

**Gelinas, John**

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**From:** Gelinas, John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 08, 2009 6:11 AM  
**Subject:** Company Journal - Issue 51 - Part I



***The Company Journal***  
***and "The Feeder Line"***

***Fire Department News***  
***Cambridge, Massachusetts***  
***A Class 1 Fire Department***

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*From the desk of*  
***Chief Gerald R. Reardon***

*Issue #51*  
***Summer 2009***  
*Wednesday, 7 July 2009*

*Part I*

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***What's New***



Ladder 3 is back in service following the \$250,000 factory rebuild.

- Photo by **FCapt. Peter Donovan** (Truck 3)

### Who's New

Congratulations to **FFOP Joseph Fournier** on his graduation for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy – Recruit Firefighter Training Program. Joe was elected as class president.

Joe is a fourth generation Cambridge Firefighter! He is the son of **Cammy Fournier** (Headquarters Admin). He is the nephew of **FF Tom Higgins** (Engine 8 - retired), the cousin of **FLt. Brian Higgins** (Headquarters), the grandson of **FF Frank Higgins** (Engine 8 - retired), the nephew of **FCapt. Joseph Higgins, Jr.** (Somerville Engine 2 - retired), and the great-grandson of **FLt. Joseph Higgins** (Engine 2 - retired/deceased). Joseph Senior had been appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department to Engine 1 at the old Brattle Square house in 1923.



**Cammy and FF Joe Fournier**

Congratulations to **FFOP Galvin Murphy, Jr.** of the Malden Fire Department. Galvin is the son of **FLt. Galvin Murphy** of Engine Company No. 9, and is a third generation firefighter. FFOP Murphy's grandfather, **Joseph Murphy**, was a member of Engine 6 – since retired and deceased.



**FF Galvin Murphy, Jr. and FLt. Galvin Murphy**

Joe Fournier and Galvin Murphy, Jr. graduated together from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's 12-week recruit firefighter training program – Class 184 - on 19 June 2009.

- Photos above by **Tara Bithia**

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**All Companies Working**

**Box 4-5441:** Four alarms were transmitted from Box 5441 for the fire in the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints* at 4 Longfellow Park on Sunday, 17 May 2009. The Box was transmitted at 1038 hours, the Signal 45 at 1047 hours, the Second Alarm at 1049 hours, the Third Alarm at 1101 hours, and the Fourth Alarm at 1128 hours. In total, 13 engines, 5 trucks, 2 squads, the rescue, and numerous chief officers and staff and support units operated at the fire. On arrival, companies found that fire had taken possession of the large, common attic space. Companies completed civilian evacuation of the fully occupied church, ensured that the primary and secondary searches were negative, and simultaneously started an interior attack with big lines. Rapidly deteriorating conditions mandated a change to a defensive attack. **DFC Bob Scott** was the IC. Group 3 was on duty.







- Photos above by **Jay Connor**

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- Photos above by **Owen Carrigan**

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**Box 2-692:** Two alarms were transmitted from Box 692 on 20 May 2009 for the fire in the 3-story, wood-frame, mixed commercial and residential building. The address was 1776 Massachusetts Avenue. Six engines, 4 trucks, 2 squads, the rescue, 2 division chiefs, and staff and support units operated to contain and knock down this fire in the interior walls extending from the basement to floor #3. The initial still alarm for the fire alarm activation was at 0705 hours. The box was transmitted at 0711, the working fire was ordered at 0721 hours, and the second alarm was ordered at 0744 hours. **DFC Paul Sheehan** was the IC. Group 2 was on duty.



Initial hose lines are stretched into the building by members of the first-due engine, Engine Company No. 4



Members of the first-due truck, Ladder Company No 1 (using Ladder 5) ascend to the roof to open up.



Roof work in progress while interior attack is underway.



- Photos by **Flt. David Walles (Training)**

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## Congratulations

Congratulations to **FCapt. Peter Donovan** (Truck 3, group 2) and his wife, **Melissa**, on the birth of **Caitlin J. Donovan**. Caitlin was born on 20 May 2009 at 1303 hours. She weighed 8 lbs 3 ozs. and measured 19.5 inches long. She joins her 29 month old sister, **Molly**. Mother, daughter, sister, and father are doing great.

Congratulations to **FF Ray Vaillancourt** (Engine 4, group 3) and **Megan Quinlan** on the birth of **Andrew James Vaillancourt**. Andrew was born on 8 June 2009 at 1809 hours. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 19 ½" long. Andrew is the first child of Ray and Megan.

Congrats to **FF Chuck Donnelly** (Engine 5, Group 4) and wife **Nicole Donnelly** on the birth of **Leah Marie Donnelly**. Leah was born on 22 May 2009 at 1343 hours. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 inches long. Leah joins brothers, 5 year old **Charles III** and 3 ½ year old **Shane** as the newest member of the Donnelly clan.

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## Through the Lantern Lens



### Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

Cambridge is well known as the seat of the bio-tech industry. However, there was a time when Cambridge was an industrial city with factories and warehouses covering the city. Cambridge was especially known for the soap and candy factories. But what most people don't realize is that Cambridge was home to many companies that produced and sold items for the fire service nationwide.

As early as the late 1800's the C.W.H. Moulton Company on the corner of Gore and Sixth Street built wooden ladders for industrial and fire service use.

During the early 1900's, the Blake Pump Company made pumps for fireboats at a location that remains a mystery at this point.

In the 1930's, the Port-A-Lite Company sold flashlights for fire service use. They were based out of a building on Arrow Street in Harvard Square.

Around the same time, Simplex Wire and Cable Co. at 79 Sidney Street was advertising a LATOX brand cable used for fire alarm or police signal cable.

During the 1940's – Several prominent, national fire equipment manufacturers were also based out of Cambridge:

\*J.H. Emerson Company, 22 Cottage Park Avenue, produced Emerson Resuscitators – a type of mechanical inhalator used in first aid procedures.

\*F.N. McIntire Brass Works, 377 Putnam Avenue, produced fire nozzles, master stream devices, hose adapters, fittings and most importantly brass fire poles that are still used in some Cambridge fire stations.

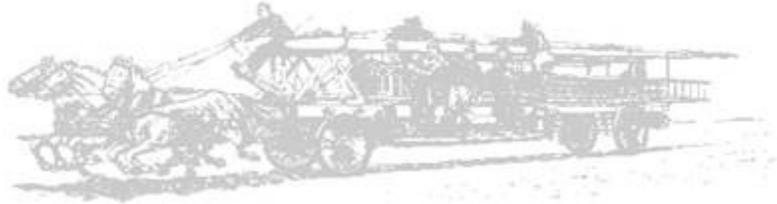
\*Boston Woven Hose and Rubber in Kendall Square sold brass nozzles, hose and other fire equipment.

\*Arthur H. Blanchard Co., 25 Hampshire Street (also in Kendall Square) was a company who sold Morse Brand fire nozzles and hose adapters and later partnered with Boston Woven Hose and Rubber located nearby to sell their products. This company was also a sales representative of another local company dealing Maxim fire trucks built in Middleboro, Mass.

\*Carpenter Manufacturing Co. at 29 Sidney Street built and sold firefighting flashlights.

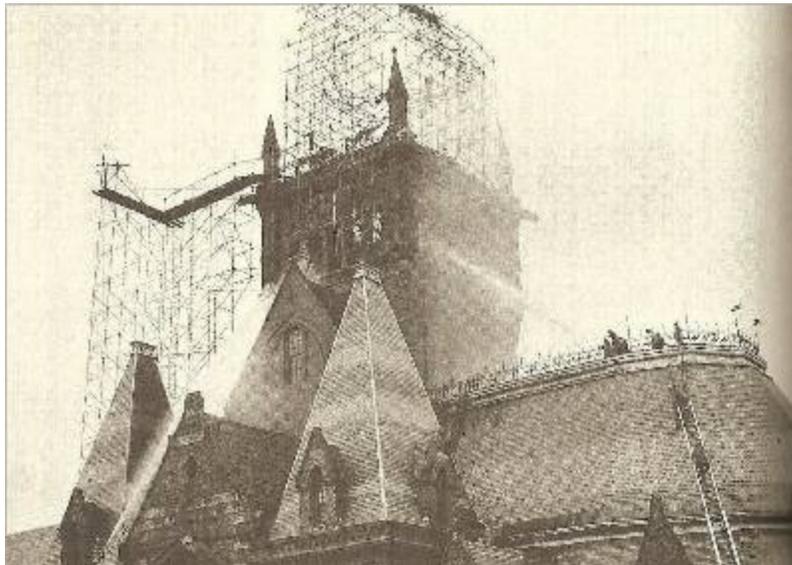
\*Robinson Boiler Works, located on Second Street, made hose wagons during the late 1940's and early 1950's for the Boston and Cambridge Fire Departments as well as a few other fire trucks for other local departments. Robinson built about a dozen aircraft crash trucks for airports in New England.

Many of these former buildings now have tenants that have long forgotten the history of those buildings. Let's not forget our history.



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### **From the Archives**



**Box 48 - Memorial Hall Fire:** The spectacular fire at Harvard University's Memorial Hall, across the street from Fire Headquarters, occurred at 1635 hours on 9 September 1956. In the fire, the bell tower was destroyed. Five engines, 3 trucks, Rescue 1, and both Divisions operated at this **ONE ALARM** fire. Engines 1, 5, and 8, Trucks 1 and 4, Rescue 1, and Car 3 (Division 2) were assigned on the box. Engines 4 and 6, Truck 3, and Car 2 (Division 1) were special called. Engine 6 operated at the scene for three days.

The fire was reportedly started by a welder's torch. Retired members report that firefighters amazingly carried a 50-foot wooden pole ladder up Ladder 1's aerial and extended the pole ladder from 100' above the street in order to access the bell tower.

- Thanks to **FF John Hathaway** (Engine 5) for the research

- The picture is reprinted from the book, "Where It Was Hot" by **DFC Cornelius J. O'Brien** (deceased)

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*Faces of the Fire Service*



DFC **Paul Sheehan** (Division 2) and DFC **Lester Bokuniewicz** (Division 1) confer concerning strategy and assignments



FFs **Margaret Carrigan** (Engine 2, group 1) and **Andy Carrigan** (Engine 5, group 4)



**FF Michael Lynch ( Ladder 1) heads to the roof with his saw and axe**



**Div 2 Chief Paul Sheehan and Division Tactical Aide Ed Oliver**



**FF Chris Haynes (Rescue 1)**



**Ff David Croak (Rescue 1)**



RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) gets into position – **FF John Brogan** (Engine 9) and **FF Frank Mullen** (Engine 6 detailed to Engine 9)



**FLt. Tom Reagan** (Engine 4)



**Squad 4 FLt. James Gomes and FF Scott Volz**



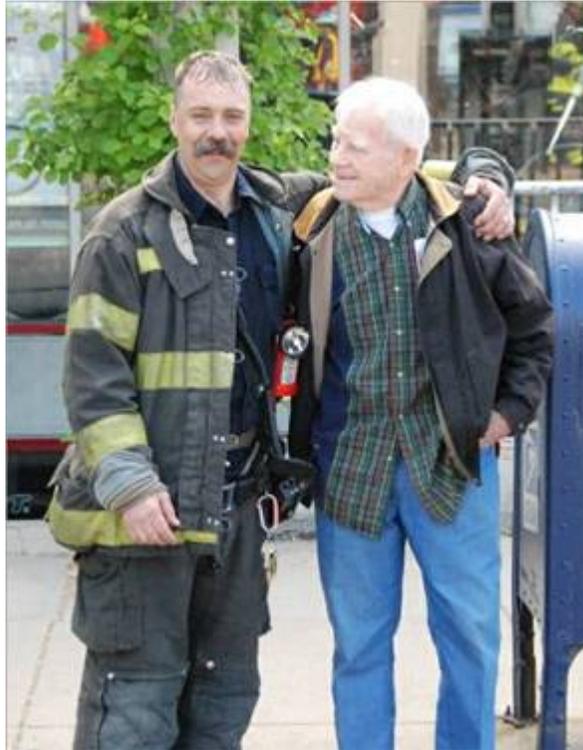
**A/FLt. Mark Davis (Engine 1)**



**Engine Company No.6: FF George Cotter, FF Arthur Greenidge, and FLt. Michael Clinton**



**FF Paul Morrison (Squad 2)**



**FF Ed Oliver and DFC Ralph Chapman (Citywide Commander – retired)**



**FF David Croak and FF David Puopolo (Rescue 1)**



Engine 1 takes up



**FF Walter Grace** (Division 1 Tactical Aide – retired)



**Inspector Mike Nicoloro (ISD)**



Rescue 1 members assist in making up a hydrant



Engine Company No. 8: **A/Flt. Robert Bruno**, **FF Pedro Gonzalez** (detailed from Rescue 1), and **FF Joseph Hallissey**



**F.Lt. David Pierce** (FIU) reports to **Chief of Department Gerry Reardon** concerning cause and origin investigation



CAFD members always provide invaluable assistance with Lighting Plant 2 and Rehab 1.



CAFD members with **FCapt. Stephen Persson** (Training) and **Stacia Joyce** (CEMA)



- Photos above by **FLt. David Walles** (Training)

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*This is the end of **Issue #51 – Part I***

***Issue #51 - Part II** is continued in a separate posting.*

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