

THE UNDERHILL JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT 100 YEARS

By
RANDY H. CLARK

A COMMUNITY TRAGEDY

The date was August 11, 1906 when a defective kerosene stove started a fire which consumed four buildings on the Jericho side of the community of 'The Flats'. The home of Walter Grace, the drug store and residence of Dr. W.S. Nay, the 60 year old Methodist Church and the Masonic Grange building were all destroyed. Other homes were saved by pulling down the horse sheds behind the church and wet blankets were spread on the roofs of some of the nearby houses. Even The Congregational Church on the other side of the village park was threatened. The Burlington Fire Department responded quickly, sending by train both a steamer and manpower to help with the emergency. Meanwhile, the community Citizen Bucket Brigade was trying to keep the fire from spreading. The BFD had made the train trip in 35 minutes, but it was too late to save the involved buildings. Their equipment pumped water from the Browns River to wet down the remains. For the four destroyed buildings the damages were estimated at \$15,000. Insurance covered \$9000. The buildings were all rebuilt.



Only a few chimneys remain after the fire consumed these buildings



These buildings replaced the ones lost in the fire of 1906

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNDERHILL FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Elbridge Nealy

It was not until 1913 that a formal fire department was organized for the community. Elbridge Nealy, a storekeeper on Park Street and Frank Ladue, who operated a barber shop in the same building, were the prime organizers. Mr. Nealy became the first department chief and served for 16 years. The first firefighting equipment consisted of a 75 gallon chemical tank mounted on a pair of wagon wheels and pulled by the firefighters. It was stored in Nealy's building between his jewelry store and the barber shop. It could only be used in Underhill Flats/Riverside area; Underhill Center was too far away to be serviced.

The tank worked by filling it with water and adding powdered soda. In the top was a glass bottle containing hydrochloric acid. During a fire the tank was turned over, the acid would mix with the soda water and the chemical reaction which occurred built up pressure in the tank and forced the water out of the attached hose.



1913 Chemical Tank



The Underhill Fire Station located on Park Street

In 1927 the Fire Department modernized, adding two forty gallon chemical tanks and motorizing the equipment with a 1923 Model TT Ford. The department could now travel faster and farther.



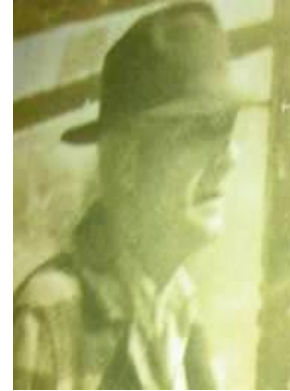
1923 Model TT Ford Fire Truck with two 40 gallon tanks



Chief Elwood W. Clark

In 1929 Elwood Clark, proprietor of the Underhill Garage, became department chief, serving for four years.

In 1933 Howard P. Davis took over as chief. (He was the local sheriff and a high bailiff in the Burlington court system). He served as chief until 1952.



Chief Howard P. Davis

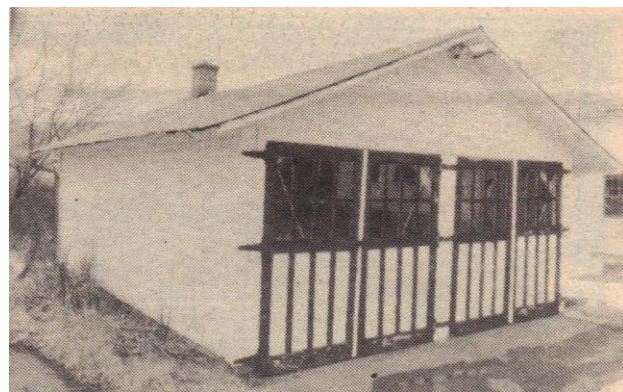


1927 Packard converted to Fire Truck

During this period the department responded to eight to twelve fires a year. In 1934 a heavier, faster 1927 Packard coupe with a rumble seat was purchased for \$250. The rumble seat was removed and the chemical tanks were installed.

A new firehouse was built in 1936 to house the newly acquired Packard. The location was just over the Town line on the corner of Park Street and Route 15 in Jericho.

The Packard was able to respond to all areas of Underhill and Jericho, the farthest distance being about 9 miles. (The Packard was also used during wartime in the 1940s for notification of a possible air raid. The fire men would drive with no lights at a high rate of speed and warn people of danger with a shrieking, ear piercing exhaust whistle.)



The Fire Station built in 1936 RT15 and Park St

More water power was needed and a 500 gpm Civil Defense pumper mounted on a trailer was purchased. It effectively poured out a strong stream of water, but the trailer did not work well. It had to be hitched onto the Packard making the response time slower and it slowed down the Packard, too. The Dept decided to buy an Army surplus 1942 Chevrolet Four wheel drive and mounted the new 500gpm tank on it. The cost for the pump and hose was \$2500. It was a tremendous expense, but provided a big boost in the fire fighting capabilities. About the same time Elwood Clark and Ed Ward developed a



nitrogen pressure system for expelling the water from the two forty gallon tanks, replacing the messy, time-consuming soda and acid method.

1942 Chevrolet Army Surplus 4x4 with 500 GPM Pump

TELEPHONE SERVICE

During these times the eight to ten men who went to the fires were notified by telephone. A person having a fire would call by phone if he had one, or a neighbor would call the telephone operator at the office, which was located behind the Fire Station in what was then the home of Genevieve King. Genevieve's mother, Alice King, was the telephone operator; she would call each fireman and report where the fire was. (Genevieve's father was a fireman and her brother was chief from 1958-1970.)

A NEW STATION

By 1949 the 1942 Chevy truck had become too big for the fire station. Space was at a premium. The men did not even have places along the wall for hanging their new coats and helmets. Tucked in between the Packard and the Chevy on the floor were about ten 80 pound milk cans (painted red) filled with water. When there was a fire, Orville Wrisley would load them into his pickup truck and haul them to the fire. That was the water supply.



New brick Fire Station built with mostly volunteer labor 1952

Archie and Mae Kirby who owned the Brick Store on the green in the Flats donated a parcel of land on which to build a new fire station. By 1952 a new station had been built on the property, 30 x 60 feet with room to spare. It was brick and concrete with a metal roof and cement floor, accomplished mostly with volunteer help.

INCORPORATION- A NEW ERA

In 1950 the firemen decided to form a corporation to limit their liability. The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department Inc. was chartered as a legal non-profit corporation in the State of Vermont. The document was signed by Howard P. Davis, E.W.Clark, and Orville Wrisley. (Orville C. Wrisley was elected chief in 1952 and served until 1956.) After the Department became incorporated the fire-fighters were paid for their services: \$1.00 per hour and a minimum of \$1.00 per call.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Jericho-Underhill American Legion contributed a resuscitator costing about \$400. In the mid '50s twenty sets of raincoats and helmets were purchased; the men were so proud, they wore them to march in the Memorial Day parade.

