

The New England

2024 Issue 1



Fireguard

The Official Bulletin of the New England Museum of Firefighting

REDISCOVERING MAXIM



Among the collection of Maxim records donated to the Museum last fall were many unpublished photos as well as many Maxim advertisements and publicity photos. This publicity photo from 1962 features the S Model pumper that was Engine 1 in Maxim's hometown of Middleborough, Massachusetts.

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The New England Museum of Firefighting
is a Massachusetts not-for-profit
corporation and is a 501(c)(3) entity.

MISSION STATEMENT

The New England Museum of Firefighting is a nonprofit educational organization that preserves, promotes, researches and shares the significant historical contributions of the people of New England to the American fire service. The Museum aspires to provide the public with engaging and interactive experiences that are relevant, accessible and meaningful to all people, through the preservation of fire apparatus and artifacts that illustrate the rich history of firefighting and the fire service in New England.

www.NEMOFF.org

President's Message

Dear Friends,

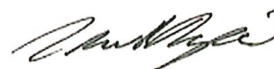
Since we have last updated you on the Museum, we have had a lot of progress and some exciting news. As for the building, we were able to secure a program that allowed us to install all new LED lighting. This is a large step in modernizing and updating the bays for viewing of the apparatus and collection, not to mention the savings in electricity.

The major addition to the Museum was a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Skelton they saved the original records from Maxim from 1914. These records show pictures and data that was thought lost to history. With their dedication to preserving history we are now able to tell the complete Maxim story, filling in the blanks and possibly answering some of the questions that were remaining. Although Mr. and Mrs. Skelton were involved in the fire service, they knew that this information had to be preserved. We could never thank them enough for what they given the Museum to help preserve New England Fire History.

We continue to add apparatus that had served in New England. We will have the largest amount of ladder trucks of any museum in the country. These are not easy to store but great to have. The mini pumper on loan to NEMOFF tells a unique story from the 1970s and a trend that is coming back into today's fire service.

I look forward to what the summer season will have to offer with other exciting news on many fronts. Thank you again for your support as we try to save history; if we do not, who will?

Best Wishes,



Michael Nugai

Mobile Museum at Warwick



The expanded Mobile Museum was presented at the SPAAMFAA National Muster in Warwick, Rhode Island. The Museum featured three exhibits. The first was "New England's Great Fires." This was an expanded version of the exhibit that was presented in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in October 2023.

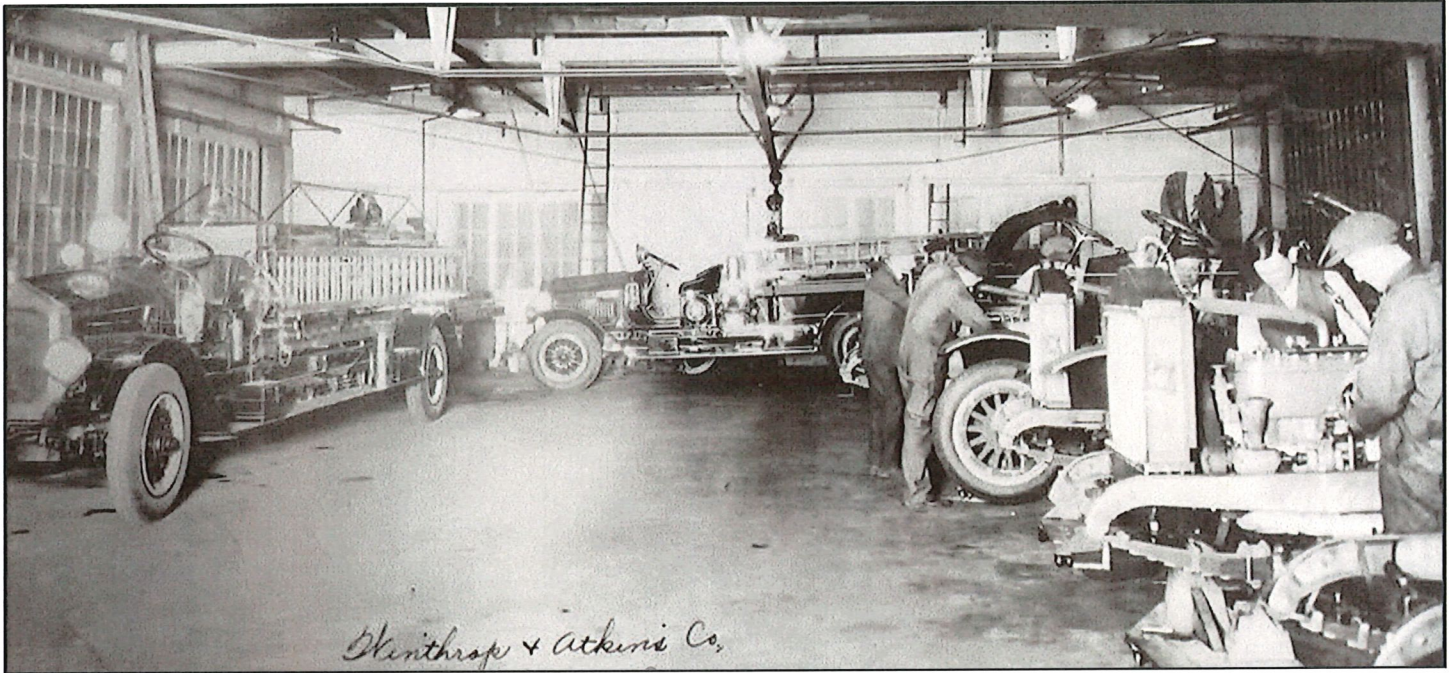
The second exhibit was a much expanded version of "Made in New England." This also had been featured in Stockbridge. "Made in New England" was the theme of the first 2023 issue of the *Fireguard*. The exhibit also tied into the theme of the second 2023 issue of the *Fireguard*, which was "New England Ingenuity."

