

Annual Report  
of the  
PROVIDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
for the Year Ended  
December 31, 1956

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, 1956.

During the months of January and February, the Fire Department had several large loss fires that were the work of a pyromaniac who was later captured and confessed to the setting of three fires. The insurance claims paid on these fires amounted to over a half million dollars.

On February 5th there occurred three fires each of which resulted in multiple alarms necessitating the declaration of a state of emergency. This recalled all personnel to duty. At the time of this emergency, the available companies to respond to fires had been reduced to two engine companies and two ladder companies. The possibility of this maniac starting another fire was consideration in this action. With the return of off-duty men, utilizing our fourteen reserve engine companies and four reserve ladder trucks, the situation of no apparatus to respond to additional fires was alleviated.

A study of the multiple alarms indicated that a prompt lack of discovery was the dominating factor in the large losses. In as much as the buildings were heavily involved by fire, the consequent results were heavy losses on the buildings, as well as the contents.

A tabulated report of multiple alarm fires and losses suffered are listed herewith:

| <u>DATE</u>  | <u>TIME</u> | <u>BOX</u>      | <u>LOCATION</u>         | <u>LOSS</u> | <u>CAUSE</u>                               |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| Jan. 7   | 2.48 P.M.   | 1215<br>2 alarm | 262-266 Weybosset St.   | \$33,000.   | Incendiary                                 |
| (This fire was set by a pyromaniac in an unsprinkled and unoccupied building on a Saturday afternoon.)   |             |                 |                         |             |  |
| Jan. 22  | 5.12 P.M.   | 3232<br>3 alarm | 32-38 Snow Street       | \$313,000.  | Incendiary                                 |
| (This fire had been burning for some time before it was discovered on a Sunday afternoon in an unsprinkled and unoccupied building. It was set by the same pyromaniac.)  |             |                 |                         |             |  |
| Feb. 5   | 7.03 P.M.   | 3231<br>2 alarm | 603-619 Westminster St. | \$216,000   | Defective gas heater hanging from ceiling. |
| (This fire was discovered on a Sunday evening.)  |             |                 |                         |             |  |
| Feb. 5   | 2.48 P.M.   | 1512<br>3 alarm | 236 Eddy Street         | None        | Probably set by boys                       |
| (This building was in the process of being torn down due to the construction of the Freeway. A group of boys were seen playing in the building immediately before the discovery of the fire which took place on a Sunday afternoon.) |             |                 |                         |             |  |

| <u>DATE</u>   | <u>TIME</u> | <u>BOX</u>      | <u>LOCATION</u>       | <u>LOSS</u> | <u>CAUSE</u>                |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Feb. 5  | 7.51 P.M.   | 3223<br>3 alarm | 114 Mathewson St.     | \$126,000.  | Probably set                |
| (Although the conditions and circumstances surrounding this fire were exactly the same as those in the other fires set by the pyromaniac, he refused to admit setting this one.)  |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Feb. 24   | 10.15 P.M.  | 2223<br>2 alarm | 30-36 Smith Street    | \$10,000.   | Defective wiring.           |
| (This was temporary wiring which had been in use since a 2 Alarm fire took place five months previously.)   |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Apr. 20   | 9.37 P.M.   | 2335<br>2 alarm | 72 Bates Street       | \$3,500.    | Set by boys                 |
| (Two boys were apprehended and admitted setting this fire in a box and paper storage warehouse. One of the boys died in a fire a few days later.)   |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| June 27   | 11.30 A.M.  | 4124<br>2 alarm | 146 Spruce Street     |             | Set by boys                 |
| (This was a vacant 3 tenement house and the two boys who set it were apprehended.)  |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| July 4  | 2.41 P.M.   | 1443<br>2 alarm | 204 Prairie Ave.      | \$1,600.    | Probably set by boys.       |
| (The fire started in a rubbish pile behind a vacant store and, because of the date, was assumed to have been set by the 4th of July pranksters.)  |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Aug. 5  | 1.41 P.M.   | 3235<br>3 alarm | 353 Washington St.    | \$46,000.   | Probably set by boys.       |
| (A boy was seen playing in this lumber yard before the fire was discovered on a Sunday afternoon.)  |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Nov. 4  | 1.51 A.M.   | 1414<br>3 alarm | 47 Pine Street        | \$201,000.  | Undetermined.               |
| (This building had been unoccupied for 12 hours before the fire was discovered early Sunday morning.)   |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Nov. 20   | 3.12 A.M.   | 5331<br>2 alarm | 17-21 Marietta St.    | \$15,000.   | Defective wiring.           |
| Nov. 25   | 4.51 A.M.   | 3233<br>2 alarm | 929 Westminster St.   |             | Overheated hot-air furnace. |
| (Fourteen sprinkler heads were in operation and caused considerable water accumulation in the cellar of this building before smoke was noticed and Fire Department notified.)   |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Nov. 30   | 10.38 P.M.  | 4217<br>2 alarm | 327 West Exchange St. | \$191,000.  | Undetermined.               |
| (Although the cause of this fire could not be determined, a fire was set on the same evening in a nearby Jewelry Shop to cover up a break.)   |             |                 |                       |             |                             |
| Dec. 14   | 1.47 P.M.   | 4126<br>2 alarm | 103 Federal Street    |             | Suspicious                  |
| (Someone apparently broke in and ransacked the 3rd floor of this house, took money and jewelry and set two separate fires. The woman on the 2nd floor heard someone moving in the tenement above hers a short time before the fire, although the people who live there were not at home.) |             |                 |                       |             |                             |

In spite of heavy losses in multiple alarm fires, there was a reduction in the number of building fires. It appears that payments by insurance companies in fire losses will increase because of higher value of inventories and ever increasing cost of building replacement and repair. A study of national figures and estimates of the National Board of Fire Underwriters indicate the heaviest national fire loss in the history of our nation. Our own city reflects, proportionately, this increase in fire loss also.

#### LOSSES FOR THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1951..... | \$ 997,205. |
| 1952..... | 811,162.    |
| 1953..... | 1,143,788.  |
| 1954..... | 650,216.    |
| 1955..... | 755,848.    |

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fire loss on a 5 year average... | \$ 871,644.       |
| Fire loss for the year 1956..... | <u>2,098,708.</u> |
| Increase for the year.....       | \$1,227,064.      |

The Fire Department's year in-service-inspections has given the companies knowledge of problems that could be expected in case of fire. Fire protection in buildings, gaining the cooperation of owners and occupants, as well as increasing the awareness of the need of fire safety throughout the city, have been important factors in reducing the number of building fires.

In our Fire Prevention Spring Clean-Up Campaign and during Fire Prevention Week, our object point was aimed at fire safety for children. It is absolutely imperative that people should not leave their children unattended. We have tried through television and radio and by fire posters to arouse public interest in the fire safety of their children. It is a fact that more mothers are working, under present day conditions, than ever before in history. This means that small children are often left alone or in the care of untrained persons. There is grief to spare in the wiping out of adults by fire; but the loss of children who rely on their elders and come to untimely ends because of fire, such losses are not justifiable.

#### RESCUE COMPANIES

The demand for this type of service continues to increase and will be handled by the formation of a third Rescue Company. This company will be housed at the North Main and Branch Avenue station. Contracts to provide chassis and special truck body have been awarded and needed equipment is being ordered. This truck should be in service by April.

#### DIVISION OF TRAINING

May I call your attention to the activities of this division. Not only has the division been operating at top speed in our own affairs; but has also conducted examinations for promotions in the East Providence and Warwick Fire Departments, in the evening hours.

Our apparatus replacement program is continuing and for the year 1956 we received one 85 ft. aerial truck, which was placed in service at Ladder Co. No. 4, North Main and Meeting Streets.

For the first time in several years, there was an increase in false alarms. In 1955 there were 392 false alarms, in 1956 there were 436, an increase of 44 alarms. Although juveniles are responsible for the great majority of these alarms, it does not lessen the dangers involved. I sincerely believe that the penalty for this offense should be substantially increased and parents, by law, be made responsible for the acts of their children.

