



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

Vol. 11 No. 7

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

July, 1974

### New Fire Department Organizes

**AHOSKIE**—The village of Union will soon have its own volunteer fire department, if present plans materialize. The project's work thus far has accomplished another purpose. It has helped a floundering civic club become reactivated.

Union residents three months ago began to talk about advantages of having their own fire department as their new incorporated water system came closer to being a reality.

The men continued with the project and invited Ahoskie Fire

Chief John Linkous to pre-plan meetings to decide just what must be done to have a department.

Clarence Willoughby, civil preparedness coordinator for Hertford County, also worked with the group. They were told they must meet certain county and state requirements. The county will pay \$125 monthly to a department which meets its minimum requirements.

Union is working toward a 9-A class rating, which will mean a cheaper insurance rate on property within a three-mile radius.

The requirements which must be met include a building for the fire truck which is warm enough to prevent freezing in the winter; a fire truck with a recommended 500-gallon capacity, minimum capacity of 300 gallons and a maximum of 1,000 gallons; a booster reel on the truck with 250-feet of one and one-half inch hose; 150 feet of preconnected hose; two certain type nozzles; 12-foot roof ladder with a 24 foot

extension; one each of an axe, 30-inch claw tool, a crow bar and 10-foot pike pole.

They must also have two electric lanterns; 100-feet of one-half inch rope; four 12 gallon buckets; two scoop shovels; two five-gallon hand pump tanks; two fire extinguishers; a first aid kit and last but not least, the department must have 20 men.

Also recommended is an air-pack for use in smoky buildings. This is not a requirement.

The first step taken by the group was acquisition of property to house the truck. The Union Civic Club has property surrounding a community building near the old school and 1,000 square feet of the property has been given to the department.

The civic club had to have an agreeable vote from 75 per cent of its dues-paying members before they could legally give the land away.

This meant the club, which had not been too active in time just past, had to reactivate its mem-

bership. Now they have 40 members.

After legal deed for the land transfer is complete, the department must have a charter from the state as its next step. This will be finished in three weeks, hopefully, according to Ray Lassiter, who is working with the group.

Then the group will begin to solicit funds. These funds will be sought both in and out of the community. Ways and means to raise funds will be studied, such as community suppers.

Linkous is helping the group locate fire trucks from other towns which have been replaced with newer models.

Lassiter said "Hopefully, we will be fully organized and underway in a few months. The project not only will provide us with a needed service, but it has helped bring our community closer."

Billy Rose has been named temporary president of the department, which already has 25 volunteers.

### Fireman's Not Lazy



**Kings Mountain**—It looks like the fireman is just resting while flames ravage this house in Kings Mountain recently, but the appearance is deceiving. The big frame home on S. Cherokee and Falls Streets was badly damaged inside by fire a few months ago, so the owner asked the Kings Mountain Fire Dept. to burn it completely to clear the site. The firemen stood by and this man's duty was to spray the overhead utility wires occasionally to keep them cool.

Gastonia Gazette Photo

### Old Homes Train Asheboro Firemen

**Asheboro**—A light drizzle began to fall as members of the Asheboro Fire Department prepared to set fire to two unoccupied and condemned houses at the corner of Cross and Brewer Streets recently.

But it was a cooling relief for the firemen who knew that they would have to put on heavy fall-out clothing to protect them from the heat and flames.

The houses came in handy as a part of rescue and fire-fighting training for the firemen. And their burning also helped clear the way for Asheboro's first Neighborhood Development Project.

Pictures continued  
on page 3



Preparation

### City Businesswoman Dies In Fire

**WELDON**—A prominent Roanoke Rapids businesswoman was pronounced dead on arrival at Halifax Memorial Hospital recently following a 5:45 a.m. fire at her home located on Stuart Circle just off the Country Club Road.

Hilda F. Richardson, owner of Hilda's Fashion House at 1007 Roanoke Ave. in Roanoke Rapids, is believed to have died of smoke inhalation. Her body was found on the floor of the rear bedroom of her home.

The source of the fire, though not determined, is believed to

have been in the kitchen or den area located in the rear of the home which is estimated to have been worth in excess of \$75,000. The den and kitchen area revealed considerable damage with all furniture in the den completely destroyed.

Weldon firemen who arrived minutes after the initial call, stated flames from the rear of the home were as high as 15 to 20 feet from the roof at one time.

An autopsy has been ordered to determine the actual cause of the death, according to Dr. S.J.

Cochran of Weldon, who is the county medical examiner.

A well known businesswoman in Roanoke Rapids for the past 28 years, Mrs. Richardson came from a small community of Pinhook, Va. She formerly taught home economics in a Richmond Academy.

She and her husband, the late Dorsey Richardson, opened the Fashion Shop in the present location of the Dianna Shop in

Continued page 4

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

send All Editorial and Advertising Copy to:  
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## Editorial



**EMILY H. KING**

I don't know how many of you are now getting the Bi-Monthly publication I have mentioned before—"Fire Command" from the NFPA, but as I have told you it is only \$6 to members, and \$8 to non-members of the National Fire Protection Association. Each issue has so much in the way of timely developments and advances in the field of Fire Protection it is well worth the annual subscription price.

In April a Special issue was published, prompted by the continued frequency of injuries and fatalities of Fire Fighters. Articles were featured encouraging improved safety in firefighting to assist Fire Chiefs, industry and the Medical Profession. Discussed was the need to understand the psychological make-up of firefighters as well as current and potentially dangerous emergencies that must be handled by the Fire Service, and also safety improvements by managerial techniques.

Another timely article is devoted to the potential behavior of LP Gas tanks that rupture in a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion, with reports on the use of self-contained breathing apparatus at greater than atmospheric pressures. Since many of you rural firefighters are subject to a lot of contact with LP gas, especially during the tobacco season, this should be of great interest to you.

