

Early EMS in Ephrata

Early 1930's – The American Legion Post 429 purchased a red 1931 Studebaker ambulance to service the Ephrata area. It was housed at the Ephrata Pioneer Fire Hall on Locust Street.

It had a 100lb oxygen cylinder mounted on each running board which was then used to refill the smaller portable cylinders.



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Ephrata was one of the first communities of its size in Pennsylvania to have an ambulance service prior to 1940.

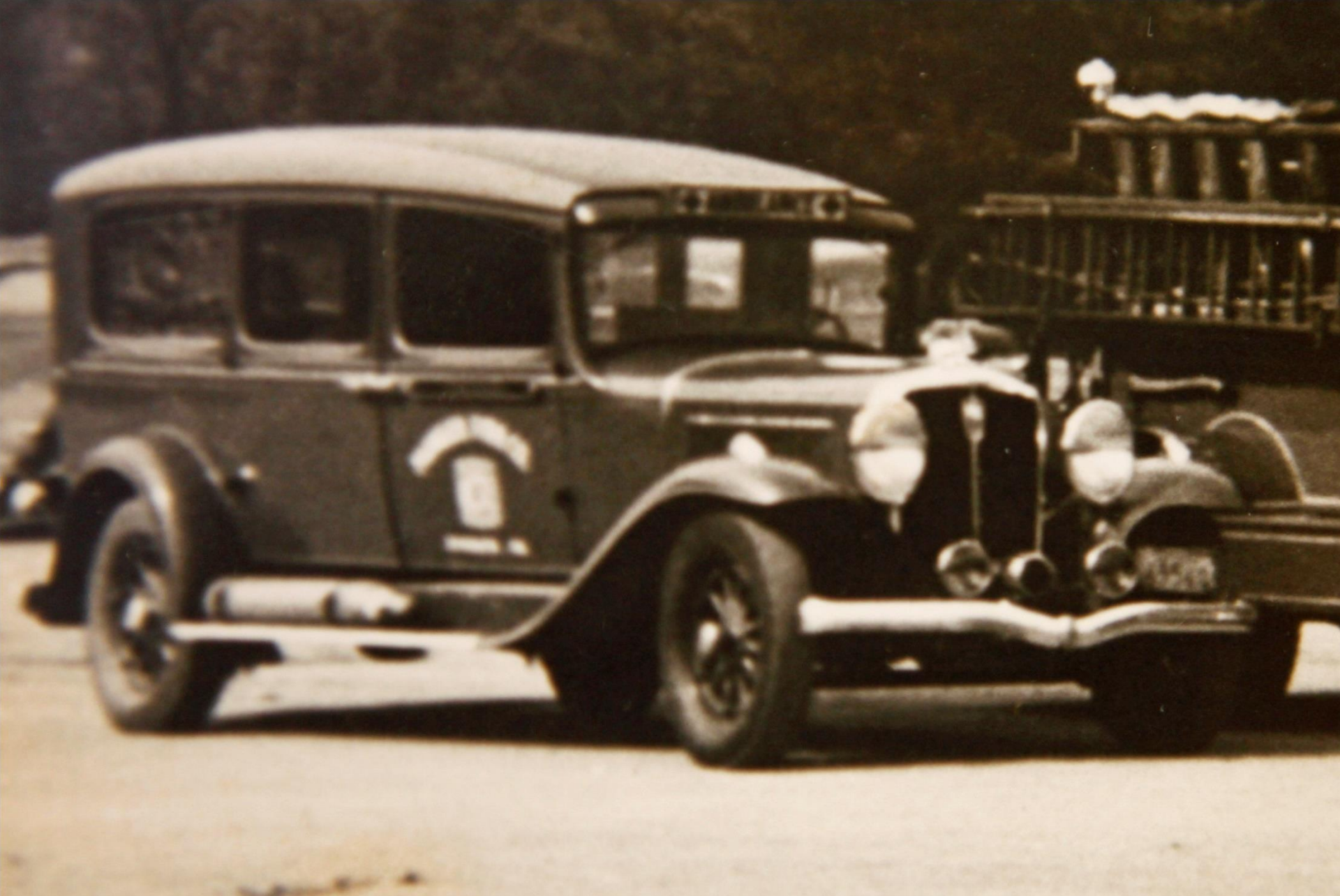


Photo courtesy of Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company

February 1944 – The American Legion purchased a gray Cadillac ambulance to replace the red 1931 Studebaker ambulance. The Studebaker was then donated to the Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company. Both were housed at the Pioneer Fire Hall on Locust Street, and the Studebaker was used for second calls in the area and fire calls.



August 1950 – The Pioneer Fire Company purchased a used white 1942 Buick ambulance for \$2,075 to replace the red 1931 Studebaker ambulance. The Buick ambulance was housed at the Pioneer Fire Hall on Locust Street, and was used for second calls in the area and fire calls.

1950 – Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company chief instituted a multi-vehicle standby plan for the Ephrata Fair Parade. It placed fire and ambulance vehicles at various spots on the perimeter of the Parade route. It is basically the same plan we use today for the annual Fair Parade.

Early 1950's – The American Legion purchased a red and white Cadillac ambulance to replace the gray 1944 Cadillac.

August 13, 1957 – A new \$12,500 1957 Cadillac Ambulance purchased by the Ephrata American Legion was delivered. It will be placed into service after all 15 volunteers are trained on the its operations and new features. It is a two patient ambulance with quad tunnel lights, siren and two heaters with fresh air controls.

1958 – The Pioneer Fire Company purchased a green 1952 Packard ambulance for \$1,950 to replace the white 1942 Buick ambulance. The Packard ambulance was housed at the Pioneer Fire Hall on Locust Street, and was used for second calls in the area and fire calls.

After developing engine problems, the Packard engine was rebuilt by Walter Redcay of Ephrata. Walter worked for Benny Bishop's Chrysler/Plymouth car dealership on North Church Street in Ephrata, which is the current site of Rebecca's Heavenly Goodies.

The 1952 Packard was last seen in a salvage yard in Willow Grove, PA about 1992. An unknown person purchased the ambulance and restored it for display in various parades in the area.

The 1952 Packard was the last ambulance owned by the Pioneer Fire Company and was replaced in 1964 with a International Service truck .