

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT.

1911

2011



A Century of Volunteer Service

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A Century of Volunteer Service

100

Congratulations Hopewell Fire Dept. on 100 Years



from :
Valley Oil Co.
Hopewell N.J.

100 Years of Community Service

A DEDICATION AND A TRIBUTE

We welcome all our friends, neighbors and fire fighting associates to the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Hopewell Fire Department, and we invite you to help us pay tribute to the volunteer spirit and sense of civil responsibility that the fireman, citizens and organizations of Hopewell have shown over the years to make this event possible.

Although our organization was primarily founded for the protection of life and property from fire, we are proud that the Fire Department has worked to provide service in many other areas of community need. We are also proud that our citizens have applied these same qualities to all areas of our community life making Hopewell a worthwhile town in which to reside and raise our families.

We therefore dedicate this booklet to those many citizens and in particular to those deceased firemen who worked so hard to give us this heritage. We will appreciate it if you will remember and patronize our many friends who have supported us with their donations and have advertised in this booklet.

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hopewell, New Jersey

We Proudly Celebrate 100 Years of Dedicated Service



EARLY HISTORY OF FIRE PROTECTION IN HOPEWELL

HOPEWELL'S FIRST ORGANIZED FIRE COMPANY

HOPEWELL IS A SMALL VILLAGE, pleasantly situated on the Mercer and Somerset Railroad, sixteen miles north of Trenton. It contains two general stores, a harness-maker's and a safe-maker's shop, a millinery establishment, a carriage and wagon manufactory, a flour mill, two or three extensive grain warehouses, a good hotel and a resident physician. There are about 35 dwellings and the estimated population is two hundred. It was in this peaceful setting that the first Fire Company of Hopewell saw its beginning. We find that on May 18th, 1877, "a portion of the citizens of Hopewell met at Phillips Hall, to take into consideration the propriety of forming an organization for the protection of person and property from fire." The interested group met again on May 25, 1877, when a constitution was adopted and members approved. This group ordered a truck on July 24, 1877, for \$200 from Weber Bros. of Ringoes. On November 16, 1877, a special meeting was held, at which time the company signed the necessary state papers and chose a name- "Hopewell Hook and Ladder



Company No. 1." The new truck arrived in Hopewell on December 20, 1877. Ceremonies were held in front of the First Baptist Church. It was then paraded through the streets drawn by four horses and all agreed it was "a very handsome piece of work." So Hopewell saw the birth of its first fire company. The truck was housed in a building erected by the fire company on a lot located next to the Calvary Baptist Parsonage in the center of town and owned by Charles Drake. During the next decade, the community and the fire company were fortunate that no major fires occurred to seriously endanger life and property. In the year 1891, the hotel stable and shed burned to the ground with the loss of five horses, \$50 worth of hay and about \$200 in harness. That same year negotiations were started for the purchase of a lot for a new fire house and in 1893 the Trustees were directed to purchase the lot on Greenwood Avenue where the "Mirror of America" building now stands.

A GREAT CONFLAGRATION DEVASTATES THE CENTER OF HOPEWELL

ON JULY 31, 1893, THE MOST SERIOUS FIRE ever experienced by Hopewell laid many of the buildings in the center of the borough in ashes. The detailed account of this fire as published in the Hopewell Herald on August 3rd follows:

"It was the noon hour. The people of the village were just sitting down to their midday meal when the shrill cry of 'fire', 'fire' rang out in the sultry air; voiced by little Scott Dansberry, and was immediately taken up and echoed and re-echoed hoarsely from a hundred throats throughout the length and breadth of the town. Instantly all was uproar and excitement; the people directed their hurried footsteps in the direction of the cry, and located the fire in the barn on the property of C. Behre, in the rear of his immense new hall, and between it and the Hook & Ladder Truck House, right in the center of town, The Hook and Ladder Company was at the scene of the fire in a very few minutes, and aided by all good citizens, worked with nerve and determination, but the scarcity of water and the intense heat prevented effective work on the already doomed buildings.

A few minutes served to show the utter helplessness of the bucket brigade in such an emergency, and their further efforts were directed toward saving adjoining property.

The Truck house, WW Morrell's meat and vegetable market and Merz's Jewelry store were so close to the great burning building that no effort was made to save them and they were soon a mass of flames. The parsonage of the Calvary Baptist Church, directly across Greenwood Avenue next caught fire, all efforts to prevent it being futile.

By this time hundreds of men from all the country round were on the ground, and all worked with a determination born of desperation to prevent the spread of the devouring element to Cooks large business block, the Baptist Church, Dalyrumples tenement houses, the church sheds, and the houses of Madames Hill and Dalyrumple. If these buildings had been burned, which they were in imminent danger of doing, the conflagration would have become general, and all that would now be left to tell Hopewell ever existed would be a mass of dust and ashes.

A line of hose from the wash pave of Cray's hotel was carried down the street for a distance of a hundred yards to the

roof of the church, and by keeping it constantly wet, fire was kept off. A line of hose from A. S. Cook's family hydrant was taken to the roof of Cook's block and by keeping it deluged with water the fire fiend was kept from obtaining a permanent hold, although it was on fire half a dozen times in as many different places. The post office and part of the stock of A.F. Naylor's furniture store, and the household goods of Herbert Davison were hurriedly removed, and were badly damaged from rough usage, falling sparks and water.

Bucket brigades worked manfully to save the other emperiled houses, and succeeded, although almost exhausted by the intense heat and hard work which they were compelled to undergo.

A stiff breeze was blowing at the time, and the burning embers were carried to a considerable distance, starting little blazes in several places about town, but realizing that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty (or safety)" every coal was pounced upon and extinguished before it could do any damage.

The Pennington Fire department was telegraphed for; and although arriving too late to help save property, the fire ladies did effective work in extinguishing the blaze, and are entitled to and receive the thanks of Hopewell en masse. The Bound Brook and Trenton departments were also at the depot in readiness to come when telegrams were sent that the fire was under control.

The fire was discovered by Scott Dansberry, who, with a companion, was playing near the barn. The fire apparently started in a hay loft

The large hall which was the centre of the blaze, in a partially completed condition, and being perfectly dry, and open all through, the plastering not yet having been done, was a tinderbox, through which the flames spread with giant strides. It was 12:15 when the alarm was raised and 12:30 when the great building caught. At 1 P.M., only 30 minutes later, it was a heap of ruins: the building frame, 46 x 90 feet four stories and basement. It was partly occupied by Mr. Behre as a hardware store, plumbing and tin shop, and as a residence. John Whitehead occupied the basement as a tobacco and cigar store and pool room.

Loss on buildings and contents— Behres \$12,000, insurance \$9,500. Whiteheads, \$1,000, insurance, \$600. The parsonage was a neat frame dwelling, loss \$1,500 insurance \$1,000. Hook and Ladder, \$200, no insurance. Morrell's meat market building and stock, \$275, insurance \$100. Merz's jewelry, new one story frame, just completed, loss including stock, \$400, no insurance. Cook's block, large sheeted building 40 x 70 feet containing three stores, the post office and a dwelling, damage can hardly be estimated, probably about \$300. Fully insured. Mesdames Hill and Dalyrumple's houses, frame dwellings,

fences and sidewalks burned, loss about \$150, fully insured. J.M. Dalrymple's tenement houses, loss \$200, fully covered. The escape of the town from annihilation was extremely narrow and should be a warning to the community that better fire protection is absolutely necessary.

The Herald has heretofore urged the town to place fire plugs at convenient points about town, and when it was proved Monday that two plug streams would have prevented an expensive fire, it could easily be seen whether the advice was wise or otherwise.

By burning of Behre's Hall and adjacent buildings, Hopewell has suffered a loss from which it will take years to recover. Indeed it is doubtful if we again see so massive a building erected here, at least for many years."

The task of rebuilding and reorganizing began at once with arrangements being made with the schools and churches to ring their bells in case of fire and the building of a temporary fire house.

THE UNION FIRE COMPANY IS FORMED

A NUMBER OF BOROUGH CITIZENS WERE still not satisfied that adequate fire protection was being provided. On March 25, 1895, a public meeting was held for the purpose of organizing another fire company. C.E. Voorhees was elected chairman; E.V. Savidge, secretary; J.B. Lewis, vice-president; William W. Drake, treasurer; John B. Skillman, foreman; T.A. Pierson, first assistant foreman; E. E. Seville, second assistant foreman; George R. Carver, George E. Pierson and George Snowden, trustees. They chose the name of "The Union Fire Company." Committees were appointed to meet with the Borough Council and the Water Company in an attempt to have fire hydrants installed. They ordered a fire engine on the trial basis that the hand pumper would throw a stream of water over the Calvary Baptist Church steeple. The engine cost approximately \$500 and was housed on the property of Dr. Pierson.

There was considerable competition between the two companies at various fires over the next several years although The Hook and Ladder Company did ask the Union Fire Company if they would be interested in renting a room in the new fire house being planned by them. This offer was refused.

The Union Fire Company was not to be outdone and so started plans to erect a fire house. The American Hose Company of Bound Brook donated an old steel railroad engine tire to be used as a fire alarm. The alarm was mounted on a tower located in the rear of the Hopewell House Hotel at what is now West Broad and Mercer Streets. The Union Company paid a freight bill of 42 cents for shipment of the alarm. (This amount was reimbursed by the American Hose Company with appropriate ceremonies in 1956).

COLUMBIA HALL BUILT-1895

COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED FROM THE Hook and Ladder Company to draw up plans, estimate costs and raise funds for the erection of a new firehouse on November 1, 1895. At the following meeting it was agreed that the building should have the following specifications: size 35 x 50 feet, 2 stories high, first floor ceiling 9 feet- second floor ceiling 14 feet, 2 dry closets outside of building, open fire in hall, 2 stairs, one heater, tin roof, estimated cost for painted and completed frame building to be \$2,004.84. The sale of bonds was reported to be a success and it was agreed to purchase additional land to increase the size of the lot to 41 feet wide and 60 feet deep at an estimated cost of \$50.

On December 20th it was reported that the bidder, Bender and Pittenger, refused to sign a contract so the work was broken into separate parts to be accomplished as follows: Abram Golden, all lumber-\$747.94; Blackwell and Hill, millwork and doors, etc.-\$410; H.D. Sutphin, carpenter work- \$309, Milton Shade, tin roof and material - \$128, Collings and Hoagland, painting and material - \$97.

At this meeting, it was voted to call the new building Columbia Hall (Few people know that at one time Hopewell was called Columbia).



COOK'S BLOCK DESTROYED BY FIRE

COOK'S BLOCK WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND by a fire of unknown origin at 1 a.m. on July 12, 1899. This frame building with sheet metal outer covering housed the businesses of T.J. Sheppard, grocery; Matt DiPuglia, barber; Hopewell Telephone and Construction central office; A Zanelli, fruit store; James Smith, tailor; F.F. Holcombe, post office; E.S. Brewer, warerooms; and the Jr. O.U.A.M. and Knights Of Pythias lodges. John S. Van Dyke's law office, a one story frame building in the rear also burned.



COOK'S BLOCK BUILDING, on the corner of East Broad Street and North Greenwood Ave.

The fire was discovered by Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Sheppard who were awakened when their baby started choking from the smoke. The fire started in the corner basement, occupied by A Zanelli, and when first discovered was very small but before the firemen could get a stream of water on it had gotten beyond their control and no effort was made to save the burning building. Their attention was devoted to the surrounding property. The building burned very slowly and there was scarcely any wind to increase the fury of the fire. The tardiness of the Union Company in coupling their hose, in the confusion in their work, was criticized by many and showed that they needed much drilling.

VOLUNTEER COMPANIES HAVE DIFFICULTIES

DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS EACH COMPANY experienced its share of problems. The records, however, are not sufficiently complete to provide a full report of all the happenings. The record of fires was also not kept in any particular order. At one point the minutes of the Union Company showed a report that there were not enough men present to run out the engine and the minutes of the Hook and Ladder Company show that an invitation from the Wear Post 108, G.A.R., to participate in the Memorial Day parade was declined due to the fire truck not being in shape to parade.

The heresay stories of the period tell of fights between these two companies at fires; taking apparatus away from each other, holding water battles and at one point it is reported that the Water Company sat on the fire hydrants and wouldn't allow them to use the water because no arrangements had been made to pay for the water used. (The Water Company in those days was privately owned.)

From 1897 to 1910, both companies also engaged in a running fight with the Mayor and the council to establish various forms of firemen's relief and some uniform control at fires. They requested and eventually got aid in the purchase of hose and other equipment. They petitioned for the appointment of a single fire chief to control both companies at fires; this was not accomplished for various reasons. They asked for tax relief and in 1908 the Council finally agreed to pay the firemen an amount equivalent to the tax on \$500 that year.

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

ON MAY 25, 1908, A BENEFIT AND CELEBRATION of the 31st anniversary of the organization of the Hopewell Hook and Ladder Company was held in Columbia Hall.

The committee of ladies in charge of the program provided an attractive program of music and recitations which was faultlessly rendered and judging from the applause, was immensely appreciated.

During the program secretary John M. Dalrymple gave a report as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I have been called upon by your committee to relate some things that happened 31 years ago on this date, the 31st anniversary of the Hook and Ladder Company which took place May 25, 1877. Now this seems a long while to remember, and also to look backward to, but it seems such a short time when it has passed that we can hardly realize how swift time passeth. On May 1, 1877, the handsome residence of Jonathan V. Blackwell, which stood on a part of the foundation where Charles A Holcombe's residence now stands, took fire from a defective flue and was totally destroyed on account of not having ladders at hand long enough to reach up to where the fire was. I want to say right here that the Blackwell residence was one of the finest and cost more money than any dwelling that has ever been built in this borough or vicinity with the exception of Professor Webster Edgerly's residence. The Blackwell residence was built in 1857 by Titus Brothers of Trenton and cost \$17,000, and this was at a time when lumber and labor were cheap. After this loss to our community of such a handsome residence, it was essential that some kind of fire apparatus be purchased for the then small village, for the protection of person and property from fire. The question of organizing a fire company and procuring some kind of fire apparatus was then agitated."

Then Mr. Dalrymple made an abridged report of the 32 fires answered by the Fire Company in the ensuing 31 years.

"FOUR FIRES IN FIVE DAYS"

EARLY IN 1911 THE HOPEWELL HERALD REPORTED on those fires and had the following commentary.

"While the fire department had good results, it can be attributed more to good luck than to good management. They were indeed fortunate, but it may not always be so. It was perfectly ridiculous to see the apparatus of each company being dragged along at a snail's gait by a lot of boys. It is high time that we awoke to the situation, and get the two companies to consolidate into one live company, not two dead ones, and get equipped to fight fires right, or organize a new company.

