



DECEMBER 30, 1950

KENILWORTH BOROUGH, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1950 Census—4,920.

IN GENERAL: Located on the Rahway Valley Railroad north of and adjoining Cranford Township. A manufacturing and residential community with 15 industries employing about 500. Area 2.1 square miles. Elevations range from 70 to 180 feet. Main roads concrete, others gravel in fair to poor condition. Railroad crossings at grade and traffic on main thoroughfares are said never to have interfered with the response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Plainfield-Union Water Company which owns supply works and distribution system and supplies water to all or portions of fifteen other municipalities that extend from Dunellen to Elizabeth. The portion of the system in Kenilworth is supplied from a 12-inch to 10-inch main from the Netherwood Pumping Station, from the Newark Avenue Well Station, and from the Kenilworth Standpipe. For a detailed description of the Plainfield-Union Water Company see report with map No. 124. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption in the entire territory served during 1949 (40,992 live services) was 12.1 and 15.5 million gallons. On December 31, 1949 there were 1,296 services in Kenilworth, all of which were metered. **Distribution System:** In one service; see map and description above. Arterial system is generally good, with a few dead end 6-inch lines supplying hydrants. **Pipe:** Cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3-foot cover. Total length, 89,026 feet; 1.4% 4-inch, 68.8% 6-inch, 5.3% 8-inch, 8.3% 10-inch, 6.8% 12-inch, and 9.4% 16-inch. No trouble reported from frozen mains, electrolysis, or tuberculation. **Gate Valves:** There are 158 on the system of various makes, set with iron boxes to grade. Direction of operation is uniform. There is no systematic inspection of valves. They are operated only when shut-offs are necessary. **Hydrants:** There are 92 on the system of Corey and Wood makes of standard type; 59 have two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and 6-inch gated branches while the remainder have two 2½-inch outlets and 4-inch gated branches. Hose outlets are 3 inches outside diameter and have 8 threads per inch. Steamer outlet threads are National Standard. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually. At time of inspection those operated were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 4 hydrants widely distributed showed pressures ranging from 70 to 76 pounds with an average of 72 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on March 20, 1942 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Monroe Ave. and N. 8th St., 810—76—65.

Coolidge Dr. and Lee Ter., 760—75—60.

Kenilworth Blvd. and N. 22nd St., 1,480—70—59.

Newark Ave. and Market St., 820—71—26.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of two companies under full control of the borough which appropriated \$6,150 for the support of the department in 1950. Borough owns apparatus and equipment. Company owns house. Total active membership 46, of whom an average of 8 are available during the day and 15 during the night. A chief, assistant chief, battalion chief, 2 captains, and 2 lieutenants are elected annually by the company and confirmed by the borough council. **Companies—Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Department—Hose Company No. 1:** Membership 23. Located on Washington Avenue near 20th Street. Building is a 1-story concrete block and frame structure with a composition roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and siren. **Equipment:** A 1940 Buffalo 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 150-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 200 feet of 1½-inch hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 3 gas masks, 1 mechanical foam nozzle, 2 short ladders, and fair minor equipment. **Hose Company No. 2:** Membership 23. Located with Hose Company No. 1. **Equipment:** A 1944

Mack triple combination pumping engine carrying a 500-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 3 short ladders, 2 gas masks, 1 salvage cover, and fair minor equipment. A 1939 Chevrolet truck carrying 2 salvage covers, a 1,500-watt electric generator, 4 flood lights, 1 inhalator, and meager minor equipment. A 1949 Cadillac ambulance carrying a resuscitator and first-aid equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with screw couplings, 8 threads per inch and 3 inch outside diameter. Hose is tested about 6 times a year at from 150 to 175 pounds, shifted at drills, and dried on apparatus room floor. There is a total supply of 2,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, of which about 50% is over 5 years old. **Operations:** Department governed by borough ordinance and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. He may suspend members pending a hearing before company. Motors are started daily. There are 9 members of the department who are assigned to drive apparatus. **Drills and Training:** Drills held monthly under the supervision of chief officers consist of hose laying, pump operation, ladder raising, and use of equipment. **Fire Methods:** Booster and 1½-inch lines used on incipient fires reinforced by engine lines with shut-off nozzles. First company due lays directly from fire to hydrant. Gas masks and salvage covers are provided, but no heavy stream appliances are carried. **Response to Alarms:** Entire department responds to all alarms in borough. Outside aid may be secured from Union Township, Cranford, and Roselle. **Building Inspection:** The chief makes a monthly inspection of all factories. **Records and Reports:** Complete records are kept of all fires in a regular fire department log book and annual reports are submitted to the borough council. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through the Cranford, Roselle, or Unionville exchange to police desk. Alarms are sounded on siren at fire house.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, 1 captain, 2 sergeants, 3 patrolmen, and 4 special officers working in 8-hour shifts with one regular officer always on duty. A car equipped with 2-way radio and a motorcycle are provided. Patrolmen respond to all alarms of fire and report all unauthorized building to building inspector.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 22, 1941 provides for the annual appointment of a building inspector and requires that permits be secured before building operations may begin. Code has fair regulations in regard to chimneys and fire stops, but in general does not conform to the National Building Code recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. No fire limits are established and flammable roof coverings are allowed throughout the borough. State laws provide some good regulations for construction of factories, tenement houses, and public schools, and fire protection and safety features for hotels.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: An ordinance adopted November 26, 1946 provides for the inspection of all buildings, except private dwellings, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any condition liable to cause fire. Ordinance has fair regulations in regard to explosives, refrigeration, garages, fire exits, and extinguishers, but in general is incomplete. State laws adequately cover the manufacture, storage, and handling of explosives, and provide for regulations governing the intrastate transportation of explosives and flammable liquids. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties and embody good requirements for motion picture booths and the hazard incident to the display of motion pictures except that flammable film and portable booths are permitted for temporary exhibitions, and enclosures for projection equipment are not required in schools. The State Tenement House Act restricts keeping and handling of certain combustible materials in tenements.

ZONING ORDINANCE: Adopted February 8, 1944.