

50th Anniversary History



***Fifty Years of Service***

**1902**

**1952**

*Do Not Circulate*

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FROM LIBRARY**

## Dedication

This History of the Hillsdale Fire Department is  
dedicated to the Faith and Tradition of the "Volunteer  
Fire Department."

The future rests upon the experiences of the past.

HILLSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY.  
HILLSDALE, NEW JERSEY



## Hillsdale Fire Department

In March, 1902, a group of fourteen citizens, namely: Cynric C. Davis, Sr., Thomas C. Demarest, Orrin S. Trail, John H. Riley, Louis C. Meyer, Harry B. Kinmoth, Al. D. Hogenkamp, H. A. Hering, Henry G. Hering, Jr., John H. Westphal, George W. Saul, Harry C. Robinson, J. Wilbur Banta and Edmund L. Greenin, met in the store of T. C. Demarest (now Cala Bros. Building on Broadway) to discuss ways and means of "combating fires and minimizing the fire menace."

The following month, April, 1902, the Hillsdale Fire Association had its formal beginning in the room over the Hillsdale Railroad Station. The following officers were elected: John H. Riley, President; J. W. Banta, Recording Secretary; E. F. Taylor, Financial Secretary; O. S. Trall, Treasurer; William Neuberg, Franklin J. Myers, John G. Ackerman, as Trustees; Thomas C. Demarest, Foreman (Captain); Henry A. Hering, Assistant Foreman (Lieutenant).

The Association was incorporated the following year, 1903, and remained in being until dissolved in 1925.

The first fair held by the Fire Association, from August 9th to 16th, 1902, with the assistance of the Ladies, enabled the purchase of an equipped hose reel and pump (called a "Jumper") and a building to house it. Before the erection of Fire Alarm Gongs, the tolling of the Methodist Church bell or continued whistle blowing of railroad engines summoned the firemen to their quarters, from where they pulled their apparatus to the fire by means of ropes. On arrival at the scene, a convenient water hole or the like was sought, the suction hose dropped in, and after much pumping, a thin stream of water was the reward; if insufficient hose, a bucket brigade was formed.

Through continued fairs and by subscriptions in the form of script, the Association was able to secure horse-drawn apparatus and also was able to build the present Fire Headquarters, in 1906, mostly through the efforts of John H. Westphal, H. A. Hering, Cynric C. Davis, John W. Kinmoth and George Saul. (The building was remodeled by the Borough in 1928).



E. L. Greenin became the first assigned driver of horse-drawn Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 (1906) carrying a 40-foot ladder and undetermined amount of hose. Horses were rented from Mr. Calvin Gardinier's Stables located on Park Street (what is now the bank parking space) and the response to an alarm was the signal for much activity getting the horses to Fire Headquarters. The following year (1907) a horse-drawn hose cart was secured and fitted out. The two Companies numbered 71 members.

A water franchise was granted the Hackensack Water Company by the Township of Hillsdale, September 9th, 1903, in return, Hillsdale received 2 miles of water mains and 24 fire hydrants.

The good citizens of the Township desiring to assist the Fire Association, voted by referendum in 1907, the sum of Six Hundred Dollars for fire hose, and January, 1908, the Fire Association was given 1000 feet of 2½ inch single jacket rubber lined fire hose (conforming with specifications of the Board of Fire Underwriters). Also in February of 1908, the Board of Fire Underwriters inspected and

*Hillsdale Fire Department in Action — 1915*







*C. E. McCleary Leads a Parade in 1913, followed by T. I. Haubner's Fife and Drum Corps and Fire Department*

