

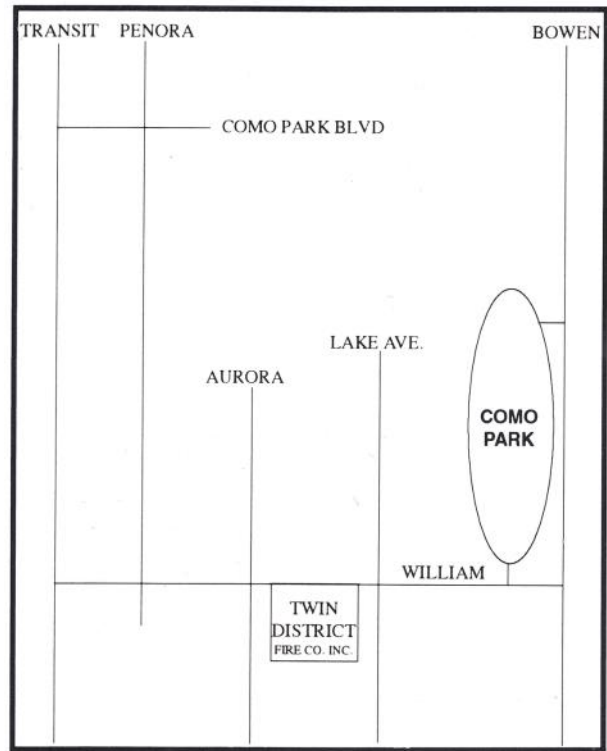
— Our History —

The Twin District Volunteer Fire Company began in the early 1940's when several men in the area reacted to the unsatisfactory performance of the South End Fire Company on Aurora Street. The South End Company had not been answering calls, and neighbors of the William and Aurora Streets community took steps to form their own company. Among the first members were Arthur Peters, Lester Moore, Albert Snyder, John Olsen, Joseph Hoerner, Norman Pfeil, Jerome Radamacher, Emery Cardinal, Walter Samulski, and Norman Petri. These are the names of the original incorporation papers.

At their first official meeting, at the District Seven Schoolhouse on October 21, 1942, the members were warned that the Lancaster South End Fire Company would take action against the company for interfering. "If they wish to continue they will encounter trouble," was the warning sent to the founders. Despite this threat the members voted to carry out their plans.

The Lancaster Town Board did not get involved in the dispute, as it had no grounds for dissolving South End, or preventing the formation of Twin District. Nor was a merge feasible, as neither party desired that solution.

The men continued to meet and discuss the future of their new fire hall. The meetings were held in Norm Petri's service station, on the corner of William and Aurora streets. The members voted for incorporation in 1942, and made arrangements with the Town of Lancaster to begin a fire company that would protect the area between Bowen road on the east, Transit road on the west, Hall road on the south and Como Park boulevard on the north. In that same year the first officers were elected, an account was opened at the Citizen's National Bank of Lancaster, and the members retained legal advisement. Listed in the minutes of the first meeting are the original officers: A. Radamacher, President; E. Cardinal, Vice President; W. Samulski and A. Gajewski, Secretaries; N. Petri, Treasurer.



District Area



Two of our original members — Casey Samulski and Walter Samulski

Certificate of incorporation of Twin District Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., pursuant to the membership corporation law.

1. The name of the proposed corporation shall be Twin District Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

2. The purpose or purposes for which it is to be formed are as follows: The organization and maintenance of a volunteer fire company to protect the district in which it is to be formed by the prevention, control and fighting of fires.

Its plan of operations shall be to further provide a suitable place for the meeting of its members, the establishment of facilities for social and recreational purposes.

To hold, transfer and convey all and any real and personal property that may be necessary for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation; and to do whatever properly may be incidental to such purpose.

3. The territory in which its operations are principally to be conducted is as follows;

ALL THAT TRACT or parcel of land situated in that portion of the Town of Lancaster, County of Erie and State of New York bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of intersection of the east line of Transit Road at its intersection with the south line of the Village of Depew, N. Y.; running thence south along said east line of Transit Road to the south line of the Town of Lancaster, N. Y. thence easterly along the said south line of said Town of Lancaster to the west line of Bowen Road; thence northerly along said west line of Bowen Road to the center of Cayuga Creek, thence westerly along said center line of Cayuga Creek to the easterly line of the Village of Lancaster, thence southerly along said east line of the Village of Lancaster to the south line of said Village of Lancaster, thence westerly along said

south line of the Village of Lancaster to the west line of said Village, thence northerly along said west line of said Village to the south line of the Village of Depew, thence westerly along the south line of the Village of Depew, to the point of beginning.

4. Its office is to be located in the Town of Lancaster, County of Erie and State of New York.

5. The number of its directors shall be ten.

6. The names and residences of the directors until the first annual meeting are as follows:

Name	Residence
Arthur Peters	William St. Lancaster, N. Y.
Lester Moore	Aurora Road, Lancaster, N. Y.
Albert Snyder	William St. Lancaster, N. Y.
John Olsen	Aurora Road Lancaster, N. Y.
Joseph Herner	Aurora Road, Lancaster, N. Y.
Norman Pfeil	Aurora Road, Lancaster, N. Y.
Jerome A. Radmacher	Aurora Road, Lancaster, N. Y.
Emery Cardinal	Aurora Road, Lancaster, N. Y.
Walter Samulski	Lake Ave., Lancaster, N. Y.
Norman Petrie	Aurora Road, Lancaster, N. Y.

7. That all of the subscribers to the certificate are of full age; that at least two thirds of them are citizens of the United States; that at least one of them is a resident of the State of New York and that of the persons named as directors, at least one is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have made, subscribed and acknowledged this certificate in duplicate this 10th day of December, 1942

Norman Petrie

Joseph H. Herner

Jerome A. Radmacher

Emery Cardinal

Walter Samulski

Norman Petrie

Arthur G. Peters

Lester Moore

Albert Snyder

John Olsen

I, the undersigned, do hereby approve the foregoing certificate of incorporation of Twin District Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., which is to be located in the eighth judicial district of the State of New York.

Dated December 14th, 1942

[Signature]
Justice of the Supreme Court

We the undersigned, being a majority of the members comprising the Town Board of the Town of Lancaster, N. Y. do hereby consent to the formation of the foregoing membership corporation, to be known as Twin District Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.,.

Dated December 12th, 1942

[Signature]
Supervisor

[Signature]
Councilman

[Signature]
Councilman

STATE OF NEW YORK

Farmers' Association of State of New York

ORGANIZED OCTOBER FIRST 1872



We the undersigned President and Secretary of the Farmers Association of State of New York

DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT

Twin District Volunteer Fire Co. Inc. of Lancaster
Eric County, New York

having complied with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, is entitled to the rights and privileges given therein.

In Testimony Whereof, we have set our hands, and affixed the seal of the Association, this 29th day of June 1964

[Signature]
SECRETARY



[Signature]
PRESIDENT



1st Row: Joe Hoerner, Frank Habitzreuther, Art Peters, Emery Cardinal, Frank Schweers, Bill Aldrich, Joe Logel, unknown, Teddy Cardinal, George Schultz, John Schwartz. 2nd Row: Richard Schmitt, John Olsen, Norm Rozler, Roy Muetel, Stan Keysa Sr., Brownie Gajewski, unknown, unknown, Joe Dunnigan, Charlie Truer, Laverne Lorentz, Mr. Blair, Artie Muetel, Bill Landahl, Mr. Mahalski.

The next main concern of the firemen was to secure land and build a firehouse. Three sites were considered, all of them located on William Street. Mr. Norm Petri, a Twin District fireman, offered to lease a portion of his land, Mr. John Jerge, also a fireman, proposed to donate one acre to the fire company, and Mr. Bippert offered the largest piece of land, but the terms of obtaining said land were unknown. Southeast Lancaster was farmland, and most residents struggled to maintain a minimum standard of living. For obvious economical reasons, Mr. Jerge's generous donation was accepted.

The original structure was a small wood building which was moved to the present site from the premises of Mr. Arthur Peters. Mr. Joe Lorentz transported the structure with his steamer. (Both men were original firemen.) The telephone and electric wires had to be lifted to accommodate the barn, (the police didn't ap-

preciate that!) The building had one stall and no heat. In fact, the water in the tank of the 1936 Chevrolet pumper froze one winter.

The firemen began raising funds for a new building. They collected loans and donations, and held picnics, card parties and dances. By July 7, 1943, the foundation was dug for the new building. Money was also raised for other necessities, such as a siren, and a truck. The picnics raised the largest amounts of money for the firehall, and an equally proportional amount of time went into planning them. The minutes of a meeting from 1944 contains this passage: "A lengthy discussion on the price of hot dogs, it was finally placed at fifteen cents for good wieners, charcoal broiled." Twin District also gained a reputation for "one of the best clam chowders in the country." Twin District chowder was an integral part of every picnic, and the minute books from the 40's and 50's are

brimming with references to this potent amalgamation. Many firemen were honored with being the caretakers of this soup including John Schwartz, Floyd Wendel, A. Kidder, Joe Hoerner, and J. Costello. The first picnic was held at Broadway Park, on Broadway in Depew, but from 1947 on they were held on the grounds around the hall. Firemen gave not only their time, but some years had to throw five dollars into the picnic pot. Unfortunately the picnics ended in the early 1960's due to a lack of interest and manpower.

