



A Canisteo Native, **Donald Merring** Graduated from Canisteo Central School in 1953 before entering the United States Naval Academy. He received a Diesel technology degree from Alfred State University before being employed by Ingersol Rand from 1961 to 1965 and then H.P. Smith and Son for the next twenty years. Merring has been a member of the Canisteo Fire Department since January 1960 and still actively responds to emergency situations as Fire Equipment operator and Ambulance driver on an almost daily basis. He also served as Chief from 1970 to 1977 and was instrumental in the saving of lives and property during the 1972 flood that devastated much of Western New York State. Donald was appointed to serve as the First Director of Emergency Services/ Fire Coordinator in the newly formed department in Steuben County in 1985 and held that position for the next ten years, spending exhaustive hours setting up and implementing the 911 service center. He continued to serve his community after retirement as a part time dispatcher for the Steuben County Sheriff's Department as well as the Village of Bath Police Department and was selected as Fireman of the year in 2001.