



Hobart "Hobie" Abbey was born in Ithaca, NY in 1928. In September of 1951 Hobie was married to the former Erma Warren of Painted Post at The First Baptist Church in Painted Post. They settled in a new home on Chatfield Place in Gang Mills and shortly thereafter joined the Forest View Gang Mills Fire Dept.

Hobie quickly advanced to the position of Fire Chief and acted as liaison between the fire dept. and the Town of Erwin board. In 1970 Hobart was named by The Steuben County Fire Coordinator Leo Jacobus to be a deputy Fire Coordinator for the Corning area directing mutual aid efforts for the 12 Corning area Fire Departments. It was then that he gave up his position of Fire Chief and became First Assistant Chief.

Hobart Abbey made the supreme sacrifice drowning in the early morning hours of Friday June 23, 1972 during rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes. The Steuben County Deputy Fire Coordinator and first assistant chief of the Forest View gang Mills Fire department was 44 years old. He left a wife Erma and two daughters Jean, 19 and Elizabeth, 17. Hobart A. Abbey was named New York State Fireman of the Year 1972 posthumously by The Firemen's Association of the State of New York.