This is the largest issue in the history of "fire Command" and copies were sent to all Fire Departments in the U.S., to regular subscribers, and to all who attended the NFPA's Annual Conference. I am sure that they do not have many, if any, Volunteer Departments on their list, probably only major Fire Departments like City Departments. Possibly you might borrow one from your local Dept., if they were sure you would return it. Better still, would be for you to send in your subscription for this

publication and perhaps they may have some April issues left that you might obtain by requesting it—it might be a good idea to state where you got your information about it.

The May issue featured results of NFPA study on first materials ignited in residential fires. They analyzed 636 fires to discover which materials in 4 types of residential occupancy ignite most frequently and which materials are involved most frequently in death and, or, injury. Since the Energy Crisis, with more people using alternate ways of heating, and more use of wood and coal-burning stoves, they have also published an article dealing with the safe usage of these materials. You Volunteer Departments probably have some homeowners who have been using it all the time, so this should also interest you!

You will also find interesting cases discussed in the "Legal Insight" column of each issue. This is written by attorney H. Newcomb Morse, who brings you accounts of actual cases, and their results, concerning people and members of the Fire Service.

Once again, I urge you to obtain your subscription as soon as possible so you will not miss any more of this valuable and interesting material brought to you for your knowledge and aid in operating your fire departments more efficiently, and keeping abreast of new developments in the Fire Service, so as to upgrade your departments all along. Write to: NFPA Membership Dept., 470 Atlantic Ave., Boston, Ma. 02210.

*Emily H. King*

Emily H. King

### Fire Protection Absolute Need

Washington—Twenty years ago if someone in Beaufort county had stood up and called for county-wide garbage pickup and disposal, that person might have been laughed at.

Twenty years ago here in Beaufort county we did not have a single Rescue Squad operating as such.

Today the citizenry is demanding more, and when the people make strong demands upon government, then whatever services

Continued page 3

Rocky Mount—The young man slipped quietly through the half-opened window in the rear of the house. He stood and listened for a minute, and hearing nothing, proceeded to go about the job he had intended to do—that of burning the house to the ground.

The young man set a simple time-delayed bomb and then quickly slipped back out of the window. Twenty minutes later, the entire house was ablaze, and the volunteer firemen in the area were alerted. It was nearly 45 minutes from the time the young man first slipped through the window before the firemen arrived at the scene. The house was nearly destroyed before the fire could be brought under control.

The arsonist, although young, was quite good with his work. He had arranged the fire bomb to start near the heater in the house, hoping to throw off any investigation into the fire, making the investigators believe the fire had started as a result of a faulty heater. But it was through the close examination of some charred ruins found by one of the volunteer firemen in cleaning up the debris after the fire which revealed the real cause of the blaze. This led to an investigation by the local law enforcement authorities and three months later, following an intensive investigation, the young man was arrested and charged with setting the fire.

It was only through the sharp eye of the volunteer fireman that the case was ever solved, or for that matter, that the local law enforcement authorities came to realize that the cause of the fire was the result of an arsonist and not the faulty heater. The volunteer fireman which spotted the arsonist's work was not just lucky, but was the result of intensive training he had previously received in an arson detection course taught in his area recently.

Nash Technical Institute, in cooperation with the Department of Community Colleges in Raleigh, recently conducted a similar course in arson detection. In attendance at this course were representatives of the county and area's volunteer fire department, North Carolina Forestry Service, area industries and members of the U.S. Postal Service. Several members of the area's law enforcement agencies also attended the course at Nash Tech.

"The purpose of the course is to teach the average fireman and law enforcement officer how to detect an unlawful burning," pointed out Calvin Beck, an instructor with the Department of Community Colleges. "We teach the firemen how to detect, and in some cases how to investigate an unlawful burning. We also give instruction in the types of fire-setters today, the methods and techniques used by these fire-setters, and also how to identify and dispose of various types of homemade bombs."

Beck, who is currently associated with Piedmont Technical Institute in Person County, was also assisted in the course by Doug Batts, area consultant in fire training with Wilson Technical Institute. Batts, although stationed at Wilson Tech, is in charge of a 20-county area, which includes Nash County.

## Nash Technical Institute

Beck pointed out that the course is usually set up over a longer period of time, but as a special arrangement at Nash Tech the course was set up to be completed within four nights. This includes a certain number of hours of classroom instruction, and the final night an abandoned house was burned using various methods of arson to start the fire. This enabled the students to identify various fire bombs after a fire.

"There are four basic ways of starting a fire," pointed out Beck. "These are mechanical, chemical, electrical and animal means. We attempt to teach these men how to determine what devices have been used and the steps in the procedure to obtain a conviction in an arson case."

"Many people have the idea that the evidence from an arson is completely consumed by the fire," stated Beck. "This is a misconception, as the trained investigator can generally find the device which set the fire whether it is chemical, mechanical, electrical, or animal."

The instructor stated that one method which is often used in determining the cause of the fire is the process of elimination. He stated that often an arsonist would try to disguise the cause of the fire, but through the process of elimination, the investigator can usually discover if the thing the arsonist is trying to show started the fire actually did.

Just as there are different types of fires, there are also different types of firesetters, according to Beck. He said that the people who usually start fires fall into the following categories: child firesetter, woman firesetter, spite firesetter, power manic firesetter and the professional firesetter.

The professional firesetter is a person who sets a fire in a particular place in order to claim a percentage of the insurance.

The percentage of arson-started fires in the United States is on a steady increase, added Beck. He noted that in 1965 arson losses reached a high of \$72 million, but from that time to 1971—which is the latest figures available—this loss, as a result of arsonist has increased ten times.

"We have found that most of the people who set fires are those who would receive a direct financial gain as a result of the fire," continued Beck. "Therefore it is the purpose of this course to train personnel to spot the arsonist's work and be able to attempt to find and arrest him. It is only through this method that we will be able to reduce the number of arsons each year."

There are only about six courses in arson taught throughout North Carolina each year, and a spokesman at Nash Tech stated that it would be at least five years before the course would be taught again in the area.

