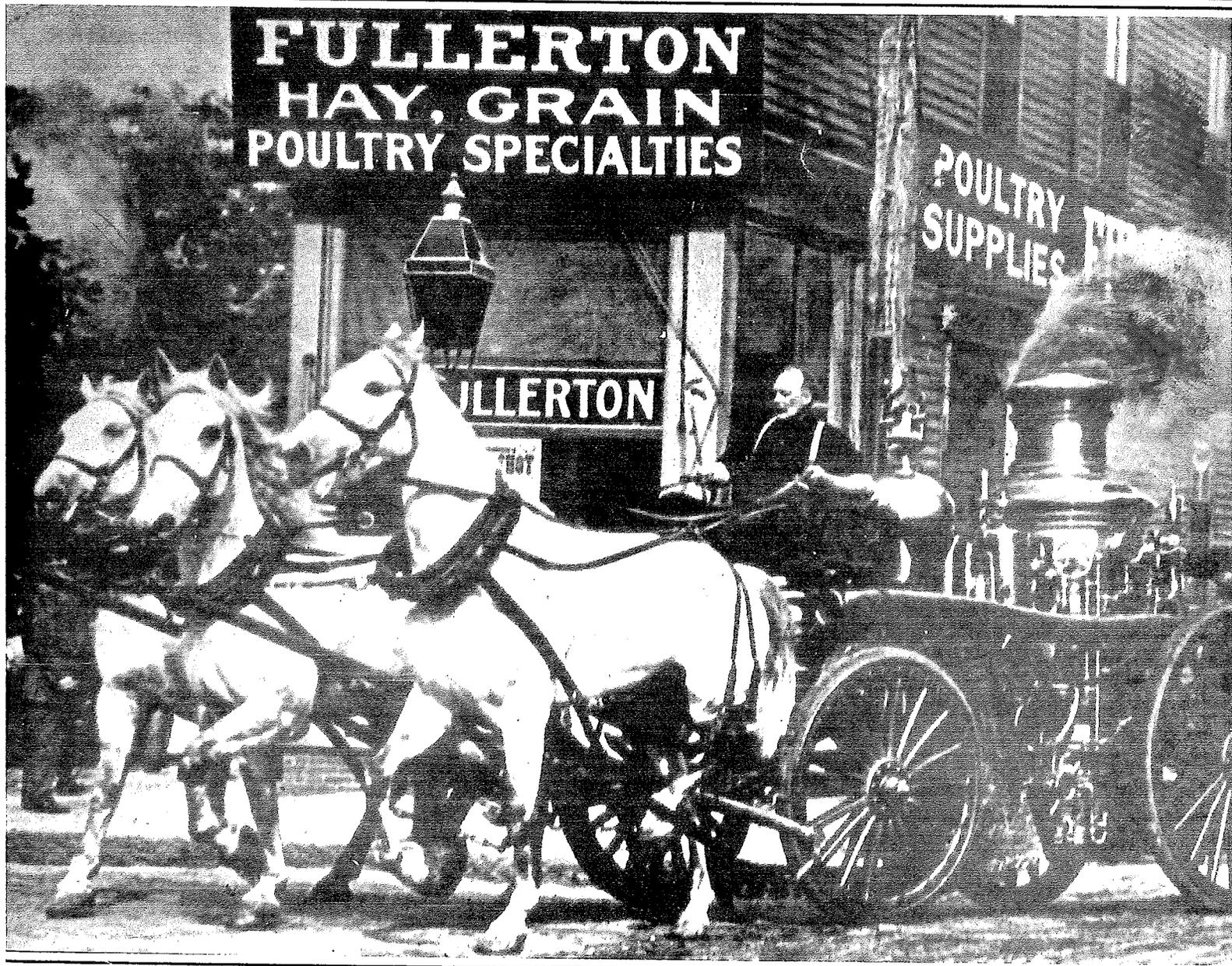


THE BRIGADE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE BROCKTON FIREMEN'S
RELIEF ASSOCIATION





Fire Chief Edward L. Burrell, Honorary Chairman

A History of Brockton Fire Department

1953-1980



On February 10, 1827, 23 shares valued at \$20.00 each were offered for sale; 34 men subscribed for 24 $\frac{1}{4}$ shares valued at \$485.00. Out of this sum the first Fire Engine was purchased and named Union No. 1; this was a bucket-fed hand tub. This was the birth of the Brockton Fire Department.

-July 28th, 1849, a carpenter shop was destroyed by fire, this being the only fire recorded for the year.

-On April 11, 1887, the First Annual Ball and Concert for THE BROCKTON FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION was held in the City Rink.

-On June 7, 1887, THE BROCKTON FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION was legally incorporated, for the specific purpose of Mutual Aid and Assistance under Casualties to which their public duties as Firemen of the City of Brockton may expose them.

Many things have changed since these early years in Brockton, including the operation of our fire department. The following overview will provide incite into the many diverse activities of Brockton Firefighters over the past 27 years.

1953

- July 2, 1953 C.D. & Auxiliary Police and Firemen patrol city over 4th of July.
- July 6, 1953 Leo F. O'Brien, Firefighter 30 years, dies after brief illness.
- July 6, 1953 No false alarms for second consecutive year over the 4th.
- July 8, 1953 Ban on fires at D.W. Field Park until dry spell is over per order of Fire Chief Lynch.
- July 18, 1953 Sprinklers squelch fire at the Brockton Boot & Shoe Company, 223 Clinton Street.
- July 21, 1953 Retired firefighter Clarence O. Rushton succumbs to Asthma.
- July 28, 1953 Lt. Morton Shurtleff appointed Captain 10 years, to the day, after he was appointed to the Fire Department.
- Aug. 5, 1953 The old South School on South Main Street is set afire. Arsonist flees.
- Aug. 13, 1953 First Street barn ruined by flames. Three young boys were picked up and said they had tried to set fire to the Vega Club also, but were unsuccessful.
- Aug. 17, 1953 State firefighters convention held in Brockton, hosted by Local 144. Over four hundred attended in four days and were brought greetings from the City by Mayor Lucey.
- Aug. 20, 1953 City employees to receive \$200.00 raise.
- Sept. 3, 1953 City firefighters from Company 2 & Ladder 2, under command of Deputy Chief Murphy and Lt. Elden Lindquist set leg of Joseph P. Smith who fell 10 feet into primary settling basin at the filter beds on West Chestnut Street and removed him over ladders to a waiting ambulance.
- Sept. 15, 1953 City Council appoints 7 Lieutenants in City Fire Department.
- Sept. 18, 1953 Brockton area is named as probable atomic target.
- Sept. 25, 1953 Captain Andrew Johnson received a badly lacerated right wrist at a kitchen fire on 30 Hayward Street.
- Sept. 28, 1953 Box 4125 was sounded Saturday afternoon for 103 Ames Street. Joseph Sinkiewicz 75, was badly burned when a torch exploded in his hands.
- Oct. 3, 1953 Two alarms at the same time move all apparatus. Engine Co.'s 2, 4, 5 & Ladder 2 responded to Box 1444 at Centre & Bay Streets for a false alarm. At the same time Box 4132 Spark & Field Streets was sounded for a closet fire at 197 Spark Street. Squad A, Engine Co. 3 and Ladder 3 responded.
- Oct. 7, 1953 Box 1546, Crescent Street & Crescent Pl., was sounded for Larry's Ice Depot when a flash fire occurred and engulfed the owner, Lawrence H. Arenberg in flames causing instant death.
- Oct. 12, 1953 Firefighters hold 10th Annual Ball at West Jr. High School.
- Oct. 13, 1953 The National Fire Protection Association announced that the 1952 fire losses are up for the Fourth Year in a row to nearly a Billion dollars and expect an increase of 17.9% for 1953.
- Oct. 21, 1953 Chief Lynch makes many transfers. Among them are, new Lt. Sullivan to Chief Inspector of Fire Prevention and E. Hogan, Squad A Driver for 20 years, moved to Engine Co. 1.
- Oct. 22, 1953 Firefighters answered 7 alarms in short time for brush, leaves and false calls.
- Oct. 23, 1953 Veterans Hospital on Belmont Street to be dedicated Sunday. Fifteen firefighters volunteer to patrol the grounds, parking lots and buildings to guard against any fire emergency.
- Oct. 30, 1953 100 C.D. Police to guard fire boxes over Halloween.
- Oct. 31, 1953 Box 1315 Haverhill & N. Main Streets was sounded for a working fire at 83 N. Main Street. A passerby saw flames shooting out the roof in the rear.
- Nov. 2, 1953 Brockton Fire Dept. only had six false alarms on Halloween.
- Nov. 7, 1953 Nine Fire Captains take 5 hour exam for Deputy Chief.
- Nov. 9, 1953 Three false alarms within 32 minutes sounded in Campello at 6:03 P.M.
- Nov. 10, 1953 M. Edward Mason, a retired fire alarm operator, with 30 years of service, dies after brief illness.
- Nov. 21, 1953 Cornelius J. Burke, after 33 years of service, has retired.
- Nov. 23, 1953 Firefighters responded to an accident at 9:40 P.M. in a heavy downpour where two teenagers were killed and a third was seriously injured.
- Nov. 24, 1953 Firefighters responded to an accident in front of 379 Copeland Street where a teenage West Bridgewater girl was killed and her two companions were seriously hurt, making 3 auto deaths in 24 hours.
- Dec. 4, 1953 Shortly before 8:00 A.M.; rubbish collectors found a found a live fire bomb in a barrel at Green & Warren Ave. It was turned over to the fire department and arrangements were made for its disposal by State Police experts.
- Dec. 7, 1953 Arthur J. La Franchise Jr. 15, of 17 Fields Ave. and Lemuel G. Thompson 44, of 420 Prospect Street rescued Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Belcher of 416 Prospect Street by taking them down a ladder before the arrival of the Fire Department.
- Dec. 11, 1953 Robert E. Hart elected President of the City Firefighters Union Local 144.
- Dec. 25, 1953 Shortly after 9:00 A.M. Christmas morning, Miss Olivine Wright rescued Maurice "Mossey" Clifford a paraplegic found unconscious in his burning apartment at 501 North Main Street.

1954

- Jan. 1, 1954 Box 3124 North Montello & Ames Street was sounded for a fire at the Polish White Eagles at 4:00 A.M. causing \$10,000.00 dollars damage. Firefighters under command of Deputy Chief Totman.
- Jan. 1, 1954 Box 1543 Crescent & Perkins Street sounded for a working fire at 86 Bay Street. William Barrell was rescued from 3rd floor by Fredrick Grady and Francis Mitchell.
- Jan. 1, 1954 Slippery roads contribute to auto accidents sending 11 people to different hospitals.
- Jan. 3, 1954 Firefighters distribute Polio Fund Boxes. Chairman for this year is Earl W. Patriquin whose daughter is recovering from Polio.
- Jan. 6, 1954 All nine Captains pass Deputy's exam.
- Jan. 7, 1954 Firefighters battled to save life of seven week old Kathleen Gain, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gain, 23 Snell Street. She was rushed to a local hospital in the Deputy Chief's car. During the trip firefighter Stephen Spillane and Louis Vanderstreet Jr. administered oxygen.
- Jan. 9, 1954 Fire raced from the cellar to the roof of a three tenement block at 31 Snow Street and two small children are rescued from 3rd floor.
- Jan. 9, 1954 Box 4326 at 10:30 Friday night for a fire at 375 East Ashland Street. Abner Hill saved his house with a garden hose by spraying walls outside. The garage was destroyed.
- Jan. 14, 1954 At 9:30 this morning Box 3126 North Main & Emerson Avenue was sounded for steam rising from roof of Polish White Eagles. Two minutes later Box 1552 Montello & School Street for blazing anti-freeze in a garage at 77 East Elm Street.
- Jan. 14, 1954 Percy J. Dee is elected President of the Brockton Fireman's Relief. Frank Dupais elected Vice-Pres., Daniel A. Buckley Secretary, Francis Herlihy Treas.

