

"75 Years Strong"

LAKE VIEW



Vol. Fire Assoc.

1924

75

1999

**Diamond
Anniversary**

LAKE VIEW - ERIE COUNTY - NEW YORK

A Message from the 75th Anniversary Chairman

As General Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, it is my extreme pleasure to introduce you to the history of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

The officers and current active, life and exempt members of this organization, pay special tribute to our founding fathers that seventy-five years ago put the needs of this community in the forefront of civic responsibility. At our 75th Installation and Awards Dinner held on January 30, 1999, this department received numerous commendations, citations and awards from our local and state representatives and neighboring fire departments. I had the honor of serving as Master of Ceremonies that evening. I stated that we accepted all of these accolades graciously. Today, the people who make up the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department represent those who went before us. They helped make this department as great as it is today. We accepted all the accolades in their honor and memory.

Daniel Hudson Burnham, the renowned architect, said, "*Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency*".

That passage reminds me ever so much of what transpired on January 15, 1924. That night, the minutes of the first meeting to organize a fire department in Lake View were recorded. Those minutes are part of this book. I invite you to read them along with all the other interesting, educational and enjoyable information.

Thirty-eight men gathered on that cold winter night to put in place a diagram for this community's future. I'm not sure what they envisioned as their future that night, but one thing is certain. They did make plans. Those plans by today's standards may seem small. However, by having two hand chemical extinguishers, six axes and 24 buckets, they set out to challenge one of the most destructive and deadly forces faced by mankind, FIRE. Their sole purpose of doing this was to protect and serve their neighbors, their community.

Albert Schweitzer once wrote, "*I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know, the only ones who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.*"

Over the months and years that followed, our founders advanced their capabilities far beyond what they saw that night. As time went on, we learned through stories, pictures and our recorded history, that they did serve with pride, dignity and often with humor.

On our installation night, I placed a challenge to every member of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department. I asked that every time they step through the doors of the fire stations, they try and remember what our founding members envisioned on that first night and that they recall their sense of purpose. They could not foresee their future, but they worked awfully hard to make it better and more importantly, safer. They did so not only for themselves, but for their fellow firefighters and the community they so proudly served and represented.

Today, the members of this department recognize the tasks that lie before us. We face vastly different problems than those our forefathers faced. Our first fire truck cost about \$8,000.00. Today, a new fire engine pumper will cost \$250,000.00 or more. In the late 1920's, our firefighters were on their own in learning how to fight a fire. Today, our members have the opportunity to undertake hundreds of hours of training to obtain, and maintain, their firefighting skills. First aid did not become part of the department until the mid-1930's and then was only a side activity. In 1999, Emergency Medical Services is an important and equal part of our operation and our members will voluntarily take hundreds of hours in training courses to obtain, and keep current, their skills and New York State certification.

Although there are differences, there are some things that remain the same. The dedication and commitment of today's members of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association is the same as our founding members. The principles our founders established are there for us to uphold. We will do so in a proud and committed manner.

In closing, our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the residents of Lake View for their longtime generous support and encouragement. You make it all worthwhile. May God continue to bless this community.

John R. Wicka



This history of the Lake View Fire Association and community was compiled from the written records of the fiftieth Anniversary book, minutes of company meetings, pictures, news clippings and stories from the men and women that made the history.

As members of the Fire Association and community we have much to be proud of. People settled in this area because of its natural beauty. Today we still have much of that beauty and a strong close-knit community.

This committee wishes to thank those that have contributed to this publication and the people that made this Association and the Community what it is today.

Lake View Volunteer Fire Association 75 Years of Service to this Community

75th

Anniversary Committee

“History, a distillation of Rumour”

Thomas Carlyle, the French Revolution Pr.i, bk.vii, ch. 5

A special thanks goes to the following people that have made this book possible:



Donald J. Spittler
Edward J. Patton
John R. Wicka
W. David Ross
V. Rev. Francis Kadryna
Jack DeGroat
Harold Moncton

PROCLAMATION

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1999

106th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION



WHEREAS, The Thirtieth Congressional District of New York and the Lake View community join in recognition of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association on the occasion of its Seventieth Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, On January 15, 1924, the citizens of Lake View established the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association to better respond to the fire protection of their immediate community. This group of dedicated firefighters, with the help of both public and private individuals and organizations, founded this important lifesaving organization on the principles of volunteerism, hard work, and civic involvement; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past 75 years, the Lake View Fire Association has grown steadily as the size of the community, new technology, and equipment has warranted. This considerable change has seen the addition of pumps, ambulances, new stations, rescue equipment and other technological advances, but the unrelenting commitment to the Lake View community and dedicated service to its residents has remained a constant; and


WHEREAS, Lake View, and indeed, our entire Western New York community is indebted to the many brave men and women who dutifully serve as Firefighters, and to their commitment to safety, protection, and volunteerism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jack Quinn, join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives; the Thirtieth Congressional District of New York; the Lake View community, and the many members of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, both past and present, and do hereby recognize and pay tribute to the brave and invaluable service to our Western New York community throughout its 75 years of diligent service and do hereby proclaim January 30, 1999 as:

"LAKE VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION DAY"

Proclaimed this 30th day of January, 1999 by United States Congressman Jack Quinn, 30th District of New York.




JACK QUINN
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



WHEREAS, the citizens of the Empire State are proud to recognize the outstanding sense of civic duty shown by members of local fire departments. The brave men and women who guard against the ravages of fire provide one of the most crucial services to the residents of communities throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. celebrates 75 years of providing protection to the citizens of that community. It is a milestone that few departments in New York State have achieved and reflects a history of distinction and honor among its members; and

WHEREAS, these courageous firefighters put their lives on the line every day of the week and have devoted years to protecting life and property. The contributions that the members of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association have made to the preservation and protection of human life through their fire prevention and suppression efforts truly merit praise of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, alert to the needs of its firefighters and the people they serve, the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association has worked diligently to provide optimum work conditions, a sound environment and the finest resources available so that its membership may best serve the public; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to join with the citizens of Lake View in expressing gratitude to the men and women of its Fire Department for a job well done and for helping to make the Empire State a safer, more secure place to work and live;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this special citation upon the

Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.

in recognition and appreciation of the dedication and commitment demonstrated by its members over the past 75 years and with best wishes for its continued service to the public and their needs it faithfully attends to.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George E. Pataki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor

January 21, 1999



STATE OF NEW YORK *Legislative Resolution*

Senate No. 176
BY: Senator Dale M. Volker

HONORING the past and present members of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Lake View, Erie County and its surrounding communities

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Lake View, Erie County and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 75 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and the respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, On January 15, 1924, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a volunteer firefighting unit; and

WHEREAS, In June 1924, the American Car & Foundry Company donated two 40 gallon tanks mounted on a hand-drawn cart as the first piece of mobile fire equipment used by the new department; and

WHEREAS, In 1925, a petition was circulated for the formation of a fire district; the petition was approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Lake View Fire District was formed; and

WHEREAS, In 1926, the Lake View Drill Team was organized; and

WHEREAS, The Lake View Volunteer Fire District purchased a 1926 American LaFrance pumper; even though the truck was removed from service in 1961 and sold, the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association bought back the vehicle in 1994 and is restoring it to its original condition; and

WHEREAS, In 1927, a new fire hall was completed; in 1944, The Lake View First Aid Squad was formed; and in 1946, the Lake View Fire Hall and Firematic Training School was formed; and

WHEREAS, In 1947, the Ladies Auxiliary was organized; in 1955, Station No. 2 was built; and in 1960, the Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Association was formed; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 75 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. reflects the history and development of firefighting over the past 75 years; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably embossed, be transmitted to the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON
January 26, 1999

By order of the Senate,
Steven M. Boggess, Secretary



STATE OF NEW YORK

Legislative Resolution

Senate No. 176

BY: Senator Dale M. Volker

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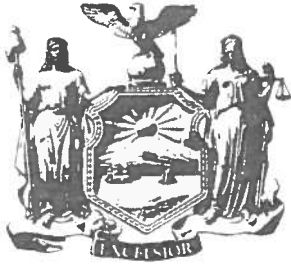
WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably embossed, be transmitted to the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.

ADPOTED IN SENATE ON
January 26, 1999

By order of the Senate,
Steven M. Boggess, Secretary



STATE of NEW YORK *Legislative Resolution*

Assembly No. 2658

By: Member of Assembly Richard A. Smith

HONORING the past and present members of the Lake View Fire Association for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Lake View and its surrounding communities

WHEREAS, This Assembled Body is pleased to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Lake View Fire Association and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 75 years of fire protection to the citizens of Lake View, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 75 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of the Lake View Fire Association have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and the respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, Established on January 15, 1924, after several unfortunate fires confirmed that the community could no longer rely on neighboring fire departments, the Lake View Fire Association began with 38 members, some hand chemicals, six axes and 24 pails; later that year the American Car and Foundry Company donated the Department's first piece of mobile fire equipment which consisted of two 40 gallon soda and acid tanks mounted on a hand drawn cart; and

WHEREAS, In 1925, a fire district was formed along with a band which was enjoyed by the community for several years; in 1926, the Lake View Fire Association's Ladies Auxiliary and Drill Team were established and, in 1960, a Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Association was added; and

WHEREAS, The Lake View Fire Association's Station No. 2 was built in 1955 in order to provide better fire protection to residents on both sides of the railroad tracks; this building served the people of Lake View until 1993, when the Lake View Fire District replaced it with a new, larger facility; and

WHEREAS, The Lake View Fire Association has maintained and updated its fire and rescue equipment several times over the years in its efforts to provide the highest level of service to the community; the Association and its members have also always been involved in and supported numerous civic and charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of the Lake View Fire Association in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 75 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of the Lake View Fire Association are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the skill and devoted service demonstrated by individual firefighters, the Lake View Fire Association reflects the history and development of fire fighting over the past 75 years; and

WHEREAS, This Assembled Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Assembled Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it resolved

RESOLVED, that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably embossed, be transmitted to the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

ADOPTED IN THE ASSEMBLY ON

December 2, 1998

By order of the Assembly

Francine M. Misasi

Clerk

STATE of NEW YORK

Legislature of Erie County

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that at a Session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 21st day of January, 1999, a Resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

WHEREAS, after a disappointing vote not to fund a fire department in the summer of 1923, followed by a fast-moving fire at the Lake View Congregational Church in January 1924, where people were forced to extinguish the blaze by forming a human "chain of buckets," local residents finally recognized the need for a fire fighting unit in Lake View, and

WHEREAS, the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association was formed on January 15, 1924, with W.C. Meyn elected to the office of President and George Washington Spittler elected the first Fire Chief and

WHEREAS, on April 1925, the Lake View Fire District was formed when Edward A. Mayer circulated a petition obtaining the signatures of 249 out of 480 property owners, and the Board of Supervisors approved the petition, and

WHEREAS, In May of 1926, the Lake View Drill Team was formed by Edward Mayer and in August of that year, performed a drill exhibition at the Erie County Fair with a 32-man front at the grandstand, thus beginning Fireman's Day at the Erie County Fair, and

WHEREAS, in April 1927, the new fire hall was completed and a three day dedication ceremony, attended by local residents and out-of-town guests who were impressed by the new facility followed, and

WHEREAS, Chief Spittler served faithfully for 23 years retiring in 1946 after being given the title of Chief Emeritus for his years of service, and in the same year the Ladies Auxiliary was organized to assist the firemen at fires and social events, and

WHEREAS, in 1955, a second fire station was built on Lake View Terrace to house additional equipment, serving the residents of Lake View until 1993 when the Lake View Fire District built a new, larger facility at the corner of route 5 and Fairway Court, and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Lake View Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners implemented plans to enlarge the original fire station, adding 30 feet on to the front of the building to accommodate the larger fire apparatus being built, and

WHEREAS, in the 75 years since the Lake View Fire Association's inception, the membership and territory has grown substantially and the men and women of this fine organization continue to provide an extremely vital service to local residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature wishes to pause in its deliberations today to extend its congratulations to the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body would like to express its deepest gratitude to the past and present members of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association for their commitment to the community, their dedication to their profession, and their willingness to sacrifice their time and effort to answer a call for help, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body would like to encourage the Association's future members to carry on the long and proud tradition of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Company.

