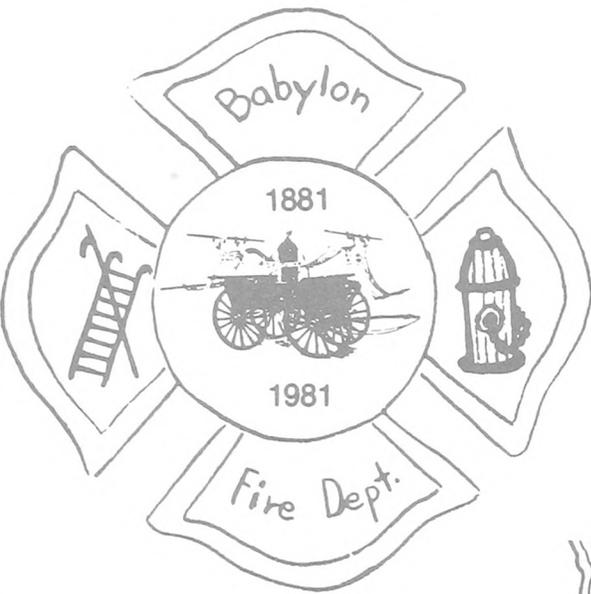
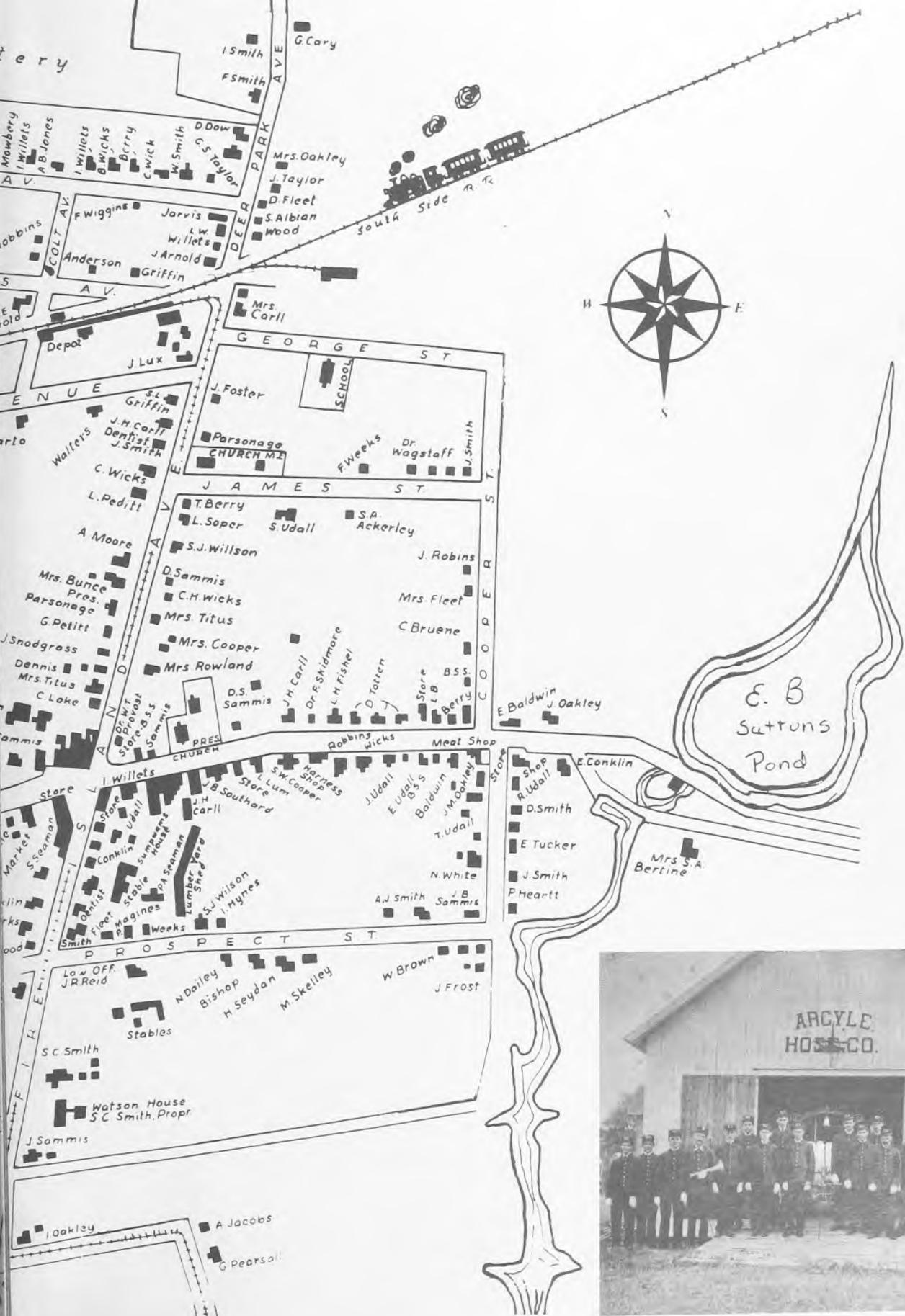
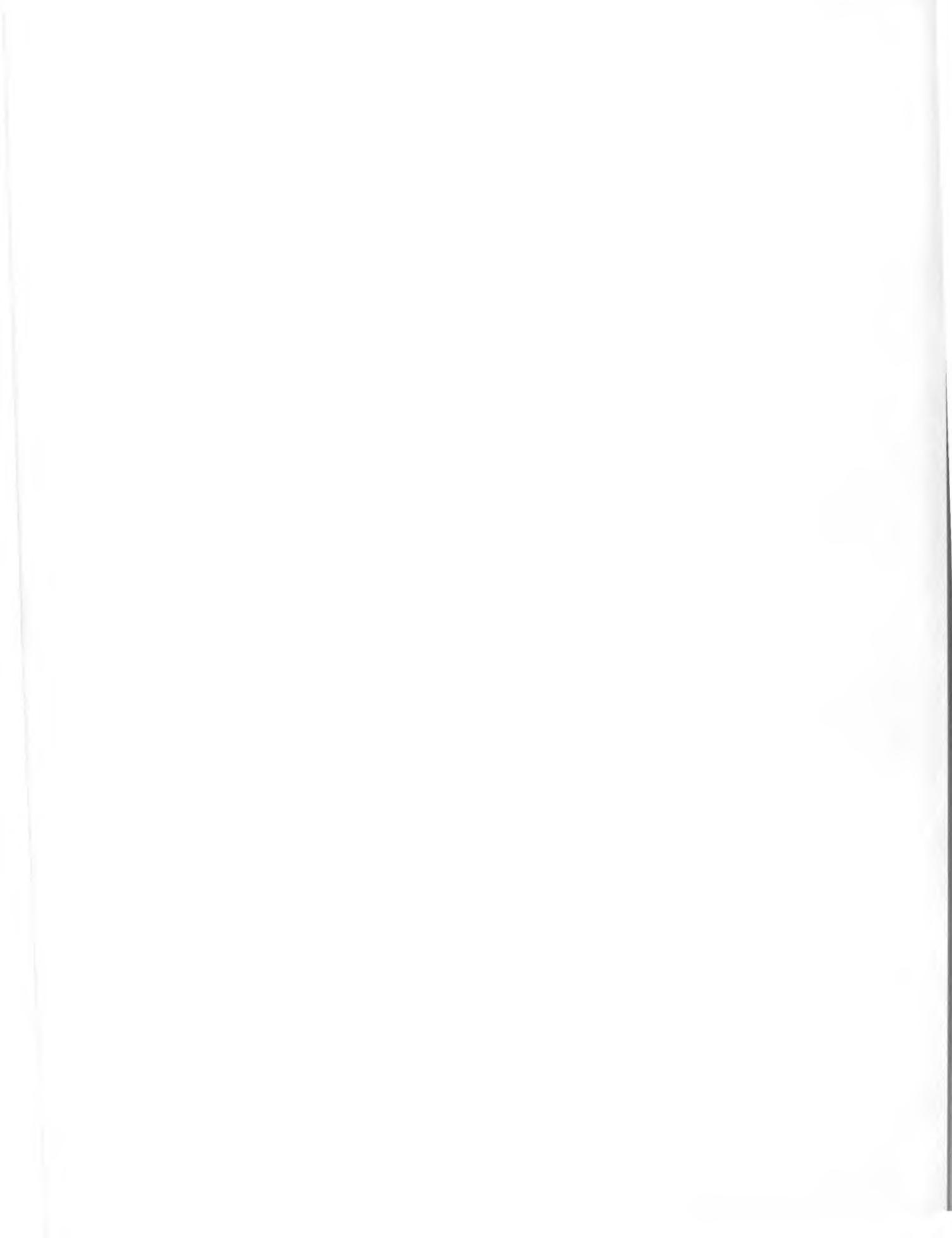


# Babylon Village

"As it used to be"









*In memory of all members of the  
Babylon Fire Department  
who have answered their "last alarm."*

# THE VILLAGE HISTORY

## IN THE BEGINNING . . .

The Village of Babylon began its early settlement as a part of the southeastern section of Huntington Town, therefore, it's very necessary that the settling of Huntington Town be entered into these records. The first white man to receive a deed from the Indians in this section was in the year (1646) and was for the "Eatons Neck Lane" on the north shore, and Huntington History shows it was settled seven years later in the year (1653).

Babylon was purchased wholly or in part from the Indian sachem Meantaquit in 1657. The buyer was Jonas Wood of Huntington, and the price was twenty coats, twenty howes, twenty hatchets, twenty knives, ten pounds of powder, ten pounds of lead, one great "settell," and one hat. Moreover, the chief was to get a new coat every year for six years. The deed was executed on June 5th. On July 23rd following, Wood bought half a neck of meadowland from Wyandanch, another chief. He gave one gun, one pistol and two pounds of powder. Wyandanch sold three necks of meadowland to Henry Whitney of Huntington on August 17, 1658. Wyandanch received in payment twelve coats, each containing two yards of tucking cloth, twenty pounds of powder, twenty Dutch hatchets, twenty Dutch howes, twenty Dutch knives, ten shirts, two hundred awl blades, five pairs of handsome stockings, one Dutch hat, and a great fine looking glass. The Indian surveyor, Shecanoe, received one coat, seven pounds of powder, six pounds of lead, a Dutch hatchet and seventeen shillings in wampum.

In the early days of the settlement English hay was practically unknown and the owners of a farm on the North Side of the Town of Huntington had a share of the salt meadow on the South Side (South Shore) of the town by which to feed the live stock. This whole portion of the town of Huntington was therefore known as Huntington South.

In (1660) the town went under the jurisdiction of Connecticut and remained under that jurisdiction until (1664). "Sumpwams Neck" on which the present village of Babylon is located was purchased from the Indians in (1670).

Huntington sent over settlers who were on good terms with the Indians. The natives gave the settlers on July 12, 1689, a large tract of land "for their kindness and the great love borne them." The givers were Chiefs Jeffry, Will Chepie and Whawacem, Sectogues. The recipients were Captain Epenetus Platt, Lieutenant Thomas Wicks, Jonathan Rogers, St., Nathaniel Foster, and the other dwellers on the neck. Among the other buyers of land from the Indians were Robert Kelum, Captain Thomas Fleet, Isaac Platt, Samuel

Ketcham, Richard Brush, Thomas Brush, James Chichester and Timothy Conklin, Sr.

Captain Jacob Conklin, so legend tells us, was "shanghaied" aboard the pirate vessel of Captain Kidd. It is accounted that he escaped from the Kidd vessel while it was cruising in Long Island waters, about (1749), swam ashore and hid among the Indians. He is said to have lived much in the style of Robinson Crusoe, but, according to records, managed to purchase some land from the "Mataquit Indians." Jacob Conklin's wife, pious and careful reader of the Bible, was the first woman in the community to own a real house. Her son Nathaniel, was becoming a power in the community. When she suggested that Christians should not live in a community with a heathen name, she was assigned to pick a new one. After consulting the Bible, she suggested Babylon. The name was accepted at once and has remained ever since.

The Washington House, sometimes referred to as the Conklin House, was built in (1803) by Nat. Conklin on the corner of Sampawams' Road and Main Street.

At one time the fire-place chimney contained a large red sand-stone on which was inscribed the following:

**NEW BABYLON  
THIS HOUSE BUILT  
BY  
NAT CONKLIN  
1803**

This stone was removed and now is located over the fireplace in the Babylon Public Library on Main Street, Babylon. This stone would seem to show that the village was named Babylon at the time of the change in the name from Huntington South. The word "New" was added in all probabilities to distinguish it from the old Babylon of the Bible which was known as "That wicked city." At any rate the ministers of the churches in town stated that they were ashamed to say at their annual conferences that they came from Babylon. A mass meeting was held and an attempt was made by some of the people to change the name to "Sea Side" and the Long Island Railroad placed the name "Sea Side" on the first railroad station built here.

There are two versions of how Babylon got its name. One version is that Mrs. Conklin, Nat's mother, was influenced by the Psalm that had the line, "By the rivers of Babylon." She was an extremely religious woman, and this might have been so.

However, there is a legend in the family that says that Mrs. Conklin got so excited and angry when she heard that her son Nat was going to build a home, with a tavern as neighbor, that she exclaimed, "It will be another Babylon," to which exclamation Nat replied. "No, it will be a new Babylon."

Like most towns in America, Babylon's first firefighters were and still remain groups of volunteers who organized for their own protection and served without pay. Thus they followed the first recorded attempt of man to protect himself against the ravages of fire established under the reign of Emperor Augustus Caesar in 24 B.C. He employed a large corps of men for the purpose of preventing and fighting fires. The Romans also built aqueducts by which water was conveyed to their city, an accomplishment which required considerable building skill and an advanced knowledge of hydraulics. The water was distributed to key points within the city and buckets were employed to carry the water to the fire. The decline of the Roman Empire resulted in a complete loss of these early accomplishments and requisite knowledge. Interest was finally revived in England and Continental Europe at the time of the 15th Century with crude efforts toward fire control. Early ordinances and regulations from 872 through 1600 were seldom enforced and usually ignored. Even after the great fire of 1666, which destroyed the city of London, little or no enforcement existed.

In 1667 Dr. Nicholas Barbon formed an insurance company in London, known as the "Fire Office," for the purpose of insuring buildings against fire. Rather than fight fires, it was the duty of the fire brigades to remove personal belongings and the physical property threatened by the fire. "Fire marks" or metal markers were displayed prominently on buildings to insure correct coverage since many other insurance companies followed the lead set by Dr. Barbon. The markers bore the insignia of the fire brigade and the tradition was adopted in the colonies.

The city of Boston is credited with the adoption of the first fire prevention regulation in 1631 and the first fire watch in 1654, followed soon after by the town of New Amsterdam. The method of watch varying from a tower position in Boston while New Amsterdam's protection consisted of a patrol unit. In 1664 Peter Stuyvesant surrendered to the British and New Amsterdam was renamed New York. The English influence replaced the patrol with a town crier assuring the population with announcements throughout the night of existing conditions.

Following the devastation of Jamestown in 1608 and the serious fire at Plymouth 15 years later, strict laws were adopted. In 1697 Peter Stuyvesant established the Office of Fire Inspector into law in the City of New York.

The first organized fire department in the colonies was formed in Boston in 1679. The department, consisting of twelve firefighters, received payment on a per-call basis. The first volunteer fire company was established in Philadelphia in 1736 by Benjamin Franklin. The New York City volunteer fire service was incorporated in 1798.

Seventy-four years later, early efforts to organize a fire company in Babylon failed due to lack of interest and support by the community. The opposition was so

strong that villagers would not even consider the purchase of a few ladders and buckets. In 1873 suggestions were made to organize a Police Department. Each man on patrol would be assigned to carry a fire extinguisher but, once again, the proposal was defeated. In comparison, the Boston Fire Department consisted of 29 Engine Companies, 1 Fireboat, 12 Hose, 4 Chemical and 11 Ladder Companies as well as one hand engine.

Earlier attempts in 1870 to incorporate the village fell to ignominious defeat with a vote of 118 against and only 5 votes in favor. The village, however, realizing the necessity of adequate fire fighting equipment, organized Hook and Ladder Company #1 in 1874 under the direction of foreman Joseph H. Cummin, assistant foreman Edward V. Brown, secretary J. Otis Smith and treasurer James Baylis. Prior to the purchase of any equipment, the First Fire Brigade was disbanded and the question of fire protection was permitted to rest.

In 1876 tragedy struck when the American House Hotel stables, located off Fire Island Avenue, burned to the ground as the villagers stood by watching helplessly. Henry Livingston, editor of the South Side Signal (later the Babylon Leader) called for a general meeting of all concerned villagers. The paper, originally the Babylon Budget, published its first issue in 1869 and set new trends in local journalism by being independent by not being bound to any political party. One New York City editor described it as a "spicy country journal." Its popularity and interest were extended by assigning local editors to each village to report on weekly events. In 1870 it was the first newspaper in the country to print issues on a steam press.



Livingston, along with nine other men, were to form the nucleus of the now existing Babylon Fire Department. Laws and action would become an all-too-familiar tradition in the area of fire protection. A charter was signed on December 1, 1877 which read as follows:

*"We the undersigned, believing that the village of Babylon is in need of protection in case of fire, hereby voluntarily organize ourselves into an association to be known as Babylon Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, for the purpose of preventing and extinguishing fires and saving property. It is agreed that ten men thus enrolled shall constitute the charter members of the company, and on the completion of the enrollment, they shall proceed forthwith to elect officers, adopt proper by-laws for their government, appoint suitable committees and complete the organization and prepare for active duty."*

*The Charter was signed by the following:*

Henry Livingston .....	Printer
John J. Lux .....	Hotel Keeper
Alanson Weeks .....	Expressman
Frank F. Jacobs.....	Clerk
John T. Brown.....	Carpenter
A.E. Cornelius.....	Blacksmith
W.F. Norton.....	Merchant
E.V. Brown.....	Carpenter
Joseph H. Cummin .....	Carpenter
John H. Baylis .....	Merchant

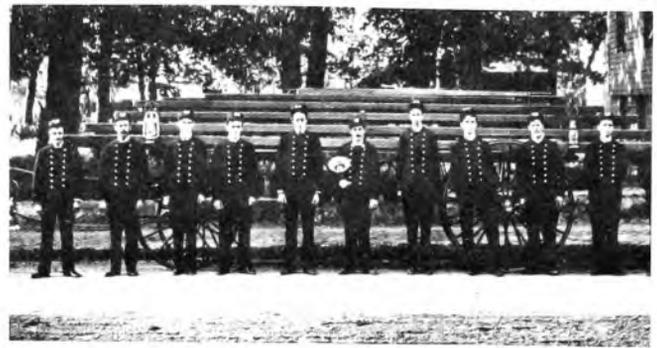
*Dated: Babylon, December 1, 1877*

On December 22nd of that same year, the by-laws were written and adopted. On January 2, 1878 first elections held in the Babylon Hook & Ladder Co. #1 elected the following officers:

<b>Foreman</b>	Joseph H. Cummin
<b>First Assistant Foreman</b>	John J. Lux
<b>Second Assistant Foreman</b>	
<b>Foreman</b>	Frank F. Jacobs
<b>Secretary</b>	Edward V. Brown
<b>Treasurer</b>	W.F. Norton

Plans were proposed for a Grand Ball on Washington's birthday with the proceeds going toward the purchase of apparatus. The affair was held at the American House despite a drenching rainstorm. Admission of \$3.00 per person included supper and dancing as recorded in the fire department minutes "until the wee hours of the morning." Although the receipts were not as large as expected due to the inclement weather, "a handsome balance" found its way into the Company treasury.

In the fall of 1878 calls were made for public subscription to defray costs of the apparatus. Henry Livingston advanced the necessary funds for the purchase of a hand drawn ladder wagon built by Buckley & Merritt of New York. This first piece of apparatus was delivered on December 28, 1878 and was stored in the rear of the Signal office.



At this point in time, parallel with the development of its railroad, came another important change on Long Island — that of a fashionable vacation spot. Steamboat travel gave way to the quick transportation of the Long Island Railroad.

The Marine Pavillion, constructed in the Rockaways in 1834, was one of the earliest resort hotels in the country. By the turn of the century five giant resorts, housing between 400 and 1000 guests, were constructed. The Long Island Railroad had depots in these key areas. In 1881 Austin Corbin, builder of two of these resorts, became Capital President of the railroad line and formed the Long Island Improvement Company.

The new organization constructed the remarkable Argyle in Babylon consisting of a hotel, cottage and casino complex on a seventy-acre landscaped park. It was completed in 1882 and could accommodate 700 guests.

As the village grew there was a need for a small pump and rubber hose for use at fires. Now armed with their much needed equipment, the village faced a new challenge of apathy which had overtaken the company. Men had lost interest and it was thought that the addition of an Engine Company and reorganization was needed to save the Babylon Fire Department. No meetings or elections were held until January 17, 1880. Under the direction of W.F. Norton, space was leased from D.S. Sammis in the main portion of the *Budget* building on Deer Park Avenue. The *Budget* was to become the South Shore Signal newspaper. In July of that year a new set of by-laws was established by the newly elected officers under Foreman T.B. Kellum. These laws established the Hook and Ladder Company and carried fines for failure to attend meetings and drills.

*"Fines and penalties shall be recorded against members at regular and special meetings as follows:"*

1. For not answering to their name at first roll call. 5 cents
2. For not appearing at a meeting. 10 cents
3. For leaving a meeting without permission of the foreman. 10 cents
4. For refusing to come to order when called by the foreman. 25 cents

5. For introducing an improper subject before a meeting. 10 cents
6. For using profane language or personal abuse during a meeting. 25 cents
7. For informing any person, not a member, of any personal remarks, rejection of an applicant disputes, or of any other private business of the company. Second offense may lead to expulsion. 1.00 dollar
8. For neglecting to respond to an alarm of fire. 50 cents
9. Section Two dealt with the officers who, 1.00 dollar

*refused to obey orders, using disrespectful language, or leaving a fire without permission. Removal from office for second offense.*

*These were rough days!*

Early 1881 was marked by the election of new officers and a series of dinners in February to be given by the Hook and Ladder Company #1. The "New England Style" boiled dinner was a huge success clearing \$50.00. Even the Islip Fire Department sent a uniformed delegation. The proceeds from this dinner and a later April "Chowder Party" were used to refurbish the meeting rooms of the truck house.

In April of 1881 the residence of J.B. Ireland of Eaton Place was destroyed by fire. Starting in the barn area, it quickly spread to the other structures. Despite a deficient water supply, the Hook and Ladder Company saved the adjacent homes of Mr. Eaton and Mr. Hepburn. Again the citizenry, alerted to the growing need for updating equipment, urged a study on new equipment. Under the leadership of F.S. Thorpe an effort was made to organize an engine company at a cost of \$800.00. Another proposal, stemming from this fire, was the addition of a chemical and water engine. Testing was conducted at the engine house of the Central Railroad with combustible material covered with tar to test the feasibility of the apparatus.

On July 2nd the new engine, capable of shooting two streams of water 140 feet from ¾ inch nozzles and one stream from 1½ inch nozzle 140 feet, arrived. Since it arrived on a Saturday, "the boys," as the entry reads, had the pleasure of testing the machine at the West Bridge south of the railroad. Owing to a misconception of distance, an incoming train was inadvertently sprayed from end to end causing some unnecessary work for the train hands.

The need for an additional branch of the service became a reality on July 14, 1881 with the formation of an engine company known as Eagle Hose Company #3 under the direction of Charles Hammond. The apparatus for this company was secured, second hand, from the then Brooklyn Fire Department. It was hand drawn, hand pumped requiring six to eight men on either side. Pumping the "brakes" up and down created the pump pressure to project the water. Older members of the department may recall this engine stored at the Argyle House and later in the rear of the main headquarters on North Carll Avenue. It occupied the area where our present hose racks are now located.

With the advent of the Hose Company #3, motions were made to combine the Hook and Ladder #1 and elect a department chief, and, with the assistance of the community, it was hoped to have a thoroughly organized and efficient department in Babylon — "a department people could point to with pride and could rely on in case of emergency." Amidst the restructuring of the department, there was still time for relaxation as the entry in the minutes of August 13, 1881 will attest:

*Babylon Hook & Ladder went on a moonlight (more properly an all-night) excursion to Fire Island on Captain Tooker's "Annie Bow-Wow." A number of invited guests and a liberal sprinkling of ladies and Foreman Thorpe's fiddle. The boys were out for a jolly good time, and if anyone questions their having had it, just ask Captain Al. He probably thought it was the wildest crowd of Jahawks he had ever seen afloat. Fishel was "fired" out of the cabin to make room for Higbie and Field. Landwich was the*



quietest man of the party, but was sure to be on hand when there was any deviltry brewing. The party reached the dock at 0500 after a pleasant sail with a jolly captain. The new engine with 12 men, threw a ¾ stream 150 and over the editor's mansion without even touching the roof.



In September of that year Foreman Thorpe of Hook and Ladder #1 was determined to have a well-drilled fire company by striking from the roll every member not complying with the rules. He cited a number of younger, active men ready and willing to step into the ranks.

The Eagle Hose Company #3 underwent a name change and was known as Storm Engine Company #1. Those early brawny men who labored endlessly to supply the pump pressure needed, were enrolled in the company. The roster in early days showed the names of:

*John H. Arink, S.S. Baldwin, Andrew Sammis, E.A. Scudder, C.C. Snedecor, Alonzo Weeks, T.C. Pettit, Henry Oehloff, F.M. Southard, Chas. White, W.S. Fleet, James E. Albin, Sidney Pearsall, Theodore Soper and others too numerous to mention. Foremen of the company included Charles Hammond, Alfred Berry, E.A. Scudder, Harry Van Wheelden, S.S. Baldwin, John H. Baldwin and Charles Burto.*

The motion of early July to unite the existing groups under one Chief became a reality on November 5, 1881 with the election by acclamation of Henry Livingston as Chief Engineer. Alfred Berry and Gustave Fishel served as assistant engineer and clerk. An effort was made to incorporate the fire district which would raise taxes three cents per assessed \$100.00 property evaluation. Without the incorporation of the fire district, no insurance premiums or percentages (now known as 2% monies) from insurance companies located outside the State of New York could be collected. As a result, a committee was formed to secure petitions by tax-paying citizens to enable the Village to incorporate into a fire district and at the same time to be incorporated into the present limits of the school

district. In November these petitions were presented to the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Babylon who subsequently approved the Village of Babylon as an incorporated Fire District. A governing board, consisting of one member from each company and two citizens, was formed to run the Fire District.

At a special meeting November 14, 1881 Chief Engineer Livingston informed the membership of the intent of the present landlord, D.S. Sammis, to rent the truck house in December. A committee was formed to find a suitable location while a finance committee was formed to raise money with the formation of a Stock Company. At month's end, in a special meeting, it was moved that the Babylon Fire Department proceed to secure monies by use of certificates of indebtedness. A suitable piece of property 47x150 on Grove Place was found by the Building Committee at a cost of \$425.00 from F.B. Baldwin. Plans and specifications were drawn and bids placed for the proposed truck house. On December 12, 1881 Samuel Kellum was awarded the contract to erect a new quarters with Joseph Cummin as chief engineer. Under the new law, Sidney L. Seaman and Elbert H. Walters were chosen citizen directors. The first District Fire Meeting, under the law incorporating a Fire District for the Village of Babylon, was held December 19, 1881. The report listed as follows:

*One Hook and Ladder truck manned by 39 men with full equipment of ladders, hooks, buckets, axes, lanterns, etc. all in perfect order.*

*One hand engine in thorough working order manned by 25 men and provided with 500 of new cotton rubber lined hose.*

*Land purchased for a truck house when structure is completed, it is hoped that an arrangement with the town may be made whereby a lock-up may be built on the basement floor.*

*\$300-\$400 in members' funds and \$700 mortgage. Interest on the mortgage to be met by taxpayers together with departmental operating debts.*

*The first levy cannot be made until Oct. 1882.*

*Estimated cost of maintaining the department until next Oct. \$70.00. Last year's expenses \$65.00.*

The beginning of the new year saw the building of a new truck house. Mr. Jeremiah Robbins of the Home Insurance Company issued the first policy for the Firehouse, Engine and trucks. The total cost of construction \$791.87.

In January of 1882 a New England style supper given by the Hook and Ladder was a huge success with 500 people in attendance including delegations from Breslau, Islip, New York, Brooklyn, Hudson, Troy and Poughkeepsie. H.P. Bishop's nine piece band provided the entertainment. The Company made \$110.85 after expenses.

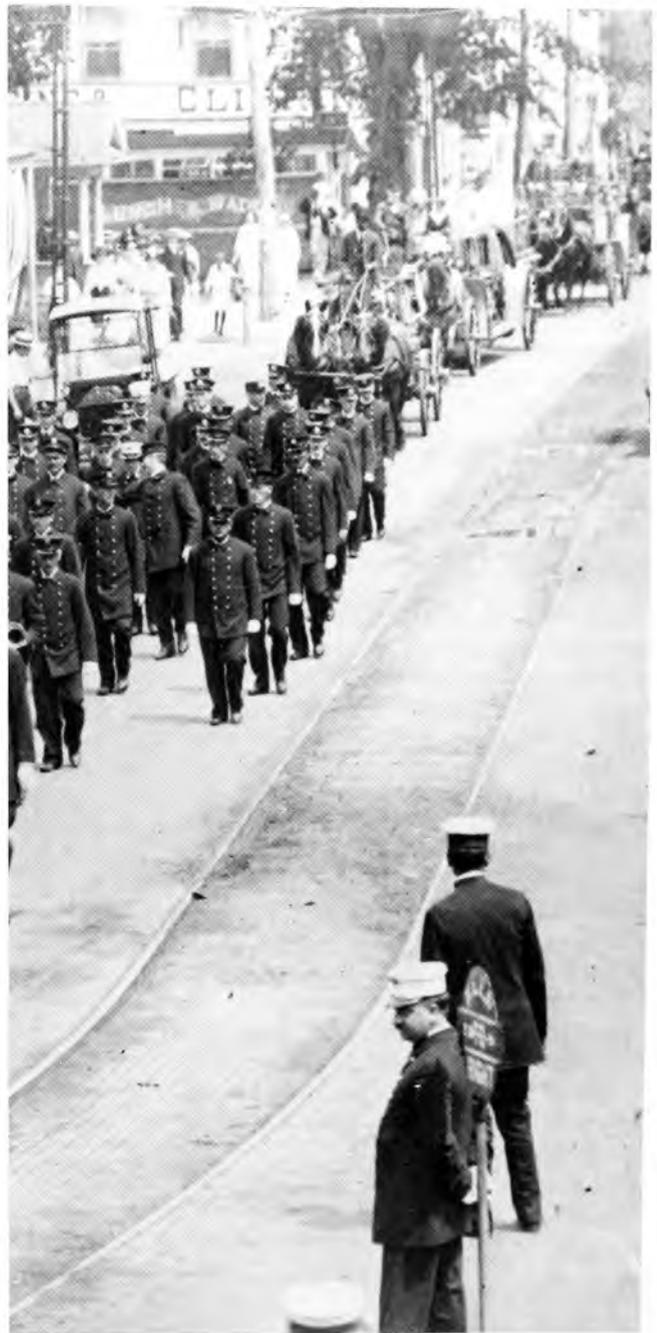
The need for water remained and additional fire wells at Deer Park and Main, the Dollard Block and one at J.B. Field's premises were constructed, tested and proved satisfactory. Reliable water supplies were non-existent, with water for domestic and fire-fighting purposes being available only from brooks, ponds or wells. The problem of transportable water had yet to be solved. Either the tubs on the apparatus were filled by bucket or water wells supplied the water. These were small masonry basins constructed at strategic points throughout the village. The system, although limited, is still used today in outlying areas.

Dense forest areas were commonplace in 1882 and posed a threat to adjacent communities. On April 22nd of 1882 a forest fire starting at West Deer Park threatened the village. Homes on Park Avenue were exposed to flying firebrands. The Argyle Hotel, erected on the site of Bluthebourne, once the beautiful country home of E.B. Litchfield of New York, was saved. Losses by village residents were estimated at \$1,600.00 and the fire encompassed 1,200 acres.

Once again there was a clamors to organize a Hose Company to attack this type of devastating fire. Although the department, under the leadership of Chief Cummin, had 800 ft. of hose he had no means of handling it with the promptness needed. One week later a hose company is formed with E.C. Livingston, J.E. Davis, C.G. Rust, Rev. L.B. L'Hommedieu, W.C. Vail, L.W. Young, W.D. Crossman, Harry P. Bishop, John B. Field among the fourteen charter members. Phoenix Remsem, a local resident, gave a tremendous amount of support, justly so, the name Phoenix Hose Co. #1 was adopted. The first piece of apparatus was a jumper which finally was sold in the nineties to Farmingdale upon the purchase of a beautiful four-wheel carriage. The purchase of the apparatus was estimated at \$125.00. The new company was called Phoenix Hose Co. #1 with a complement of 14 men uniformed in dark blue shirts with "Hose 1" on the breast pocket. Dark pants, regulation Navy caps and white and black belts completed the outfit.

To supplement the addition, D.S. Sammis offered an excursion on the steamer "SURF" on Labor Day at a cost of 50 cents with a planned stop in Patchogue to take part in their departmental ceremonies. A change in plans saw all three companies turned out with 65 men in line. Phoenix Hose, although only 30 days old, was already referred to as the "crack company" of the south side in appearance and discipline.

Social activities began to play an important part in department affairs and at the end of June the first Strawberry Festival was held by the Phoenix Hose Company to reduce the indebtedness on the apparatus. It was not a huge success, but a success none the less. Total receipts \$261.91 with profits for the department on the sale of ice cream, peanuts, lemonade and candy of \$9.30. Breslau Brass Band enlivened the tent area and a good time was had by all with the exception of Willard Crossman who was fined 25 cents for using improper language.



In mid-July of 1882 the Phoenix Hose Company continues, unfortunately, in a state of financial embarrassment. Contributions were solicited to cancel the indebtedness. The department recognized the need for the company and provisions were made for entertainment to be provided to aid the company.

Early efforts to cover areas of West Islip ended in destruction in October of 1881 of Phoenix Remsen's Bar & Stables, as well as Elbert Carll's haystacks. These fires, two days apart, were labeled suspicious in nature. In July of 1882, with the advent of equipment and prompt response time, a chimney fire in the main building of H.C. Hepburn of West Islip was extinguished. A worse disaster was averted by the applica-

tion of one hundred buckets of water and a bushel of salt.

