



AVENEL FIRE COMPANY No:1





July 13, 1963

CONGRATULATIONS

ON

50th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Greco

Greetings

It is our extreme pleasure to welcome you here on our 50th Anniversary and to thank you all on behalf of our members for favoring us with your presence. We have endeavored to provide every possible accommodation for making this a most enjoyable occasion for the children and the folks of our grand community.

Therefore, this day is yours and ours, and we trust that the outcome of this day's celebration will justify us in our efforts and expectations.

Respectfully yours,

THE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

PAUL CHOMIAK General Chairman WILLIAM DWYER CHARLES MEZERA DON GUIDER Fund Raising Chairman WALTER SOBIESKI STEPHEN COHORSKI - Special Events Chairman GENE ARNY ANDREW PETERSON Program Book Chairman WILLIAM DWYER MICHAEL HRABAR WALTER HANKS EDWARD KENNEDY Parade Marshal GEORGE SHAFFER Parade Chairman HERMAN STEINBACH Refreshment Chairman

and the Entire Membership of the Fire Co.

History of the Fire Company

A group of residents of Avenel banned together for the purpose of organizing a fire company. The group held its first meeting at the home of Mr. J. B. Edgar, July 1, 1912, to appoint Fire Commissioners for the district. The following were appointed to serve for the ensuing year: Dr. A. F. Mount, J. B. Edgar, E. A. Moran, H. Posner and J. Praver.

On February 18, 1913, a fire company was organized. A charter under the name of the Avenel Chemical Company No. 1 was obtained. July 12, 1913, the name was legally changed to the Avenel Fire Company No. 1.

The charter members are as follows: Messrs. Joseph Bizdery, Fred Ciegotura, Emil C. Earhart, Edward L. Fagan, Andrew Fuss, Rudolph Hrinyak, Edward A. Moran, Edwin J. Perry, Joseph Praver, Henry Striker, Joseph Szabo and William VanSlyke.

Joseph Szabo served as the first Fire Chief during 1913, 1914 and 1915. The First President was Edward Moran, who was also a charter member.

A seventy gallon chemical hand-drawn apparatus was purchased, also a carboy of acid and a barrel of soda used for fire equipment. This apparatus was housed in a shed owned by Joseph Praver. The following year the firemen built a small building on a lot leased by a fireman, Frank Hacker, for five years. As years passed with monies received from various activities and donations from public-spirited citizens, a piece of property was purchased on Hyatt Street, corner of Ziegler Avenue, upon which a hollow brick fire house was built in 1919.

In 1921 monies were raised through an appropriation voted by the people in the fire district, which resulted in the purchase of a motor-driven apparatus, a two hundred and fifty gallon pumper. The same year fire hydrants were installed on Avenel Street, and up to the present time fire hydrants are installed throughout the district. A new Highway was constructed by the State Highway Commission, called the "Superhighway," and part of the fire house property was taken by the Commission, resulting in the purchase of a new piece of property by the Fire Commissioners to house the fire equipment. Our present fire house was built in the year 1929, on the corner of Avenel Street and the Superhighway.

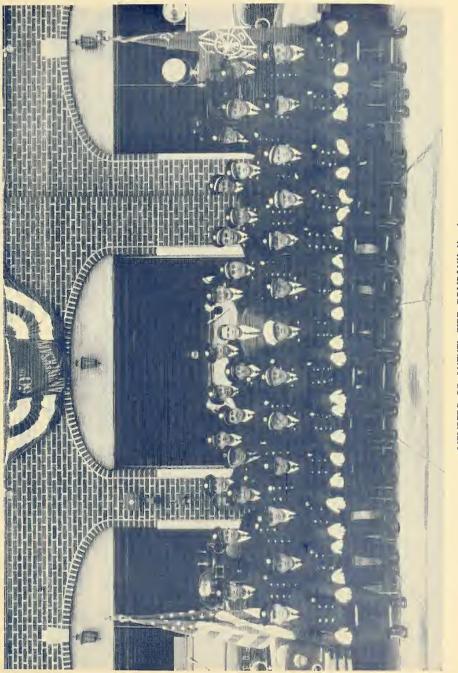
In 1936 a five hundred gallon truck was purchased. Also an installation of a Fire Alarm System in the district, with eight fire alarm boxes.

