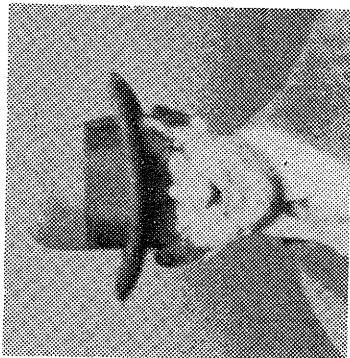


PAWLING FIRE DEPARTMENT

PAWLING, NEW YORK

Established 1895

GEORGE B. NICKERSON



In Memory of George B. Nickerson, Member of the Pawling Fire Department, who gave his life in the performance of duty March 10, 1932.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

JOHN D. CUNNINGHAM



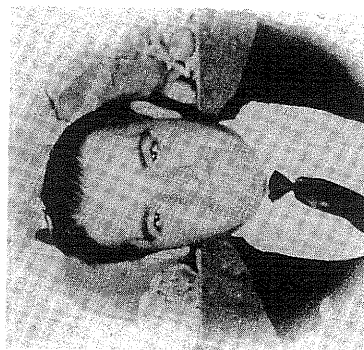
In Memory of John D. Cunningham, Life Member of the Pawling Fire Dept., who gave his life in the line of duty Dec. 6, 1966.

"Lord what is man, that you notice him. The son of man that you thought of him? Man is like a breath; his days like a passing shadow."

In Memory of Nicholas Taska, Member of the Pawling Fire Department, who gave his life in the performance of duty February 5, 1969.

"Faithful below he did his duty, but now he has gone aloft."

NICHOLAS TASKA



1895 - REVIEW - 1970

On the evening of August 7, back in 1895, a group of Pawling men desirous of assisting their struggling village in becoming a better place in which to live, met at the Town Room and offered and passed a Resolution bringing the present Pawling Fire Department into being. They balloted and elected the following officers: Wm. G. Tice, President; Wm. Elliott, Vice-President, Geo. A. Daniels, Secretary, and Wm. J. Carey, Treasurer.

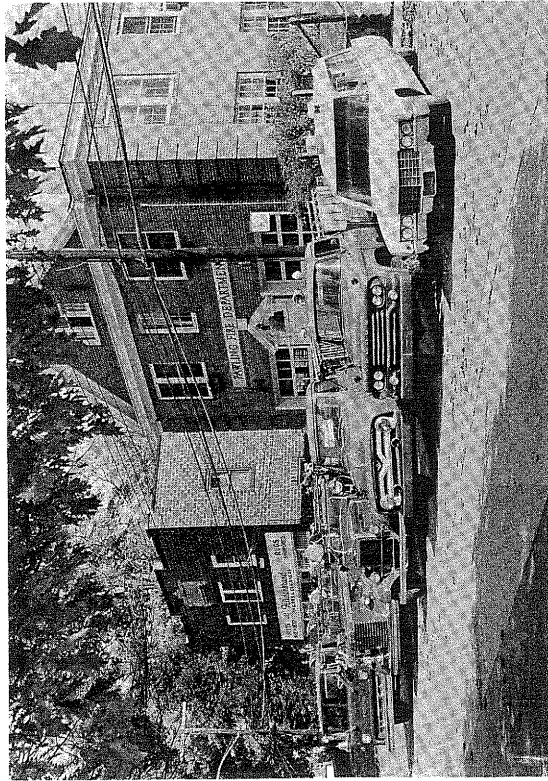
One week later the Pawling Fire Department held its first meeting in the Town Room, August 14th, 1895. A committee reported that it had drafted a set of By-Laws, and after being read they were accepted. A committee on members was authorized to hold the Membership Roll open until August 25th. The Department then elected officers as follows: Chief Engineer, B. F. Burr; Asst. Chief, Geo. W. Gibney; Recording Secretary, Geo. A. Daniels; Financial Secretary, J. A. Kline; Treasurer, A. C. Hurd; Foreman, Hook and Ladder Co., J. A. Kline; Foreman, Hose Co., Sam Mason; Asst. Foreman, John Rooney.

On Sept. 4, 1895, the Annual Meeting of the Department was held with Sam Mason as chairman. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: W. F. Dye, Chief Engineer; T. E. Roberts, Asst. Chief; George A. Daniels, Rec. Sec'y.; John C. Gardner, Fin. Sec'y.; Joseph A. Kline, Treas.; Sam Mason, Foreman Hose Co.; John Rooney, Asst.; Chas. Bouton, Foreman Hook and Ladder; R. J. Kimlin, Asst.

