

## PREFACE

Circleville received its name in 1842 at the time the Circleville Church was organized. According to Ruttenber and Clarks history, the name was proposed by Mrs. Mary Bull, who thought Circleville of Ohio a very pleasant name. The church was built in 1842. Previous to that, services had been held in the white schoolhouse on what is now Shaw Road. There are still old-timers living who attended that school.

In those days, the only fire protection was the bucket brigade, neighbors with buckets who fought the fire with water from wells, springs and brooks. One of the most destructive fires in our community in the past century occurred July 17, 1871 when the machine shop, wagon house, paint and store shop and dwelling house of Hiram S. Wilkison were destroyed. Since that time, three more dwellings have burned on the same site.

On Route 302, between the Village and the bridge over Route 17, near Crawford Junction there are only two of the original buildings left standing that were there in 1900. Perhaps, with our modern communications and firefighting equipment some of those buildings might have been saved.

The complete history of the Circleville Fire Company does not begin in 1947. We must go back in time to see the roots of the Fire Company. The first recollection of some of the old-timers of the community of a fire company in Circleville was of one organized about 1913. Not much is known about this company except that they had a big parade that year on the 4th of July. Proof of this parade is a story and pictures that were in the July 7, 1913 edition of the Middletown paper that are still in existence. This company also had a hand-operated pump which was around the Village for some time, but its present whereabouts is unknown. In 1915, on February 14th, to be exact, the Fire Trustees purchased two chemical fire extinguishers, one to be kept in Seybolts Store, formerly on the southwest corner of Route 302 and Creamery Road, and the other at the parsonage in the care of Reverend Rowland. Names of the members of this fire company, we are sorry to say, are not available. Likewise, there is no record of when this company disbanded.

During the period of 1927 - 1928, a firebug was active in the community. This firebug or bugs was responsible for the fires which destroyed the railroad station, the railroad ice house and Nelson Suffern's barn. Also, an attempt was made to burn the feed store and two attempts made to burn the present Circleville Inn. These attempts were unsuccessful due to the sharp lookout being maintained by the citizens of Circleville.

Other serious fires in Circleville and vicinity were Aylesbury House, Erickson's barn, Dayton's house, Al Miller's barn, Creamery, Stewart's barn and many others. In early 1937, a number of citizens felt the need of some type of organization that could sponsor a social hall for the community. So they met for the purpose but decided that perhaps a fire company would be more practical -- business with pleasure. After several meetings amongst themselves and with representatives of fire companies from Howells and Bloomingburg, and later with an attorney, they decided to work for the formation of a fire company and fire district. However, the fire company was never incorporated, nor the district created, but an active social club was the end result of their efforts. This club was active for about ten years and filled a very useful place in the life of this community.

**1947 - 1997**

## **50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**This book is dedicated to all the members of the  
Circleville Fire Company and Auxiliary**

**In 1947, a few men got together and started what is known as the Circleville Fire Company. Those men were dedicated individuals. Their aim was to make this one of the best fire companies around Orange County. Circleville is still today one of the most respected fire companies in the County.**

**We members of the Fire Company today wish to thank all those members and auxiliary members for leaving us a great organization to carry on.**

**Circleville Fire Company  
and  
Auxiliary  
1997**

## HOW IT STARTED - 1947

Once again, the thought of the desirability and need of a fire company in the community of Circleville was held by some of the younger citizens. Responsible for these ideas were Rodney Gibbs and Clarence Bergman. They, in turn, enlisted the aid of Ray Acker and their first meeting was at the Acker residence on Route 302, about one mile south of the Village. At the second meeting, Wes Howell, Chief of the Howells Fire Department, was present and gave information on procedures to be followed to start a fire company. Cards were sent out and some posters were put up around the Village to stimulate interest in the community for a fire company. Since considerable interest was manifested, it was decided to hold a meeting at the schoolhouse on January 15, 1947. Chairman Bergman introduced speakers: William Marks, Assistant Chief of the Middletown Fire Department; Wes Howell, Chief of the Howells Fire Department and Leland Lain of the N.D. Mills Insurance Agency. Ways and means were thoroughly discussed. It was decided to hold another meeting on January 29, 1947. The meeting was held January 29th at the Circleville School with 34 people present and Clarence Bergman as Chairman. Samuel Eager, Sr., an attorney from Middletown, spoke on formation of a fire district. Arthur Eustance was elected as permanent temporary chairman. It was voted that certification of incorporation be drawn up by Mr. Eager and that the company be named "**Circleville Volunteer Fire Company**". A board of trustees were elected until time of incorporation. They were: Clarence Bergman; Sherrill Hufcut; Rodney Gibbs; George E. Beller; Arthur Eustance; John Kubler; Alfred Schubert; Charles Berry and Russell Bull. Territory of operation was specified to be a two-mile radius from the center of Circleville. Motion approved that each one present donate \$5.00 to defray initial expenses. Also motion approved that any person wishing to become a charter member donate \$5.00. The next meeting was scheduled for February 3, 1947.

## FEBRUARY 3, 1947

Mr. Eager reviewed incorporation papers for newcomers. First committees were appointed. Bylaws, lot and building and fire apparatus were discussed. The next meeting was held at the schoolhouse on March 3, 1947. Twenty-seven members were present and an additional three by proxy. The unanimous desire of those present was to incorporate at this meeting. The bylaws were read by Mr. Eager. The motion was made by James Hart; seconded by George Arnott that the Bylaws, as read by Mr. Eager, be

adopted as the Constitution and Bylaws of the Circleville Volunteer Fire Company. The motion was carried. The first Monday in March was selected as the annual meeting night. The temporary chairman appointed H. F. Acker and Ray Bull as nominating committee. Those nominated were: President, Arthur Eustance; Vice President Sherrill Hufcut; Secretary Rodney Gibbs; Treasurer Sherwood Davies; and Financial Secretary Adrian Lemon. Five Directors: W. John Kulber; George Beller; George Schmoll; Chester Yereance and Russell Bull. No other nominations from the floor so the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot. The line officers elected were: Chief Clarence Bergman; First Assistant Chief Clarkson Cortright; Second Assistant Chief George Arnott. A piece of property near the feed store was offered to the company by Mrs. W. J. Kulber and accepted with thanks. A motion was made and seconded that Mr. Eager be our regular attorney. A Membership Committee was appointed. It was voted unanimously to attempt to establish a fire district. After much labor by members of the Company, a map was prepared and the district boundaries decided upon. Petitions were circulated and petitions with sufficient signatures were turned over to attorney Eager. At a Public Hearing before the Walkkill Town Board held on October 9, 1947, the first resolution was read to form the Circleville Fire District. The District was approved by the Town Board on November 6, 1947, to be effective January 1, 1948. Those present were H. F. Acker; Gordon H. Baxter; Alfred Schubert; George E. Beller; George H. Schmoll and Arthur W. Eustance. Treasurer Gordon H. Baxter was elected Chairman and George H. Schmoll, Secretary. All were members of the Fire Company. It is relatively easy to write the history of the beginning of the Fire Company, particularly since it was all written out and recorded in 1957 in the "Recollections of the Activities of Your Fire Company". The question is where to start from there. Let's start with membership.

