



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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### Retiring Fire Chief Honored

Youngsville — James T. Allen, retiring Fire Chief of the Youngsville Volunteer Fire Department, was honored at an Open House held at the Fire Station on a recent Sunday afternoon. Allen has retired from active service after 25 years as fire chief and thirty years as a member of the department. He has seen the department grow from the initial organization stage to the present department which has four vehicles, improved equipment, modern fire station, a new siren, a town-wide alarm circuit which was required this year, increased membership, well-trained firefighters, and insurance benefits for all firemen. Out-of-town officials who visit the station never fail to note that it is one of the first in the state.

Allen recalls early days of firefighting when men worked with a reel-on-wheels and then an old converted school bus, old hose and a hand-operated siren. Over the years Allen has worked for constant improvement and progress. Cooperation has been outstanding.

In 1964 Chief Allen was presented a plaque and gift from citizens in appreciation for outstanding service and leadership in building a new

fire station on Cross St. and the purchase of a new fire truck. The station which also houses the Town Hall office, was planned by Chief Allen, J.A. Green and Ray Pearce. A committee to secure the new vehicle was headed by Allen, Ray Pearce and Arthur Hall. The chief was leader in numerous fund-raising projects such as benefit dinners, special programs and solicitation drives, which were necessary for completion of the large projects. Though the large projects were funded by a bond issue, it became necessary to raise additional funds. The Chief's work has involved more than leadership and has included frequent menial tasks such as washing and cleaning vehicles and equipment after fires and spending a hot summer day testing hose.

Allen is married to the former Catherine Pearce, a local school teacher. Both are local natives whose families have been active citizens for generations. Allen's grandfather, J.L. Timberlake, was a Town Commissioner. Jimmie Allen is bookkeeper with Export Leaf Tobacco Co. and Youngsville Milling Company.

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### They Call Fireman Sigmon 'Chicken Man'

Matthews — His coworkers call Charlotte city fireman Wayne Sigmon "Chicken Man," but he doesn't mind.

Because he is a "Chicken Man" as well as a fireman. He raises more than 20,000 chickens at a time on his 26-acre farm at 3801 Hooks Rd. in Matthews.

The story of how a fireman became a gentleman chicken farmer started about 10 years ago when Sigmon decided to do something to supplement his fireman's salary.

"I WANTED something I could do so I could stay with my family. I enjoy animals and I enjoy farm work," Sigmon said.

"I thought about it and I prayed about it," he said, and then a neighbor suggested that he raise chickens for a firm that sells the chickens to other companies to be prepared as broilers.

So he borrowed about \$7,500, built a 40-by 200-foot chicken

house, complete with some 180 water jars and automatic feeding throughs, and he was in business.

The next year he built another house. Now he says he raises about 20,000 chickens in each "batch," turning out five batches a year for Central Soya in Monroe.

"I furnish the houses, labor and equipment. They (Central Soya) bring the chickens to me when they're a day old and furnish the feed. I tend to the chickens until they're about eight weeks old," Sigmon said.

After the eight-week period, the feathered fowls weigh about 3½ pounds apiece and are taken to other companies by Central Soya for preparation as broilers.

Between every batch of chickens there is a two- or three-week waiting period while the chicken houses are cleaned out and the water jars are prepared for the next group of chicks, he said.



FHA LOAN FOR KENANSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT—A loan from the Farmers Home Administration to the Kenansville Fire Department was presented recently to Hiram Brinson of the Kenansville Fire Department by James Johnson, state director of the FHA. Pictured left to right for the presentation ceremony are Arthur Bention, J. M. Mills, Mr. Brinson, Tommy Potter, Rev. Lauren

Sharpe. Mr. Johnson, Billy Stephens, Stacy Smith, D. J. Fussell, Tyson Bostic, and H. L. Oswald. The loan was for a total of more than \$37,000 to pay for two new trucks for the department. The truck pictured here is a new 1250 gallon tanker with a Hale midship pump. It was sold to the Kenansville Fire Dept. by Jack L. Slagle Fire Equipment Co., South Boston, Va.

### Kenansville Fire Dept. Receives Loan for New Equipment

Kenansville — The Kenansville Fire Department has received a check for more than

\$37,000.00 from the Farmer Home Administration in a loan to purchase new equipment at the fire station.

James T. Johnson of Harrells, state director of the FHA, presented the check to Hiram Brinson of the Kenansville department. The loan was made available under the Rural Development Act which permits organizations such as rural fire departments to become eligible for FHA loans. The money will be used for the payments on a 1974 utility truck and a 1974 tanker for the fire

department.

Kenansville's volunteer fire department becomes the first in Duplin County to receive an FHA loan for new equipment.

Johnson stated that he was proud to be able to present the KFD with the check.

D.J. Fussell of Rose Hill, chairman of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners, thanks Johnson and the Farmers Home Administration for the check.

The Kenansville Fire

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### Site chosen for fire station

Thomasville — Purchase of an old service station on National Highway as a site for a new city fire station was authorized recently by the Thomasville City Council.

The station, with about 1.5 acres of land, is owned by the Sun Oil Co. of Philadelphia, Pa. It has agreed to sell the property for \$47,500.

The council has in mind clearing the site, constructing a central fire station on the land, and closing down the fire station at City Hall. Space formerly used by the fire

department would be appropriated for expanding other City Hall departments.

The service station, now vacant, was last used to house operations of an amusement center known as the BG Club. The location is on "Slimey Corner" at National Highway's intersection with Council Street.

