

History of the Gallupville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

The Gallupville Fire & Hose Co. was organized in 1925. There is a record of 27 members, but no apparent minute book was kept or lost. Older residents remember a talent show put on to raise funds and also by subscription. Also recorded in a resident's diary, where on Jan 25, 1925 Lester Thornton and Ira Chandler went to Schenectady to see about fire apparatus. In later years a receipt was found dated Feb 29, 1929 in the amount of \$189.00 for purchase of the chemical tank. An old bank book was found with no date and Charles Warner as treasurer.

In January 1942, 44 citizens of the Town of Wright were noted as Charter members. April 1942, a re-organization meeting was held. The old bank account was re-activated in the amount of \$213.60. A roast pork dinner netted \$140.00 and on Sep 31, 1944 a masquerade dance was held with \$160.50 profit. In 1944 the department joined the Schoharie County Fireman's Association.

About this same time the Schoharie Central School District decided to sell the Gallupville school at auction. The Fire Dept bid it in for \$750.00 on Feb 1945. Seven men, namely: Edward Manchester, Chester Zimmer, Martin Daring, John Osolneck, Lester Thornton, Max Wise and Finch Bros. each loaned the fire dept. \$100.00 for the purchase of the school building. Corporation papers soon being completed, the Gallupville Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc. was created. After a couple of disappointing elections to purchase a fire truck and because of difficulties during WWII, a new Ford truck was ordered and arrived August 1945. A tank truck was added in 1956. As soon as the school was purchased, plans went ahead for building the addition for trucks and a small kitchen.

The Fireman's Auxiliary was created in April 1949. It became apparent that a larger kitchen was needed. In 1954 the kitchen was added behind the truck bays. A central heating system was added in 1963. Many delicious ice cream socials and suppers have been prepared there over the years.

In the 1970's it became necessary to find new quarters for town trucks & more room for fire equipment and also room for town meetings. In 1974 a new Munciple Building was completed. As time went by, more room was again needed for fire trucks and equipment. So again, this time it was decided to build a new and separate firehouse. Plans called for a 7,000 sq. ft facility with a five bay garage and a maintenance bay in the rear at a cost of about \$500,000. A State grant of \$100,000 and with other gifts and preparations, the building was started in 2005 with final completion in 2006.

Ramona Tryon, Historian
Town of Wright