Ronnie Smith

Nash Technical Institute

Editors Note: My thanks to Ronnie for sending us this interesting and informative article. I have known Calvin Beck from the time he was a dedicated volunteer fireman and know that he does a fine job. I have also met Doug Batts, but not as well acquainted as Calvin. Calvin has almost devoted his whole adult life in the interests of the Fire Service. I know few who have as much dedication to his work as he, and he has come a long way in his increased knowledge and advancement.

Emily H. King

### Life Safety Code Interpretations

Boston, Md.—Four official interpretations of the 1973 edition of the Life Safety Code [NFPA No. 101] been released—effective March 28, 1974—by the National Fire Protection Association [NFPA]. Official texts are as follows:

**QUESTION:** [Referring to Paragraph 5-10113] When required by occupancy chapters, are all areas of the floor in the means of egress required to be illuminated at all times to values of not less than 1.0 foot candle.

**ANSWER:** Yes, except where this requirement is specifically modified, as by paragraph 8-1282.

**QUESTION:** In paragraph 5-10212 [emergency mode] does "the specified degree of illumination" refer to that level SPECIFIED in paragraph 5-10113 [normal illumination mode] and, therefore, is "1.0 foot candle measured at the floor" also the level required in the emergency mode?

**ANSWER:** Yes.  
**QUESTION:** Paragraph 5-11121 does not seem to differentiate between level of illumination in the normal mode as opposed to the emergency power mode. Is it the Code's intent to call for 5 foot candles under both normal conditions and during emergency power conditions?

**ANSWER:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** Paragraph 10-1331 states, "Transfer grills,

Continued page 4

### Fire Call Number Wrong On Sticker

CARRBORO—Carrboro Fire Chief Robert Swiger has issued a reminder that fires in town and in the South Orange Fire District should be reported to 942-8537.

That number is answered at all times by Carrboro police dispatchers.

Stickers for home telephones have recently been distributed with another fire number which should not be used, the chief said.

Swiger, who is also fire inspector, may be reached at the Town Hall, 942-8541.

**BEFORE YOU START ANY FIRE!**

Be sure fire can't spread





Waiting, Waiting . . .

. . . and action at the burning front door!

**Fire Protection from page 2**

are being called for usually are provided within reason of course.

A county-wide garbage pickup system and disposal will mean a great deal to our people. They surely will appreciate the service.

The people today already know how much the work of the rescue squads means, and yet only those who have come in close relationship with an emergency truly recognize their worth.

But for many years the work of our fire departments has been of tremendous importance. In the past several years as more volun-

teer departments have come into existence, as these volunteers on their own time have taken the necessary training, and on their own have given of their abilities in fighting fires, we as a people more and more take their work for granted.

It is good to see more fire departments springing up in our rural areas and smaller communities. Their presence can well be the difference between saving a building and watching it burn down.

Beaufort county or any other county might conceivably get along without a garbage pickup system, and while it would be difficult, maybe we could get along without rescue squads. At least we got along for many years without them. But we could hardly get along without fire protection today.

We do not want to see any of our fire departments weakened.

We want to see them strengthened. We would like to see the day come in Beaufort county when every citizen will be within 10 miles of some fire department. That is not an unreasonable hope either. It is not unreasonable because we believe that the day is approaching when such will be true.

Adequate fire protection is not merely a matter of lower insurance rates. It is also a matter of personal and individual satisfaction in knowing that if catastrophe strikes, there are those close by to help.

Fire protection, adequately given, is one service we can not get along without. And it is one branch of service we must ever strengthen.

Washington Daily News Editorial



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**Businesswoman Dies**

from page 1

1948. The business grew year by year and expanded. In the late 1950's, her husband drowned in a boating accident in Virginia.

In 1961, the business was moved a short distance down Roanoke Avenue to the present location and was remodelled to become Hilda's Fashion House in 1971. The business maintained a growing clientele and was known as a well organized and fashionable location for women's apparel.

Roanoke Rapids was not the only business interest she maintained. Her son Geordeson, a native of here, is the owner and operator of the Colony House and Colony Cinema located in Nags Head. George is also the owner and operator of the Nags Head Beach Service, handling needs of the vacationers from beach umbrellas to life guard service. The service has been in operation for more than 20 years on the beaches of Nags Head.

Businessmen and women who work in the 1000 block of Roanoke Avenue knew Hilda well and comments about her life varied from extreme sympathy to disbelief. "Everyone liked her . . . we will miss her"; "She was a very good businesswoman and a good friend"; "She will be sorely missed," were a few comments.

The future of Hilda's Fashion House was unknown by employees, who spoke of fond memories while employed with the business.

**Safety Code**  
from page 2

whether protected by fusible link-operated dampers or not, shall not be used in these walls or doors." Is it the intent of the [Safety to Life] Committee to prohibit the use of transfer grills which will close upon the action of a fire detector?

ANSWER: Yes.

Copies of the 1973 edition of the Life Safety Code [NFPA No. 101] are available in the 244-page booklet edition at \$3 each from



Hilda Richardson

**FATAL FIRE**—A Roanoke Rapids businesswoman was pronounced dead on arrival at Halifax Memorial Hospital recently following a 5:45 a.m. fire of her home just off Country Club Road on Stuart Circle in Weldon. Hilda F. Richardson, owner and operator of Hilda's Fashion House on Roanoke Avenue, is believed to have died of smoke inhalation. [Top left] The front of the home appeared unburned with a ladder remaining where neighbors attempted to rescue her from the home. [Top right] Weldon firemen believe the fire began in the rear portion of the home in the den or kitchen area with considerable damage shown here in the den. [Bottom] The rear patio deck was a mass of rubble and smoldering debris with Weldon Firemen making the recovery of the body in the rear bedroom.  
Daily Herald Photos

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**House, Trailer**  
**Burn**

Mount Olive—A mobile home used for an office, and a frame house were destroyed by fire in Mount Olive recently, according

to reports at the Mount Olive Fire department.

