

## Forward

CLANG, CLANG, repeating over and over. Then I heard another two clangs much farther away, maybe down past the mill by Richards' Corner. What was it? A few minutes had gone by and now I heard still another one but farther away in the opposite direction toward Greenbush. Pa! Pa! Do you hear that? Listen.... Now the whole family gathered around on the front porch listening to the reverberating of metal like a small army of angry blacksmiths about to march into town from all directions. Another started up by the quarry and then another by the railroad station. This continued about ten minutes, and then it stopped! Not another sound. Looking around and at each other in amazement, we all wondered silently if it was a good idea moving to West Nyack. Sure the city was crowded and noisy; that was expected. This was the country. I think we saw five automobiles in the three weeks we had lived here.

As we headed back into the house to start the day, we were startled by a mob of men running toward the center of town. I could not believe the amount of dust they all threw up scurrying by. Some were yelling, "Fire!" "Fire!" Right then it hit me! Those sounds must have been some type of fire signal. I turned around and ran out the door, not touching one of the porch step let alone thirteen. I hopped the hedge and before I knew it I was in the middle of this pack of men running in the same direction, past Jones' General Store, down the highway toward the railroad station. Right behind me, a team of the huge horses rounded the bend and nearly ran me down. They stopped at Haerles Blacksmith Shop and Repository and were led carefully backwards into the open shop. As I caught my breath and crept up to the big doors, I heard "HAH, HAH" and the horses bolted out right in front of me pulling the finest wagon I have even seen. Big red ornate wheels and a giant metal tank gleaming in the morning sun, and perched high up on a seat next to the man driving the team was a dog, a Dalmatian, sitting proudly as could be and he stared right at me. I couldn't see a thing as it headed down the road toward the great swamp trailing a monstrous cloud of dust.

I cleaned myself off and peered back inside the repository. Tools of all shapes and sizes were hanging everywhere. There was a small fire burning in an open hearth filled with glowing coals. In the corner to the left of the hearth was a small dog bed and a good size water dish with the name "Sparky" painted in red. "Is this a firehouse?" I thought to myself. Looking around I saw nothing indicating anything other than a blacksmith shop. Then I spotted a couple of coils

of fire hose by the doors. I remembered having seen them in the city in a firehouse when the doors were open. I soon noticed a stairway in the back and I cautiously headed for it. "Can I help you?," came a voice that thundered from inside the repository. I jumped so high I was surprised that I didn't hit the ceiling. "Ahh, no thank you," I stuttered. "I saw the fire wagon leave here and being new to the area I was wondering if this is a firehouse?" "Is it?" "Well who the hell are you?" came the response. Oh excuse me sir, my name is Winslow, Winslow Mallery. My family just moved up from New York City; we bought the old Obelnis House on the Straw Town Road." "Hello Winslow, my name is Elmer Brown and I'm," he hesitated, "the chairman of the West Nyack Fire Engine Co. #1," he said rather proudly. We shook hands as Mr. Brown's imposing demeanor dissipated into a warm and friendly greeting. "You know," he said, "We are always looking for able bodies for fighting fires! You seem interested! How about joining up? I'm guessing you're 18?" "Yes sir, just turned 18 last month," I replied, perhaps a little too exuberantly. "Well good then. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month, every month, right here at 8 o'clock. I will drop an application off at your house. Fill it out and give it back to me along with a \$2 initiation fee. And just to make sure you know what you're getting into, you have to pay dues of twenty five cents per month AND there are various fees or fines for missing fires and meetings. I'll present your application at the meeting and as long as you don't have any enemies, you'll be a member by June." "That's great Mr. Brown," I said, "and by the way... what's a chairman?" Hmmm... "Well," he said, "A chairman is someone who keeps things going. In a fire company like this one, you have a foreman; that would be Mr. Haerle. He gives directions at a fire, sort of tells everybody what to do, where to put the hose, where to get the water from, things like that. He is in charge! When we have a meeting, like the one coming up and hopefully you will get voted in, I give direction, sort of keep things and everyone in order. At a meeting, I'm in charge. That's the chairman's job. But you have plenty of time for that."

Just then I could hear the clip-clopping of horses outside the shop. "Whoa girls," came an authoritative command and in ran the Dalmatian, ignoring us and heading right to his bowl of water. "Hello EW, how' bout getting ole Sparky a fresh bowl of water?" "Sure Charlie, sure," Mr. Brown replied, and he reached for the bowl and then handed it over to me and, while pointing, directed me to the hand-pump for some ice cold fresh water for Sparky. Charlie methodically backed in the fire pumper and unhooked the team of horses. "So what did I

miss?" asked Mr. E.W. Brown to Charlie as they both take the team to the hitching post outside the repository. "Oh just a little grass burning along the railroad tracks down past the station. We ended up stamping it out and dumped a few buckets on it from the trough at the station.

"Nothing exciting, but it sure had potential," replied Charlie, "Who's your friend?" he said looking at me. "This here is Winslow Mallery, just moved to town and maybe wants to join." explained E.W. "Well, well, we are always looking for able bodies. Where you from?" asked Charlie. "Well, my father ran the ice steamer for the American Ice Company; you know, it used to be Knickerbocker, over in Rockland Lake," I said, continuing, "up and down the Hudson every day and got to talking to some of those icemen about Rockland County, then he heard about good farm land in West Nyack and affordable prices; well with talk about so call refrigerators being in everyone's home in a few years, he feels that the ice business is gonna be short lived and here we are." "Manhattan is just so crowded; this is like heaven-on-earth." "Say, those clanging sounds I heard earlier, what was that?" "Yes, the clanging sounds," started E.W. "Charlie, would you mind explaining those clanging sounds?" "Sure, exclaimed Charlie," "The clanging sounds are like a notification system that we installed alerting us, the firemen, of a fire and the approximate location. There are seven gongs located throughout West Nyack. You know, they are actually locomotive wheels that we purchased for \$1.50 each and had them delivered down at the railroad station. There is this one here at the firehouse, another at the railroad station, and five more spread out around town. So, if you hear a gong sounding, listen for the number of times, then get to the nearest gong and hit it the number of times you heard. For instance, the firehouse is 2 hits, the railroad station is 3, and so on. The instructions and a big mallet are also located at each gong. By the way, if you have a telephone, ring up the pumping station which is Nyack 65-R where the steam whistle is. Tell, if possible, the number of the gong hits that you heard then get down here to the firehouse and make sure this pumper gets out. Hopefully whoever reports the fire stays at the gong until we all get there so we don't waste any time looking around.

"Wow that's quite a system; say, do you mind if I look around?" I asked. "Don't mind at all," Charlie replied, "and here, if you are going upstairs, you'll need this," and he handed me a key. I climbed the stairs and there was a locked door at the top with the words "West Nyack Fire Engine Company # 1. Inc., March 10, 1910". I unlocked and opened the door and I don't know what I was expecting but all there was, was a table at the opposite end of a huge

room, lots of chairs, a piano, an American flag, and otherwise it was an empty room. I entered and started looking around. There were some papers on the table and a ledger-type book. I opened it and on the very first page found the word “History” scrolled on the top, with the following listed below: The West Nyack Fire Engine Co. No. 1 was incorporated, under the laws of the State of New York, in March, 1910, the Charter members being:

F.G. Grunhold	Emil Klein
Charles Hearle	William Kaufman
Clarence Campbell	Alfred L. Biltz
Orville N. Phillips	Walter G. Ottignon
Joseph Marsico	August Fuchs
Harold Smith	John A. Merlino
William W. Smith	George Green
Alfred Locke	William Schek, Jr.
William H. Sheridan	William Schek, Sr.
Thomas B. Storms	Conrad Kaufman

#### Motto

There was an old man who said, “Why  
Can’t I look in my ear with my eye?”  
If you put your mind to it,  
You surely can do it:  
You never can tell, till you try.

“Since its organization, with the assistance of its Ladies Auxiliary, it has succeeded in becoming the owner of a Waterous Gasoline Fire Engine of excellent pumping capacity; of a hose cart; of 1,000 feet of fire hose; of a piano; of 100 chairs, and of a large quantity of dishes and cooking utensils.

It has also erected seven fire gongs. It is purely a volunteer company and no member receives any compensation for his services. On the contrary, each member pays a \$2 initiation

fee and 25 cents dues monthly, besides suitable fines for non-attendance, or non-performance of duty. The object of the company is to protect the people and property in its fire district, in time of trouble, and it therefore deserves the support of every resident in the district it serves.”

Well who is to say that the above accounting didn't happen exactly as described. These were actual names and places. This historic perspective is gleaned from the many pages of the handful of ledgers and notebooks somehow preserved over the course of 100 years.

Unfortunately, many, many pages are missing therefore resulting in cracks where our history spilled off the pages and disappeared into voids that most likely will never be recovered. Yet on the other hand, much has been preserved and these cherished words have been anxiously waiting to spring forth and breathe again, to give life to those who have passed, for anyone who will listen. Now was needed someone to stitch it all together, someone with a desire or perhaps a disorder to formulate a sense of purpose out of drivel, someone who, for reasons known only to God, can sit down and read page after page, line after line of mundane, grueling, cryptic chatter for days on ends, someone with no other life. That's where I come in. The West Nyack Fire Department has been a major part of my life since 1972. I had a great grandfather who as a captain in FDNY, died in the line of duty at the turn of the century, but no other ties to the fire service and none to West Nyack, until I went out (briefly) with an ex-chief's daughter and here I am 38 years later. I have a passion for history (local history). I recall finding a huge pile of letters and stuff dumped in the corner of the attic of the firehouse back in the 70's. Some had been rained on or eaten by whatever crawls around up there and most just faded with time. I went through and read each paper and methodically placed each of them in yearly folders starting with 1910, never realizing all these years later how crucial that gesture of preservation would become. What may be a good thing is that many of the records were not there in the attic. They were entrusted to someone along the way and thereby as fate would have it, were preserved. Some of the original books, the original ledger that young Winslow Mallery read in the room of the repository was one of those. They was entrusted to the second chief of the department, Benedict “Barney” Matero, whom I had the privilege and pleasure of knowing (Hey Goose....). He in turn passed them on to his son Kenneth, who, as an ex-chief gave the ultimate sacrifice and tragically died in the line-of-duty while serving the West Nyack Fire Engine Co. #1, in 1974. His son Frank (a former member) now became the sentinel. He heard of my efforts to formulate a 100th Anniversary historical record and sought me out. Now you

know the rest of the story.

So with that said, this is the result. This is the culmination of reading through the ledgers and papers, of reconstructing the memories of previous conversations with now departed “old timers” such as Barney Matero and Jerry Trachtenberg; of filling in bits and pieces with living “old timers” Frank Rudden, Gene Cicero, Sr. and Dominic Prestano; of chatting with those not associated with the fire company but who are icons of historical West Nyack such as Edna Wright and Bert Dahm. I also wish to thank the many friends, without whom a few informational pieces would be missing, as well as the members of West Nyack Fire Engine Co. # 1, who had to deal with my incessant trivia ranting’s for days on end, the Company President Dan Ulrich and Anniversary Journal chairman George Wamsley for giving me the extra time and Bobby Carlyle for keeping George away from me. Thanks also to Chief Diercksen who allowed me to work on his time, to Steve Brancetelli, Matt Carlyle, Brian Cicero and John DeNicola for assisting in the research and data entry and most of all my wife Paula who dealt well with the fact that, nothing was going to get done around the house for a long while and lastly to Catherine Nowicki, my high-school English teacher and good friend graciously “proofed” this document and gave me a passing grade.

The bottom line is it’s “a” history, not “the” history. There are probably a slew of misspelled names and omissions. One secretary might have spelled a name one way and another all together differently. Some secretaries took incredible minutes and others... well? They had no business being in that position. If there is no mention of actions in the minutes, then unless you are now here to recall... it doesn’t exist! So, much is not recorded. Hardly any mention of fires were put to pen unless they were spectacular and caught someone’s attention, or the Chief or Foreman thanked guys who busted their ass for a job well done, or as mentioned before, the records perished. But enough! To add more would undoubtedly put the reader into some type of catatonic state.

Enjoy!

