

Pottsville Fire Department

Looking Back

August

Mike Glore

35 Years Ago

08/21/1979 – Box 741 – 13:32 – 1323 Oak Road. Occupant: Alfred Gitman. Cause: Painter burning paint off with a torch. Loss: \$1000. A workman from Allen Long & Son Paint Co. of Lebanon was burning paint from the woodwork of the home when he ignited insulation and roof rafters. Once exposed, the fire was extinguished quickly.

40 Years Ago

08/16/1974 – Box 543 – 05:05 – 1300 Block W. Arch St. Homes owned by Pottsville Redevelopment Authority. Cause: Unknown. Loss: Unknown. The fire was termed “suspicious” and started in the basement of a vacant home. It involved a total of 3 vacant homes. There were no firefighter injuries. Units began clearing the scene at 07:15. Asst. Chief Jack Rose (Phoenix) had “command.” This was one of several fires to strike this block of W. Arch St. in the early 70’s. Growing up on N. 10th St., I was an interested spectator with a good view of most of those fires.

08/18/1974 – Box 52 – 01:05 – 400 Harrison St. Owner: Joe Sam. Cause: Unknown. Loss: \$15,000. This home was vacant at the time of the fire. There was heavy damage to the 2nd & 3rd floors. This fire was also termed “suspicious.”

45 Years Ago

08/07/1969 – Box 83 – 20:55 – Plane Crash in Forest Hills. This caused a lot of excitement, but was of little consequence. Pilot Bennet Chotiner, age 28, of Hershey, became lost in the haze. He landed his Cherokee single-engine plane in a field just south of Calvary Cemetery. The pilot was not injured and the plane suffered minor damage.

55 Years Ago

08/26/1959 – STILL – 22:45 – Call for help from Brockton. Target Sportswear Co. Building struck by lightning. Chief sent Humane and American Hose. This fire began in the rear of the 1-story wood-frame building. The fire spread under the high peaked roof, where is presented a considerable challenge for firefighters. Most fire damage was confined to the rear and roof of the structure. 80 individuals were left temporarily

unemployed. Along with the 2 Pottsville companies, Tamaqua sent 2 companies. Brockton, New Philadelphia, Middleport, and Palo Alto were also on scene. In October, 1958 the Target Sportswear plant in Dream City Park near Pt. Carbon was also destroyed by fire.

70 Years Ago

08/12/1944 – Box 22 – 19:49 – 525 Edwards Ave. Occupant: Earl Loubier. Cause: Cigarette set fire to dresser and burned up partition of 3rd floor and roof. Loss: \$4100. The family was alerted to the fire by the crackling of flames. The fire began in the 3rd floor bedroom. There was heavy fire in the roof area when firefighters arrived. This home still stands on Edwards Ave.

08/13/1944 – Box 32 – 20:45 – 240 Union St. Occupant: Mrs. Sadie Wenrick. Cause: Fire started in closet on 3rd floor due to spontaneous combustion, burned along ceiling and partition walls. Loss: \$543. Another 3rd floor that was well-off when companies arrived. The fire was under control by 22:00. This was a 3-story wood-frame dwelling. This home – along with most of the north side of Union St. – is no longer there.

75 Years Ago

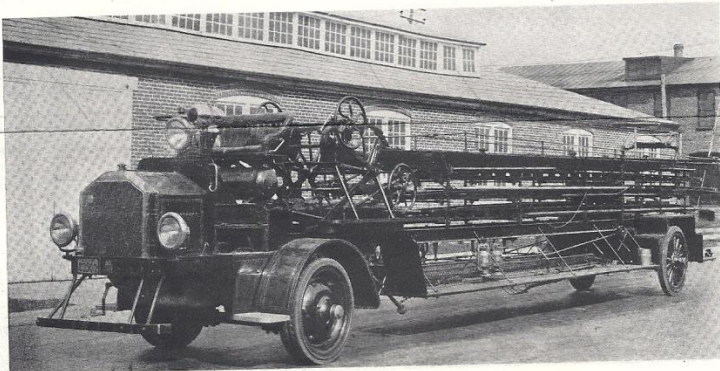
August 15, 1939 – Via a charter amendment, the Humane changed its name back to the Humane Fire Company No. 1 (from the Humane Hose & Steam Fire Company – 1859).

The Phoenix aerial ladder truck remains out-of-service at Hahn Motors in Hamburg as the manufacturer works to completely refurbish the company's 1919 American LaFrance Type 31 75' aerial ladder truck. Included would be the conversion – via a new Hahn tractor – into a tractor-drawn aerial ladder truck. Delivery is expected later in 1939. The “before and after” Hahn sales brochure is telling:

Here is your opportunity to

Just look at this actual exampl

BEFORE
(Manufactured in 1918)



Here is a recent photo of the ladder truck of the Phoenix Fire Company, Pottsville. This shows the 22-year-old truck as it stood just before modernization.