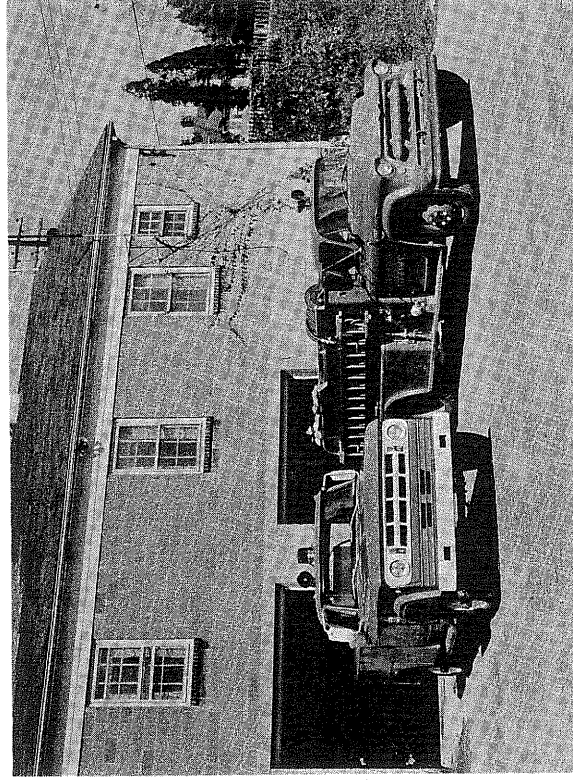
Officially the Department came into being on October 1st when sanction was given by the Village of Pawling at a meeting on that date. The organization was composed of thirty-nine charter members, and twenty honorary members. A special Meeting was called on November 18th, and the members voted to name the two companies. The Hose company chose the name Liberty Hose Company, No. 1, and the Hook and Ladder group, Union Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1. Committees were appointed to procure furniture and fixtures necessary for the Department meeting room.

Pertinent information regarding the Department was contained in the December 20th, 1895 issue of The Pawling Illustrated, a supplement to The Pawling Chronicle, as follows:

"The boys now occupy fire quarters on Oak Street, in rooms especially prepared for their use. The large room on the first floor is for fire apparatus. A Hook and Ladder truck, two Hose carts, 1000 feet of 2½ inch hose, with fire and ball nozzles, in short all the latest devices in apparatus are kept there in readiness for instant use. Overhead is a room 25 feet square, finished in hard wood, furnished with oak tables, 60 oak chairs with cane seats, lamps and base-burner stove, for the use of the companies. Each member has a key, and is free to make use at any time of the rooms, which are always heated and lighted. In this room their meetings are held, and it is proposed to add the attraction of a reading room, and to that end solicit contributions of books, etc., from citizens. Wednesday afternoon and evening of each week will soon be designated as Ladies' Day, when lady friends of members will be invited to inspect the rooms, and occasional entertainments will be given. There is a membership now of 45 members and 30 or more honorary members.



PAWLING STATION 1



PAWLING STATION 2 — HOLMES

"The village has been divided into fire districts, and a map of the same has been made, locating the fire hydrants. A code of signals, previously agreed upon, will, at the first alarm of the fire bell, call the members together and locate the fire. With 32 hydrants located at convenient points in the village, with 6 fire nozzles, 2 ball nozzles, and one oyster nozzle, with pressure of over one hundred pounds to the square inch, and a hook and ladder truck, the Pawling Fire Department claims to be as well equipped as any company outside of New York City. Arrangements are now being made for the First Annual Ball and Reception to be given by the Department at the Dutcher Opera House on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1895, the proceeds of which will be used in completing the furnishings of the house, purchase of uniforms and other necessary equipment. This may not be the proper place to advertise a ball, but we cannot refrain from calling the attention of our readers to the fact that the best way to have a proficient and well equipped Fire Department is to assist them in their efforts to raise necessary funds. Everyone can lend a helping hand."

The Annual Ball became a regular event of the company for many years, and gained in prestige with the passing of time. The Dutcher Opera House was invariably the scene of the festivities, and an account from the Chronicle of Jan. 7, 1898, seems to be a typical example.

"The Third Annual Ball of the Pawling Fire Department, at the Dutcher Opera House on Thursday evening last, like its predecessors was the event of the season. Owing to the fact that the date had been changed from New Year's Eve, and numerous other things, tended to lessen the number in attendance, there was a good sized party present and all seemed bent on having a good time. The dancing kept up at a lively pace until four o'clock in the morning with an intermission of an hour or so for supper. The supper was pronounced by one and all the best ever served by the firemen. There were several couples present from Patterson, some from South Dover, Dover Plains, and Amenia.

The department is under obligations to the ladies of the town for the generous supply of cakes and other refreshments and for the valuable assistance in many ways and to Mr. Dutcher, who kindly gave them the use of the hall and to Mr. C. V. Lansing for valuable assistance. In fact the members of the Department are to be congratulated on the fact that the people of the village on any and all occasions are found ready to aid them in any manner possible, which demonstrates the fact that their efforts to maintain a first rate organization are appreciated by the people at large.

On Saturday the firemen held open house at headquarters and the afternoon and evening were pleasantly passed with whist, checkers and other games. A five o'clock announcement was made that lunch was ready and from that time 'till late in the evening a continuous stream of callers was served with a most tempting supper. After feeding more than a hundred it was found that there was still a large quantity of provisions left which was distributed about town to those whom it was thought would appreciate it most."

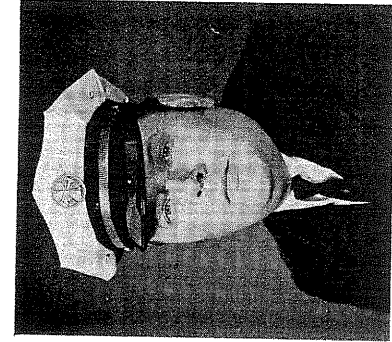
Uniforms for the Department were ordered on May 11th, 1896 from Ainhelm and Co., New York City. Forty outfits at \$18 each, and caps at \$1.50 were received soon after, and the boys were ready to take part in any and all parades and public affairs which might occur.