Barring the question of finances, the department is in a flourishing state. Several new members have joined the ranks. The Storm Fire Engine has been elaborately painted and polished at the home of Frank Haldrige, the artisan with the brush. The apparatus is now the most handsome piece of machinery in the department, which at this point, is considerable. The minutes report, "the Babylon Fire Laddies have an eye to the beautiful, and can justly claim the distinction of possessing the most handsome engine, truck and hose carriage in Suffolk County." In the South Side Observer, August 26, 1882, in an editorial — "the Babylon Fire Department is generally pronounced a very fine body of men and eminently respectable by three neighboring pastors of Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches, the editors of the village papers, superintendents of Sunday Schools and other good men."

When you're good you flaunt it. On September 2, 1882 the first annual parade of the Babylon Fire Department was represented by Hempstead, Pearsaels — 22 men Hook and Ladder, Freeport-Excelsior Hose 19 men, Breslau-Engine Company 20 men, Islip 35 men with Hook and Ladder, Sayville, Patchogue 33 men and Hempstead Hose #1 17 men with their handsome four-wheel cart. Music was provided by the Huntington Cornet Band coupled with the Breslau Brass Band. Breslau was the early name for the Village of Lindenhurst. Merchants closed their business for the day and "delegations from every walk of life were sent by the surrounding country side." Chowder, sandwiches, coffee, cake, peaches, grapes and other fruit graced the menu for over 2000 people. It was recorded as a "red letter day" with a certain South Side editor duly noted as having consumed 16 plates of chowder.

Along a more serious vein, the recognition of loss and injury was projected in an October 6, 1882 meeting. A motion was made and passed to form a relief fund for the protection of firemen who might be injured in the line of duty or who might suffer loss of personal effects. Each member would be required to pay ten cents per month into the fund which would be directed by three members of the department and one member from each company. The amount of coverage would be decided by that group. Although a less than favorable amount remained in the treasury, the rest of the Department is rated highly satisfactory. Appropriations of \$150.00 per year operating expenses and \$150.00 for water supply are greeted by taxpayers with mixed emotions, but the water expense is finally passed after heated discussions.

Construction began on a village lock-up 10x20 feet at the rear of the fire hall housing three cells. The minutes note "it will be interesting to see who will be its first occupants." As Thanksgiving approaches, the department makes plans to celebrate with a full dress

parade at 1:00 P.M. with a test of a new well in front of Storm headquarters. In time for December 1882, heating appliances have been supplied for headquarters. In an effort of continuous up-dating, fire fighting literature is on file and at the disposal of the men. A slight fire during the busy Christmas shopping time at the store of George Pearsell is extinguished by Phoenix Hose #1.

Under the direction of S.A. Tatus the company roster grows to 38 men and motions are made for one night a month set aside for practice.

In the bitter cold on February 17, 1883 a serious fire occurred at the residence of Mr. C.J. Bergen three miles west of Babylon. At 11 o'clock smoke was observed issuing from the cupola of the carriage house and stables. An immediate alarm was sounded and answered by the Breslau Fire Department. The distance of one and one-half miles to the fire, however, resulted in damage to half of the structure. The loss of \$1,200.00 of harness equipment, five tons of straw, 400 bushels of oats and tools was formidable. The fire was caused by a defective flue.

In March of 1883 articles of incorporation of Storm Engine and Phoenix Hose #1 were filed with the County Clerk in Riverhead.

In April, a new fire well was installed in front of the Presbyterian Church on Main Street in a never-ending quest to elevate the problem of water supply. The battle continued on May 12th when, owing to insufficient water supply, water had to be taken 600 feet from the site of a fire caused by lightning during a shower on Thursday morning at the rear shop of carriage manufacturer H.A. Cornelius. The fire was discovered at 4:30 A.M. with Henry Landwehr of Hook and Ladder #1 first at the fire house. The building was a mass of flames but through the heroic efforts of the firemen the main building, located only three feet away, was spared. A notation was entered by the department on the conduct of citizens present at this fire. The pumps employed by the Storm Engine had large operating handles attached to pistons which project the water. These handles or "brakes" as they were called were operated by a dozen men and on that day the firemen employed on the brakes were nearing a state of exhaustion. Volunteers were called for but, as per the entry, "strange as it may seem, in this age of enlightenment and public spirit, few, if any, responded to the request." "This glaring, inexcusable violation of the simplest law of common decency is as much to be regretted as the circumstances which brought forth the large gathering." The report went on to point out "that firemen are not salaried servants but that they aid in the support of the fire organization and labor for the protection of lives and property of our citizens without the slightest hope of pecuniary reward." This refusal on the part of the private citizens to do fire duty in an emergency situation did not tend to encourage the Fire Department.

On May 19, 1883 the barns and stables of Austin Corbin of North Babylon were on fire. The alarm telephoned to the Babylon Fire Department arrived in good time. Teams of horses were attached to the apparatus and the men travelled in wagons in time to save the main building. The cause was listed as careless use of matches in the paint shop.

About noon Monday, a serious fire broke out which resulted in the total destruction of the American Hotel. The fire, discovered in the ceiling between the first and second floors, the area some 20 feet from any flue or chimney, led to the theory that mice were gnawing on matches. The fire, which had been smoldering for some time prior to the call, spread in two directions. Before the central wing could be checked, fire burst through the roof of the main building. While firemen worked feverishly to control the spread of the flames, citizens removed furnishings and furniture. A two story section of one wing was pulled down to prevent further escalation. Had it not been for the efforts of the firemen this fire would have destroyed one-half of the village.

So great was this fire that telegrams were sent to neighboring fire houses and the Islip Fire Department responded with a full complement of men. At 4:00 P.M. the fire was brought under control, but the once proud hotel, a landmark for over 100 years, would no longer grace the corner of Main Street and Deer Park Avenue. The fire ended an era which saw noted guests as Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain, and his brother Napoleon, Daniel Webster, Commodore David Porter and others.

Fearful of another catastrophic fire, the Department had extra patrols for the July 4th celebration. One would think some logic would prevail in the realm of fire safety. The entry of July 7, 1883 notes "as evidence of the watchful eye of the Fire Department over the property of their neighbors, regular detachments of firemen patrolled the streets on the night of July 4th to guard against accidents from fire. The last man came off duty at 2 A.M. after all firing had ceased." The notation of June 30th indicates "the best fireworks in town could be purchased at the Post Office."

As evidence of the growing popularity of Phoenix Hose #1 seven new members joined the ranks in late July and Chief E. Cumins journeyed to Kingston, New York to represent Babylon at the Firemen's Association State of New York convention.

Although rejected in August for lack of funds, the Board of Trustees reversed themselves and held the annual Fire Department Parade in September. Invitations were sent to all departments from Greenport to Flushing. Five thousand visitors were received with dinner served in the Presbyterian lecture hall. Partaking in the event, stores closed and citizens lined the parade way over a mile long to review 600 men, a Remington Horse-Drawn engine, the Silsbe Steamer Hose and last but not least Brass Bands from Hunting-

ton and Glen Cove, with O'Connor's 8th Regiment bringing up the rear. Prizes of \$275.00 were offered. Babylon distinguished itself with the awards of goldedge badges to Hook & Ladder #1.

As the village continues to grow so does the ever-increasing cost of appropriations mainly for water supply. Chief Cummins in his re-election to the post, points out that the value of property saved in the past year far exceeds the cost of apparatus. At a cost of \$750.00 six new wells provide the much needed protection.

On November 17, 1883 the Department extended its coverage to the home of Henry Havemayer of West Islip. The fire resulted in the total destruction of the carriage house and the stables of Sequatogue Farm. The efforts of the firefighters saved the rest of the structure as well as the stables of Mr. B. Stevens on the adjacent farm. A gift of \$100.00 in gratitude was received from each of these gentlemen for the Department's efforts.

A week later there were a rash of fires starting at 7:00 A.M. A chimney fire in the Sulton Mansion in Effing Lane Park was followed at 1:00 P.M. by a stove pipe fire at the home of P.T. Sammis. At 9:00 P.M. a call for a brush fire in the rear of the Round House was sounded and two hours later a defective flue at the Presbyterian Hall produced a lot of smoke but no fire. All fires were extinguished without incident.

The population of both Nassau and Suffolk Counties doubled in the past forty years to over 70,000. The face of Long Island had changed from lofty dunes and sailing ships to turnpikes and steamships and an ever-increasing rail network. The South Side Railroad, one of the LIRR's early competitors, featured "Sea Side Summer Travel from Brooklyn to Patchogue and all places of interest for health, bathing and recreation."



In 1856 David S.S. Sammus of Babylon opened the first successful ferry to Fire Island with the charter steamer Bonita to accommodate travelers to his famous Surf Hotel on Fire Island. Oak Island, which is located opposite Babylon, had no permanent residents until 1879 when Henry Livingston, editor of the South Side Signal, became a full time summer resident. Summer cottages sprang up overnight and regular ferry service was initiated in 1886. Because of the irregular shoreline of Long Island, the LIRR track was laid several miles inland from older villages when the only access of transportation was by water. The horse-drawn street car offered a better means of transportation than the horse-drawn wagons and stages then in use. The earliest venture of this mode of transportation was the Babylon Railroad whose 1.53 single track ran from the station to the Fire Island and Oak Island dock. The line, operated only in the summer to accommodate vacationers, was more than adequate.

With the swelling of the Village with summer tourist trade, the populace and the Department once again looked for viable avenues to up-date their apparatus.



A notation of November 24, 1883 on a Remington Horse-Drawn steamer used by the Jamaica Fire Department extolling its virtues, and in December a letter to the editor from an ex-fireman pointed to the cost savings and protection it would afford the village. In January Chief Cummins authorized the purchase of 200 feet of hose and 14 feet of hard suction and the installation of an additional six wells. At the same time, the headquarters was to be enlarged by utilizing the upstairs portion and a covered stairway on the outside of the building for greater access.

The severity of the February winter caused great embarrassment to the Neptune Engine #2 which, due to a lack of heat in the fire house, was frozen and could not respond to a Sunday fire. A narrow escape from a serious fire on Friday morning was averted at Mr. Gulick's drug store by Sheriff Burr and Mr. Gulick at 2:00 A.M. while passing the store. Noticing a glimmer of light, they entered the store to find a lighted cigar had been thrown into a box of dry sawdust. The fire was readily extinguished but had fortune not brought the

two past the store a major fire would have enveloped that area.

On February 23, 1884 J.H. Cummins stepped down as Chief of the Department when offered a position as Master Mechanic on the LIRR. First Assistant, Alanson Weeks, was to serve until the October elections.

The land outside the Village consisted of heavy wooded areas and a forest fire in Deer Park filled the streets of Babylon with firebrands and cinders. The fire ravaged 5,000 acres before it was negated and the timber loss was estimated at \$50,000.00. Finally extinguished on April 26, 1884 it is labeled the worst fire in Deer Park history. Thankfully there is no damage to the Village.

The entry of June 21, 1884 gives the reader insight into the character and dedication of these early fire-fighters. The Presbyterian Church was usually crowded with children from Sabbath schools. A "strong committee" was on hand to insure the safety of all in case of fire or panic. In addition, the Department held a Strawberry Festival on the following Wednesday evening for the annual firemen's festival. The Department was the founder of the Annual Reunion and Love Feast of the Island fire companies in August of that year.

The Cornell Hose Company of Kingston, the crack company of the state, was among the many companies invited to the Jamaica Tournament. The Hook and Ladder Company of Babylon, although winners in two consecutive years, was left out of the call. Confusion is the order of the day with judges failing to keep time, and spectators blocking the track areas. Few of the teams, under these conditions, were afforded equal opportunities and there was a great dissatisfaction among all participants with the events. The hook and ladder contest was never held due to this turmoil. In a face-saving measure, proposals were set for Breslau, Babylon and Woodside to meet at the Mineola Fair for the prize and purse offerings.

The hazards of firefighting are often great, but the hazards of getting to the fire scene in 1885 in some cases proved to be even a greater risk. In October the log reads "the necessity of good illumination in the village was never more clearly demonstrated on Monday evening last. A member of the Phoenix Hose Company running rapidly up Deer Park Avenue collided with a hitching post. The impact of the collision caused the fireman to be thrown to the ground and the breath was knocked out of him." The fire to which he was responding was that of William Lamle at the west end of Park Avenue. Clothing, which had been stored in the attic, caught fire from a lamp. The fire was eventually brought under control but the ringing of the church bells deterred the response from the firemen — as did the hitching post.

In November of 1885 the Village of Babylon established a fire district and immediately thereafter the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to have the coverage embrace the School District.

In an effort to build from the ranks, a resolution is passed that no person can be elected Chief of the Department unless he has been a fireman and a resident for a period of one year. And in an effort to keep their heads above water, the Board of Supervisors votes to levy and collect the required funds if "proper appropriations are not voted at a meeting."

At the dawn of the New Year, William C. Vail's carpenter shop on Lower Main Street caught fire at 5:30 A.M. Residents were roused by the cry of "fire" and the ringing of the church bells. First on the scene was the Hook & Ladder Company followed closely by the Hose Companies. A stream of water pumped from the well in front of David Totten's residence was thrown against the building but with little effect. The fire spread to the home of Roger Tierney, which with the barn of John Oakley was completely destroyed. In an effort to contain the fire, the roofs of buildings on Main Street were thoroughly wet down and firefighters posted throughout the day. The fire, estimated at \$23,800.00, started under a stairway outside the building and forced Max Bosch and his family to leap from the windows. Mr. Bosch was injured in the fall. The cause of the fire was listed as unknown. Benjamin P. Field and his six sons protected their premises from the ravages of the fire. Mr. Field stored large amounts of oil, benzine and other inflammables. Mr. Field engaged in both the tinsmithing and plumbing business and stored these materials in his barn. The first was fought throughout the day with Richard Higbie, Harry Van Weelden, James Drake and Assistant Chief Kellum suffering various degrees of burns and injuries. The ladies of Babylon served coffee and other refreshments to the men on duty. A telegram was sent to the Breslau Company who responded in thirty-five minutes along with delegations from Bay Shore and Islip.

Untiring, alert and community welfare consciousness were displayed in a March 6, 1886 journal entry. Harry Van Weelden of Storm Engine, while making his way home during a gale on Saturday evening, observed an exploding oil lamp in the shoe store of Charles Peratsky on Deer Park Avenue. Not daring to force the door and thus giving the fire air, he stood in gale force winds and rain until the fire, for lack of oxygen, went out.

A fire developed at Oakley's Grist Mill in June and was extinguished by W.C. Vail of Phoenix Hose Company. While fastening the hose cart to Crossman's delivery wagon, fireman Vail smashed his fingers between the tongue and wagon.

A rash of fires plagued the Village on October 23rd starting in the early morning with a fire of suspicious origin being set in two remote locations of Smith & Van Weelden's carpenter shop. No serious damage developed. A short time later a fire in Phoenix Remsen's library was brought under control with the use of Harden handgrenades. The third alarm destroyed the barn of P.H. Foster despite the efforts of the department. Weary from three previous fires, yet another broke out at the residence of Medad Smith. Fortunately

ly there was slight damage to the house and its contents. No cause was determined for this fire.

The hazards were not always those of a direct result of firefighting. On a cold December morning a resident, Mr. Brainard, while walking along Fire Island Avenue opposite the home of John Reid, fell into the fire well being built there. Although cold and bruised, Mr. Brainard did not sustain any serious injuries as a result of the fall.

The Hook & Ladder #1 held its first annual Ball at the Excelsior Hall. The dinner was catered by the local firm of Bassett and Douglas at a cost of seventy-five cents per couple, with the proceeds to be used for the purchase of service hats.

Equipment problems common to firefighting were prevalent in the beginning of the year in 1887. The lamps, due to the motion of the Hook & Ladder truck, would go out and had to be altered by George Oakley, the village blacksmith. A simple re-positioning of the arms holding the lantern would solve the problem.

The past series of fires in October led to the arrest of Mr. J.H. Hewlett on February 5th, thus leading to the first recorded attempt of arson in the village. An oatmeal box, filled with light, flammable wood and oil soaked waste, was found on his rear stoop. A round piece of wood projecting from the box was attached to a strong piece of cord. The contents of the box were removed to Justice Lewis' office for examination and were found to contain two pieces of wood the length of the box; one wrapped in sandpaper, the other containing a series of matches. When pressed together the friction would ignite the contents of the box.

Further investigation uncovered a family dispute and Mr. Hewlett was arrested by Officer Wood. He was later found mentally insane and sent to the asylum in Middletown.

In March of that same year the Hook & Ladder truck, in need of an overhaul, was replaced by a wagon on a temporary basis in case of an emergency. Superior hose is purchased, bringing the supply to 850 feet.

May flowers were shortly followed by an explosion of the gas house on the Watson property about noon on Tuesday the 2nd of May. A general alarm was sounded but the explosive force destroyed the entire structure. The manager, Mr. D. Cane, was injured but, thankfully, not seriously. As a token of appreciation for services rendered by the Babylon Fire Department, Chief Bailey of the Patchogue Department presented a check for \$25.00 to Chief Kellum. The Department was also honored by the New York World newspaper in a series of articles and photographs extolling their efforts since its founding.

The church bells sounded the alarm on August 13th at 10:15 Wednesday evening. A glow was clearly visible in the east, and firemen proceeded to the area to find the LaGrange stables afire. Due to the lack of water at that location, the Hose and Engine companies did not respond. Ladders were used to contain the blaze by firefighters but without water, the stables and contents were destroyed.

In September, at the annual meeting of the Babylon Fire District, the taxpayers, voted approval of two new fire wells and \$250.00 for contingent expenses. The budget total of \$550.00 was passed.

With thirty-eight members of the Engine Company, the department continues to grow. There have been only five alarms the entire year due primarily to fire prevention information and routine surveillance and inspection of the Village.

The Babylon Public Library, known as the Babylon Book Circle, was founded by Mrs. Thomas B. Arnold, Miss Loreign Reid and Miss Louis Sammis for the purpose of making more books available to themselves and their friends. Twenty-five charter members were enrolled. Membership fees of \$3.00 per year were used to purchase books. Initially the books were distributed by members or left at convenient locations in the Village, but in 1889 David S. Sammis donated the use of a room on Main Street, presently the Norton & Siegel office.

The Long Island Railroad was losing money, as evidenced by the lack of oil lamps and even water for their passengers. The Village was concerned as it was the only reliable mode of travel.

A new era dawns with the establishment of electric lighting at the Babylon headquarters. While starting with only five incandescent bulbs, it signals a change in the department. A new Assistant Chief, B.B. Wood, a successful electrician, is elected. His expertise with the new power source gives an added boost to the department.

At the same time, twenty-two Babylon youths ranging in age from 12 to 16 years of age organize themselves in what was known as Hook & Ladder #2. They solicited funds for the purchase of apparatus and uniforms. An election is held and Everett Kellum is elected foreman with Leo Fishel as his first assistant. Gardener Thorpe, William McLachan and Charles Tweedy are elected second assistant, secretary and treasurer respectively. The boys are strongly backed by the Department, recognizing the value of a second ladder company and a training area for other companies as they become eligible. The group and the Department increase membership to 102 members and in October of 1888 the impact of the Department is proven. Since its founding, there have been no alarms for the fiscal year with a balance of \$80.21 in the treasury. Truly amazing!

At the annual meeting of Fire District #1, vote were taken to install two new wells and appropriate \$200.00 for Department contingencies. The proposition for assignment of \$500.00 toward purchase of a steamer was passed. Storm Engine agreed to raise \$1,000.00 by January 1, 1889. After a heated discussion, several taxpayers voiced the opinion that the law under which the tax was levied was not binding. After much discussion, it was agreed to have the law redrawn and re-enacted by the legislature.

On November 3, 1888 the request for the placement of \$1,000.00 in the Fire District fund was denied by the Board on the advice of counsel. The law had to be changed to state such structure and apparatus to be the property of the taxpayers of the district. The steamer could not be purchased until the law was amended. Undaunted by the ruling, a four-wheel hose carriage was purchased by the Phoenix Hose Company #1 from the Button Engine Company of Waterford, New York.

On April 6, 1889 fire wells were built to hold 20 feet of water and also provided iron hydrants.



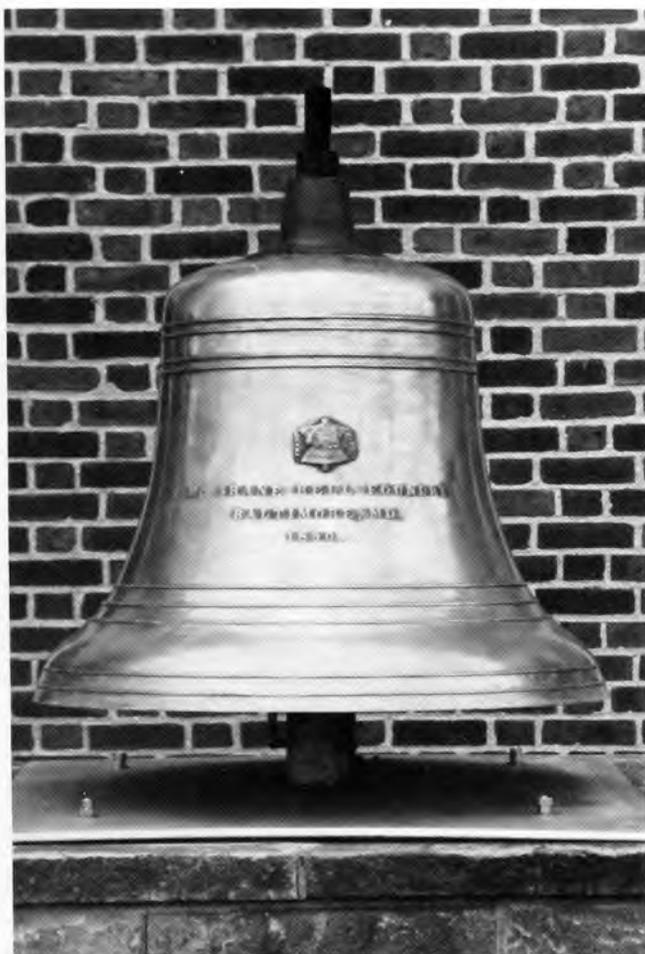
The first Sunday fire in the history of the Department occurred on April 13th at the Higbie Farm located at the rear of the LaGrange Restaurant and totally destroyed the building.

To supplement the church bells, normally used as a fire warning, a steam whistle was installed on the lighting plant in the middle of May. A large 34 ft. tower, with a 12 ft. high tank, was erected by Edward Daly on the property of Mr. C.S. Hendrickson for domestic and business use. With a capacity of 3500 gallons and a pump of 75 GPM, it provided hydrants for protection of both properties from fire.

The second recorded arson attempt in the department history was recorded on September 21, 1889. Oil saturated rags were ignited and placed under Jenkins and Hunts portable photographic gallery adjacent to James Dollard's building. The fire was extinguished and no suspects were named.

In early January of 1890 the Water Works of the Great South Bay Company proposed to extend the water main from Oakley's Mill at the Islip Town line through the Village with ten hydrants per mile. The estimated cost of the hydrants for three miles was \$100.00 per hydrant. In addition, there would be six inch mains on the principle streets and four inch mains on the side streets. This would add a more reliable system of water to the fire. Through 50 ft. of hose a stream of water could be generated 100 feet horizontally and 65 feet vertically. With the installation of hydrants in the business area, the need for hose carrying equipment became more apparent than ever to the Department and a study was underway.

In an effort to keep pace with the current systems, Chief Baldwin, at the November meeting, organized a subscription campaign to obtain an alarm bell to be mounted in a tower. The bell, not to exceed 800 pounds, was to be manufactured by McShane and Company of Baltimore. The cost of the tower and bell was estimated at \$350.00.



With the advent of electrical wiring, every fireman was urged to school himself in safety precautions. The services of the town electrician, Mr. N.M. Preston, and the electric light company were sought by the Department since, according to minutes of that meeting, "wires are not only dangerous, but deadly."

On a peaceful Sunday morning in early November the fire bell sounded the general alarm. Smoke was discovered pouring out of the Presbyterian Church close to the roof line creating the impression the building was on fire. Fortunately that was not the case, and on closer inspection it was found that a joint of the stove pipe connecting two chimneys had fallen. The fire, however, was the first real test of the new bell and many firemen did not hear the alarm. Steps toward better communication were also studied by the Department.

In December 1890 the Albert Tookers residence, at the foot of Willow Street, caught fire at dusk on Friday the 13th. The oak framing used in the construction made it a brisk fire. Although water was drafted from the creek, the house was totally destroyed. Through the action of the Department, the adjacent home, occupied by Norman White, was spared. The Tooker residence was one of the original homes built in the Village in 1835.

The fire pointed up the need for a water works system since the force of men on the brakes of the engine was scarcely adequate. Had this fire been more serious the system would have proven insufficient. The Department, if faced with a major fire, was faced with not only a water supply problem but the removal of ice and frozen earth surrounding the stone coverings on the fire wells during the winter.

In June of 1891 malicious fires were set near the edge of the Village in the forest areas. The extensive fires, occurring in the vicinity of Higbie Lane, caused great concern among the citizens and a reward of \$25.00 was offered "to detect and bring the guilty parties to justice."

The local paper, Signal, in September chastises the Babylon Fire Department for the poor showing of only twenty out of a 100 man force at the Patchogue Tournament. The article cries for the awakening of interest in fire matters by the Department and the village. Many of those present were not in uniform and those in uniform were chided for their condition and appearance. The event was labeled as "a disgrace and the members of the village present were askance of the Village and their fire-fighters." The Department, in the minutes recorded October 3, 1891, took exception to the Signal's editorial on the Patchogue Firemen's Parade. In the past five years, the Department noted "not only have they been one of the best (departments) represented but to be an exceedingly well and carefully organized body of men."

In an election one week later, both Andrew J. Weeks and T.B. Kellum tied in the voting for the office of Chief Engineer. In a run-off election the following week, Weeks was elected resulting in dissension in the ranks between the two factions. The Department hoped all would be put to rest including the image created by the editorial and men present.

A fire discovered by W.W. Weeks at 5:00 A.M. on October 24th in the Presbyterian Church in a trunk belonging to renovators burned through the floor and three floor beams. The fire, attributed to spontaneous combustion, was suppressed and caused no further damage.

The Hook & Ladder #1 was refurbished by Chief Weeks at Carmine and Gold in November. Once finished, "the truck will be the handsomest in the County." At the same time, the fire well box covers were freshly painted red and green. No one can complain the Department lacks color. The addition of 200 feet of new hose added to the existing equipment brings the total hose in service to 1000 feet.



Conscious of the criticism of the Signal in October, the department geared up for the Greenport Tournament in mid-August. Each company had either new uniforms or updated the original issue. The Phoenix Hose appeared in white lambs wool sweaters, monogrammed in blue silk with the initials P.H.C. The trousers were new blue flannel and white duck caps topped off the uniforms. Hook & Ladder #1 had new shirts and Storm Engine added new blue flannel trousers to their existing shirts and caps. A sermon delivered one week later by Rev. C.W. Lyon of the Presbyterian Church, at a service attended by the full department in uniform, the Department was lauded for their appearance in Greenport. The new uniforms and freshly painted apparatus evoked cordial applause all along the line of march to the church. They were a handsome group to behold.

A fire on November 2, 1892 resulted in the destruction of the dining room, kitchen and wash house of the residence of W. Bruce on Railroad Avenue. Due to the effort of Theodore White manning the nozzle in what was called "a magnificent manner," further loss was held in check. Frank Acherey lacerated his hand while replacing a loose pin on the Storm Engine.

Foreman Smith of the Phoenix Hose Company appointed George LaRued, Thomas Farrel, George Todd and S.W. Cooper to act as Pipemen at future fires and to be in charge of the nozzle at all times. Keeping pace with current fire fighting techniques, two heavy rubber coats were purchased and placed on the carriage for the use of the Pipemen.

Tournament Day, held September 6, 1893, had an estimated 12,000 visiting firemen and their friends visiting the Village. Prizes included table lamps, silver pitchers and goblets, a suit of clothes, a canoe, engraved trumpets and a pair of mounted pheasants. The crack Lindenhurst Fire Department walked off with eight of the awards.



In September, the appropriation of \$1,900.00 for rental of 30 fire hydrants was approved by one vote at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire District.

An Edison phonograph was exhibited at Halcyon Hall on October 21, 1893 by the Storm Engine Company. Admission was twenty-five cents for the general public and thirty-five cents for reserved seats.

The youth of the Village displayed their interest by organizing a Juvenile Hook & Ladder Company for boys aged 10 to 14. Their truck was to be built and equipped by A.J. Weeks. The officers were as follows:

John Neuschaefer	<b>Foreman</b>
Harry Tweedy	<b>Asst. Foreman</b>
Benjamin Field, Jr.	<b>Asst. Foreman</b>
Fred Baldwin	<b>Secretary</b>
Rowland Hawkins	<b>Treasurer</b>

Three days before Christmas of that year, the Fire District entered into a contract with the Sumpwams Water Company to supply 12 double nozzle hydrants for one year at a cost of \$360.00. An additional eight hydrants were added on May 1st of 1894 at an additional cost of \$240.00 per year.

January 30th of 1894 found the number of men in Phoenix Hose climbing to thirty with the addition of four new members. During meetings, members of the Company were indiscriminately wearing their company uniforms instead of keeping them neat for parades and social gatherings. It is pointed out that the uniforms are the "property of the Company and not individual members and no hose man will wear the cap, sweater or trousers except on duty."

In March of 1894 the Fire Department is to be regulated by the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village. A change was undertaken in that officers of the Department would be elected by a group composed of delegates from each company. The first Council convened on April 4, 1895. Submission of rolls of each company to the Board was necessary for their confirmation and approval.

On August 31, 1895 the log records that members of the Juvenile Hook & Ladder would participate in the tournament in Sayville. The residents of Carll Avenue, the site of their practices, say "if the boys can run as swift as some can swear fluently, such proficiency should give them first place."

October finds Chief Van Welden forming another Hose Company. The small building at the rear of L.H. Fishel's residence will house the Phoenix Jumper with 500 feet of hose with a hydrant nearby. At the same time, a number of young colored men are formulating a Hose Company. At a fire in West Islip, the group was commended for their fire fighting. Encouraged, they looked forward to the benefits of drill and equipment.

On April 11, 1896 Sumpwams Hose Company #2 was formed and headed by W.H. Deale, Foreman. The Village accepted the membership and they were equipped with the "Jumper" owned by Phoenix Hose #1 and housed in the rear of the Fishel building. A proposal was made to build a bell tower and place the old

school bell in it. It is noted this is solely a protective organization and the company was not to participate in parades and social functions. Located in the central part of the business district, it noticeably increased the efficiency of the local fire service.

Huge forest fires raged for a week in mid-May throughout the Island. Several houses burned in West Islip and because of the distance to West Islip, it was suggested that a Hose Cart be provided by the residents of West Islip. Each resident would have a hydrant on their property and the cart could be pressed into service to contain the fire prior to the arrival of the Babylon Fire Department. In 1887 six bars in six weeks in West North Babylon and West Islip were destroyed. They were beyond help due to the distance and time to relay alarms.

On July 14, 1896 a special meeting was held to approve the budget for the coming 1887 year. It was as follows:

Interest, janitor, light, oil, coal, stove, repair  
total: \$268.00

Hose \$350.00

Tower \$85.00

TOTAL BUDGET: \$703.00

The minutes of the meeting of September 25, 1897 record the following account of an alarm sounded by Patrolman Dinota:

*September 25, 1897*

*During the past week, night patrolman Dinota mistook the Aurora Borealis for a fire and sounded the alarm. As a result, the Riverhead News had the following item: "The recent experience with fire-bugs has made Babylon's night watchmen particularly active in discovering and prevention conflagrations. The other night he had the fire dept. out for the purpose of quenching the Aurora Borealis, which he mistook for a fire."*

*Babylon has no cause to feel bad over her failure to win first prize in the Hook and Ladder race at the tournament. Her night watchman stands at the head.*

*"When he sounds the alarm, Babylon responds to a man and the heavens look on with amazement while the doughty fire fighters harness old Orion to their truck, seize the great dipper for use as a water bucket, and on their return from the fray, take copious draughts from the milky way as a discreet method of gradually reducing themselves from the enthusiastically pitch of action to the ordinary level of daily life.*

*Then Jupiter, Mars and the seven stars unite in the "Music of the Spheres;" the morning stars sing together; the gay and frisky comets stand on their heads in tumultuous hilarity, and mix up their streaming tails in a grand pyrotechnical display; the earth smiles glad approval, and the little hills clap their hands with joy as lovely Venus goes blushing forward to crown the immortal visitors with never-failing laurels.*

*Great is Babylon and greater is her night watchman! Let's have the tournament in that enterprising village next year. That is all right, George Williamson; we can laugh with you over the incident but just listen while we tell you something that admits of no dispute. "Jolly" us as you may say, Babylon feels proud of the fact that she has a watchman who, if he did make a mistake in calling out the firemen on one occasion, is always awake on duty, and has on many occasions sounded alarms that have saved many thousands of dollars of property from destruction.*

Water supply and equipment continue to help increase efficiency and safety, and in a continuous update the Department warns all homeowners and leasees to "look well to the condition of their chimneys and see that they are clean and in no way defective. Cold weather is at hand, and a badly constructed or foul chimney frequently causes loss of property or great suffering. Care of coal stoves should not be neglected to see that they do not leak coal gas."

On December 18, 1897 the first in a series of fire drills took place in the public school. The building was evacuated in one and three-quarter minutes but "it is expected that better time can be made after the drills have been held." The population census of the total village is now 2010.

The Board questioned the feasibility of using the abundance of electrical power to install an electrical alarm system to ring the alarm bells. Using a code of bell strikes to signify the location of the fire would save a great deal of confusion and prevent delay.

On March 21, 1898 a special meeting of the wardens was held to accept, with regret, the resignation of Chief Van Weelden and congratulate him on his election as President of the Village of Babylon.

The tournament at Huntington saw the Hook & Ladder #1 decorated with flags of all nations. Phoenix Hose was decorated in red, white and blue and true to the early predictions of the Carll Avenue residents, the Juvenile Hose won the first prize of a silver trumpet.

