

# THE OLDE



# FIRE BELL

FALL 2008

GULFCOASTCHAPTER.ORG

SINCE 1975

## TYLER MUSTER TRI-CHAPTER PARTICIPATION

The East Texas Historical Fire Society, Tyler TX, hosted its 23rd annual muster on October 23—25. Once again, participants from the three regional chapters - Texas Gulf Coast, North Texas (Dallas), and East Texas (Tyler)—were on-hand for all of the festivities. The muster was held at the beautiful Brookshire Food Stores' Lake Palestine campgrounds. Activities included swap meet, displays, demonstrations, apparatus judging, and restoration clinics.

Attending from TGCC were Tim Treadway, Charlie Womack, Molly Wageman, Clint and Theresa Johnson, Chuck and Marla Buschardt, and Jim and Cheryl McGee.

On Friday evening, the meet started at Central Station South. "I had a great time," noted Charlie. "We were really blessed with great weather and good company. Friends, everyone, for the entire weekend." The participants got a full tour of the brand new Station #10 and their new Crimson fire engines. "The bratwurst and hamburgers were a nice treat during the tour," commented Jim McGee.

Traveling from the Humble area were Tim and the Johnson's. Tim brought his 1950 Mack Quint Ladder, while Clinton brought his 1960 ALF ladder truck. Tim's ladder truck took home judges' favorite for best of show. Clinton received furthest distance traveled, and proudly blew a tire on the way home to prove he really deserved the award! North Texas Chapter brought several ALF's, including Harvey Carter's 1916 4-cylinder and 1926 6-cylinder, ex-Winnsboro. Lake Palestine brought their 900-Series ALF. In total, approximately a dozen truck and 25 people were



Top: Tim Treadway's 1950 Mack Quint (center) and North Texas Chapter trucks conducting pumping operations. Bottom: Chuck Buschardt, Chuck Thomas, and Jim McGee (L-to-R) ogling Chuck B's new and functioning Whiting light on the muster trophy stage.

present.

After a day at the lake, most of the group partook in a shared meal (and drinking!) at a local Mexican restaurant. Events of the past year were shared. Then everyone re-grouped at the East Texas Historical Fire Society's Headquarters for a welding demonstration. Using the club's new TIG welder, David Miller of Dallas Texas Fire Museum, demonstrated how to weld cracks in early ALF jug. "Everyone agreed it was an impressive sight," remarked Jim.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Future meeting dates: Monday evenings at 7:00 pm on January 19, February 16, and March 16 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire
- Southern California Chapter will be hosting the 2009 Winter SPAAMEAA conference February 25-28 in Pomona, CA
- TGCC Pumpnic on Saturday March 21st on Belleau Woods Dr, Humble (same location as last year)
- Jackson MI Swap and Shop Fire Flea Market April 25

## EDITOR'S NOTES

From our family to yours, *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes everyone happy and healthy holiday season. Hard to believe a year has passed since the first 2008 issue was published. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we enjoy developing them! Welcome to 2009!

Check out Eric Lundstrom's WWW.4Alarm.Org website for a thrilling photo history of recent HFD fire events. While in the site, book your wedding, birthday, picnic, dinner, or graduation event at WWW.4-AlarmHose Co. It will create memories that will last a life time. Tell a friend, too.

Hey! How about those gas prices! No more excuses for keeping those trucks idle in the garage. Let's get the trucks out more to increase TGCC visibility. We are constantly seeking new membership, and what an excellent way to attract potential members. We had a great turnout at the November monthly meeting and a wonderful time at the Thanksgiving Day Parade. Let's keep the spirit alive.

The 5th annual Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department Pumpnic and Apparatus Revue will be held on Saturday, March 21, once again at the Belleau Woods Drive in Humble (same place as last year). Hours will be 11 am until everybody is tired or arrested. Bring your



own food and drinks, snake bite kit, insect repellent, and sharp stick if you want to gig frogs for dinner. The event will be hosted by Clinton Johnson (above) and Big Dave Porter. A great day will be had by all!

## CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES IN SUMMARY

BY CHERYL MCGEE

The following is a summary of the Fall monthly meetings:

**October meeting:** Eight members were present. Treasury report was given; good shape. Copies of Summer 2008 chapter newsletter were distributed. The Turvey's participated in Deer Park Fire Prevention Parade and won 1950—1980 class award with their '76 Ford/FMC. Participation at Tyler was discussed. Group decided to delay New Orleans visit due to recent hurricane incidents. Phil Trenbath motioned to purchase \$100 walkway brick at the Na-

tional Fallen Firefighter's Museum; he already made a personal purchase. Endorsed and Tom McDonald to follow-up. Mark Turvey is organizing Thanksgiving Day Parade and is seeking participation. Jim discussed dates for the two upcoming Christmas Parades.

