



# TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



## AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

VOL. 12 NO. 1

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

JANUARY 1975



AMONG THOSE PRESENT FOR THE NOTE BURNING were, front row (l-r) Tom Vaughn, Wayne Bowman, Carl Ray Pell, Curtis Creed, Wayne Smith and Clyde Chilton. Second row (l-r), Howard Tucker, L. H. Manuel, Billy Cook, Alvin Anderson, Harold Moser, the Rev. Gilmer Denny, John Hunt and Stonie Venable.

Mount Airy Times Photo

## Firemen Burn Note At Christmas Party

### New Officers Are Installed

Mt. Airy — A note burning and installation of officers highlighted the annual Christmas party of the Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department, held in December at the fire station.

Present with the firemen and their wives were members of the board of directors and their wives and special guests, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith and Stonie Venable.

After dinner, Mr. Smith, vice-president of Farmers Bank in Pilot Mountain, spoke to the group. He complimented the firemen on their service to the community and detailed some of the history of the department.

The Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department was chartered in 1966. Two, new 750-gallon pumpers were delivered from Howe Fire Equipment Co. in May, 1967, and the department moved into its present quarters in 1969.

At that point, the department was in debt about \$48,000 for the trucks, and other equipment, and the building.

The indebtedness on the trucks has been paid for about two years and the note on the building now has been retired. At the close of the program, the note was burned, signifying that, for the first time in its history, the department is out of debt.

Another highlight of the evening was the installation of officers for the coming year by Mr. Smith and the Rev. Gilmer Denny, as follows: chief, Wayne Bowman; assistant chief, Billy Cook; captains, Wilson Scott, Alvin Anderson,

L. H. Manuel and Harold Moser; chaplain, Tom Vaughn; and assistant chaplain, Billy Cook.

Director who will serve until

1976 are the Rev. Mr. Denny, Curtis Creed, Wayne Bowman and Carl Ray Pell. Other

Cont. page 3

## Mountain View Fireman Of Year Honored

N. Wilkesboro — The Mountain View Fire Department held its annual Christmas party and named its "Fireman of the Year" recently at the fire department social hall. There were 24 firemen and their families present for the occasion.

C. W. Barker, fire department vice-president, presented Ralph Johnson with the "Fireman of the Year" award. This award is presented annually to the outstanding fireman in the department. Mr. Johnson was chosen for his outstanding work in the fire department and his skills in firemanship. Mr. Johnson also has the best record for attending fires and fire drills.

Each fireman was presented with a gift. Yale Huie, chief, was presented with a special gift from the firemen.

Dinner for the event was prepared by the firemen's wives.

Mrs. Carol Wiles and Mrs. Linda Dancy directed the activities for the party. The children were surprised by a visit from Santa Claus, who had a bagful of goodies for them.



RALPH JOHNSON (left) receives the "Fireman of the Year" award for the Mountain View Fire Department from vice-president C. W. Barker at the department's annual Christmas party recently.

N. Wilkesboro The Journal-Patriot Photo

## Stout Receives Service Award

Snow Camp — John R. Stout, chief of the Snow Camp Volunteer Fire Department, has been awarded the Community Service Award for Southern Alamance County by the Saxapahaw Exchange Club.

Making the presentation, Raymond Braxton of the awards committee said Stout "is a dedicated and loyal churchman and the epitome of a good neighbor who is always ready to come to the aid of his neighbors and fellow citizens regardless of what the need may be."

A 15-year veteran of the fire department, Stout is a member of Bethel United Methodist Church, where he serves as youth counselor, member of the



John R. Stout  
Burlington Times-News  
Photo

Cont. page 3

## Firemen Honored

Maiden — The members of the Maiden Volunteer Fire Department were treated to cocktails and dinner, recently by Mr. Ben Null.

The vent which is in it's third year was begun by Mr. Null out of gratitude for the work done by the department.

"I believe in giving recognition where recognition is due," Mr. Null stated, "and if it hadn't been for the efforts of these fine men there just might not be a Null Mfg. today."

Four years ago a fire started in a highly combustible spray booth at Null Mfg. The quick response and efforts of the Maiden Volunteer Fire Department saved the plant from destruction, and Ben Null is grateful.

Twenty-five members of the department along with four retired members, the town manager and mayor attended the dinner, which was held at the Henny Penny Restaurant.

"The volunteer fire department is an important part of our community and too often people don't stop to thank these men for the job they are doing," Null commented. "I personally will never be able to thank them enough."

## Allman Fireman Of Year

Kannapolis — Lt. Curtis Allman was named fireman-of-the-year of the Royal Oaks Volunteer Fire Department at the department's annual Christmas party recently.

Prior to the steak supper, the ladies auxiliary held a short business meeting during which plans were made to help a needy family. Also, membership in the Community Club Awards Inc. program was discussed.

The M. Y. F. of Royal Oaks Methodist Church sang Christmas carols. Games were played, after which gag gifts were exchanged.

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# NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Dates	Events
May 12-16, 1975	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION 79th Annual Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill.
June 2-6, 1975	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION-Technical Committee Week, Parker House, Boston, Mass.
Oct. 5-11, 1975	Fire Prevention Week, internationally sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association
Nov. 18-20, 1975	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION Fall Meeting, Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa.

## Editorial

### News From The Society of Fire Protection Engineers

#### HIGH-RISE FIRE

A new disaster film from 20th Century-Fox and Warner Bros., "The Towering Inferno", has burst upon the movie-goers scene. Based on two books "The Tower" and "The Glass Inferno", the action focuses on fighting a fire in a newly constructed 138 story high-rise building. Leading the cast of eleven major stars are Steve McQueen, Paul Newman, William Holden and Faye Dunaway.

Commenting on this \$12 million disaster-adventure film the latest in a return to high budget, star studded, Hollywood spectaculars, James W. Nolan, President of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers said, "The producer, Irwin Allen, has certainly spared no expense in bringing to the screen a movie which is highly entertaining, full of action, and with lots of trauma. Yet, it carries a message. Fire kills an estimated 12,000 people annually in America and causes millions of dollars of property damage. This film should increase public awareness of the fire problem. Efforts in that direction are sincerely appreciated by those of us who are professionally concerned with the safety of life and property from fire".

Nolan heads the Boston based society of Fire Protection Engineers, the multi-national technical society of engineers specializing in the protection of life and property from the ravages of fire. Chapter of the Society are located in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. The world wide membership includes engineers in private practice, in industry, in local regional, and national government, as well as the technical arm of the insurance environment.

### Building Damaged By Fire

Asheville — Part of the roof of a building belonging to the Asheville Packing Co. at 100

Cont. page 3

#### BUILDING FIRE SAFETY

Two new TECHNOLOGY REPORTS have been released by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. The first is "Progress Report on Chicago High-Rise Requirements", TR 74-4 by Joseph F. Fitzgerald, Building Commissioner, City of Chicago. The Report describes the proposed new Chicago building code for reducing the life-safety hazard in tall buildings. The code is based upon a choice between compartmentation and automatic sprinklers, thus allowing for design flexibility.

The second is "A Field Study of Non Fire-Resistive Multiple Dwelling Fires", TR 74-5. The author is Francis L. Brannigan, Associate Professor, Montgomery College, Maryland and Consultant, Center of Building Technology, National Bureau of Standards. Professor Brannigan reports on a study of structural and building design factors contributing to the spread of fire in more than 40 non fire-resistive, multiple occupancy dwellings (garden apartments). Examples are given of penetrations and openings which permitted substantial fire spread.

Both TECHNOLOGY REPORTS may be purchased from the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, 60 Battery March Street, Boston, MA 02110. TR 74-4, "Progress Report on Chicago High-Rise Requirements" costs \$2.50. TR 74-5, "A Field Study of Non Fire-Resistive Multiple Dwelling Fires" costs \$3.25. Quantity discounts are available.

### Fireman's Auxiliary Organized

Four Oaks — In response to news release and letters, the Four Oaks Fireman's Auxiliary was organized at its first meeting, Tuesday night, December 3. Those present were: Mrs. R. A. Jackson, Mrs. M. E. Johnson, Mrs. Lee Massengill, Mrs. Glenn E.