As early as 1943, the men of Twin District had the operation running smoothly. They built a hall, acquired a truck, and were responding to calls. The first truck was a 1936 Chevrolet which was assembled piece-meal by the members. The engine and chassis were purchased for \$150 and the body for \$25. Several firemen built the wooden tank, and years later it was lined with sheet metal. The truck was also an open cab, and unfortunately, back in 1948, Ed Dunnigan nearly lost his scalp on the cab when the brakes failed, and the truck crashed en route to an Elma fire. The firemen also dug a

water hole on the premises, and from it water was drawn to fill the tank of the truck, (as they had no running water from the town out in the

CONSTITUTION

and

BY-LAWS



TWIN DISTRICT Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

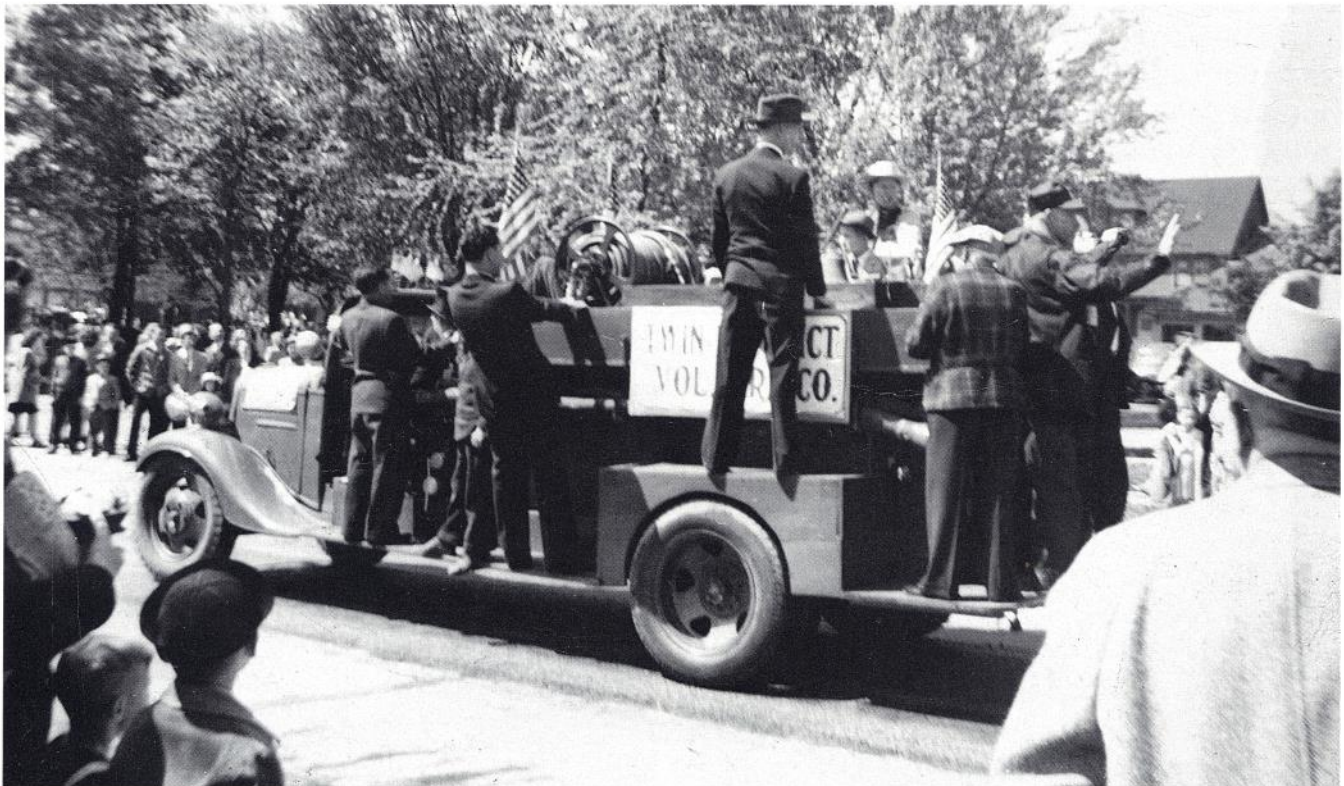
LANCASTER, N. Y.



ORGANIZED OCTOBER 1942

These By-Laws amended by the following Committee in April 11, 1960:

JOHN COSTELLO
WM. ZIELINSKI
AL NOWAKOWSKI
FRED GAJEWSKI



Early Parade



1930's Pierce Arrow, 1951 Ford, 1948 Chevrolet

ies kept everyone busy every weekend of the summer. Firemen would travel to another company, march in their parade, and have a social gathering back at the host's hall. These events brought in money and support for the fire hall, and all members were requested to march. In the 40's and 50's field days were held frequently, and the presidents and chiefs of the company were adamant about attendance. When in 1950, Joe Hoerner was interrogated about missing a parade he replied, "it rained pitchforks and hoe handles!"

The firemen of Twin District, as volunteers, donated their time to fight fires and protect the community. They gave even more time to the creation and maintenance of the company, and what little time and money they had left, was given freely. They sponsored a bowling team at St. Mary's, planted four hundred Norwegian Maple seedlings around Lancaster, sponsored a Drum Corps in the late 1950's (the instruments cost approximately \$1000), constructed a baseball diamond, and assisted the Boy Scouts.



TOWN OF LANCASTER
(This application must be made out in duplicate)

Lancaster, N. Y., Feb. 24, 1948

To the Town Board and Board of Highway Superintendents of the Town of Lancaster, N. Y.
Pursuant to the provisions of the zoning ordinance of said Town, application is hereby made for permission

- To alter move enlarge use a ONE story CONCRETE BLOCK building FIRE HALL AND COMMUNITY HOUSE (Type of construction) 16 ft. high gasoline pumps
- on the front of premises known as 4929 WILLIAM street road located in the LOT # 85 TOWNSHIP 10 RANGE 6 business district residence industrial
- Size of building 40 ft. wide 60 ft. long ONE story 16 ft. high area 2400 square feet.
- On lot 94 ft. wide 465.89 ft. deep, area 1 acre square-foot.
- Location of lot SOUTH side ft. EAST of AURORA street road
- The following other buildings are, or will be located on lot: _____, size ft. wide _____ ft. long, _____ story, _____ ft. high, area _____ square ft.
- Number of families to be housed on premises: _____
- Sketch map on back page, showing dimensions of the proposed building, its reference to street and side lines and distance from buildings on adjoining lots is hereby made a part of this application.
- If such permit is granted, applicant agrees that the provisions of the zoning ordinance of the Town of Lancaster, and all other ordinances that may be applicable, will be complied with, and that such permit will expire and be of no effect, at the expiration of six months from the date of the granting thereof.

Name and Address of Contractor _____
Name and Address of Owner TWIN DIST. VOL. FIRE CO. WILLIAM ST. LANCASTER, N. Y.
Roy C. Meutel Ch. Kelly Owner
Signature of Owner

Permit, above requested Granted Denied the 25th day of Feb., 1948.

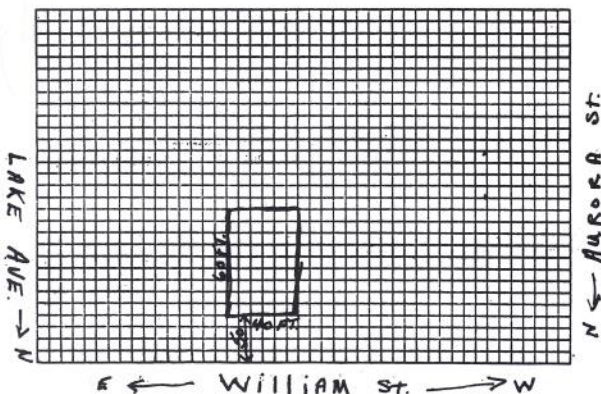
subject to the conditions of the zoning ordinance of the Town of Lancaster, N. Y., and all other ordinances that may be operative.

Clay E. Bradley (1920)
Town Clerk

The denial, if so manifested above, is based on a violation of Section _____ of the zoning ordinance, as follows:

FOUNDATION POURED CONCRETE, PLUMBING,
SEPTIC TANK, PRESENT WELL
ESTIMATED COST - \$10,000

SKETCH MAP
(To be drawn to scale—1 square equals 10 ft)



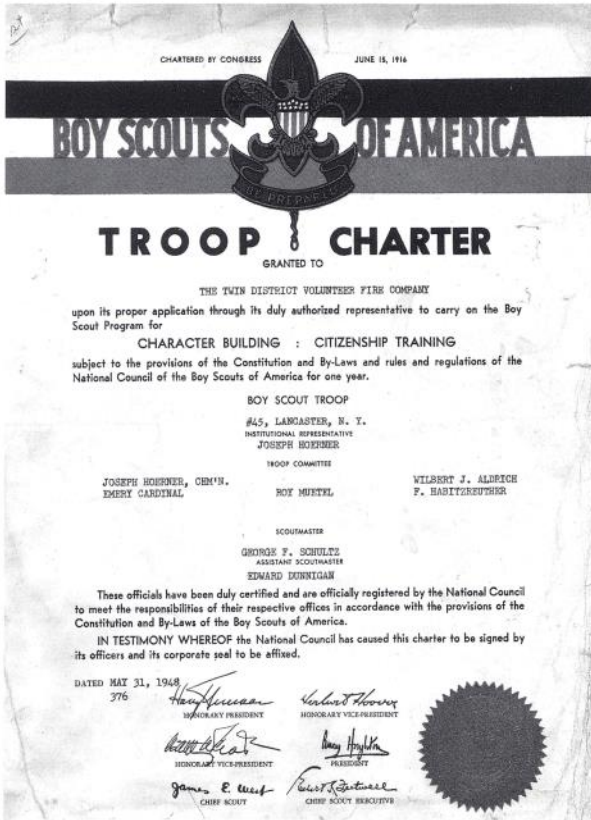
Boy Scout troop 545 had their first meeting May 12, 1948, with George Schultz as the Scoutmaster. The company's first benevolent gesture was the donation of a flag, and in 1952, Roy Meutel and George Schultz built the scout's log cabin that still stands on the southwest corner of the property.

