

# Ten New Fire Trucks Make Way To County

By J. Greg Carroll

"It's an exciting day in rural fire protection in Abbeville County," the words were spoken by Abbeville County Fire Commission Chairman Barney Gambrell following the arrival of 10 new fire trucks for the county's rural fire departments.

The trucks, all white with blue lights flashing, arrived in town Saturday following a 700-mile trip from Newquashing, Pa., where they were manufactured by Car-Mar according to the 18 departments' specifications. Twenty-one of the county's volunteer firemen, two from each station, left last Thursday morning to pick up the new trucks. They were accompanied by County Fire Marshall Ben Godfrey.

When they arrived at the flag's parking lot, the large crowd that had gathered to await their arrival broke

out in applause.

The trucks were purchased for the rural fire departments by the Abbeville County Rural Fire Commission through a 10-year lease-purchase. The commission operates on a tight tax mill budget, which brings in approximately \$125,000 yearly.

Gambrell said the trucks cost between \$28,000 and \$38,000 each and required approximately \$20,000 down. Payments run \$60,000 per year for the next 10 years, approximately half of the commission's budget.

According to Fire Marshall Godfrey, approximately \$20,000 was saved by the commission by having all the trucks painted white, leaving off one-inch booster base coats, and by picking them up instead of having them delivered.

All 1965 and 1966 Chevrolet C-70 diesels, the trucks will pump 1,000

gallons per minute. They are expected to increase the departments' ratings and lower insurance rates to homeowners in the county.

Gambrell said all that was needed to make the trucks fully operational was the addition of hoses, which most of the stations already had. He also stated that several of the departments needed truck bodies and that the purchase was the only way they could have gotten them anytime soon.

According to Gambrell, the 10-member fire commission believed the purchase of the trucks was one of the best ways it could use the tax money allocated to it.

The new trucks, with additional training of volunteers, should help most of the districts obtain a better class ISO rating of seven, which would lower insurance rates by 15 to 35 percent.



**TEN NEW WHITE TRUCKS** arrived in Abbeville this past Monday after a 700-mile trip from Newquashing, Pa., where they were manufactured. After their arrival at the flag's parking lot, a large crowd of people gathered to see the new trucks. At right, Chairman Gambrell makes opening remarks and welcomes the trucks to the county.