Cont. page 3

# Facts About Four Oaks Dept.

From The Four Oaks News  
 By Dorothy Lassiter

An auxiliary organizational meeting was held at the Four Oaks Public Library recently. The purpose of the auxiliary will be to assist and help our fire department in many ways.

A few facts about the department you might not be aware of and that you may find interesting: Our fire department is unique in that it is one of the few that is two departments in one — Four Oaks and a three mile radius of Four Oaks, known as the Wynn Rural Fire District. The fact that it is two departments requires a roster of thirty-eight men or two units of nineteen men each. Because it is a city and rural department, one fire truck must remain in town at all times, thus the necessity of the two nineteen men units, though the probability of fires in town and the rural district, at the same time, are remote, it has happened and could happen again. The two trucks now operated by the department; a 1965 model and an 1950 model. According to specifications set forth by the North Carolina Fire Rating Bureau, a truck may be kept in service for a period of twenty years and then must be replaced. This means

### News From Fuquay-Varina

Fuquay-Varina — Wednesday, November 27, 1974, concluded the annual Turkey Shoot event held by the Fuquay-Varina Rural Volunteer Fire Department. Approximately 500 turkeys and several hams were won during the course of October 25 - November 27, regardless of some very cold and rainy weather.

Profits from the turkey shoot each year help to serve as a supplement income for the volunteer Department's budget.

The Fuquay-Varina Firemen wish to express their deepest appreciation to the Fuquay and surrounding area residents for their support in this project.

that our fire department is faced with an expenditure of \$28,000 to \$30,000 for a new truck which must be on order by July 1975. If the money is not raised for the purchase of a new truck, then this means a higher fire insurance rate will be put into effect for the town of Four Oaks and the Wynn Rural District and it would be a sizeable increase. These are

just a few of the many things about our fire department which is a volunteer, and vital element of our community and very much in need of our support.

All of the above facts point out the necessity of forming an auxiliary to help in the obtaining of funds, not only for the

Cont. page 3

### A-D-R firemen fight two fires simultaneously in two counties

Riegelwood — Acme-Delco-Riegelwood fire fighters fought two fires at one time when a rush fire and a house fire occurred almost simultaneously recently.

Fire chief Alton Edwards said the department received an alarm at 2:45 p.m. for a woods fire on N.C. 11 in Columbus County.

"While the dispatcher was receiving the alarm, the telephone operator broke in to say there was a house fire in the

northwest area of Brunswick County," Edwards said.

One truck easily brought the woodfire under control, Edwards said, but about one third of an acre of soybeans were destroyed.

Another truck answered the call at the home of Robert Bryant. About \$1,000 worth of damage was done to the house. Edwards said the fire was burning in the ceiling as a result of an overheated wood heater and a faulty chimney.

### Faulty oil circulator blamed for home fire

Riegelwood — Members of the Acme-Delco-Riegelwood fire and rescue unit responded within three minutes to a late afternoon fire recently at the home of Billy Clayter Jr. on Riegelwood Country Club Road.

"The fire was the result of a faulty oil circulator and burned the wall adjacent to it before being spotted by a neighbor nearby," Chief Alton Edwards said.

He said the Clayter family was not at home at the time of the fire.

"The home was damaged in an amount of about \$1,000, plus about \$500 damages to contents in the home," Edwards said.

He said ADR firemen were at the scene with one pumper and one tanker within three minutes.

The Clayter home, he said,

was located about three-quarters of a mile from the fire station.

### Chief Is Renamed

Walstonburg — F. L. McKeel has been re-elected chief of the Walstonburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Also returned to their post at the December business meeting of the 39-member unit were Joe Letchworth, assistant chief; Sam Craft, captain; "Bennette "Pie" Walston, Leroy Martin, and Wayne Dai, drivers.

New officers elected to serve the group were Fitz McKeel Jr., lieutenant; Mark Suggs, secretary; J. E. Shackelford and Ralph Beaman, radio operators.

**FACTS**  
from page 3

purchase of a new truck but other equipment as well. So if you are the wife, mother, or girl friend of a fireman, or a concerned and interested individual within the city limits of Four Oaks or the Wynn Rural District, we ask that you join us, and get involved in an organization that will be fun, exciting and work, but well worth every effort made for its success. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Mrs. Edward B. (Dot) Lassiter — 963-2168 or 963-2419 or Mrs. M. E. (Dot) Johnson — 963-2577. And please come join us.

