



NEWS LETTER

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APPARATUS TOPS

During the past month, thirteen Fire Department apparatus have been equipped with tops for their cabs.

For over twenty years, the department has considered open cabs better for efficient operation, and major apparatus have been delivered with no tops.

However, the department has decided that a certain amount of protection for firemen is in order in parts of the city where attacks have been made recently on responding crews.

The tops are being installed on some apparatus at the following stations: Engine 7, 8, 14, 22, 30, 38, 49, 57, 63, and 65. These are all Seagrave and Mack apparatus.

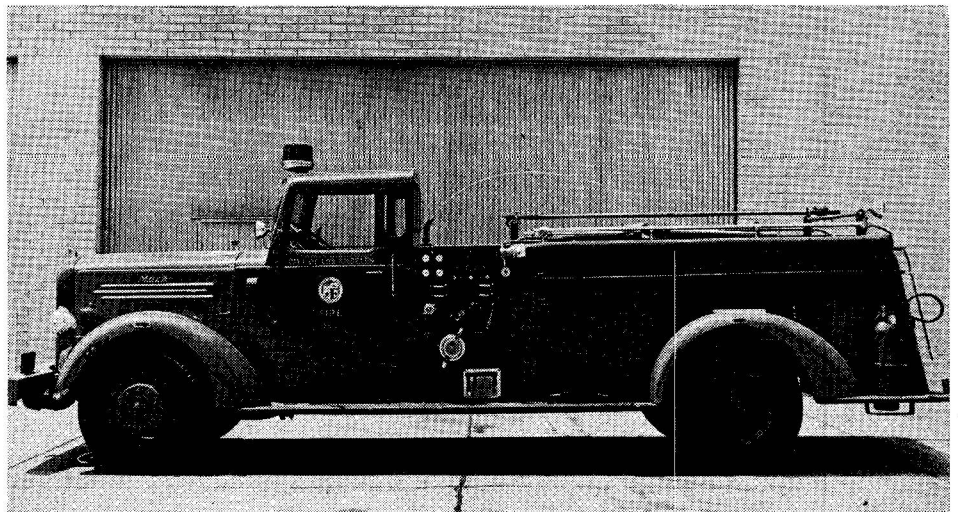
The problem of how to replace tops that had been removed, or to provide tops for rigs that had been built without them, was solved without having to go to outside manufacturers for bids and contracts.

A search for proper design and suitable materials resulted in the discovery that two different types of covering could be built for the rigs. Necessary

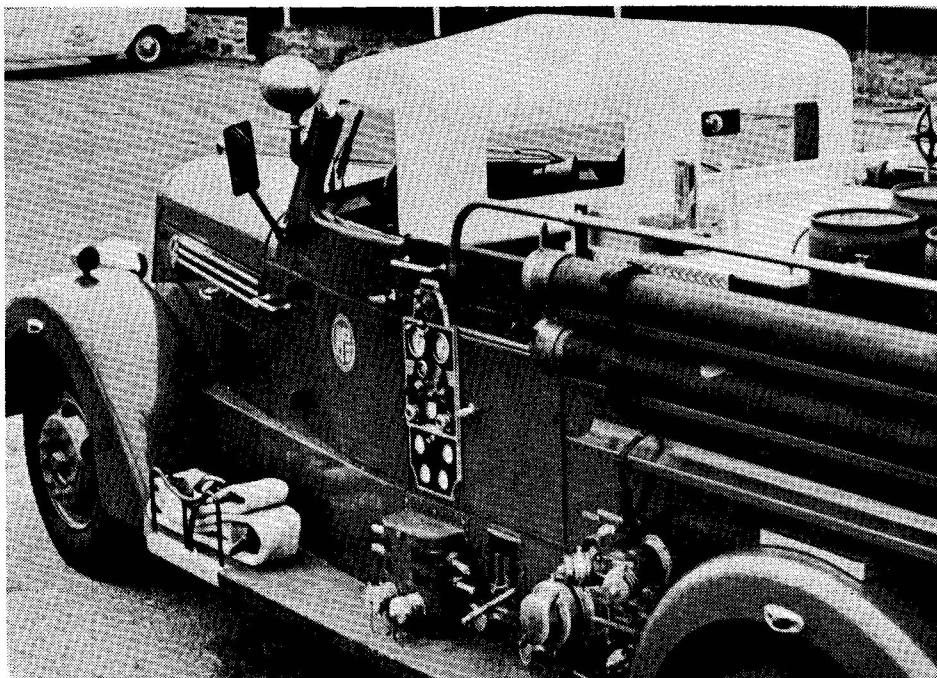
facilities and expert workers were available at the Supply and Maintenance shops to construct sheet metal tops. Strong molded plastic ones could be manufactured in the small work shop adjacent to Boat No. 2's quarters. In the interest of speed and in order to divide the workload, it was decided

that both kinds would be manufactured.

Captain Warner Lawrence, Boat 2-A, provided the formula, design and know-how to make the plastic tops. Ted Dean, Foreman in charge of the allied shops at Supply and Maintenance provided the design and know-how to build metal tops.



Metal top designed and manufactured of sheet metal in S&M Shops



Molded plastic top designed and finished at Boat 2's Quarters

The effort at Boat No. 2 has been almost a Harbor community effort. Members of all three shifts at Boat No. 2 have worked on and finished the plastic tops. Members from Station 40 and volunteers from other Harbor area stations have also joined in the work, which has been an almost steady seven-day-a-week operation.

Actual construction of a metal top at the shops was carried out by Robert Berg. Grant Webb did the painting. One metal top and twelve plastic tops have been finished.

The metal top is constructed of eighteen gauge sheet steel, is hand formed and took thirteen man days to complete. It is fastened to the cab of the rig with bolts.

