

# **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**

A Collection of  
Articles and Photographs

Fort Vance Historical Society

# Volunteer Firemen Save 8 As Flames Destroy Home



MRS. ADALINE ZILKA

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JAMES LONGO

## Family Shivers on Roof of Porch Until Rescuers Come With Ladders; It's All in Day's Work

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the most thankless, dangerous jobs in Western Pennsylvania is that of the "Volunteer Fireman." Mr. Citizen seldom stops to realize that on the roaring fire trucks of almost any town in the tri-state district ride unselfish men who drop their work and pleasures, rush off to help their neighbors in answer to fire's fearful alarm. Here is the eighth of a series of stories of some of these unsung, unhonored firemen.)*

Trapped on the second floor of their burning home, eight members of a Burgettstown family were saved by volunteer firemen—split seconds after flames engulfed their entire residence.

Today Mrs. Adaline Zilka, 34, recounted the story of how fire drove them from their home on a cold winter night during the past month, and how Burgettstown volunteers came to the family's rescue.

### HUDDLE ON PORCH

She said:

"About 1 a. m. I was awakened by the smell of smoke. I opened the bedroom door leading into the hall, and found the entire staircase enveloped in flames.

"I ran through the hall shouting to other members of the family. We all then crawled out of windows on to the roof of the front porch."

One member of the family, 20-year-old Ernest Rotta, succeeded in reaching the ground, and ran to the residence of James Longo, a volunteer, who turned in the alarm.

### TWO RE-ENTER HOUSE

Picking up the thread of story, Fireman Longo recounted:

"As soon as the truck arrived, ladders were put up to take the people off the front porch roof. One little girl, Leona Zilka, jumped. Luckily, she only sprained an ankle."

One of the women huddled on the porch, Leona Rotta, 55, went back into the house seeking further clothing. Her son, Ernest, who had returned with the firemen, followed her.

The elderly woman then clambered out of a back window on to a porch roof, two stories above the ground.

### CLOTHING ABLAZE

Ernest was forced back by the flames, and then dashed down the burning stairway and into the street.

Fire Chief Earl Farnier recounted:

"The men had to extinguish his blazing clothing, and then rush him to Mercy Hospital."

In the meantime, Longo had ladders put up around the rear of the home, and with the assistance of another fireman, carried the elderly Mrs. Rotta to the ground.

### OTHERS SAVED

Others saved were Jacob Rotta, 68; John Rotta, 36; Eugene Rotta, 29, and Violet Rotta, 16.

A week ago, the elderly Mrs. Rotta died.

Mrs. Zilka credits the saving of the family to volunteer firemen, explaining:

"Without those ladders I don't know what we would have done."

Expressing the sentiment of the volunteers, Longo remarked:

"All of it was in the line of duty."

**Volunteer Firemen Save 8 as Flames Destroy Home  
Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph-February 23, 1937 Edition**

**Volunteers Plan Appeal To District  
Will Ask Citizens to Help Bridge Present Gap in Company Finances  
HISTORY IS RECALLED  
Town Secured Modern Water System When Firemen Came to Rescue**

The year 1926 will always be remembered in any history of Burgettstown. That was when the town secured its modern city water system, but not until volunteer firemen "came to the rescue."

Because the lack of sufficient water made fire-fighting an almost hopeless task, the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department supported the project, down to the last man. The firemen outlined a plan which would not only insure an adequate supply of water but would provide improved roadways to reach fire hydrants. This would make available sufficient water to feed the big Stutz pumper which threw 350 gallons a minute.

Townpeople themselves manifested sincere interest but seemed unable to secure enough funds to finance the programs. The firemen then threw the whole force of their organization into the task, and today the modernized water system stands as an enduring monument to the work of the firemen.

**Insurance Rates Lowered**

Installation of the new system resulted in lowered insurance rates as well as day-by-day conveniences to the residents.

The officers for that year were: Guy Russell, president; James C. Wolfe, vice president; Robert H. Culley, secretary; Lee R. McKinney, treasurer. The chief was W.R. Jackson, and assistant chief, H.R. Wilson.

The following year, James Wolfe moved up to President, and Mr. Mr. Jackson remained as chief.

In 1929 W.R. Allison was chief and W.D. English president. It was during that period that the fire company purchased four gas masks as well as an inhalator with necessary accessories.

A three month course in first aid was conducted during which members of the department were instructed in the use of resuscitation methods for suffocation, pneumonia, and drowning.

**Many Lives Saved**

Since many lives have been saved by the firemen in cases of carbon monoxide poisoning. Lee McKinney was for a long time in charge of instruction for the department.

The present officers are: J.R. Rankin, president; Ralph L. Bell, vice president; Robert H. Culley, secretary; Lee McKinney, treasurer. W. R. Allison, chief, and H.R. Wilson, assistant chief.

The trustees are: Boyd H. Sloan, G.S. Walters, and George Hannan. First hose captain is John L. Rankin, and others in charge of the hose are Earl Petrucci, W.D. Wilson, and James Wolfe. Truck drivers are James R. Lee, William J. Pyle, G.S. Walters, Earl L. Farner, and C.B. Smith.

The enrollment of the department is 45 men. On the second floor of the borough building they have fitted up club rooms with modern kitchen, through donations from the public and other sources.

### **Plan Fund Campaign**

For seven years street fairs were held by the department, but due to the hard times of the past year the members voted to discontinue the fair temporarily. Since this was a main source of income the firemen now find themselves short of funds. A campaign is being launched to secure needed funds.

Recalling the days of the old "bucket brigade," the firemen told of the Gilbert drug store and National clothing store fire of 1915, the biggest in the history of the town.

The fire in these two stores, in the heart of the business section, threatened to destroy the merchandising district. It was in the days before the present water system and every source of water supply was drawn on. Even the reserve supply was tapped in a desperate effort to stop the flames.

Finally the railroad company backed tank cars of water to the scene. Water from these cars was bailed out in 10-gallon milk cans, hurried atop of adjoining buildings and poured into the roaring flames.

It was an all-night job. In the morning the fire was out. The two stores had been destroyed, but the business district had been saved.

**The Pittsburgh Press**  
**November 29, 1933 Edition**

*Courtesy of the Fort Vance Historical Society*

In order that due homage and respect shall be paid the Fire Chief of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department on stated occasions, members of this group voted Monday night to purchase for their Chief, Earl Farnar a snow-white uniform, boots, and hat. Hereafter, on parade, His Honor, the Chief will appear all decked out in a white uniform.

Next thing you know, these Fire Fighters will be expecting Domenick to wax his mustache when he officiates as chef at their gala dinner parties.

**Volunteer Firemen Vote to Purchase Snow White Uniform for Fire Chief  
Burgettstown Enterprise-February 15, 1940 Edition**

History of the B.V.F.D., written for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
By Lee R. McKinney, Treasurer

The following members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department have answered the last Roll Call.

Duncan Allison  
Samuel M. Richie  
Samuel M. Nicholls  
Guy C. Russell  
Ralph D. Hixon  
Andrew R. Miller  
William J. Pyle  
Charles L. Westlake  
Clark Swearingen  
Benjamin Goldsboro  
Harry O. Bell  
J. Lawrence Cole

On January 5, 1923, at 8 o'clock, p.m., a group of 44 men voluntarily congregated in the office of Lee and Wilson with one thought in mind, that of organizing a Volunteer Fire Department in Burgettstown. Following brief informal remarks by those present as to the intent and purpose of such an organization, the following officers were elected to launch the department which has continued on its memorable journey down through the years.

President, Frederick H. Illig; Vice President, William R. Jackson; Secretary, Charles W. Davidson; Treasurer, Lee R. McKinney; Chief, Thomas F. Nicholls; Captain of Drivers, Louis A. Schneider, Assistant Captain of Drivers, J. Ralph Lee; Drivers, Charles L. Dowden, Clifton S. Boles, Samuel Farner, Clifford S. McCormick and V.M. Luzer.

Pumpmen: S. Glenn Nicholls, W. Jerome Whalen, William J. Pyle; Captains for North Burgettstown: William R. Jackson and Hugh R. Wilson.

Unfortunately the minutes of the first meeting for the organization do not record the names of those present, neither have we been able to accurately form a correct list of the 44 men or Charter Members who 20 years ago, formed the nucleus of a Fire Department which should and undoubtedly did blaze a trail of faithfulness and great responsibility in the line of duty to this day.

After considerable search of the records available and from authentic information received from those who had and still have the best interests of the Department at heart, we have arrived at the following list of Charter Members which we believe to be reasonably accurate.

D. J. Burns, C. S. Bole, W. A. Bole, J. F. Craig, H. M. Cowan, J. L. Cole, H. W. Conn, Dr. W. S. Clark, Robert H. Culley, C. W. Davidson, Charles L. Dowden, Samuel Farner, E. L. Farner, Benjamin Goldsboro, John H. Ivery, F. H. Illig, W. R. Jackson, J. Ralph Lee, Thomas C. Linn, W. V. Lee, A. R. Miller, Alvin Martin, C. S. McCormick, Lee R. McKinney, S. M. Nicholls, S. G. Nicholls, T. F. Nicholls, W. J. Pyle, J. Y. Poole, R. A. Russell, S.M. Richie, J. L. Rankin, J. C. Smith, L. A. Schneider, C. Warren Tope, Robt. Taylor, Jules Vigeron, J. D. Whalen, W. J. Whalen Jr., G.A. Westlake, H. R. Wilson, and A. J. White.

The records reveal that immediately following the elections of officers, it would be in order to select a name suitable for the new formed organization, when after a brief discussion, the resolution was offered and unanimously adopted that this group as organized should be known as the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department of Burgettstown, Pennsylvania

President Illig, evidently conscious of the magnitude of the office and the manifold responsibilities thrust upon him in such a short space of time, most certainly conceded that his shoulders were not sufficiently broad to carry such a tremendous burden. My assumption is based upon the fact that he was most generous in his appointments. We had committees and more committees, and among them, the Committee on Engineering, namely William R. Jackson and J. Ralph Lee. Naturally while attempting to glean some authentic information from the records here and there appropriate for such an auspicious occasion as we are privileged to celebrate here tonight, my curiosity was immediately aroused as the significance of a Committee on Engineering. My first impulse was that President, Illig, becoming highly elated over the fact, that he had chosen to preside over such an intelligent group of men, was visualizing some gigantic engineering project, possibly a re-location of the McDonald Reservoir to a more

advantageous location near Burgettstown, or perhaps the construction of high cisterns such as the Pharaohs constructed in the land of Egypt several years before. Well, after scrutinizing records of the Secretary, over a period of several meetings, I eventually discovered the President's motive behind the appointments of this Committee on Engineering, Fireman Jackson and Lee. They received explicit instructions to proceed immediately toward the execution of the duties assigned them, that of securing right-of-ways for the fire hose across the railroad tracks. During a previous consultation, it had been mutually agreed between the Chairman and the Engineers, that as a precautionary measure, the fire hose should not be exposed to direct contact with the wheels of the locomotives as that might cause damage to the hose and no doubt create a leak. They decided after careful consideration, that it should be placed underneath the rails and between the ties. The minutes give no indication that the Committee on Engineering was ever discharged.

Fire Chief, Thomas F. Nicholls, also seemed to approve the Department's choice for his office and proceeded at once to outline his program. He carefully selected eleven water supply stations to be used in case of fire and urged all members of the Department to familiarize themselves with several locations; to see that they be maintained at sufficient depth free from all refuse and tin cans; full of water at all times, and available for fire protection when, as, and if needed.

As soon as the several committees began to function, and the carefully formulated plans of the Chairman and the Chief became realities, we realized that we were without available funds to successfully carry out our program as previously outlined.

At the regular meeting of January 23, 1923, a committee was appointed, composed of William D. Wilson chairman, William J. Pyle, Samuel L. Richie, James F. Craig, J. Lawrence Cole and Harry M. Cowan, to be known as the Committee on Public Subscription, to solicit funds from the local residents and business men. The good people of Burgettstown contributed generously and Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the committee, had the honor of making the first deposit to the credit of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department. With the money received, the new account was opened on January 26, 1923.

Our first major activity was a dance held February 1, 1923, in the Liberty Hall, and arranged by the Committee on Activities, namely, William V. Lee and S. Glenne Nicholls. The records of the Secretary do not divulge the results on the venture nor any information as to the report from this committee, but the Treasurer's account shows a profit. However, a "name band" is not listed as having appeared on the platform on that occasion.

In former times, long before the days of local motorized fire fighting apparatus, you will recall being aroused from a sound slumber by a Paul Revere, minus the horse, speeding down the street, calling out in a tone of voice that pierced through the night. He it was who mustered recruits along the way, each man with his own bucket. Next came the hose cart, rumbling along with the old traditional hand pump trailing closely in the rear.

The brilliant minds of a few in the newly organized department conceived the idea that we should become more modernized and the Chairman appointed another committee, the Committee on Signals, composed of John J. Ivery and James C. Smith. They were instructed to contact officials of the American Zinc and Chemical Company at Langeloth and if convenient arrange to have the Langeloth whistle blow when a fire occurred in Burgettstown. This arrangement was fairly satisfactory, but due to the fact that two blasts were for Burgettstown and one blast for Langeloth, some of the boys failed to awaken on the first toot but began to counting on the second, thereby satisfying themselves that the call was for Langeloth.

On March 12, 1923, our first President resigned from office and William R. Jackson, Vice President was elected to the vacancy, this being the first change in the official staff since organization.

Since the organization, the following men have served the Department as President: Frederick H. Illig, Winfield R. Allison, Elza M. Dowler, Guy C. Russell, James C. Wolfe, William D. Wilson, Thomas C. Linn, G. Stanton Walters, J. Ralph Lee, Ralph L. Bell, E. C. Carmichael, Robert S. Robinson, Earl C. Petrucci, James Longo, John W. Sloan, Lester Neil, Kenneth L. Smith, and the present incumbent, Earl C. Petrucci.

The following members have served as Vice Presidents: William R. Jackson, Thomas C. Linn, Elza M. Dowler, James C. Wolfe, William D. Wilson, John L. Rankin, G. Stanton Walters, J. Ralph Lee, Ralph L. Bell, Charles L. Westlake, Robert S. Robinson, Earl C. Petrucci, James Longo, Lester Neil, Kenneth L. Smith, Ray W. Simpson, Enos Smith, Blake Miller and the present incumbent Edwin Wagner.

The names of those serving the Department as Chief, in order of service are: Thomas L. Nicholls,

William R. Jackson, Winfield R. Allison, Earl L. Farner, Earl C. Petrucci and the present Chief Lester Neil.

The Secretaries in succession are: Charles W. Davidson, Robert H. Culley, Lester Neil, James C. Wolfe, and our present Secretary John L. Culley.

And the Treasurer since 1923 commands no introduction or comments to extend, to you, Mr. Chairman, his sincere thanks for the rare privilege of being selected to prepare this story, such as it may appear.

Now turning back to the early days again. Having had reasonable success in raising funds for the Department, it was decided to still increase the revenue by assessing each member \$5.00 as a membership fee, and in addition thereto, \$.25 dues per month thereafter. With part of the funds available, the Company purchased coats, hats, boots, and other necessary equipment for the members, with explicit instructions that such equipment in its entirety must be returned to the Firemen's headquarters immediately after every fire and kept there. The minutes indicate that the arrangement was not at all popular and as a result, it was soon countermanded.

Twenty years ago Burgettstown was operated under the supervision of a select group of business and professional men, upon whose judgment and wisdom the fundamental ideas of municipal government rested and their works have followed them and are registered accordingly, in the minds and hearts of their fellow citizens as well done. I refer to the members of the Council of the Borough of Burgettstown, namely, W. R. McCurdy, C. W. Tope, W. J. Whalen Sr., Rev. James Thome, Paul W. Lyon, Hugh R. Wilson and William B. Linn. Also John M. Scott, Secretary and Treasurer, and Dr. W. S. Clark, Burgess.

The present home of the Department the Burgettstown Borough Building was erected in 1922 by Charles H. Boylan, contractor, and the first piece of modern fire apparatus, the Stutz Pumper, with 2000 feet of hose was purchased by the Borough Council on September 5, of the same year, at a cost of \$9250.00. And inferentially, had it been possible for us to have city water at that time instead of sulphur water, acid, tin cans, stones, wire, horse shoes, bed springs, orange crates and everything else that might happen to float down the stream and by chance lodge in one of the selected cess pools to later pass through the intricate mechanism of the pump, I would be willing to wager that the old Stutz would be still here today and operating perfectly.

No man, except those who actually worked on those calls, has the slightest conception of the extreme punishment inflicted upon that machine operating under such conditions--experiences that will not soon be forgotten.

The first public demonstration of the Stutz Pumper was held on New Year's day, January 1, 1923, under the supervision of the representative from the factory. You may recall that the thermometer was slightly above zero. The site selected was the bridge near the old mill on West Pittsburgh street and the 2000 feet of hose was extended from the bridge up to the Brockman field where the water came forth at the rate of 350 gallons per minute by the gauge. Following the demonstration, the truck was driven to Atlasburg and during the trip, a bearing burned out. The factory representative who was also an expert mechanic, drove the truck to Russell's garage and immediately began tearing down the motor, working late into the night but failed to complete the job of reassembling the parts completely. During the night, the alarm sounded and we knew that we were about to attend and officiate at our first fire with the new outfit and test out the apparatus without any formalities, or previous instruction.

The mechanic in charge appeared at the garage among the first, and immediately things began to happen and those who were there can testify that they never saw a man place a motor in operating condition in such a short space of time. It seemed only a matter of minutes until he had parked the Pumper at the side of the creek near the grade school and water was pouring onto the fire at Hirsch's Feed Store in short order and was under control, notwithstanding the fact that the boys in their excitement, had the entire length of hose reversed and as a result it had to be changed "other end to."

The second floor of the new building, being in a sense set aside for the benefit of the Department was dedicated with the appropriate ceremonies in 1924, for meeting and general recreational purposes. Since that time several improvements have been made and today we feel that we have recreational quarters which are well adapted to the needs of the Department. The minutes fail to cover completely the activities in their entirety which have taken place in those rooms during the past several years, but we assume the several Secretaries in office recorded all that was proper to be committed to writing.

