



BOX 52 ASSOCIATION THE LINE BOX

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B.F.D. News

Several fire companies have been issued MSA masks for field testing. The testing was done by Rescue Company 2 over several months. The BFD is comparing the MSA product versus the Scott masks currently in-service. Boston, has been a long time Scott customer.

Four of the new Emergency-One "Metro 100" model aerial ladders have been ordered. These trucks feature:

Maneuverable 100' ladder boasts 220" wheelbase and 11' jack spread with criss- cross, underslung outriggers for set-up in tight spaces. Featuring E-ONE's exclusive integral torque box chassis and ToughTruss® ladder design, the Metro 100 boasts an industry-leading 2.5 to 1 structural safety factor – exceeding NFPA's 2 to 1 requirement. Combined with E-ONE's Cyclone low travel height aerial cab, the Metro 100 offers an impressively low 10'7" travel height.

Rescue 1's and Engine 10's new rigs are now being outfitted by the Shops and should be entering service shortly.

METRO FIRE

Effective October 1st, 2015, the **Massachusetts Port Authority** has taken over primary ARFF protection at Hanscom Field. They have built a new station on the opposite side of the field from the Air Force ARFF station. MASSPORT Engine 51 has been established with a crew of 3. Engine 51 is a rented 2001 Oshkosh T-3000 that had formerly served at Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Airport used Oshkosh T-3000 ARFF vehicle. They are waiting for the arrival of a new Rosenbauer ARFF unit. They have been issued a ten alarm Metro Run Card and test with Metro during the daily radio test. Mutual aid from the surrounding communities responds to designated staging areas on all Alert 2, much like Boston does. USAF ARFF resources also respond. A little known fact is that for decades, MASSPORT has owned the runways and taxiways, with the Air Force responsible for all other areas and the structural firefighting. MASSPORT at Logan, has also taken delivery of a new Squad. It is a 2015 Ford F-450/Danko light duty rescue. It has been designated as Rescue 11

Reading and Wakefield have received funding for new pumps, no further info at press time.



MASSPORT E-51, photo courtesy of Bruce Gusler

Lexington has taken delivery of its 3rd E-One pump for Engine 1. The former Engine 1's Ferrera has been designated Engine 2 and is stored at the DPW for use as a reserve unit when needed. With this move, the entire front line fleet of the LFD is now Emergency-One.



Lexington Engine 1, photo by M. Boynton

Stoneham Has taken delivery of a 2015 Emergency One Cyclone model Quint for Ladder 1. The rig is equipped with a 1,250 gpm pump/450 gallon tank/100 foot rear mount aerial.

Outside the District

Lawrence On November 30th Engine 9 returned to its original quarters on Bailey Street. This station had been closed for a number of years. They are also removing the Gamewell Telegraph fire alarm system due to its lack of maintenance over the years. As we went to press, the City is moving towards the use of radio boxes.



Haverhill 7th alarm, photo by Member Peter Alosi



Lynn, fire on Chestnut St. Photo by Member Peter Alosi



4th alarm Greenwood St. Boston. Photo courtesy of the BFD

Willy's Jeep

Willy pulled the earflaps on his hat down to cover his ears. The December wind was cold as Willy and his first grade class walked to the fire station with Mrs. Esposito. Mrs. Esposito knocked on the firehouse door. The firehouse door opened and Willy and the rest of his class walked into the big room where the firetrucks are. Suddenly, a loud clang came from the pipes on the wall and some of the kids jumped in the air. "That's just the radiators talking to us, nothing to be afraid of kids." Fireman Walter said. "Remember kids, if the big gong goes off just stand by the wall and we'll be back as soon as we can." Fireman Walter went on to explain how Christmas time could be dangerous for fires and how everybody had to be careful with fire.

After the talk Fireman Walter began to show all the kids the fire trucks. First he showed them the pumper. The pumper had all kinds of dials and wheels and levers and stuff on either side of it. Next he showed them the hook and ladder truck. Willy was a little scared by the ladder truck. It was really long and high. It was much taller than Willy. "Wow!" Willy exclaimed, "That truck's really long and tall." Yes son, that's why we call it Long Tall Sally", Fireman Walter said. "Do you see that wheel up on top? That's where I ride, I'm the Tillerman." Walter said.

