

MONTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

1910

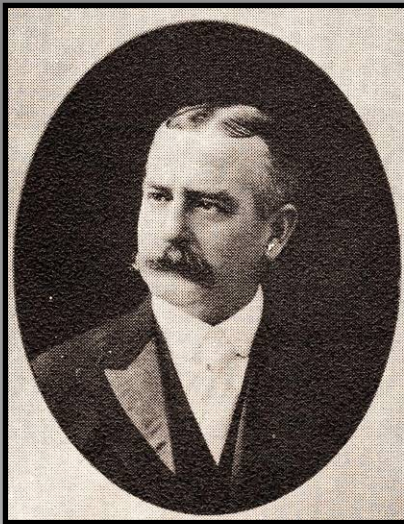
2010

100 YEARS OF SERVICE



**An Abbreviated History of
Montville's First Fire Dept.**

The Foundation



John H. Capstick

Innovative Employees

Robert Entwistle
M. O'Connor, Sr.
Benjamin Hiller
A. H. Blohm
Fred Peace
Andrew Kamensky

George Krisanda
Horace Eagen
William Baldwin
Willard M. Apgar
Harry S. Barclay
James Campbell

- In 1910 a group of men employed by John H. Capstick saw a need for a fire department in Montville.
- Capstick put together a proposal and on August 1st, 1910 the Excelsior Fire Company No. 1 was formed.
- Contrary to Neighboring Boonton the majority of Montville in 1910 was farmland with the exception of the Montville Finishing Company.

Charter Members



Robert S. Entwistle
Fred Pearce
Willard Apgar
William Baldwin
Harry S. Barclay
Harry B. Beach
A. S. Blohnl
James Campbell
William J. Coles
Harry Conklin
Frank Cook
Hobart Cook
Horace Eagen
Frank Gerhardt, Sr
Frank Gerhardt. Jr



Andrew German
William Handley
Charles Heath
Benjamin Hiller
George Kanouse
Andrew Kamensky
George Krisanda
John Kulick
Joseph Meyers
Michael O'Connor, Sr
Michael O'Connor, Jr
Thomas O'Connor
Peter Resetto
Joseph Walko

- The initial roster was made up of 29 volunteer members.

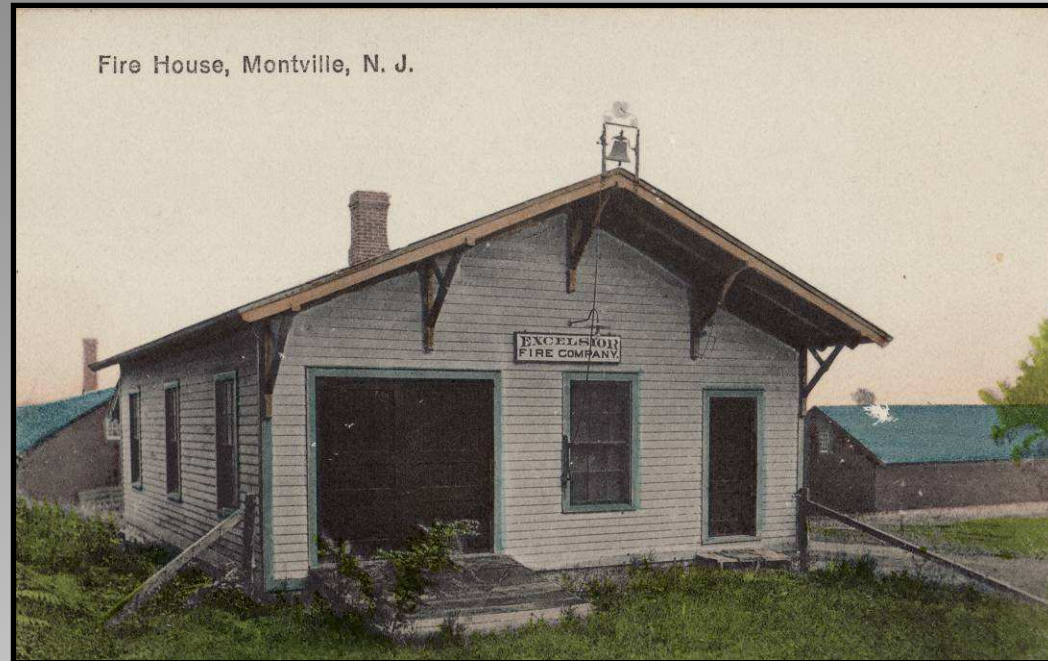
The First Chief



- The first Chief of Montville Fire Department was elected during the organization meeting in 1910.
- The first fire drill was held on, September 24, 1910. The drill was conducted under the direction of Harry Apple, a member of the Boonton Fire Department.



