

History

Fire Station 53, Port Hueneme

In 1917, Port Hueneme town's people replaced its bucket brigade with a fire truck equipped with a large 40 gallon soda-acid chemical tank.

In 1931, the Fire District replaced the Port Hueneme chemical truck with a Mack pumper with a 400 gallon-per-minute centrifugal pump and 385-gallon water tank that was built up in the fire shop at Santa Paula by district personnel.

The town's fire garage was located at Market Street and Port Hueneme Road at the rear of a bank building that is now the Chamber of Commerce. This small garage, which is no longer standing, had to be extended five feet in order to hold the new pumper. Six volunteers were trained and John Keir, who ran a local market in town, was appointed fire chief under the County Fire Chief. A roof siren was installed to call the volunteers.

In January, 1942, the Board of Supervisors rejected four bids submitted for the construction of a new fire station. The lowest bid for the station, estimated and budgeted at \$6,000, came in at \$8,056.

The war effort would further delay construction until 1948, when the fire station was built at 304 Second Street. Station 53 was a combination of an engine room with small living quarters and a house.

These houses were used in the early years as homes for the captains and firefighters and their families. Many a quiet day off at "home" was spoiled by the siren that sat upon the roof and was used to notify volunteers of a fire. Another house on the site was sold and is occupied as a private residence. The facility served the district until the building was demolished in 2000 for today's Station 53 on the same site.



Fire Station 53, 1948 to 2000.