DIAL TELEPHONE COMES TO TOWN

The dial telephone was introduced to Underhill and Jericho in 1955 and local operators no longer had to take emergency calls. A fire number was established: TW9-2560. (TW stood for Twin Oaks, the name of the exchange.) The phone system consisted of three red phones: one at the home of Chief Maitland Root; one at the home of 2nd Assistant Chief Ed Ward; and one at the Underhill Garage (owned and operated by Elwood Clark, then 1st Assistant Chief.) When a call was received a new warning-alert system atop the fire station (which cost \$1000) would be activated by a person at the red phone location. This seemed like the ultimate in communication. Push a button and the alarm could be heard over half a mile away.

FUND RAISING

In 1956 the UJFD held its first fund raiser. A toy donkey was decorated with fifty \$1.00 bills and raffle tickets were sold. (10 cents per ticket, 3 for 25 cents, 12 per dollar.) A fund raising dance was held at the Hen House in Underhill Center and the first Labor Day Barbeque was held at the park in the Flats. The chicken was cooked over an open pit by Cedric Wetherbee. (It rained toward the end of the event; tables and chairs for 125 people were moved into the Underhill Garage across the street.) Citizens donated rolls, salads and pies and money, which helped to make the fund raising event a success. The Labor Day Bar-B-Q became a tradition, now held at the Browns River Middle School., and Bill Wetherbee, Cedric's nephew, has continued the cooking for many years. On Labor Day 2012, 1000 guests were fed.



Honorary UJFD First Assistant Chief Ed Ward (age 101), Chairman of the UJFD's First Firefighter's Fund in 1956 presents Bill Wetherbee a 50 Year Award. Wetherbee owns and operates Wetherbee's Bar B Q Service and standing next to Wetherbee is his mother, Marion; next to Ward is Wetherbee's father, Manley. Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark is doing the announcing. Wetherbee's have always cooked our Chickens.

FIRST TANKER TRUCK

It was decided that there was room in the new Fire Station to house a second truck. The plan was to replace the milk cans with a tank truck. In 1957 an 850 gal. Chevrolet oil tanker was made over as a water truck at a cost of \$750. Maitland Root became Fire Chief in 1957, serving until 1962.



1952 Chevrolet 850 gallon converted fuel oil truck to tanker



Chief Maitland Root

NEW CHIEF NEW TRUCK

Robert T. King had joined the UJFD in 1956. (He was State Auditor of Accounts and he brought organization to the fire dept.) Bob King was voted Chief in 1962 and served until 1970. In the early '60s then as Assistant Chief, Bob King established a truck committee which traveled all over the State of Vermont looking for a truck which would fit the budget of a small department. In March 1963 the voters of Underhill and Jericho approved the purchase of the first professionally - built fire apparatus in fifty years of operation. In January 1964 the new truck was delivered.



Chief Robert T. King

The fire truck body was made by the Peter Pirsch and Sons of Kenosha, Wisconsin. It was on a 1963 International Model V196 chassis with a 220 horse power specially built fire truck engine with 5 speed transmission, power steering and a No Spin rear differential. It had a 750 gpm Hale, 2 stage pump and two high pressure fog reels (a new concept in fire fighting). There was a 24 foot extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder, a 500 gallon water storage tank, and room for 1500 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose. (Total cost \$14,000.) The department was so pleased; it held an open house for viewing.



1963 International with a 750 GPM pump and 500 gallons of water

The 1942 Chevrolet was remodeled by Bill Mead, Bob Clark and other volunteers by removing the hose and installing a 666 gallon water tank. The truck's four -wheel drive capability made this unit excellent for grass and brush fire fighting and continued to be used for another ten years. The 1927 Packard had served its useful life, was advertised for bid and sold for \$427.00. (It probably should have been saved for its heritage value.)

BOY SCOUT SPONSOR

In 1965 the UJFD became the sponsor of the local Boy Scout Troop 7. Underhill Jericho Troop 207, as it is now designated, is the largest troop in Vermont and has been very active with community projects in both towns. Since about 2000 the boys have participated and helped out at the fire department on a monthly schedule.



Troup 7 Boy Scout Flag

OFFICIAL APPROVAL

In the late 1960s the Underhill Jericho Fire Department became officially ISO approved. As a result, the insurance cost for community members was lowered by about 20 percent.

HAZARDS

During the 1960s there were abandoned house fires and fires set in the road with hay or tires, mostly on Cabbage Night or Halloween. One such fire almost became deadly for the firefighters. When putting out one of the road fires with only a booster line, they found a gallon sized mayonnaise jar filled with gasoline. Fortunately, it did not explode, for it was the equivalent of 7 sticks of dynamite. After that incident, ALL fires were treated with a minimum of 1 1/2 inch line (120gpm) and full bunker gear.

FIRST NEW TANKER

In the late 1960s another committee was formed to design a new professionally built tanker truck. In 1970 a new International model 2010A with a 2000 gallon water tank was delivered with a midship Hale 350 gpm pump. It also carried an extension ladder, a roof ladder and a portable 1500 gallon water tank. The body was built by Middlesex Fire Equipment in Montpelier, Vermont. It was Well- engineered and its heavy duty 501 cu.in. engine, in combination with 5 speed transmission and a two speed rear axle, moved the truck safely, but not too fast, to its destinations. (Purchase price \$17,000)



1970 International 2000 gallon tanker with 350 GPM pump

The old Chevrolet tanker was retired and put out for bid and sold to the North Troy Fire Department. It was later sent to the Catamount Race Track in Milton, where it was used as a water truck. It had a long, useful life.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

The 1970s brought new communication ideas and the installation of two-way radios in each truck. In addition, twenty portable "black boxes" were acquired which were kept by each fireman in his car or at home. When the fire alarm sounded a radio tone was heard on the black boxes and all the firemen were alerted at once. It was a great improvement and the firemen did not have to be contacted by phone.

A SAD TIME

In 1970 Bill Mead replaced Bob King as Chief of the Department. In September Bob died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 55. It was a shock and a sad loss for everyone; he had been such an important, active member of the department and of the community. Donations sent in Bob's memory were used to start a uniform fund, which has furnished hats, shirts and badges to all members. Then in July 1971, another tragedy befell. Chief Bill Mead was thrown from his horse, hitting his head and fracturing his skull. He was treated at the scene by Dr. R.D. Towne and rushed to the Mary Fletcher Hospital in a station wagon by Randy Clark and Terry Root. He died of his injuries later that day. He was only 47. The UJFD had lost two outstanding Chiefs, who had given Freely of their time to the department for over twenty years.



