



BOX 42 NEWSLETTER

"Serving the fire community since 1942"

October 2016 - (all images: click twice to enlarge)

MEETING INFORMATION

Normally meetings are held on Saturday late in the month at various fire stations.

The October meeting will be at 1000 hrs on Saturday, October 8th

at [Detroit Walter Harris Fire Training Academy](#)
[10200 Erwin Ave, south of Lynch](#)

FDNY Loss on September 11

Since the 9/11 attack of 2001, a great deal has been written and discussed about the massive loss of life resulting, including civilians as well as police and fire personnel. The 15th anniversary which was recognized last month brought renewed coverage and analysis of what occurred.

Although it's commonly known that a lot of the loss was incurred by FDNY, it's hard to grasp the number of lives affected.

An excellent documentary on the tragedy was created by Jules and Gedeon Naudet. The filmmakers were working with the department at the time of the attack, following the experiences of a department probie. Their footage was later released as the film "9/11."

This clip from the film's closing gives a gripping visualization of the FDNY loss.

To view the clip (3:30) [\[click here\]](#).

Bombs Detonated in New York and New Jersey

In the evening of Saturday, September 17th, a bomb exploded on a Manhattan street injuring some 30 persons. It was one of eight bombs found or exploded in four locations in New York and New Jersey that weekend.

One bomb had exploded Saturday morning in Seaside Park, NJ, near the starting line of the "Semper Five" race, organized to support US Marines. The device which exploded in Manhattan was an adapted pressure cooker, as was one found a few blocks away that failed to go off. Five more pipe bombs were found on Sunday near the train station at Elizabeth, NJ.

This clip covers the FDNY radio traffic from the first transmission of Box 615 for the explosion on W. 23rd Street near 6th Avenue.

To listen to the clip [\[click here\]](#).

Bronx Central Office

While we're looking at FDNY, here's a short clip that describes the Bronx dispatch operations. It was produced in over 20 years ago by FDNY as a promotional film which aired at the time on public access TV.

To view the clip (5:30) [\[click here\]](#).

Bronx Central is still there, at 1129 E. 180th St. In fact, there are still a lot of street boxes in the Bronx, as efforts to end their use have met resistance, as such would affect the poor and disabled. For those interested, this is a listing of the over 2850 box locations in the Bronx, along with their first due companies.

To see the box listing [\[click here\]](#).

And here is a sample of the radio traffic in the Bronx. With numbered streets and avenues, box numbers, and three digit rig numbers, it must make for a challenge for the dispatchers, but they sound very adept.

To hear the audio clip [\[click here\]](#).

CONTACT US You can contact Box 42 by US mail or email. Submissions are always welcome and highly encouraged.

email: box42@box42.net US mail: **Box 42 Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 1810, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1810**

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Please contact us at above address to be added to the mailing list - view online multimedia content at: JAYMR.COM/B42

September Meeting in Gibraltar

A good turnout was present as Deputy Chief Bill Cain welcomed the group and gave us the scoop on the all-volunteer department. An added bonus was the visit to the Gibraltar Museum, upstairs from the fire hall. The wonderful display of city history, including, of



John and Bill Reardon
(photo by Bill Rosenblum)

course, the Gibraltar Fire Department is curated by Dorothy Wood with able assistance from her husband John Wood (a Gibraltar firefighter).

The coffee and cookies in the shape of fire helmets and hydrants were a nice touch.



Chief Bill Cain shows off the Gibraltar Museum
(photo by Bill Rosenblum)



Dorothy Wood
(photo by Nancy Lee)

Reader Comments

From Jim Leininger

Sorry I missed the box 42 picnic. I would have liked to meet Dave Fornell - used to read his articles. I'm just getting over a bout with congestive heart failure but things are just getting back to normal. Keep those newsletters coming!

From Ted Main

We have a plant in Gibraltar formerly McLouth Steel. One of my responsibilities. Gibraltar Fire Department was always helpful during my tenure with McLouth. Sorry, I can't make the meeting. A few notes on the Visiting Fireman. Ed Damaschke was a member of Box 42 in the 1960's. When Cathy, Tami, Tarra and I moved to Naperville we bought a house about a mile away from the Martins. When they published the VF, several of the fire fans (Chicago Term) would receive the call from Mae Martin "the book is here". That meant a fast run to the Martins to help send out the VF. Too bad the Detroit video did not include the firemen's field day. Thanks for a great job.

From Dave Traiforos

Just wanted to drop you a line to say hello and wish all the members of the Box 42 Club a good meeting. I have been to MI a great deal lately but it has not been working out to attend some of your great events. Getting closer to the move to MI ... looks like Hamburg Twp for our future home. Stay safe and well please say hello to everyone for me.

From Len Williams

My health continues to improve -- Dr. Lewis

just left & reported that my condition improved dramatically overnight, following last afternoon's initial dialysis session.

From Benjamin Beytekin

Thank you so much for the picnic! It was so nice and the ride on the fire boat was fabulous. I just finished the post process of the pics - here's the link: [\[Click here\]](#). I also read the newsletter and was surprised to see my name :-)

From Carol A. Rosenblum

Thank you for inviting us to the Box 42 Picnic ... We had lots o' fun and it was a very pleasant day. (Plus, David enjoyed the boat ride.)

