

1995

THE PATRON FIRE FIGHTER



BEMUS POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.

ALBURTUS STREET, BEMUS POINT, NEW YORK 14712

William Crandall
Fire Chief



Jeff Present
President

Dear Patron Firefighter:

Once again the major fund raising effort of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department is under way. As always, I would like to personally thank you for the generous support that you have given in the past, and to express my hope that we can count on you again this year.

As you know, operating an organization such as this, even through the efforts of unpaid volunteers is not inexpensive. You can be assured, however, that every dollar of your donation is used for equipment, training, and related expenses, all of which help to make our community a better and safer place in which to live.

Also, we would like to extend an invitation for you to join us. As the saying goes, "Many hands make for light work," so regardless of your limitations or personal situation, we will always have a place for you, and would sincerely welcome your participation.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, or would like any additional information about the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department, please feel free to ask me or any member at any time.

Yours Truly,

William D. Crandall
Fire Chief

CHIEF OFFICERS

Pictured here are the Fire Chiefs. These are the guys that call the shots. The ultimate responsibility of any call or function of the Fire Department rests on their shoulders.



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

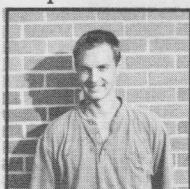
Scott Kelemen - 3rd Assistant Ted Farnham - 1st Assistant
David Graham - 2nd Assistant William Crandall - Fire Chief

LINE OFFICERS

These people are responsible for implementation on the scene of the general orders given by the fire chief. They manage teams of firefighters / rescue personnel during an incident.



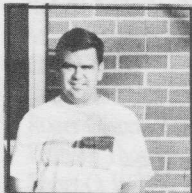
Dana Johnson



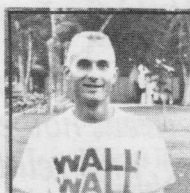
Pete Samuelson



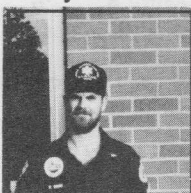
Ricky Farnham



Ed Farris



Mark Schlemmer



Mike Winne

Jeremy Crist & Phil Erickson - Not Pictured

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

The overall administration, finances and fund raising responsibilities rest with these individuals.



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Sandra Morrison, Recording Secretary
Jeffrey Present, Pres. • Ricky Farnham, Vice Pres.
Trudy Thompson, Financial Sec. • Edward Farris, Treas.

BPVFD 75th Anniversary Celebration

On the weekend of June 23 through June 25, 1995 the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Dept. held their 75th anniversary celebration. The event began on Friday evening with an open house at the fire hall at 5p.m. Through the coordination of former chief, Dennis Carlson, memorabilia of the past decade was displayed for the community. At 7 p.m. an award ceremony was held which honored the continuous service of fire dept. members. Herb Crandall and Robert Stahley were recognized for the longest community service dating back to 1946 and 1949, respectively. In addition, William Crandall, Bruce Johnson, and Ray Roberts received awards for service of over 30 years. Awards were also presented to all members who had served at least 5 years in the fire company.

Sunday's events began with the annual 10K race at 9a.m. Participants were of all age groups and included both runners and walkers. In addition to the 10K run, a fun run and kid's race were held. This year's race was dedicated to the memory of Ed Shanshala, who died while running at last year's event.

The festivities continued at 1:00p.m. with a parade in the village. Chuck Kruse, Clifford Carlson, and Richard Sampson were the chairmen. Fire companies, musical groups and community officials were involved to provide one of the largest parades in the village history. Herb Crandall was the grand marshal. A storm threatened, but no rain fell until after the participants completed the parade route.

Next, the festival continued in the village park. The rain came but did not dampen the spirits of the community. Games, Concessions, and music were provided throughout the afternoon and evening. The band, Only Humen, played until after 10 p.m. A nice fireworks display from the Bemus Point - Stow ferry closed the weekend's events.

The fire dept. would like to thank the community for their support and attendance of this celebration. We would also like to thank the neighboring fire companies who were on stand by for the event. Dennis Carlson served as the General Chairman. We cannot thank Denny enough for his time and efforts in organizing this celebration. Other festival committee members included: Ted Farnham, David Graham, Scott Kelemen, Douglas Oste, Ronald Thompson and Trudy Thompson. The parade and festival committee held several meetings to prepare for the celebration. They did a great job in "Bringing Back" the Firemen's Festival to Bemus Point.