John P. Tobin  
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On March 7, 1910, in an upstairs room of the Charles Haerle Repository and Blacksmith shop (located just east of the Alexander Brothers service station on West Nyack Road) sat a handful of residents of West Nyack. There, Mr. Charles Haerle was appointed temporary chairman and Mr. William Schek Jr., was appointed temporary secretary of the proposed West Nyack Fire Engine Co. No 1. They sat down with a

Mr. C. DePew of Central Nyack Fire Company, who spoke on the formation of a fire department. Fred K. Luffler was appointed chairman of the "Committee of Rules" along with Thomas B. Stormes and J. V. Knapp. Also present at this historic event were Leo Gondreck, Harry Scheck, John Roth, Oscar Stoaftoff, Gustav Grunholtz, Emil Klein, Walter Ottignon, Charles Vanderbilt, Wm. Kaufmann, Clarence Leonard Campbell, Peter Stoaftoff, Alfred L. Biltz, Elmer Campbell, S.S. Nickersen, Frank Nickersen, Joseph Giles, Carl Wirnicka, August Fuchs, Harold Smith, William H. Sheridan, William W. Smith, Melford Locke, Guiseppe Marsicovetere, Clarence Campbell, John A. Merlino, George Green, Conrad Gus Kaufman, Talmadge Laing, Theo. Isermann and Orville Phillips. A committee of By-Laws was then appointed consisting of William Sheridan, William Schek Jr., Orville Phillips and Melvin Locke and finally a committee "In Regards to Engines" was established consisting of Frank Nickersen, Emil Klein and Charles Haerle. The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, March 10, 1910 at 8' o'clock in the evening. A "Certificate of Incorporation" was completed and signed on March 11, 1910 and approved by the Honorable Arthur S. Tompkins, Supreme Court Justice for the Ninth Judicial District. On March 14, 1910 it was affirmed by Samuel S. Koeing Secretary of State and finally recorded by the Rockland County Clerk Cyrus Crum.

The first official meeting of the West Nyack Fire Engine Company #1, Inc was held on March 15, 1910. At that meeting, motions were made and seconded including... notifying Nanuet, New City and Central Nyack fire departments where the West Nyack district lines were (Engine house East to Greenbush Road, South on Greenbush Road to Orangetown line, North on Greenbush Road, to Casper Hill, North West to John Merlino then north to Emil Miller, then North West to H. Statler then on to next road West to Germonds and South to Ceryles (sic) Corner, East to Sunshine Villa, South to Van Pets Corner, East to Bose Corner, East to Harvey Campbell then East Greenbush Road); get prices for fire gongs and locations for their deployment and search for a place to put the engine when secured. Thomas Storms was elected as the first President, Charles Haerle was the 1st Foreman and Clarence Campbell had the dubious distinction of being the first person asked to resign for what we will never know.

On June 17, 1910 the fire company purchased a 45 hp gasoline engine #7, with a class B centrifugal pump and a cart of 1000' of hose and all articles therein from the Waterous Engine Works Company of St. Paul Minnesota for the sum of \$2,500. The gongs, which consisted of train locomotive wheels were purchased and were delivered to the West Nyack railroad station for the sum of \$1.50 each. The Board of Supervisors approved locations of the gongs and

heavy timbers were ordered and they were to be erected as soon as practical. On August 2, 1910, President Storms resigned and Elmer Brown was elected chairman (president). January 3rd, 1911, Mr. Louis Kirkmann was duly noted as supplying the first team of horses to attach to the engine for the purpose of fighting a fire. West Nyack joined the New York State Fire Association. Funds would be needed for upkeep and obviously to pay bills so a "Ball" was proposed to be held at



Haerle's Repository (and temporary firehouse) and only three musical instruments would be used (coronet, violin and a harp). Tickets were sold for 50 cents. So begins the various fundraising events that were desperately needed over the next 100 years in order to sustain this new found fire company. No firehouse is complete without a mascot and on February 14, 1911 the company took possession of a Dalmatian and paid Mr. Knapp \$1.50 a month for board. Also in February, there was a fire at the Richards' residence (southwest corner of Germonds and Strawtown Roads) where the men made a great save. That was also the introduction of "fire watchmen" who were members who volunteered to stand guard in the event the fire was to re-start (rekindle) after the firemen went home. Usually two firemen were posted at each occurrence and sometimes were paid 50 cents an hour. After the Richards fire, the Nanuet, New City and Central Nyack Fire Departments were thanked for their participation and were each given \$5 for their expense by Mr. Richards himself. It was also noted that the Richards' Corner fire gong should be placed on the triangle(?) without delay, which was accomplished the next month.

Then in April of 1911, the Ladies Auxiliary was established and immediately started fundraising. They were able to produce \$50 to assist in the purchase of boots, coats and hats by May. Per the rules of the fire company, the auxiliary consisted only of family members of firemen, whether wives, mothers, sisters, aunts, etc. In June, the company held their first Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival and dance with help from the ladies. It was a huge success with total receipts of \$113.75, less expenses of \$59.35 leaving a profit of \$54.40. Special thanks went out to Charlie Haerle for use of the hall and his electric lights and to W.W. Griffith for use of his automobile for securing the ice cream. In October the Ladies Auxiliary held a town dinner and netted \$100. They were really establishing themselves as an asset to the fire company.

The fire company was invited to its first Inspection and Parade, which was held in Nyack at the invitation of Highland Hose, Jackson Hose and Empire Hook & Ladder on September 26, 1912. The members voted on attending and paying for the expense out of pocket. Not having uniforms, the members decided to attend wearing caps that were all the same plus white gloves and were to meet up at Odd Fellows Hall (Main & Franklin Street) in Nyack at 7:15p.m. Incidentally, a vote of thanks was given to John & Len Campbell for their donation of a fine team of horses for the engine and they were paid \$1.75 for taking care of same at the parade.

Income to the fire department was obviously very important and the 2% Insurance Fund was introduced. A committee was established and members went to every home and business



within their boundaries to establish a list of companies that supplied these premises insurance and whose offices were located outside of West Nyack. Those offices were to render 2% of the owners' premium to the local fire department for fire protection. It was determined that there were 14 agents throughout Rockland that were insuring West Nyack. They were each sent letters and the first check for \$6.65 was received on February 6, 1912 from Blauvelt & Morrell of Nyack being 2% Fire Tax for the year of 1911. The boys were on their way. The members got into full swing to keep the company alive. They even collected waste paper (recycling) which was sold to Piermont Paper Company for \$9.03 monthly (this money was slated for the piano fund). Bills had to get paid. The price of coal purchased from S.S. Nickerson to keep the repository warm in the winter months was in the area of \$6.25 a ton which lasted approximately 2 months. There was rent (\$2 a month to Mr. Haerle), postage, use of a telephone, electric lights plus the cleaning and upkeep of the engine that had to be made on a monthly basis and oh yes, uniforms! A committee was established on May 12, 1912 for the sole purpose of raising funds for uniforms (white duck pants, necktie, shirts, hats and belts—\$3.50 according to Dr. Harms of Pearl River Fire Department).

In August of 1912, the Nyack Water Commission was contacted to allow a steam fire whistle on their pump-house, which they approved but did not want to be held responsible for in the event they could not generate steam when needed. On December 10th, 1912 at 7:55 pm, the fire whistle would be activated at the pump-house for a test and at 8 pm, the seven completed gongs would join in starting with #7, and on hearing that gong, #6 would join in and continue until all were heard. The system was declared a success and the following Fire Alarm Code was put into effect on February 4th, 1913, with instructions to be mailed to all the residents (500 cards printed) of West Nyack.

### Fire Alarm Code West Nyack Fire Engine Co #1.

In case of fire in your District, phone pump station at West Nyack N.Y. No. 65-R.Nyack and strike gong until fire whistle blows

District	Alarm	Location
District #2	two taps	Firehouse and Post Office (4 corners)
District #3	three taps	Railroad station
District #4	four taps	West of firehouse towards Nanuet
District #5	five taps	All territory south of firehouse
District #6	six taps	Richards Corner and North of firehouse on Haverstraw Road
District #7	seven taps	In vicinity of Stone Crusher on Valley Cottage Road
District #8	eight taps	In vicinity of Bardonia

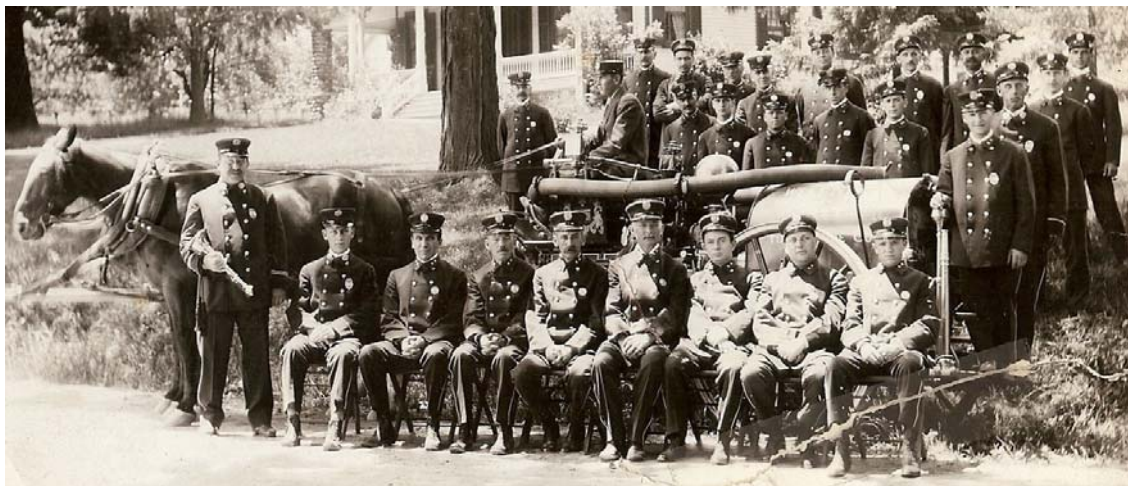
There was no District #1 simply because they felt nobody was going to hear just one tap. Brilliant!

December 3, 1912, a letter was received from Messieurs William Charters, Frederick Bittig and Harry Williams of Nyack Fire Department for the purpose of organizing a Rockland County Fire Association, a meeting on the same to be held on December 14th at New City Fire Department. On March 8, 1913, the Rockland County Firemen's Association was formed and the 1st Annual Convention to be in Nyack on August 5th & 6th, 1913.

Things were progressing well with the fire company. The piano was purchased from Charles Haerle for \$50. September 2nd, the engine, hose and hose-cart were paid off. West Nyack was voted "Most Popular Fire Company" at Tappan fair and was awarded a trumpet. In October, uniforms were finally ordered consisting of Lexington cloth double breasted coat and trousers to have white braid down side, the Foreman to have braid on sleeve. The fire company was also anxious to own their firehouse instead of renting it and looked into buying the repository from Charles Haerle, who by the way, was the Foreman (Chief). His asking price was \$3000, which the fire company was uncomfortable with. Perhaps in order to persuade them differently, Mr. Haerle decided to increase the rent to \$8 month, plus an additional \$5 each time a ball or reception was held. Instead of the current \$2 a month.

Fire limits were extended up to Mr. Ryan's house, and the committee was instructed to check with Nanuet Fire Engine Company to verify their limits. Orangeburg sent a letter requesting exactly where on Greenbush was the West Nyack line. In February 1914, the committee reported back on the fire district limits and advised that Mr. L. Smith of Nanuet reported that Nanuet's boundaries extended 2 miles in any direction from their firehouse (I wonder if the door was closed in their face after that was said).

Due to the asking price of the firehouse, a committee was put together with the task of finding a suitable plot of land. They did. It was located on the east side of Straw town, immediately south of Klein's property and owned by the Van Houtens'. Said piece of land was 50' by 300' and had an asking price of \$200.



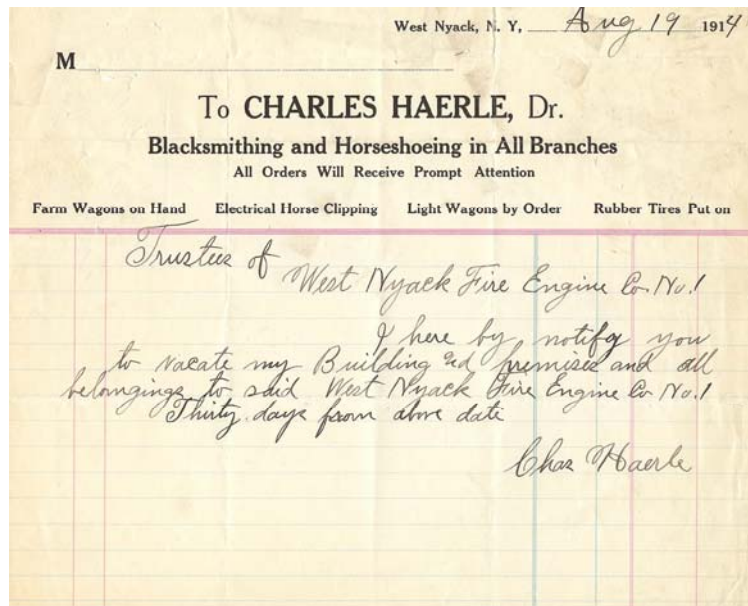
Not much more was said about the purchase for a few months. During that time, mundane but necessary activities ensued such as installing a Mockingbird whistle at the repository/firehouse. Fire codes were tacked to all public phones throughout West Nyack. **The uniforms were in and a company photograph was to be taken on June 7, 1914 at 10'oclock.**

(400 Company photo post cards made.)

