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**The History of Firefighting in Cheektowaga**

By: Donald P. Cialone Jr.

Rescue Hose Company First in Town

**June 17, 1903**-The Town of Cheektowaga had a population of approximately 5,000 people. A group of concerned citizens met with the Town Board at the home of Joseph Forestor to discuss the creation of a fire district. Two petitions had been filed, one with 32 signatures sought the creation of the fire district. The other with 64 signatures, opposed the creation. Since most of those in opposition lived in the northern area of the town, it was proposed that only the southern area of the town be in the fire district.

**July 2, 1903**-As a first step to create a fire district, the Town Board established a water district in the Walden Avenue area and contracted with the Depew and Lake Erie Water Company for ten hydrants at $65 per annum for five years. A later determination was made to add three more hydrants raising the assessment to $845.00.

**September 3, 1903**-The first meeting called to order by the citizens of the Walden Avenue area to create a fire district and to incorporate a volunteer fire company was held at the home of Joseph Forestor, at Randolph and Doat. Joseph Forestor was elected chairman and Peter Fick was elected secretary.

Mr. Fossett moved that the fire company should be incorporated under the name of Rescue Hose Company No. 1 of Cheektowaga. Mr. Hasselback moved that the Chair appoint a committee of four, together with the Chairman, to ascertain the best ways to secure a hose cart and hose and to ascertain the best location for a “Hose House”.

**September 25, 1903**-The Town Board unanimously approved a resolution approving the incorporation of Rescue Volunteer Hose Company No. 1 of Cheektowaga New York and “That it be allowed to conduct its operations of extinguishing and preventing of fires in the duly established fire district of said town.”

**November 21, 1903**-Rescue Hose Company No. 1 received its incorporation papers from the State of New York. This made Rescue the first officially incorporated and recognized fire company in the Town of Cheektowaga.

**November 14, 1903**-Rescue Hose opened its first firehouse, a building formerly called the Arlington Club, owned by Mr. Forestor. The wooden structure was located on Walden Avenue directly across from Pine Ridge Road.

**November 1903**-On a cold, snowy day, a small contingent of ten dedicated men discussed a plan to protect their community by establishing Doyle Fire District.

**December 7, 1903**-Justice Leahy and Justice Forster introduced a resolution to grant the taxpayers of Doyle the right to establish a hydrant and fire district in their area of town, with the passing of the resolution in the Summer of 1904.

**February 11, 1904**-A local minister tipped off the Sheriff that a prize fight was being planned by Rescue Hose Company under the guise of a “smoker”. Sheriff Kaiser, who was out of town at the time, had Under Sheriff Burns send deputies to observe the event that was a fundraiser for the company.

**October 13, 1904**-A meeting of the resident taxpayers of Doyle Fire District was held for the purpose of electing three fire commissioners and a treasurer. The meeting, held in an election booth on William Street near Harlem Road, saw eighteen taxpayers cast their ballots, electing John N. Rohr, J.P. Sherrar, and James Devine as the first fire commissioners of the Doyle Fire District. The first chief elected by the taxpayers of the Doyle Fire District was Andrew Napieralski, a position he would devote the next 25 years of his life to.

**November 26, 1904**-A resolution was approved by the Cheektowaga Town Board authorizing the town to raise and spread upon the taxable property in Water Supply District No. 1, the sum of $845.00 for the fiscal year 1905.

**1905**-Rescue Hose Company has contracted with a local blacksmith to construct a custom-built four-wheel fire wagon. This wagon with its buggy soring’s, carriage lamp, green vanished wood and gilded lettering will not only be beautiful, but very functional as well.

Sloan Organizes

Lying within the boundaries of Cheektowaga is the Village of Sloan. The Village organized its own fire company, which was chartered in March of 1909. The eleven original members elected George Schriver as Chief and William Dildidine as Assistant Chief.

Because of its close ties with the railroads, and the fact that so many of the Villagers were employed by the railroads, the need for an organized fire company was especially important because there were jobs and homes to protect. The Lackawanna Railroad Company recognized this and contributed to the well-being of the Village by providing, without charge, material, and labor to build a combination Village Hall and firehouse on Halstead Avenue.

In 1905 a petition was circulated for the purpose of establishing a fire company in the center of town in an area known as Forks. The petition was dated November 26, 1910, and contained 17 signatures. It was sent to the Erie County Legislature which approved both the petition and resolution by a unanimous vote.

**November 14, 1907**-Shortly before five o’clock in the morning the New Mint Hotel and the Rescue Hose Company No. 1 firehouse next door were destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of about $20,000. Bernard J. Fossett, owner of the hotel claimed the place was set on fire. The firehouse was formerly occupied by the old Hawthorne Athletic Club.

**1910-Population 7,620**

**August 30, 1910**-A meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Michael Bittermans in the hall of the Buffalo’s Businessman’s Club to consider appropriating $2,500 to procure funds for the construction of a firehouse in the Walden Fire District.

All twenty votes cast had been for approval, therefor, declaring in favor of the amount set forth. A committee has been appointed to look about for a suitable lot to locate on.

**November 26, 1910**-Residents of the central portion of the town organized Forks Hose Company. They had petitioned the district and received seventeen votes of approval. The third fire district in town was established as the Forks Fire District No. 3 of the Town of Cheektowaga. The fire company was first called Relief Hose Company No. 2. The eleven charted members elected George Bachman as their first President, and Alfred Syskes as Chief.

**October 11, 1911**-Arthur Duringer, Chairman of the fire district, called to order a meeting to organize a fire company with the help of Michael Wolf of Rescue Hose Company No. 1. After establishing an order of business, it was moved and seconded that Relief Hose Company No. 2 was formed.

**October 18, 1911**-At the second meeting of the Relief Fire Company No. 2 it was motioned and seconded to change the name of the fire company to Forks Volunteer Hose Company No. 2.

**March 4, 1911**-At the residence of Chief Napieralski, on the corner of William and Alaska, a 7:30 PM meeting was held to vote on the erection of a firehouse, at a district cost not to exceed $3000. Seventeen taxpayer residents attended this critical meeting and appropriated the funds necessary.

**April 3, 1911**-Doyle Hose Company No. 1 petitioned the Cheektowaga Town Board for permission to incorporate under the Membership Corporations Laws of the State of New York. A resolution which was moved by Justice Schiesel and seconded by Mr. Monin was duly adopted to allow them to incorporate.

**April 12, 1911-**Doyle Hose Company No. 1 officially incorporated.

**November 27, 1911**-Over 150 people attended a dance held at Durringer’s Hall to benefit the Forks Fire Company.

Forks first firehouse was built in 1912 on the southwest corner of Broadway and Union Road behind the Forks Hotel on land donated by Art Dyringer, Chairman of the fire district. The original firehouse was a wooden, two-room structure, 18’x30’.

**January 16, 1912**-A motion was made at the meeting for the Forks Hose Company to have active members take turns sleeping in the firehouse, and a fine of 25 cents applied for failure to fulfill one’s duty.

**February 14, 1912**-The Forks Fire District received permission from the Town Board to incorporate.

**February 16, 1912**-A hand-pulled hose cart with 500 feet of hose was purchased by Forks Hose Company for $210.50

**March 1912**-Forks Hose Company purchased firefighting equipment from Eureka Hose Manufacturing Company amounting to $1,183.50. Included was 1,000 feet of 2 ½’ hose and two three-gallon fire extinguishers. The firemen were equipped with black rubber coats and boots and aluminum helmets.

**April 2, 1912**-A meeting authorized the purchase of the first official uniforms for Forks Hose Company. The first official uniforms were red shirts, blue ties, white belts, black pants, white letters, and a Firemen’s regulation hat.

**April 29, 1912**-Sloan Active Hose Company No. 1 organized a drum corp.

**May 7, 1912**-A Certificate of Incorporation was issued to the Forks Volunteer Hose Company No. 2 by the State of New York.

**1914**-A four-wheel fire cart was purchased from A.J. Grad Company of Buffalo to replace the two-wheel hand cart that Forks Hose Company previously purchased. It had a fire bell, fire extiguishers, axes, and 500 feet of hose pulled by a horse. Later it was pulled by Arthur Duringer’s two-cylinder Buick.

**February 13, 1916**-The first annual ball of the Forks firemen took place on a Saturday evening in their new fire hall. A cordial invitation was extended to the public.

**1920-Population 11,923**

**May 26, 1922**-A meeting was held in the office of Bianchi Monumental Works for the purpose of electing three Fire Commissioners and a Treasurer for the Pine Hill Fire District. Twenty-three ballots had been cast and John Walters was elected for a five-year term. Joseph Neibert and Theodore Baehre also received twenty-three votes and they were elected Commissioners for a three-year term. George Neuner was elected for a three-year term as Treasurer.

**November 2, 1922**-A meeting of the taxable inhabitants and qualified voters was held at the Doyle No. 1 fire hall to determine a proposition to purchase a new fire truck. Forty-two ballots were cast all in favor of purchasing a new fire truck not to exceed $8,000. The membership also appropriated $2,000 for the installation of a fire alarm system.

The population of the town of Cheektowaga had just started to grow in the early 1900's with the growth rate very high in the southern part of town. To decrease the fire insurance rates, the Clinton Gardens Taxpayers' Association began talking about the formation of another fire department in the Doyle Fire District. Doyle Volunteer Hose Company No. 1, located on William and Alaska Streets had already been effectively protecting the district since 1904.

The people of the Clinton Garden area, being very fire protection minded, felt they needed another fire company to offer the district more fire protection and lower fire insurance rates in the area. At the regular meeting of the Taxpayers' Association on February 24, 1924, held at Mr. Joseph Galamb's Hall at 2070 Clinton Street, , a motion was made by Mr. Peter Kojm and seconded by Mr. Andrew Partacz to organize a fire department.

Mr. Stephen Rogowski, President of the Clinton Garden Taxpayers' Association and a Founder of Doyle No. 2 appointed Mr. Peter Kojm to serve as organizer of the fire company. This was the beginning of the "Doyle Volunteer Hose Company No. 2," whose original name was Doyle Fire Hose Company No 2.

**April 10, 1924**-Doyle Hose company No. 2 was founded, with a total of 17 men. Peter Kojm was elected Chief and Frank Witkowski as President.

**June 29, 1924**-Due to a large amount of home construction in the U-Crest Terrace section of town a meeting was held at the Gangnagel Realty Company to organize a fire company for the protections of homes in the vicinity. Committees were appointed to discuss fire hydrants and the layout of a fire district with town officials and report back at a meeting being held later in the week. Permanent officers are expected to be elected at the meeting.

In the area of town centered around the intersection of Union Road and Genesee Street the U-Crest Fire Company was being formed. Organized in 1924, the company took its name from its location on a U-shaped Street directly across from Northcrest and Southcrest Avenues.

**August 12, 1924**-The first recorded meeting of the U-Crest Hose Company was held.

**August 17, 1924**-At a meeting held at the office of Gangnagel Realty Company at U-Crest Terrace the following officers were elected: President August Schlee, Vice President Henry Penseyres, Secretary John B. Conroy, Treasurer William Ansbrow, Chief Norman H. Lesswing, Assistant Chief Charles Simon, and Fire Commissioners Andrew Hoerner, Henry Nagel, and Bruce Hoadley.

**August 24, 1924**-Land was purchased on the north side of Broadway just east of Union Road from Michael Crique for $800. The land is the sight of the current Forks fire hall located at 3330 Broadway. The hall consisted of a truck bay, a basement area, and a second-floor meeting room and kitchen. A siren was mounted on top of the new firehouse.

**September 29, 1924**-The U-Crest Hose Company had a celebration in observance of its organization.

**October 6, 1924**-The first By-laws of the U-Crest Hose Company were drawn up.

In the year 1925 the taxpayers and residents of Cleveland Hill decided that they should have fire protection. After much controversy and meetings, an attempt was made to create a fire district. This took many years to accomplish. In the meantime, the residents formed a fire company, which was no more than a group of people who banded together to extinguish fires without any firefighting equipment.

**April 7, 1925**-A $21,000 bond was issued by the Bank of Williamsville to finance the building and a new fire truck at Forks.

**July 7, 1925**-A general construction contract was awarded to Robert Straubinger for a $13,000 two-story 36’x50’ brick building for Forks Hose Company designed by architect F. Neiderpruem.

**July 19, 1925**-The dedication and laying of the cornerstone for the Fork’s Hose Company’s new fire hall at Broadway and Union took place at 2:30 p.m. It was built on the same land as their current firehouse.

**November 2, 1925**-A new 1925 Seldon 72 horsepower, motor operated, 500 g.p.m. pump, with two 45-gallon foam tanks, ladders and other equipment was delivered by Foamlite-Childs Corporation at a cost of $6,000.

**April 14, 1926**-Doyle Volunteer Hose Company No. 2 became incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. The fee for the county attorney was $2.50 and $30.00 was paid to the State of New York. Attorney William Brennan, Jr. rendered his services free.

Also, Doyle Hose Company No. 1 purchased a new American LaFrance fire truck and had graciously donated their old Hahn pumper to Doyle No. 2.

**July 27, 1926**-At the 27th Annual Western New Yor Volunteer Firemen’s Association Convention in Kenmore, New York U-Crest was one of seven companies admitted to the organization.