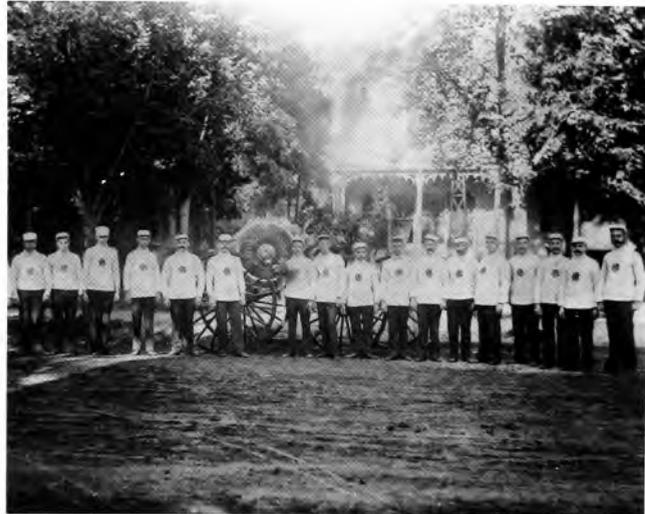
This period finds the Department with 110 members with one truck company, one engine company, two hose companies and ten fire responses for the year. A requested appropriation of \$275.00 for the ensuing year plus \$550.00 for 800 feet of hose (as only 600 feet can be relied upon) was made and approved.

In February of 1899 the West Babylon Hose Company, which protects the "Annexed District," was formed and duly chartered under the leadership of Mr. Holbrook, foreman. Plans were made for the purchase of a cart and hose and village authorities wholly endorsed the plan.

On April 22, 1899 Sumpwams Hose #2 purchased a new first class Jumper with the capacity of 1000 feet of hose, six foot wheels and chain gear reel. The carriage and black finish with gold leaf ornamentation, with ample nickel plating, relieved the finish. It had

four handsome lanterns and two oil torches. This apparatus was purchased by the members and not the village. The old Jumper, formerly the property of Phoenix Hose #1 and owned by the Department, was placed in the charge of the Argyle Hose Company, the then recently formed West Babylon Company.

Through the influence of E. Gardener Thorpe, the Argyle Hose Company #3 received the rim of a car wheel, which when suspended from the water tower on the Argyle Hotel grounds, would make an excellent alarm when struck with a hammer. A similar alarm was used by the Amityville Hose Company #1 and still stands today at the corner of Greene Avenue and North Oak Street



On September 16, 1899, 125 men of the Babylon Fire Department turned out for the Bayshore Tournament with the new engine, two trucks and two hose carriages handsomely decorated. The Juveniles came home with a second prize losing by one-half second.

Not all calls are fire related. This was the case in mid-September when a LIRR engine lost steam at the depot and the train could not move until the boiler was filled with water. The Phoenix Hose Company #2 made a hydrant connection at Carll and Railroad Avenues and "resuscitated" the engine.

At the turn of the century in early August, the club house of the South Shore Country Club was sold at auction. Purchased by the Argyle Hose Company #3, it was to be moved to a lot purchased by the company in April for \$50.00. The lot was adjacent to the residence of Deputy Sheriff Peter Jommies facing Little East Neck Road. The club house was used primarily for meetings and the storage of apparatus. Argyle Hose Co. #3 reflected a growing membership and fast became a vital and permanent factor in the community.

The first fire in over a year is recorded at the residence of F.A. Downen in June of 1901. Damage was assessed at \$500.00. Public awareness and safety measures coupled with the roving patrol is attributed to the fire safety within the Village. Later that month,

four 3-gallon portable extinguishers were purchased and distributed among the four companies. The extinguishers, used and endorsed by the New York Fire Department, are charged with "powerful chemicals and when used at the outset of a fire are extremely useful."

At noon on Saturday, June 29th, the cry of fire was raised, followed by the clanging of five bells. Smoke was pouring from the cellar of Heffley's Pharmacy at North East Deer Park Road and Main Street. Phoenix, Sumpwams and Babylon Hook & Ladder had the blaze under control within thirty minutes with the application of two streams of water. A major threat to the community was averted since the cellar contained various explosives and other combustible materials.

In July the careless use of fireworks caused fires in the carpenter shop of Thomas Dean and the kitchen of John Byrnes located on Park Avenue.

In October, a precursor of the modern fire alarm box was installed on the front wall of fire headquarters. The glass front box was equipped with a key to open the door for access to the apparatus and ringing the fire bell in case a fireman failed to have his key.

In mid-October the barn of F.S. Bruce suffered \$500.00 worth of damage from a fire of unknown origin.

The record chronicles another sign of the changing when an automobile containing several young men drove over the fire hoses at the site of a fire in late October. The condition of the hose prevented any damage, but firemen at the scene called for their arrest. Although Village officials were present, no action was taken.

The year ended with a defective flue fire at the home of Henry Terry which resulted in damage estimated at \$200.00.

In February of 1902, in order to make the tax levy legal, real estate and the fire apparatus of the Village had to become the property of the Village. Villagers felt the ruling to be fair, as did the Department officers, since the Department was maintained by taxes. On May 10th, Argyle Hose #3 turned over all apparatus and appliances to the Village but retained the land. Sumpwams Hose followed suit and the entire Department was then under Village control.

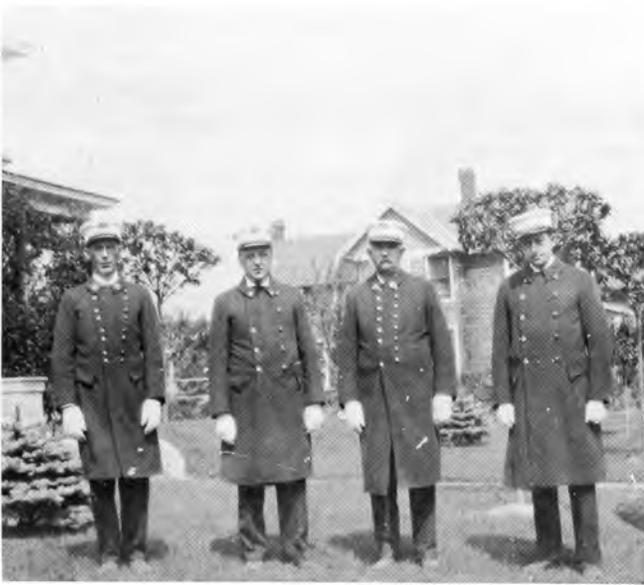
Is nothing safe in the Village from the destruction and ravages of fire? On March 27th an alarm summoned firefighters to "the outhouse" at Sumpwams Water Works. The fire was brought under control with minimal damage and life returned to normal.

The building of a hose carriage for the Electric Hose Company #4 was undertaken by Chief Weeks. It was similar in design to the Penatequit Carriage built for the Bay Shore Fire Department. The carriage, delivered on May 31, 1902, "is very light yet strongly built and a handsome piece of work." Painted white with gold stripping with the words "Electric Hose Company" in blue and gold on the sides. It is a welcome addition to the Department.

The location of Sumpwams Hose in the business section proved invaluable when a fire broke out at the rear of the Higbie and Robbins building. Immediate action by Sumpwams extinguished the blaze with little damage recorded.

*The proud members of the Argyle Hose Co. No. 3, with their new Two Wheel Hose Cart, Circa 1901, built for them by A.J. Weeks. This was hand-drawn and took hardy men to pull it to fires.*





On April 5, 1902 another "first" is ushered into the Department with the formation of the Electric Hose Company #4. Irving E. Smith was elected foreman with George Wood his assistant. On that same day, Benjamin P. Field, F.S. Thorpe and H. Van Weelden were appointed to the Board of Fire Commissioners according to Village law.

While the hose company's immediate action saved the Higbie building, a forest fire in mid-May swept down from West Deer Park to West Babylon destroying everything in its path. Helpless against a fire of this magnitude, the fire watch was continuously maintained and the fire miraculously burned itself out at Park Avenue. Again Chief Weeks pleaded with authorities to provide adequate water for fire purposes.

On September 13th the Juvenile Hook & Ladder won first place at the tournament at Riverhead. They attributed their success to the foresight of the Board of Trustees in granting permission to erect backstays on Cooper Street for practice and ladder scaling. Argyle Hose lost painfully, due to insufficient threads turned on a nozzle.

A fire on top of the hay loft resulted in the complete destruction of Colonel Wagstaff's barn, stables and workshop on November 8, 1902. The Phoenix Hose and Electric Hose companies responded but the fire was out of control.

Each fire response is a learning experience, whether the department is young or seasoned. And sadly, each learning experience points to shortcomings which, in many cases, have been tabled at meetings or requested formally but ignored. On August 1st Silas Sammis' residence on Cedar Avenue in West Babylon burned to the ground. The prompt response of Argyle Hose saved the adjacent Donaldson's house. In the firefight, Theodore White was severely burned and unable to work for several weeks.

The loss of a structure and nearly the life of a fireman, coupled with lost response time, was attributed to the lack of a key to gain entrance to the apparatus. Further, had a hammer been available to sound the Argyle alarm, the members would have gained precious minutes. In addition, it was pointed out that Cedar Avenue (now renamed Locust) should be extended eastward so that Argyle Hose need not proceed in a westerly direction to Little East Neck Road to reach the Village. The Board was further asked to investigate the Water Works' apparent fluctuations in pressure which, on the day of the fire, varied from a pressure of 40 psi to 85 psi. Testing of the hydrants and mains at the location was also continued.

At the commencement of the new school term, the Department appointed a committee of five members to establish instructional materials on fire hazards and safety precautions. At the time, agitation over an electric alarm system continued.

A move to elect fire commissioners totally divorced from the Village Board is started and a proposition is placed before the voters at the March 19th election. The proposition, consisting of seven requests ranging from care and custody of all fire apparatus to control and supervision of members, is defeated.

The proposition defeat results in a series of suggestions being tabled at the April 2, 1904 meeting in which Captain Kelly, Chairman of the Committee on Improvement of the Fire Department, along with J. Brian Foulke, attempt to institute a sense of order to the department. They again point out the dire need for an electric alarm system and the breaking up of the Village into fire districts. The confusion, which has been the order of the day at fires, and the lack of discipline, could be controlled under better management procedures. Backed by the Village Improvement Society, Chief Kelly, aside from the alarm system, requested placards showing existing hydrants in places of public assembly, suitable exits and, more importantly, regular inspection of such buildings. It is also pointed out that after the initial fire response, total confusion exists at the fire site. In May approval is granted for two uniformed firemen to be present at all public meetings and places of entertainment. The sum of \$100.00 was advanced to both the Argyle and Electric Hose companies for uniforms with the understanding that each man receiving a uniform would pay \$1.00 a month until the advance had been repaid. Phoenix Hose instituted a fee of \$1.00 for new membership and monthly dues of ten cents per month for all members.

In August of 1904, nine village fire districts are established. A system of alarm signals is set up with the Water Works and the Electric Light Company to use existing whistle alarms. No more than two companies are ordered to respond to fires outside village limits. The Chief was given the power to employ, when necessary, two teams of horses at a cost not to exceed three dollars per team to transport the apparatus to and from a fire.



BOARD OF FIRE COUNCIL, BABYLON.

LeRoy M. Young	A. L. Gould	Chief Charles L. Kelley	J. Brion Foulke	Forrest Pearsall
John H. Baldwin	John S. Kehoe	Wm. H. Mott	2d Asst. Chief Geo. N. Wood	1st Asst. Chief John B.
	Fred S. Thorpe		E. Gardner Thorpe	

On August 13, 1904 Chief Charles L. Kelly named fifteen members of the Department to be granted an exemption certificate. To be exempt, a member had to be in good standing and had to have served for five years. Exemption certificates were granted to:

<i>B.B. Wood</i>	<i>H.A.V. Post</i>
<i>Henry Landwehr</i>	<i>Lyman B. Kent</i>
<i>Gustave Fishel</i>	<i>George T. Thorne</i>
<i>Henry Livingston</i>	<i>John J. Lux</i>
<i>James McLachlan</i>	<i>Washington F. Norton</i>
<i>F.R. Townsend</i>	<i>Edw. S. Alley</i>
<i>David Sandman</i>	<i>Leon Scudder</i>
<i>F.M. Southard</i>	

In addition, five wardens met and adopted resolutions to be forwarded to the Village Board for confirmation and approval:

1. All companies in Village to constitute BFD and no independent or private companies shall be reorganized or receive benefits of the Department.

2. Uniform of the Department shall consist of a short coat, pants and cap, of dark blue cloth or flannel, regulation style, coat double breasted and buttoned to neck, with seven buttons each side, no braid or trimming to be worn. For cold weather a regulation overcoat may be worn.

3. For service at fires the regulation leather fire hat with front designating his company, shall be worn by every member when on active duty.

4. The insignia of office shall be as follows:  
Chief — 5 crossed trumpets, 14 gold buttons on regulation coat

1st Asst. — 3 crossed trumpets, etc.

2nd Asst. — 2 crossed trumpets

Foreman — As designated by Fire Council

Asst. Foreman — Same as above

The suggestions presented by Chief Kelley and J. Brian Foulke on April 2nd are adopted on September 1, 1904 with strict assignments of companies to fire district alarms:

Phoenix No. 1 — 1st alarm; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

2nd alarm; 8, 9

Horses may be employed when 8, 9 and

north of Smith Street in 6 & 7

Sumpwams No. 2 — 1st alarm; 2, 3, 4, 5, 9

2nd alarm; 6, 7

Respond to West Islip with team of horses.

- Argyle No. 3 — 1st alarm; 8, 9  
 2nd alarm; 2, 3, 4, 5  
 Argyle to employ a team of horses  
 when  
 responding to 2nd district only
- Electric No. 4 — 1st alarm; 4, 5, 6, 7  
 2nd alarm; 2, 3
- H & L No. 1 — 1st alarm; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9  
 Will employ a team in 8 & 9 and  
 also 6 & 7  
 when north of Smith Street or  
 responding  
 to West Islip and North Babylon.
- Storm Engine No. 1 — respond to all Village fires  
 when  
 needed. Also to those out-  
 side  
 Village with a team.

To safeguard the community, a law was enacted stating that any person ringing a signal or a wrong signal would be judged guilty of a misdemeanor and arrested. Company commanders were warned not to leave headquarters except for a district response or a special signal assigned to their company.

A number of relics given to Chief Kelly by the Old Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department were placed in Fire Department Headquarters. Among the relics were helmet plates and a picture of the Barnum and Bailey Circus menagerie fire which was the last fire the department fought as volunteers.

Everyone loves an inspection, and the first in a long series of inspections of the Department by the Village of Babylon took place on October 15, 1904. The parade of 130 men marched down Deer Park Avenue to Main Street where the Village officials and guests inspected the apparatus and personnel. The inspection was followed by a supper and speeches by guests who complimented the Department on their appearance and call to duty.

The fire headquarters and the real estate on which Phoenix Hose, Hook & Ladder and Storm Engine companies were located were transferred to the Village. The deed was recorded in Riverhead since all three companies jointly owned the property.

In January of 1905 the Village lock-up (or jail) built in 1882 was torn down. Located at the rear of the fire department building, since a horse thief dug his way out, it was bought by Captain Harry Jackson for ten dollars. Prisoners were transported to Lindenhurst until a new jail could be built.

A dispute over \$35.00 is recorded in the minutes of March 14, 1905 reflecting an on-going disagreement between Sumpwams Hose and the Department. Failure to comply with regulations and rules of the Department is cited as the attempt to withhold insurance monies due. The disagreement continues until April 10th when Chief Kelly, under extreme pressure from Sumpwams, instructs the secretary to "eliminate any information of non-compliance and release the funds." The resolution in the name of "peace in the

department" is moved and seconded. No further discussion is made by any party.

In October of 1905 new ladders are purchased for all companies. Fire hydrants throughout the Village are brought under the supervision of various companies, and deficiencies are reported to company commanders who, in turn, will report to the Water Company.

Excellent strategy and placement of ladders and hose lines by Chief Kelly saved the Watson House

Hotel on July 15, 1905 after an explosion of a lamp in a bathroom in a cottage adjacent to the hotel. The fire, fought for seven hours on Fire Island Avenue, was declared out at daylight. The explosion completely destroyed the building. Due to Chief Kelly's supervision not one life was lost.

On September 16th the department conducted a tournament with 24 neighboring departments in the line of march. Some 2,000 men stretched out for one and one-half miles. Some 5,000 spectators viewed the parade. J.H. Arink erected a grandstand capable of holding 1,000 people. It was structurally sound and designed to be dismantled after the parade. A second story held the judges and members of the press on Carl Avenue, south of Railroad Avenue. The New York and local newspapers marveled at the engineering of this viewing area. The Methodist Church ladies served lunch on the lawn in a tent and dinner in the Chapel on James Street. George Smith stabled 50 horses at his livery. Several Fakirs were in town the evening prior to the tournament and were told by Ex-chief Van Weelden to take the next train out of town.

In October Chief Kelly tenders his resignation, under pressure, to the Village Board and it is accepted. One week later, a large delegation of firemen made a motion at the Village Board meeting to re-elect Charles Kelly as Chief. He was unanimously named by delegates of the six fire companies.

In November a fire, caused by a dog jumping on a table and overturning a lamp in the kitchen, at the Kalbfleisch estate on the Crescent resulted in \$750.00 worth of damage. At the same time, a car on the late return train from New York City called the "Owl" (an early expression for the "Red Eye") caught fire and a hole was burned in the roof. The train was moved to the pumping station where a hose was connected and the fire was promptly extinguished.

Mr. Fishel on whose property Sumpwams Hose apparatus was housed, refused to leave the gate unlocked due to lack of security, and requested, in a formal note to the Village trustees, they find suitable quarters elsewhere. A portion of the south end of the stable area of S.L. Seamen's property was offered for \$5.00 per month provided a floor and several other minor alterations were made to house the equipment.

In September the stables of August Belmont fell victim to a terrible fire which raged out of control and burned to the ground. Due to the intensity of the fire, little or nothing could be done to squelch the flames. The total loss — \$30,000.00.

In tournaments in September and October Juvenile Hook & Ladder won two second places at Huntington and first place in Greenport. The Greenport tournament also had the Electricians winning a first place award.

In January of 1908 there was a rash of fires in barns and homes caused by defective flues, explosions of poorly stored explosives, overheated stove, bad hay in storage areas and culprits setting fires. The Postal Department, in cooperation with the Fire Department, distributes a "common sense" flyer dealing with fire safety and storage of flammable materials.

During Chief Woods' term in office, recommendations were made to upgrade fire safety in the school system. These recommendations included a hose and standpipe system, a fire escape from the assembly room, housekeeping and the replacement of the paraffin oil used on the floors with a less flammable type of material. The President of the Board of Education took exception to Chief Woods' move to install the necessary precautions without his consultation. Much to the amazement of the Department, a letter denouncing Chief Woods appeared in the Signal. On March 9, 1908, as the result of school inspections by Chief Woods, the Board of Education established hose and standpipe stations throughout the school. The paraffin oil was stored outside the building. A patrol was established to remove rubbish and trash from rooms and under stairwells. In addition, a fire escape on the building's north side leading from the assembly room was installed. Further solutions to alarm systems were undertaken by Department officials. There was no rebuttal from either the newspaper or the High School administrators. A committee of ex-chiefs was formed to survey the rest of the village for increased fire safety and protection.

In May, the beam holding the fire bell on the Fishel block broke and the bell fell burying itself a foot into the ground. The bell was rendered inoperable. A new siren at the lighting plant was tested at month's end but was not heard in the heart of the village.

On March 8, 1909 Storm Engine is organized into a fire patrol rendering substantial community service. The patrol, approved by the Village Board, was called the Babylon Fire Patrol and members were sworn in as Deputy Sheriffs. In November a telephone was placed in the apparatus room and the bell tower, originally located at Fishel's, was removed and placed on Sumpwams Hose quarters.

The local movie theater was the scene of a nitrate film fire on February 24, 1911. The fire, held in check to the area of the operator's booth, panicked the full house who were quieted shortly after the arrival of the firefighters.

After a relatively quiet winter, the Charles Hubbs residence on the north side of South Country Road was partially destroyed due to a defective chimney. The fire, detected late by Mr. Hubbs, was fought for four hours and several firemen sustained cuts caused by falling glass.

At a meeting in April the question of maintaining fire coverage for the area of West Islip was tabled. While the Village of Babylon appropriated \$1,000.00 a year to support the Babylon Fire Department, it is noted West Islip offers a few donations for the annual tournament expenses and, on occasion of a fire, a personal donation of recognition. This is small reward for the maintenance cost of \$6,000.00 for apparatus and the 150 firemen on call. Always fair, the Department takes this entire situation under advisement and will table suggestions at a later date.

A severe thunder and lightning storm on June 16, 1911 rages for over an hour in the area with several bolts striking the Old First Presbyterian Church. The force of the strikes are so enormous they tear down one third of the steeple, but due to the heavy down-pour no fire ensues.

A law is passed in June limiting the combined department to 175 members. Fifty men were allotted to the hose companies while the hook and ladder could maintain 65 men, with the remaining 65 men assigned to the Engine company.

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1874 and located on lower Cooper Street, is razed by fire at 1:00 A.M. in early November. Despite two streams applied by Phoenix Hose, the buildings were leveled.

Village growth dictates continued fire safety and in early December the department defines areas where the burning of paper and trash is prohibited. A request for \$1,200.00 by Chemical Engine for new apparatus, \$1,600.00 for two hose wagons and \$2,200.00 for Hook & Ladder is challenged at a meeting on February 23, 1912. The respective chiefs were in agreement with the expenditures along with the purchase of horse drawn rigs, but James Tooker suggested motorized apparatus. The action was placed on the ballot for \$5,000.00 for the apparatus and was approved by a vote of 157 to 85.

In March the Department undergoes a shift of jurisdiction with Phoenix Hose, Storm Engine and Hook & Ladder under the First Assistant Chief, with the balance of the companies under the Second Assistant Chief.

Two major fires result in the destruction of hotels in the area. On June 7th Cleste's Hotel was swept with a raging fire. Although on the scene shortly after the alarm, with both Phoenix and Argyle rigs, Chief Mott's efforts were so futile he sent back for the old Storm Engine crew. In an attempt to contain the fire, departments from Amityville, Farmingdale and Huntington also responded. The structure, built in 1870, sent out fire brands spreading the fire to the Railroad Station, Wreith's store and the drug store. At the end of a seven hour battle, order was finally maintained and Storm Engine was left with the Lindenhurst Fire Department since their chemical and hand engines were not operable.

Later a fire, which started in the cook's quarters, rapidly spread to the rest of the Baynes Hotel structure. The fire completely gutted the building and the cook was found in her bed overcome by the smoke and badly burned. Chief Wrieth, after a long battle, returned Storm Engine to Babylon with the help of his men.

On June 21, 1912 members of the department appeared before the Village Board requesting the purchase of used apparatus from the Larchmont Fire Department, American La France and the U.S. Apparatus Company in Wilmington, Delaware. The total cost — \$5,261.00. The purchase was approved by the Board of which \$5,029.74 was raised by bonds and \$231.26 part of the department budget. The purchase was made by Chief Mott on July 16th. The purchase of three hose wagons from U.S. Fire was made on July 19th but Larchmont voters turned down the proposition for a new truck and the purchase of a Hook & Ladder and Chemical Engine was forestalled.

The American La France Company, in early September, offered to build a combination engine and hose wagon to duplicate the Larchmont engine and the Board accepted the offer. In early October the new truck arrived and as noted in the minutes "strongly constructed and beautifully finished."

The practice of discarding lighted cigars accounted for a series of small fires over the years. In order to discourage this practice, twelve cuspidors are placed at heavily frequented stores in the downtown area.

The floor of the Seaman's Building is lowered on November 5, 1912 to permit the housing of the new Chemical Hose wagon operated by Sumpwams Hose Company #2, and the Electric Hose house is improved at the same time.

After a departmental inspection on Monday evening, December 20th, twenty members of the department were taken to the hospital and treated for exhaustion having pulled their truck some 117 feet during a drill.

A telephone was installed in Sumpwams headquarters with a direct line to the Electric Light Company to provide better means of communication and alarm reporting.

Dissatisfaction with the new Chemical Hose wagon is voiced by the Sumpwams Hose Company #2 and a motion is made to purchase a motorized wagon. The Fire Wardens join in the clamor and submit a long communication with a petition signed by members of the Sumpwams Hose Company #2 stating that the current wagon is too heavy. The request, however, is weighed by the Village since the current wagon is confined to the business section only. In August, after months of debate, the hose company requests a definition of the assigned coverage. In November the hose company is advised that the current cart could be sold for \$1,000.00 to another department and by raising \$500.00 a motorized cart could be purchased. The U.S. Apparatus Company offers \$1,000.00 for the current wagon in return for the purchase of a motor-

ized wagon costing \$5,500.00. The cost is unmanageable and the entire discussion is dropped until 1915.

During the early part of January, 1914 the Green House boiler rooms were destroyed by fire. The cause of the blaze was attributed to faulty and overheated chimneys.

As the Village grows, finding ample housing for the apparatus within easy access becomes problematic. The owners of the property used by South Side Hospital were interviewed by Warden Rickerts who agreed to house some apparatus in the area.

In May, an early morning fire at the Old Kingsland House, destroyed the residence. The house was being moved from Cresent to Cedar Lane and was hit by lightning around midnight and smoldered without notice until dawn.

To counter the freezing temperatures during the winter months, the Phoenix apparatus was moved to Sumpwams Headquarters.

After much discussion and many meetings, the Babylon Village Board, in 1915, authorized and granted the sum of \$1,500.00 for the purchase of the first piece of motorized apparatus. The replacement of horses by a motorized gasoline engine signals the end of an era.



*Left to Right: Milt Arink, Leon Pettit and Percy Arink*

Tragedy struck the department when the Sumpwams Hose Truck collided with Long Island Railroad Train #47, resulting in the deaths of two firemen, Richard Higbee and Leon Pettit. The truck was later replaced by the railroad company.

The Village continued to grow by leaps and bounds and in 1916 Babylon township laid its first concrete road. Known as the South Country Road (Montauk Highway). By 1920 it had become a twenty-foot highway.

More than any other single development, the automobile and motorized vehicles epitomized the beginning of the twentieth century. It greatly contributed to the growth of Babylon and the whole of Long Island.

In early 1900 Montauk Highway was the location of the first automobile race in America. The race originated in Springfield Gardens, Long Island on April 14, with Babylon Village Square as the half-way point. It attracted a great deal of attention and nine automobiles entered — three steam propelled, five gasoline powered and one electric automobile. The winner, A.L. Richer, in the electric vehicle won in the record time of two hours, three minutes and thirty seconds.



Another piece of history, pre-dating Marconi's transatlantic radio communication, a shack 12x14 on the former Chew property just off Fire Island Avenue near the corner of Virgiwa Road, was the first commercial wireless station in America.



In February of 1922 Argyle Hose Company #3 offered to contribute \$2,000.00 toward the purchase of a motor driven fire apparatus. Electric Hose Company #4, at the same meeting, requested \$1,700.00 voted into the budget for the purchase of a Ford motor driven hose cart equipped with chemical apparatus. A motion for the requested \$6,700.00 to be placed before the taxpayers was passed. The balance in the department's budget was \$102.49. In April the voters approved the \$1,700.00 for the Electric Hose hose cart but the chief and committee recommended the transfer of an additional \$350.00 so that a Reo truck could be purchased in lieu of the Ford. While the transfer was being considered, members of Argyle Hose #3 inspected the Reo truck in Mountain View, New Jersey and found it to be too light and the purchase was referred back to committee in early May. While debate continued, the Board stated that whatever the selection, they prefer the vehicle to have solid tires.

Business mixes with pleasure as a carnival is hired for the purpose of benefitting the Department's uniform fund. The carnival will take place the week of July 17th.

In June, Argyle Hose #3 votes and approves a Brockway Type B Chemical Pumper with two chemical tanks which will be placed one above the other.

The receipts for the carnival, as of July 28th, are a pleasing \$1,108.99 with a net profit of \$850.00 for the department. Davis and Company offers three uniform samples ranging in price from \$18.00 to \$22.00 including coat and trousers but not the hat. A committee is formed in late July and a motion is made that 50% of the carnival profits be used to order new uniforms while members pay the other 50%.



In mid-September the Department accepts the much heralded Reo Fire Apparatus signaling the beginning of the end of that romantic age of hand and horse drawn equipment. A resolution was unanimously adopted stating no motor driven apparatus of the Babylon Fire Department shall be permitted to pass another apparatus on the road either to or from a fire. Those disregarding this rule were subject to suspension from membership in their respective companies.

Roadways will then cease to be competitive raceways between companies and while enthusiasm is a desirable trait, it has its limits. In addition, new members were required to secure a uniform within ninety days or face suspension.

New equipment created storage site problems for Storm Engine and the old Argyle Hose #3 cart. Sumpwams equipment was moved to main headquarters. Argyle Hose #3 requests an increase from \$75.00 to \$125.00 due to the need for a janitor for the winter months. The rent for Storm Engine cannot exceed \$4.00 per month.

In January of 1923 the Commissioner of Jurors, John C. Robbins, recommends that the privilege of exemption from jury duty by volunteer fire department members be removed. This recommendation prompted the following adopted resolution:

*Resolved, that the Board of Wardens of the Babylon Fire Department, after due consideration of the scheme proposed by Commissioner John Clinton Robbins, which would remove from members of volunteer fire departments, the privilege which*

*they now enjoy of exemption from jury duty, substituting in lieu thereof a slight reduction in taxes, desires to place itself on record as being unalterably opposed to any such arrangement, and be it further Resolved, that the secretary of the Board of Wardens of the Babylon Fire Department be instructed to notify the Board of Supervisors of the County of Suffolk, State of New York, of the action taken in this matter, and to request said Board of Supervisors to take whatever steps may be necessary to prevent the enactment of any law which would in any way remove these privileges.*

The budget for the year 1923 was voted and approved at \$2,500.00, each company to receive \$50.00 of the \$52.79 in the Treasury. At the same meeting, plans are again formulated for the second annual carnival set for July 14, and the annual dinner at the Babylon House on March 27th.

In mid-April a brush fire destroyed Chief Arink's private car which, in turn, prompted a request for a Chief's car at a cost of \$510.00.



The American Legion band is hired for \$150.00 for the length of the carnival. Further involvement by the department is evidenced with each company represented in full force. The entire department competed in the Southern New York Tournament and Parade with county-wide attendance at Long Beach.

While the general fund balance in September of 1923 was \$683.93, the department was experiencing great difficulty in uniform collections from new members. A windshield and top were requested for the Chief's car, a Ford Runabout, due to weather conditions and was installed within the week. Additional funds are generated in January of 1924 with a benefit concert at the Capital Theater given by the Long Island Railroad Band and Glee Club. The sum of \$650.00 supplemented a balance of \$2,323.15, with a budget of \$3,000.00 for the year. Each company was given \$75.00, with Chief Arink and Assistant Chiefs Vollmer and Thomas receiving \$50.00 each for operating expenses.

In April of 1924 a departmental hearing brought a suspension to a member for not paying for a uniform. Although warned on several occasions, the department made it very clear that shoddy and out-of-date uniform appearance would not be tolerated.

Architect Tom Phillips submitted sketches for two new sites on Deer Park Avenue and the enlargement of the present Grove Place facility for a new fire house at an estimated cost of \$70,000.00. The final site selected was the Phinette Cooper property on Deer Park Avenue at a cost of \$300.00 per front foot or \$22,000.00. A special election by the Village Board was to provide funds for the building and property. This motion was voted down by a large margin in July of 1924.

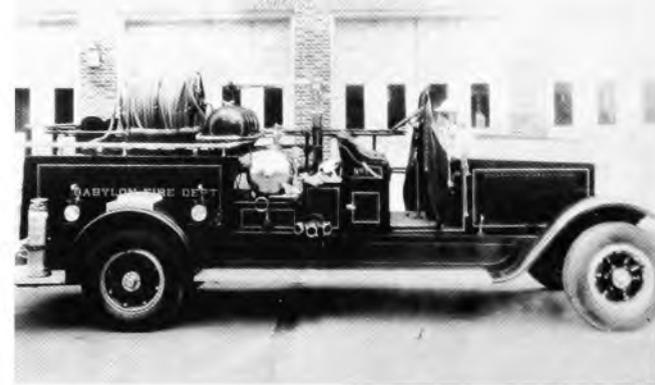
On September 22nd the Bay Shore Fire Headquarters and several pieces of apparatus were destroyed in a rapidly spreading fire in which the Babylon Department assisted in fighting. The Bay Shore Department, in a written statement, thanked the Babylon department for their zeal, aid and assistance without which the entire department apparatus would have been destroyed.





Newer and better equipment was in demand so changes in chemical apparatus were introduced with the conversion of the Phoenix Hose apparatus to a Foamite tank and the purchase of eight Foamite extinguishers. Continued improvements were made with the purchase of a new Maxim Hook & Ladder at a cost of \$10,000.00. In a move to defray tournament expenses, a ton of coal was raffled by the department in May of 1928. The additional purchase of Mine Safety Masks and cylinders were also welcome updates to equipment.

As the town grew and society became more complex the Department submitted a proposal for the purchase of a new pumper. An American La France with drive gear instead of chain is bought on April 10, 1925 for \$11,250.00 supplying needed strength to department apparatus. Speed limits to and from a fire are fixed at 25 and 20 miles per hour respectively.



Chief Arink and assistants were awarded \$50.00 each for operational expenses with \$25.00 to each company with the exception of Storm Engine. Additional storage costs of \$48.00 per year for Storm Engine and \$25.00 per month for cleaning Sumpwams Hose #2 added to the growing expenses.



In January of 1926 for the first time, and with the backing of the village, firemen are offered insurance by the Department in case of accident. The budget for 1926 rises to \$8,100.00, \$1,500.00 of which is for insurance.

The new fire house is also budgeted, complete with 100 new chairs @ \$3.51, new furniture at a cost of \$440.45 and \$139.00 for a gas range. A benefit for the department was also approved, to be held on July 20th at the Babylon Theater at a cost of \$795.00. A request for a racing auto, previously turned down, was donated by Mr. Weilbacker adding to the competition tournament strength. For the off hours, a pool table was generously donated by Mrs. Eldridge for the fire house.

Requests allowing card and other games to be played on Sunday, which would modify Paragraph 6 of the House Rules, was denied. The phone in the fire house was changed from a party line to a private line due to the number of calls generated. The budget for 1927 was billed at \$5,800.00.

