

Their residence was at the City Fire Station located on the northwest corner of the Court House square until about 1907 and thence on 7th St. about the center of the block east of the Court House square.

These handsome steeds were large, coal black in color with a white "star" on their foreheads. A Mr. Weatherby was caretaker and custodian of the fire station and he made an excellent trainer. At the sound of a gong and trip of the chain across the horse stalls the horses rushed up to their places under the suspended harness. It was only a matter of seconds to snap the horse collars together and snap the driver lines (bridle reins) to the horse bit, and all was ready for the driver's command, "let's go."

The horse cart or fire wagon was painted a brilliant red. It was equipped with fire hose, two small extension ladders, and two chemical fire extinguishers. It was a thrilling sight to see

the fire wagon go by with the horses in full gallop.

There were no successors to these two famous pair of horses. "Peaches and Cream" were replaced by Packards, Cadillacs, etc., and "Samson and Dewey" lost their job to a larger red fire truck (circa 1910) whose successors now have a high pressure water booster pumps, snorkels, self erecting ladders and other sophisticated equipment.

"Samson and Dewey" were kept by the city and used to pull a wagon for collecting ashes since without gas service both stores and residences largely used coal for heating. One day the ash wagon was parked within one half a block of the fire station while the driver was loading ashes. True to tradition when these horses heard the alarm and gong they took off on their own, driverless, and followed the truck to the fire, spilling ashes right and left from the wagon.

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