

THE OLDE



FIRE BELL

WINTER 2011

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

2011 SPAAMFAA WINTER CONFERENCE

The 2011 SPAAMFAA National Winter Conference and Muster was held at the beautiful Texas Fire Museum and North Texas Historical Fire Society Facilities in Dallas, Texas from February 23 - 26, 2011. The Texas Fire Museum is housed in the 125,000 square foot, old Dallas Fire Department Maintenance Facility at 2600 Chalk Hill Road in West Dallas, which it has occupied since 1999. According to records, there were some 140 registrants from almost thirty chapters from East to West Coast and Canada. A very well attended event by all means!

2011 SPAAMFAA NATIONAL WINTER CONFERENCE AND MUSTER



Cover Art by Trina Falk

Bill Johnson, Steve Dalpe, Bill and Kathy Wilcox, Todd Simmermacher, and Bill Lofton. In addition to the hands-on portion, Gene displayed slides of recent work including Brenham's 1950 American LaFrance 700 Series Engine, showing the progression of the lettering, scrolls, and door shield. Friday was question-and-answer open forum about a rebuilt American LaFrance Model G V-12

Engine.

Throughout both days, there were area tours and events, including The Sixth Floor Museum, Dallas Cowboy's Stadium, and the Arlington Fire Department Central Station. For the more serious fire buffs, there were trips to neighboring departments, including Frisco, McKinney, Allen, Plano, Richardson, and the Dallas Department Shops. (Cont. on page 4)

There were things to do for all interests. On Thursday evening, Gene Conway held a hands-on Gold Leaf Decoration workshop. Participants decorated their own 4" x 4" painted metal plate with a logo of their own interest, initials, scroll work, etc. This portion of the event was well attended by TGCC members Raleigh and

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CALENDAR

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM on April 18, May 16, and June 30 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- Firematic Flea Market, Jackson MI, Saturday, April 30, 2011
- Texas Fire and EMS LODD Bike Ride and Cook-off, Galveston County Fairgrounds, Hitchcock TX, June 25, 2011
- Friendswood & Nassau By 4th July Parades
- SPAAMFAA Summer National Convention and Muster, Syracuse, NY, August 3 - 6, 2011



Left: Raleigh and Bill Johnson participate in the Gold Leaf Decoration workshop taught by Gene Conway. Right: National Officers Herold Berthy, Jr., and Bill Davis wrap up events at the General Membership Meeting

UPFRONT

The Olde Fire Bell wishes everyone a Happy New Year. 2011 - the beginning of a new decade and new acquaintances! Let's all go out there and work on recruiting new members.

Have you paid your 2011 National Dues? Letters from SPAAMFAA National were mailed to all current members. When sending in your payment, consider a donation to the Helene Soderbeck Memorial Trust Fund for preservation of the archives.

This Winter Newsletter covers several important events, including St. Patrick's Day Parade, the National Muster in Dallas, and The Moonshine Hill apparatus

expo sponsored by Teresa and Clinton Johnson. Many thanks to them and all the members that participated. A video from Moonshine Hill can be seen on the Chapter's website. Thank you Eddie Kosar!

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of another member, Molly Wageman. Molly passed away on February 17 after an illness. Many thanks to the Aldine and Conroe Fire Departments for organizing a memorial service. Please keep the family in your prayers. See Page 3 for more details.

On another sad note, Chuck Buschardt reported at the March meeting the thieves had stolen numerous items from vehicles

stored at the Branniff shop's exterior storage. Brass and copper prices have once again made these metals a lucrative business, and fire trucks are perfect target. How unfortunate these truck are not appreciated for their life-saving history!

Congratulations to Bill Lofton for his purchase of a 1952 Ford/Barton-American front pumper, formerly Lake Leeland FD, Michigan. It can be seen in the Humble area

As always, *The Olde Fire Bell* thanks contributing members that make this newsletter possible. Let's keep SPAAMFAA National informed!

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

BY STEVE DALPE

The following is a summary of the Winter 2011 monthly meetings:

January: Jim McGee presided over the first meeting of 2011, with fourteen total members present. Clinton Johnson mentioned Larry Waterous, Seagrave Suburbanite owner and well known by some members, had contacted the Club to become a member. 2011 Elections were held with the incumbents being instated for another year. Expiring Board positions were also extended another term. The \$200 annual insurance payment was approved. Clinton Johnson has invited local municipalities to the MHIVFD Mus-

ter on March 26th. Copies of *The Olde Fire Bell* Fall 2010 Edition were circulated. Photographs from 2010 events were sent to Engine!~Engine! Editor Scott Rollins for inclusion in the annual muster issue.

February: Jim McGee presided over February's meeting. Cheryl McGee reported there would be a social following the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12th. Charlie Womack provided an update on Molloy's memorial service; it will be held on Saturday, March 5th starting at 10:30 AM at The Aldine VFC Station 4 on Imperial Valley Road. Steve Dalpe, Bill

Lofton, and Bill & Kathy Wilcox will be attending the Winter National.

March: Twelve members attended the final winter meeting at the Houston Fire Museum. New member Jason Barnett was introduced by Chuck Buschardt. There was discussion about the wonderful time that was had by attendees at the St. Patrick Day Parade. Chuck and Jason reported several of the trucks at the exterior of the shop had been vandalized and scrap metal taken. Clinton reported on the status of Pumpnic. Charlie Womack thanked everyone that attended Molly's memorial service.

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 public involvement in the preservation, restoration, and operation of equipment in fire service

Acknowledgements

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

Larry Steed Bill Wilcox
Tom McDonald Raleigh Johnson

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

AROUND THE CHAPTER

HAPPY FOURTH....



.... birthday, that is. Nancy and Mark Turvey celebrated their grandson's - Nathaniel Donovan's - birthday on Monday, January the 24th (the party on the following Saturday). Notes Mark: "A fire truck ride is pretty much a given at one of our family birthday parties. We went for a ride, and when we got back they were screaming 'more! more!' and wouldn't get off. We had other plans for them but they insisted, so it turned into two rides." Despite marginal weather, a great time was had by all! Including the glowing grandparents.

SPAAMFAA CLASSIFIED



This beautiful American LaFrance 400 Series Registration 7813 hit the SPAAMFAA Classifies a couple weeks ago. It originally served Miami Florida and is pretty complete (including lots of dust!) "Jeb", the owner, is asking \$19,900

for the vehicle. Call number 770-490-1579.

MOLLY WAGEMAN

Molly Rae Doyle Wageman, friend to the chapter for many years and life partner of Charlie Womack, passed away on Thursday, February 17, 2011. Her death came after prolonged illness. She was born June 4, 1940 in Idaho. A Memorial Service was held at Aldine VFD Station 4 at 20,440 Imperial Valley, officiated by Paul Sims, Asst. Chief of Conroe Fire Department. After the playing of the Ave Maria, Charlie lit a candle in her memory, then there were speeches by Paul and Molly's daughter. Charlie was presented a cross and a framed photo of Molly. Many thanks to the Aldine VFD for donating their time and facilities, and to the TGCC members that were in attendance.



1941 ALF PHOTO



Member Steve Dalpe wishes to express his gratitude to Ed Peterson of Pennsylvania for searching the SPAAMFAA Archives for photographs of his (Dalpe's) 1941 American LaFrance,

currently under restoration at the Texas Fire Museum in Dallas. The truck served Dauphin County's Middletown (PA) Rescue Hose Company No 3. It's registration is L-1468, 500 Series Scout, formerly owned by Dave Buskey. It also served in Oberlin Gardens PA. Ed is Director of the Central PA's Pump Primers Chapter of SPAAMFAA. The photograph will help Gene Conway develop the necessary templates for accurate details of the truck's original lettering.