At the fire Friday the hose had not been properly cared for after being used the day before and was frozen together, which necessitated a delay before water could be gotten through it. Had the flames secured a good start, the damage would have been much greater than it was and the building might have been totally destroyed. We have a high pressure and there should be no excuse for not being equipped to the minute for firefighting. It is time to

put petty jealousies aside and work in harmony. We have been acting like school boys in this matter long enough, in conse-

quence of which our insurances are prohibitive. Also, where is the wisdom of pulling out that heavy engine every time there is an alarm sounded? It is not used nor needed, when the fire can be reached from a plug. When such is the case why not leave the engine in the house and exert our energy toward getting the hose cart at the scene of the conflagration and the hose fast to the plug. A stream of water on a fire quickly is what is needed. It is said that the engine is not in working condition anyway.

It is said that neither company has a lantern on any of its apparatus that can be used and that nearly all the pails on the Hook and Ladder truck leak badly.

Let us all take more interest in our fire department, before we have a serious fire, when it will be too late, and see to it that it is properly equipped.

It is rumored that there is a move on foot to organize another company that will be fully fitted up with hose cart chemical extinguishers, and hook and ladder truck combined; a large amount of money has already been pledged. The promoters are said to be meeting with encouragement on all sides, as the people of the town are thoroughly disgusted with this dog in the manger business which exists between the two present companies."

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZED

ON APRIL 7, 1911, A MEETING WAS HELD IN the rooms of the Hopewell Athletic Club for the purpose of organizing a fire company. (This club was located above the drug store.) Temporary officers were William Reid, chairman; Robert Zulauf, secretary; and Charles L. Williamson, treasurer. After reading the call of the meeting and the list of names on the petition, a motion was made that the name of the new company would be the Hopewell Fire Department, also that this company would be permanent. Committees were appointed to raise funds and extend invitations to the Hook and Ladder and the Union Companies to join the new company and to look into the matter of securing fire apparatus and draft bylaws. At the July meeting, Henry E. Sutphin of the Union Company advised that this company had disbanded and would merge with the new company. (However, some members did not follow and continued to maintain records and activities for several years.) John H. Titus was appointed temporary fire chief of the new company.

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED AS UNDER BOROUGH JURISDICTION

APPPLICATION WAS MADE TO THE BOROUGH Council in August of 1911 for the Hopewell Fire Department to come under Borough authority and the municipality to establish an annual fire appropriation of \$250. This was accomplished and Harry Wolfe was elected the first permanent Chief. Other officers were President, Fred I. Sutphin; Vice President, William I. Reid; Secretary, Edwin V. Savidge; Treasurer; J. Mason Ege; Trustees, William N. Skillman, Harry E. Sutphin and George E. Pierson. Other active officers were: Foreman, Clarence E. Hoagland; First Assistant Foreman, George L. Stout; Second Assistant Foreman, Charles W. Stout.

The members recorded at the time were as follows: George E. Pierson, Scott Dansbury, Harold Mathews, Lorraine F. Blackwell, Charles E. Williamson, Joseph S. Williamson, Wilmer Moore, Charles H. Wyckoff, Clarence A. Runyon, Harry L. Cox, Daniel C. Wyckoff, Clinton M. Young, Harry Wolfe, R. Leigh Hurley, John S. Blackwell, Fred S. Manners, Harry E. Sutphin, Roe B. Hullfish, William E. Piggott, LeRoy T. Blackwell, Marion Voorhees, Charles W. Ege, John C. Fisher, Michalel J. Norton, Clarence E. Hoagland, Jonathan Kitchen, Irving E. Rink, Charles W. Stout, Irvin D. VanNest, Van C. Blackwell, Elmer E. Van Dyke, Fred S. Servis, John H. Skillman, Fred I. Sutphen, George L. Stout, John H. Titus, Frank Naylor, Charles W. Hoagland, Edgar L. Labaw, Fred H. Noll, Howard W. Larason, Patrick Faherty, Robert Zulauf, Edward M. Haynes, Fred M. Leigh, Joseph B. Hill, Theodore A. Pierson, Edwin V. Savidge, William K. Race, Charles L. Williamson, J. Mason Ege, Cornelius N. Allen, Jr. John L. Bellis, William Y. Johnson, Daniel A. Northrup, William J. Braunworth, Russell S. Lanning, John A. Reddan, John M. Servis, William W. Wyckoff, Andrew J. Wyckoff, William N. Skillman, Peter Van Fleet, George E. Snowden, William V. Van Dyke, J. William Cray, Harry P. Grimm, Edward R. Whitehead, William I. Reid, John R. Fletcher, John N. Race, John B. Garrison, Farley E. Holcombe, Louis Labaw, Amos C. Bond, William S. Hixson, C. Herbert Fetter, Theodore M. Hall, S. Voorhees Van Zandt, Matti Di Puglia, John H. Merz, Fred G. Fritz, H. Mount Williamson, Abram S. Golden, George W. Staples, George W. Thorn, C. Howard Wilson, T. Romeyn Voorhees, John H. Fetter, Robert P. Miller, John Corcoran, John McVeigh, Howard L. Stout, J. Howard Dilts.

CHEMICAL ENGINE ORDERED - CELEBRATION PLANNED

THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT PROCEEDED at a rapid pace to secure equipment and materials. A new chemical engine was ordered on July 10, 1911, from the Combination Ladder Company of Providence, R.I., at a cost of \$1,055 with delivery to be in 100 days. Preparations were also made to purchase 500 feet of 2 1/2" hose and a new hose cart. The fine relations that exist between neighboring fire departments were evident in these early days as shown by this letter:

"Pennington, N.J., July 15, 1911

*Officers and Members
Hopewell Fire Department
Hopewell, N.J.*

Gentlemen:

Pennington Fire Company sends congratulations and is pleased to learn of the success of the citizens of Hopewell in organizing a fire department, and approve purchase of a four wheel chemical engine.

We trust, when fully equipped, the organization may, by united intelligence and efficient work, win credit to themselves in furnishing complete fire protection to the homes of Hopewell.

*Yours truly,
Henry L. Lanning, Secretary"*

The new department jumped into planning for big demonstration to be held on November 11, 1911, to celebrate the arrival of the new engine. Invitations were extended to Rocky Hill, Pennington, and the tow Borough companies to participate. A carnival was held for three days preceding the parade and the committee (Lorraine F. Blackwell, William N. Skillman and Charles E. Williamson) reported receipts of \$870.27 and expenditures of \$394.62.

January 3, 1912, marked the first meeting in their new fire house. (This building still stands in the rear of the Central Hotel, E. Broad and Seminary Avenue - now known as Hopewell Valley Inn). Some years ago the upper story of this building was used as the Hopewell Public Library and it also served as the first home of the Hopewell Building and Loan Association.

The Department purchased their first uniforms (shirts, belts and caps) for a parade held in Princeton on June 17, 1912, with the invitation coming from Mercer Engine Company No. 3. They also spent \$49 to hire a 15-piece band. The Ladies Auxiliary donated a banner to be displayed at the parade.

FIRST CHEMICAL ENGINE AT SEMINARY AVENUE



Left to right are: Elmer Van Dyke, Harry Cox, William Cray, Charles Williamson.

FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

LATE IN 1912 AND INTO 1913, THE HOPEWELL Fire Department studied the requirements for organizing a Firemen's Relief Association. In 1913 the Company joined the New Jersey Stat Firemen's Relief Association.

The need for a central fire alarm system was recognized and a committee was appointed to procure a bell, select a location and erect a tower. It was felt that an electric attachment should be provided to ring the alarm. A bell and tower were erected on land donated by the heirs of the Hannah M. Drake estate to be used for that purpose for a period of 25 years. The alarm was installed near the present location of the first siren and was completed in early 1914, but did not prove satisfactory and a larger bell was installed in 1915. A remote control was installed in Fred Sutphen's house on Columbia Avenue.

The new Fire Department proved to be very active group since they undertook to have an annual carnival which was continued for a number of years. Open air dancers were held and a tent was secured for that purpose and a number of successful winter activities were held including a traditional "smoker".

DECIDED TO MOTORIZE CHEMICAL ENGINE

A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF DR. T.A. Pierson, J.M. Ege and C.W. Hoagland was appointed to investigate the cost of purchasing a motorized fire fighting apparatus. They were authorized to purchase a Buick chassis equipped with a suitable body so that the tanks and equipment from the chemical engine company could be mounted upon it. The cost was \$1,695. Considerable discussion centered about the use of the "sizless" tires. The truck was placed in service in 1916 and the stripped fire truck was sold to S. Smith Ege for \$15. Apparently, this new for of transportation had its problems since the fire chief initiated two motions at the meeting of September 1, 1916. First, that a committee meet with the Borough Council to discuss policy and procedures for answering fire alarms outside the Borough, and second, a new rule must be initiated limited the number of men to 8 on the engine at any one time.

The chief reported a total of 7 fires for the year 1916. Two barn fires, 2 fires on Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, an oil stove, a chimney fire and a minor fire at St. Michael's Orphanage

HOOK AND LADDER AND UNION FIRE COMPANIES UNITED

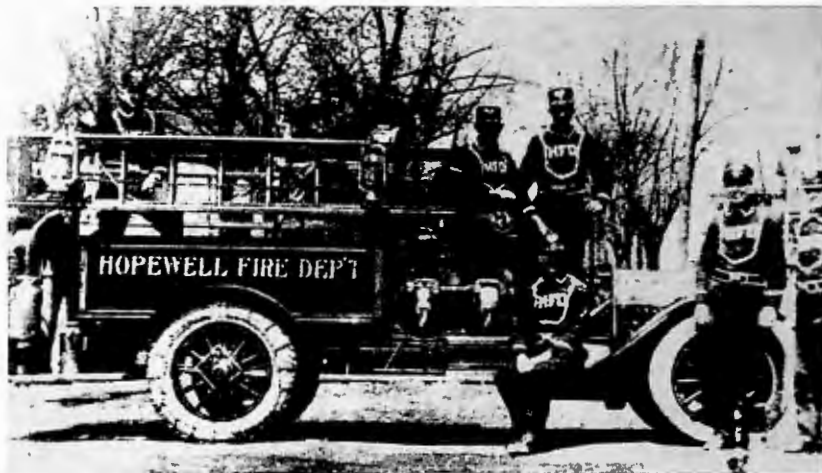
ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS OF THE TWO older companies had joined the Hopewell Fire Department, the remaining members had continued their fire fighting activities although they had been unsuccessful in getting the Council in naming one of their members as the Borough Fire Chief and financing of new equipment presented some problems. Committees from both companies met in April of 1917. They reported agreement on a merger plan which was ratified by both companies to become effective on July 6, 1917. The new company was known as the Union Hook and Ladder Company. The property turned over by the Union Company consisted of a lot fully paid for (which had been intended for a fire house), several hundred feet of first class hose, a hose cart, a pump, (which may be useful sometime when there is a fire near a running stream), about a dozen chemical fire extinguishers, lamps for firemen and over \$200 in cash.

H.F.D. TAKES EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED PARTICULAR tribute and a \$30 donation from the directors of the Hopewell National Bank for the valuable services rendered at their fire on December 3, 1917. Chief Hoagland reported that about 8 tanks of chemicals were used.

The members of the Hopewell Fire Department took a physical inventory early in 1918, to give the Borough Council an accurate record of the equipment and apparatus owned by the Fire Department at that time. The inventory was as follows:

Combination Auto Chemical Truck	\$ 1,992.88
600 Ft. Fabric Standard Fire Hose	\$ 520.00
Fire Alarm Tower, Bell and Wiring	\$ 699.70
1 Large Tent	\$ 230.00
Chemical Tanks, Search Light, Ladders, Chemical Hose and other equipment taken from wagon and placed on Auto Truck	\$ 200.00
12 Collapsible Pails	\$ 18.00
1 Desk and 4 dozen chairs	\$ 43.00
6 Oil coats, 6 hats and 6 pair rubber boots	\$ 42.39
1 Extra hose nozzles	\$ 10.00
Total Value	\$3,755.97



BUICK CHEMICAL TRUCK

UNION HOOK & LADDER MERGES WITH H.F.D.

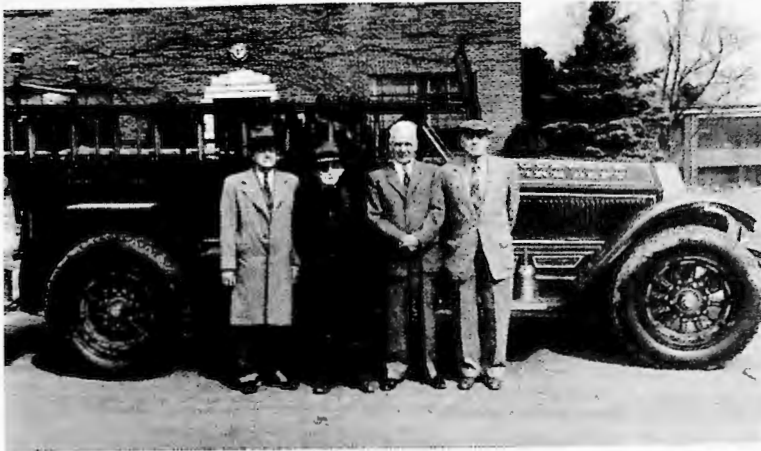
AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE by a committee from the Fire Department in January 1919 to have the Hook and Ladder Company and the Hopewell Fire Department confer and work out a merger. However, a delegation from the Union Hook and Ladder Company did attend a meeting of the Hopewell Fire Department in January, 1920, and present a resolution calling for such a merger under the name of the Union Hook and Ladder Company. This resolution was rejected after due consideration by the Hopewell Fire Department. Finally, on July 1, 1921, the members of the Union Hook and Ladder Company then petitioned the Hopewell Fire Department requesting that all their members in good standing be accepted as a body into the Fire Department. All fire apparatus and hose were turned over free of debt, however, due to the nature of the outstanding bonds on Columbia Hall; this property was not included.

LADIES AUXILIARY PURCHASES ELECTRIC SIREN

THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT recognized the many deficiencies of the existing alarm system even though the bell was equipped with an electric ringing attachment. The batteries required constant attention and on several occasions refused to operate the mechanism. On October 7, 1920, the Ladies Auxiliary advised the Fire Department that they wished to purchase a Fire Alarm System and desired a committee from the H.F.D. to act in their behalf. A committee was appointed (Charles E. Williamson, Dr. T.A. Pierson and E.V. Savidge) and they immediately contacted several companies to examine and try various bells and sirens. On April 1, 1921, the Chief reported that an electric siren and a 20 foot tower addition had been purchased. The siren was purchased from the Federal Electric Company at a cost of \$655.

In July 1921, a committee was appointed to attend a Mercer County Firemen's Association meeting to be held at Broad Street Park, Trenton, N.J. Hopewell Fire Department was elected to membership at that meeting.

After the merging of the two fire companies, the Hopewell Fire Department requested that the Council assist in providing for new quarters for the consolidated company. Arrangements were completed to use the Council Room and Apparatus Room in Columbia Hall and the first meeting was held there on December 1, 1921.