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1954 continued

- Jan. 16, 1954 Engine 4 on way to fire rams store of Samuel Cohen at 186 Crescent Street to avoid hitting a passing auto driver Daniel Buckley and firefighter Kenneth White were uninjured. Buckley backed the engine out and continued to North Main & Haverhill Sts.
- Jan. 18, 1954 Daniel Buckley cleared of all blame in fire truck crash at Samuel Cohen's store at 186 Crescent Street. Chief Lynch announced today.
- Jan. 19, 1954 At 5:30 tonight seven firefighters felled by sudden blast of paints and wallpaper fumes. They were trapped for a while at Sherwin-Williams Co., Main St., out by mates were Captain A. Johnson, Captain M. Principe, Lt. R. Charleston, R. Gillpatrick, S. Spillane, R. Gould and L. Vanderstreet Jr.
- Jan. 19, 1954 Box 2112 Forest Ave. & Warren Ave. was sounded for a cellar fire at 600 Warren Ave. Fifteen children and four adults left the tenement block as heavy smoke poured from the roof and front door.
- Jan. 20, 1954 Manager Harley Williamson of Sherwin-Williams said, when he saw the firefighters at work, "that's the best fire department in the State."
- Jan. 25, 1954 Firefighters of Squad A and Ladder 1, under the command of Captain Ralph Williams and Lt. Raymond Charleston, went to the freight yards for Michael Norkus who had his left foot, hand and right arm cut off after a 70 ton coal car passes over him.
- Jan. 27, 1954 Officials study devices which landed in City Tuesday night. Mysterious flares were dropped in North end of City.
- Feb. 3, 1954 Squad A sped to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Richard St. George of 679 Pearl Street as she and her two sons Karl H. and Kenneth H. were overcome by coal gas. Captain Shurtleff was in charge.
- Feb. 10, 1954 Fire officials and Police are investigating a series of 20 incendiary fires set at the First Lutheran Church at Main and Nilsson Streets.
- Feb. 26, 1954 Chief Lynch has given Ernest A. Linchan a badge and made him an honorary member of the Fire Department. He cited him for his valuable service to the Fire Department.
- Feb. 27, 1954 Over 600 attend Firefighters Minstrel Show on first night making it a big success. Proceeds will be used for the sick benefit fund.
- March 10, 1954 Brockton City Council study \$2,304,581.00 budget with no slashes.
- March 12, 1954 Flash cellar fire at Sylvia Sweets Tea Room. The Home Bank Building at 110 Main Street gave firefighters a tough battle at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon.
- March 12, 1954 Deputy Chief Theddeus W. Totman to retire. May get extension until the department receives an eligible list from Civil Service.
- March 13, 1954 Box 1444 Centre & Bay Streets was sounded for an oil tank explosion and fire at 195 Centre Street. The duplex six family was badly gutted by fire from the cellar to the roof.
- March 18, 1954 Firefighters to repeat minstrel show at the new Veterans Hospital after two successful nights in February at the Vasa Hall.
- March 22, 1954 The National Fire Protection Association has rated the Brockton Fire Dept. at the top and Fire Chief Lynch says that all the records for 1953 haven't been sent in yet.
- March 25, 1954 An invalid man and infant are carried to safety. A fire in the cellar at 21 Douglas Ave. was stopped at the first floor. Cause of fire was from a large brooder light for 200 chickens being raised in the cellar. All the chicks were lost.
- March 29, 1954 Miss Ann Driscoll escaped possible death Sunday afternoon when she awoke in her living room and found it enveloped in fire and smoke. At 350 Quincy Street off duty firefighter Peter Czymhor who lives across the street hooked up a garden hose and attacked the flames from the outside until the fire department arrived.
- April 1, 1954 Fire Chief Lynch says ordinance on fire districts should be changed especially the first fire district.
- April 3, 1954 Fire destroys 3 Stonehill buildings in North Easton. Fire Chief Lynch and Engine Co. 5 from Brockton battled the blaze for over an hour before it was under control.
- April 12, 1954 Firefighters were called to Flagg Pond to rescue Russell F. Wentzell age 11, of 239 Boylston Street, when he sank in three feet of mud. Members of Squad A made the rescue.
- April 27, 1954 Children playing with matches were blamed for a fire at the Brockton fairgrounds at 5:30 Monday night. A good stop was made by firefighters under the command of Captain Edward Burrell and Chief Lynch. After a check of the building several other fires were found, but had burned themselves out.
- April 30, 1954 Fire Chief Lynch announces to Rotarians that Fire losses are the lowest when compared to any city of its size.
- May 4, 1954 Firebug suspected of setting fire in home of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hobart of 247 Dover Street, at about 9 Monday night. When firefighters arrived fire was showing on the west side of the house.
- May 8, 1954 Captain Edward Burrell and Captain John F. Kelly top deputy's list to be promoted May 24th.
- May 12, 1954 Mayor Lucey has set up an advisory board to investigate wage conditions of firefighters and police.
- May 17, 1954 Firefighters and police are kept busy over weekend with accidents resulting in injuries to 12. The most serious was to Alfred Campanelli 29, of 61 Thorny Lea Terrace.
- May 20, 1954 Councilor Cornelius Hallisey will offer a resolve at the next city council meeting to ask for emergency Doctors for fire and police to be on call between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M.
- May 28, 1954 Ronald E. Martin age 12, of 54 Plain Street held Susan J. Sergi of 44 Plain Street up after her foot got caught in a crotch of a tree. He sent a friend to get her father who is a firefighter at Central Station. Susan was unhurt.
- June 1, 1954 Fires set at St. Margaret's Church are under investigation by Chief Lynch and Lt. Harold Peloquin of State Fire Marshalls Office. Similar to those set four months ago at the First Lutheran Church three doors up the street.
- June 1, 1954 Box 1543 Crescent & Perkins Street was sounded for a threatening rubbish fire at the rear of Fruit Land, 181 Crescent Street.
- June 2, 1954 After intense questioning an 8 year old boy admitted to setting fires at St. Margaret's Church, but denied having set fires at the First Lutheran Church.
- June 4, 1954 Retired Lt. Patrick Long of 67 Winnifred Road dies after being in failing health for sometime. Lt. Long was on the fire department 37 years and had been retired 8 years.
- June 10, 1954 Simulated Hydrogen and Atomic attack will activate City as thousands take shelter.
- June 14, 1954 The Brockton Fire Dept. sent its boat and a crew to Robins Pond in East Bridgewater to help search for drowning victim.
- June 21, 1954 Three race horses perish in blaze at Brockton Fairgrounds. Believe fire started in harness room.
- June 23, 1954 The six top men on Civil Service list promoted by Mayor Lucey. Elevated to deputy's are Edward L. Burrell and John E. Kelly - to Captain are Henry A. Powderly and Elton K. Hoxie and to Lts. are Courtney H. Simpson and Robert P. Sheehan.

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1954 continued

- July 2, 1954 C.D. Police will guard fire boxes over Fourth of July long weekend.
- July 6, 1954 False alarms held to three at C.D. Police guard boxes over the three day period.
- July 8, 1954 At 10 P.M. Chief Lynch requested Police to patrol the areas of Market St., Longwood Ave., Wyoming Ave. and Chestnut Street after several suspicious fires were set.
- July 13, 1954 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Young of 23 Wheeler Ave. returned home around midnight to find that some one had piled waste paper under the rear of their home and set it afire. Mr. Young used his garden hose to put the fire out. Police and Fire officials are investigating.
- July 16, 1954 Chief Lynch reports that City's Fire Code keeps yearly losses to a low figure.
- July 20, 1954 State insurance commissioner Joseph Humphreys says a reduction on fire insurance rates will save Massachusetts property owners \$2,900,000.00 annually.
- Aug. 10, 1954 Box 1336 Pleasant Street & Oakland Ave. was sounded for a fire at 253 Pleasant Street. Lt. Jeremiah Sheehan of Ladder 1 rescued George F. Shields 58, and his father Frank 87. George was admitted to the Brockton Hospital with first and second degree burns.
- Aug. 11, 1954 Chief Lynch says that City Fire Alarm System is considered among the best.
- Aug. 13, 1954 Heavy water damage at the Berco Shoe Co., Inc. at 24 Forest Street as seven sprinklers go off for small fire in the blower system.
- Aug. 23, 1954 Nine persons flee 11:00 P.M. fire at 28 Breer Street owned by Mr. & Mrs. Warren Richmond. The fire started in a second floor closet extended to an adjacent bedroom and through the roof.
- Aug. 26, 1954 At 6:30 this morning heavy water damage was done at Brockton Cut Sole Corp. at 53 Spark Street when a fire was started from an electric heater used to treat leather.
- Aug. 31, 1954 Hurricane rips New England. Mayor Lucey call emergency in City as winds go above 70 miles an hour.
- Sept. 1, 1954 Fire department is on emergency schedule because of alarm circuit failures and blocked streets.
- Sept. 2, 1954 Chief Lynch orders fire department back on regular running schedule after 38 hours and nine minutes of running on a special emergency schedule.
- Sept. 10, 1954 Box 2211 Dover Street & Warren Avenue was sounded for a fire at Knapp Shoes, corner of Warren Ave. & Foster Street for a fire in an incinerator.
- Sept. 14, 1954 Mrs. Edith R. Stinchfield 57, and her daughter Mrs. Helen Nordquist 38, of 80 Turner Street were burned putting out a mattress fire in their apartment.
- Sept. 18, 1954 Brockton requested hurricane relief from the State & Federal Government for \$454,627.00
- Sept. 28, 1954 Over stress on the second floor of City Hall will cost the city \$8,000.00 for new supporting frame work.
- Oct. 11, 1954 Two separate fires believed set are under investigation. The first one was at 601 Main Street and the second at 32 Grove Street.
- Oct. 14, 1954 Brockton Firefighters Concert & Ball termed one of the best.
- Oct. 19, 1954 Two alarms sounded in nine minutes. The first being a false alarm and the second for a fire at the Modern Cash Market, 161 North Warren Avenue.
- Oct. 24, 1954 Box 1334 Pleasant St. & Warren Ave. was sounded for a cellar fire at the Quincy Market. Quick work by firefighters had it under control in short order.
- Oct. 29, 1954 Installation of sprinklers in local schools pending new survey and appropriations according to Mayor Lucey.
- Oct. 30, 1954 C.D. Police to guard fire alarm boxes and assist at Halloween parties sponsored by the City.
- Nov. 1, 1954 Halloween calls fewer for police and fire department. Chief Lynch lauds C.D. Police for guarding boxes.
- Nov. 6, 1954 Brockton was called to aid Stoughton at the Peerless Cement Co., Inc. on Cushing Street where an explosion caused \$175,000 dollars and completely leveled the plant.
- Nov. 9, 1954 Two dangerous fires within 90 minutes gave firefighters a busy night. The first on the third floor of the City Theatre block, 50 Main Street for a time threatened the whole block. The second blaze was at 32 Owens Ave. in the cellar. Firefighter Thomas F. Herlihy aided Mr. & Mrs. George Flood and there two children from the third floor.
- Nov. 12, 1954 Heavy black smoke was pouring from the cobbler shop of Nicholas Parise at 87½ Pleasant St. when a firefighter arrived.
- Nov. 15, 1954 Ex Fire Chief Dickenson dies-firefighter for 56 years.
- Nov. 18, 1954 Fourth blaze in 10 days routes 3 families. Arsonist feared after mysterious Centreville fires. The first fire was on Nov. 8th, a cellar fire at 32 Owens Ave. - Nov. 14th a rubbish fire at Zoto's Store, 521 Main St. - Nov. 11th a cellar fire at 25-27 Somerset Pl. and the latest at 29-31 Somerset Pl. that did \$15,000. damage.
- Nov. 19, 1954 \$50,000.00 in damages resulted from 12 set fires. George Mantell of East Bridgewater admits guilt to Captain D. Edward Sullivan of the Brockton Police. Mantell is to undergo mental testing.
- Nov. 26, 1954 22 flee general alarm at North Main & Prospect Sts. Aided by six towns, poor water source, structure totally destroyed.
- Nov. 26, 1954 Brockton had gone nearly 10 years without a general alarm, the last one being the Howard School in July of 1945.
- Dec. 6, 1954 Retired Captain Herbert Gullefer died on the Cape while shoveling snow. He was 66 years old.
- Dec. 13, 1954 Box 2233 Copeland St. & Clifton Ave. was sounded for garage fire believed set at 109 Copeland St. The property of Amaden Costa.
- Dec. 18, 1954 Firefighters have colorful Xmas displays at all city fire stations.

1955

- Jan. 6, 1955 Box 5124 was sounded for an explosion at 1065 Montello St., Ray Mucci, Inc. the maker of kitchen cabinets. Firefighter Lennart B. Plahn received seven stitches when he slipped on ice and cut his leg. The cause of the blast was a delayed ignition in the oil burner.
- Jan. 14, 1955 Percy J. Dee was re-elected by firefighters to direct Relief Association.
- Jan. 21, 1955 Firefighters were kept busy this afternoon with grass, brush and dump fires. The firefighters thought Spring was here.
- Jan. 20, 1955 Police and Fire ask for \$4,000.00 annual pay.
- Feb. 1, 1955 Heavy water damage was done at the Franklin Mfg. Co., 31 Monument Street when water seeped through four floors. An attempt to set fire to Jack & Harry's, 272 Main Street. Other fires for the day was an auto fire on Legion Parkway and sheathing behind radiator at Jones & Vining Co., Inc., 108 Sawtelle Avenue.
- Feb. 11, 1955 Grand Jury indicts George C. Montell on 14 counts of arson.

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1955 continued

- March 11, 1955 Box 1251 Main & West elm Street was sounded for a fire at Bryant Hotel, 33 West Elm Street at 6:00 A.M. The fire was in a third floor room. Because of the number of guests and the fact the fire at first appeared serious, Deputy Chief Edward Burrell called for an extra engine company.
- March 10, 1955 Representatives of Local 144 Brockton Fire Dept. paid tribute today to the 13 men who lost their lives in the Strand Theatre on March 10, 1941.
- March 12, 1955 Box 5412 was sounded from Summer & Lyman St. for a fire at the Sprague School. Two girls will face charges. They said they set the fire because a teacher was picking on them and keeping them after school for punishment.
- March 29, 1955 City Council moves to provide four trucks for Fire Dept. at a cost of \$55,000.00.
- April 4, 1955 Chief Lynch to prosecute anyone burning without a permit due to the number of grass and brush fires which caused all city fire trucks to be out at one time.
- April 13, 1955 At 6:30 this morning fire broke out in the Lawn Rest Home on Livingston Road where many had to be rescued over ladders by firefighters. Chief Lynch praised his men for the fine job.
- May 16, 1955 Seven coal sheds were destroyed off Lawrence St. Property is owned by the Brockton Ice & Coal Co. an estimated \$20,000 in damage was done.
- May 20, 1955 1600 B.H.S. pupils file out for fire drill in two minutes. Drill turned out to be for a fire in the wiring in the elevator.
- June 4, 1955 Fire Chief Lynch recommends new West Side Station to house an additional Ladder Co. which is badly needed.
- June 16, 1955 Firefighters get approval for 56 hour week from Safety Committee. They now work 63 hours a week.
- July 5, 1955 Firefighters answer 51 calls over holiday weekend. False alarms were reduced by the guarding of boxes by the C.D. Police.
- July 8, 1955 City will probe boys drowning of 6 year old Kerry Donovan, 12 Morgan Street at the Montello Pool.
- July 26, 1955 The City Council Ordinance Committee voted favorably to cut firefighters work week from 63 hours to 56. Chief insists he'll need more men.
- Aug. 4, 1955 Mayor Lucey signs into law a bill putting firefighters on a 56 hour week.
- Aug. 19, 1955 11 inch rainfall floods city and causes property damage.
- Sept. 10, 1955 Juveniles broke into the B.B. Russell School and as they were leaving they attempted to set fire to it, but did not succeed.
- Sept. 27, 1955 Nine new firefighters named to aid 56 hour work week. Chief Lynch says 20 men are needed.
- Sept. 30, 1955 Firefighters defeat police in first golf tournament for Sgt. Mc Carthy ; memorial trophy.
- Oct. 11, 1955 The first fire drill of the new term at Brockton High School as part of Fire Prevention Week empties B.H.S. and 1700 students in 2 minutes.
- Oct. 25, 1955 Firefighters to start new 56 hour work week Nov. 21.
- Nov. 1, 1955 Parties help keep Halloween quiet only four false alarms, as C.D. Police aid.
- Dec. 5, 1955 Box 1311 Main & High Streets was sounded when Patrolman Ralph Persichillo, while on his beat noticed smoke from a window at 22 School Street. A waste basket was burning for no explainable reason.
- Dec. 22, 1955 Fires drive three families from homes into zero cold at 4:43 P.M. The first one was at 826 Crescent Street where Harold Melberg rescued his son and mother-in-law. The second at 9:00 P.M. at 5-9 Hereford St. did considerable fire and smoke damage and the third fire at 2:30 A.M. at 35 Huntress Ave. drove six people out into the six degree temperatures.
- Jan. 10, 1956 Patrolman Frank Gentile rounds up a dozen boys ranging in ages from 13 to 16 for rash of fires in North End the last six weeks.
- Feb. 3, 1956 Box 1444 Centre & Bay Sts. was sounded at 5:30 A.M. for a bedroom fire at 50 Bay St. Four had to be assisted from the building.
- Feb. 18, 1956 Box 4131 Sawtell & Bellevue Aves. was sounded just before 1:00 A.M. for a fire at 20 Bellevue Ave. Extra help was called to contain the blaze in the six apartment house. Seven persons rescued.
- March 10, 1956 Fifteen years ago today Brockton had a sad day when the roof of the Strand Theatre collapsed and snuffed out the lives of 12 firefighters, the 13th died two days later.
- March 19, 1956 Second snow storm in three days ties City up. Chief Lynch says his men will get to fire if called.
- March 20, 1956 At 5:50 P.M. firefighters were called out in the blizzard for a fire at 222½ Belmont St. Thirteen people were assisted out of the building and Chief Lynch praised men for the fine job they did under blizzard conditions.
- May 7, 1956 A.E. Celia, 55 May Ave. dies after being seriously burned at Walsh Farm when a flash fire occurred while cleaning a pump with gasoline.
- May 26, 1956 A general alarm fire in Campello destroyed the old J.C. Keith Stable at 1000 Main St. and endangered the London Clothing building. Brockton had its last general alarm on November 26, 1954.
- June 28, 1956 Retired Fire Lt. William (Bill) H. Bussey, still rides bike at age 75 to stay in shape. A fearless smoke eater Bill was injured more than 80 times in the line of duty.
- July 7, 1956 Chief Lawrence F. Lynch reports that the City's fire losses are the lowest since 1939. Chief Lynch credits the Fire Prevention Bureau.
- Aug. 1, 1956 In a soft ball game for the Jimmy Fund the police defeated the fire department 14 to 6. A return match is in the works.
- Aug. 30, 1956 Three boys two age eight and one six are blamed for fire at rear of Goddard School.
- Sept. 25, 1956 Brockton was called to Rockland to assist in a general alarm fire at the Strand Theatre.
- Dec. 3, 1956 Firefighters had an unusual job today. Squad A was called to Waldo Lake to free two ducks that had frozen in the water.
- Dec. 6, 1956 Box 2534 Torrey St. & Fairview Ave. was sounded at 4:00 A.M. for a house fire at 19 Torrey Ave. The house was badly damaged in the below freezing temperatures and claimed the life of Mrs. Freida L. Martin.