In August, the fire company held its 1st fair, with special thanks going to Mr. & Mrs. Starett. The event netted \$651.33, a huge success. Ladies Auxiliary interrupted monthly meeting and presented a banner to the fire company.

On August 18, 1914 at 9:30pm a special meeting was called for the purpose of renovating and buying the repository or looking elsewhere. Member Otto Tonneson reported that \$3,500 was needed to completely renovate the building on top of the \$3,000 to purchase. The report was accepted and the meeting was adjourned. During discussion after the meeting, Mr. Haerle made mention that he would require \$1,500 cash on the building. A motion was then made to reopen the meeting, which was carried; a vote was then taken to purchase the repository which resulted in 10 Nays, 8

Yeas and 1 blank. A point was raised to make sure the absent members were fined (in accordance with the by-laws) and the meeting was adjourned. At the September meeting, immediately an objection was raised about the sudden levying of fines for non-attendance?! But that was nothing! More importantly, Foreman and repository owner Charles Haerle sent a **notice informing the fire company to vacate his premises and take all belongings including the engine within 30 days!** The President formed a committee and told them to go out and find a place. The October meeting was held at the office of William Schek, Jr. The apparatus was being stored at Mrs. Grumhold's barn. At the November meeting a vote was taken as to whether to buy the repository at Mr. Haerle's terms (\$2500, \$1,000 of that cash and the rest mortgaged), or buy the Van Houten property and build later. The results were 15 Nays and 16 Yeas, to stay at the repository. Meeting adjourned. You are not going to believe this but at the December monthly meeting, Mr. Haerle withdrew his offer to sell the repository. I kid you not. The company then asked to lease the building and was granted same for three months. Incidentally, a committee was formed to seek prices on some type of vehicle that could be used to pull the engine and said committee was headed by whom? None other than Charles Haerle. Enough was enough I guess, and now a vote was taken to buy the Van Houten property for \$150 and build a firehouse (Do you notice some price fluctuations throughout this ordeal?). The vote came in as a tie 10, 10. The President then placed all the votes (black and white balls) in a hat and picked one... a black one, and the vote was defeated. The discussion of owning a firehouse wasn't mentioned again for 3 years.





On February 9, 1915, the fire company purchased a 1910 Steven Duryea 60 H.P. car without body for \$450 from Lorenzo Covert of New City, price to include 2 axles, an extra tire and 1 Presto light tank. Charlie Haerle and A. Nickerson were contracted with for iron and woodwork to set engine and hose on the newly acquired automobile truck. Work progressed on the new auto-truck. Proceeds of the

paper recycling went to purchase a brass bell and railings and four jacks. Members also kicked in anywhere from \$2 to 25¢. Obviously, they succeeded.

The newly completed auto-truck would attend its first parade in Spring Valley on August 4th (rain date being the 7th). By the way, any member not attending would have to furnish a substitute. Well, as luck would have it, it rained so the parade was held on the 7th. Apparently the Chief Chauffeur never brought the auto-truck home after the parade. At the September meeting, the membership questioned whether they were satisfied with the present Chief Chauffeur and decided to take a vote, the results being 15 Nays and 0 in the affirmative with 5 abstentions. He was relieved of his duties and was to be notified. Incidentally, the positions of that day consisted of the following... President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee (3 yrs), Trustee (1 yr), Foreman, 1st Assistant Foreman, 2nd Assistant Foreman, Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineers 1,2,3,4 & 5 (who were appointed by the Chief Engineer), Chief Chauffeur, Assistant Chauffeurs 1,2,3,4 and 5 (who were appointed by the Chief Chauffeur). **West Nyack responds to the Great Comesky Block fire in Suffern on September 29th.** (Could you imagine how long that trip must have taken?!).



It was reported at the October 1915 meeting that the hammer was stolen from gong #5 located at Bardets Corners and posters were hung in the Bardonia & West Nyack Post Offices, offering a \$5 reward for the return of said hammer and for the arrest and conviction of the person responsible.

At the June 1916 meeting a committee was established to take up question of establishing a fire district.

1917. With February meeting bills mounting, the president asked a committee of six, "to get up some money making schemes." Nice talk. Nothing more came of the firehouse issue until June when a committee was appointed to look into the lot with a view toward a new firehouse. A special meeting was held on September 14; then a motion was made and seconded to purchase Charles Haerle's Repository for \$2,500, with \$10 cash down to bind contract, and the



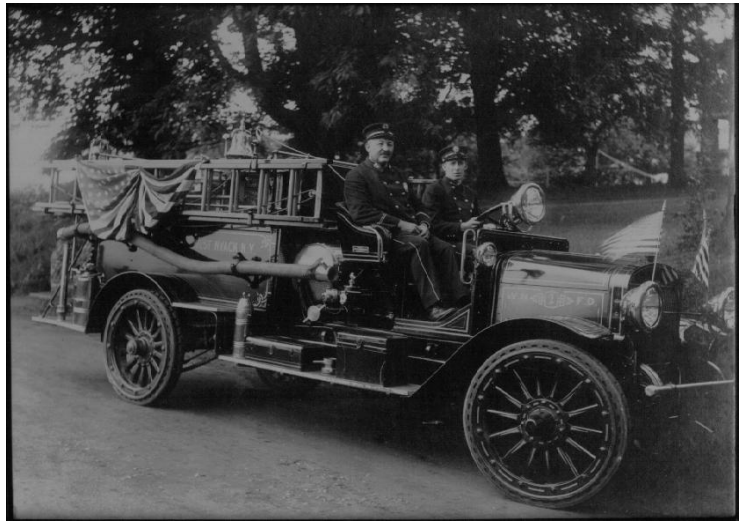
\$490 balance be paid on December 1 with the transfer of title. Balance would be a 3 year mortgage at 5%. The vote was 14 Yeas, 0 Nays. "The boys" own a firehouse. *First* order of business was to have Rockland Light & Power Company install an electric meter. (Come on! Who are they kidding?).

1918. In March, an ambitious plan had arose. 1,809' of maple flooring would be installed throughout the firehouse. The pumper and auto-truck would be stored on west side of building, there being about 2' clearance. A stairway would be built on the east side leading to the 2nd floor and would be 6' wide. There would be an addition at the northwest corner of the building to be used as a smoking room and when we have entertainment with actors and actresses it would be used as a dressing room: the room would be divided so as to provide for the accommodation of the actresses and actors with a separate doorway leading to the stage for each. They also established a committee to rent out the facilities charging \$12 for political organizations, \$5 for charitable organizations and \$2 for meetings. Mr. Haerle was put in charge of rentals. You have to take your hat off to this guy. Members were charged the same as charitable organizations for hall rentals. In May, Victor Robbins volunteered his services to the war effort (World War I was in full swing).

1919. Installation of windows in dance hall and the approval of a smoking room were approved at a special meeting held August.

1920. At a special meeting on January 16, members unanimously voted to discard the Stevens-Duryea chassis and find a new one. It had served them well. April meeting brought about selling old engine and chassis for \$550 and buying a new truck, an American LaFrance for \$6,650. So carried! The Ladies Auxiliary were immediately notified to assist in the fundraising process. The lettering would consist of W.N.F.D on hood, No.1 on seat and West Nyack, N.Y. on body. There were monthly dances held for fundraising and in May it was decided to erect "QUESTIONABLE DANCING PROHIBITED" all around the hall. June arrived which meant Carnival time was close. In the previous year the fire company netted just under \$1000. This year the Stevens-Duryea chassis and engine would be raffled off for 50¢ a chance. Also the moving picture man was to be charged \$10 for renting the hall. The carnival netted \$1,124.70. The auto-truck was won by C. Zimmerman, 60 Orchard St. Ridgefield Park, NJ and the Secretary of State was to be notified of the ownership transfer. The fire company was now without a truck and American LaFrance was sent a letter asking to deliver the new truck in the quickest possible way. Also, the engine room floor needed to be replaced to accommodate the heavier truck. A special meeting was held on Dec. 12 with the Civic League. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Grossbeck, of same, explained that they were going to place street lights across the swamp from the fire house to Mr. Phillips' place and would like the fire company to stand responsible for the monthly billings, as the League was not an incorporated organization and therefore could not buy power from the Light Company. The League would repay the fire company and would like permission to put in a meter and an automatic clock to administer same. The vote was unanimous in favor.

1921. Special meeting on Jan 14th, accepting the new truck which was delivered at the railroad station. An **American La-France, type B-4, "triple combination" (pump, chemical soda-acid type extinguisher, and carried hose in the back) pumper** . Ads for carnival placed in Evening Telegram. The November 1 meeting brought a motion to make a donation of \$5 to the benefit fund of one brother fireman H. Merle, who was injured responding to an alarm of fire, losing 1 leg and bruising the other in collision of two fire apparatus avoiding running over a boy who had fallen from his bicycle in the path of both apparatus (unknown where this incident occurred).



1922. Times were tough and on September 5, a committee was formed to canvas the Towns people for donations. Mr. Fred Stewart of Nyack crashed into the #2 gong at the four corners and it was decided to get a 30' piece of iron rail and bend it in a u-shape for repair of the gong. Unfortunately the iron cannot be had "as determined" and it never panned out.

1923. March brought major renovations to firehouse including replacing the rest of the flooring. That monthly meeting was held at Charlie Haerle's residence. Donation cards were to be sent out to all West Nyack residents to assist in paying for new hose. In November, it was decided to check upon the legality of obtaining a signature petition of 51% of residents, showing their willingness to have the fire company provided for by taxation.

1924. Proved very difficult to keeping the fire company in existence. To add insult to injury, the monthly dance, which was essential for fundraising, was a source of drunken rabble-rousing. Firemen were concerned about dealing with drunks and "this was not part of the by-laws" they protested! But without the dances, the company could fold. There was much debate about creating a Fire District.

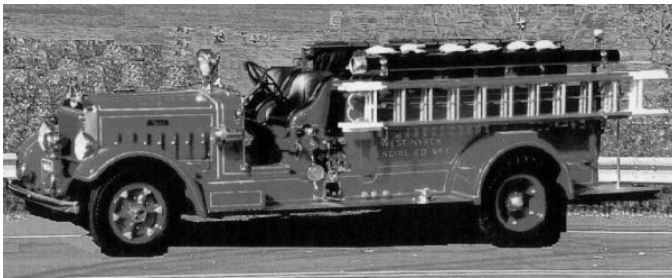
### **1924-1931 MINUTES MISSING**

1932. The Great Depression was at its worst. January found that the Ladies Auxiliary were willing to come back and join fire company. The company wanted them back and would return everything that was put in storage AND stated they could go out and buy whatever they needed and the company would pick up the tab. What the heck happened? In August, the West Nyack Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners was created. The Board slate would consist of A. Biltz (serve 5 years), J. Simola Sr (3 years) and J. Koster (3 years) as non-member candidates. Sydney Schimpf (5 years) and Fred Becker (5 years) were designated as member candidates and Harry Clark as secretary/treasurer for a 3 year period. It was further offered that the West Nyack Fire Engine Company would furnish fire protection for \$1,500 per year (paid quar-

terly) starting October 1st, the first meeting to be September 7th. So carried! Regrettably five members had to be removed from the rolls for living outside the District. In November, it was decided to hold a card party before Christmas with proceeds be used to purchase food, clothing, etc. for needy families in West Nyack Fire District. At December meeting a letter was to be sent to Valley Cottage Fire Company apologizing for comments made during the Trap Rock fire and a committee was formed to get information on an auxiliary truck for fighting brush fires.

1933. November brought about a vote to purchase either the American LaFrance or Mack pumper that were demonstrated the previous month. It was unanimous, the Mack for \$7,350, less \$1,000 for the old truck.