Looking back on the Fire Company's first twenty-five years, we cannot forget the gala parade which was held by the Department every July 4th during the 1920's and the early part of the 30's. There were activities for the children throughout the day, with fireworks and a block dance in the evening.

In 1953 a new Gamewell Fire Alarm System was installed to replace the one of 1936. 1955 brought about an addition to the fire house, making it a three bay building, as it now stands. During the past twenty-five years, we have had three new fire trucks.

Forty-three Fire Chiefs have served the Avenel Fire Company since its organization. In this year, 1963, we have forty-nine fire alarm boxes in the district, and eighty-five hydrants in Colonia and one hundred and fifty-two in Avenel, making a total of two hundred and thirtyseven. We feel this is a fine record for a company now celebrating its Golden Anniversary.

The present roster consists of fifty active firemen.



MEMBERS OF AVENEL FIRE COMPANY No. 1

Exempt Firemen's Association

It was 37 years ago April 7, 1926 that seven men who had served the Avenel Fire Co. No. 1 for seven consecutive years, with a percentage of 60 per cent or more, to be recognized by the N. J. State Firemen's Association had come together to organize the Avenel Exempt Firemen's Association. These members consisted of Joseph Utassy, Frederick Ciegotura, Florian Wranitz, Louis Kromer, Jacob Winquist, Frank Schlener, Herman Wukitz. It was at this meeting that Joseph Utassy was elected president; Florian Wranita, vice-president; Frederick Ciegotura, secretary; and Louis Kromer, treasurer.

The present officers and members are as follows:

| ANDREW PETERSONPresident |
|----------------------------|
| HAROLD DETERVice-President |
| EDWARD KENNEDY |
| GEORGE MROZSecretary |

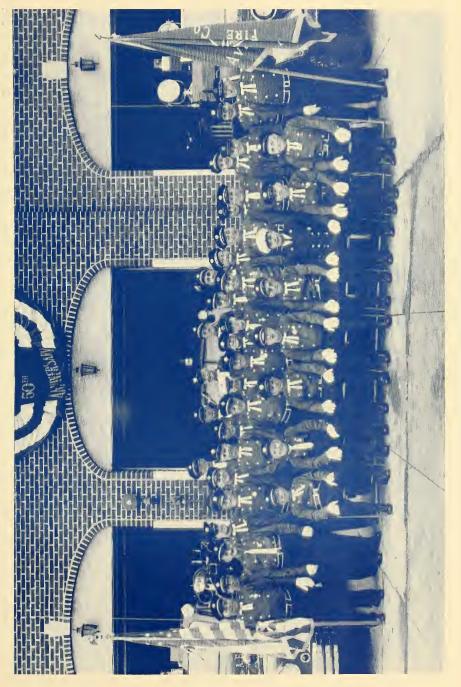
EXEMPT FIREMEN OF AVENEL FIRE CO. No. 1

| Wm. Bonham | J. Herman | M. Petras |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| P. Chomiak | M. Hrabar | W. Melville |
| S. Derewsky | E. Johnson | C. Mezera |
| H. Deter | E. Kennedy | J. Remias |
| B. Dwyer | C. Kopcho | W. Russell |
| A. Engel | G. Kovack | R. Seissel |
| M. Florio | G. Kunak | C. Seissel |
| G. Fox | C. Leidner | G. Slivka |
| R. Funk | F. Leidner | E. Smith |
| A. Galaida | J. Lockie | H. Steinbach |
| A. Galisin | J. MacIver | C. Swetits |
| R. Greco | G. Mroz | M. Thullesen |
| P. Greco | A. Peterson | J. Tjornelund |
| H. Hanson | J. Petras | J. Urban |
| H. Head | U C | F. Wапса |
| | | |

LIFE MEMBERS

Rene Schwertz Paul Solomon

George Hackett George Ruff Jacob Erceg Florian Wranitz J. Tomas



AVENEL EXEMPT FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

History of The Ladies Auxiliary Of The Avenel Fire Co. No. 1

A group of firemen and their wives discussed forming a Ladies Auxiliary to the Fire Company.