From Sharon Juergens Korn

Bill, great picture of you... and the fire boat in front of the ren cen is frame worthy!

From Dave Fornell

From all accounts, the Box 42 picnic yesterday at Fireboat-1's quarters was a rousing success. Hats off to Capt. Scott Reynolds and deckhand Katie Riley for all their efforts, especially the trip upriver and the demonstration for members on the photo boat. The Detroit Fire Department was honored to be a part of the festivities.

And a little story from Wayne Isken

At E53 L 25 Sq 7 Fenkell and Greenfield we were trying to rid ourselves of pigeons. We had devised blowguns from long plastic pipes and hat pins ... it was working OK. They were up on the siren porch 2 1/2 stories high. Interfering with the siren tests and pooping on our clean cars ... we had eliminated a dozen or so and were feeling

(continued, next page)

Wayne Isken, continued

pretty good about ourselves (this was a very busy house except for the room divider also known as L-25). We had the situation under control until one day a lady came in screaming from the bus stop. She was a very large lady and claimed she was bitten by a bee ... so we got the box off the squad and tried to help her ... much to our chagrin a red tipped hat pin was stuck in her behind ... she couldn't see it being well over 300 lbs. We got that out iced down the "bee sting" and got her a cup of coffee ... She thanked us and went on her way ... A few days later we were confronted by a deputy chief and our battalion chief and were presented with a unit citation ... The woman had called and written a letter to the fire commission about the good boys at the big house ... I was so ashamed ... we never knew whose hat pin had missed the mark and hit that poor lady waiting for a bus ... However we invited her up for dinner and told her to bring a guest ... She brought 5 kids for lunch ... ON THE OTHER UNIT!

Public Safety -- Downed Power Lines

Retired DFD arson chief John Tucker sent this safety video, produced by Puget Sound Energy of Washington. Puget Sound has produced dozens of similar promotional and public safety videos.

To see the video [[click here](#)].

Coming events

Tuesday, October 18th, 7:30
53rd annual Breakfast With the Detroit Fire Dept.
Cobo Center, Grand Ballroom A

Several local fire departments host open houses and other activities during October's fire prevention week. This is a partial list:

October 2nd
Commerce Twp, 1485 Oakley Park Rd, 12-3
Rochester Hills, all five stations, 12-3
Sterling Heights Station 4, 12834 15 Mile, 11-2

October 7th
Farmington Hills, 31455 W. Eleven Mile, 3-7
Rochester Hills display, Meijer lot - Rochester at Auburn, 7-9

October 8th
Birmingham, 572 S Adams, 1-4
Wixom, 1345 N Wixom Rd, 10-2
Royal Oak Station 1, 215 E Sixth Street, 11-2

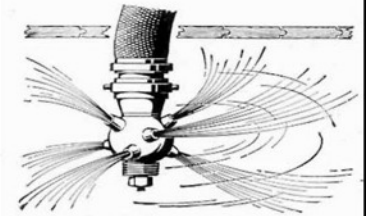
October 9th
Bloomfield Township, 4200 Telegraph, 12-4
Hazel Park, 22830 Russell Street, 11-1
Rochester City, 277 E Second, 12-3
Troy, all six stations, 1-4

October 15th
Shelby Township, 6345 23 Mile Rd, 10-2

October 16th
Clawson, 111 Gardner, 12-3
Clinton Township, 12-3, 42601 Romeo Plank

The Box 42 Newsletter welcomes all ideas for input and features and would be happy to hear from any interested persons who have job stories, historical information, newspaper clippings, photos, or other material that you would like to share with the Box 42 community. Please send all news and information to the address on the front page.

Editors: Bill and Mike Rosenblum



WHIRLING DERVISH

Unique among the varied gadgets used by alert fire departments throughout the U. S. to extinguish fires and preserve property, the hydra headed Bresnan Distributor has a fire fighting specialty all its own.

Many a fire starts in a cellar, creating flames, gas and smoke which bar entrance to firemen. Enter then the whirling dervish through a hole cut in the cellar ceiling from above. Its swivel head, having from four to nine outlets, revolves under water pressure—and quenching streams are thrown over the area of the fire. Thus discouraged, the flames subside, the smoke dissipates, the gases desist.

The fire is out but damage has been done. And while the extent of the damage is generally obvious, the actual dollar value of the loss may be a moot point.

Particularly comforting to Atlantic policyholders, therefore, is Atlantic's 100-year record of prompt and ungrudging loss adjustments.



Equal source of self congratulation is the fact that Atlantic's profit-sharing dividends are paid to policyholders with no deductions for their individual losses.

Add to this the non-assessability of Atlantic policies, and the further advantage that they are sold through brokers, and you have compelling reasons for insuring your home and practically all kinds of personal property, such as furs, fine arts, yachts and jewelry with Atlantic.

