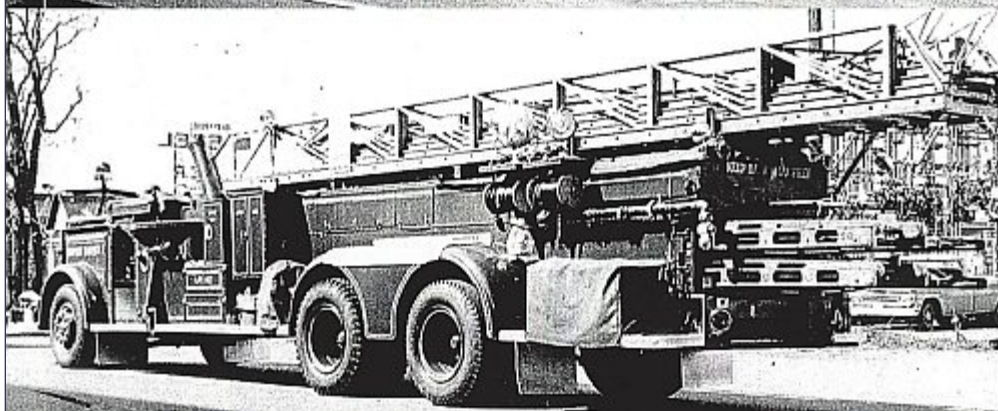
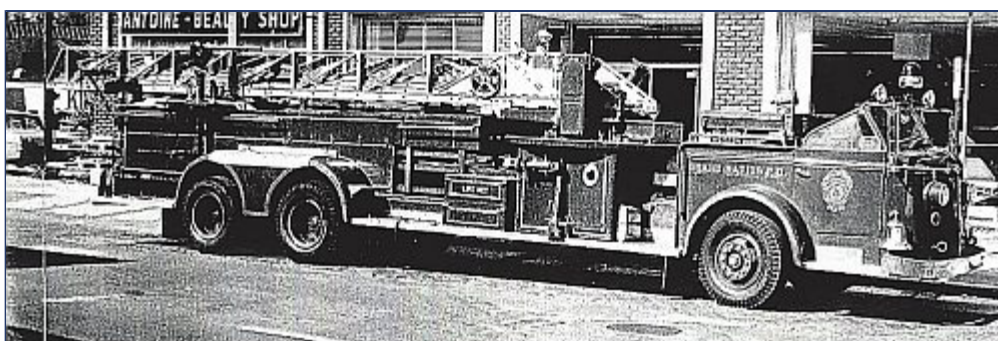


UPDATED - The Curious Case of Spring Lake's American LaFrance Aerial Ladder

03/06/15 225 W, 5 I - + 11 - 4

March 6

Mystery solved, thanks to readers of the [SPAAMFAA group on Facebook](#) and [this thread](#) in particular. The ladder originally served Grand Rapids, Michigan. Model 7-100-AEO, registration number 9038, shipped August 28, 1947. The frame was damaged after they loaded a gas axe plus fuel tanks in the back. The fix was an additional axle and compartment space added by the fire department shops. Here are pictures of the before and after. Click to enlarge:



Larry Zotti collection

February 25

Here's the strangest thing you'll see this week, a 1949 American LaFrance 700 (or 800?) Series 100-foot aerial ladder with a tag axle added.

Served Spring Lake Fire Department by the late 1980s and early 1990s. Top picture by Jeff Harkey is circa 1990. Bottom photos by Lee Wilson is dated July 12, 1991. (By that time, the truck was out of service and had been replaced with a 1968 Young Crusader Snorkel that formerly served Henrietta, NY.)

The tag axle and rear body work are aftermarket and probably done during a refurbishing. Might've been added to help with braking. Might've been added to help with weight restrictions. Maybe readers know more! Also a mystery is the truck's origin. Most likely served another city (or even two) before arriving at Spring Lake. Click to enlarge:



Jeff Harkey photo





Lee Wilson photos

Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.