

50th  
ANNIVERSARY

1913-1963



AVENEL  
FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

AVENEL, N.J.

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

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

and the Entire Membership of the Fire Co.

## History of the Fire Company

A group of residents of Avenel banded 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 Hrinjak, 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 "Super-highway," 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.

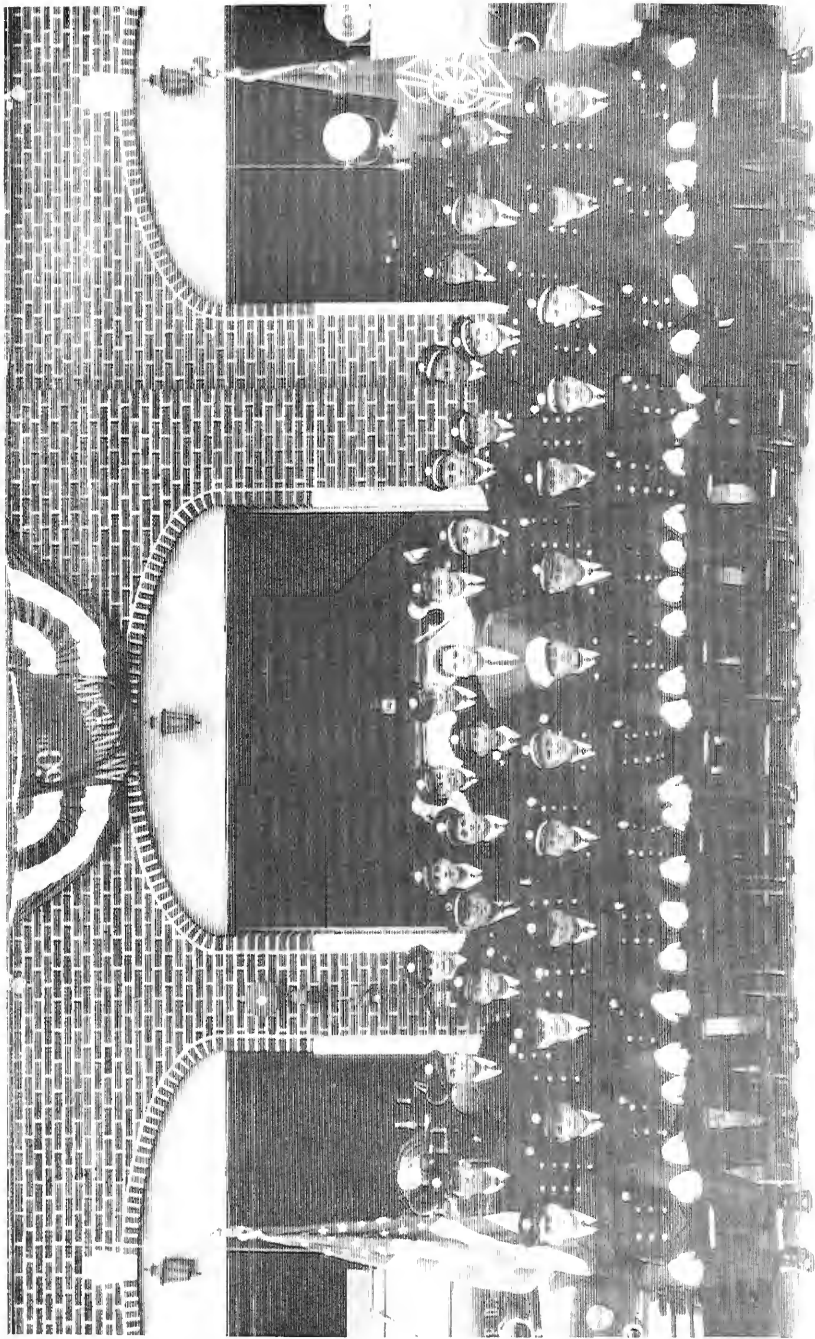
In 1936 a five hundred gallon truck was purchased. Also an installation of a Fire Alarm System in the district, with eight fire alarm boxes.