At 12:20 a.m., firemen were called to the trailer fire at Mount Olive airport. Three area youths, Mitchell Davis, David Kearns, and Glenn Mozingo said they discovered the fire while riding in the area and drove to the local fire department to report the blaze.

The trailer, used as a secondary office for Skyways Aviation, the owner of the structure, was destroyed by the fire. No estimate of damage was available, and cause of the fire was not determined.

At 5 a.m. the same morning, 16 firemen battled a blaze at the home of Dirk McIntyre on East Franklin street, but were unable to save the structure. The house, owned by Mrs. J.J. Whitehurst

and Mrs. Frank Kornegay, and contents, all valued at \$5,500, were declared a total loss. Cause of the fire was not known.

The local fire fighters called the Dudley Firement for mutual aid at the house fire, but no service of

the Dudley firemen were needed, according to the report.

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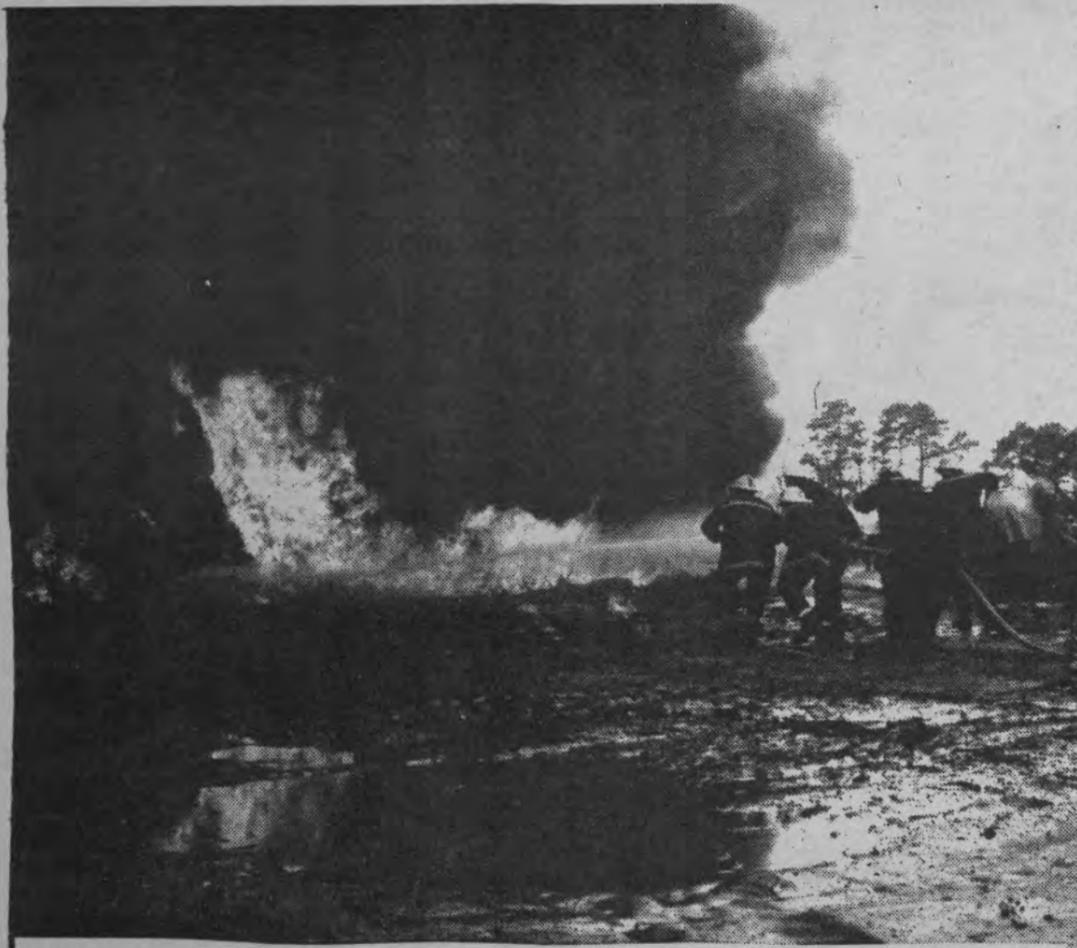
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Lumberton—Firemen crouch as they move in to douse this fire near Lumberton recently. Actually the fire was purposely set to simulate that of a burning oil tanker. Fire departments participating in the activity were Allenton, East Howellville, Northwoods, and Sadletree. This is part of the schooling offered for firemen through RTI under the instruction of Sam Byrd and Herman Kibbett. **Robesonian Photo**

out," Edwards continued. \$215 per hundred feet, and by the same token, a new fire truck purchased in 1946 could be none in the State, for efficiency; sound knowledge of their profession and the ability to work together in unison for a dedicated purpose." Edwards concluded.

Today, he said, the department must pay \$2.15 per foot, or



Members of Marion Fire Department are shown as they test fire hoses at McDowell High School, recently. Chief Arthur Edwards noted that some 350 feet of 4,850 feet tested, failed the pressure tests and was retired because of its failure to meet standards for fire department use. **owell News Photo**

## Fire Hose Tests Conducted By Marion Fire Department

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Marion—Recently the Marion Fire Department, with approximately 22 Marion Volunteer Firemen, spent eight hours testing 4,850 feet of the 7,600 feet of fire hose used by the department.

As a result of these tests, according to Chief Arthur Edwards, some 350 feet of the hose failed the pressure tests and was

retired because of its failure to meet standards for fire department use.

Chief Edwards said a standard rule of the Marion Fire Department is to make annual tests and inspections of the fire hose, so the fireman can be assured of its dependability when used to route water to a fire.

"Although the fire hose is tested by the manufacturer at the time of purchase to see that it can withstand up to 600 pounds P.S.I., this does not guarantee it will maintain this performance. It is constantly exposed to heat, abrasions to the outside jacket and couplings, and exposure to inclement weather while enroute or working at a fire," Edwards explained.