An auxiliary truck to be used for hose and equipment, was purchased February 4, 1924. The funds



in the treasury being depleted, we were forced to negotiate a loan from the bank, our first debt. I have no hesitancy in proclaiming without fear of contradiction and without reservation or apologies, that no piece of equipment, manufactured before or since ever caused the members of this Department more actual heartaches or headaches, than did this unforgettable, useless piece on mechanism. Brain storms, verbal outbursts, unprintable epithets, not withstanding.

On January 24, 1924, also zero, we received a call from Midway and the minutes of the following meeting relate in plain script that the actual running time from Burgettstown to Midway was nine and one-half minutes flat. We cannot question the veracity of the Secretary, but true or false we arrived in record time. After the fire had been placed under control along came the mop up crew with the auxiliary truck steaming and blowing, and operating on less than four cylinders as usual, the drivers burned up from within and almost frozen from without, and above all, a note in the bank that eventually had to be paid.

After the fire had subsided, the boys were invited into a nearby home for sandwiches and coffee. When we came out, "someone" on the nozzle, (name censored) had neglected to drain the hose, just dropped everything and ran for his coffee. As a result the hose was rigid, frozen solid apparently, and from all indications it looked for a moment that we might have to leave it in Midway until the following spring. If my memory serves me correctly and I believe it does, the hose captains (names censored) right then and there, received explicit instructions in pure unadulterated English, supported by proper adjectives, from one in authority, not the Chief however, that hereafter the desires of the inner man would come second and under no circumstances whatsoever would anyone be permitted to withdraw until the hose had been drained and placed up on the truck. The orders have been carried out down the years and we all respect the man today who made those orders mandatory.

On May 20, 1925, the Department was instrumental in distributing 112 American Flags to be displayed by the owners in front of their homes and places of business. A number of those Flags may be seen today when the occasion calls for such a display.

A certain institution in this community inherited a pool table from a certain individual as payment from debt. A pool table not being listed as a liquid asset or acceptable collateral, it was decided on May 25, 1925, to donate it to the Fire Department, and today it stands majestically in the Club room, a constant reminder to the donor that pool tables can not be easily converted into cash, neither can they be used for money. It has served the Department well, a friendly game, a dining table, operating table for first aid instructions and many other features.

Always on alert for some honorable plan to earn a dollar, the Department sponsored a minstrel show on May 21, 1925, under the capable leadership and direction of Mrs. B. L. Hughes. The members of the Department, together with local talent, made up the cast and it was a huge success in every way-total receipts running high. However after the debris had been cleared away and all our expenses paid, we found to our surprise, that we the Fireman, the sponsors, the players were holding the proverbial bag--and we learned another lesson the hard way.

It had been suggested that we rent costumes for the show, which we did but we had no intention of buying them, which we did, and then they had to be returned to be resold to another bunch of suckers. That was the blow that took the wind out of our sales(sails) insofar as contracting was concerned.

Our first Street Fair was held on August 24 to 29, 1925 and notwithstanding the fact that it was our first venture along that line, it was quite successful. Since that time we have held Street Fairs from 1926 to 1941, fourteen in all. Material progress has been made in carrying out our plans during the Fair, in that the present equipment consisting of steel stands, tarpaulins, refreshment stands and all necessary equipment and numerous other conveniences enable us to better arrange details of the programs.

However to refresh the minds of the order members and for the information of the younger, turn back with me to the Street Fair of 1927 for a brief inventory of what goes into a real Street Fair and come out at a reasonable profit. These figures are authentic and those of you who were there will recall those days when we used for a week: 247 dozen buns; 250 baskets of groceries; 6000 pounds of sugar; 550 blankets and 140 hams. The invoice from the firm whom we purchased the Bingo supplies and the blankets exceeded the total receipts of the last Fair held in 1941.

Incidentally, in glancing through the invoice of that Fair of 1927 I found a bill for 6 ducks purchased from Tom Linn. Now I recall paying Tom on several occasions, as the check stubs show, for such items as lumber, paint, nails, roofing any many other items which might be found in a well stocked

lumber year. But these ducks have me "downed". I am at a loss to know just where ducks fit into the business or a Street Fair, and I am also curious to learn how or why Tom's ducks made the shore of the Department's property at our expense. Perhaps Firemen Linn can enlighten us and clear the mystery, if nothing more, in self defense.

I also notice that during 14 Street Fair, we had only 5 evenings in 14 years on which we did not operate on account of rain. Quite a record indeed--5 wet nights in 14 years.

The year of 1926 marked an epoch in the history of Burgettstown. During that year, the idea was conceived that city water was no longer a luxury but a necessity. We were informed that Burgettstown would be required to purchase stock in the amount of \$50,000.00. The plan was accepted and the salesman started out. After many solicitations, favorable and otherwise, the sales began to drag. The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department called a special meeting and assumed the then supposed to be an almost insurmountable task of placing the cap-stone on the structure which has since that day become a blessing to everyone within the Borough limits.

Generations yet unborn will reap the fruits of the untiring efforts of faithful fire fighters in that they have through their civic pride and love for the community in which they live, work and play, have been instrumental in having established a water system which has benefited every property owner and individual beyond comprehension. Insurance rates were immediately reduced, fire risks were rendered less hazardous, and thousands of dollars in property, etc., have been saved from flames. The water system in Burgettstown stands forth and will continue to do so as an everlasting monument to the memory of the B. V. F. D.

During the year of 1927, under the leadership of Guy C. Russell, president, it became evident that the organization should have an adopted Constitution and By-laws. The President accordingly appointed C. W. Davidson, James C. Wolfe, and Thomas C. Linn, as a Committee to draft and submit a Constitution and By-Laws in complete form. The Committee in due time presented the required forms ably written and compiled. They were adopted as submitted and to this day with two amendments they serve as code of authority in the parliamentary program of the Department.

Efforts were made in 1927 by the Department to impress upon the surrounding community, the necessity of an adequate water supply and the improvements of roads to reach such a supply. Committees arranged meetings with representatives of the several communities and outlined plans to be followed for improved protection. Sincere enthusiasm was much in evidence at the time but the matter was soon forgotten until the next fire. The older members will recall the fire in an adjoining community, several years ago when practically the entire side of the street was endangered. Driver Lee never relinquished his grip from the wheel of the Stutz, just cruised around from the cistern and well to well--a drop of the suction hose, a twist of the wrist, and at 350 gallons per minute, would soon move on to another cistern. Some of you remember vividly several trips that were made on similar occasions, practically no passable roads, and little or no water, but plenty of rain, snow, ice, mud, glass, tin cans and everything else imaginable in the way--through alleys, over culverts and across backyards. The boys who made those calls on the old Stutz over ground upon which men could scarcely walk, have had unusual experiences, and we think we have it tough today. One of our members with an inventive mind, constructed a "nose bag" which was placed over the nozzle on the suction hose in the water hole. This contraption reduced the hazard somewhat and saved considerable damage to the pump while operating in such locations.

Burgettstown has experienced several disastrous fires with the last two decades or more, all of which, most of us may remember. You will recall the big fire on the West side of Main Street, extending from O. B. Bryte's residence to the home of C. R. Cook, several years before we had modern equipment. The water at that time was supplied by bucket lines from the creek, wells, cisterns, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., and carried to the hand pump which was operated by volunteers. In addition many men were located on dangerous and strategic points on adjoining roofs the water being taken up in buckets by a rope.

Later, we had the Smith Hotel fire and the Jeffrey building both of which seriously threatened the entire business district for a time. The members of our Department fought valiantly at those fires, and with coats covered in ice, they carried on in constant danger until the situation was well in hand and the fire under control. Many other such experiences will be remembered but time will not permit us to relate them to you. We should not be unmindful of the fact that during all these past years of the fact that while being constantly exposed to danger in the line of duty, our men have come through without any serious injury, and

the destinies of men.

In 1929 The Department, at considerable expense, purchases four gas masks of the then latest approved type and an inhalator with all accessories. Beginning April 8, of the same year, first aid instruction was received from a recognized instructor. The members received instruction in the proper use of the gas masks and the inhalator. Since that time the outfit has been used in many cases of pneumonia and carbon monoxide.

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association was formed January 1, 1931, and is now an incorporated association. The officers elected at the first meeting were: G. S. Walters, President; James C. Wolf, Vice President; C. W. Davidson, Secretary; and F. C. Linn, Lee R. McKinney, Guy C. Russell, Hugh Wilson, and W. R. Allison. The Certificate of Incorporation was signed by Hugh R. Wilson, James C. Wolfe and Lee R. McKinney and is recorded in Washington in Book No. 8, Page 473 as of March 10, 1931--Bloom & Bloom Attorneys for the Association.

In the early days after the alarm had been answered, the fire out of danger, and the boys had returned to the fire house, wet and cold, it became the custom to congregate in the kitchen for hot coffee, sandwiches if available. The preparation of the lunch depended upon some of the members who had made the trip and as a result there was considerable delay, before the lunch was ready to serve. It was suggested that someone be appointed who was not a member of the company, or an active member at least, who would arrange to be there when we returned and have the refreshments already prepared. Through some clever strategy on the part of a few, the one Charles L. Dowden was chosen as the man to be in charge. However the records do not indicate as to whether or not the invitation was accepted.

At the regular meeting of the Department on January 11, 1926, our former Secretary C. W. Davidson, appeared on the scene with a box of cigars and graciously passed them out among the members present, with the announcement that he was now the proud father of a baby boy. That baby boy, upon whose advent the cigars were distributed, is now a member of Uncle Sam's Navy--Charles Ray Davidson, age 17 years.

Since the beginning this disconnected scramble of events I find it rather difficult to adhere strictly to day and years in chronological sequence. While attempting to describe slight importance which may or may not prove to be of interest to you. I have no doubt whatever that some of the brethren can recall however, such incidents as the several Secretaries may have intentionally omitted from the record. Unless their extreme modesty should prevail, I might suggest that each be given the opportunity to relate some particular incident or experience which may have crossed his path here on the home grounds, or perhaps in the wilds of far away Clearfield County in early Autumn.

Turning back to 1926, I find some notations and memorandums, marginal references, etc. which I will relate briefly.

August 9, 1926 marks the date of the installation of the telephone in the Council Room, also the day that L. A. Schneider, a Charter Member, resigned from the Department, having accepted a position with the Steubenville Buick.

Chief Nicholls issued an ultimatum on October 11, 1926, informing the members of the Department that city water was not available in the hydrants on Center Avenue, and that it would be the duty of every Fireman to immediately familiarize himself with the intricate mechanism of the hydrants so that there would be no delay in case of fire.

At this meeting, the Fireman out of the goodness of their hearts, decided that they should provide a banquet and invite all who has assisted at the Street Fair held in August of that year. President Dowler appointed Charles W. Westlake, W. R. Jackson and Lee R. McKinney as the Committee to formulate plans and arrange a program suitable for such an occasion. The site selected was The First United Presbyterian Church, and the date November 11, 1926. Entertainment was provided by members of the staff from K. D. K. A. I cannot recall from memory the exact number present but an item available on the check stubs indicates that perhaps 150 sat down together at the banquet table.

This may be off the record but we had at one time and still have several members who long to sing the old songs in that good old fashioned way. They were handicapped by not having an instrument so on November 8, 1926 an instrument was purchased from W. J. Pyle, and with it came a car load of rolls--popular, operatic, symphonic, patriotic, sacred and many other of various tempos.

November 8 1926, a player piano was purchased by W. J. Pyle and with it came a car load of rolls-- popular, operatic, symphonic, patriotic, sacred and many others of various tempos.

One of our Charter Members, self appointed pianist, labored long and faithful at all the meetings tramping out the melodies with full crescendo. Incidentally pianos were later classified among the unmentionables, and any member known to be the least sympathetic, was forthwith severely reprimanded.

The meeting of December 13, 1926, may best be remembered from the fact that it marked the momentous occasion when our good friend and brother firemen, Boyd E. Sloan, was admitted to membership. At this meeting, the new curtain recently purchased, was draped across the end of room, forming a kitchen in the rear. It was rather a coincidence that the kitchen should be set apart on that particular evening unless it was in preparation of a future appointment, that of our new member being selected on the kitchen committee. In passing I noticed that he was listed as a Committee of one, namely the Gas man, and that title he still retains today.

On the evening of February 14, 1927 we set foot for the first time on the new linoleum which covered the entire floor. The meeting opened at the call of the President, Guy C. Russell, transacted the regular business, and was then called from labor to refreshments when the membership partook of such delicate pastries as cookies, pies, cakes, etc., furnished by Miss Ida Proudfit, Mrs. D. C. Dowden, and Mrs. Ralph Hixon. (We have no record as to who supplied the et cetera). From information received which I believe to be reliable, that meeting has never been adjoined to this day.

A few days before the meeting of December 12, 1928, we were shocked to hear that our brother Fireman Robert Robinson, had been seriously wounded while hunting deer, was confined to the hospital and reported to be in fair condition. It was the will of the Great Physician that he be returned to our midst in due time, and we all welcome him home.

The meeting of September 9, 1929 progressing in due and ancient form, when the call was heard for new business, Brother J. Ralph Lee slowly arose from his comfortable chair near the kitchen door, which was his accustomed place during all sessions of the proceedings, executed a half turn on a slow burning Elverso, and formally made the statement that he had a name to propose for membership in the Department, and who would you suppose--no less a personage than our genial President, Earl J. Petrucci, another membership we have never had reasons to regret, notwithstanding the fact that he is now serving his second term as President and I have no doubt that he may be at this very moment, seriously considering a third term.

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department opened an account in the Washington National Bank on January 26, 1923, and as previously stated the first deposit was made by W. D. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Solicitation. Check No. 1 was issued on April 10, 1923 to Edward L. Stone Hardware Co., for 50 feet of roe and the purchase was authorized by Hugh R. Wilson.

Numbered among our first activities was the picture "The Third Alarm" in the Arco Theatre, and the records reveal that 1500 tickets were distributed among the members who were instructed to cover the entire community, door to door, and from authentic reports they evidently did an excellent job. A part of the funds received from the show was used to purchase 36 Firemen's badges and the boys proudly displayed them on the front of their hats.

Many of the improvements were made in the club room from time to time, the cost of which usually was defrayed from some activity held for that particular purpose. On August 17, 1931 a partition was placed between the club room and the kitchen, all labor being furnished by painters, pipe fitters, electricians, advisors, but never the less the wall went up with geometrical precision.

Next came the idea of enclosing the stairway, and that job was no more suggested until it was completed on December 17, 1931, and on the same day, Firemen Sloan, the Gas Man, delivered the furnace which still consumes gas to this day. These hey-days for such good fellow as Boyd Sloan, Tom Linn, Eddie Hamilton, Earl Farner and others. Tom and Eddie blew in on the furnace, then along came Earl Farner with a G. E. Radio on his back, and a bill in his pocket.

But after all the improvements were completed and the many conveniences added, we could well take pride in the fact that we had among our membership, such men, as those with whom we were dealing, after the sale was made, they were always ready and willing to render additional service required.

After 14 years of service to the community, despite severe punishment, the old Stutz Pumper quietly rolled out of town on July 17, 1937 to be succeeded by the new American La-France now in service,

our hope is that it will by service rendered prove to be worthy of its predecessor.

Some years ago the boys were rather inclined to become depressed, with the thought that perhaps they were being forgotten, that a little publicity in moderation might be in keeping with the situation and possibly turn the trick. Some had the silver screen in mind, others had the Press. The screeners finally won the argument and a cameraman was engaged and the setting arranged. At the appointed time, the fire laddies in full fighting regalia came running from all directions, and the camera clicked steadily. In a day the pictures were showing in all the leading Theatres in Burgettstown. Results: Financially, nil; morale, high. That feature held them for a time but soon became restless again, and this time, for publicity in the Pittsburgh Press. By appointment representatives of the Press came to Burgettstown, reporters and photographers, and what a rush for the front seat nearest the camera. First came Driver Lee covering Chair No. 1, followed closely by Ralph Bell and Dud Wilson. John Rankin made the center seat, and next came Win Allison, McKinney, Bob Culley, neck and neck. From the on it was standing room only for Chick Cole, Dan Burns, Tom Linn, Chick Davidson, Jack Culley, Stan Walters, Eddie Hamilton, Clarence Wolfe, Earl Petrucci, John Linn and the Chief of Police George Hannon, with the Stutz and the G. M.C. for the scenic effect. On Wednesday evening, November 29, 1933, the entire group was displayed on the front page of the Pittsburgh Press, with an appropriate article on the activities and requirements of the Department. A copy of that paper reposes in our safe deposit box today.

In March 1936, the Fire Department aided and in a larger sense, may we say sponsored the relief program in connection with the disastrous flood. Cooperating with the other civic organizations and the local Red Cross under the capable leadership of Thomas C. Linn, Chairman, they were instrumental in delivering 27 trucks loads of food and clothing to the stricken areas in New Cumberland, Follansbee, Wellsburg, Martins Ferry and other points. In addition several automobiles were used in transporting supplies to the flooded districts.

The Department cooperating with the Lions Club and the Borough Council, erected the first community Christmas tree on December 25, 1937.

They were instrumental in raising funds by popular subscription to purchase new uniforms for Union High School Band during the year of 1938.

The Department decided in 1939 that all Fireman should appear in full regulation regalia. They accordingly for each member who made the request, on a pre-arranged plan mutually agreed upon by the members of the Department as a whole. New badges were also purchased to grace the lapels of the red coats. As a results the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department on parade with their modern equipment present a challenge to any Department in the Tri-State area, they have returned home from other districts bearing the grand prize in various classifications.

Since the outbreak of the global war which has rocked the nations of the world, many war time activities have been formed and the responsibilities for their operation placed upon the shoulders of every individual regardless of race, creed, or color. Groups all over our land have organized and gone into actions and the home-front now becomes a living reality. Along with the other civic bodies this Department has assumed specific responsibility with a determined will do their utmost in performing any and all duties assigned them, individual and collectively.

Several of our members, through their honest efforts and their persistent desire to benefit others in this crisis, have earned the title Qualified First Aid Instructors, and from Fireman, Edwin Wagner, capable and firm, ably assisted by his co-instructors, a majority of the Firemen have taken First Aid Instruction and now the American National Red Cross, certifying that they have completed the Standard Course in First Aid Instruction. In appreciation of their services rendered to those of us who were members of the class, I wish to publicly thank them now.

