

Bainbridge, and Mr. Hovey was president. The capital stock was given as \$500,000.

The new company operated with Verne Hovey, son of Charles A. Hovey, as manager, and among others were Walter G. Laidlaw of East Orange, N.J., and B. P. Connolly of New York. Ice cream was the largest use which the International Co. made of the milk received but they also made condensed milk. Mr. Connolly announced through the press on August 26, 1918, that the company had disposed of plant and holdings to the Nestles Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. of Vevey, Cham., Switzerland. This company was generally referred to as the Nestles Food Co. and had offices in New York. It immediately embarked on an extensive improvement program, which included two new 150 horsepower boilers in place of the old 75 horsepower boilers; a new concrete floor and a new condenser of the latest type. The improvements were officially listed at \$125,000.

The Nestles Co. had some early

difficulties when they announced on October 1, 1920 that due to a heavy surplus of condensed milk, the plant would be obliged to shut down for some indefinite period. The Nestles Co. was soon ready to reopen but an argument developed between the company and the Dairymen's League, with the latter endeavoring to win bargaining rights, their appearance in the local situation being due to the presence of the former Borden Co. plant at the railroad station, whose patrons were all members of the Dairymen's League.

April 1 of 1921 arrived before the Nestles Co. got their plant started again, with affairs apparently about a draw between the League and the company. Harry Steele was the plant manager here and H. B. Rowe of New York was their personal relations representative.

The J. M. Horton Ice Cream Company was established at Richville in 1907 with Judson Lalone in charge of the plant. In 1923 Albert E. Boughner went to Richville as division manager and in

1924 William Foster as superintendent at Richville. In April, 1924, the Horton company acquired the Nestles plant in Gouverneur. The Horton operations ran smoothly and it was announced January 1, 1928, that The Borden Co. had purchased the Pioneer Ice Cream Division of The Horton Co. Mr. Boughner and Mr. Foster retained their positions and are still in the combined service after more than 30 years with the Horton and Borden companies.

During the period of the Horton Borden operation since 1923 of the Gouverneur milk plant about one and three-quarter billion pounds of producers milk from upwards of 500 dairies have been handled. Important structural changes have also been made, including a new brick smoke stack, replacing two former metal stacks; new equipment and an "island" milk receiving station. The latter permits unloading on both sides of the station away from the main plant with milk arriving inside by means of an underground passage.

Maple Producers Co-op Started in 1922

The Maple Producers Cooperative Association, Inc. was started in Syracuse as the Maple Processing Company on February 29, 1922, a meeting was held to draw up a certificate of incorporation and by-laws, and elect directors. W. J. Griffin of Oswegatchie was the only director elected from St. Lawrence County. Mr. Griffin remained active until 1945 and served as president from 1921 until 1945. He still lives at his Oswegatchie home.

In the spring of 1926, all equipment and supplies were moved to the former site on Factory street in Gouverneur. Levi Hunt, who now resides near Potsdam, was a director at that time and was instrumental in making this change. Officers at that time included: president, W. J. Griffin; vice-president, S. W. Kimball; and secretary and treasurer, H. P. Nicholson. Levi Hunt was later elected as secretary-treasurer, a position he held until his health forced his retirement in 1947.

On July 15, 1955, the Maple Producers took possession of its

newly acquired property, the former John Deere building and land located about three-quarters of a mile out of Gouverneur on Route 11 on the Somerville road.

Perle Diefendorf of Brownville and formerly of Gouverneur, previous owner of the property, has taken the former Maple Producers association holdings in trade as part of the transaction.

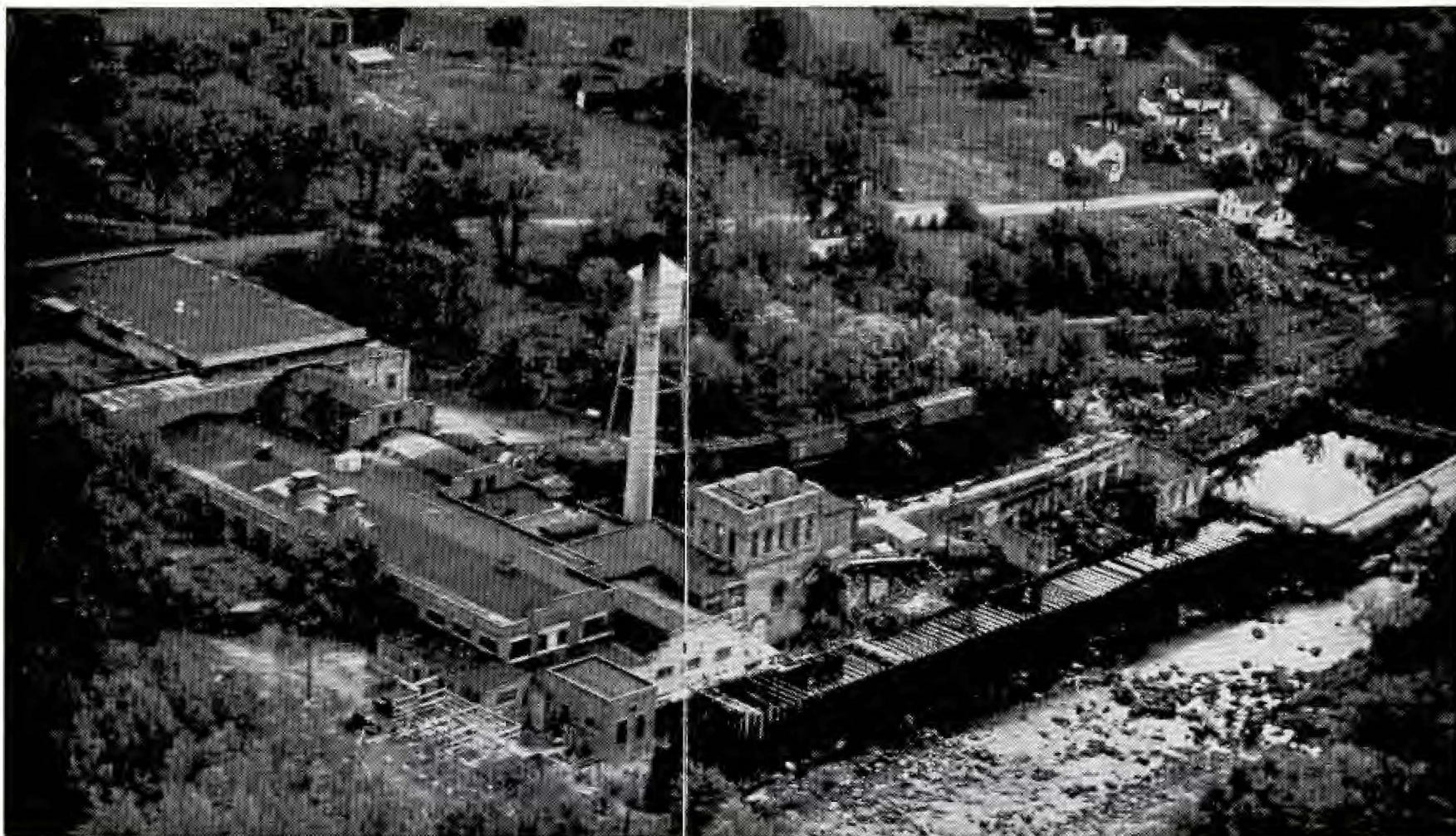
Plans now call for the installation of a salesroom and offices at the front of the building and the construction of manufacturing and packing rooms at the rear. It is expected that a roadside stand and large signs calling attention to plant and salesroom will be erected along Route 11 in an effort to attract the tourist trade to one of the famous North Country industries.

