE THAN A HELMET OR A BADGE

The following article was authored by Chief Fletcher R. Ward, former head of the Bemus Point Fire Department and who is now a Field Representative with the State Division of Fire Safety.

"Would you like to be a fire chief? Most of us would. There are certainly adventuresome, challenging and romantic aspects to the position. It is most gratifying, especially before the public, to be hailed as 'Chief.' One's ego is surely raised when permitted a special helmet, badge and uniform. There is also the bright red car with siren and flashing beacon.

"But--a fire chief is much more than what public appearance would tend to show. He is a man of many talents and skills, each as important and necessary as the other.

"First, the Chief is a public servant, whether he attained his position through competitive Civil Service procedures, political appointment, or election. He is looked upon within his community as a leader. He must be personable, neat and intelligent--a good public relations man.

"To his department, he is an administrator and leader. He may also be an engineer, a training officer, bookkeeper, purchasing agent, or he may fill any of the other duty positions within his department. Regardless of the organization of the department, he is totally responsible for the life and safety within the community and more especially for the life and safety of each member of his department.

"When he assumes his duties as Chief, he has the direct obligation to make efficient use of all facilities at his disposal. This necessitates training personnel so that they will be able to meet any conceivable type of emergency and utilize the apparatus and equipment to the fullest degree. He will see that, through training and providing men with modern, approved equipment and devices, they can pursue their duties in the safest manner possible.

"He must be able to establish a firm, even militant, discipline and control over the personnel while engaged in operations, whether on fire ground or on the training grounds. Yet, he will be fair and tolerant at all times. He will stand behind his personnel when they are right and will protect them from unjust or malicious attack by others. He must also maintain respect and harmony within the department.

"Therefore, it is rather conclusive, that there is a great deal of merit in the old firematic adage--'It takes more than a white helmet or a gold badge to make a fire chief.'

"Could you fill his boots?"

TWELVE YEARS OLD

With this issue of The Booster Line we begin our twelfth year of publication. It has been a pleasure to bring you news and offer suggestions for improvement of our Fire Service. We need your help and suggestions for articles and news bits to keep our paper both informative and interesting.

We thank the Sheriff's Department, Fire Officers and firemen for their invaluable assistance during the past year. Your cooperation has made our Fire Service a real working team to be proud of and worthy of its fine reputation. We must strive for even greater achievements in the coming year; keep our good name before our people. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 249

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

February 1, 1964

FREDONIA HOSTS ADVISORY BOARD

The January meeting of the Fire Advisory Board was held at the Fredonia Fire Headquarters on Thursday the 16th. This being the first meeting of the new year, the following were elected to the office indicated: John M. Washington, Chairman; George V. Blackstone, 1st Vice-chairman; Richard F. Lathrop, 2nd Vice-chairman; Thomas Bretz, Recording Secretary; and Elliot G. Anderson, Corresponding Secretary.

During the course of the meeting considerable discussion was held on the Fire Service Radio Communications System. It was pointed out that engineers from Motorola had spent about ten hours at the Control Center reviewing the installation of our new selective call equipment and base station. The engineers were high in their praise of the work accomplished by our Radio Technicians, and as soon as a few station house receivers are repaired and adjusted, the system will again operate at peak efficiency. It was also noted that the new service truck has arrived which, when completed with full gear installed, will give us a mobile service unit that can undertake most repair work at our fire stations and eliminate the necessity of removing radios for bench repair at Mayville.

The presentation of County Safety Award Certificates will be made at appropriate ceremonies within the next few weeks. A committee of three consisting of Chairman Washington, President Irvin B. Bowen of the Fire Chiefs Association, and Mr. Richard Franks, Administrator of the County Self Insurance Plan, have been charged with the responsibility of arranging the program.