In 1930, the Avenel Fire Company appointed the following committee, consisting of firemen, William Perna, Rudolph Voelker and the President of the Fire Company, Patrick J. Donato as ex-officio to meet with the women for the purpose of organizing the Ladies Auxiliary.

Through the efforts of the Avenel firemen, the Ladies Auxiliary was organized.

The committee instructed the group of women present to appoint a chairman. Mrs. Patrick J. Donato was appointed to serve in that capacity.

She called the meeting to order and the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year; President Mrs. Charles Flynn, Vice President, Mrs. Thomas Cannon, Secretary, Miss Louise Toepfer, Treasurer, Mrs. William Perna.

The Constitution and By-Laws were compiled and accepted by the Fire Company.

The object of this organization is ta ca-operate with the Fire Company whenever called upon.

The Board of officers of the Ladies Auxiliary at the 25th (Silver) Anniversary of the Fire Company were; President, Mrs. Everett Johnson; Vice President, Mrs. Patrick Donato: Secretary, Mrs. William Perna; Treasurer, Mrs. Harold Hanson.

There were 42 members in the Auxiliary in 1938.

The officers of the Ladies Auxiliary at the 50th (Golden) Anniversary of the Fire Campany are; President, Mrs. Alex Tarcz, Jr., Vice President, Mrs. Michael Tetesco; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Frank Wanca; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Gadirey Thompson; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Peter Greco; Treasurer, Mrs. James Mulligan; Sergeant-at-Arms, Mrs. George Allen.

There are 62 members in the Ladies Auxiliary in 1963.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Avenel, joined the State organization of Ladies Auxiliaries in 1947 and the county organization in 1956. There are 8 life members, 2 delegates and 2 alternates to the State.

The most important committee is the Kitchen Brigade. Mrs. William Dwyer is chairman, Mrs. William Bonham, cochairman. The committee is called upon to serve coffee and sandwiches to the firemen when they are on fire duty for a long period of time. The men are often served at the scene of the fire so that no time is lost in their efforts to save lives and property which is their first concern.

Fifteen members have passed on to the Great Beyond, in God's care. May they rest in peace.

The committee from the Auxiliary working with the firemen on their 50th anniversary celebration is: Chairman, Mrs. Harold Hanson; Mrs. William Perna, Mrs. William Kuzmiak, and the President of Auxiliary, Mrs. Alex Tarcz, Jr.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Mrs. G. Allen Mrs. T. Artym Mrs. W. Bonham Mrs. P. Chomigk Mrs. S. Cohorsky Mrs. R. Cuna Mrs. S. Derewsky Mrs. M. Deter Mrs. F. Di Leo Mrs. E. Dragos Mrs. W. Dwyer Mrs. L. Eidson Mrs. A. Fox Mrs. A. Galisin Mrs. R. Greco Mrs. P. Greco
- Mrs. H. Hanson Mrs. W. Hofgesang Mrs. M. Hrabar Mrs. J. Hudak Mrs. H. Hudgens Mrs. E. Johnson Mrs. J. Klubenspies Mrs. G. Kovack Mrs. J. Kozak Mrs. J. Kozak Mrs. G. Kunak Mrs. W. Kuzmiak Mrs. F. Leidner Mrs. C. Leidner Mrs. Lockie