**Current Fire Dept. Roster**  
R. A. Jackson, Chief; M. E. Johnson, Sec-Treas.; Marvin Adams, Melvin Adams, Clyde Barbour, Ralph Barbour, Jr., Earl Benson, Glenn E. (Bill) Byrd, Ralph Canaday, Jr., Bobby D. Chandler, Milton B. Collier, Roy H. Dunn, John Evans, Jr., Vern Ingram, Thomas P. Johnson, Tony Johnson, Melton Jones, Horace Keene, Otis Keene, W. R. Langdon, David Lassiter, Earl Lassiter, E. B. Lassiter, Bobby Massengill, H. W. Massengill, Lee Massengill, Larry A. Rhodes, John W. Sanderson, Raeford Stanley, A. B. Starling, Larry Stout, Theodore Thornton, Randy Parker, and L. B. Allen.

**BUILDING DAMAGED**  
from page 2

Emma Road was burned recently, but no damage was reported to the contents of the building, according to the Asheville Fire Department.

Assistant Fire Chief T. M. Carland said the fire apparently was caused by careless use of a torch which heated the metal roof and caused surrounding wood to ignite.

He estimated the fire had been burning two to three hours before it was discovered at 5:31 p.m.

The building is being leased by Pioneer Land Development Co., developers of the golf

**FIREMAN'S AUXILIARY**  
from page 2

Byrd, Mrs. Larry Rhodes, Miss Phoebe Jackson and Mrs. E. B. Lassiter.

General discussion as to the purpose and goal of the

**Fire jumps out of its 'place'**

**Lucia**— The Oliver Waldrop family of Cox Lake Road was enjoying a cozy fire in the den fireplace around 8:30 p.m. recently when smoke started coming from around the bricks — the fireplace was on fire.

The Lucia-Riverbend Volunteer Fire Department found that holes in the mortar around the fireplace bricks had allowed the "cozy fire" to spread to the walls around the chimney, doing about \$1,000 damage.

"We had to go through the roof, take the paneling down in the den and take the fireplace mantel off just to get to the fire," said J. Hollis Barker, chief of the department. "I guess it took us an hour to get the fire out."

auxiliary preceded the election of officers. Officers elected were: President, Mrs. E. B. Lassiter; Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Johnson and Treasurer, Mrs. R. A. Jackson. Due to the absence of several others who expressed interest and support of the auxiliary, but unable to attend the first meeting because of conflicts, it was decided that the committees would be set at a later meeting. The Charter and by-laws will also be adopted at a later time.

The membership fee was set at \$3.00 per year with no monthly dues. It was also decided that membership would be open, not only to the immediate family of the fireman, but open to other interested ladies and teenage girls. The second Tuesday night of the month was the choice for the regular meeting night, with the next meeting to be held at the Four Public Library, January 14, 1975 at 7:30.

Activities for fun and fund raising projects were discussed and plans formulated so as not to conflict with other events taking place during the year. Events planned are as follows: February 14, Bingo Party; May 10, Fireman's Day Festival, this to be an annual event; July 4th Celebration and October — Fire Prevention Week Open House.

Enthusiasm and anticipation for the success of this new organization was evident throughout the meeting.

**FIREMEN BURN**  
from page 1

directors, whose terms will end in 1975, are Clyde Chilton, Howard Tucker, Smith Nelson, Billy Cook and John Hunt.

The firemen expressed their appreciation to the people of the community for the financial support that enabled the department to provide fire protection to the district.

Future plans of the department include the purchase of a 1,500-gallon water tanker, to be built by Howe Fire Equipment Co. on a 1975 Chevrolet chassis. Expected delivery date is September, 1975.

"With this addition, the department will be able to arrive at the scene of a fire with

enough water to knock down a sizeable house fire without the delay of waiting for a refill of the pumper," a spokesman for the unit said.

