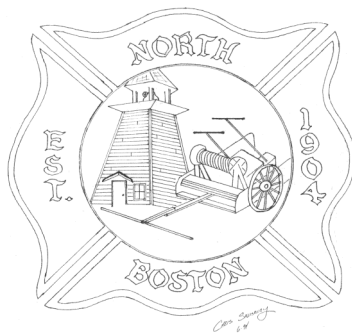


**North Boston  
Volunteer Fire Company Inc.  
1904 -2004**

*100 Years of Service*





Fred Frank and Vernon Massing

Our Founder and First President

Active in the fire company until just before his death  
in 1956.

Operated general store in North Boston since his father  
Jacob Frank Sr. started it in 1882

Founded Boston Valley Telephone Co—1907

Began North Boston Water Works in 1932

Played in North Boston Band for over 50 years.

Postmaster from 1910—1940

**The History of the  
North Boston Vol. Fire Company Inc.  
Founded September 30 1904**

Centennial Committee:

Rodney J. Carr Co-Chairman

Warren R. Skinner Co-Chairman

David M. Bernas

Sean P. Crotty

Thomas A. Edington

Mike Frank

William C. Gross

Jeffrey C. Knowles

Thomas L. Kyle

Kenneth J. Manista

Louise Manista

Robin J. Mead

Kevin Rockwood

Frederick J. Shear

BY, AND B

YOUR FRIEND

# QUERADE BALL!

TO BE HELD AT

SCHUNK'S HALL  
BOSTON CENTER,

MONDAY EVENING,

FEB'Y 15th, 1904

~~~~~Floor Committee:~~~~~  
Edgar Zimmermann      John Blohm  
James Darling,      Henry Hauck.

Music: HERMAN'S FULL ORCHESTRA.

DANCE,  
Including SUPPER

**\$1.25**

JOHN SCHUNK,  
proprietor

PRESS PRINT, HAMBURG.

*Escaped got do raps  
To put on 12 below zero  
Dress 16.  
Big fire hall house same all burned  
to the ground about 3 m Purple*



(John) Schunk's Hall (circa 1900's)

## MASQUERADERS MAY HAVE MET DEATH IN EARLY FIRE.

Hotel and Town Hall in Village of Patchen Burn and Couple Are Reported Missing.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE ENQUIRER.)

**P**ATCHEN, Feb. 16.—Shortly after 3 o'clock this morning, while 100 couples, arrayed in fancy costumes, were enjoying a masque ball at Schunk's Hotel in this place, fire broke out in a barn attached to the hotel and spread with such rapidity that the barn, hotel and Town Hall, and a large shed were consumed before adequate steps could be taken to check the flames. After the flames had died out this morning and an effort was made to account for all who had been in attendance at the ball, it was found that one couple, Nick Wittmeier and Miss Eliza Sanger, whose homes are not far from here, were missing, and fear was expressed that they had not escaped from the burning house. While it is possible that in the excitement of the fire they may have left unnoticed and gone to their homes, nothing definite had been learned as to their where-

abouts and uncertainty as to their fate was expressed. The loss includes four horses which were in the barn where the fire started. It was estimated this morning that the total loss will amount to about \$4,000.

The ball was a St. Valentine's affair and young people from miles around were in attendance. Many of them wore their ordinary attire to the hotel and donned their masquerade costumes after their arrival. The dance was at its height when the flames were discovered in the barn. What caused the fire is not known, but it is known to have started in a hay mow, and it spread with lightning rapidity. The dancers were thrown into a panic, and there was a rush to get into the open air. Many of those who had put on their fancy costumes at the hotel had no opportunity to change for heavier clothing, and as the mercury stood at 10 degrees below zero the unfortunate masqueraders suffered intensely until provision was made for them at neighbors' houses. Many of them lost the clothing which had been changed for their masquerade costumes.

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St. cial Vice that had away by Ji had : aboa Th

As a result of this destructive fire Fred Frank rallied the North Boston community in establishing an organized volunteer fire company.

On September 30 1904 forty-seven community leaders of North Boston meet in John Schunk's Hotel to establish a charter and begin organizing the North Boston Vol Fire Co. The following individuals are elected to serve as officers:

President Fred Frank  
Secretary William G. Bury  
Treasurer Charles Endress Sr.

**Trustees**

Albert Koppenhafer  
Edward Heinrich  
Frank Bond  
Arthur Titus

**1904**

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President of the United States | Theodore Roosevelt              |
| US Senators                    | Chauncey Depew and Thomas Platt |
| Governor of New York State     | Benjamin B. O'Dell, Jr.         |
| Town of Boston Supervisor      | Edward Heinrich                 |

What's new in 1904

French's Mustard is founded in Rochester, NY

Ice Cream Cones are made at the World's Fair in St. Louis, MO

The third Olympics was held in St. Louis

There was 45 Stars on the American Flag

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower

Fires in 1904 - City of Baltimore and the ship *The General Schlocum* in New York City

# **Charter Members Of the North Boston Fire Company**

Edward Heinrich



Fred Frank



Frank Bond



Jacob Hauck



Arthur Titus



John Schunk

No Picture  
Available

Fred Herman



Michael Schunk



Nick Von Gerichten



Lloyd Zimmerman



Jacob Frank Jr.



Edward Kaufmann



# **Charter Members Of the North Boston Fire Company**

William F. Klein



Joseph Wittmeyer



Charles Klein



William Klein



Charles Endress Jr.



Lauren Klein



Henry Stitzel



William Thurber



## Other Charter Members

(no pictures available)

- John Winkle - John Miller - Albert Koppenhafer - William G. Bury - William Weiser
- Charles Endress Sr. - John Koppenhafer - Duane Briggs - Arthur Haas - J. B. Paxon
- E. Koppenhafer - Ellis Kester - Frank Nye - Willis Jefferson - George Henry
- Andrew Defaux - George Blanchard - Ed Penharlow - Edward Wandel - Mrs. Mary Noble
- Mrs. E. Beck - Louie Fuchs - Charles Weber - George Drankhahn - Bert Faulring
- Lyan Rockwood

On October 7 1904 the members approve the purchase from Frank X. Weber of a Gould's #12 Challenger double action force pump 40 feet of 2" No. 1 suction hose and 200 feet of 1-1/4" discharge hose. The cost of the pump was \$86.75 plus an additional \$.81 for freight.



On October 15 1904 the subscribers elect Albert Koppenhafer as the first fire chief of the North Boston Fire Co. and they approve the Constitution and By-laws of the newly created organization. Any person in good standing and 18 years of age may be an active member with 2/3 vote. Dues are \$.50 and initiation fee is \$1. When the pump was delivered Mr. Frank made a cart to haul it and at the December 24 1904 meeting he announced that the cart for the pump was completed except for the ladders. White ash wood is donated by Charles Endress to make the ladders.

At the time when the North Boston Fire Company was organized there were very few fire companies in the area. Large villages such as Hamburg Orchard Park Springville & Gowanda had established their fire protection organizations in the 1880's. If a town needed the services of one of these companies a person had to go to the telegraph office and wire a note to that village for their fire department. In later years the Colden Fire Company was established in 1905 as well as Blasdell in the Town of Hamburg. Boston Fire Company organized in 1908 and the East Eden and Eden Fire Depts. were both founded in 1923. In the Town of Hamburg many of the fire companies didn't organize until the late 1920's or early 1930's.

## North Boston at the turn of the century



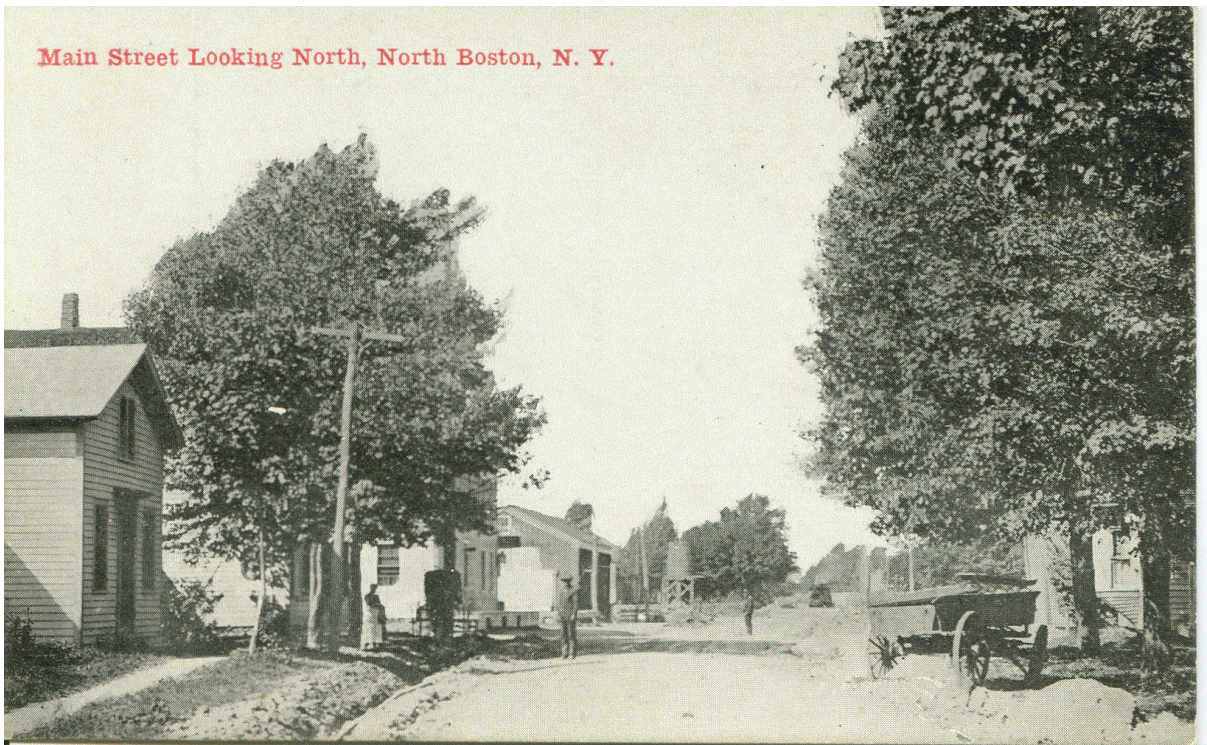
Fred Frank's General Store



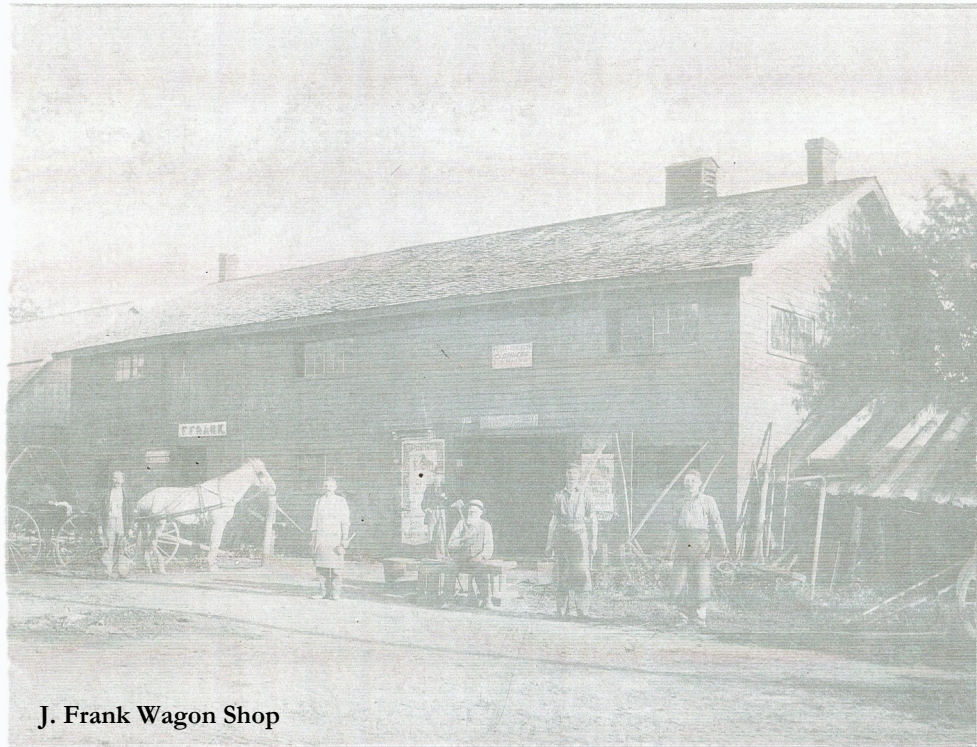
North Boston valley—Looking east from Zimmerman Rd



Main Street Looking North, North Boston, N. Y.



## North Boston at the turn of the century



J. Frank Wagon Shop



Main Street—Looking south

North Boston, N.Y.



John Schunk's Hotel



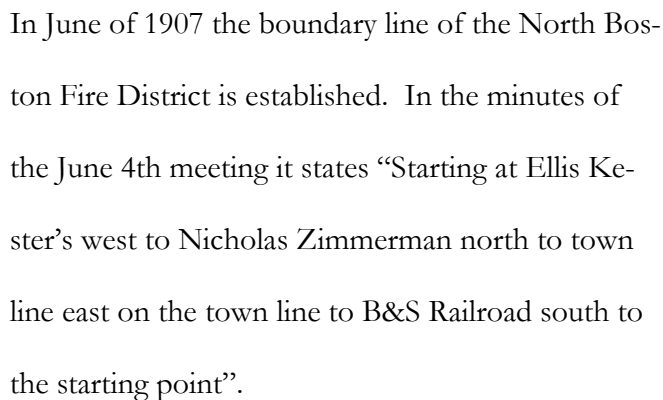
North Boston Band at train station  
going to the Erie County Fair

In January of 1905 plans are submitted by President Frank for the construction of a tower. Ed Henry Fred Frank and Charles Endress are appointed to a committee to acquire the lumber. However at the February meeting it is reported by the committee "...the weather is such a condition as to prevent their getting the lumber." The committee asked for more time. Plans call for a 14'x14'x26' high tower. Much of the lumber for this tower is donated by members who have property located on the east hill. When farmers purchased the fertile lands in the North Boston valley the Holland Land Company gave them property located on the east hill. Due to the hilly conditions of the land this was unsuitable for farming purposes and mainly was used for the wood from the trees. Members such as Michael Schunk Joe Wittmeyer and Charles Endress just to name a few felled trees and dragged these to saw mills such as one operated by Charlie Klein. Remember in 1905 there were no chain saws to cut the trees no trucks to haul the felled trees to the saw mill and no electricity to operate the saw mills. All work was done by horse and/or by hand.

To help defray the cost of this endeavor the North Boston Band gives a concert and raises \$54.75 for the fire company. During the company's early years the Cornet Band will play a big part in entertaining the community with ice cream socials and dances to raise money for the fire company. The concerts were held at a gazebo located on what is now called Herman Hill Rd in the field now owned by the fire company.



A black and white photograph of a tall, narrow wooden tower, likely a windmill or weather vane structure, with a person standing at its base next to a large spool of thread or yarn. The tower is constructed of horizontal wooden planks and has a small, dark, conical roof at the top. A person is standing at the base of the tower, next to a large spool of thread or yarn. The tower is situated in a grassy area with trees in the background.



As the fire company grows with the success of its fundraisers and new members joining the fire company the members approve the upgrading of their firefighting equipment with the purchase of an additional 200 feet of cotton fire hose a dozen galvanized buckets and a twenty-four foot extension ladder. In August of 1909 the first “drill night” is set up as it is stated in the minutes “Pumper be looked over and cleaned by some of the lads and that we meet Monday night and try our pumper with the 400 feet of hose and see what it will do.”

In November of 1909 the company purchases the additional 100 feet of hose after a subscription drive of the citizens in North Boston is initiated. This drive brings in \$32.50. To date the fire company owns 500 feet of hose but how does the hose get to the fire??

In January of 1911 John Schunk is elected Vice-President of the fire company. John is the first person to hold this office. Members Charles Endress and George Drankhan will locate lumber and make four ladders. They will make a ten foot ladder, 2 eight foot ladders and a six-foot ladder. In September Fire Chief Louis Fuchs procures money to buy a new nozzle with a smaller outlet. Also in September the directors look into seeing what can be done to carry the 500 feet of hose that the company owns. In 1912 the company meets two times; to discuss purchasing more hose? - No. To make a hose cart? - No. They meet because the Town of Hamburg is having a Centennial Celebration or “Old Home Week.” The company decides to parade in this event with Boston and Patchin Fire companies. In 1913 three meetings are held during the year all in the month of August. They meet to make plans for an Ice Cream Social and the bill for painting the tower. The Ice Cream Social nets the company \$55.50 and the bill for painting the tower totals \$7.10. This represents 35-1/2 hours @ \$.20 to paint the tower.

In January of 1915 almost 3-1/2 years after it was mentioned in the September 1911 meeting minutes the fire company authorizes Fred Frank to construct a hose cart to carry the 500 feet of hose. In December of the same year the cart is completed and Mr. Frank Anderson is paid \$12 for “ironing” the cart. Unsure if this is for the wheels or the iron arc that is over the hose cart. Mr. Frank is paid \$20 for building the cart. An additional one dozen galvanized buckets are purchased and painting of the new buckets and the pump will be done. Chief Joseph Wittmeyer announces that as soon as the Spring weather arrives the boys will be called out once a month and have a fire drill and look over the water supply.