PURCHASING COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER
John S. Blackwell Edward Jones, Jr., Rev. William J. Hayes, and
Charles Williamson, who was chief at the time. Dr. T A Pierson was
also a member of the original committee.



AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER PURCHASED

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN QUITE successful in the operation of their annual carnivals, in fact they realized a profit of \$2,600 in 1921. With things looking good financially, it was agreed that the fire apparatus should be modernized. Steps were taken to have the Council increase the size of the fire appropriation and committees were named to request Hopewell Township to include an appropriation in their budget for the services of the Hopewell Fire Department. At the November 3, 1922 meeting a committee consisting of Dr. T.A. Pierson, Rev. Wm. J. Hayes, John S. Blackwell, Edward Jones, Jr. and Chief Charles E. Williamson was authorized to select and purchase a fire engine equal to or better than a La France. In addition, the committee was requested to ascertain if the Council would appropriate funds for the new truck. The committee selected the American La France Type 75 Triple Combination Pumping, Chemical and Hose Car with 750 G.P.M. capacity at a cost of \$12,500. The Department voted to pay \$4,000 down and take a note for the balance of \$8,500. Then, at the December, 1922 meeting, they voted unanimously to turn over to the Borough the pumper,

the Buick fire truck and the Ford truck (which came from the Hook and Ladder Company in the merger), all for price of one dollar, with the Borough to assume the responsibility for the \$8,500 note.

The Ford truck was converted into a general purpose truck and used by the Borough for a number of years.

During the next several years, the Fire Department was very active with the annual carnival as their primary fund raising effort. Their fire fighting services were in constant use with a significant increase in the number of large building fires particularly in the surrounding rural areas. In 1928, Chief Williamson reported 3 house fires, 2 barns, 2 chimneys, a grass fire and some out-buildings. There were also a number of calls during this period to extinguish fires on motor vehicles which were becoming increasingly popular. Now that the fire apparatus was fully motorized, the Department was responding to calls for assistance at Rocky Hill, Belle Mead, Lawrence Township, Blawenburg and Hopewell Township. The Fire Department contacted Montgomery Township in 1928 in an effort to secure an appropri-

FIREMEN DEMONSTRATE ON WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL - 1932

THE FIREMEN DECIDED TO SPONSOR A celebration in October, 1932, to coincide with the Washington Bicentennial and Fire Prevention Week. The object was stated - "that the people of the borough be given an opportunity to view the different fire apparatuses, and to aid the drive for new members in the local company." The parade was considered by the Hopewell Herald in an article published after the occasion - "to be the largest and finest of its character ever held here. There were close to 500 firemen and others in line in the parade from various towns in this section, who with their attractive uniforms and apparatus made a splendid and colorful display. Following the parade a clam bake was held at Overlook" (Adam Ziegler's Overlook Farm restaurant was located in the large frame house on the Hopewell-Pennington Road which has until recently been occupied by Hopewell Manor.)

Mayor A. F. Giese was the grand marshal and was accompanied by Mayor Moonan of Lambertville. Kenneth Williamson was in charge of the colors. Companies in attendance included Lambertville, Rocky Hill, Lawrence Road, East Amwell Township (Ringoes). Floats were entered by the H.A. Smith Machine Company (now Rockwell Manufacturing Company) with the world's largest meter register and a nicely decorated float by Herbert F. Rorer, the local hardware merchant. A model T Ford known as the "Crowbar Special" was driven by William Sangston. This attracted considerable attention due to the ingenuity of the decorations.

The Princeton companies could not attend due to their being needed for traffic duty at the Princeton-Cornell football game and Pennington Road was absent due to their apparatus being at Mercer Air Port, where an air meet was in progress.

The committee for this event was Alfred H. Smith, Chairman; Charles E. Williamson, Harry Wolfe, George R. Carver, Jr., Arch M. Adam, Russell H. Drake, William Weaver, Harry Latto and Walter Benson.

Things returned to normal after the celebration and an increase in new members was noted. The committee on By-Laws submitted a final draft early in 1933 and these were approved by the Department. An invitation from the Niagara Hose Company No. 6, Burlington, N.J. was accepted to parade at a "Firemen's Day" celebration held there in August, 1933. Pennington and Rocky Hill volunteered to cover the Hopewell territory during their absence.

HOPEWELL AND PENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENTS DEMONSTRATE PUMPING RELAY TECHNIQUE

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING firemen at the scene of a rural fire is the absence of an adequate water supply adjacent to the conflagration. Mr. George W. Pugh of the Rushing Hose Company, supported by the Mercer County Board of Freeholders, was instrumental in proposing the installation of dams in rural streams to provide an adequate water supply for fire purposes. A dam was constructed near Woodsville and the Hopewell and Pennington companies demonstrated that a stream of water could be relayed by the pumpers over a distance of one half mile to the scene of a fire within 15 minutes from the time of the alarm. Representatives from many of the Mercer County companies were on hand to witness the demonstration which was held in September, 1933.

TWO MAJOR FIRES IN BOROUGH SAME NIGHT

HOPEWELL BOROUGH SAW TWO DEVASTATING fires on the night of February 12, 1934, which could have resulted in a partial destruction of the business section and the western residential section. At midnight, a fire was discovered by Mrs. J.N. Race and also by Theodore Lowe in a building owned by J.B. Drake and located in the rear of the Hopewell Bank. The building which housed the barber shop and pool room of Frank Di Puglia, was completely enveloped in flames upon the arrival of the firemen who concentrated on saving the Bank Building, the Central Garage and other nearby structures. Fourteen hundred feet of hose in four lines was used by Chief Williamson's men.

At 3:00 A.M. a blaze was discovered in the home of William S. Bond on West Prospect Street by his son-in-law, Dezzie Casey. He notified Walter Benson, near neighbor, and then assisted his wife, father and mother-in-law and the Casey daughters, Lois and Roberta from the burning home. The fire was believed started by an over-heated chimney and it gutted one side of the nine room residence including the kitchen, dining room and attic. The rest of the dwelling was damaged by smoke and water. Foreman Harry Wolfe was overcome by smoke and was confined to his home.

1936 - GMC HAHN PUMPER PURCHASED

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MODERN FIRE fighting apparatus was being felt within the fire company and a number of discussions on the subject were held over a period of several years. Various motions were made at meetings starting in 1930 to get the ball rolling on fulfilling these requirements. Various committees were appointed to ascertain the apparatus requirements and determine ways and means of financing such a purchase. Chief Williamson outlined specifications for a 500 gallon pumper at the May 1935 Department meeting. A committee report to the Borough was delivered on August 12, 1935, suggesting that the Council procure a new apparatus of the booster type which would be lighter in weight than the La France pumper, to be used on small fires in the Borough and on all rural fires where there were no water mains. In addition, it was pointed out that the Fire Department had pledged \$500 and the Ladies Auxiliary \$1,000 to be loaned to the Borough with interest. This proposition did not stimulate much interest in the Council since it involved raising the budget and possibly charging surrounding communities directly for fire service:

The Fire Department recognized the advantages of operating carnivals as fund raising affairs and the Firemen's Carnival was reinstated as it had not been held for a number of years and the Department treasury was sufficiently depleted that it was necessary to borrow money to make change.

The 1936 apparatus committee, consisting of G.N. Holcombe, Chairman; Harry Wolfe, Charles E. Williamson, C.A. Runyon, George Jones and George R. Carver, Jr. received the authority of the Fire Department to arrange the financing and purchase of a new fire apparatus. Bids were received and the committee selected an apparatus to be constructed by the Hahn Motor Company on a G.M.C chassis. The chassis was purchased from George S. Clark for \$1,134. The balance of the equipment cost \$2,225 for a total of \$3,359. The new truck was delivered on New Year's Eve 1936. The Hahn Motor Company agreed to accept the Buick Chemical engine as a trade-in. A resolution was adopted on November 5, 1937, that the Fire Department present to the Borough of Hopewell the new fire truck was fully paid for and unencumbered.



1936 GMC - HAHN PUMPER

FIRE DEPARTMENT MOVES TO PRESENT QUARTERS

September 1, 1939

THE COLUMBIA HALL ASSOCIATION CONTACTED the Fire Department in July, 1939, to advise them of the plans for a new motion picture theatre to be constructed on the site of Columbia Hall, in which the fire-fighting equipment was housed. The Fire Department immediately appointed a committee to work out a solution for this housing problem with the Borough Council.

The Department vacated Columbia Hall by the end of the year with meetings being held in the local grammar school. Plans for remodeling the old Hopewell High School (the present municipal building) were initiated jointly by the Fire Company approved \$2,000 to be donated to the Borough for the renovations and the balance of the expense be reimbursed from 65% of the yearly carnival receipts until the bonds were retired. Funds totaling approximately \$4,500 from the 1940, 1941 and 1942 carnivals were turned over to the Borough. The total cost of the renovations was \$18,257. Carnivals were not held for a few years after 1942 due to World War II.

The first meeting in the new quarters was held on June 6, 1941. S.E. Copner was appointed chairman of a dedication committee. A parade and dedication ceremonies were held on June 21, 1941. Fifteen fire companies were held on June 21, 1941. Fifteen fire companies were invited and the company's first chief, Harry Wolfe, was the parade marshal.

TWO MAJOR FIRES IN BOROUGH SAME NIGHT

PRESIDENT DEZZIE CASEY, CHIEF CLARENCE Runyon and Robert Van Doren were appointed as a committee to organize a First Aid Course in March, 1939. Nineteen members of the Department took this course which included a demonstration by the public Service First Aid team. Mr. Albert P. Gulick was the instructor of the first class. He was elected an honorary member of the Department and presented with a watch in appreciation of his efforts.

The value of this course was soon apparent when the Department received the following letter from the American Red Cross concerning the actions of Francis Burke, a member of the Fire Company, after an automobile accident near Glen Gardner, N.J.:

Mr. C.A. Runyon, Chief
Hopewell Fire Department
Hopewell, N.J.

Dear Mr. Runyon:

As Chairman of the Trenton Chapter, American Red Cross, I want to commend, on behalf of our entire Executive Board, your Department for the unusual and efficient first aid treatment rendered during the accident on Sate Highway 30 when Mr. Burke, in my opinion, saved the life of a victim of the accident.

The American Red Cross is proud to extend its commendation and trust that you will extend our sincere thoughts to your entire Fire Department.

Sincerely,
A.W. BOWERS
Chairman

In February, 1941, a resolution was adopted amending the Constitution and By-Laws to provide for a First Aid Unit within the Fire Department. Francis Burke was named the first captain. The members continued to take the required courses over the next few years and were in attendance at fires to render service.



FIRE HOUSE AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING

JUNIOR FIRE CORPS ORGANIZED

DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON NUMEROUS occasions in 1942 and 1943 on the advisability of creating a Junior Fire Fighting Corps to relieve the man-power shortage and to encourage young men to join the Department. The Borough Council agreed to cover these young men with insurance in June 1943, and a committee consisting of Chief Leslie Warman, George Voorhees, S.E. Copner and Ernest Adler was appointed to organize this Unit. The organization was completed and officers installed in October with Ernest Adler acting as instructor.

The success of this training was soon evident and the enthusiasm of these young men encouraged the Department to organize another class of sixteen Junior Firemen in July, 1945. This program has been continued over the years and has resulted in providing the community with a very dynamic Fire Department.

Mrs. Louis Smith of W. Broad Street requested that the Fire Department inspect her residence for hazard in July 1945 and as a result the Borough officially designated the fire-fighting officers as the Borough Fire Inspectors. This service has been provided to citizens of Hopewell on numerous occasions since that time. The Department has also sponsored numerous fire prevention programs both locally and in connection with the County and State Fire Organizations. The most notable service has been provided in conjunction with our local Board of Education. This includes inspection of the school building, performance of fire drills, and cooperation in fire prevention education of the children.

Chief Copner reported a total of 24 alarms in 1945, of which 8 were house and building fires. An average of 21 firemen responded to each, including 7 junior firemen. Included were serious fires at the Eagle Bakery on Mercer Street and the Calvary Baptist Church on Broad Street.

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND SPONSORED

THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT SPONSORED a band for a period of time. A committee consisting of Herbert Wilson, Harry Hall and George R. Carver was appointed in May, 1947, to investigate the possibilities of organizing a band. It was agreed to hire Mr. Martin Meyer of Trenton to act as instructor. This band was outfitted with uniforms and participated in a number of parades with the local

firemen, including the local Memorial Day parade. Their first concert was given on Christmas Eve, 1947. They went on to win second prize at the State Fair in October, 1948. The band agreed to continue operating under their own organization in July, 1950, and the Fire Department withdrew their sponsorship.

ROCKWELL MANUFACTURING DONATES NEW FIRE TRUCK

DURING CHIEF COPNER'S TERM OF OFFICE as Fire Chief (1945-1946) he recommended that the Fire Department make plans with the Borough Council to jointly build up a sinking fund for the purchase of apparatus. The incoming Chief, George Voorhees, was named, with his fire fighting officers, as a committee to investigate apparatus needs. Councilman Fred Peterson and Fire Commissioner George Clark were appointed by the Borough to work with this committee. The committee recommended at the September 1947 meeting that a 750-gpm pumper be purchased. This was referred to the Borough Council. That body concurred with the recommendation and agreed to consider this item in the next municipal budget.

On the evening of the October, 1947 meeting just prior to the opening of business, the Department responded to a minor fire at the Rockwell Mfg. Co. plant. Later that evening, they were joined at their meeting by several of the officials of the local Rockwell plant for fellowship.

At the end of the year, Chief Voorhees reported a total of 42 alarms for 1947 including 14 building fires with estimated losses at \$250,000. Including was a major fire at T.P. Reed & Son in Pennington, N.J.

At the February 1948 meeting, it was announced Rockwell Mfg. Co. had purchased an American La France pumper to be given to the Borough for Fire Department use. The Department was requested to send two men to Elmira, N.Y. for training. Earnest Adler and Raymond Danaberry were selected.



PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER, JUNE 26, 1948. W.F. ROCKWELL, Jr., president of Rockwell Manufacturing Company and the two oldest chiefs, Charles Williamson (seated) and Harry Wolfe, are shown at the celebration.

CELEBRATE HOUSING OF ENGINE

PRESIDENT WALTER BENSON APPOINTED A general committee to handle the details of planning a celebration and the housing of the new apparatus. The members also voted that new uniforms should be purchased, these uniforms to be navy blue and gold with gold badges. The chiefs would have white leatherette hats and all members would be required to wear white gloves, black shoes and black socks when on parade or otherwise appearing as a group. The parade celebrating the housing of the new apparatus was held on June 26, 1948. Officials of Rockwell Mfg. Co. were guests of honor and those present included: Col. W.E. Rockwell, Jr., President, and H.S. Rockwell, General Manager of the Hopewell Division. W.F. Rockwell, Jr. was made an Honorary Fire Chief of the

Hopewell Fire Department and was presented with a helmet in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the entire community both for the apparatus, providing employment and performing many other acts to promote the welfare of the Borough. Mayor Kenneth Williamson, as the official host, accepted the apparatus for the Borough. A party sponsored by Rockwell was held in Princeton after the parade and presentation. There were approximately 1,300 people on foot in the line of the march, plus 3 or 4 bands. At least 54 pieces of apparatus added much to the parade. Forty-nine fire companies were invited to attend. Trophies were given for the three best appearing companies and cash prizes were awarded to three bands.

