

History of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department



The First 75 Years
1936-2011



Clinton Volunteer Fire Department

From the Ground Up

When the citizens of Clinton ride past the Clinton firehouse of today and scrutinize the modern equipment, and when a response to a call is made by firefighters, it is the culmination of a vision by a strong and determined group of men that dates back to 1936.

As the Village of Clinton and its environs developed, most of the structures were built of wood, the prime target for fires. This was true of houses, barns, stables and in the center of the village, businesses and churches. The only brick building was the Clinton bank which opened in 1920. Indeed, two fires in the village in the 1920's served to propel the movement for the establishment of a fire fighting unit. The John Jenkins home, located at the end of Bradley Lane, burned to the ground and all possessions were lost. On a stormy summer morning, the large barn used by the Schultz Brothers Store was struck by lightning and since it was filled with bales of hay, straw and other goods, it burned rapidly and completely.

It was about this time that a young builder and designer came to Clinton and proceeded to buy lots fronting on Old Branch Avenue near the Episcopal and Catholic Churches. He constructed several frame houses and in 1927, the Gwynn brick house. In 1928, he built the Christ Episcopal Church. The builder, Mr. Harry Bradley, visualized the need and devoted his efforts to accomplish the organization of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department. The temperature was chilly that day on December 28, 1936, but that evening fifteen men from Clinton gathered to organize "Company 25". Mr. Harry Bradley was elected Chief and first president and sent the enthusiastic members to collect donations from private citizens and business firms.

In February 1937, the first fire truck, a 1936 second-hand Brockway pumper was obtained and Mr. Frank Reh allowed the truck to be parked in a barn on his farm (opposite the entrance to

Chris Mar). Fire calls were received at the Schultz Brothers General Store and then from there firemen were called as quickly as possible to meet at the fire truck and proceed to the fire.

On a small parcel of land obtained directly behind the Clinton Bank, almost opposite the present fire house, a two-engine house was begun in 1937 and occupied in 1938. It served the Clinton area for 22 years. A new Brockway tanker was bought in 1940, the beginning of the company acquiring new equipment as needs arose and as funds could be obtained. An early fund raising method was the annual carnival. This was supplemented by special events, dances, raffles and pledges to donate. The roster of early members has been lost but charter member Millard Schultz recalls some of the original members: E. White, E. England, E. Melson, T. Miller, B. Gwynn, R. Schultz, A. Dellinger, G. Singer, M. McKinney, H. Miskell, K. Dennison, B. Thompson, J.T. White, A. Penn, and H. Bradley.

Steady progress toward the full realization of the outstanding outfit that it is today began after World War II when in 1946 two lots across Woodyard Road from the existing fire house were purchased for \$1750.00, and plans for fund raising and the design for a new building were made. The shell of the fire house was built in 1950 and the interior work, electrical, plumbing, heating, ceilings, floors, steel and appointments, were done by volunteers. In 1970 money was borrowed from Prince George's County for an addition to house a ladder truck and renovation to provide sleeping quarters for 18 men. The original parcel was sold to the Clinton Bank and today Company 25 is situated in a modern, comfortable, and highly functional building.

One has to visit the busy and efficient fire house organization to realize the responsibility accepted by the Volunteers in the effective performance of their duties and to sense the enthusiasm and dedication of it's members in performing this valuable service to their fellow men.



1936 - 1939

Chiefs

William S. Pyles, January 1937

Harry F. Bradley, November 1937

• December 28, 1936, a meeting was called to organize a volunteer fire department for the Clinton community. About 15 interested persons attended plus representatives from companies organized previously in Oxon Hill, Forestville and Riverdale.

– Mr. Hugh Bickford, local attorney and owner of the farm where Surratts Gardens is today, presided.

• At the second meeting held on January 6, 1937, Wm. S. Pyles was elected first Fire Chief.

– An Equipment Committee was appointed as was a Fund Raising Committee.

– A trip was planned to Annapolis four days later to inspect some fire engines. Of significance at this second meeting was the volunteering of several young men to become active members.

– Attorney Bickford offered to file incorporation papers and Treasurer Dent gave him the ten dollar incorporation fee - all before Jan 25. Letter writing to local business houses and private homes raised the first funds.

• In a report given on February 15, 1937, \$717.00 in cash plus \$347.00 in pledges were on hand.

• At the meeting of March 1937, action was taken to join both the Maryland and Prince George's Fire Associations. Uniforms were discussed as was the location of a site for the firehouse. Two sites offered and the Department accepted a small plot on Woodyard road behind The Clinton Bank donated by a Mr. Wilson.

• April 1937, Millard Schultz was elected Captain. Perhaps a major decision was made when the membership at its Feb. 1937 meeting authorized the purchase of a second-hand, 1936 Brockway pumper from the American La France Fire Equipment Company at a cost of \$1500. The American La France Company gave the department 200 feet of hose and nozzles.

• October 1937 - Firehouse underway and prediction of its use by January. Engine being kept in a barn on Mr Reh's place.

• November 1937 - Membership adopted the first Corporate Seal and its design for the department.



The original Clinton Firehouse and 1936 Brockway Pumper

Members awarded the first Life Membership to President Harry Bradley, especially for his valuable leadership, his efforts in construction of the firehouse and the time devoted to the Department. At the same meeting, Mr. Bradley was elected Chief.

• December 1937 - Treasurer Frank Dent reported that the cost to date of the firehouse was \$1036.90. The Department had been authorized to borrow \$1000 from the Clinton Bank at the November meeting; now there was a balance on hand of \$647.53.

– Of special significance at this meeting was the initial and first mention of the question by President Bradley of forming a Ladies Auxiliary. It was decided that all the members should promote this idea among the Ladies.

– Also, another first at this meeting, was authorization to buy the first siren at a cost of \$324.00 plus remote control at \$40.00 and an alarm box at \$10.00.

• January 1938 - It was decided that the date of January 19, 1938 be established as time to form an Auxiliary and the men were asked to spread the word.

• April 1938 - Authorization given to mount the siren on a tower. Of significance was the adoption of the first Constitution by the Department and this document, along with new By-Laws, served to guide and direct the organization.



- November 1938 - Authorization given to pay the telephone company to install a line that would automatically cause the siren to sound when the department's telephone was rung. (Perhaps this was the beginning of automation)

- May 1939 - "A bill for \$24.00 interest on the firehouse was presented. It was decided to ask the

Ladies Auxiliary to pay this."

- July 1939 - The department launched the carnival era and named Mr. Bradley, Chairman.

- October 9, 1939 - Final payment made on the firehouse. The chief reported there had been no fires for 3 months.

What the Station Looked Like Then

The Clinton Volunteer Department station of 1936 was a two-bay, brick front building. This station was located on Woodyard Road across from the site of the present fire station. It housed a 1936 Brockway pumper and a 1940 Brockway tanker. This station existed until 1950.



1940 - 1949

Chief

T. Alan Penn, January 1942

- August 1940 - Department purchased a 1940 Brockway tanker for \$2047.00. It had an open cab chassis, modified by Gisner Iron Works, a 1200 gallon tank, 80 horsepower, and no windshield.
- November 1940 - Application received from E.A. Webster for membership and was approved.
- June 1941 - Application received from E.A. Lovelless, Jr. for membership. Voted acceptance.
- October 1941 - Chief Bradley submitted his resignation as Chief.
- January 1942 - Mr. T. Alan Penn was elected Chief. Members were leaving for military service or moving elsewhere. Board of Directors provided each active member with a key to the firehouse.
- February 1943 - Department voted to accept auxiliary members over 14 years of age if parents consented. Manpower was needed.
- February 1945 - Considerable discussion on building a new firehouse. Committee appointed to select a site.
- April 1945 - Meeting held to discuss purchase of a new truck. Committee appointed to consider various makes.
- June 1945 - Mr. Griff Oursler, Sr. offered to sell two lots for the new firehouse for \$1750.00. It was accepted by the Department. Purchase consummated February 1946.
- 1946 - Department built a lean-to on the side of the original fire house to store an open cab brush truck which was built from a school bus chassis.
- 1947 - 1947 Brockway/Oren pumper, 500 gpm, five man cab, built in Roanoke, VA was delivered to CVFD.
- September 1946 - Discussion of building new firehouse or adding to old one.
- October 1946 - Report made that the committee to build new firehouse had consulted with John Schiebel and Andy Stuart was drawing plans.
- December 1948 - Application for membership as a junior fireman received from Aubrey A. Schultz.
- January 1949 - Membership requested that Surratts District be included in a Legislative Bill for payment of a fire tax.
- February 1949 - Membership discussed new firehouse and a motion made and passed to proceed with plans to build a one story building 60' x 100'.

- September 1949 - Building Committee authorized to proceed to utilize the \$12,000.00 cash on hand.



1940 Brockway Tanker

- September 23, 1949 - Special meeting of Building Committee. Review of impending costs for materials indicated the building would cost \$27,000.00. This would enclose the first floor and allow heat to warm the area.



1946 Brush Truck

- November 1949 - Membership authorized that \$15,000.00 be borrowed to be spent on new firehouse.



1950 - 1959

Chiefs

Ralph Thompson, January 1952

Ellsworth Webster, September 1953

Robert Gover, January 1957

Aubrey Schultz, January 1958

- August 1950 - Chairman of Building Committee, Raymond Schultz, urged members to work two nights a week on construction of new building.

- Aubrey Schultz requested to change from junior to “Active” membership. Approved.

- Question of concrete or asphalt paving in front of firehouse - decision was concrete.

- September 1950 - Specifications for kitchen equipment ordered by Ladies Auxiliary.

- 1951 - Department established ambulance service.

- February 1951 - First dance held in new hall of firehouse. Requests by others to schedule uses of hall for meetings and events.

- April 1951 - Treasurer reported that \$35,127.54 had been spent on new firehouse.

- March 1952 - Contract awarded to pave apron in front of building.

- May 1952 - Dedication festivities - parade, dinner, dance, held on May 10, 1952 for new Clinton Firehouse.

- Application of Johnny Dennison for junior membership. Accepted.

- June 1952 - Contract awarded for installation of second floor ceiling.

- 1953 - Department purchased a GMC, 750 gpm, open cab pumper.

- July 1953 - Membership approved having “hill-billy” dances only.

- September 1953 - Ellsworth Webster elected Chief.

- November 1953 - Authorization given to Ladies Auxiliary to go ahead on installation of kitchen equipment.

- December 1955 - Action taken to initiate an annual dinner for installation of officers and award of service pins.

- January 1956 - First installation dinner scheduled for February 13, 1956 at 7 p.m., later changed to 6 p.m. before meeting. A. Schultz elected “2nd Lieutenant.”



1952 New Firehouse

- October 1956 - Clergyman, Father Pflieger, approved for probationary membership.

- November 1956 - Father Pflieger appointed Chaplain of Fire Department. Aubrey Schultz presented list of specifications for a proposed new pumper.