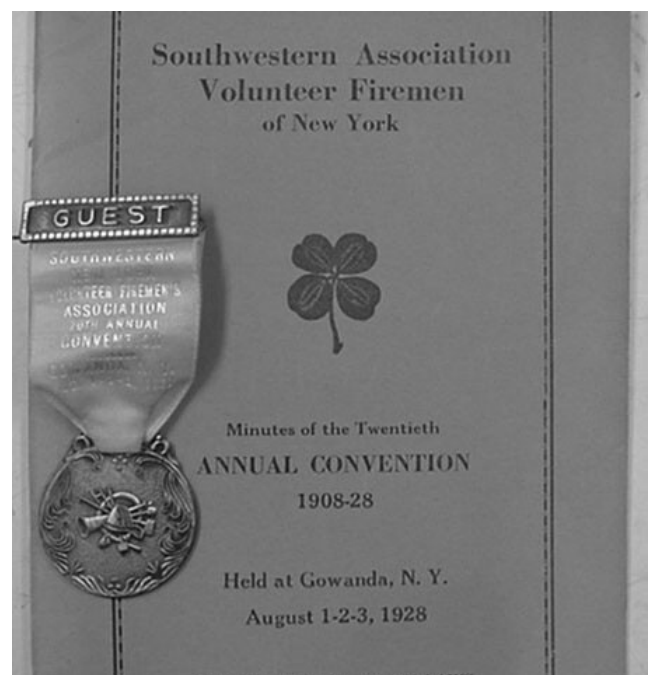


**Parade at Gowanda Convention**

In July of 1916 the company joins the Southwestern Association Volunteer Firemen . For many years members of North Boston will appoint delegates hire a car and parade at the conventions that are held all over the southern part of Western New York.. In 1917 the company purchased uniforms Black Khaki with Gold trim for the firefighters as well as the band members.



**Ernest Massing with hose cart - c 1916**



In 1916 the membership approves the plans for a new hall constructing one around the tower. A concrete wall is poured and the lumber is acquired and sawed. Again keeping in mind that electricity is still at least five years away this project will take some time. The company also starts a building fund to designate money towards the new building. Building is completed around the summer of 1918.



Elections are held in fall of 1917 and William Wesp is elected as the assistant fire chief and George Decker Sr. as foreman. These men are the first to hold those titles. The fire company by-laws are changed to reflect this additional office as well. On a sad note in December of 1917 Edward Heinrich who was re-elected as the Vice-President and was one of the first trustees of the fire company died. Mr. Heinrich was an original charter member and former Town of Boston Supervisor. A resolution is presented to his family. Judging by the minutes and the resolution his death was a great loss to his fellow fire-fighters and his friends.

The only mention of the Great World War in the meeting minutes "NBFC will keep dues for all members who are drafted into Army or any military service." Possibly due to the war the company decides not to attend the SWAVF convention in Bolivar and the members requested the Red Cross to annex a Star to the Service Flag in honor of Harry Toms. Later in March of 1920 the fire company pays a "War Tax" in the amount of \$13.95.

In these meeting minutes there is no mention of fires that our group has been called to. On August 20th 1920 the "Great Fire of Boston" occurs. At approximately midnight a fire broke out in the Boston Garage. This was where the Boston Fire Company had its only fire apparatus stored. Unable to save the pumper the Boston Firemen began a bucket brigade and calls were made to North Boston as well as other places for help. North Boston arrived and placed the pump at the Eighteen Mile Creek and in unison four men started pumping water approximately a quarter of a mile. Buffalo Fire Department was summoned to help as well. They responded with a motorized fire truck. With two of the bridges in the valley washed out and this forced the engine to detour through the creek and to the fire. Buffalo arrived in thirty-five minutes and pumped water from the creek onto the fire. Despite this five buildings were loss; Boston Ga-

rage a house two hotels and the Grange Hall.



As a result of this devastating fire at the September Fire meeting the members approve the appointment of a committee to confer with the Patchin Fire Company in regards to buying a larger pumper. To better fund fire company treasury for equipment such as a motorized fire pump, President Frank chairs a committee to collect signatures in the North Boston School District for the formation of the North Boston Fire District. In November of 1920 Jacob Broadbeck is authorized to purchase a pump and a Ford Model “T” chassis to assemble a motorized fire engine. This is completed in the following year and from the minutes of future meetings a successful endeavor. Cost to construct is \$289.51

In 1922 the company purchases new marching uniforms including hat and trousers. The color is all white.



In September of 1922 electricity comes to North Boston. Al Denning is installing the wiring in the fire hall as well as adding lights inside. With the new pumper in service Chief Joseph Wittmeyer is authorized to purchase 500 feet of discharge hose and 20 feet of rubber suction hose. Also, new tires a search light and a siren are purchased later in 1924.

For a reserve water supply for any fire 30—30 gallon barrels are purchased and painted. These barrels will be stored in “a suitable place.” Thoughts of a new fire hall are renewed when the company purchases the “Old Blacksmith” shop for \$700 in February of 1925. A committee is formed to look into building a new hall and was given four weeks to find a lot to build it upon. This was done and the hall built in 1917 is now an additional 30 feet in length and 6 feet wider on the south side. The front of the fire hall is squared to the road thereby placing the bottom of the tower inside of the new fire hall. George Drankhan built the addition and the cost was \$1773. This was competed in 1926. More importantly toilets are added to this addition as well.

It is now September of 1929 and Chief Ernest Massing and his committee have been given the approval to purchase a new Stewart Pumper from Buffalo Fire Appliance. Cost is \$4500. The company sells the Ford pumper and is authorized to sell the hand pump too.



**Glenn Zimmerman Irwin Heinrich Clarence Wittmeyer Merton Bond**  
**At Bradl's Pond on Back Creek Rd (1930)**

In 1931 natural gas is in North Boston. First gas bill paid - \$24. Water service is also provided but not from the Erie County Water Authority, this is still 30 years away. The water comes from Bradl's pond in Back Creek Rd. This spring-fed pond supplies water to the residences of North Boston as well as the fire hall. Pipe from an abandon gas well in Pennsylvania is placed at the bottom of the pond goes across the 18 Mile Creek and into the "village." From there the service is brought to the homes. Each homeowner pays an annual subscription that is used to maintain the line as well as for the water. This corporation remained in service until the 1960s when the water line from the Erie County Water Authority is installed.

In 1932 a gold fire chiefs badge is purchased by the fire company for the Fire Chief. The chiefs responsibility is to keep the badge during his term and when he completes his term turn it in for the next chief to have.

In December of 1932 Chief Ernest Massing dies following a long illness. Mr. Massing served as Fire Chief of North Boston since 1926. From the resolution that is in the minutes his life just as anyone who had given their time and talents to the North Boston Fire Company will be long remembered.

In January of 1934 after serving as our first and only president for the past 30 years President Fred Frank relinquishes that office and title. Julius Seufert is elected President of North Boston and Glenn Zimmerman is elected as a Second Assistant Fire Chief. Glenn is the first to hold this title. The body also decides to hold a meeting every month.

An electric fire siren is purchased in 1936 at a cost of \$245. This siren is activated either at the fire hall from a pull box or from a remote switch located in someone's home.

An upgrade in our fire equipment is made in May of 1937 when the company authorizes the purchase of a windshield for the Stewert Pumper. We also purchase some nozzles as well. Later in 1938 six sets of turn-out gear are purchased. This includes a coat boots and a helmet. First six at the fire get the gear. Hope the boots are the correct size!

In January of 1938 a new tradition is established that continues today. At the beginning of the fire meeting a roll call of officers is given. In planning for the future the company designates \$400 to be set aside for a building fund. Though the meeting minutes never mentioned of any woods fires Director Harry Massing will be attending the Boston Town Board meeting to seek remuneration for fighting woodlands and brush fires.

## **1941—1945 World War II**

Upon the United States entering World War II in December of 1941 the fire company approves the purchase of \$222 in War Bonds in March of 1942. The company also purchased black tar paper to blackout the fire hall. Two members Chief Harold Klein and Glenn Zimmerman, attend a Fire Defense School in Buffalo. Member Howard Orth is appointed to the Town Advisory Committee of National Defense. In November of 1942 the fire company donated \$4.86 to be used towards “smokes” for the soldiers in the war overseas and again in November of 1943 the company donates \$5 to the War and Community Fund. As part of the war effort many consumables such as gasoline tires and many other items are rationed. Chief Klein has to tightly regulate the gasoline used by the fire equipment.

## 1941—1945 World War II (con't)

### North Boston members called to Serve in World War II

|                                                |      |
|------------------------------------------------|------|
| Nelson Endress                                 | 1942 |
| (Nelson was Town of Boston Supervisor as well) |      |
| Milton “Bud” Wittmeyer                         | 1943 |
| Vernon Massing                                 | 1944 |
| Granville Rucker                               | 1944 |

In preparing for possible attacks on our soil the fire company purchased two “gas masks” as well as constructed a dam in Norm Pfeffer’s creek for a viable water supply.

A US Army Observation Post is built on Pfarner Rd in the southern part of Boston near where Boston Station #2 is to-day. This was manned 24/7 by volunteers in the Town of Boston including some folks from North Boston.

In April of 1945 when news of the US victory came to North Boston members took to the streets with the Stewert and,



with the sirens and bells announced and celebrated the end of World War II. All four of our members who were called to serve came home. A total of 127 men from the Town of Boston were called to serve in the US Armed Forces. Of these four did not return including Harold Schunk son of member Norman Schunk. In the Town of Hamburg over 1000 men were called to serve leaving many of the fire companies with a very limited manpower. The ones who stayed home needed to answer virtually every fire call during the war. Men and women on both sides of the ocean were dedicated to winning this war .

# North Boston Fire Company

## 1946-1959

During this time period the community of North Boston begins to grow and as our community expands the fire company too must grow to meet the changing times. During the 1950s some of the farm land in North Boston will turn into sub-divisions with new homes. Before the war most members of the North Boston Fire Company lived and worked on the farm or a small family business. After the war some of the members will move to North Boston from the city and most of the members will work in the factory the steel plant or at other jobs that take them away from our area during the day. The older firefighters most of whom have lived in North Boston all of their lives will see an influx of firefighters who just moved into the area but want to serve the community as a member of the fire company.

Not only does the fire company serve to protect and serve the public it also serves as a venue for entertainment for the young people of our community. In the winter of 1945-1946 the side lot of the fire company property is flooded to make an ice skating rink and in 1946 a motion picture show is given every week at the fire hall. Later, in the Spring of 1947 the fire company sponsors a junior baseball team with Glenn Zimmerman serving as a coach for this team.

In April of 1947 disaster strikes the Texas City Volunteer Fire Department as a number of ships with cargo of ammonium nitrate fertilizer explodes virtually wiping out the entire fire company including the volunteers and equipment.

The North Boston membership donates \$5 to their cause.

In 1949 with the growth in the North Boston Fire District the members, once again, look into formatting a fire protection district. Chief Vernon Massing spoke to the membership on this subject that was discussed at a previous Boston Town Board Meeting.

Due to confusion of who to call for a fire telephone stickers are ordered and distributed to residences of the

North Boston Fire District. The phone sticker shows the residence what phone number to call in case of a fire.

From a 1948-1949 Erie County Telephone Directory used by Sean Crotty's Grandmother