That issue included a piece about "The Yankee Innovation of Howard G. Freeman." Examples of Freeman's most famous invention, the "Navy" fog nozzle, were included in the artifacts that were exhibited in the Mobile Museum from the Rockwell Sprinkler Company of Worcester, where Freeman worked for 14 years.

The third exhibit in the Mobile Museum was a new exhibit that interpreted "New England's Pioneering Adoption of Motor Fire Apparatus." This explored the period from 1907 through the early 1920s when New England had the greatest concentration of fire apparatus manufacturers as well as the greatest concentration of motor fire apparatus in America.

REDISCOVERING MAXIM

The Museum has received a historic gift of Maxim records that were believed to be lost or destroyed.



This is a picture of inside the Maxim factory in 1923. This photograph and thousands more, as well as boxes of records and drawings, were donated to the Museum recently. They are allowing an unprecedented look into the Maxim Motor Company.

The records of many defunct fire apparatus makers have been lost or destroyed after the closure of the company. In some cases, portions of the records survive. In other instances, all we have is the product of determined research by part-time historians, who tirelessly have pieced together a builder's list and photo archive.

For a very long time it was believed that a significant portion of the records of the Maxim Motor Company had been lost or destroyed. After Maxim went out of business in December 1989, Maxim's records were sold at auction in January 1990. The sale was part of the liquidation of Maxim's assets by Bombardier, Inc., of Montreal, Canada.

Bombardier is a leading manufacturer of jet aircraft. In 1988 Bombardier purchased the Maxim Motor Company as part of the diversification of its holdings. The next year Bombardier closed the Maxim factory. The Maxim records that were not sold at auction were transported to the Bombardier facility in Kingston, Ontario.

In 1992, Bombardier purchased the Urban Transportation Development Corporation, Ltd., (UTDC, Ltd.) which had been owned and operated by the Ontario government. In the Spring of 1993, UTDC employee Steve Skelton of Toronto, Canada, prepared a memorandum regarding what should be done with the Maxim records and the intellectual property that they represented.

In this issue of the *Fireguard*, we are offering a small glimpse into this incredible treasure trove of New England history. The initial size-up of the donated materials is very encouraging. They include thousands of photographs, many of which have never been published, scrap books from 1914 to 1985, delivery lists dating back to 1914, blueprints, hand drawings, engineering sheets, photographic negatives and marketing materials. The materials also include a substantial amount of information related to Maxim's business partnerships with Mack Trucks, the American Magirus Fire Appliance Company and the Walter Motor Truck Company.

More information about and images from this historic donation will be included in future issues of the *Fireguard* as well as on the Museum's website.



The donation includes many photos of groups of Maxim apparatus from various New England fire departments, like this one, which is dated 1927.

