



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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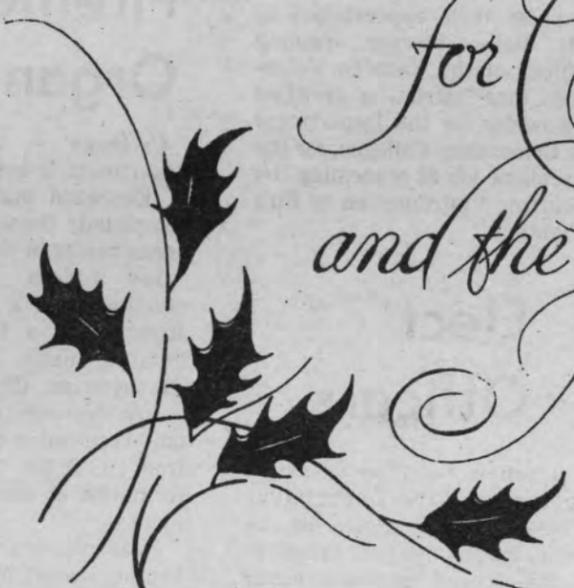


With Best Wishes

for Christmas

and the

New Year



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

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Editorial



EMILY H. KING

Too many of the Christmas slogans and themes can readily be identified with the horrible reminder that fire too often happens directly related to the Christmas Season. The traditional red and green is beautiful, so long as the red is not provided by the red of the flames of a fire that might have been prevented, just as "Jingle bells" are merry, but not if accompanied by the clang of a fire bell to turn merrymaking into terror.

It is especially important during this season that children are not left alone, not even for the few minutes it takes to dash next door with a taste of a new Holiday confection or a last minute run to the shopping center for a last-minute gift or some extra wrapping paper. Planning and working ahead will prevent these last-minute deals that could result in catastrophe and truly make this Christmas one you would never forget. As the National Fire Protection Association so often says, "Fire never takes a Holiday!"

I know that it is repetitive, and sometimes tiresome to keep reminding everyone of the precautions they should take, but sometimes it takes a lot of repetition to "get the message through." When people are full of Holiday plans, it is hard for them to also keep their conscious mind on the dangers of the ever-present chance of fire, but then is when they really need to be conscious of it, since the season provides so many ways in which they could be attacked by fire that is not present at other times of the year.

Remind them if using a natural tree, only fresh ones should be chosen, also, since none of the so-called fire-proofing treatments are fool-proof, it should be placed away from heat and out of the way of doorways or stairs. The possibility of shock can be

avoided with metal trees, if indirect lighting is used, all others should be lighted only with UL approved wiring fixtures, and if old sets are being re-used, they should be checked out first for frayed wires, loose connections, broken sockets and replaced wherever they are found. There are sets with built-in fuses, now, and these are strongly recommended.

The best kinds of decorations are those made with asbestos, metal and glass, but be especially careful, if using candles that will be lighted, that you do not use an arrangement of polystyrene foam. Although wrappings should be disposed of promptly, do not burn them in your fireplace, if you are fortunate enough to have a cheery fire going. It would not be cheery long, were they to fall out, catch a drape or rug, or even clothing someone is wearing.

A family escape plan, always important, is especially important, and should be rehearsed with the whole family participating, several times prior to Christmas. If this puts a damper on the Yuletide spirit, just think what a damper a real fire would do, should an emergency occur, and no one was prepared.

Matches and cigarette lighters should always be kept out of the reach of small children, but this is especially true at this time, and a time when we are likely to be careless, being engrossed in other activities, and excitement. If excitement and celebrating can make an adult forget, surely they cannot expect more from their small children.

As for fireworks, you all know how I feel about the use of them in any form as a means of celebrating! Fireworks displays in the hands of experts, viewed at a distance is the only means or form of fireworks that I feel is safe for the pleasure of young and old. A burned child who has been allowed to handle them, would quickly dispel any pleasure anyone might have gotten out of using them.

I hope all these warnings will not take away, but give happiness, by allowing the pleasure of the Christmas Season to be unmarred by a fire that might have been prevented, especially the firefighters who have to leave their homes during the Holiday time to fight a fire when others

Griffith Chosen "Fireman Of Year"

Clemmons — As far as Thurmond Griffith of South Fork was concerned he was just one of over 500 fire fighters and guests attending the annual Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen Association banquet, held on Saturday Nov. 16. Much to his surprise the Association recognized him during the banquet as the "fireman of the year."

"I had not the least idea of all

are careless enough to allow one that might have been avoided with proper precautions.

Yours for a Merry, Fire-safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Emily H. King

Emily H. King

that I was going to win," Griffith said still shocked over having been honored. There are approximately 800 volunteer firemen in Forsyth County that each of the Volunteer Departments can select from. Each of the 19 departments nominates one man from their ranks to be judged for the honors.

Griffith was awarded two trophies, one passes on to next years winner and the other he keeps. He also received a \$25 savings bond contributed by Dixie Insurance Company.

He has 23 years service with the county volunteer fire departments. Starting in 1952 he served with the Clemmons VFD until 1964 when he joined the South Fork VFD.

Forsyth County Fire Marshall E. Reece Baugess noted, "The selection of Mr. Griffith was certainly a good choice by the committee. Mr. Griffith has been a pillar of the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department." Baugess said the nominees

for the awards were judged their attendance of meeting and fire calls, their cooperation in various programs, the willingness to take on night duty and special assignments extra training, leadership ability, and participation county wide VFD program.

Griffith has served four years as chairman of the South Fork VFD.

Reared on South Peach Haven Road in Clemmons, he married and has two children and two grandchildren. Griffith pointed out that one of his grandchildren attending the banquet was as thrilled about the award as he was.

Fire Protection Network Urged

WASHINGTON — Leaders from five Beaufort County communities were urged to lead efforts to organize rural volunteer fire departments their areas to complete network of fire protection for their people and the

Cont. page 3

Firemen Forming Speakers Bureau

Statesville — Capt. H. T. Link of the Statesville Fire

Department's Fire Prevention Bureau has announced formation of a Speakers Bureau.

Capt. Link said structure fires, regardless of cause, leave a direct loss to owners, and an indirect loss to an entire community.

"Such losses are bad, but when caused by fires classed as

Cont. page 3

22 Firefighters Complete Course

Manteo — The Kitty Hawk Volunteer Fire-District training officer, Rodney W. Midgett, reported that 22 volunteer fire fighters received their certificates for completion of a seven week's training course which was given at the Kitty Hawk School during October and November.

All the volunteer firemen express their appreciation to Mr. Bailey Sawyer, training officer of the Camden Volunteer Fire-District, a certified instructor for the Department of Community Colleges, for the excellent job of presenting the course on "Introduction to Fire Fighting."