In May of 1949 the Building Committee submits plans for a new fire hall. Plans call for a block structure w/brick front and kitchen, toilets, etc. Cost estimated at \$8300 without a basement and \$10750 with a basement. A building fund has

been started with donations coming from people in the community.

Town of Boston Judge Norm Pfeffer holds court in the fire hall and donates the proceeds to the building fund as well. Land is purchased from Fred Frank and George Pfarnner and in April of 1950 the members approve the final plans a 40'x90' block building. Cost estimated to be about \$17000. Construction begins immediately and is completed in the fall of 1950.

|              |                                   |           |                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| -----5289    | Endress Wm BackCrkRd              | -----5345 | noisner Harold J  |
| -----5290    | Engel Wm Jr ColeRd                | -----5627 | Hudomint Henry    |
| Patchn--5869 | Ewan Edw W BostnStateRd           | -----5416 | Humphrey Harry    |
| -----5232    | Faulring Alice N Mrs StateRdBostn | -----5863 | Inman Edw J Pfa   |
| -----5273    | Faulring C J Bostn-SprngvRd       | -----5645 | Jablonski John sv |
| -----5793    | Faulring Christ Bostn-ColdnRd     | -----5470 | Residence Che     |
| -----5842    | Faulring Wilferd WHillRd          | -----5311 | Jankowiak Edw C   |
| -----5703    | Feltz Albert G BostnStateRd       | -----5856 | Jazwiecki Leonar  |
| -----5763    | Ferger Adam StateRdPatchn         | -----5846 | Jehle H P MD St   |
| -----5283    | Fest Fay L Mrs Glenwdrd           | -----5398 | If no answer-     |
| -----5439    |                                   | -----5644 | Jensen Willard P  |
| -----5153    |                                   |           | Jensen Wm Stati   |
| -----5612    |                                   |           | Johnston Davina f |
| -----5129    |                                   |           | Jones D W E Bos   |
| -----5356    |                                   |           | Jones Walter T Ji |
| -----5622    |                                   |           | Juczuk Paul Cen   |
| -----5813    |                                   |           | JUNG CARL ale     |
| -----5222    |                                   |           | Jung Gerhard H C  |
| -----5113    |                                   |           | Kader Clarence B  |
| -----5407    |                                   |           | Kader John F Bos  |
| -----5309    |                                   |           | Kalinowski Matth  |
| In-----5298  |                                   |           | Kaming Jos S Lw   |
| -----5403    | Fitzmorris Richd J Lwr E HillRd   | -----5727 | Kaminski Martin   |
| -----5737    | Fleckenstein E F StateRdColdn     | -----5811 | Kamier Raymond J  |
|              |                                   |           | Kanski Jas G MD   |
|              |                                   |           | Kasubowski Mich   |

North Boston Fire Hall 1950-1959



In May of 1951 Chief Frederick Klein and his truck committee present to the members plans for a new fire engine. This is a Ford F-7 500 GPM two-stage Hale Pump with a 300 gallon water tank. Cost is \$10366 and is purchased from Young Fire Equipment of Lancaster NY. On a motion by Vern Massing and approved by the membership the color of the truck is to be a non-traditional white. This will remain as the color of North Boston fire apparatus for the next fifty years and beyond. Later in 1952 the Stewert Pumper is converted to a tanker.



**1951 Ford**

Bell on this truck was on the 1929 Stewert Pumper.

Later again in 1951 probably due to the growth in the town the carnival is now extended from one day to two days. The carnivals are a joint venture between North Boston and Patchin Fire Companies. Money earned from the carnivals are placed in a bank account and both companies withdraw their share of the moneys when needed.

In response to the changing business of the fire service the company now requires that all new members must complete a fire-fighter training course before they are allowed to answer fire alarms. This is a prelude to the NYS Essentials of Fire-manship course that will be offered in the future.

In April 1952 as yet another example of our changing times the fire company had three alarms in that month. In the past 48 years since the organization of the fire company, there would have been possibly three calls for an entire year. This is only the beginning, though.



In January of 1955 the members of North Boston celebrate their 50 Year Anniversary by having an anniversary party in conjunction with the annual installation dinner. Al Fox purchases Charter Membership pins and these are presented to the original charter members who are still with us in 1954. They are George Drankhahn, Charles Endress Jr., Fred Frank, Lauren Klein, Joseph Wittmeyer, William F. Klein and Lloyd Zimmerman.

**President Vern Massing presents a Charter Membership pin to his Grandfather Fred Frank the first president of North Boston at 50th Anniversary Dedication - January 1955**

**Fred Frank posing for photographer at 50th Anniversary Party**



In March of 1955 due to the age and extra weight load on the truck, the Stewert pumper that is now the fire company tanker is in need of major repairs to the transmission and drive train. Because of the extensive repairs the company decides to borrow \$1200 from the Marine Trust bank and purchase a used 1953 Ford F-600 Truck and mount an 1100 gallon tank on this. The Stewert Pumper is sold for \$140 plus fill for the parking lot.

Later in 1955 the fire company comes into the radio age as the pumper has a radio installed. This will allow the truck to communicate with the new base station in the Village of Hamburg. Also there is a station house receiver in the fire hall. This will allow the Village of Hamburg to activate the siren by way of a siren tone.

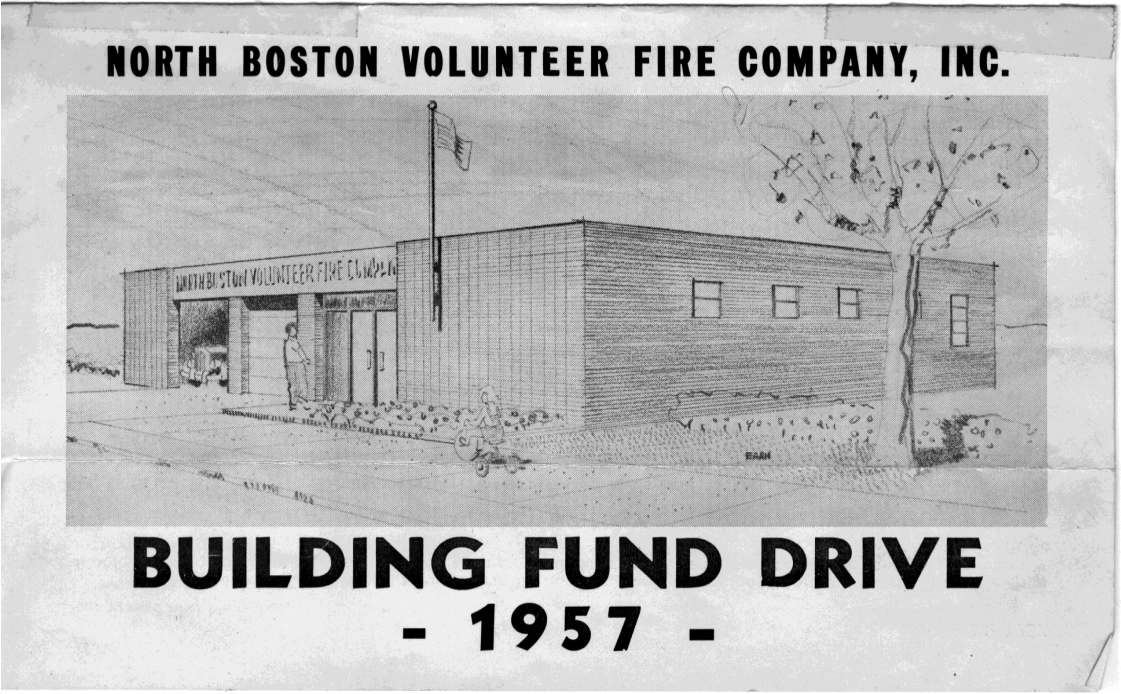


With the continued growth in North Boston Boston Town Supervisor (and NBFC member) John Jablonski states that two additional election districts have been formed and asks the members to allow for a polling place at the fire hall. Members approve this request unanimously.

In July 1956—Seeing a need to expand and improve our fire hall the Board of Directors recommend that a Building Committee be formed. The directors also stipulate that money be set aside for this new building as well. A 50/50 club is held each month with the entire proceeds directed to the building fund. Also ten percent of the net proceeds with the exception of the Town Fire Protection money is directed to this account as well. In September of 1956 the committee has a project start date of May 1 1958 and Robert Thomas is appointed Chairman of the Building Fund Committee.

In February 1957 the company purchases a 5HP 3 phase 220Volt fire siren to replace the one that has been in service since 1936. With a 50% match in federal government funds the sale of the Hale Pump from the old Stewert Pumper and a trade-in allowance for the old siren this will cost the fire company approximately \$150. This siren will be an improvement from the old one that didn't seem to have the volume to reach to the outer area of the North Boston Fire Company district. After 47 years this fire siren is still in service announcing alarms for North Boston firefighters as well as letting the community know of an emergency.

In May of 1957 the Building Committee reports that the estimate of cost for the new fire hall to be approximately \$16000 to \$18000. The committee also proposes having a special house to house canvas or “Fund Drive” to be established to help pay for this new building. The committee felt that this would give the residents of the North



Dear Friend and Neighbor,

June 20, 1957

Your Volunteer Fire Co. is happy to announce its building fund campaign to provide North Boston with a suitable building to house equipment, train firemen, and serve as the recreation center for the many community functions of its district.

#### EARLY HISTORY

- ORGANIZED: September 30, 1904 at John Schunk's Hall.
- FIRST OFFICERS: Fred Frank, president; William G. Bury, secretary; Charles Endress, Sr., treasurer.
- FIRST EQUIPMENT: Gould Challenge Double-Action Force Pump No. 12 — \$86.75.  
40 Feet 2" Suction Hose.  
200 Feet 1 1/4" Discharge Hose.  
Purchased October 7, 1904.
- FIRST ALARM: Sears Roebuck 28" Diameter Cast Bell, 450 lbs.  
Purchased August 25, 1906 for \$14.60.
- ADDED EQUIPMENT: 6 Galvanized Buckets.  
24 Foot Extension Ladder. } August 21, 1909.  
200 Feet New Cotton Hose. }

#### HOW YOUR FIRE COMPANY SERVES YOU:

- 1) Protects your life and property.
- 2) Provides aid to your neighbor in adjacent districts as needed.
- 3) Reduces your fire insurance premiums.
- 4) Serves as meeting place at little or no cost to all local educational and social bodies. The new hall and kitchen facilities will enhance the value of membership in these groups and be a tribute to the zeal of our people.
- 5) Fire taxes of \$1.10 per each \$1,000 assessed valuation or about \$4.00 per year for the average property owner does not begin to support the Fire Company. Many thousands of dollars have been raised by your firemen over the years to give you the protection of our present modern equipment.
- 6) Yours is a truly Volunteer Company. Pledged to protect you, its only rewards are your support and appreciation.

#### THESE ARE OUR PLANS

- 1) Present truck station to remain as the nucleus of a block wall structure, front of which will be of brick facing.
- 2) Replace existing hall, which is beyond repair, with a 25' x 46' hall and a well equipped 25' x 14' kitchen.
- 3) Add an adjoining 25' x 23' room for fire training and meetings when the hall is being used. Separated from the hall by a 10 foot folding partition, this space will be available for larger functions.
- 4) Provide good heating, insuring your comfort regardless of weather.
- 5) Construction to begin May 1, 1958.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Cost of complete program | \$18,000 |
| Fund Drive goal          | \$10,000 |
| Fire Company Mortgage    | \$ 8,000 |
- 1) Names of Century Club members (donors of \$100 or more) will appear on engraved plaque in the new hall.
  - 2) Names of donors of \$25 or more will be engraved in a book which will be a revered and permanent record of the Fire Company.
  - 3) Let's say you are an average property owner.  
Your fire insurance policy is \$10,000.  
Premium savings in 10 years because you reside in this fire district. \$100.00  
Your taxes for fire protection for 10 years \$ 44.00  
In ten years your Fire Company saves you \$ 56.00  
We respectfully request all who can do so to invest that 10 year's savings in this campaign.

#### SOLICITATION DATA

- a) Dates — July 7 through July 14, 1957.
- b) Pledge dates, if you are not prepared to give your entire donation at this time, are October 1, 1957 and February 1, 1958.
- c) Receipts for income tax purposes will be given for all contributions.
- d) Solicitation is by your firemen. Request identification — ask for a receipt on an official Building Fund card.

This is to be the one and only drive for funds. We know you will express your confidence in our endeavor to serve you. Thank you sincerely.

THE NORTH BOSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY  
North Boston, New York



Boston community the opportunity to invest in the new fire hall and in another sense a community building. The goal of this special fund drive is to raise \$10000.

Also to assist in our Building Fund the fire company announces that it will hold a Bingo night every month at the firehall. This begins in October of 1957. Though initially it seems to be a benefit to the Building Fund this quickly loses its appeal and is dropped in early 1958.

A copy of letter that was sent to the residents of North Boston

Later in 1957 new fire fighting technology is introduced to the firemen of North Boston. Scott Aviation presents at a meeting a self contained gas mask, or SCBA, to the fire service. This would allow firemen to enter a building structure and breathe the bottled air that is on his back. Cost of this new innovation is \$240 each. North Boston will purchase two of these and have them in service in February of 1958. As another example of our growing community was received from Mr. Allen Will of the Grace Lutheran Church in Hamburg. Mr. Will states that a survey of the area indicates a need for a Sunday School program for the North Boston area. He asked the firemen of North Boston for permission to use the fire hall for a Children's Sunday School. The company grants Mr. Will's request and a Sunday School program begins at North Boston in April of 1958.

