



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

VOL. 10 NO. 8

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

AUGUST, 1973

Damage In Oxford Fire Could Reach \$1 Million



BUSINESSES GUTTED BY BLAZE -- A raging fire destroyed several businesses along Oxford's College Street during pre-dawn hours recently. The photo shows the warehouse that was converted to house several businesses. The building was gutted by the fire which raged out of control for several hours. Damages could reach \$1 million according to estimates by fire officials. (Henderson Dispatch Photo)

Oxford -- "An early morning fire, which raged out of control for several hours in the downtown section of Oxford recently, destroyed five businesses and heavily damaged several others. The blaze left an estimated \$1 million damage in its smoldering wake.

Firemen from both the Henderson and Vance County departments were among area fire fighters who responded to the pre-dawn fire after it was discovered by an Oxford policeman who was investigating a

reported break-in in the area around 4:30 a.m.

Henderson - Vance County Fire Chief Ranger Wilkerson said damages, including that caused by smoke and water, would most likely reach \$1 million.

Approximately nine fire trucks and more than 100 firemen were on the scene. The local units arrived in Oxford around 5 o'clock and left shortly after the fire was brought under control around 8 a.m. Firemen from Oxford were also aided by units from Granville county, Stovall

and other surrounding areas.

A policeman reportedly investigating a breaking and entering of a drug store discovered the blaze which is believed to have been started in the T. J. Restaurant on College Street. The restaurant, along with several other business establishments were located in the converted Johnson warehouse building that was gutted by the raging fire.

Businesses destroyed by the blaze included the restaurant, a flower shop, a barber shop, a beauty shop and a gas company

office, a printing shop, a car dealership and a hardware store on Hillsboro Street were also damaged by the blaze as it spread to the rear portions of the nearby buildings.

Great to Have Friends, Particularly in Time of Extreme Danger

OXFORD -- There comes in the life of every individual, community, government or business a time of emergency, a time of need.

Such a time came for Oxford, particularly the Oxford Fire Department and business people whose goods and properties were in jeopardy, recently.

Oxford firemen, as an organization, and as individuals, were aware of the existing hazard presented by a large tobacco warehouse, much of the building

Firemen were hampered in their efforts to fight the blaze by falling debris. It was reported that three local firemen were fighting the flames inside the burning warehouse when burning sections of the roof caved in on them. They were uninjured. An official said no injuries were sustained in the fire.

Oxford Mayor Hugh Currin, in statements made at the scene of the fire, said that the warehouse was one of three buildings in the downtown area that have been regarded for sometime as fire hazards." The warehouse, he said, was the nearest of the three buildings to the main business district. It was reported later that SBI agents had been called in to assist Oxford officials in their probe to determine the cause of the fire.

Fire Chief Wilkerson said several other businesses on College and Hillsboro Streets apparently suffered some smoke and water damage.

A city official reported the warehouse was listed on the tax books at less than \$100,000, but the business located around the blaze, including those that were destroyed, would represent a loss of approximately \$1 million.

"The blaze just started getting larger and larger," said one spectator, who said he was at the scene when firemen arrived. Others reported that flames.

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Gas Fumes Believed Cause Of Explosion

SMITHFIELD -- The State Bureau of Investigation believes no foul play was involved in the explosion and fire that destroyed the office and storage warehouse of Gardner - Creech Oil Company recently.

Bob Adams, an arson expert from Southern Pines, and SBI agents Joe Hines and Lee Thomas were called to the scene soon after the buildings exploded and burst in flames at 1:24. The three reported to local authorities that the explosion was probably caused by an accumulation of gas fumes in the office.

The oil firm, located on Highway 301 north in Smithfield, is owned by State Representative Jack Gardner and A.L. Creech, both of Smithfield. No official estimate of damage has been made, but "we believe it will be

around \$100,000," Mr. Gardner said.

"We have some insurance, but I don't think it will cover even half the damage," he added.

The only eyewitness to the explosion, which literally shook the surrounding neighborhood, was Sergeant R.W. Lee of the Smithfield Police Department. Sergeant Lee, who is working the midnight - to - eight shift this week, was patrolling the north side of town.

"I was checking the gate of Gardner - Creech to be sure it was locked," he recalled. "The explosion appeared to originate where the office joins the warehouse. The force of the explosion caused the north, south, and west walls of the office to blow outwards, and this in turn caused the roof to cave in. The

fire began a few seconds later."

Sergeant Lee continued: "I saw no signs of smoke or flames before the explosion. This led me to believe foul play may have been involved."

The police sergeant leaped to his car radio and called the dispatcher at the police station. The dispatcher alerted the Smithfield Fire Department.

Twenty - four members of the Smithfield Fire Department had the blaze under control in around 90 minutes. "But we stayed on the scene until 5:30 or 6 o'clock," Fire Chief H.C. Talton said. "Flames kept popping back up in various spots."

"Those storage tanks were our primary concern," Chief Talton said. "If the fire had reached the tanks . . . well, it's impossible to

See EXPLOSION, Page 3

in an inaccessible area, in the event of fire and the need for men and equipment in close proximity to the structure. They had, by the very nature of the situation, discussed the danger and how it might be dealt with in the event of fire.

They never found a solution and they did not have one when the actual emergency developed. When it appeared that the demands of the spreading fire far

See FRIENDS, Page 3

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and Carolina Rural Fireman
"An Independent Voice for Tarheel Firefighters"
Published Monthly
EMILY H. KING, Editor

send All Editorial and Advertising Copy to:
P. O. Box 643
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA 28560

Editorial

In our smaller towns and communities, we do not at present have any "High-Rise" buildings, although with the rapid growth of our larger cities, as well as smaller ones, there are many already in the large ones, and more will be built very rapidly. You might be called to assist at any time to a neighboring town to assist in one or at least a very large building which might be similar, and you will need to know all that is available to you, in helping to combat such fires. The methods used in such large fires will undoubtedly be vastly different from the types of fires you are accustomed to.



EMILY H. KING

The NFPA has a recent publication entitled "High-Rise Building Fires and Safety", (NFPA catalogue No. SSP-18,) at 3.50 per copy. You may write for one or more to: NFPA Publications Service Dept., 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Ma. 02110. There are discounts allowed for 25 copies or more, if there are enough of you, and possibly members of a neighboring unit, who wish to have copies for themselves. This booklet consists of 27 articles reprinted from their different periodic journals, with 164 pages, and is well-illustrated with diagrams and photographs, as well as detailed case histories, engineering data and other practical information.

I have also just received notification of a spectacular on-the-scene film on a High-Rise building fire in San Paulo, Brazil, of Feb. 24, 1972, which is also now available from the NFPA. In this fire, 16 persons lost their lives and 375 were injured. This is a sensational 7-minute film, giving a rare study of exterior flame spread, as the fire developed in the 31-story, reinforced concrete Department store and office building. Vividly pictured are firefighting and helicopter rescue operations and some of the problems involved in rescuing the 500 occupants trapped inside and on top of the skyscraper.

