

SUN T I M E S

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Delaware's oldest consecutively published newspaper, established 1854

Historic marker recognizes 'center of community life' Citizens' Hose Company of Smyrna honored for more than a century of service

By Jennifer Sprague
Staff writer

Celebrating a history that dates back more than 120 years, a state historic marker was recently unveiled at the Citizens' Hose Company firehouse on West Commerce Street in Smyrna.

Founded by 27 members of Smyrna's fire brigade in January 1896, the Citizens' Hose Company was originally located at what is now the Smyrna Opera House, at the corner of Main and South streets. In 1925, the company moved to its current building, which has undergone two major additions as well as other renovations.

During its long history, the Citizens' Hose Company has welcomed hundreds of members, responded to thousands of alarms, marched in more than a few parades, and seen countless changes. One of the many of the noteworthy events in the history of the Citizens' Hose Company was a manpower shortage during World War II, which resulted in accepting boys 16 years of age and older as probational members.

The Delaware State Historical Markers Program, established in 1931, recognizes institutions like the Citizens' Hose Company, commemorating the history and heritage of Delaware and its residents.

"We've placed a number of historical markers at school buildings and churches," said Russ McCabe, director of the Delaware Public Archives, which oversees the program. "What we've tried to do is really recognize history within our communities and institutions that have shaped our lives. A perfect example is, of course, the Citizens' Hose Company, which has provided a valuable service. But it's more than that. Fire companies in Delaware are more than just emergency responders. They are centers of community life."

Funded by the General Assembly through the state budget, the Delaware State Historical Markers Program places an average of 25 to 30 historic markers each year, about one every other week.

"They're all requested by groups, organizations and

(Continued on page 30)



State Senator and Smyrna firefighter Bruce Ennis (right) speaks at the unveiling of the Citizens' Hose Company's new historic marker, with State Representative and Citizens' Hose Company member Bill Carson, and Citizens' Hose Company Historian Michael L. Keen (left). As a legislator, Ennis submitted the request for the marker to the General Assembly. (Photos courtesy of Citizens' Hose Company)



In 1925, Citizens' Hose Company moved to its current location on West Commerce Street. The building looked like this until 1948, when it was expanded for the first time.



In 1986, special life membership is presented to James C. Truax by Citizens' Hose Company President Bruce C. Ennis, David Truax, and Bill Carson, nephew.

State historic marker dedicated at Citizens' Hose Company

(Continued from page 1)

sometimes individuals through the General Assembly," McCabe said. "It comes at the request of citizens and taxpayers as opposed to us. We let the citizens decide what's important."

In this case, State Senator Bruce Ennis, who is also a Smyrna firefighter, requested the marker during his time as a State Representative. He also requested markers for the Clayton and Leipsic fire companies, which should be receiving their plaques in the coming months.

Other fire companies with historic plaques include Cheswold, Milton, Georgetown, New Castle, and Seaford.

Other historic markers in Smyrna

The plaque at the Citizens' Hose Company of Smyrna joins more than a dozen others in Smyrna including those recognizing the Smyrna Opera House and Old Town Hall on South Main Street; the Barracks, South Main Street; Clearfield Farm, Smyrna Landing Road; The David C. Harrison American Legion Ambulance Service, Glenwood Avenue; the site of Old Asbury Methodist Church, Delaware Street; the site of Taylor's Bridge School, Route 9; the Thomas D. Clayton School, Monrovia Avenue; and several more. For information on these markers, visit <http://archives.delaware.gov/markers/>.

(Continued on page 31)

Text of historic marker

Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.

The history of Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. began on January 6, 1886, when thirty residents of Smyrna voted to "go into permanent organization" to serve the firefighting needs of the community. Their charter was approved by the Delaware Legislature on January 19, 1886. The Smyrna Opera House was expanded to accommodate the Company in 1887. On February 24, 1921, delegates from Citizens' Hose joined with representatives of eight other fire companies to establish the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. In 1924 the members purchased this site, then known as the McDowell property. The first membership meeting in the new building was held on November 9, 1925. The original fire bell from the Main Street location was moved to the new firehouse and continues to be used during memorial services to honor deceased members. Along with their dedication to responding to the emergency needs of the community, the members of the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 are noted for displaying their discipline and meticulous care for their equipment through participation in parades and other events. The Firemen's Band was organized in 1947, and the Ladies Auxiliary was formally established in 1950.



The membership and Band of the Citizens' Hose Company in 1948, left to right: Clarence Tigner, John Melvin, Phil Denney, Bill Marsh, William Doughten, Sr., Linden Doughten, Jr., Homer Shorts, E. Temple Heinhold, Ed Williams, Harry P. Shapley, John H. Long, Elwood Hackett, Babe Collins, Morgan Parry, Howell Barnes, Marvin Knox, Frank Morris, Jr., Lester Burris, Smithers Snow, Jr., Herman Tucker, Richard Ennis, George Dickerson, Earl Bailey, Garland Collins, Leon Collins, Harry Pusey, Victor Brown, Jr., Earl Ford, Wilson Faries, Robert Faries, Sam Best, Harold Hufschmidt, David Todd, Ervin Cox, Russell Biggs, Fred Slaughter, Horace David, William Hartnett, William Maberry, William Mabrey, Vernon Ford, James Rogers, James Truax, Charle Busker, Harper Jones, Frank Thornton, Linden Doughten, Sr., Stout Bickling, Edward Tucker, E. Reynolds Bradley, Henry Dukes, Paige Tumey, A. Rodney Schuman. (Photo courtesy of Citizens' Hose Company)



In November 1963, Fire Chief E. Reynolds Bradley demonstrates how to move an additional section of hose by rolling rather than dragging the section. Firemen standing at left are Ronald Hoffecker, Thomas Kennedy, N. Ralph Tieman, and Gordon R. Miller. (Photo courtesy of Citizens' Hose Company)

State marker honors history, tradition of Smyrna Fire Company

(Continued from page 30)

How to apply for a marker

Anyone interested in applying for a marker from the Delaware State Historical Markers Program should call Moira Conlan at 744-5035. The process, from request to installation, takes one to three years, McCabe said. The funding for the marker will then be requested from the General Assembly through a legislator.

"I think people need to recognize that Delaware is a state that's absolutely rich history and heritage," McCabe said. "The beauty of our Historical Markers Program is it's a very public way to recognize our history and educate people."

Highlights from timeline of the Citizens' Hose Company of Smyrna

(as compiled by the History

Committee of the Citizens' Hose Company)

Jan. 6, 1886 – Citizens' Hose Company is established as a permanent organization

Jan. 18, 1886 – First administrative officers are appointed

July 4, 1887 – Company participates in its first parade

1904 – Having used a man-drawn hose tender and ladder cart, the company purchases a horse-drawn cart

1922 – Company purchases its first motorized truck

Nov. 9, 1925 – First official meeting is held in the building still housing the company on West Commerce Street

1954 – Firehouse is expanded

1960 – First Governor's Cup victory in state parade

1969 – Current room is added and the old side of the firehouse is converted into current social hall

1982 – For the first and only time, Citizens' Hose Company loses a fireman in the line of duty. H. Thomas Tucker dies after falling from an engine while responding to an alarm.

1986 – Citizens' Hose Company celebrates 100 years of service to the people of Smyrna

Model toy and train show in Hartly

The Hartly Volunteer Fire Company will hold its annual model train and toy show and sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 at the Hartly Fire Hall.

The event will feature

lectibles.

Tickets will be \$3 and \$2 for spouses. Kids under 12 accompanied by an adult are admitted for free.

Breakfast and lunch will be served by the Fire Company Auxiliary. Door



First Assistant Chief James Mood instructs a fire school class on the Emerson breathing apparatus. Firemen from left to right are Edgar Cox, Jay Lasage, Glenn Matthews, Butch Robinson, Ken Newburg, John Joseph, and Gary Harvath. (Photo courtesy of Citizens' Hose Company)



A State of Delaware historic marker was recently unveiled and will soon be installed at the Citizens' Hose Company firehouse on West Commerce Street in Smyrna, honoring the long history of the company, established in 1896. (Photo by Jennifer Sprague)

June 24, 1946

The special meeting of the Citizens' Hose Co. was called to order by President Bickling. The President announced that due to the fact that the "Country Fair" would be in session on the regular meeting night, that the meeting would entertain any regular business that might come before the Company.

Roll Call: Howard Edgar, Lex Faries, Bob Faries, Russell Biggs, John Jacobs, Temple Heindold, Julian Staats, Wells Faries, Dave Todd, Clifford Jones, James Truax, Russell Foxwell, James Warren, Garland Collins, Bill Maybrey, William Matthews, Woodrow Marvel, George Dickerson, Fletcher Truax, Harper Jones, Sam Best, Chick Barnes, Loon Collins, John Morris, Horce David, Wilson Faries, Joe Passwaters, Allen Moffitt, Gi Faries, Irving Cox, Sonny Wright, Stout Bickling, Reynolds Bradley,

Lex Faries, having returned from the Service was given a welcome by President Bickling.