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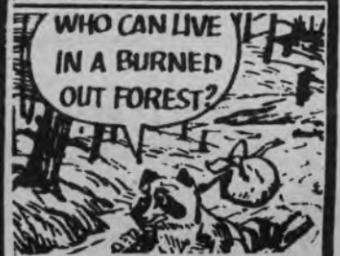
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**STOUT**  
from page 1

board of trustees, Sunday School officer, and is active in the men's club.

He has served on the troop committee and board of review of Saxapahaw Boy Scout Troop 65 for a number of years and is also a Mason in the Thomas M. Holt Lodge.

Stout and his wife, Mary, have three children.

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# Electrical Firm Burns

Charlotte — Electric Supply Co. Inc. at 201 W. Morehead St.

burned about 6 p.m. recently from a fire of undetermined origin.

No one was injured in the blaze and a damage estimate was not available immediately. J. R. Richardson, 41, of 2011 Radcliffe Ave., the owner of the

Cont. page 7

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FIREMAN OF YEAR PRESENTED AWARD

SILER CITY — Fireman George Moffett of the Siler City Volunteer Fire Department has been named Fireman of the year by his fellow members. Here he receives the award from Mayor Cecil Budd. The presentation was made recently at the annual Christmas Party of the department. He was also presented a suit of clothing by Sam Rees of Rees Clothing Store. Siler City Chatham News Photo

## — Bostian Homeplace On Lentz Rd. —

# Firemen Battle Blaze Twice

Kannapolis — The old Bostian homeplace on Lentz

Rd. was destroyed by flames on a recent afternoon, but Bostian Heights firemen had to return to the scene that same night after the blaze broke out again.

effort involved and investigation is still continuing."

"The hay wasn't new," Mrs. Blackwelder said, "so I don't think it was the hay which started the fire." She said there was no apparent reason for the fire. There was no electrical service to the building.

Mrs. Edith Blackwelder, one of the fire fighters who responded to the calls, said the log building which had been used for firewood and hay storage, was destroyed.

The firemen answered the first call at 3:21 p.m. and remained there until about 7 p.m. A passing highway patrolman alerted the firemen about 10 p.m., when the flames rekindled.

When asked if arson was suspected, Rowan Fire Marshal Robert Gunn said "there could have been some human

Mrs. Blackwelder said when the fire fighters arrived on the first call, the roof had already caved in and flames engulfed the building.

No estimate of damage was available.

There were two other fires in Rowan County that day. The Cleveland fire department answered a 9:38 a.m. call to Mrs. Ruth Myers' house on Barber Rd. and finished burning out her chimney. William Wilhelm, a member of the fire department said there was no damage.

The Enochville fire department was called out to wash gasoline off the road after a wreck at 11:15 a.m. a half mile north of Enochville School. Chief Dallas Campbell said members of the rescue squad provided first aid to Bill Church, driver of the auto, and he then went to Cabarrus Memorial Hospital.

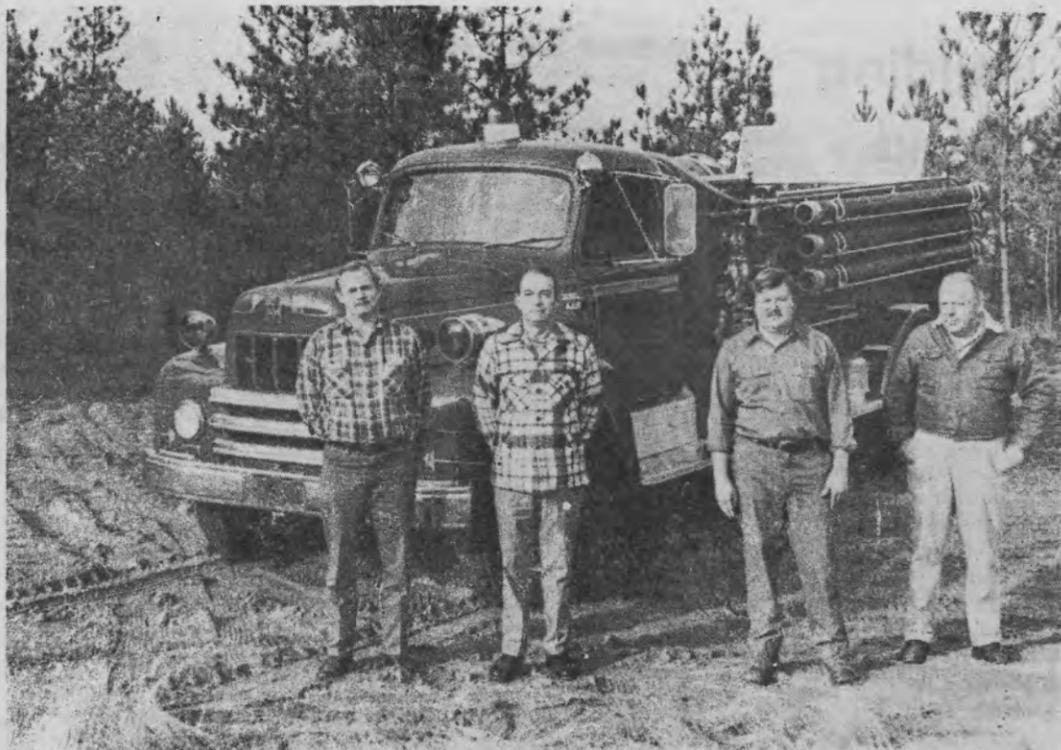
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FIRE TRUCK FOR EASTWOOD