The cost of this film is \$110 per print and I realize it is most likely to be out of reach financially for some of our smaller and Volunteer Departments, however, in communities with enough departments to "chip in," it would cut the cost, possibly low enough for all of you to share it, and might be kept in a central location, with a schedule arranged for each to see it. You might also show or rent it to other departments who do not have it, for a nominal fee, to help defray the original expense. You might also invite the residents in your community to a showing, for whatever donation they might care to make. I have found that donations are easier to come by, if some small thing is given in return, besides the fact that you are the protectors of their property, which they are not too well appreciative of, sometimes! Besides being educational for your department, this is another way to help make your general public more fire conscious. The old, old proverb or saying: "One picture is worth a thousand words" is so very true in most cases.

This film contains training material and educational features invaluable for fire department personnel, fire marshalls, architects, engineers and others. It is in black and white, with full sound, a 16mm production. Preview preprints for prepurchase evaluation are also available. Write to the same address given for the High-Rise Building Fire Booklet and ask for FL-26, for the film or preview prints if desired.

You might also interest your local TV station to use it on some of their Public Service time, if you do not wish to show it to your neighborhood residents, or perhaps you could do this afterwards, as you would reach more people who had not seen it locally in your community building or whatever you might use. These are just ideas I have come up with, and I hope you can work out something to procure both the book and the film utilizing some of these suggestions. I feel it would be well worth the extra time and trouble it might cause you. I have found that most firefighters are good at sharing their trouble and time in the protection of their fellow-man, and with a little extra effort I believe you can work out something with this, if you care to.

Emily H. King

Emily H. King

KEEP NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN AND GREEN

Simulated Disaster Carried Out Successfully

CHAPEL HILL -- "Code 1300. Code 1300. Disaster at New Hope Volunteer Fire Department. All available emergency vehicles and medical personnel requested. This is a drill. Repeat, this is a drill."

At 9:15 a.m. the alarm was sounded. The disaster drill, planned by the local Civil Preparedness Unit to test the efficiency and readiness of rescue and medical families, was under way.

The "disaster" was the collapse of a grandstand at a horse show being held by the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department, located near Turkey Farm and Piney Mountain Roads about seven miles north of Chapel Hill off N.C. 86.

I was one of about 60 victims -- "seriously wounded."

For the victims, the disaster began at 8 a.m. when we reported to the Morehead Planetarium Parking lot to be transported by bus to the disaster site.

At the site, Henry Meares, head of the Civil Preparedness Unit, and one of the disaster coordinators distributed "injury tags" -- a large index card with a string attached to hang around each victim's neck.

I received my card. It read: "Young adult with both legs trapped under a beam. Complaining of leg pains. Pale, cold, clammy. Weak rapid pulse. Breathing normal, deep. Extremities: abrasions, bruises, and Marked swelling of both lower legs. There is a gross bone deformity of the upper portion of the lower leg and knees with exposed bone fragments. There is a deep laceration of the left popliteal artery with profuse bleeding. Pulse absent at left ankle and common peroneal nerve severed. Inquiring about children, victims No. 25, 55, 9, 13."

It sounded fittingly serious, but not fatal--the fatalities would be the last to be taken in.

I found a comfortable looking ditch, and proceeded to wait. The

sun came out and it was going to be a scorcher. Several photographers showed up and a television camera crew, and a few victims trickled in late.

About 9:10, Henry Meares announced he was short about 30 victims, but he would sound the alarm anyway. The victims--mostly teenagers, some young children and a handful of adults--were getting restless. But the atmosphere was jovial.

The South Orange Rescue Squad, with red lights flashing, was the first to arrive on the scene. All the doors flew open at once and medics in white coats jumped out.

I let out a half-hearted moan, but everyone rushed by my ditch to the other victims lying about the wooded area. I waited until someone in white came within hearing distance and let out another moan--still futile.

Two medics were working on the "victim" lying about 50 feet from me. He was unconscious, had chest injuries and a concussion, I overheard, but "we've got some worse off than he is."

A rescue squad worker finally came over, and asked what was wrong. "My legs hurt--they're trapped--and I'm bleeding. I can't find my children. Please find my children." Then I laughed and he laughed. He read my injury tag with a professional, "Oh, yes. You've hurt pretty bad." I nodded and he walked away.

The Orange County and New Hope Rescue Squads came. I waited. The medics were hustling around, strapping victims onto stretchers, administering first aid, and sorting out the victims. I continued to wait in my ditch.

Finally a lady medic came up and read my tag, and announced that I was "seriously injured and bleeding badly." Then I got some respect.

She applied a pressure bandage and a splint to my left leg, and started an "I.V." -- a strip of

adhesive on the inside of my right elbow with "I.V." written on it. The medics trapped me onto a stretcher and carted me to the victim holding area to wait for an ambulance.

Several other victims--mostly with minor injuries--were waiting. "Hey, help me, I've got a broken shoulder," one victim said. "And, how about me, I'm having a miscarriage," another said. "Well, I'm having a heart attack--a real one if I don't get out of this heat." The rescue squad workers continued to move efficiently about the victims, assuring that all would be taken care of.

Another stretcher was placed beside mine, and the victim had a leg sprint and was buckled down like I was--we looked like tweedle dee and tweedle dum--only a pesty black ant was beginning a slow crawl up my splinted left leg and I couldn't reach it.

The Rescue Squad Ambulances returned for second hauls and I was carted on my stretcher--with a few "umphs" and heavy sighs by the crew--to the farthest ambulance, a South Orange ambulance, and put inside. The air conditioning felt good. The girl who had been on the stretcher beside me was loaded in too, and we were off with red light flashing. The siren wasn't used, to prevent undue excitement to the surrounding neighborhoods. The trip to Memorial Hospital took about 10 minutes.

I was bleeding badly, still had no pulse in my left ankle, and was cold and clammy, the medic said. She pretended to give me oxygen. The ambulance driver radioed ahead that we were coming.

We arrived at the hospital with a full team of physicians, nurses and technicians waiting. I was lifted out and put on a roller stretcher. A doctor with a chart asked anxiously, "What's your name? When were you born? Where are your children?"

"My name's Mary Burch, I was
See DISASTER, Page 4

Blaze Damages Local Plant

GREENSBORO -- Almost half of a large fertilizer production plant here was destroyed by fire recently.

Firemen were called to the USS Agri-Chemical plant on Broome Road shortly after 3:30 a.m. The main body of the plant was engulfed in flames with a southeasterly wind forcing the blaze toward two 25,000 gallon tanks of sulfuric acid.

No estimate of damage was available.

Two tanker cars were on a railroad track within feet of the blaze and the cars were filled with another chemical used in production of super phosphates.

Firemen arriving at the scene sounded a second alarm and within 30 minutes six truck companies and two ladder companies were fighting the blaze.

Several firemen were busy dousing the chemical tanks with water to keep them from overheating and rupturing. Others were amidst the blaze, many wearing breathing apparatus.

The gas masks became necessary when the heat began melting plastic piping carrying

chemicals, mainly ammonia, to numerous points through the plant.

Firemen formed a fire wall of water at a point on the large main building where the fire was controllable and saved that section of the building.

Smaller buildings on the plant grounds also were soaked down throughout the night to keep the flames from spreading.

Debris was shooting into the air from the burning section of the plant which blazed out of control.

A nearby building with artificial siding showed the intense heat in the area. All of the siding melted away from one side of the building.

Southern Railway was notified and moved the chemical tankers away from the fire which was presenting more than its share of problems for the firemen.

According to Assistant Fire Chief J. P. Barbee, it was difficult to place fire trucks and equipment because of the numerous chemical storage tanks and piping around the area.

On several occasions firemen were forced to retreat from falling and exploding debris being

catapulted from the burning building.

Fire investigators were dispatched to the scene and a preliminary look at the area turned no clues.

"I couldn't even tell you where the fire started let alone what caused it," Chief Barbee said. "The inspectors from the Fire Prevention Bureau will probably remain here most of the day looking for clues."

Production will be temporarily stopped at the plant because much of the plant used for production perished in the fire.

Because there will be no production the people employed will be temporarily unemployed until the plant can be rebuilt enough to house production.

Company officials in Greensboro refused to elaborate on plans for the future but would only say "I guess we can't produce without the plant."

Officials wouldn't say how many employees would be left out of work temporarily nor were they able to give monetary estimates of the fire damages. (Greensboro Record by Mike Forte)

--EXPLOSION--

Continued from page 1

envision what would have happened. It would have been a holocaust."

Sitting on the Gardner - Creech lot are eight storage tanks, six with 20,000 gallons of gasoline and two with 6,000 gallons of gasoline.

The fire chief believes Sergeant Lee's presence was a happy stroke of fate. "I'm sure Norwood Worley or somebody out there would have telephoned in," Chief Talton said. "But by being right there, Sergeant Lee saved three, four, or maybe five minutes. I can't say for sure, but the flames might have reached those tanks in that extra time."

Somebody did call in. "I could not, for the life of me, remember the Fire Department's number," said Mrs. Wilson E. Blackman who, with her husband and children, shares the home closest to the oil company. "So I called the operator and told her. Of course I didn't know the policeman was out there."

"I was awake at the time," Mrs. Blackman said. "At first I thought something had blown up in my basement, the water heater or something. Then I looked out the

window and saw the bright glow. My next thought was the storage tanks. We evacuated without any advice from the authorities."

Actually no official evacuation was made, but the three families living closest to the oil firm were well clear of the scene within minutes.

"The explosion jarred our house," recalled Norwood Worley, who lives across the highway. "I looked out in the back yard. It was a red glow, as red as you can imagine. Then I thought of the storage tanks. I put my wife and two children in the car and told them to go to the store and stay."

Mr. Worley is part owner of Worley Brothers TV and Appliances Sales of Smithfield.

The Rex Langstons live behind the oil firm. "I didn't hear a thing, went right on sleeping," Mrs. Langston said. "But it woke Rex up. He had the children and me out of there in no time flat. His first thought was the storage tanks."

Other than the oil firm, the only damages reported were some Town of Smithfield electrical wires and some cracked paint on a nearby engineering office. Eight linemen were called to the scene to repair the wires.

Around daybreak Mr. Gardner treated all the firemen and linemen to a free breakfast at the In and Out, a restaurant he owns near the oil company on 301.

"I had plenty of reason to be grateful," Mr. Gardner said. "Those fellows had the fire under control by the time I got there. I told them they must really sleep with their clothes on."

Gardner - Creech Oil Company was back in business. "We rented a trailer and moved it in for an office," Mr. Gardner said. "And our telephone has been connected again."

He can't begin to guess when the rebuilding of the office and warehouse will get underway. "We've got a lot of cleaning up to do first," Mr. Gardner said. --Smithfield Herald by Jim Laughter



The Smithfield Fire Department worked from 1:30 until daylight recently containing the fire that began with an explosion at Gardner - Creech Oil Company. Pictured at left are two of the eight gasoline storage tanks on the Gardner - Creech lot. The firemen were able to stop the flames before they reached the tanks. (Smithfield Herald Photo)

--FRIENDS--

Continued from page 1

exceeded the available equipment and manpower of the Oxford Fire Department, calls went out for help. The promptness with which these friends from Henderson, Vance County, Creedmoor, Butner, Stem, Providence, Berea, Granville Rural, Corinth, Stovall and Bullock made their men and equipment available reflects the willingness of these units to go an extra mile and to spring into action and to go beyond a reasonable call of duty to help a neighbor in need.

**Wildfire
in the south.
There's no
future in it.**



Help Prevent Forest Fires in the South

It's obvious that a major city could not have brought together a more formidable fire-fighting force than was at work here that morning in a determined stand to prevent further spread of the blaze that appeared to have originated in the Warehouse building.

Oxford was in need, desperate need, that morning. The loss of property as a result of the fire is large, but had not these fire-fighting neighbors and friends appeared, and promptly and without question, the loss would have been many times greater.

The City came through the near-disaster in commendable fashion. The City of Oxford and its firemen should remember the experience and never delay action

by questioning whether a property is on this side or the other side of the municipal line.

--MILLION \$ FIRE--

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soaring into the early morning sky, could be seen for miles in any direction from the city.

The business section of Oxford was blocked off by fire and patrol vehicles. Businesses not affected by the fire were opening their doors around 9 a.m. as usual, but downtown shoppers crowded with other spectators along the smoke-filled streets near the scene of what was once a busy section of the city.

Henderson Dispatch
By Bob Hardison

Local Firemen

Get Instruction

ROCKY MOUNT -- Rocky Mount firemen received class instruction from the North Carolina Department of Insurance to qualify all personnel as to the procedures of running an annual service test.

Yearly test must be certified on all Rocky Mount Fire Department pumps to maintain the Class 4 classification now held by the department.

The test, designed to develop maximum loads both on engine and pump is necessary to discover defects in equipment prior to a true emergency situation.

Classes were conducted by Phil Riley of the Department of Insurance following standard testing procedures recommended by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

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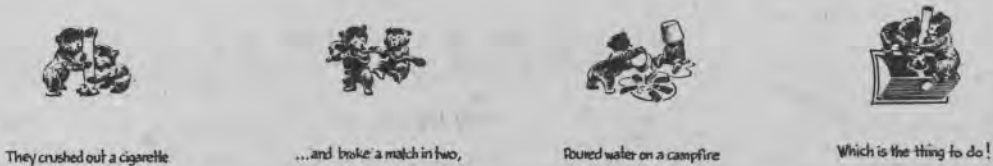
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GASTONIA -- Mrs. Roney McPerson knows what she likes. The item which she was most concerend about when the fire broke out in her Laurel Lane home Sunday afternoon was her wedding picture. An unidentified person is shown here handing the picture to her. Fire Department officials report that the 4 p.m. fire did considerable damage to three rooms and contents in the home. (Gastonia Gazette Photo)

Smokey Says: THE STORY OF TWO LITTLE BEARS



They crushed out a cigarette ...and broke a match in two, Poured water on a campfire Which is the thing to do!



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---DISASTER---

Continued from page 2

born in April, and I don't know where my children are, I didn't have time to meet them this morning," I replied. A nurse beside him assured me that "my children" would be located and not to worry about them.

I was wheeled at a good 90 miles an hour into the emergency room with an orderly holding his hand over my head for the "I.V." and into a blue clothed booth where three doctors and two nurses began to examine my leg and read my tag. I was introduced to the chaplain who assured me he would find "my children."

Dr. McEvoy, who said he had been an intern for only three weeks, was in charge of my case.

***2.7 Million In
Damages Prevented
By City Firemen**

EDEN -- An estimated \$2,670,400 in property value was saved in June by the Eden fire department according to the fire chief's monthly report presented to city council.