To work with the Advisory Board during the year, Chairman Evans of the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following Fireman's Committee: Supervisor Norman D. Bell, Town of Sheridan; Supervisor Wallace H. Fenton, Town of Carroll; Supervisor Perry Colburn, Town of Charlotte; Supervisor Hamilton Clothier, Town of Hanover; and Supervisor Gerald Tubbs, Town of Portland.

Four new members were welcomed to the Advisory Board: Arthur L. Miller of Brocton, Harry Hipwell of Sherman, Merle Ericsson of Cherry Creek, and Ralph Sandquist of Busti. Thus, the Board will operate with a full complement of 21 members as prescribed by State Law.

A letter was received from Commissioner Harold G. Wilm of the New York State Conservation Department expressing his gratitude to all fire personnel who aided in controlling the unprecedented number of forest and wood fires last October. The Commissioner stated, "I, personally, have been very pleased with the results of the dedicated effort made by each of you who were involved in October's fire activities."

Chief Bowen, a member of the Board, criticized Coordinator Hughes for permitting the selective call test to be conducted on Tuesday, January 14th, since no notification had been issued that the tests would be resumed; Chief Bowen feeling that such action might have resulted in an injury to responding firemen. The Coordinator replied to this stating that only four Departments did not answer the individual test calls.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 250

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

March 1, 1964

ANNUAL ALARM REPORT SUBMITTED

The annual Alarm Report prepared by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz indicates that the County Fire Service again experienced an unprecedented number of calls during 1963. The figures below are compiled from alarm records at the Fire Control Center and include both cities. As has been noted during the past nine years, Non-Fire Emergencies continue to increase in number. October's high number of Fire Alarms is contributed to the rash of grass and woods fires that plagued the Fire Service over the long dry season.

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FIRE ALARMS</u>	<u>NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES</u>	<u>REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID</u>
January	95	120	20
February	104	138	22
March	114	162	9
April	228	128	14
May	132	106	17
June	146	123	6
July	173	179	23
August	124	136	11
September	81	114	12
October	364	137	40
November	104	113	8
December	97	127	9
1963 Total	1,762	1,583	191
1962 Total	1,885	1,365	138
1961 Total	1,048	1,209	126
1960 Total	1,179	1,153	96
1959 Total	1,179	1,053	129
1958 Total	1,153	934	103
1957 Total	1,252	815	142
1956 Total	1,000	632	102
1955 Total	1,113	485	102
1954 Total	1,081	354	151

CHIEFS-ADVISORY BOARD TO MEET JOINTLY

At the February meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, an invitation to meet jointly with the County Fire Chiefs Association was accepted. The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 25 at the Lakewood Fire Hall.

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County Coordinator

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B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 251

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

April 1, 1964

ADVISORY BOARD AND CHIEFS MEET AT LAKEWOOD

A joint meeting of the Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board and the Fire Chiefs Association was held at the Lakewood Fire Headquarters on Wednesday, March 25th. Seventy-four members and guests attended the meeting which was conducted by President Irvin B. Bowen of the Chiefs Association and Chairman John M. Washington of the Advisory Board.

Chief Charles E. Hawley from Maple Springs reported for the Color Code Committee stating that with 41 Fire Departments in the County, the problem of selecting individual color codes was an impossibility. The Committee, therefore, recommended that each piece of equipment be stamped or otherwise marked with the respective apparatus numbers for the purpose of identification. Chief Hawley pointed out that the apparatus initial(s) as well as the numbers should be used to avoid confusion.

The Fire Prevention Committee, headed by Chief Oscar Brandquist, advised that the annual demonstrations would be held in Falconer on October 10th. The program this year will be more extensive with greater participation by Fire Departments and fire equipment displays.

Chief Richard F. Lathrop was appointed Chairman of the Fire Investigation Committee. Other members of this Committee are Chief Herman L. Knowlton of Lakewood and Chief Elliot G. Anderson of Sinclairville. The purpose of this group is to work out a means of investigating fires by a person or persons available to all Fire Departments.