SPAAMFAA SUMMER NATIONAL

With the SPAAMFAA Winter National now behind us, it's time to look forward to an exciting summer convention sponsored by the Central New York Chapter in Syracuse, NY. The dates are August 3 - 6, 2011. See their website for more details about the events and a registration package: www.cnyspaamfaa.com



COLES ANTIQUE CO-OP

Member Steve Dalpe came across this fully-loaded Mack BG Model Fire Engine at Coles Antique Co-Op in Pearland. It served Boothbay Harbor (Maine) as Engine 1. Records indicate the BG model chassis were manufactured during the 1929 - 1937 pre-war period. The truck has a March 1998 Texas plate. Thanks to some research by Bill Wilcox, the owners were identified to be the Pearland Volunteer Fire Department. You can read more about this vehicle on Page 10.



In the same area, you can view several turn-of-the-century antique cars, motor cycles, appliance, or just browse around at some of the more than 900 vendors.

2011 SPAAMFAA NATIONAL (CONTINUED)

BY STEVE DALPE

Additional tours included the Grapevine Vintage Railroad, and the Forth Worth Stockyards.

Saturday morning the Museum turned into one big Open House. Guests were able to tour all areas of the museum, including the Machine Shop, Gold Leaf area, South Bay, Assembly Room, and the infamous "Bone Yard" outside storage areas. The Museum's North Bay became a flea market where a number of vendors set up to sell their fire material. Bill Wilcox picked up several items to add to his fire memorabilia. Steve Dalpe picked up couple Circle D lights for his 1941 ALF. The Johnson's set up a table to get information about their ALF and sell several items; Hal Fillenger stopped by their table for some discussion.



For the shutter bugs that didn't get their fill from the Dallas area station tours, about a dozen apparatus were brought to the front of the building for photo opportunities, like the 1924 ALF Type 75 shown on the left.

For many, the best part of the entire event was to renew friendships, talk about new acquisitions, and make new relationships. Member Steve Dalpe learned that Herold Berthy owns an identical 500 Scout, something that will come in handy later for restoration information. There were many conversations during meals at the host hotel, the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in West Dallas. The lobby breakfast area was idea for fire tales.

The Saturday evening Group Banquet was held at the Lone Star Park. The meal was wonderful considering the size of the group. After the meal, Bill Maddox spoke about the trials of establishing the museum and obtaining its non-profit status.

The Editor of *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes to thank Steve Hagy for parting with a 1949 Cincinnati Fire Department Engineer's training manual. It will come in handy for Engine 37's future restoration and operation.

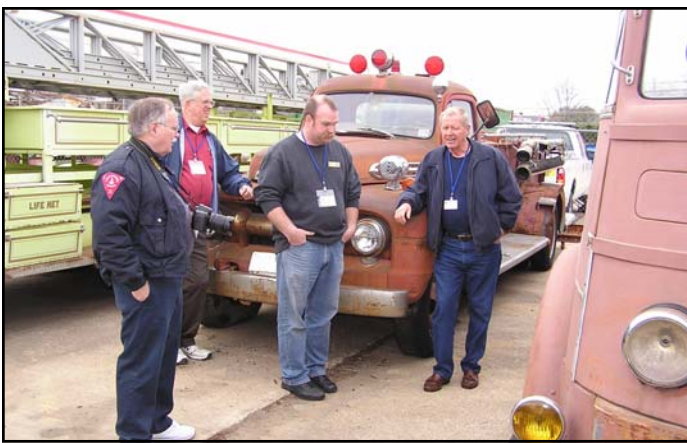
The Olde Fire Bell wishes to thank the volunteers from the Texas Fire Museum that made the muster so successful. Hats off from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter for such a wonderful event. Also, many thanks all the attendees from the Gulf Coast Chapter: Bill Lofton, Tom McDonald, Todd Simmermacher, Bill and Kathy Wilcox, Steve Dalpe, and Raleigh and Bill Johnson.