John Sipher served as general office and plant manager from 1948 until October 1950. Together with the president, Howard Paten, from Lawrenceville, he completed the necessary legal procedure changing the Maple Producers Processing Co. to that of the

Maple Producers Cooperative Association, purchasing all equipment.

The association is comprised of nine directors: Gordon Finley, Hermon; Bert Weeks, Harrisville; Pius Bush, Lowville; Asa Moulton, Winthrop; Stephen Buckingham, Croghan; Laurence Marsh, Dickinson Center; Verne Sullivan, Gouverneur; Elwyn Durham, Wattertown and Howard Frary of Lawrenceville. Present officers are: President, Gordon Finley; vice-president, Laurence Marsh and secretary-treasurer, Elizabeth Raven.

This Cooperative is a non-profit organization working for the benefit of Maple syrup producers throughout New York State. The lower grades of syrup are sold in bulk to blending companies while a retail and wholesale business is carried on to dispose of the better grades. During the past ten years more than 145,000 gallons of syrup have been handled by this Cooperative for members from Lewis, Jefferson, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties.



THE RUSHMORE PAPER MILLS, which have been in operation in Gouverneur since 1935, occupy the site in Natural Dam of the Aldrich Paper company established in 1900. The aerial photograph taken by Lesile C. Cooke shows the Rushmore Mills operation as it is at the present time. The flat top, two story building near the main highway, Route 58, contains a warehouse for storage of waste paper and sulphites on the first floor and the cutter and sheet tissue departments on the second floor. The narrow building directly behind is the train shed for loading which will hold three

box cars. The paper machine room is located at the rear of the loading shed and contains beaters and pulpers. At the right of the smoke stack can be seen the remains of the old digester room. At the rear of the construction are the power house and electrical shop, machine shop and locker rooms. The low dark structure near the front of the picture is the flume which leads to the pond at right. The pond is located between the bulkheads and headgates of the Oswegatchie river. The "natural dam" extends across the river off from extreme right of photo.

The Paper Making Industry in the Gouverneur Area

The paper making industry is not new to Gouverneur—in fact the Aldrich Paper company, founded in 1900, operated a mill at Natural Dam until as late as 1920. Rushmore Paper Mills, which later occupied the same site, have been in operation in the Town of Gouverneur since 1935.

The Aldrich Paper Company was organized in 1900 and acquired a lumber mill at Natural Dam owned by Aldrich, Dean & Aldrich. They demolished the plant and constructed a paper mill on the site, using the available water power. A 132 inch Bagley & Sewall paper machine was installed, and the new firm engaged in production of wall paper and bag paper.

H. G. Aldrich headed the company as president, with Sam Child as secretary and Nelson R. Caswell as treasurer and general manager. They continued in operation until June 4, 1920, when the mill was totally destroyed by fire.

In 1909 the company had purchased the five-grinder ground-

wood mill at Emeryville from the Gouverneur Wood Pulp Co., and thereafter all pulp necessary for production at the Natural Dam mill was provided here, being shipped down by railroad.

The groundwood mill was rebuilt in 1921 but in the following year, the newly organized Oswegatchie Paper Co. bought out the Aldrich concern. A Bagley & Sewall 160 inch paper machine was installed for the manufacture of newsprint. The new mill operated from 1923 until 1929, when it was shut down for lack of orders.

Samuel Wardwell headed the company as president and general manager, E. B. Sterling was vice-president, John A. Remington, secretary and Addison F. Wardwell, treasurer.

After the 1929 closing, the Oswegatchie Paper Co. never did start up again, but it was purchased from the trustees of the bond holders' committee by Rushmore Paper Mills, Inc., of Groveton, N. H., in 1935. The mill was converted from newsprint produc-

