

**FIRE COMPANY HISTORY- 1970-1979**

**A big "THANK YOU" to Jim Corl who sent us a big box of articles and newspapers from the 1970s with a wealth of information on fire department news from that time period!**

March 22, 1970: Endwell firefighters provided mutual aid by standing by in Endicott's fire station while Endicott, West Corners, West Endicott, and Vestal responded to a fire at 401 West Main St. Endicott Firefighter William J. Macan, age 29, (photo) died in the fire when his air bottle ran out while he was battling the blaze on the first floor of the 2-story building. Fire was reported about 1:40 pm and when firefighters arrived, heavy smoke was pouring from both ends of the building. Firefighters wearing "oxygen packs" (according to the Press), including Firefighter Macan entered the building with hoses. Officials heard the warning bell from his air pack sound but he did not exit. "He apparently struggled along the first floor concrete-floor corridor towards the west exit, then turned into an apartment no more than thirty feet from safety. It was in the apartment that his body was found."



**BATTLING FATAL BLAZE**—Firemen from the Endicott and West Corners fire departments struggle to tear away paneling to gain access to a laundry and storage area where it is believed the Dudley Court Apartments fire started. William J. Macan, a 29-year-old Endicott fireman died in an apartment on first floor of this wing, opposite side from that shown here. —PRESS PHOTO BY PAUL KONECNY

April 17, 1970: Firefighters battled a brush fire in a thick patch of woods, just north of Magnolia Drive, Wind blew the fire a quarter of a mile to near Forest Dr. Youngsters in the neighborhood assisted firefighters, dousing the flames with garden hoses stretched to the woods. "Other children pitched in with pails and containers of water." (Photo) ↵



**YOUNG VOLUNTEERS**—Youngsters help Endwell Fire Chief Roger Knapp, using hose, and Fireman Gary Jackson, a student at Maine-Endwell Senior High School, as they water down wooded area near Park Manor after woods fire. —PRESS PHOTO BY LEO FANEY.

Aug. 22, 1970 : Fire destroyed an abandoned house at 301 Hooper Road, two blocks south of Country Club Road. The call came in about 4:30 am. At 9 am, firefighters remained at the scene watching for hot spots.

Nov. 1, 1970: Endwell Fire Chief George Ames reported that there was a fire in a caddy shed at the Binghamton Country Club on Robinson Hill Rd. at about 5:30 pm. The fire was stopped before it spread to the area where golf carts were stored.



**TOTAL LOSS**—Firemen fight barn blaze at Far Hills Riding Stable in upper Taft Avenue in the Town of Union. About 25 horses, other livestock and several pieces of equipment were lost in the costly blaze last night. —PRESS PHOTO BY PAUL KONECNY

March 21, 1970: At 10:30 pm Endwell and Union Center responded to a barn fire at Far Hills Riding Stable on Upper Taft Ave. 25 horses, other livestock and equipment were lost in the fire. (Photo→)

April 1, 1971: George W. Burt, first chief of the O. L. Davis Fire Co. who served as chief for nearly 25 years, died on Tuesday, March 30, 1971, in St. Petersburg, FL.

April 21, 1971: Endwell firefighters elected officers for 1971: Chief- George Ames, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst Chief- Ted Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst Chief - Orville Cook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief - Lewis Hoffer,

Captains- Emerson Gilbert and Henry Harris, Lieutenants: James Allen, Stephen Bock, Donald Battaglini, Lawrence Hartung, Stephen Lesso, and Lawrence Vesely. President- Alphonse Knapik, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president- Lawrence Vesely, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president- Howard Kinney, secretary - Robert Sullivan, Treasurer- Harold Barney. Chaplain- Ted Camp and Trustee Joseph Kowalewski.

June 7, 1971: A kitchen fire badly damaged the Rogue's Harbor Inn, located at 3000 East Main St. (Current location of the Union Diner) . The fire started in the grease of a french fry oven. One firefighter received minor burns and another was overcome by smoke. The fire started about 1 pm and 25 people were evacuated from the restaurant. Endwell firefighters battled the blaze for over an hour. The entire building suffered smoke damage, but the kitchen was badly damaged by the fire. (Photo➡)



—PRESS PHOTO BY JOHN J. WILLIAMS.  
OWNERS EXAMINE DAMAGE — Fred Martin, Roger Bassett and Wilfred Coudriet, left to right, owner of Rogues Harbor Inn, Endwell, inspect the restaurant's kitchen after fire yesterday.