**November meeting:** Eleven members attended the meeting. Jim McGee discussed recent email from Bill Davis, Trustee Central Region-South; ballots for regional officers will be mailed shortly. 2009 Winter National Meeting details were discussed; no one mentioned they

would be attending. Heidi Van Horne is seeking information about antique fire vehicles for Christmas Day Houston Chronicle feature. Dates for upcoming parades were given. Details about the Thanksgiving Day Parade were discussed. Christmas Party will be held at the Spaghetti Warehouse on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Jackson MI trip planned the last weekend of April.

**December meeting:** No meeting. Have a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes from the SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

*The Olde Fire Bell*

*The Olde Fire Bell* is the official quarterly publication of SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, issued in March, June, September, and December. The mission of the newsletter is to highlight SPAAMFAA National initiatives, to spotlight events of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, to foster a spirit of friendliness and of cooperation among its members, and to increase involvement in the preservation, restoration, and operation of equipment in fire service

*Contributing Members*

*The Olde Fire Bell* is continuously seeking input from members and guests for future editions. The editor wishes to acknowledge the following contributors for making this issue possible

Phil Trenbath	Chuck Buschardt
Jim McGee	Mark Turvey

Please send information to the webmaster at GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG, or send to editor at the address on the newsletter back page



## FALLEN FIREFIGHTER'S MEMORIAL WALKWAY

BY PHIL TRENBATH

At the TGCC October meeting, Phil Trenbath provided a brief history of the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. Phil had recently visited the site and made \$100 donation toward the memorial walkway—*Walk of Honor*—that connects the official monument to the historic Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Chapel. Phil provided these beautiful pictures that we share in this article. The TGCC members present at the October meeting overwhelmingly endorsed his recommendation for the club to donate \$100 for a brick in the same walkway.

A short history about the memorial. St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, was purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1979 to serve as a training facility. In 1981, the facility was entered into the Federal records as the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). Today, the 107-acre campus houses USFA, (US Fire Administration) including NFA (National Fire Academy), the Emergency Management Institute, the Field Personnel Office, Satellite Procurement Office, and the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial.

The Fallen Firefighter's Memorial was dedicated on October 4, 1981. Conceived as a tribute to America's fire service and to those who lost their lives in the line of duty, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial is one of this country's most beautiful monuments to courage and unselfish service. The Memorial was officially designated by



Congress as the national Memorial to career and volunteer fallen firefighters in 1990. It is a symbol of honor for those who carry on the tradition of service to their communities.

The highlight of the Memorial is a sculptured bronze Maltese Cross. Throughout the centuries, the Maltese Cross has been adopted as a symbol by groups who provide aid in times of distress. The cross rests atop a 7-foot stone cairn, denoting its importance as a landmark monument. An eternal flame burns at the base of the cairn, representing the spirit of the firefighter—past, present, and future. A plaza in the shape of a Maltese Cross

surrounds the Memorial. Plaques listing the names of firefighters killed in service to their communities since 1981 encircle the plaza. The area is framed on 2 sides by a 6-foot stone wall which dates back more than 100 years.

The Memorial is open to the public throughout the year. Thousands of students attending classes at NFA and EMI visit the Memorial each year.



When a firefighter dies on duty, local fire officials notify the USFA. A notice of the death is immediately posted on the Memorial grounds, and the flags over the Memorial are flown at half-staff in honor of the fallen firefighter. If the established criteria is met, the fallen firefighter is honored at the annual memorial service.

More details about the Fallen Firefighter's Museum can be found at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/memorial/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/memorial/)

## CLUTE TROPHY RECIPIENT AT DEER PARK

BY MARK &amp; NANCY TURVEY

On a gorgeous Saturday morning, October 4th, the annual Deer Park Fire Prevention Parade registration began at 0830 hour in the Deer Park High School Parking lot. Mark explained before the event, "I kept my fingers crossed that our old truck would run and make it!" We're happy to report that it did more than make it - it was recipient of 1950 - 1980 Class trophy.

