



GALLUPVILLE CHARTER VOLUNTEERS—Charter members of the Gallupville Volunteer Fire Department who are recipients of 25-year service pins are, left to right: seated, Adam Manchester, Charles Bogardus, Alvin Manchester and Grover Becker; standing, Chester Zimmer, Rudolph Schultz, William Chase, Maurice Becker, Rudolph Sturm, Otto Schultz, Lester Thornton and Arthur Pine.

1951

# Fire Protection Built on Community Spirit

By HAL VON LINDEN  
 GALLUPVILLE — The 25-year story of the Gallupville volunteer Fire Department is a courageous chronicle of a small town's reaction to a community need. Concerned with a necessity for fire protection, residents pulled up their boots and did what was needed without outside aid.

Taking action in 1942, 34 villagers became charter members of the volunteer company. William Chase was elected chief, Harold Barber and Chester Zimmer first and second assistants; Lansing Finch, treasurer and Clarence Barber, secretary.

Earlier, a fire and hose company had been formed in 1925 but there are no records of its activities beyond a frayed book that lists as apparent members:

Edward A. Thornton, Lester W. Thornton, Alvin Manchester, Harold Holt, Frank Chrysler, P. Wallace Stahlman, John Osolneek, Jesse B. Ostrander, Charles Warner, Adam Manchester, Max Wise, Austin J. Weidman, Harry C. Gallup.

Also, Harvey Bellinger, W. Staats Pomeroy, Clarence E. Barber, Clifford J. Dailey, Charles E. Bradt, Wiley Gage, Luther Schell, Marin Schell, Howard D. Warner, Frank C. Hinman, Ira Chandler, Fred Westfall, Sr., Jesse Hargrave and Edward Zimmer.

Three members of that defunct organization, Lester Thornton, Adam and Alvin Manchester remain as members of the present organization. Some have moved from the area and others have died.

In 1944 the new company joined the Schosharie County Firemen's Association and purchased the old Gallupville schoolhouse, after the annexation of the district by the Scho-

harie Central School district, for \$750 plus \$20.50 for the stove, secretary desks and two chairs."

The method of purchase is something of a model of united community action. To buy the property from the centralized school district, eight Gallupville residents, Edward Manchester, Chester Zimmer, Martin Daring, John Osolneek, Lester Thornton, Max Wise and the Finch brothers each loaned the fire department \$100.

The checks went to the centralized district which redistri-

buted the proceeds back to the individual taxpayers of the former Gallupville district. Community-minded taxpayers endorsed their checks back to the fire department to pay off the loans for the building.

### Build Kitchen

The company next moved to erect an addition to house its trucks and added a small kitchen for community affairs at a total cost of \$1,071.66.

Again, about a dozen village residents rallied to the cause by loaning \$3,000 to aid in financing

the building project. By 1951 the department was out of debt. It then enlarged the building and installed central heating.

Working shoulder to shoulder with department members, the ladies auxiliary for 15 years has labored to put on country-type suppers and ice cream socials to deep fluid the department's finances.

A going and growing department with 67 members and modern equipment, Gallupville volunteers look proudly back at their achievements and

proceed forward with an award that they have earned their community so far as possible against the odds of the future.