On June 3, 1946 the firemen extended a hand once again. Lester Moore invited the women to use the fire hall, and gave them \$100 to start the Ladies Auxiliary. The ladies and the firemen had a symbiotic relationship, donating money back and forth whenever the other has needed it.

Firemen possess the intrinsic quality of altruism, and besides helping the community around them, they also cared for each other. In the old days, if a member was in need, the men chipped in and gave a donation. In 1955 it was voted unanimously to award surviving families of deceased firemen monetary benefits. At that time it was \$160. In 1950, the "Sunshine Club was formed to take care of sick members, presenting cigarettes, [medical science has obviously advanced], fruit baskets or flowers." The company has always been a team, working together, whether the adversary was fire, sickness, or the waterball and tug-of-war competitions at field days.

The firemen of Twin District did their best to develop a ready, responsive, dependable company to take the place of the fading South End Fire Company. Both companies were tested regularly, for attendance at drills. By 1950 South End could no longer keep acceptable response times, as they had only five remaining members. Twin District offered a merge at this time

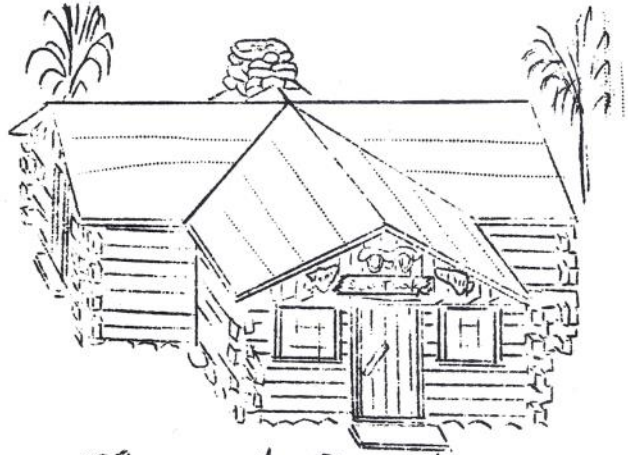




Original charter for Troop #45

TROOP 45

Sponsored by
 The Twin District Vol. Fire Co. Inc.
 -4985 William St
 Lancaster N.Y.



Scout Lodge

Started 1949 Dedicated 1952





1953 Photo—1st Row: John Schwartz, Tom McPartlan, Frank Habitzreuther, Hank Gajewski, Joe Hoerner, Frank Schweer, William Landahl. 2nd Row: John Rogacki, Norm Armstrong, George Schultz, Ray Lesiowski, Barney Gajewski, Art J. Peters, Art G. Peters, Joe Dunnigan, John Olson, Pete Merkwa, Oley Olson, Ed Myska.

but the other company was unwilling. The Lancaster Town Board was unable to disband the South End company, but they did stop giving them money. Ultimately in September of 1950 the Town Board signed an exclusive contract with Twin District, which gave them \$700 for that year. Within two years the company had negotiated a contract with the town of Cheektowaga for protecting the “no man’s land” west of Transit road. The contracts had steadily increased in value through the years. By 1960 the company received \$5000.

In November of 1947 Twin District joined the Erie County Volunteer Firemen’s Association. In the next year the company had its own Fire Police, and the Mutual Aid program was started. Regular drills were exercised with neighboring fire companies. In 1950 the town of Lancaster began offering training courses in first aid, but actual first aid service commenced in 1970 with Ray David and Ray Ewert as Twin District’s first Emergency Medical Technicians.

The technical changes in firefighting have been many over the last fifty years. For example, the first siren system employed consisted of one siren mounted on the roof of Norm



Waterball

TWIN DISTRICT VOL. FIRE COMPANY PICNIC

.....
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
 JULY 30th, - 31st**

Parade Sunday - 4 p.m. sharp

**Twin District Grounds
 4999 William St., Lancaster**

●
 Homemade Clam Chowder

●
 Refreshments Games

●
 Kiddie-Rides

country!) A fence was erected around the water hole; they worried about lawsuits even in the 40's.

There were a few bumps along the relatively even timeline: vandals drained the water from the truck; the town refused to plow the driveway in the winter months, (they didn't have to), and this was to be a source of contention for years; and their first major fire was a disaster. The fire report of May 6, 1946 read: "Fire at Depew Airport. Police notified. No water at scene. Traffic situation terrible and no police patrol to control it." The firemen had to push cars off the road in order to get to the fire, because Transit Road was only a double lane.

In the early days, the fire company developed an important social aspect. Although the company had a rigid organizational structure, (with fines imposed for speaking out of turn, or

swearing, both 25¢, and a \$5 fine for drinking at social events), the men had a good time. After one meeting, refreshments were served — spaghetti, rabbit, and beer — and "a good time was had by all." The firehall was composed of active members and social members, and the latter group played an important role in the development of the company, as they raised much needed capital. In the 40's (and later) active and social members alike raised funds for a new building, a new truck, and a siren system. Various fundraisers were held, such as a radio raffle, a Christmas toy sale, gambling (the police didn't interrupt any games), and other events.

In March of 1948, it was suggested at one of the meetings that the company be district owned, in order to be funded for a new building, but the staunch firemen refused to relinquish their autonomy, and to this date have still retained it. Instead, they continued to hold raffles, card parties, and picnics, and one of the firemen, Mr. Alfred Kneitzbender donated one ton of coal to be raffled for the benefit of the truck fund (it was won by Mrs. O'Grady of Clark Street). A wide array of miscellany was raffled: tire chains, cases of whiskey, etc. As the minutes of a meeting of July 1948 stated, the men began "canvassing for donations for clam chowder," at times they would even raffle the chowder off, after concocting it from the donations of the community.

Marching in parades was also a major happening for the firemen of Twin District. The "Field Days" of western New York fire compan-



Petri's garage. The police would call the garage and Mr. Petri would sound the alarm. Later they added two more sirens, one on the corner of Bowen and Brunck, and another on Transit. Now all firemen have their own pagers. With today's technology and transportation, response times to calls are faster. The firemen of 1949 were pleased with their nine and one-half minute response to a call one and one-half miles away, (and they had blue lights too — they were first legal that year).

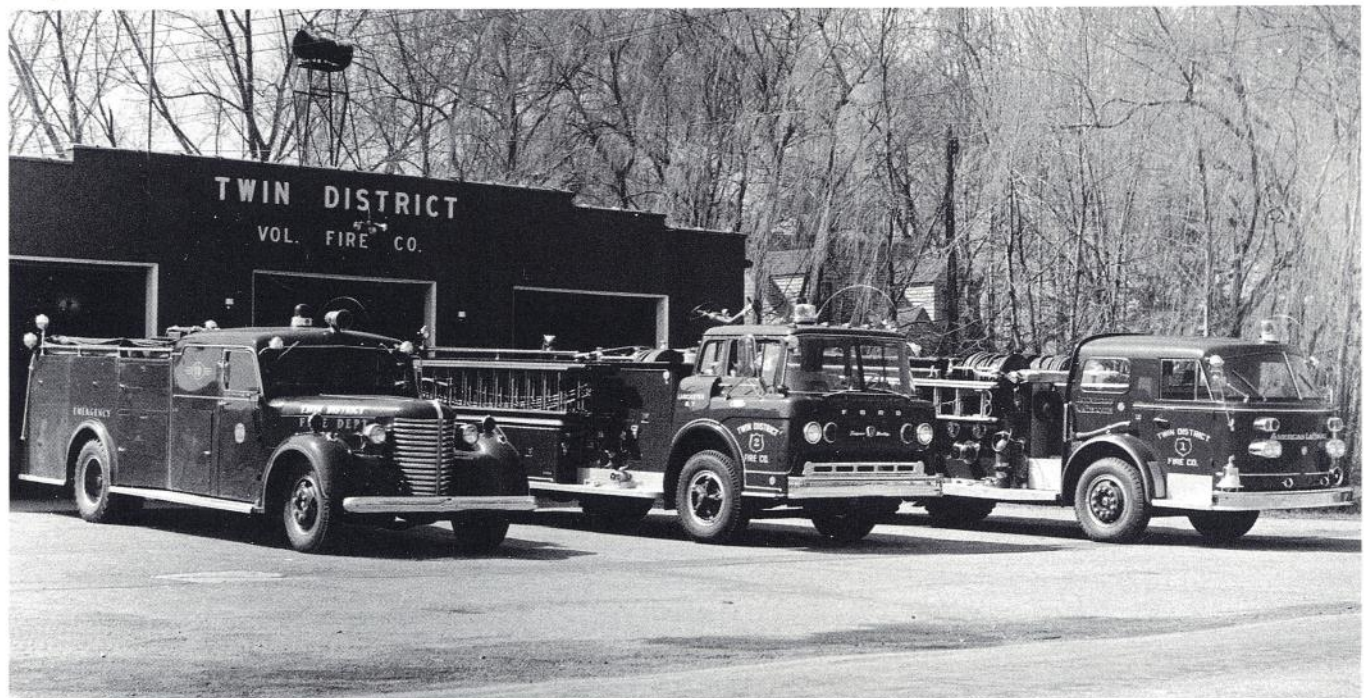
The second truck purchased, in 1948, was a brand new Chevrolet truck, for \$1800 at one percent interest. Subsequent to that, a 1945 Buffalo was purchased, as well as a 1951 Ford. After that a four wheel drive Dodge grass truck was obtained for the inexhaustible rash of grass fires in the area. The district was mainly farmland, and dry grass caught fire regularly, in fact one week in the mid 40's recorded eleven. The firemen burned grass frequently in attempts to prevent fires.

Several other fires stand out in the minds of the "oldtimers". There was a fire at Mr. Ulatowski's barn on Didion Rd. in the late 1950's. The old timers claimed that they "had the cows back by six o'clock, cleaned them up a bit and put them back in the barn so he could milk

them." The firemen of 1952 also saved the historical Huff's house on the corner of William and Bowen. Later that decade, at a fire at the Lancaster Country Club, which destroyed the building, a refrigerator was left standing, the firemen opened the door and out came a fully cooked roast beef.