**.Mrs. Boelke & Mrs. Will teaching Sunday School to children**



**Children participating in Sunday School Program**

If you look closely at the above picture you notice the children and the Sunday School teachers are dressed for very cold weather despite the fact they are inside of the fire hall near the heater. This gives one an indication that the cold air outside is able to creep inside the old wooden fire hall. To show the church's commitment to the community Grace Church pledges \$500 to the Building Fund.

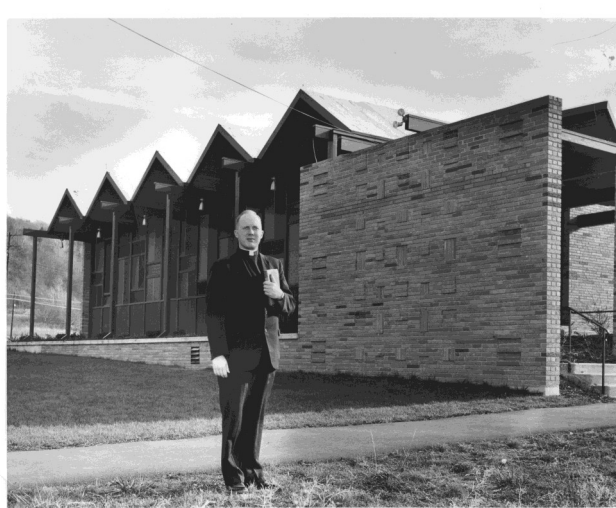
With the overwhelming success of the Sunday School Program Mr. Will again approaches the members of expanding the Sunday School to include church services. Again the company approves the request and the Boston Valley Lutheran Church begins its services in February of 1959. At this service 102 people attend services and this attendance continues while services are conducted here.

With this success land is purchased for a new church and construction begins in August of 1959. In April of 1960 the church has its first service and thus begins the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of North Boston with Pastor Lionel O. Skamser ordained as the first minister of the new church. Pastors Skamser's fiancé Miss Joan Hauck is a grand-daughter of Jacob Hauck an original charter member of the fire company when organized in 1904.

Today Joyce Carr, past president of the Ladies Auxiliary is an original charter member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and past president of the fire company and long time member Herb Klein is a past president of the church council.



**Pastor Bartels conducts church services in Fire Hall**



**Rev. Lionel O. Skamser**

In November of 1958 after plans for the new hall were submitted for bids they were opened at the business meeting. Only one bid was mentioned in the minutes \$27,686 however other bids are received as well. Though this was the low bid it was well above the \$20000 limit that the committee felt that the addition was going to cost. With this all bids were thrown out and the company members agreed that if they did some of the work themselves that this would lower the cost of project. In May of 1959, the fire company members submit another set of plans for a new fire hall 41'x45' with an 1800 sq. ft. second floor. Included in these plans is a 20'x44' kitchen nine-foot high ceilings and forced air heat. However due to a New York State law that forbids a second story in a public building unless the material is of fire resistant material the second floor is removed from the plans.

In June of 1959, Glenn E. Zimmerman and Sons Construction is awarded the bid to build the new fire hall at "cost plus 10% basis." Cost of the project was not to exceed \$17000. Following this meeting the project begins with the old fire hall and tower being torn down.





**Construction of the new fire hall—  
1959**

**Above- Rear**

**Right- south side**



Though this may seem the beginning to the end of a project that began three years earlier in 1956 other problems arose.

At first the fire company applied for a mortgage of \$10,000 then it was felt that we needed an \$11,000 mortgage then it was foreseen that the construction was going to be greater than anticipated so the company tried to acquire a \$15,000 mortgage. Due to problems with the title for the new land Attorney and member Russ Danieu had to petition the NYS Supreme Court to order a mortgage on the property. When the building and all of the associated equipment (electrical installation heater kitchen appliances etc.) was completed the total cost was over \$25,000.

Despite the initial set backs with the bids the cost over-runs and the need of the NYS Supreme Court order to get a mortgage the hall is completed and dedicated on September 20, 1959. Boston Town Supervisor Norm Pfeffer proclaims September the 20th as “North Boston Fire Company Day” in the Town. He and other dignitaries from the town and the county are in attendance at the dedication.



Front Row L-R Charles Maxwell James Winnert Norm Pfeffer Rev. Raymond Kamler Rev. Pingel James Leary John Call  
Back Row L-R Walter Dinse Gertude Doyle Glenn Zimmerman Robert O'Brien Clarence Schluter Joseph Fahrner Alden Fox

### North Boston Fire Hall - 1959



# North Boston Fire Company

## 1960s and 1970s

With the construction of a new fire hall the fire company membership now sets its sights on upgrading its fire equipment to meet the needs and potential needs of the growing community.

In July of 1960 due to the fact that the fire phone the one a person calls to report a fire is on a multiple party line and with a private line for the fire phone to cost over \$180/yr the membership decides to do away with the fire phone and use the services of the Village of Hamburg Base Station now known as "Hamburg Fire Control." The fire company makes notice to its residents to call the Village of Hamburg to report a fire and no longer call the fire phone. The Village of Hamburg can activate the fire siren remotely and advise the unit on the radio the location of the fire.

In August of 1960 the Ladies Auxiliary of North Boston send a letter to the firemen expressing their displeasure that the fireman will not purchase a new 50 Star American Flag. The firemen reply that this was never the case and they gave the ladies the option to purchase a new 50 Star flag if they choose to do so.

In October of 1960 as well as May of 1961 the Ladies Auxiliary begin a tradition that has continued for over 44 years. It sponsors a Turkey Dinner in October and a Roast Beef Dinner in May. These events are attended by people from Southern Erie County, the City of Buffalo and points north.



In December of 1960 Norman Schunk donates \$25 to the fire company to be used towards the purchase of badges for the fire company officers. Later in his honor a 25¢ fine is imposed on any officer who forgets to bring his badge to the fire meeting. In 1961 with the importance of being ready for any emergency a weekly truck and siren test is distributed to all members. Chief Winnert also announces that any woods and/or grass fires must be held on Saturdays or Sundays and the fire company must be notified prior to the event.

Dinner Menu and Schedule of  
Events—1962

For roof and ladder training three poles are donated by the phone or power company and are placed behind the fire hall. Training simulator is approximately 25 feet high and gives the firefighter skills for ladder work as well as working on very high buildings.



In April of 1963 all meetings are now opened with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. To be more accountable of the use of its money a Budget Committee is formed. The Budget Committee's duty is to submit an annual budget and have it approved by the members. Al Fox the Boston-Colden Radio Coordinator reports that the engineering firm that will be overseeing the installation of the new waterline would like to meet with the fire chiefs of the Town of Boston and discuss placements of the new hydrants. The waterline is installed in the following year in 1964.

In August of 1963 Assistant Chief Robert Reiske demonstrates a Plectron Fire Radio and states that it will be circulating amongst some of the members. Cost of this radio is \$100.



October of 1963 will go down as one of the busiest months ever not only for the members of North Boston and for the firefighters of Patchin Boston Colden and East Eden but for just about every firefighter in New York State. Up to this point the summer was very hot and dry. Weather conditions that are usually seen in the western part of the United States are being experienced in the eastern part as well. Precipitation for the month was only 0.3 inches and for the year about ten inches below normal. October is experiencing temperatures well above average. During the second week in October North Boston and Patchin firefighters are battling woods fires in the Irish Gulf as well as on Polish Hill. Boston and Colden are fighting a number of woods and brush fires also. Due to the intensity and large area of these woods fires firefighters will remain on the scene for over 12 hours only to return in less than a day and remain on scene for another 12 hours. At one of the fires firefighters find fresh spent shot gun shells and believing those to be the source of the massive woods fire Coordinator Al Fox telegraphs Gov. Nelson Rockefeller asking for a ban on the hunting season during the hot and dry October. His request is granted and hunting season is banned indefinitely. North Boston was also aided by Hamburg and Hillcrest Fire Companies at a large woods fire on property located on Boston State Rd. This fire took over two days to extinguish. On October 20, 1963 the Ladies Auxiliary prepared and served over 1000 Turkey Dinners without the aid of many of the fireman due to their work at a woods & brush fire that was burning in East Eden. On Halloween night North Boston was assisted by several mutual aid companies at a barn fire on North Boston Rd. For October only, 14 calls of fires were answered by the North Boston Fire Company and a total of more than 60 alarms for Boston, Colden, East Eden, North Boston and Patchin Fire Companies.

## SUPPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER FIREMEN!

Never before in my memory has the importance of the services of the various volunteer fire companies to our community been so real.

Their selfless devotion to duty in the past month has brought respect and admiration long overdue.

The demands of this trying time have left them spent and their physical property depleted. Replacement equipment is needed immediately. I am mailing a check now to the North Boston Volunteer Fire Company. Show your appreciation NOW to the volunteer company that serves you.

A CITIZEN

(Donor requests that name be withheld but is on file with the Editor.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The publishers heartily endorse this message.

Hamburg Sun  
Oct 31 1963

## FIRE-PERILED BOSTON AND COLDEN ASK STATE FOR BAN ON HUNTING

One Town Has Fifth Blaze in 4 Days; Allegany and Cattaraugus Answer 49 Calls

The fifth brush fire in four days in the Town of Boston has inspired a request that Gov. Rockefeller ban hunters from Boston and Colden until the fire danger passes.

Alden L. Fox of Mayer Rd., fire co-ordinator for Boston and Colden, acting for Boston Supervisor Joseph J. May, today sent a telegram to Gov. Rockefeller.

The telegram said fresh spent shotgun shells were found at the scene of two fires.

On Thursday, the Boston, Patchin and North Boston companies fought blazes on the Boston Grove Rd. and Cold Rd. and on Polish Hill Rd.

"Our firemen are getting pretty tired," Mr. Fox said. "One of these fires may just take off and cause serious trouble."

Other Areas Threatened

In other areas of Western New York firefighters are busy fighting scores of fires in fields and woods.

George Mickle, Allegany County fire commissioner, today said that his log since the current wave erupted Sunday shows 29 forest, brush and grass fires already, and counting.

From the same day, the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department lists 20 wildfires, besides others not reported by firemen too busy between fires.

Near Alma, in Southern Allegany County, a 50-acre blaze fired up again today for the fifth straight day. Six and Belmont volunteers made two runs Thursday in the same forest in the Dry Brook Rd. area where new vacation cabins have been used by a spreading brush fire.

Battle Two Fires

Scot made three other runs during the day—the Boston Company was called back to the scene of Wednesday's blaze in the Streeter Brook area, and other grass, brush and maple fires resulted in runs by Pfister and Anderson and Wellsville fire companies.

In Cattaraugus County, Pennsylvania firefighters battled two fires near the town of Barker Rd. and one, a repeat of Barker Rd., they needed help from Vermont firefighters.

