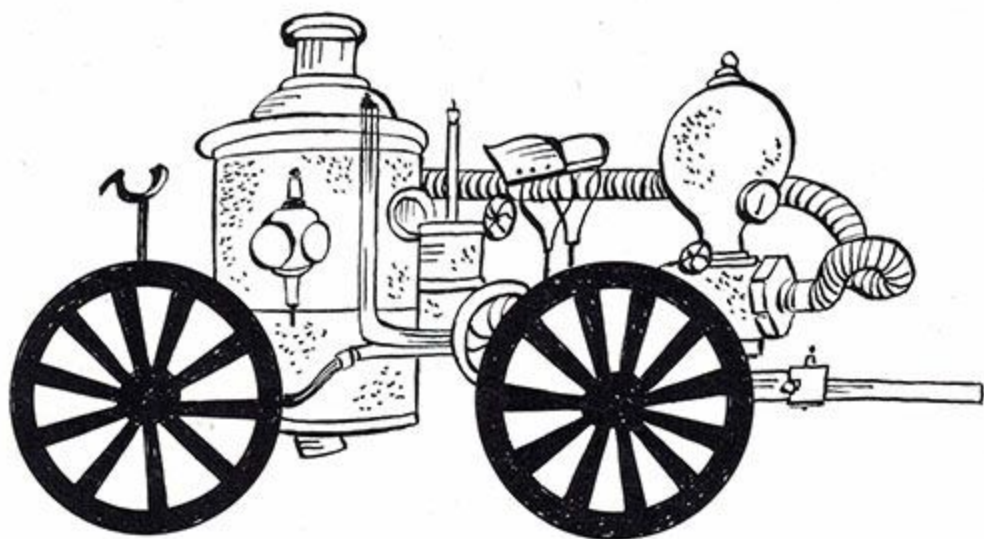


UNION FIRE CO. #1
AND RESCUE SQUAD



100 TH.
ANNIVERSARY
FRENCHTOWN, N.J.
JUNE 4, 1988

WELCOME

The Frenchtown Union Fire Company would like to extend a hearty welcome to the residents of the Borough of Frenchtown and to our neighboring Fire Departments, Rescue Squads and Ladies Auxiliaries participating in our festivities today. We present this commemorative booklet to you as a celebration of our Fire Companies 100th year in service to the Borough of Frenchtown and surrounding areas.

We of the Frenchtown Union Fire Company would like to take this opportunity to thank the Borough Council for their support over the past 100 years. Through their actions we in the fire service have been able to deliver to the residents of the Borough, a superior Firefighting force capable of protecting their lives and saving property.

Others who have made our jobs in the Fire Service easier over the years through their financial and material support, are the local organizations, business establishments and local public employees in various departments.

If it were not for all these community minded people, the Frenchtown Union Fire Company surely would not have had the success it has had in serving the public with a professional Firefighting and Rescue organization. To all those who have helped us in the past 100 years we offer our sincerest thanks, and to those of you who have come to join us in our celebration, please do not forget to patronize our advertisers.

We the members of the Frenchtown Union Fire Company take this opportunity to assure the residents that we will continue to serve the community in as a professional manner as we have over the past 100 years. The company has spared nothing in keeping up with new technologies and training, to better prepare ourselves to cope with what ever we might come up against at that next call.

We trust all our friends and guests will enjoy the festivities and look fondly back on this our 100th anniversary celebration.

FRENCHTOWN UNION FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

THE PARADE

STARTING TIME AND ROUTE: Starting time will be 1:00 PM, Rain or Shine. Parade will line up on Trenton Avenue and Washington Street. The Parade will proceed north on Trenton Avenue to Bridge Street, West on Bridge Street to Harrison Street, North on Harrison Street to 12th Street where the parade will disperse. The reviewing stand will be located in front of the elementary school on Harrison Street between 8th Street and 10th Street. Units will park in the field opposite the Barn Theater where refreshments will be served. Awards will be given out at approximately 4:00 PM.

PARADE COMMITTEE

Edward Johnson, Chairman

Robert Pinckney	Frederick Deremer
Russ Barton	Grover Snyder
James Harper	David Kish
Larry Hummer	Gary Reigel
Mark Madsen	Dale Ewald
Patrick Hettman	Bruce Mitchell

PARADE OFFICIALS

James Strouse	Master of Ceremonies
New Jersey State	
Fire Chiefs Assn.	Judges
Foreman Vanselous	Grand Marshal

IN APPRECIATION

We of the Frenchtown Union Fire Company would like to take this time to thank the many patrons and advertisers who helped make this 100th anniversary commemorative book a success.

Many hours of research and coordination have gone into making this book an accurate account of the Union Fire Companies 100 year history. Special thanks go out to Bruce Mitchell our company historian who pieced together old records dating back to 1888 and to Rev. William (Tex) Coulton who edited and wrote the history of the Fire Company and Rescue Squad. Others contributing to the book are Lear Slotterback for the history of the Rescue Squad. Gayla Snyder for the history of the Ladies Auxiliary. Mr. Steven Jacques of Village Craftsmen Printing Company for the fine printing of the booklet. Mr. Charles Strauss for the front cover art work. Studio 1 Photographers for the color shots. Other groups and organizations who have donated their support and funds to the Fire Company not only for this celebration, but over the years preceding this parade are, the Frenchtown Lions Club, the Frenchtown Borough Council, and the Frenchtown Borough Police Department. Last but not least is the commemorative book committee, Chairman, Robert Pinckney, Russell Barton and Mark Madsen.

Our thanks goes out to all those community minded people who helped in preparing this celebration, without this assistance from the citizens of the area this 100th Anniversary celebration would not have been possible.

Frenchtown Union Fire Company

BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN

Incorporated April 4, 1867

Borough Hall, Second Street
Frenchtown, N. J. 08825

Mayor

Benjamin M. Cooley

Clerk

Virginia A. Atheras

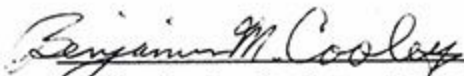
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Frenchtown Union Fire Company was Chartered 100 years ago on September 12, 1888, and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer Firefighters of this community have always contributed to the well-being of fellow residents and the welfare of all citizens by giving tirelessly of their time and energy without desire for recognition or remuneration of personal gain, and

WHEREAS, for 100 years these Firefighters have worked quietly, often unnoticed and unappreciated by the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Benjamin M. Cooley, Mayor of the Borough of Frenchtown do hereby proclaim June 4, 1988 as FRENCHTOWN UNION FIRE COMPANY DAY in the Borough of Frenchtown and I urge all citizens of the Borough to be aware of the contributions made by our Volunteer Fire Company and to participate in and support their various programs and projects.


Benjamin M. Cooley, Mayor

UNION FIRE COMPANY
ORIGINAL CHARTER MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1888

Wilbur Slack
Jonas B. Lyons
George W. Britton
Judson Hoff
G.L. Peer
William H. Moser
John W. Lancaster
Thomas Palmer
Simpson B. Lyons
John L. Roberson
Frank N. Slack
Thomas J. Lair
Lewis D. Roberson
Godfrey F. Hawk
H.C. Roberson
Charles E. Stahler
Oliver R. Keugler
W.L. Schaible
Christian Schiable
Samuel H. Stahler
George F. Bloom
William C. Apgar
Amos W. Stahler
Johnson Warford
John R. Hardon
Thomas W. Warford
Alfred Robinson
Charles B. Salter
George W. Hummer
C.H. Fulmer
William R. Shurk
Forrest Mathews
Josiah Butler
Demarest Robinson
Albert T. Palmer
Elmer Culver
George W. Eddy
Byron Hough

William S. Dalrymple
Peter C. Meeklin
Daniel D. Britton
Samuel O. Eddy
James N. Reading
Johnathan H. Chamberlin
John C. Osmun
Albert B. Hinkel
Walter McEntire
John H. Kline
Horace S. Wyker
Benjamin Phillkill
Chester Taylor
N.R. Sinclair
George W. Macawley
Geroge W.H. Lyons
Joseph G. Hough
Alfred Curtis
Gordon Richards
Howard Eilenburg
William H. Britton
Samuel R. Dalrymple
Preston Smith
Issac Taylor
Henry Loux
E.H. Jacobs
Edward W. Bloom
William H. Sipes
Charles White
Hugh S. Haney
L.D. Hagaman
Charles N. Reading
George L. Robinson
William M. Campbell
William O. Kachtine
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MEMBERS OF
UNION FIRE COMPANY NO. 1
STATION 11
1988

Bruce Adams *	Rebecca Joseph
James Agnew *	Edward Kirchner *
Michael Atheras	David Kish
Russell Barton	Theodore Klotz *
Walter Bird *	Kevin Kullman
Frank Bournias	Carol Laubach
Wilbur Broomell *	Frank Lukowski *
Edward Broomell *	Mark Madsen
Andrew Burke	Paul Madsen *
Benjamin Burke *	Arthur McCauley
John Butler *	Bruce Mitchell *
Wendy Cannon	Claude Mood *
Benjamin Cooley *	Timothy Myers
Howard Cooley *	Mark Olszyk
George Cottman *	Jack Opdyke
Frederick Deremer *	Robert Pinckney
Jim Drake	Doyle Pinkerton *
William Eddy *	Glenn Pursell *
Dale Ewald	Gary Reigle
William Godley *	Vincent Runyon *
Arthur Gordon *	Raymond Scheetz *
George Gregorchuk *	William Slack *
Hans Grouleff *	Carole Slotterback
David Hansen	James Slotterback
James Harper	Lear Slotterback
Deborah Harrison	John Smith III *
Kenneth Hartpence *	Lyle Smith
Patrick Hettman	Thomas Smith
Kerry Hornberger	Grover Snyder *
Glynn Hummer *	Jens Tange *
Herbert Hummer *	Charles Teats
Larry Hummer *	George Tinsman *
Wayne Hummer *	Glenn Valis
Thomas Hurst	Donald VanFossen *
David Johnson *	Forman Vansalous *
Wilbur Johnson *	Dr. Lawrence King **
Henry Joseph	Michael Kish **

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A small black and white silhouette of a car, possibly a truck or a van, positioned at the bottom right of the decorative frame.

HISTORY OF UNION FIRE COMPANY

1866 - 1888

by Bruce Mitchell
with Tex Coulton

Perhaps it was a feeling of patriotism. . . perhaps a renewed sense of the importance of community cooperation that came at the close of the Civil War that had threatened to tear our great nation apart, that moved the Borough Council under the leadership of Mayor Sam P. Hudnit to call a special meeting of the property owners in 1866 for the purpose of forming a fire company of volunteers. Whatever it was, 55 men responded to the call and by Feb. 1st 1866 the first fire company was formed in Frenchtown; "The Vigilant No. 1".

The name was derived from the hand pumper called Vigilant the Borough Council had purchased along with 500 feet of 2½ inch leather hose and a two wheeled hose cart.

On the morning of June 30th, 1878 the Vigilant was called out to the biggest fire recorded in Frenchtown history. The Vigilant refused to work (supposed to have been tampered with). A call was made to Lambertville and they responded with their new steamer saving several buildings left in the fire area. The fire engulfed buildings from west Second Street down Harrison Street to Bridge Street west to the river. After it was all over 25 homes and businesses were burned to the ground.

