



Pumper Station #3 - 1964 - See Court Street
for Chemical Hose #4



(Taken 1928) From: The Advocate - - August 21, 1969

In 1869 a man opposed the purchase of a steam fire engine in Provincetown, saying: "I'm agin' this steam pump. We have always used cold water in putting out fires and there ain't the danger of scalding the firemen and spectators."

Yarmouth Register
Seventy Five Years Ago

September 1889
From the files of The Register Provincetown's new steam engine arrived last week. Many citizens visited the engine house and admired the new engine. It is named in honor of Chief Hilliard.

- April * 1918 -

An order for a new fire truck . . . has been placed . . . The addition of this formidable piece of fire fighting machinery . . . will be hailed with delight by all our citizens . . . knowing that this motor driven fire checker can traverse the length of the town in three minutes. The first steps toward the organization of a fire department here were taken in 1836, when a vote was passed "to buy one hand fire engine and 30 second-hand buckets . . ." The engine then bought was the "Washington," which relic of the early days has quarters in the basement of our town hall. In 1850 the "Franklin" (the "Tiger" of today) was purchased. From that small collection of apparatus was increased by the purchase of the Excelsior, Mazeppa, Ulysses. Then came the steam fire engine "John D. Hilliard," . . . And now comes the best bit of apparatus of all, a machine, that is the last word in all-around fire-fighting efficiency — a self propelled device that combines all the elements of fire protection and all the weapons used by the modern fire fighters with the dependability of a motor truck.

. . . . Unless we assume that one member of the Board of Fire Engineers missed having his picture taken, this is the Board in 1928. Josep Perry was a seventh member in 1927, and William Boatman joined in 1929. From left, Thomas J. Lopes; John J. "Jack" Leonard who was also Water Commissioner, later chairman; Louis A. Law who was also Town Clerk pro tem; James H. Barnett who was fire chief, also Highway Superintendent; T. Julian "June" Lewis; and James E. Callaghan, owner of a carpentry shop. They are shown standing in front of J. T. Hilliard's general store and coalyard, where Joseph Macara now lives over his Land's End Marine Supply store at 337 Commercial Street.

Photo courtesy Mrs. Nell Silvey.