Allegany firefighters battled two fires in the Five Mile Rd. area, north of the village.

A FINE WEEK-END AGAIN FORECAST

## Drought Parches 16 States; 40 Fires in N. Y. Forests

Rainfall Far Below Normal for Year in Most Areas

By the Associated Press

CHICAGO, Oct. 31—Drought parches aggravated by hot autumn weather have parched areas in at least 16 states from Texas to New Hampshire, drying up pastures and water sources and posing a fire threat in dry woodlands.

An Associated Press survey showed today that the conditions stem from 1963 rainfall deficits—in some instances shortages of 18 inches or more—in most states east of the Rockies.

Pastures, late crop hay and his barns, creating livestock food shortages.

Water shortages have forced some cattlemen to cut herds sharply.

Reports of water restrictions imposed by municipalities are common. Both surface sources, such as rivers and reservoirs, and deep wells have been affected.

The Army Corps of Engineers reports levels of all the Great Lakes except Ontario are below normal.

Reports of forest fire danger were common in parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Vermon and New Hampshire closed their forests and parks.

Rainfall in the Boston, Mass., area was reported 18 inches below normal for the year.

Enough with rainfall 17 inches

Saturday morning

## Boston Firemen Answer 58 Alarms Since Oct. 8

Volunteer fire companies in the towns of Colden and Boston have answered an accumulated total of 58 alarms during the current dry spell which started on Oct. 7. In addition, there were still alarms in which the companies either were asked to stand by for other fire companies answering alarms, or went on week patrols to extinguish small spot fires. Seven alarms for tanker service are not included in the total. These figures were revealed Monday during the Boston-Colden Fire Council quarterly meeting held at the Colden Fire Hall with representatives from the Boston, Patchin, North Boston and Colden fire companies. In addition, fire equipment was reported to have been overworked.



## Boston Firemen Answer 58 Alarms

From page 1

the Patchin pumps suffering a priming valve failure was repaired in two hours, just in time to answer another alarm.

In other action, the council approved the appointment of Alden L. Fox as Fire Co-ordinator for a two-year term beginning Jan. 31, 1964, and favored the election of a deputy co-ordinator for a one-year term beginning on the same date.

Fire Chief Robert Braun reported that the total man-hours spent by his company during the current emergency have yet to be totaled. Chief Joseph Doherty of Colden, Chief Carl Andrus of North Boston and Chief Russell Gettler of Boston reported they are still attempting to arrive at total figures for their companies.

The alarms, Colden—11, Boston—17, North Boston—13, Patchin—17. Tanker calls: Boston—7.

Christmas Flea Market

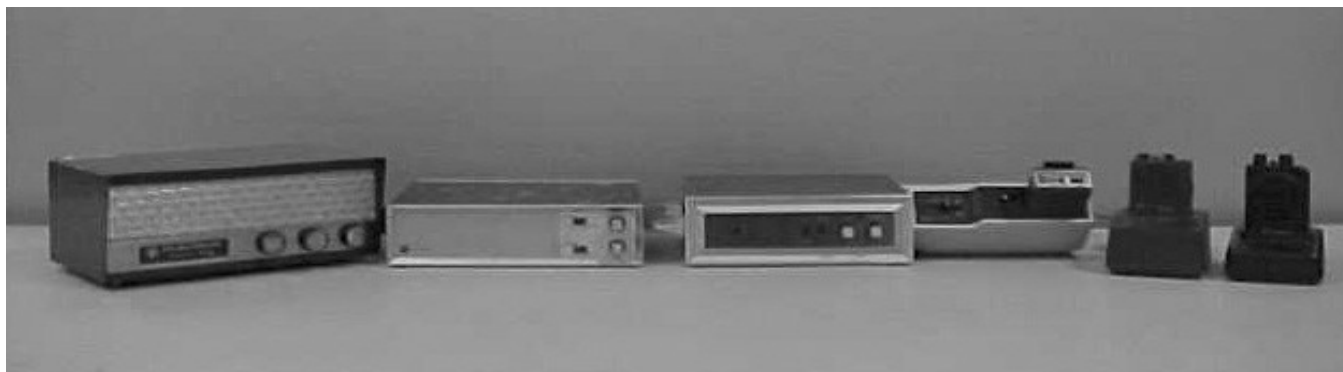
Sat. Nov. 9 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

MASONIC TEMPLE Union St. Hamburg

Hamburg Sun Oct. 31 1963

In January of 1964 15 Plectron home receivers are purchased with an additional 5 in March. With this purchase North Boston will become the third fire company under Hamburg Fire Control to be alerted by home receivers. In 1962 Hamburg is alerted by Motorola home receivers, and in 1963 Colden Fire Company is the first to use Plectron radios. Colden was unique in that East Aurora Fire Control also alerted Colden's home receivers. In March of 1964 North Boston's home receivers are tested by Radio Coordinator Al Fox and now a firefighter can be alerted to a fire call from inside his home without having to hear the fire siren blow. If one listens to the pitch of the alert tones from the deepest tone (Colden), to the highest pitch tone (Blasdell), you can hear the order that the respective fire companies purchased Plectron Home Receivers. In 1970 North Boston purchases Plectron home receivers that can operate on battery power. In the late 1970s radio technology changes again when Motorola introduces the Minitor a pager type home receiver. This allows the fire fighter to affix their radio to their belt and so he/she can be alerted of a fire call away from home. North Boston purchased these radios in 1982.

#### **Plectron Patrol - 1964**



**Timeline of Home Receivers - 1966 - 1972 - 1978 - 1982 - 1992 - 2002**

In February of 1964, in anticipation of the new waterline that is to be installed in the Valley a committee is appointed to draw up specifications for a new Class "A" pumper. This purchase will compliment, not replace, our existing 1951 Ford/Young pumper. As our community continues to grow the membership sees the need to continually upgrade our firefighting equipment. In June of the same year, bids are opened and the company approves the purchase of a 1965 American LaFrance pumper with a Ford F-600 Chassis. The engine will have a 1000 GPM Class "A" pump and a 750 gallon water tank. Cost is \$19,000. This new fire truck is dedicated in November.



**Chief Carl Andres (on truck) with President Paul W. Duffett and Boston Town Supervisor Joseph May**

Later our \$15000 mortgage for the new hall from 1959 is paid in full less - than 5 years after it was acquired. The directors connect the fire hall to the new waterline in September and Erie County Fire Radio directs that the trucks with fire radios be designated with company name and number designation. To reflect on our growing community and the changes that the firefighters of North Boston have seen since the end of WWII a period between September of 1963 and July of 1965, the company answered at least one fire alarm every month or a total of 65 calls for this time. For these three years (1963-1965) NBFC answered almost 100 calls for the community and surrounding as well as for the surrounding fire companies.

In August of 1966 Wurtz Funeral Home announced that he would no longer provide an ambulance service to the Town of Boston residences. Because of this the Town of Boston Town Board asked the fire companies to consider taking these duties over. With the lack of fireman during the daytime hours the fire company expressed apprehension of this added responsibility and suggested that the town explore other options. With this the Town of Boston established the Boston Emergency Squad in September of 1966. Over 30 volunteers both male and female took first aid training and shortly afterwards the town purchased a Cadillac Ambulance for the newly developed squad. Some members of North Boston Patchin and Boston fire companies were members of the Boston Emergency Squad also. What was unique about the Boston Emergency Squad in 1966 was that its membership included females. This group was well ahead of the times in that many women were home and available during the daytime hours and could answer first aid calls. The only other organization of this type at this time that included women was in the State of Texas. Today the Boston Emergency Squad continues serve the community of Boston with that same dedication they started with in 1966.



In August of 1966 the state has Route 219 widened and repaved in Boston. The contractor who is doing the work also does the fire hall parking lot and for payment of this work takes the 1953 Ford Tanker Truck. A new tanker has been ordered at this time. Not only does the newly paved parking lot mean an end to the dusty condition in the summer and muddy condition when it rains it also gives the kids in the neighborhood a place where they can learn to ride a bicycle.

In January of 1967 notice is made to the residents of North Boston that the fire siren will sound everyday at 12:00 noon. The “noon whistle” is a regulatory requirement set forth to assure that the siren is functioning properly. This test coincided with the Air Raid Siren that sounded every Wednesday at 11:55 AM. This siren was located at the Boston Valley School.

In the Spring of this year the company takes delivery of a 1967 Chevrolet 1400 gallon tanker. This tanker was manufactured at S&J Welding located on Trevett Rd in Boston. Included were 2-1/2” dump valves on three sides of the truck as well as compartments on both sides. Later when equipment was to be installed in one of the compartments one member found with a drill and a 3/8 drill bit that the back wall of the compartment was the outside wall of the water tank. The hole was repaired.



**1967 Chevrolet Tanker**

1967 marked the 150th Anniversary or Sesqui-Centennial of the Town of Boston. To celebrate this occasion a carnival is to be held in the Town Park during the last week in June and with a competing carnival the fire company decides not to hold theirs this year. Most of the firefighters from North Boston grew beards as part of the “Brothers of the Bush” organization. On Sunday churches in Boston conduct services where the men are seated on the right and the women sat on the left side of the church all dressed in attire that resemble those worn during the 19th Century. On the following Saturday the fireman have their parade. President Paul W. Duffett is chairman of the Fireman’s Day Parade and other fireman activities for the celebration. Many people from Boston, as well as from the county, come to celebrate our Sesqui-Centennial with us.



Left to right - Jerry Murphy Herb Klein Fred Shear Bob Tills Jim Smolinski Ray Edington James Carr with 1904 hand pumper. Though not visible Herb Klein has a bucket of confetti.



**Paul W. Duffett**

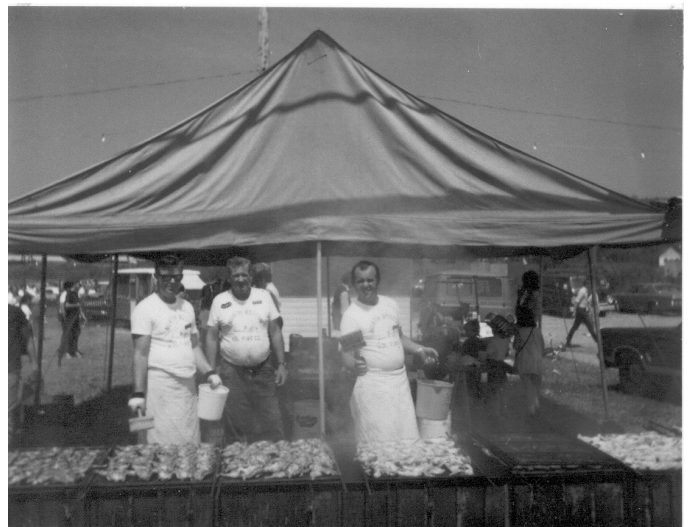
In 1968 the carnival moves to a larger area the “Loblaw’s Field” across the street from the North Boston Plaza. During the next eight years this is where the carnival will be held. It will also become a three day affair in 1971, rather than the two days that it was in the past when held in the fire hall parking lot. As with any carnival this one has parades, rides and plenty of a variety of foods such as BBQ chicken, clams, hamburgers and hot dogs and last, but not least limburger cheese sandwiches with onions on rye bread.



**Setting up for the carnival - some of the youngsters  
in pictures are future North Boston firefighters**



**Children's Parade**



**Left to Right - Tom Zehle George Hamm Vince Weiss**

In January of 1970 the membership approves the purchase of a new Engine #2. This is an American LaFrance 1000 Series 1250 GPM pumper with a 500 gallon water tank and powered by a Detroit Diesel engine. This type of fire truck with the Diesel engine is one of the first of this type in Erie County. Cost is \$38,000. A motion was made but defeated to have an electric rewind for the booster hose reel included in the purchase. The membership decided to stay with the conventional but never failing “Armstrong” hose reel.

To accommodate this new engine the company needed to add two larger truck bays. This project is approved at a cost of \$14,000. Because of this addition our parking lot will be smaller and therefore the M&T Bank trailer that was at the fire hall will have to move to another location. M&T Bank rented space and had a small trailer that served as a bank branch for citizens of North Boston. Unfortunately, there are no pictures of this. However at the road in the parking lot next to the fire hydrant there remains the concrete pad with the remains of the sign that used to be mounted there. The new addition was completed in the summer of 1970 and the truck arrived in February of 1971. A dedication for both was held in April.



**North Boston #2 ready to respond!**



**Bell from 1929 Stewart Pumper and 1951 Ford/Young Pumper**

**L to R William Kleis Chief Carl Andres President Donald Boyer William Shoemaker Fredrick Shear**





**1971—New Fire Hall Addition and  
Fire Trucks**



In June of 1972, Tropical Depression (f.k.a. Hurricane) Agnes drops over 12" of rain in the Southern Tier Region of New York State. With these heavy rains massive flooding occurs in Salamanca, Olean, Corning and Elmira NY. After the rains finally stopped and the waters in the rivers recede the containment dikes keep the destructive flood water from returning to the river. Because of this, the statewide mutual aid system is activated and a call is made for 1250 gpm pumpers to assist the southern tier communities of New York State. North Boston #2 responds to Salamanca and Boston Fire Company sends a pumper to Corning NY. Though NB E2 pumped at full capacity for a twelve hour period the truck only needed to be re-fueled once whereas the gasoline engines needed to be refilled a number of times in the same time frame.