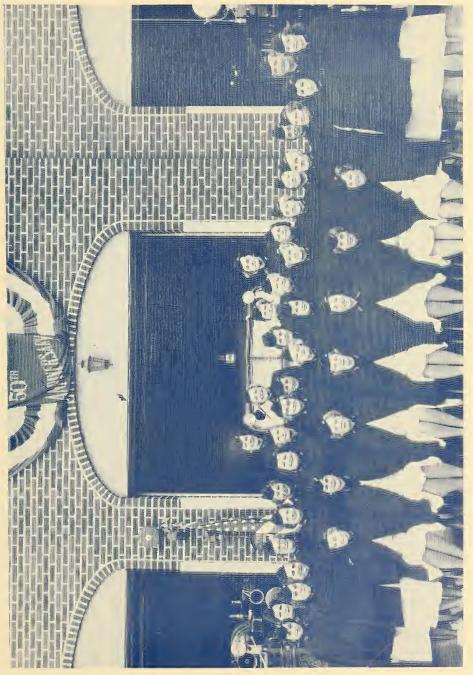
Mrs. F. Hacker

Mrs. W. Hanks

Mrs. W. Melville Mrs. W. Meyer Mrs. E. Mozelski Mrs. G. Mroz Mrs. J. Mulligan Mrs. W. Payne Mrs. J. Perry Mrs. J. Perry Mrs. J. Petras Mrs. M. Petras Mrs. J. Poll Mrs. O. Roff Mrs. W. Russell Mrs. G. Shaffer Mrs. C. Siessel

Mrs. J. MacIver

Mrs. E. Smith Mrs. W. Sobieski Mrs. H. Steinbach Mrs. K. Swetits Mrs. M. Szalay Mrs. A. Tarcz, Jr. Mrs. M. Tatesco Mrs. G. Thompson Mrs. M. Toepfer Miss L. Toepfer Miss L. Toepfer Mrs. J. Tomas Mrs. A. Tuttle Mrs. F. Ungvary Mrs. Z. Vargo Mrs. F. Wanca



LADIES AUXILIARY, AVENEL FIRE COMPANY No. 1

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to the Avenel Fire Company #1, on your Golden Anniversary.

The Active Past Presidents of the Ladies' Auxiliary wish you continued success.

| MRS. S. DEREWSKY | MRS. J. LOCKIE |
|------------------|-------------------|
| MRS. A. FOX | MRS. W. MELVILLE |
| MRS. R. GRECO | MRS. W. MEYER |
| MRS. P. GRECO | MRS. W. PAYNE |
| MRS. A. GALISIN | MRS. W. PERNA |
| MRS. H. HANSON | MRS. M. PETRAS |
| MRS. H. HUDGENS | MRS. O. ROFF |
| MRS. E. JOHNSON | MRS. H. STEINBACK |
| MRS. W. KUZMIAK | MISS L. TOEPFER |
| MRS. G. KOVACK | MRS. T. THOMPSON |
| MRS. G. KUNAK | MRS. Z. VARGO |

MRS. F. WANCA

Avenel Fire Company No. 1, Inc.

Officers for the Year 1963

DESK OFFICERS

| William Dwyer | President |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Gene Arny | |
| Robert Cuna | |
| Walter Hanks | |
| Alex Tarcz | Secretary |
| Michael Hrabar | Treasurer |
| Frence Trubut monthlement | |

TRUSTEES

Michael Tetesco

George Allen

Jude Ameiorsano

MEMBERS OF RELIEF Ed Kennedy

Herman Petz Paul Chomiak William Dwyer Lonnie Eidson

TRUCK OFFICERS

| Pau | Chomiak | Chief |
|------|--------------|--------------------------|
| | hen Cohorsky | |
| Dor | ald Guider | 2nd Assistant Chief |
| | ge Shaffer | |
| Wa | er Sobieski | Lieutenant |
| | Hoppock | |
| Lose | bh Placca | Outside Warden |
| 1030 | m racca | minimum official and the |

ACTIVE FIRE COMPANY MEMBERS

| J. Accardi | L. Hrabar | W. Sobieski |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| G. Allen | J. Hudak | A. Tarca |
| I. Ameiorsano | J. Kozak | M. Tetesco |
| G. Arny | W. Lesniak | S. Derewsky |
| G. Beyer | F. Lyons | W. Dwyer |
| W. Bonham | J. Miller | M. Florio |
| S. Butkiewitz | A. Mitch | P. Greco |
| P. Chomiak | E, Mozeleski | R. Hacker |
| S. Cohorsky | C. Muchanic | M. Hrabar |
| R. Cuna | J. Mulligan | W. Melville |
| L. Eidson | H. Petz | C. Mezera |
| E. Grimes | J. Placca | M. Petras |
| D. Guider | C. Pyatt | G. Slivka |
| W. Hanks | G. Shaffer | H. Steinbach |
| R. Hoppock | | G. Trevena |
| | LIFE MEMBERS | |

| Peter Greco | Michael Petras | William Russell |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Frank Hacker | Harold Hanson | Charles Siessel |
| Charles Mezera | | Paul Soloman |

