

FDNY "PART TIME" ENGINE COMPANY

Back in the 1950' and 1960's millions of New Yorkers fled the hot city during the summer months to enjoy the Rockaway beaches. The Cross Bay bridge during this time was a draw bridge that opened and closed for marine boats. On Saturdays, Sundays and summer holidays the residents of Broad Channel had a huge fire safety issue. If the bridge was up and a fire started in BC, the nearest fire unit, E 266 on RBB & B 92 was stuck at the bridge opening and delayed. From the north, only L 142 and E 285, from Ozone Park, could come a long way. L 173 and E 331 in Howard Beach did not yet exist. To counter this problem, the FDNY staffed a engine company with 6 firemen and a officer at the BC Volunteer fire house on Noel Rd. It operated from 7 am to 7 pm on Saturday, Sundays, and Summer Holidays. The heavy traffic jams of beach folks waiting for traffic lights on CBB and to wait at the toll booths to pay the toll, compounded the problem. I believe this part time Engine Company was E 341. With the new bridge and the opening of the firehouse in Howard Beach this part engine company was shut down.

Submitted by John Kelly