An ever-increasing demand for safety and updating instruction for firefighters is met by offering a class one night a week for six weeks. To instill competition, a trophy cup was given to pupils with the greatest advancement in study programs. First award recipient was H. Weinschenk of Phoenix Hose Company.

A fire at Richett's on February 16, 1929, in which Babylon again assisted the neighboring fire company, brought thanks and gratitude from all. Chief Vollmer adds an inhalator and dictates that ambulance coverage at fires will be at the chief's discretion. A map of the District was approved detailing all hydrants, streets and size of mains by Engineer Koramski updating old records.

In 1930 Mr. Edward Southard requested formation of a new company for the fire patrol to be known as the Rescue Squad. In mid-December, the Red Cross and LILCO agreed to furnish instruction at \$1.00 per man for twelve lessons. Mr. Hancock, an instructor in first aid, formed the first squad consisting of 28 volunteers in a course divided into twelve lessons. After twenty-three hours, a Red Cross Certificate was issued. Again, the Department becomes a benchmark for other departments to emulate.

The endless search for funds leads to a joint effort by the American Legion Chapter and the Department in a Circus and Show held in July and netting \$174.29. In early February 1931 the Fire Patrol submitted incorporation papers and the Patrol was accepted as a full-fledged member of the Babylon Department. The budget in 1931 climbed to \$16,192.00. The breakdown was listed as follows:

Argyle Hose Company Rent	150
Electric Hose Company Rent	150
Coal	250
Gas and Oil	300
Inspection	300
Current for Siren	30
Repairs, chemicals, etc.	1,300
Cooking gas	12
Insurance on trucks	400
Tires, boots, coats, etc.	1,000
1000 ft. of hose	1,500
Furniture Insurance	25
Telephone	175
Uniforms	300
Salary for man	1,800
New truck for Electric Hose	8,000
Treasurer's Fund	500
	-----
	\$16,192

Under the direction of Chief Thomas, Storm Engine was refurbished to its original luster by local repair and body shop owner Joseph Covert at a cost of \$150.00. Also purchased 27 rubber coats emblazoned with the letters B.F.D. This boosted the morale and safety of the firefighters. A special meeting was called on May 10, 1931 to discuss the ever-growing need for new apparatus. Both Argyle Hose #3 and Electric Hose #4 recommended an American La France 750 gallon pumper over one made by Maxim. Electric Hose Company #4's recommendation for an American La France Crusader Hose Cart was also carried.

Much of the social activity in 1930 and 1931 centered around the Department's tournaments, trips and events at Coney Island, and Southold. The department also held the first Wrestling Night of the Babylon Sports Club, Inc. billed as the Babylon Fire Department Night. No members were on the card, but attendance was overwhelmingly large for the event. In August of that year the United States Atlantic Fleet Baseball Team was present for the annual Navy Day Parade.

Much of the social interest shown during this period was generated not only by the firemen themselves, but also by the people drawn to these happenings. The Department, again a step ahead of its time, recognized the need for a release time for the men and the public relations factor. More importantly, it instilled a feeling of pride and unity in these departments.

In October a young Robert Kraft joined the department. Due to his age, his parents' permission was requested. The Board of Wardens indicated that all new applications would be thoroughly investigated. The set of rules, governing the granting of Exemption Certificate, were adopted in January of 1932:

*Discussion pro and con on by-laws on percentages with result that following motion was duly made, seconded and carried: "All members should perform 50% active duty in the future, a credit of 5% for attendance at company meetings, 2% for attendance at each fire and 5% for attendance at the Annual Inspection being used as a basis in computing this percentage figure, it being understood that said record be kept for a period of six months upon which to base future actions and admission."*

The annual budget for 1932 rises to a level of \$7,000.00.

In 1933, under the direction of Chief Pfeifle, the members of the Storm Engine Company, whose charter expired, are recorded on the Honorary Departmental List. A new Chief's car is purchased for \$850.00 featuring leather upholstery, spot light, transfer bell and siren. The assistant captain status was officially changed to the new rank of Lieutenant at year's end.

By the middle of April 1934 department strength grows to 149 members. During that period a total of 216 alarms are sounded, with an average turnout of 55 firefighters per fire.



A new Diamond "T" truck, fitted with flood lights and a portable generator, was purchased for the 1935 Fire Patrol Company #1. Before that time, they had traveled in a "hand-me-down" truck from the Electric Hose Company used to transport men and equipment to emergency scenes. This new apparatus would, over



the next twenty years, provide lighting, crowd and vehicle control and a watchfulness for the safety of firemen and civilians alike.

The purchase came just in time when in February a huge fire destroyed the entire corner of Main Street and Deer Park Avenue. Totally out of control and whipped by strong winds, firefighters contained the blaze to the area presently occupied by the Babylon National Bank and Trust Company to the corner calming initial fears that, due to the extent of the fire, it might consume the entire square block area.

After an uneventful winter and spring, July saw the Thirteenth Regiment Band, consisting of twenty pieces, with a full representation of men in full uniform attending the Suffolk County Volunteer Tournament at Lindenhurst. The old Storm Engine was manned for the parade.

The Department membership rose to 153 in April of 1936, answering 143 alarms. The budget of \$9,600.00 included the cost of a new whistle for Argyle Hose Company #3 at a cost of \$1,795.00, 150 ft. of light hose for the racing team and a new Chief's coat at a cost of \$9.00.

In December of 1936 Fire Patrol requested a new truck and the Department limited the age requirements for members to between 25 and 50 years. In an effort to raise funds, Fire Patrol and Argyle Hose Company #3 featured the ever-popular carnival. In November of the following year, Fire Patrol celebrates their twenty-first year. The records for 1936 show a total of 104 fires.

Twenty-five men are recruited for the opening of the Sea Plane Base on May 15, 1938. Glenn Curtiss, as pilot and designer, became an integral part of aviation on Long Island. He developed the famous "WASP" and several types of flying boats. He became internationally famous as the developer of the hydroplane.

In December of 1938 Sumpwams Hose Company petitioned for a new 250 gallon per minute pumper and booster tank truck at a cost of \$4,063.00.

In a departmental meeting in April of 1940, Chief Southard recorded 158 members and 166 alarm calls. During the coming year, Argyle Hose Company #3 and Electric Hose Company #4 were painted at a cost of \$225.00 and \$325.00 respectively and Sumpwams Hose #2 was fitted with a new windshield.

In 1941 Captain Frank Ryan drafted blueprints of each house and presented district coverage by the department.

Civilian defense enters the Department agenda when a blackout is planned for Suffolk County on October 14, 1941. A motion to have an auxiliary fire department for defense is defeated 68 to 14.

In January of 1942 the Selective Service Board requested the use of a meeting hall for registration of men between the ages of 18 and 65. The Department scheduled periodic purchase and OK of Defense Bonds and voted gifts to all members who were drafted or enlisted in the Armed Forces.

In 1942 calls increase to 179 with a rise in membership to 164. A service flag and a scroll were made in

April by Cappy Arink to honor those serving in the Armed Forces. With the advent of gas rationing, the mileage and attendance at fires became the determining factor for any extra gas allotment to the Department or individuals. In July, fire headquarters was used on a trial basis as a U.S.O. center. The plan was dropped due to poor attendance. The Fireman's Auxiliary was disbanded in early August of 1942 and Warden Phil Reilly was drafted as were William Bennison and Warden Leon Pettit.

Another direct result of the war was a change in by-laws to conform with State Law and Emergency War Act on age limits for the duration. With apparatus in short supply, chief Hanse directed each company be responsible for all maintenance and up-keep after returning from a call.

In early April 1943 the Department is well represented with forty members in the Armed Forces. Present membership is 181 with a record of 196 calls. Sadly, Bert Wells became the first casualty of the war on May 18, 1943. An honor roll is dedicated with the American Legion in attendance. All in-service members continue to receive two cartons of cigarettes for Christmas.

In November all companies adopt a record of attendance at fires and meetings as part of a six month probation ruling.

Membership reaches 187 in 1944, with a budget of \$7,220.00 and 198 answered calls. The Department braces itself in response to the hurricane that struck Long Island, helping and assisting the township in every way possible. The number in service of our country rises to 51 and Department members increase to 194. Calls were also on the rise to 236.

In December of 1945, with equipment pushed to the limit, the taxpayers were asked for a proposal on new uniforms costing \$8,000.00, a two-way radio on the Silent Alarm Truck and eight new 1½ nozzles for trucks. The cash on hand at that time was \$1,712.09, with \$1,600.00 in war bonds. Although approved, the uniform request is put on hold until material is more plentiful.

Department members award Ex-Chief Hanse a set of golf clubs at the Memorial Day Parade in May of 1946, and in February of 1947 Wendler and Goldstein supply the long needed uniforms for \$36.25 each. The Department placed orders for 167 firemen and 13 chief's uniforms in time for the First Annual Returned Veterans Dinner.

Under Chief Gifford's direction, 253 alarms are answered and Sumpwams requested a new pumper to replace their old apparatus. The planned budget in 1947 is \$10,500.00 and \$5,000.00 for the truck replacement fund.

Always updating both equipment and knowledge of the science of firefighting, the first fire school Certificates are issued to ten members by Chief Bockelman in April of 1948. In a further attempt to upgrade the system, the Department becomes affiliated with several organizations. Members approved a motion to join the Southern New York Volunteer Fireman's Association and the Fireman's Association of the State of New York. A number of tournaments were attended in Southern New York, Bay Shore, Lindenhurst and Amityville.

In March of 1947 Babylon observed its 75th year as a township. Since its establishment, the assessed valuation of its property has increased from \$585,830.00 to \$35,532,250.00. Its population soared from the



1875 estimate of 4,533 to a 1940 census report of 24,297. Little did the founding fathers realize, nor could they have imagined, the need for the Town Zoning and Planning Board of 1931, the hiring of a Town nurse in the same year, or the disbursement of \$125,000.00 for land and a plant for the town incinerator in 1946.

The age of electronics entered the Department with the purchase of a G.E. television set and radio for \$400.00.

Old chairs in the meeting room were replaced in 1949 at a cost of \$900.00. The 1950 budget was \$12,500.00 and the Village agreed to buy a new Chief's car for \$2,031.00. Membership was 154 with 165 alarms answered.

On May 16, 1950 an accident at Higbie Lane and Sunrise Highway injured firemen and damages to the Electric Hose Truck were estimated at \$7,300.00. The Department later received compensation of only \$3,000.00.

A Welfare Committee, consisting of elected representatives from each company, was formed in June of 1950. William Bennison from Hook & Ladder, George W. Grover from Fire Patrol and Charles Weber from Argyle Hose administered the program fund. The Department donated \$1,000.00 to the fund.

An on-going debate on popular vs. delegate vote, pertaining to death or resignation of a Chief, commences in June of 1950. The law at that time stated that only the Governor could appoint a successor in these circumstances. In a meeting at Bohlsen's Restaurant in September, six companies are deadlocked in their vote. A postcard was sent to each member to be returned on or before October 17, 1950, and on November 19th the rules and regulations of election of a Chief by popular vote were read and accepted:

1. Candidate to have at least five (5) years service and be graduate of Fire School.
2. Candidate to have seven (7) years service without Fire School Certificate or an ex-Capt. of their company with five (5) years service.
3. Candidates must be principal residents of the Village of Babylon.
4. Maximum term of Office not to exceed two (2) years.
5. Candidate shall be posted thirty (30) days before election; also, nominations shall be accepted from the floor.
6. A fireman must have passed his six month probation period before he is eligible to vote.
7. Election shall be the first Thursday following the first Tuesday in April of each year.



**TAPPIN ESTATE FIRE FEBRUARY 27, 1950**



After on-going discussions commencing in February of 1947, an American La France with a 75 ft. aerial ladder was recommended at a special meeting on March 26, 1951. The present Hook & Ladder was 21 years old and replacement was sorely needed since the equipment was fast becoming a hazard. In addition, a motion was made to replace the damaged Electric Hose truck with a International Harvester for \$9,975.00. This new equipment was scheduled to be operational by February of 1952.

Chief Kraft, not enamored with work definition at fires, sets up the following criteria:

1. Any fireman taking boots and not returning them to the truck would be fined \$15.00 and faced a 30 day suspension.
2. A point system is recommended.
3. Hose lines are to have identifying numbers.
4. Record books are to be kept in Headquarters, not on the trucks.
5. Firemen must return to Headquarters after each call in order to receive credit for the call.

The point system was discussed with Hook & Ladder, Electric Hose and Fire Patrol against; Phoenix and Argyle in favor; and Sumpwams undecided.

still in operation. It is constantly updated, making it possible to utilize this well-preserved apparatus for many years to come. The old apparatus was sold for \$1,000.00. The 1952 budget was \$11,500.00 and rose to \$16,500.00 in 1953.

A motion was put forward and the company agreed to an annual affair for both fund raising and morale. All affairs were to be scheduled between October 1st and March 31st with 20% of the total profit to be donated to the Welfare Fund.

Fire Patrol was the last in line to refurbish equipment and make application for a new truck. The Wardens approved a motion to purchase a Ford F-5 chassis with full equipment and a 10,000 watt, 3-phase generator with portable amplifier at a cost of \$9,950.00.

The first Little League team sponsored by the Department won the championship in its first year.

In June of 1952 Chief Duggan was made a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. In keeping abreast of current technology, members attended both the New Haven Fire College and the East Rochester Training Center. In November a motion was made and carried stating that only the Chief or the House



On November 21, 1951 an American La France Hook & Ladder truck with a 75 ft. aerial ladder was delivered to the Department. With its acceptance, Babylon becomes one of the first departments on Long Island to operate an aerial ladder truck. Aerial ladder trucks, developed in the year 1873, were designed to reach a height of 97 feet. This was quite remarkable considering the longest American made aerial in current use today is only 100 ft. Due to structural strain, the height was quickly reduced to 85 ft.

As evidence of the tender loving care taken by the Babylon Department, this truck, some 40 years old, is

Chief could grant permission for the use of the Fire House for parties, etc. by persons other than members.

A serious fire on April 21, 1953 prompted a motion to investigate current insurance coverage in case of serious injury to a firefighter.

As the community steadily increases, so does the Department's sphere of responsibility including water areas of the lake and the Bay. In January 1954 three small boys, one the son of Mr. D. Lyons, are rescued from the icy waters of Argyle Lake.



In October, the Electric Hose Company held a Masquerade Ball at headquarters for members and guests. No one came disguised as a fireman.

Fall of 1953 found the Village purchasing the property on which the Electric Hose Company stands today.

While still pictures are usually taken before and after fires, by the Department and Insurance companies, the purchase of a motion picture camera, at a cost of \$400.00, was made in late Fall of 1953. The camera not only supplied valuable information about the nature of the fire but a historical record for the Department.



In January 1954, prompted by the September 1953 recommendation, \$12,000.00 is budgeted for a new 1954 Fire Patrol truck to replace the old 1936 Diamond T.

An honor system at Headquarters bar room came under scrutiny. Both the money for purchases and the beer are missing. At the 1954 price of \$10.25 per quarter barrel, few would complain today.

Few people realize that once called to a fire, the actual time spent in controlling one is great. In many cases both darkness and the elements add to the ferocity of the task.

In October, a store and storage house of Batten of Babylon, located on Deer Park Avenue, were totally destroyed at an estimated loss of \$19,000.00.



The sixteenth Memorial service of the Suffolk County Volunteer Fireman's Assn. was held at the Babylon High School Auditorium on Sunday May 9, 1954 at the invitation of the Babylon Fire Dept. This service was attended by about 250 Firemen from all parts of Suffolk County and was preceded by a parade from Fire Headquarters to the High School building. The Rev. Jacob H. Joldersma Chaplain of the Assn. conducted the service at which a clergyman from each of the religious faiths took part and it was a very fitting tribute to our departed firemen.

The following candidates were renominated on April 8, 1954:

<b>Chief</b>	William J. Condy
<b>1st Asst. Chief</b>	John B. Burt
<b>2nd Asst. Chief</b>	John E. Hoernel
<b>3rd Asst. Chief</b>	Charles Kohnapfel

The Secretary announced to the members present that a check had been received from the town of Islip, N.Y. in the amount of \$4090.60 same being the Babylon fire department portion of the amount received for fire protection of the West Islip Fire District. This check was shown to all and then turned over to Treasurer John F. Condy.

On June 15, 1954 as the result of a letter received from the Mayor of the Village of Babylon the Sec'y was instructed to write to the Babylon Village Board to the effect that this council recommend that the old Storm Engine be kept and stored temp. some suitable loca-

tion until a museum is established in the town or village of Babylon the motion so instructing the sec'y was made by Mr. E.C. Smith and seconded by Mr. Abbott.

Our Chief in mid-September spoke with regard to the Babylon Fire Department answering calls on the Captree Causeway, Oak Beach, Etc. as a result of his



In April of 1954, a call summoned the department to the Babylon Theater on Montauk Highway because of a defective motor controlling the draw curtains at 11:30 P.M. A loss of \$500.00 was estimated. At 12:40 A.M. a furious blaze gutted the interior of the theater which took five hours to control. Chief Condry estimated damage was \$300,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. E.C. Smith and seconded by Mr. R. Kuhnaffel that membership quotas of Phoenix Hose Co. #1, Argyle Hose Co. #3 and the Babylon Fire Patrol Co. #1 be increased to thirty members to equal the other three companies of the Babylon Fire Department. Included in this motion was approval of same by the Babylon Village Board — Motion carried.

Assistant Chief Hoernel advised that there was no sign or signs on the front of the Fire house this matter was taken up with the Village Board by our Chief.

talk the sec'y was requested to notify the Babylon Village Board that the Babylon Fire department would not answer any calls for assistance on the Captree Causeway beyond the mainland shoreline. The Sec'y was likewise requested to notify all companies that their drivers be instructed not to answer calls for assistance on the Captree Causeway beyond the mainland shoreline.

The purpose of the meeting on October 15, 1954 as set forth by our Chief was to discuss the question of the new law relative to re-instating former members of the Babylon Fire Department now living outside the protected areas. Following a short discussion on this subject Chief Condry called for a motion to be made. Upon motion made by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Campi it was noted that the Babylon Fire Department accept former members of the Department now living

outside of the Village or district protected by the Fire Department pursuant to the by-laws of the Babylon Fire Dept. in accordance with chapter 699, section 176-B of the State Law motion carried.

In October the donation of the old hand pump apparatus to a museum, tabled at an earlier date in September, was discussed. As a result of that meeting, it was agreed to donate the apparatus to Mr. Clark's Auto Museum at Southampton, New York provided it be fully reconditioned and placed on exhibition.

In September of 1955 the Winwood School located on Montauk Highway in West Islip was completely destroyed by fire.



In January 1956 the Frost Boat Shipyard on Shore Road caught fire. In temperatures below zero, the firefighters fought the blaze for four and one-half hours. Loss was estimated at \$25,000.00.

In February of 1957 two trucks were dispatched from Signal 24 "Mutal" A&D to West Main Street, Bay Shore, to fight a fire in a row of stores and control the spread to adjoining buildings. After three hours, the fire was extinguished.

In April two major fires occurred within a day of each other on the ninth and tenth of that month. A house in West Islip on Parkwood Road was finally under control after seven hours of containment; how-



ever, the structure was destroyed. The following day Signal 24 sent three trucks to North Babylon to fight a fire at Annex School located on Deer Park Avenue.

After a semi-quiet summer, August saw the department spending ten collective hours extinguishing fires at Island Stores 5 & 10¢ Store on Higbe Lane and Udall Road and a house fire at 741 East Montauk Highway, West Islip. Both structure were completely destroyed but the fire was contained to those units only.



In February of 1958 under direction of Chief John Burt the largest fire recorded in the history of the Babylon Fire Department destroyed the Captree Bowling Center on Union Street in West Islip, New York. With the assistance of the Bay Shore, North Babylon, West Babylon and West Islip Fire Departments the blaze was finally brought under control, but not until the building was totally destroyed. The estimated loss was over one million dollars.



*Captree Bowling Alley  
Union Blvd., West Islip  
1958*

Twelve days later, a fire totally destroyed the Arbour Gas Station at the corner of Montauk Highway and Higbie Lane. The Department labored for five hours against strong winds and freezing temperatures in limiting this fire.

In March a fire at the old school completely engulfed the three story wood frame building. Listed as possible arson, this fire continued for eight hours before it was finally extinguished.

## The largest recorded fire in the history of the Babylon Fire Department

In February of 1959 a new "Mack," Model B-95F, 1000 g.p.m. Pumper and Hose Cart purchased for Argyle Hose Co. #3 arrived at Fire Headquarters. This new piece of apparatus was given a three to four hour Board of Fire Underwriters Test on February 21, 1959 and was proved satisfactory in every respect. It was then formally approved and accepted by the major on behalf of the Village of Babylon and placed into service by Argyle Hose Co. #3.

### **1959 Mack**



**Captree Bowling Alley**

Chief Hoernel in March advised that he was not at all pleased with the manner in which the funds were being handled by the Welfare Fund Committee. It was decided that a Committee from the Wardens shall meet with the Chairman and Secretary of the Welfare Comm. to establish a set of by-laws to govern the Babylon Fire Department Welfare Fund.

Asst. Chief Askoff advised that the Inter-Dept. Soft-ball League is to start in June this year.

In April Chief Hornell advised that the Babylon Fire Department base radio station had been changed and is now known as Base 120. We were instructed to use only code messages when required.

The Babylon Fire Department attended the formal opening of the Suffolk County Training Center at Yaphank, NY on Saturday, May 2, 1959.

The Electric Hose Co. #4 trucks will respond to all silent alarms in the future.

In the latter part of April, Phoenix Hose Co. #1 presented a set of specifications covering a 750 gpm Pumper which they requested be purchased for their Company to replace the present piece of apparatus.

Upon motion made by Warden Fairweather and seconded by Warden Kraft, Chief Hoernel was empowered to leave two prayer books engraved in the name of Rachael Siegel at Temple Beth Shalom of Babylon, New York in June of 1959.

It was noted to purchase a bronze plaque to be placed on the Fire Bell Monument next to Fire Headquarters to be in memoriam of our departed members.

So successful was the Department Band they were awarded 3rd prize at Far Rockaway, New York on the evening of September 12, 1959.



In mid-September a fire at Dr. Lyons totally destroyed his residence in Argyle Park. It took seven hours for the firemen to control the blaze in an attempt to control spreading to other structures.



The Department Band, in late October, won first prize in its class at the contest held at the North School, West Babylon, and Band Leader, Ex-Chief Robert W. Kraft, was awarded a medal for his excellent leadership.

Located at 45 Deer Park Avenue, Crown Finance was totally destroyed by fire in a five hour blaze in August.

The Department is advised that one trophy was stolen while on exhibit at the Babylon Theatre and same is now being traced for its present whereabouts.

To honor past firefighters, the Department purchases a bronze tablet for the Firemen's Memorial alongside Fire Headquarters to read as follows: "In memory of volunteer firemen of the Babylon Fire Department, organized 1881."

The flashing light in front of Argyle Hose House was to be installed sometime in the future.

Assistant Chief Askoff called attention to the condition of the pictures of our Ex-Chiefs at Headquarters and suggested that they be done over in black and white.

In December of 1959 letters were received from Phoenix Hose, Sumpwams Hose and Babylon Fire Patrol Co. requesting that their members living in the West Islip Fire District be retained as members of the Babylon Fire Department in the event that fire protection is no longer furnished in any part of this District by the Babylon Fire Department.

On January 7, 1960 a brand new "Mack" C85, 750 gal. per minute Pumper and Hose Cart arrived at Headquarters for use of Phoenix Hose Co. #1. This piece of apparatus was given the Board of Fire Underwriters test on January 9, 1960 and met with all requirements and specifications. It was then formally accepted by the Village of Babylon. A formal christening took place at Fire Headquarters on Sunday, January 24, 1960 when the keys were presented to Chief Hoernel who in turn, handed them over to Captain Marschausen of Phoenix Hose Co. #1.



The old "American La-France" truck formerly assigned to Phoenix Hose was purchased by members of that Company and it was presented to the Village of Babylon at the time of the christening of the new piece of apparatus.

A letter dated January 19, 1960 was received from Argyle Hose Co. #3 relative to the formation of a rescue company within the Babylon Fire Department, was read at this time.

The Chief read a copy of a letter he had sent to the Babylon Village Board requesting that the members of the B.F.D. residing in the W. Islip Fire District be allowed to remain as members of the Babylon Fire Department. He also read the reply received from the Village Board stating that the matter was in the hands of the Village Attorney and that when a definite legal opinion has been rendered, the Chief will be notified accordingly.

Under date of January 29, 1960 the Babylon Village Board advised that it had adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the members of the Fire Department who are living outside the local Fire District be continued as active members of the Department with a careful check being made for one year. Further resolved, that at the expiration of one year, the men who have been available and served well during this period be



continued as firemen, and it is Further resolved, that at that time some action be taken on this matter pertaining to those who were not available. It is Further Resolved, that at the expiration of ONE year the Fire Department possibly bestow upon those members who are eligible, having served 20-25 years, an Honorary Membership in the Department. It is Further Resolved, from now on no new members from outlying districts will be accepted as members of the local Fire Department.

On March 16, 1960 The Bug House Hose Co. #1, Inc. was granted permission to use our Fire Headquarters the night of May 20, 1960 for the purpose of holding their May meeting, also it was granted permission to use our Headquarters on Saturday night, June 18, 1960 to hold an informal dance for members and their wives.

Sports is in the agenda on May 17, 1960 when a motion made by Warden Slack and seconded by Warden Keyser, it was voted that the Babylon Fire Department sponsor a major league team in the Babylon Little League for the 1960 Season at a cost of \$100.00.

Later in June the first game in which the Babylon Fire Department Team will play in the newly formed Town Night Soft Ball League took place on the evening of June 3, 1960.

The first meeting for Rescue Squad instruction was to be held on Sept. 30, 1960 at Fire Headquarters, and it was voted to donate the sum of \$100 to the Babylon Fire Department Drum Corps toward the success of their first annual dinner.

On Oct. 7, 1960 notice is given that new turnout coats have been placed on trucks and same must be dried after use. They are subject to deterioration much quicker than rubber coats.

In December Chief Kuhnappel at a general meeting noted that seventeen members of the proposed Rescue Squad crew had passed the American Red Cross First Aid Course, also that the Rescue Co. had elected Oliver G. Davison, Captain and meetings of this Company or Squad would be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the future.

The minutes of the meeting of January 17, 1961 were read by the Secretary and same were ordered corrected with regard to the proposed new firehouse for Electric Hose Co. #4 and also the erection of a roof over the area between the rear of Fire Headquarters and the Village Highway Dept. Building. The correction having been made, said minutes were then approved upon. The Secretary was instructed to write the Babylon Village Board and request their approval of the following proposals, namely: 1) Construction of a new Fire House for Electric Hose Co. #4, 2) Construction of a roof over the area in rear of Headquarters, 3) Purchase of an ambulance for the newly formed Rescue Squad and 4) Purchase of a new Chief's car to replace the present vehicle.

Mayor, Gilbert C. Hanse spoke at a meeting in mid-April informed us that a meeting had been held with the Comm. of Fire, the Chief Officers of the B.F.D. and himself. As a result of that meeting, a new building is to be built for Electric Hose Co. #4, an extension is to be erected in the rear of Headquarters to house the new Rescue Truck, which will also be purchased. All this was to be accomplished without any increase in taxes. All pumpers had been passed by the Board of Fire Underwriters and all were rated Class A on May 16, 1961.

To help increase efficiency a central control system for reporting fires is at present under consideration and same was being handled at that time by Commissioner Hoernel.

In April of that year a motion was made by Warden Kraft, seconded by Warden Bennison that any member suffering from a major illness such as heart disease, etc. shall be placed on sick leave and shall not be permitted to engage in firematic activities until he has been pronounced fit to perform such activities by a M.D.

With an ever increasing demand for better and newer equipment bids for the purchase of a new pumper for Sumpwams Hose Co. #2 will be opened in June 1963.

In September Mr. George A. Schmidt, a member of Phoenix Hose Co. #1, outlined a plan he was able to obtain, whereby each active member of the Babylon Fire Department would be individually insured in the amount of \$1,000. After a brief question and answer period it was decided to have the respective Wardens bring this matter before their Company for further discussion and opinions. The Secretary was instructed to send a letter to Mr. Alvin M. Friedman and congratulate him for piloting the Babylon Fire Department Little League Baseball Team to the championship for the 1963 season. Our Chief informed that the doors of the apparatus room are to be electrified in the near future.

March came in like a lion and at 4:05 PM a "Mack," Model C95F30351, 1000 gal. per min. Pumper arrived at our Fire Headquarters. This apparatus is equipped with a "Waterous" Pump Assembly and it passed its Fire Underwriters Tests to the satisfaction of all concerned on Thursday, March 5, 1964. It was accepted by the Babylon Village Board on Tuesday, March 16, 1964 and it was henceforth placed into service. Dedication of this apparatus took place on Sunday, March 22, 1964 for the Sumpwam Hose Co. #2.

A report on the September Field Day recently held was made by Chairman Robert Kraft. The affair was very successful and attended by 150 children and 173 adults and cost approx. \$400. which rounded off a beautiful summer season.



## The Chiefs

He'll always be **THE CHIEF**. A name he's earned with pride,  
Even when his term is over, and he steps aside.

His rise through the ranks to the pinnacle of success,  
took years of special training . . . a dedication few possess.

Many are remembered who've shared his role in life,  
Above all . . . "The firehouse widow," his ever-lovin' wife!

His lungs have tasted toxic fumes, his skin has felt the flames,  
aches and bruises when hand-in-hand, like thunder in the rain.

As a soldier of good florian, Our Patron Saint of old,  
He's fought his share of battles, too numerous to unfold.

Destiny makes us brothers, He'll never be alone.  
What he sent into lives of others, has come back to his own.

From those who've worked beside him, It's said with fond belief,  
may God be with him always . . . and he'll always be  
**THE CHIEF**.



**Chief Henry Livingston**  
1881



**Chief Joseph Cummin**  
1881-1884



**Chief Alanson Weeks**  
1884



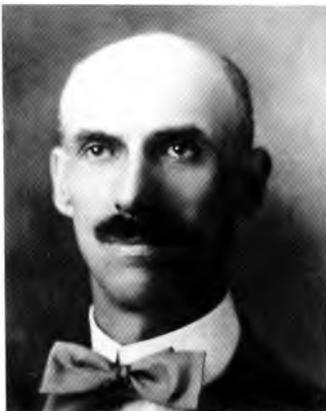
**Chief Frederick S. Thorpe**  
1888



**Chief Smith Baldwin**  
1889-1890



**Chief Benjamin B. Wood**  
1890



**Chief Lou I. Howard**  
1889



**Chief Gustave Fishel**  
1889



**Chief Frederick S. Thorpe**  
1900



**Chief Harry VanWeelden**  
1903



**Chief Stephen Titus**  
1885

**Chief Treadwell Kellum**  
1886

**Chief Harry VanWeeldem**  
1887-1888



**Chief Andrews Weeks**  
1891-1894

**Chief Harry VanWeelden**  
1895-1898

**Chief Joel Barber**  
1898



**Chief Lyman Kent**  
1903

**Chief Charles Kelly**  
1904-1905

**Chief John Kraft**  
1906

**Chief George Wood**  
1907-1909



**Chief Theodore Soper**  
*1910-1911*



**Chief William Mott**  
*1912-1913*



**Chief John Stanton**  
*1914*



**Chief Percy Arink**  
*1919-1928*



**Chief Charles Vollmer**  
*1929*



**Chief Harry Thomas**  
*1930-1931*



**Chief Tracy Pearsall**  
*1938*



**Chief John Graf**  
*1938-1939*



**Chief Alfred Southard**  
*1940-1941*



**Chief Gilbert Hanse**  
*1942-1945*



**Chief Leon Pettit**  
1915

**Chief Benjamin Ohlmiller**  
1916

**Chief William C. Kraft**  
1917-1918



**Chief Charles Pfeifle**  
1932-1933

**Chief Milton Arink**  
1934-1935

**Chief George Keyser**  
1936-1937



**Chief Stuart Gifford**  
1946-1947

**Chief Frank Bockelman**  
1948-1949

**Chief Robert W. Kraft**  
1950-1951

**Chief John Duggan**  
1952-1953



**Chief William Condy**  
*1954-1955*



**Chief John Burt**  
*1956-1957*



**Chief John Hoernel**  
*1958-1958*



**Chief Clayton Smith Jr.**  
*1966-1967*



**Chief Robert Slack**  
*1968-1969*



**Chief Charles Reeves  
Jr.**  
*1970-1972*



**Chief John Maier**  
*1978-1980*



**Chief Robert O'Shea**  
*1980-1982*



**Chief Raymond Baldwin**  
*1982-1984*



**Chief William Froehlich**  
*1984-1986*



**Chief Charles Kuhnappel**  
1960-1961



**Chief Sydney Askoff**  
1962-1963



**Chief Wallace Rogers**  
1964-1965



**Chief E. Donald Conroy**  
1972-1974



**Chief Martin H. Albert**  
1974-1976



**Chief Malcom W. Lewis**  
1976-1978



**Chief Donald Steele**  
1986-1988



**Chief Robert W. Kraft  
Jr.**  
1988-1990



**Chief William Tiedemann**  
1990-1992

Babylon Fire Department  
Chief Gillbert C. Hanse  
1942/1945

**April 1943** A general alarm was called in at the Babylon Seaplane base located at the end of Bayview Ave. This complex housed, seaplanes and repair shop for planes, it also had a restaurant in this complex. On arrival the building fully engulfed in flames and was totally destroyed.

**May 1944** The Babylon Movie theater located on Main Street (where is located today). This was the first time it burned. The theater was totally destroyed, along with a stationary store next door. Mutual aid was called from Lindenhurst Fire Department, they pumped from Argyle Lake.

**December 1945** A general alarm was sounded for a working fire at the Babylon Hotel located on Railroad Ave. The hotel was occupied by about 30 residents at the time of the fire. The entire hotel was destroyed at this time. There were no mutual aids because there were no other fire departments in existence at that time.

