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FROM STEAM TO MECHANIZATION FIRE FIGHTING IS INTERESTING

Arrival of a brand new fire pumper in Acton brings to mind many recollections of fire fighting in this town. We can never recall the time when Acton hadn't some equipment and it must have been over half a century ago when the steam fire engine was put into service here and did splendid work until 1924 at the big fire in the Beardmore Co. plant. We think the engine's last work was at the Claridge farm on No. 7 highway.

Many a spectacular fire the old engine fought and conquered. Water supply in those days was from tanks—some of them fed from pipe lines from Henderson's Pond. Then there were basins made in the creek bed on Main Street North and South. Acton didn't cover so much territory in those days and these half dozen water supply spots filled the needs.

There was no riding to the fire in those days. The old engine was equipped to be horse drawn but usually a bunch of men and boys reached the fire hall before the horses and a long rope was strung out and the engine hauled to the nearest water supply. The engineer followed along behind putting fuel under the boiler and usually by the time the hose was laid, steam was up and the brigade was ready for action.

There were, of course, the coal cart and the hose reels to be hauled to the fire as well and a fireman in those days had to be hardy and strong. Perhaps many of our readers will recall some of the spectacular fires in those days at the hotel at the corner of Mill and Main Streets, the sawmill on north Main Street, the Beardmore residence on Church Street and so on.

We recall too that the engine used to be used to put the first flood on the outdoor rinks for the season. There was the old King Edward rink on Main Street and those on Willow Street later.

With the arrival of waterworks and the motor age came the first fire truck. It was really just an equipment vehicle with some chemical tanks and was a Ford chassis of the 1922 model. It wasn't new when Acton acquired it about 1927 and had been used at Mount Dennis before. There was this in its favor, that it took the horses' work off the firemen and they arrived on the scene not all out of breath.

Pressure for fires was boosted on the mains with the pump house equipment and this equipment was satisfactory until some of the house installations grew weaker with constant use and higher pres-

ures often played havoc with water heaters every time there was a fire.

About ten years ago the need for a truck with pumper equipment was evident and the "1927 pride and glory" gave place to a rebuilt machine which had seen duty at Sudbury. This equipment is still in service and its disposition undecided. It might be used as an auxiliary equipment. We presume it will eventually go the way of all old fire equipment.

The old steam engine was stored for years in the building at the park and finally went to the wreckers. It should have been preserved for posterity but with no museum in Acton this was impossible. The old Ford truck was the first municipal truck with a reconverted box body. It hauled away street accumulations of leaves better than the two trucks now used and each of more than double capacity.

Now we have a brand new fire pumper with wailing siren, all kinds of fine equipment and room for most of the Brigade to ride to the fires. There have been some great changes in fire fighting here in the past fifty years. From our files we reproduce the various models that have served Acton in the half century. It will be noted we change models much more frequently as the years go along. The old steam was from 1890 to 1927. This new pumper will be the third gasoline driven vehicle in the last twenty-four years.