Keith Franz (sitting) and Bill Wilcox engage in lively discussion and note taking about a common fire interest



American LaFrance V-12 engine display by Trina Falk (left) and Doug Kindred (second from left) of the Texas Fire Museum



Gene Conway (right) conducts tour of the Texas Fire Museum's outdoor storage area, aka, the "Bone Yard"

2011 SPAAMFAA NATIONAL (CONTINUED)



Harvey Eckart wouldn't pass up the opportunity to be photographed with a Mack! Especially with an open cab that is relatively unique. Above is Lindsey and Richard Dye's 1961 C-95 Model Mack. The truck served in Fairless Hills, PA. It has a 1000 GPM pump with 500 gallon water tank.



Above: Todd Simmermacher (left) and Bill Lofton sit on the sideboard of Bill and Barbara Maddox's 1929 Seagrave Special, ex-North Adams, Massachusetts. The Seagrave has a 6 cylinder engine with 600 GPM pump.



After everyone was fed on Saturday afternoon, the Balch Springs Volunteer Fire Department under the direction Chief Gary Brown put on a live burn to demonstrate the effectiveness of sprinklers. It is quite convincing from the photo which one was sprinkled. Which room would you prefer to be in? Many thanks to the Texas Fire Museum Team for sacrificing some of their bunker furniture to have that real-room effect



Gene Conway held a hands-on Gold Leaf Decoration workshop. Participants decorated their own 4" x 4" painted metal plate with an item of their own interest, initials, scroll work, etc. Gene is shown carefully applying the gold leaf to the painted plate.

MHIVFD PUMPNIC

BY CLINTON JOHNSON



The Eight Annual Moonshine Hill IVFD muster and Apparatus Expo was held on March 26th on Belleau Woods Road, at Pond Park next to Brine Pit #6 in sparkling downtown Moonshine Hill. This year brought record turn-out of trucks, participants, family, and onlookers (maybe it was the *FREE* admission that attracted them!) to witness antique fire fighting apparatus at their finest. Awards were presented for the Longest Distance, Oldest Apparatus, Hardest to Keep Running, and Best All Around Apparatus. All the kids had a great time; they squirted water with the reel line and put on bunker gear. Bill Wilcox was especially great with the younger attendees; he educated them with the history of fire helmets and water extinguishers. The not-so-silent auction was a big hit and garnered \$225 for the Club treasury; many thanks to Club Member Eric Lundstrum for the donations. Potluck picnicking on the grounds followed once all the rigs were exercised. *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes to thanks everyone that participated. We are happy to report that there were no incidents whatsoever; all arrived and returned safely with no missing nuts & bolts. Hope to see you in 2012!



MHIVFD MUSTER (CONTINUED)



Photographs: 1. Assemblage of participating trucks along the water supply. 2. Clinton Johnson, MHIVFD co-organizer, and Bill Lofton work hard on Bill's new "bumper pumper" to obtain first water in nearly a decade! 3. Tim Treadway's 1950 Mack Quint Model 85 ladder is a regular attendee. 4. Bill Wilcox enjoying the role of instructor. Bill is a magnet for kids at these events! 5. Chuck Buschardt's 1926 American LaFrance awaiting to be unloaded for the day's events. 6. Are there rules against pumping and cell phone use! Chuck takes time to answer calls while preparing Engine 51, ex-Pittsburg, for pumping activities. 7. Bill Wilcox and Cheryl McGee auctioning items for the benefit of the club, while Eric Bergman looks on. 8. Longest Distance Award winners Bill and Kathy Wilcox heading north on I-45 en route to the muster. They were clocked at 60 MPH and even passed vehicles on the freeway! 9. Member Bill Lofton (left) receives Best All Around Award for his 1952 Ford F-7. 10. And the newest addition to the Club is owned by Bill Lofton of Humble. It's a 1952 Ford/Barton-American front pumper, formerly Lake Leeland FD, Michigan.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

PHOTOS BY TOM McDONALD & RALEIGH JOHNSON

On a wonderful Spring day, the 52nd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Noon in Downtown Houston. Along with floats, decorated vehicles, costumes, bikes, mini cars, and walkers, four trucks from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter SPAAMFAA were present to partake in the festivities. The parade welcomed the Budweiser Clydesdales back this year, along with about 100 other parade entries.