Up until 1927, the area around Pine Hill and Genesee Streets was protected by the Rescue Hose Company. Between 1920 and 1930 the population of Cheektowaga increased by about 9,000. Many of these people settled in the Pine Hill area. The influx of people put a strain on Rescue Hose so it was decided that another fire company should be formed.

In 1927, the Pine Hill Hose Company was formed as Cheektowaga’s 5th fire district. The original firehouse, a 2-bay made from wood and brick is still in use today.

Occasionally, the Pine Hill Hose Company was requested to leave their district and help other fire districts. Such was the case with all of Cheektowaga’s fire companies.

**1928**-A Buffalo pumper arrived for the U-Crest Hose Company.

**April 22, 1928**- U-Crest Hose Company broke ground for their new firehouse on U-Crest Circle between Clover and Evergreen Avenues.

**May 20, 1928**-John C. Hottinger, President of the New York State Firemen’s Association laid the cornerstone for the U-Crest Hose Company’s new firehouse.

**June 6, 1928**-A meeting for town firefighters to be known as the Central Council of Volunteer Firemen of the Town of Cheektowaga was held.

**October 7, 1928**-The cornerstone laying ceremony for the new firehouse for Doyle No. 2 was held. A ceremony and parade were held at the site at the corner of Willowlawn Parkway and Griswold Street. Members of the Cheektowaga Town Board headed by Supervisor John C. Stiglmeier, Town Clerk Alois Schisel, Justice of the Peace Benjamin Milne and members of the town’s six fire companies participated in the activities.

**September 14, 1928**-Doyle No. 2’s old firehouse was auctioned off. It was sold to Gust Kalwicki, a charter member for $20.00.

**October 7, 1928**-The cornerstone laying ceremony for the new firehouse was held this day. A ceremony and parade were held at the site at the corner of Willowlawn and Griswold Street. Members of the Cheektowaga Town Board headed by Supervisor John C. Stiglmeier, Town Clerk Alois Schisel, Justice of the Peace Benjamin Milne and members of the town’s 6 fire companies participated in the activities.

**December 3, 1928**- The body of Anthony Inda, 68, father of Judge Peter J. Inda of Cheektowaga was found in the ruins of a burned barn at the rear of the house on Cayuga Creek Road. Mr. Inda, who had been living apart from his wife for five weeks, had established quarters in the barn. From appearances his murderer fired 3 shots through his chest while he was sleeping in a cot in the barn.

**April 25, 1929**-Mr. Vail presented a petition of the Taxable inhabitants of the Town of Cheektowaga to extend the U-Crest Fire District.

**November 29, 1929**-A fire destroyed the Buffalo Trap and Field Club at Cayuga and Phillips Roads causing $150,000 in damages. Lancin M. Fath, a member of U-Crest was overcome by smoke and Theodore Behre of Pine Hill sustained slight back injuries when he was knocked down by a hose.

U-Crest was assisted at the scene by Buffalo, Lancaster, Snyder, Williamsville and other Cheektowaga companies.

**1930-Population 20,849**

**July 22, 1930**-U-Crest held its first ever Annual Inspection.

**1931**-U-Crest Hose Company formed a Drum Corp.

**March 6, 1931-**The directors of the Cleveland-Harlem Taxpayers Association had discussions about the cost of fire trucks, hose, and other equipment to outfit a new volunteer fire company in the Cleveland Drive-Harlem Road section of town. Until the organization of the fire company can be completed service will be given by Pine Hill and U-Crest Hose companies said, the association director, Amedeo L. Cappola. When the proposed new company is organized the abandoned old Schoolhouse No. 3 will be used as a fire station through arrangements made through the district Board of Education.

**April 23, 1931**-Eugen Braun of Eggerstville Hose Company was named acting President at the first meeting of the Erie County Volunteer Firemen’s Association. The association will meet four times a year with both active and exempt firemen to discuss their problems.

**May 1, 1931**-The Cheektowaga Firemen’s Softball League announced the selection of John C. Stiglmeier as their first ever President.

**May 14, 1931**-Representatives of the eight hose companies of the Town of Cheektowaga met at U-Crest Fire Hall to make final arrangements for the Cheektowaga Firemen’s Softball League.

**March 9, 1932**-Members and guests of the eight teams which composed the Cheektowaga Firemen’s Softball League gathered at Neibert’s Big House on Genesee Street for their first ever banquet. Sloan Active Hose was awarded the First-Place trophy and Rescue Hose, Second-Place.

**April 6, 1932**-The first Forks Hose Company First Aid team was organized. The members were Andrew Berner, John Fischer, Albert Fissler, William Franger, Ray Gloss, Harry Ralph, and William Fissler.

**May 5, 1932**-Cheektowaga Police Chief Charles Wohlford appointed six Fire Patrol Officers, one for each fire district in town. They were appointed at a special meeting of the Central Council of Volunteer Firemen. Their duties will be both those of policeman, with powers of arrest and fireman. All are bonded and worked under the direction of the Chief.

During social functions in the fire halls, they will act as house police officers. At fires they will direct traffic, restrain spectators from going through safety lines and will cooperate with police and fire authorities in fire investigations.

**May 18, 1932**-The first Fireman’s softball league was organized. Teams from Cayuga Hose of Depew, Doyle No. 1, Forks, Pine Hill, and Sloan played each other five times. Forks took Firrst Place and received a silver cup.

**September 2, 1932**-The first ever Firemen’s Evening at the Erie County Fair was held. All volunteer fire companies in Erie County were invited to appear at the exposition grounds.

**September 26, 1932**-The Roycroft-Harlem Citizens and Taxpayers Protective Association had a hearing at the Cleveland Hill School regarding the dissolution of the Cleveland Hill Fire District. Until the matter is settled an injunction is in place to keep the board of fire commissioners from issuing $20,000 in bonds for a fire hall, fire truck and equipment.

**October 18, 1932**-Town Supervisor Frank Wildy, at a meeting of the Central Council advised that a firemen’s memorial service day will be designated.

**October 28, 1932**-A special committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to hear the petition for the dissolution of the Cleveland Hill Fire District met with counsel for the fire district and the petitioners.

**February 28, 1933**-After a heated dispute the Board of Supervisors decide to abolish the Cleveland Hill Fire District on condition that arrangements are made to provide protection from adjoining districts. Supervisor C. Chase Zalemski charged that efforts were being made to burden taxpayers with unnecessary additional expense. Emil Cappola, fire commissioner of the district, declared additional protection was necessary because of a school with 150 children in the district.

Ernest G. Moore of 326 Mapleview Drive said his house burned down the previous Thursday after he had been refused fire apparatus from four adjacent districts causing him a $10,000 loss.

**March 3, 1933**-Town Supervisor Layton H. Vogel advocated for the consolidations of fire districts as an economic measure. He planned on submitting a resolution to the town board urging that the County Survey Commission, to be headed by former Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. Kenefick work out a plan to merge many of the smaller units.

**March 3, 1933**-The Pine Hill and U-Crest Hose Companies clarified what they termed as an apparent misunderstanding regarding their refusal to respond to an alarm of fire in the Cleveland Hill district. The refusal brought criticism at the Board of Supervisors meeting the previous Tuesday.

Even though they were notified of the fire since it was outside their jurisdiction, they were prohibited from responding by orders of the Board of Fire Commissioners, which alone have the authority to order equipment and men outside of their own districts.

The Cleveland Hill Fire District, where last week’s fire occurred, has a fire company and hydrants but no firefighting equipment.

In 1934, the northern section of town had grown to the point where it could no longer depend on fire companies from other districts to fight fires. The residents of the Cleveland Hill area met and formed Cleveland Hill Hose Company No. 6.

**May 10, 1934**-The Cleveland Hill Fire District #6 was approved by the Cheektowaga Town Council for incorporation. Commissioners were elected and the process of starting a working fire district and fire company had a beginning. Previously, the Snyder Fire Company in Amherst and Pine Hill Hose Company in Cheektowaga answered calls in the area.

**May 27, 1934**-Firemen from all over the Town of Cheektowaga gathered at the Woodrow Wilson School in Sloan to honor the town’s deceased firefighters. It was the first-time officials had gathered to honor the dead.

In 1934, the Cleveland Hill Fire District purchased a one room schoolhouse at the intersection of Huth Road and Harlem Road, which was on the west side of Harlem Road across from the school district. The building was remodeled, and a truck room addition was planned to house their first fire truck. Unfortunately, the addition wasn’t completed on time and the truck had to be kept in a barn. The firehouse was eventually finished in late 1935.

**August 15, 1934**-The first town firemen’s memorial service was held at Sloan High School.

**December 5, 1934**-Rescue Hose Company fought in vain to halt flames which swept through their firehouse causing $35,000 In damage. The fire, which started a 3 o'clock In the morning, also damaged a new fire truck valued at $13,000. Pine Hill and U-Crest fought the fire for over two hours. This was the second time Rescue had a firehouse burn.

**September 11, 1935**-Rescue Hose Company lays a cornerstone for their new two-story firehouse at the location of the current firehouse.

**September 14, 1935**-Doyle responded to a fire in the Bellevue area where lightning struck the garage in the rear of home of Lynn Freeman. The fire caused $5,000 in damages, destroyed two houses, a barn and the garage. Doyle was joined by the Blossom Fire Company of Elma in fighting the blaze in a waterless section of the town. Two wells were pumped dry trying to save several adjoining homes.

**July 13, 1936**-At 4 o’clock in the morning we responded to a house fire at 83 Mansion Street where nine people were rescued, three of which sustained burn injuries. Edward Wierzoyk, 32; Edward Ledwan, 19; and Henry Ledwan, 24, all suffered critical burns and were rushed to the hospital by Cheektowaga Police after being rescued by firefighters. Henry, who was a Doyle No. 1 fireman, was pronounced dead at the hospital later that day.

The other occupants of the house who were rescued by firefighters were Anna Wierzorek, 68; Emelia Ledwan, 46; Stanley Wieczorek, 30; Evelyn Wieczorek, 14; Dorothy Ledwan, 17; and Ruth Ledwan, 13. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

**August 3, 1936**-The Cleveland Hill Hose Company announced the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary. The Officers of the new group were President: Mrs. Anthony Rost, Vice President: Mrs. Fred Hagman, Treasurer: Mrs. Fred Holby, and Secretary Mrs. Fred Ciabo.

**August 31, 1936**-The new Firemen’s Building made its debut at opening day of the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, New York.

**December 1, 1936**-A decision was handed down by Justice Swift of the New York State Court of Appeals requiring the Cheektowaga Town Board to reinstate ten volunteer firemen who were dismissed from the town services on January 1, 1935, on the account of their political faith was affirmed.

**April 18, 1937**-A dedication ceremony was held at the Doyle No. 2 fire hall at 2:30 p.m. for their first brand new fire engine. The Rev. Francis X. Guzy, Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa blessed the engine and Town Supervisor C. Chase Zalemski delivered the dedication speech. The 1937 Buffalo Fire Engine was purchased for $6,000 from the Buffalo Fire Equipment & Sales Corp., with 300 gallons in the booster tank and a 750 gallon per minute pumping capacity.

**April 18, 1938**-There was some discussion regarding fires outside the U-Crest Fire District. Firefighter Keller stated that if the police department called, the Fire Warden would ok the call, but if someone unknown called and the fire was out of the district the men responding would not be paid, and that when responding to any grass alarm, the call should be posted on the black board where the fire truck is going. The Chief later stated hereafter when the location of a fire is unknown they would not respond.

**April 19, 1938**-The Cheektowaga Town Board voted to equip Town Fire Wardens with extinguishers for use in fighting grass fires.

**June 25-27, 1938**-9,000 visitors attended the Western New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association’s 39th Annual Convention held at Doyle No. 1. Doyle No. 2 Chief Gust Kalwicki was appointed a Director on the convention committee.

**July 1, 1938**-U-Crest Hose responded to a garage fire at Duvernall claimed two lives.

**July 2, 1938**- Eight town fire companies and 5,000 civilian volunteers assisted in a massive search for a missing 3-year-old Sloan boy. Sloan Active Hose Company drained a large pond fearing the child might have drowned. Other companies assisting Sloan in the search were Doyle No. 1 and 2, Cleveland Hill, Forks, U-Crest, Rescue and Pine Hill.

**March 2, 1939**-An Allegany County Judge in a court ruling held that the fire district to which a fireman is attached is responsible for injuries sustained while fighting a fire in another district under certain circumstances. The Judge ruled on a case where a Sloan firefighter was injured in an accident in the Doyle Fire District while answering a call for assistance.

**March 29, 1939**-Govenor Roosevelt signed a bill by Sentator Charles A. Freibery legalizing the creation of the Doyle, Walden, and U-Crest Fire Districts.

**September 26, 1939**-A Ladies Auxiliary at Forks Hose Company was organized, and a constitution and by-laws were established. Meetings were on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. Applicants must be eighteen years old and a firemen’s wife, daughter, or sister.

**November 5, 1939**-At the annual meeting of the Erie County Volunteer Firemen’s Association meeting in East Aurora, New York members believed legislative measures were necessary for their protection while in route to fires. Identification of volunteers by aid of a purple light attached to automobiles was among the suggestions. Volunteers declared that in many sections traffic conditions are becoming a menace to firemen answering alarms, motorists in many instances failing to give the volunteers as well as fire apparatus the right of way.

**1940-Population 25,006**

World War II Starts

**July, 1940**-The initial first aid course at completed by members of the U-Crest Hose Company. The Red Cross presented completion cards to the members.

**September 16, 1940**-Each of about 1,000 volunteer firemen of the nine companies in Cheektowaga including those in Depew and Sloan have offered their services to the state for home defense duty via a resolution submitted to the Town Board. The resolution was approved by the individual fire companies, the town’s 45 fire commissioners and the Central Council of Volunteer Firemen of Cheektowaga.

**April 3, 1941**-Two workmen were injured when the tar atop the concrete roof at the Buffalo Arms Corporation at Broadway & Kennedy caught fire causing an estimated $3,000 in damages. Doyle No. 1 and 2 assisted Forks at the scene along with Sloan, Pine Hill, and Rescue.

**July 25, 1941**-Cleveland Hill dedicated a brand new all white $8,000 fire truck starting an all-white fire truck tradition that still exists to this day.

**December 14, 1941**-A decision to maintain a daily 24-hour war time watch in Cheektowaga’s eight fire halls was reached at a rally of more than 100 fire commissioners, officers, and firemen.

**February 16, 1942**- Whereas civil defense authorities have requested that the Town of Cheektowaga maintain a separate telephone for the receipt and transmission of defense information from defense headquarters to Town Hall and from there to the various fire houses in the Town of Cheektowaga.

I was resolved that the supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to write the NY Telephone Company to arrange for the installation of a telephone in the Town Hall for the exclusive receipt and transmission of defense information and for the installation of police call boxes outside each fire house together with a telephone extension inside each fire house, and to pay the installation charge of $21.00 together with a monthly charge of $47.50.

This arrangement and agreement to be made by the Supervisor when and if the Fire Commissioners of each fire district enter into contracts with the Town by which each district shall pay $5.50 each month except the Doyle Fire District which shall pay $11.00 and a monthly charge of $47.50.

**March 8, 1942**-About 500 firemen from the town were present at a defense rally held at Doyle No. 1 under the auspices of the Central Council of Volunteer Firemen. Town Supervisor Zalemski spoke regarding the necessity for the protection of the town in case of fire or other emergencies due to air raids.

**April 1, 1942**-Buffalo Fire Department Junior Captain Richard W. Pirie was promoted to Captain of a new fire unit at the Buffalo Airport. Captain Pirie will join six other men at what will be known as Engine No. 7.

**September 11, 1942**-A Curtiss P-40 Warhawk crashed into the Curtiss-Wright Plant 2 building on the corner of Genesee Street and Sugg Road (Holtz Road) in town. The plane entered the roof of the building landing near the tool crib, trapping several employees. 14 deaths and 33 injuries were reported along with many acts of heroism by employees.

The plane was reported to have been at 15,000 feet when fire started to consume the cockpit. The pilot tried in vain to save the plane but was forced to parachute to safety, landing some two miles away near Walden Avenue and Union Road. Doctors said he had serious burns.

The plane plunged to earth, landing back near the airport. It is said that the impact was so great that the engine was planted into the cement floor of the factory. A marker can be found in the long-term parking lot of Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Buffalo Fire Department’s Engine 7 responded to the scene.

**1944**-U-Crest Hose Company put into service a Dodge panel as a first aid truck.

**April 9, 1944**-A meeting of Urban Hose Company by former Urban-Hyland Club members was held at the Community Hall, 138 Hyland Avenue, to discuss plans for fire protection in the vicinity including representatives of Homeworth Park and Meadowlawn were invited.

**September 5, 1944**-Ground has been broken for the new fire hall of Urban Hose Company of Cheektowaga. Completion is expected by late Fall.

**October 29, 1944**-This day was the dedication of an Honor Roll to over 400 residents of the Town of Cheektowaga who were veterans of the World Wars by Lieutenant Colonel Carlton A. Fisher, USMC and former Cheektowaga Town Attorney. Cheektowaga Police and firefighters, school children, American Legion and VFW units and various drum corps marched in a parade preceding the ceremony. The Honor Roll was put in place at the intersection of Harlem Road and William Street.

It was the end of 1944, when the Four-Town Volunteer Fire Company was formed by the men who represented the adjacent areas of Cheektowaga, West Seneca, Lancaster and Depew. A few years after they were formed, a barn on French Road was destroyed by fire, due to the apparatus not arriving in a timely manner. The firefighters of the Four-Town Volunteer Fire Company who resided in the French Road area in the Town of Cheektowaga, decided that the area in that part of town was too large to be adequately covered by the Four-Town Volunteer Fire Company.

**December 17, 1945**-The U-Crest Hose Company could not answer first aid calls due to being snowed in.

**October 3, 1946**-Firefighters met in the boiler room of the greenhouses owned by Curtis Lehde to make provisions so that further loss of life and property would not occur. It was at this meeting that Alfred Kless made a motion, and his son, Wesley Kless, seconded, that a new fire company be formed. That fire company was the beginning of the South Line Volunteer Fire Company.

**1947**-The Forks Ladies Auxiliary was disbanded, and the U-Crest Hose Company bought four lots around the firehouse for $400.00.

**March 6, 1947**-The organization and promotion of a Junior Fire Department by each of the towns volunteer fire companies was advance by J.Y. Cameron Jr., Director of the Erie County Youth Bureau. Letters outlining a suggested procedure was sent to all area fire companies. All town chiefs have pledged their cooperation and meetings were held to formulate definite programs for the youth.

Chief George J. Reinhold of Cleveland Hill Hose Company stated they have a “Junior Fire Department” which they organized in October and have a membership of more than a hundred boys in their district. Chief Michael Hengling of U-Crest Hose Company said they have about 120 members in their program and were obtaining approval from their Board of Fire Commissioners to have the junior members use the hall for meetings and activities.

At a meeting of the Central Council of Volunteer Firemen the matter was discussed by the delegates, and all were enthusiastic about the plan for helping the boys turn to good use of their leisure time. J. Norman Bicherl, Chief of Pine Hill Hose Company, said they were going with the program as outlined by the Youth Bureau and already obtained permission from the Board of Fire Commissioners.

**April 3, 1947**-The incorporation of the South Line Volunteer Fire Company was made official. Two main issues were brought to the forefront of the company’s attention: the need for a pumper and fire hall. The original 26 members of the company each donated one hundred dollars ($100.00) to purchase an old civil defense pump, which after renovation was placed on a trailer and became the first fire apparatus of the fire company.

The original fire station was at 931 French Road, across from Brentwood Drive, was built by the firemen themselves before the fire company was placed on the town’s tax rolls.

**May 25, 1947**-The first annual Communion Breakfast of the Central Council of Cheektowaga Volunteer Firemen was held at the Buffalo Trap and Field Club. Firefighters assembled at U-Crest and marched to Our Lady Help of Christians Chapel at Genesee and Union.

**August 21, 1947**-A meeting was held at the Sloan Fire Hall to organize a Firemen’s Bowling League for all town fire companies that belong to the Central Council.

Bellevue-Homewood, the rustic area of Cheektowaga was a slow growing, but tight knit community, without a fire company until 1948. In March of that year, a group of residents met and began the process which by May had led to the organization and incorporation of the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Company.

**February 11, 1948**-Bellevue Independent Fire Company held an organizational meeting at Greenaurs Hall. They elected the following temporary officers: President: Pat Kearns, Vice President: Frank Greenauer, Secretary: Ted DeFedericis, Treasurer: Franklin Rau, Sargent-at-Arms: Carl Miller, and Trustees: Richard Skorupski, Kenneth Sisson, and Stanley Rusiniak.

Present at the meeting were: Pat Kearns, Carl Miller, Ted Defedericis, Paul Havernack, Bob Havernack, Norm Daruszka, Norm Greenauer, Alvin Sisson, Frank Greenauer, Joe Huvager, John Weichman Sr., Babe Kless, Kenneth Sisson, Franklin Rau, Norm Greenauer, Bud Freier, Sonny Witstein, F. Johnson, Bob Schwiers, Roy Sisson, R. Gibson, Pete Connors, John Romanowski, Harold Campbell, John Greenauer, and Frank Powell.

**April 7, 1948**-At the monthly meeting of the Bellevue Independent Fire Company it was reported by the fire truck committee that the old Eden fire truck is now their property and delivery was expected within a week.

**April 14, 1948**-The fire district committee of the Bellevue Fire Company was laid out as drawn up by Victor Reinstein and Edward Phofl. At the same meeting it was decided that their new fire truck would be housed temporarily in Greenauers garage.

**June 11, 1948**-At the second meeting of the Tiorunda Civic League held at the Maryvale Presbyterian Church on Maryvale Drive, two committees were appointed, one on assessments and the other on fire protection. Albert Williams and Richard J. Jochum were delegated to investigate fire protection.

**July 1, 1948**-The first meeting of the Bellevue Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary was held at Casey’s Grill located at 144 Bennett Road. The twelve members who attended the meeting to form the auxiliary were: Gladys Foster, Betty Freier, Thelma Grennauer, Laura Hunger, Helen Kearns, Dorothy Kless, Margaret Martens, Catherine Messing, Cecelia Nelson, Catherine Nelson, Caroline Ruhland, and Betty Sisson.

**August 4, 1948**-Cheektowaga Town Attorney George B. Doyle said that residents of Tiorunda must decide within six weeks whether they desire their own fire protection district or will join an adjoining fire district. The Federal Government will withdrawal fire protection from the housing project on December 31st.

**August 23, 1948**-The taxpayers of the U-Crest Fire District approved a budget of $10,484.04 for the fiscal year 1949 by a 27 to nothing vote. Included in the budget was $5,000 to establish a new fire alarm system for the district.

**October 18, 1948**-The Cheektowaga Town Board passed a resolution creating a fire protection district and approved a contract with the Bowmansville Volunteer Fire Association for a period of five years, commencing January 1, 1949, and ending on December 31, 1953 for fire protection in the northeast corner of the town.

**November 14, 1948**-The foundation was laid for a new Bellevue Fire Company fire hall on land donated by Federal Crushed Stone, Allied Bituman’s, and Bituminous Products and an explosion and fire on the property.

**August 28, 1949**-County Judge Carlton A. Fisher gave the principal address at the dedication of the new $135,000 Cleveland Hill Hose Company fire hall at Cleveland and Merrymount Drives.

**November 20, 1949**-An Open House was held at Urban Hose to celebrate the purchase of a new truck.

Post War Suburban Sprawl

**1950-Population 45,354**

**April 13, 1950**-The threat that Tiorunda might be left without organized fire protection in the future, and the expectation that creation of a fire district would promote community spirit in the development were two reasons cited for the creation of a Tiorunda Fire District.

A representative of the Tiorunda Civic League, Charles Wohlford, called on the Town Board to institute a fire district. Tiorunda was already a fire protection district contracted with the Cleveland Hill Fire District for fire protection.

**January 4, 1950**-New York State offered license plates for Firemen’s cars for 29 cents a plate.

**June 19, 1950**-The Forks Fire District was enlarged north on Union Road to the Scajaquada Creek, east from Indian Road to the center of Dick Road.

**October 2, 1950**-The Cheektowaga Town Board passed a resolution for the Cleveland Hill Fire District No. 6 to enter into a contract to provide fire protection for a newly created Fire Protection District No. 2 (later known as the Tiorunda Fire Protection District).

Fire protection would be provided by Cleveland Hill for $4,500.00 yearly and begin on January 1, 1951, and end on January 1, 1956

**November 20, 1950**-A decision was reserved when the proposed extension of the Cleveland Hill Fire District into the Nob Hill area ran into opposition from Charles Maundrell, a representative of the Twin Coach Company raised objections to the plan.

Twin Coach manufactured buses and motor coaches at the former Curtiss-Wright site since 1946 and had been provided fire protection through a verbal agreement with the City of Buffalo. The company had furnished its own water to the airport, maintained a fire squad and fire chief who inspected and acted as fire chief for the airport.

**November 20, 1950**-Tentative approval of the creation of an independent fire district for Tiorunda was given by the Cheektowaga Town Board. A delegation of about twenty persons, headed by Dominic Scardina and Charles Wohlford, both of the Tiorunda Civic League, were on hand to speak on it.

**1951**-A 1950 Ford 500 g.p.m. pumper, with a 500-gallon water tank manufactured by Young Fire Equipment was placed into service by the Forks Hose Company. Designated as 1A, it is stilled housed at their main fire hall and is used for parades and special events.

The first addition to the U-Crest fire hall was done. A new truck room was added, and the basement was remodeled.

**February 5, 1951**-The Cheektowaga Town Board adopted a resolution creating the Tiorunda Fire District No. 9 and is seeking approval from the State Comptroller.

**May 14, 1951**-Numerous town fire districts were left unprotected by the actions of the Buffalo Fire Department resulting in the suburbs suffering a severe water shortage. Buffalo FD broke a valve at the Western New York Water Company causing low pressure throughout the area. Over 7,000 volunteer firemen assisted Buffalo in boosting hydrant pressure during the crisis.

**May 25, 1951**-New York State Comptroller J. Raymond McGovern has denied permission to the Town of Cheektowaga to create the Tiorunda Fire District until more definite plans and information on the proposed acquisition of a building, equipment is to be determined.

Town Attorney George B. Doyle said that the district is provided fire protection under contract by Cleveland Hill Fire District No. 6 which doesn’t expire until January 1, 1956.

**June 24, 1951**-The original incorporation of the company was for a 50-year period. At the Village Board meeting on this date the charter was renewed.

**July 18, 1952**-Numerous Cheektowaga companies were among dozens of suburban fire companies who pushed efforts to shut off residential lawn sprinklers that they believed were creating low water pressure in the hydrant system.

**July 31, 1952**-Firemen and Auxiliary Policemen have been asked to volunteer as air spotters in Cheektowaga until enough persons are secured to operate the ground observation post at Town Hall.

**Fall 1952**-U-Crest Hose Company but their Maxim Quad into service.

**September 30, 1952**-A Ladies Auxiliary reorganization meeting was held at Forks Hose with Mrs. George Farnoff elected as President of the New York State Ladies Auxiliary presiding.

**1954**-The Forks Hose Company Junior Drum Corp was organized under the direction of Herbert Schalberg, Dolly Schalberg, Robert (Bones) Schalberg, and Lawrence (Bozzie) Schalberg. Raymond Bull was their first President and Patricia Nowak its first leader. They performed throughout New York State and Ontario.

**January 20, 1954**-Seven people including three crew members were injured when a twin-engine Convair crash landed about 200 yards west of George Urban Boulevard between Dean and Dick Roads in Depew. Firefighters from U-Crest and Pine Hill responded.

**February 28, 1954**-At 3:40 a.m. Firefighter Lawrence Storrey, 29, who lived at 174 Hyland Avenue across from Urban Hose discovered a fire at the firehouse, activated the siren, and then hitched the fire truck to his car and towed it outside. The fire caused by an oil stove explosion, caused $10,000 in damages to the firehouse, fire truck, and 900’ of fire hose. U-Crest and Pine Hill spent about two hours assisting Urban Hose in putting the fire out.

**March 16, 1954**-Just weeks after the fire at their firehouse, the Building Committee for Urban Hose Company was planning to rebuild and expect the work to take about 3-4 weeks.

**March 31, 1954**-Fifteen children died in a fire that swept through a one-story annex of the Cleveland Hill Elementary School on Mapleview Drive. Nineteen other children and three adults were sent to area hospitals, half of whom were in serious condition.

**April 13, 1954**-A memorial service was held for the fifteen children who died as a result of the school fire, at the Cleveland Hill School Auditorium. The fifteen children were: Blaine Poss, Elizabeth Lies, Marlene Dupont, Bruce Brand, Barbera Watkins, Vema Bagley, Michael Hause, Patricia Steger, Reba Smith, John Mendofik, Patricia Blendowski, Suzanne Jors, Donald Kelleher, Marlene Miller, and George Hoffman.

**April 24, 1954**-Rescue Hose Company No. 1 which marked its 50th year last year held a celebration in the new fire hall located at 72 Randolph Street near Doat.

The new hall is a one-story modern building of Roman-face brick and colored concrete blocks on the site of the original structure. The old fire fall is a former school building of School District No. 10 and had been a town landmark for more than 50 years.

**September 25, 1954**-A dedication in Cheektowaga Town Park of a granite monument at fifteen crabapple trees as a living tribute to the memory of the fifteen children who perished in the Cleveland Hill annex on March 31st.

The ceremony was sponsored by the members of the Cheektowaga Garden Club who had planted the fifteen young trees last Spring in cooperation with town officials. The monument was donated by the Western New York Monument Builders Association.

**November 15, 1954**-The Town Board resolved that the request of the Board of Supervisors for permission to use the police station at town hall for the installation of a radio transmitter in connection with the Erie County fire radio system granting to the county and its employees to have control and access to the transmitter, be granted. This resolution was passed in compliance with request contained in resolution of Board of Supervisors passed by it on September 15, 1954.

**July 6, 1955**-The Town of Cheektowaga started a new system sponsored by the Erie County Medical Society that will have local physicians or specialists closest to a medical aid call dispatched to the scene.

**August 2-5, 1955**-10,000 visitors were expected for the 47th Annual Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen’s convention hosted by the Town of Cheektowaga. Doyle No. 1 Member George Herman was President of the association.

**1956**-U-Crest purchased a new Maxim No. 1 pumper. It replaced their old Buffalo.

**March 6, 1956**-A torrent of rain and lighting swept through the town causing severe flooding and a fire. Four children, two adults and a dog were rescued from a home at Union and William Streets. About 30 firefighters from Doyle No. 1 and 2 and Bellevue waded through waist deep water to fight a fire at the Harris Welding & Fabricating Co.

As rain fell at a rate of 2” an hour hundreds of calls came into Police Headquarters for flooded streets and basements with 4’ of water. Cheektowaga Disposal Plant No. 2 on Harlem and Clinton Street suffered $50,000 in damages.

**June 14, 1956**-Both the Doyle and Forks Fire Districts received permission from State Comptroller Arthur Levitt to extend the boundaries of their respective districts. Both areas were undergoing extensive development at the time.

**July 5, 1956**-Cheektowaga Town Health Officer Dr. Louis Vendetti offered a plan to solve the towns inability to obtain physicians for emergencies. He said the town will be divided into four or five districts and have one doctor on emergency duty for one 24-hour period each week in each district

**July 20, 1956**-Urban Hose Chief James K. Denning, and Secretary of the Cheektowaga Fire Chiefs Association conferred with the Town Attorney about the new town Fire Prevention Code that was adopted differs from the code they recommended.

Officials of other towns studying the code raised a question of the constitutionality of Section 103, which states: “*The Board of Fire Commissioners of each established Fire District shall have the power to inspect or cause to be inspected by the fire chief or their inspectors all buildings and premises, including the interior of private dwellings, as often as may be necessary for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable to cause fire*”

It was pointed out that the Constitution protects the householder from search without a court order.

**October 7, 1956**-The Forks Hose Ladies Auxiliary is once again disbanded.

In 1957, a new subdivision was being built off Dick Road called “Homeworth Estates.” The Urban Hose Company, located at 179 Hyland Road, had originally protected this area of the town but disbanded due to the lack of manpower.

Two members from that organization, Larry Story and Leo Wagner, started to canvas the new homes recruiting men to start up a new fire company. A third member, Roman Gawronski, joined their team. Through the efforts of these three men Hy-View Hose Company #8 was chartered on October 29, 1959, with a starting roster of 20 members.

It was the birth of a fire company that would begin with nothing but an old fire truck, an old building, and no money. The organization appointed Jesse Hyde as its first Fire Chief and Charles Bickert as its first President.

**June 9, 1957**-About 1,000 volunteer firemen from ten companies stood inspection by district fire commissioners. Equipment, trucks, buildings, and firemen were inspected, and an open house followed at each company.

**July 1, 1957**-After long negotiations and being unable to purchase land west of their firehouse, Hunt Realty was able to obtain land east of the firehouse from Church Homes nursing home at a cost of

$14,500.

**September 11, 1957**-Cleveland Hill Fire District voters pasted a proposal for $20,000 to purchased 60 home radio receivers for alerting their members. Cleveland Hill was the first fire company in town to have home radio receivers.

**1958**-U-Crest replaced their old Dodge panel truck with a new first aid truck.

**March 7, 1958**-In one of the most unusual calls for Forks Hose occurred when a baby boy was born in the firehouse at 11:58 a.m. on this day. Baby Scott Fitzgerald was born to Helen Fitzgerald, 27 years old, of 10 North 15th Street in town.

**1959**-U-Crest added a second addition to their fire hall.

**October 15, 1959**-Hy-View Hose Company received notice that they have been chartered. The company was housed at the time in a garage located at 179 Hyland Avenue.

**1960-Population 84,056**

**March 21, 1960**-A contract was awarded to Joseph Berzczynski Contracting Company for general construction of a four-bay addition and alterations to the 3330 Broadway Forks Hose Company fire hall for $200,00.00

**August 25, 1960**-A dedication was held for St. Joseph’s Intercommunity Hospital and on September 8th, it opened to the public.

In the Fall of 1960, the Hy-View Board of Fire Commissioners asked the wives and mothers of their firefighters to form a Ladies Auxiliary to assist the fire company with their social functions. Their first President was Helen Kerl.

**April 24, 1961**-A meeting was held regarding a proposal to organize an Exempts Association at Forks Hose Company. The purpose was to promote the intellectual, moral and social welfare of firemen having five years or more of active service.

**September 28, 1961**- Cheektowaga Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Association is seeking to establish a central dispatching unit that would be manned 24 hours a day by four men. Cheektowaga Police now dispatch to the 11 volunteer fire companies in the town.

Albert Forrest, president of the association, said with the central dispatch office, calls would automatically be recorded on tape. The dispatcher would then locate the fire, notify the department involved and route equipment.

Forrest said the cost of the service could be included in the town budget.

The association also emphasized that firemen want to be called on all first aid cases. Police now answer emergency calls and frequently call fire department first aid squads.

The firemen also requested that a medical plan be established, providing a doctor for emergency calls at all hours.

The association seeks a general meeting on these questions with the town board, police commissioners and representatives of the Erie County Medical Society.

**November 15, 1961**-The Forks Fire Company Benevolent Association was formed to promote and develop the fraternal spirit of fire company members at times of distress and needs, visit the sick and aid family members in times of bereavement.

**December 9, 1961**-A multiple alarm fire destroyed the old Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad roundhouse at the foot of Roland Street in Sloan. About 200 firefighters hampered by subfreezing temperatures, a stiff breeze, and light snow battled the blaze until for about two hours. Damage was put at around $500,000. Sloan was assisted at the scene by Cleveland Hill, Doyle No. 1 and 2, and Pine Hill.

**January 21, 1962**-The Forks Hose Company Exempts Association was finally organized.

**June 10, 1962**-A $28,500 fire truck for the Sloan Active Hose Company was blessed and dedicated on the Halstead grounds.

**1963**-U-Crest put into service Truck No. 4, a 1,000-gallon pumper.

**June 5, 1963**-a memorial stone was erected next to the main fire hall of Forks Hose Company dedicated to the deceased brave men who voluntarily served their community.

**July 14, 1963**-Fire destroyed a one-story concrete and frame structure used as a garage repair shop and storage by the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation located at 2150 William Street in Sloan. Damage was estimated at $100,000 and brought about 100 firefighters to the scene from Sloan, Doyle 1 and 2, and Forks, South Line and U-Crest stood by.

**July 15, 1963**-The Cheektowaga Town Board approved a resolution dissolving the South Line Fire Protection District and establishing the South Line Fire District No. 10. The residents of the district had petitioned the Town Board in June of 1963 to dissolve the old fire protection district which was handled by contract.

**December 21, 1963**-A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Sloan Fire Hall at the future site at 55 Gates Avenue.

**April 1, 1964**-A motion was made by Doyle No. 2 Member Joe Fox at their monthly meeting to ask the Cheektowaga Central Council of Volunteer Firemen to erect a memorial somewhere in town for deceased firemen. Inquiries were sent to all town fire companies which resulted in unanimous approval for the monument. George Herman appointed delegates to the Memorial Monument Committee.

Those members were: Chairman: Lawrence Chirico, Co-Chairman: John Ball, and James Heider, Francis Gerstner, Allen J. Blackhall, Alex Pikula Sr., Clifford Walter, Alex Milutinovic, Henry Ksiezarczyk, Charles Samul, Thaddeus Jackowski, Ralph Cardenuto, and Salvatore E. Pirro.

Permission to erect the monument in Cheektowaga Town Park was granted by the Town Board when Councilman Alancin M. Fath offered a resolution and moved its adoption which was passed unanimously. The monument was financed by contributions from all accompanies in Cheektowaga plus individual donations from Thaddeus Jackowski, Chester Kirchmeyer, and Henry E. Mueller.

**April 7, 1964**-Doyle No. 1 and 2 were joined by Bellevue, Sloan, South Line and U-Crest Fire Companies in a joint drill that involved burning hundreds of cars in the junkyard at Marks Auto Parts located at 1978 William Street.

**May 4, 1964**-A fire broke out at the home of Rescue Hose Company Fire Chief Daniel Tybor at Walden and Wanda Avenue. Later in the year at their Installation Dinner held on November 19th Firefighters Norman Giczkowski and Norman Lemicz were credited with rescuing the Chief along with his wife and two children by guided them to safety.

**June 4, 1964**-The Cheektowaga Chiefs Mutual Aid Association informed the Town Board that it wants to establish a “Fire service dispatch center”.

**August 2, 1964**-The new $165,000 Sloan Active Hose Company fire hall was dedicated at 55 Gates Avenue.

**October 13, 1964**-Voters of Cheektowaga Fire District No. 8 approved two propositions for improvements, costing $130,000 for the Hy-View Hose Company. Proposition 1 approved in a 270 to 215 vote was for a $100,00 to purchase an acre of land to construct a new fire hall. Proposition 2 approved $30,000 to purchase two new fire trucks by a vote of 291 to 192.

**November 10, 1964**-Volunteer firefighters from six different fire companies battled flames for nearly four hours at the Allied Bitumens plant at 505 Como Park Boulevard causing an estimated $400,000 in damages. Doyle No. 1 and 2 assisted Bellevue along with Forks, Bowmansville and U-Crest.

In 1965 a group of men put on a drive to have a fire training tower built in the Town of Cheektowaga but were unable to due to lack of funds. The town agreed to donate two acres of land near Cheektowaga Town Hall if the county would erect a tower.

John Geck of Pine Hill, Sage Kamholz and William Arnold of Cleveland Hill, and Roman Gawronski of Hy-View were appointed to a committee to contact other towns and fire companies to gain support for placing the fire tower in town.

The committee along with Town Supervisor Daniel Weber and the Town Board were successful in convincing county officials that Cheektowaga was the best and most centrally located site to erect the tower.

**December 21, 1964**-The Town Board resolved to create the following positions, one (1) senior fire dispatcher and four (4) fire dispatchers, and the supervisor is hereby directed to make the necessary requests for civil service examinations for said positions to the Erie County personnel officer.

**April 22, 1965**-The Forks Hose Company will provide the town with space for its new central fire alarm system at least for the foreseeable future. The Town Board agreed to locate the alarm system at Forks and to accept bids on automatic equipment as soon as the towns Fire Chiefs have prepared specifications.

**June 7, 1965*-***The Cheektowaga Town Board approved a transfer of land at Cheektowaga Town Park for a memorial in honor of deceased volunteer firemen. The stone marker will be placed at the site under the sponsorship of the Central Council of Volunteer Firemen.

**August 26, 1965**-The voters of the South Line Fire District have authorized the spending of $51,700 for a new fire hall and $2,300 to buy land for a future site. By a 40 to 27 vote, a one floor, two bay fire hall on an 80’x200’ lot on Boxwood Lane was approved. The new building will serve the residential area of French Road as well as Gardenville Industrial Park, whose owners donated the land.

A second proposition requesting the purchase of a strip of land next to the fire hall at 931 French Road was approved by a 49 to 18 vote. Plans for the future would utilize this land for the construction of a new fire hall.

In 1966 Hy-View Fire Company dedicated their new three bay fire hall at 8 Airport Drive.

In 1966 Forks Fire Company dedicated a new pumper which was blessed at the ceremony along with a monument to be dedicated to the memory of the 46 deceased members of the fire company.

**September 14, 1966**-Forks Fire District awarded a bid to Young Fire Equipment for a 1966 Ford 100 g.p.m. pumper with a 400-gallon tank, standard transmission costing $27,996.00

**December 1, 1966**-A joint fire alarm office agreement was signed by nine fire districts in Cheektowaga including the Village of Sloan.

**August 12, 1967**-The Cheektowaga Town Board voted to cancel its contract with Bowmansville Fire Department to service the northeast corner of town and transfer the contract to the Hy-View Hose Company. The area involved ran from Exit 49 of the New York State Thruway on the north to the Depew Village line at Rehm Road on the south, west of Transit Road to Sugg Road just east of Westinghouse.

**September 24, 1967**-The Cheektowaga Volunteer Firemen’s Memorial was dedicated. Doyle No. 2 Member Joe Fox was instrumental in this project. The monument was sponsored by the Cheektowaga Central Council of Volunteer Fireman.

**October 14, 1967**-The new Cheektowaga Police and Justice Court Building was dedicated. A $900,000 fire dispatch center and local Civil Defense quarters.

**October 14, 1967**-Fire struck the Valu Discount Department Store at Clinton and Rossler Streets just four days after their grand opening. 150 firefighters from nine fire companies fought the blaze. Doyle No. 2 Chief Joseph Maciejewski said the fire was touched off by a large rubbish fire outside the northeast corner of the 75,000 square foot building. The damages were listed at around $400,000.

**December 4, 1967**-The Town of Cheektowaga Fire Alarm Committee appointed its first six full time and one part time dispatchers to man the office 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The full-time employees were Chief Dispatcher Sage Kamholz, Norman Miller, Joe Courtine, Stan Witkowski, Frank Hoefler, Gil Schmelzer, and three part-time employee was Ken Blum. Their starting pay was $5200 a year.

**December 31, 1967**-The Cheektowaga Town Board voted to cancel its contract with the Bowmansville Fire Department for fire protection for the northeast corner of town on August 12th. The contract was transferred to Hy-View Hose Company effective this day.

**January 25, 1968**-The fire dispatchers office has taken up quarters in the new Police and Courts building on Union Road, the first of the agencies which will operate there. The dispatchers have found a home in the basement of the new building while painters, electricians and other mechanics are still at work all around them.

**February 22, 1968**-Cheektowaga will dedicate its new police-courts building with music, oratory, and colorful ceremony Saturday. The affair starts with an open house for the public from 11am to 4pm. The new $850,000 building will be festooned with Cheektowaga's official colors, gold and black. Suspended from the ceiling will be

two large "scales of justice" filled with flowers.

There will be music for this phase of ceremony. Dr. Louis Vendetti and his arrangements committee will have an organ wheeled into the lobby for a continuing recital by Harry Wick, whose selections will be piped throughout the building. About 250 State, County and Town leaders have accepted invitations to participate in an official program from 4 to 5 PM in the new courtroom. This is just about the capacity of the room.

Among them are State and County Legislators, the head of the Buffalo office of both the FBI and Secret Service, other law enforcement leaders, 80 per cent of the jurists in Erie County, educators, clergymen, presidents of civic organizations and heads of Cheektowaga fire companies. The Cheektowaga Central School Band under the direction of Joseph Surra will open this phase of the ceremony with a concert in front of the new building.

Dr. Vendetti has asked members of the Town Board and Town officials to be on hand at 3:30 PM to form a receiving line for guests. Judge Matthew Jason, newly elected to the State Court of Appeals, will be principal speaker. There will be congratulatory remarks also from Thomas A. Kennelly, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York and a noted federal prosecutor. Two Maryvale High school teachers, Joseph Stewart and Miss Elizabeth O'Neill, have written a song, "We Hold These Truths," especially for this private program. The Maryvale Chorale, directed by Mr. Stewart and Miss O'Neill will present this song.

Dr. Vendetti and members of the Town Board will make presentations to 16 civic and community leaders. These include Miss Florence T. Kaminski, principal of Grover Cleveland School and an educator here 35 years, and Miss Mary Ann Neilson, art teacher at Grover Cleveland, both of whom helped arrange the program and decorate the new building. Henry Cwiglinski, Commissioner of Auxiliary Police, at 3:45 PM will raise the flag for the first time on the pole in front of the building. the affair will end with a buffet for invited guests in the building from 5 to 7 PM.

**March 14, 1968**-Steven Marcynski, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of South Line presented keys to a new $32,000 pumper to Chief Edward Bender Sr. The pumper was the first piece of new equipment to be housed at the new substation on Boxwood Lane.

**May 26, 1968**-The 22nd Annual Central Council of Volunteer Firemen’s Communion Breakfast had just started at the parish hall of Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Church at George Urban Boulevard and French Road in Depew when it was interrupted by a fire at 3015 Genesee Street in town.

The fire destroyed a food market causing $40,000 in damages and injured two firefighters during the four-hour fire. U-Crest was assisted by Hy-View and Pine Hill at the scene.

**September 29, 1968**-The International Mineral and Chemical Corporation located at 2150 William Street in Sloan was destroyed by flames. About 120 firefighters from eight companies battled the blaze for more than four hours. Besides Sloan, Doyle 1 and 2, Bellevue, Forks, Hy-View, Rescue, and South Line assisted at the scene and Cleveland Hill stood by at Sloan.

**December 18, 1968**-The Cheektowaga Fire Dispatch office began operations in the basement of Police Headquarters at a cost of $80,000.

**1960**-Forks Fire District awarded another pumper to Young Fire Equipment . It was a Ford 1000 g.p.m. pump, 400-gallon tank, pre-piped deck gun, built in foam system, and an automatic transmission.

We’ve Reached Our Prime

**1970-Population 113,844** (Highest)

**January 1, 1970**-Cheektowaga Fire Control started using a new Squad System for alerting firemen to the hall. Squad 5 was for a wake; Squad 6 was for a special meeting and Squad 7 was for work details.

**July 20, 1970**-The Cheektowaga Town Board approved the sale of land at Nagel and South Creek for a substation for the Forks Fire District for $350.00

**September 12, 1970**-A bond issue was approved by 85 to 15 for $125,000.00 to build a fire hall and purchase a new 1000 g.p.m. pumper and rescue truck for the Forks Fire District.

**September 13, 1970**-Ceremonies were held at the site of the new South Line fire station at 1049 French Road. The ceremony included the placing of the cornerstone and a time capsule. The $295,000 building will house four firefighting and rescue vehicles.

**December 18, 1970**-Cheektowaga Patrolman Mervin D. Brewer, 39, died in St. Joseph’s Intercommunity Hospital after suffering an apparent heart attack while working at the dispatcher’s desk. Patrolman Brewer collapsed shortly after 8 a.m. After receiving first aid from the Forks Fire Company Rescue Squad, he was taken to the hospital where died about an hour later.

**June 3, 1971**-A contract was awarded to Modern Construction to build the Forks Fire District substation for $82,000.

**August 1, 1971**-The NFTA opened a brand new $342,000 Crash-Fire-Rescue building at the Greater Buffalo International Airport.

**July 18, 1971**-Buffalo Mayor Frank Sedita, Deputy Erie County Executive H. Dale Bossert and Cheektowaga Supervisor Daniel Weber were some of the dignitaries on hand for the dedication of the Erie County Fire Training Tower at a cost of $800,000.

**November 11, 1971**-Bids were awarded to the Springfield Equipment Company for a 1972 International Guardian rescue truck for the Forks Fire District costing $11,196.25.

**May 14, 1972**-An explosion and fire demolished the Sloan Super Duper Market at 2305 William Street. When Doyle No. 1 Chief Edward Kosobucki arrived the walls and roof had collapsed, and he sounded a second alarm. Other companies assisting at the scene were Bellevue, Forks, Sloan, South Line and Pine Hill

**October 7, 1972**-The Forks Fire District dedicated their sub-station in response to its growing district. Firefighters living north of Walden Avenue responded to the sub-station and those living south of Walden Avenue respond to the main hall.

**December 16, 1972**-Seven persons were killed and one injured when a twin-engine Cessna 421 crashed into two houses on Diane Drive during a blinding snowstorm. Hy-View firefighters were assisted by Cleveland Hill, U-Crest and Buffalo Firefighters stationed at the Greater Buffalo International Airport.

**January 19, 1973**-Buffalo Fire Commissioner Robert B. Howard said the city’s fire alarm box at Villa Maria College will be removed. The action was the consequence of a demand from the Cheektowaga Fire Chief’s Mutual Aid Association that city trucks stay out of the town unless specifically requested by the towns alarm office.

In September of 1972 the City of Buffalo removed its fire alarm box from the Immaculate Heart of Mary’s Children’s Home at William and Kennedy. Both actions followed criticism of the Buffalo Fire Department for responding to a December 16th plane crash at 116 Diane Drive in which six people died. The Cheektowaga Chiefs Mutual Aid Association contends that their firefighting equipment was not needed or requested.

The original fire box is now part of an exhibit at the Buffalo Fire Historical Society.

**February 6, 1973**-Eighty firefighters battled a stubborn fire in the automotive and repair shop at Allied Bittumens at 505 Como Park Boulevard in Bellevue’s Fire District. An unofficial damage estimate put the loss at around $300,000. Bellevue firefighters arrived to find the garage fully involved in flames. Doyle, Forks, Hy-View, South Line and U-Crest assisted at the scene.

**September 2, 1973**-A fire blamed on careless smoking claimed the lives of two men at the new Sheraton Inn-Buffalo East hotel fire on Walden Avenue which had only been open for five months at the time. On the day of the fire all 300 rooms, with an estimated 500-600 guests had to be evacuated. Firefighters from six fire companies assisted Forks at the scene.

**September 6, 1973**-A fire of unknown origin destroyed the Airdrome Roller Rink, a half century old landmark located at 4945 Genesee Street east of the Greater Buffalo International Airport. Seven fire companies battled the fire for several hours in order to quell the blaze. Chief James Hehr of Hy-View estimated the damage at $150,000.

**1974**-Forks was the first town to have a grove. The Memorial grove was built it two phases, the second phase was an addition added in 1975.

**1974**-A Forks pumper entered the City of Buffalo to man the firehouse at Abbott and Hollywood during a Buffalo firefighters work stoppage. Shots were fired through the building’s windows. The town Chief’s Association advised companies to only respond to working fires and not standby.

**February 5, 1974*-***It was announced today that Doyle Hose Company No. 2 placed first in New York State and fourth nationally in a fire prevention contest sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

**April 15, 1974**-The Forks Fire District was the first fire company in Cheektowaga to have a grove. The project was awarded to the Edway Construction Company for a 30’x60’ block building with two bathrooms, a storage area, and a kitchen.

**April 21, 1974**-Our new 1974 Young pumper was officially dedicated at a ceremony at our fire hall. All ten town fire companies were in attendance along with members of the Cheektowaga Town Board, Representatives of Young Fire Equipment, Erie County Fire Safety Commissioner John Wright and Buffalo Fire Commissioner Karl Kubiak. The pumper was built at a cost of $62,000.

**June 6, 1974**-A vacant one-story wood building that was scheduled to open as a market was destroyed by fire at Clinton and Harlem. The former Throughfare Market at 1050 Harlem Road had been vacant for two years but was being renovated in preparation for a grand opening. Firefighters from seven fire companies fought the blaze. The building was damaged by a fire three years earlier.

**August 26, 1974**-The Forks Fire District awarded a bid to Young Fire Equipment for a 1975 pumper with a 1000 g.p.m. pump for $65,000.00.