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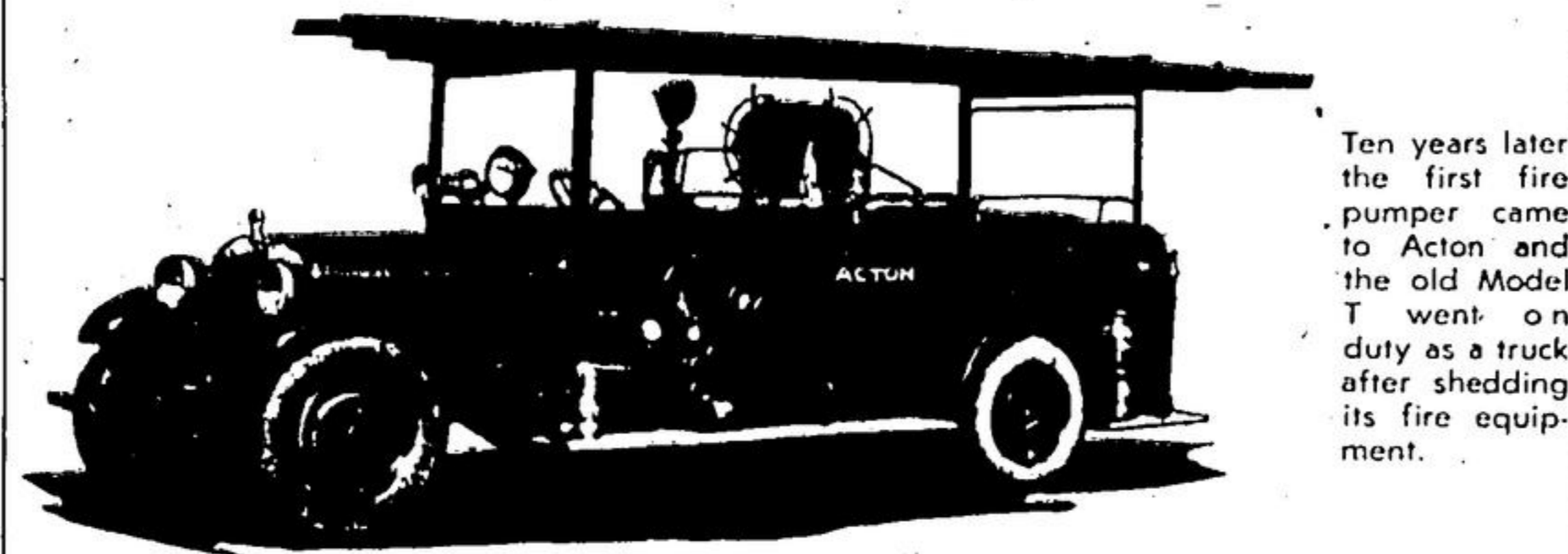
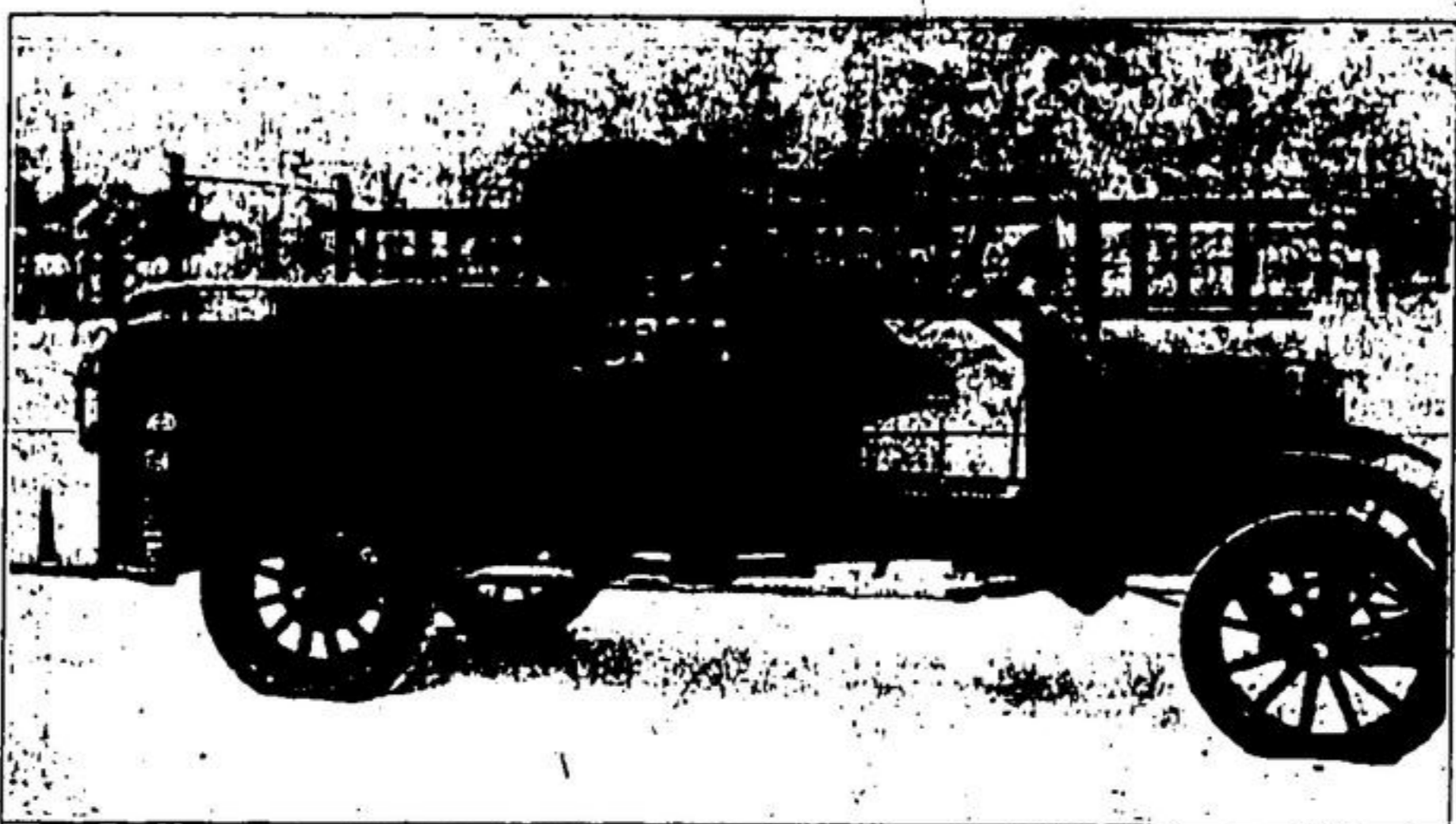
WHITE CAULIFLOWER - - lg. head 17c

