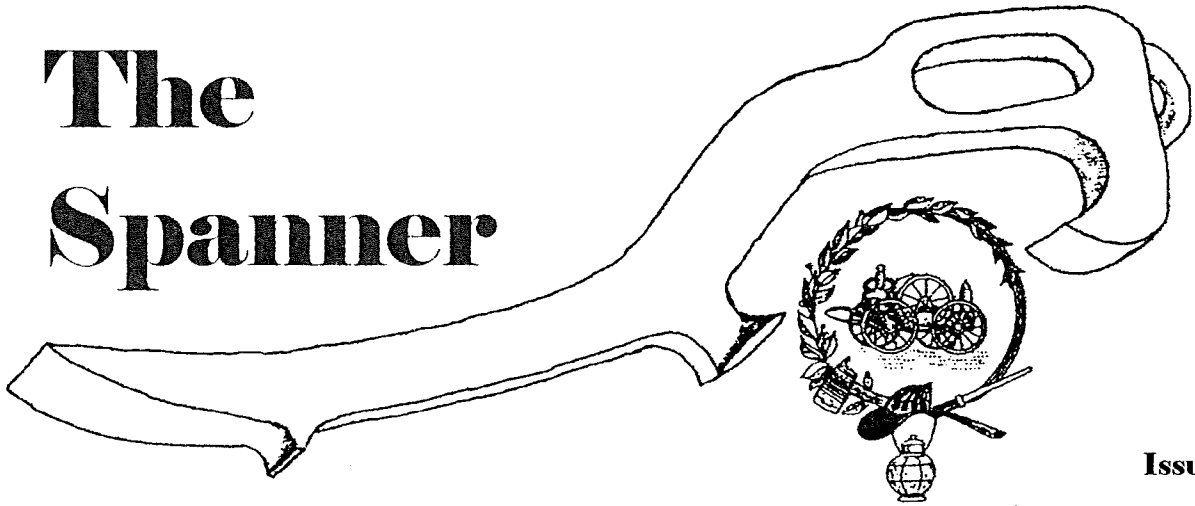

The Spanner



Winter 1999

Issue 3

Lingohocken Fire Company • Post Office Box 102 • Wycombe, PA 18980 • Telephone 215-598-3500

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APPRECIATION

In many occupations people go about their business daily, or even for years, performing the best they can, but rarely knowing how they are doing or even if the work that they do is appreciated. We volunteers are no different. We are unpaid, so pay raises and monetary incentives cannot give us that evaluation of our efforts. We do get notes occasionally which thank us for our services, and these are appreciated. But once in a while, we receive a great boost from someone we have helped.

Last year a young man was severely injured after his car struck a tree. Extricating him from the wreckage was tricky but accomplished quickly. He was transported to a hospital where he received the care that saved his foot. At our Pancake Breakfast, he came back to the kitchen on his crutches to thank us for saving his life. Tears were seen welling up in the eyes of several of the workers who had been there.

Recently there was an accident in which a young woman driving her father's pick up truck hit a telephone pole. The following letter was received and a more heartfelt response is hard to imagine:

Dear Members of the Lingohocken Fire Company (especially those on October 7th),

I never thought that it would be so complicated to thank a group of people for being who they are and doing what they do. Not only is it noble, gracious, brave and rare, but it is also widely unappreciated. If I am able to live my life regularly again- then the credit goes to all of you because truly, you saved my life. And before, where there was just respect for you, there is now reverence. You are all exceptional people...and you are an asset to our society, not just because you are "heroes" and save things, but you are the people that will take the time out of your day to do that. Thank you all for saving my life and for doing a brilliant job of being human beings. Thank you.

Love, Erin Rigby

When we respond to an emergency, we know that no call is truly routine but occasionally someone's response to it sets it apart and encourages us to do even more. Letters like Erin's and the generous response to the fund drive from our community assure us that what we do is appreciated and worthwhile.

