

Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Given One Day for < Updated - Fuel Truck ... > Chapel Hill Fire Stat... Using Profane and Disrespectful Language to a Superior Officer

Given One Day for Using Profane and Disrespectful Language to a Superior Officer

01/25/15 277 W, 1 I - + 6 - 2

Here's the latest addition to my [Raleigh Fire Department history site](#), transcribed personnel records from 1913 to 1941. They originated as a pair of ledger books that long-resided at Station 1. The recorded information including start and stop dates, background and biographic information, and disciplinary actions. The handwritten entries looked something like this:

*Entered the Dept. as Hoseman Engine Co. #1. On probation.
May 2^d. 1924. His services to the Dept. has been satisfactory up to
present date.*

Is given three days for sleeping while on watch May 20th. 1927.

*Remained hoseman until June 3^d. 1927. same date being promoted
to Lieutenant.*

For the historian, the names and dates are invaluable. For the lay reader, the discipline records are enormously entertaining. Firemen were punished for actions both on- and off-duty. Cursing, fighting, or falling asleep while on "night watch" could cost you a day's pay. Or three days pay. Or outright discharge. Recorded problems of those off-duty including public drunkenness, inappropriate personal relationships, and becoming a "rum runner." Er, that is, being caught while acting as a "rum runner."¹

Yours Truly transcribed both books in late 2004. (Merely took a decade to share this. Sorry.) Syntax and spelling has been preserved. They've been posted as a PDF document that's formatted as electronic book. Includes an index of names, to help locate specific entries.

[Read the personnel log](#) (PDF).

¹Work schedule you ask? Split shifts, beginning 1914. Day duty was 14 hours, night duty was 10 hours. Plus one day off each week. Firefighters worked every day. Second platoon created in 1924, still split shifts. Firefighters now working every other day. (Twenty four-hour shifts didn't start until 1946.) It's possible that some firemen even lived at the station. City directories into the 1930s list the station address as their residential address. Don't have confirmation of this from other sources, however.

Hey Mike,

I once worked with now retired Captain J.C. Munns and he described to me once that during his early years at RFD, he was assigned to St 3 and lived at the station back when they only had two shifts. As you noted, he even received his regular mail at the station, which I think was common practice. He noted on his off day, he would hop on the engine if a house fire came in.

AP - 01/25/15 - 16:05

Excellent input! That's a couple decades later than I expected. Let me query the retirees and see what other recollections might be mined.

Legeros - 01/25/15 - 16:43

Name: (real name
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes