

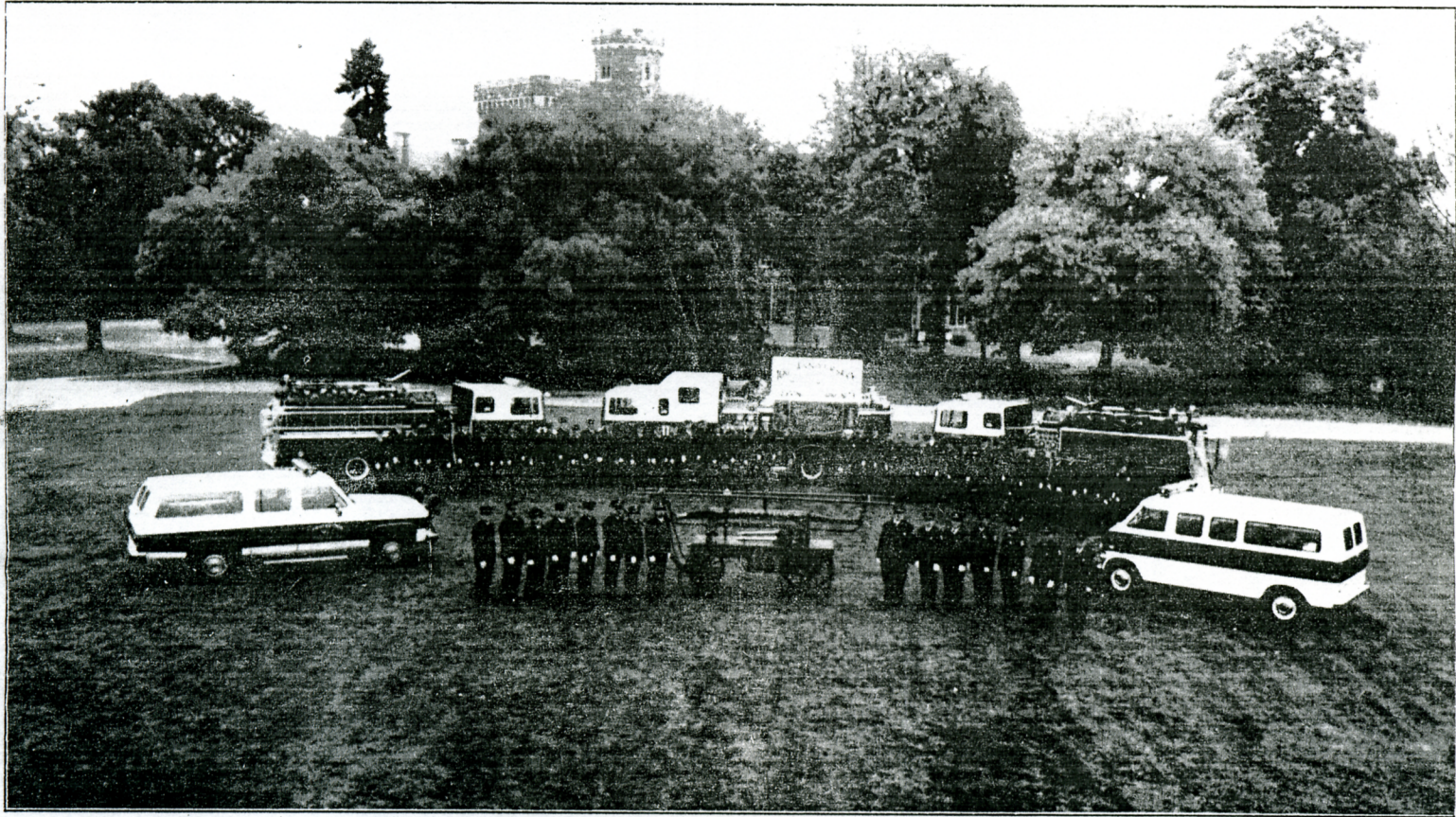
Port Washington NEWS

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35 Cents



MEMBERS OF PROTECTION ENGINE COMPANY No. 1 pose in uniform in front of their headquarters on S. Washington St. Pictured with them is the original piece of apparatus used to fight fires 100 years ago in this community. The company's centennial celebrations will be held this Saturday, June 27, beginning at 6 p.m. with a parade and followed by a block party on Channel Drive.

'All Fired Up' For Parade & Block Party

By Andrea Martone

Port's volunteer firefighters will be dressed in gear, but it's not to fight any flames. This time, they will be participating in the centennial celebration planned by their comrades of Protection Fire Engine Company No. 1 who will host a parade this Saturday, June 27, beginning at 6 p.m.

Held rain or shine, the parade will begin on Main Street at Port Washington Boulevard, follow Main Street to Shore Road and end at Channel Drive, the location for a huge block party, which will conclude the 100-year anniversary festivities.

The parade, which will feature 23 fire departments - some from as far away as Hudson, NY and Chelsea, Vermont - 900 personnel, 100 vehicles and 16 bands, will be the largest ever held in the Town of Port Washington and one of the largest held in Nassau County. It will truly be a sight to see and all of Port's residents are welcomed to

join in the festivities.

One of the highlights of the parade is sure to be the hand-drawn Rumsey "piano box" engine and hose cart, which was Protection's first piece of apparatus. Additionally, many of Protection's 50-year members will participate in the parade and be featured up front, riding in golf carts.

End point for the parade will be Protection's Annex and Thomson Industries on Channel Drive, where a block party will be held immediately following the parade and last until midnight. There will be two bands—"Six Gun" and "Juke Box Saturday Night"—for entertainment, souvenirs, rides for the children and food and beverages.

A Rich History

Fire Protection Company No. 1 received its charter from the state of New York on April 5, 1881. The newly formed company was quite busy sponsoring oyster suppers and concerts featuring Jubilee Singers to

raise money for the already ordered and soon to arrive, state-of-the-art hand pump (see photo elsewhere in paper).

According to Fire Protection member and historian, Frank Pavlak, although the firehouse has always been in the general vicinity of its present location on South Washington Street (across from Main Street School), its first location was what is now a garage on Webster Avenue. In the early years, the members met in their homes. In 1906, a piece of property was purchased on South Washington and four years later a two-story building was constructed. As fire equipment became larger, the building's space configuration changed, but not the size. The wooden building was completely renovated in the 1930s.

Then, during the '70s, a new building project included the purchase of an adjacent piece of property. When it was completed, the building size was tripled.

Protection Fire Company maintains an historic exhibit on their second floor. A display case exhibits original 1892 firefighting equipment including the first company's firefighting shirt, helmet and parade belt. It also displays historical documents and programs from the early years.

The centennial celebration this year began with a dinner dance held on January 18 and was attended by the company's 89 brave volunteer members. The festivities will culminate in this weekend's upcoming parade and block party. The community is urged to come out and share in their centennial celebration. *Editor's Note: see page three for traffic details and road closings.* For more information regarding the upcoming events, please contact Janet Kimmerly at 767-2485 (Protection's answering machine), 883-9050 (home), or work: 621-4300, extension 4137.