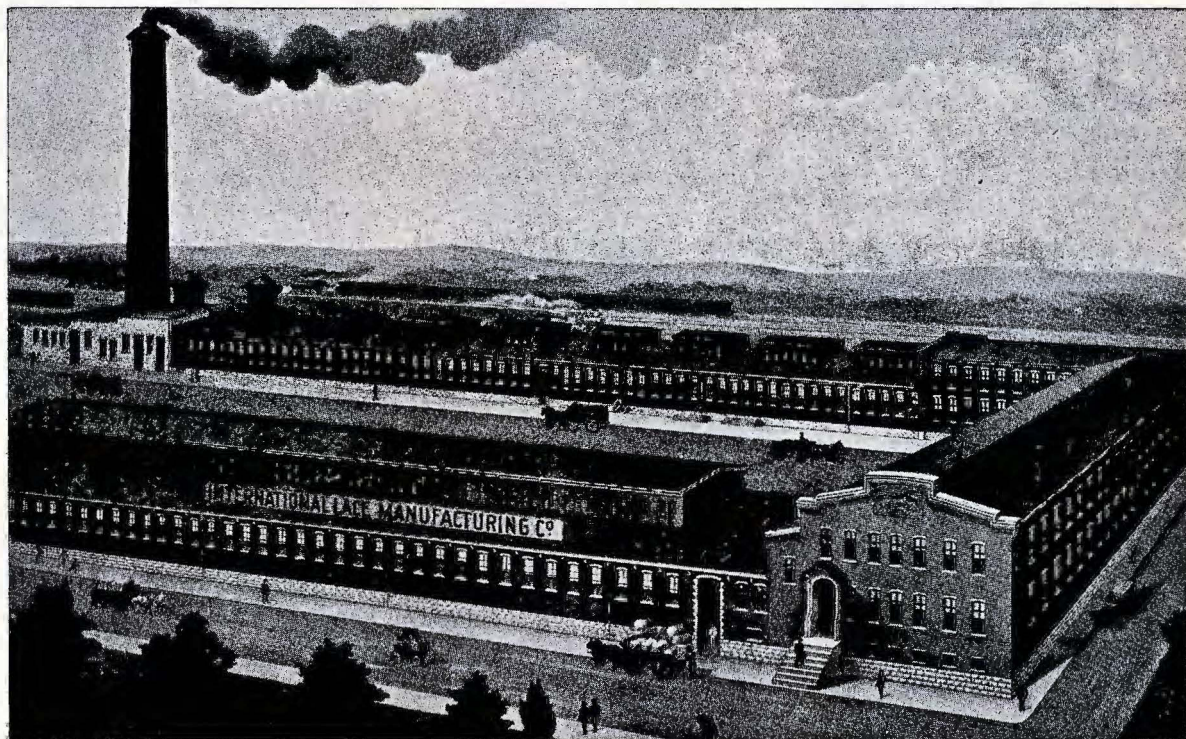
tion to the manufacture of all grades of tissue paper.

Officers of the Rushmore company were James S. Wemyss, president, his son, James S. Wemyss, jr., vice-president and general manager, Courtney T. Wemyss, treasurer.

Again fire struck the mill in 1938, but the structure was rebuilt and opened for business in 1939.

With need for additional space for finishing operations, Rushmore Paper Mills in 1945 acquired the former International Lace Co. property on Prospect street

By 1947, a new and streamlined production operation had been developed in the lace mill; and in the meantime a new high speed tissue paper machine manufactured by Pusey & Jones Co., was installed at Natural Dam. George W. Schildge, general manager of the Gouverneur operation, has been instrumental in developing both production and sales for the local industry.



THE INTERNATIONAL LACE COMPANY BUILDING. The Lace Mill company went into production about two years before the 1905 centennial celebration and operated with varying degrees of success until 1928 when it closed down. In 1936 a lace making business was started in one section and a year later the manufacture of stockings was begun. The lace company permanently shut down in 1941, and in 1945 the Rushmore Paper company purchased the mill.

The St. Joseph Lead Company at Balmat and Edwards

By WALLACE J. CROPPER

In the North Country the St. Joseph Lead company is generally known as one that mines zinc ore. In the Balmat mine, there is a small percentage of lead occurring with the zinc, and associated with the lead, are traces of silver. But the "lead" got into St. Joseph Lead Company because the mining concern was originally incorporated for the purpose of mining lead in Missouri.

St. Joe has been successfully mining the heavy metal ore for 90 years and is now the largest producer of lead in the United States. Its extensive operations in Southeast Missouri are largely responsible for making the 60 mile "lead belt" one of the few districts in the country that have produced over a billion dollars worth of metal values.

St. Joe also controls or holds large interests in mines in Argentina and North Africa, and has recently come into management control of large zinc-lead-pyrite properties in New Brunswick.

Edwards Division

The northern New York operations of the company are conducted through its Edwards Division. At the present time, St. Joe is the only company mining zinc in New York, and accounts for a little more than 9½ per cent of the total yearly U.S. mine production. Its Balmat mine contributes about 80 per cent of the ore mined and is among the leading zinc producing mines in the country.

The incident that eventually led to the coming of St. Joe to northern New York might be considered one of chance. Time contributes to the obscuring of details, but it seems in 1903, during the course of road repairing in Edwards, a workman uncovered a dark brown mineral. It was later identified as sphalerite, the zinc sulfide that is the principle primary source of metallic zinc.

St. Joe though did not enter the picture for another 23 years. During the intervening period, the Northern Ore Company was incorporated. The company's prospecting resulted in the finding of several veins of zinc ore within the dolomite country rock. However, the overcoming of legal and metallurgical difficulties were time consuming, and it was not

until 1915, after a second mill was constructed (the original mill burned on its sixth day of operation), that shipments of concentrates began on a regular basis. The New York Zinc company took over the facilities of the Northern Ore company in 1923. In 1926 when St. Joe bought the Edwards property, about a half million tons of high grade ore were produced.

Balmat Area

Along with the purchase of the Edwards property, the company acquired an option to purchase a prospect at the Balmat farm from the Northern Ore company. The Balmat area had been a subject of sporadic attention of would-be mining men almost since the time of findings of iron, lead, and zinc sulfides were first publicized in the vicinity in 1838. In the early days zinc was of little consequence due to difficult treatment of its ores and limited industrial use; it was lead and the hopes of finding non-existing, but much more glamorous glittering gold (there was an abundance of pyrite or fool's gold to be had!) that led to small scale investigations. Results, however, were disappointing.

It was not very long before St. Joe's confidence in its new prospect proved to be justified. Diamond drilling and geological studies indicated sufficient tonnage to proceed with mill construction. Planning and construction of the 55 house Balmat community began in 1929.

The Operations

It may be of interest to mention something of the operation that employs 385 North Country residents. The Edwards mine has produced over 3,300,000 tons of ore during its 40 year history. It is one of the deepest mines in the eastern United States. Ore is now being extracted from an area 2,500 feet vertically below the surface. An underground inclined shaft has recently been deepened to the 3,100 level, about 2,500 feet below sea level. Over 16 miles of horizontal tunnels (drifts and subdrifts) have been driven by St. Joe miners simply for the purpose of preparing the several orebodies for mining (stopping).