In the early days, according to older members, the Pawling firemen had, to use the vernacular, a tough row to hoe. They protected an area roughly one mile square, the Village of Pawling with hand-drawn equipment. The hose carts carried several hundred feet of 2½ inch hose, and it took at least six husky men to draw equipment to the scene of a blaze anywhere within that area.

CHIEF
PAWLING FIRE DEPARTMENT



FRANCIS CUNNINGHAM



HOWARD BRITTON
First Assistant Chief



JAMES OSBORN
Second Assistant Chief



WILLIAM BAILEY
Third Assistant Chief

There were no paved roads, no adequate lighting facilities at night, and when a half-dozen men got a hose-cart rolling on a comparatively rough street, the possibilities of an accident and resultant personal injury were many indeed. But accidents were few, and if a man hauling the cart found that his legs were too short to match the strides of his longer-legged companions, or if he just plain got tired, he could always do as Chief Francis Cunningham's grandfather, Jim Cunningham did — hop on the apparatus and get a free ride occasionally.

Along about the turn of the century, what is now the Colman Lumber Co., was a coal shed and a lumber yard owned by Elmore Ferris. Mr. Ferris used a pair of jet-black horses in his deliveries around town and often the team and driver would overtake the boys on their way to a fire and give them and the hose apparatus a tow to the scene. The story goes that this particular team was anxious to perform this voluntary duty and as soon as the fire bell began to clang sensed that their voluntary services were urgently needed. And you can be sure that their assistance was welcome to the hard-working firemen.

There was no pump attachment to the hose cart, the connection being made directly to the hydrants, of which the Village was fortunate in having a considerable number at the time the Department was organized. The 100-lb. pressure was more than adequate to contend with almost any fire. In fact, insurance rates were lowered considerably after observers watched the Department in action before the end of the year 1895.

From the Pawling Weekly Recorder, Sept. 29, 1900 — Tuesday morning shortly before nine o'clock, George Gibney was seen tearing through the streets with his horse and wagon attached to one of the fire hose carts. Immediately after Zach Roe followed with a team and the other cart also driving furiously.

There had been no alarm of fire but everybody ran in the same direction and in the briefest space of time a big crowd had gathered on Henry Holmes' corner from whose residence a cloud of black smoke was issuing.

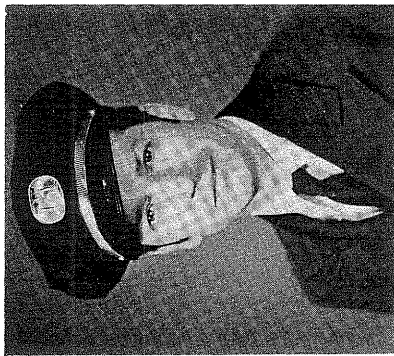
Shortly before this Mrs. Holmes had removed a charred stick of wood from the open parlor fire-place into a woodbox, thinking there was no fire about it and went to another part of the house. She returned a few minutes later to find the parlor all ablaze. Hastily summoning assistance, a stream of water from the garden hose was turned on, which with a few pails of water put out the fire. The interior woodwork in that portion of the room was badly damaged but prompt action prevented the flames from eating through the partitions else we would have a different story to tell. The firemen, when they arrived, attached a hose to a hydrant and made ready to play on the fire but their services, fortunately, were not needed. Considerable damage was done to the furniture and rugs by smoke and water.

Pawling Weekly Recorder, George E. White, Prop., September 15, 1900 — Sunday evening last, at about the hour of ten, the village of Pawling was roused by the ever thrilling cry of fire. The bells of both churches added their clangor to the din, and the alarm was quickly spread far and wide. Villagers poured from their doors in all manner of full evening dress and scarcely any dress, while the fire laddies skurried along the dusty streets with ladder-truck and hose-carts to the scene of the conflagration. The fire had been started in a small barn belonging to Mrs. Akin Toffey and as soon as five hundred feet of hose could be laid and connected with the hydrant near the Methodist Church, a stream was turned on the fire that made short work of it.

Had there been a high wind blowing in an easterly direction, that entire portion of the village would have gone up in smoke in spite of the splendid facilities for fighting fire which this village possessed. The blaze was evidently



ELMER SMITH
Capt. Hose Company No. 1



DAVID PATCHEY
Capt. Hook and Ladder Co.



FREDERICK BALLARD
Capt. Hose Company No. 2

the work of incendiarism, as the fire is said to have begun on the outside, and the flames ran around and enveloped the sides and roof of the barn almost instantly. The barn contained no hay at the time but was used as a place of storage for farm implements and washing machines. The building was insured for one hundred dollars. One of the dwellings opposite was ablaze from the heat, but a dash or two of water stopped it.

Several amusing incidents occurred. A young man was spending the evening a little out of the village and when he started for the fire he threw off hat, coat and vest into the hammock, and ran bellowing "fire" at every step. As a result of his excitement he had to wend his way all the distance back to the hammock to procure his coat and hat. One member of the fire department was making a record-breaking pace for the fire when he called out to a citizen to "run back and get the hose and come on". It was a matter of remark that more people were at the fire than were in attendance at the three churches an hour or so before.

But the members were doing a good job at this early date without protection for themselves from water, smoke, wind and varied weather conditions. They were putting out fires at undue personal risk until early in 1897 when Mr. John B. Dutcher presented the Department with complete outfits of rubber coats, hats, boots and gloves for use at fires. This is the first recorded gift of many which he and members of his family have made to the Pawling Fire Department through the years. Other courtesies from the Dutcher family are too numerous to list individually, but for all, the members are sincerely grateful.

