

THE "BIGHOUSE" OPENS.....

November 10, 1930-- A modern first-class fireproof fire station was opened today, in Bowdoin Square. The new station was erected at a cost of \$347905.03, excluding land; and will house Engine 4; Engine 6; Lad. 24; Rescue 3; Tower 1; and District Chief 4.

(from BFD Ann. Report - 1930)

* * * * *

1930 - A "REALLY BIG" YEAR.....

For the BFD, it was a "BIG" year...along with closing of firehouses on Bulfinch St. (E4); Leverett St. (E6); and North Grove St. (L24); some 36 motor vehicles were purchased and put in service...included were 10 hose wagons; 1 pump; 3 trucks (two aeriels); 2 Federal Rescue wagons; 9 Hupmobile sedans; 4 Hupmobile coupes; etc.....

Fire-wise they had a "Big" year: 87 seconds - 20 thirds - 3 fourths - - 1 fifth - and 1 six-alarm fire (lumber yard in Charlestown --5 on box 4147 - 1 on Box 4162, on July 4th at 7:00 p.m.) and the "Iron Men" of 1930 fought 6 fires with damage over \$100000.00 in each....

A BIG change was made in the BFD in 1930...Boston Automatic Alarms were sent out by Fire Alarm Office...previously, Boston Automatic sent out the 2-2-2 alarms directly to the firehouses in the area of the alarm..... The BFD Band was formed, 150 men strong; and made its first public appearance in the Tercentenary Parade on Sept. 17, 1930.

It was recommended in 1930, to "build a new fireboat to replace one of the 3 now in service"..... a part of this recommendation was accepted 25 years later...in 1955 Engine 44 was deactivated....

To operate the Boston Fire Department in 1930, it cost \$4,642,216.53, aside from cost of new fire stations.

WHO OPENED THE "BIGHOUSE"?

The following named were on the payrolls on November 10th, 1930:

Engine 4: Capt. Carl Bowers; Lt. John Morrissey; Lt. John Smith; App. Oper. Walter Fitzgerald; App. Oper. Charles Culhane; Hosemen: John McGlinchey; William Flynn; Charles Geswell; Owen Murphy; Bernard McLaughlin; John McDonald; Robert Bonang; Thomas Ford; John King Jr.; John Carbone; Gerald Cusick; Francis Sheehan; Henry Byrnes and George Canon Jr.

Engine 6: Capt. Hugh Goodfellow; Capt. William Donovan; Lieut. Edw. Humphreys; Lieut. John McNamara; A.O. Frank Hoar; A.O. John Dwyer; HOSEMEN: Bernard Monagle; Charles Laubenstein; Francis Maloney; Joachim Testa; Walter Thompson; Dennis McLaughlin; Jos. Schiller; Hugh McArdle; John Fencer; Walter Bannon and James Curran.

Ladder 24: Capt. Walter Glynn; Lt. Philip Bradley; LADDERMEN: Michael Riley; William Cuddy Jr.; John C. Murphy; Charles Campbell; John J. Doherty; Martin Lombard; Mark Skiffington; John Donahue; William Fothergill; William Aylward; Fred Kavanaugh; James Collins and William Linehan.

Rescue 3: Capt. James Sheehan; Lt. Andrew Larson; Lt. Patrick E. Collins; HOSEMEN: Frank Walter; Jerome Sullivan; Stephen Sullivan; John Ritchie; Laurence Barry; Edward Burke; John McHugh; David Boles; Laurence McDonnell and Harry Murphy.

Tower 1: Lt. Joseph Burke; Lt. Daniel Mahoney; HOSEMEN: Louis Nolan; Frank McKenna; and Daniel Crowley.

District Chiefs Avery Howard and John J. McDonough, commanding Fire District Four.

cont. on pg.2

May 26, 1962

LADDER ONE MOVES INTO "BIGHOUSE"

On Tuesday, October 17, 1933, Lad. 1 was relocated from Friend Street to Bowdoin Square, manned by: Capt. Dennis Condon; Lieut. Maurice Buckley; LADDERMEN: John Degan; Cornelius Sullivan; Fred Russell; William Kelly; William Cheswell; John Concannon; John Hernon; Patrick Carroll; John Connerty; Alfred Ford; Peter Cotter; Joseph Hughes; Robert Ryan; James Mahoney; Charles McGranahan & Armand Caggiano.

LOCAL 718 IS BORN....

In April of 1942, Boston Fire Fighters Local 718 - IAFF - AFL was Chartered; and MANY members of the "Bighouse" signed that Charter.

At the Convention of the State Association of Firefighters in Springfield, Mass. in 1945, the 48-hour work week for Firefighters was initiated. Legislation was passed, and Boston Firefighters took advantage of it, by going on the Ballot.

WORK WEEK - BFD.....

In any week from 8:00 a.m. Sunday thru 8:00 a.m. the following Sunday, there are 168 hours.

Prior to 1924, Boston Firefighters worked 120 hours a week: 48 on - and then 24 off duty. That was called "The Day in Three". A full-paid Private got 24.34 for 120 hours, or 1265.68 a year.

On February 1, 1924, the "Two-Platoon System" was inaugurated whereby he worked only 84 hours a week; having 24 consecutive hours off every 6th day.

When the "Bighouse" opened, in 1930, with an 84-hour week, the salaries were:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Deputy Chief | 4500.00 |
| District Chief | 4000.00 |
| Captain | 2700.00 |
| Lieutenant | 2500.00 |
| Private (full-paid) | 2100.00 |

Some 31½ years later, May 26, 1962 with a 48-hour week, salaries are:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| (Gross Pay) | |
| Deputy Chief | 8500.00 |
| District Chief | 7700.00 |
| Captain | 6900.00 |
| Lieutenant | 6200.00 |
| Firefighter (full-pd) | 5500.00 |

Keep in mind that it took some THIRTY YEARS to make them changes.

A NEW ERA AT THE "BIGHOUSE"....

On February 15, 1946, Engine 10 was temporarily relocated to Bowdoin Square while a new house was being erected. From that date till the 4th of February 1947, the "Bighouse" had no equal in all the World as regards to manpower and/or, fire companies. For almost a year, just prior to the 48-hour week, Bowdoin Sq. house had within its confines Engine 4, Engine 6, Engine 10, Ladder 1, Ladder 24, Rescue 3 and District Chief 4.

The life of the BFD was very much altered on February 4th, 1947. And the "Bighouse" was a part of it. With Engine 6 being deactivated, and the 48-hour week starting the same day, MANY new faces appeared on the fire companies in the "Square".

cont. on pg. 3

May 26, 1962

Assigned to the "Bighouse" on Feb. 4, 1947 were:

Engine 4: Capt. Edmund Sheehan; Lt. Jos. Burke; Lt. Leo McCarthy; A.O. Charles Culhane; HOSEMEN: William Flynn; Francis Sheehan; John Carbone; Henry Byrnes; John Connerty; Walter Kelly; Francis Murphy; John McKenna; Arthur Larvey; Richard Kenneally; Vincent McCauley; William Ahern; Charles Laubenstein; Bernard Monagle; William Callaghan; Edward Hurley; John Fencer; Roger Cregg Jr.; David Heelan and Albert Sacco.

Ladder 24: Capt. John Broughton; Lt. Raymond Frazel; Lt. Stephen Riley; Lt. Carl Foss; LADDERMEN: John Murphy; John Brown; Thomas Savage; Fred Kavanaugh; Martin Lombard; Joseph Hurley; William A. Moore; Bertram Camick; Leo Wisentaner; Richard Mullen; Geo. Wade; Edward Lonergan; John Greene; Richard Berninger; John Vaughan; Lawrence Westholm and James Rolfe.

Ladder 1: Capt. Maurice Buckley; Lt. Charles Fleming; Lt. James Gullivan; LADDERMEN: Thomas Riley; Albert Ford; Joseph Hughes; Jos. Roper; Armando Caggiano; Vincent Iannello; Robert Drew; George Higbee; Fred Stetson; Harold Matulaitis; Frank McCormick; John Harrington; William E. Moore; Ray Ochs; Charles Pierce; Walter Kurpeski; Carl Shadhauser; James O'Brien and James McKernan.

Rescue 3: Capt. Thomas Mulhern; Lt. Kenneth Arnold; Lt. Philip O'Farrell; Lt. Edward Sullivan; HOSEMEN: Peter Finnegan; Owen Coyne; Florence Sullivan; Ernest Grimm; Paul Lombard; Edward Fitzgerald; Leo Manning; Charles Griffin; John Costello; Donald McKenna; Henry Kiernan; William Dower; Angelo Koutrouba; James Finch; Arthur Dolbeare; Daniel Moynihan; Timothy O'Brien; Joseph Houghton; James O'Neill; and Frank Gunning.

Engine 10: Capt. William Hart; Lt. Ralph MacKinnon; Capt. Lloyd Johnson (Mil. Service); HOSEMEN: Nicolas Connell; Daniel Collins; Thomas Hurley; Thomas Eggers; Jos. Daley; John Madden; William McGowan; George Lieghton; Philip Devlin; John Walsh; Frank Utley; Eugene McDevitt; Thomas Getherall; Arthur Zahn; Frank LaCambria; John Luongo; John undon; Robert Ceurvels; Ralph Berry and William Burke.

Tower 1: Alfred Smith; Frank McKenna; Garode Joyce; Joseph Schiller; Michael Corrigan; Joseph Griffin and Charles McEachern.

District Chiefs Michael Aylward; John Pettit and Franklin Sanborn.

LADDER ONE RELOCATED....

ENGINE TEN LEAVES BOWDOIN SQ...

On September 22nd, 1948, Lad. 1 left the "Bighouse" for relocation to a new house on Hanover Street, with Engine 8.

At 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 14th, 1949, Engine 10 left Bowdoin Square to be housed in the new station on River Street, Beacon Hill.

ENGINE SIX REACTIVATED.....

On April 27th, 1949, Engine 6 was reactivated in the "Bighouse" with the following named assigned: Capt. Charles Fleming; Capt. Raymond Frazel; Lt. Edward Owens; Lt. John Rose; HOSEMEN: Harry Rose; Alec Panasuk; Henry Miller; James Sheehan; John J. McDonough; Ralph Berry; Cornelius Quinlan; Thomas Eggers; Thomas Getherall; Thomas Hurley; Ralph DiCarolas; Robert Doheney; Arthur Marr; Roger Cregg; Joseph Schiller; and Harold Matulaitis.

cont. on pg. 4

May 26, 1962

During the 5 years and 3 months that Engine 6 was back in service, the "Bighouse" didn't change too much. Lighting Plant 1 was added to the house...the fires were put out.

The demise of the "Bighouse" started on July 13th, 1954, when Engine 6 was again deactivated. Housed in Bowdoin Square on that date were, Engine 4; Lad. 24; Tower 1, Rescue 3; L.P. 1 and District 4. Within a matter of months, the Tower and Lighting Plant would lose their manpower, and Rescue would no longer have a "3" attached to it.

The following named were assigned to the "Bighouse" on July 13th 1954:

Engine 4: Capt. Frank Finnegan; Lt. Hugh McMackin; Lt. Michael Corrao; FFs: William Ahern; Ralph Berry; Salvatore Castranova; Joseph Corliss; Owen Coyne; Charles Eckler; Joseph Falcone; Chas. Gove; Lawrence Gunning; Louis Harrington; David Heelan; Walter Kelly; Richard Kenneally; Thomas Lewis; Joseph McCauley; Daniel McIness; Alvah Moseley; John R. Mullen; Lt. Albert Sacco; Harold Yandle; Vincent Fountaine; John O'Connor; Richard Walsh; Thomas Getherall and Thomas Hurley.

Ladder 24: Capt. John Broughton; Lt. Stephen Riley; Lt. Joseph White; FFs Frank Callahan; Peter Corcoran; Albert Abramowski; Chas. Dolan; Bertram Camick; Robert Drew; Joseph Fitzgerald; James Foley; Joseph Gavin; John Greene; Frank Meroski; Michael Nee; John O'Brien; John Schofield; Frank Troy; John Vaughan; Thomas Waldron; Lawrence Westholm; Harry Huether; Robert Hardiman; George Leighton; William Kenneally and Lt. Edward Owens.

Lighting Plant 1: Francis Sheehan; William A. Moore; Frank McCormick and Joseph Roper.

Rescue 3: Capt. Thomas Mulhern; Lt. Thomas Feeney; Lt. Fred Ford; Fred Byrne Jr.; John Costello; William Desmond; William Dower; Fred Hearn; Joseph Hurley; Chas. Kenney; Joseph Houghton; Edward Kelly; Angelo Koutrouba; John Luongo; Leo Manning; John J. Mullen; Daniel Moynihan; Timothy O'Brien; James O'Neill; Nelson Pitman; James Parks and Harold Matulaitis.

Tower 1: Capt. Michael Galvin; Lt. John L. Campbell; Albert Ford; Frank McKenna; Garode Joyce; Joseph Griffin.

District Chiefs District 3, Michael Aylward; John Morrissey and James White.

RESCUE COMPANY RELOCATED....

The Rescue, (minus its "3") left Bowdoin Square on June 11, 1960, to be housed at Fort Hill Square.

CARD OF THANKS.....

We insert this item here, so that it won't be lost later on:

A very large THANK YOU to the members of the Committee who arranged the final get-together at the "Big House". To Harry Yandle; Buddy O'Neill and Dick Walsh we say: MANY THANKS.

In behalf of the Committee, we extend sincere thanks to Fire Commissioner Griffin and Chief of Department Martin, for their splendid cooperation.

Some of the members and former members of the Bowdoin Square House who have died in the past decade.

IN MEMORIAM

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| Lawrence Barry | ExR3 | 1952 | John Brown | ExI24 | 1952 |
| James Downey | ExE6 | 1953 | Harold Bailey | ExI24 | 1955 |
| William Cheswell | ExE4 | 1955 | Owen Murphy | ExE4 | 1955 |
| John Carbone | ExE4 | 1955 | Walter Strumble | ExE4 | 1955 |
| John Degan | ExL1 | 1956 | John McDonough | ExD4 | 1956 |
| George Higbee | Lad.1 | 1956 | John Ritchie | ExT1 | 1956 |
| Thomas Waldron | ExI24 | 1956 | John Greene | I24 | 1957 |
| Bernard Monagle | ExE6 | 1957 | Fred Ford | Rescue | 1957 |
| Jos. Schiller | ExE6 | 1957 | John Cuddy | ExT1 | 1958 |
| John Connerty | ExE4 | 1958 | Avery Howard | ExD4 | 1958 |
| Frank Walter | ExE6 | 1959 | John Broughton | ExI24 | 1960 |
| William Pierce | ExE10 | 1960 | Mark Skiffington | ExI24 | 1960 |
| John Morrissey | ExD3 | 1960 | Harry Murphy | Ex R.3 | 1961 |
| William Flynn | ExE4 | 1961 | Daniel Collins | ExE10 | 1961 |
| Charles Gove | ExE4 | 1961 | Garode Joyce | ExT1 | 1961 |
| Carl Bowers Sr. | ExE4 | 1961 | Francis Baker | ExL.1 | 1962 |

The following named formerly were assigned to companies in Bowdoin Square, and are now assigned to other companies:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Lt. Robert Compston, E.1 | J. Landry, L19 | G. Wade, L19 |
| J. Riley, Eng.3 | J. Jameson, L.3 | J. Walsh, E.3 |
| J. Vaughan, L.3 | Capt. Leo McCarthy, E.5 | W. Curtis, E.11 |
| Lt. J. Rolfe, E.11 | Capt. C. Griffin, E.7 | J. Cashman, E.7 |
| J. Doyle, E.7 | A. Masiello, E.26 | J. McDonough, E.7 |
| D. Flynn, E.8 | Lt. J. Manning, E.8 | Capt. R. Mullen, E16 |
| Capt. J. Gallivan, L6 | Chas. Bunker, L7 | Capt. J. White, L.7 |
| O. Basker, E18 | J. Holland, E.18 | Lt. P. Finnegan, E.21 |
| T. Callaghan, E22 | C. Eckler, E22 | C. Carlson, E24 |
| J. Freeman, E24 | Capt. C. Fleming, E25 | J. Sheehan, E25 |
| Lt. P. O'Farrell, L8 | T. Lewis, E28 | Lt. D. Sullivan, E28 |
| P. O'Donnell, E28 | Capt. R. Frazel, E29 | A. Panasuk, E29 |
| J. Giger, E31 | W. Kane, E31 | R. Doheney, E32 |
| Lt. P. Devlin, E32 | R. Pare, E31 | A. Grace, L9 |
| D. Leahy, E33 | Capt. J. Costello, E32 | Lt. J. Rose, E33 |
| Lt. F. Timmins, E37 | Capt. L. Wisantaner, L15 | M. Corrigan, L18 |
| Capt. A. Corrolla, E40 | Lt. E. Owens, E39 | H. Kiernan, E45 |
| A. Zahn, E53 | G. Stanton, E45 | E. DeSisto, L16 |
| Lt. J. Daley, E47 | Capt. S. McMahon, L16 | E. Fitzgerald, E48 |
| Capt. G. Cremins, L28 | J. Falcone, E48 | J. O'Brien, E49 |
| Lt. E. Grimm, E50 | J. Murray, E49 | W. Rice, E50 |
| C. Quinlan, E51 | J. McLaughlin, E50 | O. Coyne, E54 |
| K. Lydell, E54 | F. Byrne, Sr., E51 | A. Marr, E55 |
| V. Liotta, L2 | Lt. S. Riley, E54 | R. Ochs, L20 |
| Capt. W. Sullivan, L14 | J. Finch, L4 | Lt. R. Kemp, L20 |
| Lt. E. Hurley, L27 | W. Kripp, L22 | J. Parks, L22 |
| L. Liberatore, M.S. | Lt. J. McKenna, L30 | J. Hughes, M.S. |
| Lt. J. Frongillo, FP | J. Roper, M.S. | Lt. A. Mahoney, FP |
| Capt. M. Laurano, FP | F. Gunning, FP | W. Kelly, FP |
| F. Murphy, HP | Capt. H. Shute, FP | B. Camick, HP |
| W. White, Hq. | Capt. K. Arnold, Hq. | J. Dever, HP |
| E. McNulty, D8 | Capt. T. Feeney Hq. | M. Lombard, HQ. |
| D2; W. Peters, D10 | F. McCormick, HQ. | Dist. Chiefs M. Galvin D4, D. Ford, D9 |
| | E. Sheehan, D7 | W. Hart, D10 |
| | E. Sullivan D2 | P. Thompson |

May 26, 1962

page six

REMEMBER WHEN?.....

There were so many men in the "Bighouse" that you did a watch every two weeks...before the house fund, when Joe & Nemo would fill up the coffe pail for 25¢... Joe Burke yelling "WAIT ON"..... Charlie Gove carrying a suitcase to the North Station (and finding it loaded with sidewalk bricks).. ...the effa safus on the window sill....how "calorie controlled" things used to be...Santo making the trek up Howard Street and coming back with anything from a cup of coffee to a postage stamp.Garody going into his act after 2 pick-musties....Lum making the washing machine work overtimethe night an Aide to Deputy got "creamed" with a bag of water from the 5th floor in the tower.. (Slim never liked the Bighouse after that nite)....how Barney Monagle would take the heat if a small guy called him "Shorty"..when Abe cooked the sardines IN THE CAN....the Chief whose famous words were "Go Home Rescue"the day Kelly "resigned".... Nel Pitman's rousing "razz" over the house phone....Bill Moore making doll houses in the cellar.Willa the Bazo sleeping in the cellar...when Frank brought in the Post at 3 a.m.....Bud Fountaine asking Santo "where's your tail?"Gunning (Frank) practicing clarinet in the TV room....when Walter Kelly was a member of the BFD Band....Mrs. Kanter chasing her tenants for the rent...and the real "elite" who were renting her rooms....Kelly running from Joe the barber's shop with the apron tucked under his chin and Joe chasing him....when "Slaasha" had a store....the day "Apples" washed the kitchen with the 3/4 inch hose....Fibber Whalen's long "stories"....Frankie Sheehan getting excited when the tapper started to hit....the "50 and a buck" games....the "bug juice" during the Summer.....

FINIS.....

As we approach the dying days of the "Big House", we find it to be the end of a grand era. Since that day in November 1930, when fire apparatus first graced it's floors, and Firefighters started living within it's walls, the "Big House" has been a symbol of the Boston Fire Department at its very best.

Just as it is in all other walks of life -- so it is in the Fire Department. It takes "all kinds" to make up this world we live in.

During the past thirty-one and one-half years, the "Big House" has seen practically every type of man that God has ever created. The "iron-men" who worked one-hundred twenty hours a week and the "he-men" of the 48-hour week. The men who gave their lives doing their job as Firefighters. And the few who didn't "give a damn" for anything or anyone. Yes - it took "all kinds" to make up the forces in the "Big House".

By and large, the men who did service as members of companies in the "Big House" are better men for having been stationed there.

There were many "laughs" -- and there were a few tears from within the walls of what is now called "Fort Apache".

From here we say: WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE BEST FIREHOUSE IN THE BEST FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE WORLD.

Tom Getherall - Ex.Eng.4

REMEMBER WHEN ? cont...the day Santo was sent for six HERMITS and brought back six TURNIPS....to the above, I'm sure YOU can add your own "favorite" incident which aided in making the "Big House" a place to REMEMBER.....