After the failure of the Vigilant to operate at the Great Fire the company disbanded. The citizens of Frenchtown tried to revive the company in November 1883 under the name "The Active Fire Company", with ten active members. But this only survived one year. Consequently from 1884 to 1888 the Borough was without fire protection.

Reorganization of the Present Fire Company

Early in the year of 1888 a meeting was held by a few citizens and Town Council in the printing office of the Hunterdon Independent, to find the ways and means for fire protection. A Fire Apparatus committee was formed who found a second hand Steam Fire Engine and Hose Cart. The apparatus was purchased on July 4, 1888 and tested out with 1000 feet of hose, "which proved satisfactory in every test". During tests in the following weeks however, the boiler tubes sprung leaks while pumping at the cemetery bridge on Trenton Avenue. The council approved the purchase of a new set of tubes at a price of \$1400.00 and the work was completed. With the new piece of equipment available, Mayor Wilbur Slack called a meeting September 10, 1888 for volunteers. A committee on enrollment was appointed and reported back on September 12, 1888.

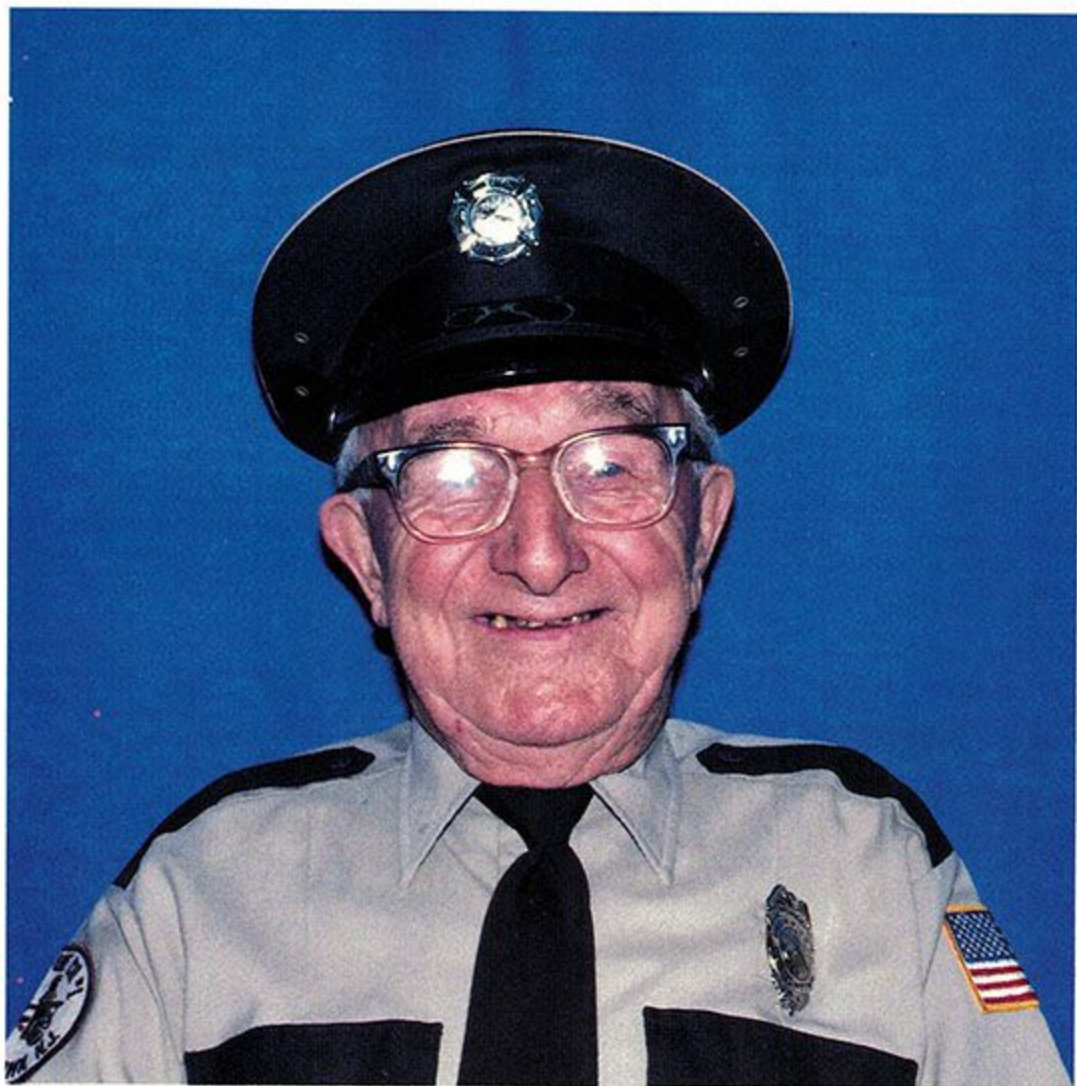
On September 12, 1888 The Union Fire Company No. 1 was organized and 60 new names enrolled as volunteer firemen with the following officers installed: President Wilbur Slack, Secretary Frank N. Slack, Treasurer Issac Taylor, Foreman Jonas B. Lyons, 1st Asst. Foreman Lewis D. Roberson, 2nd Asst. Foreman Judson Huff, Engineer Alfred Robinson, 1st Asst. Engineer William Britton, 2nd Asst. Engineer Demorest Robinson. (Note: the title of Foreman was the same as the title of Chief is today.)

This same year, the Fireman's Relief Association was organized, establishing insurance benefits for the volunteers.

The next twenty four years produced three large fires which taxed the courage and abilities of both the volunteers and the steamer. In 1916 a baby coach factory caught fire on West 7th Street where Krauss's company stands today. And on Jan. 20th, 1917 the Kerr Ice House burned. It stood along with ice ponds where H.J. Opdyke Lumber is now located.

Forman Vanselous
Parade Grand Marshal

85 year old Forman Vanselous is celebrating his 61st year as a member of the Union Fire Company. Forman joined the organization on February 1, 1927, when he was 24 years old. During his career in the company he held the office of president from 1937 to 1939. He also was a trustee of the Relief Association. Foreman worked for Kerr Hatchery 47 years until he retired in 1973.



Forman Vanselous

**CHIEF OFFICERS
CHIEF, ASSISTANT CHIEF & CAPTAIN**



**Kerry Hornberger
Chief**



**Andy Burke
Assistant Chief**



**Tom Hurst
Fire Captain**

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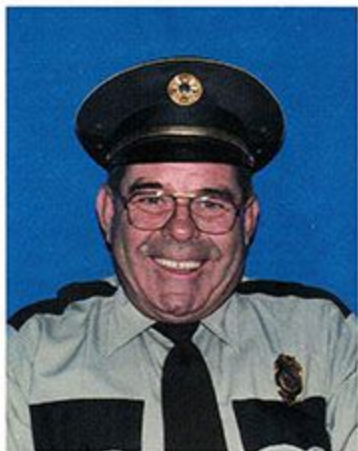
PAST CHIEFS UNION FIRE CO. NO. 1

1888 - 1890	Jonas Lyons	1919 - 1920	H.M. Sinclair
1891 - 1892	Lewis Roberson	1921 - 1922	J.P. Silverthorn
1893 - 1894	George Lyons	1923 - 1932	Emily B. Apgar
1895	William Schiable	1933 - 1935	Joseph Heisel
1896 - 1897	Smauel Heller	1936 - 1937	Raymond Loper
1898 - 1899	William Apgar	1938 - 1940	Earl Drake
1900 - 1901	Charles Shields	1941 - 1948	John Eichlin
1902	Reubin Silverthorn	1949	Chester Weatherford
1903	Elias L. Poore	1950 - 1954	William Eddy
1904	E.L. Moore	1955 - 1959	John M. Smith, Jr.
1905	P.W. Swick	1960 - 1965	Benjamin Cooley
1906	Issac Swick	1966 - 1969	Glen Pursell
1907 - 1908	John Aller	1970 - 1972	George Tinsman
1909 - 1910	C.E. Robinson	1973 - 1975	George Cottman
1911	E.C. White	1976 - 1981	Mark G. Madsen
1912	J.C. Hough	1982 - 1984	Robert Pinckney
1913 - 1914	J.C. Haney	1985 - 1986	Jack Opdyke
1915 - 1916	George W. Eddy	1987 -	Kerry Hornberger
1917 - 1918	R.D. Loper		

PAST CHIEFS ACTIVE NOW



Ben Cooley



Glenn Pursell



Mark Madsen



Bob Pinckney



Jack Opdyke

But, the most spectacular and saddening fire was the March 20, 1923 early morning blaze that burned the Hillside Academy, the Frenchtown public school housing grades K through 10, to the ground. (However, in each of these conflagrations the Union Fire Company responded quickly and efficiently). The fire was discovered about 7:00 a.m. and in little more than an hour the frame structure was "only a memory".

On November 14, 1923 a garage was purchased from William Carver for \$1200.00 for the purpose of housing the fire engine. It was located on Second Street where the present fire house with all its additions and improvements is today. With this "permanent" facility available for storage, additional equipment could be purchased. January 1924 was the addition of a Hale Motor Pumper to work along side the Union Steamer until it went out of commission 4 years later, October 12, 1925. This was after 40 years of service and a total of 48 fire alarms and "several false alarms".

Over the years our Hale Pumper was the only piece of equipment the Union Fire Company owned, until 1945 when we purchased a new Bulldog Mack pumper for \$2500.00. The 1924 Hale pumper was retired in 1945 being in service for 21 years.

During this period the biggest fire our Fire Company experienced was the Eddy Fire. On Friday May 3, 1940 the Fire Alarm was sounded at 6:30 a.m. and the company was called to a fire in Eddy's Hardware store on Bridge Street (presently the laundromat and carpet store). When it became apparent that danger of the fire might spread, the following companies were called; Milford, Riegelsville, Erwinna, Baptistown, Flemington, New Hope and Lambertville. The damage of the fire was estimated at \$50,000.00.

1947 was a year of commitment for our department and its Ladies' Auxiliary. On July 10th the Ladies Auxiliary talked about the purchase of an ambulance and kept talking about it until it became a reality. By September the fire company had donated \$100.00 towards its purchase and by February of 1948 the Ladies' Auxiliary had placed an order for a Cadillac ambulance with a \$200.00 down payment. March saw the fire company housing this life saving piece of equipment owned by the Ladies Auxiliary. A new dimension was added to the life of the Union Fire Company and its service to the community, which will be covered in more detail in a separate section.

Everyone who was alive in 1955 and lived in Pennsylvania and New Jersey remembers Hurricane Diane and the devastating flood it caused as the Delaware surged over its banks destroying bridges and homes throughout the Delaware Valley. Frenchtown was hit badly on August 18 and the Fire Company evacuated residents and pumped basements from flooded homes putting in more than 2000 man-hours in just 3 days and nights. We worked round the clock to help and preserve lives and property. On August 21st in the middle of the flood clean up, Kerr Hatcheries storage building caught fire and was extinguished by exhausted but committed members of the Union Fire Company.

In 1958 a new one-ton GMC Rescue truck was purchased from Pastore Chevrolet for \$3079.00 and in 1959 a new 2½ ton GMC front mount pumper was purchased for \$3189.71. Also purchased was a new motor for our rescue boat.