Jeanne Z. Chase
Legislator Jeanne Z. Chase
12th District

Laurie A. Manzella
Clerk of the Legislature
County of Erie



Proclamation



Town of Hamburg Office of Supervisor

SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY THE LAKE VIEW VOLUNTEERS 1924 - 1999

... 75 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE THAT IS RECOGNIZED FROM THE HALLS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS MUSEUM ON THE HUDSON TO HOMES OF GRATEFUL CITIZENS ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ERIE

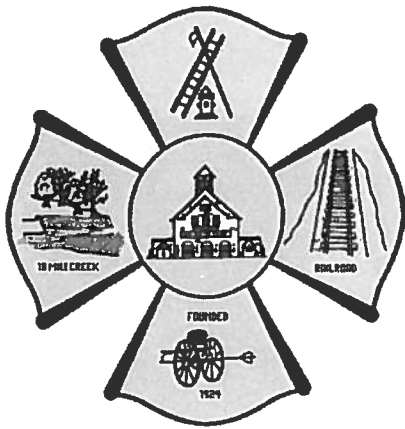
- WHEREAS,** over the past 75 years the Lake View Fire Association has grown from a hastily organized 1924 bucket-brigade whose first official purchases included six axes and 24 pails to a State Of The Art Volunteer Fire Department; and
- WHEREAS,** today that Lake View Department is a highly trained team of citizen volunteers whose many life protecting functions include Emergency Medical Services, a fully equipped Rescue Squad, Scuba units, and a well manned fleet of versatile, responsive fire-fighting vehicles; and
- WHEREAS,** through these years the Lake View force has established an enviable record for innovation and leadership: First to establish Firematic Training, a program since adopted by the Town of Hamburg; First to drill at the Erie County Fair thus establishing the Annual Fireman's Day at the Fair and First to build a combination Pumper and Tank Truck to provide response capability for battling wind swept field fires and other rural blazes that occur far from water supplies.

NOW THEREFORE, as you celebrate your 75th Anniversary, We, the Hamburg Town Board, salute the volunteer men and women of the Lake View Fire Association. Your dedication to duty and to neighbor has, in the time span of one generation, established a heritage of unselfish service that will be a guiding light for the new millennium and generations that follow.

On behalf of all Town Officials; of Volunteer Fire Fighters across the State and your fellow citizens ... **THANK YOU AND GOD SPEED.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have caused the seal of the Town of Hamburg to be affixed this 30th day of January 1999.

Patrick H. Hoak
Supervisor, Town of Hamburg



LAKE VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Resolution - January 4, 1999

WHEREAS, in the fall and winter of 1923/1924, several concerned and dedicated residents of Lake View saw the need for an organized fire fighting unit to extinguish fires and assist the community during other times of emergency need and

WHEREAS these same individuals met on January 15, 1924 at the Catholic Church in Lake View specifically for the purpose of starting such an organization and

WHEREAS at this first meeting, the first fire department, and to this date the only fire department, of Lake View, Erie County, New York, was formed and

WHEREAS the founding members of this organization established the name of this unit as the "Lake View Volunteer Fire Association" and

WHEREAS the founding members established a set of principles used to advance, promote and continually make better this organization and by doing so, set as its goal the desire to instill dedication, pride and commitment to all members who joined this organization and

WHEREAS those same principles have been advanced for seven and one-half decades by those individuals who followed in the steps of our founding members, up to and including the current members of this organization.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at this meeting of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association, being held January 4, 1999, the beginning of our Diamond Anniversary, the officers and members of this organization go on record of recognizing the accomplishments of our founding members by dedicating this meeting to their memory and in doing so, we pause at the close of this meeting in silent prayer to pay tribute to them and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while this organization, being in existence for 75 years and considered "75 years old", hereby adopts our age as **"75 YEARS STRONG"** in honor of our founding and succeeding members who had the foresight, determination and commitment to advance the causes of this organization for the betterment of the community.

THIS RESOLUTION BEING SET TO MOTION by John R. Wicka, General Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee and seconded unanimously by the undersigned members in attendance, was duly voted on and carried by a resounding voice vote.

Michele Lease
President, Pro-Tem

Kathleen Kadryna
President

ACTIVE MEMBERS & Year They Joined



Lieutenant Paul Black
1980 & 1993



Asst. Chief Roger Black
1970 & 1995



EMS Jr. Capt. Tanya Black
1998



Firefighter James Brown
1985



Firefighter Mark Brunner
1980



Firefighter Damon DeBerardinis
1987 & 1998



Jr. Capt. Donald DeBerardinis
1987



Director Douglas DeBerardinis
1984



Firefighter Mark Dudziak, Sr.
1995



Firefighter Mark Dudziak, Jr.
1998



Lieutenant Sharon Dudziak
1995



Firefighter Robert Feldman
1985 & 1998



Firefighter Kristin Fizzano
1998



Firefighter Michael Fruth
1996



Firefighter Anthony Gajkowski
1998



Asst. Chief Eric Hamilton
1995

ACTIVE MEMBERS & Year They Joined



Lieutenant Paul Black
1980 & 1993



Asst. Chief Roger Black
1970 & 1995



EMS Jr. Capt. Tanya Black
1998



Firefighter James Brown
1985



Firefighter Mark Brunner
1980



Firefighter Damon DeBerardinis
1987 & 1998



Jr. Capt. Donald DeBerardinis
1987



Director Douglas DeBerardinis
1984



Firefighter Mark Dudziak, Sr.
1995



Firefighter Mark Dudziak, Jr.
1998



Lieutenant Sharon Dudziak
1995



Firefighter Robert Feldman
1985 & 1998



Firefighter Kristin Fizzano
1998



Firefighter Michael Fruth
1996



Firefighter Anthony Gajkowski
1998



Asst. Chief Eric Hamilton
1995

ACTIVE MEMBERS
& Year They Joined



Chief Keith A. Hauser
1995



Firefighter Dennis Howard
1995



Firefighter Richard Jasinski, Sr.
1997



Past Chief Eugene Jewett
1991



EMS Lieut. Donald Kadryna
1998



Commissioner Francis M. Kadryna
1995



President Kathleen Kadryna
1996



Firefighter Paul Kulawik
1998



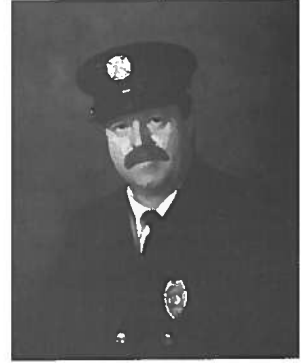
Director James Kaszubowski, Sr.
1979



Firefighter Michael Krull
1982



Firefighter Sally Kuebler
1990



Treasurer Jeffrey A. Lease
1981



EMS Asst. Chief Michele Lease
1994



Commissioner Michael F. Lewis
1976 - Life Member



Firefighter Sheila Lombardo
1997



Firefighter James Pennacchio
1997

ACTIVE MEMBERS & Year They Joined



Commissioner W. David Ross
1985



Captain Dale Shick
1995



Jr. Capt. Michael Trzepacz
1988 & 1992



Firefighter Joseph Weber
1997



Firefighter Marc Whais
1986



Commissioner John R. Wicka
1972 - Life Member



EMS Captain Mary Wicka
1994

Photos Not Available for the
Following Members

Firefighter Michael Avery
1991

Firefighter Aaron Antes
1994

Firefighter Devin Durni
1991

Firefighter Timothy Pike
1988

Firefighter Richard Jasinski, Jr.
1999

Explorer Post #910



Back Row (l-r): Advisor Sharon Dudziak, Bob Hammels, Advisor Dennis Howard, Mark Dudziak, Jr., Richard Jasinski and Advisor Sheila Lombardo. Front Row (l-r): Amanda Brunner, Jessica Dudziak, Andrea Wasny, Heather Feldman. Sitting: Jeffrey Kuebler
Missing from Picture: Jeffrey DeVinney, Stephanie Jones

LIFE MEMBERS
& Year They Joined



Donald Anderson
1960



Fred H. Cook
1963



Michael DeBerardinis
1963



William Dussing
1948



Eugene Fierle
1938



Donald G. Langbein
1947



Harold Monckton
1954



Charles A. Spittler, Sr.
1927



Casey Stafford
1958



Leslie Trinder
1958

Photos Not Available for the Following Members:

- Joseph Eagan - 1951
- J. Robert Francis - 1952
- Terrance Eagan - 1953
- Allan Launder - 1955
- James J. McGillicuddy - 1956
- Paul Suto - 1964
- Gary M. Benner - 1973

EXEMPT ORGANIZATION
LAKE VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Standing (l-r): Jack Emerling, Bill Dussing, Ray Nowak, Dave Ross, Sam Rugnetta, Cheryl Ross, Richard Dietrich & Fred Dillemath.
Sitting (l-r): Les Trinder, Charles Spittler, Harold Monckton, Donald "Duke" Spittler, Casey Stafford, Al Ahmed and Don Langbein.

Ladies Auxiliary of the
Lake View Volunteer Fire Association

1999 Officers, Members & Life Members



Standing (l-r): Marie Cook, Vice President; Nicole Trzepacz, President; Susan Kaszubowski, Recording Secretary; Sandra Brown, Gloria Tatar, Director; Lorraine Forbes; Pamela Feldman; Benita Kaszubowski, Director. Sitting (l-r): Life Members Joanne Eagan, Angie Rugnetta, Doris Hopp and Dorothy Spittler. Mrs. Cook is also a Life Member.

Missing from the photo are Life Members: Gertrude Hull, Treasurer Connie DeBerardinis, Brenda McGillicuddy, Carol Winder and Sally Suto. Also missing from photo are: Corresponding Secretary Linda Rybarczyk, Laurie Pike, Joyce Launder, Michele McCann.

A Short Story of the Community of Lake View

Lake View is located in the Southwest corner of the Town of Hamburg, fifteen miles south of Buffalo and is bounded by Eighteen Mile Creek on the south, Cooper Ridge Road (now Pleasant Avenue) on the north, Lake Erie on the west and the Village of Hamburg on the east. Cheap land being sold by the Holland Land Company lured the settlers to this wilderness. Walking along the lake to Eighteen-Mile Creek, they followed the flat lands up the creek until they located the plot of land they wished to settle on. The first settler, Joel Harley, purchased a plot of land in 1804 on the Old Lake Shore Road that was on the old stagecoach line and erected a tavern in 1806.

The next settlers who purchased land were Ebenezer Ingersol, Aaron Salsbury and Aaron Cash, who purchased land near the mouth of the creek in 1808 and 1809. A few miles further up the creek, where Route 20 now crosses, Ebenezer Ames, who had moved his family from Ralton, Vermont in an oxcart, founded a homestead. A problem over land on the reservation slowed further settlements until an agreement with the Indians was reached in 1826. In 1838 lot number 44, consisting of 279 acres was purchased by Ebenezer Walden the prominent attorney and mayor of Buffalo. Mr. Walden built the first estate on the lakeshore named Lake View.

In 1840 a community was established along Eighteen-Mile Creek by Hiram Jones in the form of a gristmill and a tannery to take care of the needs of the many settlers who located on both sides of the creek. The gristmill and tannery also gave winter work to many of the farmers. Jacob Schoellkopf purchased the tannery in 1853, and added a sawmill to the complex in order to use the logs for lumber; as well as the hemlock bark for the tannery. The large estate of the Schoellkopf's is still located on the lakefront at the foot of Schoellkopf Road.

The Buffalo and State Line Company built a railroad in 1852. In 1866 the name was changed to the Buffalo and Erie Railroad. In 1868 a station was built where Lake View Road now crosses the tracks and was named Lake View after the Walden estate. Mr. Walden built a road to the station from his estate on Old Lake Shore and called it Walden Drive, now Lake View Road. A post office was set up in this station and the first postmaster was James Walden.

The tract of land now known as Lake View, was purchased by Elliott Stuart in 1853 and was farmed by him until around the 1880's. From this land, for his scientific production, Cornell University awarded him a non-resident professorship. Mr. Stuart's most unique project was his eight-sided octagon shaped barn.

The new community of Lake View made an attractive area in the summer months for recreation and relaxation. To accommodate weekend visitors from Buffalo, Mr. Walden built the hotel, later known as the Old Lake View Smorgasbord, in 1880. The wealthy people of Buffalo needed a place for the same purpose so a group of Buffalo lawyers formed the resort colony of Idlewood at the mouth of Eighteen-Mile Creek on Lake Erie in 1882. The resort area set the pace for the many estates on the lakeshore. By 1890, two new railroads came through Lake View, the New York Central and the Pennsylvania Railroads. This brought prosperity to the community. A store was built on Lake View Road by F. W. Cook, a brickyard on Pleasant Avenue, and a bicycle factory on North Creek Road.

With a church and a school in the community the people began to buy land and build homes. Another church, a store, and a new post office were built. In 1922 the Community Association was formed for the protection of the people and their property. They called for the organizing of the fire department in 1924. The fire hall was built in 1926. As the community kept growing the call for service brought gas stations, garages, taverns, hotels and another factory.

This active community of today, from its first settler in 1804 until now has become a residential, suburban community. The Lake View Congregational Church, the former Lake View School, and also the store and post office have been remodeled but remain on the original sites. The fire hall is the only building retaining most of its original façade.

By (the late) Louis Goupil, Past Historian of the Lake View Vol. Fire Association

Compiled from the Collection of Leland A. Hazard, Town of Hamburg Historical Society

HISTORY of the Lake View Fire Association

In the summer of 1923, a meeting was held at the Lake View School to discuss the formation of a Fire Department. The people interested felt they needed \$600 to establish a unit, but those not interested voted it down. All was not lost as school trustee, Frank Trinder, gave permission to ring the school bell in case of fire.

On January 8, 1924, a bad fire broke out in the Congregational Church and no fire fighting equipment was available. The Hamburg Fire Department was called but the people realized the Church would be a total loss before Hamburg could arrive with their equipment. So the people of the community formed a bucket line of both men and women. They took water from Ahren's well (property now owned by Paul Daruska, on the east side of the church) and passed along a chain of buckets to the men inside the Church, and after many anxious and weary minutes extinguished the blaze. The flames were extinguished before the Hamburg Fire Department arrived. This trying experience motivated the formation of an organized fire-fighting group.

On January 15, 1924, a meeting was held in the basement of the Lake View Catholic Church for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire-fighting unit. A speaker from the Buffalo Fire Department was invited to speak on the hazards of fire to a community that depended on out of town fire departments for fire protection.

After they discussed the need for a fire-fighting unit it was decided to open a charter for the founding of a fire company to be known as the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

They asked for men to sign up as volunteers and the following signed up in this order.

Enrollment List of the Lake View Fire Association - January 15th, 1924

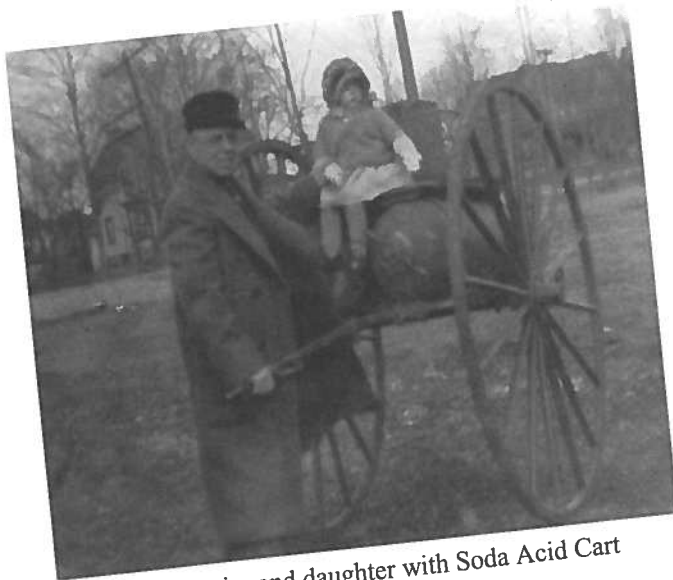
Edward A. Mayer
Curtis Meyn
Andrew Christen
Alvin L. Fierle
Harry Menz
Fred Pledge
Ray F. Ebel
George H. Fierle
John C. Murjahn, Jr.
Walter R. Streets
Henry F. Brudo
George H. Volrath
Joseph C. Cramer
Ernest Pugsley

Thomas Pakenham
William H. Prentiss
Irving Hummel
William C. Meyn
Frank F. Hamman
Glenn L. O'Dell
Clifford C. Barris
George W. Spittler
Howard Welsted
Clemence Eckert
Carl Boseck
Eugene A. Wetter
Howard Smith
Joseph Stadler

Andrew S. Walker
Herbert V. Potter
A. H. Menz
Raymond C. Volrath
H. Price Stephenson
Jacob C. Stadler
Charles Welsted
Leon D. Swift
Harold F. O'Dell
Jesse H. Menz



William C. Meyn, First President



Bill Prentiss and daughter with Soda Acid Cart

The Minutes of the First Meeting of the Lake View Fire Association

January 15th, 1924.

Minutes of the first meeting of the Lake View Fire Department, held in the Auditorium of the Lake View Catholic Church.

Meeting called to order by E. A. Mayer.
Curtis Meyn was elected temporary Chairman.
G.L. O'Dell was elected temporary Secretary.

Mr. Young of the Buffalo Fire Department made some very helpful remarks on organizing a Fire Department.

Election of Officers.

W.C. Meyn and W. R. Streets were nominated for President. Mr. Meyn received 13 votes and Mr. Streets with 12 votes. Mr. Meyn was therefore declared elected.

Mr. John Murjahn and Mr. Frank Hammon were nominated for Vice-president. Mr. Murjahn received 19 votes. Mr. Hammon, 7. Mr. Murjahn was therefore declared elected.

G. L. O'Dell was nominated for Secretary and as there were no other nominations, the Vice-president was instructed to cast one ballot for O'Dell for Secretary, which was accordingly done.

Mr. George W. Spittler was nominated for Chief, there being no other nominations, he was elected by the voting sign of the meeting, the vote being unanimous for him.

Mr. Frank Hammon and Mr. Henry Brudo were nominated for Assist Chief. Mr. Brudo received 21 votes Mr. Hammon 7. Mr. Brudo was therefore declared elected.

Mr. Irving Hummel and Mr. Andrew Walker acted as tellers.

Motion made, seconded and carried that the Secretary obtain the names and telephone numbers of those having fire extinguishers.

Motion made, seconded and carried, that permission be obtained from Rev. Father Toomey, Rev. J. M. Turner and Mr. Frank Trinder, to allow the bells of the Catholic Church, the Congregational Church and the school house to be rung in case of fire.

Motion made that the dues of the volunteer firemen be \$5.00 per year. This motion was amended to read 25 cents per month, and this amended motion was carried.

Motion made, seconded and carried that a committee of three is appointed to collect subscriptions to help defray the expenses of the department.

Mr. Thomas Pakenham, Mr. Ray Ebel, and G. L. O'Dell were appointed.

Motion made, seconded and carried, that the Secretary buy at least two hand chemicals, 6 axes, and 24 pails, as soon as funds are available. At this point Mr. Young very kindly offered to loan this department such equipment, until such time as we had our regular equipment.

Motion made, seconded and carried, that Mr. Thomas Pakenham be appointed a committee of one, to call on Mr. Young and obtain the temporary equipment.

Motion made, seconded and carried, that a rising vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Young for his very generous offer. Done unanimously, and with applause.

Motion made, seconded and carried, that this organization be known as the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

Motion made, seconded and carried, that we adjourn, subject to call of the chair.
G.L. O'Dell, Secretary

(These being the minutes of the first meeting of the first FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION, of Lake View, Erie Co., N.Y. I wonder who in Hell will write minutes of the last meeting, and when.)

Chronological History

June, 1924 the American Car & Foundry Company donated two 40-gallon soda and acid tanks mounted on a hand drawn cart through the help of W. H. Prentiss. This was the first piece of mobile fire equipment used by the department. This piece of equipment was kept in the Prentiss barn on Versailles Road until a building was built on Chief Spittler's lot, (current garage on corner of Lake View Rd. and Burke Rd.). The materials to build the garage were furnished by George Spittler and the Acme Shale Brick Company. The firemen furnished the labor and Tom Sullivan performed all the masonry work. Soon after a 1916 Cadillac touring car was purchased by the members and converted to a fire truck. The tanks from the hand drawn cart were mounted on the Cadillac, along with racks to hold the pails, a metal bin to contain the soda, and a container for glass vials for the hydrochloric acid. The firemen rode on the running boards and on a platform on the rear. The siren was hand cranked, and a foot operated, trolley type bell was mounted on the right running board.



The first fire alarm was erected next to the building consisting of two railroad rails erect and a piece of rail across the top on which was hung a rim from a locomotive wheel. A sledgehammer on a chain along side was used to sound the alarm. The Acme Shale Brick Company donated the first electric siren. It was mounted on a board; an attached electric cord was plugged into a socket next to the fire hall door. A fireman would waive the device back and forth in an elevated position. It was very loud and more effective than pounding on the locomotive rim.

April 1925 Herbert V. Potter was appointed bandmaster to form a fire department band and to purchase drums, horns, and cymbals. The equipment was to be financed through card parties and social functions. This band was very active at all social affairs and celebrations until 1931 when it was discontinued for lack of men to play the instruments.

August 1925 A new siren was purchased and mounted on an old windmill tower. It was moved from Mr. Petch's property (now Al Launder's property, on the corner of Lake View Road and Center Street) to George Spittler's property next to the Fire Hall. Here it was used until installed on the present fire hall.

Edward A. Mayer circulated a petition for the forming of a fire district. The valuation in the district was \$2,309,007 for 480 properties. A total of 249 property owners signed in favor of the petition. The Board of Supervisors approved the petition and the Lake View Fire District was formed. The three commissioners elected were: William C. Meyn, John C. Murjahn, Jr., David Hauber, and Edward A. Mayer Sr. was appointed Treasurer. The Lake View Fire District was incorporated under the laws of New York State.

The Lake View Fire District covered the same area as today, but the Fire Department covered fires from Athol Springs to Sturgeon Point Road and surrounding areas of Woodlawn, Hamburg, Eden and Angola.

November 1925 A public meeting was held to issue bonds for \$49,000.00 for the proposed hall and new equipment.

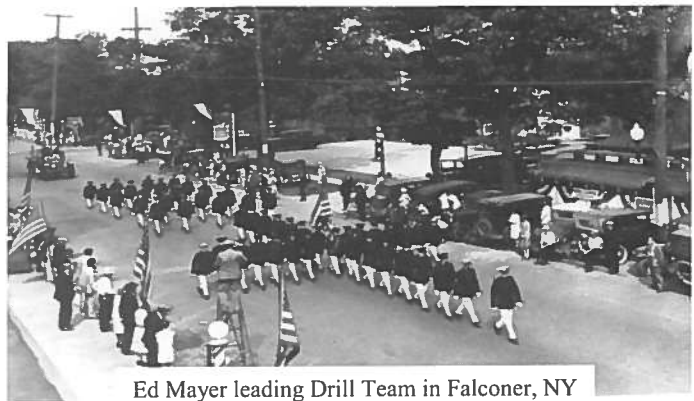
1926 The lot on the corner of Lake View Road and Burke Road was purchased from William J. Hanley Jr. for the new fire hall for housing the new equipment which was to be purchased. The lot with 150 feet frontage on Lake View Road and 312 feet frontage on Burke Road was purchased for the price of \$2,150.00.



Parade in Hamburg 1927



May 1926 the Lake View Drill Team was organized under the leadership of Edward A. Mayer, and on July 4th paraded in Hamburg and won first prize. George B. Abbot, Town of Hamburg Supervisor, impressed by the Drill Team, asked Mr. Mayer if he would consider putting on a drill exhibition at the Erie County Fair in August. The members agreed. The drill was performed in front of the grandstand using a 32 man abreast front. The drill was a huge success. The beginnings of Fireman's Day at the Fair are attributed to the crowd-pleasing success of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association Drill Team.



Ed Mayer leading Drill Team in Falconer, NY

August 1926 The bid of Draudt Bros. of Hamburg was accepted to build the new Fire Hall for the sum of \$26,996.00. This is our present Fire Hall, which stands as it was built, except for minor remodeling and the extension of the front to accommodate the new and larger trucks.

After much discussion on what equipment was needed for the growing population of the fire district an order was drawn to purchase a 1926 American LaFrance pumper with a 40 gallon booster tank and 40 gallon chemical tank, for \$8,325.00.

April 1927 The new Fire Hall was completed. A three-day dedication ceremony followed that was well attended by many local and out of town visitors. They were highly impressed with the facility.

September 1927 The task of building the Bowling Alleys began. Enough money was raised to have the Kew Billiard Company install two alleys, pit and ball return for \$2,200.00. The alleys were completed and opened soon after.

Chairman J. Murjahn reported the new American LaFrance Pumper would arrive



on the Pennsylvania Railroad siding and would need volunteers to build a platform to unload the fire truck. This was quite an event as most of the towns' people and officials were there as spectators. It was Charles Spittler Sr., the Chief's son that drove the truck off of the train.

Shortly afterwards the old converted Cadillac was badly in need of repairs and was replaced by a 1922 Packard sedan, donated by the Schoellkopf family, who had been important subscribers to the formation of the Fire District. Equipment was removed from the Cadillac and installed in the modified Packard.

During the summer months wells and cisterns were low on water. We were in dire need of some way to supply water for our pumper. Another pressing need was to have a vehicle adapted to fight grass fires, which were a major problem during the summer months. Chief Spittler formed a committee to draw up specifications for a tank truck that had the capability to pump water while the truck was in motion. The specifications were submitted to American LaFrance and they agreed to build such a vehicle. American LaFrance utilized a GMC Chassis with a 500-gallon tank.

A large cistern was dug behind the Fire Hall to store rainwater from the roof. This project supplied them with a centrally located supply of water. The work was done by the firemen with pick and shovel, under contract with the Fire District. In times of low rainfall the cistern was kept full by connecting hoses to a hydrant at the NY Central Depot. The water from this hydrant came from a pump that was located at the bottom of 18-Mile Creek. Many of the Firemen worked on the digging of the big cistern, in the back of the Fire Hall. It was felt that water had to be available, especially in the summer time when the wells were dry, in case of fire. The firemen felt that with the big Fire Hall roof draining rainwater into the big cistern, water would be available at all times. All the ditches from the down spouts to the cistern were dug by hand, and many nights by lantern light you could find G. L. O'Dell and Oliver Heffner in the cistern digging in the hard shale.