**January 25, 1975**-A new 1975 Young 1000 g.p.m. pumper was dedicated for the Forks Fire District.

**May 29, 1975**-Governor Hugh Carey called Doyle No. 2 Chief Mike Lisowski to Albany to present him a proclamation recognizing their company for their fire prevention achievements. They were honored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for their 1975 Fire Prevention program. Doyle No. 2 was rated third in the state and fourth in the nation in their national competition. Doyle No. 2 was the only local fire company ranked. They also placed first in Fire Prevention at the Western and Southwestern Conventions.

**June 6, 1976**-All the town volunteer fire and rescue organizations were honored by the Cheektowaga Bicentennial Commission for “their many sacrifices made in protecting the lives and property of the citizens of the Town”. Presentations were made by New York State Assemblyman Dennis Gorksi and Town Supervisor Kenneth Myers.

**July 19, 1976**-The Town Board approved sending Cheektowaga Police Detective Walter Lorka to the Fire & Explosions Seminar held in Chicago, Illinois on August 18th through the 20th, 1976 sponsored by the National Association of Fire Investigators. The seminar was funded by a grant from the Erie County Department of Central Police Services at no cost to the town.

**November 1976**-The Cheektowaga Fire Chief’s Mutual Aid Association and town police joined together to organize the area’s first snowmobile emergency squad. The venture had the approval of the New York State Parks and Recreation Department. Fork’s Chief and President of the association, Robert Germann, helped to create the squad.

The squad could put into operation only when the police department declared a State of Emergency. Town law prohibited snowmobiles from operating on town highways, but the squad was able to operate on any highways including the New York State Thruway. Cheektowaga was the first in Western New York and sixth in New York State to offer this service.

**September 26, 1976**-A total of nine fire companies participated in an evacuation drill at the Manor Oak Nursing Home on Harlem Road in the Cleveland Hill Fire District. “Patients” were played by members of the Western New York First Aid Simulation Team.

**January 28-February 2, 1977**-Only 4 ½” of snow fell during a winter storm that came to be known as the “Blizzard of ‘77”. The entire region was hit with 45 m.p.h. winds which brought the wind chill to -50 degrees. The storm caused the town to be paralyzed for days standing people in fire stations, in their homes and at work.

**February 10, 1977**-The fire commissioners in each Cheektowaga district formed an organization called the Cheektowaga Fire District Officers Association.

**April 6, 1977**-Four Cheektowaga fire companies responded to a call from the Buffalo Fire Department for assistance in fighting several fires or manning empty firehouses in the city after the Frontier Lumber Yard, Joseph Zoladz Lumber Company, as well as a food distribution warehouse at the Peter J. Schmitt Company all caught fire within 82 minutes of each other. Arson was believed to be the cause of the fires.

**July 1, 1977**-Cheektowaga Police Officer Robert A Burgess suffered fatal injuries after he was shot by a burglar who broke into the Sattler’s Drugstore at 2345 William Street near Harlem Road. Doyle No. 2 Firefighters Jim Koral and Tom Janowski performed CPR on Burgess and rode the ambulance to St. Joseph Intercommunity Hospital.

**July 20, 1977**-A mail plane operated by Corporate Air and bound for Rochester crashed through the roof of the Westinghouse Electric Corp. plant in Cheektowaga, killing the pilot and critically injuring a plant employee. The pilot of the plane, identified by officials as Eugene Snyder, was taken to St. Joseph Intercommunity Hospital in Cheektowaga, where he died shortly before 12:30 a.m.

1978-Forks Fire District put into service the towns first mini-pumper. The specialized vehicle, which was also a rescue truck, was outfitted with a 350 g.p.m. pump and a 250 g.p.m. holding tank.

**April 28, 1978**-New radio designations for fire chiefs were approved by the Erie County Fire Advisory Board and Erie County Fire Safety. Those designations were requested by Forks Chief Bob Germann. The designations for Chiefs were 9, 9-1, 9-2 and 9-3.

**July 4, 1979**-Pine Hill Hose Company assisted in quelling a riot in Cheektowaga Town Park buy splitting the crowd by driving their fire truck through the middle of it. Cheektowaga Police Deputy Chief John Gruber sent a letter of thanks to Pine Hill Chief Louis D. Dean that said in part, the firemen were, “unhesitant and effective” in helping to, “contain and quell the disturbance. “When an emergency situation arises, the residents of the Pine Hill Fire District can be assured they are in good hands”.

**July 8, 1978**-A Pierce Manufacturing Corporation mini-pumper was purchased from Churchville Fire Equipment Corporation for $30,991.00 for the Forks Fire District. It had a 350-gallon tank, 250 g.p.m. pump, and an electric power winch.

**March 17, 1979**-Fire struck the Forks Lumber Company at 2260 Clinton Street at 11:27 p.m. Firefighters from Cheektowaga’s eleven fire companies, four from West Seneca and one from Elma responded to the scene. Arson was believed to be the cause of the $400,000 blaze.

**October 8, 1979**-Fire companies throughout Cheektowaga were gearing up for a special fire prevention drill dubbed “Operation EDITH” at 7 p.m. EDITH stands for Exit Drills in the Home. Firehalls sounded their sirens promptly at 7 p.m. and continued for 2 minutes where participants throughout the town exited their homes simulating an emergency evacuation during a fire.

**1980-Population 109,442**

**January 5, 1980**-Doyle No. 1 and 2 responded to a structure fire at 2445 William Street where Cheektowaga Police Officer Philip Williams rescued 79-year-old William Piontek from the burning home.

**October 10, 1980**-About 100 volunteer firemen from seven area companies took part in a disaster drill at Garden Gate Manor Nursing Home at 2365 Union Road. The drill was designed to demonstrate “how community emergency services would respond to an explosion and fire at a 160-bed nursing home” Doyle No. 1 and 2, South Line, Forks, U-Crest and Twin District were at the drill ran by the Bellevue Fire Company.

**January 1, 1981**-The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority established their own fire department at the Greater Buffalo International Airport. It had been previously covered by the Buffalo Fire Department.

**August 17, 1981**-The Cheektowaga Town Board approved the appointment of Earl Loder as the first ever part time Disaster Coordinator for the town.

**October 26, 1981**-A bid was awarded to Keller Chevrolet for $9,507.69 for Forks Fire District to purchase a four-door sedan as their first Chief’s vehicle.

**December 13, 1981**-A dedication ceremony was held for Doyle No. 2’s new Emergency 7 rescue truck.

**February 20, 1982**-Doyle No. 2, Hy-View, Sloan, South Line and every Depew fire hall were collection points in the town for clothing and money to be sent to friends and relatives in Poland. The Committee to Help Our Friends in Poland and Doyle No. 2 Member Richard Moleski coordinated the drive.

**April 22, 1982**-The original section of the U-Crest fire hall at Clover Place near Union Road was demolished after the floor over the building’s meeting hall and kitchen was deemed unsafe. The floor had been built in 1928, housing trucks that were much lighter than the modern-day rigs. A $750,000 construction bond was approved by the voters the previous September.

**September 27, 1982**-The Hy-View Fire Company announced that the first female firefighter in Cheektowaga had been sworn in the fire company. Her name was Cathy Reiner of Pfohl Road.

**January 27, 1983**- The Cheektowaga Town Board hired its first official Fire Inspector at their regular meeting on the recommendation of the Town’s Fire Chief’s Association.

**June 6, 1983**-A referendum was approved for $55,000 plus interest to purchase a 1983 Ford Lexington Ambulance for the Forks Fire District. Yanked Coach Company and Corey Professional Vehicle Sales won the bid for $48,895.00.

**August 3-6, 1983**-Doyle No. 1 hosted the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen’s (SWAVF) convention. Doyle No. 1 Member Richard Ralicki was the current President of the organization at the time.

**September 1, 1983**-Gold Cross Ambulance started sharing calls within the Town of Cheektowaga along with Town’s Ambulance Service.

**November 7, 1983**-The Forks Fire Company was dispatched to Roger’s Manor on Brodway near Union for a reported structure fire and electrocution. When firefighters arrived on location they discovered a working fire and found a 22 year old male lying on the ground in front of the building in cardiac arrest.

Firefighters Vince Piasecki, Robert Decker, Robert Niedermayer, and Jeff Place performed CPR on the male while other firefighters attacked the fire. They performed CPR on the patient while the overhead electrical wires were burning and arching. The male ended up succumbing to his injuries, but the four firefighters were awarded the Gold Medal of Valor by the Cheektowaga Town Board for their efforts.

**November 18, 1983**-In the classic movie "A Christmas Story", Actor Bob Clark appears wearing a Cleveland Hill Fire Department No. 6 jacket during the scene where him and Actor Darren McGavin appear in the leg lamp reveal scene.

In 1984 to better designate the fire company’s function, Hy-View changed its name from Hy-View Hose to Hy-View Fire Company. Cheektowaga Fire District No. 8 also changed their name to Hy-View Fire District No. 8.

**January 16, 1984**-A bill making smoke detectors mandatory for every building in Town, effective July 1st swept to passage at the Cheektowaga Town Board meeting.

**March 18-23, 1984**-Cheektowaga Police Detective Walter Lorka was accepted as a candidate and was able to attend the first ever Police Arson Crime Scene School sponsored by the FBI in Quantico, Virginia.

**May 7, 1984**-An ordinance that created an Emergency Medical Service Board, which required registration, licensing, minimum equipment, and communications standards for professional ambulance services was adopted by the Cheektowaga Town Board.

**June 28, 1984**-Cheektowaga Town Board members recently named a 7.89-acre tract of landlocked property at the southeast edge of Stiglmeier Park as “Volunteer Firemen’s Memorial Park”

**August 21-26, 1984**-Erie County hosted the 112th Annual Convention of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY) at the Executive Hotel at 4243 Genesee Street in Cheektowaga.

In 1985 the firemen of Hy-View donated an extension to their fire hall to be used as a day room and weight room.

**January 19, 1985**-An “Alberta Clipper” hammered the area on Superbowl Sunday with a foot of snow causing white outs and sent temperatures plummeting to 80 degrees below zero.

**January 27, 1985**-The Board of Commissioners of the Forks Fire District approved the formation and operation of a Hazardous Materials Response team.

**April 17, 1985**-A taxpayer proposition was approved to purchase land west of the Forks firehouse from the Salvatore Lorigo family for future expansion.

**September 5, 1985**-The Forks Fire Company was dispatched to the corner of Walden and Union for a report of a male electrocuted. Forks Firefighter Michael Hockwater was first to arrive on the scene and discovered three construction workers on the ground, two of which were dazed and semiconscious while the third was motionless.

Bystanders on the scene reported that the three males were attempting to install a steel light pole when the top of the pole came in contact with overhead power lines and electrocuted them. Hockwater immediately initiated CPR until paramedics from Town’s Ambulance arrived on scene. He was eventually transported to ECMC.

The male victim, who was a Volunteer Firefighter from Lake Erie Beach, made a fully recovery and was able to return to work a week later. Firefighter Hockwater was awarded the Gold Medal from the Town of Cheektowaga for his life saving actions.

**October 1985**-Doyle No. 2 Member Thomas Krawczyk took over as FASNY’s Secretary after Marty Hynes passed away while in office.

**February 14, 1986**-A bid was awarded to the Young Fire Equipment Company for a 1250 g.p.m. pumper with a 1000-gallon tank, at a cost of $183,000.

**July 30, 1986**-The first simulated hazardous materials drill in the Town of Cheektowaga was held by the Forks Fire District.

**October 26, 1986**-The Cheektowaga Town Board provided $5,800 for the purchase of the town’s first Disaster Preparedness trailer which was to be used for incidents involving hazardous materials and mass casualty incidents.

**July 31, 1987**-An F-2 tornado packing winds of more than 100 miles an hour touched down in town ripping off the roof the Holiday Showcase Restaurant while customers and staff sought refuge in the walk-in cooler. The tornado also damaged 133 homes in ten minutes, creating 15 million dollars’ worth of damage.

**August 3, 1987**-The Town Board authorized Cheektowaga Police Sergeant Charles Shields to attend a seminar on cause and origin of fires at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, New York on August 10th through the 14th, 1987.

**August 30, 1987**-Cayuga Hose of Depew was the first company on location at that destroyed three businesses including C Kitchens, Interstate Tire Company, and Domtar Industries. Over 300 firefighters from 13 companies responded to the General Alarm fire.

**February 1, 1988**-As a result of the retirement of Arson Investigator Walter Lorka, the Chief of Police assigned Officers Dennis Gibbs and Ronald Jakubowski to investigate arsons. The two officers were promptly sent to a Cause and Origin Determination seminar at the New York State Fire Academy on February 1th through the 12th, 1988.

**February 3, 1988**-The first copy of the Bylaws for a Firematic Explorer Post at Doyle No. 2 was distributed to all members and the fire company agreed to establish a post.

**July 18, 1988**-Enhanced 911 (E-911) went into effect at Cheektowaga Emergency Dispatch.

**December 9, 1988**-An overnight General Alarm fire that destroyed the Harlem Genesee Nursery located at Harlem and Genesee Streets appeared to be arson. The fire caused an evacuation of about 150 residents in a three-block area in the immediate neighborhood.

**June 25, 1989**-The Town of Cheektowaga dedicated its Volunteer Firemen’s Memorial Park on Losson Road.

**October 12, 1989**-Almost two weeks into operation, the new Cheektowaga Public Safety Dispatch office seemed to be working well. The town combined the police and fire dispatch functions into one unit. The new office has been relocated to the first floor of the police headquarters at 3223 Union Road.