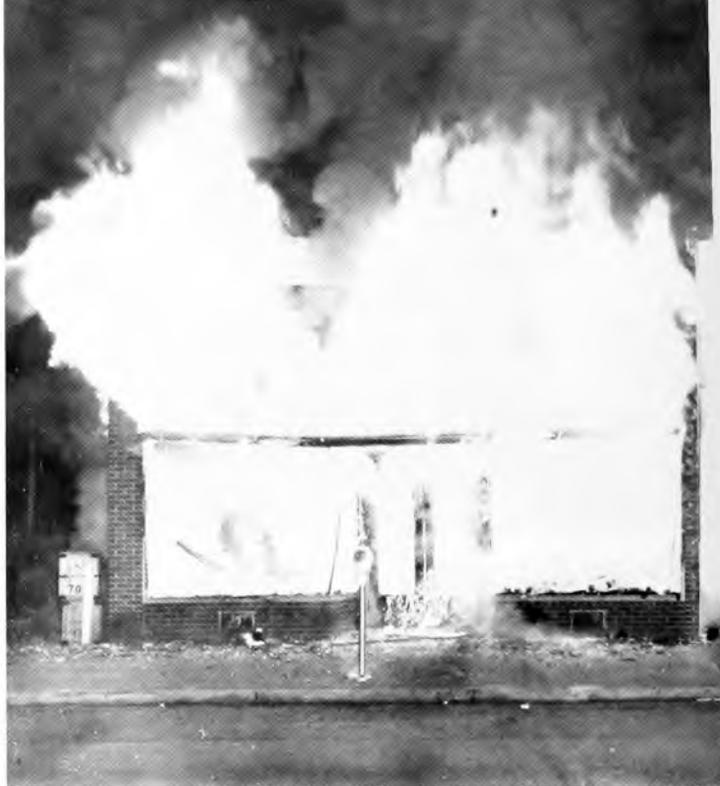
Babylon Fire Department  
Chief William Condy  
1954-1956

**October 1954** A general alarm was sounded for Batten of Babylon Hardware store located on Deer Park Ave. (where Lomans complex is today). This store and warehouse was totally gutted. A total of 76 men responded and it took 4½ hours to extinguish the fire.

**April 4 and 5, 1955** A general alarm at the Prudential Theatre on Montauk Highway at 11:30 P.M. A defective motor for the stage curtains caught fire. The department spent an hour at this alarm. 10 minutes after the trucks returned to main headquarters, they were called back to the theatre. Now the entire building was totally involved. What had happened was the vent system was turned on and there were some smoldering ashes which were picked up and blown throughout the building. The building was a total loss at an estimated \$300,000. A total of 88 men responded and between the 2 alarms, 6 hours were spent at the fire.

**September 1955** The Windwood School in West Islip on Montauk Highway was totally destroyed.

**January 1956** The Frost Shipyard on Shore Road was totally destroyed.



*East Main Street*



*Houses behind old A & P  
1957*



Ronnie's Dress Shop  
1964  
East Main Street



*Luncheonette next  
to Movie House  
Main Street*



*Main Street in Bayshore  
Unit 126 in action  
1957*



*Parkwood Lake, West Islip  
1957*

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief Charles Kuhnappel

1960-1962

**December 1960** A General alarm was sounded at 334 East Main Street. The fire was the Brooklawn Hotel Rest., with a fire in the cellar. After five hours of fire fighting the blaze was brought under control. The building was totally destroyed and 48 men had responded to the alarm.

**April 1960** The Babylon F.D. went on a mutual aid to Lindenhurst F.D. for a fire on the corner of Hoffman Avenue and Wellwood Avenue. A total of 42 men went on Electric Hose, Sumpwams Hose, Phoenix Hose and the Hook & Ladder.

**February 1962** A signal 13 at Harry & Joe's Dinner on East Main Street, This fire started in the grill area of the diner, there was heavy smoke and water damage to the bldg. 42 men responded to the alarm at 8 PM that day.

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief Syd Askoff

1962-1963

**July 1962** On July 14th a signal 13 structure fire at the corner of Park Ave. and Deer Park Ave. where dairy barn store is now. This alarm came in at 4am, 96 men responded. This was the Arinks Moving company, a large two story balloon constructed building filled with furniture and storage items. You could see the flames for miles away. There were a tremendous amount of exposure problems first was the Mrs. Liela Place of 344 Deer Park Avenue, which was apx. 10 feet from the fire building, which was saved and only received smoke, heat damage and water damage. Second house which belong to Mr. and Mrs. Salomon of 334 Deer Park Avenue, This house had heat damage. Third was the Babylon Radio Service store of 345 Deer Park Avenue which sustained heat and water damage, also had a small barn on fire. At the following addresses there was heat damage done to 354 and 369 Deer Park Avenue, along with heat damage to #1 and #7 Park Avenue, Mutual aid were called in from North and West Babylon Fire Departments along with West Islip Fire Department. The Department spent 7 hours at this fire, The old Phoenix Hose truck was put in service to use its deck gun.

**November 1962** An injured Swan was rescued from a frozen Argyle Lake, The Swan was frozen to the ice. Chief Kuhnappel brought the swan to headquarters and place it in our hose dryer, and the swan survived and was released.

**April 1963** The Department also went to major brush fires in North Lindenhurst and Yaphank.

**April 1963** A signal 13 structure fire was called in at 115 East Main Street which was the Hoerning Studebaker Auto Sales (Spragues) This building was a show room and a auto repair shop which was fully involved at time of arrival, A Hundred and eleven men responded and the fire was under control within 4 hours. There was an exposure just east of the fire building which only received heat damage.

*Arink's Warehouse  
Deer Park Ave. and Park Ave.  
1962*



Arink's Fire  
Deer Park Ave. and Park Ave.  
1962



*Livingston House  
Main Street  
1963*





Old Ice House  
on Cooper Street  
1962



Studebaker Auto Dealer  
East Main Street  
1963

## Babylon Fire Department

E. Calyton Smith

1967

**March 1967** On March 11, 1967 a general alarm was sounded for a fire at the Babylon Senior High School on Railroad Avenue and North Carl Avenue. Arsonists were blamed Sunday for a fire that destroyed four second floor rooms in the Babylon High School over the weekend, forcing school authorities to cancel today's classes. A 54 year old veteran with 16 years with the fire department, Oliver G. Davison of West Islip, died of an apparent heart attack Saturday afternoon after helping to fight the fire. The blaze was the third fire at the school Saturday morning and the fourth within 12 hours. It raged out of control for almost two hours as more than 100 firemen fought to contain it. Janitors had put out a small fire earlier in the morning, Babylon firemen found signs that a third fire had been started in a shelf of books but had burned itself out. It was the eighth blaze in less than three months at the school, according to Chief E. Calyton Smith.

As a result of Saturday's fires, 1,200 Babylon High School Students will miss classes today. Investigators from the Suffolk County Police arson squad said Sunday they were "still on the ground floor" in their search for the blaze's origin.

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief Robert Slack

1968-1970

**April 1968** On this date the Babylon Fire Department had its most active day, It had 5 signal 13's and 2 signal 12's all working fires, 1st was Robert Moses Barn, 2nd vacant house behind A&P, 3rd Old Gas Station on West Montauk Highway, 4th Barn Argyle Duck Basin, 5th behind John's Bar, plus 2 signal 12's. The Department was placed on standby for two hours after last alarm.

**May 1968** Asbury House on Deer Park Avenue was fully involved, There was extreme damage to the interior and roof, 90 men responded to this alarm.

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief Charles Reeves Jr.

1970-1972

**November 1970** At 3:28 pm a call was received for a signal 13 (structure) at Oak Beach. Upon arriving at the scene five houses were totally involved and the outside walls of the other two houses were involved. A 1000 lb., 500 lb. and numerous 100 lb. propane tanks were involved. This fire took 72 men 7 hours to extinguish. Five houses were totally destroyed and two houses were saved and one monkey was rescued (and we do mean monkey).

**January 1971** At 2:43 am a call was received for a signal 13 (structure fire) at Dollard Building corner of Deer Park Ave. and Grove Place. Over one hundred

It was mid-morning on a very warm March 11, 1967, that the Babylon Senior High School on Railroad Avenue was involved in roaring fire that broke thru the roof just prior to this picture being taken. In spite of Heroic efforts by Fire Fighters of this Department and our neighboring Fire Departments, the Gothic Columned Structure suffered damage, that resulted in a complete renovation of the structure.

*Babylon High School  
1967*



*Donohue Travel  
Main Street 1968*



**The Magee**  
INSURANCE  
MO. 143290  
BARVZON N.

WINE  
CO  
JE

LA FABBRICA  
GROCERY SHOP

BACK 500 FEET

members of the Babylon Fire Department fought a fire of undetermined origin for more than nine hours Thursday morning with an assist from the North and West Babylon Fire Departments. The fire wiped out seven stores, located at 150 to 160 Deer Park Avenue.

The Babylon Fire Department arrived at the scene within three minute after the alarm was turned in. Chief Charles Reeves said that one of the stores, "Pizzazz" was fully engulfed on the north wall, and the third story was already in flames when they arrived. The other stores located in the building were; Russ's Dress Outlet, Greg's Fruit Market, The State Farm Insurance Co., G.I. Television, Walter's Dry Cleaners and the Babylon Town Photo.

Thirteen pieces of equipment were used — nine from Babylon FD, and mutual aid from North Babylon and West Babylon Fire Departments, They fought the fire for nine hours in freezing temperatures, and most of the time it was snowing.

The excellent work of the men of the Babylon Fire Department and the cooperation of the West and North Babylon Fire Departments enabled us to contain the fire to the one building and prevented the spread of the fire to the adjoining buildings. While the departments were battling that fire, another one broke out across the street in the Seagreen Paint and Wallpaper store at 175 Deer Park Avenue. The fire was confined to a boiler room. The power was cut off along Deer Park Avenue while the other blaze, and when the power was kicked back on at about 7 a.m. it set aflame a whole burner unit. There was no one in the store at that time. Firemen finally left the scene at 11:48 a.m.

**1970** Chief Reeves appointed a committee of Francis Novak and John Jebben to research the history of the Babylon Fire Department. The beginning of the year 1971 was a very busy time for the Babylon Fire Department. After many months of meeting between the Chiefs and Mayor Hanse a bid was let to renovate and add a second store over the rescue bay and air condition the fire house, and install new radio room. All the furnishings and trophies had to be removed and stored, all meetings had to be held in the Argyle and Electric fire houses. While work was being done in apparatus room and rescue bay, all the trucks had to be housed in the highway shop.

After almost a year our newly renovated fire house was ready and a Department cocktail party was held for all to enjoy the fire house.

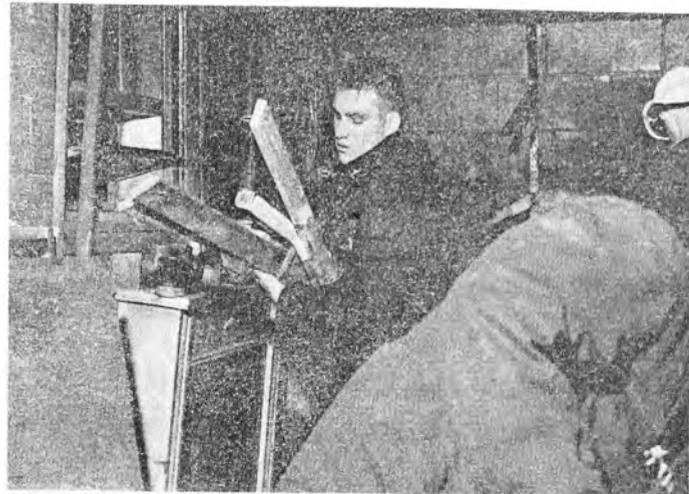
After numerous hours spent by the Chiefs and various committees of the dept. They recorded house numbers, hydrant locations, street maps, direct phone lines into the fire house and information to all residents of the new phone number and procedure to report a call of fire or rescue. The Babylon Fire Department joined Babylon Central Fire Alarm on June 1, 1971.

**August 1971** The Babylon Fire Department participated in the New York State Parade and Drill at Niagara, New York. The Department won 1st place best appearing Department in 30 men category, and the Band won 2nd place best appearing. The newly formed Babylon Fire Department Drill Team participated in the State Tournament for the first time in many years. The Scrounges made an excellent showing, even tho they didn't win any trophies.

*Dollard Block  
1971*



Babylon High School  
1967



**April 1971** On April 8, 1971 at 6:45 P.M. a signal 13 (structure fire) was received for a fire at 94 Deer Park Avenue (Copper Kettle Rest.). The fire had started in the kitchen area engulfing the first floor and extended up into the 2nd floor apartments. It took 125 men and 4 hours to extinguish the fire. After arriving back at the fire house after 11 pm and getting all trucks ready to roll, Chief Reeves called the annual convention (Election of Chief Officers) to order at midnight. The Chief and Assist. Chiefs were elected for another term and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 am.

**May 1971** At 12:50 am on May 29, 1971 a signal 13 (structure fire) was received for 78 Vanderbilt Avenue. Upon arriving at the scene the whole 1st floor of the two story high ranch was fully engulfed in flames and blowing out of the windows. A neighbor informed Chief Reeves that there were occupants in the house. The 2nd floor was fully charged with smoke and heat and had to be vented so a scott pack team could enter for search and rescue. 5 occupants were rescued and later pronounced dead at the hospital. A one year old boy was rescued by fireman Chris O'Shea on the 2nd floor in his crib and lived. All occupants were transported by the Babylon Fire Department and The West Babylon Fire Department Rescue Squads. This fire took 92 men and 3¾ hours to extinguish. This fire was determined to be suspicious and the arson squad was called in to investigate. Chief Reeves was subpoenaed to appear at the Grand Jury and trial, And the Husband was convicted and sentenced to 25 years for setting the fire and killing the occupants.



Scene at Oak Beach  
Destroyed Six (6) Houses and  
damaged one (1) other  
1970

**April 1972** At 6:38 P.M. a call was received for a signal 13 — structural fire — at the U.S. Coastguard station on Fire Island. Upon arrival at the scene the second floor of the radio shack, 14 rooms on the second floor, was heavily involved in fire with no immediate water supply available. While an attack was made with 2 inch and a half hose lines, water from other arriving trucks was dumped into the attack truck's tank. Unit 1-2-4 was finally maneuvered into position to draft from the inlet with a good water supply. The fire was extinguished by 55 men in 3 hours, and the building was saved.

Babylon Fire Department  
Chief E. Donald Conroy  
1972-1974

**August 1972** Fire destroys 3 stores, A suspected hot ash from a cigarette in a box of clothing may have been the cause of a bad fire on Deer Park Avenue and Railroad Avenue in Babylon on Tuesday afternoon. The fire destroyed a building owned by Inter-County Bus Company which housed their garage, A meat market and a new clothing store called "Browse." Mr. Harry Ballard, owner of the clothing store said that there were two customers in the fitting rooms at his store where his wife Charlotte was helping them. Mrs. Ballard saw flames flare up in a box of clothing stored in the fitting room. It burned so fast that she wasn't able to throw it out the back door. Two women in the rear of the building heard her shouts and tried to use a hose they saw lying nearby but a car was parked on the hose and they were unable to get any water through it to put out the flames. The whole building was engulfed in flames within minutes. Two busses belonging to the bus company next door were pushed to the parking lot in the rear and were not damaged. The meat market was totally destroyed. Mr. Ballard said he had just opened his shop a few weeks ago and had a total investment of \$15,000.00 in merchandise and fixture, none of which was insured. The general alarm was answered by the Babylon Fire Department, who finally had the fire under control by 2 P.M.

**September 1973** The Babylon Fire Department may have broken all speed records in getting to the scene of a fire last night. Chief Donald Conroy estimated it could have taken something like 30 seconds. "There were quite a few men around the firehouse when we got the call," he said. Flames were consuming some material and parts of the attic in the Babylon Village Highway Department garage when the firefighters arrived at about 6:40 p.m. The garage off Carlston Place is adjacent to and slightly to the rear of the firehouse. To reach the scene with their eight trucks, however, volunteers had to drive about a half block. Chief Conroy said the flames and smoke were confined to the attic area and there was no damage to the village highway equipment stored below. The fire on undetermined origin, kept firemen busy for almost two hours. There was no danger to the fire house, Conroy said, and there were no injuries.

**October 1972** Four Area Departments assist Babylon Firemen. A fire discovered at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning in the rear of the old Fishel Bldg. on Main Street in Babylon Village and within 5 minutes the century old structure was enveloped in flames. Destroyed in the blaze, the culmination of a series of smaller fires in the past week in the same area, were a well-known dress shop, The sudder Bazaar, which had been in business in the same location for over fifty years, Brummer's Delicatessen, the stationary store, known as Manaker's, Storks Meat Market and the Atlantic Grocery store. The Babylon Fire Department fought the blaze for over five hours and was assisted by four other area departments; West Babylon, West Islip, Lindenhurst and North Babylon Fire Departments. Chief Don Conroy of the Babylon Fire Department said that the fire was a definite arson.



Fishel Building  
◀ East Main Street  
1974



Babylon Fire Department  
Chief Martin H. Albert  
1974-1976

**August 1974** The Babylon Fire Department participated in the 102nd annual Fireman's Association of the State of New York (F.A.S.N.Y.) Parade held at Lindenhurst, N.Y. Babylon with a turnout of 123 men in line won the best appearing department in the 50 men and over category out of one hundred and fifty departments who marched in the parade. The Babylon Fire Department also won the overall parade championship trophy.

**January 1975** A Fire of undetermined origin started in the Cedar Street Lumber and Paper Storage Building around noon time. With help from the West Islip Fire Department (one Snorkel, two Pumpers and Men), West Babylon Fire Department (two pumpers and Men), North Babylon Fire Department (two pumpers and Men), North Babylon Fire Department (one light truck and one pumper standing by Main House and Men). After 26 hours of fire fighting and overhaul, thousands of feet of hose the fire was declared extinguished. The Babylon Fire Department had 127 Men and all equipment at the scene until 7 AM the following morning. The large warehouse was totally destroyed.

**February 1975** A vacant house at 128 North Carll Avenue (RailRoad Station Parking lot), was the scene of a signal 13 (house fire) on a signal 15 (practice). The house was totally destroyed, A good drill was had by all department members.

**July 1975** The Babylon Fire Department responded to a signal 13 (house fire) at the old Coast Guard Station at Gilgo Beach 86 men responded to this call.

**November 1975** A signal 13 (House Fire) at 69 Alexander Street in the early morning hours starting in a bedroom where a man and wife lost their lives before the Department could rescue them. There was 75 men who answered the alarm which was extinguished in two hours.

Babylon Fire Department  
Chief Malcom Lewis  
1976-1978

**November 1977** A Signal 13 (structure fire) then known as ADZ Lounge on East Main Street. This building was also known as the Iron Horse Tavern and prior to that was also known as Caesar's Heath House in the forties. At the time of this fire the building was vacant, The fire totally gutted the structure. A total of 65 men responded to this alarm.

**January 1977** A signal 13 (structure fire) at 30 Dundee Avenue, The temperature was around 2 degrees without the wind chill factor. This house was a three story balloon type construction, The fire started in the basement and extended to the roof, The structure was totally destroyed. All our hoses were frozen to the ground and unit 128 was frozen in extended position. The department spent 5 hours at the scene.





## Babylon Fire Department

Chief John Maier

1978-1980

**May 1978** A signal 13 and 26 (110 ft. Boat Restaurant fire) this barge was located at the far end of Fire Island Avenue where John Anthonys is now located, upon chief's arrival both upper and lower decks were completely involved, water was drafted from The Great South Bay. We filled the Barge with water and until the barge sunk. A total of 71 men responded to this alarm, the fire was extinguished in 2½ hours.

**March 1980** A Structure fire at 215 Deer Park Avenue. This building was the old FBI building or the Leeds building the rear of the complex was fully involved. Firefighters Froehlich and Meier were blown across the street by the explosion but not hurt. The fire was under control in 4 hrs. a total of 90 men responded to this alarm.

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief Robert O'Shea

1980-1982

**April 1980** The Chief's first signal 13 structure fire at 48 Little East Neck Road at the residence of Dr. Nicollus. A bedroom and cedar walkin closet were on fire. The Chief slept thru the alarm and had to be called, but he never slept thru any other fire during his term.

**June 1981** The Department celebrates its 100th Anniversary with a parade and drill. After months of meetings and the formation of many different committees to oversee the planned day's activities. This celebration consisted of many hours of work, setting up bleachers, snow fencing, resurfacing of the track, painting the lines on the track ,food had to be ordered plus many other projects had to be done, The day of the drill and parade we had a heavy rain storm which almost cancelled the parade and drill. But the rain let up enough and we were able to start the drill. There were 58 drill teams in the tournament, We filled the stands with people, following the drill the parade was held from Foster Blvd. to Deer Park Avenue to Main Street to Headquarters. The Parade consisted of 78 departments. After the parade we held a block party in front of headquarters, did it ever rain, but the people kept on dancing in 6 inches of water. A good time was had by all. All our Ex-Chiefs led the different divisions, and we finally granted per.nission to the Ex-Chiefs the right to wear their White Hats again for this occasion.

**August 1981** A signal 23 was called in on Ocean Pky. at the draw bridge. The department responded to this location and found a young woman hanging from the top of the open draw bridge. The van she was in had hit the bridge as it was opening, she was thrown thru the windshield, and was hanging on as the bridge was going up. Chief O'Shea had the Hook & Ladder positioned so they could reach this young woman. Fireman Patrick Reilly, Robert Kraft, and Charles Reeves III went up the aerial to rescue her. Mutual aid from West Islip Fire Department was called for their snorkel to lower the woman down. The above firemen received the medal of valor for their efforts.



FBI Building or Leeds Building  
Deer Park Ave.  
1980



House on Park Ave.  
1979

*George Street  
1986*



*Oak Beach  
1985*



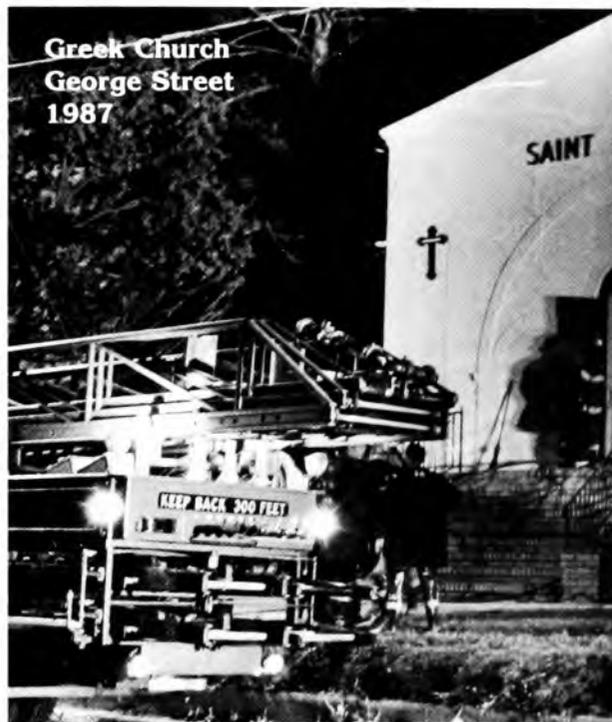
*Aamco Transmission  
West Main Street  
1985*



*Marine Complex  
End of Fire Island Ave  
1986*



**Greek Church  
George Street  
1987**



64B

*Gino's Pizza Deer Park Ave 1986*





*Plane Crash  
Ocean Parkway  
1987*



*Cedar Street Complex  
1989*

*Cedar Street Complex  
1989*

*House on Annuskemunnica Road  
1989*



*Captree Bowling Alley  
1990*

Babylon Fire Department  
Chief Raymond (Pete) Baldwin  
1982-1984

**April 1982**

June 1982

July 1982 On the above three dates there were 3 signal 13's at Danny Boyles. In April the first 13 was a small room and a hall fire, In June the 2nd of the three fires was a combination of many rooms that filled the building with smoke, upon arrival there were 3 possible jumpers at different locations of the building, This was our first task upon arriving, There was extensive damage to the building, The third fire was on a Sunday in 90 degree weather, the building was unoccupied at the time and it was fully involved again and totally destroyed. A total of 8 hours was used to fight these fires.

**January 1983** A signal 13 on Deer Park Avenue, At Pecks Deli this building was a taxpayer type, In which the entire second floor was involved, again exposure was our main concern, The Department spent 2½ hours at this alarm.

Babylon Fire Department  
Chief William Froehlich  
1984-1986

**February 1985** The Babylon Fire Department responded to a signal 13 at Oak Beach where we found a house fully engulfed in flames. Exposure problems were the main concern of the department. A signal 24 from West Islip Fire Department was sounded for two additional pumpers to the scene, Also a signal 3 was sounded for additional man power to the scene.

**February 1985** A signal 13 (structure fire) on Montauk Highway (West Main Street) was sounded at 8:12 a.m. at the Ammco Transmission. The building was fully involved, The front windows was totally blackened, Also two cars were totally destroyed. The fire started in the parts work room by a kerosene heater. The building was totally destroyed. Mutual aid from the West Babylon Fire Department responded with two pumpers.

**June 1985** A signal 23 at 500 Little East Neck Road was sounded when a 36 ft. searay boat traveling in the great south bay lost control and went airborne and landed in the yard and on top of a car.

**April 1985** A Fire at Simon Street apartment house. This signal 13 (structure fire) was fully involved, A real good stop was made by the Department.

Babylon Fire Department  
Chief Donald Steele  
1986-1988

**June 1986** A signal 13 (structure fire) came in at Watson and DiGarmo Industrial complex on Fire Island Avenue, The fire extended over to Post Place, The buildings, boats and cars were all totally destroyed by the fire, One major problem was an exposure problem on three sides of said fire and shifting winds made fire fighting a real challenge. Mutual aid was requested from the following departments, West Babylon, North Babylon, West Islip, and Wyandanch Fire Departments, All sending pumpers to the scene also Lindenhurst Fire Department stood by our headquarters. The Fire was handled by a total of 195 men and extinguished in 7 hours.

**August 1986** We had a signal 13 (structure fire) at Captree Island at the residence of Beecher Greenman, We had a tremendous heavy rain and lightning storm when the call was sounded. Montauk Hwy. at Cooper Street was completely flooded as was most of the streets in the village. Upon arrival the chief found a two story house fully involved, Water was a major problem because of low tide, This house was hit by lightning, Mutual aid was requested from the West Islip Fire Department which sent two pumpers to the scene, The fire was handled by 98 men and was extinguished in 4 hours.

**January 1987** A signal 27 (plane crash) was called in on Ocean Parkway near Gilgo Beach, The plane a four seater Cesner, had an emergency crash landing on the Ocean Parkway. The plane contain a pilot and 3 passengers and luckily there was no injuries, But the plane was totally destroyed by fire, The temperature was around 10 degrees and very heavy winds with snow on the ground, Units 123, 122, 125, 1210, 127 and one pumper from West Islip Fire Department fought this alarm, We believe this was a first for the Babylon Fire Department (Plane Crash)

**June 1987** The Department went by bus to Palmeri, New Jersey with 65 members to participate in a parade. The Department won 2nd place overall and the Band won 1st place, The Department received \$1100.00 cash in prizes and a trophy.

**December 1987** The department received a call from Central alarm with a signal 16 (rescue) at the south side of the main span of the Robert Moses Bridge — possible drowning victim. Upon Chief Steele's arrival he was notified that there was one victim on the beach and 2 other duck hunters were missing at that time. Units 1-2-10 and 1-2-7 responded. The victim was treated and transported to Good Samaritan Hospital. With the help of the U.S. Coastguard, Suffolk County Police boats and helicopters, a search was

started. Chief Steele went to the east side of the bridge and walked in 3 inches of water (low tide) for about a mile looking for the victims. On his return back the tide was coming in and now the 3 inches of water was 2 feet, and deeper in spots. With no way to get back to the causeway, he had to be rescued by the Coastguard helicopter. Meanwhile, 3rd Ass't Chief Tiedemann headed south of the bridge where he got lost in the bulrushes and brush and Chief Steele had to rescue him so he could get back to the causeway.

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief Robert Kraft Jr.

1988-1990

**May 1988** received an alarm of a fire for a house fire at 0126 hours at 48 Cockenoe Avenue \* The owner was Richard Krollage Captain of Sumpwams Hose Co. the fire was caused by his house being struck by lightning causing a bedroom and attic becoming involved in fire.

**August 1988** While participating in the New York State Volunteer firemen's Assn. Parade at Utica, N.Y. the Department captured 2nd place 21 30 men category.

**October 1988** A sig 13 at a abandoned house at 145 Araca Rd. at 0707 hours which upon arrival was fully involved in fire. The fire was determined to be arson.

**January 1990** Received an alarm of a fire at 257 Litchfield Ave. This house was occupied at the time. The owner of the house was into saving everything under the sun. The cause of the fire was from a wood stove.

**February 1990** A sig 13 at 258 Litchfield Ave. the owners were away on vacation at the time of the fire. The Chiefs responded from Melville as it was the Babylon Fire Department Band's 30th anniversary dinner. The fire was determined to be arson.

**November 1989** A signal 13 was received for a house fire at 392 Deer Park avenue at 2305 hours, which upon arrival the backrooms of the house were involved in fire. The building was in the process of being renovated to a doctor's office. The fire was determined to be arson.

**March 1989** Received an alarm of fire for an unoccupied building at 2252 hours at 222 West Main Street at Cleste Reality, Which was slated to be demolished to make way for an office complex. The fire was determined to be arson.

**April 1990** Received an alarm of fire for an occupied house at 0742 hours, at 42 Cocknoe Avenue, Babylon. The fire was in a bedroom, This is the fire that Ex-Chief Donald Steele received the name of DECK GUN DON.

**June 1989** At around 0548 am a signal 13 was sounded at the East end of Little East Neck Road which proved to be a false alarm, At the same time when 125 was leaving their quarters to respond to the fire they notice a heavy volume of smoke from the Cedar Street Lumber Yard, they then transmitted an alarm to central, 123 also responded to this alarm Received an alarm of fire for a commercial building at 05:53 hours at 75 Cedar Street, Babylon. Which upon arrival had a heavy volume of fire at the South end of the building with flame about 50 ft. in the air. Mutual aid departments at the scene were The West Islip, North Babylon, West Babylon, Lindenhurst and East Farmingdale Departments with a total of 200 men at this fire a fight broke out, in which 1st assist. Chief William Tiedemann was assaulted along with 4 other firemen, by a family of 3 (father and 2 sons) who was charged with assault. The fire was determined to be caused by a strike of lightning.

## Babylon Fire Department

Chief William Tiedemann

1990-1992

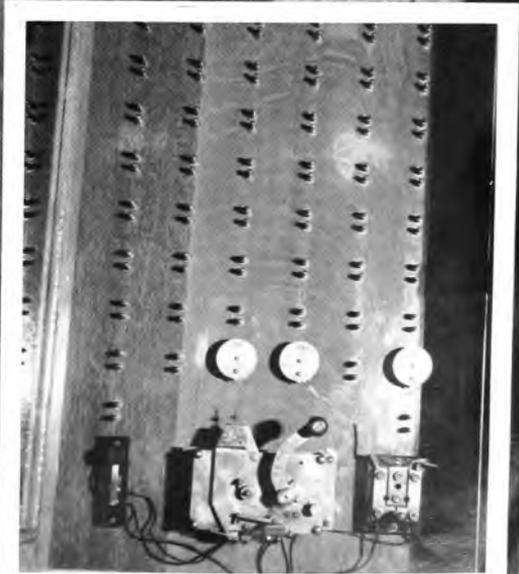
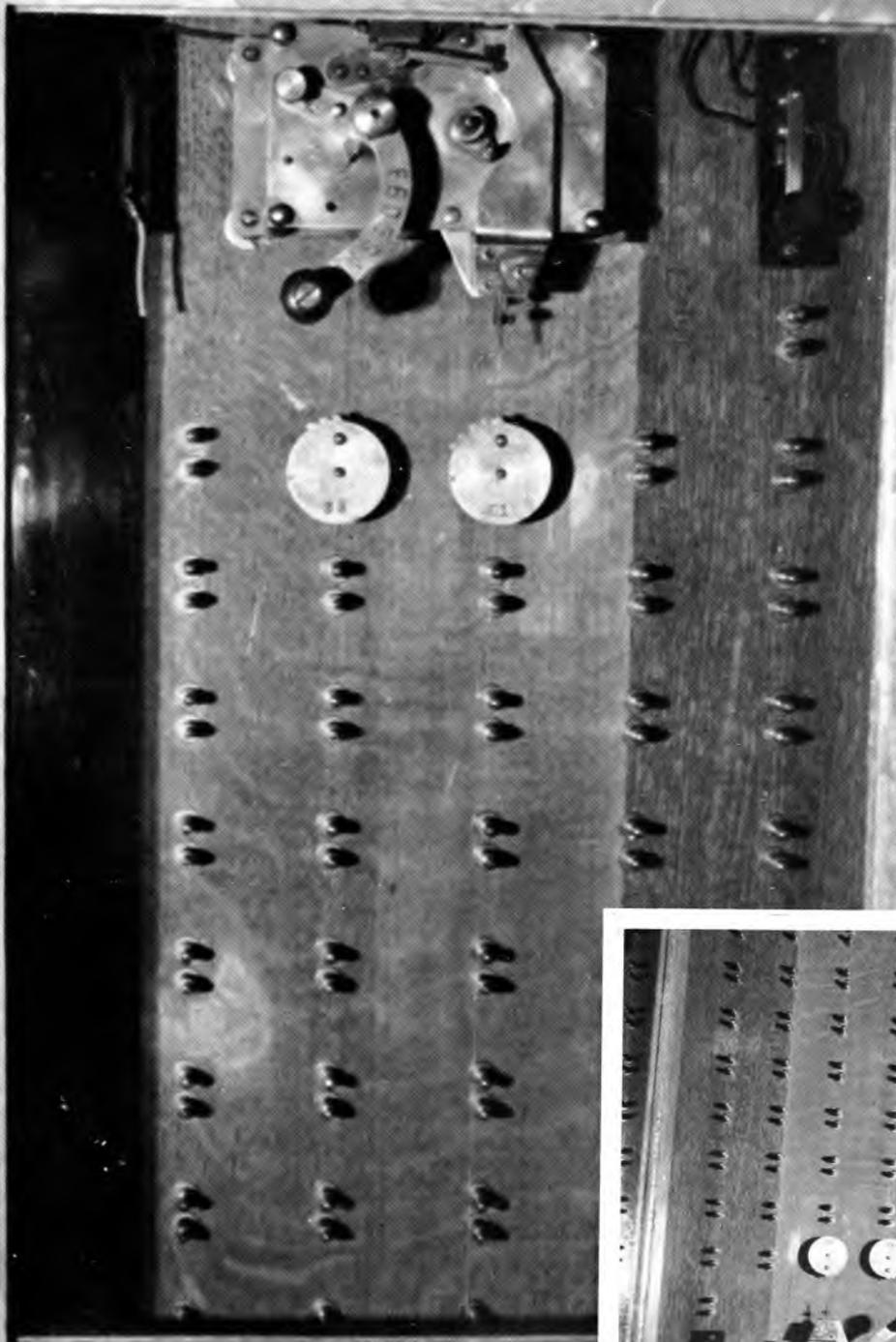
**May 1990** A signal 13 (structure fire) at The West Gilgo Beach Association, Upon arrival the dept. found a two story ballon type construction house on fire, The residents of the West Gilgo Assn. made the initial attack and the Babylon Fire Dept. extinguished the fire, Mutual aid was called and the West Islip Fire Dept. responded.