1956

1957

- Jan. 26, 1957 Box 1315 North Main & Haverhill Sts. was sounded for a fire at 135 North Main St. George Morrow was badly burned and was rescued by Captain Michael Principe and firefighters of Squad A.
- Jan. 31, 1957 Fine work by Patrolman Roger Higgins and John P. Bailley rounded up seven boys for pulling false alarms.
- Feb. 15, 1957 Brockton was called to aid Rockland in a \$300,000 loss at the Woolworth building on Union Street.
- Mar. 10, 1957 A memorial service will be held for the thirteen firefighters who died 16 years ago in the Strand Theatre.
- May 2, 1957 Barking Collie is credited of saving the lives of former Councilor F. Milton McGrath and his family at 12:30 this morning as fire destroyed a section of living room directly under where they were sleeping.
- July 27, 1957 All night search at D.W. Field for two Stoughton brothers comes to an end after their bodies were found burned to death by Firefighter Robert Gould.

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1957 continued

- Oct. 17, 1957 Box 2322 Forest Ave. & Ash St. was sounded for a barn fire at 55 Breer St. which was totally destroyed on the upper half.
- Nov. 5, 1957 Russell Club at 117 Lawrence St. is heavily damaged by fire at 5:00 A.M.
- Dec. 9, 1957 Thirty-one persons are driven out of building at 366 Centre St., twenty-three being children as fire threatens third floor.

1958

- Jan. 9, 1958 Two women collapse as their Ruth Rd. home burns. The fire started in a bedroom closet from a cigarette.
- Feb. 21, 1958 Two General Alarms in city and a building fire at 32 Leavitt St. all happened within 5 hours. The first general alarm was at the Franklin Methodist Church in Montello causing \$80,000.00 damage. While apparatus was still at the church an alarm was sounded for City Hall that turned into a \$100,000.00 General Alarm apparatus was sent from the church to City Hall.
- April 3, 1958 A barking dog is credited with saving the life of 31 year old Edith Weatherby as she was overcome by smoke from a blazing divan. The dogs barking woke her husband and smelled smoke.
- Apr. 22, 1958 Seek cause of \$50,000.00 General Alarm fire that destroyed Associated Supply Co. on 66 Parker St. at 3:46 P.M.
- Aug. 4, 1958 Flash fire at 181 West Chestnut St. drives six out in early afternoon fire. Fire believed started by smouldering briquets used to cook steak.
- Nov. 1, 1958 Quietest Halloween in years. Some vandalism and only five false alarms.
- Nov. 10, 1958 Brockton firefighters to ask City Council for 48 hour work week. At present they work 56 hours a week.
- Dec. 1, 1958 City schools to be checked for fire dangers. This is being done so Brockton doesn't have any tragedies as they had in Chicago in the Our Lady Of The Angels School. Chief Lynch says conditions in schools here are not bad but could be a lot better.
- Dec. 25, 1958 Ten persons had to flee fire at 41 Ellsworth St. tenement house at 7:00 A.M. Christmas morning.
- Dec. 31, 1958 A fire at 295 Pleasant St. badly damaged by fire. The owner was arrested shortly after on charges of arson by spreading gasoline over rugs and furniture after a domestic problem.

1959

- Jan. 5, 1959 Box 3126 was sounded for a fire at 24 Emerson Ave. A mother and two children were forced out in their night clothes into sub zero temperatures.
- Jan. 26, 1959 Box 3111 North Main & Prospect Sts. was sounded for a fire at 48 Huntington St. Firefighter had to assist more than a dozen people out of building as clouds of thick black smoke billowed through the three story six family dwelling.
- Feb. 2, 1959 Fourteen persons flee three house fires in as many hours. The first one was at 24 Riverside Ave. The most serious fire was at 103 Walnut St. forcing nine persons to flee from the five family dwelling. The fire was at 303 Summer St. forcing three occupants to flee the cottage home.
- Feb. 21, 1959 Box 3126 North Main St. & Emerson Ave. was sounded at 4:37 P.M. for a fire at 757 North Main St. driving eighteen persons to the street into the bitter cold.
- April 18, 1959 At 4:30 this morning a 14 year old boy woke up and alerted his mother of a fire, who aided her seven children to safety. The fire was in her bed possibly caused by a cigarette.
- June 23, 1959 City Manager, William a. Gildea refuses to put Fire Dept. on 48 hour work week.

Aug. 6, 1959 After weeks of wrangling about the 48 hour work week, a taxpayer suit is being brought against seven city councilors and the court orders hold up instituting new hours.

Nov. 13, 1959 Box 1453 Lincoln St. & East Railroad Ave. was sounded at 7:30 for a fire at 22 Hayward St. where a mother and four babies had to be hospitalized. The mother tried to open a window in the 3rd floor apartment and slipped and fell three floors. The babies were partially overcome.

1960

- Feb. 15, 1960 A large crowd gathered on Oak St. as a large barn on the old Walshes Farm burns down.
- Mar. 4, 1960 City buried in worst blizzard in its history. The City Engineers office measured 15½ inches at 8:00 A.M. and at that time there was no sign of a let up as winds reached 70 M.P.H.
- April 12, 1960 Brockton Fire Dept. ranked with the best in the country. The fire department is well equipped, crews drill weekly to maintain high standards.
- May 19, 1960 School board to meet with fire officials on \$54,000. project for fire alarms to be installed in grade schools and connected to fire alarm headquarters.
- Aug. 24, 1960 Box 1544 Crescent & Bay Sts. was sounded at 9:20 P.M. for a bomb explosion at 11 Aledo Pl. The missile shattered windows and rocked the neighborhood.
- Sept. 6, 1960 Box 1255 West Elm & Arlington Sts. was sounded at 8:45 for a fire on the third floor at the Sil-Dalia Nursing Home, 227 West Elm St. The sprinklers went off and doused a mattress in an attic apartment.
- Sept. 13, 1960 Hurricane Donna hits City hard may be days before full electric service is restored.
- Oct. 10, 1960 Deputy Chief John W. Kelley and his driver Fred Grady were not seriously hurt at 7:00 A.M. while responding to Box 6443 Cardinal Spellman High School. The accident happened at Court & Montello St.
- Dec. 24, 1960 Box 2416 Ash & Wellington Sts. was sounded for a fire at 413 Ash St. The blaze is believed to have started by a cigarette caused considerable damage.

1961

- Jan. 3, 1961 Babysitter, Jean Wallen 15 of 48 Hovendon Ave. saved the lives of Robert 6, Catherine 4, and 2 year old Kenneth Horton of 321 Jon Drive when a Christmas tree caught fire as flames mushroomed through the house.
- Jan. 25, 1961 Firefighters battle 3:00 A.M. blaze at 16 Arch St. in below zero weather. Louis C. Turner 57, Louis Jr. 39 felled by smoke in poor condition at hospital. Mrs. Anna Richards 81, is led to safety from second floor apartment.
- Feb. 6, 1961 Box 3175 Ford St. & Fairmount Ave. was sounded at 10:16 P.M. for a fire at 85½ Division St. Two firefighters hurt. A plow operated by William Kelleher cleared the way and pushed stuck cars out of the way. Deputy Burrell said without his assistance the house might have burned down.
- May 13, 1961 Firefighter battled a smokey fire and explosion at Modern Shoe Service at 22 Main Street.
- June 26, 1961 Fire Chief Lawrence F. Lynch will retire August 7th after 41 years of service to the City. Deputy Chief Edward L. Burrell will be Acting Chief.
- Aug. 12, 1961 A two alarm fire in an empty apartment house at 73 Livingston Rd. broke out Friday night at 9:29 P.M. A witness said two men fled the scene following a blast.

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- Aug. 23, 1961 Oak St. blast completely levels one home and badly damages two others. Workmen believes he broke gas pipe which permitted it to flow into cellars.
- Oct. 17, 1961 A dramatic rescue Monday afternoon at Warren Bros. on Howard Street. J. Steven Englehart age 12, of 12 Howard Ave., was playing on top of a large sand pile when he was completely buried. The sand was on top of a hopper that was working. Young Steven jumped from the top of the pile and was covered with tons of sand. His friend Keith Crook who was with him ran to the office to report the accident. William Burke removed the sand around him and held him until help came from the Fire Dept.
- Nov. 1, 1961 Halloween was the quietest in years. Only three false alarms as 2,000 attend City dances.
- Nov. 24, 1961 Arthur W. Parmenter a 40 year old Brockton firefighter dies while on duty fighting a house fire at 111 Summer Street.
- Dec. 25, 1961 A mother and two children die at Redlands Apartments at Warren Ave. & West Elm Street. Mrs. Rita Kaltofen and daughter Donna Marie 6, and son Ronald 7. Four firefighters are injured and burned trying to rescue them. Captain Richard R. Sullivan of the Fire Prevention Bureau said that a preliminary investigation showed the cause as accidental, and the delay in the calling of the Fire Dept.
- Dec. 28, 1961 Box 2322 Forest Ave. & Ash St. was sounded at 2:25 P.M. for a fire at 339 Forest Ave. Another tragedy was narrowly averted as Mrs. Geraldine Zentz came home and saw fire coming out the attic window. She went inside and pulled her mother Mrs. Fred E. Murphy out.

1962

- Jan. 11, 1962 A fire in a supply closet in the basement of the Huntington School caused the sounding of an alarm at 11:35 A.M. and the 890 pupils evacuated the school in record time according to Principal Charles C. Kelleher.
- Feb. 13, 1962 A long awaited list from Civil Service finally came. Mayor Milton F. McGrath named John W. Kelley as Chief of the Fire Department. Appointment was confirmed by the Council.
- Mar. 8, 1962 Box 3133 North Montello & Howard Sts. was sounded at 9:56 P.M. for a fire at Shell-Atherton-Norcross Plant. Within twenty minutes two more alarms were sounded making it a general alarm as flames raced out of control threatening houses on Snell & Albion Streets.
- April 26, 1962 A roaring two alarm fire in an empty building at 14 Calmar Street threatened to spread to nearby wooden apartment. The blaze was started by two brothers age five and seven who admitted to playing with matches.
- June 13, 1962 Box 3213 North Warren Ave. & Prospect St. was sounded at 1:00 A.M. for a fire at 244 Warren Ave. Herbert Hayward was fatally burned when fire swept his second floor apartment.
- June 28, 1962 Box 5131 Plain St. & Riverside Ave. was sounded at 9:00 P.M. for a fire at the Brockton Lumber Co., 75 Plain Street. Deputy Chief John F. Kelly ordered a second alarm immediately after viewing the 200 ft. long building blazing in several spots.
- Aug. 15, 1962 Fire Chief John W. Kelley will put 48 hour 5 minute work week into effect, but set no date pending a study of various details of the work schedule.
- Oct. 26, 1962 Box 1315 North Main & Haverhill Sts. was sounded at 5:03 and a second alarm at 5:14 for a fire at 88 No. Main St. driving sixty-three men, women and children to the street. Firefighters aided many from the building.

- Nov. 2, 1962 Under command of Chief John W. Kelley, firefighters went to the West Jr. High School for a fire in the kitchen. 900 students evacuate school in less than 2 minutes.
- Dec. 31, 1962 Box 1334 North Warren Ave. & Pleasant St. was sounded at 2:44 A.M. for a fire at 34 Warren Ave., Maxie's Restaurant. Firefighters had blaze under control in ninety minutes in the sub zero temperatures.

1963

- Jan. 1, 1963 City has 1st fire death of 1963 as woman is victim of smoke. Mrs. Eunice Bownan 79, of 427 Warren Ave. warned other tenants of the fire at 4:00 A.M. and then she re-entered her apartment.
- Feb. 26, 1963 Box 4233 Albert & Ridge Sts. was sounded for a fire at 22 Albert St. Miss Nellie Kaseta was badly burned.
- April 23, 1963 A two alarm blaze this afternoon threatened the East Side of Brockton as a blaze erupted in a 40 foot high spray tower at the Brockton Taunton Gas Co. on Grove Street, next to three tanks containing 430,000 gallons of No. 2 & 6 fuel oil.
- May 7, 1963 Firefighters have busy April. A total of 521 calls were answered far exceeding the 300 calls in April of 1962. In extinguishing the blazes the department laid 147,062 feet of hose.
- June 20, 1963 Box 1313 Main & Green Sts. was sounded at 4:10 A.M. for a fire at 24-26 Main St., Mike's Home Lunch. Two firefighters are injured and heavy smoke and damage was done to the lunch room.
- Sept. 17, 1963 A father and three sons escaped without injury at 2:00 A.M. A fire heavily damages his home at 111 Anne Marie Drive.
- Sept. 30, 1963 Fire Chief John W. Kelley resigns as Chief, will step down to his old job as a Deputy. His reason to Mayor Milton McGrath is that the chiefs job encroaches too much on his personal life. Deputy E.L. Burrell to act as Chief.
- Oct. 9, 1963 Box 5563 Crescent & Portland Sts. was sounded at 5:40 P.M. for a fire at 35 Rockwell Ave. Just as Mrs. Donald Kane arrived home a daughter came down from the second floor and told her the house was on fire. The mother and eight children left the house.
- Oct. 29, 1963 Edward L. Burrell is confirmed as Chief of the Fire Department. Burrell joined the fire department on July 11, 1939, 1944 promoted to lieutenant, 1948 promoted to capt., 1954 promoted to deputy chief. He was acting chief on Aug. 7, 1961 when Chief Lynch retired.
- Dec. 31, 1963 According to the Fire Protection Association, during 1963, 11,800 were killed in fires and property losses were up \$170 million more than 1962.

1964

- Feb. 1, 1964 Box 6135 Brockton High School Warren Ave. & West Elm Sts. was sounded for a fire in a ventilating shaft near the girls gym. 1,150 students were dismissed early. The fire burned through the roof near the girls rest room.
- Mar. 26, 1964 Box 2121 Main & Nilsson Sts. was sounded at 9:25 P.M. for a fire at London Clothing Co., 984 Main St. A second alarm was sounded at 9:30 and when Chief Burrell arrived at the scene he ordered a general alarm at 9:39 P.M.
- Mar. 28, 1964 Box 3114 North Main & East Ashland Sts. was sounded at 12:20 P.M. for a fire at St. Theresa's Church, North Main and Lebanon. Chief Burrell responded and seeing the seriousness of the blaze ordered a 2nd alarm at 12:22 P.M. and a general alarm at 12:25 P.M.

