

## Firemen To Note 50th Anniversary Of McKownville Firehouse

A reminder that the public is invited to the McKownville Fire Department's May 18 open house at the original Arcadia Street Fire House near the Albany city line. The event will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the structure, built in 1935 and still in-use.

Located on property donated to the fire district, the building is now officially Station 2. The original design by architect August Lux has

been preserved and features an open, heavy-timbered ceiling.

The May 18 open house will run from 1 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served and fire apparatus buffs will be treated to a viewing of the department's 1957 American LaFrance pumper, which has recently been refurbished.

Chairmen Frank Casatelli and Tom King, Sr., hosts of the affair, also serve as members of the board

of fire commissioners along with James Barber, Stanley Gecewicz and Thomas O'Connell. Ronald Jones is fire chief.

The day should serve as a particular highlight to Mr. King, who put the first coat of paint on the building in 1935. Fifty years later he is still directing painting operations.

At the time of construction the fire board was headed by Byron S. Snowden, chairman. Members were Alfred J. Garrison, Clifford E. Bowdish, Walter R. Marder, James Ammenheuser, John F. Feldman and Earl B. Conklin, the board's secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Conklin was Guilderland town supervisor at the time; Mr. Feldman served in the same office during the early 1950s.

A parking area for the open house will be available at the rear of Station 1 at 1250 Western Ave.

<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn86011850/1985-04-25/ed-1/seq-3/>

excerpt from McKownville News and Comment by Lindsay Childs  
(on page 4 of the Altamont Enterprise, May 2, 1985)

### McKownville: News And Comment

By LINDSAY CHILDS

The McKownville Fire House was draped in black last weekend to signal the passing of Thomas W.

King, Sr., on Thursday, April 25.

Mr. King joined the McKownville Fire Department in 1934, prior to the opening of the old Arcadia Street Fire House, whose 50th

anniversary was commemorated with an informal reception on April 6 and will be again at a public open house on May 18. He served as a fire commissioner for 30 years. In 1957 the department purchased the American LaFrance pumper which was recently refurbished and is being stored in the old firehouse. Mr. King's name is contained on a plaque on the pumper.

He was also a commissioner during the time when the department moved to its current firehouse in 1965. All of the current equipment was purchased during his commissionership.

Mr. King died just three days after he was featured in an article by Linda Somberg in the Times-Union about the old firehouse and its ghost.

Mr. King's record of dedicated service to the fire department and the community it serves stands as an inspiration for us all.