

Five generations of Fullers

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white FUNERAL flag and walked out into traffic (usually with a cigar hanging from his lips) to make way for the procession. Aaron's father, Robert, was likely driving the hearse.

"C.P. would walk right out in front of a semi," Aaron shakes his head. "People were sure he'd get run over. But you don't stay with a business for 66 years if you're not dedicated."

The Fullers kept the ambulance service until the late 1970s when laws were passed and requirements imposed.

Aaron recalls the story of C.P.'s last "ambulance run." A friend called, begging C.P. to help get his wife to the hospital. She was suffering from kidney stones and was in so much pain she could not sit upright. C.P. reminded him that they no longer ran an ambulance service, but the man kept pleading.

So, C.P. drove to the couple's home, helped the man load his wife onto the cot and into the back of the ambulance/

hearse, then threw the man the keys. "You can drop it off at the funeral home on your way back," C.P. is reported to have said.

His friend protested, but C.P. said, "Look. If I drive, I'm running an illegal ambulance service. If you drive, you're just a guy taking his wife to the hospital."

C.P. drove back to town in his friend's car. They swapped keys later that night.

Aaron also remembers stories from the time before the 9-1-1 emergency number, when the local undertaker's home was the logical place to install the Fire Phone. Whoever manned the Fire Phone would alert the fire department with the location of the emergency.

The story goes that Aaron's grandma, Hazel was hanging laundry while running after her small children when the Fire Phone rang. Amidst the ensuing chaos, she ran into the house to answer it. It was a wrong number.

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Thompson Ross Fuller is pictured driving a "First Call Buggy" in front of the old Funeral Parlor and the current Funeral Home. According to Aaron, this picture probably dates to around 1905 - 1910. The two signs on the building say "Undertakers" and "National Caskets".

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