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1964 continued

- May 2, 1964 Fire Chief Edward L. Burrell's mother dies of injuries received in an auto accident in Boston as the auto she was riding in was in a collision with a taxi cab in Boston.
- June 6, 1964 At 1:35 A.M. the Brockton Fire Dept. was saddened when Fire Chief Burrell was called to an accident in East Bridgewater and found that three of his men had been killed in an auto accident. They were James W. O'Donnell, Richard L. Holmes and Paul E. Galligan a fourth firefighter Homer McDonald is in serious condition at the Brockton Hospital.
- June 11, 1964 A fund is set up to aid the wives and children of the three firefighters who were killed and a fourth who was critically injured. Serving as honorary co-chairmen are Mayor Alvin Jack Sims and Fire Chief Edward L. Burrell.
- July 15, 1964 Nearly 140 officers and firefighters of the Brockton Fire Department are working at the Brockton Fair this week and all monies earned by them will be presented by the management of the Brockton Fair to the Firefighters Families Fund.
- Aug. 5, 1964 Brockton Firefighters had a tough job on their hands when they were called to the Brockton Ice & Coal Co. in the Commercial Yards when five oil storage tanks exploded and 40,000 gallons of fuel oil turned the yard into an inferno threatening the storage tanks of the Brockton Gas Co.
- Oct. 13, 1964 Fires plague City: A fire at 21 Portland St. at 6:00 A.M. drove 5 children to the street and Mrs. Louise Hannon thought her youngest son was still inside and went back to look for him. She was badly burned and is in poor condition at the Brockton Hosp. At 9:59 P.M. a fire in a two story wooden building at 22 Plymouth Pl. did heavy damage and drove fifteen people to the street.

1965

- Jan. 4, 1965 Box 1433 Centre & Montello Sts. and Box 1435 Court & Freight Sts. was sounded at 2:00 P.M. for a fire at the old railroad station. A second alarm was sounded for the fire as wind gusting from 25 to 40 m.p.h. made it difficult to bring the blaze under control. About 40 minutes after the fire started the roof collapsed showering the men with hot slate and embers.
- Jan. 30, 1965 Fire insurance underwriters rate the local fire department highly in view of the speedy and efficient manner in which they battle fires and the salvage work it does for businessmen and households to save many thousands of dollars in potential fire losses.
- Feb. 19, 1965 At 3:59 A.M. Central Fire Station on Pleasant St. was responding to Dunkin Donuts at Montello St. for smoke in the ventilator shaft. The smoke turned out to be from a fire at First Parish Church next to the station. The church was a total loss in 45 minutes after it was discovered. Thirteen towns aided Brockton, a truck responding from Hanson was in an accident in Whitman and one firefighter was killed.
- Mar. 24, 1965 Box 2526 Torrey & Wests St. was sounded at 11:42 P.M. for a fire in a storage area of Kings Dept. Store that did heavy damage to the store.
- April 5, 1965 Box 1315 North Main & Haverhill St. was sounded at 1:45 A.M. for a fire at 10 Linden St. where four are overcome and had to be rescued from the top floor by the aerial ladder.
- April 28, 1965 The way was cleared for a new 10 story high rise for the elderly at West Elm St. & Goddard Road, stipulated was that measures for fire protection be of special concern.
- May 3, 1965 Brockton sent aid to Sandwich for the huge forest fire in the capetown. Chief Burrell, Engine 7 and the service truck made the long run to the Cape on a mutual aid call at 5:24 P.M.
- May 26, 1965 Box 3211 North Warren Ave. & Milton St. was sounded at 2:30 P.M. for a fire at 44 Milton St. A plumber working with a torch started the fire and upon arrival of the fire department. The fire had mushroomed through two hallways to the attic and caused considerable damage to the roof.
- June 18, 1965 A fire of undetermined origin caused damage to supplies in a basement closet at the Copeland School and resulted in the evacuation of 270 pupils.
- Aug. 2, 1965 East Side firefighters have rats painted on the sleeves of their jackets for a good reason. In 1963, and these figures have been authenticated they spent 344 hrs. at the dump and used 10,320,000 gallons of water and considering their pay, gasoline and water costs the price comes to \$7,550.80. In 1964, they had 400 hours. This cost was \$8,780.00 and 12,000,000 gallons of water. So far in 1965, they have 441 hours. Up to this date the cost is \$9,679.95 and 13,230,000 gallons of water.
- Aug. 21, 1965 Box 3231 Oak & Battles Sts. was sounded at 8:19 A.M. for a fire at 33 Oak Ridge Dr. East. An 18 month old baby died and a young mother, brother and sister are patients at the Brockton Hospital suffering from burns and smoke inhalation.
- Sept. 9, 1965 Clock watching police called the fire department when sparks were seen coming from the face of the clock at City Hall. Squad A and Ladder 1 responded with Deputy Chief John W. Kelley and found a light that lights up the face had short circuited and disconnected it.
- Nov. 10, 1965 History's worst electric power failure brought hardship to 30 million persons in eight Northeast states and Canada and prompted an immediate search for cause and a preventative.
- Dec. 6, 1965 Brockton Fire and Police officials are hunting for a suspect believed to have set seven fires in the East Ashland & Ames St. area between 5 P.M. Friday and 10 P.M. Sunday.
- Dec. 11, 1965 A 20 year old East Ashland St. youth is being held on \$10,000 bail after he admitted to setting six of the fires in East Ashland St. and Ames Street area.
- Dec. 23, 1965 A telephone call to fire alarm at 9:41 A.M. reporting a fire at 62 Keith Avenue. Mrs. Ann E. Spring rescued her four year old twins and fled the house. The house was heavily damaged.

1966

- Jan. 6, 1966 Box 3231 Oak & Battles Sts. was sounded at 10:33 P.M. for a fire in a friolator at Howard Johnson Plant at 309 Battles Street.
- Feb. 2, 1966 At 7:24 P.M. Company 2, Squad A and Deputy Chief John W. Kelley were dispatched to the Huntington School when fumes overcame three students attending dance classes sponsored by the P.T.A.
- Feb. 16, 1966 Improper installation of a gas fired boiler at the Huntington School is to blame for fumes which overcame three children. Outside ventilation was not provided when installed and fowl air was pumped into ventilating system.
- Mar. 12, 1966 Box 1433 Centre & Montello Sts. was sounded at 9:24 P.M. for a fire at United Furniture. When firefighters arrived flames were shooting 20 feet from the third floor windows on the northwest corner of the building.
- Mar. 28, 1966 Two factory fires are under investigation. A fire at the Leo F.C. MacIver Co., 75 Ames St. shipping shed was completely demolished. Three minutes later a call for a fire was received for the Massachusetts Leather Co., 40 Herrod Avenue. Damage at the Mass. Leather Co. was confined to a pile of leather under a first floor stairway.
- April 5, 1966 Box 3214 Cherry & West Ashland Sts. was sounded at 9:54 P.M. for a working fire at the Caroline-Becker Plant. Fire was burning up a back wall and through the roof when firefighters arrived.

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- April 7, 1966 A flash fire raced through the garage of the Whittemore Divco Sales, Inc., 2001 Main Street. Three new trucks and ten other vehicles were damaged.
- April 26, 1966 A fire between the first and second floors drives 762 pupils from the Huntington School at 10:42 A.M. The fire was caused by a nail driven through wiring 15 years ago when a ceiling was installed.
- April 30, 1966 Brockton Firefighters had their hands full with four suspicious fires in small area before fatal fire was discovered. The first fire came at 11:40 P.M., was in stores at North Montello & Linden Streets. Then at 12:35 A.M. an alarm was sent out for a fire in a large garage at 177 North Main Street. At 1:25 A.M. an alarm was sent out for a fire in the cellar at 227 North Main Street. At 2:27 A.M. an alarm was sent out for a fire in an unoccupied house at 185 North Main St., and at 3:17 A.M. the tired firefighters had a general alarm at the Linden Hotel, 97-99 North Main Street where four died and seven were injured as fire raced through the building.
- May 2, 1966 Man charged with murder in fire that killed four. A resident of the Linden Hotel is charged.
- May 31, 1966 Brockton sent aid to West Bridgewater as a big cattle barn burns to ground.
- June 29, 1966 Brockton sent aid to Stoughton at 2:29 A.M. as Historic Church in Stoughton Square.
- July 30, 1966 Box 1353 Goddard Rd. & Ellsworth Ave. was sounded just before midnight for a fire at 11 Palm Place. Twenty-six persons were driven out and a 34 year old woman died in the apartment where the blaze started.
- Aug. 8, 1966 A spectacular blaze set by children destroyed the old Battles Farm on Battles Street. The fire leveled a house, a large barn, a small shed and a large chicken house.
- Sept. 8, 1966 Box 5232 Coral & So. Leyden Sts. was sounded at 4:14 A.M. for a fire at the abandoned Copeland School. Someone had smashed an oil lamp against an entry way at the northeast corner of the building.
- Oct. 21, 1966 Brockton had 46 men travel to New York to pay tribute to twelve New York Firefighters killed in the of duty to reciprocate for the kindness extended the Brockton Fire Department in 1941 when thirteen died at the Strand Theatre Fire.
- Oct. 31, 1966 Firefighters had all tricks and treats halloween with 49 calls, 14 are false alarms.
- Nov. 15, 1966 Brockton sent aid to Whitman shortly after 9:00 A.M. as a large barn on Auburn St. (Rte. 14) burns and destroyed 19 pleasure boats stored in it.
- Dec. 5, 1966 Heavy damage was caused at the Jones & Vining Co. 108 Sawtell Avenue. A metal building full of sawdust gathered from throughout the plant by ductwork was a mass of flames and smoke and flames were belching from two blowers on the roof of the building.
- Dec. 12, 1966 A seven state alert is out for a 30 year old Brookline man who firebombed the home of the parents of his estranged wife.
- Dec. 22, 1966 F.B.I. hold Brookline man in New York wanted for firebombing in-law's home. Will return to city and undergo 35 days mental examination at Bridgewater.
- Feb. 25, 1967 Box 1226 Warren Ave. & Winthrop St. was sounded at 12:15 A.M. for a fire at 5 West Park St. where 45 year old Alfred DeCoste died from smoke inhalation
- Mar. 1, 1967 A fire at 826 Crescent St. at 7:00 A.M. forced four children to leap from a second floor into sub zero weather in their night clothes. The interior of the eight room house and its contents was destroyed by the flames.
- Mar. 3, 1967 Fire in a storage area at Mammoth Mart on Crescent St. drives Friday night shoppers out at 8:40 P.M. Acting Deputy Captain Michael Principe responded with Ladder 1 & Company 4 on a sprinkler alarm. On their arrival he called for a box alarm as heavy smoke was billowing from an upper level store room. Within fifteen minutes Engine Co. 2 & Ladder 2 were also called to the fire.
- April 25, 1967 Two young girls 10 and 8 years old playing with marbles on the kitchen floor cause fire. A marble rolled under a gas clothes dryer. In lifting the dryer to retrieve the marble they caused the gas line to become disconnected. They escaped, but the dwelling at 738 North Cary St. was heavily damaged at 5:21 P.M.
- May 28, 1967 Work has been completed by Central Fire Station workers on the memorial plot in front of the alarm room. The 1885 bell which formerly sounded atop Central Station is in honor of all deceased Brockton firefighters.
- May 28, 1967 Rev. James H. O'Brien held his first service to an overflow congregation. The new church stands on the same location where the previous structure was gutted by fire on Feb. 19, 1965.
- June 26, 1967 Firefighters were called to the Brockton Hospital when an eight inch water main broke at the rear of the building. Four to eight inches of water covered the first floor and it took 25 minutes to shut the water off.
- July 22, 1967 Alton L. Caldwell Jr., Staff Reporter says the city is well protected. He says the Brockton Fire Dept. has the three ingredients that makes the department a success; leadership, training and equipment. Each is extremely important and in each the department ranks high. When they were called to the Brockton Fairgrounds to the huge industrial building flames had eaten into the main floor and up to the roof, but in fifteen minutes the fire was knocked down and firefighters were mopping up.
- Aug. 14, 1967 Firefighters were called to the Gas Company on Grove St. shortly after 2 P.M. when a cutting torch being used to cut an old oil soaked tank burst into flames. Heavy black smoke covered the area over two hours.
- Aug. 28, 1967 Brockton got its newest ladder truck. The 85 foot ladder truck cost \$49,000 and carries 200 gal. of water and a booster pump.
- Nov. 1, 1967 Box 3535 West Gate Mall was sounded at 11 A.M. for a flash fire in an electrical box inside the Mall. Andre Grondin a maintenance man at the Mall received third degree burns from the neck up.
- Nov. 14, 1967 The States Retirement Law Commission favor Police and Firefighters retirement age from 60 to 55.
- Dec. 1, 1967 Chief Burrell will open bids at 2 P.M. for the sale of two old 85 foot Ahren Fox Ladder trucks. One is a 1930 and the other 1931. They may be seen in the back yard of the Central Station on Pleasant Street. Otherwise known as "Honest Ed's Used Truck Lot"
- Dec. 15, 1967 A fire at 46 Snell St. at 8:59 A.M. in a second floor bedroom caused heavy damage to the room and is believed to have started by a 3 year old playing with matches.

1967

- Jan. 4, 1967 The National Fire Protection Association said that fires in 1966 killed 12,100 and property loss was \$1.8 Billion.
- Feb. 10, 1967 Fire department sets new record with 375 false alarms, 967 for brush, grass and rubbish, 452 for building fires of all types, 339 for fire and smoke scares, 190 resuscitator calls, 167 for auto fires, 139 ambulance calls, 131 for dump fires, 91 auto accidents, 22 sprinkler alarms and five mutual aid calls.