Suddenly the big gong began to clang and all the kids covered their ears and ran to stand along the wall of the firehouse. The big doors went up and the fire trucks roared outside. After awhile the fire trucks came back. Willy went running up to Fireman Walter and asked him "Was it a good ride on top of Long Tall Sally?" The fireman with the white hat started to cough. Fireman Walter just said "ahhh, ahh, ahh, let's finish the tour." The fireman with the white hat looked at Fireman Walter the same way Willy's Mom looked at him when he did something naughty. Willy wondered what he had said.

Fireman Walter brought the class to the back of the firehouse. Behind the pumper was a rowboat on a trailer. In the boat were some big hooks with pipes and chains. One of the kids asked Walter, do you go fishing with that? All of a sudden Fireman Walter looked sad, “no, not really.” He said. Fireman Walter then reminded the class that the ice is never safe and not to go play on it without a grownup being there.

At the very back of the firehouse, pointed towards a side door was a funny little red truck. “Is that a fire truck?” Willy asked. “That’s the Jeep” Fireman Walter said. Sometimes we use that to pull the lifeboat to the water, he added. Willy jumped up and said, “hey, that’s got my name on the front of it. It says Willys.” Fireman Walter reached up on top of a locker and took down a stack of magazines. He handed the magazines to Willy and said, “Here ya go Willy, see if you can find some pictures of Jeeps in these.” Willy tucked the magazines under his arm and took them back to school.



When he got home from school Willy went to where his mother kept the Saturday Evening Post Magazine she and his father read. Willy liked to look at the pictures and he thought he remembered something. Willy flipped through the pages of three magazines before he found it. There was a picture of Willy’s Jeep with some dogs in it. In big letters it spelled out T-E-X-A-C-O.



Before it was time to say his prayers and go to bed Willy looked through the magazines Fireman Walter had given him. There were more pictures of Jeeps. Willy closed his eyes and made a wish.

The next day when Willy came home he met the man with the big leather sack. "Hello Mr. Postman." Willy said. "Hello Willy, I've got something you might want to see in your mail today", the Postman said. Willy took the big thick book from the postman. Willy, didn't have to be able to read to know what this was. It was the Sears, Roebuck and Company Wish Book. Willy sat down on the steps and started searching through the catalog. He found the toy section. Page by page he carefully looked at each picture. Then, there it was. His hopes had come true! There, on page 172 was a toy fire jeep, just like the one Willy had seen in the firehouse! It said Tonka Fire Jeep No. 425, and it even came with a hydrant and could squirt water! Willy rushed to get a pencil and paper and write a letter to Santa Claus.

Days and nights went by. Each day Willy tried to be good, each night he said his prayers. Finally, Christmas arrived! Willy ran down the stairs and there, under the tree, Santa had left lots of presents, but off to the side, was a short stubby box, wrapped like all the others. Willy grabbed this gift and in one swoop, all the paper was gone and in his hand was a white box with red printing that showed.....a Jeep Pumper!



**From the Boston Globe Archives,
December 16, 1920**

This article appeared in the Boston Globe 95 years ago and is copied from the original article – editor

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF BOX 52 ASSOCIATION

The eight annual Christmas celebration of the Box 52 Association was held last night at the Engineers' Club, Commonwealth av and Arlington st, nearly 100 members and guests receiving gifts from Santa Claus, impersonated by callman "Nate" Flynn of Engine 23.

Fire Commissioner John R Murphy, Chiefs P.J. Hurley of Holyoke, and "Jimmie" Casey of Cambridge, and many local Fire Department Officials were spectators at the initiation exercise, conducted by Chief of Dept Peter F. Walsh, by which Deputy Chiefs Henry A. Fox, Walter M. McLean and Henry Thompson, superintendent of the Boston Protective Departments, were admitted as members.

A lecture on the modern telephone system, illustrated by motion pictures was given by a representative of the New England Telephone Company. Fire Commissioner Murphy spoke of the development of the Boston Fire Department during the year, P. Hildreth Parker, president of the association was master of ceremonies.