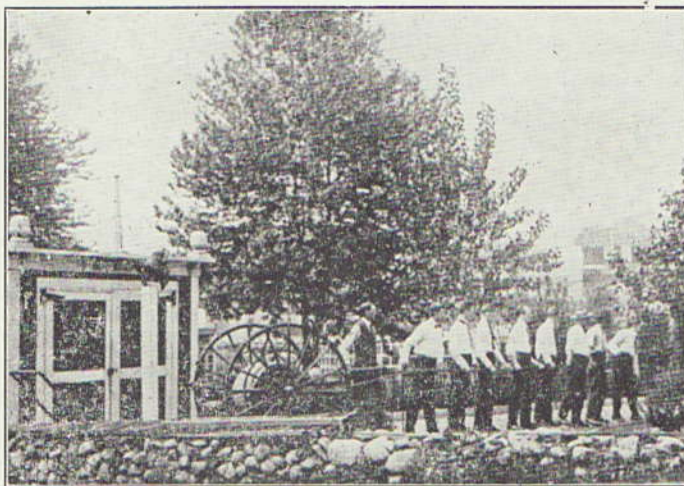
approved 26 fire hydrants in the Township—today there are 146 fire hydrants located within the Borough, and the Fire Department today has 2700 feet of 2½ inch double jacket rubber lined hose and 1000 feet of 1½ inch double jacket rubber lined hose.

In March, 1912, by resolution regularly approved by the Association, an active "Fire Department" was created, "Its membership to consist of those in the Association who desired to do active service and become Active Firemen." Charles E. McCleary was Chief. Others interested in the Fire Association remained as Social Members.

Until March 20th, 1914, the Fire Association was an independent organization. On this date a resolution of recognition was spread on the records of the Township of Hillsdale, and the Hillsdale Fire Association designated the "Bona-fide Official Fire Department of the Township of Hillsdale." Henry J. Werner was Chief. Also during this year, fire gongs were placed throughout the Township and a bell was hung in a wooden tower erected adjacent to the south-westerly corner of the present Fire Headquarters.



On December 10th, 1912, the Township Committee had recognized Hillsdale Hose Company No. 2—in 1919 this company merged with Hose Company No. 1, of the Association, and the equipment of Hose Co. No. 2, including a hand-drawn fire apparatus plus 625 feet of hose, was donated to the Township in April, 1923.



*Hillsdale Hose Company No. 2 Organized in 1912  
By C. V. Shuttleworth*

During 1914, the Fire Association purchased a Mathieson automobile, fitted it out and called it Hose Company No. 1, replacing the horse-drawn vehicle.

On March 14th, 1917, the Township recognized thirty-five citizens as members of the Hillsdale Fire Patrol, and they were vested "with authority to act as Fire Patrol with rights to arrest any person who attempts to hinder the rules and regulations of the Fire Department or the laws of the State of New Jersey, at a fire only," and during 1918, the Township replaced the Mathieson with an Alco Six auto which was made the hose truck and equipped the Mathieson as a Chemical Apparatus, and same turned over to the Fire Patrol.

Also the Active Fire Department and the Fire Association raised a sufficient sum of money by subscription to purchase a Stutz Chassis and the Township purchased a two-ton Smith Universal Truck, which was attached to the Stutz chassis and thus made a Hook & Ladder Truck, retiring the horse-drawn affair. (Most of the work of equipping this truck was done by the firemen). On July 8th, 1921, the Hook & Ladder and the Chemical apparatus were donated to the Township by the Fire Association.

On July 8th, 1921, under Chief A. Bachman, Ordinance 45 was adopted by the Township which established the Hillsdale Fire Department and "the same to consist of the Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, Hose Company No. 1" and the Fire Patrol was designated as "Chemical Company No. 1" . . . on August 9th, 1926, Chemical Company No. 1 amalgamated with the Hook & Ladder Company. From February 1st, 1922, until August, 1926, the three companies; and since August, 1926, the existing two companies have operated on a Department basis under the control of the Board of Fire Officers, as directed by the Fire Ordinances. J. E. Butenschoen, Sr., was Chief in 1922.

The first fire siren was installed on the roof of the Firemen's Hall in July, 1923.

