

# Fire call!

## New radio equipment should cut response time considerably, says Bulgin

Franklin — A communications system which should result in better fire protection for the town of Franklin has now been purchased and installed by the Franklin Fire Department, according to Fire Chief Randolph Bulgin.

The \$9,400-plus system includes a 100-watt central transmitter which is capable of broadcasting to most parts of Macon County. Three 25-watt transmitter-receivers have been installed in the two main firetrucks and in Bulgin's truck. In addition, each fireman has been provided with a monitor unit which will alert them in their homes or their cars in case of a fire.

Bulgin said the system has been financed through donations (about \$4,500), proceeds from a fire house sale (\$665), collections from within the department (\$200) and an



FIRE CHIEF RANDOLPH BULGIN listens to a transmission over the 25-watt transceiver in his truck. Two other units just like this one have been installed in the town of Franklin's firetrucks. The Franklin Press Photos

appropriation by the Macon County Board of Commissioners (\$3,500). Further contributions will be accepted

Continued on page 8

## Powell honored

Greensboro — R. L. Powell Jr., first deputy chief of the Greensboro Fire Department, was named "Fireman of the Year" for North Carolina recently, at the final meeting of the State Firemen's Association Conference in New Bern.

Powell joined the city fire department Sept. 15, 1946; he became a captain July 16, 1954; he was fire training supervisor from April 1960 until July 1956.

## Hoskie Fire District Extended To 4 Miles

Winton — The Hoskie Fire District has been recognized for 9AA protection and a four mile response, according to Clarence Willoughby, county civil defense agency.

When questioned about the "A" being dropped from the

name of the town, Willoughby said this was done deliberately "because we cannot have two departments with the same designated name and we already have an Ahoskie District."

"This classification covers a four mile radius surrounding the town and will cut down on fire insurance for home owners as well as business owners," Willoughby pointed out.

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## Loan To Aid Financing

### Of Fire Unit

Parkwood — A \$110,000 government loan will finance a new building for the Parkwood Volunteer Fire Department.

Construction is expected to begin soon on a new one-story, brick and cement block building with space enough for all four of the department's vehicles and indoor training, according to department officials.

Robert L. Johnson, department president, said the new building will be directly across the street from the old one, off Revere Road near the center of the subdivision.

Key Homes Inc., donated the lot for building, according to Johnson.

The department operates two fire trucks, a tanker and a rescue squad vehicle. The current metal building, 50 by 22½ feet, has space enough for two trucks, Johnson said.

New communications equipment and aid in repaying a bank debt will be supplied by the Farmers Home Administration loan, the department president said.

## Wilsonian Tapped For State Post

Wilson — Wilson Fire Department Chief Ben Williams has been elected president of the North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association, it was announced recently.

The election came at a meeting of the group in New Bern.

Chief Williams, who began his fire service in 1952, has been active in the association, plus others in the state.

He has been a member of the NCFCA 10 years, elected to the board of directors and has served also as vice president, now serves on the executive board of the North Carolina Council of Fire Services, is a member of the N. C. Firemen's Association, member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and also the National Fire Protective Association.

Williams was promoted to chief of the local department in 1971; to assistant chief in 1967; and to captain in 1956.

The N. C. FCA is an organization that sponsors workshops of major interest to fire chiefs in dealing with subjects that pertain to federal and state laws regarding fire services. It also sponsors various fire prevention schools at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill and functions in many other ways.

## Capt. Clifton "Ace" Harper Retires From Kinston FD

Written by  
Tommy Boone  
Assistant Chief  
Training Officer  
Kinston Fire Dept.

Kinston — On May 30, 1975 at 4:00 P.M. in the afternoon, Captain Clifton "Ace" Harper retired from the Kinston Fire Department with 20 years of service.

Captain Harper served as

Mechanic for 18 of his 20 years, and Chief Mechanic for the last 12 years of his employment with the City of Kinston Fire Department.

A supper of barbecued chicken was served to Captain Harper and all the personnel of the Fire Department were present, along with Retired Fire Chiefs Robert I. Faulkner and Otis Koonce. Captain Harper was presented a watch

from Chief Leslie "Red" Green as a memento of his 20 years to the Fire Department. Captain Harper plans to work at his own shop and fish when he pleases now that he has retired.

All personnel who worked with Captain Harper will miss his quiet ways and ability to repair and keep our trucks in first class shape. All wish him a long and happy retirement.



Photo by Tony D. Kelly



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## Editorial

I know, by now, that a lot of you are wondering what in the world has happened to me in the past few months . . . have I dropped dead or just deserted you or what?

Please believe me, none of this has happened, yet. As for the deserting bit, I believe you know that would never happen, but as for the "dropping dead," my new doctor tells me that that could have been the case at almost any time in the past six months, the way my blood pressure has been running. That isn't too much of a joke! At any rate, I'm still alive and kicking, although not very high, at this point!



**EMILY H. KING**

Since I don't have an operation to tell you about, I'll just tell you that as a result of being pushed from all sides to go into the hospital to have some tests made to see if this doctor could find out why my blood pressure was so unreasonable about coming down (even though I was loaded with a lot of new medication to accomplish that very thing) I finally got talked into going.

