
DEDICATION

**FIRE HEADQUARTERS
116 Thirteenth St.**

The City of Watervliet



Saturday May 23, 1970

CITY OFFICIALS

James F. Cavanaugh, Sr., Mayor
J. Wilson James, Councilman
William F. Anderson, Councilman
Raymond C. Selke, Sr., General Manager
Edward J. Koonmen, Deputy General Manager
James J. Cahill, Corporation Council
Joseph F. Monaghan, Deputy Corporation Council
Andrew G. Felock, City Clerk
Robert L. Diamond, Director of Finance

William F. McDermott, Judge of the City Court

Frank J. Luddy, Fire Chief

CONTRACTORS

General Contractor — Zandri Construction, Inc.
Mechanical Contractor — Wm. F. Bradley & Sons, Inc.
Electrical Contractor — Stellone Electric Co.
Harris A. Sanders, Architect — Einhorn Sanders Associates

The Mayor, City Council, General Manager, and all the City Officials, express their grateful appreciation of the services rendered by all who assisted in organizing and carrying the project through to completion, and they also desire to thank the contractors for fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to them.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

Awarding of contracts for the construction of the new Fire Headquarters and totaling \$275,504 was on the order of business for the City Council on Thursday evening, May 29, 1969, and ground breaking took place on Monday morning, June 9, 1969.



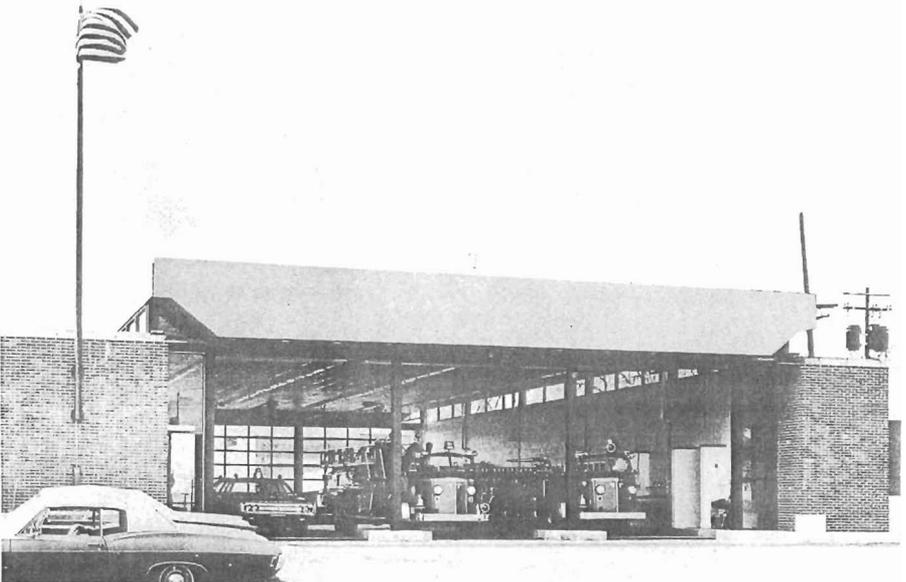
Watervliet's General Manager Raymond C. Selke, left, and Mayor James F. Cavanaugh Sr. toss the first shovelfuls of earth in ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Watervliet Firehouse at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 13th Street. Watching the activities are, left to right at rear, firefighter David Austin; Battalion Chief Lawrence Dewine; Francis Zandri, contractor; Councilman J. Wilson James; Fire Chief Frank Luddy; Edward J. Koonman, deputy city manager, and Harris Sanders, architect.



The Corner Stone was laid in place on Saturday, September 6, 1969. In the photo, left to right are, City Manager Raymond C. Selke, Fire Chief Frank Luddy, Councilman William F. Anderson, Councilman J. Wilson James and Mayor James F. Cavanaugh, Sr.



**Fire Headquarters — 1558 Broadway — 106 years
September 1864 to April 29, 1970 2 p.m.**



Fire Headquarters — April 29, 1970 2 P.M. to -----

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the present time the authorized strength of the department is 32 officers and men. The manpower is divided into 3 platoons of 9 men and 1 Battalion Chief. There is also a relief Battalion Chief who is also the Fire Inspector and the Fire Chief Frank Luddy.