All of these purchases were financed through projects such as carnivals, dances, breakfasts and our annual fund drive.

Our biggest piece of equipment was purchased in 1965 from Mack Truck for \$24,975.00. This truck is a Mack CF95 1000 gallon per minute pumper, carrying 500 gallons of water. This unit is currently in service as our second out pumper.

During these years we experienced our first rescue at Devil's Tea Table south of Frenchtown; the first of many. Today we have developed a team of men capable of rock climbing and rappeling, the H.A.E.U. (High Angle Evac Unit) for such emergencies. We also fought

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PAST PRESIDENTS

UNION FIRE CO. NO. 1

1888 - 1890	Wilbur Slack	1937 - 1939	Foreman Vansalous
1891 - 1892	George W. Hummer	1940 - 1942	Vincent Stryker
1893 - 1894	Aaron P. Kachline	1943 - 1946	Wilson Case
1895 - 1896	Josiah Butler	1947 - 1948	Walter Bird
1897 - 1898	Edward Bloom	1949	John Higgins
1899 - 1900	Issac Swick	1950 - 1953	Wilbur Bromell
1901 - 1902	Charles B. Salter	1954 - 1955	George Gregorchuck
1903 - 1904	John Aller	1956 - 1957	Doyle Pinkerton
1905 - 1906	Charles Shields	1958 - 1959	James Agnew
1907	Harry J. Able	1960 - 1961	Richard Hughes
1908	Walter McIntyre	1962 - 1964	Edward Bromell
1909 - 1910	William P. Loper	1965	Edward Johnson
1911	E. W. Bloom	1966	Kenny Hartpence
1912 - 1913	Emily B. Apgar	1967 - 1969	Ben Burke
1914	Frank P. Ziegler	1970	Bruce Mitchell
1915 - 1916	E.G. Gilbert	1971	Donald VanFossen
1917	Oscar E. Brodrick	1972	Herb Hummer
1918	E.W. Bloom	1973	Lear Slotterback
1919 - 1920	Addie B. Snyder	1974	Evans Hewitt
1921 - 1922	H.M. Sinclair Sr.	1975	Herb Hummer
1923 - 1924	Oliver Hoffman	1976	George Cottman
1925 - 1926	Paul Cronce	1977 - 1978	Bruce Mitchell
1927	C.B. Salter	1979 - 1981	Larry Hummer
1928	H.H. Sinclair	1982	Grover Snyder
1929	Orren Weiss	1983	Larry Hummer
1930 - 1931	Harry Gulick	1984 - 1985	Mark Madsen
1932 - 1933	C.W. Johnson	1986	Bob Pinckney
1934 - 1935	J.R. Bennett	1987	Kevin Kullman
		1988	Jack Opdyke

PAST SECRETARIES

UNION FIRE CO. NO. 1

1888	Frank Slack
1889 - 1907	G.L. Peer
1908 - 1937	Walter McIntyre
1938 - 1952	H.H. Sinclair
1953 - 1956	Harry Gulick
1957 - 1959	Fred Deremer
1960	Wayne Gordon
1961 - 1987	Fred Deremer
1988	Bruce Mitchell

1988 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



Jack Opdyke
President



Bob Pinckney
Vice President



Bruce Mitchell
Secretary



Wendy Cannon
Treasurer

TRUSTEES & FINANCIAL CHAIRMAN



Mark Madsen
Trustee



Charles Teats
Trustee



Bob Pinckney
Trustee



Grover Snyder
Financial Chairman

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fires at the American Legion Home, March 17, 1965, Miller's Department Store, Milford, August 24, 1966 assisting the Milford Fire Department and the Mill Apartments in Mt. Pleasant on February 3, 1968. The mill apartments were rebuilt, but caught fire again in June of 1976 which again was fought by the Union Fire Company.

Over a period of twenty years, our company grew from one piece of fire equipment to two pumpers, service truck, rescue truck and an ambulance. In the next several years our company would see a big change in fire fighting and rescue squad equipment purchased. In 1975 a new ambulance was purchased and in 1977 and 1978 two new fire trucks were purchased, a 1978 Ford delivered in August 1978 and a 1978 GMC delivery in February 1979.

During the early 1970's the trustees were concerned about the condition of our Fire House building. Renovations were needed badly. In 1970 a new heating system was installed by our firefighters at a cost of \$2000.00. A crew of firefighters consisting of Herb Hummer, Bruce Mitchell, Ben Burke, George Tinsman and Bill Eddy worked every Sunday for three months until it was completed.

In 1972 a new roof was installed over the old roof on the engine room for \$950.00. A new ceiling was also installed in the engine room. In 1974 the firehouse kitchen was remodeled. Storm windows, walk-through doors, controls for heating, insulation, rain gutters and spouts, painting inside and out and renovation of bathrooms was also done.

All of these projects, as in the past, are financed by clam bakes, food baskets, blanket drives, chicken dinners to go, 52 week club and various other projects.

Our firemen and rescue squad not only assist in fires and rescue calls and drills but put a considerable amount of time in fund raising projects to support the company.

One of the most spectacular fires in our department's modern history was the Kerr Hatchery fire. On August 18, 1973 as Rev. Culton was bringing his newborn daughter home to the Presbyterian manse the Frenchtown Union Fire Company was summoned to the Kerr Hatchery building on Lott Street and Railroad Avenue in the Borough. First arriving firefighters found the entire second floor of the 100 foot by 100 foot building fully engulfed in flames. Despite efforts of the firefighters all of the building was lost except for the offices on the west side of the building. The radiant heat ignited a smaller building on the north side of the building and it was also lost. All of the garages and surrounding dwellings were saved by efforts from firefighters from Frenchtown, Milford, Kingwood, Flemington, Erwinna, Upper Black Eddy, and Quakertown. Damages were estimated at \$500,000.00 500,000 eggs and 50,000 chicks were lost in the blaze.

In 1976 the company decided new uniforms should be purchased as the old uniforms were in very bad shape. It was decided to purchase uniforms that were different than the standard blue uniforms most fire companies have and also of a lighter material for the convenience of summer marching. The men look very sharp in their brown uniforms marching along side our antique steamer in the various parades in which we compete.

Also, in 1976 all fire and rescue squad calls were turned over to be handled by the county communications system. This of course was and is a great convenience to our company. In the past all calls were handled by two or three individuals in the borough who took calls in their homes for rescue and then notified squad members of calls.

In 1977 a defibulator was purchased for the ambulance. Dr. King our local physician accompanied the ambulance when the defibulator was needed since an M.D. was the only person qualified to use it. Dr. King later was made an honorary member of our company for the time and cooperation he practiced with us.



Bruce Adams



James Agnew



Russell Barton



Frank Bournias



Edward Broomell



Andrew Burke



Benjamin Burke



Wendy Cannon



Benjamin Cooley



Frederick Deremer



Jim Drake



Dale Ewald



William Godley



Hans Grouleff



David Hansen



James Harper



Deborah Harrison



Kenneth Hartpence



Patrick Hettman



Kerry Hornberger



Glynn Hummer



Herbert Hummer



Larry Hummer



Thomas Hurst



Wilbur Johnson



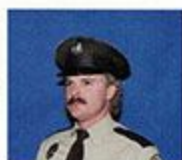
Henry Joseph



Rebecca Joseph



Edward Kirchner



David Kish



Kevin Kullman



Carol Laubach



Paul Madsen



Arthur McCauley



Bruce Mitchell



Timothy Myers



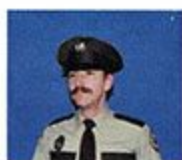
Mark Olszyk



Jack Opdyke



Glenn Pursell



Gary Reigle



Vincent Runyon



Carole Slotterback



James Slotterback



Lear Slotterback



John Smith III



Lyle Smith



Thomas Smith



Grover Snyder



Charles Teats

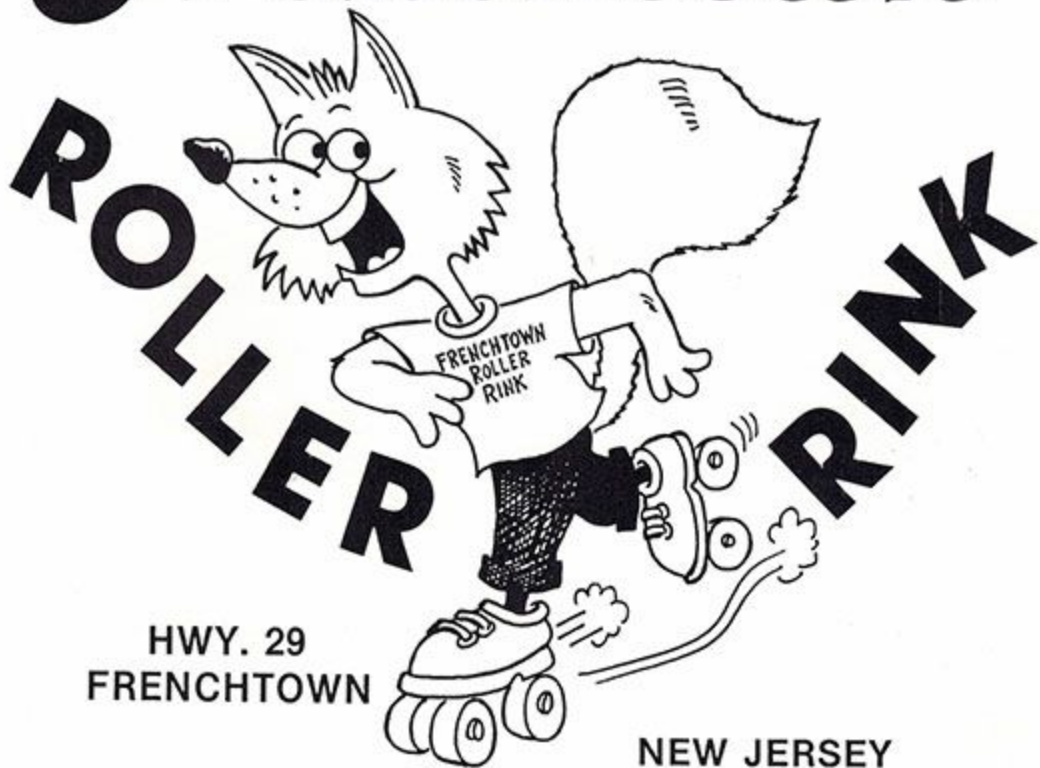


Glenn Valis



Forman Vanselous

Frenchtown



HWY. 29
FRENCHTOWN

NEW JERSEY

**Congratulations,
Union Fire Company, on your 100th Anniversary**

996-6313

"Call us for Special Parties"

1988
SQUAD OFFICERS



Tom Smith
Captain



Dale Ewald
Lieutenant



Wendy Cannon
Lieutenant



Jim Slotterback
Lieutenant

PAST RESCUE SQUAD CAPTAINS

1948	Walter Burd
1949	Claude Mood
1957	Claude Mood
1958	Dick Drake
	Ben Cooley
1959	Ed Johnson
1960	John Butler
1961	John Butler
1962	Ken Case
1963	Ken Case
1965	Ben Cooley
1966	Tom Dalrymple
1967	David Johnson
1968	David Johnson
1969	Lear Slotterback
1970	Glenn Pursell
1971	Lear Slotterback
1972	Lear Slotterback
1973	Bill Snyder
1974	Lear Slotterback
1975	Charles Teats
1976	Kerry Hornberger
1977	Jack Opdyke
1978	Jack Opdyke
1979	Jack Opdyke
	Bruce Adams
1980	Bruce Adams
1981	Charles Teats
1982	Lee Cavano
	Dale Ewald
1983	Ken Bush
1984	Pat Hettman
1985	Pat Hettman
1986	Pat Hettman
	Lear Slotterback
1987	Lear Slotterback
1988	Tom Smith

In 1978 our antique steamer needed a new boiler and four new wooded spoke wheels. The new boiler cost us \$3000.00 and the wheels were made by hand in Lancaster County, Pa. by the Amish people.