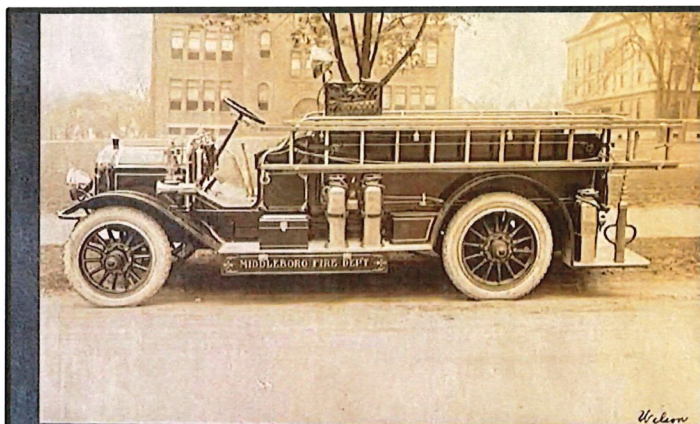
Sales Contract Record 1956

Number	Date Entered & Value	Customer's Order No. and Date	Name and Address	Description	Date Delivered	
56037	6-12-56 32582.00	Order 40600 6-4-56	Town of Watertown, Watertown, Mass.	260 LA 85	12-5-56	A2833
56038	6-12-56 15000.00	Order 52398 5-23-56	Mack Mfg. Corp. for Milwaukee County Ins., Wis.	ML-100	2-7-57	A2834
56039	6-16-56 6184.00	Contract 5-21-56	Copake Fire District Copake, N.Y.	X50	1-3-57	A2836
56040	6-22-56 20995.15		City of Lafayette Lafayette, Ind.	14110	10-24-56	A2839
56041	6-22-56 18989.50	Order 27951 6-6-56	City of Muncie Muncie, Ind.	14110C	12-19-56	A2840
56041	6-22-56 18989.50	Order 27951 6-6-56	City of Muncie Muncie, Ind.	14110C	12-19-56	A2840
56042	6-26-56 9750.00	Contract 6-11-56	Barren Hill Fire Co., Barren Hill, Penna.	X75 Ford	12-10-56	A2842
56043	6-26-56 7421.20	Contract 6-13-56	Town of Hampden Hampden, Me.	X50 Ford	11-8-56	A2843
56044	6-28-56 20224.00	6-26-56 Order AG 7958	Walter Motor Truck Co. for New Orleans, La.	XKW136B	2-6-57	A2847
56045	6-30-56 14993.22	6-26-56 Order 3153	L.P. Harless Co. for Scottsboro, Ala.	1417C	8-30-57	A2188
56046	7-9-56 17102.00	6-25-56 Contract	Town of Fairhaven Fairhaven, Mass.	2617C	12-4-56	A2848
56047	7-16-56 1592.79	Order 62996 6-29-56	Mack Mfg. Corp. Rep. for Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.	75" Bott Sec	8-29-56	A2850

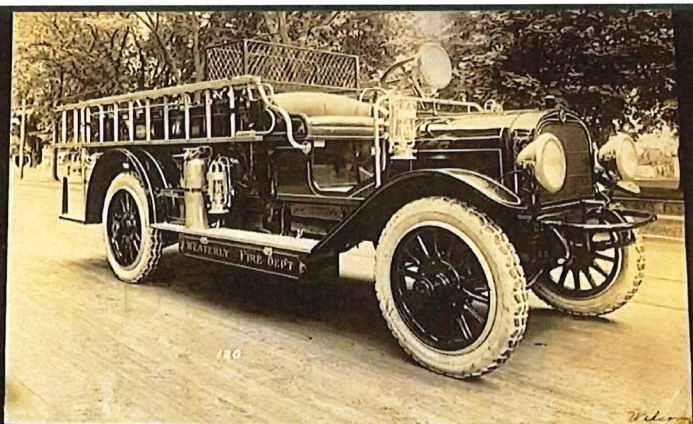


MAXIM MOTOR DIVISION

Among the many Maxim artifacts and documents that were recently donated to the Museum were many original publicity photos. These included this image of the 1972 S Model tractor-drawn aerial ladder truck that served in Greenfield, Massachusetts. After being retired by the Greenfield Fire Department, this truck had several owners, including ones in New Jersey and Virginia. Along the way, the trailer and the 100-foot aerial ladder were removed from the tractor. Eventually, the tractor was donated to the Worcester Fire Museum and Educational Center. It has been loaned to the New England Museum of Firefighting by our friends in Worcester.



Model F Combination Delivered to Middleboro, Mass. May 12, 1914



Hose Car Delivered to Westerly, Rhode Island 1914

These are two photographs from the first page of the earliest scrapbook of Maxim apparatus photos, which recently was donated to the Museum.