George Schultz and Angeline, his wife, Joe Logel and Clara, his wife.



1945 Buffalo, 1967 Ford, 1964 American LaFrance

The equipment of today consists of a 1967 Ford 1000 gallon per minute pumper, as well as a 1977 Ford purchased brand new for \$49,516. In 1979 a Chevrolet Suburban was purchased to replace the "Banana truck", a 1963 Chevrolet step van. These trucks were used as Emergency vehicles. The company also has a 1985 Pierce engine and a Pierce mini-pumper, both purchased through the Churchville Fire Equipment Company. The Pierce engine cost \$115,880 and a loan was acquired for \$96,000. The vehicles now in service replaced a 1946 Buffalo, a 1964 American LaFrance, purchased brand new, and a 1967 Young, also purchased new. These trucks lasted twenty years before being replaced.

In September of 1947, the members began working on plans for a new building. They estimated the costs to be \$10,000. In 1950 the loan was rejected, so the members were forced to decide to build themselves or obtain funds by some other means. The company opted to build the structure themselves. They spent \$1,200 to buy material, and they canvassed the district for loans and donations. The men also made an agreement to contribute either 40 hours or \$40.00 to the construction, the total cost was under \$4,000.



1963 Chevrolet "Banana"

ALDEN HOOK & LADDER FIRE COMPANY, Inc.

ALDEN, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK



President
Twin District Fire Company
Lake Avenue
Lancaster, New York 14086

Dear Sir,

This letter is to act as a bill of sale for one 1963 Chevrolet step van truck, which we sold to the Twin District Fire Company, for the sum of \$750.00. This sale was finalized in the month of March, 1974.

The members of the Alden Fire Company hope that this truck will suit your needs and thank you for purchasing the truck from us.

Firesatically yours,
Edmund B. Chapman

Edmund Chapman
President
Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Co.

Member of
Lancaster Fire Council, Inc.
New York State Volunteer Firemen's Association
Erie County Volunteer Firemen's Association
South Western Volunteer Firemen's Association
Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association
Rescue Squad - Member of
Erie County Rescue and First Aid Association
10 April 1974



1964 American LaFrance, 1945 Buffalo



Above: Truck dedication for 1964 American LaFrance.
Below: Schiffler house fire 1968



In 1970 the company expanded the size of the engine house to include four bays. A mortgage was obtained through M&T Trust Co. for the sum of \$45,000 to cover construction costs, and the loan was paid off by 1976. The first fifty foot addition to the hall was built in 1957 and 1958 by the members, and the Bingo hall addition was built in 1979. A local company was contracted at the cost of \$121,750. In 1982, a recreation room was built by the members.

In 1974, Twin District voted to purchase the lot next to the hall on the west side. A committee headed by fireman John Raichel obtained the land from the estate of Ameen Zaidan for the price of \$8500. The land's history is a varied one. It changed hands fifty-one times since the early 1800's Owned first by Wilhem Willink, it was transferred to the Seneca Indian Nation as part of a peace treaty in 1826. It also belonged to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Louis in 1941; finally Twin District owned it in 1974. A one and one-half story home stood on the site at the time of purchase, but the fire company burned it as part of a drill, (and found out that it was illegal to do so after the fact.)

Other accomplishments were made in the 1970's. In '76 and '77 the playground recreation area was built. Consequently, there was a dispute with the town of Lancaster because the fire company refused to sign a contract allowing the use of the company's property for town recreation purposes. In June of 1979, the #3 Engine (1945 Buffalo) was sold to Mr. Schigtel for \$1,027.89. Bingo started as a full time fundraising activity in 1973. In fact, it has become the top fundraising activity of the company. Previously, the members held country western dances, Fifties dances, Halloween parties, Christmas parties, and they rented the hall out for private affairs. These events paid for the construction done to the hall in the late 1970's. Now Bingo is the only money generating activity, and in 1991 the company purchased a new Bingo machine.

The winter of 1976 foreshadowed the coming blizzard of the next year. The company pumped out basements in the district for five days after an ice storm. During the famous Blizzard of 1977, the firemen were extremely busy. They were on call twenty-four hours a day for five days. Several members slept at the hall to assist the fifteen to twenty stranded motorists who stayed at the hall for a few days. The firemen also delivered food and medical supplies to area residents via snowmobile and four wheel drive truck. The recreation room had also been used as a snowmobile repair station for a few days. Several members made an extraordinary effort in the rescue of a brother fireman. Joe Dunnigan went into cardiac arrest during the blizzard, and he was transported by snowmobile and pulled on a toboggan to Blossom Fire hall, where he was then taken to the hospital.



Blizzard of 1977



Pump on New Firemen's Truck Is Inspected. The annual inspection of fire equipment and fire companies included the dedication of the Twin District Volunteer Fire Co. building and new truck in Lancaster.

Truck Dedications



Fr. Dave Kirsch blessed truck, July 1977



1977 Ford



1979 Chevrolet Rescue Wagon



1985 Pierce Truck Dedication

Jr.'s

The fire company moved forward with the decade of the eighties, and in January 1980 the Junior Firemen program started. Among the original junior firemen were Bill Chiro, Lynn Bulera, Denise David, Laurie Mikula, Jill Raichel, Tim Raichel, Jenny Rozler, Steve Rozler, Patti Scroger, and Ron Rozler. The youths were advised by Jim Chiro and Jim Rozler, and the program was developed to continue the tradition of being a firefighter, and instill a sense of civic responsibility with the youths.



1st Row: Lynn Bulera, Denise David. 2nd Row: Bill Chiro, Laurie Mikula, Steve Rozler, Jennifer Rozler, Ron Rozler, Jill Raichel, Tim Raichel.



Twin District Fire Chief Ray David introduces a junior firemen's training class to some of the operations of one of the department's pumpers. From left are Lynn Bulera, Denise David, Ron Rozler, and Patti Scroger.



THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS OFFERED BY COUNCILMAN BERENT, WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GRZYBOWSKI, TO WIT:

WHEREAS, pursuant to provisions of Section 204(b) of the General Municipal Law, the establishment of and operation and maintenance of youth programs by volunteer fire departments and companies require authorization of the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, the Twin District Volunteer Fire Co., Inc., has requested authorization to establish a Junior Fireman Program, which falls within the purview of said section, and

WHEREAS, Twin District Volunteer Fire Company has provided the Town Board with its program, evidence of the adoption of the program and other supporting documentation, approved by the Town Attorney,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That Twin District Volunteer Fire Company's Junior Fireman Program be and hereby is authorized by the Town Board of the Town of Lancaster in accordance with Section 204(b) of the General Municipal Law, conditional upon the following:

- a) That all approvals for membership be forwarded to the Town Board with parental/guardian consents attached thereto;
- b) That the Junior Fireman Program be operated in strict accordance with the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Fire Company and within the directive set forth in Section 204(b).

2. That the Town Clerk furnish said fire company with a certified copy of this resolution.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

COUNCILMAN BARNHARDT	WAS ABSENT
COUNCILMAN BERENT	VOTED YES
COUNCILMAN CZAPLA	VOTED YES
COUNCILMAN GRZYBOWSKI	VOTED YES
SUPERVISOR KEYSA	VOTED YES

The resolution was thereupon unanimously adopted.

July 7, 1980

Teens Join Lancaster Fire Team

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Courier-Express Staff Reporter

Inspired partly by a desire to carry on family tradition and partly by a desire to help Lancaster firefighters fight fires, seven teen-agers are becoming Twin District junior firefighters.

"So far we have seven who have signed up — four girls and three boys — but we are hoping to attract some more," explained Twin District Chief Raymond David. So far the squad includes Steven and his brother Roland Rozler, William Chiro, Lynn Bulera, Laurie Mikula, Patricia Scroger and Darlene Pruski.

The junior firefighters are 15, 16 and 17 and have been issued helmets, coats and boots.

"They won't actually go into buildings to fight fires, although they could help us put out a grass fire," David said. "But they will be tending hoses and helping us clean up after the big fires. They will also work to maintain the equipment.

First Aid Lessons

The junior firefighters will also learn first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The chief will be in charge of training the junior firefighters — who are joining their fathers in the fire company.

"They will ride to fires on the rescue trucks but we will teach them how to work the pumpers and take care of the hoses," the chief said.

The junior team will hold meetings and elect officers. They will follow certain rules

such as leaving the fire hall at 4999 William St. by 10:30 p.m. or one hour after the band starts at special banquets.

"Basically the kids will be running their own shot, although we will offering the training and a little guidance," David said.

Son Joining

Buffalo Police Officer James Chiro is a member of the fire company. His son, William, 15, is joining his father at the fire hall.

"The kids seem to be excited about the whole thing and we hope that they will stay with us after they reach 18 and are able to become full-time firefighters," Chiro said.

The kids will also learn first-hand the tragic effects of fires and the company officers are hopeful that they will spread the word and help prevent fires from happening in the first place, Chiro added.



COURIER-EXPRESS/BOB BUKATY

Chief Raymond David

Laurie Mikula Lynn Bulera

Steve Rozler Williams Chiro

Ronald Rozler

Brian Bulera

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS — Although 5-year-old Brian Bulera is still too young for Lancaster's Twin District junior fire fighter program, he insisted on checking out the

coat and hat. The other young people have now officially joined the company and will receive training under the watchful eye of Chief Raymond David.

Once again misfortune befell the company when in 1980, the Emergency 7-1 truck was stolen twice in six weeks, and the hall was broken into. It appears that records were stolen, or misplaced from the attic when renovation occurred. Consequently, there are large gaps in this document.