PROFILES OF VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

In this year's issue we will be featuring "Profiles of a Volunteer" which will give you some insight into our members. It is our hope that this may motivate some of you reading about our people to join our team. Our people are not different than you. We surely do not enjoy some of the things we encounter. We have the same feelings and fears as anybody else. Did you know that half of all firefighters don't like heights? We all at one time or another have cried or had a few sleepless nights from especially tough calls, but we stay focused on our mission. Our feeling of accomplishment and pride in our work far outweighs the bad times everyday.

If you are thinking about being part of the last true vestige of the American Spirit and serving your country through the Volunteer Fire Service, please just contact any of us.

THEODORE W. FARNHAM

Age: 29
Education: High School
International Correspondence School in
Surveying & Mapping
Family: Wife - Mary
Son - Jordan
Occupation: Assistant Surveyor
Hobbies: Golf, Softball, Racquetball
Rank: 1st Assistant Chief
Past Ranking: Vice President, Financial Secretary,
Lieutenant, 2nd & 3rd Asst. Chief
Training: NY state essentials of Firefighting
OSHA Firefighter Safety
Incident Command Systems
Arson Awareness

Why Do You Serve?

When I was a young child the house I lived in was destroyed by fire. Ever since then I have had a strong desire to serve.

What Do You Like About the Fire Service?

I like serving my community and also enjoying the sense of "FAMILY" that exists among the members of the fire department.

What do you find is the hardest thing for you?

The hardest thing for me is when we have a tough call. Maybe it is someone I know well or maybe it is a young child that is seriously injured, in cases like this you just have to take a deep breath, calm yourself and do what needs to be done.

PHILIP M. ERICKSON

Age: 52
Education: High School
2 Years of College
Family: Wife - Sue
Son - Spencer
Occupation: Mortgage Broker for Chautauqua and
Cattaraugus counties
Hobbies: Boy Scouts, Explorers, Golf
Rank: Lieutenant R-442
Training: N.Y. State Essentials of Firefighting
Pump Operator
First Responder EMS

Why Do You Serve?

In hopes of being of service to my community.

What do you like about the fire service?

The great number of people dedicated to serving the public during their time of need.

What do you find is the hardest thing for you?

Trying to keep up with the younger members of the department.

B.P.V.F.D. - A TOP-NOTCH OPERATION

By Jon Stahley

Your fire department recently celebrated its 75th anniversary of serving the Bemus Point Fire District and surrounding area. As Deputy Fire coordinator for Chautauqua County, I had the honor of being asked to speak to the members, families, and friends of the department at the open house celebration on June 23. During my fifteen year tenure in this position I have worked extensively with the 42 fire departments of our county, and with many others outside of our county. I felt that it is only appropriate that on this 75th anniversary of the department I share with you, the Patron Firefighter, what I told the people in attendance that night.

I can honestly say that I have come to appreciate the high caliber and excellence of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department. It is a class operation that makes me very proud to say that it is my home company.

What makes for a top-notch fire department? I believe that there are two key factors:

1. Efficiency of operation on the scene and administratively. The aspect of line duty performance done well is only accomplished by extensive training coupled with capable personnel. B.P.V.F.D. runs a good incident scene management. Unfortunately, this is not always a common experience for the citizens of all fire districts. When the alarm comes in, it makes no difference if you live in New York City, Los Angeles, or Bemus Point. The same emergency response is required whether it is a career or volunteer fire department. Fire plays no favorites.

It can kill and destroy the same regardless of where it happens. Auto accidents cause the same injury, death, and trauma anywhere. The men and women of your fire department are more than capable of responding to these challenges for you.

2. Is the fire department progressive and willing to try new ideas and concepts if they make sense? Again B.P.V.F.D. is at the frontline in this category. Allow me to list a few firsts by your fire depart. over the years:

1. Leader in the original first aid and later emergency medical life support.
2. First large diameter water flow hoses for greater efficiency.
3. First female fire fighters and first aiders
4. Personal pagers for rapid and efficient response of personnel.
5. Innovative design in fire engines such as top mounted pump panels, firefighter jump seats, and new state of the art vehicle body composition parts.
6. Medical telemetry and patient treatment equipment that is always on the cutting edge.
7. Specialized automobile victim extrication equipment.
8. Multi-purpose heavy rescue unit.
9. Computer administration system.

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Thank You Dennis

In April of this year, Dennis G. Carlson retired as chief of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department after having served in that capacity for the past five years.

Dennis' tenure as chief saw many important improvements to the department including the addition to the fire hall, the acquisition of a computer system, full compliance with OSHA requirements, and the purchase of our air boat rescue unit.

Since joining the department on May 24, 1977, Dennis has held nearly every elective office. The leadership and energy that he has always brought to every task, as well as the countless hours of volunteer time he has devoted to our department and to our community has been a true inspiration to all of us.

Since retiring as chief, Dennis has taken on the responsibility of the newly created position of Company Historian. In this position, Denny will be compiling an on going written history of the fire department since its founding in 1920. He also plans to remain an active member of the department, even though that XXXXL white chief's coat has been retired.

Thanks Denny, for a job well done!

CHIEF'S CENTURY CLUB

1994 - 1995

INDIVIDUALS

Joseph Ferrainola
Wallie Haines
Clayton & Winifred Anderson
Gary C. Johnson
Gary and Carla Means
Allen and Elaine Short
James & Barbara Rodgers
Paul O. Stage
John & Lorraine Tanner
Mr & Mrs. A.J. Paddock
Richard & Debra Meder
Robert & Shirley Miller
Martha Miller
Chip Corlett
Robert & Linda Sharpe
Roger Olson
William Thompson
Robert O. Wilson
William & Christine Bemus
Robert & Linda Briggs
Walter & Lurabell Colburn
Elizabeth Proctor
Walter Forshee
Donald & Maj Britt Traynor
David & Louise Strickland
Ralph & Anna Langbartel
Beverly Johnson
Arden Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. John O'Conner

Jess and Elaine Present
Don & Marilyn Haglund
June Despard
Falconer Jones
Michael Rodgers
Paul & Bob Samuelson
Roy and Mary Benson
Richard Maydwell
Michael Schalberg
Neil Robinson
Karen Walsh
Dr & Mrs. Edward Davis, II
Robert L. Anderson

BUSINESSES

Skillman & Wight
Bemus Point Golf Course
Chautauqua Brick Co.
Redwood Ranch
Ye Hare N Hounds
Ingjald Lodge IOV #65
Cousins Pizza
Wendley's One Stop
Italian Fisherman
The Casino
Bemus Point Inn
Shore Acres Boat Yard
Ellery Sno Cruisers
See Zurh House

Special Thank You List!

- Mayor Judie Robinson and the Bemus Point Village Officials
- Bemus Point Hardware
- Bemus Point School District
- Chautauqua Brick Co.
- Sheriff Joe Gerace & His Deputies
- Nate Dreyer - The Sail Loft
- Doug Oste
- Thom and Cheryl Shagla
- The See Zurh House
- Village DPW Director Jesse Kelderhouse
- County Legislator Dick Babbage
- Sandy Stanley and The Penny Saver Staff
- Arthur R. Gren
- Redwood Ranch
- Director of Civil Defense / Emergency Mgmt. Wanda Gustafson & Her Staff
- Supervisor Arden Johnson and the Town of Ellery Officials
- Mike Kelley & His Staff, Long Point State Park
- County Fire Co-Ordinator Neil McNeight and His Deputies
- Suzanne Allen

Fallen Fire Fighters



**Bruce Chelstrom,
Louis Farrell,
Arthur Parment, Jr.
Donald See
James Shepardson**

Whenever you see the black banner hung above our door - It is our way of honoring a fallen fire fighter. We will leave it up for one month, after the death of one of our colleagues.

B.P.V.F.D. - A Top Notch Operation (Continued From Page 3)

10. Lake rescue boat and related equipment.
11. N.Y.S. Games of Chance Nights to raise funds for equipment.

A lot of research and time goes into developing the examples I have cited above. All of these programs make for a very professional operation. Sadly enough, however, the era of the volunteer firefighter in some areas, including Bemus Point and Chautauqua County may cease to exist some day in the future.

How could this be with all I have just said? It won't be because of the lack of money, but for the lack of personnel joining. It is a sad reflection on our modern day society, but yes, someday the taxpayers may be paying the major expense of career personnel because of the lack of volunteers. We encourage anyone who may be interested in joining to contact any officer or member of the fire department at anytime to learn more about the most important organization in our community.