One of the oldest in the Nation, the parade dates back to 1880. For this one day, everyone in the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter was Irish to celebrate this true community Parade. The 2011 Grand Marshal, Lori Meghan Gallagher, JD, Director of the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas, lead the two-hour parade downtown at noon starting



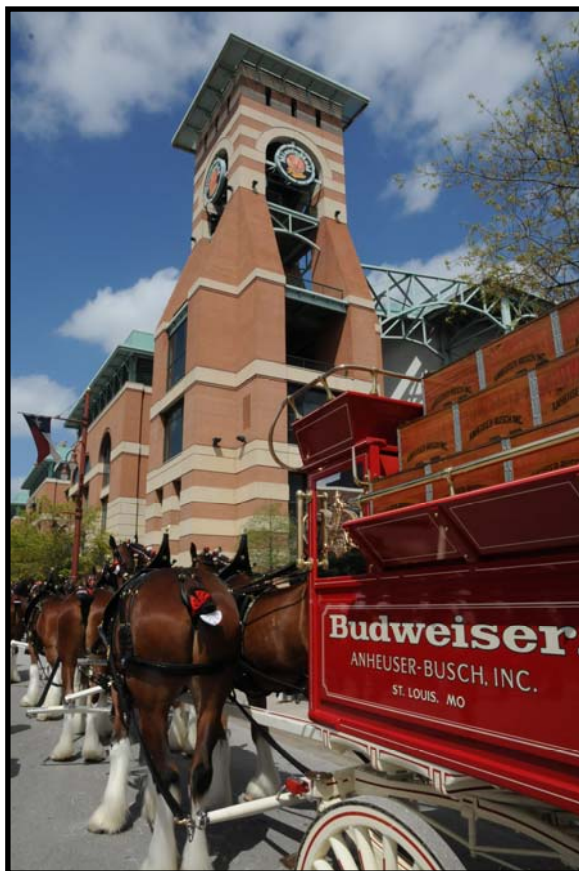
from the clock tower at Minute Maid Park. SPAAMFAA attendees included Tom McDonald, Jim & Cheryl McGee, Bill Lofton, Clinton Johnson, and Bill & Raleigh Johnson. *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes to thank everyone that participated, and especially the Parade Chairman, Mr. Pat Duane, for doing a wonderful job coordinating the event. Following the parade, the group enjoyed lunch under the I-59 overpass.

A video, courtesy of the Houston Chronicle, can be viewed on the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter SPAAMFAA website. See Bill Johnson turning the hand-crank siren on the family's 1921 American LaFrance, with granddaughter Ashley, and 9-month old great granddaughter Madelyn.

1. Cheryl McGee, left, with Chihuahua Daisy Mae in lap, and sisters Barbara and Marsha, await start of parade. 2. The McKalip family, Gina, Dave, Ben, age 7, and 3-year old twins Rebecca, left, and Sarah from Austin Texas pose on the back of one of several trucks from the SPAAMFAA collection. 3. Raleigh & Bill Johnson's 1921 American LaFrance Type 40 Registration 3605 ex Denver Fire Department, thoroughly inundated by admirers. 4. Entrant #46 decorated, loaded, and ready to roll!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE (CONTINUED)



The Budweiser Clydesdales California Hitch made their Houston St. Patrick's Day appearance after almost a decade of absence. This is one of five teams that travels the States promoting the company. Below, Ben, age 7, stands proudly in front of the recognizable white and red wagon, and one of the semi-trailers that transports the team. Bottom, Chuck Buschardt, and Bill & Raleigh Johnson (L to R) stand at the staging area adjacent to Reliant Stadium



PEARLAND'S BG MACK

BY LARRY STEED

Next time you're in the Pearland at the HW 35 and BW 8 intersection, stop in at Cole's Antique Co-Op to see Pearland's 1930 BG Model Mack on display in the back warehouse facilities.

