

RESTORATION – 1929 Chow in Fire Engine at Saranac Lake NY Firemans' Convention – Norwood engine



Circa 1929 Firemans' Convention parade in Saranac Lake New York. Engine is from the city of Norwood NY

We now can be certain that the Chow was a true symbol of the Roaring 20's, when it takes the place of the iconic dalmatian on a fire engine!

This photo was in terrible condition with hairline scratches running vertically across the entire surface. I was so pleased to get this much detail out of the image.

A copy of this restored image has been donated to the Norwood NY Fire Department archives



I do believe this awesome image above has become the Holy Grail in my collection of [Chows with vehicles](#). What a unique find!! You can see a bit more of my restoration of this very

blurry and scratched photo as you scroll below. I even managed to find documentation of the Firemans' convention in a few 1929 newspapers (below)



This spotlighted photo above shows the original scanned image before any restoration was done to the chow. I was able to salvage quite a bit of detail in the finished closeup below



Above: I cropped the image here so you can see the detail of the chow, engine and men. The film grain I corrected a bit but left a good portion of it to show the age and character of this historic snapshot in time.

BOTH ARTICLES BELOW ARE FROM AUGUST 1929 DESCRIBING THIS LARGE ANNUAL CONVENTION, TOURNAMENT AND PARADE OF NEW YORK STATE FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Vamps Still Haul Out Old Red Flannel Shirts For Tournament Races

Roosevelt, L. I., Aug. 6—Red flannel undies have long since disappeared from the clothes lines on the south shore, but red flannel shirts are still kept in moth balls and pulled out whenever there is a parade of volunteer firemen.

Four-wheeled carts carrying short ladders and leather buckets and manned by fleet-footed vamps who generally had nowhere to go but were in a hurry to get there have passed through the stages of horse-drawn apparatus and early motors and are now roaring monsters of the very latest type.

But the charm of the old hand-drawn carts has never vanished and they are always a part of every firemanic tournament, so the coming New York State Volunteer Firemen's Association contests at Saranac Lake from Aug. 18 to 24 will not be without its racing teams.

Louis Marks of this village former captain of the Brush Rabbits and well known in firemanic circles, is tournament chairman this year. The

racing teams will camp in tents on the shores of Saranac Lake and on the day of the contests, Aug. 22, will vie with one another for the State championship.

Each of these teams has a distinctive uniform and a nickname. Roosevelt boasts the Brush Rabbits and the Bear Cats; Malverne, the Chipmunks; North Merrick, the Stump Jumpers. All of the volunteer fire companies still have the names they bore back in the days when a fire drew a crowd as large as the one that now gathers to watch a man changing a tire or a steam shovel digging a hole.

East Rockaway has its Vigilants, Libertys and Protections; Farmingdale has its Water Witches; Floral Park its Alerts and Reliances; Freeport its Wide Awakes, Excelsiors and Patriots; Hempstead its Union and Enterprise; Island Park is Originals; Lynbrook its Rescue, Tally-Ho and Vulcans; Merrick its Empire and Friendship; Oceanside its Salamanders and Columbias; Rockville Centre its Eureka, Live Oaks, Defenders, Woodlands, etc., and so on down the line.