In 1979 the program of Junior firemen was instituted in the company. These younger firemen were not allowed to enter burning buildings or ride in the back of the fire trucks or ambulance but through education and other service could learn the art of fire and rescue.

In 1984 the borough donated the police car to be used as the fire company chief's car. It was repaired and painted and still used today. Also this year Mike Kish, one of the borough's part-time policemen and school teacher was made honorary member of the company for calls made with our rescue squad over the years when we were short of squad members at the time of the calls.

In 1986 our rescue calls were up 32% over the previous years. Today our rescue squad is a vital asset to the community as our citizen's recognize the need for an up to date and experienced squad to assist them in their time of need. Today, unlike several years ago, our fire and rescue squad members go through more advanced training to be qualified to help our community. We are dedicated people and give our time freely.

In 1973 our Fire Company decided to honor annually, an outstanding firefighter. The Chief was to choose this firefighter for his leadership, integrity, dedication and loyalty. The following are our recipients of the Firefighter of the Years awards: 1973 Herbert Hummer, 1974 Bruce Mitchell, 1975 Fred Dereemer, 1976 Jack Opdyke, 1977 John Smith III, 1978 George Cottman, 1979 Vincent Runyon, 1980 Larry Hummer, 1981 Charles Teats, 1982 Mark Madsen, 1983 Paul Madsen, 1984 Kerry Hornberger, 1985 Lear Slotterback, 1986 Robert Pinckney.

In 1987 purchases were made of a Jaws of Life and air bags at a cost of \$14,500.

Let's all hope the next hundred years will give us the leadership and courage needed to serve the community as it did the last hundred years and that our citizens will continue to be proud of and support their fire company.

Today the Union Fire Co. of Frenchtown consists of 78 members, 20 rescue personnel including a HEAU team, 15 auxiliary members, 2 junior members, 3 trucks, 1 boat, 1 ambulance and answers 75 fire calls and 250 rescue calls a year.

We weren't always this prosperous or well equipped. We started humbly, but honorably 100 years ago for the "purpose of saving life and property of our fellow citizens from fire", as the preamble to our constitution states, and have been striving to "live up" to it ever since. We think our history will show we've done just that, and with the help of God and the continued support of our community we hope to be doing it for another 100 years.

Some readers may think that the history of a fire company is simply a record of the fires it fought over a period of time, and that is surely a part of it. But it is more. It is a story of commitment and service donated to a community in order to make it a safe place to work and learn and live. It is a story of busy people taking the time to serve and receiving for their service fellowship with other company members, and gratitude from their community. It is a story of events surely, but it is also a story of the people who made the decision, gave the time and answered the calls.



Chiefs Car 1979 Ford LTD



Frenchtown Union Fire Co. & Rescue Squad 1988 In Service Fleet



Unit 11-62 1978 GMC Ward LaFrance, 1000 GPM Rescue/Pumper



Unit 11-63 1965 Mack CF 1000 GPM Pumper

FRENCHTOWN RESCUE SQUAD

BY LEAR SLOTTERBACK
WITH TEX COULTON

On July 10, 1947 the possibility of purchasing an ambulance was mentioned at a fire meeting. However it was the Ladies Auxiliary who took up the idea and made it into a reality. By Sept. of the same year the plans had materialized and the fire company donated \$100.00 towards the purchase of a "new" ambulance. By Feb. of 1948 the Ladies Auxiliary felt confident they could raise the money needed, \$6,876.76 to pay for a 1947 Hydromatic Cadillac Ambulance and placed an order with Hess and Eisenhart Ambulance Company.

This was a "state of the art" ambulance and came French Gray with propelled flasher light and siren, 2 flashing tunnel lights, air foam mattress on cot, safety locks on doors, backing up light, battery charger, heater and defroster! It was decided to "house" the ambulance at the fire company.

The Ladies Auxiliary appointed Walter Bird, as chief driver and signed up 14 others as drivers and attendants. These included Chester Robinson, Wilson Case, John Higgins, Martin Smith, Chester Weatherford, Wilbur Godown, Vincent Stryker, Claude Mood, Earl Drake, Irwin Taylor, William Eddy, Marvin Robinson, Howard Cooley & Joseph Conrad.

By June of 1955 the need for water rescue equipment was apparent and again the auxiliary committed to meeting this need and in Jan. of 1956 voted to purchase a boat and equipment for \$542.66.

Frenchtown was served by an ambulance and drivers for eight years until a committee was appointed to develop the plans for a rescue squad. Richard Drake, William Eddy, Fred Deremer and Kenneth Case did the groundwork and on Dec. 10, 1957 the Fire Company passed by-laws for a rescue squad. Red Cross first aid courses were taken, more attendants and drivers were added to the squad and a radio for communication was installed in the ambulance.

The next step forward was taken in Jan. of 1958 when a new Rescue Truck was ordered from Eichlin's for \$3,079.00. It was fitted out by Gold Crest Equipment Company and a committee of Fire Company members purchased the tools needed to make it effective. It was finished and put into service Jan. 14, 1959.

In the meantime the tireless Ladies Auxiliary raised the money and purchased a new ambulance for \$9500.00. They also took all the calls for ambulance and developed a schedule for ambulance drivers. Different members of the auxiliary would volunteer to take day or night calls for a year at a time and in turn call out the drivers and attendants. Their dedication should not go unproclaimed. Along with organizing and administering the squad's schedules, the Ladies Auxiliary purchased uniforms, equipment such as Ring Cutters, oxygen masks and plastic splints, straight jacket and scissor stretcher.

In 1966 the Ladies Auxiliary voted to transfer the ambulance and funds (\$6,500.00) accumulated for the update of equipment to the Fire Company. This became effective in Jan. 1967 with a vote of 23 for and 3 against. The Fire Company that same year purchased a 1967 Cadillac Ambulance for \$11,500.00. However the problem of alerting the drivers and attendants remained. It was thought that the fire whistle could be used to call out the Rescue Squad, but permission to use it was denied by the town council. There was discussion concerning the buying of an air horn (distinctive in sound from the fire whistle) or Instant Alerts. April 1969 40 Instant Alerts and a decoder were purchased for \$6,000.00. However the calls were still being taken by members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Another base station was needed for the Instant Alerts. It was set up at the Burke residence for \$650.00. This included the base, antenna, transmission lines and license. Four phones with the same number for ambulance calls were installed in the four homes of those who would take the calls.

The Rescue Squad was active in the years that followed, supported by the auxiliary. It answered calls, repaired its equipment, joined the 10th District, offered first aid classes, recruited members, purchased uniforms at \$12.75 each! By 1972 it was time for a new ambulance. After quite a bit of research and discussion, the first modular type ambulance in Hunterdon County was contracted for \$18,500.00 complete. The new ambulance would not be ready for service until Aug. 1974. The old ambulance was sold to Fountain Hill Rescue Squad for \$800.00, but the old rescue truck was retained. The base station was moved to Ruth Madsen's during this year.

Prior to this calls were handled by individuals with phones in their homes. At first there was one person taking day calls and one person taking night calls. When a call was received, the dispatcher would make calls from a list of firemen until there were enough personnel to send out the ambulance.

The next step was to divide the days and nights between four dispatchers to better insure 24 hour coverage.

The third step was the purchase of home alerts and encoders and base stations in private homes. This step eliminated the calling of individual members.

The final step was signing with Hunterdon Communication, which had 24 hour dispatching and more powerful radios. The alert was speedier and assured better service from the rescue squad to the community. For 28 years the members of the Auxiliary insured the health care of the community 24 hours a day by taking calls and alerting the rescue squad. Surely this kind of unheralded service can define the meaning of the commitment to all of us.

By Feb. 1975 the need for a more effective communication system was apparent. It was decided to join Hunterdon Communication at no cost to the Fire Company.

The first defibulator for an ambulance in Hunterdon County was purchased after an ambitious fund raising campaign. Dr. King had been assisting in the field and was qualified to use such equipment if it were available. Frenchtown Rescue was not looking to be first, only to meet a growing need in the community.



Unit 11-64 1978 Ford Ward LaFrance 1000 GPM Pumper



Unit 11-51 1982 Ford Econoline / P & L Body Co. Ambulance



1874 Clapp & Jones 500 GPM Steam Driven Fire Engine

Reading the minutes of the Rescue Squad is like reading an honor-roll scroll on a war monument. The reader knows the time (thousands of man-hours), energy and hard work, training and studying, and dedication it took to keep the Rescue Squad vital and effective. Every time a road was repaved, a plan to by-pass and offer service had to be in place. Equipment had to be repaired and updated. Schedules had to be arranged to provide maximum coverage and money raised to pay for it all. The cooperative work of the members and the auxiliary is nothing less than miraculous.

As time passed, new regulations required extensive training for squad members, E.M.T. training, C.P.R., Auto extraction and childbirth classes. Many people had helped the squad who were not actually members. So in 1981 Dr. Larry King was voted a life member and in 1984 Mike Kish was made a life member.

The ambulance that is now in service cost \$40,000.00 with a trade in and was purchased in Aug. of 1982. A far cry from the first that was acquired some 34 years earlier. Between 1982 and 1987 a computer was added to the equipment at the squad bay, a new Hewlett Packard defibulator was purchased for \$5,995.00 and the older model was donated to Dr. King for use in his office. The last important purchase was Oct. 1987 when "Jaws of Life" hydraulic rescue tools and air bag system was acquired from Holmatro Company for \$14,233.00.

The Rescue Squad has served Frenchtown and surrounding community well for 40 years and looks forward to another 40. There's nothing as satisfying as serving your neighbor!

COMPANY MEMBERS WHO TOOK AMBULANCE CALLS:

Dorothy Drake
Dot Kircher
Joan Deremer
Ruth Robinson
Doris Case
Rhelda Cooley

Bess Broomell
Sonja Mitchell
JoAnn Burke
Frieda Hummer
Wilbur Broomell

Base Stations

Ben Burke

Ruth Madsen

LADIES AUXILIARY CHARTER MEMBERS

Helen Cooley
Bessie Runyon
Lucy Cronce
Mildred Grouleff
Edith Smith

Geneva Eichlin
Elizabeth Taylor
Ida Mae Gulick
Marie Higgins
Beatrice Case

Bessie Broomell

LADIES AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERS

Dot Drake
Vivian Eddy
Bea Knechel

Minerva Weatherford
Edna Hartpence
Hazel Drake

1988 LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

JoAnn Burke
Ruth Hummer
Frieda Hummer
Sonja Mitchell - Vice President
Lynn Teats
Gayla Snyder - President
Marilyn Hornberger

Jan Hummer
Sherry Hummer
Verna Pursell
Marie Pinckney
Kim Ward - Treasurer
Donna Myers - Secretary
Kathy Becker

1988
LADIES AUXILIARY



Gayla Snyder
President



Donna Myers
Secretary



Kim Ward
Treasurer



Cathy Becker



Merle Hornberger



Jan Hummer



Ruth Hummer



Sherry Hummer



Lynn Teats

HISTORY OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF FRENCHTOWN UNION FIRE CO.

