



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHELL FIREFIGHTERS"

NOVEMBER

### Eastside Names

#### New Fire Prexy

Asheboro — William T. Trogdon is the new president of the Eastside Volunteer Fire Department. His election to that office came at the group's recent annual business session.

Other officers elected for the coming year include Kenneth McFadden, vice-president; John Shields, secretary; and J. M. Jarrett, treasurer. Directors for the year will be J. W. Wilson, Jr., Rex Thompson, and William Fogleman.

Besides electing officers, the group saw a program on home fire safety presented by Asheboro fire marshal Jim Smith. Accompanying Smith were Smokey the Bear and Sparky. In addition, members of the department also voted to buy a communication system.

#### Robert C. Gunn Named County Fire Marshal

Rowan County — Robert C. Gunn, 48, recently was appointed Rowan County Fire Marshal at a salary of \$10,244 a year.

His appointment was made by county commissioners who wet up funds for the department in the 1974-75 budget.

Gunn, who will have offices in the basement of the courthouse, will supervise fire prevention training and work in the organization and training programs of the various volunteer departments in the county.

He served three years as fire marshal in Rockingham County and prior to that had nine years experience in volunteer departments. He is a graduate of the N.C. Fire College and Pump School and has received several certificates in fire training from community college.

Gunn, a veteran of five years service in the U. S. Air Force,

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## New Fire Department Radio Alert System Completed For County

Wilkes County — Wilkes County's fire department communications system has been completed and went in operation effective November 1.

In the new system, all departments will be linked by radio to the central communications system at Wilkes Sheriff's Department.

There are now only two numbers to dial, depending on the area the person lives in, to report a fire.

For those persons living in the eastern part of the county, in the areas covered either by Ronda, State Road or Pleasant Hill fire departments, the number to dial in reporting a fire is 835-7583. All other persons in the county, with the exception of North Wilkesboro, should dial 667-1276.

People in North Wilkesboro will continue to call the North Wilkesboro Department, 838-2342.

When the call is received at the Sheriff's Department Communications Center, where there is a dispatcher on duty 24 hours a day, a radio signal will be used to set off the fire siren and firemen's monitors simultaneously.

Through the radio alert, time in dispatching firemen and equipment to the scene is expected to be greatly reduced.

Under the old system, one of



FIRE ALERT PHONE—Wilkes Sheriff Hoke Wiles and first shift communication dispatcher Harley Bengé, show fire phone alert system.

the firemen had to be called, and he had to go to the fire station to set off the alarm.

Those calling in a fire to the Central system are asked to give the specific location of the fire, give the fire department area in which the fire has occurred, the road and a landmark.

An example of this might be, "The fire is in the Broadway

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## Willie A. Yoder Is New Chief

Pinehurst — Willie A. (Bill) Yoder, assumed the duties as the first full-time Fire Chief in Pinehurst in late August.

Prior to arriving in Pinehurst, Chief Yoder was

associated with the Fire Department in Newton. He served as Fire Inspector there for five years and held the rank of Captain.

Chief Yoder began his fire service at the age of 17 as a Volunteer Fireman in 1962. After three years he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as a Fire Protection Specialist. Some of his duties in the fire service were, Instructor in Crash Firefighting and Rescue, Communications Supervisor and Crew Chief, Structural and Crash Firefighting.

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## Erwin Fire Department Adds Latest Equipment

Erwin — The new fire truck of the Erwin Fire Department and Rescue Squad arrived in Erwin during a recent weekend.

Costing \$23,120, the truck was built by the John Bean Co., which is based in Indiana, but was finished by a concern in South Boston, Va. and driven

there by Louis Joseph, an assistant Erwin fire chief, and Billy Hobbs, department secretary.

The truck has a 450 gallon pumper, holds 1,250 gallons of water, and will be used as a utility and tanker truck for the time being, according to R.M. New, fire chief there.

The department now has four fire trucks and two ambulances for use of its rescue squad.

A 1953 truck has been sold to the Deep River Fire Department, which is located west of Sanford, for \$3,000 Joseph said.

Chief Red New, Joseph and Larry Smith, the other assistant fire chief, say they think Erwin now has probably the most modern and complete firefighting equipment in this part of the State.

The new truck will be paid for from the special 8-cent per \$100 property valuation tax, voted in 1966 when the Erwin Fire District was organized. The district extends for four miles in each direction from the fire station here except in the direction of Dunn where it ends at Black River.—W.L.

## Efland fire department does more than just put out fires

From Hillsborough News Orange County  
By Henry E. Scott

Efland — Efland's volunteer fire department does more than put out fires; it serves as a focus of the energies and interests of the community and provides a social outlet for its 30 some members and their families.

The department's chief is Lindsay Efland, a busy young man who finds time to manage the affairs of the department and run his own double-knit manufacturing operation.

Efland is very much aware of the many roles his department plays in the life of the community. "If something happens in Efland, we've got the nucleus of people to tackle other jobs," he says.

The department has filled a void left when churches and schools abdicated their positions at the center of community life. Now people turn out for the Efland Fire Department Carnival in much the way they used to gather for church suppers and, before consolidation, athletic events at the community high school.

Efland is particularly proud of the attraction the department has for the community's young married couples. They provide a lot of the spirit in the volleyball games the department has most every Sunday and they're active in the department itself and the women's auxiliary.

Community support and \$20,000 a year provided by a fire district tax (eight cents on \$100 valuation) have enabled the Efland department to acquire two new engines and enough other equipment to surpass

Continued On Page 12

## Firemen Elect Officers

Catawba County — Officers were elected at the regular meeting of the Catawba County Firemen's Association recently at the Fairbrook Fire Department.

The officers for the 1975 term include: Erroll G. Ward Jr., Mt. View department, president; Rupert Little, Claremont department, vice president; Brent Bauguess, Maiden department, secretary; and Ernest Riley, Longview department, treasurer.

At the conclusion of the meeting, refreshments were served by members of the Fairbrook Auxiliary.

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and Carolina Rural Fireman

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EMILY H. KING, Editor

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## Editorial

I received a letter from a very annoyed lady because this publication was still being sent to the former Chief, who was now deceased, instead of the new one. She stated that we had already been notified, and wondered "why they could not get any cooperation on this."

Let me take this time to clarify a few things. This publication is being published mainly to promote the Fire Industry in North Carolina, and is sent to your Department at no cost to you. As indicated on our masthead, we have had to start charging a small subscription rate for individuals due to the increase in postal rates. As for the mail sometimes going to the wrong addresses, I am sure that most of you are not too familiar as to the cost of having metal plates made up for our mailing service, but it is fairly expensive, doubly so if we have only one plate made at a time each time we get one change of address. Since mailing fees have risen considerably we definitely do not wish to be mailing to the wrong address, however, in one of our past issues in view of the fact that some departments change chiefs at least once a year we requested that each Department send us the mailing address of the Department itself, so that all of the members will have access to the paper, and not just the Chief. We found out early in our existence that some Chiefs did not always take it to their respective departments, and we had letters from the firemen who wished to see it also. Since this is published for all the members, and not just for the Chiefs, we again ask that you send us the mailing address of your department, not the Chief.

We do not compile mailing lists too often, for as I said, it is an expensive process and the more money we can save on operating expenses, the better publication we can afford to put out, so send those addresses on in. Even though they may not get on the mailing list immediately, they will be put on there when our new mailing plates are made.

Aside from the costs, etc., of compiling new mailing lists, I am sure you are all aware of the factor of human error, and without exception, I venture to say that all of us are, at time, guilty of this in some way or another. I am told that it is even sometimes found in the distinguishing of a fire!

Please accept our apology if



EMILY H. KING

*Emily H. King*

Emily H. King

your paper is going to the wrong address and get us the address of your department. Sometimes we get notifications from the Post Office department, in fact, I picked up some from the mail recently, with the usual charge of 10 cents each, so it would come to an amount of quite a bundle of pocket change if we had to get all of them this way, and I get some of these almost every week!

I hope someone in your department will take the time to buy a Postal card, and jot down the mailing address of your department and send it in. If you do not, we have no choice but to continue to send it to your Chief, and hope it makes its way to you. We have no way of getting these addresses except through you, so you see, we do not always get cooperation either! I know it is still going to a lot of Chiefs, because of this, since we can get their mailing addresses through one of the Fire Organizations in N.C. However, they do not always include the address of the Department, in fact, it is very seldom given.

Won't YOU help us get this matter straightened out, once and for all? Also, notify us of any new Department you know of, who may not be getting this paper. Some of them write in and ask how to get on our mailing list, but since you are already getting it, I hope you have your fellow firemen's interest at heart enough to share this information with the new departments in your area.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

# Why Do Firefighters To Get To The Fire Drive A Yellow Truck And Be Easily Seen

From The  
Durham Herald  
Herald Staff Writer

The traditional red fire engine is on its way out as the Durham Fire Department switches to lime yellow.

Fire Chief Joseph A. Letzing said recently the first of the new fire engines already is in service and others have been ordered for delivery in 18 months.

"The biggest trouble we are going to have will be explaining to the children what happened to the old red fire trucks," he said.

Letzing said the reason for the change is safety. He said it is a nationwide trend and a fire engine manufacturer has reported 75 percent of sales so far this year have been lime yellow engines.

"A red object at night shows up as black," he said. "The lime yellow engine can be seen much better. It can also be seen better in daylight."

He said the engine has been tested in practice drills and the firemen have described it as "sticking out like a sore thumb."

The engine was purchased a few weeks ago and has been tested at the city reservoir to be sure it meets its design specification. It was put into service a few days ago at Station No. 3.

It is a 750-gallon-per-minute

pumping unit which carries 500 gallons of water and all the usual firefighting equipment. It was built by the John Bean Co.

"The State Division of Highways went to yellow trucks a long time ago," Letzing said. "The city already is using yellow trucks in other departments."

"So this is a new thing only for the fire department. Other cities in the state already have gone to lime yellow engines."

He said Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Greensboro have several lime yellow engines and Rocky Mount is getting at least one.

## Fire Prevention Precautions Given

Kinston — As part of the Kinston Fire Department's winter fire prevention program, Fire Marshall James E. Humphrey suggests following the following precautions and rules:

— Have your furnace checked out and cleaned regularly. Be sure all automatic controls and emergency shutoffs are O.K.

— Leave it to the experts. Don't try repairs unless qualified. Follow manufacturer's instructions for routine maintenance.

— Have repairman check wall and ceiling near the furnace and flue. If hot, additional insulation or clearance may be needed.

— How are the flue pipes? Are they well supported, free of holes, clean?

— Chimney should be solid, no cracks or loose bricks.

Unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.

— Keep trash and combustible storage away from heating system. Don't give fire a place to start.

— Never "quicken" a fire with kerosene or gasoline. Keep gasoline out of the house at all times.

— All heaters need frequent checkups and cleaning. A dirty or neglected heater is a critical fire hazard.

— Position heater where it will not be bumped or overturned or where it might block emergency fire exits.

— Give heater adequate clearance from walls and combustibles such as clothes rack, curtains, furniture, beds, etc.

— For an electric heater, be sure house wiring is adequate. Do not overfuse circuit.

— When fueling an oil unit avoid overfilling. If coal oil is used, watch for possible burner flooding, flareup. Don't fill while burning.

— Use safety-listed equipment: Oil, look for UL label; gas, look for AGA or UL label; electric, look for UL label.

— Keep a metal screen in front of fireplaces. Flying embers can start fires.

— Frozen Pipes? Don't thaw with blowtorch or other open flames. Use hot water or UL labeled device for thawing.

— Don't use makeshift heating equipment, flues, chimneys, pipes, etc. Don't ask for a fire to start.

— Don't store fuel (wood, oil, coal, etc.) inside of house.

— Before going to bed, take these steps for fire safety: 1. Turn off room heater — or on low. 2. When using fuel-burning heaters in bedroom, open window. (Ventilation prevents suffocation!). 3. Sleep with bedroom or hall door closed. It can hold back a fire until you can escape. 4. If windows are emergency exits, have family trained to use them. Have storm windows that open easily.

— Observe the practical guidelines for leaving young children and elderly persons in the care of capable, conscientious babysitters or companions.

— Work out and rehearse a family escape plan, especially for escape from night time fire. Plan two ways out.

Remember, as temperatures drop, home fire danger rises.

## Award given to fire unit

From The  
Thomasville Times  
By BOB BERTINI

LEXINGTON — The South Davidson Volunteer Fire Department won the first place award in the 1974 Davidson County Community Development competition sponsored by the Davidson County Agricultural Extension Service and the Northern Piedmont Area Development Association.

The fire department was recognized for efforts to provide fire protection and a community center for the South Davidson area.

Members of the department presently are constructing a new fire station-community center on about an acre and a half plot next to Smith's Chain Saw Co. on Highway 109 south of Denton.

The station is to be divided into two portions. One side of the station will house the department's two fire trucks and the other half will be utilized as a center for the community.

The department, with about 20 active members, has raised between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in a building campaign since the department was organized about a year and a half ago.

The winning organization will

be awarded a cash prize of \$50 and will be eligible for district competition against the winning organizations from Chatham, Randolph, Guilford, Caswell, Rockingham and Alamance counties.

Funds for the winners of the competition are provided by the county extension service and the Lexington Kiwanis Club. Profits from the Davidson County Fair are used to help provide money for the competition. Awards are given on a district level with funds provided by major industries.

Other Davidson County winners include the Arcadia Lions Club, second place; the Welcome Extension Homemakers Club, third place; and the Tri-Community 4-H Club, fourth place.

These organizations were presented cash awards of \$40, \$30 and \$20 for second, third and fourth places respectively.

In addition to cash awards the four organizations received a certificate of recognition for their outstanding accomplishments at the Northern Piedmont Area Development Association's annual meeting in Greensboro Nov. 19.

Serving as co-chairman of the Davidson County community development program are Jasper Yountz and Thomas Madren.

# Sherman Morrison Is Honored By Arlington Fire Department



**DEDICATION**— Sherman Morrison, left, and Roy Wagoner, mayor pro tem of Arlington, prepare to attach the flag to the new flag pole during dedication ceremonies honoring Mr. Morrison at the Arlington VFD building. Mr. Morrison is president of the board of directors of the department. Staff photo from Jonesville Yachting Enterprise

Sherman Morrison, for many years a member and staunch supporter of the Arlington Community Volunteer Fire Department and currently serving as president of its board of directors, was honored on a recent Sunday afternoon at the dedication ceremony of a new flag pole erected at the station.

A plaque at the base of the flag pole reads, "Honoring Sherman Morrison For His Devoted Service To The Fire Department. ACVFD 1974"

Gayle Burch, chief of the department, served as master of ceremonies at the dedication and Jack Elderton, fire training instructor at Surry Community College, was the principal speaker. Roy Wagoner, mayor pro tem of Arlington, assisted Mr. Morrison in raising the flag for the first time.

After the flag was raised, it was lowered and presented to Mr. Morrison. The ceremony was attended by friends and supporters of the department. Refreshments were served following the dedication.

The Arlington Community Fire Department was incorporated May 5, 1958, and now has approximately 30 members. In addition to Chief Gayle Burch, other officers are

Sonny Burch and Ken Brown, assistant chiefs, and Doug Anderson, secretary-treasurer.

The department has three pieces of rolling equipment. These are a pumper, a tanker and a traffic unit van, which directs traffic at fires, at funerals and wherever needed. The members have accumulated more than 300 hours of state approved fire fighting instruction through Surry Community College.

# Fireman Promoted To Prevention Post

**MORGANTON** — George C. Ross, a Morganton fireman for three years, has been promoted to fire prevention officer, a newly created position in the Morganton Fire Department.

The city council recently funded the program.

Fire Chief Carroll Sullivan said there has been a need for such an officer for several years and that Ross will work directly under his supervision.

Ross duties will include in-

spections in the downtown business area to determine defects and fire hazards that present dangers to life and property. He will be on call after hours of regular work with the department.

Ross has spoken at various schools in Morganton during the observance of National Fire Prevention Week and his duties will include talks and demonstrations to civic, church, school and citizen groups. He will appear upon request before any church, civic or citizen group within the city limits.

Ross, in his new role, is asking for the full cooperation of Morganton merchants and other citizens. He says he hopes through the fire prevention program to help make Morganton a safer place in which to live and work.

# Students Take Course In Fire Prevention, Control

**Farmville** — Nine students at H. B. Sugg school in Farmville have completed an eight-hour course on fire prevention and fire control taught by members of the Farmville department through the Pitt county extension service and 4-H clubs.

Certificates were presented Oct. 16 to Wesley Locust, Derrick Blount, Ricky Mewborn, Al Mewborn, Samantha Baker, Randy Garriss, Gregory Brock, Ronnie Locust and Levy Locust. John Baker, Ray Mewborn, Ed Meek, B. B. Turnage and H. P. Norman were the instructors.

Fire Chief Norman stated that the department answered

three calls during that week. On Tuesday afternoon at 1:40, a 1967 Buick owned by Roy Barrett, route 1, Greenville, in the 100 block of South Main street was damaged slightly.

Friday at 6:15 p.m., a 1962 Ford belonging to Barbara Beaman Edwards of route 2, Farmville, was damaged to the tune of \$300.

A neighbor who noticed smoke and smelled oil fumes at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Melton called firemen. The Meltons were out of town. It was found that the furnace was flooding, and it was shut off.

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# They Work To Put Firemen Out Of Work

Bessemer City — Around fifty-five young people have been attending classes to learn how they can put firemen out of business...and the firemen appreciate it.

In fact, Bessemer City firemen sponsored the Fire School that gave fire and fire prevention information to the students who were drawn from the fifth and sixth grades at West School.

Johnny Goins of the Bessemer City Fire Department, headed the class instructions that took place for an hour and a half on four consecutive Tuesday nights at City Hall. Teaching with Goins was Fred Lankford. Assisting were Chauvis Ballard and David Ford who conducted fire drills, displayed air packs and demonstrated truck operations.

To recruit students for the classes, Goins made a visit to

West School to tell the students about it.

He was accompanied to West School by Nancy Katz, assistant extension 4-H Agent for the county.

Topics taught at the Fire School were: Chemistry of Fires; Fire Hazards; Fire Extinguishers; and Home Fire Escape Plans.

On the last night, the students had "the works" — the fire siren was sounded and firemen gathered to take off in two fire trucks to fight an imaginary fire.

The students stood across the road to observe how the firemen answered the fire call and the manner in which fire trucks were dispatched to the fire area.

They also saw how fire hoses were attached to fire hydrants and they took turns holding the fire hose that was adjusted with a low pressure.

They also saw the firefighting gear used by Bessemer City firemen.

To take-off to the imaginary fire, Capt. Curtis Humphries and policeman Harold Jones directed traffic.

The classes ended on a Saturday afternoon with a hot dog roast held at the Firemen's Recreation Lodge at the Water Works.

The young people met at the city hall where they were



AND AWAY WE'LL GO—Pictured above are young people who attended a series of courses in a Fire School sponsored by Bessemer City Firemen. The firemen entertained the young people at a grill hot dog outing at the Firemen's Lodge at the Water Works. Transportation to the water works was a big treat for the students. They rode the town's new \$42,000 fire truck. They are pictured above loading up at the city hall for their first ride in a real fire truck. To add a thrill to their ride, the siren on the truck was sounded as they roared along enroute to an afternoon of fun and good eats. Over fifty fifth and sixth graders took the series of courses.

Bessemer City Record Photo

loaded onto the town's new \$42,000 fire truck that recently was delivered to the department. Since the fire truck is not at this time fitted with hose pipe and fire-fighting gear, all fifty-plus students fitted inside its truck bed.

Chuck Ballard drove the truck to the Water Works, sounding the siren as he drove along to give the young people an added thrill for their first ride on a real fire truck.

A police escort had been planned but was cancelled when policemen had other duties to perform (escorting some 'drunks' to the county jail).

Along with eating grilled hot dogs, the young people pitched horse shoes and held foot races.

"I claimed I could out-run them all and they kept me busy showing me they could beat me," laughed Goins who admitted he lost several of the races.

Chief Clyde Strutt and Ephram Holland grilled the hot dogs and did KP duty in cleaning up from the afternoon outing.

Goins was thrilled over the response the students made in attending the Fire School.

"The kids really were concerned with learning fire information. We, the firemen, were pleased over the fact that they carried their learnings home to their parents. Several parents have mentioned to us that their children had laid out fire escapes routes for family members."

He added, "The sessions were so successful we feel inspired to continue with them, reaching different age groups."

In expressing appreciation to the parents for helping their children with transportation for the classes, Goins said, "I would like to also thank Principal Herman Eaker for letting the department carry information on the Fire School into West School."

Certificates will be presented to students who attended the Fire School. They will be

presented to them in their respective class rooms at West School.

## Fire School Held In Burnsville

Burnsville — On Tuesday, October 1, the local United States Forest Service held its annual Fire School with some 91 people from across the state attending.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the latest fire fighting techniques and available equipment to aid in fire detection and control of mountain wildlife. It was also a cooperative meeting to coordinate firefighting efforts between the U.S. Forest Service in Burnsville, Marion, Hot Springs and Troy and other state and local agencies such as the North Carolina State Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and the National Park Service.

The U.S. Forest Service and the State Forest Service would like to remind everyone that as the fall color and deer hunting seasons begin, our forest use will greatly increase. Therefore, they ask each forest visitor to be especially careful and do his part to prevent forest fires.

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Shredded paper loaded on a truck at Rowan Business Forms, Highway 29-South, caught fire recently the Salisbury Fire Department reported, and the fire spread from the truck to a loading platform before it was extinguished. Damage was reported to be small, and the cause of the fire was not known. Locke Volunteer Departments One and Two both responded to the call along with city firemen at 3:10 p.m. Salisbury Evening Post Photo.

## Fire Comes To Firemen

Whiteville — "The fire came to us this time," Assistant Chief Brooks Ward said concerning a fire call recently.

The department was dispatched to put out a fire on a van loaded with furniture on U.S. 74 - 76 east. The truck, operated by Talmadge Edwin Driggers of Palatka, Fla., was reported to have stopped at Lake Waccamaw where firemen dumped 500 gallons of water on the fire and the driver continued toward Whiteville.

Ward reported that Driggers said he did not know how the fire started unless furniture pads got too hot over the axle of the truck. The top and side of the trailer burned off.

Whiteville police officers also went to the scene, and Ptm. Larry Cain's report shows damages estimated at \$7,000 to the furniture and \$10,000 to the trailer.

Driggers reportedly unloaded part of the furniture in Wilmington and was traveling to Palatka with the rest.

## Fire Chief Says Rats Could Have Caused Fire

Clayton — Rats might have caused the fire that resulted in an estimated \$12,000 to \$15,000 in

damages at the home of Larry Castleberry in Clayton recently.

Fire Chief James Norris said he believed the fire was caused by rats gnawing the insulation off electrical wiring behind a clothes dryer in a utility room. That room and another room were extensively damaged by the fire, and the remainder of the seven-room house suffered heat, smoke and water damage.

Mr. Castleberry was working in Smithfield when the fire broke out about 10 p.m.

## Albermarle Parade A Success

Albermarle — Albermarle had 39 units in the Albermarle Firemen's Association parade plus the U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter from Elizabeth City flying over the parade route. The parade included 2 bands, 25 pieces of fire apparatus from 17 fire departments, plus many other participants. The Edenton Fire Department won the Albermarle Firemen's Association Award for their pick up truck float on Fire Prevention. A Hertford Fireman Bill White float on Children's Safety and the North Carolina Forestry Service Unit were parade runner ups.

## Fire Causes Some Damage

Albermarle — Some damage occurred around the fireplace in the home of John Paul Brown, 1409 Long Street Extension, in a call received by the Albermarle Fire Depart-

ment at 6:10 a.m. recently.

Firemen attributed the fire to a defective fireplace.

At 7:15 p.m. the same day, they were called to the Harold Cotton residence, 1151 Montgomery Avenue, where the trouble was a ruptured hot water tank.

The previous day at 7:15 p.m., they were called on a dust pit blaze at Plant No. 4, Wiscasset Mills Company.

A few days later at 6:40 a.m., firemen were called to the Albert Hill home, 114 Austin Street, where the trouble was a stopped-up flue.

## \$16,000 Raised

### At Firemen's Day

Pilot — Fireman Hoss Alford reported recently that the Firemen's Day celebration held by the Pilot District Fire Department was a huge success. The department raised over \$16,000, which will more than pay for the new fire station.

A large crowd turned out for the various events which included barbecued pork and chicken for lunch and dinner, sky-diving and boxing exhibitions, an auction, all kinds of games, a turkey shoot, and gospel singing. The auction was apparently the biggest money-maker, as the first item, a five lb. bag of sugar, went for \$200. Other items auctioned off included hand-made quilts, household antiques, and farm goods.



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# Auxiliary Organized for Denton Fire Department

# A & P Fire Damage

Denton — Denton Fire Department Auxiliary held an organizational meeting recently in the fire station and elected Mrs. Steve Peacock temporary chairman.

The group agreed that it would operate on a temporary basis until January when a full slate of officers will be elected. An initial enrollment or membership fee of \$1 per person was approved, along

with dues of 25 cents per month.

The auxiliary will meet on the second Thursday night of each month at 7:00 in the fire station. Membership will be open to members of firemen's immediate families — specifically wives and daughters, as well as mothers of single firemen if they wish to join. Membership requirements have not been spelled out, but it was the consensus of opinion among the women present that the auxiliary should be limited to family members, who have a specific interest in the department, rather than having an open membership. While no official age minimum was set for daughters it was generally agreed that they should be teenagers.

Payment of dues will not begin until January, but the \$1 enrollment fee will be payable when members sign up to join the auxiliary. The Charter will

be held open until January, and interested women may sign up at any time before then and still be considered charter members of the organization.

Realizing that some firemen's wives may not be able to attend all meetings because of work schedules, the auxiliary decided not to exclude anyone from membership because of non-attendance. Wives who work second shift and cannot attend the Thursday night meetings may join by paying the enrollment fee and (beginning in January) the monthly dues.

Mrs. Peacock and Mrs. Leslie Pryor agreed to contact all firemen's wives by telephone to inform them of the new organization and invite them to join.

Mrs. Marion Grubb of the Healing Springs Auxiliary met with the Denton group and outlined the setup of her organization. She read some of the Healing Springs by-laws, including the purpose, dues, officers, and other pertinent information, and told about the many projects that auxiliary has sponsored to raise money for the department.

Since the Denton Fire Department is supported wholly by the town, those present agreed that the Denton Auxiliary would need to be organized along somewhat different lines.

There was general consensus that the group hopes to avoid fund-raising activities altogether if possible, since the town provides all equipment for the department. One project proposed for the new organization is to provide hot coffee or other refreshments for firemen when they are on a call for a long period of time. This will necessitate the purchase of a container to keep coffee hot plus possibly other equipment, but none of it is expected to amount to a large expenditure.

By contrast, the Healing Springs Auxiliary has raised large sums of money, through dozens of projects, to help build and equip their fire station, purchase trucks, etc. They also have helped provide kitchen facilities and recently purchased a piano to use during social events.

The Denton Auxiliary's purpose will be to contribute to the morale of its fire department by planning get-togethers for firemen and their families, to provide refreshments for the firefighters on extended calls, and to otherwise assist where they are needed.

Those present were Mrs. Steve Peacock, chairman; Mrs. J. R. Slack, Mrs. Vernon Dorsett, Mrs. Leslie Pryor, Mrs. Ira Craven, and Mrs. Ed Wallace.

## Idlewild School

### Damaged By Fire

Charlotte — A fire apparently set intentionally caused about \$75 in damages to an east Charlotte elementary school recently, police said.

The fire was reported at Idlewild Elementary School, 7101 Idlewild Rd. at 4:45 p.m.

The fire was set with paper in a classroom closet, police said.

Edenton — A late afternoon fire did extensive damage to the A&P Supermarket in Mitchener Village in Edenton recently, firemen reported.

Edenton firemen answered a 5:05 p.m. call to the grocery store located within a block of the department. Shortly after their arrival the fire was extinguished but firemen remained on the scene well into the rainy night.

Fire Chief Luther C. Parks said flames were shooting out through a hole in the roof and through a heat register inside the store on the south end of the building.

Parks said firemen tore holes in the ceiling to combat the blaze which was spreading steadily northward down the center of the building.

While the blaze never got into the main floor portion of the store, extensive smoke and water damage resulted.

Although no estimates of damage were immediately available, the roof and ceiling of the store suffered much damage, firemen said.

Exact cause of the blaze has not been determined but indications point to the gas heating system or wiring in the vicinity. Firemen said refrigeration motors or switches might have caused it.

Mrs. Doris Small, veteran checker, said she saw flames shooting out of the register over the produce counter. There was no panic inside the store and patrons and store personnel were quietly ushered out of the building.

The A&P Supermarket building is owned by former Mayor John A. Mitchener. The complex also houses a laundromat and car wash.

Neither of these two structures was damaged.

## Electrical

### Fixture

### Causes Fire

North Wilkesboro — An electrical fixture which malfunctioned caused a fire at the Curtis Wood accounting firm, West D Street, at 5:30 a.m. recently in North Wilkesboro.

Chief J. T. Vannoy said that there was some damage to the ceiling, and some water in Mr. Wood's office.

He said that the fire started in the hall. North Wilkesboro Fire Department had the fire out in a few minutes.

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# Charlotte Units Respond to Disaster

On Wednesday morning, September 11, 1974, an Eastern Airlines DC-9 Whisperjet, Flight 212, crashed on its final approach to Runway 36 of the Douglas Municipal Airport. The plane, arriving from Charleston, South Carolina, was carrying 78 passengers and 4 crew members. Of the 82 on board, there were 13 survivors.

There was heavy ground fog which had caused Ground Control to utilize their radar procedures for assistance in landing. The plane was scheduled to land shortly after 7:30 A.M. At 7:32 A.M., the plane suddenly disappeared from radar. FAA personnel in the Control Tower realized that the plane was down and immediately notified Fire Department Airport Station that an aircraft was down about a mile off Runway 36. Three crash trucks were dispatched to the scene.

Captain D. B. Webb of Blaze 5, also Airport Station Commander, radioed Communications enroute to the crash, and supplied the information that they had been given. Unaware of the exact location, Blaze 5 was pursuing the dense black smoke that could be seen above the crash. He requested that Engine 10 be moved to Station 17 and for police to help obtain information on the exact location of the crash. The Airport Station Commander was unable to inform Communications of the type aircraft that was down. At 7:36, Car 5, Engine 10 and Engine 3 were dispatched by the Communications Center.

Blaze 5 and other equipment proceeded down Wilmount Road to Beam Road, and turned right. At Shopton Road, Mr. Winslow of the Airport Manager's office was at the stop sign. He informed Blaze 5 that the crash was not on Shopton Road. Winslow also said that the plane was a DC-9. Blaze 5 proceeded down Beam Road and radioed Communications that the aircraft was a DC-9. The crash was spotted through the fog after turning right on York Road. Communications was notified that Blaze 5 was on the scene at 7:40 A.M. Proceeding across the yard of a farmhouse, Blaze 5 found the aircraft torn apart and scattered in woods among broken trees, large gullies, honeysuckle thicket and burning with the exception of the tail section and cockpit. At the edge of the woods, the Airport Commander began walking ahead of the truck to assure the driver of safe level ground for driving and a path clear of bodies and debris from the crash.

At 7:45 A.M., as Car 5 was approaching the scene, District Chief W. G. Stewart could see the dense black smoke from the wreckage. He found two badly burned crash victims who informed him that there were other victims in the wreckage. By 7:48 A.M., a rescue unit from the Steele Creek Volunteer Department was leaving with the first victims. The second unit leaving with victims was an Air National Guard Ambulance manned by Charlotte Fire Department personnel.

Communications called Assistant Chief W. O. Dowdy, Chief of Operations, at 7:49 A.M. Chief Dowdy ordered Code 2 which was enacted at that time. (In the event the Chief of Operations is not available, the emergency plan is implemented by the Communications Center.)

Code 2 (Douglas Municipal Airport's Emergency Plan) caused the Charlotte Life Saving Crew; Charlotte Ambulance Service; Red Cross; Memorial, Presbyterian, and Mercy Hospitals; both City and County Police Departments; Training Division personnel, recruits and STRAP team to be notified as stated in the Civil Defense Emergency Plan that an emergency existed and that the agencies implement their emergency plans immediately.

Code 3 was enacted at 8:12 A.M. by Chief Dowdy while enroute to the crash scene. Implementation of Code 3 caused supporting units to respond to the scene. Engines 1, 21 and Platform 1 were therefore dispatched. At 8:16 A.M., the Line Crew was sent in with chain saws and other extraction equipment.

The Chief of Operations, upon his arrival at 8:20 A.M., assumed fire ground command and used Car 5 as the command post at the scene coordinating fire and rescue services.

Rescue and fire emergency efforts were completed by 10:30 A.M. Chief Dowdy instructed city firemen and their units to return to their quarters. The command was turned over to Chief Knoxie Hoover of Steele Creek Volunteer Department at that time. Blaze 1 and some personnel were left to assist Chief Hoover. Communications lines remained open until 10:59 A.M. because equipment was still being sent in and out.

## Store Hit By Fire

Maple Hill — The Pickett grocery store in Maple Hill was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin at about 6:30 a.m. on a recent Saturday, according to the Southwest Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Chief Bob Moseman said the owner had been away fishing that morning and returned to find the 60-by-30-foot building on fire with the roof already caved in and just the cinder block walls standing.

Damage is estimated over \$50,000, he said. The owner had just added a recreation center to the business, he said.

It was not determined what caused the fire.

## Communication Center Actions During Aircraft Crash On September 11, 1974

Number of Dispatchers on duty at time of crash - 2  
Dispatcher II J. B. Noggle- Dispatcher I E. E. Lands

07:35—Blaze 5 reported via the radio, that a jet was down off Runway 36, crashed and burning. Blaze units 1,2,5, & 8 responded.

07:36—Car 5, Engine 10 and Engine 13 were dispatched to the airport.

07:38—County Police were contacted for specific directions to the crash scene.

07:49—Assistant Chief W. O. Dowdy was notified via telephone at his home. Chief Dowdy ordered a Code 2.

07:49—Car 2, Car 3, Engine 5, Engine 2, Squad 1 and Ladder 10 were dispatched to the crash scene. Engine 4, dispatched to stand-by at Station 10. Training Division was notified.

07:50—Charlotte Life Saving, Charlotte Ambulance Service, Red Cross, Memorial Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital and Mercy Hospital, were notified.

07:56—Tankers 19 and 20 were dispatched to the crash scene.

08:05—Fire Department Strap Team was notified.

08:12—Engine 21, Engine 1 and Platform 1 were dispatched to the crash scene. Chief Dowdy ordered a Code 3.

08:16—Line crew, with chain saws were dispatched to the crash scene.

08:17-10:59—Supporting units and equipment were dispatched to the crash scene as needed.

### Observation:

Dispatchers performed in a professional manner and communications on channel 3 was clear and concise.

## Town Firemen Put Out Fire

Beaufort — Beaufort firemen were called to the residence of Laurie Wooten, 213 Fulford St., at 4:20 p.m. recently, where a panel truck was on fire. The truck was parked in the backyard. The truck contained carpentry materials valued at about \$300.

Mr. Wooten estimated damage to the materials at \$100.

Twenty-six firemen and one pumper answered the call. They returned to the station within 15 minutes.

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# Mecklenburg County Civil Defense Emergency Operations Plan

## INTRODUCTION

The specific purpose of Civil Defense Planning by Mecklenburg County and by each municipality within the county is to enable the Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners and the Mayor of each municipality to meet and efficiently carry out their inherent responsibilities of emergency preparedness and operations necessary for the protection and well being of citizens in emergencies.

The planning considers all foreseen types of emergencies that might occur and it is based upon, and was developed after, a thorough analysis of possible emergency situations, requirements and existing capabilities. The scope and contents of this written plan are the results of discussions, understandings of emergency functions, agreements on responsibilities and tasks and establishments of procedures and coordination with all municipalities, agencies, organizations, groups and individuals.

This plan provides the basis for and gives general guidelines to emergency

preparedness and operations. It establishes procedures for direction and control, coordination, delineates responsibilities and assigns emergency tasks and functions. The details of performing the tasks and required functions will be set forth in Standing Operating Procedures for the various agencies and groups.

Even though the same direction and control, staff functions in general and operational procedures would be applicable to any type emergency, a nuclear attack would differ greatly in magnitude and be unique in some requirements; therefore, Part B to the Plan is devoted to radiological defense and shelter against radiation, and Part C pertains to emergency control and use of resources after an attack.

## Authorities

North Carolina Civil Defense Act of 1951, as amended (Chapter 166, General Statutes)  
Mecklenburg County Commissioners Action October 5, 1953, City Council of Charlotte October 7, 1953.

## Supersession

This basic plan, annexes and parts thereof will, when each element is completed and approved, supersede related

elements of previous plans.  
**Emergency Functional Assignments**

Primary emergency service responsibilities and supporting responsibilities are shown as follows with heads of listed departments having responsibility as assigned and non-government organizations and individuals having responsibility by agreement. Specific tasks are shown in Annexes to this Basic Plan.

EMERGENCY SERVICE	PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY	SUPPORTING RESPONSIBILITY
Direction and Control	Executive Heads of Government	All elements of government, organizations and individuals
Warning	County Police Chief	All agencies with capability (See Appendix 1 to Annex A)
Communications	Charlotte Communications Engineer	All agencies with capability (See Appendix 2 to Annex A)
Law Enforcement, Traffic and Crowd Control	Charlotte Police Chief	County Enforcement Personnel Municipal Police Auxiliary Enforcement Personnel Special Officers ABC Officers Industrial Security Forces Fire Departments
Security and Vital Facilities Protection	Same as Above	Same as Above
Fire	Charlotte Fire Chief	Municipal Fire Departments Rural Fire Departments Industrial Fire Forces Rescue Units Law Enforcement Units
Rescue	Charlotte Fire Chief	County Rescue Squads Municipal Rescue Squads Fire Departments Public Works and Utilities Private Contractors Ambulance Service Transportation Service Mortuaries Industrial Rescue and First Aid Units Law Enforcement Units
Medical and Health	County Health Director	Medical Societies/Associations

## Hot fire truck

**Kings Mountain —** The Grover Volunteer Fire Department fire truck, leading a fire prevention parade of some 30 fire trucks from around Cleveland County, caught on fire about half-way between Shelby and Kings Mountain.

The parade started in Shelby at about 4 p.m. and at about 5:30, while the parade was in route to Kings Mountain, the second fire truck in line, Cleveland County, noticed that the Grover truck was on fire.

Rushing into duty, the Cleveland fire truck driver motioned the Grover truck to the side of U.S. Highway 74 and put the fire out.

## Barn Destroyed

**North Wilkesboro —** A barn owned by Jim Shepherd and filled with hay was destroyed by fire of unknown cause early on a recent afternoon on Sunset Road just north of North Wilkesboro.

Mulberry-Fairplains Fire Department responded and kept the flames from spreading to the nearby home of Paul Lackey.

Mulberry-Fairplains fire chief T. G. Foster said that the flames had spread into grass at the Lackey home and were burning toward a shed when the department arrived a few minutes after the alarm was turned in.

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## Fire Unit In Rhodhiss Given \$50

**Rhodhiss —** The Rhodhiss Ruritan Club has donated \$50 to the Rhodhiss Fire Department for installation of a 1,200-gallon water tank on a truck acquired by the department.

The money was presented to Walter Fox, fire chief, and Larry Nichols, captain, by Vance Kirby.

The chief has reported that it will cost approximately \$8,000 to get the new tanker truck properly equipped. Fundraising campaigns are underway to raise additional funds.



**ARSON SUSPECTED**— This car belonging to Jerry D. Phillips of 1104 W. Airline Ave. burned recently, apparently the work of a their-arsonist seen running from the scene. Phillips said he shot at the man, but missed. Gastonia Police Sgt. Dean Hufstickler, to left, helps firemen investigate the gutted car. Gastonia Gazette Photo

## Tape player thief sets fire to auto

Gastonia — A thief set fire to a car belonging to a member of Gaston Lifesaving Crew recently and was shot at by the crew member as the thief ran into the night.

Jerry D. Phillips of 1104 W. Airline Ave. said his 1969 model car is a total loss, and that the tape player is missing from the gutted car.

He said he heard a noise outside his home around 11:30 p.m., armed himself with his 12-gauge shotgun and walked outside to investigate.

"I heard something like an explosion then saw a black man run around the corner of the house," Phillips said. "I shot at

him from about 15 feet, but he didn't stop running."

Phillips said he ran inside and got his .38-caliber pistol, then fired twice more in the direction of the fleeing man.

His car, parked on the street was in flames, the fire apparently set by the fleeing man. The explosion Phillips heard was caused by the breaking windshield, shattered by heat inside the car, a Gastonia Policeman speculated.

The man Phillips shot at was not found, and it is not known if he was wounded.

### Store burns

Rocky Mount — Ward's Appliance Co. was damaged by fire recently.

Assistant Fire Chief Edward Glascock spotted the blaze as he was on his way to work about 7:30 a.m. The fire was brought under control about an hour later.

Charles Ward, owner of the appliance company, was out of town that day. Damage estimates were not immediately available.

## 500 Pieces Of Furniture Destroyed

Lenoir — A fire of mysterious origin destroyed approximately 500 pieces of dining room furniture early recently at the old Hayes Cotton Mill on College Avenue.

David Sanders of Hudson discovered the blaze at 1:40 a.m. as he drove past the building. He notified the police department who then notified the fire department.

When firemen arrived on the scene, they found two fires inside the building. One fire was on the second floor and another on the first floor. The fires were at opposite ends of the building, leading firemen to suspect arson.

It was suspected that the fire had smoldered for some time before being discovered.

The building is being leased by Broyhill Industries as a warehouse for dining room furniture and a company spokesman said that a complete inventory had not been made but that it appeared approximately 500 pieces of furniture were lost.

There was no estimate of fire damages to the building, although they were believed to be minor. Most of the damage occurred when the sprinkler system in the building went off and contained the blaze until firemen arrived.

Firemen were on the scene until 5:15 a.m.

An investigation into the blaze is continuing.

### Fire hits home

Leasburg — An early-evening fire recently did extensive damage to a home in the Leasburg area.

The house, owned by Stover Davis, was occupied by William (Boothill) Wagstaff.

The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

Damage amounted to \$2,000 to the house and \$1,000 to the contents.

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## Spectators hamper rescue effort

Columbus County — Volunteers of the Acme-Delco-Riegelwood fire and rescue squad were hampered in rescue efforts on a recent Friday in what turned out to be a car fire that should not have happened.

Fire Chief Alton Edwards said his rescuemen responded about 10:45 p.m. Friday to an auto fire in the Armour area of Columbus County on rural paved road 1845.

"A car had run off the road and into a ditch. Several cans of gasoline which were in the trunk of the car overturned. In an attempt to start the car, gas was ignited and the occupants of the car ran from it to avoid serious burns," Edwards said.

He said the owner of the car was not identified, but that the loss of the car was total and amounted to \$400.

Edwards said a tanker was dispatched to the fire, "A short distance from the fire, the tanker was forced to leave the road due to an auto-boiler parked in the road and a large number of spectators on the road viewing the fire," Edwards said.

He said that it was only the skill of assistant fire chief Alfred Bridgers, driver of the tanker, which prevented serious trouble to the tanker when it was forced to leave the road.

"It took two hours of labor and the help of a wrecker to get the tanker back into service again," Edwards said.

He said people should be aware of the hazard of transporting gasoline in an automobile.

"One gallon of gasoline in vaporized form equals 88 sticks of dynamite," Edwards said.

He said the rescue efforts were hampered because of the public at the site of the burning car.

"The public should stay away from any danger area and permit fire and rescuemen to do their jobs," Edwards said.

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PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED — Lenoir Fire Chief Sam Williams announced the promotions of six members of his department. The new officers are pictured, from left, Capt. Tony Setzer, Shift 2; LLt. Bill Murray of the Shift 2 snokle company; Lt. Clint Harmon of the Shift 2 aerial company; Chief Williams;

Lt. Curtis Pritchard, of the Shift 2 snokle company; Lt. Roger Greene, of the Shift 1 aerial company; and Capt Ed Robbins of Shift 1. Williams said the men were picked for promotions after examination of experience, personality, and ability. Lenoir News Topic Photo

## Pre-Plan Fire Escape Routes

Williamston — Chief Tommy Price of the Williamston Fire Department noted recently that the National Fire Protection Association has found that in nearly every injury or death in a dwelling fire lack of planning has been responsible. "Most of the families are simply not prepared for a fire emergency," he said.

The chief urge that every household work out a plan of escape from the building in the event of a fire in any part of the structure and practice this plan until it is perfected. He quoted NFPA President Charles S. Morgan as saying, "The first rule of safety from fire is escape: get everyone out at the first sign of smoke or flame. Advance thinking and rehearsing now, before there is an emergency, may well save lives if a fire or explosion should take place."

Price suggested: Carefully figure out at least two routes to the outside from every room in the house, especially bedrooms. Allow for blocking of stairways and halls by fire and choking smoke and fumes.

Make it a rule for everyone to sleep with bedroom doors closed. In case of fire, the doors will hold back flame, heat and smoke, allowing occupants of the bedroom extra time to escape by an alternate route.

Windows should be checked often to see that they are opened easily and that there is an escape route through them to the ground where all the family is to have a point at which the roll can be called to see if any are absent and who may still be in the burning building. Firemen, Price said, will need to have definite information on this.

## Auto fire, false alarm reported

Thomasville — Thomasville firefighters reported a car fire recently at 10:30 p.m. in the Hardee's Parking lot on E. Main Street. The 1962 auto of Keith Sink reportedly caught fire because of a short in the wiring.

A false alarm was also reported the following day at 9:51 p.m. at 1010 Randolph Street.

## Ahoskie's Rural... Building Planned For Fire Dept.

AHOSKIE — Plans are underway to construct a new building for the Ahoskie Rural Volunteer Fire Department. The building will be located on Catherine Street between Ahoskie Department Store parking lot and the railroad track, facing Riddick Equipment Company.

The structure will be made of steel, prefabricated and 40 by 60 feet in size. The department will soon make official application to Farmers Home Administration for a \$20,000 loan to erect the building. Copies of the department's original charter and financial information must be compiled before application is made.

The building will house all

equipment of the rural department, as well as some belonging to the town department.

Ahoskie Town Council discussed the new building when they met in regular session recently. The fire department anticipated problems with a loan since the town would own the land on which the building would be situated. Council instructed Town Attorney Ben Gram to work with members of the department and FHA to determine just what could be done to help the department. Such a meeting was held that afternoon.

According to Rural Fire Chief Bryant Norville, the town will draw up documents deeding the land to the department as long as the department exists. If the department ceases, the land will revert back to the town. Norville further said details were not complete on who would underwrite the loan.

The only present guaranteed income to the rural department is \$125 monthly from Hertford County.

## Fire damages train engine

Thomasville — A Southern Railroad diesel engine was heavily damaged in a recent Saturday morning fire, Thomasville firefighters said.

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# Expansion Underway For 2 Fire Departments

**Bat Cave-Gerton** — Development of two county fire departments which were initiated in the past year is coming along at a fast pace.

Bat Cave Volunteer Fire Department, which has already had a tax district set up, has been co-ordinated into a fast-growing department and is presently progressing with work on a new fire house.

Gerton Volunteer Fire Department, whose firehouse was finished as a part of the

community building, is in the process of adding equipment and setting up the legal steps to hold a tax district election in January.

Because of the work in the Gerton community by residents to establish a fire department, the community recently won a community development prize and will compete for the western state prize.

Both departments had their beginnings when residents of the Bat Cave-Gerton area

decided they needed some type of fire protection. The original thought of the area was to set up one department to provide protection, but due to the ruggedness of the Hickory Nut Gorge and distances involved, two departments were set-up to provide and co-ordinate fire protection for the far eastern part of Henderson County between Buncombe and Rutherford Counties.

Since the Gerton department was formed in February with a steering committee, volunteers in the community purchased the chassis of a truck and built a fire tanker. They also added room for the department onto the community house on U.S. 74 West. All work in the department has been voluntary and a great deal of money was also donated to the department by residents.

Present plans include negotiating for a used tanker and pumper, hosing the fire district election, and training for volunteer personnel in firefighting.

President of the 25-man department is Bill Joyce and chief of the department is Raleigh Freeman.

Bat Cave residents, members of the Bat Cave Community Association of which the fire department is associated, are donating their time, labor and money in constructing the first fire house Bat Cave has ever had.

The new block firehouse on U.S. 74 West in the community will have two fire bays, as does Gerton's, and will also have an additional meeting room with a basement.

Bat Cave fire department also formed this year, and has held various training schools for its firemen. The department has held dinners and other community events readily supported by residents to raise money for the department.

Bat Cave presently has a tanker truck and is in the planning process to get another one.

Chief of the 20-man department is D. C. Anderson.

## Silo Fires Hazardous, Hard to Extinguish

By Donald Dymes  
OLG Safety Field Representative

Fires in farm silos are difficult to extinguish because of the type of combustible material involved, and because of the danger of explosion of combustible gases in sealed silos.

Spontaneous ignition of silage has been a growing problem because of the practice of partially drying the crop (especially hay) before chopping and storing. To help prevent such fires, the moisture content of silage should be above 50 percent when stored in a conventional (unsealed) silo, and above 40 percent when stored in a sealed silo.

When dealing with silo fires, never place firemen on top of a silo, or overhead on aerial equipment, except upon expert advice. Keep apparatus at a safe distance.

Conventional silos — pose little danger of explosion because there is little buildup of combustible gases. To handle fires in these silos:

Extinguish free-burning fires with water. Work from ladders over the top of the main silo wall, or from chute and doors. Don't stand on the silage, which may have unseen burned out areas below.

It is difficult to completely

extinguish a fire with water within the silo, and the silage may have to be removed to complete extinguishment.

Sealed Silos — pose a higher danger of explosion, because their construction favors the collection of combustible gases above the silage. To handle such fires:

Be sure that roof openings are sealed to prevent the entry of oxygen which could cause an explosion.

Don't apply water inside the silo. Water and the products of combustion in a silo can form "water gas," a combustible mixture which could explode when exposed to heat.

The recommended method of extinguishing such a fire is to apply carbon dioxide and keep the silo sealed for two weeks or more.

To complete extinguishment, the silage may have to be removed while keeping the silo's top openings sealed.

Local fire officials may request single copies of an OLG Fire Service Memorandum, "Handling Fires in Farm Silos," from George H. Proper, Jr., Fire Protection Specialist, NYS Office for Local Government, 155 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210.

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## Nets over \$1,000 for fire department... Bennett Fire Department reports record turnout for benefit supper

Bennett — Members of the Bennett Volunteer Fire Department have termed their semi-annual supper held recently as one of the most successful ever.

A spokesman for the fire department reported over 1,100 persons were served, netting over \$1,000.

Held for the past several years, the semi-annual chicken supper is the major fund-raising project sponsored by the Bennett Volunteer Fire Department.

The department, which serves a radius including portions of Chatham, Randolph and Moore counties, was incorporated on June 7, 1967, and began fighting fires the following November when the first truck was acquired. Another truck has since been acquired and it is hoped to secure a brush truck.

The volunteer fire department moved into its new building about four years ago. This brick and block structure consists of three truck bays, a kitchen and meeting area, rest room with showers and utility space. About \$1,800 is owed on the building. The building was used in November for the holding of the election.

Bernard Purvis is the chief of the fire department; Earl Routh is assistant chief. Other firemen are Joe Binkley, Jack

Brady, Harold Brady, Allen Brady, Wade Brewer, Tommy Brown, Ray Jones, Dwight Jones, Wayne Jones, Henry Kidd, Leon Moffitt, Harvey Oldham, Harvey Brady, Russell Seawell, Hoyt Waver, Wayne Welch, and James Willett.

The business of the department is conducted by a board of directors consisting of Wayne Phillips, president; Wayne Jones, vice-president; Ted Welch, secretary and treasurer; and Ledford Brady, Bernard Purvis, Leon Brady, Eli Seawell, James Caviness, and Bernard Routh.

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# Efland Fire Department

Continued From Page 1

state standards.

The tax levy provides enough funds for basic equipment, Efland said. That includes the two engines, 30 complete uniforms, a siren and a radio monitor set-up.

The department has a 750 gallon-per-minute pumper that carries its own water and a combination tanker and pumper that can pump 1250 gallons per minute.

Efland also has three pieces of special breathing equipment and a special equipment system that enable the department to move into action using water from its truck, then switch to another water supply without disrupting the water flow.

All of that equipment is expensive because inflation has hit the fire equipment business particularly hard. The two engines now would cost \$12,000 more than they did when purchased two years ago.

Special fireman's costs were bought two years ago for \$39 and now sell for \$70. Fire hose nozzles have jumped from \$100 a piece to \$169 in two years.

The fire district tax and the three fund-raising affairs conducted by the woman's auxiliary are the Efland Department's main lines of defense against inflation.

The auxiliary was organized about one year after the department was organized. "They have been instrumental in fund-raising projects and have given us moral support," Efland said.

Efland pointed out that wives sometimes resent activities like volunteer fire departments that keep their husbands away from home at meetings and training sessions. The wife has to stay home and take care of the kids while her husband is involved in what is partly a social gathering he explained. The auxiliary has provided women with an opportunity to get involved in the department and has given them a social outlet too, Efland said. "Now Daddy has to stay home with the kids when they meet," he said, adding that the women are sure to pick a meeting night different from the men's.

The women's auxiliary put together the Fireman's Carnival in Efland two weekends ago to raise funds for the department. They have raised about \$900 that went to pay for

the special breathing equipment the department has.

The Efland department serves an area that is bounded by the Eno River on the east and the Orange County line on the west. Because of the size of the area it serves, Efland explained, the state Department of Insurance will not allow Efland residents to benefit from reductions in fire insurance normally permitted to residents of protected areas.

Efland explained the state requires that areas be served by departments that are equipped to a certain standard and that the departments not attempt to protect an area larger than four square miles to qualify for lower insurance rates.

The Efland department exceeds the state equipment standards, Efland said, but serves an area larger than four square miles and so does not qualify under the state standards.

Efland is pleased with the progress of the department and he is pleased with what he sees as a growing awareness in this county of a need for fire protection. "People are thinking about fire protection in a way they have never thought about it before," he said.

He and the members of his department are happy with their situation, but are looking toward the future. Now, plans for a new building are being discussed. Efland said the department could get a Farmers Home Administration loan to construct the building at a five percent interest rate.

He is also happy about the cooperation between the county's six volunteer departments that is growing. The chief's of the departments get together for quarterly meetings, Efland said, and discuss common problems and solutions.

## Radio System

Continued From Page 1

District, on Old 60 highway, the second house on the left east of the Fishing Creek Baptist Church."

It's not going to do any good to call in the alarm saying, "My house is on fire. Hurry with the fire trucks!"

Later there was a county-wide test of the system.

Through the central communications system, firemen throughout the county can talk to each other while they are on a fire, can request help, or can conduct routine business.

There'll still be the fire central back-up system at North Wilkesboro Fire Department in the event additional communications are needed on a major fire.

But again — Residents in eastern Wilkes in the Ronda, State Road, or Pleasant Hill areas are reminded that to call in a fire, dial 835-7583, and all others, except for North Wilkesboro and including Wilkesboro, should dial 667-1276 giving specific directions concerning the way to get to the fire.

## Dark Side of the Moon nightclub damaged by fire

Raleigh — Fire destroyed all but the shell of a Raleigh nightclub recently. Firemen fought for three hours to contain the two-alarm blaze.

The Dark Side of the Moon at 506 Downtown Boulevard was in flames when the first of five engines arrived just before 3 a.m.

No patrons or employees of the club were at the building and firemen reported no injuries. But District Fire Chief Leland T. Daniels estimated the damage would be more than \$10,000.

The cause of the fire has not been determined and the Raleigh police have been asked to investigate possible arson.

"They still don't know if it was deliberately set or not," Det. Sgt. L. K. Marshburn said. Detectives examined the building's shell that morning, and found no evidence of a break-in or electrical problems

that might have touched off the fire.

The club opened a year ago as one of the first black go-go nightclubs in the city.

Fire officials identified the owner as Arthur Gould. Bob Rogers, a former disc jockey at radio station WLLE, known as "Sweet Bob," was the current manager of the club.

Neither could be reached for comment at that time.

## Farm Home Damaged By Fire

Farmville — Farmville Fire Chief H. P. Norman reports that fire of an undetermined origin caused extensive damage to the structure and furnishings of a home on the farm of Robert Lee Smith of Greenville on a recent afternoon. On highway 264-A east of Farmville, the home was occupied by George Dupree, Jr.

## Gunn Named

Continued From Page 1

was employed in the maintenance department of the State Department of Transportation before taking his present job.

He is a native of Rockingham County, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Gunn, is a member of the Methodist Church and Civitan Club and is married and the father of four sons, two of whom are in military service. The family is residing on the 601 By-Pass.

## New Chief

Continued From Page 1

After four years in the Military Service, he returned to the Newton Fire Department as a Volunteer Fireman until a full-time position was available several months later.

Training attended includes: Fire Prevention; Arson Investigation; Maintenance and Operation of Fire Dept. Pumps; Training and Supervision; Aerial Ladder Operations; Industrial Fire Protection and Sprinkler Systems.

Chief Yoder is married to the former Donna Hillestad of Larimore, N.D. They have 2 boys, Kevin (5) and Erick (2). They reside in the Chief's quarters at the Fire Department. They have enjoyed their first month in Pinehurst and are looking forward to many more.

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