The Firemen's softball league was organized with 18 players, and a women's bowling league was started.

1931, A Packard automobile with a V12 cylinder engine was donated to this Association by J. F. Schoellkopf. Alvin Fierle, Fred Fueller and others transferred the chemical cylinders, and built racks for fire extinguishers on the newly created fire truck. Alvin Fierle also made a special hoisting mechanism for quicker refill of the tanks, with three or four hand chemical extinguishers on each side.



1927 Picture of Completed Lake View Fire Hall
1916 Cadillac (l.) converted into a chemical truck and 1926 American LaFrance Pumper (r.)

1937 Two new fire departments were formed, Lake Shore and Big Tree. This gave a measure of relief to Lake View as the LakeShore Company now covered all fires from Pleasant Avenue to Lackawanna. An agreement was drawn up that the company answering calls for assistance from Lake View or LakeShore would receive \$100.00 for their assistance.

1944 An ambulance was purchased from Lackawanna for \$875.00, to replace the school bus that had been used until this time. Housing of the new ambulance made it necessary to remove the Packard car that had been converted to a fire truck 20 years before and place it in storage in Clem Eckert's barn. Dr. Charles Kennedy, a local Dentist, was the prime mover behind the formation of The Lake View First Aid Squad. Eugene Fierle was elected Captain of the First Aid Squad with 15 members who were instructed in emergency first aid and, handling equipment in an ambulance.

1946 A town council meeting was held in the Lake View Fire Hall and the Firematic Training School was formed. Later this school was compulsory to become a volunteer fireman in the Town of Hamburg. Chief Spittler retired in 1947 and Lawrence Ziegelhoffer was elected Chief. George Spittler was honored with the title of Chief Emeritus for his 23 years of faithful service.

The Ladies Auxiliary was organized to assist the firemen at fires, and social affairs.

1949 The Lake View Fire Association celebrated its Silver Anniversary with a testimonial dinner. Sixteen living charter members were presented with 25-year silver badges.

The Blue Light Law was passed by the New York State Legislature allowing their use on volunteer firemen's cars to assist them in answering fire and first aid calls.

1950 A new ambulance was purchased to replace the 1936 model, which was now, obsolete. This ambulance was purchased for \$4300.00 with all of the up to date equipment, and space to transport more patients. This was needed for the increased traffic on Routes 5 and 20, and the increasing population of the district.

1951 The Lake View Water District was formed. The Fire Department, with an abundant supply of water delivered through hydrants could extinguish a fire in less time decreasing property damage, and lowering homeowner's insurance rates.

The new siren, blown by remote control from Hamburg, was installed on the Fire Hall. This central control system saved many minutes in sounding an alarm for fire calls, which speeded response time. The siren was sounded each evening at 7 P.M. for a test.

The upstairs room of the fire hall was completely renovated by the firemen for a clubroom for committee meetings and recreational activities.

As the neighborhoods of Lakelands, Pinehurst and Clifton Heights (the area to the lake side of Rt. 5) developed, and the population grew, it was necessary to give better fire protection to them. The two railroad tracks between them and the fire station held up the equipment when a long freight train was on the tracks. The legal work was begun to build a sub-station to house equipment for these areas of the district.

1955 Work commenced and Station No. 2 was built to house two pieces of fire equipment. This encouraged many young men from the surrounding area to join the Fire Department. The expansion of the new station and the influx of new recruits helped to make the fine fire-fighting unit what it is today.

1957 A hydraulic rescue unit was purchased for \$297.00 for the First Aid Squad to help remove the injured from wrecked vehicles on the highways.

1958 New overhead doors were installed on the



Nov. 1955 Station #2

Fire Hall to accommodate the larger equipment which was being purchased. One of the old doors was taken to the museum at the Home on the Hudson for volunteer firemen. Anyone who has an opportunity to visit this museum at Hudson, New York will see the history of the volunteer firemen of the State of New York and an original door from our community fire hall.

1959 A new Oldsmobile ambulance was delivered. Two new pieces of fire equipment were purchased, a \$30,000.00 1960 Seagrave, and a \$15,000.00 tank truck to be used at our new sub station.

1960 The Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Association was formed. The association was formed to provide for the indigent firefighter.

Two semiautomatic pinsetters were installed in the bowling alleys and the alleys were remodeled. The old pin racks were donated to the First Church of Evans at Jerusalem Corners.

A siren was installed at Schultz and Lake View Road because the firemen in that area of the district could not hear the one on the Fire Hall.

The Fire Department purchased property at the rear of the Fire Hall with 100-foot frontage on Burke Road for \$1,000. This would allow for enough room to hold affairs to raise funds, and a place to hold their yearly Firemen's Carnival. The Lake View Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary was granted a charter.



May 30th 1961 Memorial Day

1962 A monument was dedicated to the men who served in all the wars, to replace an earlier wooden one which had deteriorated.

The Drill Team, still going strong, won eight prizes out of ten parades attended!

Fred Fuller was appointed first Fire Association Historian.

1964 The commissioners authorized the purchase of new hats, boots and rubber coats for all active members. The equipment was to remain the property of the district. A new law for the safety of the firemen required this.

A new deluge gun was purchased and mounted on Truck No. 2 to give a large volume of water for barn and large building fires. The apparatus could discharge 750 gallons per minute with the appropriate nozzles.

As more men, women and children became interested in bowling, the alleys were in use six nights a week. It was impossible to find enough boys to handle the semi-automatic pinsetters. New fully automatic pinsetters were installed at a cost of \$4,000.00 to relieve the situation.

The name of the First Aid Squad was changed to First Aid and Rescue Squad as required by NY State Law. A resuscitator and demand inhalator, with equipment and stand, was also purchased for first aid use.

1965 Samuel Beckman gave a talk to the fire company on the proposed Firemen's Home on the Hudson and asked if they were interested in furnishing a room in their name for \$800.00. A vote was taken and passed that we do so. The Department also pledged to donate \$1.00 per member each year for the upkeep of the same.

The Fire Department applied to the Federal



Drill Team 1965

Communications Commission for a Citizens Band Radio License and was granted License No. KNP2566 for use of the Fire Police. Two two-way radios were purchased at a cost of \$130.00.

A new Seagraves Fire Truck was purchased in 1966 to replace Truck No. 4, which was sold to North Collins.

1967 The Firemen's Ladies auxiliary set up a program to make daily calls to all elderly people living alone to check on their condition.

A bus was purchased to transport the Drill Team, and Firemen, to parades and field days at other fire department's events.

Francis Goupil was appointed the new Historian to replace Fred Fuller. Through the efforts and research of these two men all minutes and records of the Fire Department were located and typed and filed according to date, including each year's minutes from the first meeting to 1963 inclusive. Any information concerning the Fire Department can be easily located with this system.

A donation of \$300 was given to the Community Association for their 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held in 1968.

1968 A donation of \$100 was given to the Burn Treatment Center in Buffalo. A plaque was displayed in the center in appreciation of donations received from the Lake View Fire Association.

Due to the heavy flow of traffic on Routes 5 and 20, traffic lights were installed on Lake View Road. In light of the many accidents at these sites this action was a huge improvement in safety measures.

A new larger and fully equipped Cadillac ambulance was purchased to replace the 1959 Oldsmobile ambulance.



1969-70, A new Ford Station Wagon was purchased for the Chief. The Fire District also purchased new hoses and equipment for the fire trucks. The department purchased new helmets and gear for protection of the First Aid Squad. Also a new portable circular metal saw was purchased to help remove injured persons from wrecked automobiles.

1971, A new enclosed bar was built in the rear of the main hall, with an ice maker, new refrigerated beer coolers, audio system, telephone extension, and indoor/outdoor rugs for use as runners around the bar. The dance floor was sanded down and varnished by the firefighters, making it pleasant and attractive for the many events being held in the hall.

New Scott Air Packs were purchased for the new emergency truck. This purchase was vitally important to protect the firefighters upon entering a burning building full of smoke and toxic fumes.

1973 The firemen wanted to do something for the children of the Fire District and decided to hold an Easter Egg Hunt as an annual affair before Easter. It was a great success with 350 children attending.

A memorial was placed at the baseball diamond on Burke Road in honor of Clem Eckert who was a staunch supporter of sports in Lake View and never missed a ball game. People called him "Mr. Baseball."

A new Dodge station wagon was purchased as the Chief's car.

A new rescue equipment truck was built on an International mobile home chassis and equipped with a generator, built in flood lights, Hurst power tool, and all other emergency equipment needed at accidents and fires. The old 1961 emergency rescue van was sold to the highest bidder.

Bowling had become a very popular sport in Lake View and the alleys operated at peak capacity with numerous teams participating, making this activity a financial success for the fire company's facility.

The First Fire Hall

In 1924 the members of this infant organization yearned for a meeting place of their own. The Association was in no position financially to erect such a place. Chief Spittler called a special meeting and offered to purchase the materials and furnish the building site for a hall if the members would do the construction work. The proposition was accepted and the building erected with the understanding that the Fire Department was to have the use of the building until the day they could acquire a suitable place of their own.

The 1916 Cadillac sedan purchased and converted to a chemical apparatus was housed in this newly constructed building. Afterwards, Chief Spittler used the building as a garage at his residence adjoining the fire hall.

This first fire hall still stands today and is used as a garage at the house across Burke Road from Station #1. The building has been re-sided but still retains its original frame.

Station #1

In November 1925 a meeting was held to discuss a bond in the amount of \$49,000 to be used to purchase land and build a fire hall that would accommodate the fire company's needs. The Draudt Brothers of Hamburg, NY won the bid to build the fire hall at a cost of \$26,996.00. In April 1927, the building was finished and a three-day dedication took place. We had many visitors to our new fire hall to inspect and observe our equipment so that they could follow our design. Both Big Tree and North Evans fire halls are similar in design to Lake View station #1.

Remodeling of the Fire Hall

In 1953 the Lake View Fire Hall Station No. 1, was remodeled under the direction of Gordon Hummel as general contractor.

The Hall was remodeled to include two new rest rooms, conveniently located from a new side entrance. All doors in the large hall were removed and the walls were paneled and painted, new lights and an acoustic ceiling were installed. The kitchen was completely remodeled with new cupboards and a new coat of paint. A new exit in the rear of the building was made to comply with the State Law. New engine room doors were installed to accommodate the new and larger trucks.

In 1958 the Museum at the Home on the Hudson was built. One set of the old Fire Hall doors were shipped to the Museum and installed under the direction of Sam Beckman, Trustee of the Home. They were installed



with a plaque affixed, stating that they were the original front doors of the Lake View Fire Hall, and dedicated in honor of George Spittler, first Chief, William C. Meyn, first President; and Glenn O'Dell, first Secretary of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

The Lake View Fire Department became the first Volunteer Fire Department in the State of New York that contributed \$1.00 per active fireman, per year, towards the Fund for the Home on the Hudson. If anyone is in the vicinity of the Home on the Hudson you are invited, and we urge you, to pay a visit to the Museum and the surrounding buildings, built for the benefit of the Volunteer Firemen of the State of New York.

The first fireman from Lake View to become a resident of the Home was Paul Glouzewski, who entered the facility in January 1964.

In 1988 the front of Station #1 on Lake View Rd. had to be extended to accommodate the larger fire apparatus that was being used. The District and fire fighters realized the historic value of keeping the front of the building similar. The architect was able to replicate a substantial amount of the previous design.



1926 America LaFrance, 1929 GMC Tankwagon with newer equipment

The First Pumper

The members decided to have American LaFrance build a fire truck and negotiations began with their representative named Mr. Ungst. Prohibition was in effect during this time but Chief Spittler, resourceful as ever, always had a barrel of home made wine in the cellar. Dave Hauber, a local farmer, always had a barrel or two of hard cider. Together they usually mixed this 50/50 for each negotiation session, and Mr. Ungst always lavishly imbibed. With each session the price became more favorable. The new pumper was ordered, a 1926 American LaFrance triple combination pumper with a 4 cylinder motor, a 400 gallons per minute pump, a 40 gallon booster tank, a 40 gallon chemical tank, a 24 foot extension ladder and a 12 foot roof ladder. G.L. O'Dell, an active member of the Department, was also the freight agent in the Pennsylvania Depot. It was to his benefit to have the truck delivery end up in the sidetrack at Lake View because the viability of his present position was related to the volume of freight delivered. While most boxcars are loaded and unloaded through side doors, this one had a large door at the end.