November 1973—North Boston is one of the first companies to purchase 4" supply hose. Electric door openers are purchased for the two new truck bays.

December 1973 - Plans are discussed for moving the base station to the Hamburg Town Hall and having full-time fire dispatchers. Previously the Village of Hamburg only had a police dispatcher for the thirteen fire companies under Hamburg Control. This change took place in September of 1974.

During the past two years the county changes from a single county-wide fire frequency to multiple frequencies. Two base stations will now share one low band fire frequency rather than having all base stations dispatch on a single one. The Hamburg Base Station companies will change frequencies in January of 1974.

March 1974 - The company approves the purchase of a 1974 Chevrolet Step Van for a Utility Truck. Incorporated in this truck is a 4000 Watt Onan generator to provide scene lighting as well as emergency electrical power when needed. This unit will transport any support item that may be needed at the scene of a fire or other emergency. This unit will service the fire company for over 25 years.



April 1974 - A small plane crashed into the basement of a home on Mayer Rd. The pilot perished before the crash from an apparent heart attack and fortunately no one else was injured.

1975 - Due to a greater commitment of the firemen and the ladies auxiliary of North Boston as well as past dealings with disorderly patrons the members decide to no longer sponsor the annual carnival and instead have an annual 20 Week Club

party. A tradition for almost 30 years the carnival, whose roots began as a small Sunday Bazaar with the North Boston Band, evolved into a three day affair complete with a Ferris wheel, beer tent and fireman's parade on a Saturday night. Each July the community would look forward to our event and attendance was always greater than the previous year's. Young adults who had a father in the fire company or their mom in the ladies auxiliary or just someone in the community would find a job with the ride concessions or in one of the food tents. During the night one or two energetic boys would fill beer cases with discarded beer bottles and return it to the beer tent for a dime or if lucky enough, a quarter. Not only did we have a carnival many other volunteer fire companies also would sponsor an event such as this. Today with the many varieties of amusement parks in the area as well as in the country only a few fire companies such as Chaffee-Sardinia and Lake Shore Fire Company, still sponsor an annual carnival.

March 2 & 3 1976 - Erie County is hit with a massive ice storm that downs power lines tree limbs and knocks out electrical power throughout the region including in North Boston. For over 18 hours the North Boston firemen are called to pump out, or just provide electrical power for sump pumps, for over 100 flooded basements in North Boston. After the power returned units then went into the Town of Hamburg and assisted the Armor firemen with flooded basements also. Mutual Aid assistance also came from a few Cattaraugus County fire companies who assisted other Town of Hamburg Fire Companies such as East Randolph who assisted the Newton-Abbott Fire Company. A certificate from a local radio station is proudly displayed in our club room recognizing the North Boston Fire Company as a "Good Neighbor" for our assistance to those who called us for help.



July 1976 - The United States celebrates its Bi-Centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A celebration and parade is held at the Town Park in Patchin. Our hand pumper and cart takes first place for antique equipment. The bell that is mounted in front of the fire hall is removed for the first time since it was placed there and taken to the Town Park to signal the beginning of the bi-centennial celebration in Boston NY. North Boston fire company member Warren Fleckenstein paints early American flags on the overhead doors of the fire hall to pay tribute to our country's anniversary.



December 1976 - Water District #2 is completed on the west hill in North Boston. This includes Mayer Rd Zimmerman and Feddick Rds. With this over 75% of our district has hydrants.

**The Blizzard of '77** - The winter of 1976 started with a severe lake effect snow storm that dumped over 4 feet of snow in North Boston as well as the Southtowns. Below zero degree weather was experienced on the first day of December the earliest this had ever occurred, and more snow continued to fall. Aside from being a little early this was generally a typical snow event that required schools to be closed for a day and the highway crews clearing snow from the roads. The only difference was that the snow and cold though not at any extremes seemed to be more persistent than other years. By early December Lake Erie had frozen over, thus signifying the end of the lake snows and the region settles with little, if any, additional accumulation of snow. However this time the snow continues. On January 1 North Boston starts the new year with a barn fire on Feddick Rd. Blowing and drifting snow hamper the equipment and manpower but we arrive within minutes of the alarm. Additional tankers are called from East Eden Boston and Hamburg Fire Companies but with the strong west winds fanning the fire the barn is a total loss. On January the 28th a cold front with gale force winds blows over the frozen Lake Erie and takes snow that is over 4 feet in depth that is on the ice and sends it inland. For a week the region is paralyzed. North Boston's installation dinner is scheduled on the next evening. The caterer was able to prepare and serve the food but the music entertainment was not able to make it to the party. Leo Stromecki and Tom Kyle play their accordions and Roy Seufert brings his "spoons" thus providing the music for the party. Noticeably missing from the festivities is Fred Shear who is stranded in Buffalo. The men and ladies of North Boston aren't going to let a little snow stop them from having annual installation dinner. Later in the week North Boston and East Eden assist Edwin and John Zittle as their barn collapse due to the heavy snow, trapping some of the cattle that was inside. Supervisor Leo Stromecki requests the fire hall to remain open so any travelers who may be stranded and need a place to stay can go to the fire hall and sleep. By the end of February the region returns to normal and in March record warmth is a welcome relief from the harsh winter we had in January.

April of 1977 - Construction begins on our new addition. This will increase the size of our dining room and kitchen. We also have a larger firemen room. A year later the members dedicate the hall and have a celebration dinner that night.



L to R Assemblyman Richard L. Kennedy Senator Dale M. Volker  
President Richard A. Lee and Chief James R. Carr

## 1978

1978 is one of the years that had its high points with the dedication of the new addition to our dining hall as well as an increase in our membership. But 1978 will probably be remembered as a year of tragedy. On Friday, January 13th, a landmark that represented the unofficial gateway into North Boston, Zittle's Dairy Farm had burned. Hamburg and North Boston Fire Companies were assisted by almost every fire company around the area. The closest hydrant was between the two expressway bridges (today it is north of the 219) and the Eighteen Mile Creek was almost entirely frozen. This fire took over a day to put out and Hamburg continued to douse small hay bales fire for the next week. After the fire was out the Zittle's rebuilt the barn almost identical to the original barn that was built in 1922. Clarence Zittle who founded Zittle's Dairy Farms, was a life member of the North Boston Fire Company joining in 1918.



**North Boston Fireman working at Zittle's Barn Fire.**

In July of 1978 four members of the Boston Fire Company lost their lives in the line of duty when they were overcome by carbon monoxide from a gasoline pump used to pump out a well. North Boston and firefighters from all of Erie County paid their respects to the families with a procession from the Boston Fire Hall to Wurtz's Funeral Home.

## 1978 (con't)

Except for the Zittle Barn fire in January 1978 had been a quiet year in terms of alarms with only twenty calls received up to September most being car accidents or a bon fire. On October 12th during Fire Prevention Week, this would change. At fifty-four minutes after midnight a passer-by notices smoke in the intersection of Boston State Road and Zimmerman. Upon his investigation he notices a house on Zimmerman Road is on fire and immediately goes to the fire hall and activates the pull box. Chief James Carr who lives next door is told of the house fire and notifies Hamburg Fire Control. Chief Carr is on location within minutes and North Boston #2 with a full crew arrives just behind the chief. Just as the crew is going to make entry into the home the chief is told five children are in the house. He immediately calls for ambulances from the Boston Emergency Squad, Hamburg and Armor Fire Companies as well as a pumper from Patchin. Though the children are removed from the house, all perish from the heat and smoke. For almost seventy-five years the members of the North Boston Fire Company have never had to face a tragedy such as this. Without a doubt this tragedy would leave a lasting impression on these firemen.

**BREEZY**  
Sunny intervals this  
afternoon. Rain likely late  
tonight, continuing Friday.  
(COMPLETE REPORT ON PAGE 4)  
Vol. CXCII—No. 2

**BUFFALO EVENING NEWS**

**State**

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BUFFALO, N.Y., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1978

84 Pages

6 SECTIONS  
20 TABLED PAGES

15 Cents

# 5 Children Perish in N. Boston Blaze

**Rescue Effort  
By Trooper Is  
Unsuccessful**

July 1982 - At approximately midnight a "Rodeo truck" comes down Herman Hill Rd and, unable to stop due to an apparent loss of brakes, strikes another vehicle in the intersection of Boston State Road, flips over and explodes in fire. In the trailer of this truck are a number of rodeo animals that include horses and Brahma bulls which become very agitated when they are tossed around and burned. Most of the horses are killed as a result of the accident as well as some of the bulls. When daylight comes the damage is quite evident. Some of the Brahma bulls that have escaped injury are still on the loose. North Boston was assisted by Hamburg Rescue 7 and 8 as well as a pumper from Patchin. Breakfast was also prepared that morning for the firemen at the hall.



**Remains of rodeo truck and trailer on Zimmerman Rd - July 1982**



December 1983 - North Boston is assisted by East Eden Hamburg Boston and Patchin Fire Companies at a barn fire at the May Farm on Feddick Rd. Though heavy snow with winds and below zero temperatures hamper efforts of the firefighters the barn is saved and damaged is limited to the milking parlor. None of the dairy cows are lost. Neighboring farmers come to the aid of Mr. May and their assistance allows the farm to continue on a limited basis.

**Fire equipment at May's barn fire in December 1983**



January 1984 - North Boston firefighters adjourn the January meeting in memory of five City of Buffalo firefighters whose lives were taken as a result of a propane explosion in December of 1983. The firemen also honor those firemen with a memorial plaque presented to Buffalo Fire Department Ladder Company #5.

January 1984 - A new truck committee is formulated to draw up specifications for a new pumper. Chairing this committee are past chiefs Fred Shear and Paul G. Schunk

May 7 1984 - Chief Warren Skinner and the truck committee submit plans to the company and the membership approves the purchase of a American LaFrance 1500 GPM Century Series pumper with a 750 gallon water tank for \$148000. Unlike previous fire trucks this one is constructed with a stainless steel body and compartments. This engine is also one of the last to be manufactured in the American LaFrance factory in Elmira NY. American LaFrance was a leader in the manufacturer of fire equipment for over 150 years.