1934. January brought a white helmet to the man in charge of fighting fires. The gong system was becoming a thing of the past and difficult to maintain replacing the heavy timbers and besides, everybody had telephones now. In February, a dismantled gong was donated to Valley Cottage Fire District. West Nyack was also negotiating with the Town of Orangetown



to supply fire protection for parts of Blauvelt north of Erie St. March brought the end of an era. Charles Haerle, the man who started it all, was stepping down as Foreman after 24 years. He was awarded "Honorary Foreman" with a dinner will be held in his honor. At a special meeting on April 9, the **Mack 600 gallon-per-minute**

**pumper** was placed in service. It was also noted that the tower with the siren, behind the fire house, was starting to lean and would have to be cabled.

1935. In February West Nyack Fire Company was awarded a box of cigars by the Rockland County Firemen's Association for largest attendance at meetings. Still trying to stay afloat, they asked the Ladies Auxiliary for a loan. One member went out to Mack Truck to talk about extending payments so much needed repairs could be done on the firehouse. All the stops were being pulled to raise money and stay in existence. Word got out and a letter from Supervisor Wells of the Town of Clarkstown asked about the possibility of renting the hall for the placement and storage of voting machines for \$70. They jumped on that. Never to be driven down in spirit, in August, the West Nyack Hilly Billy Fire Company established itself and would take part in the County Convention in Orangeburg, and participate in the Efficiency Hand Hose Laying contest.

1936. Brought a NYS law into effect prohibiting aliens from joining fire companies. In December a blackboard was located outside the firehouse and first responding member would fill in fire location.

1937. January, the Fire Police were officially added into the company by-laws. All the gongs would be removed and brought back to firehouse. The membership was outgrowing the firehouse and it was becoming to expensive to upkeep. A committee was formed to find a building site for a new firehouse.

1938. A new state highway was being planned connecting Suffern with Nyack. The softball team was created and given \$5 for equipment. Francis Jaeger to be captain. In September West Nyack Fire Company won the cup for softball. (1st place?).

1939. Brought the Annual Dinner and also implementation of 20 year life membership badge, ex-presidents and ex-chiefs badges. Scheno Trucking owned a dump and fires were becoming a nuisance. The parade uniform consisted of white pants with stripe, eight point hat, tie and red shirt. In December a Christmas party was held for the poor children of West Nyack and Christmas baskets were distributed.

1940. A bowling team formed was and given \$5 to get started. Now in March, a motion was made to purchase not less than 1 acre of land for the sum of \$1500. Frontage entered from Mr. Klein's property on road front to present driveway on former Dawson property. In October Thomas Rudden, Jr. headed into military and a resolution was passed stating any member in military service stayed active and exempt from dues, fines and penalties. West Nyack was also being considered to be the location for Town Hall of the Town of Clarkstown. **West Nyack won softball league championship** and the fire company decided to sponsor Boy Scout troop, chaired by Sidney Schimpf.



1941 February 2, the Fire Company was presented with deed to the property and a committee was formed to meet with an architect for the new fire-house. **In July the company took out a \$10,000 mortgage to handle the construction of an \$18,000 building.** It was suggested that the gong from the old fire-house be placed in front of the new fire-house upon completion. The members also decided to attend the Nyack parade as a comical unit and leave the truck home. The "P.H.Club" was born. (PH does not stand for Purple Heart). The "Pecker Heads" are comprised of a rag-

tag troupe of firemen cross-dressers, who paraded about in a homemade float of an outhouse and assorted signs consistent with, well, with an outhouse. They were a great diversion from the worries of war going on in the rest of the world. They became so popular, that somehow they were asked to march in a parade in New York City along Central Park West, which request they happily obliged. It was rumored that the first shovel would be put in the ground at the new



property on December 7th, 1941. World War II had begun and the company purchased two gas masks. A special meeting was held in December and a report of the Clarkstown Defense Plan was discussed by Chief Clark. The principal of the West Nyack School would be contacted and advised that the basement of the new firehouse could be used as a shelter during air raids. The commissioners would cover the cost of printing "Do's and Don'ts" in connection with bombings. The Clarkstown Volunteer Firemens Organization for Defense would be meeting in New City to give demonstrations on the proper procedure to be followed in the control of incendiary bombs. A defense meeting would then be held for West Nyack.

1942. Donations were being collected for an auxiliary truck, and the now "old firehouse" was to be put up for sale. A flagpole for the new firehouse was donated from the ballfield near Judge McKenna's home. The gong from the old firehouse was to be moved to new firehouse. The April meeting was adjourned in favor of "BEER". The State Police would make the final inspection of the new firehouse for certificate of compliance. Rental fees would be \$25 for entire building, \$15 upstairs, \$10 downstairs and \$12 for downstairs and kitchen. On June 12th, the old firehouse was sold to Mrs. Norma Jones for \$1,450. On June 20, 1942, at 7:30 p.m., the West Nyack Fire Engine Co. #1 Inc, took up new residence and a celebration inviting the entire community ensued. In October, a Mr. Trojan visited the firehouse and asked the company to sponsor a Square Dance with an outside organization. A motion was made and seconded that the company not run any square dance with any outside organizations (4-H was the exception). Go figure!

1943. An "Honor Roll" of firemen "soldiers" was created and hung on the front of firehouse on April 11th. Cards were issued for firemen to respond to calls during blackouts and fingerprints would be taken for this privilege. In October, an electric siren was placed on top of Rockland Light & Power Company building for the fire company and civil defense. In November, Mrs. Kernan donated and planted trees in front of firehouse facing Strawtown Road. The fire company assisted the Boy Scout troop collecting waste paper for the war effort.

1944. The District was divided up into sections to assist in reporting fires. The Annual Dinner would be at Scotty's costing \$2.25 (includes tax and tip) per member. The Town of Clarkstown was now renting out space for a courtroom at \$40 month.

1945. World War II brought a large influx of members; membership and "junior" membership would be closed for a period of 90 days.

1946. A committee was formed to explore having fire hydrants installed in West Nyack. In October, Rev. Paul Maylefyt of the Clarkstown Reformed Church made 1st company chaplain. Old truck to be sold and a **1946 Federal 1000 gallon tanker** was put in service.



1948. Six month “probationary period” for new firemen began. In September, the mortgage was paid off for new firehouse.

1949. October 4, two “Scott Self Contained Breathing Apparatus” (SCBA) packs were purchased for \$177.50 each.

1950. In the minutes of the February meeting, mention was made that the men had assisted supplying water to “The Freedom Train” at the West Nyack station. (Now there were actually two Freedom Trains, a national one that traversed the country as a patriotic show of support, carrying mementos of this great Nation and distinguished statesmen, which was decommissioned in 1949 and a New York State Freedom train that supposedly wasn’t running then). My money’s on the national one!

1950. In October, the company joined the rest of the county with a resolution calling for a central dispatch point and two-way county-wide radio system for the volunteer fire service.

1951. March brought an objection by the fire company to the “proposed reservoir” and notice of same was sent to the Board of Water Control. The Clarkstown Anti-Reservoir Committee asked for use of the hall.

#### **Minutes Missing July 1951—December 1964**

1955. The N.Y.S. Thruway opened after slicing through West Nyack.

1956. The company purchased a brand new **Mack B-model 750 gallon per minute pumper**.



Well pleased with the newest piece of fire apparatus added to the West Nyack Fire Department recently are Ken Matero and Frank Scotty. The new equipment is a light truck members of the company assembled themselves.  
— J-N F, Baker.

1958. The fire company put in service a **Chevrolet light truck** that they build by hand.

1958 saw one of the largest fires, if not the largest, in the history of West Nyack. All that survives within our records is the following commentary that was written 50 years later titled "Rockland's Best Market" written by John Iurica, reprinted here with his permission...

It was 11:30 p.m. on December 23, 1958, when a spectacular blaze burned down Auction City Market in West Nyack, not too far from where the Palisades Mall is today. The blaze spilled over into the swamp. Six days later on December 29, two hundred and fifty volunteer firemen and 15 pumpers were still fighting and in pouring rain. Ned Besso was dumping truck loads of fill and bulldozing the fire where it raged on his property. The firemen had stretched 26,000 feet of two and one half inch hose through the mud. The first evening, the West Nyack Fire Department was the first to arrive with mutual aid from Central Nyack, Chelsea, Empire (Nyack), Mazeppa, Orangetown (Nyack), Valley Cottage, Congers, and Letchworth Village. The fire went on well into the new year. On the 29th they called a county drill to try to get the fire out. It smoldered for days after.

The Auction City Market was the second of two built by Frankie. Frankie first built Frankie's market on Route 17 in Lodi, New Jersey, across Route 17 from Modell's. While having a successful run in Lodi, he developed the West Nyack location. The operation at both locations was almost identical. Both locations were previously swamps. The interiors started out as all tents with one or two permanent structures eventually being erected. There was no heat but it had festoon lighting. As far as floors were concerned, there were occasional planks and boards lying in the mud to sort of facilitate walking. These were about the lowest overhead operations that one can imagine. The places were generally opened only a couple days per week each and they were packed. The places even had entertainment. A blind guy with heavy white hair played the accordion at both markets. I have serious doubts that any of Rockland's condominium people of today would ever go to one of these places.. In spite of everything, these markets were fun places with extremely good deals that provided a certain amount of social interaction.

Among the landmarks near the West Nyack Auction City Market was the across the way Miller Airport across the way. Mardi Gras sat to the East owned by Guglielmellow of Piermont, a popular fun spot. The rip roaring Benny's Cloverleaf Inn was across the street and to the East, a fine place for someone like me to get some libation.

Most of each market was devoted to direct sales of low priced goods. The main event was the auction area where a huge truck would be parked, with its open back would be parked up to the tent, and inside, under cover, appliances, tools and etc. would be auctioned off real cheap. If I attempted to bid on anything, my father would give me a good smack in the head.. The reason being was that Frankie's number one assistant was Smokey Joe Micklas, who was married to my cousin Josephine, from Piermont. He would get us what we wanted far cheaper than those rock bottom auction prices. When I got older, we went there to meet girls who shopped in this type of place as they were used to being poor and knew how to enjoy life.

The whole thing was similar to a flea market, but the quality of the merchandise was a whole lot better and it was new stuff. It was best to wear a pair of boots if you want to either place for it was tough to stay out of the mud. The other thing that one needed to remember was to wear mosquito repellant. Both places were built on converted swamps.



1959. The fire company sold all the trucks and equipment to the fire district and retained ownership of the firehouse. Member William Furno invented and received a patent for a “flare holder” no longer requiring it to be held by hand.

1960. The Board of Fire Commissioners (District) purchased their first apparatus, a **1960 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. state-of-the-art pumper**, complete with heated booster lines, designed by members of the fire company. **Kenneth Matero**



was elected chief and received his badge from his father **Barney**, who was also a chief, thereby becoming the first son-of-a-chief to be elected in the history of West Nyack.



1963. A **1963 International Harvester Heavy Duty Rescue Truck**, equipped with a generator and the latest in hydraulic extrication equipment, was put into service



1965. In February, the Chief commended men on saving the Clarksville Inn from a stubborn fire in the attic. Missing minutes included heated discussions on a new firehouse or adding onto present one. There was a new truck on order and again no place to put it. Also there was a heated debate as to putting in an acoustical ceiling in the auditorium. A motion was made by Dominic Prestano and seconded by Gene Cicero to acquire land for a new firehouse. Softball fees were \$110.

1966. On April 22 there was a horrendous fire at the Ethel Dike horse stable on Townline Road. Chief Harnett praised the men who fought it. In May, it was determined that there was just enough property for expansion of the present firehouse and an architect was hired. Chief also brought to the membership that he and other fire chiefs were asked to meet with the Clarkstown Town Board because more needed to be done to integrate the fire company



and the Town Board was under a lot of pressure from the Board of Supervisors. The chiefs advised that these are volunteer organizations and they do not restrict membership based on the color of the skin. July 5th, a **Maxim 1250 g.p.m. pumper with a 1,000 gallons of water**, was put in service. An amendment was added to the by-laws requiring members to make 60 functions (points) a year to maintain active status. In September, at the parade in Stony Point,

the chief stated that nobody was to get involved with Vietnam War demonstrators.

1967. May brought discussion of a proposed fire training site, built and operated by the County of Rockland. Also, a resolution for \$100,000 mortgage (15 yrs @ 6%) for construction of four bays to the present firehouse was passed. The members would have to **build a temporary shelter to house all the apparatus during process**. Fundraising must be accelerated. In September the treasurer was authorized to purchase 5 of those new New York State lottery tickets every month. The siren was to be mounted on a 45' pole on north side of firehouse and the one on roof would be disconnected and removed.



1968. January voted against keeping a mascot because of a poor history regarding mascots(?). A memorial, including a plaque, would be designed for front of firehouse and would include the old firehouse gong. **The gasoline tanker fire of March was discussed with praise from the Board of Fire Commissioners advising it took just "twenty five minutes" to extinguish.** Humble Oil presented a check for \$1,200 for foam reimbursement. (Incidentally the check was mistakenly endorsed to the fire company instead of the fire district, so it was immediately deposited into the mortgage account.)



In May, the fire company took a sponsorship for new Little League field and participated in opening day festivities. The 1934 Mack 600 was officially taken out of service after 34 years. The commissioners offered it to the fire company for \$1 provided they restore it, which was expected to cost \$5,000. The company didn't have that kind of money, especially with the new mortgage to pay off, so a committee was formed to explore options. Eventually it was decided let B.O.C.E.S. have a go at it.

In August, the fire service was up in arms. The Rockland County Human Rights Commission was pushing to prevent the proposed fire training center from being built by Rockland County due to the alleged "lack of integration" in the fire service. Fire companies were pitted against Town Supervisors and it was getting ugly. Fire companies were claiming they were not stopping anyone from joining regardless of the color of the skin and said the commission should produce evidence. The H.R.C. wanted the "voting-in" of members abolished and also wanted applications to go to town clerks instead of staying in the fire companies. Eventually things simmered down and the Fire Training Center was built. Also in August, the Chief spoke about a program in Trumbull, CT. where they had a "Junior Firemen" program and he wished to implement it in West Nyack. A committee was formed to research it. In September, the company had switched to yellow and blue uniforms (what were they thinking?). The stage in the auditorium was to be permanently removed. Much discussion ensued on the need to renovate the auditorium in order to establish revenue so bills can be paid and they not go under. Apparently, nobody would rent it in the condition it is in.

1969. February brought discussion about a proposed "historic zone" for Rte. 59A and Strawtown Road. The feelings were that this could prevent the roads from being widened and accommodating the larger fire trucks being built these days. So, therefore, the company was opposed to such an idea. Larry Rudden became 1st official Junior Fireman (outside of WWII era) to join the fire company on April 1, 1969. Firefighting foam was permanently installed in a specially made fiberglass tank in the 1250. The 600 was pressed back into service due to flooding emergencies and its usefulness in pumping out basements. It would become a "stand-by" truck. (It never made it to BOCES... yet.). In July 1969, Gene Cicero suggested that the gong in the front of the building be moved to prevent children from getting hurt. The next month it was welded down.

1971. In May the company took out a \$30,000 loan to redo parking lot and finish extensive renovations including the kitchen upstairs and adding air conditioning. In October the Ladies Auxiliary were finally given permission to accept applicants from those with no family affiliation to the fire service. In December it was reported that Golf Land Driving Range was donating a building and with additional help from Blauvelt & Central Nyack fire companies, it could be moved and used for training.

1972. Car washes to be held to raise funds. In August the company held a mutual aid drill on the new Clarkstown South High school.

1973. In March, senior member, Benedict "Barney" Matero was chosen "Fireman of the Year" by Rockland County. The Town of Clarkstown, by resolution (1973-464) declared April 30th through May 6th as "Barney Matero Week".



In July a committee submitted specifications for an 85' Snorkel with a 1500 gallon per minute pump, lime yellow in color. On September 30, 1973, the dedication of fire training center in Pomona was finally held.

1974. 50-50's at the end of each meeting began, Dick Wanamaker wins \$10. On July 2, 1974 at the monthly meeting, Chief Russell Sandberg praised the members for the outstanding job they performed trying to extinguish a severely involved structure fire "Ristorante Giovanni" on Rte 59 (formerly Scotty's). Neighboring chiefs commented on the success of the junior firemen and the valiant job performed at this structure fire. There were a lot of high fives and back patting that night. At the close of the meeting, a member who won the 50-50 the month before, picked this months winner and it turned out to be his father Barney. "That's my boy!" he was quoted as saying, but sadly the next day, this member, Ex-Chief Kenneth Matero suffered a massive heart attack directly attributed to the fire and passed away. The fire company was in a state of shock. Never had we lost a member in the line-of-duty. It was determined to hold the service in the hall of the firehouse to accommodate the large turnout. Firemen came from all over, not just Rockland County. Just about every fire company was represented at the funeral and the procession stretched over a mile. U.S. Representative Ben Gilman sponsored a bill providing \$50,000 to the surviving dependants of public safety officers who die as the result of personal injury sustained in the line of duty, particularly volunteers. It took some time, but eventually the bill was passed. Later, as they came of age, Ken's son Frank and step-son Robert Moore would join the ranks of the West Nyack Fire Engine Co. #1.

In November, West Nyack responded with a long line of other needed departments to a mutual aid train/tunnel fire in Haverstraw. A turkey shoot was held to raise funds.



1975. In January, yearly physicals become mandatory for all West Nyack firemen. Congressman Ben Gilman attended meeting and spoke about the Death Benefit Bill he proposed, and presented the company with a flag that flew

over the Capitol to honor Kenneth Matero. March brought about the addition of a lime-yellow 1975 Pontiac station wagon, a district owned chief's vehicle, thereby no longer requiring the Chief to use his personal vehicle to respond to fire calls. A **1975 Mack 75' Aerialscope with a 1500 g.p.m. pump** was put in service and is dedicated to the memory of Kenneth Matero.

1976. West Nyack Lion's Club presents company with a resuscitator. The rank of 2nd. Assistant Chief was approved.

**MINUTES MISSING May 1976 to December 1982**

1977. West Nyack Fire Company softball team won championship.

1978. West Nyack Fire Company softball team wins championship and a **1978 Chevrolet/Pierce “4 wheel drive”, mini-pumper was delivered along with a....**



**1978 Ford C8000 Saulsbury Heavy Duty Rescue with an on-board, operate-in-motion, generator.**

1983. The Blizzard of February. It snowed so hard that members traversed the NYS Thruway in 4-wheel drive vehicles looking for stranded motorists and brought them back to the firehouse where cots were set up. The fire company received a proclamation from the County Legislature for services rendered during this emergency. In March there was a report about moving the fire and police dispatching services (44 Control) from the Fire Training Center in Pomona to the new Sheriff's office in New City. The firemen convinced the powers that be to leave well enough alone. Also, the company ran a benefit Square Dance for a member whose son was in an accident and raised \$4000 to offset expenses. In August, the fire district approved a life insurance policy for members and in September the softball team played the Guiding Light soap opera for a fundraiser.

1984. The Floods of March. Heavy rains caused widespread flooding and the men were out for days on end rescuing stranded flood victims and pumping basements. In August, after 44 years of service, the fire siren located at the Orange & Rockland facility on E. West Nyack Road seized-up and will not be replaced.

1985. The company stepped into a new age and bought a Radio Shack computer to assist in making record keeping easier. Live drills were conducted thanks to Phil Grossfield, a builder, who donated a mansion (located at entrance to Crossfields) to the fire company for training. Fires were set and extinguished in all the rooms over a period of several weeks allowing invaluable training. The Board of Fire Commissioners met with the Clarkstown Town



Board concerning the **improper maintenance of the Rte. 303 landfill**, forcing the fire company to spend countless hours fighting these “bolshie” blazes. Fire Company celebrated its 75th anniversary and had 55 men in line of March for the Memorial Day parade. December 1985 contract signed with Hahn for new pumper. Renovations began to put a much needed new face on the upstairs hall.



1986.  
**A new 1500 gallon per minute Hahn pumper is placed in service.**

1988. In September with the renovation's completed upstairs, downstairs was begun.

1989. Reports surfaced of a giant luxury shopping mall coming to West Nyack and be built in an abandoned landfill. New York State signed legislation allowing a pension system for volunteers as an aid to recruiting and retaining members which the fire district accepted and the people of West Nyack approved. 24-75 gets a facelift.

1990. The fire company sought out a \$125,000 mortgage for renovations of the lower level of the firehouse. In May we marched in an anniversary FDNY parade in New York City. The Fire Company sponsored a blood drive for Operation Desert Storm troops.

1991. A spectacular structure fire was fought at the N.Y.S. Thruway facilities on Rte. 303. In October, a **Pierce Lance 1750 g.p.m. pumper was delivered.**



1993. In April, the Safety Officer position was added to the ranks. In June, the Clarksville Inn was again saved thanks to aggressive firefighting efforts of the fire company.

1994. West Nyack Fire Company softball team won championship.

1996. December, Jaymie Rosario elected into membership as West Nyack's 1st female firefighter.

1998. In August, the Fire District took possession of a sub-station located and built by the Palisades Center Mall. West Nyack member George Drescher is awarded "Chief of the Year" by the Rockland County Fire Chief's Association. Civil compromise \$8,000 collected in false fire alarms from Palisades Center Mall 1998.

1999. Hurricane Floyd wrought havoc. Softball team won the championship.

2000. August **1999 Spartan 1500 gpm 95' Aerialscope in service** and the aging 1975 Mack Aerialscope was sold to Guayaquil, Ecuador and the softball team won the championship.



2001. Fire company website [www.wnfd.org](http://www.wnfd.org) unveiled. Softball team won championship. Islamic terrorists hijack planes and crash into the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11 and 24-1500 is called to provide mutual aid in Westchester County. Member (FDNY) Thomas Foley, his life tragically taken in this attack, was brought to his final resting place on 24-600. West Nyack Fire Company members and families raised an astounding \$159,000 for the widows and surviving family members of the Rockland County emergency personnel who lost their lives in the attack

2002. The fire district initiated physical fitness center for members located at substation. Resident, Mrs. Uhl passes away and leaves \$10,000 to fire company. **24-RESCUE, 02 KME Heavy Duty Rescue** was put into service.



2003. Smoking was banned in firehouse. "Dispatching" software was implemented including biometric attendance verification. Seven members formed a Rockland County chapter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club and the softball team won the championship.

2004. Company approved extensive renovations and partial redesign of firehouse for the upcoming "100th Anniversary" of the fire company.

2005. 24 MARINE was put into service. Member Thomas McKiernan made FDNY Battalion Chief and the softball team co-wins championship.

2006. Member Joe Wamsley assists fire company with \$300,000 loan for firehouse renovations. Company also approves \$300,000, 20 year mortgage @ 6.5% to complete renovations and the softball team won the championship.

2007. April 15, Nor'easter hits and flooded West Nyack and softball team won the championship.

2008. **24-TANKER, 08 KME 1750 gpm with 1000 gallon of water put in service.**



2009. Softball team won the championship. Member Gene Cicero Sr. created a scaled down wooden replica of 1934 Mack to raffle off for a 100th Anniversary fundraiser. Firehouse renovations were completed.

2010. Member Connor McKiernan is accepted into the Naval Academy Class of 2014. March 10th, 44 members met for dinner and a cigar to pay tribute to the founders of the West Nyack Engine Co. #1, exactly 100 years to the date at the Porterhouse in Montvale, New Jersey and the softball team won the championship!

