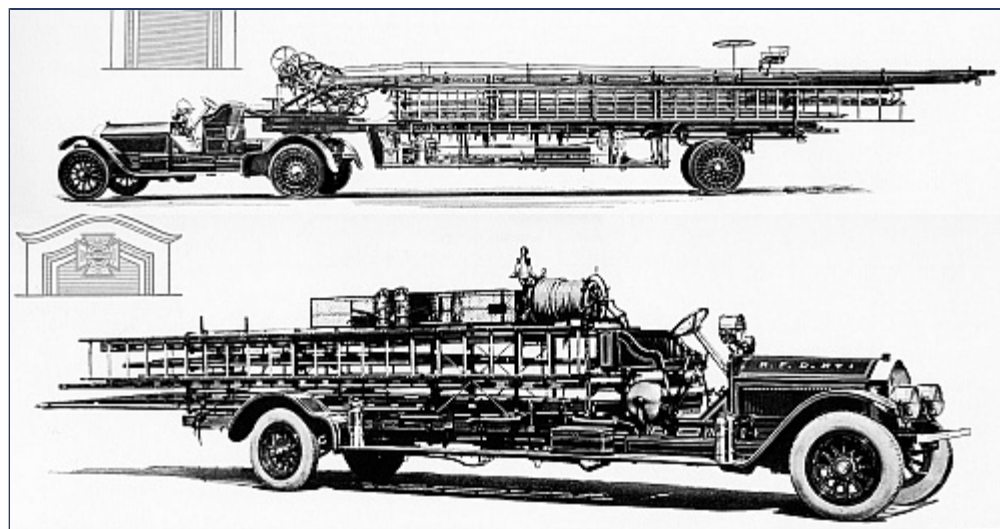


Raleigh's Original American LaFrance Ladder Trucks


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Happened upon a reproduction of American LaFrance Catalog No. 20 (1923), via eBay last week. Forty-eight pages and a thick, glossy stock. Printed in 1972. Within are entries for their popular Type 17 tractor-drawn aerial ladder and Type 14 combination service ladder truck. One of each was bought by the city of Raleigh, in 1916 and 1922, respectively.

Here are drawings from the catalog. The service truck says "R.F.D." Doubtful that's Raleigh, as ours said "R.F.D. No. 2" on the hood. Rochester? Racine? Reno? No telling. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Below are the complete catalog pages. Raleigh's 1916 American LaFrance Type 17 aerial ladder (#1047) had a manufacturing date of February 5, 1916. It was originally delivered in white and repainted red in the early 1920s. Two decades later, the tractor was replaced with a 1939 American LaFrance 500 Series. Note the height of the tillerman seat. That's because the ground ladders were stored in a single stack, instead of side-by-side as seen in later decades. Read more of the truck's history and see some photos, [here](#) and [here](#). Click once or twice to enlarge:



AMERICAN-LAFRANCE

STANDARD TYPE 17 Tractor-Drawn Aerial Truck

SPECIFICATIONS

Motor—Six cylinders, 5½-inch bore by 6-inch stroke, 105 Horse Power.

Wheel Base—From front wheels of tractor to rear wheels of truck—
55-ft. Aerial truck—29 ft. 7¼ in.
65-ft. Aerial truck—33 ft. 7¼ in.
75-ft. Aerial truck—37 ft. 7¼ in.
85-ft. Aerial truck—41 ft. 7¼ in.

Wheels—Artillery type.

Tires—Solid.
Any special type of tires furnished at additional cost.

Lighting System—Two 12-inch electric headlights.


Gasoline Capacity—15 gallons, gravity feed.

Siren Horn—One, hand-operated.

Locomotive Bell—One, 12-inch.

Miscellaneous and ladder equipment same as for Type 31 Aerial truck on page 21.

ALL NECESSARY OPERATING TOOLS
This truck can also be furnished with a four-cylinder tractor.
Detailed specifications on request



American-LaFrance motor fire apparatus is famous for its endurance.

LADDER EQUIPMENT

80-FT. TRUCK
30-ft. extension ladder
22-ft. single ladder
28-ft. single ladder
24-ft. single ladder
20-ft. single ladder
28-ft. single ladder
12-ft. roof ladder
Total ground ladder equipment, 182 feet.

75-FT. TRUCK
45-ft. extension ladder
32-ft. single ladder
28-ft. single ladder
24-ft. single ladder
20-ft. single ladder
16-ft. single ladder
12-ft. roof ladder
Total ground ladder equipment, 177 feet.

60-FT. TRUCK
30-ft. extension ladder
28-ft. single ladder
24-ft. single ladder
20-ft. single ladder
16-ft. single ladder
12-ft. roof ladder
Total ground ladder equipment, 142 feet.

50-FT. TRUCK
35-ft. extension ladder
28-ft. single ladder
20-ft. single ladder
16-ft. single ladder
12-ft. roof ladder
Total ground ladder equipment, 107 feet.

Raleigh's 1922 American LaFrance Type 14 combination service ladder truck (#3941) had a manufacturing date of September 26, 1922. It was placed in service on August 10. Cost \$9,457.00. The truck was operated as a two-piece ladder company. Based on the location of the reported fire, Truck 1 members would take the service ladder truck (for higher buildings) or the service ladder truck (for lower buildings). Both were housed at Station 1 on West Morgan Street until 1941, when they were moved to Station 2 at Memorial Auditorium. Read more of the truck's history [here](#). Click once or twice to enlarge:



AMERICAN-LAFRANCE

STANDARD TYPE 14 Combination City Service Hook and Ladder Truck

SPECIFICATIONS

Motor—Six cylinders, 5½-inch bore by 6-inch stroke, 105 Horse Power.

Wheel Base—246½ inches.

Wheels—artillery type.

Tires—36 x 4, single front, dual rear. Hard base cushion.
Pneumatic, or any special type of tires furnished at additional cost.

Lighting System—
Two 12-inch electric headlights.
One 12-inch electric searchlight.

Gasoline Capacity—20 gallons, gravity feed.

Siren Horn—One, hand-operated.

Locomotive Bell—One, 12-inch.

Chemical Tank—One, 40-gallon capacity.

Chemical Hose—200 feet of ½-inch chemical hose.

Extinguishers—Two, 3-gallon Babcock.

Lanterns—Four, Dietz fire department standard.

Axes—Four, fire department standard.

Wall Picks—Two.

Crowbars—Two.

Shovels—Two.

Wire Cutter—One, Boston.

Door Opener—One, Detroit.

Tin Roof Cutter—One, LaFrance.

Pitchforks—Two.

Rubber Buckets—Four.

Pole Poles—Six, assorted lengths.

Crotch Poles—Two.

Wire Basket—One.

Tool Box—One.

Ladder Lock—One.

Bumper—One.

ALL NECESSARY OPERATING TOOLS
This apparatus is built without chemical equipment if desired, and can be furnished with four-cylinder motor.
Detailed specifications on request



American-LaFrance has many instances of ten years' service—and still going strong.

LADDER EQUIPMENT

One 30-ft. rapid-hoist rope and pulley extension ladder to extend 85½ feet, with supporting poles.

One 25-ft. rapid-hoist rope and pulley extension to extend thirty-five feet.

One 28-ft. single ladder.

Two 23-ft. single ladders.

One 24-ft. single ladder.

One 20-ft. single ladder.

One 16-ft. roof ladder.

One 12-ft. roof ladder.

Total ladder equipment, 221 feet.

American LaFrance buffs or others, what else would tell about these great old rigs?