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 thirty-seven. 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:

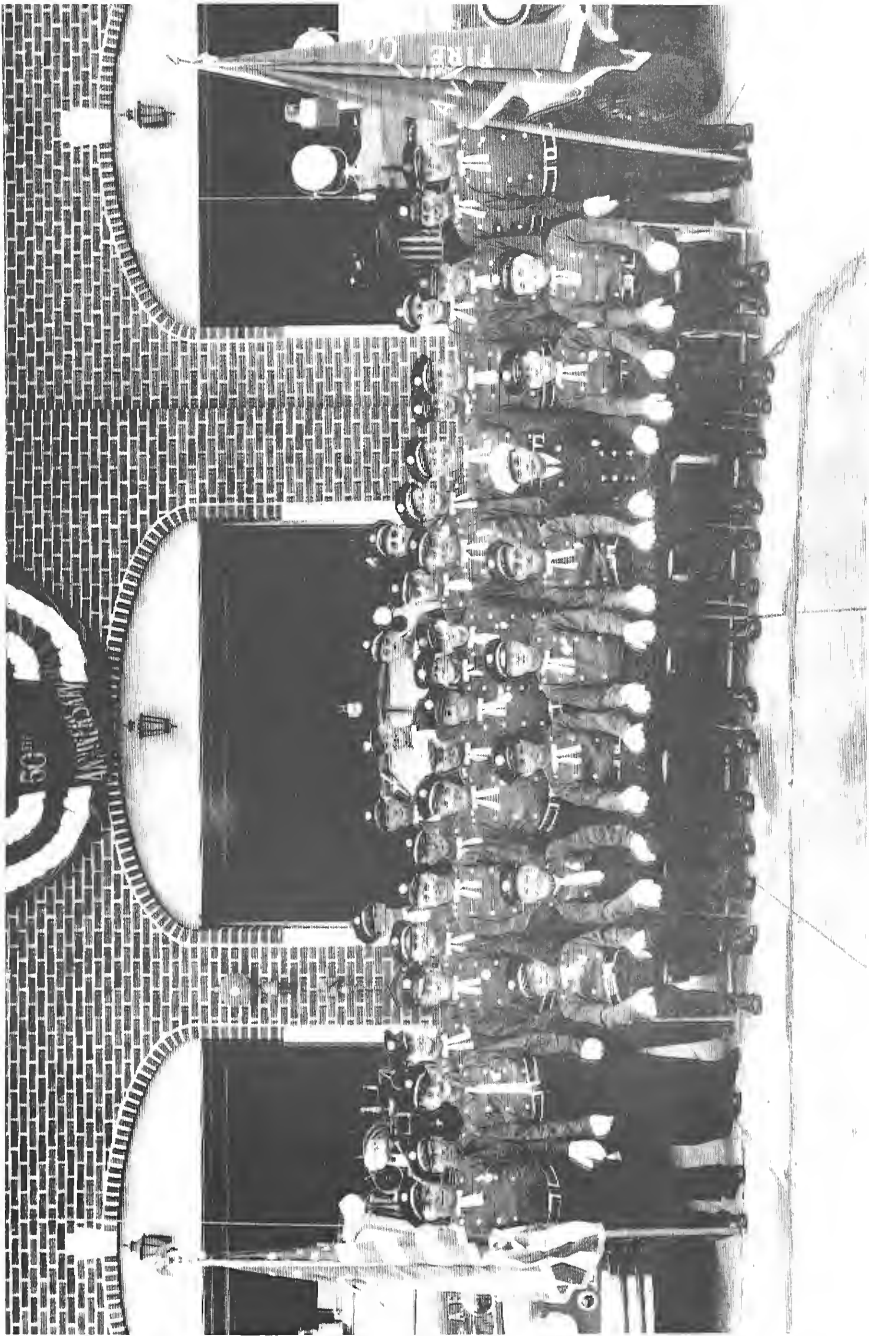
ANDREW PETERSON .....*President*  
 HAROLD DETER .....*Vice-President*  
 EDWARD KENNEDY .....*Treasurer*  
 GEORGE MROZ .....*Secretary*