Elephants Trained to Fight Forest Fires'Forest watchdogs' patrol Indonesia Forests

Officials in Indonesia are using trained elephants outfitted with water pumps and hoses to help patrol forests and control fires. For nearly three months, Riau province in East Sumatra has been blanketed by smoke from forest fires and land clearing, especially in peat-rich areas where flames are difficult to contain. At the elephant conservation center in Siak district, 23 trained elephants are being used as "forest watchdogs." Carrying water pumps and other equipment, elephants and their crews patrol burned areas in the national forest to ensure that fires don't reappear after smoldering beneath the peat lands.

The head of the Riau Forestry Division says the elephants had earlier been trained to help patrol forests to find people encroaching illegally, as well as to resolve frequent conflicts between wild elephants and people by driving the wild elephants that enter human settlements back to their habitat. So far, Indonesia has been unable to put out the raging fires this year because of intentional burning and a rain shortage. In what George Monbiot calls [the biggest environmental disaster of our time](#), an estimated 4.2 million acres of forests and plantation land have been razed by fires throughout Sumatra and Borneo.



Christmas Eve 1929 Five Alarm Fire Damages White House From a story by Col. R.D. Heinly

Christmas Eve 1929 in Washington DC, was real Christmas weather, snow was on the ground and ice was on the window panes. Inside the White House President Hoover and the First Lady were hosting a children's party for their staff. In the vacant West Wing, Secret Service men patrolled. Manning the White House switchboard was Agent Rice.

Around 8:00 PM wisps of smoke was discovered by Hoover's secretary's son who called the switchboard. As Rice received the call, Agents Wood and Trice were trying to find the thickening smoke. They climbed a stairway to the attic, they opened the door and were hit by a wall of heat and smoke. Wood shouted to Trice that the "whole attic is burning up"! Wood grabbed an extinguisher and tried to use it with no results. Trice raced to sound the alarm, upon reaching the Gamewell box he broke the glass, turned the handle, opened the door and pulled the hook down.

At Fire Alarm Headquarters the circuits started to bang out 1 then 5 then 7, the first round of box 157 the White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, this was followed by the three remaining rounds. The man on watch at Engine 1 house, entered the alarm into the log book, hit the house gong and yelled "Box 157 the White House, we go first due"! It was just 8:09 PM. Engine 1's 1927 Seagrave pump roared through the

Pennsylvania Avenue gate Captain. Edward O'Connor could already see fire behind the small attic windows of the West Wing. Right behind Engine 1 was Battalion Chief Gill. He also had noticed the flames. He lead his crews inside and up the stairs, they ran into a wall of smoke. Chief Gill yelled down for Rescue Squad 1 to come up with their smoke helmets.

Rescue Squad 1 made the top of the stairs and joined up with Engine 1's crew, a backdraft occurred and blew the members down the stairs. As the crews picked themselves up, and Chief Gill transmitted the second alarm, the four injured members were taken from the building. Fire Alarm Headquarters received and transmitted the second alarm at 8:16 PM. At the same time Deputy Chief Nicholson transmitted the third alarm one minute later at 8:17 PM. Eight additional engine companies, the water tower and two ladder companies were now responding.



Arriving first due at the rear of the building Engines 16 and 23 with Truck 3 were blocked by a locked gate and had to wait for the Secret Service to get the key and open the gate. Deputy Chief Nicholson was at the rear with these companies. He could see fire coming out of the roof skylights. He directed Ladder 3 to put the aerial up to the roof and the engine to bring lines to the roof.

As Chief of Department Watson arrived, he ordered a fourth alarm on box 157. He had battled many fire in government buildings during his career and knew that a stubborn fire in a cramped space, overflowing with paper with no access or vents, heavily charged with heat and fire was a recipe for disaster. He directed the attack and as the fire crept closer and closer to the Oval Office, Engine 16 and Truck 3 were directed on salvage. The great crystal chandelier and the ceiling collapsed on the members. Two members were badly injured and were removed by their comrades.

The battle continued. By 9:24 PM Chief Watson had ordered the fifth alarm and the companies slugged it out hour after hour as Christmas Eve turned into Christmas Day.

By 7:27 AM the fire was declared out and Engine 1 was assigned to prevent a rekindle.