The twelve plastic tops each required eight man days to construct. They are a quarter-inch thick and are fastened to the rigs on which they are installed with rubber brackets to guard against movement when the rigs sway or are

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Fire Alarm Boxes

The Fire Department, together with the Department of Public Utilities and Transportation and the City Administrative Officer, is conducting a study to determine the effectiveness of fire alarm boxes as a means of transmitting alarms. The study will continue for several months and may result in the removal of some alarm boxes.

Fire Department dispatchers are collecting information on not only the boxes which have the highest incidence of false alarms, but also box alarms which are duplicated by other means of transmission, and the method which was received first. When this information is compared against the type of box device and the type of area where the box is located, a factual decision can be made to determine the value of such box.

For several years, Fire Department statistics have shown that about 80% of all box alarms are recorded as false. Department of Public Utilities and Transportation's statistics show a somewhat smaller percentage of false alarms. The difference is due mainly to different recording methods. Fire dispatchers can pinpoint from memory a large number of box locations that are notoriously false. Obviously, better facts were needed before a good decision could be made on which, if any, of the boxes could be removed to reduce our false alarm problem. The current study should provide those facts.

The City now has three different box alarm systems and six different styles of boxes. The Metropolitan system has 1901 boxes; San Pedro has 341; and Venice has 29. The total number of boxes has changed frequently in the past, as boxes were installed or removed due to freeway construction or the development of various areas of the City.

No further changes in the system are anticipated until the results of the survey are in, but it is expected that the results will show that wide use of the commercial telephone has greatly reduced the value of a box alarm system, especially in residential areas.

New Arson Laws

Two State bills were recently passed by the State Legislature which are of particular significance to firemen.

The first, Assembly Bill #8, has already become law. It makes it a misdemeanor to:

- interfere with the lawful efforts of any fireman in the discharge of an official duty.
- disobey the lawful orders of any fireman.
- delay or prevent a fire from being timely extinguished.

—advise against, forbid or prevent other persons from assisting in extinguishing a fire.

The bill further provides that it is a felony to commit assault on a fireman performing his duties, punishable by imprisonment in a State prison for not more than two years. If the assault involves a deadly weapon, the penalty is imprisonment in a State prison for not more than 15 years, unless the person has a previous felony conviction. In this case, the penalty is imprisonment for five years to life.

The crime of battery committed against a fireman performing his duties is now punishable by from one to 10 years' imprisonment in a State prison.

Assembly Bill #9, (often called the "Molotov Cocktail Law"), which will become law 91 days after the close of the 1966 session of the State Legislature, provides for the following: (Some of the offenses covered under this section were previously misdemeanors).

- increases the penalty for burning certain named buildings from one to 10 years, to between 2 and 20 years.
- makes it a felony to attempt to commit arson or related crimes.
- makes the manufacture, disposal or possession of a fire bomb a felony.
- makes the possession of incendiary devices with the intent to commit arson punishable by imprisonment either in the County Jail or a State prison.
- establishes a minimum penalty of five years in a State prison for committing arson or related crimes during a state of riot or other extreme emergency.

These new laws give firemen and law enforcement officers new tools to work with. Coupled with the deterrent value of having the laws on the books, the use of these tools should both reduce the number of crimes involving fire and make the fireman's job safer.

Street Mileage

A recent City Report shows that there is currently 7,194.8 miles of streets, alleys, trails and walks in Los Angeles City. Of this mileage, 3,822.3 miles are in the Central District, 2,937.9 miles are in the Valley district (north of Mulholland), and 434.6 miles in the Harbor district (south of 120th Street).

Types of streets include 227 miles of State Highways, 1,532 miles of select streets, 4,561 miles of local streets, 844 miles of alleys and trails, and 31 miles of walks.

Types of improvements include asphalt — 1,735 miles; concrete — 1,131 miles; rock and oil—3,322 miles; oiled —148 miles; and unimproved — 849 miles.

Fire Prevention Officers Organization

In 1948, members of the Harbor District Firemen's Association recognized the need for an inter-city forum on fire prevention problems. A meeting was called in Inglewood, and 35 Fire Prevention Officers attended. Later, a formal organization was established, named the "Southern California Conference of Fire Prevention Inspectors." In 1961, the name was changed to "California Fire Chiefs Association, Southern Division, Fire Prevention Officers Section."

The organization has grown to the point that there are now over 100 fire departments represented in the membership, and there is now a "northern" division as well as a southern.

Officers and members of our Department have participated in the organization since its inception, some of them holding office. Chief Jim Hammack of the Fire Prevention Bureau has held various offices since 1962, and was elected President for the year 1966.

It reflects well upon our Department to have one of our men elected to high office in this organization, which has the respect and confidence of many high State officials.

Some of the fine work accomplished by the Fire Prevention Officers' group is reflected in the "Uniform Fire Code," developed by them and adopted by about 50 California cities. The staff of the National Fire Protection Association often call upon one or more of the organizations' committee for advice or assistance. The group also watches State Legislation closely and expresses support or opposition as the need arises.

APPARATUS TOPS

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jolted. They are impact resistant and partially bullet resistant although they were not constructed for that purpose.

They are made of laminated fiber glass with three layers of glass mat pressed between outside layers of fiberglass cloth, the entire top is impregnated with resin. Both the metal and plastic tops have plexi-glass windows for rear visibility. Window channels and door mechanisms of the rigs have been re-worked so that roll-up windows can be used.

The tops fit the contour of the rigs smoothly and aid rather than detract from their appearance, as well as providing the protection for which they were designed.

The plastic top is easily removed, and may be taken off and stored at the discretion of the officers involved. The metal top is more permanently fastened, and should remain in place.