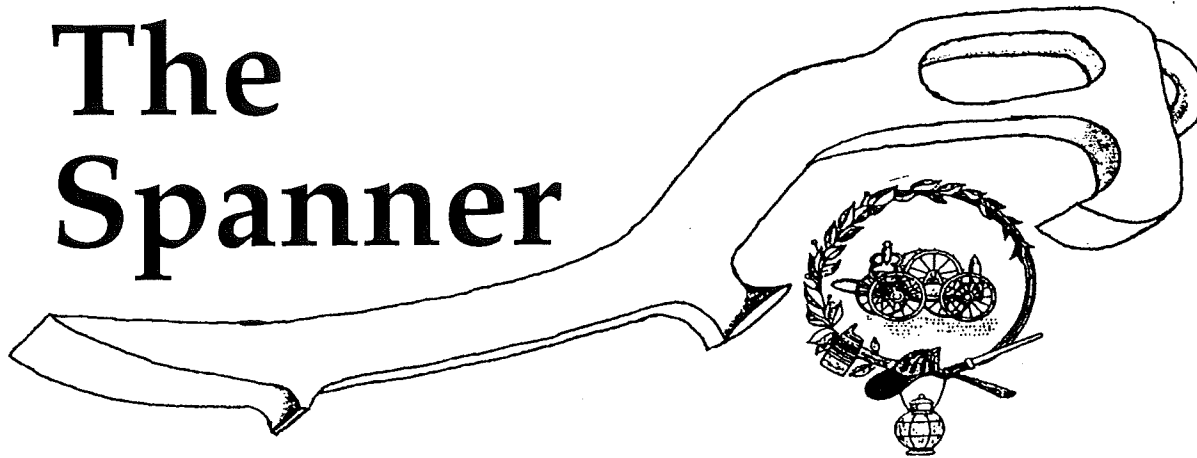

The Spanner



Winter 2001

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CHIEF'S REPORT

It seems hard to believe the a year has passed since we waited cautiously to enter into the year 2000. Now that Y2K is behind us and for the most part forgotten, we at the Fire Company are busy planning and training for the future.

Our departmental apparatus committee is currently working to map out our future capital equipment purchases. Since it would appear that our most critical need is to replace our 1973 Pumper that is stationed in Forest Grove, I expect the committee will be spending the next year designing a truck that will best suit the needs of our service area. In the last year we purchased new self-contained breathing apparatus. The old air packs served us well for twelve years but federal mandates require that the cylinders be replaced after fifteen years. Since the new packs are state of the art, firefighters were required to undergo additional training. Also this year the Bucks County Department of Communications replaced the entire emergency services communications network. The new system is based on digital technology and allows all branches of emergency services to communicate. We are pleased to report that the new radios are installed and working well.

As our area continues to experience growth,

we have worked hard this year to continue with our commitment to training. In particular, we have recently completed a course in Confined Space Rescue. This new training will help us to deal with individuals who may become trapped in silos found on area farms, an employee working in a vessel that may be found in industry or a child that may have fallen into a open shaft to name a few. We are scheduled to begin a course in Trench Rescue in January. This course will train us to deal with workers who have become entrapped while working in ditches at construction sites. We will remain committed to save lives and property by continued education that will meet the challenges offered by a growing community.

As always Fire Prevention continues to be one of our most important goals. In October, our committee delivered our fire prevention message to over 700 children. While working from a program developed by the National Fire Protection Association, we have visited all of the area pre-schools as well as the Wrightstown Elementary School. As usual we ended fire prevention week with our Open House and honored the winners of our annual poster contest.

As another year ends, I would like to thank everyone for your support throughout the year and wish you all a happy and fire safe holiday season. JTB

FIREFIGHTER'S REUNION

On August 6, 2000 the Fire Company held its first reunion as a part of our annual picnic, and despite the rain, it was a definite success. We invited more than sixty-five former members many of whom had moved from the area; and nearly twenty, with their families, were able to attend.

Among firefighters a strong bond forms, born of shared experience, which goes beyond the barrier of age. Young firefighters understand the stories of older veterans and can respect their actions. We, of the present generation, wanted to show off our recent progress which has come about because of the foundation laid many years before, and we wanted to acknowledge our gratitude for the roles those men and women played.

The day turned rainy; so all the tables and chairs, food and drink were brought from Robin Run Farm back to the Firehouse, but the camaraderie and spirits were not dampened. We set up in the old engine room and grilled hot dogs and hamburgers in the lee of the building. Some veterans brought photographs from the past, and many enjoyed going through the Fire Company's collection from its archives. There were lots of "Do you remember's" as stories of past fire calls were retold. There was laughter and some sadness as departed members were remembered.