COMMUNITY NEED OF AMBULANCE SERVICE CONSIDERED

ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD on numerous occasions as to the need to supply more complete first aid and rescue services to the community (in fact, the Chairman of the first aid unit had been directed to investigate forming such a squad in April, 1948) the issue did not come to the foreground until July, 1950, when member John the Borough. After such discussion President Robert Van Doren appointed Dezzie Casey, John Cromwell and George Voorhees as a committee to investigate this need. The committee actively pursued their assignment and in October, D.L. Casey reported on First Aid Training Classes to begin that month with John V. Lawyer as the instructor. John Cromwell reported on ambulance specifications and George Voorhees reported on a meeting of 57 men and 5 women, which was held at the Borough Hall and where a unanimous vote of confidence was offered. Carl Smith and Walter Taylor were added to the committee and it was agreed to investigate the financing and housing needs of the ambulance.

At the next meeting the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department pledged \$1,500 and the Department agreed to apply \$3,000 toward an estimated \$8,000 cost of an ambulance. The Fire Department contacted the Borough Council and offered to donate a 1951 Cadillac Ambulance but after due consideration, the Borough refused to accept this offer because of the additional burden that the taxpayers would have to assume. The Department then instructed the committee to proceed with the purchase of the ambulance and a committee composed of the Board of Trustees, Ernest Adler and Frank Guiseppi was instructed to investigate the cost of an addition to the present firehouse.

The First Aid Rescue Squad secured the Department's approval to elect their own officers in April, 1951, and Dezzie Casey was designated temporary Captain. The unit was named the "Hopewell Fire Department Ambulance Corps". President Walter Taylor appointed a committee to revise the constitution and by-laws of the Fire Department to cover this new organization.



AMBULANCE RESPONDS to 100th call on April 26, 1959.

TWO-WAY RADIOS PURCHASED FOR APPARATUS

CHIEF GEORGE VOORHEES BROUGHT UP the subject of two-way radios for the apparatus during the October, 1948 meeting. President Walter Benson appointed the fire-fighting officers as a committee to investigate. The Chief reported at the next meeting that the cost of outfitting the apparatus and the firehouse would be approximately \$1,400. No further action was taken until March 1950, when it was acknowledged that such equipment would have been helpful at a recent fire in Hopewell Township. Chief Ernest Adler and Assistant Chiefs, Reynold Dansberry, Ralph M. Lanning and Robert A. Van Doren were directed to inquire into the purchase of two-way radios. A proposal from RCA for installation of mobile communications equipment at a cost of \$2,250 was received at the June, 1950 meeting. Action to have this equipment installed was taken shortly thereafter. The installation was completed and accepted by the Department in February 1951. Since that time other radio equipment has been procured and installed as additional apparatus has been secured until at the present time all the fire apparatus and the ambulance are radio equipped. Much credit for providing engineering and maintenance services over the years must be given to former members Edward L. Chuff and Max Laird. William Kintner is presently in charge of the radio committee.

1953 FORD-AMERICAN LA FRANCE FIRE TRUCK PURCHASED

CHIEF REYNOLD DANSBERRY REPORTED TO the Fire Department in June, 1952, that the fire fighting officers were discussing the need for a new fire apparatus. Specifications were prepared and prices secured for a 500 gpm pumper with a 500 gallon water tank. The Department met with the Borough Council to discuss financing problems and at the October, 1952 meeting the Fire Department agreed to pay the difference between the purchase price and the funds that the Borough had available at the time of delivery. The council ordered a Ford chassis with an American La France pump and body that same month.

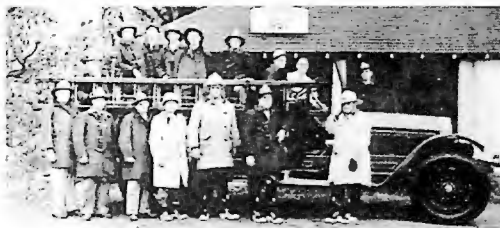
The problem of paying for the new engine was particularly critical since new N.J. State gambling laws caused the Department to vote against holding a carnival in 1953. Past carnivals have been successful fund raising activities ever since they had been revived after World War II. Dezzie Casey and Samuel Hunt were appointed to form a fund raising committee. Close to \$8,000 was obtained in this drive. Mr. Herbert Rockwell of the Rockwell Mfg. Co., Hopewell Division, contributed \$4,500 and was made an honorary Chief of the Hopewell Fire Department in April, 1954. He was presented with a badge and cap "to show our gratitude for his most generous help in making our Department the best equipped and best manned Fire Department in this area." The new engine was delivered in October, 1953.



FORD PUMPER IN ACTION at the Brookside Inn Fire on October 12, 1955.

ROCKWELL FIRE BRIGADE FORMED

THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT VOTED to dispose of the old truck and the American La France was sold to the Rockwell Mfg. Co. for the price of \$1.00. This apparatus was activated and a Fire Brigade was organized in that plant. Due to the fire cooperation between this industrial fire fighting group and the Borough forces, the community has benefited from this additional protection on several occasions. The Rockwell Fire Brigade has assured the Fire Department they are ready to assist in any emergency.



ROCKWELL FIRE BRIGADE

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO STORM EMERGENCIES

THE LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HAVE RESPONDED to all types of emergencies over the years but the best remembered non-fire calls for service occurred during the past six or eight years. Hurricane Diane struck the middle Atlantic states in August, 1955, and general flooding conditions resulted particularly along the Delaware River.

The Mercer County Civil Defense and Disaster Control Coordinator declared that a state of disaster existed in Mercer County. Hopewell was notified and the Local C.D. Director, Walter Benson, requested that the local Fire Department respond. During the period from noon, August 19 to 4 A.M. August 22, the Control Center at the Fire House was manned for a total of 55 hours. Men under the direction of Chief Carl Smith served as auxiliary police and performed services such as pumping out the municipal buildings in the City of Trenton, cleaning mud and debris from roads and furnishing floodlights on the river (watching for bodies from flooded communities and summer camps up-river) at Titusville. In addition they furnished lighting equipment and a crew to Yardley,

P.A. so salvage workers could continue work. During this emergency period a fire alarm was answered at the Fred Burd farm near Pennington.

A total of 600 man hours was worked by volunteers during this period and about 40 men submitted to inoculations as a protection against Typhoid Fever.

A similar period occurred during March, 1958, when 15 to 18 inches of snow fell on the area causing roads to be blocked and phone and power lines to be broken. The Fire Department was alerted and performed services in conjunction with the local Civil Defense organization for a 48 hour period. At least 25 men were available at all times under the direction of C.D. Director Ralph Lanning and Fire Chief Mahlon Riley. They responded to 39 calls for assistance during this period including furnishing emergency power from 3 portable generators, to evacuating families with the fire truck and billeting them in emergency housing provided at the Hopewell Elementary School. The P.T.A. and the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary provided hot coffee and food. During this period the firemen responded to a disastrous fire at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Peterson at the Glen Moore Farm. The fire siren was inoperative due to the power failure and a unique system of chain phone calls made it possible for the apparatus to respond within minutes.

COMMUNITY NEED OF AMBULANCE SERVICE CONSIDERED

EARLY IN 1958, THE MEMBERS DISCUSSED the need for an equipment replacement program.

A committee consisting of the Chiefs, the Ambulance Director, Fire Captain Ralph Lanning and Carl Smith were directed to look into this need. It was agreed that the ambulance and the 1936 GMC fire truck should be replaced during the next few years at a total estimated cost of \$38,000.

Once again funds presented a problem and a drive for funds was started in early 1959 under the direction of Chairman Jack Hall. This drive was completed early in 1960 with donations totaling \$8,825.

The Fire Department approved the purchase of a new ambulance on a Pontiac chassis with a Superior Body from the Wolfington Body Co., Philadelphia, at a cost of \$9,350 in June, 1960. The new ambulance was received in August, 1960. The 1951 Cadillac ambulance was sold to a new rescue squad being formed in Kendall Park, N.J., at a price of \$1,5000.

After much discussion concerning the features and costs of various fire apparatus, the fire fighting officers

under Chief Alvin Carnstoun were directed to purchase a Mack 750 gpm pumper in September, 1960. It was estimated that approximately \$28,000 was required to cover the cost of the truck, hose and other equipment. The 1936 GMC Truck was sold to the Castoro Co. for \$250.

Various plans were initiated to secure the balance of funds required to purchase this equipment. A Bingo committee headed by Asst. Chief Ray Van Arsdale instituted weekly Bingo in the fire house on Saturday, February 11, 1961. These affairs are continuing at present. As a fringe benefit from this activity the engine room has been renovated by the Firemen and the Ladies Auxiliary. Bingo equipment and a central air conditioner for the municipal building have also been acquired.

Asst. Chief Richard Van Doren headed a committee to prepare this Anniversary Program. The profits from donations and advertisements are being used to defray the cost of the equipment. Donations of \$1,000 each were contributed by the Western Electric Research Center and the Rockwell Mfg. Co. and a donation of \$500 was received from the Hopewell Branch of the Princeton Bank and Trust Co. Other donations totaling approximately \$3,500 were received from businessmen and our other friends.

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CREVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE FIRE Department illustrates that the excellent public service provided by this organization over the years has only been possible due to the generous public support and the performance of service by our volunteers. We pledge ourselves to continue and improve this service as our community grows and as our way of life brings new requirements. We will continue to improve the training of our active personnel and will endeavor to maintain our equipment so that most emergencies can be answered. We ask that you, the public, continue your understanding and support of our organization.

The committee responsible for preparing this program would like to give particular credit to the following people for their contributions: Walter Benson, Charles Williamson, Russel Holcombe, Mahlon Riley, Mildred Rathousky, Kenneth Williamson, Florence Bodine, Barbara Jefferson, Leroy Sharpe, George Rightmire, Jack Weart, Arthur Wright, Richard Edling, Edgar Smith, and Mr. Magil of Western Electric. We also appreciate the efforts of all the solicitors from the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and the Ambulance Corps who contacted our advertisers.

The preceding 50 years of history was taken from the 50th Anniversary Program.

1961-1986

ANNIVERSARY PARADE A GREAT SUCCESS

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY Parade on Saturday, October 14, was a great success. John Hall (Chief, 1961-62) recalled that "it rained on our parade, but everybody had a good time." More than 50 companies marches, with Capitol View Fire Company taking first prize for Best Appearing Company. The Mack 750 gpm pumper was dedicated during the festivities and Charles Williamson (Chief: 1919-1936) was pictured in the newspaper inspecting the truck.

WESTERN ELECTRIC RESEARCH LABORATORY SAVED

THE FIRE COMPANY WAS BUSY DURING 1962. In April, a record breaking month of 27 grass fires during a dry spring culminated in a seven hour fire which consumed 500 acres of grass and woodland near the Western Electric Research Laboratory on Carter Road before Hopewell and five other companies using fourteen pieces of apparatus brought it under control.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS CITED

IN AUGUST, THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT. AND Ringoes battles to save a 16 room, two-family farm house in Wertsville. Chief John Hall credited the Hopewell Junior Firemen for their aid in putting out the blaze and preventing its spread to nearby buildings.

In January, 1964, the interior of Inge's Luncheonette on East Broad Street was destroyed by fire. The Hopewell Fire Department was joined by Pennington and Montgomery for the two hour fight to save the building and the adjoining barber shop. Assistance Chief Ray VanArsdale of Hopewell suffered an ankle injury and Richard Snook of Pennington was knocked unconscious when a high-pressure hose burst.

On August 19, 1964, Hopewell fought a fire at the frame factory building known as the "old tomato factory" on Railroad Place. Arson was suspected as the cause of the blaze.

RINGOES AGAIN AFTER 89 YEARS!

IN 1966, 89 YEARS AFTER WEBER BROS. OF Ringoes built a ladder truck for Hopewell, history was repeated when Hopewell again went to Ringoes to purchase a Dodge Power Wagon, specially adapted by Quick Welding of Ringoes with a grass fire fighting rig with a booster tank of 200 gallons. The new truck was the feature attraction at the September 24th gala celebration of Hopewell Borough's 75th birthday.

But the two main fires in 1966 were not grass fires. On November 19th, an alarm sounded at 2:08 p.m. at the Hopewell Valley Inn. The Hopewell Fire Department under the command of Chief Gordon Lowe brought the blaze under control in an hour. The storeroom in the rear suffered the most damage although there was extensive smoke damage throughout the structure. While fighting the fire, Fireman Scott Dansberry Jr., suffered lacerations of the hand.

On November 30, a hundred children were evacuated at 7:30 in the morning when a fire broke out in a fourth floor room of St. Michael Children's Home. During the orderly evacuation, most of the children thought it was a fire drill. The automatic alarm brought a quick response from the Hopewell Fire Department, who were joined with apparatus from Princeton, Lawrenceville, Pennington, Blawenburg and the Neuro-Psychiatric Institution at Skillman. Chief Lowe reported that the fire was brought under control within 20 minutes.

TOO MANY GRASS FIRES

THE WINTER OF 1968 WAS DRY AND IN February, the Hopewell Fire Department responded to a rash of grass fires. It was determined that many of these were caused by people burning trash and leaves and by the end of the month appeals were made asking citizens to refrain from burning. But the grass fires continued with fire calls numbering an unprecedented 60 by March and Frank Voorhees of the Hopewell Fire Department asked the mayors of Hopewell Borough and Township to proclaim a ban on trash burning.

A structure fire at a house on West Broad Street was the first fire in some time that was "not a grass fire."

A more serious fire in March broke out at the Hopewell Auto Parts Store, a very difficult day for the Fire Department who had to contend with the biggest of the season's grass fires at the same time.

OLD NUMBER 1 RETURNS!

IN 1968, AFTER MANY YEARS OF GOOD Service, old Number 1 was returned to the Hopewell Fire Department by Rockwell Industries. It will be proudly housed in the Fire House.

NEW TRUCKS

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ACQUIRED AN American La France pumper with 1000 gpm pump and 1000 gallon tank.

On May 18, 1968, the new truck bays built to house the new equipment were dedicated and the pumper installed.

The Fire Department's E.M.U. became a two-ambulance squad with the purchase of an International Ambulance in 1970. It was acquired at the used price of \$2,000 and was an invaluable back-up on multiple incident calls and when the primary ambulance was in for repairs.

In 1972, the Fire Department purchased a GMC Van to use as a supply truck carrying chemical foam, sand, rescue tools and other supplies.

On June 11, 1972, a fire broke out in the basement of the popular Hopewell restaurant Charley's Brother. The Hopewell Fire Department saved the building by drafting water from the Quarry Swimming Hole. The principal damage was a hole over the floor over the basement.

FIRST TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR E.M.T.s

IN 1971, THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT'S E.M.U. initiated the first training program that has since become nationally imitated. The importance of this program, which vastly improved health care for Hopewell and eventually the state and country, can not be over estimated (see related article elsewhere in this program.)

In 1972, the Fire Department purchased a new ambulance for the E.M.U. HW21 was acquired for approximately \$24,000.



Van Doren Lumber Yard Fire

THE SKY WAS LIT UP

A FIRE WITH DISASTROUS POTENTIAL FOR Hopewell Borough occurred on Wednesday, October 23, 1974, when a 10:30 p.m. alarm brought the Hopewell Fire Department to a fire at J.C. Van Doren's Lumber Yard on Model Ave. The efforts of Hopewell's firemen aided by ten other companies including Pennington, Union of Titusville, Blawenburg, Belle Mead, Ringles, Rocky Hill, Lawrenceville, Upper Makefield, Hillsborough, and Kingston were successful in preventing the fire from spreading to nearby exposures. Chief Gerry Fenton reported that the fire was under control by 12:30 a.m. of the new morning, but firefighters remained on the scene through Thursday and Friday wetting down piles of lumber. Embers and sparks flew all over town as the sky was lit up by the spectacular blaze, but the exertions of the fire fighters aided by the absence of a strong wind contained the fire and saved the surrounding town from any damage.

In 1975, the E.M.U. acquired a new ambulance, HW24 for approximately \$35,000.

AN EVIL MISCHIEF NIGHT

ANOTHER LUMBER YARD FIRE OCCURRED on October 30, 1977, destroying a lumberyard storage building in Hopewell Borough and causing an estimated \$50,000 worth of damage in what local authorities say was the worst "mischief night" in years.

The J.B. Hill and Sons Lumber warehouse was evidently the target of malicious arson and while the Fire Department was putting out the blaze, vandals poured gasoline over a policeman's personal car and set it on fire. Several leaf fires were also set the same evening. Arrests of two suspects took place soon after, one in Chicago.

On November 20, 1977, The Hopewell Fire Dept. assisted Pennington along with four other companies in fighting an early morning fire at the Zentco Plastic warehouse. Half of the building was destroyed, by a firewall built into the pre-fabricated aluminum structure helped save the other half. The fire had apparently spread from an earlier dumpster fire that four workers had attempted to extinguish themselves and thinking themselves successful, returned a half hour later to find the building engulfed.

Later that winter, the popular Renaissance Restaurant was destroyed by a fire which started just an hour after the dining room had closed. Strong winter winds helped the fire spread and the scene was soon covered with icicles from the water put on the fire by the Hopewell Fire Dept. and assisting Montgomery and Pennington who managed despite the wind to keep the fire from spreading to nearby exposures.

The building was fully involved by the time the first arriving truck was on the scene. "It was all on fire within minutes," said Chief Joe Williamson. The cause of the fire was attributed to faulty wiring.

A busy year ended with an assist to Montgomery when a fire broke out at Polycel Corp. in Montgomery Shopping Center off Rout 206. More than a hundred volunteers including members of the Hopewell Fire Department answered the 3:09 in the morning call. The fire was brought under control at 9 a.m.

In 1978 the Hopewell Fire Department responded to a variety of calls including a September barn fire on New Road. Hopewell and assisting Pennington, Lambertville and Blawenburg fought the fire from the time of the call at 5:20 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The barn was extensively damaged, but there were no injuries.

NUMBER 1 IN THE UNITED STATES - NUMBER 2 IN THE WORLD!

ON JUNE 16, 1979, THE HOPEWELL FIRE Department assisted 10 other companies in fighting a large blaze at the C&R Waste Materials Company located between Trenton and Ewing.

On August 11, 1979, the Mayor William Walker and the members of the Hopewell Fire Department and their families welcomed with roses and cheers the Hopewell Emergency Medical Units Youth Competition Team, which won second place in an international competition held in Columbus, Ohio. The brilliant team included Dawn Hart, B.J. Biechlin, Shauna Kettensburg (advisor), Chris Klevuz and Tom Moore.



Dawn Hart, B.J. Biechlin, Shauna Kettensburg (advisor), Chris Klevuz and Tom Moore.

A NEW PIERCE PUMPER

1980 BEGAN WITH A BRUTAL ONE WEEK period which saw the Hopewell Fire Department respond to four serious structure fires. The first was the spectacular fire in Pennington School's historic main building on January 16. The 140-year-old O'Hanlon Hall was destroyed as firefighters from 20 companies including the Hopewell Fire Department fought to bring the blaze under control. Fortunately no lives were lost.

During the same week three more fires erupted in Hopewell. A 100-year old barn on the Wert property, near the iron bridge of Stony Brook Road blazed out of control for an hour until an alarm was turned in. The building was already lost when the Hopewell Fire Department arrived on the scene, but the many exposed buildings nearby were all saved.

Already victims of the above fire, the Wert Family turned in an alarm for the Stony Brook Golf and Swim Club's pro shop building. The fire started in the basement around 3 a.m. and went undetected for about an hour and a half. Hopewell Fire Department Chief Michael Marotta found Mrs. Marge Pagnotta who lived in the building, on the driveway. She had evidently jumped out of the second window when smoke detectors went off. It took 45 minutes to contain the fire.

The fourth fire of the week occurred when an acetylene tank and an oxygen tank exploded at the Lenz house on Mountain Church Road. The garage in which the tanks were housed burned down, but no further damage occurred.

Two Pennington firefighters were injured when their tanker truck rolled over while assisting the Hopewell Fire Department and other companies in battling a blaze at the Stony Brook Road, West Arnwell Home of Matthew Reese.

In 1981, the Fire Department purchased HW21 which the E.M.U. uses as a Life Mobile. This was acquired for approximately \$55,000.



Pennington School Fire

Two projects of considerable importance were started in 1983. An addition to the fire house with three rear bays for the E.M.U. was initiated and a conversion of the 1961 Mack Pumper to rescue vehicle was begun. While retaining its pumping capacity, the truck has been adapted to carry rescue tools and gear. This is now the Fire Department's primary response vehicle for auto-vehicle accidents and extrication calls along with the necessary ambulances.

In 1985, the Hopewell Fire Department voted to fund a restoration of old Number 1. This priceless part of Hopewell's history should be on hand in all its glory for the 75th Anniversary celebration.

The 1961-1986 portion of this program was prepared by James Camner and Tom Fillebrown who would like to thank the many people who shared scrap books, photos and reminisces with us. We especially thank the volunteers who have given 75 years of service to Hopewell.

AMBULANCE CORPS

1951-1961



by **EDGAR SMITH**

THE AMBULANCE CORPS WAS ORGANIZED IN 1951 by the Fire Dept. and it responded to its first call for services in April of that year. The Ambulance Corps is financed and operated by the Fire Dept. as a specialized group within the department. Members of the Ambulance Corps must be members of the Fire Dept. or the Ladies Auxiliary who have successfully completed the requirements of the National Red Cross advanced first aid training plus further training in the use of ambulance equipment. In addition registered nurses and medical doctors are eligible. The Corps now has a membership of 24 active members and 23 reserve members plus 11 nurses. There are 8 instructors.

The first ambulance was purchased in 1951. This was a Miller body on a Cadillac chassis. This ambulance was driven 34,344 miles and was sold to a new ambulance squad in Kendall Park in August 1960 at which time delivery was taken of the present ambulance. The present ambulance is a Superior body on a Pontiac chassis and incorporates all the latest improvements in ambulance design. Both the original and the new ambulance have facilities for carrying three persons lying down.

Since it was organized, the Ambulance Corps has responded to 1,295 calls for service which include accidents, emergency illness, maternity, transportation of the ill and infirmed, response to major fire alarms, practice drills with neighboring ambulance squads and drills with the fire fighting personnel and equipment. Approximately 5,500 man-hours of time has been expended in these services and this does not include the many hours spent in training, maintenance and cleaning of equipment and organizational work.

In responding to an emergency call, the first order of importance is to arrive at the scene quickly without endangering the lives of other people or the ambulance crew. This means that the individual members called must drop whatever they are doing and rush to the Fire House. After arriving at the scene, the crew will take a slower pace, if there is no urgency, or will apply first aid as rapidly as possible when speed is needed. The ambulance is equipped with tourniquets, bandages, splints, a combination oxygen resuscita-

tor, inhalator and aspirator, a second oxygen inhalator, extra oxygen tanks, blankets, sheets, pillows, cot, two stretchers and many small items for the comfort of the ill and injured. The ambulance is also equipped with rescue equipment including an hydraulic power tool for prying objects apart, crow bars, fire axe, small fire extinguisher and heavy rope. Red flares and reflectors are carried for use on highways and two-way radio is used for communication with the Fire House, fire apparatus and with other ambulances and fire apparatus from neighboring communities. Heavy coats and boots are carried for the protection of crew in bad weather.

With auto accidents being more frequent than any other single type of accident, the Ambulance Corps has practiced the removal of victims from actual wrecked automobiles both in daylight and in darkness. Other practice sessions, such as for handling patients without causing pain or injury, are frequently held. Lecture for the proper care of emergency maternity cases and lectures on the care of victims subjected to radiation are attended by members.

A description of the activities of the Ambulance Corps would not be complete without a word or two about disruptions. In the night, most members are where they should be, in bed. Therefore the only disruption is the individual's sleep. In the daytime however, a clerk in a store suddenly dashes out leaving a good customer standing there—a production worker drops his tools and vanishes—an office worker leaps for the door leaving a trail of unfinished reports. The employers in this community permit such unscheduled disruptions in their operations without penalties to the employees. By this generous policy, the employers have earned the gratitude of the Hopewell Fire Dept. Ambulance Corps and also of the entire community.

The principal officers and the years in which they served are as follows:

1951-1953	1955-1956
Director: Dezzie Casey	Director: Mark Palmatier
Captain: John Cromwell	Captain: Robt. Jefferson
1954	1957-1958
Director: John Cromwell	Director: Robt. Jefferson
Captain: Mark Palmatier	Captain: Ned Smith
1959-1960	
Director: Ned Smith	
Captain: Mary Everitt	

THE FIRST VOLUNTEER E.M.T. TRAINING COURSE STARTED AT HOPEWELL

by **DICK WYCKOFF**
& **TOM FILLEBROWN**

IT WAS READING AN ARTICLE ON THE SUCCESS of EMT training held for paid Emergency Rescue Companies in Seattle, Houston, and Charlotte N.C. that gave Dick Wyckoff the idea that Hopewell consider a program of its own.

Because Wyckoff's job required extensive traveling he was able to observe first hand the programs in action in the above cities. It did not take long to recognize the benefits of such a program for Hopewell. The distance to area hospitals made such a program highly desirable as the added training of Emergency Medical Personnel could save many lives. But it was apparent that the course would have to be tailor-made to the particular needs of Hopewell.

The Highway Safety Act of 1965 provided funds to the State Department of Health for training and equipment. Dick Wyckoff, and Tom Fillebrown, Captain of the squad, contacted the State Department of Health and requested assistance and guidance. Dr. Marie Sena was the official in charge of the E.M.T. program which had not yet been initiated due to the opposition of the New Jersey First Aid Council. The course which Hopewell hosted became the first of its kind in the United States.

Several meetings were held with Dr. Sena and her assistants to iron out the details of the program. Dr. Sena recognized the need for a special program and testing procedures which incorporated the national EMT training course and other requirements of volunteer squads.

Fillebrown and Wyckoff prepared the basic course content and testing procedures. When this was completed, they, along with Dr. Sena and her assistants as well as Dr. David Sharp, a former Hopewell physician, met with Mr. Derna, administrator of Hunterdon Medical Center, to solicit the Medical Center's aid in providing the medical personnel required and for ten hours of hospital training. With their help, the program was in place by the new year of 1971.

The first course was scheduled to start Feb. 23rd, 1971. Local squads were invited to participate. Wyckoff and Fillebrown were the co-administrators of the program while Tom Cooper was Training Administrator.

Dr. Sena wanted no more than thirty trainees for the 71 hour course, but the response was so enthusiastic that eighty people signed up from Lambertville, Flemington, Trenton, Pennington, Titusville, West Windsor, Montgomery, Kingwood and Princeton, as well as Hopewell.

The preparation for this first EMT course had some rough moments. There were several disagreements with the State on procedure and control, but these were worked out so that the squads could maintain their autonomy. The biggest challenge to the program was the threat by the Ninth District of the State First Aid Council to remove the Hopewell Ambulance Corps from the membership roll if it conducted the course. They were concerned that the 81 hour course was too long for volunteers and by the possible State control of rescue squads.

A week before the course was to begin, Dr. Sharp, Dick Wyckoff, Tom Fillebrown and Tom Cooper met with the Chairmen of the Ninth and Tenth District of the New Jersey First Aid Council in order to iron out their differences. This meeting was a success and the Chairman of the Tenth District agreed to support the program and be an instructor. However, the Ninth District Chairman declined to participate although he did agree to evaluate the program upon completion.

The course began as scheduled and was held every Tuesday and Thursday evening with the last session held on May 20, 1971. The awards dinner followed the next evening with all eighty people completing the course and signing up for their 10-hour in-hospital training.

When the Ambulance Corps purchased their second ambulance in 1971 for the nearly 350 yearly calls, the EMT program ensured that there were trained personnel to man it.

It is now almost impossible to assess the benefits of this first course. But some facts are clear. EMT courses are now taught to volunteer squads all over the United States and the level of training in our own state has improved. The new Paramedic programs are ever increasing to aid and supplement the EMT program. Certainly, what Hopewell accomplished in the face of opposition from State agencies reaffirms what can be done with dedication and determination by volunteers.

ESTABLISHING A PARAMEDIC PROGRAM IN HOPEWELL

by Tom Cooper, Duchess Lake
and Rhonda Stoveken

IN EARLY 1970'S, STATEWIDE MEETINGS WERE held to discuss the possibility of a paramedic program through hospitals and professional rescue squads. An uninvited guest at these meetings was H.F.D. member Tom Cooper, who had watched too many people die needlessly and felt that a Mobile Intensive Care Unit was the answer.

The project developed from the Highway Safety Bill to upgrade hospitals and emergency services. From this, the Hospital Emergency Alert Radio System was formed which put ambulances directly in touch with emergency rooms. Prior to this, a telephone call had to be placed by a third party.

The original concept was to have the program hospital-based, with paramedics working out of the hospital. Tom Cooper and others encouraged the theory of the first ambulance to provide advanced first aid at the scene. Bringing the M.I.C.U. to the patient from the home base with all the technical advantages of a hospital emergency room seemed to be an ideal solution.

