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In Loving Memory of

Alice E. Smith

November 20, 1901
May 12, 1997

Remember, O Lord, this Thy servant,
who is gone before us with the sign of
faith, and sleeps in the sleep of peace.
To this one, O Lord and to all who rest
in Christ, grant, we pray Thee, a place
of refreshment, light, and peace.

Butler-Badman Funeral Home, Inc.
Syracuse, New York

Party Scheduled For New Fire Chief

Unless a big fire breaks out in the city Saturday, the new Syracuse fire chief, Michael Fitzgibbon

Downes, will be feted at a dinner party at Weber's Restaurant for family members and other relatives given by his sister, Mary McMahon Kelly of Onondaga Hill.



JOE
GANLEY

The new chief's wife and high school sweetheart, Joan (Morgan), will be there, along with eight of their nine children, the exception being son Dan, who is en route with the Navy in Somalia to France.

The children and spouses are Kathy McCabe of Camillus; Mike Downes, who lives with his parents at 135 Conifer Drive, South Side; John and Karen Downes of North Syracuse; Tim and Patty Downes of Otisco; Tom and Maureen Downes of Canastota; Mary and Douglas Welker of Salt Springs Road; Maggie and Bill Washburn of East Cheltenham Road; and Patty Downes of Mountainview, Calif.

There'll be 70 or more attending the party, including Virginia Downes of 111 Harding Place, widow of the chief's brother, Ted Downes, former WFBL and WSEN radio entertainer. Also attending will be aunts, uncles and cousins from the Syracuse area and relatives from Arizona, Toronto, Rochester, Washington, Asheville, N.C., and Philadelphia.

It can be expected that somewhere along the way, Chief Downes will strum his ukulele and sing a few songs. And recalling, probably, some of the comedy skits he and his brother, Ted, put on at a vari-

ety of functions over the years before Ted's death in 1984.

Old-timers will recall the shows Mike and Ted put on for St. Michael's Church, Onondaga Hill, including "Raise the Roof" and "For the Love of Mike," and the James Players presentations for St. James Church. (Old-time radio listeners will also recall Ted's radio shows with Bill Merchant and their "Granny Groove" character.)

Chief Downes grew up in St. John the Evangelist Parish. He served in the Navy as a "frogman" and worked for Kelley Bros. Hardware before becoming a fireman 37 years ago.

His first post was at Engine No. 1, then on Montgomery Street across from City Hall. For 15 years, Downes headed the school that trains all local firemen. He also trained volunteer firemen in the Syracuse area for the state.

In 1963, the new chief won the Hendrick's Medal for bravery when he rescued a resident from a burning building.

The chief's roots go deep into fire-fighting activities. His great-grandfather, for whom he is named, was a lieutenant in the city department in the 1890s and early 1900s, and a son, Tim, is a member of the department.

We join the chief's many friends in congratulating him on his advancement to the top of the Syracuse Fire Department. And hope he enjoys the get-together.