Six separate fires were reported for the monthly period involved, which included all of June. They were broken down to list two business, two industrial, one automobile and one brush fire.

More than \$2.71 million in property was involved but only \$39,600 was actually lost, bringing the total for the year to \$87,650 in property lost through fires and related incidents.

According to the fire chief's report, the most cases handled this year have involved dwellings. Some 24 fires of such type have been recorded. Also listed among the 54 fires for the first six months were 14 fires involving vehicles.

The local fire department has been involved in much training this year, as indicated by the reported 1,000 manhours devoted to training.

This is little more than the 982 man-hours reported for fire-fighting.

Also noted on the June report were two fire prevention programs that have been presented this year and 12 inspections which have thus far been made.

He checked my blood pressure, ordered a cross-match blood type and six units of blood, examined my leg, and sent messages to X-Ray and "O.R." (the operating room) that I would be on my way. For O.R., he ordered an orthopedic and a cardiar trauma team. I might lose my left leg, he said.

I was wheeled into X-Ray where the technicians read my injuries and questioned me about a disaster, while a medical illustrator drew a simulated X-Ray of my leg injury to be sent to O.R.

The chaplain showed up again and assured me he was still looking for "my children" and not to worry, I was wheeled into O.R. where a new team examined my leg, read my tag and paged the surgical teams. They were concerned about the popliteal artery laceration.

"We have to stop the bleeding first," Dr. McEvoy said, presenting me a surgical permission form. "We must operate immediately. Your are in little danger of losing your life, but you may lose your leg. Your tibia—one of your bones—in your left leg is fragmented in three parts. We may have to amputate your leg during surgery. You probably will not be able to walk normally again."

Surgical permission with its solemn message was a decision I was glad I didn't have to make. I was wheeled into the recovery room, presumably having undergone surgery, "with a leg cast" I was told. I like to think the leg was saved. There I was unbandaged and told I could go home. My part of the drill was over.

It had been a long four hours. Amusing at first, exciting during the ambulance ride, and frightening—even to the make believe—of serious, permanent injury. It felt good to walk away.

The drill ran smoothly throughout. Mrs. Pat Jones, public information officer at Memorial reported some trouble with "pesty news photographers" who were instructed to be a nuisance.

It is difficult—if not impossible—to simulate what a real disaster would be like. But the Civil Preparedness Unit, through planning with Memorial, Watts, Duke and Veterans Hospitals, local resuce squad units, medical personnel and the police and sheriff's departments, performed a commendable job. (Chapel Hill Weekly by Mary Burch)

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An Unusual Day For Kinston Fire Department



Crop duster Gary Malpass was in.

Kinston -- The seventeenth day of March, 1973, was a very unusual day for members of the Kinston Fire Department. At 9:37 a.m. word was received at headquarters station that a plane was down in the northern part of Lenoir County near the Greene County line in the vicinity of Wootens Cross Roads, just off Highway 58, on the Willie Suggs farm, in a soybean field. Units that responded was North Lenoir, Kinston, and Greene County Rescue Squad. Upon arrival the plane was discovered to be a small single - engine crop duster operated by Gary Malpass for Craft Flying Service out of Farmville, North Carolina. Evidence proved that the plane had clipped the top out of a sycamore tree approximately 100 feet from the crash site. The pilot, Gary Malpass, was taken from the plane and transported to Lenoir Memorial Hospital by the Greene County Rescue Squad from Snow Hill. The victim was later transferred to the hospital at Greenville, where he later died. There wasn't any fire but units from Kinston and North Lenoir Volunteer Fire Department stood by for sometime due to gasoline spillage.

Knowledge of another plane

down came over a scanner that both Assistant Chiefs have on their cars. The state patrol were trying to locate this plane. This was approximately 4:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. it was over television that a plane was down. The Kinston Fire Department was notified at 6:30 p.m. by phone that a two - engine plane was down in the southwest part of the county near Wootens Crossroads near Rural Paved Road 1154.

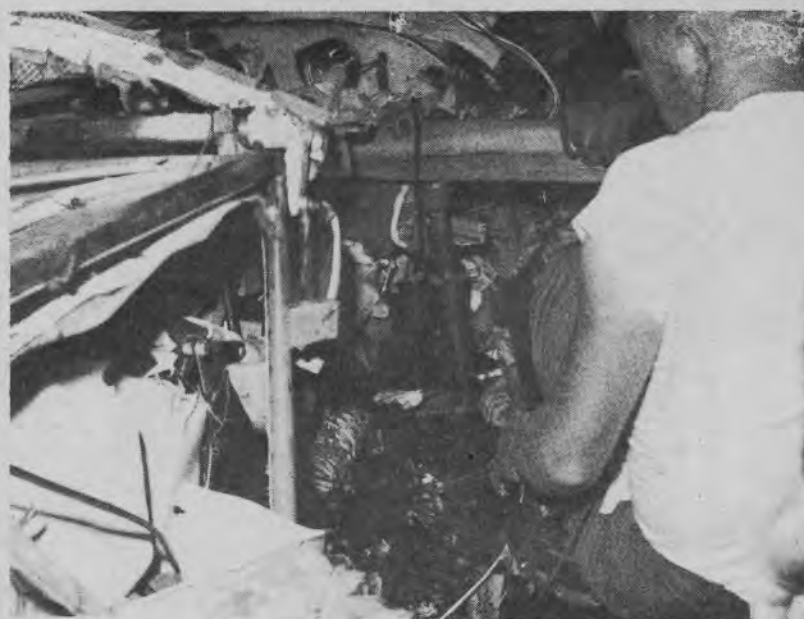
Assistant Chief Carl Davis dispatched Rescue Unit No. 10 with Lt. Linwood Small and Firefighter Tom Gay to the scene. Kenneth Brigman, Danny Frantz, and I all live in the same neighborhood and saw unit 10 when it went by; simultaneously, I was contacted by Chief Davis that they may need help.

Kenneth Brigman is top rescue man of shift No. 2 and was on a '72, and Frantz has been a volunteer firefighter. We arrived at about the same time as the rescue unit. Cars were lined up all along the road and quite a few law officials were on the scene. The plane fell in very heavily wooded area approximately 100-150 feet from the edge of a plowed up field. All tools and other equipment had to be lugged in. A 20-pound Ansul extinguisher was

positioned for quick use as the whole area was saturated with fuel. Power tools could not be used and the primary tools used were an axe, pry bars, and a rescue jack with 2 x 4 and 8 x 8 wooden blocks. Rescue personnel worked for approximately one hour and forty - five minutes to remove the three bodies. Valuable assistance was given by Charles Phillips of Stallings Air Field Fire department on the make up of the plane. Gagged metal, fuel, heat, location, plus the plane being upside down made for a very arduous job for all personnel. The bodies were identified as Dr. Grant M. Bennett; wife, Sherry Bennett; and 15 month old son, Noah, from Florida. The plane was reported in trouble earlier during the day when the pilot radioed that a hatch had come off. The State Patrol and Rescue Helicopter from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base located the wreck at approximately 6:20 p.m. The plane possibly came apart in the air, as to this date the tail section, one wing, and motor have not been found.

This has been the Kinston Fire Department's third aircraft incident in ten months and all fire departments should give some thought to this type of emergency.

Story and photos by
Tony D. Kelly
Assistant Fire Chief
Kinston Fire Dept.



Inside of the plane that Dr. Grant M. Bennett and his family went down

Chief Announces MFD Promotions

MARION -- Marion Fire Chief Arthur Edwards announced recently several advancements in the Marion Volunteer Fire Department.

Marshall Dark has been appointed Second Assistant Chief and Lt. David Setzer has been promoted to Captain of Company Three to replace Dark.

Other advancements included the appointment of J.M. Neal, III, to replace Phillip Laughridge, who retired recently, as Captain of Company One and the naming of Larry Brown and Jerry Poteat to Lieutenants to replace Setzer and

Neal respectively.

New training officers appointed were Jim Young, Company Two; and Bill Poteat, Company Three.

Edwards also announced the naming of Fred Brown as Chaplain.

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Firedog Cameo (Mebane Enterprise Journal Photo)

Newest Member Doesn't Like Riding

BURLINGTON -- The Burlington Fire Department has a new member at Fire Station No. 3. Her name is Cameo, and she comes complete with a set of spots.

Having a fire dog is an old tradition with fire departments, and the Burlington firemen at all three stations, having been without one for awhile, decided to remedy the situation.

Cameo has been with the fire

department for about a month and is being put through a thorough training program in which she will learn to ride on the firetruck when it goes on call.

According to Fireman H.D. Nelson, Cameo has already learned to jump onto the truck when an alarm goes off. Only one problem. She won't stay on long enough to ride to the fire.

Who can blame her on these hot summer days?

Fire Destroys Laboratory

CHAPEL HILL -- A fire recently in the research wing of the UNC Dental School destroyed one small laboratory and did heavy smoke and water damage to an entire floor.

The fire, which started in a small histology laboratory on the third floor used for routine tissue processing, was reported at 5:15 a.m. by a maintenance man who noticed smoke in an elevator, according to Chapel Hill Fire Chief Everette Lloyd.

Lloyd said the fire had apparently been burning for some time before the firemen arrived at the scene, and efforts to reach the laboratory were hampered by heavy smoke inside the building.

Firemen were able to extinguish the blaze quickly after reaching the room, he said, and the fire was confined to the laboratory, although there was some heat damage to adjoining rooms and heavy smoke and water damage to the entire floor.

Three pumper companies and one ladder company answered the call, he said.

Lloyd said because the 10-by-20-foot room was completely destroyed, and because it had contained so many combustible materials, officials would probably be unable to determine the exact cause of the fire.

Firemen Find 'Hot Cash'

ROXBORO -- When Roxboro firemen arrived at a South Main Street residence in response to a call recently they found they had a case of "hot cash" on their hands.

Firemen reported that Ruth Pettiford of 711 S. Main St. phoned the fire department at 6:25 a.m. when smoke began rolling out of her oven. It seems, according to firemen, that she had placed her pocketbook in the oven Sunday night "to hide her money" and forgot about it when preparing breakfast that morning. Firemen said that there was no damage other than a slightly overdone pocketbook, the contents of which was unharmed.

About \$200 damage was done to a fuse box at Person County Memorial Hospital. Firemen were called to the hospital and found that damage was centralized at the fuse box, firemen reported. Cause of the mishap was thought to be a defective wire.

A tobacco barn fire resulted in \$650 damage to the barn and \$50 to the contents. The barn was located off 158 East in the Brooksdale Community on a farm owned by James Garrett and tended by George Cash. The blaze was caused by a stick of tobacco falling on a burner.

A resident of Woody Street called firemen after smelling smoke, but upon investigation firemen were unable to locate any blaze.



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Firemen Train In 'High' Rescue

ASHEBORO -- Asheboro's 22 fulltime firemen get special training in techniques of using ropes to rescue disabled people from high buildings.

The instructor was Lynn Harkins of the State Department of Insurance Training Division.

Harkins lived during the training at the Central Fire Station, giving classroom lectures and conducting demonstrations.

Rated an expert in rescue work, Harkins trains firemen and members of rescue squads at local schools all over the state.

One of the Asheboro firemen's sessions during the training was practice in rigging ropes, then lowering an injured person from the top of a building.

Harkins used a 30-foot-high building at Asheboro High School for it.

Assistant Fire Chief Norman (Bill) Allred explained to a reporter that the simulated victim has suffered a broken neck, also simulated, of course.

Consequently, he said, the victim has to be handled with special care.

A severely injured man could be killed by his rescuers if he were not handled properly. Allred said.

The simulated scene also was a place where the department's snorkel truck, which can put a man 80 feet in the air, could not be used.

Consequently, only manual work with rope rigging could be used.

The snorkel, Allred explained, can reach the top of any building in town, but lots of places firemen can't work the snorkel in.

A person with an injury less than severe can be handled quickly by a single man on a ladder, he said.

A Stokes basket is used for rescues. It's a wire mesh stretcher with raised sides and points where ropes can be fastened and harness to secure the victim so he won't fall out while he is being rescued.

"We can turn it upside down, and he won't fall out," Allred said.

In the past year, Asheboro firemen were called to get two ill men from roof tops on different occasions.

In each case, the Snorkel could be used, with the men lowered in the Stokes basket slung under the Snorkel's man-carrying platform.

One was a roofing worker who became ill in the heat and couldn't get to the ground without help.

He recovered.

The other had suffered a heart attack while working on another roof.

He was dead when the firemen arrived.

The weight of the victim is no problem in this rescue techniques, Allred said.

"If he weighs 400-pounds we can do it the same way," he said as 210-pound Fireman Robert Fields reached the ground as the simulated victim.

"Not a day goes by without training," Allred said of the Asheboro firemen.

It's held in blackboard sessions and in demonstrations in field and shop.

It covers everything connected with fire prevention and

firefighting — maintenance and repair of pumps and other equipment, working with ladders and ropes, studying the new inflammable materials that appear on the market for business, industry and home almost every week, knocking down various types of fires in various types of buildings and rooms.

There are chemical fires, fires burning the many kinds of synthetic fabrics, fires in gasoline and fuel oil, burning materials that produce heavy smoke or poisonous gases.

"We have to," Allred said of the need to train daily, to keep up with the new materials, equipment and techniques.