FIRM GREEN CABBAGE - - - - head 10c

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The first motorized unit to go into service for Acton was the above unit and secured second hand about 1927.



Ten years later the first fire pumper came to Acton and the old Model T went on duty as a truck after shedding its fire equipment.

SOON ENOUGH OIL?

If in the next decade we make the same progress as we have since 1947 Canada will produce enough oil to meet all domestic requirements, says Gordon Grant in The Financial Post. This year we will meet 31 per cent of our 404,000 bbl. daily requirements from domestic sources.

Contrast that with only 5 per cent of our needs—260,000 bbl. a day—met by Turner Valley in early 1947. Next year it looks as if the equivalent of 64 per cent or more of oil consumption will be met. In 1953, 50 per cent of our needs could come from our own wells.

Hallowe'en Havoc Cut In Moose Jaw

Here's a way of cutting damage on Hallowe'en. Mayor Lewry of Moose Jaw, Sask., writes Napier Moore in The Financial Post, he tried it last year.

He got out an honor certificate which, with the co-operation of the city's school board, was distributed to all pupils during the week before October 31st.

Bearing the seal of the city, the certificate is a pledge of citizenship. It bears the name and address of the pupil and the name of the school, and the signature of the mayor. The holder of it is pledged "on his (her) honor as a Citizen of Moose Jaw not to deface, mutilate or destroy property or perform any harmful act to others during the Hallowe'en season."

Last year the amount of harm and damage usually done in the Prairie City on Hallowe'en was materially reduced.

IT'S THE PRICE

A man trying to buy a horse from a Vermont farmer was startled when he named \$1,000 as his price. Nonetheless the prospective buyer countered with a reasonable \$100 offer. "That's an awful discount," mused the farmer, "but I'll take it."

As the buyer counted out the money he couldn't resist asking why the farmer had accepted \$100 after first naming ten times that sum. "Well," he drawled, "I thought maybe you'd like to own a thousand-dollar horse."—The Reader's Digest.

A man who makes money hand over fist usually has a wife who makes the fist hand over the money.

H. S. Holden

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Canadians used four per cent more sugar in 1950 than they did in 1940.