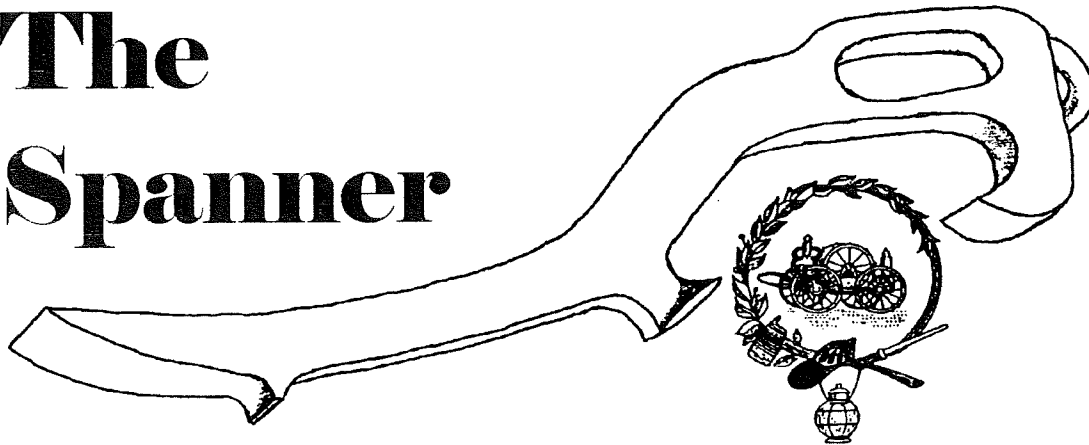


# The Spanner



Winter 2002

Issue 6

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## FIRE PREVENTION 2001

For many years, the Fire Company met its fire prevention obligations by taking one of its trucks to the Elementary School and showing it to the students and teachers. Ten years ago this changed. We developed a program with an age-appropriate curriculum that instructs children in fire response in addition to fire prevention. We visit all the day-care, nursery, and private schools in our response area, as well as all the classes at the Wrightstown Elementary School. Some groups of children even come to the Fire House for their program and for a tour.

The program usually consists of a video; a session designed to allay the fears young children may have when confronted by a rescuer in turnout gear and breathing apparatus; the importance of 911; Stop, Drop and Roll; and the necessity of smoke alarms and in-home fire drills. These topics are expanded with the older students, and often include good question and answer sessions. Additionally, we hold a poster contest for children and award prizes at our annual Open House that is attended by nearly 200 people.

This year our firefighters gained the added advantage of having an assistant ultimately named

“Lingo”. Lingo is a firefighter costumed as a Dalmatian that draws the attention of the children as he teaches the fire prevention lessons.

Lingo came to us through a generous gift from the ARCCA Corporation in Penns Park; he was an immediate hit with the classes. His efforts have underscored the lessons we have presented.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> our fire prevention team and Lingo spent the entire day at the Elementary School. Just nine days later we saw the results of our instruction when we responded to the home of one of the kindergarten students where there was a raging attic fire. The five-year old and her parents were safely out of the house but she wanted a favorite toy. She knew not to go back into the house after escaping, and she was rewarded when one of the firefighters retrieved it.

Several years ago a family's lives and home were saved because a young child had insisted that a smoke detector be installed in a laundry room area – the very area where a smoky fire broke out in the middle of the night. The alarm awoke them and they escaped safely.

For the past several years our Fire Prevention Week costs have averaged about \$2500 for the little fire hats, crayons, coloring books, brochures and poster contest prizes, but seeing results such as those above make it all worthwhile!

GR

## POSTER CONTEST WINNERS 2001

### KINDERGARTEN

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Coccetti
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Taylor Campbell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Todd Kirchoff

### FIRST GRADE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dominique Pinto
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Taylor Beck
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Katie Hayburn

### THIRD GRADE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Burns
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dylan Ruggerio
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tyler Shabin

### FIFTH GRADE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ross Re
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jillian Conti
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kelly Brode

### SECOND GRADE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Justin Lehman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dayna Re
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Deanna Meckling

### FOURTH GRADE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sarina Bold
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt Cannon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Doug Weir

### SIXTH GRADE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Arielle Smith
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Colin Lehman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Arpajian



## FUND RAISING EFFORTS

Aside from our annual fund drive appeal, our members find other ways to raise funds necessary to support our operations. We have raised about 7% of our budget from other efforts, not including the roughly \$1000 profit from the Pancake Breakfast.

