

To The Honorable Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor
To The Honorable The City Council

Annual Report of the
Director of Public Welfare for the
Twelve Months Ended September 30, 1953

To The Honorable Mayor, Walter H. Reynolds, and The Honorable The City Council of the City of Providence:

In compliance with the ordinances of the City of Providence, I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare for the twelve months ended September 30, 1953.

FOREWORD

The detailed accounting of expenditures as set forth in the following pages by no means represents the total cost of public assistance provided in the City of Providence. Though many of our citizens require the helping hand of tax supported relief programs, our fiscal and administrative obligations are confined to the basic program commonly known as General Public Assistance. The special assistance programs operating under the terms of the Federal Social Security Act meet the needs of various groups of people: persons sixty five and over, dependent children, the blind, and the disabled.

I am aware that over some period of time you have been conscious that the administration of public assistance has come in for its full share of critical comment here in Rhode Island and in other parts of the country. Concern for public administration is an obligation upon all the people. It is worth-while to have criticism and investigation providing program, policy, and costs are considered and examined on a factual basis directed toward constructive objectives.

Actually, the quality of performance is the fundamental measure of good public assistance programming and administration. There are two requisites which must be considered for that determination: first, the nature and degree of shared responsibility between the levels of government participating in the assistance program; and second, the soundness of the implementation of the law through administrative policies and the utilization

of staff members. It is well to bear in mind that public assistance is a difficult and complex program to administer. The total system is greatly in need of simplification.

An outstanding characteristic of the Rhode Island Public Assistance law is the absence of the voice of local government in the programs of the special assistances, even though their operation is conducted in the offices of local welfare departments. This is in contrast with the widely held opinion of recognized authorities that an effective over-all assistance program must be a cooperative federal, state, and local government undertaking. It also ignores the accepted fact that modern methods of public administration call for the unification of similar and related functions under one responsible head. It has been suggested that the lack of local financial participation is the reason. This may be a factor but it need not be so. There are numerous states wherein the absence of local financial participation does not preclude sharing in the operation of the program. It is believed that other factors outweigh the pecuniary consideration in importance.

Our Constitution provides that the welfare of all is the common concern -- indeed, the common good is the justification for the existence of government. A sound program of social welfare is directed toward the goal of common good. Certainly if that be the goal no realm of democratic government should be elbowed off the common stage. The business of conserving and promoting human welfare has to be accomplished on the basis of partnership simply because of a common stake in the common good. Interdependency is a fundamental of democracy. It is incongruous to establish a program based on recognition of a principle and yet ignore that very principle in striving to make the program function. The end and the means are not in concord.

People come first in our kind of government. That is the essence of our democratic system. It is because people do come first that one of our elementary services is public welfare. The service is more than for the

people -- it belongs to them. They created it and through their taxes they support it. They have a vital concern in the program because it affects the total life of the communities in which they live.

Centralized state administrations are faced by two stubborn facts. In the first place, welfare services, by their very nature, must be administered where people live. Normal social groupings are found in localities. In the second place, localities must be accepted just as they exist, geographical units with their own total patterns of city, county, or town governments. In spite of obvious limitations one may well question the wisdom of ignoring the total pattern of local public administration.

To people in local communities, bureaus and departments of federal and state governments are entities too far removed from the scene of individual problems of hardship. Moreover, citizen cooperation and support cannot be legislated nor imposed by directive. They arise from inner compulsions and desires born of understanding and acceptance. They spring forth in response to the opportunity to share in a democratic value, to have a voice in the planning and in the management of a program distinguished by its intimacy to the individual citizen and to his community.

These are some of the reasons why public assistance, if it is to function with maximum efficiency and effectiveness cannot be far removed from the people to whom it belongs. The program is a part of the warp and woof of democracy. That it be for the people is insufficient. It must also be by and of the people.

For counsel, understanding, and encouragement I am indebted to Your Honor and to you Gentlemen of the City Council. I am likewise grateful to all staff members of the Department for their efforts and loyalty.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 18 1954

RECEIVED
CITY OF BOSTON
FEB 18 1954

Robert Whelan
CLERK

Respectfully submitted,

James V. McGovern
Director of Public Welfare

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1953

	<u>Personal Services</u>	<u>Services Other Than Personal</u>	<u>Materials & Supplies</u>	<u>Special Items</u>	<u>Equipment Outlay</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Welfare Activities						
Welfare Administration	\$ 35,205.30	\$ 567.66	\$ 614.04		\$1,760.17	\$ 38,147.17
General Public Assistance Administration	181,929.17	14,512.10	8,034.29		4,080.90	208,556.46
General Public Assistance Home Relief		192,097.19	92,232.71	1,431,993.15		1,716,323.05
Total Welfare Activities	\$217,134.47	\$207,176.95	\$100,881.04	\$1,431,993.15	\$5,841.07	\$1,963,026.68

Details of Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1953

Welfare Activities

Welfare Administration

Personal Services

001 Salaries - Permanent Positions
002 Salaries - Temporary Positions
Total

\$32,967.55
2,237.75

\$35,205.30

Services Other Than Personal

109 Fees Not Otherwise Classified - Including
Automobile Registration and Licenses
115 Transportation of Persons - Conventions
117 Travel Subsistence - Conventions
118 Travel Subsistence - Other
144 Repairs to Automobiles and Trucks (Municipal Garage)
Total

5.00
65.51
238.00
17.60
241.52

567.66

Materials and Supplies

211 Motor Fuel
212 Lubricants
213 Tires and Tubes
Total

528.68
35.36
50.00

614.04

Capital Outlay

511 Automobiles and Motorcycles
Total

1,760.17

1,760.17

Total Welfare Administration

\$38,147.17

Details of Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1953.

General Public Assistance - Administration		
Personal Services		\$181,929.17
001 Salaries - Permanent Positions		
Total		\$181,929.17
Services Other Than Personal		
111 Telephone and Telegraph		6,622.11
112 Postage, Freight and Express		1,621.17
114 Automobile Allowance		300.00
115 Transportation of Persons - Conventions		42.80
116 Transportation (Social workers)		711.07
117 Travel Subistence - Conventions		102.00
118 Travel Subistence - Other		25.00
121 Printed Reports		398.71
122 Advertising		5.50
131 Heat, Light and Power		3,228.79
134 Water - Payments to Water Supply Board		300.00
141 Repairs to Office Machinery, Furniture and Furnishings		80.35
149 Repairs to Other Equipment		149.26
150 Repairs to Buildings		220.31
151 Maintenance and Servicing		67.69
163 Rental of Other Equipment		50.00
164 Rental of Equipment (Public Works Revolving Fund)		85.40
181 Laundry and Cleaning		93.00
183 Dues and Subscriptions		75.80
197 Shops Revolving Fund Charges		83.34
199 Miscellaneous Services Not Otherwise Classified		249.80
Total		14,512.10

Details of Expenditures - continued

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1953

- Materials and Supplies		
201 Stationery, Printed Forms and Office Supplies	3,144.52	
211 Motor Fuel	1.83	
231 Medical, Chemical and Laboratory Supplies	19.83	
232 Pharmaceuticals	16.08	
241 Fuel	3,980.48	
244 Household Supplies and Minor Equipment	721.50	
266 Lumber and Hardware	6.89	
267 Paint and Painter's Supplies	35.49	
268 Plumbing and Electrical Supplies	65.92	
274 Water Meters and Meter Parts	41.75	
Total		8,034.29
Capital Outlay		
501 Office Furniture, Machinery and Equipment	4,062.40	
502 Books, Maps and Charts	18.50	
Total		<u>4,080.90</u>
Total - General Public Assistance - Administration		\$208,556.46

Details of Expenditures

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1953

General Public Assistance - Home Relief Grants

Services Other Than Personal	
102 Medical Services	\$ 34,575.50
116 Transportation	25.69
169 Rentals Not Otherwise Classified	830.53
184 Hospitalization	136,751.53
185 Burials	<u>19,913.94</u>
Total	192,097.19

Materials and Supplies	
231 Medical, Chemical and Laboratory Supplies	5,172.91
232 Pharmaceuticals	11,614.78
241 Fuel	1,137.16
242 Food	74,232.81
244 Household Supplies and Minor Equipment	<u>75.05</u>
Total	92,232.71

Special Items	
351 Cash Direct Relief	<u>1,431,993.15</u>
Total	<u>1,431,993.15</u>

Total - General Public Assistance - Home Relief Grants

1,716,323.05

GRAND TOTAL - WELFARE ACTIVITIES

\$1,963,026.68

BUREAU OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

The Bureau of Domestic Relations carries out the responsibilities of the Department of Public Welfare in cases of illegitimacy and non-support. Further, it is concerned with applications for minor's permits to marry and occasionally renders service in domestic problems. As might be expected, the Bureau is primarily occupied with the difficulties of families and individuals who come to the attention of our social service workers. This is not exclusively so, however. During the past fiscal year the activities of the Bureau were as follows:

Non-Support of Families	--	223
Non-Support of Parents	--	12
Minor's Permits to Marry	--	4
Illegitimacy	--	117

On July 1, 1951 an amendment to Chapter 425 of the General Laws as the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, became effective. The purpose of the Act is to provide a workable method of securing support for dependent wives and children where the person legally liable for such support has moved to another state. Similar reciprocal legislation in the other state and an "address certain" is necessary to successful operation of the procedure. It is hoped that before long similar legislation will be universal. The Special Legal Counsel of the State Department of Social Welfare attends to cases subject to the provisions of the Act and the Bureau has referred a goodly number. This arrangement permits the Bureau to devote its efforts to intra State cases and has proved to be mutually satisfactory.

