



NANNYKIDS



Edition #6

The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society Newsletter for "Kids"

Fall 2011



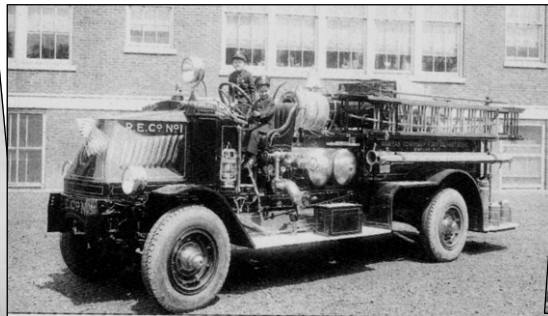
Local Ladders



Welcome to our special "Five Alarm" issue of *Nannykids*, the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society's newsletter for kids and those young at heart. Our local hometown heroes have been working hard to keep us safe for more than a century, and shown here are just a sample of the many images collected by the Society and local historians. Firefighting has a long history in our area - from Metuchen's Eagle Hook & Ladder's first 'station house' behind the First Presbyterian church to the famous 1972 fire at the Pines Manor in Edison, from horse drawn hose carts to the modern high-tech emergency response equipment needed today. And many people don't know that the U.S. Army at Raritan Arsenal once had its very own Fire Department to take care of any emergencies caused by the massive amounts of ordnance once stored there.

Top left: Metuchen's Eagle Hook and Ladder Company, 1912. *Top center:* ca. 1955 view of the Metuchen Volunteer Fire Department and Washington Hose Company. *Top right:* Raritan Engine Company No.2's traditional Santa drive through the Clara Barton section in 1986 (Courtesy of Jim D'Amico*). *Above left:* Oak Tree Volunteer Company (Courtesy of Walter Ulrich*), 1955. *Above center:* Two Raritan Arsenal Fire Company trucks. *Above right:* Edison Volunteer Fire Company No.1 in front of the Edison Memorial Tower at Menlo Park (Courtesy of Edison Volunteer Fire Company No.1*). *Below left:* The H.K. Volunteer Fire Company's Women's Auxiliary, who provided active for over fifty years (courtesy Ada Enfield*). *Below center:* Raritan Engine Company No.1's Mack Bulldog in front of the Piscatawaytown School, 1925 (courtesy of Raritan Engine Company No.1*). *Below right:* Metuchen's Washington Hose Company, ca. 1915.

*Images reproduced in Eugene A. Enfield, Jr.'s *Edison Firefighting*, 2007.



Any comments or suggestions for future editions? Contact us by email at ayersallenhouse@msn.com or mail to NANNYKIDS, c/o the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, P.O. Box 61, Metuchen, NJ 08840. *Nannykids* is published by The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Tyreen A. Reuter, Editor.

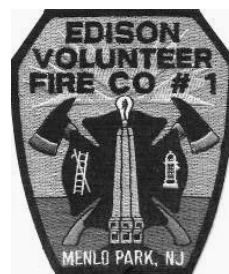


Match-the-Patch

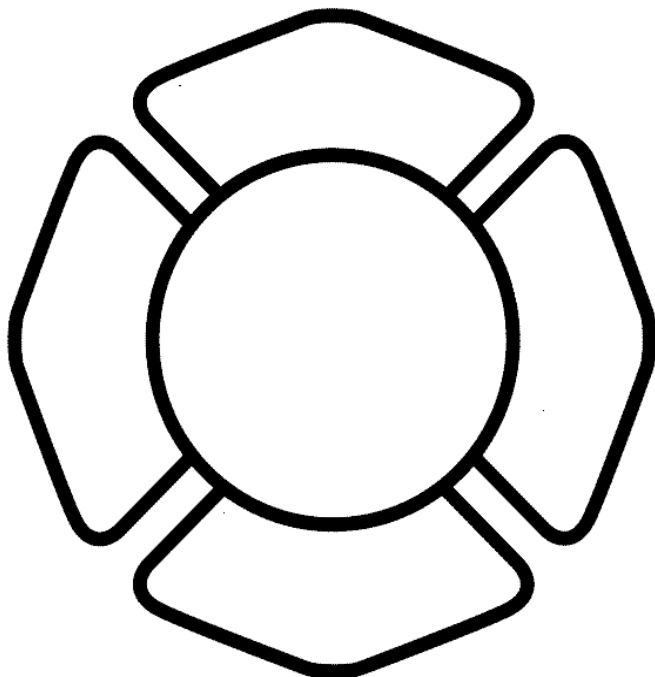


Draw a line between the patch to the corresponding name.