A portion of the minutes of the last meeting having been read, a motion was made by Clifford Jones and seconded by Russell Foxwell that so much be considered the reading of the minutes. Motion carried.

A portion of the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors having been read, a motion was made by Temple Heindold and seconded by Russell Foxwell that so much be considered the reading of the minutes. Motion carried.

A communication was presented from the Delaware State Assoc. asking us to name the delegates to the State Convention to be held in Milford in Sept. Motion made by Clifford Jones and seconded by Chick Barnes that the communication be accepted and that the President name the delegates by the next regular meeting. Motion carried.

Harper Jones reported on the Kent Co. Assoc. meeting held in Cheswold in June.

Secretary announced that the Co. received a \$25 prize at the Newport parade for the company going the longest distance. Also that the Co. had accepted invitations from the Greensboro Fire Co. to parade on July 9th and at Chesapeake City on July 10th.

John Jacobs gave a report for the finance committee and laid the plans for the Fair which opens on July 1st.

Wells Faries gave a report on the fireworks which will be displayed on the evening of July 4th. He also gave a talk on the idea of organizing a band in the town to be sponsored by the Citizens' Hose Co. A motion was made by Clifford Jones and seconded by Russell Foxwell that there be a committee of 3 appointed to find out if a band could be organized, that Mr. Faries be made chairman of the committee and be allowed to pick the other two to assist him. Motion carried.

The applications of John D. Taylor, Jr., Harry Sylvester and William B. Owens were presented for membership in the Company.

Motion was made by Temple Heindold and seconded by Chick Barnes that the applications be accepted and balloted on. Motion carried.

President Bickling appointed the following election board-- Judge, Chick Barnes, Tellers- Garland Collins and Gi Faries.

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Motion was made by Temple Heinold and seconded by Chick Barnes that the applications be accepted and balloted on. Motion carried.

President Bickling appointed the following election board-- Judge, Chick Barnes, Tellers- Garland Collins and Gi Faries.

July 29, 1946

The Special Meeting of the Citizens' Hose Co. was called to order by President Bickling. The President announced that the meeting had been called to take place of the regular August meeting due to the fact that the annual carnival would open too near the date of the regular meeting, and that any regular business would be entertained at this meeting.

Roll Call: Bill Mabrey, Jack Garis, Harold Hufschmidt, Leroy Wade, Bob Faries, James Edmondson, Francis O'Neill, Jr., Robert Jacobs, Mat Whayland, James Truax, Russell Biggs, Guy Edmondson, Jr., Guy Edmondson, Sr., Wells Faries, Hoarce David, John Morris, Howard Edgar, George Dickerson, Woodrow Marvel, Sam Best, Irving Cox, Russell Foxwell, Chick Barnes, Jack Taylor, Stout Bickling, Fletcher Truax, John Jacobs, Temple Heindold, Reynolds Bradley, Harper Jones, James Warren, Charles Hufschmidt, Garland Collins, James Turner, Willard Rutter and Homer Short.

Wells Faries reported for the band committee. He urged everyone to support the band and asked that all persons interested in band work, whether or not they were able to play an instrument to start coming to band practice and learn to play some instrument.

The minutes of the last meeting were presented. Motion made by Bill Mabrey and seconded by Chick Barnes that the minutes be approved as read. Motion carried.

The following communications were presented:

From the American LaFrance Corp. stating that they expected to ship the new pumper during the latter part of September.

From the State Auditor enclosing the donation of \$1000. for the year.

Motion made by John Jacobs and seconded by Russell Foxwell that the communications be accepted and filed. Motion carried.

Harper Jones reported on the Kent Co. Assoc. meeting held in Hartley in July.

John Jacobs reported for the finance committee. The reported stated that the amount of \$11,000 had been reached, and hopes are that a lot more can be added at the coming carnival. Mr. Jacobs announced plans for the carnival which will open on August 7th.

Secretary presented the following applications: Harry Aumack, Willard P. Wade, Beverly Gaulke, and Philip Close.

Motion made by Chick Barnes and seconded by Harold Hufschmidt that the applications be accepted and balloted on. Motion carried.

President Bickling appointed the following election board: John Jacobs as Judge - Jack Walker and Jack Garis as Tellers.

The vote having been taken and the applicants having received the required number of votes, President Bickling declared them members of the Company.

President Bickling discharged the election board with thanks.

TRUST?? Secretary announced that \$15 was received by attending the Elkton parade, being the company going the longest distance. Announcement was made that we would attend the parade in Betterton on Wednesday night July 31st.

Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.

On January 6, 1886, thirty residents of Smyrna met and voted “to go into permanent organization”. They decided to be known by the name of Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. The company was chartered on January 19, 1886 by the State Legislature in Dover.

On February 24, 1921 the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. became a Charter Member of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen’s Association.

The first home of the company was located in the former Town Hall located on South Main Street. In 1924 the members purchased the McDowell property on West Commerce Street. On November 9, 1925 the membership held its first meeting in the present day firehouse. The fire bell that was moved to its present location from the old Town Hall is still used today during Memorial Services to pay tribute to deceased members. On August 20, 1954 an addition was completed on the east side which included a kitchen, lounge and engine room. The current engine room on the west side of the station was completed in 1970. An addition was added in 1986 to the rear of the original building, a classroom, office and storage.

The Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. has the only Fireman’s Band in the State and one of only a few remaining in the country. The Company and Band members have marched in numerous parades both in Delaware and the neighboring States. In 2000 the members traveled to Ireland to participate in the Saint Patrick’s Day parade. This is the most decorated Fire Company in the State.

The Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. on May 8, 1950 organized the Ladies Auxiliary. Over the years the Auxiliary has supported the company by holding bake sales, dinners and other fund raising events.

June 20th 1887
On Motion it was decided the
Company would Parade in white
Linen Shirts and Dark Pants with
the Company Hats and Belt and
Motion the Equipment Committee was
discharged On Motion the company
adjourned to meet on Monday Evg June 27th
1887

June 27th J. R. Robinson Sec 1887
Citizens Hose Co met was called to
Order by Pres B. W. Weldon in the Chair
Roll called and 12 absentees noted Minutes
of last Meeting read and approved
it was decided by a rising vote that
the Company would parade on the 4th day
of July Pres B. W. Weldon volunteered to
get 20 Boys to pull the old engine on
that day and the Boys would wear
Dark knee Breeches and white shirts with red
Belts J. R. Robinson vol to get flags
E. J. Taylor vol to fix Bell on Truck
B. W. Weldon and E. J. Taylor vol to get 4
Grey Horses to pull the Ladder wagon and
fix a Couing on the same J. Boyer &
J. Humphrey, W. Spruance vol to get Reths
and Flowers for the company On Motion
it was decided to invite the Dover Fire Company
to be with us on that day it was decided
for the present Sec to write them by letter at
once on Motion the company adjourned
to meet again on the 2nd Monday in July
(J. R. Robinson Sec) July 11th 1887
Citizens Hose Co met was called
to Order by Pres B. W. Weldon in the Chair
Roll called 22 absentees noted Minutes
of last Meeting read and approved
New Business the following com S. O. Bailey
W. Spruance was appointed to wait upon
Mr. C. W. Wellmeyer and give him a key of

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Volume _____ Page _____

RG 9260.001
Co. minutes

March 6, 1950

The regular meeting of The Citizens' Hose Co. was called to order by President John W. Jacobs, Jr.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by the Rev. O. C. Jones.

Roll Call:

Harry Pusey
Bob Faries
Stout Bickling
Harry Shortt
Earl Ford
Willard Rutter
Guy Edmondson, Jr.
Harper Jones
George Smith
Benjamin Seward
Wilson Faries
Alden Robinson
Glenn Matthews
Calvin Foxwell
Leland Slaughter
Lex Faries

Clark David
Fletcher Truax
Irving Cox
James Ford
Ralph G. Faries, Jr.
Rev. O. C. Jones
Howell Barnes
Sam Best
Henry Dukes
John Dukes
John Jacobs
Reynolds Bradley
James Truax
John Barnes
Marvin Knox
Alfred Tilghman

*Small
found
James Ford*

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved.

Secretary reported receipt of the credential list for the Del-Mar-Va Convention to be held at Chincoteague, Va. on May 10th.

Fire Recorder, Henry Dukes, gave the Fire Report for the month of February. Motion made by Willard Rutter and seconded by Stout Bickling that the Report be accepted and filed. Motion carried.

James Truax reported on the Kent County Association meeting held at Camden in February. Mr. Truax reported that President Harper Jones lead a discussion attacking the distribution of posters in the State, which advocated the legalizing of Dog Racing for the benefit of Volunteer Fire Companies, this being done without the authorization of the State Association. Mr. Truax further stated that every member of the Citizens' Hose Co. should get behind Harper Jones and make every possible contact to help get the nomination for the second Vice President of the State Association.

James Truax reported a balance of \$462.79 for the Finance Committee. Mr. Truax stated that a list would be placed on the bulletin board, naming persons to assist at the Town Hall Dances. If these persons are unable to help on date specified, they are to have someone report for them.

