

25 YEARS

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

1950 - 1975



25th ANNIVERSARY

Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Co. Inc.

1950

A group of concerned men of the Hamlet of Hawleyton met in January 1950 to discuss the organization of a Volunteer Fire Company. Up to this time, fire protection for the town was dependant upon the city of Binghamton under a difficult and time consuming procedure, whereby, the Town Supervisor had to authorize the call to the city for assistance. Needless to say, something else had to be done for fire protection for a growing town which contains twice the area of the City of Binghamton.

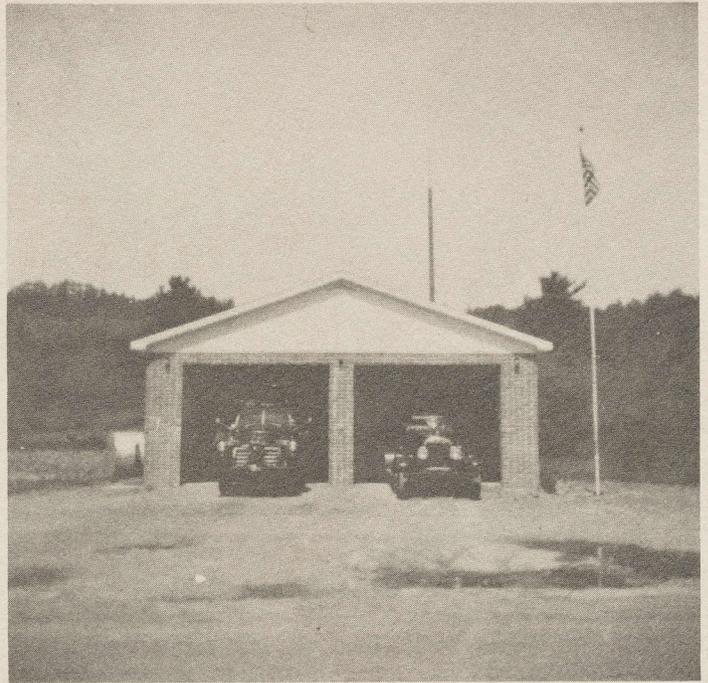
In the spring of 1950 these concerned men met several times. Officers were elected, By-laws were drawn up, and corporation papers were set up, presented to the Town Board, and approved. Thus the Hawleyton Volunteer Fire Co. Inc. became a reality.

The companies first truck, a 1932 Pirsch, was obtained from the Broome County Airport in October 1951. Repairs and equipment were required to bring it up to fire fighting standards. The truck was in service by November 1, 1951, and kept at the Howard Shapley residence on Upper Pennsylvania Ave. A unique and highly efficient alarm system was set up utilizing the existing telephone service and its operator in Hawleyton, Rita Ward. In case of fire, you called Rita who in turn rang a series of short rings on the party lines, and everyone who picked up their receiver was notified of the fire location.

The first formal fire training was taken by 26 men at a state training course given by John Sedor in early 1952. The first contract for fire protection was signed with the Town Board in Sept. 1952. The first fire the new company responded to was September 20, 1952, to assist the city fire department at the Ed Donlin residence on Park Ave. The second alarm came one month later at the Dunham residence in Hawleyton. The total involvement of this fire made protection of the adjoining Hawleyton Church the prime responsibility, which they were successful in doing.

STATION 1

In March 1952 a committee was formed for the purpose of purchasing land for a station. Several sites were considered, but final acceptance went to land on Hawleyton Road donated by Mrs. Veronica Ward. Construction was started in October 1952. Total cost at that time was \$5500. The new station was occupied in January 1953 and a 1000 gallon GMC tanker was purchased from Hinmans Corners Fire Company.



In April 1953 radio communications was set up with the Broome County coordinator with the addition of a base radio station. In December 1955, the Hawleyton Fire Co. Inc. met with concerned men from the Pierce Creek area to discuss the betterment of fire protection for that area of the town.