On the day of its arrival, several people were on hand to witness the unloading. As luck would have it, the boxcar was positioned so that the truck could be driven forward on to a hastily prepared ramp of railroad ties and planks. Charley Spittler, one of the designated drivers, had the honor of driving the shiny, new pumper out of the boxcar, down the ramp and up Lake View Road to its home in the new fire hall. Needless to say it was an exciting day for the citizens of Lake View.

The Tank Wagon

As the Department gained knowledge and experience, it was obvious that still another piece of equipment was needed to fight fires in this locality, since most of the Fire District was without an adequate water supply. In 1929 following the recommendations of Chief Spittler that the Department purchase a new piece of equipment with a revolutionary design, a representative from the American LaFrance Corporation of Elmira was summoned. In a few short weeks he returned and announced that his company was eager to build such a truck, attesting that this newly designed truck would also be the first of its kind in America. The truck was a 1929 GMC truck frame and a six cylinder Buick engine. It also had a 250 gallons per minute Viking Vane pump and a 500-gallon tank. Thus was born the combination Tank Wagon Pumper that has found its way into rural fire companies all over the nation. The U. S. Forest Service has purchased large numbers of these Tank Wagons, almost identical in design to Lake View's original concept. It seems a pity that such an original apparatus that served the community in such an excellent fashion was discarded, along with the details of its design. For this reason, It is important that some written account of its history should be made before it vanished with the demise of those who witnessed its operation.

THE DRILL TEAM

The Lake View Drill Team was started in 1926 under the leadership of Edward A. Mayer who is fondly remembered as the "Father of the Drill Team." In 1927 the new team put on their first exhibition in front of the Grandstand at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg utilizing a 32-file front, a very difficult maneuver with 32 marchers abreast. This was a huge crowd-pleasing exhibition and became the impetus for the creation of the Firemen's Day at the Erie County Fair.

For more than 20 years, under the leadership of E. A. Mayer, the Drill Team became one of the most outstanding units in Western New York and was awarded many first prizes and trophy cups at fairs, conventions and other parades in the United States and Canada. There was always something extraordinary about the Drill Team that caught the eyes of those watching the parades and drills. The cheers that went up from the crowds as they drilled and marched down the streets would often bring a lump to the throats of the onlookers. One could hardly hide their pride in being a member of such a fine Drill Team.



After E. A. Mayer retired as Drillmaster came Henry Brudo, followed by Phil Staats, who in 1951 took the Drill Team to New York City and brought home the crown as the New York State Champion Drill Team. This performance was repeated in 1956 under the leadership of new Drillmaster, Robert Brudo as once again Lake View captured the New York State Championship. Various other Drill Captains followed. Joseph Eagan as Drill Captain carried on this tradition for many years, garnering many prizes. The cheers from the crowds so enhanced every parade whenever the team appeared. Their skill and dedication brought home respect and honors to the Lake View Fire Department.

As the years went by many other activities in the community brought about a decline in membership in the Drill Team and it was discontinued in 1968. A marching unit replaced it to attend firemen's activities and parades throughout the county.



FIRST AID

Mrs. John Murjahn, Sr., donated the initial First Aid Kit to the Association in 1926.

The prime mover in the creation of a first aid team, Dr. Charles T. Kennedy, after years of fruitless struggle, and overcoming some unwarranted opposition, finally succeeded in organizing the First Aid Unit in 1936. The First Aid Unit struggled along with very little equipment and training and was at most an adjunct of the Fire Company.

In 1941 three men attended a First Aid seminar at Silver Creek. Those attending were Paul Flavin, Charles Spittler, Sr. and William Dussing, Sr. These three firemen became the nucleus of a real First Aid Instructors and Training Unit. They trained other firemen in the Department to become eligible for their First Aid Cards. Later on, in their inspired work they became instructors of other First Aid Units in the North Evans, Highland-on-the-Lake, Lake Shore, Scranton, Newton-Abbott and Big Tree Fire Departments. All of the First Aid Units of these departments were brought about because of the work of the instructors from Lake View.

The First-aid Unit became a very efficient group. In 1942 through a long fund raising drive, and with much heartache, were finally able to buy their first Emergency Car that was used to carry First Aid equipment. This was a second-hand unit from the Lackawanna Police Department for the sum of \$480.00. The equipment was purchased from money raised through drives, Bingo funds and donations. The efforts of the firemen were later inspired by a very bad construction accident at the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge over the 18-Mile Creek in 1944. At that time many men were buried in concrete from a form collapse and one man died. The firemen did not have an ambulance and had to press a small school bus into service. A 1936 used ambulance was purchased which now allowed them to transport the sick and injured.



As the population and auto traffic increased on Routes 5 and 20 the Emergency Car was called to many emergencies, and made many trips to various hospitals. The vehicle was soon worn out, the result of being second-hand at the start and the hard service it saw in Lake View. Unfortunately, it did not have a very long life.

In 1950 another drive was begun for a new and better Emergency Car. The new Unit was again equipped with many modern tools so necessary at accidents. This unit served until the firemen bought a new ambulance in 1959. Again the First Aid Team had a fund drive to finance the new Emergency Car, but the drive failed and it became

necessary for the Fire Association to make the necessary payments for the new ambulance. The new Emergency Car was equipped with the most modern rescue and first aid equipment that could be had.

The men in the First Aid Squad, through the years have become very efficient and have handled thousands of cases, both accidents and sickness related. Such proficient work has paid off in the many lives saved by the members of the Lake View First Aid Squad. An extraordinary example of this was the mouth to mouth resuscitation by Herbert Anderson, that saved a life of a child. For this action he was awarded the First-Aid Rescue Certificate of New York State in 1958. This very able and modest First Aid man shied away from such awards and felt as though the award should be made to the entire team. For only as a team and with good teamwork are rescue operations made possible that bring about a successful conclusion.



The Bowling Alleys

The firemen paid for the building of the bowling alleys at a cost of \$2200.00 paid to the Kew Co. in 1927. Under the leadership of E. A. Mayer the Volunteer Firemen did much of the preliminary work. Joe Patrikus had the honor of throwing the first ball down the alleys. Shortly afterwards, Norman Orts bowled a 300 game, a feat that was not repeated. Robert Mayer, as chairman, for many years kept the alleys in good shape. Bowling tournaments were very popular with the men and women's leagues.

During World War II the alleys became very much neglected, and stood useless for a few years - Bowling practically ceased. In the early 1950's the alleys were remodeled with the help of the firemen and many others. Semi-automatic pinsetters were installed. The old pin racks were donated to the First Church of Evans, at Jerusalem Corners. In 1964 fully automatic pinsetters were installed and the alleys were remodeled and insulated. The bowling alleys were taken out of the Fire Hall in the late 1970s due to lack of use.



Early Boundaries of the Lake View Fire Association

In 1925 the Fire District covered the same area as it does today but the Fire Department covered a much larger area. The coverage extended from the Circle at the junction of Routes 5 & 20 in Athol Springs, along the lake shore area to Jerusalem Corners, then along Sturgeon Point Road to Versailles Road in Eden. There was no Southwestern Boulevard (later Route 20), or well defined boundary line to the district. Fire companies from Woodlawn, Eden, Hamburg, and Angola covered the surrounding territory.

FIRE AT FARNHAM

Lake View was called to Farnham, NY where the Catholic Church was on fire. When the Lake View Fire Department arrived at the scene of the fire, the cry went out "**Here comes Buffalo!**" This was really the "Baptism of Fire" for the newly formed Lake View Fire Department. At that time fire departments did not exist in North Evans, Lake Shore, and Highland-on-the Lake. Only Woodlawn and Angola had departments. The fire in Farnham was on a bitter cold night, and Lake View responded to a call for help (no mutual aid system in those days). Lake View's apparatus at that time was a modified Cadillac touring car, equipped with two chemical tanks. By the time Lake View arrived, flames had almost destroyed the structure, but they were able to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent buildings. Lake View stayed on the job throughout the night despite the bitter cold, and the Department received much praise for their effort.

You may have seen a picture of the Cadillac in front of the original fire hall, and noted that it has chains on the front wheels even though it was not a four wheel drive vehicle. The modification of the pleasure car placed excessive weight on the rear, shifting the weight off of the front wheels. This made steering difficult, especially on snow-covered, icy roads. Snow plowing was less frequent in those days and the use of salt was unheard of. Hence the firemen reasoned that chains on the front wheels would provide better control and at the same time allow for a little more speed. Another factor contributed to the steering problem. At that time, when the siren blew many of the firemen ran to the fire hall on foot, expecting to ride on the fire truck. This added to the imbalance of the load, even though some stood forward on the running boards. Much of the improvisation on this rig was done by Alvin Fierle (pronounced Filer in those days.) the local plumber. One modification was a large crank made of galvanized pipe that extended through the right side of the body. This was used to tilt the chemical tanks to permit the acid to pour into the soda solution, thus generating the pressure to force the solution through the hose. As one tank was feeding the hose, the other was being recharged with water, usually by a bucket brigade. A rack on the rear deck held several pails for this purpose. Also on the rear deck was a large bin filled with soda and another containing vials of hydrochloric acid. Only a few men were designated to operate the tanks and Alvin was the one that usually performed the task.

When the pumper arrived (1927) public water systems with hydrants did not exist, except along a limited portion

of the Old Lakeshore Road. There was one hydrant at the New York Central Depot that was fed by a wooden standpipe located about 100 yards east of the old Lake View Road crossing. The standpipe was installed to refill the steam engines on the railroad, and the water was supplied by a pumping station below the railroad bridge over Eighteen Mile Creek. The hydrant was incorporated into the system to provide fire protection for the ornate passenger and freight station. Since this water source was separated from the hamlet by the NicklePlate and the Pennsylvania Railroads, the Fire Department arranged with the railroad section foremen to remove the stone bal-

last between two railroad ties so that a hose could be readily installed under the rails in the event of a fire.



The only other sources of water were wells and streams. During the late 1920's and through the 1930s, the Nation experienced prolonged dry periods, and locally by late June lawns were dried to a crisp and the water in most wells was barely adequate for domestic needs even though most homes relied on "out houses" that decreased water consumption. It is interesting to note that when Helen Meyn installed indoor plumbing in the house now occupied by

Doris Hopp, the news was worthy of publication in the *Angola Record*, a paper widely read in the Lake View community. On many occasions the pumper would empty the well in a short time and the fire raged on. The other problem with wells was location; some were in the basements of homes and most of the others were so close to the buildings that it was impossible to get the pumper safely to the well in the event of fire.

To alleviate this situation, the Fire Department contracted with the Fire District to construct a large, underground cistern at the rear of the fire hall. Today, in such an undertaking excavating machines would be used, but not then. The firemen wielding picks and shovels accomplished it, and most of the material was in hard shale. At one point the diggers came upon a very thin layer of odd material which turned out to be coal. To illustrate the enthusiasm of the Volunteers, one evening after dark Chief Spittler, who lived next door, heard a strange noise coming from the rear of the fire hall. He investigated and found G.L. O'Dell down in the hole digging away using a kerosene lantern for light. When asked why he was working in the dark, his reply was to the effect that the job had to be done and he was only doing his share. Initially the cistern was filled by laying a hose line from the New York Central hydrant and after that rain water from the fire hall roof maintained the level. In addition to a large water supply for fire protection in the hamlet, the cistern water was used for toilet facilities in the fire hall. Later a well was drilled at the rear for drinking water.

Realizing the limitations of the pumper because of the inadequate sources of water, the Chief envisioned an apparatus that not only carried a supply of water but also had its own pumping ability. To combat grass fires, which were common occurrences at that time, the vehicle also had to be able to pump water while it was moving forward. "Unheard of said American-LaFrance but the idea is sound and we will go to work on it." Hence the Tank Wagon" was born, and at the time it was said that it was the first of its kind. It proved to be a very effective apparatus, especially when fires were in the early stage. This immediate source of water from the Tank Wagon was often all that was needed to prevent further damage. For fighting grass fires, it was outstanding. In addition to its fire fighting utility, it was a godsend to many homeowners in the area with inadequate wells. During the dry, summer months it was used extensively to haul water. The Fire Department arranged with the Wanakah Water Company to use their hydrants for refills at \$1.00 per load and the Department donated the service of the tank wagon. Usually when people called for water, the need was urgent because the well had already gone dry, and since Charley Spittler was usually in his nearby store, he was elected to haul a good share of the water.

At the time the Lake View Fire District was formed about 850 people resided in the District and the assessed valuation was \$1,000,000. In the years following World War II a great building and population boom set in, especially in the Pinehurst and Clifton Heights area. A considerable number of these residents became a member of the Association.

Out of the Past

Lake View Railroad Station, c. 1910

Section Foreman Fred Langbein, seated on the hand-propelled machine used to cover his territory, poses in front of the Lake View station around 1910. The pair of tracks at Lake View in 1910 was shared by the Pennsylvania RR and the Nickel Plate RR; today, only one of these tracks remains, now operated by Norfolk southern RR.