### **Fund-Raising Ventures over the years...**

Stag Supper 1910  
Fair (2 day) 1913  
Society Circus and Barn Dance 1915  
Dutch supper 1915  
Minstrel Show 1915, 1938  
Dances 1918 (3rd sat each month)  
3 day & night carnival 1919  
Pinocle Card Night 1930  
Monte Carlo Night 1934  
Penny Sale 1939  
Bingo 1940  
Winter Carnival 1943  
Door to Door canvassing 1972  
Las Vegas Nights 1982  
Car Washes 1991  
Selling Christmas Trees 1994  
300 Club 1997  
Turkey Shoot 1976  
Coin Drop 2002  
Fair 2006

## **Ex- Chiefs**

Charles Haerle 1910-1933  
Benedict Matero 1934-1935  
Frank Matero 1936-1937  
Francis Jaeger 1938-1939  
Harry Clark 1940-1942  
Arthur Quinn 1942  
Joseph Komonchak 1943-1944  
Walter Hoehn 1945-1946  
George Peterson 1947-1948  
Frank Blauvelt 1949-1951  
Joseph D. Marsico 1952-1953  
Garland Stroud 1954-1955  
Frank E. Rudden 1956-1957  
Gilbert Germonds 1958-1959  
Kenneth Matero 1960-1961  
Richard Wanamaker 1962-1964  
Donald T. Harnett 1965-1966  
Frank Scattareggia 1967-1968  
Kenneth H. Platt 1969  
Joseph McGrath 1970  
Frank Scattareggia 1971-1972  
Russell F. Sandberg 1973-1975  
Eugene Cicero Sr. 1976-1977  
Almon J. Scott 1978  
Christopher P. Goodyear 1978-1980  
Joseph Perrone 1981-1982  
Mark R. Papenmeyer 1983-1984  
John P. Tobin 1985-1986  
George C. Drescher 1987-1988  
Thomas P. McKiernan 1989-1990  
Keith M. Carlyle 1991-1992  
Richard D. Meyers 1993-1994  
Robert Carlyle 1995-1996  
Brian McKiernan 1997-1999  
Daniel Ulrich Jr. 2000-2002  
Thomas P. McKiernan 2003-2004  
Dominic Santulli 2005-2006  
George C. Drescher 2007-2008  
Kevin Diercks 2009-2010



## Past Presidents

Thomas B. Storms 1910  
Elmer W. Brown 1910-1911  
William Schek Jr. 1912-1914  
Fred Wehman 1915  
George Crumley 1916  
Winslow Mallery 1917  
Harold Smith 1918  
Clement Smith 1919  
Leo Smith 1920-1921  
L.C. Campbell 1922  
John Leary 1922-1924  
Sidney Schimpf 1925  
Orville Phillips 1926  
Edward Gerhardt 1927  
John Leary 1928  
Donald Robinson 1929-1930  
John C. Haring 1931  
Harry Schek 1932-1933  
Talmage Laing 1934-1935  
Joseph Komonchak 1936-1937  
George Heinig 1938  
Irvin Dillon 1939  
Jerome Trachtenberg 1940  
Donald Robinson 1941-1942  
Stephen Doig Jr. 1943  
Herman Morris 1944  
J. Van Wyck O'Dell 1944-1945  
Stanley Partridge Sr. 1946  
Alfred Burgholzer Sr. 1947-1948  
Charles Adams 1949-1950  
Frank MacDonnell 1951-1952  
Gilbert Germonds 1953  
Carl Reiter 1954  
Maynard Halliday 1955-1956  
Robert Burgholzer 1957  
Fred Scarry 1958-1959  
Thomas Ash 1960-1961  
John Boeggeman 1962-1963  
Joseph P. Eagan 1964-1965  
Robert J. Kern 1966-1967  
Walter Sandt 1968-1969  
Kenneth Matero 1970-1971  
Dominic Prestano 1972-1973  
John Pesackis 1974

Bruce MacDonnell 1975-1976  
Dominic Prestano 1977-1980  
Joseph Kadlec 1981  
Robert Lynn 1982-1983  
Thomas Grosso 1984-1985  
Joseph Wamsley 1986-1989  
John P. Tobin 1990-1991  
Michael McGinn 1992  
Joseph Sorce 1993-1995  
Joseph Wamsley 1996-1997  
Keith Fitzgerald 1998-2000  
George Wamsley 2001-2004  
Daniel Ulrich Jr. 2005-2010



### **“The Membership”**

On the following pages you will find most of the names of individuals who have or had an association with the West Nyack Fire Engine Company #1, Incorporated. This list is comprised of... active (full-fledged firefighters), social (paid dues to have a name association), honorary (performed a special and exemplary task or service) or associate (retired or unable to perform active duties but wish affiliation) members. As you peruse the list, there is no classification associated to the individual as described above. You will also find the year of membership and if that name appears in red, he or she is currently active. Also, if he actively served in the military during conflict and it was mentioned at a meeting, it is so noted. (We) apologize for any errors or omissions.



Aakesson, Kenneth 1946  
Abate, Eric 1998  
Abrams, Harold H. 1940  
Acquittag, Walter  
Adams, Charles Jr. 1936 WWII veteran  
Adams, Charles Sr. 1944  
Adams, John 1939  
Adler, Harry E. 1961  
Aguilino, Gerard 1964  
**Aharoni, Michael 2006**  
Alfonso, Joseph 1983  
Alfonso, Thomas 1975  
Alphonso, Christopher 1984  
Aqutz, Louis 1910  
Armstrong, Robert S. 1960  
Ash, Thomas J. 1940  
Assolone, Michael 1992  
Aubut, Oswald 1931  
Babcock, Leroy 1931?  
Babcock, Louis Rolland 1965  
Baisley, William W. 1962  
Baker, Leo T. 1962  
Bambara, Paul J. 1963  
Bambara, Paul Jr. 1975  
Bardet, R. A. 1913  
Batt, Philip 1931  
Battschinger, Charles 1950  
Beadows, Derek 1992  
Beck, Maurice 1910  
Becker, Frederick 1917  
Becker, Frederick Jr 1934 WWII veteran  
Beddows, Keith 1990  
**Bennett, Lawrence 2006**  
Berkhart, Gary 1980  
Berliner, Edward 1957  
Bernasconi, Mark 1991  
Berry, Stephen 1971  
Biltz, Alfred 1910  
Bjork, William 1997  
Black, Thomas 1993  
Blanche, Bruno 1991  
Blasi, Fred 1964  
Blauvelt, Frank 1943  
Blauvelt, Frank Jr. 1965  
Blauvelt, Judge Charles 1940  
Bodden, David  
Boeggeman, John 1956  
Bohr, Herbert 1943  
Bolson, Morton 1946  
Bolson, Raymond 1946

**Bomer, Elton 1993**  
Bonarenko, Stephen 1969  
Bonhotal, Jules Jr. 1915  
Borkowski, Stanley 1957  
Borkowski, Stanley Jr. 1977  
Borland, Donald W. 1944  
Borland, Harold Jr. 1943 WWII veteran  
Bouton, John 1948  
Bowencamp, John 1917  
Boyle, Carl W. 1956  
Bradley, Raymond 1946  
Brady, John P. 1975  
**Brancatelli, Stephen 2003**  
Brandenberg, William 1912  
Brandenburg, Frederick 1911  
Breedon, Harold G. 1967  
**Breen, James Jr. 1991**  
Brenner, William 1969  
Bretschneider, Jeffrey 1972  
Broderick, James 1950  
Brown, Elmer 1910  
Brownbridge, Albert 1942  
Brunda, Vincent 1987  
Buchanan, Joseph 2005  
Buckley, Kevin 1988  
Budweiser, Arthur J. 1960  
Buffamante, Michael 2004  
Burgholzer, Alfred A. Sr. 1939  
Burgholzer, Alfred Jr. 1944  
Burgholzer, Robert 1947  
Burke, James P. 1957  
Burnham, Ray H. 1945  
Byrne, Fr. James 1989  
Caccamo, Michael 2000  
Cadiello, C. 1935  
Camasso, Anthony 1971  
Campbell, Charles Leonard 1910  
Campbell, Elmer 1910  
Campbell, Elmer 1921  
Campbell, John H. 1940 WWII veteran  
Campbell, John J. 1910  
Campbell, R 1947  
Campbell, Walter 1967  
**Campitiello, Anthony 2010**  
**Campitiello, Dominic 2007**  
Campitiello, Gerard 2005  
Capobianco, Ernest 1958  
Cappuccino, James 1978  
Caratti, Carmine 1966  
Carlsen, Harold 1946

Carlson, Hilding 1941  
Carlyle, Keith 1974  
Carlyle, Matthew 2003  
Carlyle, Robert 1982  
Cartland, Clifford 1913  
Cataldo, Gerald 1962  
Catella, Lionel Ronald 1966  
Catella, Ronald J. 1966  
Cayot, Charles 1964  
Cecchini, Louis V. 1963  
Centra, Ronald 1973  
Chadwick, Gerald 1985  
Chadwick, Michael 1972  
Chadwick, Walter 1962  
Christie, William 1933  
Cicero, Brian 2007  
Cicero, Eugene 1963 WWII Veteran  
Cicero, Eugene Jr. 1982  
Cirelli, John 1933  
Clark, Andrew Gary 1956  
Clark, Judge Harry 1931  
Clark, Walter 1915  
Click, Gary 1967  
Cohen, Stephen W. 1981  
Collins, J. F 1919  
Colorito, Frank Jr. 1991  
Conace, Dominick 1963  
Conace, Joseph 1952  
Conklin, Arthur 1931  
Conklin, David 1974  
Conklin, Ray 1915  
Conlon, F. V. 1932  
Connelly, John 1946  
Connolly, Arthur J. 1922  
Connolly, James 1942  
Cooper, Albert Clyde 1921  
Cooper, Richard 1970  
Cooper, William 1921  
Corcoran, Andrew 1968  
Corretti, Carmine 1966  
Coyle, Michael 1993  
Craig, Alex 1932  
Crowley, James 1984  
Crumley, George F. 1913  
Cummins, Steve 1979  
Curran, Joseph 2007  
Dahm, Herbert J. Jr. 1939  
Dahm, Herbert Sr. 1942  
D'Alessandro, Paul 1960  
Daly, James N. 1964

Daniels, Peter 1942  
Daniels, William 1946  
Davodian, Ohmeed 1995  
Decke, Anthony A. 1912  
DeCort, Daniel 2010  
Dein, Robert A. 1915  
DeLongy, F  
DelRegno, Andrew 1955  
DeNicola, John Jr. 1997  
DeStaso, James 2006  
Devery, John 1976  
Devery, John F. 1961  
Dexter, Whitney 1951  
Diercksen, Kevin 1991  
Dillon, Judge Irvin F. 1936  
Dingman, Vincent 1947  
DiRocco, Joseph 2002  
Dobson, Ed 1960  
Dodd, Jason 1997  
Doig, Judge Stephen Jr. 1940 NY Congressman  
Donohue, Art 1967  
Donovan, Thomas A. 1961  
Doorish, Bryan 1991  
Drescher, Anthony 1997  
Drescher, Christopher 1996 Gulf War Veteran  
Drescher, George 1976 Vietnam War Veteran  
Dubielak, Stanley A. 1963  
Dudek, John 2002  
Duffy, Brian 2006  
Duvernoy, Robert E. 1964  
Eagen, Frederick A. Sr. 1953  
Eagen, Frederick M. Jr. 1953  
Eager, William 1995  
Edelschick, Jaime 2002  
Edsall, Joseph 1960  
Egan, Edward T. 1964 Vietnam War veteran  
Egan, Joseph 1962  
Egan, Michael 1968  
Egan, Rev. Giles 1966  
Eldridge, Arthur 1947  
Eldridge, James 1947  
Elischick, Jayme 2002  
Elliott, Robert 1962  
Elliott, Robert Jr. 1971  
Ely, Louis Wilson 1923  
Engels, Albert A 1948  
Engels, Judge Frederick 1945  
Engles, Robert 1948  
Espinal, Daniel 2005  
Facchini, John 2005



Fagan, James 1967  
Farrell, John P. 1963  
Farsetta, Joseph 1975  
Fasano, Angelo 1950  
Fehsal, John 1912  
Feick, John 1945  
Femiano, Mark 1988  
Fendorak, Donald 1963  
Ferrito, Rev. Capistran FDNY 1967 Chaplain  
Finnerty, Joseph 2008  
Fiorello, Matthew 1988  
Fisher, Robert 1960  
**Fitzgerald, Keith 1991**  
Florio, Michael 1966  
Flynn, Judge Edward 1957  
Foley, Daniel 1989  
Foley, Thomas 1988 Died September 11, 2001  
Foshay, Stanley R. Jr. 1962  
Franchino, Robert 1974  
Frank, Edward 1984 Vietnam War veteran  
Friedman, Henry 1955  
Frost, Leonard 1959  
Fuchs, August 1910  
Furno, William 1926  
Gadry, Al 1979  
Gadry, Albert 1964  
Gaglione, Fred 1965  
Gaglione, Joseph 1960  
Gallagher, Bert 1942  
Galligan, Christopher 1990  
Galligan, Daniel 1990  
Gallo, R. 1935  
Gallo, Rocco 1966  
Gally, William 1969  
Galvin, Edwin L. 1922  
Gardineer, Arthur B. 1949  
Gardner, Henry E. 1919  
Gardner, L. H. 1921  
Garner, Fred 1977  
Garrabrant, Ludlow S. 1938 WWII veteran  
Geffert, Joseph 1948  
Geffert, Richard 1949  
Gerhardt, Edward T. 1924  
Germond, Gilbert 1931 WWII veteran  
Germonds, Gilbert 1947  
Giannella, Matthew 2006  
Gillick, Brian 1973  
Giordano, Joseph 1931  
Gisonni, George 1981  
Gizzarelli, Nicholas 1960