- Eagle Hook & Ladder Company
- Edison Division of Fire
- Edison Volunteer Fire Company No.1
- H.K. Volunteer Fire Company
- Metuchen Volunteer Fire Department
- Oak Tree Volunteer Fire Company.
- Raritan Engine Company No.1
- Raritan Engine Company No.2
- Washington Hose Company



What exactly is a *Nannykid*? J. Lloyd Grimstead, a local historian who took almost 3000 pictures of the Metuchen-Edison area during the 1930s, collected anecdotes, articles, and reminiscences about our local history. Instead of "anecdotes," he nicknamed them "nannygoats," which has a similar sound. The Society calls its newsletter *Nannygoats* in honor of Mr. Grimstead, and, since young goats are called "kids," these editions are *Nannykids*.



What if **you** were in charge of creating a fire department patch? What colors would you use? What pictures would you include? Try creating your very own in the template above.

Want to learn more about fire safety? Edison resident and animator, Tim Saguinsin has created **Firefighter Dan™** to help kids recognize, reduce and escape hazards while learning at the same time! Mr. Saguinsin is also a certified firefighter and father of two young sons who are "firefighters in training," so he's eager to spread information about fire safety. For more information, visit his website



www.firefighterdan.com

Just for Laughs...

Q: If there is "H2O" on the *inside* of a fire hydrant, what is on the *outside*?

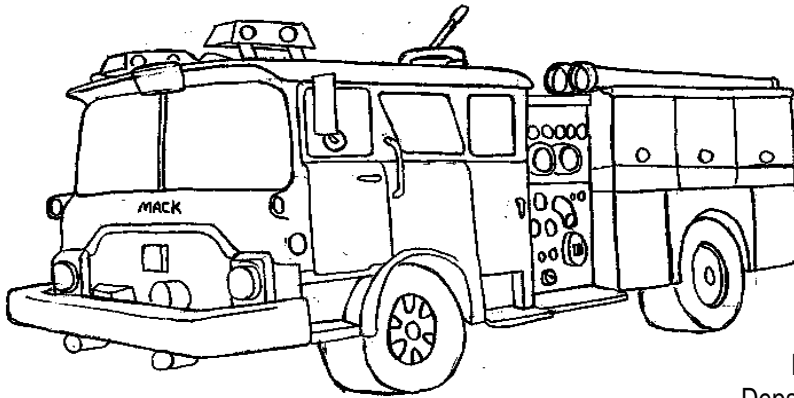
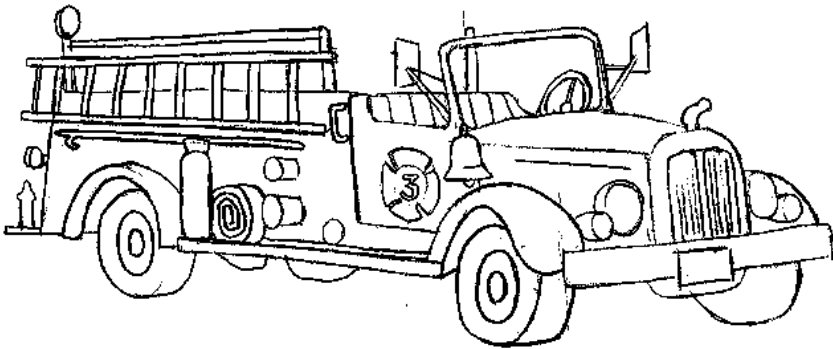
A: "K9P"!

Q: Why do firemen wear red suspenders?

A: To hold up their pants!



Colorful History



The Edison Fire Department

Edison's fire service originated as five separate volunteer companies within Raritan Township: Raritan Engine Company No.1, Edison Volunteer Fire Company No.1, Raritan Engine Company No.2, H.K. Volunteer Fire Company, and Oak Tree Volunteer Fire Company.

In 1954, the town voted to change its name to "Edison" in honor of Thomas A. Edison, and four years later the Edison Department of Public Safety was created with three divisions: Police, Fire, and First Aid.

If you want to know more about Edison's firefighting history, read Eugene A. Enfield's book, "Edison Firefighting" published by Arcadia Publishing in 2007.



The Metuchen Fire Department

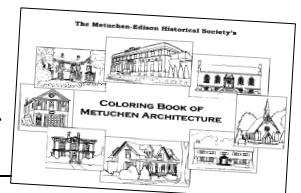
For the better part of 128 years, the Metuchen Fire Department consisted of two separate companies; the Eagle Hook & Ladder Company was organized in 1882 by residents concerned with the threat of fire due in large part to the sparks and hot embers thrown off by passing railroad locomotives, and in 1897 another group of dedicated residents organized the Washington Hose Company. Together, these two groups of volunteers protected our community for more than a century. Although officially two different companies, both came together as one cohesive unit when it was time to respond to emergencies.