The fiscal operations of the Bureau of Domestic Relations and other pertinent data follow:

Cash Received

Non-Support Arrangements	\$30,889.25	Warrants Issued	87
Illegitimacy Payments a/c	15,212.12	Arraignments	53
Final Settlements on		Appeals	5
Illegitimacy cases	11,700.00	Trials	26
Hospital payments in		Reciprocal Act	
Illegitimacy cases	<u>3,032.13</u>	Referrals	59
		Cases closed	93
TOTAL	\$60,833.50		

DEXTER ASYLUM

Table showing by months the number of persons admitted, the number discharged, the number of deaths, and the total number remaining, both men and women.

For the Fiscal Year 1952-1953

	Admitted	Discharged	Died	Remaining	Men	Women	Native Born	Foreign Born
<u>1952</u>								
October	1	0	1	51	32	19	39	12
November	0	0	1	50	31	19	38	12
December	1	0	1	50	31	19	38	12
<u>1953</u>								
January	0	0	0	50	31	19	38	12
February	0	1	1	48	29	19	37	11
March	0	0	0	48	29	19	37	11
April	0	0	1	47	29	18	36	11
May	2	0	0	49	31	18	38	11
June	0	0	0	49	31	18	38	11
July	0	1	1	47	29	18	36	11
August	0	0	0	47	29	18	36	11
September	0	0	0	47	29	18	36	11
Total	4	2	6					

There were two less persons admitted during the past year than in the previous fiscal year; one less discharged and one less in number of deaths.

DEXTER ASYLUM

A table showing the total expenditures, the total receipts and the net expenditures of the Institution every three months during the Fiscal Years 1951 - 1952 - 1953.

Fiscal Year 1952 - 1953

<u>Quarter Ending Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Institution Expenses</u>	<u>Other Receipts</u>	<u>Board of Residents</u>	<u>Net Cost</u>
December '52	\$23,741.58	\$ 6.38	\$2,726.75	\$21,008.45
March '53	23,400.91	13.40	1,657.78	21,729.73
June '53	21,736.52	9.52	2,000.78	19,726.22
September '53	<u>22,636.52</u>	<u>6.40</u>	<u>1,710.78</u>	<u>20,919.34</u>
Total	\$91,515.53	\$35.70	\$8,096.09	\$83,383.74

Fiscal Year 1951 - 1952

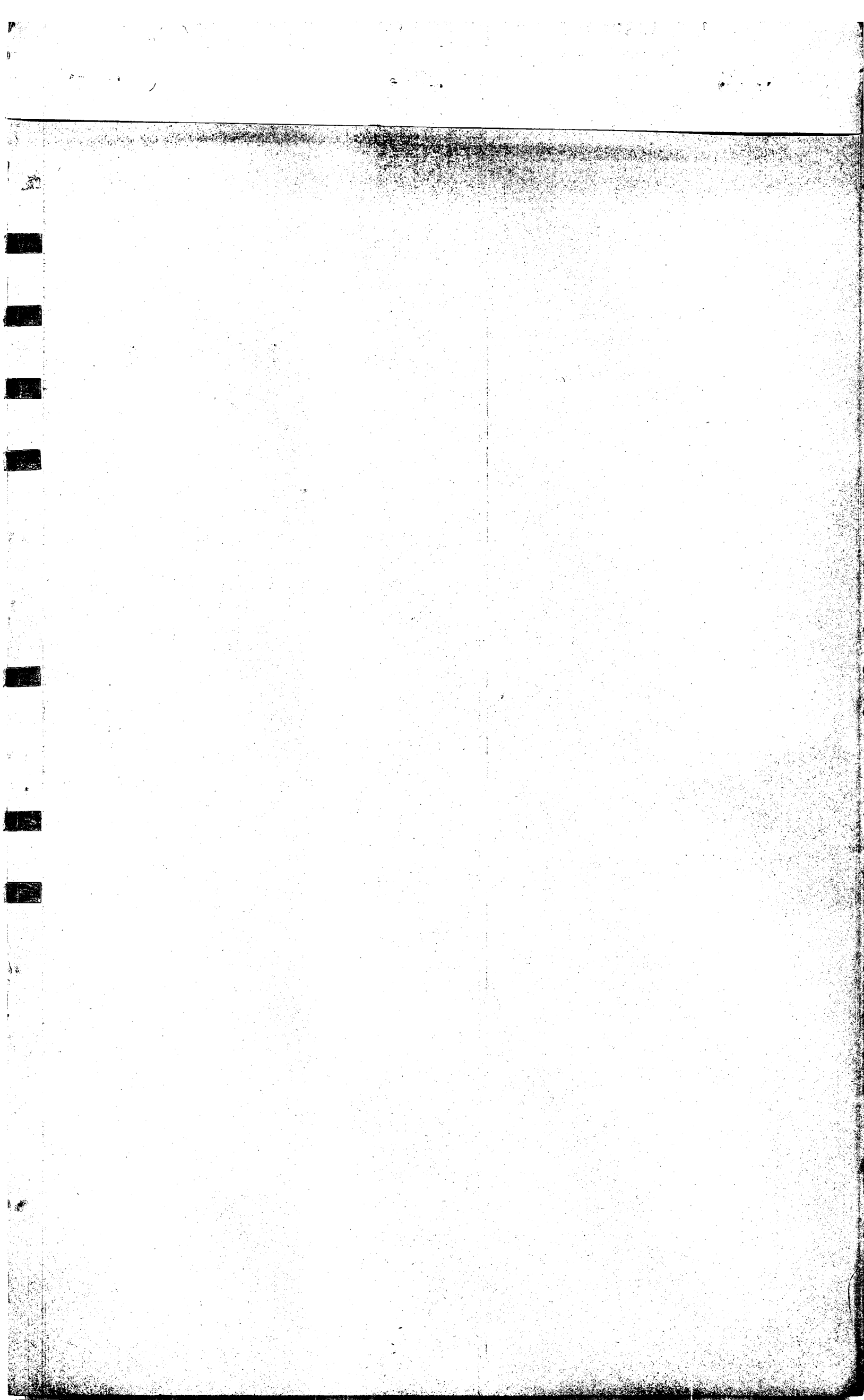
December '51	\$24,529.87	\$10.41	\$1,956.35	\$22,563.11
March '52	24,657.32	6.21	1,979.35	22,671.76
June '52	23,293.75	17.71	1,860.35	21,415.69
September '52	<u>22,017.16</u>	<u>8.83</u>	<u>1,951.91</u>	<u>20,056.42</u>
Total	\$94,498.10	\$43.16	\$7,747.96	\$86,706.98

The Statistics for Dexter Asylum for the Fiscal Year 1952 - 1953

The number of residents October 1, 1952	51	
" " " " admitted during year	<u>4</u>	
Total		55
The number of residents discharged	2	
" " " " died	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
" " " " remaining Sept.30,1953		47
Average number of residents	<u>49</u>	

Total Expense of Dexter Asylum for Fiscal Year	\$91,515.53
Received for Board of Residents	\$8,096.09
Other Receipts	<u>35.70</u>

Total Receipts.....	<u>8,131.79</u>
Net Expense.....	\$83,383.74



114
CITY COUNCIL FINAL PAPERS
1951

ONE OF THE TWO RESCUE
UNITS IN THE
DEPARTMENT



RESCUE SQUAD
NUMBER ONE

The Honorable Commissioner of Public Safety
209 Fountain Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Sir:

It is my privilege to submit for your consideration and approval the Annual Report of the Providence Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1953.

A municipal Fire Department has two broad objectives,

1. To prevent fires from starting.
2. To extinguish fires.

The millions of dollars in property damage and the thousands of lives loss annually through fire disasters constitute a major problem in present day society.

The Department during the year 1953 has carried on a vigorous and continual program for the prevention of fires and the elimination of fire waste in our community.

At the present time we find we have excellent housing, qualified and trained personnel, good apparatus and equipment, so that in the event of a fire emergency immediate response and effective extinguishment results.

In the field of fire prevention we have spearheaded our activities in the direction of the home, doubling the number of inspections over 1952, as a majority of fires in buildings are in the home. I believe a careful perusal of the report of the Fire Prevention Bureau will substantiate our activity to create a lively interest in fire prevention, particularly through our twice a year home inspections and school activities. In addition our radio equipped companies have made more mercantile and manufacturing building inspections than ever before in the history of the Department. While there has been a marked increase in the number of multiple alarms in many cities, for the second year we have kept multiple alarms to a minimum. For the year 1953 we had ten second alarm fires and one third alarm fire. Our per capita fire loss again this year will be much below the national per capita fire loss, and we have reduced the number of building fires by ninety-one.

Generally our manning of the individual companies has been good and I believe the under manning of the individual companies results in the increase in multiple alarms, not for apparatus and equipment but for manpower.

That the general public is becoming more aware of the great service provided by the Rescue Companies is indicated by the fact they responded to 1661 calls. While the calls to give oxygen in heart cases were many the activity ranged from child birth to hands caught in washing machines.

Because there is a foreseeable large increase in the demand for this type of service I recommend that a third Rescue Company be activated and that the necessary equipment and manpower be provided.

Our apparatus replacement program is continuing and for the year 1953 we received five new pumpers, four of them on a matching fund basis with the Federal Government.

In the spring of 1953 it was my privilege to accompany Mayor Reynolds to Washington, D.C., where the United States Chamber of Commerce presented to the Mayor a plaque. The City of Providence was awarded 1st prize for all cities in the United States in its population group, for the most notable fire loss record of 1952, the best fire fighting facilities and the best community educational programs.

The fire fighting force has done an excellent job, performing many rescues. Of over 3,266 fires, 399 of them building fires, it was necessary in only 11 cases to send in additional alarms. In most of these cases an additional alarm was sounded because of life hazard. The record indicates that the fire fighting force has performed their duties efficiently, as 99.7% of the 3,266 fires the Department was successful in confining the fire without need of additional apparatus.

May I call your attention to the reports of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, the Rescue Companies and the Division of Training.

I fully realize that the splendid record is a result of the sincere support and cooperation accorded me by many agencies. Special thanks is due the Fire Prevention Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for their loyal support on Fire Prevention work.

I would also like to express my congratulation and appreciation to each and every member of the Department for their part in bringing to the Providence Fire Department the many honors presented to us.

My thanks to you, Commissioner Dunn and the Honorable Members of the City Government for the fine cooperation and support given to me as Chief of Department during the year 1953.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis A. Marshall
LEWIS A. MARSHALL,
Chief of Department.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 18 1954

RECORDED:

NOTATION IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECORDED.

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

16	Engine Companies
2	" " and Tender
1	" and Chemical - Combination
10	Ladder Companies
2	Rescue Companies
1	Salvage Company

- - - -

Total Department membership - December 31, 1952	477
Total Department membership - December 31, 1953	476

- - - -

Apointments	15
Pensioned	35
Resigned	1
Promotions	18
Transfers	68
Commendations	10
Reprimands	0
Members on Military leave	1
Died	4

- - - -

SUPERIOR OFFICERS

Lewis A. Marshall, Chief of Department

- - - -

BATTALION CHIEFS

Frank G. Eldridge	Norman Jones
William E. Falls	Leonard A. Kiernan
Samuel A. Fogell	Francis J. O'Brien
Leo E. Gorman	Albert J. Sheridan
James J. Hackett	James F. Sullivan
Eugene L. Hawkins	John E. Sullivan
William E. Sullivan, Jr.	

- - - -

Gordon Jones, Superintendent - Automotive Repair Shop

Henry van Westendorp, Superintendent - Fire Alarm Telegraph

John B. Sullivan, Superintendent - Department of Building Repairs

Frank W. Schrage, Assistant Superintendent - Automotive Repair Shop

Clifton Leighton, Assistant Superintendent - Fire Alarm Telegraph

- - - -

Captain Frederick L. Badger
Captain George R. Carlson
Captain Edmund F. Carlson
Captain James F. Coleman, Jr.
Captain John F. Drury
Captain Richard B. J. Farmer
Captain John Feeney
Captain Thomas J. Fitzgerald
Captain Carl F. Fleigner
Captain William F. Gibbons
Captain Walter F. Hannaway
Captain Paul J. Herzog
Captain George O. Huestis
Captain James T. Killilea
Captain John R. Langton
Captain Joseph T. Lenahan

Captain Joseph B. Little
Captain John T. McLaughlin
Captain Thomas McLaughlin
Captain Henry C. Maine
Captain Joseph P. Marrinan
Captain John J. Mohan
Captain Carl H. Norberg
Captain Richard E. O'Leary
Captain Vincent T. Reardon
Captain Sylvester F. Shea
Captain Francis A. Shea
Captain Earl J. Smith
Captain Daniel F. Stafford
Captain Frederick J. Ward
Captain Amos M. Weeden
Captain Riley A. Wilcox

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Lieutenant Santo Amato
Lieutenant Russell H. Backman
Lieutenant Lawrence A. Bouchard
Lieutenant William D. Bourke
Lieutenant Arthur Brodeur
Lieutenant John E. Butler, Jr.
Lieutenant Ambrose V. Clark
Lieutenant Raymond G. Connor
Lieutenant Elliot M. Durfee
Lieutenant Edwin A. Fay
Lieutenant Anthony Gibalerio
Lieutenant George A. Gray
Lieutenant George E. Griffin
Lieutenant Frank Hodgson
Lieutenant William J. Hughes
Lieutenant William F. Kelley
Lieutenant Thomas M. Kennedy

Lieutenant Maurice J. Maguire
Lieutenant James E. Maher
Lieutenant Joseph J. Mainey
Lieutenant Edmond F. Marnane
Lieutenant James H. McDermott
Lieutenant John F. McDonald
Lieutenant Michael L. McDonough
Lieutenant John F. McGwinn
Lieutenant George E. Nowell
Lieutenant Guido Nutini
Lieutenant Charles W. Catley
Lieutenant Frederick J. O'Brien, Sr.
Lieutenant Nicholas E. O'Brien
Lieutenant William H. O'Connell
Lieutenant Bartholomew Quigley
Lieutenant Alfred J. Reall
Lieutenant James W. Robertson

Lieutenant Edward J. Kiernan
Lieutenant James E. Kilkenney
Lieutenant George E. LaPorte
Lieutenant Leo P. Lavallee
Lieutenant William J. Lynch
Lieutenant Richard H. Lyons

Lieutenant James J. Roche
Lieutenant John L. Rooney
Lieutenant Raymond E. Shawcross
Lieutenant Albert E. Skog
Lieutenant George H. Vieweg
Lieutenant Robert P. Walsh
Lieutenant Bernard J. Waters

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	Batt.		Asst.		Mil.						
	:Chief:	:Chief:	:Supt:	:Supt:	:Capt:	:Lieut:	:Pvts:	:Civ.:	:Trn'e:	:LOA:	
Headquarters	: 1 :	: 10 :	:	:	:	: 1 :	:	: 1 :	:	:	
Fire Prev. Bureau	:	: 1 :	:	:	: 1 :	: 2 :	: 5 :	:	:	:	
Fire Alarm Tel.	:	:	: 1 :	: 1 :	:	:	: 7 :	: 7 :	:	:	
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Repair Shop	:	:	: 1 :	: 1 :	:	:	: 3 :	: 7 :	:	:	
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Salvage Company	:	:	:	:	:	:	: 2 :	:	:	:	
Aide to Batt. Chief	:	:	:	:	:	:	: 11 :	:	:	:	
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Totals	: 1 :	: 13 :	: 3 :	: 2 :	: 32 :	: 47 :	: 323 :	: 24 :	: 30 :	: 1 :	

The apparatus consists of 19 pumpers, (1-combination foamite), 10 Ladder Trucks, 2 Engine Tenders, with 15 Triple combination Pumpers and 4 Ladder Trucks in reserve.

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>G.P.M.</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Engine Co. No. 1	Triple Combination	1250	July 2, 1942
" " " 2	" "	750	June 24, 1952
" " " 3	" "	750	April 1953
" " " 4	" "	1000	February 14, 1927
" " " 5	" "	750	April 17, 1950
" " " 6	" "	750	June 24, 1952
" " " 7	" "	1250	July 14, 1942
" " " 8	" "	750	April 10, 1950
" " " 9	" "	1500	December 6, 1949
" " " 10	" "	1250	November 26, 1945
" " " 11	" "	750	December 1953
" " " 12	" "	750	April 13, 1950
" " " 13	" "	750	December 1953
" " " 14	" "	750	April 13, 1950
" " " 16	" "	750	December 1953
" " " 17	" "	1000	August 26, 1927
" " " 18	" " (Foamite)	750	September 18, 1952
" " " 19	" "	1000	July 5, 1927
" " " 20	" "	750	December 1953
Tender No. 7	Engine Tender		December 16, 1950
Tender No. 9	Engine Tender		August 23, 1950
Reserve No. 1.	Triple combination	1000	August 25, 1929
" " 2	" "	"	1924
" " 10	" "	"	August 25, 1927
" " 11-(2)	" "	" (2)	1924 & Aug. 31, 1925
" " 12	" "	"	September 12, 1925
" " 13-(2)	" "	" (2)	Aug. 25, 1925 & Mar. 5, 1924
" " 14	" "	"	Aug. 27, 1920
" " 16-(2)	" "	" (2)	June 16, 1919 & July 5, 1927
" " 17	" "	"	February 7, 1918
" " 19	" "	"	August 18, 1920
" " 20	" "	"	March 5, 1924
" " 22	" "	"	1926
Ladder Co. No. 1	Aerial		June 23, 1950
" " " 2	"		October 12, 1945
" " " 3	City Service		October 1, 1925
" " " 4	Aerial		November 23, 1942
" " " 5	"		March 27, 1946
" " " 6	"		April 16, 1916
" " " 7	"		February 21, 1950
" " " 8	City Service		June 5, 1929
" " " 9	Aerial		December 3, 1951
" " " 10	"		October 29, 1937
Ladder No. 6 Reserve	Aerial		1905
" " 7	City Service		1920
" " 9	" "		1919
" " 11	" "		1919

CAUSES OF FIRES AND ALARMS

For fire in a building:

Candle - Lamp - Torch	8
Careless use of matches	21
" smoking	84
Cleaning solvents	2
Defec. carburetor	1
" chimney	8
" elec. appliance	6
" gas stove	1
" Range oil burner	5
" Power " "	4
" Portable oil heater	1
" Space oil heater	6
" Smoke pipe - flue	3
" Machinery	1
" Wiring	4
Dust - Lint	2
Explosion	4
Food - Grease	6
Hot ashes	2
Incendiary	6
Range oil burner - overflow	2
Space " heater "	3
Overheated electric motor	3
" oven	3
" stove pipe	3
" tar kettle	1
" dip tank	2
Rag on pipe etc.	1
Rubbish - litter	4
Set by juveniles	19
Short circuit - wires	14
" " elec. motor	1
Soot in chimney	1
Spark from chimney	7
" " rubbish fire	34
Suspicious	3
Miscellaneous	7
Undetermined	11.6
Total	399

Causes of fires and alarms - continued.

Other than for a fire in a building:

False Alarm	422	Rescue - Emergency	1284**
Bon-fire	81*	Overheated tar kettle	5
Needless - Accidental	343	" dip tank	1
Alcohol overflow	2	Rag on pipe etc.	5
Candle-lamp-torch	4	Set by juveniles	3
Careless use of matches	2	Short circuit - wires	27
" smoking	42	" " elec. motor	15
Cleaning solvents	2	Soot in chimney	17
Defective boiler - furnace	3	Spark from motor-machine	1
" chimney	4	Spontaneous combustion	2
" elec. appliance	19	Suspicious	2
" gas stove	1	Undetermined	1
" " heater	2	Auto-truck-bus	340
" Range oil burner	17	Boat	1
" Power " "	48	Bon-fire	28
Bridge	8	Dump	167
Defec. portable oil burner	11	Fence	19
" space oil heater	8	Grass-brush-leaves	667
" smoke pipe - flue	6	Junk yard	7
" machinery	1	Lumber yard	1
" wiring	4	Rubbish - litter	309
Dust - lint	2	Tree - pole	22
Explosion	2	Oil bomb in street	23
Food - grease	38	Miscellaneous	107
Range oil burner - flareback	5	Overheated boiler - furnace	5
" " " overheated	1	" elec. flat	1
" " " overflow	46	" " motor	23
Space " heater	17	" gas steam radiator	1
Overheated oven	4	" stove pipe	3
		Total	4151

Note (*) 81 Bon-fires extinguished by roving apparatus during 4th of July.

Note (**) As noted above of the 4550 alarms answered by the Department 1284 were calls for Rescue or Emergency services, separate and apart from fire service.

NUMBER OF ALARMS DURING EACH HOUR

<u>Hour</u> <u>A.M.</u>	<u>Alarms</u> <u>A.M.</u>	<u>Hour</u> <u>P.M.</u>	<u>Alarms</u> <u>P.M.</u>
12 - 1	143	12 - 1	270
1 - 2	121	1 - 2	290
2 - 3	82	2 - 3	293
3 - 4	51	3 - 4	297
4 - 5	43	4 - 5	331
5 - 6	43	5 - 6	294
6 - 7	50	6 - 7	249
7 - 8	84	7 - 8	257
8 - 9	140	8 - 9	244
9 -10	156	9 -10	251
10 -11	233	10 -11	208
11 -12	268	11 -12	152
		Total	4550

- - - -

NUMBER OF ALARMS DURING EACH DAY

Sunday	590
Monday	643
Tuesday	572
Wednesday	663
Thursday	678
Friday	702
Saturday	<u>702</u>
Total	4550

The following is the statistical summary of the activities of the fire fighting force of the Department for the year ending December 31, 1953:

Working time of companies at fires- Hours-3713 - 23 min.
 Working time at dumps " 239 - 24 "
 Working time of pumpers at fires " 54 - 15 "

- - - -

HOSE LINES USED:

Booster	No. of lines used	1331	-	Total feet of hose	-	153,600
1½" hose	" " " "	452	"	" " " "	-	56,400
2½" "	" " " "	559	"	" " " "	-	194,100
3" "	" " " "	4	"	" " " "	-	3,200

- - - -

MASTER STREAM APPLIANCES USED:

Aerial pipe	3
Alfco Deck Gun	5
Baker Turret Pipe	1

- - - -

LADDERS USED:

Aerial Ladders - No. used	25	-	Total feet	2185
Portable " - " "	747	-	" "	16598

- - - -

EXTINGUISHERS USED:

Foam	15
Soda - Acid	4
Pump Tank	194
Carbon Dioxide	76
Carbon Tectachloride	60

- - - -

OTHER EQUIPMENT USED:

Salvage covers	474	Homelites	31
Bundles of laths	35½	Generators	37
Rolls of roofing paper	79½	Sprinkler heads	30
Smoke ejector	41		

EXTRA HOURS AND LOST TIME:

Extra hours of duty performed	3009	hours	-	48	min.
Time in attendance at drills	2279	"	-	00	"
Time lost by members through sickness	42561	"	-	44	"
" " " " " injuries	52974	"	-	00	"
Special time granted	2953	"	-	51	"

- - - -

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING YEAR:

RESIDENTIAL:
(dwellings, apartments, rooming houses, etc.) 120,255

NON-RESIDENTIAL:
(Theaters, churches, hospitals, schools, etc.) 3,173

MERCANTILE:
Retail stores, restaurants, repair shops, etc.) 7,668

MANUFACTURING:
(Factories, bakeries, laundries, etc.) 1,846

STORAGE:
(Warehouses, piers, etc.) 448

MISCELLANEOUS:
(Power plants, pumping stations, etc.) 460

HYDRANTS: 36,045

APPROVALS AND PERMITS:
Gasoline 3,795
Garages 3,264
Dangerous Chemicals 362

- - - -

Blood donations made by members of the Department - 17

Death caused by fire 5

Multiple alarm fires - 2nd Alarm 10 - 3rd Alarm 1

FIRE LOSS DATA

Loss on buildings - Insured	\$560,569.64
Loss on contents - Insured	583,218.35
Loss on buildings - Uninsured, estimated	520.00
Loss on contents - Uninsured, estimated	None
Insurance carried on buildings	\$34,874,500.00
	7,554,620.00

Fire loss for the year 1953	\$1,143,787.99
" " " " " 1952	<u>811,162.27</u>

Increase for year	332,625.72
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- - - -

Per capita loss for the year 1953	4.60
" " " " " " 1952	3.28

- - - -

1952 - Number of fires of \$1000.00 or more loss -	138
1953 - " " " " " " " " -	97

- - - -

NECROLOGY

Four active members and seven pensioned members died during the past year:

Arthur L. Curry - Active member -	died Jan. 9, 1953
Henry A. Smith - " " "	Feb. 16, "
Robert W. Livesey - " " "	June 20, "
Robert Tinning - " " "	Sept. 27, "

- - - -

George R. Bigney, Pensioned member	died Jan. 9, 1953
Herbert J. Simmons " " "	" 24, "
Henry MacLean " " "	" 30, "
Albert Sontag " " "	April 9, "
Gustaf E. Nelson " " "	July 12, "
Herbert R. Carpenter " " "	Oct. 24, "
Francis J. Quigley, St." " "	Nov. 25, "

P R O V I D E N C E F I R E D E P A R T M E N T

DIVISION OF TRAINING

ANNUAL REPORT

The following constitutes the activities of the Division of Training for the Year 1953.

On January 1st, members of the 10th Trainees Class, who were inducted into the Division July 21, 1952, were completing their last four weeks of advanced training which was concluded on January 24, 1953.

Having completed their six months training, the members of the 10th Trainees Class were certified to the Chief of Department for acceptance into the Fire Department on January 20, 1953 and were duly assigned to the Fire Department by the Chief of Department by General Orders effective January 25, 1953.

On January 2nd, plans were put in motion for the induction of the 11th Trainees School. To this end an ad, over the signature of the Commissioner of Public Safety, Mr. John B. Dunn, was placed in the Providence Journal and the Evening Bulletin advising of the closing date of application for candidates to be January 16th. This ad appeared in both the daily Journal and the Evening Bulletin on the days of Jan. 5th, 6th and 7th.

On January 19th, applicants who had not completed the 10th grade of schooling were screened by the Equivalency Board comprising Mr. John P. Cronin, Mr. C. B. Keach and Mr. Guido J. Cerilli.

On Tuesday, January 20th, the competitive intelligence examination was given to 49 approved candidates by this Division at the Central High School and the medical examination for the successful candidates in that examination was conducted at Division Headquarters on January 29th by Department Surgeons, Dr. Rattenni and Dr. Parillo.

On Monday, February 23rd, the 15 successful candidates for the 11th Trainees School were duly inducted into the Division of Training to begin their training in preparation for acceptance into the Fire Department.

Because of the inclement weather due to the time of year, much of the basic training of the 11th Trainees Class was conducted indoors and for this purpose, through the courtesy of General James A. Murphy, A. G. C., Commanding General and Acting Adjutant General of R. I., the large rink of the Armory of the Mounted Commands, North Main Street, was engaged.

In the very early stages of the 11th Trainees Class training, the depleted condition of the Department caused the Chief of Department to request that the training of the Class be accelerated with the view of having them in Stations after 10 weeks of training instead of the usual 13 weeks course. To accomplish this basic and unit training were conducted simultaneously and this Group of 15 men were placed in Stations on an advanced Training schedule on May 4th for a 16 week period of advanced training, rather than the usual 13 week period, to bolster the fire-fighting force.

On Friday, May 8th, an Announcement relative to the conduction of a Promotional School, Privates and Lieutenants Section, was released by this Division with the approval of the Chief of Department. Closing of applications from members of the Department was declared to be May 22nd.

The qualifying competitive intelligence examination was given jointly to both Privates and Lieutenants by this Division at Central High School on June 4th at which 77 Privates and 18 Lieutenants participated.

On June 15th, the training for promotion of the 11 successful Privates and 5 successful Lieutenants was begun and here again because of the depleted personnel of the Department the Chief of Department requested acceleration thereby completing the training in two weeks instead of the usual three weeks. The Training was successfully concluded on June 27th.

In connection with this Promotional Class Training School, this Division acknowledges the splendid cooperation and assistance of the following : Providence College for instruction in Chemistry of Fire and Principles in Hydraulics by Professor J. Joseph Hanley; The Grinnell Corp. for instruction through it's Personnel, Messrs. Eric Hansen, Powell, Merdinyan and Hill, in Sprinkler Fire Protection and Maintenance; Mr. Philip Holton, Supt. of Prov. Water Supply Board, for instruction in water supply and maintenance; Mr. Alex Addeo, Inspector of Buildings, for instruction in Building Construction, Building Laws and Hazards; Mr. Peter Hicks, Public Service Engineer, and Mr. Constantino, Public Service Engineer's Office Inspector, for instruction in Electrical Codes and Electrical Hazards and Oil Burner Regulations and Hazards respectfully.

These outside Agencies very qualifiedly amplified the agenda of instruction conducted by the Personnel of this Division with the assistance of Battalion Chief Norman Jones who lectured on Administration; Battalion Chief Leo E. Gorman who who directed a very instructive Dangerous Hazards Demonstration; Battalion Chief Francis J. O'Brien who lectured on the Operation of the Bureau of Operational Control and Chief Mechanician Gordon Jones who lectured on Care, Maintenance and Operation of Pumps and Apparatus.

Beginning May 18th and continuing until June 12th inclusive, an In-Service Training Schedule consisting of instruction in the handling of ladders and ladder drills was conducted by this Division at the Drill Tower at Dexter Street for Ladder Companies in the Department.

On each of these days a Ladder Company with it's apparatus and a detail from Engine Companies were assigned to the Tower to receive the following instructions and perform ladder drills. The instructions consisted of proper hand positions to take and body action to be employed in raising ladders speedily and at the same time avert any chance of personal injury. Also raising ladders under every possible hindering circumstance such as wires, narrow passages on sides of buildings, on hills, etc..

A short time was given each day to verbal instruction on vertical and cross ventilation as they pertain to the fire service.

A total of 168 Officers and Privates attended these daily instructions and drills.

12TH TRAINEES' SCHOOL

On June 23rd on direction of the Chief of Department, plans were formulated for the induction of the 12th Trainees' School to be conducted by this Division. The Class to comprise 30 Trainees which would be twice the size ordinarily conducted at one time.

A newspaper advertisement declaring the closing of applications to be July 10th was prepared by this Division and was run in the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin on the days of June 29 & 30 and July 1st.

For those applicants who had not completed the 10th grade of formal schooling, an equivalency screening was conducted by Messrs. John P. Cronin and Guido J. Cerilli on July 14th at Division Headquarters.

On Friday, July 17th, the qualifying competitive intelligence examination was given by this Division to 46 qualified applicants at Central High School and the successful applicants of this examination received their physical examination from Department Surgeons, Dr. Rattenni and Dr. Parillo at Division Headquarters on July 23rd.

On Aug. 10th, the 12th Trainees' School was formally opened at Division Headquarters with the induction of 30 successful candidates.

Because the Class was twice the size ordinarily handled it was imperative that the entire training program be rearranged. The 30 Trainees were assigned into two groups for most of the training schedule; one group receiving practical instruction at the Tower while the other group was receiving theory at Headquarters and visa versa and to this end basic and unit training were conducted simultaneously.

An added feature in the training of this 30 member group was contributed through the cooperation of the Grinnell Corp. whose messrs. Dawson Powell and Richard Hill provided a two day instruction course at the Grinnell Proving Ground. Mr. Powell lecturing on actions of fire pertaining to the different materials and Mr. Hill instructed on and supervised practical workouts in extinguishing different types of oil fires and gasoline. This Division is deeply indebted to these two men and the Grinnell Corp. for the time and knowledge contributed.

The 12th Trainees Class completed its joint basic and unit training on Oct. 31st and on a prepared schedule the members of this Class are undergoing their advanced training in the fire-fighting force which they will complete on February 10, 1954.

During the month of August Captain Riley A. Wilcox, assigned to this Division, devoted three full Saturday afternoons to instructing groups of members of the Conimicut Volunteer Fire Department in raising and placing portable ladders.

The instruction consisted of proper methods of handling the various types of ladders in speedily executing raising, placing and lowering without undo exertion on anyone man; this for the purpose of minimizing personal injury possibilities and the collective cooperation necessary to prevent damage to the ladders in handling them.

An added feature of our Activities this Year was the appearances of Capt. Wilcox of this Division on two separate Fire Prevention Programs during Fire Prevention Week.

One Program was a 15 minute Radio Program during which Capt. Wilcox was interviewed by Warren Walden of Radio Station W. J. A. R.

The second appearance was on a 15 minute T. V. Program during which Capt. Wilcox was again interviewed by Warren Walden of Station W. J. A. R. T. V. and after which, Capt. Wilcox addressed the T. V. audience on the hazards of smoking in bed.

On November 5th upon orders from the Chief of Department, the undersigned represented the Fire Department at a Careers Day Program for all the 11th Grade Students in the Providence Public Schools which was conducted at Mount Pleasant High School.

On this assignment an outline of the fire service as a career was given to a group of students after which a 25 minute question period was engaged in.

On November 30th, this Division, upon direction of the Chief of Department, announced the holding of a Promotional School, Privates' Section, for 10 competitively chosen Privates.

The date for closing of applications was declared to be December 18th. A Competitive Qualifying Examination was conducted by this Division at Central High School on December 30, 1953 at which 82 Privates participated in the examination.

As this report is being completed, a certified list of the ten highest in order from the compilation of examination marks together with grading points is being prepared for the approval of the Chief of Department and the training in the Promotional School shall be begun in early January, 1954.