ABERDEEN — The Eastwood Fire department has purchased its first fire truck, a 1955 international. Officers in the new department have also been elected, Chief Pete Bullard, Asst. Chief, James R. Frye, Captain Kenneth Whitsell, Lt. Arnold Key and James Kearns. Lonnie Perry was elected to serve as the communications officer. In the photo, standing in front of the fire truck at the building site are, Chief Bullard, Asst. Chief Frye, Lt. Key and Lonnie Perry. The Eastwood fire department call number is 295-3333. Aberdeen Sandhill Citizen Photo



MINERAL SPRINGS—Deputy Clifford Jackson uses a fire extinguisher in an attempt to put out a car fire that occurred on a recent afternoon on NC84. Earnest Staton said his car backfired through the carburetor and erupted into flames. Jackson got the estinguisher from a passerby and battled the fire until the Mineral Springs VFD arrived to put it out. Monroe Enquirer-Journal Photo

# Fire Damages Antiques Shop

Charlotte — A fire gutted about two thirds of the Whistle Stop Antiques Shop at 1800 Rama Rd., recently, doing an estimated \$25,000 damage.

District Fire Chief D. L. King said faulty electrical wiring in the building was a possible cause of the fire.

Mrs. Lottie Bennett, 5300 Doncaster Rd., owner of the shop, said the damage figure could vary if some priceless antiques could be salvaged.

The Shop was filled with such items as stained glass windows from a South Carolina church, a handmade blanket chest and a chest from a Chatham County estate.

City fireman J. V. Wilson suffered from smoke inhalation and was taken to Charlotte Memorial Hospital and later released, a hospital spokesman said. There were no other injuries.

Mr. Bennett said she was standing outside the store, when her 21-year-old daughter Kathy ran out of the store and said there was a fire in a storage area.

Mrs. Bennett said there were about 15 customers and members of her family inside the store about to have lunch at 1:30 p.m.

"Kathy said she smelled something burning and when she looked there was a fire and lots of smoke because of the draft inside," she said.

"Kathy said 'Let's try to salvage some of the things' but I said close the door and get out."

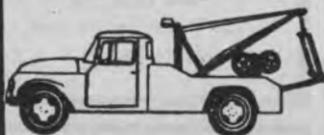
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## Landrum Firemen Re-Elect Owens

Tryon — The Landrum Volunteer Firemen have re-elected Charles C. Owens as chief. Other officers elected were Joe Williams, Joe Hamrick and Dever Little, Assistant Chiefs; Floyd Daniel, secretary; Bob Hamrick, ass't. sec.

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## Building Razed

Pink Hill — Units of the Pink Hill Fire Department responded quickly to word of a fire on Pink Hill Rt. 1 recently, but arrived too late to prevent destruction of the house involved.

Damage to the razed building, belonging to Ephel Grady Rouse, was estimated at \$15,000. Luckily, no one was home at the time the fire began, but as a result it was not until the house was nearly gone that firemen knew it was burning.