Willard Rutter presented the following resolution. (This resolution attached)

After a lengthy discussion, President Jacobs requested the privilege of the floor, and Vice President Earl Ford took the Chair. Mr. Jacobs stated that he believed the question on the Resolution was very important and that it should be given considerable thought. A motion made by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Willard Rutter that the Secretary be instructed to invite representatives of other Fire Companies that had Ladies Auxiliaries to the next regular meeting so that these representatives could inform the membership as to the work and connection Ladies Auxiliaries have with the Fire Companies. Motion carried.

The application of Mr. A. O. Biers was presented for membership.

Motion made by Howell Barnes and seconded by Stout Bickling that the application be accepted and balloted on. Motion carried.

President Jacobs appointed Jack Dukes a Judge, Howell Barnes and Harry Shortt as tellers for the election.

The ballot having been taken, and the applicant having received the necessary majority of the votes, President Jacobs declared Mr. Biers elected to membership.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Willard Rutter and

BELIEVING the Citizens' Hose Co. to be an outstanding organization of the Town of Smyrna, and a credit to our community, and

WHEREAS, this organization has sponsored many events in this community and have had to rely on the assistance of other groups, and

WHEREAS, our many present activities could be aided and sponsored by reliable assistance by a group working in our behalf, and

WHEREAS, a majority of the Volunteer Fire Companies of the State of Delaware have already acknowledged a Ladies Auxiliary, and

WHEREAS, these many Ladies Auxiliaries have turned over thousands of dollars to the Volunteers for new equipment, and

WHEREAS, these many Ladies Auxiliaries have always aided Volunteer Firemen with carnivals, banquets, and public functions, and

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Hose Co. would like to endorse the aid which has already been given by the ladies of this community -

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Citizens' Hose Co. go on record favoring the organization of a Ladies Auxiliary of The Citizens' Hose Co. #1, Inc. of Smyrna, Delaware.

James Truax reported a balance of \$494.21 for the Finance Committee.

Mr. Truax reported on the Kent County meeting held at Kilford on March 15th. He stated that a discussion was held on the recent motion made by the State Executive Committee that estimates be made after each fire as to the amount of property saved. The next meeting to be held at Cheswold on April 19th.

Lex Faries reported for the 1950 Carnival Committee, which committee includes James Truax, and Robert Jacobs, that a 4th of July Jubilee would be held June 29th to July 4th inclusive. This to be in addition to the regular carnival to be held August 23rd to September 4th inclusive. Mr. Faries stated that an automobile would be given away at each affair.

President Jacobs announced that he had appointed the following Delegates and Alternates to the Del-Mar-Va Convention: Delegates: James Truax, Chairman, Horace David, Stout Bickling, Howell Barnes, Alden Robinson. Alternates: Wilson Faries, Harold Hufschmidt, William Mabrey, Homer Shorts, Reynolds Bradley.

Howell Barnes stated that he had prepared two lists of persons who were willing to donate blood in an emergency. One list was left at the Town Office and the other left with the Secretary of the Company. Listed also are the types of blood each donor has. It was pointed out by Mr. Barnes that any member of the Company that had not been listed to date might get in touch with the Secretary.

Referring to unfinished business of the previous meeting, President Jacobs stated that the Secretary had been instructed to invite representatives of other Fire Companies that had Ladies Auxiliaries to explain the work that Ladies Auxiliaries did. President Jacobs introduced Chief George Cahall of Cheswold and President Walter Handsberry of Leipsic who told of the work that the Auxiliaries had done for their respective companies, and the connection between the Auxiliary and their company.

The resolution offered at the previous meeting endorsing the organization of a Ladies Auxiliary of the Citizens' Hose Company was read. Motion made by Willard Rutter and seconded by Vernon Ford that the resolution be adopted. Following a lengthy discussion a motion was offered by Clifford Jones and seconded by Harold Hufschmidt that a secret ballot by roll call be taken on the adoption of the resolution. Motion carried.

President Jacobs appointed Harry Pusey as Judge, Henry Dukes and Chas. Jones as Tellers, to conduct the poll. The votes having been cast by roll call the result was YES (in favor of the resolution) 22 votes - NO (against the resolution) 13 votes - 1 not voting.

The resolution having received a majority of the votes favorably, was declared adopted.

The Board conducting the poll was discharged with thanks.

Motion made by Howell Barnes and seconded by Clifford Jones that a rising vote of thanks be given Mr. Cahall and Mr. Handsberry in appreciation for their time in coming to the meeting. Motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Clifford Jones and seconded by Willard Rutter that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

E. Reynolds Bradley, Secretary

April 3, 1950

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Volume _____ Page _____

RG 9200⁵¹⁴.001

Monday Nov. 9-1925.

291

The First meeting Citizens Hose Co. 1. Inc held in New Building with Pres Collins and following members present - J. P. Manning, L. S. Jefferson, S. R. Stevenson, F. O. McCauley, J. Kent Shunkoos, Pres Collins, Wallace Eltuck, Harry P. Jones, John C. Still, John D. Morris, Harry Sherwood, Nelson Farris, Roy Esafford, B. F. Maddleton, J. James Patterson, Gordon Sumner, John Jacobs, J. L. A. Collins, J. John Wood, S. Morris Stout Building, Rich Mc. Clair, Harry Ems, J. C. Cahan, Vernon Ford, J. Wells Farris, W. U. Hyson, S. Cairns, Samuel J. Cole, Joseph Collins, Howard Newman, Vernon S. Phully, Jas. W. Broadway.

Minutes previous meeting read and be no corrections stood approved.

Band Committee - Poor Progress

W. U. Hyson entered.

New Business -

Resolution of S. R. Stevenson read as follows -

Members Town Council -
The Citizens Hose Co. No. 1. Inc having taken on renewed vigor since becoming installed in the New Fire House, and always desiring to render the most efficient service possible in Fire-Fighting respectfully suggest that, the "No Parking within 20 ft" Ordinance be strictly enforced so as to keep the Fire-Plugs accessible at all times.

Also would request that the Ordinance against burning leaves in the streets be strictly enforced as a prevention against fires, and if there is no such ordinance, we earnestly petition your Honorable Body to promptly enact such a measure.

Attest
Respectfully
Citizens Hose Co. No. 1. Inc.
President

B. Franklin Maddleton, Secretary

CITIZENS' HOSE COMPANY, No. 1, INC.

MEETS SECOND MONDAY IN THE MONTH

SMYRNA, DEL., Sept. 15, 1924.

We the undersigned do here by ask the President Mr. Harry Collins to call a special meeting of the Citizens Hose Company No. 1, Inc. on Monday evening Sept. 15, 1924. At eight o'clock.

This meeting being called in reference to the building of the proposed Fire Hall And to elect another member to serve on the present Building committee in the place of Mr. B.F. VanWinkle who has resigned from the committee.

Signed By.

Geo. R. Cochran
Geo. Stevenson
Wm. C. Farrier
Harry W. ...
J. ... Bickling

B. Franklin Middleton, Jr.
Albert ...
Wm. ...
.....
.....

REAL ESTATE
MONEY LOANS
SURETY BONDS
RENTS COLLECTED

*Meeting -
December 17th 1923*

INSURANCE

FIRE
AUTOMOBILE
TARNADO
CASUALTY
PLATE GLASS
MARINE
RAIN

DELAWARE REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE COMPANY

EAST COMMERCE STREET

SMYRNA, DELAWARE

December 17, 1923.

Whereas Citizens Hose Company No. 1, Inc. of Smyrna, Delaware has been contemplating purchasing a site in Smyrna, Delaware, and

Whereas Proceedings have been commenced for the purchase of the Howard Josephs property situate on the East side of Commerce Street adjoining lands of Edward J. De Ford and the Fruit Growers National Bank, said proceedings being the result of the work of a committee especially appointed for that purpose,

Therefore Be It Resolved

First - That the President of said Hose Company be hereby authorized and directed to execute any agreement of sale (not exceeding in amount \$6000.00 net to the owner of said Josephs property; and also all other agreements or papers necessary and incident to the purchase of said property,

Second -- That said Hose Company hereby confirms any and all agreements already made in respect to the purchase of said property,

Third -- That the Treasurer of said Hose Company be hereby authorized to pay any and all expenses incident to the purchase of said property, including a survey if it appears advisable,

Adopted Dec 17th 1923

*George H. Gunning
Secretary.*

*Harry Collins
President*

Charter.

An Act to Incorporate the Citizens Horse Company No. 1. of Smyrna, Delaware.

Be it enacted by the Senate, and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met; two-thirds of each branch of the Legislature concurring;

Section 1. That Samuel Taylor, B. D. Auldron, C. F. Lippincott, Henry S. Anthony, Gustavus A. Wick, W. D. Boyce, J. Frank Pratt, Geo. O. Bailey, John R. Robinson, E. Thos. Clayton, John Salgue, Crakersman Spruance, Clinton Ranson, John Patterson, Geo. An. Stevenson, and E. J. Taylor, and such other persons, as are now, or shall hereafter become members of the Citizens Horse Company No. 1. of Smyrna Delaware, according to the Constitution, and By-laws of the said company; shall be, and they are hereby constituted, and declared a body politic, and corporate in deed, fact, name, and in law, to have continuance for twenty years, from, and after the passage of this Act by the name, and style of the Citizens Horse Company No. 1. of Smyrna, Delaware.