**October 16, 1989**-About 50 fire commissioners participated in a symposium on the state’s new service awards program for volunteer firemen held at the Doyle No. 1 Fire Hall.

**1990-Population 99,314**

**June 24, 1990**-Ceremonies in honor of the town’s firefighters were held at the Cultural Center in Cheektowaga Town Park. Volunteer Firefighters Recognition Day included a full slate of activities such as an All-Star softball game, displays of firefighting equipment, square dancing, a magician, tug of war, chili cook off and a Water ball competition.

**August 28, 1990**- Dispatcher's skill a saving grace in troubled birth – A Cheektowaga police dispatcher and Lynn Antonucci provided a telephone lifeline in the first minutes after her nephew was born Tuesday morning. Lynn called 911. "My sister-in-law just had her baby. Send an ambulance," she said excitedly.

Lynn also related David Antonucci's concerns that the baby appeared to be having trouble breathing and the mother, Maureen was hemorrhaging. Dispatcher Martin Schultz gave instructions on how to keep the baby's breathing passage open and control the mother's breathing.

As Schultz calmly gave instructions over the phone, Lynn related the information to David and Maureen. Fellow dispatchers Kevin Cross and Paul Hockwater called for an ambulance and Cleveland Hill rescue unit. When Lynn related that the baby was turning blue, Schultz gave instructions to check the baby's mouth for mucous, tap the feet and pat the back to expel any foreign matter in the baby's mouth.

Schultz, 30, who has been a dispatcher for a year, also is an assistant chief of Pine Hill Volunteer Fire Company. He has had training and experience in emergencies during 13 years as a volunteer firefighter. Mother and baby were reported doing fine late Tuesday in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital in Amherst.

**March 25, 1991**-A referendum was approved to purchase a 1991 GMC Suburban to be used as a first aid vehicle for the Forks Fire District.

**October 28, 1991**-Bids were received for a 1992 Ford model LN-8000 heavy-duty custom-built fire/rescue rig. The bid was awarded to Saulsbury Fire Equipment Corporation represented by William Shoemaker Associates for $274,945.00.

**December 12, 1991**-A special election was held for the Forks Fire District authorizing a defined pension benefit award program (LOSAP) to take effect January 1, 1992

**August 19, 1992**-Once again the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York held its convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Cheektowaga hosted by the Erie County Volunteer Firemen’s Association. A 130-unit parade traveled from the Thruway Mall to Town Park.

**November 9, 1992**-A special election authorized a 4,800 square foot four bay addition and reconstruction of the Forks main firehouse at 3330 Broadway at a cost of $990,000 maximum.

**November 12, 1994**-The Forks Fire District dedicated their new four-bay addition and $990,000 renovations to the main firehouse on Broadway.

**November 13th, 1992**-The largest fire in Cheektowaga history occurred when the former Immaculate Heart of Mary Children’s Home at 2600 William Street was set on fire bringing 27 fire companies from all over Erie County manning 51 pieces of apparatus over, It took three days to fully extinguish.

**December 1, 1992**-U-Crest Fire Company responded to a structure fire at the Town of Cheektowaga Sewer Pumping Station on Central Avenue. Forks, Pine Hill, and Rescue Hose assisted U-Crest at the scene at Hy-View Fire Company stood by at their hall. The building sustained an estimated $160,000.00 in damages.

**May 22, 1993**-An unresponsive women was rescued from her burning home at 25 Hutchens Drive by Cheektowaga Police Officers Neil Held and Brad Hebler shortly before Bellevue Fire Company arrived. Officer Tom LaBelle began CPR and Sergeant Brian Gould connected her to an AED.

Upon arrival firefighters from Bellevue to control of CPR and extinguished the fire. The victim was taken to St. Joseph’s Hospital for treatment.

**December 28, 1993**-Two men died, and a third man was injured as a bomb detonated at the Armed Motor Services of America (AMSA) armored car depot at 58 Ellicott Road in town. It was later determined that the bombing was a result of a much large family dispute which involved four additional bombings and three other bombs found in other locations all over New York State.

**April 7, 1994**-Eight fire companies were needed to quell a daytime fire on Cochrane Street. An estimated $92,250 in damages were sustained to the building. Doyle No. 1 and 2 were assisted on the scene by Bellevue, Sloan, South Line and Winchester and Forks and Seneca Hose stood by.

**April 23, 1994-**Former M.A.S.H. television star McLean Stevenson, Chairman of the Children’s Burn Foundation and a Spokesman for First Alert Home Safety Products participated in Kids Safety Day at the Walden Galleria Mall with J-F.I.R.E. of Western New York.

**June 1994**-J-F.I.R.E. of Western New York was officially incorporated. The organization was founded by Jim Guy of the South Line Fire Department.

**July 22, 1994**-A fire at Fontana’s Restaurant in the Valu Plaza sparked a General Alarm response that caused an estimated $500,000 in damages after a lone driver informed a toll collector of smoke drifting across the New York State Thruway. The cause was listed as combustible materials stored too close to a hot water tank. Don’s Auto Parts, and China Buffet sustained minor smoke and water damage because of the fire.

**September 25, 1994**-A 9mm automatic handgun was found in the fields to the rear of 5099 Genesee Street following the Lancaster Speedway shooting that left two dead and several others injured. Hy-View firefighters helped Cheektowaga Police search the field where the weapon was recovered after Officer Scott Scharlau pursued a motorcycle tied to the shooting and the suspect ditch the bike.

**March 7, 1995**-Two Town’s Ambulance employees used their ambulance to rescue several people from a fire at 2334 William Street near Harlem Road around 1:30 a.m. when they spotted the fire. The pair pulled their ambulance onto the sidewalk next to the building and assisted the fire victims onto the roof and slid them down the windshield to safety.

**April 5-8, 1995**-The National Volunteer Fire Council held their Spring meeting at the Radisson Hotel on Genesee Street in town.

**August 14, 1995**-Arson was cited as the cause of a fire at the Holiday Inn Hotel located at 4600 Genesee Street in town. Damage was expected to climb to as much as $250,000. Every town company was on scene except Doyle No. 1.

**October 23, 1995**-U-Crest Fire Company responded to the old Westinghouse plant at 4454 Genesee Street in town. The fire went to a General Alarm, bringing all town companies as well as Bowmansville, Depew, and Lancaster. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries.

**1996**-In an effort to secure some of Hy-View’s history, the company set out to locate and repurchase its original fire engine No. 1, the 1949 Dodge nicknames “Old Betsy”. The antique was refurbished and is currently used as a parade vehicle.

**1996**-The Cheektowaga Police Department’s put into service a new mobile Fire Investigation Unit that was funded through a government grant for used military ambulances.

**June 21, 1996**-A bid was received and awarded to the Simon Ladder Towers, inc. represented by William Shoemaker to manufacture a Simon LTI 85’ 3-section stell fire apparatus body, a Simon Duplex 4-door custom chassis by Spartan Motors, a Hale 2000 g.p.m. single stage pump, 500 gallon tank, with a 7500-watt Onan diesel generator at a cost of $574,891.00.

**November 30, 1996**-Hy-View Fire Company responded to a structure fire in a trailer home on Calla Way assisted by Cleveland Hill and Bowmansville while U-Crest Fire Company stood by at Hy-View’s fire hall.

**December 6, 1996*-***Doyle No. 2 held a dedication ceremony for their new Engine 3 and for the two bay addition to their fire hall.

**December 13, 1996**-Cleveland Hill Assistant Chief Dan Kishbaugh rescued a cat and a dog from a residential structure fire on Glendale Lane. Pine Hill and U-Crest assisted at the scene.

**1997**-The Hy-View Fire District started Phase 1 of a fire hall expansion to six bays which included a new Chief’s Office, Commissioner’s Office, classroom/training room and weight room.

**July 2, 1997**- Cheektowaga residents calling 911 during a medical emergency can expect more instruction over the telephone while waiting for help to arrive. Cheektowaga’s police-fire dispatchers began using new procedures Tuesday to provide callers with standard medical support during such emergencies as burns, breathing problems, cardiac arrest, lacerations or falls.

The dispatchers never were trained to give medical information over the telephone until the town spent $30,000 this year to have Medical Priority Consultants train the 24 dispatchers in emergency medical dispatching. Although there are three dispatchers who are paramedics and two who are emergency medical technicians, officials realized it was important for all dispatchers to be skilled in disseminating medical information over the phone.

The new system provides dispatchers specific medical information at their fingertips. It provides a step-by-step protocol to guide callers through specific medical emergencies while an ambulance is on the way to the scene, police officials said. A key is for 911 callers to remain calm while the dispatchers ask the appropriate questions, said Lt. Cheryl Rucinski.

“You just have to remain calm, stay on the phone and do what the dispatchers tell you”, added Bob Fetzer, a Cheektowaga dispatcher. A town committee created in July 1996 to study this issue recommended that dispatchers have the training to ensure a prompt, efficient response to emergency calls. The alternative of transferring calls to someone else wastes valuable time, the committee said.

**February 26, 1998**-New York State Lieutenant Governor Betsy McCaughey Ross and four passengers escaped injury when the plane they were riding in failed to achieve enough power to takeoff crashed at the Buffalo International Airport. Buffalo Airport CFR responded to the scene.

**March 11, 1998**-Bellevue responded to a basement fire that extended to the first floor at a residence on Birchwood Drive. Doyle No. 1, Forks, South Line and Twin District assisted Bellevue at the scene and East Seneca stood by at Bellevue.

**May 26, 1998**-A suspicious fire broke out at the historic Forks Hotel located at 3251 Broadway at Union Road which had closed earlier that year. Forks was assisted by Bellevue, South Line and U-Crest at the scene. The building sustained $100,000 in smoke and water damage and was eventually demolished in 2003.

**November 9, 1998**-No contamination was found at Queen of Martyrs Church on George Urban Boulevard in town however they closed its rectory Monday after a letter sent to the church stated that it was contaminated with the anthrax virus.

According to Lieutenant Cheryl Rucinski, a secretary at the church opened the letter, which stated “By opening this letter, you have been exposed to the anthrax virus.” Cheektowaga police were called shortly after 2 p.m. According to police, eight people, along with a dog, were forced to stay inside the church. Three priests, a cook, a police officer, a postal inspector and two secretaries needed to be decontaminated.

The procedure took eight hours before those inside were released and sent home, told to stay only in limited contact with other people until the conclusion of the anthrax tests being done on the letter and envelope. Cheektowaga police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Erie County Haz-Mat team, U-Crest Fire Company and other safety personnel and Erie County Medical Center doctors were on the scene Monday night.

Those who were in the rectory had to take three showers as part of the contamination process. One was with bleach, the other with soap and the final one for rinsing purposes. The eight people were also given new clothes and put the old ones in a plastic bag. At press time, the rectory was still closed pending results from the FBI testing the letter. That part of the building was expected to be closed for 72 hours.

According to Earl Loder, Cheektowaga’s disaster coordinator, emergency personnel congregated at the Erie County Fire Academy on Union Road and put together a caravan that went to the church. Everyone was briefed on the situation. Loder said that those being decontaminated were taken into nearby trailers by ambulances. The threat of the possibility that the people in the rectory may have been contaminated by the bacteria made the situation much more volatile, said Loder.

“I did not want anyone else being allowed into the rectory,” said Loder. “I know this bacteria and it is very dangerous.” Personnel were on the scene until midnight; Department of Defense officials also helped out with the incident. They happened to be in town for a seminar on domestic violence, Loder said and offered suggestions and support to the situation.

“In a case like this, you have to assume the worst,” said Dr. Anthony Billittier of the Erie County medical Center. “It would be very unlikely for anyone to acquire the anthrax bacteria through the air.” Billittier added that everyone in the building was given penicillin as a protective measure.

There have been conflicting reports as to where the letter came from. Originally it was thought to be sent from Illinois. Buffalo FBI Special Agent Paul Moskal confirmed that it was actually sent from Texas.

Moskal also said that there have been similar incidents around the United States in the past 10 days, including Indiana and Illinois. An anthrax scare also took place Tuesday, the day after the Cheektowaga situation, at a church in Rochester.

The Buffalo FBI office has been in contact with other offices throughout the country to investigate any possible connections. “We’re checking to see of any similarities from this incident to the others,” said Moskal.

The letter is currently being tested at Fort Dietrich, M.d., a U.S. Army base near Washington D.C. a forensic exam is being done to examine DNA, hairs and fingerprints to determine any leads or suspects. Once the study is done, officers will know for sure whether or not the letter was contaminated.

Moskal said that there is not enough information at this point to determine why Queen of Martyrs was a target for this letter. He added that it is too preliminary at this point to determine whether this incident is related to antiabortion activity that has swept Western New York and the rest of the nation.

“Nothing has surfaced at this point,” said Capt. Thomas Rowan, commander of the investigative division. “We are not aware of anything that would make this church a specific target.”

According to Rowan, local police will continue working closely with the FBI as well as the U.S. Postal Service on this matter. He added that whether a letter of this type might strike again in Cheektowaga would be pure speculation.

According to Moskal, anthrax causes people to have flu like symptoms, with fluid buildup in the lungs and respiratory problems. Skin infection is also a symptom, Billittier said. Officials have said that none of the people in the church have acquired such symptoms at this point. Moskal also pointed out that in the other occurrences around the nation, tests have come out negative with the anthrax bacteria.

