

OLD AND NEW FIRE APPARATUS



This is the Riverside Volunteer Fire Department's newest fire fighting apparatus, a Seagraves hook and ladder truck equipped with tarpaulins, ladders high enough to reach the roof of the tallest buildings in the village, auxiliary pumpers, chemical tanks, rescue nets, an inhalator and much other fire fighting apparatus.



Way back when –in fact in the year 1896- Riverside's Volunteer Fire Department looked like this. As might be surmised, the apparatus was the most modern available at the time. The Department was then one year old, having been organized in 1895. A hand drawn two-wheeled hose cart was the first apparatus, which was soon displaced by the horse drawn vehicle shown above. This horse drawn affair was later sent to the junk heap when a double team cart was purchased. In 1916 Ford made it possible for the village to become modern and supplant the horses with gasoline engines. The Ford truck bought in 1916 did its duty until 1924 when the Seagraves pumper was purchased. The pumper is still very much in service but the building of many apartments in the village made it necessary that additional equipment be purchased to be used in conjunction with the pumper. (Riverside News 2/27/30)