GR

FIRE, SAFETY AND RESCUE

At this time of year the temperature begins to fall and the leaves pile up. For firefighters, it is the time for brush fires and chimney fires. Last month, 60% of our fire calls were for brush fires started by loss of control of burning leaf piles, rekindles of controlled burns or careless disposal of ashes.

In Upper Makefield Township, no open burns are permitted whatsoever. In Wrightstown and Buckingham Townships, open burns are permitted provided the burning is:

- ♦ attended and under control at all times;
- ♦ of leaves and brush only: burning dirt-laden roots is a DEP violation;
- ♦ stopped two hours before sunset;
- ♦ no closer than **50** feet to any structure;
- ♦ not on or in ditches along roadways.

Burning of household trash is permitted only in metal barrels and in quantities no greater than 125 cubic feet. Anyone preparing for an open burn in Buckingham Township should first contact the fire marshal at 794-8834. Prior to burning in Wrightstown, contact the Bucks County Radio Room at 348-6616. You should call back when you are finished burning. This will help prevent unnecessary dispatch of the fire department.

To prevent a visit from the fire department when you first use your fireplaces, have your chimneys serviced, as residue can build up rapidly. Be certain to know the position of your flue. Furthermore, any gas appliances in the home, including fireplaces and furnaces, should also be checked for leaks, corrosion and proper connections. Make needed repairs before using.

Burning of most materials produces carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is nearly equal to air in density so it can fill any part of a room. Therefore it is necessary to have carbon monoxide alarms near sleeping areas and furnaces. Most carbon monoxide alarms need servicing every two years, but should be checked each spring and in the autumn before windows are closed for the season and before furnaces and fireplaces are used.

A few points to remember:

- ♦ check smoke detectors regularly;
- ♦ always keep a window partly open when using a kerosene heater;
- ♦ do not warm up your car inside the garage.

Follow these guidelines for a safe and happy holiday season.

AC

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!



With the help of the Lingohocken Fire Company elves, Santa will visit your neighborhood on **Christmas Eve**. Santa's tour begins at 3:00PM at the Buckingham Valley Nursing Home and will end with a Carol Sing at the Wycombe Train Station. Children, keep your eyes and ears open—bring a flashlight and join in the holiday spirit. Santa's schedule is listed below. Santa may be delayed by weather or by emergency, so be patient if he's not right on time.

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Forest Grove Church; Edgehill, U. Mountain, L. Mountain, Creek Rds.; Buckingham Springs, Hallowell Dr., Penns Park Church, Pineville Tavern; Holicong, Pineville, Smith, Swamp, Dark Hollow, McClesfield, Apple Hill Rds; Mega Way; Rushland Post Office.

5:00PM - 6:30PM

L. Mountain Rd. West, Sugar Bottom Rd., Mozart Rd., Franklin Dr., Wrenwood Way, Anchor Estates, Jericho Valley, Anchor Crossing, Neshaminy Cliffs, Worthington Mill Rd., Hampton Ct., White Gate, Brownsburg, Thompson Mill, Pineville Rds.; Penns Park Pub.

6:30PM - 7:00PM

Penns Park Rd., Mill Creek Rd., Washington Ave., Cherry Ln. **Wycombe Train Station - Carol Sing**

FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

In order to acquaint our neighbors with who we are, we plan to offer a profile of people who make up our membership and who have made significant contributions to the Lingohocken Volunteer Fire Company.

In 1913 Clarence Smith was one of the charter members of the Fire Company and today his grandson, Ben Smith, is president. Ben joined the Fire Company in 1957. He has been an active and dedicated member serving in administrative and departmental positions. He served as chief from 1976 to 1983 and has been president since.

Ben and his wife, Judy, live at Robin Run Farm which has been home to the Smith family for more than 200 years. As a graduate of Penn State's

agriculture program, he grows sod which is purchased by landscapers, builders and homeowners all throughout the Greater Philadelphia area. Before the farm grew sod, it had a herd of Guernsey cows.

It may be the farmer's legendary ability to innovate solutions to problems, but Ben has a gift for solving many of the mechanical difficulties that may face a sophisticated fire company. He also has been a driving force behind the design of most of the apparatus the Fire Company owns, the design and building of the additions to the main station as well as remodeling the Forest Grove substation.

