

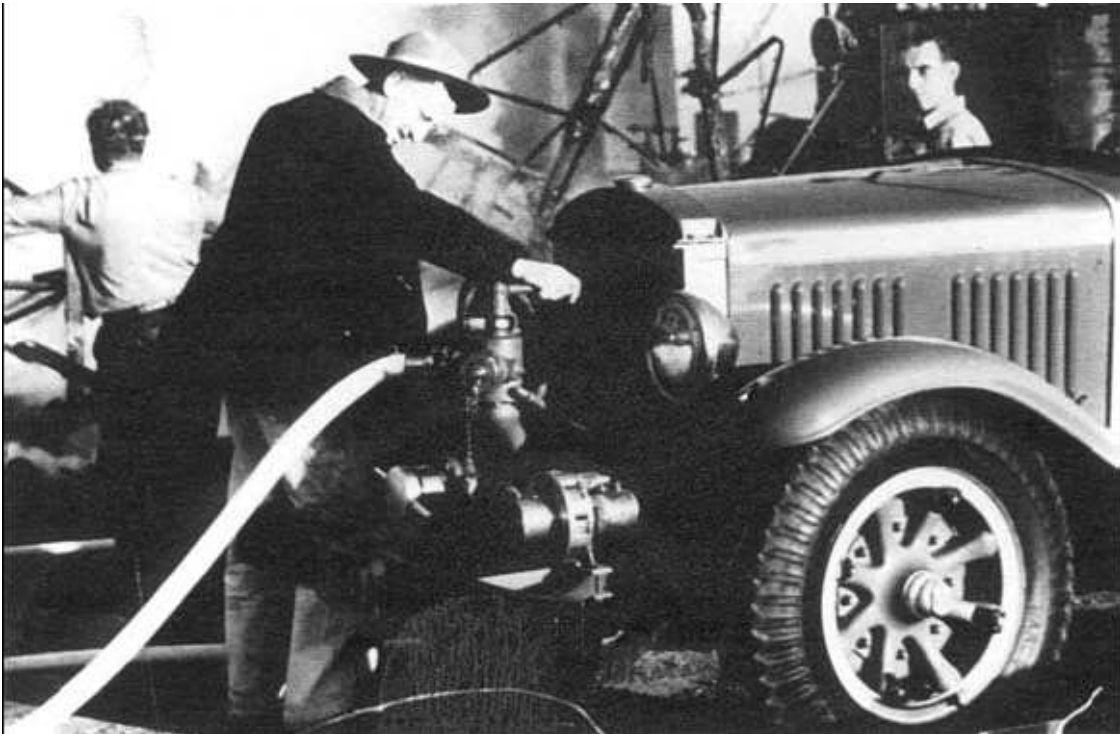
History

Fire Station 54, Camarillo

The agricultural industry dominated the small town of 1935 Camarillo, with warehouses, packinghouses and food processing plants lining the railroad right-of-way.

The Ventura County Fire Protection District delivered Camarillo's first fire truck in April 1935. The Mack chassis was built into a fire truck by firefighters at the Fire District's shop in Santa Paula. This new open-cab pumper had a 250 gallon-per-minute front-mount pump and a 450-gallon water tank with 500-feet of 2½-inch hose and 500-feet of 1½-inch hose.

Excitement and enthusiasm swept through the town as residents took turns driving, riding and blowing the siren on the bright-red truck. The Fire District's eighth fire truck was first stored at the Knob Hill garage at 2401 Ventura Boulevard at North Glenn Drive where Camarillo Plumbing and Paint stands today.



Captain Putnam operating the Mack pumper on a fire.

When Ed Hayes was elected Fire Chief, he declared no one would be allowed to drive the fire truck except for seven designated crewmembers, including Eugene

Putnam. The Fire District hired Putnam in 1940, as its first paid personnel in Camarillo. He served a number of years as Camarillo's Fire Captain.

In 1941, Adolfo Camarillo donated property and funding for a county fire station on the south side of Ventura Boulevard at Fulton Street. The building included an upstairs apartment where Putnam and his family lived until his retirement in 1962.

The Mack pumper served Camarillo until 1950 when it was replaced by a closed-cab Ford pumper with a 600 gallon-per-minute pump and a 400-gallon water tank.

In 1954, the County Fire Chief organized the department into four battalions with assigned numbers. Camarillo was in Battalion 3 along with Station 31 in Thousand Oaks, Lake Sherwood was Station 33, and Camarillo was Station 32. Station 32 changed to Station 54 when Battalion 5 was formed in the late 1950s.



Old Fire Station 54 on Ventura Boulevard.

In 1995, Station 54 moved to its new station at 2160 Pickwick Drive on property purchased by the Fire District.