- 1957 - Department purchased a GMC-American, 750 gpm, open cab pumper.

- December 1957 - A. Schultz nominated to be Chief.



1953 GMC Pumper

- January 1958 - Announcement made that between \$3500 and \$4000 was profited from dances for the year 1957.

- Aubrey Schultz elected chief.

- June 1958 - Chief reported that he has a prospective buyer for Brockway and Ford trucks, and Chevrolet ambulance for a price between \$3800 or \$4000 if radio was included.

- 1959 - Department purchased a GMC-Young, 750



gpm, open cab pumper.

- April 1959 - Jean Tisdale made “Honorary Fire Chief” for the Winchester parade.
- May 1959 - Board of Directors authorized purchase of new Pontiac ambulance for \$9,925.00 and to trade-in the 1954 Pontiac for allowance of \$1675.00.
 - Fire Department to burn old St. John’s Catholic Church hall on May 24 at 1 p.m.
- September 1959 - Authorization given to get bids on new brush truck body.



1957 GMC Pumper

What the Station Looked Like Then

In 1950 a new station was built on its present site. It was a four-bay station, that housed the 1940 Brockway tanker, 1946 Ford Brush truck, 1947 Brockway pumper and a 1940(?) Cadillac ambulance. A phone booth was located on the left front side of the building.

Sometime in the mid-1950s a hose tower with a side entrance was added to the station. A gas pump was installed on the left front side of the building and the telephone booth was moved to the right front. Phone calls at that time were five cents.

The first “bunk room” was the engine room floor. Around 1959, the Chief allowed some members to “sleep in” during winter nights. They were able to obtain cots and blankets from the Civil Defense in Jessup, MD.

The next bunk room was located where the TV room and the Career office are now located. This room was constructed to accommodate two full time sleep-in members, namely Bob Gover and Buck Grimsley. This was later redone to provide a recreation room for members.

Later, Mose Webster’s office, located on the first floor (where the weight room is today) was converted to a bunk room. This room provided space for four double bunks. There was a stairway in this room that led to a second floor bathroom.

The recreation room was later changed back to a bunk room to sleep twelve members. The bunk room was later moved to the second floor. Sliding poles were installed to accommodate members.

The present day bunk room is located on the second floor. It is coed and has sleeping areas for approximately 20 members and a mens’ bathroom. The ladies’ bathroom is located on the opposite side of the second floor.

The original second floor was constructed with a wooden dance floor and a stage (located on the north end of the station) to accommodate Saturday night hillbilly dances. Glen Pyles donated knotty pine lumber to cover the cinder block walls on the entire second floor.

The bar was located where it is today, but it had a dumbwaiter to convey drinks and other items sold at the dances. The bar had a double side-by-side refrigerator, sink and ice machine. Hot sandwiches, chips and soft drinks were sold at the dances. In 1959, the cost of a setup which included two plates of chips and two large bottles of ginger ale or 7Up was \$1.25.

In the 1950’s, there was a “card room” in the basement of the station where the present storage room is located. This room was used by “Officers only” after regular business meetings and no other members were allowed to participate.

The boiler room was as it is at present.



1960 - 1969

Chiefs

John Dennison, January 1962

James Mudd, January 1963

Aubrey Schultz, January 1964

- 1960 - New Ford-Young brush truck received.
- March 1960 - Department went on record requesting a street numbering system for the area.
- August 1960 - At the request of Mr. Penn, Sr. he was moved from active to associate member.
- December 1960 - Announcement made that numbering of houses will take effect in May 1961 and delivery will be from post office trucks.
- January 1961 - Department received \$14,621.13 in Fire Tax money; this money to be used in part to pay off two notes held by banks in Clinton and Upper Marlboro.
- October 1961 - May Whittington thanked members for their help at rummage sale where the sum of \$254.00 was made.
- December 1961 - Members voted not to accept resignation of long time pioneer and Charter Member, T.A. Penn, Sr. but make him an Honorary Member, with a badge of office and a presentation of a Commemorative Plaque.
- January 1962 - J.O. Dennison elected Chief.
- March 1962 - New ambulance ordered from International, to be delivered about April 15. Change in Constitution to allow active membership to reach 45 proposed but defeated by members. Limit left at 35 members.
- 1963 - Department began annual fund drive by mail.
- 1963 - Prince George's County requested that all fire stations hire a minimum of two paid employees. These employees would be paid by the Department. The paid employees would provide manpower between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. when volunteer manpower was typically low due to their own careers.
- January 1963 - Aubrey Schultz reported that the County is trying to get a five cent increase in the Fire Tax to finance placing two paid men in each station.
 - Robert Gover elected President; J. Mudd, Chief.
- 1964 - Department purchased new Ford-Young, 1000 gpm, open cab pumper.



1960 Ford Brush Truck

- January 1964 - Aubrey Schultz elected Chief.
- September 1964 - New fire truck will be dedicated to Mr. T.A. Penn, Sr. and the firehouse will be open to the public on October 4.



1960 Pontiac Ambulance

- February 1965 - Civil Defense siren installed.



1964 Ford Young Pumper



- April 1965 - Skip Ward stated that a new ambulance had been ordered.
- August 1965 - Members voted to purchase aluminum letters for front of the firehouse and matching flag poles.
- February 1966 - Members voted to purchase a new ambulance to replace old No. 259.
- 1966 - Prince George's County Fire Service formed a Career paid force. The county career firefighters would work with the volunteers as it is today.
- July 1966 - The department hired three career firefighters.
- 1967 - Department purchased a new Ford-Young, 1000 gpm, open cab pumper. This was the first pumper with an automatic transmission at CVFD.
- July 1967 - New ambulance received and placed in service.
- August 1967 - Ambulance crew prepared for the opening of the new Cosca Regional Park.



