

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

Binghamton Fire Department Gets Historical Donation



R. Allen photo - 1929 Larrabee as it arrives at the Binghamton Fire training site.

In early August the City of Binghamton Fire Department received a piece of history that at one time they thought had disappeared forever. This piece of department history came in the form of a 1929 Larrabee fire truck originally owned by the Binghamton Fire Department. In 1929 the BFD purchased this piece of apparatus and it is believed that it was the city's first squad company.

The truck was built just a couple miles up the road at the Larrabee-Deyo Motor Truck Company in Hillcrest, NY. The Larrabee-Deyo Motor Truck Company

started in the 1800's building sleighs and carriages under a different name and then built various types of trucks from 1916 through 1932 when the company went under due to the depression.

This truck served the BFD as Squad Company 1 from the time of purchase until sometime in the mid 1960's. At that time the truck was placed up for auction by the city and was purchased by an unknown collector. For as many as twenty years it is believed that the truck sat out in the elements where it fell into serious disrepair.

Then in the 1980's it was purchased by a Mr. Jim Van Hart who completely restored the truck and equipped it with numerous pieces of antique fire equipment. Mr. Van Hart kept this truck in his collection until his passing in 2006 when it was used in his funeral procession. Since then the truck has remained in storage until the family's recent decision to contact the Binghamton Fire Department.

The Fire Department along with BFD Benevolent Association and IAFF Local 729 were able to have the truck put on a flatbed and brought to the fire department training site for safe keeping. The Van Hart family hopes that the truck can be used and enjoyed by the BFD to keep the department's history alive.



R. Allen photo- Front of the 1929 Larrabee showing the Larrabee emblem and "B.F.D. Squad No. 1" graphics on the hood.

Members hope that they can return the apparatus to operating condition and eventually use it in parades and at events. Everyone from the Binghamton Fire Department would like to thank Mr. Van Hart for restoring this amazing piece of city history and the entire Van Hart family for donating the truck back to the fire department.



R. Allen photo- 1929 Larrabee just before leaving the Van Hart residence.



Photo by N. Griswold - Rear of the former Larrabee-Deyo Motor Truck Company in Hillcrest, NY, showing the name of the company, where this truck was built.