By Gayla Snyder

The Organization known as the Ladies Auxiliary of the Frenchtown Fire Company was founded in the home of Geneva Eichlin on May 2, 1945. The following 11 women were present at that meeting. Helen Cooley, Bessie Runyon, Lucy Cronce, Mildred Grouleff, Elizabeth Taylor, Ida Mae Gulick, Marie Higgins, Edith Smith, Beatrice Case, Geneva Eichlin, and Bessie Bromell.

At this meeting officers were elected they were, President Geneva Eichlin, Vice President Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary Treasurer Bessie Bromell.

Also at this meeting a committee was appointed to draw up by laws for which the organization was to follow. Dues were decided at 25 cents and the meeting time would be 8:00 pm.

By the second meeting six more women joined: Frances Opdyke, Freda Godown, Beatrice Bird, Elizabeth Search, Hazel Drake, and Carrie Cooley.

With a team of 17 women they planned fund raisers one right after another. These fund raisers ranged from selling chances for a bond, to covered dish suppers, card parties, bingo, food stands at carnivals and parades and many other things.

Each month brought more members and fund raisers, and with the treasury growing the ladies decided to put it to good use. Over the years there have been several ambulances purchases as well as many other important pieces of equipment used by the Rescue Squad and Fire Company.

PAST AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Geneva Eichlin	May 1945 - Oct. 1960
Doratheia Drake	Nov. 1960 - Oct. 1962
Bessie Bromell	Nov. 1962 - Oct. 1965
Joann Burke	Nov. 1965 - Oct. 1967
Jerry Hartpence	Nov. 1967 - Oct. 1969
Freida Hummer	Nov. 1969 - Oct. 1972
Priscilla Cottman	Nov. 1972 - Oct. 1973
Minerva Weatherford	Nov. 1973 - Oct. 1975
Sherry Hummer	Nov. 1975 - Oct. 1977
Cathy Van Fossen	Nov. 1977 - Oct. 1979
Marie Pinckney	Nov. 1979 - Oct. 1982
Sherry Kish	Nov. 1982 - Oct. 1985
Gayla Snyder	Nov. 1985 - Present

Through the years we have tried to be as supportive and helpful to the Fire Company as we can be and also tried to have our fun in the process.

Our Organization is open to the public, both male and female, ages 18 and up. So if you feel like having fun and helping with a worthwhile cause, feel free to come join us. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the fire house on Second Street. Come join the fun.

OUR STEAMER

By Bruce Mitchell

In 1888 a Clapp & Jones steamer was purchased second hand for \$1400.00. It was in service for 40 years answering 48 fires and several false alarms before it was put into storage to make way for a new motorized piece of equipment.

Over the years our steamer was stored in various buildings throughout town. The Borough Council decided to give the steamer to the Fire Company in 1954 with the stipulation it was not to be sold without the consent of council.

In May of 1971 the steamer was taken to Trenton to be restored. Ralph Brown Antique Auto Restoration was to do the work. No estimate was given as Mr. Brown could not tell what he would run into as this was the oldest steamer he had ever seen and because of the age of the steamer it would be hard to replace or even find new parts.

After almost a year our steamer was returned to Frenchtown completely restored. The cost was close to \$20,000. The company never imagined such an expense, however, it was financed totally by the company through its fund raising efforts with no tax money from the borough.

The following companies were involved in restoring our steamer:

Nickel Plating - Bills' Metal Polishing, Magnolia, NJ
New Seat - Kisthardts, Trenton, NJ
Leather Work - Kline & Sauage, Philadelphia, PA
New Suction Hose - Goodall Rubber, Newark, NJ
New Tubes (182) - Murray Tubes, Union, NJ
Machine Work - Dave Baldwin, Trenton, NJ
Gold Striping - J.D. Lesh Signs, Trenton, NJ
New Spoked Wheels - Amish Family, Blue Ball, PA

Since the return of our steamer, we have participated in numerous parades throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We also have put on demonstrations on pumping in Philadelphia, Allentown, and Princeton. Our meeting room at the fire house is full of first place trophies and citations. Our dream is to have a building suitable to display this piece of restored history that has held such an important place in the life of Frenchtown so that everyone can experience the joy that comes from viewing and reliving history.



1973, The Kerrs Hatchery Blaze.



Smoldering remains of the 1973 Kerrs Hatchery Fire.



May 5, 1982, An Arson Fire leveled the Hinchman Barn between lower Sixth and Seventh Street.



Bottom row, left to right: Lear Slotterback, Mark Madsen, Pat Hettman; top row, left to right: Andy Burke, Dave Hansen, Kevin Kullman, Wendy Cannon.

FRENCHTOWN RESCUE SQUAD HIGH ANGLE EVAC UNIT

The Frenchtown Rescue High Angle Evac Unit is an elite group of people, drawn from the membership of the Frenchtown Fire Co. & Rescue Squad. Due to the high cliffs in our response area and the lure of the Devils Tea Table to some people, the Rescue Squad was prompted to organize a professionally trained rescue unit. For many years prior to HAEU the Fire Company and Rescue Squad were called upon to rescue victims who fell from these cliffs. The job was always accomplished, however being professionals we realized that we did not have the expertise or the equipment to complete these rescues with safety for the victim and ourselves.

This specialty unit was formally organized in the fall of 1986. The purpose of the unit is to safely locate, treat and evacuate victims from precarious locations. Some examples of these locations might include high cliffs, trees, farm silos, towers and any area that is inaccessible for normal rescue procedures. The team has an average of seven drills annually and devotes approximately 350 man hours per year to training. The training over the years has come from professional cave rescue personnel and rock climbers, however a great majority of our training has come from the member's trying new ideas and procedures during these drills.

The team has made itself available to all local Police Departments, Fire Departments and Rescue Squads to assist them in difficult High Angle Rescues. Frenchtown HAEU is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to HAEU work the teams members participate in all aspects of normal Firefighting duties and Rescue Squad duties. The members of HAEU are all volunteers and must maintain standards in order to remain in the unit.

The Members of Frenchtown Rescue HAEU

Andrew Burke
James Slotterback
Lear Slotterback
Wendy Cannon
Patrick Hettman
Jack Opdyke
Tim Myers

Kevin Kullman
Glen Valis
Dale Ewald
Deborah Harrison
David Kish
Mark Madsen
David Hansen



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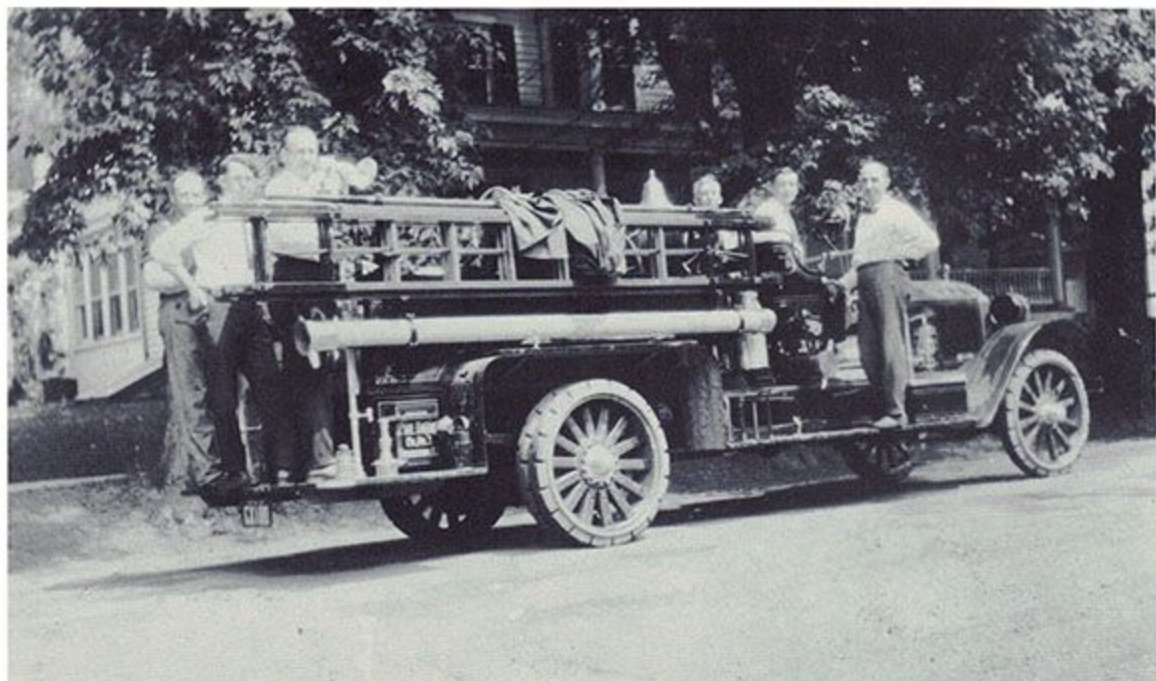
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Frenchtown, NJ
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Mary Lou Carhart

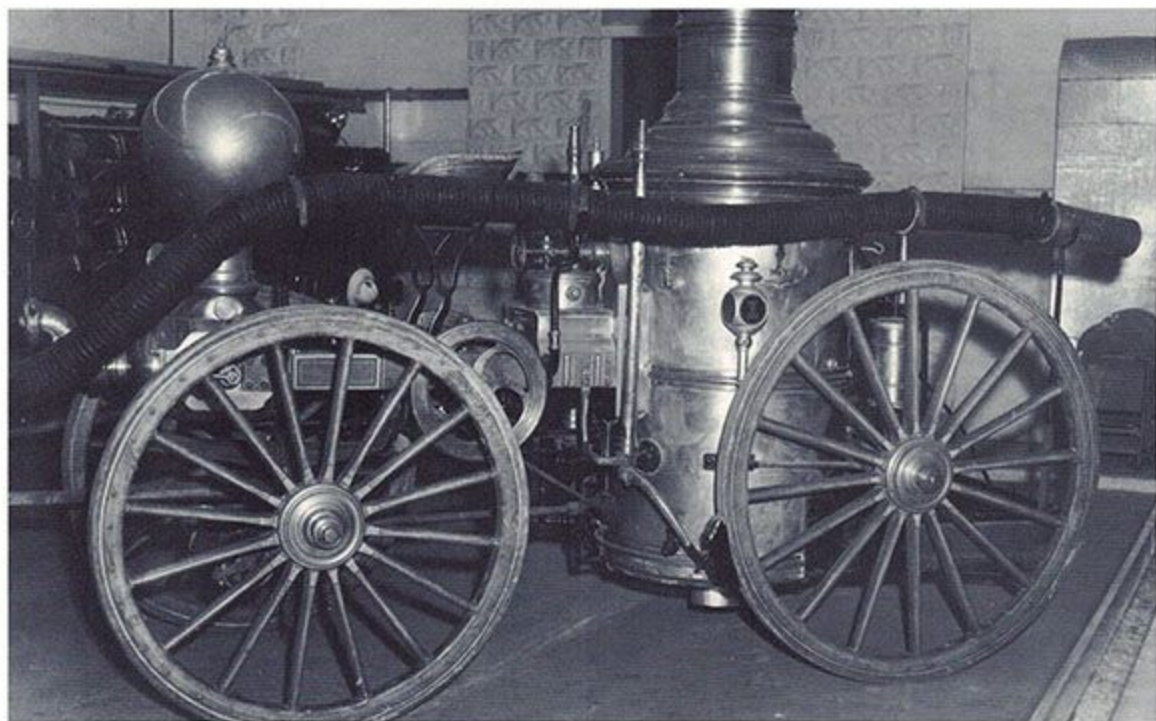
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Congratulations On Your 100th

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1929 Hale Pumper, Driving George Eddy; Emily Apgar; Dale Opdyke; Russell Bloom; Arthur Britton; Steve Scheetz. (Photo courtesy of Loretta Cronce)



1874 Clapp and Jones Steamer before being restored.



May 1940, Eddys Hardware Store Blaze.
(Photo Courtesy of Higgins Photo)



1960, Firefighters battle a blaze at Mt. Pleasant Mill fire.