The April meeting of the Chiefs Association is to be held at the Kiantone Fire Headquarters on Wednesday the 22nd.

Chairman Washington announced the standing committees for the Fire Advisory Board. A request was made for a joint committee to work on the proposed Fire Officers Manual.

Several complimentary remarks were made about the success of the recent Safety Award Presentation program at the Court House in Mayville.

Coordinator Hughes outlined the necessity of filing current membership lists with your local Fire Commissioners, Town Board or Village Board as may apply to your political subdivision. He also announced that Radio Procedure Schools will be available, and Fire Departments wishing such a school should request same by contacting Training Coordinator Donald A. Sales. The Coordinator concluded his reports by giving a detailed resume of the progress made by the County Fire Service during the past ten years; particularly noting the great increase in the number of alarms which have nearly doubled during this period.

Mr. John J. Danahy, Field Representative of the State Division of Fire Safety, attended the meeting and spoke on the necessity of following through on training by using what we learn from the Fire Training Program in our local drill sessions.

Chief John W. Hirz of the West Ridge Hose Company near Erie, Pennsylvania, and a guest gave a very enlightening talk on the Mutual Aid Plan operated by Millcreek Township. He mentioned that nearly all firemen in his locality have radio monitors in their homes for alarms.

Lakewood's new pumper apparatus was on display after the meeting.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
L I N E

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 252

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

May 1, 1964

ADVISORY BOARDS MEET TOGETHER

The Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board journeyed to Little Valley on April 15th upon invitation of the Cattaraugus County Board for a joint meeting. Twelve Board members, four Deputy Coordinators and one Fire Training Instructor from our County participated in this friendly meeting with our neighbors.

A very interesting talk illustrated with slides was given by Chief George H. Proper, Jr., Director of the State Division of Fire Safety. Chief Proper's message, although expressed in a humorous manner, was devoted to encouraging firemen to improve their image in the public eye and to practice safety, particularly in always wearing protective clothing when engaged in fire fighting operations and drills. Chief Charles R. Dorman, Assistant Director, and Mr. John J. Danahy, Field Representative of the Fire Safety Division were also present at the meeting.

We appreciate the kindness of the Cattaraugus County Fire Advisory Board for inviting us to meet with them.

WOMAN IN A HURRY

DENVER, Colo., March 12 (AP) A fire alarm Wednesday brought seven trucks, their sirens screaming and emergency lights aflash.

Beside the alarm box firemen found Mrs. Johnnie Mae Manor, 41, who explained that she needed help. She was taken to a hospital where she gave birth to a baby boy.

NOTES AND COMMENT

To date twelve new Chief Officers have been elected to office in our County to serve the coming year. We hope to have an up to date listing of all Chief Fire Officers for you in the next issue of THE BOOSTER LINE. You can help us by calling your Battalion Coordinator and giving him your full name and telephone number. Remember this list is kept on file at the Control Center and there are many occasions when individual Chiefs are wanted for an emergency or other important calls.

Both Gerry and Kiantone recently placed in service four-wheel drive emergency vehicles to augment their first line apparatus.

The fact that we have experienced several 100% selective call tests since the new radio equipment was installed at the Control Center is indeed gratifying. After so many years of problems and faulty tests it now appears that we are on the right track and can look forward to a much more reliable system. We are also enjoying better service now through the efforts of Chuck Hagstrom and his crew of technicians.

The Busti Fire Department is busily engaged in reviewing plans for a new fire headquarters to be constructed on the same site as the present station. Plans call for three apparatus stalls having doors 12 wide x 10 feet high. The apparatus room will be 54 ft. x 40 ft., the meeting room 30 ft. x 60 ft. and a 14 ft. x 20 ft. kitchen. The building will be a one floor plan and storage and office space is provided.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 253

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

June 1, 1964

A WORD TO THE WISE

During the period July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1963, engineers of the Federal Communications Commission inspected 874 stations in the fire radio service. Citations were issued in 497 cases. These principally involved improper posting of licenses and faulty station record contents.

