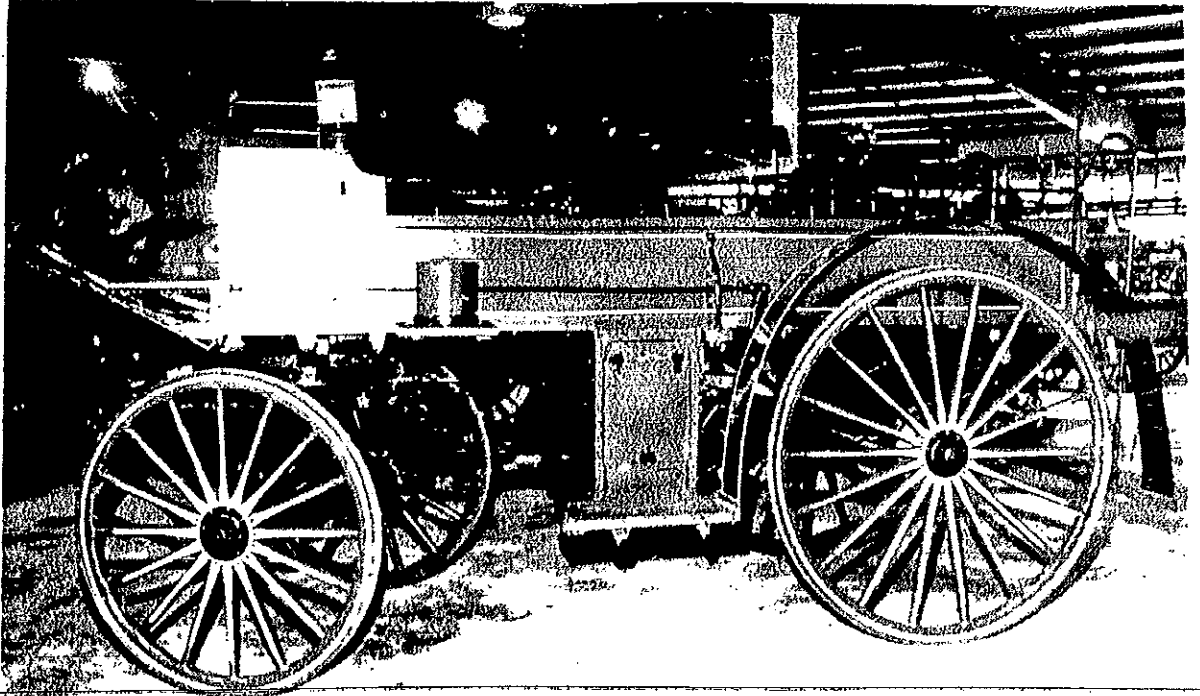


PETOSKEY
1909 PUMPER HOSE WAGON

PETOSKEY 1909 PUMPER IN MUSEUM
Hose Wagon in "HALL OF FLAME"

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ONCE THIS HORSE drawn hose wagon rumbled down the streets of Petoskey, where it served the local fire department from 1909 to 1924. Today the classic vehicle, along with hundreds of other items of antique firefighting equipment, is on display in the Hall of Flame, a unique non-profit museum, at Kenosha, Wis.



By Edward W. Bauman
KENOSHA, WIS. {Special

If you lived in Petoskey, Mich. more than half a century ago, you might still remember the bright red hose wagon, with its circus-painted wheels, the firemen used to drive behind two galloping horses.

The 14-foot wagon, with two firemen in the driver's seat, one riding on each side on a special running board, and two more standing on the tall gate, was one of the flashiest things on wheels in those days before World War I.

It brought the men and the hoses, along with other necessary equipment, in the scene of every blaze when the fire bell rang. And it was quite a wagon for these days – real foot brakes, it had, along with a special warning bell that operated automatically when the wheels went round, and kerosene lamps for night driving.

The old hose wagon, built especially for the community of Petoskey in 1909 by the Seagrave Fire Apparatus Co., served the fire department there until 1924, when it was retired in favor of motorized equipment.

Along with other pieces of rolling stock, representative of the history of fire fighting in America, the "*Petoskey hose wagon*" is now on display in the Hall of Flame, a unique museum of antique firefighting equipment at Kenosha, Wis.

It was obtained from Roger W. Johnson of Cadillac, Mich., in 1962, by George F. Getz Jr., president of the National Historical Fire Foundation. It was one of the first pieces of equipment to be displayed to the public when the Hall of Flame opened its doors to the fire buffs of the world in the summer of 1967.

Getz, a Chicago businessman, became interested in firefighting in 1955 when his wife, Olive, gave him a 1924 pumper from Oshkosh, Wis., for Christmas. The collection has since grown to more than 60 pieces of apparatus, including a number from the Michigan area.