## **CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE CIRCLEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY WERE:**

- \*Acker, H. F.**
- Andrews, Arthur**
- \*Arnott, George**
- \*Beakes, Mahlon**
- \*Beller, G.E.**
- Bergman, Clarence**
- \*Berry, Charles, Sr.**
- \*Blauvelt, Floyd**
- \*Boyle, William**
- \*Brown, Frank**
- \*Brown, William J.**
- \*Bull, Raymond**

**Bull, Richard**  
**\*Bull, Russell “Tess”**  
**\*Carras, Costa**  
**\*Christiana, Earl**  
**Cortright, Clarkson**  
**\*Davies, Sherwood**  
**\*DeMouth, William**  
**\*Dickinson, Louis**  
**\*Drake, Albert**  
**\*Dubois, Arthur**  
**\*Eustance, Arthur**  
**\*Gibbs, Rodney**  
**\*Hart, James**  
**\*Hills, B. H.**  
**\*Hufcut, Charles**  
**\*Hufcut, Sherrill**  
**\*Johnston, Robert**  
**\*Johnston, Roger**  
**\*Kuczkowski, Felix**  
**\*Kulber, Walter**  
**\*Lemon, Adrian**  
**\*Lewis, Earl, Jr.**  
**Lowerre, Walter**  
**\*Michels, Howard**  
**\*Moffitt, Frank, Sr.**  
**\*Muller, Arden**  
**\*Olovitsh, Frank**  
**\*Schubert, Alfred**  
**\*Schubert, George**  
**\*Schmoll, George**  
  
**\*Shaw, Vernon**  
**\*Sutton, H. L.**  
**\*Terwilliger, Hanford**  
**\*Webber, Richard**  
**\*Writer, Coe**  
**\*Yereance, E. Chester**  
  
**\*Deceased**

## MEMBERSHIP

From the original three who started it, namely Acker, Bergman and Gibbs, it went to forty-eight charter members in March of 1947 to a total of three hundred sixty-six men who have been or are at present members of the Circleville Fire Company. As of March, 1972, the roster shows 111 active members counting five new members accepted at that meeting. Twenty-one Social members and 33 Honorary members. A list of members is given in the back pages of this book. In September of 1960, the Fire Chief reported that Circleville had ten active father - son members of the fire company. That would seem to be quite a record. At the present time, there are 11 active father - son members of our company. Of those, two fathers each have two boys and one father has a son and grandson. The last son mentioned is Frank Hesse, Jr., our past Chief. The Bylaws of the Company permit active membership at the age of eighteen, and we've had many young men as members.

## FIREHOUSE

The first site donated to the Circleville Fire Company for a firehouse was donated by Mr. and Mrs John Kulber, at that time the owners of the Circleville Inn, and they offered a piece of land on Creamery Road between the feed store and the corner building. The second site offered was one by Mrs. Lena Shaw on Route 302 next door to the former property of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weisshaar. This Route 302 site, from the point of access, seemed a much better one so this site was selected. Our firehouse was erected on this site. The Kulber site was then returned to Mrs. Kulber with the thanks of the Company. The deed for the Shaw property was turned over to the Fire Company in September 1947. We had a site - now we needed a building. The building committee had been busy thinking of ways and means of obtaining money and material for the construction of such a firehouse. Rowley Coal & Lumber Company was contacted and they offered to let us have material on long-term credit without securities. To show how the residents of the Circleville area felt about the Fire Company, the canvas, which was made among the community residents for donations, netted \$2,000. Additional money was raised by the sale of non-interest bearing bonds to fire company members and friends. The first such bond was sold to G. E. "Ed" Beller, our then oldest member of the Fire Company. This No. 1 bond is in a picture frame displayed at the firehouse. Ground was broken for the fire truck house in September 1947. Construction of the first section of the building, which was about 16' wide and 40' long, progressed slowly during the fall and early winter of 1947 under the supervision of Tess Bull. A temporary roof was installed over the concrete block walls and this building was put in use in the early Spring of 1948. The Company's truck was then kept in this building. The first regular meeting of the

Company was held there on May 3, 1948. During the summer of 1948, a concrete floor was installed. The first heat was furnished by a pot-bellied coal stove and later a second-hand oil burner was installed to replace the coal stove. Our Company was in business, but a review of the minutes of a meeting of February 1948 revealed that the Company's cash balance was **\$11.28**. No mention was made of the fact that during the first year we spent \$6,000. but raised only \$4,000., and that left us \$2,000. in the red. In the first year, the membership increased from the original 48 Charter members to 87 members. About this time, the Fire Company purchased from the Monticello Fire Department a fire alarm system to meet Underwriter's requirements. The siren was installed on the roof of the creamery power house thanks to Mr. Kotcher, the owner of the Circleville Creamery. Mr. Kotcher also donated a steam whistle for emergencies. In front of the firehouse is the original fire alarm which is a steel locomotive tire suspended from a metal frame. Before the days of the electric siren, the alarm was sounded by striking this tire with a sledge hammer. The tire was originally obtained from the O & W Railroad in Middletown in the 1920's, first installed on the hill opposite the church near the site of the former Bull Hall, which was used as a town hall. This tire was later removed to the church lawn where it remained until the Fire Company moved it to their property on May 3, 1949. Among the records of the Fire Company is a list of Circleville citizens who donated money to purchase this old tire alarm and the amount each subscribed. None of those donors are still alive. In the same frame, with the list of donors, are two old one dollar bills, they over subscribed. That's the citizens of Circleville! A metal flagpole was erected on the firehouse property. About April 1950, the Company gave the District the firehouse property with the building, which the Company had built and paid for with its own money and its own labor. They also turned over to the fire district the fire alarm system, likewise purchased and installed by the Fire Company members. In the winter of 1953 and 1954, the Fire Company built by volunteer labor, the second stall to the firehouse, and paid for a substantial part of the cost of the material with Fire Company funds. This needed improvement had been due ever since the second truck was obtained. For some reason or other, it always seemed that the Fire Company was building buildings during the winter time. They never picked a nice warm summer to do any of their building construction. At the time of the building of the second stall, an addition was added to the rear of the firehouse and this housed a new furnace room, toilet room and a meeting room for the Fire Commissioners and for the volunteer firemen. The meeting room was small and was not suitable for a meeting of the entire Fire Company at one time. The third stall of the firehouse was added in 1961, and at this time the radio antenna was erected on top of the firehouse. A new kitchen, stove, counter bar and jukebox were all added about this time. One interesting note in connection with the installation of the antenna was that while Walt Reeder was near the top of the antenna fixing guidewires, the fire alarm rang and all of Walt's helpers deserted him leaving him up in the air while they went to the fire. In 1971, the firehouse

received a new look when a brick facing was installed on the front and two sides of the building. Much of the work in the construction of the firehouse was volunteer labor by members of the Circleville Fire Company. In the later years, the Fire District contributed part of the money for the purchase of materials, although the Volunteer Fire Company still continued to contribute toward this building. In the spring of 1972, the fire commissioners purchased a 50' strip of land from Paul Weisshaar to enlarge their lot to provide for possible additions to the building and to provide for more adequate parking.