1968

- Jan. 5, 1968 Box 5422 Thatcher & Oakland Sts. was sounded at 2:08 P.M. for a barn fire at 252 Thatcher Street. Five animals perished as fire raced through the structure.
- Jan. 8, 1968 Area schools close as temperatures go to 14 below zero in the Brockton area.
- Jan. 12, 1968 Box 5225 was sounded for a fire at 8 South Leyden Street. A 93 year old woman and a second woman in her 80's were carried to safety as fire went up through partitions from the cellar.
- Jan. 12, 1968 Firefighters are kept busy on calls for water pipe breaks.
- Jan. 19, 1968 Box 2435 Belmont St. & Lorraine Ave. was sounded at 1:30 P.M. for a fire in a trailer used as an office on the site where the new Brockton High School is being built. The working drawings and plans were destroyed and the trailer was a mass of flames when firefighters arrived.
- Jan. 29, 1968 Box 4355 North Quincy & Loring Sts. was sounded at 9:26 for a house fire at 27 Bedford Street. Two boys 19 months & 22 months old burned to death. They had knocked a can of gasoline over and fell behind a combination clothes washer and dryer that was on at the time.
- Feb. 13, 1968 The second fire within a month at the R.J. Potvin Shoe Co., 22 Station Ave. is under investigation by the Brockton Fire Dept. Fire Prevention and the State Fire Marshalls office.
- Feb. 16, 1968 On the average of eight times a day a bell rings in one of Brockton's six fire stations and one or more pieces of apparatus rolls out, ready to meet any emergency. The citizens of Brockton should be proud of their Fire Department as they are recognized as one of the best in the nation.
- Feb. 20, 1968 Enterprise reporter Alton L. Caldwell relives "Busiest Night" for fire Brockton ever had. The 10th anniversary of the busiest night in the history of the Brockton Fire Dept. on Feb. 20-21, 1958 firefighters battled two general alarms during one working shift. At 11:29 P.M. fire destroyed the Franklin Methodist Church on Snow Avenue. While still at the church fire an alarm was sent out for 32 Leavitt Street for a fire in an upholstered chair where two men were found unconscious in the apartment. At 4:25 A.M. an alarm of fire was sent out for City Hall, a second and general alarm were sounded in quick succession. Firefighters still at the church responded from there and found a smokey blaze in the walls around the rotunda in the center of the building.
- April 3, 1968 Firefighters have 154 calls in 5 days.
- April 4, 1968 Box 2512 West Elm St. & Elm Ave. was sounded at 3:01 A.M. for a fire at 306 West Elm Street, a four story apartment house. Flames came through the roof and a second alarm was sounded at 3:29 A.M.
- April 9, 1968 A two alarm fire does damage to the School Department offices in the old Sprague School on Summer Street at 5:30 P.M.
- April 24, 1968 A two alarm fire at 2 A.M. believed set ruins the old Police Station on Elm St. & City Hall Square.
- April 24, 1968 A fire of undetermined origin did minor damage to Little Red School House on Forest Avenue.
- June 2, 1968 The memorial in front of the Fire Alarm building was dedicated and Ecumenical Communion Supper was held by Catholic and Protestant firefighters.
- June 17, 1968 Fire Chief Burrell's car was extensively damaged while responding to an alarm at 10:18 A.M. at Main & Grove Streets.
- June 26, 1968 Brockton's new tax rate took a \$16.00 jump to a record \$125.80 per thousand.
- Sept. 1, 1968 Firefighters answer 56 calls over the long holiday weekend.
- Sept. 5, 1968 Box 3132 North Main & Oak Streets was sounded for a fire in the Pythian Block 825 North Main Street. The fire started in a second floor dentist office and reached the third floor before firefighters stopped it.
- Sept. 9, 1968 Arsonists today left a string of fires burning. They threw lighted kerosene smudge pots through windows and sped off in a car.
- Oct. 10, 1968 Mayor John E. Sullivan is high in his praise of the firefighters who man the city ambulance. He has received scores of letters complimenting them on their kindness and efficiency in answering calls.
- Nov. 12, 1968 Fire Chief Edward Burrell asks for funds to buy new trucks to replace 20 year old trucks, specifically Eng. Co. 4's trucks, which have hard use at the Thatcher Street dump for many years.
- Nov. 13, 1968 Box 1355 Spring & Newbury Sts. was sounded at 7:47 P.M. for a fire at 157 Spring Street. It took firefighters over 30 minutes to contain the blaze that was whipped by 30 mile per hour winds. The home was scene of a similiar fire on April 15, 1966.
- Nov. 30, 1968 Firefighters are kept busy with 15 alarms being sounded, 12 of them false.
- Dec. 11, 1968 Brockton's new high school had two important events. The laying of the cornerstone and a fire in the auditorium when sparks from a welders torch ignited 25 foot high folding partitions which were still in their original wrappings.

1969

- Jan. 3, 1969 Box 2416 Ash & Wellington Sts. was sounded at 8:26 A.M. for a fire at 8 Avon Street. The fire on the 3rd floor was used as a playroom and 2 year old girl died despite heroic efforts of firefighters to revive her.
- Jan. 5, 1969 Box 5214 Spring Ave. & Acorn St. was sounded at 12:35 P.M. for a fire at 56 Spring Avenue. An 84 year old woman fled to safety within minutes before flames completely destroyed the house.
- Jan. 14, 1969 A fire at 780 Main St. shortly after 8:30 P.M. caused by an exploding space heater saw seven people rescued over ladders and Captain James Smith treated for smoke inhalation.
- Jan. 15, 1969 Box 1245 Belmont & Newton Sts. was sounded at 2:25 A.M. for a fire at 18 Wall Street. Fifty-Six year old Robert L. Shearing lost his life after he alerted his wife and son and was trapped by the raging flames.
- Feb. 5, 1969 Box 7222 was sounded at 12:50 P.M. for a house fire at 191 West Chestnut Street. Seventeen year old Michael Kennedy was treated for burns and cuts when he awoke from a nap and found the living room on fire and started throwing burning furniture out the front door.
- Feb. 7, 1969 Albert W. Fuller Co., Publisher of the Brockton Enterprise and friend of the Brockton Fire Dept. passes away.
- Feb. 10, 1969 A two alarm fire broke out at 114 Prospect St. at 4:35 A.M. as the northeast snow storm continued and hampered firefighters. The two and one half story house was extensively damaged. Defective wiring behind a fireplace was the cause.
- Feb. 10, 1969 Box 2233 was sounded at 12:49 P.M. for a cellar fire at 15 Carleton Ave., causing several thousand dollars damage.
- Feb. 23, 1969 Box 1226 Winthrop St. & Warren Ave. was sounded at 9:28 A.M. for a fire at 75 Winthrop Street. Eighteen month old Erin Marie Moynihan died from smoke inhalation while the mother was saved from a fiery death by firefighters.
- Mar. 3, 1969 The third snowstorm hits Brockton and Fire Chief Burrell has requested householders and businessmen to dig out fire hydrants near their properties. He also put the blast on private contractors who have been observed deliberately piling mountains of snow over hydrants.

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Mar. 24, 1969 Mayor John E. Sullivan at 11:25 A.M. declared a State of Emergency in Brockton as torrential rain continued to pelt the city causing flooding in many sections.

Mar. 31, 1969 Box 6221 Warren Ave. & Tribou St. was sounded at 2:52 A.M. and at 2:57 A.M., a second alarm was sounded for a fire at a vacant factory at 54 First St. Chief Edward L. Burrell said the fire was definitely set.

Aug. 31, 1969 Three manhole covers on Warren Ave. between Belmont & High Streets were blown off by a short circuit in Edison Wiring. Heavy black smoke and flames belched from them.

Oct. 6, 1969 Brockton Fire Dept. received its first new 1,000 G.P.M. Mack Truck and it is the first diesel engine in the department.

Oct. 9, 1969 A phone call was received at 4:00 P.M. for a fire at 384 Main Street. When firefighters arrived flames and heavy black smoke was pouring from the three story apartment block. Several people were taken over ladders by firefighters.

Oct. 27, 1969 Forty seconds may seem like a long time. The Brockton fire alarm operators can receive a box pulled from the street, read it on a tape that the box number is punched out on, set it up on a transmitter that sends it to all six stations simultaneously, then flip some switches that put red lights to keep track of the trucks responding, and broadcast it over the radio to Car 56 the Deputy Chief, and he in turn acknowledges he has received the message.

Nov. 1, 1969 A general alarm fire ripped through a three story multiple apartment block at 1119 Montello Street where two died. When firefighters arrived flames were shooting 25-30 feet above the room. Quick action by firefighters and police raised ladders and rescued 30 men, women and children within a period of five minutes. Firefighters fought to gain entrance to the building, but found it impossible because of the heat and heavy black smoke.

Nov. 3, 1969 Chief Edward Burrell complimented his men especially the first arriving companies at 1119 Montello Street. When the fire broke out there were 42 people inside and 30 of them were rescued over ladders by my men, a job well done.

Nov. 29, 1969 At 2:01 A.M. about 40 diners had to flee leaving their dinners uneaten at Giovanni's Restaurant, 1104 No. St. when fire erupted from a frying unit in the kitchen.

Dec. 1, 1969 Five hurt as blast rocks Warren Bros. Road Co., 318 Howard Street. Firefighters were inside the building fighting the fire when a second explosion went off.

Dec. 12, 1969 At 4:00 P.M. a fire broke out at Hoppy's Oil Co., 1200 Montello Street where men were repairing gasoline pumps. While apparatus was still at the Oil Co. a call was received for a fire at 85½ Division St. When firefighters arrived the entire third floor was ablaze. A total of 10 adults and 5 children were left homeless.

Dec. 25, 1969 A call was received at fire alarm for a fire at 23 Mulberry Street. When firefighters had to brake down the front door and found Mrs. Ruth Lyons, apparently had fallen asleep with a cigarette.

1970

Jan. 9, 1970 Rev. James H. O'Brien Jr., Pastor of the First Parish Congregational Church has been appointed the first Chaplain of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department instructors.

Jan. 15, 1970 Box 1365 Longwood Ave. & West Chestnut St. was sounded at 5:12 A.M. for a fire at 191 Chestnut Street. Michael Kennedy woke up to go down to the kitchen and at the head of the stairs there was heavy black smoke. He woke his mother and three other children broke a window on the second floor with a chair and they escaped out into the sub zero temperatures. In February of 1969 another blaze severely damaged the two story single family house.

Jan. 20, 1970 Box 1343 Highland & Newbury Sts. was sounded at 2:30 A.M. for a two alarm fire at 14 Highland Street. Nineteen tenants were rescued and two firefighters were injured in the near zero blaze.

Jan. 21, 1970 Albert N. Baroncelli an alarm operator for the Brockton Fire Dept. and member of the school committee is in the intensive care unit at the Brockton Hospital following a heart attack.

Jan. 23, 1970 The coldest spot in the city is at the sewerage plant on Oak Hill Way and the temperature at 5:30 A.M. was 8 below zero.

Jan. 25, 1970 Box 3123 North Main St. opposite Vine St. was sounded at 8:14 A.M. for a two alarm fire at 673 No. Main Street. Heavy black smoke made it difficult to find the blaze. It was believed to have been set to cover a break.

Feb. 13, 1970 Box 2123 Main & Tremont Sts. was sounded at 7:30 A.M. for a fire at 7-9 Tremont Street. A mother and five children and a brother flee blazing house in night clothes. The fire broke out in a storage closet and raced down the front stairway.

Feb. 16, 1970 Box 1253 West Elm St. & Warren Ave. was sounded at 12:14 A.M. Firefighters thought this to be another false alarm but, when they rounded the corner of Pleasant St. & Warren Ave. they knew different. Flames were leaping from the Redlands Apartments burning as if an explosion had ripped through it. At 12:19 A.M. a general alarm was sounded bringing all of Brockton equipment and 14 Towns to fill in at stations or ordered to the fire. Ladder 1 picked people off window sills as it moved from window to window. The four story block was a pile of ashes by dawn and 57 tenants had been rescued, 3 known dead and two were missing.

Feb. 19, 1970 At 1:00 A.M. firefighters were called to 31 Ames St. and within a few minutes it turned into a general alarm. When the first apparatus arrived at the scene fire was raging at the main entrance at the front of the building, then raced up the stairway to the roof. Four persons including two firefighters were injured.

Feb. 19, 1970 Reporter Robert F. Richards, Jr. says that the Brockton Firefighters have been passing some tough tests the past three and a half months. Since Nov. 1, the City has been the scene of five multiple alarms all in large buildings. During that span seven people have lost their lives in fires.

Mar. 15, 1970 Box 8212 Main & Harvard Sts. was sounded at 7:56 & 8:00 P.M. a second alarm was sounded for aid at 34 Harvard St. when flames destroyed a 2½ story house. One person jumped from a rear third floor window, a male occupant was rescued over a ladder and a third person was found lying on the floor by her bed. All were taken to Brockton Hospital.

April 19, 1970 Box 3116 No. Main Street & Winthrop Square was sounded at 9:38 A.M. for a fire in a three story six apartment house at 19 East Main Street. At 9:40 Deputy John Kelly called for a second alarm as flames were jutting out the four front windows and front apartment door like a blow torch. Fourteen occupants had to be assisted out by firefighters.

April 20, 1970 Yesterdays double alarm fire was the 10th multi-alarm fire in the city in the past six months.

- May 8, 1970 A 21 year old city youth is charged by the Grand Jury with four counts of second degree murder and one count of willfully and maliciously burning the four story Redlands Apartment house at Warren Ave. & West Elm St. in February.
- May 12, 1970 Firefighters from Squad A were called to the Battles Farm Drive Project at 5:30 P.M. when the city water department workers were trapped in a 12 foot deep trench that had collapsed and trapped Michael Saba and John Paccia.
- May 27, 1970 Two fires in opposite ends of the city thirteen people including 9 children had to flee from both fires. One fire was at 25 Hawthorne St. in a storage closet. At 12:12 A.M. the second fire was at 84 Auburn St. in a room on the second floor.
- Aug. 9, 1970 Box 4115 East Ashland & Emmet St. was sounded at 8:40 P.M. & at 8:47 P.M., Deputy Chief Cruise called for a second alarm for a working fire at the Spiegel Co. at 175 East Ashland Street. This was the 10th multiple alarm blaze in the past 10 months.
- Sept. 28, 1970 A \$500,000. fire destroyed the Allied Medical & Surgical Supply Co. at 693 North Montello St. at 1:30 A.M. Firefighters had a problem with 30 oxygen tanks that exploded inside the building.
- Nov. 21, 1970 A general alarm fire destroyed huge barn at Walsh's Farm on Oak Street shortly after 10:00 P.M.
- Dec. 27, 1970 Box 7611 Main & Bartlett Sts. was sounded at 7:13 P.M. for a fire at a three story factory at 367 Main St. and at 7:17 P.M., Deputy Chief Shurtleff called for a second alarm as fire raced from the first floor to the third and through the roof.