Chief William Mead

THE DEPARTMENT REGROUPS



Chief Randall H. Clark

With such serious loss of leadership, the organization had to regroup and move forward. New officers were elected: Chief, Randall H. Clark; 1st Assistant Chief, Gerald Adams, 2nd Assistant Chief, Terence Root; Captain Dave Sullivan, and Lieutenant Paul Ward. The annual budget at the time was about \$8,468. Chief Randall was employed at the Underhill Garage, owned by his father, Elwood, who was still a member of the UJFD. The family business supported the Fire Department by allowing employees to respond to fire call emergencies and pay them regular wages while they were at the call.

WATER SUPPLY PUMPER

An important decision was made to purchase 2000 feet of four inch hose (LDH) which would move more water than the commonly used four 2 1/2 inch lines. The 660 gal tank was removed from the Chevrolet and a hose body installed. (One cold winter night, responding to mutual aid call in Bolton the truck arrived without the hose, which had slipped off after a bump by Snowflake Bentley's house. It was quickly retrieved.) Otherwise, the hose proved to be an asset to fire fighting efforts and it was decided to purchase a water supply truck. A 1977 International four wheel drive truck was purchased and front-mounted with a 1000 GPM Hale pump, 500 gallons of water, a hydraulic operated reel for the four inch hose and a hydraulic pump. (Cost \$45,000)



1977 International 4x4 with 1500 GPM pump and 2000 feet of 4 inch hose on a reel

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING



Muster Team: L-R, Front to Back: Tim Clark; Loni Morse; Shawn Danaher
Mike Greenough; Dwight DeCoster; Rob Cormier; Randy E. Clark; Todd Fisher

Toward the end of the '70s, the UJFD started participating in the State-wide Fire Department Games. These are activities which improved skills used in the work of the department. Competition with other Vermont Fire Departments and winning trophies improved practice incentive and added fun to the demanding hard work involved.

In 1972 Kitty Clark, Cis Dumas and Nora Root started the UJFD Auxiliary. They brought food and water to the fires for the firefighters and organized family activities for the department members. The group had grown to 14 members when it was discontinued...30 years later (2002) for reasons of insurance liability. At that point the members became full members of the department not only contributing their own specialties, but helping out with fire emergencies, as well.



Ladies Auxiliary Banner

In 1976 Firefighter Raymond Shaw founded the UJFD Firefighter of the Year Award. Then in 1986 the Award Committee added the Fire Officer Award. The Support Specialist Award was added in 1993. These are awarded annually for outstanding work for the department; improving dept efficiency; participating in extra training; involvement in community and civic affairs. The winners of the annual awards are sent to the Vermont State Firefighters Association to be judged state-wide. Those that have received VSFA Awards are: Fire Chief of the Year: Randy H. Clark, 1986; David Tillotson, 2001; Randy E. Clark, 2007. Fire Officer of the Year: Tim Clark, 1996, 1999, and 2001; and Micheal Greenia, 1997. Fire Fighter of the Year: Michael Begin, 1982; Randy E. Clark, 1985; Alan Morse, 1994; Kitty Clark, 1998; and Jackie LaVanway, 2007. Senior Fire Fighter: Randy H. Clark, 2007.

PETER A. RIVERS MEMORIAL STATION

For over ten years the possibility of building an auxiliary fire station in Jericho had been discussed. Many sites had been assessed. Then in the mid '70s Alice and Donald Rivers offered 3 acres of land in Jericho Center on Brown's trace. They also offered free fill, since the site was a bit wet. With the assistance of the National Guard and local contractors the site was filled at no expense to the department. The fill was allowed to settle for several years. Then in 1981 under the direction of 2nd Assistant Chief David Villeneuve, firemen and local contractors constructed a 2400 sq ft brick veneer Fire Station with two bays. David served as volunteer general contractor and with his expertise, the station was built for \$70,000, much lower than any bid price. In the spring of 1982 the new station was dedicated in memory of Peter A. Rivers, father of Donald Rivers.



Pictured in front of the new Peter A. Rivers Memorial Fire Station in 1982 are the members of the building committee: L-R: Firefighter Marc Maheux; 2st Assistant Chief David Villeneuve; 1st Assistant Chief David Sullivan; Captain Jack Lewis; Lieutenant Mike Bordeaux; and Chief Randall H. Clark

IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT

The new Jericho Station needed a qualified pumper to meet the insurance requirements for lowering the rates within 5 miles of the station. A truck committee was formed to study present and future needs and made recommendations. It was decided to buy a new custom 5 man cab Duplex attack pumper. It was the first dept truck with an aluminum body, diesel engine (6V92 Detroit 335 horsepower) and automatic transmission. The pump was a 2000 GPM Hale. Other equipment included new synthetic hose which did not need to be dried, four air packs, nozzles, adapter, ladders (one 35 Feet), generator, hand lights, even chimney cleaning equipment. The body was built in Ocala, FL by Emergency One. (Total cost of the unit \$145,000.)



1982 Duplex Custom 5 man cab with an E-One Aluminum body and a 2000 GPM pump

After three years without major expenses, another new pumper was needed. The Ethan Allen Firing Range was approached for help with the project, but that fell through. A new 1986 International replaced the old 1963. It is similar to the 1982 pumper, but with 3 man commercial cab. (Cost \$134,000) The 1963 truck was sold to the Fairfield



1985 International with 2000 GPM pump and E-One Aluminum Body

Fire Dept for \$12,750.

The old 1942 Chevrolet was not performing well and had seen its useful life. The members unanimously voted to give the old truck to Chief Randall Clark as a token of respect for the many years of service he had given the UJFD. He has kept it in condition for use in parades.

As more and more responses became automobile accidents that sometimes require extrication of trapped occupants, it was decided to buy a used four wheel drive 1985 Chevrolet with a utility body for carrying extrication tools, along with a generator and lights to illuminate the scene of the accident. (Total cost \$10,000.)



1985 Chevrolet 4x4 our first Rescue Truck

By 1987 the budget had risen to \$144,000. It covered the cost of all expenses, two fire stations, five pieces of first line equipment, thirty firefighters, fire police and dispatch. (Cost per community household about \$50.)

The aging 1970 tanker was replaced in 1989 with a new International built by American Eagle with an aluminum body. It is equipped with 1700 gallons of water and a 40 gallon Foam tank to better handle car and flammable liquid fires. (Cost \$95, 000.)