Section 2. - And be it further enacted, that the said corporation shall be capable to purchase, take, and hold property, both, real and personal, and to dispose of the same, and to receive, make, and execute all deeds, transfers, contracts, covenants, conveyances, and grants whatsoever and to sue, and be sued, plead and be impleaded,

answer and defend, be answered and defended, in the courts of law or equity of this State or elsewhere: provided notwithstanding, that the said corporation shall not at any time, take, hold, or possess property real, or personal, or both to an amount exceeding ten thousand dollars.

Section 3. - And be it further enacted that it shall, and may be lawful for the members of the said Company to assemble, and meet together, as often as occasion may require, at such place, or places, as the said company, or a majority of them, may from time to time appoint - due notice being given, and to make, and establish such Constitution and By-laws, and appoint and elect such officers, as may to them seem necessary and proper, for the good government of the Company, and to alter, amend and change the same at pleasure.

Section 4. And be it further enacted that it shall, and may be lawful for the said company, to have, and use a common seal with such device or devices, as the said Company may think proper, for the sealing of all, and singular deeds, grants, conveyances, contracts, bonds, and all instruments generally, touching or concerning said Corporation,

Section 5. And be it further enacted,
that the said Company shall have
and exercise, such powers, and do, and
perform such things, as is usual for
a hose company, under the Constitution
and laws of this State, and the
power, and authority granted by this
Act.

Section 6. And be it further enacted,
that this Act shall be deemed and
taken to be a private-Act; and the
Legislature expressly reserves to itself,
the right to revoke the same at any
time hereafter.

John E. Collins,
Speaker of the Senate.

W. R. McCabe,
Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed at Dover.
Jan'y. 19. 1887.

9

Wednesday Eve Jan 6th 1886

Minutes of temporary meeting read and approved.

Motion was then made that a roll be opened for active members of Home Company. The following were present and enrolled on the list.

Samuel Taylor.
Henry D. Boyer.
George O. Bailey
J. P. Jones.
J. C. Ransom.
John P. Patterson.
C. F. Lippincott.
Daniel Perry.
Charles A. Barnes.
Edward R. Hall.
William B. Grant.
Thomas McCoy.
Joseph Hunt.
Frank Pratt.
Benton B. Weldon.
E. Thomas Clayton.
Henry S. Anthony.
George R. Barnes
Orakeman Spruance.
Elmer G. Taylor.
G. A. Crick.
John Saughey.
Charles B. Pugsy.
John R. Robinson.
John Styhoff.
Abel S. Taylor.
John Cameron.

Motion was then made that we go into permanent organization Samuel Taylor nominated for President and elected.

C. F. Lippincott and B. B. Weldon nominated for Vice President.

On Orelson withdraws and G. F.
 Lippincott elected Vice President.
 H. S. Anthony elected Secretary.
 Motion made and carried that a
 committee of (6) six be appointed to
 wait on the Board of Town Commis-
 sioners and see what they would do
 for the Horse Company.
 Motion was then made that the
 President appoint said committee
 which he did as follows.
 Orelson, Anthony, Lippincott
 Robinson, Jones, and Bailey.
 The following were appointed a com-
 mittee on Constitution and By-
 Laws, Wick Orelson and Anthony.
 Also to suggest names for Co.
 Motion was then made and carried
 that B. O. Orelson be Chief of
 Horse Company, also have the
 appointing of First and Second
 assistants subject to approval of
 Company.
 On Motion adjourned to meet
 Jan. 18th at 7:30 Oc.

Henry S. Anthony
 Secretary.

Monday Even. Jan 18th 1886

Meeting called to order at 7.30 o'clock
President in the chair.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Motion, was then made that a committee of three be appointed to act with a like committee of the Board of Town Commissioners.

Committee Wick, Lippincott and Anthony

Motion, was then made and carried that we elect a Treasurer, Fire Recorder and six Directors.

G. A. Wick elected Treasurer.

W. D. Boyer " Fire Recorder.

John B. Paterson " Director

John Sargue " "

E. Thomas Clayton " "

Orakeman Sprague " "

J. P. Jones " "

Clara J. Taylor " "

Motion, That a committee of three be appointed on entertainments;

Boyer, Lippincott and Anthony Com.

Motion, That a committee of two be appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of building a Hose House. Committee Welton and Anthony.

Committee on Constitution and By Laws made report - after considerable discussion, and that the following be Article 18. Section 7

of By Laws. - In case no Director be present at the Hose House at an alarm of fire, members present to take charge of Commanders Horn and proceed to the fire, and deliver said Horn to the first Director arriving at the fire. - One adopted.

12
On motion adjourned to meet,
Jan 25th at 7.35 O'clock,
W. S. Cushman Secy.

Monday Eve, Jan 25th 1886.

Meeting called to order at 8 O'clock.
Vice President in the chair.
Minutes of last meeting read and
approved.

Motion, that - the members present
be a committee to notify our chief
to be present at our meetings.

The following members not approving
of the Constitution & By-Laws with-
view from Horse Co. Geo R. Barnes
Wm B. Grant, C. R. Barnes, John Slyhoff
and C. B. Purgny.

After the discussion of several subjects
pertaining to the Company
Adjourned to meet - 2nd Monday in
Feb. at 7.35 O'clock.

W. S. Cushman Secy.

land and premises hereby bargained and sold, or intended to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said Anthony B. Carroll, his heirs and assigns, To and for the fully proper use, benefit and behoof of him the said Anthony B. Carroll, his heirs and assigns, forever.

In Witness Whereof, the said George Leslie Gordon and Lucile S. Gordon his wife, have hereunto respectively set their hands and seals the day and year first herein written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of

Edwin F. Wood.

George Leslie Gordon. (Seal)
Lucile S. Gordon. (Seal)

State of Delaware.
Kent County.

S.S.:

Edwin F. Wood
Notary Public
Appointed March 12
1921, For Four Years.
Delaware.

Be it remembered, that on this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four, personally came before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public for the State of Delaware, George Leslie Gordon and Lucile S. Gordon,

his wife, parties to this Indenture, known to me personally to be such, and severally acknowledged this Indenture to be their act and deed respectively; and that the said Lucile S. Gordon being at the same time privately examined by me apart from her husband, acknowledged that she executed the said Indenture willingly, without compulsion, or threats, or fear of her husband's displeasure.

Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year aforesaid

Edwin F. Wood
Notary Public

Received for record Fifth day of November, A.D. 1924,

Edgar H. Atkinson, Recorder.

A true copy:

Attest,

Edgar H. Atkinson, Recorder

Wheed

2.00 G. S. J. R.

Stamp cancelled.

Sarah B. Mc Howell

To

Citizens Hose Company No. 1

of

Smyrna, Delaware.

This Indenture, Made the twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, and twenty-four (A.D. 1924)

Between, Sarah B. Mc Howell, single woman, of Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware, party of the first part and Citizens Hose Company, No. 1 of Smyrna, Delaware, a corporation of the State of Delaware, party of the second part.

Witnesseth: That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty-five hundred

Dollars (\$2000) lawful money of the United States of America, to her in hand paid by the said party of the second part before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged. Hath granted, bargained and sold, aliened, conveyed, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents, Hath grant, bargain and sell, alien, convey, release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns.

All that certain piece or parcel of land and premises lying on the southerly side of West Commerce Street, between Delaware and Union Streets, in the Town of Smyrna, Kent County and State of Delaware, beginn-
ing at a stone in the southerly side of said Commerce Street, a corner for lands of Clara Faries and run-
ning therrwith in a southerly direction one hundred and ninety-nine (199) feet to a stone, a corner for said Faries lands; thence in a westerly direction with lands formerly of Benjamin Coombe, deceased, fifty-six (56) feet to a stone; thence in a northerly direction one hundred and ninety-nine (199) feet to a stone in the southerly side of said Commerce Street; thence with said Commerce Street in an easterly direction sixty-six (56) feet to the place of beginning and containing eleven thousand, one hundred and forty-four (11,144) square feet of land, more or less, and being the same lands granted in fee unto the grantor herein by deed of Helen R. Mc Dowell, single woman, dated June 2nd, 1927, and of record, at Dover in Deed Book P, Vol, 12 at Page 264 etc.

And all and singular the buildings, improvements, fixtures, ways, woods, waters, watercourses, easements, rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said lands and premises belonging or in anywise appertaining;

And the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim, demand and possibility whatsoever of the said party of the first part at law or in equity, of, to, in, or out of the same, and every part and parcel thereof, To Have and To Hold the lands and premises hereby bargained and sold, or intended to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns, To and for the only proper use, benefit and behoof of it the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever.

The party of the first part expressly reserves all the buildings on said land and the right of possession of the within conveyed property for a period of time to remove all of said buildings and improvements and

thereof from the land.

In Witness Whereof, the said party of the first part has hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first herein written.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered

In the Presence of,

C. L. Harmonson

Sarah B. Mc Nowell (seal)

State of Delaware,

Kent County, S.S.

C. L. Harmonson
Notary Public
appointed Aug. 4, 1923
for Two years Delaware.

Be it remembered, that on this 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four personally came before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public for the State of Delaware, Sarah B.

Mc Nowell, single woman, party to this Indenture, known to me personally to be such, and acknowledged this Indenture to be her act and deed.

Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year aforesaid.

C. L. Harmonson.
Notary Public.

Received for record November 8th, A.D. 1924,

Edgar H. Atkinson, Recorder.

A true copy

Attest:

Edgar H. Atkinson, Recorder.

Wheed

50. & S. D. R.

Stamp Cancelled.

Walter H. Mattiford et ux.

To

Clarence Boyles.

This Wheed, made this 31st day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four.

Between, Walter H. Mattiford and Beulah W. Mattiford his wife, of Kent County and State of Delaware parties of the first part and Clarence Boyles of Duck Creek Hundred, Kent County and the State of Delaware party of the other part.

Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars lawful money of the United States of America, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby grants and conveys unto the said party of the second part,

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated on Commerce Street in the Town of Smyrna, Kent County and the State of Delaware, bounded and described as follows:-

Beginning; at a point on the East side of Commerce Street at a corner for this land and the land of Harry Boyles and extending North with said Commerce St. a distance of Fifty feet, to a corner, then extending in a distance of One Hundred and fifty feet, parallel

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Volume _____ Page _____

SC Deeds

S12 p 258



36.

37.



At right is a c1905 view of McClement's Italianate residence. Built c1860, it was considered Smyrna's most ornate private dwelling. All of the original hardware is reputed to have been sterling silver.³⁸



- shall be in service when vehicle is standing or running.
4. Every motor vehicle shall be provided with a horn or bell when in use and shall be sounded at the approach of every curve or crossing to insure the safety of the other users of the street.
 5. Fines - not less than \$5 or more than \$25 or not more than 10 days in jail.

At a special meeting of the town commissioners on January 11th, 1913, a new Chief of Police was elected, one Lee Cochran of Middletown, Delaware, at a salary of \$60 a month. This was the beginning of the first organized police force in Smyrna. It consisted of a full-time Chief of Police and numerous part-time policemen, including the former chief. B. W. Turner was kept on as policeman and town hauler at his same salary of \$85 a month. Also, about this time, two water closets were installed in the two cells of the jail. Thus, Smyrna now had an organized police force, an up-to-date jail according to the standards of that time, a town judicial system with Mr. E. Crow as the town alderman at \$25 a month pay; and a set of ordinances for rules and regulations for the general welfare of the citizens of the Town of Smyrna. As a side-light, in 1913, through the efforts of the Century Club, the commissioners adopted as the official colors for the Town of Smyrna, dark red and dark blue.

Sometime in May, 1922, Josuha Lewis, a retired steamboat captain replaced Lee Cochran as Chief of Police. Captain Lewis remained in that capacity until retiring in 1938, when John W. Jacobs, Jr., who had been with the police department since 1930; first, as a part-time policeman then as full-time under Captain Lewis, was appointed Chief of Police. He held the job until 1961 when he retired due to reasons of health, after having given many years of faithful service to the Town of Smyrna. Eden Jones, a retired state policeman, was appointed to replace John Jacobs. He remained on the job only a short time, quitting to take another type of job. William Short, the present Chief of Police, was appointed in Jones' place.

The present day police consists of one chief, 6 full-time patrolmen, and one part-time patrolman, 2 radio equipped police cars, walkie-talkies and a base station. Jail facilities are approximately the same as they were at the turn of the century. The patrol coverage is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, backed up by a very close relationship with the state police.

Citizen' Hose No. 1, Inc.

From the beginning of the settlement of Duck Creek Cross Road until the early 1860's fire fighting and fire protection was completely a neighbor to neighbor job.

When the alarm "Fire" was sounded men and women would seek to ascertain the location of the fire. After they had done so then those volunteers would try in their way to put out the conflagration, save lives or protect other property.

There was no organization other than the spontaneous help offered by each citizen. In many cases the helping citizen had to provide his own equipment.

In the early 1860's the Town of Smyrna made use of the primitive "Bucket Brigade" system of fire fighting in which a

line of people would be forced to pass buckets of water to the fire from private resident pumps and wells. In the same 60's the fire fighting was under the jurisdiction of the Town Commissioners. The method of fire fighting was streamlined by the Town's purchase of two hand engines, one the "Smyrna" and the other the "Friendship". These engines would force the water, still supplied by the bucket brigade, onto the roofs of two story houses. During the year 1885 Smyrna built a Municipal Water Works including the "Standpipe" erected at the intersections of West Commerce, High and Clayton Road, water mains and fire hydrants.

On January 6, 1886 thirty interested citizens of the Town of Smyrna met. A motion was made at that first meeting to "go into permanent organization known by the name of the Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1 of Smyrna, Delaware". Samuel Taylor was elected President and B.V. Weldon was elected Chief. Funds were raised by a public subscription at that time amounting to \$961 from residents. Members decided to collect weekly dues of \$.02 per member in order to operate. A Company charter, approved by the State Legislature at Dover January 19, 1887, and signed by John E. Collins, Speaker of the House, incorporated the organization as a volunteer fire company.



Citizens' Hose Co., Inc. around the turn of the Century - Town Hall Building

Nineteen years later, they discovered that their charter had lapsed and promptly took steps to reincorporate under a new law. The Company was so reincorporated on April 15, 1916. On November 17 of the same year the first motorized equipment, an American LaFrance six-cylinder pumper with about 3500 feet of hose and a Dodge Chemical Engine was purchased. This action marked a great stride of achievement in equipping the Company with adequate mobile protection apparatus.

In 1886 the Company was housed in a portion of the Town Hall located on South Main Street. In 1924, however, the McDowell property on West Commerce Street was purchased and a Building Committee composed of John C. Manering, G.R. Stevenson and Stanley Morris launched a building campaign to erect a modern brick firehouse on the purchased site. On November 9, 1925 the Citizens' Hose Company held its first meeting at its present site.

On July 12, 1948 a Dodge chassis mounted with a 800 gallon tank wagon was added to the equipment of the Com-



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GENERAL CONTRACTORS

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Smyrna, Delaware



pany. Two days later, Smyrna suffered its greatest fire loss. The Wilson Cabinet Company disaster of July 14, saw a million dollar fire which raged out of control and threatened an entire section of the Town. On Christmas night of that same year, the partial destruction of the Town Hall took place marking that year with the highest fire loss in the Company's history.

During 1949 property adjoining the fire hall was purchased for future expansion. The installation of radios on all the equipment and the purchase of a base radio station at the fire-house was accomplished in 1951.

On February 17, 1953 a Building Committee, composed of James C. Truax, Wilson Faries and James Ford launched a building campaign to erect the present addition to the fire-house. When it was completed on August 20, 1954 it housed seven pieces of apparatus, a kitchen and a lounge. On November 13 of that same year a 1953 American LaFrance 1000 gallon water tank was received and put into service.

During the year of 1956, 1963 through 1967 adjoining property and equipment was purchased by the Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1, Inc. for expansion to meet the growing needs of the Community.

Among the special equipment acquired by the Company between those years were the 1964 Dodge V-8 four wheel drive 3/4 Ton "Weed Wagon" used extensively for field, brush and woods alarms; a 5000 gallon tank wagon which could be fully loaded for use in rural alarms in less than five minutes, and a 17 ft. Keller Kraft Aluminum Rescue Boat propelled by a 20 H.P. Johnson outboard engine for water rescue response.

Constant need for modern equipment and training which members of the organization undergo make progress of the Citizens' Hose Company self-evident. A new rescue unit and a 1000 gallon capacity Pumper mounted on Ford chassis recently have been placed into service. Our firemen appear on the rolls of local, county and state-wide fire schools in order to keep abreast with the latest methods of fire control, fire fighting and rescue techniques. Today each of the 220 members of the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. is proud to be a part of the organization which has and which will continue to serve this Community with the best possible service in any emergency.



An Array of Modern Fire-Fighting Equipment in Front of Fire-house on West Commerce Street

The War for Independence

Allen McLane



Col. Allen McLane whose portrait hangs in the Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware

Allen McLane - Lt., Captain, Major, Colonel, Romantic trooper, fearless fighter, daring scout. He was called the "Unknown Hero of the Revolution" by Fred J. Cook in an article written for American Heritage in October, 1956.