STATION No. 2

In March 1956, land on Pierce Creek Road was donated to the Hawleyton Fire Company for a second station, by Mrs. Whitaker in memory of her husband Irving. Construction was started in April 1956 and completed in September. In May 1956 the company purchased a 1926 American LaFrance truck, and in November 1956, the first truck was placed in Station 2. In October 1956 a Sanford pumper was purchased and added to Station 1.



Station 1



Station 2



Station 3

STATION No. 3

The Hawleyton Fire Company met in 1957 with concerned men from the Park Terrace area who had formed the Park Terrace Fire Protection Association in 1953. A station had been started in that area in 1954. In August of that year, Hurricane Hazel completely destroyed their efforts. In the summer of 1956 reconstruction was started, and one stall built. In 1957 the Park Terrace Fire Protection Association disbanded and became a civic association. Interested members of the association joined the Hawleyton Fire Company. A truck was placed in the Park Terrace station in November 1957,

which was rented from the Civic Association by the Hawleyton Fire Company. In 1963 the building was purchased from the Civic Association and became part of the Hawleyton Volunteer Fire Co. Inc.

1957

1957 was a big and decisive year for the fire company. Our name was changed from Hawleyton Volunteer Fire Company Inc. to Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company Inc. The stations were changed from local names to numbers under the unified Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company Inc.; Hawleyton, Station 1, Pierce Creek, Station 2, and Park Terrace, Station 3.



Three new wards 1958.

Also in 1957 3 new Ward LaFrance custom built 500 gallon pumpers were ordered, one for each station. These trucks were identical for the purpose of standardization within the company, ease of training, and cross utilization. In 1962 we purchased a 4-wheel drive squad truck for grass fires, with a 200 gallon tank, independent pump, and booster reel. In 1965 we replaced the old GMC tanker with a new 1600 gallon Ford Tanker. In 1968 we purchased the second tanker, identical to the one bought in 1965, again for the purpose of standardization. In 1969 we purchased a second 4-wheel drive squad truck.

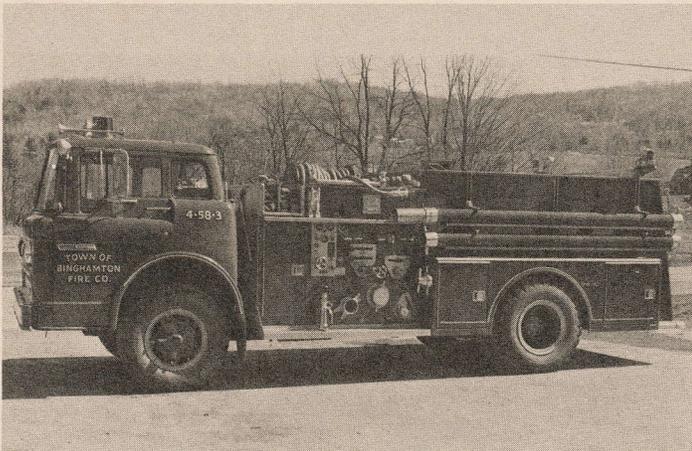
1975

This year we have taken another big step in bettering the fire protection for the town and increas-

ing our fire fighting capability. We purchased three new Diesel 1000 gallon pumpers, replacing two 17 year old trucks, and keeping one pumper as a reserve unit.

Current we have in operation three first line 1000 gallon pumpers, two 1600 gallon tankers, two 4-wheel drive squad trucks, and one reserve 500 gallon pumper. With these units we have the capacity of responding with 5700 gallons of water.

Our objective is to serve the entire Town of Binghamton with up to date reliable equipment, manned by a well trained fire fighting force, responding at a moments notice. We are proud of our accomplishments and the progress we have made in the last 25 years, and will continue to work for the best possible fire protection for you, the residence and taxpayers of the Town of Binghamton.



**25th. Anniversary
Cellebration
June 21st. 1957
Hawleyton ballfield (corner of Saddlemire Rd. and Penna. Ave.)
Parade 10 A.M.
Ballgame 11 A.M.
Games, Contests, Food, FUN!**