The 1977 water truck which needed considerable maintenance was replaced in 1993 by a new 4x4 International diesel with an Emergency One aluminum body. It has a 1250 GPM front mount pump and reels for both 1 3/4 " and 3" hose. (Cost \$120,000; old '77 was sold to the Huntington Fire Dept for \$40,000.)



1990 International 1700 gallon tanker with 480 GPM pump and foam capabilities with aluminum body by American Eagle

1993 International 4x4 1250 GPM pump and 2700 feet 5 inch hose on a reel, aluminum body by Emergency One



PARADE SPONSOR

In the mid '80s the UJFD became the formal sponsor of the annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade venue alternates between Underhill and Jericho. It includes Veterans, Army vehicles, Boy and Girls Scout Troops, the Mt Mansfield High School Band and others who wish to pay tribute to the honored Veterans.



UJFD Fire Department Members march in Annual Memorial Day Parade 2001

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention has always been a part of the UJFD however in the late 1980s Kitty Clark became actively involved and with other members of the UJFD helping she took it to the area schools; Boy and Girl Scouts; Harvest Market; Fire station tours and developed one of the area's best Fire Prevention programs by using videos; smoke detector training; Stop, Drop, and Roll; color books; rulers; pens; balloons; and you name it...they did it. The secret to good fire prevention of adults is to teach their kids and that they did. Clark served as Chairperson until 2013.



Fire Prevention Class visits the Fire Station in 1998, Pictured are Kitty Clark and Milton Stamp

GIFT OF A LIFETIME

For years Donald Rivers had played Santa Claus at the family Christmas parties and had been a great supporter of the UJFD. He died in 1985. The following year, Mary Rivers invited the UJFD Chiefs for a morning visit at her home on Browns Trace; Chief Randall Clark, 1st Ass't Chief David Villeneuve and 2nd Ass't David Tillotson were there. How astonished they were when she offered to give to the UJFD her entire farm: 125 acres of land, the house and barn. The gift is a splendid resource for the department.



Mary Alice Rivers gifted her farm consisting of 125 acres including this house and barn located in Jericho

NEW LEADERSHIP and A NEW FIRE STATION

In January 1987 after nearly 16 years as Chief, Randall H. Clark chose not to seek re-election and was promoted to Honorary Chief. David Tillotson was elected the new Chief. He had previously served as fireman, Lieutenant, Captain and Second Assistant Chief.

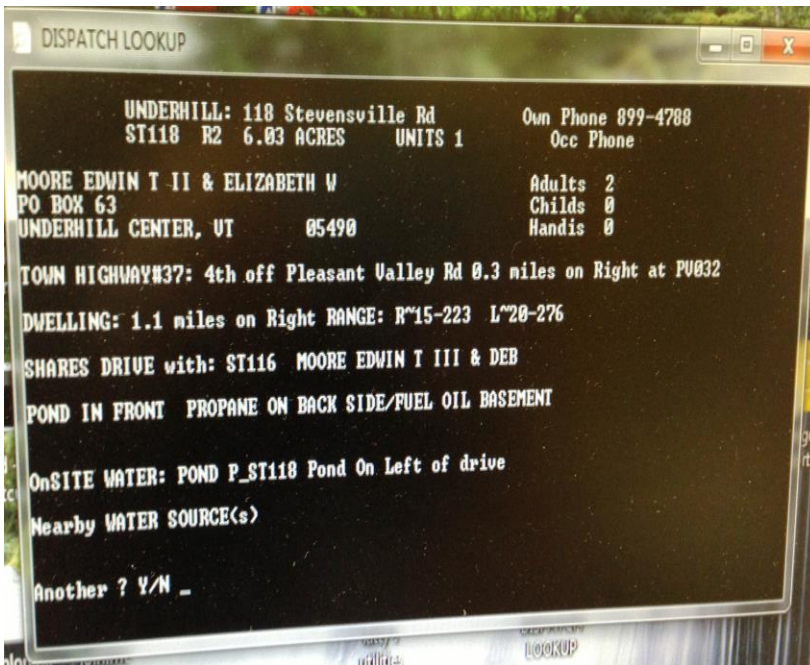
In 1993 Tillotson appointed a "New Underhill Station" committee to study the needs of the department and the community and to look ahead 50 years. After four and one half years of many hours of studying, planning, and then supervising construction, a new 10,800 sq ft brick veneer building with a metal roof was dedicated on December 14, 1997. The building was constructed on the site of the old building and land purchased from Wesley Jacobs and Marion Gleason. (Cost of land and building, \$680,000.)





The Building Committee stands proud in front of the new (1997) Underhill-Jericho Fire Station: Life Member, First Assistant Chief Dave Sullivan; Dispatcher Kitty Clark; Life Member, Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark; Life Member, Chief Dave Tillotson; Life Member, First Assistant Chief Lee Dumas and Captain Micheal Greenia

COMPUTERIZED DISPATCH SYSTEM



Sample Home Owners Information

The new fire station not only has room for the rolling stock and equipment, but offices for dispatch and management, and a fine room for department meetings and training programs. The offices were equipped with computers and the dispatch system began a new era. Thanks to E.T. Moore Computer Services of Underhill and Betty Keefe, Lister in Jericho, the information from the

Grand Lists of both towns were combined into one 911 database. The number of occupants, phone numbers, stored hazardous materials; location of the nearest water supply was all made available on the screen. For Underhill, the dimensions of the buildings and driveways are also shown. Kitty Clark, who had been managing the

dispatch system since 1987, had a powerful tool to manage the dispatch quicker and with much more information. The two towns were mapped and each 911 parcel identified. The computer can bring up the map of the 911 location, and print out map showing the location of the emergency, along with a data sheet with the residential information, location directions to the place, and distance to the nearest water source. A copy of the printed map and data set can be given to the firemen to expedite their work.

The system has been upgraded several times and Johannes Jobst, a highly dedicated member of the fire department, keeps the equipment running smoothly. Kitty Clark is the dedicated member available 24/7 to respond to all of the emergencies and alert the firefighters. Bill Kuschel actually transferred the original Home Owner information from note books to a computer in the early 80s.

FIRE DEPARTMENT WEDDING

On July 6, 1996 UJFD Lieutenant Michael Greenia and UJFD Ladies Auxiliary Cindy Cross were married in a Fire Department wedding. Greenia joined the department in 1984 and Cross became a member of the UJFD Ladies Auxiliary after they started dating in 1992. Cross arrived at the UJ Fire Station in a 1939 American LaFrance Fire Truck. Captain Tim Clark and Firefighter Tom Millette of the UJFD were Groomsmen and several members of the department witnessed the ceremony while in full dress uniform. After pictures the newly married couple left for the reception at the bride's parents in the American LaFrance.