Goda, Michael J. 1956  
Goddard, Arthur A. 1949  
Goddard, Arthur J. 1965  
Goldsmith, David S. 1955  
Goldsmith, Laurens 1950  
Goldstein, Samuel 1911  
Gondeck, Leo 1910  
**Goodyear, Christopher 1970**  
**Gorglione, John 1976**  
Grando, Douglas 1977  
Grante, Henry 1913  
Green, George 1910  
Greene, Corey 2008  
Greenrose, Arthur 1942  
Gregar, Carl H. Jr. 1945  
**Grehl, Christopher 2006**  
Griffin, Allen B. 1956  
Griffo, Frank 1931  
**Grishaj, Kristian 2008**  
Grosso, Anthony 1964  
Grosso, Thomas 1969 Vietnam War veteran  
Grumhold, Judge Frederick Gustav 1910  
Gunderson, Robert W. 1960  
Haerle, Charles 1910  
Haggerty, William D. 1967  
Hale, H. W. 1921  
Hall, Kevin 2008  
Halliday, Maynard 1952  
Hamilton, Robert 1971  
Hansen, W. 1948  
Haring, John  
Harm, Michael 1983  
Harnett, Donald Jr. 1958  
**Harnett, Thomas 1971**  
Harring, Cornelius 1924  
Harring, Edwin C. 1917  
Harring, Edwin C. 1935  
Hart, John  
Harte, Frank 1957  
Hartman, Raymond 1946  
Heid, Royal H. 1966 Vietnam War veteran  
Heiferman, Charles 1965  
Heil, W  
Heilbut, William 1910  
Heinig, George 1934  
Heline, Thomas 1910  
Helm, Maurice  
Henry, Martin 1948  
Hernandez, Dominic 1991  
Herrick, Walter S. 1910

Hilleke, Christopher 1992  
Hoehn, Walter 1940  
Hoeneveld, Robert 1963  
**Hoeneveld, Robert 1981**  
Horn, Joseph 1969  
Houst, Brian 1992  
Houst, Kevin 1997 Gulf War Veteran  
Houst, Paul 1998  
Houst, Steven 1991  
Houten, Frank 1910  
Howard, Louis T 1917  
Huber, J. Jr 1938 WWII veteran  
Hubert, Herman 1963  
Hudson, James E. 1971  
Hunter, Robert 1931  
Hunter, Robert 1947  
Hutkoff, Isaac 1913  
Hutkoff, Louis 1913  
Indyke, James 1986  
Ireland, William 1944  
Israel, David 1995  
Izzo, Michael 1942 WWII veteran  
Jacobsen, B. 1931  
Jaeger, Francis 1932  
Jensen, Robert N. 1961  
Jiminez, Raymond 2000  
Johannason, H. 1919  
Johannason, Ray 1919  
Johnson, Al 1960  
Johnson, James C. 1976  
Johnson, Nelson 1978  
Johnson, William 1943  
Johnston, Joseph A. 1932  
Jones, Cyrus. R Jr 1917  
Jones, Raymond 1921  
**Joyce, Patrick 2009**  
Kadlec, Joseph 1978  
Kaeck, Lester M. 1957  
Kardian, Donald 1981  
Kardian, Stephen 1975  
Katz, Morris 1924  
Kaufman, Carl  
Kaufmann, Conrad 1910  
Kaufmann, William 1910  
Keefe, Harry 1947  
Keefe, John 1944  
Keefe, Robert 1955  
Keefe, Thomas 1944  
Keefe, Vincent 1945 Korean War veteran  
Keefe, Vincent J. 1957

Kelly, Benjamin 1950  
Kelly, George 1990  
Kelly, Malachy 1990  
Kern, Robert 1963  
Kern, Robert Jr. 1966  
Kessler, Irving 1921  
Kiernan, Paul 1997  
King, Lester 1952  
King, William J. 1910  
Kittle, Gordon 1931  
Klein, A. 1946  
Klein, Emil 1910  
Klein, Emil Jr. 1936  
**Klein, Richard O. 1948**  
**Klein, Roger 1950**  
Kling, Howard 1932  
Klos, Herman Albert 1918  
Klos, Peter 1931 WWII veteran  
Klos, William 1918  
Kluber, Nelson 1959  
Knapp, Joseph V 1910  
Kniffen, R. 1940  
Knight, Kenneth 2003  
Koch, Carol 1944  
Kohl, Michael 1990  
Kokkalenios, George 1990  
Kolonics, Alex J. 1959  
Kolonics, Brian 1977  
Kolonics, Joseph M. 1959  
Komonchak, Joseph 1933  
Kosenko, Peter 1985  
Koster, John  
Koster, Louis J. 1938  
Krantz, Rabbi 1986  
Kresse, Charles G Jr. 1920  
Kresse, Charles G Sr. 1920  
Kretschmar, Armin 1911  
Krumrei, William 1931  
Kubran, John 1979  
Kudera, Leonard 1962  
Lafasciano, Louis 1972  
Laing, Talmage 1910  
LaKatos, Louis 1931?  
**LaMantia, Christopher 1973**  
**Landry, James 1975**  
Landry, Stephen 1972  
Leary, John 1918  
Leherrer, Jacob  
**Leitner, Brian 1997**  
**Leitner, Kevin 2007 Gulf War Veteran**

Lenz, John 1944  
 Lepori, Gaspar 1914  
 Lepori, Gasper Jr. 1942 WWII veteran  
 Lepori, Patsy 1931  
 Levitt, Donald 1965  
 Levitt, Lloyd B. 1962  
 Lindemann, Sheriff Raymond 1948  
 Lippes, Herbert 1951  
 Locke, Melford 1910  
 Luefler, Fred 1910  
 Lupinsky, Adolf 1943  
 Lussen, Timothy 1965  
 Lutzen, James 1965  
 Lynch, James 1994  
 Lynch, Michael J. 1964  
 Lynch, Robert 1970  
 Lynn, John 1979  
**Lynn, Robert 1973**  
 MacCumber, Bruce 1972  
 MacDonnel, Frank 1949  
 MacDonnell, Bruce 1970 Vietnam War Veteran  
 Mackey, Lucian W. 1940  
 Macumber, Bruce G. 1972  
 Mahon, Robert 1966  
**Mahon, Robert Jr. 1972**  
 Malley, Joseph 1942  
**Mallory, Christopher 2006**  
 Mallory, Winslow 1914  
 Mandrone, O. M. 1962  
 Manning, William M. 1959  
 Manquardt, Frank Jr 1932  
 Marc, Joseph  
 Marina, Louis 1948  
 Markantes, Thomas C. 1949  
 Marshall, Leon 1960  
 Marsico, D. 1935  
 Marsico, Frank Jr. 1955  
 Marsico, James  
 Marsico, John 1914  
 Marsico, John Jr. 1948  
 Marsico, Joseph D. 1945  
 Marsico, Ronald 1970  
 Marsicovetro, Guiseppe (Joseph James Marsico) 1910  
 Martell, Richard 5-75 to 1982  
 Martens, Rev. Warren 1966  
 Martin, Clarence F. 1958  
 Martin, Kenneth 1958  
 Masiello, Stephen 2003  
 Matera(o), Benedict "Barney" 1927  
 Matera(o), Frank 1931  
 Matera(o), John 1931  
 Matero, Frank 1977  
 MATERO, KENNETH 1950 LODD  
 Matheis, G. X. 1910  
 Mathews, Charles 1943  
 Mathews, George  
 Mathews, S.K.  
 Matrafailo, George 1945  
 Maurer, Michael 1991  
 Maylefy, Rev. Paul Chaplain 1946  
 McCabe, Thomas 1986  
 McCloud, Kenneth 2004  
 McCormick, James 1989  
**McCorry, Gary 1979**  
 McDavitt, J. 1938  
 McDonagh, Rev. John 1983  
**McEnaney, Thomas "Moe" 1961**  
 McGinn, Michael 1987  
 McGlynn, Thomas P 1910  
 McGrath, Joseph 1961  
 McGregor, Archie 1941  
**McKiernan, Brian 1985**  
**McKiernan, Connor 2009**  
**McKiernan, Patrick 2003**  
**McKiernan, Thomas 1979**  
 McLeod, Dave 1990  
 McNichol, William 1968  
 Mel, Angelo 1959  
 Melzer, Joseph 1944  
 Meore, Frank 1940  
 Merlino, John 1910  
 Meyer, Herman 1911  
 Meyers, Eric 1978  
 Meyers, Lewis 1957  
**Meyers, Richard 1977**  
 Mezzasalma, Thomas 1994  
 Miele, Greg 1996  
 Miller, G 1940 WWII veteran  
 Miller, G. Emil  
 Miller, Garrett 1914  
 Minogue, John 1990  
 Mitaratondo, Peter 1963  
 Mohamedi, Farid 1992  
 Moller, Frederick 1957  
 Monell, William 1986  
 Moog, John  
 Moore, Benjamin  
 Moore, John L. 1961  
**Moore, Robert 1973**  
**Morris, Ernie 1994**

Morris, H. B. 1941  
Morris, John 1934  
Morris, John 1947  
Morris, John W. 1965  
Morris, Robert 1956  
Mortensen, Egan 1945  
Muller, Eric 1978  
Muller, Frank 1942  
Muller, Joseph L. 1971  
Muller, Karl 1971  
Muller, William 1985  
Mundt, Supervisor Paul F. 1961  
Murnich, Joseph 1934  
Murray, Belmont 1947  
Murray, Michael 1973  
Naithaloor, Regin 2005  
Natale, John 1922  
Natale, Michael 1946  
Natale, Panfilo 1931  
Nehrbass, Jacob 1913  
Nelson, Douglas 1955  
Nelson, James 1957  
Nelson, Reid 1973  
Nickersen, Frank 1910  
Nickerson, Albert E. 1938 WWII veteran  
Nickerson, Clifford  
Nickerson, Richard 1948  
Nicolai, Carl J. 1919  
Nordstrom, David 2000  
Nower, Philip 1989  
Nyweide, John 1952  
Oake, Eric 1979  
Och, John 1975  
Ochsenreiter, Phillip 1910  
O'Connor, Benson J. 1962  
O'Connor, William T. 1964  
O'Dell, J. Van Wycke 1941  
O'Dowd, Edward 1966  
Olsen, Arthur 1938  
Olson, Eric 1932  
Olson, Sven 1931  
O'Neill, George 1966  
O'Neill, Richard D. 1966  
Orlando, Charles 1946  
Ortiz, Randy 1983  
Osetek, Alexander J. 1959  
Osetek, Christopher 1970  
Osetek, Patrick 1971  
Osetek, Peter 1971  
Ottignon, Walter 1910

Panos, James 1978  
Papenmeyer, Jason 1993  
Papenmeyer, Mark 1971  
Papenmeyer, Robert 1965  
Papenmeyer, Todd 1999  
Parsells, George 1948  
Partridge, Charles F. 1944  
Partridge, Clinton 1942 WWII veteran  
Partridge, David J. 1961  
Partridge, Gerard 1942  
Partridge, Harry C. Jr. 1962  
Partridge, James 1964 Vietnam War veteran  
Partridge, Richard 1967  
Partridge, Stanley Jr. 1955  
Partridge, Stanley WWII veteran  
Pavignano, Robert 1956  
Pavignano, Teobaldo 1952  
Peloso, James D. 1963  
Perino, G. 1938  
Perino, Laurence V. 1964  
Perrone, Joseph 1970  
Perrone, Vincent 1966  
Pesackis, John 1971 Vietnam War veteran  
Pete, Rev. Donald 1992  
Peterman, Charles 1944  
Peterson, Charles H. 1955  
Peterson, Geroqe 1942  
Peterson, Henry V. Jr. 1965  
Peterson, John 1941  
Peterson, Michael George 1966  
Peterson, William 1946  
Phelps, George 1957  
Phillips, Clayton. A. 1919  
Phillips, Orville N. 1910  
Pisano, Albert 1950  
Pisano, Frank J. 1945  
Pisano, Frank J. 1963  
Plaisted, James S. 1960  
Platt, Douglas 1969  
Platt, John 1983  
Platt, Kenneth 1957  
Poli, Bruce 1972  
Pratt, Leonard A 1922  
Prestano, Anthony  
Prestano, Dominic 1963  
Prestano, Joseph 1972  
Prince, Sylvan M. 1931  
Prior, Myles 2006  
Pritzker, Daniel 2000  
Purvis, Giles 1942 WWII veteran