In Balmat the inclined No. 2 shaft is connected to the newer No. 3 vertical shaft 5,000 feet to

the northeast by a drift at the 900 foot level. The ore in the No. 3 mine is trammed along this drift to the No. 2 shaft. The No. 2 mine is the big tonnage producer accounting for nearly two-thirds of annual production. Both Balmat mines have a combined 25 miles of horizontal workings. Last year about 245 tons of blasting powder were used in Balmat to break up rock and ore. St. Joe employs over 240 men underground in a wide variety of jobs: muckers, grizzlymen, trammers, slusher operators, repairmen and drillers account for most of the personnel.

When ore is hoisted out of the mines, it contains about 10 per cent zinc. It is the function of the mill to eliminate as much of the waste rock accompanying the ore minerals as economically feasible and produce a concentration of zinc and lead sulfides.

The details and processes that effect this concentration are complex and require constant attention. The ore first has to be crushed and finely ground. Then it is floated. The ore minerals have the property to adhere to bubbles of air that are blown up through a liquid suspension from the base of "floatation cells." The heavier sulfides are removed from a frothy top and the lighter waste minerals from the bottom.

Incidentally, it was this relatively new floatation process that enabled St. Joe's Edwards mill to treat the Northern Ore company's tailings (wastes) and recover a sizable tonnage of zinc concentrates. Floatation is a much more efficient process than previously used gravity methods.

The Balmat mill was originally designed to handle 500 tons of ore per day. It has since experienced two periods of expansion and now handles around 1800 tons daily. The Edwards mill has a 400 ton daily capacity. Both St. Joe mills ship an average of 41 box car loads of zinc concentrates (containing about 58% Zn) and 1 box car load of lead concentrates (containing about 61% Pb) a week to the smelters where the sulfur is driven out of its chemical combination with the metal. St. Joe's zinc smelter is in Joseph-town, Pa., and its lead smelter in Herculaneum, Missouri.

History of the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department

By **GORDON BUTLER**

About the year 1867, the Gouverneur Water Works Company was incorporated, and a water main was laid from Main street bridge to the Spencer Hotel at the corner of Main and Depot streets. The water was forced by pumps from the water power at the island, by a method known as the "Holley System." This was a great improvement in fire protection for the business part of the village.

In 1868, the Gouverneur Hose Company No. 1 was organized. Its first officers were: Foreman, J. Bower Preston; Asst. Foreman, Albert M. Barney; Secretary, Ezekiel F. Beardslee; Treasurer, William P. Fosgate. A constitution and by-laws were made and applied as far as was practical in a volunteer fire company. A hose cart and regulation cotton hose were purchased by the village, a fund for the same having been voted and a small sum of money was turned over to the treasurer of the Fire Company for its use.

New Company In 1878

This company having thus disbanded, the village Board of Trustees selected a number of citizens to form a new company. A meeting was held January 29, 1878, and a fire company was reorganized under the name of "Gouverneur Hose Company No. 1," by which name it is still known. The first officers of this company were: Foreman, John Webb, jr.; Assistant Foreman, Albert N. Barnes; Secretary, Frank L. Cox; Treasurer, Charles A. Ormiston. The company had about forty members.

In this year, 1878, the brick Hose House was built on Clinton street, and was occupied by Hose Co. No. 1 for a short period. It is now owned by Sol Kaplan and occupied by Perrault Liquor store and Gouverneur Plumbing.

Hose Company No. 1

Among the men who have held the office of foreman in Company No. 1, are: A. B. Cutting, J. Bower Preston, H. J. Warren, A. M. Burt, jr., Bradley L. Barney, Frank Levasseur, A. S. Whitney, John Webb, jr., Frank Cox, John McCarty, Thomas Chisholm, E. W. Gaddis, Homer Hurlbut, S. A. Ackerman, George Robinson, Dexter Leggett, John Gilmore, George Whittaker, Arthur Newell, George

Palmer, Lewis Beardslee, Eli Mosher, E. J. Barber, R. O. Rutherford, S. M. David, E. H. Brown, William Hayden, Walter Clark, George Barber, Wallace Love, Henry Miller, Robert Boulet, R. Linus Fortune, L. E. Easton, Warner H. Miller, Eugene Murphy, Ashton Liscum, Howard Fuller, Ed. Anderson, Elon Porter, Guy Deans, James Wilson, Harry Sharpe, Albert Randall, Harold Gardner, Linley Porter, Edward Burr, Earl Dier, John Fortune, Clarence Caswell, Joseph Boulet, Kermit Johnson and Robert Dier.

"Steamer" Bought In 1880

In 1880, the LaFrance Steam Fire Engine was purchased and was used at all fires requiring it up to the year 1900. The purchase of the fire engine was largely due to the efforts of Edgar H. Drake, the first Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, whose death on March 10, 1882, was the first death occurring in the present Gouverneur Hose Company No. 1, and his name was engrossed on a nickel plate upon the steamer in commemoration of his services.

Marble City Hose Co., No. 2

(Organized in 1891)

During the year 1890 a group of men, some of them already belonging to No. 1 Company, decided to form a Company for the West Side.

On January 16, 1891, thirteen men met and formed Marble City Hose Co. No. 2, under the direction of Chief F. L. Cox. They were as follows: A. S. Whitney, S. H. Davidson, Thomas Anderson, P. R. Whitney, F. J. Lewis, C. F. Fordham, Samuel Taylor, William McCullough, Fred Love, David Love, George Roode, John Lynch and C. C. Dunkelberg.

A hose cart was purchased by the village for their use, and in the year 1894 a hose house was erected on West Main street. The first meeting was held in the new house September 7, 1894. Company No. 2 remained there until 1924, when all three fire companies removed into the present quarters in the Municipal building. The old hose house is now used by Cappellino Meat Market.

On May 26, 1892, Hose Co. No. 2 joined the New York State Firemen's Association.