The Firemen has sponsored and are now operating with the aid of volunteers, the Observation Post located on the Colteryahn farm. This post is under the command of Fireman Enos Smith, and he is to be commended for his work in that service.

We have invested liberally in United States War Bonds to the extent of curtailing customary local social activities, some of our usual peacetime plan and programs which have been ruled out for the duration and to those members of the Department serving in the armed forces of the United States are: Kenneth L. Smith, Fred R. Smith, John W. Sloan, Thomas A. N. Hindman, M. D., Joseph G. Cook, James C. Wolfe, Fred Vietmeier, Osburn Seagle, Arthur J. Cook, who have gone out from among us to offer their lives,

Page nine

if need be, in this world-wide struggle for freedom and democracy, we have also remembered in a material way.

The Volunteer Fire Department is deserving of special recognition in the promotion of the idea that Burgettstown should have an Honor Roll. The idea soon became a reality and in cooperation with other civic organizations and the Borough Council and the splendid response from the good people of the community, the Honor Roll was formally unveiled with appropriate ceremonies. We are justified in publicly commending them on the results obtained--an Honor Roll Plaque upon which are and will be inscribed the names of those men whom we are reverently salute.

AND MAY ALMIGHTY GOD IN HIS INFINITE GOODNESS GUARD AND PROTECT THEM ALONG THE LINE OF THEIR DUTY IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY, ON THE LAND, IN THE AIR, AND ON THE SEA, AND MAY THAT DAY SOON COME WHEN VICTORY WILL BE OURS, AND THE IMPLEMENTS OF WAR SILENCED, THE DAY WHEN THERE SHALL BE PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

The History of the B.V. F.D. appeared in the Burgettstown Enterprise as a series.

The edition dates are:  
February 25, 1943 Edition  
March 4, 1943 Edition  
March 11, 1943 Edition

## TO AWARD CASH PRIZES AT GRAND HALLOWE'EN PARADE

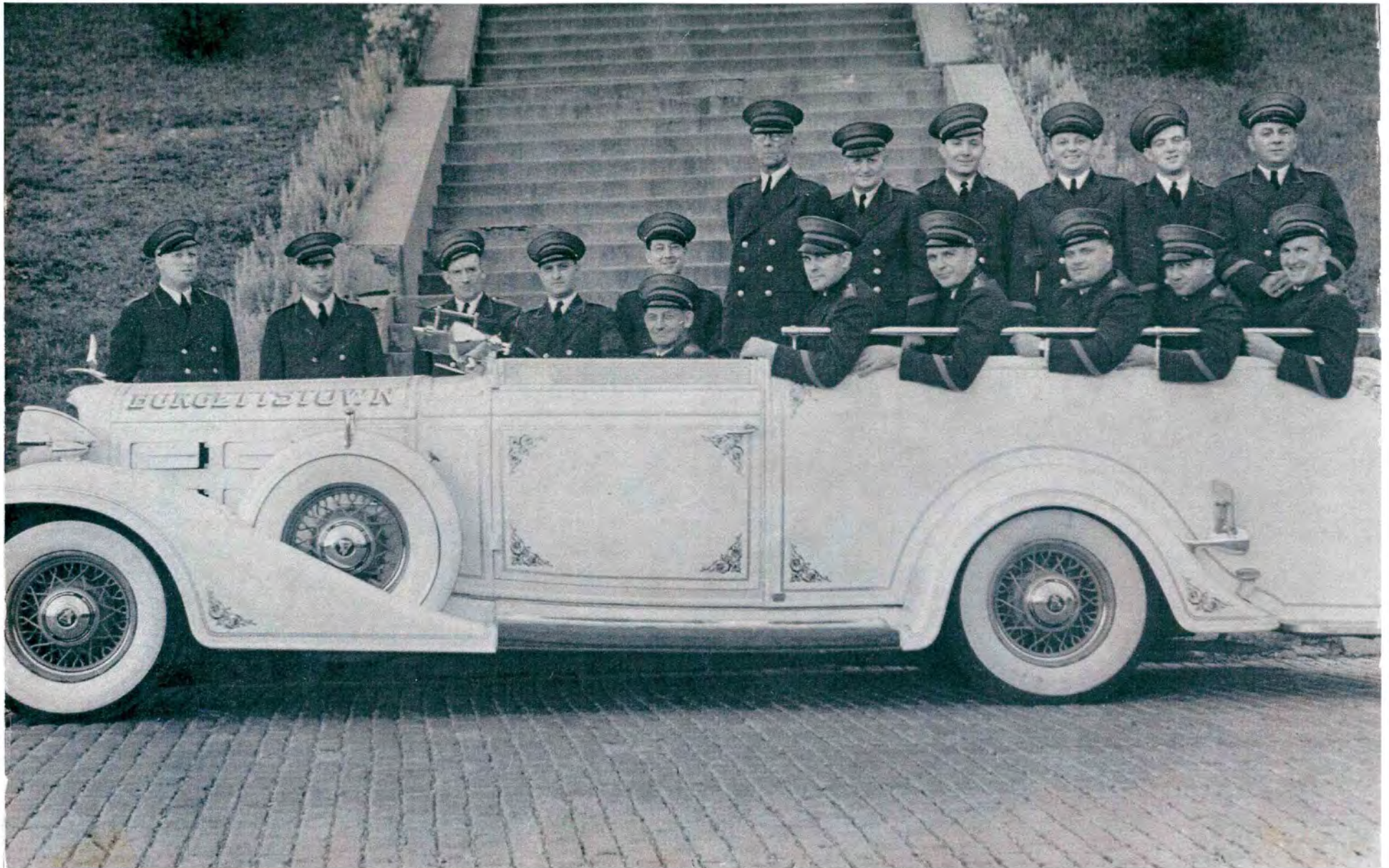
Cash prizes to successful contestants in Burgettstown's gigantic Halloween parade on Wednesday evening October 29, will be awarded, the committee planning for the event reports.

Instead of solicitation of business houses for this year's prizes, cash donations have been received from the Burgettstown Business Men's Association, the Lion's Club and the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department.

Prizes will be awarded as follows: Grand prize, \$10.00; second prize, \$5.00; third prize, \$3.00 and six prizes of \$2.00 each.

Harry L. Tennyson is chairman for the event and is being assisted by Sam Broida, representing the Business men; Cliff Carmichael of the Fire Department and Edward Hamilton of the Lion's club.

The line of march will form at Market street, South Burgettstown, at six o'clock, with members of the Fire Department acting as parade marshalls. Led by the Union high school band, the Mummers will march to the Parking lot, where a Judges' stand will be erected. Judges for the Masquerade contestants will be E. S. Wheeler, president of the Lion's club Kenneth Smith, representing the Fire Department and Ray Simpson, president of the Business Men's Association.



### **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-1939**

First Row: Bob Hemphill, Kenny Smith, Cliff Carmichael, Jim Longo, Boyd Sloan, Sap Fulton, Leister Neil, Vance Farulli, Eto Maroni, Paul Longnecker. Second Row: Earl (Peachie) Petrucci, Dave Martin, John Rankin, George Wagner, Bill Stewart, Bill Davis, Earl Clair.

*Courtesy of Carol and Kenny Dennis*





**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department  
1957 Mack Fire Engine No.1-Purchased for \$17,000**



Scenes such as this may be seen here later this summer. This picture was published on September 11, 1958, after the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department won the Washington County "battle of the barrel" championship for

the second time. Shown holding the championship trophy are Kenneth Scott, chief, and Walter "Buzz" Farner, captain. Other firemen in the photo are Bob Farner, John Sanders and Jim Burns.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-"Battle of the Barrel"  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 12, 1965 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**1961 Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company  
Honoring members with Twenty or more years of Service**

Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company who have served with the company twenty years or more assembled at a table for this picture taken Saturday night at their annual banquet. Pictures in the photograph and standing are, left to right: Henry Vega, Phil Gray, Vance Farulli, Austin Studa, Ed Wagner, John Linn, Earl Petrucci, Eto Maroni, and George Wagner. Those sitting are, left to right: Clarence Wolfe, Tom Linn, Lee R. McKinney, Ed Hamilton, Clyde Smith and J.R. Lee.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Rt. 18 Looking south at Bridge Street**



**Rt. 18 looking North  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Rt. 18 South, Burgettstown, PA  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Intersection of Bridge Street and Rt. 18 N, Burgettstown, PA  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Railroad bridge near Bridge Street and Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Cowboys Bar Parking area and Manges Buildings, Main Street  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**





**Burgettstown Boro and Maintenance Buildings  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Main Street, near Dinsmore Avenue Bridge  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Clean up brings, BVFD checking equipment  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Side view of B.V.F.D.**



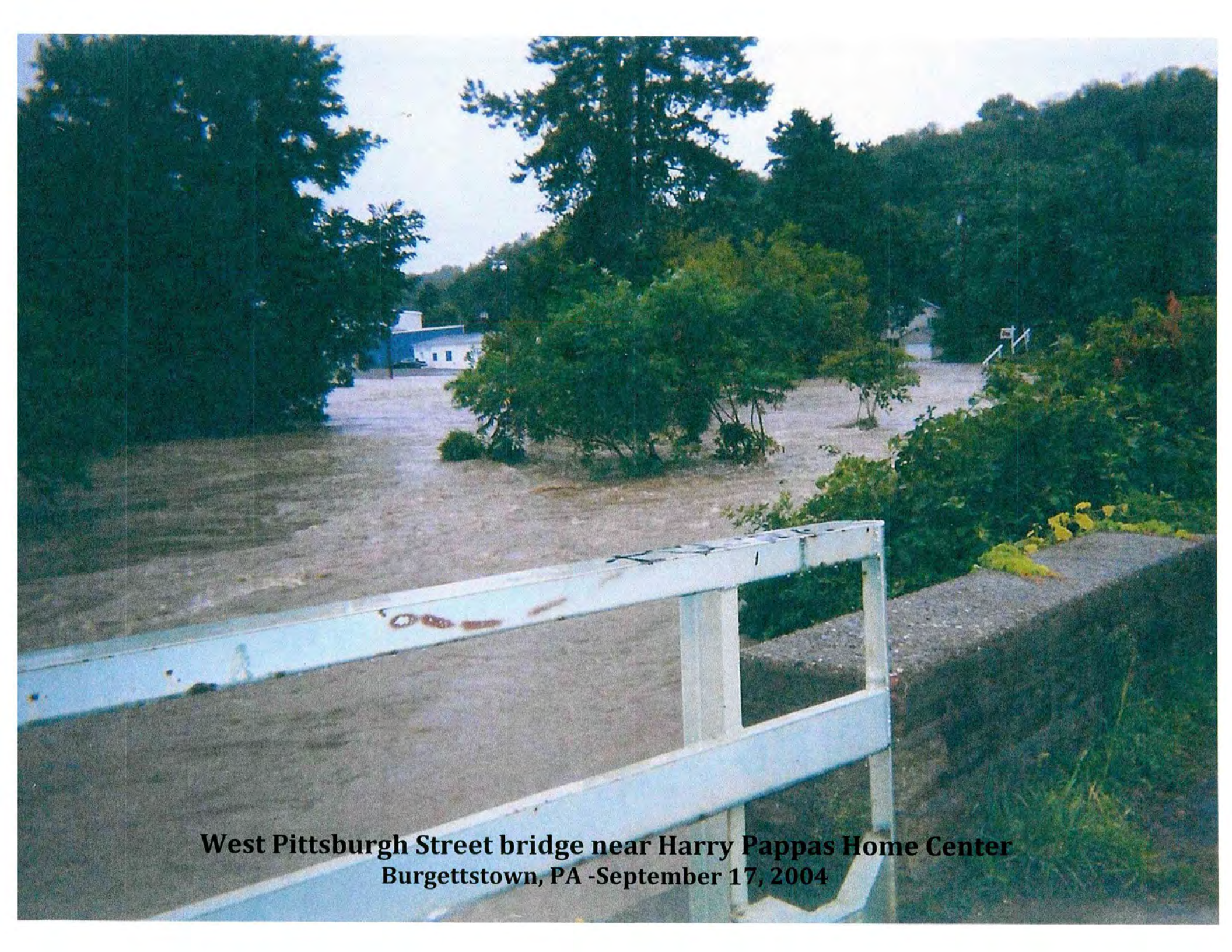
**Family Dollar parking lot in Burgettstown, PA  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Family Dollar parking lot in Burgettstown, PA  
September 17, 2004 Hurricane Ivan Flood**



**Rite Aid parking lot.  
Burgettstown, PA -September 17, 2004**



**West Pittsburgh Street bridge near Harry Pappas Home Center  
Burgettstown, PA -September 17, 2004**



**West Pittsburgh Street bridge near Harry Pappas Home Center  
Burgettstown, PA -September 17, 2004**





**Harry Pappas Home Center**  
Burgettstown, PA -September 17, 2004



**Fireman, Dan Castellino helping with clean-up  
Harry Pappas Home Center  
Burgettstown, PA -September 17, 2004**



**View from Fire Department to creek area**



**View from Fire Department to Senior Citizen's Center**

**Burgettstown Flood-September 17, 2004**

## 57 FIRE COMPANIES WILL MARCH IN PARADE FRI. EVE.

Fifty-seven visiting volunteer fire companies will march in the Fourteenth annual parade of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department next Friday evening, as the outstanding event of the Annual Street Fair. The Fair will begin Wednesday, June 25, and will continue through to Saturday. Lester Neil, chairman of arrangements requests that all firemen report for duty in the parking lot on Saturday at one o'clock to help erect stands. Rain date for the parade has been set for Saturday, June 28.

The Union high school band will lead the parade, followed by the local firemen. In the line of march will be 7 bands, 1 drum and bugle corps, 2 drill teams, 9 drum corps and 38 pieces of equipment.

Acceptances have been received from the following companies:

### Bands

Arnold, Oakdale, Imperial, Finleyville, Chicora, Perryopolis and Burgettstown.

### Equipment

Bellevue, Tiltonville O, Universal, Neville Island, Vanport, Lower Burrell Twp., Stratton, Ohio, Heidelberg, Baldwin No. 1, Harmer Twp., Monaca, Washington Twp., W. Elizabeth, Sewickley Twp., Lincoln Park, Bridgeville, Patton Twp., New Eagle West Newton, Masontown, Wellsville, O., Mingo Jct., O., Homeville, Mt. Oliver, Ross Twp., Versailles Twp., Diltonville, Slovan, Bentleyville, McDonald, Evans City, Chester, W. Va, Canonsburg, S. Bethlehem, Avella, Toronto, O., St. Clairsville, O, Fairview.

### Drill Teams

West Homestead, Yorkville, Ohio.

### Drum Corps

Fayette City, S. Fayette, Turtle Creek, 75 girls, Broughton, 67 girls, Eden Park, Newell, W. Va., Whitaker, Houston and Dunbar.

Also one Drum and Bugle Corps from Crescent Township.

**57 Fire Companies Will March in Parade**

Burgettstown Enterprise, June 19, 1944 Edition

# STREET FAIR OPENED WITH BOOSTER CROWD

Local Firemen Start Week of Annual  
Entertainment Under Fairly  
Favorable Auspices

The first night of the seventh annual street fair of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department on Monday was attended with fair success, there being in attendance a good crowd for a first night. Indications point to a week of reasonably good business for the fire laddies, barring bad weather.

The various booths have been attractively arranged and are in condition to operate on a large scale. Stands are manned as follows: Canes, S. W. Piersol; target, George Hannan; cigarettes, W. R. Allison; kiddie toys, B. L. Hughey; blankets, C. Westlake; bingo, Jas. Longo; sugar, Earl Petrucci; groceries, Austin Studer; lamps, Ed Hamilton; china, T. Linn; novelties, Bert Russell.

The entertainment for the remainder of the week will be provided as follows: This (Thursday) evening, Stiffler's old time fiddlers, with an excellent program; Friday evening, concert by the Union high school orchestra; Saturday evening, concert by Union high school brass band. All of these attractions will be of high order and should be largely attended. The concerts are given between 7 and 8 o'clock each evening.

Some nice gifts of furniture and other useful articles are being distributed every evening. These are given out merely as attendance tokens and are not handled through purchases or on any lottery plan. The presents already given out illustrate the fine line of merchandise the firemen is giving away to their patrons.

The work of the fair is in charge of a number of committees which are headed by Oscar Jackson as general chairman and Boyd E. Sloan, assistant general chairman. Every member of the fire department is devoting all his time to the annual event and working hard to make a success of the venture. Full support of the people of the entire community may be given the street fair in the knowledge that a worthy local institution is being helped.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Street Fair**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 27, 1931**



**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department  
American La France**



**Annual Burgettstown Firemen's Christmas Tree**  
**Buzz Farner, Fire Chief**  
**Main Street, Burgettstown**

Annual Street Fair of Local Fire  
Department is Attended by  
Fairly Good Success

The seventh annual street fair and bazaar held by the members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department came to a close on Saturday night of last week, with all members of the department working hard and the people of the community responding in a way that indicated full loyalty to the department, even in the midst of economic depression.

During the week a reasonably fair business was done by the fair, and one night, Wednesday, was lost by rain. This loss of one night recalls the fact that only once before in the seven years had a night been lost by rain. The night in question was on Thursday, in the year 1928. During the other five years good weather prevailed throughout entire weeks.

On Saturday evening of the present year the firemen registered a "good break," with an enormous crowd present and considerable activity at the various stands and booths. Not nearly as much money was taken in as in any former year, but the returns were good considering the times and the firemen realized some little profit which will come in convenient in the adjustment of miscellaneous expenses of the department.

As has been stated, the firemen had considered abandoning the fair and bazaar project this year on account of unemployment prevailing so generally throughout the district for a long time. But upon due consideration it was decided to go ahead as in former years, without interruption, and take chances on results. As it developed, the chances turned out reasonably well and while the event was not a big financial success it did a trifle better than an even break and came through equal to expectations.

The firemen are grateful to all who assisted in keeping alive their time-honored institution. The people are commended for doing all they were able to help the firemen earn some needed money.

**Firemen Get "Breaks" with Annual Bazaar  
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 3, 1931 Edition**



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
HONOR ROLL LAG  
SEND YOURS TODAY**

If you have laid aside the stamped return envelope left at your home recently by the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department, get it out pronto, put your contribution for Burgettstown Community permanent honor roll inside and mail it today to Clarence Wolfe, treasurer at the Citizen's National Bank.