## 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		F. Wanca

## LIFE MEMBERS

Rene Schwertz	George Hackett	Florian Wranitz
Paul Solomon	George Ruff	J. Tomas
	Jacob Erceg	



AVON 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 to co-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 Company are; President, Mrs. Alex Tarcz, Jr.; Vice President, Mrs. Michael Tetesco; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Frank Wanca; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Godfrey 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, co-chairman. 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.

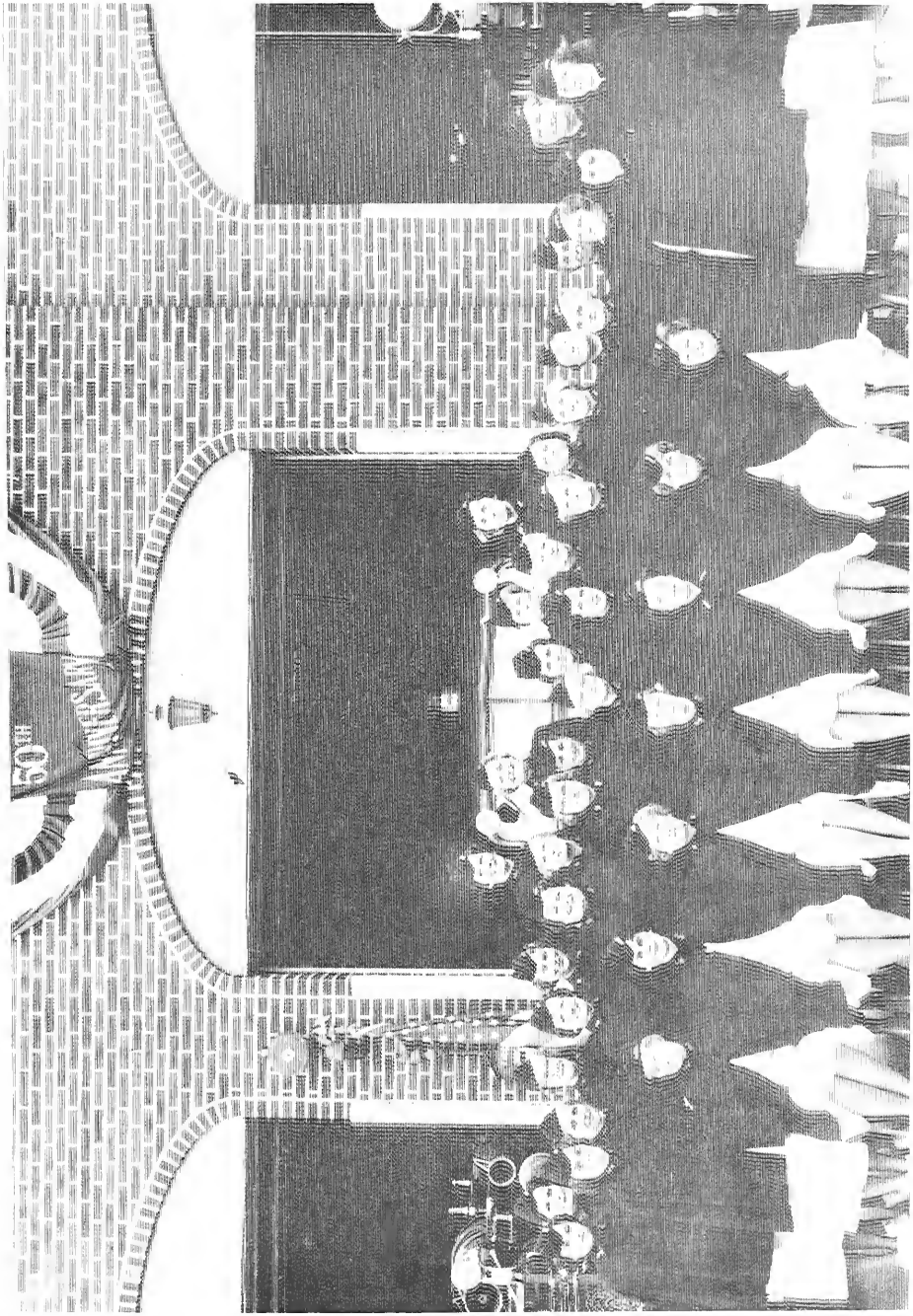
Fifteen members have passed on to the Great Beyond, in God's care. May they rest in peace.