Those who have held the office of foreman in Marble City Hose Co. No. 2, are: A. S. Whitney,

Thomas Anderson, Samuel Taylor, S. H. Davidson, William McCullough, George Cottrell, O. I. Simons, Thomas Brown, Fred Ierlan, William Cassaw, W. A. Green, George Bracy, G. A. Allen, T. A. Wells, F. A. Downey, B. J. Miller, D. M. Hazelton, George Clifford, W. A. Green, Elmer Goff, Jesse Rathburn, Thomas Montreville, George O'Riley and Frank Besaw. George O'Riley, Frank Besaw, Jesse Rathburn, Vernon Thomas, Gordon Butler, Ernest Washburn, Millard Love, Kenneth Taylor, Frank Sprague, Claude Powers, Francis Blackmore.

Rescue Hook & Ladder Co.

(Organized in 1894)

In 1894, the "Rescue Hook and Ladder Company" was organized with twenty members. A wagon trucks, and ladders were purchased by the village, and this company was installed in the hose house on Clinton street with Hose Co. No. 1. Gilbert Hutton was the first foreman of that company; F. H. Farmer, first assistant and Ellis Ethridge, secretary. The charter members were as follows: Joe West, Ellis Ethridge, Thomas White, Claude Gates, Frank Jordan, Wheeler Smith, F. H. Farmer, Gilbert Hutton, Alfred Smith, Charles Lytle, Verne Porter, Clarence Leach, J. E. Kitts, C. A. Sylvester, A. Webster, Frank Beard, James Ferran, Fred Storie, J. H. Gerner, and O. L. Simmons.

The foremen of Rescue Hook & Ladder Company have been: G. E. Hutton, T. R. White, E. H. Ethridge, John Frowley, L. W. Bennett, Claude Gates, Sidney Clute, Mace Hopper, William Levasseur, C. M. Dunkelberg, J. Wheeler Smith, Everett Homer, Irving Scott, Murray Baggs, Emery Pete, Leslie Lamb, Frank Moore, Arnold Porter, Ernest McCullough, Orrin Woodward, Robert Dier, Nelson Dailey, Robert Mallette, Kenneth Porter, Roy DeJourdan, William Fitzgerald, Kermit Gates, John Halpin, Robert McDonald, William Ada, and Stanley Smith.

Membership Reduced

About this time, 1894, the membership of each of the three companies was reduced to twenty members, a total of sixty active firemen.

In 1904, Gouverneur purchased a team of horses for the use of the fire department and general vil-

lage work. The hose house on Clinton street was remodeled to accommodate this team and apparatus, with dwelling above for the driver and his family. A new hose wagon with pole, alarm and bell, and extension ladder was purchased, the hook and ladder truck to be drawn by horses to the fires.

Equipment Added

About 1919 plans were laid to motorize the fire apparatus, and the chemical wagon was mounted on a Reo chassis, and in 1921 a American-LaFrance 500 gal. pump was purchased by the village, and both pieces of fire apparatus was transferred to the basement of the Spooner-Campbell garage, which later was purchased by the taxpayers and is now used as a Municipal building.

After many years of bitter struggling on the part of the Department, the Municipal Building was remodeled in 1934 and the fire apparatus placed on the main floor.

On October 14, 1930, the Department purchased a Ford Phaeton car, American-LaFrance inhalator oxygen tanks and other necessary equipment for first aid use. This was used as an emergency car until June, 1932. About this time the Department purchased from the City of Watertown a large Seagrave Ladder truck. After being overhauled and painted, the truck was sold to the village in June, 1932. At the same time the Ford emergency car was sold in favor of a Lincoln emergency and squad car.

Needing heavier and more modern apparatus, on May 20, 1931, the village purchased an International 1½ ton truck and remodeled it, making it into a chemical truck. In 1936 the village discarded the old ladder truck, purchased a Ford V-8 chassis and remodeled it into the present ladder truck.

On November 15, 1935, mainly as the result of diligent effort on the part of Chief James Wilson, with the assistance of Robert G. Cottrell and Everett Stevenson, the towns of Gouverneur, Rossie, Macomb and Fowler, entered into a contract with the Gouverneur Fire Department to purchase the equipment and man a fire truck for rural use. Supervisor Earl E. Laidlaw, as well as the supervisors of the various townships which the department served, also cooperated in the movement to increase the department's facilities, and the agreement proved that the truck be the property of the Gouverneur Fire Department, to be housed in the Municipal building here, in return for which it was to answer all necessary alarms in this village, as well as the four contributing townships.

New Pumper Bought

A four-ton Diamond-T truck, equipped with a 500-gallon pump, 300-gallon booster tank, ladders and all other necessary accessories was decided upon.

The new truck was bought from deGraff Bros., local distributors, on January 12, 1936, and delivered to Lee Phillips of Clayton, who had the contract to install the body and equip the truck. The new

pumper was delivered and placed in service June 10, 1936, and has proved its value several times since.

On April 3, 1950 the department ordered a new pumper with 500 gallon per minute capacity and 500 gallon booster tank at a total cost of \$10,260. This piece of fire fighting equipment with a Brockway chassis and American-LaFrance body was delivered October 30, 1950.

Many Retired Officers

Among those who have worked their way up to the position of Chief Engineer of the Fire Department for one year or more, are: Edgar H. Drake, Henry C. Rogers, Frank Levasseur, Frank L. Cox, George P. Ormiston, John McCarty, Bradley L. Barney, Cyrenus Vail, Albert W. Hill, Alexis S. Whitney, Dexter A. Leggett, Thomas R. White, William A. Green, James Frawley, George Clifford, George Robinson, E. C. Leahy, Robert Rutherford, Truman Wells, William Hayden, Wheeler Smith, D. M. Hazelton, Warner H. Miller, Mace Hopper, George Cottrell, Robert Boulet, Garfield Burleigh, Charles Dunkelberg, Ashton Liscum, James Wilson, Yale Gates, Robert Cottrell, Stewart McCullough, Everett Stevenson, Ernest Washburn, Linley Porter and Earl Dier.

Present Officers

Officers for the year 1955-56 are, chief engineer, Earl Dier; 1st assistant chief engineer, John Halpin; 2nd assistant chief engineer, Irving Brown; secretary, Robert Dygert; treasurer, Clarence Caswell.

The Gouverneur Exempt Firemen's Association

By Herbert O. Bartholomew

The Gouverneur Exempt Firemen association was organized January 8, 1931. The following retired firemen were present: Edwin C. Leahy, William A. Green, Eugene Murphy, Thomas Monterville, William Hayden, Edward C. Fortune, Claude C. Mosher, Lawson G. Washburn, Fred A. Richardson, George Rathburn, Truman Wells, George Cottrell, Mason Harper and Earl B. Washburn.

Mr. Leahy, a former fire chief, was elected the first president. He was a good talker and organizer, and it was through his untiring efforts in conjunction with William Green and Dallas Hazel-

ton that the organization became a reality.

Bylaws were drawn up requiring that a firemen must have had at least five years active service with the Gouverneur Volunteer firemen and have received an honorable separation to be eligible as a member of the association. A favorable vote was necessary to admit him.

Within a short period eleven more ex-firemen were admitted. They were Gilbert Hutton, Fred Love, Grover Totman, Daniel R. Jones, Clarence Chisholm, Earl Brown, Claude H. Gates, Fred Storie, Samuel H. Davidson, Robert Rutherford and George Ives.

All 27 of course became charter members. Incidentally 19 of these civic spirited men have passed away since then.

Four former firemen were placed on the honor roll. They were Bradley Barney, William McIntyre, Henry Rogers and Frank L. Cox.

Three former fire chiefs, William A. Green, Robert Boulet and Mason Hopper, men with outstanding records, have served as president of the organization. Ernest R. McCullough, former first assistant fire chief with 30 years in the department to his credit, has been president since 1950.

Today they enjoy a modest

bank balance, funds for which were raised by several very active members during their period. The membership has increased from around 35 to 65.

The association has 65 paid members and regular monthly meetings are well attended with a dinner in the firemen's dining room.

Civic Work

At a meeting in January, 1950, the sum of \$200 was donated to the E. J. Noble hospital in Gouverneur and during our 24 years the association has contributed on many occasions to civic and community services as much as our finances would permit.

The motto is to be of service to the community and in turn the

regular volunteer firemen are very cooperative and helpful.

It is believed that William Green, George Cottrell and Truman Wells served the fire department for a period of about 115 years for an average of 38 years each, undoubtedly longer than any other three men in the fire department in Gouverneur.

Fire fighting in their time, as well as in that of many other old timers, was a real hazard and hard work with hand drawn or horse drawn apparatus. They exemplified the true spirit of a volunteer fireman. Of course the same can be said of our present efficient fire department except modern equipment has made fire fighting much easier and less hazardous.

The organization is always willing to help the regular firemen in case of an emergency, and when they attend conventions or leave town on occasion for several hours, the younger exempt firemen take over the responsibility with the few regular firemen who remain behind.

The organization today consists of 65 members. Eleven of whom are former fire chiefs. Their combined services total about 300 years. The average years for the 65 men are 15 years each or 975 years. Certainly a lot of time to give to the town without any compensation except the satisfaction of serving and the pride and thrill of being a Volunteer Fireman.

Disastrous Fires Cause Heavy Losses in Village Since 1825

1825—Grist mill and flour mill belonging to Israel Porter on the west side of the bridge burned.

January 1, 1839—Old Academy later known as the Wesleyan seminary on the site of the present Grammar school was completely destroyed.

April 18, 1848—The brick hotel owned by Peter Van Buren, located at the site of the former Red Brick tavern and now the Seaker Graves Motor car lot.

1853—A wagon shop and wood-working plant situated on the two mid-Oswegatchie river islands on the location where the now abandoned J. E. McAllaster and Sons mill is at present, a sawmill west of the McAllaster mill and a wagon shop downstream. The wooden West Main street bridge was damaged but saved from destruction by a bucket brigade.

December 1864—A two-story block on Clinton street, owned by Erwin S. Barnes, was completely destroyed.

Jan. 15, 1875—Gouverneur experienced its most disastrous fire since the village was settled. Five stores, two dwellings, church hotel and a meat market burned. The places destroyed were the Fuller block, Ormiston's store, Short's Jewelry store, Brodie and Sons Clothing store, Spark's Meat Market, the Central House and the Catholic church. Damage was set at \$60,000.

January 15, 1875—All the buildings burned were located from the corner of Park street through

the present Surprise store location on Main street, and on Park street down to and including the Montgomery Ward store location.

May 1, 1877—Again Gouverneur suffered a serious loss with the burning on Main street of the Thomas Doyle, Stinton, Van Namee and Draper and Phair blocks. The loss was set at \$64,000. Seven stores were located in these blocks and were located from what is now the Odd Fellow's building through to the Cole Hardware.

May, 1877—All stores, from the Odd Fellows building through to what is now the Cole Hardware store, burned.

Oct. 7, 1877—The first Union Hall building and the paint shop, which had been the second church built here by the Congregational church, burned.

1881—The first Peter VanBuren house, built in 1849, at what is now part of the F. W. Woolworth store, now 51 E. Main street extending to 37 E. Main street, where the Kribs Auto Supply store is now located, was completely destroyed.

August 5, 1882—The first S. B. Van Duzee Manufacturing Co. building about on the site of the Gouverneur Municipal electrical plant. The Corbin stove and wheel harrow plant and the foundry in back of the Corbin building also burned.

October, 1883—The Samuel Potter dry goods store, at what is now 67 E. Main street and the right hand side of what is now the

J. J. Newberry store burned. The Burtis and Reynolds buildings, adjacent, were slightly damaged. These buildings burned in July, 1884, which brought the damaged area up to the First National Bank building.

July 8, 1887—The steam sawmill of Starbuck and McCarty on the west bank of the Oswegatchie river, burned with a total loss.

July 23, 1887—Frame Carriage and Paint shop as well as the dwelling on the South side of West Main street owned by Turnbull and Gardner.

November 23, 1889—The Spencer hotel at Depot and East Main street burned.

January 8, 1893—The three storied brick hotel of James Van Buren, extending from 41 E. Main street to 51 E. Main street, with the stores under the hotel rooms belonging to Issac Black, Max Tumpowsky and James W. Ormiston, town clerk. All town records were lost.

March 5, 1894—The stone talc mill, only talc mill ever operating in Gouverneur, located on the outer end of Parker street. This was built in 1884 and was never run successfully.

July 23, 1904—Gouverneur Marble Co. mill burned.

April 5, 1911—Mill of J. C. Callahan and Sons burned to the ground with a loss of \$15,000.

