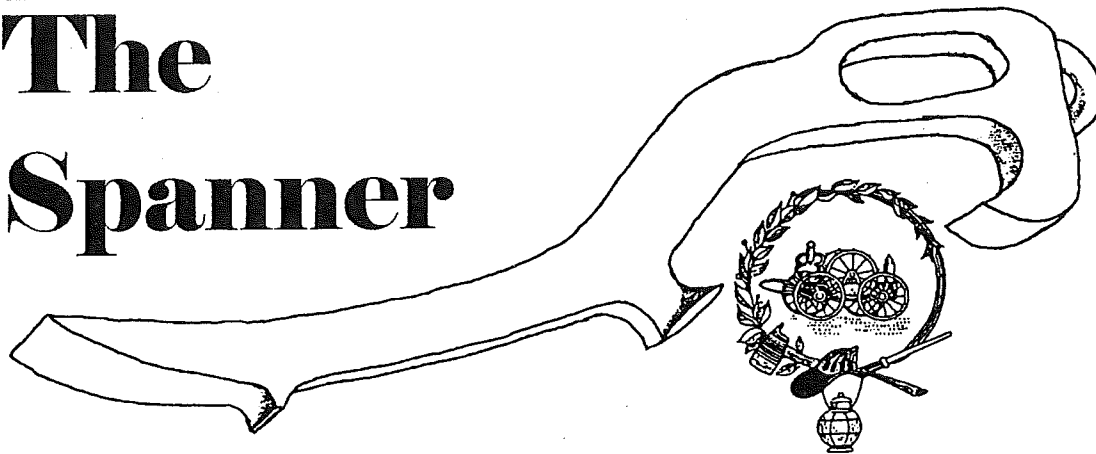


The Spanner



Winter 2003

Issue 7

Lingohocken Fire Company • Post Office Box 102 • Wycombe, PA 18980 • Telephone 215-598-3500
Contributors: Adam Colombo • Cheryl Gorski • Chester Pogonowski • George Rowe • Ben Smith

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS

Fire sprinklers have long been recognized in the insurance industry as an important component in loss prevention. While originally used in commercial and high-rise buildings, sprinklers are now being widely installed in many of the homes built today with the focus on life safety.

Unlike smoke detectors that only warn of a fire hazard, sprinklers take action and begin extinguishing the fire when it occurs. More importantly, sprinklers help protect exit routes that get you out of your home in the event of a fire.

One common feature between smoke detectors and sprinklers is the need for routine maintenance.

Just as we should change the batteries in our smoke detectors twice each year in the spring and fall, we must also maintain our sprinkler systems. Check with your manufacturer or a registered sprinkler installation company to determine the proper frequency of maintenance; once a year is a good rule of thumb.

Today, insurance companies recognize the property saving value of residential sprinklers. Some of our residents report up to a 50% savings in their home insurance costs. While these savings are great, the real advantage are the lives sprinklers can save.

Don't be a statistic, service your system today.

FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

JOHN T. BAILEY

In January 2002, John Bailey stepped down as our Fire Chief after serving in that capacity for twelve years. There seems nothing remarkable about that, except that he had begun his tenure as Chief at the age of twenty-four. He joined as a fourteen-year-old Junior Firefighter and ten years later he was the youngest chief in our history. In addition to his basic training, John has taken more than thirty advanced firefighting courses, amounting to over 700 hours of training. He is respected as a calm, steady fire officer who makes use of his training. Under his leadership, he broadened the scope of the Fire Company's expertise in medical response and specialized rescue operations. Through his vision we developed a Quick Response Service to assist ambulance crews with pre-hospital care, and teams trained in confined space and trench rescues. The community has benefited from the fire prevention program he developed for the children in local nursery school programs and the elementary school. His leadership is forthright and clear. Like most dedicated firefighters, he views the members of the Fire Company as an extended family, supporting and caring for one another. He uses his capacity to

think beyond himself for the greater good of the Company.