Bride and Groom, Micheal and Cindy Cross Greenia, pose for pictures with members of the UJFD 6/6/96

NEW LEADERSHIP

In January 2001 Chief Tillotson was promoted to Honorary Chief and Randall E. Clark was elected department Chief. Other officers elected were Leon Dumas as First Assistant Chief; Tim Clark, Second Assistant Chief; Dwight DeCoster and Loni Morse, Captains; Shawn Danaher Sr and Scott Carroll, Lieutenants.

The annual budget was up to \$232,000 of which Jericho makes a contribution of 60% and Underhill 40%. The proportions are based on the number of calls, property values and population of the two towns.



Chief Randy E. Clark

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENTS



1995 Chevrolet 4x4 with crew cab and utility body w/Jaws of Life

In 1995 the 1985 Chevrolet 4x4 was replaced with a 1995 Chevrolet 4x4 equipped with a crew cab. Volunteers removed the body from the 1985 and equipped it for the new truck. (Total cost \$35,000) The new truck carried the "Jaws of Life" and associated extrication equipment.

In 2002 another truck committee was formed to research the replacement of the 1982 pumper. There was also becoming a strong emphasis on extrication and rescue services. A new pumper and a rescue truck were leased for \$176,000 and \$141,000, respectively. The Department now had a mountain rescue team, a water rescue team, extrication equipment. Both trucks could carry five people safely to the emergency.



First 2002 International Crew Cab Model 7400 Built By Navistar International, truck has a 1250 GPM pump; carries 1000 feet of 5 inch hose and has an aluminum body manufactured by Emergency One.



2002 International 5 Man Cab w/aluminum body; carries extrication equipment

GRANTS



2003 John Deere Gator

In 2003 an \$8,000 grant from the Smokeless Tobacco Companies afforded purchase of a John Deere Gator. That Gator was traded and a 4x4 Gator was purchased and Mat tracks added with a \$10,000 Grant from the TUMS company. The UJFD purchased a 70 gallon slide in unit for off road abilities. Also purchased was a Rescue-Bogen for carrying people or equipment.

Les Kanat, our Grant writer has been successful in obtaining over \$400,000 in Federal grants for emergency responders: including Freddie, the talking fire truck; Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, for all firefighters; Hydraulic rescue tools; video equipment and much more.



“Freddie” Remote Control Talking Fire Truck

FIRST FIFTY YEAR MEMBER

In 2007, the UJFD retired its 1986 International pumper from front line service with a 5 person cab, 1250 GPM pump with an Emergency One aluminum body mounted on an International commercial chassis. This truck became Engine 6 to be housed for 6 months in Underhill, 6 months in the Jericho Station.

On June 7, 2007 a special ceremony was held to honor Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark for 50 years of service, the first 50 year member in the history of the UJFD. Clark was honored when he learned that Engine 6 had been renumbered to Engine 11 which was his Firefighter number when he joined the UJFD in 1957 at the age of 16. The rear cab doors and a plaque on the panel commemorate Honorary Chief Clark and a celebration with all the members and their families were there for the dedication ceremony.



Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark shows his appreciation with his name on Engine 11



Engine 11 a 2007 International; Crew Cab; 1250 GPM Pump; Attack Pumper Dedicated to Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark for 50 Years of Service to the UJFD. Honorary Chief Clark was Firefighter 11 when he joined the UJFD in 1957.

A new truck was put into service in 2008. Squad 51 is a 4 wheel drive F350 one-ton Ford. It carries first aid supplies and firefighting equipment. It is also equipped with a snowplow for station maintenance and emergency driveway clearing. The truck serves as a Command Post for incidents requiring command. (Cost \$52,000).



2008 Ford 4x4 Used by On Duty Personal for EMT/Firefighter

NEW AUXILIARY

After 30 years of service, the Ladies Auxiliary disbanded in 2002. Charter members Kitty Clark and Cis Dumas were still actively participating. A new UJFD Auxiliary was created with membership open to anyone who is related to a UJFD member and who is 16 years or older.



Kitty Clark and Cecile Dumas 1998

The auxiliary assists line officers or committees, provides emergency child care, plans family functions, shuttles equipment and drinking water to emergencies, and prepares food for emergencies. At an advance level, they serve as traffic control, dispatch backup, and help with Fire Ground Operations.

ESSEX RESCUE

In 2006, an Essex Rescue ambulance was housed at the Underhill Station. It was a backup to be driven by trained firefighter if other Essex ambulances were not available. The relationship expanded and by May of 2009 Essex Rescue had one or sometimes two people at the Underhill Station on call to run the ambulance from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Essex Rescue depends on volunteers to "First Respond" the calls on weekends and evenings, ambulance coverage coming from Essex.



2005 Ford Essex Rescue Ambulance

In 2010 the Underhill Station was remodeled to accommodate two bedrooms (2 persons each) in hope of having a fulltime 24/7 ambulance staff. An office was made into a 'dayroom' for comfortable quarters for the ambulance staff during the day. The relationship between the two organizations continues to grow.

FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

Lieutenant Kurt Flynn, from Newport Center, became the first full-time Administrator and EMT First Responder of the UJFD in October 2007. The increase in ambulance emergency calls now requires a full-time responder. Lt. Flynn served for six months. Lt. Flynn resigned and UJFD volunteer, Joe Greenough filled the post, until a regular replacement could be found. Lieutenant Harry Schoppmann III was hired as a Full-time Firefighter/EMT in October 2008. He maintains the office on regular hours, especially providing real-time emergency alerts, adding to the



Lieutenant Kurt Flynn

efficiency and services of the Department. In 2012 the second full-time person was hired. Firefighter/EMT Corey Koenig and is shared with the Essex Rescue. The department call volume had risen to 377.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE



Chief Todd Fischer

Chief Randy E. Clark was promoted to Honorary Chief in January 2011, having served a term limit of 10 years. The term limit had been added to the bylaws with the hope of keeping the department growing with new ideas and enthusiasm. He was replaced by Chief Todd Fischer from Jericho.

The UJFD yearly budget is voted on at every March Meeting in Underhill and Jericho. (Underhill 40%; Jericho 60%.) The budget approved by the taxpayers for 2012-13 is \$507,535. This pays all of the expenses: buildings, trucks, day to day operating expenses, including two full-time people.

FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNERAL

In the 2012 Underhill Town Report, tribute was paid to David L. Sullivan, who had been a dedicated member of the UJFD for 46 years. He had served many years as Department Assistant Chief and received honors from the UJFD, including Life Member. (He had also served the Town as Fire Warden for many years.) David passed away on May 30, 2012 and the UJFD conducted a “Firefighter’s Funeral” in his honor, the first for the department. Calling hours for Former Assistant Chief Sullivan were held at the Underhill Fire Station. The day of the funeral, his body was carried on Engine 5, leading the motorcade to St. Thomas Church. Procession to his burial in the St. Thomas Cemetery on Range Road was led by members of the UJFD and he was given full department honors, as well as military honors for his service in the U.S. Navy. The siren which had served the Underhill station for many years was sounded at the cemetery. It was a fitting tribute to a very special person.



First Assistant Chief Dave Sullivan

2013 PUMPER TANKER

In 2011 Chief Fischer named a New Truck Study Committee to replace the aging 1985 Pumper. After meeting for over a year the committee recommended that we purchase a Pumper/Tanker and would be considered our Water Supply Pumper. The truck that was purchased is a 2013 International model 7600 tandem axle and has a 475 horsepower diesel engine; an Allison automatic transmission; a 1250 GPM pump; 2650 gallons of water; 2000 feet of 5 inch large diameter hose; as well as a 35 foot ladder; and a 2500 gallon portable tank. (Cost \$350,000)

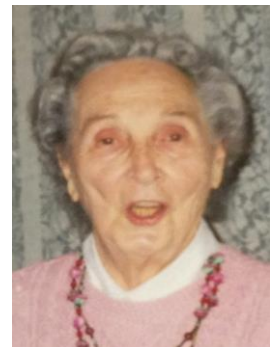


2013 International; 475 hp diesel; automatic transmission; tandem axle; 2650 gallons of water; 2500 gallon portable tank; 1250 GPM pump; and 2000 feet of 5 inch large diameter hose. Cost \$350,000

HONORARIUMS

MARY ALICE RIVERS

In December 1987, Mary Alice Rivers was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. “In appreciation for the donation of her farm consisting of 125 acres, a barn and house in Jericho Center, this property is to be used in the best interest of the UJFD.”



Mary Alice Rivers

GRACE MILLS

In December 1988, Grace Mills was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. “In appreciation of your commitment of time answering the Red Phone at Riverside Store for over 20 years.”



Grace Mills

JANICE WOODARD

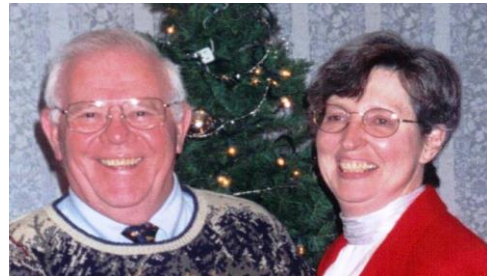
In December 1993, Janice Woodard was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. “In appreciation of Your commitment of time responding to emergency calls with the UJFD as a First Responder as a member of Essex Rescue.”



Janice Woodard

TOM AND RUTH WOODARD

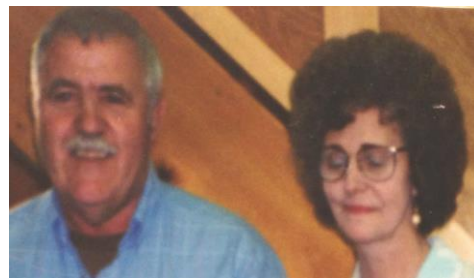
In December 2000, Tom and Ruth Woodard were awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. “In appreciation of your outstanding and continued support throughout the years.”



Tom and Ruth Woodard

GERALD & LILLIAN DESSO

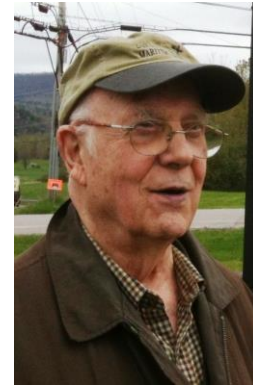
In December 2001, Gerry & Lil Desso was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. “In appreciation of answering the Red Phone for over 20 years.”



Gerry and Lil Desso

EDWIN T. MOORE

In December 2003, Edwin T. Moore was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation for your many years of untiring work, designing, maintaining, and training our computer mapping, homeowner information system."



Edwin T. Moore

BOB KING MEMORIAL

Membership in the Bob King Memorial will be voted by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting. The following qualifications are required:

- Death while an active member of the Department, or
- Death after serving five (5) years of faithful service to the Department.



Memoriam Flag on Chief King's Grave w/bronze marker

A plaque will hang on the wall of the fire station with the names of those Department personnel and the year in which they died. The Clerk will keep the plaque current.

In 1965 the UJFD decorated the graves of these members with a bronze marker and an IN MEMORIAM Flag. The flag is replaced annually. Those members are:

1945 Elbridge Nealy	Judson Sanitmore	1949 Max Bogue
1951 John Gagnon	1951 Howard Haylette	1954 Parker Rice
1956 Perley King	1960 Frank Ladue	1961 Lyle McGinnis
1962 Maitland Root	1964 Howard Davis	1967 Harold Pouliot
1968 Fred Seymour	1970 Robert T. King	1970 Robert Bolio
1971 William Mead	1972 Harland Machia	1974 Elwood Clark
1975 Richard Millette	Raymond Ellsworth	1976 Harry Russin
1976 Arthur Seymour	1979 Earl Bartlett	1982 Harold "Joe" Breen
1984 George Thuren	1986 Harold Irish	1987 Raymond Bolio
1987 Andrew Dulude	1989 Walter Godfrey	1991 Orville Wrisley
1992 William Cook	1995 Robert Tourville	1997 Carlyle Hunt
1997 Rollin Bolio	1998 Melvin Bordeaux	1998 Robert Clark
2005 Michael Forsberg	2005 Charles Garrapy	2006 Grace Mills

2007	Edward Ward	2007	Buel Metcalf	2007	Wendell Metcalf
2012	Peter Allendorf	2012	David Sullivan	2012	Lillian Desso
2012	Mary Alice Rivers				

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

HONORARY FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Prior to 1987 Honorary membership may be conferred by a majority vote of the U-J members present at any regular meeting or annual meeting. The criteria was members which had made a significant contribution to the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department. Those members are:

Howard P. Davis	Charles Garrapy	Paul Ward	Rollin Bolio
Neil Wright	Melvin Bordeaux	Harold Irish	Walter Godfrey
Elwood Clark	Wendell Metcalf	Harold "Joe" Breen	Alan Morse
Edward Ward	Robert Clark	Andrew Dulude	Mike Bordeaux
Orville Wrisley	Terrence Root Sr.	Raymond Bolio	Robert Tourville
Thomas Morse	William Cook	Gerard Adams	George Thuren
Harvey Bagshaw	David Villeneuve	David Moore	David Langlois
Dennis White	William Kuschel	Michael Begin	Mark Kettenacker
Jack Lewis	Marc Maheux	Carlyle Hunt	