One of the outstanding events following the Gay Nineties days was the Annual Tournament of the Harlem Valley Firemen's Association. This organization was composed of the fire departments of Millerton, Pine Plains, Amenia, Dover Plains, Brewster, Sharon, Pawling and others, at various intervals. The local Department is generally credited with having started the group organization which highlighted its claim to fame with a Tournament in the Fall of each year. These took the form of a field day, with a baseball game and hose and ladder races the main events. Each of the member companies made a day of the affair, with competition very keen in all of the events. A street parade was also an integral part of the day's activities, the gaily uniformed firemen and their band escorts making a picture which will always be remembered by the older residents of the Harlem Valley.

The initial tournament of the Harlem Valley Firemen's Association took place in this village in the year 1900. Two brass bands, two drum corps, four fire companies with their hose carts and hook and ladder trucks made a display that our village may not have the pleasure of witnessing again for many a day.

The light buff uniforms of the Brewster contingent, the red and white of the Sharon boys, the red, blue and white of the Amenia department, and the dark blue uniforms of the Pawling firemen made the streets resplendent with a moving panorama of bright colors, while the martial strains of the brass bands and drum corps filled the air with floods of harmony that set one's blood to tingling. Many of the residences were tastefully and appropriately decorated and the hearts of our villagers seemed attuned to the occasion and everything denoted a hearty welcome to the visiting fire laddies.

After a half hour's march through the principal streets of the village, the column was headed towards Lakeside where the ample grounds and accommodations were generously thrown open to the public through the kindness of Mr. Dutcher. Arrived at the grounds, the various fire companies were drawn up in a hollow square with the speaker's stand in the center where a speech of welcome by the President of the village, Mr. J. B. Dutcher, was received with great applause. This was followed by speeches by Rev. Mr. Ackerly of this



HAROLD GLOYD
Lieut. Hose Company No. 2



RICHARD TURNER
Lieut. Hose Company No. 1



GEORGE LYNCH, JR.
Lieut. Hook and Ladder Co.

village, Rev. Mr. Basten of Amenias and Rev. Mr. Ludwig of this village, each of which was received with hearty applause.

The baseball games were the center of attraction to the younger generation; the plays were well contested throughout and showed some very fine points. The dinner in the tents was a success in point of excellence, both in quantity and quality and was served in fine style by those in charge.

The concert by the Brewster Band was an attractive feature and appreciated by the crowds present. The organization reflects great credit on the town that sends it out and on its promoters.

In all fairness to the visiting companies, the Pawling firemen are entitled to credit for their marching and evolutions and their fine appearance on the street and our village is to be congratulated on having such an efficient organization.

One event which added to the zest of the day's entertainment was that of the Brewster Band and Fire Company marching down the street and marching back again with two Brewster boys at the head. Coley Charter and Edwin Cole with their prizes of a barrel of flour and an easy chair which were awarded them as the laziest man and the homeliest man in line.

Frequent showers in the afternoon sent the crowds frequently to cover but when the sun emerged the crowds also emerged from their hiding places and the fun went bowling merrily on.

Of course it is impossible to relate in this booklet many of the events of company activity over the period of seventy-five years. It is our aim to acquaint many of our friends with what we consider the more romantic part of our history, the early days of organization, much of which we ourselves are none too thoroughly acquainted. Company records are, unfortunately, too scanty to make the review complete in detail, consequently our efforts are directed toward compiling the most important and best remembered incidents over the three quarters of a century we have had the opportunity to serve the people of our town. Many of the destructive fires will not be mentioned because of the almost impossible task of checking old newspaper files for dates and details, and many will be anecdotes old-timers love to talk about which will be overlooked. The more recent history of the Department is well-known to nearly everyone.

The Department made its home at the Oak street building until about 1915 when the apparatus and fixtures were moved to the John Colman building on the corner of Memorial Avenue and Smith Street. The hose carts were now antiquated and the Hook and Ladder truck was an urgent necessity after the experience of fire at the Pawling school for boys. Pawling village had advanced to a point where the latest type equipment was imperative if the companies were to do a satisfactory job. In 1922 the company inaugurated its Annual Carnival to gain the funds necessary for the purchase of a pumper. An American LaFrance was bought in 1923 while Judge George Lucas was at the head of the company. A six cylinder motored job, this truck was the pride and joy of many a local fireman for many years.

Commenting on the discussion which took place while the members were trying to come to an agreement on the choice of a four- or six-cylinder motor for this great addition to the Department, Henry A. Holmes related at the Anniversary dinner on October 6th, an amusing little story to the enjoyment of all who were present. Chief Lucas had made a diligent attempt to sound out most of the members on their choice of a four or six, and at a meeting of the company went to great length to explain to the boys that one of them, who was already famous in aeronautics, was present that evening. He was



LAWRENCE CLARK
Secretary



RICHARD DICKINSON
Assistant Secretary



JOHN PECK
Treasurer

referring to Howard Stark whose experiments at instrument or "blind" flying laid the groundwork for the great armadas now plying the airlines. The chief said Mr. Stark's opinion would be given the greatest consideration by him and the committee. A wave of expectancy flooded the room as the late flying genius arose to discuss the relative merits of engines, but died a quick death as Mr. Stark gave his opinion: "Six".

