

1923 American LaFrance Pumpers SN 4478 and 4479

The two apparatus are owned by Matt Simek of Newberg, Oregon. Matt is an amazing historian and collector of fire service history. He has owned several fire apparatus but has settled on two American LaFrance pumpers that served Portland Fire from the time they were purchased until their retirement.

They were bought as a pair in December, 1923 from Elmira, New York. They are both Type 55 1,000 gpm pumpers carrying consecutive serial numbers of 4478 (Portland Apparatus #50) and 4479 (Portland Apparatus #51).

As was common in Portland's early motorized years, both were converted from their original American LaFrance engines to Hall-Scott engines. 4479 was converted to a Hall-Scott 177 straight 6 cylinder bored out to 1100 cubic inches in the early 1930s. It also received hydraulic front brakes, vacuum brake assist, a generator, and an electric starter. 4478 has yet to be determined.



Apparatus 51 - 4478



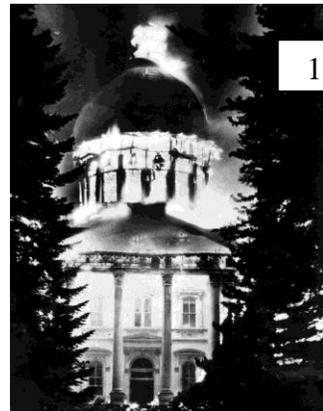
Apparatus 51 - 4479

4479 has one significant and notable fire response. The second Oregon State Capitol building (the first, built in 1854 was destroyed by fire in 1955) in Salem was built in 1876. It was a grand, stately building that would also succumb to fire. At 6:43 pm on April 25, 1935, a custodian reported smoke in the building. A fire was discovered in the basement. Before it could be controlled, it traveled through the balloon frame construction and extended all the way to the dome. The building would ultimately be destroyed, but not before a Salem Fire Department, supplemented by three fire engines from Portland, fought the fire. Matt's American LaFrance 4479 was one of the apparatus sent by Portland.

1876



1935



4479 has undergone a great deal of restoration. 4478 is a work in progress. 4479 has Hall Scott motor number 300375 - 1942-43 annual report says Apparatus 43.



Apparaatus 51

