

THE SMOKE EATER

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**Old Fire Farts of York
County PA**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

The 2021 SPAAMFAA Winter Conference hosted by our organization was quite a success. Meetings were held, and a hospitality room was the center of networking and socializing each evening, with the proper precautions in place. We provided our guests with two bus trips, with agendas that were scheduled and rescheduled around the availability of venues to allow our groups in, and with proper social distancing while on the bus and at the venues. I provided three presentations over two nights, sharing our local fire service history with folks from around the country. A flea market was held in the ballroom on Saturday, while a display of fire apparatus was available outside in the parking lot. We were able to provide a sit-down dinner that had to be relocated due to events beyond our control. Every time a door closed; another door opened.

The success of that conference is the result of many people putting in many, many hours before, during, and after the conference to provide a first-class event for our visitors, even as we were winding down from a global pandemic. Although Robert Straw and I were for the most part the public faces of the Old Fire Farts of York County, Pa. during the conference, there were several volunteers that were working extremely hard to pull this event off. To all of you that took a part in logistics for this conference, and I will not list names for fear of omitting someone that was a part of it, I thank every one of you as the President of our local SPAAMFAA chapter. The feedback so far has been primarily positive, and that is the result of the hard work of every one of you.

JOB WELL DONE!

If there was any doubt before, the folks from SPAAMFAA now know that the Old Fire Farts of York County, Pa., as their White Rose Chapter, is not a snot-nosed young chapter, but is instead a force to be reckoned with. Please attend our upcoming meeting where we will talk about the fall muster, and Bob Straw will report on the potential of an event in 2024.

Greg Halpin
President

NOTE: 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW !

**If you have any questions, contact Kraig Herman, our Secretary at
bdraft36@comcast.net
Invite a friend who is also an Old Fire Fart to join the group.**

2021 SPAAMFAA WINTER CONFERENCE WAS A SUCCESS

The Old Fire Farts of York County PA hosted the Annual SPAAMFAA WINTER CONFERENCE here in York during March 10th through March 13th, 2021. The Conference was held at the Wyndham Garden York Hotel in West Manchester Township. We were a little skeptical whether we could handle a National Event. It was an ever-changing planning process in putting this Winter Conference together, but we did it and made it a successful event. We were able to attract 105 registered attendees, held two Bus Tours with places to go, and held a Dinner for 71 members and guests.

The Hotel and Bus Company were fogging and cleaning spaces and wiping down highly touched areas. There were hand sanitizers throughout the hotel and on the buses. The Chapter took precautions as well and made available a five pack of Masks, Sanitary Wipes, and Temperature checks. In our Goodie Bags we included personnel hand sanitizer bottles for everyone. We arranged social distancing by limiting the number of people in each room and on the buses. Seating was 10 feet apart at inside gatherings and limited to 50% of the assigned capacity. Signage was printed and posted throughout the building and on the buses to remind people of the rules for everyone's safety. Our dinner had the same social distancing with 71 people in a room that holds 350. Our Safety Rule was safety comes **first**. I want to follow upon on Greg's message above by saying that the number of people both members, spouses, and friends who showed up to give a helping hand was very impressive. We had over 15 people helping each day.

Just to let everyone know, we did make a small profit which will be distributed as the Club's members see fit. We have divided the money so we can show where it was made on a spreadsheet. How about some photos:



Aerial View of Apparatus



Busy Flea Market



Presentation of the Restoration Award to Alert F.C.



Paul & Dolly Hoover with some Old Fire Farts

Time to prepare for the 8th ANNUAL YORK FIRE MUSTER



HOWE



OREN



GRUMMAN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 8TH ANNUAL YORK FIRE MUSTER

SPONSORED BY THE OLD FIRE FARTS OF YORK COUNTY PA

At the beautiful Fawn Grove Old Tyme Days Park, 110 N. Market St. Fawn Grove, PA Rt.425 From I-83 Exit #4 take Rt 851 East to Fawn Grove, about 21 minutes.

Our featured Apparatus will be HOWE, OREN, & GRUMMAN, but all types are welcome.