## **FIRE TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT**

Going back to 1947, the Fire Truck Committee was busy investigating several possible trucks. Of necessity, these were secondhand since the Fire Company had very little money at the time for the purchase of a truck. The Committee recommended the purchase of a 1928 American LaFrance 650 gallon per minute pumper from the Delaware Engine Company of Port Jervis for the sum of \$1,150. The truck was purchased and put in service and temporarily housed in Kulber's garage and then later in Cortright's garage. It caused some bad sagging in the floor of the Kulber's garage. The Cortright's garage on Route 17, now 17M, was the second home for this piece of equipment and there received much tender loving care from the members of the Company. The Chief and his assistants were scouring the county for equipment, hoses, nozzles and other small items, many of which were purchased from war surplus. The Circleville Fire Company as a firefighting unit was in business. The first real fire, and a bad one, was the feed store in Fair Oaks in December 1947. The Circleville Fire Company was initiated. At a special meeting of the Executive Committee in February 1948, it was voted to donate this fire truck and equipment to the newly organized Fire District and on February 23, 1948, Chief Clarence Bergman presented a letter to the Board, offering the American LaFrance pumper and equipment (which was owned by the Fire Company) to the Fire District, and it was accepted by that Board with thanks. At the same meeting of the Fire District Commissioners, the Circleville Volunteer Fire Company was officially designated the company to represent the Circleville Fire District. That first truck took the combined efforts of the Chief, his assistants, the Mack Motor Company and the American LaFrance Company to keep it in operation. They succeeded and this truck did yeoman's service for seven years. It was an open cab truck and no fun to drive when it was raining or cold. It was particularly difficult if the driver had to wear glasses. The truck cause some embarrassment at times, particularly during parades. At fires we seemed to be able to keep it going. At an early Middletown fire parade, the truck stalled in front of Station WALL and Al Larsen, who was broadcasting a report on the parade, mentioned a truck being pushed by its company's members, but did not mention the name of the company. Thank you, Al Larsen. There's no question who that company was; it was Circleville. To make more water

quickly available at fires, a half-ton international pickup was donated in 1950 to the Company by member Art Holmes. This truck was outfitted with a 275-gallon tank and small fire fighting equipment. Work on fitting this truck was done by the members of the Fire Company. A portable pump was added later, half the cost being donated by R. H. Baker. Other equipment added over the years included a generating plant, portable lights and all types of new equipment until the Circleville Fire Company was one of the best equipped in the area. In 1953, the American LaFrance truck having seen better days, Chief Bergman recommended the purchase of a new fire truck. The matter was brought before the Board of Fire Commissioners and the consensus of opinion was to bring a bond issue before the taxpayers for a new truck. This resolution was voted on May 8, 1953, and was certainly a vote of confidence to the Fire Company as the resolution was approved by a vote of 73 to 2. The Chiefs of the Fire Company, together with the Commissioners, selected a Mack 750 gallon Class A pumper costing \$18,200. which was delivered, then returned to the factory and then redelivered. During the absence of the new pumper, the old American LaFrance truck was brought back from Newburgh and put into service. Finally, after the new truck was here permanently, the old American LaFrance went back to Newburgh. From Newburgh, it was to be delivered to Hankins, New York and on the trip over the mountain, a rod went through the engine. That was the end of our first truck and she went to the junkyard. In selecting the new Mack truck, our "fresh air" Commissioners and Chief selected an open cab truck. This was just as bad as the old one driving to fires in rainy weather or on cold days. The excuse was that the visibility was better without the cab, but maybe the truth of it was that it was slightly less expensive than a cab-type truck. This new truck had all the latest type of equipment, including foam, dry powder, high-pressure nozzles, two Scott airpaks, fog nozzles and so forth. One of the later additions is a resuscitator bought in the summer of 1954. A note on the resuscitator; this was used many times and at one time saved the life of our then Assistant Chief's two-year old son. In February 1955, our Chief decided that the International pickup with the 275-gallon tank had served its purpose and should be replaced with a larger, more efficient truck which would carry more water. A 1947 one-ton Dodge was purchased from H. M. Stanton. Clarkson Cortright and helpers did a lot of work on it, such as building a new body, putting on a new tank, painting and so forth. It was put into service in the summer of 1955. The two trucks which the Company now had, the 1953 Mack pumper and the 1947 renovated Dodge tank truck, saw many years of service with the Circleville Fire Company. On August 21, 1961, a fire district election was held on the proposed purchase of a new fire truck. The largest number of voters we ever had at an election turned out and the outcome - 159 Yes; 38 No and 5 Void. A new truck was assured. As a result of this election, a 1962 International Truck with a Sanford body was purchased by the District for \$30,000. This truck had a 1200 gallon water tank, a 750 gallon per minute pump and **(to the delight of the drivers)** an enclosed cab. This truck was the pride and joy of the

members of the Fire Company. In 1965, a four-wheel drive auxiliary International three-quarter ton truck was purchased to replace the 1947 Dodge. In 1969, the Fire Company and the Commissioners decided that the 1953 Mack truck which had provided a lot of good service to the district, was not completely satisfactory at this time for our much busier fire district. To replace the 1953 Mack truck, the District purchased a Mack diesel truck with a 1000 gallon water tank and 1000 gallon per minute pump. This truck cost \$44,000. and the District residents voted approximately 4 to 1 for the purchase of this equipment - showing once again that the people had full confidence in the Fire Company. The truck was delivered in October 1970. The boys have one complaint on the Mack diesel which incidentally is a cab over motor type of truck. It seems that after backing the diesel into the firehouse and shutting off the motor, the motor turns over a few more times and sort of smells up the firehouse for awhile. In the summer this is no trouble as they can leave the doors open. In the winter, it's a different matter.

## **TOWNLEY HALL**

The Townley family owned an auction barn on Goshen Turnpike, a short distance west of the crossroads of Circleville. In October 1949, a discussion was held at a Fire Company meeting concerning the desirability of holding dances in the Townley Barn and to obtain permission from the Townleys for such purposes. The Townley family readily agreed and leased the barn to the Fire Company for \$1.00 per year. The first meeting of the Company was held here in January 1950. The building proved so successful that the Company approached the Townley family to see if arrangement could be made to purchase the building. Arrangements to purchase were unsuccessful because the Townley family wished to donate it to the Fire Company for Fire Company and community use. Needless to say, the offer was accepted. After the acquisition of the hall, a wooden floor was installed with Herb Thompson and Walt Lowerre providing the main impetus on this work. The Company purchased a lot of flooring which had been in a fire and boys doing the work had the job of selecting pieces from the charred pile of flooring. They did a good job! In 1949, the Company started weekly card parties and dances which continued popular and profitable for many years. The first of many dances was held on November 11, 1949. During the winter of 1951-52, an addition was added to Townley Hall which included a modern kitchen and inside toilet facilities with an adequate heating plant to serve both the old and new portions of the building. As funds became available, the Company equipped the kitchen with all the necessary utensils. Upon completion of the kitchen, the Company started holding its roast beef dinners at Townley Hall which previously had been held in the church basement in Bullville. The formal dedication of the building, which was given by the Townley family in memory of Calvert Townley, who died in service during the second World War, was held in May 1952. Later on additional land was given by the Townley family and in 1957, a large