This fiftieth anniversary history was first thought up when Tom Bulera and Stan Nowakowski attended Millgrove's anniversary celebration in 1981. They suggested that Twin District begin planning their 50th anniversary activities. Eleven years later (!), the company planned festivities and this book, and overall Twin District is still going strong. The company now holds an Easter Egg Hunt each spring, a Halloween party, and a Santa visit (via fire truck) to the children of the community. Twin District continues to sponsor Boy Scouts and Brownies, and each year they hold an open house. After making their last payments on the new truck and the hall, the members held a mortgage burning party in 1990, and since then have been debt-free.





1991 was marked by another great accomplishment in the history of the company. The firemen fought for a Service Awards program that was being implemented in many companies across the state. Through the determination and hard work of a committee headed by Paul Pijanowski, the Service Awards were obtained providing retirement benefits for volunteer firemen. The small monthly amount is based on years of service and compliance with a point system. The Service Awards program commenced when the state legislature passed the proposal in September of 1988. Two years later the firemen of Twin District formed a committee to study the possibilities of receiving these benefits. To attain greater leverage in negotiating with the town of Lancaster, John Raichel and Paul Pijanowski merged with George MacPeck and Carl Meyers of Bowmansville, and Norm Weber and John Weisbeck of Townline. The committee worked with the town board and selected an insurance carrier. On December 30, 1991 a referendum was held and the voters passed the program. As of January of this year, 1992, the town has budgeted money and the program is operational.

Twin District has provided a necessary and valuable community service for fifty years, growing from a one stall barn to a large building; from one home-made truck to several state-of-the-art trucks. Throughout the years membership has remained constant, and it is due to the effort of the members that the company has progressed and will continue to in the future.



1st Row: John Raichel, Arthur Owczarek, Keith Curry, Raymond Ewert, Edward Myszka, Karen Bulera, James Murphy, Walter Raichel, Walter Mikula.

2nd Row: James N. Offhaus, Andrew Harhigh, Michael Jablonski, Philip Carcaci, Stanley Nowakowski, Marshall Faul, Raymond Dayid, Christopher Wesolek, Robert Klaiber, Paul Pijanowski, Gregory Offhaus.

3rd Row: Thomas M. Bulera, Timothy Malone, Thomas E. Bulera, Michael Curran, Susan Wesolek, James Rozler, James M. Offhaus, James Nowakowski, Michael Satko.

OUR MEMBERS1992.....

*Charles Ashton
Brian Bulera
Thomas M. Bulera
Michael Curran
Raymond David
Andrew Harhigh
Robert Klaiber
Mark Mahony
James Murphy
Stanley Nowakowski
James N. Offhaus
Paul Pijanowski
James Rozler II
Michael Satko*

*Ted Bemis
Karen Bulera
Philip Carcaci
Keith Curry
Raymond Ewert
Jennifer Hinsken
Timothy Malone
Mark Mikula
Edward Myszka
Greg Offhaus
Tim Offhaus
John Raichel
Ronald Rozler
Christopher Wesolek*

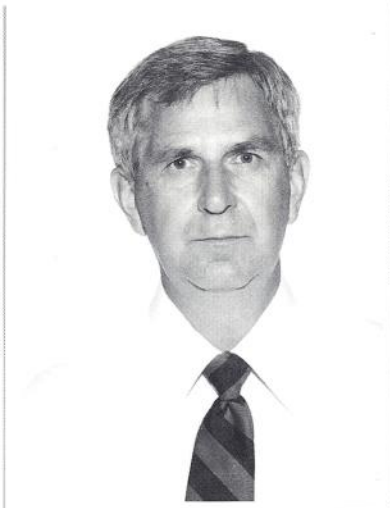
*Tom Bronisz
Thomas E. Bulera
James Chiro
Lawrence David
Marshall Faul
Michael Jablonski
Stan Mastrangelo
Walter Mikula
James Nowakowski
James M. Offhaus
Arthur Owczarek
Walter Raichel
Stephen Rozler
Susan Wesolek*

Ladies Auxiliary:

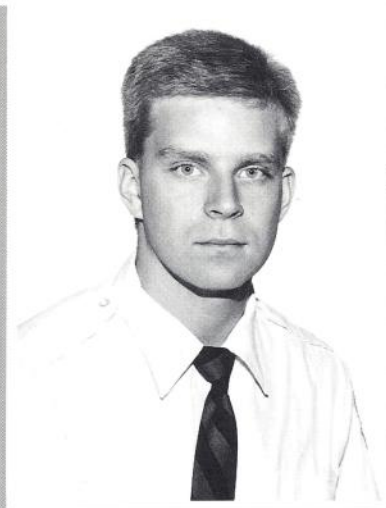
*Carol Chiro
Loretta Ewert
Darlene Nowakowski*