The council will draw on revenue-sharing funds to meet the purchase price, according to Councilman Charlie Eanes,

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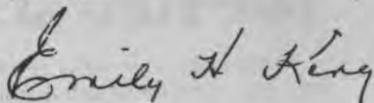
### Editorial

The official publication of the Va. State Firemen's Association is one of the exchange publications I receive and from time to time I like to bring you some items of interest from our next-door neighbor state. Published in their July-August issue were some bills passed by the Virginia State legislature for the benefit of their fire protection industry. Much of

assistants, which course shall be approved by the Law Enforcement Officers Training Standards Commission." This law would be a boon to the firemen in many instances, when participating in fighting fires complicated by outside interference which is often a hindrance to them in performing their duties. If this law was passed in N.C. and became public knowledge, people might think twice before causing the firemen the trouble they sometimes do at the scenes of fires.

S.B. 31. "Line of Duty Act. Eliminates the requirement that the beneficiary of the ten thousand dollar death benefit must be a dependent of the deceased for tax purposes. The result would be to permit the estates of many of the single firefighters to receive the death benefit, even though the firefighters did not have dependents for tax purposes." Do our firefighters have such a \$10,000 policy? I am not sure if in Virginia it is carried for them, or if it is, by whom. Possibly it is either the State itself or their Association, but from the reading of this bill it would appear that the state at least has a part in it. I seriously doubt if the State of North Carolina carries anything like this, if so, my apologies, if not, it should have, if Virginia does, and no apology!

I just wanted to pass this new Virginia legislation to aid their Fire Protection Industry along because I feel that our state should do as much, with the vast number of Fire Protection members our state has the benefit of. Often things that happen in a nearby state can be a help in improving policies and benefits for our State, if recommended and pointed out, as comparison, and our Fire Service deserves all the help it can get!



Emily H. King



EMILY H. KING

theirs, like ours, is comprised of Volunteer Departments and men.

I am not aware if our state has similar laws but I do not think so. If not, it seems that some words on this subject should be suggested to local Senators and other State legislators, that they might hopefully prepare some similar bills for our Industry. Two of the bills I was especially interested in, I quote, as follows:

H.B. 518. "Police powers for local Fire Marshalls authorize local governing bodies of counties, cities or towns to permit local Fire Marshalls and their Assistants the authority to arrest, to procure and serve warrants of arrest and to issue summons in a manner authorized by general law for violation of local fire prevention and fire safety and related ordinances. However, no local Fire Marshall shall exercise such authority until he has satisfactorily completed the police training course designed specifically for local fire marshalls and their

### Fire Chief Unopposed to Female Firefighters

Greensboro — If a young woman thinks she wants to be a firefighter or "firewoman" in the Greensboro Fire Department, no one is going to try to stop her if she meets the requirements.

City Fire Chief G. C. "Buck" Wuchae says that in this era of

civil rights and equal employment opportunities, a woman need not fear being discriminated against by his office.

In fact, he said, a woman came to his office some time

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# Revenue Sharing Spurs Purchase Of Apparatus and Equipment

The general revenue-sharing program of the federal government that began in 1972 has caused a sharp increase in availability funds for many fire departments. Anyone who has tried to buy a fire truck lately knows that apparatus delivery lead times have increased tremendously because of it. Some departments are using these funds for purchase of fire apparatus and other equipment and some are using them to add personnel or increase salaries. Since these monies also can be used for a variety of purposes other than the fire service, there often is much competition between various government agencies to obtain them. This article is intended to explain revenue sharing so the fire service can take steps to receive its proper share.

Revenue sharing began with the signing of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 by President Nixon in October 1972. The purpose of the act is to provide federal aid to states, counties, cities, towns and townships without the federal government controlling exactly how the money is spent. The idea is to have the federal government provide funds but to have needs and priorities of spending decided locally. Payments under the program began in December 1972 and will total \$30.2 billion over a five-year period. During 1972, \$5.3 billion was distributed and in 1973, \$5.98 billion. In 1974, 1975 and 1976, payments of \$6.13 billion, \$6.28 billion and \$6.43 billion, respectively, will be distributed. Unlike most federal appropriations, revenue-sharing appropriations are automatic and do not require further Congressional or federal budget approval. Payments are made in January, April, July and October directly to government units by the United States Treasury.

#### Dividing the money

One-third of the money goes to the state governments and two-thirds to local governments. How the money is split up between local governments in a particular state is a little complicated. Briefly it is divided in proportion to population and local tax effort and inversely in proportion to population and local tax effort and inversely in proportion to per-capita income. In other words, the more people and the higher per-capita tax burden a community has, the more revenue-sharing funds it receives. Communities with above-average per-capita income levels receive below-average revenue-sharing payments.

States can spend revenue-sharing funds for whatever they want as long as they do not reduce their local government support below the level of 1972. On the other hand, local governments have certain "priority expenditures

categories" in which the monies must be spent. Any type of capital expenditure authorized by the local laws is a permissible use of revenue-

sharing funds. Fire trucks fall into this category. Spending for

Continued on Page 4

## Financial Assistance To Small Towns & Rural Groups for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Farmers Home Administration, by authority of the Rural Development Act of 1972, makes loans to public or quasi-public bodies and corporations not operated for profit to develop or improve fire and emergency medical services in rural areas and towns of up to 10,000 people.

#### WHO MAY RECEIVE LOANS?

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Sanitary
- Service Districts

#### HOW MAY LOAN FUNDS BE USED?

Loan funds may be used to: Improve real estate, including fire stations, rescue squad buildings, and refinancing. Purchase land, vehicles and other essential equipment. Purchase other essential items needed to provide adequate fire and rescue services.

#### WHAT ABOUT LOAN LIMITS?

The economic feasibility of the project determines the monetary limit.

