

In 1963 when I, Gerald Partridge took over the department, there were 2 different fire departments. One in Purgatory and one at Litchfield Corner and I joined them together so we could work as one department.

When I took over the Purgatory station we had an open cab fire truck and we traded it, because it was to cold in the winter as you can imagine. They also had an air whistle they had bought from the Hallowell Fire Department, which would blow on all calls in Litchfield for the department.

We had 3 fire trucks, one in Purgatory and 2 down at the Corner Station. We had 3 fire phones, they were red, we had 1, and Rhonda had 1 and 1 in Purgatory. When there was a fire call we had to call a list of people to get them to come and get the trucks. Later we had 2-way radios to get help; Carrol Forem hooked them up for us.

We had a wood stove to keep the trucks from freezing at the Litchfield Corner Station. Than a year later they brought an oil furnace.

We had 2 fire trucks that the town didn't buy; the town didn't have any money at this time to do such things. The Women's Auxiliary bought one and the fireman's association bought the other one. The Women's Auxiliary also bought the first fireman coats, boots, and hats.

By  
Gerald Partridge