We in the Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Commissioner Dunn, and the Honorable Members of the City Government, for their fine cooperation and support given to the Fire Department during the year 1956.

The Fire Prevention Committee of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Warren D. Phillips, Chairman, were wonderful in their cooperation in giving their time and ideas in this work to reduce fires by carelessness, thereby saving lives and property.

The Recreation Department and the many youth organizations also made a great contribution to fire prevention during the year 1956

Fire Prevention work was highly successful during the past year. A poster designed by a student was adopted by the National Fire Protection Association for use across the nation.

In the 1956 Fire Prevention Week contest, Providence a city with more than its share of old structures was awarded eleventh place for the nation as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS A. MARSHALL  
Chief of Department.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 21 1957

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*D. Everett Whelan*  
CLERK

## PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

15 Engine Companies  
2 " " with Tenders  
1 " and Chemical (Combination)  
8 Ladder Companies  
2 Rescue Companies  
1 Salvage Company

Total Department membership as of Dec. 31 - 480

Appointments.....25  
Retirements.....16  
Resignations..... 4  
Promotions.....19  
Transfers.....38  
Commendations.....19  
Reprimands..... 0  
Deaths..... 3

### SUPERIOR OFFICERS

Lewis A. Marshall, Chief of Department

### BATTALION CHIEFS

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| John E. Butler, Jr.   | Norman Jones        |
| James F. Coleman, Jr. | Leonard A. Kiernan  |
| Frank G. Eldredge     | James T. Killilea   |
| William E. Falls      | Francis J. O'Brien  |
| Carl F. Fliegner      | John T. McLaughlin  |
| Leo E. Gorman         | Albert J. Sheridan  |
| Walter F. Hannaway    | John E. Sullivan    |
| Eugene L. Hawkins     | William E. Sullivan |

Gordon Jones, Superintendent - Automotive Repair Shop

Henry vanWestendorp, Superintendent - Fire Alarm Telegraph

Michael Sabatino, Superintendent - Department of Building Repairs

James A. Cusick, Assistant Superintendent - Automotive Repair Shop

J. Clifton Leighton, Assistant Superintendent - Fire Alarm Telegraph

PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT - Cont.

Capt. Fred L. Badger  
Capt. Lawrence A. Bouchard  
Capt. Arthur Brodeur  
Capt. Edmund F. Carlson  
Capt. George R. Carlson  
Capt. Elliot M. Durfee  
Capt. Richard B. J. Farmer  
Capt. Edwin A. Fay  
Capt. John Feeney  
Capt. Thomas J. Fitzgerald  
Capt. George O. Huestis  
Capt. Henry C. Maine  
Capt. Joseph J. Mainey  
Capt. Edmond F. Marnane  
Capt. John J. Mohan

Capt. John F. McDonald, Jr.  
Capt. John F. McGwinn, Jr.  
Capt. Thomas O. McLaughlin  
Capt. Carl H. Norberg  
Capt. George H. Nowell  
Capt. Guido Nutini  
Capt. Richard E. O'Leary  
Capt. Vincent T. Reardon  
Capt. John L. Rooney  
Capt. Francis A. Shea  
Capt. Sylvestre F. Shea  
Capt. Albert E. Skog  
Capt. Daniel F. Stafford  
Capt. Robert D. Walsh  
Capt. Frederick J. Ward  
Capt. Amos M. Weeden

Lieut. Russell H. Backman  
Lieut. William D. Bourke  
Lieut. Howard W. R. Bucklin  
Lieut. James C. Byrne  
Lieut. James G. Cahill  
Lieut. Joseph A. Carr  
Lieut. Raymond G. Connor  
Lieut. Charles A. Cornell, Jr.  
Lieut. Leo T. Deuso, Sr.  
Lieut. John J. Falvey  
Lieut. Charles J. Gilchrist  
Lieut. George A. Gray  
Lieut. Donald P. Hackett  
Lieut. Joseph B. Healey  
Lieut. Frank Hodgson  
Lieut. William J. Hughes  
Lieut. William P. Kanaczet  
Lieut. William F. Kelly  
Lieut. Thomas M. Kennedy  
Lieut. Edward J. Kiernan  
Lieut. James E. Kilkenney  
Lieut. George E. LaPorte  
Lieut. Leo P. Lavallee  
Lieut. Frank E. Lopes  
Lieut. George H. Lowe, Jr.  
Lieut. William J. Lynch  
Lieut. Richard H. Lyons

Lieut. Marice J. Maguire  
Lieut. James E. Maher  
Lieut. Clarence B. McCormick  
Lieut. James H. McDermott  
Lieut. John F. McDermott  
Lieut. John F. McDermott, Jr.  
Lieut. John E. McDonald  
Lieut. John B. McGarry  
Lieut. Matthew McKeon  
Lieut. Thomas M. McManus  
Lieut. Joseph H. Mitchell  
Lieut. Joseph V. Morro  
Lieut. John J. Mullen  
Lieut. Robert M. Murray  
Lieut. Charles W. Oatley, Jr.  
Lieut. William H. O'Connell  
Lieut. John J. O'Haire, Jr.  
Lieut. Edward T. O'Keefe  
Lieut. John F. Oliver  
Lieut. Bartholomew E. Quigley  
Lieut. Alfred J. Reall  
Lieut. James J. Robertson  
Lieut. James J. Roche  
Lieut. Raymond E. Shawcross, Jr.  
Lieut. Robert A. Sullivan  
Lieut. Leonard E. Sweeney  
Lieut. George B. Vieweg  
Lieut. Bernard J. Waters, Jr.

The apparatus consists of 18 Pumps, (1 combination foamite), 8 Ladder Trucks, 2 Engine Tenders, 2 Rescue Trucks, 1 Salvage Truck, with 15 Triple Combination Pumps, 4 Ladder Trucks and 1 Rescue Truck in reserve.

| <u>COMPANY</u>          | <u>TYPE</u>         | <u>G. P. W.</u> | <u>DATE</u>      |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Engine Co. No. 1        | La France           | 1250            | July - 1942      |
| " " " 2                 | " "                 | 750             | June - 1952      |
| " " " 3                 | " "                 | 750             | April - 1953     |
| " " " 4                 | " "                 | 1000            | July - 1927      |
| " " " 5                 | " "                 | 750             | April - 1950     |
| " " " 6                 | " "                 | 750             | June - 1952      |
| " " " 7                 | " "                 | 1250            | July - 1942      |
| " " " 8                 | " "                 | 750             | April - 1950     |
| " " " 9                 | " "                 | 1500            | December - 1949  |
| " " " 10                | " "                 | 1250            | November - 1945  |
| " " " 11                | General             | 750             | December - 1953  |
| " " " 12                | La France           | 750             | April - 1950     |
| " " " 13                | General             | 750             | December - 1953  |
| " " " 14                | La France           | 750             | April - 1950     |
| " " " 17                | Ward La France      | 750             | April - 1954     |
| " " " 18                | Oren                | 750             | September - 1952 |
| " " " 19                | General             | 750             | December - 1953  |
| " " " 20                | General             | 750             | December - 1953  |
| Ladder Co. No. 1        | La France Aerial    |                 | June - 1950      |
| " " " 2                 | " " "               |                 | October - 1945   |
| " " " 3                 | " " "               |                 | February - 1950  |
| " " " 4                 | " " "               |                 | July - 1956      |
| " " " 5                 | " " "               |                 | March - 1946     |
| " " " 6                 | Seagrave            | "               | September - 1954 |
| " " " 9                 | La France           | "               | December - 1951  |
| " " " 10                | " " "               |                 | October - 1937   |
| Engine Tender No. 7     | G. M. C.            |                 | December - 1950  |
| " " " 9                 | Ford C. O. E.       |                 | August - 1950    |
| Rescue Co. No. 1        | Scott-White         |                 | October - 1951   |
| " " " 2                 | Chevrolet (2½ Ton)  |                 | June - 1954      |
| Salvage Co. No. 1       | Studebaker (1½ Ton) |                 | February - 1953  |
| Reserve Engine No. 2(2) | La France           | 1000            | 1925 (2)         |
| " " " 3                 | " "                 | 1000            | 1919             |
| " " " 5                 | " "                 | 1000            | 1923             |
| " " " 6(2)              | " "                 | 1000 (2)        | 1925 & 1927      |
| " " " 11                | " "                 | 1000            | 1924             |
| " " " 12                | " "                 | 1000            | 1926             |
| " " " 14(2)             | " "                 | 1000            | 1920 & 1925      |
| " " " 17(3)             | " "                 | 1000            | 1918 & 1927 (2)  |
| " " " 19                | " "                 | 1000            | 1927             |
| " " " 10                | " "                 | 1000            | 1924             |



| <u>COMPANY</u>       | <u>TYPE</u>           | <u>G. P. M.</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Reserve Ladder No. 3 | LaFrance City Service |                 | 1929        |
| " " No. 4            | LaFrance Aerial       |                 | 1942        |
| " " No. 6            | " "                   |                 | 1926        |
| " " No. 8            | " City Service        |                 | 1925        |
| Reserve Rescue No. 2 | Chevrolet (1½ Ton)    |                 | 1939        |

CAUSES OF FIRES AND ALARMS

For fires in buildings:

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Candle - lamp - torch       | 16        |
| Careless use of matches     | 8         |
| Careless smoking            | 42        |
| Careless smoking in bed     | 3         |
| Defective boiler - furnace  | 4         |
| " chimney                   | 11        |
| " electric appliance        | 3         |
| " gas heater                | 1         |
| " range oil burner          | 6         |
| " space oil heater          | 8         |
| " machinery                 | 4         |
| " wiring                    | 5         |
| Dust - lint                 | 1         |
| Explosion                   | 2         |
| Food - grease               | 7         |
| Hot ashes                   | 1         |
| Incendiary                  | 1         |
| Range oil burner - overflow | 1         |
| Space oil heater - overflow | 4         |
| Power oil burner - overflow | 1         |
| Overheated boiler - furnace | 3         |
| " electric motor            | 1         |
| " oven                      | 1         |
| " stove pipe                | 7         |
| Rubbish - litter            | 1         |
| Set by juveniles            | 48        |
| Short circuit - wires       | 12        |
| Short circuit - television  | 2         |
| Spark from chimney          | 7         |
| Spark from motor - machine  | 2         |
| Spark from rubbish fire     | 34        |
| Spontaneous combustion      | 3         |
| Struck by lightning         | 1         |
| Suspicious                  | 20        |
| Miscellaneous               | 12        |
| Undetermined                | 79        |
|                             | <hr/>     |
|                             | 362 Total |

Causes of fires and alarms - continued.

Other than for a fire in a building:

|                                 |     |                          |       |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------|
| False Alarms                    | 436 | Overheated electric flat | 4     |
| Bonfires                        | 46  | " " motor                | 25    |
| Accidental - Needless           | 199 | " oven                   | 2     |
| Candle - lamp - torch           | 8   | " smoke pipe             | 1     |
| Careless use of matches         | 11  | " tar kettle             | 2     |
| Careless smoking                | 61  | Rags on pipes, etc.      | 10    |
| Careless smoking in bed         | 17  | Rubbish - litter         | 6     |
| Defective boiler - furnace      | 5   | Set by juveniles         | 16    |
| " chimney                       | 5   | Short circuit - wires    | 40    |
| " electric appliance            | 8   | " " - electric motor     | 37    |
| " gas stove                     | 4   | " " - television         | 14    |
| " gas heater                    | 2   | Soot in chimney          | 30    |
| " range oil burner              | 16  | Spark from chimney       | 1     |
| " power oil burner              | 26  | " " motor - machine      | 6     |
| " portable oil heater           | 3   | " " rubbish fire         | 4     |
| " space oil heater              | 25  | Spontaneous combustion   | 3     |
| " smoke pipe-flue               | 3   | Struck by lightning      | 6     |
| " machinery                     | 3   | Suspicious               | 1     |
| " wiring                        | 10  | Miscellaneous            | 8     |
| Dust - lint                     | 7   | Undetermined             | 2     |
| Explosion                       | 2   | Auto - Truck - Bus, etc. | 276   |
| Food - grease                   | 63  | Bridges                  | 1     |
| Hot ashes                       | 2   | Dumps                    | 122   |
| Incendiary                      | 4   | Fence                    | 10    |
| Range oil burner - flareback    | 8   | Grass - Brush - Leaves   | 566   |
| " " " - overheated              | 1   | Junk yard                | 18    |
| " " " - overflow                | 57  | Lumber yard              | 7     |
| Oil hot water heater - overflow | 1   | Rubbish - litter         | 285   |
| Space oil heater - overflow     | 29  | Tree - pole              | 35    |
| Power oil burner - overflow     | 8   | Oil bomb in street       | 18    |
| " " " - flareback               | 18  | Miscellaneous            | 22    |
| Overheated exhaust pipe         | 1   |                          |       |
| " boiler - furnace              | 4   |                          |       |
|                                 |     | Total                    | 2,671 |

Rescue and emergency runs 3,356

Blood donations made by members of the Department 7

Deaths caused by fire 8

Multiple alarms of fire - 2nd Alarms 10

Multiple alarms of fire - 3rd Alarms 5

NUMBER OF ALARMS DURING EACH HOUR

| <u>HOUR</u><br><u>A. M.</u> | <u>ALARMS</u><br><u>A. M.</u> | <u>HOUR</u><br><u>P. M.</u> | <u>ALARMS</u><br><u>P. M.</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12 - 1                      | 72                            | 12 - 1                      | 158                           |
| 1 - 2                       | 70                            | 1 - 2                       | 191                           |
| 2 - 3                       | 51                            | 2 - 3                       | 189                           |
| 3 - 4                       | 30                            | 3 - 4                       | 200                           |
| 4 - 5                       | 22                            | 4 - 5                       | 244                           |
| 5 - 6                       | 28                            | 5 - 6                       | 188                           |
| 6 - 7                       | 22                            | 6 - 7                       | 192                           |
| 7 - 8                       | 42                            | 7 - 8                       | 222                           |
| 8 - 9                       | 80                            | 8 - 9                       | 188                           |
| 9 - 10                      | 99                            | 9 - 10                      | 193                           |
| 10 - 11                     | 135                           | 10 - 11                     | 141                           |
| 11 - 12                     | 183                           | 11 - 12                     | 93                            |
|                             |                               | Total                       | <u>3,033</u>                  |

NUMBER OF ALARMS DURING EACH DAY

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Sunday    | 378                |
| Monday    | 439                |
| Tuesday   | 439                |
| Wednesday | 466                |
| Thursday  | 402                |
| Friday    | 433                |
| Saturday  | 476                |
|           | <u>3,033</u> Total |

The following is the statistical summary of the activities of the fire fighting force of the Department for the year ending December 31, 1956:

Working time of companies at fires - 4,649 hrs. 16 mins.  
 Working time at dumps - 183 hrs. 34 mins.  
 Working time of pumpers at fires - 104 hrs. 56 mins.

HOSE LINES USED:

|                           |       |                    |         |
|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|
| Booster No. of lines used | 1,238 | Total feet of hose | 162,050 |
| 1½" hose " " " "          | 591   | " " " "            | 70,050  |
| 2½" hose " " " "          | 558   | " " " "            | 159,800 |
| 3" hose " " " "           | 244   | " " " "            | 74,900  |

MASTER STREAM APPLIANCE USED:

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Aerial Pipe           | 11 |
| Baker Stand Pipe      | 2  |
| Alfco Turret Deck Gun | 1  |
| Baker Turret Pipe     | 6  |

LADDERS USED:

|                  |              |      |              |        |
|------------------|--------------|------|--------------|--------|
| Aerial Ladder    | - No. used - | 71   | Total feet - | 5,848  |
| Portable Ladders | - " " -      | 1190 | " " -        | 24,448 |

EXTINGUISHERS:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Foam                 | 3   |
| Soda & Acid          | 6   |
| Pump tank            | 295 |
| Dry chemical         | 1   |
| Carbon dioxide       | 88  |
| Carbon Tetrachloride | 36  |

OTHER EQUIPMENT USED:

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Salvage covers         | 628  |
| Bundles of laths       | 66   |
| Rolls of roofing paper | 139½ |
| Homelites              | 85   |
| Generators             | 50   |
| Smoke ejector          | 29   |
| Sprinkler heads        | 48   |

EXTRA HOURS AND LOST TIME:

|                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Extra hours of duty performed         | 9,403 hrs. 6 mins.   |
| Time in attendance at drills          | 2,394 hrs. 37 mins.  |
| Time lost by members through sickness | 31,515 hrs. 30 mins. |
| Time lost by members through injuries | 33,332 hrs.          |
| Special time granted                  | 1,690 hrs. 54 mins.  |

INSPECTIONS:

RESIDENTIAL:

(dwellings, apartments, rooming houses etc.) 127,055

NON-RESIDENTIAL:

(theaters, churches, hospitals, schools etc.) 2,716

MERCANTILE:

(retail stores, restaurants, repair shops etc.) 5,828

MANUFACTURING:

(factories, bakeries, laundries etc.) 1,462

STORAGE:

(warehouses, piers etc.) 310

MISCELLANEOUS:

(power plants, pumping stations etc.) 180

HYDRANTS:

37,582

APPROVALS AND PERMITS:

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Gasoline            | 2,705 |
| Garages             | 2,302 |
| Dangerous Chemicals | 512   |

NECROLOGY

Three active members and six pensioned members died during the past year:

Private Joshua C. Greenhalgh, Active Member - Died 6/13/56

Battalion Chief Samuel A. Fogell, Active member - Died 8/27/56

Assistant Superintendent Frank W. Schrage Active Member - Died 10/29/56

Daniel R. Munroe Pensioned Member - died January 21, 1956

Luke P. McGarty " " - died February 22, 1956

Joseph J. Ellis " " - died August 28, 1956

Louis H. Cole " " - died October 14, 1956

John B. O'Donnell " " - died October 16, 1956

Howard E. Mowery " " - died October 18, 1956

FROM: Norman Jones, Director of Division of Training

TO: The Chief of Department

SUBJECT: Annual Report

Sir: Activities for the new year began with a conference at the office of the Chief of Department concerning the possibility of conducting the 16th Trainee School. A tentative date, March 1, 1956 was set by the Chief as a probable time for convening.

Receiving applicants and the processing of applications continued daily until a deadline was set for this particular school.

A "Block Ad" pertaining to the closing date for applicants for this school was requested on January 11, 1956. The request being granted, notice concerning application for eligibility and appointment was published in the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin for three consecutive days, conveying information to the effect that application for the next School of Trainees to be convened would have to be made prior to 5:00 P.M. on the 27th day of January, 1956.

During the interim, a directive was received from the Chief of Department to prepare examinations for promotion to Chief of Department and to Deputy Chief, for the City of Warwick Fire Department, Warwick, R. I.

The examination was conducted on Tuesday, January 24, 1956, at the Division of Training Headquarters, 274 Reservoir Ave. in which thirteen qualified applicants competed. The results subsequently being given to the Fire Department Commissioners of the City of Warwick by Chief of Department Lewis A. Marshall, in my presence.

#### 16TH TRAINEE SCHOOL

An Equivalency Screening Test was given at the Division of Training on January 31, 1956, by Messrs. John P. Cronin, Director of Recreation in the City of Providence, Guido Cerrilli, Principal of George J. West Jr. High School and C. Bird Keach, local Attorney, to 14 applicants for appointment to the 16th Trainees School who had not completed the required 10 grades of formal education. Two of the applicants failed to pass the test.

A competitive examination was conducted on Monday Evening, February 6, at Central High School for 84 qualified applicants for acceptance into the school.

The 15 highest scoring applicants competing in this examination were physically examined on February 21 by the Department Surgeon, Dr. Arthur Rattenni and the Deputy Surgeon, Dr. Joseph M. A. Parrillo, following which, blood tests and x-rays were taken at the Dr. Charles V. Chapin Hospital to complete the examination. One applicant failed to qualify and was medically rejected. The vacancy being filled by the next highest scorer on the qualified list who incidentally succeeded in passing these tests.

About this time, there were indications that vacancies would occur within the ensuing six months that would require a larger group in training to maintain personnel requirements at the expiration of the stipulated training period. Consequently, upon receipt of a directive from the Chief of Department, an additional ten men, fully qualified according to rules and regulations were



notified of their status, reported for physical examination, passed successfully, to complete a complement of twenty-five men convening for the 16th Trainee School.

As a result of time being consumed in the process, convening of the 16th Trainee School occurred on April 16, 1956, at 8:00 A.M. rather than March 12, for which we had planned.

Following thirteen weeks Basic and Unit Training under the direct training and supervision of the Division of Training personnel, plus thirteen weeks training, advanced stage, with various units such as Engine, Ladder and Rescue Companies, the school successfully concluded on October 16, 1956, with appointment to the Department and permanent assignment of its twenty-five members.

Foresight in rendering the decision to increase the number of trainees in this class from fifteen to twenty-five men proved significant on occasions when combat personnel utilized this additional manpower. Particularly, during the celebration of our National Holiday, July 3rd to July 5th at which time all Division of Training personnel was assigned to assist regular combat personnel.

Three "Units", fully equipped and manned were assigned to Command Post #32 located at the corner of Dudley and Tanner Streets. During this period, these units recorded the extinguishing of fourteen fires to which they had been dispatched. One unit also was assigned to Battalion #1 and responded from Headquarters at Branch Avenue and North Main Street, serving well, according to reports received.

#### EXAMINATIONS

Thursday evening, March 29, 1956, a conference was held with the Fire Commissioners and the Superintendent of Schools of the City of Warwick, R. I., relative to conducting competitive examinations for promotion to the rank of Captain and to the rank of Lieutenant in the Warwick Fire Department.

It was concluded that the Division of Training, Providence Fire Department, would conduct the examinations in Lockwood High School, City of Warwick.

Preparation for the examinations was completed in time and subsequently held for Captain on May 1, 1956, and for Lieutenant on May 15, 1956, in which 34 and 37 qualified members competed, respectively.

Both examinations were conducted by the Division of Training personnel under the supervision of Chief of Department Lewis A. Marshall and the Superintendent of Warwick Schools.

In both instances, the results in precise order of finish were submitted to the Board of Fire Commissioners in that city.

#### ANNUAL PUMP AND HOSE TEST

General Orders No. 18, Series 1956, was issued on May 18, 1956 relative to the annual pump and hose test in accordance with schedule therein.

Pursuant to this order, with aid from and under the supervision of the Superintendent of Automotive Repair, the tests were conducted according to

N. B. F. U. standards by the Director of Training, with Trainees of the 16th School laying hose, picking up and repacking the hose compartments on all apparatus tested.

Tests began on June 4 and ended on June 27. After making necessary calculations, the final report was submitted to the Chief of Department on July 30, 1956.

#### PROMOTIONAL SCHOOL

A directive from the Chief of Department to make preparations for a promotional class, "Privates' Section" tentatively in the month of September, also for a "Trainees' Class" in October was received on July 17, 1956.

Action regarding this directive was taken and an "Announcement" relative to the promotional school was issued on July 26, 1956 followed by General Orders No. 32, Series 1956, Re: QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, issued August 21, 1956 to the effect that the examination would be held in Central High School on Monday, August 27, 1956 at 7:00 P.M.

Eighty-three qualified Privates took the competitive examination for the purpose of selecting ten men obtaining the highest score to enter the Promotional School for training and certification to undertake the rank and responsibilities of Lieutenant in the Fire Department.

In sequence of scores attained, the ten highest scoring competitors were accepted.

Procedure according to Rules and Regulations was complied with on September 4, 1956 in submitting a certified list of appointees to the Privates' Section of the Promotional School, Class of September 10, 1956.

The prescribed course of studies consisted of such subjects as follows:

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Fire Department Administration          | Chemistry of Fire                 |
| Building Code and Structural Hazards    | Detection of Incendiarism         |
| Electrical Regulations and Hazards      | Operation and Responsibility of   |
| Oil Burner Regulations and Hazards      | Bureau of Operational Control     |
| Air Pollution resulting from Open Fires | Care and Maintenance of Apparatus |
| Sprinkler Protection and Operation      | Ladders, Construction and Use     |
| Water Supply System                     | Ventilation                       |
| Hydraulics (Fire Service)               | First Aid and Rescue Techniques   |
|   | Fire Department Tactics           |

Upon completion of lectures and demonstrations, oral and blackboard examinations on tactical problems, written examinations, the quality of their note books and submitting a thesis, scores attained by the individual were compiled to determine the position in which the appointee finished.

Certification for advancement to the rank of Lieutenant in sequence of finish was submitted to the Chief of Department on September 26, 1956.

#### 17TH TRAINEE SCHOOL

Immediately following the completion of that school, rating and grading of qualified applicants for the 17th Trainee School was begun. It was found

necessary during this procedure to again secure the services of the Equivalency Board to examine five applicants lacking the required, certified, basic formal education.

The Equivalency Board met on October 5, 1956 and as each applicant succeeded in passing the examination -- equivalent to two full years of High School -- his name was placed on the qualified list.

Notice concerning application for appointment to the 17th School for Trainees had previously been published in the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin on August 17, 18, and 20, 1956.

On October 6, 1956, all qualified candidates seeking appointment to the 17th Trainees School received written notice to the effect that a competitive examination would be held on October 11, 1956, at 7:00 P.M. in Central High School, Pond Street.

Forty-four applicants took the examination, whereupon determining the final highest graded score of each applicant, a sufficient number to meet the requirement for recruitment standing highest on the list was notified to report for physical examination.

In the meantime, preparations were made to conduct an examination on "Fire Service Hydraulics" at the Division of Training for the East Providence Fire Department, in which five officers were competing for the rank of Deputy Chief. The assumption of responsibility for this particular phase of the examinations to be taken was accepted by Chief of Department Lewis A. Marshall.

On October 23, 1956, at 10:00 A.M. the examination was held as agreed, at the Division of Training, under the supervision of our Chief of Department.

Physical examination of the fifteen selected applicants for the 17th Trainee School occurred on October 26, 1956. All were passed by Chief Surgeon Dr. Arthur Rattenni and Deputy Surgeon Dr. Joseph M. Parrillo, following which, the applicants reported to the Dr. Charles V. Chapin Hospital for x-rays and blood tests.

Notices to the effect that the school would convene on Monday, November 19, 1956 at 8:00 P.M. were mailed on Saturday, November 10, 1956.

The 17th Trainee School convened as scheduled on November 19, 1956, with all selected applicants present.

After two and one-half days of training, one of the Trainees decided he was incapable of completing the training and lacked adaptability for fire-fighting service, consequently requested separation from the school. The request was accepted, granted, and separation recorded.

In order to continue training as the weather became unfavorable for outside work, it was imperative that we seek quarters within the city with facilities adequately supplying the need. On December 10, 1956, through the cooperation of Brigadier General and Adjutant General John M. McGreevy of the R. I. National Guard, the rink at the Armory of Mounted Commands, North Main St. was secured for the time required, thus making it possible to continue with an improvised training program regardless of weather conditions.

Inasmuch as the class is in its first phase of training at this writing, so it will be as we approach and begin the year 1957.

Lacking some of the facilities necessary for a modern and progressive training program, we have been fortunate in obtaining -- because of their sincere interest in Fire Department training -- the use of facilities and instructors of Providence College and the Grinnell Corp. in making our program a complete success.

Cooperation and assistance in giving Lectures, Demonstrations and Instructions was manifest in the presence -- when requested -- of the Inspector of Buildings, the Chief Engineer of the Water Supply Board, the Public Service Engineer, the Air Pollution Engineer, and various members of our Fire Department. The Equivalency Board, this year, as always, has been very considerate and cooperative when called upon for examinations.

To all who have contributed in making our training program a success, we take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the courtesy and cooperation extended us during the year.

Whether engaged in actual training or not, the policy of aiding by demonstration, supplying information verbally or literally in relation to fire service problems, is still in effect for those who seek it, and I am pleased to inform you that many members of the Department have taken advantage of it.

Department personnel records are constantly maintained as usual by members of the Division assigned to that duty.

Since the Department requires several types of "Forms" for the preparation and keeping of records, considerable time is utilized in mimeographing them as well as in doing other jobs for which this Division is equipped.

Respectfully submitted,

Batt. Chief Norman Jones  
Director of Training

FROM: Francis J. O'Brien, Chief of Bureau of Operational Control.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

The following is the report of activities of the Bureau of Operational Control for the year ending December 31, 1956.

The duties of the members of this division consists of receiving alarms via telephone and fire alarm equipment, the rapid dispatching of proper apparatus, and accurate transmitting of alarms, the relaying of important messages between various divisions of the Fire Department and on many occasions, using their experienced judgment in extreme emergencies because delays or mistakes can be costly or fatal. They also operate the department's extensive two-way radio system, and conduct the daily routine test of fire alarm equipment, such as taken circuit readings and entering same on sheets provided. The fire alarm box tests are conducted daily and a record of same is kept on file at this office. They also take a very important part in the Civil Defense Warning System in the City of Providence.

During the past year a total of 6,425 alarms and emergency (telephone and box) were transmitted to the department over the vocalarm and radio, in addition to handling all the inter-departmental communications through the fire alarm telephone switchboard.

As this division is responsible for the effective and accurate dispatching of department units and personnel, it is my privilege to report the dispatching companies to alarms of fire and other emergencies by voice over the vocalarm and radio has proven to be highly efficient.

During the year of 1956 the radio network of the fire department has continued to grow and all fire fighting units plus service units are now equipped with two-way radio, giving this division direct contact with, and under control of, the dispatcher during periods when they are absent from quarters.

As time is the greatest factor in fighting and controlling fires, may I call to your attention the readiness of the members of the department who, in an off-duty status were recalled to duty on several occasions during the past year. This has aided this division in replacing reserve apparatus in service in depleted areas where the inventory of available companies had been reduced by multiple alarm fires.

The following is an example of the ability to rise to an emergency by the members of the department who were off duty and responded to their respective stations to man the reserve apparatus on November 30, 1956. At which time eleven engines and three ladder companies plus three Battalion Chief's and the Chief of the Department were engaged in fighting a multiple alarm fire on West Exchange Street. On orders from the Chief of Department the off-duty members were recalled to duty to man the reserve apparatus at 11.24 P. M.

FROM: Francis J. O'Brien, Chief of Bureau of Operational Control.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report. continued.

Reserve Apparatus Placed in Service

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 11.49 P. M. | Engine 14      |
| 11.49 P. M. | Batt. Chief #3 |
| 11.52 P. M. | Engine 6       |
| 11.56 P. M. | Batt. Chief #1 |
| 11.59 P. M. | Engine 8       |
| 12.00 A. M. | Engine 17      |
| 12.03 A. M. | Engine 2       |
| 12.05 A. M. | Engine 7       |
| 12.06 A. M. | Engine 3       |
| 12.08 A. M. | Engine 12      |
| 12.10 A. M. | Ladder 6       |
| 12.20 A. M. | Engine 9       |
| 12.23 A. M. | Batt. Chief #2 |
| 12.35 A. M. | Ladder 4       |

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Francis J. O'Brien  
Battalion Chief.

FROM: Leo E. Gorman, Battalion Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

I herewith submit for your consideration and approval the following Annual Report for the Bureau of Fire Prevention for the year ending December 31, 1956.

The unusually high fire loss for the year 1956 would, at first glance, lead one to the conclusion that there was a lessening of Fire Prevention efforts on the part of the department during the year 1956 while, actually, the direct opposite of this conclusion is true. Fire Prevention still plays a major roll in the activities of the department. A careful analysis of the situation will reveal that there are certain inescapable factors over which the department has no control that accounts, in a large measure, for the high fire losses during 1956.

The spiraling costs of labor and materials will to a great degree have a tendency to spiral the final adjustment figures in every instance where damage to property by fires occur.

Secondly a constant threat to every community is the pyromaniac. Providence was visited by a pyromaniac during 1956 and before he was apprehended and placed in protective custody he was responsible for having deliberately set fires in the downtown, high value district that accounted for over a half million dollars of the total fire losses for 1956.

Finally, the ever present bugaboo of every fire department is delayed discovery and notification. This factor is responsible for determining the difference between a small fire that can be controlled with little or no property loss and a fire of serious proportions that usually results in monumental losses. In several cases last year this one factor alone accounted for some of the city's largest loss fires. One such instance was the fire which occurred on the morning of November 4, 1956, at 47 Pine Street. By the time the first apparatus arrived on the scene it was evident that both the building and contents were a total loss. The final adjustment amounted \$170,000.00 on both contents and building, representing a total loss on both. Factors such as those described above do not help any department's fire loss record. It is also, in my opinion, no reflection on the efficiency of a department's Fire Prevention program.

I would like to call to your attention the efficient work performed by members of this Bureau, working in conjunction with the Police Department, in the apprehension of the pyromaniac. Through diligent and efficient work on the part of Captain Fitzgerald the suspect who had been picked up and released by the police, was again apprehended and after lengthly questioning admitted sufficient evidence to warrant the Grand Jury recommending that he be placed under observation at the State Mental Hospital where he is at the present time.

During the year 1956 the Bureau lost the services of one of its members through retirement. Lieutenant Frederick J. O'Brien, was retired and placed

FROM: Leo E. Gorman, Battalion Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report. (continued)

upon the pension rolls of the department effective October 14, 1956. During his long service with the Bureau Lieutenant O'Brien organized and developed a school fire safety program that was recognized as one of the finest programs of its kind in the United States. Lieutenant O'Brien's school program has been taken over by Inspector Warren R. Kirk.

During the year the Bureau's darkroom was completed and went into operation and has proved most valuable in furthering our photographic operations. During the year Inspector Almagno took and, developed a total of 1116 pictures of various departmental activities.

The Annual Fire Prevention Week program was launched in Providence with a huge parade of old and new fire apparatus followed by an old time Firemens' Muster on the Dexter Training Grounds. The parade was the largest of its kind ever held in the city with apparatus from every community in the state in the line of march. Also included in the line of march was old time hand drawn pumps from all over New England, some of them dating back many years. At the conclusion of the parade the old time "tubs" proceeded to the Training Grounds to compete in the Muster. This feature of Fire Prevention Week proved to be the high light of the Week's activities.

At the present time the personnel of the Bureau consists of the following: one Battalion Chief, one Captain and eight Inspectors. Three members of the Bureau are assigned special duties as follows: one member assigned to clerical and records work, one is assigned full time to the School Fire Prevention program and the third member is assigned as departmental photographer.

I would like to thank the various departments of the City Government namely the Building Inspector's department, Public Service Engineer, Health Department, Air Pollution Engineer, City Solicitors office and various other City departments for their excellent cooperation accorded the Bureau throughout the year.

I would also like at this time to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Fire Prevention Committee of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce for their fine cooperation and assistance during the year.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Commissioner of Public Safety to the Chief of Department and to all those within the department who, in any way, cooperated and assisted the Bureau during the year.

The following is a concise report of the activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau for the year, 1956.



FROM: Leo E. Gorman, Battalion Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report. (continued)

INVESTIGATION: (of complaints received)

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Complaints corrected         | 641 |
| " unjustified                | 52  |
| Building razed               | 41  |
| " repaired                   | 5   |
| Referred to Health Dept.     | 22  |
| " " Bldg. Insp.              | 190 |
| " " Pub. Serv. Engr.         | 38  |
| Request of occupants         | 23  |
| Defective chimney-smoke pipe | 49  |
| Fire Escapes-Panic Bolts     | 22  |
| Obstructed exits             | 34  |
| Open exposures               | 170 |
| Burning rubbish              | 240 |
| Rubbish condition corrected  | 424 |

FIRES:

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Fires investigated              | 1213 |
| Suspicious fires                | 52   |
| Fires referred to Juvenile Div. | 10   |
| Fire losses investigated        | 847  |
| Court cases                     | 2    |

PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Bingo                          | 418 |
| Exhibitions-Boxing-Hockey Etc. | 12  |
| Carnivals                      | 3   |

INSPECTIONS: (Regular)

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Original inspections         | 922  |
| Re-inspections               | 1121 |
| Theaters                     | 83   |
| Convalescent Homes           | 8    |
| Nursing Homes                | 3    |
| Homes for children           | 31   |
| Hospitals                    | 14   |
| Schools                      | 175  |
| Orphanages                   | 2    |
| Storage of vehicles          | 11   |
| Gasoline applications        | 52   |
| Gasoline tanks               | 24   |
| Dangerous Chem. Applications | 50   |

FROM: Leo E. Gorman, Battalion Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report. (continued)

DEMONSTRATIONS-LECTURES-ETC.

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Fire Prev. Demonstrations | 46     |
| " " " Attendance at       | 2510   |
| Moving Picture Showings   | 57     |
| " " " Attendance at       | 11,191 |
| Lecture-Talk              | 74     |
| " " Attendance At         | 8,486  |
| Conferences attended      | 13     |
| Radio Broadcast           | 15     |
| Television Broadcast      | 7      |
| Fire Drills conducted     | 84     |

MISCELLANEOUS:

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| No Smoking Signs Issued   | 770               |
| Warning Slips Issued      | 2                 |
| Photographs Taken         | 1116              |
| Extra Hous Worked         | 808 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Pamphlets Distributed     | 4904              |
| Books Distributed         | 1210              |
| Posters Distributed       | 1044              |
| Public Displays Set Up    | 14                |
| Cub Scout Visits          | 17                |
| Sprinkler Shut-Off        | 28                |
| Inspection Aux. Lights    | 6                 |
| Boston University Seminar | 1                 |

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Leo E. Gorman  
Chief, Bureau of  
Fire Prevention.

FROM: Gordon Jones, Supt. Maintenance, Repair Shop.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

I respectfully submit for your approval the following report of the Automotive Repair and Maintenance Division, for the year ending December 31, 1956.

The Automotive Repair Division is located at 382 Dexter Street. This is a modern one story brick building equipped with machinery and tools and supplied with the necessary parts and materials used for the maintenance of fire apparatus and appliances used in the Department.

The duties of this Division is to keep in proper repair and good working condition all motor apparatus, comprising a total of 78 units. Forty-eight of these units are major fire fighting units. This total includes Motor Pumping Engines, Aerial Ladder Trucks, City Service Trucks, Rescue and Salvage Trucks and Auxiliary Units. The remaining thirty units are comprised of automobiles and trucks assigned to the Chief Officers and the various divisions of the Department.

In order to perform the duties incumbent on the Division we have in our employ qualified mechanics for the repair and upkeep of apparatus and appliances.

During the past year supervision and maintenance of pumping units at all multiple alarms of fire assured the fire fighting forces an adequate supply of water for hand lines and master streams. In addition to the aforementioned it is the duty of the Division to supervise all acceptance tests for new apparatus and annual service tests of hose and all pumping units within the Department.

The following is a summary of jobs completed in the past year:

|                   |     |                 |     |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Engines Rebuilt   | 1   | Fire Pumps      | 3   |
| Transmissions     | 2   | Minor Repairs   | 765 |
| Differentials     | 1   | Battery Changes | 876 |
| Motor Inspections | 28  | Oil Changes     | 293 |
| Grease Jobs       | 283 |                 |     |

One overaged aerial and 2 city service trucks were disposed of.

In addition to the above summary numerous minor jobs were completed in company quarters. Homelite pumps and generators used for lighting at night fires were also serviced.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Gordon Jones.

FROM: Henry van Westendorp, Superintendent of Fire Alarm.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

During the year 1956, this Division devoted most of its time in an effort to make permanent repairs to the overhead and the underground plant which had received considerable damage during the hurricane of 1954. This work has now been completed and in my opinion, our overhead wiring is in better shape than it has been in a number of years.

New wire has been installed in a great number of places where the wire was considered to be in a dangerous condition but due to the fact that we have a total of about 124 miles of this type of construction, there is still a considerable amount of old wire in service. This will be replaced as and when it is felt that it is necessary.

At the same time, we have been making progress with the overhead wiring of the Police signal system and much work has been done in bringing that system to a better state. A start has also been made in the replacing of a number of Police Call Boxes that have been giving a lot of trouble and as some of these boxes are up to 50 years old, it is felt that this work should be expedited. For the current year, we have an appropriation for 20 of these boxes and in the coming years, we hope to replace many more of them.

Due to the relocation of a number of streets and intersections in connection with the building of the new Providence River Bridge, it has been necessary for us to relocate a considerable amount of our underground ducts and pedestals and also to install a considerable amount of new underground cables. This work has progressed satisfactorily to date but at the moment we are being held up by a cable manufacturer who is not making deliveries as promised. However, we hope that this material will be delivered before the relocation of Eddy and Dyer Streets, which is where it is to be used. It is not expected that the final work on this part of the project will start until Spring.

During the past year, it has been possible to extend the Fire Alarm Box coverage of the city again. During this year, we have installed a total of 12 new Fire Alarm Boxes, 7 of these are public street boxes and the other 5 are all privately owned boxes of the Master Box type, giving manual and automatic protection to the owners of the properties. At the present time, there are in service 914 boxes in all. At the request of the owners of private boxes, we removed 2 of these boxes from service during this year.

As in the past, this Division has been combining the facilities of the Police Signal System with the Fire Alarm Division and it has been possible to eliminate a number of Police Call Box pedestals by installing combination Fire and Police box pedestals for the use of both services. It is expected that this work will continue until all single use pedestals have been eliminated.

FROM: Henry van Westendorp, Superintendent of Fire Alarm.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report (continued)

Radio equipment has been installed in additional mobile units during the past year so that at the present time we have installations in all of the apparatus which is normally in service but also in several reserve Battalion Chiefs' cars. This equipment has furnished invaluable service to the department and the maintenance of this equipment has been one of the most important functions of this Division. As the mobile units of the department are completely equipped at the present time and as some of the older units of the radio equipment have about reached the end of their life expectancy, it is planned to start to replace this worn out equipment on a gradual basis in the coming years. It is believed that this can be done by using the funds which are appropriated annually in the Fire Department Budget. By maintaining the present figures, it is expected that the entire radio network can be replaced about every 10 years, barring any great increase in the cost of new equipment.

As in the past, this Division has continued to maintain all of the electrical installations on the Fire and Police Department buildings and in a number of cases these installations have been found to be in such condition that it has been necessary to make extensive alterations to the original equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Henry van Westendorp  
Superintendent.

FROM: Michael Sabatino, Supt. Building Repairs.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

I hereby submit the operational report of the Department of Building Maintenance and Repairs for the year of 1956.

This department is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of both the Police and Fire Department buildings. There has been considerable repairs, redecorating, and remodeling during this year. The interior of the following Fire Stations were repainted and redecorated: Academy Ave., Allens Avenue, Humboldt Avenue, Broad Street and also the Carpenter Shop. Two entrance doors were replaced at Allens Avenue and also painted. The exterior of the following buildings was also repainted: Academy Avenue, Franklin Street, Allens Avenue, Broad Street and the Ladder shed at Dexter Street drill yard. Numerous apparatus doors were also repainted. Point Street station was repointed, a new chimney was built and the building was waterproofed. Our department replaced all missing bricks and recemented all loose bricks on steps of Police Division of Training. Stairways at headquarters, LaSalle Square, were painted; walls at Police garage were painted and numbered for detective cars; also traffic lines were painted at the Police garage, LaSalle Square. All garage doors at Chad Brown Street were painted. Pistol Range, including all metal mountings for targets were painted. There were also two hundred traffic horses painted and lettered. Sixty hydrant standards were repaired, painted and set out around the city for the Fire Department. Two hundred hydrant markers were painted and lettered and delivered to supply room for the Fire Department. New overhead doors were installed at the Franklin Street Fire Station and also Fire Alarm garage at Bucklin Street. These doors were painted on the interior and exterior. New acoustic tiles were installed on ceiling at Humboldt Avenue Station and new asphalt tile floors were applied to three floors at Academy Avenue and to the dormitory and kitchen floors at the Franklin Street Station. New wood cabinets were made, installed and painted at Broad Street and Franklin Street Stations.

New window casement, including forty lites of glass and new locks were installed at the Pistol Range. Also a series of twelve movable targets were made, painted and installed. Many new cement forms were required for the targets and also a new standing platform was made for man operating this target. New shutters were made and a new door was installed.

Numerous padlocks were replaced on gasoline pumps and iron gate at the Pistol Range. Seventy-two lites of glass were installed at various fire and police stations. New locks were supplied and installed for metal lockers at the Division of Training, Ladder 1, Rescue 1 and the Repair Shop, Dexter Street. New copper gutters and conductor pipes were installed at Chad Brown Street garage. Many fire station doors were repaired and various minor carpenter jobs were completed. New counter tops were replaced at Admiral Street, Branch Avenue and North Main Street stations. There were also new locks installed and various locks repaired at many Police and Fire Stations. A new battery bench was made and painted for Sabin Street Police garage, also new racks for stolen goods were made for the detective division. Also a new sink rack was made for the fingerprint developing room for the Police Department. Brass poles were removed at Rochambeau Avenue

FROM: Michael Sabatino, Supt. Building Repairs.

TO; The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report (continued)

station pole holes were covered with plywood and painted. Frames with mesh screening were made, painted and installed at the rear of the North Main Street station and Messer Street station for protection of windows.

Eight CO<sub>2</sub> extinguishers were installed on walls of Sabin Street Police Garage and LaSalle Square Garage. Many roofs were repaired for leaks at the following stations: Academy Avenue, Brook Street, Messer Street, Admiral Street, Sabin Street garage, Division of Training and the Carpenter Shop. New window sills were installed and painted at the Drill Tower, Dexter Street for the Division of Training. Many new door checks were installed and others were repaired at various stations.

New Sloan flush valves and new handles were installed at many stations and headquarters, LaSalle Square. Numerous air valves were installed on radiators at both Police and Fire buildings. New condensation pumps were installed at the Broad Street and Branch Avenue stations and new aquastits were installed at the repair shop, Dexter Street and the Academy Avenue station. New Newton traps and new piping for lavatory and water closet and new valves were installed at the repair shop, Dexter Street. Water glass gauges were replaced and repacked with new washers and seven new Trane air vent valves were replaced on heating units at various Police and Fire Buildings. New water closet seats were installed at Academy Avenue, Franklin Street, Point Street and the CYO Gym. Robust-rust remover was applied to all heating systems and Fusol was applied to all oil tanks at the Police and Fire stations. Many water closets were repaired and other units were replaced. Clogged sewer lines were freed and many steam lines were also repaired.

Two hundred dog license posters were made and distributed throughout the city. New rubber hoses and nozzles were replaced on gasoline pumps at Brook Street, Admiral Street, Humboldt Avenue, Ladder 1 LaSalle Square and Sabin Street Police garage. Considerable plaster work was done at various stations. Many urinals were cleaned and packings were replaced and supplied with deodorant blocks. This department also supplies all stations with paint brushes for painting hydrant markers. Considerable linoleum was recemented at various stations and Police buildings. A new tankless heater was installed at the Division of Training, Reservoir Avenue. A new cement apron and asphalt driveway were laid and a new fence was erected at the Rochambeau Avenue station. Two hundred feet of pipe was installed at the Pistol Range, Situate, R. I. for the new water pump to be used for watering the lawn.

This department is also in charge of all lawns at every station and also the lawn at the Pistol Range. These lawns are regraded, reseeded and fertilized each spring. We are in charge of maintaining all landscaping equipment. There has been considerable work done by this department in cooperation with the Fire Prevention Bureau during Fire Prevention Week. We repainted the model home that is stored at the Carpenter Shop at Manton Avenue. We also assisted in erecting same in front of City Hall. We hung and removed the Fire Prevention banner between City Hall and the Sheriton-Biltmore Hotel. This department is also called upon to hang banners for different charitable organizations during the year.

FROM: Michael Sabatino, Supt. Building Repairs.

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report (continued)

This department delivered and returned the power lawn mower to the Situate Pistol Range weekly during the spring and summer months. We also provided them with two hundred feet of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, two hundred feet of garden hose, four lawn sprayers, nozzles, grass clippers, a new grass catcher and fifty feet of  $3/4$ " chemical hose.

A member of this department assisted in the inspection and lubricating of all hydrants in the city.

Numerous small jobs were also done by this department throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Michael Sabatino  
Supt.



FROM: Eugene L. Hawkins, Battalion Chief, Carpenter Shop.

TO: The Chief of Department

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

The following is the Annual Report on the work accomplished at the Carpenter Shop during the year ending December 31, 1956:

Approximately 210 feet of new ladders were built, which include extension, folding, roof and stepladders. A total of 568 feet of broken and burned ladders were repaired. Ladders tightened, sanded and given two coats of varnish amounted to 1624 feet.

Ladder #10's 85' aerial ladder was straightened, sanded and given two coats of varnish.

Thirty-six handles were put in axes.  
Six handles were put in pick mauls.  
Ten handles were put in plaster pole hooks.  
Made five new hose poles.  
Forty-one pieces of furniture were repaired.  
Made four typewriting tables.  
Made fourteen battery boxes.  
Made seventy gas mask boxes.  
Made four boxes to hold Scott Air Pacs.  
Made six wooden horses for ladder companies.  
Made three large and six small blackboards.  
Made eight boxes to hold Indian Pumps.  
Made two new screen doors and repaired six.  
Made two new platforms for life net compartments.  
Made and installed box for underneath rear step for Engine Co. #4.  
Cut out fifteen holders which are used to hold salvage covers while drying.  
Made a total of forty-two feet of benches to hold equipment in Fire Alarm Building Basement.  
Made platform to hold E & J Recessitator in truck of Battalion Chief #3's car.  
Cut out thirty-six dog license signs.  
Made one hundred wooden Police horses.  
Turned sixty night sticks for Division of Training.  
Built cabinet to hold Alco Meter for Traffic Division.  
Built three 4' x 6' cabinets to hold supplies at Engine Co. #3.  
Built one 2' x 7' cabinet for Engine Co. #3.  
Built one large frame to hold District Maps for Engine Co. #3  
Put shelves in three cupboards and made one cabinet for Division of Training.  
Made two Mahogany finish cabinets to hold Fire Prevention Records for Contest.  
During the year the Fire Prevention Booth was set up at the Auditorium, North Main Street and Cranston Street Armory also in front of the City Hall.

FROM: Eugene L. Hawkins, Battalion Chief, Carpenter Shop,

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report (continued)

Built four 7' tables for Civilian Defense.

This report summaries the work turned out in the Carpenter Shop. There were many smaller items, too numerous to mention, made and repaired for both the Fire and Police Departments throughout the year ending December 31, 1956.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Eugene L. Hawkins  
Battalion Chief.

FROM: Frederick L. Badger, Captain, Rescue Co. No. 1

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

Calls for Rescue service have increased steadily during the past year, as indicated by an average monthly response of 153.6 calls as compared with an average monthly response of 135.7 calls during 1955. This shows an increase of 13% in calls answered this year over last year.

Instructions in First Aid and Rescue were given to the following groups:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Providence Police Reserves-----22  | Thornton Fire and Ambulance Corps----40 |
| Seekonk Fire Dept. - Hose 1-----20 | Interns, Nurses, and Orderlies at       |
|                                    | Veterans Adm. Hospital.-----20          |

Following is a breakdown of activities during 1956

|                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Boxes-----134                        | Hanging-----2                       |
| Stills-----1695                      | Transportation-----80               |
| Special Signals-----10               | Oxygen Used ("E" cylinders)-----197 |
| Second Alarms-----2                  | Generator-----6                     |
| Third Alarms-----2                   | Smoke ejector-----8                 |
| First Aid Rendered-----1277          | Electric saw-----1                  |
| E & J Inhalator & Resuscitator---339 | Electric drill-----3                |
| Revivals-----243                     | Extra hours-----69                  |
| Fatals-----86                        | Hours of drills-----92              |
| Refrigerator leaks-----16            | Hours of instructions-----196       |
| Water Rescues-----1                  | Suffocations-----2                  |
| Drownings-----1                      | Lights (500 Watt)-----5             |
| Boat used-----7                      | Scott Air Paks-----16               |
| Automobile accidents-----125         | All Service Masks-----4             |
| Elevator accidents-----3             | Port-Power-----5                    |
| Child birth assists-----30           | Miscellaneous-----119               |

1,843 calls were responded to, which required 669 hours , 42 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frederick L. Badger, Captain.

FROM: Arthur Brodeur, Captain, Rescue Co. No. 2

TO: The Chief of Department.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Sir:

Instructions in First-Aid and Rescue was given to the following groups.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 110 Men in Swansea Mass. Area        | 12 Members Prov. Washington Ins. Co.  |
| 25 Men in Bristol, R. I. "           | 15 Members R. I. Hospital Trust Co.   |
| 18 Girl Scouts in the city           | 20 Members Industrial Trust Co.   |
| 36 Prov. Police trainees (2 groups)  | 30 Students of Bryant College   |
| 18 Nurses at Veterans Hospital       | 80 Lifeguards at Lincoln Woods were<br>given artificial respiration<br>training |
| 125 Men of Scituate ambulance corp's |   |
| 25 Men of Finnegan Council K. of C.  | 60 Members of Rescue in Warren area   |

First aid courses given

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 25 Providence Fire Trainees<br>(Standard course)            | 16 Industrial nurses<br>(Standard course) |
| 73 Permanent firemen Prov. Fire<br>(Advanced certification) | 10 Prospective fire Lieutenants           |

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Attended Rescue convention at Topsfield Mass. (2 days)

Aquatic school. Colchester Conn. (10 Days)

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|                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Boxes-----173                         | Emergency transportation-----136 |
| Stills-----1622                       | Auto accidents-----103           |
| Time required on runs-535 Hrs. 4 min. | Maternity cases-----16           |
| Extra hours-----158 " 56 "            | Generators used-----14           |
| First aid rendered-----1202           | Lights - 500 Watt-----30         |
| E & J Breathing machine--421          | Ejectors, smoke-----26           |
| Water rescues-----6                   | Saw & Drill used-----2           |
| Boat & Motor used-----9               | Drownings-----1                  |
| Refrigerator leaks-----20             | Salvage covers used-----9        |
| Ammonia leaks-----2                   | Hangings-----2                   |
| Oxygen cylinders used---348           | Elevator accidents-----6         |

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Arthur Brodeur  
Captain.

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PROVIDENCE, R.I.