*Julia David
Toni Harhigh*

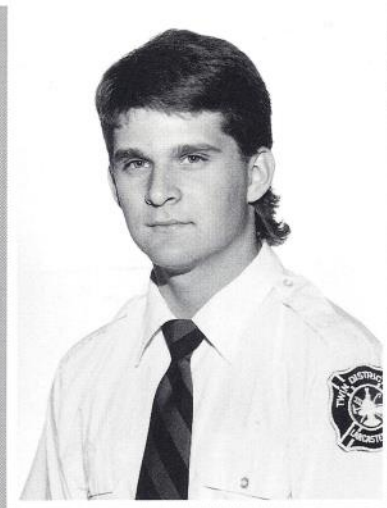
*Pat David
Joanie Klaiber*



Thomas M. Bulera



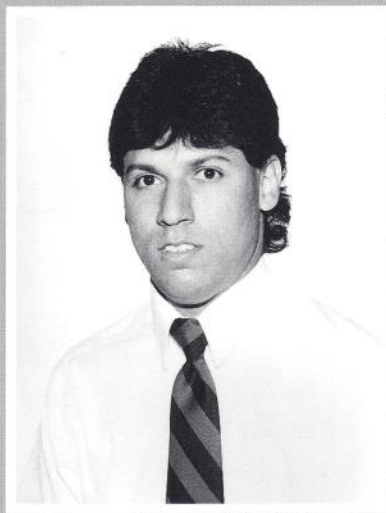
Thomas E. Bulera



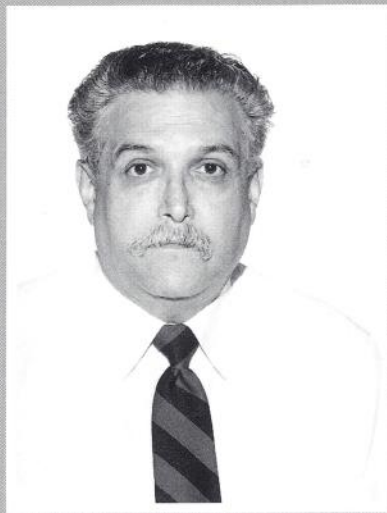
Brian Bulera



Karen Bulera



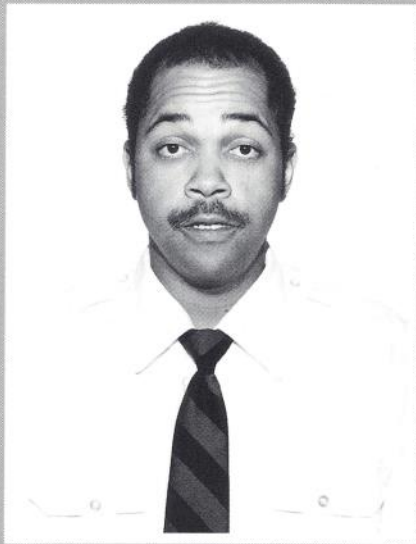
Philip Carcaci



James Chiro



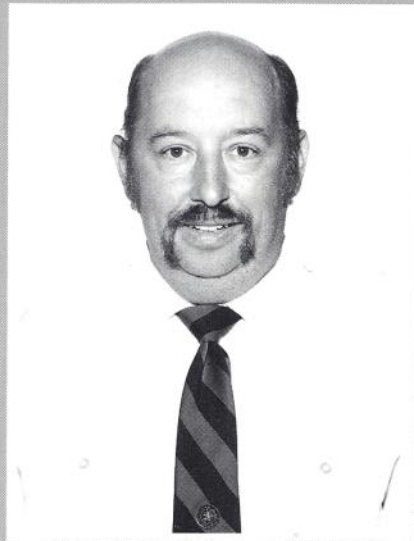
Michael Curran



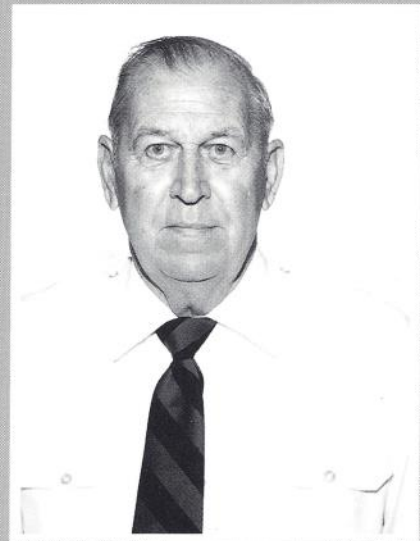
Keith Curry



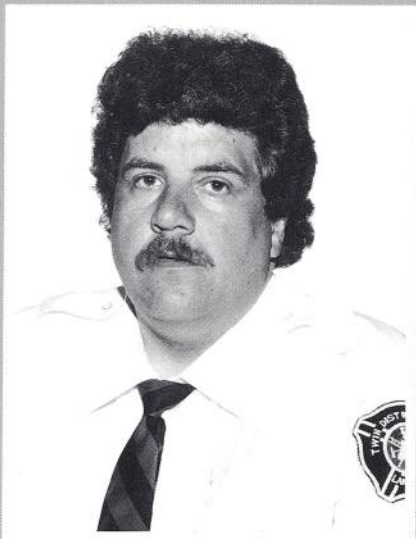
Lawrence David



Raymond David



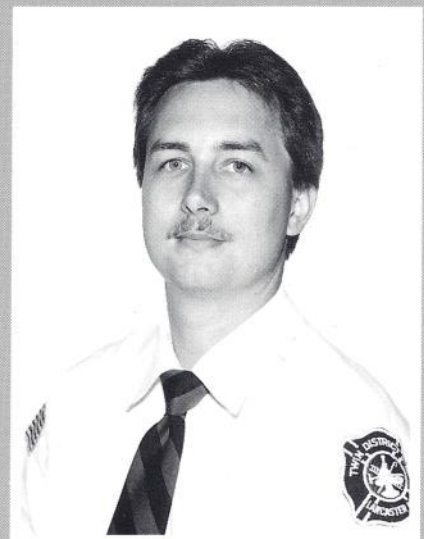
Raymond Ewert



Marshall Faul



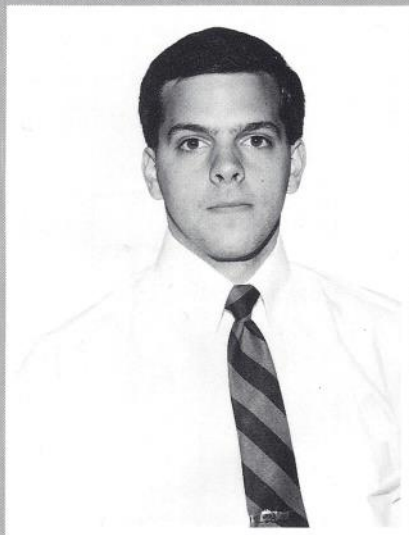
Andrew Harhigh



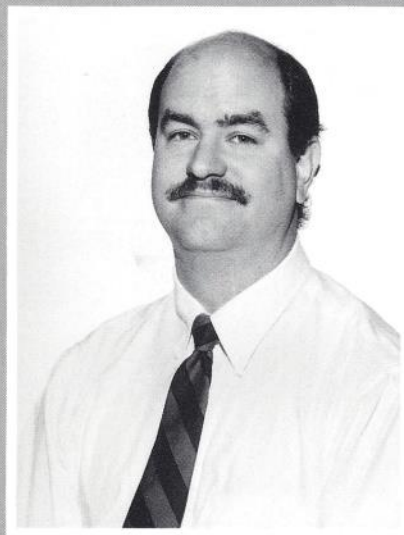
Michael Jablonski



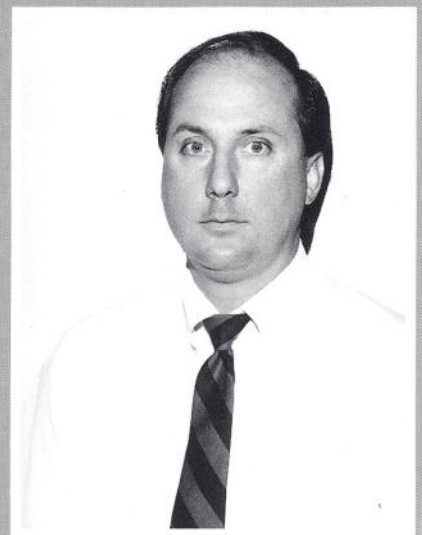
Robert Klaiber



Timothy Malone



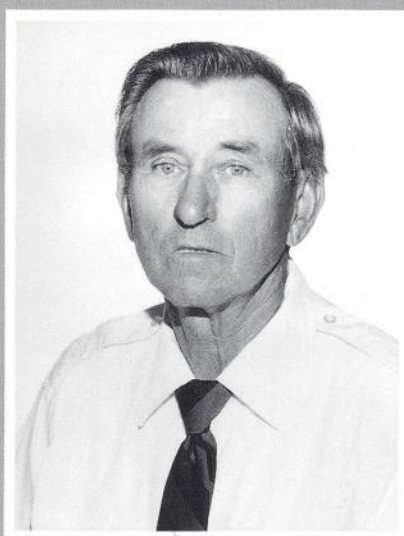
Stanley Mastrangelo



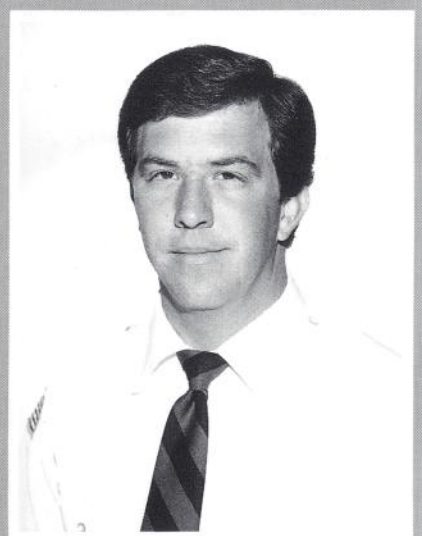
Mark Mahony



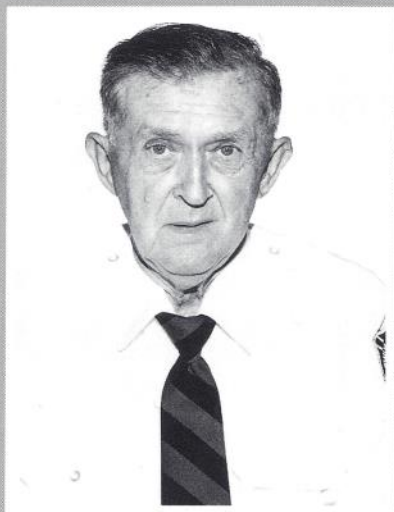
Mark Mikula



Walter Mikula



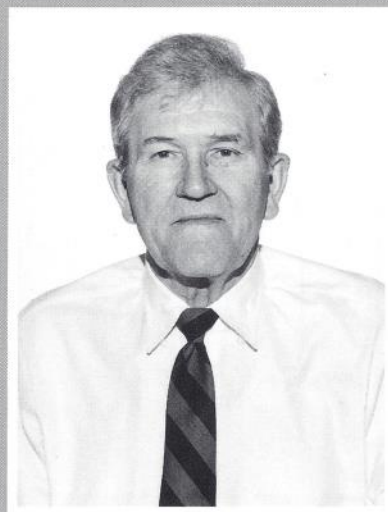
James Murphy



Edward Myszka



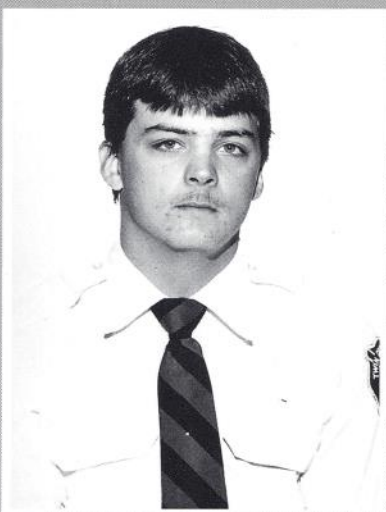
James Nowakowski



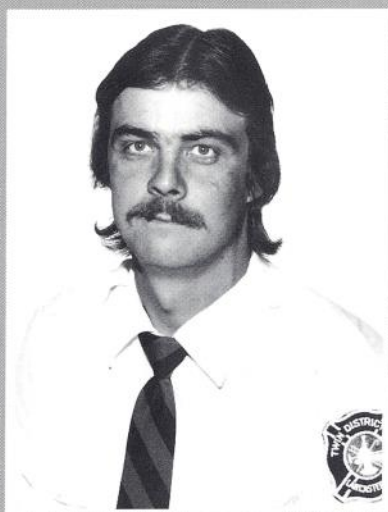
Stanley Nowakowski



James N. Offhaus



James M. Offhaus

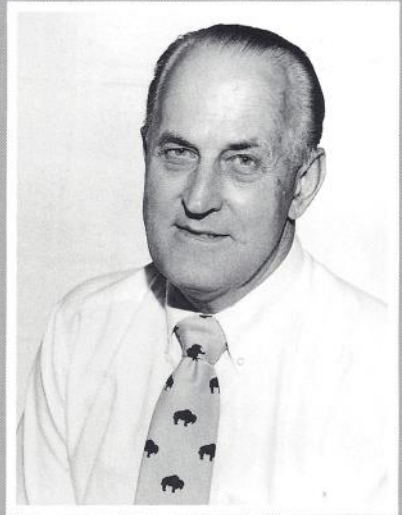


Gregory Offhaus

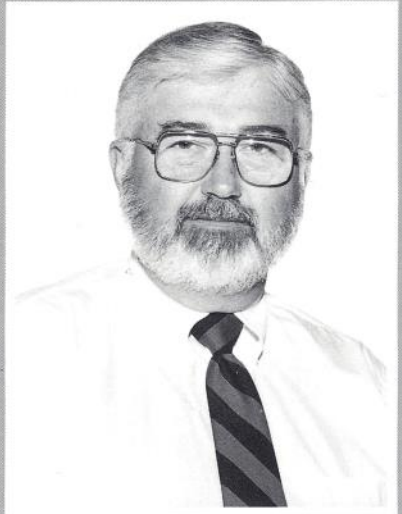


Timothy Offhaus





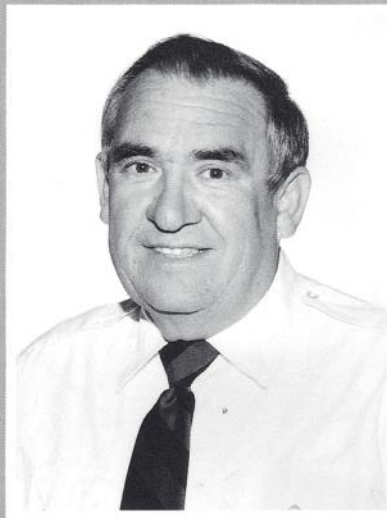
Arthur Owczarek



Paul Pijanowski



Walter Raichel



John Raichel

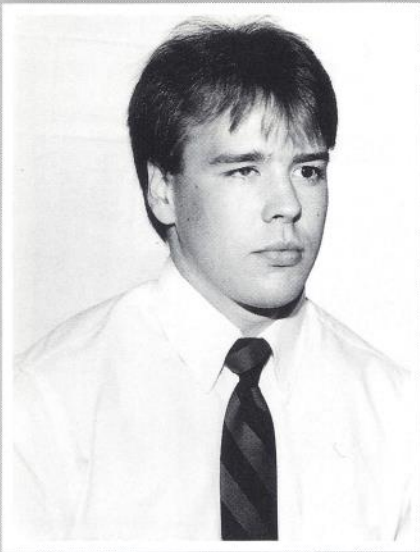
Photos Not Available

Charles Ashton

Thomas Bronisz

Ted Bemis

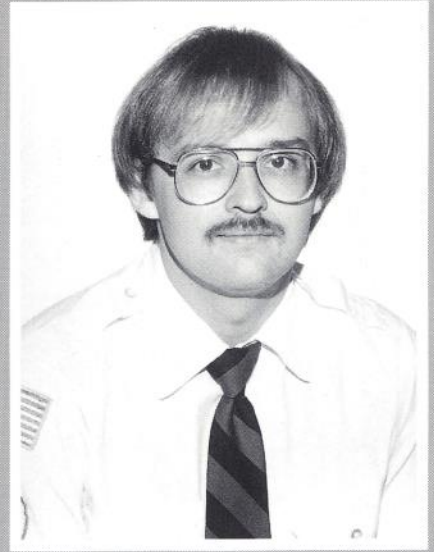
Jennifer Hinsken



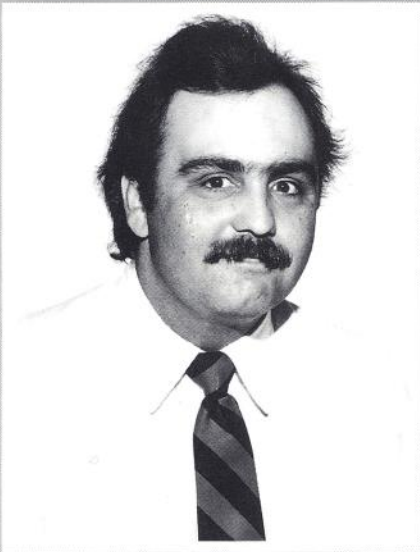
James Rozler



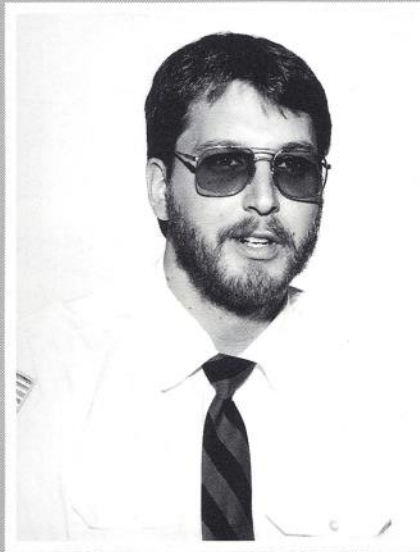
Ronald Rozler



Stephen Rozler



Michael Satko



Christopher Wesolek



Susan Wesolek



**Parade 1976
Bill Burger,
Harry Jaworski**

Company Officers 1992



Ray David, Treasurer; Ron Rozler, President; Jim Murphy, Vice President; Karen Bulera, Recording Secretary.
Missing: Sue Wesolek, Corresponding Secretary.



Board of Directors

Jim Chiro, Chairman; Tim Malone, Jim Nowakowski, Jim N. Offhaus. Missing: Walter Raichel.



Marshall Faul, Chief; Mike Jablonski, 1st Assistant; Steve Rozler, 2nd Assistant; Jim Rozler, Lieutenant; Stan Mastrangelo, First Aid Captain; Bob Klaiber, Fire Police Captain. Missing: Sue Wesolek, First Aid Lieutenant; Chris Wesolek, Captain.



Message from the President

Twin District has witnessed a tremendous amount of residential and business development in recent years. This growth has presented us with many new challenges and our firefighters have worked diligently to meet the demands of a growing population and subsequent increase in alarms. As the 21st century draws closer, Twin District will continue to keep our district safe, through recruitment and training of members, equipment purchases and computer access.

I am especially proud to serve as your president in our 50th year and will continue to work to help make our company one we can all be proud of.

To our founders and our past, present and future firefighters, thank you, congratulations and Happy 50th Anniversary.

*Ron Rozler, President
Twin District Fire Company
1992*

Presidents of Twin District Fire Co.

Jerome Radamacher	1942	Peter Merkwa	1957-58	Donald Samulski	1974
Arthur G. Peters	1943	John Costello	1959	Darrell Rodgers	1975
Joseph Hoerner	1943-44	William Zielinski	1960	Raymond Ewert	1976-80
Emery Cardinal	1945	Edward Kiwala	1961	Thomas M. Bulera	1981
Lester Moore	1946	Richard Schmitt	1962	Jeffrey Kwiatkowski	1982
John Schwartz	1947	Stanley Nowakowski	1963	Charles Cupp	1982-83