1971

- Feb. 20, 1971 An early morning power failure at 5:15 A.M. blacked out Brockton, all of Southeastern Mass. and parts of Rhode Island. About 500,000 people were without power for 3 hours.
- Feb. 21, 1971 Austerity has been the watch word in municipal spending, but several hundred dollars of taxpayers money went down the drain Sunday morning. Firefighters made 16 needless runs on ice glazed streets as pranksters pulled 16 false alarms within a span of 36 minutes. The first alarm was at 3:04 A.M. and the last at 3:40 A.M.
- Mar. 10, 1971 The 30th anniversary of the Strand Theatre in which 13 Brockton firefighters lost their lives was commemorated at City Hall with brief ceremonies in front of the memorial tablet at City Hall.
- Mar. 10, 1971 A city man is badly burned as a flash fire broke out at his Crowell St. home at 8:30 A.M.
- Mar. 16, 1971 Box 6512 the Gilmore School on Clinton St. was sounded at 1:53 A.M. Vandals broke in to the school ransacked it and set a fire that caused heavy fire and smoke damage.
- April 14, 1971 Police picket City Hall to bring to the attention of city residents their impasse in negotiations for a new working contract.
- April 25, 1971 Brockton firefighters were called to the V.A. Hospital on Belmont St. to rescue four painters inside a water tank they were painting. A coupling on an air hose broke and they were overcome by fumes. It took two hours to complete the rescue.
- May 12, 1971 An 18 year old Brockton youth was indicted by the Plymouth County Grand Jury on four counts of second degree murder in connection with the Feb. 16, 1970 Redlands Hotel fire.
- May 30, 1971 Box 3322 Cross St. & Winslow Ave. was sounded at 3:22 A.M. for a fire at the Cricket Club, 169 Cross St. Heavy fire and smoke damage was done to the club.
- June 2, 1971 Firefighters and police are stoned in Salisbury Park. Six B.H.S. students were arrested.
- June 10, 1971 Mrs. Ann Harb of 1279 Main Street was lead to safety by her 21 year old son Alfred, when he returned home at 8:40 A.M. and found the cellar in flames.
- July 24, 1971 A two alarm fire broke out at 7:45 P.M. in a factory at 48 Perkins Street. Firefighters had difficulty getting to the building which was behind two houses and had a small alleyway leading to it.
- Aug. 2, 1971 A spectacular two alarm blaze at Main & Green Sts. destroyed a coffee shop, restaurant, vacant store and a former pool hall at 4:05 P.M. Nine firefighters are injured, one is in the intensive care unit at the Brockton Hospital and a second is in good condition at the same hospital.
- Sept. 7, 1971 The National Fire Protection Association reported that damage from fires caused by children and arson jumped in 1970. The N.F.P.A. estimated 12,000 persons were killed by fire in 1970 and \$2.63 billion in property was destroyed.
- Sept. 26, 1971 Firefighters quell two fires in commercial buildings over the weekend. The first fire was at 3:08 P.M. Saturday at 255 Center St., the rear of the Worcester Wholesale Co. and the second one was at 10:30 A.M. Sunday, on Crascent St. next to the Telephone Co.
- Oct. 4, 1971 Box 1313 Main & Green Sts. was sounded at 12:04 P.M. and at 12:06 P.M. Deputy Chief John W. Kelley skipped the second alarm and called for a General Alarm as fire completely gutted the apartment house at 34-36 Green Street. Eight firefighters and two elderly residents were injured and more than 20 other occupants fled to safety.
- Nov. 10, 1971 A break in a large main that brings water to Brockton broke and left Brockton with very little water. A call was put out to all surrounding towns with tank trucks to bring them to Brockton in case of a fire. Tank trucks were rushed to city fire stations from South Middleboro, Lakeville, Hanover, Abington and Sharon.
- Nov. 24, 1971 Box 1222 Belmont & Main St. was sounded at 3:45 P.M. for a fire at Jack & Harry's, 272 Main Street. At 3:51 Chief Burrell called for a General Alarm as flames were shooting out the sky lights on the roof and he was concerned with the Thompson Block adjacent to Jack & Harry's.
- Dec. 23, 1971 Company 5 stationed on Belmont St. was sent out to investigate smoke in the area of 165 Boylston St. at 6:59 P.M., just down the street from them when they turned the corner they called for a box as the fire was shooting out the windows and doors at 165 Boylston Street. They found the occupant on the front porch and called for an ambulance. She was dead on arrival at the Brockton Hospital.

1972

- Jan 2, 1972 Box 6135 was sounded at 9:01 P.M. The old Brockton High School on Warren Ave. & West Elm St. was on fire. Five fires had been set in the building and one of them set off the sprinkler system sounding the alarm. Firefighters searched the building and found a 30 year old Brockton man hiding in a third floor closet.
- Jan. 3, 1972 The National Fire Protection Association released figures that in 1971, 12,200 died in fires and \$2.845 billion in property damage was done in the United States.
- Jan. 11, 1972 Box 1315 North Main & Haverhill St. was sounded at 3:01 A.M. for a fire at 107 North Main St. and at 3:09 A.M. a General Alarm was sounded as fire raced through the building. One occupant died and 20 were saved. The building was a total loss.
- Jan. 18, 1972 Box 6452 East Jr. High School was sounded at 4:39 P.M. for a fire in the auditorium damaging the curtain and controls on the stage. An east side youth was arrested for setting the fire.

- Feb. 16, 1972 Only an empty cellar with a wire fence around it remains, but the memory of the Redlands Hotel disaster of Feb. 16, 1970 still lingers.
- Feb. 16, 1972 Box 5124 Perkins Ave. & Montello St. was sounded at 1:47 P.M. for a fire at 12 Terminal Place. When firefighters arrived heavy smoke pouring from all windows. Heavy damage was done to the upper floors and roof.
- Mar. 2, 1972 Box 1334 Spring & Pleasant Sts. was sounded at 10:20 A.M. for a fire at 177 Pleasant Street. There was heavy heat and fire damage to the building. It was said to have been caused by an iron left on, on an ironing board.
- Mar. 9, 1972 Fire Departments workload continues to increase. This past year another record of runs was set, 6,306 compared to 5,743 the previous year.
- Mar. 30, 1972 Shortly before 10:00 A.M., six buildings blew up at the Bridgewater Fire Works on Rte. 28. Three persons were killed, 10 injured and several missing.
- April 24, 1972 At 3:45 A.M. a spectacular fire destroyed the Round Table Steak House at 1038 North Montello Street. When firefighters arrived the building was completely involved in fire, and burst through the roof shooting 20 feet in the air.
- May 22, 1972 Deputy Chief John F. Kelly, Senior Fire Department member with 35 years service died at his home, 283 North Cary Street after a short illness.
- July 18, 1972 Box 3143 North Montello St. was sounded at 1:15 A.M. for a working fire at Nero's Restaurant, 1104 North Montello Street. When firefighters arrived fire was seen in the diner section and quickly spread to the restaurant section. Deputy Chief Shurtleff called for a general alarm at 1:21 A.M.
- Aug. 9, 1972 Box 3615 Moraine & Ash Streets was sounded at 1:32 P.M. for a fire at 49 Moraine Street. A 13 year old boy was led to safety and heavy smoke heat and water damage was done to rooms on the second floor and attic.
- Aug. 18, 1972 Box 2136 Main & Brookside Ave. was sounded at 7:10 A.M. for a fire at 28 Brookside Avenue. A mother and three children were saved as flames and heavy smoke did extensive damage to the house.
- Oct. 17, 1972 Box 4111 North Montello & Elliot Sts. was sounded at 5:00 P.M. for a fire that was set at the old Taunton Lumber Company. Two firefighters hurt fighting the blaze.
- Dec. 9, 1972 A fire at 87 Sinclair Rd. was set by arsonist. Also, a fire at the rear of Rautenberg Leather on Middle St. are under investigation.
- Dec. 13, 1972 Box 5125 Station Ave. was sounded at 12:14 A.M. for working fire at the Walkover Club on Perkins Ave. When firefighters arrived flames were showing in the large main lobby and through the cupola on the roof. At 12:25 a second alarm was sounded for more man power at the fire.
- Feb. 26, 1973 Box 3141 West Ashland & Cherry Sts. was sounded at 12:38 P.M. for a fire at 98 West Ashland Street. The fire worked its way to the third floor through closets. Heavy damage was done. A call was put in for another ladder at 12:42 and at 12:51 another engine co. was called to help halt the blaze.
- Mar. 2, 1973 A raging general alarm fire felled four firefighters at 8:00 A.M. at 30-35 Clinton Avenue. The fire started in the cellar and shot up an air shaft to the roof. Fifteen persons had to be rescued or led to safety.
- April 10, 1973 An automatic heat detector at the Huntington School saved the school from being destroyed at 7:04 P.M. when a fire over the boiler had worked its way into the walls in the room above. Seeing the seriousness of the blaze a second alarm was sounded for a additional help at the school.
- April 20, 1973 Box 4412 Court & Tyler Sts. was sounded at 11:50 P.M. for a fire at 45-47 Williams Ave. driving 16 persons to the street in night clothes. The fire originated in the first floor rear and spread rapidly up to the third floor filling all six apartments with thick black smoke.
- April 30, 1973 A fire of suspicious origin destroyed the old McKinley School on Hovendon Avenue. The first alarm was sounded at 10:41 P.M. and the second alarm was sounded at 10:58 P.M.
- May 1, 1973 The Brockton Fire Dept. sets an all time high for a number of runs in April with a total of 820 an average of 27 calls a day. In March they had 648 runs.
- May 11, 1973 At 2:55 A.M. a fire was reported at the Ardmore Hotel, 93 High Street. When firefighters arrived at the hotel it was a mass of flames. At 2:57 A.M. a second alarm was sounded and at 2:59 A.M. a General Alarm was sounded. At 3:00 A.M., Stoughton Eng. Co. and Ladder Co. called and West Bridgewater Eng. Co. and Ladder Co. called. At 3:09 Holbrook called for an Eng. Co. and Ladder Co., Abington for an Eng. Co., Easton for an Eng. Co., and at 3:10 Brockton's off shift called. After the fire was knocked down firefighters searched the building and found five occupants that had died in the fire and 19 were rescued.
- June 5, 1973 Box 1324 Haverhill & Walnut St. was sounded at 3:52 A.M. for a fire at 38 Walnut Street. Thirty occupants had to be evacuated. AT 3:56 a second alarm was called because of the size of the building and the amount of fire that was showing when firefighters arrived.
- June 27, 1973 Firefighters kept on move with nine false alarms.
- July 28, 1973 At 3:03 A.M. firefighters were called to the Campello Swimming Pool and found the east end of the building totally involved with flames.
- Aug. 10, 1973 Two firefighters get outstanding awards from the Jaycees. Richard H. Hamilton and Alan Holmes get awards for saving a resident of the Ardmore Hotel fire on May 11.
- Aug. 18, 1973 Firefighters were called to 24 Monument St. at 4:01 A.M. for a bedroom fire.
- Sept. 4, 1973 Box 1255 West Elm & Arlington Sts. was sounded at 2:40 A.M. for a fire at 15 Arlington Street. When firefighters arrived flames were shooting from second floor windows and the occupant had to be rescued over a ladder.
- Oct. 5, 1973 At 2:00 P.M. firefighters were called to Deed Circle and found a rear porch and den fire. A juvenile was arrested for arson and breaking and entering after it was discovered it was ransacked.
- Oct. 10, 1973 Brockton sent aid to Chelsea as a 30 block area burned out of control. The Brockton crew played a big roll when the City-Hall caught fire.
- Oct. 20, 1973 Brockton Fire Dept. gets long awaited Walkie-Talkies.

1973

- Jan. 20, 1973 Box 3245 North Main & Wilder Sts. was sounded at 5:29 A.M. for a working fire at 1138 North Main St. The two and a half story wooden warehouse was completely gutted by fire.
- Feb. 3, 1973 Box 2244 Copeland St. & Hayward Ave. was sounded at 2:21 A.M. for a fire at 10 Oakdale Avenue. A mother and two small children were forced to flee when fire destroyed a room at the rear of the house.
- Feb. 5, 1973 A two alarm fire broke out at 40 Emmet Street. It started in the rear and quickly raced up the stairway and through the roof. Two occupants jumped from from the third floor porch to escape from the flames smoke.

- Oct. 30, 1973 Teamwork - Brockton Firefighters from Central Station team up to paint Lt. Malcolm Rice's house after he recently suffered a heart attack. He had planned to paint the house before his illness.
- Nov. 1, 1973 A fire believed set did heavy damage to a second floor apartment at 501 North Main Street at 6:30 P.M. Firefighters had to cut a hole in the roof to get at the blaze above the ceilings.
- Nov. 13, 1973 City firefighters rescue a woman from her smoked filled house at 53 Breer Street.
- Nov. 14, 1973 Fire officials are looking for a 14 year old believed to have set a fire at 88 North Main St. at 11:00 P.M.
- Nov. 26, 1973 Two firefighters were injured and 24 persons were driven to the street a fire raced through a 2nd floor hall at 51 Tabor Ave. at 6:30 P.M.
- 1974**
- Jan. 2, 1974 The National Fire Protection Association said that 11,900 died in fires the past year.
- Jan. 17, 1974 A spectacular General Alarm fire raced through the business block at 342-358 North Main Street. When firefighters arrived heavy black smoke and fire was shooting from the front and rear windows.
- Feb. 15, 1974 Box 1324 Haverhill & Walnut Sts. was sounded at 11:36 P.M. for a fire at 47-49 Walnut Street. When Eng. Co. 1 arrived they reported a working fire as the Deputy was on another call. When the Deputy arrived he ordered a second alarm especially for extra Ladder Co. due to the size of the building and the occupants. A two year old girl died in the fire and several firefighters were injured.
- Mar. 7, 1974 While responding to a box alarm pulled for a brush fire in Montello, Deputy Chief James Smith and his driver Richard Hamilton saw a man at 55 No. Main St. waving his arms and pointing down a driveway. Smoke was coming from a cellar window. He called for Squad A to stop with him. Flames were showing at the window, they called for a box alarm for the large business and apartment block.
- Mar. 27, 1974 A general alarm fire at noon today destroyed the Old Lincoln Hotel on West Elm Street. When firefighters arrived flames were shooting out every window and through the roof 30 feet in the air. Building next to the hotel was evacuated as well as the Bryant Hotel across the street when that started to smoulder from the intense heat.
- Mar. 30, 1974 Box 3126 North Main St. & Emerson Ave. was sounded at 11:41 P.M. for a fire at the factory on Herrod Avenue. Shortly after arrival of firefighters a second alarm was sounded to bring additional help to the factory.
- April 16, 1974 Brockton Firefighter Chester J. Perry Jr. and his cousin Dennis R. Perry are missing after going out fishing from Plymouth in a 16 foot boat.
- April 19, 1974 The body of Chester R. Perry was found 6 miles north of Barnstable Harbor.
- April 20, 1974 Firefighters are kept on the move with a bedroom fire at 57 Augustine St. at 5:52 P.M., at 8:26 P.M. an accidental alarm trip at The First Baptist Church and at 9:19 P.M. a fire in a greenhouse at 73 Battles Street where 2,000 dozen tomatoe plants were lost and a three gallon kerosene can exploded and shot into the air. At 10:17 P.M. a fire was reported to 56 Emmet St. a second floor room was burned out.
- May 30, 1974 Firefighters kept busy with three separate building fires within a four hour period. The first one was at 7:31 P.M. at the Consolidated Fiber Co., 125 Mulberry Street. The second one was at 9:51 P.M. in a vacant 2½ story house at 445 North Montello St. and 10:50 P.M. a call was received at fire alarm that a vacant house at 65 Emmett St. had been firebombed. When firefighters arrived the house was fully involved.
- June 19, 1974 A massive search is on in the city for David Louison son of Atty. and Mrs. Melvin Louison of 467 West Elm Street.
- June 29, 1974 Fire Chief Edward L. Burrell has a shiny new Squad A, but he won't be using it for a while. The City Council will have to approve an appropriation of \$47,968 to pay for it.
- July 2, 1974 A family of six was made homeless. The most serious of three building fires within a span of four hours. The other fires were in the second floor work and storage area at D.D. North Sign Inc., 125 School Street and the other was on a roof of a dwelling at 45 Belmont Street.
- July 17, 1974 Box 1313 Main & Green Sts. was sounded at 4:07 A.M. for a working fire at 82 Green Street. Firefighters rescued two women and search the building for other occupants that might still have been sleeping. A closet in the first floor hallway was fully involved in fire and heavy smoke filled the building.
- July 25, 1974 Mayor David E. Crosby says if they can build two identical elementary schools and save money, why not two new fire stations.
- Aug. 24, 1974 A General Alarm fire broke out around noon at 17 Baxendale Ave. driving 30 persons to the street and leaving them homeless. The fire was in a 5 story duplex tenement and firefighters were glad it was noon time and not midnight.
- Sept. 14, 1974 A General Alarm fire at 5:17 A.M. fed by exploding fuel oil and kerosene destroyed a three story building at Scudder Bros. Fuel Co. on Clinton St.
- Sept. 23, 1974 Box 2111 Main & Hervey Sts. was sounded at 4:00 A.M. for a working fire in a three story duplex house at 525-527 Main Street. When firefighters arrived two fires were located, one in a second floor stairwell and the second in the cellar in a pile of mattresses. Twenty-five occupants were driven to the street in their night clothes.
- Oct. 12, 1974 Arsonists torch two buildings. Shortly after 11 P.M. firefighters were called to 13 Clinton Avenue. When they arrived fire and smoke was pouring from the first and second floor windows. Deputy Chief Smith called for extra apparatus due to the size and location of the three story building. While still wetting down at that fire a call was received at 11:44 for a fire at 12 Hazel Street. When Deputy Smith arrived flames were shooting 20 feet into the air from the two story single family house.
- Oct. 29, 1974 Firefighters have busy weekend with 113 calls from noon Saturday to midnight Sunday. They had 35 box alarms 18 proved to be false. Forty brush fires and 31 ambulance calls.
- Nov. 1, 1974 A two alarm fire at 26-28 L Street was set by an arsonist. Firefighters raised ladders to take people off porches.
- Nov. 14, 1974 Twelve persons had to flee from their apartments at 10:30 A.M. when a fire started under a rear first floor porch and burned up through three floors damaging bathroom areas in three apartment.
- Dec. 13, 1974 Brockton sent an Eng. Co. and a Ladder Co. to Middleboro when a General Alarm fire leveled three large factories and threatened surrounding homes.
- Dec. 23, 1974 Two families flee fires in different sections of the city. The first one was at 10:30 A.M. at 197 Sinclair Rd. in a garage attached to the house. The second one was at 12:30 P.M. at 273 Richmond St. that started in a furnace room stored with junk, and at 9 P.M. firefighters were met with two fires on the loading dock and a fire inside the building of materials recycling on Mulberry Street.

