



BOX 42 NEWSLETTER

"Serving the fire community since 1942"

April 2018 - (all images: click twice to fully enlarge)

MEETING INFORMATION

The April meeting will be at 1000 hrs on
Saturday, April 21st,
at [DFD Engine 42, 6324 W. Chicago](#),
west of Livernois
Luncheon to follow at Los Galanes
[3362 Bagley, Detroit](#)

**Please RSVP by Wednesday 4/11 to Nancy Lee
at nancy_lee_48150@yahoo.com**

Helicopter Crashes in New York City

All five passengers in a helicopter on a sight-seeing tour were killed when the craft crashed into New York's East River on March 11th. Among the victims was Brian McDaniel, a fire rescue officer with Dallas Fire Rescue, who was visiting New York. He had been on the job for less than two years. The pilot survived, but escape for the passengers was made difficult by safety harnesses used to allow flight with doors removed. The accident will likely bring a re-assessment of rules for such flights, which allow passengers to take unobstructed photographs as well as "shoe-selfies" of their legs dangling from the side.

Initial indications suggested that a passenger's bag strap may have snagged an emergency fuel shutoff. Flotation devices on the skids apparently failed to deploy properly, and allowed the cabin to turn over and submerge.

The clips below illustrate the quick response and the remarkable resources of New York police and fire in responding to this tragedy.

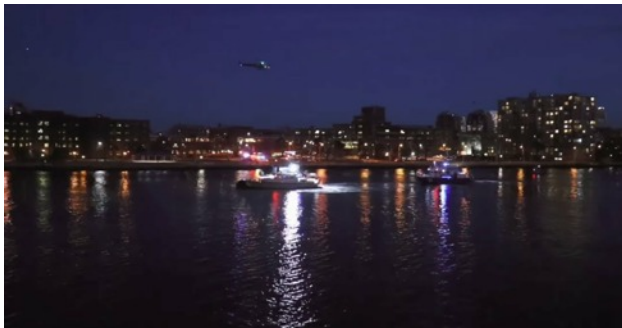


Photo: FDNY Response Videos

This clip, from NYCFireAudio, contains the FDNY Manhattan radio traffic of the incident.

To hear it (27:00) [\[click here\]](#).

And this video, posted by FDNY Response Videos, shows the initial response and members working the scene.

To see the video (21:00) [\[click here\]](#).

Meeting at Rochester

St. Patrick's Day found the members meeting at Rochester FD where Sgt. Geoff Ostling related the Rochester story. The highlight was a tour of the massive, 23 ton, Rosenbauer Heavy Rescue rig which went into service in October. The club thanks Geoff and Chief John Cieslik for hosting and providing refreshments.

Members also viewed the department summary as filmed by Atherium Bommarito, shown in the Box 42 Newsletter last May.

To review the video [\[click here\]](#).

RCFD Rescue 1

(photo: Mike Rosenblum)



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

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Detroit Apartments Fire Goes to Three Alarms

A 3-alarm mid-morning fire in apartments over stores caused substantial damage to the Woodland Apartments at 9 Woodland on March 17th. One man was injured jumping from the second floor of the building, and others were treated for smoke inhalation. The fire started on the third floor of the 26-unit building, and extended to the fourth. The building, built in 1925, measures 90' x 115' and is the last Detroit building on Woodward before the city limit at the south end of Highland Park.

The building, owned by S&I Properties of Belleville, MI, experienced a careless cook fire in November of 2009, and a trash fire in May of 2015 -- neither causing significant damage according to FEMA records.

This clip of B-Roll from WXYZ shows Detroit and Hamtramck firefighters performing over-haul operations at the site.

For the video [\[click here\]](#).

photo: Bill Eisner



photo: Alex Haggart

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

The Detroit Seagrave Story

The Detroit Fire Department has quite a history when it comes to Seagrave apparatus, at one time being an all-Seagrave department. This article, written by Box 42 member Walt McCall, tells the whole story. It appeared last year in Vintage Fire Truck & Equipment Magazine.

To view the article [\[click here\]](#).

Stress On The Job

WDIV ran a short piece about the effect of stress on firefighters over time. The clip includes some comments from DFD personnel.