The cause of the fire was an overheated flue in an open fireplace in the northwest corner of the West Wing. Damage was listed at \$ 135,000.00.

A silent video of the fire can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N1Q3pIQdgw>

CHRISTMAS AT JORDAN MARSH, SANTA CLAUS AND FIRE ENGINE TOYS

By Anonymous Box 52 Member

Photos courtesy of the Boston Public Library Leslie Jones Collection and
Various Internet Vintage Toy Sites

I was flipping through my families photo album and spotted photos of my sister and me with Santa Claus at the old downtown Jordan Marsh back in 1962.....

My little sister Ellen was driving my mother crazy to see Santa so she could give him her list in person. Ellen was 4 years old and I was a worldly 7 and couldn't be bothered with such wastes of time, after all I had to get my fire trucks ready for the coming winters and the conflagrations we would face. In fact, I had just put a new Auburn Rescue Squad made of rubber in service that my parents gave me for a good report card. It was a nice addition to the fleet, but I was desperate for a ladder truck! I needed either a tiller or a straight stick. I had done considerable research from the Sears Catalog and I had decided on either the Tonka metal tiller, or the Renwal plastic mid-mount.



So, anyway my mother got us up early on a Saturday dressed us up and off we went to wait for the trackless trolley to Harvard Sq. I always loved sitting up front and bouncing up and down on the horse hair seats (*these were the 1936 Pullman-Standard Trackless Trolley-editor*). I loved when we would drive into the Harvard Square tunnel to get to the subway.

Off we went on the MTA and rode the old green subway cars. The train pulled into Washington Street and we walked up the stairs and into Jordan's. My mom held Ellen's hand and I was tagging along behind my head on a swivel looking at the decorations, the people and the other kids. We took the elevator up to the 7th floor, where my mom said the Enchanted Village and Santa were (*by 1962 the Enchanted Village was 4 years old and had become a Boston Holiday tradition-editor*). My mom was telling Ellen that this is where they held fashion shows during the year for ladies dresses,



Having seen the Village for the last few years I was an old hand and took to pointing out the sights to Ellen, after all I am her big brother! As we inched along, panic set in.....what if I told Santa I wanted the tiller and the Elves didn't know the difference! Maybe I should have brought pictures, maybe I can find a book with fire engine pictures inside. I was panic stricken! Ellen was sitting on Santa's lap babbling about dolls. After her photo was taken with Mom beaming it was my turn. I approached the Great Man and realized I just needed a ladder truck what ever I got. I blurted out my wants list stressing the fire engines. I was all smiles as we entered the toy department I was looking around and I stopped dead in my tracks, My mother and sister bumped into me.....my mouth hung open.....my eyeballs popping out of my skull. It couldn't be it was a Seagrave ladder truck like the ones in the picture I cut out of the Record American when Boston bought the new Seagrave tillers, and it came with a pumper too! I had to get back in line for Santa I wanted this I didn't care if I got anything else! My mother just smiled and said I could write a new letter to him when I got home. We wandered around the toy department with Ellen we were over whelmed.



Jordan Marsh Company Circa 1960



Jordan's Christmas rush Dec. 1961

Both photos the BPL L. Jones Collection

Soon it was time to go and look at the store windows. We stood in awe of the Nativity scene on the Summer Street side of Jordan's.

Mom took us up West Street to Tremont and lunch at Dini's. I can still taste their Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, and peas washed down with a Roy Rogers!



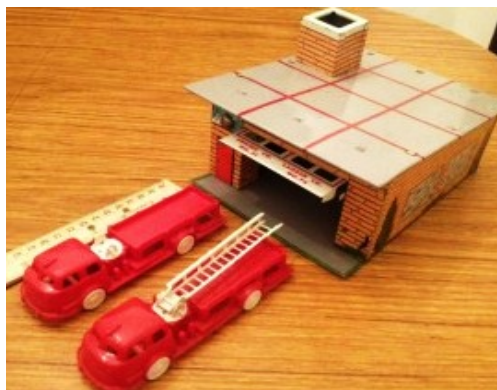
Dini's Seafood Grill 94 Tremont St. Photo courtesy of Dirty Old Boston

Mom then took us over to the Common and we saw the Reindeer and all the decorations. By now it was about three in the afternoon and Mom wanted to pick up some candy for the house and Dad, so it was off to Fanny Farmers on Tremont Street. And then came the best part..... Baileys for ice cream sundaes! When we left heading for Park St. Under, it was getting dark and all the Christmas lights were glowing. We were home after a great day. Ellen was asleep 3 minutes after we got home and my Dad let me listen to the first period of the Bruins game on the radio (*Bruins played the New York Rangers to a 3-3 tie – editor*).