But the N.J. First Aid Council strongly opposed the program and it was three years before the Mercer County Pilot Program was formed and Hopewell became the State's first Volunteer Emergency Medical Unit to respond from home base with a M.I.C.U. unit.

The state took two years to set up the paramedic program, which included training by doctors and hospital training, etc. This involved over 1,000 hours of training for the student.

The first class of paramedics was held in 1975 at the New Jersey School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1975 with 13 members.

In order to fit the concept of the new program, the Hopewell Fire Department Ambulance Corps. was changed to the Hopewell Fire Department Emergency Medical Unit. The Department purchased a lifemobile and paid \$14,000 for equipment.

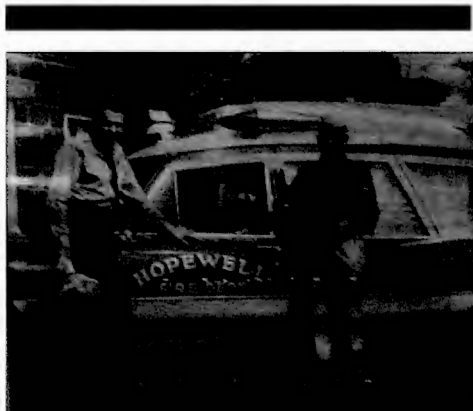
Hopewell benefited from the services of three paramedics during this period: Tom Cooper, Robert Palmbert and Rev. Burton Parry.

BABIES DELIVERED!

ON OCTOBER 24, 1983 THE HOPEWELL FIRE Department E.M.U. had the honor of delivering its first baby.

The call was received to respond to Dr. Steinberg's office to transport Mary Hullfish to the Hunterdon Medical Center. The ambulance stopped at the Flemington Fairgrounds to pick up the father, H.F.D. Member Donald Hullfish and, within minutes, a baby girl was born. Dr. Steinberg was in attendance along with Capt. Duchess Lake, B.J. Biechlin, Norman Johnson and drive, Ike Peck Jr.

In July of 1985, at 6 in the morning a call came to respond to a house on Aunt Molly Rd. where a woman was in labor. Captain Sally Hart, Duchess Lake, Bru Katzenbach, Linda Trimmer and drive Donald Hullfish delivered a fine baby boy.



DESIGNING A PATCH FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL UNIT

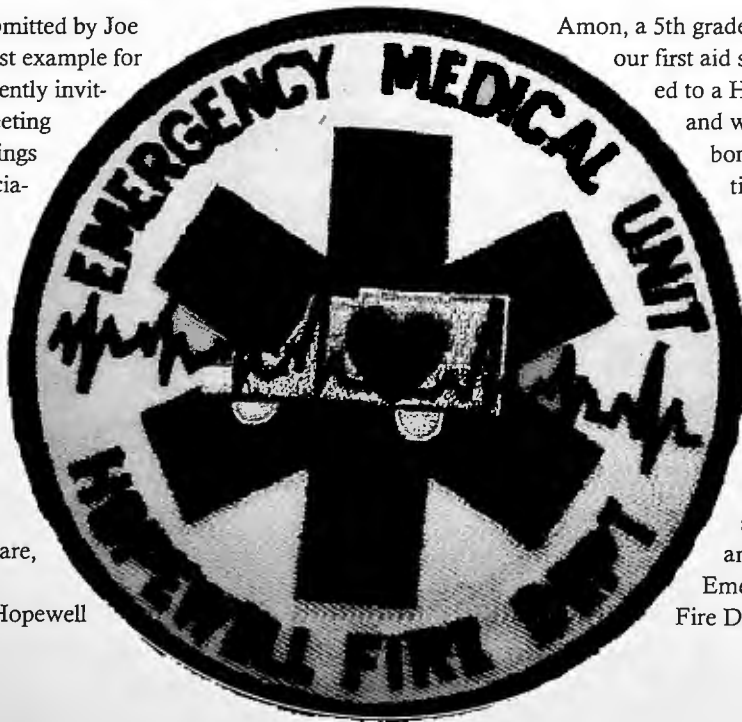
By: **Duchess Lake**

The first aid squad of the fire department was organized in 1951. For many years there was not a shoulder patch to identify the first assigned members. With Tim Cooper, the squad captain leading the effort, we asked all of the students at our Hopewell Elementary School to draw a shoulder patch design. More than five hundred designs were submitted.

A group of community members were asked to review the student's drawings made in their art classes. Mayor William Walker was on the committee with two retired teachers from the Hopewell Elementary School, Mrs. Vivian Laird and Mrs. Elizabeth Gantz. Mr. Keith Robertson, an author of children's books, and artist Sal Assaro completed the review committee.

A design submitted by Joe Amon, a 5th grade student, was chosen as the best example for our first aid squad patch. Joe was subsequently invited to a Hopewell Fire Department meeting a \$25.00 savings much appreciation from the first aid squad

Sal Assaro, with his artistic abilities, provided final details to emphasize the emergency care and transportation services provided by the ambulance heart representation as the Emergency Medical Unit of the Hopewell

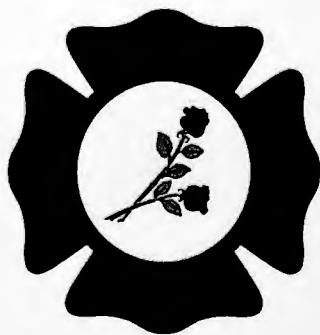


Amon, a 5th grade student, was chosen as our first aid squad patch. Joe was presented with a bond and he received appreciation from the first members.

with his artistic provided final details to emphasize the emergency care and transportation services provided by the ambulance heart representation as the Emergency Medical Unit of the Hopewell Fire Department.

*Congratulations to our Fire Fighters
on their
100th Anniversary!*

*We have proudly served with you
for the past 100 years!*



*Ladies Auxiliary
Hopewell Fire Department
1911—2011*

LADIES AUXILIARY

1911-2011

Organized in 1911 *THE LADIES AUXILIARY* of the Hopewell Fire Department is also celebrating its 100th Anniversary. With an original membership of 20 and in our hey-day approximately 200 we have now dwindled down to 89 members. Our founders started a tradition of serving the Fire Department and the community as a whole and these objectives have not changed over the last 100 years.

Of course, aiding the Fire Department is the primary purpose of our existence. The members of the Auxiliary are proud to have been able to help financially by contributing many thousands of dollars, over the years, towards the purchase of new equipment.

But money isn't everything they say, and one of our most important functions is to be there at a fire with both hot and cold beverages, and if they've been there for a while some kind of food. We continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month and are always looking for new members.

When the time came to update the history of the Ladies Auxiliary we, of course, read the report in the 75th Anniversary Journal and became very aware of the changes in our Auxiliary. Sad to say our numbers are fewer, as are the numbers of every volunteer organization, and we have had to curtail our activities however, we still manage to meet our obligations and do our duty by our Fire Department. True, we do not parade anymore, not enough ladies to march. We are either too old or have young children that we can't leave alone. If you look for the float behind the marching firemen you will see many of our children and grandchildren. We do make our presence known at the Memorial Day Parade by handing out hot dogs, drinks and ice pops at the end of parade.

Many of our fund raising efforts have gone by the wayside for a multitude of reasons. State regulations make it very costly, for license, and require the filing of paperwork in abundance. The firemen now do the annual Palm Sunday breakfast but if you look we are there working with them some downstairs and some upstairs doing dishes. We certainly do miss the money we made working the kitchen at Bingo but most of all we miss the people and fun we had while doing it. Our most reliable current source of funds is our Easter flower sale and our Mothers Day flower sale. We do at times have special fund raisers to help us out such as a soup salad and chili supper, our cook book, bakeless bake sale and the most successful of all the Hopewell Blanket. We are very fortunate to receive help with the purchase of emergency food stuff and equipment for use at emergencies by a monetary donation from the Fire Commissioners.

We also do Community outreach by working with our firemen on projects like the Halloween Parade, the tree lighting with Santa, the Harvest Fair and now the Department has taken over the Easter Egg Hunt and the Memorial Day Parade. An Auxiliary member is Chairman of the Parade.

We make a yearly donation to the Sunshine Foundations "Dream Lift" and have at times helped when a family in our fire district is in need.

It is our pleasure to adopt a fireman who is a resident at Boonton Home for Retired Firemen. Our current gentleman is 94 years old and doing well. We remember him on all the special days throughout the year.

In 1991 we joined the Mercer County Fire Auxiliary and our delegates attend their monthly meetings. We host the meeting once every two years. In October, 2004 we joined the State of New Jersey Fire Auxiliary and we have delegates who attend their two meetings each year. In April 2007 we hosted the State meeting.

We may have fewer members but the ones we have work hard to carry on our tradition of supporting our Firemen and EMU members to the best of our ability.

Whenever you see our firemen look for us, we'll be there, look for the vehicle parked nearby:

We'll be there with food and drinks, especially in the middle of the night.

All in all taking into consideration the changes in our world and in the demands that the world places on today's woman and her time, we are proud to say the *LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ALIVE, WELL AND ACTIVE, AND LOOKING FORWARD WITH EAGERNESS AND ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION TO THE NEXT TWENTY FIVE YEARS.*

We would be remiss, at this time, if we did not acknowledge that the support and cooperation of our families is what makes it possible for us to give the time needed to meet our aims and goals and we, all of us, want to thank our families for the understanding and help.

By: *Barbara Jefferson*

Eileen Toth

Colleen Muentener

LADIES AUXILIARY

Officers - 2011



From left to right—Mary Ann Van Doren Membership Secretary, Colleen Muentener Secretary, Lyle Kennedy President, Jeanine Vaccarino Vice President, JoAnn Vaccarrino Treasurer

LADIES AUXILIARY PAST PRESIDENTS

1911-1912	<i>Smaritan Blackwell</i>	1961-1962	<i>Dorothy Fish</i>
1913	<i>Rose Ege</i>	1963-1964	<i>Jetta Hall</i>
1914	<i>Claire Pierson, Sr.</i>	1965-1966	<i>Josephine Laird</i>
1915	<i>Rene Van Nest</i>	1967-1968	<i>Carol Lowe</i>
1916-1919	<i>Emily Leigh</i>	1969-1970	<i>Beverly Voorhees</i>
1920-1921	<i>Ida Larason</i>	1971-1972	<i>Clarice Fenton</i>
1922-1937	<i>Ethel Williamson</i>	1973-1974	<i>Catherine Corcoran</i>
1938-1939	<i>Ida Larason</i>	1975-1976	<i>Theresa Marotta</i>
1940	<i>Mary Carver</i>	1977-1978	<i>JoAnn Vaccarino</i>
1941-1942	<i>Jeanette Hall</i>	1979-1981	<i>Eileen Toth</i>
1943	<i>Clara Righter</i>	1982-1984	<i>Judith Williamson</i>
1944-1945	<i>Jeanette Hall</i>	1985-1987	<i>Mary Anne Van Doren</i>
1946	<i>Helen Davis</i>	1988-1990	<i>Rosemarie Novak</i>
1947	<i>Ann Runyon</i>	1991-1992	<i>Deborah Vandewater</i>
1948	<i>Mary Carver</i>	1993-1995	<i>Duchess Lake</i>
1949	<i>Jeanette Hall</i>	1996	<i>Jennie Leigh Carom</i>
1950-1951	<i>Becky Wilson</i>	1997-1999	<i>Kim Comeau</i>
1952	<i>Martha Lanning</i>	2000	<i>Carol Pfister</i>
1953-1954	<i>Isabelle Riley</i>	2001-2003	<i>Eileen Toth</i>
1955-1956	<i>Claire Cranstoun</i>	2004-2007	<i>Duchess Lake</i>
1957-1958	<i>Jenny Palmer</i>	2008-2011	<i>Lyle Kennedy</i>
1959-1960	<i>Barbara Jefferson</i>		

100 Years of Dedicated Service

Hopewell Fire Department



*JENNY PALMER HONORED FOR 70 YEARS
WITH THE
HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT
LADIES AUXILIARY*

On May 18, 2011, Jenny Palmer (center with flowers) was honored as "Fire Lady of the Month" by the Mercer County Ladies Auxiliary for 70 years of service to the Hopewell Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. During her active years, she served as President in 1957 & 1958 and participated in various fund raisers, dinners, and supplying food to our firemen during fires. Jenny proudly continues to support our fund raisers such as the Mother's Day Plant Sale and we are honored by her dedication to our organization.

Hopewell Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary will celebrate 100 years of volunteer service on October 1, 2011.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

By: Mel Myers

From its creation in 1911 until the mid 1980's, The Hopewell Fire Department depended upon donations from residents and various fund raising activities to finance the volunteer fire department's activities. On occasion, large donations and grants from individuals, estates and major business enterprises also made it possible for the Volunteer Fire Department to acquire needed fire fighting units. Soliciting needed donations from "door to door" was a major time consuming effort requiring up to six months of effort each year.

By the 1980's these efforts became insufficient to ensure that the long term needs of the Volunteer Fire Department could be met and therefore the voters of Hopewell Borough approved a referendum to establish a municipal "Board of Fire Commissioners". The Board consists of five elected unpaid members who must be residents of the Borough who each serve three year terms.

Every year two seats on the Board are up for a public election conducted on the third Saturday of every February pursuant to state law. Every third year only one seat on the Board is up for election. The Board of Fire Commissioners establishes a proposed Fire District budget which is submitted for approval by the voters of Hopewell Borough also on the third Saturday of February every year pursuant to state law, A "temporary budget" not to exceed fourteen percent of the proposed budget is allowed under state law until a final budget is approved by the voters. The temporary budget exists because the annual budget for the Fire District is on a calendar year basis, i.e. January through December, and operating funds are needed prior to the February budget vote.

Upon approval of the annual budget a fire district tax is calculated and included in the quarterly tax bills which the Borough of Hopewell submits to all property owners. The Borough subsequently makes distribution of the Fire District tax collected to the Board of Fire Commissioners in a percentage and on dates as prescribed by state law.

The Hopewell Borough Board of Fire Commissioners have an established agreement with the Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners whereby the

Township Board has agreed to reimburse the Hopewell Board for seventy percent of the Hopewell Board's annual operational and capital budget. This is because it was determined that seventy percent of the fire and emergency medical calls to which the Volunteer Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit responds are within the boundaries of the Township of Hopewell. Accordingly the Fire District tax levy paid by the property owners in Hopewell Borough is only thirty percent of the total annual fire district budget.

The Board of Fire Commissioners normally conducts open public business meetings in the evening of the second Wednesday of each month at the municipal building. Additional open public meetings may be scheduled throughout the year as may be needed and advanced public notification is always provided as required by state law.

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

By: Duchess Lake

In 1991 the members of the Hopewell Fire Department decided to establish two \$500.00 scholarships each year. One scholarship is for any graduating senior. This scholarship is open to a worthy student going into vocational, technical, or a medical career and who displays a commitment to service to the community. Applications for this high school scholarship are submitted through the guidance office to be reviewed by the fire department scholarship selection committee.

