

More Old Photos of Beacon Ambulance Service

10/14/10 56 W, 6 I - + 7 - 9

Reader Travis Loy has shared some additional old photos of Beacon ambulances. We'll work on posting these and a couple others to [the photo site](#). That's an American LaFrance engine from the rear in the third photo. And who can place the locations of these places? Click to enlarge:



Photo #2,5 and 6, location on US 64 east (New Bern Ave) just past U Haul and Holiday Inn Express, maybe 1963-1965

Bob Couick ([Email](#)) - 10/14/10 - 08:03

Top left- Car 14 taken behind the last Beacon base in the 800 block of Hillsborough St. That building later became the Raleigh Cotillion Club (or something like that) It's not there anymore.

Top center, bottom center, bottom right- looks like US64 and Raleigh Beach Rd, like Bob says, around where HI Express and U-Haul is now. The Chevy ambulance is #5, one of three identical units from 1972. The difference was that #5 had the siren speakers on the hood, and one of them was replaced by a mechanical siren later on. #6 had the two speakers on the front of the cab roof. #7 had a Q siren and no electronic siren (#7 was rolled on Morgan St around 1974 or so).

Top right, bottom left- Hillsborough and Nowell Rd. The engine is probably RFD E8, since around that time they had one of the 900 series open cabs.

DJ - 10/14/10 - 09:24

Very nice to see the history. It's very interesting how we operate today compared to that era. Wrecks back then (and today) were quite a "crowd pleaser". Looks like Fire and EMS had to step over the spectators to get to the wreck victims.

T. Saunders - 10/14/10 - 10:02

That trauma blanket in picture 3 helped.LOL!

Buckwheat - 10/14/10 - 10:46

Back then we did not get blankets from the EDs. And we did not change them out unless there was some sort of bodily fluid on them. We bought a lot of army blankets and cheap blankets at Rose's. When I was at Cary Area Rescue, we once bought a box of blankets from LL Bean.

There wasn't a whole lot happening around here back then, and everyone had a scanner.

DJ - 10/14/10 - 12:33

And on the wreck with the red Chevy and brown Ford, notice the lack of a fire response. On many, many wrecks back then, even the serious

ones, fire was never dispatched, even in the city.

DJ - 10/14/10 - 12:36

Many thanks to all who remember—One of the Beacon men is a Poplin and the other is a Perry. Sorry I can not remember their first names. To help with the identification of the old Chev units—Beacon 5-6-7-

#5 was a short top and 6 & 7 were hi rises. When we first got them I drove #6 with Harley Van Johnson (retired from RPD). Those were the best units Beacon ever had. The Olds's were to heavy for city use. There are a lot of stories about those days. Some good and some not so good. At one time we had over 20 pieces of rolling stock. As for the blankets, well we used what we had. I bought a red blunker for each ambulance at Charles Department store on Wilmington Street. We used the linnen service in Raleigh because the hospital would not let us switch out.

I guess with Jim and Brownie gone I am the only past owner of Beacon Ambulance alive. Well, I'll go for now, but THANK YOU to all who put in a comment on this. Fred Loy

Fred Loy ([Email](#)) - 10/14/10 - 19:50

For any of you guys that care, I have started a group on my Face Book (Bob Couick) that has information about people that were involved in Rescue and EMS Prior to 1985, we are going to have a reunion sometimes after the first of the year. We currently have 60 members and some older photos and history on the group site. You can also send me a email if you like. Take a look and add some information.....

Bob Couick ([Email](#)) - 10/15/10 - 08:24

I am ready and willing to buy a book that compiles these and other great old EMS and rescue photos from around here. Somebody please author the thing!

Legeros - 10/15/10 - 08:46

But Mike, as our local author/historian extraordinare, how can you think of NOT doing this?

Olson - 10/15/10 - 10:39

Too many projects already. Maybe mid-decade...

Legeros - 10/15/10 - 11:46

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