Our truck is a 1976 C Series Ford with an FMC body and John Bean pumps. It has a 750 GPM 2-stage, volume water pump and a Model 70 GPM high pressure pump. This unique truck also has a John

chased the truck in November 2000 when it and another old truck were being traded for a new American LaFrance pumper. We believe it to be the only C series Ford in collectors hands in this part of the country according to Chuck Buschardt, and we've been featured in Walt McCall's most recent book on antique fire apparatus. We like to display a collection of early 70's vintage response equipment when we show the truck. We typically participate in about 8 to 12 parades per year.

"I was impressed with the turnout of apparatus but slightly disappointed with the public turnout, especially as nice as the

with a 1947 Mack from Baytown fire, a 1948 ALF (Jim & Cheryl McGee), and a 1959 LaFrance on a Ford chassis along with our '76. The parade route was slightly modified due to the Jimmy Burke Activity Center parking lot being used to stage FEMA debris, so we went up Center to 8th street instead and ended at the North High School campus. DPVFD provided a BBQ and hot dog lunch to all participants.

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department serves an area of approximately 17 square miles in Southeast



Bean "Sno-Foam" system consisting of a built-in eductor and a two 15-gallon foam cells that are pre-piped to the high pressure pump. We have the two air aspirating tubes that snap over the end of the high pressure guns to assist in better aspirated foam production. We believe this was included in the truck specification when it was ordered due to the close proximity of several major chemical companies close to Clute such as the Dow Freeport plant. The truck has a 396 CID gas V-8 and a 5 speed standard transmission. The truck was originally purchased new by the Clute Volunteer Fire Dept. where it dutifully served for 24 years. Mark and Nancy pur-

weather was. I guess people are still recovering from the hurricane and had work to do." There was a good turnout of antiques

Harris County. It was established in 1950 to provide fire protection to the citizens of Deer Park. At that time, there were 11 charter members, one fire engine, and a one-bay fire station. The membership has now grown to 88 members, 16 pieces of equipment, 4 command vehicles, 4 support vehicles, 3 fire stations, and a training field. The volunteers of Deer Park provide Fire and EMS coverage to over 33,000 citizens that live within the city, as well as fire education to over 3,000 children each year. Current call volumes averages about 3,000 per year.



Photos: Bottom - Mark and Nancy Turvey proud recipients of Best of Class 1950 - 1980 for their Ford/FMC. Top left - Jim and Cheryl McGee's Lincoln 1948 American LaFrance entry. Top right - Baytown's 1947 Mack in pristine original condition.



## TYLER (CONTINUED)



Top: Texas Fire Museum Team takes quick break between Tyler events. Bottom: North Texas Chapter vice-president David Miller teaching a welding seminar using an early ALF engine jug as subject matter. Photos—Jim McGee