Dec. 24, 1974 Box 4116 North Montello St. & Snow Ave. was sounded at 4:05 A.M. at 4:07, Deputy Smith called for a second alarm and at 4:12 a general. The entire block of residents was evacuated when the vacant 5 story duplex building burst into flames all at once. Several buildings around the structure caught fire and a water curtain was set up to save others. Every rubbish barrel on North Montello St. from East Ashland St. to Snow Avenue caught fire. Two fire trucks were slightly damaged.

1975

Jan. 16, 1975 A set fire at Zayre's Dept. Store, North Main St. in the domestic department did heavy damage to the pillow counter and water damage to other counters, when the sprinkler system went off.

Jan. 20, 1975 A two alarm fire broke out at 64 West Elm St. and a tenant was arrested for setting the fire.

Jan. 27, 1975 At 6:35 P.M. firefighters were called to 54 Manomet Street. On their arrival smoke and fire was showing. The owner was in a nursing home. Detective Malta arrested three thirteen year old neighborhood youths with setting the blaze.

Jan. 31, 1975 Brockton Fire Dept. sets new record with 9,184 runs as compared to 8,014 in 1973.

Mar. 14, 1975 Shortly after 8:00 A.M. a woman was rescued from her 73 North Ash Street third floor apartment and three firefighters were momentarily trapped when the blaze erupted in a room they were working in.

Mar. 29, 1975 A cushion in an apartment of the Chesston Apts., 11 Wales Ave. was believed to have been put out by a 4th floor tenant and placed out in the hall, caused a General Alarm fire at 6 A.M. doing heavy damage to the hall and roof of the building.

July 3, 1975 A two alarm fire broke out at 11:18 P.M. at 6-8 Carlton Street driving 12 tenants to the street. Quick work by firefighters confined the blaze to the attic area which was heavily damaged.

Aug. 20, 1975 Mechanics at Central Station saved the city \$50,000. by converting a truck donated by the Civil Defense into a ladder truck that will be used as a spare.

Sept. 5, 1975 A general alarm fire broke out at 2:37 A.M. in the First Parish Block at 23 Main Street. Firefighters had to lead tenants out of the building. Fire was belching from the rear in the cellar and under a stairway in the front. Three ladder trucks were used and 13 ground ladders to reach windows and take people out of the building. At about 3:30, Deputy Smith ordered his men out of the building because he feared the floors would collapse.

Oct. 14, 1975 Firefighters from Brockton and seven towns battled a general alarm fire at 1036 Montello at 12:09 A.M. The two story wooden building was destroyed as the second floor and roof collapsed at the height of the fire.

Nov. 3, 1975 Fire Captain, Harold L. Weeks a member of the Brockton Fire Dept. for 36 years was stricken with a heart attack while battling a blaze at 59-65 Main St.

Nov. 4, 1975 Despite the efforts of Brockton Firefighters a 3 year old girl rescued from her burning bedroom died of 2nd and 3rd degree burns. The fire was at 276 Quincy St. at 1:30 P.M.

Nov. 6, 1975 Five Hundred firefighters from across the state attend funeral of Captain Harold L. Weeks who died of a heart attack while fighting a fire at 59-65 Main St.

Dec. 3, 1975 A large 2½ story house at 49 Appleton St. received heavy damage when children playing with matches lit several fires in the cellar and attic.

1976

Jan. 14, 1976 Shortly after 10 P.M. a General Alarm fire destroyed the LeBaron Foundry on East Union St.

Jan. 19, 1976 Twelve persons were driven to the street at 3:50 P.M. in near zero weather when a two alarm fire started by child playing with matches, raced through a 2½ story dwelling at Main St. & Lyons Ave.

Feb. 2, 1976 A roaring General Alarm fire destroyed the warehouse of the Universal Products Inc., North Montello & Rosseter Street. Fire was showing from the north and west sides of the 120 by 180 foot building when firefighters arrived.

Feb. 19, 1976 Box 3113 Huntington & Wayland Sts. was sounded at 23-25 Wayland Street.

April 5, 1976 Box 2131 Main St. & Keith Ave. was sounded at 5:24 A.M. for a working fire at Shawmut Mills on Clifton Avenue. Lt. Raymond Mitchell from Station 2 called for a second alarm at 5:26 and at 5:28 he called for a General Alarm. When firefighters arrived at the 4 story wooden factory, fire was visible on all floors and within minutes the entire building was burning. The factory was completely destroyed and the wind fed fire leveled three smaller buildings and 3 multi-family dwellings were damaged. All off duty firefighters responded as well as 12 towns to help keep the fire from burning out the entire square block.

April 5, 1976 At 11:02 P.M. fire alarm received a call for a bed fire at the Hamilton Hotel, Belmont Street. At 11:09, Deputy Chief John W. Kelley called for a General Alarm as tenant tried to extinguish the blaze but failed and flames spread through the walls and ceilings.

April 7, 1976 A 35 year old suspended Boston firefighter has been with setting the disastrous fire on Clifton Avenue.

April 15, 1976 Brockton will get a new fire station on Cary Hill. The first to be built in over seven decades.

May 6, 1976 Box 8421 Freight Yards off Elliot St. was sounded at 4:59 A.M. at 5:05 A.M. a second alarm was sounded for additional help as a large storage building was heavily damaged. Aid was called from the towns to fill in. West Bridgewater at the Campello Station responded to 12 Lyons Ave. at 6:29 A.M. Upon Chief Gibson's arrival he saw fire & heavy smoke coming from the attic area. He ordered a second alarm so firefighters had a busy night with two multiple alarms within an hour and a half.

May 14, 1976 At 11:45 A.M. a blast and fire in the electrical room of the Belair Street high rise shook the building and caused heavy black smoke to the entry of the building. Firefighters had to help in evacuating 300 tenants.

July 3, 1976 A General Alarm fire broke out at 4:51 P.M. in the New England Fashion Co. located on the third floor floor of the United Furniture Bldg. at Centre & Montello Streets.

July 6, 1976 A General Alarm fire broke out at the U.S. Mat Co. 325-333 No. Montello St. at noon. The building was a mass of flames and the cause was a spark, ignited containers of flammable liquids.

July 19, 1976 The Fire Prevention Bureau has some work to do after several suspicious fires are set. One was in a two story vacant house at 407 No. Montello Street. One at Teddy's Dating Bar, Main & Temple Sts., another at 102 Green Street and the rear door at the Ellis Brett School was set again.

July 20, 1976 At 2:21 A.M. firefighters were called to 637 Crescent St. and found a working fire in a vacant house. Heavy damage was done. At 4:08 A.M. they responded to Pisces Lounge, 820 Main St. where someone threw a firebomb through the front window. The bar and dining area were completely gutted.

continued next page

- July 22, 1976 Captain Thomas Whalen a 26 year member of the Brockton Fire Dept. died after a long illness.
- Aug. 7, 1976 A 4 month old baby and his 23 year old babysitter died when fire broke out at 9:30 A.M. A fire in a closet smoldered all night and the two died of smoke inhalation before being discovered.
- Aug. 14, 1976 A General Alarm fire badly damaged a former three story factory at Main & East Market Sts. at 3:15 A.M.
- Sept. 17, 1976 Four men were forced to jump to a second floor porch as fire and heavy smoke from a vacant second floor apartment did heavy damage to the 2^{1/2}h story building at 26 Allen Street at 4 A.M.
- Oct. 6, 1976 Brockton sent aid to West Bridgewater at 4:45 A.M. to help at Muldoon's Place, 105 Copeland St. that was heavily damaged.
- Nov. 2, 1976 The new Cary Hill Fire Station is dedicated to Army Major Frederick D. Daniloff who won the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in Vietnam.
- Nov. 26, 1976 Captain Louis C. Vanderstreet forced to retire after 26 years on the Fire Dept. Two serious back injuries and a knee injury, as the Captain said, have caught up with me and I can't give the taxpayers an honest days work.
- Dec. 8, 1976 A lover's quarrel ended up in a two alarm fire at the Checkerton Apts., 12 Cottage St. at 3:32 A.M. driving thirty residents to the street.
- Dec. 11, 1976 John W. Kelley retires after 36 years with the department, but does it a little different. When he got to his house at 25 Searles Pl. in the Deputy's car he picked up the microphone to the radio and over the city fire radio he said his goodbyes.
- Dec. 16, 1976 A General Alarm fire at 8:43 A.M. where everyone was safely evacuated, when a fire started on the 3rd floor and came through the roof at 15-17 Turner St.
- Dec. 29, 1976 Firefighters were called to 36 Berkshire Ave. at 7:12 A.M. for a fire around a fireplace and part of the roof. Arthur Bergman who was appointed to the department on July 12, 1942 made his last run with the department, retired at 7:45 and had to work overtime.
- Dec. 30, 1976 Box 1316 No. Main & Rosseter Sts. was sounded at 5:08 A.M. for a working fire in a 3 story wooden frame apartment house. Thirty tenants had to be evacuated. The fire started on the first floor east side and was stopped just before it reached the cockloft above the third floor.
- 1977**
- Jan. 4, 1977 A fire at 102 Pleasant St. claimed the life of a 73 year old man at 1 P.M. when a fire started in his bedroom at 2:30 A.M. A two alarm fire broke out at 9 Baxendale Avenue. The fire was shooting out the first floor windows and the second floor hall. Several residents had to be taken out over ladders.
- Feb. 10, 1977 The Brockton Fire Dept. had its busiest year ever in 1976 answering 9,895 alarms compared with 9,335 in 1975.
- Feb. 11, 1977 The new Cary Hill Fire Station will be open for business on Feb. 13 at 7:45. The first new station in over 70 years.
- Feb. 22, 1977 At 4:15 A.M. a fire in a bedroom at 15 Dane Place claimed the life of a 43 year old woman.
- Feb. 26, 1977 At 4 P.M. the Fire Dept. was called to M.H. Bates Factory, 255 Centre St. & at 4:30 P.M. a General Alarm was called by Chief Burrell as the factory was a mass of flames and the wind was blowing strong to help the fire roar out of control for two hours.
- May 3, 1977 Brockton sent aid to Easton at 8 P.M. to help with a fire in a two story wooden building at 132 Main St. in that town.
- May 23, 1977 A fire at 18 Grand St. at 4:55 P.M. destroyed a two & one half story house and six firefighters are injured when a backdraft occurred and sent flames shooting out windows and one firefighter received 2nd degree burns when he leaped out a third floor window and landed on a roof. He was grabbed by a firefighter on a ladder before he fell off.
- June 11, 1977 Two fires at the Hamilton Hotel on Belmont St. are of suspicious origin. The first fire, at 9:10 P.M., was extinguished by a hotel resident. This fire was in a pile of rubbish in the second floor hall. The second fire required a second alarm to be sounded at 10 P.M. When firefighters arrived flames were shooting out the windows of a street level apartment.
- June 20, 1977 A two alarm fire at a nightclub known as Gladstones South, 96 Ames Street was destroyed by fire seven days before it was to close on a liquor violation.
- June 27, 1977 A General Alarm fire broke out at 4 P.M. at 69 Newbury Street. The owner received 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 50% of his body and twenty-five tenants are forced to flee.
- July 6, 1977 A fire at 8-10 Walnut St. shortly after 5 P.M. drove 19 to the street and did heavy damage to the third floor. The reason the fire got a good start was that people stood around and watched it before someone pulled a box.
- Aug. 1, 1977 A two story building at 826 Montello St. was destroyed by a fuel fed fire and several explosions. One explosion blew the front of the building off and a second blast rocked a side wall from the foundation. No one was injured.
- Aug. 20, 1977 The Central Fire Station on Pleasant St. has been registered in the National Register of Historical Places.
- Sept. 1, 1977 A special police officer from West Bridgewater, resigned his job after being caught pulling eight false alarms in Brockton in twenty one minutes.
- Sept. 15, 1977 A General Alarm fire in apartments over the Cape Cod Cafe, 979 Main Street early this morning. Fifteen people had to be rescued, five of them over ladders. The fire started in two mattresses stored in a second floor hall. Heavy fire damage was done to the upper half of the building and the Cape Cod Cafe received heavy water and smoke damage.
- Nov. 2, 1977 Two firefighters are injured battling a stubborn fire in a two and one half story house at 1601 Main St. When firefighters arrived heavy smoke and flames were pouring from the building.
- Nov. 7, 1977 At 5 A.M., the Royal Court Club on Cross St. was heavily damaged by fire of undetermined origin.
- Nov. 12, 1977 At 11:44 P.M. firefighters were called to a vacant house at 305 Quincy Street. Fire was shooting out the southeast side of the house which was the home of deceased high school art teacher, Robert T. Higgins.
- Nov. 15, 1977 Ground breaking ceremonies were held for two new Fire Stations. One on the east side and the other on the west side.
- Nov. 29, 1977 A suspended Boston Firefighter is found guilty for the April 4, 1976 Campello Factory Fire on Clifton Avenue which damaged three multi-family houses and left an estimated 200 persons jobless.
- Dec. 23, 1977 A 53 year old Brockton man died from smoke inhalation at 41 L Street at 6:45 P.M. Robert Beal lived in boarded up house at 41 L Street. He had been rescued from the Redland Apts. in 1970 where four people died.