Elect Officers

Garner — The Garner Volunteer Fire Department reelected B. R. Poole, Jr. as chief for another year recently.

Re-elected assistant rural chief was Alex Umstead and re-elected assistant town chief was Phil Mitchell.

Richard Gulley was elected president; Allen Hodge was elected vice president; Ronnie Williams was elected secretary; Umstead was elected treasurer; and Lawrence Ford, Horace Barrow and Bennie Bozart were elected to be board members.

Eastwood Firemen Organize

Carthage — A new fire department is being organized at Eastwood and when it is completed, there will be 14 departments in the county.

Joe Adams, county fire marshal, says a site for construction of a fire house is located near the Culdee Presbyterian Church Manse.

Just this week the Eastwood unit received a generous gift from a donor to help with formation of the new department.

Eastwood has a tanker for hauling water, but it is hoped that soon a pump can be purchased.

No date has been set as to when construction of the fire house will get started.

There's much interest in the Eastwood section for the formation of such a unit.

Adams said the public gave excellent support to the flea market held by the West End-Eastwood fire units a few weeks ago.

Attendance Is Good At School

Wayne County — More than 250 firemen and rescuers attended the opening session Wayne County's first annual joint Fire and Rescue School at Wayne County Courthouse recently.

Training sessions under the entire staff of the N.C. Insurance Department's Fire and Rescue Training Division continued nightly for several days.

An LP gas fire demonstration was held one night at the Goldsboro Fire Department training grounds on U.S. 1 south of Goldsboro. Houses donated by a local bank were burned in fireground demonstrations near the Aycock Birthplace at Fremont.

Classroom sessions in conjunction with the fireground training included firemanshop officers training, LP gas fire ladders, forceable entry and ventilation and rescue.

Wayne Fire Marshal C. Ray Coley said more than 100 firemen and 40 rescuers attended classes.

It is the first time Wayne County has held a joint fire and rescue school and the first time the entire state training staff has conducted it here.

More than 1,000 firemen and rescue personnel from Wayne were eligible to attend.



FIRE IN SAWDUST BIN

NEWTON — Two pumper trucks and the aerial ladder truck of the Newton Fire Department were dispatched to Bassett Furniture Plant No. 2 recently when a fire was discovered in the sawdust silo. According to departmental personnel, the fire started in the dome at the top of the silo and that the damage was caused more by water than fire. The fire was confined to the silo very quickly by the firemen.

Newton Observer-News-Enterprise Photo

Woman Rescues Man From Apartment Fire

Lexington — A Lexington man seriously burned in a recent fire was saved by a woman who entered his apartment when she heard his screams.

Rescued by Mrs. Maggie Chambers was James Richard Chambers, 23, listed in serious condition at Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem.

Firemen said Chambers was asleep in Club Apartments

when the fire started. His father, Choice Henry Chambers, was slightly injured in the blaze. The elder Chambers is blind and fell in the bathroom while searching for a way out. Mrs. Maggie Chambers said she was awakened by the smoke. She heard Chambers screaming, went into the apartment and pulled him out.

Network Urged from page 1

property" in a meeting in Washington recently.

Sponsored by the Community Development Council of the Washington Chamber of Commerce, the meeting pointed up the fact that a Fire Study, conducted in 1970, showed that 12 fire departments were needed in Beaufort County to "begin to provide adequate fire protection."

Seven departments are now in operation and departments are needed at Cox Crossroads, Old Ford, Douglas Crossroads, Yeatesville, and Winsteadville.

James H. Woodhouse, Chairman of the Community Development Council, presided at the meeting.

In attendance from Cox Crossroads were William B. Mason and H. S. Long. From Old Ford were M. C. Gautier and Marvin Carraway, from

Douglas Crossroads, were Jack Douglas, Beverly Sheppard, and Brownie Meekins, from Yeatesville, John Tankard Jones, and William Tankard, and from Winsteadville, Charles Smith, John Hoff and John F. Sparrow.

Attending the meeting as consultants were Gene Alligood, County Fire Marshal, and Anthony Abeyounis, Washington Fire Chief.

Each of the communities was presented a copy of the county fire study which outlines ways and means to establish volunteer fire departments.

Woodhouse pledged the help of the Washington Chamber of Commerce in helping to get the fire departments organized and operational.

In attendance from the Community Development Council of the Chamber of Commerce, with Woodhouse, were Calvin Pittman, Jack H. Webb, Mrs. Pat Cox, and Nick Riccardi.

Firemen Form from page 1

preventable, the loss is even more tragic," he added.

According to Capt. Link, the Speaker's Bureau was formed with the belief that people wish to be more fire-safe in their everyday lives.

Capt. Link and Inspectors Jeff Coggins, Vance Carson and Sanford Sain are now available for meetings and any gatherings of public-spirited groups.

Subjects available are: home fire safety, home fire alarms, fire extinguishers and home fire escape plans. Each subject has both visual aids and written material designed to offer an understanding of both the problem and its solution.

Capt. Link may be contacted at the Statesville Fire Department weekdays during office hours, or an appointment may be made by calling 873-8511.

KMVFD Elects Officers

Kings Mountain — Kings Mountain volunteer firemen elected officers for the coming year.

They are Bud Ware, assistant chief; Charles Houser, captain; Bill Ware, lieutenant; and John White, secretary.

Five Persons Escape Injury In House Fire

Asheville — The five occupants of the Harvey W. Bradford home at 145 Westwood Place in West Asheville escaped unharmed recently from a fire at their home.

Two units of the Asheville Fire Department kept the fire from doing more than extensive smoke and heat damage to the downstairs rooms of the two-story frame house.

Assistant Fire Chief Lloyd E. Williams said the five escaped after the fire broke in the dining room shortly after 9 a.m. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Firemen were on the scene for an hour and 26 minutes.

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Fire Destroys Belk Store In Goldsboro

Goldsboro — A fire apparently caused by a faulty electrical wiring destroyed the three-story Belk-Tyler Department Store in downtown Goldsboro recently and threatened other nearby buildings.

By early evening four firemen had been injured battling the fire.

The fire began at about 4:30 p.m. on the third floor of the store and the flames ate their way into the lower floors as firemen fought the blaze into the night.

Employees and customers of Goldsboro's largest department stores were evacuated when the fire was first discovered. Early reports that someone had been trapped in the store's elevator when electrical power was cut off

proved false — when firemen used axes to enter the elevator.

After fighting the fire for about two hours, firemen thought they had brought it under control, but the flames broke out again on the north side of the building and appeared certain to gut the building.

Goldsboro Police Chief C. M. Gilstrap said he was told by firemen that electricians working on the top floor of the department store discovered the blaze, which they said apparently had been smoldering for some time.

Fire Chief Willard Herring said that the six-story Borden Building on the west side of the department store was in danger of catching fire despite a fire wall between the structures.

Herring said that small businesses in the block surrounding the fire, including a barber shop, a dress shop, a cafe and a drug store would suffer extensive water damage.

Large sections of the department store's walls were collapsing into the street as the fire raged out of control at about 9 p.m. Firemen, who said they expected the second floor of the building to collapse from the weight of the fallen debris and accumulated water, were concentrating on keeping the



A Kinston fireman atop an aerial ladder truck directs water onto the billowing flames.

inferno from spreading throughout the block.

E. A. Hunter, manager of the Belk-Tyler store, couldn't be reached that night, but S. H. Hocutt, a former manager, said the destruction of the 60,000-square-foot building meant a "total disaster."

No official damage estimate was available at that time, but one fire official said the damage to the store, which was stocked with merchandise in anticipation of the Christmas Shopping season, would exceed a million dollars.

Every fireman in Wayne County and some from adjacent Lenoir and Wilson

counties and all available equipment were sent to the scene. A ladder truck from Kinston had to be removed from the scene when it overheated and the Goldsboro ladder truck was moved away from the building when the walls of the building threatened to topple on it.

With electrical power shut off in a large portion of the downtown area of Goldsboro, about 50 city policemen and highway patrolmen were put on duty to guard against looting and to control a crowd of about 1,000 people that had gathered to watch the roaring inferno.

The fire sent flames shooting at least 50 feet into the air over the building, filling the sky with smoke.

Lemuel Bartlett, captain of the rural Belfast Fire

Cont. page 5

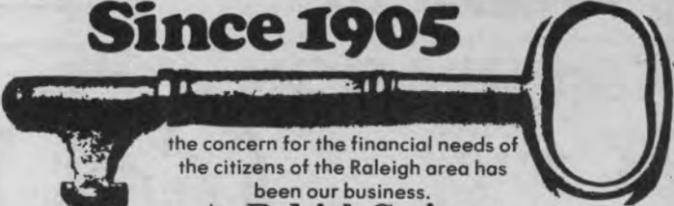
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Fire Destroys
from page 4

Department, told reporters that the smoke inside the building was so intense firemen could remain for only short periods.

"There was a lot of smoke up on the third floor and we had to pull out," Bartlett said.

Among the injured firemen were Monroe Lanier, who hurt his foot while climbing a ladder, and Wayne Aycock, who was overcome by smoke.

The names of the other injured firemen were not available Wednesday night, but none of the injuries was reported to be serious enough to require hospitalization.

The downtown store was Belk-Tyler's only store in Goldsboro. The firm has plans to build another store in the New Berkeley Mall shopping center under construction on the city's northeast side, but completion of the shopping center is at least a year away.



TIRED FIREMAN — Lt. Kirby Dudley, Goldsboro fireman, takes a breather beside the car of Fire Chief Willard Herring as Asst. Chief Aaron Eason directs operations at the fire via radio from his command post. Goldsboro News-Argus Photos



BURGAW — Brush fires seem to be keeping the Burgaw Volunteer firemen busy. This one occurred along the Seaboard Coastline tracks. This fire was extinguished before it reached the wooded area. The firemen used the new mini pumper. Other fires recently included a fire caused from overheated grease on a stove, and a car catching fire. Both were minor. Burgaw Pender Chronicle Photo

Wiring Causes Blazes In Area

Elizabeth City — The Elizabeth City Fire Department responded recently at 10:58 a.m. to a call from George W. Sawyer Jr., of 404 W. Church St.

Personnel arriving found the blaze in the outside wall and upstairs back bedroom. Department personnel reported considerable damage, although exact estimates were unavailable.

The department reported no

Lightning Causes Fire

Enochville — Lightning caused a house fire on Campbell Avenue in Enochville recently.

The residence of R. O. Upright was slightly damaged when lightning started a fire under the house.

Enochville fire chief Dallas Campbell said the floor and wiring were damaged.

Firemen were on the scene for an hour.

one was at home at the time the fire started. Probable cause was thought to be an electrical short circuit.

The department also responded at 7:04 p.m. to a call to 305 Speed St., home of Ethel Joyner. On arrival, firemen found the blaze extinguished. A short circuit was blamed for the blaze.

Piney Creek Gets New Fire Truck

Piney Creek — The Piney Creek Volunteer Fire Department has acquired a fire truck for their department.

The truck, a 1955 Ford, is well equipped for fire-fighting purposes. It has two booster reels, outlets for 1 1-2 and 2 1-2

inch hoses, two hundred and fifty feet of hose. The truck hauls a 500 gallon tank which can be refilled quickly with minimum effort. There are two ladders on the truck, one thirty foot extension ladder and one roof ladder.

In addition, the truck has all lights, a siren and a public address system.

It was purchased from the Troutman Fire Department of Troutman, at a cost of five thousand dollars.

With renovation of a county building near the Piney Creek School as firehouse, the truck is a welcome addition to the newly created fire department in the community.

Firemen Elect Officers

Goldsboro — The Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department has selected a slate of officers for 1975 with Roland M. Gray re-elected chief and James E. Smith elected president.

William E. Edwards and Jesse R. Gray were re-elected assistant chiefs and Ralph Overman was re-elected traffic captain.

Gary Manning was elected training officer for the department.

Other officers include Gerold Gurley, vice-president; Jacob Edwards, secretary-treasurer; and T. C. West, chaplain.

Edward Smith, John A. Gay and William M. Gray were re-elected to the Firemen's Relief Fund with Gray as secretary-treasurer.

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Fire Safety Target Of 4-H, County Fire Dept. Sessions

Beaufort County — In November, fire safety programs designed specifically for young people took place throughout the county.

They aimed at providing fifth and sixth graders with some insight into the causes of fires, the dangers of fatalities, and methods of fire extinguishing.

"If we can instill some concept of fire prevention in a young person's mind, he'll remember it for a long time,"

said Ron Grainger, a 4-H coordinator and one of the fire safety program's leaders.

The one and a half hour sessions included the 4-H clubs in Beaufort County plus various county and city fire departments. At least a half dozen fire departments held sessions. Firefighters served as instructors.

Participants included the Richland Volunteer Fire Dept., the Pinetown Volunteer Dept., the Bath Volunteer, and the Chocowinity Volunteer, Belhaven, and Washington Fire Departments.

Grainger said each session centered around four specific topics.

First, "The Chemistry of Economic Fire" acquainted students with three essential elements which make the fire triangle — fuel, heat, and oxygen. A fire safety demonstration kit was used to emphasize the nature of fire.

The second session concerned a working knowledge of a fire extinguisher. Students actually practiced fire extinguisher use under the supervision of instructors.

Identification of common fire hazards was the topic of the third session. Students were challenged to recognize ob-



SAFETY TIPS — A Chocowinity volunteer firefighter explains fire dangers to a crowd of fifth and sixth graders. More than six 4-H and county fire department safety sessions were held. 4-H coordinator Ron Grainger said an average of 40 school students turned out for the early evening gatherings. One held in Aurora was so successful, another followed two days later. Fifth and sixth graders were chosen for the program, already proven highly successful in Pitt County, because the young people are particularly responsive and inquisitive.

Washington Daily News Photo

scure, but deadly fire hazards in their homes and communities. Common home fire hazards were identified with the use of a fire safety kit.

Students were told of home escape plans in the fourth session. The pre-arranged escape routes were examined and students were encouraged to develop their own escape plans for their homes. Instructors used a detailed flip chart to show efficient escapes.

All of the sessions were followed by a film concerning fire safety.

Grainger said the fire station setting for the lectures should enhance enthusiastic cooperation among students. Also, students can become familiar with the operations of fire houses.

Fifth and sixth graders were selected for the program, Grainger said, because they are felt to be at a particularly responsive and inquisitive stage.

A similar fire safety program in Pitt County was found to have been highly successful. Grainger said fire department response has been "tremendous."

"They've been more than willing to give their time to the program."



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Clarence Puryear was 'a born firefighter'

From the Raleigh Times
By CHRIS SHERMAN
Times staff writer

Raleigh — After 32 years in the ranks fighting fires and then around a desk working out plans for new stations, new trucks and new men, Clarence R. Puryear rose to be chief for little more than a year.

Puryear died recently of a heart attack. He was 55.

Several weeks before his death, he reflected in an interview that the job was hard and strenuous.

"It's just meetings, meetings, meetings. Everytime I turn around it's another meeting," he said then.

Puryear was a quiet hard worker, not a socializing conventioneer, according to those who worked with him.

He would work at the administrative details even by himself, often taking work home. Or he would work late and on Sundays in the small drab office squeezed into Fire Station 1, drawing the drapes while others watched TV.

In fact, his predecessor Jack B. Keeter admitted to worries about Puryear, "He had to watch his work habits. He was the type of person who couldn't throw it off," referring to the pressures of the job.

The chief was a strong family man, according to Capt. Ned K. Perry at No. 1, preferring to devote his spare time to his family, rather than social affairs.

The day before his demise, Puryear was busy raking leaves in front of his Lord Ashley home and waving at friends. At 12:30 a.m., he was rushed to Rex Hospital by Beacon Ambulance, but he died.

He said during an interview that he did his share of the house work at home, enjoyed cooking and did dishes as they got messed up.

Since he became chief June 1, 1973, Puryear saw the opening of Stations 12 and 14. He had helped plan them in his years as one of two assistant chiefs.

A third station, 15, is due to open soon and the chief was looking for property for No. 16.

Just a few weeks ago, the complicated plans for expansion of the rescue squad finally bore fruit, when the first of two new \$17,000 rescue trucks arrived, and was stationed at Station 9 in North Hills.

He had overseen the recruiting of one of the first big batches of new firefighters, and promoted the men to staff the new stations. At the same time he had improved the department's record of minority hiring, while defending it from charges of discrimination.

Should someone praise the department's new crews or the latest trucks, Puryear wouldn't pop his buttons, Perry said. He'd say "We feel like they're doing a good job," and get on with his work.

Perry, president of the

Raleigh Firefighters Association, said the unrecognized union worked well informally with Puryear.

"He wanted to give the people of Raleigh the best fire protection he could and still give the employes all the consideration he could," Perry said. Throughout his career he had kept track of pensions and insurance.

The chief was particularly sensitive to the strain on families of scheduling the 24-hour duty shifts.

He listened to the rank and file, and also was the first chief to have a civilian assistant on his staff.

For most of his career, he would have been at fire scenes, on the trucks and later in the red car. His wife called him a "born firefighter."

Harold Stone, a young fireman, agreed that Puryear's dedication was apparent when the chief interviewed him before he joined the department in August.

Stone's brother-in-law was a

fireman for five years and was electrocuted last year painting a house. He knew that firefighting is "a life with you, to help people save people."

"That's what he (Puryear) wanted to know, when he talked with him. 'You've got to make it your life and perform as a team. If you don't, somebody could get killed.'

"It's hard to believe how great it is. There's not a finer occupation than being a Raleigh fireman," Stone said.

Funeral services were at Longview Baptist Church. Burial, with Masonic rites, was at Montlawn Memorial Park.

Surviving are his wife, Hazel D. Puryear; three sons, C. R. (Rudy) Jr., James D. and Booby L. Puryear, all of Raleigh; his mother, Mrs. J. C. Britton of Raleigh; two sisters, Edith Wuestenfield of Illinois

and Catherine Laws of Raleigh; and a brother, Earl V. Puryear of Raleigh.



Clarence R. Puryear
Raleigh News & Observer
Photo

Permits Required For Selling, Servicing & Installing Fire Alarms

Forsyth County— The Forsyth County fire marshal's office issued a reminder recently that all individuals and companies selling, installing or servicing fire

alarms or fire detection systems must have a permit under the new county law.

Tom Andrews, the assistant fire marshal, said that only about one third of the known

individuals and companies in this area had received permits and the deadline had been set for Nov. 15.

Andrews said the law is designed to protect the public from any company selling equipment not meeting standards or that might prove faulty in the future.

The fire marshal's office arranged to certify any individual for dealing with fire alarms or fire detection systems. Anyone conducting such business after Nov. 15 without being certified could be charged with violating the law, which is a misdemeanor.

Firemen Praised For Quick Action

Nash County — Nash County Fire Marshal Perry O'Berry credited quick work by Nash County volunteer firemen on a recent night with saving the \$1,080,000 Leisure Products on U. S. 64 Business complex from destruction.

A fire, which apparently started in the office area of the furniture store in the complex on Highway 64 west of Rocky Mount was spotted by a highway patrolman shortly after midnight.

Units of the West Mount, Nashville, Red Oak, and East End volunteer fire departments answered the call, and managed to contain the fire before it spread to the grocery store and Leisure Products warehouse nearby.

O'Berry said that the firemen were handicapped by the lack of windows in the facility. The storage warehouse is built onto the store, offering no immediate access to the back of the building. Firemen had to enter through the building's roof, and through the front of the building.

The furniture store suffered an estimated \$30,000 damage to its contents, and \$25,000 to the building itself. An additional \$15,000 worth of smoke damage

was suffered by the grocery store.

"Without quick work on the firemen's part," said O'Berry, "it all would have gone. There's no doubt that it would have spread to Leisure Products."

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Furniture Company Suffers Fire Damage

Asheville — Fire heavily damaged two buildings at the Ethan Allen Corp. on Johnson Street in Biltmore recently.

According to Asst. Fire Chief Thomas Carland, one of the damaged buildings contained about 12 to 15 feet of sawdust and the other was a plant

building.

Three engines answered the call at 8:46 p.m. and the fire was under control by 11 p.m., except for some smouldering sawdust, Carland said.

Cause of the fire was undetermined at that time.

Carland said there was considerable water damage to machinery in the plant building.

The company manufactures furniture.

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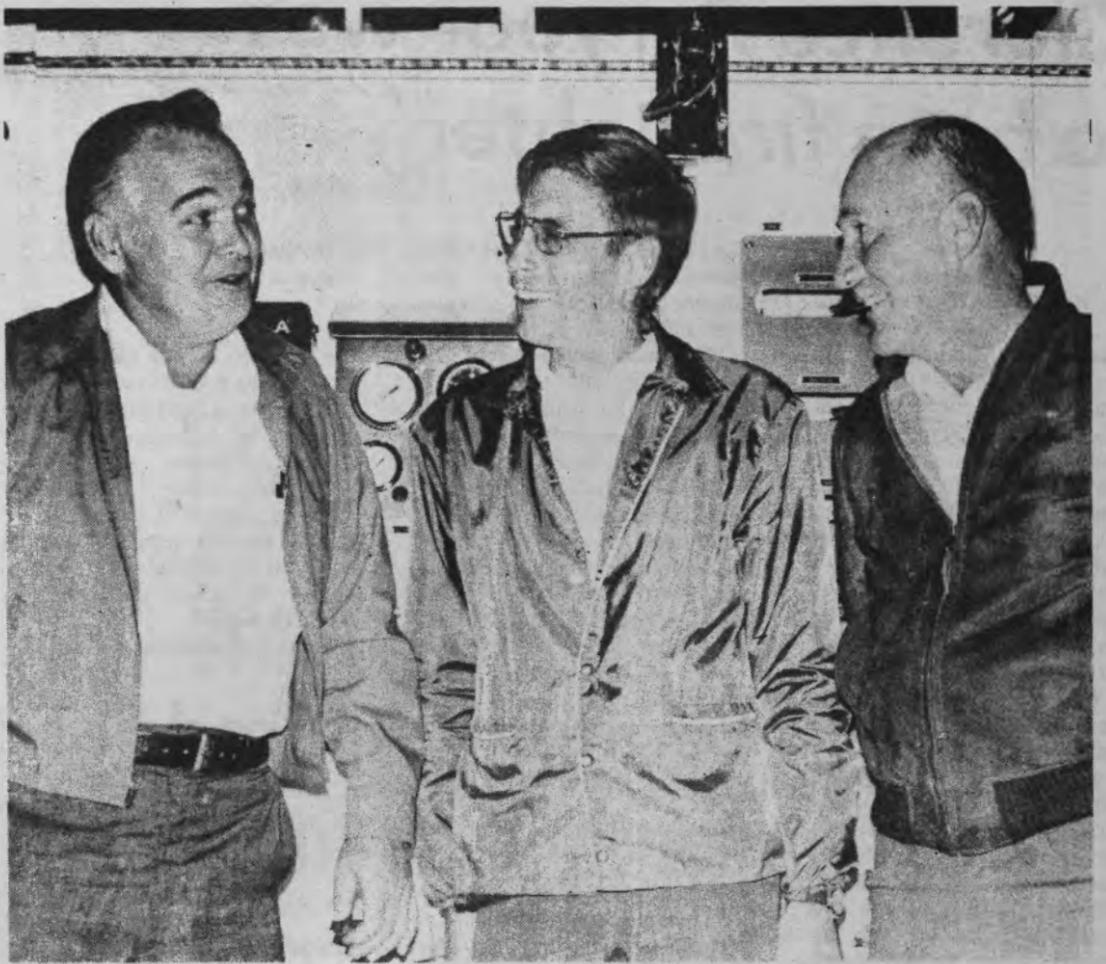
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FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION NEW OFFICERS

CABARRUS COUNTY — The Cabarrus County Fire Chiefs Association elected their officers for 1975 recently at Allen Fire Department. Shown left to right are, Sam Wise of Rimer VFD, Secretary-Treasurer; Bill Reading of Winecoff VFD, president; and Troy Cook of Coldwater VFD, vice president. Luther Barrier, not shown, was elected chaplain of the association.

The Concord Tribune Photo



\$3,000 PRESENTED TO
VFD AT FRANCISCO
BY LADIES AUXILIARY

KING — The Francisco Volunteer Fire Department, the Francisco Rescue Squad and the Ladies Auxiliary held their first annual family night meeting in the new \$75,000 combination squad and fire department building. Among the distinguished guests were Mr. and Mrs. John W. Burwell. Francisco Fire Chief Alcury Nunn received a check for \$3,000 from Mrs. Barbara Wright of the Francisco Volunteer Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary.

King Times-News Photo

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Vanceboro man saved from fire

Vanceboro — A Vanceboro man's life was saved by an out-of-town fireman recently as fire swept through a house in a rural area.

County Fire Marshal Henry Sermons said a fireman from the Greensboro area saw the house burning and kicked a door open and pulled out Blake Waters, who was living in the house on NC 43, two-and-half miles north of Vanceboro.

Waters was reported in satisfactory condition at Craven County Hospital today. He received second and third degree burns around his face, neck and chest.

Sermons said the fire, which did \$5,000 damage to the house and \$15,000 damage to the contents, started in an oil heater in the living room.

Two trucks and eight men from the Vanceboro Fire Dept. answered the call.

Fire Closes Restaurant

Asheboro — A popular Randolph County restaurant, the Blue Mist Drive-In, located east of Asheboro on U.S. 64, was closed early recently following a fire which erupted in the kitchen.

Franklinville and east side volunteer fire departments responded to the call at 1:30 a.m. Damages were estimated at \$20,000.

The restaurant was expected to be closed for several days for repairs.

Three children rescued from fiery death

Snow Hill — Three children were rescued from a burning trailer house on the Jason to Snow Hill highway recently by Thomas Coletrain of Miller Avenue, LaGrange.

According to the reports the following describes the rescue of the children:

Coletrain was driving in the direction of Snow Hill a short time after 10 in the morning. He noticed smoke coming from a house trailer located near the home of William Whitted.

He rushed to the front door of the trailer and knocked. He heard cries coming from inside the trailer, and he tried to open the door but found it locked. He ran around to the back of the trailer and jerked the rear door open.

He entered the trailer which was filled with smoke and intense heat. For a moment he could not hear the voices that he had detected from the outside only moments before. He started to crawl feeling along the wall he had turned in the direction of the front door.

He discovered that this was the area in which the fire was by feeling the heat as he ran his hand along the wall of the trailer. Then he heard the voices again coming from the other end of the trailer.

With the heat closing in about him, making it hard to breathe and almost impossible to see; he began to crawl to the area from which the sounds were coming. He managed to reach the bedroom and found three small children nearly overcome with the smoke and heat.

He grabbed one and pushed it towards the door and then out onto the ground. He then returned back to where he had left the other two and by pulling them as hard as he could out the back door.

The mother of the children had left the trailer to get eggs at the Pelletier Egg Farm located just across the highway. She was returning when she saw the trailer was on fire. She ran to the front door of the trailer and entered the trailer which by now had become a blazing inferno.

Her only thought seemed to be the children that she assumed to be still in the house since she could not see that they had been rescued and were on the other side of the trailer. She went so far in the trailer that she was burned trying to get to the children.

She came out of the house and rushed to the back thinking she could enter through the back door. It was then she saw the four lying on the ground gasping to regain the air sucked away by the fire.

Coletrain, recovering in time to see the mother coming to the children, handed her the baby. Through tearfilled eyes she cried, "Is he alive?"

"Yes, he is breathing," Tommy was able to answer.

Within minutes the whole sequence had taken place and the trailer was completely ablaze and beginning to fall in.

The Jason Fire Department had been notified, and they were arriving on the scene about this time; but there was no saving any part of the trailer. It had burned completely to the ground in 10 minutes, according to the time estimate by Coletrain.

Leroy Watson, chief of the Jason Fire Department, indicated that the fire started from a heater in the hallway of the trailer. This was the area which Coletrain first had crawled. Damages were estimated in the area of \$3,000 and the trailer was owned by William P. Whitted of Route 3, Snow Hill.

The trailer was occupied by the Hilton Lee Forrest family. Mrs. Forrest was taken to the doctor's office in Snow Hill where she was treated and released.

The youngest of the children was Christopher Lee, 18 months and his two sisters were Elizabeth Ann, 3, and Patricia Ann, 4. They were not injured and are active children. They probably will not recall that one day they were saved from a fiery death by Thomas Coletrain as he passed on that day.



A HAND SHAKE . . . Jason Fire Chief, LeRoy Watson (left center) shakes the hand of Thomas (Tommy) Coletrain for his heroic deed that led to the saving of three small children from the trailer fire. The ruins of the trailer are shown in the background. Snow Hill Standard Laconic Photo

Fires Damage Trailer, Room

Laurinburg — A mobile home and a motel room were damaged recently in two separate fires. The Laurinburg fire department answered both calls.

No one was at home at 2:45 a.m. when firemen were called to the trailer owned by James Smith at Scotland Acres. The fire department was notified by a neighbor.

Over 60 percent of the trailer was damaged, according to a report by the department. Firemen said the blaze had already caused considerable damage by the time they arrived and had probably done severe damaged before they were called.

Origin of the fire was not known.

Cause of the fire in a room at Pine Acres Motor Lodge was attributed to a lighted cigarette left in an ash tray on a chair, according to the Scotland county sheriff's department. Damage to the room and furnishings was estimated at \$750.

Also damaged was the clothing of the room's two occupants, who were not present at the time of the fire.

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Mobile home fires showing a decrease

According to the September 1974 Fire Journal published by the National Fire Protection Association, the incidence of mobile home fires decreased 8.4 percent from 1972 to 1973, from 27,400 to 25,100.

Residential and apartment fires increased from 1972 to 1973, 10.6 percent from 844,600 reported cases to 933,800.

Every form of housing which was analyzed in the report showed an increase in the in-

cidence of fire except for mobile homes, which showed a decrease.

Fire Destroys Historic Rockford Hotel

Rockford — The historic landmark in Rockford, the Grant-Burrus Hotel, was destroyed by fire recently.

The three-story wooden structure, built in 1796, was in the process of being restored by three young men who took up residence in the building only weeks ago. They were there to help volunteer firemen battle the blaze as their project went up in smoke.

Roy Martin of the South Surry Volunteer Fire Department said the fire was well underway with flames coming out through windows and the roof when his outfit arrived at 1:30 p.m.

Other firefighting units came from Boonville and the Fall Creek volunteer departments

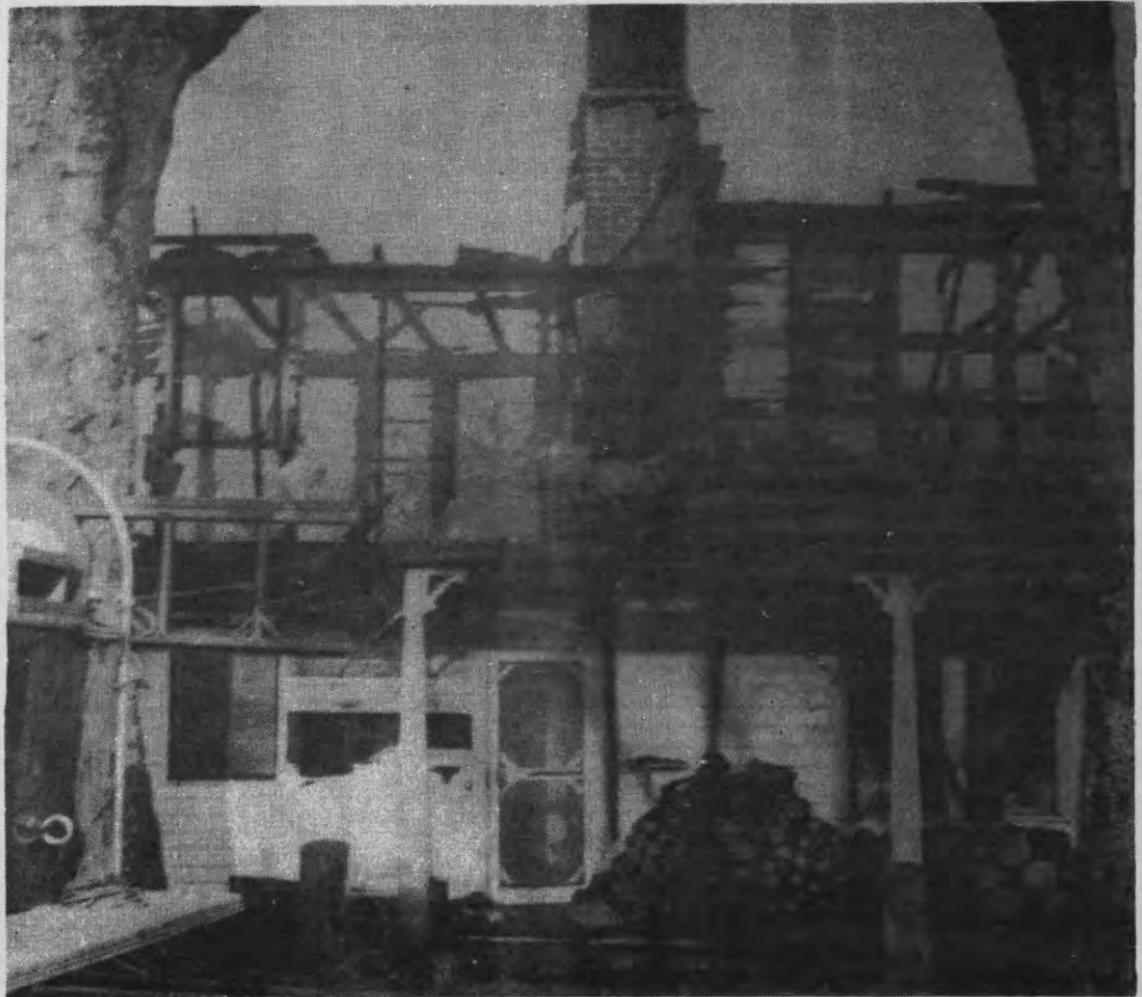
and at the height of the activity about 36 men and seven trucks were involved.

Lack of water hampered the efforts of the firemen to contain the blaze. Pumper trucks had to be filled time after time at the low-water bridge across the nearby Yadkin River. Approximately 35 tanker trucks of water were used.

The roof and upper level of the hotel collapsed, leaving only portions of the walls intact after the fire was brought under control about 4:30. The remains were still smoldering but a skeleton crew of firemen remained on the scene as a precautionary measure.

Only two weeks before, the hotel and the town of Rockford were dealt with a feature article in *The Enterprise*. The writer dealt with the restoration project going on in the picturesque old village. It was once a seat of government for a fairly large territory and Andrew Jackson once practiced law there.

About the middle of October, Randall Agee and Neil Hudson of Rocky Mount, Va., and Pat Burke of Washington moved into the old hotel of 15 rooms and 13 fireplaces. They had repaired the roof and painted the exterior of the building before it was destroyed. It is considered a total loss and there was no insurance.



FIRE CASUALTY — The old Grant - Burrus Hotel in Rockford was destroyed by fire of an undetermined origin recently. Built in 1796, it was operated as a commercial venture until 1925. It was in the process of being restored when the blaze was discovered about 1 p.m. The building is considered a total loss. Jonesville Yadkin Enterprise Photo

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Fire Destroys Kiddie Corner

Kannapolis — Kannapolis police and agents of the State Bureau of Investigation investigated a fire that gutted the former quarters of Kiddie Korner at 482 N. Cannon Blvd. recently.

The fire was discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnson who now operate the Kiddie Korner in their home at 2202 Nellie Ave. in Rowan County.

According to police, the Johnsons had moved some furniture out of the former quarters the previous weekend and when they returned to get other things from the building they discovered that fires had apparently been set in four rooms during the week.

The Kiddie Korner at Cannon Blvd. has been closed six to eight weeks, police said.

Plastic containers containing explosive material of some type were placed on papers in four rooms of the house and set afire.

A fire department spokesman who visited the scene said the outside of the house probably did not catch fire because the house was closed up and there was probably not enough oxygen. Firemen were not called to the fire and neighbors said they did not know when the fire was set.

The containers were sent to the SBI lab for analysis.

Damage to the house was estimated at \$12,000.

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Pinetown Fire Dept. Supper-Sale Termed Successful

Pinetown — People in the Pinetown Community gathered at the Fire Dept. for a chicken barbecue dinner and auction sale Saturday, Nov. 16. The event was sponsored by the Fireman's Ladies Auxiliary. The proceeds will be used to help with the new project, dish cabinets and a hood for the kitchen stove.

Little Pamela Swanner drew tickets for chances on the two lovely necklaces and a book donated by Mrs. Willie Ives. The lucky winners were Mrs. Emily Boyd, James Swanner, Jr. and Mrs. McKinley Waters.

More excitement was created as quarters were collected during the Chinese bake sale. Recipients of the three rice cakes were, Mack Arthur Wallace, Keith Wallace and Miss Paula Waters.

Michael Jay Swanner gave the high bid for the pretty braided rug, donated by Mrs. Bertie Oliver.

Tension began to build as the auctioneer, Earl Alligood, called for bids on the beautiful queen size community quilt containing many names and

designs. The high bidder was Mark Windley, the bid of \$115.

Things began to settle down a bit, when the Five Point Church singers, captured the audience attention with their good gospel music. Those singing were Wade Boyd, Sheila Burke, Roberta Nelson, Brenda Boyd, with Kathy Jackson at the piano and Bonnie Nelson with the tambourine.

Rebecca Wallace, program chairman announced approximately \$275 profit received and expressed deep appreciation and thanks to everyone who had a part in making this event a success.



FIRE DAMAGES ART ROOM . . . A fire was contained to the art room on the Rose High School campus causing some damage. Investigators above look over the scene. Greenville Reflector Photo

Invalid Escapes Mobile Home Blaze

Lilesville — An invalid woman managed to escape from her burning mobile home

Family Rec Building Burns

Enochville — A wooden family recreation building was damaged by fire recently. Enochville firemen remained at the scene for nearly two hours.

Fireman said the Thomas Wright recreation building on Freeze Road caught fire from a stove inside the structure. Firemen were alerted at 4:10 a.m. and remained at the scene until 6:05 a.m. Damages were estimated at \$3,000 to the building and \$2,000 to the contents.

Child Playing With Matches

Elizabeth City — The Elizabeth City Fire Department responded recently at 4:45 p.m. to a call of a fire in a vacant lot on Country Club Road. On arriving, fire personnel found the blaze to be caused by a child playing with matches.

The department also responded to a call to the Winslow Memorial Home on Ehringhaus Street. No fire was found by firemen arriving on the scene. Cause was listed as a faulty alarm system at the home.

about 8:45 a.m. recently and summon the Lilesville Fire Department from a neighbor's telephone.

Lilesville Fire Chief Gene Williams reported she is Mrs. C. T. Miller of Rt. 1, Lilesville. Her husband, a minister, was away from home at the time. He owns and operates a barbecue restaurant on U.S. 74 near Lilesville.

Williams said the trailer was a total loss.

Efforts are being made to learn the cause of the blaze, he said.

Mrs. Miller has been an invalid the past seven years, he said.

House Fire Is Started From Range

Dunn — Fire, starting from an oil range, extensively damaged a three room frame dwelling on East Johnson Street recently.

The occupant, James McKoy, told police he was cooking a meal at around 3 p.m. and was in the living room when he heard a sound from the kitchen. He found the room in flames.

Dunn firemen contained the blaze to the kitchen of the one story structure, but the ceiling and roof were also damaged.

The house, which is owned by Hazel Lee, sustained damage tentatively estimated at around \$1,000.

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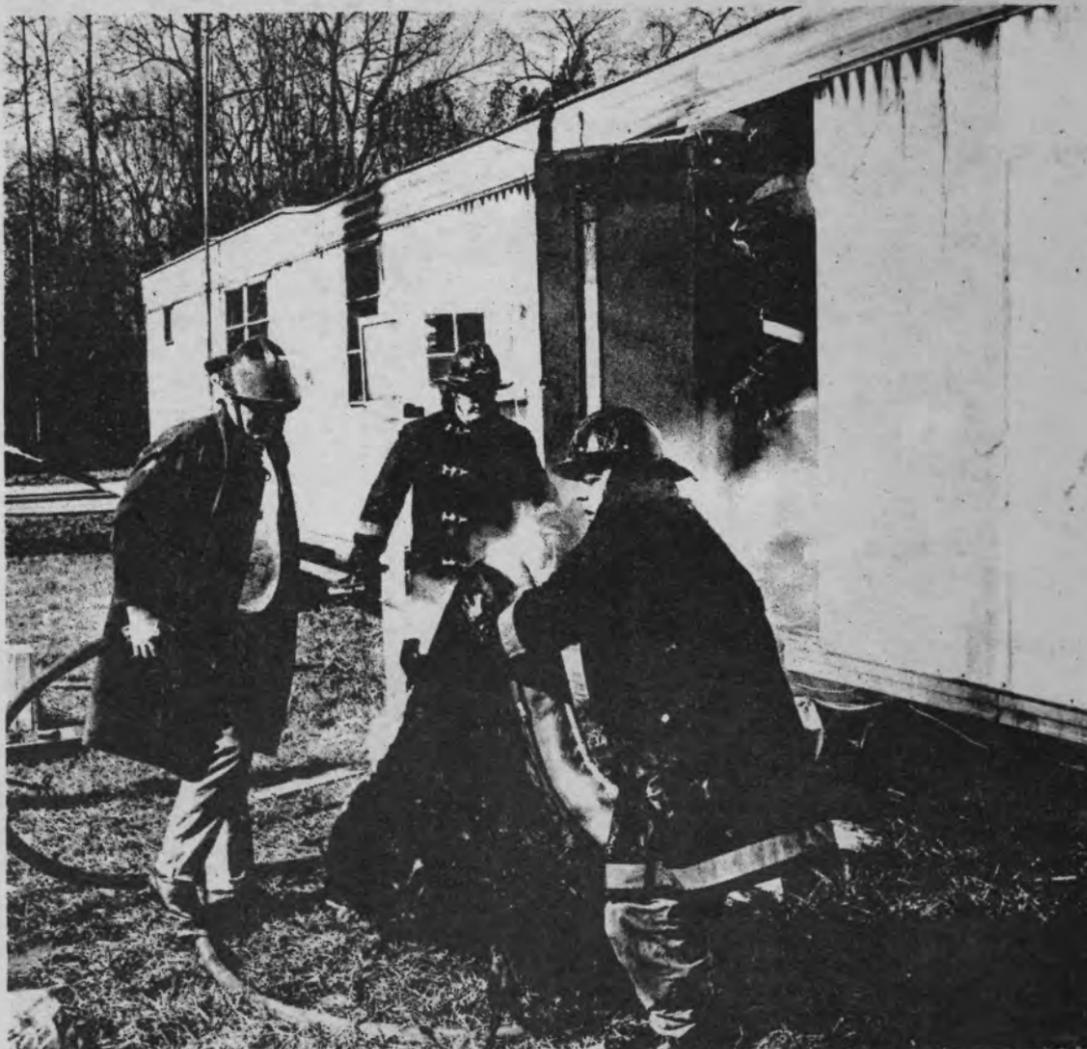
Louisburg — A Route 5, Louisburg woman perished in a fire which engulfed her five-room frame home recently around 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Lula Harris Key, 69, was apparently overcome by smoke and heat after she re-entered the burning home to retrieve some of her belongings. The home is located on the Leonard farm, about five miles east of Louisburg.

Mrs. Betsy Pernell, who owned the home, said Mrs. Key and her husband Will had lived on the Leonard farm for 24 years. She said Mr. Key was away from home at the time of the blaze and that her brother Quenton Leonard spotted the fire around 1:15.

Leonard said he saw Mrs. Key come out on the porch with an armful of clothing and told her to stay outside while he went to the Pernells for help. When Leonard and Johnny Pernell returned to the home, they were unable to locate Mrs. Key.

By the time firemen arrived from the Justice Fire Department, the home had collapsed. Mrs. Key's body was found in the corner of a closet.

Neighbors have donated several items of clothing and furniture for Mr. Key and the Pernells are preparing another home on their land for him to live in. Anyone wishing to assist Key with a donation should contact John or Betsy Pernell.



BURNED OUT — Two Rowan County men were burned out of their mobile home recently. Miller's Ferry firemen responded to the fire on Stoner Road. The insides were destroyed, although firemen saved the exterior. Salisbury Post Photo

Fire Guts Mobile Home; Pan On Stove Blamed

Salisbury — A mobile home off Long's Ferry Road was gutted by fire recently.

Volunteers from Miller's Ferry Fire Department saved the exterior of the home, but the interior and belongings of

the occupants were destroyed.

Fireman C. H. Gobble said the fire started in the kitchen. "We got some frying pans off the stove so they must have left a burner on," he said.

The mobile home, located on Stoner Road, was rented by Thomas Long and Jerry Hailey and owned by Clarence Hailey.

Long said he had left to shop and returned to find his home in flames.

No one was inside when the fire started.



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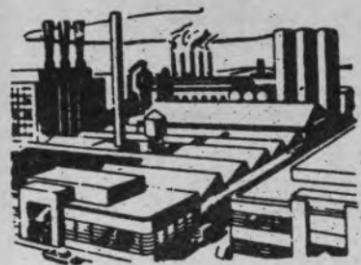
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