Each of the returning guests was presented with a wind-breaker especially created for this occasion as tangible appreciation of their contributions to the Lingohocken Fire Company. GR

FIRE MARKS

Fire marks are emblems that were used by early fire insurance companies to "mark" the property it insured. Fire marks were made of various metals, including lead, copper, brass, cast iron, tin or zinc and came in various sizes and shapes.

Within a year after the London fire of 1666, the first fire insurance company was founded. The company organized its own fire brigade to protect the property it insured to reduce losses from fire and looting. Each policyholder was given a lead plate in the form of a phoenix rising from the flames. This emblem was displayed prominently on the property so firefighters would recognize the site as an insurance risk and extinguish the fire.

As more fire insurance companies were organized, they too formed their own fire brigades and adopted their own distinctive emblems. When an alarm sounded, the various London brigades raced to the fire but only the brigade whose mark was displayed fought the fire. By 1833 these separate insurance company fire brigades formed a single brigade, the predecessor of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of London.

In colonial America, the early firefighters were volunteers. George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams and John Hancock were among the first volunteers; it was a matter of prominence to be a volunteer. The first fire company was the Union Fire Company in

Philadelphia, organized in 1736 with the assistance of Benjamin Franklin.

Some fire brigades formed their own insurance companies and issued their own fire marks. These large cast iron fire marks often depicted a fire engine or a fire hydrant and made a recognizable advertisement for the insurance company that the volunteers organized. However, unlike their English counterparts, the American volunteer fire companies never refused service no matter whose fire mark appeared on the building, a tradition which is carried on today.

While fire marks were used in America for 150 years, particularly in the eastern U.S., fewer than 300 insurance companies actually issued them. Except for the early Philadelphia fire marks, American marks were not as ornate as the English emblems, made of tinned sheet iron or wood. Fire marks gradually disappeared as paid municipal fire service spread in cities. Technology soon replaced the fire mark as firefighting equipment improved.

For over 300 years, insurance companies have issued fire marks worldwide. The marks of the Philadelphia Fire Association, the Firemen's of Washington, DC and the Firemen's of Baltimore are still reproduced. They are found on homes throughout America. Fire marks were a fire company's distinct mark and are historical reminders of volunteerism in early America. AC Original Contribution by Bob Shea

WE MEET AGAIN

On Thursday, October 19th, the Apparatus Committee held its first meeting to plan for our next truck purchase. The Apparatus Committee is responsible for developing specifications for new truck purchases, soliciting bids, recommending to the bid awardee, and making inspection trips to insure that the new truck is delivered as specified. We are planning the purchase of a new engine during the first quarter of 2003. During the next two years we will study new components, travel to factories and other fire companies, drive various engine, pump, and transmission combinations to form a specification for a new pumper.

The job of the committee is made more difficult due to the fact that our financial constraints require us to purchase an engine that will last for 25 years and not become obsolete. We have to look at new technology to see whether it will last or be a

"flash in the pan" item. An example is Compressed Air Foam Systems which could add about \$30,000 to the price of a truck. Our 1973 pumper located at our not so new sub-station in Forest Grove is a good example of thoughtful design. It has a 350 horsepower diesel engine, automatic transmission, and 1500 gallon per minute pump. This is similar to new engines of today. With the arrival of the new engine the 73 Hahn will be retained as a reserve engine.

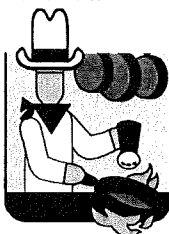
Few decisions were made at our first meeting except that this engine will be very *user friendly*. We need to have as many members as possible operate the truck to insure that it will always respond to an emergency. To that end new apparatus will probably be a little shorter, lower, and lighter than our present Engine. It will be designed with a pump to allow a driver to deliver water to a fire. We have our work cut out for us, stay tuned. BJS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Many people of our community have asked when we are having our next Pancake Breakfast, and our reply is, April. (The date has not been set).

We have cut back to having the Breakfast once a year for several compelling reasons:

1. In the recent past it has been more and more difficult to get volunteer help for the Breakfast.
2. While our primary purpose has been



to bring our community together, the net earnings hardly justify the large investment of time.

