

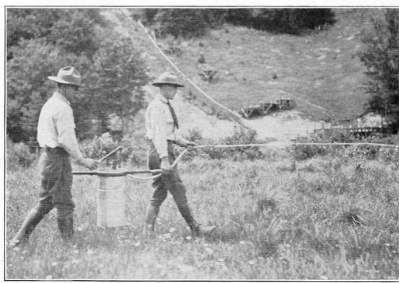
The Birth of the Indian Pump

by PT Hartmann – 01-29-23

From the late 1800's D. B. Smith & Co. of Utica, NY were and still are major producers of agricultural spray application equipment now operating under the name Smith Romano.

But back in the 1920's it was simply known as D. B. Smith, with headquarters at 411A Main St., Utica NY.

The NYS Forest Rangers in those days were constantly searching for new and better equipment with which to combat forest fires. A variety of gasoline powered portable pumps were tested and some adopted. Several smaller, hand operated pumps were likewise tested, and some adopted for use in New York State.



Two Rangers and a double Forester pump can do effective work in stopping a forest fire

The first documented such pump was the Double Forester, a cumbersome devise that incorporated a ten-gallon tank with a hand operated pump that required two people to transport and operate. The unit showed some success in open areas but proved less desirable in a wooded setting.

A real need was felt for a pump which could be conveniently carried and operated by one person. A new type, manufactured in France, called the Vermorel Spray Pump was obtained in early 1923 and supplied to the district rangers for testing. This pump seemed satisfactory, and one unit was provided to each forest ranger.

In 1925, still not totally satisfied with the Vermorel Pump, District Ranger Ernest Blue, who was Headquartered in Cold Brook NY, just a few miles north of Utica, sought out help from the D. B. Smith company, who'd proven their worth and expertise in the design, development, and distribution of agricultural spray application equipment.

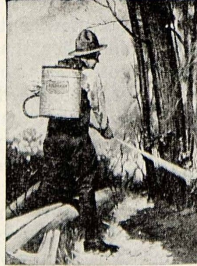


The result of this collaboration between District Forest Ranger Blue and D. B. Smith simply resulted in modifications to the nozzle that allow for a high-pressure spray for close up work and a straight stream that allowed fighting a fire from a short distance. By 1930 the Conservation Department had purchased 2000 Smith Indian Fire Pumps.

The oil painting below was the property of D. B. Smith and was incorporated into their advertisements for at least twenty-five years. The painting was a part of the Forest Ranger Centennial Exhibit in 1985 at 50 Wolf Road Albany.

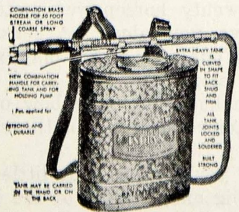


The Smith
INDIAN
Fire Pump



is the most effective fire fighting equipment for camp, ranch, hotel, cabin, etc. Uses only clear water, 5 or 7 gal. tank straps on back like a pack basket. Brass pump throws with ease, powerful 50 ft. stream. Built strong. Choice of forest rangers. Greatest protection at lowest cost. Prompt

shipments made anywhere.



CHARACTERISTIC MARKS
 INDICATE THE POSITION
 OF THE PUMP ON THE
 TANK OR BACK

NEW CHARACTERISTIC
 MARKS FOR THE
 BACK AND FOR
 THE PUMP

FOR THE PUMP
 AND
 BACK

THE PUMP IS
 ON THE BACK
 OF THE PUMP

Patented

Illustrated folder, price list and copies of testimonials sent on request.

D. B. Smith & Co. 411A Main St. Utica, N. Y.

**Pacific Coast Agts. Fire Protection Eng. Co.,
 369 Pine St., San Francisco, Cal.**

While unsubstantiated, a supervisor at D. B. Smith, now Smith-Romano suggested that at the point in time, 1930, and the great similarity between the uniform in the painting and the New York State Forest Ranger uniform back then, the person in the painting could possibly be District Ranger Ernest Blue.