Emery Cardinal	1948-49	Richard Schmitt	1964-69	Joseph Wemblewski	1984
Roy Muetel	1950-51	Carl Green	1970-71	Raymond Ewert	1985-89
Raymond Lesinski	1952-53	Stanley Wargula	1972	John S. Raichel	1990-91
John Schwartz	1954-56	Thomas M. Bulera	1972-73	Ronald Rozler	1992

Message from the Chiefs:

Over the last 2 years, Twin District has experienced significant population growth and a subsequent increase in alarm rates. Projections are that this exceptional growth will continue. Our district has steadily flourished by way of new subdivisions that are situated on what was once farm land. Residential housing has given way to plazas and businesses along Transit Road. Consequently, we have experienced an increase of over 60% in alarms in these past two years.

In anticipation of further development, our company is in the process of purchasing a 1987 Pierce Pumper that will help to meet the expanding needs of the district, and our truck committee is currently investigating the purchase of yet another new pumper with hopes of acquiring it by the end of 1993.

Within the coming months we will be fully operational with our newly purchased computer. This will allow easy access to training and maintenance records as well as provide completely for firematic reporting requirements.

Training will continue to be the key to the success of the Twin District Fire Company firematic, first aid and fire police units.

Marshall Faul: 9

Mike Jablonski: 9-1

Steve Rozler: 9-2

Past Chiefs of Twin District Fire Co.

Joseph Hoerner	1944	Arthur Owczarek	1967-68	James N. Offhaus	1982-85
Joseph Logel	1945-46	James Winde	1969-71	Raymond David	1986-87
Wilbert Aldrich	1947-48	James V. Rozler	1972	James N. Offhaus	1988-89
Henry Gajewski	1949-53	John S. Raichel	1973-74	Raymond David	1990
Alfred Kreitzbender	1954	Stanley Nowakowski	1975-76	Marshall Faul	1991-1992
Henry Gajewski	1955-64	Raymond David	1977-80		
Stanley Nowakowski	1964-66	Stanley Nowakowski	1981		



1985 Pierce (Engine #1)



1967 Ford (Engine #2)



1977 Ford (Engine #4)



1981 Pierce (Rescue #7)



1979 Chevrolet (Rescue #7-1)





Ladies Auxiliary

The first meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was held October 4, 1956, and the officers were Gerry Rodgers, Joe Ziembra, Frieda Gajewski, and Dorothy Konieczny. The women got together to help the firemen raise money, and as a social group. An initiation fee was assessed at three dollars in the 1960's but was soon reduced to one dollar. Like the firemen, the ladies held card parties, dances, bake sales, turkey raffles, beer parties, and Tupperware parties. They even held a wig party, which made a profit of \$91 in 1970.

The ladies assisted the firemen, especially with Bingo, in running the kitchen, and providing refreshments. In 1974 the ladies bought a stove for the kitchen. But by 1979 membership had thinned to seven, and the operation of the kitchen was turned over to the firemen. The ladies also came to the aid of the community during the Blizzard of 1977, by distributing bags of groceries to the neighbors of the area. In 1982 the Auxiliary was dissolved.

The ladies regrouped in 1987, with the same goal to aid the firemen. Although the membership is still at seven, the Ladies Auxiliary continues to assist the company.



Carol Chiro



Julia David



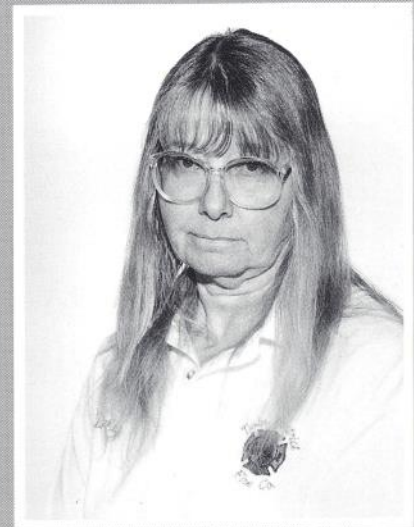
Patricia David



Loretta Ewert



Toni Harhigh



Joan Klaiber



Darlene Nowakowski

President:
Darlene Nowakowski
Vice President:
Carol Chiro
Secretary:
Pat David
Treasurer:
Toni Harhigh

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
LADIES AUXILIARY
OF
Twin District Fire Co.

TOWN OF LANCASTER
ERIE COUNTY, N. Y.

