

Hose Company No. 2

In the early 1920's, there seemed to be an interest by the residents of the New Cassell area in forming a volunteer fire company.

At the department meeting of April 23, 1923, this matter came to the meeting room floor for the first time. No doubt that this matter was discussed in earnest. To check into the feasibility of an additional company or companies to the department, Chief Henry Buck appointed a committee to investigate the proposal. The committee was comprised of Ex-Chief William McKenna, Deputy Chief Thomas Renison and Department Clerk James Riley.

For the next six months, this topic was discussed at both Officers and Department meetings. Mr. Daniel Kinsella and Mr. Paquale Simonetti were invited to attend the Officers meeting of September 10, 1923, as representatives from New Cassell. There were concerns about manpower and the availability of equipment to outfit the new company or companies. When Chief Buck asked the two representatives just what equipment they thought they would need to start the company, their response was, "whatever equipment was available was okay with them."

This matter was once again discussed, this time at the department meeting of October 16, 1923. This meeting was attended by all the members of Hook & Ladder #1 and Hose Company #1. The membership voted at this meeting to allow the formation of two new companies in the New Cassell area - Hose Company No. 2 and Hook & Ladder Company No. 2.

In November of 1923, the following names were submitted to the town board of the Town of North Hempstead for their approval:

Daniel Kinsella
Frank Palmese
Manny Palmese
Edward Albertson
Joseph Connors
Phillip Cassese
Michael Swass
Anthony Iovino
Charles Doxey
Peter Catapano
Pasquale Simonetti
Carmen Catapano
Anthony Tafuro
Angelo Cassese

Joseph Summa
Anthony Palmese
Emil Brusino
Charles Connors
John J. Schultz
Eugene Albertson
James Brusino
Salvatore Romano
Morris Tafuro
William Mender
Anthony Nataro
Frank J. Schultz
Vincenzo Delia
Fred Tafuro

On December 18, 1923, Hose Company No. 2 and Hook and Ladder Company No.2 were accepted by the Westbury Fire Department.

The first Captain of Hose 2, which at the time was called the Foreman, was Daniel Kinsella. Assisting Foreman Kinsella was Frank Palmese and Recording Secretary Anthony Palmese. These men formed the first board of Officers of Hose 2. The title of Foreman was change to Captain in April of 1926.

As for Hook and Ladder Company No.2, there are very little records of this company and quick disbanded in 1932.

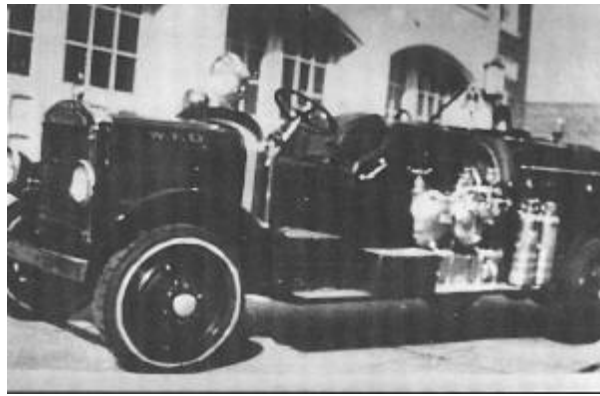
The original company quarters was located on Broadway, between Sheridan and Seigel Streets in New Cassell. The building consisted of a two-bay truck floor and a meeting hall on the second floor. The Company was housed here from the inception in 1923 until 1932, when the company joined the other two companies in the newly completed fire headquarters on Maple Avenue.

One of the biggest problems facing the young company was how to raise funds to provide assistance to needy fireman and to help promote some social activities. The funds necessary to support these items were done in various forms, such as "Tag Day", when the firefighters approached motorists and ask for contributions; parking cars and selling of refreshments at the annual Italian Feast held in Westbury. Some members also sold refreshments at the football league of Nassau County. Another means of raising money was showing movies at the firehouse, where a projection booth had been constructed. Firefighters acted as ticket takers, ushers and projectionists. The movies were well attended, since this was the main source of entertainment (there was no TV or massive movie theaters there are today) and the price was right. The biggest fund raiser however, was the selling of raffles for prizes such as a ton of coal, cord of wood, bags of flour, etc. The biggest social event of the year, was the New Year's Eve party, which cost a grand total of \$1.00. This price included food, drink, and music; a far cry from today's exorbitant prices for entertainment and social activities.

The company today is comprised of about 50 members. The apparatus consists of three Class A pumpers. Two are located at Fire Headquarters on Maple Avenue and the other is at Station 2 on Old Country Road. One of these Pumpers, 969 was delivered early in 2011.



Members of Hose 2 in front of fire house (1923)



Hose 2 - 1925 Reo Hose & Chemical Truck

Hose Company No. 2

Captains of the Company

Daniel Kinsella

1923-1925

Martin Summa

1929-1941

Peter Purrazzella

1947-1948

Martin Summa

1952-1953

Adam Hojnacki

1960

Frank Cassese

1964-1965

Robert Kammerer Sr.*

1968-1969

Italo Vacchio*

1974-1975

James Ellerby

1981

Michael Casali

1988

Frank Hojnacki

1993

Gary Bartunek

2001

Joseph Summa*

1926-1927

Amil Piscitelli*

1942-1944

Anthony Martiello*

1950-1960

Frank DiGaetano*

1954-1957

Joseph G. Palmese

1961

Joseph Riccardo*

1966

Simone Russo

1970

Bart Zaino

1976

William Palmese*

1982

Frank Hojnacki

1989-1991

Michael Rice

1994-1997

John Bartunek

2002

Anthony Massell

1928

Joseph Summa*

1945-1946

George Normandy

1951

Joseph F. Palmese

1958-1959

Ralph Summa

1962-1963

Donald Wiesneski

1967

Angelo Riccardo

1971-1973

Frank Cassese

1977-1980

Robert Borra*

1983-1987

Michael Rice

1992

George Perrin*

1998-2000

Italo Vacchio

2003

John Bartunek

2004-2010

Todd Weiss

2010 - Current

* Later became Chief of Department