A second view of the Eddy Hardware Fire.

HISTORIC PHOTOS were taken on May 3, 1940, when a big fire did heavy damage to Eddy's Hardware building on Bridge Street in Frenchtown.

According to the Delaware Valley News, damages were estimated to be \$50,000 — in 1940 dollars — and 11 fire companies fought the blaze. At one point, it was reported, firemen were pouring as much as 3,000 gallons of water per minute into the building, running hoses from two nearby hydrants, as well as from Nishisakawick Creek and even the Delaware River.

The quick action the Frenchtown Fire Co., which responded within minutes of the 6 a.m. alarm, saved the town "from a possible major conflagration," said Mayor Hugh M. Sinclair.

The News described the Eddy Hardware fire as Frenchtown's biggest since the 1878 disaster in which the entire block from the bridge to Harrison Street on the north side of Bridge Street was destroyed by fire.

"About 500 people gathered at the scene, some attired only in pajamas and house coats under their other coats," it was reported. "One fireman reported with very scant clothing under a raincoat.

"Members of the Odd Fellows, under direction of Frank B. Opdyke, served coffee and sandwiches to the firemen from the front porch of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbour Johnson on Bridge Street, directly across from the Eddy store."



Route 202, Three Bridges, New Jersey 08887 201-782-2277

Perhaps the most unheralded of the public servants is the volunteer fireman. What motivates a person to be on call 24 hours a day may be one of the mysteries of life. Whatever it is, a lot of life and property has been saved because of it.

Some of the best volunteer fire departments are right here in Hunterdon County. In addition to fighting fires, training and maintaining their equipment, they have many fund raising activities to buy equipment for your protection.

Our Congratulations to the Union Fire Co. of Frenchtown for their 100 years of service to the community.

HEATER'S GENERAL STORE

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1976, Members pose for a company photograph in front of the 1874 Clapp and Jones Steamer. This was the first outing for the new brown uniforms. Front Row Left to Right: Brett Seip; Dale Ewald; David Kish; Gary Reigle; Glenn Pursell; Tom Knapp; Bruce Adams; Chief Mark Madsen; Ed Broomell. Second Row Left to Right: George Tinsman; Kerry Hornberger; Don VanFossen; Fred Weaver; Lear Slotterback; Vincent Runyon; Bruce Mitchell; Ed Johnson; Jack Opdyke; George Cottman; Charles Teats. Top Row Left to Right: Harm Pump; Tom Hurst; Dennis Hart; David Johnson; Wayne Hummer; Evans Hewitt; Assistant Chief Grover Snyder; Larry Hummer; Fred Deremer; Ben Burke; John Smith III. John McNally seated on Steamer.

CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR

100th Anniversary

☆ CENTRAL PAPER COMPANY ☆

1004 Whitehead Road Extension · Trenton, New Jersey 08638

The Early Days — Courtesy Delaware Valley News

FRENCHTOWN'S FIRE ENGINES

By Jane Wyckoff

Few fire companies in the Delaware Valley can boast a finer example of historical fire-fighting equipment than Union Volunteer Fire Company of Frenchtown, with its 90-year-old steamer.

Inactive now, the steam fire engine remains a prized possession.

She served dependably for more than three decades, and many former firemen tell of how quickly steam could be gotten up in the boiler (fueled by soft coal), and how the steamer could outpump some gas engines.

This record of achievement makes up for the rather disastrous failure of Frenchtown's first piece of fire apparatus.

That was a double-decker, hand-operated engine named—perhaps too optimistically—"Vigilant." It was bought shortly after Frenchtown incorporated as a borough in 1868.

"Vigilant" apparently did all right at some fires. Early records tell of one she fought at one of Frenchtown's old spoke mills. . . another in a big pile of cordwood stacked beside the railroad tracks at the northern limits of town for the wood-burning locomotives of that day.

And "Vigilant" did right by the neighbors, going to a sizeable blaze in Milford, and across the river to a series of barn fires on the Michael Uhler farm.

But one night in June, 1878—at 12:50 a.m. on June 29—a small barn caught fire in the central part of Frenchtown. Before it was over, the fire had destroyed several homes and business buildings, including the local photograph gallery, and the building that housed Frenchtown's first newspaper, the Press.

That crucial night, "Vigilant" broke down and proved useless. Then, and until this century, Frenchtown had no water company. Wells, cisterns, ponds, creeks and the river were the sources of water supply, and most fire-fighting was by bucket-brigade. Something more than a hand pump on wheels was needed.

Within 10 years of Frenchtown's big fire, the borough government recognized the need for a modern piece of equipment.

Mayor Wilbur Slack named a committee—Alfred Robinson and Councilman George M. Britton and Jonas Lyons—to look into the problem.

On June 18, 1888, they reported to council:

"We, your committee, having investigated the matter of better fire protection, deem it advisable to procure a steam fire engine, 1,000 feet of hose, and hose cart.

"We recommend the purchase of the engine, hose and hose cart, now on sale by Clapp and Jones, Hudson, N.Y., fully guaranteed, price \$1,900."

Council approved the proposal, and a fire company—Union Volunteer—was soon organized. On Sept. 10, 1888, the organization meeting resulted in the election of Mayor Slack as president, George W. Hummer as vice president, G.L. Peer as secretary and Isaac Taylor as treasurer. The first foreman was Jonas Lyons, and the assistants, L.D. Robinson and Joseph Hoff. Alfred Roberson was engineer, and his assistants were Demarest Robinson and Charles White.

The engine wasn't called out until March 28, 1889. That was to a wood shed fire on the William Sipes property on the River road. A few days later, the engine was taken to a house fire at Moses Styrker's in Milford.

In those days, the steamer was hauled by horses, but she continued right on into the days of automobiles and trucks.

It was, in fact, a motor vehicle that rushed the steamer to what was probably her biggest fire, at the Kerr ice houses north of Twelfth Street, Frenchtown, the night of Jan. 20, 1917. The "automobile" was owned by T.W. Zielstorff, then one of Frenchtown's first automotive mechanics.

The alarm was sounded first by the siren on the municipal electric plan that existed then.

But by then, recounts a newsman of the day, "the fire had already partly destroyed the sawmill at one end of which was located the boiler and engine that furnished power to the sawmill and the ice elevator.

Almost Destroyed

"When the engine arrived, the sawmill was almost destroyed and the fire had crept up the elevator and into the first of four "bents" or connected icehouses.

"No fireplug was available as the building is located out of the borough limits, so the engine was backed down a hill toward the nearest corner of the ice pond, but was quickly withdrawn, the firemen being of the opinion that to stand the engine on the side hill so close to the corner between the two burning buildings was courting disaster from the possible fall of the huge wall with a mountain of ice behind it."

Four ice houses were "burned away," however—though they left behind them great piles of still-frozen, stacked ice. Nothing remains of that extensive ice-cutting and storing operation today.

Elijah R. Case had started the business many years before, cutting ice from ponds on his property. Some Frenchtowners recall that he never cut ice less than nine inches thick, and had as many as three crops a year. Case also ran a sawmill on the place. L.S.D. Kerr bought the business in 1916, and after his death, it was operated by his son, R.W. Kerr.

Such landmarks are gone, but the old steamer still stands as a landmark of its own in Frenchtown fire-fighting history.

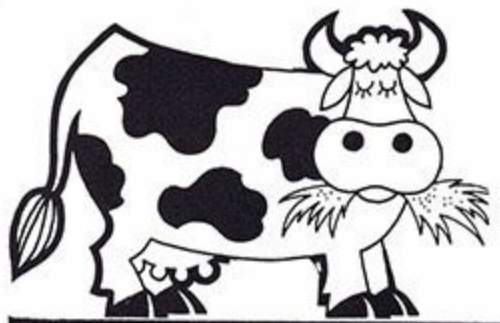
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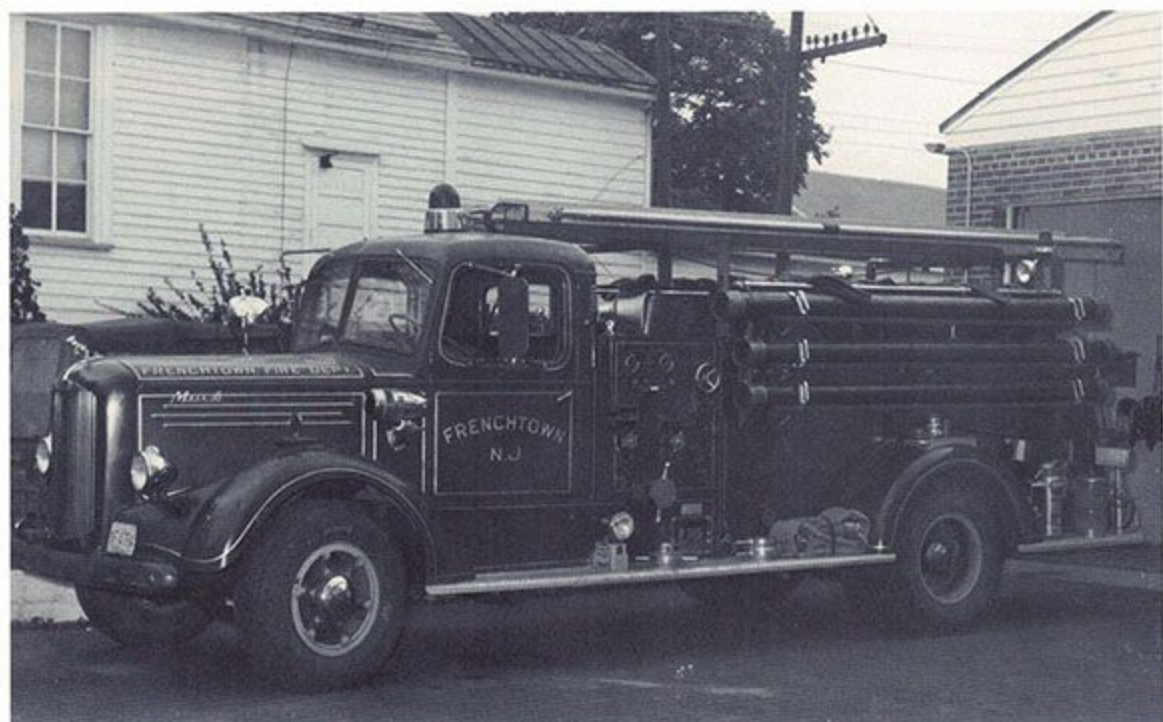
ATLANTIC.

