

As a community becomes larger it requires more services. One of the services vital to any community is that of fire protection.

The traditions begun in the dim past still flourish today to make Cuba Fire Department an institution of which our community can be justly proud: securing the best possible equipment, dedication of the men to a high level of readiness, concern for fire prevention, sponsoring worthwhile activities, making the community proud on public occasions, honoring those who have served the department well and meriting and receiving the support of the community.

Believing that fire prevention and fire safety are very important, we take great pride in our efforts in these areas. Besides seeing the severity of our alarms reduced, we have been fortunate enough to take 1st place for our efforts in Allegany County, Southwestern Association (4-Western New York Counties) and the Western Association (13-Western New York Counties).

Over the years the Cuba Fire Department has had many occasions to be proud of its achievements, but there is probably no single occasion of which the fire department and the community of Cuba can be more proud than when the new fire hall was built. The building was completed with no tax dollars used for the project. All the money was given as pledges from Cuba, the Fire Department and the surrounding communities and organizations.

The following are some highlights from the long and proud history of the Cuba Fire Department:

1850--Bucket Brigade--Every occupant of any building in which there is a fire kept shall furnish himself with a leathern bucket and a ladder of sufficient length to reach the housetop. A fine of \$1 and the cost of collection is imposed for the violation of this ordinance.

1866--Pioneer Hook and Ladder Co. organized with Rueben Hills as Captain.

1867--Nov. 5 Fire Department formally organized with E.D. Loveridge, President; Russell Smith, Chief; E.B. Hunt, Foreman; J. Hallack, Assistant Foreman; Horace Easton, Foreman of Hose; R.H. Moses, Treasurer; Jasper Palmer, secretary; and H. Holmes, Vice President.

1867--Nov. 28 Department adopted a Constitution and By-Laws and the name Rescue Fire Co. #1. "Red Jacket," a used fire engine and a quantity of hose was purchased from Elmira.

1868--Jan. 13 "Red Jacket" first used on fire at Russell Smith's barn. Too far gone before firemen arrived. Barn consumed.

1868--Jan. 17 House and drug store of J.J. Ashley destroyed. "Red Jacket" did not perform well as water was frozen in the lines. Temporary housing was found for the engine.

1868-1872--Fires galore--Village was plagued by many fires, sometimes as many as 10 or 12 in a single year. This was probably due to wood construction of buildings, open fires used for heating, lighting and manufacturing. Dwellings, barns, hotels, business blocks, a cooper shop, a machine shop, stores, the Baptist Church and the Episcopal Rectory were all lost during this period. Many times the destroyed building was replaced by a more substantial structure. Examples: The Baptist Church in 1870 and the Palmer Block including the Opera House.

1872--Firemen honored E.R. Nash, one of their first firemen, by presenting him with a silver trumpet. A social followed the presentation.

1873--Village purchased a lot on Canal Street (now Genesee Street) and erected a brick fire hall. The upper story was used as a village hall. In the autumn, the firemen paraded at the annual fair of the Agricultural Society.

1874--"The new Palmer Block was completed and Jr. Palmer gave a party to the department to dedicate his new hall, including the Opera House, in appreciation for their efficient service in saving his block from entire destruction. It was the largest party as then ever held in Cuba", wrote John S. Minard.

1874--A tower was erected on the new fire hall and a bell placed in it at a cost of \$286.

1875--The ladies of Cuba raised \$139.14 for the department through a benefit concert. The firemen used the money to purchase 50 engine hats, 15 hose hats and 15 uniform shirts.

1876--A concert for the benefit of the fire department was given by the North Carolinians, and Rev. V.A. Sage gave a fine discourse complimentary to the fire department.

1877--Sept. 10, Funeral for Foreman Jasper Palmer. He was the first fireman buried by the department.

1877--The engine and hose companies were incorporated, E.R. Nash and Edwin Adams were elected delegates to the State Firemen's Association.

1878--July 4, a parade and celebration were held and by invitation the fire departments of Wellsville, Franklinville and Olean participated. There was a hose race for a prize, a silver trumpet. The distance run was 1,000 feet, with 200 feet of hose laid. The James Macken Hose, the Howard Hose and the Rescue Hose competed, the last two making the run in 46 seconds. The Rescue Hose generously withdrew and the prize went to the visiting companies.

1881--The department was incorporated by special act of the legislature through the offices of the Hon. S.H. Morgan, then an assemblyman from Allegany County.

1889--The village water system was installed and the town historian ceased to record fires after that date.

1890--By the 1890's the Cuba Fire Department was composed of three hose companies and a hook and ladder company; Rescue Hose Co. #1, D.B. Whipple Hose Co., Glenn Hose Co. and Ed Loveridge Hook and Ladder.

1895--Cuba's famous Whipple Hose Co. won the world's record at that time of 28 seconds. The contest was held at the Cuba Fair and four hose companies participated: The Tannery Hose of Limestone, the Acme Hose of Olean, the East Randolph-Salamanca team and Whipple Hose Co. of Cuba. Members of the team were Harry O'Malley, Melvin Boss, John Jones, Dallas B. Whipple, Charles Pierce, Floyd Southworth, Nate Rose, George Puller, Walter Davidson, (Ormiston), Edward Atherton, J. Fenton Olive, Victor French, Arthur Howard, William H. Keller, William Bates, Chester O. Olive, Harry Thompson and William H. Merritt.

These competitions were important in helping the team keep up the speed and efficiency so vital in fighting fires.

1896--Firemen's Fair opened Monday evening at the Opera House, and is an assured success, nearly 400 attended. The prize for the best lady waltzer was a Japanese Silk Lamberquin, valued at \$6.00, went to Miss Evelyn Richie, the second grade teacher.

1910--The membership consists of over 100 volunteers and the several companies are well equipped with modern apparatus.

1910--For promptness in answering fire alarms and efficiency of action at fires and methods used in saving property and lives, the Cuba Fire Department has won a high reputation second to no other department in Western New York.

Officers of the department:

Chief J.C. Holden

Sec. Fred Guild

Treas. J.T. Robinson

Note: Lester E. Dayton claims to be the oldest volunteer fireman in active service and membership in the state.

1917--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President John Mc Vey.

1919--A pamphlet on Cuba boasted "a volunteer fire department consisting of 125 men with good firefighting apparatus gives Cuba an exceedingly low insurance rate."

1926--On Dec. 7 the separate hose companies consolidated into one Cuba Fire Department. The roster was reduced from 125 men to 50 to lower the cost to the village of compensation against injury and loss of life. Emphasis was placed on modern equipment.

1928--Cuba Fire Department purchased a 1928 Sanford truck which was the first motorized pumper without a chemical unit in Allegany county. The Department still owns this truck and is used primarily for fire prevention activities. It was brought out of retirement during the flood in 1972 to pump the Presbyterian church basement.

1933--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President Henry Funk from Richburg.

1938--Hosted the Southwestern Volunteer Firemen's Association annual convention in August.

1941--The department initiated a fire prevention essay contest at Cuba Central School.

1946--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President John W. Jones from Wellsville.

1948--Firemen moved from the Genesee Street building to 49 West Main Street, a former garage.

1949--Feb. 1 Cuba hosted the first New York State Fire Training Program. The Mutual Aid System was set up for co-operation between departments in the county.

1957--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President Dorr Nickerson from Scio.

1963--Firemen voted \$2,000 to construct a fire training tower located in what is now Firemen's Park.

1967--Purchased 18 Plectron home receivers at a cost of \$2,500. Today every member is equipped with a small fire monitor to carry.

1967--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President Loren Chamberlain.

1972--Department began sponsoring Dairy Week. This started as the Sesquicentennial for the Town of Cuba and has evolved into what it is today.

1972--The Department took possession of a new 1,000 gal. pumper/tanker.

1973--Department took over entire sponsorship of Dairy Week.

1976--Department purchased the 75 ft aerial ladder from Young Fire Equipment. The ladder was originally owned by Snyder Fire Department (from the Buffalo area).

1977--Firemen's Memorial Park was dedicated. The 1874 fire bell stands atop the monument as a memorial "to all the Cuba Fire Department members who have answered their last alarm."

1977--Village purchased land on East Main Street anticipating the need for a new fire hall.

1978--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President Larry Dye.

1978--Cuba Fire Department won first place for fire prevention efforts in Allegany County, Southwestern New York Volunteer Fireman's Association (4 Western Counties), and Western New York Firemen's Association (13 Western Counties). These activities include poster and essay contests, King and Queen of fire prevention, demonstrations, slide program, sliding down a rescue chute, comic books, booklets, courses in fire prevention, babysitting course, 4H fire safety program and visits from Scorchy (CFD symbol of fire prevention). The program also extends into the adult community with inspections of businesses, industry, schools, hospitals and other public buildings, a slide presentation and demonstrations on exit procedures and proper use of fire extinguishers.