shelter was erected to the west of the main hall. An interesting sidelight on the construction of this shelter. At the August 5th meeting that year, it was decided to build this clambake shelter, to be finished in time for the August 18th clambake. In the two days following the meeting, the men cleared away the brush and cleaned the site and then started construction of the shelter. By August 15th, they were building tables and benches for the completed shelter. And on the 18th, the clambake was held, as per plan, in the new shelter. That was one piece of construction not done in the winter. This shelter was the site of many clambakes, barbeques, dances and dinners held during the summers. During the cold weather, the dinners were held inside Townley Hall. The Company built a large barbeque pit and equipped it with a motor-operated spit for cooking roast beef. I would hate to guess the number of chicken halves which have been barbequed over this pit or the pounds of beef which have been cooked since this pit was installed. It's hard to mention one name without mentioning others, but Herb Thompson was perhaps the one individual most responsible for the development of the Townley Hall building and grounds and shelter. Along with Herb, we would mention Bill Allen as bake master, who served uncounted times as the man in charge of the cooking. One other name should also be mentioned and that is Rodney Gibbs, who for about 20 years, every Wednesday night, provided the refreshments for the card parties. Many more individuals could be mentioned, but space permits only one more. Del Thompson, not a fireman, not a member of the Fire Company Auxiliary, BUT, a person who contributed much to the Fire Company. Del was to be seen working at practically every dinner, clambake or shindig that we had at Townley Hall. In about 1958, she was voted Fire Woman of the Year and presented with a plaque - an engraved frying pan, "To Del Thompson, one of Circleville's Best Fireman". Townley Hall was used by community organizations in the area such as 4H and Home Bureau. It has been used by the Company, of course, for many functions, for organizations who wish to put on a barbeque or a dinner, a place for wedding receptions, and has been used many times by the Bullville Catholic Church as a meeting place for their church between the times when their building was destroyed by fire and the construction of their new church building. Needless to say, the monies received from the activities at Townley Hall have been a major source of income for the Fire Company. The success of this project has been due to the fine work of the Townley Hall committee and their efforts to keep the Hall a clean, wholesome place for enjoyment. Herb Thompson was Chairman of the Townley Hall committee from 1950 to 1968. A long time!

## **PARADES**

It seems that firemen must parade and many are the firemen who really enjoy this activity of their Company. The first parade of the Circleville Fire Company was in Otisville, August 1948. The Company has since paraded in Middletown, Maybrook,

Walden, Monroe, Goshen, Port Jervis, Pine Bush, Highland Falls, New Windsor, Ellenville, Liberty, Nyack, Montgomery, Coldenham, Tappan, Greenwood Lake, Vails Gate, Woodridge, Newburgh, City and Town, Washingtonville and Harriman. To parade and compete for prizes you need several things. One of the most important things is uniforms. Our first uniforms were purchased second hand from the Cataract E & H Co., No. 1 of Goshen, New York in November 1949. This was not a too successful purchase as Circleville contained many large men and most of the uniforms were small. The Company's dress for the parades, at this time, was a regulation hat, which we purchased, white shirt, black tie, dark blue pants and black shoes. At times, this outfit was cold. As soon as the Company had money available, they decided to spend it on new uniforms. The uniforms, which are still the uniforms of today, consisted of an Air Force-type cap, double breasted dark blue coat with gold trim and light blue pants with gold stripes. When first proposed, about fifty members purchased these uniforms. They were first worn in the Middletown parade, September 1954, and Circleville won second prize as the "Best Appearing Visiting Company". Besides uniforms, what is needed is drill and precision in marching. Our first drill master was Bill Heater. Our second was Herb Glass, who was a professional. He proceeded to teach us how to wear our uniforms, how to march, how to keep in step and we must have learned well. The second showing of our uniforms was in a County parade in Port Jervis on September 18, 1954, where we took first prize as the "Best Appearing Fire Company in Dress Uniform". The company's truck was awarded first prize as the "Best Appearing Pumper". Since Herb Glass retired as drill master, we have had others including Art Yereance and Al Keer. As a result of all of this, the Company's trophy cases overflowed. There was an item in the *Bettersweet* column of August 13, 1956, Middletown paper about the Circleville firemen constructing another trophy case -- three trophies won that week (two at Pine Bush fire parades and one at the Orange County Fair). An interesting note at one Otisville parade with our original pumper. The Chiefs had just finished putting new bearings in the motor and they did not dare shut it off, being afraid that the motor would be so tight it would not start again. So the truck ran **all night** prior to the parade! What price - glory? July 25th, 1964 was a big day in the history of the Circleville Volunteer Fire Company, it was the day of their inaugural parade. Over the years, the Company had been entertained by many companies at many parades and they had always looked forward to the day when they could have had a parade of their own. Skeptics said the town was too small and it couldn't be done, but the Parade Committee went ahead and did it. It was one of the best conducted parades of the year. So successful, in fact, the firemen soon started planning for another one, to be bigger and better than before. Another and equally successful parade was held in Circleville to celebrate our 20th Anniversary on Saturday, July 29, 1967. Grand Marshall of the 1964 Parade was Paul Weisshaar. Richard (Dickie) Webber was appointed Grand Marshall for the 1967 Parade but he was not to serve. Death claimed him a short while before he would have had that honor. In this place of

honor, the Company appointed Herb Thompson, who also well deserved the honor. The Fire Company has continued their winning ways and new trophy cases are needed.

## **FIRE POLICE**

In 1947, a short while after the establishment of the Fire District, the Fire Police Unit was established. The first officers of this Unit were: John Kulber, Captain; George Schmoll, Lieutenant; and Herb Thompson, Sergeant. This Unit has done an outstanding job of keeping traffic moving and roads clear and in directing firemen to the site of the fire, whenever we are called out. They have also served the community well with help at our Fourth of July celebrations and other functions.

## **LADIES AUXILIARY**

The Bylaws of the Circleville Fire Company provided for a Ladies Auxiliary, if and when such an auxiliary was desired. The ladies, who have always worked for the Company, not only at the dinners, but on telephone committees, money raising affairs, serving coffee and refreshments to the firemen at fires, decided in 1969 that they should become official. It was voted, therefore, to form a Ladies Auxiliary and the first official meeting of that Ladies Auxiliary was held on January 13, 1970 at the home of Judy Olin. The nineteen charter members were: Peggy Allen, Carol Boyce, Ruthann Bradatsch, Marge Briggs, Doris Cortright, Sandy Cortright, Marion Crance, Vesta Gibbs, Madeline Hunt, Dottie Judson, Judy Olin, Clara Seeley, Sandy Seeley, Shirley TenKate, Dottie Tolles, June Vander Schaaf, Elsie Webber, Lydia Yereance and Agnes Youngs. The official name decided upon was "Circleville Fire Company Auxiliary" and the first temporary officers elected were: President - Sandy Seeley; Vice-President - Peggy Allen; Secretary - Judy Olin; Treasurer Dottie Tolles and Agnes Youngs was appointed Chaplain. The group joined the Fire Relief Agency. The ladies continue their same activities only now it's official. Activities to raise money have included: penny socials, flea market sales; cake sales, raffles, catering wedding receptions, luncheons, dances and the Doc Williams Show. The Auxiliary also helped at: firemen dances held out under the shed at Townley Hall during the summer months, served at the wetdown when the new Mack fire truck arrived - they gave the firemen a large basket of red and white flowers and a cake with a picture of their new fire truck on it. They have served many cups of coffee and hot chocolate, soup, sandwiches, ice tea, soda, etc. at many of the fires our Fire Company has attended.

