

75th Anniversary

1911-1986



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HOPEWELL, NEW JERSEY





AT&T is proud to participate in the Hopewell Fire Company's 75th anniversary celebration. As members of the Hopewell community, we would like to thank the men and women who dedicate themselves to making this area a safer and healthier place to live and work. We wish you many more years of success.



Engineering Research Center



Manufacturing Development Center



Corporate Education Center

75 Years of Community Service

A DEDICATION AND A TRIBUTE

WE WELCOME ALL OUR FREINDS, NEIGH-
bors and fire fighting associates to the
celebration of the 75th Anniversary
of the Hopewell Fire Department, and we invite
you to help us pay tribute to the volunteer spirit
and sense of civic responsibility that the firemen,
citizens and organizations of Hopewell have
shown over the years to make this event possible.

Although our organization was primarily founded
for the protection of life and property from fire,
we are proud that the Fire Department has worked
to provide service in many other areas of commu-
nity need. We are also proud that our citizens have
applied these same qualities to all areas of our
community life making Hopewell a worthwhile
town in which to reside and raise our families.

We therefore dedicate this booklet to those many
citizens and in particular to those deceased fire-
men who worked so hard to give us this heritage.
We will appreciate it if you will remember and
patronize our many friends who have supported
us with their donations and have advertised in
this booklet.

**HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT
Hopewell, New Jersey**

7/270/94



EARLY HISTORY OF FIRE PROTECTION IN HOPEWELL

HOPEWELL'S FIRST ORGANIZED FIRE COMPANY

“**H**OPEWELL IS A SMALL VILLAGE, PLEASANT-ly situated on the Mercer and Somerset Railroad, sixteen miles north of Trenton. It contains two general stores, a harness-maker's and a safe-maker's shop, a millinery establishment, a carriage and wagon manufactory, a flour mill, two or three extensive grain warehouses, a good hotel and a resident physician. There are about 35 dwellings and the estimated population is two hundred.” This is a picture of Hopewell in 1875 according to the Historical Atlas of Mercer County.

It was in this peaceful setting that the first Fire Company of Hopewell saw its beginning. We find that on May 18th, 1877, “a portion of the citizens of Hopewell met at Phillips Hall, to take into consideration the propriety of forming an organization for the protection of person and property from fire.”

The interested group met again on May 25, 1877, when a constitution was adopted and members approved. This group ordered a truck on July 24, 1877, for \$200 from Weber Bros. of Ringoes.

On November 16, 1877, a special meeting was held, at which time the company signed the necessary state papers and chose a name—“Hopewell Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.”



The new truck arrived in Hopewell on December 20, 1877. Ceremonies were held in front of the First Baptist Church. It was then paraded through the streets drawn by four horses and all agreed it was “a very handsome piece of work.” So Hopewell saw the birth of its first fire company.

The truck was housed in a building erected by the fire company on a lot located next to the Calvary Baptist Parsonage in the center of town and owned by Charles Drake.

During the next decade, the community and the fire company were fortunate that no major fires occurred to seriously endanger life and property. In the year 1891, the hotel stable and shed burned to the ground with the loss of five horses, \$50 worth of hay and about \$200 in harness. That same year negotiations were started for the purchase of a lot for a new fire house and in 1893 the Trustees were directed to purchase the lot on Greenwood Avenue where the “Mirror of America” building now stands.

A GREAT CONFLAGRATION DEVASTATES THE CENTER OF HOPEWELL

ON JULY 31, 1893, THE MOST SERIOUS FIRE ever experienced by Hopewell laid many of the buildings in the center of the borough in ashes. The detailed account of this fire as published in the Hopewell Herald on August 3rd follows:

"It was the noon hour. The people of the village were just sitting down to their midday meal when the shrill cry of 'fire', 'fire' rang out in the sultry air, voiced by little Scott Dansberry, and was immediately taken up and echoed and re-echoed hoarsely from a hundred throats throughout the length and breadth of the town. Instantly all was uproar and excitement; the people directed their hurried footsteps in the direction of the cry, and located the fire in the barn on the property of C. Behre, in the rear of his immense new hall, and between it and the Hook & Ladder Truck House, right in the center of town. The Hook and Ladder Company was at the scene of the fire in a very few minutes, and aided by all good citizens, worked with nerve and determination, but the scarcity of water and the intense heat prevented effective work on the already doomed buildings.

A few minutes served to show the utter helplessness of the bucket brigade in such an emergency, and their further efforts were directed toward saving adjoining property.

The Truck house, W.W. Morrell's meat and vegetable market and Merz's Jewelry store were so close to the great burning building that no effort was made to save them and they were soon a mass of flames. The parsonage of the Calvary Baptist Church, directly across Greenwood Avenue next caught fire, all efforts to prevent it being futile.

By this time hundreds of men from all the country round were on the ground, and all worked with a determination born of desperation to prevent the spread of the devouring element to Cook's large business block, the Baptist Church, Dalrymple's tenement houses, the church sheds, and the houses of Madames Hill and Dalrymple. If these buildings had been burned, which they were in imminent danger of doing, the conflagration would have become general, and all that would now be left to tell Hopewell ever existed would be a mass of dust and ashes.

A line of hose from the wash pave of Cray's hotel was carried down the street for a distance of a hundred yards to the roof of the church, and by keeping it constantly wet, fire was kept off. A line of hose from A.S. Cook's family hydrant was taken to the roof of Cook's block and by keeping it deluged with water the fire fiend was kept from obtaining a permanent hold, although it was on fire half a dozen times in as many different places. The post office and part of the stock of A.F. Naylor's furniture store, and the household goods of Herbert Davison were hurriedly removed, and were badly damaged from rough usage, falling sparks and water.

Bucket brigades worked manfully to save the other imperiled houses, and succeeded, although almost exhausted by the intense heat and hard work which they were compelled to undergo.

A stiff breeze was blowing at the time, and the burning embers were carried to a considerable distance, starting little blazes in several places about town, but realizing that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty (or safety)" every coal was pounced upon and extinguished before it could do any damage.

The Pennington fire department was telegraphed for, and although arriving too late to help save property, the fire laddies did effective work in extinguishing the blaze, and are entitled to and receive the thanks of Hopewell en masse. The Bound Brook and Trenton departments were also at the depot in readiness to come when telegrams were sent that the fire was under control.

The fire was discovered by Scott Dansberry, who, with a companion, was playing near the barn. The fire apparently started in a hay loft.

The large hall which was the centre of the blaze, in a partially completed condition, and being perfectly dry, and open all through, the plastering not yet having been done, was a tinderbox, through which the flames spread with giant strides. It was 12:15 when the alarm was raised and 12:30 when the great building caught. At 1 P.M., only 30 minutes later, it was a heap of ruins: the building frame, 46 x 90 feet, four stories and basement. It was partly occupied by Mr. Behre as a hardware store, plumbing and tin shop, and as a residence. John Whitehead occupied the basement as a tobacco and cigar store and pool room.

Loss on buildings and contents - Behre's \$12,000, insurance \$9,500. Whitehead's, \$1,000, insurance, \$600. The parsonage was a neat frame dwelling, loss \$1,500 insurance \$1,000. Hook and Ladder, \$200, no insurance. Morrell's meat market, building and stock, \$275, insurance \$100. Merz's jewelry, new one story frame, just completed, loss including stock, \$400, no insurance. Cook's block, large sheeted building 40 x 70 feet, containing three stores, the post office and a dwelling, damage can hardly be estimated, probably about \$300. Fully insured. Mesdames Hill and Dalrymple's houses, frame dwell-

ings, fences and sidewalks burned, loss about \$150, fully insured. J.M. Dalrymple's tenement houses, loss \$200, fully covered. The escape of the town from annihilation was extremely narrow and should be a warning to the community that better fire protection is absolutely necessary.

The Herald has heretofore urged the town to place fire plugs at convenient points about town, and when it was proved Monday that two plug streams would have prevented an expensive fire, it could easily be seen whether the advice was wise or otherwise.

By burning of Behre's Hall and adjacent buildings, Hopewell has suffered a loss from which it will take years to recover. Indeed it is doubtful if we again see so massive a building erected here, at least for many years."

The task of rebuilding and reorganizing began at once with arrangements being made with the schools and churches to ring their bells in case of fire and the building of a temporary fire house.

THE UNION FIRE COMPANY IS FORMED

A NUMBER OF BOROUGH CITIZENS WERE still not satisfied that adequate fire protection was being provided. On March 25, 1895, a public meeting was held for the purpose of organizing another fire company. C.E. Voorhees was elected chairman; E.V. Savidge, secretary; J.B. Lewis, vice-president; William W. Drake, treasurer; John B. Skillman, foreman; T.A. Pierson, first assistant foreman; E.E. Seville, second assistant foreman; George R. Carver, George E. Pierson and George Snowden, trustees. They chose the name of "The Union Fire Company." Committees were appointed to meet with the Borough Council and the Water Company in an attempt to have fire hydrants installed. They ordered a fire engine on the trial basis that the hand pumper would throw a stream of water over the Calvary Baptist Church steeple. The engine cost approximately \$500 and was housed on the property of Dr. Pierson.

There was considerable competition between the two companies at various fires over the next several years although The Hook and Ladder Company did ask the Union Fire Company if they would be interested in renting a room in the new fire house being planned by them. This offer was refused.

The Union Fire Company was not to be outdone and so started plans to erect a fire house. The American Hose Company of Bound Brook donated an old steel railroad engine tire to be used as a fire alarm. The alarm was mounted on a tower located in the rear of the Hopewell House Hotel at what is now West Broad and Mercer Streets. The Union Company paid a freight bill of 42 cents for shipment of the alarm. (This amount was reimbursed by the American Hose Company with appropriate ceremonies in 1956).

COLUMBIA HALL BUILT—1895

COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED FROM THE Hook and Ladder Company to draw up plans, estimate costs and raise funds for the erection of a new fire house on November 1, 1895. At the following meeting it was agreed that the building should have the following specifications: size 35 x 50 feet, 2 stories high, first floor ceiling 9 feet—second floor ceiling 14 feet, 2 dry closets outside of building, open fire in hall, 2 stairs, one heater, tin roof, estimated cost for painted and completed frame building to be \$2,004.84. The sale of bonds was reported to be a success and it was agreed to purchase additional land to increase the size of the lot to 41 feet wide and 60 feet deep at an estimated cost of \$50.

On December 20th it was reported that the bidder, Bender and Pittenger, refused to sign a contract so the work was broken into separate parts to be accomplished as follows: Abram Golden, all lumber—\$747.94; Blackwell and Hill, millwork and doors, etc.—\$410; H.D. Sutphin, carpenter work—\$309, Milton Shade, tin roof and material—\$128, Collings and Hoagland, painting and material—\$97.

At this meeting, it was voted to call the new building Columbia Hall. (Few people know that at one time Hopewell was called Columbia).

COOK'S BLOCK DESTROYED BY FIRE

COOK'S BLOCK WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND by a fire of unknown origin at 1 a.m. on July 12, 1899. This frame building with sheet metal outer covering housed the businesses of T.J. Sheppard, grocery; Matt DiPuglia, barber; Hopewell Telephone and Construction central office; A. Zanelli, fruit store; James Smith, tailor; F.F. Holcombe, post office; E.S. Brewer, warerooms; and the Jr. O.U.A.M. and Knights of Pythias lodges. John S. Van Dyke's law office, a one story frame building in the rear also burned.



COOK'S BLOCK BUILDING, on the corner of East Broad Street and North Greenwood Ave.

The fire was discovered by Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Sheppard who were awakened when their baby started choking from the smoke. The fire started in the corner basement, occupied by A. Zanelli, and when first discovered was very small but before the firemen could get a stream of water on it had gotten beyond their control and no effort was made to save the burning building. Their attention was devoted to the surrounding property. The building burned very slowly and there was scarcely any wind to increase the fury of the fire. The tardiness of the Union Company in coupling their hose, in the confusion in their work, was criticized by many and showed that they needed much drilling.

VOLUNTEER COMPANIES HAVE DIFFICULTIES

DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS EACH COMPANY experienced its share of problems. The records, however, are not sufficiently complete to provide a full report of all the happenings. The record of fires was also not kept in any particular order. At one point the minutes of the Union Company showed a report that there were not enough men present to run out the engine and the minutes of the Hook and Ladder Company show that an invitation from the Wear Post 108, G.A.R., to participate in the Memorial Day parade was declined due to the fire truck not being in shape to parade.

The heresay stories of the period tell of fights between these two companies at fires; taking apparatus away from each other, holding water battles and at one point it is reported that the Water Company sat on the fire hydrants and wouldn't allow them to use the water because no arrangements had been made to pay for the water used. (The Water Company in those days was privately owned.)

From 1897 to 1910, both companies also engaged in a running fight with the Mayor and the council to establish various forms of firemen's relief and some uniform control at fires. They requested and eventually got aid in the purchase of hose and other equipment. They petitioned for the appointment of a single fire chief to control both companies at fires; this was not accomplished for various reasons. They asked for tax relief and in 1908 the Council finally agreed to pay the firemen an amount equivalent to the tax on \$500 that year.

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

ON MAY 25, 1908, A BENEFIT AND CELEBRATION of the 31st anniversary of the organization of the Hopewell Hook and Ladder Company was held in Columbia Hall.

The committee of ladies in charge of the program provided an attractive program of music and recitations which was faultlessly rendered and judging from the applause, was immensely appreciated.

During the program secretary John M. Dalrymple gave a report as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I have been called upon by your committee to relate some things that happened 31 years ago on this date, the 31st anniversary of the Hook and Ladder Company which took place May 25, 1877. Now this seems a long while to remember, and also to look backward to, but it seems such a short time when it has passed that we can hardly realize how swift time passeth. On May 1, 1877, the handsome residence of Jonathan V. Blackwell, which stood on a part of the foundation where Charles A. Holcombe's residence now stands, took fire from a defective flue and was totally destroyed on account of not having ladders at hand long enough to reach up to where the fire was. I want to say right here that the Blackwell residence was one of the finest and cost more money than any dwelling that has ever been built in this borough or vicinity with the exception of Professor Webster Edgerly's residence. The Blackwell residence was built in 1857 by Titus Brothers of Trenton and cost \$17,000, and this was at a time when lumber and labor were cheap. After this loss to our community of such a handsome residence, it was essential that some kind of fire apparatus be purchased for the then small village, for the protection of person and property from fire. The question of organizing a fire company and procuring some kind of fire apparatus was then agitated."

Then Mr. Dalrymple made an abridged report of the 32 fires answered by the Fire Company in the ensuing 31 years.

"FOUR FIRES IN FIVE DAYS"

EARLY IN 1911 THE HOPEWELL HERALD REPORTED on those fires and had the following commentary.

"While the fire department had good results, it can be attributed more to good luck than to good management. They were indeed fortunate, but it may not always be so. It was perfectly ridiculous to see the apparatus of each company being dragged along at a snail's gait by a lot of boys. It is high time that we awoke to the situation, and get the two companies to consolidate into one live company, not two dead ones, and get equipped to fight fires right, or organize a new company."

At the fire Friday the hose had not been properly cared for after being used the day before and was frozen together, which necessitated a delay before water could be gotten through it. Had the flames secured a good start, the damage would have been much greater than it was and the building might have been totally destroyed. We have a high pressure and there should be no excuse for not being equipped to the minute for fire fighting. It is time to

put petty jealousies aside and work in harmony. We have been acting like school boys in this matter long enough, in consequence of which our insurances are prohibitive. Also, where is the wisdom of pulling out that heavy engine every time there is an alarm sounded? It is not used nor needed, when the fire can be reached from a plug. When such is the case why not leave the engine in the house and exert our energy toward getting the hose cart at the scene of the conflagration and the hose fast to the plug. A stream of water on a fire quickly is what is needed. It is said that the engine is not in working condition anyway.

It is said that neither company has a lantern on any of its apparatus that can be used and that nearly all the pails on the Hook and Ladder truck leak badly.

Let us all take more interest in our fire department, before we have a serious fire, when it will be too late, and see to it that it is properly equipped.

It is rumored that there is a move on foot to organize another company that will be fully fitted up with hose cart, chemical extinguishers, and hook and ladder truck combined; a large amount of money has already been pledged. The promoters are said to be meeting with encouragement on all sides, as the people of the town are thoroughly disgusted with this dog in the manger business which exists between the two present companies."

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZED

ON APRIL 7, 1911, A MEETING WAS HELD IN the rooms of the Hopewell Athletic Club for the purpose of organizing a fire company. (This club was located above the drug store.) Temporary officers were William Reid, chairman; Robert Zulauf, secretary; and Charles L. Williamson, treasurer. After reading the call of the meeting and the list of names on the petition, a motion was made that the name of the new company would be the Hopewell Fire Department, also that this company would be permanent. Committees were appointed to raise funds and extend invitations to the Hook and Ladder and the Union Companies to join the new company and to look into the matter of securing fire apparatus and draft by-laws. At the July meeting, Henry E. Sutphin of the Union Company advised that this company had disbanded and would merge with the new company. (However, some members did not follow and continued to maintain records and activities for several years.) John H. Titus was appointed temporary fire chief of the new company.

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED AS UNDER BOROUGH JURISDICTION

APPPLICATION WAS MADE TO THE BOROUGH Council in August of 1911 for the Hopewell Fire Department to come under Borough authority and the municipality to establish an annual fire appropriation of \$250. This was accomplished and Harry Wolfe was elected the first permanent Chief. Other officers were President, Fred I. Sutphin; Vice-President, William I. Reid; Secretary, Edwin V. Savidge; Treasurer, J. Mason Ege; Trustees, William N. Skillman, Harry E. Sutphin and George E. Pierson. Other active officers were: Foreman, Clarence E. Hoagland; First Assistant Foreman, George L. Stout; Second Assistant Foreman, Charles W. Stout.

The members recorded at that time were as follows: George E. Pierson, Scott Dansbury, Harold Mathews, Lorraine F. Blackwell, Charles E. Williamson, Joseph S. Williamson, Wilmer Moore, Charles H. Wyckoff, Clarence A. Runyon, Harry L. Cox, Daniel C. Wyckoff, Clinton M. Young, Harry Wolfe, R. Leigh Hurley, John S. Blackwell, Fred S. Manners, Harry E. Sutphin, Roe B. Hullfish, William E. Piggott, LeRoy T. Blackwell, Marion Voorhees, Charles W. Ege, John C. Fisher, Michael J. Norton, Clarence E. Hoagland, Jonathan Kitchen, Irving E. Rink, Charles W. Stout, Irvin D. Van Nest, Van C. Blackwell, Elmer E. Van Dyke, Fred S. Servis, John H. Skillman, Fred I. Sutphen, George L. Stout, John H. Titus, Frank Naylor, Charles W. Hoagland, Edgar L. Labaw, Fred H. Noll, Howard W. Larson, Patrick Faherty, Robert Zulauf, Edward M. Haynes, Fred M. Leigh, Joseph B. Hill, Theodore A. Pierson, Edwin V. Savidge, William K. Race, Charles L. Williamson, J. Mason Ege, Cornelius N. Allen, Jr., John L. Bellis, William Y. Johnson, Daniel A. Northrup, William J. Braunworth, Russell S. Lanning, John A. Reddan, John M. Servis, William W. Wyckoff, Andrew J. Wyckoff, William N. Skillman, Peter Van Fleet, George E. Snowden, William V. Van Dyke, J. William Cray, Harry P. Grim, Edward R. Whitehead, William I. Reid, John R. Fletcher, John N. Race, John B. Garrison, Farley F. Holcombe, Louis Labaw, Amos C. Bond, William S. Hixson, C. Herbert Fetter, Theodore M. Hall, S. Voorhees Van Zandt, Matti Di Puglia, John H. Merz, Fred G. Fritz, H. Mount Williamson, Abram S. Golden, George W. Staples, George W. Thorn, C. Howard Wilson, T. Romeyn Voorhees, John H. Fetter, Robert P. Miller, John Corcoran, John McVeigh, Howard L. Stout, J. Howard Dilts.

CHEMICAL ENGINE ORDERED— CELEBRATION PLANNED

THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT PROCEEDED at rapid pace to secure equipment and materials. A new chemical engine was ordered on July 10, 1911, from the Combination Ladder Company of Providence, R.I., at a cost of \$1,055 with delivery to be in 100 days. Preparations were also made to purchase 500 feet of 2½" hose and a new hose cart.

The fine relations that exist between neighboring fire departments were evident in these early days as shown by this letter:

"Pennington, N.J., July 15, 1911

*Officers and Members
Hopewell Fire Department
Hopewell, N.J.*

Gentlemen:

Pennington Fire Company sends congratulations and is pleased to learn of the success of the citizens of Hopewell in organizing a fire department, and approve purchase of a four wheel chemical engine.

We trust, when fully equipped, the organization may, by united intelligence and efficient work, win credit to themselves in furnishing complete fire protection to the homes of Hopewell.

*Yours truly,
Henry L. Laning, Secretary"*

The new department jumped into planning for a big demonstration to be held on November 11, 1911, to celebrate the arrival of the new engine. Invitations were extended to Rocky Hill, Pennington, and the two Borough companies to participate. A carnival was held for three days preceding the parade and the committee (Lorraine F. Blackwell, William N. Skillman and Charles E. Williamson) reported receipts of \$870.27 and expenditures of \$394.62.

January 3, 1912, marked the first meeting in their new fire house. (This building still stands in the rear of the Central Hotel, E. Broad and Seminary Avenue — now known as Hopewell Valley Inn). Some years ago the upper story of this building was used as the Hopewell Public Library and it also served as the first home of the Hopewell Building and Loan Association.

The Department purchased their first uniforms (shirts, belts and caps) for a parade held in Princeton on June 17, 1912, with the invitation coming from Mercer Engine Company No. 3. They also spent \$49 to hire a 15-piece band. The Ladies Auxiliary donated a banner to be displayed at the parade.



FIRST CHEMICAL ENGINE AT SEMINARY AVENUE FIRE HOUSE, left to right are: Elmer Van Dyke, Harry Cox, William Cray, Charles Williamson.

FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

LATE IN 1912 AND INTO 1913, THE HOPEWELL Fire Department studied the requirements for organizing a Firemen's Relief Association. In 1913 the Company joined the New Jersey State Firemen's Relief Association.

The need for a central fire alarm system was recognized and a committee was appointed to procure a bell, select a location and erect a tower. It was felt that an electric attachment should be provided to ring the alarm. A bell and tower were erected on land donated by the heirs of the Hannah M. Drake estate to be used for that purpose for a period of 25 years. The alarm was installed near the present location of the fire siren and was completed in early 1914, but did not prove satisfactory and a larger bell was installed in 1915. A remote control was installed in Fred Sutphen's house on Columbia Avenue.

The new Fire Department proved to be a very active group since they undertook to have an annual carnival which was continued for a number of years. Open air dances were held and a tent was secured for that purpose and a number of successful winter activities were held including a traditional "smoker".

DECIDE TO MOTORIZE CHEMICAL ENGINE

A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF DR. T.A. PIERSON, J.M. Ege and C.W. Hoagland was appointed to investigate the cost of purchasing a motorized fire fighting apparatus. They were authorized to purchase a Buick chassis equipped with a suitable body so that the tanks and equipment from the chemical engine could be mounted upon it. The cost was \$1,695. Considerable discussion centered about the use of "airless" tires. The truck was placed in service in 1916 and the stripped fire truck was sold to S. Smith Ege for \$15. Apparently, this new form of transportation had its problems since the fire chief initiated two motions at the meeting of September 1, 1916. First, that a committee meet with the Borough Council to discuss policy and procedures for answering fire alarms outside of the Borough, and second, a new rule must be initiated limiting the number of men to 8 on the engine at any one time.

The chief reported a total of 7 fires for the year 1916. Two barn fires, 2 fires on Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, an oil stove, a chimney fire and a minor fire at St. Michael's Orphanage.

HOOK AND LADDER AND UNION FIRE COMPANIES UNITED

ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS OF THE TWO older companies had joined the Hopewell Fire Department, the remaining members had continued their fire fighting activities although they had been unsuccessful in getting the Council in naming one of their members as the Borough Fire Chief and financing of new equipment presented some problems. Committees from both companies met in April of 1917. They reported agreement on a merger plan which was ratified by both companies to become effective on July 6, 1917. The new company was known as the Union Hook and Ladder Company. The property turned over by the Union Company consisted of a lot fully paid for (which had been intended for a fire house), several hundred feet of first class hose, a hose cart, a pump, (which may be useful sometime when there is a fire near a running stream), about one dozen chemical fire extinguishers, lamps for firemen and over \$200 in cash.

H.F.D. TAKES EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED PARTICULAR tribute and a \$30 donation from the Directors of the Hopewell National Bank for the valuable service rendered at their fire on December 3, 1917. Chief Hoagland reported that about 8 tanks of chemicals were used.

The members of the Hopewell Fire Department took a physical inventory early in 1918, to give the Borough Council an accurate record of the equipment and apparatus owned by the Fire Department at that time. The inventory was as follows:

Combination Auto Chemical Truck	\$1,992.88
600 Ft. Fabric Standard Fire Hose	520.00
Fire Alarm Tower, Bell and Wiring	699.70
1 Large Tent	230.00
Chemical Tanks, Search Light, Ladders, Chemical Hose and other equipment taken from wagon and placed on Auto Truck	200.00
12 Collapsible Pails	18.00
1 Desk and 4 dozen chairs	43.00
6 Oil coats, 6 hats and 6 pair rubber boots	42.39
1 Extra hose nozzles	10.00
Total Value	\$3,755.97



BUICK CHEMICAL TRUCK

UNION HOOK & LADDER MERGES WITH H.F.D.

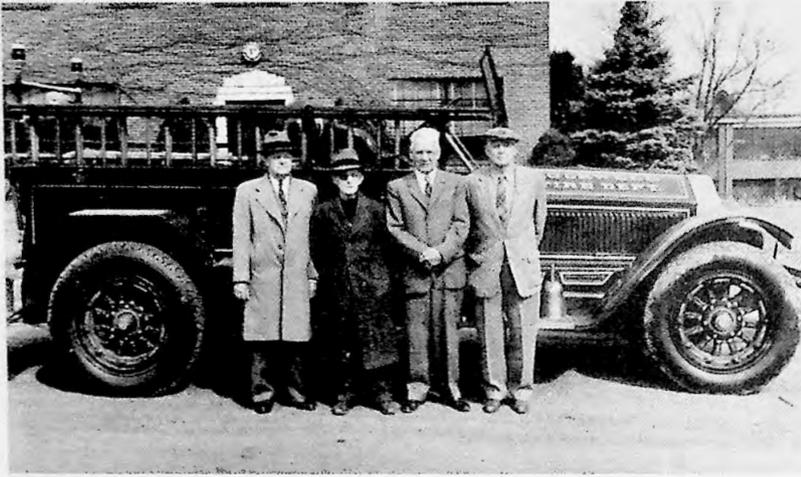
AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE by a committee from the Fire Department in January 1919 to have the Hook and Ladder Company and the Hopewell Fire Department confer and work out a merger. However, a delegation from the Union Hook and Ladder Company did attend a meeting of the Hopewell Fire Department in January, 1920, and present a resolution calling for such a merger under the name of the Union Hook and Ladder Company. This resolution was rejected after due consideration by the Hopewell Fire Department. Finally, on July 1, 1921, the members of the Union Hook and Ladder Company then petitioned the Hopewell Fire Department requesting that all their members in good standing be accepted as a body into the Fire Department. All fire apparatus and hose were turned over free of debt, however, due to the nature of the outstanding bonds on Columbia Hall; this property was not included.