To view the clip (4:00) [\[click here\]](#)

Dearborn Firefighters Burn Drive

The Dearborn firefighters are sponsoring their 2018 Burn Drive party and raffle on May 2nd, with a 2018 Camaro as one of several prizes.

For details [\[click here\]](#).

High-Tech Fire Hydrant

Created by a 15-year FDNY firefighter, a new design in fire hydrants promises a number of advantages over traditional fixtures, with lower maintenance, better durability and security from tampering, vandalism, and water theft. The innovative hydrant, the Sigelock Spartan, is shown in this promo from the manufacturer.

To view the video (5:00) [\[click here\]](#).

Coming events

Saturday, April 7, 9:00-3:00

Police-Fire Collectors' Show

876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights

For further information [\[click here\]](#)

Saturday, April 7, 2:00

Ceremony to mark 90th anniversary of

Detroit Police Radio, Belle Isle Station

Inselruhe at Riverbank - for more [\[click here\]](#).

Saturday, April 7, 8:00

Benefit for Metro Detroit P&F Pipes & Drums

Colleen's Irish Pub, St. Clair Shs - [\[click here\]](#)

Saturday, April 28, 8:00-2:00

41st GLIAFAA Swap/Sell, Jackson Co.

Fairgrounds - for more [\[click here\]](#)

Sunday, May 20, 2018

34th annual Rochester antique fire truck

parade and muster. 277 E. Second / 600 Pine

For details [\[click here\]](#).

Saturday, July 28, 8:00-12:00

GLIAFAA Frankenmuth Muster

Heritage Park, 601 Weiss Street

The Crimson Boomer

Here is a tour of the Crimson Boomer, a versatile rig introduced over 10 years ago. Crimson is now a part of Spartan ERV. This unit provides a number of functions in one, including a crane, articulating water delivery, a light tower, and a source of electrical and hydraulic power.

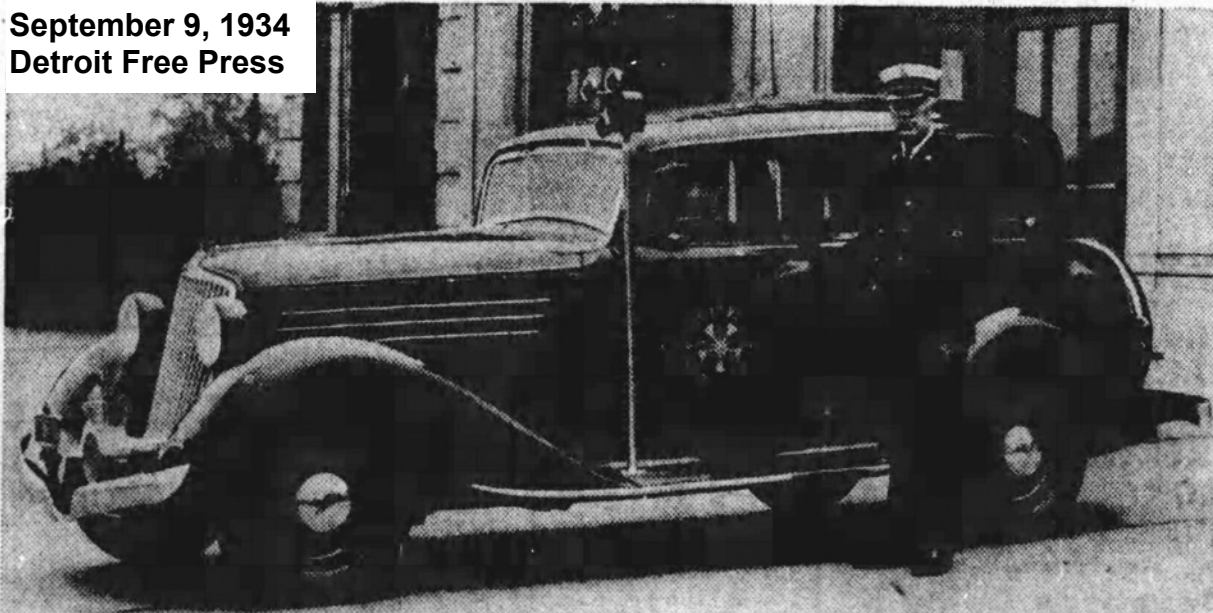
To view the video (6:00) [\[click here\]](#).

