

AN IRONIC LOOK BACK AT THE WORLD'S

Police Cars

For every law that's been made throughout history, some dang fool, somewhere, has broken it. Here are some of the novel ways law officers have taken to the road to track down the morally challenged.



c1880 Chicago Horse-Drawn Police Wagon

The windy city's finest, patiently waiting for the invention of motorized patrol cars.



1912 Ford Model T Paddy Wagon

Dedicated lawmen rounding up all the citizens they caught having fun on Sunday.

c1962 German Isetta State Police Car

Would love to have seen this little one-cylinder *bubble car* try to catch a Porsche 911 on the Autobahn.



1924 Los Angeles Holding Cell Sidecar

Perhaps the punishment for moving violations was 30 days in a moving jail.



c1960 Scottish Pedal-Powered (!) Police Car

This motorless wonder probably struggled to apprehend a fast-walking jaywalker.



A CLASSIC: 1963 Ford Galaxie 500 Police Interceptor

Hard to sneak up on speeders and other hoodlums when they learned to spot a 'cherry top' light from a mile away.



BY TOM TORTORICI

MORE
v

c1875 Horse-Drawn Hook & Ladder



Trudging uphill with just 3 horsepower, firemen had to get out and run alongside – then were too exhausted to actually fight the fire.

AN IRONIC LOOK BACK AT THE WORLD'S
Fire Trucks

In the early days, a knocked-over kerosene lantern could set an entire neighborhood of wooden buildings ablaze. When the primitive fire rigs finally arrived, they squirted a little water as a token gesture, then waited for the inferno to burn itself out.



1937 Seagrave Safety Sedan Limousine

While some firefighters clung to the backs of swerving trucks, Detroit crews – and their hoses – preferred to arrive in comfort and style.



c1903 Steam-Powered Pumper

Pausing to take a picture before rushing to the orphanage fire.

c1953 Italian Fire Supply Rig

Made to squeeze through narrow, crowded city streets, these tiny 3-wheelers toted gear and water – hopefully to a small fire.



c1960 Japanese All-Terrain Water Tanker

If cars didn't get out of the way, well, it could always just roll over them.

A CLASSIC: 1955 Maxim Reserve Tanker

Some fire departments apparently decided a convertible would be nice for riding to fires on pleasant spring days.



MORE
v

c1885 Canadian Horse-Drawn Ambulance



Why was it painted black like a hearse? Plainly, after a long, slow ride, things could go either way.



1914 City Ambulance

This crew looks like it was sent out for a typhoid epidemic, but is afraid to get out of the ambulance.

AN IRONIC LOOK BACK AT THE WORLD'S
Ambulances

These days, you always pull over to let a speeding ambulance go by. But in times past, you might be sitting at the curb for a while, waiting for some of these old rigs to plod past on their way to the infirmary.



c1928 French Motorcycle Sidecar Ambulance

With no suspension and cobblestone streets, patients arrived sicker than when they left.



c1939 City Ambulance

Who knows whether it was fast or reliable, because in the art deco era, of course, it was all about elegant design.



1917 WWI Army Bicycle Ambulance

Hope the wounded soldier isn't in too much of a hurry, and the field hospital isn't on a hill.

A CLASSIC: 1964 Cadillac S&S Ambulance

The only icon of mid-century vehicle design that no one necessarily wanted to ride in.