3. Our active members total 39, and in the first eleven months of this year they have given well over 4,300 man-hours of volunteer, unpaid service to our community through their work at fires, training and work details. There isn't a lot of time left over for family and paying jobs, let alone the Breakfast. Watch for our signs in March and April, and we'll see you at the Breakfast. GR

FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

J. EDWARD SAMSEL

The Lingohocken Fire Company was organized in 1913, eighty-seven years ago, and for sixty of those years, Ed Samsel has been a member, actively working to assure the community safety. Ed grew up in the Pineville area, and he lives there now. His home is tidy, and well stocked with photographs of his family and many recognition awards from his years of fire fighting service. He and his wife, Frances, had eight children, six girls and two boys, and seven of them live in Bucks County. Daughter Helen lives in Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania in Susquehanna County where she is (like her father) a fire police officer, and secretary to the Pennsylvania Fire Police Association. Ed and Frances have nineteen grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Asked how she felt about having a "double-great", Frances smiled and said, "It's just another day." Now that he has retired from farming, Ed and Frances keep busy making quilts, many of them for their offspring. Frances estimates that they have made 126 quilts. She does the embroidery and Ed does the quilting. Needless to say, it is neat, colorful work.

It is difficult to separate Ed's story from the history of the Fire Company. In the late 1920's Ed worked as a knitter in the full fashion hosiery business, but after that industry collapsed, he went into farming, reasoning that even during the Depression farming could assure his family a food supply. For more than forty years Ed ran a dairy farm on Smith Road. In those early years, he often helped out the Fire Company, and then finally, in 1941, he joined after noting that there was a lack of new members to fill the ranks. His first fire call was to a tragic house fire on Route 413 where three children died. Neither Lingohocken nor Newtown had adequate equipment or enough water to effect an interior attack and the rescue of the children. That incident set the resolve which has

motivated him ever since. It was following this that Ed and the Fire Company set out to earn money to buy proper equipment. On Thursday nights they collected newspaper; they had carnival; the Ladies Auxiliary had suppers, card games and bingo as fund-raisers. At one time they worked jointly with Midway Fire Company in running a carnival. This provided more income, which helped a great deal.

In 1950, when he was President of the Fire Company, a community-wide effort was launched to erect a new firehouse, and nearly everyone took part through donations of money, time and materials. The community spirit was never more in evidence than it was then.

In addition to his presidency, he was secretary and treasurer of the Lingohocken Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association. He served as president of the Pennsylvania State Fire Police Association, and of the Bucks County Fire Police Association. Now he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Fire Police Association.

Ed reliably drove fire trucks until he was eighty, and now he serves as a fire police officer. When there is an emergency he usually can be seen at the intersection of Township Line Road and Route 413, clearing the road for the fire apparatus to get through. At age 91 he can be forgiven for not rolling out of bed in the middle of the night! He and Fire Police Captain Kelly Dishmon have worked well together, and Ed always has appreciated Kelly's good ideas and his knowledge of what was happening.

Ed credits Frances for helping to make possible his participation by taking over the milking when the fire siren blew. Asked if he misses the farming, Ed replies that there are two things he misses - the milk check, and cream for his coffee!

After sixty years, Ed's dedication and integrity never seem to have wavered, and he is an inspiration to many of his younger colleagues.
GR

TECH TALK BEHIND THE BELLS AND WHISTLE

Presently located in the first bay in the main station in Wycombe is a 1990 Spartan-3D pumper designated as Engine 35. The chassis has a long four-door cab with seating for eight personnel and was built by Spartan Motors located in Michigan. Six personnel have seats with self-contained breathing apparatus [SCBA] that can be donned while responding to a fire. It is powered by a Cummins L-10 350 horsepower diesel motor with Jacobs engine brake. It has an Allison HT 740 automatic transmission and a Hale 1500-gallon per minute single stage fire pump. Connected to the pump with a 4-inch line is a 1000-gallon water tank with an integral 60-gallon foam tank.

Engine 35 carries over one half a mile of fire hose

as follows: 1500 feet of 5-inch supply line, 250 feet of three-inch attack line, 300 feet of three-inch spare hose, [2] 300-foot, two-inch pre-connected attack lines, [2] 200-foot, two-inch pre-connected attack lines, [2] 150-foot, two-inch pre-connected attack lines (one with foam capability and a 200-foot booster line.

A 12,000 watt diesel 110/220 Volt generator furnishes power to flood lights, cord reels, and outlets placed around the truck. Compartments around the truck carry spare SCBA bottles, fans, lights, chain saws, and numerous hand tools. Ladders carried include: 35-foot extension, 20-foot extension, 12- and 14-foot roof ladders, [2] eight-foot attic ladders and [1] 17-foot Little Giant folding ladder.