Members of the Burgettstown Fire Department, to date have received contributions totalling \$550. Their goal, to provide a memorial worthy of the men who served in two World Wars, from this district, is \$2500.

A generous offer has been made by Harmon Creek Coal Company officials who have promised to landscape the honor roll plot, after the Granite memorial is erected. The Memorial will be placed on the triangular borough owned plot of ground near the public library and Burgettstown grade school.

Treasurer Wolfe received a contribution from the U.M.W. of A. at Francis Mine on Wednesday, a check of \$50.

Mail those contributions, whatever you can afford to give, large or small, today, to the Treasurer, so that the committee can proceed with this project.

**Contributions for Honor Roll Lag, Send yours Today  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 12, 1948 Edition**

## Peppy's Restaurant, Apartments, Bar, Gutted By Early Thursday Morning Fire



### Arson Suspected In Local Blaze

Arson is suspected in a spectacular fire that gutted the Peppy's Restaurant building and an adjoining bar and apartment early Thursday morning.

The State Police Fire Marshal is investigating the circumstances of the blaze.

According to Walter "Buzz" Farner, Fire Chief of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company, the fire was spotted at approximately 11:30 p.m. by his son, Walter Farner, Jr., at the same time the alarm was sounded by Burgettstown Police.

Firemen from Burgettstown and Sloan worked for hours battling the flames, and it was not until 3:00 p.m. that the fire was finally brought under control. The firemen finally left the scene at 5:00.

Farner said there was a "strong smell" of gasoline on the premises, giving rise to suspicion of arson.

No one was injured, he reported. Farner said the fire started in the back side of the roof of Peppy's Restaurant building.

The local fire chief, who estimated damage at "at least \$100,000," said the apartment above Peppy's was completely gutted. The downstairs portion, or restaurant, section of the building suffered heavy damages from smoke and water, and the ceiling collapsed early Thursday.

In the adjoining Ruth's Bar building, the upper story apartment was burned out, and the bottom floor also suffered heavy smoke and water damages.

Peppy's Restaurant was owned for many years by the late Ralph (Peppy) Farulli and his wife, Ann. Recently Mrs. Farulli sold the building and restaurant to Joseph Markus, of Hanlin Station. Markus operated the restaurant for approximately three months, closing it about a month ago.

Ruth's Bar was owned by Ruth Pierce, of Frankfort Springs. The building itself is owned by Mrs. John L. Brunner, of Burgettstown.

**Peppy's Restaurant-Arson Suspected**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 17, 1983 Edition**

**B. V. F. D. BENEFIT MOVIE**

Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department are selling tickets this week for a benefit movie, "Remember the Night", featuring Barbara Stanwyck and Fred McMurray, at the Keith Theatre, Friday evening, April 26. The firemen are raising money for their street fair to be held June 24 to 27.

## Little Boy Lost In Area Strip Pits

A little lost boy who saw "fire, rocks, and Humpty-Dumpty's house" was safe in the arms of his mother late Monday afternoon, after a three-hour search by friends, neighbors, high school students, the Burgettstown firemen, and other volunteers. Little Brian Moran, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Moran, of 24 Tenan street, was found near the strip mine pits, after wandering from his home while at play.

R.L. Kum, foreman for the Penn-Weir Strip Operators, unaware that the child was missing, looked up from his work and saw the tot standing along the road to the Goodwill Hunting and Fishing Club, in the strip mine area near Florence. He had wandered nearly three miles from his home. Upon his return, little Brian related that he had seen fire and rocks and Humpty's-Dumpty's house. The fire could have been the mine fire that is burning in the area, and the rocks were undoubtedly the high walls and spoil piles of the strip operations. Humpty-Dumpty's house remains a mystery.

Brian and his brother, Shawn, who is almost six years old, and a little neighborhood playmate, Michael Kowalski, also six, were playing near their home on Tenan street about 1 o'clock Monday afternoon. Michael, whose mother is a patient in Mercy hospital, was a luncheon guest of the two Moran boys. When Mrs. Moran called to them about 1:45, the two older boys explained that they had "sent Brian home."

were playing near their home on Tenan street about 1 o'clock Monday afternoon. Michael, whose mother is a patient in Mercy hospital, was a luncheon guest of the two Moran boys. When Mrs. Moran called to them about 1:45, the two older boys explained that they had "sent Brian home."

Brian, who was too young to be familiar with the surroundings at the end of the street, had apparently started home in the wrong direction, and became lost. When neighbors failed to locate the boy, Mrs. Moran, whose husband was also a patient in Mercy hospital, called Burgettstown firemen, and the search was on.

Mr. Kum brought the boy to Burgettstown, where police and firemen called the distraught mother. A reunion of mother and son took place in front of the Burgettstown Enterprise office at about 4:30 p.m. three hours after the boy disappeared.

**Brian Moran Lost in Area Strip Pits**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-April 11, 1963 Edition**

## Burgettstown Vol. Fire Co. Elects August Repole Pres.; Committees For '55 Appointed

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company held its annual meeting in the firehouse on Monday evening, January 10 at which time officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, August Repole; Vice President, Robert Bent; Treasurer, Lee R. McKinney; Secretary, Lester Neil; Chief, Kenneth Scott; Trustees C. B. Smith, Walter Farner and Jacob Schneider, Jr.; Relief Association, 3 years-Earl Petrucci and Lee R. McKinney.

Chief Scott appointed Lester Neil, assistant chief and issued a request that all members attend the Fire School now being held in the firehouse every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Chief Scott appointed the following officers to serve in 1955: Hose captain, William Addington; Lieutenant, Jacob Schneider, Jr.; Engine Captain, James Dellaria; Lieutenant, Walter Farner; First Aid-Captain, August Repole, Lieutenant, Eugene Povero; Fire Police, Earl Farner, C. B. Smith, Eto Maroni, Robert Bent, James Wagner, Edward Welsh, Jacob Schneider, Jr. and Lester Neil.

President Repole appointed the following committees:

Ways and Means: Edward Welsh, chairman; Arthur Simpson, Dene Bertrand, Robert Robinson, Jr., William Addington and Jacob Schneider, Jr.

Refreshment: Walter Farner, chairman; C. B. Smith and James Wagner.

Purchasing Committee: Kenneth Scott, Lester Neil and Robert Bent.

Banquet: A. J. Fulton, Earl Petrucci and Phil Gray.

The Burgettstown company answered 49 calls in 1954, 26 in the Borough and 17 in Smith township, 4 in Hanover township and 2 in Jefferson township.

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## Firemen Called To Duty At Scrapyard



Burgettstown Firemen were called to the Snyder Scrapyard Thursday afternoon when a drum containing grease and oil ignited.

Large billows of black smoke quickly filled the skies.

This was the scene when the firemen first arrived at the site of the blaze. The flames were extinguished within a half hour.

(Enterprise photo)

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department Called to Snyder Scrap Yard  
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 6, 1968 Edition**



**Fire next to Figley's Feed Store**  
**Notice the "Speed Limit 35"**  
**Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



FIREMEN'S  
**CHRISTMAS  
DANCE**

SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 1956

LANGELOTH COMMUNITY CENTER  
LANGELOTH, PA.

Johnny Cimino & His 12 Piece Orchestra

DOOR PRIZE — \$25 SAVINGS BOND

*Sponsored By*

*BURGETTSTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.*

DANCING 9:30 to 1

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-Christmas Dance**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-December 20, 1956 Edition**

## Clark Hotel Is Guttled By Disastrous Fire, Saturday Afternoon Believe Blaze Was Started At Rear Of Building By Burning Rubbish



Reporter Photo

Burning of rubbish at the rear of the building, is believed to have started a disastrous fire in the heart of the Burgettstown business section last Saturday afternoon that completely gutted the 14 room Clark hotel. Joseph Ranovich, owner estimates his loss at nearly \$25,000.00 which is covered by less than \$14,000 fire insurance, and Angelo Nardo, proprietor of the hotel and lessee from Mr. Ranovich estimates his loss of equipment at \$20,000.

Quick response to the fire alarm, which summoned Burgettstown, Slovan, Midway and McDonald Volunteer companies and efficient work by the fire fighters held the blaze to the hotel building's three floors and prevented it from spreading to other frame business establishments, adjacent, which could have destroyed the whole block.

The only occupant of a bed room Bud Crosby, Aliquippa mill worker, crawled to safety over an adjoining roof. The other bed rooms were unoccupied at the time of the fire.

Fire Chief Phil Gray directed activities of the fire companies. Eight streams of water were used on the fire and traffic was halted and rerouted by Chief of Police Henry Vega, assisted by State Police from the Washington barracks.

Mr. Gray reported that the fire evidently started from a burning pile of rubbish at the rear of the building and was not discovered until 2:30 p.m., when it had spread through the rear portion to the roof.

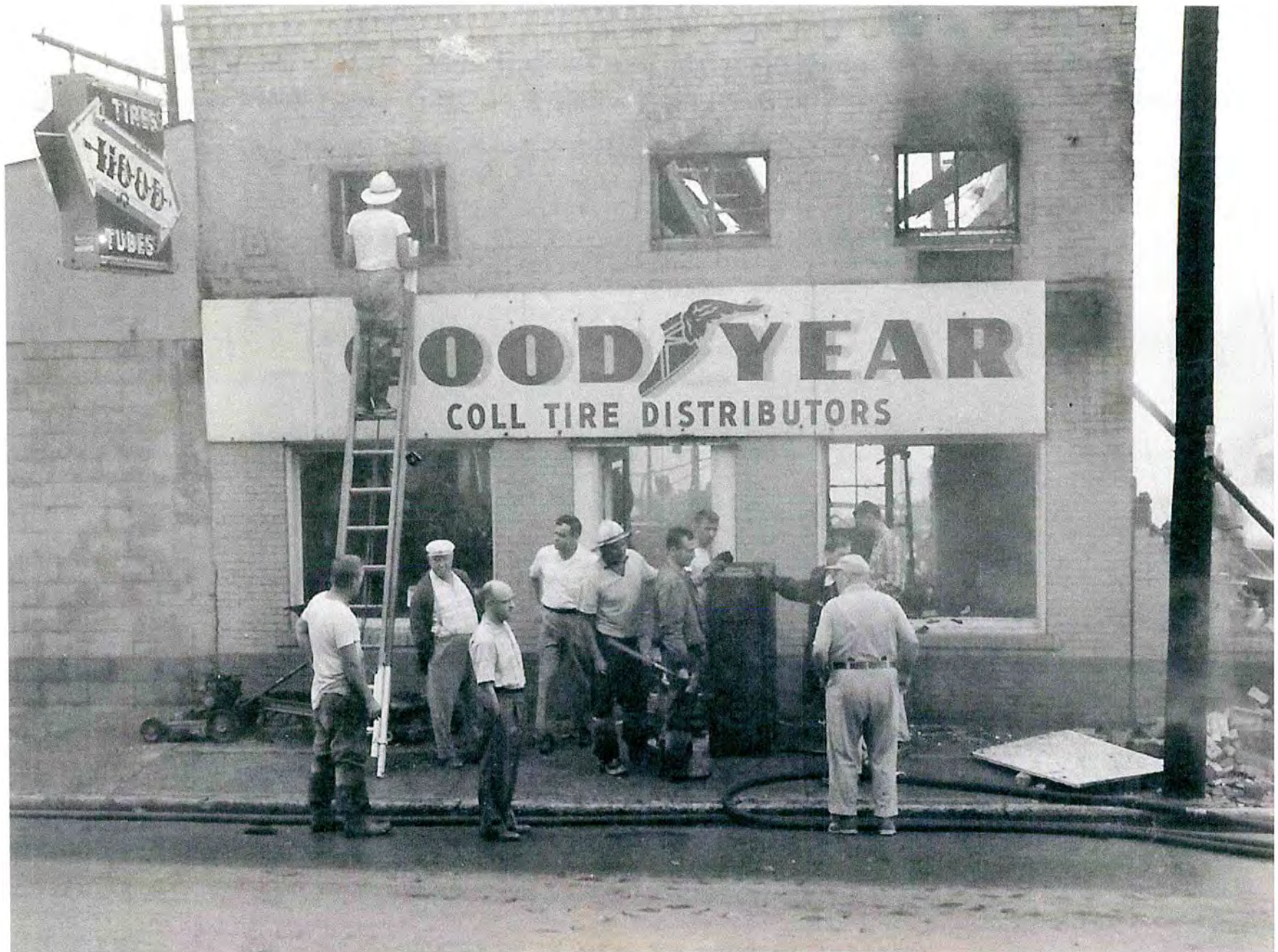
Two rooms, second floor front were the only rooms to escape fire damage and the remainder of the building was entirely gutted by the fire, including the tap room

operated by Nardos, which, recently remodeled, runs the full length of the building on the first floor.

Mr. Ranovich, the owner, it is reported, had recently cancelled insurance policies which would have helped to cover his big loss. He is undecided at the present time as to whether he will rebuild the structure.

The Clark Hotel was remodeled this past summer, and the old wood front made way for a new stone facing. Other improvements were made to the building, to accommodate transient travelers in this area. The Clark hotel, one of the older buildings in the main business section of Burgettstown had been operated as a hotel for nearly half a century. It was formerly owned and operated by Dr. Clark, well known dentist who retired several years ago and now lives in California.

**Clark Hotel is Guttled by Disastrous Fire**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-October 30, 1952 Edition**



**Volunteer Firemen Work Quickly & Expertly; Five Companies Battle Disastrous Fire  
Burgettstown, Slovan, Avella, Hickory, and McDonald Volunteer Fire Departments  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition**

## Volunteer Firemen Work Quickly & Expertly; Five Companies Battle Disastrous Fire



James Coll, owner of Coll Tire Distributors and the Coll Furniture Co. of Burgettstown announced Tuesday that the Coll re-capping plant which was destroyed by fire at midnight, Monday, will be re-built immediately. The most disastrous fire to hit the Burgettstown area in a decade completely destroyed the plant, which has furnished employment for sixty local people. The fire loss was variously estimated at close to a quarter of a million dollars.

**Volunteer Firemen Work Quickly & Expertly; Five Companies Battle Disastrous Fire**  
**Burgettstown, Slovan, Avella, Hickory, and McDonald Volunteer Fire Departments**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition**



**Smoldering Ruins all that's Left of Coll Tire Plant  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition**

# SMOULDERING RUINS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF COLL TIRE PLANT



**Smoldering Ruins all that's Left of Coll Tire Plant  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition**



### **These Fire Laddies worked All Night**

Burgettstown firemen take a breather early Tuesday morning after having spent the night battling the Coll fire. Those shown are (first row, l-r) Tom Vajentic, Jake Schneider, John Marcucci, John Pusateri, and Kenny Dennis; (second row, l-r) Lester Neil, Ray Farner, Joseph Gavatorta, Fire Chief Buzz Farner, Ken Scott, and John Maroni.

**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition**

# THESE FIRE LADDIES WORKED ALL NIGHT



Burgettstown firemen take a breather early Tuesday morning after having spent the night battling the Coll fire. Those shown are (first row, l. to r.) Tom Vajentic, Jake Schneider, John Marcucci, John Pusateri and Kenny Dennis; (second row, l. to r.) Lester Neil Ray Farner, Joseph Gavatorra, Fire Chief Buzz Farner, Ken Scott and John Maroni.

**These Fire Laddies worked All Night**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition**



James Coll, owner of Coll Tire Distributors and the Coll Furniture Co. of Burgettstown announced Tuesday that the Coll re-capping plant which was destroyed by fire at midnight, Monday, will be re-built immediately. The most disastrous fire to hit the Burgettstown area in a decade completely destroyed the plant, which has furnished employment for sixty local people. The fire loss was variously estimated at close to a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Coll assembled his associates at an emergency meeting on Tuesday afternoon and plans were immediately drafted to continue the business in temporary quarters until new buildings can be erected. A crane moved in Wednesday morning to begin clearing out the debris, in preparation for re-building.

Temporary quarters were established Wednesday in the Coll Annex across from the furniture store on North Main street where the records of the company, which were saved from the fire were installed. Telephones and business machines were set in so that the office routine of the plant may continue uninterrupted. Mr. Coll has also rented the ice house on Market street, and the Boni building on Main street where retail phases of the business will be carried on.

Coll, largest tire re-capping business in the tri-state district supplied more than 450 district agents. Business associates of Mr. Coll have offered their facilities to continue the re-capping phase of the business until new buildings and machines can be put into use.

Fire broke out in the plant at 12:20 Tuesday, shortly after the midnight shift had taken over. It is said to have been caused when a can of solvents was spilt. The liquid tire cleaning fluid seeped into the basement, splashing against a hot water tank and ignited. Employees were unable to snuff this blaze, and in seconds the whole plant was a holocaust of fire, which burned steadily for several hours.

Five fire companies answered the call within minutes, Burgettstown, Slovan, Avella, Hickory and McDonald, with more than 100 firemen reporting for duty.

The county fire radio network, recently installed was instrumental in bringing quick aid by the fire companies. A six man detachment of state police was put on duty, who worked throughout the night rerouting route 18 traffic.

Great credit and praise was heaped upon the volunteer firemen who worked unstintingly to stop the fire. They were successful in confining the flames to the Coll buildings, saving a nearby garage and Robinson Pop buildings, adjacent. The Coll plant was reduced

to rubble, and all buildings and equipment are said to be a total loss. The fire broke out again, at 6 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, requiring a return of the Burgettstown fire company. The ruins were still smoldering on Wednesday. The firemen were again recalled Wednesday morning to stop another outburst.

The new Coll addition, recently completed was also destroyed by the intense heat.

Tim Vincent, a Coll employee suffered leg and foot burns; Harry Pappas, volunteer fireman ran a nail through his hand; Chuck Neil suffered burns of the hands and Tom Vajentic was bruised when a timber fell on his ankle.

Fire Chief Walter Farnier directed operations at the scene of the fire and was loud in praise of the valiant efforts of the fire crews.

Coll Tire Distributors was founded by Mr. Coll's father, the late James Coll, during World War II, when rubber, vitally necessary to the war effort, was placed first on priority lists. Mr. Coll set up a tire re-capping operation in a small building on North Main st., in 1938 to manufacture re-capped tires. James Coll later came into the business with his father and through the years has expanded and developed the plant, until it is one of the most staple industries in Raccoon Valley.