The FBI is the lead agency in this type of situation by presidential order, Moskal said. He also said that any person or persons who would intend to threaten to use a weapon of mass destruction such as anthrax could get a penalty of life in prison. Cheektowaga police were expected to have a car on patrol at the church until Thursday, Rowan said. The investigation will continue.

**August 21, 1998**-Erie County legislators announced that the J-F.I.R.E. program will be re-established, and authorization has been received to fill the position within Erie County government.

**August 26, 1998**-Sloan Active Hose responded to a structure fire at Trio’s Lounge on Broadway in the Village. Doyle No. 1 and 2 worked hand in hand with Sloan and Buffalo Fire to extinguish the fire.

**January 22-24, 1999**-Due to near 60-degree temperatures the piles of snow from the record setting snowfall of January melted too much snow too fast causing wipe spread flooding in town. The Union/William intersection was closed for hours with police, Doyle No. 1 and 2, and Bellevue the busiest having to evacuate residents.

Doyle No. 1 and 2 battled a shed fire at Williamstowne apartments on Friday. Clarence Center responded mutual aid with their hovercraft and Hy-View, U-Crest, Rescue, Pine Hill, Sloan, and Depew assisted with row boats.

**July 19, 1999**-A tanker carrying 11,500 gallons of gasoline overturned on the New York State Thruway eastbound exit ramp to the Route 33. Forks Fire Company were assisted by Bellevue, Buffalo Airport FD, CD-132, Cleveland Hill, and U-Crest assisted at the scene. Companies from Depew and Lancaster filled empty fire halls through the town. All the companies involved received The Fire Fighter Newspaper’s Excellence Through Teamwork award for their work at the incident.

**August 4-7, 1999**-Doyle No. 1 hosted the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen’s Convention which included a chicken BBQ on Wednesday, a first aid competition on Thursday, a comic parade on Friday and the Grand Parade on Saturday.

In 1999 the Hy-View Fire District completed Phase 2 of remodeling their fire hall’s original section built in 1966.

**November 19-21, 1999**-A severe snowstorm hits the area. Firefighters all over the town were pressed into action standing by for four days.

**2000-Population 94,019**

**January 7, 2000**-Residents of Cheektowaga will benefit from funds secured by Senator Bill Stachowski and Town Supervisor Dennis Gabryzak to purchase defibrillators for the all the Town’s fire companies.

**March 9, 2000**-Cleveland Hill responded to a residential structure fire on Manlon Terrace that caused an estimated $70,000.00 in damages. Pine Hill and Snyder FAST assisted at the scene and Rescue and U-Crest answered two EMS calls while on standby.

**March 30, 2000**-Past Doyle No. 2 Member and New York State Assemblymen Paul Tokasz was recognized by the New York State Association of Fire Chief’s for his effort to pass a law that allows fire chiefs to perform a background check on fire department applicants to determine if they have an arson conviction.

**August 17, 2000**-Past Doyle No. 2 Member and New York State Assemblyman Paul Tokasz was presented with the Golden Trumpet Award by the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York at their convention in Syracuse.

**November 20, 2000**-The Town of Cheektowaga was hit was a snowstorm that dumped 25” of snow making roads impassable and stranding hundreds of people. All 10 of the town’s fire companies were opened to stranded motorists and answered emergency calls all night long.

**December 17, 2000**-A male victim was rescued from a second-floor apartment but later succumbed to his injuries at a residential structure fire on Genesee Street. Pine Hill responded along with mutual aid from Rescue Hose and Cleveland Hill firefighters stood by at Pine Hill.

**August 9, 2001**-Forks Fire Company responded to a large brush started by a down high-tension power line. Twenty mile and hour winds and 90-degree heat caused the fire to intensify rapidly. Forks required mutual aid from Bellevue, Depew, South Line and U-Crest.

**November 1, 2001**-All the towns fire companies and the Village of Sloan held a “Fill the Boot” fundraiser seeking donations for the families of fallen New York City firefighters killed in the 9-11 terrorist attacks. $87,000 had already been counted by representatives believing the final total would exceed $100,000.

**November 26, 2001**-Fire caused extensive damage to Runwayz Nightclub at 207 Youngs Road. Hy-View responded with mutual aid from Depew, Main Transit, and U-Crest. A flashover occurred which cause firefighters to evacuate the building. Damage was estimated at over $200,000.00.

**December 26-30, 2001**-Another snowstorm hits the town dumping snow for four straight days. Roofs all over town were collapsing due to the weight of the snow. The storm was later dubbed the “7-foot storm”.

**2002**-Firefighters in Cheektowaga are the first in Erie County to switch to a UHF radio band for communications on their own frequency.

**July 29, 2002**-Bids were received for a lease/purchase agreement for Forks Fire District for dual Saulsbury 1500 g.p.m. custom pumpers with Spartan Gladiator chassis represented by William Shoemaker Inc.

**August 2002**-FASNY Convention in Cheektowaga

**November 26, 2002**-Rescue Hose battled a fire in a vacant home on Reo Avenue that spread to an adjacent structure with help from Cleveland Hill, Pine Hill, and Sloan.

**October 28, 2002**-One firefighter sustained a minor injury in a fire at Cleveland Hill Elementary and High Schools touched off by a welder’s torch. Around a dozen Cleveland Hill Firefighters fought the fire that damages three classrooms and caused an estimated $80,000.00 in damages. Approximately 1,650 students and 150 staff were evacuated to alternate locations.

**October 29, 2002**-Cheektowaga Police Detective Wasyl Potienko died when his vehicle was hit by a recycling truck and spun into oncoming traffic on Broadway in Sloan. The car was the struck on the passenger side door by a pickup truck. Detective Potienko’s vehicle was ejected as a result of the accident. Doyle No. 2 assisted Sloan, spending 30 minutes cutting one of the victims from their vehicle with the Jaws of Life.

**February 17, 2003**-A torch being used to thaw frozen water pipes set off a fire that sent Pine Hill firefighters to the scene. Pine Hill was assisted by Bellevue, Cleveland Hill, Depew, Doyle No. 1, Forks, Hy-View, South Line, Snyder, Williamsville, and U-Crest. The structure was slated for emergency demolition.

**June 16, 2003**-A fire at a Kenville Road apartment building fueled by gasoline took the lives of two people. Cleveland Hill firefighters responded to the early morning fire and were able to save a third victim. Pine Hill, Rescue, U-Crest and Snyder FAST assisted Cleveland Hill at the scene and Hy-View Fire Company stood by at their firehouse.

**December 14, 2003**-The Forks Fire District dedicated two Saulsbury 1500 g.p.m. pumpers at their main fire hall.

**May 23, 2004**-Six area residents safely made it back to land after their canoe and raft tipped over in a turbulent Cayuga Creek created by heavy weekend rain. Firefighters from Depew, Lancaster, Doyle No. 1 and 2, East Seneca, Union, Vigilant, Winchester and U-Crest assisted Bellevue with setting up 10–15-man points along different access points to the creek.

**November 20, 2004**-Forks Fire Company responded to a structure fire at the old Union Road School. The building was fully involved on arrival.

**June 30, 2006**-An F-1 tornado with wind speeds of 100-110 mph touched down at 14:44 hours and for ten minutes and caused a three-mile path of destruction in the center of town causing extensive damage.

**August 2006**-FASNY Convention in Cheektowaga

**October 13, 2006**-Less than three weeks from the last day of summer a thundering lake effect slammed the area knocking out power to 100,000 homes and creating havoc for travelers. The storm fueled by Lake Erie’s 60-degree water, created a heavy snow that sent branches crashing to the ground damaging homes, cars and power lines. The storm was later dubbed the “October Surprise”.

**March 6, 2007**-South Line Fire Company responded to a residential structure fire at Brookedge and Borden where a pet dog died.

**June 26, 2007**-A 78-year-old women died, and a neighbor suffered a fatal heart attack after rushing down the street to help at a residential structure fire at 111 Croydon Drive. Bellevue responded to the early morning fire along with help from Forks, South Line, Twin District, and U-Crest.

**August 22, 2007**-Cheektowaga was host of the 135th Convention of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York. The event was held at the Millennium Hotel on Walden Avenue.

**March 12, 2009**-The Forks Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire on Nantucket Drive with reported entrapment. The resident was observed in an upstairs window gasping for air. Assistant Chief Kurt Spieler gained entry through the front door, crawled through the smoke to the second-floor bedroom and guided the pregnant women to safety.

**2010-Population 88,226**

**February 16, 2010**-The Forks Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary had their first meeting after being reactivated after company approval on February 3, 2010.

**December 2, 2010**-The southern part of the Town of Cheektowaga was pounded with over three feet of snow during a two-day storm. TheNew York State Thruway was closed after it became a parking lot due to abandoned vehicles.

**2011-**The Town of Cheektowaga False Alarm Ordinance finally was approved by the Town Board. The ordinance was written by Forks Fire Company and lobbied for by Chief Michael Hockwater for many years.

**September 6, 2013-**The Doyle Fire District christened two new fire trucks at a ceremony held at the Creekside Banquet Facility at Union Road and William Street. Father Joe Bayne, Erie County Emergency Services Chaplain blessed Doyle No. 1 Truck 6 and Doyle No. 2 Engine 3 during the ceremony.

**December 26, 2013**-Rescue Hose Company recently elected Sue Bull as their first ever female Assistant Fire Chief.

**August 14, 2014** – N706GS, a 2013 Piper PA-28 crashed upon takeoff from runway 23. The short flight reached an altitude of 200–300 feet before landing on BNIA property and ending up in a premium parking lot southwest of the terminal. The occupants, Bing Shen, 39; his six-year-old son; and the pilot, certified flight instructor Anastasia Goldowsky, were treated and released from the Erie County Medical Center. The flight was a plane for hire scheduled for an afternoon of sightseeing.

**November 19, 2014**-The southern part of the Town of Cheektowaga along with Central Erie County was buried with over 5 feet of snow shutting down all major highways and roadways in the area. The storm was later dubbed, “Snowvember”.

**August 23, 2017**-The Buffalo Niagara International Airport Fire Department opened a new $11 million fire station at a new location at 120 Amherst Villa Road in town.

**November 2, 2018*:*** A dedicated was held for Doyle No. 2’s new Squad No. 2 at their firehouse.

**July 16, 2021**- Rescue Hose was first due at a fire at a storage facility located at 1746 Dale Road which eventually became a General Alarm.

**2020-Population 89,877**

**December, 2021-**James Wilson from Rescue Hose Company became the town’s first Afro-American Fire Chief.

**January 17, 2022**-Doyle No. 1 and 2 responded to a commercial structure fire at A&F Wholesale Insulation at 2260 Clinton Street. Forks’ Chief arrived first on location and reported the building fully involved. Bellevue, Sloan, Forks, South Line, Winchester, Union, Seneca Hose and Twin District responded to the scene to assist.

**November 17-19, 2022**-A Lake Effect snowstorm hit western New York dumping over 3’ of snow throughout the town shutting down all major highways and roads in the area. A driving ban was put into effect for most of Erie County for three days.

**December 23-26, 2022**-Western New York was hit with blizzard conditions including gusts of over 70 m.p.h. and snow fall accumulations of over 3 feet over a three-day period during the Christmas holiday. From Friday December 23rd to Tuesday December 27th Cheektowaga received a total of 52” (4’3”) of snow.

**April 20, 2023**-At 7:30 a.m. Doyle No. 1 and 2 were dispatched to a reported structure fire with people trapped on 239 North Pleasant Parkway in Cheektowaga. Bellevue, Forks, Sloan, Twin District FAST and Cheektowaga Emergency Manager (CD-131) Mike Mazurkowski were dispatched as mutual aid. By the time the first fire units arrived Cheektowaga Police Officers had assisted in rescuing several occupants from the *structure.*

Doyle Tower 6 and Engine 3 arrived soon after and quickly extinguished the fire that was in the living room at the front of the house. A total of two adults and two children were removed from the structure and transported to area hospitals by AMR Paramedics. The family dog was also rescued from the home. Five Cheektowaga Police Officers were treated for smoke inhalation other injuries and released at the scene.

**September 12, 2023**-The Doyle Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners held a referendum vote to secure a bond to purchase the old orphanage property at 2600 William Street to build a new firehouse combining Doyle No.1 and 2. The bond was for $1,200,000.00. The proposition past 313-197.

**December 27, 2023**-Forks Fire Company responded to a carbon monoxide incident at the Holiday Twin Rinks on Broadway. They had readings of over 4,000 ppm, 30 times higher than safe levels. There were over 100 patients with symptoms in total.

**Important Cheektowaga Fire Organization Dates**

1903:

Rescue Hose Company No. 1

Doyle Hose Company No. 1

1908:

Bowmansville Volunteer Fire Association

1909:

Sloan Active Hose Company No. 1

1911:

Relief Hose Company No. 2

Forks Hose Company No. 2

1924:

Doyle Hose Company No. 2

U-Crest Hose Company

1927:

Pine Hill Hose Company

1934:

Cleveland Hill Hose Company

1942:

Buffalo Airport Fire Department

1944:

Urban Hose Company

Four-Town Fire Company

1946:

South Line Fire Company

Tiorunda Fire Protection District No. 2

1948:

Bellevue Independent Fire Company

1957:

Hy-View Hose Company

1968:

Cheektowaga Fire Dispatch

1971:

Erie County Fire Training Tower

**Celebrating 125 Years of Organized Fire Protection in Cheektowaga in 2028**