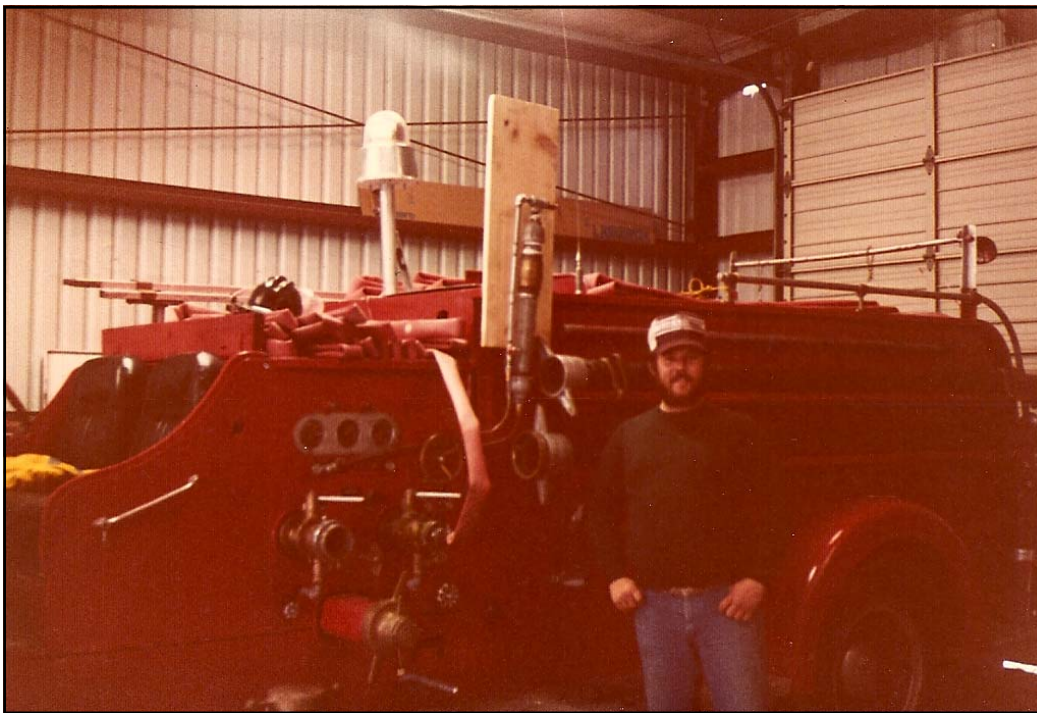
## FIREFIGHTERS' MASS

On October 26th, more than 200 firefighters and family members from a dozen local communities gathered at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart to participate in The Saint Florian Society's Annual Mass Honoring Firefighters. Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza was the main celebrant at the mass. Prior to the ceremony, there was a blessing of all the firefighters present along with several vehicles that made the journey to the downtown cathedral. Firefighters who died in the line of duty were paid special honors. For more information, visit [www.saintfloriansociety.org](http://www.saintfloriansociety.org). Following the ceremonies, there was a fellowship luncheon prepared by several of the area's famous firehouse chefs.



Source: Texas Catholic Herald — Photo by Erik Noriega

## FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES



From the photo archives comes this 1980-ish photo of a 1947 Mack 750 GPM pumper and L.D.H. wagon. Can you identify the person standing in front? Where did all that facial hair come from? Location? See the next quarter's newsletter for the answer. Photo courtesy of Chuck Buschardt.

**SPAAMFAA 2009 WINTER  
ANTIQUE FIRE APPARATUS CONVENTION  
HOSTED BY CROWN FIRECOACH ENTHUSIASTS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF SPAAMFAA  
Pomona, CA - February 25-28, 2009**



**CONVENTION INFORMATION BOOKLET AND REGISTRATION  
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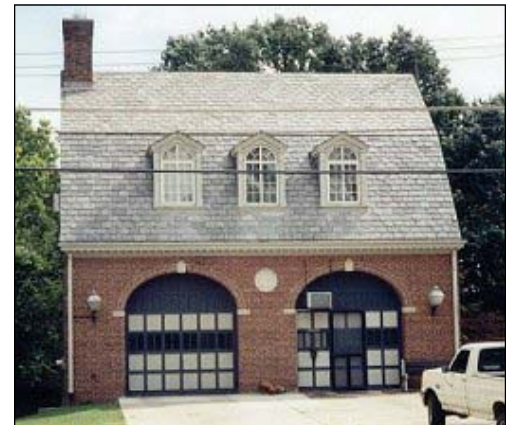
Featuring

Fireboat 2— Long Beach F.D. Fire Museum— L.A. City F.D. Museum) - Air Operations—L.A. City F.D. Museum (Hollywood) - Nethercut Collection Antique Auto Museum (San Fernando) - USFS Air Tanker Base (San Bernardino); Wildland Fire Apparatus—Wildfires - CAL FIRE/Riverside— Wildland Fire Apparatus— Rotor Wing Aerial Firefighting



## CHRONICLES 9056: THE CFD YEARS—PART II

BY STEVE DALPE



Ahrens Fox 9055, 9056, and 9057 were assigned to Stations 38, 37, and 49, respectively. All three served in the quiet outskirts of the otherwise busy Cincinnati Fire Department. Engine 37 – identified as Equipment #25137—was first stationed at River and Lilienthal until the late 50's. See photo above of the station; it appears today much as it did in the early 1900's.

The image below shows a detailed equipment list, mandated annually per department rules and regulations. It is signed by then Fire Captain F. W. Koppenhoefer, January 1, 1944. The image gives a lot of details about the vehicle, including when the vehicle was put into service: 12:00 noon on December 17,

1938. Its equipped weight was 15,800 lbs. The cost of the rig was \$11,884.50. Bottom right shows a 1944 inspection certificate. It passed! Another letter (not shown) dated January 26th, 1944, documents #25137 going to Safety Lane at Central Parkway and Bates Ave. to be inspected and tested. Fire Engineer J. Bradford, Fire Fighter A. Karhoff, Fire Fighter R. Birkenmaier, Fire Fighter C. Hennigen, and Captain F. Koppenhoefer were on duty during the time of the test. Pumper #25154 was temporarily put in service to cover the area. These and other items were uncovered by Steve Dalpe and Steve Hagy during an attic expedition of Station 37. What a find! All those years and the documentation was still present. Many thanks to Steve Hagy for securing the material. The original equipment list will come in very handy for outfitting the rig during its restoration.

