



Once upon a time there was a parade....

It was a wonderful parade in a wonderful place. The 50th anniversary of the Spring Lake, NJ Goodwill Fire Company, in early September 1951. The Alexander children were there. Bill was 8, Ellen 2 ½, and Jim 10. (Patricia was to be born the following Spring.) Bill was partial to sparklers and cap guns, Ellen was trying out a new pistol, and Jim had his new holster on. All three were special firemen for the day.

They watched the long parade that included bands and fire engines from many towns, from the sidewalk in front of Alexander's Store at 1219 Third Avenue.



Bill, Ellen and Jim Alexander. September 1951.



Bill and Jim. September 8, 2001.

Fifty years later, on September 8, 2001, Goodwill Fire Company celebrated its 100th....

Jim and Bill were there! They watched it from the sidewalk where Alexander's Store once had been. Much has changed about the town, but many of its fine attributes continue, including the outstanding tradition of volunteer service for the two fire companies and the First Aid Squad.

Spring Lake -- a fine home town whose people and traditions of good will are worth remembering!

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NOTE: the tragic events that occurred three days after the second parade do not diminish the value of happy memories. A few weeks later, even more fire engines, uniformed officers from several states, and somber citizens returned to Spring Lake for a memorial service for a World Trade Center victim. The sound of bagpipes across Spring Lake, and the memory of our Flag flying from two arched fire truck ladders on that bright blue day are also now part of our memories.

Bill and Jim Watch the Parade Again

Spring Lake, NJ - September 8, 2001



Bill and Jim



The Parade Starts!



A Long Line of Local and Visiting Fire Companies



Mummers from Philadelphia

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