### STORE REBATE RESPONSE

In December 2000 we initiated rebate programs with both Genuardi's and Acme Stores, and the response by our community has been excellent! We are grateful to the community and to the stores for the \$800 we have received as a result. Several times a week, envelopes containing sales tapes arrive in our mail; and they add up to make a difference! The \$800 received to date equals the cost of four firefighting helmets or a fire coat or a set of bunker pants and boots.

Again, Thank You! And keep them coming!

## PARKING

Most of our community know that we raise funds by parking cars at the Middletown Grange Fair each August. What some may not know is that quite a few members give up vacation days or take days off from their work to help. The three fire companies – Lingohocken, Newtown and Upper Makefield – share half the receipts with the Grange. The fire companies divide their share evenly. This year's parking raised almost \$10,000. It is hot, tiring work, but it helps the Grange, their visitors and us.

In recent years during the month of October, a small crew of our membership and members of Newtown Fire Association have helped to park cars for Haunted Hayrides at Bill Gunser's Active Acres Farm in Upper Makefield. This has netted each company almost \$5,000. GR

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## FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

### STEVE KRAISS

In 1972, Steve Kraiss turned fourteen, and joined the Lingohocken Fire Company as a Junior Firefighter. He served with his older brother, but the real attraction was to be with the Juniors his own age. (You must remember that this was 1972 and like now, Wycombe had few other positive attractions for teen-aged boys.)

Steve is a tall, quiet, unassuming person. These traits belie a dedicated, hard-working, clear thinking man. If asked to do a job, he does it methodically, and he does it well. Steve has innate skills and is a self-taught automobile and truck mechanic who generously shares this talent for the benefit of the Fire Company. There isn't a truck in our fleet that he hasn't helped to modify. When we made conversions of our 1965 and 1973 Pumper trucks, Steve was in his element. He has been a vital force on the Apparatus Committee as it has developed specifications for new apparatus. Presently, he serves as Chief Engineer seeing that all the apparatus is safe and reliable.

Steve has served the Company for twenty-nine years and has been a Captain, Assistant Chief and Chief, as well as a Trustee and Chief Engineer. Presently he is a Captain for the main station. In

1984 he was selected to be "Fireman of the Year" for the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Burpee Award.

Since his graduation from Council Rock High School he has been employed by local businesses usually as a truck driver. Some of the businesses include Robin Run Farm where he helped with sod growing and driving, Histand's Supply, and Geerling's Nurseries. Presently he is employed as Road Foreman for Wrightstown Township.

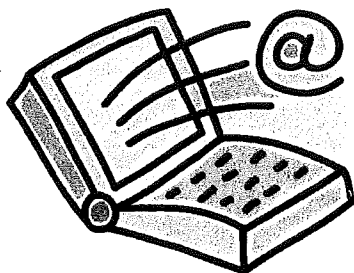
He also is a role model for his stepson, Shaun McNally, who has been a member of the Fire Company for five years.

For several years Steve and Bev have lived in Newtown Township, but now are moving back to a home in Wycombe. As a youngster, Steve was able to run up the street to the Firehouse when there was a call to be the first to arrive. Now he is older and his new home is just a little farther way and downhill; so it is almost certain that he will drive. Nevertheless, it will be good to have him as a "townie" again.

Steve's major concern is the need for increased membership by reliable, young people. He is proud to be a member of the Fire Company and is happy with the people with whom he works. The feeling is mutual.

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## WEBSITE LAUNCH



The Fire Company will soon launch a website to better keep you informed of happenings in our service area. With the help of Wrightstown resident, Christine Lloyd, the site should be up and running, sometime in January 2002.