With the motor equipment purchased, the members now began to turn their attention to a more suitable and more centralized location on which to build their new home. The Carnival receipts were allocated to the Building Fund and in 1929 the site was purchased on what was then East Railroad Avenue, directly across the tracks from the Dutcher House, in the very center of the village.

The Annual Firemen's Carnival is and has been since its inception, one of the highlights of the summer season in Pawling. We of the department look forward each year to the entertainment and enjoyment we are able to furnish adults and children alike, and it is evident from the public's response to each of these affairs that our efforts are appreciated. A Block Dance was formerly a feature but has now been discontinued and many booths with various merchandise, toys, etc., candy, refreshments and always one big prize, usually an automobile being given away, are the attractions.

Innovations have been many at our Carnivals in years past and at times even side-shows and freaks have been presented. Ex-Chief Brunow recalled that at one carnival Chief Lucas asked him to man a booth which would dispense ducks. Juries agreed to oblige, and went on to relate that the Chief showed up at the carnival with some personally trained birds which were placed in a tub of water. The customers had three attempts to ring a duck with a large hoop for 10c, but Mr. Brunow swears that Mr. Lucas had trained the ducks so well that not one was won during the three-night stand.

Mr. Lucas countered with another story which had the Firemen presenting a side-show featuring a look at five bare legs for the very reasonable price of five cents. This show made a one-night stand and netted a clear profit of \$75. Mr. Lucas had set a one-quart fruit jar on a stand with an electric light bulb for illumination, and in it he had placed a plain ordinary bullfrog, but a freak because one of the rear legs was attached to where a tail might have been.

The Carnival is started off each year with a street parade made up of firemen and apparatus from nearby communities, and Dutchess county, Putnam county and western Connecticut are always well represented. As many as 32 departments have been in Pawling on the parade night of the affair. The first few Carnivals, of course, were inaugurated without a parade of apparatus. Gas rationing prevented this feature during World War II.

The Carnival of 1924 is a typical example, as reported in The Pawling Chronicle of September 6th, that year:

"The Firemen's Carnival for 1924, held in this village on Friday, Saturday and Labor Day was a great success in every way.

"The Fair and Block Dance attracted many from surrounding towns and big crowds were in evidence each night. The gaily decorated booths were surrounded by people eager to spend their money for the good cause of helping the Fire Department. Our firemen are magnificent and unterrified barkers, and how they did bark those three nights — it is a wonder they have any voice left. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Holmes, Albert E. Dodge, E. T. Green, Bert Slocum, George A. Daniels and others who presided at the blanket booth couldn't hand out the blankets fast enough, while "Hi" Carroll, Norman Patrick and Will Renner at their booth shouted so much that the racket was tremendous. These leather-

lunged gentlemen were still barking vociferously at 2 o'clock in the morning about their everlasting "traveling bags that they gave away for a dime"; George A. Lutz with his candy could be heard a mile, as could Dennis Murphy, T. H. Smith and others. The watermelon booth did a thriving business, as did Mrs. Unger and her assistants, who sold ice cream and soft drinks galore, and Alkin Brill and Emmett Rozell had to hop around to hand out "hot dogs" fast enough.

"The music of the Danbury Band was of a superior order and the Block Dance was a great attraction for many, the space roped off being filled with merry dancers all the time.

"The firemen should be very thankful to the women and girls of Pawling who did so much to make the affair a success. They sold about every person on the grounds a rubber balloon and kept them supplied with chewing gum and cigars. The Catholic Daughters of America had charge of the cake booth and made considerable money for the firemen, and the ladies of the Baptist and Methodist Churches conducted a cafeteria stand, feeding a great number of people.

"Jules H. Brunow had on exhibition a pipeless furnace, and handed out thimbles and literature. 'Tis said he has a number of prospective sales as the result of his enterprising act.

"The exhibition of rattlesnakes from the Schaghticoke country in Connecticut that Mr. Wein had in a tent attracted many. Mr. Wein was a most interesting man to listen to as he told of the habits of these reptiles.

"A great attraction was the hairless calf from the wilds of "Hiddenhurst," the Sheffield Farm at Coleman's Station, and was a freak of nature rarely seen. Notwithstanding its lack of having a hairy coat, the animal was probably glad of it those three hot nights of the fair and was a big husky calf for its age.

"On Labor Day night firemen from Brewster, Carmel and Mahopac were on hand, the Mahopac firemen bringing their truck.

"A good friend of the firemen, Dr. Gamage, presented them with two fine Guernsey calves and they were sold at auction Monday night, one bringing \$16 and the other \$13. James Stark was the auctioneer. Dan Heinchon bought one of the calves and Thomas Gillen the other."

The \$32,000 Fire House was dedicated on January 9, 1930, with over 300 persons jamming all available space to hear the dedication ceremony. The dedicatory address was given by Dr. Frederick L. Gamage, Headmaster of the Pawling School for Boys, who complimented highly the entire community for its progressiveness in greeting such a substantial addition to the facilities of our town, and the Fire Department for its contribution of \$19,000 to the building fund and a building site valued at \$2,000 at that time.