During one month in 1963, the F.C.C. monitored public safety licenses in general. Following 436 man-hours of monitoring, 10 citations were issued mostly for faulty station identification.

These statistics were reported by F.C.C. Public Safety Division Chief John J. McCure at the Houston conference of the International Municipal Signal Association. He recommended that Fire Service licensees pay more attention to F.C.C. regulations to avoid future citations.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES ARE BOOSTED

Some New York homeowners will soon be paying up to 27 per cent more for fire insurance. The New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization announced rate increases, approved by the State Insurance Department, became effective on Friday, May 15th.

The increases will apply to new or renewed policies, not to existing policies. Moreover, only straight fire policies are affected, not homeowners' "package" policies, which also cover theft, furniture and personal liability.

The increases on the affected policies amount to 11 to 16 per cent in New York City, and 21 to 27 per cent elsewhere in the State. The amount of the increase depends on the construction and location of the house.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETS AT MAYVILLE

The regular monthly meeting of the Fire Advisory Board was held on May 21st at the Sheriff's Office in Mayville. During a discussion of highway safety, it was recommended that all Fire Departments run with their headlights on when responding to alarms during the daylight hours. It was noted that headlights attract considerable attention in the daytime and that several bus lines practice this safety measure whenever they are traveling on the highway. The use of headlights in the daytime should, of course, be augmented by your regular red warning lights.

A Fire Chief's Manual will be prepared jointly by the County Fire Chiefs Association and the Advisory Board. Committees to prepare the manual have been appointed, and work will begin soon on the project. The manuals were proposed to assist Fire Officers, particularly new Officers, by outlining all of the duties, responsibilities and requirements in operating a Fire Department.

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER COMPANY REQUESTS

That whenever you have occasion to cut the electrical service feeding any type of building that you immediately notify the Power Co.

STATE ISSUES DIRECTIVE

The State of New York has issued a directive calling attention to the fact that railroads are hauling a deadly acid through Chautauqua County. It is known as hydrocyanic acid and is a Class A poison.

The acid, according to the directive, is carried in tank cars that are painted white, and on both sides and ends of such cars are large red and white painted placards indicating the contents as a Class A poison. Hydrocyanic acid becomes dangerous when mixed with the atmosphere, and appropriate action must be taken to safeguard firemen and the general public in the event of a derailment or railroad fire.

Firemen are cautioned to wear full protective clothing as well as self-contained breathing apparatus while operating near the scene of acid carrying cars, and all other persons are to be evacuated from the area for a distance of at least 1,000 feet.

With the frequency of railroad accidents in our County, it will be well to keep the information contained in this directive posted on all fire station bulletin boards.

OUR DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE

The volunteer Fire Department is one of the last strongholds of pure democracy in this nation. In the meeting hall, each company member can make himself heard--his ideas and his objections are equal in importance to those of every other member. Each member in good standing has the right to vote, and on his "Aye" or "Nay" the business of the volunteer company progresses from item to item, from meeting to meeting and from year to year.

This democratic heritage is one which we all take as a matter of course. We feel, and rightly so, that it is our birthright as citizens of the United States of America and as members of independent organizations. We are extremely casual in using, and perhaps mis-using, our most priceless privilege. It might be well for each of us to periodically examine our motives and our methods in exercising the power which democracy places in our hands.

In the period just past, many volunteer Fire Departments conducted elections to fill the company offices for the coming year. The men elected to these offices will lead the many and varied activities of the Department. The responsibilities which they shoulder will vary with the position and, to a certain extent, with the size of the individual fire company. Regardless of whether it is great or small, the responsibility is there. The way in which these responsibilities are met will affect not only the company but also the community which the company serves.

The success of a volunteer fire company, both in fire fighting and in administration, depends to a great degree on the ability and character of its officers. The selection of these men is carried out through the democratic process of election, and each and every member shares in the responsibility because he shares by vote in the selection process.

A KEY IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the public mind, is the fireman an easy-going station house card player, or a hard-working professional always seeking to improve his knowledge of fire fighting and fire prevention techniques?

This question was posed by Chief Matthew Jimenez of the Fire Department of Hayward, California, when he spoke recently at the Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association.

According to Chief Jimenez, many people still think of firemen as unambitious individuals who answer alarms and take risks once in a while, but who spend most of their time sitting around the station playing pinochle and drinking coffee.

Actually, declared the Chief, the great majority of today's firemen are "intelligent, dedicated and industrious professionals or volunteers, who continually strive for excellence."

The trouble, he said, is that the Fire Services have not done a very good job of replacing the outdated image of the fireman with a new and more accurate picture. One of the results is that when the people who ask firemen "How is your pinochle game?" act as taxpayers, they defeat bond proposals for needed fire department equipment and facilities, cut department budgets to the danger point, and vote down proposals beneficial to the fireman's welfare.

"How many citizens," asked Chief Jimenez, "know that firemen train regularly, study on and off the job, spend many hours on inspections of plants, stores, schools, homes and hospitals, and make themselves experts at handling many emergencies unconnected with fire?"

This is the kind of information which should be getting out to the public if fire departments and firemen are to gain the community respect and support they need to carry on their work. Chief Jimenez has urged everyone in the Fire Service to give more attention to this need.

There is no "magic formula" for building community respect and support, he declared. It is a "long range project and a continuous day in day out responsibility for everyone in the fire department, from the newest recruit to the chief.

FREWSBURG TO GET NEW TRUCK

The Frewsburg Fire District Commissioners have signed a contract with the American Fire Apparatus Company of Battle Creek, Michigan, for a new pumping engine. Bid at \$17,649.85, the new rig will have a 750 g.p.m. single-stage centrifugal pump, a 750 gallon booster tank, and many other modern fire fighting appliances.

Chassis for the engine will be furnished by the International Harvester Company, and will have a tilt cab with a 257 horsepower V-8 motor. At this writing we are not sure if this new piece will replace or be in addition to existing equipment. The Frewsburg firemen are so attached to Engine No. 41; a 1935 Dodge.

Overheard recently: "I was caught between the dog and the fire hydrant!"

URGES FIREMEN TO SCREEN FIREBUGS

Speaking at the Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York in New York City, Mr. Donald Herbstman of the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization recently urged volunteer firemen to find ways of screening applicants in order to keep firebugs out of the ranks. Mr. Herbstman said that there should be examinations to detect the small number of prospective firemen who might set fires so they can watch them and help put them out.

The continual rise of arson fires attributed to members of Fire Departments is of considerable concern to the Fire Service, and the resulting publicity has severely jeopardized the reputation of the Service. In 1963 over a dozen fires in our State were set by firemen.

Several Fire Departments in Chautauqua County are apparently well aware of this problem, and they have for some time conducted thorough investigations of each new member. For example, one Department turns over all membership applications to both the local Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for complete research of the applicant's background, etc. Another Department has a very active investigating committee who interviews both relatives and friends of the proposed member and then must obtain a unanimous vote of the committee before the name can be presented to the entire membership for approval.

In spite of these precautions, at least two convicted arsonists who have served penalties are now carried on the active roles of local Fire Departments, and the majority of the respective members are not aware of these convictions. An arsonist is bad enough to have in our ranks, but it is also a risk to have members who have committed or are inclined to commit other serious crimes. About a year ago, three paid firemen of the Albany Fire Department were arrested for stealing at a jewelry store fire.

Thus, for our own protection it is wise to screen our applicants.

FIREMEN ARGUE AS BARN BURNS

From an Associated Press clipping submitted to us by Elliot Anderson of Sinclairville and datelined Indianapolis, Indiana, we submit the following story.

"And the barn burned on. Deputy Sheriff Hack Cottey said he arrived at the scene of a barn fire Monday night to find officers and two rival suburban fire departments fighting over whose fire it was. Cottey identified the fistfighters as George Bragdon, Lawrence, Ind., assistant fire chief, and Junior Dalrymple, Oaklandon, Ind., fire chief.

"Cottey said Dalrymple told him the fire was in the Oaklandon department's area and asked him to chase all Lawrence firemen out of the area. The deputy said he suggested that the most important thing right now is to get the fire out.

"The barn is on a road which divides the areas of the two departments. Damage to the barn near Indianapolis was confined to the hayloft.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 257

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

October 1, 1964

OCTOBER 4-10 IS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week 1964 will soon be with us. Plans for this annual event have been under way in volunteer, paid and military Fire Departments across the Nation for many months. Although fire prevention activities can and should be conducted the year around, Fire Prevention Week provides national publicity and national interest on the fire prevention problem. Your Department should take advantage of this interest and publicity to promote fire prevention in your community.

About half of all our national fire deaths occur in the home. These deaths CAN be reduced if the public can be sold on home fire drill procedures. Each Fire Department is requested to publicize the home fire drill and contact the families in your community with the idea and information describing how a home fire drill should be conducted. YOU are in the best position to reach the people in YOUR town. The following outline is recommended.

HAVE A PLAN - Each family should know the full threat of fire. They should draw a floor plan, discuss escape routes and have fire drills.
FIRE DEPARTMENT - Make sure everybody in the family knows the number and how to call the Fire Department. Firemen not only put out fires, they can save a life.

BEDROOM DOORS - Everybody should sleep with bedroom doors closed. This will keep smoke and flame out long enough to permit escape.

FEEL DOOR FOR HEAT - If awakened at night by fire or smoke, feel the top of the door. If hot, DON'T OPEN, escape by window. If not, brace bottom of door with foot, open slightly; if smoke gushes in, close the door and use window.

ESCAPE THROUGH WINDOW - Each family should make sure that at least one window in each room is big enough to get through and that it can be opened. If window is on second floor or higher, use window to roof of porch or install a rope or metal ladder.

LADDER - Keep a ladder handy outside and make sure everybody (including the neighbors) will know where it is kept. Practice getting ladder in-to place and using it.

MEETING - Every family should set up a pre-arranged meeting place to which everyone goes after escape to make sure no one is overlooked.

We sincerely hope that each Fire Department in the County will participate in the home fire drill program and that each fireman will drill his own family as recommended. It can truly be said of home fire drills, "The life you save may be your own."

COME ONE, COME ALL!

To the second annual Fire Prevention Week Field Day sponsored by the County Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Advisory Board to be held in Falconer on October 10th. Already 25 Fire Departments have signed up to send men and apparatus to participate in the many events and witness a number of demonstrations. There will also be a simulated train wreck with mass evacuation, first aid, etc. Plan now to attend.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

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Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 258

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

November 1, 1964

FIRE BOARD MEETS AT COURT HOUSE

The Fire Advisory Board met in the Supervisor's Chambers of the County Court House on Thursday, October 15th with fourteen members attending. Chairman Washington opened this regular meeting with the introduction of Mr. Harold W. Eckwahl, our recently appointed Director of Civil Defense. Mr. Eckwahl is a past Chief of the Bemus Point Fire Department and has been a volunteer fireman for the past seventeen years.

Donald A. Sales, Training Coordinator, reported that the Fire Investigation Course at Panama opened with an enrollment of 21. This is a three week graduate course taught by County Instructor Walter R. Burr. On Monday, November 2nd, an Officer's Training Course will begin at the Hartfield Fire Headquarters with County Instructor Frank A. Estep, III.