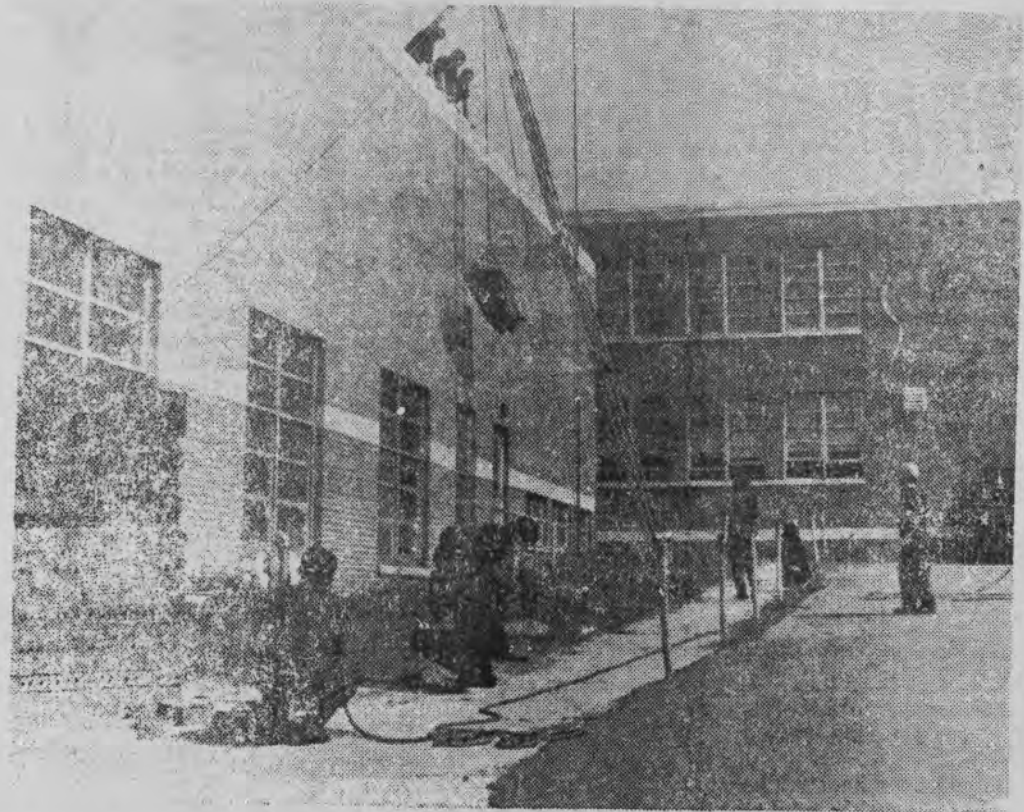
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ASHEBORO FIREMEN LOWER A 'BODY' GENTLY FROM BUILDING (Courier-Tribune Photo)

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Smokey Says:



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A BLAST -- of undetermined nature ripped through the Tileston Elementary School recently. Wilmington police officer T.W. Pollard examines the blast site for evidence. (Morning Star Photo)

School Hit By Blast

WILMINGTON -- The fifth late night explosion in eight weeks in Wilmington damaged the Tileston Elementary School Monday causing slight damage to the front of the building and shattering windows in the three-story structure.

No one was injured in the blast.

Federal, state and local officials responded quickly to the blast which was reported at 10:45 p.m. at the fifth and sixth grade center. The school is located at 412 Ann St. in downtown section of the city.

Assistant Fire Chief H.L. Sandlin said there was "limited" damage to the school which is reported to be the oldest in the county. "Maybe one or two sticks (of dynamite) were used," Sandlin said.

Officials said the bomb was

placed under the front entrance to the cafeteria. They reported that the bomb unhinged the locked door, blasting debris into the front portion of the dining hall. The shock shattered two windows of two upstairs classrooms, officials said.

No fire was reported as a result of the blast through several Wilmington fire units were on hand to aid in the investigation.

George Tally, principal of the elementary school said the school which serves approximately 700 students, is not in use during the summer. Tally noted that damages were undetermined at the time.

Wilmington Police Chief H.E. Williamson said in his opinion "less explosives and damages," were registered at the elementary school than the four previous Port City bombings.

Sullivan Warns: Never Leave Children Alone

MORGANTON -- Do the first touches of summer give you a restless urge to get out of your house—to share a cup of coffee with the neighbor next door, do a bit of shopping, or run a quick errand?

Do it!

But don't leave your small children alone in the house while you're off somewhere, says Morganton Fire Chief Carroll Sullivan.

Hundreds of children are killed by fire each year because parents gambled that nothing would happen while they were away "for a few minutes."

The shocking fact, established by National Fire Protection Association studies, is that one child out of every four who die in fires was alone and helpless when the fire struck.

What causes these fires? Sometimes it seems as if the fire was just waiting for the time when youngsters themselves who start the fire -- playing with matches, turning on kitchen ranges to

"cook," accidentally tipping over space heaters.

Small children are helpless in the face of such situations.

Whenever you are tempted to run off for "just a few minutes" without the children, don't.

Take them with you, or leave them home with a competent older family member or babysitter, says the Chief. "Play it safe, and you'll never be sorry!"

Smokey Says:



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New Fire Truck For Liberty

LIBERTY -- "We can deliver within a week."

This was the delivery date from Jack Slagle of Jack L. Slagle Fire Equipment and Supply Company of South Boston, Virginia recently when bids were opened for a new fire truck for the town of Liberty.

Slagle's bid of \$28,072.50 for a 750 gallon pumper complete with accessories to comply with specifications, conditions and instructions was the lowest bid received by the town.

The next closest bid was from C.W. Williams and Company of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, at \$28,225.00. However, as close as these two bids were, Williams said his company's delivery would be 365 calendar days.

County Fire Units Praised Before Club

HICKORY -- Catawba County has one of the best rural fire department setups in the state.

This is the message David Yount, Catawba County fire marshal, gave to members of the Hickory Optimist Club at their meeting recently. Of the rural departments, he said, "All of them are upgrading every year."

Yount's talk centered on the condition of the departments and his duties as fire marshal. One of his jobs is to coordinate the coverage and plans of the individual departments.

Part of the coordination is the mutual aid program, under which any department may call for aid from others through the Catawba County Communications Center. "It continues to be one of the best programs we have," contends Yount.

Other duties of the marshal involve the county fire school and fire inspection.

H. Grady Miller Jr., club vice president, conducted the meeting.

KEEP NORTH CAROLINA

CLEAN AND GREEN

Town Board members of the recommendation of Commissioner Arnold Hogan agreed to accept the bid from the Slagle Company.

Hogan said that Slagle told him that if the town accepted his company's bid that they could deliver their truck within the week after making only a few changes in order to bring the pumper up to the town's specifications.

Jim Pickard of Graham, a representative of the Slagle Company, drove a truck to Liberty on Friday which his company said would meet all but a few of the town's specifications. Several members of the Liberty Fire Department looked the new fire truck over and while it was in town then and Fire Chief Charlie E. Martin stated after the bids were opened that he felt the truck could meet all the requirements of his department.

The action by the board to accept the bid on the new fire truck pumper climaxed a drive several weeks to get a replacement for the town's number two fire truck which is 24-years-old.

The town's need for a new pumper came to the attention of the present town board several weeks ago when Chief Martin met with the board in a special meeting after the number two fire engine broke down leaving the town with only one truck, a 12-year-old pumper, in service.

Chief Martin told the board members at the special meeting that the number two truck was 24-years-old and that it had been torn down six times in recent years and that parts were getting harder to get each year.

He also said he had made a request some six years ago for a new truck but that board members had failed to include any money in their budgets to purchase a new truck.

He added that if an industrial plant or some other large building caught fire and the number two fire truck was out of service Liberty firemen would be hampered in their efforts to fight a blaze.

Town Board members agreed before the new 1973-74 town budget was accepted on July 2 that it should include \$30,000 for the purchase of a new pumper. (Liberty News by David R. Allen)



NEW FIRE TRUCK PUMPER -- The new fire truck, shown above, was delivered to the Town of Liberty Fire Department as members of the local Town Board had voted to accept a bid from the Jack L. Slagle Fire Equipment Company for it. The new truck will replace the town's 24-year-old pumper which has been in and out of service over the past several years. (Liberty News Photo)

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Firemen Attend Schools

CARY -- Fire protection for the town of Cary, already excellent, should improve due to the special training received by several of the members of the Cary Fire Department.

Since April, special schools attended by four fire officers and one fireman have totaled 360 hours in classtime.

The biggest school was a course in municipal fire administration offered at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

Fire Chief Terry Edmondson attended the school, sponsored by the International City Managers Association and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Over the course of the last two months, Edmondson was in class 176 hours.

According to Edmondson, the managing course was "designed to help fire administrators and officers better manage the fire office." He said special emphasis was placed on "budgets, personal policies, purchasing, and the general management of the fire organization."

During April, Lieutenants Frye and Moss took a course in Raleigh in fire department administration that lasted 12 hours.

Fire Prevention

Frye and fireman Richard Sumler each took a 40 hour course in the fire prevention school at the Institute of Government during May. Both men received certificates for passing the course, the first year of a four-year program.

The fire prevention course, Edmondson related, "teaches fire inspectors the proper method of inspection," as well as updating them on all codes. This enables the inspectors, Edmondson said, to do better jobs inspecting, especially business and institutional areas, the main area

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During June, Lieutenants Moss and Poole attended the North Carolina Fire College in Shelby for a five-day course in pre-fire planning.

Pre-Fire Planning

The pre-fire planning school, Edmondson said, assists the company offices to preplan certain buildings and areas in the territory. He explained that the officer learns to "determine how much apparatus, manpower, and water is needed to extinguish a fire in high-value business districts."

Edmondson said the knowledge attained by the men is already being put to use. "We're finishing up a new training outline that incorporates the new knowledge," he said. "I feel like this is going to help the fire department a great deal."

Cost Minimal

The courses cost the town a total of \$356, less than one dollar per hour.

During the 1971-1972 fiscal year, there were 113 alarms in Cary. Although that is average for

towns this size, the damage done was below average. During that period, fire damaged an estimated \$112,300 worth of property. The value of the property threatened by those fires, however, was \$554,200, thus leaving \$541,900 worth of property that was saved.

Edmondson speculated that the relatively light amount of damage was due in part to the number of housewives in the area who do not work. Since they are home most of the time he said, they detect fires quickly, thus enabling the fire department to put them out before much harm is done.

Also, he noted, the relative youth of Cary homes and buildings acts as a deterrent toward fire. He said it takes at least five years for wires in homes to get worn so that they become a fire hazard.

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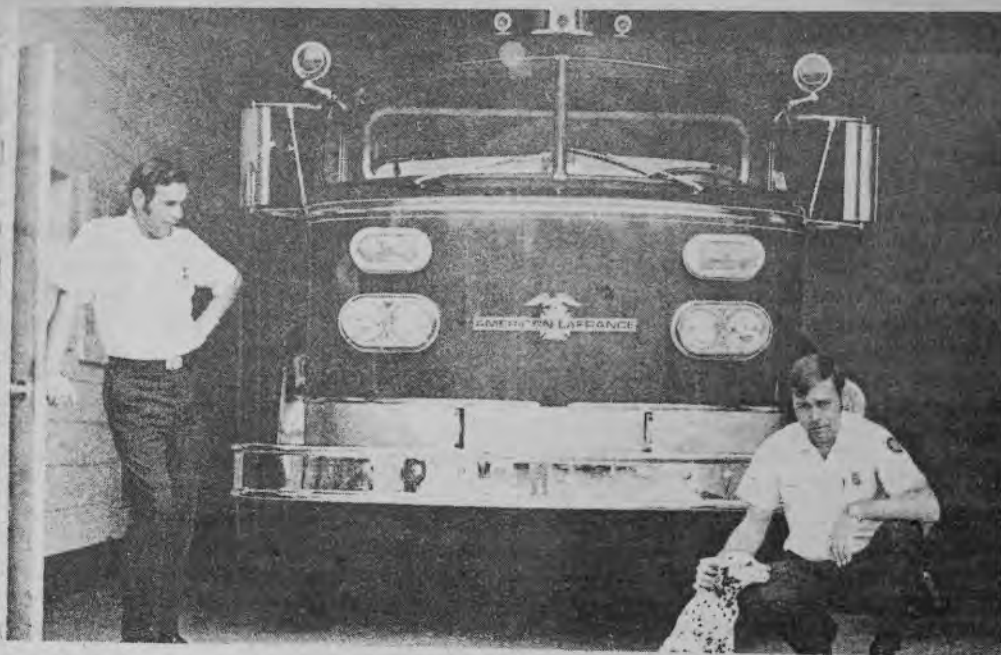
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WHERE'S THE POLE? The Cary Fire Department got half the objects it lacked to be a complete fire department when Allen Hoty, 6809 Electra Dr., donated "Sparky," a new Dalmatian, to the department. Lt. M. C. Frye consoles the dog, which cannot be kept at the station, while Chief Terry Edmondson keeps a safe distance.

Fire Departments, Squads Get Cost Break

MOREHEAD CITY -- Volunteer non-profit fire departments and lifesaving rescue squads may now purchase gasoline, oil and tires under state contract, announces Ronald Earl Mason, Carteret representative in the NC General Assembly.

Rep. Mason said the recent session of the General Assembly enacted the measure, which means great savings to the two volunteer organizations.

The legislator cited an example of the possible savings. "Under state contract, regular gas is around 27 cents a gallon. In our area, volunteer fire departments and lifesaving crews pay in the neighborhood of 40 cents a gallon. So you can see the savings for these two worthwhile organizations."

In addition to gas, oil and tires, the volunteer groups may now purchase surplus state property on the same basis as counties and

municipalities do.

Rep. Mason also notes that under a law enacted by the '73 session, all family hospital plans are required to insure infants at birth.

"Some people learned to their disappointment they had to pay hospital bills because their policy did not cover the newborn infant who became ill," the lawmaker said. "In many of those old policies, the infant was not covered until he was anywhere from several days to several months old."

The new plan to provide insurance for newborn infants at birth became effective July 1.

There'll be plenty of work for legislators between now and the 1974 session, Rep. Mason reports. For example, the work ahead for one subcommittee of the House Finance Committee will be to study 29 bills. They include proposals to repeal taxes on

cigarettes and soft drinks, a proposal to exempt certain foods from sales tax, and a proposal to increase a dependent's exemption for state income tax purposes to \$750 from \$600.

Smokey Says:



Just a little effort to do it right!

Alamance Hires Its First Fire Marshal

GRAHAM -- Alamance County now has its first fire marshal as a result of action by the Board of County Commissioners.

County Manager D.J. Walker recommended and the commissioners voted to accept the

application of David C. Cauble, Jr. of Charlotte as the county's first fire marshal.

According to his application, Cauble will start his duties as marshal "one month after being accepted."

"His number one job," according to Walker, "is to have a fire prevention education program in the county through every media possible, including the schools."

Cauble's salary will be \$10,368 per year. In addition, the county will probably provide him with a car to aid in the performance of his duties since Walker noted, "Fire marshals everywhere else have a car." Walker added, "He's probably going to have to have some clerical assistance too."

The commissioners decided they would be responsible for introducing him to the county's volunteer firemen, who had supported another application for the job.

The new fire marshal visited the county recently.

Cauble, 38, is a member of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and the Mecklenburg County Volunteer Firemen's Association. In 1970, he won the Distinguished Service Award from the Mecklenburg County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

He has been chief of the Wilkinson Boulevard Volunteer Fire Department in Charlotte since 1968. He was assistant chief of the department for one year prior to that and has been a fireman for a total of almost 13 years.

Cauble is married and has three children.

Tobacco Barns Burn

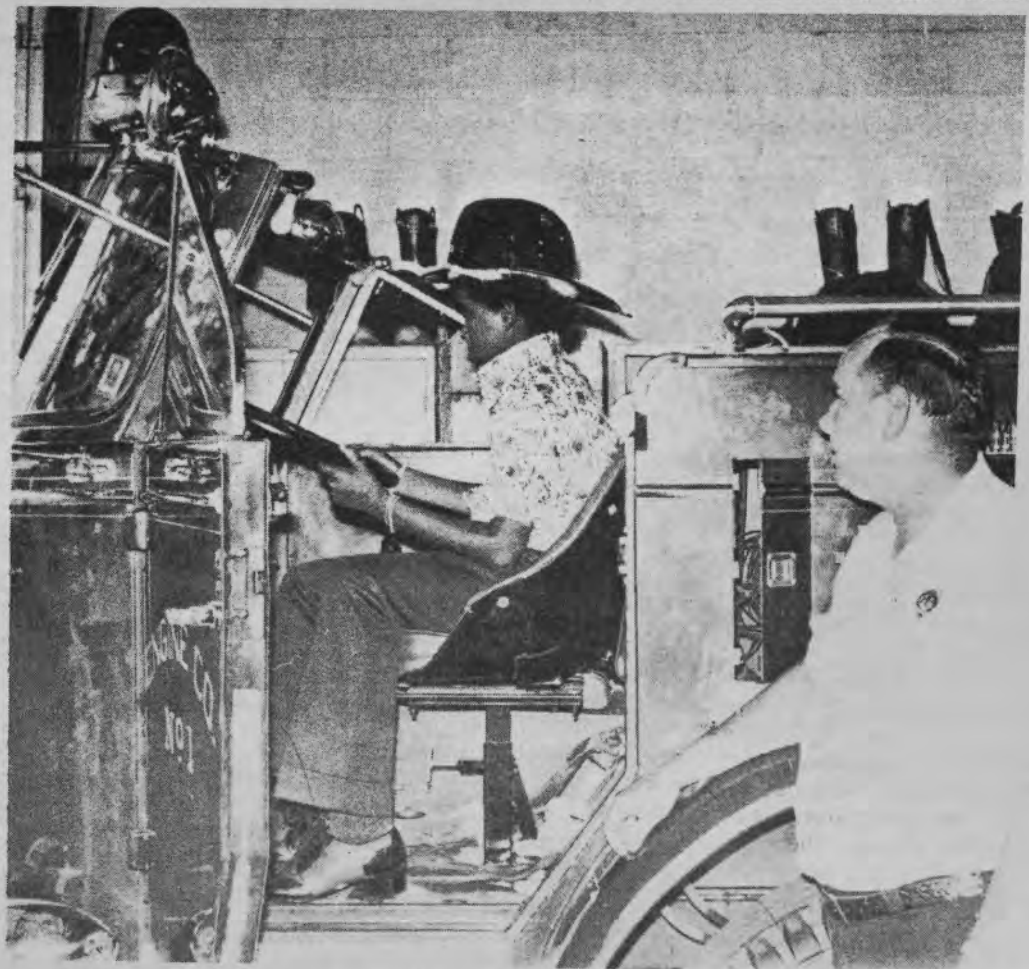
GOLDSBORO -- Two tobacco barns and an office-storage building were damaged or destroyed by fires in rural Wayne County recently.

Antioch firemen reported a \$2,700 tobacco barn and its contents lost to fire on the Frank Edmundson farm tended by M.E. Brown in their fire district. The cause of the blaze was undetermined. The barn was valued at \$1,500 and the contents at \$1,200.

Seven Springs firemen said a fire of undetermined origin did \$1,000 damage to a \$2,000 barn and \$1,500 damage to the \$1,600 worth of tobacco inside on the Juanita Waters farm tended by Sylvester Tew nine miles south of Seven Springs.

Mount Olive firemen said a fire caused by an electrical shortage did an estimated \$300 damage to an office-storage building and \$200 damage to the contents three miles west of Mount Olive. The building is owned by Mark Ginn.

Follow local ordinances about burning trash outdoors. Don't start a fire you can't stop.



JACKSONVILLE -- Jacksonville's "Mayor for a Day", Harold Hurst takes command of Engine One for a short time as Fire Department Captain Jerry Wethington gives instructions. The 14-year-old Swansboro youth was honored for collecting the most money (and litter) in the Onslow County Sickle Cell Anemia Association's recent fund raising and cleanup drive. (Jacksonville Daily News Photo)

Orange Sheriff's Office Taking Calls For Fire And Rescue Help

HILLSBOROUGH -- Calls for all five of Orange County's volunteer fire departments and its two rescue squads should now go through the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff C. C. Buck Knight said.

The sheriff's dispatcher, on around-the-clock duty, are now equipped to alert the appropriate volunteer service immediately. Calls should be made to the sheriff's telephone numbers, 942-6300 and 732-2431.

The Elland, Eno, Hillsborough - Orange Rural, New Hope, and Carrboro-South Orange Fire Departments, and the Orange County Rescue Squad in Hillsborough and the South Orange Rescue Squad in Carrboro are all served by the new communications system.

Lack of a central alarm and

dispatching system had delayed firefighters from getting to where they were needed.

The Elland and New Hope departments were created a year ago, but persons served by the new units were not aware of how to alert them or what their territory is, their chiefs said last April.

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HENDERSON -- RECEIVE AWARD IN DALLAS -- Officials of the Vance County Fire and Ambulance Service and the Vance Board of County Commissioners are pictured in Dallas, Texas, as the Vance department was honored recently by the National Association of Fire Chiefs during its annual meeting there. The award was given as a part of the association's county achievement award program in recognition of "outstanding progress in the specified area of endeavor." Bernard F. Hillenbrand, executive director of the association which is headquartered in Washington, D. C., said the association "is proud to salute Vance County for its progressive program," and he noted that the fire and ambulance service here was established through cooperation of the city, county and volunteers when it was no longer possible to obtain such ambulance services through private contractors. Left to right in the photo are J. D. Wilson, county commissioner; Harold Choplin, fireman engineer; Fire Chief Ranger Wilkerson; Willis A. Jenkins, fire captain in the department; and William H. Hughes, a county commissioner.

County Firemen Offering Invalid Rescue Stickers

BURLINGTON -- Alamance County firemen are distributing invalid stickers to speed rescue operations of invalids from burning homes.

The decals indicate that an invalid is in residence, according to J.V. Sullivan, chairman of the Fire Prevention Committee of Burlington-Alamance County Chamber of Commerce.

"In order to aid firemen, anyone having an invalid residing with them can pick up two decals," Sullivan said.

"The large one should be stuck on the front door and the smaller one goes on the window of the invalid's room."

The decals have been donated by the Burlington Moose Lodge and can be obtained from volunteer firemen throughout the county and from the Burlington and Graham fire departments.

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