Ben and Judy are the parents of two daughters and a son and grandparents of twin boys. GR

ASSOCIATE PROFILE

Judy Smith is a natural choice to feature in this issue's associate profile not only because she is married to Ben but because she also has given many years of service to the Lingohocken Volunteer Fire Company. Judy has served as treasurer for twelve years.

When computers first began to influence record keeping, she bought one for her work as secretary and treasurer for Robin Run Farm and used it for the Fire Company's financial records as well. She helped to compile accurate mailing lists for the fund drive and has been of immeasurable help in its success.

Understanding the life of a volunteer firefighter came naturally to Judy. Her father was a member of the fire company and she grew up in Wycombe across the street from the fire house. She could not help but see and hear the responses to fires at all hours of the day and night. Judy belonged to the Junior Auxiliary for several years before becoming an Associate Member. Judy graduated from Council Rock High School and worked in the billing department for a company in Hatboro, for the Zoning and Building Inspector's office in Buckingham Township and has run the office for Robin Run Turf Grass since 1976. GR

FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

First Grade

1st: Andrew Stress
2nd: Sarina Labold
3rd: Chloe Pinto

Second Grade

1st: Ross Re

Third Grade

no entries



Fourth Grade

1st: Cory Mack
2nd: Amber Tanner
3rd: Erica Pugh
Honorable Mentions:
Dylan Glover
Randi Roiz
Andrea Stress



Fifth Grade

1st: Jennifer Dzwonek
2nd: Julia Smit
3rd: Andrew Overton

Sixth Grade

1st: Marisa Ferino
2nd: Lindsey Menzen
3rd: John Nussbaum

Overall Grand Prize Winner
Cory Mack (4th grade)

CHIEF'S REPORT

As we near the end of another year, one of the most important functions of the fire company line officers is to look back at the year to see how we have progressed. Although there are many indicators nothing more accurately reflects growth than training. The fire company's training program involves several steps and works similarly to a building-block process. First, a new recruit must complete an orientation. This can usually be done in a few nights and is the most informal portion of the training. Next, fire fighters are asked to attend a Fire Fighter 1 course. This is a one hundred-four hour course held at the Bucks County Emergency Services Training Center in Edison. Graduates of the FF1 program are qualified to perform most jobs on the fire ground and have learned to perform those tasks safely. These initial steps require a serious commitment and are really just the foundation of a well-educated fire fighter. Once the foundation is complete, fire fighters are encouraged to continue with more advanced and specialized training. Vehicle Rescue, Fire Fighter 2, Pump Operations and Ropes and Riggings are just a few of the numerous classes that can be taken through our County training program.

Our in-house training program is equally as important as the initial training received at the Training Center. Training is conducted on three Tuesday nights of every month and is overseen by the fire company training officer. The training officer is faced with the challenge of

developing drills that will teach basics to the newest members as well as refresh and enhance the senior members' skills. The most important aspect of this training is that all members work together.

Another obstacle that the training officer must overcome is to develop interesting ideas that will keep everyone's attention. For example, this year we traveled to one of the local quarries and spent an evening working with ropes and knots. Some of the most skilled fire fighters rappelled from the buildings in the quarry. Other training this year included interior fire attack at the Varga house, the proper response to bomb and explosive incidents which was presented by the Philadelphia Bomb Squad and a seminar on responding to petroleum emergencies taught by the Sun Oil Company.

The success of our training program was more than evident during the early part of July when a series of building fires tested all of our skills. One of the most impressive displays was the water supply operation at the Anchor Inn fire. Through practice and cooperation with our mutual aid fire companies we supplied over one half million gallons of water without interruption. Results like this can only be achieved through training and practice. As we look toward 1999 and beyond, we need to remain focused on continued training in order to provide the community with the very best the fire service has to offer.

Chief John Bailey

DO YOU READ THE SPANNER?

Let us know. Complete this tear-off strip and return it to us. Use the return envelope included in your fund drive letter.

Name:

Address: