



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

VOL. 11 NO. 3

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MARCH, 1974

New Truck Arrives In Aulander

AULANDER -- The new fire truck for Aulander Fire Department arrived recently.

Firemen Arty Taylor, Frank Owens, Thomas Hall and a representative of Lee Fire Apparatus Company drove the truck back from Roanoke, where the new vehicle was bought.

The new \$30,000 investment, approximate when fully equipped, was built to specifications of the Aulander Department after being approved by the League of Municipalities.

It is a Ford C750, cab over engine, with a 750 gallon per minute pumping capacity. The chassis for the vehicle was bought through Choanoke Motors in Aulander and shipped to Roanoke to be included in the truck.

The body of the fire truck was made by Howe Company.

The new truck will be used mainly inside the city limits, with all other equipment kept and used for back-up equipment. However, it will be taken outside the city limits if needed. If possible, the other equipment will be used for that purpose.



FRANK OWENS III was one of several firemen swarming around the new fire truck upon its arrival. The trip back from Roanoke, Va., during some rain left quite a bit of road dirt on the vehicle and the men were anxious to see it clean again. Ladders and other equipment were installed within a few days.

The piece of equipment will be paid for out of the Town's General Fund. Two of the features most appreciated by the firemen are electric rewind reels for firehoses

and storage compartments all around the truck.

With the old truck, the firemen had to rewind reels by hand and some equipment had to be put on the truck when it left the fire house because there was no storage space.

This new piece of equipment will allow the Town of Aulander to maintain their present fire insurance rating for about 20 years, according to Thomas Hall.

All equipment has not been installed on the truck and the firemen plan to do this, along with having insurance work finalized, within seven to 10 days.

The League of Municipalities will work with them on the installation to ensure it meets state standards.

Department Promotes 24 Firemen

CHARLOTTE -- Four Charlotte firemen were promoted to district chief and 20 men were promoted to lieutenant-captain recently, Chief John E. Lee said.

The four new district chiefs and their number of years of service are R.L. Pace of 4232 Shamrock Dr., 24 years; W.G. Stewart of 1416 Thriftwood Dr., 22 years; H.L. Wilson of 4200 Wilson Lane, 17 years; and T.E. Gardner of 2612 Pinckney Ave., 15 years.

The 20 men promoted from engineer (driver) to lieutenant-captain are R.E. Stutts, W.W. Townsend Jr., R.R. Weaver Jr., D.P. Poplin, Y.W. Gilbert, C.L. Grayson, P.C. Sprinkle, R.J. Ellison, G.V. Freeman, L.D. Geer, R.L. Middleton, C.W. Gabriel, W.D. Summers, R.B. Whitlock,

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Firemen Always Training To Improve Performance

MORGANTON -- The Morganton Fire Department has a very comprehensive and continuous training program. A newly recruited fireman will spend seven to eight hours a day in training during the first week of employment. This orientation includes, among other things, the maintenance of equipment, the function of each piece of equipment and the goals of the fire department.

The new recruit is sent to rookie school in Wilson, where he spends 12 to 16 hours a day in training. Rookie school is sponsored by the Wilson Fire Department and the North Carolina Community Colleges. Subjects taught include the background of the fire service, chain of command, care of equipment and of oneself, rescue practices, rope and ladder practices, various hose evolutions, proper dress, addressing officers, breathing equipment, and use of breathing apparatus.

On a training ground the fireman faces a simulated bulk storage plant, a simulated airplane fire, and automobile fire, and fires of various highly flammable materials. He is then taken to a structural building fire, where he determines the plan of attack and actually extinguishes the fire. Next, the fireman visits various fire departments in the area and is oriented on different types of equipment used. Reasons for the different types of equipment and how each type is adaptable to the fire service are discussed.

The rookie school is completed with a final examination covering the entire course. The grade achieved must be no less than 70.

The men sent to Wilson from our city have averaged from 97 to 99 on all tests given.

When the new fireman returns to Morganton the training starts all over again. Such things as maintenance and care of fire hydrants, the functional operations of sprinkler systems, the care and maintenance of hose, and the care and maintenance of fire apparatus are discussed.

The fireman goes on inspection of manufacturing plants, textile plants, schools, churches, and the central business district. In each of these buildings he must know where all exits and entrances are located. He is trained in pre-fire planning on manufacturing buildings throughout the city. This enables him to have a working knowledge of the correct method and procedure by which to confront a fire in any given structure throughout the City.

The fireman also must know all of the streets names, their locations, the fire hydrant locations, and fire box locations.

Specialized training is acquired through various agencies such as the University of North Carolina, North Carolina Pump School, fire service training at Wilson, and Western Carolina Fire School. Within the past six months, men have been sent to Raleigh, Wilson, Brevard and Chapel Hill for special training.

Four men have completed two weeks of pump operations at Raleigh under the North Carolina Insurance Department Training Division. Four men have completed one week of formal training at Brevard Western North Carolina Training School. Two men were sent to Kansas City for

a week of instructors' training. Also, forty-four of the fire department's personnel have received 12 hours of training in leadership through motivation sponsored by the fire department and the Department of Insurance. Thirty-six men have received 12 hours of training in sprinkler operation and 26 men have completed 12 hours in fire and rescue training.

Within the past few months Capt. Doyle Ford, the training officer for the Morganton Fire Department, has completed the Municipal Fire Administration Program at Chapel Hill, which

involved 220 hours of training. Chief Carroll Sullivan has attended the North Carolina Fire College at Shelby, at which he was an instructor for one week.

He has also attended the North Carolina Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting, the Firemen's Association meeting in Raleigh, and the one-week meeting of the International Association of Fire Chief in Baltimore.

A training program sponsored by the Burke County Fireman's Association and the Western Piedmont Community College was held Feb. 11-22, 1974. A fire

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Fire Damages Uptegraff

ROANOKE RAPIDS -- Davie Volunteer Fire Department assisted by the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department averted a potential explosion at Uptegraff Southern Inc. by quick action recently.

The loss inside of the building was estimated at \$40,000 by the Davie firemen. Six completed transformers valued at \$8,000 were lost along with a drying oven valued at \$32,000.

Lt. David Padgett of the Davie Department reported, "The call was received at 5:20 p.m. at Uptegraff Southern outside Roanoke Rapids city limits on W. 10th Street.

"Upon arrival, we found a drying oven used to dry transformers overheating and the oven was expanding very fast. We were faced with the problem of cooling the unit down to avert an explosion. The doors from the unit were swollen shut due to heat

expansion and could not be opened.

"We then went to the roof of the building and pumped gallons

of water down the smoke stack of the oven to possibly cool the burning transformers inside. We

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Editorial



EMILY H. KING

Well, here I was, thinking winter was almost over (which helps the fuel crisis somewhat) when all of a sudden we have another blast of cold, just to let us know we shouldn't ever be too sure of anything, I guess! I have only recently returned from a trip to Roanoke, Va., and was staying in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where it was usually colder than North Carolina. The drier air, however, made it seem much warmer than the eastern part of the state where the humidity is so high.