LADIES AUXILIARY PURCHASES ELECTRIC SIREN

THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT recognized the many deficiencies of the existing alarm system even though the bell was equipped with an electric ringing attachment. The batteries required constant attention and on several occasions refused to operate the mechanism. On October 7, 1920, the Ladies Auxiliary advised the Fire Department that they wished to purchase a Fire Alarm System and desired a committee from the H.F.D. to act in their behalf. A committee was appointed (Charles E. Williamson, Dr. T.A. Pierson and E.V. Savidge) and they immediately contacted several companies to examine and try various bells and sirens. On April 1, 1921, the Chief reported that an electric siren and a 20 foot tower addition had been purchased. The siren was purchased from the Federal Electric Company at a cost of \$655.

In July 1921, a committee was appointed to attend a Mercer County Firemen's Association meeting to be held at Broad Street Park, Trenton, N.J. Hopewell Fire Department was elected to membership at that meeting.

After the merging of the two fire companies, the Hopewell Fire Department requested that the Council assist in providing for new quarters for the consolidated company. Arrangements were completed to use the Council Room and Apparatus Room in Columbia Hall and the first meeting was held there on December 1, 1921.



*PURCHASING COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER
John S. Blackwell, Edward Jones, Jr., Rev. William J. Hayes, and
Charles Williamson, who was chief at the time. Dr. T.A. Pierson was
also a member of the original committee.*

AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER PURCHASED

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN QUITE successful in the operation of their annual carnivals, in fact they realized a profit of \$2,600 in 1921. With things looking good financially, it was agreed that the fire apparatus should be modernized. Steps were taken to have the Council increase the size of the fire appropriation and committees were named to request Hopewell Township to include an appropriation in their budget for the services of the Hopewell Fire Department. At the November 3, 1922 meeting a committee consisting of Dr. T.A. Pierson, Rev. Wm. J. Hayes, John S. Blackwell, Edward Jones, Jr. and Chief Charles E. Williamson was authorized to select and purchase a fire engine equal to or better than a La France. In addition, the committee was requested to ascertain if the Council would appropriate funds for the new truck. The committee selected the American La France Type 75 Triple Combination Pumping, Chemical and Hose Car with 750 G.P.M. capacity at a cost of \$12,500. The Department voted to pay \$4,000 down and take a note for the balance of \$8,500. Then, at the December, 1922 meeting, they voted unanimously to turn over to the Borough the pumper, the Buick fire truck and the Ford truck (which came from the Hook and Ladder Company in the merger), all for price of one dollar, with the Borough to assume the responsibility for the \$8,500 note.

The Ford truck was converted into a general purpose truck and used by the Borough for a number of years.

During the next several years, the Fire Department was very active with the annual carnival as their primary fund raising effort. Their fire fighting services were in constant use with a significant increase in the number of large building fires particularly in the surrounding rural areas. In 1928, Chief Williamson reported 3 house fires, 2 barns, 2 chimneys, a grass fire and some out-buildings. There were also a number of calls during this period to extinguish fires on motor vehicles which were becoming increasingly popular. Now that the fire apparatus was fully motorized, the Department was responding to calls for assistance at Rocky Hill, Belle Mead, Lawrence Township, Blawenburg and Hopewell Township. The Fire Department contacted Montgomery Township in 1928 in an effort to secure an appropriation for fire protection services and finally in 1931 an appropriation of \$200 was granted.

FIREMEN DEMONSTRATE ON WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL—1932

THE FIREMEN DECIDED TO SPONSOR A celebration in October, 1932, to coincide with the Washington Bicentennial and Fire Prevention Week. The object was stated—"that the people of the borough be given an opportunity to view the different fire apparatuses, and to aid the drive for new members in the local company." The parade was considered by the Hopewell Herald in an article published after the occasion—"to be the largest and finest of its character ever held here. There were close to 500 firemen and others in line in the parade from various towns in this section, who with their attractive uniforms and apparatus made a splendid and colorful display. Following the parade a clam bake was held at Overlook." (Adam Ziegler's Overlook Farm restaurant was located in the large frame house on the Hopewell-Pennington Road which has until recently been occupied by Hopewell Manor.)

Mayor A. F. Giese was the grand marshal and was accompanied by Mayor Moonan of Lambertville. Kenneth Williamson was in charge of the colors. Companies in attendance included Lambertville, Washington Crossing, Pennington, Lawrenceville, Rocky Hill, Lawrence Road, East Amwell Township (Ringoos). Floats were entered by the H. A. Smith Machine Company (now Rockwell Manufacturing Company) with the world's largest meter register and a nicely decorated float by Herbert F. Rorer, the local hardware merchant. A model T Ford known as the "Crowbar Special" was driven by William Sangston. This attracted considerable attention due to the ingenuity of the decorations.

The Princeton companies could not attend due to their being needed for traffic duty at the Princeton-Cornell football game and Pennington Road was absent due to their apparatus being at Mercer Air Port, where an air meet was in progress.

The committee for this event was Alfred H. Smith, Chairman; Charles E. Williamson, Harry Wolfe, George R. Carver, Jr., Arch M. Adam, Russell H. Drake, William Weaver, Harry Latto and Walter Benson.

Things returned to normal after the celebration and an increase in new members was noted. The committee on By-Laws submitted a final draft early in 1933 and these were approved by the Department. An invitation from the Niagara Hose Company No. 6, Burlington, N.J. was accepted to parade at a "Firemen's Day" celebration held there in August, 1933. Pennington and Rocky Hill volunteered to cover the Hopewell territory during their absence.

HOPEWELL AND PENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENTS DEMONSTRATE PUMP- ING RELAY TECHNIQUE

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING firemen at the scene of a rural fire is the absence of an adequate water supply adjacent to the conflagration. Mr. George W. Pugh of the Rushing Hose Company, supported by the Mercer County Board of Freeholders, was instrumental in proposing the installation of dams in rural streams to provide an adequate water supply for fire purposes. A dam was constructed near Woodville and the Hopewell and Pennington companies demonstrated that a stream of water could be relayed by the pumpers over a distance of one half mile to the scene of a fire within 15 minutes from the time of the alarm. Representatives from many of the Mercer County companies were on hand to witness the demonstration which was held in September, 1933.

TWO MAJOR FIRES IN BOROUGH SAME NIGHT

HOPEWELL BOROUGH SAW TWO DEVASTATING fires on the night of February 12, 1934, which could have resulted in a partial destruction of the business section and the western residential section. At midnight, a fire was discovered by Mrs. J.N. Race and also by Theodore Lowe in a building owned by J. B. Drake and located in the rear of the Hopewell Bank. The building, which housed the barber shop and pool room of Frank Di Puglia, was completely enveloped in flames upon the arrival of the firemen who concentrated on saving the Bank Building, the Central Garage and other nearby structures. Fourteen hundred feet of hose in four lines was used by Chief Williamson's men.

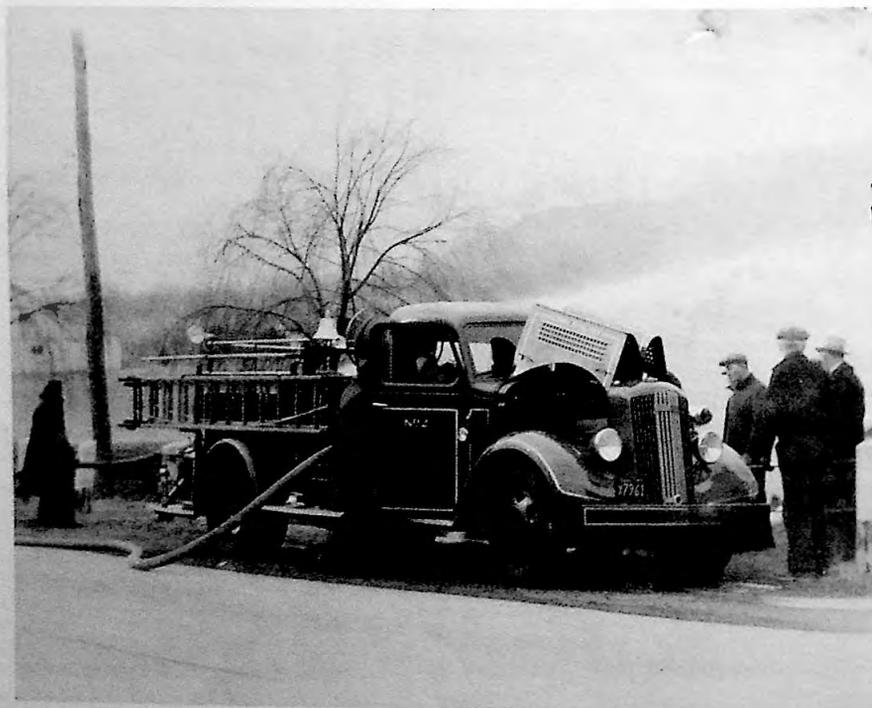
At 3:00 A.M. a blaze was discovered in the home of William S. Bond on West Prospect Street by his son-in-law, Dezzie Casey. He notified Walter Benson, near neighbor, and then assisted his wife, father and mother-in-law and the Casey daughters, Lois and Roberta from the burning home. The fire was believed started by an over-heated chimney and it gutted one side of the nine room residence including the kitchen, dining room and attic. The rest of the dwelling was damaged by smoke and water. Foreman Harry Wolfe was overcome by smoke and was confined to his home.

1936 GMC—HAHN PUMPER PURCHASED

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MODERN FIRE fighting apparatus was being felt within the fire company and a number of discussions on the subject were held over a period of several years. Various motions were made at meetings starting in 1930 to get the ball rolling on fulfilling these requirements. Various committees were appointed to ascertain the apparatus requirements and determine ways and means of financing such a purchase. Chief Williamson outlined specifications for a 500 gallon pumper at the May 1935 Department meeting. A committee report to the Borough was delivered on August 12, 1935, suggesting that the Council procure a new apparatus of the booster type which would be lighter in weight than the La France pumper, to be used on small fires in the Borough and on all rural fires where there were no water mains. In addition, it was pointed out that the Fire Department had pledged \$500 and the Ladies Auxiliary \$1,000 to be loaned to the Borough without interest. This proposition did not stimulate much interest in the Council since it involved raising the budget and possibly charging surrounding communities directly for fire service.

The Fire Department recognized the advantages of operating carnivals as fund raising affairs and the Firemen's Carnival was reinstated as it had not been held for a number of years and the Department treasury was sufficiently depleted that it was necessary to borrow money to make change.

The 1936 apparatus committee, consisting of G.N. Holcombe, Chairman; Harry Wolfe, Charles E. Williamson, C.A. Runyon, George Jones and George R. Carver, Jr. received the authority of the Fire Department to arrange the financing and purchase of a new fire apparatus. Bids were received and the committee selected an apparatus to be constructed by the Hahn Motor Company on a G.M.C. chassis. The chassis was purchased from George S. Clark for \$1,134. The balance of the equipment cost \$2,225 for a total of \$3,359. The new truck was delivered on New Year's Eve 1936. The Hahn Motor Company agreed to accept the Buick Chemical engine as a trade-in. A resolution was adopted on November 5, 1937, that the Fire Department present to the Borough of Hopewell the new fire truck which was fully paid for and unencumbered.



1936 GMC-HAHN PUMPER

FIRE DEPARTMENT MOVES TO PRESENT QUARTERS

THE COLUMBIA HALL ASSOCIATION CONTACTED the Fire Department in July, 1939, to advise them of the plans for a new motion picture theatre to be constructed on the site of Columbia Hall, in which the fire-fighting equipment was housed. The Fire Department immediately appointed a committee to work out a solution for this housing problem with the Borough Council.

The Department vacated Columbia Hall by the end of the year with meetings being held in the local grammar school. Plans for remodeling the old Hopewell High School (the present municipal building) were initiated jointly by the Fire Department and the Borough Council. The Fire Company approved \$2,000 to be donated to the Borough for the renovations and the balance of the expense be reimbursed from 65% of the yearly carnival receipts until the bonds were retired. Funds totaling approximately \$4,500 from the 1940, 1941 and 1942 carnivals were turned over to the Borough. The total cost of the renovations was \$18,257. Carnivals were not held for a few years after 1942 due to World War II.

The first meeting in the new quarters was held on June 6, 1941. S.E. Copner was appointed chairman of a dedication committee. A parade and dedication ceremonies were held on June 21, 1941. Fifteen fire companies were invited and the company's first chief, Harry Wolfe, was the parade marshal.

FIRST AID TRAINING INITIATED

PRESIDENT DEZZIE CASEY, CHIEF CLARENCE Runyon and Robert Van Doren were appointed as a committee to organize a First Aid Course in March, 1939. Nineteen members of the Department took this course which included a demonstration by the Public Service First Aid team. Mr. Albert P. Gulick was the instructor of the first class. He was elected an honorary member of the Department and presented with a watch in appreciation of his efforts.

The value of this course was soon apparent when the Department received the following letter from the American Red Cross concerning the actions of Francis Burke, a member of the Fire Company, after an automobile accident near Glen Gardner, N.J.:

September 1, 1939

Mr. C.A. Runyon, Chief
Hopewell Fire Department
Hopewell, N.J.

Dear Mr. Runyon:

As Chairman of the Trenton Chapter, American Red Cross, I want to commend, on behalf of our entire Executive Board, your Department for the unusual and efficient first aid treatment rendered during the accident on State Highway 30 when Mr. Burke, in my opinion, saved the life of a victim of the accident.

The American Red Cross is proud to extend its commendation and trust that you will extend our sincere thoughts to your entire Fire Department.

Sincerely,
A.W. BOWERS
Chairman

In February, 1941, a resolution was adopted amending the Constitution and By-Laws to provide for a First Aid Unit within the Fire Department. Francis Burke was named the first captain. The members continued to take the required courses over the next few years and were in attendance at fires to render service.



FIRE HOUSE AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING

JUNIOR FIRE CORPS ORGANIZED

DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON NUMEROUS occasions in 1942 and 1943 on the advisability of creating a Junior Fire Fighting Corps to relieve the man-power shortage and to encourage young men to join the Department. The Borough Council agreed to cover these young men with insurance in June, 1943, and a committee consisting of Chief Leslie Warman, George Voorhees, S.E. Copner and Ernest Adler was appointed to organize this Unit. The organization was completed and officers installed in October with Ernest Adler acting as instructor.

The success of this training was soon evident and the enthusiasm of these young men encouraged the Department to organize another class of sixteen Junior Firemen in July, 1945. This program has been continued over the years and has resulted in providing the community with a very dynamic Fire Department.

Mrs. Louis Smith of W. Broad Street requested that the Fire Department inspect her residence for hazards in July 1945 and as a result the Borough officially designated the fire-fighting officers as the Borough Fire Inspectors. This service has been provided to the citizens of Hopewell on numerous occasions since that time. The Department has also sponsored numerous fire prevention programs both locally and in connection with the County and State Fire Organizations. The most notable service has been provided in conjunction with our local Board of Education. This includes inspection of the school building, performance of fire drills, and cooperation in fire prevention education of the children.

Chief Copner reported a total of 24 alarms in 1945, of which 8 were house or building fires. An average of 21 firemen responded to each, including 7 junior firemen. Included were serious fires at the Eagle Bakery on Mercer Street and the Calvary Baptist Church on Broad Street.

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND SPONSORED

THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT SPONSORED a band for a period of time. A committee consisting of Herbert Wilson, Harry Hall and George R. Carver was appointed in May, 1947, to investigate the possibilities of organizing a band. It was agreed to hire Mr. Martin Meyer of Trenton to act as instructor. This band was outfitted with uniforms and

participated in a number of parades with the local firemen, including the local Memorial Day parade. Their first concert was given on Christmas Eve, 1947. They went on to win second prize at the State Fair in October, 1948. The band agreed to continue operating under their own organization in July, 1950, and the Fire Department withdrew their sponsorship.

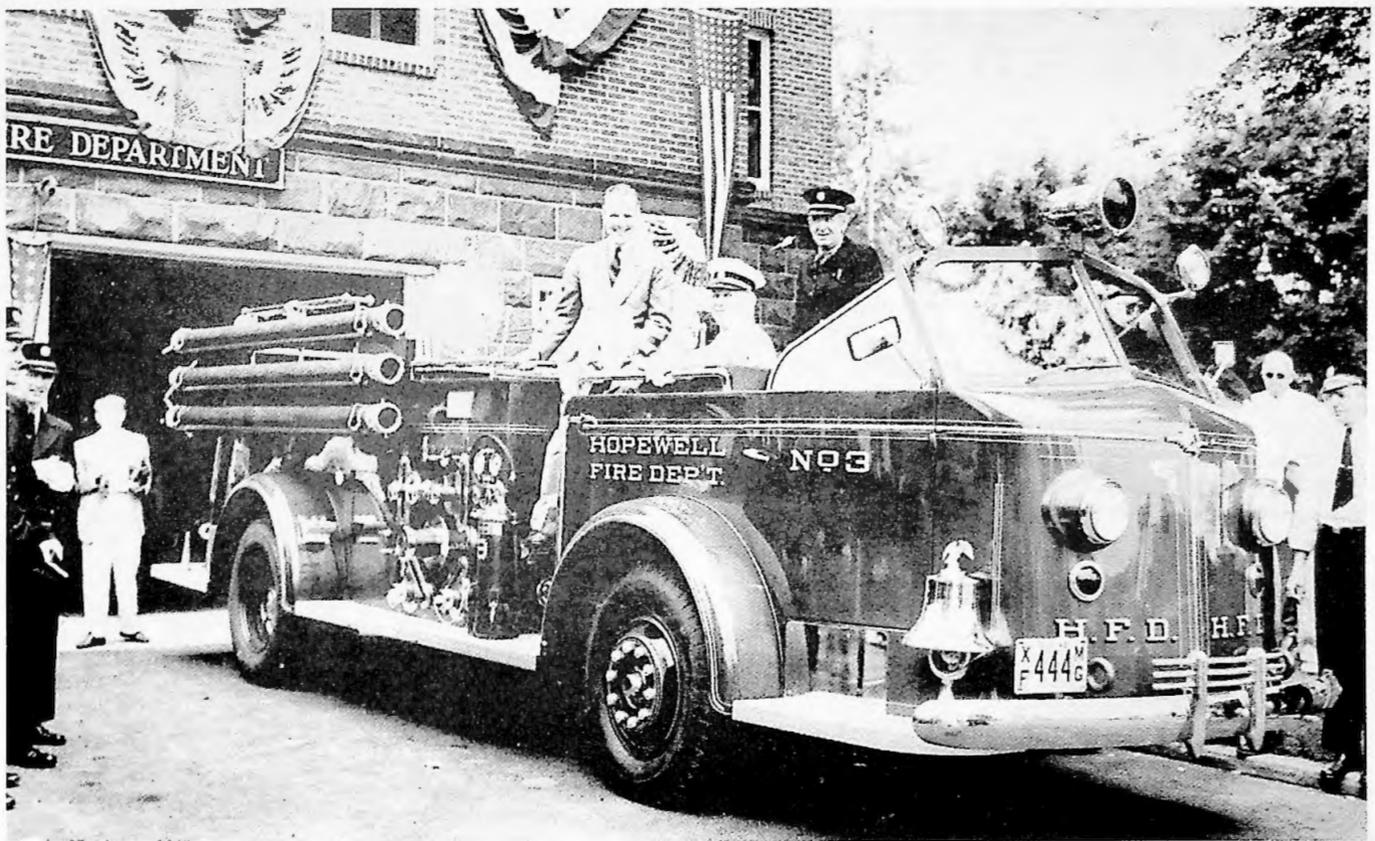
ROCKWELL MANUFACTURING DONATES NEW FIRE TRUCK

DURING CHIEF COPNER'S TERM OF OFFICE as Fire Chief (1945-1946) he recommended that the Fire Department make plans with the Borough Council to jointly build up a sinking fund for the purchase of apparatus. The incoming Chief, George Voorhees, was named, with his fire fighting officers, as a committee to investigate apparatus needs. Councilman Fred Peterson and Fire Commissioner George Clark were appointed by the Borough to work with this committee. The committee recommended at the September 1947 meeting that a 750 gpm pumper be purchased. This was referred to the Borough Council. That body concurred with the recommendation and agreed to consider this item in the next municipal budget.

On the evening of the October, 1947, meeting, just prior to the opening of business, the Department responded to a minor fire at the Rockwell Mfg. Co. plant. Later that evening, they were joined at their meeting by several of the officials of the local Rockwell plant for fellowship.

At the end of the year, Chief Voorhees reported a total of 42 alarms for 1947 including 14 building fires with estimated losses at \$250,000. Included was a major fire at T.P. Reed & Son in Pennington, N.J.

At the February, 1948 meeting, it was announced Rockwell Mfg. Co. had purchased an American La France pumper to be given to the Borough for Fire Department use. The Department was requested to send two men to Elmira, N.Y. for training. Ernest Adler and Raymond Dansberry were selected.



PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER, JUNE 26, 1948. W.F. Rockwell, Jr., president of Rockwell Manufacturing Company and the two oldest chiefs, Charles Williamson (seated) and Harry Wolfe, are shown at the celebration.

CELEBRATE HOUSING OF ENGINE

RESIDENT WALTER BENSON APPOINTED A general committee to handle the details of planning a celebration and the housing of the new apparatus. The members also voted that new uniforms should be purchased, these uniforms to be navy blue and gold with gold badges. The chiefs would have white leatherette hats and all members would be required to wear white gloves, black shoes and black socks when on parade or otherwise appearing as a group.

The parade celebrating the housing of the new apparatus was held on June 26, 1948. Officials of Rockwell Mfg. Co. were guests of honor and those present included: Col. W.F. Rockwell, Jr., President, and H.S. Rockwell, General Manager of the Hopewell Division. W.F. Rockwell, Jr. was made an Honorary Fire Chief of the Hopewell Fire Department and was presented with a helmet in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the entire community both for the apparatus, providing employment and performing many other acts to promote the welfare of the Borough. Mayor Kenneth Williamson, as the official host, accepted the apparatus for the Borough. A party sponsored by Rockwell was held in Princeton after the parade and presentation. There were approximately 1,300 people on foot in the line of march, plus 3 or 4 bands. At least 54 pieces of apparatus added much to the parade. Forty-nine fire companies were invited to attend. Trophies were given for the three best appearing companies and cash prizes were awarded to three bands.

COMMUNITY NEED OF AMBULANCE SERVICE CONSIDERED

ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD on numerous occasions as to the need to supply more complete first aid and rescue services to the community (in fact, the Chairman of the first aid unit had been directed to investigate forming such a squad in April, 1948) the issue did not come to the foreground until July, 1950, when member John Cromwell spoke about the need of an ambulance in the Borough. After much discussion President Robert Van Doren appointed Dezzie Casey, John Cromwell and George Voorhees as a committee to investigate this need. The committee actively pursued their assignment and in October, D.L. Casey reported on First Aid Training Classes to begin that month with John V. Lawyer as the instructor. John Cromwell reported on ambulance specifications and George Voorhees reported on a meeting of 57 men and 5 women which was held at the Borough Hall and where a unanimous vote of confidence was offered. Carl Smith and Walter Taylor were added to the committee and it was agreed to investigate the financing and housing needs of the ambulance.

At the next meeting the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department pledged \$1,500 and the Department agreed to apply \$3,000 toward an estimated \$8,000 cost of an ambulance. The Fire Department contacted the Borough Council and offered to donate a 1951 Cadillac Ambulance but after due consideration, the Borough refused to accept this offer because of the additional burden that the taxpayers would have to assume. The Department then instructed the committee to proceed with the purchase of the ambulance and a committee composed of the Board of Trustees, Ernest Adler and Frank Guiseppi was instructed to investigate the cost of an addition to the present fire house.

The First Aid Rescue Squad secured the Department's approval to elect their own officers in April, 1951, and Dezzie Casey was designated temporary Captain. The unit was named the "Hopewell Fire Department Ambulance Corps". President Walter Taylor appointed a committee to revise the constitution and by-laws of the Fire Department to cover this new organization.



AMBULANCE RESPONDS to 100th call on April 26, 1959.

TWO-WAY RADIOS PURCHASED FOR APPARATUS

CHIEF GEORGE VOORHEES BROUGHT UP the subject of two-way radios for the apparatus during the October, 1948 meeting. President Walter Benson appointed the fire-fighting officers as a committee to investigate. The Chief reported at the next meeting that the cost of outfitting the apparatus and the fire house would be approximately \$1,400. No further action was taken until March, 1950, when it was acknowledged that such equipment would have been helpful at a recent fire in Hopewell Township. Chief Ernest Adler and Assistant Chiefs, Reynold Dansberry, Ralph M. Lanning and Robert A. Van Doren were directed to inquire into the purchase of two-way radios. A proposal from RCA for installation of mobile communications equipment at a cost of \$2,250 was received at the June, 1950 meeting. Action to have this equipment installed was taken shortly thereafter. The installation was completed and accepted by the Department in February, 1951. Since that time other radio equipment has been procured and installed as additional apparatus has been secured until at the present time all the fire apparatus and the ambulance are radio equipped. Much credit for providing engineering and maintenance services over the years must be given to former members Edward L. Cluff and Max Laird. William Kintner is presently in charge of the radio committee.

1953 FORD-AMERICAN LA FRANCE FIRE TRUCK PURCHASED

CHIEF REYNOLD DANSBERRY REPORTED TO the Fire Department in June, 1952, that the fire fighting officers were discussing the need for a new fire apparatus. Specifications were prepared and prices secured for a 500 gpm pumper with a 500 gallon water tank. The Department met with the Borough Council to discuss financing problems and at the October, 1952 meeting the Fire Department agreed to pay the difference between the purchase price and the funds that the Borough had available at the time of delivery. The council ordered a Ford chassis with an American La France pump and body that same month.

The problem of paying for the new engine was particularly critical since new N.J. State gambling laws caused the Department to vote against holding a carnival in 1953. Past carnivals had been successful fund raising activities ever since they had been revived after World War II. Dezzie Casey and Samuel Hunt were appointed to form a fund raising committee. Close to \$8,000 was obtained in this drive. Mr. Herbert Rockwell of the Rockwell Mfg. Co., Hopewell Division, contributed \$4,500 and was made an honorary Chief of the Hopewell Fire Department in April, 1954. He was presented with a badge and cap "to show our gratitude for his most generous help in making our Department the best equipped and best manned Fire Department in this area." The new engine was delivered in October, 1953.



FORD PUMPER IN ACTION at the Brookside Inn Fire on October 12, 1955.

ROCKWELL FIRE BRIGADE FORMED

THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT VOTED to dispose of the old truck and the American La France was sold to the Rockwell Mfg. Co. for the price of \$1.00. This apparatus was activated and a Fire Brigade was organized in that plant. Due to the fine cooperation between this industrial fire fighting group and the Borough forces, the community has benefitted from this additional protection on several occasions. The Rockwell Fire Brigade has assured the Fire Department they are ready to assist in any emergency.



ROCKWELL FIRE BRIGADE

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO STORM EMERGENCIES

THE LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HAVE RESPONDED to all types of emergencies over the years but the best remembered non-fire calls for service occurred during the past six or eight years. Hurricane Diane struck the middle Atlantic states in August, 1955, and general flooding conditions resulted particularly along the Delaware River.

The Mercer County Civil Defense and Disaster Control Coordinator declared that a state of disaster existed in Mercer County. Hopewell was notified and the Local C.D. Director, Walter Benson, requested that the local Fire Department respond. During the period from noon, August 19 to 4 A.M., August 22, the Control Center at the Fire House was manned for a total of 55 hours. Men under the direction of Chief Carl Smith served as auxiliary police and performed services such as pumping out the municipal buildings in the

City of Trenton, cleaning mud and debris from roads and furnishing floodlights on the river (watching for bodies from flooded communities and summer camps up-river) at Titusville. In addition they furnished lighting equipment and a crew to Yardley, Pa. so salvage workers could continue work. During this emergency period a fire alarm was answered at the Fred Burd farm near Pennington.

A total of 600 man hours was worked by volunteers during this period and about 40 men submitted to inoculations as a protection against Typhoid Fever.

A similar period occurred during March, 1958, when 15 to 18 inches of snow fell on the area causing roads to be blocked and phone and power lines to be broken. The Fire Department was alerted and performed services in conjunction with the local Civil Defense organization for a 48 hour period. At least 25 men were available at all times under the direction of C.D. Director Ralph Lanning and Fire Chief Mahlon Riley. They responded to 39 calls for assistance during this period including furnishing emergency power from 3 portable generators, to evacuating families with the fire truck and billeting them in emergency housing provided at the Hopewell Elementary School. The P.T.A. and the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary provided hot coffee and food. During this period the firemen responded to a disastrous fire at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Peterson at the Glen Moore Farm. The fire siren was inoperative due to the power failure and a unique system of chain phone calls made it possible for the apparatus to respond within minutes.

NEW AMBULANCE AND FIRE APPARATUS CONSIDERED

EARLY IN 1958, THE MEMBERS DISCUSSED the need for an equipment replacement program. A committee consisting of the Chiefs, the Ambulance Director, Fire Captain Ralph Lanning and Carl Smith were directed to look into this need. It was agreed that the ambulance and the 1936 GMC fire truck should be replaced during the next few years at a total estimated cost of \$38,000.

Once again funds presented a problem and a drive for funds was started in early 1959 under the direction of Chairman Jack Hall. This drive was completed early in 1960 with donations totaling \$8,825.

The Fire Department approved the purchase of a new ambulance on a Pontiac chassis with a Superior Body from the Wolfington Body Co., Philadelphia, at a cost of \$9,350 in June, 1960. The new ambulance was received in August, 1960. The 1951 Cadillac ambulance was sold to a new rescue squad being formed in Kendall Park, N.J., at a price of \$1,500.

After much discussion concerning the features and costs of various fire apparatus, the fire fighting officers under Chief Alvin Cranstoun were directed to purchase a Mack 750 gpm pumper in September, 1960. It was estimated that approximately \$28,000 was required to cover the cost of the truck, hose and other equipment. The 1936 GMC Truck was sold to the Castoro Co. for \$250.

Various plans were initiated to secure the balance of funds required to purchase this equipment. A Bingo committee headed by Asst. Chief Ray Van Arsdale instituted weekly Bingo in the fire house on Saturday, February 11, 1961. These affairs are continuing at present. As a fringe benefit from this activity the engine room has been renovated by the Firemen and the Ladies Auxiliary. Bingo equipment and a central air conditioner for the municipal building have also been acquired.

Asst. Chief Richard Van Doren headed a committee to prepare this Anniversary Program. The profits from donations and advertisements are being used to defray the cost of the equipment. Donations of \$1,000 each were contributed by the Western Electric Research Center and the Rockwell Mfg. Co. and a donation of \$500 was received from the Hopewell Branch of the Princeton Bank and Trust Co. Other donations totaling approximately \$3,500 were received from businessmen and our other friends.

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

A REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE FIRE Department illustrates that the excellent public service provided by this organization over the years has only been possible due to the generous public support and the performance of service by our volunteers. We pledge ourselves to continue and improve this service as our community grows and as our way of life brings new requirements. We will continue to improve the training of our active personnel and will endeavor to maintain our equipment so that most emergencies can be answered. We ask that you, the public, continue your understanding and support of our organization.

The committee responsible for preparing this program would like to give particular credit to the following people for their contributions: Walter Benson, Charles Williamson, Russell Holcombe, Mahlon Riley, Mildred Rathousky, Kenneth Williamson, Florence Bodine, Barbara Jefferson, Leroy Sharpe, George Rightmire, Jack Weart, Arthur Wright, Richard Edling, Edgar Smith, and Mr. Magill of Western Electric. We also appreciate the efforts of all the solicitors from the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and the Ambulance Corps who contacted our advertisers.

The preceding 50 years of history was taken from the 50th Anniversary Program.

1961-1986

ANNIVERSARY PARADE A GREAT SUCCESS

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY Parade on Saturday, October 14, was a great success. John Hall (Chief, 1961-62) recalled that "it rained on our parade, but everybody had a good time." More than 50 companies marched, with Capitol View Fire Company taking first prize for Best Appearing Company. The Mack 750 gpm pumper was dedicated during the festivities and Charles Williamson (Chief: 1919-1936) was pictured in the newspapers inspecting the truck.

WESTERN ELECTRIC RESEARCH LABORATORY SAVED

THE FIRE COMPANY WAS BUSY DURING 1962. In April, a record breaking month of 27 grass fires during a dry spring culminated in a seven hour fire which consumed 500 acres of grass and woodland near the Western Electric Research Laboratory on Carter Road before Hopewell and five other companies using fourteen pieces of apparatus brought it under control.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS CITED

IN AUGUST, THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT. AND Ringoes battled to save a 16 room, two-family farmhouse in Wertsville. Chief John Hall credited the Hopewell Junior Firemen for their aid in putting out the blaze and preventing its spread to nearby buildings.

In January, 1964, the interior of Inge's Luncheonette on East Broad Street was destroyed by fire. The Hopewell Fire Department was joined by Pennington and Montgomery for the two hour fight to save the building and the adjoining barber shop. Assistant Chief Ray VanArsdale of Hopewell suffered an ankle injury and Richard Snook of Pennington was knocked unconscious when a high-pressure hose burst.

On August 19, 1964, Hopewell fought a fire at the frame factory building known as the "old tomato factory" on Railroad Place. Arson was suspected as the cause of the blaze.

RINGOES AGAIN AFTER 89 YEARS!

IN 1966, 89 YEARS AFTER WEBER BROS. OF Ringoes built a ladder truck for Hopewell, history was repeated when Hopewell again went to Ringoes to purchase a Dodge Power Wagon, specially adapted by Quick Welding of Ringoes with a grass fire fighting rig with a booster tank of 200 gallons. The new truck was the feature attraction at the September 24th gala celebration of Hopewell Borough's 75th birthday.

But the two main fires in 1966 were not grass fires. On November 19th, an alarm sounded at 2:08 pm at the Hopewell Valley Inn. The Hopewell Fire Department under the command of Chief Gordon Lowe brought the blaze under control in an hour. The storeroom in the rear suffered the most damage although there was extensive smoke damage throughout the structure. While fighting the fire, Fireman Scott Dansberry Jr., suffered lacerations of the hand.

On November 30, a hundred children were evacuated at 7:30 in the morning when a fire broke out in a fourth floor room of St. Michael Children's Home. During the orderly evacuation, most of the children thought it was a fire drill. The automatic alarm brought a quick response from the Hopewell Fire Department, who were joined with apparatus from Princeton, Lawrenceville, Pennington, Blawenburg and the Neuro-Psychiatric Institute at Skillman. Chief Lowe reported that the fire was brought under control within 20 minutes.

TOO MANY GRASS FIRES

THE WINTER OF 1968 WAS DRY AND IN FEBRUARY, the Hopewell Fire Department responded to a rash of grass fires. It was determined that many of these were caused by people burning trash and leaves and by the end of the month appeals were made asking citizens to refrain from burning. But the grass fires continued with fire calls numbering an unprecedented 60 by March and Frank Voorhees of the Hopewell Fire Department asked the mayors of Hopewell Borough and Township to proclaim a ban on trash burning.

A structure fire at a house on West Broad St. was the first fire in some time that was "not a grass fire."

A more serious fire in March broke out at the Hopewell Auto Parts Store, a very difficult day for the Fire Department who had to contend with the biggest of the season's grass fires at the same time.

OLD NUMBER 1 RETURNS!

IN 1968, AFTER MANY YEARS OF GOOD SERVICE, Old Number 1 was returned to the Hopewell Fire Department by Rockwell Industries. It will be proudly housed in the Fire House.

NEW TRUCKS

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ACQUIRED AN AMERICAN La France pumper with a 1000 gpm pump and 1000 gallon tank.

On May 18, 1969, the new truck bays built to house the new equipment were dedicated and the pumper installed.

The Fire Department's E.M.U. became a two-ambulance squad with the purchase of an International Ambulance in 1970. It was acquired at the used price of \$2,000 and was an invaluable back-up on multiple incident calls and when the primary ambulance was in for repairs.

In 1972, the Fire Department purchased a GMC Van to use as a supply truck carrying chemical foam, sand, rescue tools and other supplies.

On June 11, 1972, a fire broke out in the basement of the popular Hopewell restaurant Charley's Brother. The Hopewell Fire Department saved the building by drafting water from the Quarry Swimming Hole. The principal damage was a hole over the floor over the basement.

FIRST TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR E.M.T.s

IN 1971, THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT'S E.M.U. initiated the first training program in the country for volunteer E.M.T.s, a project that has since become nationally imitated. The importance of this program, which vastly improved health care for Hopewell and eventually the state and country, cannot be over estimated (see related article elsewhere in this program).

In 1972, the Fire Department purchased a new ambulance for the E.M.U. HW21 was acquired for approximately \$24,000.



Van Doren Lumber Yard Fire

THE SKY WAS LIT UP

A FIRE WITH DISASTROUS POTENTIAL FOR Hopewell Borough occurred on Wednesday, October 23, 1974, when a 10:30 p.m. alarm brought the Hopewell Fire Department to a fire at J.C. Van Doren's Lumber Yard on Model Ave. The efforts of Hopewell's firemen aided by ten other companies including Pennington, Union of Titusville, Blawenburg, Belle Mead, Ringoes, Rocky Hill, Lawrenceville, Upper Makefield, Hillsborough, and Kingston were successful in preventing the fire from spreading to nearby exposures. Chief Gerry Fenton reported that the fire was under control by 12:30 am of the next morning, but firefighters remained on the scene through Thursday and Friday wetting down piles of lumber. Embers and sparks flew all over town as the sky was lit up by the spectacular blaze, but the exertions of the firefighters aided by the absence of a strong wind contained the fire and saved the surrounding town from any damage.

In 1975, the E.M.U. acquired a new ambulance, HW24 for approximately \$35,000.

AN EVIL MISCHIEF NIGHT

ANOTHER LUMBER YARD FIRE OCCURRED on October 30, 1977, destroying a lumberyard storage building in Hopewell Borough and causing an estimated \$50,000 worth of damage in what local authorities say was the worst "mischief night" in years.

The J.B. Hill and Sons Lumber warehouse was evidently the target of malicious arson and while the Fire Department was putting out the blaze, vandals poured gasoline over a policeman's personal car and set it on fire. Several leaf fires were also set the same evening. Arrests of two suspects took place soon after, one in Chicago.

On November 20, 1977, The Hopewell Fire Dept. assisted Pennington along with four other companies in fighting an early morning fire at the Zentco Plastic warehouse. Half of the building was destroyed, but a firewall built into the pre-fabricated aluminum structure helped save the other half. The fire had apparently spread from an earlier dumpster fire that four workers had attempted to extinguish themselves and thinking themselves successful, returned a half hour later to find the building engulfed.

Later that winter, the popular Renaissance Restaurant was destroyed by a fire which started just an hour after the dining room had closed. Strong winter winds helped the fire spread and the scene was soon covered with icicles from the water put on the fire by the Hopewell Fire Dept. and assisting Montgomery and Pennington who managed despite the wind to keep the fire from spreading to nearby exposures.

The building was fully involved by the time the first arriving truck was on the scene. "It was all on fire within minutes," said Chief Joe Williamson. The cause of the fire was attributed to faulty wiring.

A busy year ended with an assist to Montgomery when a fire broke out at Polycel Corp. in Montgomery Shopping Center off Route 206. More than a hundred volunteers including members of the Hopewell Fire Department answered the 3:09 in the morning call. The fire was brought under control at 9 a.m.

In 1978 the Hopewell Fire Department responded to a variety of calls including a September barn fire on New Road. Hopewell and assisting Pennington, Lambertville and Blawenburg fought the fire from the time of the call at 5:20 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The barn was extensively damaged, but there were no injuries.

NUMBER 1 IN THE UNITED STATES – NUMBER 2 IN THE WORLD!

ON JUNE 16, 1979, THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT assisted 10 other companies in fighting a large blaze at the C&R Waste Materials Company located between Trenton and Ewing.

On August 11, 1979, the Mayor William Walker and the members of the Hopewell Fire Department and their families welcomed with roses and cheers the Hopewell Emergency Medical Units Youth Competition Team, which won second place in an international competition held in Columbus, Ohio. The brilliant team included Dawn Hart, B.J. Biechlin, Shauna Kettenburg (advisor), Chris Klevze and Tom Moore.



Dawn Hart, B.J. Biechlin, Shauna Kettenburg (advisor), Chris Klevze and Tom Moore.

