

CHAPTER XXXI

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

It seems fitting to begin the present account of the Jaffrey Police Department with the election of the man who served as Chief of Police of Jaffrey for over thirty years, the longest such service in the history of the town. That man was Hubert F. O'Neil, who in 1922 was elected to the office to succeed J. J. Mahoney. For his first year in office, March, 1922, to January 31, 1923, he received the sum of \$900.00, and Joseph Lemire was paid \$5.50 for duty as a special officer. With Mahoney's salary until March, of \$165.72, the total cost of protection to persons and property in Jaffrey was \$1,111.72. This indicates that Jaffrey was an orderly and law-abiding town, without infringements upon individual rights to peace and quiet in the pursuit of livelihoods.

The men who served in World War I had returned and had re-established themselves in their respective spheres of occupation and all the people of Jaffrey were looking forward with great anticipation to the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration in August, 1923. With thousands of people flocking to Jaffrey for the week-long festivities and events, Chief O'Neil received the assistance of special police officers in maintaining everything moving smoothly. Their pay amounted to \$118.50. Chief O'Neil's salary was \$1,000.00 and his expense account of \$6.15 brought the total cost of protection to persons and property to \$1,204.65. This during a year that was highlighted by one of the major events in the history of Jaffrey!

But now, as Jaffrey is looking forward to its Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1973, many changes have occurred which have occasioned the upping of expenses in all town departments, including the police department. No small factor in the necessity of extra police protection has been the advent of automobiles in ever increasing numbers and the resulting traffic violations and infringements have necessitated twenty-four hour police protection to persons and property. With today's mobility, crimes are more easily perpetrated by outsiders. All these factors call for extra vigilance by the police and a larger number of men on duty at all times. In 1970 the total police department expenses including salaries, cruiser main-

tenance, and all other supplies and materials, amounted to \$41,905.50.

Chief O'Neil was retired in May, 1954, and Lucien E. Vigneault of Nashua, New Hampshire, succeeded him. He continued to serve as Jaffrey's chief of police until his untimely death from a heart attack, September 1, 1965. Following his death Arthur H. Rivard, a member of the town's police force, was appointed Chief of Police of Jaffrey and continues to serve at the present time.

The police department is set up now so that it can be in immediate contact with other town departments, the county sheriff, and the State Police.

The following men are now serving on the Jaffrey Police Force:

Chief of Police, Arthur H. Rivard

Corporal, John E. Morton

Patrolmen: Gary O. Croteau, Ronald B. Nason, Sr., John D. Morse, and Thomas A. Yasvin.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

No longer do Jaffrey's public services personnel have to walk to the nearest farmhouse "to use the telephone" to call for help when their equipment break down or become stuck in mud or snowdrifts while on the job in some far corner or back road of the town. Communication with the proper officials is quickly established.

At the March, 1970, town meeting the sum of four thousand dollars was raised to establish a communications center, with a base located at the Jaffrey Town Offices. At the present time the following departments are in contact by radio:

Police Department Base and Cruiser with portable walkie-talkie radios carried by the patrolmen on beat.

Highway Department vehicles, including two trucks, grader, and two pick-up trucks.

Water Department, one vehicle.

JAFFREY WATER WORKS

Seventy years ago Jaffrey citizens launched upon their first move to secure an adequate supply of water of sufficient purity for Jaffrey residents. The story of this move and project is told in detail in Volume I, pages 422-426. There have been subsequent improvements and additions.

In 1954 the Poole Reservoir on Mount Monadnock was im-

proved by the Jaffrey Water Works at a total cost of \$13,935.00. At a later date the construction of a chlorination plant at Bullet Pond Reservoir was made at a cost of \$16,000.00.

In 1965 the Town raised and appropriated \$65,000.00, by bond issue, for the construction of a gravel packed well on the Fitzgerald land on the Turnpike Road. The town was repaid this outlay by the Jaffrey Water Works. This project had been under consideration for several years but as the land had been used for agricultural purposes for years it was necessary to wait for its clarification from such use.

The biggest project came in 1965, at which time a bond issue of \$300,000.00 was obtained for cleaning, cementing, lining, and replacing the twelve-inch main from Bullet Pond in Rindge to River Street in Jaffrey.

WATER COMMISSIONERS

James B. Perry	1925-1952
Arthur S. Buss	1929-1935
Charles E. Chamberlain	1932-1942
Lester Hammond	1935-1947 1958-1963
Ralph E. Boynton	1942-1950
G. Prescott Duncan	1947-1950
Hubert S. O'Neil	1950-1953
Robert Bunce	1952-1957
Nelson Gill	1951-1956
Frank Davis	1956-1958
J. Oren Belletete	1957-1962
Richard Bussiere	1959-1966
Raymond J. Desmarais	1963-1965
Albert Morin	1964-1966
George A. Sirois	1966—
Donald K. Sawtelle	1967—
Julio Mei	1967—

SUPERINTENDENTS

Edward A. Coburn	1927-1935
Arthur S. Buss, Acting Supt.	1935-1937
Eino J. Oja	1937-1944
Warren C. Ruffle	1945-1952
Alton C. Eaves	1953-Apr. 18, 1958
Henry Belletete	Apr. 18, 1958-Oct. 16, 1959
Ernest E. Ouellette	Oct. 16, 1959-1964

Richard Wilson	1965-1966
Ernest E. Ouellette	1967—

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Exclusive of the cost of joint maintenance, State and Town, in 1921, the cost of highway maintenance in the town totaled \$7,975.15. This was the year immediately following the "lesser depression" of 1920. At that time there were three highway agents, Walter H. Clark, Wilbur E. Webster, and George J. Cournoyer. By the Wall Street "crash" year of 1929, the town maintenance account had increased to \$9,158.27. The town highway cost has continued to rise until, in 1970, it had reached the unprecedented figure of \$159,304.91. With the sewer department under the supervision of the highway agent, the cost of replacing the burned town garage, and water works expense account paid by the department are all included in the last figure. Previously, only the actual monies spent on highway work were included under the highway department account.

HIGHWAY AGENTS 1921-1971

Wilbur E. Webster	-1922
George J. Cournoyer	-1922
Walter H. Clark	-1925
Amedee M. Deschenes	1922-1933
Peter N. Proctor	1925-1931
George A. Adams	1931-1936
Philip F. Grass	1932-1940
Henry J. Belletete*	1936-1962
Richard Wilson	1962-1969
Lloyd C. Dunning, Sr.	1969-1971
Henry J. Belletete*	1971—

OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE

For the first time in its history Jaffrey has a woman serving as overseer of public welfare, formerly termed as overseer of the poor. She is Claire C. Moore, who was elected to the office in 1970 and re-elected in 1971.

For many years the office of overseer of public welfare had been combined with the office of Chief of Police. Chief Hubert F. O'Neil was the first dual-office holder followed by Chief Lucien E. Vigneault and Chief Arthur H. Rivard.