In the late 50's, #25137 moved to Station 7 on 2058 Sutton. Little is known about its existence as no records were uncovered during a visit. A 1958, 1000GPM—100 Gal tank Seagrave eventually replaced #25137 in early 1960's.

CINCINNATI FIRE DEPARTMENT

Engine Co. No. 37 Cincinnati, Ohio, January 1 st., 1944.

BARNEY J. HOUSTON,  
Fire Chief

Page #1.

Sir:

The following is a report on the apparatus in quarters and its equipment;  
Company has a 6 cylinder Ahrens-Fox Centrifugal Pumper Model H.C. Reg.#9056  
Fire Dept. Equipment # 25137, it has 100 gallon water, 42 gallon gasoline  
cap tank, Horse Power 203, Bore 5 3/4, Stroke 6 inch, Capacity of Pump 750 gallons  
per Minute, in Service 12:00 Noon Dec. 17th, 1938, Weight 15,800 lbs.  
List of equipment carried on apparatus;  
1-Universal Thread Adapter.  
1-One inch Wye and Cap. ✓  
1-One inch Male to 2 1/2 inch, Female Adapter. ✓  
1-Booster Mist Nozzle (Booster line). ✓  
1-Elihart Nozzle and 3/8 inch tip (small line). ✓  
1-Vapor Nozzle 3-3. ✓  
1-Five foot Extension Pipe for Vapor Nozzle. ✓  
1-Grant Nozzle; Size Tip - 1-1/4", 1- 1 3/4" and 1-2". ✓  
2-Play Pipes, Rubber. ✓  
1-Play Pipe, Metal. ✓  
Size Tips; Smooth Bore 1-5/8", 1-7/8", 1-1", 1-1 1/8", 1-1 1/4". ✓  
Shut Off Nozzles; 2-7/8", 2-1 1/8". ✓  
2-Akron Shut Off Nozzles. ✓  
1-Hose Hoist. ✓  
1-Hose Chain and Hook. ✓  
1- Securing Rope 3/4" and 40 FT. long. ✓  
1-Pull up Rope 3/4" and 125 Ft. long. ✓  
3-Sets Duplex Couplings. ✓  
2-2 1/2" Male to 3" Female Adapter. ✓  
1-3" Male to 2 1/2" Female Adapter. ✓  
1-2 1/2" Male to 4" Female Adapter. ✓  
1-2 1/2" Gate Valve Wye (2 Males & 1 Female) ✓  
2-2 1/2" Female Intake Caps. ✓  
2-4" Female Intake Caps. ✓  
1-2 1/2" Male Discharge Cap. ✓  
3-2 1/2" Female Discharge Caps. ✓  
1-4" Female to 3" Female Adapter. ✓  
1-4" Male to 3" Female Adapter. ✓  
1-4" Female Duplex. ✓  
2-4" Hard Suction, 10 ft. long. ✓  
1-4" Soft Suction, 10 ft. long. ✓  
1-2 1/2" Soft Suction, 14 ft. long. ✓  
2-Suction Boots. ✓  
25-Sections of 2 1/2" hose carried on apparatus. ✓  
25-Sections of 2 1/2" hose in hose chute. ✓  
6-Sections of 1" hose carried on booster line. ✓  
1-Section of 1" hose carried as small line. ✓  
3-Spanners. ✓  
1-Ceiling Hook, 12 ft. long. ✓  
1-Hose Stick. ✓  
1-Leather Hood for Grant Nozzle Tip. ✓

*F.W.K. Fire Captain*  
OFFICER IN CHARGE

406-12-44 110921-65-137 DUTY 07C 0.00

DATE SEAL NO. LICENSE NO. CASHIER AMOUNT

IF THIS CARD HAS BEEN PUNCHED "YES" THE  
VEHICLE LISTED ABOVE HAS PASSED THE INSPECTION  
REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF CINCINNATI. WE COMPLEMENT  
YOU ON THE CONDITION OF YOUR VEHICLE. IF CARD IS  
PUNCHED "NO" YOU ARE TO HAVE UNSATISFACTORY  
ITEMS CORRECTED AND VEHICLE RETURNED FOR RE-IN-  
SPECTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PASSED INSPECTION ☒ NO ☐ NO ☐ NO ☐ YES