After what seemed like a century, Christmas Day had arrived! I rushed down the stairs and I saw all sorts of presents and a Lionel train set around the tree! We started to rip open presents and there it was.....the Seagrave set by the Eldon Company!



I got a bunch of other neat stuff, but I also got more fire trucks and books about the fire department and fire engines! My Uncle Peter gave me an American La France model crash truck. Aunt Pat and Uncle Dave gave me a cool white pumper truck and my Nana gave me a Marx Fire Station play set and Grandpa gave me a Tonka set with a real rescue squad! It was a great Christmas with lots of memories, from a simpler time and what seemed happier times. Merry Christmas to all and all a good night!



I would like to thank Editor Frank San Severino for finding some photos for the article. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

DELIVERIES & NEWS

By Michael Boynton, all photos by the author

Since our last update, the pace of deliveries of new rigs throughout Massachusetts has continued to be strong, although inside Metro Boston only two new arrivals can be noted. That will soon change as Boston is expected to take delivery of the new Rescue 1 in the coming weeks, along with Brookline Ladder 2 will also be in that Community shortly as well. All are KME products. Boston's new engine (presumed to be Engine 10) has arrived at the dealer and is awaiting pre-deliver preparation. As we approach the close of 2015, roughly 105 new (not pre-owned!) pieces of fire apparatus (and 55 ambulances) have been delivered in Massachusetts. With roughly one month to go, it is not out of the question that we will approach 115 new rigs. That said, 2015 appears to have been one of the most active years in recent memory.

Outside of Metro Boston

Abington Tower 1 2015 Ferrara Inferno 2,000 gpm/300 gallon tank/95 ft mid-mount tower mid-mount tower.

Attleboro Ladder 1 2015 Pierce Arrow XT 100 foot tractor drawn aerial

Auburn Tower 1 2016 Sutphen model SP-95 1,500 gpm/400 gallon tank/95 ft mid-mount tower

Berkley Tanker 1 2015 Freightliner/KME 1,250 gpm/3,000 gallon tank

Chatham Tower 189 2015 Rosenbauer Commander model rear mount aerial. 2,000 gpm/500 gallons/20 gallons of foam, 104 foot rear mount aerial.

Cheshire Engine 1 2015 Pierce Saber model pump 1,250 gpm/1,000 gallon tank/30 gallons

Department of Fire Service Rehab 6 2015 International/Farber

Framingham Engine 5 2016 Pierce Arrow XT model 1,500 gpm/750 gallon tank/100 gallon foam tank

Harvard Tower 1 1980 Mack Cf-600/ Baker 75 foot Aerial Scope, former FDNY and Pembroke, NH.

Lancaster Engine 2 2016 KME Panther model 1,500 gpm pump/1,000 gallon tank/50 gallons foam

Onset Ladder 1 2015 Rosenbauer Commander model, 1,500 gpm /300 gallon tank/78 foot rear mount aerial. Former Avenel, New Jersey.

Rochester Tower 1 1996 Emergency One Hush model 1,500 gpm/200 gallon tank/95 foot rear mount tower.

Seekonk Ladder 1 2015 Emergency One Cyclone II 110 foot rear mount aerial

Shutesbury Engine 1 2015 KME Panther model 1,250 gpm/2,000 gallon tank/20 gallons class A and 20 gallons class B foam.

Sterling Engine 5 2015 Seagrave Marauder II 1,500 gpm pump/1,000 gallon tank

Sudbury Engine 2 2015 KME Severe Service model 1,500/1,000 gallon tank/30 gallons of foam.



Abington Tower 1



Attleboro Ladder 1, first due Ladder to your editor's house!