**October 1990** A signal 13 (structure fire) at Oak Beach on Oak Beach Road, This house was fully involved extensive damage to the interior of the house, Also a car in the garage was totally destroyed. Mutual Aid from West Islip F.D. was called.

**December 1990** A signal 13 (structure fire) in Oak Beach Assn. just west of the gate house, This fire seem to be an ordinary two car garage fire, but within minutes of our arrival it seemed like all hell broke loose, as it turned out the innocent looking garage was a warehouse full of fireworks, The garage blew up within minutes of our arrival throwing lumber and fireworks in all directions (fireworks were found 250 to 300 yards from the fire) Mutual Aid was sounded for the following Depts. West Babylon, North Babylon and West Islip Fire Depts. Also called was the Bomb Squad of the Suffolk County Police Dept. (A little humor to this fire was that we had two assist. chiefs at the scene when the garage blew Assist. Chief R. Meier and Assist. Chief J. Anderson their underwear is still stained (brown).

# COMPANIES

FEDERAL ELECTRIC  
COMPANY  
CHICAGO



Alarm sending box to notify companies of a fire and Rescue alarms

# HOOK & LADDER COMPANY NO. 1

## ORGANIZED IN 1877

**Captain** — Frank D. Bustamante  
**1st Lieutenant** — Charles Evans  
**2nd Lieutenant** — Robert Carlock  
**Secretary** — Epifanio Gonzalez  
**Treasurer** — Michael Morrow

Michael Augello  
 Raymond P. Baldwin  
 Raymond Baldwin  
 Lloyd Barth  
 William Bennison  
 Joseph Boyle  
 Frank J. Bustamante  
 John Carlock

Joseph Curran  
 John Evans  
 Ronald Evans  
 Alfred Foote  
 Andris Garsils  
 Raymond Keyes  
 Albert Lovalvo  
 Theodore Lutz

Kevin Morrow  
 George Murphy  
 Charles Reeves Jr.  
 Charles Reeves III  
 Patrick Reilly  
 Anton Stecher  
 Richard Steinhauer  
 Martin Whalen

### LIFE MEMBERS

Ex Chief Raymond P. Baldwin

Ex Chief Charles Reeves Jr.

### SENIOR MEMBERS

“35 YRS OR MORE OF SERVICE”

William Dennison

Joseph Curran

Anton Stecher

### SENIOR INACTIVES

John Nuttal

Louis Pitagno

### COMPANY HONORARY MEMBERS

Paul Albin

Walter Hubbard

## HOOK & LADDER COMPANY NO. 1

Picture if you will a group of villagers, greatly concerned over the lack of any fire protection, gathered in the (then) new Town Hall on April 14, 1874. A striking similarity existed to our present concern about public issues on that the banner was being carried by Henry Livingston, editor of the “South Side Signal.”

On April 18, an article about this meeting appeared in the Signal. One of the resolutions quoted read; “That volunteers be called for, with the view of organizing a Hook, Ladder and Bucket Company, the matter of procuring apparatus being left to the future action of the Company when formed.” The great significance of this action lies in the fact that the citizens had absolutely refused to even buy a ladder for over two years prior to this historic meeting. End of story? Not quite! The 27 volunteers were unable to secure apparatus and the idea burned out with many barns until December 1, 1877. On that date ten men became charter members of Babylon Hook & Ladder Co. #1. They were: Henry Livingston, John Lux,

Alonso Weeks, Frank Jacobs, John Brown, A. Cornelius, W. Norton, E. Brown, John Cummin and J. Baylis.

Since that time hundreds of men have devoted thousands of hours of dedicated service. Notable among them are Percy Arink, Alfred Southard, Frank Bockelman, John Duggan, Charles Reeves, Jr. and Raymond Baldwin who served as Chiefs of the Department. Since 1900 the Company has had an active roster of 30-40 men.

There have been many changes in apparatus during the past 114 years. The original hand-drawn cart was replaced in the 90's by a four wheel horse-drawn rig equipped with six ladders. When the alarm sounded, Percy Arink or his predecessor, would unhitch their team from a commercial cart, race to the “house” and respond.

In 1919, the villagers approved \$5,000 to purchase a motorized truck. Packard was awarded the bid and there was great joy on October 14th when Chief

Arink accepted our first motor driven truck.

In 1928, a huge Maxim truck replaced the Packard, increasing efficiency and reducing response time. In 1951, we became one of the first departments on Long Island to operate an Aerial Ladder Truck. As a result of tender loving care, this truck is still in operation after being refurbished making it possible to utilize this well preserved apparatus for many more years to come.

Capt. Frank D. Bustamante, Lieut. Charles Evans, 2nd Lieut. Robert Carlock, Treas. Michael Morrow, III and Secy. Epifanio Gonzales are the current officers. They along with the entire membership are proud to carry on the tradition of service begun by an editor and a handful of merchants so many years ago.

August 1956 The members of the company requested that a chrome guard rail be installed on the turntable of the truck as a safety measure. The cost was \$100.

October 1957 The company went on record opposing a department wide point system. The members felt that it should be handled by each company.

February 1958 The company requested that 21 compartments be built on the truck for the storage of members' turnout gear.

February 1958 Three members of the company attended "radiation" school in Lindenhurst.

February 1960 The company requested that the pump on the truck be either repaired, replaced with a new one or removed from the truck. The pump was removed.

February 1960 The members of the company went on record supporting the formation of the rescue squad.

May 1960 The company requested the purchase of a Federal Beacon Ray Light with a Blue dome for the truck.

December 1964 The company requested that the Board of Wardens investigate obtaining group insurance for the members of the department.

June 1966 The company requested that a Stokes Basket, with guidelines, be mounted on the side of the aerial ladder.

November 1967 The company held a 90th Anniversary dinner dance.

September 1967 The Stokes Basket was installed on the ladder.

October 1974 The members of the company voted unanimously to send a letter to the chief's office requesting that the BLUE light be replaced on the truck.

January 1977 Ex-Chief Percy Arink received his 75 year service award.

October 1977 The company received the K-12 power saw. Members no longer had to chop holes by hand with axes.

December 1, 1977 The Hook & Ladder Co. held its centennial meeting exactly 100 years to the day of its organizational meeting. All members of the company

signed a new charter at this meeting and received plaques commemorating this event.

December 10, 1977 The company held a centennial dinner/dance at the LaGrange restaurant for the members of the department and invited guests.

June 1981 The 1951 American LaFrance ladder truck was returned to service after being rebuilt by Arzillo Truck Rebuilding of Wyandanch. The truck had been completely repaired, repowered and repainted.

January 1983 The American LaFrance Co. of Pennsylvania replaced the existing 75' aerial ladder with a new 85' ladder. The truck went to Pennsylvania to have this work done.

March 1983 The company requested that the department memorial bell be refurbished so that it could be used at members' funerals.

December 1984 It was reported to the company that Chief Kraft damaged the rear rotating beacon on the truck. The damage occurred when he pulled the truck out of the fire house for a department drill and accidentally hit the door support with the truck.

May 1985 The company held a dinner/dance at the Bergen Point Country Club to celebrate Anton Stecher's 50 years of service.

1989 and 1990 Hook and Ladder wins Department Softball Tournament.

1990 New compliment of ground wooden ladders was purchased and placed on truck.

## EX-CAPTAINS LIST

John H. Cummin	1877-1879
John J. Lux	1879-1880
W.F. Norton	1880-1881
T.B. Kellum	1881-1882
Charles Bedell	1882-1883
Stephen Titus	1883-1885
Henry Baylis	1885-1886
Jeremiah Robbins	1886-1887
Wallace White	1887-1888
F.B. Kellum	1888-1889
Richard Higbie	1889-1892
G. Fishel	1892-1895
F.S. Thorpe	1895-1898
L.B. Kent	1898-1903
Wallace White	1903-1904
C.L. Kelly	1904-1905
Wallace White	1905-1906
James B. Kent	1906-1913
Harry B. Kellum	1913-1915
Percy Arink	1915-1917
W.M. Albin	1917-1926
Milton Arink	1926-1929
Kenny Eastmann	1929-1933
Harry Lathrop	1933-1935
Alfred Southard	1935-1937
Frank Bockelman	1937-1939

Leon Pettit	1939-1941	Michael Covello	1966-1968
John Duggan	1941-1943	Robert Bugge	1968-1970
Paul Southard	1943-1945	Louis Pitagno	1970-1972
John Baldwin	1945-1947	Raymond Baldwin	1972-1974
Anton Stecher	1947-1949	Frank J. Bustamante	1974-1976
James Quigley	1949-1951	Terrence Donoghue	1976-1977
Arthur Smith	1951-1953	George Murphy	1977-1979
Anthony Privitera	1953-1955	Lloyd Barth	1979-1981
William Bennison	1955-1957	Richard Steinhauer	1981-1983
Joseph Curran	1957-1959	Charles Reeves III	1983-1985
Frank Schmitt	1959-1961	Andris Garsils	1985-1987
Charles Zinnel	1961-1963	Theodore Lutz	1987-1989
Charles Reeves Jr.	1963-1964	Frank D. Bustamante	1989-1991
Martin Whalen	1964-1966		



*Hook and Ladder Maxim Truck  
1928*



American LaFrance  
1951



1951 American LaFrance Reurbish  
1981

Hook and Ladder Members  
1990



# PHOENIX HOSE COMPANY NO. 1

## ORGANIZED IN 1882

**Captain** — Peter Batty  
**Lieutenant** — James Aripotch  
**Treasurer** — Derek Batty

Ray Accettella  
Jim Anderson  
James Aripotch  
Norman Aripotch  
Syd Askoff  
Brian Auer  
John R. Auer  
Raymond F. Auer  
Derek Batty  
Peter Batty  
Ron Brennan  
Rich Brennan

Donald Conroy  
Gene Cumeo  
Tom DeFonte  
Lou DeRidder  
Tom Dottinger  
Larry Eagan  
Michael Golub  
Pros Hampton  
Gilbert C. Hanse  
Gilbert W. Hanse  
Pat Henry

Roger Holzmacher  
Tom Johnson  
Don Lewis  
Robert Lynch  
Jim McGuire  
Nick Minnicozzi  
Chris O'Shea  
Robert O'Shea  
Fred Rucker  
Aaron Stein  
Vincent Weiss

### LIFE MEMBERS

Ex Chief Syd Askoff

Ex Chief E. Donald Conroy  
Ex Chief Robert O'Shea

Ex Chief Gilbert C. Hanse

### SENIOR MEMBERS

Gilbert C. Hanse  
Syd Askoff

Louis DeRidder  
E. Donald Conroy

### SENIOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

John Cowie

Tom Henry

### SENIOR INACTIVE MEMBERS

John Bernichon

William Distal

Brew Gottsch

### COMPANY HONORARY MEMBERS

Frank Leitch  
Guy Schneider

Harry Marschausen  
Robert Sendell

Joe Moscato  
John VanBourgondien

On May 29, 1882, thirteen dedicated volunteers placed a two-wheel hand drawn cart carrying 450' of fire hose into service. This was done in response to an urgent request of the Babylon Fire Chief, Joseph Cummins, so that he could more efficiently supply water to the departments' Hook & Ladder Company.

The name "Phoenix Hose Company No. 1" was chosen because of the tremendous support given by a local resident, Phoenix Remsen. Within the first year, the company dubbed "The Silk Socks" had the distinction of being the "Crack" fire company of the south shore. Then as now, discipline, proficiency and appearance is the first order of the day.

On February 19, 1877 the hose capacity of the company was nearly doubled to 850' creating a need for a four-wheel cart which was eventually acquired

on December 31, 1888. Shortly after the turn of the century, the 4-wheeler was replaced with a used horse-drawn wagon purchased from the Larchmont Fire Department. Cumbersome and unwieldy, this vehicle was replaced in November 1916 by a Brockway Auto Cart. In 1930 the "Pride of the Company" a "New" American La France Model 92-A fire engine was purchased. This unit faithfully served the community well until 1950 when it was replaced by our present engine, a Mack 750 GPM pumper. Once decommissioned, the company purchased the 1930 fire engine and the members have since maintained, repaired and proudly displayed her at all parades and other village affairs.

Although the men are modestly operating today with one of the oldest pieces of apparatus now in the

department, we are privileged to have provided over 100 years of service to our neighbors. Throughout our long and proud career we have served our community by providing the same dedicated, unselfish, professional firematic service exemplified by our founding fathers.

November 1956 Company By-Law Committee formed to counteract the fall off in attendance

December 1956 The Fire Council requested a new truck for the Phoenix Hose.

May 1957 75th Anniversary dinner held at LaGrange.

November 1957 Radios are installed in fire trucks.

March 1958 A formal request for a new truck was made.

February 1959 A motion to invite women to the annual company dinner was defeated.

December 1959 The Phoenix voted to retain members living in West Islip.

January 1960 After 30 years of continuous service, the 1929 American La France is replaced by the 1960 Mack 750 G.P.M. pumper.

May 1962 An old truck committee is formed. Lt. Robert O'Shea, Norman Aripotch and Sid Siegel are members.

May 1973 The Phoenix expressed no interest in supporting a real property tax exemption for firemen.

June 1973 1-2-6A won first place at Terryville Antique muster.

November 1979 Ex-Chief George Keyser started presenting his hand carved duck and geese models as dark horse prizes at company meetings.

August 1981 The Phoenix Hose participated in the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Babylon Fire Department. The day long downpour did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants.

November 1982 The Phoenix Hose celebrated its 100th anniversary at LaGrange. The entire fire dept. was invited.

January 1983 A motion was passed to start saving money in a special account to restore the old truck.

May 1987 A new Pierce Lance 1250 gallon pumper is delivered to the Phoenix Hose. This culminates over a year of service by the truck committee.

February 1990 The old truck committee recommends the total restoration of 1-2-6A.

## PHOENIX HOSE COMPANY NO. 1

### FOREMEN AND CAPTAINS

John B. Field	1882	John H. Jebens	1941
Leonard W. Young	1883	Donald Gottsch	1942
Henry DeLanguillette	1884	Brewster Gottsch	1946
William C. Vail	1884	Arthur Brothman	1947
Elbert Livingston	1885	Harry Diehl	1949
Edward Miller	1886	Peter Wandel	1950
Simon W. Cooper	1888	Claude Boyd	1953
Jesse S. Smith	1892	Warren Schnaars	1954
Arthur Vetterly	1898	Richard Reinheimer	1956
George Bulger	1898	Wilbur Gumbs	1957
Edwin White	1899	Syd Askoff	1958
Steven Smalling	1899	Harry Marschausen, Jr.	1959
E. Gardner Thorpe	1900	Peter Zawyrucha	1961
Charles Kleiber	1902	Donald Conroy	1962
John Kraft	1903	Robert O'Shea	1964
Clarence Young	1904	John Cowie	1966
Henry Kraft	1906	Norman Aripotch	1968
Charles Hackel	1911	Donald Lewis	1970
Joseph Keenan	1912	James McGuire	1972
Edwin Fishel	1915	Lawrence M. Eagan	1974
Philip Ott	1916	Christopher O'Shea	1974
Henry Thomas	1918	Gilbert W. Hanse	1976
H.V. Landwehr	1924	Frank Leitch	1978
Claude H. Bedell	1928	Guy Schneider	1980
George E. Keyser	1930	Joseph Moscato	1981
Ralph Siegel	1932	James Anderson	1983
James Albin	1934	Karl Leggerlotz	1985
Howard Heyen	1936	Ramon Accettella	1987
Haviland Tweedy	1938	Peter Batty	1989
George Weller	1939		

*American  
LaFrance with  
Chemical tank  
1929*



*American LaFrance without Chemical  
Tank  
1929*



*Mack  
1960*

Pierce Lance  
1987



Phoenix Hose  
Members  
1990



# SUMPWAMS HOSE COMPANY NO. 2 ORGANIZED IN 1895

**Captain** — Kenneth Foley  
**1st Lieutenant** — Martin T. Albert  
**2nd Lieutenant** — Bruce Larsen  
**Secretary** — Michael Larsen  
**Treasurer** — Martin H. Albert

John Ankelein  
James Bagalivio  
Joseph Barry  
John Bartow  
Lewis Cohen  
Gerard Firth  
Charles Gardner  
Dante Giovanniello  
Gerard Horstmann  
Charles Koehler

Richard Krollage  
Benj. Kuntz  
William Livingston  
Richard Meier  
William Michalak  
Joseph Palma  
Charles Schlitt  
Ralph Scordino  
Robert Shea

Donald Steele  
Robert Sparks  
Bruce Taylor  
Paul Twardy  
Vincent Vodola  
Jeffrey Weber  
Donald Wright  
George Wright  
Thomas Zimmer

## LIFE MEMBERS

Ex Chief Martin H. Albert

Ex Chief Donald Steele

## SENIOR MEMBERS

Joseph Barry  
John J. Ritter  
Ralph Scordino

Donald Wright  
Martin H. Albert

## SENIOR ACTIVES

Robert Sparks

Vincent Vodola

## SENIOR INACTIVE MEMBERS

Robert Gauvain

Ted Tuddenham

John "Jack" Ritter

The Sumpwams Hose Company No. 2 was organized during the month of November, 1895. The origin of its name cannot be clearly established, but as this hose company was formed to provide a more prompt response to the so called "Downtown Area," it could very well have taken its name from the Sumpwams Creek, which borders the East end of the Village of Babylon. It should also be noted that "Sumpwams" was the Indian name for Babylon and in the old days, Deer Park Avenue was called Sumpwams Path.

Many prominent men of the Village of Babylon, among them: Dr. William H. Deale, Gustave Fishel, Charles Siegel, W.H. Terry, J.C. Robbins and Richard Higbie, banded together to give birth to this new fire company.

The first piece of apparatus to be used by this company, was the old Phoenix Jumper, a hand drawn rig, and this was kept in the rear of the old Fishel office building on Montauk Highway. The rig

continued to be located here until 1905, when Mr. Fishel refused to leave the gate in the fence unlocked any longer. As this created a problem, new quarters were located in the Seaman building, on the west side of Fire Island Avenue — rental, five dollars a month. This was quite an expenditure for these times. About the turn of the century, a four-wheel hose wagon was also obtained — the beginning of a two truck company.

The Sumpwams Hose Company No. 2, when organized, made it clear that they would not attend any tournaments, as they were in service to protect the business section of the Village of Babylon and this was their prime objective.

"Pulling on the Ropes," a term used when fire apparatus was hand drawn, took heroic efforts and a good deal of endurance. However, the Sumpwams Hose Company earned the name of the "Never-Sweats," a nickname gained after an episode where in the entire twenty man company was dispatched to

the hospital due to "exhaustion and fatigue" after pulling their hand drawn apparatus for a distance of about 100 yards. After a time, however, they mastered the task and did nobly.

After much discussion and many meetings over pulling the apparatus to fires by hand or horses, the Babylon Village Board in 1915, authorized and granted a sum of fifteen hundred dollars for the purchase of the first piece of motorized apparatus. This was a definite boom to the science of fire-fighting and a giant step forward.

However, tragedy struck the Babylon Fire department and in 1916, the first piece of motorized equipment was struck and destroyed by Train #47 of the Long Island Railroad. This fatal accident resulted in the deaths of two firemen, Richard Higbie and Leon Pettit. This motorized rig was replaced by the LI Railroad Co.

The Sumpwams Hose Company progressed and in 1924, an American La France, six hundred gallon per minute pumper was purchased. Time marched on and in 1939, a Mack, two-hundred and fifty gallon per minute pumper and booster tank truck was purchased. In 1948, an American La France, seven-hundred and fifty gallon per minute pumper and booster tank was purchased. Being a dual engine company since the turn of the century, Sumpwams Hose Company has always maintained and operated two first line pieces of equipment. As the years went by, the Sumpwams Hose Company became a modern fire fighting contingent, equipped with the latest tools to combat the perils of fire. Among them were the latest type of Navy Fog nozzles, later on the latest in variable fog nozzles, a bayonet nozzle, airplane crash-axe, Cooper Hose Jackets, fog applicators, and a full line of equipment for the application of foam and lite water.

The next piece of equipment to be purchased was a very modern Mack pumper of the latest design, in 1964. At this time, the 1939 pumper was retired. On March 2, 1964, the company received delivery on the new Mack truck, a one-thousand gallon per minute pumper, which also encompasses a five hundred gallon booster tank. This, together with the 1948 American La France 750 G.P.M. pumper, comprises the apparatus of the Sumpwams Hose Company No. 2 today.

The complement of the company normally consists of thirty active members. It is to be further noted, that down through the years, the company has produced many noteworthy Chief officers, namely: Charles Pfeifle, Stuart Gifford, John Burt, E. Clayton Smith and Martin H. Albert.

Many members of the Sumpwams Hose Company No. 2 are also very active in other Firematic Organizations and have served with distinction.

Charles Pfeifle — Pres. Town of Babylon Vol. Firemen's Assn.

Joseph Barry, Sr. — Pres. Town of Babylon Vol. Firemen's Assn.

Francis J. Novak — Pres. Town of Babylon Vol. Firemen's Assn.

Francis J. Novak — Pres. Lindenhurst Exempt Vol. Firemen's Assn.

Robert Gauvain — Pres. Lindenhurst Exempt Vol. Firemen's Assn.

Martin H. Albert — Dept. Fire Coordinator — Town of Babylon

Martin H. Albert — Pres. Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council

Martin H. Albert — Pres. Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs

June 1954 Letter sent to Fire Council requesting 360 degree revolving light on La France (1-2-2).

November 1954 There were 22 Generals from 1/1/54 to 10/1/54.

February 1955 Company voted to accept members to honorary list with no less than 20 years service. \$19,950 was the Annual Department budget.

November 1955 Motion carried to send letter to Fire Council stating that when a truck out for repairs is returned it should be fully equipped when put in service.

January 1956 All equipment requests go to Fire Council. Sumpwams requested Air Horn and Siren sounded simultaneously for Generals.

March 1956 Motion carried to request purchase of a Hose Dryer at a cost of \$600.

April 1956 Members voted down Department point system currently in effect. Active Ex-Captain of Company to receive recognition gift for their term of Captain.

May 1956 New Department General Procedures

1. Houseman requested to remain in house on Generals.
2. Mack, Phoenix, Patrol respond directly to Alarm.
3. Pumper, H&L to wait a few minutes.
4. At scene, Mack, Argyle and E-4 run 1½ Fog line to building. H&L to be @ front of building or as close as possible.
5. At small fires, hand extinguishers go immediately to blaze, men should know what to do and not wait for orders.
6. When Mack and E-4 work together they should fill each other's tanks.
7. Don't be afraid to lay hose.
8. At big fires Mack should be used for protection. Team work is essential as per Chief Burt.

December 1956 Annual Dept. Dinner at LaGrange Feb. 21, 1957.

February 1957 Honor system for beer and soda discontinued due to shortages. Home Alert Radio System approximate cost would be \$7500.00.

April 1957 Equipment refresher training will be provided at Company meetings. 2AM curfew was placed by Chief on use of Headquarters.

September 1957 Compressor to fill Scott Packs now carried on Fire Patrol.

October 1957 Conflict still in progress pertaining to West Islip.

November 1957 Department point system eliminated. Motion carried to send letter to Wardens stating that Company was in favor of 1 year probationary period and only accepting members twice a year.

December 1957 Boundary for West Islip to be from John Street South to Bay, from John Street North, the North West Islip FD will take it, this will last for 1 years. It was further noted that Islip town board will set up a West Islip Fire District under a Board of Commissioners.

January 1958 Probies must make 8 Fire Schools. No money in Budget for Home Alert Radios, as per mayor.

March 1958 American Legion Ambulance requested a list of names of those members wishing to drive it to General Alarms. Stipulation: drivers must be American Legion members. Bids out for Home Alert Radios.

April 1958 140 Home Alert Radios are being shipped to us. Distribution based on attendance. They will be distributed at Department meeting on 5/16/58, our call letters KEG 696. Truck numbers based on Civil Defense numbers previously used.

March 1959 All injuries are now to be reported immediately to the Village Clerk.

June 1959 Plaque will be bought to inscribe winners of annual inspection.

September 1959 Proposed that any department driver could drive Mack to Generals then turn it over to Sumpwams Driver.

December 1959 Sumpwams can apply for a truck after 1960 Chiefs elections. \$12,000 to \$15,000 chassis cost. In regards to West Islip, the Village feels all members residing in West Islip should be dropped, even though the law reads to the contrary. Motion carried to send letter to Fire Council stating these members should be kept.

January 1960 American Legion radio number is "Unit 50."

March 1960 No warden may live outside of "Village" as per Village Board.

April 1960 Formation of Rescue Squad progressing. 20 interested thus far.

November 1960 Point system discussed again, voted down by Company.

February 1961 Fire Council requests records of men who live outside of our Fire District. Resolved to keep all men with satisfactory records.

October 1961 Building for ambulance almost complete.

December 1961 Wardens request lot across street for Firemen's Parking.

January 1962 No member can be in Auxiliary Police and Fire Dept. at same time.

February 1962 Specifications to be drawn up for new truck.

October 1962 No man in the military can attend alarms.

March 1963 Village to let out bids for new truck in June 1963.

September 1963 Radio Tests: Fire — Mon., Wed., Fri. Rescue — Tues., Thur., Sat.

January 1964 Village Fire Trustee to look into late delivery of new truck. Past 140 week days.

March 1964 New Mack 1000 GPM Pumper delivered. Dedication 3/21/64.

May 1965 Wardens discuss covering Oak Beach; Company is in favor of this. Radio procedure is stressed.

June 1965 Department has a 3 year contract to cover Oak Beach, Cedar Beach, Captree.

May 1966 New wells continue to be installed at various locations at beach protection area.

April 1967 Wardens can now live out of district, but all must be Ex-Captains to hold the position. Captain Oliver Davison of Sumpwams answered his last alarm in the line of duty on March 11, 1967 at Babylon High School fire. He succumbed shortly after returning home after complaining of feeling sick during the fire. Resolution adapted and page dedicated in Company Minute Book to Captain Oliver Davison.

October 1967 Plans being formulated to renovate headquarters.

October 1969 New Department membership classifications totally adopted Senior Active, etc. All honorary are now Senior Inactive.

December 1969 Company will not spend more than \$15.00 on refreshments.

June 1, 1970 all alarms are to be dispatched by Central Alarm. Only 1 Blue light permitted on cars.

September 1970 Unit 1-2-3 will respond to alarms at Berkshire Nursing Homes.

November 1971 1-2-2 placed in back of 1-2-3.

March 1972 By Law Committee of Wardens approved a new Funeral Prayer.

May 1972 Unit 1-2-3, 1st due to beach.

October 1972 Haircut grooming law to be strictly enforced.

March 1973 Name tags have been ordered for Turnout Coats.

September 1973 1-2-2 Light Water System in place, nozzle must be at 95 G.P.M., 120 P.S.I.

December 1973 1-2-2, 1st due for boat fires. "History of Department" concept formulated.

March 1974 Sprinkler training simulator will be installed in Rescue Bay.

April 1974 Drivers of 1-2-10 must be qualified company drivers in order to drive ambulance.

March 1975 No "Signal 3" will be stated on the air over home alert radio without specific consent of the "Chief."

May 1975 Base Station MUST be manned during all alarms.

June 1975 New phone number for Central Alarm to report fires is 226-1212.

September 1975 Unit 1-2-3 involved in accident en route to Deer Park Parade.

December 1975 Rescue requests representation on the Fire Council — Denied. Village will look into picking up cost of Annual Inspection Dinner.

January 1976 I.D. Cards will be issued for members. All Sumpwams men will ride truck to Beach Alarms before other Company's personnel.

June 1976 Welfare requested raise in death benefit from \$400 to \$500.

October 1976 The Department will get a 1977 step van for various uses.

November 1976 LILCO and RailRoad Safety classes will be held in the near future.

February 1977 A letter from the company to the Fire Council is necessary when a member goes on sick leave and is removed from sick leave.

February 1978 Major fire at Old Iron Horse Tavern on Main St. Both 1-2-2 and 1-2-3 would not start.

April 1978 Rubbish fire to rear of East End Hotel reveals a homicide.

May 1979 Good job done by all at fire at Riverboat docked on Fire Island Avenue.

December 1981 Ex-Captain Francis Novak suffered fatal heart attack immediately after attending an alarm in his neighborhood. He is the fourth member to succumb in the line of duty.

June 1982 Sumpwams responds first due to working fire with occupants at former East End Hotel. A good job done by one and all.

July 1982 Vacant East End Hotel burns again, temperature was in excess of 95 degrees; many experience heat exhaustion.

March 1984 Company hosts retirement party for Ex-Captain Jack Ritter, a very active day rescue man who joined the Department in 1948.

June 1984 Major marine fuel spill in canal behind Araca road. Units 1-2-2 and 1-2-3 handle foam application.

February 1985 Major house fire at Oak Beach, every piece of hose removed from Unit 1-2-3.

July 1985 Captain Weber, Lieutenant Horstmann, Lieutenant Krollage host special meeting to appoint an official new truck committee. A Pierce Lance is being considered, but not necessarily chosen. Chief Froehlich wants all work done ASAP so it can be presented to the mayor.

September 1985 Hurricane Gloria slams into Babylon causing massive destruction and devastation. Many members manned apparatus around the clock during crucial 2 day period. Power out for over a week.

October 1985 Members informed of Chief's new "Get tough Policy" amidst a storm of "abnormal happenings." The Company's reaction was "It's about time" but let's be gentlemen about it.

March 1986 Series of fires at abandoned houses and property on George Street.

April 1986 Sumpwams breaks tradition, 2 Company members serve as Chief Officers.

January 1987 First time ever — Signal 27 on Ocean Parkway, below Zero Temperature.

May 1987 Brand new Pierce 1250 G.P.M. Pumper delivered. Drivers begin training. Old Mack answers last alarm for working fire on Sumpwams Place, building owned by a Department member.

June 1987 New truck in service, 1st alarm was a signal 13 auto alarm at Ralph Ave. Elementary School. First worker for new truck was row of stores in North Babylon.

April 1989 After fire at Risberg's office on Cedar Street, progressive body work was performed on 1-2-3 while backing it into truck bay.

June 1989 All day fire at Risberg's Lumberyard on Cedar Street. Assistant Chief assaulted by one of the business owners, police arrested perpetrators.

## SUMPWAMS HOSE COMPANY NO. 2

### ROSTER OF CAPTAINS

Dr. Wm. H. Deale	1896-1912	Saxton Weilbacher	1932-1934
J. Brion Foulke	1912-1916	Frederic Miller	1934-1936
John R. Higbie	1916-1918	Alfred Batten	1936-1938
R.M. Mansfield	1918-1922	Charles Underwood	1938-1940
Robert N. Overton	1922-1926	Frederick Braddon	1940-1942
Stephen Koronski	1926-1928	John Cholewka	1942-1944
Charles Pfeifle	1928-1930	Sylvester Brown	1944-1946
William Timler	1930-1932	Stuart Gifford	1946-1948

John Burt  
 William Hayes  
 Joseph Barry  
 Chas. Gardner  
 Jack Ritter  
 E. Clayton Smith  
 Ralph Scordino  
 Francis J. Novak  
 Martin H. Albert  
 Oliver Davison  
 John Ankelein  
 Frederick Neu

1948-1950  
 1950-1952  
 1952-1954  
 1954-1956  
 1956-1958  
 1958-1960  
 1960-1962  
 1962-1964  
 1964-1966  
 1966-1967  
 1967-1969  
 1969-1970

Robert Gauvain  
 Donald Steele  
 John Bartow  
 Bruce Taylor  
 Richard Meier  
 Thomas Zimmer  
 Paul Twardy  
 Jeffrey Weber  
 Jerald Horstmann  
 Richard Krollage  
 Kenneth Foley

1970-1972  
 1972-1974  
 1974-1976  
 1976-1978  
 1978-1980  
 1980-1982  
 1982-1984  
 1984-1986  
 1986-1987  
 1987-1989  
 1989-1991

*Reo Truck*



*American LaFrance  
 1948*



*Mack  
 1963*

*Pierce Lance  
1987*



*Sumpwams Hose  
Members  
1990*



# ARGYLE HOSE COMPANY #3

## ORGANIZED IN 1899

**Captain** — Joseph Fraccalvieri  
**Lieutenant** — Lester Livingston  
**Secretary** — Robert Almond  
**Treasurer** — Joseph Brundin

Robert Almond  
 Patrick Augustine  
 Joseph Brundin  
 Michael Carmody  
 Christopher Caruso  
 William Conway  
 Joseph Fraccalvieri

Walter Gallagher  
 James Kliesler  
 Robert W. Kraft, Jr.  
 Charles Kuhnappel  
 Richard Kuhnappel  
 Lester Livingston  
 Gerald Lucas

Bradford Maier  
 John D. Maier  
 John N. Maier  
 Charles Metzroth  
 Eric Rhodes  
 Jack Sadousky Jr.  
 William Sadousky

### LIFE MEMBERS

Ex Chief John N. Maier

Ex Chief Robert W. Kraft Jr.