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July 27, 1971: A second barn fire at Far Hills Stable on Taft Ave. resulted in the deaths of 7 horses. The call came in around 1:30 pm from a worker at the stable who spotted the smoke. Eighteen horses were led to safety.

Dec. 15, 1971: A 13-year old Endwell youth was charged for turning in several false fire alarms during the summer. The youth pulled box alarms and also phoned in several false alarms.



—PRESS PHOTO BY GEORGE P. WIDMAN.  
FIRE VICTIM—Funeral home officials prepare body of Robert Cooklin of Endwell for removal from his home after he died in a fire that extensively damaged his home. Story, 1B, other pictures, 2B.

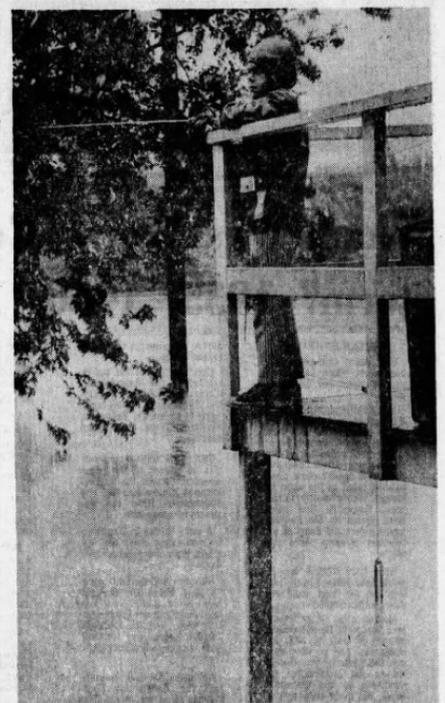
Dec. 19, 1971: An Endwell resident died trying to extinguish a blaze at his home by himself. Robert Cooklin of 408 Beckwith Ave. was found deceased in a back bedroom of his house, wearing his underwear. He had pulled a garden hose into the house but due to cold temperatures the hose and outdoor faucet were frozen. An Endwell youth, Kevin Loveland, of 319 Brookcrest Dr., was returning home from wrestling practice about 10 pm and spotted the blaze. He ran to a neighbor's home to report the fire. Firefighters had the blaze under control in about 20 minutes. The fire was believed to have started in the front bedroom, most likely from smoking. Cooklin's wife had spoken to him over the phone earlier. She noted that he had fallen asleep previously while smoking in bed. (←Photo)

Jan. 27, 1972: A home at 2727 Watson Blvd. was damaged by fire when an electric heater caused a fire. Endwell firefighters responded at about 8:45 pm to extinguish the blaze which caused damaged to the living room and porch.

April 19, 1972: Officers elected for 1972: Chief- Orville Cook, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief - Ted Wright, 2nd Asst. Chief - George Ames, 3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief - Lewis Hoffer, Captains- Emerson Gilbert and Lawrence Hartung, Lieutenants- Stephen Bock, James Allen, Donald Battaglini, Henry Harris. Duane Cheney, and Lawrence Vesely. President- Alphonse Knapik, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president- Howard Kinney; 2<sup>nd</sup> vice

president- John Ruck, Secretary- Robert Sullivan, Treasurer- Harold Barney, Chaplain- Frederick Camp, Trustee John Kanabroski.

April 27, 1972: A resident from 3608 Lyndale Drive was badly burned by a grass fire. Anthony Cianciosi, 79, was admitted to Wilson Hospital with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns over 60 percent of his body. At approximately 11 am he tried to stamp out a grass fire on his rear lawn where he was burning off some grass and trash when his clothing caught fire. His neighbor heard screaming and ran outside to see him engulfed in flames. He put out the flames and helped the man while calling for the fire department.



—PRESS PHOTOS BY JOHN J. WILLIAMS.  
**BACKYARD FISHING**—Jeffrey Van Etten, 9, of 3117 Argonne Street, Endwell can at least get some good out of the rising Susquehanna River that is beginning to surround his home. The river flooded the cellars of several homes on the street and forced many to evacuate.