He kept increasing his crew until his payroll today includes sixty employees. He has further spread out into the retail business and conducts a furniture store in Burgettstown, a retail outlet at the plant, and is the owner of the Mac Brown store in Aliquippa. His fleet of trucks, loaded with re-capped and new tires, making deliveries at 450 branch agents, is a familiar sight in the tri-state area.

A recent innovation in the Coll industry was its entry into the industrial field, where all types of new and re-capped tires were marketed to large industries.

Mr. Coll stated Tuesday that his loss was partially covered by insurance.

"Pepe" Farulli, owner of Pepe's Restaurant supplied the firemen with coffee and doughnuts, as they worked to put out the fire.

## Coll Tire Distributors Begin Re-Building of Burned Plant Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1959 Edition

## **Burgettstown Tire Firm Hit By Fire**

BURGETTSTOWN—Fire broke out early Tuesday in the Coll Tile Distributors building on Main street here. First reports were that the fire was of major proportions.

Four fire companies and a resuscitator were called to the blaze. Spectators said flames were leaping more than 40 feet into the air.

The Burgettstown fire company went to the scene at 12:40 a.m. The Slovan, Avella and McDonald departments also were called to assist.

**Coll Tire Hit by Fire**  
**Observer-Reporter-July 29, 1959 Edition**

# COMMUNITY WILL HONOR MEMORY OF WAR HEROS ON MEMORIAL DAY

Burgettstown Community will pay tribute to the men from the district who have been reported either killed or missing since Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, at the annual Memorial Day service at Fairview cemetery, conducted by the American Legion on Monday after noon.

The Legion will be assisted at this fifth annual memorial service by members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department, Solvan Volunteer Fire Department. The Tuesday Music Club, Union High school band and other Community Organizations. The service will begin at the Burgettstown Honor Roll at 3 p. m., with the selection, "America, the Beautiful" by the Tuesday Music Club. The parade will then form,

led by Union band and march to Fairview cemetery where a memorial service will be held.

District youth who have been reported killed or missing are: George Loraski, Joffre; Warren E. Ager, of Francis, Mine; Eli Vladich, Slovan; Clay McCarty, Cross Creek; Donald and Leonard LeCouvre, Bulger; Louis A. Lovin, Francis Mine; Michael Raymond Saska, Bertha; John H. Melvin, Langeloth; Benny Navage, Francis Mine; Edward Bish, Burgettstown; Michael Kucher, Francis Mine; George Yanek, Langeloth; John Brun Bulger; Howard A. Ferguson, Midway; Donald Fulton and Ernest N. Speer, Florence.

Memorial day services will be as follows:

America The Beautiful	Tuesday Music Club
Parade will leave Honor Roll Plaque at Burgettstown at 3:30 p. m.	
Assembly Call	Comrade Leo Sams
Star Spangled Banner	By The Assembly
Introduction of Officer of the Day	Dr. A. O. Hindman
Officer of the Day	Past Commander Dr. George L. McKee
Invocation	Rev. William J. McCashin
Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church	
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address	Ann Smith
Special Music	Union High School Band
In Flanders Field	Mary Marcus
God Bless America	Union High School Band
Address	John A. Stoup
Waynesburg, Pennsylvania	
American Legion Service	Officers
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag	By The Assembly
Finlandia	Tuesday Music Club
America	Union High School Band
Closing Prayer	Rev. Leslie Van Inwegan
Pastor Langeloth United Presbyterian Church	

## COUNCIL APPROVES BORO ZONING FOR GEN. FIRE ALARM

At the request of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department, represented by Fire Chief Earl Farner, members of Borough council in regular session, Monday evening, voted to purchase for the sum of \$35 an automatic electric switch for general fire alarm purposes. It is the plan of the Fire Department to divide Burgettstown Borough into Zones, so that the fire alarm, when sounded will inform members of the department just what part of town the fire is located in. It is believed the zoning of the town and use of a general fire alarm will aid in more quickly combatting fires.

A delegation of citizens, including Steve Dugas, Dushan Nicksick, Tony Plate, John Kinkella and Charles Mader attended the Council session and asked the cooperation of Burgettstown in securing a project to straighten and clean Raccoon Creek. A motion was passed to secure complete information from the Department of Health and from the Department of Forests and Waters as to what can be done to accomplish such a project. A report on this matter will be made at the May meeting of the Borough Fathers.

Dr. A. W. Hopper, Washington and Greene County Representative of the State Department of Health was present and laid before Council sanitary rules and regulations of the State Department of Health for Boroughs. Dr. Hopper stated there must be five members of the Health Board, including one Physician and that the health officer, appointed at a salary of \$20 a month cannot be a member of the Board. The Health officer and secretary must be two separate individuals, contrary to the present arrangement in Burgettstown, where both jobs are held by Samuel DeWalt. The Secretary, hired at a salary of \$10 a month must make a report on contagious diseases to the County Board every week. Heretofore such a report has not been made. Restaurants must be inspected once a month and an annual report must be sent to Harrisburg.

Dr. Hopper reported that the Secretary must qualify for his job by attending the state school of instruction for one month each year. This school is held free of charge by the state at either Cresson or Mount Alto in May or June.

Dr. Hopper recommended that certain alleys in the Borough needed cleaning up and stressed the fact that the Board of Health and Council both should cooperate in a borough wide general spring clean-up.

George Kelly of Center avenue was again present and requested that Council take immediate action on his request to close the gutter opening at the rear of the Maurey property on Center avenue, which Mr. Kelly contends is a hazard to pedestrians. Mr. Kelly stated if this matter was not attended to within the next month, he would take legal action. Secretary Whalen was instructed to write to C. W. Groves of the Pennsylvania railroad, requesting the railroad to put ties and planks across this opening to eliminate the pedestrian hazard.

A motion was passed for Council to borrow \$2000 from the Washington National Bank for a period of 60 days, to be paid when June tax receipts come in.

Burgess Bender reported the collection of \$129 in fines and permits during the month of March.

The street commissioner discussed the possibility of securing a scraper to smooth red dog streets in the Borough, prior to oiling.

The members discussed the purchase of a new truck, on a trade-in for the 1939 truck now in use by the street commissioners. Inasmuch as the cost of the new truck, plus the trade-in value of the truck now in use, was estimated to be under \$500, members decided not to advertise for bids, as has been the custom, but instructed the proper committee to inquire into the matter and report at the next meeting.

## THREE FIRE COMPANIES BATTLE FLAMES THAT DAMAGED HISTORIC CROSS CREEK CHURCH

The bell tower of historic Cross Creek Presbyterian Church was completely destroyed and the surrounding roof burned Sunday afternoon in a fire which threatened to consume the entire brick church.

Fire companies of Burgettstown, Slovan and Avella fought the blaze for more than two hours. Neighbors and volunteers of the congregation hauled water in milk cans and other containers to supply water to fight the blaze.

Cause of the fire has not been determined.

A fire alarm was sent out at 1:30 p.m. The interior of the main auditorium was not damaged but the ceiling was badly water soaked. The church carries insurance but the extent of damage has not yet been estimated.

The bell in the tower is operated by hand and the entire tower structure fell from the church roof as it burned.

The Cross Creek congregation is one of the oldest in Washington County, having been organized in 1779. The present church building was erected in 1878. The congregation was formed when the Cross Creek and Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Churches extended a call to Rev. Joseph Smith to serve both congregations. At that time a log church was built. The two congregations had promised to pay Mr. Smith 75 pounds a year and at one time were three years behind in payment. It was necessary to have flour milled and shipped to New Orleans, a hazardous trip in the pioneer era, to raise money for the minister's salary.

Mr. Shane announced Sunday night that the Thanksgiving service scheduled for Wednesday evening will be held

**Three Fire Companies Battle Flames that Damaged  
Historic Cross Creek Church  
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 28, 1946 Edition**

### **FIREMEN ELECT OFFICERS FOR '42**

Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department held their annual meeting in the club rooms, Borough building, on Monday evening. Reports from officers for the year just ended were read. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Earl Petrucci; chief, Earl Farner; vice, Blake Miller; secretary, John L. Culley; treasurer, Lee R. McKinney.

A special meeting of the group has been called for Monday evening, January 19, when a first aid team and auxiliary firemen will be organized to assist with Civilian Defense. All members are requested to be present.

—v—

## Burgettstown Firemen Elect Officers

A regular meeting of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department was held Monday, January 14, in the Firemen's Hall. The following officers were elected: Chief Ken Scott; Assistant Chief-Jake Schneider, Jr; President - John Foflygen; Vice-President-Clayton Hill; Secretary- James Gilson; Treasurer-Lee McKinney; Trustees-Jake Schneider, Jr., C. B. Smith, and Ed Welch; Board of Directors-Lee McKinney and Earl Petrucci. Lester Neil announced that he was retiring after 31 years as an active fireman.

**Burgettstown Firemen Elect Officers**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 24, 1957 Edition**

**ENOS SMITH C. O.  
REPORTS ON SERVICE  
AT B. V. F. D. POST**

**120 Hours**

Boyd Sloan, Ralph Lee.

**100 Hours**

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin McFarland

**88 Hours**

Cliff Carmichael.

**72 Hours**

Anthony Bernola, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Harper, Charles Burns, Jimmey Lee, Tom Lee.

**68 Hours**

Joe Lopacz, Mike Boller.

**64 Hours**

Guy McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Miller, Chas. Rossy, Homer Robinson

**60 Hours**

Ed. Smith, Frank Taucher, Howard Dunbar.

**56 Hours**

Lester Neil, Chas. Russell, Patsy Yocco, Geo. Fullmer, Harry Fullem and daughters. Henry Vega.

**52 Hours**

Serge Sziminski, Mrs. Henry Colteryhan, H. L. Buckwalter.

**44 Hours**

Mrs. G. L. McKee, Clem Marmagin, Mario Pace, Bruno Sandri, Raymond Cuervo, J. M. Cunningham, Jr.

**40 Hours**

Mrs. Fred Illig, Ralph Blaine, Wm. Bable, Mike Casper, G. R. Dillman, Mrs. Anthony Kunkel, Clyde Saxton, Mike Strunga, Mrs. Myra Shelton.

**36 Hours**

Blake Miller, Elmo Martin, W. R. Proud'it, Wm. R. Malone, J. G. Scott, W. J. Whalen Jr. J. M. Cunningham Sr., Don Agnew, Michael Vuksanovich.

**32 Hours**

Ann Ackleson, Clark Allison, E. J. McNish, Pete Neil, Wm. Robinson, Charles Martinez, Mrs. Gilbert Taucher Mrs. James Todoverto, Willard Varner, Fto Maroni.

**28 Hours**

Frank Lawrence, M. Marczkrowski, Blanche Nicholls, Robert Robinson, Jr., Mrs. Robert Robinson, Steve Rock, Sam Martinez, Dallas McCain, E. Williams, Tony Wvtko, Frank Zarnick, Marion Davis, Harry Dennis, Alden Farner, Ed. Gill, Chas. Grabski, Ralph Bell, Stanley Diamond, Stanley Grabski, S. Kophazi, S. Krzeczowski, Edward Kobovic, John Linn, C. Mulholland, J. G. Scott.



# Burgettstown Fire Hall finishes renovations

By **SUMMER WALLACE-MINGER**  
Staff writer

**BURGETTSTOWN** — Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department members held a luncheon Sunday to celebrate the completion of a new radio room and emergency command center at the fire hall, located on Main Street.

Borough Mayor Anna Marie Quader met with volunteer members to discuss any concerns they might have and to improve communication between the borough and the fire department.

The department transformed a truck bay into a meeting room, which would be used as an emergency command center at need, and a new radio room. The department hopes to build another bay, if grant funds are available. Department officials said they would seek a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant for additional construction. The remodeling project was funded through the sale of a 1957 Mack engine, and much of it was done by members.

It is important to streamline and make emergency management efforts more efficient, Fire Chief Jerry



Summer Wallace-Minger

**NEW FACILITIES** — Attending the opening of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department's new radio and conference facilities were, from left, front, Andrew Tustan and Fire Chief Jerry McClain, and back, Bob Dillon, Kenny Tustan, Borough Mayor Anna Marie Quader and Janet McClain.

McClain said.

"Everyone will know where they need to go, and they can coordinate better, so everyone can do what they've got to do," he said.

Quader also praised the department's efforts to provide a central location for emergency response teams, including the fire department, police

department and emergency management services.

"We now have beyond what we are required to have," she said. "We are ahead of the game."

The radio room includes two dedicated phone lines, two high- and low-band frequencies and computer equipment. McClain

also spoke about the department's equipment, assuring the Mayor that the volunteer department's equipment exceeds minimum requirements, which affects the fire insurance rates within the borough.

Quader complimented the department on its preparedness exercises, specifically pointing

out drills conducted at the senior highrise.

The mayor and department officials also discussed several upcoming department events, which include:

- Sportsman bash, 5 p.m. May 15 at the Langloth Community Center in conjunction with the Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department. Cost is \$20 per ticket.

- Washington County Battle of the Barrel, 10 a.m. July 17 on Shady Avenue.

- Firemen's Memorial Service, 1 p.m. July 18, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

- Firemen's Carnival, July 22-24, Shady Avenue. The event will include kiddie rides, games of chance, food and entertainment.

Zuke will perform July 23, and a children's safety day will be held July 24. The firemen's parade will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 23 on Shady Avenue.

- Pennsylvania Battle of the Barrel, 10 a.m. Aug. 21, Shady Avenue.

McClain explained the battle of the barrels pitted two departments against one another, attempting to move a 16-gallon keg to the other team's side. Each department would use a half-inch hose on an

inch and a half hose.

"It's like a game of chess," he said. "You try to guess how the other side is going to push or spin it."

The state battle used to be held in DuBois, before passing to Dunbar and finally Burgettstown.

"We took up the challenge, and it's been held here for the past three years," said McClain.

Also discussed was the dissolution of the borough police department, because of a lack of liability insurance. Quader noted residents should call the Pennsylvania State Police if they needed police assistance. Troopers from both the Robinson and Washington barracks will be patrolling the borough.

"If you would call the borough police for it, you should call the state police," said Quader.

She also informed department members that a Washington County District Attorney's office representative would be at the borough building once a week, in order to answer questions and give residents access to police department files.

*(Wallace-Minger can be contacted at [swallace@pafocus.com](mailto:swallace@pafocus.com))*

**Burgettstown Fire Hall finishes Renovations**  
PA-Focus-April 29, 2010 Editions

## **FIREMEN INQUIRE INTO BOARD RULING**

A committee representing the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department and composed of Lester Neale, Henry Vega and Cliff Carmichael, attended the meeting of the Burgettstown-Smith township school boards Tuesday evening to hear an interpretation of the ruling regarding public appearances of the Union high school band. The committee was advised to draw up a schedule of the parades they desire to have the band attend this summer and to present the schedule to the Board for approval. It was explained to them that engagements for the Band must be approved by the board, that bus transportation must be provided and that a definite return schedule must be arranged.

Mr. Bailey, representing the Girls' Community Mushball team was present and requested the use of the Athletic stadium for summer games. Inasmuch as the grass has not taken sufficient root, this privilege was withheld for the present. A committee was appointed to contact the West Penn water company relative to laying a pipe line for water to the field. Mr. Dunlevy, high school teacher, who has reported for duty in the United States army, was granted a leave of absence for the duration.

Preceding the meeting the Directors were entertained at dinner in the Home Economics House.

**Firemen Inquire into Board Ruling  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 22, 1941**



**Fire next to Figley's Feed Store**  
**Notice the "Speed Limit 35"**  
**Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Firefighters receive honors for dedication

By AUDRA TAYLOR  
Correspondent

As part of the 65th annual Washington County Firemen's Convention, the Burgettstown and Slovan Volunteer Fire Departments hosted a dinner and awards ceremony at the Langeloth Community Center July 17.

Friends and family were invited to attend the ceremony to honor and recognize the immense courage, hard work and dedication exhibited by the local firefighters.

Six service awards were given to the fire department members who have shown their commitment to the community through their many years of service. Other awards included two citizen awards, which were presented to those who helped make the Washington County Firemen's Convention a success for the 65th consecutive year.

Slovan area VFD honorees included: Louis C. Dugas, Paul Pakisz, and the late Benjamin F. Mader. Honorees of the Burgettstown VFD included: Walter "Buzz" Farnar, Kenny Dennis, and James A. Gilson. Citizen awards were given to Jeanne and Donny Vega, as well as Jim Reedy, for their steadfast commitment to the success of this year's convention.

As a member of the Slovan VFD since 1950, honoree Louis C. Dugas served as an EMT, an engineer, engine captain, assistant chief and later as chief from 1960-1965.

"I am very honored to have received this (service) award," Dugas said. "I didn't expect anything like this in the 55 years I've been with the fire department. This really shows how the community appreciates what all these men are doing."

Kenny Dennis, a Burgettstown VFD life member since 1956, served as assistant chief in the years before acquiring his position as treasurer, the position he still holds today.

"I feel very honored to have this recognition from the community," Dennis said. "I have been doing this all my

See FIREFIGHTERS Page 4

## Firefighters

Continued from Page 1  
life, and it's been a great experience serving this community in the fire department for as long as I have."

Walter "Buzz" Farnar has been a Burgettstown VFD member since 1954. In 1958, at the age of only 29, Farnar became chief and served in that position until 2002.

"I've been chief of the department for 45 years," Farnar said. "I've had 50 years in the department. In my family there are five generations (of firefighters). My dad was chief back in the 1950s, two of my brothers are lifetime members, and my son is a lifetime member. (Serving in the VFD) is an honor you don't forget."



Photos by Emily R. Eberlin

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** – The Burgettstown and Slovan/Smith volunteer fire departments hosted a memorial service on Sunday to honor past and present firefighters.

## Memorial

the audience full of many different faces, colors of uniforms, and the names of the towns they represent.

"We celebrate your commitment, service and dedication, as well as that of those names we read," he said.

According to Coleman, those with the fire departments in Washington County

are a "ban of brothers and sisters" that share in grief when another firefighter "is lost."

"God bless each of you," he said.