**1985 American LaFrance Pumper**

The next order of business for the truck committee was to decide on the fate of our tanker. The committee decided to sell North Boston #5 our 1967 Chevrolet and convert the 1965 American LaFrance pumper into a pumper/tanker with an 1100 gallon water tank. Roy Raber of Mortons Corners (Springville) did this work and the truck was completed in September at a cost of \$18,000.

January 1985 - "Blizzard of '85" struck the region with over 3 feet of blowing snow and temperatures below zero. Feddick Road between North Boston Road and Keller Road was under six foot snow drifts forcing those folks to either stay at home or rely on snowmobiles for transportation. As a precaution, firefighters with snowmobiles are asked to have them available in the event of a fire alarm. After a week when the snow finally stopped the members of North Boston took to the streets and cleaned hydrants and checked on snow-bound folks in their homes. Food, medicine and supplies were taken to two residences during this storm.

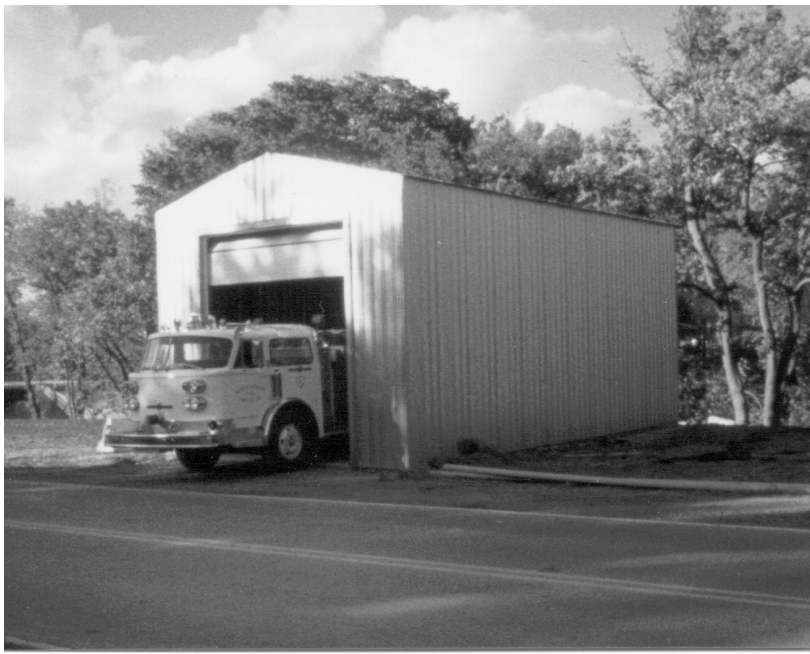


**James Carr and Ken Manista cleaning out hydrant on Zimmerman Road of snow left from Blizzard of '85.**

March 1987 - *"Planes Trains and Automobiles,"* a comedy motion picture starring Steve Martin and John Candy was having a part of the filming taking place on the Route 219 Expressway. With a large cast and crew and the fact that it is still winter in Western New York (this was required for the filming) a large warm area was needed for the cast and crew's lunch. The assistant to the producer contacted Chief Rodney J. Carr and inquired if the hall would be available, which it was. On March 6 a large recreational vehicle that served as the kitchen, with a trailer in tow, came to the hall and prepared the meal for the approximately 50 - 75 people that were part of the production. Also, by chance a health inspector for the Erie County Department of Health came the same day for our annual inspection of our kitchen facilities for the upcoming spring and fall dinners. Though he was interested in the kitchen facilities in the RV as well he didn't do an inspection in that this was not for public use.



May 1987 - Due to the rebuilding of the Zimmerman Road bridge over the 18 Mile Creek Zimmerman Road is closed to all vehicular traffic including fire apparatus. With this a satellite station, or North Boston Station #2, is constructed on Back Creek Road near the bridge. North Boston Engine #1 is moved to its temporary quarters for the summer. Firefighters who live on the west side of the valley would report to this station and firefighters on the other side or Boston State Road side would access Station #2 from a foot bridge that is constructed while the bridge renovations are undertaken. When the bridge work was complete Union Concrete of West Seneca NY donates the building to the fire company and it is now used as a storage shed across the road from the fire hall.



**North Boston Station #2—1987**

1989 - Explorer Post program begins at North Boston. Young men and women are given the opportunity to partake in the functions of a fire company and with limitations are able to work along side the active firefighters. Today firefighters such as Assistant Chief Sean Crotty, Chris Muraco and others have their beginnings with the fire company in the Explorer Post #124.

July 1992 - The Town of Boston celebrates its 175th Anniversary and as part of the festivities sponsors a beard contest. This is similar to the beard contest held twenty-five years earlier during the Town Sesqui-Centennial. It appears now some of the beards may be a little whiter or have some white mixed in with the dark color. Some individuals are growing a beard for the first time. North Boston Fire Company has the most members enter in the beard contest and has a majority of the winners.



**Town of Boston 175th Anniversary Celebration Beard Contest Winners**  
**L to R Richard Lee Al Pfitzinger Wm. Forness Herb Klein Robert Cornwall**

August 1992 - The North Boston Fire hall and neighboring properties are damaged due to a flood that occurred when heavy rains fell in North Boston. The stream next to the fire hall became a small river when water from the heavy rains flooded the creek and spilled over its banks. Approximately one foot of water was in the fire hall. Basements of nearby houses are flooded as well.

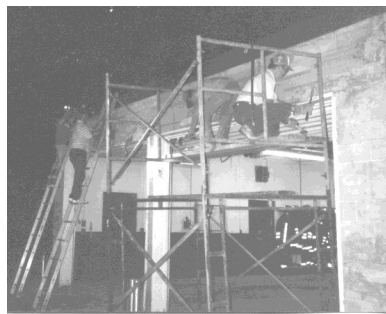
1992 - With changing regulations in regards to firefighter safety the company approves modifications to our 1985 American LaFrance pumper. The cab of the truck will now be entirely enclosed by adding doors to the rear jump seats. This will also mean that firefighters will no longer ride on the rear tailboard of any fire truck. This was completed by RD Murray Fire Apparatus of Hamburg NY.



1992 - The front façade of the fire hall is removed by the members at an evening work detail and replaced with a brick front by Paul G. Schunk Masonry. This façade has been a part of the fire hall since 1959.



**The Old**



**The New**

1993 - Member Jim Koester informs the members that the telephone company has a 10000 watt diesel generator available to the fire company at no charge. With a generator this large in capacity the fire hall will now have sufficient backup power in the event of a electrical power outage. Vern Philippi donates lifting equipment that places the generator in the storage barn. The power company donates poles and the equipment to place poles in the ground. Electrical wiring is strung along the poles from the generator to the transfer switch in the fire hall. In August of 1994 the generator is in service and will be operated at least once a month. Our fire hall can be used as an emergency evacuation shelter if needed.

In January 1993 the company approves for a new truck committee to replace the 1971 American LaFrance as well as the 1965 Ford Pumper/Tanker. Past Chief James Carr will head the committee. The committee is faced with designing a truck that not only meets the needs of our community but one that satisfies the requirements of many regulatory agencies that stipulate what the fire apparatus is now required to have. Ten years ago firefighters would ride on the tailboard of the engine to the scene of a fire. Now all responding members, in our case eight, must be inside of the truck and seated. The new engine had to be designed to fit in ten foot doors and short enough to be able to go outside of the truck bay and not be into the Boston State Road. In November of 1993 the membership approves the purchase of an RD Murray pumper on a Spartan chassis. Cost is \$245,000. The 1971 American LaFrance and the 1965 Ford pumpers are sold.



June 18 1994 - North Boston #2 is dedicated in record heat (94°). The community is invited to our open house to review our new engine as well as look over our existing equipment.



#### **Engine 2 Dedication**

**L to R -**

**Chaplain William Gross**

**Chief Tom Kyle**

**Truck Committee Chair James R. Carr**

June 22 - Fire destroys a garage on Hillcrest Dr. With a heavy fire load and no hydrants in the area North Boston calls for additional tankers from Patchin, Boston, East Eden, Eden, Hamburg, Armor, Hillcrest and Orchard Park. The Boston Emergency Squad responds as well. This is the greatest mutual aid assistance North Boston had received. At least two fire fighters are injured though not seriously.



1999 - Citing a need for more space both inside of the cab for firefighters as well as compartment space for equipment a committee is established for the purchase of a rescue/utility truck. Sean Crotty chairs committee and after reviewing different styles and chassis the committee approves the purchase of a 1999 RD Murray rescue with a Freightliner Chassis. The rescue will have air conditioning inside of the cab and roll-up compartment doors. The fire company receives the unit in October of 1999.



In 1999 the Congress and the White House announce the formation of Fire Fighter grants that are to aid fire companies throughout the country. These grants are administered by FEMA and the United States Fire Administration Office. Fire companies, including North Boston, submit applications for various resources such as fire prevention, firematic equipment and new trucks. In 2001 North Boston is awarded \$31,500 to purchase and distribute to the citizens of the North Boston Fire district smoke detectors and home rescue ladders. In 2002 we are awarded \$89,798 for new turn-out gear and auto extrication equipment, and in 2003 we are awarded \$114,750 for Automatic External Defibrillators, Scott Air Packs and a Thermal Imaging Camera. These grants are awarded on a competitive basis and up to this point North Boston is one of the 2% of the fire companies in the USA that are successful three years in a row.



**L to R - Kevin Steward Chris Muraco Dave Bernas Herb Klein Sean P. Crotty Karla Mead Rep. Jack Quinn Rodney J. Carr David R. Blank and Robin Mead**

## North Boston Market

In 1970, the North Boston area became home to a new business, the Bkwik Market. Though a smaller version of the big grocery stores that were in Hamburg, such as Super Duper, Acme, Loblaws, Bells and the A&P, Bkwik was a welcomed business to our small community. Almost thirty five years later, even when the mega grocery stores such as Tops and Wegman's replaced those big grocery stores, the North Boston Market still survives today.

On the morning of August 22, 2003, a devastating fire broke out in the Bkwik, destroying the store and its contents. North Boston was assisted by the Boston Emergency Squad, Hamburg, Boston, East Eden, Hillcrest, Patchin, Scranton Truck #6 and the Newton-Abbott F.A.S.T Team. After the flames were quelled and the equipment returned, owners Bob Marean and his son Mike had the distressing task of cleaning up from the fire and getting back to business. His employees too were now facing the prospect of being out of work. The next day, citizens of North Boston and the Town of Boston came to the aid of the Mareans and in droves, removed from the shelves the smoke and fire damaged food products. Within a week of the fire, the North Boston Market was ready to be rebuilt and by Thanksgiving it was back in business. Bob and Ronnie Marean have retired from the day-to-day operations of the business, but his son Mike and business partner Greg McGuire continue the same small town atmos-

phere that has been part of the North

Boston community for almost thirty years.



# North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

## 100 Years of Service

### Schunk Family

Michael Schunk  
Charter Member



John Schunk  
Charter Member  
1st Vice President (1911)

No Picture  
Available

Norman Schunk



Clayton G. Schunk, Sr.  
Past Director



Paul G. Schunk  
Past Chief  
Outstanding Firefighter 1985  
Life Member



David Schunk  
Past Director



Todd Schunk



# North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

## 100 Years of Service

### Zimmerman Family

Lloyd Zimmerman  
Charter Member  
Town of Boston Supervisor



Harlan Zimmerman  
Joined 1917

No Picture Available

Edgar Zimmerman  
Joined 1917

No Picture Available

Glenn Zimmerman  
Joined 1926  
Past Chief  
Past President  
Former Director  
Active member for 50 years



Dave Zimmerman  
Past President  
Former Director  
Former Town of Boston  
Town Supervisor  
Life Member



Paul Zimmerman  
Former Assistant Fire Chief



Hugh Zimmerman  
Committeeman  
Town of Boston  
Sesqui-Centennial  
Fireman's Day



# North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

## 100 Years of Service

### Wittmeyer Family

Joseph Wittmeyer  
 Charter Member  
 Past Fire Chief  
 Past President  
 Former Town of Boston  
 Town Supervisor



Clarence Wittmeyer  
 Past Fire Chief  
 Former Director  
 Over 70 Years of  
 Service to NBFC



Howard Wittmeyer    No Picture Available    Peter Wittmeyer    No Picture Available

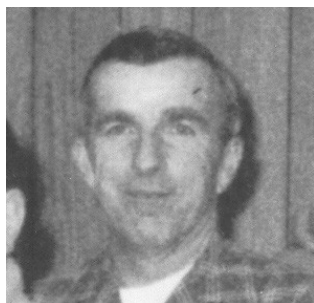
Milton “Bud” Wittmeyer  
 Former Town of Boston  
 Councilman



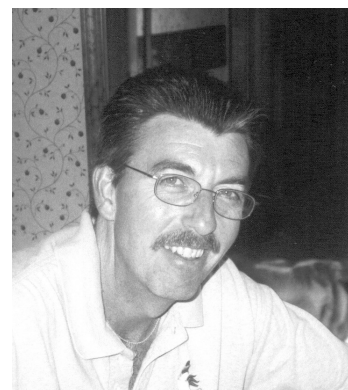
Jean Kleis  
 Daughter of  
 Clarence Wittmeyer  
 Past President  
 Ladies Auxiliary



William H. Kleis Jr  
 Past Fire Chief  
 Past Vice-President  
 Life Member



William D. Kleis  
 Fireman of the Year  
 1977  
 Life Member