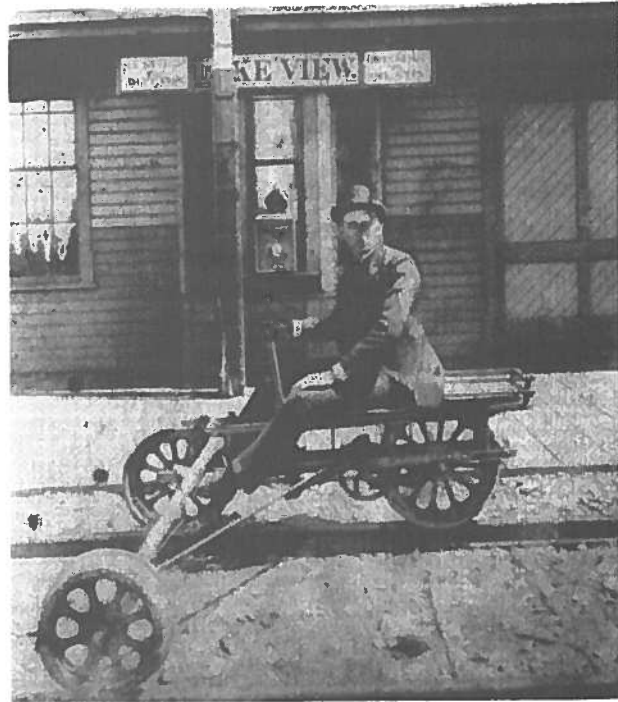
Fred Langbein was born in Mecklenburg, Germany in 1866, came to America with his parents in 11869, began working for the railroads in 1887, and was appointed to his section-foreman position in 1890. He purchased the machine shown in this picture with his own funds, since the railroads at that time did not see fit to provide such a piece of equipment.

The Lake View station was closed in 1964, and was torn down shortly afterward; the late Frank Lum was the last agent to work there. Note the sign above the bay window, stating "15 Miles to Buffalo," and "124 Miles to Oil City."

Photograph and information: Donald J. (Duke) Spittler
From the Archives...

Erie County Independent
November 6, 1891: An engine demolished a wagon and killed two horses at Lake View last week. Four Indians were in the wagon but escaped with slight injuries.

Material for this feature is compiled by Hamburg Town Historian Joseph Streamer.



Out of the Past

W.C. Meyn General Store, Lake View, 1910

The general store of William C. Meyn at Lake View is shown in this 1910 photograph; still in use today, the building is a hardware store, with the Lake View post office now located in an addition to the structure (the post office would be to the right of the store)

The store began as Koch's General Store and lumber yard around 1880 and was probably ac-

quired by W.C. Meyn in the 1890s; the line of merchandise at the time of this picture would have included hardware, animal feed, fuel, clothing, shoes and boots. William C. Meyn was married to Ada Buxton (see Out of the Past on 2/12/87 and 2/16/89 for more on the Buxton family and residence).

The wagon at the left was used to deliver goods from the store (Frank Stadler is the teamster, Kenneth Spittler is his passenger). Not visible behind the wagon is a platform scale; W.C. Meyn sold coal from bins at the nearby railroad station, so those purchasing coal would weigh in and out on this scale.

The sign above the entrance advertises "The Best Paint." One of the stories told about the store describes the time when some of the inventory of out-dated paint was mixed together by George Scheidel and used to paint the building. If you guessed that the mixture would turn out a rich shade of brown, you were correct.

Photograph and research assistance: Donald (Duke) Spittler

From The Archives:

Erie County Independent — January 7, 1909: There is no case on record of cough, cold or la grippe developing into pneumonia after Foley's Honey and Tar has been taken, as it cures the most obstinate deep-seated coughs and colds. Why take anything else? (E.S. Nott pharmacy advertisement)

Material for this feature is compiled by Hamburg Town Historian Joseph Streamer.



Station #2

In 1955, a sub-station was built, known as Station No. 2, at a cost of \$16,000. The one-story structure was built of solid brick construction with a double entrance for apparatus and a new siren. In the rear is a meeting room for about thirty people and washrooms. At the time it was the only township fire company outside of a village having two fire stations, and was known officially as the Lake View Fire Association. On November 13th, 1955, the new Sub-station was officially dedicated. Captain E. A. Mayer was Master of Ceremonies and many town officials from Hamburg attended. Chairman of Commissioners, John C. Murjahn handed the keys for the new pumpers to the Chief, Lawrence Ziegelhoffer. Other Commissioners in attendance were Paul Flavin, Carl Langbein and Gordon Gannon.

This new annex housed a 500-gallon pumper and a 750-gallon pumper, increasing the total number of trucks to six in the Lake View Fire District. Governor Harriman who signed a bill legalizing a \$69,500 bond issue approved by the Lake View Fire District residents made this addition to the Fire department possible. The Governor charged that the "local authorities have been remiss" in not having the bond issue earlier. Residents of the Fire District in the Town of Hamburg approved a referendum to issue the bonds to purchase fire-fighting equipment, to construct a new firehouse and to reconstruct and alter the existing firehouse.

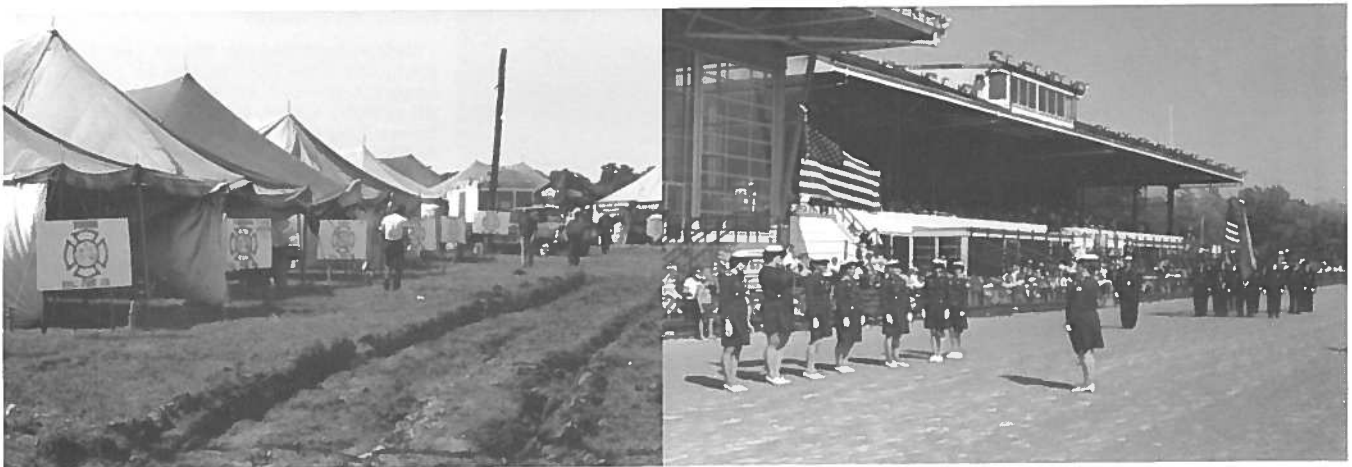


1953 Rescue Truck - 1960 Ford Tanker - 1955 National Pumper

After Station No. 2 was built a great many more men from that area became a member of this Association and a friendly rivalry was always present between Station No. 1 and Station No. 2. Sometimes this rivalry could have been what the British might call a "Loyal Opposition", but with people growing up together this more or less disappeared.

The Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen comes to Lake View "Tent City or was it Mud City"

In August 1975 Lake View VFA hosted the Southwestern Convention for Volunteer Fire Companies. A great event was planned and fire companies came from all over. So did the rain. Tents were set up as dugouts for the visiting fire companies but the ruts and mud were tough to cope with. Many of the activities took place at the Erie County Fair grounds. This picture shows the Ladies Auxiliary in front of the grand stands.



Tents were set up for each visiting Fire Company

Many activities took place at the Erie Co. Fair grounds.
Lake View Ladies Auxiliary

'Lake View Local' 1944-45

The "Lake View Local" was a monthly newsletter sent to service men and women from the Lake View community toward the end of World War II; the first issue was March 1944, co-edited

by Rita Fierle and Winifred Stadler with contributions from reporters Richard Fierle, Betty and Donald DiOrto, Betty Spittler, Eugene Heil and Rita Malinowski. (Readers may recall mention of The Bi-Monthly Bugle last year in "175 Years in Hamburg;" the Bugle was a similar newsletter produced in Hamburg during 1943-46 by Muriel Schweikardt and Helen Draudt).

In addition to the newsletter, original Christmas and Easter cards were also produced by the Lake View folks, examples of which provide today's illustrations. The Christmas card included signatures of more than a hundred Lake View neighbors of 1944, many of which are still familiar to us today.

Christmas and Easter cards: Rita (Fierle) Woods

From The Archives...

March 30, 1944 — Erie County Independent: Having driven a wedge into the Germans' main defense line by leveling Cassino with a devastating aerial attack by heavy bombers, Allied forces fought hard to advance up the road to Rome and get at the rear of the enemy hemming in U.S. and British troops on the Anzio beachhead.

Material for this feature is compiled by Hamburg Town Historian Joseph Streamer.



Out of the Past

Splitter General Store, Lake View

This 1919 photograph shows a typical general store of that era, specifically Spittler's in Lake View. The building is in use today as

the office of Hasbrouck Plastics, Inc. Among the items advertised or on display are: Slade's Vanilla; Dr. A. C. Daniels' Horse

and Dog Medicines; Pure Food Groceries; Meats; Fruits and Vegetables; Socony Marine Oil; Mall Pouch Tobacco (Chew - Smoke); Beech-Nut Tobacco; Libby's Pork & Beans; and Columbia Tires.

The proprietor, George Spittler, is standing in the center of the group of five on the porch, the one with the butcher's apron.

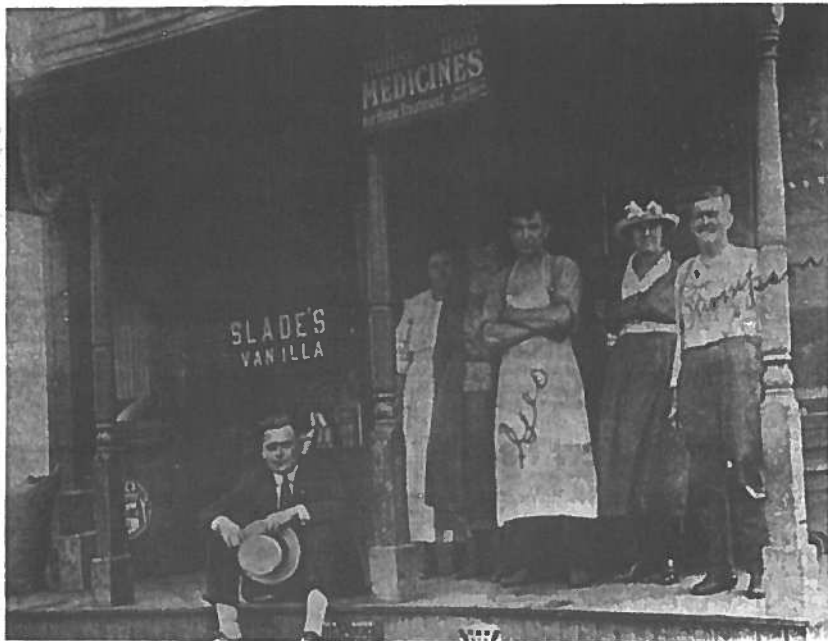
Photograph: Historian's file (from Donald J. Spittler, son of George)

Update: Regarding the Spencer Lens Company ("Out of the Past" for May 14, 1987) information provided by Mr. Burnett Viger shows Bailey & Sharp Company (successors to Spencer Lens at the optical-glass manufactory on Pleasant Avenue) to have been in business at the Pleasant Avenue location at least until 1937.

From The Archives...

July 19, 1923 — Erie County Independent: The assessors report 846 dogs in Hamburg township and village. Town Clerk Leach advertises that the annual license is now due. What an interesting "meet" it would be if all the owners would bring all the dogs, from the tiny Pomeranian to the Great Dane, to the collector, each on a leash, and line up, parade formation, to pay their fees. Do you believe that parade would need a band?

Material for this feature is compiled by Hamburg Town Historian Joseph Streamer.



This is now a part of the store and can be seen when you visit the Boulevard Mall.

On October 25th 1992 a large group of the firefighters brought the old truck home. The job of moving the truck from the store and pushing it through the main entrance of the mall was no easy task. In some areas the truck only cleared large glass display windows by inches. The truck had to be pushed the entire length of the mall and it weighs close to 5 tons.

The truck is now driven in parades and at special occasions. It will remain in Lake View as a proud part of our history.



Need for a New Station #2

The Fire Company and its needs were outgrowing Station #2 on Lakeview Terrace. For years the size of the Station #2 bay doors and interior severely limited the fire equipment that could be housed at the station. The building was also located in a heavily populated residential area where the children used the streets as a playground. This was always a danger for responding firefighters and equipment.