The working schedule now in effect is the 48 hour work week and the 3 platoons relieve each other. A platoon works 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off duty. Men in the platoon are given separate days off when the platoon works and these are called Kelly Days and are given to bring the work week to 48 hours.

The members are at present working under a contract which was drawn from collective bargaining. The City of Watervliet was the 3rd city in the state to recognize its fire department with a written contract; being preceded only by New York City and Rochester who have had such agreements for many years. The first contract was signed by Mayor Cavanaugh and U.F.A. President Dewine in March of 1968.

The past has seen the firefighter gain his working conditions through State Law, but the City of Watervliet has been one jump ahead of the mandates. For example, the 48 hour work week was passed in 1964 with a 25% reduction each year for 4 years to fully implement the mandate. The City went on the 48 hour work week immediately in 1964.

Fire Chief Luddy was appointed in November 1968 replacing Chief Edward G. Hughes who succumbed while off duty at the age of 68.

Battalion Chief Healey was appointed in March 1970 to serve as Fire Inspector and relief Battalion Chief when the Platoon Battalion Chief is on his Kelly Day.

Battalion Chief Dewine was appointed in November 1968 to fill the vacancy by Battalion Chief Luddy's promotion to Chief of Department. Battalion Chief Luddy was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Battalion Chief William Halpin's death in 1966. Battalion Chief William Halpin replaced Battalion Chief Joseph Decker who retired in 1962.

In February 1956 the department added 6 men to implement the 56 hour work week and also created the 3rd platoon which was assigned to Battalion Chief James Halpin, who prior to this date was the relief Battalion Chief and replaced Battalion Chiefs Tracey and Decker when they were on Kelly Days.

From 1950 to 1956 the department worked 2 platoons and 67½ hours per week, 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty. There were 10 men and a Battalion Chief in each platoon also a relief Battalion Chief and a relief fireman assigned to relieve the men in Engine No. 3 when they were on Kelly Days and the Chief of Department Hughes for a total of 25 men. The starting salary in 1952 was \$2668 for fireman, with 3 increments to \$2968 after three years service.

November 1951 Battalion Chief Edward G. Hughes was appointed Chief of Department upon the death of Chief James Corbett. Joseph Decker was appointed Battalion Chief replacing Hughes.

The year 1950 saw James J. Corbett the youngest paid full time fire chief with 25 years service in the entire United States. It is also worthy of note that Watervliet's Police Chief Maurice J. Kennan also enjoyed this unique distinction and as a result of these men, the City drew wide acclaim. It is also worthy of note that during his years as Fire Chief, James J. Corbett, was a recognized authority on fire fighting and a highly respected man in this area.

Battalion Chief James Halpin was appointed in October 1950 in a new post as relief Battalion Chief replacing Hughes and Tracey when they were on Kelly Days.

Battalion Chief Tracey was appointed in the spring of 1950 replacing Battalion Chief John Leonard who retired.

Battalion Chief Leonard replaced Patrick Rogers who returned to the rank of fireman by his own choice.

The reduction of the work week through the years saw the department grow in strength and manpower.

For economy Protection No. 4 was closed and the men and equipment were transferred to fire headquarters in 1948. No. 4 was located at 608 23rd Street.

1936 saw the burning of the Arsenal City Hose No. 5 located at 5th Avenue and 13th Street, and in the fire, Fireman Edward (Rocky) McCarthy sustained near critical burns and was rescued from his entrapment by Fireman Earl J. Toohy who also received severe burns in performing the rescue.

It was determined for economy not to rebuild No. 5 quarters and the company was assigned to Headquarters along with Oswald Engine 1 and the Gleason Hook & Ladder No. 1. A new 1937 Pumper was purchased to replace No. 5 destroyed in the fire.