BJS

ECONOMICS 101

The ups and downs of the stock market these last few months have made everyone wonder about the future. But no matter what the financial future may bring, one thing is certain, how we all budget our finances is important.

Going into 2001, the Fire Company has been fine tuning its budget to ensure that we are able to meet expected expenses of \$147,154. We know this may seem a lot of money, and it is. But even for a volunteer organization like ours, the costs associated with providing fire protection are real.

The largest cost is associated with loans to finance the purchase of apparatus and facilities. This year, we will be paying off our loan for an engine we purchased in 1990. We still have outstanding obligations on a Rescue truck and Tanker we purchased in 1997, and for the purchase of our substation in Forest Grove. In total, our loan payments for 2001 will total over \$62,000. We expect to have all current loans paid by 2012.

To help stretch every dollar, the Fire Company has been able to arrange very favorable interest rates on our loans. An initial \$200,000 loan from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency at an interest rate of 2% was used to finance the majority cost of two trucks. The balance of the cost of the trucks and the substation were financed by a \$270,000 loan from a local bank at an interest rate of 5.5%.

The second largest expense of the Fire Company is maintenance on our fleet of trucks. In addition to the Rescue truck and Tanker mentioned earlier, maintenance is performed on two engines, a Special Service truck and a Field truck. Vehicle inspections, repairs, maintenance, insurance and fuel are just of a few of the costs associated with ensuring our fire apparatus can respond to an emergency. In total, we spent just over \$18,000 in

2000, and expect to see a similar expense in 2001.

Like you, we pay electric, natural gas and telephone bills. In the upcoming year, we expect to pay more than \$5,500 to heat our buildings. Utilities as a whole are budgeted at \$14,190 for 2001.

Rounding out our budget for next year are miscellaneous costs associated with building upkeep; insurance, buildings and grounds maintenance charges, and general operational costs including fire prevention activities account for another \$25,000. Add in fund raising costs for our pancake breakfast, fund drive mailings, the golf outing and the like, add another \$8,100.

If you have been adding up the numbers, that leaves about \$19,800 which we put into our savings for a rainy day to cover emergency expenses or future purchases. Just this past year, we had to spend more than \$75,000 to purchase two-way radios as part of the Bucks County 911 upgrade. Additionally, we purchased 30 air packs to meet federal mandates. Both the cost of the radios and the \$69,000 for the air packs came out of savings.

The goal of the Fire Company is to budget responsibly to ensure that fire protection needs in our service area are met. This involves watching every dollar we spend and planning for the future.

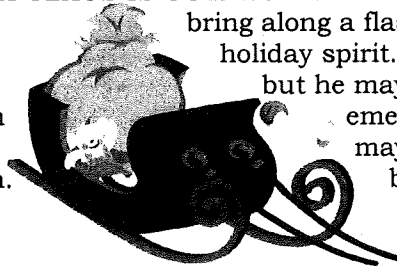


If you are a shopper at Genuardi's Family Markets, we ask that you send us your green (2000) and blue (2001) register tapes. Genuardi's will contribute 1% of your purchase to the Fire Company. This is just another way you can support the Fire Company. Thanks to Genuardi's for supporting community activities.

CP

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 on Route 413 at Buckingham Valley Nursing Home and will end with a Carol Sing at the Wycombe Train Station. Children, keep your eyes and ears open -



bring along a flashlight and share the holiday spirit. Santa's estimated schedule follows but he may be delayed by weather or emergency, so please be patient. He may be slightly off schedule - by the end of the tour.

3:30PM - 4:30PM

Departs Nursing Home, Route 413, Smith Rd., Rushland Post Office, Mega Way, Apple Hill, Swamp, Drk Hollow, McClesfield & Mozart Rds.

4:30PM - 5:30PM

Sugar Bottom, Lower Mtn., Creek; New Hope Rds., Neshaminy Cliffs & Worthington Mill Rd.

5:30PM - 6:15PM

White Gate, Brownsburg, Thompson Mill, Street & Windy Bush Rds

3:30PM - 4:00PM

Forest Grove Church, Upper Mtn. & Edgehill Rds.

4:00PM - 6:15PM

Buckingham Springs

Caroling at the Wycombe Train Station follows Santa's tour.

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Hallowell Dr., Penns Park Church, Lower Mtn. & Holicong Rds.

5:00PM - 6:00PM

Pineville Tavern, Pine Ln., Windy Bush Rd., Jericho Valley, Anchor Shopping Ctr. & Anchor Estates.

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Wrenwood, Penns Park Rd., Penns Park Tavern, Cedar Ln.