The memorial service was sponsored by Paul J. Walsh, attorney-at-law, and was hosted by the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department and the Slovan/Smith Volunteer Fire

Continued from Page 1  
Department, who have teamed up to put on this year's 65th annual Washington County Firemen's Convention, which began Saturday and will continue Friday evening through Saturday in Burgettstown.

Emily Eberlin can be contacted at [eeberlin@weirtandailytimes.com](mailto:eeberlin@weirtandailytimes.com)



**Firefighters Receive Honors for Dedication  
PA Focus-July 23, 2005 Edition**

# Today's schedule for Washington County Firemen's Convention

The 65th annual Washington County Firemen's Convention, hosted by the Smith/Slovan Volunteer Fire Department and the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department, will end today. The following is a list of events:

All Day - Food, games and carnival rides will be available at the Burgettstown VFD on Main Street.

10 a.m. - Opening ceremony for Convention/Community Day.

11 a.m. - Roseanne School of Dance will perform.

Noon - Light Touch band will perform.

2 p.m. - Center Stage Dance will perform.

3 p.m. - Luanne's School of Dance will perform.

4 p.m. - Shelly Duff country band will perform.

6 p.m. - Parade on Main Street, Burgettstown.

7:30 p.m. - Midnight Run country band will perform.

Dusk - Fireworks display.

1963-Firemen Flood Ice Skating Rink



L-R: Bob Farner, Fire Chief, Walter "Buzz" Farner, Red McClain, Harry Dennis and Eto Maroni

## Firemen Flood Ice Skating Rink



These members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department are pictured above flooding the community ice skating rink Tuesday afternoon. The

local fireman have been providing this service since the idea of a rink became a reality last winter. Fire Chief Walter "Buzz" Farner, left, su-

pervises Tuesday's operation. To his left is "Red" McClain. Pictured in the rear are, from left to right, Bob Farner, Harry Dennis and Eto Maroni.

**Firemen Flood Ice Skating Rink**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 17, 1963 Edition**

## **FIREMEN MOVE OBSERVATION POST**

Burgettstown Fireman, assisted by friends in the Community, have completed the moving of the B. V. F. D. Observation Tower from the Colter-yahn Farm to the State Game Reserve on the opposite side of Bavington Road. Removal of the post was found to be necessary because of the nearness of the Harmon Creek Coal Company's Stripping Operation to the Post site. The Observation Tower, erected 13 feet in the air, will be manned just as quickly as a telephone can be installed, Chief Observer Enos Smith reports. Mr. Smith states that it is necessary to set in poles to the top of Bavington Hill, in order to make telephone connection. Volunteer Air Spotters for the B. V. F. D. Post are requested to be on the alert for a summons to return to duty.

Firemen and others who helped with the moving of the tower were Joseph and Robert Hemphill, Phil Gray, Mike Suica, B. Bernola, Lester Neale, F. Farulli, P. Neale, Albert Fulton, Elmer Harper, Ralph Blaine, Clyde Saxton, Louis Ceresa, J. Locq, B. Sandri, Edwin Smith, Henry Colter-yahn, Charles Colter-yahn, Ralph Lee, Earl Farner, Ray Farner, Bill Lyons, R. Barber, Patsy Yaco, Red Riddile, Joe Boni and Al Seagle.

**Burgettstown Firemen Move Observation Post  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 1, 1943 Edition**



## **FIREMEN WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO DEPARTED MEMBERS AT UNION SERVICE SUNDAY EVENING IN H. S.**

Burgettstown church goers will join next Sunday evening in a Union Memorial Service in Union high school auditorium, sponsored by members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department to pay tribute to department members deceased during 1939. The service will begin at 7:30 o'clock and firemen are requested to meet at the high school at 7:15 o'clock, to be seated in a body in the auditorium.

Special music, appropriate for the service will be furnished by the high school orchestra and the Mixed Chorus. The audience will join in the singing of Lead Kindly Light and the Old Rugged Cross. The invocation will be pronounced by Rev. R. C. Sutton. Scripture and prayer will be read by Rev. R. E. Carman. The benediction will be pronounced by Rev. W. J. McCashin.

The speaker for the service will be Rev. William Flurkey, new minister to the Westminster Presbyterian church. Rev. Flurkey will be introduced by E. C. Carmichael. The public is cordially invited to attend this service.

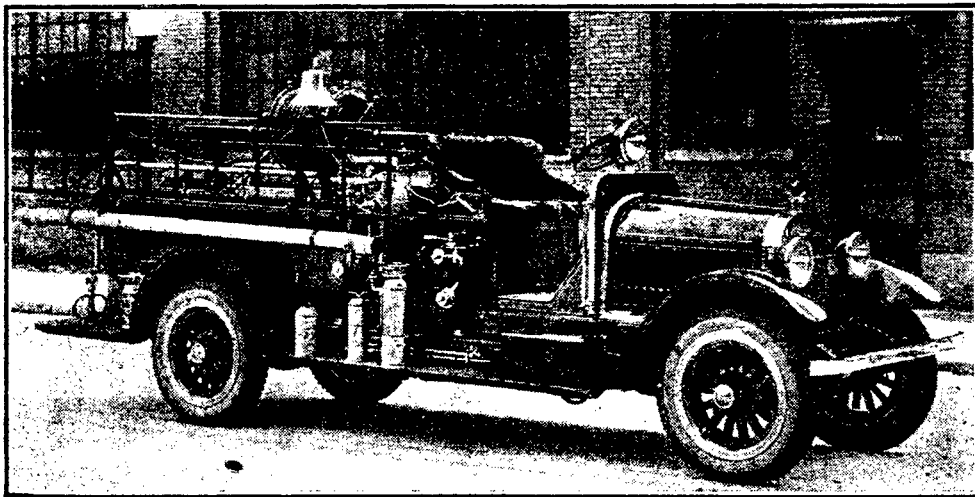
**Fireman Will Pay Tribute to Departed Members  
at Union Service Sunday Evening in U.H. S.  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 25, 1940 Edition**

## **FIREMAN'S BALL TO BE GALA EVENT**

Burgettstown Volunteer Firemen through their chairman, Albert Fulton, report an excellent advance sale of tickets for the informal dance the organization will hold in the Community Hall at Langeloth on Friday evening, November 28. Isham Jones, a peer in the realm of American music, will bring his orchestra here for what promises to be the gala occasion of the fall. Members of the B.V.F.D. committee who are working hard to make the dance a success are: Fulton, Blake Miller, Earl Petrucci, Lester Neil, Ralph Lee, Boyd Sloan, Patsy Yaco, Henry Vega, Kenneth Smith, Joseph Hemphill and Enos Smith.

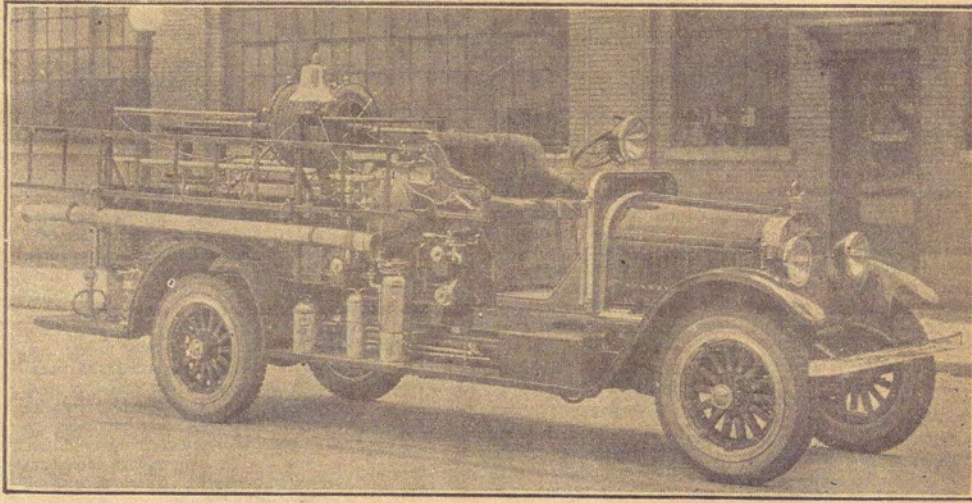
The Thanksgiving Dance will mark a rare occasion when local dance lovers will have an opportunity to dance and listen to a top notch musical organization. Isham Jones is nationally known both as an orchestra leader and as a composer. He has authored so many hit tunes he was compelled to organize his own publishing house.

**FIREMEN'S  
CARNIVAL  
— AND —  
STREET FAIR**



**ON THE PARKING LOT  
Near Burgettstown Post Office  
Sat. Eve., August 24  
— AND —  
EVERY EVENING WEEK OF  
Aug. 26 to 31**

**Burgettstown Firemen's Carnival  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 21, 1935 Edition**



**FIREMEN'S  
CARNIVAL  
— AND —  
STREET FAIR**

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**ON THE PARKING LOT  
Near Burgettstown Post Office  
Every Evening This Week**

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**Everybody is Asked  
To Help the Firemen**

**Burgettstown Firemen's Carnival  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 28, 1935 Edition**



Contributed

**WORKING TOGETHER** – The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department and the Smith/Slovan Volunteer Fire Department have teamed up to host the 65th Annual Washington County Firemen’s Convention. The group is working together to ensure the success of the event, which is being hosted by two squads for the first time in Washington County.

# Firemen’s Convention plans advance

SBy **EMILY R. EBERLIN**  
Staff writer

Plans for the 65th Annual Washington County Firemen’s Convention, co-hosted by the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department and the Slovan/Smith Volunteer Fire Department, heat up as the dual weekend event approaches.

Nearly a year ago, members of the two departments formed a committee, with the assistance of the Washington County Firemen’s Association and Jim Reedy of the Burgettstown Kids’ Center, to ensure the success of the long-standing event, which will be held July 16-17 and July 22-23

See **CONVENTION** Page 4 r



Contributed

**SMITH/SLOVAN VOLUNTEERS** – The Smith/Slovan Volunteer Fire Department is located on Route 18 in Burgettstown. In photo are the members of the department.



Contributed

**BURGETTSTOWN VOLUNTEERS** – The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department are in front of one of their trucks. The department is located on Main Street in Burgettstown.

**BVFD-Firemen’s Convention Plans (page 4 is missing)**  
**PA Focus-June 25, 2005 Edition**



Burgettstown and Slovan fire companies answered a call at the Florence school house on Wednesday, February 7, 1951, when high winds fanned a fire of undetermined origin and threatened for a time to demolish the building, one of the old landmarks at Florence.

The building, said to be more than 50 years old, was a three-story frame structure heated by pot-bellied stoves. It was believed that a spark from the chimney became imbedded in the siding and fanned into a live fire. Prompt action on the part of the fire companies saved the building and kept damage at a minimum.

Over 100 children and their teachers, Miss Elsie Andrews, Mrs. Thelma Fliton and Edith McCombs, evacuated the building quickly and no one was injured. Eight grades were taught in the classrooms in use.

The children had a three-day holiday after the fire, but the next week were transported to the Paris school for half-day classes.

At the time of the fire, the Hanover school board was awaiting approval from Harrisburg for a new elementary building.

**1951 Old Florence School Fire Recalled  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 9, 1965 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Garage Fire-Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**



THE ENTERPRISE / JIM DALLARA

## The beautiful and not so

Seven-year-old Chantil Bates, left, and her 9-year-old brother Bryan present a contrast in attractiveness as they appeared in costume at the Oct. 31 Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Co.'s Halloween party. They are children of Daryl and Brenda Bates of Joffre. A surprise snow storm wiped out plans for a parade through town, but the party went on as scheduled.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department's Halloween Party**  
**The Enterprise-November 10, 1993 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*





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**The Record-Outlook-November 10, 1993 Edition**



**Burgettstown Fire Department Hanging Christmas Decorations  
Unknown Year**

## **History of Burgettstown VFD from 1922-1933**

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Purchase of Stutz Pumper and 2000 feet of hose authorized by Borough Council September 5, 1923, at a cost of \$9,250.00.

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First fire at which Stutz was in service was Hirsh Feed Store, Center Avenue, on January 2, 1923.

Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department organized January 5, 1923, in the offices of Lee & Wilson, with forty four charter members of fifteen are still active.

Original organization: President, F.H. Illig; V. President, W. R. Jackson; Secretary, C. W. Davidson; Treasurer, Lee R. McKinney; and Chief, T. F. Nicholls.

First uniforms purchased March 26, 1923, from generous donations of the citizens and business men of the town, outfits consisted of 25 pair boots, 25 coats, and 25 hats.

Second floor of the municipal building dedicated for benefit of fire department, in 1924, to be used for regular meetings and recreation.

G.M.C. one ton truck for hose etc., purchased in February 1924 from Russell Motor Co., Burgettstown, PA., financial assistance being rendered at the time by Washington National Bank of Burgettstown in the form of the first loan negotiated by the Fire Department.

Organization: 1924:-W. R. Allison, President, E. M. Bowler, V. President, Secretary, C. W. Davidson, Treasurer, Lee R. McKinney, and T. F. Nicholls, Chief.

Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department instrumental in purchase and sale of 112 street flags in May 25, 1925.

Washington National Bank, Burgettstown donated Pool Table to the department for their club rooms, May 25, 1925.

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Officers of 1927; W.R. Jackson, Chief, H.R. Wilson, Assistant Chief, Guy C. Russell, President, James C. Wolfe, Vice President, Robert H. Culley, Secretary, and Lee R. McKinney, Treasurer.

By-Laws for the Department were drafted by the following committee: C.W. Davidson, Chairman, James C. Wolfe and T.C. Linn.

It was during 1927 that efforts were made by the department to impress upon the surrounding communities, the necessity of an adequate water supply and improvement of roads to reach such supply.

Committee arranged meetings with several communities and outlined a plan to be followed for improved protection. Sincere enthusiasm was much evidence but as yet some groups have not devised ways and means of supplying water in sufficient quantity to be of any assistance in the case of a call to a fire, which could only be fought with plenty of water as the Stutz pumper throws 350 gallons of water per minute.

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Captain of Truck Drivers: James R. Lee, Assistant Drivers: William J. Pyle, G.S. Walters, Earl L. Farner, C.B. Smith.

Chief W.R. Allison reports 63 fire calls answered since his appointment as chief.

Present enrollment: Forty-five (45) men.

Department has modern kitchen and club rooms. The Department has self supporting to aid rescued in the way of solicitation or subscription; however donations have been received from public spirited citizens and some from sources to which the equipment has been called, in their line of duty, at which time they should be compensated beyond a doubt, due to the hardship exercised on the outfit.

Modern fire siren installed on top of municipal building blown by operators of the Bell Telephone Company, whose courtesy and attention is appreciated by the Department.

No serious accidents have occurred since the organization of the Department. Ample insurance is carried on all members.

After having held an annual street fair for seven years, the members of the Department voted to discontinue the event temporarily due to the realization of the need for conservation of funds of the individual.

Honorable mention is due to James R. Lee, Assistant Captain of drivers from the organization to 1926 and Captain of drivers from that date to the present time.

TO: Lee R. McKinney, who has served as treasurer since the organization.

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## Fire Levels House In Borough



Remains of a spectacular fire that broke out late Wednesday on Burgettstown's Bridge Street. The house was located across from the George Ratkovich Service Station, and has been vacant recently. It has been slated for demolition to make way for the by-pass in Burgettstown. Local firemen battled the flames for three hours, and keep the blaze under control. They were summoned at 9 p.m.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-House Fire on Bridge Street  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 30, 1972 Edition**



## **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**

Seated L-R: Kenny Dennis, Greg Pavan, Janet McClain, Joe Nemeth

Standing L-R: Jerry McClain, Joe Williams, Brandon Pennington,  
Mark Johnson, Zack Bugay, Tyler Galish, Rich Dusenberry,  
Bobby Johnson, Gary McCuen, Lee Hutchinson.

## FIREMEN INQUIRE INTO BOARD RULING

A committee representing the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department and composed of Lester Neale, Henry Vega and Cliff Carmichael, attended the meeting of the Burgettstown-Smith township school boards Tuesday evening to hear an interpretation of the ruling regarding public appearances of the Union high school band. The committee was advised to draw up a schedule of the parades they desire to have the band attend this summer and to present the schedule to the Board for approval. It was explained to them that engagements for the Band must be approved by the board, that bus transportation must be provided and that a definite return schedule must be arranged.

Mr. Bailey, representing the Girls' Community Mushball team was present and requested the use of the Athletic stadium for summer games. Inasmuch as the grass has not taken sufficient root, this privilege was withheld for the present. A committee was appointed to contact the West Penn water company relative to laying a pipe line for water to the field. Mr. Dunlevy, high school teacher, who has reported for duty in the United States army, was granted a leave of absence for the duration.

Preceding the meeting the Directors were entertained at dinner in the Home Economics House.

## NEW OFFICERS NAMED FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Local Company Retains Number Who  
Have Served in Past Years and  
Holds Average Membership

At the regular monthly meeting of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department held in their rooms in the Borough Building, Monday evening, January 14, 1935, the thirteenth annual election of officers was held. Officers were elected as follows:

Chief, Earl L. Farner; president, Clifford Carmichael; vice president, Robert S. Robinson; treasurer, Lee R. McKinney; secretary, Robert H. Culley; trustees, Boyd E. Sloan, Earl Petrucci, George S. Walters.

This being Chief Farner's second term, he has retained the officers of his previous year, as follows: Assistant chief, Hugh R. Wilson; hose captains, W. R. Allison and W. D. Wilson; assistant hose captains, John L. Culley and Earl Petrucci; captain of truck drivers, James R. Lee, assistant truck drivers, W. G. Pyle, G. S. Walters, W. D. Wilson, Clyde B. Smith.

The president made the following appointments: Initiation Committee J. L. Culley, Earl Petrucci and Austin Studa; sick committee, W. D. Wilson, Lee R. McKinney and G. S. Walters; kitchen committee, Boyd E. Sloan, chairman; J. L. Rankin, Earl Petrucci, James Longo, James R. Lee.

The company held its first meeting in the Lee & Wilson undertaking rooms on January 5th, 1923, the number of members being present totaling about 45, which has been approximately the average number of members belonging since that time.

The firemen, in 12 years of service, have averaged more than one call a month, nearly all of which have been for fires. However some of the calls were for beneficial assistance and first aid. During the years 1925 to 1932 the firemen held an annual street fair for the purpose of securing funds for the maintenance of this worthy organization. But this has been abandoned since that time due to the fact that the members felt the people of the community would undoubtedly support their fair when they needed this financial aid themselves.