A NEW PIERCE PUMPER

I 980 BEGAN WITH A BRUTAL ONE WEEK-period which saw the Hopewell Fire Department respond to four serious structure fires. The first was the spectacular fire in Pennington School's historic main building on January 16. The 140-year-old O'Hanlon Hall was destroyed as firefighters from 20 companies including the Hopewell Fire Department fought to bring the blaze under control. Fortunately no lives were lost.

During the same week three more fires erupted in Hopewell. A 100-year-old barn on the Wert property, near the iron bridge of Stony Brook Road blazed out of control for an hour until an alarm was turned in. The building was already lost when the Hopewell Fire Department arrived on the scene, but the many exposed buildings nearby were all saved.

Already victims of the above fire, the Wert family turned in an alarm for the Stony Brook Golf and Swim Club's pro shop building. The fire started in the basement around 3 a.m. and went undetected for about an hour and a half. Hopewell Fire Department Chief Michael Marotta found Mrs. Marge Pagnotta who lived in the building, on the driveway. She had evidently jumped out of the second window when smoke detectors went off. It took 45 minutes to contain the fire.

The fourth fire of the week occurred when an acetylene tank and an oxygen tank exploded at the Lenz house on Mountain Church Road. The garage in which the tanks were housed burned down, but no further damage occurred.

The G.M.C. Van acquired in 1972 was sold and a beautiful Pierce 1000 GPM pumper was purchased in 1980 for \$120,000. The pumper arrived in February of 1981 and a wet-down to welcome the new 522 took place on May 16th. The truck was dedicated to Life members Mahon Riley and Walter Taylor as well as deceased members of the Hopewell Fire Department.

Two Pennington firefighters were injured when their tanker truck rolled over while assisting the Hopewell Fire Department and other companies in battling a blaze at the Stony Brook Road, West Amwell home of Matthew Reese.

In 1981, the Fire Department purchased HW21 which the E.M.U. uses as a Life Mobile. This was acquired for approximately \$55,000.



Pennington School Fire

Two projects of considerable importance were started in 1983. An addition to the fire house with three rear bays for the E.M.U. was initiated and a conversion of the 1961 Mack Pumper to a rescue vehicle was begun. While retaining its pumping capacity, the truck has been adapted to carry rescue tools and gear. This is now the Fire Department's primary response vehicle for auto-vehicle accidents and extrication calls along with the necessary ambulances.

In 1985, the Hopewell Fire Department voted to fund a restoration of old Number 1. This priceless part of Hopewell's history should be on hand in all its glory for the 75th Anniversary celebration.

The 1961-1986 portion of this program was prepared by James Camner and Tom Fillebrown who would like to thank the many people who shared scrap books, photos and reminiscences with us. We especially thank the volunteers who have given 75 years of service to Hopewell.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1984

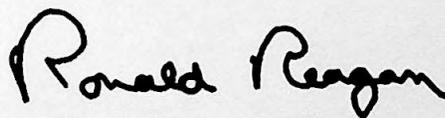
Dear Friends:

Over the years, I have witnessed many times the greatness of the American spirit. Compassion for others, creativity in meeting challenges, and determination to accomplish our goals are significant attributes of our people. One evidence of this spirit is the vitality of organizations such as the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit.

I am pleased to extend my personal congratulations and commendation to you for your generous voluntary contributions to your community. Your involvement exemplifies the highest tradition of service to others and enhances the lives of all our citizens.

With best wishes for continued success,

Sincerely,



The Hopewell Fire Department
and Emergency Medical Unit
Hopewell, New Jersey

PAST CHIEFS

*1911-	John Titus	1963-1964	Albert Rathousky
*1911-1912	Harry Wolfe	1965	Raymond VanArsdale
*1913-1917	C.E. Hoagland		
*1918-	A.N. Johnson	1966-1968	Gordon S. Lowe
*1919-1936	Charles E. Williamson	1969-1973	Frank O. Voorhees
		1974-1976	W. Gerald Fenton
*1937-1938	George R. Carver, Jr.	1977-1979	Joseph S. Williamson III
*1939-1940	Clarence Runyon		
1941-1942	George Jones	1980-1981	Michael Marotta
*1943-1944	Leslie Warman	1982	Tom McLaughlin
*1945-1946	Samuel Copner	1983-1985	Joseph Toth
*1947-1948	George Voorhees		
*1949-1950	Ernest Adler	*Deceased	
*1951-1952	Reynold Dansberry		
1953-1954	Ralph Lanning		
*1955-1956	Carl Smith		
1957-1958	Mahlon Riley		
1959-1960	Alvin Cranstoun		
1961-1962	John L. Hall		



Pictured standing left to right: Ralph Lanning, George Jones, Frank Voorhees, Alvin Cranstoun, John J. Hall.

Seated: Mahlon Riley, Gordon Lowe, Joseph S. Williamson III, Michael Marotta, Tom McLaughlin.

Not present for photo: George Voorhees, Albert Rathousky, Raymond Van Arsdale, W. Gerald Fenton.

CHANGING CHIEF COMMAND



Joe Toth (right) Fire Chief 1983-1985, is shown presenting the Chief's badge to newly elected Chief, Dave Van Doren on January 3, 1986.

PAST PRESIDENTS

*Fred I. Sutphen	1911-13	Robert Jefferson	1963-1964
*Joseph S. Williamson	1914-15	James Boughner	1965
*A.N. Johnson	1916-17	Al Casini	1966-1967
*E.V. Savidge	1918-21	John L. Hall	1968-1969
*Edwin Savidge	1922-1927	George Cramer	1970-1971
*Alfred H. Smith	1928-1935	Gordon Lowe	1972-1973
*Dezzie Casey	1936	Alan Dansberry	1974
*R.B. Hullfish	1937-1938		(Jan.-June)
*Dezzie Casey	1939-1940	John Cirello	1974
*George Carver Jr.	1941-1942		(July-Dec.)
*Walter Benson	1943-1944	John Cirello	1975
*Clarence Runyon	1945-1946	Thomas Fillebrown	1976-77
*Walter Benson	1947-1948	Burt Parry	1978
R.A. Van Doren	1949-1950	Gerry Fenton	1979
Walter Taylor	1951-1952	Joe Williamson III	1980-1981
*Harry Hall	1953-1954	Guy Fillebrown	1982-1983
*Arthur Wright	1955-1956	Mike Marrotta	1984-1985
John Cromwell	1957-1958	Duchess Lake	1986-
*Harvey Fish	1959-1960		
*Theodore Sinclair	1961-1962	*Deceased	

FIRE FIGHTING OFFICERS—1986



Left to right: Dan Fenton—Foreman, Rick Edling—Foreman, Rich Kettenburg—1st Assistant Chief, Dave Van Doren—Chief, Larry Omland—3rd Assistant Chief, John Novak—2nd Assistant Chief, Eric Muentener—Foreman.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS—1986



Left to right: James Camner—Assistant Secretary, Frank Voorhees—Treasurer, Larry Omland—Secretary, Duchess Lake—President, Mike Marotta—Trustee, Mahlon Riley—Trustee, Kenneth Stoveken—1st Vice President.

Not present for photo: Al Hart—Administrator, E.M.U., Ed Moore—2nd Vice President, Keith L. Hunt—Trustee.

PAST CAPTAINS AND DIRECTORS/ ADMINISTRATORS

	CAPTAIN	DIRECTOR/ ADMINISTRATOR
1951-1953	John Cromwell	Dezzie Casey
1954	Mark Palmatier	John Cromwell
1955-1956	Robert Jefferson	Mark Palmatier
1957-1958	Edgar Smith	Robert Jefferson
1959-1960	Mary Everitt	Edgar Smith
1961	Leroy Sharpe	Mary Everitt
1962	Leroy Sharpe	Mary Everitt
1963	Robert Jefferson	Leroy Sharpe
1964	Dorothy Fish	Leroy Sharpe
1965	Fred Novak	Curtiss Hoffman
1966	Fred Novak	Leroy Sharpe
1967	Thomas Cooper	Fred Novak
1968	Thomas Cooper	Fred Novak
1969	Duncan Campbell	
1970	Thomas Fillebrown	
1971	Thomas Fillebrown	
1972	Thomas Cooper	
1973	Joseph Toth	
1974	Lewis Lipot	
1975	Thomas Cooper	Merritt McAlinden
1976	Joseph Vaccarino	Merritt McAlinden
1977	Isaac J. Peck Jr.	Thomas Cooper
1978	Isaac J. Peck Jr.	Thomas Cooper
1979	Thomas Cooper	Richard Wyckoff
1980	Thomas Cooper	Richard Wyckoff
1981	Norman Johnson	Keith Hunt
1982	Duchess Lake	Al Hart
1983	Duchess Lake	Al Hart
1984	Sarah Hart	Ken Stoveken
1985	Sarah Hart	Ken Stoveken
1986	Ken Stoveken	Al Hart

Congratulations to our Firemen
on their
75th Anniversary

Ladies Auxiliary

OF THE

Hopewell Fire Department

LADIES AUXILIARY

1911-1986

ORGANIZED IN 1911, THE LADIES AUXILIARY of the Hopewell Fire Department is also celebrating its 75th Anniversary. With an original membership of 20, and with the object in view of helping the fire department raise funds, the founders of the Auxiliary started a tradition of service to the Fire Department, and the community as a whole. These objectives have never changed and the present membership is as dedicated to these aims as our founders were.

In the early years of our organization, carnivals, dinners, blanket clubs, card parties and many other projects were the major sources of income for the Auxiliary. One of the best remembered projects was the serving of Election Day Lunch and Dinner, a project that was continued on an annual basis for over twenty years.

In time of war the Auxiliary has always supported the servicemen of our country with Christmas boxes, monetary donations to the U.S.O., donations to the Red Cross and many members have donated blood.

Of course, aiding the Fire Department is the primary purpose of our existence. The members of the Auxiliary are proud to have been able to help financially by contributing many thousands of dollars, over the years, towards the purchase of new equipment— from an electric fire siren for the Borough in 1921 to the new engine in 1980, the list of items is as varied as it is long.

But money isn't everything, they say; so we have helped and still help our firemen; at Bingo, should the fire siren blow the ladies working in the kitchen come out on the floor and fill in for the firemen so they can answer the call; perhaps one of our most important functions is to be there, at a large fire, with coffee, tea, sandwiches, in the winter, soup, in the summer, soda for our firemen and the firemen of other companies that have been called in to assist.

Meetings of the Auxiliary have been held for many years in the present fire house but in the beginning the meetings were held in the home of members. From there they moved to the Fire Department building on Seminary Avenue (now an apartment house) and then into Columbia Hall.

Membership has increased from the original 20 to approximately 200, most of whom are the wife, mother, daughter or sister of a member of the H.F.D.

In 1950, it was decided a Junior Auxiliary was in order. These 17 young ladies quickly caught the spirit and worked hard at our dinners, carnivals and bake sales. In 1953, it was decided that the Juniors should meet with the regular Auxiliary and become a part of its projects. Always community minded, the \$123 balance in their account was turned over to a local family in need, due to illness. Today the Junior Auxiliary does not exist but young girls of that age group are full, active and valuable members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Ladies Auxiliary continued having their various fund raising activities and social events for over 50 years. Then bang! Along came the economic crunch and most of the ladies who were available during the day and any night of the week to work for us had to return to the work force. The officers and members sat down and seriously discussed the future of the Auxiliary, their aims, goals and how they would go about achieving them.

The outcome of the discussions caused some consternation because the aims and goals were the same: to aid and assist the members of the Hopewell Fire Department whenever they could; to support and be there when they were needed, with whatever was needed whether it be money, food, coffee, etc. and to do this with fewer hours of voluntary service available.

To be able to achieve their purposes the membership has had to learn to pull together and work together, perhaps like never before. Where it would take one woman to do a job in four hours it now takes two women, each giving two hours or even three women giving one and a half hours each. Many of our old reliable ways of raising funds have had to be discontinued because we do not have the people available during the day to do the preparation work or the shopping. Even our functions held in the evening hours had to be curtailed because when you work all day and you have a family and home to take care of, you can't spend as many hours away from home.

Some of the ways we have adapted ourselves and our time include the following. First, our annual Penny Fair is now our annual Chinese Auction and instead of having to shop for several tray items you now have to shop for one gift. Also, our Spring Breakfast has been replaced, at times, with a Spring Fashion Show. This takes fewer people and many less hours to prepare for.

We still, of course, have the kitchen open during Bingo and sell refreshments and we have had some success with a supper and dance in the fall. This fall supper and dance is hopefully going to become an annual affair which will grow each year.

Whenever you see our firemen look for us, we'll be there. If it's at a parade, we're marching right behind them. At a fire, look for a station wagon parked nearby; we'll be there with food and drinks, especially in the middle of the night.

All in all taking into consideration the changes in our world and in the demands that world places on today's woman and her time we are proud to say the LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ALIVE, WELL AND ACTIVE AND LOOKING FORWARD WITH EAGERNESS AND ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION TO THE NEXT TWENTY FIVE YEARS.

We would be remiss, at this time, if we did not acknowledge that the support and cooperation of our families is what makes it possible for us to give the time needed to meet our aims and goals and we, all of us, want to thank our families for their understanding and help.

BY: Barbara Jefferson &
Eileen Toth

LADIES AUXILIARY Officers - 1986



Left to right: Mary Eileen Toth—Vice President, Mary Anne Van Doren—President, Wendy Novobilsky—Treasurer, Diane Heying—Secretary.