Larry Steed, long time chief in Pearland, was contacted by member Bill Wilcox for the following details about the truck. "Since we didn't have a parade-worthy antique vehicle from our own department, we - the Pearland Volunteer Fire Department Membership - decided that we needed an antique apparatus of some type, so it was put on me to find such. I actually found this Mack in a Hemmings Motor News issue. I remember it meeting everyone's interest. It was in Connecticut, owned by a fellow that had bought it direct from the Boothbay Harbor Maine Fire Department. At the time, he too had used the old pumper for parades, etc., but was looking for a larger truck to gut the hose bed and install seating. After poring over a number of photos the owner sent, we made the decision that this one would be the best (and the most affordable!) for our purposes. We viewed photos of at least three or four other old



was moved to Cole's Antique Co-Op by Fire-fighter Roger Wayne in September 2010.

Again, Larry Steed: "Just recently, some older and former members of PVFD have made inquiries as to the whereabouts of the Mack. The discovery was made that the truck is on loan (actually being stored in a secure place) to Cole's Flea Market for purposes of display with other vintage vehicles. As to what may eventually happen to the Mack, I don't have any idea. I do know that it was paid for entirely by PVFD funds and not City of Pearland budget funds, and as of when my watch ended in 1994, it was still independently owned by PVFD."

The SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Membership and the *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes the Pearland Volunteer Fire Department the very best of luck with the restoration of this vehicle to its former operating condition.



pumpers by various owners, to be convinced this was the right one. Decision made, the department paid for the truck and had it shipped down from Connecticut. Everything on the truck was still in good operating condition when we received it, and we kept it that way under my watch. After a year or more, we invested money in a heavy duty trailer to be able to haul the pumper to other city's events and not have to drive it. The truck made many of the Houston Fire Department Museum day parades and events."

The truck has chassis number 6BGIS1470. According to Harvey Eckhart's book of early B Series Mack Fire Trucks, the serial number can be broken down into the following categories: 6 is for six cylinder, BG for the chassis type, I for fire truck, S for shaft drive, and 1470 was the 469th truck built (starts at 1001). The engine number is BG7-82. The engine is a Mack 6 cylinder, 80 horsepower, L head design with dual ignition. The engine is Type 50 with 500 GPM Hale pump.

The truck had been at Station 1 for years, and then it got moved to Station 2. Occupying space and lacking attention, it



Application for Membership

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire
Apparatus in America
(SPAAMFAA)

Please mail this application with \$20 dues made payable to:

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA

PO Box 697

Bellaire TX 77402

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

Street or Box No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Nine Digit Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Business: _____ Pager: _____

How did you hear about us? Web page _____ Friend _____ Publication _____ Muster _____ Newsletter _____

Other (please specify) _____

Interests: Collecting Fire Equipment _____ Photography _____ Attending Musters _____ Parades _____

Restoration Activities _____ Helmets/Gear _____ Other (please specify) _____

Fire Department or SPAAMFAA Affiliation: _____

If you own a piece of firefighting apparatus that is at least 25 years old, please provide the following information. Attach separate sheet if multiple vehicles. Ownership of apparatus is not required to join Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Year: _____ Make: _____ Type: (Pumper, Aerial, etc.) _____

Mfg. Model: _____ Mfg. Serial #: _____

Pump Make: _____ Pump Size GPM: _____ Tank Size: _____

Previous Owner and History of Rig: _____

Membership in Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is open to all upon application to the Board of Directors and payment of annual dues. Join today and share in the preservation and appreciation of fire fighting and antique fire apparatus.

All new members are also encouraged to join the National SPAAMFAA Chapter. National SPAAMFAA provides additional resources for restoration and insurance for all sponsored events. National Membership is mandatory for Officers of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

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

TGCC HALL OF FLAME: PEARLAND VFD 1930 MACK



The Pearland
Volunteer
Fire Department own
this 1930
Mack Type
50 Chassis
6BGIS1470
with 500
GPM Hale
pump