

Annual Report

OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

FOR THE
YEAR
ENDED
JUNE 30th
1979



**REPORT OF THE
OLD SAYBROOK FIRE CO. 1, INC.**



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The Old Saybrook Fire Company Number 1, Inc. answered 239 emergency calls during this past fiscal year.

TYPE OF EMERGENCY CALLS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Structure related | |
| Building damaged | 39 |
| Chimney | 13 |
| Electrical | 4 |
| Brush and grass | 47 |
| Motor Vehicle | 31 |
| Vehicle accident washdowns | 17 |
| False alarms | 29 |
| Malicious false alarms | 3 |
| Mutual aid (out-of-town) | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 53 |

There are no paid firefighters in Old Saybrook, so all fire calls are answered by Fire Company Number 1, an entirely volunteer department. A total of 2503 man-hours was expended answering these calls.

One of these calls resulted in the tragic death of a firefighter in the line of duty. Firefighter Henry Davis, affectionately known as "Gator," died of a heart attack while answering an alarm on August 1, 1978.

A new emergency unit was formed this fiscal year: "Rescue 3," manned by volunteers from the Old Saybrook Ambulance Association and specially trained firefighters. All members are state certified technicians, trained in emergency medical procedures and in the operation of modern rescue equipment. Old Saybrook is one of the towns on the shoreline to have the Hurst "Jaws of Life," a sophisticated extrication tool which is carried on the rescue truck. The "Jaws of Life" was paid for by the town as the result of a special town meeting. The rescue truck was re-built and maintained by the Old Saybrook Ambulance Association, another completely volunteer organization.

The firefighters wish to publicly acknowledge the outstanding support we have received from the Department of Police Services and the Ambulance Association, as well as our good neighbors from across the river, The Old Lyme Fire Department. We wish to acknowledge our gratitude to the Essex and Westbrook firefighters and our other fellow member departments in the Valley Shore Mutual Aid Association for assistance during major emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,

RONALD BALDI, Fire Chief

**REPORT OF THE
OLD SAYBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

This year our society observed the twentieth anniversary of its organization on September 30, 1958 and since then has grown from 27 charter members to a membership of over 400 individuals.

During this year, lecture programs were presented on such varied subjects as "Mrs. Hart's Garden," "History of Money, Banking, and Commerce in Connecticut," "Antique Pewter," "New England's First Settlers," "Antique Dolls," and "Old Saybrook's Early Houses."

Several interesting exhibits at our museum headquarters, The General William Hart House, included Early Postcards of Old Saybrook, Indian Lore, Antique Pewter, Antique Dolls, Attic Treasures, Early Phonographs and Radios, and Marine Collectables. The exhibits are attended by many summer visitors as well as local residents.

Work at the Hart House is continuing with the completed relocation of a serving kitchen, and restoration of the main floor library is well underway.