Left:

The latest addition to fire department equipment in the Detroit metropolitan area is this specially-equipped Graham Supercharged Special Eight Sedan now being operated by Chief R. E. Metteshard of the Dearborn Fire Department. The chief is shown above with his new car. The Graham is equipped with siren, signal lights and bell, and a radio tuned to police and fire department wave lengths. It was delivered by Thomas Jancus, Graham dealer at Dearborn.

Dearborn Fire Chief Gets New Graham Eight

September 9, 1934
Detroit Free Press



August 21, 1936

Three Hurt as Fire Trucks Crash, Starting Street Blaze

Two Firemen in Serious Condition; Inquiry Under Way to Fix Blame for Collision

Several witnesses will be called Friday in an investigation started Thursday night to fix responsibility for a collision of two fire trucks at 4:30 p. m. Thursday at Cass Ave. and Lafayette Blvd., which resulted in serious injury to two firemen and minor injuries to another.

The injured firemen, all members of High Pressure Company No. 1, were:

JOSEPH HALLMAN, 39 years old, of 15831 Edmore Drive, acting lieutenant. Taken to Receiving Hospital with a compound fracture of the skull, fractured jaw, broken ribs and burns.

ELMER V. GRAHAM, 31, of 7043 Lafayette Blvd., the driver. Taken to Receiving Hospital with a skull injury and fractured left leg.

KENNETH DUFF, 32, of 11809 Corbett Ave., burns. He refused to go to the hospital.

Firemen Pitched Out

The intersection was filled with blazing gasoline after the collision. The men injured were pitched from the truck into the street. Hallman was pinned under the truck. He was freed before the blazing gasoline reached him.

Graham and Duff were thrown to the sidewalk.

The collision occurred when the High-Pressure Company truck, going north on Cass Ave., past a red light with open siren, struck Engine No. 1 going west on Lafayette Blvd., with the green light. Both companies were going to a

small fire at Second and Abbott Sts., which was put out before other fire companies arrived.

The impact swung the high-pressure truck completely around so that it was headed south on Cass. Both tires on the left side were knocked off. Parts were thrown for 30 feet, narrowly missing pedestrians on the corner.

Crowd Drawn to Scene

A wall of flame 15 feet high, burned fiercely in the street. The screaming of brakes when the drivers saw that they were coming together, followed by the crash, could be heard for blocks and brought a crowd estimated at 1,500 to the scene.

Engine No. 1, driven by Anthony E. Kort, 37, careened along Lafayette for a half a block, spilling gasoline. The truck, which was the latest type in fire-fighting apparatus, had been in use less than a month. Its left side was crushed and it was unable to proceed under its own power. Smoking was forbidden near it for fear of an explosion.

Kort said that he did not see the other fire apparatus until it was upon him.

Neither he nor his two companions was injured.

Light Is Important Point

The result of the investigation into the accident will depend largely, it developed Thursday night, on testimony from disinterested witnesses as to the traffic light at the intersection and whether the truck which went against the red light disobeyed the rules of the department.

The firemen from Engine No. 1 were questioned by Assistant Prosecutor Samuel Bresner, attached to the Police Accident Investigation Bureau. All said that the engine, which was going west on Lafayette Blvd., was favored by the light. No fireman from the high pressure truck was questioned.

Fire Chief Walter F. Israel said that department rules allowed a truck to go against a red light, if certain precautions, such as slowing down and sounding of the truck's siren, were observed. He said that while certain routes had been specified for the trucks, these were not fast rules.

Lieut. William J. Vaughn, who was riding on Engine No. 1, said that the crash proved the desirability of inclosed trucks. He pointed out that neither he nor any of the men on the truck was hurt.

"If it had been an open truck, I'd have been in the morgue," he said.