Montville Twp's First Firehouse

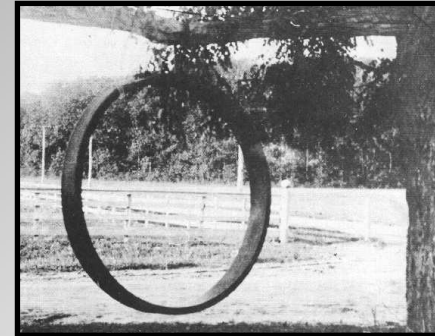


- On February 6, 1911 construction began on Montville's first firehouse located just outside the factory complex.
- Materials for the project were donated by Capstick and construction was completed by the eager group of volunteer firemen.

The 1910 Fire District



- The Firemen's Relief Association of the Company was incorporated on November 6, 1911 and the Company was recognized and taken over by the Township Committee.
- The Montville Township Committee donated the money for fire signal rings. The rings were placed throughout town and a map was created to show the new fire zones.
- During the meeting on June 2, 1914, a communication from the township assessor was received stating that he would grant the request of the Fire Company to exempt all firemen (in good standing) from the poll tax.



The First Apparatus



Estimated Depiction of Montville's first apparatus

- Mr. Capstick procured a hand or horse drawn hook and ladder truck equipped with fire buckets.
- The truck, pulled by horses, was purchased in Elizabeth on October 1, 1910, at a cost of **\$330.50**.

The First Pumper



Estimated Depiction of the Rumsey Deck pump

- In May of 1917 a Rumsey deck pump with brass connections was purchased for \$31.35 to replace the “Bucket Brigade”.
- 100 ft. of second hand hose at \$0.20/ft, 25 ft. of suction hose at \$0.80/ft, brass couplings and nozzle, \$52.00, total \$83.35.
- The Township Committee paid \$75 of this and the Fire Company the balance of \$8.35.

In The Beginning



- The Montville fire department went through a period of tough times between 1917 and 1920.
- Funds for much needed equipment were nearly impossible to come by.
- The township committee struggled with who should control funds and how the fire districts should be divided.
- Their primary supporter, John Capstick, passed away in 1918.
- Attendance of the original eager members dwindled and the organization was twice threatened to be disbanded.

The Organization

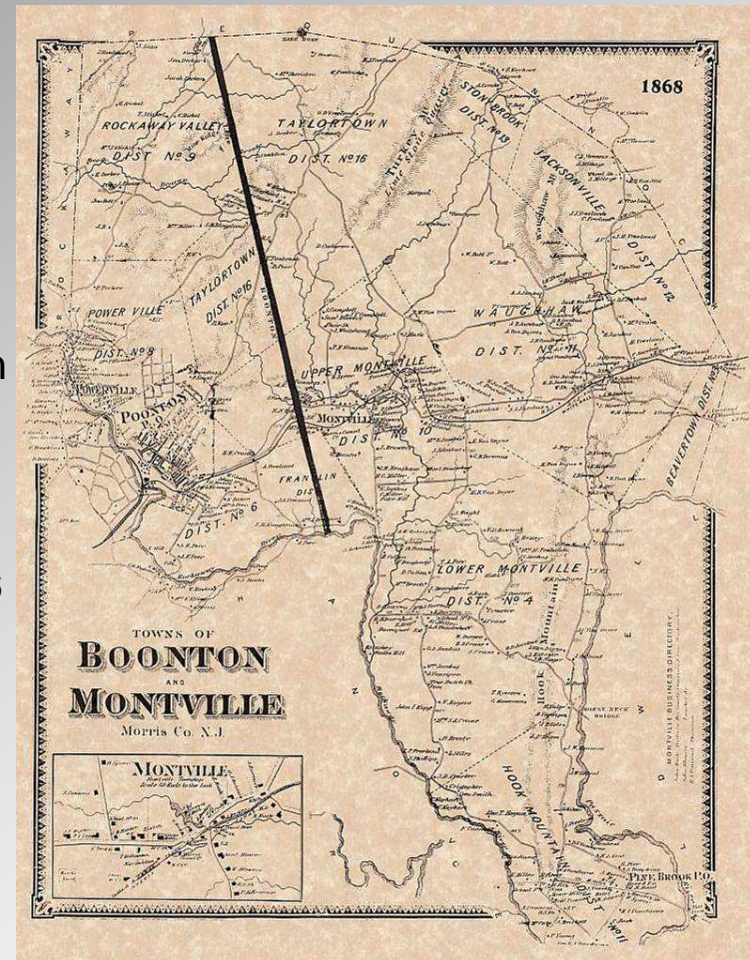


- It was finally decided that a mass meeting be called. The meeting, which was highly publicized, was held on Friday evening, August 11, 1918. There was a large attendance of many members of the community at the meeting.
- There were good speakers present who brought out the points and need for better fire protection in Montville. They made strong comparisons between the old hand-drawn hook and ladder and the motorized equipment. The hand drawn apparatus was awkward to drag by hand over hills and through the mud of our then unimproved roads.
- Among the speakers were Mr. John H. Van Riper, H. S. Barclay, the Hon. David Young and others.
- The Township Committee gave their assurance of doing all in their power to secure better fire protection to benefit the township as a whole. This report was received at special meeting on September 17, 1918. The secretary was authorized to draw up a contract covering the fire services for the sum of \$40.

Commissioners Enacted



- The township committee decided that it was up to the various Fire Companies to advertise and hold an election for five commissioners for each fire zone.
- An election of five fire commissioners was held on August 27, 1921. The following men were nominated and elected:
 - Harry S. Barclay; term expiring May 22, 1922
 - John VanRiper; term expiring May 24, 1924
 - Edward Cayhart; term expiring May 24, 1924
 - Edward A. Theile; term expiring may 26, 1926
 - Richard Rost; term Expiring may 26, 1926



Cutting Edge Firematics

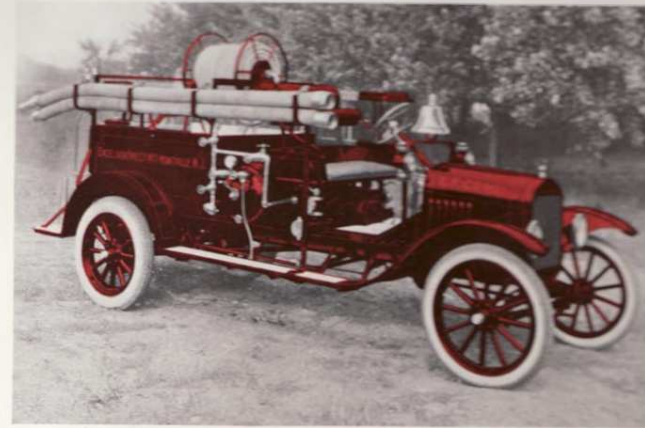


- Bonds were finally assembled to procure a new apparatus.
- The winning bid of \$3,200 for a 1922 Model T Ford 1 ton O.J. Childs triple combination chemical, pumper, and hose fire apparatus.
- After much debate the Montville fire dept members received its first motorized chemical engine on September 7, 1922.

Montville Appears in Ad



- Montville's new truck was selected to appear in a magazine ad for the O.J. Childs apparatus company.
- Montville's members praise their new 1922 Model T in an ad proclaiming its "strong streams going high enough to protect any building in the district."



A Letter from Benjamin J. Biddle, Clerk of the Fire Commissioners, District No. 1, Montville, N. J.

"Our little pumper" has done some noble work already. At first some of our folks said it was nice to look at, but just a toy. When they saw weatherboards fly off one house and shingles from the roof of a barn, they said they didn't think she could have so much force.

"We gave her a good try-out last week with four (4) strong streams going high enough to protect any building in our district."

*Mr. Biddle refers to the CHILDS Triple Combination Chemical Engine, Hose Car and Pump, mounted on a Ford ten truck chassis, as shown in the photograph.

Other towns that have the same type of FOAMITE-CHILDS Motorized Equipment:

Thurber, Texas	Cuthbert, Ga.	Mercerville, N. J.
Springfield, Vt.	North White Lakes, N. Y.	Glenvil, Neb.
Point Pleasant, N. J.	Peru, N. Y.	Bishopville, S. C.
Mt. Holly, N. C.	Hawley, Pa.	Mayfield, N. Y.