Organized June 15, 1946

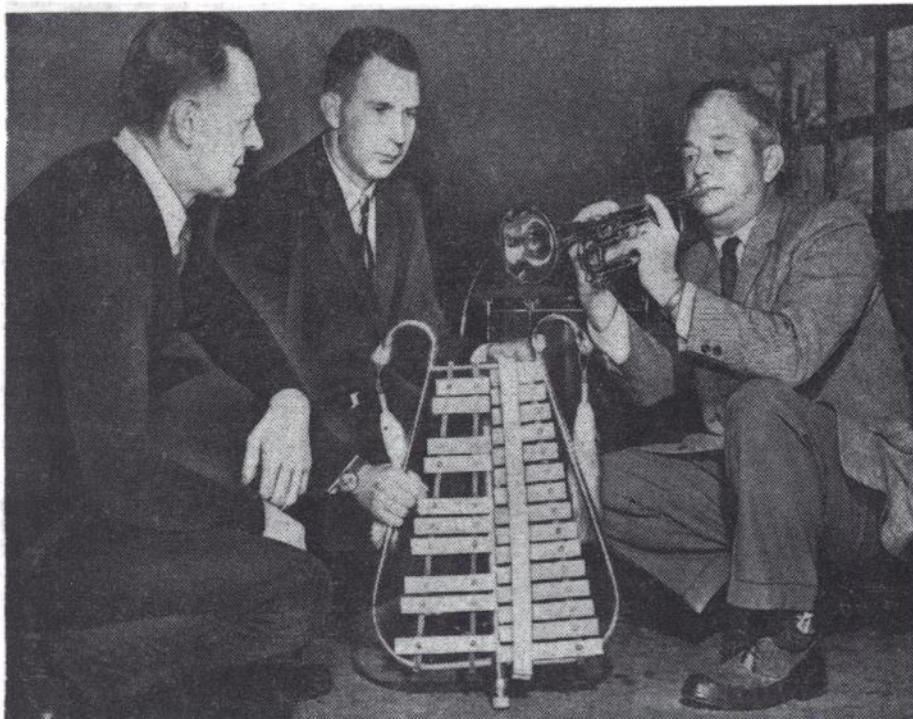


Excerpt from Lancaster Bee 1989

Ten years ago

August 4, 1979

The Twin District Volunteer Fire Company has a new emergency vehicle that should go a long way in continuing the companies excellent service. The \$9,800 four-wheel drive Chevy Suburban truck sits on a three-quarter ton chassis. The vehicle is equipped with portable oxygen, and OB and trauma kit, folding stretchers and back boards, and will be used to administer emergency first aid.



Joseph Wendi

Thomas Bulera

George T. Stevens

THAT'S A BLOW—Twin District volunteer firefighters in Lancaster have made this Christmas brighter for residents at the Gustavus Adolphus Children's Home in Jamestown by donating about \$1,000 in musical instruments. Thomas M. Bulera, vice president of the fire company, and Joseph Wendi, chaplain, said the instruments have been in the

fire hall since 1962, when the company's drum-bugle corps disbanded. The Rev. Edward Goetz, Lancaster Lutheran pastor, remembered the home in Jamestown was organizing a marching band and needed instruments. George T. Stevens, administrator of the home, picked them up Saturday.



Richard Schmidt, unknown, Walter Raichel Jr., James Russillio, Walter Samulski Jr.



Spectators for Waterball at Bowmansville 1975



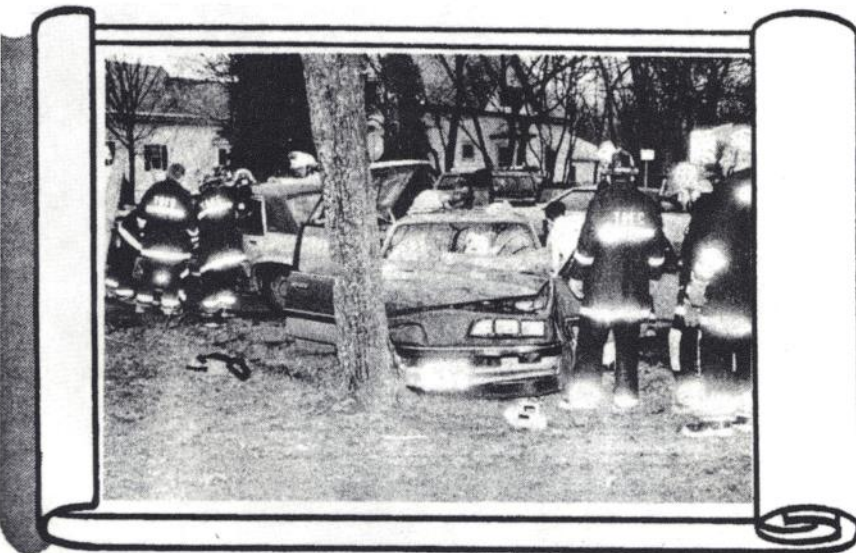
Blizzard of 1977



Village of Lancaster Parade



1956 Parade



March 9, 1992 at 18:00 hours: Twin Districts Volunteer Fire Fighters respond to assist at the scene of a two car accident at William and Penora. Members of the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corps assisted and transported the injured parties.

Picture & Caption from The Erie County Volunteer Fire Fighter — April 1992



Above: Halloween Party
 Right: First Aid Training



UNDER CONTROL — Twin District and Village of Lancaster firemen responded to a barn fire on S. Penora St. on Sept. 23. Here, the volunteers work the hoses as smoke billows from under the building's eaves.



BEER PARTY

Twin District Vol. Fire Company
 Benefit for Home Receivers

Saturday, **SEP 11**

Twin District Fire Hall - 4999 William St.
 Beer served 8 to 11 p.m.
 Dancing 9 until ?
 Ticket \$1.25

No 598



"Worm" and Chris



Tom and John — Waterball 1972



Jill Raichel, Lynn Bulera, Tim Raichel



1971 Halloween



Family Picnic 1977



Truck Dedication



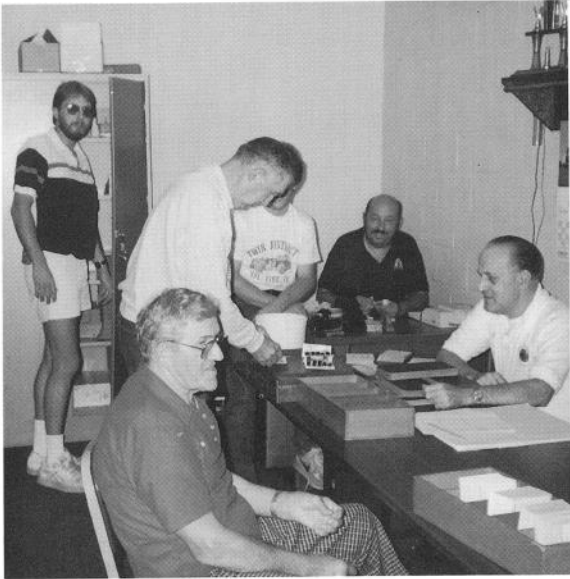
Stan Wargula





RACE AGAINST TIME — Firemen from the Twin District and Town Line volunteer fire departments use the "Jaws of Life" extrication device to snap open the rear door during a mock auto accident drill Nov. 17. Also participating was the Lancaster Volunteer Corps. The vehicle was donated by Ed's Used Auto Parts.





B-I-N-G-O



Cruise





Family Picnic



50 Year Committee with Shirley Reuman



Fred Gajewski, Pete Merkwa, Roy Muetel, George Schultz, Ted Gajewski, Hank Gajewski . . . Historians.



Tom Bulera, John Raichel, Jim Offhaus, Ray Ewert, Ray David, Walt Mikula, Bob Klaiber, Paul Pijanowski . . . Members of 50 Year Committee.



Mike Pijanowski
Writer/Researcher

Those We Have Lost...

William Aldrich
Norman Armstrong
Richard Anowski
Charles Ashton
Thomas M Bulera
Arthur Burger
William Burger
Emery Cardinal
Ted Cardinal
James Chiro
Ronald Clements
John Costello
Eugene Dominiak
Albert Drescher
Edward Dunnigan
Joseph Dunnigan
Ronald Dux
Raymond Ewert
Ronald Faulhaber
Raymond Faulhaber Sr.
Alfred Gajewski
Barney Gajewski
Theodore Gajewski
Hank Gajewski
Carl Green
Franklin Habitzreuther Sr.
Joseph Hoerner
Harry Jaworski
John Jerge
Edward Kiwala
Robert Klaiber
Jerry Kline
Arthur Kocialski
Edward Krol Sr.

Alfred Kreitzbender
William Landahl
Raymond Lesinski
Joseph Logel
Laverne Lorentz
Charles Lyman
Robert Lyman
Allan MacMillan
Thomas McPartlan
Peter Merkwa
Walter Mikula
Lester Moore
Roy Muetel
Edward Myszka Sr.
Al Nowakowski
Stanley Nowakowski
Dennis Olesky
John Olsen
Oley Olsen
Arthur Owczarek
Arthur G Peters
Arthur J Peters

Norman Petrie
Norman Pfeil
Mario Piccolo
Paul Pijanowski
Jerome Rademacher
Walter Raichel
John Rogacki
James Russillo
Casey Samulski
Walter Samulski Sr.
Richard Schattner
John Schwartz
Frank Schweers
George Schultz
Albert Snyder
Richard Sojda
Charlie Truer
Stanley Wargula
James Westbrook
Joseph Winde
William Zielinski
John Ziembra



Twin District 75 Years of Service

75th Committee Members

It has been a pleasure, and an honor to serve you...

Stephen Rozler II

Joseph Punaro

Jeffrey Zgoda

Brent Sala

Michael Bohn

Raymond David

Frank Filipski

David Sawicki

Josh Meidinger