Ex Chief Charles Kuhnappel

### SENIOR MEMBERS

Charles Kuhnappel  
 Richard Kuhnappel

Joseph Brundin  
 William Conway

### SENIOR INACTIVES

Eugene Brunjes  
 Charles F. King Sr.  
 Edward Myslivecek

Ernest G. Sparacin  
 Joseph Timme  
 Harry Wilson

# ARGYLE HOSE COMPANY NO. 3

## BABYLON, N.Y. EX-CAPTAINS

Argyle Co. #3 was formed on July 1st 1898, the following members have served as Officers of the Babylon Fire Dept. and the Argyle Hose Co. #3.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Years Served</b>		<b>Years</b>
Harry VanWeelden	Foreman	1898-1899	Chas. Taylor	Foreman 1916-1917
William F. Biggs	Foreman	1899-1902	Henry S. Johnson	1st Captain 1917-1920
Joseph Albin	Foreman	1902-1904	Nelson Pearsall	Captain 1920-1927
Albert Davis	Foreman	1904-1904	William H. Haack	Captain 1927-1929
William Mott	Foreman	1904-1905	Marcus Whittaker	Captain 1929-1931
Albert Davis	Foreman	1905-1906	Tracy Pearsall	Captain 1931-1933
Lorenzo Pedrick	Foreman	1906-1907	Arvid Holgram	Captain 1933-1935
Albert Davis	Foreman	1907-1909	Alfred Post	Captain 1935-1937
Clement Price	Foreman	1909-1910	Robert Kraft	Captain 1937-1939
Forest Pearsall	Foreman	1910-1912	Walter Wood	Captain 1939-1941
Edwin Northam	Foreman	1912-1914	Percy Wood	Captain 1941-1942
Earnest Evertt	Foreman	1914-1916	Ralph Johnson	Captain 1942-1944
			Bill Nagengast	Captain 1944-1946
			Frank Swanson	Captain 1946-1947

John Hayth	Captain	1947-1949	Joseph Brundin	Captain	1968-1970
Charles Kuhnappel	Captain	1949-1951	Harry Wilson	Captain	1970-1972
Theodore Lutz	Captain	1951-1953	Charlie Metzroth	Captain	1972-1974
Richard Kuhnappel	Captain	1953-1954	Donald Mason	Captain	1974-1976
Gerald Schmitt	Captain	1954-1954	Bradford J. Maier	Captain	1976-1978
Edward Myslivecek	Captain	1954-1956	Robert W. Kraft Jr.	Captain	1978-1980
Robert Penny	Captain	1956-1957	Lester Livingston	Captain	1980-1982
Robert Slack	Captain	1957-1959	William Conway	Captain	1982-1984
Joseph Timme	Captain	1959-1961	John D. Maier	Captain	1984-1986
John N. Maier	Captain	1961-1963	Eric Rhodes	Captain	1986-1988
William Doig	Captain	1963-1965	Jack Sadowsky	Captain	1988-1990
Robert Olsen	Captain	1965-1965			
Harold Robson	Captain	1965-1967			
Charles King	Captain	1967-1968			

## ARGYLE HOSE COMPANY NO. 3

The Argyle Hose Company #3 was organized on February 4, 1899, by fourteen charter members. The charter members were: E. Albin, W. Biggs, A. Davis, E. Davis, E. Day, J. Grohs, N. Grohs, W. Holbrook, P. Jommes, L. Miller, E. Pearsall, W. Smith, and E. Taylor.

The first meeting place was the Argyle Hotel stables located on the north side of the Argyle Lake on Trolley Line Road, and was shortly shifted to the Argyle Hotel water tower. On September 15, 1900, the company borrowed \$250 from William Smith for three years at 6 percent interest to purchase the property on the corner of Little East Neck Road and Highland Place. The original building there belonged to the old South Shore Club. This building and property became the new headquarters of the Argyle Hose Company.

In 1923, room grew short and expansion became necessary so the company increased the mortgage on the house and it was enlarged. A series of box socials and dances were held to raise money to pay back the mortgage. Profits were generally small on these events. As a matter of fact, on May 29, 1902, a dance was held as a fund raiser, refreshments were 5 quarts of ice cream, and the total profit was \$1.60. Finally, in 1925, enough money had been raised and the mortgage was paid off, the house belonged to the Argyle Hose company officially.

The house is still owned and maintained by the Argyle Hose Company today and houses the latest of 5 pieces of equipment the company has had over the years. The first equipment was a 2 wheel cart built by A.J. Weeks. We modernized to a 4 wheel horse drawn rig, then some time down the line, horsepower turned to gas power, and we received a Brockway motorized fire truck. In 1931, the company received a super modern American La France 750 gallon per minute pumper. This, at the time, was the pride of the department, being one of the largest pumpers around. It faithfully served the company and com-

munity until February of 1959 when the company received the truck it has in service today, a Mack B-95 1000 G.P.M. pumper.

The Argyle Hose has been, along with the rest of the companies of this fine Fire Department, a vital asset to the community over the past years and looks forward to many more years of dedicated service to the Babylon Fire Department and Babylon Village.

In 1905, the company switched to a 4-wheel Horse-drawn Rig which increased response time and saved the men from the exhaustion of pulling the rigs to alarms.

February 1, 1935 a major fire raced through the entire corner of Main Street and Deer Park Ave.

During World War II, the Argyle Hose Company lost several key members to military service. During this time the Argyle Hose Company maintained its firefighting duties as well as Civil Defense Duties. Because of their "Patriotic Duty" during this period of National Emergency, the Company was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Suffolk County War Council.

After the war, the Company added to its roster a total of 30 men. Also, thankfully, all of our military members returned home safely.

On August 4, 1952, the Company received its Certificate of Incorporation from New York State.

In 1958, the Argyle Hose Company petitioned and successfully defended the need to purchase a new fire truck to replace the 1931 American LaFrance.

In 1959, the Argyle Hose Company received a brand new 1959 B-95 Mack 1000 G.P.M. Pumper. The truck cost the village \$23,000.00. This truck was the largest pumper in the area and the pride of the department. The truck has served the department and community up to the present.

On May 11, 1974, the Argyle Hose Company #3 celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a Cocktail Par-

ty/Prime Rib Dinner which was held at Headquarters. Members and guests in attendance were given "Fireman's Prayer" plaques.

In August of 1988, members of the Company and the Fire Department Drill team took our 1959 Mack to Westhampton Beach Fire Dept.'s Tournament. The truck took two 1st place trophies and a 2nd place trophy in the following categories: 1st — Motor

Hose "A," 1st — "Midnight Alarm," and 2nd — Motor Pump "A," the truck still showing that it had "legs."

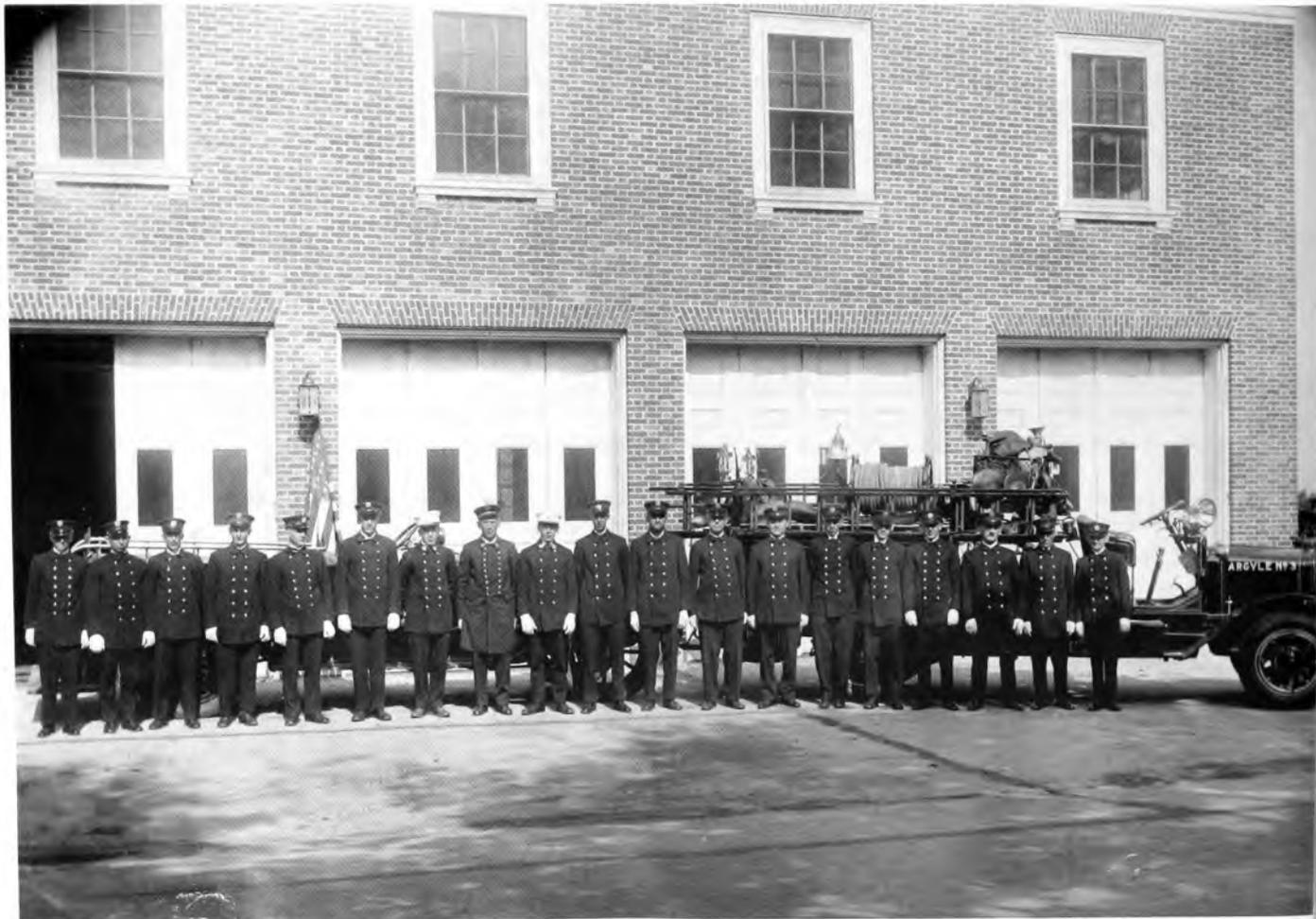
Today the Company is in committee to prepare the company for a new truck. This will eventually replace our 1959 B-95 Mack. The Company is also in committee to repair our firehouse.

The Argyle Hose Company will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 1999.

*American LaFrance  
1931*



*Argyle members and truck  
1920's*



BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mack  
1959



Argyle Hose  
Members  
1990



# ELECTRIC HOSE COMPANY NO. 4 ORGANIZED IN 1902

**Captain** — Daniel T. King  
**1st Lieutenant** — Henry Herman  
**2nd Lieutenant** — Terry Sicignano  
**Secretary** — Charles Schmidt  
**Treasurer** — Roger Carpenter

C. Aldrich  
R. Carpenter  
A. Davida  
H. Freeze  
W. Froehlich  
D. Grimm  
H. Herman  
T. Horan  
R. Johnson

E. Keneally  
D. King  
P. Langton  
M. Lewis  
M. Marsden  
M. McCarthy  
W. McIntyre  
L. McLaughlin  
S. McLaughlin

J. Mitchell  
P. Morgan  
R. Oehrlein  
A. Rizzo  
R. Rotzman  
C. Schmidt  
T. Sicignano  
A. Smith  
J. Sterling  
D. Williams

## LIFE MEMBERS

Ex Chief William P. Fruehlich

Ex Chief Malcom W. Lewis

## SENIOR MEMBERS

Thomas Horan

## SENIOR INACTIVE MEMBERS

L. Burns

D. Cox  
G. Wanser

A. Dunfee

# ELECTRIC HOSE COMPANY NO. 4

## ROSTER OF CAPTAINS

### FIRST FOREMAN AND FOUNDER

#### IRVING E. SMITH 1902-1903

Howard Wood	1904-05, 11	H.G. Albert	1937-38
William Kraft	1906-09	Charles Ten Vooren	1939-40
Benjamin Ohlmiller	1910, 12, 13	James King	1941-42
Joseph Harnell	1914-15	Thomas Horan	1943-44
C.H. Aldrich	1916-18	Hilbert Keisel	1945
Charles Gregerich	1917	August Horan	1945-46
John Brown	1919-24	Hilbert Keisel	1946
George Davis	1925	Clement McNaney	1947-48
Edward H. Smith	1926	Hugo Klaus	1949-50
Clarence Pedrick	1927-28	John Hoernel	1951
Charles Vollmer III	1929-30	Wallace Rogers	1952-53
John Graf	1931	C.H. Aldrich	1954-55
Wallace Geiger	1932-35	John Costanzo	1956-57
R. Wright	1936	Ted Kaiser	1958-59

Frank Venneri	1960-61	David Grimm	1978-79
George Wanser	1962-63	James F. Sterling	1980-81
Malcolm Lewis	1964-65	C.H. Aldrich II	1981-83
Alfred Dunfee	1966-67	Alexis Smith	1983-85
Leland McLaughlin	1968-69	Richard Rotzman	1985-87
Clement McNaney	1970	Anthony J. Davida	1987-89
David Williams	1970-71	Daniel King	1989-91
William McIntyre	1972-73		
Paul Morgan	1974-75		
William Froehlich	1976-77		

## ELECTRIC HOSE COMPANY NO. 4

The Electric Hose Company #4 of the Babylon Fire Department has been providing continuous service to the residents of Babylon for 88 years. Founded on April 4, 1902, the Company's name was based on its location next to the old electric company on Cedar Street. Since its inception, the Company has been quartered in three different stations on the same site, the most recent being erected in 1961.

When the company was organized, it had twelve members and Irving E. Smith was elected its first foreman. In 1919, the term "foreman" was changed to Captain. Today the company consists of 30 men with James F. Sterling, Captain, Charles H. Aldrich II, 1st Lieutenant, Alexis C. Smith, 2nd Lieutenant. It has also had the honor to have five of its members — John Graft, Charles Vollmer, John Hoernel, Wallace Rogers and Malcolm Lewis — serve as Chief of the Department, while William Froehlich is currently serving as the 2nd Assistant Chief.

Initially the property, firehouse, and apparatus of the company were owned by the company and not the Village. Residents living north of the railroad had to pay a special rent in order to keep the company operational. After several years, the company deeded all of its property and assets over to the Village, thus removing the need for the special rent.

Up until about 1910, all of the company's apparatus was hand drawn. Teams of horses were then used exclusively until the first motorized hose wagon, a REO was purchased in 1922. The first motorized pumper was an American LaFrance purchased in 1931. Currently, the Company operates a 1000 G.P.M. Ward La France Pumper and a 750 G.P.M. International Pumper.

One of the major responsibilities of the Department is to provide fire and rescue protection to the various beach communities in the Town of Babylon along the Ocean Causeway. The Electric Hose Company is one of the primary response companies for all beach alarms and has some specialized equipment for handling these fires. Engine 1-2-4 is a custom-made pumper that has four-wheel drive capabilities. Its pump is located in front of the cab to increase its ability to pump off the end of jetties, or it can be driv-

en right to water's edge to secure a supply of water so vital for firefighting purposes.

The Electric Hose Company has had a rich heritage of dedicated service to the community over the past 88 years. The entire membership looks forward to carrying out this proud tradition for many years to come.

The Electric Hose Company #4 of the Babylon Fire Department has been providing continuous service to the residents of the community for nearly ninety years and is very proud of its accomplishments and past heritage. Founded April 4, 1902, the Company's name was based upon its close proximity to the old electric company on Cedar Street. Since its inception, the Company has been quartered in three different stations all located on the same site with the most recent having been erected in 1961.

When the Company was first organized, it consisted of twelve members. Irving E. Smith was elected as the first "foreman." In 1919 the term "Foreman" was redesignated as "Captain." Today, the efforts of the Company are coordinated by the "Captain" and two "Lieutenants." To date, forty six men have served in the capacity of Company Captain.

The Electrics have had the distinct honor of having six members serve as Chief of Department: John Graft, Charles Vollmer, John Hoernel, Wallace Rogers, Malcolm Lewis, and William Froehlich. In addition, Company members have always been an integral part of the Department's activities as evidenced by the high rate of participation in the Band, Drill Team, Rescue Squad, and various committees. Over the years, several members also have served diligently as Secretary and Treasurer of Department. Currently, the "elder statesman" of the entire Department, Ex-Captain Thomas Horan, is approaching his sixtieth anniversary with the Babylon Fire Department and is still quite active and as feisty as ever!

### THE CEDAR STREET FIREHOUSE

As previously mentioned, the Electric Hose has always been situated on Cedar Street. In the begin-

ning, the property, firehouse, and apparatus all were owned by the Company and not the Village. Residents living north of the railroad had to pay a special fee in order to keep the Company operational. As years went by, all of the Company's assets eventually were deeded to the Village, thereby eliminating the need for the special fee.

Since 1962, Cedar Street has been a neat one story brick building complete with a meeting room, kitchen, and a two bay truck room. However, in September 1983, fire erupted in the unoccupied truck room causing considerable damage to the building and equipment. Through the dedicated efforts of the Electric Hose members and those of the other companies working around the clock, both the building and trucks were back in service the next day.

At the West end of the property, stands a flagpole erected in honor of Ex-Captain, longtime Treasurer, and friend, Hugo "Dutch" Klaus who answered his last alarm in 1989.

## ELECTRIC HOSE EQUIPMENT

Throughout its history, the Electric Hose has had quite an array of firefighting equipment which has attempted to keep pace with the available state of the art. Until approximately 1910, all of the Company's firefighting apparatus was hand drawn. The introduction of teams of horses then provided a quicker response and were used exclusively until the first motorized hose wagon, a REO, was pressed into action in 1922.

The Company's first exposure to a motorized pumper was in 1931 with the purchase of an American LaFrance. In 1948, the Department authorized the acquisition of a custom Dodge pumper and permitted the Company to operate two pumpers simultaneously which it still does today. Thus began the Electric Hose Company's two truck operations with the units being designated as 1-2-4 and 1-2-5.

The American LaFrance eventually was replaced with a 1954 International pumper which lasted 15 years. In 1969, a 1000 G.P.M. Ward LaFrance then made its home at Cedar Street. In 1974, the old 1948 Dodge was turned out to pasture and replaced by a new four wheel drive International with a front mounted 750 G.P.M. pump. Today, the Electric Hose still operates the 1974 International (Unit 1-2-4) and a 1250 GPM Pierce (Unit 1-2-5) which was introduced into service in 1985.

## BEACH PROTECTION

One of the major responsibilities of the Babylon Fire Department is to provide efficient rescue and fire protection to the various beach communities in the Town of Babylon along Ocean Causeway. The

Electric Hose Company prides itself on being one of the primary response units for all beach alarms. As previously noted, Unit 1-2-4 is a specially designed pumper having four wheel drive capabilities and a front mounted pump. These features are ideal for beach operations in that they enable the truck to be driven directly to the water's edge or to the end of a jetty and secure a supply of water so vital to firefighting operations. Unit 1-2-4, sometimes jokingly referred to as the "Little Super Pumper," has proven its value at many alarms involving beach houses, boats, brush and repeatedly at the old Coast Guard Station.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Electric Hose Company has never been an "all-work" and "no-play" company. Almost from its inception, the Company was noted for its fine racing teams. Beginning in 1906, the Electrics were one of the premier competition teams on Long Island and captured scores of championships including some that were statewide.

Many a fine party has been held at Cedar Street including square dances and block parties complete with authentic pig roasts. The annual Children's Christmas party has always been a big success for both young and old alike. Sometimes the Electric's functions are held in conjunction with other companies or other Cedar Street neighbors. In November 1977, the Electric Hose Company celebrated its 75th anniversary with dinner and dancing at Musicaro's in Melville.

The Company always has prided itself on never being hesitant to try new and different activities which have included weekend trips to the Catskills and Poconos and canoeing down the mighty Delaware River. In 1982, the Company really tried something different when it hosted an old fashioned banjo sing-along night at Fire Headquarters complete with the "Nun Better Band." Would you believe 24 REAL nuns in a firehouse?? It was a total sell-out and a great time to be remembered!!

The Electrics have always been involved in the Department's athletics. However, golf has always been the first love of the Company. To this end, the Electrics hosts its own annual tournament at Bergen Point followed by refreshments at Cedar Street. Good times are had by both members and guests. In 1989, by unanimous vote of the Company, the outing was renamed the "Dutch Klaus Memorial Golf Tournament."

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

The Electric Hose Company #4 has had a proud and rich heritage of dedicated service to the Babylon Village community spanning nearly 90 years. The entire Company membership values this legacy and looks forward to continuing this proud tradition for many years to come.

Dodge  
1948



International  
1954



Ward LaFrance  
1969

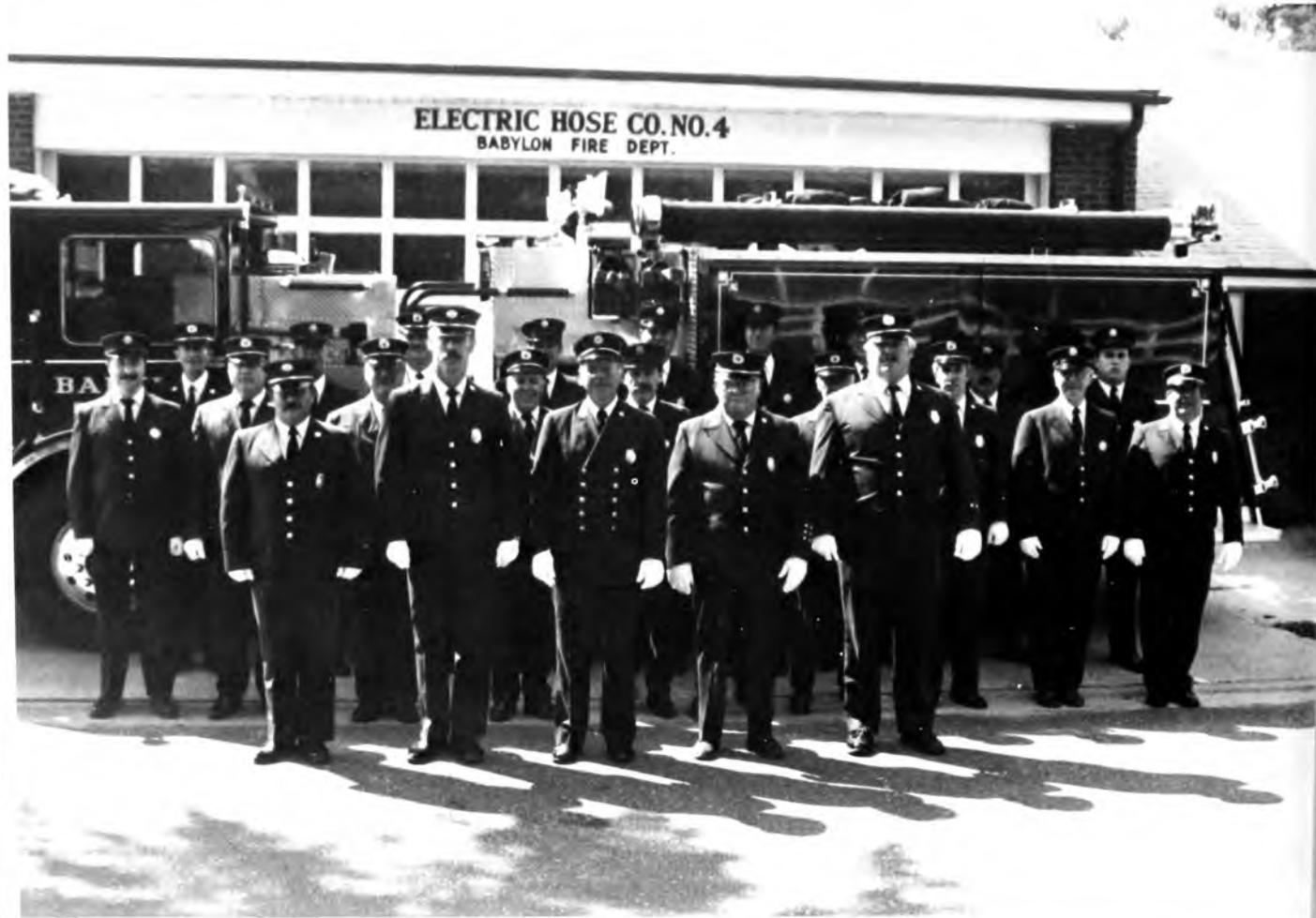


*International  
1974*



*Pierce Arrow  
1984*

*Electric Hose Members  
1990*



# FIRE PATROL COMPANY NO. 1

## ORGANIZED IN 1931

**Captain** — Michael Sasuk

**Lieutenant** — William Tiedemann

**Secretary** — Anthony Cardali

**Treasurer** — Jeffrey Schweider

William Bender  
George Burke  
Anthony Cardali  
Brad Hansen  
Sean Hansen  
Dick Joyce  
Stan Kalinowski  
Robert Kalpin

Harold Kelland  
Gene Kranz  
Paul Lampasso  
John Marcopoulos  
Gene McGarity  
Patrick Mulligan  
Robert Neidig  
Scott Neidig

Phil Ritter  
Cheryl Roesler  
Michael Sasuk  
Jeffrey Schweider  
William Tiedemann  
William Tiedemann  
Mark Tonsetic  
Miguel Vega

### LIFE MEMBERS

Ex Chief William Condy

### SENIOR MEMBERS

Ronald Campi

William Ward  
Ex Chief William Condy

Arthur Smith

### SENIOR INACTIVE MEMBERS

Jack Bongiovanni  
William Ward

Jack Condy  
Russell Wilmont

Henry Woodford

# FIRE PATROL COMPANY NO. 1

The Fire Patrol Company #1 is the last of the Line Companies to be formed in the Babylon Fire Department. Its Charter Meeting was held on January 5, 1931 when seven interested and concerned men formed a unit that would provide a greater measure of safety, survey and surveillance at fire scenes.

This "new kid on the block" inherited a "Hand-me-down" truck from the Electric Hose Company which was used by our Company to transport men and equipment to emergency scenes and any other duties delegated by the Officers of the Department. In 1935 a Diamond "T" truck, fitted with flood lights and a portable generator was delivered. At this point, the present character and purpose of the Patrol was established. This apparatus served our Company and the Babylon Fire Department well for the next twenty years during which our members provided lighting, crowd and vehicular control, and a watchfulness for the safety of firemen and civilian alike.

From 1953 until 1979 a Ford Motor Company flood light truck was used which provided powerful lighting, smoke exhausting equipment and general

auxiliary tools for more effective appraisals and attacks at fires.

In 1979 the Fire Patrol petitioned and defended successfully our belief that a new truck was needed and deserved. We presently have what is probably the finest truck for its purpose and size on all Long Island. It is a 4 wheel drive GMC lighting and utility truck with all the satellite equipment to deal with most emergencies. Its central location at fires permits a wide range of mobile services which include emergency refills of air tank bottles.

Recently, some volunteer members within our volunteer company have begun to night-time motor vehicular accidents when our Rescue Unit is called to such a scene. These men reasoned that often times Rescue Teams are dangerously exposed to passerby traffic while treating and transporting injured and that lighting and traffic direction by the Fire Patrol would reduce their hazards.

The members of the Babylon Fire Patrol #1 are justly proud of their sixty years of service to the Village of Babylon and to the Babylon Fire Department.

## COMPANY HISTORY

On January 5, 1931 a group of interested firemen formed a separate company for departmental duties. The charter members were Edward Ward — Captain, Charles Gaffga, Joseph Ford, E.H. Southard, Ellis Wilmont, W. Pearsall, and N. Pearsall.

The first vehicle given was the REO truck formerly used by the Electric Hose Company. It was used for transportation of men and equipment. The primary duties being traffic control, maintaining fire lines and assisting other companies.

In 1935, a Diamond "T" fitted with flood lights and a portable generator was assigned to the company.

A Ford was purchased in 1953. This vehicle was equipped with a fixed generator which permitted smoke exhausting facilities as well as the flood light capabilities.

The original age to join the Fire Patrol was 25 years of age.

In August 1980, a new truck was purchased. A 1979 GMC Grumman-built was purchased for the Company. The vehicle was equipped with flood lights, generator and a Scott cascade system. This is the present truck in service.

The following dates are of significance within the company:

Jan. 1975 The age to join company lowered to 18 years of age.

May 1975 Scott Packs installed on 1-2-7.



Ford  
1954

Sept. 1976 Fire Patrol requests Department to buy a utility vehicle.

Sept. 1977 New 1-2-7 truck committee is formed.

Nov. 1977 Fire Patrol invited to participate in Dept. Yaphank drills.

Nov. 1979 1-2-7 responds to all beach alarms.

Oct. 1979 1-2-7 responds to Motor Vehicle accidents at night.

March 1981 Fire Patrol hosts its 1st Annual St. Patrick's Day Fund Raiser.

Feb. 1982 Hurst Tool "Jaws of Life" is put in service on 1-2-7.

Feb. 1983 Yellow traffic coats purchased.

April 1983 Kelly Leyba — 1st woman accepted as member.

Sept. 1984 Fire Patrol and Electric Hose host joint block party on Cedar St.

Sept. 1986 Vetter Air Bags ordered for 1-2-7.

Nov. 1986 Air Bags are installed on 1-2-7 and men are trained in their use.

March 1989 2 ten pound fire extinguishers installed on back step of 1-2-7.

March 1989 OSHA gear is issued to all active members.

In addition to the above dates, 1-2-7 has operated at many serious fire and accident scenes where the Hurst Tool, Winch Air Bags and Lights have assisted the Department and many civilians in rescue efforts.

Diamond "T"  
1935





Fire Patrol  
Members  
1990



# BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE SQUAD ORGANIZED IN 1960

**Captain** — Michael Larsen  
**Lieutenant** — Vincent Weiss  
**Secretary** — J.P. Carlock  
**Treasurer** — Dave Williams

Martin T. Albert  
James Aripotch  
James Anderson  
William Bender  
George Burke  
Anthony Cardali  
Robert Carlock  
J.P. Carlock  
Christopher Caruso  
Charles Evans  
Kenneth Foley

Harold Freeze  
Dante Giovanniello  
Michael Golub  
Epifano Gonzalez  
Sean Hansen  
Daniel King  
James Kleisler  
Robert Kraft  
Bruce Larsen  
Michael Larsen  
Brad Maier  
Michael McCarthy  
Sean McGloughlin

Michael Morrow  
Scott Neidig  
Richard Oehrlein  
Eric Rhodes  
Cheryl Roesler  
Bill Sadowsky  
Jack Sadowsky  
Michael Sasuk  
Donald Steele  
James Sterling  
Vincent Weiss  
David Williams

## LIFE MEMBERS

Martin Albert  
Charles Adrich  
James Anderson  
Syd Askoff  
Joseph Barry  
Richard Brennan  
Eugene Brunjes  
Donald Conroy

Louis DeRidder  
Ronald Evans  
Robert W. Kraft  
Bradford Maier  
Jack Maier  
Joseph Mascoto  
James McGuire

Richard Meier  
Richard Oehrlein  
Eric Rhodes  
Alexis Smith  
Donald Steele  
James Sterling  
Vincent Vadola  
Martin Whalen

## CHARTER MEMBERS

### SQUAD LEADERS

Martin H. Albert  
Norman Aripotch  
Syd Askoff  
Joseph Barry  
Charles Clancy  
Kevin Conley  
E. Donald Conroy  
Ronald Corcoran  
John Costango

Oliver Davison  
Louis DeRidder  
William Doig  
Harry Hansen  
Charles King  
Robert Kraft  
John N. Maier  
James McGuire  
Robert Nocella  
Adolphus Patrick

Robert Sendell  
E. Clayton Smith  
Joseph Timme  
Harold Turner  
Nicholas Vam Vokas  
Frank Venneri  
Vincent Vodola  
Martin Whalen  
Charles Zinnel

With the advent of the 60's, a new awareness of the importance of advanced emergency care was sweeping the nation. Babylon Village had an ambulance service run by various organizations for many years, but it was little more than a transportation service to the local hospitals. It was determined that a trained Rescue Squad was definitely needed. The Fire Department with its sophisticated alerting system and abundant manpower was the logical choice to establish and operate this squad.

On December 5, 1960, the first organizational meeting was held and Oliver Davison, Ex-Captain of the Sumpwams Hose Company, was elected the first Squad leader. The Squad went into service on Sept. 15, 1961, manning a new Superior Rescue Rig built on a Cadillac chassis. In its first full year of operation, the Squad responded to 162 calls. Today, however, the Rescue Squad is by far the busiest unit of the Department responding to nearly 1200 calls annually.

Since its inception, the Squad has operated five different Rescue Rigs. In 1984, the Squad put into service a modular Horton 500 Rig which is fully equipped with the most advanced life support and excoriation equipment. Currently the Squad has presented the Village Board with specifications for a state of the art Blue Star Rescue Rig which we hope to put into service in 1990. The Squad is continually updating its equipment and training to keep abreast of the ever changing emergency medical field. It was one of the first Squads in Suffolk to receive permission to administer Nitrous Oxide to its patients.

The Rescue Squad is manned around the clock by its membership. Each member of the Squad is assigned to a specific crew which rotates assignments on an established schedule and is trained in advanced first-aid and CPR while many members are Emergency Medical Technicians and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians.

In addition to providing Rescue coverage to the Village and Beach Protection Districts, the Squad also has been involved with several other activities. It held two very successful courses in Babysitting in 1969 and 1970 with over 200 participants in each. It

supplies standby coverage for all home High School football games and several other events such as the Village Fair, Snapper Derby, Greek Epiphany and Marathons. Several drills also have been held with the U.S. Coast Guard, Suffolk County Police Force and neighboring Fire Departments.

Over the years the Squad has responded to thousands of calls that have encompassed just about every type of medical emergency. Nine infants have been brought into this world by the caring members of the squad.

The Rescue Squad is the only unit of the Fire Department that responds to every type of alarm handled by the department. It has been recognized over the years for the fine service it provides with two generous donations by the Babylon Lions Club of a porto-power and Mast suit.

The Babylon Fire Department Rescue Squad may be the youngest of the front line response units of the department, but it takes great pride in the fine record it has had over the last 30 years and looks forward to providing the best emergency service possible to the community for many years to come.