## RESCUE SQUAD

In early 1971, a group of about eight firemen organized a rescue squad, primarily to learn more about removing victims trapped in cars and to improve their first aid knowledge. This group participated in the County Drill at the Montgomery Airport and with the Port Jervis Salvage outfit. Members of this group were: John Horan and Cal Wanser as rescue instructors; Al Crance, Jasper Briggs, Jim TenKate, Garritt Vander Schaaf, Jr., Vince Bradatsch, Jim Tolles, Frank Hesse, Jr., Ken Yereance, Frank Gantz and Allen Cortright.

## FIRE COMMISSIONERS

The Fire District was originally sponsored and developed by the Fire Company and established in 1947. In the year 1948, the District operated without any budget and the District was supported by the Fire Company. In 1949, the first taxpayers money (\$500.00) was used to help support the Fire District and to pay part of the costs of Fire Protection. The cost to the taxpayers was more than offset by the reduction in insurance, since the Fire Company was approved by the N.Y.S. Fire Insurance Rating Organization. A tabulation of Fire District Commissioners and Treasurers and the time they served is given in this book.

## SPORTS

Softball Team: The Circleville Fire Company organized and entered a team in the Middletown Firemen's Softball League in 1957. Some of the first year's players were Don Dickinson, Leroy Yereance, Walt Hasbrouck, Clarence Dart, Art Yereance and Ken Carmichael. The first year they weren't too good winning only one game. In the following years, they did improve winning a couple of pennants and two B Division titles. In 1971 we did not field a team due to seeming lack of interest in playing.

Bowling: The first bowling teams were organized in 1948 and played in the firemen's league with other fire company teams from the area. The roster for the first year showed names of Arnott, Baxter, Bergman, Bull, Brown, Dart, D. Dickinson, L. Dickinson, Eustance, D. Gibbs, R. Gibbs, Kuczkowski, Lorenz, Schuran and Snyder. These teams have won a few, lost a few. However, all-in-all they have provided much enjoyment to a large number of men who were on these teams for twenty years or more. It is to be noted that in 1960, the team of Walt Lowerre, C.E. Thompson, Leroy Yereance, John Kulber and Chet Yereance captured a division crown.

Firefighting Activities: The Circleville Fire Company has done a good job in the business

of firefighting in its district. Bad fires are not something to be bragged about, but the Circleville Volunteer Fire Company found the following fires: the first big fire was the Fair Oaks Feed Store in December, 1947. At the time of this fire, our truck was still housed in Clarkson Cortright's garage on Route 17, now Route 17M. Other large fires, the Horton barn on the Van Burenville Road, Joseph Skawineski farm in Bullville, Markson's trucking near the Maples, the Country Gardener at the Maples, Circle Electric right in the heart of Circleville and the Schoonmaker barn on the Scotchtown-Silver Lake Road. There were many others big and small. When the company first started, it depended on the fire alarm system to rouse us. Besides that, we had a committee of ladies who lived within close distance of the fire siren and could always hear it, who called the firemen in the more distance locations or called them at their place of work. Now the fire company is on the mutual aid system of the County of Orange which is manned 24-hours a day. Under the mutual aid system, we responded to many fires outside our district, have sat in other firehouses many times while that company was out fighting a serious fire. Likewise, many outside companies have manned our firehouse while we have been out. Besides the official fire fighting, the company has been called out a number of times to search for missing persons in and around the area and as far away as Sam's Point and Walker Valley. Unfortunately, our fire company found the bodies of two men on different occasions, one was a hunter accidentally shot by his own gun and the other a hunter who died of a heart attack. While the main business of the company is firefighting, there doesn't seem to be much to say about it. Many of our firemen have taken the State Fire Training School courses to improve their knowledge of firefighting. Firemen now have their home equipped with Plectron equipment which tells them of a fire and the location of it before the alarm is sounded.

## **CIRCLEVILLE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS.**

The Circleville Drum and Bugle Corps was started under the sponsorship of the Circleville Fire Company. It was formed in January of 1963. The first year, with very little money to operate with, they wore black pants and white shirts with a Corps patch on the sleeve. In this year, they had four parades with our Fire Company. At their first marching contest in Grahamsville, they won the first place trophy for the best marching drum corp with Barbara Hale as majorette. This was a great boost to the morale of the members. To help raise funds to purchase equipment and uniforms, a dance and pork roast dinner was held. In 1964, with forty-six children in the corps, they attended fifteen parades with Joan Hale as majorette. They purchased drums and full dress blue uniforms. On August 17th, they were honored by being asked to represent Orange County at the Worlds Fair in New York City on Orange County Day. The color guard consisted of two rifles and an American flag. On July 8, 1964, the Circleville Drum and

Bugle Corps was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. During the Fourth of July parage at Circleville in 1965, Jack Schlosser, one of our members, who was also a member of the State Legislature, presented the Corps with a New York State flag that had flown over the State Capitol. This flag became one of the color guard flags. This wonderful outfit soon outgrew the need of the Fire Company's sponsorship but still marches in many parades.

## **FOURTH OF JULY PARADES**

In Circleville, we have a unique institution and that is the Annual Fourth of July Parade. It started - "Let's have a parade on the Fourth of July". Such were the words of a group of children as they played together in Schubert's backyard. So it was that the Jessen boys - Danny, Charles and Tim; the Schubert children - Patsy, Mary Ann and Alfie, and a few others planned, worked and finally marched in what was the first and certainly the smallest Children's Parade in the hamlet of Circleville. First, there was a sign proclaiming this to be the "Fourth of July parade", the band was made up of harmonicas and kazoos; the line of march was from the Circleville School to Christiana's store, where Al Schubert treated them to ice cream cones. "Next year it will be better" they all said. And indeed it was. Each year more children became involved, more special features and floats were added. The first parade was in 1948. They had some very nice small parades which included the children from the Vacation Bible School under the direction of Mrs. Jessen. In 1953, the Circleville Fire Company, under the chairmanship of Howard Michaels, volunteered to help promote the parade. Under the joint sponsorship of the Fire Company and with the continued help of the Jessen boys (while they were still in town), the parade has grown to be an annual function enjoyed not only by the people, young and old in Circleville, but from surrounding communities. Many parents parade proudly helping along their very small children. The Circleville Company has sponsored these parades, has provided prizes for the winners of the best costumes and have provided refreshments for the paraders and all visitors. In 1971, they used 1000 hot dogs, 1000 rolls, 500 popsicles and 500 bottles of soft drinks. It's an event to look forward to by all of the community and probably more pictures have been taken of this parade than any other in the surrounding area. Since the formation of the Circleville Drum & Bugle Corps. In 1963, that corps has led off the parade, games are held, contests run, etc. The affair has turned into an all-day affair with most of the people figuring that lunch will be served by the Fire Company.