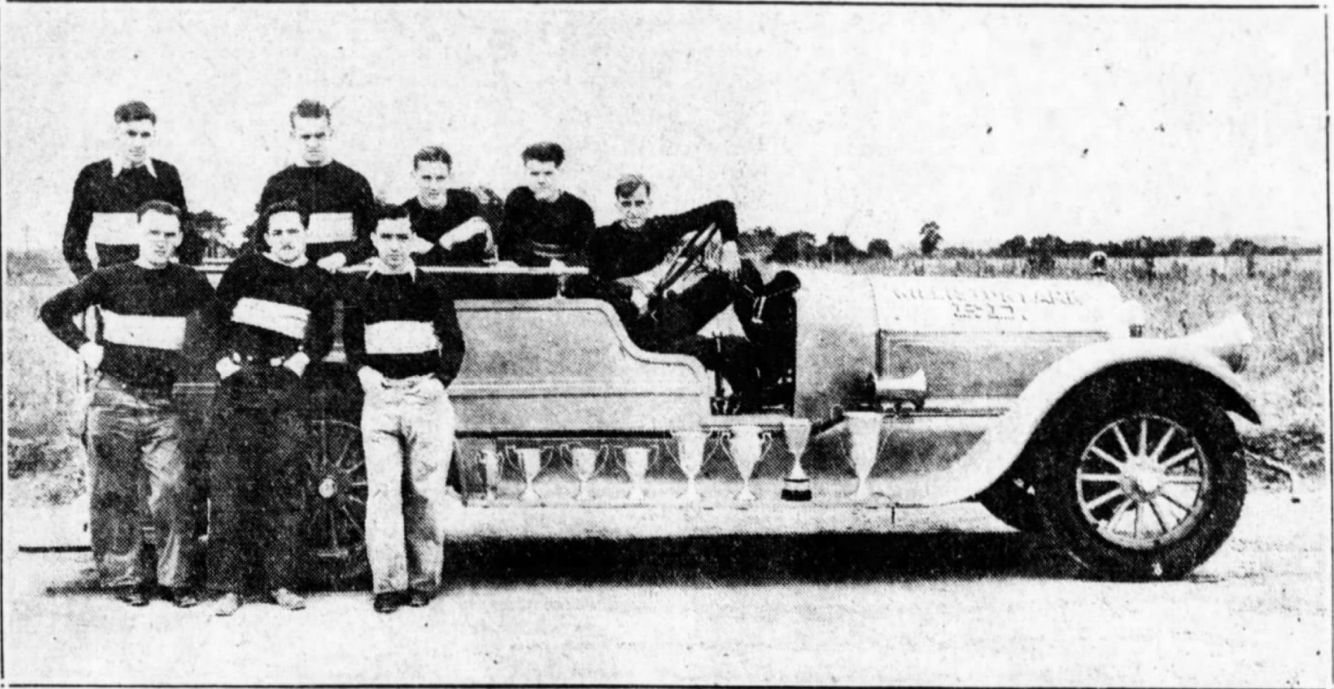
STATE FIREMEN'S CONVENTION BEING HELD AT SARANAC

Saranac Lake, N. Y., Aug. 20 — (U.P.)—Delegates to the seventh annual convention of the Volunteer Firemen's association of New York conducted a brief business session today, then turned to the feature of the gathering, the firemanic games in which more than 100 companies are entered.

Preliminaries in hose laying, ladder placing and climbing and other duties of firemen were conducted. The finals will take place Thursday and prizes will be awarded Friday when more than 2,000 delegates and visiting firemen will parade, marking the close of the convention.

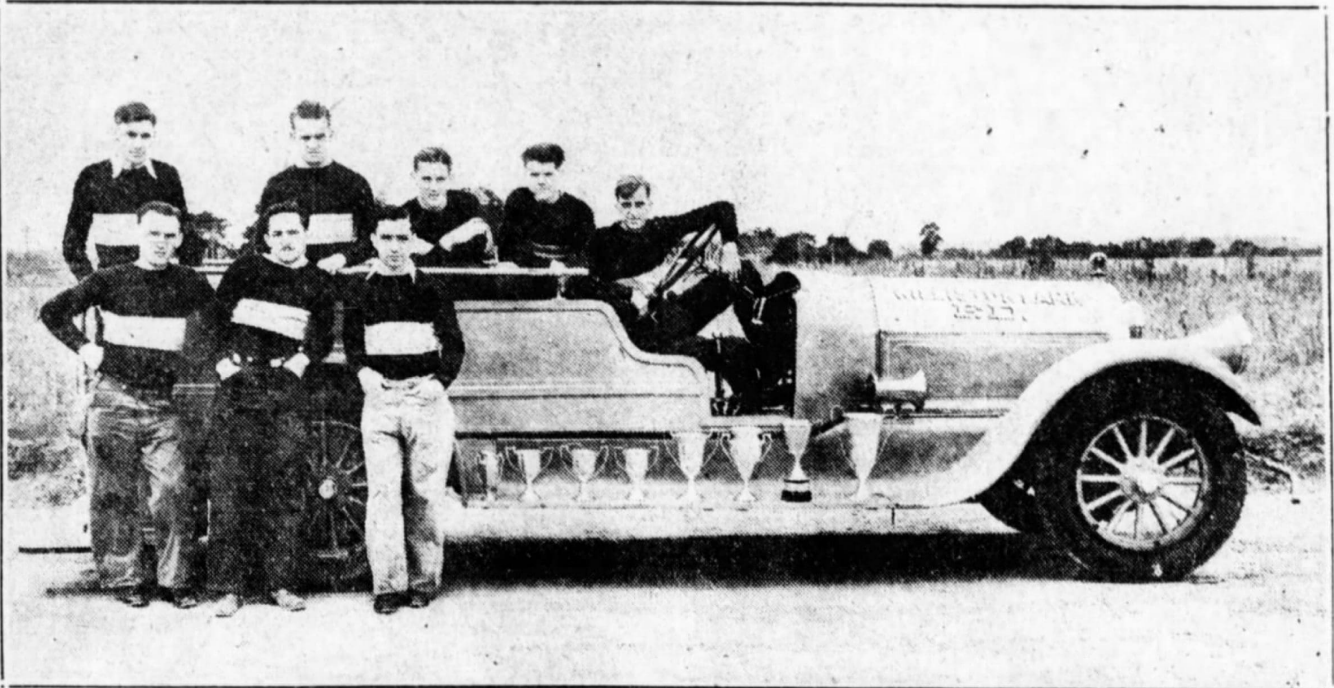
Saranac Lake was decorated from end to end with flags, bunting and electric lights.

PRIZE VAMPS SEEK NEW LAURELS



One of the racing teams that will compete at the State Volunteer Firemen's Association tournament at Saranac Lake is the Williston Park Fire Department. The team has already won eight silver cups. Top row—George Smith, "Chubby" Kennedy, John Schramm, Capt. F. Wood and John Pop, driver. Bottom row—James Kennedy, Raymond Merritt and Al Zollezzi.

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