In April, 1926, the Borough purchased a Mack combination Hook & Ladder truck, which was replaced in 1941 by the present Ward LaFrance Cities Service Truck (Hook & Ladder Company No. 1).

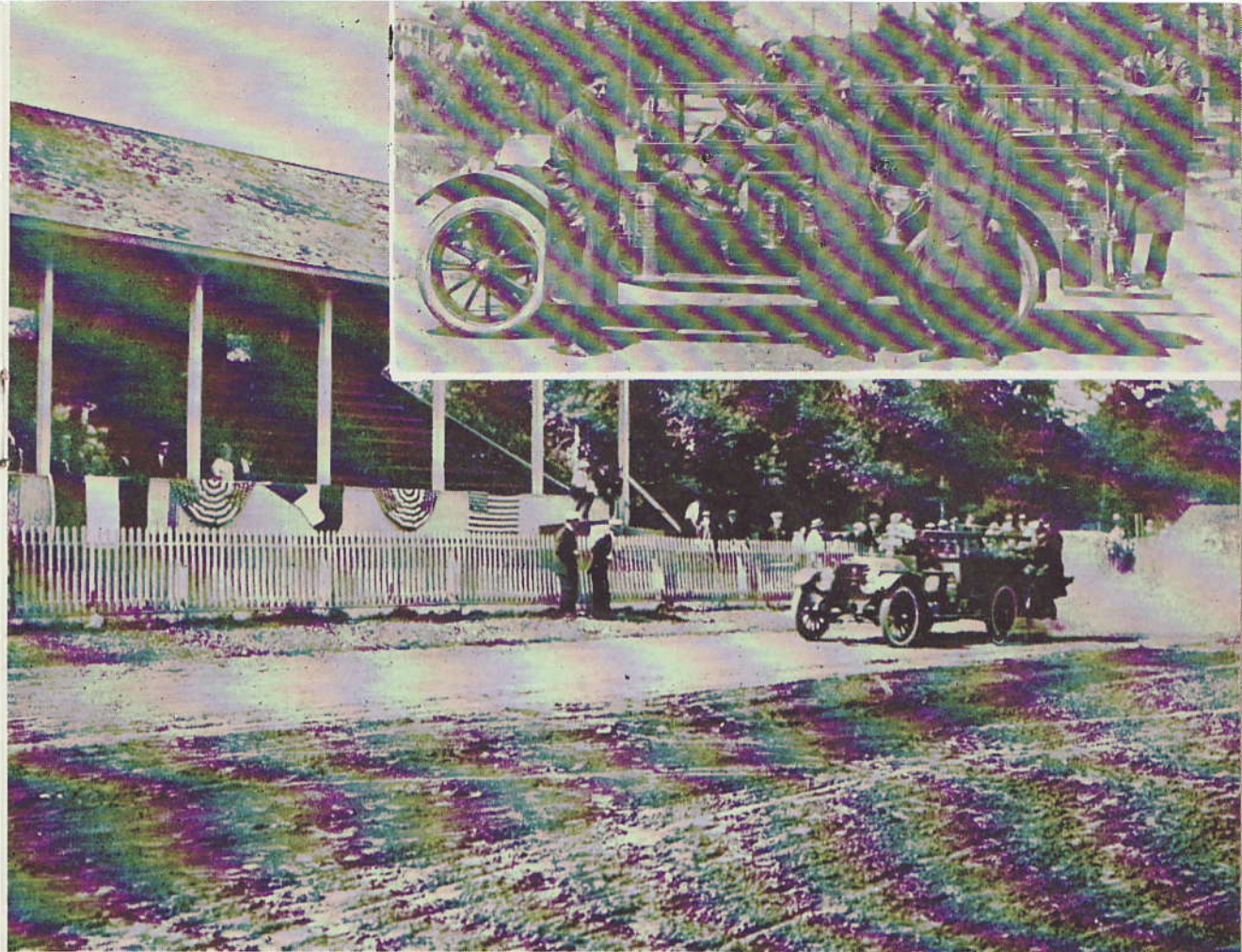
The present Sanford Pumper and Hose Truck was purchased by the Borough in March, 1929, and the present Mack Pumper and Hose Truck in 1950.

On April 3rd, 1922, the Hillsdale Fire Department was given authority by Ordinance to investigate and report all dangerous accumulations of refuse, etc., and to conduct inspections of the public and business buildings in the Borough—(The fore-runner of the Fire Prevention Bureau which the Borough plans to set up this year by an enabling ordinance).

*Hillsdale Fire Department 1923 — Police Officer Dolinski*



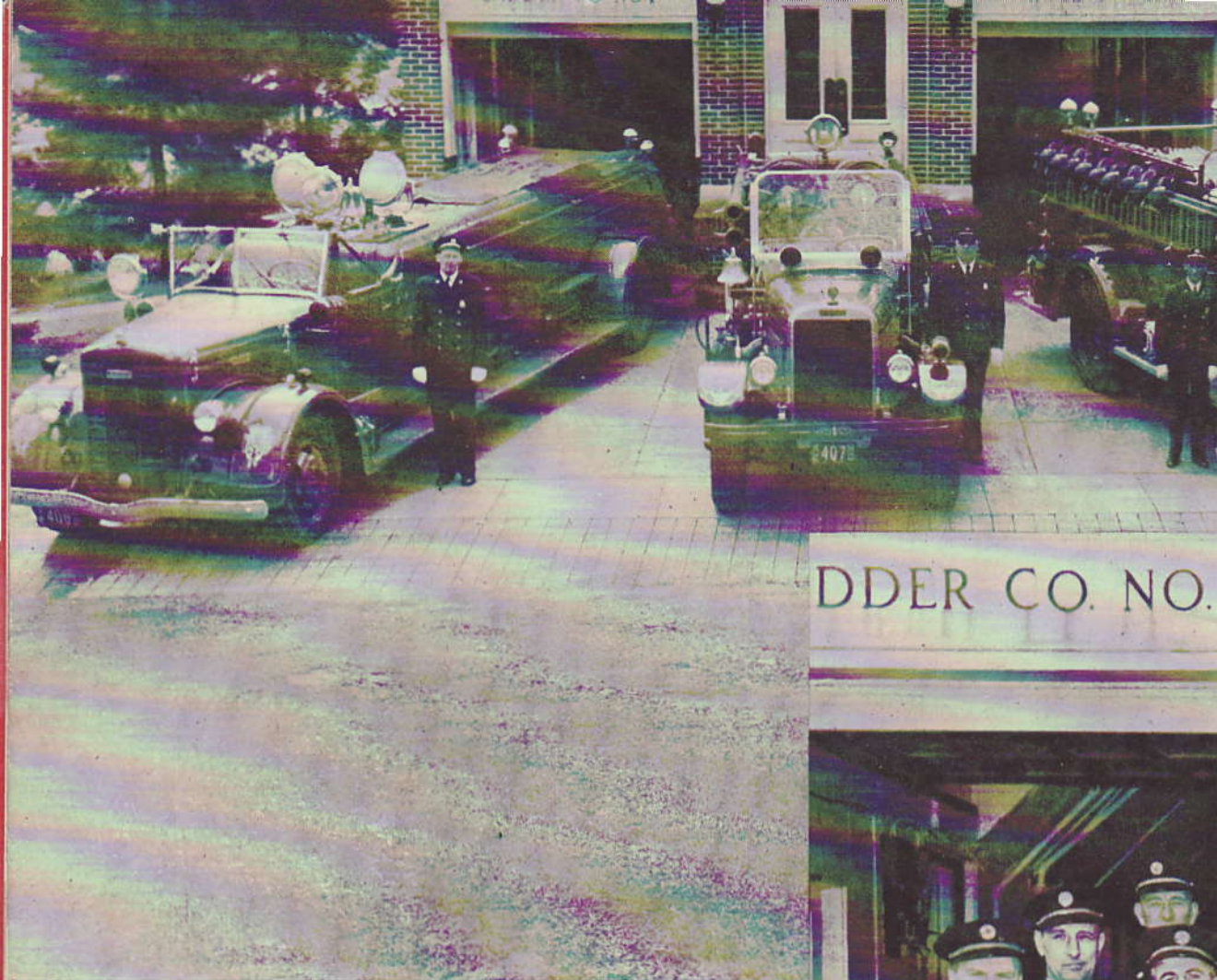




*Ho-Ho-Kus Fair Grounds 1916 — Hillsdale Hose Co. No. 1 Making 37 Second Record (Inset) 1916 Team with Trophy — Ira Durie, Driver; Harvey E. Hering on rear step; Walter Hering and Frank Mead Holding Trophy; August Bachman standing at head of Truck.*

Since 1915, the Hillsdale Fire Department has won various first prizes and other awards in hose-laying, ladder contests—also best appearing in line of march at parades (September 18th, 1915, at the Ho-Ho-Kus Fair Grounds, from a running start, on a quarter-mile stretch, 150 feet of hose was coupled to a hydrant, nozzle attached, and all ready for action in 41 seconds, a new world record, but this was topped by the Hillsdale firemen in a like contest in 1916 by four seconds. This record of 37 seconds will stand for a long time in the annals of hose-laying contests . . . On November 9th, 1931, at the State Firemen's Home at Boonton, in a ladder climbing contest, Albert Westervelt won first prize, making the fast time of 8¼ seconds climbing a 25 foot ladder after a 100 foot running start) . . . A visit to fire headquarters will disclose two glass cabinets containing quite a few trophies won by the Hillsdale Fire Department—also the Ladies Auxiliaries and Exempt Firemen Association.





DDER CO. NO.

# HILLSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1952 with BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Seated Left to right:

Borough Clerk G. A. Storms

Councilman A. F. Westervelt, *Deputy Fire Commissioner*

Councilman C. W. Hillabrant

Councilman Carl Abbenseth, *Fire Commissioner*

Mayor J. A. Tatem

Councilman Adam Pech

Councilman John Williams

Councilman T. E. Mullins, *Deputy Fire Commissioner*







Left to Right

1941 Ward La France Combination Hook & Ladder  
F. D. Whalen, Mechanician

1929 Sanford—500 G.P.M. Pumper and Hose Truck  
W. Ottignon, Mechanician

1950 Mack—750 G.P.M. Pumper and Hose Truck  
C. S. Westphal, Mechanician





The Hillsdale Fire Department was instrumental in beginning the Welfare Committee during the depression, handling this phase from 1929 until the fall of 1932.

The Fire Department started the annual Fire Prevention Essay Contests in the Hillsdale School in October, 1936.

On Decoration Day, 1942, a World War II Honor Roll, erected under the auspices of the Hillsdale Fire Department was presented to the Borough, the Department maintained this Honor Roll until 1950 when it was turned over to the Hillsdale American Legion General Leonard Wood Post No. 162, and where it is being maintained in their Hut.

The following firemen served in the Armed Forces of our Country during World War I—

August Bachman, Herman Bachman, Albert Bartz, Dwight Kinmonth, Stanley Kinmonth, Robert Long, Cyrus Mead, and John Wolfangel.

The following men served in the Armed Forces in World War II—while being members of the Fire Department—Charles M. Westphal, Louis Rau, James E. Brower, Oscar Bartalot, Benjamin Margolies, Richard Knight, J. J. Schumacher, Vincent Kovar, LeRoy Sassenscheid, Louis R. Bartalot, and Joseph J. Sciannimanico.