1967 Ford Young Pumper

- November 1968 - J.O. Dennison resigned as Deputy Chief.
- February 1968 - Gasoline sold to members at 30 cents per gallon.
- December 1968 - Robert Gover resigned as President.
- 1969 - Bay was built to house ladder truck.

What the Station Looked Like Then

Sometime in the 1960s, the engine room floor was replaced and radiant heat was installed in the new floor. Aubrey Padgett, Sr., was the plumbing contractor. Later the floor was tiled.

The present Chief's office was constructed at about the same time as well as the ice machine area and the engine room bathroom. The ice machine area was the original coat check room for the Saturday night dances.

The present Air Cascade system room was the previous engineer's room. The first aid room of today was previously the control room.

In the early 1960s, the present kitchen was constructed by W.D. Hinton.

When a large water main was installed on Woodyard Road in the mid 1960s, the concrete apron in front of the station had to be raised to accommodate the change in the elevation of the road. At that time, radiant heat was installed under the apron to prevent the trucks from sliding in bad weather. The lower section of the apron in front of the doors of the station was the original level of Woodyard Road.

A new control room and ladder truck bay was under construction by 1968 and completed in time for the arrival of the 1970 Maxim ladder truck. A new facade on the front of the station was installed at this time as well. A truck lift was later added to the truck bay.



1970 - 1979

Chief

Aubrey Schultz

- 1970 - Department purchased a new Maxim 100-ft tiller ladder truck with an open cab and an automatic transmission.
- December 1970 - Contract signed for new ambulance to be delivered in 9 months.
- July 1971 - Members were advised that company owned land had been sold contingent on zoning and acceptable results of engineering studies at a price of \$129,500.00.
- September 1971 - President advised that 259 would be sold and a 3/4 ton GMC purchased to use as a second ambulance.
- October 1971 - Volunteer Firefighters James Herbert and Richard Whittington perish in a tragic accident involving the 1964 Ford Young.
- November 1971 - At a special meeting, President Ward stated that he had talked to several parties about a memorial for Firemen Whittington and Herbert, both of whom tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.
- June 1972 - Pumper is on order with delivery in November.
- August 1972 - Members informed that the BOD decided to make the wall in the truck bay the "Memorial Wall" and all items were ordered and will be here for memorial services in October.
- January 1973 - New Maxim, 1250 gpm, open cab pumper expected by end of the month.
- March 1973 - New pumper to be paid by a \$3800 first payment and the balance of \$12,000 yearly at \$3800.
 - The 1973 Maxim Pumper is dedicated to James Herbert and Richard Whittington.
- March 1974 - Laurie Gilman was voted in as the first female volunteer firefighter at Clinton VFD.
- September 1974 - Robert Smith and Francis Ward were told that they were now Life Members.
- July 1975 - Directors purchased body for new pumper.
- August 1975 - Owner of commercial business interested in company property on Kirby Road.
- 1976 - Department purchased a new Kenworth-Pierce 2000 gpm, open cab pumper.
- August 1976 - 1976 Kenworth Pierce Pumper is dedicated to Chief Aubrey Schultz.



1951 Mack Pumper "Mack the Tick"



1970 Maxim Ladder Truck



1973 Maxim Pumper



1976 Kenworth

- September 1976 - Clinton VFD hosts Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Annual Convention.
- *Lapse of minutes for 1976-77-78-79.*



1980 - 1989

Chiefs

Bernard Perry, January 1980

Aubrey Schultz, January 1981

- January 1980 - Bernard Perry elected Chief.
- January 1981 - Aubrey Schultz elected Chief.
- April 1981 - Letter of commendation to Clinton VFD from University of MD Fire and Rescue Institute.
- July 1981 - BOD approved selling the utility truck for \$1500.00.
- October 1981 - Long-time member and veteran of founding days of the company, Millard Schultz, was granted Life membership.
 - House Raffle approved. Special planning meeting to be held on Oct 19, 1981.



1987 Chief's Buggy

- January 17, 1982 - Drawing of the winning ticket for the "House Raffle". 1900 tickets were sold in 72 days for \$100.00 each. Gross income including interest earned was \$191,850.00. Grand prize winner of the House was Mr. & Mrs. H.F. Michaels. There were 18 consolation prize winners. After all expenses, net profit was \$55,500.00.
- July 1982 - Department purchased a new GMC-Pierce mid-size pumper with a closed cab and a 300 gallon water tank.
- January 1983 - Aubrey Schultz elected Chief.
- May 1983 - Discussion concerning a Las Vegas night at the firehouse.
- June 1983 - Letter of resignation from President Mullikin was received and accepted. Francis Ward was elected President and Robert Walker, Vice President.



1982 GMC Pierce

- November 1983 - Department to hold Monte Carlo nights at the station on the second and fourth weekends of the month.
- April 1984 - Clinton VFD and the Prince George's County Fire Department were looking at three or four other properties for a new fire station.
- May 1984 - PGFD Medic 5 is placed in service from Clinton VFD. While a Medic Bay addition is being planned and constructed, the Medic Unit Staff and equipment is housed in the original station.
- May 1985 - It was announced that the Department would observe the 50th Anniversary of Clinton VFD on November 8, 1986.
- December 1985 - CVFD contacted Mike Miller and the Prince George's County government regarding the installation of a traffic light in front of the fire house.