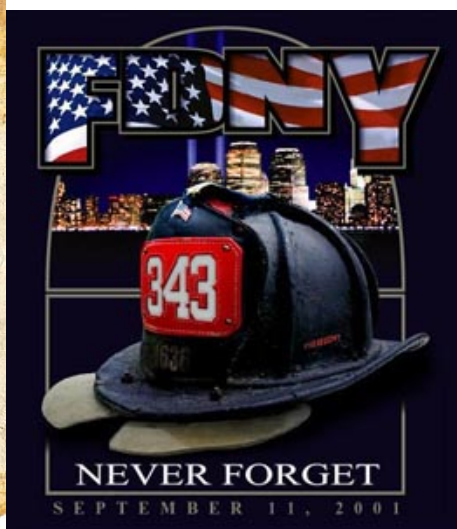
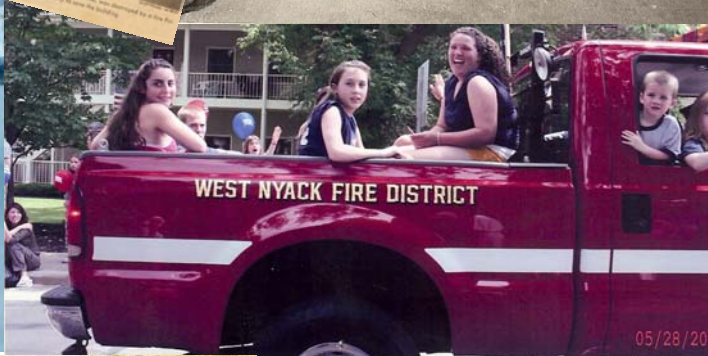
Quinn, Arthur 1931 WWII veteran  
 Quinn, Thomas 1958  
 Randolph, L. F. 1910  
 Reasse, Colonel  
 Reccard, Fred 1943  
 Rehul, C. H. 1915  
 Reimer, Paul 1972  
 Reiter, Carl 1950  
 Reiter, Robert E. 1952  
 Relyea, Royal 1951  
 Remenar, Steven 2005  
 Reynolds, Alfred 1944 WWII veteran  
 Reynolds, Charles B. 1957  
 Reynolds, Christopher 2005  
 Reynolds, Terence 2005  
 Rice, Bryan 2003  
 Rice, James 1993  
 Rice, Peter 2004  
 Richard, Kenny 1955  
 Richards, Edward 1916  
 Richmond, Larry 2002  
 Riffard, Alfred 1960  
 Riffard, Gerald 1957  
 Riffard, Leonard 1943  
 Riffard, Robert R. 1956  
 Rivera, Christopher 1987  
 Rizzo, Nicholas 1987  
 Robins, Victor WWI 1914 veteran  
 Robinson, Clyde 1946  
 Robinson, D. B. 1931  
 Robinson, Donald 1926  
 Roppolis, George 1958  
 Rosario, Jayme 1996  
 Rosedale, W 1912  
 Rosen, Dr. Isidore 1959  
 Rosen, Manny 1960  
 Rowell, Forrest W. 1947  
 Rubin, Robert 1957  
 Rudden, Frank 1945  
 Rudden, Larry 1969  
 Rudden, Thomas 1980  
 Rudden, Thomas Jr. 1940 WWII veteran  
 Rudden, Thomas Sr. 1933  
 Rudolph, Richard 1917  
 Ruppert, William T. 1921  
 Rupprecht, Joseph 1933  
 Rutherford, Theodore 1922  
 Ryan, Francis X. 1952  
 Ryan, Thomas F. 1962  
 Ryan, Timothy 1996  
 Ryan, William B. 1910  
 Sacca, Dominic 1978  
 Saccardo, Michael 1966  
 Sagabarria, Paul 1993  
 Sanchez, Louis 1975  
 Sandberg, Russell 1967  
 Sandt, Walter 1963  
 Santulli, Alex 1999  
 Santulli, Dominic 1990  
 Saraceno, Frank J. 1959  
 Saris, Christopher 1996  
 Sayer, Alvin D. 1965  
 Sayer, Alvin Jr. 1969  
 Scanlon, Joseph 1986  
 Scarry, Fred 1955  
 Scattareggia, Frank 1942 WWII veteran  
 Scattareggia, John Jr. 1969  
 Scattareggia, Vincent 1937  
 Scattareggia, Vincent 1970  
 Scattereggia, John J. 1956  
 Schaeffer, Ernest 1945  
 Schek Jr, William 1910  
 Schek Sr. William 1910  
 Schek, Harry 1910  
 Scherrer, Jacob 1910  
 Scheutensack, Al 1933  
 Schimpf, Charles G. 1918 WWI veteran  
 Schimpf, Sidney 1917  
 Schimpf, Sydney Jr. 1944  
 Schmidt, Albert 1938  
 Schmidt, Emil 1914  
 Schnakenberg, Herman R. 1920  
 Schott, Charles 1944 WWII veteran  
 Schulok, Walter W. 1967  
 Schultz, Peter 2006  
 Schuyler, M. Roosevelt 1915  
 Scott, Almon 1968  
 Scott, Donald 1944  
 Scotto, Dominic 1974  
 Seaman, Edward 1910  
 Seaman, Herbert C. 1920  
 Seaman, Herbert III  
 Seaman, W  
 Seifert, Charles Jr. 1947  
 Senecal, Travis 2006  
 Sers, Raymond 1962  
 Shadbera, Karl 1961  
 Shaw, William 1931  
 Shea, Damian 2001 Gulf War veteran  
 Shea, Timothy 2001 Gulf War veteran

Shelton, Fred 1939  
Sheridan, Ryan 1983  
Sheridan, William 1910  
Sherman, Earl 1944  
Sherman, Henry 1948  
Sherman, Whitney 1934  
Sherman, Whitney Jr. 1951  
Shinners, James T. 1959  
**Silverberg, Chaplin Richard 1998**  
Silverman, Murray 1964  
Simola, Charles 1941 WWII veteran  
Simola, Joseph Jr. 1933  
Simon, Lawrence D. 1967  
Skjeroing, Haakon 1958  
Slagel, L. B. 1938  
Smith, Charles 1914  
Smith, Clement C. 1912  
Smith, Glen D. 1947  
Smith, Harold 1910  
Smith, Hearsle 1921  
Smith, Howard C. 1941  
Smith, Kevin 1996  
Smith, Leo M. 1913  
Smith, William W. 1910  
Smyth, Kevin 1996  
Smyth, Robert 1994  
Snowden, Mark 1980  
Snowden, Shawn 1980  
Snyder, Arthur 1931  
**Sorce, Joseph 1975**  
Sorg, Gregory 1991  
Sperry, C. 1938  
Spiller, Edwin C. 1948  
**Stampfl, Scott 2007**  
**Stapleton, Robert 2004**  
Steinberg, Jason 2003  
Steixner, Peter 1993  
Steixner, Richard 1968  
Steixner, Thomas 1990  
Stetler, Henry 1917  
Stevens, Richard 1962  
Stoothoff, Oscar 1910  
Storms, Thomas B. 1910  
Storms, Thomas B. Jr. 1913  
Strapits, Eric 2001  
Stroud, Garland 1949  
Stroud, Harold 1948  
Sucsy, Emil 1942  
Sutera, Daniel 1974  
Sutton, Kenneth 1971

Sutton, Norman 1960  
Syre, Christopher 1991  
Taddeo, Christopher 2004  
Tasaro, Michael 1921  
Taylor, Charles 1922  
Tedeman, Mark 1969  
Termini, Michael 1991  
Thomas, James E. 1962  
Thomas, James E. Jr. 1956  
Thompson, G. 1933  
Tirrito, Victor J. 1960  
**Tobin, John P. 1972**  
Tonnesen, Otto 1914  
Tozier, Clifford N. 1967  
Trachtenberg, Jerome Esq. 1936  
Turco, John 1993  
**Ulrich, Brian 1996**  
**Ulrich, Daniel Jr. 1989**  
**Ulrich, Daniel Sr. 1997**  
**Ulrich, Kenneth 1993**  
**Ulrich, Michael 1991**  
Valigny, Bernard 1945  
Van Houten, David 1931  
Van Houten, Everett E. 1960  
Van Houten, Frank 1910  
Van Tassell, Bryan E. Jr 1962  
Vanderbilt, C  
Ver Valen, Eugene 1910  
Vescio, John 1977  
Vigorita (Yeager), Michael 1990  
Vines, Judge William E. 1960  
Vines, William E. Jr. 1975  
Virion, Francis 1944  
Wall, John 1975  
Wamsley, Eric 1991  
**Wamsley, George 1989**  
**Wamsley, Joseph 1981**  
Wanamaker, Phil 1986  
Wanamaker, Richard 1952  
Ward, William 1921  
Warn, Bertram 1943  
Weber, Howard 1943  
Wehman, F. G. 1923  
Wehman, Fred 1914  
Wehmann, S  
Weigele, Robert 1910  
Weishaar, Dr. Leo G. Jr. 1964  
Weishaar, Thomas 1970  
Werner, Alfred C. 1923  
Wernicke, Carl 1910



Wernicke, Carl Jr. 1917  
 Wikel, Raymond 1944  
 Wikel, Robert  
 Wilson, Charles F. 1931  
 Wilson, William E. 1958  
 Winter, Mr.  
 Wolinski, Walter 1933 WWII veteran  
 Wortendyke, Carl 1965  
 Wu, Chung-Liang 2009  
 Wynne, Edward 2010  
 Young, Jacob 1946  
 Zarek, Karl 1995  
 Zarek, Thomas 1995  
 Ziegler, William 1941  
 Zinke, Benjamin 1921  
 Zobel, Theodore 1987







Pecker Heads gloriously marching down Central Park West in New York City circa 1940.



Replenishing a visiting chief and resting after a parade.



A rag-tag troupe of firemen cross-dressers that you welcomed with open arms into your house if necessary.





















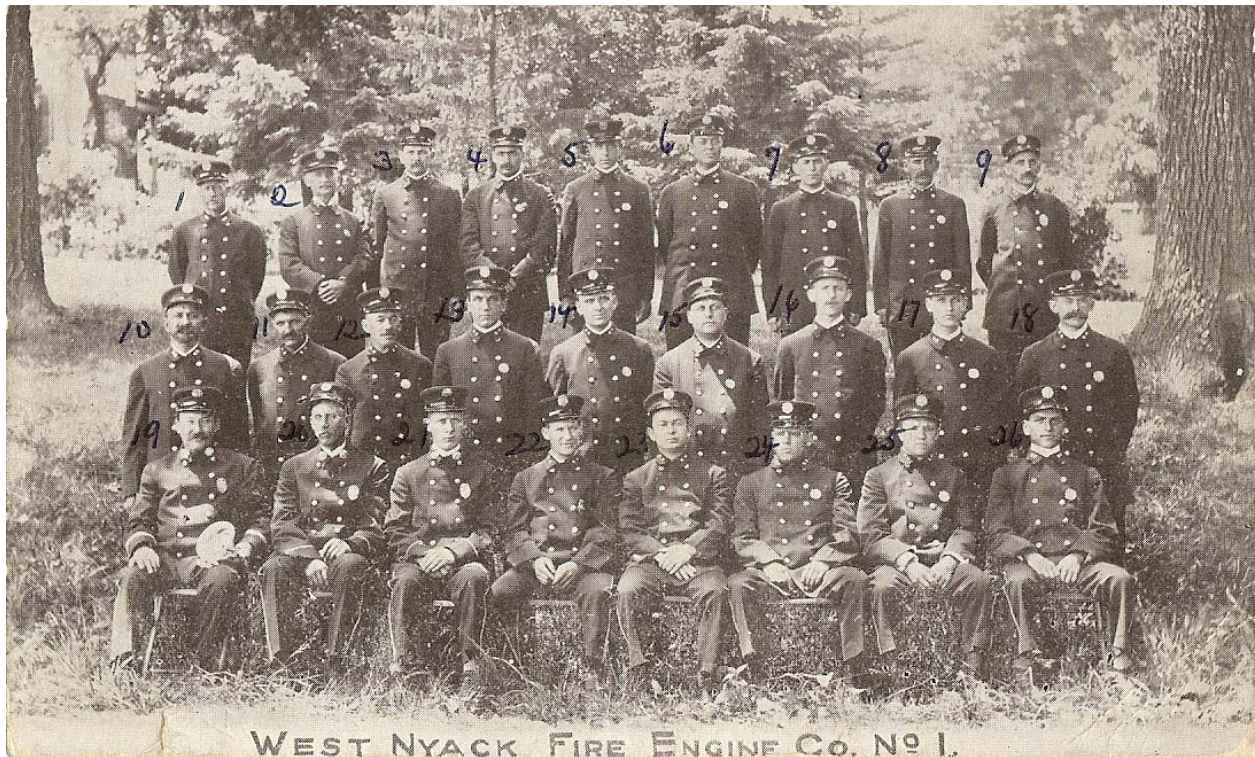












1910

**HAPPY "100TH" BIRTHDAY  
WEST NYACK FIRE ENGINE COMPANY  
#1**

2010