# North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

## 100 Years of Service

### Klein Family

William Klein  
Charter Member



William F. Klein  
Charter Member



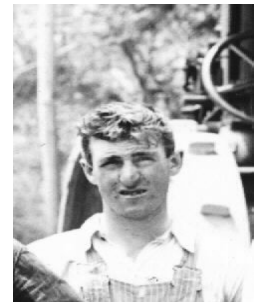
Lauren Klein  
Charter Member



Charles J. Klein  
Charter Member  
Past Fire Chief  
Former Director



Clarence Klein  
Past President



Homer Klein  
Norbert Klein

No Picture  
Available

Harold Klein  
Past Fire Chief



Fredrick C. Klein  
Past Fire Chief  
Past Vice President  
Former Director



Bessie Klein  
Past President Ladies Aux  
And long time member

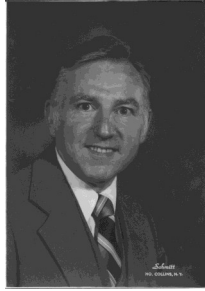


# North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

## 100 Years of Service

### Klein Family

Herbert H. Klein  
Past President  
First Chaplain  
Outstanding Firefighter 1995  
Life Member



Marge Edington  
Past President  
Ladies Auxiliary



Jean Klein  
Treasurer  
Ladies Auxiliary



Raymond L. Edington  
Past Assistant Fire Chief  
Former Director



Thomas A. Edington  
Fire Chief  
Outstanding Firefighter  
Life Member



Gregory P. Klein  
Life Member 2004

Kirk K. Klein  
Twenty Year Member



Dawn Klein  
Vice President  
Ladies Auxiliary



# North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

## 80 Years of Service

### Seufert Family

Julius Seufert Sr.  
First Sergeant @ Arms 1937



Julius Seufert Jr.  
Succeeded Fred Frank as  
President - 1934



Henry Seufert  
Joined 1929

No Picture  
Available

Fredrick Seufert  
Joined 1929

No Picture  
Available

Ludwig Seufert  
Joined 1930

No Picture  
Available

Roy Seufert  
Past President  
Life Member



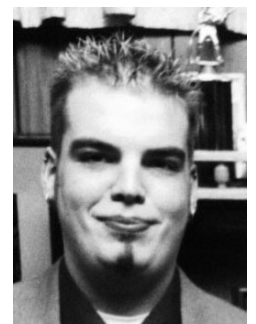
Betty Seufert  
Past President  
Ladies Auxiliary  
4-H Leader for over  
50 years



Randy R. Seufert  
Past President  
Outstanding Firefighter  
Life Member



Kasey Seufert  
Joined Explorers Post



For many years in North Boston two buildings (or more) have served as area landmarks to our community. One, of course being the fire hall, and the other is the school on the Back Creek Rd. The school building also known as “District #4 School,”

has been situated on Back Creek Rd from the 1880’s. Just as the fire company expanded to meet the needs of a growing community so has the school.



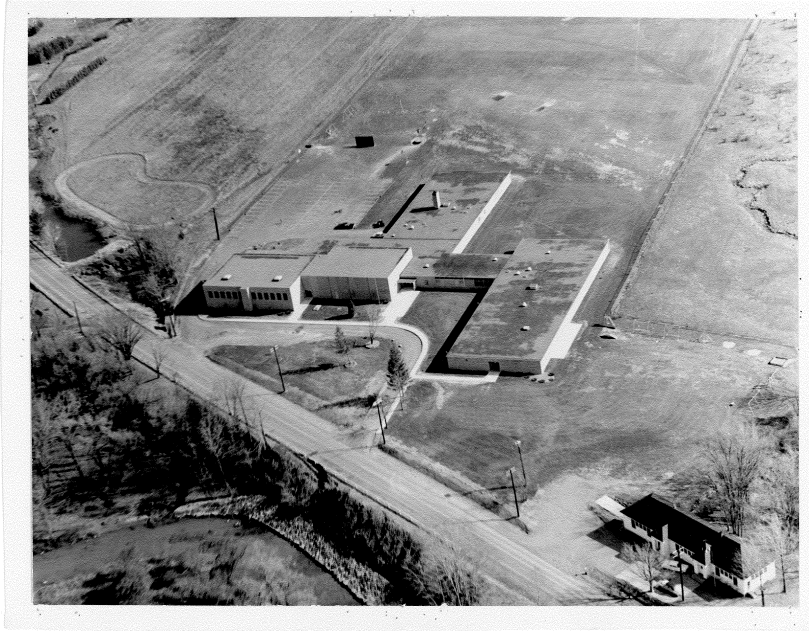
Early 1900s



**North Boston School #4**  
**Class of 1932-1933**

Front Row L to R ? Maryann Wittmeyer Clayt Schunk Bud Wittmeyer Joe Smolinski Alice Wittmeyer Carol Pfeffer Grace Bement Betty Seufert  
 Row 2 Leo Brown Norb Klein Beatrice Schuler Joyce Pfeffer Don Pfarnar Elmer Leas Edward Schunk  
 Row 3 Jean Neifernold Lorraine Wittmeyer Laura Hornberger ? Harold Schunk Ed Pohle Audrey Draudt Roberta Draudt  
 Row 4 ? Ruth Wittmeyer Evelyn Klein Elery Heinrich Teacher Freda Kranz Teacher Fern Kittleson  
 Back Row Vern Massing Schueler

In 1958 after District #4 centralized with the Hamburg School District a new Boston Valley School was built for the growing community. Classes at the Boston Valley School began in 1959.



Since this time the members of the North Boston Fire Company have gone to the BVS and emphasized to the young men and women the importance of fire prevention.

### **Fire Prevention Week at Boston Valley School - October 3, 1961**

#### **North Boston - Boston - Hamburg Fire Companies**

Principal Harry Erikson Alden Fox (NBFC) Bob Reiske (NBFC) Ray Tillner (HFD) Chester Schroeck (HFD) Francis Wurtz (BFC)  
Bill Mattulke (HFD) Cliff Johnson (BFC) Carl Andres (NBFC) Martin Timmel (NBFC) ?? Vernon Massing (NBFC)  
Raymond Emerling (HFD) Clarence Hahn (HFD)

For a majority of the residents of “North Boston NY”, you have your mail delivered to your home. Because of this your address is actually “Hamburg NY.” For others, your address may be “Eden NY” or “Orchard Park NY.” For a few hearty souls who chose not to have their mail delivered to their home and make the trek to the post office every day, your address is “North Boston NY”. The North Boston Post Office has been a part of our town since 1832 when Reuben B. Edmunds was named postmaster on July 14th of that year. NBFC President Fred Frank was postmaster of the North Boston Post Office for almost thirty years from 1910 to 1940 serving the longest at this position in the history of the North Boston Post Office. His general store served as the post office. Prior to Fred Frank his brother Jacob Frank Jr., was postmaster from 1890 to 1902. His post office shown at the right was located where the Mobil Gas Station is today.



North Boston Post Office—1900



North Boston Post Office - 1920s

After Fred Frank served as our postmaster his daughter Georgia Massing took over as postmaster from 1940 to 1966. In 1966 Postmaster Sal Aroninca, also member of North Boston Fire Company moved the post office to rear the of the former general store.



North Boston Post Office - 1967

In 1971 the post office was moved again to its present location in the North Boston Plaza. 'This was formally War-mus' Pharmacy. Today our postmaster is Karen Schunk, who was named postmaster in August.



### **Postmasters of North Boston NY - 14110**

**Reuben B. Edmunds - July 14 1832**

**Jeremiah Pierce - May 20 1839**

**Lorenzo D. Hathaway - March 24 1848**

**Josiah S. Beardsley - August 27 1852**

**John Minkle - October 11 1864**

**John Schlotzer - December 8 1873**

**Jacob Frank Jr. - November 11 1890**

**Fred Frank - July 16 1910**

**Salvatore Aronica - March 4 1966**

**Sharon L. Haller - September 24 1988**

**Joan A. Carrow - October 11 1997**

**Thomas Twining Jr - May 21 1834**

**Ira Fuller - October 4 1839**

**Jacob C. Cook - May 29 1849**

**John Stillwell - March 1 1854**

**Arnold Kester - March 29 1869**

**Harrison J. Kester - June 19 1882**

**John Kopenhaffer - February 11 1902**

**Mrs. Georgia Massing - March 26 1940**

**Mary Louis Zerby - June 26 1982**

**John Kensinger - January 23 1993**

**Karen Schunk - August 7 2004**

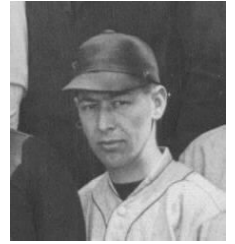
# Presidents

## North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Fred Frank  
1904 –1933



Julius Seufert Jr.  
1934– 1935



Clarence Klein  
1936—1937



Clarence Bement  
1938– 1939



Irwin Heinrich  
1940– 1941



Joseph Wittmeyer  
1942– 1944;  
1946—1947



Charles G. Decker Jr  
1945



Glenn Zimmerman  
1948– 1949



Clarence Schluter  
1950– 1953; 1958



Vernon Massing  
1954—1956



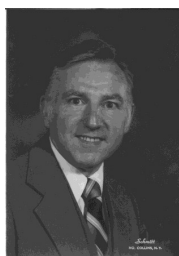
Robert O'Brien  
1957



Alden Fox  
1959



Herbert H. Klein  
1960



Fredrick Shear  
1961



# Presidents

## North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

David G. Zimmerman  
1962-1963



Paul W. Duffett  
1964-1967



Robert VanLeaven  
1968-1969



Donald J. Boyer  
1970-1971



Alan "Bud" Groat  
1972



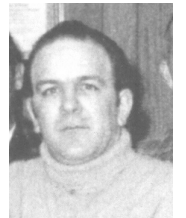
Warren Fleckenstein  
1973

No Picture  
Available

Roy Seufert  
1974



William Brehm Jr  
1975-1976



Martin Timmel  
1977-1978



Richard A. Lee  
1979-1981



Randy R. Seufert  
1985-1987



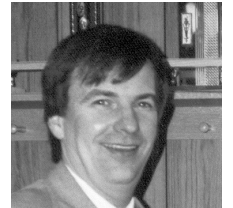
Kenneth A. Hendrix Jr  
1988



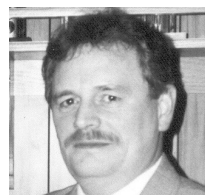
William G. Brunner  
1989-1990



John M. Roth  
1991



Warren R. Skinner  
1992-1999



# Chiefs

## North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Albert Koppenhafer  
1904-1905

No Picture  
Available

Charles J. Klein  
1906-1907



Joseph Wittmeyer  
1908-1911; 1916-1925



Louis Fuchs  
1912-1915

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Ernest Massing  
1926-1932



Merton Bond  
1933



Irwin Heinrich  
1934-1935



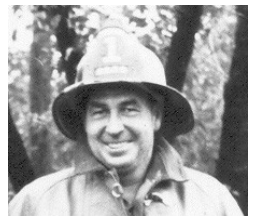
Clarence Wittmeyer  
1936-1937; 1954-1955



Glenn Zimmerman  
1938-1939



Vernon Massing  
1940-1941; 1948-1949



Harold Klein  
1942-1944



Clarence Schluter  
1945-1946



Erwin Pierce  
1947

No Picture  
Available

Fredrick C. "Fritz" Klein  
1950-1953; 1956;  
1958-1959



# Chiefs

## North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Anthony Schimmel  
1957

No Picture  
Available

James V. Winnert  
1959-1961



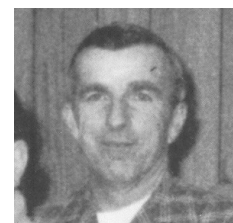
Carl Andres  
1962-1971



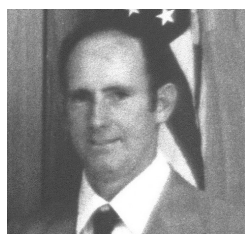
Fredrick J. Shear  
1972-1974



William H. Kleis Jr.  
1975-1977



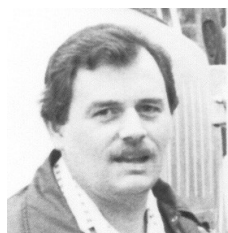
James R. Carr  
1978-1980



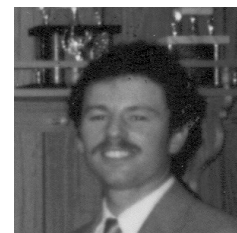
Paul G. Schunk  
1981-1983



Warren R. Skinner  
1984-1986



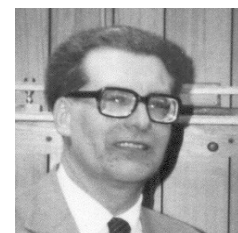
Rodney J. Carr  
1987-1989



Donald R. O'Bryant  
1990-1992



Thomas L. Kyle  
1993-1995



Kenneth Manista  
1996-1998



Richard A. Lee  
1999-2001



# Boston Chamber of Commerce

## “Citizens of the Year”

### North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Norman Pfeffer  
1966



Thomas Clauss  
1971



Alden Fox  
1973



Howard Nicholas  
1974



Charles G. Decker Jr  
1976



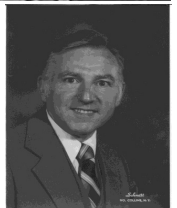
Alfred P. Pfitzinger  
1981



Henry N. Charlap  
1986



Herbert H. Klein  
1988



Joyce A. Carr  
1990



Robert W. Tills  
1992



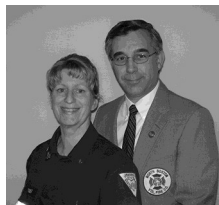
Betty Seufert  
1995



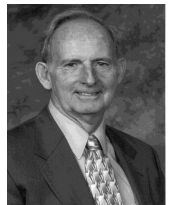
Fredrick Shear  
1998



Donald & Wendy O'Bryant  
2003



James R. Carr  
2004



# Erie County Fire Chief's Mutual Aid Organization

## Firefighter Service Awards

### North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Paul G. Schunk  
Fireman of  
the Year  
1981



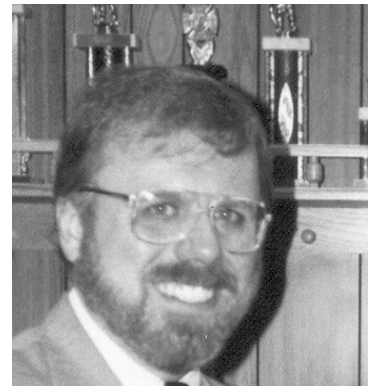
Frederick J. Shear  
Fire Service Award  
1987 & 2003



Sean P. Crotty  
Fire Service Award  
2000



Kenneth Manista  
Fire Service Award  
2000



Michael Frank  
Fire Service Award  
2001

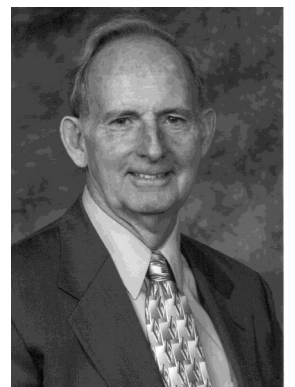


Rodney J. Carr  
Fire Service Award  
2001

Robin J. Mead  
Fire Service Award  
2003



James R. Carr  
Fire Service Award  
2003



# Town of Boston

## Town Supervisors

### North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

George H. Blanchard  
Charter Member  
1888-1890; 1895-1899

No Picture  
Available

Edward Heinrich  
Charter Member  
1902-1911



William Thurber  
Charter Member  
1912-1913



Lloyd Zimmerman  
Charter Member  
1920-1923



Joseph Wittmeyer  
Charter Member  
1932-1933; 1936-1937



Nelson Endress  
1940-1942



John Jablonski  
1944-1957



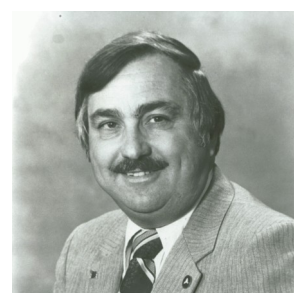
Norman Pfeffer  
1958-1959



Leo G. Stromecki  
1976-1977



David G. Zimmerman  
1979-1981



# Neighboring Fire Companies to the North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.



**Boston Fire Company**

**Organized 1908**



**Boston Emergency Squad**

**Organized 1966**



**Patchin Fire Co**

**Since 1908**



**East Eden Fire Co.**

**Organized 1923**



**Colden Fire Co.**

**Organized 1905**



# Neighboring Fire Companies to the North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.



**Hamburg Fire Department**

**Organized 1880**



**Eden Fire Co. No 1**

**Organized 1923**



**Hillcrest Fire Co.**

**Organized 1955**



## **Fire Companies that answered our call for Mutual Aid**

**Patchin      Boston      Colden      East Eden**

**Eden      Hamburg      Armor      Hillcrest**

**Orchard Park      Scranton      Southtowns Hazmat      Hamburg Water Rescue**

## **Fire Companies that we gave Mutual Aid Assistance**

**Patchin      Boston      Colden      East Eden**

**Eden      Hamburg      Armor      Hillcrest**

**Orchard Park      Big Tree      Scranton      Lake View**

**Salamanca      Gowanda      Evans Center      West Falls**

# Hamburg Fire Control

## North Boston Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Beginning in 1955 the Village of Hamburg Police began the job of alerting North Boston of fires along with Norm Pfeffer from his home in North Boston. If a call came to the village, Hamburg would activate our fire siren and, when at the hall a fireman would call Hamburg and they would pass along the location of the fire call. In 1960 the Village of Hamburg was dispatching all of the fires for North Boston. In 1964 North Boston was alerted with Plectron Home Receivers. In 1974 the Town of Hamburg began the duties of dispatching by hiring full-time fire dispatchers. 30 years later the Town of Hamburg still provides this service to North Boston as well as all fire companies in the Towns of Hamburg Eden and Colden.



**Hamburg Fire Control Dispatchers**

**Left to Right    PSD Donald R. O'Bryant   PSD Sean P. Crotty   Senior Dispatcher Robert C. Mueller**

