HISTORICAL SKETCHES
of the Fire Department of Rochester
1924
HISTORICAL SKETCHES of the
FIRE DEPARTMENT of ROCHESTER
Published in the Interest of the Firemen's Pension Fund

Compiled by Chief Frank A. Jaynes for City Firemen's Association

Edited by Milton G. Hall
Historical Sketch of the Rochester Fire Department

On Sunday, December 5th, 1819, shortly after three o’clock in the afternoon a little village on the banks of the Genesee River was startled from its blanket of newly fallen snow to face the fact that for the first time it was visited by fire. A building containing the “Gazette,” Rochester’s first newspaper, caught fire and burned to the ground. When the flames were discovered volunteers hurriedly formed a “bucket brigade” and toiled bravely for two hours only to see their efforts wasted.

This handful of volunteers in the little village of Rochester never dreamed that some day their successors would form one of the most efficient fire-fighting organizations in the greatest nation on earth.

In the village election a short time after this first fire, the town officially recognized the need for fire protection and five wardens were elected whose duty it was to “look to the prevention of fire and superintend the efforts of the citizens in extinguishing the flames.” On the 19th of October 1820 a company was organized but the first authorized department was not created until May 5th, 1826. Appointments were made by the city governing officials and a “committee on the fire department” was appointed. A man by the name of Samuel Works was placed in charge as “chief engineer.” He was described as being “a man of extraordinary activity, of perfect fearlessness and of great presence of mind, admirably adapted for such a post.”

Thus it is seen that the splendid achievements and records of the Rochester Fire Department of today were inspired by traditions reaching back more than a hundred years ago.

In 1831 the famous old companies No. 4 (“Cata-ract”) and No. 5 (“Rough and Ready”) were organized. The members of these companies are said to have made a great record for “efficiency” with the old hand pumpers—antiques today but the finest of “modern” equipment in their day.

In later years three noted organizations were formed, whose members gave to the department its most illustrious background of achievement. These were “The Protectives,” “The Alerts” and “The Actives.”

The first of these was formed in 1858 and, as its name implies, its duties were to remove property from burning buildings and, in general, to protect all property in dangerous proximity to the fire. Of the three named organizations this is the only one that remains in existence today. The work began more than a half century ago is carried on today, with considerable success and is looked upon as one of the most important branches of fire fighting.

“The Alert Hose,” probably the city’s most famous fire company, was organized on September 7th, 1858. Some of the present members of the department began
Historical Sketch of the Rochester Fire Department—Continued

their career as members of the “old Alert Hose.” The history of this company alone is a bright chapter in the story of Rochester but is too long to be recounted here. It is enshrouded in tales of heroism and bravery that outrivals anything in fiction.

“The Actives” were formed in 1868 and with much ceremony the citizens of the city presented them with a new hose carriage “to be drawn by horses.” That a splendid record was made by the new equipment is indicated in reports on the company’s activity for more than a score of years.

The first fatality in a Rochester fire occurred December 21st, 1827, when Thomas M. Rathbun, of Hook and Ladder No. 1, was killed by a falling chimney at the burning of Everard Peck’s paper mill in South Water street.

Rochester has been visited by many disastrous conflagrations. Among the most famous of these were the “Livery Stable Fire” of 1858; the “Orphan Asylum Fire” of 1901; the “Lantern Works Fire” of 1888, and the “Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Fire” of 1904.

Twenty-one children and two nurses lost their lives in the Orphan Asylum Fire and twenty-eight lives were lost in the destruction of the Lantern Works. These are the only cases where the loss of life was heavy. In point of property damage, the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr fire takes rank with the most destructive.

The history of the Rochester Fire Department is more fascinating than fiction. It is a story of the brave and courageous men who have been protecting the city from flames since that first little print shop fire more than a century ago.

The apparatus and equipment has changed. The tin bucket, the hand pumper, the hand drawn hose carts, the “gooseneck” engines and the spirited steeds that sprang quickly into harness at the sound of the bell, have given way to the thundering apparatus of Rochester’s motorized fire department. Alarm boxes in all parts of the city have supplanted the old pistol shots that spread the fire alarm. But the spirit of courage and bravery that characterized the fire fighters of old has not changed. It still dominates the men of today and as in years past a splendid tradition was woven for the inspiration of the men of today, so are the city’s present fire fighters weaving a tradition of service for their successors of tomorrow.
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HON. C. D. VAN ZANDT is a true "native son" of Rochester. It was in the Flower City that he was born and he has been a resident of his birthplace ever since, aside from one year spent in business in the neighboring state of Pennsylvania. In 1881 he married Miss Mary E. White of New York City. Six children were born to the couple, only one of whom, Mrs. C. C. Keehn of Canandaigua, is living. Mrs. Van Zandt died in 1917.

Mayor Van Zandt was educated in the public schools of Rochester. He began his business career as an errand boy in the employ of Lane & Paine, druggists. In 1881 he became a member of the firm, and when the company was incorporated in 1910, as the Paine Drug Company, he was made president. Mayor Van Zandt is the principal owner of the company.

Mr. Van Zandt was never active in politics until 1921 when he was nominated for mayor by the Republicans and was elected by a plurality of 2,053. Two years later his administration of Rochester public affairs was endorsed by a re-election with a plurality of more than 12,000.

The mayor is a member of the Masonic fraternity; the Oak Hill, Rochester and Washington clubs, the Elks and for years he has been one of the most active members of the Automobile Club of Rochester, of which organization he has been president and is now honorary vice-president. He is affiliated with various organizations devoted to furthering the civic interest of Rochester, and also is a member of the Old Guard of the National Guard.
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W orth the Money
HARRY J. BAREHAM, Commissioner of Public Safety

Harry J. Bareham, Commissioner of Public Safety, was born in Palmyra, N. Y., March 3, 1876. The family came to Rochester in 1881 and has lived here ever since. He was educated in Public Schools Nos. 15, 27 and 18 and the Rochester Free Academy. Mr. Bareham early attached himself to the plumbing business and since 1905 has been secretary and treasurer of the firm of Natt, Bareham & McFarland, Inc.

In May, 1917, Mr. Bareham was appointed alderman of the Sixteenth ward, in place of John McParlin, resigned and in the following fall was elected to the office. In 1920, he became floor leader of the Common Council and three months afterwards assumed the chair of president of that body, on resignation of H. Bradley Carroll. In 1921 he was elected president of the Council. On January 2, 1922, he was sworn into this office, but immediately resigned to accept appointment under Mayor C. D. Van Zandt as his Commissioner of Public Safety.

Commissioner Bareham is a member of Genesee Falls Lodge, F. and A. M., the Grotto, Rochester Consistory, Damascus Temple, Mystic Shrine, Tippecanoe Lodge, I. O. O. F., Court Flower City, I. O. F., Rochester Lodge of Elks, the Protectives, Masonic Club, Rochester Club, Washington Club, Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester Athletic Club, Union League Club, Chamber of Commerce and Builders Exchange. He is past president of the New York State Association of Master Plumbers and a member of the Associated Master Plumbers of Rochester. He is married and has three children.
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CURTIS W. BARKER, Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, was born in Rochester, April 15, 1876, and has lived here ever since. He was educated in Public Schools Nos. 6 and 14, the Rochester Free Academy and University of Rochester, class of '97. Upon leaving college he engaged in the newspaper business, becoming successively reporter, telegraph editor and assistant city editor of the Democrat and Chronicle.

On January 1, 1913, Mr. Barker was appointed secretary of the Department of Public Safety and served as such under Commissioners Charles S. Owen, R. Andrew Hamilton and Harry J. Bareham. In February, 1924, he was appointed deputy commissioner by Commissioner Bareham, the position having been created at that time by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Mr. Barker was the first president of the Rochester News-writers' Club and is now an associate member of the Rochester Press Club. He is also a member of Yonmontio Lodge No. 163, F. and A. M., past president of the Protectives, Inc., a member of the Exempt Volunteer Firemen, the Eighteenth Ward Republican Club, Gamma Sigma and Delta Upsilon fraternities. He was one of the original directors of the Rochester Industrial Exposition and member of the Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America. He is married and has two sons.
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[Page Ten]
Chief FRANK A. JAYNES

A picturesque figure in the Rochester Fire Department is CHIEF JAYNES, one of the best known firemen in the city. On June 1st, 1924 he rounded out an even half century of service with the Rochester Department. In that time he has seen the organization develop from a handful of men to about 500.

Chief Jaynes began in 1874 with the old "Alerts." They had a hand hose outfit and used to rush pell mell whenever the old fire bell in the city hall sounded. Everybody rushed then for the city was not much more than a big village. The fire house was in Front Street. It was called a fire house but in reality it was a vacant store rented by the city. At this time Chief Jaynes was register clerk at the old post office. The volunteers were known as the "Minute Men." The Chief became enamored of fire fighting in those two years with the Alerts, and on June 1st, 1876 he joined the city fire department.

The Chief has been present at every important fire the city has had in the last fifty years. He and his associates have saved millions of dollars worth of property. He was at the famous Lantern Works fire, the Hayden Warehouse fire and the Sib-ley, Lindsay & Curr fire in 1904. Chief Jaynes was appointed head of the department, January 1, 1922.

Chief Jaynes was educated in the public schools of Rochester and was a school chum of George W. Aldridge and many of the men who are in public life today. He married Miss Margaret McNally of Rochester and now resides at No. 580 Averill Avenue.
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Deputy Chief Charles H. Atkinson

Charles H. Atkinson, deputy chief of the Rochester Fire Department, is a native Rochesterian, having been born here January 9, 1855. After attending public school for several years he entered the Rochester Business Institute from which he graduated.

Chief Atkinson entered the service of the department during the existence of that famous old unit known as the Alert Hose. He was then one of the youngest men in the service but in 1879 he was made foreman of the company.

The young foreman took on additional activities when the old Alert Hose was drafted by the city and put on the regular paid list under the designation of Hose Company No. 11. He was made captain of this unit which place he held until July 3, 1893, when he was promoted to battalion chief.

The lantern works fire, one of the most disastrous fires in the history of the city, will always stand out in the life of Chief Atkinson as something spectacular. It was the first fire of such magnitude in his career. From the outbreak to the final spark of that historic fire he was among the active.

Chief Atkinson received his latest promotion on January 1, 1922. He still is highly active and deeply interested in the work though he has reached the age of sixty-nine years. He has taken an interest in all fire prevention work and has furnished many suggestions which have been worked out with success. He is married and has one son. He resides at No. 5 Van Street.
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Forty years ago William J. Creegan started his career in the Fire Department and he is looked upon to-day as one of the most efficient firemen in the country. He is now senior battalion chief in command of Battalion 2, comprising all companies north of Main street and west of the Genesee River. His headquarters is at Platt and Frank Streets.

Following his appointment to the Fire Department on March 20, 1884, Creegan was assigned to Truck 1. His ability to command men was recognized and in six years he was elevated to the rank of Captain in charge of Engine 5. Five years later he was transferred to Hose 3 in Platt Street, an important post because of its strategic position in the downtown district. On December 11, 1901, he was made Battalion Chief, establishing his Headquarters at Hose 3.

For a short time after the dry goods district fire of February 26, 1904, Chief Creegan commanded the entire department while Chief Little and Assistant Chief Jaynes were laid up with injuries as a result of their work in the fire.

Chief Creegan has had many narrow escapes during his forty years of service in the department, but seems to have led a charmed life. On January 7, 1901, when three firemen were killed by nitric fumes at a fire in Kodak Park Creegan was overcome and his life despaired of but he soon returned to duty.

Chief Creegan was born in Rochester and has lived here all his life. His residence is located at 230 Frank Street. He was educated in the public schools of the city.
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Battalion Chief HUGH SMITH is a true Rochesterian and is one of the old-timers in the Rochester Fire Department. He was born in the Flower City when it was known as the Flour City, December 11, 1861 and has lived here continuously ever since. In his early boyhood he attended old Number 10 public school but later studied at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parochial schools.

On leaving school Chief Smith learned the trade of furniture finisher and decorator, but after a short time in his occupation, he was appointed to the Rochester Fire Department.

His first assignment was Ladderman on Truck Company No. 2 in 1884. His splendid record as a fireman led to several promotions, the first of which was to Lieutenant of Hose Company No. 2. Three years later he became Captain of Engine Company No. 10 and on October 10, 1911 he was raised to the rank of Battalion Chief, which office he has held ever since.

His assignment is to the Fourth District, considered one of the busiest in the city. The record of his organization is to be envied by that of any fire-fighting organization in the whole country. He has been present at nearly every big fire in the city for the last twenty years and is greatly admired by his fellow officers and by the men under him.