The depression years of the 30's saw much arson and many spectacular fires and 1926 saw the start of the full time paid fire department and the first Booster in the State. 1926 was indeed a big year — all new apparatus was purchased: a 1926, 750 gal. engine with Booster 40 gal. assigned as Oswald Engine No. 1; a quad Ladder truck with 750 gal. pump assigned as the Gleason Hook & Ladder No. 1 and 3 cosmopolitan Chemical (Brockway) Hose cars assigned as No. 3. McIntyre Hose, located at 609 2nd Avenue, No. 4 Protection Hose located at 608 - 23rd Street and No. 5 Arsenal Hose located at 5th Avenue and 13th Street.

In addition to the apparatus, all motorized, the department was also placed on a fully paid basis with the appointment of 6 men in December 1926. Among these men were Battalion Chief James Halpin, Battalion Chief William Halpin, Joseph McAneny, Richard McCarthy, William Burke and Edward McCarthy. Of these men Battalion Chief James J. Halpin is still on duty as commander of the 3rd Platoon and all the others have retired at various times and Battalion Chief William Halpin died in 1966.

1925 was the real start of the paid department by appointment of 25 year old James J. Corbett a member of Arsenal City No. 5 as the first full time Fire Chief.

Prior to Corbett's appointment the City was manned by paid drivers and volunteers. At one time the same horses were used to draw the Gleason Hook & Ladder and between alarms they were used for the refuse collection wagon.

1921 saw the closing and disbanding of Kelly Hose No. 2 located on 21st Street west of Broadway. This company had the distinction of being fun raisers and this is part of the reason for its disbandment.

All the time prior to 1925 was volunteer and our present records go back to the 1860's. Many interesting events are recorded in these ancient ledgers and an example is the Tierney Steamer was taken over the river on the ferry to Troy and worked on the great fire on River Street in the 1860's.

Through the years the Department has responded to many alarms outside the city limits to areas that had no fire protection. In the 1930 era an engine was sent to West Albany in the vicinity of Albany Shaker Road and Osborne Road to a restaurant fire — the area between this location and the present Headquarters is now protected by 3 different Fire Departments, all of which are Volunteer — Schuyler Heights, Shaker Road Loudonville and West Albany No. 1 and No. 2.

The Watervliet City Fire Department has indeed come a long way and it is our hope that we can leave an equally good mark for our era and make the future of the City of Watervliet so much better for its citizens.

PROGRAM

Saturday, May 23, 1970 – 10 A.M.

INVOCATION Rev. James R. Thompson, Pastor
Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church

OFFICIAL FLAG RAISING.... Firefighter Joseph L. Razzano, Pres.
Uniformed Firefighters, Local 590
NYSFF, IAFF AFL-CIO, CLC

CALL TO THE COLORS Watervliet High School Band
Mr. Nicholas Picciano, Director

WELCOMING ADDRESS Honorable James F. Cavanaugh, Sr.
Mayor, City of Watervliet

Frank J. Luddy, Fire Chief

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
AND OFFICIALS Battalion Chief Lawrence R. Dewine
Master of Ceremonies

MUSICAL SELECTION Watervliet High School Band

ADDRESS Mr. Anthony R. Granito
Supervisor of Fire Training
N.Y.S. Division of Fire Safety

MUSICAL SELECTION Watervliet High School Band

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION Rev. Boleslaus M. Watroba
Chaplain, Watervliet Fire Department
Assisted by the Clergy of the City of Watervliet

OPEN HOUSE until 4 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME

WATERVLII FIRE DEPARTMENT

Frank J. Luddy, FIRE CHIEF

FIRST PLATOON

BATTALION CHIEF William J. Tracey

Frank Moran	Joseph Foley	John Halpin*
Joseph Kelly	Edward Flanigan	Harold Larkint
Royal Mein	Edward Markham	Michael Deckert

SECOND PLATOON

BATTALION CHIEF Lawrence R. Dewine

Carmen Inco	Edward McCarthy	James Maloy
Robert Larkint	John Deckert	David Austin*
Dominic Moffre	Henry Lindheimer	

BATTALION CHIEF William J.E. Healey, Fire Inspector

THIRD PLATOON

BATTALION CHIEF James J. Halpin

Basil Mulinare	Kenneth Austin*	Peter Patrosh
Arthur DiBiase	Krikor Krikorian	Frank Rossetti
Joseph Razzano	Thomas Dowling	Almon Coblisch

* Designates Father - Son

† Designates Brothers