

At Pioneer Days

Antique fire truck display

By MONIQUE TOBIN
Herald Special

Less than ten years ago, a committee of volunteer firefighters purchased a 1942 Ford fire truck from the Town of Halton Hills for \$1.

Today, the same Ford La France model truck is a showpiece owned by the Georgetown Firefighters Association, and looked after by the '42-Ford committee, and it is brought to parades, conventions and

put on display at antique fire truck musters.

After purchasing the truck in '76, the firefighters refurbished it within the next two years, investing about \$14,000 in the truck. This money was raised by the committee through barbecues, turkey shoots, and draws, and part of the money also came from a Wintario grant.

With the money they raised, the firefighters restored the truck by

replacing original equipment that had been taken off of the truck, then they painted it. The transmission of the truck was rebuilt and the engine was replaced. The committee is now responsible for maintenance, and polishing of the 42 Ford, as well as taking it to parades and other events.

The '42-Ford committee is made up of firefighters who are elected to the committee by the firefighters. Now on the committee are Walter McPherson, Peter Todd, Fred Cuffo and Rob Quinton.

The Ford truck was purchased by the Town of Georgetown in 1942, only the second motorized truck to be purchased by the Town. The first motorized truck purchased by the Town was in 1927, but that truck was partially dismantled several years later, and used for hauling lumber in a northern Ontario lumber camp.

In its history, the Ford truck figured prominently in one of the biggest fires of the area, when the Herracough Mill in Glen Williams burned down. Jack Harlow was fire chief at the time. The Ford truck pumped water continuously for ten hours but an occasional quart of oil had to be added to keep the engine from seizing up, and the hood had to be kept open in order to keep the truck from overheating during the blaze.

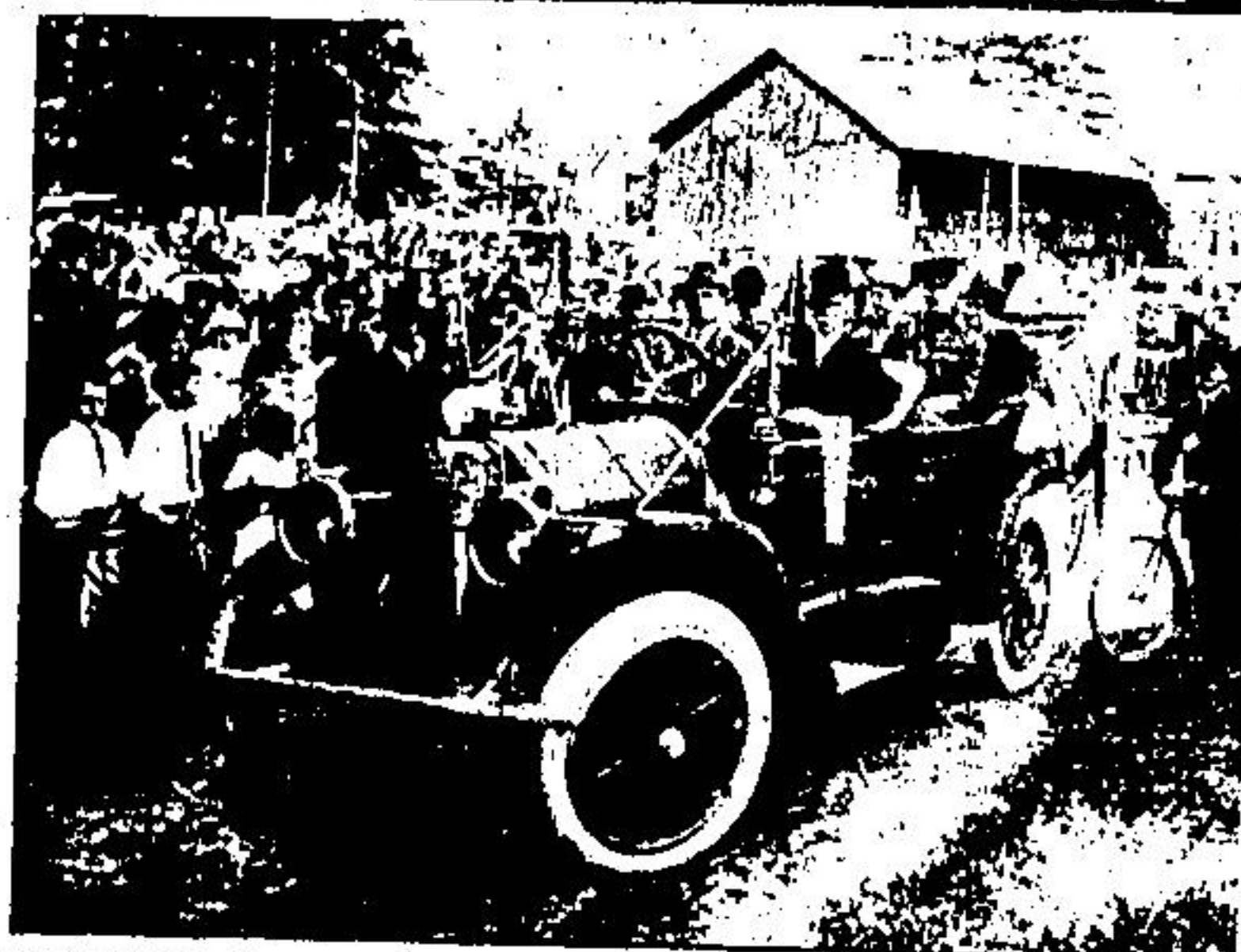
A special trailer now houses the truck, at the Fire Hall on Maple Avenue, where it is kept clean and protected. The firefighters on the '42-Ford committee invested between \$8,000 and \$9,000 into the trailer. When it is brought to conventions, the Ford truck is kept in the trailer, and hauled to its destination.



Sold to the volunteer firefighters for \$1, this old fire truck reminds many of the way things used to be around town. The truck does run and it is a regular pumper. (Photo submitted)

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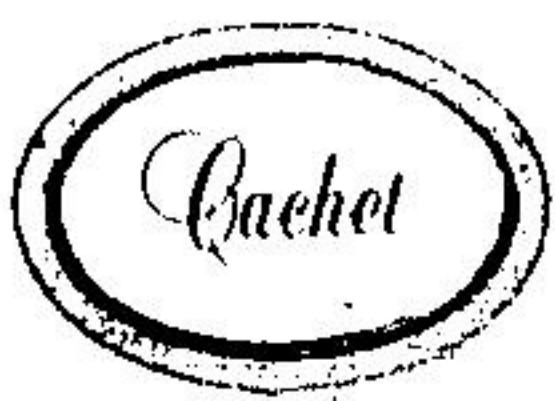
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