Above is an actual photo of the 22-year-old ladder truck of the Phoenix Fire Co., Pottsville, Pa. This photo was taken only a short time ago, just before the modernization idea was undertaken.

Hahn Motors, Inc. whose name has been symbolic of quality in the fire apparatus field for more than 30 years, were entrusted with the work of restoring this antiquated fire piece to a modern apparatus with practically every up-to-date feature of the latest new models.

Hahn Motors' long years of experience in manufacturing fire apparatus were behind the excellent job of transformation shown above. This fire piece is now ready to stand alongside any modern ladder truck and perform as efficiently

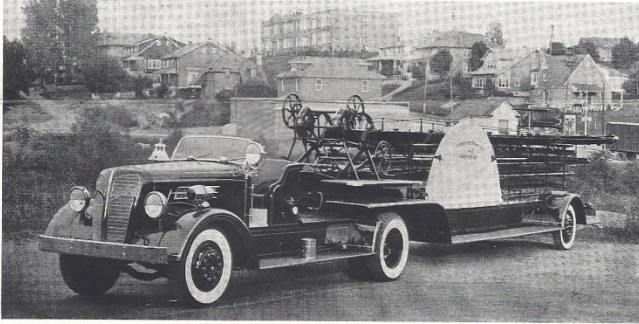
Write or Call for Full P

H A H N M O
Established 1907 Gene

modernize at minimum cost!

ple of **WHAT CAN BE DONE—**

AFTER
(1940)



Here is a photo of the very same apparatus after modernization. Note its up-to-date appearance. This is only one of many pieces of fire apparatus modernized by Hahn Motors' New Department.

and smoothly. All this work was done at a minimum of cost and a great saving of money! It is a truly fine example of what can be done by a live wire fire company.

Hahn Motors, Inc. have been manufacturing new fire apparatus for more than 30 years. In that time the name HAHN has earned an enviable reputation for quality in this highly specialized field. With a background such as that, it is certainly logical that HAHN is best fitted to undertake this comparatively new idea of modernizing antiquated fire pieces. Therefore, this new department has been opened in order to better serve the fire companies whose existence depends on economy of operation.

SEE OTHER SIDE →

Particulars Without Obligation

H A H N M O T O R S , I n c .
All Offices and Factory: **HAMBURG, PA.**

HAHN
OFFERS

TWO
TYPES
of
POWER



FRANKLIN
AIRCOOLED
ENGINES



WAUKESHA
WATERCOOLED
ENGINES

80 Years Ago

08/30/1934 – Box 18 – 03:55 – 19 N. Centre St. Leader Furniture Co. Cause: Unknown; Men working in building until 02:00; Loss: \$12,200. While this fire was primarily contained to the basement in the rear of the building off N. 2nd St., it did extend up the partitions of the enclosed interior stairs to the 2nd floor. A still alarm consisting of Good Intent, American Hose, and Humane was first dispatched followed shortly thereafter by the Box. Firefighters used bars and hack saws to gain entry through the steel sidewalk access doors to the basement. There was one firefighter injury: Peter Elliot of the Good Will fell on glass and lacerated his ankle. 1st Asst. Chief C. Earl Manhart of the West End had “Command” in Chief Smith’s absence. 2nd

Asst. Chief George Wollyung of the Yorkville was also on scene. This building still stands and is occupied by Juliette Bridal and has a "BRIGHTER" sign above the rear doors on 2nd St. from the days when it was still a furniture store.

90 Years Ago

08/07/1929 – Box 64 – 17:55 – 804 Water St; Occupant: G. Tassone. Cause: Sparks from chimney falling on shingle roof. Loss: \$200.

08/12/1929 – STILL – 19:00 – S. 2nd St. Sherman Coal Co. Fire inside of slope. Loss: None. The coal company breaker would be completely destroyed by fire in 1943.

100 Years Ago

08/24/1914 – Box 25 – 14:35 – Centre & Morris Sts. Stable owned by J.J. McKinstry. Cause: Unkown. Loss: \$275.

120 Years Ago

08/22/1894 – Box 41 – 22:50 – Fire at M. Bierstein's on Wood St. Damage: Appx. \$1000.

Who can get to Wood St???

125 Years Ago

1889 - Humane moves into their "new" firehouse at N 3rd & Minersville Sts. This firehouse served the company until 1967 when "Urban Renewal" claimed it, resulting in the company's current firehouse at N 3rd & Laurel Blvd having been built. "Urban Renewal" also made Minersville Street extinct. The company had been located at N. 3rd & Division Sts (which still stands).