## **SHAW'S FIELD**

The Circleville Fire Company owes much to the Shaws of Circleville - Mrs. Lena Shaw

and her son, Vernon Shaw. Besides donating land for the firehouse, the Shaws have donated the use of several acres of land, known as Shaw Field, located right in the heart of Circleville. It is on this field that the Fourth of July parades for many years ended. It is on this field where the ball team practiced, where the children of the area had softball games, where the firemen constructed a winter skating rink, and where the recreation commission of the Town of Walkkill held summer programs. The Shaws donated the land, but the Circleville Fire Company was mainly responsible for the development of the programs. This was, of course, with the help of a lot of the young fellow and girls of the Circleville area and vicinity, who pitched in and did much of the work in making and maintaining the field.

## **BITS & PIECES OR NOTES FROM EVERYWHERE**

A review of the minutes of the Fire Company meeting of July 1947 reveals the following: "The president announced that Lou Dickinson and Les Sutton had bait fish that couldn't keep, making it necessary that we carry on the meeting without them." Decker's chicken house fire: This chicken house was hit by a bolt of lightning that knocked Rod Gibbs out of bed. He looked out the window and saw the fire. Dickie Webber, living close by, did that same thing at about the same time. Both called "Bergy" - Clarence Bergman, the Chief. They saved part of the building. Church services - Annually the fire company goes to one of the four churches in the area: Circleville Presbyterian, Scotchtown Presbyterian, Bullville Methodist and the Bullville Catholic Church. In order to insure good attendance, the company always provides a breakfast before the church service. This is one way of getting the members out. The Circleville Fire Company is the "eatingest" fire company and I don't know of any that eat better or more often. On August 20th and 21st, 1955, our company was called to Port Jervis to lend a helping hand in pumping out cellars of houses following the disastrous flood. On one nice Sunday, the Fire Company attended church services at the Bullville Catholic Church. I guess the shock was too much for the church as it burned to the ground the following day. Some of the fellows still remember and talk about the wild ride with Clarky Cortright to Pine Bush in the little truck for water to fight a fire. He got the water! July 4, 1957: On this fourth of July, we had a field day with the Phoenix Engine Company of Middletown as our guests. Games, sports, contests were followed by a chicken barbeque, dinner and dance. A good time was had by all and this should be done more often. Another big day in the lives of some of the firemen was August 19, 1966 when a delegation of uniformed firemen from the Circleville Volunteer Fire Company went to Walden to greet the President of the United States of America. A picture of this event is said to hang in the President's library in Washington, D.C. A boy fell in the well and was rescued by the Fire Company. Bill Allen was the hero as he was lowered into the hole and brought the boy out. The boy recovered; so did Bill! We had an old bridge on the Goshen Turnpike

just west of Circleville, and it was in very poor condition. The Fire Company tried for years to get this bridge removed. If you looked underneath the bridge, you would see where some timber supports were used to replace the deteriorating concrete. This road was a very important road for fires and the drivers had strict instructions not to take the heavy fire truck over this condemned bridge. However, most of the drivers would forget these orders and on the way to the fire, the truck would go over the bridge, the driver would catch it from the Fire Chief and coming back would detour around the bridge. The bridge is now gone and has been replaced by a grade crossing. Fortunately, we only have trains about three times a week crossing this road. It happened. T was at the Schlosser barn in the middle of the winter. The firemen had to cut a hole in the ice to get at water to draft for the fire. One fireman by the name of Donald McDonald, even after being warned, managed to fall in the hole. The barn burned but Donald did not get warm from that fire. The minutes of one meeting noted that the chief reported no fires that month - good news for firemen. New trucks cause trouble. After the new diesel truck came, the Chief had to put numbers by the telephone, 1, 2, and 3, as to who was to get to drive the newest truck. The first driver there to get the #1 could drive the diesel. The was to prevent #2 man from stealing this truck while the #1 man was answering the phone to find out where the fire was. Sure saved bloodshed. One of the resuscitators carried on the little truck was given to the Fire Company in memory of George Schmoll, one of our original Commissioners. A note of interest: all of our Fire Commissioners, since the formation of the District, have been members of our Fire Company. They need not be and this seems to be something of a record to have had them all members of the Company. The Howells Fire Company was the first to serve the Town of Wallkill. The Circleville Fire Company was next and we were the last company to form our unit without any aid from the Town. The next company, and they received aid from the Town, was Mechanicstown. They were followed by Washington Heights, Silver Lake, Pocatello and we now have over 1,000. very active firemen in the Town of Wallkill serving the needs of the Town and surrounding communities. One call the Fire Company received was a jet plane crash, the plane having taken off from Stewart Field on a training flight. It really dug a hole in the ground when it crashed. Fortunately, the two men in the plane both bailed out and both were safe. Minutes of the June 1953 meeting show that the Fire Company voted to have a Fourth of July Field Day. A motion was made by Charles Berry; seconded by Les Sutton that the Committee have **FOOL** power to administer this event.

## BLOOD BANK

The Fire Company joined with the Horton Hospital and had run a successful Blood Bank for many years. We have more recently joined with St. Paul's Catholic Church in running a Blood Bank together, alternating between the Church and Townley Hall, as

drawing stations. The hard work is done by the one in charge of getting the fellows out to give blood.

## **SOME MORE BITS & PIECES**

If it is a money raising scheme, name it and the Circleville Fire Company has used it - dances (inside, outside, block, round, square); card parties; programs for plays; parades; raffles; trips to ball games; fishing trips; suppers; clambakes; bond sales; fifty-fifty club; catering parties; selling fire extinguishers; garbage bags; auction sales; renting Townley Hall for elections; parties and other goings on. Square dances - some very successful ones were held in 1971 under the outside shelter at Townley Hall. The Historical Committee for the 10th year booklet, with one exception, is the same as for the 25th Anniversary. Earl Christiana replaced Frank Brown. The Committee also consisted of Paul Weisshaar, Chairman; Clarence Bergman; Rodney Gibbs; and Arthur Eustance. For the 100th anniversary, the 25th anniversary Historical Committee recommended a new committee to write the 100 year history.