The Hillsdale Fire Department has been a member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association since 1916, a charter member of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, which was conceived in Hillsdale in 1915 (H. J. Werner of Hillsdale was the first president) (a convention of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association was held at Hillsdale, July 8th, 1922, with the convention meeting in the morning and a mammoth parade in the afternoon)—Hillsdale was also host to the New Jersey and New York Firemen's Association in connection with two neighboring towns for the 35th Annual Convention and parade in 1941 . . . also a charter member of the Pascack Valley Firemen's Association since its inception in 1945.

The Hillsdale Firemen's Band Association, Inc., was organized April 7th, 1948 and incorporated the same month, with 26 players. The Band Association, patronized by the Hillsdale Fire Department has the following officers: Oscar



Bartalot, President; Albert Loschman, Vice-President; Francis Whalen, Secretary; Arthur Sampson, Treasurer and the following Trustees: George Wagon, Jack Keller, Arthur Sampson, Frank Rahrig, Leonard Otter, Director Frank Powell, Assistant Director Albert Loschman.

The records of the Fire Association between 1902 and 1909 are incomplete, but from 1909 to 1925 the presidents of the Fire Association were as follows: P. W. Fluhr, George Saul, H. G. Hering, II., Fred C. Walker, L. J. Forbes, Theo. Haubner (organized the Fire Patrol in 1917) J. G. Hansen, L. H. C. Geel and Harvey E. Hering.

Since 1949 with the adoption of a revised set of By-Laws, it has been permissible for the Department to designate other than the Chief as President of the Department to relieve the Chief of this duty and permitting the Chief to give his entire attention to firemanic matters including the supervision of the Fire Prevention Bureau which is being set up by the Mayor and Council and is to become law in 1952.

The first President of the Hillsdale Fire Department was Ex-Chief Wilbur Ottignon who held office in 1949 and 1950. Ex-Chief Francis D. Whalen has been President from 1951 to the present date. Ex-Chief William T. Pitt has been Vice-President since 1951.

## Fire Chiefs Since 1909

C. Steinhauer, 1909  
John H. Westphal, 1910-1911  
Chas. E. McCleary, 1912-1913  
H. J. Werner,  
1914-until June, 1915  
Chris Deis,  
June 1915-Dec. 31, 1915  
F. L. Mead, 1916  
J. Schlotterbeck, 1917  
C. C. Rickle, 1918-1919  
C. V. Shuttleworth, 1920  
A. Bachman, 1921  
J. E. Butenschoen, Sr., 1922  
Walter Hering, 1923  
Edward Roede, 1924  
Fred Beneway, Sr., 1925  
George Gosman, 1926  
F. E. DeBaun, 1927  
W. A. Farley, 1928  
Jacob Ackerman, 1929  
August Graf, 1930

W. Diefenbach, 1931  
W. Ottignon, 1932  
A. Westervelt, 1933  
Edw. Broegler, 1934  
Geo. Zengerle, 1935  
Louis R. Bartalot, 1936  
William Weaver, 1937  
C. S. Westphal, 1938  
E. O. Phillips, 1939  
Martin Schaefer, 1940  
B. Margolies, 1941  
W. J. Rawson, 1942  
R. C. Appeld, 1943  
William T. Pitt, 1944  
F. D. Whalen, 1945  
Oscar Bartalot, 1946  
H. G. Hering III, 1947  
R. S. Rawson, 1948  
J. E. Brower, 1949  
J. J. Sciannimanico, 1950  
J. E. Butenschoen, Jr., 1951  
Reinhard Felten, 1952

# Hillsdale Fire Department 1952

Reinhard Felten, *Chief*  
Charles E. Schill, *Assistant Chief*  
Rudolph C. Appeld  
*Clerk, Board of Fire Officers*

Francis D. Whalen, *President*  
William T. Pitt, *Vice-President*  
Alex Paull, *Secretary*  
Martin Schaefer, *Treasurer*