A detailed report was given on the Fire Prevention Week Drill and Demonstration held in Falconer on Saturday, October 10th. A total of 25 Fire Departments participated. The first aid and rescue events were directed by Deputy Coordinator Lawrence Hodges. Inclement weather was the only drawback to an otherwise successful day.

The Chairman called for Fire Prevention Week reports, and the most outstanding activity was conducted by the Kennedy Fire Department. As an annual event, Kennedy cleans chimneys free of charge to enhance public relations, give the firemen an opportunity to visualize the interior layout of many homes and possibly save a call for a chimney fire during the Winter months. This year Kennedy cleaned 72 chimneys in their Fire District.

Mr. Charles A. Hagstrom, our Radio Maintenance Supervisor, announced that Federal matching funds are again available for radio equipment and that all Fire Departments interested in purchasing same should immediately contact him or the County Civil Defense Director. This year, due to a change in Federal regulations, the total number and type of radios will have to be known before a Project Application can be submitted for funds. Some serious thought should be given now to the replacement of existing radios that have reached retirement age and are rapidly deteriorating to the point of no repair. It has been proven that the average "life" of a mobile radio is about twelve years.

Tentative plans call for the testing of the Jamestown Fire Department's selective call system each month along with the County test on Tuesday evenings. Jamestown has individual tones for 22 Departments in the area. However, when they test the "all call", any Department within range of their base station will receive the signal. This, of course, depends upon weather conditions, etc. so that more or less than the 22 Departments may have their siren set off by the Jamestown base.

A discussion was held on the proposed Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. house numbering system for rural areas. It was pointed out that several townships already have the system in operation, and all Fire Departments are requested to support the program and take an active part in helping to establish the numbering system in their respective districts.

Next meeting of the Fire Advisory Board will be held November 19th.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

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John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 259

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

December 1, 1964

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF?

The most simple definition of the responsibility of a volunteer Fire Chief is "A man who successfully gets every Fire Department job done." No other individual has as great a bearing on success or failure of the fire prevention, fire protection or fire suppression programs of a community.

The Fire Chief must be an outstanding leader of men. It is he who is expected to assure that every fire call is answered with a full complement of men TRAINED to function effectively and efficiently. It is he who is expected to see that the equipment and appliances available for fire ground duty is new, modern and maintained in top notch condition for the arduous and rigorous service to which they may be put. This means the Chief of a volunteer fire company must recruit new members to maintain a force of competent men for fire duty around the clock. This is a tremendous task, especially when fire prevention programs are successful in reducing the number of emergency calls to the Fire Department.

Being a good volunteer fireman is not easy. It is much easier NOT to give up the large amount of time required to become a volunteer fireman who can perform creditably on the fire ground. Men who are willing to give consideration to serving their neighborhood as a volunteer fireman, expect to get personal satisfaction from their membership and recognition of their efforts in the public welfare. The Fire Chief is the person who is expected to provide the inspiration and guidance required, and he must do so competently, if the fire company is to prosper.

On the fire ground, the Fire Chief is personally responsible for the safety of the men under his command. This means he must know fire behavior so he can predict what course a fire will follow. He can then issue orders that will keep the loss as low as possible, but which will not place his men in jeopardy unnecessarily. Only the men definitely able to make command decisions that are likely to be successful should be selected to serve as Chiefs.

It is the Chief's strict responsibility to see that all men are trained. There is an old chestnut he must keep in mind to the effect that a Fire Chief, "Should never have the ghost of an untaught fireman come back to haunt him." Being a disciplinarian is not apt to build up popularity, but discipline is a must.

In view of the seriousness involved in being a Fire Chief, his Fire Department should recognize his problem, and when the annual elections are held, each member should give thought to selecting the best man for the job.

We are deeply saddened by the passing on of our beloved County Fire Training Coordinator, Donald A. Sales, whose death occurred on November 15th. Few men have devoted as much time and effort to the benefit of our great Fire Service, and we have lost a true friend.