John's heritage is one of dedicated community service. He grew up on Cedar Lane in Penns Park where he and his father raised sod. His father, Sidney, has been president of the fire company and was a township supervisor. After Sid left sod farming to open Newtown Rental Center, John carried on the farm work; and farming continues to be one his loves. Polly Bailey, John's late mother, served as the township secretary and as an Associate Member of the fire company.

John left farming in 1993 to attend the Police Academy. His first employment was with the New Hope Police Department as a patrolman. He soon found a position with the Buckingham Township Police Department where he currently serves as Corporal.

John and his wife, Luisa, have two young daughters. He loves to work with his hands; and had ample opportunity when he renovated the house that he and Luisa purchased before the births of their daughters. Twice he has been selected as Firefighter of the Year for the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce Burpee Award and each time, it has been for his considerable accomplishments.

GR.

TURNOUT GEAR

The most recognizable part of a firefighter is the turnout gear. A complete set includes helmet, hood, turnout coat, bunker pants, gloves and boots. Used the world over, the gear serves the vital role of protecting the firefighter in the harsh environment created by a fire, the hazards of a rescue operation and from accidental injury from motorists travelling through an emergency incident. The gear also identifies the firefighter and company and often the level of training.

Turnout gear came into being through a slow evolution necessitated by improvements in firefighting and interior methods of fire attack. Turnout gear was originally designed to prevent the firefighter from getting wet and cold. It consisted of a helmet made of leather or tin designed to direct water away from the wearer, a long rubber raincoat or a canvas coat with rubber lining, and hip boots to keep the feet dry. As firefighting moved closer to the actual seat of the fire, wool garments were added underneath the rubber to help insulate against the extreme heat. None of that gear was capable of withstanding the abuse that an interior attack firefighter puts the gear through to enter a burning structure and efficiently extinguish a fire.

Modern turnout gear is manufactured under strict regulations of the National Fire Protection Association. The helmet is designed to protect the firefighter's head from heat and cold and the impact of falling debris, as is common in a burning structure. It has an adjustable face shield for secondary protection of the face and eyes. Helmets also have a liner complete with earflaps, which are essential in protecting the ears and neck from burns when used with the protective hood. Some firefighters make additional use of their helmets by affixing light sources or small tools to their helmets for quick access in a fire. Helmets are typically made of impact-resistant, heat-resistant plastics and may be covered in leather.

A firefighter's protective hood covers the entire head and neck, fitting onto the shoulders beneath the turnout coat. It leaves only an opening through which a facemask is securely fastened to the head. Although it is a thin piece of flexible material, it protects the firefighter from extreme radiating heat and flame and can be used as a crude air filter when necessary. Hoods are typically made of Nomex (a DuPont product originally developed at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster).

Turnout coats and bunker pants must include at least three layers: an outer shell, a moisture barrier and a thermal barrier. These barriers serve to trap insulating air that inhibits the transfer of heat from the outside to the firefighter's body. They also protect the firefighter from direct flame contact, hot water and vapors, some corrosives, cold temperatures and direct injury from contact with debris. Components of the gear provide additional protection and convenience to the wearer. Collars are turned up to help protect the firefighter's neck and throat. Wristlets prevent water, embers and debris from rolling inside the sleeves. A double-closure system on the front of coats prevents water or fire products from entering through gaps between the snaps or clips. The gear is reinforced over areas such as the knees and elbows, which incur even greater abuse as the firefighter crawls through a burning structure or moves about a rescue scene. It also contains many pockets for storing small tools and equipment. The gear also has highly reflective lettering and striping on the outside for easy identification in a fire and improved visibility to the public while on the street. The moisture barrier lining can be made from Neoprene or Gore-Tex coated Nomex. The thermal liner can be made from quilted layers of Nomex or Kevlar quilted to Nomex. The outer shell can be made from heavy Nomex, Kevlar or combinations of materials.

