

The Port Washington Public Library

A monthly guide to your community library, its programs and services.

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Centennial Highlights

Come Read Aloud!

As part of our Centennial celebration, the library will hold a Read-a-thon in the Meeting Room the weekend of September 19. Thornton Wilder's *The Eighth Day* will be read-aloud from start to finish, over a 24-hour period. We are seeking volunteer readers. If you would like to be among them, contact Susan Shattuck at 883-4400, Ext. 131.

Charles Burnett visits library

On Friday, August 21 at 8 p.m., filmmaker Charles Burnett will present *To Sleep With Anger*, a film starring Danny Glover and Paul Butler. This is the final program in the library's Black New Wave Directors series.

Centennial Quilt Update

ATTENTION QUILTERS AND NON-QUILTERS: Join a quilting bee to finish the Library's Centennial Quilt. Work with quilting teacher Loretta Krieger on Tuesday, August 4, from 7 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, August 5, 10 a.m. to noon; or Thursday, August 13, 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your own scissors and thimble. Instruction provided for novices, free rein for experienced quilters, grateful thanks for all. For information, call Amy Pett.



Protection Engine Company's mascot Smoky goes for a ride in the firetruck during the 1950's after being given a reprieve from the Bide-A-Wee Home where he was sent after being too good at his job of protecting the fire equipment. Among the members are Gene Camerden, Alex Morrison, Walter Urban, Zeke Zwerlein and Bob Jones.

One hundred years of firefighting in Port Washington

In 1892, Port Washington was growing rapidly. With this growth came the increased threat of fire. The Atlantic Hook & Ladder Company was the sole company in town at the time. Twenty-three individuals decided a second fire company was needed, and on April 5, 1892, the Port Washington Protection Fire Engine Company No. 1 was granted a charter. The library will present highlights of their history in the form of photographs, equipment and memorabilia in an exhibit scheduled for the Main Gallery this month.

The centerpiece of the exhibit will be the original fire pumper the

company purchased in 1892 from Rumsey & Company. Housed in the Firemen's Home Museum in Hudson, N.Y. since 1958, the pumper was brought back this year for the company's centennial celebration. The piano box engine and hose cart was first housed in the Lieber barn on Second Avenue, and was hand drawn to most fires by company members, and sometimes their wives. The last time it was used was at the devastating Stationary and Marine Motor and Supply Company fire in January 1914. Located next to the Port Washington Yacht Club, the blaze was fought by plac-

ing the pumper's suction line through holes chopped in the 18-inch-thick ice of Manhasset Bay.

Eugene E. Carpenter, Sr., Samuel Mott, and Charles E. Strickland were among the company's charter members. Theirs are familiar Port Washington names, that, along with many others continue in the community and in the company. The story of Protection Engine Fire Company No. 1 is their story and the story of the many men and women whose bravery and dedication have kept it thriving for the past one hundred years.