#### RESCUE SQUAD LEADERS

1960-62 Ollie Davidson  
 1962-64 Robert Kraft Sr.  
 1964-66 Martin H. Albert  
 1966-68 Charles King Sr.  
 1968-70 Joseph Berry  
 1970-72 William Doig  
 1972-74 Richard Brennan  
 1974-75 Alexis Smith  
 1975-77 Harold Freeze  
 1977-79 James Sterling  
 1979-81 Charles Aldrich  
 1981-82 Chuck Pennington  
 1982-84 Bradford Maier  
 1984-86 Joseph Moscato  
 1986-88 Richard Oehrlein  
 1988-90 William Livingston  
 1990- Michael Larsen



*Chevrolet  
1980*



*Cadillac  
1963*

# BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRUM CORPS ORGANIZED IN 1958

**President** — Martin H. Albert  
**Vice President** — William F. Tiedemann  
**Secretary** — James Mitchell  
**Treasurer** — Michael Golub

## CHARTER MEMBERS

Drum Major  
Robert W. Kraft Sr.

Raymond Baldwin  
Louis Bendi  
Jack Condy  
William Condy  
William Doig  
Joseph Curran  
Eugene Brunjes  
Gerald Firth  
William Conway  
Malcolm Lewis  
John W. Maier  
Albert Lovalvo  
Frank Schmitt  
Louis Pitagno  
Eugene Sparacin  
Frank Venneri

Vincent Vodola  
Martin T. Albert  
Charles Aldrich  
Michael Augello  
Raymond P. Baldwin  
William Bender  
George Burke  
Frank Bustamante  
Anthony Cardali  
Anthony Davida  
Kenneth Foley  
Harold Freeze  
Giovanniello  
Sean Hansen  
Thomas Johnson  
Daniel King

James Kleisler  
Robert Kraft  
Bruce Larsen  
Michael Larsen  
Theodore Lutz  
Brad Maier  
James Mitchell  
Chris O'Shea  
Pat Reilly  
Phil Ritter  
Richard Rotzmann  
Terry Sicignano  
James Sterling  
Jeffrey Weber  
Vincent Weiss

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Paul Morgan

Alexis Smith

Vincent Vodola

# BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRUM CORPS

Everyone loves to watch a parade. During the summer months, Fire Departments throughout the State participate in various firematic and community parades. Records kept by the Babylon Fire Department show that the department has been participating in parades since the late 1800's. Each time the Department marched in a parade it had to hire a band to provide music. By the mid 1950's the Department was involved in quite a few parades each year and it became not only expensive but increasingly more difficult to book a first class marching band for each parade. In 1958 the Department decided to form its own band which made its debut in April of 1959 marching in the annual Little League Parade. The Drum Corps consisted entirely of active department members and was led by Drum Major, Ex-Chief Robert Kraft Sr. Out of the original 18 charter members, four are still associated with the Drum Corps today.

The Babylon Fire Department Drum Corps is now entering its 31st year of continuous operation and is one of the oldest Fire Department Drum Corps in Suffolk County. It has a current roster of 34 active members and has been awarded over 180 trophies and awards over the years. It has won numerous Town of Babylon and Suffolk County Championships. One of its most memorable awards was the New York State Championship in 1985.

While the Drum Corps major function is to provide lively music for all parades the Babylon Fire Department marches in, it also supplies music to other fire departments and civic organizations in the area and has participated in parades as far away as Southern New Jersey and Niagara Falls, New York. Since 1983 the band has been the principal supplier of music for the Hauppauge Fire Department.

In addition to playing in ten to fifteen parades each year, the Drum Corps also meets regularly on the

third Thursday of each month and practices weekly from March through September. In October of each year an election dinner is held in lieu of the monthly meeting. The Drum Corps has also been an innovator in having unique and outstanding social events. They have ranged from dinner sails to the Jones Beach Marina Theatre to weekend vacations.

The Babylon Fire Department has compiled an impressive record of parade championships over the years. In the 70's and 80's alone, the department took seven first and three second place State Parade awards. The Babylon Fire Department Drum Corps is very proud to have played an important part in the department's success.

### BAND PRESIDENTS

1959-61 William Doig	1976-78 Rich Rotzman
1961-62 John Condy	1978-79 Brad Maier
1962-64 John Maier	1979-81 Anthony Davida
1964-66 Malcolm Lewis	1981-83 Tom Murphy
1966-68 John Ankelein	1983-85 Martin Albert
1968-70 Fred Neu	1985-87 Tom Johnson
1970-72 John Wittholm	1987-88 Raymond Baldwin
1972-74 Robert Gauvain	1988-89 Anthony Davida
1974-76 Frank J. Bustamante	1989-91 Martin H. Albert

In the early 1970's, when fire prevention became a popular topic among the American public, the Babylon Fire Department Fire Prevention Committee was already actively educating the children of the Babylon Schools. During Fire Prevention Week, we provided demonstrations with the various types of fire equipment that the Babylon Fire Department had. Also included were the Annual Fire Drills held at each school, which are mandated by state law. Throughout the 1970's into the early 1980's, the Fire Prevention Committee continued to have children from all of the village schools come to visit the fire

house for tours and films. The highlight of every trip to the fire house was each child received a plastic fire helmet to take home!

In 1981, the Fire Prevention Committee decided to hold an Open House at Main Headquarters, featuring the department's apparatus, as well as displays and films, featuring various aspects of fire safety. Also, adults and children alike could get their blood pressure checked. In 1982, the Committee put together some ideas and came up with a Smoke House with live smoke for the children, whereby they would roll out of bed, crawl through a tunnel to the bedroom door, check the door, feel it was hot, and continue crawling to a window where a fireman was there to help them out.

In 1984, the Fire Prevention Committee began an advertising campaign in local papers announcing the Fire Prevention Open House. The result was 152 families visited the fire house and participated in the program. In 1985, 1986 and 1987, the program grew to 175 families participating. In 1989, attendance was down a bit due to the beautiful weather! In 1990, the attendance skyrocketed to 294 families attending!

In addition to all the other activities, the poster contest winners were honored at each Open House. In 1990, the Committee started a contest among the six Babylon Fire Department Companies with each Company choosing a Fire Prevention theme and expanding on it.

### FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1976 TO PRESENT

Alexis Smith.....	1976-1983
Anthony Davida .....	1984-1987
Richard Krollage.....	1987-1989
Henry Herman.....	1989 to present

### MEMBERS OF THE FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Martin H. Albert  
 Martin T. Albert  
 Robert Almond  
 James Anderson  
 John Auer  
 Lloyd Barth  
 Joseph Boyle  
 Anthony Davida  
 Thomas Dottinger  
 Charles Gardner  
 Gilbert Hanse, Jr.

Henry Herman  
 Robert Kalpin  
 Emmett Keneally  
 Richard Krollage  
 Richard Kuhnappel  
 Bruce Larsen  
 Scott Nedig  
 Charles Reeves III  
 William Sadousky  
 Alexis Smith  
 Anton Stecher  
 Chief John Maier  
 Chief Robert O'Shea  
 Chief Charles Reeves Jr.  
 Chief Donald Steele  
 Chief Chief William Tiedemann

The Fire Prevention Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the following individuals for their support:

Chief Martin H. Albert  
 Chief Peter Baldwin  
 Chief E. Donald Conroy  
 Chief William Froehlich  
 Chief Robert W. Kraft, Jr.  
 Chief Malcolm Lewis



*Band Members  
1990*

*Charter Member  
1990*



# BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL TEAM ORGANIZED IN 1970

## BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL TEAM

A tournament team is probably the most visible unit of a fire department during the summer competition season. They are a group of dedicated firemen who spend many hours of practice to achieve their best in competing against other fire departments. It is a tradition in most departments; the Babylon Fire Dept. is no exception.

In May of 1970, 24 members of the Babylon Fire Dept. joined together to form the current drill team, the Scroungers. Under the direction of the Chief, then in office, Charles Reeves, the team went about gathering the needed equipment and supplies; hence the name, SCROUNGERS.

On July 14, 1970 the drill team was awarded their first trophy at the Lindenhurst Fire Department annual bazaar drill night. The trophy, a very proud moment for the team, was a first place trophy in the Buckets contest. Captains Walter Corlett and Donald Steele accepted this trophy for the team and began what would turn out to be a Babylon Fire Department tradition of winning racing trophies.

Every fire department seems to have one contest in which they excel year after year. To Babylon, it is the Bucket Brigade Contest.

The Bucket Brigade is not only the FUN event to run, it is the event that requires skill, precision and athletic ability. The early Scroungers pulled off many upsets by winning points at motorized drills, sometimes preventing a motorized team from winning a tournament. In 1972, at the New York State Championship at Syracuse, the Scroungers placed fifth in the Buckets contest, a rare accomplishment for an old fashioned racing team at a State Drill.

Through two decades, the Babylon Fire Department Drill Team has persevered and remained among the top teams in Suffolk County and Long Island. The founding members, having now passed the bucket to future generations, teach us that it is an honor to be a Scrounger.

So, wherever the tournament may be, from Greenport to Niagara Falls, the Scroungers have participated with the best of their ability and had a lot of good times doing it.



**THE BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT RACING TEAM.** The recently organized team was awarded first place in the bucket brigade at the Lindenhurst Bazaar Night. The trophy awarded for this event is the first trophy in thirty years for the department. The team recently entered a tournament in East Rockaway - the only team from Suffolk County participating. They finished in the top one-third of the thirty eight teams entered. The team will enter the Town of Babylon tournament on August 23, 1970 at West Babylon. Standing left to right: Walt Corlett, Jr., Jerry Firth, Bill Michalak, Charles Reeves, Jr., Pete Lovelock, Bob Murray, Frank Bustamante, Jack Maier, Bob Gauvain, Chris O'Shea, and Bob Mahr. Kneeling: Don Steele, Ted Neidstat, and Pete Baldwin.

# ORGANIZED MAY 1970

## CHARTER MEMBERS

### BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL TEAM

Pete Baldwin  
Frank Bustamante  
Walter Corlett  
John Cuff  
Jerry Firth  
Robert Gauvain  
Gil Hanse Jr.  
Robert W. Kraft Jr.  
Pete Lovelock  
Brad Maier

Jack Maier  
Robert Mahr  
Donald Mason  
William Michalak  
Robert Murry  
Arnie Nistad  
Chris O'Shea  
Lance Reinheimer  
Donald Steele  
James Sterling

## BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL TEAM

### DRILL TEAM CAPTAINS

#### "THE SCROUNGERS"

1970 TO 1990

1970	Walter Corlett Jr. Donald Steele	1980	Christopher O'Shea Patrick Reilly
1971	Donald Steele Walter Corlett Jr.	1981	Patrick Reilly Frank D. Bustamante
1972	Gil Hanse Jr. Christopher O'Shea	1982	Patrick Reilly Joseph Calderaro
1973	Donald Steele Peter Baldwin	1983	Christopher O'Shea Theodore Lutz
1974	Peter Baldwin George Murphy	1984	Henry Herman Ronald Brennan
1975	Robert W. Kraft Jr. Tim O'Farrell	1985	Daniel King Ronald Brennan
1976	Robert W. Kraft Jr. Tim O'Farrell	1986	Ronald Brennan Michael Augello
1977	Robert W. Kraft Jr. Martin T. Albert	1987	Joe Fraccalvieri Bruce Larson
1978	Martin T. Albert Charles Reeves III	1988	Joe Fraccalvieri Raymond Baldwin Jr.
1979	Christopher O'Shea Charles Reeves III	1989	Raymond Baldwin Jr. Vincent Weiss
		1990	Raymond Baldwin Jr. Vincent Weiss

# BABYLON FIRE DEPT. DRILL TEAM

## "THE SCROUNGERS"

### TEAM RECORDS 1970-1990

(STATE SANCTIONED DRILLS ONLY — ELECTRIC TIMES)

Event	Time	Date	Drill	Climbers
3 man ladder	6.76	8-16-82	Mattituck	Chris O'Shea Chuck Reeves
Individual Ladder	4.66	8-7-82	Deer Park	Frank Bustamante
Running Ladder	7.94	6-2-87	Amityville	Frank Bustamante
Running Ladder Dummy	28.90	8-26-72	Wyandanch	Frank Bustamante

Event	Time	Date	Drill	Nozzle Man
Efficiency	9.06	8-2-80	Garden City	Martin Albert Ted Lutz — Hydr.
Cart Hose	10.85	5-31-87	Mastic	Ray Baldwin
Cart Hose Replacement	19.19	8-15-81	Mattituck	
Two in One Hose Efficiency	9.28	7-78-73	E. Rockaway	
Replacement	24.60	8-1-81	C. Islip	

Event	Time	Date	Drill	Lifters
Bucket Brigade	24.97	7-12-86	Riverhead (Suffolk)	Frank Bustamante Mike Morrow Dan King Joe Fraccalvieri

## BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL TEAM

1970

The Drill Team competes in four drills: Islip Terrace, Lindenhurst, E. Rockaway and West Babylon.

May 19, 1970 A letter is sent to the Board of Wardens of the Babylon Fire Dept. notifying the Board that the name chosen for the team is "The Scroungers."

Trophies won for 1970:

— 1st place buckets at Lindenhurst Drill Team Night.

— 1st place three man ladder at West Babylon TOB. The 3 man ladder team: Bill Michalak, Chris O'Shea and Bob Mahr.

— 2nd place Scott Pak Event at W. Babylon TOB. — Don Steele

— 3rd place Bucket Brigade at West Babylon TOB.

A Logo was made depicting a seagull flying, clutching a ladder and a bucket, with Scroungers B.F.D. lettered.

September 28, 1970 Chief Charles Reeves presents Captains Walter Corlett and Donald Steele with Charter Membership plaque. A dinner was thrown for the members (guys only) by the Dept.

The Drill team's first uniform consists of a navy blue sweatshirt with "Scroungers B.F.D." and white pants.

1971

The Drill Team competes in 6 drills.

June 5, 1971 Competed at the Lindenhurst F.D. Invitational Motorized Drill, running Three Man Ladder (8.84), Efficiency (12.07) and Buckets (Over-time).

June 26, 1971 Competed at the Amityville F.D. South Shore Motorized Drill. 3 Man Ladder (N.T.), Efficiency (11.8), Buckets (32.00).

July 10, 1971 Competed at the Bay Shore F.D. Suffolk County Drill. This was the first tournament the drill team won a trophy at a motorized drill, taking

4th place in the Efficiency contest (11.14). In other events: 3 Man Ladder (n.t.), 1 Man Ladder (5.43) and Buckets (31.75).

July 24, 1971 Competed at the E. Rockaway Invitational Old Fashion Drill taking 3rd place Efficiency (10.71) and 5th place, Two into One Hose (10.43).

August 1, 1971 The Drill Team begins to erect the arch on Carlston Place.

August 14, 1971 Competed at their first NYS Championship Drill at Niagara Falls. The Scroungers were the first team to compete running in the number one position on the score card. The team ran very respectable times in 3 Man Ladder (7.78), Efficiency (13.29) and Buckets (30.24).

August 29, 1971 Competed at the 2nd Town of Babylon Drill at West Babylon, finishing 3rd place overall with 20 points. 1st place Equipment (23.96), 2nd place 1 Man Ladder (5.19), 2nd place Efficiency Replacement (28.90), 2nd place Buckets (31.84).

September 29, 1971 At the Sept. 29th meeting the membership of the Scroungers instructed the secretary to write a letter to the chiefs inviting them to the November meeting. The purpose of this invite is to have a discussion with the chiefs to obtain their permission to form a committee to investigate the possible purchase of a "B" Rig sometime in the future. A vote was taken by Capt. Don Steele and found all in attendance were in favor 15-0.

December 15, 1971 At the Dec. 15th meeting of the Drill Team, Chiefs Conroy and Lewis attended and agreed that the team can investigate all phases of motorized racing including insurance, maintenance, storage, etc. A committee was formed of Don Steele and Peter Baldwin.

Babylon Beacon headline reads: Sept. 30th 1971 BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILL TEAM IN BANNER YEAR.

## 1972

The BFD Drill Team competes in 9 drills.

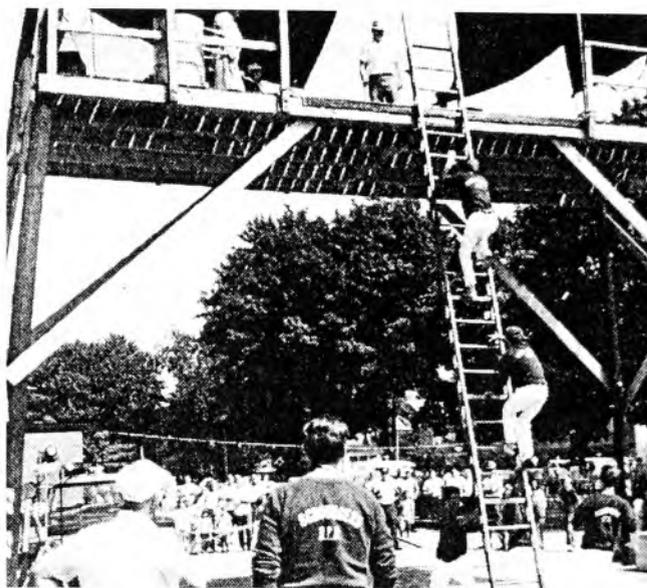
May 17, 1972 The Scroungers received their first "brand-new" buckets from the Department, fourteen buckets at \$30.00 each.

July 8, 1972 At the Suffolk County Drill held at Lindenhurst, the team placed in 3 Man Ladder (7.53) and Buckets (28.07). Both 5th place finishes at a motorized drill.

August 19, 1973 The 1972 Scroungers became one of the few old fashion teams to have placed at a State Tournament. The NYS Drill held at Syracuse showed the Bucket Contest was the Scroungers' best event placing 5th with a time of 29.22.

August 26, 1972 At the Town of Babylon Drill held in Wyandanch the Scroungers won three trophies, 2nd place 3 Man Ladder (7.60), 2nd place Running H & L Dummy (27.92), and 3rd place Buckets (35.95).

October 27, 1972 The Scroungers invite the North Lindenhurst FD Drill Team to the Babylon FD to pay off the ¼ keg of beer the team lost at the Town Tournament.



MEMBERS OF THE BABYLON FIRE DEPARTMENT RACE TEAM, "The Scroungers" are shown at the Tournament which was held in West Babylon last Saturday. The team won 1st place in their event.

## 1973

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competed in 9 drills.

July 14, 1973 At the Suffolk County Drill held in Brentwood, the Scroungers continued to place in the Bucket contest. This time a 4th place (29.80).

July 28, 1973 At the East Rockaway Invitational Old Fashion Drill the Scroungers set a team record in the Two into One Hose Contest (9.28), missing the State Record by 2 tenths of a second.

The Drill Team Competes at the New York State Championship at Rochester. 3 Man Ladder (n.t.), Efficiency (11.68) and Buckets (27.18 — 7th place out of 55 teams competing).

## 1974

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 11 drills.

Jan. 16, 1974 At the January 16th meeting it was decided that instead of having a Captain and a Co-Captain, it will be changed to Co-Captains.

July 13, 1974 The Suffolk County Drill is held at Sayville. The Drill Team's streak of placing in Buckets is halted.

July 20, 1974 The Scroungers compete at the Cutchogue Invitational Drill held at night. This is the first time the team competes at Cutchogue. The Scroungers haven't missed one since.

August 3, 1974 The Town of Babylon Drill is held at Babylon. The Scroungers set a new state record in the Cart Hose Replacement event with a time of 21.64. In other events the team won 4th place Individual Ladder (4.73), 4th place Running Ladder (8.81), 2nd place Efficiency (9.78), and 2nd place Buckets (26.80).

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team donates the Peter Lovelock Memorial Trophy, a Leg trophy, to be awarded for first place in the Bucket contest at town drills. The Scroungers wanting to win this trophy desperately, are narrowly beaten by the Lindenhurst Snails 25.77 to 26.80.

August 17, 1974 The Scroungers compete at the New York State Championship held at Lindenhurst.

## 1975

The Babylon Fire Dept. Drill Team attended 11 drills.

January 15, 1975 Drill Team presents Bob Murray with a plaque for appreciation of his dedication to The Scroungers. Bob was instrumental in founding the Drill Team.

August 13, 1975 Drill Team wins 1st place total points at the Deer Park Fireman's Night Bazaar and Mini Drill. The Mini Drill consisting of four Hose events: Efficiency, Two in One Hose, Cart Hose and Cart Hose Replacement, saw Babylon win with 16 points.

August 14, 1975 Drill Team wins its first Old Fashion Tournament. Participating at the Bellport Invitational, The Scroungers won 1st place scoring total 18 points. 1st place Cart Hose Replacement, 1st place Efficiency, 2nd place Running Ladder, 2nd place Buckets.

June 21, 1975 Drill Team competes at Town of Babylon Drill held at North Lindenhurst.

## 1976

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 13 drills — the most by any team.

June 19, 1976 The Scroungers compete at the 25th Anniversary Parade and Drill at West Islip.

July 12, 1976 Suffolk County Drill at West Sayville. Drill Team competes at the North Fork Fireman's Association at Riverhead.

August 15, 1976 The Drill Team wins 1st place total points at Bellport Invitational.

September 11, 1976 The Scroungers take 2nd place total points Old Fashion, at the East Farmingdale 50th Anniversary Town of Babylon Drill.

September 18, 1976 The Lindenhurst Fire Department creates the first NYS Championship Old Fashion Drill. The Scroungers compete and take a 3 Man Ladder Trophy and Buckets.

## 1977

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competed in 8 drills.

June 18, 1977 Scroungers compete at West Islip's 2nd Old Fashion Parade and Drill.

July 11, 1977 The Central Islip Fire Department hosts the Suffolk County Drill. This drill is the first county tournament that combines motorized and Old Fashion on the same day. This idea was the brainstorm of the North Lindenhurst Fire Department and The Scroungers helped make this event happen. Now, an Old Fashion team can be Suffolk County Champions.

The North Fork Drill is at Wading River — Scroungers take 3rd overall.

The Sag Harbor Fire Department celebrates the 175th anniversary with an Old Fashion Drill. The Scroungers compete and take 4 trophies.

## 1978

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team attends 10 drills.

June 16, 1978 Scroungers attend the West Islip Fire Department Drill Old Fashion.

July 28, 1978 The Scroungers win the Ridge Invitational Parade and Drill — 1st place total points.

August 12, 1978 The Drill Team competes at the Southern New York Old Fashion Drill held at Deer Park. The Scroungers broke the State Record in the Cart Hose Replacement event for the second time in the team's history — time 20.12 seconds.

## 1979

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 8 drills.

April 21, 1979 The Babylon Fire Department donates a total points Leg Trophy to Suffolk County Drill Team Association. To be awarded to the team compiling the most points on the year, Old Fashion.

July 3, 1979 Scroungers win 1st place total points at the Southold Invitational Drill.

July 10, 1979 Drill Team competes at Suffolk County Drill at Lindenhurst. 3rd place overall with 13 points — 1st place Buckets (27.65).

July 17, 1979 Scroungers attend the Cutchogue Invitational competing with two teams. The current Scroungers total 10 points for 3rd place overall.

The Scroungers "B" Team was showcased running last on the program. The "B" Team, consisting of many seasoned veterans whom were largely responsible for keeping the Scrounger tradition proud, ran each event admirably:

3 Man Ladder	10.9
Running Ladder	11.4
Cart Hose	N.T.
Cart Hose Replacement	34.5
Efficiency	14.7
Buckets	67.0

September 17, 1979 At the Suffolk County Drill Team Captains Association Dinner at West Islip, the Scroungers are awarded Co-Champions of the Suffolk County Total Point Trophy, with Huntington Manor. This trophy had special meaning since it was donated by our Department.

## 1980

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 10 drills.

July 19, 1980 Scroungers win 2nd place total points with 12½ total points at the Cutchogue Drill.

July 27, 1980 After ten years of existence of the Babylon Drill Team this day may never happen again!! At the Inwood Invitational Drill at Garden City The Scroungers had their worst drill ever.

* 3 Man Ladder	N.T.
* Individual Ladder	O.T.
* Running Ladder	N.T.
* Running Hose	O.T.
* Two into One	O.T.
* Efficiency	13.82
Buckets	N.T.

August 2, 1980 The Scroungers set the team record in Efficiency at 9.06 at the Garden City Drill in Hempstead.

August 16, 1980 The Drill Team competes at the Mattituck Invitational placing 3rd overall with thirty one teams competing.

August 23, 1980 After a five year absence, The Scroungers compete at the New York State Championship at Hempstead. Efficiency — N.T. and Buckets — 32.91.

November 21, 1980 The Drill Team has 10th anniversary celebration at Fire Headquarters. Chris O'Shea and Jim Sterling were awarded certificates of appreciation for their years of sportsmanship and leadership during this ten year span. One hundred and twenty five people attended and a good time was had by all.

## 1981

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes at 9 drills.

May 1, 1981 Drill Team builds a new cart, a four wheeler with steering unit. The committee of Pat Reilly, Bob Kraft, Jr. and Ted Lutz. Designed by Pat Reilly.

April 19, 1981 The Scrounger Fund Raiser is a car wash. The Racing Team sold tickets and washed approximately 100 cars at \$2.00 a car. Chairman Rich Steinhauer said the wash was a success but the Fire Department does not have enough water supply.

July 11, 1981 The Scroungers compete at the Suffolk County Drill at Riverhead. The team scored 11 points good for 3rd overall.

August 1, 1981 The 3 Man Ladder team of Joe Calderaro, Chris O'Shea and Frank Bustamante Jr. break the 7 second barrier for the first time at the Central Islip Invitational Drill, 6.90 good for 5th place.

The Team set the team record for Efficiency Replacement at the Central Islip Drill 24.60.

August 8, 1981 The Babylon Fire Department hosts a combined Town of Babylon Drill and Invitational Drill to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Fire Department. The Scroungers finish the Town Drill with 17 points and the Centennial Invitational with 5 points.

* 3 Man Ladder	7.25
* 1 Man Ladder	4.79
* Running Ladder	8.60
* Cart Hose	11.79
* Cart Hose Replacement	24.26
* Efficiency	10.14
* Buckets	28.28

August 15, 1981 At the Mattituck Invitational Drill, the team record of 19.19 in the Cart Hose Replacement is set.

## 1982

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 8 drills.

January 20, 1982 The Drill Team receives the first check from the Fire Department's Fund Drive allotments. For the first time in the history of the team, the opening balance was over \$1000. Until this year the team operated solely on a "need for" basis and fund raising.

April 15, 1982 Chuck Reeves becomes the first Scrounger to become Suffolk County Drill Official.

July 10, 1982 The Drill Team competes at the Suffolk County Drill held at Deer Park. The Scroungers compile 12 points.

August 7, 1982 The Town of Babylon Drill held at Deer Park. Frank Bustamante Jr. set the team record in the Individual Ladder Event 4.66.

August 16, 1982 The 3 Man Ladder team of Chris O'Shea, Chuck Reeves and Frank Bustamante Jr. set the team record of 6.76 at the Mattituck Invitational Drill.

The team's fund raiser is a pool on the Super Bowl. Chairman Chris O'Shea reported making \$225 for the team.

## 1983

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team attends 7 drills.

July 16, 1983 Drill Team wins 2nd place total points trophy at Cutchogue Invitational with 12½ points.

August 13, 1983 Participates at the Mattituck Invitational. Won 1st place 3-Man Ladder (6.90).

## 1984

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 7 drills.

June 23, 1984 Scroungers compete at Town of Babylon Drill at Tanner Park, sponsored by the East Farmingdale "Hares" Drill Team. Drill Team scores 10 pts. good for 4th place.

July 9, 1984 Drill Team attends the Suffolk County Drill at Patchogue. The Scroungers finish tied for 2nd place overall with 13 points.

July 21, 1984 Scroungers compete at Cutchogue Invitational finishing in 2nd place overall with 11 points.

September 30, 1984 The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team wins Leg Trophy for total points in the Bucket Brigade. This trophy awarded to the team that scores the most points at sanctioned Old Fashion Drills.

## 1985

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team attends 7 drills.

May 3, 1985 The Drill Team throws a dinner party at the Bergen Point Country Club. Members and guests were entertained by good music, fine food and great spirits. Rich Steinhauer, Patrick Reilly, Chuck Reeves and Martin Albert Jr. were awarded Certificates of Appreciation and Good Sportsmanship for 10 years of continued service at drills. Chris O'Shea and Jim Sterling were awarded certificates for 15 years.

July 13, 1985 The Scroungers attend their 15th consecutive Suffolk County Drill at Patchogue. The team falls short finishing 4th with 11 points.

July 20, 1985 Competing at the Cutchogue Invitational Night Drill, The Scroungers finish 3rd with 11 points.

A Babylon "B" Team participates at the Cutchogue Drill. The "B" Team, consisting of older Drill Team members, actually beat the "A" Team in Cart Hose Replacement. "B" Team 4th place Trophy — 21.03, "A" Team 5th place Trophy — 21.29.

October 12, 1985 For the second year in a row the Drill Team wins the Total Points Trophy — Suffolk County — in the Bucket Brigade.

October 30, 1985 The Scrounger Logo is created — a seagull walking with bucket and ladder clutched in hands. Previously the seagull was flying with ladder and bucket.

## 1986

The Drill Team competes in 7 drills.

May 31, 1986 The Drill Team participates at the Mastic Invitational and sets the current team record in Cart Hose (10.85).

June 21, 1986 The Scroungers attend the Town of Babylon Drill at Amityville, compiling 10 points. Scrounger James Baglivia broke right elbow and left wrist falling off ladder during 3 Man.

July 12, 1986 At the Suffolk County Drill held at Riverhead, the team record in Buckets was set (24.97).

July 19, 1986 The Scroungers compete at the Cutchogue Parade and Drill. 1st place Buckets.

## 1987

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 7 drills.

April 15, 1987 The 1987 team, with funds made possible by the Babylon Fire Department under Chief Steele, refurbishes the arch. All wood was replaced with longer lasting pressure-treated lumber.

May 15, 1987 The Drill Team receives their first racing ladder "brand new" from the Department. The first sixteen years of the Drill Team, The Scroungers had always used a borrowed one. The new modern aluminum ladder would pay off immediately. Cost of ladder — \$1100.

May 30, 1987 The Scroungers compete at Mastic Invitational totaling 7 points. A 3rd place in Running Ladder (8.03).

June 20, 1987 The Drill Team competes at the Town of Babylon Drill at Amityville sponsored by North Amityville. The Scroungers set the current team record in Running Ladder (7.94). Frank Bustamante Jr. — climber.

July 11, 1987 The Scroungers compete at the Suffolk County Drill held at Patchogue, the team finishes in 3rd place, totaling 15 points.

July 19, 1987 The Drill Team wins 1st place Total Points at the Cutchogue Invitational — 19 points.

October 14, 1987 The Scroungers are awarded the Leg Trophy for Total Points, Cart Ladder, at the Suffolk County Drill Association Dinner.

## 1988

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team competes in 7 drills.

June 18, 1988 The Drill Team attends the Town of Babylon Drill held at Amityville, hosted by the North Lindenhurst Fire Department. The Scroungers finish with 12 points for 3rd place overall.

July 9, 1988 The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team "The Scroungers" comes back to tie the Riverhead Ironmen for the Suffolk County Old Fashion championship. The Suffolk County Drill held at Ridge, hosted by the Selden Fire Department, saw the biggest triumph of the Drill Team's history.

The 1988 Suffolk County Co-Champions	
Three Man Ladder	— 7.10 4 points
Cart Ladder	— 8.01 3 points
Cart Hose	— 11.81 4 points
Cart Hose Replacement	— 21.41 2 points
Efficiency	— 10.39 5 points
Buckets	— 27.77 5 points
Total Points	— 23

\* NOTE — First Drill won — state sanctioned —

July 16, 1988 The Scroungers compete at the Cutchogue Invitational.

A Scrounger "B" Team again participates at the Cutchogue Drill. Which way does Chief Kraft run?

August 28, 1988 The Scroungers with Chief Kraft attended a Drill and Parade at West Hamilton Beach winning 5 trophies including 1st place Total Points. Two events used 1-2-1.

### 1989

The Babylon Fire Department Drill Team participates in 6 drills.

June 19, 1989 Drill Team participates at Town of Babylon Drill sponsored by the Copiague Fire Department. — 8 points.

July 10, 1989 The Drill Team tries to defend last year's championship admirably. The Scroungers leading the drill from 3 Man Ladder on to Buckets, lost it, with a bad run in Buckets. 3rd place overall: Cutchogue 17 pts., Riverhead 16 pts., Babylon 15 pts.

## DID YOU KNOW???

The Drill Team once owned a Van. 1970-71  
The Scroungers held a party on Oak Island, courtesy of Chief Charles Reeves, 1971.

The Scroungers never had their own aluminum racing ladder until 16 years after the organization of the team. 1986

The Scroungers marched at the Suffolk County Parade at Patchogue in a Class "B" Uniform. Temperature — 95 degrees 1984 — got caught.

The Scroungers marched in two parades in one day, Farmingville and North Lindenhurst. The Drill Team rushed from a Tournament in Farmingville to the Parade in North Lindenhurst to celebrate the Piston Knockers State Championship Win — 1981.

The Drill Team once got caught using 13 buckets. 1988

The Scroungers regularly borrowed a 4 wheel wooden cart from the Patchogue 40 Thieves. 1978-79

In 1970, The Scroungers had to borrow virtually every piece of equipment possible.

In 1974, the Town of Babylon Drill held at Babylon, was run from North Carll Ave. towards the lake.



Poster Contest Winner  
1990



*Fire Prevention Demonstration 1990*





# A Sunny Fourth of July Parade







*Deer Park Ave. and Main Street*



*Phoenix Hose Members and 1915 Brockway Truck on Grove Place*





*Drill Team Rebuilding Arch*



*Memorial  
Day Parade*



*Frost Boat Yard  
Shore Road*

*Rescue Squad at work on Deer Park Avenue*



*Saston Lumber Yard  
Signal 24 to West Babylon*



*Gilgo Beach  
Association*



*Desert Storm Parade*



Cedar Street Complex

Company Christmas Party

*Captree Bowling Alley  
West Islip*

*Fund Drive Cover*



*Shore Road and Sumpwams Place*

*West Islip Lumber, Union Blvd.*





*Fishel Building, East Main Street*

Babylon Fire Department  
Thanks You

*It is with our most sincere  
gratitude and utmost  
appreciation that we,  
The Babylon Fire Department,  
wish to thank all  
those whose efforts made  
the publication of the history  
of our Babylon Fire Department  
possible. This has been  
ongoing for the past  
twenty years.*



# Babylon Village

"As it used to be"