Proper maintenance is a determining factor to the life of a fire hose, and this is the reason periodic tests must be carried

purchased at a cost of \$7900, but today the price of a new truck is \$40,000.

"I am extremely proud of the offices and volunteer firemen of the Marion Fire Department. They give so freely of their time and service in helping make the Marion Department second to

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**BLAST LEVELS MANSION REDUCED TO RUBBLE**—This is all that was left of Russell W. (Shorty) Childers' house after an explosion ripped it apart recently, causing the house to catch fire. All that remains is the burned hulk of a late model car in the carport and rubble strewn about. Childers was on vacation at the time of the incident.  
Gastonia Gazette Photo

# Blast levels 'mansion'

Gastonia—A ripping explosion that could be heard four miles away shattered a luxurious home on a country estate in South Gastonia recently.

The blast triggered a fire that destroyed the sprawling brick-and-frame "mansion," variously

estimated to have cost \$100,000 to \$150,000.

It also triggered an immediate arson investigation, with Rural Police and FBI agents probing the ruins for clues. Rural Police said it appeared that a blast had occurred within the house, blowing the walls outward and lifting the roof.

Russell W. (Shorty) Childers, a Gastonia businessman, is the owner of the estate off Little Mountzin Road, a short distance beyond the Gastonia city limits. Childers was reported vacationing at the time in the Bahamas, and the house was unoccupied.

The extent of the loss is officially undetermined, but Gaston County Fire Marshal Albert McGinnis said he was told that the house was insured for \$70,000.

In addition to the explosion and

fire a 20 to 30 minute delay was encountered in dispatching fire fighters, Gaston Emergency Services director Q.H. Dale said.

Dale said the first notification of a fire at Childers' house came in by telephone at 10:10 p.m. The radio operator activated an electronic device that was supposed to sound the fire alarm at South Gastonia and Union Road Volunteer Fire Department headquarters.

However, Dale said, the alarms were not activated and "our radio room didn't know this until a Rural Police car on the fire scene called in and wanted to know when the fire trucks were coming."

McGinnis said he heard the police car's radio traffic and alerted the volunteer departments by radio from his home.

Rural Police Sgt. Tommy Fuller, identification bureau head, said that it appears to him that a blast occurred from within the house. "The walls were blown out and the roof lifted and then fell straight down."

Fuller said the house apparently caught fire immediately after the explosion. "What from, we don't know at this time," he said.

Fuller said the fire and explosion appear to be arson. "We are checking a report that a car was spotted by Little Mountain

Road residents as it left a dirt road leading to Childers' house immediately after the explosion was heard."

Childers' house is located at the end of a one-land road east of Little Mountain Road, off the 5000 block. The house is about a half mile off the main road in an isolated area adjacent to a man-made lake.

The explosion that ripped the house apart brought several false fire alarms from a four-mile radius of the house.

By the time firemen arrived, the only thing left of the house was burning ruins, including a late-model car in the carport.

Childers, who reportedly had lived alone since the death of his

## Chamber In Burke Honors 15 Firemen

MORGANTON—A "Fireman of the Year" in each of the 15 fire departments in Burke County has been honored with a plaque by the Burke County Chamber of Commerce.

Presentation of the plaques was made by Dr. Gordon C. Blank, president of the chamber, at an annual picnic held by the Burke County Firemen's Association at Shadowline Park near Morganton.

The recipients and the fire departments they serve are David Causby, Brendletown; Paul Powell, Glen Alpine; William Secrest, Drexel; Johnny Stroupe, Salem; Bascom Ollis, Chesterfield; Sherrill Brittain, Valdese; Larry Nichols, Rhodhiss; Harold J. McGhinnis, Morganton; Clinton Lowman, Icard; Lee Epley, Triple Community; Albert Powell, Oak Hill; Junior Propst, George Hildebran; Donald Farris, West End; James Kincaid, Lake James, and Clyde Lowman, Lovelady.

Also awarded plaques were Marvin Sawyer, county fire marshal and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordinator; Carl Crisp, EMS; Ervin Hennessee, Burke County Rescue Squad, and J. D. Ogle, Valdese Rescue Squad.

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By Gary Martin

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# New Gear For West End Dept.

Morganton—West End Volunteer Firemen display the turnout gear they purchased with a donation from the Ladies' Auxiliary. Shown are Richard Mangum

be used to finish the new fire station and purchase new equipment for the department.

Completion of the station was expected by July and bids are



**House Ravaged By Flames**—New Bern firemen are shown battling a blaze which gutted the home of Levi Meadows at 529 Queen Street recently. Also suffering slight damage as a result of the fire were houses at 527 and 531 Queen Street. Firemen said the cause of the fire was undetermined. No estimate of damages was possible pending an investigation by the fire department. Sun-Journal Photo



Richard Mangum (in truck), Jerry Vuncannon, Robert W. Morrison

News Herald Photo

(in the truck), Jerry Vuncannon, finance chairman of the department, and Robert W. Morrison, assistant fire chief.

In conjunction with efforts to provide fire protection for the West End section of Morganton, the Ladies' Auxiliary presented a check for \$1,000 to the 26 firemen to buy turnout gear. Doris Perkins, president of the Auxiliary, reported that the group raised the money through donations and various projects supported by the people of the fire district.

Money for the fire department is also expected from the special fire tax which was passed in the May primary. Mrs. Perkins said that the West End Volunteer Fire Department and their board of directors, as well as the Ladies' Auxiliary, wished to express their appreciation to the citizens of the fire district for supporting the fire tax so completely. The money will

now being received. The fire department has selected a new 1000 gallon-per-minute pumper and with the purchase of a used tanker is now answering calls.

## HAW RIVER F.D. ELECTIONS HELD

The Haw River Fire Department recently held elections of new officers for 1974-1976. The results are as follows:

Chief: J. Bohn R. Watkins  
Asst. Chief: Norman Ross  
Bill Smith  
Treas.: Ernest Workman

Appointed officers are as follows:

Captains: Lee Neese  
David Ray  
Lieutenants: Willard  
Abernathy

Gary McBride  
Training Officer: Stanley Mullis  
Asst. Training: Charles Belcher  
Officers: Gary McBride

## 10 City Firemen Given Citations

Charlotte—Ten Charlotte firemen were given citations recently for their heroism in saving three children.