The hands and feet must be sufficiently protected while providing the firefighter with enough mobility and dexterity to be effective. Firefighting gloves are very durable and designed not to shrink when wet. They are typically made from pigskin and have wristlets to fit over the turnout coat wristlets. Firefighting boots are designed for protection and endurance. Embers, falling objects and nails are commonly encountered hazards. Boots can be either rubber or leather, but must have puncture resistance. A stainless steel mid-sole plate usually provides this and steel-capped toes protect against crush injuries.

Firefighters are trained to don their gear safely in sixty seconds or less. They then must wear breathing apparatus and carry tools or equipment as necessary to enter a fire or rescue scene. All of this gear can weigh in excess of eighty pounds, before it gets wet. The weight and restriction of the gear require significant training for a firefighter to work comfortably within this protective shell. An experienced firefighter can work quickly and efficiently to reduce losses by safely reaching areas in a fire or rescue that were previously inaccessible.

AC

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Following last April's Pancake Breakfast three *leading ladies* who had generously organized and managed the breakfasts for more than 20 years, would do so no longer. Judy Smith, Ollie Gorski and Nancy Murphy (nee Gorski) have earned a chance to rest and be on the other side of the kitchen counter! The Fire Company and community are grateful to them for their years of raising funds and manifesting goodwill for us all.

A new committee has been constituted and under the direction of George Rowe, the daughters of two of the *leading ladies* will take on much of the their mothers duties. Cheryl Gorski and Michelle Curtis (nee Murphy) will work along side George and head up the breakfasts. Several suggestions will be tested at the next breakfast - scheduled for May 4, 2003. We look forward to seeing you there!

ANOTHER SCARY HALLOWEEN

Each year the Village of Wycombe becomes a center of Trick or Treat with luminaria lining Township Line Road, and hordes of ghosts, goblins, princesses and their parents happily seeking treats. Unfortunately, the Fire Company was once again dispatched to a call during these festive activities. It seems to happen all too often that we are summoned while Halloween celebrants are not conscious of firefighters needing to get to the station to assist someone in distress.

Sensitive to our neighbors, we reduced the number of cycles of our siren from six to three. While we are dispatched by the Bucks County

Communications Center by pager, we have retained the siren as an auditory alert to the community.

This year it was difficult for the firefighters to get safely through the crowd of children and parents walking or standing in the street as we tried to fulfill our duties. We ask all residents in all communities to be mindful of the importance of our volunteers to answer an alarm. PLEASE, assist in moving children and others to the side of the road and let the firefighters pass. Your thoughtful actions may help us save the life of a child or another person in distress.

It is a part of the Halloween tradition to be scary but not in this way!
GR

DECISION 2002

The Apparatus Committee has been meeting for more than two years designing a new engine for delivery by March 2003. Beyond being the latest in technology, we wanted a user-friendly truck that more than half our members could operate to ensure that we would always be able to respond to an emergency. These two factors plus the safety and well being of our members formed the basis for all decisions in the design process.

Compressed Air Foam (CAFS) was the most debated option. The system adds air under pressure to a foam line to form a shaving cream-like product that is more effective than plain water. By electing CAFS we were able to reduce the gallons of water carried to lighten the new engine by 5000 pounds (more user-friendly). We will still be able to deliver plain water or Class A or B foam.

There were about 70 pages of specifications. A few major features are:

- Enclosed pump operator's station inside and out of the weather, traffic and noise;
- 10kw power take-off driven generator;
- Ladders on hydraulic fold down rack for ease of deployment;
- Rescue style body with roll-up doors for maximum compartment space;
- Main hand-lines lower to ground on pull-out trays for ease in repacking;
- Vertical exhaust stack to put fumes up instead of on the ground;
- Roll-cage design in cab. (Safety in event of an accident.)

BIG DECISION 2002

The prospect of a new, more modern engine coupled with a second station at Forest Grove created new issues for the Lingohocken Fire Company. Where will the new engine be stationed?

Morale in the station not receiving the new engine would be lowered. Training would be difficult for the two stations with different systems. Fire tactics would be different. Would residents want to wait one or two additional minutes for the newer truck to arrive; one or two minutes to a homeowner is a lifetime.