Scheduled Events:

7-8- Registration at Southeastern High School on Rt. 851 Static Apparatus Displays, Photo Opportunities .

8-8:30- Motorcade to the Muster Site and placing of equipment.

9:30 – Opening Ceremonies

8-3- Recorded music as well as Live Bands and Singers.

8-3- The Fire Flea Market

1-2:30 – Pumping

11-3 - Fire Prevention Activities, Safety Displays, and Mascots.

3-4- Awards

8-4 Great Food by the Citizens V. F. C.

Other things to do and see:

* **Fire Flea Market** will be held with all types of fire items and memorabilia for buffs and collectors.

* **Equipment Appearance** judging for 16 trophies for: Best Hand Drawn Pumper, Best Hose Reel/Wagon, Best Motorized by year (1900-1920) (1921-1940) (1941-1950) (1951-1960) (1961-1970) (1971-1980) (1981-1990) (1991-1996) Longest Distance, Best in Show Privately Owned, Best in Show Organization Owned. **Special Awards** for Featured Apparatus.

* **Pumping Awards** 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

* **Modelers & Lego Builders** with scale models of Fire Apparatus

* **Safety Displays** from local 1st Responders and other safety agencies.

The Old Fire Farts of York County PA will be holding our 8th York Fire Muster and invite all fire buffs, collectors, and SPAAMFAA members and their families to join us. All proceeds from this year's event will go to support the Preservation of Fire History in York County and to support our First Responder's Scholarship Grant Program. For more information e-mail: Bob at strawcem@aol.com or go to our Facebook page: "Old Fire Farts of York County PA" or our website: www.oldfirefarts.org or call 717-819-0924.



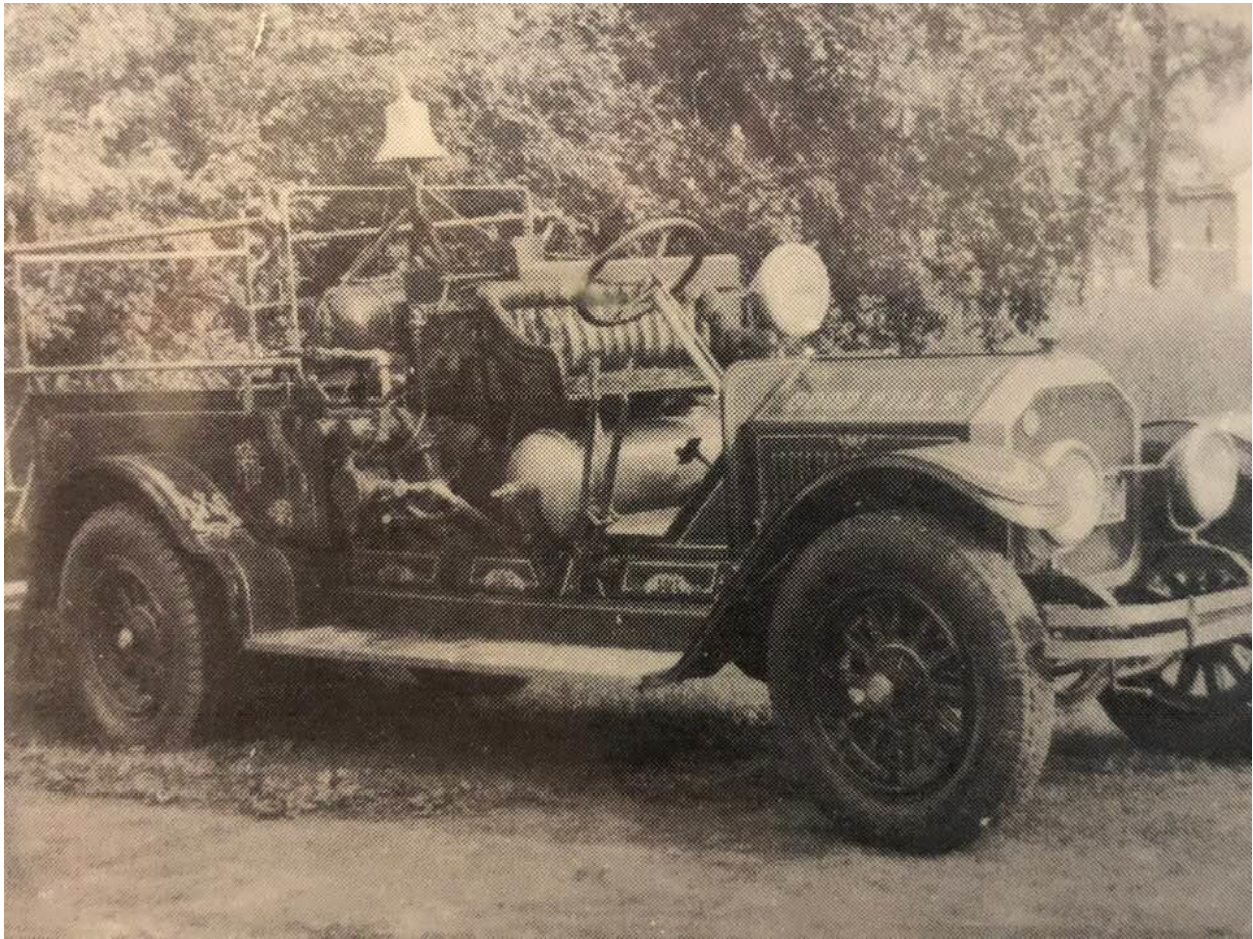
Look at these two local Oren Apparatus, Chambersburg Engine 3 and Goodwill Fire Co. Spry Eng. 19 .