24 HR. EMERGENCY SERVICE

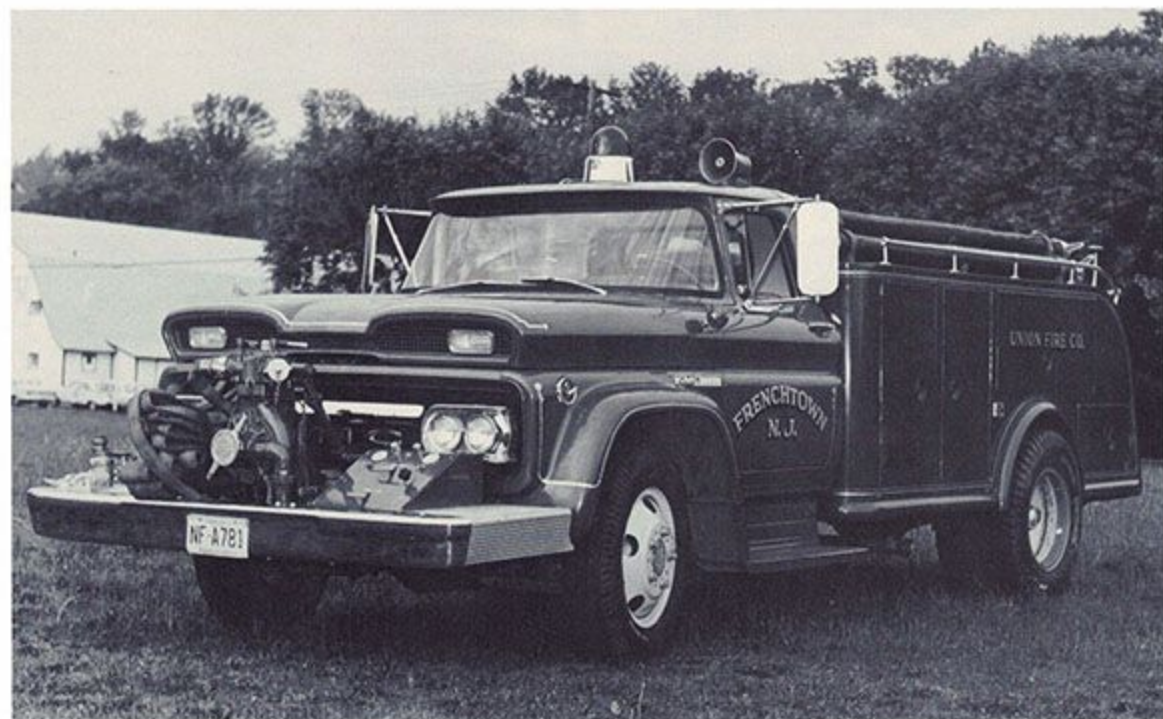
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MILFORD-FRENCHTOWN RD., MILFORD, N.J. 08848
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Owner - Thomas Holzworth
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1945 Mack, 750 Gallon Per Minute Pumper.



1960 GMC 500 GPM Front Mount Pumper.



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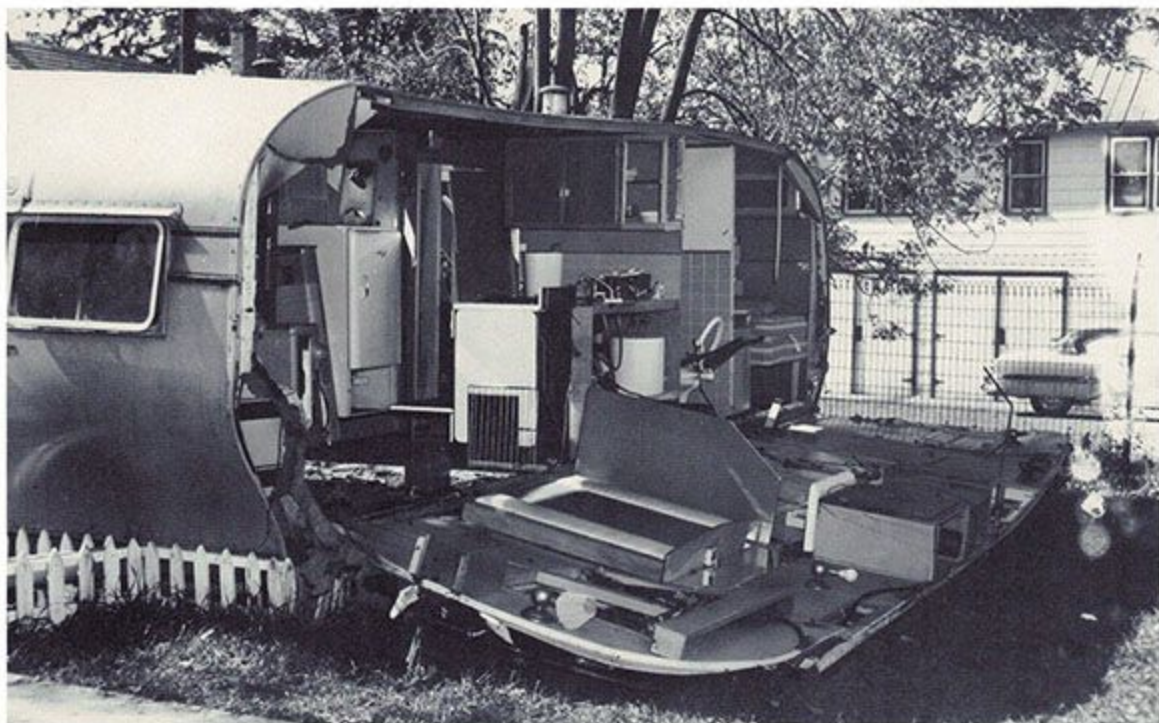
&

Best Wishes

THE MILFORD N.J. FIRE CO., INC.



1954, Fire at Ed Lott's on South Harrison St.



Washington Street Trailer Gas Explosion took the life of Ed Skillman on Oct. 24, 1954.



Dec. 19, 1984, A well drilling companies truck whose brakes failed coming down Kingwood Avenue, plowed into the front of the National Hotel.



An inside photo of the truck into The National Hotel.

UNION FIRE CO. NO. 1
FRENCHTOWN, N.J.
ORGANIZED 1888
FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Herb Hummer - 1973
Bruce Mitchell - 1974
Fred Deremer - 1975
Jack Opdyke - 1976
John Smith III - 1977
George Cottman - 1978
Vincent Runyon - 1979
Larry Hummer - 1980
Charles Teats - 1981
Mark Madsen - 1982
Paul Madsen - 1983
Kerry Hornberger - 1984
Lear Slotterback - 1985
Robert Pinckney - 1986
Tom Hurst - 1987



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1954, Members at a fund drive. Left to Right; Bill Eddy; Ken Hartpence; Irv Knechel; John Higgins.



1972, Flemington Fair, members assemble with newly restored steamer. Left to Right top Row; Vincent Runyon; Lear Slotterback; Bruce Adams; Evans Hewitt; Grover Snyder; Eric Zeh; Fred Dereemer; Herb Hummer. Bottom Row left to right; George Tinsman Jr., Chief; Ed Brommell; Bruce Mitchell; John Butler, Asst. Chief.



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1962, Members installing Christmas Lights on Bridge Street.



Oct. 1954, Hurricane damage to a dwelling on upper Third Street.

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Church Road
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W. Edward Johnson, Jr., Mgr.



1955, Construction continues on the new Firehouse addition.



1960, Members assembled by steamer, left to right kneeling; B. Godley; D. Pinkerton; W. Hillpot; R. Drake; J. Smith; R. Hughes; J. Agnew; W. Eddy. Standing left to right; K. Case; S. Risley; T. Phillips; R. Scheetz; G. Gregorchuck; C. Weatherford; F. Deremer; V. Runyon; H. Thatcher; E. Kirchner. Sitting in seat; Sy Taylor.

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Judson Hoff
Charter Member
1888 - 1928

John R. Eichlin
Member 1939 - 1972
Chief 1941 - 1948

Geneva Eichlin
Charter Member
Fire Co. Ladies Aux. 1945 - 1976

Chester M. Weatherford
Member 1946 - 1976
Chief 1949 - 1950



July 1957. Members John Smith and Dick Drake test new base station.

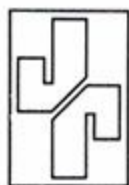


June 1967. Fire Company Members pose for a portrait during the Frenchtown Borough Centennial. Front Row Left to Right; George Tinsman; Chet Weatherford; Bill Eddy; Glenn Pursell; Jonas Haney; Ben Cooley; John Smith; Theodore Phillips.

Middle Row Left to Right; Ben Burke; Ted Klotz; Claude Mood; Doug Pinkerton; Bob Bittenmaster; Eric Zeh; Kenny Hartpence; George Cottman; Larry Hartpence; Fred Dereemer; Bill Godley; Vincent Runyon; Ed Broomell.

Back Row Left to Right; Herb Hummer; Joe Roethel; Huck Carver; Frank Lukowski; Jens Tange; Paul Crance; J. Martin Smith; Joe Konrad; Earl Drake; Tom Stryker; Bill Broomell; Tom Dalrymple; Dick Drake; Wayne Gordon.

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1956, Fire Co. Members and Auxiliary cleaning the 1947 Cadillac ambulance.



Bess Bromell of the Ladies Auxiliary presenting Memorial Plaque to Ben Cooley and Edward Bromell, 1955.

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wherever flames may rage,
give me the strength to save some life
whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late,
or save an older person
from the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert,
to hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently
put the fire out.

I want to serve my calling,
to give the best in me,
to guard my every neighbor
and protect his property.

And if according to Thy will
I have to lose my life,
please God,
bless with your protecting hands,
my children and my wife.