HONORARY MEMBERS

F. Adams J. Childs P. Dunda C. Jaeger J. Lucas P. Miceli J. Manzione D. Pichalski J. Rotella J. Salvia J. Shershen E. Schreiner J. Stanziola



Charles Mezera (l) Oldest Active Member Fred Ceigotura (r) Oldest Charter Member



Michael Hrabar Presents Plaque to Fred Ceigotura



Left to Right: Kevin McCarten, William Reilly, Michael Hrabar, Dominic Pichalski and Herman Steinbach



Life Members of Fire Company Left to Right: Harold Hanson, Peter Greco, Charles Mezera, Paul Soloman, William Russell



Members of Relief Board Left to Right: Paul Chomiak, Herman Petz, Lonnie Edison, Edward Kennedy, Andrew Peterson, William Dwyer



Officers of the Exempt Association Left to Right: Harold Deter, Vice President; George Mroz, Secretary; Andrew Peterson, President; Edward Kennedy, Treasurer



Officers of Ladies Auxiliary

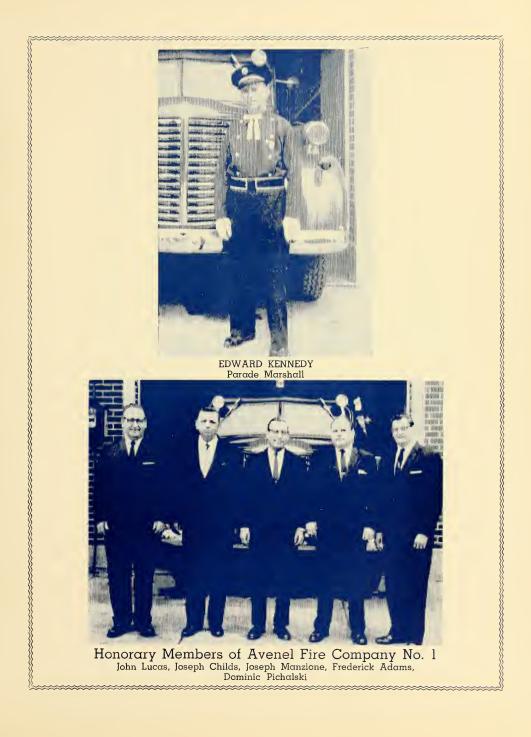
L to R: Carol Allen, Sergeant-at-Arms; June Mulligan, Treasurer; Marie Wanca, 2nd Vice President; Jean Tarcz, President; Mildred Tetesco, 1st Vice President; Barbara Thompsen, Recording Secretary; Ida Greco Corresponding Secretary.



CHIEF PAUL CHOMIAK



TRUCK OFFICERS L to R: G. Shaffer, Captain; S. Cohorsky, 1st Asst. Chief; P. Chomiak, Chief; D. Guider, 2nd Asst. Chief; W. Sobieski, Lieutenant; J. Placca, outside warden.





(L) Chief Paul Chomiak, (R) President William Dwyer



Desk Officers L to R: A. Tarcz, Financial Secretary; M. Hrabar, Treasurer; R. Cuna, 2nd Vice President; W. Dwyer, President; G. Arny, 1st Vice President; W. Hanks, Secretary.



PRESENT EQUIPMENT OF AVENEL FIRE CO. No. 1

Fire Chiefs of Avenel Fire Company for the Past 50 Years

| Joseph Szabo1913-1915 | John Tjornelund1935 | Andrew Galisin1950 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| John Hacker1916-1919 | Harold Hanson1936 | John Lockie1951 |
| Joseph Utassy1920-1921 | George Hackett1937 | Michael Florio1952 |
| Florian Wranitz1922-1923 | William Kuzmiak1938 | Rubin Greco1953 |
| Louis Kromer1924 | Edward Kennedy1939 | Herman Steinbach1954 |
| Henry Luskie1925 | Jacob Herman1940 | Andrew Peterson1955 |
| Fred Leidner1926 | George Ruff1941 | Jacob Essig1956 |
| Anthony Galaida1927 | Michael Petras1942 | John Tomas1957 |
| George Fox1928 | Hiram Tuttle1943 | Wallace Melville1958 |
| Carl Neir1929 | William Russell1944 | William Dwyer1959 |
| John Larson1930 | Albert Ramon1945 | Stanley Derewsky1960 |
| Otto Toepfer1931 | Harold Deter1946 | Herman Petz1961 |
| Paul Solomon1932 | George Slivka1947 | Lonnie Eidson1962 |
| Charles Mezera1933 | John Anacker1948 | Paul Chomiak1963 |
| Charles Flynn1934 | George Kovack1949 | |