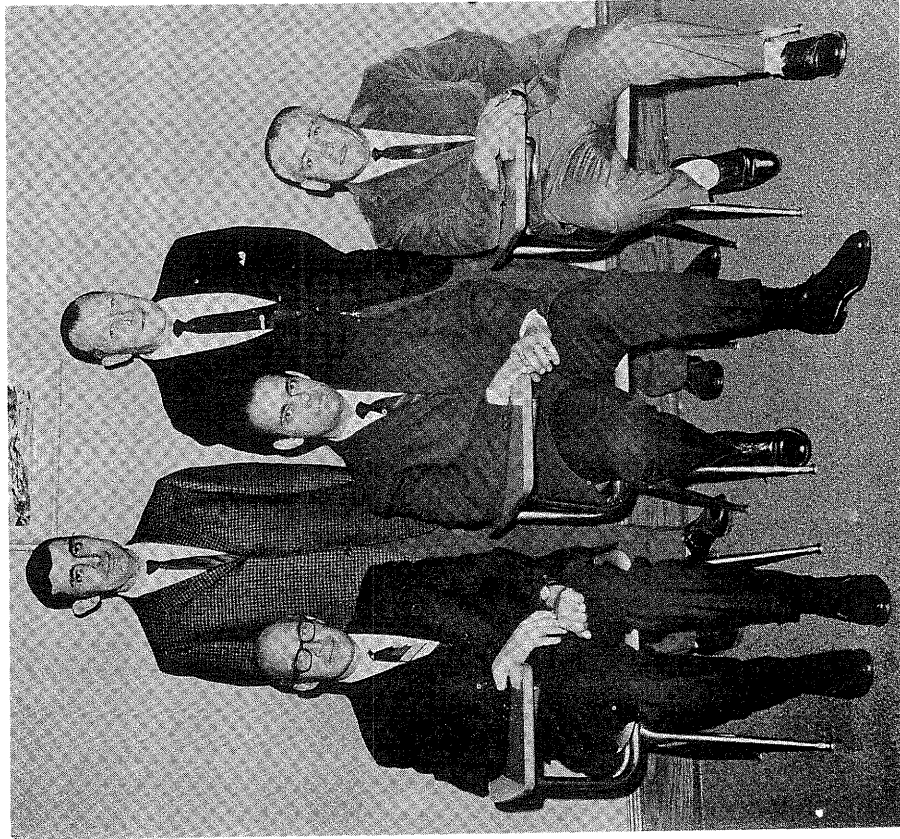
Other speakers at the ceremony were: Ex-Chief Egbert T. Green, Chief Ray F. Dalzell, Mayor Flavius Packer, Chief Chris Noll of Poughkeepsie, Supervisor Hiram C. Carroll, Hon. J. Gordon Flannery, Assemblyman Howard N. Allen, and Ex-Chief William Frank of Poughkeepsie. Henry F. Blessing acted as master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers.

The building was designed by Waldron Coulter, and erected by H. M. Coulter and Son, of Pawling.

In 1934 a Mack pumper, still being used, was purchased to replace the LaFrance which suddenly and unexpectedly went out of commission on the way to a fire on Route 22.

The emergency or squad truck was authorized to be purchased by the Department in December of 1937. This piece of equipment saved immeasurable

PAWLING VILLAGE BOARD



Front Row (l. to r.): ANTHONY PARIS, MAYOR JOHN LAPPAS, WARREN MARTIN
Standing: JAMES TANNER, EDWARD BRITTON

wear and tear on the large pumper being equipped with a booster tank, extra hose, tools, a portable pump, a complete lighting outfit with two large search-lights, and complete first aid equipment. Being fully enclosed and capable of carrying 18 men it was used considerably for transportation to small chimney fires, brush and grass fires, etc.

In October of 1940 the Department voted to inaugurate an ambulance service. In early 1941 a new Cadillac ambulance, fully equipped, with two beds when necessary, was purchased and put into service. Since then it was replaced by several newer models. The addition of the ambulance service has enabled us to further and better serve the community when sickness or accident overtakes any of our citizens. We are proud of this contribution to the welfare of Pawling and are ready and anxious to be of service in this respect whenever the occasion occurs.

An auxiliary pumper, a 500-gallon centrifugal, was put into service in 1944 by the department. This Dodge army truck had besides the pump, full equipment of hose, nozzles and all necessary tools, to be used as a separate unit or in conjunction with another piece of equipment. The pump was an O.C.D. war pump and was used by Hose Company No. 2 in Holmes.

Largely because of the difficulty of obtaining sufficient water for fire fighting in outlying parts of the town, it was decided to purchase a new Oren pumper in 1952. This was specially built from specifications drawn up by the Fire Department and has proved its worth many times. It is equipped with a 1,000 gallon booster tank, a 3,000 watt lighting system, wet water, foam, and a two way radio system tied in with the Dutchess County Bureau of Fires.

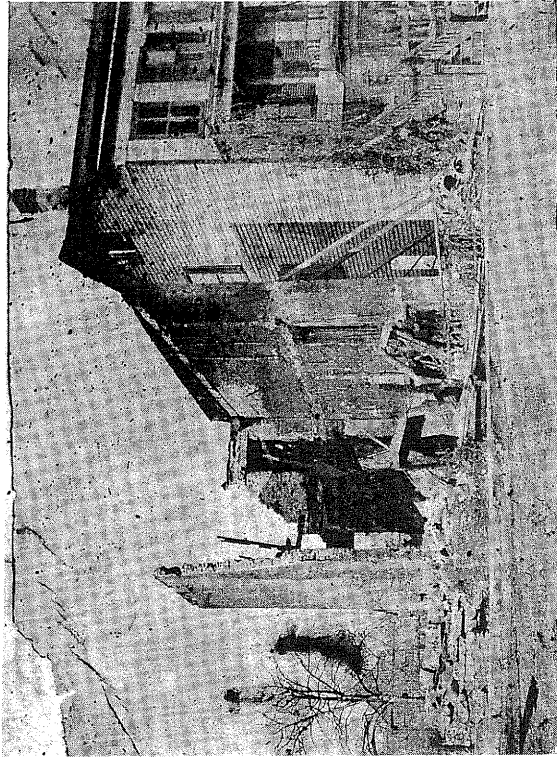
In 1954 the department voted to modernize the hook and ladder truck with the result that the ladders and ladder racks from the old Seagrave truck were placed on a new 1955 Ford truck chassis.

One of the three most spectacular and costly fires in the more recent years, started on the night of May 29, 1951, in a large barn on the Broadmeadow Farm, then owned by Ralph Gwinn, located south of the village on Route 22, when it was struck by a severe bolt of lightning. Estimated loss was \$100,000.

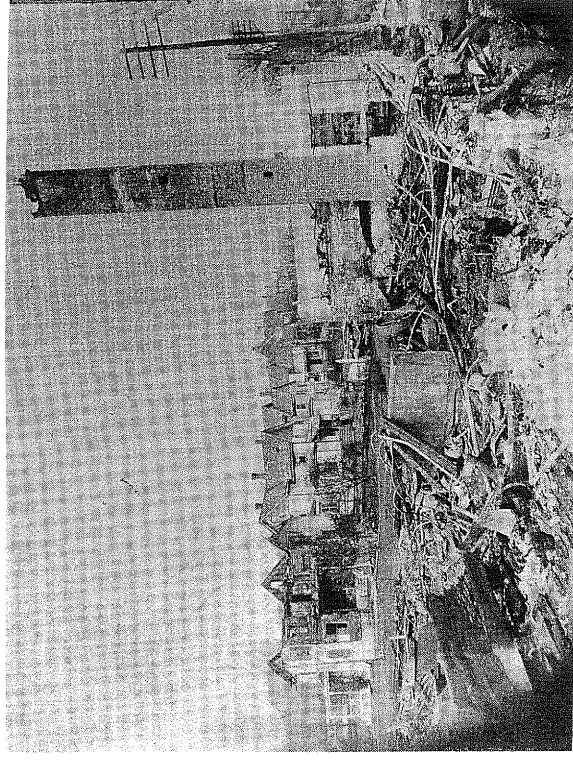
The Thomas E. Dewey Farm near Pawling reservoir, was the scene of a large conflagration on July 8, 1955, when two barns and a shed burned, with four companies responding, from Pawling, Putnam Lake and Dover Plains.

The third occurred in the village on February 5, 1969, when Trinity-Pawling School burned. The alarm was sounded at about 2:30 P.M., on this icy cold day, for a most disastrous fire, as a Pawling fireman, Nicholas Taska, lost his life in the flames before it could be brought under control. Fire companies from Dover Plains, Wingdale, Brewster, Patterson, Carmel, Lake Carmel and Beekman, all fought this conflagration of the entire south end of Cluett Hall. The new ladder truck from Carmel was a great help and the snorkel truck, recently purchased by Brewster and used for the first time at this fire, proved its worth, when a Pawling Fireman was lifted from the top floor, saving his life, as there was no other means of escape. Pawling was indebted to other county companies who stood by in quarters for the companies at the fire. By 7:30 P.M., the following day, the fire was officially declared out, the entire southern half of the main building was burned out with great smoke and water damage to the entire building.

As the years passed, many fires were fought, such as the Pawling Inn, in the heart of the village, Heinchon Dairy barn, Fred Haynes barn on Reservoir Road, Charles Frumerie barn on Harmony Road, three buildings on the old George Stone estate on West Dover Road, (the main house, a tenant house and a barn) at different intervals. On December 6, 1966, at about 8:30 A.M.,



RUINS OF FERRIS BLOCK FIRE 1892, MAPLE BLVD. (FORMERLY R. R. AVE.)



RUINS OF SHEFFIELD MILK FACTORY 1902

a small shed on the property of Harold Wright, near Hurd's Corner, caught fire. Although the fire was small, this particular morning, with ice coated roads and ground, will long be remembered, since the paid driver of the department for the past 33 years, John D. Cunningham, suffered a fatal heart attack at the scene.

In January of 1967 the Village Board faced the problem of appointing a new paid driver for the fire department, after applications of qualified persons were solicited, Allen Rundall was selected to fill this vacancy.

In 1955 a new truck was ordered for Pawling Station II, located at Holmes. This truck was a 1956 Chevrolet chassis with the body built by the Young Fire Fighting Co., carrying 850 gallons of water and a 500 g.p.m. pump. In 1969 a Dodge truck was bought by the Town of Pawling Fire Commissioners to be used as a grass-fire truck and utility vehicle in the Holmes area.

Since the community was growing rapidly and the firemen's annual carnivals becoming more successful each year, the need for a new pumper was felt, in order to semi-retire the old 1934 Mack pumper. A committee was appointed by Chief Edward Britton to draw up specifications and secure prices. After a year of meetings, it was approved to purchase a 1968 Ford chassis with the body being built by Oren, with a 750 g.p.m. pump and a 750 gallon tank with a one inch booster hose. When the truck was delivered on June 1, 1968, 1500 feet of 3½ inch hose with 2½ inch couplings was ordered.

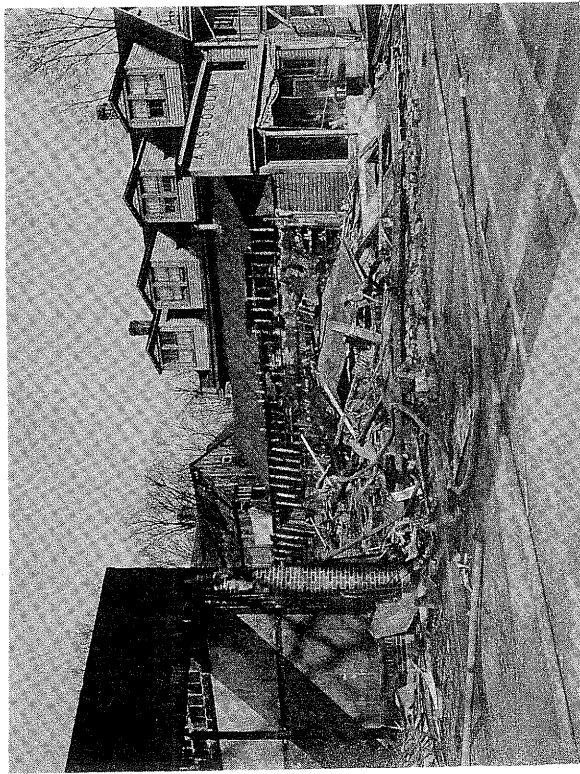
In October of 1968 the ambulance committee, after many months of study, placed on order a 1969 Cadillac ambulance, built by Miller-Meteor and sold by Eastern Coach Sales, to replace the 1961 Cadillac ambulance which had served for over 100,000 miles. The new vehicle arrived on December 3, 1968.

With the department growing in number of men and new methods of fire fighting being used for better protection, several fire schools were held by the New York State Fire Safety Division at Pawling.

Members of the ambulance crew of the department took special courses conducted by the Red Cross, at the Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, in advanced first aid and rescue work with actual experience derived by working on patients at Vassar Bros. Hospital emergency room.

In 1962, two new fire sirens were installed, one at the south edge of the village and one near the northern border, to enable more firemen to hear their call to duty. The large siren on the main firehouse was replaced with a 19 horsepower siren and the replaced one being given to the Holmes Company. A new type of telephone arrangement was installed with a separate phone for fire calls only, being placed in the homes of each chief and the paid driver, along with a siren switch, enabling the siren to be blown from the home after the message had been received on these phones simultaneously. To further add to this, a home alerting system for fireman who live out of hearing distance of any siren, was started. Twenty Plectrons (home alerters with encoder) were placed on order. These alert the fireman and broadcast the location of the fire into the home. A base radio was purchased in 1968 and installed in the firehouse in order to have contact between the firehouse, trucks and ambulance.

As the department grows, so must the house; thusly the Village has contracted for an addition to the firehouse to be built on the north side in March of this year (1970). This will be to house the ambulance, since the number of present pieces of equipment will not fit into the present quarters. In addition to the other vehicles mentioned elsewhere, a 1958 Dodge Power Wagon had been purchased to be used for grass-fires and as a utility truck. This carries 80 gallons of water with 10 Indian tanks along with brooms and shovels.



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For their assistance, cooperation and loyal support on many occasions.

The 1969 carnival, held in August, was the greatest financial success since the first affair held 47 years previously. This is sincere proof that the people of the community are ever ready to cooperate with the efforts that the men of the Pawling Fire Dept. have put forth in the past 75 years of service.

For seventy-five years we, as members of the Pawling Fire Department have dragged hose carts, climbed ladders, chased fire engines and sustained injuries plus death on three occasions, while serving the people of Pawling, in the voluntary task of fighting fire.

It has been a job that had to be done — and it has made us happy to do it. It continues to be a job that must be done — and we are glad to do it.

We have held balls, tournaments, clambakes, suppers, parades, and carnivals and have enjoyed ourselves immensely by doing this — but much more, we have enjoyed the loyal and hearty cooperation that has always been ours (The Pawling Fire Department) from the people of Pawling and surrounding communities.

Often we needed assistance from you — our citizens — and invariably it has been given in the spirit which prompts us to say, that, although we consider it our bounden duty to fight fire, you — our friends — have made it also a genuine privilege for each and every one of us.

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Front Cover — Tom Donovan, Newburgh; Trinity-Pawling Fire — DuMont Studios

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* Elected President at Meeting August 7th, 1895.

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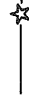
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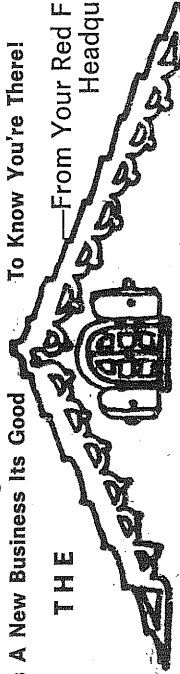
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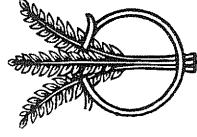


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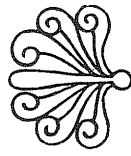
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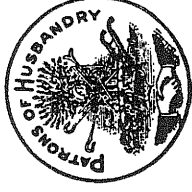


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