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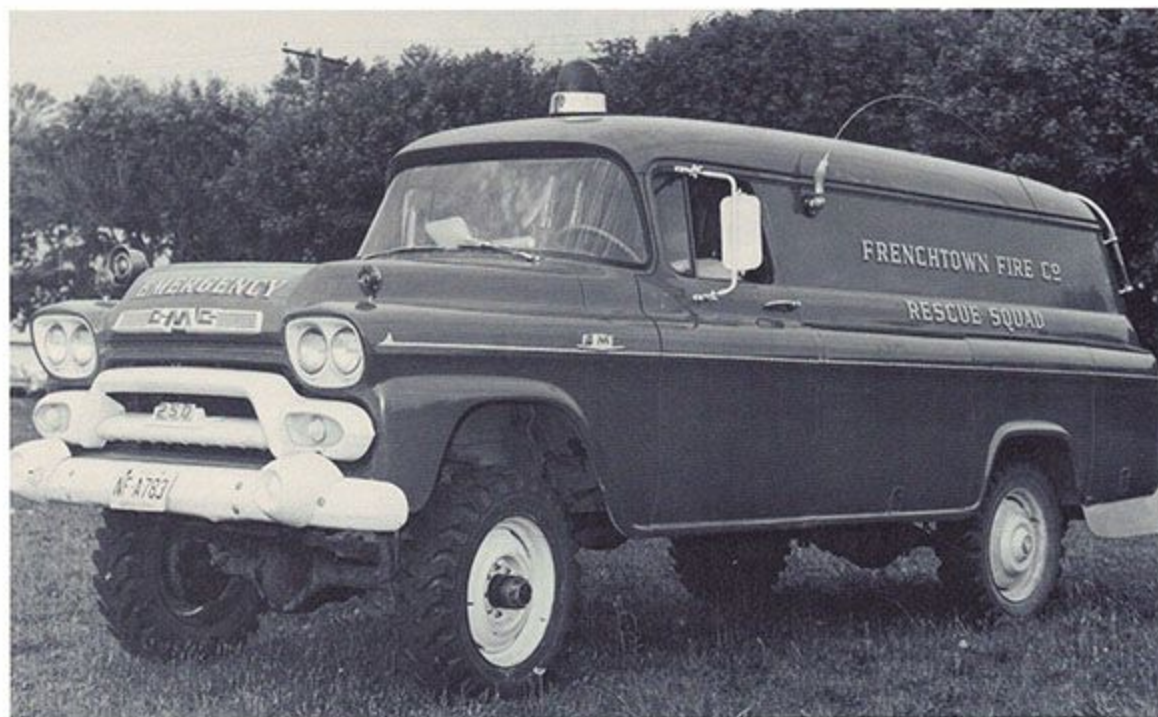
Fred and Eileen Thorpe

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August 1956, Train Wreck on Lower Seventh Street caused \$40,000 dollars in damage.

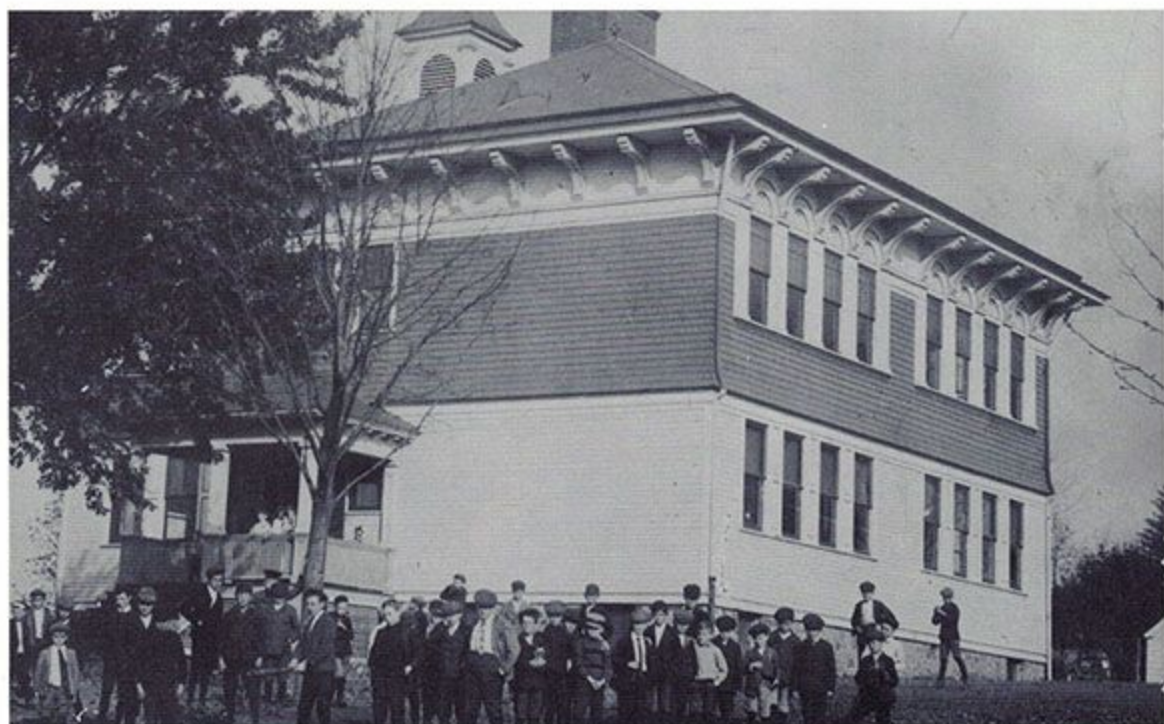


1958 GMC Four Wheel Drive Rescue Truck.

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Hillside Academy during the turn of the century.



1890. Members pose beside Steamer in front of what is now the Borough Hall.



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1958 Cadillac Ambulance.

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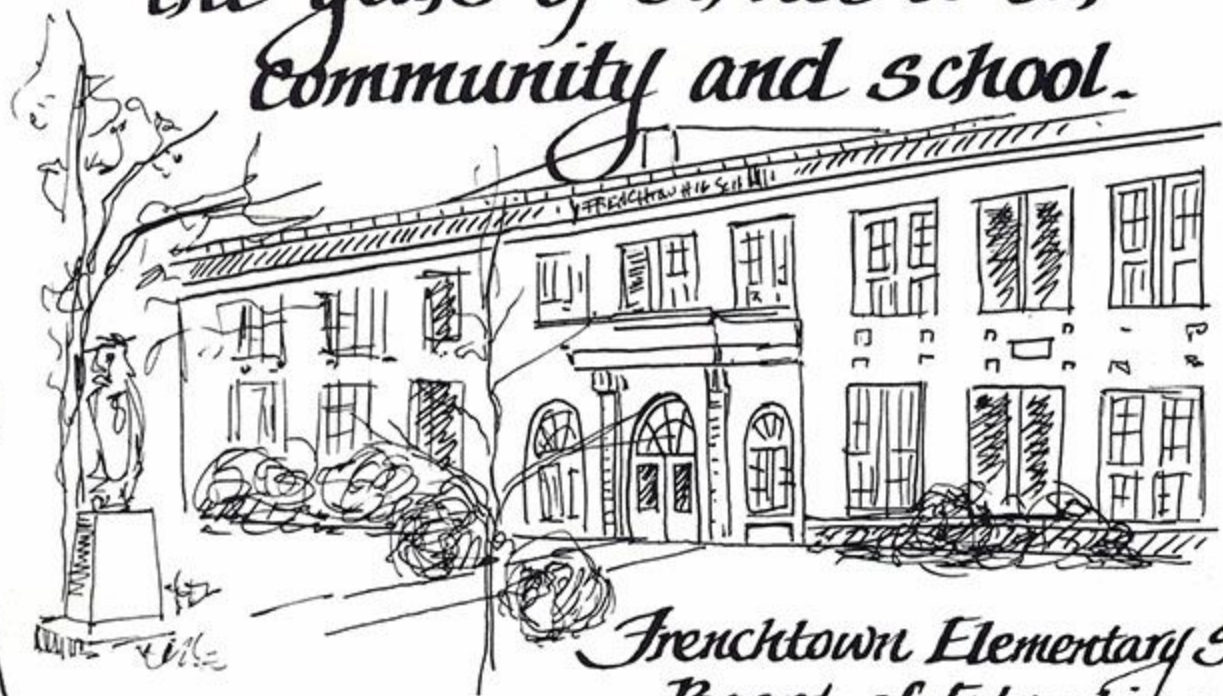
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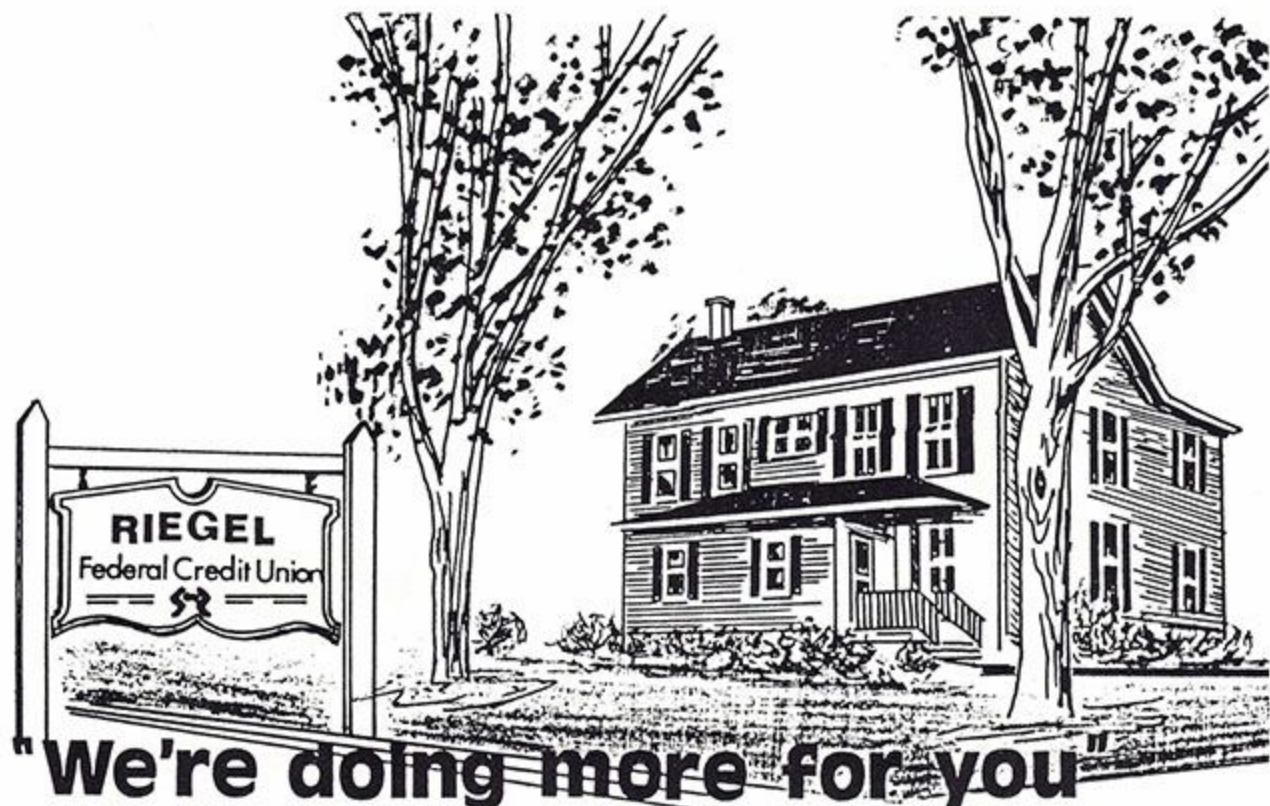
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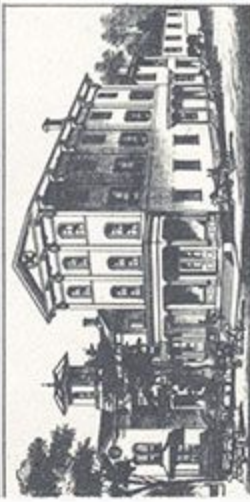
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1883 Graphic Map of Frenchtown Borough.