

Jamesport Fire Department History  
Robert A. Sikora Jr.

The Jamesport Fire Department was first organized in 1949 by a group of men volunteering their time and efforts to serve the people of their community. These men were: President Albert Biggs, Vice President Gordon Ahlers, Secretary Stanley Franczic, First Chief Charles Trinowski, First Deputy Chief John Rawly, Second Deputy Chief Ted Diem and all the members of the Jamesport Fire Department Incorporated. Besides these first department officers, there was also the first Board of Directors consisting of 1) Joseph Kelly, 2) Sam Oliver, 3) Leo Mitchell, 4) Wilbur Vail, and 5) Frank Case; some of which still serve on the Board of Commissioner (changed from Board of Directors when the fire department became established as a district in 1954) to this day; 1983.

Board meetings were held every first and third Monday of the month. At the very first board meeting, the members collected \$24.04 from their fund committee headed up by the chairman John Womak.

The new fire department inc. received much help from the Mattituck Fire Department and their Chief, Henry Tyler. Riverhead Fire Department was also helpful in Jamesport's early years of firefighting. Jamesport has always been thankful to these fire departments.

The Jamesport Fire Department's original fire house was located at the corner of Route 25 and Manor Lane in Jamesport. Mr. Ted Trojanowski was appointed Chairman of the cleanup committee for the new firehouse and the equipment inside. Mr. Ted Diem was in charge of painting the firehouse and any other needed painting jobs. And Mr. Dillingham was in charge of all electrical work in the building. These appointments were made at another board meeting at which time they collected \$10.55.

On January 16, 1950 a mascot for the one year old Jamesport Fire Department was born. It was a picture of a dog named Rover. Hence forth the Jamesport fire Department became known as "Rovers".

At the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors, the profit of their first annual dance was a phenomenal \$418.31. This plus other income brought the fire department up to \$1,357.72.

In February 1950, badge number 443 became the official badge of the Jamesport Fire Department incorporated.

On April 3, 1950 a man, by the name of Mr. Valek, donated 75 by 100 feet of land to the fire department. This, today, is the department's training ground. This plot of land is located on South Jamesport Avenue in Jamesport.

On July 17, 1950, the first fire trucks for the Jamesport Fire Department Rovers were bought. These trucks were a used Diamond T Pumper and a used American La France hose and pumper bought for three thousand dollars. Later that summer, in August, a motion was made to buy equipment for sounding an alarm and a telephone system. Also, in August, a nominating committee was appointed for elections in October. The committee consisted of: John Sumack-Chairman, Herbert Fleischman, Bert Bilunos, Walter Robertson, Peter Krueel, Adam Pawloski, and Chester Gevinski.

Election day October 2. Elections were as follows:

Chief – Charles Trinowski

First Deputy – John Ziemacki

Second Deputy – Charles Patrick

On the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting 1951, Mr. Albert Magee of Aquebogue generously made a donation to the fire department of a 650 gallon tank to be installed on a chassis. In June of 1951, a movie was shown, courtesy of Civilian Defense, showing how to survive an atomic attack.

The Jamesport Fire Department held its first annual bazaar the summer of 1951. The Department profited \$2,520.42; one third of which is going to the Civic Organization for organizing and helping with it.

Elections for October 6, 1952 went as follows:

Chief – Martin Saccente  
First Deputy – J. Lalinowski  
Second Deputy – Ed Anderson  
Secretary – Stanley Franczic  
Treasurer – W. Zaleski

Board of Directors 2 year term:

Adam Pawloski  
Wilbur Vail

Board of Directors 3 year term:

Frank Case  
Charles Trinowski  
P. Zuhiski  
W. Robertson

Sergeant-at-Arms

Walter Droskoski

In February of 1953 there was a sum of \$5,913.38 in the treasury. This was an all high for the fire department at this point in their history.

The next important event in Jamesport Fireman's history is their becoming a district on November 6, 1954. In its desolation of the corporation, the new district no longer needed the offices of President and Vice President. Instead the fire department was headed by a chief and a first deputy chief. The Board of Directors had to be changed to a Board of Commissioners headed by Chairman of the Board, Leo Mitchell.

The new Board of Commissioners was elected upon on January 4, 1955 in this manner:

Gordon Ahlers – Five years  
Adam Pawloski – four years  
Leo Mitchell – three years  
Wilbur Vail – two years  
Charles Trinowski – one year  
Stanley Franczic – Treasurer – three years  
Stanley Franczic – Secretary – one year

On September 2, 1955, Mr. Mitchell authorized an architect to proceed with the plans for the new fire house which was to be built. The projected cost of the fire house was to be \$67,500.

Elections were held in January 1956 and the results were the same as the previous year elections.

The dedication for the new fire house took place Sunday, August 26, 1956 at 1:30 p.m. The building is fifty feet by seventy five feet, two stories, Class A fire proof construction. It is located on Manor Lane in Jamesport. This is the fire department's only fire house which they use today. The program for the dedication day went as follows:

	<u>Program</u>
Parade	Firemen, Auxiliary and Band
Flag Raising	"Star Spanled Banner" by the Band
Invocation	Rev. Thomas J. Feeney
Introduction of Guests	Stanley Franczic
History of the Department	Joseph Kelly
Address	William Leonard, Supervisor Riverhead
Formal Opening of the Fire House	Supervisor Leonard
Presentation of Keys	Leo Mitchell, Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Blessing of the Fire House and Equipment	Rev. Alfred Markewicz, Chaplain
Introduction of Department Officers	John Ziemacki, Chief
Benediction	Rev. Ernest T. Berkely Jr.

Elections for the next year were held on January 7, 1957. Stanley Franczic is continuing as secretary and treasurer with Mr. Leo Mitchell and Adam Pawleski continuing as Chairman and Vice Chairman. At the January 15 meeting questions were raised as to where to put the pool table in the fire house. The answer was to leave it on the main floor.

In October of 1958, the Jamesport Fire Department purchased a 750 gallon per minute pumper including all equipment for 17,000.

The only important news for a while is that elections went as follows for the next eleven years up to 1969.

Chairman – Leo Mitchell  
 Vice Chairman – Adam Pawloski  
 Secretary – Stanley Franczic

Then, on August 19, 1969 tragedy struck. Commissioner Leo Mitchell passed away and the temporary Chairman became Adam Pawloski.

Elections on January 5, 1970 were the same except for the fact that Adam Pawloski became Chairman of the Board.

Door openers were installed in the Jamesport Fire Department on January 20, 1970. These devices help to quicken the pace of reaching a fire by raising the doors more quickly than manually opening them. A department flag was bought by Secretary Stanley Franczic on February 17, 1970. Also on this day all trucks were installed with 500 feet back signs to keep other vehicles far away from the truck. Another important decision at this meeting was the decision to roll the Rescue and Emergency Truck at all alarms to insure first aid or extra help to anyone. A fire siren will be installed for \$4,795.68 on Tuthills Lane, 1,000 feet north of Route 25.

The Fire Department Annual inspection was held on May 24, 1970 with the following results:

Company #1 Men Present, 16 Men in Uniform, 16  
 Company #2 Men Present, 22 Men in Uniform, 21  
 Company #3 Men Present, 24 Men in Uniform, 24  
 Company #4 Men Present, 13 Men in Uniform, 13

Also during the summer, fire wells were tested and license plates for the Chief and First Deputy were put on order.

January 7, 1971 elections for the Board of Commissioners was relatively the same; going as follows:

Chairman of the Board Adam Pawloski  
Secretary Stanley Franczic  
Commissioners John Rolle, Wilbur Vail, Ray Zaleski, and John Ziemacki.

On February 15, 1971 there was an order to call the Pendzick Bros. to start building a radio room in the fire house.

In 1972, Ex-Chief Charles Trinowski resigned from the Jamesport Fire Department after an illustrious twenty-three year career with it.

Elections were the same in January of 1973 with the exception of the first ever assistant secretary Roger Romaine.

On September 18, 1973 the Jamesport Fire Department District extended into Aquebogue. In November of that year a new fire truck was bought; the new, yellow truck.

Elections on January 3, 1974 went as follows:

Chairman Adam Pawloski  
Treasurer Carl Locker  
Perry V. Conklin took over for the retiring John Ziemacki  
Secretary Roger Romaine

### 25 Year Celebration

Chief Ray Diem

Milestones in Jamesport's 25 Year Existence

1949 – The Jamesport and South Jamesport Fire Department Inc. was organized.

1950 – The department bought a slightly used Diamond T Pumper and an American La France hose and pumper. The Ladies Auxiliary was also formed.

1951 – A water tank truck was added.

1954 – The Jamesport Fire Department sheds the corporation and becomes a district. On December 6 there was a fire at Carter's boat yard. They lost the building and three dozen boats.

1955 – A 1938 tank truck was purchased by the department.

1956 – Dedication of the new fire house

1957 – The fire departments blood bank was started

1958 – A used 1000 gallon per minute Walters's pumper was bought to replace the American La France pumper. Radios were received by the commissioners for the trucks and the firehouse.

1959 – A new international pumper was bought to replace the Diamond T.

1963 – An international tanker became a new piece of equipment.

1971 – The department started purchasing plastrons for firemen.

1974 – The fire department bought the latest in equipment and color; a new yellow-green truck by Bean.

List of Officers up to 1954

Date of Election	Office	Name	Term
Oct. 1949	Fire Chief	Charles Trinowski	1 year
Oct. 1949	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy	John Rolle	1 year
Oct. 1949	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy	Ted Diem	1 year
Oct. 1949	Treasurer	Walter Zaleski	1 year
Oct. 1949	Secretary	Stanley Franczic	1 year
Oct. 1949	Board of Directors:	J. Kelly S. Oliver F. Case	1 year
		W. Vail A. Biggs, G. Ahlere	1 year
		L. Michell	1 year
Oct. 1950	Chief	C. Trinowski	1 year
Oct. 1950	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy	J. Ziemacki	1 year
Oct. 1950	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy	C. Patrick	1 year
Oct. 1950	Treasurer	W. Zaleski	1 year
Oct. 1950	Secretary	S. Franczic	1 year
Oct. 1950	Board of Directors:	J. Kelly, S. Oliver, F. Holt, F. Case	3, 2, 1 years
Oct. 1950	Board of Directors:	A. Pawloski, P. Kruel, T. Comiskey	1 year
Oct. 1951	Chief	C. Trinowski	1 year
Oct. 1951	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy	J. Ziemacki	1 year
Oct. 1951	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy	C. Patrick	1 year
Oct. 1951	Treasurer	W. Zaleski	1 year
Oct. 1951	Secretary	P. Seminski	1 year
Oct. 1951	Board of Directors:	J. Kelly, L. Mitchell, F. Holt, F. Case	5, 4, 3, 2 years
Oct. 1951	Board of Directors:	P. Kruel, A. Pawloski, W. Vail	1 year
Oct. 1952	Chief	M. Saccente	1 year
Oct. 1952	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy	J. Fafinski	1 year
Oct. 1952	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy	E. Anderson	1 year
Oct. 1952	Treasurer	W. Zaleski	1 year
Oct. 1952	Secretary	S. Franczic	1 year
Oct. 1952	Board of Directors	J. Kelly, L. Mitchell, F. Holt, W. Vail	5, 4, 3 years
Oct. 1952	Board of Directors	A. Pawloski, C. Trinowski, P. Zuhoski	2, 1 years
Oct. 1953	Chief	J. Fafinski	1 year
Oct. 1953	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy	J. Ziemacki	1 year
Oct. 1953	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy	E. Anderson	1 year
Oct. 1953	Treasurer	W. Zaleski	1 year
Oct. 1953	Secretary	S. Franczic	1 year
Oct. 1953	Sergeant at Arms	W. Droskoski	1 year
Oct. 1953	Chaplin	Father Al	1 year
Oct. 1953	Board of Directors	L. Mitchell, J. Kelly, F. Holt, W. Vail	5, 4, 3, 2 years
Oct. 1953	Board of Directors	C. Trinowski, A. Pawloski, P. Zuhoski	1 year
Oct. 1954	Chief	J. Fafinski	1 year
Oct. 1954	1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy	J. Ziemacki	1 year
Oct. 1954	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy	E. Anderson	1 year
Oct. 1954	Treasurer	W. Zaleski	1 year
Oct. 1954	Secretary	S. Franczic	1 year
Oct. 1954	Sergeant at Arms	W. Droskoski	1 year
Oct. 1954	Board of Directors	L. Mitchell, J. Kelly, F. Holt, W. Vail	1 year
Oct. 1954	Board of Directors	C. Trinowski, A. Pawloski, P. Zuhoski	1 year

### List of Chiefs of the Jamesport Fire Department

1949-1952	Charles Trinowski
1952-1953	Martin Saccente
1953-1955	John Fafinski
1955-1960	John Ziemacki
1960-1962	John Kowalski
1962-1964	Roger Romaine
1964-1966	Herbert Fleischman
1966-1968	Leon Lessard
1968-1970	John Anderson
1970-1971	George Klatt
1971-1973	Perry Conklin
1973-1975	Raymond Diem
1975-1977	Alfred Tuthill
1977-1979	Gene Hillicker
1979-1981	James Kane
1981-1983	Daniel Kaelin II
1983-	Raymond Janis

#### New Developments in the '80's for the Jamesport Fire Department

In July of 1983 a woman, Emelia "Terry" Kostiuk, was finally accepted into the Jamesport Fire Department. There have been two other woman in the fire department but she is the only one at present.

Mrs. Kostiuk had been turned down twice by Engine Company #2 but her persistence paid off when she was finally accepted on the third try. Emelia was sworn in on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be on probation for six months and must complete fire school within two years like anyone else.

On August 3, 1983, a "wet-down" ceremony was taking place. A new piece of fire-fighting equipment, a truck, was added to the Jamesport Fire Department. On hand were Chief Ray Janis, Commissioner John Appicello, Supervisor Joseph Janoski of Riverhead, and Chief Dan Zaweski from Wading River Fire Department.

One last major development for the fire department was the flood on March 29, 1984. The flood left people near the Peconic Bay knee deep in water. Firemen were out evacuating these people all day and well into the night. Most evacuees spent the night at the fire house with whatever belongings they could scramble together. Besides all the flooding, a large fire gutted a house on Willow Street due to electrical shorts. Miraculously, no injuries were reported as a result of the fire or flooding.

#### Bibliography

- 1) Board of Commissioners Minutes (1949-1983)
- 2) Fireman's Association Minutes
- 3) Suffolk Life (July and August issues)

Special thanks go to Chief Ray Janis, Secretary Ed Collins, and Ted Diem for their contributions to me and this report and the other relating projects I have done for the fire department.

A very special thanks goes to Secretary of the District Roger Romaine for the long hours he put in with me to put together and write this history. I couldn't have done it without him or the others.

Thank You All!!!!!!

## Jamesport Fire Department's Annual Fire Reports

There are no records pertaining to fires from 1949 to 1955.

### 1955 – 1956

Total # of Fires:	25
Structure Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	7
Resuscitation:	1
Car Fire:	1
Mutual Aid Calls:	2
Oil Burner Fires:	1
Chimney Fires:	2
Defense Drills:	3
Injuries:	0
Property Loss:	\$46,500
Mileage:	1,200
Total Man Hours:	918

### 1956 – 1957

Total # of Fires:	17
Structure Fires:	0
Brush Fires:	11
Car Fire:	1
Oil Burner Fires:	1
Gaseous Fumes:	1
Mutual Aid Calls:	1
Defense Drills:	1
Car Accidents:	1

There were a total of 428 man hours at alarms. Total of 161 miles were traveled by all trucks. Eight and one quarter hours were spent pumping. Property loss was estimated at \$200.00 six men received minor injuries as a result of fires.

### 1957 – 1958

Total # of Alarms:	23
Structure Fires:	2
Brush Fires:	13
Still Alarms:	5
Car Fires:	1
Mutual Aid Calls:	1
Chimney Fires:	1
Flood Pumping Hours:	10

Total man hours at alarms reached 802. Miles traveled was 362. Property loss was estimated at \$18,500.00. 30 ½ hours were spent pumping. No injuries were obtained either from firemen or others.

#### 1958 – 1959

Total # of Alarms:	17
Structure Fires:	1
Brush Fires:	8
Still Alarms:	1
Car Fires:	2
Mutual Aid Calls:	2
Tractor Fires:	2
Resuscitator:	2

The total man hours at alarms were 361 in which there were no injuries to firemen but one casualty to a non-fireman. Property loss was estimated at \$5,800.00. The miles traveled by the trucks were 236. Four hours were spent pumping.

#### 1959 – 1960

Total # of Alarms:	15
Structure Fires:	12
Brush Fires:	5
Car Fires:	4
Potato Combine:	1
Mutual Aid:	1

Total man hours were 400. Property loss was estimated at \$14,850.00. Total miles traveled by the trucks were 294. Four hours were spent pumping. No injuries were sustained to firemen at any of the fires.

#### 1963 – 1964

Total # of Alarms:	32
Structure Fires:	3
Brush Fires:	16
Oxygen:	3
Car Fires:	1
Mutual Aid Calls:	8
Clothes Dryer:	1

This year over 762 miles were traveled by all the trucks in the Jamesport Fire Department. Total man hours reached 29 ½ although no serious injuries were reported. Property loss was estimated at \$300. 23,375 gallons of water was used by the pumper during the year.

#### 1964 – 1965

Total # of Alarms:	34
Structure Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	15
Resuscitation:	3
Car Fires:	1
False Alarms:	2
Mutual Aid:	5
Irrigation Pump:	1
Boat Fire:	1

The total number of man hours this year at fires reached 42 ½ hours. Miles traveled was 1,311 and the total number of men at fires was 958.

### 1965 – 1966

Total # of Alarms:	31
Structure Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	17
Resuscitation:	2
Car Fire:	3
Electric Fire:	1
Mutual Aid Calls:	2

The total man hours at fires was 558 ½. The total men at fires was 694. Out of all, at the scene of fires only two injuries were reported.

### 1966 – 1967

Total # of Alarms:	14
Structure Fires:	3
Brush Fires:	7
Resuscitator:	2
Mutual Aid Calls:	1
Rescue Calls:	1

The total number of man hours this year reached 190. The number of men at fires, total was 345. The total mileage for the vehicles was 198. Estimated property damage only reached \$25.00. Also this year the Walters Pumper was sold and a new American Pumper was purchased.

### 1967 – 1968

Total # of Alarms:	36
Structure fires:	4
Brush Fires:	15
Resuscitation:	9
Car Fires:	3
Mutual Aid Calls:	2
Stove Fires:	2

The total man hours for the 67/68 year reached a high of 1200 in which there were a total of 750 men serving at these fires. Three men were reported injured as a result of fire.

### 1968 – 1969

Total # of Alarms:	30
Structure Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	17
Resuscitation:	1
Car Fires:	1
Oil Burner Fires:	1
Boat Fires:	1
Stove Fires:	1
Mutual Aid Calls:	2

Out of the 30 fires reported this year, 840 men appeared at them and used up 490 man hours. Property loss was about \$8,300.

1969 – 1970

Total # of Alarms:	29
Structure Fires:	5
Brush Fires:	9
Resuscitator:	1
Car Accident:	3
Stove Fires:	2
Leaking Valve:	2
Electrical Fire:	1
Wet Down:	1
Dryer Fire:	1
False Alarms:	4

776 men were at fires during the year in which they spent 504 hours fighting them. Property loss was at an estimated \$20,900. Two civilians died as a result of fire this year.

1970 – 1971

Total # of Alarms:	16
Structure fires:	4
Brush Fires:	6
Electrical Fires:	2
Car Fires:	2
Fuel Spill:	1
Oil Burner Fire:	1

There were a total of 459 fire fighters in the year of 70/71. The total man hours reached 367 and there were no reported injuries. The resuscitator was used once during a fire.

1971 – 1972

Total # of Alarms:	36
Structure Fires:	7
Brush Fires:	8
Resuscitators:	2
Car Fires/Accident:	6
Stove Fires:	4
False Alarms:	2
Mutual Aid Calls:	4
Electric Fires:	2
Steam Explosion:	1

During the 36 alarms answered this year, 1,087 man hours were used and 906 total men fought these flames. The loss for this year was estimated at 429,150. There were no serious injuries reported this year.

1972 – 1973

Total # of Alarms:	36
Structure Fires:	4
Brush Fires:	8
Resuscitators:	3
Car Fire/Accidents:	5
Miscellaneous:	14
False Alarms:	2

The number of men that were at fires this year was 1,242 and the number of hours was 984. There were no reported injuries during the year as a result of fire. 21,300 gallons of water was pumped to put out the fires of the year.

1974 – 1975

Total # of Fires:	22
Structure Fires:	2
Brush fires:	4
Miscellaneous:	14

The total number of man hours reached 1,500 this year while there were no serious injuries. Twelve hours were spent pumping and the total mileage for all trucks was 200. Resuscitation was used once and there were two false alarms all year.

1975 – 1976

Total # of Alarms:	34
Structure Fires:	2
Brush Fires:	7
Miscellaneous:	20
Ambulance Calls:	3
Mutual Aid Calls:	2

There were no injuries or deaths either to the firemen or civilian people. The total number of man hours reached 500. Total pumping hours were 30 and mileage was 1,504.

1976 – 1977

Total # of Alarms:	50
Structure Fires:	2
Brush Fires:	5
Miscellaneous:	29
Mutual Aid Calls:	2
Boat Fires:	1
False Alarms:	11

During the year there were six civilian injuries and one death and two fire fighters injuries.

1977 – 1978

Total # of Alarms:	54
Structure Fires:	8
Brush Fires:	13
Car Fires:	3
Mutual Aid Calls:	5
Irrigation Fires:	9
Miscellaneous:	9
Rescues:	11
Boat Fires:	1

The total man hours reached 1,579 for the year of 77-78. The total pumping hours for all pumpers was 100. The total mileage for all trucks was 2,005.

1978 – 1979

Total # of Alarms:	42
Structure Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	9
Car Fires:	1
Rescues:	4
Miscellaneous:	14
Mutual Aid Calls:	5
False Alarms:	1

The total number of man hours was 884 for this year and the total mileage for all trucks was 1,849. Lastly, the total number of pumping hours was 129. Three injuries were reported but no deaths to fire men.

1979 – 1980

Total # of Alarms:	60
Structure Fires:	6
Brush Fires:	10
Car Fires:	6
Ambulance Calls:	3
Miscellaneous:	25
Mutual Aid Calls:	2
False Alarms:	7
Investigations:	1

No injuries were reported this year while 2,193 miles were traveled by the trucks in the Jamesport Fire Department.

1980 – 1981

Total # of Alarms:	86
Structure Fires:	4
Brush Fires:	8
Car fires:	4
Miscellaneous:	44
Mutual aid Calls:	4
Investigations:	13

No injuries were reported to the fire department this year and there is no record of the miles traveled by the trucks of the fire department.

1981 – 1982

Total # of Alarms:	94
Structure fires:	7
Brush Fires:	4
Car Fires:	6
Ambulance Calls:	56
Miscellaneous:	6
Mutual Aid Calls:	7
Stand By:	3
False Alarms:	4
Investigations:	1

No injuries were reported during the year and the total truck mileage came to 3,037 miles.

1982 – 1983

Total # of Alarms:	133
Structure Fires:	9
Brush Fires:	7
Car Fires:	3
Drills:	7
Miscellaneous:	86
Mutual Aid Calls:	8
Boat Fires:	1
False Alarms:	12

A total of 2,412 men spent a total of 2,208 man hours at the 133 reported alarms. No injuries were reported during the year to the chief 3,748 miles were traveled by all the trucks in the Jamesport Fire Department.

This concludes the rundown of the fire reports of the Jamesport Fire Department.