The Committee asked our number crunchers to find a way to buy not one, but two identical new engines. After several months of study, it was found that it could be done within our present financial framework. This continues a tradition of putting our funds on wheels in order to best deliver our services. BCS

CASH BACK PROGRAM

EARN DIVIDENDS FOR THE FIRE COMPANY WHILE PURCHASING GROCERIES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Community support that we received from the Genuardi's and Acme rebate programs has been wonderful! Envelopes and even boxes of register tapes have been donated. The cash generated by these donations (more than \$1000) has helped the Company immensely. We are especially grateful to Dick Armour who collects regularly from the Buckingham Springs community.

As of October 1, 2002, Genuardi's switched its rebate program so that we no longer need to collect receipts to participate. Instead, Genuardi's will track purchases made with Genuardi's cards.

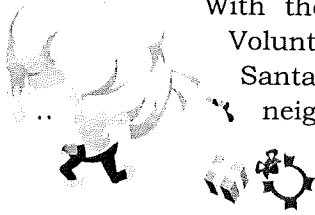
Rebates will go directly to the Fire Company. The more you purchase, the larger the contribution. To participate in this new program, fill out the form on the back of this page, and mail it to eScrip, PO Box 6988, Auburn, CA 95604, OR drop it off at any Genuardi's, OR register online at www.escrip.com, OR send it with your fund drive donation and we will register for you. The current program expires in July; you must reregister annually.

Acme Markets will continue to honor register receipt submissions as they have always done.

So, please, "Keep 'em coming"!

GR

**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 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.

3:30PM - 4:30PM

Departs Nursing Home, Route 413, Smith Rd., Rushland Post Office, Mega Way, Apple Hill, Swamp, Dark Hollow, MacClesfield & 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. Buckingham Forest

4:00PM - 6:15PM

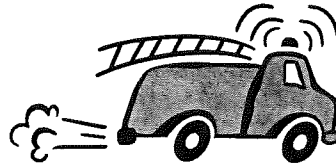
Buckingham Springs, Devonshire

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.

7:00 PM

Wycombe Carol Sing

CHIEF'S REPORT

The year 2003 marks the 90th Anniversary of the Lingohocken Fire Company. Founded in 1913, the Fire Company started in a garage in the Village of Wycombe on the property now known as Histan's Mill. From its humble beginnings, the company has grown to include the main facilities in Wycombe, along with a substation in Forest Grove.

Over the past 20 years, technology has moved rapidly. Rubber raincoats and boots have been replaced with thermally insulated coats and pants to better protect our firefighters. Air packs now allow firefighters to enter a smoke filled building, protecting their lungs from heat, smoke and toxic gases.

Thermal imaging cameras are used to locate victims and hazardous locations in fire buildings. While credit needs to be given to all members of

the Fire Company who donate their time and talents, a special thanks needs to be given to John T. Bailey. Over the past 12 years, John served as Chief. His calm and dedicated commitment to the fire service has earned him the respect of our membership as well as fire chiefs across Bucks County. More importantly, John's leadership has helped mold our organization into the finely tuned operation it is today.

We continue to keep step with technology. This year we purchased additional rescue equipment and improved our training to better deliver this service. Our apparatus committee has also placed orders for two trucks that will give us improved capabilities to address emergencies. As we move forward toward our centennial celebration in 2013, our resolve remains unchanged; provide the best fire protection to the residents we serve.

Chief Chester Pogonowski

Genuardi's Club Community Cash Back. Sign Up Now. Start Earning Today!

Use one of these easy methods to sign up:

___ Visit www.escrip.com OR

___ Fill out this form and mail it to eScrip today at eScrip, PO Box 6988, Auburn, CA 95604

Group Name: **Lingohocken Fire Company** Group ID#: **149150138**

Last Name* First Name*

Address* City* ST* Zip Code*

Email address Phone Number

Genuardi's Club Card Number*

Signature

* Designates Required Information. When registering online, you are not required to supply credit card numbers.