MEETING: Plan to attend our Meeting on Saturday, April 10th at 1:30, Citizens Vol. F.C. Fawn Grove, PA we will be discussing the 2021 8th Annual York Fire Muster plus much more.

THANK YOU: To Carmello Thomas LaNasa for sharing his Dad's wonderful collection of articles, books, and photos with the Old Fire Farts on our Facebook Page. What a Treasure Chest for of History!

Lost Engine's History Found

by Greg Halpin



We hosted the SPAAMFAA Winter Conference here in York a few weeks ago, and I was to do a presentation on the fire service in York County in 1921. That obviously took a LOT of research to do that presentation. I looked at every York newspaper from 1921. [SIGH]

The person that was supposed to do the presentation on the other night cancelled out, and I was asked to do a second presentation. I knew I did not need another presentation that required a ton of research. So, my second night was going to be what I called the Thursday Night Double Feature. I already had a presentation on "Old Suz, York's First Steam Fire Engine" that I could use, but I needed another one to fill out the time slot. I decided to do "Horses to Horsepower, the Motorization of the York Fire Department" as the second half. I had most of the research done on that, just needed to find some details and make a PowerPoint presentation.

That turned out to be fortunate, as I had a photo that someone had sent me a year or two ago, that was from the York Fire Department. It was obviously one of our rigs, as it had "GOODWILL 5" on the hood. But I had no information on it. The rig did not appear on any of the fire department rosters that I could find. It was a pumper with a chemical tank, which I was not aware of our department ever having. A mystery indeed.

As I am researching for the presentation, I found out what the rig was. At the March 10, 1916 meeting of York City Council, representatives of the Goodwill Fire Company were in attendance, and notified the city of their intention to purchase a motor-driven pumper to replace their horse-drawn steamer. They were not requesting any funding from the city, but putting the city on notice that they were making the expenditure, should the city be considering reducing their allocation the following year.

A triple combination pumper manufactured by the Martin Carriage Works in York was delivered to the Goodwill Fire Company in August of 1917. The pumper was equipped with a 750 gpm Rumsey pump, and a single chemical tank was mounted under the seat. The pumper was apparently a lemon, as it was replaced a few years later by a 1919 American LaFrance pumper. I cannot find any documentation that the pumper was ever placed in service. Nor was I able to find out what happened to the rig. I can only assume it was returned to the Martin Carriage Works.

Good old vintage newspaper reporting solving, at least in part, another mystery for me!

If you would like to write an article for "The Smoke Eater", email it to strawcem@aol.com for review.