1979--Nico Van Zwanenberg spearheaded a fund drive to purchase the "Jaws of Life" at a cost of \$6,000.

1979--Village plan submitted to HUD for funding a new fire station, community center and municipal offices was rejected.

1981--Cuba again won Fire Prevention Awards.

1982--February and March survey run for pros and cons of method of funding a new fire hall. Options were taxes or donations. Informal poll showed community overwhelmingly in favor of fund raiser. In May Past Chief Larry Dye was appointed fund raising coordinator. Past Chief and current President Bruce Matteson and Chief Richard Seigel in charge of construction. The entire committee consisted of: Bruce Matteson, Dick Seigel, Larry Dye, Laroy Spateholts, Don Lopes and Doug Burt.

1982--In May a fundraising campaign was started to finance a new fire hall.

1982--In August enough pledges were received to allow start of construction for the new fire hall.

1982--Resch Distributing donated a small delivery truck which the firemen converted into a utility van.

1983--February 28, equipment was moved from the old fire hall to the new building. During a construction workers party, CFD responded to a grass fire.

1983--April 9, 98.5% of the \$250,000 goal in pledges reached.

1983--April 16, A.A. Arnold Community Center and new Fire Hall dedicated. The new brick faced building at 51 East Main Street is 104 feet long and 60 feet deep. Five truck bays accommodate the CFD fleet: Engine 23, a 1972 Ford 1,000 gpm pumper, Engine 24, a 1972 GMC 350 gpm pumper, Engine 25, a 1971 GMC 1,000 gpm pumper, 2T4, a 1957 American LaFrance 75ft aerial ladder, M-69, a 1974 utility van and Engine 49, a 1928 Sanford pumper, which is used mainly for parades and fire prevention activities. The bays are equipped with overhead fill pipes for fast and easy filling of the trucks with water and electric doors that can be activated from the radio room. Besides the truck bay and radio room, there is an office for the Chief, an office for the Administrative officers, a large meeting room, a lounge area with kitchenette facilities and men's and women's restrooms.

The A.A. Arnold Community Center, situated in the ell section of the building, has a large meeting room, a storage area, food preparation area (not a full kitchen) and men's and women's restrooms.

1987--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President Richard Seigel.

1987--In October CFD accepted a new White 1,250 gpm pumper made by FMC. This replaced a 16 year old truck chassis and a 30 year old equipment body.

1992--A utility van built completely by department members replaced the smaller van that has been used since 1983.

1992--In October CFD accepted a new International 1,250 gpm pumper made by KME. This truck replaced a pumper that was 21 years old.

1993--July, hosted the Allegany County Firemen's Association annual convention in honor of Past President Wayne Butts.

1995--April, CFD purchased the old Cuba ambulance. This was converted into a utility vehicle that carries an air cascade system so that air bottles can be filled at a fire scene. This also carries the department's Ice Rescue Equipment.

1995--August, purchased a used Air Force truck to use as a tanker. Sold in October of 1999 with sale money to go toward the purchase of another tanker.

1998--Accepted a Ferrara 75 ft aerial ladder with a 1250 gpm pump. This replaced a 41 year old ladder truck and a 27 year old pumper. Part of the cost was borne by funds from the Cuba Fire Department equipment account.

2000--January, accepted a 2,000 gallon tanker made by J&B Fabricating. The tanker was purchased from the Cuba Fire Department equipment account.

2000--September, Purchased CFD Memorial Flag holders and flags for the cemetery on deceased members graves.

2000--October, Rotary advised that they will not do Tractor Pull next year.

2000--December, started to fly the MIA flag along with the American Flag.

2001--February, Purchased bibles to give to the families of deceased members.

2002--Received large bequest from the estate of Gert Miller.

2002--July, Allegany County convention held in Cuba for outgoing president Dave Hardman.

2003--March, Received new rescue truck, replace old Cuba 6 ^ Cuba 601.

2003--April, Joined entire membership in FASNY.

2003--August, Grant received to purchase a thermal imaging camera.

2004--May, Received emergency signs for locating homes in an emergency.

2004--September, Received new uniforms.

2005--February, Added new computerized security system to the fire hall.

2005--February, Received (3) plaques at the 1st FASNY winter games in Lake Placid.

2005--July, New air system installed in fire hall.

2005--August, Wayne Butts elected President of the Southwestern Association.

2005--October, Purchased signs for the entrance into the village.

2005--November, Received new rescue equipment, including new jaws and misc. rescue tools.