1986 Pierce Lance



– There was discussion about acquiring a medic unit. This was put to vote and it was decided to start the construction of an addition to house the medic unit. Mr. Hinton was to be the contractor.

• 1986 - Department purchased a new Pierce/Lance 2000 gpm, closed cab pumper.

– 1986 Pierce Lance is dedicated to Life Member Francis N. “Skip” Ward

– Aubrey Schultz, Billy Belfield, Pat Fleming and John Maine accompany the 1986 Pierce Lance on a trip to Dallas, TX where it is on display for a week in Reunion Arena.

– Robert Small operates the 1986 Pierce Lance on his first fire using Large Diameter Hose at a warehouse fire in Brandywine.

– 1986 Pierce Lance incorporates a laptop computer for Pre-Plans and Routing information, as well as a cellphone donated by Cellular One of St. Louis, MO.

• November 1986 - The Prince George’s County Fire Chief stated that no one will ride on the back step of apparatus made by Pierce.

• February 1987 - BOD approved the purchase of a new Ford Bronco Chief’s Car.

• March 1988 - BOD voted to donate the foam wagon to Tylerton FD on Smith Island.

• July 1988 - A motion was made to accept the pro-



1989 Pierce Lance

posal to rehab the old trailer of Truck 25. The price will be \$79,200.00. The work will be done by Middleboro in Massachusetts.

• October 1988 - The 1982 GMC-Pierce mid-size pumper has been sold to Martinsburg, WV for \$47,000.00.

• December 1988 - BOD accepted a bid to fabricate the tiller cage for Truck 25 at a cost of \$9,870.00 by Middleboro in Mass.

– Traffic light in front of firehouse has been activated.

• June 1989 - The 1973 Maxim pumper was involved in an accident at Woodyard and Dangerfield Roads.

• 1989 - Department purchased a new Pierce-Lance, 2000 gpm, closed cab pumper.



1989 Pierce/Maxim



1990 - 1999

Chief

Robert Small, January 1991

- January 1990 - BOD authorized the sale of the 1970 Maxim Ladder truck tractor. This tractor was replaced with a 1989 Pierce closed cab tractor.

- Authorized rebuilding, from the frame up, a new cab and body for the 1973 Maxim pumper at a cost of \$103,000.00. The pumper was now designated as a foam unit.

- 1991 - Four members of Clinton VFD were selected to go to Florida to attend the funeral of Past Chief Mose Webster.

- March 1992 - Foam unit placed in service.

- July 1992 - Chief Aubrey Schultz is in Southern Maryland Hospital.

- August 1992 - CVFD Members Robert Small, Scott Kaiser, Jeff Murphy, Scott Dohmen, Chris Childress and Chuck Shugrue travel to Morgan City, LA to assist victims of Hurricane Andrew. Tons of donated materials and supplies travel with the team as they spend 10 days rebuilding homes/shelters.

- June 1993 - Aubrey Schultz resigns as Assistant Chief.

- July 1993 - Sally Brown elected Secretary.

- 1994 - Casino has been shut down.

- April 1994 - BOD agree to sell Foam Wagon for \$125,000.00.

- October 1995 - A tornado struck the Allentown Road area.

- 1996 - William E. Brown, passed away. In 1970, W.E. Brown had been elected 1st Vice President of the State Rescue Association.

- December 1997 - Sally Brown, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented the fire department with a check for \$700 to cover the remainder of the costs of the appliances for E-251. This is an addition to the \$1,000 given at banquet.

- March 1998 - Discussions regarding a firefighter locator system for each department. The cost would be between \$3,000,000-\$4,000,000 statewide

- July 1998 - Engine 254 has been sold and delivered to Boothwyn FD in Pennsylvania.

- October 1998 - Aubrey Schultz passed away on October 16, 1998.

- March 1999 - BOD decided to dedicate the new 1999 Pierce/Dash pumper to the members of Co.



1990 Spartan Body

25. A plate will be engraved with “Spirit of Clinton Volunteers” for the dedication.

- July 1999 - Decision made to replace the engine in the Chief’s Buggy (87 Bronco).

- September 1999 - There will be a ceremony dedicating T-25 to Richard Whittington and James Herbert.

- Engine 255 still not in service, no word from the county fire chief regarding its speed which exceeds the county mandate of 65 mph.

- November 1999 - It was reported that in October the department had 377 fire calls and 212 ambulance calls. We were undermanned 24 times and failed to get out twice.



1999 Pierce/Dash



2000 - 2010

Chief

Robert Small

- February 2000 - Scott Kaiser thanked everyone for their time and effort for the funeral of Mel Hixson.
- June 2000 - President Scott Kaiser proposed Peggy Schultz and Jan Hixson for Honorary Membership. The company accepted.
 - A new Maryland law states that a regular drivers license is all that is needed to tiller the ladder truck, not Class A.
- December 2000 - CVFD sold 114 Christmas trees in just 3 days.
- September 2001 - It is requested that EMTs standby during the Civil War reenactments at His Lordship Kindness.
- January 2002 - CVFD sold 355 Christmas trees last month, for a profit of \$3500.
- May 2002 - CVFD members assist in recovery efforts after F5 Tornado causes severe damage to La Plata, MD. Members from Clinton assisted for nearly 10 days.
- January 2003 - Columbia DC Moose Lodge #126 has selected Ed McMahan as Fireman of the Year for 2002. John Dennison presented the award to Eddie.
 - First official meeting held at CVFD for the newly established “Clinton VFD Old Timers Club”.
- February 2003 - Wal Mart donated \$1500 to the fire department for 2002. They indicated that the funds would also be available for 2003.
 - The BOD reviewed a copy of the Clinton seal design that Mark Clagg is changing to read “Volunteers” instead of Prince George’s County.
- April 2003 - Silver Hill Lions Club donated \$3,000 to help CVFD with the repair/replacement of T-25. A local small business also donated \$5,000.
- June 2003 - Water supply detailed to Past Prince George’s County Fire Chief Larry Woltz’s funeral.
- August 2003 - Sue Jones volunteered to set up a web site for the department.
- September 2003 - Station prepares for Hurricane Isabel which hit the area hard.



2007 Pierce/Dash

- October 2003 - CVFD received a settlement check in the amount of \$136,623.28 from the Prince George’s County Fire Department for Truck 25 which was involved in an accident. The truck was a total loss.
 - Scott Kaiser reported that the department’s request for a grant to purchase a new foam truck has been officially turned down.
- November 2003 - The Old Timers Club is planning a Thanksgiving Dinner at the fire house on Saturday, November 15, 2003. A big meal is planned, everyone is invited.
- January 2004 - CVFD was looking at a ladder truck in Manassas, VA but it did not meet the PG Co Fire Department standard tip load of 250 lb. Also looking at a ladder truck in West Haven, CT.
 - It was reported that the department made \$3,800 on the sale of Christmas trees.
- March 2004 - CVFD was invited to attend the 250th anniversary parade for the Oxford, PA Fire Department.
- June 2004 - Martin Padgett, President of the Clinton Old Timers Club sent a letter of thanks to CVFD for inviting the club to the department’s annual banquet and also for the recognition the club was given during the ceremony.
- August 2004 - Richard and Robert Small now own E252, the 1967 Ford cab-forward pumper. This





Truck 25, 1991 PemFab/LTI

truck had been at the Harry Lundenburg School in Piney Point, MD.

- Jerry Spence announced that the Old Timers Club was selling raffle tickets for a 6 day/7 night vacation to Navarre Beach, FL on the Gulf of Mexico for the week of June 11-18, 2005. Tickets are \$5 each, drawing to be held on April 16, 2005.
- September 2004 - Martin Padgett reported that the manufacturer of the “Mack the Tick” scale models has requested permission to use the Clinton seal and paint scheme on the replicas. There will be 750 models manufactured. Martin will sell them to CVFD members at cost.
- October 2004 - A special thanks was expressed to Skip Ward for finding a part to repair the Kenworth. The part came from Australia.
- November 2004 - The Bronco Chief's Buggy is sold to the Old Timers Club.
- December 2004 - The department decided not to repair T-25 that was totaled in an accident. The Kenworth pumper will be taken out of service and move E251 to water supply.
- January 2005 - CVFD is the only Water Supply station in the county at this time.
 - Scott Kaiser reported that he will be sending a CVFD patch and short story to Disney World for display.
- February 2005 - Eight members of the Old Timers Club helped out with the County Association meeting.
- March 2005 - Chief Robert Small reported that both the Maryland House and Senate have approved \$200,000 for the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Ground breaking is expected to take place on September 11, 2005.
- April 2005 - CVFD's web site has been awarded a Gold Award by the American Association of Web Masters.
- May 2005 - John Maine reported that Maryland Fire Dispatch has been contacted regarding articles that will be published about fires in Clinton.
- Cephas Thomas' antique pumper took 1st place at the Winchester parade.
- June 2005 - The CVFD web site is averaging 6000-7000 visitors per month.
- July 2005 - E-255 has accumulated 70,000 miles in just five years.
- September 2005 - Slim Grimm noted that the Summit Photo fund raiser is a fire department project not the ladies auxiliary.
- November 2005 - CVFD received a grant of \$78,500 for the station's exhaust system. The work will begin soon.
 - The Suburban was sold to the Prince George's County Dive Team for \$1000.
 - 300 Christmas trees have been purchased for the annual sale. Trees will sell for \$40 each.
- December 2005 - T-25 is being stored at the Miller's farm until it is sold.
 - Kara Small thanked the Old Timers Club for supplying gifts for the children who attended the Christmas party.
- January 2006 - David Rucker proposed Honorary memberships for May Whittington, Charles and Virginia Herbert. All were accepted.
- March 2006 - BOD approved the purchase of a Pierce/ Dash 2000 gpm two-stage pumper.
- July 2006 - The Kenworth Water Supply scale models are being manufactured. 2500 models are being made for CVFD.
 - Chief Robert Small reported that the department has received drawings for a new pumper.
- August 2006 - Ginger reported that the new ambulance has arrived.
- September 2006 - The foam unit is sold to the Old Timers Club.
- November 2006 - The Kenworth models will be delivered in January 2007.
- 2007 - Engine 251, a 2007 Pierce/Dash 2000 GPM pumper is delivered. The pumper is dedicated to Chief Robert N. Small, Jr.
- June 2007 - Wayne Coller announced that he



would donate new tables and chairs to the department in memory of his wife.

- August 2007 - Funeral services for former CVFD member, Judge Ernest Loveless, were held on August 17, 2007. Judge Loveless was a member at Clinton VFD from 1940 to 1946.

- September 2007 - The "Old Timers Club" acknowledged the members who participated in the funeral services for Judge Ernest Loveless. There were many county dignitaries present and they stated how impressed they were with Clinton VFD and the Old Timers Club.