March 31, 1911—A fire at the Mead Drug Co., Main street, caused damage of \$5,000.

1912—Northern New York Mar-

ble co. mill situated southeast of the present Empire Livestock Marketing company, burned in the fall of the year.

Feb. 13, 1913—Levy Brothers store at 67 East Main street. It was rebuilt at once by Charles Rodger.

November 25, 1916—Spooner-Campbell garage (originally the E. D. Barry building at 33 Clinton street) burned to the ground. It was built by Spooner and Campbell as a garage and is now the Gouverneur municipal building.

November 29, 1917—All of the buildings on Clinton street from the present Dodds garage to the north end of the Log Cabin diner were destroyed. This included the Fairyland movie, the R. K. Richardson hotel, Homer and Clifford plumbing shop and W. E. Lytle's bicycle's shop.

February 15, 1918—The H. S. Whitney garage, built in 1908, was totally destroyed. This building was where the present bowling alley is now located.

October, 1919—The H. H. Noble coal yard and the Gouverneur freight station were destroyed in what was probably the most costly fire of all. Loss has been estimated at \$150,000, or more.

June 4, 1920—The Aldrich Paper mill at Natural Dam burned and was not rebuilt until 1924. Loss was around \$500,000.

July 21, 1921—Old Van Duzee mill on West Main street at the dam burned with a loss of \$9,000.

February, 1922—The Lieberman bakery on Depot street completely destroyed.

July 17, 1922—The second Union Hall building burned. The William Gauthier theater was in one section and the Edwin C. Leahy hardware store in the other. International Talc company offices were on the second floor.

May, 1924—The grammar school building was damaged to the extent of \$60,000.

July, 1924—Central garage belonging to Joseph Rotundo burned at a loss of \$45,000.

February 3, 1929—Levinson store, Freeman block, Cahill's grocery on West Main street at the present site of Collins' grocery. The Levinson and Freeman blocks were completely destroyed and Cahill's grocery badly damaged. Loss was estimated at \$40,000.

December 28, 1930—The California Fruit Market at 23 East Main street, now the Gouverneur Fruit Market. Loss was estimated at \$10,000.

February 2, 1931—The St. Lawrence Utilities at 123 East Main street, the present Prosser grill. The interior was gutted at an estimated loss of \$20,000.

January 5, 1934—South Side school on Depot street. This was a total loss of value estimated at \$10,000.

January 25, 1936—Ruderman Clothing store on Church street, the present G & C Hardware. The interior of the store and stock was a complete loss of \$15,000.

May 5, 1937—Rushmore Paper mill at Natural Dam. It was estimated that the mill was 80% destroyed along with extensive damage to the paper machine. Loss was over \$400,000.

September 26, 1939—Gouverneur Cooperative partially destroyed with a loss of \$20,000.00.

October 7, 1939—The wooden frame grandstand of the Gouverneur Agricultural and Mechanical society completely destroyed at a loss of \$15,000.

January 18, 1940—The Sunshine Auto Parts store, 39 East Main street. Loss to the building and stock estimated at \$12,000.

March 5, 1941—Joseph Miles' auto accessory store located in the present Bank of Gouverneur building, \$15,000 loss.

January 4, 1945—Loomis Talc Corp. warehouse burned at a loss of \$18,000.

Dec. 1, 1945—International Talc Co. suffered in \$100,000 loss at their No. 6 mill.

May 14, 1948—The International Talc Co's No. 3 mill totally destroyed with a loss to extend over \$400,000.

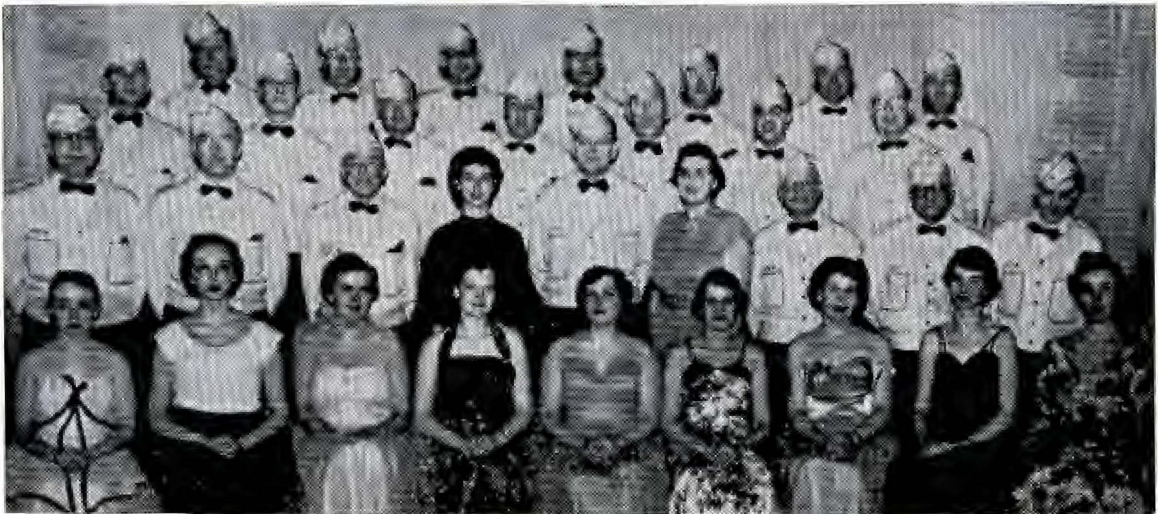
April 19, 1950—The Parkview hotel at 118 East Main street was destroyed in a \$80,000 fire.

August 28, 1953—Balducci Crushed stone plant at outer Parker street destroyed in a \$100,000 blaze.

September 29, 1954—Ward Howard building at 19 East Main street.



GOUVERNEUR FIRE COMPANY IN 1880 IN FRONT OF THE ENGINE HOUSE ON CLINTON ST.



