



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

VOL. 11 NO. 2

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

FEBRUARY, 1974

Onlookers Endanger Firemen, Themselves

HARRISBURG -- "Curiosity killed the cat" is a saying which applies to spectators at the site of a fire, such as the near-holocaust recently in Harrisburg.

Chief Bob Sides of the Harrisburg Fire Department were also called to the scene and they set up road blocks at intersections several miles away on roads leading to the fire scene.

But even with all efforts to turn back traffic and keep people away from the hazardous area, crowds of more than 500 persons clustered around the fire trucks and in the area of the blaze.

Fuel Covered Ground

When the tanker overturned and ruptured, it spread kerosene in every direction all around the surrounding area. The fuel spattered across the four-lane highway and up and down the road for a great distance.

Chief Sides emphasized that spectators were standing in the fuel, even while portions of the fire were still ablaze behind the 7-11 store.

Fire officers and law enforcement officers repeatedly warned the crowds to stand back. At one point it was even necessary for firemen to rope off the area to keep the curious out of their way. Chief Sides related one incident to The Tribune when a man standing in inch-deep kerosene was attempting to light a cigarette.

Sides said he requested the man to remove himself from the area but was answered with abusive language.

"I might have made some



Debris and wreckage lie scattered over wide area in Harrisburg where tanker truck wrecked and burned ...almost 7,000 gallons of kerosene poured from the ruptured tanker and caught fire, threatening wide area - Concord Tribune Photo

enemies, but I moved him out," Sides concluded.

A woman was also observed on the scene with five small children in the hazardous area standing in

the slippery fuel mixture which covered the ground.

Traffic Hazards

Even after the blaze had been extinguished there was some danger of re-ignition and firemen worked to clear the highway of fuel so traffic could resume.

Cars were backed up more than a mile at one point, and highway patrolmen worked hard to clear the area so firemen could do their jobs.

But patrolmen did not find complete co-operation in some incidents and it was reported that several citations were issued by the patrol for obstruction of traffic.

After the fire was out, a wrecker was called to set the tanker upright and tow it away. At this point, the tanker reportedly still contained some 1,000 gallons of fuel and was

out fires or helping wreck victims they have maintenance chores to keep them busy. Hamlet has one of the state's top rated stations (as a result our insurance rates are comparatively low) and is known as a two-pumper company.

These two pumpers plus a reserve pumper; a 55-foot aerial ladder truck; two tankers, and two rescue squad trucks require a substantial amount of upkeep which the firemen do themselves.

And, if that's not enough, after every fire there is always hose to be packed.

Schooling is an important part of the firemen's routine since they

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ruptured in several places.

When the tanker began to move, it pulled at power lines and a Duke Power employee was beside the fallen power pole in a cherry-picker bucket attempting to restore power. Sparks were visible above the fuel and lines swayed, threatening to fall.

Spectators, undaunted, stood watching, underneath power lines.

Firemen Smoking

Firemen were directed to stand ready with lines in case the fuel ignited again. Foam educators were placed on some lines whereas others were ready with water spray in the event of an explosion.

Fire chiefs on the scene emphasized that although the fire may appear to be out, part of their job is to be vigilant for any

further eruption, especially in the case of flammable liquids. They were not ready to relax as if all danger was past.

And yet at this point, spectators still splashed about in the fuel unheeding of officers warnings of danger.

Worse still, said one fire chief, firemen on the lines were observed smoking.

"It's been happening at a lot of fires," said one chief. He explained that it is hard to eliminate spectators causing hazards by smoking when the firemen set a poor example.

All departments are guilty of such negligence, he said, and it happens "everywhere." - Concord Tribune by Alice Bumgarner

'Help' -- Key Word In Fireman's Life

HAMLET -- "Help me," screams the woman on the phone "my house is burning."

Answering her call for aid, Hamlet firemen tried to calm her down enough to find out which house and where. Once they did, they were off and running.

"Help--that's the key word," said Fire Chief Charlie Utter when asked why he chose a career which keeps him on the go all hours of the day and night. "I have thought about it often and asked others on the force," he explained, "and there is no other answer."

While he discussed what it means to be a fireman, Utter chewed on a cigar. Recently injured in an on-duty accident, he propped up his leg cast and went about business as usual. Cuts, bruises, burns and even broken bones are evidently an accepted part of his job.

Besides the chief, Hamlet has five full-time firemen: Johnny Wix, David Fuller, Lenwood Webb, George Smith, and Danny Bennett. The men work 24 hour shifts and are off 24 with two of

them on duty at all times.

Backing up the six regulars are approximately 30 volunteer firemen who respond to fire and rescue calls. Most have a monitor which keeps them in constant contact with the Main St. station.

Enticed by the excitement of big red fire engines and clanging alarm bells, many little boys dream of becoming firemen when they grow up. Even in their teen years--and this is reportedly an adult delusion too--they have visions of sitting around the fire house playing pinochle with the fellows and watching the girls go by.

Charlie just checkles at this version of a fireman's life and labels it as fantasy. Unfortunately, says the firemen, that's not how the horn blows.

Hamlet's fire-fighting forces were called out to 96 fires during the past year and answered 214 rescue calls. Anyway you add it up, that's bound to mean work--particularly when an average call may take from three to four hours.

When the men are not putting

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NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA 28560

Editorial

Trust me to get myself into a fix and yell for my favorite people - the Fire Department. My husband's mother passed away the second week in January. In view of the fact that towards the last few weeks she became a little confused at times, and thought that Christmas had not yet arrived, her tree was left up.

The week after our sad loss I was in Roanoke Rapids (where her home was) on a business matter. While there I asked my sister - in - law if there was anything I could do to help somewhat the emotional strain I knew she would be under, having to go there to collect, and make some disposition of, the belongings and furniture. She said if I would not mind, she would appreciate my taking the tree down and putting it away.

I, too, had sad memories, since I loved my mother - in - law, contrary to a lot of the stories one hears about them. I felt that this was the least I could do, so I took myself down to the house that same evening to tackle the job. The house was left exactly as it had been the last few weeks before her passing, and seemed as though she should still be there, except for the fact that it was deadly quiet. The carpet kept even my own footsteps quiet, so I turned on the TV to have some noise besides the little that I was making. I was not going to look at it, but just wanted it on! It had a rotary antenna, with which I was not familiar. I assumed it was in correct working order. I noticed that there was no picture, but I don't like to fool around with anyone's TV, so I just left it on since the sound was what I wanted and that was okay.

I was in and out of the room, getting boxes, etc. to put away the ornaments. While removing the things from the tree my back was turned to the TV. Suddenly I became aware of the smell of something burning. Turning around, I was alarmed at the sight of smoke coming up from the top of the TV. I dashed over and pulled the connection out of the socket, but remembering very

vividly a bad fire that had once occurred as a result of a defective TV, I ran immediately to the phone, which was still connected. I called the local Fire Department and explained what had happened. They arrived in short order while I held my breath fearing an explosion or something in the other room. By that time the smoke was already gone, and only the lingering odor of burning remained. A fireman calmly



EMILY H. KING

walked over to the TV, picked up the rotary attachment on top of the set, and showed it to me. He said it apparently was hung in one position, and just sat there and burned itself up, but there was no more danger. The TV was unharmed. Needless to say, it didn't take my long to finish dismantling that tree!

I had a good scare, but once again I was able to thank my stars for our Fire Departments and the men behind them. Since I had been quite shaken, I failed to get the name of my benefactor from the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both him and the Department for the promptness with which they answered my call, and the knowledge he brought with him that all was now safe.

Emily H. King

Emily H. King

Fire Chief Outlines 10-Point Program

GOLDSBORO -- Goldsboro Fire Chief Willard Herring has outlined a 10 - point program aimed at strengthening the department internally and at providing improved services to the public.

The program was outlined recently during a visit by Goldsboro Aldermen and the city manager to the Fire Department and to other departments in city government.

His proposals include a cooperative effort in which

individual firemen and the chief will take a searching look at themselves and the department with a view toward pinpointing areas of needed improvement.

Included is a questionnaire to be given each fireman to determine his likes, dislikes, problems and strong points of the department as the individual firemen see them.

Among questions is one in which the firemen are asked what changes they would make if they

See PROGRAM, Page 11

Moore Commission Reports Fire Department Activities

CARTHAGE -- A fire hazard which could have caused a Christmas Eve disaster for a new Moore County family, and the labors of volunteer fire departments in hauling thousands of gallons of water to replenish rural wells during last year's drought, were included in a monthly report delivered recently by Joe Adams, Moore County fire marshal, to the county commissioners.

He read a letter from Mrs. Jon J. Lancaster, who moved to Moore County last fall with her husband and two children, following his separation from the U.S. Air Force. He is now a pilot with Pinehurst Airlines, Inc., while she is teaching at Carthage School.

They bought a brand - new home in the Blue Farm subdivision off NC 22, and had to wait till it was completed, shortly before Christmas, to move in.

They were unpacking household goods which had just arrived. On Christmas Eve, when they decided to build their first fire in their new fireplace. Later they let the fire go out, while they went on unpacking, and suddenly smelled smoke. Seeing smoke curling out of the paneling on each side of the fireplace, they called the Whispering Pines Fire Department, which put out the fire, at the same time discovering

the fireplace was not built correctly.

Instead of being a solid brick wall as they thought, wrote Mrs. Lancaster, the fireplace had only one layer of brick, filled in behind with 2 x 4 wooden studs, fiberboard and fiberglass insulation. Adams, who had been to the house and made a drawing of the fireplace, showed the commissioners that a one - and - a - half mortar joint has been insufficiently filled with mortar, leaving a hole through which the fire spread to the studs, and loosely - packed building materials.

Mrs. Lancaster's letter continued, "I shudder to think of the consequences if we had built our fire a few hours later, and gone to bed before discovering the fire behind the bricks. I imagine that we would have been overcome by smoke or fire during the night... To me, there is a definite need for building inspection and enforcement of strict building codes to protect lives. We were fortunate that our fire was discovered and put out rapidly. I ask your help in protecting the lives of other Moore County citizens who may not be as fortunate as we were."

Adams said the house builder was greatly concerned over what had happened, and had made the necessary repairs and corrected

the faulty design of the fireplace, "but that doesn't mean it can't happen again, as we do not have a building inspector."

While the county last fall employed its first full - time salaried fire marshal and electrical inspector, these do not encompass the job of a building inspector enforcing a state code, Adams said.

He also expressed apprehension that there would be a rise in home fires as the fuel shortage pushes home owners back to old style heating methods.

Last year's drought of several months caused many country wells to go dry or become dangerously low, and practically all the rural volunteer fire departments used their tankers to ferry water to fill them up, Adams reported.

He said the Vass, Cameron and Carthage departments in particular performed yeoman service and would need help from the county in meeting the expenses they incurred.

The Cameron department, which normally travels around 300 miles a year, traveled some 2,150 miles, consuming 250 manhours, while transporting 109,000 gallons of water and replenishing wells from April through December.

The Vass department, while not

See MOORE, Page 3

He's Convinced PSO A Success

DURHAM -- At 3 p.m. Jerry J. Johnson's day is beginning. He faces the unknown. Maybe a sniper or a burning house with children trapped inside. Or maybe eight hours of monotonous driving, back forth across a small area of Durham.

Johnson at 34, is a public safety supervisor for No. 4 Public Safety Station on Fayetteville Street.

He and four other men are responsible for the police and fire protection between the Expressway, Briggs Avenue, the city limits and the railroad tracks near Carrington Street.

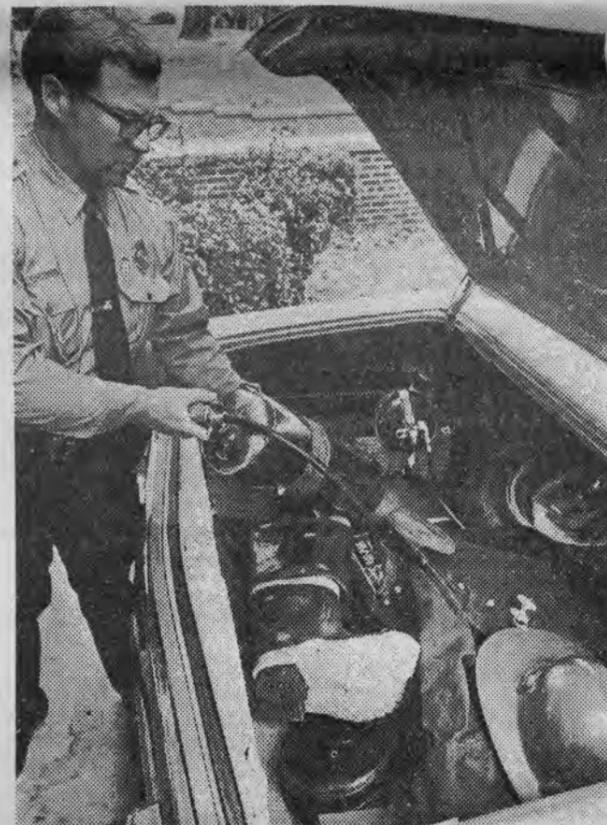
They work out of covered fire station, three men in patrol cars, two at the station to man the fire trucks.

Johnson wears the traditional police uniform. He carries a revolver, night stick and handcuffs. The trunk of his patrol car is filled with firefighting gear—three extinguishers, an air pack, first aid kit, boots, helmet, coat.

The shift starts at the station. Johnson chats with his men, recounts significant police-fire action from previous shifts informs them of a stolen car.

It's a warm autumn afternoon. Johnson chats with his men, recounts significant police-fire action from previous shifts informs them of a stolen car.

It's a warm autumn afternoon, Johnson tosses his jacket to the back seat, checks his flashlight and secures his safety belt. He pulls out onto Fayetteville Street, leaning over to adjust the volume on the fire radio. It's installed under the dash with two other emergency radios. A shotgun, lashed to the front seat, is almost concealed.



FIREMAN IN THE TRUNK -- Johnson Prepares For Tour Of Duty --Durham Herald Photo

"My duties?" he says. "To back up and assist my men on calls. I try to keep them from getting overly involved...I don't look for arrests but will nail a deliberate violator, especially a drunk driver, in a minute.

Johnson, slightly stocky, wears dark framed glasses. He has an easy going manner, likes to talk and loves his job. Johnson came into the PSO program three years ago with 10 years of experience as a city fireman.

It's a slow day. Little activity

over either the police or fire radio. Johnson weaves in and out of the district. He's been at No. 4 Station a little over three months and wants to be familiar with its every nook and cranny. An hour passes before communications has call for a No. 4 car.

Johnson reaches for his clipboard and scribbled down a Merrick Street address while waiting for the red light to change. Halfway there he falls in behind the PSO car answering the

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—MOORE—
Continued from page 2

itemizing mileage and manhours, reported a total of 191,050 gallons furnished to the Vass and Cameron fire departments for the service, at a cost of \$147.34. due the Vass water department.

The Carthage department has postponed making a report, since they are still furnishing water to some citizens.

Adams said he had met with Lee Williams, vice chairman of the Moore County commissioners, in regard to finding some means of performing this service without using the county fire truck, stationed at Carthage.

In his report, the second since he assumed the fire marshal position Nov. 1, Adams noted that total fire calls in the county during the month of December numbered 68; total man - hours spent in answering the calls and other duties of the volunteer firefighting dwellings for which fire calls were made, 25; grass or woods fires, 32; mutual aid calls, 2; house trailer fires, 1; business buildings, 1; auto, 4.

He inspected a day care nursery at Southern Pines and one on NC 22, between Carthage and the airport; checked the McRae Rest

Home, a new building, recommending fire extinguishers and fire alarm devices; with Ben Cooper, the electrical inspector, and Gene Riddle, assistant superintendent in charge of building and maintenance, visited 16 county schools and talked with the principals, also inspecting the Highfalls Elementary and Robbins Primary schools; and inspected the Pinebluff Products plant, where fire hazards were found now in process of being corrected. He also met with a representative of their sprinkler system company, to check the system.

He had a meeting with the Rating Bureau at Raleigh, discussed procedure for setting up fire districts and sprinkler systems, and made progress on a Southern Pines fire district study; set up a committee from the Fire Officers association to formulate functions of the fire departments,

and had meetings with some of the fire chiefs in regard to fire zone boundary lines; and checked with officers of five departments of the county which have American fire trucks, all of whom are having problems with the change - over mechanism which shifts the truck from road to pump operation. He had contacted the manufacturer, but the recommendation which was received failed to solve the problem, and this is being looked into further, Adams said. -- Sanford Herald by Valerie Nicholson

Cedar Estates

CEDAR ESTATES -- Homeowners here may not have to wait the 21 minutes it takes for fire protection to arrive from their distant neighbors. A volunteer fire department is in the making.

Wallburg and Midway Volunteer Fire Departments have been doing their best, but it only takes six minutes for a house to burn. Consequently, the Cedar Estates Civic Club has initiated proceedings to establish the area as a legal fire district. Few areas in the county are not situated in a district.

In order to form a district, residents must sign an advertised petition stating the district boundaries. It is then presented to the county commissioners. The district, if approved, will be the smallest in the county.

Funds for the project are being received from contributions and pledges, and a possible site for the station has been donated.

An organizational meeting was held at Bethlem United Church of Christ on Old Lexington Road recently. A board of seven directors was chosen. Ervin Leonard, president of the Davidson County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and Jack Hoots, an insurance representative, were guest speakers. A 30 - minute film on the dangers of fire also was shown.



AWARD WINNERS -- Nahunta and Mar Mac Volunteer Fire Departments have won top honors in the county this year. Curtis Jackson, left, presents the county - wide Training Trophy to Mar Mac's Delmar Jackson; and George Wayne Aycock of Nahunta received the Activities Trophy from Wayne Aycock. --Goldsboro News-Argus Photo

Mar Mac, Nahunta Receive FD Awards

WAYNE COUNTY -- The annual county - wide Training and Activities awards were presented at the Wayne County Firemen's Ladies Night banquet, held recently at The Wayne Center in Goldsboro.

Guest speaker at the event was Eugene Price, editor of the Goldsboro News-Argus. Entertainment was provided by the Singing Ambassadors of the Belfast community.

Mar Mac Fire department, located about nine miles north of Mount Olive, was winner of the training awards. Curtis Jackson, chairman of the Training Committee presented the award to Delma Jackson, training officer for Mar Mac.

This was the third consecutive year that the training award went to the Mar Mac department. Jackson said that competition this year was extremely close and that only three points separated the top two departments.

Points are given for attendance at departmental, county and state fire-fighting schools, Jackson said. Mount Olive, Dudley and Nahunta placed second, third and fourth, respectively, in the training competition.

The Nahunta department received the activities award. George Wayne Adcock, chief of the Nahunta department, accepted the Activities Trophy on behalf of his men. He declared "They got it, it wasn't me."

Making that presentation was Wayne Adcock, chairman of the county - wide activities committee.

Indian Springs Fire department came in second place for the Activities award, Dudley third and Mar Mac fourth.

New officers of the firemen's

association were installed at the banquet.

Dwight Rose of the Jordan's Chapel department was installed as president. He succeeds Ray Smith, who received a standing ovation for his services during 1973.

Other officers installed by Wayne Clerk of Court Shelton Jordan were Vice President Jay Howell, Secretary - Treasurer Keith Waller, and Chaplain Max Howell.



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After 32 Years Of Fighting Fires Gray Wall Looks Forward To More Time For Hunting, Fishing

REIDSVILLE -- After working 32 years with the Reidsville Fire Department Gray Wall retired at the end of January.

After such active years, fighting fires and picking frightened cats out of tree tops, Wall is looking forward to catching up on his fishing and hunting. He'll also have more time to spend with his wife in their home on Hubbard Street.

Wall first came to work at the fire department on Halloween in 1941. He was working at Wimpy's Cafe then, but firemen across Morehead Street, where the old fire station was located, talked him into working as a volunteer fireman.

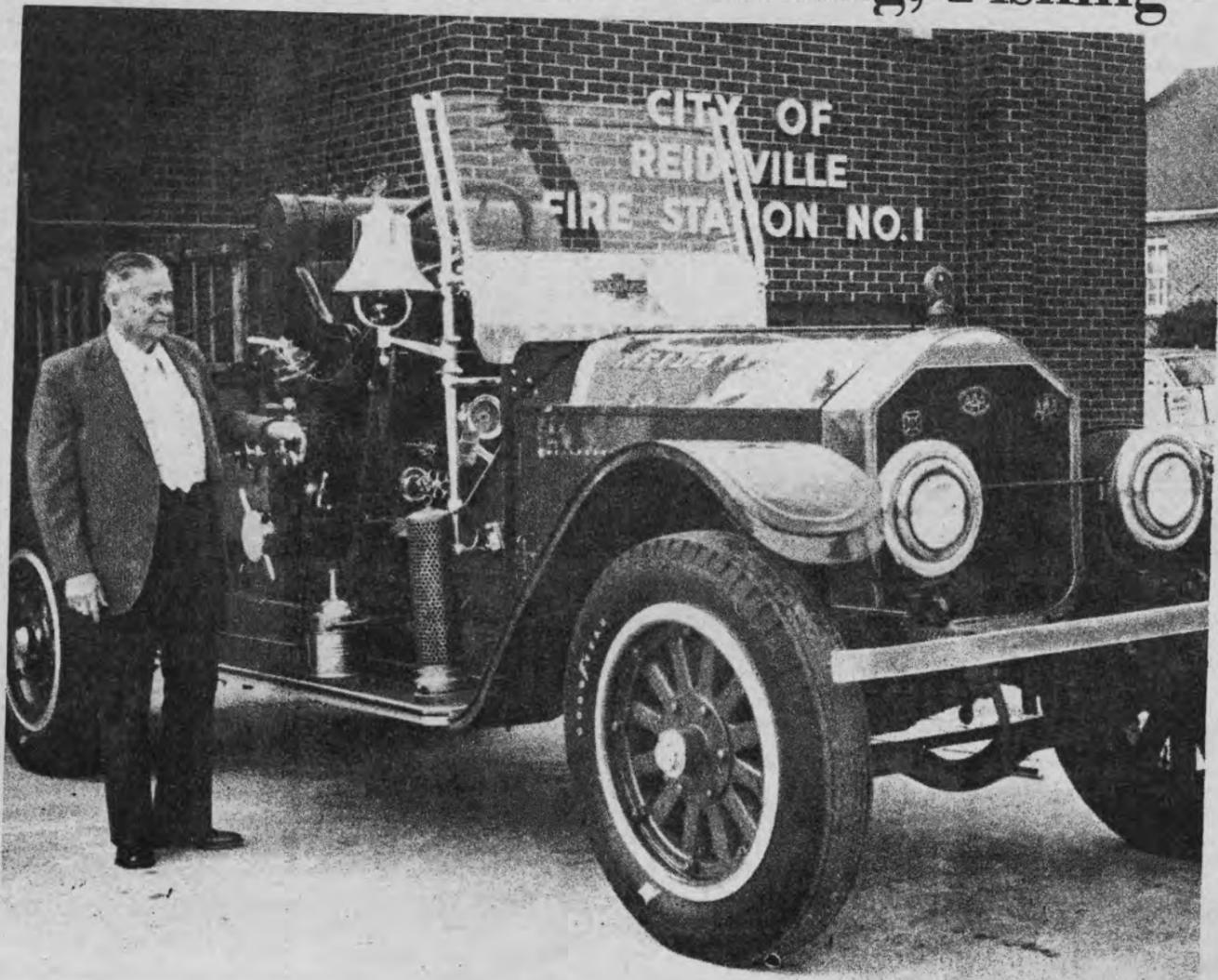
And once he began, he never stopped driving trucks and hosing down fires.

"They say if you ever get it in your blood, you can't get it out," said Wall recently while talking with reporters at the fire station. And this must have been the situation, because Wall didn't dream of answering fire alarms on the back of a big red engine when he was a child.

During the summer of 1952, he became a regular fireman.

Remembering the biggest fire he ever covered, Wall said he and the other firemen spent about 30 hours putting out the fire at Smothers Warehouse which was destroyed in the late fifties. He recalled that the wives of the firemen brought in coffee, and a local cafe gave a free breakfast to each of the firemen.

"We had no rest from the start to the finish at that fire," he said.



Gray Wall and the old 1919 fire truck, which he drove many times. — Reidsville Review Photo—

Asked if the fire department had ever had a mascot, Wall's eyes lit up. He described their pet Dalmation, called Domino.

"If that dog was down the street aways, and the alarm rang, he would come running and jump onto the truck. If he were in the building and heard the alarm, he would look up at the pole and see if the firemen would come down. If they did, he would jump onto

the truck. That was the smartest

See GRAY WALL, Page 9

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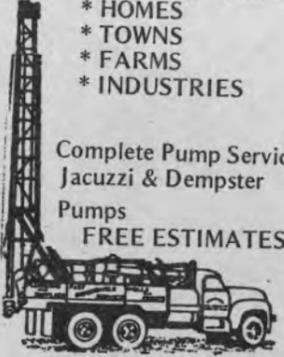
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Bales Of Cotton Sustain Water, Smoke Damage



Eden firemen douse a blaze recently at the storage warehouse of the sheeting and blanket divisions of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. Many bales of cotton were destroyed but the fire was brought under control during the afternoon. —Eden News Photo



These firemen bring hoses to the upper level of the warehouse in an effort to get a better firefighting angle of the blaze.

p.m., Fire Chief Larry Rhodes said. Some equipment, however, was moved from the area and returned to the stations prior to that time. Rhodes said the use of equipment and manpower was employed to provide added security to the industrial and residential areas. The Tri-City Rescue Squad was on the scene on a standby basis and carried air packs to firemen as needed. No injuries were reported.

South Side VFD Builds Second Fire Station

ALBEMARLE -- South Side Volunteer Fire Department is finishing up work on a new three-bay fire station on the Old Aquadale Road which will become the department's first sub-station or fire station No. 2. station and this area, which could delay fire vehicles in reaching the scene of a fire.

The N.C. Secondary Roads Council has recently approved the paving of the drive at this station, at a cost of \$2,101.83. Two fire trucks will be kept in the new station. South Side Fire Chief Harvey Reap lives close by the new fire station, as does Jesse Almond, a contractor, who built the structure. Much of the material and labor was donated. Major remaining work is on the doors and pouring the floor. A spokesman for the department said the new station will afford much better fire protection for the residents in this thickly populated area of the South Side district. Also, a railroad lies between the main fire

EDEN -- Eden firemen fought a stubborn, smoldering fire for about five hours recently in the cotton storage room warehouse that serves the Sheeting and Blanket divisions of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. in Eden's Draper section. Grayish, white smoke emitted from the windows and damaged the interior of the structure. A portion of the roof also was burned.

"A few bales of cotton received damage from fire, water and smoke, according to a statement issued later by Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. "Minor structural damage was caused to the second story of the building. "Because of the modern and efficient sprinkler system and the very prompt and efficient work of the Eden fire department the fire was contained in a small section of the second floor of the warehouse," the Fieldcrest statement continued.

"Repairs began, immediately and operations of the mill will not be affected. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, nor has any estimate of the damage been made. The loss is covered by insurance and the insurance carrier is presently having an inspection made by its representatives. No one was at work in the department at the time the fire was discovered." The three companies of Eden firemen were called to the scene at 11 a.m. and remained until 4

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ELKIN -- The ideal method of fire protection for the home is a sprinkler system, according to Elkin Fire Chief Joe Brown. Many new homes -- though none in this area -- are being equipped with sprinklers, and their inclusion would probably result in a reduction in fire insurance premiums.

Lacking a sprinkler system, what is the next best thing? Chief Brown favors a combination of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

There are two basic types of fire extinguishers for home use -- pressurized water and dry chemical.

Pressurized water extinguishers are good for wood, clothing and other non - explosive, non - electrical fires. "Put this type of extinguisher near an exit," Chief Brown says. "That way you can get your family out, then return, if possible, to use it."

The kitchen is not a good place for a pressurized water extinguisher, since it is virtually useless and potentially dangerous for grease or electrical fires. Here's where a dry chemical extinguisher is needed.

"Dry chemical extinguishers can be used on wood - type fires too," the chief says, "but they're messy to clean up."

Another good place for a dry chemical extinguisher is near an exit close to a furnace room,

should you have an oil - burning furnace.

Whatever type of extinguisher you use, remember to point it at the base of the fire. "It doesn't do any good to spray the flames. You've got to shoot at the source," Chief Brown says.

Smoke alarms and detection devices can be lifesavers, but only recently have they started becoming popular.

There are actually two types of sensors, smoke and heat, but Chief Brown prefers the former. "The heat detectors are cheaper, but the smoke detectors will usually give you an earlier warning of a fire."

The detectors should be placed at the tops of the stairways, which act like chimney flues during fires. One in the kitchen area would also be advisable, and, depending on the size of the home, one in the bedroom area, perhaps a hallway.

Two - story homes should have adequate means of escape from second - floor windows, either across a lower roof or by ladder.

Chain ladders are available that can be hidden inside window sills, but quickly flipped out the window for escape. It would also be helpful to have a ladder available that can be put up to a second - floor window from the outside.

Some other do's and don't's offered by Chief Brown:

- always douse a fire in a fireplace before leaving it for good;

- if a fire has been burning continuously for a long time, perhaps two or three days, check chimney for heat buildup;

- have your furnace checked once a year;

- keep burning candles and kerosene lamps away from easily

combustible items such as

- electrical wiring should be of sufficient size to accomodate your needs; don't overload sockets;

- never bring gasoline into

your house; even charcoal lighter is dangerous;

- sleep with doors closed, in the event of fire they will tend to keep smoke and fire from spreading.

Should you have any questions at all concerning the fire safety in your home, Chief Brown urges that you contact a fire department. -Elkin Tribune by Rebel Good



The top of stairways are ideal spots for smoke detectors, Chief Brown says. --Elkin Tribune Photo--



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Fire District Rules Outlined

ASHEBORO—Randolph County residents in the vicinity of the Fair Grove Volunteer Fire Dept. will have to set up definite boundaries to include people who wish to receive fire protection from the Davidson County-based fire station before any formal action can be taken, Randolph County commissioners were told recently.

About 50 residents of the area, which is adjacent to the Davidson County line heard County Attorney Worth Coltrane detail the steps needed to be taken for Randolph residents to become a part of the Fair Grove fire district.

Coltrane explained the county will collect the special fire tax and turn it over to the fire department. He said the tax will have to be approved either by petition of a majority of property owners in the area or by an election. He said in either case a public hearing will be necessary to give those for the tax and those against it a chance to have their say.

No date has been set for the

public hearing since the residents will have to first set up the definite boundary lines to be included in the special fire tax district.

The agreement for the Randolph residents to get fire protection from the fire station located near Thomasville will have to be approved by both the Randolph and Davidson County Boards of Commissioners and fire department officials.

The problem arose when residents of Davidson who are part of the Fair Grove Fire Department in December voted on themselves a special fire district tax to pay for fire service. The tax is set at no more than 15 cents per \$100 property valuation. The tax is similar to one in operation in the Guil-Rand Fire District.

While the current agreement by the fire company to protect the Randolph residents has ended, fire officials are expected to continue the service until the Randolph district is set up. —High Point Enterprise by Don Wrenn



NEW FIRE ENGINE -- A 1974 model fire engine has been purchased by the Faison Fire department for use in fighting rural fires. The pumper arrived in town and was put into service the latter part of the same week, according to Faison Fire Chief Glenn Jernigan. Shown looking at the new truck are l-r, Chief Jernigan, and firemen Robert David Kennedy, Ed "Pig" Bradshaw, J.C. Warren, Hampton Hobbs and Kenneth Avent with his son, Ken, Jr. —Mount Olive Tribune Photo--

Faison FD Gets Fire Engine

FAISON -- A new 1974 fire engine has been added to the list of equipment for the Faison Volunteer Fire department.

The pumper has arrived in Faison and was put into service the latter part of the same week, Fire Chief Glenn Jernigan said.

Chief Jernigan said the pumper is powered by a diesel - type Caterpillar V - 225 engine. It is equipped with Howe fire fighting apparatus and has a Ford closed - type cab.

Cost of the new truck is \$32,000. Jernigan said about half this amount was raised by the fire department through various fund-raising events, and that the remainder is still owed.

The chief said the department is relying on the "good people" of the rural Faison area to make donations to help pay for the fire engine.

The truck will be used for rural fires, and will also be used as a back - up unit for town fires in cases of extreme necessity. It replaces a 1946 model pumper which Faison firemen have been using for out - of - town fires.

Jernigan said Faison firemen

answer about "three times as many" rural fire calls as town alarms. Last year, the volunteers answered a total of 45 calls, most of which were outside the Faison city limits, he said.

The fire chief said the new truck will be used to answer all

calls in any rural area.

The engine holds 750 gallons of water and has a pumping capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute. It is equipped with two ladders, several pick axes, fire extinguishers, suction hoses for loading water from creeks, etc.

Frank Flynn Fireman Of The Year

TRYON -- Frank Flynn was presented the Tryon Fireman Department "Fireman of the Year" Award recently at a ladies night banquet at Caro-Mi. Fred Edwards was presented the service award. The Rev. B.L. Reece presented the two annual awards.

Mr. Flynn joined the Tryon Fire Department in 1964 and is presently serving as captain. He has also served as secretary - treasurer. He is shop foreman of Tryon Motors and is married to the former Ruth Gibson. They have two children, a daughter, Mrs. John Foy (Judy) of Columbus and a son, Steve. They

attend the Tryon Second Baptist Church.

Mr. Edwards has been chairman of the Fireman's Christmas Parade for the past two years. He is married to the former Shirley Phillips and they have two sons, Fred and Philipp. Mr. Edwards was assistant pro at the Tryon Country Club until January 1st when he went with Stott Chevrolet as Parts Manager. The family attends the Tryon First Baptist Church.

Fire Chief Robert Earle Arledge introduced the guests and turned the meeting over to Clarence Scoggins who served as toastmaster. Music was provided by Marion Brock, Mrs. James Cowan, Bill Zirk, Woody Cowan and Robert Brock.

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James E. Goodman Honored As Fireman Of Year



J. WORTH BURGESS, right was presented a plaque from the Black Mountain Fire Dept. in recognition of thirty years of service as a Volunteer Fireman. James E. Goodman was named Fireman Of the Year and was presented the Rotary Club Trophy. The presentation was made by Woody Patton, center. -- Black Mountain News --

BLACK MOUNTAIN -- James E. Goodman was named "Fireman of the Year" at the Black Mountain Fire Department Ladies night and Awards Banquet recently at the Monte Vista Hotel.

Woody Patton presented the trophy and a check for \$25 on behalf of the Rotary Club. Goodman was chosen on his record from December to December, based on most hours training, best attendance record, response to most fire calls and extra duty.

Patton also presented a plaque to J. Worth Burgess, on behalf of the Fire Department for thirty years of distinguished and meritorious service to the Department as a volunteer. Burgess is retired from the Dept.

last year.

Fire Chief Mack Kirkpatrick served as master of ceremonies. He welcomed the group and introduced the guests present.

Kirkpatrick said 1973 was an unusually good year for the Fire Department. They answered 113 alarms, 53 in town and 57 outside. With a total exposure of \$304,850 there was a loss of only \$15,000. There were no deaths and no injuries due to fire. He stated volunteer firemen put in a total of 3,165 man hours.

Kirkpatrick announced the advancement of Sterling Poe to the rank of Asst. Fire Chief and Ronnie Patton to the rank of Capt. He also had expressed great praise and appreciation to Asst. Chief Harry Oakes.

A five year pen was presented to A.J. Hemphill, a ten year to Marion Godfrey, fifteen year to Don Burgin, Jake Robinson, John Rice and Jack Leatherwood. Thirty year pins were presented to Bob Eckles, Frank Williams and Worth Burgess.

Asst. Chief Poe presided over the drawing of door prizes presented by several local merchants.

All the city officials and their wives or husband were present with the exception of Alderman Begley, who had a previous engagement, but who was most ably represented by his lovely wife, Ruby.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Sec. Ed Weber and wife Julie was also on hand.

Fireman Of Year Named

BELL ARTHUR -- Virgil O'Neal was named fireman of the year by the Bell Arthur Fire Department during the department's monthly meeting recently.

O'Neal, a student at Farmville Central High School, was recipient of the award because he participated in 93 hours out of a

possible 96 hours that the department carried on during the year of 1973. He was present in over 95 percent of the fire department's fire calls during 1973.

The 16-year-old fireman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney O'Neal and one of the youngest men to ever receive this type of award.

Members of the department and special guest Bobby Joyner, Pitt County fire marshal, enjoyed a barbecue pig which was prepared by C.V. Nichols, Charles Ray Nichols and Bobby Sutton.

New Trucks For County VFD's

ONslow COUNTY -- The Onslow County Fire Commission, has selected the order in which new fire trucks, being purchased with county federal revenue sharing money for volunteer fire departments will be delivered.

It was described that the only fair way was for each department to draw a number from a hat with the result that Rhodestown will get the first truck with the other departments receiving vehicles in the following order: Verona, Belgrade, Bear Creek, Half Moon, Swansboro, Pumpkin Center, Sneads Ferry, Richlands, Haws Run and Holly Ridge.

Hubert volunteered to be last and Piney Green was placed next to last due to its only recently being formed.

Six fire trucks have been ordered in the first phase and are expected to be available by this summer.

Commission chairman Robert Mills stated that some minor changes had to be made in trucks specifications in order to bring the price down to budget levels.

He stated that the County

Commissioners budgeted \$20,000 for each department but, when bids were opened Nov. 5, the lowest bid was slightly over \$23,000.

He said the committee got together with the company representative, agreed to some changes, and the representatives each went into separate rooms and revised their bids.

As a result, he said, the lowest bid was \$21,167.26, which was approved by the County Commissioners.

Some of the changes included trips to Melrose Park III to pick up the trucks instead of their being delivered here, standard 32 gallon gas tanks instead of the special 40 - gallon, a master disconnecting light switch eliminated, a hose divider eliminated and each roll of one inch booster line cut down from 220 feet to 150 feet.

It was decided to let each department letter their trucks as they desired instead of having it done by the company.

—Jacksonville Daily News by Ellis Babcock—

Fire Department Answered 346 Calls Last Year

ROXBORO -- The Roxboro Fire Department answered a total of 346 calls in 1973, according to the annual report submitted recently by Fire Chief Thomas D. Gunter Jr., at the Jan. 8 city council meeting.

Property involved in the fires was estimated at \$4,094,345 with an estimated property loss of \$1,111,310.

The types of fires were 75 house, one garage, 10 false alarms, 36 barns, 30 mercantile, 86 auto, two machinery, 34 woods, 45 grass, and 21 hot stoves, wires, or chimneys.

A total of 4,149 man hours were devoted to fire calls, and two persons were injured in the fires last year.

The Roxboro Fire Department conducted 22 training sessions and made 88 inspections.

According to Chief Gunter's monthly report, there were 22 fires in the month of December.

Five of these fires occurred in the city limits while 17 occurred in the county. Estimated value of property lost was \$16,595.

There were five house fires, five

auto fires, five grass fires, two mercantile fires, one woods fire, three fires resulting from hot stoves, wires, or chimneys, and one false alarm.

A total of 250 man hours were devoted to fire calls. One training session and three inspections were conducted during the month.

Receives Promotion

CLEMMONS -- Von E. Berrier of Peggy Drive, Clemmons has been promoted from engineer to lieutenant of the Winston - Salem Fire Department.

Berrier joined the department in 1966 and is presently working on an associate degree in fire science. In 1970 he was chosen the Winston - Salem Jaycees outstanding fireman of the year, and is a fire service training instructor of North Carolina.

Married to the former Shirley McKinney, they have 4 children, Leigh, Kris, David and Chap.

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Black Gets Promotion

RALEIGH — Richmond Davis Jr., 33, was recently named the first black captain in the history of the Raleigh Fire Department.

The announcement, made without fanfare or reference to race, said the nine-year veteran has assumed duties as captain of the three-man ladder company at Station 6 at Fairview and Oberlin roads.

In a telephone interview Davis said he was pleased with his promotion and said he worked hard to qualify himself for the job.

Davis also said his promotion had a special meaning to him because he will become the fire

department's highest ranking black.

"I feel it's a milestone for all the city's black people and for the fire department," Davis said.

Davis, who lives at 2220 Sanderford Road, is now one of 51 captains in the Raleigh Fire Department.

Of the fire department's 260 men, 13 are black.

Davis has been a driver at Station 3 on East Street for the

past 3½ years. He was one of the first two blacks to be named drivers in the Raleigh Fire Department in May 1970.

Davis said when he was first hired in March 1964, he was the fifth black to join the fire department.

Davis has assumed his new post. He replaces R.C. Lassiter, who retired as captain at the end of the year. — Raleigh News and Observer by Rob Christensen



LINCOLNTON FIREMAN OF THE YEAR -- Lewis Gather Shrum, Rt. 5, Lincolnton received the third annual Outstanding Fireman of the Year award at the North 321 Volunteer Fire Department's banquet recently. The award is voted on by the 30 active volunteer firemen in the department. Shrum has been with the department for two years.

Buncombe Co. Rescue Squad Report

The Buncombe County Rescue Squad, an all-voluntary emergency service organization based in Asheville spent a rather busy 1973 in service to residence of Western North Carolina. The Squad answered a total of 336 calls, spent a total of 2,459 active

man hours on calls. The Squad vehicles were driven a total of 9,994 miles, and the Squad logged 3,803 hours on Standby. A total of 161 hours were spent for Rescue Training.

At a recent Board of Governor's meeting the following officers were elected: Mack Sally and Blaine Smith, Lieutenants; Jim Teague and Ross Robinson, Sergeants; Tom Arthur, Chaplain; Adrian Fulmer, Property Officer; David Bossard, Rescue Training Officer; Ron Shigley, First Aid Training Officer.

The Buncombe County Rescue Squad depends largely upon private contributions and donations for its funds, and is planning to purchase new equipment as money comes available.

J. Rutherford Buys Truck

BEAUFORT'S 1927 American LaFrance fire truck — or what was left of it — was sold to the highest bidder for \$1,100 after bids were opened at the town board meeting recently at the town hall.

James G. Rutherford of 2103 Bridges St., Morehead City, submitted the high bid. Other bidders and the amounts they bid for the remains of the truck were A.E. Freeman Jr., \$237.75; Theodore Salter Jr., \$325.50 without the bell, \$375.50 with the bell; and Robert Lee Edwards, age 4, 88 cents.

The 47-year-old fire truck was severely damaged by fire in August 1966 when the fire department and city hall building burned down. That fire was started by the fire truck, which backfired upon being started. The truck was virtually destroyed by the fire.

Mr. Rutherford intends to completely restore it.



---GRAY WALL---

Continued from page 4

dog I've ever seen. Why, you could put a piece of food on top of his nose, and he wouldn't try to eat it until you told him to," Wall reminisced.

He said the fire station gave the dog to one of the firemen eight years ago because it would occasionally bite children. Domino died about five years later.

Describing the differences in fire fighting today as compared with ten or twenty years ago, Wall singled out the increase in manpower as the most significant change. He said that years ago, one man would drive a truck to the fire and hope that some more volunteers would follow. He also mentioned that the smaller hoses and the fog nozzle had increased the fire department's efficiency in putting out fires.

In discussing another change, the advent of the yellow fire truck, Wall said with nostalgia:

"I like my red. Now they claim yellow shows up better at night But I like my red. And I think all kids like red fire trucks."

Reidsville Review by Jennifer Clough.

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7 Firemen Get Awards

MECKLENBURG CO. — Seven Mecklenburg County volunteer firemen received the county fire department's distinguished service award for 1973 at their 23rd annual firemen's banquet at the Downtowner East on S. McDowell St.

The awards are given to the men in recognition of their "unselfish devotion to duty" and for their participation in community and civic affairs.

The recipients and their departments are: Phillip Thomas Cook of the Woodlawn station; James Harold Darnell, Cornelius-Lemley; Andrew Wilson Davenport, Steele Creek; Perry A. Davis III, Mint Hill; Robert K. Kesler, Statesville Rd.; Warren Privette Sr., Matthews, and W.T.

Stanford, Sharon.

The men were nominated by their departments and chosen by a committee of volunteers.

Contribution

CONCORD — The Cabarrus County Firemen's Association has decided to give half of its treasury to a drive for construction of a burn center in Chapel Hill.

The association voted last week to give the funds and also to collect more donations from its membership.

Walter Burr, chief of the Jackson Park Volunteer Fire Department, told firemen facilities are not available in the state to treat burn victims properly.

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Chief Submits Marion Fire District Report

MARION - Marion Fire Chief Arthur Edwards recently submitted his annual fire report for the Marion Fire District from January 1 - December 31, 1973.

The type and number of alarms inside the city limits were as follows: Residential, 6; Non-Residential Assembly, 1; Mercantile, 4; Manufacturing, 3; Automotive 20; Grass, Brush, Woods, 14; Miscellaneous, 13; Mutual Aid, 0; False Alarms, 7.

A total of 68 alarms were answered within the city limits; 660 men answered city alarms; 33.19 hours were spent answering city alarms; and, 425.34 man hours were spent answering these alarms.

There were no deaths or

Fires Increase

During 1973

MECKLENBURG CO. - Volunteer Fire Departments in Mecklenburg County answered 843 alarms during the seven month period from December 1972 through June 1973.

These figures were released by the Mecklenburg County Public Service and Information Office.

The 24 fire departments answered an increase of 80 alarms when compared to the same period in 1972.

The total fire loss was \$872,397, which represents an increase of \$244,244 above the 1972 loss for the seven months. During this period there were two fatalities, compared to one death during the same period last year.

The report was presented by County Fire Administrator Dan J. Carpenter to the Board of County Commissioners at the 23rd Annual Volunteer Fireman's Banquet recently.

During the seven month period the Cornelius-Lemley VFD answered 27 calls with 19 fires existing. The Davidson fire fighters had only 8 fires but answered 13 calls. Huntersville received 18 calls with 17 fires actually occurring.

injuries to civilians during 1973 in the city fires; however three firemen were injured while responding to and fighting these fires.

The value of property responded in city fires was \$171,370 the damage of property responded to was \$25,595; and the fire loss in the city during 1973 was approximately 15 percent.

The type and number of alarms outside the city limits were as follows: Residential, 20; Non-residential assembly, 3; Mercantile, 1; Manufacturing, 3; Automotive, 14; Grass, Brush, Woods, 25; Miscellaneous, 23; Mutual Aid, 4; False Alarms, 4.

A total of 97 alarms were answered outside the city limits; 1,304 men answered these alarms; 76.53 hours were spent answering outside city alarms; and, a total of 1,063.37 man hours were spent answering outside city alarms.

No firemen were injured during 1973 while responding to and fighting outside alarms. There were two civilians injured but no deaths attributed to these alarms.

The value of property responded to was \$437,200; the damage of property responded to was \$94,725. Fire loss for outside city alarms was approximately 22 percent.

The total alarms in 1973 were as follows: Residential, 26; Non-Residential Assembly, 4; Mercantile, 5; Manufacturing, 6; Automotive, 34; Grass, Brush, Woods, 39; Miscellaneous, 36; Mutual Aid, 4; and, false alarms, 11.

A total of 1,964 answered all alarms; 109.72 hours were spent answering all alarms; and a total of 1,488.71 man hours were spent answering these alarms.

There were three firemen injured during 1973 while responding to and fighting all fires; two civilians were injured; and there were no deaths attributed to fire during the year.

The total value of property responded to was \$608,570; the damage to property responded to was \$120,320; and, the fire loss for all alarms during 1973 was approximately 20 percent.



CLAREMONT FIREMAN HONORED - Wallace J. Kirkman, third from left, was awarded a plaque by members of the Claremont Fire Department recently in appreciation for his service over the years and his contribution to the department which enabled it to pay off its indebtedness on a 1970 Howell truck. Taking part in the ceremony, from left, were: front row - Glenn Brinkley, Chief Charles Baker, Kirkman, Tim Lowrance, fire commissioner; second row - Mike Baker, Leslie Morrow, Charles Smith, Bob Brinkley, Rupert Little, assistant chief; third row - Norman Hipps, Charles Pope, Eugene Scuggs, Ted Overcash, Gary Perkins and Ed Westray. -Newton Observer - News - Enterprise Photo --

Chapel Hill Gets Fire Pact Okay

CHAPEL HILL - The board of aldermen has given the Chapel Hill Fire Department the power to enter into mutual aid agreements with volunteer fire units that serve surrounding areas.

Written agreements with volunteer units wishing to help if needed will be assigned by the town manager. The officer in charge of the Chapel Hill department would determine whether a request or assistance could be met, under the new

agreement. The officer would have to decide whether the department's ability to answer calls within its own territory would be impaired.

Everette L. Lloyd, fire chief said he has been concerned about areas which appear to be part of Chapel Hill but are actually outside the town limits and have no fire protection. He said 54 homes in the Briarcliff subdivision the main area of his concern, are being considered for annexation.

According to Town Manager Chester V. Kendzior Jr., the town will annex the area if it can provide the other public services in addition to fire protection. Sun Orange Bureau

New Series Of Safety Posters

A news series of occupational fire safety posters has just been issued by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The new safety program aids focus attention on high-frequency and critical hazard areas such as electrical care, fire extinguisher usage, smoking restrictions, flammable liquid precautions, emergency evacuation, and general fire prevention awareness.

The highly decorative and attention-getting posters are in the convenient 8 1/2 by 11 inch size for use on bulletin boards and posting at points of particular need.

A brochure illustrating the posters and including price information is available from the NFPA Publications Service Department, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass. 02110.

Faucette To Buy New Fire Pumper

CAROLINA - The Faucette Volunteer Fire Department has purchased a new front line pumper truck at a cost in excess of \$30,000 at its board of directors meeting.

The truck, to be delivered in one year by purchasing agent Jack Slagle of South Boston, Va., is a

self-contained unit equipped with a portable electric generator, breathing apparatus and smoke fans. Delivery of the new truck will bring the department's truck total to four.

Johnny Smith was re-elected by a third term as fire chief. Other officers elected were Lloyd Mansfield and J.W. Trollinger, assistant chiefs; Greg Trollinger, treasurer and Jerry Beckon, secretary.



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—PSO—

Continued from page 2

call. Johnson allows his car engine to idle and watches as his office disappears through an apartment door. Several children wander in behind the PSO. Johnson recalls a confrontation across the street between his man and a drunken woman wielding a butcherknife.

"There she goes now," he says. And a young-looking black woman, her arms folded across her chest, enters the apartment where the PSO is taking a missing person report.

"You have to be careful," Johnson says. "Or they might end

up running the show in there. Things can get out of hand in a minute."

No trouble this time. The officer returns and the two cars head back on patrol. Communications blasts out a fire call in the Hope Valley area. A field burning near the city limits.

"Funny," Johnson says. "The Hope Valley Station seldom has a fire call. But today that's their second. We average 30 to 40 a month, but it's quiet now."

Weeks before, Johnson and his men experienced one of their most serious fire calls—a 2 a.m. house fire on Chautauqua Avenue where two people died. Watching the 5 o'clock traffic on Alston Avenue, Johnson recalls the fire:

"I was on Concord Street, a couple of blocks away when the call came in. When I drove up I couldn't tell at first it was a bad fire. I radioed in nothing was visible. I got out of the car and this woman comes running up and said two were trapped inside. Then I saw the smoke coming from the back. About that time another officer arrived. I told him to radio back it was a working

fire. Then we started putting our gear on....And our truck arrived. Wiggins and I took the inch-and-a-half line to the front door. It was unlocked from the woman coming out. The fire flamed up and came out across us. We knocked the fire down but couldn't go in. You wouldn't believe the intensity of the heat.

Johnson stops talking abruptly to monitor radio traffic. It's for another district but he listens anyway. Then he continues the story, with no hesitancy, in his casual manner.

"I believe in attacking fire from the easiest entrance. Couldn't see risking a man's life crawling through the house when there was an easier way in. We went around to the back door. It was locked and dark. Debris was scattered on the porch, clothes and a table. I threw them out of the way.

By this time the headquarters truck had arrived, (A pumper and fireman are dispatched to every house fire to aid the PSO company.) And two firemen came around back. I sent my officer back to the front. I went in with the men from uptown and we met the others coming in from the front of the middle of the house."

6 p.m. Johnson pulls his car to a stop beside the PSO station. Officers inside are watching "Dragnet." One eats fried chicken. R.M. Macks comments on driving the fire truck, "Oh. It's not so bad. It doesn't make any difference whether I'm in the station or out on patrol." (PSOs switch driving and patrolling duties every three weeks.)

A few minutes later Johnson is back on patrol, down an obscure street to check a parked car. Running through his mind is a conversation at the station about

a man in his district possessing a machine gun.

He takes 30 minutes out for supper at an East Main Street restaurant, a favorite of PSOs and other lawmen. Johnson turns up the walkie talkie volume and places it to the side of his iced tea. He talks about the past:

"I enjoy the fire department, learned a great deal. On my off days I worked at Duke Hospital....But if I had it to do over I'd pick police over fire. With police something is always happening. It's unpredictable.

"I had talked against the PSO. I was strictly against it. But then I thought here's an opportunity to do something different. I had nothing to lose and a chance to make more money. I saw little chance for promotion in the fire department....Some of my buddies in the fire department who I used to drink beer with now give the cold shoulder..."

Back on patrol Johnson talks about having no doubts about the success of the PSO program. Three guys on a street corner yell an obscene remark, Johnson ignores them. He operates on a philosophy of restraint, careful not to be the spark of an unnecessary incident.

"You've got to know when to leave well enough alone," he says. "Sometimes it means biting your lip to keep from saying something."

He drives on and on. The radio is silent. 9 p.m. Time to gas up, Johnson stretches, signs the mileage chart and pulls himself back behind the steering wheel

and heads out again.

Johnson checks a call on Carrington Street. He accompanies another officer into a dark duplex. The dwelling is bare except for a single bed. Five children, age 5 to 10 are abandoned there. Two sleep in the bed, three on the floor under a dirty pink blanket. They snuggle close to an electric heater in the middle of the floor, their only source of heat. They are without hot water or food. They ate corn flakes for supper. Their mother has gone out. They don't know

when she will return. The Social Services Department is contacted...

Johnson checks his watch in the street light. Almost 10. Time to return to the station for paperwork, check on the drivers. One day down, six to go before two days off. Then on for seven more, from 11 at night to 7 in the morning.

Eight hours of driving, mile after mile over the same streets. Johnson is seldom bored. It's usually not this quiet. — Durham Herald by Jim Lasley

—PROGRAM—

Continued from page 2

were to become chief.

An employee performance appraisal sheet also will be filled out on each fireman — in the individual's presence.

Other provisions of the program outlined by the chief are:

Establishment of a grievance review board made up of members of the department.

Expanded roles for assistant chiefs, including designation of one assistant as overall training supervisor.

Part-time secretarial help to relieve department administrators of clerical duties. Money already is available for this in the department's budget.

Meetings of departmental officers will be held on a scheduled basis and firemen will be informed of the open door policy in which individual firemen may confer in private with the chief. The department will also try to strengthen its relationship with the local firemen's union.

Chief Herring also announced that a comprehensive and mandatory physical fitness program is being put in operation.

He will continue in-house training and is going to propose capital improvements to provide for an expanded training program.

Through Wayne Community College, a course of study leading to an associate degree in fire science is being planned with its introduction scheduled for March of this year.

In addition, Herring is going to make a concerted effort to increase fire prevention services through the department.

Fire prevention messages will be offered civic and other organizations.

Herring said inspections of private homes and automobiles will be offered by the department to detect fire hazards.



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---HELP---

Continued from page 1

man the Hamlet Rescue Squad vehicles as well as the fire trucks. They are certified as ambulance attendants and have studied Red Cross courses at Richmond Tech and Sandhills Community College. A new 80-hour class is on the agenda and once this is completed the men will have almost the same ranking as a licensed practical nurse.

They are on standby for any emergency.

"It's a small town, but a lot of work," said Utter. "We are closely associated with the police, highway patrol and hospital." As one of the firmen joked they also "catch all the junk"—meaning odd jobs such as hosing down the streets or helping out during the snow and ice storms.

Utter first joined the Hamlet force in 1960 and accepted the position as chief in 1966. A Hamlet High School grad, he has had 10 years service with Uncle Sam as a Staff Sergeant and has been in the N.C. National Guard.

A native of this area, Charles B. Utter III and his wife, the former Linda Monroe, have a five-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son. They make their home here at 813 Austin St.

Not only is Charlie the town's fire chief, but he is the building inspector—zoning official as well. By law he is the only city official who can hold down two jobs at one time.

Questioned about the most frequent type of fire, Utter quickly answered that it was of the kitchen grease variety. His advice: keep calm and cover the

flaming pot with a lid. He also advocates fire extinguishers and first aid kits for every home.

Although the fireman doesn't seem overly concerned about the current energy crisis, he did stress the danger of hoarding fuel in cans and drums. He would not recommend even the new safety cans for hauling extra gasoline in cars and trucks.

As for the rescue squad, Utter is particularly proud of its resuscitator and credits the machine with saving more than one life. He also had praise for the invalid program and explained that stickers are placed on these people's homes so they can be easily rescued in case of an emergency.

"Tot Finders", a basically new program, will soon be introduced here with the aid of the Hamlet Woman's Club. The fire chief was the guest speaker for the club's recent monthly meeting.

Much like the invalid program, the "Tot Finder" stickers will mark homes housing children. One sticker goes on the lower part of the front door and one on the window of the room where a child sleeps.

The invalid and the child—for obvious reasons—take top priority in an emergency situation.

In order to answer calls in the shortest period of time, firemen long ago mapped off the city in different sections with the railroad tracks as the dividers. One blow of the alarm is for out-of-town; two for the Main St. side; three for the Hamlet Ave.

side; four for the East Hamlet area; and five for the rescue squad.

They are adequately equipped to handle two fires or emergencies at the same time with little if no difficulty.

"Tell the public", stressed one youthful fireman, "we try our best to keep down damage and to restore the building to liveable order if at all possible."

The Chief, however, was the one to sum up the fireman's lot in life.

"We have a hell of a job and you can quote me," Utter stated. He admitted that everybody—including grown men—are frightened by the dangers of fire. "To see a home burn and listen to the people's heartbreaks is distressing." —Hamlet News Messenger by Catherine Monk —

Fire Chief Issues Warning

ROCKY MOUNT -- An accident recently prompted Rocky Mount Fire Chief John Sykes to issue a warning to service station operators.

An attendant of the Kayo Service Station on S. Church St. was smoking while pumping gas into a pick-up truck according to Chief Sykes.

Chief Sykes emphasized "just how dangerous" smoking at gas pumps is and said that a tragedy could very easily have occurred. He urged all service station operators to post "No smoking" signs at their pumps, if they have not already done so.

Enochville Firemen Ask Help

ENOCHVILLE — The Enochville Volunteer Fire Department decided recently to contact fire officials in Raleigh for help on adding a rescue squad to the organization.

Firemen will allow officials to draw up specifications for a rescue squad vehicle and set up training for squad members, according to Dallas Campbell, fire chief.

Campbell estimated training

will begin in two months.

The fire department made these additional plans for the rescue squad after the plan was approved at a community meeting.

Campbell has said the Enochville area needs its own rescue unit because the closest unit is located near Salisbury on Interstate 85. The town is closer to Kannapolis, but that town does not have a unit, Campbell said.

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