The organization has had only the one treasurer since its organization, Lee R. McKinney. The firemen have been very fortunate in not having any serious accidents.

Three of the members have been called by death: Duncan D. Allison, Guy C. Russell and Charles L. Westlake.

### **PLAN SERVICE FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

Members of the Burgettstown Post No. 698 of the American Legion are making plans for Memorial Day Observance at Fairview cemetery. The Burgettstown and Slovan Volunteer Fire Departments are cooperating. Edward Hamilton, chairman on arrangements announces that the Memorial Day parade will form at the Burgettstown Honor Roll at 2:30 o'clock and led by the Union high school band will march to Fairview cemetery where the speaker for the day will be John A. Stoup of Waynesburg.

**Plan Announced for Memorial Day  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 20, 1943 Edition**

## MEMORIAL FOR DECEASED FIREMEN

Burgettstown Volunteer Firemen and Burgettstown churches held a union service in the high school auditorium last Sunday evening in memoriam for the following deceased members of the Department:

Duncan Allison; Charles Westlake; Guy Russell; Ralph Hixson; John Bell and William J. Pyle.

Because of illness, Rev. W. J. McCashin was unable to participate in the service. Rev. William R. Flurkey preached the Memorial sermon. Rev. R. C. Sutton and Rev. R. E. Carman participated in the service.

Local firemen plan to make the Memorial Service an annual event. Sunday's service was the first Memorial the firemen have held since their organization in 1917.



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**New Officers Named for Fire Department  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 30, 1935 Edition**

# HEAVY LOSSES RESULT FROM LOCAL STORE FIRE

New York Bargain Store Building  
and Large Stocks Damaged  
in Sunday Night Fire

The three-story frame building on North Main street housing the New York Bargain Store, of which Sam Broida is the proprietor, was discovered on fire about 11:45 o'clock Sunday night by a passing freight train crew, the flames appearing in an upper floor. The railroad men gave the alarm and a prompt response was made by the local fire department.

Upon arrival of the firemen the fire was found to be progressing rapidly on the second floor, and it is believed that had the department been a few minutes later nothing would have saved the building from utter destruction.

The worst part of the conflagration was found to be on the North side of the building, and from that point the firemen directed their first efforts. After about two hours they had the flames under control and prevented spreading of the conflagration to the lower part of the building.

Large stocks of ladies' dresses, hats and clothing were stocked on the second floor, and loss from burning and water was very heavy. Practically the entire stock in the lower part of the building was considerably damaged by smoke and water.

It is estimated that the damage to the building and contents will amount to more than \$15,000. Mr. Broida has not been seen and the actual damage is a matter of conjecture. The cause of the fire has not been determined. Mr. Broida was at his home on Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, at the time and hastened to Burgettstown when advised by telephone of the fire.

Excellent service was performed by the firemen. By their prompt and efficient measures they saved great loss to the Broida building and prevented the fire from extending to other buildings in the neighborhood. At their request the power was shut off high tension lines passing the burning building and the town was in darkness for a short time. This action was taken to avoid the possibility of accident as the flames covered the wires and threatened breaks at any moment.

**Heavy Losses Result from Local Store Fire**  
**New York Bargain Store Building**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 7, 1932**

## FIREMEN NOW READY FOR BIG ANNUAL FAIR

Local Volunteer Firemen to Stage  
Street Fair Every Night  
During Next Week

Beginning on Monday night of next week and continuing nightly during the entire week, the members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department will conduct their seventh annual street fair on the parking grounds opposite the postoffice. Preparations are about completed for the big annual event and the people of the town and surrounding community will be offered a full week of entertainment from all angles of street fair attractions.

A tentative program has been outlined as follows: Monday evening, concert by the Burgettstown high school band; Tuesday evening, concert by the Burgettstown high school orchestra; Wednesday evening, the "surprise" program; Thursday evening, Stiffler's old time fiddlers; Friday evening, high school orchestra; Saturday evening, high school band. The firemen plan to distribute a number of gifts each evening.

The street fair is being held this year in spite of the fact that times have been dull and the firemen do not expect to realize much in the way of gain. Their expenses will be high and if they make an even break they will feel repaid in keeping the annual activity alive and in giving the people of the town and vicinity a week of unusual entertainment and mild excitement.

The department should be accorded more than an "even break" in the presentation of their annual street fair. They have no other means to raise funds for their various needs, which include the buying of fire hose with which to protect the buildings of the community from fire. Every citizen should make it a point to visit the street fair, boost for it and spend a little money to help along a worthy institution.

Readers of the Enterprise and their friends in the outlying sections of Burgettstown are cordially invited and urged to come into town every evening and enjoy the fun that will be found at the firemen's street fair. There will be room for parking cars at no cost and there will be jolly crowds to join in the hilarity of the doings each evening.

The town will welcome visitors from all parts of the country, and the Burgettstown people are especially anxious to meet and greet their friends from beyond the countryside.

**Firemen Now Reading for Big Annual Fair  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 20, 1931 Edition**

## **Fire Company Open House Is Postponed**

The "open house" scheduled for yesterday at the new Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company building has been postponed, company officials announced today.

The date was in conflict with the General Election activities, it was explained.

The "open house" will be re-scheduled in the near future.

## Peppy's Restaurant, Apartments, Bar, Gutted By Early Thursday Morning Fire



### Arson Suspected In Local Blaze

Arson is suspected in a spectacular fire that gutted the Peppy's Restaurant building and an adjoining bar and apartment early Thursday morning.

The State Police Fire Marshal is investigating the circumstances of the blaze.

According to Walter "Buzz" Farner, Fire Chief of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company, the fire was spotted at approximately 11:30 p.m. by his son, Walter Farner, Jr., at the same time the alarm was sounded by Burgettstown Police.

Firemen from Burgettstown and Slovan worked for hours battling the flames, and it was not until 3:00 p.m. that the fire was finally brought under control. The firemen finally left the scene at 5:00.

Farner said there was a "strong smell" of gasoline on the premises, giving rise to suspicion of arson.

No one was injured, he reported. Farner said the fire started in the back side of the roof of Peppy's Restaurant building.

The local fire chief, who estimated damage at "at least \$100,000," said the apartment above Peppy's was completely gutted. The downstairs portion, or restaurant, section of the building suffered heavy damages from smoke and water, and the ceiling collapsed early Thursday.

In the adjoining Ruth's Bar building, the upper story apartment was burned out, and the bottom floor also suffered heavy smoke and water damages.

Peppy's Restaurant was owned for many years by the late Ralph (Peppy) Farulli and his wife, Ann. Recently Mrs. Farulli sold the building and restaurant to Joseph Markus, of Hanlin Station. Markus operated the restaurant for approximately three months, closing it about a month ago.

Ruth's Bar was owned by Ruth Pierce, of Frankfort Springs. The building itself is owned by Mrs. John L. Brunner, of Burgettstown.

Peppy's Restaurant, Apartments, Bar Gutted by Early Fire  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 17, 1983 Edition

## Phil Gray Is Elected Fire Chief

Phil S. Gray was elected fire chief of the Burgettstown Fire Department to serve out the unexpired term of the late Robert Hemphill, at a meeting of the firemen Monday evening, May 10. The next regular election of officers will be in January 1949.

Earl Petrucci was appointed chairman for making plans to attend firemen's parades. Mr. Petrucci will have jurisdiction over the squad car and its use at such celebrations.

The firemen voted to send copies of a resolution honoring Robert Hemphill, deceased fire chief, to the Hemphill family and for publication in the Enterprise.

Members agreed to request Rev. J. C. Ruble and Rev. W. J. McCashin to act as honorary chaplains for the fire department.

Willard Keating and Theodore Spatharos were voted in as new members. Nine other men will receive invitations to join the department.

It was announced that the regular fire school will meet Wednesday, May 12. Hereafter school will be held regularly on Thursday unless otherwise announced.

Firemen were told to warn motorists not to follow the fire truck to fires since traffic becomes congested and firemen are delayed in maneuvers.

**Phil Gray is Elected Burgettstown Fire Chief  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 13, 1948 Edition**

#### **Lost Boys Cause Alarm.**

Missing from their homes from about noon until 10 o'clock Monday night, a fire alarm was sounded and firemen gathered to search for Clarence Phinney, 12, and Frank Atherton, 10, whose absences had caused serious alarm. About 50 firemen responded to the alarm, and they in company with a large force of volunteers began a search as far as McDonald along railroads and highways. The boys were found about 10:30 in the railroad station at Bulger by Squire W. J. Whalen, Jr., and his wife, who made up a part of the searching party.

**Clarence Phinney and Frank Atherton**  
***Lost Boys Cause Alarm***  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1936 Edition**



**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department preparing for Battle of the Barrels  
L-R: Jerry McClain, Shaun Felton, Brady Mermon, Brad Mermon, Jay Lynn, Unknown, and Unknown.**





**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department Presentation  
Lee McKinney and Clayton Hill**



O-R Photo

## ***Rescue Truck Bought***

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company has purchased a new rescue vehicle from Emergency One, Inc., in Ocala, Fla. The truck, which cost \$21,000, has an air chisel, generator, air masks and other rescue and protective equipment, according to Burgettstown Fire Chief Walter Farner (right). The firemen expect to use their new truck in conjunction with the Northwest Washington County Emergency Medical System. At left is Rick Couch, president and captain of the fire company.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department Purchased New Rescue Truck  
Observer-Reporter-January 25, 1979 Edition**

## Ray Hodge Home Near Cherry Valley Destroyed By Fire

Despite the efforts of two fire companies, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hodge purchased near Cherry Valley less than a year ago was totally destroyed by fire at 3:00 a.m., Monday, May 26. The fire is believed to have started in the basement, where an oil heater was used to warm up water. The fire rapidly spread through the entire structure and Burgettstown and Slovan Firemen who answered the alarm were unable to save the house or its contents. Household effects were destroyed except a breakfast set and a television set.

**Ray Hodge Home Destroyed by Fire**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-May 29, 1952 Edition**



**BVFD Receives Winter Relief Funds  
Victor Lescovitz, Buzz Farner, Bill Ankley, and Barry Stout**



**Side View of Coll Tire Fire-1959  
Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

**SITE SELECTED FOR  
ERECTION OF MEMORIAL**

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department have selected a site for the War Memorial which they will erect in honor of Veterans from the Burgettstown Borough. The granite monument will be placed on Main street, between the Public Library and the sidewalk approaching the Burgettstown grade school. Solicitations have already been started by the Fire Department and bids for the memorial are being received. Members of the Department are considering a drive for \$4,000 to purchase and erect the stone and do the necessary landscaping.

**Site Selected for Erection of Memorial Hall  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 1, 1948 Edition**

## **B. V. F. D. STREET FAIR TO BE HELD JUNE 25 TO 28**

Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department held a Fish Fry in the Borough building on Monday evening and made final arrangements for their annual street fair and parade, which will be held June 25 to 28.

Lester Neale and Boyd Sloan, co-chairmen for the street parade reported that 48 fire companies have accepted an invitation to march in the street parade on Friday evening, June 27.

It was announced that all Firemen are to report for duty at the Parking Lot on Saturday, June 21, to assist in erecting stands for the street fair. On June 23, a special meeting will be held to discuss the routing of traffic on Parade night and to appoint committees to handle this detail of the Fair.

### **FIREMEN TO HOLD FAIR, JUNE 24-29**

First plans for the Firemen's Annual Street Fair and Parade were announced at the regular meeting of Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department in the Borough building on Monday evening. Fire Chief Earl Farner named Renison Malone, chairman of the street fair and John Culley, chairman for the parade. The Fair will be stepped up this year and will be held the week of June 24 to 29, with the street parade being held on Friday evening, June 28.

Members voted to install modern kitchen equipment in the Department's culinary quarters. A restaurant type modern range has been purchased and a sink will be installed.

Fred Bietnier was initiated into membership. Thirty-five members reported present.

**Firemen to Hold Fair, June 24-29**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-February 15, 1940 Edition**



**FIREMEN TO SPONSOR  
BOY SCOUT TROOP**

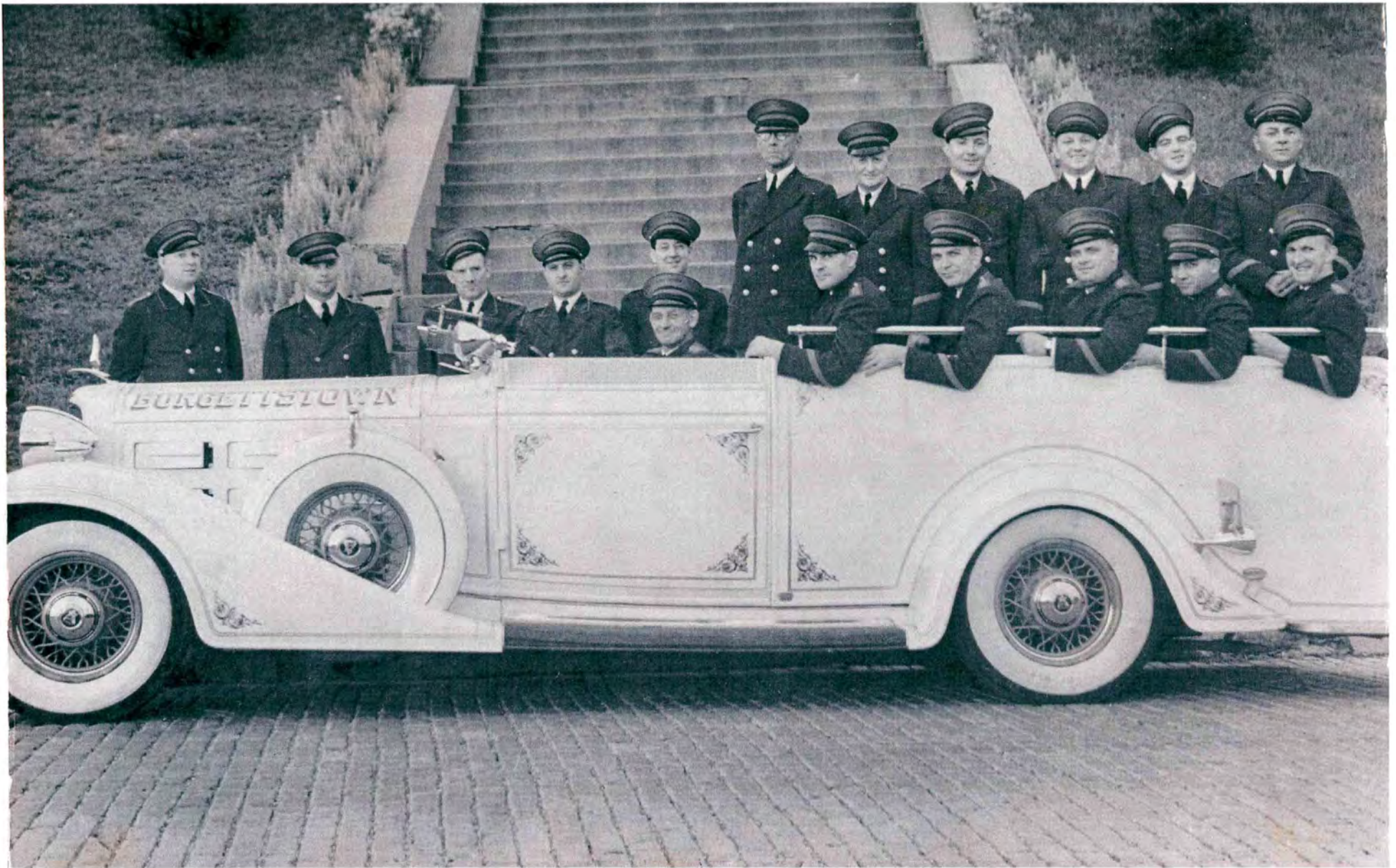
Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department members at the regular meeting on Monday evening made plans to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. The following committee was appointed to proceed with the organization of a troop: Enos Smith, George Wagner, Cliff Carmichael, Robert Hemphill, Lester Neil, and Ed. Hamilton.

Slovan Firemen are also making plans to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop for Slovan boys.



