



*Fanwood's first "modern" truck, Engine 5, was a 1965 triple combination cab-over designed by Great Eastern.*

The fire company also purchased a new flag for this anniversary. The blue and gold flag was first carried during the July 4th parade in Plainfield.

Luke A. Pandick was honored as the second member to complete fifty years of active service on Saturday, December 11, 1965.

At a council meeting in April 1967, an announcement was made stating that a Fire Prevention Bureau had been organized by the Fire Department. The major purpose of the Bureau was to assure enforcement of the borough's fire code.

The early morning of July 4, 1969 saw members in their dress uniforms preparing to leave for the Central Jersey Parade in Plainfield. At 9:10 AM their plans were changed when they were dispatched to Marlou Lights, 60 South Avenue, on a report of a structure fire. This would turn out to be the second major fire and loss at this business. Upon arrival Chief Springer

immediately called for mutual assistance from Scotch Plains and Westfield. Thousands of gallons of water were poured into the building but it was completely gutted. During the fire twenty firemen were overcome by smoke or cut by flying glass.

Clarence Slocum was honored on October 31, 1970, as the third member to be active for fifty years.

The year 1972 got off to a terrible start when on January 10th, a two car accident resulted in the death of one person when his vehicle burst into flames upon impact. This was the start of a thirteen month period which is the most tragic in our history. On October 31, a house fire resulted in the death of a mother and her two children. All three died of smoke inhalation in their single family house on LaGrande Avenue. The front of the house was completely engulfed upon the arrival of the fire engines. Police investigators concluded that the fire started accidentally when a new living room rug ignited. The investigators arrived at the following sequence of events: the mother, who was in the kitchen telephoning her family, discovered the fire, she took the first child and went to the second child's rear bedroom where she and the children became trapped and were overcome by the smoke. According to the report the deaths occurred before the fire department arrived. This is the period before smoke detectors were popular!

In January 1973, a house fire on Burns Way caused extensive damage to the interior of the house but there were no injuries. On February 4, 1973 the third major house fire in four months took two lives. The fire occurred on LaGrande Avenue and apparently started in a living room couch. Two boys died of smoke inhalation.

This period brought about increased awareness and publicity of fire prevention. Articles on smoke detectors, home safety measures and escape routes - "2 ways out" were prevalent in newspapers and publications directly from the fire prevention bureau.