Chief John E. Lee presented the citations in his office on E. Fourth St.

Firemen A. B. Garmon, D. R. King, R. J. Green and J. W. Keziah were honored for their work in reviving two youngsters who had stopped breathing when their home at 3334 N. Sharon Amity Rd. caught on fire March 29.

Firemen J. W. Templin, J. W. McCoy, J. B. Dellinger, L. S. Martin, B. W. Davis and E. E. McKinney were cited for restoring breathing to a 10-year-old who nearly drowned May 24 at Greenville Community Center at 1330 Spring St.

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# 13 Cary Firemen Receive Certificate

Cary—After weeks of intensive training, 13 Cary firemen have received certificates of competency in 20 areas of firefighting knowledge.

Taught by Cary Fire Captain C. W. Frye, the 60 hours of lectures, plus many demonstrations using fire department equipment, were designed to allow each Cary firefighter to become familiar with all department equipment and to know thoroughly departmental procedures.

Cary Fire Chief Terry L. Edmondson, in the award ceremonies recently, said the 13 men had improved their skills "100 per cent" and that the department was "real proud" of their accomplishments.

Town Manager Harry A. Conte awarded the certificates to the men, praising the department for its "very fine job" in furthering their knowledge of fire safety and fire fighting.

"I feel very good as chief of this department to be able to see you men get these certificates," Edmondson said. "I am proud of it, and you should be, too."

Captain Frye said all men who took the test at the end of the training period not only passed, but got an average score of 88 (of possible 100). Fireman Don Daniels received the highest score on the final test, and Chief Edmondson commended Daniels for doing "a lot of homework" in

preparation for the test.

Frye said the training, though crediting the men with 60 hours of work, actually involved "hundreds of hours of time and work over the past weeks." Frye added that the department's aim was to educate as many firemen in as many phases of fire knowledge as possible.

Training included studies of drill outlines, pump operation, radio procedures, hazardous materials, arson detection, portable fire extinguishers and other areas, Frye said.

"I was really surprised at the high scores overall," Frye said of his men. "A lot of this training is highly technical."

Captain Frye has put together what he feels is the only complete training manual for a fire department of Cary's size.

"When we get two fires at the same time here in Cary," Frye said, "we need to have not only the shift men knowing what to do, but even the off-duty men. By this training, we can assure the people of Cary that we can handle any situation that comes up."



Sonny Gibson Receives Training Certificate from Town Manager Harry A. Conte, as Fire Chief T.L. Edmonds Looks on. 13 Firemen were awarded Certificates for 60 hours of trainings.  
Cary News Photo

## Five Rescued By Firemen

Durham—Firemen rescued five men recently from a burning house that served as a rehabilitation center for alcoholics.

The center, The Serenity House, at 508 Holloway St., was destroyed, according to its director, R. G. Thacker.

Thacker estimated the damage at \$50,000, but said the building was made of "virgin timber" that could not be replaced.

Firemen rescued four of the men from the roof of the two-story building. The fifth man was pulled from a second-story win-

dow. Thacker said six other men escaped from the building when the fire broke out shortly after 2 a.m.

Fire officials said the cause hasn't been determined. One official quoted an occupant of the building as saying the fire broke out in a second-story ceiling.

Officials said the ruins of the building smoldered the whole morning of the fire. The last truck on the scene returned to the station shortly after noon.

Thacker said the building has housed alcoholics for 13 years. Before 1970, he said, it was known as the Flynn Christian Fellowship House.

A spokesman for the Alcoholism Information Center said shelter had been found for several of the 12 men living at Serenity House. The spokesman said the men lost all their clothes and belongings in the fire. He asked that anyone interested in donating clothes contact the information center.

Thacker said that in addition to living quarters, The Serenity House provided privately financed counseling services for the alcoholics.

"Four thousand men have passed through this home," Thacker said.

He said he would like to find funds to rebuild the center, but said he wasn't sure where or if any money was available.

"We've saved the city of Durham \$60,000 a year keeping 12 men out of jail each night," Thacker said.

## Fire Department, Rescue Squad Hold Dedication

Sealevel—The Sealevel Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad dedicated an ambulance and fire truck recently on the Sea Level Hospital picnic grounds. A crowd estimated at 100 attended the ceremony.

Grady Fulcher, co-chairman of the nine-member board of directors, introduced directors who were present: Woody Hancock, chairman; Alton Joyner, Lynwood Coombs, Earl Hamilton, Mrs. Dot Willis, treasurer, and Mrs. Irene Hamilton, secretary.

He also introduced fire chief Dallas Willis, rescue squad chief Mac Garris and the guest speaker, the Rev. Willis Walker, pastor of the Sea Level Missionary Baptist Church.

Quoting St. Luke's account of the good Samaritan, he compared the work of the rescue squad to that of the good Samaritan, commending each rescue squad member for a job well done.

Mrs. Willis, the treasurer, thanked those attending the ceremony for their cooperation and donations, noting that the rescue squad could not exist without

community cooperation. Mr. Garris demonstrated how the rescue squad could be notified of an emergency by calling the county communications center. Anyone needing the rescue squad should dial the operator and ask for Zenith 191.

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**SMOKE EATERS—Shelby**—Area firemen got more than a taste of smoke during a training exercise in the Dover Mill Community recently. Participating in the exercise, which involved the burning of a frame house on Roberts Street donated by Dover Textiles, were Cleveland volunteer firemen, the Dover Mill Fire Brigade and Number Seven volunteer firemen.

Shelby Daily Star Photo



**Newton**—A handful of residents turned out to watch Newton Fire Department personnel conduct a practice burning at a house on South Ervin Avenue recently. **Observer-News-Enterprise Photo**

## Sawmills Firemen Choose Directors

**Sawmills**—Gaither Withers and Paul Pope have been elected directors of the Sawmills Fire Department for a three-year terms. Other directors are Frank Cook, Floyd Bumgarner, Jack Hendrix, Roger Brookshire and O. D. Minton.

### BCVFD DIRECTORS

**Lincolnton**—The Boger City Volunteer Fire Department's Board of Directors held their annual meeting recently.

New officers elected for the coming year were Grady "Jud" McConnell, chairman, Alvin Saunders, vice chairman, Fred Hawkins, secretary, and Paul Kistler, treasurer.

Kenneth Saine was elected

chief of the BCVFD for the coming year, replacing Floyd Peeler who has held the position for the past two years.

Members retiring from the board were John Crow, Woodrow Blanton and Dr. Efrid Burris. They were cited for their past three years of service and helping the department to progress.

## Resolution Honors Retired Fire Chief

**MAIDEN**—A resolution of appreciation and commendation to the retired fire chief for the Town of Maiden has been adopted by the Maiden Town Board.

It cites Clyde Franklin Finger for 32 years of continuous service with the Maiden Volunteer Fire Department in various positions,

and notes that he served as chief of the department from June 30, 1971 until his retirement last June.

The aldermen in a resolution expressed their appreciation to Finger "for his long period of service to the town" and commended him "for an exemplary job while chief of the department."

The board acknowledged in the resolution "the significant contribution to the public safety of the town" made by Finger and expressed "the applause of a community he has so long and ably served."

The resolution was signed by Mayor W. H. Adams and R. D. Whisenant, town clerk.

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# Two Tobacco Warehouses Destroyed

**Sanford**—Two of three tobacco warehouses owned by Twin City were completely destroyed by fire recently. A passerby reported the fire to the Lee County Sheriff's Department around 11:30 p.m. and the Cape Fear Volunteer Fire Department was the first on the scene, followed by Tramway, Sanford and Northview. Cape Fear Fire Chief John Collins said the fire appeared to have started under the shed where the trucks unload, and



Remains of two warehouses Sanford Herald Photo

ment around 11:30 p.m. and the Cape Fear Volunteer Fire Department was the first on the scene, apparently spread to the two adjoining warehouses, which were completely destroyed. Firemen remained on the scene until 6 a.m.

Bill Carter, owner of the warehouse, has estimated the damages in excess of \$100,000. He did say, however, that he still plans to conduct the sale of his designated allotment beginning July 22. There were 5,000 sheets of tobacco in the warehouse at the time of the fire.

Sheriff D. F. Holder said the State Bureau of Investigation will assist in the investigation to determine the cause of the fire. Further details are not known at this time.

# Fiery chemicals

**Gastonia**—A barrel of sodium hydrosulfite ignited recently on the loading dock at Armtex Inc. at 801 N. Oakland St. and members of the Gastonia Fire Department (shown with breathing masks) dumped the chemical to the ground to keep the barrel from exploding. Once the chemical (used to mix dye) was dumped, water was used to put out the fire and dilute the chemical. Capt. J.R. Williams of the fire department said that the chemical must be kept airtight and all moisture away from it. He said a couple of drops of water may have gotten into the barrel and caused it to ignite. The firemen used breathing masks because the fumes from the burning chemical are highly toxic. Gastonia Gazette Photo



## FHA Approves Loan to Fletcher VFD

**Fletcher**—Congressman Roy A. Taylor announced recently in Washington that the Farmers Home Administration has approved a loan of \$170,000 to the Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department Inc., to build a new firehouse for the firefighting force based in Fletcher.

The volunteer fire department serves about 1,000 homes, two schools, five churches, Fletcher Hospital and the N.C. Agricultural Research Center, all located within a four-mile radius of Fletcher. The department also serves as a back-up fire protection unit for the Asheville Airport.

The loan, which will be used for the department's new headquarters building, will be repaid over a 40 year period at an interest rate of five per cent.

John Parris of Hendersonville is president of the Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

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**OFFICERS INSTALLED—Washington Co.**—The newly organized Washington County Firemen's Association installed officers recently at a dinner held at Union School in Roper. Town and County officials were present along with volunteer firemen from the county's three departments in Creswell, Roper and Plymouth. Officers from left are the Rev. Kenneth Hutchinson of Roper, chaplain; Lyman Mayo, II, of Plymouth Vice president; Charles Hassell of Roper, president; and Ken Sallenger of Creswell, secretary-treasurer.



Wilmington— **SUTTON-COUNCIL FIRE**—W.D. Campbell, advertising manager of the Journal and who services the Sutton-Council advertising account, had his camera in his car when the big fire got underway at the Front Street landmark. Nearly half a block of buildings was destroyed. Soon, Sutton-Council will move into a new building on College Rd.

## Durham Resident Injured In Blaze

### RESCUED BY FIREMEN

**Durham**—An elderly Durham man was in guarded condition in Duke Hospital after being pulled from a fire at his home recently.

A spokesman for Duke Hospital said the man, James Clark of 1808 Knox St., suffered second and third degree burns over his lower body.

According to Durham fire officials, Jack Warren, a Guess Road service station operator, spotted smoke coming from Clark's one-story duplex home about 6:30 a.m. Warren drove two blocks to the Ninth Street fire station and reported the fire, officials said.

Capt. C. E. Chandler and Fireman Tommy Price drove a car back to check. When they saw smoke pouring from the windows, Chandler jumped out and sent Price back to the station for the full company.

Acting alone, Chandler kicked open the door. He said he found Clark unconscious next to the blazing sofa bed in the living room. The captain dragged Clark outside and began administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

When the fire trucks arrived Price and Chandler alternated resuscitation until an ambulance came. The fire, which officials suspect started from a dropped cigarette, was confined to the sofa and surrounding floor, according to Capt. H. C. Roberts.

Roberts, who was in command at the time, said that without Warren's timely reporting of the blaze and Chandler's and Price's quick action, the victim probably would have died.

## Fatal Cary Fire Laid to Smoking

**Cary**—A June 9 blaze which killed three Cary girls was caused by what Cary fire officials described recently as "careless smoking."

Cary Fire Chief T. L. Edmondson said an investigation has revealed that cigarette smoking by two teenagers in the Lloyd Hagwood family—which lost its home and three family members during the blaze—probably triggered the fire.

A report of the investigation concluded that 15-year-old Sheila Hathaway and her twin sister, Shirley, had smoked in the den of the Wilshire Drive home the night of the blaze.

Shirley and Elizabeth Hathaway, 16, and their younger half-sister, Susan Hagwood, 6, died in the fire.

The report said the twins entertained friends in the den until about 1:30 a.m. the night of the fire and that some smoking was done at the time. The fire was reported at 3:45 the same morning.

Edmondson said a cigarette or hot cigarette ashes apparently dropped into a chair in the den.

Continued page 12



**FIREMAN HONORED—Edenton**—Gene Roberson, left, of Center Hill-Crossroads Fire Department is shown with Chief Luther Parks of Edenton Fire Department and an award for most Outstanding Fireman. The award was presented to Roberson at a recent banquet. The presentation cited his outstanding service to department and community, and was voted by members of the department.

Edenton Chowan Herald Photo

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WAYNESVILLE FIREMEN have been going to school recently, training under acting chief Montgomery Queen and a state government instructor to fight different types of fires they could face here and utilizing the town's new engine and equipment. Above, one team battles flames in a condemned dwelling on Craven Rd., set on fire by their instructor. Teams of firemen took turns putting out the blaze. The Mountaineer Photo

## RETIRED FIREMEN: 125 YEARS OF DUTY

Winston-Salem—Four officers of the Winston-Salem Fire Department with service totaling more than 125 years retired the last of June.

Fire Chief Paul Crim said all the officers had "performed in a very outstanding manner and had given the department many years of service."

E. L. Hatcher, 63, is captain at the Arbor Road fire

station. He has been there six years. Before that he was at the main station for five years.

He and his wife live at 130 W. Sprague Street. They have a daughter living in Hampton, Va. and three grandchildren.

Hatcher, who joined the department Sept. 1, 1943, said, "I have enjoyed my fire-fighting career. Now I plan to work some in my garden raising flowers."

Dewey F. Blackburn, 64, is captain at Engine Co. 9 on Ogburn Avenue. He has been there two years.

He joined the department Dec. 1, 1940. He and his wife live at 1491 Norwich Road.

"I'm going to travel a little and do just what comes naturally from now on," he said.

T. W. Sherron, 63, is a lieutenant at Engine Co. 6 at 1717 Academy Street. He has been there seven years.

"I'm a born and bred fireman," he said. "It has been first in my life."

Sherron, who joined the department Feb. 1, 1943, lives with his wife at 3502 Wimberly Lane, Apartment B. He plans to fish and visit his daughter and her son in Jamestown.

J. Howard Hester, 56, is a lieutenant at Co. 7 on Arbor Road. He has been there six years.

He joined the department Dec. 1, 1942. He and his wife have three children and eight grandchildren.

Hester, who was born and reared here, plans to pitch horseshoes and work in his garden in retirement.

## Maggie Fire Department \$35,000 Truck

Maggie Valley—Looking ahead to the necessary purchase of a \$35,000 fire truck within 4 years, the Maggie Valley Fire Dept. members recently held a meeting to reorganize their association.

Although invited to stay, many of the long-standing board members retired. John Medford, former chairman of the board of directors, explained, that "it is time for some of the younger men, active in the community, to take leadership of the fire department."

Precipitating the move was a state requirement that fire de-

partments purchase a new truck at least once every 20 years. That means that 4 years from now the Maggie department must have raised the approximately \$35,000 needed for this piece of equipment.

Both finance and fund-raising committees were appointed and Maggie residents will soon find members on their doorsteps asking for contributions to the truck fund. The department members will also sponsor dinners and other entertainment events during the summer season. Persons wishing to make contributions may call Harvey Eure, department secretary, or stop by Lee's Shell in the valley.

To receive state accreditation, fire departments must have at least 20 trained members. Maggie now has 25 men undergoing appropriate training at night meetings once a week, and when the course is concluded, the department will be accredited. This will lower fire insurance rates in the valley, said Eure.

Other recent improvements in the department, he said are a nearly completed, 2,000-gallon water tank soon to be installed at the fire station, plans to have a

rescue squad unit on call in the valley, one man on duty each night from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., two sirens instead of one in the valley, and a system of zones and sectors so that a resident may report a fire simply by reporting what zone and sector he lives in (as identified by cards that will be delivered to each house).

Firemen now have to waste much valuable time trying to find obscure addresses, said Eure. He added that the department hopes for the cooperation and support of Jonathan Creek residents on the projects, and that Maggie Valley will in turn help Jonathan Creek when it gets its own fire department in operation.

New board members include Dean Smith, chairman, replacing Dick Gibson, Harry Ward, Glenn Rich, Donnie Hannah, Edward (Bud) Nelson and Bill Ewing.

Chief Art Roberts and Clayton Alexander have led the department for several years.

## Fatal Cary Fire from page 11

but were not detected by the girls before they went upstairs to bed. The fire then spread from the den to the rest of the house.

The investigation, undertaken by Cary fire officials and the State Bureau of Investigation, was described by Edmondson as "long and careful." The chief said the probe included lengthy questioning of the Hagwood family, neighbors and friends who had visited the home the night of the fire.

Edmondson added that the tragedy could have been prevented if smoke detectors had been installed throughout the house. He said smoke and heat caused far more damage during the blaze than the fire itself.

The North Carolina Building Code Council has approved a measure that would make installation of smoke alarms mandatory in mobile homes as of Sept. 1, 1974, and in newly built dwellings by Jan. 1, 1975.

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