June 23, 1972: Flood waters began to rise and back yards of homes on Argonne Street began to fill up, eventually seeping into cellars and threatening electrical boxes. At 3117 Argonne a boy tried fishing off his back deck into the river below. (← Photo)

June 30, 1972: Almost a year after the second barn fire, a Chenango Bridge woman was charged with third degree arson in connection with two fires at Far Hills stables, owned by Sam Fagnoli on Taft Ave. in Endicott. One fire was on March 30, 1970, the other on June 27, 1970. The fires destroyed 32 horses, other livestock and the barn. Two juveniles who participated in the arsons were also charged.

Aug. 19, 1972: An afternoon fire at 1903 Farm to Market Road destroyed the home and left 5 people homeless. No one was home at the time of the fire which started in the living room.

May 19, 1973: Endwell firefighters were called to 3634 Leonard Drive at about 1:30 pm. Residents heard a “cracking noise” coming from a laundry chute and noted smoke in the house. The fire was believed to have been burning for some time before the residents noticed the smoke which had been venting up the chimney. Neighbors reported seeing smoke pouring out of the chimney at least 20 minutes prior to the resident’s call to the fire department. The interior of the house was destroyed in the blaze. Firemen were at the scene more than 3 hours.



—PHOTO BY FRANK REALO  
**BURNED LIKE A MATCH BOX**—Johnson City Firemen douse fire early this morning that destroyed a warehouse rented by the Northrup Supply Corp. at 87 Main St., Johnson City.

July 27, 1973: Johnson City firefighters, with assistance from Binghamton Fire, battled a fire at Northrup Supply, at 87 Main St. Endwell and Prospect Terrace firefighters moved up to standby at Johnson City’s stations. (←Photo)



—PRESS PHOTO BY JOHN J. GUGLIEMINI  
**OVERCOME** — Five Endwell firemen suffered heat exhaustion and one fireman was injured last night at a barn fire on Twist Run Road in the Town of Union. (Story on Page 5A).

June 10, 1974: Endwell firefighters battled a barn fire on Twist Run Road about 1.25 miles west of Farm to Market. The call came in about 9:35 pm and firefighters battled the blaze in the hot, humid temperatures. Five firefighters suffered from smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion: Charles Mitchell, Donald Battaglini, John Ward, and Wayne Prentice were treated and released, Neil Phases was admitted to the hospital. Paul Wright received stitches after cutting his thigh on barbed wire. The firefighters returned to the blaze the following morning to douse hot spots. (Photo) →

July 5, 1974: Sixty firefighters from Union Center and Endwell responded to a barn fire at 1008 Hooper Rd. The barn was a complete loss. Four Endwell firefighters were taken to Wilson for minor injuries. One of Union Center's trucks had its brakes fail due to the truck's master brake cylinder breaking, while going south en route to the fire on Hooper. The driver was able to stop the truck without hitting or damaging anything.

Oct. 1, 1974- Fire struck an unoccupied house at 53 Valley St., originating in the furnace room. The alarm came in about 8:30 pm and was "going good" when firefighters arrived.



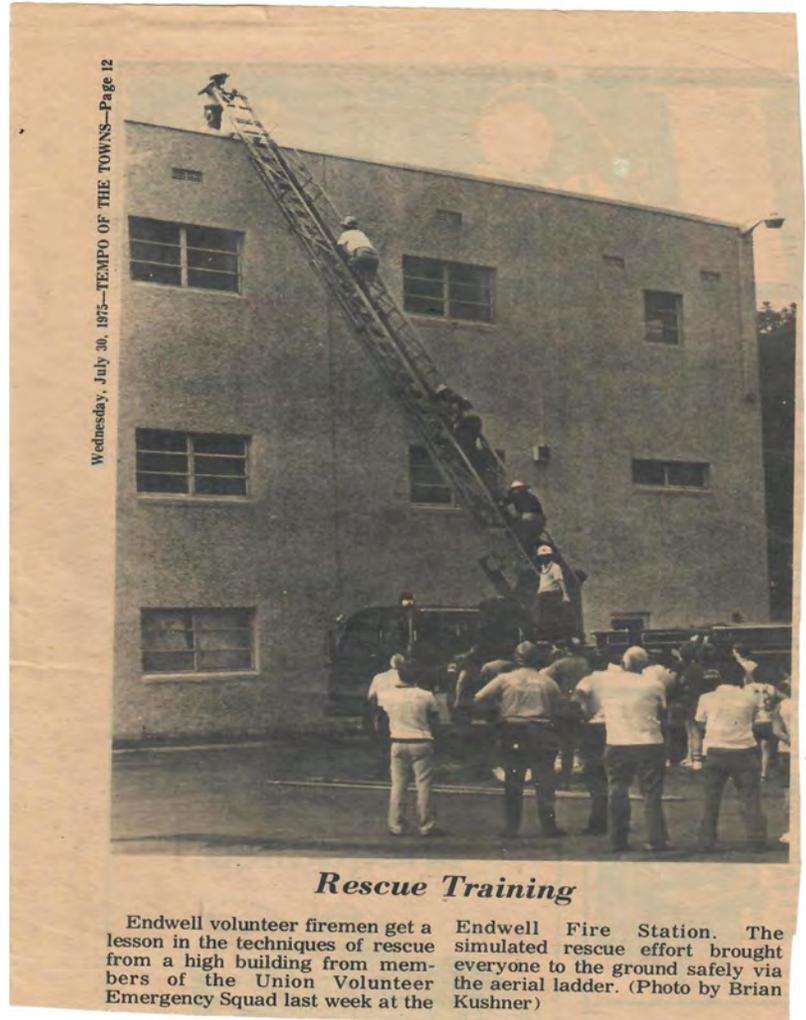
**ALL'S QUIET ON THE EASTERN FRONT** — The Endwell Fire Department, located at the corner of Country Club and Hooper Roads, is manned by a volunteer force. It is also the site of many activities, including the Endwell Rotary Club's annual flea market and rummage sale.



July 10, 1975: Firefighters responded to a fire at 2102 Riverview Dr. The family's gerbils were in an aquarium filled with water, but firefighter James Nelson administered oxygen and revived the pets. (←Photo)

**ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL** — Not only did an unidentified babysitter and the children of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. McLain, 2102 Riverview Drive, Endicott, escape without injury when fire broke out at the McLain home this morning, but Endwell fireman James Nelson, above, was able to administer oxygen and save the family's pet gerbils, whose aquarium filled with water. The fire started in a first floor television, spread upward through one side of the house and filled the building with smoke, according to Kenneth W. Goetz, a member of the Town of Union ambulance squad that stood by at the scene.

July 20, 1975: In the back of station #1 Endwell firefighters received training on "techniques of rescue from a high building" from members of the Union Volunteer Emergency Squad: . The simulated rescue effort brought everyone to the ground safely via the aerial ladder. (Photo→)



Sept. 28, 1975: Three Binghamton Firefighters Die in Water Rescue: Following three days of rain which dumped over 6 inches of water on the area from Hurricane Eloise, creeks and rivers in our area were extremely high. On Sept. 28, two youths took a rafting ride down the Susquehanna River. When they approached the Rock Bottom Dam in Binghamton, they realized they were in serious danger as they tried to steer the raft away from the dam. Onlookers along the river bank called for help from the Binghamton Fire Dept. The current near the dam area is extremely dangerous even in the best of times; with the high water it was treacherous. Their raft was swept over the dam trapping the two rafters in the undercurrent by the dam.

Three Binghamton firefighters - FF Michael Durkan, Lieut. Thomas Curley and FF John Russell- set out in their rescue boat



to rescue the two men. On their second try one man was rescued with a rescue buoy. When they attempted to rescue the second man their rescue boat capsized, throwing the 3 firefighters into the dangerous waters.

Michael Durkan, one of the firefighters in the rescue boat recounted the day, "We could feel [the current] get hold of us and start to pull us in like a magnet. We'd get pulled in, dunked underwater, washed around, and then pulled back in and dunked underwater in I don't know how many cycles." Durkan and the second rafter broke free from the backwash but firefighter John Russell disappeared in the water. Firefighter Curley, who was not wearing a life jacket, said that he was near passing out when he grabbed a log floating by. A Binghamton policeman and others on the shore helped to rescue him from the water. The strong current had ripped FF Russell's life jacket off and for hours it was seen bobbing in the water near the dam. As crews stayed on scene overnight hoping to retrieve Russell's body, Endwell's squad responded to provide lighting for the flood scene, along with equipment and personnel from other agencies offering assistance.

On Sept. 29, with Firefighter Russell still missing, Binghamton firefighters - Chief John Cox, Captain Donald Mc Geever and Lieut. Robert Dale- returned to the dam, along with rescue personnel from the Broome County Sheriff's Department, to attempt to retrieve Cox's body. As they approached the dam Binghamton's rescue boat capsized, the Sheriff's boat went into to rescue them but their boat capsized also. Life preservers, not as well made as today's PFDs, were reportedly ripped off several of the rescuers when their boats capsized. After the boat capsized crews worked feverishly to rig a ladder truck to try to reach firefighters in the water near the dam. Vestal Fire's rescue boat- staffed by Lieut. Brian Mather, FF Ron Linfoot and FF Norman Weaver- worked with other crews on scene who assisted in rescuing Lieut. Dale and the two Sheriff's deputies from the water. Chief Cox and Captain Mc Geever drowned, their bodies finally were pulled from the water that morning and sent to the hospital where they were dead on arrival.

For days following Russell's drowning Binghamton firefighters along with other firefighters, police and civilians continued to walk along the river watching for his body. On October 6, at about 12:30 pm, a Binghamton firefighter and a civilian walking along the river bank in Vestal near Murphy's gravel pit spotted his body bobbing in the water. Firefighters gathered to remove the body at 1 pm.

A video of the rescue attempt on Sept. 29 can be found online at:

<https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/public-safety/2015/09/29/40-years-later-drowned-firefighters-honored/72989294/>

November 22 1975: Firefighters responded to a fire in a tree house at 3525 Phyllis Ave. The tree house was quickly extinguished.

June 25, 1976: A "surprise" disaster drill was held. The scenario was a bus with 21 boy scouts and a car colliding on Cummings Road at 9:30 pm. Ambulances from Whitney Point, Maine, West Endicott and Town of Union participated along with Sheriff's Deputies, Endwell firefighters and fire police.

May 30, 1976: Firefighters responded to a fire at 2705 Ward Ave. which was believed to have started by the son of the resident burning incense. He left the room with the incense burning and returned shortly after to find blankets on the bed on fire and the room in flames. They tried to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers but they did not work. The heavy smoke "hampered firefighters, many of whom wore air packs but required oxygen when they left the smoking building." Union Center firefighters assisted Endwell. (Photo→)



Endwell firemen climb down from roof of home on Hamilton Drive after flames swept through it early last night. Firemen were to continue investigation of the fire, which may have been caused by burning incense.

January 10, 1977: Firefighters were called to an apartment fire at 3105 Robins St. After they awoke and smelled smoke and quickly evacuated. The fire started near the stove in the kitchen.

Jan. 14, 1977: The O. L. Davis Fire Company elected fire officers for 1977: Chief- Orville Cook, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst Chief - Stephen Bock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst Chief - Lewis Hoffer, 3<sup>rd</sup> asst. chief- Lawrence Hartung, president-George W. Kie, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president Larry Vesely and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president David Schoenwetter.



PHOTO BY DAVID TINNEY

### Help arrives

Endwell fireman James, Allen, left, was one of several firemen overcome by smoke as they fought a fire last night that destroyed the home of Guido Iacovelli, 2705

Ward Ave., Endwell. Allen receives oxygen from Richard DoBell of the Union Volunteer Emergency Squad. The cause of the fire was not determined. Another photo, story 3A.



PRESS PHOTO BY DON BLACK

### Cleaning Up

Firemen from the Endwell Fire Department wash diesel fuel off the pavement of Route 17 yesterday after a car and two tractor-trailers were involved in an accident. No one was hospitalized in the mishap, but the two trucks jackknifed and spilled fuel on the roadway. One truck driver, Herbert Vanluvanee, 45, of Nicholson, Pa., was charged with speed not reasonable for conditions and no insurance.

June 6, 1977: Following an MVA involving a car and 2 tractor trailers, Endwell was called to wash diesel fuel off the driveway. (←Photo)

June 29, 1977: A barrel of hydrochloric acid tipped over on a truck traveling down North Street in Endwell, spilling its contents from Main Street to Alice Ave. About 35 gallons of the 55 gallon truck spilled on to the roadway. Endwell Fire responded to spread a neutralizing agent, similar to baking soda, on the acid which was then washed into the sewers.

July 9, 1977: Small fire which started in a pile of trash required evacuation of Chenango Industries on Wayne Street at 11:30 pm. "The fire was confined to a loading dock near where toxic chemicals, including chloroethane and ethanol were stored." (Photo)→

Dec. 19, 1977: Endwell Firefighters responded to a kitchen fire at 7:30 pm in an apartment located ast 21 Barteau St.

Jan. 16, 1978: Fire extensively damaged a home at 317 Norton Ave. at about 11:50 am. The fire started near the fireplace, flames spread to the attic of the one-story home.

There was smoke and water damage throughout. The fire company cleared the scene at 3:30 pm.

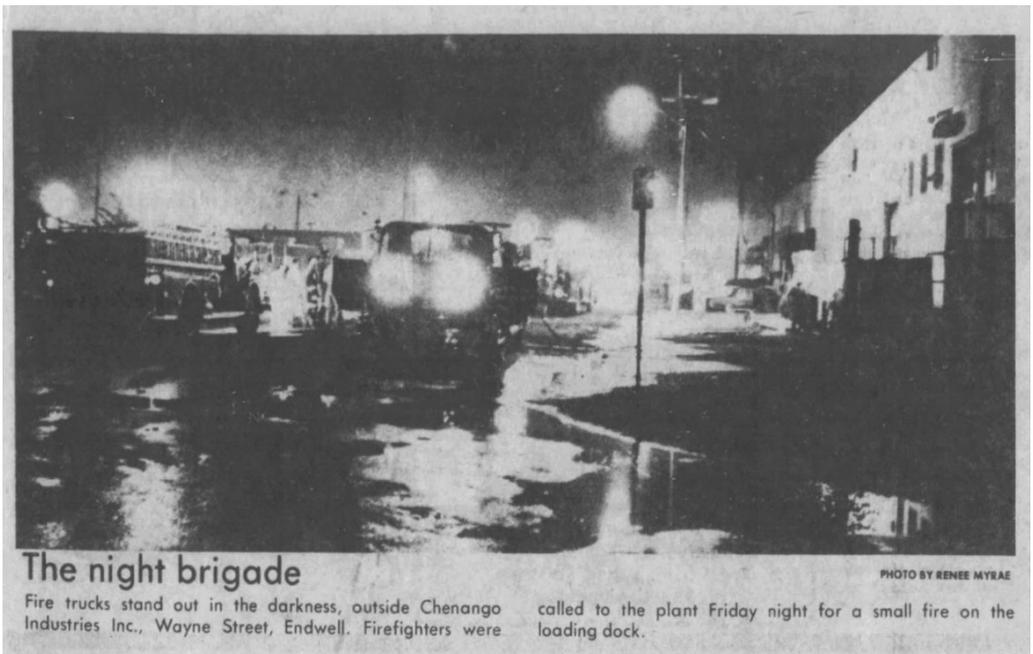
June 22, 1978: A house fire at a house at 2700 Williams Street began in a storage area underneath a side porch. The fire department extinguished the blaze before it spread to the rest of the house. The cause of the fire may have been children playing with matches; NYSP were investigating.

July 5, 1978: During a July 4 fireworks display, a misfired firework exploded in its tube and began to fall on Endwell Fire Company firefighters. They immediately sprayed water in the air and extinguished the errant firework before it hit the ground.

November 18, 1978: At about 6 pm smoke filled the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway at the Maine-Endwell High School from a fire in a crawl space. Chief Orville Cook thought the fire may have been caused by spontaneous combustion of items stored in the crawl space. Only dry mops and a wooden door were damaged. →

Nov. 22, 1978: A fire at a business near 247 Hillside Terrace resulted in damage to lawnmowers, landscaping equipment and office supplies. The cause was believed to be a woodburning stove that was left smoldering overnight. 55 firefighters responded to the blaze which was spotted by a passing Endwell firefighter and a second alarm been called. Firefighters from Union Center stoodby.

Feb. 12, 1979: The fire company elected officers for 1979: Chief- Orville Cook, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief - Gregg Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief - James Arnold, 3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief- Lawrence Hartung, Captains- Robert Chellis and Richard G. Jackson, Lieutenants- Wayne Prentice, John Ruck, Richard G. Simpson, James Salisbury, Charles Woolsey and Paul



Leader. President- Charles L. Mitchell, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president- David Cox, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president- Byron Reed, secretary - Richard G. Jackson, Treasurer- Harold Barney, Chaplain- James A. Corl, Trustees- Joseph Kowaleski, Alphonse Knapik and George Ruck, Fire Police Captain - Robert S. Mills, Fire Police Lieutenants George W. Kie and Ronald Greenblatt.

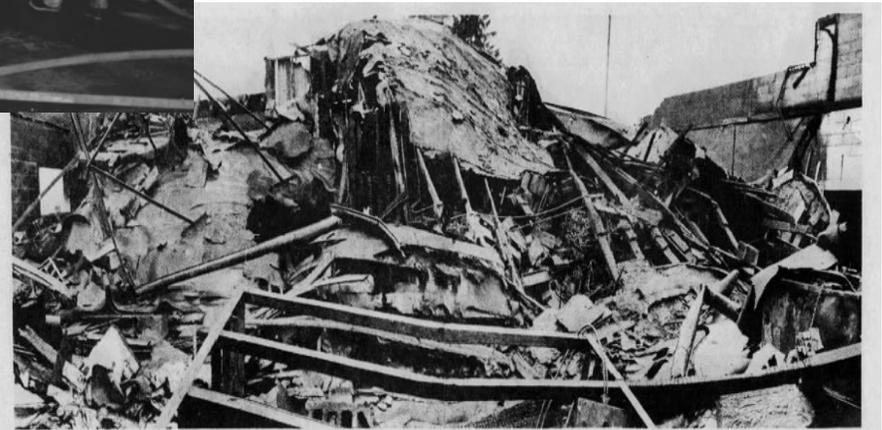
Feb. 13, 1979: Fire badly damaged a home at home at 508 Sunset Drive. Residents arrived at home about 11 pm to find their house on fire. Firefighters arrived with 5 trucks and approximately 40 firefighters and extinguished the fire but had to chop a hole in the side of the first floor to get at the blaze. The family's poodle died in the fire. Photo →



Feb. 23, 1979: Val-A Products located at 307 Chaumont Dr., was destroyed by an early morning fire. The business made and assembled parts for vacuum cleaners. The building also housed a car repair shop and a vending machine company. Fifty-one firefighters and five trucks responded. Asst. Chief Lawrence Hartung fell on ice injuring his ankle. Note: Val-A Products sued Columbia Gas and Sprague Meter Div. Of Textron for negligence in using a gas regulator (manufactured by Sprague) that was defective and which caused the fire. In November 1982 the suit was settled. (Photos)



Val-A-Products Fire →



March 2, 1979: During construction of the Marian Apartments a fire broke out in stacks of ceiling tiles on the fourth floor. It took firefighters about 10 minutes to put out the fire. There was no damage to the building. (Photo→)

March 6, 1979: Rain and warm temperatures quickly melting the snow on the ground resulted in flooding in Endwell, Conklin, Vestal and other flood-prone areas.

March 9, 1979: Robert Murphy lived on an island in the Susquehanna River located near Willow Point in Vestal. He is the owner of Bob Murphy Inc. In Vestal "commutes" every day from the river bank in Vestal to his home in the middle of the Susquehanna River. He used to row a boat, but since then has built a tram that carries him 350 feet across the river in a small cable car. Despite current flooding he doesn't worry about the river, as he built the house six feet above the highest flood level from the 1936 floods. (2 photos)



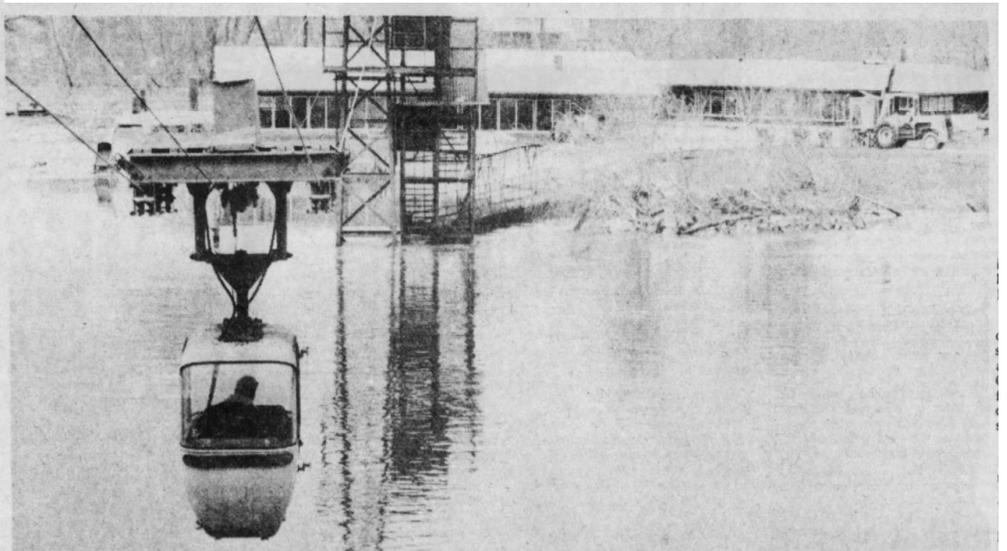
Robert Murphy  
...ignores flood warnings