THE 1955 VERSION OF VARIETIES IN SONG was presented Thursday, April 28, in the high school auditorium by members of the American Legion Chorus and the Gouverneur Girls Chorus. Shown in the picture above of the two groups are, first row, left to right, Miss Catherine Monahan, Mrs. Joseph Tokos, Mrs. Russell Wilson, Mrs. Henry Rouse, Mrs. Faye Hopper, Mrs. William Turner, Mrs. John Howard, Mrs. William Bailey and Mrs. Jack Whalen. In the second row are J. Elliot Wood, William C. Foster, Harold S. Christian, Miss Betty Young, Carlton E. Weegar, director; Miss Noreen Miller, Howard Collins, Henry Curtis and Robert Graves; third row, James Kraker, Howard VanNorton, C. David Murray, Donald Homer, Armand Beaudin, Dr. George Hanlon and Edward Carroll. In the fourth row are Hugh Sprague, Russell Wilson, Frank Sprague, Harold Raven, Charles Stahl, Paul Sprague and Stanley Smith.



1955-56 OFFICERS OF THE AUXILIARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. Shown in the front row are Mrs. Agatha Toomey, secretary; Mrs. Ann Hopper, senior vice-president; Mrs. Betty Markwick, president; Mrs. Patricia Powers, junior vice-president and Mrs. Hilda Monroe, treasurer. Second row, Mrs. Ruth Boscoe, immediate past president; Mrs. Barbara Scott, installing officer; Mrs. Maybelle Pistolesi, trustee; Mrs. Bessie Perrigo, guard; Mrs. Miriam Hayden, historian; Mrs. Doris Knight, color guard; Mrs. Dorothy Bresett, color guard. Third row, Mrs. Rose Girard, musician; Mrs. Florence Hilts, patriotic instructor; Mrs. Rhoda DeJourdan, conductress; Mrs. Audrey Carpenter, chaplain; Mrs. Gladys Kennedy, color guard and Mrs. Dorothy Hammond, color guard.

James Maloy Post American Legion Established in 1919

In the early history of our country, we find that each major war such as the Revolutionary, Civil and Spanish-American, had its own organization of veterans, but in the present generation the major wars have come so close together that the local post is composed of veterans of three major wars, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

The local post was formed at a meeting of returned World War I veterans held in June, 1919, in the old draft board rooms at the back of the building now occupied by the Niagara-Mohawk Power Corporation. At this meeting, presided over by W. L. Caten, it was unanimously decided to name the Post after Lt. James L. Maloy who was killed in action in the Battle of the Hindenburg Line on September 27, 1918.

Formal charter for the Post was received July 12, 1919, and the first regular meeting was held August 4, 1919, at which time Tom Callahan was elected the first commander.

Club Rooms

On April 12, 1920 the Post formally opened its club rooms in the Bame Block at 42 Church street over what is now the G and C Hardware store. They occupied those rooms until 1926 when they moved to the second floor of the York Press Building on Park street.

In 1935 they moved to the second floor of the C. W. Bame block at 109 E. Main street. In 1940 they moved to the second floor of the Sheldon Block at 39 Main street now occupied by the VFW and remained there until July, 1946, when they purchased and moved into their present quarters, the old Dean Homestead.

Membership

Membership in the Post is open to veterans of the three wars, and between the 1st and 2nd World War it fluctuated from as low as 60 to as high as 200. After the second World War, it went up as high as 500 and is currently about 400.

During the 36 years of its existence the Post has served its community and its members in many ways of which some of the more important are:



Community Service

It has, in cooperation with the VFW, led the community in the observance of its patriotic holidays. On Memorial Day the two organizations see that every veteran's grave, not only in Gouverneur, but in the entire territory, served by them, is properly marked and decorated. Each year on this day a parade and appropriate service is held. An Armistice Day ceremony has been conducted every year since World War I.

The Post has done everything possible to help veterans in distress. They have felt it their particular responsibility to see that wounded or disabled veterans and their families are properly cared for. To help with these matters, the Post has had a Service Officer through all these years, Henry J. Curtis. Nowadays, most of these matters are handled by County, State or Federal officials, but for a great many years the only contact between the Federal Government and the veteran in this community was the Post Service Officer.

One of the first duties of the Post was the organizing of a firing squad so that it could properly conduct military funerals for our former comrades whose bodies were being returned from overseas. Every veteran is entitled to a military funeral, and through all these years the Legion has conducted them whenever requested.

Throughout these years the Post has sponsored many community projects such as, currently, the Legion Chorus under Carlton E. Weegar, and the Legion Band under Robert C. Smith,

Boy Scout Troops, patriotic essays in schools, sending deserving boys to Boy's State, and other projects too numerous to mention.

The Post has constantly endeavored to keep alive the community's interest in patriotic affairs, and it has been constantly on the alert to detect and combat any evidences of disloyalty to our country.

The names of all those from this community who made the supreme sacrifice in World Wars 1 and 2 have been placed on a plaque on the Memorial Arch. This move was sponsored by the Post in order that the memory of these men might be preserved for the community they served so well.

The Post has always maintained a comfortable set of club rooms suitable for either the business meetings or social gatherings of its members. Meetings are held once a month on the first Monday and are usually preceded by a good dinner cooked and served by fellow members.

The present home is the first one the post has ever owned. A building fund was established shortly after the Post was formed and reached sizable proportions within the first ten years. The income from this fund was used to pay our rental until after the Second World War when the additional members available made it practical to use this fund towards the purchase of a suitable home.

List of Commanders

1919, Thomas Callahan; 1920-21, G. W. Dodds; 1922, Douglas Labow; 1923-24, H. J. Curtis; 1925, G. A. Luenberger; 1926, Robert Cottrell; 1927, Spencer Goyette; 1928, Leo Kelley; 1929, James Moran; 1930, Ora Wright; 1931, H. O. Bartholomew; 1932, Ora M. Wright; 1933, C. W. Bame; 1934, William McCartha; 1935, Earl W. Riley; 1936, Archie C. Stone; 1937, W. H. Foster; 1938, E. C. Hunkins; 1939, Yale Gates; 1940, Ernest House; 1941, Donald McGill; 1942, A. E. Boughner; 1943, Scott L. Brown; 1944, Henry Scott; 1945, Harold R. Cross; 1946, Howard Collins; 1947, Van D. Wight; 1948, David Murray; 1949, Lewis Richmond; 1950-51, Glenn Miller; 1952, W. C. Foster and 1953-54-55, William Sullivan.