Chief Smith married a Rochester girl, Miss Mary Erest, who died in 1923. He has one son, William J. Smith, who is an electrician.
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GEORGE MORAN is another member of the Fire Department, whose career is part of that glorious record made by the city's fire fighters during the last twenty-five years. He was appointed fireman June 1st, 1896 and has made a brilliant record during his quarter century of activity.

Diligent attention to duty since his first appointment has brought promotions rapidly to Chief Moran. On January 24th, 1905 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and one year later he was raised to Captain.

While serving in the department as captain, Mr. Moran participated in some of the most famous fires in the history of Rochester. He rendered valuable service at the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Fire in 1904 while he was still a Lieutenant, and it is understood that his promotion to Captaincy came as a reward for his work in that conflagration.

On January 1st, 1920 the Captain was promoted to the rank of Assistant Battalion Chief and April 1st, 1921, he was made a full fledged Battalion Chief and assigned to the Third District.

Chief Moran was born and educated in Rochester. During his early schooling he won quite a reputation as an athlete, playing on many of the school football and baseball teams.

He is married and resides at No. 33 Bartlett Street. He is a member of Lodge 24, B. P. O. E. and takes an active interest in the affairs of the Lodge. He is well liked by the men in the department and has a reputation for fearlessness and courage as a fire fighter.
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Battalion Chief MAURICE KEATING

There are few firemen in the Empire State who can point to a more brilliant record in the public service than MAURICE KEATING, chief of the third district battalion, Rochester Fire Department. And there is none who is more modest about such an achievement than the distinguished fireman who has given thirty-four years of his life in the work.

Mr. Keating was born at Geneseo, N. Y., October 25, 1868 and removed to Rochester with his parents five years later, in 1873. He joined the Rochester Fire Department in 1890 when only 22 years old. Three years later he was promoted to engineer, having charge of much of the work of the fire engines.

In the year of 1901 he was promoted to lieutenant. This promotion came just a few days before the great Orphan Asylum fire of January 8, 1901 in which thirty-three lives were lost. Three years later, the great Sibley, Lindsay & Curr department store fire occurred. Shortly after his service in connection with extinguishing this fire he was promoted to captain.

On April 1, 1921 Captain Keating was promoted to battalion chief of the third district, which place he still holds. He is one of the oldest men in point of continuous service. Many of his fire prevention suggestions have been adopted by the Rochester Fire Department.

Chief Keating is a member of Rochester Council No. 179, Knights of Columbus and also a member of the Flower City Tent No. 30, Knights of The Maccabees. He is married and has five children, and resides at 136 Mulberry street.
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Battalion Chief ROLLIN A. FITTS

Battalion Chief ROLLIN A. FITTS has been a member of the Rochester Fire Department for nearly thirty-one years, having been appointed May 29, 1893 as a ladderman on Truck Company No. 1, then located on Front Street. He was born November 25, 1869 at Lincoln, N. Y. and was a pupil at old Number Fourteen School on Scio street. After leaving school he learned the carpenter trade, working at same until his appointment to the Fire Department.

His first promotion was to Tillerman, Truck Company No. 1, March 9, 1899, then to a captaincy September 1, 1903, being assigned to Engine Company No. 7 on Plymouth avenue, where he remained until March, 1906. At that time he was transferred to Hose Company No. 12, located on St. Paul street in rear of Burke-Fitzsimmons-Hone Company and was still captain when Hose Company No. 12 moved to new quarters on St. Paul street near Franklin street.

Mr. Fitts was appointed acting Battalion Chief in cases of sickness or vacations at various times from 1906 until January 6, 1920, being at the head of Civil Service list for promotion. He was made a Battalion Chief April 1, 1921 and was assigned to District No. 1, which comprises all the territory north of Main street and east of the Genesee River and is considered the busiest district in the city.

Chief Fitts has had several narrow escapes from serious injury, being one of several firemen, who with Chief Jaynes went down with the floors at the Michael Machine Company's fire on North Water Street.
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Battalion Chief William E. J. O'Leary

William E. J. O'Leary has made a splendid record in the Fire Department. He is another true son of the Flower City, having been born in this city in 1880 on September 4th. He is the second son of John and Margaret O'Leary, who lived in Rochester many years.

Chief O'Leary was educated in the parochial schools of the city, being a graduate of St. Mary's. His education was interrupted by the War with Spain, in which he served with credit. He enlisted in the 7th Battery, New York Volunteer Artillery, and was with that organization throughout the war.