Two engines and a tanker responded shortly after 3 a.m., and left the scene two hours later thinking the fire was out. Apparently some ashes were still smoldering, however, for they had to go back about 6 a.m. when the remains re-ignited.

The second time around, the men made sure everything was dead out, according to Pink Hill Fire Chief Graham Stroud. They scattered the last embers and left the scene after dousing the cinders with water.

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**KANNAPOLIS — BOSTIAN FIREMAN-OF-THE-YEAR** — Robert Blackwelder, who has been a member of the Bostian Heights Volunteer Fire Department since it was organized in 1958, was chosen by his fellow firemen as the 1974 winner of the Fireman-of-the-Year Award. Blackwelder (left) was presented the award at the department's Christmas banquet recently at the fire station. C. M. Misenheimer, the winner of the award last year and a former chief of the department, presented him the honor. Blackwelder is presently chief of the fire department.

Kannapolis Independent Photo

## House Burns; Family Homeless

Troy — Fire destroyed a rural residence in the Wadeville section about 10:30 p.m. recently.

It was described as the old C.C. McKinnon homeplace, a two-story wooden dwelling. One of the nearby outbuildings also burned.

Fire Chief Wayne Parnell said the Wadeville Fire Department was the first to arrive on the scene, and that the roof of the house was caving in when the firemen got there. The Mt. Gilead Fire Department also answered the alarm.

It was reported that the house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Danny Blake and their small child. They weren't at home when the fire broke out, and the origin was said to be unknown.

The family lost all possessions, according to friends, except the clothes on their backs. The Wadeville firemen and the Wadeville Lions Club made an effort to assist the burned-out family by accepting donations of furniture, clothing, etc., at the Wadeville Community Christmas Party in the community building the following Friday night.

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MOCKSVILLE—A Vulcan Material Co. truck is shown delivering part of a 1000 ton donation of gravel to the Smith Grove Fire Department. The gravel, which was donated and delivered by Vulcan, is to be used for the grounds of the fire department. "The community and the men of the fire department appreciate the generous donation by Vulcan," said Fire Chief Holt Howell. "We are working so hard on this project and this has given us a big boost."

Mocksville Davie Co. - Enterprise - Record Photo

ELECTRICAL from page 4

building, was at the fire site the following morning and could not be reached for comment.

Mrs. Elliott Schwartz, 33, of 917 Queens Rd., was a block away at Morehead and S. Tryon streets when she heard what she called a "muffled explosion" come from the direction of the building.

She said she drove to the firm to see flames coming out a side window.

Richardson said he had no explosives in the building and district fire chief K. D. Helms said the noise may have been caused by merchandise exploding from the heat.

Richardson told firemen he valued the building at \$150,000 and its contents at \$175,000.

The firm is a wholesale supplier of electric lamps, bulbs, lighting fixtures and appliances.

Much of the stock in the main warehouse reportedly was reduced to rubble but the showroom in the front of the building mostly was unharmed by flames.

In an unrelated fire at 11:37 p.m. a defective chimney at a home rented by Shirley Hines, 1244 Pegram St., apparently started a fire that caused between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in damages, fire officials said.

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Boy Saves Grandfather From Fire



HELPER — A woman helps fight the fire at the house on South Stephens Street where Rufus Hobson was injured. His grandson, Henry Gramma, alerted Hobson to the fire. Southern Pines Pilot Photo

Southern Pines — Nine-year-old Henry Graham fourth-grader at Southern Pines Elementary School, probably saved the life of his grandfather, Rufus Hobson, when he ran into a burning house at 402 South Stephens Street recently and waked the sleeping man. The Rescue Squad took

Hobson to Moore Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for burns about the head.

The fire broke out in a room filled with clothing and the Southern Pines fire department answered a neighbor's call

around 4 p.m. Hobson was asleep in a room across the hall at the time the fire started.

Hobson was the only person present when the fire broke out. His wife said that her husband had been disabled in a fall from a truck several years ago. She was at work as a maid in the residence of Dr. H. Vann Austin when she got the call that her house was on fire. She said there was no insurance on the house, which was badly damaged. She said she thought the fire started from an ex-

ploding stove.