The other scholarship is open to any member of the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Unit, Ladies Auxiliary, or their children who plan to further their education. Volunteerism in the community plays a significant role in determining the successful recipient with both of these scholarships.

The Hopewell Fire Department is very proud to have made these scholarships available for the past 20 years and the department looks forward to continuing this tradition.

Congratulations and Thank You
to

Hopewell Fire Department
and
Emergency Medical Unit
for

100 years of service to the
community

From



**MOREHOUSE
ENGINEERING, Inc.**

and

The Morehouse Family
Sky, Liza, Luke, and Emma

Van Doren Lumber Yard Fire

BY: Chief John Novak

On February 21, 1991 my pager went off and the dispatcher announced a fire at the lumber yard in Hopewell Borough. It was a beautiful, clear but cold night. Hopewell residents were walking their dog when they noticed the back of the lumber yard was on fire. They ran to their son's home nearby and reported the fire to the police. The Hopewell Fire Department was dispatched at 8:35 PM along with the Pennington and Union Fire Company. Thus began what was to be a very long night.

In February of 1991, I had my own business and was on the job site when the pager went off. I immediately headed to Hopewell from Plainsboro not liking what I was hearing on the radio. The lumber yard was on fire—a major “fire target” in Hopewell was burning. My deputy, Larry Omland, was away and I was not in Hopewell. I stepped on the accelerator.

The first truck on the scene was Rescue 52 with foreman, Greg Perk in charge. He had his firefighters go to the rear northwest end of the lumber yard with a 2.5 hose. They unsuccessfully tried to put out the fire. They had to back out as the fire continued to rapidly spread. An engine crew arrived and set up a dreck gun to spray water on the house located next to the lumber yard.

It was at this time that Chief Gene Schooly and trucks from Pennington also arrived. Lines were laid from hydrants and Chief Schooly called Mercer County Communications and asked for two aerials. More engines from both West Trenton and Montgomery arrived.

Deputy Omland arrived and took command. He had Montgomery lay 5” line down where there were three Fold-A-Tanks set up. He also asked for the Tanker Task Force from Somerset County as the Hopewell water system did not have the capacity to handle a fire of this magnitude.

In addition to Hopewell, Pennington, Union, West Trenton and Montgomery being on the scene, Kathy Peck, ENT signed on the air to help command. The fire burned on.

In the meantime, I was still responding. I had gone home to pick up my truck which already had my gear in it. On Crusher Road, I could see the fire—and, my adrenalin started to pump as I realized this was a much bigger fire than I had originally anticipated. Kathy Peck called me on the radio and advised me that the Station 52 base was on the air. That was going to be a big help.

I arrived on the scene and took command, calling into Central to give my location. I sized up the fire. Over half the lumber yard was fully involved and flames were over 100 feet high. I said to myself “this is going to be a long night and I am going to need a lot of help.”

I then called for all chiefs on scene to report to command. After meeting with all the chiefs, I called Central and told them to dispatch the balance of Ewing, all of Lawrence, Belle Mead, Rocky Hill, and Kingston to the scene. I then sent Engine 32 Pennington Road to the Quarry to draft out of the lake. I also asked Tom McLaughlin, a Past Chief, to take the brush truck to the Quarry to help Engine 32.

From that point controlling the spread of the fire and working towards extinguishing it became a joint effort of many fire units and individuals. Michael Toth, Somerset County Mutual Aid Coordinator, was enormously helpful with me in the command center. I was happy to have his experience and knowledge as we tried

Van Doren Lumber Yard Fire

(continued)

The water reserves from town were low. Mrs. Johnson, who had a pond on her farm, offered to let us use the water from the pond. It was due to the generosity and cooperation of people like Mrs. Johnson and everyone who stepped up that night that enabled us to keep the fire from spreading to other homes. I closed down CSX Railroad located behind the lumber yard and put Lawrenceville on the tracks.

By this time, the fire had been burning out of control for about an hour. We were using approximately 2200 gallons of water a minute on the fire. My greatest fear was that the fire would spread to neighboring homes. I called Central to make sure we had the area surrounding the lumber yard covered. They dispatched Hamilton Fire Companies Decou, Colonial and Whitehorse to help achieve that task. They had never been in Hopewell.

After 3.5 hours, I was advised that the Borough water system was running dangerously low. I knew I needed another water drop site on Greenwood Avenue at Broad Street. More tankers were called to relay water from the new drafting site. Now we have 30 tankers shuttling water from the various locations.

The fire finally came under control around midnight. At 1AM, all the fire fighters who had been onsite from the start were sent to the Hopewell Fire House for a break. Fresh firefighters were brought on the scene.

The challenge now was how do we overhaul the site? The fire was, for the most part, extinguished. I called for a loader from J. Vinch and Sons, a demolition company, who arrived at 7:30AM. Now began a long day of overhaul.

I walked around the yard with some of the chiefs looking at what was left of the lumber yard. There were originally 6 large buildings in the lumber yard, 2 were left untouched. A nearby house had minor smoke damage and some broken windows. All in all,

the site demonstrated the hard work and enormous contribution given by all. No one had been hurt and under the circumstances the damage had been contained to the lumber yard. It was a tribute to all involved.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the fire departments that helped save the town of Hopewell. It has been over 20 years since the largest fire the town has ever experienced and the lumber yard is still in existence.

Also a special thanks goes to the residents and businesses of Hopewell as well as the Hopewell Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for their support that night.

Note about John Novak: Twenty years later John is still a valued active member with 45 years of service. He is now Chief Engineer and Trustee. His son, Joe Novak, is now Chief of the Fire Department. His wife, Rose is Chief of the Squad.



FIRE, SPREAD THE ALARM

By: James Riley

The Hopewell Fire Department has come a long way since it was founded 100 years ago. I remember reading in 1961 about how the alarm of fire was spread in town in 1911. The alarm was spread by ringing a locomotive tire that was hung near the fire house.

Now 100 years later the alarm is spread with all sorts of electronic wizardry, but 60 some years ago when my father Murph Riley was Chief of the Department, things were a lot less complicated than they are now, or were they, certainly less technical.

There was one large Siren located on a tower behind the fire house, where one is now located and that was it. The part that I have found interesting is the ingenious way the volunteers of that time received the fire alarm and rang the siren.

In 1957 if you wanted to report a fire you had to pick up a telephone and tell the operator. The operator would connect you to the person that was taking the fire calls. During the daytime Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm, the calls were taken at Cutters Drug Store located where the Hopewell Pharmacy is now. When an alarm was received at the drug store, the clerk would take the information, address etc. and then go outside on the rear of the building and push the siren button.

When the first engine rolled out of the fire house, (always #5 the 1953 Ford) they would always go out towards Broad Street so they could get the address and other information from the drug store. If someone called the Fire Department at any other time, then the operator would transfer the call to the Fire Chief's home or where he directed the operator to call. If he was going out of town for some reason, then he would have to get someone else to take the calls. Usually it would be the First Assistant Chief that would do it.

When the Chief received the call he would rush to the Fire house while his wife or someone else in the house would call Mrs. Sinclair who lived behind the firehouse on Broad Street next door Dr. Stults and the Telephone office, now the library. Mrs. Sinclair had a siren button on her back porch.

This is the way that Fire Alarms were handled in Hopewell until dial telephones came to Hopewell in 1965 or 1966 and the State Police Barracks out on Route 31 started to take fire and ambulance calls.

ONIGHT S LIECTION:

How to Get the Ambulance

FOR EMERGENCY ONLY—

Take telephone receiver from hook, tell operator where one wants the ambulance. She will contact Mr. or Mrs. Walter Benson. They in turn will get in touch with the captain of lieutenant in charge at that particular time. He will organize the crew and proceed on the call.

FOR TRANSPORTATION OF SICK OR AFFLICTED—

Telephone your physician who will get in touch with the ambulance group through Mr. Benson. The ambulance will not transport a sick person from home without the physician's ok.

The cooperation of telephone operators and many other persons for emergencies is being highly commended by the firemen's rescue squad. Anyone wishing to take part in this work may enroll in the new class starting in Pennington next week.

Leroy O. Holcomb

to

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Quakerbridge Office
3800 Quakerbridge Rd.
Hamilton, NJ 08619
(609) 586-0600

Ringoes Office
1082 Old York Rd.
Ringoes, NJ 08551
(908) 237-2215

Princeton Office
11 State Rd.
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 924-2032

County Line Office
280 Route 31
Hopewell, NJ 08525
(609) 466-7399

Hopewell Crossing Office
802 Denow Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534
(609) 737-5151

Ewing Office
180 Scotch Rd.
Ewing, NJ 08628
(609) 882-0300





In memory of our members and friends of the Hopewell Fire Department that have passed

Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage,
Give me strength to save some life, whatever be it's age.

Help me to embrace a child, before it is too late,
or save an older person from the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and, to give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.

And if according to my fate, I am to lose my life,
Please bless with your protecting hand my children and wife.





Where Were You on September 11, 2001?

Everyone remembers where they were of course. It is like remembering where you were when President Kennedy was shot. Horrific moments like these are rare thankfully, but because they are so remarkable it is not hard to recall.

The following hours were a blur as America was glued to the television screen. Members of our community were killed that day. Local first aid, fire, law enforcement and first responder support teams raced to NYC as we usually do in times of need. We had an Emergency crew with our ambulance stage at the Liberty State Park. However, Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit had a different job to do! Almost by accident, under able leadership of some very dedicated volunteers, HFD responded in a most unusual way. We collected tons of materials and supplies that were needed by the Ground Zero

workers in the search and rescue operation. Then company president, Michael Toth had an inspiring thought while working his job at the Hopewell Township Police Dept. While stopping at the firehouse to watch TV about what was happening in NY, "a little old lady with a pair of work gloves" came in and wanted to donate them for the workers at the site. No one had any idea what to do with that, but Mike took them to "be polite". And then it escalated. It spread by word of mouth initially. "It was 9/11 and we were all at the Hopewell firehouse, wanting to do something, anything that we could to help" recalls Toth. People started calling the firehouse with items to donate; then radio 101.5 got involved, soon the Office of Emergency Management called asking who authorized the collection. No one did, and that had to change.

Al Hart, a Hopewell EMT with years of experience and a certified Red Cross instructor and area coordinator stepped in and made the call that got Hopewell Fire Department certified as the collection site. He also found out what was needed and wanted. The Red Cross told us exactly what was needed and even how to pack the trucks to bring it to Ground Zero. Within 2 days the firehouses in Pennington and Titusville were collecting materials and bringing them into Hopewell. "We collected for 4 or 5 days" said Toth, "people came from as far away as Virginia." It was a mountain of materials loaded in the firehouse and to move it took tremendous amounts of manpower. Members of the community even came in to help sort it out. We formed "bucket brigades" to move it and load it into trucks. It was moved to Sovereign Bank Arena to be loaded into the trucks to take it to the Ground Zero site. The tractor trailer trucks were donated by John Hart a local farmer and Rosedale Mills owner. They made several trips into NY with

Hazmat suits, toothbrushes, shovels, gloves, pallets of eyewash and lots of dog food and other supplies.

These were donated from Wal Mart, 3M, Home Depot, Pet Smart, Pennington Market and others. It was an absolutely fantastic response from the community.

A very important step was getting the site as a certified collection center; fully loaded trucks were turned away at the tunnels leading into NYC because they were not certified. Local police had to lock and certify the contents. Hundreds of man-hours were spent collecting, organizing, loading, protecting and transporting the supplies.

Local businesses, Hopewell House and Vincenzo's, supplied lunches and dinners for workers. Everyone had donated everything. It was truly an amazing effort.

Said Toth, "It was a horrible, horrible thing that brought out the best in people."

Submitted by Glenn Gabai

EMT. HFD & EMU



September 10, 2011 - Quint 52 and Telesquirt 53 proudly fly a huge American flag between their sticks Saturday morning. Hopewell Valleys 9/11 Memorial had a great turnout and wonderful inaugural service.

Length of Service Awards Program

Written By: Mel Myers

In 1999 the Board of Fire commissioners, Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1., approved a resolution to create a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) to help ensure the retention of existing volunteers and to provide incentives for recruiting new volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians. In accordance with Chapter 388, Laws of 1997 of the State of New Jersey, the proposed LOSAP program was approved by the Hopewell Borough voters in February, 2000 with an effective date of January 1, 2000 in order to reward volunteer members of the Hopewell Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit for their loyal and diligent service to the residents of Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township and surrounding areas. The Hopewell Township Fire Commissioners agreed to share the cost of the LOSAP program with the Hopewell Borough Fire Commissioners on a seventy/thirty percent basis. In calendar year 2000 a total of thirty two firefighters and twenty on EMTs qualified for an annual award ranging from \$550 to \$1,150 depending upon the number of years of their qualifying volunteer service. The annual cost of the LOSAP program \$46,375 which was divided into \$32,463 from Hopewell Township and \$14,312 from Hopewell Borough. By law the Governor of New Jersey may increase the annual entitlement in accordance with a cost of living index and this has been done every year since.

In order to receive the maximum annual credit to the volunteer's retirement program the individual must accrue a total of sixty points in the calendar year by a combination of responding to emergency calls, serving on a fixed duty night crew, serving as an officer, attending meetings and work sessions, participating in drills helping at special events, and/or serving as a non-paid instructor. Individuals who achieve a minimum of thirty points are eligible for one-half of the annual credit. In 2010 fifty six firefighters and twenty one EMTs qualified for an annual credit at a total program cost of \$82,490. Volunteers must accrue a minimum of five qualified years of service in order to become vested in the LOSAP program.

Hopewell Christmas Traditions

Written By: Ali Newcamp

Hopewell residents know that the holiday season begins with Santa's annual appearance on Broad Street to light the one hundred foot town Christmas tree. Following the tree lighting. Santa travels back to the fire house and welcomes families to visit. With jackets zipped, mittens on, and hats pulled tightly down onto their heads, children stand in line, typically for much longer than their attention spans will last, and await the anticipation of seeing the jolly man in the red suit. The Ladies Auxiliary provides hot chocolate and snacks for the children, while Santa's helpers give out candy canes. With all of the excitement, children make their way to the front of the line, and have a variety of reactions. Some children run up to sit on his lap and hand over their 3 page list, while others decide that *Santa is just not for them this year*. Families take pictures, as children show how well behaved they have been throughout the year. Hopewell residents are lucky enough to have Santa take some time out of his very busy schedule to make special deliveries throughout the month of December following this festive evening.