In the days when bicycle racing was one of the greatest of athletic sports, Chief O'Leary made an enviable record. He held the one mile national championship as well as many other titles of less importance. In May, 1898 he was picked to ride Edward Taylor, champion of France for the world's title, but the match was called off.

Mr. O'Leary was appointed fireman September 1st, 1903 and was promoted to Lieutenant June 1st, 1909. He was made acting Captain in 1911 and a few months later was commissioned a Captain. He has been Battalion Chief since 1922.

Chief O'Leary married Miss Nina Leland Lane and has two children, a son, William, Jr., and one daughter, Marie. He resides at 290 Laburnam Crescent. He is a member of the Old Guard of Rochester, Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, Musa Caravan, Order of Alhambra and is a life member of Rochester Lodge No. 24, B. P. O. E.
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Battalion Chief George N. Fletcher

The Rochester Fire Department is an institution of great historic interest to Rochesterians. In fact, the men who make up the department have made a great part of the city's history. It is unusual that so great a percentage of the members of this municipal department should have been born and reared in Rochester and Monroe County. George N. Fletcher, Battalion Chief of District No. 2, is another true born Rochesterian. He was born in Rochester and educated in the city schools. He is married and resides at No. 46 Jefferson Avenue.

Chief Fletcher has seen active service in the fire department for more than a quarter of a century. He was early attracted by the courageous and thrilling life of a fireman and on May 19, 1896 he was appointed to the Rochester Fire Department. He served in many different branches of the service and in 1905 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

The two most outstanding disasters during Chief Fletcher's time were the Orphan Asylum fire in 1901 and the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr department store fire in 1904. In 1908, Lieutenant Fletcher became Captain Fletcher and on April 16, 1921, he was given the rank of Battalion Chief.

Chief Fletcher is prominent in fraternal circles of the city, being a 32nd degree Mason. He is a member of Valley Lodge No. 109, F. and A. M. and a member of Damascus Temple. Although he has been in the fire department for thirty years, the thrill of fire fighting has not been lost. He is one of the most vigorous and aggressive men in the department.
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One of the best liked members of the Rochester Fire Department is Battalion Chief ALEXANDER J. SUTHERLAND. He was born in Mt. Morris, N. Y., December 3, 1874. He attended the schools at Mt. Morris but came to Rochester at an early age. He was appointed a member of the fire department April 17, 1905. Diligent service brought rapid promotion and in 1910 he was made lieutenant. Two years later he was commissioned a Captain and in 1923 he was made Battalion Chief and assigned as instructor in the fireman's training school.

Chief Sutherland has an enviable war record, having served in the Spanish War, Philippine Insurrection and the Philippine Constabulary. He is a member of the L. Boardman Smith Camp, United Spanish War Veterans and a member of the Old Guard of Rochester. He is married and resides at 17 Locust Street.

In the Spanish War he actively participated in several of the major engagements. From Cuba he was sent to the Philippine Islands by the War Department and his spirit of adventure prompted him to accept an appointment in the Philippine Constabulary.

Chief Sutherland has made a splendid record as instructor in the fireman's training school, according to his associates. He is especially well liked by the younger members of the department with whom he exercises the greatest of patience in imparting to them the necessary knowledge for an efficient fireman.
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Battalion Chief JOHN A. SLLATERY

JOHN A. SLLATERY was born in Rochester, December 9th, 1888. He is one of the best known firemen in the department, having been popular as an athlete in the days before he began his career as a fireman. On June 7, 1916, he married Miss Ruth M. Sweeney. He has two sons, John Junior, seven years old and George Raymond, six years old. He is a graduate of St. Monica's School and was a tackle on the original Jefferson football team which for seven years was champion of the city. He also played baseball on many semi-pro baseball teams in the city.

He entered the fire department at the age of twenty-one years and was stationed as hoseman at Engine 13 for two months. He then went to Hose 11 and was promoted to Lieutenant, June 1, 1914. He remained at Hose 11 as Lieutenant until July 1, 1918. On this date he was made Captain and sent to Hose 19, from where he was transferred to Pumper 4. On April 10, 1922, he was made Acting Battalion Chief and on September 2nd, 1923, he received permanent appointment in that capacity. He is in charge of Battalion District No. 1, stationed at Hose 12. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 178.