All in all it hasn't been a bad winter - firewise - in view of the fact that so many people are burning different fuels and in lots of places. I venture to say that a good many of these old coal and wood heaters that were put out to pasture, so to speak, in favor of the easier and cleaner methods may have been brought out of storage and put back into use! Possibly it is customary in the area I was visiting, but I saw a lot of firewood stacked up and smoke coming out of chimneys. Although I am aware it is supposed to add to our pollution problem, it somehow gives me such a cheerful lift. At any rate, on some of our roads, I've ridden behind old (and some not so old) vehicles that not only put out plenty of smoke, but nauseous fumes as well. Nothing, to me, except fall leaves (which we no longer burn) smells better than a wood fire or is prettier and more

cosy than logs burning in a fireplace. Just call me old-fashioned or whatever!

I was also highly gratified to note the new TV program called "Firefighters" which is showing on one of the networks there, but I only caught part of two of the weekly shows. So far, since my return, I've been gadding around so much, I've been unable to find it listed yet in our area, so I don't know if you've had a chance to see it or not. While I'm sure it is somewhat glorified and glamoured up, starring James Drury, at least we are beginning to get a little recognition of the fire service on this network. It is high time we were given our place along with the many stories of heroes in their service to the public. (Of course to me all firemen, in their own way, are heroes just be being firemen, if they are really dedicated men!) We've been given large doses, for a long time, of the F.B.I., State Patrol and all sorts of police stories. Now maybe they're getting around to us, at last. We are given far from equal billing yet, but it is a step in the right direction and should help in giving the general public more awareness to the fire service.

As soon as I can slow down a little I'm going to make a special effort to find out more about this TV program--so far, I haven't seen enough to know if they are using any volunteers or not, or who is putting out the show. As soon as I do, I'm going to write a letter to "the powers that be" to commend them on the program, whether it helps or not. At least it can't hurt to let them know we appreciate the belated recognition. Maybe some of you will join me. I sincerely hope it continues on the video, as it means the beginning of a breakthrough for us which is long overdue. Let me hear from you!

Emily H. King

Emily H. King

Volunteer Firemen Deserve Our Thanks

CABARRUS COUNTY -- Cabarrus County has a number of volunteer fire departments, located throughout the county, which provide an invaluable service to local residents.

The firemen who staff the volunteer departments, all work without compensation other than knowing that they are doing a job which must be done.

It is a time consuming job with little thanks from the people they protect. It is a job which is often times taken for granted.

When an alarm sounds, the firemen rush to the station,

dropping whatever they were doing, upsetting the best laid plans of men.

They rush to man the hoses, to do the job that must be done!

Fighting the fires is not really so time consuming, but fighting the fires is only a minor portion of what the firemen actually do and the time they actually spend in preparation for answering the fire alarm.

Hours of training are required to teach a man what he needs to know to protect himself, and then the property of others.

Before a volunteer actually

NORTH WILKESBORO -- The crime of arson is one of the major felonies in criminal law. It is defined as malicious burning of property.

Arson is frequently suspected but rarely proved. It may be that instances of arson are rare, but it is known that the crime occurs and that it is a felonious crime for which the perpetrators should be punished. Arson endangers life and property and in some instances it has resulted in loss of life.

Police departments in large cities have arson squads, whose duty is to ascertain if arson has been committed, and to prosecute criminals for the crime.

To be an effective law enforcement officer in the field of arson, special training is required in several subjects. It is necessary for the officer to be a chemist in that he must be able to recognize from ruins the presence of materials which caused the fire. The officer must be able to ferret out clues which could prove that

arson was committed.

It is not possible for a small unit, such as a sheriff's department or police department in towns and small cities to establish and maintain an arson squad with all the know-how and equipment necessary for efficient work.

In a state such as North Carolina the burden would fall on the state through its investigative branches to maintain an arson squad with enough know-how to be effective, and to uncover whatever clues may be available.

From all indications, North Carolina is weak in this respect. It has its State Bureau of Investigation, an investigative branch patterned in a small way along the lines of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

But the SBI apparently does not have the facilities or the manpower to do a good job in arson investigations. The agency is undermanned, and spreads its manpower in helping county and town law enforcement agencies in

investigation of almost every kind of major felony. It must spread its manpower and resources over such subjects as murder, rape, robbery, theft, and many other crimes, without much specializing in any one crime. Arson investigations require specialized diligence, study and equipment. Judging by the absence of results from such investigations in the state, it appears that there are only a minute number of arson cases, or that the investigative forces are not capable of coming up with answers from investigations which are carried out.

In view of the serious nature of the crime of arson, and its threat to life as well as property, the state should have a top-notch arson squad with the ultimate in training and such laboratory and chemical equipment as is required to do a good and thorough job in every instance in which it is called upon for assistance. This matter should have the attention of every legislature, the governor and every official interested in protection of life and property. - Editorial from North Wilkesboro - The Journal Patriot, Dwight V. Nichols, Editor.

Albemarle Firemen's Association Quarterly Meeting



FIREMAN OF THE YEAR -- Bill Fowler, right, member of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years, was honored as "Fireman of the Year" at the Albemarle Firemen's Association meeting recently. This was the first time such an award was made. W.A. Weeks, immediate past president of the association, presented the award to Fowler commenting on his unselfish devotion through the years.

ELIZABETH CITY -- The quarterly meeting of the Albemarle Firemen's Association was held by the Elizabeth City Fire Department Tuesday night, February 5, 1974.

One hundred thirty (130) firemen were in attendance, coming from Region R's ten county area. The meeting was

called to order by the president of the association, W.A. Weeks. Mayor John Bell gave the opening welcome to the large group of firemen. Executive director of the association, Kermit Layton, Jr., gave a report on the success of the Regional Training Program offered through the Department of Community Colleges. Layton also congratulated the new fire chief of the Kitty Hawk Fire Department, Cliff Midgett.

This was a special quarterly meeting with two very important events. First was the presentation of the "Outstanding Fireman of the Year" award. This award was given to Mr. Bell Fowler who is a member of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department for his outstanding service to his department as well as his community. This was the first time this award has been given; however, it will be continued each year.

The second event was the installation of 1974 officers for the association. A.L. Poole, Chief

False Alarms Are No Joke!

NEW BERN -- The fire department has a message for all citizens.

Everyone would do well to heed the message.

It is illegal to turn in a false fire alarm.

There is also a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone -- guilty of such a foolish act.

Just the other night -- or perhaps we should say early in the morning -- two false alarms were turned in from the same box in less than 30 minutes.

This is a disgrace and all good citizens should hope that culprits are caught and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

It is no joke!

The practice of sounding false alarms is dangerous, expensive and uses fuel that the city's fire trucks might need in a real emergency.

Anyone knowing or having information on false alarms should contact the fire department or the nearest law enforcement agency at once.

It is the duty of all citizens to support the firemen in their efforts to protect lives and property.

Those who engage in the practice of sending in false - alarms are either stupid, senseless or sick. They need medical attention -- or a term in jail.

Even the fire department is faced with a shortage of gasoline -- and so are the volunteer firemen who answer alarms in their own cars.

It is unfair and unjust for them to be subjected to the disgrace of false alarms. It is impractical to burn scarce fuel -- when it is in short supply.

We would like to go on record as urging everyone to cooperate with the fire department and help curb the growing practice of false alarms.

If you know of any instance where someone has knowingly sounded a false fire alarm -- contact the authorities. --From New Bern Sun - Journal

Chapman Awarded

TAYLORSVILLE -- Taylorsville Fire Chief Roy "Bud" Chapman was the recipient of the 1973 Taylorsville Fireman of the Year Award presented at the department's annual banquet recently.

Former Fire Chief Sam Zachary made the presentation to highlight the annual ladies night banquet at Jones Fish Camp in Stony Point. He cited the dedicated work

and leadership which Chapman had displayed during the year and reminded those present that a fireman has the most dangerous job in the county. The fireman is called to the scene in the time of an emergency, and in every fire there are unknown factors which the fireman must face.

Taylorsville fireman Rev. Gary Jennings served as chairman of the program committee for the banquet.

The department announced that work is progressing on the tanker truck. The department recently purchased a 1970 International tandem truck for \$6,000 and is in the process of installing a 100 gallon water tank from an older truck.

Firemen said the newer truck would allow the department to get extra water to the scene of fire much quicker and would aid in more efficient fire protection.

Some 35 persons attended the banquet, including Taylorsville Mayor Glenn Watts, and town commissioners Billy Deal and Ross Carrigan.

Fire Chief Chapman presented a fireman's budget to the department's newest member, Charlie Marshall. The department has some 21 active members.

---THANKS---

Continued from page 2

to attend special training classes and no amount of money can be placed on the time a fireman is forced to be away from his family.

One volunteer firechief estimated that his year as chief had actually cost him in the neighborhood of \$1,000. This came out of his pocket and included time he lost from his regular job.

Volunteer firemen save the residents of this county a great deal of money by providing lower insurance rates for qualified homeowners.

The 9-AA rating is the highest rating a volunteer department outside an incorporated area can obtain. Several departments throughout the county already have this rating and others will receive the rating shortly.

Once the fire department has qualified for the 9-AA rating, the homeowner must determine if he qualifies for the 9-AA rating. The qualification of the department does not automatically qualify the individual homeowners.

A home must be within 500 feet of a hydrant to qualify and homeowners should check with their insurance companies if there are any questions concerning rates and qualifications.

Volunteer fire departments are serious businesses and ones which require devotion above and beyond the call of duty. It seems a shame that so few take so little time to thank so many. --Concord Press by Linda Medlin

---DAMAGES---

Continued from page 1

achieved partially what was hoped in cooling the unit down enough to pry open an end of the oven with a crowbar and then pumped more water inside the unit. Following three hours of work, the fire and burning transformers were cooled sufficiently to bring the burning mass under control."

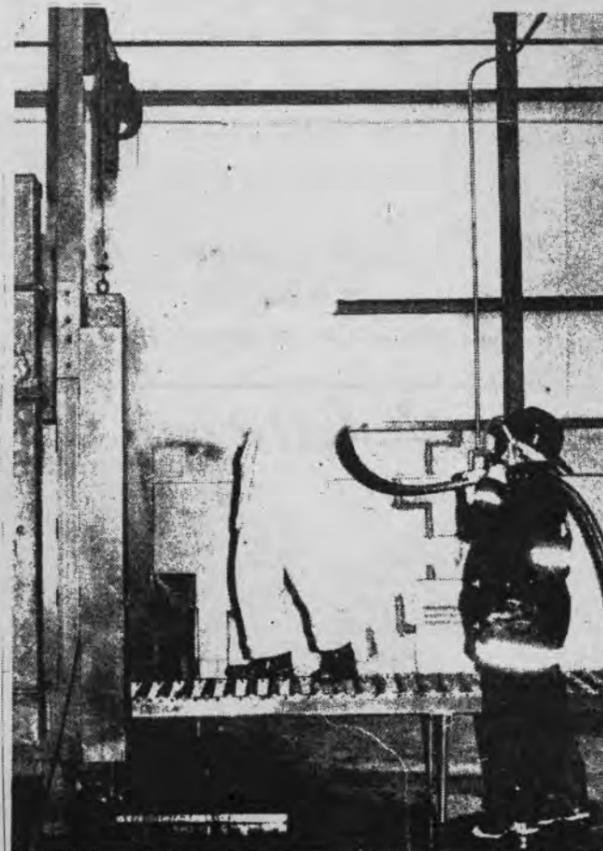
Richard Smith, area manager for Uptegraff Southern, said later, "There were six transformers inside the unit. The transformers, following completion on the assembly line, are dipped into varnish and must be baked for 14 hours to seal the units. The oven apparently overheated and thus caused the unit to expand. Our estimate of the total damage is undetermined at this time pending an investigation by our insurance company.

"The transformers were a total loss. There were six inside the oven. Our drying oven is warped considerably and we cannot estimate at this time if repair can be made to the unit or if it will have to be replaced," he added.

When asked if the fire would cause production of the units to stop, Smith replied, "No, we will continue to fill orders to a certain point. Our employees will continue on the assembly line in the production of the units. Naturally, we will not be able to bake the units with varnish until necessary repair is made to the oven. We have orders for transformers due in Michigan, New York, Georgia and the Carolinas.

"They will be completed up to the drying process and be completed and shipped following repair or replacement of the unit," he concluded.

Davie firemen concluded the cause of ignition of the transformers was due to a faulty controls which regulate heat inside the oven. The Uptegraff Southern complex is valued at \$500,000.



POTENTIAL explosion was averted following a \$40,000 fire recently at Uptegraff Southern Inc. on W. 10th Street here. Davie Volunteer firemen with 15 men, assisted by five firemen from the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department, fought the blaze for three hours before bringing it under control. --Roanoke Rapids Herald Photo

Whispering Pines Fires "Zero"

WHISPERING PINES -- Fire Chief Wise of Whispering Pines reported "Zero fire loss" of structures in the Village last year, "indicating an extreme fire consciousness on the part of the residents."

In turn, members of the Village Council adopted a resolution thanking him and members of the Volunteer Fire Department for their interest, time and effort in serving in such a capable manner.



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Bat Cave Organizes Fire Dept.

BAT CAVE -- The Bat Cave Community Association was formed at a community meeting recently for the purpose of organizing a fire department. More than \$2,000 was pledged to purchase a used truck.

The chief of the Edneyville Fire Department, John Rhodes, told of the formation of that group and announced that a 1,500 gallons water tank was being donated to Bat Cave by one of his members,

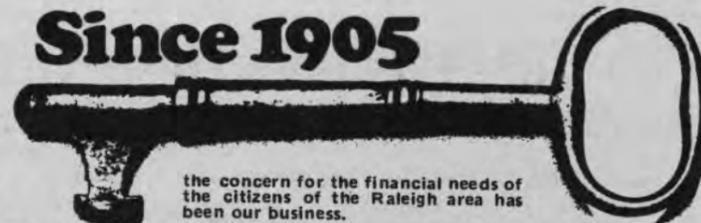
Larry Driggers.

Elected were: L.E. Chester, chairman; Sandra Oates, secretary; Wallace McKenzie, treasurer; Red Anderson, fire chief; Ulys Ruff and David Nesbitt, assistant chiefs; Woody Pryor and J.C. Huntley, captains; Lemuel Oates and Oscar Avery, lieutenants; and on the board of directors, Bill Burch as chairman, Alice Anderson, Jay Freeman and Katie Ruff.

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Pinehurst Volunteer Firemen Started When Village Began

PINEHURST - The Pinehurst Volunteer Fire Department has been in existence practically since Pinehurst started at the turn of the century.

At least, so estimates James W. Tufts, namesake and grandson of the founder of this resort, who recalls when the Fire Station was located in the former Department Store Building, now the site of the Condominium Sales Offices, Helen's Dress Shop, the Village Printers, William and Mary's Antique Shop, Sandhills Insurance and Realty and the Village Barber Shop.

Jim Tufts remembers when the Fire Department equipment for fire fighting consisted of a

chemical tank with three hoses, and two ladders. But the men who went to fight fires and operated the equipment were all volunteers.

With the exception of one or two firemen retained by Pinehurst, Inc. as paid head of the Fire Department, the over 20 men who comprise the Pinehurst Fire Department are volunteers.

Ralph L. Horner, now serving his second year as Chief of Volunteers, recalls that when he first became a member of the volunteers, in 1945, Ellis Fields, Sr. was fire chief. Ellis Fields, Jr. is now one of the volunteers.

Former volunteer chiefs include Peter V. Tufts, Leonard Whitesell and Ernest Hartsell.

These men are all employed at other jobs, but when the fire whistle blows, night or day, they make tracks for the Fire Station. The first five men to arrive there will go to the out-of-town fire, three serving on the tanker and two in the pick-up. The rest of the men report in, unless it is a bad fire where more are needed.

Ralph, as volunteer chief, is in 24-hour contact with the station on his shortwave radio which stays by his bed at night.

The biggest majority of fires, he notes, are in the daytime or early morning hours. A few false alarms come in to the state, from the Holly Inn, Pinehurst Hotel and Country Club systems, triggered by weather conditions when wires may slap together creating an alarm.

The volunteers attend 12 local fire drills a year to familiarize them with the equipment, with the location of the equipment on the vehicles and to train as pump operators and drivers.

There are now four vehicles maintained by the Pinehurst Fire Department - two pumper for

in-town use and a tanker and pick-up for rural fires.

Seventy-five percent of the fire alarms answered are for rural fires. The Pinehurst Fire Department also covers the nearby Taylortown community since they have water facilities with one pumper. If there are no water connections out-of-town, the tanker and pick-up are used as one holds 1,500 and the other 150 gallons of water, both with pressure facilities.

About 45 percent of the men have been to State Fire Schools of one type or another, either pump or fire school and members who have been taken on in the last couple of years will also go through this specialized training, Horner said.

One of their most important extra-curricular activities is the collecting of toys for the Christmas boxes distributed by the Village Chapel. The volunteer firemen meet at night for a month or so before Christmas at the Fire Station to repair, repaint and put these toys into pristine condition.

There is a Woman's Auxiliary and among yearly social activities engaged in by the volunteers and their wives is the Firemen's Ball, held in March or April, a benefit party whereby they raise the biggest part of the money they need to buy equipment for the Department.

The rest comes to them by private donations and each man receives a small subsistence from Pinehurst, Inc. As Volunteer Chief Horner commented "Everybody loses money when there's a fire."

The volunteers and their wives had a Christmas party recently at the Community House for their children and each year, they have an "Old Timers" party to honor retired Chiefs and members.



SILER CITY - FIREMAN OF THE YEAR -- Steve Roberts has been named 1973 Fireman of the Year for the Siler City Volunteer Fire Department. In addition to a plaque Roberts received a suit from Rees Clothing Store. Roberts was honored for his service to the department while serving as a captain of the volunteer organization.

VFD Orders Truck

COLERAIN - A new truck has been ordered from Albermarle Ford in Edenton by the Colerain Volunteer Fire Department. Although a delivery date has not been received the company has acknowledged the order. It will cost \$5,500.

Also ordered by the department is a two-stage, 500 gallon per minute, mid-ship pump costing \$4,500. This equipment will be bought from C.W. Williams of Rocky Mount.

The town has given the department \$3,000 and the firemen themselves already have another \$3,000 on hand so in the coming months they will be raising between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to pay for this new truck and its equipment.

Concluding the monthly meeting of the volunteer firemen was a class on breathing equipment by safety instructor Vernon Swain.

Lincolnton To Get New Truck, Hoses

LINCOLNTON - City Council approved the purchase of a fire truck and fire hose at a special meeting recently.

It voted unanimously to purchase a 1,000 gallon per minute pumper truck from the Howe Apparatus Company at the cost of \$43,665. The Howe Apparatus bid was one of two submitted on the pumper truck. The American LaFrance Company submitted a bid of \$48,607 on a comparable piece of equipment.

The Howe Apparatus Company promised to deliver the truck within 300 days. American LaFrance wanted a 496 day delivery period.

The City Council also voted to purchase 4,200 feet of fire hose from the Eureka Fire Hose Company at a cost of \$6,569.

The city had received the two bids on the truck and one bid on the hoses at its last meeting. However, it was thought that three bids were needed in each category before any could be accepted.

It was learned that emergency equipment was excluded from the three-bid law by the last term of the state legislature. The Aldermen then decided to meet later and accept the bids that had been presented.

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City Fire Situation 'Is At Its Best'

REIDSVILLE -- In spite of the use of fireplaces and woodstoves as supplemental heat the Reidsville and Eden Fire Departments report no more house fires than usual.

Fire Chief Hilton Monsees reported that the Reidsville house fire situation "is at its best."

"We've actually had fewer house fires for this time of year than we normally do," he said.

Monsees said that he is both surprised and pleased with this. "Maybe people are overly conscious of the dangers, because of the energy crisis," he said.

Many persons, he said, have called and asked the fire department to come out and check their fireplaces. "We can only give them our opinion," said Monsees. "Fireplaces should really be checked by brick masons."

Eden Fire Chief Larry Roach said he has had no increase in house fires either. "We've had only four calls related to heating systems this year," he said.

Roach said that although fireplaces and wood stoves should be used with caution, the more serious problem is in storing gasoline.

"One gallon of gas is equivalent to 18 sticks of dynamite," said Roach. "Gasoline should be vented, and then you have vapor escaping. Just a spark from turning on a light could ignite the gas vapors and cause an explosion."

If the gasoline container is not vented, said Roach, the pressure from vapor can build up until an explosion is caused.

"Once a fire is lit, said Roach, "no liquid fuel should be used on it. If there are hot ashes then kerosene or charcoal starter can cause an explosion."

Roach said he would not suggest starting a fire with such flammable liquids. "Most people just use paper", he said. "That's safer."

The Reidsville Fire Prevention Bureau offers the following tips:

Coal and wood burning stoves need constant attention while in operation. Make sure that the stove is properly vented, a metal sheet is placed under the stove to protect the floor, and that all ashes are placed in a metal can. Flammable liquids should never be used to start a fire in a stove.

Make sure that the chimney of your fireplace is in good repair -- free from cracks and holes. Always use an approved spark screen to protect the surrounding floor. Never start a fire using a flammable liquid.

A permit is required by the Fire Prevention Bureau for storage of gasoline in excess of one gallon in any human dwelling or in excess to ten gallons outside any building. Citizens are urged not to store any flammable liquids around the home and not to carry any containers of gasoline in automobiles. --Reidsville Review by Elisabeth Newnam



DANGEROUS STORAGE -- Roxboro Fire Department employee Dwight Bradsher moves the remains of a cache of gasoline from underneath a Trotter Street house after firemen were called to extinguish a blaze, which ignited some of the 15 gallons of stored gasoline. Cans and jugs filled with gas can be seen at right and some other articles, which were stored under the house and also burned, can be seen at the left. --Courier - Times Photo

Firemen Unaware Of Gas

ROXBORO -- Portions of a cache of gasoline, stored in the basement of a home, caught fire and burned recently, but Roxboro Fire Department firefighters were able to contain the blaze.

The fire occurred at 4:20 p.m. at the home of Emmanuel Harrison on Trotter Street. The house was owned by Dr. J.C. Owens.

Roxboro firemen answered the call without any knowledge of the stored gasoline, estimated to have been about 15 gallons.

When fire units arrived, the kitchen area of the house was filled with smoke. After not finding any blaze in the kitchen, firemen opened the door to a crawl space under the house. When the door was opened, the gasoline blazed up.

Firemen managed to bring the fire under control. They estimated that one or two plastic gallon jugs, filled with gas, had burned. Several other plastic containers filled with gas did not burn and a couple of metal gasoline

containers seemed to have been unharmed.

Assistant Fire Chief Buddy Hall said that firemen were "extremely lucky" to have been able to contain the fire. He also said the firemen were fortunate to have escaped without injury.

Hall said that firemen are still investigating the blaze in order to determine its origin.

Damage to the house was valued at \$5,000 and damage to the contents was set at \$500.

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HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA

'We Lost Everything We Got'

CHARLOTTE -- Firemen were still pouring water into the smoldering shell of an apartment building in the 1600 block of E. Fourth St., while a little way down the street Reese and Irene Wise sat in their car and talked about what to do now.

"We lost everything we got," said Wise. "We didn't save anything except what we've got on."

Wise, about 60, is a big man with a weathered face that seemed to sag as he talked. His wife, wearing a nightgown and robe, sat barefoot beside him on the front seat holding a puppy in her arms.

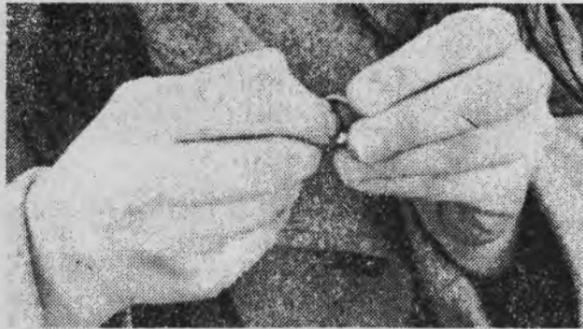
"The firemen saved a cat in there," Wise said. "And we told them about the dog, and they went back and got it out too."

Wise was the first person to see smoke from the fire that firemen say started in the first - floor storage room at the rear of the two - story frame apartment house.

A neighbor woke him up about 3:15 a.m. and told him she smelled smoke, Wise said. He got up, put on work clothes and started looking for the fire.

"It didn't look like much," Wise said. "By the time I got back, she was already calling the fire department. I didn't know it was going to spread so fast."

Within minutes, he said, it seemed the entire building was ablaze, and he and his wife had to hurry and get out. The puppy was still in the apartment, on the second floor at the rear, but, said



... And Find Her Wedding Ring
Charlotte News Photo

Wise, "There was so much smoke I couldn't go back in."

Assistant Fire Chief W.O. Dowdy said it was fortunate everyone in the 12 - unit building got out alive. He said one of the tenants, Annie Belote, 88, had to be carried down the stairs to safety.

A friend of Mrs. Belote, Mrs. J.W. Crocker, who lives in the apartment building next door, said Mrs. Belote told her she hadn't realized the building was on fire.

"She said she woke up and thought she was having a heart attack because she couldn't breathe," Mrs. Crocker said. "She went into the bathroom to get some water and didn't hear the firemen beating on her door. They had to break her door down."

Chief Dowdy said Mrs. Belote apparently suffered no ill effects from the smoke or the excitement. She was taken to

Salvation Army headquarters.

Only one of the 12 apartments in the building was unoccupied when the fire started, firemen said. The tenant in that apartment, Barbara Sutton, arrived shortly after 7 a.m. to find her home in ruins.

She tried to get inside, but firemen held her back. The ceiling above her apartment had collapsed.

The firemen walked her across the street, where she stood and stared at the building with a stunned - look on her face.

"I just moved in there a little over a week ago," Miss Sutton said. "I had just put up some curtains, you know, to make it look pretty."

She had spent the night with a girl friend, she said, and she probably would stay with her now until she could find another place to live.

"I'd like to get my clothes out., if I have any clothes left," she said. After a while she went to her car and drove away.

For the Wises, a decision was not so quick in coming. They continued to sit in their car, the engine and heater running.

"I had a heart attack 13 months ago," Wise said. "I haven't worked since then. I've been on disability, but it's hard for two

people to live on \$182 a month."

So the day before the fire, he said, he started to work at a tool and die company in Charlotte.

"This morning I had to call the boss and tell him I wouldn't be in," he said. "I told him, 'I'm sorry, but I lost my house this morning. My apartment was burned out from under me.'"

He paused for a moment to watch firemen rolling up their hoses and loading them back on their trucks.

"If I were to say I knew where we were going to go, I'd be lying," he said. "I don't know where we're going to go. I don't know what we're going to do." --The Charlotte News by Tom Boone.



Assistant Chief W.O. Dowdy At Fire Scene -- Charlotte News Photo

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Apartments Swept By Fire; None Hurt

CHARLOTTE -- Fourteen persons were driven from their apartments recently by a pre-dawn fire that swept through a two-story frame apartment building on E. Fourth St. near Presbyterian Hospital.

No one was seriously injured, but Mrs. Annie Belote, 88, of Apt. 1613-C E. Fourth St. was carried from her apartment and taken to the Salvation Army Home at 320 N. Poplar St.

Firemen said damage to the structure in the 1600 block of E. Fourth St. would be extensive (more than \$5,000) and the owner, George A. Arzberger of Charlotte, said he believes the building is a total loss.

Assistant Chief W. Otis Dowdy said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

More than 50 firemen from five city fire stations fought the blaze for nearly an hour after the first alarm was turned in at 3:26 a.m. before bringing it under control, firemen said.

Many of the residents of the 12 apartments already were outside when firemen arrived. Capt. H.L. Bandy and fireman Don Frye rescued Mrs. Belote.

District Chief J.C. Brown, one of the first firemen to arrive, turned in the second alarm at 3:34 a.m.

"I asked the people outside if anyone was inside," Chief Brown said, "The people outside didn't think anyone was in there, but about eight men went in to check it out."

"The one lady we rescued (Mrs. Belote) was lucky," he said. "The flames were so visible that we just

couldn't enter some apartments. It had spread completely across the back area and across three apartments. It was eating its way right up the wall to the second floor and attic.

"I called for all men to put on their masks on the initial attack," Chief Brown said. "We attacked the back of the house, where I'm sure it started and where it was worst. We tried to get all the volume of water we had on the fire."

One of the problems the men faced at first, Chief Brown said, was their inability to shut off gas meters because of the heat. The fire was being fed partially by the escaping gas.

"It was very stubborn," Brown said, "It was being fed by natural gas from the meters. We couldn't get to the meters at first but we could later."

Natural gas was used in the apartments for appliances, Brown said. Oil was used for heating.

Dowdy and Brown said they were standing near the front of the house when a "back draft" blew out the front windows, screens and part of the front door.

Men standing in the street had their hats and glasses blown off Brown said.

A back draft, he said, occurs when smoldering material suddenly ignited by a gust of oxygen. The result is a dangerous explosion and a sheet of flame.

Back drafts can be predicted by watching the color of a fire's smoke, Dowdy said.

"I always watch the color of the smoke," Dowdy said. "We don't let anybody go inside in

something like this" after everyone has been rescued.

Dowdy said he saw the smoke turn a dark brown color, and he used the public address system on his fire department car to warn men around the house to get off the ladders.

Another apartment building beside the burning structure was protected with a "water curtain" by a fireman with a special nozzle, Dowdy said.

Aerial ladders were extended on three sides of the house to protect surrounding structures.

After the major part of the fire was brought under control in the back, Brown said, firemen began attacking smaller fires in other areas of the house.

The fire was being drawn toward the center of the house and part of the roof caved in, he said.

"With that type of building and at that age it was lucky that everyone got out. Nearly the whole construction was wood. The tarpaper on the outside put off a very black, thick smoke."

Mrs. Romona Powers of Apt 1611-D said she was awake but wasn't aware of the fire until a man "came down the hall shouting, 'Fire!' I smelled something then and I heard him again. I tried to get a few things, but most of my things are still up there (in the apartment)."

Harold Helms of Apt. 1611C said another man kicked at his door and said the building was on fire.

"There wasn't anything I could do," Helms said. "I had just bought a brand new suit. The only clothes I have now are on my body.

Very little of the contents were saved, Chief Brown said.

Firemen were still at the scene the following morning. Piedmont Natural Gas Co. sent a truck to dig up the gas line and install a cut-off valve near the curb in case the building collapsed, chief Brown said.

Jim Boyer, executive vice-president of Arzberger Engravers located next to the burned apartment building and owned by Arzberger, said, "I think the

whole thing was totaled." Boyer said the building was insured, but he didn't know for how much, Insurance investigators were on the scene he said. --The Charlotte News by Phil Whitesell

State Insurance Official Hails Volunteer Firemen

LUMBER BRIDGE -- Jerry Grimes, special training instructor for the N.C. Department of Insurance, took to journalistic terms in a talk recently to Robeson County Firemen's association.

Grimes was introduced by Fire Marshal Mutt McNeill. Allenton Chief Delton Morgan, president, was in charge.

An attendance of 94 firemen heard Grimes discuss the "who, what, why, when, where and how" of firemen's responsibility, much in the same categories used by newspaper reporters.

He noted that a fireman has a responsibility to himself and his family, and the community he serves.

"The fact that a fireman is a volunteer," he explained, "does not mean that he is not just as important as a (paid) professional."

He illustrated this by the fact that they subject themselves to the same risks as professionals and perform the same duties if properly trained.

Training is a specialty for Grimes, who has been engaged in fire protection for 25 years. He and eight other instructors, he said, are available for assistance in

training and is now spending a month in Robeson County for that purpose.

Noting the dedication necessary for a fireman, he spelled out such things as answering an alarm even if at work, at play, at home, fishing or hunting, or even in church when such an alarm comes.

Training was especially noted in that departments must receive certain ratings through the insurance department because they are properly trained and equipped, thereby lessening the insurance rates for property owners in his community.

A special event of the evening was the presentation of his official fire helmet as chaplain of the association to the Rev. Bill Davis.

A special guest for the meeting was Wayne County Fire Marshal Coley.

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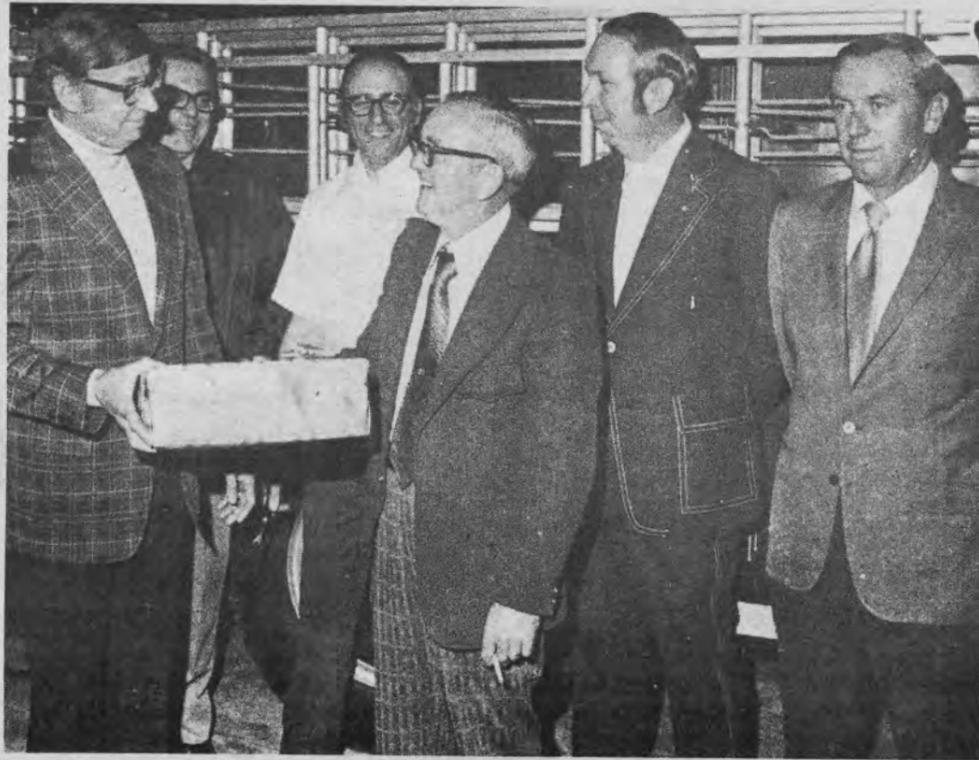
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CLINTON - HONORED -- Wade Warren, center, who is retiring from the Clinton Fire Department after more than 30 years of service, was honored at a steak supper at the fire station recently. Presenting a gift to Warren is Fire Chief Max Price. Looking on are Aubrey Winston, Albert Kaleel, Billy Fryar, and B.J. Gallagher. --Sampsonian Photo

Grovemont Joins Swannanoa Fire District

SWANNANOVA -- Homeowners of Grovemont, a residential subdivision near Swannanoa, voted overwhelmingly recently to join the Swannanoa Fire District, according to James H. Parks, president of the board of directors of the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire

Dept. The poll was taken by residents of Grovemont. Mrs. Barbara Frady, chairman, reported that 96 percent of the home-owners voted to join.

Grovemont had been classified a "recognized protected suburb" of Black Mountain, three miles away, for more than 25 years. Poll takers reported that many of the

homeowners had never known this. The Swannanoa VFD has tended hydrants and answered calls in Grovemont since 1959, when it was organized.



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LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Valley Hill Answers 90 Alarms In '73

HENDERSON COUNTY -- The Valley Hill Volunteer Fire Department answered a total of 90 alarms in 1973, according to a report filed with the Henderson County Fire Commission.

A break - down of the alarms shows that 17 were for buildings, 12 for vehicles, 16 for brush and 28 for miscellaneous reasons, such as emergencies not involving fire, smoke scares and assistance calls. Mutual aid was rendered to other departments on 17 occasions, including one response to aid the Saluda Fire Department. Property lost to fire totaled \$104,970 in value while property protected from fire totaled \$109,050.

The Department placed in service in December a new brush pumper mounted on a four - wheel drive vehicle. This unit will also serve as a quick - response vehicle for auto fires. The Department now has in operation two 750 gallon per minute pumpers, two tanker trucks, two brush fire trucks, one squad truck which carries personnel and additional rescue tools and two mobile electric generators.

Officers for 1974 include James Rogers, chief; Bill Hill, first assistant chief, Russell Ledbetter, assistant chief; Alvin Nelson, Philip McCrary and Stanley Summey, captains; Terrell Orr, Fred Pittman and James Marshall, lieutenants. Staff officers are Ed Young, president; Glenn Summey, vice - president; Bill Stewart, corresponding secretary; Elmer Drake, recording secretary; Coy Corn, treasurer; Reid Bishop, sgt. at arms; Grady Pruitt, chaplain. Training Officer for the Junior Fire brigade is Carlton Bishop.

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Keeter Wins Pro Tem Post

RALEIGH -- Long - time Raleigh fire chief Jack B. Keeter recently was elected mayor pro tem, the city's second highest elective office.

The council voted unanimously to elect Keeter after Oliver Williams withdrew from the mayor pro tem race to accept the chairmanship of the City Council's Public Works Committee.

Williams' withdrawal and subsequent nomination of Keeter ended a deadlock that lasted several weeks after the City Council tied in voting three times 4 to 4 between Keeter and Williams at the earlier meeting.

In announcing his withdrawal, Williams cited the heavy load of duties he would have to handle as Public Works Committee chairman and the need to formalize the City Council's structure before the end of the year.

Mayor Clarence E. Lightner also appointed Ronald I. Kirschbaum as chairman of the Law and Finance Committee, the City Council's other main committee.

Serving on the Public Works Committee will be Williams, Mrs.

Miriam P. Block and Thomas G. Bashford.

Sitting on the Law and Finance Committee will be Kirschbaum, James T. Quinn and William R. Knight.

Keeter, who retired as the city's fire chief last spring, said it had long been his ambition to sit on the City Council. He was elected at large, with much of his support coming from so - called "Old Raleigh."

The mayor pro tem position is largely ceremonial except when he fills in as mayor when the mayor is out of town.

Both Kirschbaum and Williams ran with strong community group support.

The appointments by Lightner avoided a protracted fight for the mayor pro tem position.

Lightner himself served as both mayor pro tem and chairman of the Law and Finance Committee but said the jobs should be separate because of numerous time conflicts.

While the mayor pro tem is a more prestigious position, a committee chairman wields more actual power in City Council matters.

The Public Works Committee often is called the "mud and flood" committee because it deals with problems such as flooding, soil erosion, in addition to street maintenance and public works items.

Williams is chairman of the soil and erosion task force which drew up the city's new soil erosion ordinance. He was also, until recently, a member of the City Planning Commission.

The Law and Finance Committee handles legal, tax and some zoning matters. Kirschbaum, its chairman, is a tax attorney. --News & Observer by Rob Christensen



PILOT FIRE DEPARTMENT INCORPORATED -- Deputy Secretary of State Clyde Smith is shown presenting the incorporation papers of the Pilot Voluntary Fire Department, Inc. to Lion Steve Jones of the Pilot Lions Club. On January 22, 1974 the Pilot Lions Club submitted Articles of Corporation to the state office and on January 24, 1974, the Articles and Certificate of incorporation were returned to Pilot Lions Club President Waddell Horton. --Louisburg - Franklin Times Photo

Cashiers - Glenville Firemen Elect Officers

The Cashiers - Glenville Volunteer Fire Department held an election of officers at their February 5th meeting.

Named for the coming year were: Fire Chief, Bud Rogers; 1st Assist. Chief, Larry Hawkins; 2nd Assist. Chief, Billy Ray Rice; Captain, Clyde Wilson; Lt., Bill Farmer; Secretary, Charles A. Ward; Treasurer, Ray Fowler; Special Treasurer, Thomas F. Dillard; Fire Marshal, Norman Beaty; Assist. Fire Marshal, Ray Paintanida; Training Officer, Blaine Hawkins; Assist. Training Officer, Bill Farmer; Supply Officer, Bobby Joe Moss; Assist. Training Officer, David Dillard; Traffic Control, Jim Battillo and Ray Piantanida.