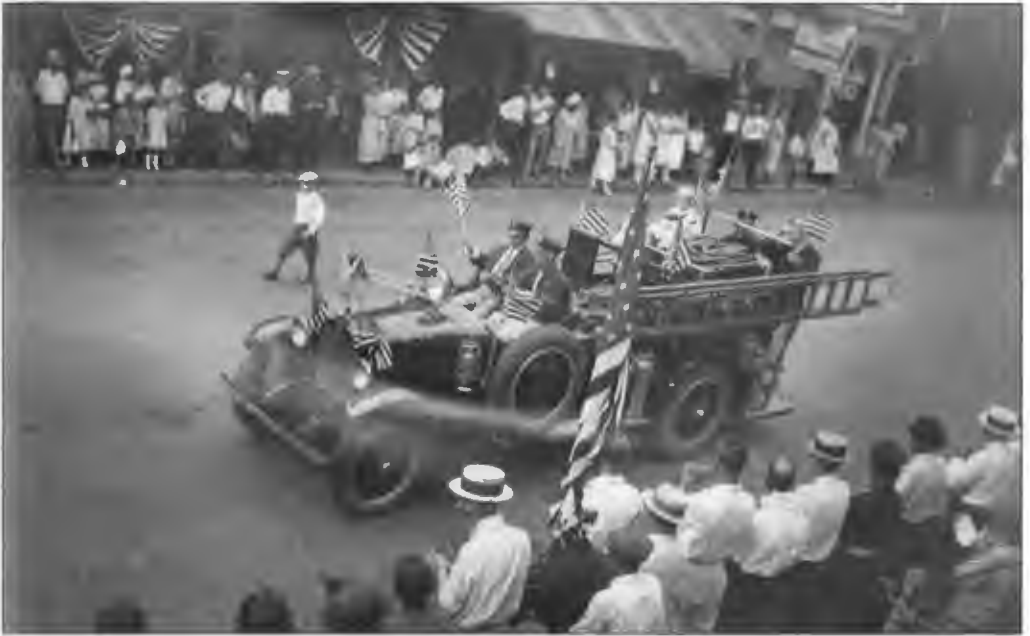
Allen McLane was born in Philadelphia, August 8, 1746 but moved to Duck Creek Cross Roads in 1769. In 1770 he married Rebecca Wells, a daughter of James Wells, former high sheriff of Kent County. In an enumeration taken of the men in Kent County in 1775, McLane was listed as a leather-breeces maker.

In 1775 he was commissioned as lieutenant in Col. Caesar Rodney's regiment of the Delaware Militia.



A far cry from the days of the bucket brigade, the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 was officially formed in 1886 with 30 members while using space at the old town hall. In 1925, they finally moved into their own house, built on land purchased from McDowell on Commerce Street. In that year, the fire chief for the company was George W. Sylvester. He remained chief until 1930. The images on this page show Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 in 1925, just after the move (above), and again in 1929 (below). Other expansions and additions were made to the firehouse, but the company still resides at the same location on Commerce Street in Smyrna.





In July 1925, the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 hosted the fifth annual convention of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. The hose company was a charter member in the association, which began in 1921. The cost of membership for the company was \$5. The parades were meant to show the pride the firemen had in their trucks and their community commitment. (Courtesy of the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.)



In Smyrna, like other towns at the time, roadways were not uniform and were well worn with large ruts from carts, horses, and new automobiles. Precipitation on the streets was not a driver's friend, as roads would get washed out, muddy, and mostly impassable. This photograph was taken on New Street in Smyrna in 1929.



CITIZENS' HOSE



The first settlement of Smyrna was not on the present site of the town, but was about a mile and a half to the north, along Duck Creek. Duck Creek Village was settled about 1700 and thought to be a good spot for shipping and receiving goods by water. The village had a tavern, a blacksmith shop, a Quaker Meeting House, some other small businesses, a church and two cemeteries.

The only thing left of the original village is "The Lindens" a brick building erected by a miller sometime before 1725, constructed along the lines of a dutch dwelling with gambrel roof and dormer windows.

The Town of Smyrna as we know it today began in 1768 when James Green sold off portions of his land at a crossroads south of Duck Creek. The name Smyrna was chosen for the settlement, according to local legend because of the rich grainlands and other produce shipped from the river wharves. The farmers felt their settle-

ment would be as important to the Eastern Shore as its namesake was to the merchants of the eastern Mediterranean. During the next 200 years the town became the third largest in Kent County. It was incorporated in 1817.

The convenient transportation by water did make Smyrna the export center for grains and fruits of the prosperous countryside and resulted in the establishment of shipyards, carriage factories, canneries, basket factories, a tannery, a pottery, two banks and a weekly newspaper. The Smyrna Times is the oldest independent newspaper in the state and has not missed an issue since its first one in 1854. Ken Smith has been its editor since 1946.

In the early 1860's, the Town of Smyrna had a more or less unofficial fire brigade, loosely organized under the Town Commissioners. Up until the purchase of two hand engines, one named the "Smyrna" and the other the "Friendship," the method of firefighting was solely a



bucket brigade. But with the hand-pumpers, the firefighters could at least force a stream of water onto the roofs of two-story houses, even though they would still need the bucket brigade to keep the hand pumpers filled with water.

A Municipal Water Works system built during 1885 included the "Standpipe" which was erected at the intersections of West Commerce, High and Clayton Road, as well as water mains and fireplugs.

On January 6, 1886, thirty residents of Smyrna met and voted "to go into permanent organization known by the name of the Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1 of Smyrna, Delaware." Samuel Taylor was elected President, and Benton V. Weldon was elected Chief.

Funds were raised by public subscription from residents at that time which amounted to \$961.00. Members decided to collect weekly dues of two cents per member for operating funds.

The company was chartered on January 19, 1886 by the State Legislature in Dover and signed by John E. Collins, Speaker of the House.

In 1886, the company was housed in a portion of the Town Hall located on South Main Street. In 1924, however, the McDowell property on West Commerce Street was purchased and a

Building Committee composed of John C. Mar-
nering, G. R. Stevenson and Stanley Morris
launched a campaign to erect a modern brick
firehouse on that site. On November 9, 1925, the
Citizens' Hose Company held its first meeting in
the present firehouse.

That same year the fire bell was moved to the
new firehouse and is still used during Memorial
Services to pay tribute to deceased firemen. The
bell was purchased in 1887 and originally
located in the Town Hall.

The first motorized piece of equipment, an
American LaFrance six cylinder pumper with
3,500 feet of hose, and a Dodge Chemical Engine
was delivered on November 13, 1916. This pur-
chase marked a big step forward in efficiency
for the firefighters. From 1916 through 1948 five
additional pieces of apparatus were purchased
which included a 1922 Dodge Chemical Truck, a
1928 American LaFrance Pumper, a 1932 Ameri-
can LaFrance Pumper, a 1946 American
LaFrance Pumper, and a 1948 Dodge Pumper.
The first drivers were Warner W. Price, Sr., Cle-
ment Sapp, Wallace Elterich and Harry Turner.

In 1944, the David property on the east side of
the firehall was purchased for future expansion.
The existing firehouse was remodeled that same

year. Installation of radios on all equipment and purchase of a base station was accomplished in 1951. One of the biggest sources of revenue during this period was received from annual carnivals sponsored by the Citizens' Hose Company.

The arrival of the new 1948 Dodge firetruck mounted with an 800 gallon tank wagon couldn't save Smyrna from a large fire loss. The Wilson Cabinet Company disaster of July 14, 1948 was a million dollar fire which raged out of control and threatened an entire section of the town. On a freezing icy Christmas night of that same year, the \$100,000 partial destruction of the Town Hall including the old Opera House, one of the most popular entertainment halls in central Delaware took place marking that year with the highest fire loss in the company's history.

On February 17, 1953, a Building Committee composed of James C. Truax, Wilson Faries, and James Ford proposed an addition on the east side of the firehouse. When it was completed on August 20, 1954, it contained seven pieces of equipment, a kitchen and a lounge. On November 13 of the same year, a 1953 American LaFrance pumper with a 750 gallon tank was received and put into service. The Westfall property was purchased in 1956, the Turner

property in 1963, and the Presbyterian Manse property in 1966. Four additional pieces of equipment were purchased during that same period: a 1958 American LaFrance Pumper; a 1958 Ford Panel Rescue Truck; a 1964 Dodge 4-Wheel Drive Bush Truck; in 1966 a 1958 Mack Tractor and 5000 gallon tanker; 1968 Ford-Hahn Motors Rescue Truck and a Ford-Hahn Motors Pumper.

Citizens' Hose firemen and those from eight neighboring companies fought the January 16, 1964 fire which burned the 150 year old three-story building containing fourteen apartments and the Wootten Clothing Store on West Commerce Street. The loss was about \$100,000.

There is only one volunteer firemen's band in the State of Delaware, which is from the Citizens' Hose Company. Forty-five members of the band rehearse at the Delaware Home and Hospital regularly and have been together since 1948. Directed by A Rodney Daniels, the musicians have won many prizes at parades and conventions throughout the Delmarva peninsula as well as in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The other thing that is one of its kind in the state among volunteer firemen is a brass pole. Still in use, the pole is part of the original equip-



ment of the present firehouse.

They were also the first volunteer fire department in the State of Delaware with statewide fire communications network on May 10, 1953.