Auburn Tower 1



Berkley Tanker 1



Chatham Tower 189



Cheshire Engine 1



Framingham Engine 5



Harvard Tower 1, X-FDNY



Lancaster Engine 2



Mass. D.F.S Rehab 6



Onset Ladder 1



Rochester Tower 1



Seekonk Ladder 1



Sterling Engine 5



Sudbury Engine 2

FIRE SERVICE CHRISTMAS



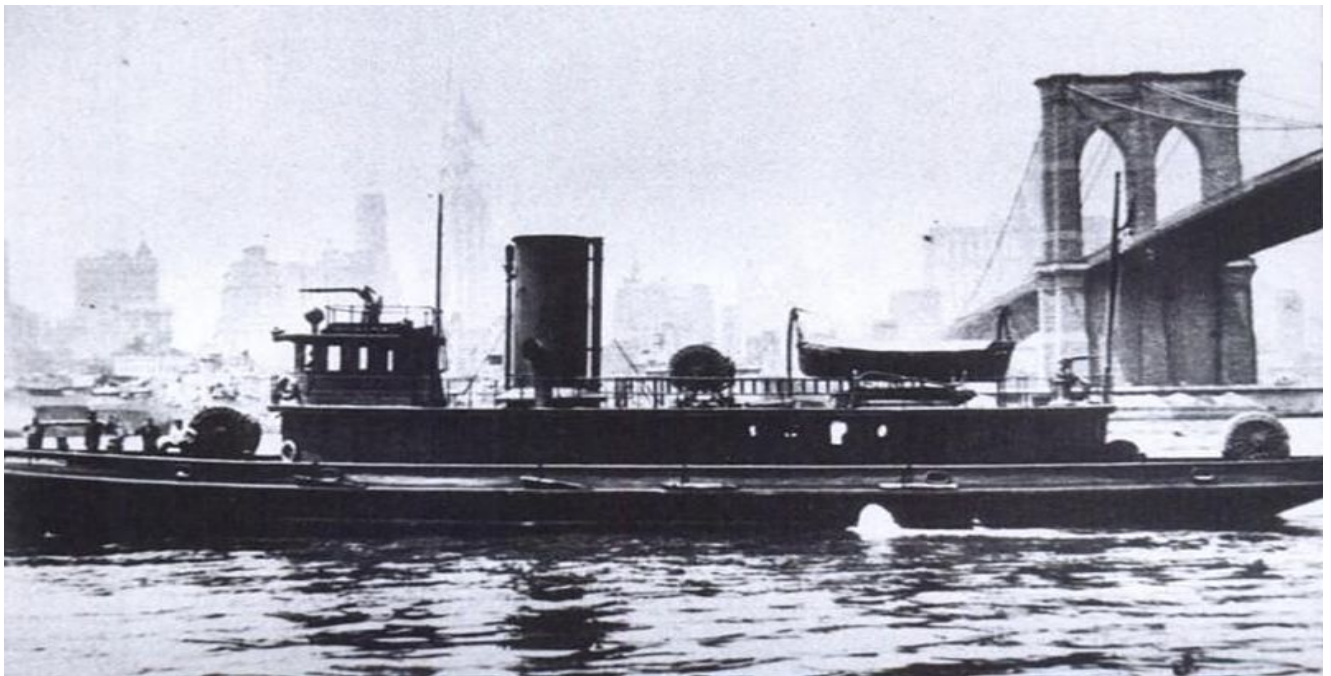
Wakefield HQ all decked out for the Holidays in 1966. Photo by Late Member L. M. Young courtesy of Member D. Parr

Apparatus photos courtesy of Facebook SPAAMFA page.





Well, that's it for this special extended holiday issue of the Line Box. We hope that you enjoyed it. As our annual gift to our readers, please enjoy this Youtube on a radio test of the FDNY Fire Boat Fleet in 1936:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnMs_j81rVg



Fireboat Hewitt in 1903 under the Brooklyn Bridge, Photo via the internet



To all, the very best to you and your family for a joyous, peaceful and safe holiday season from the Line
Box Staff: Frank San Severino –Editor
Michael Boynton, Mark Roche, John Galla and John Pozark Jr.