Present at the inquiry on behalf of the Fire Department were Fire Commissioner Arthur W. White, Chief Israel, Superintendent of Apparatus Edward Rumsay and Assistant Chief Alex Thompson. Chief Israel promised a thorough investigation by the Fire Department.

WINDY
Colder, snow flurries. Low at 21.
High 22. Northwest wind.

Weather Map Page 2

FRIDAY'S TEMPERATURES

8 A.M.	17	10 A.M.	21	1 P.M.	21
4 P.M.	21	6 P.M.	21	8 P.M.	21
10 P.M.	21	12 M.	21	2 A.M.	21
4 A.M.	21	6 A.M.	21	8 A.M.	21
10 A.M.	21	12 M.	21	2 P.M.	21
4 P.M.	21	6 P.M.	21	8 P.M.	21
10 P.M.	21	12 M.	21	2 A.M.	21
4 A.M.	21	6 A.M.	21	8 A.M.	21

The Detroit Free Press

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1953

On Guard for Over a Century

26 Pages 1¢ Vol. 122—No. 299 Seven Cents

METRO FINAL
★ ★
Governor Explains
Dole Secrecy Views
See Story Page 3

Furniture, 20 Autos Lost

STORES BURN ON GRATIOT



Firemen play tons of water on \$250,000 blaze on Gratiot at Baldwin

Free Press Photo by VINCE WITTEK

Loss Put At \$250,000; Three Hurt

Blaze Also Devours A Fire Truck

A five-alarm fire destroyed a four-story furniture store at Gratiot and Baldwin Friday night in less than an hour and burned up 20 new cars stored next door.

Less than 30 minutes after the flames in the Spitz Furniture Co., 7665 Gratiot, was reported at 8:50 p. m., all the floors had collapsed and fallen through to the basement.

The raging fire was brought under control at 9:50 p. m., but not until it had spread to the Teal Bros. Hudson agency annex, a two-story building, and destroyed the cars.

Damage was estimated at \$250,000.

A BRISK wind fanned the flames and it was feared for a time the entire business block might burn.

Flaming debris fell onto a fire truck and its gasoline tank burst. The truck was given up to the fire.

Three firemen narrowly escaped death when a section of the furniture building wall toppled into the street.

BURNED-DOWN high-tension wires behind the building snapped and cracked in pools of water.

Three cars in a used-car lot across Baldwin caught fire, as did three cars parked on Baldwin near Gratiot.

An estimated 5,000 people were drawn to the scene by the flames, which could be seen at least four miles away. Traffic on Gratiot was halted for five blocks in either direction.

SIDNEY I. SPITZ, 39, of 19677 Roseland, owner of the furniture store, said he, Nathan N. Page, of 13317 Wales, Huntington Woods, the manager, and five salesmen were in the first-floor office just before 9 p. m.

Page said they heard someone shout "All out, fire."

He said he walked out of the office toward an elevator shaft when "all of a sudden I heard a 'boom!' The elevator shaft burst into flames."

"I don't know how much of the building was on fire," he said. "I hollered to everybody and we ran."

Spitz said the building had an assessed valuation of \$100,000 and the stock was also valued at \$100,000. He said the building was insured but the stock was not.

One death was attributed to the fire. An elderly woman spectator collapsed and died in her home after the excitement of watching the flames.

In his article about Seagrave sedan engines (page 3), Walt McCall mentioned that the first one placed into service was involved in a fatal crash with another DFD rig. The crash

of Engine 1 occurred in the first month of its service at Cass and Lafayette on August 20, 1936, and resulted in the death of Lt. Joseph Hallman of High Pressure 1. Comments made at the time by others involved confirmed the benefit of having an enclosed body rig, as none of the injured were in that truck.

17 years later, on February 27, 1953 the rig, shop #587 and running as Engine 41, was destroyed by falling debris and was sold for scrap. Its last fire was a five alarm boomer at Spitz Furniture, 7665 Gratiot at Baldwin.

The accompanying articles from those events flesh out the story of this landmark piece of apparatus.

5 Alarms - 3 Dwellings, 571 Washington Rd., Grosse Pointe
March 26, 2018 (photo: John Kaled)