There are no paid dispatchers at the Citizens' Hose Company, but there is a part-time custodian.

The Archives Room in the firehouse is well organized. Minute books dating from the organization of the company in 1886 up to the present are in chronological order and complete. Among the interesting fire relics in the room include antique trumpets, one inscribed "To the Weccacoe Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 8 of Wilmington, Delaware by the Volunteer Firemen of Philadelphia on November 30, 1893"; trophies, plaques, the original building fire bell, lanterns, leather buckets, pikes, badges, the bell from the 1886 hose carriage, and many photographs. There is also a film made in 1932 by J. Wells Faries of the Citizens' Hose firemen conducting a mock alarm.

The two people most responsible for historical photographs and preservation of early records of the company was E. Reynolds Bradley and Willard Y. Rutter.

There was a grandfather-grandson combination of fire chiefs. Harvey W. Faries was Chief from 1917 to 1919 and his grandson Robert T. Faries was Chief for several years in the late 1950's.

A summary of the minutes from 1886 up to 1956 was the most interesting reading of all and a few entries are included below.

The volunteer firemen of Smyrna held their first parade on the 4th of July, 1887 and Lizzie Faries made the first parade banner which cost \$10.65.

The Smyrna firemen were invited to Middletown for the dedication of their new firehouse on February 12, 1889 and arrangements were made with the Pennsylvania Railroad for special rates of 25¢ round trip for all those who attended.

On May 30, 1904, an agreement was made with Ben Turner who hauled coal to the town light plant to use his team of horses to pull the fire equipment. The following May, the White Rose Minstrels were presented in the Opera House on Thanksgiving Night as a fund raiser.

The first out-of-town fire occurred at the home of Edgar Spruance and after it was extinguished the firemen decided to call on him for a

and Union Streets. High winds carried sparks and burning embers to the homes of Buttery, Jefferson, Frank Goottee, Dr. Robert Watts, George D. Wright, Ben Collins, Enic Moor, Frank Watson, Edith Collins, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mrs. Cyrus Snder's stable and Horace Mustard's tannery.

On January 2, 1922 the firemen were called to Belmont Hall and found the 2nd and 3rd floors burning. The fire was extinguished by water pumped from Lake Como with the hose laid through Odd Fellows Cemetery.

The Middletown New Opera House and Post Office burned on April 5, 1922, and Dover, Newark, Wilmington, Clayton and Smyrna responded.

A tragic accident called the Smyrna firemen on January 4, 1925 when Mrs. Spencer Buckson threw kerosene in the kitchen stove to hurry the wood stove for supper. The stove exploded, the house burned to the ground, and Mrs. Buckson was killed.

Another housewife died in a tragic accident when Mrs. William Stanley poured gas from a can into a stove on November 4, 1935. It exploded, setting her clothing on fire. She was taken to Kent General Hospital where she died the following morning.

The firemen were called to a rubbish fire at the Masonic Colored Lodge on East Street on July 4, 1944. The Colored Drum and Bugle Corps was on hand and in the spirit of cooperation played "There Will Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" while the firemen put the fire out.

The minutes are full of other entries and well worth reading.

Planning for the present building began in 1969. The Committee in charge was composed of James C. Truax as Chairman, James A. Mood, C. Albert O'Neal, Jr., Gerald J. Mood, and J. Fletcher Truax. After considerable study on the project, the committee requested the approval of the membership to construct an addition to the firehouse on the west side. Approval was given and the Moffitt property located southwest of the firehouse was purchased. George Fletcher Bennett, noted Delaware architect, was engaged for the project.

The present membership of the Citizens' Hose Company numbers 230 with 68 life members and 6 honorary members. Six members have over 50 years of service. The men operate and maintain

HISTORY (1924-1993)

Seeking a way to serve the community, the eighteen members of David C. Harrison Post No. 14 supported the idea of J. Dewey Quillen that the Legion provide an ambulance service. The year was 1924 and William E. Matthews, Jr. was then the Commander. After a successful fund-raising campaign, an order was placed with an Ohio manufacturer of funeral cars. The ambulance, a 1924 Meteor, was delivered November 10, 1924 and dedicated November 11, 1924, thus becoming the first American Legion Ambulance in the nation and the first Volunteer Community Ambulance in the world.

The Meteor made its first run on November 15, 1924. The ambulance served the area from Summit Bridge to Milford. A second ambulance, a Lincoln Sedan Classic, was purchased in 1926. After being in service for two years and five months, 283 calls were answered, with 310 patients, and 28,243 miles were traveled. The longest trip was from Clayton to New York City, 323 miles. Average cost of service per call was \$19.25; average contribution, \$2.20; and average cost per mile, \$.21.

Other ambulances that have been placed in service include a 1935 Studebaker President Straight 8, a 1949 Ford, and, since 1958, four Cadillac units. During the 70's, the larger Box-type units replaced the Cadillacs. Of the four units purchased, three units are still in service.

The present membership of Station 64 (Smyrna Legion) now totals 36, plus 7 auxiliary members. State law requires each member to have successfully completed a 45-hour course in Basic Life Support at the State Fire School. Members may further their knowledge by taking additional courses. Ambulance 64 was the first volunteer service in the state qualified to use the defibrillator and the Military Anti-Shock Trousers (MAST).

The American Legion Post No. 14 is proud to serve the communities of Smyrna and Clayton and surrounding areas.



AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE STATION

1924 LEGION MEMBERS

William E. Matthews, Jr., Commander

Joseph C. Goldsborough
Grant Garis
Edward Vogel
A. A. Wick
J. Dewey Quillen
M. Leslie Hirons
Davis H. Bell
Clark M. Knotts

J. Stout Bickling
Ralph G. Faries
H. N. Vogel
F. Earl Keith
Creadick Ennis
Lee Deakyne
C. W. Schantz
Bernard Morgan

Earl Grant

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc. of Smyrna, Delaware, which was organized January 6, 1886, serves as the Smyrna Fire Department and provides 24-hour fire and rescue service within the Smyrna fire district. The fire and rescue equipment is dispatched through a centrally located Kent County Enhanced 9-1-1 Communications Center.

Ambulance service is provided by the Smyrna American Legion Ambulance Service of the David C. Harrison Post #14,

Smyrna, Delaware which was organized November, 1924, the first volunteer community ambulance service in the nation. Ambulance service is provided 24 hours a day and dispatching is through the same centrally located Enhanced 9-1-1 Center.



SMYRNA FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROFILE OF SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

There are six school buildings in the Smyrna School District: Smyrna Kindergarten Center (PreK - K), Clayton Elementary (1-4), North Smyrna Elementary (1-4), Smyrna Elementary (1-4), Smyrna Middle (5-7) and Smyrna High School (8-12) with a combined approximate enrollment of 2,919. The district employs a staff of 275, including over 186 dedicated professional faculty members.

Smyrna has been very successful in academics, the arts and athletics. In 1989 the district was recognized at the International Competition for Odyssey of the Mind. League championships have been won in athletics. All students have educational opportunities that are varied, with an extensive range of curriculum-related experiences. The programs encompass developmental early childhood through college preparatory. Academically motivated students may enroll in Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Special programs provide for children who have exceptional learning styles or who have special needs. There are also private schools nearby.

Smyrna School District is dedicated to setting high expectations for all students. The Board of Education, administration, faculty and the community work cooperatively to provide a comprehensive educational program.

Higher education is available with a wide variety of curriculums at:

Delaware State University, Dover
Delaware Technical and Community College, Dover and Wilmington
Goldey Beacom College, Wilmington
University of Delaware, Newark
Widener University, Wilmington
Wilmington College, Wilmington
Wesley College, Dover



SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

HOUSING CEREMONY

Ford-Hahn Motors Rescue Truck

Ford-Hahn Motors Pumper

Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1, Inc.



*Serving as
Smyrna Fire Company*

1:00 P.M.

June 22, 1968

OFFICERS

CITIZENS' HOSE COMPANY NO. 1, INC.

President	Howell H. Barnes
Vice-President	Leon A. Collins, Sr.
Secretary	James P. McCann
Treasurer	Harry M. Thompson
Chief	James A. Mood
1st Ass't. Chief	Gerald J. Mood
2nd Ass't. Chief	Bruce C. Ennis
Fire Recorder	Dónald V. Ebright
Fire Inspector	Gordon R. Miller
Historian	Bruce C. Ennis
Captain	Gary F. Harvath
Lieutenant	Gordon R. Miller
Engineer	Eugene V. Robinson
Chaplains	Rev. Edwin J. Horney Father Francis J. Tierney Rev. Donald H. Feick

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward A. Hohman, Jr.
Eugene V. Robinson
Preston A. Turcotte

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Howell H. Barnes	John Wayne Joseph
Henry S. Bush	Marvin Knox, Sr.
Garland Collins	Gerald J. Mood
Leon A. Collins, Sr.	James A. Mood
Gary F. Harvath	Harry M. Thompson
Ronald Hobbs	

FIRE APPARATUS PURCHASED

By the
CITIZENS' HOSE COMPANY

1916 - American LaFrance Pumper	\$ 6,500
1922 - Dodge Chemical Truck	3,850
1928 - American LaFrance Pumper	10,996
1932 - American LaFrance Pumper	6,000
1946 - American LaFrance Pumper	7,448
1948 - Dodge Pumper	9,307
1953 - American LaFrance Pumper	18,902
1958 - American LaFrance Pumper	22,623
1958 - Ford Panel Rescue Truck	3,198
1964 - Dodge 4-Wheel Drive Brush Truck	5,600
1966 - 1958 Mack Tractor & 5000 Gal. Tanker	2,001
1968 - Ford-Hahn Motors Rescue Truck	24,700
1968 - Ford-Hahn Motors Pumper	29,626

HOUSING OF EQUIPMENT

June 22, 1968



Ford-Hahn Motors Rescue Truck



Ford-Hahn Motors Pumper

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies
ELBERT C. GOLDER, Sr., President
Cheswold Volunteer Fire Co.

