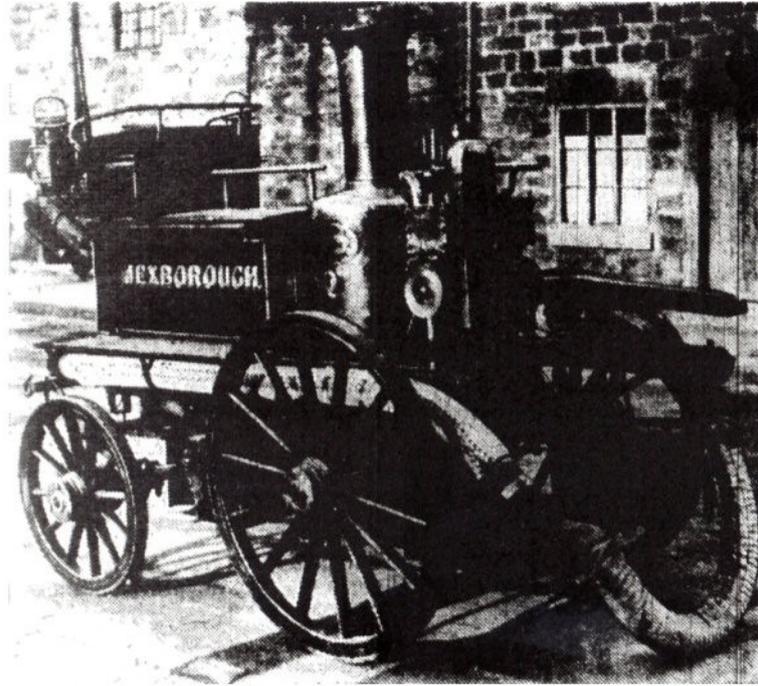


Mexboro's Old Faithful Fire Engine for Sale



DAILY INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH

What Offers?

For Sale One Fire Engine.

Once a proud firefighter of a former day, has served his time at Mexborough, and Mexborough Urban Council has decided sell him off when he stood aside for his modern new motor colleague. But for 20 years before that he had rendered good service.

He was always guaranteed to create a thrill as he was whisked through the streets by four snorting horses, with sparks flying fast and furious from his fire-box.

In fact, so profuse were the sparks on occasion that protecting sheets had to be tied to the wheels to prevent the wooden spokes catching fire.

In 1907 "Alderman" was a smart, up-to-date machine, succeeding an old manual which had been found wanting at a big outbreak at a local newspaper office.

Trusty Firefighter

"Alderman" was never found wanting. He was always standing ready with his fire ready laid, and in one little pocket a full supply of matches, which were struck at the moment an alarm was given, and dropped down a tube into the firebox. In the meantime a fire bell rang on the market hall, and either Mr. F. Law or Mr. J. H. White, local tradesmen, would send their horses and driver rushing down to the station.

By the time the horses arrived, "Alderman" had got his steam up, and was prepared for any amount of pumping.

The only fireman contemporary with the old engine is Mr. George Smith. He saw it come, and he will see it go, but he still continues after 35 years' service, now as Second Officer.

Went by Train

“Alderman” could be pulled by two or four horses.

On one frosty night they set off with four animals to a fire at Frickley. One fell, and was un-hitched and tied to a gate by the roadside. The same experience befell a second horse, but the remaining two horses completed the journey, and some valuable property was saved.

On another occasion, also at Frickley, "Alderman" was away so quickly only six men were aboard. The remaining four of the crew went on by train!

“Alderman” visited many big fires in the neighbourhood, including those at the chemical works in 1916. Mexborough House in 1921, loco sheds 1921, Oxford Road Chapel 1921, while he helped to save the Parish Church when: fire broke out in the roof in 1908.

Without Blemish

No one will be more sorry to see him go than Fireman Smith, for they can recall many exciting times together.

Mr. Smith had plenty of excitement before the arrival of “Alderman,” for he joined the brigade in 1901, and in 1905 he received a bad shock at the newspaper office fire, the current running back along the water jet to the hose which he was using, and he had to be carried out of the building.

“Alderman's” fate is not known, but quotations for purchase have to be sent to the Council by Monday next, and he will probably end up merely as valuable scrap.

He still possesses very strong pumps, although the boiler is uncertain, and a stout steel frame, iron rimmed wheels, steel firebox and coalbox, and parts of him, at any rate, may still be very useful to some engineer.

He ends his career without blemish on an honourable record.