Message of Appreciation

In issuing this, our Golden Jubilee Souvenir Program Book, the Program Committee of the Avenel Fire Company No. 1, feel we owe a debt of gratitude to our many friends, the subscribers for their kind assistance in making the Golden Anniversary of our Fire Company a memorable occasion.

Our members, the public at large and our many friends are urged to patronize the business people, who have so generously given their advertisements for publication in this Program Book.

We wish to extend our many thanks to all of our advertisers, well wishers, friends and various organizations for their hearty cooperation in making this deserved celebration possible.

> ANDREW PETERSON Program Book Chairman



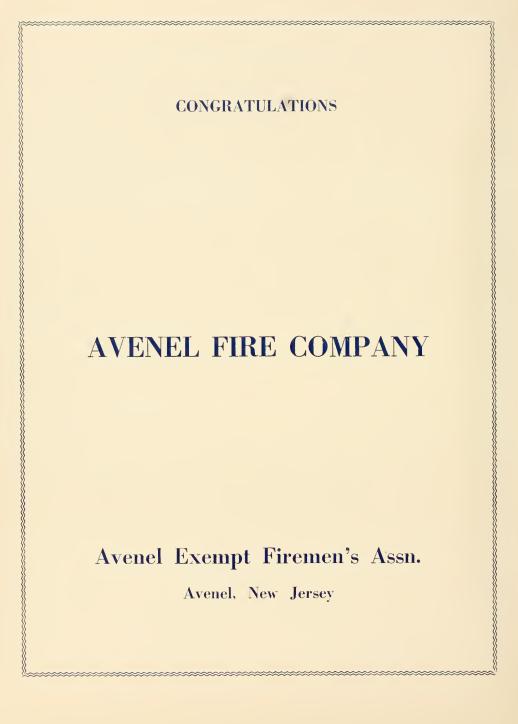
IN MEMORIAM

God, in His infinite wisdom, has removed from our midst beloved members in whose death the Department has lost revered friends, sincere and loyal. The community has lost valued and respected citizens, and the families have lost kind and devoted members.

We shall miss their pleasant companionship and good fellowship, their wise counsel, and their loyalty to the best interest of the fire department and their fellowmen. We therefore set aside this page to commemorate and recall to the minds of the men of the Avenel Fire Department those who have gone before us into the shadow of the great beyond.

Firemen

HERE'S TO FIRE FIGHTERS ALL! ALWAYS AT YOUR BECK AND CALL! VIGILANT AND UNAFRAID . . . VOLUNTEER OR CITY-PAID! SCIENTIFIC MEN ARE THESE FIGHTING FIRE—A DREAD DISEASE . . . CHALLENGING A FLAMING HELL AT THE RINGING OF A BELL! UNKNOWN HEROES, CLAD IN BLUE, THEY GIVE UP THEIR LIVES FOR YOU! PRAY FOR THEM AS THEY GO PAST . . . EVERY RIDE MAY BE THEIR LAST.