Hose men named were: Verlon Stewart, Jr. Rogers, David Dillard, Clyde Wilson, Blaine Hawkins,

Ray Fowler, Billy Ray Rice, Bill Farmer, Larry Hawkins, Bobby Joe Moss, Joe Robinson.

Jim Battillo was named machanic and the truck drivers were: No. 1 Pumper Wayne

Dillard, Blaine Hawkins, Thomas F. Dillard) No. 2 Pumper - Larry Hawkins, Ray Fowler. Verlon Stewart: No. 1 Tanker - Billy Ray Rice, Joe Robinson, and Jr. Rogers.

Youth Fire Safety Program Planned

RUTHERFORD COUNTY -- The Rutherford County 4-H, in cooperation with the Rutherford County Schools, The Rutherford County Fire Departments, and the municipal Fire Departments of Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Forest City, held a four-week countywide Youth Fire Safety Program.

This program was aimed at reaching at least 800 fifth graders in Rutherford County. Firemen in

the local community fire stations volunteered to conduct the sessions. The four consecutive sessions run about an hour and a half each week.

The fire station setting was chosen to enhance and maintain enthusiastic participation by the students, plus it provided a chance for the youth to become familiar with the operation of their community fire stations.



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Youngsville Gets Siren



SIREN INSTALLED -- A new five-horsepower fire alarm siren is installed at Youngsville Town Hall. Fire Chief Jimmie Allen said the new system will boost the hearing range of the alarm. --Wake Forest - The Wake Weekly Photo

YOUNGSVILLE -- A new five-horsepower fire siren and more than two miles of electrical wire were installed in Youngsville recently to modernize the fire alarm system of the town.

Fire Chief Jimmie Allen said the new siren, which cost \$1,300 was installed by Bob Cooper and Wayne Jones of Wake Electric with the help of local firemen. Fire control headquarters at Louisburg will be able to activate the siren as well as local switches, he said.

The wiring, just over two miles long, is expected to cost from \$600 to \$700, Allen said, and replaces the old fire alarm wiring system which he described as "almost completely rusted and corroded." The wiring connects the alarm switches at points about town to the alarm.

When someone spends thirty years reminding people to be careful with fire, and he does it for no other reason than to save our forests, he makes a lot of friends.

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QUARTERLY MEETING -- Albemarle Firemen's Association held their quarterly meeting recently at the National Guard Armory in Elizabeth City. High on their agenda was election of new officers for the upcoming year. They are left to right, Carlton Jackson, Edenton, president; Bailey P. Sawyer, Camden, first vice president; George Owens, Columbia, second vice president; Charles T. Skinner Jr., Hertford, secretary; Dennis W. Swain, Columbia treasurer; Lawrence McInturff, Swan Quarter, chaplain.

1974 Officers For Siler City

SILER CITY -- Officers for the year 1974 for the Siler City Volunteer Fire Department are: Richard Caviness, Chief; Earl Dorsett, First Assistant Chief; Steve Roberts, Second Assistant Chief; Jim Dixon, Captain; Doug Moon, Captain; George Moffitt, Captain; Burl Phillips, Captain; Don Brown, Secretary; Bruce Clark, Treasurer; Johnny Powers, Assistant Secretary - Treasurer.

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---ALBEMARLE---

Continued from page 2

of the Elizabeth City Fire Department, charged each officer with his different obligations and installed these men to their new jobs.

The program was given by Lt. Commander Hugh Williams, commanding officer of the Atlantic Strike Team from the

Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City. Lt. Williams gave an informative talk on containment and clean up of oil spills and other pollution control problems.

The next meeting is scheduled for Perquimans County.

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Columbus Firemen Honor Lanning

COLUMBUS -- Former Fire Chief Ed Lanning of the Columbus Volunteer Fire Dept. was honored for the second time recently when he was presented the Fireman of the Year Award by Chief William A. McFarland.

The award was presented at a steak dinner held at the 4-H and

Youth Center in Columbus. There were about 45 people present for the occasion including the firemen, their wives and the town officials.

The trophy is given each year by the firmer chiefs. The supper is paid for by a "slush fund" raised by donations of 25c from each of the members at the meetings until enough money is raised to have a social. The members do their own work for the supper. The cook this year was Mayor Robert Ormand.

All the firemen vote on the one they think has contributed the most to the fire department

during the year and Mr. Lanning was high man. Chief McFarland stated that Lanning continually gives his personal service. He is a mechanic and operator of the City Garage in Columbus, and one of his outstanding free services is the building of a new tanker on the chassis of the truck which saves the department considerable money, and his knowledge and experience help to keep the fire fighting equipment in good shape.

Creswell VFD Appoints Officers

CRESWELL -- The Creswell Volunteer Fire Department recently appointed 1974 officers.

They include Chief Hilton O. Chesson, Assisitant Chief Kenneth C. Sallenger, and Secretary-Treasurer A. W. Alexander, Jr.

Captain of Hose Division No. One is J.D. Melton and Captain of Hose Division No. Two is R. Dalton Phelps. Pump Division

Captain is C. Ray Spruill and Traffic Division Captain is J. Walter Peal.

Wilson Oliver was appointed head of First Aid Division, William H. Peal, captain of House Police Division, C.N. (Mike)

Davenport, Jr., fire prevention officer while Chesson and Sallenger were also named training officers.

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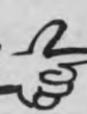
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---PERFORMANCE---

Continued from page 1

simulator exercise was used. This simulator is a series of overlays projecting a given structure on a screen and fires are simulated by the operators.

The program enables the company officers or students to cope with the procedures that will bring about effective extinguishment. The actual elapsed time from discovery of the fire to extinguishment is determined since time is the

critical factor in fire fighting. If the officers do not instigate the proper plan of attack on the fire, the operators will simulate complete destruction of the building.

This is a very effective means of training officers and attack officers on proper fire control. The Morganton Fire Department is sending 14 men to this program. They attend the program for three hours a night, four nights a week,

for a total of 12 hours.

During March of this year, two lieutenants will go to an instructors' conference in Memphis and in April, three lieutenants will go to a fire prevention program in Chapel Hill. Six firemen will go to the fire college in Shelby for one week of training in June. The North Carolina Department of Insurance is going to send representatives to Morganton this spring for an

entire week of training in fire suppression involving the fire personnel and the burning of two houses on Valdese Avenue. It is hoped within the near future the Community College will establish a fire science and technology

program.

Although there is an excellent fire training program in existence at this time, the city is continually working to improve the program. - From Morganton News-Herald by Ed Wyatt, City Manager

---PROMOTIONS---

Continued from page 1

R.J. Green, W.L. Swann, P. A. Johnston, J.C. Black, D.L. Maples Jr. and H.M. Landis Jr. Selections for the promotions

were taken from eligibility lists established last September by the city personnel department, fire officials said.

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