The Hopewell Fire Department has been bringing smiles to children's faces through an event called Operation Santa for 11 years. Operation Santa began in the winter of 2000, and has grown vastly in popularity! What's more exciting than Santa, or a fire truck, but Santa coming to your house, on a fire truck, with a present! Presents are gathered at the fire house for Santa to deliver to homes in the area during the week after the tree lighting. During 3 evenings in December, Santa and his elves hop aboard the fire truck and visit special boys and girls. As the fire truck comes down the road, sirens begin to sound and Santa waves from his seat! Some children run outside into the cold wearing nothing but their pajamas, others stay in the warmth of their homes and stare through the fogged up front door. Within seconds, Santa and his elves are at their door holding presents, and being invited inside. As Santa typically does, he has children that come running at him and can't wait to sit on his lap, and he has children that go in the other room and peek out from behind the door to see if he is still in their living room. Santa reminds children to continue to be on their best behavior, because after all, *he's making his list, and checking it twice.*

Santa Visits

I'm sure we can all think back to when we woke up on Christmas morning and ran to the tree to see what Santa had brought. Overwhelmed by the feeling of excitement and joy, magic entered each one of our homes Christmas morning as we sat on the floor with our families. The members of the Hopewell Fire Department have been lucky enough to share that magic with you and your family over the years, and hope to continue this tradition.



Historic Throw Blanket

In 1996, the Ladies Auxiliary tried a different kind of fundraiser and created a Historic Throw Blanket picturing nine of the most prominent historic sites in and around Hopewell Boro. Included was the John Hart Home, the HFD Fire Bell, Charles Lindbergh's home, the Library, Museum, Old School Baptist Church, of course the Fire House and Municipal building, the Railroad Station and in the center, the newest landmark, the Gazebo in the park. Almost 700 woven blankets, which came in four colors, were sold for \$35.00 each. This project, chaired by Carol Pfister and Mary Anne Van Doren, made a profit of over \$10,000 for the Auxiliary!



**THE HISTORY OF THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER 1
AND
THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS
*MICHAEL A. CHIPOWSKY, CHAIRMAN***

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

The Hopewell Township Fire District Number 1 was founded in 1989 as a method of funding the needs of the Hopewell Valley Fire Departments. At the same time as the Hopewell Township Board of Commissioners was founded, Boards were also established in Hopewell and Pennington Boroughs.

Union Fire Company in Titusville is the only fire company actually located within the borders of Hopewell Township. Hopewell Fire Department and the Pennington Fire Company have taken on the responsibility of providing fire protection in the area of Hopewell Township that surrounds their towns. Hopewell Township Fire District Number 1 is responsible for all costs associated with this additional area.

We are living in an era where the proceeds of a pancake breakfast or a chicken dinner are no longer able to purchase all the necessary fire equipment. New equipment can easily cost more than a million dollars, per truck. The Fire District is able to levy a tax to provide fire departments with the equipment they need.

Congratulations to the Hopewell Fire Department for 100 years of dedicated service to the *entire valley!* Rest assured that the Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners will be here in the future to help with your financial needs.

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SUNDAY	11:30AM – 10:30PM

PAST CHIEFS

1911-	<i>John Titus</i>	1963-1964	<i>Albert Rathousky</i>
1911-1912	<i>Harry Wolfe</i>	1965	<i>Raymond VanArsdale</i>
1913-1917	<i>C.E Hoagland</i>	1966-1968	<i>Gordon S. Lowe</i>
1918-	<i>A.N Johnson</i>	1969-1973	<i>Frank O. Voorhees</i>
1919-1936	<i>Charles E Williamson</i>	1974-1976 W.	<i>W. Gerald Fenton</i>
1937-1938	<i>George R. Carver, Jr</i>	1977-1979	<i>Joseph S. Williamson III</i>
1939-1940	<i>Clarence Runyon</i>	1980-1981	<i>Michael Marotta</i>
1941-1942	<i>George Jones</i>	1982	<i>Tom McLaughlin</i>
1943-1944	<i>Leslie Warman</i>	1983-1985	<i>Joseph Toth</i>
1945-1946	<i>Samuel Cooper</i>	1986-1987	<i>David VanDoren</i>
1947-1948	<i>George Voorhees</i>	1988	<i>Richard Kettenburg</i>
1949-1950	<i>Ernest Adler</i>	1988-1992	<i>John Novak</i>
1951-1952	<i>Reynold Dansberry</i>	1993-1996	<i>Lawrence Omland</i>
1953-1954	<i>Ralph Lanning</i>	1997-2000	<i>Gregory Peck</i>
1955-1956	<i>Carl Smith</i>	2000-2001	<i>Joseph Toth II</i>
1957-1958	<i>Mahlon Riley</i>	2001-2003	<i>Robert Hodes</i>
1959-1960	<i>Alvin Cranstoun</i>	2004-2005	<i>Ed VanDoren</i>
1961-1962	<i>John L Hall</i>	2005-2010	<i>William Springer</i>
		2011-Current	<i>Joseph Novak</i>

FIRE FIGHTING OFFICERS



Fire Chief
Joseph R. Novak



Deputy Chief
William Mullen



Assistant Chief
Daniel P. Galatro Jr



Battalion Chief
Robert B. Myers III



Captain
David K. Hunt



1ST Lieutenant
Kenneth Josh Stoveken



2nd Lieutenant
William Haynes

PAST PRESIDENTS

1911-1913	<i>Fred I. Sutphen</i>	1972-1973	<i>Gordon Lowe</i>
1914-1915	<i>Joseph S. Williamson</i>	1974	<i>Alan Dansbury (Jan-June)</i>
1916-1917	<i>A.N. Johnson</i>	1975	<i>John Cirello (June-Dec)</i>
1918-1921	<i>E. V. Savidge</i>	1976-1977	<i>Thomas Fillebrown</i>
1922-1927	<i>Edwin Savidge</i>	1978	<i>Burt Parry</i>
1928-1935	<i>Alfred H. Smith</i>	1979	<i>Gerry Fenton</i>
1936	<i>Dezzie Casey</i>	1980-1981	<i>Joe Williamson III</i>
1937-1938	<i>R.B. Hullfish</i>	1982-1983	<i>Guy Fillebrown</i>
1939-1940	<i>Dezzie Casey</i>	1984-1985	<i>Mike Marotta</i>
1941-1942	<i>George Carver, Jr.</i>	1986-1988	<i>Duchess Lake</i>
1943-1944	<i>Walter Benson</i>	1989	<i>Raymond Van Arsdale</i>
1945-1946	<i>Clarence Runyon</i>	1990-1992	<i>Eric Muentner</i>
1947-1948	<i>Walter Benson</i>	1993	<i>Larry Cortelyou</i>
1949-1950	<i>R.A. VanDoren</i>	1994-1995	<i>David Williamson</i>
1951-1952	<i>Walter Taylor</i>	1996	<i>Robert Ackers</i>
1953-1954	<i>Harry Hall</i>	1996	<i>Michael Toth</i>
1955-1956	<i>Arthur Wright</i>	1997	<i>Daryl Nemeth</i>
1957-1958	<i>John Cromwell</i>	1997-2003	<i>Michael Toth</i>
1959-1960	<i>Harvey Fish</i>	2004-2005	<i>Rose Novak</i>
1961-1962	<i>Theodore Sinclair</i>	2006	<i>Chris Machusak</i>
1963-1964	<i>Robert Jefferson</i>	2007-2008	<i>Isaac Peck III</i>
1965	<i>James Boughner</i>	2009-Present	<i>Kristine Toth</i>
1966-1967	<i>Al Casini</i>		
1968-1969	<i>John L. Hall</i>		
1970-1971	<i>George Cramer</i>		

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS



President
Kristine Toth



Vice President
Michele Hunt



2nd Vice President
Christie Toth



3rd Vice President
Steve Webb



Treasurer
David Bregenzer



Secretary
Melissa Simmons



Asst. Secretary
Alison Newcamp



Asst. Treasurer
Duchess Lake



PAST PRESIDENTS

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1966-1967	<i>Al Casini</i>		
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1970-1971	<i>George Cramer</i>		

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS



President
Kristine Toth



Vice President
Michele Hunt



2nd Vice President
Christie Toth



3rd Vice President
Steve Webb



Treasurer
David Bregenzer



Secretary
Melissa Simmons



Asst. Secretary
Alison Newcamp



Asst. Treasurer
Duchess Lake



PAST EMU CHIEFS

1951-1953	<i>John Cromwell</i>	1977-1978	<i>Isaac Peck, Jr.</i>
1954	<i>Mark Palmatier</i>	1979-1980	<i>Thomas Cooper</i>
1955-1956	<i>Robert Jefferson</i>	1981	<i>Norman Johnson</i>
1957-1958	<i>Edgar Smith</i>	1982-1983	<i>Duchess Lake</i>
1959-1960	<i>Mary Everitt</i>	1984-1984	<i>Sarah Hart</i>
1961-1962	<i>Leroy Sharpe</i>	1986-1988	<i>Ken Stoveken</i>
1963	<i>Robert Jefferson</i>	1989	<i>Rhonda Stoveken</i>
1964	<i>Dorothy Fish</i>	1990	<i>Ken Perrin</i>
1965-1966	<i>Fred Novak</i>	1990	<i>Ken Stoveken</i>
1967-1968	<i>Thomas Cooper</i>	1991	<i>Duchess Lake</i>
1969	<i>Duncan Campbell</i>	1992	<i>Barbara Eding</i>
1970-1971	<i>Thomas Fillebrown</i>	1993-1994	<i>Patty Phillips</i>
1972	<i>Thomas Cooper</i>	1995-2000	<i>Mary Ann Harmon</i>
1973	<i>Joseph Toth</i>	2000-2003	<i>Michael Speck</i>
1974	<i>Lewis Lipot</i>	2004	<i>Herbert Ruehle</i>
1975	<i>Thomas Cooper</i>	2005-2008	<i>Lisa Springer</i>

PAST ADMINISTRATORS

1976	<i>Joseph Vaccarino</i>	2009-Present	<i>Rose Novak</i>
1951-1953	<i>Dezzie Casey</i>	1975-1976	<i>Merrit McAlinden</i>
1954	<i>John Cromwell</i>	1977-1978	<i>Thomas Cooper</i>
1955-1956	<i>Mark Palmatier</i>	1979-1980	<i>Richard Wyckoff</i>
1957-1958	<i>Robert Jefferson</i>	1981	<i>Keith Hunt</i>
1959-1960	<i>Edgar Smith</i>	1982-1983	<i>Al Hart</i>
1961-1962	<i>Mary Everitt</i>	1984-1985	<i>Ken Stoveken</i>
1963-1964	<i>Leroy Sharpe</i>	1986-1988	<i>Al Hart</i>
1965	<i>Curtiss Hoffman</i>	1989-1991	<i>Merrit McAliden</i>
1966	<i>Leroy Sharpe</i>	1992	<i>Ken Stoveken</i>
1967-1968	<i>Fred Novak</i>	1993-1995	<i>Rhonda Stoveken</i>
	<i>Indocumented</i>	1996	<i>Position combined</i>

2011 EMU OFFICERS



Chief
Rose Novak



Deputy
Heather Varrassee



1st Lieutenant
Michael C. Brown



2nd Lieutenant
Brent Devlin



3rd Lieutenant
Bill Butler



Squad Secretary
Chris Jones

OUR CURRENT FLEET OF EQUIPMENT



1966 Dodge Power Wagon



1990 E-One Engine Pumper



1990 International 4000 gal Tanker



1992 E-One Rescue Pumper



1996 Ford F-350
Utility

OUR CURRENT FLEET OF EQUIPMENT



2006 E-One Quint Aerial



2002 Ford P&L Ambulance



2008 Ford Expedition Command



1998 Ford P&L Ambulance



2011 Ford F550 Hackney Special



1998 Jeep Cherokee

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Ewing Township



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Hopewell Fire Department

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Ladies Auxiliary

On 100 years of Fire Service



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Friday 8:30AM - 6:00PM

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Raymond L. Nagy
Chief

Josh Suen
President

Gary Wasko
Deputy Chief



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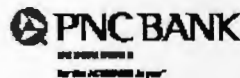
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COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Best Wishes HFD & EMU

The Myers Clan

*Mel, Matthew, Jessica, Dylan and
Gavin*

Congratulations!

100 Years of Volunteer Service

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Caitie and Carter

Volunteers for 100 Years! Congratulations

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Best Wishes on your 100th Anniversary

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Richard E. Van Doren, 2nd Asst. Chief 1961
David B. Van Doren, Chief 1986-1987
David J. (PF/EMT) & Andrew R. Van Doren (PF)

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We are proud to be part of such a great organization on our 100th Anniversary

Joe & JoAnn Vaccarino

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT



The Keifer Family of EMTs

Sarah, Joe, and David

Salute all the volunteers of the Hopewell Fire Department and
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We value the impact you made on our lives through the chance given
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The Toth Family Congratulates the
Hopewell Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary
on

100 Years of Dedicated Service to the
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Joe, Eileen, Mary Eileen, Joe II, Kristine, Michael & Chris-
tie, Joshua, Joseph III, Cadyn, Amanda, Hailey and Nadia



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**Congratulations to the Hopewell Fire Department for its 100 years of service to the
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Thanks, Andrew Armington

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In Memoriam

Dorothy K. Stults

May 22, 1911—January 25, 2002

Amos W. Stults, Sr.

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we are grateful and thank you*



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Ladies Auxiliary on a century of
volunteerism.



Raymond & Arlette VanArsdale

Raymond VanArsdale Jr.

Kyle & Meredith VanArsdale

Keith & Yvette VanArsdale

Virginia M. Lewis

THE RUGGIERI FAMILY
CONGRATULATES



THE

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT
& LADIES AUXILIARY
ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO
HOPEWELL VALLEY



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Congratulations and thanks for a century of service to
our community!

We will remember you in our prayers and give thanks to God
for your dedication and selfless commitment
your neighbors in need!!



We will especially remember the Hopewell Fire Department &
Emergency Medical Unit and the Hopewell Fire Department's
Ladies Auxiliary in our prayers and worship services throughout
your anniversary month!

Thank you and God Bless you all!

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on

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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

Thank you Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department &
Emergency Medical Unit and the
Hopewell Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
for "100 Years of Service" to our community.

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100th Anniversary Committee



From left to right: Steve Webb, John Novak, Rob Myers, Ali Newcamp, Art Parsell, Kristine Toth, Virginia Lewis, Bill Walker, JoAnn Vaccarino, Duchess Lake, Donna Walker, Tom Fillebrown, Lyle Kennedy, Tami Novak, Joseph Novak.

Special Thanks to the 100th Anniversary Committee for the many hours spent on making this event happen successfully. Your help was greatly appreciated:

We would like to also thank Mary Eileen Moore, Chris Jones, Christian Myers, Mel Myers, Glenn Gabai, Rhonda Stoveken, Josh Stoveken and Kenny Stoveken for assisting the committee when called upon.

Lastly to the entire Hopewell Fire Department Family for their support and keeping our organization going for the past 100 years.

1911

HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT.

1911



**Thank you everyone for supporting and celebrating
with us. Hope to see you all at our next
Milestone in 25 years!!**

