

In The Line Of Duty...

In the early morning hours of Sunday, July 11, 1926, tragedy struck the Westbury Fire Department.

At approximately 2:25 am, the sirens sounded in Westbury for fire at the Lords estate in the Wheatley Hills area of Old Westbury. Firefighters Thomas Malaney and Chief Tom Walsh ran to the quarters of Hose Company No 1, as they had done for years.

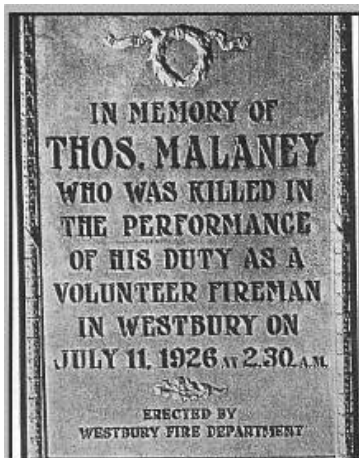
As the Company 1's LaFrance engine rumbled out of the firehouse, Tom Malaney jumped aboard the rear step. Joe Krupp was operating the apparatus, with Bill Hoffman riding in the passenger's side. Chief Walsh was riding alongside the driver on the running board.



The pumper was responding east on Maple Avenue, when the accelerator on the engine became stuck. The driver Joe Krupp, worked frantically in an attempt to release the accelerator. The traffic device at the intersection of School Street, known as the "dummy cop," was directly in the path of the fire truck. The roads were wet and slippery from rain. "Steady fellows!" shouted the driver, I can clear the front wheels, hold tight!"

The pumper skidded into the "silent cop," the left rear wheel of the engine striking the base of the traffic signal. The engine leaped into the air, landing at a right angle some twenty-feet away. At the moment of the collision, Firefighter Malaney, had one arm through his turnout coat, and, was attempting to put his other arm into the coat. The force of the collision threw firefighter Malaney up and over the side of the pumper, where he struck his head.

Chief Walsh was also thrown from the pumper and when Joe Krupp and Bill Hoffman ran to his aid, he shouted "Tom Malaney was on the rear step!" Firefighter William Knoller found Tom and rushed him to the Nassau County Hospital in the Lincoln Hose Cart, where firefighter Malaney was pronounced dead on arrival.



On Wednesday July 14, 1926, a Mass was held for Firefighter Malaney at St. Bridgid's Church. The church was filled to capacity, with the entire department in attendance, as well as members from the surrounding towns. Following the services, Firefighter Malaney's body was laid to rest in the cemetery on the Church's grounds.

A plaque in honor of Firefighter Malaney's supreme sacrifice was dedicated on December 13, 1926, with funds donated by Mr. Lord. The plaque depicted below, as it appears in fire headquarters today.

Actual Article From Westbury Home News of July 16, 1926

Circulating in Westbury, New
Cassel, Wheatley Hills, Carle
Place and Old Westbury

Westbury Home News

SERVES ALL, FEARS NONE
A hometown paper for all the
people and for the advancement
of the communities in
which it circulates.

WESTBURY'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

VOL. 1, No. 25.

WESTBURY, NASSAU CO., N. Y., FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1926

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FIREMAN KILLED, CHIEF INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT LAST SUNDAY

"Tom" Malaney and "Tom" Walsh Thrown off "Pumper" at Maple Avenue and School Street On Way to Fire in Old Westbury.

THE DEAD

Malaney, Thomas
36 years, single, plumber, Maple Avenue.
Skull fractured; death instantaneous.

THE INJURED

Walsh, Tom, Fire Chief
Contusions of head, arms and chest.
Attended by Dr. C. Woods

McKenna, Herbert
Eight stitches taken in scalp.

Early Sunday morning Fire Company No. 1's Pumper skidded into the "silent cop" at Maple Avenue and School Street.

Westbury Woman Dies After Collision

Mrs. Marie Martin Hurled Through Windshield.