LADIES AUX. PRESIDENTS

*1911-1912	Mrs. L.F. Blackwell	(Samaritan Burd)
*1913	Mrs. Mase Ege	(Rose Drake)
*1914	Mrs. T.A. Pierson, Sr.	(Clare Sutphin)
*1915	Mrs. George Van Nest	(Rene Ege)
*1916-1919	Mrs. Fred M. Leigh	(Emily Hunt)
*1920-21	Mrs. Howard Larason	(Ida Munson)
*1922-37	Mrs. C.E. Williamson	(Ethel Asbury)
*1938-39	Mrs. Howard Larason	(Ida Munson)
1940	Mrs. George Carver	(Mary Pedrick)
1941-42	Mrs. Harry Hall	(Jeanette Pierson)
1943	Mrs. Daniel Righter	(Clara McGillivray)
1944-1945	Mrs. Harry Hall	(Jeanette Pierson)
1946	Mrs. Charles Davis	(Helen Rooks)
1947	Mrs. Clarence Runyon, Jr.	(Ann Grega)
1948	Mrs. George Carver	(Mary Pedrick)
1949	Mrs. Harry Hall	(Jeanette Pierson)
1950-51	Mrs. Carl Wilson	(Becky Steele)
1952	Mrs. Ralph Lanning	(Martha Wyckoff)
*1953-54	Mrs. Mahlon Riley	(Isabelle Touzeau)
1955-56	Mrs. Alvin Cranstoun	(Claire Hart)
1957-58	Mrs. Robert Palmer	(Jenny Guisepppe)
1959-60	Mrs. Robert Jefferson	(Barbara Fish)
1961-62	Mrs. Harvey Fish	(Dorothy Spearman)
1963-64	Mrs. John Hall Sr.	(Jetta Bregenzer)
1965-66	Mrs. Clarence Laird	(Josephine Sokodinsky)
1967-68	Mrs. Gordon Lowe	(Carol Massano)
1969-70	Mrs. Frank Voorhees	(Beverly Stout)
*1971-72	Mrs. Gerald Fenton	(Clarice Allen)
1973-74	Mrs. Joseph Williamson	(Catherine Corcoran)
1975-76	Mrs. Michael Marotta	(Theresa Patterson)
1977-78	Mrs. Joseph Vaccarino	(JoAnn Ruggieri)
1979-81	Mrs. Joseph Toth	(Eileen Bell)
1982-4	Mrs. David Williamson	(Judith Yuhus)
1985-86	Mrs. David Van Doren	(MaryAnne Ruggieri)

*DECEASED

AMBULANCE CORPS



1951-1961

by **EDGAR SMITH**

THE AMBULANCE CORPS WAS ORGANIZED IN 1951 by the Fire Dept. and it responded to its first call for services in April of that year. The Ambulance Corps is financed and operated by the Fire Dept. as a specialized group within the department. Members of the Ambulance Corps must be members of the Fire Dept. or the Ladies Auxiliary who have successfully completed the requirements of the National Red Cross advanced first aid training plus further training in the use of ambulance equipment. In addition registered nurses and medical doctors are eligible. The Corps now has a membership of 24 active members and 23 reserve members plus 11 nurses. There are 8 instructors.

The first ambulance was purchased in 1951. This was a Miller body on a Cadillac chassis. This ambulance was driven 34,344 miles and was sold to a new ambulance squad in Kendall Park in August 1960 at which time delivery was taken of the present ambulance. The present ambulance is a Superior body on a Pontiac chassis and incorporates all the latest improvements in ambulance design. Both the original and the new ambulance have facilities for carrying three persons lying down.

Since it was organized, the Ambulance Corps has responded to 1,295 calls for service which include accidents, emergency illness, maternity, transportation of the ill and infirmed, response to major fire alarms, practice drills with neighboring ambulance squads and drills with the fire fighting personnel and equipment. Approximately 5,500 man-hours of time has been expended in these services and this does not include the many hours spent in training, maintenance and cleaning of equipment and organizational work.

In responding to an emergency call, the first order of importance is to arrive at the scene quickly without endangering the lives of other people or the ambulance crew. This means that the individual members called must drop whatever they are doing and rush to the Fire House. After arriving at the scene, the crew will take a slower pace, if there is no urgency, or will apply first aid as rapidly as possible when speed is needed. The ambulance is equipped with tourniquets, bandages, splints, a combination oxygen resuscita-

tor, inhalator and aspirator, a second oxygen inhalator, extra oxygen tanks, blankets, sheets, pillows, cot, two stretchers and many small items for the comfort of the ill and injured. The ambulance is also equipped with rescue equipment including an hydraulic power tool for prying objects apart, crow bars, fire axe, small fire extinguisher and heavy rope. Red flares and reflectors are carried for use on highways and two-way radio is used for communication with the Fire House, fire apparatus and with other ambulances and fire apparatus from neighboring communities. Heavy coats and boots are carried for the protection of crew in bad weather.

With auto accidents being more frequent than any other single type of accident, the Ambulance Corps has practiced the removal of victims from actual wrecked automobiles both in daylight and in darkness. Other practice sessions, such as for handling patients without causing pain or injury, are frequently held. Lecture for the proper care of emergency maternity cases and lectures on the care of victims subjected to radiation are attended by members.

A description of the activities of the Ambulance Corps would not be complete without a word or two about disruptions. In the night, most members are where they should be, in bed. Therefore the only disruption is the individual's sleep. In the daytime however, a clerk in a store suddenly dashes out leaving a good customer standing there—a production worker drops his tools and vanishes—an office worker leaps for the door leaving a trail of unfinished reports. The employers in this community permit such unscheduled disruptions in their operations without penalties to the employees. By this generous policy, the employers have earned the gratitude of the Hopewell Fire Dept. Ambulance Corps and also of the entire community.

The principal officers and the years in which they served are as follows:

1951-1953	1955-1956
Director: Dezzie Casey	Director: Mark Palmatier
Captain: John Cromwell	Captain: Robt. Jefferson
1954	1957-1958
Director: John Cromwell	Director: Robt. Jefferson
Captain: Mark Palmatier	Captain: Ned Smith
1959-1960	
Director: Ned Smith	
Captain: Mary Everitt	

THE FIRST VOLUNTEER E.M.T. TRAINING COURSE STARTED AT HOPEWELL

**by DICK WYCKOFF
& TOM FILLEBROWN**

IT WAS READING AN ARTICLE ON THE SUCCESS of EMT training held for paid Emergency Rescue Companies in Seattle, Houston, and Charlotte N.C. that gave Dick Wyckoff the idea that Hopewell consider a program of its own.

Because Wyckoff's job required extensive traveling he was able to observe first hand the programs in action in the above cities. It did not take long to recognize the benefits of such a program for Hopewell. The distance to area hospitals made such a program highly desirable as the added training of Emergency Medical Personnel could save many lives. But it was apparent that the course would have to be tailor-made to the particular needs of Hopewell.

The Highway Safety Act of 1965 provided funds to the State Department of Health for training and equipment. Dick Wyckoff, and Tom Fillebrown, Captain of the squad, contacted the State Department of Health and requested assistance and guidance. Dr. Marie Sena was the official in charge of the E.M.T. program which had not yet been initiated due to the opposition of the New Jersey First Aid Council. The course which Hopewell hosted became the first of its kind in the United States.

Several meetings were held with Dr. Sena and her assistants to iron out the details of the program. Dr. Sena recognized the need for a special program and testing procedures which incorporated the national EMT training course and other requirements of volunteer squads.

Fillebrown and Wyckoff prepared the basic course content and testing procedures. When this was completed, they along with Dr. Sena and her assistants as well as Dr. David Sharp, a former Hopewell physician, met with Mr. Dernra, administrator of Hunterdon Medical Center, to solicit the Medical Center's aid in providing the medical personnel required and for ten hours of hospital training. With their help, the program was in place by the new year of 1971.

The first course was scheduled to start Feb. 23rd, 1971. Local squads were invited to participate. Wyckoff and Fillebrown were the co-administrators of the program while Tom Cooper was Training Administrator.

Dr. Sena wanted no more than thirty trainees for the 71 hour course, but the response was so enthusiastic that eighty people signed up from Lambertville, Flemington, Trenton, Pennington, Titusville, West Windsor, Montgomery, Kingwood and Princeton, as well as Hopewell.

The preparation for this first EMT course had some rough moments. There were several disagreements with the State on procedure and control, but these were worked out so that the squads could maintain their autonomy. The biggest challenge to the program was the threat by the Ninth District of the State First Aid Council to remove the Hopewell Ambulance Corps from the membership roll if it conducted the course. They were concerned that the 81 hour course was too long for volunteers and by the possible State control of rescue squads.

A week before the course was to begin, Dr. Sharp, Dick Wyckoff, Tom Fillebrown and Tom Cooper met with the Chairmen of the Ninth and Tenth District of the New Jersey First Aid Council in order to iron out their differences. This meeting was a success and the Chairman of the Tenth District agreed to support the program and be an instructor. However, the Ninth District Chairman declined to participate although he did agree to evaluate the program upon completion.

The course began as scheduled and was held every Tuesday and Thursday evening with the last session held on May 20, 1971. The awards dinner followed the next evening with all eighty people completing the course and signing up for their 10-hour in-hospital training.

When the Ambulance Corps purchased their second ambulance in 1971 for the nearly 350 yearly calls, the EMT program ensured that there were trained personnel to man it.

It is now almost impossible to assess the benefits of this first course. But some facts are clear. EMT courses are now taught to volunteer squads all over the United States and the level of training in our own state has improved. The new Paramedic programs are ever increasing to aid and supplement the EMT program. Certainly, what Hopewell accomplished in the face of opposition from State agencies reaffirms what can be done with dedication and determination by volunteers.

ESTABLISHING A PARAMEDIC PROGRAM IN HOPEWELL

by Tom Cooper, Duchess Lake
and Rhonda Stoveken.

IN THE EARLY 1970'S, STATEWIDE MEETINGS were held to discuss the possibility of a paramedic program through hospitals and professional rescue squads. An uninvited guest at these meetings was H.F.D. member Tom Cooper, who had watched too many people die needlessly and felt that a Mobile Intensive Care Unit was the answer.

The project developed from the Highway Safety Bill to upgrade hospitals and emergency services. From this, the Hospital Emergency Alert Radio System was formed which put ambulances directly in touch with emergency rooms. Prior to this, a telephone call had to be placed by a third party.

The original concept was to have the program hospital-based, with paramedics working out of the hospital. Tom Cooper and others encouraged the theory of the first ambulance to provide advanced first aid at the scene. Bringing the M.I.C.U. to the patient from the home base with all the technical advantages of a hospital emergency room seemed to be an ideal solution.

But the N.J. First Aid Council strongly opposed the program and it was three years before the Mercer County Pilot Program was formed and Hopewell became the State's first Volunteer Emergency Medical Unit to respond from home base with a M.I.C.U. unit.

The state took two years to set up the paramedic program, which included training by doctors and hospital training, etc. This involved over 1000 hours of training for the student.

The first class of paramedics was held in 1975 at the New Jersey School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1975 with 13 members.

In order to fit the concept of the new program, the Hopewell Fire Dept. Ambulance Corps. was changed to the Hopewell Fire Dept. Emergency Medical Unit. The Dept. purchased a lifemobile and paid \$14,000 for equipment.

Hopewell benefited from the services of three paramedics during this period: Tom Cooper, Robert Palmer and Rev. Burton Parry.

BABIES DELIVERED!

ON OCTOBER 24, 1983 THE HOPEWELL FIRE Dept. E.M.U. had the honor of delivering its first baby.

The call was received to respond to Dr. Steinberg's office to transport Mary Hullfish to the Hunterdon Medical Center. The ambulance stopped at the Flemington Fairgrounds to pick up the father, H.F.D. member Donald Hullfish and, within minutes, a baby girl was born. Dr. Steinberg was in attendance along with Capt. Duchess Lake, B.J. Biechlin, Norman Johnson and driver, Ike Peck Jr.

In July of 1985, at 6 in the morning a call came to respond to a house on Aunt Molly Rd. where a woman was in labor. Capt. Sally Hart, Duchess Lake, Bru Katzenbach, Linda Trimmer and driver, Donald Hullfish delivered a fine baby boy.

EMU OFFICERS -1986



Left to right: Al Hart -
Administrator, Ken Stoveken -
Captain, Line Secretary - Colleen
Muentener; not present, Sally
Matthews - Administrative
Secretary.

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Fire Department was organized on May 17, 1911, and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit will celebrate their 75th Anniversary in the Year 1986, and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit, in that long period of time, has provided assurance to the citizens of Hopewell Borough and its environs of their prompt professional response in the event of fire or emergency crisis, and

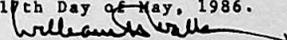
WHEREAS, these services have been and will continue to be freely available to all citizens of Hopewell Borough and its environs, and

WHEREAS, the dedicated volunteers of the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit have given untold hours of their personal time in training and in practice in order to attain the high degree of professionalism with which they perform their duties with no regard for reward;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to let the grateful appreciation of all citizens of Hopewell Borough and its environs be known to the full company of the members of the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit for their unselfish dedication to their chosen duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that I, William H. Walker, Mayor of the Borough of Hopewell, proclaim the month of MAY 1986 to be the month of appreciation of the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit.

In Witness Whereof I Hereunto
Set My Hand and the Seal of
the Borough of Hopewell in
the County of Mercer and the
State of New Jersey this
17th Day of May, 1986.


WILLIAM H. WALKER
Mayor, Borough of Hopewell

OUR CURRENT FLEET OF EQUIPMENT



1968 American La France 1000 GPM Pumper



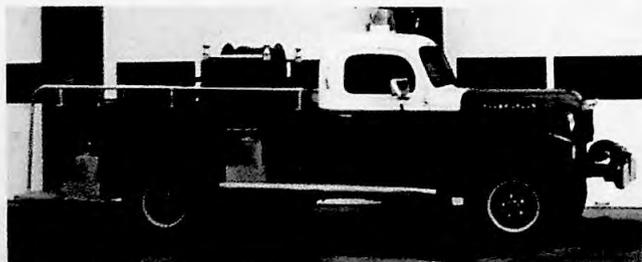
1980 Pierce 1000 GPM Pumper



1975 Ford PL Custom



1981 Ford PL Custom Lifemobile



1966 Dodge Powerwagon



1961 Mack 750 GPM
Rescue-Extrication Unit

TROPHY LIST FOR HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT. 75TH PARADE

1. BEST APPEARING COMPANY (Based on apparatus and with at least five (5) ladies auxiliary members in regulation uniform and with twenty (20) or more fire company members in regulation uniform all in the line of march with or without music.)