Please check the site often. We hope to make changes frequently. In addition to general information on the company, we will provide information regarding upcoming events, list emergency responses, and provide profiles and articles that we hope will be of interest to you.

So don't forget to bookmark our Website on your "favorites" list.

CP

**[www.WrightstownPA.org/lfc](http://www.WrightstownPA.org/lfc)**

## CHIEF'S REPORT

Although it seems like only a short time has passed since our last edition of the SPANNER hit the presses, there are many topics to report. Obviously the events of September 11 have had a huge impact on all us. Those of us in the Fire Service feel a particular loss as we remember the fallen firefighters of FDNY. Sadly, Lingohocken Fire Company suffered a tragedy of our own on September 4 when one of our Firefighters was killed in a traffic accident as he traveled on Route 80 in Nebraska.

Jeffrey Wilgus served as a Lieutenant and Training Officer until his death. At the request of Jeff's family, a memorial service was held at the firehouse in Wycombe.

The weeks that followed September 11 had all of us wondering how safe we really are at our homes, work and schools. Residents can feel confident that we have been in close contact with the Bucks County Hazardous Incident Response Team to develop an appropriate response to biological and chemical threats. In an effort to encourage patriotism and bring the community together, the Lingohocken Fire Company held a Candlelight Prayer Vigil at the Fraternal Order of Police Picnic Grounds on October 27. Despite a chilly wind, many of our residents turned out to hear the calming words of the religious leaders who serve in our area. Also at the event, the Fire Company unveiled patriotic T-shirts. Proceeds from the sale of these shirts will be donated directly to the September 11 Fund. This fund has been established to benefit the families of the victim's of September 11. Shirts are \$15 each and are available in many sizes - contact Cheryl Gorski at

215-598-9892 or Michelle Curtis at 215-598-1556, if you are interested in purchasing t-shirts or assisting with this fund raising effort.



As previously reported, the Fire Company has been working to refine our skills in the area of rescue. Recently we completed an intense drill at the Eureka Stone Quarry that tested our ability in Rope Rescue, Industrial Rescue and Incident Command. Additionally we have worked hard to train in the area of Driver Training, Fire Suppression and Water Supply.

As the end of the year quickly approaches, we find ourselves finishing the busiest year on record. Currently our call volume is 20% ahead of last year. With this increase in calls we have additional paperwork as well as vehicle and equipment maintenance as a result. Although we can attribute no one cause to the increase in call volume, it follows a trend that began with our neighboring departments as population and traffic grew, so did the number of calls.

**Chief John Bailey**

### IN MEMORY

**JEFFREY WILGUS, LT. 95**

**December 3, 1964 - September 4, 2001**



Jeffrey Wilgus had been a member of the Lingohocken Fire Company since May 1998. He had previous training and experience with Lansdale's Fairmount Fire Company and had served as an Emergency Medical Technician in Sacramento, California. He also had additional firefighter training at Sierra College in Sacramento.

His leadership and cool-headed, mature performance on the fire ground was quickly noted and he was made Training Officer and charged with oversight of our breathing apparatus. In addition to being personable, he was generous in sharing his woodworking skills. When our

Company was asked to name our Firefighter of the Year for the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Burpee Award, Jeff was a clear choice.

Sadly, on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001, he lost his life in a vehicle accident near Omaha, Nebraska while driving to California to report for work with the Air Force. He was memorialized at a service conducted at the Fire House and attended by a large number of firefighters and family on September 15, 2001.

Jeff's daughter Amanda, age 13, made a special trip on November 4<sup>th</sup> to receive his posthumous award from the Chamber, and she showed why Jeff was so proud of her. He is sorely missed. GR

### ONE DOWN. THREE TO GO

This past April marked a milestone for the Fire Company. We paid off one of our loans.

Ten years ago, we borrowed \$50,000 from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to help fund the purchase of a \$205,000 fire truck which today serves as our first out engine at the Wycombe station. Thanks to the generosity of this

community, we continue to meet our financial obligations.