LADIES AUXILIARY FIVE OR MORE YEARS-PRIOR 2001

Shiela Aiken	Sis Bordeaux	Kitty Clark	Cis Dumas
Kathy Kuschel	Dorcus Lunderville	Bonnie Morse	Rachel Langlois
Carleen White	Peg Breen	Sandy Tillotson	Barb Fleming
Ellie Begin	Christal Clark	Donna Jacob	Tammy Kelley

LADIES AUXILIARY PAST MEMBERS

The following auxiliary members not previously listed but definitely took an active part in the organization, they are:

Amy Muir	Sheri Dumas	Jill Bromley	Michele Begin
Sally Byanski	Chris Newton	Alice Rivers	Barb Clark
Tammy White			

FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

In 1976 Firefighter Raymond Shaw started the Firefighter of the Year Award, qualifications for this award are: Those who has through their efforts: helped increase the development and efficiency of the department; dedicated their time to their department above and beyond the time required for meetings and drills; has shown initiative in going to fire schools and other classes and courses dedicated to improving their efficiency in firematics; and has shown community involvement in participating in affairs involving the fire department and other civic groups within the community. Those members are:

1976	Terry Aiken	1977	Ass't Chief Lee Dumas	1978	Capt.Dave Villeneuve
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1979	Marc Maheux	1980	Dave Moore	1981	Mike Begin
1982	Randy E. Clark	1983	Mark Kettenacker	1984	Randy E. Clark
1985	Don Porter	1986	Don Porter	1987	Jason Nassau
1988	Mike Medlar	1989	Mike Greenia	1990	Russ Clark
1991	Loni Morse	1992	Robert Stone	1993	Alan Morse
1994	Tom Millette	1995	Dwight DeCoster	1996	Andi Forsberg
1997	Dp. Kitty Clark	1998	Milton Stamp	1999	Milton Stamp
2000	Randy E. Clark	2001	Mike Greenough	2002	Nathan Goldman
2003	Sp. Les Kanat	2004	Nathan Goldman	2005	Mat Champlin
2006	Jacki LaVanway	2007	Mat Champlin	2008	Johannes Jobst
2009	Nate Goldman	2010	Tom Dipietro	2011	Calvin Caswell
2012	Sean McCann				

The Fire Officer of the Year was started in 1987 and follows the same criteria as Firefighter of the Year, those officers receiving that award are:

1987	Chief	Dave Tillotson	1988	Captain	Dave Berger
1989	1 st Ass't Chief	Randy E. Clark	1990	Chief	Dave Tillotson
1991	Captain	Brian Clark	1992	Captain	Tim Clark
1993	1 st Ass't Chief	Randy E. Clark	1994	Lieutenant	Loni Morse
1995	Captain	Tim Clark	1996	Lieutenant	Mike Greenia
1997	1 st Ass't Chief	Lee Dumas	1998	Captain	Tim Clark
1999	2 nd Ass't Chief	Tim Clark	2000	Lieutenant	Scott Carroll
2001	Chief	Randy E. Clark	2002	Captain	Loni Morse
2003	Chief	Randy E. Clark	2004	Captain	Mike Greenough
2005	1 st Ass't Chief	Tim Clark	2006	Chief	Randy E. Clark
2007	Captain	Todd Fischer	2008	2 nd Ass't Chief	Todd Fischer
2009	1 st Ass't Chief	Todd Fischer	2010	Chief	Randy E. Clark
2011	2 nd Ass't Chief	Mat Champlin	2012	1 st Ass't Chief	Mat Champlin

The Fire Police of the Year was also started in 1987 and follows the same criteria as Firefighter and Fire Officer, those fire police receiving that award are:

1987	Charles Garrapy	1988	Charles Garrapy & Don Porter		
1989	Buel Metcalf	1990	Charles Garrapy	1991	Linda Billado
1992	Scott Greenia	1993	Linda Billado	1994	Paul Millette
1995	Paul Millette	1996	John Turchek	1997	John Turchek
1998	Mike Charter	1999	Mike Charter	2000	Paul Millette
2001	Mike Charter	2002	Mike Charter	2003	Mike Charter
2004	Jason Nassau	2005	Jason Nassau	2006	Jason Nassau
2007	Frank Popeleski	2008	Frank Popeleski	2009	Frank Popeleski
2010	Frank Popeleski	2011	Frank Popeleski	2012	Frank Popeleski

LADIES AUXILIARY APPRECIATION ANNUAL AWARDS

The Auxiliary also established an award in 1986 following on the same lines as the Firefighter, Fire Officer, and Fire Police Awards, those ladies receiving that award are:

1986	Cis Dumas	1987	Sandy Tillotson	1988	Barb Fleming
1989	Gloria French	1990	Christal Clark	1991	Sandy Tillotson
1991	Christal Clark	1992	Tammy White	1993	Christal Clark
1994	Lisa Carroll	1995	Kitty Clark	1995	Sandy Tillotson
1996	Kitty Clark	1997	Christal Clark	1998	Donna Johnson
1999	Kate Clark				

PEOPLE BEQUESTING FUNDS TO THE UJFD AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Tax free contributions can be given at any time to the UJFD as it is a 501 C (3) tax exempt organization, several people over the years at the time of their death have contributed, those people are:

Joel Boyce	Chief Robert King	Chief William Mead
Aurill “Daisy” Mead	Mildred Shangraw	Lieutenant George Thuren
Benjamin Boisvert	Margaret “Peg” Breen	Wayne Bourne
Charles Garrapy	Grace Mills	Buel Metcalf
Elinor Merrill	Peter Allendorf	David Sullivan
Mary Alice Rivers		

VOLUNTARY FIREFIGHTERS - 100 YEARS

For 100 years the towns of Underhill and Jericho have been served by volunteer firefighters who are community members. The commitment of these volunteers is unlike any other organization. First of all is the responsibility to be on call for emergency situations 24/7 when you are in the area, regardless of your family obligations or involvement in events, no matter the time of day, the weather or how long the emergency requires. You are required to have the appropriate training for the work, which involves many hours. There are regular organizational and informational meetings weekly (UJFD every Tuesday evening), as well as drills. Service on committees which better the department or research new equipment involves everybody on the team. The dedication of the UJFD team is outstanding; everybody proud of the achievements and extremely hard working. It is the great good fortune for the Towns of Underhill and Jericho to have one of the best trained, best equipped and most highly respected Fire Departments in the State of Vermont.



Dedicated to the preservation of life and property through fire suppression, education and prevention.