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. F. Hacker	Mrs. J. MacIver	Mrs. E. Smith
Mrs. T. Artym	Mrs. W. Hanks	Mrs. W. Melville	Mrs. W. Sobieski
Mrs. W. Bonham	Mrs. H. Hanson	Mrs. W. Meyer	Mrs. H. Steinbach
Mrs. P. Chomiak	Mrs. W. Hofgesang	Mrs. E. Mozelski	Mrs. K. Swetits
Mrs. S. Cohorsky	Mrs. M. Hrabar	Mrs. G. Mroz	Mrs. M. Szalay
Mrs. R. Cuna	Mrs. J. Hudak	Mrs. J. Mulligan	Mrs. A. Tarcz, Jr.
Mrs. S. Derewsky	Mrs. H. Hudgens	Mrs. W. Payne	Mrs. M. Tetesco
Mrs. M. Deter	Mrs. E. Johnson	Mrs. W. Perna	Mrs. G. Thompson
Mrs. F. Di Leo	Mrs. J. Klubenspies	Mrs. J. Perry	Mrs. M. Toepfer
Mrs. E. Dragos	Mrs. G. Kovack	Mrs. J. Petras	Miss L. Toepfer
Mrs. W. Dwyer	Mrs. J. Kozak	Mrs. M. Petras	Mrs. J. Tomas
Mrs. L. Eidson	Mrs. G. Kunak	Mrs. J. Poll	Mrs. A. Tuttle
Mrs. A. Fox	Mrs. W. Kuzmiak	Mrs. O. Roff	Mrs. F. Ungvary
Mrs. A. Galisin	Mrs. F. Leidner	Mrs. W. Russell	Mrs. Z. Vargo
Mrs. R. Greco	Mrs. C. Leidner	Mrs. G. Shaffer	Mrs. F. Wanca
Mrs. P. Greco	Mrs. J. Lockie	Mrs. C. Siessel	





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. A. FOX

MRS. R. GRECO

MRS. P. GRECO

MRS. A. GALISIN

MRS. H. HANSON

MRS. H. HUDGENS

MRS. E. JOHNSON

MRS. W. KUZMIAK

MRS. G. KOVACK

MRS. G. KUNAK

MRS. J. LOCKIE

MRS. W. MELVILLE

MRS. W. MEYER

MRS. W. PAYNE

MRS. W. PERNA

MRS. M. PETRAS

MRS. O. ROFF

MRS. H. STEINBACK

MISS L. TOEPFER

MRS. T. THOMPSON

MRS. Z. VARGO

MRS. F. WANCA

# Avenel Fire Company No. 1, Inc.

Officers for the Year 1963

## DESK OFFICERS

William Dwyer .....*President*  
Gene Army .....*1st Vice President*  
Robert Cuna .....*2nd Vice President*  
Walter Hanks .....*Secretary*  
Alex Tarcz .....*Financial Secretary*  
Michael Hrabar .....*Treasurer*