#### WHAT IS THE TIME LIMIT FOR A FEASIBLE PROJECT?

The maximum term on all loans is 40 years. However, no repayment period will exceed any statutory limitation on the organization's borrowing authority nor the useful life of the security.

#### WHAT IS THE INTEREST RATE?

Five percent or the interest rate prevailing at the time a loan is made.

#### WHAT SECURITY IS REQUIRED?

For a public body - General Obligation Bonds.

For a non-profit corporation - loans may be secured through assignments of assured income from sources, such as in-

urance premium rebates or contractual commitments from counties or municipalities, deeds of trust on real property and liens on equipment.

#### WHERE AND HOW ARE APPLICATIONS MADE?

Applications for loan assistance are made at the local county offices of the Farmers Home Administration. The county office staff will be glad to discuss services available from the agency and explain how to prepare a written application.

#### WHERE CAN APPLICANTS OBTAIN TECHNICAL HELP?

Upon written request, the Fire and Rescue Division, Department of Insurance in your state, will assist anyone interested in making the first determination regarding feasibility, economic soundness, and specifications, training of personnel, needed equipment, management matters, and answers to other questions that arise as plans are discussed and considered by public officials and other community leaders.

It is suggested that a representative of the Fire and Rescue Division be invited to attend initial meetings so that plans for such services are in compliance with any special laws and regulations and are coordinated with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

The Office of Medical Services, Department of Human Resources, is another source of technical assistance.

The Farmers Home Administration may also provide general advice and consultation in connection with preliminary determination. Farmers Home Administration U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Fire station opens at Anderson Creek

Anderson Creek — Anderson Creek Rural Fire Department held open house on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 3 p.m. at its handsome new four-day fire station. The public was invited to attend.

The new fire station is located at 7500 Ray Road, three miles off highway 210 and near the Old Farm Trailer Court.

The building costing \$65,000 houses one new 1,200 gallon tanker truck and another truck the department owned previously, plus other fire

fighting equipment.

Guest speaker for the dedicatory program was James T. Johnson of Raleigh, State Director of the Farmers Home Administration. The Anderson Creek fire station marks the first erected in North Carolina under a rural fire department loan extended under the FHA's community development program.

Anderson Creek's 29-member volunteer squad is headed by Ralph Shay as fire chief. Bill Shaw was the contractor.

**Retiring Chief**  
From Page 10

A charter member of the Lions Club, Allen has served in various offices, and is currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer. Soon after organization of the Lions Club in 1942, the group sponsored organization of Boy Scout Troop 588 and Lion Allen became an active troop committee member. He has served as Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor.

He was elected Town Commissioner in 1947 and has been re-elected every term since. He is now serving as chairman of the Cemetery and Finance Committees. He originated a special cemetery project some years ago for improved maintenance.

As a member of the Girl Scout Troop Committee he was instrumental in building the Girl Scout Hut which was named in his honor. He secured materials, assisted with labor, and still aids in maintenance. When Scouts have a problem like a faulty furnace, broken window, or leaking roof they call for Jimmie.

In 1956 Allen was presented the Meritorious Service Award for 250 hours of service in the

Ground Observer Corps. He has headed Civil Defense Projects and serves as local C. D. Director.

At the Baptist Church he is on the Board of Trustees, Deacon Board, Chm. of Property and Equipment Committee and others.

At the recognition ceremony for Allen, Firemen W. R. Evans, who is the department Secretary-Treasurer, paid tribute to Allen and presented him with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the department.

Mr. Evans also recognized other firemen who are retiring and have been elected as Honorary Firemen after more than twenty years of service each. They were former Fire Chief Jack A. Green; Bob Cheatham; Arthur Hall; and M. D. Hoyle. Fireman Hoyle was one of the earliest fire chiefs in town, having served in that capacity about the same time that Tobie Holden was also a fire chief. Another member recognized was Henry P. Privette, who retired some years ago and has been the lone Honorary Member on the Roster until this year. Fireman W.R. Evans also plans to retire.

On behalf of citizens from throughout the Youngsville Fire District area, Mrs. A.N. Corpening paid tribute to the retiring chief as well as to his wife for her faithful interest in

the Fire Department; and then presented them with a desk chair, bookends, lamp, engraved pen for a special desk in their home, and gifts of money.

In retiring Allen expressed appreciation for cooperation he has received throughout his tenure and pledged continued support of the Fire Department. He will remain as an Honorary member. In his speech Mr. Allen mentioned three faithful firemen who are now deceased, Joseph Hart, Ray Pearce and Alton Green.

Mayor Wiley Marvin Roberts recognized new Fire Chief Leelan A. Woodlief, who steps up after serving as assistant chief. He is a long-time member with experience and special training. Mayor Roberts presented him with the Chief's Badge.

Greeting guests at the Open House were Fire Dept. Captain Mack DeMent and his wife. In the receiving line were Mr. and Mrs. Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Woodlief who wore boutonnieres and corsages of carnations. Also in the receiving line was Assistant Fire Chief Billy Robbins.

Lt. and Mrs. Dewey Wiggins directed guests at the end of line.

Presiding at the guest register were Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Weathers, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Averette.

At the table where fire department scrapbooks were on display were Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Tharrington.

Punch was poured by Mrs. W.R. Evans and Mrs. A.E. Hall.

Mrs. Mack DeMent served as chairman for the Open House and she was assisted by firemen's wives as well as interested citizens.

Approximately 200 guests called during the afternoon. Appeared in The Franklin Times in Louisburg, by Elizabeth P. Cheatham, Town Clerk

**KENANSVILLE**  
From Page 1

Department has had a long and distinguished life of service to central Duplin County. Rev. Lauren Sharpe, pastor of the Kenansville Baptist Church, organized the department in 1953 and served as fire chief for many years. Presently there are twenty-nine members of the Kenansville Fire Department.

Kenansville Fire Department owns six pieces of equipment presently. These include a 1971 American LaFrance, 1250 gallon pumper; a 1971 Chevrolet brush fire truck; a 1961 American LaFrance, 750 gallon pumper; a 1974 Ford 1250 gallon pumper, a 1974 Chevrolet rescue utility truck, and a 1968 Chevrolet ambulance.

**CHICKEN MAN**

From Page 1

something new," he said.

"You don't have to depend on the weather. It's about the easiest thing for farm work. And once you learn how to do it you kinda go on your own."

From the Charlotte News  
By Phil Whitesell

**SITE CHOSEN**

From Page 1

who as a member of the council's real estate committee recommended the purchase.

Other councilmen approved unanimously.

No firm plans for a central fire station have been made but on several occasions the council has talked about meeting costs of such a station with revenue-sharing.

Eanes said the city has been negotiating for the National Highway site with Sun Oil for about three months. At first the company set the price at \$90,000 or what the property was "on the books" for. Eanes said later negotiations dropped the price to \$68,000 and then a short time ago to what the council has agreed to pay, or \$47,500.

Mayor Jim Johnson said conferences have been held with various fire officials and insurances bureaus and that the National Highway site meets all fire station location standards.

By Wint Capel  
Times Editor  
THOMASVILLE TIMES

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**FIRE CHIEF**

From Page 2

ago and "took an application, but she never did come back. I think she was just testing us out."

Wuchae says any applicant for fireman must meet required qualifications, such as educational background, physical well-being, not over 30 years old, and there are other requirements obtainable from the personnel office.

"We would require a woman to go through the same training a man goes through," the chief said, adding that he personally doesn't see why a "woman would relish this kind of work."

But what if a woman meeting the requirements was hired and successfully completed the training — what would the fire department do with her? The male firefighters sleep in open dorms and share the same bath and toilet facilities.

"We would have to make some arrangements," Wuchae said, unabashed.

In some cities across the country where women have been hired as firefighters, the wives of "firemen" have vociferously protested "firemen" and "firewomen" sharing the same quarters.

**REVENUE SHARING**

From Page 1

maintenance and operating expenses must fall into one of the eight "priority expenditure categories" listed below:

1. Public safety (including police and fire protection, courts, corrections, crime prevention, civil defense, building and code inspection).

2. Environment protection (smoke regulation, inspection of water supply, sanitary engineering, pollution control, sewage, street cleaning, waste collection, refuse disposal, waste recycling).

3. Public transportation (roads, bridges, grade crossings, snow and ice removal, transit systems).

4. Health.

5. Recreation.

6. Libraries.

7. Social services for poor and aged (food, clothing, shelter, day care, job training).

8. Financial administration (accounting, auditing, budgeting, investing, tax collection).

Other than that money must be spent in the above categories, the only prohibitions are that (1) there must be no discrimination in the government unit, (2) the funds cannot be used in conjunction with so-called matching federal funds, (3) construction wages must be at the prevailing area rates, and (4) the government unit must submit an annual report on how the money was spent and how future money will be spent.

In addition, revenue-sharing funds may be used for debt retirement. If revenue-sharing funds are not spent or committed within two years, they

must be returned unless there are extenuating circumstances. Funds not yet spent must be kept in a trust fund that can be invested and the government unit keeps the interest earned.

Volunteer departments eligible

One of the most important provisions for the fire service is that revenue-sharing funds may be transferred to other government or private units as long as they are spent in the eight priority categories. This means that a township, for example, receiving revenue sharing money can give part or all of that money to a volunteer fire department to use to buy fire apparatus or equipment.

In March 1974, the first reports were released of how revenue-sharing money actually was being spent. While there is no breakdown that identifies how much is being spent for the fire service, there is a breakdown for public safety which primarily includes fire and police departments. Local governments spent the following percentages of their total revenue-sharing funds for public safety: cities 44 percent, counties 23 percent, townships 33 percent. In each of these three classifications of government, more money was spent on public safety than any other category. Of the money spent on public safety, cities spent four times as much on operating expenses as capital expenditures, whereas counties spent only twice as much. Larger communities tended to put more of the money into salaries, whereas smaller communities spent a greater share on capital equipment.

It is clear from these first reports that revenue-sharing is providing large amounts of additional money to help fire departments increase wages and the amount of service and equipment. Also, it is evident that most local governments

have put public safety at the top of their priority list.

A good general booklet entitled "What Is General Revenue Sharing" may be obtained by writing the Office

of Revenue Sharing, Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C. 20226.

By Curtis T. Atkisson, Jr.  
Fire Apparatus  
Manufacturers Div. of TBEA

# In 2 Days— 3 Vance Fires Cause Over \$100,000 Damage

Henderson — Damages of over \$100,000 resulted from three fires in Henderson and Vance County in a recent two day period.

One, at the Henderson shopping center, erupted in a panel truck loaded with a shipment of fabrics from Glencoe Carpet Mills of Burlington. About \$75,000 worth of fabric was destroyed.

The truck was parked behind a loading ramp behind the Rose's Store when it caught fire about 5:30 p.m. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$3,500. The driver, Andy Meredith of Burlington, was in the store when the fire broke out. No one had started unloading the fabric, so there were no witnesses to help fire officials in their investigation.

A six-room frame house owned and occupied by Charlie Johnson was destroyed by fire also. Vance County firemen said the house, which is about

six miles south of Henderson, was already enveloped in flames when they reached the scene. They were called to assist the Bearpond Fire Dept. at 11:30 a.m.

Johnson, who was not at home when the fire started, collapsed when he returned to find his home in flames. He was admitted to Maria Parham Hospital for treatment. Damage to the house was estimated at \$20,000.

A tobacco barn in the Kittrell Community was also destroyed by fire. The barn was on a farm owned by Mark Woodlief. Damage to the barn was estimated at \$2,000 and Genie Finch, the tenant, estimated he lost \$1,500 of tobacco that was curing in the barn.

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# Child Feared In House Fire Destroys Franklin House

Franklin — A fire early on a recent Sunday morning struck a home on Old US 52 and for several minutes firemen searched through the flames for a small child reported to be in the house.

Franklin Fire Chief Davis Smith said the department received a call around 12:20 Sunday morning to the residence of David Gillespie in a development near Gillespie's Used Cars.

Arriving the firemen saw flames shooting through the roof of the brick home. Spectators told firemen that a child was sleeping in a back bedroom. Quickly entering the house and searching through the interior which was engulfed in flames, no one was found.

Later it was discovered the child was spending the night with friends.

Smith said the house was virtually destroyed. The fire started in the kitchen by an undetermined cause.

Gillespie who arrived at his home nearly an hour after firemen began battling the blaze told firemen he had left home about 11:20 to visit a friend. There was no sign of a fire when he left, he reported.

Chief Smith said a police dog which was locked in the



**FIRE DESTROYS**—This house on the old Fancy Gap Road was gutted by an early morning fire. In the top photo firemen come outside after searching for a child believed to have been in a bedroom. In the bottom photo, two firemen await oxygen tanks after being overcome by smoke. Mt. Airy News Photo

Firemen remained on the scene until around 3:30 a.m. Sunday.

A total of 14 firemen responded to the fire using two pumpers, two tankers and an equipment man.

Noting the frequency of fires covered by the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Smith said that Franklin has probably more fires than all the departments in the county.

## Pop corn fire

Jacksonville — The Southwest Volunteer Fire Department was called to No. 33, Hinson Arms Apartments, recently when some popcorn caught on fire.

Firemen said the occupant was popping the corn when it ignited.

The stove had to be removed, they said, and at least one burner will have to be replaced. The wall was scorched, they stated.

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# LaQuinta Club House Destroyed By Fire

**Clemmons** — A fire destroyed the club house at the La Quinta Mobile home village around 3:00 on a recent Wednesday afternoon.

The partially completed building was one of a number of points included in a suit filed by the residents of La Quinta against the developers of the village.

The building, which was valued in its unfinished condition for tax purposes at \$10,000, burned in about 20 minutes, according to witnesses.

"It was a flash fire," said one of the residents who witnessed the fire. "One part didn't burn any faster than another. The whole thing burned together at an even rate."

No one was in the building at the time of the blaze and there were no injuries resulting from the fire.

"If there had been a child in there," one resident remarked, "there would have been no way to save it." Some residents



The charred walls of the La Quinta Club House at Advance are all that remain following a fire on a recent Wednesday afternoon. Clemmons Courier Photo

were still standing. The residents explained that Don Henderson, owner of the building, would have to give permission to push the walls down.

Henderson, one of the persons named in the residents suit against the developers, was also a center of controversy in relation to the fire.

Henderson was seen entering the clubhouse and leaving shortly before the blaze erupted. In an interview recently, Henderson said he and an official of the La Quinta company were putting papers into the club house on that Wednesday.

According to Henderson, they were storing some "unimportant" documents there. Law officials removed evidence from the building to be analyzed but half-burned stacks of La Quinta promotional leaflets and blank forms were still in the remains of the building on Thursday after the fire.

After depositing the papers, Henderson said he left the building about 10 minutes before the fire was reported to have started.

The Davie County Sheriff's Department and the SBI are investigating the fire for the possibility of arson. Evidence recovered from the building was sent to a laboratory at Davidson Community College to be analyzed.

From the  
Clemmons Courier  
By David Hoyle

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reported hearing something like a shotgun blast before the fire started.

The roof and back wall collapsed in the blaze and the interior was completely destroyed. Firemen said the building was a total loss.

"By the time we got there, it was pretty well gutted," said Jim Patton, who arrived with the Cornatzer Fire Department, the first truck on the scene.

The Advance Fire Department alarm didn't sound so the message was relayed to Cornatzer. Trucks from Advance, Cornatzer and Fork eventually arrived to water down what was left of the structure.

La Quinta residents living near the clubhouse first noticed the blaze around 2:35 p.m. The roof caved in at 2:45, they said. "We're trying to get permission to push the walls down

because they might fall and injure someone," said Laurie Purkey, a resident of the village. She explained that the intense heat causes the mortar in the block walls to crystalize weakening the structure.

As of press time, the walls

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# Firemen hurt in explosion

New Bern — Four Township Seven firemen were injured in a fire and explosion recently at Register's Truck and Equipment Co. on Highway 70 East.

Township Seven Fire Chief Joe Piner called the fire "the worst of the year."

Firemen William Arthur, Alton Riggs, Lewellyn Morrison and Ellis Daughety were admitted to Craven County Hospital with burns.

Township Seven Fire Chief Joe Piner said Riggs and Morrison had serious burns on their faces and hands, and the others received head and hand burns.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but Chief Piner said he believed the explosion was caused by a buildup of pressure in the building. "We call it a smoke explosion," he said.

Craven County Fire Marshall Henry Sermon said the fire was reported at 11:02 by a State Highway Patrolman. Township Seven, with 24 men and four trucks, were on the scene almost immediately, and the

explosion occurred about 15 minutes later, Piner said.

The fire was put out around 2 a.m. Piner said, but firemen stayed at the scene throughout the night.

He also said there is no damage estimate yet.

The fire began in the front office area over the stockroom, Piner said, and there could be damage to the trucks parked in the rear garage section of the building.

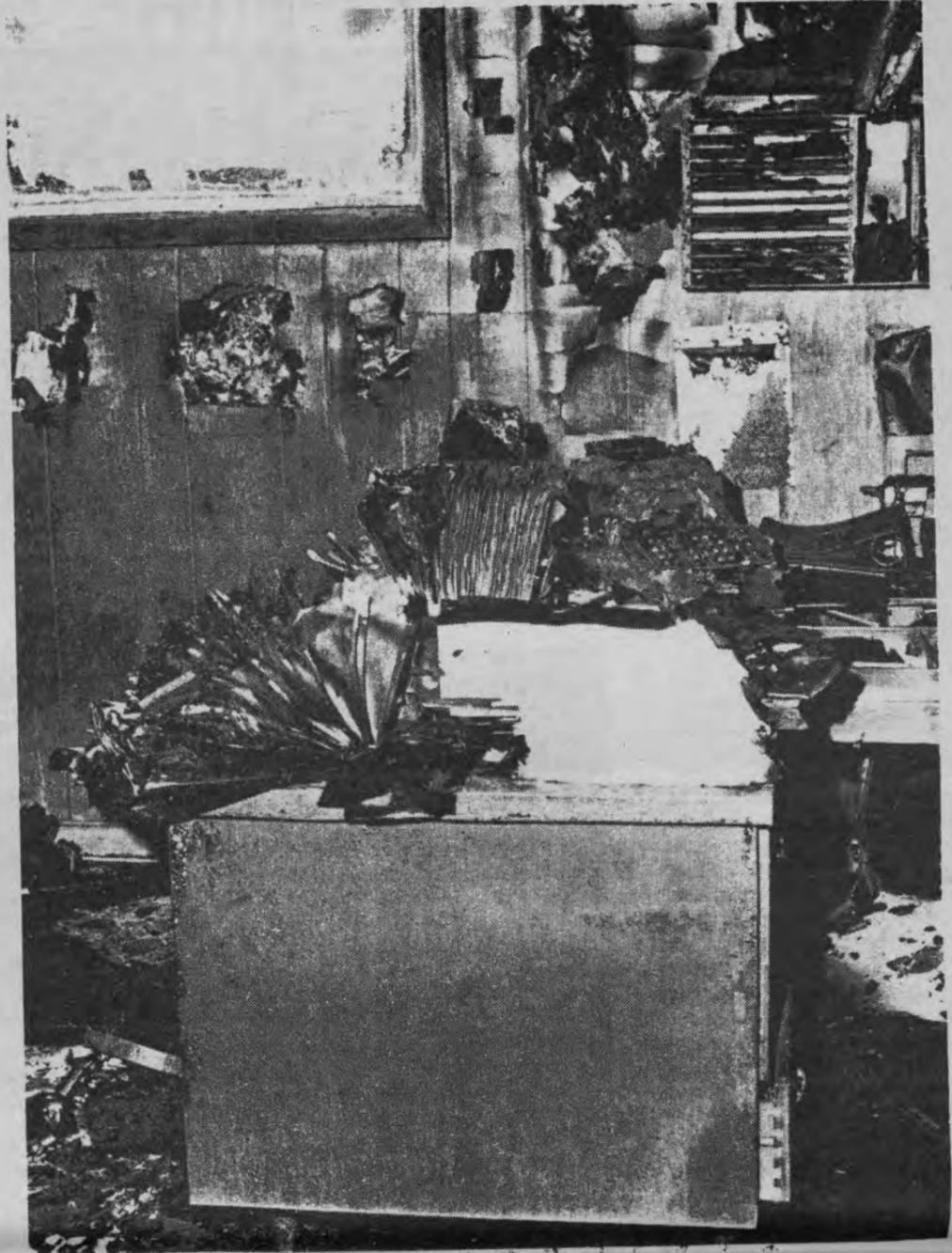
Mutual aid was offered by fire departments from West New Bern, Bridgeton, and New Bern. Chief Piner said that men, but no trucks, from Little Swift Creek also helped fight the blaze.

### CITY ALARMS

A burning pot of food sent 28 New Bern firemen and two fire trucks rushing to 1605 Washington St. last night. The alarm was turned in from Box 237 at 6:45 p.m., Fire Chief Jake Jones said.

There was no damage, however, except to the pot and the food.

At 12:36 a.m. New Bern Fire Department dispatched one truck and 30 men to a mutual aid call from Township 7 Fire Department, for a fire at Registers Truck and Equipment Co. on Highway 70 E. The call came from Box 44.



**CHARRED OFFICE**—A fire which struck Registers Truck and Equipment Co., U.S. 70 East, last night melted telephones and office equipment and destroyed files in upstairs

offices. Several thousand dollars worth of parts were also destroyed but no official estimate of damage has been made.

Sun-Journal Photo

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# Firemen, new equipment undergo realistic test

Lexington — City firemen started blazes which destroyed two houses recently, but they were by no means playing with fire.

Both houses were located just behind the Jiffy Kitchen, at 12 and 14 West Eighth Avenue. Fires were repeatedly lit, then extinguished, in a training exercise stimulating the real thing.

New men with the fire department learned how to work inside flaming smoke-filled rooms. The veterans got their share of heat, too.

"We got some real good practice out of it," said Captain C.K. (Tommy) Williams of the fire department.

"We had some men who had never been in on a fire and they gained a little confidence and ate a little smoke. . . it got a little rough at times."

A brand-new pumper, the latest addition to the department's fleet of fire trucks, got its trial by fire too. Firemen were very pleased with its operation.

One of the houses was occupied less than a month before



LEXINGTON FIREMEN WERE KEPT BUSY using two houses off South Main Street behind the Jiffy Kitchen for practice. But by early the following afternoon it came down to keeping an eye on the second

the burning and both were in relatively good shape for practice sites. The department was fortunate to get houses "as tight as these," Williams commented, making them more like the scene of a fire at an inhabited building.

Joe Cope bought the wooden houses planning to add a

parking lot behind his Jiffy Kitchen restaurant. Instead of tearing them down, he offered the buildings to the city for fire practice.

"We got some benefit out of it and he got his job done too," Williams explained.

Only the chimneys were left standing and firemen pushed

house while it burned as completely as possible, and Charlie Fritts and Dave Smith could do that just as well sitting down.

Dispatch Photo

them over from their aerial truck. Later the City of Lexington will clear away the remaining rubble, a service provided when houses are donated for burning in firemen's training.

The lots will then be paved

for parking.

From the Lexington Dispatch  
By Frank Ballard



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# Fire Drill At County Home Said Successful

Graham — The county fire marshal termed "very successful" the fire drill conducted at the County Home recently.

Fire Marshal Dave Cauble said the Rescue Unit arrived using emergency procedures in one minute. Graham firemen arrived in two minutes and 10 seconds, traveling without emergency procedures, he added.

The distances involved were estimated by rescue and sheriff's department personnel to be not more than a quarter mile from the rescue unit headquarters to the County Home, and half a mile from the Graham Fire Department.

Cauble said the drills will be carried out periodically, but not on a regular basis. Although chiefs of both agencies involved were aware of basic plans of operation for drills, Cauble said the time of the drill was not announced.

Cauble toured the building with personnel involved, and explained use of a recently installed fire alarm system. He also pointed out stickers on windows and on inside doors to

designate areas occupied by invalids.

The residents were evacuated, with the exception of the bedridden, Cauble noted.

The drill was conducted at 7:50 p.m. Graham policemen were dispatched to the area to divert traffic while the operation was in progress.



**COUNTY HOME DRILL** — A fire drill was conducted at the County Home recently at 7:50 p.m. Dave Cauble, county fire marshal, is shown here, second from right, as he explains the planned evacuation operation to firemen who answered the call. He termed the drill "very successful." Firemen and



Morganton — The Ladies Auxiliary of the Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Department sold doughnuts and other items to raise money to buy a Robert Shaw Resuscitator and presented it to the fire department. Here Dwight Ford plays the part of victim. Kneeling around him (left to right) are Lewis

Putnam, president; Bascum Ollis, captain; Mrs. Julie Ollis, auxiliary president; Mrs. Brenda Edney, Mrs. Susie Avery, and Mrs. Hazelene Moore, secretary. Standing (from left) are Mrs. Shari Hallyburton, treasurer; Mrs. Mae Hallyburton, publicity chairman; and Mrs. Florence Ballew.

News-Herald Photo

Rescue Unit personnel had not been told when the drill would be called Cauble reported.

Alamance News Photo

keep the fire from spreading to three other barns and a packhouse nearby, the chief said.

## Fire Destroys Barn at Faison

Faison — Faison Fire Chief Glenn Jernigan said a tobacco barn and its contents on the Billy Casey farm, about 10 miles west of Faison in Sampson county, was destroyed by fire recently at 1:55 a.m.

Fourteen Faison firemen with three trucks managed to

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Hazelwood—HAZELWOOD FIRE DEPT. has received and placed into operation the town's first new fire truck in 24 years. It is a \$26,000 American LaFrance firefighting unit on a Ford chassis, paid for with revenue

sharing funds. The department will retain its 1950 model fire engine for back-up purposes. Hazelwood firefighters pose with the truck above. Fire Chief Steinel is at the right with office clerk Joe Davis. Ernest Williams is the

driver. On the truck are, from the left, front row: Sam Lane, Francis Smith, Wallace Jones, Fred Garrett, Buddy Greene, and Robert Dudley. On the second row are John Summerrow, Steve Sisk, and Melvin Underwood. (Mountaineer Photo by Metcalf)

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# Fireman's Day Set For Youngsville VFD

Youngsville — Youngsville Volunteer Firemen have set Saturday September twenty first as their third annual Fireman's Day. This year however, the firemen are being joined by the Recently organized Youngsville Rescue Service for a double-header celebration to be called Fire Department and Rescue Service Day.

Firemen and citizens welcome the Rescue Squad which at present has 2 rescue vehicles which are kept at the local Fire Station. Rescuers plan to purchase a lot and erect their own headquarters in the near future but will continue to operate in cooperation with local firemen for community and out of town area service, approximately an eight mile radius.

The Rescue Squad was organized by Clarence G. Moody, Youngsville resident who is a Franklin County Deputy Sheriff. Officers were elected in December of 1973. In January they were converting a van which had been purchased with funds received from Franklin County. Cabinet work in the van was done by Moody and Richard Forrest of Louisburg. In January Bright's

Funeral Home of Wake Forest presented a used but almost new Cadillac Ambulance, equipped with air conditioning, red lights and siren to the Squad. Both vehicles have been converted for Rescue use; fully equipped, well supplied, and installed with modern communications systems. Twenty Pagecoms are in use by the service. Rescue calls may be made through the Franklin County Fire Radio System.

Sign work on vehicles was done by J.M. Hight of Franklinton; installation of equipment by Fire Chief Albert Perry of Wake Forest; painting by Jake Wall and other vehicle work by Grady Macon.

After attending required training classes members began service operation in March and have been busy responding to calls ever since. Chief Moody expresses appreciation for generous donations of money and labor and adds, "Keep the funds coming, we need a Rescue Headquarters and operational expense funds." Clubs, Businesses, Churches and individuals are making contributions. One donation particularly appreciated was from the first graders of the Youngsville School, who marched to the Fire Station

with teacher Mrs. J.T. Allen and presented a donation of \$15.48, which they had saved from their "ice-cream money" allowance. Rescue Captain Wayne Murphy accepted the gift on behalf of the unit.

At an Appreciation Banquet held recently by the Rescue Service, special supporters of their organization were invited guests. Youngsville Fire Chief Leelan A. Woodlief and Mayor W. M. Roberts spoke and expressed appreciation to Chief Moody and his members for outstanding organization and significant service.

At the Fire Department and Rescue Squad Day new and exciting plans will be implemented, including a parade of vehicles. One or more parachute jumps by local citizens is anticipated. The community is eagerly anticipating the great fellowship, food and fun. Out of towners are cordially invited to come join the celebration.

# Annual Meeting Held By Stockholders

Rockwell — Rockwell Rural V. F. D. (a rural department in Rowan County) held it's annual Stockholders meeting August 5th, 1974. The Stockholders elected Board of Directors as follows. Raymond Haynes Jr., Charles File, Mayford Miller, Ernest Shepherd, Clarence Misenheimer, John Hammill, all for two year terms.

Those with one year remaining on the Board are Bill Overman, W. W. Basinger, Glenn Barringer, Charles Barringer, Ray Shipton, Paul Cline.

A Directors meeting was held

following the Stockholders meeting. The following officers were elected. Stanton Earningshardt, Pres., Ray Shipton, Vice Pres., Anderson Haynes, Sec. and Treasurer.

The Board re-elected M. C. Miller as Fire Chief. The Chief appointed his officers as follows. Raymond Haynes Jr. and David Boger, Assistant Chiefs, Hugh Beaver and Charles File, Captains, Jim Wilson and Ray Shipton, Lieutenants.

The Board of Directors approved an addition to the fire station and to buy 300 ft. of new hose.

# Tornado, Lightning Give Barn Beating

Elizabeth City — Ten minutes after a small tornado struck a section of Larry Larabee's barn in Woodville lightning struck another part of the structure.

But all things considered, Larabee considers himself pretty lucky. He and a worker were at the barn when they saw the squall approach. "We were trying to get a combine under the barn but it wouldn't start," he said.

That same part of the barn where the combine belonged is

what Larabee and his friend saw leveled in a matter of moments. But while taking shelter from the heavy rain and strong wind lightning struck the back area of the barn.

"We had to fight the fire until after dark," said Larabee. "So right now I can't be sure about the amount of damage. I don't think too much was destroyed because it was a big barn and the thing that belonged in the part damaged we couldn't get in."

The Woodville Volunteer Fire Department and neighbors helped Larabee fight the blaze and keep it under control.

The three-story structure is located about one mile off U.S. 17 South between Elizabeth City and Hertford.

He said there were no injuries from the incident but he did feel a small electric shock when the lightning struck. "I was leaning on something metal but the shock was only enough to scare me," he said.

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# Fire Inspection Program Is OK'd

**Goldsboro** — Goldsboro Aldermen recently approved implementation by the Goldsboro Fire Department of a home inspection program, and, in other business, referred several other items of wide interest to committees for further study.

Goldsboro Fire Chief Willard Herring told aldermen the home inspection program would get underway after a training session to instruct firemen on proper procedures.

He said the program would be strictly voluntary and no punitive action would be taken against residents who refused firemen admittance to their homes.

Also, the chief said firemen will be instructed not to enter homes except by permission specifically of the homeowner or occupant. He said that firemen would not accept such permission from a maid, for example.

Herring further pointed out that all reports based on the inspection would be kept confidential.



**Warsaw** — **LIGHTNING STRIKES** — Lightning struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Barham on Ward Bridge Road, Warsaw, recently, at approximately 5:20 p.m. A fire was started when lightning struck the outlet in an upstairs bedroom. There was a chest of drawers in front of the receptical that caught on fire. The window in the bedroom and the chest were the only items aflame, but there was extensive smoke and water damage to the home. Mr. and Mrs. Barham stated that they were grateful for the quick action of the firemen. Approximately fifteen firemen were on hand and it took some forty-five minutes on the scene to control and extinguish the blaze.

Warsaw-Faison  
News Photo

## Dust Bin Fire

**Granite Falls** — A dust bin fire was reported on Tuesday morning, August 20 at Hammary Plant No. 2. The Granite Fire Department received the call at 7:15 AM and responded with pumper truck No. 105. The

eleven firemen remained on the scene for approximately 2 hours.

Fire Chief Mike Coffey stated that any number of things could have led to the cause of the fire. No damage was reported.

# Boat Fire Is Doused

**Mt. Olive** — A boat fire was extinguished by Mount Olive firemen over a recent weekend, according to fire reports on file the following Monday.

Firemen said a probable ignition shortage caused a fire in a boat owned by Tommie Ferrell of Dudley Drive about noon. The \$6,000 boat sustained \$3,000 in damages, fire officials reported.

A faulty spark plug was believed to have started a fire in the lawn mower previously, firemen said. They said the mower owned by Lucille Anderson, had just been filled with gasoline, some of which spilled onto the sides. Fire officials said a spark could have started the blaze. Damage was estimated at \$10 to the \$50 piece of equipment.



**BOAT FIRE**—Fire, believed caused by a shorted ignition, heavily damaged a \$6,000 boat belonging to Tommie Ferrell of Mount Olive on a recent Saturday morning. Fireman Tim Goodson is shown putting water on the blaze.

Photo by Willis Brown, Jr., Mt. Olive College Science Professor, appeared in Mt. Olive Tribune

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