In the years ahead, we hope to count on your support to offset the costs of a tanker, rescue truck and the Forest Grove substation purchased four years ago. These are long term commitments for the benefit of the community we serve. CP

**WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEER ELVES,  
SANTA CLAUS WILL VISIT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**



With the help of the Lingohocken Volunteer Fire Company "elves", Santa will visit your neighborhood by fire truck on **Christmas Eve**.

His tour begins at Buckingham Valley Nursing

**3:30PM - 4:30PM**

Departs Nursing Home, Route 413, Smith Rd., Rushland Post Office, Mega Way, Apple Hill, Swamp, Dark 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.

Home. It ends in the heart of Wycombe with a Carol Sing at the Train Station.

Children, keep your eyes and ears open—bring a flashlight and share the holiday spirit.

Santa's estimated schedule follows but he may be delayed by weather or emergency, so be patient if he's slightly off schedule.

**4:00PM - 6:15PM**

Buckingham Springs

**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 and finally Cedar Ln.



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

**WINTER SURPRISES**

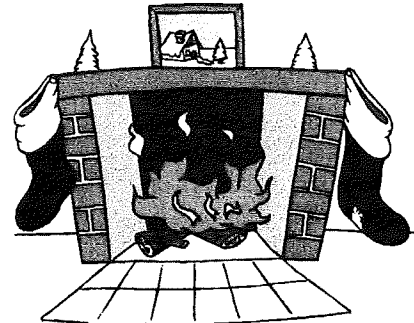
Winter, and especially Christmas, is a time for cozy fires in fireplaces and wood stoves. Also it is a time for the unpleasant surprise of a dangerous fire.

Before using your fireplace or wood stove, check to see that the flue is clear and smoke flow is not inhibited by built up soot and creosote. Have the chimney and/or flue pipe cleaned by a chimney sweep; it is a good idea for your home and your peace of mind.

Several times a year we are called to extinguish fires caused by improper disposal of wood ashes. Some simple steps can be taken to avoid this happening to you and your home.



1. Embers can still be glowing in the ashes for up to 72 hours after the fire. After 3 days, those ashes should be placed in a metal container, covered, and removed to the outside. (Not the porch or garage!)
2. After several more days, feel the container to see if there is warmth. If cold, they can be assumed safe. Many people enrich the soil by spreading the ashes in their gardens. As a precaution, wet the ashes to avoid setting fire to the dried leaves and plant material in your garden or compost pile.
3. **DO NOT** place ashes in cardboard boxes or paper bags!!



Following these tips may make it possible for you to sit back and relax to enjoy the warmth of your home. GR

**APPARATUS CHANGES**

**MANPOWER MOVER - SUBURBAN**

In March our 1976 GMC Mini-Pumper was sold. Prior to its sale, it served as a utility truck and personnel carrier at our sub-station. The mini-pumper was replaced with our 1991 Suburban, which is now housed at the Forest Grove station. The Suburban fills the role of manpower mover well as it can carry 5 people, has 4-wheel drive and an automatic transmission. During Hurricane Floyd we found our two stations almost severed by flooded streams. Because of this, the Suburban has been equipped with life vests, rope, exposure suits (a.k.a. Gumby suits) floatation rings and other water rescue equipment. It is now designated as Special Service 95.

**BEYOND THE BELLS AND WHISTLES - ENGINE 95**

Engine 95, also based in Forest Grove, is a 1973 Hahn 1500-gallon-per-minute Pumper that carries 500 gallons of water. It is powered by an 8V71, 350 horsepower Detroit Diesel with an Allison HT 740 automatic transmission. It has seating for 5 fire-fighters. There is over 2000 feet of 5-inch supply hose, 4 two-inch attack lines in 200- and 300-foot lengths and a 3500-Watt portable generator. It carries 24-foot and 35-foot ground ladders, 2 roof ladders and a folding attic ladder. Recently we added a portable hydraulic power unit with a combination cutter and spreader (a.k.a. *Jaws of Life*). This engine will move to reserve status with the purchase of a new engine in March 2003.