**BVFD Battle of the Barrell-Early 1960's**

**L-R: Jerry Tenaglia, Ken Dennis, Bill Columbia, Buzz Farner, Ed Krzeczowski Jr., Russell Guire, and Jerry Stiffler**



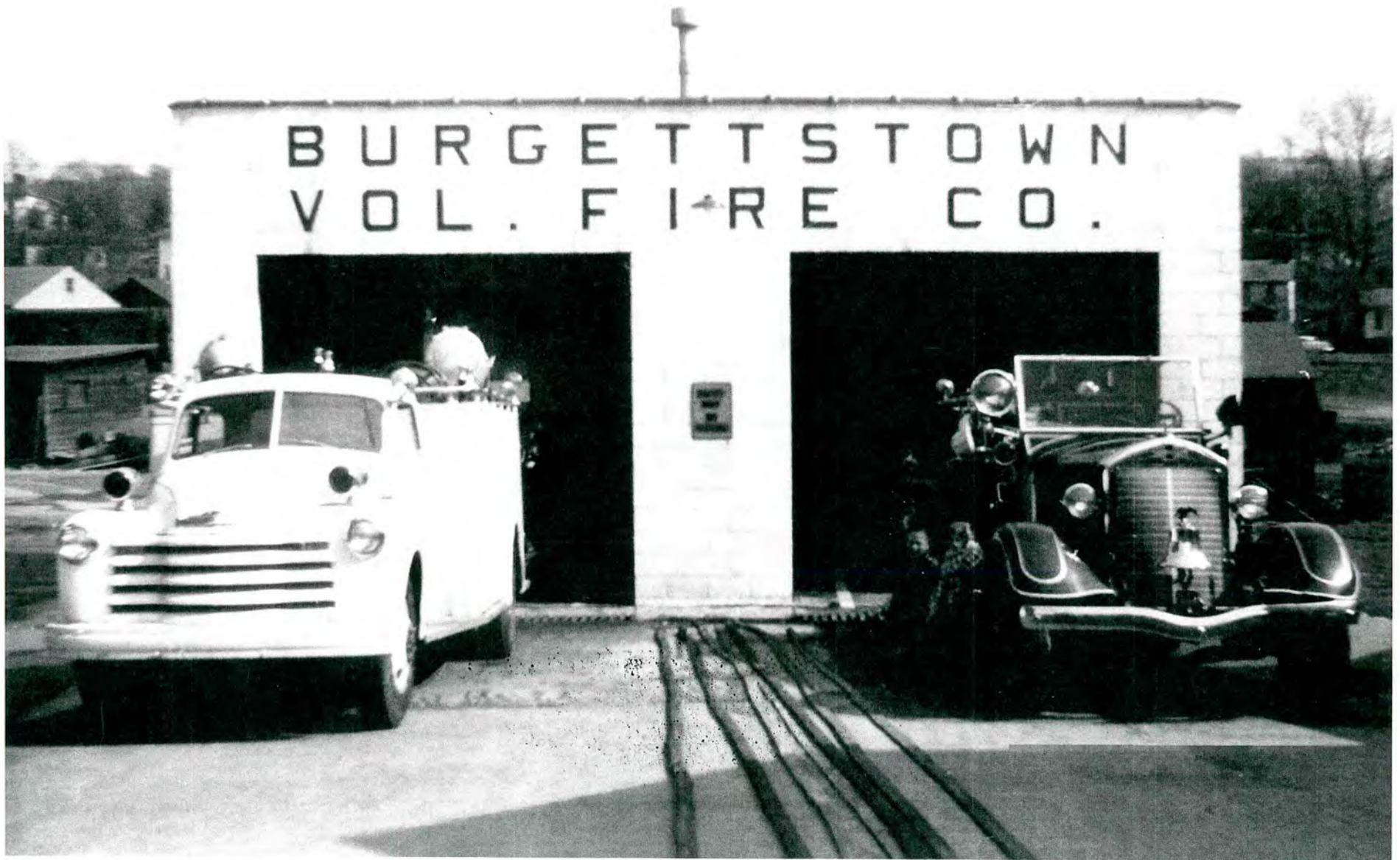
### **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-1939**

First Row: Bob Hemphill, Kenny Smith, Cliff Carmichael, Jim Longo, Boyd Sloan, Sap Fulton, Leister Neil, Vance Farulli, Eto Maroni, Paul Longnecker. Second Row: Earl (Peachie) Petrucci, Dave Martin, John Rankin, George Wagner, Bill Stewart, Bill Davis, Earl Clair.

*Courtesy of Carol and Kenny Dennis*



**BVFD Squad Car-Early 1950's**



1956 Chevy Pumper and 1948 La France

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**



**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-1958**

**Kneeling:** Chuck Neil and Eto Maroni **Standing:** Ralph Bable, Buzz Farner, Bob Farner, Clayton Hill, Lester Neil, Dizzie Burns, and Bill Columbia.



1948 American La France, 1957 Mack Fire Truck, 1963 GMC Fire and Rescue, and GMC Ambulance.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**



Members, L-R: Ray Farner, Buzz Farner, Chuck Hampson, Gerald McClain, Gary Farner. Circa 1970

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**





1976 Chevy-No. 213 Fire and Rescue  
**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**



L-R: 2000 GMC, Fire and Rescue and 1990 Pierce, Engine 21

## **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company**

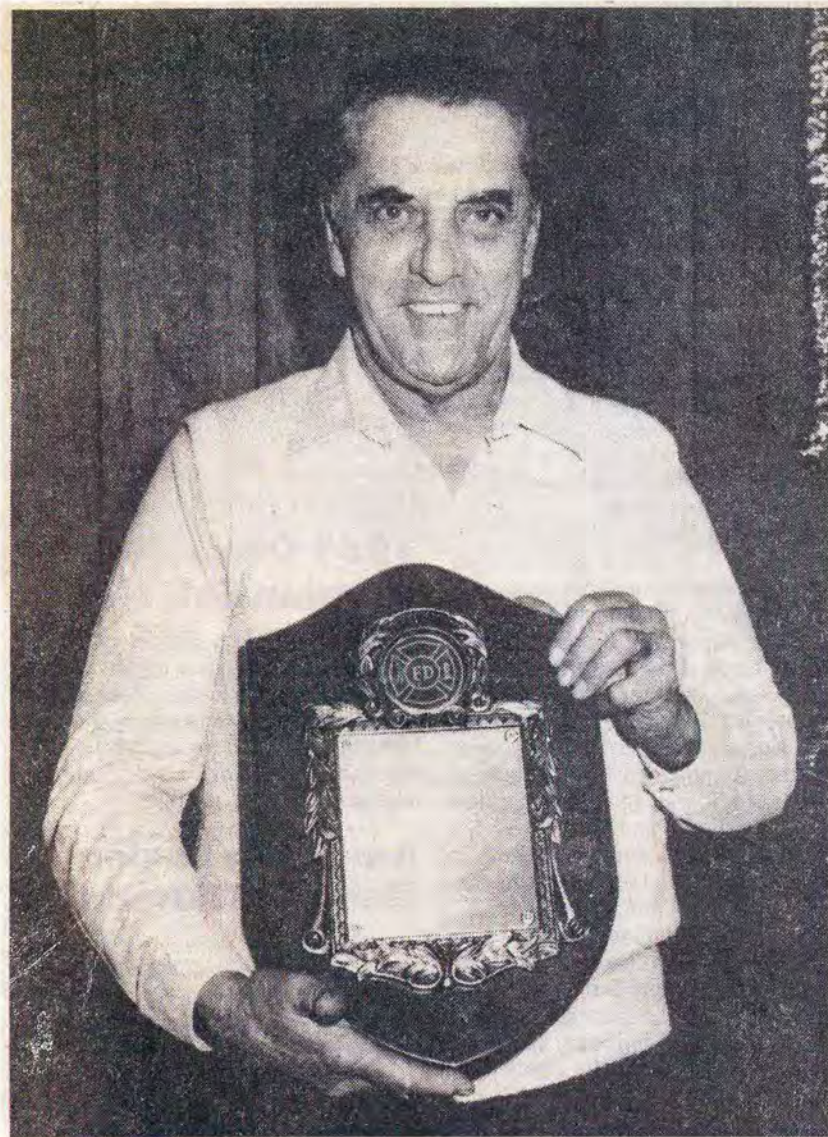


L-R: 2000 GMC, Fire and Rescue and 1990 Pierce, Engine 21



1990 Pierce, Engine 21

## **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company**



*Rick Couch photo*

### ***Honored For 30 Years As Chief***

**Walter "Buzz" Farner** was honored for 30 years as fire chief of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company at a surprise dinner held last month. See Katherine Pyle's story on Page 4 of today's issue.

**Walter "Buzz" Farner Honored for 30 Years as Fire Chief  
The Burgettstown Enterprise-January 20, 1988 Edition**



*Rick Couch photo*

Present and past firemen gather to honor Walter "Buzz" Farner for 30 years as fire chief here. Front row, left to right: Earl "Peachy" Petrucci, George Wagner, "Buzz" Farner, Ed Wagner, Mike Zabetakis. Back row, left to right: John Sarracino, Eto Maroni, Ray Farner, Ed Welsh, Mike Pasquale, John Pasquale, Ken Dennis.

**Walter "Buzz" Farner, Fire Chief 30 Years, Honored at Surprise Dinner  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 20, 1988 Edition**



*Rick Couch photo*

### **Honored For 30 Years As Chief**

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*Rick Couch photo*

**Fire company president Tom Repole presents "Buzz" Farner with a plaque.**

**Walter "Buzz" Farner, Fire Chief 30 Years, Honored at Surprise Dinner  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 20, 1988 Edition**

**By Katherine Pyle**

Walter "Buzz" Farner, fire chief of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company for the past 30 years, was surprised and honored by the local fire company at a dinner at Rae Lynn's Restaurant Dec. 11.

Farner, who has been a member of the organization since 1954 and fire chief since 1957, was presented with a plaque by president Tom Repole.

Repole referred to the fact that most boys from the time they are little hold a fire chief in reverence, being captivated by his ability to drive a big red truck, by his wearing a white hat and waving his hands in all directions as he issues orders. Repole went on to say, however, that Farner symbolized a man of authority, not by these actions but by undertaking tremendous responsibility through the years. He has been in charge of a million dollars worth of equipment; he has been responsible for the lives of every fireman; and he has been expected by his fellow firemen, townspeople and politicians to keep everybody happy.

Since the occasion for "Buzz" was planned as a surprise, he was told that he was invited to a dinner meeting of school teachers who wished to know something about fire prevention and fire fighting. "Buzz" arrived at Rae Lynn's with various notes on the subject so that he could address the teachers, only to discover that more than 30 firemen of his own department and several representatives from other departments were present. The guests included two members from the Jefferson Township Fire Department, three from Slovan and three from Hickory. Farner was genuinely surprised.

"Buzz" grew up with an interest in the local fire company because his father was a fire chief. He learned early what it meant to take responsibility in the organization.

Besides being fire chief of the Burgettstown fire company, Farner also operates his own private business, the Farner Fire Extinguisher Company, which offers fire fighting and prevention equipment to individuals and industries throughout the tri-state area.

Fire fighting today, "Buzz" explains, is entirely different from what it was 30 years ago. Now firemen must be carefully trained to protect themselves from poisonous gases emitted from plastics and other synthetic materials during a fire. Masks and air tanks must be purchased at considerable cost to furnish each fireman with protection. The Burgettstown fire company owns 11 such protective masks and tanks.

Fire school today is mandatory for all members.

In earlier days, the Burgettstown fire company was the only one to serve Jefferson and Hanover townships and some other outlying areas. Today, these areas have their own companies and assist each other by mutual aid agreement.

When "Buzz" was first made chief, someone in his home had to be on duty at all times to answer fire calls. Today a call is sent directly to Washington, and the fire whistle is operated from there. If assistance from other companies is needed, directions are dispatched by radio.

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company was organized Jan. 5, 1923, when a group of 44 volunteer men assembled at 8 p.m. at the office of Lee and Wilson, undertakers. The first officers included Fred H. Illig, president; William E. Jackson, vice-president; Charles W. Davidson, secretary; and Lee R. McKinney, treasurer. Thomas F. Nicholls was the first fire chief.

The present officers include Tom Repole, president; Joe Williams, vice-president; John Stiffler, secretary; Kenneth Dennis, treasurer; and John Nemeth, trustee.

The first municipal building in Burgettstown was erected in 1922 and was used to house the first fire equipment, a Stutz Pumper with 2,000 feet of hose purchased at a cost of \$9,250. Water was originally pumped from Raccoon Creek or nearby streams and cisterns. Finally, in 1926, efforts were put forth to have a city water supply. The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company was largely responsible for promoting this project.

**Walter "Buzz" Farner, Fire Chief 30 Years, Honored at Surprise Dinner  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 20, 1988 Edition**

## Local Fire Company Wins Championship

The Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Company is the 1957 champion of the Washington County Firemen's Association water barrel tournament held at Midway last week. The local squad defeated the two-time champion Muse company, 2-1, in the finals Saturday afternoon.

Kenneth Scott, captain of the company, related that this was the first time the men had ever entered in a tournament of this type, and had but two days of practice before their first battle with Hickory last Tuesday. The locals defeated Hickory in a battle which went into 29 minutes overtime.

Scott reported that each battle is divided into four periods of 3 minutes each. Five men comprise a team.

Members of the local championship company include Scott, Buzz Farner, Al Ware, Johnny Marcucci, Jake Schneider, Jr., Gerry Tenaglia, Harry Pappas, Bob Farner, Ralph Scott and Ed Welsh.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department Wins Championship**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 29, 1957 Edition**





## **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department**

Seated L-R: Zack Bugay, Joe Williams, Jerry McClain,  
Brandon Pennington, Mark Johns

Standing L-R: Tyler Galish, Bob Johnson, Gary McCuen,  
Lee Hutchinson, Rich Dusenberry

## **FIREMEN BUY NEW AMPLIFIER**

Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department met in regular session Monday evening at which time plans for the Street Fair and Parade, which will be held August 23 to 30 were advanced. The group purchased a sound system from Earl Farner, local RCA representative at a cost of \$180. The purchase of a "Burgettstown" banner to be used in street parades, a first aid kit, set of flares and flashlights for the squad car was approved.

William Davis was initiated into membership.

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department buys New Amplifier  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 13, 1939 Edition**

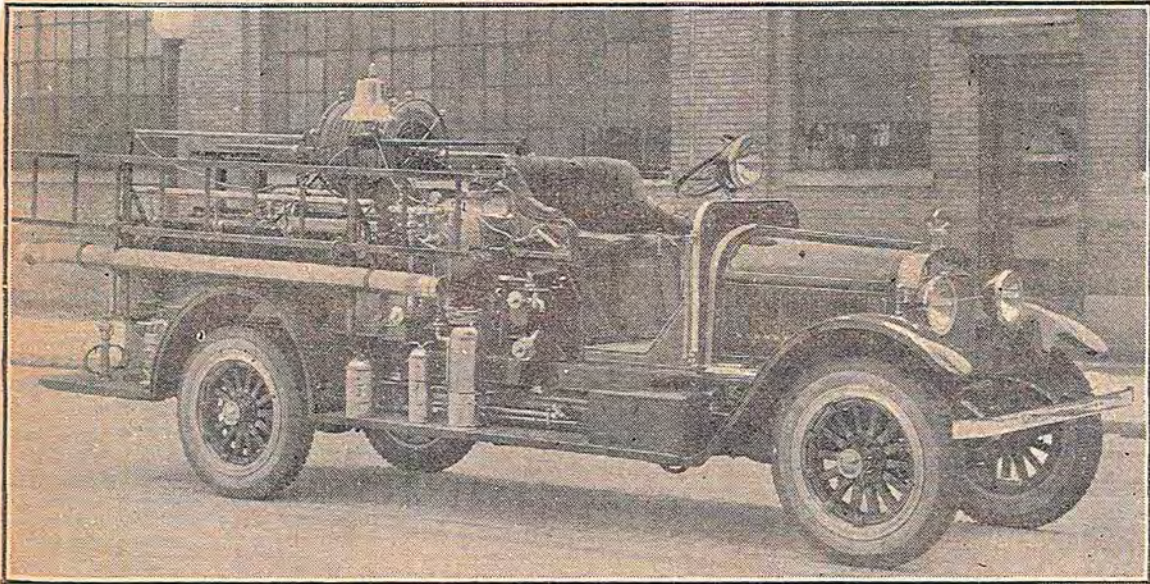
## **\$45,000 Fire at Burgettstown**

The McDonald Fire Department responded to an alarm from Burgettstown at here o'clock Wednesday morning to assist the Burgettstown Fire Department fight a fire in the Smith Hotel near Burgettstown Station. The interior of the hotel was destroyed and the Panconi building adjoining was damaged. The total loss is placed at about \$45,000, partially covered by insurance. Six roomers in the hotel were forced to flee in their nightclothes. The fire thought to have started in the barber shop in the Panconi building, and then spread to the Panconi fruit store, destroying the greater part of the structure. From the Panconi building the flames spread to the Smith Hotel. The hotel building housed a barber shop, a Butler store manage by Arthur FRANZ of Venice, Bloom's Department and the Wray Shoe Store. Panconi's loss is estimated at \$13,000, and Smith's loss in the hotel alone is reported as \$20,000. The Butler Store loss is placed at \$1,000 and the Tucci Barber Shop is placed at \$500. The loss to Bloom and Sons and the Wray Shoe Store, were damaged was chiefly by water and smoke, was not determined. The Burgettstown Fire Department responded promptly and placed four streams of water on the burning structure. For a time, fire threatened to destroy the whole business block and spread across the street. The McDonald Fire Department materially aided the Burgettstown Fire Fighters.

**McDonald Record-January 23, 1931 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

**HI! HO!  
COME TO THE FAIR**



**NINTH ANNUAL  
CARNIVAL AND STREET FAIR  
OF**

**BURGETTSTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
ON THE PUBLIC PARKING LOT**

**Music — Entertainment — Free Gifts**

**ENTIRE WEEK**

**August 24 to August 29**

**EVERYBODY INVITED**

**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-1936**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Fire Destroys Home In Eldersville



A home was destroyed by fire in Eldersville last Friday evening, when a kerosene stove used for cooking exploded. The home was recently purchased by Al Bailey, and was located down the hill toward what formerly was known as Shinnstown. The frame house, owned for a number of years by Mrs. Elizabeth Gillespie, contained eight rooms.

It was occupied by Mr. Bailey, and another family, Mrs. Glendenning and two of her four children. The other two children have been staying with relatives. Mrs. Glendenning and her two boys, and Mr. Bailey, lost all of their belongings.

They are in need of almost anything in the line of wearing apparel, but the main need is for bed clothing. Some furniture has been promised them, as soon as they can locate another house nearby. They are presently living in Penowa with friends.

The children are Mike, age 9, and Eddie, a little over one year old. Mrs. Glendenning can use clothing from the 14 to 16 size,

with a size 7 shoe. Mr. Bailey, who was at work at Sutherland Lumber Company, Burgettstown, when the fire broke out, wears size 44 trousers, and 17 shirt. Mrs. Glendenning ran from the house with her baby with only the clothes they had on.

Volunteer firemen from Burgettstown, Avella and Hanover Township answered the call with no less than seven trucks and pumpers, in an attempt to prevent the fire from spreading through the heavily wooded area, into Eldersville.

Anyone with clothing or other articles to donate may call 587-5401 evenings.

**Eldersville Home of Al Bailey Destroyed  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 31, 1968 Edition**



**Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department  
April 2018-Shady Avenue, Controlled Fire Training Exercise**

**First Row, L-R: Gary McCuen and Vicki Hawk. Second Row, L-R: Evan Greenslate, Jake Jancart, Louise Huchko, Matt Alt, and Daniel Irwin.**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



## **Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department-September 23, 2017**

Second Place winners at the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention for Members Marching with Music and Best Dalmatian, Best engine 1980- 1989, Best Social Service, Unit, and Best Overall Appearing Fire Company. **First Row, L-R:** Matt Alt, Jake Jancart, Evan Greenslate, Angelo Wilson, Louis Huchko, and Josie, the dog. **Second Row, L-R:** Vickie Hawk, Kevin Galish, Zack Bugay, Dennis Vorhes, Gary McCuen, Jerry McClain, Fire Chief, Richard Dusenberry, Mike Rush, and Janet McClain.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*