## HOSE CO. No. 1

Reinhard Felten, *Chief*  
Edward P. Hughes, *Captain*  
Fred L. Winkler, *Lieutenant*  
I. C. Hering, *Secretary*  
Charles S. Westphal, *Treasurer*  
Louis R. Bartalot  
Oscar Bartalot  
William A. Bender  
John S. Conklin  
George W. Kehr  
Vincent P. Kovar  
William T. Kovar  
Herman Orfini  
John W. Ottignon  
Wilbur Ottignon  
Alex Paull  
William T. Pitt  
Robert S. Rawson  
Walter J. Schilling  
Martin Schaefer  
Joseph J. Sciannimanico  
Harold R. Shuttleworth

## HOOK & LADDER CO. No. 1

Charles E. Schill, *Assistant Chief*  
E. Lewis Jefferies, *Captain*  
Victor J. Wazeter, *Lieutenant*  
Rudolph C. Appeld, *Secretary*  
George W. Stein, *Treasurer*  
George C. Bauer  
Robert J. Blinn\*  
John E. Butenschoen, Jr.  
Charles H. Connelly  
William J. Connelly  
Joseph Farley  
John C. Greve  
Walter Higinson, Jr.  
Walter Higinson, Sr.  
Fred L. Markle  
Charles McDevitt, Sr.  
Clarence E. Mills  
E. Oliver Phillips  
Herbert G. Phillips  
William Weaver  
Albert F. Westervelt  
Francis D. Whalen  
James Zimmerman

*\*In service U. S. Marines*

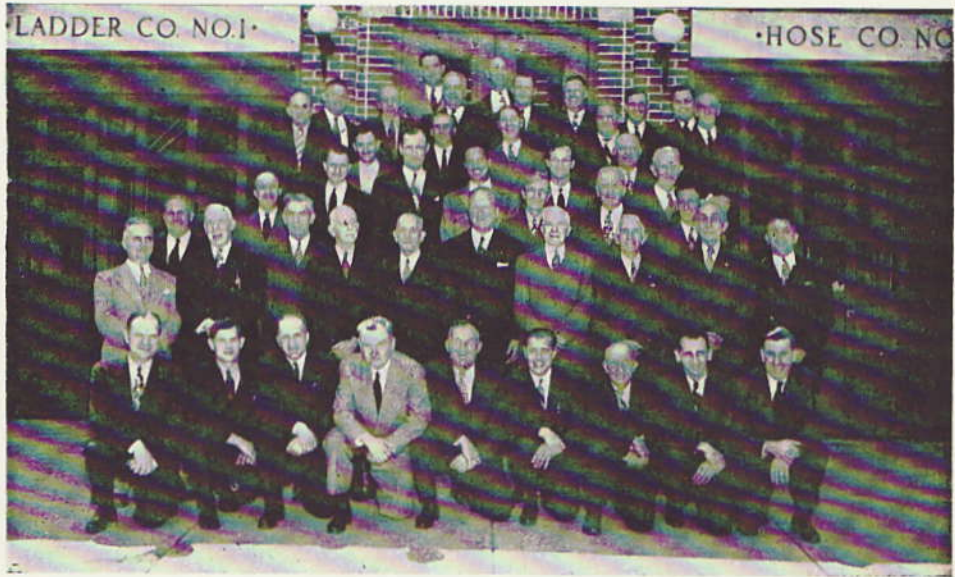
## Honorary Members Hillsdale Fire Department

Rev. Harold N. Smith  
Dr. Louis M. Sosnow  
Fred Beneway, Jr.  
John Marsala  
Frank S. Scott  
John Broegler

LeRoy H. Sassenscheid  
W. Diefenbach  
E. O. Broegler  
W. J. Rawson  
J. E. Brower  
Henry Hering, III



## Exempt Firemen's Association



A volunteer fireman making sixty percent of the calls for each of seven years is entitled to exemption. He may still continue in active fire services as long as he is capable, as most do. An Exempt Fireman receives the full benefit of a Burial Fund. In order to assist in maintaining this fund and to provide fellowship for retired Exempt Firemen as provided by law, the Hillsdale Exempt Firemen's Association was organized on September 23rd, 1918.