During the year, this Division also did extensive mimeographing of various types of forms and reports used in the Fire Department.

In addition to the foregoing, this Division in compliance with the Regulations continues to maintain a system of permanent records of members of the Department and of those who make application to become members as it is required by the Regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Langston

Captain & Acting Director of Training.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

I herewith submit for your consideration and approval the following report of the activities of the Bureau of Fire Prevention for the year 1953.

The year 1953, from a Fire Prevention standpoint, proved to be a most successful and outstanding year. I am very happy to report at the outset that once again, for the second successive year, the City of Providence was awarded first prize in it's population group in the Annual Fire Prevention Week contest sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. In competition with over 1600 cities throughout the United States Providence was chosen as the number one city in having presented the best Fire Prevention Week Program.

While it is rather difficult to evaluate the results of the many Fire Prevention activities conducted throughout the year by the Bureau and the Department in general, it must be assumed that these activities are beginning to show satisfactory results.

A glance at the fire record for the year will show a marked reduction in the number of building fires over last year's figures. This reduction can be attributed to the stepped up "In Service Inspection" program being carried on by each company in the Department. This program is now in it's second year of operation and with most apparatus now equipped with two-way radio it has expanded to the point where practically every building in the city now receives periodic checks for fire safety. Many hazardous conditions are discovered on these inspection tours and immediate steps are taken to correct them. With the follow-up by inspectors from the Fire Prevention Bureau positive corrections are assured in every instance.

While the fire loss record is higher this year the increase over last years losses can be accounted for in one fire. This fire resulted in a total loss of over \$260,000 dollars practically the difference between this year and last years losses. The fire was unusual in that the circumstances surrounding it were, to say the lease unnatural. It started in a vacant building and spread with such rapidity that by the time the first company arrived on the scene the entire building was involved and beyond any hoping of saving.

It was only by superhuman effort on the part of the officers and men present that a real serious conflagration was averted. The local press was very high in it's praise for the efficient handling of the fire and carried an editorial praising the Chief of Department and his men on their fine work in averting what otherwise could have been a serious disaster. Such editorial praise by our local press is indeed very rare and speaks well for the efficiency of the Department.

The fire loss record for the City of Providence while it may appear high, in comparison with the National fire loss, it is very encouraging. Our .29 increase in the face of an anticipated 17 percent increase nationwide is to be commended. For the first time in the history of the United

States it is expected that the loss by fire will reach the billion dollar mark.

Another factor which I believe is partly responsible for our increased fire losses this year is the tendency on the part of some insurance adjusters to be over generous in their loss adjustments. One case in particular, of which I am familiar with because it developed that the fire was of incendiary origin, the adjustor settled for \$2000 while the actual damage from the fire did not exceed \$50.00. During the year there were several other cases that were brought to my attention where losses paid were out of line with estimates of our inspectors.

All things being equal I would say that our fire loss record for the year 1953 is one that speaks very highly for the efforts of the entire Department in its never ending fight to control fire and protect the lives and property of the citizens of Providence.

The Fire Prevention Bureau at the present time consists of one Battalion Chief, one Captain, two Lieutenants and five inspectors, one less inspector than last year. Inspector Joseph King retired after having reached the age of 65 in accordance with the new ruling of the Commissioner of Public Safety. As of this date there has been no replacement for Inspector King. The increased burden put on the Bureau due to the ever increasing number of follow-up complaints pouring in from the companies on their "In Service Inspection" tours has created a situation where there is a delay in processing the complaints. Another noticeable change is the ever increasing number of calls from citizens. This increased interest on the part of the general public is no doubt due to an ever increasing fire conscious public resulting from the departments public educational program. As no call is ignored this means that many complaints do not get the prompt and speedy treatment that should be accorded them. I would therefore urgently recommend that you give serious consideration to the problem of increasing the inspectional force of the Bureau so that all complaints and investigations may be processed in a prompt and efficient manner.

During the year 1953 the Bureau launched a city wide campaign of inspection of all underground gasoline tanks that were in the ground 15 years or more. As far as I have been able to learn this project is the first such inspection program ever attempted on such a large scale anywhere in the United States.

It was prompted by several instances of reported leaking gasoline tanks, both in the City and throughout the State. One case in particular in Providence created a very serious and critical situation for several days before the leak was discovered and corrective measures taken. The Bureau worked night and day on this leak until it was cleared up.

On March 23, 1953 I called a meeting in my office of the representatives of the Petroleum Industries and outlined the Bureau's plan to conduct the inspection. I explained to them that the frequent instances of reported leaking tanks warranted some immediate action both on the part of the Fire Department and also on the part of the industry. I further explained to them that unless some such action was taken there was always the possibility

of finding a leak the hard way, an explosion resulting in serious life and property loss.

They all agreed that the idea was a good one and assured me of their complete cooperation. The method and procedure of conducting the test was agreed upon. The Secretary of the Petroleum Industry, Mr. Joseph Connell, was instructed to prepare a notice to be sent to all distributors in the area notifying them of the action taken and instructing them to be prepared to submit their equipment to the test when contacted. Captain Fitzgerald was assigned to supervise the testing of the tanks and to work with the Industry's representatives.

At the present time the project is approximately two-thirds completed. The results to date have proved the need for such a program. 168 inspections have been made to date and the following hazardous conditions have been found:

Leaking tanks	11
New tanks installed	8
Leaking vents	22
Broken vents	9
Leaking fill lines	11
Leaking suction lines	2
Discarded suction lines	3
Improperly plugged tanks	3
Abandoned tanks removed	2
Abandoned tanks filled	1
Abandoned fill lines	5
Leaking man-holes	2
Abandoned tanks	19
Total	98

Another project which I feel is worthy of mentioning at this time is the installation of the latest automatic fire protection equipment on the new fuel oil bulk storage plant of the Sprague Company at Allens Avenue - Henderson Street. The Bureau worked closely with engineers of the Grinnell Company and the Seaboard Construction Company to insure the installation of the latest and most efficient fire protection system possible.

At the present time the Bureau is working with officials of the Providence Gas Company on the revamping of the present manually operated foam system to the more modern fully automatic mechanical foam which will, when completely installed, change the fire protection on their oil storage tanks to the latest and most modern systems available.

It is the plan of the Bureau to continue to advocate this program wherever needed until all such installations in the city are equipped with adequate fire protection.

The school program under the able direction of Lieutenant Frederick J. O'Brien continues to play a very important part in the overall Fire Prevention program of the community. The program is constantly before the

children in our schools by means of projects in the kindergarden to playlets, movies and talks to the senior high groups. At the present time he is completing the enrollment of all school children between the ages of 6 and 12 in the Junior Fire Prevention Corps.

The 17th edition of the Fire Prevention Teaching Guide has just been published and distributed to every teacher in the city. Copies have been sent, on request, all over the United States, Canada and to foreign countries. Request are from teachers who have been transferred or moved to other locations and who have heard about the book and find no Fire Prevention program in their new locations.

I would like at this time to express my sincere thanks to the various school officials, public, private and parochial alike, who have cooperated with Lieutenant O'Brien and the Bureau to make the Fire Prevention School Program in our city one of the finest and most comprehensive programs of its kind in the United States. I would also like to commend to you Lieutenant O'Brien on the excellent job he is doing with the school children in teaching them the value of Fire Prevention.

During the year members of the Bureau participated in public demonstrations, talks before civic groups and appeared on television and radio programs, all a part of the Bureau's public educational program. All of the above activities took place after the regular working time of the Bureau and were covered by the men on their off time.

I am very happy to report that the following agencies in the City Government all worked cooperatively with the Bureau to bring about safer conditions: Building Inspector, Public Service Engineer and the Health Department. All of the above mentioned agencies cooperated to the fullest extent in assisting the Bureau in cases where conditions found affected their respective departments. Likewise the Bureau assisted those departments wherever requested.

Once again the Bureau worked very closely with the Fire Prevention Committee of the Providence Chamber of Commerce in the many projects conducted throughout the year. The major task of the Committee was the planning and putting into operation the Annual Fire Prevention Week Program. Here the Bureau, with other agencies in the department, worked to make it the huge success it was. Much thanks is due various individuals and agencies outside the department who gave unselfishly of their time and effort to assist in putting over the program.

While I feel that much progress was made in the Fire Prevention field during 1953 I fully realize that there is much more work needed before our city reaches the ultimate goal of a completely fire safe city. During the coming year every effort of the Bureau will be made to bring this goal closer to being realized.

May I take this opportunity to express to you, and to all the officers and men of the Department, the sincere thanks and appreciation of myself and each member of the Bureau for the fine cooperation accorded to us during the year.

Following is report of the activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau for the year 1953:

Investigation: (of complaints received) INSPECTIONS: (Regular)

Complaints	1193	Original Inspections	1125
" corrected	980	Re-inspections	1171
" unjustified	127	Theaters	138
Buildings razed	46	Convalescent homes	23
" repaired	122	Nursing Homes	6
Referred to Health Dept.	43	Homes for children	90
" " Bldg Insp.	89	Hospitals	31
" " Pub.Serv. Engr.	58	Schools	154
Request of occupants	142	Orphanages	3
Defec.chimney-smoke pipe etc.	93	Storage of vehicles	182
Fire escape-panic bolts etc.	45	Gasoline applications	82
Obstructed exits	115	" tanks	168
Open exposures	136	Storage - fuel oil in bulk	12
Burning rubbish	201	Dang. Chem. applications	110
Rubbish conditions corrected	528		

FIRES:

Fires investigated	1136
Suspicious fires	31
Referred to Juvenile Division	18
Fire Losses investigated	1386
Court cases	11

PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY:

Bingoos	262
Exhibitions (Boxing-Hockey etc)	13
Carnivals	3

MISCELLANEOUS:

No smoking signs issued	494
No Dumping " "	5
Warning slips issued	17
Photographs taken	220
Extra hours worked	607
Pamphlets distributed	26,794
Books "	338
Posters "	185
Public displays set up	8

DEMONSTRATIONS, LECTURES ETC.:

Fire Prev. Demonstrations	27
Attendance at "	3488
Moving picture showings	14
Attendance at "	3803
Lecture - talk	52
Attendance at	873
Conferences attended	4
Radio broadcasts	7
Television "	4
Fire drills conducted	74

Respectfully submitted,

LEO E. GORMAN,
Battalion Chief.

BUREAU OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL

I respectfully submit for your approval the following report of the activities for the Bureau of Operational Control for the year ending December 31, 1953.

n This division is responsible for the effective and accurate dispatching of department units and personnel and it is my privilege to report once again that dispatching companies to alarms of fire and other emergencies by voice over the vocalarm system has proven to be highly efficient. This system announces instructions loudly, distinctly and simultaneously, enabling the fire fighting forces quartered in each station to act instantly.

Among important achievements during 1953 was the installation in the Communications Division at Fire Alarm Office, of the Dictaphone Electronic Belt Recording Machines which automatically records all communications.

The need for verbatim recordings off all transmissions has been recognized and the ability of the Dictaphone recorder to accomplish this goes a long way towards fixing responsibility for any questioned transmission.

Due to its general availability the most used method of reporting a fire is the telephone, in some cases the person reporting the fire is excited and the message received is quite likely to be garbled due to difficulties of diction, accent, and the information thus received cannot always be depended upon to be correct. Therefore it became obvious that some means was necessary for recording all incoming alarms of fire received and transmission of same. On May 5, 1953 this device was installed at the Fire Alarm Office.

This machine utilizes a permanent recording medium, an unbreakable, flexible, plastic belt $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 12 inches in circumference. Each recording belt has a recording time of 30 minutes. Dual recording heads make it possible to record continuously, each recording belt having an overlap of 20 seconds which identifies sequence of records. By means of a two-channel amplifier the machine simultaneously records and reproduces so that monitoring can be accomplished without removal of the record or loss of recording. The recording belts fit conveniently into standard mailing envelopes and require a minimum of filing space and are identified by date and hour of recording.

At present two of these machines are in operation, one on the public telephone and the other records on both the vocalarm and radio systems. These recorders are equipped with a voice operated starting relay, so that incoming messages are recorded as well as those transmitted.

It will be invaluable in solving differences of opinion in regards to whether the dispatcher or the fireman on watch were correct as to alarm location. It will also prove to excited persons that they acted abnormally during the time they were attempting to give an alarm of fire and as a result any delay was not the fault of the Fire Department or dispatcher on duty.

Bureau of Operational Control - 1953 - continued, page #2.

During the year 1953 the radio network of the Fire Department has continued to grow at the present time all fire fighting units are equipped with two-way radios with the exception of five ladder trucks and in the very near future these trucks will also be equipped with same.

Fast and dependable radio communication is one of the most valuable tools at the disposal of the Fire Department today. The benefits that have been gained from this rapid, dependable form of communications have proven to be of indispensable value and importance to this division. All fire companies are in direct contact with, and under control of the fire alarm dispatcher during periods that they are absent from quarters. It has reduced the out-of-service time of most units. Fire Companies that have responded to an alarm and whose services were not required have been redispached to subsequent alarm of fires. During the dry seasons of the year when grass fires are numerous the radio has been most useful. Companies have been sent from one location to another thereby conserving on apparatus travel.

On multiple alarms of fire the Chief at the fire grounds has given information to the dispatcher for the responding apparatus to hook up pumps, lay lines, spot ladder trucks etc. It has reduced the mileage travelled by companies responding to or returning from alarms of fire which has reflected in the conservation of fuel and the physical depreciation of apparatus.

Other intangible benefits to the fire service of the two-way radio system will be developed through practice and continued use of the system.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN,
Battalion Chief.

CARPENTER SHOP

The following is the Annual Report of the Carpenter Shop for the year 1953. This division builds and repairs equipment necessary to maintain efficiency within the Fire and Police Departments.

Ladders off six regular and two spare trucks were taken in and thoroughly checked. Broken beams and rungs were replaced where necessary. All ladders were given two coats of varnish. This is something that should be done once a year in order to keep ladders in first class condition.

A total of 230 feet of new ladders were built which included extension, folding, roof and step ladders. A total of 809 feet of ladders were repaired. This required the replacing of beams, blocks and rungs. 2850 feet of ladders were given two coats of varnish. Three large formica top tables were built for the North Main Street Station. Tool boxes, which contained many small compartments, were made and mounted on the Fire Alarm and Building Repair Trucks. There were sixteen holders turned to hold play pipes. Boxes had to be made to hold other equipment. With the arrival of four new pumpers, hose box platforms had to be refitted and racks and shelves had to be installed to hold the Two-Way radio and Scott Air Packs.

6 tool boxes made for various pieces of apparatus. Made 6 Bulletin Boards. 34 handles were put in axes. 10 handles made for pull-over rakes. Made 6 hose poles, 350 small hydrant signs, 72 large hydrant signs, 9 mop racks for various stations. 60 pieces of furniture, including tables, desks and chairs were repaired and refinished for various Fire and Police Stations. Voval Alarm desk at Headquarters was put on a platform and three sides were enclosed with plywood and plate glass. Screens and screen doors were made and repaired for both departments. Brackets and shelves, to hold Two-way Radio were made and installed on trucks for Engine Companies No. 4, 11, 13 and 20. Made 35 wood collapsible street horses for the Police Department. 2-4 x 5 ' standing frames to hold maps. Large filing cabinet with 55 compartments for the Central Station. Turned 24 night sticks. New signs had to be made and older ones had to be recovered in preparation for Fire Prevention Week.

This Department is called upon to do many small jobs, too numerous to itemize, for both the Fire and Police Departments.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) EUGENE L. HAWKINS
Battalion Chief.

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

During the year 1953, the Fire Alarm Division has, as in the past, been primarily interested in maintaining the high efficiency for which the Providence Fire Department has been noted. This means from the standpoint of this Division, continual checking and replacing of equipment where it is needed so that the receipt and transmission of alarms of fire may be as accurate and fast as it is humanly possible to make it.

Due to the purchase of materials during the past year, it has been possible for this Division to install a considerable amount of aerial line wire and line attachments which have been badly needed for several years. Although there has been a large improvement in this part of our plant, there is still a considerable amount of this type of work to be done and this will be done as fast as we can obtain the material and install it.

There has been a commendable extension of the Fire Alarm Box coverage within the city during the past year when we installed 11 new Public Fire Alarm Boxes and 7 Private Fire Alarm Boxes while removing only 1 Private Box. This closes the current year with an inventory of 897 boxes in service, of which 641 are Public and 256 are privately owned.

Although there has been a notable increase in the Fire Alarm Box coverage, it is hoped and expected that it will be possible to continue this work in the future as there is still need for considerable additional expansion in this particular field of the Fire Alarm System.

This office is still of the opinion that the various officers and members of the Fire Department are in a far better position than we are to know the locations where Fire Alarm Boxes are needed and it is therefore strongly urged that these men call the attention of this office to any needs that are noted so that we might take appropriate action.

During the year 1953 this Division has again installed all of the new radio equipment that has been received by the Department. During this year 8 new two-way mobile sets were received and these were installed in fire fighting apparatus. Now the mobile radio equipment inventory in the Department is as follows: Chief of Department, 4 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Spare Battalion Chief, 19 Engine Companies, 5 Ladder Trucks, 2 Rescue Companies, Superintendent of Fire Alarm, Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm, Chief of Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Alarm Trouble Truck, Fire Alarm Line Construction Truck and Fire Alarm Cable Truck. All units are of the Two-way type.

At the present time we are awaiting delivery of additional radio equipment which has been ordered and when this equipment is received the entire fire fighting force will be equipped with two-way radio. It is the general consensus of opinion of the members of the Department that the radio has proved its worth over and over again and it has proved to be one of our most valuable assets.

This Division has continued its work in the splitting of the existing Police Box Circuits to eliminate overcrowding on some of the circuits. The overall work to be done in this connection is quite extensive and will take considerable time but we are now getting to the place where it will be possible for us to start this much needed work.

During 1953 we have again been able to combine several Police Call Boxes with Fire Alarm Boxes in a common pedestal thereby eliminating several more duplications of our underground work. There are still a number of these changes to be made and it will probably be a considerable time before this work is completed.

In a continuation of the work which was started several years ago to eliminate as much as possible the false alarm nuisance, this Division has installed additional false alarm bells so that at the present time we have a total of 35 installations in operation. It is our opinion that the installation of these bells has had the result that was desired. We shall continue to make these installations in the hope that some time in the future our false alarms will have been brought down to the lowest possible number.

During the year this Division received a new Cable Splicer's Truck and a new Line Construction Truck, each complete with special bodies. These new trucks have proved to be very valuable to the work that is being done here. At the present time the line work has been increased considerably by the removal of the poles owned by the United Transit Company who are abandoning all of their line wires and attachments. In several of these location it will be necessary for this Division to take over their poles and it is felt that the new line truck with the special equipment for pole handling will more than ever before prove its worth.

It has been noted in recent months that there is a large amount of underground cable in the system that is badly in need of replacement. Along with the Telephone Company we have found considerable lead cable that has been damaged by electrolosis and the only remedy for this situation is the installation of new cable. It is therefore hoped that it will be possible to obtain the necessary funds for this replacement when it is finally decided that the change must be made and an estimate made of the exact needs for our underground system. The cable that it is intended to purchase will be of the non-metallic type which is not effected by the electrolosis mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HENRY van WESTENDORP
Superintendent.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING REPAIRS

Submitted herewith is the operational report of the Department of Building Maintenance and Repairs. This Department is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of both the Police and Fire Departments. Considerable repairs, remodeling and redecorating has been accomplished during the past year.

The interior of Eng. 9, Lad. 10 and Fire Alarm building were repaired and redecorated. Portions of the interior were repainted at Eng. 2-6-8-10-12-14-16-18-20 and Rescue Co. 1. Portions of Police Headquarters were repainted. Exterior of Eng. 2-3-5 and Fire Alarm Building were repaired and repainted. Fire escapes at C.Y.O. Gym and Point Street Station were scraped and repainted. Apparatus doors at Eng. 10-14-12 and 16 repainted. Front windows and doors at the Fire Repair Shop were repaired and repainted. Traffic and parking lines were painted at the Police Garage at LaSalle Square. Posters and tables were painted for the Fire Prevention Bureau. 350 Hydrant signs were painted and lettered for the supply room. 72 Hydrant standards were repaired, repainted and set out at different locations. 35 traffic horses were painted and lettered for the Police Department. A member of this department assisted in testing and lubricating all the hydrants in the city. Apparatus doors at six stations were repaired. New overhead doors were installed at the Carpenter Shop and the Repair Shop. Two new electric door operators were installed at the Chiefs Garage on Fountain Street. Doors and windows were boarded up at the Fire Alarm Garage on Douglas Avenue. Numerous doors and windows were repaired at different stations. New small doors were installed at two stations. Old telephone poles were laid out and staked for use as bimpers in the parking lots at two stations. A new rack for holding oil cans was built at Eng. 10. The stairs and cupboards were repaired at Batt. Chief's 2 garage. New barred grills were installed at the Juvenile Detention room. New all metal prison beds were made for the Juvenile Detention room. There were many more small carpenter repairs that were made. Boiler repairs were made at 24 different stations. Numerous small minor repairs were made on plumbing. A new slop sink was installed at Rescue 1. New aqua-stats were put on the unit heaters at Eng. 16. A new conditate pump was installed at Eng. 2. The flush valves were overhauled at Womens and Mens cell block at Police Headquarters. New shower stalls were installed at Eng 19. The automobile hoists at the Police Repair Shop were repaired. New conductor pipes were installed at Prect. 3. New ropes were put on the flag pole at the Mall. Flag poles were repaired and painted at six different stations. A new cement apron was laid in front of Eng. 1. The side walk at Eng. 3 was repaired. The interior brick work at Eng. 8 and Lad. 10 was repointed. 6 galvanized drip pans were distributed to 6 stations. 12 steel lockers were distributed to different stations. Numerous mattresses were distributed to different stations after being renovated. 200 dog license posters were made up and hung throughout the city. 51 lights of broken glass was replaced. Roofs repaired at Eng. 3-5 and 9. 17 door checks and locks were repaired or renewed. New linoleum counter top installed at Eng. 14. Lineoleum repairs made at 8 stations. Landscaping work done at 7 stations. Shrubbery set in at 2 stations.

Department of Building Repairs - continued - page #2.

In November Precincts 2. and 3 were closed and the entire personnel along with the lockers and belongings were merged with Precinct 1.

Much remodeling and moving was necessary to accomplish this. This Department is also called on to hang banners and set up displays for the Fire Prevention Bureau and also various charitable organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JOHN B. SULLIVAN
Superintendent.

AUTO MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SHOP

The Automotive Division is responsible for the maintenance of the automotive units of the Department. A total of 83 units, 52 of these are major fire fighting units, including motor pumping engines, serial ladder trucks, city service trucks, rescue and salvage trucks and auxiliary pumping units. The remaining 31 units comprise Chief Officers cars and the necessary trucks and automobiles used by the various divisions of the Department.

During the year the Division supervised operation of all pumping units at multiple alarms of fire and in addition to the aforementioned the supervision of acceptance tests of new apparatus and the yearly service tests of the various pumping units within the Department. In the past year four new 750 G.P.M. pumping units were received.

The following is a summary of jobs completed for the year ending December 31, 1953:

Engines overhauled-pumping units	6
Transmissions " " "	5
" " ladder trucks	1
Fire pumps "	2
Motor inspections - oil pans down	37
Clutches " - cleaned	37
Minor repairs completed	1166
Battery changes	918
New engines installed	2
New fire pump "	1

In addition to the above lighting units and portable pumping units were serviced also numerous appliances used within the Department were serviced.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) GORDON JONES
Superintendent.

RESCUE COMPANY NO. 1.

Report of activities for Rescue Company No. 1, for the year ending
December 31, 1953:

Boxes	185
Stills	693
Special signals	15
Second alarms	2
Third alarms	1
First aid rendered	596
E.& J. Inhalator & Resus.	354
Revivals	305
Fatals	55
Refrigerator leaks	15
Ammonia leaks	5
Water Rescues	1
Boat used	18
Drownings	4
Auto accidents	40
Elevator accidents	2
Cave-in	1
Miscellaneous	43
Child birth	4
Oxygen cylinders used	211
Generator used	10
Lights used	6
Smoke ejectors	23
Electric saw	2
Electric drill	2
Transporting	31
Extra hours	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hours of Instruction given	340
Out of service	348 hours 33 minutes
Mileage	2612

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) FRED L. BADGER
Captain.

RESCUE COMPANY NO. 2.

During the year ending December 31, 1953 a marked increase has been noted in the calls being made for Rescue Service. Starting with an average month response of 47.5 and ending with a monthly average of 63.1

A complete summary of the activities of this unit for the year ending December 31, 1953 is as follows:

First aid rendered	386
E. & J. breathing machine	206
Revivals	164
Fatals - D.O.A.	45
Water rescues	5
Drownings	1
Boat & motor used	8
Refrigerator leaks	23
Ammonia leaks	1
Auto accidents	35
Cave-in	1
Miscellaneous cases	97
Oxygen cylinders used	142
Generators	7
Flood lights	8
Smoke & fume ejector	19
Electric tools used	4
Invalid transportation	5
Salvage covers used	9
Child birth assists	5
Total runs	755
Out of service	275 hours - 21 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) ARTHUR BRODEUR
Lieutenant.

SALVAGE COMPANY NO. 1.

The following is a summary of the operations of Salvage Company No. 1,
for the year ending December 31, 1953:

Boxes	168
Stills	72
Special Signals	42
Hours in service	207 - 38 min.
Inside covers	389
Roof covers	16
Sprinkler Heads	30
Roofing paper-rolls	25
Laths - bundles	11
Other services	2 - St. & cellar floods.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JAMES H. COLEMAN, Jr.
Captain.