1978

- Jan. 26, 1978 Heavy fire damage was done at a two and one half single family home at 185 Newbury St. at 9:45 A.M. Two firefighters were injured.
- Jan. 28, 1978 Box 4111 No. Main & Prospect Sts. was sounded at 3:26 A.M. for a fire at 13 Washburn Avenue. When firefighters arrived heavy fire was overlapping from every window. They made a number of attempts to reach a tenant on the second floor, but the intense heat drove firefighters back. The body of George Beiderman was found in a second floor bedroom.
- Feb. 6, 1978 The worst blizzard ever recorded completely tied up the whole State.
- Feb. 9, 1978 Two children are burned and were rushed to Cardinal Cushing Hospital and then to the Shriners Burn Institute in Boston by State Police helicopter. Because of the snow clogged streets, fire and police had to walk in from North Warren Ave. to get to 245 Richmond Street. The children were in a second floor bedroom when the mattress on the bed caught fire.
- Feb. 14, 1978 A taxi driver, Mark Benedictis was driving his passenger to 671 Pearl Street at 11:25 A.M. Upon arrival the house was on fire. He rushed in and rescued Lucy Stewart, 77 years old. Heavy fire damage was done to the house caused by a faulty oil burner in the parlor.
- Feb. 15, 1978 At 8:38 A.M. firefighters responded to a call at 304 Winter Street. When they arrived a single family house had blown apart. A gas leak is suspected as the cause. No one was at home at the time of the explosion.
- Mar. 13, 1978 A General Alarm fire at the old Copeland School on Leyden Street is heavily damaged by fire at 8:20 P.M.
- Mar. 31, 1978 Quick action by a 23 year old uncle Kevin Kucinski of Drake Street looked out of his house and saw the trailer in his brothers yard burning. He ran over and threw his seven neices and nephews out the rear door of the trailer. One nephew was burned over 50% of his body. The father of the children had just left to pick his wife up from work. All seven children were sleeping at the time of the fire. The trailer was being used until repairs were done on their house that was damaged by fire last August.
- April 14, 1978 Business booming for firefighters. Last year local firefighters responded to 11,126 calls in 1977. A big increase over 1976 which was 9,895 and in 1975 9,424 and in 1974 9,134.
- April 24, 1978 Firefighters battle two blazes simultaneously. The first fire was at 7:15 P.M. at McMenemy's Fish Shanty. Patrons of the restaurant had to evacuate the building as heavy smoke filled the building. Heavy damage was done to the kitchen area. While firefighters were picking up at 9 P.M. a call was received for a fire at 67 Boundry Street. When firefighters arrived fire was coming from the rear of the house in the cellar and along one side of the house. No one was injured.
- April 25, 1978 A barking dog saved the lives of two persons at 2:30 A.M. and then perished in the flames. When firefighters arrived at 135 Tosca Drive the entire cellar was totally ablaze and flames were showing from the front door and garage.
- May 12, 1978 A two alarm fire broke out at 3:30 A.M. at 222½ Belmont Street. Heavy damage was done to Chaet T.V. The second and third floors were vacant. The fire started on the second floor and burned up to and through the roof.
- May 20, 1978 Gasoline vapors leaking from a minibike in the driveway at 20 Standish ignited and caught the house. Heavy fire damage was done to the structure.
- May 22, 1978 A General Alarm fire at 11:56 P.M. destroyed Mr. G's Lounge at 14-16 North Montello Street. The fire was at onetime belching halfway across North Montello Street.
- June 19, 1978 When firefighters arrived at 368 Pleasant St., Walter Courtney a third floor tenant was hanging out a window with heavy smoke pouring out around him. The fire was on the second floor in overstuffed furniture. The heat was so intense on the third floor that Courtney's feet were burned. Ladder 1 raised a ladder and rescued him.
- July 1, 1978 Box 2314 Forest Ave. & Blaine Sts. was sounded at 9:50 A.M. for a fire at 102 Packard Way. The fire was started in a toy box by a 6 year old girl. Three rooms were heavily damaged by the fire.
- July 8, 1978 Two boys were taken to the Brockton Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation, when a fire of undetermined origin broke out at their house at 106 Belmont Street at 11:12 P.M.
- July 10, 1978 A fire on the third floor at 31 Clarence Street did heavy damage to three rooms and the roof. At 3:26 P.M. firefighters were called to 33 North Manchester Street and found fire showing on the third floor from the east and south sides of the building.
- July 20, 1978 A spectacular fire at 6 P.M. did heavy damage to a two story barn, a six bay garage, a shed and an office at 17 Gardner Avenue. Heavy black smoke could be seen for miles as roofing materials, a 1972 truck and a 1975 Corvette were destroyed in the 120 foot long structure.
- Sept. 5, 1978 A two alarm fire was started by a 24 year old city man after a neighbor saw him leave the building at 41 L Street and stood in the parking lot and watched it burn.
- Sept. 11, 1978 A fire at 43 Haverhill Street at 11:45 A.M. drove 9 tenants to the street and did heavy damage to the third floor and roof. The fire may have been started by children playing with matches.
- Sept. 26, 1978 Three Brockton firefighters helping out another firefighter do work on his house fell 25 feet when the they were working on collapsed.
- Oct. 23, 1978 A two alarm fire at 46 Foster Street did heavy damage to a two and one half story house. When firefighters arrived flames had already reached the roof area.
- Nov. 13, 1978 A General Alarm fire at the Hamilton Hotel at 37 Belmont Street at 4:18 A.M. drove 34 tenants to the street. Quick evacuation saved many tenants from a serious disaster.
- Dec. 21, 1978 Someone cleaning paint brushes near a stove in a vacant apartment did heavy damage to a 3½ story house at 16 Chester Ave. at 11:07 A.M.

1979

- Jan. 24, 1979 At 1:13 A.M. firefighters were called to 123 River-view Street, where two families of 14 escaped death or serious injury when flames raced through their 2 family house. A smoke detector on the second floor alerted the tenants.
- Feb. 6, 1979 A two alarm fire destroyed a 3 family house at 15 Crowell Street at 11:30 A.M. The first floor tenant was frying potatoes on her electric stove when she turned around and the grease caught fire, set the cabinets on fire and raced up the back hall.
- Feb. 28, 1979 Firefighters were called to 85 Massasoit Avenue at 11:21 P.M. and when they arrived the house was engulfed in smoke and heat. When the fire was knocked down, they discovered the house had been vandalized and the damage was estimated at \$50,000.
- April 2, 1979 A General Alarm fire broke out at 9:44 P.M. at 506 Main Street. When firefighters arrived heavy smoke was coming from all floors of the duplex 3 story building and fire blowing out the cellar windows on the southside. Forty-five persons were left homeless as the fire went through the roof. Many were rescued over ladders and two young children were rushed to the hospital.

continued next page

1979 continued

- April 10, 1979 Two persons died when a General Alarm fire raced through a 2½ story house at 22 Allen Street. The building was a total loss at 9:30 A.M.
- April 18, 1979 A General Alarm fire burned out of control for more than two hours at 2:18 A.M. and destroyed the century old former M.A. Packard Shoe Factory at 601 Warren Avenue. Firefighters from nine communities were called to help fight the fire and chase hot embers that flew for a mile or better.
- May 11, 1979 Mayor Crosby is in stable condition at the Brockton Hospital after suffering a heart attack in his office at City Hall at 11:45 A.M.
- May 14, 1979 Off duty firefighter, Henri E. Perrault was killed at 12:20 A.M. in an accident at Plain & East Streets. The operator of the car that Perrault was riding in fled the scene on foot.
- May 22, 1979 A 34 year old Brockton man is under police guard at the Cardinal Cushing Hospital after he was severely burned in a fire that destroyed the Minuteman Press at 7 Westgate Drive.
- July 6, 1979 Business continues to increase each year for the Brockton Fire Department. In 1978, 11,987 calls up from 11,126 for 1977.
- Aug. 9, 1979 A General Alarm fire swept through an apartment complex in the former Pentacost Methodist Church at 52 South Street at 10 A.M. When firefighters arrived heavy black smoke was pouring from the building and shortly after fire came through the roof. No one was injured but the building was a total loss.
- Aug. 27, 1979 The new East Side fire station was dedicated to the 13 firefighters that died in the Strand Theatre and later in the day the new West Side Station was dedicated to the former Fire Chief, Lawrence F. Lynch.
- Aug. 29, 1979 At the end of the month Fire Chief, Edward L. Burrell will retire after 40 years of service to the City. He was appointed to the department July 10, 1939, a Lieutenant in 1944, a Captain in 1948, a Deputy Chief in 1954 and Chief in 1963.
- Sept. 5, 1979 City firefighters take second place in State, raised \$8,200 for Muscular Dystrophy Fund.
- Sept. 26, 1979 Firefighters, Police, and City Officials attend funeral of City Auditor, William E. Toomey Jr. who died after a short illness.
- Oct. 2, 1979 A smoke detector saved the lives of two adults and two children at 1:25 A.M. at 59 Burkeside Ave. when timbers around a fireplace started to burn and filled the house with smoke. Three hours later at 4:29 A.M. they were called to 149 Newbury St. where they found a two story wood frame barn fully involved with fire.
- Oct. 22, 1979 At 2:15 A.M. a two alarm fire broke out at 725 North Montello Street and drove 17 people to the street.
- Nov. 5, 1979 A two alarm fire broke out at 9:30 A.M. at 75 High Street. The four story building is vacant and arson is suspected.
- Nov. 8, 1979 Mayor David E. Crosby appointed Deputy Chief James M. Hallisey as the new Chief of the Brockton Fire Department and Kenneth F. Galligan as a deputy Fire Chief.
- Nov. 10, 1979 Three fires strike city within a 12 hour period. The first one was at 8:38 at Joseph's Restaurant at 153 Main Street. The fire was confined to the basement, but heavy smoke damage was done to the restaurant. At 11:50 P.M. a fire at the New England Arts Factory 400 Warren Avenue. Fire was burning on the southeast wall and had spread to a smaller section of the factory. And at 7:07 A.M. a fire broke out in the laundry room at 11 Dandy Road.
- Nov. 26, 1979 Two elderly sisters who are now in a nursing home, had their house at 55 East Union Street ransacked and the intruders set three separate fires at 12:09 A.M.
- Dec. 10, 1979 A general alarm fire destroyed a block of stores at 215 221 Warren Avenue at 12:04 A.M. Liberty Print at 73 Centre Street had purchased the building and were getting ready to move when the fire broke out. Three persons were seen running from the building.
- Dec. 18, 1979 A General Alarm was sounded for a 6 story apartment building at 30 Oak St. Ext. at 10:56 A.M. The fire was on the fourth floor and heavy smoke filled the fourth and fifth floor halls. The General Alarm was sounded because of the size of the building and the number of tenants that reside there.
- Dec. 28, 1979 At 1:30 A.M. firefighters were called to 33 Manomet Street and took a father and 5 sons from a porch roof as fire did heavy damage to the kitchen and den on the first floor and heavy heat and smoke damage to the rest of the house.

1980

- Jan. 2, 1980. Comb.2 was responding to a trailer truck fire on Pinkham Street at 1 A.M. and discovered a fire at 1006 Main Street. Walter Denault was carried unconscious from his room and suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns.
- Jan. 5, 1980 Box 1555 Stillman Ave. was sounded at 6:03 P.M. When firefighters arrived the entire first floor was a mass of fire. A mother and six children fled with no injuries reported.
- Jan. 11, 1980 A wrong address was given to fire alarm at 5:15 A.M. for the North End of the City. Two minutes later a second call came in and the fire was at 66 Calmar St. Heavy damage was done and the cause was listed as a fireplace that had been built in a closet.
- Jan. 21, 1980 An eight hour General Alarm fire completely destroyed the Bixby Block Building at 106 Main Street. At 6:10 P.M. the first alarm came in and at 6:14 the General Alarm was sounded. When Deputy Chief Principe arrived he saw fire on the third and fourth in one room. Before he got out of the car the entire building turned into an uncontrollable inferno.
- Jan. 25, 1980 A smokey General Alarm at the Bryant Hotel on West Elm Street at 11:17 P.M. drove 63 hotel guests to the street and did heavy damage to a washroom on the third floor and spread to the fourth floor where firefighters made a good stop.
- Jan. 30, 1980 A General Alarm fire at the Reconit Sand Blasting Corp., 1252 Belmont Street and the A&W Transportation Co. were destroyed at 12:07 A.M.
- Feb. 5, 1980 The fourth General Alarm fire in less than three weeks destroyed St. Patrick's School on Bartlett St. 12:45 A.M.
- Feb. 11, 1980 A two alarm fire did heavy damage to 20 apartment house buildings at 34 Green Street at 3:14 A.M. and 35 tenants to the street.
- Feb. 16, 1980 A spectacular fire at 3:27 A.M. did heavy damage to three greenhouses, and two storage sheds at Gerry's Farm, 810 Pleasant Street.
- Feb. 22, 1980 Arson is cause of fire at 57 Mulberry Street. When firefighters arrived at 12:14 A.M. the entire front stairway of the three decker to the roof was on fire and a strong smell of gasoline was noticed.
- Feb. 25, 1980 Firefighters kept busy with three building fires. The first blaze was at 9:16 P.M. at 92 South Leyden St. where a vacant two story house was destroyed. The second fire was at 10:02 P.M. Sunday and the cause was a defective fireplace. The third fire was Monday at 40 Huntington Street to a vacant first floor bathroom. Wiring was listed as the cause.

continued next page

1980 continued

- April 12, 1980 At 9:25 A.M. a neighbor at 120 Ettrick St. & 110 Ettrick Street saw smoke coming from 125 Ettrick St. and tried to enter the house but were driven out. When firefighters arrived they entered with scott air packs and pulled Joseph E. 80, and his wife Ruth E. LaRue 76, from the heat and smoked filled house. Both were dead on arrival at the Cushing Hospital and Goddard Hospital despite efforts to revive them.*
- April 12, 1980 Two persons are rescued over ladders at 545 Main St. at 10:30 P.M. when fire broke out in a second floor apartment and filled the 9 unit apartments. The fire extended to a third floor apartment and out through the northwest corner of the roof.*
- April 22, 1980 Heavy damage was done to an apartment at 5:45 P.M. at 9-11 Howard Street. Firefighters fast work kept the blaze to the one apartment of the three story building that contains 20 apartments.*
- May 15, 1980 Firefighters were called to 91 Forest Avenue at 3:37 A.M. and upon arrival heavy fire was showing on a second floor bedroom.*
- May 30, 1980 While at a fire at 208 Centre Street, a police cruiser and a fire truck were stoned by a group of youths.*
- June 11, 1980 A spectacular General Alarm fire destroyed what was remaining of the old Bryant Building at Centre and Main Street shortly before 10 P.M.*
- June 21, 1980 Donald L. Luchino has been arrested for setting a fire at 825 North Main Street. A witness saw him in the hallway a half hour before the fire was discovered. He was acquitted a year ago for the S.T.L. Bldg. fire on Warren Avenue.*
- June 28, 1980 Donald L. Luchino was arrested for setting two early morning fires less than a block apart from one another at 371 No. Main Street at 6:05 A.M. and the second blaze at 28 Lebanon Street at 6:56 A.M. driving out fifteen persons, including five children and hospitalizing three people. Luchino admitted setting both fires and also admitted setting two other fires ablaze at 825 No. Main Street on June 20th and April 18, 1979 for the S.T.L. Warehouse on Warren Avenue. He had been charged with the S.T.L. fire, but was released because no probable cause was found by Judge John Eaton.*

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