## **HISTORY**

In 1972, an ending of a quarter century, our 25th Anniversary Parade was a nice day. The sun was shining on Circleville. Many fire companies attended that day and people lined Route 302. Dignitaries were at the reviewing stand in front of Key Bank across from the Circleville Inn. People were standing in front of the Circleville Inn and McCarey's store. Plenty of food and drink were served that day. The K.C. chicken box lunch was great. Before the parade ended, however, we were all saddened by the loss of one of Circleville Fire Company's members during the parade. Walt Hasbrouck had a heart attack and passed away on the way to the hospital. Walt was surely missed. He was a big part of getting the parade moving. Walt was in charge of the ad book; what a job he did selling ads! Walt loved the fire company and was always working to make it better. The years ahead saw a lot of changes in the Fire Company and Circleville. Our neighbor Bullville started its own Fire Company with the help of Circleville and New Milford, New Jersey Fire Company. Ron Nemetz, who was a member of Circleville, became Bullville's first chief. Ron was also past chief of the New Milford Fire Company. In August of 1985, the Fire Company under the direction of President Jim Shannon and First Assistant Chief, Art Schouten, purchased an extrication tool by raising \$7,200. and donating it to the Fire District. Twenty-five men were trained to use the tool. The Fire Company also donated a rescue truck to the Fire District by selling bonds. The truck and extrication tool were bought without tax money. The Fire Company and men hold

dances and raffles to buy things for the Fire District. Working together was always fun to help the taxpayer in the Circleville Fire District.

## **FIREMEN HIGHLIGHTS**

### **1973**

Attended Firemen's Day at the Orange County Fair in July. The Circleville Auxiliary takes first place in the Bucket Brigade. On August 14th, Fred Theadore and Jim Ten Kate stop by the Auxiliary meeting to present the winners of the Bucket Brigade Team with the winning buckets. Receiving awards were Dottie Judson, Bridie Mullin, Ronnie Davies, Fannie Jackson, Barbara Toner and Mary Petersen. A hoedown was held at the Townley Hall Pavilion again. Attended Annual Church Service at the Bullville Methodist Church. A garage fire at Davis Motors in Fair Oaks destroys \$2,000. worth of John Deere equipment. Circleville was assisted by the Bloomingburg Fire Company.

### **1974**

Voters turn out at Station #1 on Route 302 to vote on a Bond Issue to remodel the firehouse in Circleville. The largest turnout in the Fire District's history. The \$195,000. Bond Issue that was proposed was turned down by the voters. The critics of the proposal wanted the District to provide a substation in the Scotchtown area. Firemen and wives attended a weekend at the Homowack at Spring Glen. Firemen held a country and western jamboree at Townley Hall in June. Backhoe and construction machines are at Townley Hall to begin the new building. Townley Hall was torn down and all the footings are in for the new building. The Ladies Auxiliary is preparing a lot of meals for the the firemen once construction begins. Attended the June parade in Walden and won best appearing men's trophy. A bazaar was held in July and September was the last chance for an old-fashioned country hoedown.

### **1975**

Annual Dinner was held at the Circleville Inn with more than 100 men enjoying a corned beef and cabbage dinner prepared by Charlie Wagner. The "Fireman of the Year" was Howard Judson. The guest speaker was Ray Dulye, a member of the Monhagen Hose Company of Middletown. Softball practices start soon. Mugs being sold to honor the dedication of Circleville Station #2 and wetdown for the new pumper. A four-day fair was held by the Fire Company at Shaw's Field with children's rides, games and a pumping contest. An added attraction was pony rides and hayrides. In September, we took second place for less than 25 in line at the Monroe Parade. October, the Annual Church Service was held at the Scotchtown Presbyterian Church. The firemen

sponsored their second Annual Husband and Wife dinner in November. Interesting call....."snake in my house". Firemen John Hogan and Ed Bach respond to the woman's house. She says, "A snake is in there." Ed and John did not know what kind of snake it was....rattler, copperhead or moccasin. When John and Ed finally get the snake in a bag, along comes Jasper Briggs. "What kind of snake is this?" they ask. Jasper reached into the bag, pulled the snake out and tossed it at John and Ed....."milksnake", Jasper hooted.

## 1976

The Auxiliary, assisted by the firemen, held a 50's Dance at Townley Hall. A great time was had by all. The Annual Dinner was held at Townley Hall this year. Fireman of the Year for the second time was Jim Tolles. He also received it in 1969. A well-deserved award for a great man. A flag pole was installed at Station #2 in memory of deceased fireman, Ed Youngs. 200 Club tickets are out and tickets on sale for another hoedown under the pavilion at Townley Hall. Circleville receives two trophies on the same day in Montgomery. One was for the Hose Roll contest and the other for the Slowpokes as they finished 10th in the pump contest. Can't win them all! July is the Firemen's Fair at Shaw Field with an antique car show, pumping contest and lots of fun. Special guest was Donald Duck. Bingo on Monday nights. The new bucket brigade...Vince Bradatsch, Jim Tolles, Dan Brown, Jon Brown and others had to mop up water with buckets when the heating system gave way at the new Circleville Middle School. The water was hot enough to set off the automatic alarm. Job well done men. Chief Ten Kate was socializing with members of the Howells and Pine Bush fire companies. We don't know when Jim noticed his helmet gone, but on May 16th at 12 noon, Coordinator Jack Shoemaker returned the helmet to Jim. Keep your car locked Chief!

## 1977

Fireman of the Year was presented by Chief Gary Vander Schaaf. There were actually **two** Fireman of the Year awards. This was the first duplicate awards given by the Fire Company. Dan Brown and his brother, Jon were the honorees. Congratulations to both brothers! 30th Anniversary celebration at Townley Hall. Jimmy Sturr and polka band was there. Wooden nickels purchased a glass of beer or a hot dog. Dancing and good music was enjoyed. The Middletown Firemen's Parade in September. A farewell party was held in December for Herb and Marie Thompson of Decker Lane, who are relocating to South Carolina.

## 1978

Annual Dinner held at Townley Hall. At parade in Walden in June, we took first place

honors as best appearing group in third division. The second annual Polka Hop held under the stars at the Circleville Middle School's parking lot. Square dances held at Townley Hall. Annual Church Service at the Circleville Presbyterian Church in October. Circleville responds to a fire on Howard Drive to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Swensen. Michael Swensen stopped the spread of the fire by dousing it with a hose after a fire extinguisher failed to operate. The damage was limited to some electronic equipment and water and smoke damage. Circleville assists Silver Lake Fire Company at a Stevens Manor fire. One apartment was destroyed by the blaze.

## **1979**

We paraded in Callicoon in July; Hortonville in August and Middletown in September. Various firemen and their families started the annual camp out at the Red Barn Campgrounds, Hankins in connection with the Hortonville Parade. At the conclusion of the parade, a large barbeque cookout was held back at the campgrounds. Do-si-do at Townley Hall.

## **1980**

President Art Schouten announced a "Mortgage-Burning Party" at Townley Hall in February with a cocktail hour and a roast beef dinner and dancing. Townley Hall was **now** paid for. The Annual Dinner was held in April at Townley Hall. President Art Schouten presented Rudy Schneider with a handsome clock for his five years of service as Chairman of Townley Hall. Chief Fred Theadore presented Gary Vander Schaaf with a woodgrain clock for his eleven years of service to the Fire Company as a Line Officer. Gary also received a ceramic lamp from the Line Officers in appreciation for his untiring efforts as a leader of the Fire Company. Fireman of the Year was presented to Ed Downey. Paraded in Walden in June; Hortonville in August; Middletown in September.

