

History

Fire Station 42, Moorpark

Moorpark's fire protection began in 1921, when townspeople purchased a two-wheeled 40-gallon soda-acid cart. I.G. Tanner, owner of Mission Automotive Garage on Moorpark and High Street, maintained the chemical cart, started a volunteer group and was elected Fire Chief.

When the water district was formed, Tanner raised money with dances and donations to purchase 500-feet of 2 1/2" fire hose and a roof siren. He built a trailer using a Model T Ford chassis with hard tires that he towed behind his garage truck to get the hose to the fires. The trailer also carried five-gallon water-pump cans, sacks and shovels to use on grass and brush fires.

In October 1931, the new Ventura County Fire District assigned Moorpark an open-cab Mack fire engine, built by Santa Paula district personnel. Equipped with a 500 gallon-per-minute pump and a 300-gallon water tank, the pumper lived at Tanner's garage making it the Fire District's sixth fire station.



Moorpark's 1931 Mack pumper at I.G. Tanner's garage.

In 1942, Tanner was instrumental in persuading the school district to provide property on Walnut Street to the Fire District for \$1. Tanner and Fire District personnel built the first fire station behind what would become Station 42 on Moorpark Road.



Station 42 on Walnut St. 1942 to 1953

Fire Station 42 was built on Moorpark Road and Walnut Street in May of 1953. Ross Slade, the first paid personnel assigned to Moorpark, worked closely with Chief Tanner and his volunteers. When Slade retired Paul Robb replaced him and became Station Captain and eventually Deputy Fire Chief of the District. Stan Masson followed Robb at Station 42 and later became County Fire Chief.

The pine tree standing in front of the station was planted at its opening. The significance being that the pine tree was the symbol used on the early department badges.



Station 42 on Moorpark Road 1953 to 2004

In 2004 a new, two-story Fire Station 42 was built on High Street in downtown Moorpark.