FRANK WOODRUFF

### High-rise fire

Endwell firefighters get ready to remove a fan after a fire was extinguished yesterday at an unfinished 104-unit, seven-story apartment building for the elderly on Hooper Road in Endwell. Two stacks of ceiling tile caught fire on the fourth floor, causing minor damage. Assistant Fire Chief Greg Cook said it took firefighters 10 minutes to put out the fire that caused no structural damage to the building.



JOHN BOLAS JR.

Robert Murphy rides the tram across the Susquehanna River to his island home. His home was not damaged by floodwaters, but ice knocked over six young maple trees near the edge of the river.

March 12, 1979: Residents of 3210 Argonne first were flooded out, then their house was destroyed by fire. The house was fully involved when Endwell Chief Orville Cook, who lives only 2 blocks away, arrived at the scene. Crews responded with three trucks, an aerial ladder, and a "squad car " and had the fire under control by 8 am.

March 27, 1979: Thank you from a resident of Argonne Ave. Thanking fire department for their assistance during flood and fires.

March 29, 1979: Thank you letter from an Endwell resident for putting out a fire. "Chief Orville Cook and his volunteers who arrived within minutes. Their professionalism and care should be a matter of pride to all Endwell residents."

April 9, 1979: Endwell voters go to the polls to vote on spending \$195,000 for two new fire trucks plus repairs to another truck.

April 14, 1979: "Young Firefighters": Press Editorial discussing the fact that Endwell Fire Dept. Allows 16 year olds to be full fledged interior firefighters with parental permission. Most fire departments do not allow this. PHOTO →

April 18, 1979: Thank you letter from family whose house was flooded and then damaged by fire for support from the fire department and many others.

May 17, 1979: At 8 pm, firefighters responded to a cooking fire in a basement kitchen at 2111 Riverview Dr.

June 10, 1979: Firefighters battled a basement fire in a vacant house located at 2509 E. Main St. at about 6 pm.



July 13, 1979: A house fire at 1 Annabelle Road badly damaged the home and injured two firefighters. No one was home overnight as he worked the overnight shift. The woman reported that the lights at the home went out about 9:50 pm so she spent the night at her mother's house. When she returned to the home about 7:40 am she found the house full of smoke and called the fire department who had the fire under control in about 45 minutes. She was able to rescue her dog but "by then the flames were coming out the windows." Two firefighters- David Parenti was hit on the head by a falling board and Donald Battaglini was treated for smoke inhalation. (Photo)



July 24, 1979: A vacant house located at 3636 Lott St., was damaged by fire. It was believed the fire was started by vandalism. The call came in around 10 pm and was reported by an Endwell firefighter on his way home. Asst. Chief Jim Arnold was taken to the ER

after cutting his hand on broken glass.

July 29, 1979: A 16-year old accidentally ignited a 5-gallon gasoline can when he was tossing lit matches off the back porch of his home at 3618 Lott St. Flames shot up the side of the house and the fire department was called to put out the fire.

Sept. 8, 1979- Firefighters responded to an alarm at Marian Apartments which was set off by a smoldering bag left in a sink on the third floor.

Sept. 14, 1979: AT 9:15 PM Endwell firefighters responded to a house fire at 3641 River Road which was caused by a leak in the chimney.

Aug. 21, 1979 : The Kent Drug store on Watson Blvd. discovered that it had a bottle of highly explosive picric acid. The fire department was called but they did not have the training or equipment to handle it. "If it went off, there would be nothing left of this part of the store," advised the pharmacist. The substance is safe in liquid form, but when it crystallizes, a slight motion or static electricity could cause it to explode. Even unscrewing the bottle cap could set it off.

Oct. 25, 1979: Fire damaged the attic of a home on 2103 Richmond Rd. The call came in around 7 am as family members were all leaving for work/school. They noted that the lights in the bathroom would not turn on and then smelled smoke.