Young Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Graham, was playing nearby when he saw smoke pouring from the house and rushed in to save his grandfather.

# Fire Hits Jacksonville Firms

Jacksonville — A fire believed caused by a leaking propane gas tank destroyed four businesses in downtown

Jacksonville in the pre-dawn hours recently.

An explosion and subsequent fire gutted a tavern, two bail bonding offices and a barber-shop in a 40-year-old building.

There were no injuries, and no estimate of the damage was available.

Jacksonville firemen, aided by units from nearby Camp Lejeune, battled the blaze for more than three hours before bringing it under control.

Fire walls on either side of the burning building prevented the fire from spreading to

adjoining businesses in a row of buildings on the block.

Jacksonville patrolman Joe Brackeen, who was off-duty at the time, said he detected gas leaking from a large tank as he walked by an alley at 1:30 a.m. When he attempted to summon help at a nearby alarm box the escaping gas exploded. The alarm box had been taken out of service in November during renovations to Jacksonville city hall.

Brackeen said he then fired his revolver to alert other officers to the emergency.

No one was injured in the explosion or fire. Most of the downtown is vacant after taverns close at 1 a.m.

It was about two years ago that a fire swept through a massage parlor in the same block killing two Camp Lejeune Marines.

The Service Barber Shop and the Double Eagle Bar were in the downstairs portion of the building. The S & M and the Foxe bonding companies had offices upstairs.

A spokesman for the Jacksonville Police Department said there is no evidence to indicate the explosion was not an accident, despite

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suspicious by one of the businessmen with offices in the building that the incident was an attempt on his life.

The Jacksonville water plant had to activate additional pumps when water pressure in

the downtown area began to drop while the fire was being extinguished. Four and sometimes five two-inch water hoses were trained on the burning building for more than three hours.

# Fire Damages Roxboro Store

Roxboro — A fire on a recent Sunday morning caused heavy damage to Homeway Furniture Store on Madison Boulevard in Roxboro.

Damage to the building and its contents was estimated at about \$40,000.

James Humphries, a Roxboro policeman on patrol, saw smoke pouring through the front display windows about 7:20 a.m. and called in an alarm.

The Roxboro Fire Department arrived in minutes and police blocked off the boulevard for about 20 minutes.

Roxboro Fire Chief Tom Gunter said the fire started in a light fixture and spread across the ceiling to a heating duct.

"It looks like to me that the fire got started from electric wires and fed in over ... the heating duct system and from that it got into the insulation and followed the duct system all the way down. I think the boys did a real good job of cutting this thing off," Gunter said.

Gunter estimated damage to the building at \$10,000.

"Of course we've got quite a bit of stock here that's got some smoke damage. I would say something like 20 per cent smoke damage although there's none actually burned by fire. They've got in the neighborhood of \$150,000 worth of stock here that's damaged by smoke," the chief said.

Larry Cole, Homeway manager, said "Right now we figure it's in the area of 20 per cent of the stock, which is \$30,000 worth. The biggest majority of damage is smoke damage, thanks to the fine work of the fire department. They got here and they saved a whole lot more than we lost."

Cole said there was some water damage to the area where the fire started because the fire was in the ceiling. He said the building and its contents are insured.

The fire erupted again about 9:45 a.m. while the fire department was inspecting the damage.

## Fire destroys Southmont residence

Southmont — A home in the Riverwood section near High Rock Lake was destroyed early on a Friday morning by a fire which went unreported to firefighters for several hours. The Southmont Volunteer Fire Department arrived at the smoldering remains of the residence of Lewis Jernagan at about 9:30 a.m., according to Chief Allie Carter. The house was a total loss, Carter said, and only a few trees around the house were burning when the fire department arrived.

The fire was reported by a man who passed the house on his way to work, Carter said. Carter estimated that the fire began sometime after midnight of undetermined causes.

The house was flanked by summer homes which were untouched by the fire and the nearest neighbor was about half a mile away from the fire, Carter said. He did not know why the fire was not reported, but guessed that most people were asleep at the time.

The two-story house was the permanent residence of Jernagan, who was out of town at the time. The value of the house was not known, but Carter said it was an "expensive home."

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