## **1981**

Annual Dinner at Townley Hall in April. Firemen had an active softball team - played in a tournament and came in first place. Firemen entered a pump and ladder competition at Pine Bush and took second place. Won first class B trophy at the Pine Bush parade. The Annual Church Service was held in October at the Bullville Methodist Church.

## **1982**

Fire Police School was held at the Circleville Middle School. The 25th Annual Installation Dinner was attended by 180 members and guests at Townley Hall. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the bill of sale for a 1980 Chevrolet Rescue Truck purchased by the Fire Company's members through a special bingo fund. After it is lettered and properly equipped, it is hoped that it will be in service by

May. The Annual Dinner was prepared by Charles and Anne Wagner and served by the Circleville Drum Corps. In June, we took first place in the first division at the Walden Parade. At the pump contest, the team took third place. A clambake was held in August. There was a bed race in July - downtown Middletown. In October, the Annual Church Service was held at the Circleville Presbyterian Church.

## **1983**

New York State Association of Fire Chiefs' seminar held. April 16th, Annual Inspection for personnel and apparatus by Commissioners and Chiefs. At the July bed race in Middletown, we took second place. The 34th Annual Clambake was held at Townley Hall. Halloween Dance was held at Townley Hall. The Fire Company and Auxiliary put together a float: Save-a-Life; Learn CPR - had part of a car, telephone booth - showed hazardous materials, etc. The float had flags and a red banner around body of truck.

## **1985**

At a meeting in March, President Jim Shannon received a "surprise" happy birthday song from a Big Ape. The "birthday ape" was a surprise from Jim's sons: Kevin, Tim, Matt, Brian & Jimmy. Jim was a little embarrassed. Annual Dinner and installation of officers at Townley Hall in April. Host for the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs' Seminar at the Circleville Middle School. Engine #100 (1970 Mack) was refurbished.

## **1986**

At the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs' Convention at the Concord, found some of the firemen's wives trying on fur coats they will never wear again. Many new trucks on display for our men to look at. Vince Bradatsch and his "chicken barbeque crew" helped the Auxiliary at their barbeque this year. The Hortonville parade was in August. Again, many camped out for the weekend.

## **1987**

40th Anniversary held at the Brookside Manor. A white chef's hat was presented to Charles Wagner as he and Anne are moving to Florida. The Auxiliary presented the Chief with a big stuffed dog. The July 4th parade had extra companies and floats. Grand Marshall was Rodney Gibbs. Chief Dan Yanosh sees flames ripping through the whole house on Baker Road. The heat was so intense that it melted a lens off a fire engine parked more than 40 feet away. This was the first fatal fire in the Circleville Fire District in fifteen years. The fire started about 1:45 a.m. Nine fire companies from around the area assisted Circleville.

## 1988

The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs' Seminar held at the Circleville Middle School. There was a large turnout from the fire companies in Orange County. There was a 200 Plus or Minus Club. In November, a wetdown was held for Engine #102 at Townley Hall. The new storage building for Townley Hall was delivered.

## 1989

Annual Dinner at Townley Hall. A Memorial Monument received - to be placed at Station #1. The Maybrook parade was in July. 4th of July parade held in Circleville - battery-run cars, fire trucks, bikes and floats. A young boy named James Parker was the "guest of honor" for the parade. He was presented with a fireman's jacket that read "Future Fireman James". This was done as part of the organization "Make-a-Wish" for ill children. The Annual Church Service was at the Bullville Methodist Church. The dedication of the monument was held at Station #1 - the Firemen's Prayer was recited. A New Year's Eve party was held at Townley Hall.

## 1994

President Bob Doremus presented Ken Yereance with the Fireman of the Year award at the Annual Dinner. Bob also presented Jim Shannon with a Life Member's plaque. Jim becomes the second Life Member, joining Gerry Vander Schaaf who was the first Life Member.

## 1995

In May, one of our fireman had a close call with death. A benefit dance was held for him and his family. One thousand dollars was raised. Music was donated by Joe Urbanski. A job well done Circleville! Gary Vander Schaaf says yes he will again be Chief. Second time around. Gary had the pleasure of presenting the Fireman of the Year award to his son, Scott this year. What a proud moment! Jim Ten Kate and Dan Yanosh win the horseshoe contest at the Firemen's Home in Hudson, New York. A good time was had by all who attended. The cheering squad was Shirley Ten Kate, Dottie Sutton, Jim Shannon, Ken and Lydia Yereance and Elsie Webber.

## 1996

Vince Bradatsch becomes the fourth Life Member of the Circleville Fire Company. Ron Olin takes on the Chairmanship for our 50th Anniversary. Ron's committee consists of Chief Gary Vander Schaaf; Fred Theadore; Dan Yanosh; Larry Lynch; Dennis Salvucci; Jim Shannon and Ray Cramer. Big job ahead!!!

The 4th of July parade was a lot of fun. There were firemen walking up the parade route

handing out gifts to the adults and children alike.

## **1997- OUR 50TH YEAR!**

The Fire Company had many activities planned for the year. We started out in March with the Annual Fire Company dinner. It was held at The Town of Wallkill Golf Club banquet hall which is in the Circleville Fire District. On that night we honored four of the five Charter members who could be present. Arthur Andrews lives in California and was unable to attend. In attendance was Chief Clarence Bergman (the Fire Company's first Chief); Richard Bull; Clarkson Cortright and Walter Lowerre. These gentlemen were part of the forty-eight original members who started the Fire Company. You often wonder if their visions of the Fire Company is anything near what the Fire Company is today.

Also honored at the Annual Dinner was Kenneth Yereance for 46 years of active service & James TenKate for 43 years of active service. Henry Russell was the "Fireman of the Year" and Raymond Bedford, Sr. was the "Social Member of the Year". One hundred sixty-three members and guests enjoyed the evening.

April saw the Fire Company and Auxiliary attend a memorial service at Station #1, with a church service at the Circleville Presbyterian church followed by a brunch at the Church Hall.

In June, the Fire Company hosted a "White Hat Party" with neighboring Chiefs and Past Chiefs. All enjoyed a night of fun and food at Townley Hall.

The Auxiliary hosted a night of fun for other auxiliaries in June which was held at Townley Hall.

On Father's Day, we hosted our Annual Pancake Breakfast and on July 4th, it was Circleville's Annual Parade. The parade was a huge success with many local fire companies joining us in the parade from the Middle School to the Town Park. A nice warm day found many people watching and applauding the floats, bike and motorcycle riders, fire trucks and other festivities along the parade route.

In September, approximately twenty members and their spouses enjoyed a weekend at Fernwood Resort in the Poconos. The beautiful weekend was enjoyed by dining, playing golf, socializing, more dining, flea markets, yard sales, more golf and more dining. Also, the evacuation of one building on the last day of our stay because of an LP gas leak left some of our members in the parking lot without their luggage. The potential disaster was quickly taken care of and no one was harmed.

The year 1997 was very busy for all of the members. In addition to all the social activities that were planned, the Fire Company attended three parades, responded to 240 alarms to help our community, held Bingo every Monday night for nine months and attended the required work details, drills and firematic schools.

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