Chief Slattery is one of the most aggressive fire fighters in the department. He has seen service in most of the big fires since he entered the department and has acquitted himself with great credit.
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FRANK WALTER's twenty-one years' service as Supervisor of Engines in the Rochester Fire Department has distinguished him as a man of ability and capability. Besides being capable of filling his position he has always taken a great interest in the fraternal activities of the department.

Mr. Walter started in the department in 1903. Prior to that time he was with the American Fire Engine Company. Practically his entire life has been spent in the study of fire-fighting equipment, and in the forty-three years that he has been in this work he has seen many and wonderful changes in apparatus. He is a native of New York State, having been born at Buffalo in 1856. When but a small child his parents removed to Seneca Falls. At the age of about twenty-five years he entered the employ of the American Fire Engine Company at Seneca Falls. After twenty-two years with this company, during which time he traveled over New York State and made a study of fire engines and tested them for the company, he accepted his present place with the Rochester Fire Department.

Since his connection in Rochester he has seen many large fires and has participated in practically all of them. During his service he has been injured only once. This occurred in the machine shop of the local department in 1907 while he was assisting in the re-tiring of a wheel of the fire engine. He was severely burned but suffered no permanent injury.

Mr. Walter is married and has one son. He resides at 196 Roslyn Street.
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LOUIS RAAB, Vice-President
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J. R. KEEL, Manager
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218 EAST AVENUE
Telephone: Stone 1971

THE GRAY
CARPET CLEANING WORKS
Oriental and Domestic
Rug Washing
251 SANFORD STREET
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Nature of Business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The S. Brooks Furniture Co.</td>
<td>125-133 North Street</td>
<td>Dealers in Furniture, Talking Machines, Stoves, Carpets, Rugs, Draperies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Main Store: 125-133 North Street, Main 3856, Branch Store: 402 State Street, Main 7288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAIN 3921 271 MILL STREET, House Phone, Glenwood 641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Connelly</td>
<td>287 Central Avenue</td>
<td>Mason and General Contractor, Central Trust Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Taxicab Co.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mill Supplies, Ford and Spring Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Telephone Glenwood 3160-3161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Suskind &amp; Son</td>
<td>169-167 State St.</td>
<td>Paints—Wall Paper, Window Shades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>289-291 Joseph Ave.</td>
<td>MAIN 6283, STONE 6840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. C. Brown &amp; Co., Inc.</td>
<td>64 Clinton Ave. S.</td>
<td>Master Dyers and Cleaners, Central Trust Building, Rochester, N. Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAIN 3548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Connelly</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mason and General Contractor, Central Trust Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congdon Auto Parts Company</td>
<td>550 Clinton Ave. S.</td>
<td>G. E. Congdon, Proprietor, Dealers in Used Parts, Tires, Tubes, Generators, Magneto, Carburetors and Accessories of Every Description, Used Cars Bought, Sold and Exchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STONE 6824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hetzler Bros. Ice Co., Inc.</td>
<td>701 Driving Park Avenue</td>
<td>Compliments of THE ABSTRACT GUARANTEE, Rochester, N. Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47 South Fitzhugh Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Near Expo. Park
Assistant Supervisor of Engines JOHN HOFFMAN

One of the most responsible positions in the Rochester Fire Department is that held by John Hoffman. Although he is one of the youngest men in the entire organization, Mr. Hoffman is entrusted with the care of all the motorized equipment of the department. It is his duty to keep the motors on all apparatus in running condition so that there will be no slip up in an emergency.

Mr. Hoffman was born in Rochester and educated in the public schools of the city. He is single and resides at 131 Bartlett Street. He entered the Fire Department when he was scarcely 21 years old on March 16th, 1911, and was assigned as a driver of motor vehicles. His proficiency at this work soon was brought to the attention of Commissioner Hamilton and he was assigned to the Commissioner’s car. Later he drove the car of Commissioner Bareham.

Mr. Hoffman’s thorough knowledge of automobile mechanics stood him in good stead in securing promotion and this year he was appointed Assistant Supervisor of Engines, with rank just above that of Captain. In his present position he has gained for himself a fine reputation for efficiency and initiative.

Many suggestions for improvement in the mechanical apparatus of the Fire Department made by Mr. Hoffman have been adopted and the efficiency of the motor apparatus is credited largely to him by high officials of the organization. He is a Thirty-Second degree Mason and a member of Damascus Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.
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and their Association in the
attainment of their splendid
ideals.

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