- Introduction Rev. Edwin J. Horney
Chaplain, Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
- Welcome Howell H. Barnes, President
Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
- Greetings
- Housing Address Honorable Sherman W. Tribbett
Lt. Governor of the State of Delaware
- Housing of Equipment E. Reynolds Bradley, Past President
D.V.F.A. & Special Life Member Citizens' Hose Co.
- Ford-Hahn Motors Rescue Truck
Clayton Fire Company No. 1, Inc.
Cheswold Volunteer Fire Co.
Hartly Volunteer Fire Company
Robbins Hose Company, Dover
- Ford-Hahn Motors Pumper
Leipsic Volunteer Fire Company
Little Creek Volunteer Fire Company
Middletown Volunteer Hose Company
Townsend Volunteer Fire Company
Odessa Volunteer Fire Company
- Acceptance of Equipment James A. Mood, Chief
Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
- Benediction Rev. Francis J. Tierney
Chaplain, Citizens' Hose Company No. 1, Inc.

Open House

FIRE COMPANY

From the beginning of the settlement of Duck Creek Cross Roads until the early 1860's, fire fighting and fire protection was completely a neighbor to neighbor job.

When the alarm "Fire" was sounded, men and women would seek to ascertain the location of the fire. After they had done so, then these volunteers would try in their way to put out the conflagration, save lives or protect other property.

There was no organization other than the spontaneous help offered by each citizen. In many cases the helping citizens had to provide his own equipment.

In the early 1860's the Town of Smyrna made use of the primitive "Bucket Brigade" system of fire fighting in which a line of people would be forced to pass buckets of water to the location of the fire from private resident pumps and wells. In the same 60's the fire fighting was under the jurisdiction of the Town Commissioners. The method of fire fighting was streamlined by the Town's purchase of two hand engines, one the "Smyrna" and the other the "Friendship". These engines would force the water, still supplied by the bucket brigade, on to the roofs of two story houses. During the year 1885, Smyrna built the Municipal Water Works including the "Standpipe" erected at the intersections of West Commerce, High and Clayton Road, water mains, and fireplugs.



On January 6, 1886 thirty interested citizens of the Town of Smyrna met. A motion was made at that first meeting to "go into permanent organization known by the name of the Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1 of Smyrna, Delaware". Samuel Taylor was elected President and B. V. Weldon was elected Chief. Funds were raised by a public subscription at that time amounting to \$961.00 from

residents. Members decided to collect weekly dues of \$.02 per member in order to operate. A Company charter, approved by the State Legislature at Dover January 19, 1887, and signed by John E. Collins, Speaker of the House, incorporated the organization as a volunteer fire company.

Nineteen years later, they discovered that their charter had lapsed and promptly took steps to reincorporate under a new law. The Company was so reincorporated on April 15, 1916. On November 17 of the same year the first motorized equipment, an American LaFrance six-cylinder pumper with about 3500 feet of hose and a Dodge Chemical Engine was purchased. This action marked a great stride of achievement in equipping the Company with adequate mobile protection apparatus.

B. Franklin Morris, Jr. joined the Citizens Hose Company on November 5, 1912 and is the oldest living member of the organization.



John D. Morris, Brother of B. Franklin Morris, Jr. joined membership on December 1, 1914 and is the second oldest living member of the Citizens Hose Company. Between the years of 1920 and 1944, John served as Fire Chief for 19 years which became an achievement unequalled in the existence of the Citizens' Hose Company.

The year 1917 brought complete fire records written in long-hand.



In 1886 the Company was housed in a portion of the Town Hall located on South Main Street. In 1924, however, the McDowell property on West Commerce Street was purchased and a Building Committee composed of John C. Mannering, G. R. Stevenson and Stanley Morris launched a building campaign to erect a modern brick firehouse on the purchased site. On November 9, 1925 the Citizens' Hose Company held its first meeting at its present site.

That same year the fire bell which was purchased in 1887 [which hung in the Town Hall] was moved to the present building.



On July 12, 1948 a Dodge chassis mounted with a 800 gallon tank wagon was added to the equipment of the company. Two days later, Smyrna suffered its greatest fire loss. The Wilson Cabinet Company disaster of July 14, saw a million dollar fire which raged out of control and threatened an entire section of the town. On Christmas night of that same year, the partial destruction of the Town Hall took place marking that year with the highest fire loss in the Company history.



During 1949 property adjoining the firehall was purchased for future expansion and the fire house was remodeled. The installation of radios on all the equipment and the purchase of a base radio station at the firehouse was accomplished in 1951.



1928 American LaFrance Pumper - 1948 Dodge Pumper - 1946 American LaFrance Pumper - 1932 American LaFrance Pumper

On February 17, 1953 a Building Committee, composed of James C. Truax, Wilson Faries, and James Ford launched a building campaign to erect the present addition to the firehouse. When it was completed on August 20, 1954 it housed seven pieces of apparatus, a kitchen and a lounge. On November 13 of that same year a 1953 American LaFrance 1000 gallon pumper with a 750 gallon water tank was received and put into service.



Willard Y. Rütter and E. Reynolds Bradley of the membership are recognized for their work in the interest of amabilia for photographing scenes and for preserving of early records of the Company for posterity.

During the years of 1956, and 1963 adjoining property and equipment was purchased by the Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1, Inc. for expansion to meet the growing needs of the Community.

Apparatus of the Citizens' Hose Company and equipment from eight neighboring fire companies was placed into service on late evening hours of January 16, 1964 during a conflagration at a 150 year old three-story building which contained fourteen apartments and the Wootten Clothing Store located on West Commerce Street resulting in a loss of approximately \$100,000.



Among the special equipment acquired by the Company between those years were the 1964 Dodge V-8 four wheel drive 3/4 Ton "Weed Wagon" used extensively for field, brush, and woods alarms; a 5,000 gallon tank wagon which could be fully loaded for use in rural alarms in less than five minutes, and a 17 foot Keller Kraft Aluminum Rescue Boat propelled by a 20 H.P. Johnson outboard engine for water rescue.



Constant need for modern equipment and training which members for the organization undergo, make progress of the Citizens' Hose Company self-evident. A new rescue unit and a 1000 gallon capacity pumper mounted on Ford chassis recently have been placed into service. Our firemen appear on the rolls of local, county and state-wide fire schools in order to keep abreast with the latest methods of fire control, fire fighting and rescue techniques. Today each of the 220 members is proud to be a part of the organization which has and which will continue to serve this Community with the best possible service in any emergency. Through a suggestion by the Underwriters Association the Company has been investigating the purchase of aerial equipment, but a decision has not been reached. Officials believe that the purchase of aerial equipment is inevitable.



1958 Ford Rescue Truck - 1958 American LaFrance Pumper - 1953 American LaFrance Pumper - 1946 American LaFrance Pumper - 1926 American LaFrance Pumper

Among relics that are in the possession of the Smyrna Company besides its many trophies and plaques, accessories from antiquated apparatus and original fire bell housed in the present firehouse are two volumes dating back to 1886 offering lists of officers of the company and a page for each member who had joined showing the date of membership, offices held, and number of fires to which he responded during membership.

The volunteer company lists a grandfather-grandson combination of fire chiefs. The late Harvey W. Faries, who was chief from 1917-1919, and his grandson, Robert T. Faries, was fire chief for several years in the late 1950's. The company currently has fourteen 40 year life members still living. They are B. Franklin Morris, Jr., V. Wallace Elterich, John D. Morris, Harry P. Shapley, Earl W. Grant, J. Stout Bickling, John W. Jacobs, Jr., Wilson Faries, William E. Matthews, Jr., John E. Wilson, Jr., D. Vernon Ford, Horace C. David, Wallace D. Elterich and Carl A. Bartlett. Honorary life members are J. Caleb Boggs, David P. Buckson, Linden Boyer, James Hairgrove, Louis J. Amabili, and Rodney A. Daniels. A special life member is E. Reynolds Bradley, past fire chief of the Citizens' Hose Company and past president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemens' Association.

Welcome to

SMYRNA'S

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



200 Years of Progress = 1768 = 1968

June 16-22, 1968

Compliments

Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1 Inc.