## TRUSTEES

Michael Tetesco                      George Allen                      Jude Ameiorsano

## MEMBERS OF RELIEF

Herman Petz                      Ed Kennedy                      William Dwyer  
Paul Chomiak                      Lonnie Eidson

## TRUCK OFFICERS

Paul Chomiak .....*Chief*  
Stephen Cohorsky .....*1st Assistant Chief*  
Donald Guider .....*2nd Assistant Chief*  
George Shaffer .....*Captain*  
Walter Sobieski .....*Lieutenant*  
Ray Hoppock .....*Inside Warden*  
Joseph Placca .....*Outside Warden*

## ACTIVE FIRE COMPANY MEMBERS

J. Accardi	L. Hrabar	W. Sobieski
G. Allen	J. Hudak	A. Tarcz
J. Ameiorsano	J. Kozak	M. Tetesco
G. Army	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 Solomon

## HONORARY MEMBERS

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



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



Michael Hrabar Presents Plaque to Fred Ceigotura



**Board of Fire Commissioners**

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



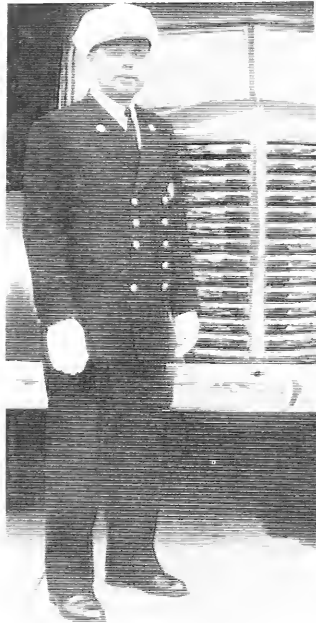
### Officers of the Exempt Association

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.





EDWARD KENNEDY  
Parade Marshal



Honorary Members of Avenel Fire Company No. 1  
John Lucas, Joseph Childs, Joseph Manzione, Frederick Adams,  
Dominic Pichalski



(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. Army, 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 Szabo .....1913-1915	John Tjornelund .....1935	Andrew Galisin .....1950
John Hacker .....1916-1919	Harold Hanson .....1936	John Lockie .....1951
Joseph Utassy .....1920-1921	George Hackett .....1937	Michael Florio .....1952
Florian Wranitz .....1922-1923	William Kuzmiak .....1938	Rubin Greco .....1953
Louis Kromer .....1924	Edward Kennedy .....1939	Herman Steinbach .....1954
Henry Luskie .....1925	Jacob Herman .....1940	Andrew Peterson .....1955
Fred Leidner .....1926	George Ruff .....1941	Jacob Essig .....1956
Anthony Galaida .....1927	Michael Petras .....1942	John Tomas .....1957
George Fox .....1928	Hiram Tuttle .....1943	Wallace Melville .....1958
Carl Neir .....1929	William Russell .....1944	William Dwyer .....1959
John Larson .....1930	Albert Ramon .....1945	Stanley Derewsky .....1960
Otto Toepfer .....1931	Harold Deter .....1946	Herman Petz .....1961
Paul Solomon .....1932	George Slivka .....1947	Lonnie Eidson .....1962
Charles Mezera .....1933	John Anacker .....1948	Paul Chomiak .....1963
Charles Flynn .....1934	George Kovack .....1949	

### 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.

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## 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**AVENEL FIRE COMPANY**

**Avenel Exempt Firemen's Assn.**

**Avenel, New Jersey**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Avenel Board of  
Fire Commissioners**

**District No. 5  
Avenel - Colonia**

**Congratulations**

**AVENEL FIRE CO. No. 1**

**For 50 Years of Faithful Service**



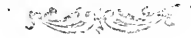
**FREDERICK ADAMS**

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**Ladies' Auxiliary  
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Congratulations  
To  
Avenel Fire Company No. 1 on  
50th Anniversary

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