The first officers were—T. C. Demarest, President; H. J. Werner, Vice-President; L. J. Forbes, Secretary; Harvey E. Hering, Treasurer, J. G. Ackerman, George W. Saul and L. C. Meyer, Trustees.

The present officers are—Wilbur Ottignon, President; Martin Schaefer, Vice-President; W. Diefenbach, Secretary; Albert F. Westervelt, Treasurer; C. V. Shuttleworth, John W. Kinmonth, and C. S. Westphal are Trustees

The New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association held its annual convention in Hillsdale in June, 1922.

## Ladies' Auxiliaries

In 1902, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hillsdale Fire Association was organized with Mrs. John Riley as chairman. A re-organization was effected in 1906 with thirty-two members, and Mrs. M. Clausen was chosen president.

The Ladies assisted at dances and carnivals and later took over the motion picture project of the Fire Association.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Association dissolved on May 12th, 1924, and immediately re-organized as the Ladies Auxiliary of the Exempt Firemen's Association, with thirty-seven members on the roll, and Mrs. W. Werkeiser was chosen president, Mrs. N. Housman, Vice-President; Mrs. J. Kuhn, Treasurer, and Mrs. C. J. Potter, Secretary.

At present this organization consists of thirteen members with Mrs. Stephen Streich, President; Mrs. Jacob Ackerman, Vice-President; Mrs. August Bachman, Secretary, and Mrs. J. Kuhn, Treasurer—(Mrs. Bachman has held the office of secretary for the past 25 years—and Mrs. Kuhn, the office of treasurer for the past 27 years).







The present Ladies Auxiliary to the Active Fire Department was organized in June, 1928, through the efforts of Fire Chief William A. Farley. Eighteen Ladies were enrolled at the first meeting when the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Ann Farley (McGoldrick); Vice-President, Mrs. Florence Westervelt; Secretary, Mrs. Eudora Seckler; Treasurer, Mrs. Ann Gosman.

At present this organization consists of 25 members with Mrs. Alva Bartalot, President; Mrs. Mildred Wazeter, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. Rose Arigot, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. Ronnie Hughes, Secretary and Mrs. Cecelia O. Pitt, Treasurer.

Mrs. Dorothy Knight served in the SPARS during World War II.



# Fiftieth Anniversary Committee

## EXECUTIVE

Rudolph C. Appeld, *Chairman*

Charles S. Westphal, *Vice-Chairman*

E. O. Phillips, *Secretary*

Martin Schaefer, *Treasurer*

## ENTERTAINMENT

William Weaver, *Chairman*

Oscar Bartalot

William T. Pitt

Victor J. Wazeter

John E. Butenschoen, Jr.

Edward Broegler

## INVITATIONS

Francis D. Whalen, *Chairman*

Reinhard Felten

Charles E. Schill

Wilbur Ottignon

## ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Louis R. Bartalot, *Chairman*

Fred W. Winkler

Robert S. Rawson

E. Lewis Jefferies

Edward Hughes

Joseph J. Sciannimanico

## DECORATIONS

Fred W. Winkler, *Chairman*

Edward Hughes

E. O. Phillips

## FINANCE

Wilbur Ottignon, *Chairman*

William T. Pitt

Charles E. Schill

## EXHIBITS

John E. Butenschoen, Jr.  
*Chairman*

Joseph J. Sciannimanico

Victor J. Wazeter

E. Lewis Jefferies

William T. Kovar

## HISTORIAN — PUBLICITY

Rudolph C. Appeld

*Photos by G. E. Scott*

E. L. CLARK HILLSDALE, N. J.