Ask the nearest FOAMITE-CHILDS representative for complete list of users. Any commercial truck chassis can be "CHILDS-equipped" for fire service.

On Parade

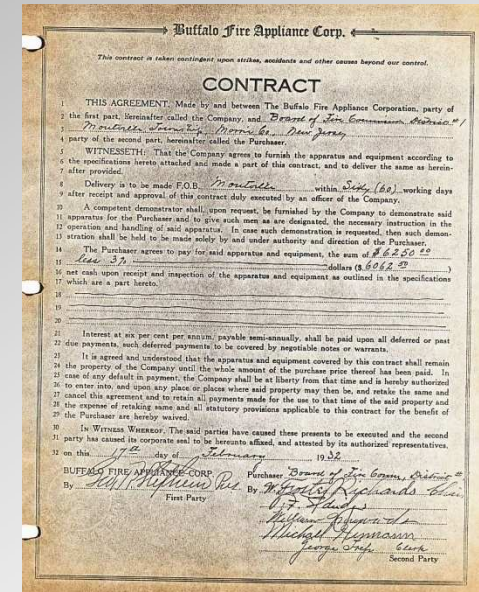


Montville and Towaco Fire Departments paraded with
O'Dowds Band of Pine Brook in the
North Jersey volunteer Firemen's association parade
Boonton NJ, June 3, 1931

Equipment Upgrades



OUR NEW BUFFALO FIRE TRUCK



- Proud members took delivery of a “state of the art” 1932 Buffalo purchased to replace the Model A which struggled up the rolling hills of Montville.

New Home



- In 1935 the new firehouse was constructed as a DPW project to replace the original firehouse on Taylortown rd.
- Property was donated and the Ladies Auxiliary covered the cost of \$500 to survey the new property.

Innovative Firsts



- Montville Fire dept was the first in Northern NJ to win the National Fire Prevention Award.
- In 1957 the department was nationally awarded for organizing one of the first Junior Fire Marshal programs.
- The first department to distribute reflectors to invalids.
- The first department to spray Christmas trees with fire retardant.

Fire Fighters

Montville Buffs Rated Outstanding

Staff Correspondent.

MONTVILLE — A small department with big ideas is a good description of the Montville Township Volunteer Fire Department, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Some of the 51 volunteers in the department are the "guys with the big ideas" that have brought national recognition to the department and have gained for its members an enviable record in fire prevention.

In 1957, when the department was cited by the National Fire Prevention Bureau for a safety campaign it had undertaken, it was noted that the department was one of the finest equipped for its size in the country. But never having had a major fire in the township and having superb equipment was like being all dressed up with no place to go.

That, however, is how the firemen like it and in their efforts to keep it that way have run up a string of firsts in fire prevention.

First in Many Things

It was the first volunteer fire department in northern New Jersey to win a National Fire Prevention Award. It was the first department to have junior fire marshals. It was the first department to distribute reflectors to homes with invalids.

It also was the first department to equip its volunteers, with an extra pair of boots, helmet and

coat to keep in their cars; the first department to spray Christmas trees to make them fire resistant; the first volunteer fire department to use high pressure fog at fires and the first department to have artists draw cartoons for general distribution on what to do in the event of a fire. It also will be the first department to have shoulder patches designating its 50th anniversary.

The national award came in 1957 for the junior fire marshal program. Youngsters were given helmets and badges and were urged to make fathers check their homes for fire hazards while the junior marshal checked off his list.

Fresh Try On Highway

Middletown Revives Bid for Improvement of Rt. 35

Staff Correspondent.

MIDDLETOWN — The township yesterday revived an effort to obtain from the State Highway Department some road improvements the neighboring Borough of Strewsbury spent nine months trying to avoid.