Avenel Board of Fire Commissioners

District No. 5 Avenel - Colonia

Congratulations

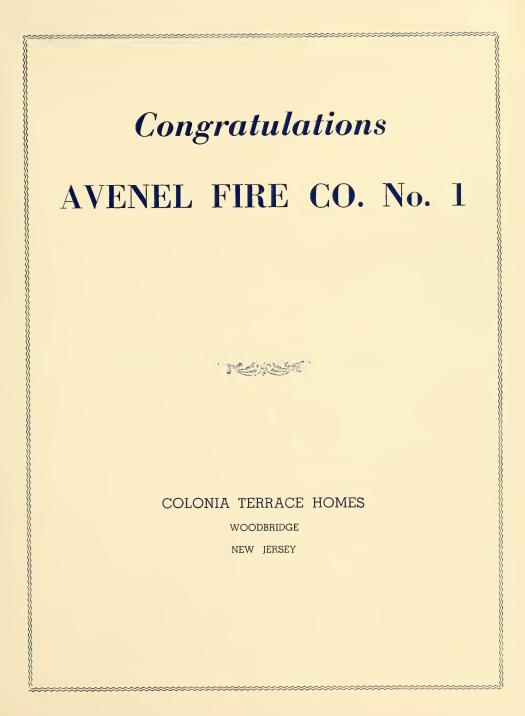
AVENEL FIRE CO. No. 1

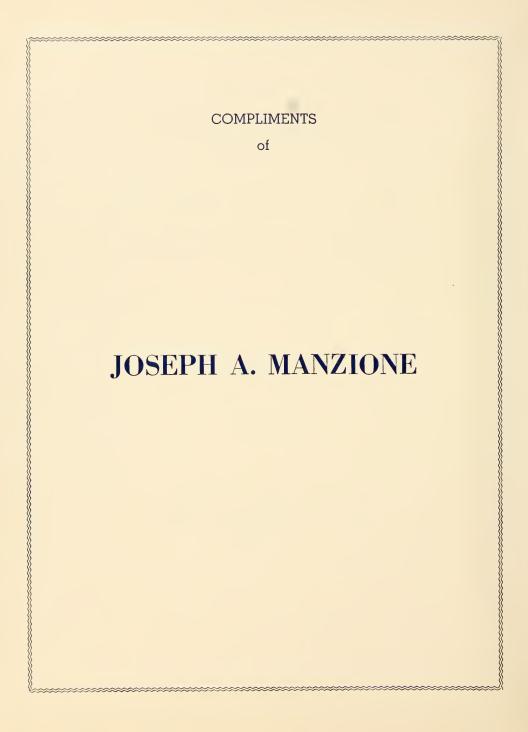
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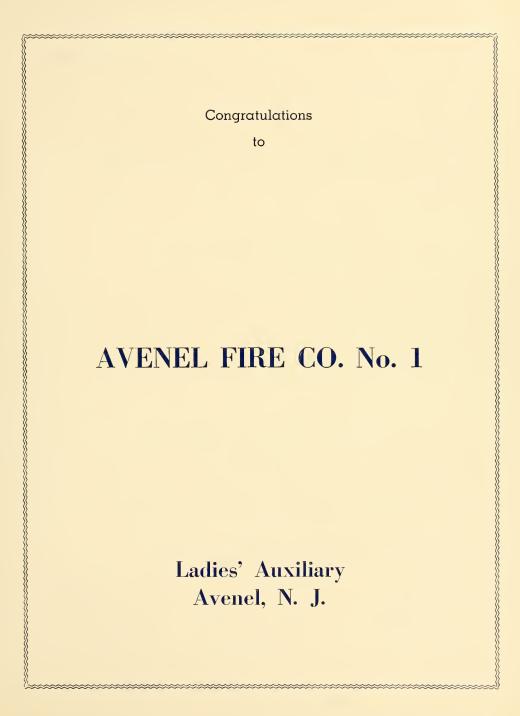
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INDEPENDENT-LEADER

Printers of this Program

18 GREEN STREET

WOODBRIDGE

Congratulations and Best Wishes

Change 8

to Fire Chief Paul Chomiak, officers and members of the Avenel Fire Co. #1 on their completion of 50 years of faithful service to the people of Avenel.

This is given in loving memory of the late Ex-chief William Kuzmiak, who was the Fire Chief at the 25th (Silver) anniversary of this company, by his family Mrs. Wm. Kuzmiak, sons William and John and daughter Mrs. Eleanore Kelley.

We wish you continued success

ACE Kitchen Cabinet Corp,

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The Colonia Country Club

EDWARD J. SIMMONS President

CAM. A. LA ZIZZA Vice President

WALTER H. KNORR Secretary ANDREW MONTE Treasurer

ROBERT C. BAUER Asst. Treasurer

COLONIA, N. J.

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