Mrs. Marie Martin, 23, wife of Ernest Martin, of Westbury, died in Nassau Hospital Wednesday afternoon, as a result of injuries received in a collision Wednesday morning at Hempstead, between a car in which she and her husband were riding and another driven by Reginald Roode, of Uniondale.

The cars collided at the corner of Cross and Front streets. Mrs. Martin was thrown through the windshield, struck a telegraph pole and rebounded to the platform of a nearby grocery store. She was rushed to Nassau Hospital, where it was found she was suffering from a fracture of the skull, cuts and contusions.

Martin was cut from flying glass. Roode was uninjured and assisted in getting Mrs. Martin to the hospital. Mrs. Martin was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Knipping of Westbury.

The new Wheatley Hills Golf Club is nearing completion. When finished it will be one of the most up-to-date club houses on the Island.

The next time Leo attends a meeting he will please leave his hammer home.

The regular monthly meeting of the Fire Department was held on Monday evening. The new members elected were: Frank Godesky and Howard Palmer.

The E. W. Town Firemen voted to purchase more equipment, which is very badly needed here.

The news of the death of Mrs. W. Cunningham in Aiken, S. C. ten days ago was a great surprise to all. Bill

TOM MALANEY

Awakened in the dead of night,
By the shrill siren's bell.
Tom Malaney's one thought was—
Of those caught, in fire's hell.
He grabbed on anything at all;
And with Tom Walsh, answered the call.
As down the street they both pulled-melled;
On the pumper jumped, as the siren swelled.
To do his duty—do his share,
They skidded, the driver jammed on the brake—
But alas! it was too late.
Crash! they hit the silent cop.
Poor Tom Malaney went "over the top".
He came down with a thud, the life
Gave out amidst the noise and strife.
A frightened crowd around him grew;
They seemed to know he'd not pull through.
A ghastly silence fell around
Brave Tom, who lay there on the ground.
Goodbye old man, that's why we're here;
To serve in some just way,
You gave your life for Westbury,
In a brave Westbury way,
For years to come, I know your name,
Will be on every tongue;
The Volunteer who gave his life,
Oh! may your deeds be sung.

SIMPLE SERVICES HELD FOR WESTBURY'S DEAD FIRE-HERO

Town in Mourning As Faithful Citizen, Churchman, and Fireman is Buried—Father Moran Says a Few Simple Reasonable Words

INQUEST INTO DEATH OF FIREMAN THOMAS MALANEY

Coroner Heberer of Hicksville Finds Cause "Due to Unavoidable Accident"

The inquest into the death of Thomas Malaney, a member of Hose Company No. 1 Westbury Fire Department, which occurred Sunday morning at 2:55 at Maple Avenue and School Street, Westbury was held Tuesday night. A. B. Heberer, Justice of the Peace, of Hicksville, presided.

The inquest into the death of Thomas Malaney, a member of Hose Company No. 1 Westbury Fire Department, which occurred Sunday morning at 2:55 at Maple Avenue and School Street, Westbury was held Tuesday night. A. B. Heberer, Justice of the Peace, of Hicksville, presided.

The finding was that the "deceased" came to his death by falling off a fire truck while in the performance of his duty. Unavoidable accident.

Only two witnesses were examined. "Joe" Krupp, driver of the truck, and "Bill" Hoffman, who was seated alongside of Krupp. Chief "Tom" Walsh, who was also injured, was unable to attend.

The following testimony was adduced at the hearing. About 2:55 a. m. Sunday morning two men pulled into Westbury and notified Officer Most that there was a fire in Old Westbury, in either a new house or one being reconstructed. The two strangers, who are thought to have come from Glen Cove, explained that while they could not name the exact location of the fire, they could lead the firemen to it.

An alarm was then sounded. The first fireman to reach the fire house took the Willys Knight chemical car, turned right on Post avenue into Maple and followed the stranger's car to the scene.

John Dowling took the Lincoln and followed the stranger's car to the scene. The injured fireman was carried to the ambulance which was just coming out of the garage.

As the Lincoln drew up at the hospital the ambulance was just coming out of the garage.

The injured fireman was carried to the ambulance which was just coming out of the garage.