- CVFD is now part of the Washington Council of Governments. Beginning October 1, 2007, all units will be assigned numbers starting with "8". For example, E-825.

- November 2007 - Chief Small reported for Richard that a third Kenworth model will be coming out early next year. It will be forest green and black and have Smokey the Bear on it.

- Scott reported that the department will not be selling Christmas this year.

- January 2008 - Skip Ward resigned as Treasurer due to his wife's illness.

- March 2008 - Todd Berneski asked about the status of serving food after each business meeting as discussed at the BOD/Line officers meeting. The Old Timers Club will do this starting next month.

- July 2008 - Vice President David Rucker resigns from office as of July 1, 2008.

- September 2008 - Founding member, T. Alan Penn was inducted into the PG County Fire Department Founder's Circle.

- Former President, John Mullikin passed away on September 11, 2008.

- October 2008 - The secretary read thank you notes from the families of John Mullikin and Georgia Rucker for our thoughts, prayers and assistance during the recent loss of Johnny and Georgia.

- November 2008 - Bob McGhee reported that a new boiler is being installed. It is expected to be operational by November 19, 2008.

- Jerry Spence invited everyone to the Old

Timers annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 15, 2008.

- January 2009 - CVFD is making plans for the repast for Jan Hixson. Jan passed away on January 9, 2009.

- October 2009 - Scott Kaiser presented the Old Timers Club with a Judges Award trophy from the Prince George's County Convention. A Certificate of Appreciation from PG County Fire Association was presented to Robert Small for his work throughout the state. E-251 took Best Appearing Pumper at the PG County Convention parade.

- November 2009 - The BOD discussed the CIP project that will cover the rehab/redesign of the bunkroom and bathrooms. The current plan is to add a shower facility to the ladies room and rehab the bathroom in the bunkroom.

- December 2009 - Scott Kaiser, Department President for 10 years informs Department he will not seek reelection.

- January 2010 - John Maine elected as the Department President. TJ Roth wins election as Vice President. Bob McGhee and Sally Brown are re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary.

- March 2010 - CVFD is looking into the possible purchase of T-14.

- April 2010- T-14 has been purchased and will be picked up on April 18.

- June 2010 - Truck 25, a 1991 Pem Fab, 100 ft tiller, is now in service.

- Renovations to Bunkroom and Ladies Bathroom are completed.

- August 2010 - Don Byroads and Martin Padgett have moved the memorial board from the truck bay to the engine room on the wall near the kitchen.

- Capital Improvement Project recommendations for the Watch Room and Kitchen are submitted to the Fire Commission. A project plan is also sent to the County to assist in removing the old Hydraulic Lift in the rear of the truck bay.

- September 2010 - Scott Kaiser and Bob McGhee inducted into PGCVFRA Hall of Fame.



Other Important Historical Facts

- In January 1955 the Clinton VFD old style back patch cost \$3.50. The new style back patch would be \$1.18 more. 90 patches would be purchased at this time.
- On January 11, 1960 a letter from William S. Schmitt, Superintendent of Schools was read concerning the junior members getting out of school during school hours to support the department due to lack of manpower.
- January 1961, the Fire Department was discussing plans for a new Chief's office and a coat check room for attendees to use at the Saturday night dances.
- In April 1965, part time paid firefighters' salary was \$1.50/hr. Uniforms for these men were rented for \$2.75/week.
- On January 3, 1966, the Department discussed hiring a full time paid firefighter. Webster moved that they hire Charles R. Brown as a full time paid firefighter at Clinton.
- In 1966, Prince George's Co. Fire Service formed a Career paid force. The county career firefighters would work with the volunteers as it is today.
- In 1966, CVFD is negotiating for a piece of land at a cost of \$40,000-\$80,000 to build a new firehouse which will probably cost \$100,000-\$150,000.
- The Department purchased a Ford Country Sedan Station Wagon in 1966 for \$2,800 to be used as the Chief's car.
- A new apron was poured in front of the firehouse in 1967 for a cost of \$3,800.
- In 1967, the town of Clinton loses a landmark, B.K. Miller's barn was destroyed in a fire.
- Cost of a new 1967 Cadillac Superior Ambulance purchased by the Department is \$14,650.00.
- In 1968 there was talk about Silver Hill and Oxon Hill building a substation on Temple Hill Rd between Fisher Rd and Henderson Rd. It was never built.
- In 1970, the Department ordered boots for \$18.00/pair and helmets for \$17.00 each.
- Part time firefighters were hired on weekends to cover for those forced to take annual leave. They were paid about \$2.00/hr.

Do You Remember?

1939

- Clinton's town carnival and parade that ran for a week?

1950s

- Clinton VFD had "Hillbilly" dances every Saturday night from 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.?
- You could count the number of cars passing in front of the firehouse on one hand?
- When the only road going north and south was Branch Avenue?
- When you could take your empty soda bottles to the local store and get 2 cents for each one?
- When Joe Hill, who operated the Exxon Station at the intersection of Old Branch Ave and Woodyard Rd, would direct traffic for the fire trucks that were headed in that direction?
- When you bought a Shuler burger for \$1.50 and it was big enough to feed two people?

- Mr. H hamburger shop at Schultz Rd and Rt 5, run by the Smith family?
- When you could buy a burger at Little Tavern for 5 cents?
- When Steed Road was a dirt road?
- The Ranch Drive-In Movie on Cris Mar Ave, admission was \$2.00/car?
- When the fire department showed movies on the second floor on Friday nights for the kids?
- When teenage dances were held on Wednesday nights at the firehouse?
- When Mr. Frostie and the Good Humor ice cream trucks would stop at the firehouse?
- Hurley Funk, who worked for a bread company, had some members of CVFD wash his truck and rewarded them with a rack of raspberry filled donuts?
- Some members of CVFD slept on the hose bed of the Brockway pumper?



- Aubrey and Sally Schultz designed the first insignia that was put on the 1957 GMC?
- When Clinton's GMC pumpers were named the "Chrome Domes"?
- When junior members were not allowed to go to the card games that were held in the basement after the Monday night meetings?
- When sodas, candy and peanuts were sold for 5 cents each at the firehouse?
- When junior members were picked up at school to help out on a fire?
- When a fire call came in and you would only have about 10 seconds to get on the truck or be left behind?
- The 1950 Ford Utility truck that had a 3 speed transmission with a stick shift?
- The Brockway felt like it was going 60 mph when it was only going 45 mph?
- What a 5 speed with a 2 speed rear means? Today you only have automatics.
- Our car and truck radios that transmitted to fire headquarters were military radios converted over to our frequency? You couldn't receive transmissions very well and often we had to pass another truck returning to their station before we realized that we had been turned around.
- Working on the 1947 Brockway engine more often than you care to remember?
- On the old 256 Brush truck how many times you had to pull the starter chord on the portable pump to try to get it started? If you pulled it 4 times and it started, you were lucky after 4 pulls you were in trouble.
- When Clinton would meet Morningside and Silver Hill at the intersection of Old Branch Ave and Allentown Rd? Sometimes it was dead heat.
- Having to push the Brockway by hand to get it started when responding to a car fire on Brinkley Rd?
- Our 1950 Chevy ambulance going to Aquasco to pick up a patient and transporting the patient to P.G. Hospital in Cheverly?
- Responding to a car fire on Accokeek Rd on old 256 and later learning the water tank was empty?
- Going down Piscataway Rd hill, toward the bridge, on the Brockway and the transmission would jump out of gear and we were hoping we would have enough brakes to stop?

1960s

- When the 1960 Brush truck was named the "Untouchable"?

1970s

- The first ladder truck at CVFD with an automatic transmission was the 1970 Maxim ladder truck?



History of the Clinton Ladies Auxillary

- The Ladies Auxiliary was organized on January 28, 1938. Attending the first meeting was Mr. and Mrs. T. Alan Penn, Avis Gwynn, Harry Bradley, Ruth Emer, Bertha Pilkington, and Alice O'Hara. Also attending the meeting was Irene O'Connor, Past President of the County, and Magalene Schmidt, P.G. County Organizer for the Maryland State Auxiliary.

- During the early years of the auxiliary, meetings were held twice a month in the members' homes.

- The first function of the auxiliary was a Bingo on March 11, 1938, held in the fire hall; a profit of \$2.05 was made. With this money, the auxiliary purchased brooms for the firehouse which was the first of many donations.

- In the very early years of the auxiliary, some of the main donations to the firemen were boots, coats, helmets, blankets, hoses and money. The auxiliary helped the firemen financially with many different functions, including paying for the firemen's insurance and the first banquet.

- On October 4, 1946, the auxiliary joined the Prince George's County Auxiliary and Maryland State Auxiliary.

- In September 1952, Lillian Middleton, was the first member of the Clinton Ladies Auxiliary to become President of the Prince George's County Ladies Auxiliary. Since that time, the auxiliary has had several other members become president of the county: Elizabeth Webster (1959), Margery Smith (1980), and Linda Mudd (1989), and has had members that have served on various county committees.

- With the membership growing in the 50's and 60's, the auxiliary organized a drill team and drafting team, which lasted quite a few years. Also during these years, a bowling team that participated in a county ladies auxiliary bowling league was formed.

- In the 1970's the auxiliary had a lot of enthusiastic members, but there were a few who just seemed to want to outdo themselves. In June 1978, these



Ladies Auxiliary



Ladies Auxiliary early 1950s



First Ladies Auxiliary Drill Team



members organized another auxiliary competition team known as “Mel’s Angels” after their coach, Mel Hixson, and began many years of success in yearly competitions. Today they are known as the “The Clinton Angels” and continue to successfully compete.

- Two auxiliary members also competed in the annual Miss Fire Prevention Contest for Prince George’s County. For 2000-2001, Jennifer Malenab took 2nd place and for 2001-2002 she was selected Fire Prevention Queen. In 2001 she also served as the Fire Prevention Queen for the Maryland Fire Chief’s Association. As Queen she represented Prince George’s County in the MSFA Miss Fire Prevention Contest and was chosen 1st Runner Up. She was the first contestant from PG County to earn this honor.

- Amy Jones also served as the Prince George’s County Queen for both the 2003-2004 year and again for the 2007-2008 year.

- Through the 90’s and forward a smaller auxiliary concentrated their fund raising efforts on pizza and cookie dough sales, bakeless bake sales and a yearly craft fair.

- They also supported the fire department with canteen services at fires, the yearly Family Photo drive, station cleanups, open houses, and the annual mulch sale.

- Today the membership of the auxiliary consists of fifteen (15) Active Members, three (3) Associate Members, eight (8) Life Members, and one (1) Honorary Member.

- There have been many changes in the auxiliary since January 28, 1938, but the most important goal that the auxiliary set and will never change, is to work side by side with the firemen to help them achieve each and every one of their goals.



Ladies Auxiliary Bowling Team



Ladies Auxiliary Drill Team



Ladies Auxiliary