LICENSE PLATES ☐ UNS ☐ OK

HORN ☐ UNS ☐ OK

EXHAUST ☐ UNS ☐ OK

TURN SIGNALS ☐ UNS ☐ OK

WINDSHIELD ☐ UNS ☐ OK

WINDSHIELD WIPER ☐ UNS ☐ OK

WINDOWS ☐ UNS ☐ OK

TAIL LIGHT ☐ UNS ☐ OK

STOP LIGHT ☐ UNS ☐ OK

OTHER LIGHTS ☐ UNS ☐ OK

REAR VIEW MIRROR ☐ UNS ☐ OK

SERVICE BRAKE RESERVE ☐ UNS ☐ OK

HAND BRAKE ☐ UNS ☐ OK

ALIGNMENT

FRONT WHEELS ☐ IN ☐ OUT

STEERING WHEEL PLAY ☐ UNS ☐ OK

STEERING MECH. ☐ UNS ☐ OK

TIRES

FRONT ☐ FRONT ☐ REAR ☐ REAR ☐ UNS ☐ OK

FIFTH WHEEL ☐ UNS ☐ OK

UNROADWORTHY ☐ YES ☐ NO

37 CITY OF CINCINNATI

HEADLIGHTS

FOCUS

LENS

HORIZONTAL AIM

VERTICAL AIM

PASSING LIGHTS

DRIVING LIGHTS



## THANKSGIVING GALLERY—PAGE 1

BY STEVE DALPE &amp; MARK TURVEY



The 59th Annual H-E-B Holiday/Thanksgiving Day Parade was a pumpkin-smashing success. TGCC had four trucks present at the event, and HFD brought Ladder 59 to make a total of 5. Clinton Johnson and daughter Sarah, Jim McGee, Chuck and Marla Buschardt, Tom McDonald, Steve Dalpe, and Mark Turvey were faithfully present for the 8 am line-up and 9 am kickoff

**Above:** Unlucky Tom Turkey on the bumper of Mark and Nancy Turvey's 1976 C Series Ford/FMC body

**Top left:** Getting organized on Texas Ave in front of Minute Maid Park. Photo taken on top Chuck Buschardt's 1976 Mack CF, looking down the parade route

**Center left:** What would Thanksgiving be without turkey? Clinton Johnson's 1948 Mack attracted a variety of wildlife and costumed characters

**Bottom left:** What makes a parade so grand. Is it the trophies? The attendance? The weather? The friends? No, it's the CHEERLEADERS! Mark Turvey stands tall with the Houston Texans Cheerleaders in front of ALF ex-Lincoln/York and FMC/Ford ex-Clute. Absent from the photo is Chuck Buschardt who was being treated for heart palpitations! He's doing fine, now.



## THANKSGIVING GALLERY—PAGE 2



The parade was broadcast on KHOU-TV Channel 11 at 9:00 am. Tracey Golden, director, did a great job organizing all the events. Hats off! As usual, the TGCC trucks were in the front—spot #5—as prelude for the rest of the parade. It gave the boys an excuse to test those sirens, announcing the commencement. The parade covered Texas, Fannin, Dallas, and La Branch Avenues, and ended at George R Brown. We are happy to report all trucks performed admirably

**Above:** Young Braden learning the ropes of operating the ALF fire bell. Braden's family was the silent auction winner of the Fire Museum Galla fund raiser, and got to ride first class in the parade with TGCC President Jim McGee

**Top right:** Clinton Johnson and daughter Sarah operating their 1948 Mack ex-Bellaire half way through the parade

**Center right:** Jim McGee pilots 1948 Series 700 ALF at the corner of La Branch and Rusk. The previous day, ALF got a front brake job and was in tip top shape for the event

**Bottom right:** HFD Ladder 59 had responsibilities of carrying Houston City Officials and Dignitaries. Sirens blowing, it got the award for loudest participant!





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*To stimulate and cultivate interest in the restoration, preservation, and operation of antique fire apparatus*

## TGCC HALL OF FLAME: TURVEY'S 1976 FORD & FMC



Mark & Nancy  
Turvey of  
League City op-  
erate this 1976  
C Series Ford  
with an FMC  
body & John  
Bean pump. It  
has a 750 GPM,  
2 stage volume  
water pump & a  
Model 70 GPM  
high pressure  
pump