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Time
Magazine

Monday,
June 15,
1942

DETROIT CALENDAR

Fire truck buff got his start in '40s Detroit

BY LEONARD W. WILLIAMS

I was raised in the Northwestern High School area of Detroit, although I graduated from Cass Tech. My mother still lives in the same house on Scotten Avenue that she and my late father moved into as newlyweds on June 15, 1932. That was a beautiful

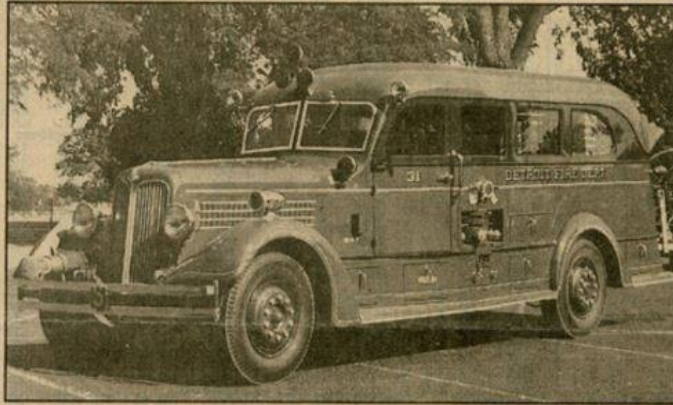
MICHIGAN MEMORIES

neighborhood in those days, and the recent restoration of an apartment building at West Grand Blvd. and Scovel shows what can be done with the many fine old structures left in Detroit.

I attended Wingert Elementary School on West Grand Blvd., which was built in 1907 on land donated by Fanny E. Wingert. She visited California and was so impressed by California architecture that she told the Board of Education that she would donate the land for a school if the board would let her specify the type of architecture. That offer was accepted. The school was actually built in two installments; the auditorium and gymnasium wing was added in 1923.

Wingert School is still in use, and across the street is the SHAR House, a recovery facility for various addictions. It was originally built in 1909 as the German Evangelical Home for orphans and old people, and continued to function in that capacity until the late 1940s. The facility moved to Outer Drive after a disastrous four-alarm fire in the summer of 1946.

The fire would have been an even greater disaster had it not been for the fire station at West Grand Blvd. and Cobb (built in 1908), which housed Engine Co. No. 31, Rescue Squad 4, and Batt. Chief 5. As a fire buff, I now



Len Williams now owns the 1938 Seagrave Pumper from his old neighborhood fire station at West Grand Blvd. at Cobb.

own the rig that Engine 31 operated at that time, and I have had it professionally restored.

My father was born and raised in Indiana, but his mother's sister had moved to Detroit in the early 1900s. She lived on Stanford, near Cobb. Whenever my father's parents brought him to Detroit for a family visit, they came by train, then took the Grand Belt streetcar to McGraw and West Grand Blvd. That was the city limit; the streetcar line ended there, and they had to walk the remaining three or four blocks to his aunt's house.

When I delivered newspapers on Scotten Avenue in the late 1940s and early 1950s, one of my customers on Scotten, near Cobb, had lived in her house since 1917. At the time, to a young teenager, that seemed like she had been there since the beginning of the world.

In addition to being a lifelong fire buff, I have always been interested in history. My father was a Ford Motor Co. engineer. As a result, I read everything about automotive history that I could get my hands on in those days. In addition, one of the boys that I grew up with had an encyclopedic knowledge of the make and model year of any car that passed by. I acquired that skill from him, which then

complemented my book knowledge.

The Golden Anniversary of the automotive industry was celebrated in 1946. For me, there were two personal high points to that celebration. The first was an essay contest in the schools; the prize was tickets to see the "Quiz Kids" in a live radio performance at the Masonic Temple. There were two winners at each school, and each winner got two tickets. I was one of the winners at my school. I vividly recall going to the Masonic Temple with my mother, via the Grand River and Temple streetcar lines, and seeing the live radio broadcast.

The second high point was a four- or five-hour commemorative parade, filled with antique and classic cars, as well as new ones. In addition, the parade included the fire apparatus from the downtown stations, with fire fighters wearing their dress uniforms, complete with white gloves.

Leonard Williams is a certified public accountant in Sunnyvale, Calif. Watch for Michigan Memories on Thursdays. Send your story, with an accompanying photograph of the time, to Michigan Memories, Detroit Free Press, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48226. Please include your daytime phone number.

The Len Williams Story

After having health issues for many months, we were gratified to hear from Len Williams that his condition has "improved dramatically." Len is one of the longest members of Box 42. He moved in 1959 to Sunnyvale, CA, and is one of our most frequent newsletter contributors. Len, who turned 81 in August, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1956, and is the editor of *The Embers*, the newsletter for the Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley.

For those who don't know him well, the article at the left tells his story in his own words, and was published in the Detroit Free Press on August 26, 1993. We wish him continued improvement and look forward to his input during our discussions of "the old days."

Below: Len Williams posing with his rigs -- Engine 31, a 1938 Seagrave J-model, and a 1929 Ahrens Fox.

(photo by David Thompson)



Looking back ...

DFD Senior Assistant Dispatcher Earl Joyner and DFD shop mechanic Louis Scheich posed for a photo at the Box 42 meeting of February 21, 1975. We'd like to hear from any reader with an update on these men. (photo by Mike Rosenblum)

