



Frank Hyatt remembers Mrs. Milton and Mrs. Matthews as the principal dispatchers in those early years.

Each member was on call for a week at a time, with three members on each team, two for first aid and the third as a driver.

In January 1958, Sherman Loucks of the *Loucks Funeral Home* (photo above) gave the squad its second ambulance, a maroon Packard previously used by the *Pulling Funeral Home* and, since 1955, the *Loucks Funeral Home*, its successor. Transportation by ambulance had previously been part of the funeral home's business, without the first aid component.

Here's an article and picture about the donation from *Loucks Funeral Home*, also having its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, courtesy of Allan Loucks:

### Loucks Ambulance Given To Aid Squad

The Ellenville First Aid and Rescue Squad announced Sunday that it had been the recipient of a magnificent gift from Sherman B. Loucks.

Mr. Loucks has given his late model ambulance to the First Aid Squad as of January 1, 1958, when the local funeral director will retire completely from ambulance service.

Speaking for the first-aiders Harold Ray said that the local group will now be able to serve residents of the village and will have two ambulances available for out of town calls.

Mr. Ray made it clear that long distance ambulance calls still should be handled through private ambulance service.

In an additional statement Mr. Ray said, "Mr. Loucks has always been very cooperative and helpful with and to our organization and we are deeply grateful for his generous gift to us."

The squad grew, at times slowly, sometimes rapidly.

Money was always a problem. The *Auxiliary* took over acting as fundraisers for the *Squad* and an annual fundraising at one of the area resorts became a regular event. Rosalie Sherry, long a member of the *Squad Fundraisers*, said in 1983 that fundraising was "almost a full



time job." At the time, the group had just finished writing 4,000 letters to raise money for the squad. That year's dinner and related activities garnered \$18,000 for the *Squad*.

Betty Grosfent, the 1993 *Auxiliary* President, commented ten years later that many area residents, in learning more facts about the squad's operating expenses, were becoming more aware of what supporting such an organization entails. The 1993 dinner was exceptionally well subscribed, possibly a reflection of the community's acknowledgment of the *Squad's* importance. The *Auxiliary* was a wonderful way for residents to help the *Squad*, even if they did not participate in actual ambulance service or first aid calls.



Responding to an auto accident in 1967, photo above. Responding to a fire in 1964, photo at bottom left, and cover.

1983's *Squad* President Stan Rubin, when asked what squad accomplishment was most satisfying during his presidency, replied, "Knowing that the community, particularly town and village governments, became more aware of the important services rendered by the *Ellenville First Aid & Rescue Squad* and the fiscal impact of those service." The *Squad* had petitioned the Town of Wawarsing in 1983 to establish an ambulance district to financially support their services. (Note that 20 years later, the district was established and the January 2005 Real Property Tax bills carry an itemized amount for "Wawarsing Ambulance," at the rate of \$12.77 per \$1000 assessed value.)

The *Squad* was frequently in the news during the 1970s and 1980s: delivery of a new ambulance in October 1975, addition of a "Jaws of Life," the move to a larger building on **Webster Street** and the construction of a three-bay garage addition to the former *Rodeph Sholom Temple* (photo, next page, right middle). The **North Main Street** location had provided limited parking for squad members, and ingress and egress of ambulances along busy **Rte. 209** had become a traffic hazard to both passing motorists and the ambulances themselves (photo next page, top left).

One of the results of the increased awareness of the financial crisis faced by the *Squad* was the establishment of the annual *Run Like the Wind Race*, first held on May 27