Over the past several years, steps have been taken to reorganize the Fire Department and to modernize its operations. On Wednesday, July 7, 2010, members of the two fire companies gathered in Metuchen Borough Hall and finalized the consolidation process, creating the newly organized "Metuchen Volunteer Fire Company." Currently, the department responds to between 300 and 400 calls for assistance every year, answering with volunteer firefighters who operate three Pumpers, one Ladder Truck, and one Heavy Rescue Truck. In addition to the emergencies responded to by the department, members also participate in special fund raising projects, parades, fairs, public education, and an ever increasing list of community oriented events.

Many thanks to Fire Chief Robert B. Donnan for his help with Metuchen's firefighting history.

Enjoy coloring local historic sites? Limited quantities of our *Coloring Book of Metuchen Architecture* are still available for \$6 each, (plus shipping if applicable).

Visit our website at www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org for more information.

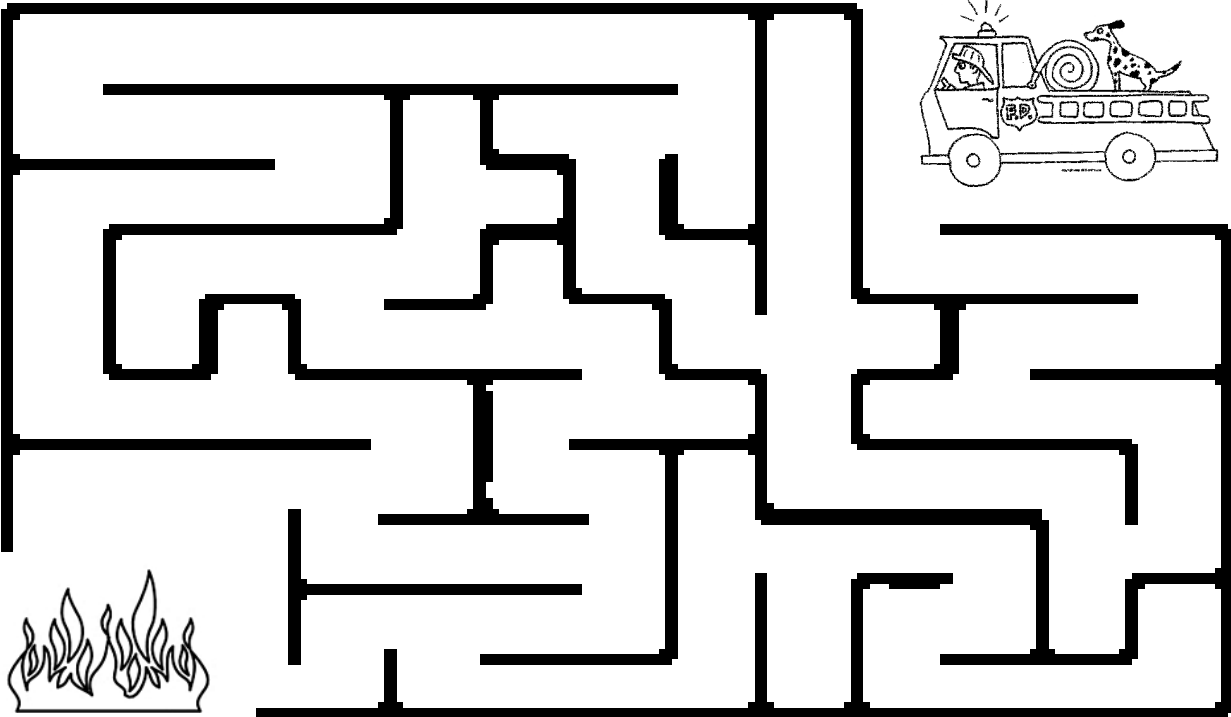




Maze to the Blaze!



Help the ladder truck reach the fire!



Word Find



Axe	Hydrant
Blaze	Ladder
Brave	Lindeneau
Chief	MenloPark
ClaraBarton	Midwood
Company	OakTree
Eagle	Piscatawaytown
Engine	Pumper
Fire	Rescue
Flame	Shout
Gear	Siren
Help	Tank
Hook	Truck
Hose	Volunteer
House	Washington

B	A	T	P	U	T	E	A	G	L	E	D	F	I	R	E
U	H	O	U	S	E	T	H	A	R	E	S	C	U	E	N
N	G	F	M	E	N	L	O	P	A	R	K	L	O	O	B
H	E	L	P	A	S	I	S	H	O	U	T	A	X	E	L
C	A	A	E	G	G	N	E	O	A	K	T	R	E	E	A
B	R	M	R	M	I	D	W	O	O	D	Z	A	L	I	Z
R	F	E	S	I	R	E	N	K	G	Y	R	B	R	O	E
A	C	O	M	P	A	N	Y	M	E	N	T	A	N	K	O
V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	H	Y	D	R	A	N	T
E	A	P	I	S	C	A	T	A	W	A	Y	T	O	W	N
L	A	D	D	E	R	U	C	H	I	E	F	O	K	I	S
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T	R	U	C	K	P	R	E	N	G	I	N	E	G	O	N