

FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

IN THE year 1897, the citizens of the Village of Celoron realized the need for a volunteer fire department and on October 16th of that year one was organized. The first chief was Charles O. Johnson and there were 23 charter members in all.

The department was incorporated on November 23, 1897 as the Celoron Hose Co., No 1.

A building, 24 by 32 feet built at 4 East Lake Street and first used in the winter of 1898-1899, housed the village hall and the fire company.

A two wheel hand drawn cart was acquired with hose, ladders and other minor equipment. Social functions were instituted to create interest and to raise funds.

Fred W. Gotts, charter member and wagon maker by trade, built a four wheel hose cart to be pulled by man or drawn by horses. Another two wheel cart was added. In 1922 the village purchased a LaFrance small truck, which was without a pump. Three motorized trucks with pumps followed, built by members of the company, two of which were still in use in the late 1940s. A fire alarm system of boxes and telephone was installed along with a siren to sound the general alarm.

Also in the 1940s, the social life of the company was enhanced by two clown bands

known as the Celoron Symphony and the Celoron Fire Department Symphony. The bands were largely composed of members of the company and made decided hits wherever they appeared.

The present fire hall, located at Dunham and Livingston Avenues, was constructed in 1952-53 and was enlarged in 1970.

In 1963 Carl Anderson, speaking for the fire depart-



Early photos of the Celoron Hose Company showing the volunteers proudly preparing their trucks prior to conveying Santa through the village [ABOVE] and the decorated fire hall ready to accommodate the holiday revelers [BELOW].