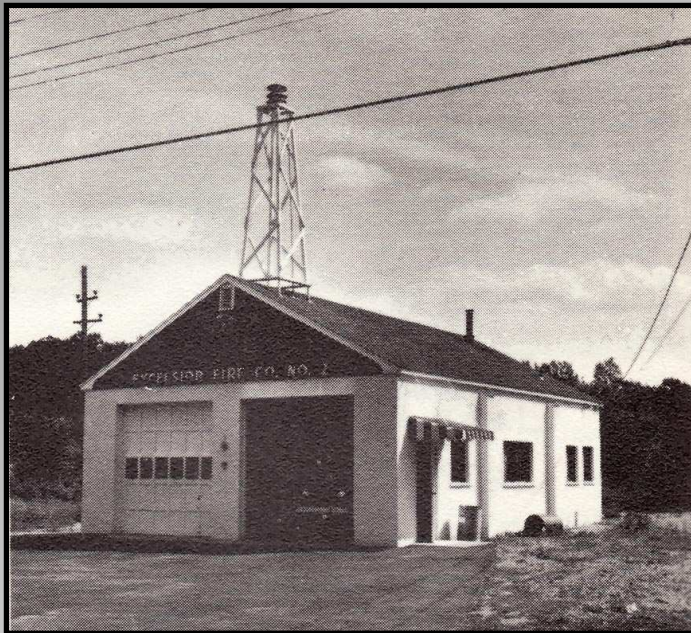
Richard Scuffert, business ad

Corn Binders



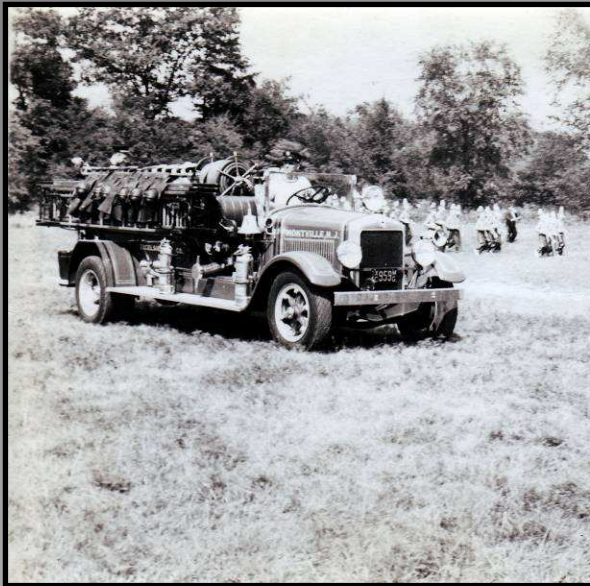
- In 1952 twin International 500GPM High pressure pump trucks were added to the fleet.
- They were dubbed corn binders by local farmers due to the association of International Harvester with farm equipment.

A Growing Need



- Company 2 was established in 1955 to better cover the hills of the Taylortown district.
- Local members established the new organization called Excelsior Fire Company No. 2.
- The Buffalo was moved to the new location where it continued to serve the community before being replaced with modern apparatus.

Whats Old is New Again



- The Buffalo apparatus was purchased by Morrota Valve to use its high pressure pump to test hydraulic valves and as part of the fire brigade.
- In 1976 the Buffalo was returned to its former glory when it was pulled from the woods behind Morrota and restored by the Members of Montville fire dept.

Award Winning



- In all, the Buffalo received hundreds of trophies for restoring a piece of history back to its former glory.

Expansion



Past / Present



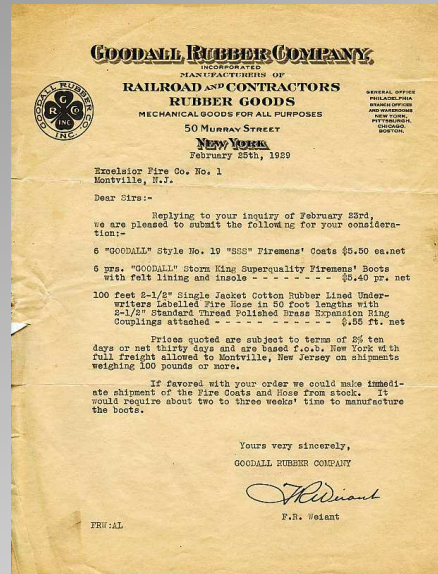
Circa 1929

Helmet: \$15.30

Jacket: \$5.50

Gloves: \$0.75

Boots: \$5.40



Total: \$26.95

Circa 2010



UNIFORM

Helmet: \$400

Hood: \$100

SCBA: \$6,000

Jacket: \$900

PASS Device: \$300

Gloves: \$45

Pants: \$850

Boots: \$275

Total: \$8,870

New Generation



Rescue 1

GIG



Engine 351



Engine 354



Engine 353



Truck 350

More than Just Fires



Ice Rescue



Search and Rescue



Landing Zone



Haz-Mat



Jaws of Life

Honorable Members



It's a Family Tradition



- While browsing Through the history of the department you will continue to see family names reappear.

Fire Scenes



Fire Scenes