On February 29, 1992 the voters of the Lake View Fire District approved a \$600,000 bond issue to construct a new fire sub-station. This was the first attempt since a previous issue was defeated in December 1991. The three bay fire station was built on the corner of Route 5 and Fairway Court and serves as a substation for the main fire hall at 2005 Lakeview Road.

The old station #2 was leased to the Town of Hamburg Recreation Department and turned into a Community Center for kids. The Fire District is currently communicating with the town so that the building can be donated to the town for continued use as a Community Center.



The Club

In the late 1970s the Fire Association was able to purchase the garage that was in business next door to station #1 on Lake View Road. It included a large lot that also extended back to the lot line of the fire district property. It took two years but the members worked together to renovate the old garage and make it into a club. A plaque hangs on the wall in the club dedicated to Mike DeBerardinis whose work and expertise as a carpenter made the club possible. The property and all renovations were made possible by the profits from the BINGO games they held each week. At the rear of the property a pavilion was also built in the early 1980s for picnics, and a barn was built for storage of the parade truck. The property today is available to those in the community for parties and special activities.

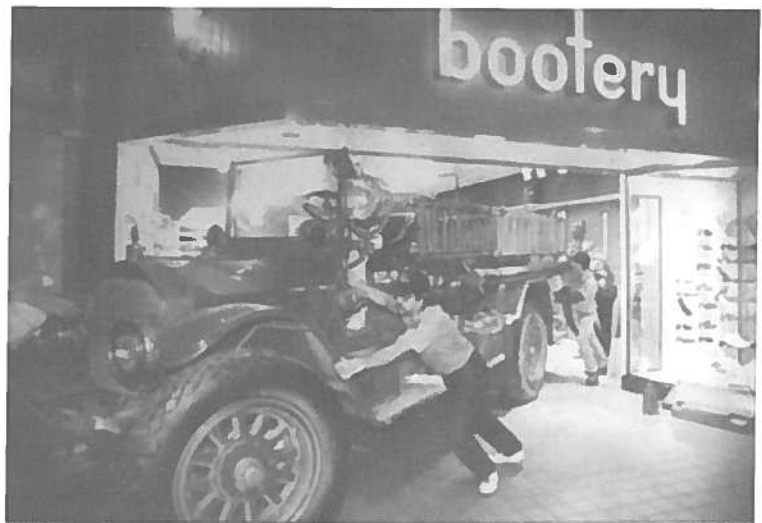


BINGO

From the late 1970s to 1998 BINGO was a major fundraiser for the Fire Association. The members worked each week and this supported many of the activities and sponsored many little league teams in the community. There were many factors that led to the activity's demise but BINGO lost its place as the fundraiser just like the bowling leagues and dances that once supported the Association. We thank those that supported our BINGO games.

The First Truck Returns To Lake View VFA.

The 1926 American LaFrance Pumper that was the first commercially built fire truck in Lake View stayed in service until it was sold in 1961 to Hodge Florists who in turn sold it to an interior decorator. For several years its location was unknown until it showed up at The Bootery, a shoe store at the Boulevard Mall owned by Mr. Joseph C. Toscano. It became a main attraction for kids in the shoe store and throughout the mall. The truck was identified as Lake Views' because of the Civil Defense ID numbers on the windshield.



In the late 1980s the firefighters realized what they gave up was a piece of Lake Views' history and made numerous offers to buy back the truck. Finally in 1992 because of plans to remodel the store, the owner offered to sell the truck back to the fire department. The deal consummated was that the Fire Company had to provide a replacement truck or attraction. The Company agreed to provide the store with the front end of a newer fire truck complete with flashing lights that would be mounted to look as if it were coming through a wall.

Lake View Battles Massive Schoellkopf Estate Fire

Eight fire companies responded to a fire that damaged the Schoellkopf estate, one of the area's oldest landmarks on December 2, 1996. On this particular Saturday evening, a member of the Schoellkopf family had just finished dinner in one of the main houses. As he looked across the property, he noticed an orange glow in the front part of the casino. He quickly dialed 911 to report the fire and then went to make certain that everyone was out of the building. Fortunately the occupants of the front living quarters were not home at the time of the fire.

At 6:47 p.m., the Lake View Volunteer Fire District was dispatched to the estate for a reported structure fire. Lake View Fire Chief Eugene Jewett was first on location and confirmed a working structure fire. Upon Chief Jewett's arrival, the entire building was heavily charged with smoke and fire was visible in the basement and first floor of the front living area of the building. Lake View Second Assistant Chief Donald Seel arrived and set up a command post while Chief Jewett assumed the role of Operations Chief. After sizing up the conditions, mutual aid was requested from the Woodlawn and Highland Volunteer Fire Companies.

The location, size, age and type of construction of the building presented the fire fighters with many challenges. The building was located approximately 1400 feet from the main road. Long lays of water supply hose had to be stretched back to the site to supply the apparatus with water. The combination of the old wood frame construction and delayed detection of the fire allowed for rapid spread through the building. A large cockloft (open attic space) from one end of the building to the other also facilitated the fire spread.

Attempts to ventilate the roof were hampered by slate roofing tiles that are difficult to chop through. Heavy smoke conditions made it difficult to advance through the building. Attack crews contained the fire in the basement and first floor, but were pulled out of the structure because of concern over potential roof collapse due to the fire raging in the cockloft area.

After the fire was brought under control, the labor-intensive task of opening up walls and ceilings to put out hot spots began. Fire fighters remained on location for about six hours. Manpower and equipment from Lake View, LakeShore, Woodlawn, Highland, North Evans, and Scranton battled the blaze while Hamburg and Armor were put on standby.

One fire fighter received minor burns and was treated at the hospital and released.

Southtown's Christian Church Fire

A report of a fire was called into 911 dispatchers around 3:45 a.m. on November 18, 1996. Chief Gene Jewett saw the front half of the combination church and TV studio fully involved in fire as he pulled up. Immediately he requested a second alarm for the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Co. to respond. Eventually all nine fire departments from the Town of Hamburg and five other companies would be called to the scene. Given the overwhelming fire conditions upon arrival, there was little that fire fighters could do to stop the destruction in the older front half of the building. The fire was brought under control at 6:30 a.m.



The building dated back to 1887 and was a former schoolhouse. The portion of the building that was saved has been sold by the church and totally remodeled. Today it is a children's day care center. The Southtown's Christian Church has since bought land at the corner of Lake View Road and Southwestern Boulevard where they have built a new church.

Photo taken by
Claudia Yates of Lake View.

Athletics and the Softball Team

For the past 75 years, the athletic program has been an enjoyable diversion from the training, meetings, and fire/EMS emergencies. The athletic program has included such activities as tug-of-wars at Chestnut Ridge Park, bowling teams, water ball competitions, golf outings that raise money for Mercy Flight, pool tournaments, and softball. The athletic program is a very active part of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

One of the most successful programs in the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association has been the softball team. The Lake View firemen's team was one of the original teams to start the Erie County Volunteer Firemen's Softball Association. In 1956, Lake View won its first championship. After a long drought, the team won another championship in 1987. The E.C.V.F.S.A. had two leagues at the time and Lake View won the Southern League. To continue the winning tradition, the Lake View softball team won championships in 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Over the decades, many great softball players have worn the blue and gold. Such players as Al Launder, whose #6 is retired, Paul Suto, Sr., "Bud" Spittler, Rich Fierle, Jack Heil, Dick Menz, "Slim" Eckert, Norm Dussing, Bill Dussing Jr., Bob Brudo, George Hansen, "Red" Durni, Bob Barris, Elmer Ebert, Terry Eagan, Jim "Magoo" McGillicuddy, Tom Erdley, Charlie Felser, Paul Suto Jr., Jack Mahaffey, Fran Goupil, Joe Rellinger, Jim Ziegelholfer, Stan Szublewski, Ed Reiderer, Paul Dietrich, Jim Dedman, and Tommy Wylie.

In the past 18 years, the softball team has never had a season with less than a record of eight wins and eight losses. There have been three undefeated, regular seasons of 14-0. Every year, except for one, the team has been in the playoffs. And over this span, a 90% winning percentage has made Lake View one of the most consistent teams in the league.

Making this recent success story happen have been the many impact players that have completed countless hours of training and answering calls to be eligible to play. From position to position, these players include: outfielders Bill Launder, Dan Deberardinis, Keith Hauser, Steve Krolczyk, Don DeBerardinis, Mark Brunner, Jim Kazsubowski, Phil Comerate; catchers John Wicka and Gene Jewett; first baseman Mike Lewis; second basemen Tom Rizzo, Mike Trzepacz; third basemen Joe Drewiega, Scott Thunhurst, Mike Avery; short stops Mike Winder, Rick Masterman, Aaron Antes; and pitcher Jeff Lease.

In 1998, the team competed for a sixth championship in the trophy case. Beaten by a very good Brant, NY team the Lake View squad, always competitive, promises to continue their quest for excellence.

LAKE VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. THREE PEAT E.C.V.S.A. CHAMPS 1991-1992-1993



Pictured are, top row: Bill Launder, Jeff Lease, Tom Braunscheidel, Rick Masterman, Mark Brunner, Gene Jewett, Jim Kaszubowski. Middle: Nate Pyne, Mike Van Wis, Phil Comerate, Bob Hull, Tom Rizzo, John Wicka. Bottom row: Mike Lewis, Don DeBerardinis, Mike Avery, Jim Kaszubowski Jr., Jim Currie.

Some of the Good Times

Article from *The Sun* on 11/26/92

IT'S A BOY

Penny Wapshare of Wanakah Heights, Lake View, has a unique relationship with the Lake View and Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Companies. Twice in the last three years, members of the Lake View and Lake Shore rescue squads have helped deliver Mrs. Wapshare's babies at her home. On Sept. 18, at 7:30 a.m., the Lake View and LakeShore companies were called to the Wapshare home and assisted in the delivery of Samuel Jr. at 7:36 a.m. One of the rescuers reported that it was a little scary for a few minutes because the cord was wrapped around Sam's neck, but they managed to rectify the problem within seconds.

Sam was a healthy 8 lbs., 6-oz. Two years prior, the same rescue squads helped deliver the Wapshare's daughter, Anne Marie. The picture is of the Wapshare family and some of the rescue team. From top right: Penny, Anne Marie and Sam Wapshare. Bottom row: Melissa Wapshare, Lake Shore EMS Captain Kathy Defilippo, Lake View Firefighter Nathan Pyne, EMS Captain Chris Ehret, Chief Paul Ehret and Samuel Wapshare Jr. The rescuers that were not able to be in the picture are Tim Pike, Tom Braunscheidel and Jeff Lease.



The Good Times

"We saved the kitchen sink"

At a training session where we had a live controlled burn, the fire fighters got to learn the skills they need when it comes to the real thing. Hands-on-training is important to let the rookies see how the fire reacts and how the fire-fighter reacts to it. Here they also take a moment to pose for this picture after a long hot day.



Fire Prevention , Our Long History

The Lake View Fire Department has had a long and proud history in Fire Prevention. With the growing community in the 1950s we recognized the benefits of teaching how to prevent fires in the home. Our program was soon recognized as a model that was duplicated throughout the state and parts of the country. The person most responsible for the success of our program was John A. Sullivan.



The above picture shows one of our early programs with young school children. This effort has continued over the past 40 plus years. In recent years we have incorporated into our program teaching personal safety, how to react to an emergency, the 911 program and basics of child care and babysitting. Our yearly visits to the schools occur during National Fire Prevention Week, which is in early October. We also supplement our program with demonstrations and presentations at community activities throughout the year.



On the following three pages we honor our members that have distinguished themselves over the years and need to be acknowledged and given special thanks for being part of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association.

John A Sullivan

John was better - known as "Mr. Fire Prevention". He was a member of the fire association for over thirty years. He acquired his title due to his efforts that started Fire Prevention programs in the communities. The list of memberships and positions held by this man in the many local and state organizations are too numerous to mention but some of his awards include the following:

Received 1969 Fire Service Award – Western New York Firemen's Assoc.
Received 1969 Fire Service Award – Southwestern New York Vol. Firemen's Assoc.
Received 1969 Fire Service Award – Hamburg Town Fire Council
Received 1969 Outstanding Service Award – Lake View Volunteer Fire Assoc.
Received 1970 Hall of Fame Award – Lake View Vol. Fire Assoc.
Received 1971 Plaque for Outstanding Service – Erie County Public Safety
Received 1972 Fireman of the Year Plaque from Hamburg American Legion
Received Special Recognition Certificate from the National Fire Protection Assoc. Boston Massachusetts for his efforts in promoting fire prevention for the previous 14 years
Received 1975 Award for Service on Fire Prevention from New York State Governor Hugh Carey

John's efforts touched not only the people in this small community but all across the eastern United States. A memorial plaque honoring John hangs in the Firemen's Building at the Erie County Fair and an award commending the fire prevention efforts of our area volunteer fire departments is presented annually. Although John passed away in 1975, his dedication to the fire service, and especially the prevention of fires, will long be remembered. Fire prevention continues to be a proud part of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Assoc.