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE UJFD TODAY JULY 1, 2013

Honorary Chief	*Randall H. Clark	Honorary Chief	*David Tillotson
Honorary Chief	*Randall E. Clark	Chief	Todd Fischer
1 st Ass't Chief	Mathew Champlin	2 nd Assistant Chief	*Timothy Clark
Captain	Dwight DeCoster	Captain	Andreas Forsberg
Captain	Harry Schoppmann III	Lieutenant	Parker Ripley
Lieutenant	Johannes Jobst	Dispatcher	*Kathleen Clark
Firefighter	Calvin Caswell	Firefighter	*Brian Clark
Firefighter	Shawn Danaher Sr.	Firefighter	*Lee Dumas
Firefighter	Bradford Fischer	Firefighter	Morgan Fischer
Firefighter	Nathan Goldman	Firefighter	*Micheal Greenia
Firefighter	Travis Hale	Firefighter	Christine Hallock
Firefighter	Todd Hallock	Firefighter	Erich Kasprick
Firefighter/EMT	Corey Koenig	Firefighter	Shawn Martell
Firefighter	Sean McCann	Firefighter	Eric Merchant
Firefighter	Loni Morse	Firefighter	John Ouellette
Firefighter	Calab Parent	Firefighter	Leroy Spiller
Firefighter	Andrew Stevens	Firefighter	Joshua Stukes
Firefighter	Philip Surks	Firefighter	Jacob Weber
Firefighter	Aldin Zbacnik	Auxiliary	Catherine Clark
Auxiliary	Christal Clark	Auxiliary	Thomas Dipietro
Auxiliary	Cecile Dumas	Auxiliary	Sherry Fischer
Life	*Frank Fleming	Auxiliary	Pamela Martell
Auxiliary	Jacki Merchant	Auxiliary	Jason Nassau
Specialist	Julie Jacob Ochs	Fire Police	Frank Popeleski
Auxiliary	Patricia Stevens		

*Life Member 25+ Years

PAST MEMBERS OF THE UJFD

Howard P. Davis	Charles Garrapy	Paul Ward	Rollin Bolio
Neil Wright	Melvin Bordeaux	Harold Irish	Walter Godfrey
Elwood Clark	Wendell Metcalf	Harold "Joe" Breen	Alan Morse
Edward Ward	Robert Clark	Andrew Dulude	Mike Bordeaux
Orville Wrisley	Terrence Root Sr.	Raymond Bolio	Robert Tourville
Thomas Morse	William Cook	Gerard Adams	George Thuren
Harvey Bagshaw	David Villeneuve	David Moore	David Langlois
Robert Dennis	Denis White	William Kuschel	Michael Begin
Mark Kettenacker	Max Bogue	Kurt Flynn	Parker Rice
Harry Russin	John Gagnon	Gabriel LaRose	Donald St Pierre
Charles Latimer	Hector Marcoux	Melvin Bordeaux	Roger Ward

Harland Machia	Douglas Ward	Bruce Duba	Steve Eddy
Bruce Ward	Richard Wisley	Donald Nolan	Herbert Ellsworth
George Newbury	Roger Gleason	Lyle McGinnis	Fernand Comtois
William Cook	John Russin	Peter Allendorf	Robin Bartlett
Lee Abernethy	Douglas McClellan	Peter McClellan	Harold Pouliot
Marcel Lehouiller	Willaim Metcalf	Fred Powell	Roger LeDuc
Charles Moore	Richard Millette	Maurice Lehouiller	Peter Chamberlain
Thomas Titus	David Sullivan	Charles McLane	Raymond Bliven
James Beams	Michael Jacobs	Daniel Langlois	George Johns
Greg Currier	Larry Bordeaux	Carey Todriff	Edwin Blanchard
John McCarthy	Elwood Bourne	Steve Bordeaux	Norman Lanman
Phil Stead	Allen Bolio	Ed Scribner	Peter Pease
Jack Lewis	Marc Maheux	Carlyle Hunt	Lonnie Burke
Robert Trombly	Stephen Clark	Eugene LaFountain	David Dumas
Scott Carroll	Trevor Brooks	Milton Stamp	Lisa Larabee
Keith Newton	John Trombly	Thomas MacCarthy	John French IV
Scott Greenia	Jamie Valyou	Scott Charter	Robert Cormier
Jeremy Godles	Joseph McGonagle Jr	Carolos Russin	Jason Wolcott
Jim Fortune	John Turechek	DJ McGonagle	Chad Gregson
Alex Spencer	Al Breault	Phil Noyes Jr.	Kristen Tessier
John Larabee	Linda Billado	Rory McGonagle	Ryan Cieslak
Colleen Danaher	Brian Citro	Ray Hurlburt	William Moore Jr.
Seth Bortz	Carey White	Christy Cieslak	Amy Greenough
Jason Lawton	Aaron Newton	Dan Koshinsky	Brian Mathieu
William Kuschel	Stephen Sylver	Steven Dumas	Tammy Clark
Alan Morse	Dale Bishop	Paul Sulva	Karen Danaher
Lorri Sulva	Michael Begin	Michael Byanski	David Berger
Robert Stone	Paul Millette	Michael Forsberg	Jeff Spencer
Michael Charter	Dana Jewell	Rodney Kelley	Tom Millette
Shawn Danaher Jr.	Mike Greenough	Bryan Bourgeois	Donald Porter
Michael Medlar	Steve Codding	John Jacob	Scott Carroll
Russ Clark	Les Kanat	Mike Neill	Kay Greenough
Joseph Greenough	Raymond Shaw	Dale Bolio	Herbert Button
Andrew Decker	Terry Aiken	Gary Lunderville	George Lehouiller
Joanne Porter	Kate Newcity	Scott Newton	Dan Girard
Wesley Ward			

APENDIX

By

Betty Moore

No history of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department can be complete without acknowledgement of the particular contributions of the Clark Family. The years of service given to the volunteer Fire Service by generations of this special family would total 252 years. Generations of Clarks have devoted nearly all of their spare time and commitment to the advancement and skills of the Department. It is a commitment and devotion passed down through the generations from Patriarch Elwood Clark. Many of the UJFD volunteers have worked first at the Underhill Garage, then its successor Clark's Truck Center, which for the last 85 years have paid their employees, sometimes as many as 8, while at emergency calls.

The following family list is part of the development of our two towns which will live in historical memory:



Tim Clark
30 Years

Russ Clark
18 Years

Kitty Clark
27 Years

Randy H. Clark
56 Years

Brian Clark
31 Years

Randy E. Clark
33 Years

Not pictured above: Randy H. Clark's father, Elwood Clark 47 years; and brother Bob Clark 10 years