2006--August, Southwestern convention held in Cuba.

Past Chiefs:

Frank Royce 1932-1946, 1947-1949
Donald Withereell 1946-1947
Harold Prentice 1949-1955
Joseph Fodor 1955-1958
Loren Chamberlain 1958-1963
Adin Pratt 1963-1965
Larry Dye 1965-1970
Sam Guild 1970-1972
Harley J. Poore 1972-1975
Bruce W. Matteson 1975-1977
Larry Bowker 1977-1979
Wayne "Bud" Blakeslee 1979-1981
Richard Seigel 1981-1983
Donald Lopes 1983-1985
Robert Lester 1985-1987
Thomas Flower 1987-1989
Wayne Butts 1989-1992
Dave Hardman 1992-1995, 1996-1998
Leroy Clark 1995-1996
Lewis Kratts 1998-2001
Tim Resch 2001-2004
John Wilson 2004-2006
Jan Clement 2006-

Past Presidents:

John Watson 1940-1945
Alfred Schiele 1946-1947
Lyle Jordan 1948
Joseph Fodor 1949-1953
George Smith 1954-1956
Thomas Mc Laughlin 1957
Wilber Butts 1958-1960

William Lester 1961-1962
Laroy Spateholts 1963-1964
Loren Chamberlain 1965-1966
Richard Craddock 1966-1968
Howard Guild 1969
Robert Butts 1970-1971
Walter Davis 1972-1973
Robert Winchell 1974
John Houston 1975-1976
John Riley 1977-1978
Sam Guild 1979-1980
Bruce Matteson 1981-1982
Tom Mc Govern 1983
Richard Seigel 1984-1985
Walter Kottwitz 1986-1987
Donald Lopes 1988-1989
Robert Lester 1990-1991
Tim Resch 1992-1994
Wayne Butts 1995, 1998-2001
John Hupp 1996-1997
Bill Scandlon 2002-2004
Dave Hardman 2005-

Past Firemen of the Year:

Adin Pratt 1976
Loren Chamberlain 1977
Richard Craddock 1978
Harley Poore 1979
Sam Guild 1980
Larry Dye 1981
Bruce Matteson 1982
John Houston 1983
Tom Mc Govern 1984
Paul Swift 1985
Laroy Spateholts 1986
Donald Lopes 1987
Richard Seigel 1988
Cole Ayers 1989
John Riley 1990
Charles Arzberger 1991
Thomas Flower 1992
Wayne Butts 1993
Robert Lester 1994
Maurice Carpenter 1995
Tim Resch 1996
Thomas Mc Laughlin 1997
David Hardman 1998
John LaFever 1999
Wayne Blakeslee 2000
Richard Seigel 2001
Doug Clayson III 2002
Lewis Kratts 2002
John Riley 2003

Randy Snyder 2004
Aaron Appleby 2005
John Wilson 2006

Current Officers:

Chief Jan Clement
1st Asst. Derek Clement
2nd Asst. Randy Snyder
Captain Kevin Nutt
1st Lieutenant Dan Gadd
2nd Lieutenant Duane Hopkins
Captain of Fire Police Mark Prior
Fire Police Lieutenant David Enderle
President Dave Hardman
Vice President Russell Heslin
Secretary Richard Seigel
Asst. Secretary
Treasurer Robert Lester
Asst. Treasurer John Hupp

Board of Directors:

Chairman John Riley
Vice Chairman Wayne Butts
Secretary Richard Seigel
 Tab Loftis
 Duane Hopkins
 P.J. Shaller
 Dave Hardman

Current Members:

Aaron Appleby	Duane Gowdy	Keith Perry
Todd Appleby	Jeremy Gowdy	Mike Pfouts
Kris Bunk	Jeff Griswold	Gary Pratt
Jason Butts	Rick Hall	Mark Prior
Kyle Butts	David Hardman	Kenneth Quinn II
Wayne Butts	Derrick Hardman	Tim Resch
Derek Clement	Shawna Hays	John Riley
Jan Clement	Russell Heslin	Bill Scandlon
Codey Cronk	Duane Hopkins	Richard Seigel
Larry Dye	John Hupp	P.J. Shaller
David Enderle	Lewis Kratts	Randy Snyder
William Fanton	Robert Lester	Amanda Steiner
Ryan Farwell	Tab Loftis	Justion Sweet
Jacquie Fiske	Robyn Mc Kelvey	Nick Sweet
Dan Gadd	Kevin Nutt	John Wilson
David Gowdy Sr	Jonas Perry	