John J. Dietrich

John Dietrich is remembered for his handshakes and smile every time he would see you. John did his work quietly and efficiently. Always ready to lend a hand, John not only held numerous positions in offices within the fire association, and Benevolent Association, but was also extremely active in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. He was truly dedicated to the community that he so dearly loved.



John A. Sullivan
"Mr. Fire Prevention"





James P. Ziegelhofer

James "Ziggy" Ziegelhofer was another of Lake View's highly respected Chiefs. Many people remember Jim for his dedication to the fire service and making it safe for the community and the fire fighters he was in charge of. Ziggy was instrumental in the formation of a separate fire dispatch office dedicated to fire and first aid. He constantly worked to improve the system during his tenure as Senior Public Safety Officer. A program initiated under Jim's direction was the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) which allows dispatchers to provide valuable life saving instructions over the phone until EMS personnel from the fire department or police arrive on location. Jim's dedication to the fire service and his community will live on through his accomplishments.

Jim is seen in this 1984 photo with former Town Supervisor (now Congressman) Jack Quinn and Michael Lewis, who became another outstanding Chief of the Lake View Fire Department.

The De Berardinis Family to the Rescues Lake View Father, Sons Stick Together to Fight Fires

Excerpt of an article in the Buffalo News dated July 7, 1988
by ANTHONY VIOLANTI, picture by Bob Metz

Don't blame the shortage of volunteer firefighters on Michael De Berardinis. Seven of his eight sons are members of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association. De Berardinis, 62, has given more than his namesakes to the cause. He has been a member of the association for 25 years. One year he and his wife, Connie, even gave up their New Year's Eve party because of a fire; well almost. "We were getting ready to go out to a big party over at the fire hall," said De Berardinis, a two time former chief of the association. "Connie's all dressed up and so am I. We're just getting ready to walk out the door when the alarm goes off. Well, I had to go to the fire along with the other members. All the wives were supposed to go to the fire hall and wait for us. But they figured they might as well join us at the fire. They were all dressed up handing out coffee and helping out. We were at the fire until 3 in the morning. Afterward, about a dozen of us went to the fire hall. We sat around the table, talked and drank beer all night. What the heck, why let a fire spoil New Year's Eve?"

In his quarter-century with the association, De Berardinis has performed just about every task imaginable. He joined in 1963, because, as he said, "they needed a carpenter." De Berardinis worked as a carpenter until his retirement two years ago. The positions he has held with the association include those of Chief, President,



First Aid Officer, Captain and Assistant Chief and was a Commissioner of the Lake View Fire District.

Mrs. De Berardinis has served as a member of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Association Ladies Auxiliary for more than 20 years. In that time she has seen her share of fires, and so have her sons. "I'm not surprised they joined," she said. "When they were little, you could sense they were interested in fire fighting, just like their dad. But he never pushed them. They made the decision to join on their own. It was what they wanted. "

Picture: Michael and Connie De Berardinis are surrounded by their sons, from left, Donald, 18, Damon, 19, Darren, 20; Douglas, 23; Daniel, 24, and David, 25. Absent from the photo is Duane, 22, also a volunteer firefighter. BOB METZ/Buffalo News. Added to the picture is Duane.

Lake View Firefighters Honor Spittler for Over 7 Decades of Exemplary Service

The Lake View Volunteer Fire Association paid tribute to Charles A. Spittler Sr. at our 74th annual Installation of Officers and Awards dinner Jan. 31, 1998. Charley was honored for his 71 years of service in the Lake View Volunteer Fire Department and Lake View community.

Charley's fire department career spanned more than seven decades and began when he joined the fire department in 1926 at the age of 18. Through the years, he served in many offices including Fire Association president (1942 to 1944) and Chief of the Lake View Fire District (1958 to 1959). In 1961, Spittler was elected to his first term as a Fire Commissioner of the Lake View Fire District where he served until 1997, being re-elected to seven five-year terms. He served as chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for 20 years from 1974 to 1994. He is also a founding member of the Firefighter's Benevolent Association, and the Exempt Organization.

In recognizing Spittler's tenure and accomplishments, the Board of Fire Commissioners named him an honorary Lifetime Fire Commissioner of the Lake View Fire District and renamed the board's meeting room the "Charles A. Spittler Sr. Conference Room." A plaque has been hung in the room in his honor.



Charles Sr. and Dorothy Spittler

Past Table Officers

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Paul J. Flavin
Curtis W. Meyn
Glenn L. Odell
John C. Murjahn
Ray C. Volrath
Carl Langbein
Clemence Eckert
Edward A. Mayer
John W. Lease
Edward A. Mayer
William Dussing, Sr.
Charles Spittler, Sr.
Lawrence Ziegelhofer
Gorden Hummel
Philip Staats
Samuel Beckman, Sr.
John A. Sullivan
Louis E. Goupil
Fred Fuller
Miles Dommell
Harold Monckton
Victor Durni
Edwin Ott
Gerald Welsted
John Ulrich
W. Rodger Case
F. Robert Snyder
Michael DeBerardinis
Richard L. Hazard, Sr.
Thaddeus P. Stypowany
John R. Wicka
Michael F. Lewis
James J. McGillicuddy
Sean DiMaria
William H. Launder
Thomas J. Rizzo
Thomas A. Braunscheidel, Jr.
Michele Lease

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William H. Prentiss
William J. Heil
Henry J. Schultz
Paul J. Flavin
Ray C. Volrath
Clemence Eckert
Joseph Cramer
Robert Mayer
Charles Spittler, Sr.
Lawrence Geiger
Phillip Staats
Samuel Beckman, Sr.
Richard Fierle
Anthony McGowan
Louis Goupil
John Ulrich
Fred Fuller
Roy C. Ebel

Miles Dommell
Harold Monckton
Victor Durni
Elmer Ebert
Edwin Ott
Gerald Welsted
James McGillicuddy
Robert Snyder
David Donovan
Robert Hull
Robert Pattison
Gerald L. Wisiorek
John R. Wicka
Thomas Rizzo
Michael F. Lewis
Damon DeBerardinis
Mark Brunner
Craig A. Rose
William Launder
Kathleen Kadryna
Jim Currie
James Kaszubowski
Thaddeus Stypowany

OUR TREASURERS

Walter R. Streets
Joseph Patrikus, Sr.
George Heltz
Louis Ahr
Glenn O'Dell
Ralph Fierle
Jacob C. Stadler
John Dietrich
James P. Ziegelhofer
Michael Gomel
Thomas Rizzo
Douglas DeBerardinis
Jeffrey Lease

OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Curtis W. Meyn
Jacob C. Stadler
Herbert V. Potter
Paul J. Flavin
Adrian Almendinger
Richard Fierle
Anthony McGowan
Miles Dommell
Joseph Francis
Donald Langbein
Henry Baker
Donald Young
Donald Langbein
John J. Dietrich
James P. Ziegelhofer
Gretchen Kempf
Robert Schreiner
Sean DiMaria
Michael Trzepakz
Douglas DeBerardinis
James Currie

Cheryl Ross
John R. Wicka

RECORDING SECRETARIES

Glenn O'Dell
Harold O'Dell
John Betts
Louis Ahr
Charles Spittler, Sr.
Curtis W. Meyn
Andrew Walker
Frank Scaletta
Francis Woest
James Ziegelhofer
Miles Gilson
Howard Hoffman, Sr.
James Brunner
John Blake
Edward Riederer, Jr.
Gerald Welsted
Francis Goupil
Paul Suto
Richard Hazard
Ed Reiderer, Jr.
Brenda A. McGillicuddy
Robert Schreiner
Edwin Tucker
Cheryl Ross
W. David Ross
John R. Wicka
Thomas Braunscheidel
Christine Ehret
Gary Benner

DRILL TEAM CAPTAINS

Edward A. Mayer
Henry Brudo
Philip Staats
Robert Brudo
Joseph Eagan
James McGillicuddy
Donald Langbein

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Paul Flavin
Fred Weber
Roy Ebel
Eugene Fierle
John Hansen
Donald Langbein
Fred Dillemoth
Lester Trinder
Donald Anderson
Michael F. Lewis
Paul Ziegelhofer
Robert Pattison
Doug DeBerardinis
Damon DeBerardinis
John Dietrich
Richard Pattison
Gail Currie

Phil Comerate
Pat Mcguiness
Mark Dudziak
Michael Trzepacz
Michael Winder
Charles Appolson
Donald Anderson
James Kasczubowski

Past Line Officers

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Lawrence Ziegelhofer
Paul J. Flavin
Charles Spittler, Sr.
William Dussing, Sr.
Joseph P. Eagan
James P. Ziegelhofer
James Leary
Albert Zorn
Robert Francis
Donald Langbein
Allan M. Launder
Michael DeBerardinis
Jack L. Mahaffey
James P. Ziegelhofer
Michael F. Lewis
Gary Stelmach
Paul G. Ehret
Gary M. Benner
Eugene Jewett

OUR ASSISTANT CHIEFS

Henry Brudo
Lawrence Ziegelhofer
Paul J. Flavin
Charles Spittler, Sr.
William Dussing, Sr.
John Hansen
James P. Ziegethofer
James Leary
Donald Langbein
Robert Francis
Allen Launder
Jack Mahaffey
Robert Snyder
Michael DeBerardinis
Michael Lewis
Gary Benner
Michael Krull
Garry Stelmach
Paul Ehret
Donald Seel
Gary Benner
W. David Ross
Eugene Jewett
Marc Whais
Michael Trzepacz
Robert Schreiner
Devin Durni
Keith Hauser

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Edward A. Mayer
Henry Brudo
Paul Flavin
Charles Spittler, Sr.
William Dussing, Sr.
Wesley Brudo
John Hansen
Joseph Eagan
James Leary
Miles Dommell
Allen Launder
Fred Dillemoth
Albert Zorn
William Zeckser
Francis Goupil
Robert Francis
Edgar Goupil
Leslie Trinder
John Goupil
Michel DeBerardinis
Charles Best
Richard Pattison
Michael Lewis
James P. Ziegelhofer
Richard L. Hazard
Terrance H. Eagen
Robert Schreiner
Gary Benner
Thomas Erdley
Michael Krull
Gary C. Stelmach
Robert Feldman
W. David Ross
Paul Ehret
Marc Whais
Robert Hall
Eugene Jewett
Michael Trzepacz
Michael Van Wie
Donald DeBerardinis
Keith Hauser
Roger Black
Aaron Antes
Eric Hamilton
Robert Snyder

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Edward Manley
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Joseph Eagan
James Leary
James P. Ziegelofer
Miles Dommell
Allen Launder
Fred Dillemoth
Albert Zorn
Francis Goupil
John Ulrich
Edgar Goupil
Donald Langbein

Richard Dietrich
Leslie Trinder
John Goupil
Charles Best
Raymond Kelly
Fredrick Cook
Donald Miller
James Burns
Gary Benner
Charles Felser
David Metzger
Charles Otto
Vincent Perfetto
Richard Will
Jack Mahaffey
Ronald Kanaszak .

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Joseph Francis
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Guy Fusco
George Hansen
Adrian Almendinger
Allen Launder
Fred Dillemoth
Francis Goupil
Albert Zorn
Edgar Goupil
William Zeckser
Gerald Welstead
Leslie Trinder
John Goupil
Charles Best
Raymond Kelly
Robert Snyder
Fredrick Cook
Edward Tomljenovich
David Donovan
Edward Riederer, Sr.
Thaddeus P. Stypowany
Donald Miller
Joseph J. Rellinger, Jr.
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Marc Whais
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Damen DeBerardinis
Paul Black
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Aaron Antes

Eric Hamilton
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Michael Gomel
Richard Hazard
James P. Ziegelhofer
David Hazard

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Edwin Held
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Joseph Langbein
James Eckert
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Miles Dommell
Allen Launder
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Rodger Case
Leonard Cole
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Douglas DeBerardinis
Donald DeBerardinis
Michael Avrey
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Robert Richardson
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John R. Wicka
Rev. Francis Kadryna

Past First Aid Officers Third Asst. Chief

Christine Ehret

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Terrance Eagen
James Ziegelhoffer
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Michael Trezpacz
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Christine Ehret
Sally Kuebler
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Paul Blackowski
James Meyerhofer
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Scott Hoskins
Robert Pattison
Sean DiMaria
Paul Ehret
Marc Whais
Robert Hull
John Forbes
Gerry Stelmach
Robert Francis
David DeBerardinis
Michael Trezpacz
Jeffrey Lease
Vince Perfetto
Patty McGillicuddy
Cheryl Ross
Donald DeBerardinis
Sally Kuebler
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Margie Pike
Kymberly Tornabene
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*Congratulations
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on
"75 Years Strong"*

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