First Place
Second Place

2. BEST APPEARING COMPANY (Based on apparatus and with at least three (3) ladies auxiliary members in regulation uniform and with nineteen (19) or less fire company members in regulation uniform all in the line of march, with or without music.)

First Place
Second Place

3. BEST APPEARING OVERALL

First Place only

4. COMPANY TRAVELING LONGEST DISTANCE

First Place only

5. OLDEST UNIFORM MEMBER IN THE LINE OF MARCH (must be marching)

First Place only

6. OLDEST UNIFORM MEMBER OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY IN THE LINE OF MARCH (must be marching)

First Place only

7. BEST APPEARING LADIES AUXILIARY (with fifteen (15) or more members in the line of march, all in regulation uniforms.)

First Place only

8. BEST APPEARING LADIES AUXILIARY (With fourteen (14) or less members in the line of march, all in regulation uniforms.)

First Place only

9. BEST APPEARING PUMPER (6 months to 1 year)

First Place only

10. BEST APPEARING PUMPER (2) TO (8) YEARS

First Place
Second Place

11. BEST APPEARING PUMPER (9) TO (16) YEARS

First Place
Second Place

12. BEST APPEARING PUMPER (17) TO (24) YEARS

First Place
Second Place

13. BEST APPEARING AND OPERATING MOTORIZED FIRE APPARATUS 25 YEARS OR OLDER

First Place
Second Place

14. BEST APPEARING HAND DRAWN APPARATUS

First Place
Second Place

15. BEST APPEARING SNORKEL OR AERIAL PLATFORM

First Place
Second Place

16. BEST APPEARING TELESQUIRT

First Place only

17. BEST APPEARING AERIAL TRUCK

First Place only

18. BEST APPEARING SPECIALTY UNIT AND FIELD TRUCK

First Place
Second Place

19. BEST APPEARING TANKER 1800 GALLONS OR MORE

First Place only

20. BEST APPEARING AMBULANCE SQUAD (with five (5) or more members in the line of march.)

First Place
Second Place

21. BEST APPEARING AMBULANCE

First Place only

22. BEST APPEARING RESCUE UNIT

First Place
Second Place

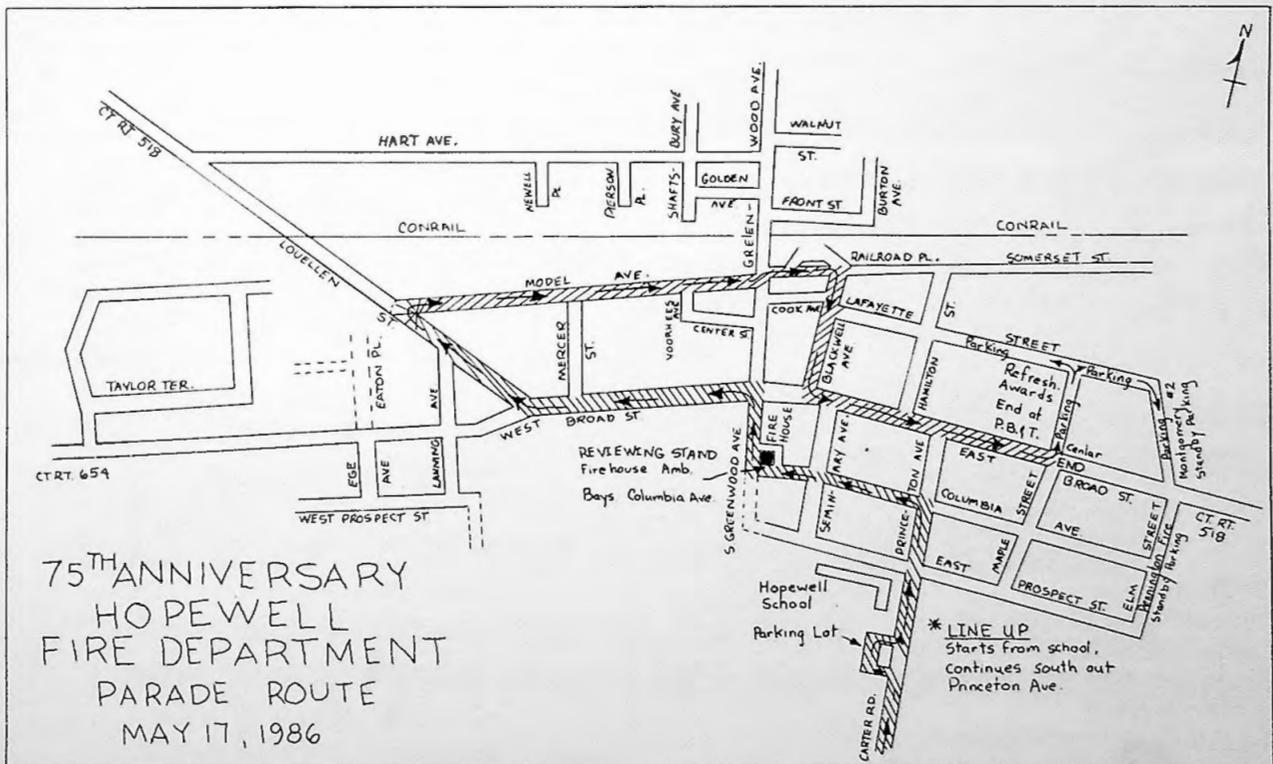
23. BEST APPEARING BAND OR NON-PAID ORGANIZATION

First Place only

24. BEST APPEARING PROFESSIONAL OR PAID BAND

First Place only

25. JUDGES TROPHY - TO BE AWARDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGES



75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Standing left to right: Dan Fenton, Rick Edling and John Novak.

Seated: Duchess Lake, Dave Williamson – Chairman, Tom Fillebrow – Co-chairman and Rhonda Stoveken.

Not present for photo: Jim Camner, Al and Sally Hart, Rich Kettenburg, Ike Peck III, Ken Stoveken Joe and Eileen Toth, and Ray Van Arsdale.

The committee wishes to thank the following and all others who have made this book possible:

*DANA Productions
Victoria Kuser, Art Director
The Leigh Photographic Group
Tristin Incorporated, Typographers
Contempo Press
N.J. Fire Chiefs Association
The Mayor and Borough Council of Hopewell Boro
The Hopewell Township Police Department*

The 75th Anniversary Committee, and the Hopewell Fire Department would like to thank Tom Fillebrow for all the time and effort he put into the preparation of this program, and the celebration itself.

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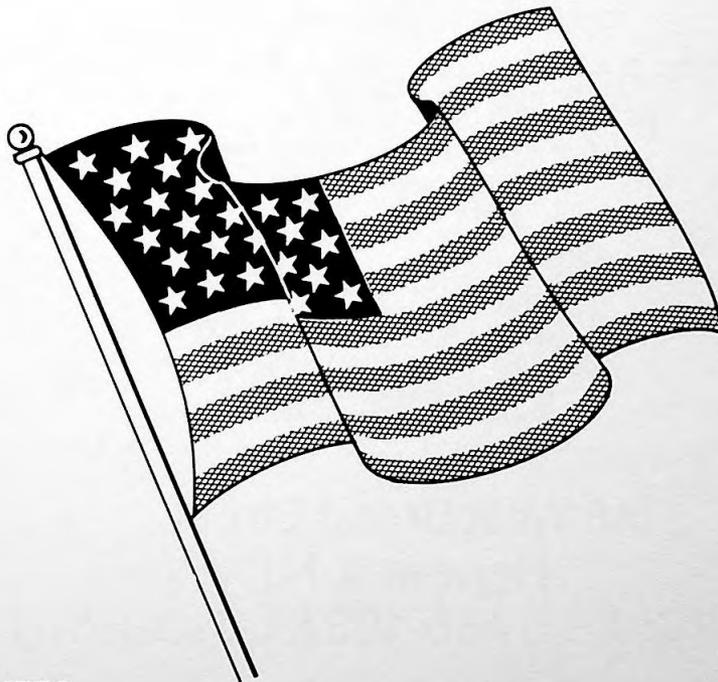
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To the Hopewell Fire Department
on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary

from

*Hopewell Valley American Legion
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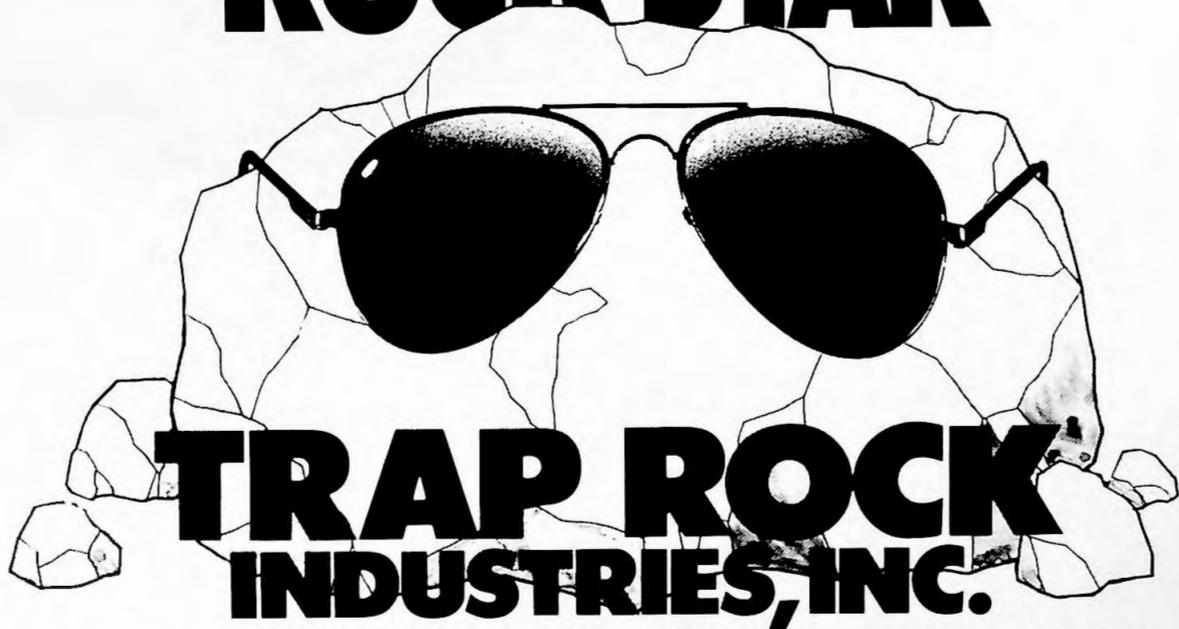
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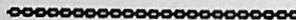
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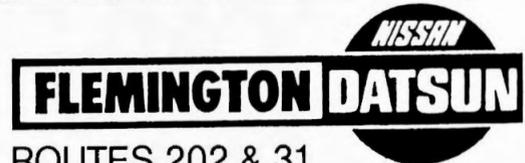
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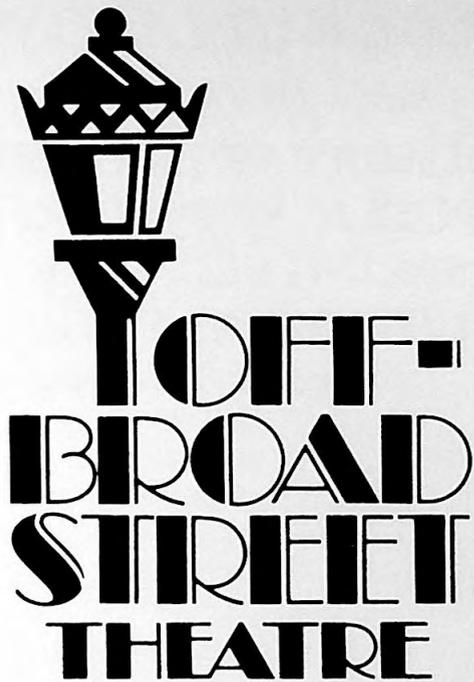


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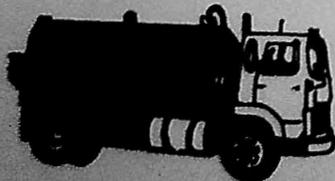
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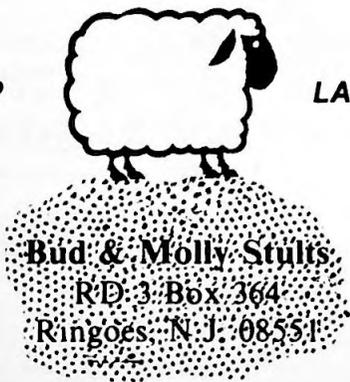
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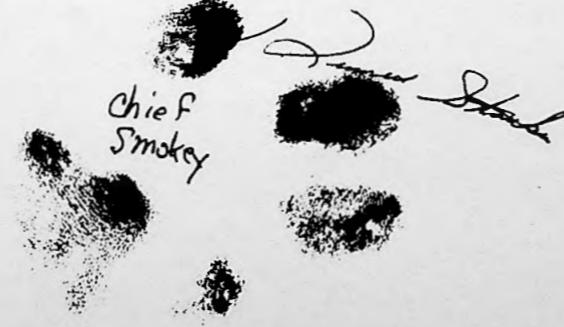
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Rick Edling – 1st Vice Pres.
Tim Fenton
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Mahlon W. Riley – Trustee
Howard A. Shanks
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David VanDoren – 1st Assist.
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Thomas F. Fillebrown
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