When you take into consideration the fact that I've reached a ripe middle-age with only two trips to the hospital (once for my one and only child, when I was very young, and the other came about as a result of an automobile accident and I was carried in, unconscious — both times I almost died) you can imagine what kind of a patient they had on their hands! I was most unwilling, to put it mildly! After a few days of tests and medication to keep me quiet, of course you know who won — not me! If you've never had your colon x-rayed, and it isn't absolutely necessary, don't! The night before preparation was enough, but the next day the process was even worse, if possible. From then on, I just gave up and accepted the fact

that they had me in their clutches, and I might as well just take everything they gave me and be done with it. The bad part of this was that until then I was on a restricted diet, which was usually cold, the way they had me in and out of my room so much. By the time I was put on a regular diet, I was so nauseated I couldn't eat it, so in a way, I guess, I won out there, although it was not for that purpose. I guess the doctor decided he might as well let me come home, or I would starve to death. They still haven't found out much I didn't already know, except that my heart was a little enlarged, probably due to my age. Since I wanted to get out of there so badly, I imagine it helped keep my blood pressure up, instead of coming down as fast as they wanted, but it did come down some.

So here I am again, back in harness, feeling half like myself again, and blood pressure still too high. Now I'm supposed to just take it easy, take a drug store full of pills a day (all designed to slow me down, and part of which I just don't take, because if I did I'd soon become a vegetable) that just make me want to sleep all the time, which might make my pressure fall while I'm sleeping, but when I wake up with so much piled up that needs to be done, I'm sure it runs right back up! I have enough intelligence to know that worry and frustration can do more damage than anything else in this direction, and who wants to stay alive, and not be counted as among the living? I can't seem to get this through to the doctor. If I try to explain, he just writes me another new prescription, which I buy and take, long enough to see what it does to me, and so far, just about all of them point in the same direction — sleep and rest! Who can rest easy when just being taken out of circulation? I have always had a lot of nervous energy, ever since I can remember, and I'm sure I wasn't born with high blood pressure. Anyway, my blood pressure was higher back in February than it is now, and I was running all the time then.

So now that I've discussed my hospital tour, not operation, it's time to get back to the business of living, and until you see this column edged in black, with my epitaph herein, try to overlook any lapses that might occur, of a necessity. Remember, I'm still 100 percent for our Publication and You, the members of all the

## NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Dates	Events
Oct. 5-11, 1975	<u>Fire Prevention Week</u> , internationally sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association
Nov. 18-20, 1975	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION <u>Fall Meeting</u> , Pittsburgh Hilton, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Dec. 15-19, 1975	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION <u>Technical Committee Week</u> , Host Airport Hotel, Tampa, Fla.
May 17-21, 1976	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION <u>80th Annual Meeting</u> , Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas
Nov. 15-18, 1976	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION <u>Fall Meeting</u> , Netherlands Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio

## "Project Vehicle Fire" Promoted By The A.F.A.

"Project Vehicle Fire" is the Albemarle Firemen's Association way of telling vehicle owners to help themselves protect their property from fire by installing and using portable fire ex-

tinguishers on all vehicles. Please encourage all vehicle owners in your response area to purchase and install approved portable fire extinguishers, equipped with visual gauges, on as many of their vehicles as

possible by October 5, 1975 which is FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

"Project Vehicle Fire" can be promoted in your area by giving your local newspaper information on vehicle fires, by making an announcement at civic club meetings about the project or by encouraging local extinguisher dealers to place a display in their place of business. Your fire department can offer to instruct vehicle owners in the use of the extinguishers at one of your meeting dates.

Dry Chemical type or the HALON type extinguishers with a gauge will give the owner a quick check on the pressure in the extinguisher at all times. The very minimum size suggested should be no less than a 2 3/4 lb. size, preferably a 5 lb. size or larger is better. All farm equipment (motorized)

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## Spotlight On Kitty Hawk V.F.D.

From the Albemarle  
Flames - Vol. 1, No. 7

Kitty Hawk — The Kitty Hawk Volunteer Fire Department was organized in the mid sixties. Sidney Toler was the first chief. Homer Althouse was the first president. The department became incorporated in January 1971. Warren McKelvey of Collington Island is now president of the organization.

Kitty Hawk Department covers a large area of the northern section of Dare

County and the beach area. They operate and man three stations. Each station has a John Bean 750 GPM pumper plus other equipment. Station 1 (Southern Shores also operates a 1500 tanker). The department is under the leadership of Chief Clifford Midgett, Jr., Assistant Chief Charlie Gaeta (Station 1 — Southern Shores), A-C Henry

## YRAC Rural Fire Dept. Reports

Cary — YRAC Rural Fire Department, formally known as Cary Rural Fire Department as of July third, recently elected officers for the upcoming year. They are David Weaver and Dennis White, reelected as Chief and Assistant Chief; Howard Finch, Pumper Captain; Jim Matthews, Tanker Captain; Dan Nagle, Traffic Officer; and Lane Beamer, Secretary.

The YRAC Fire Department has also accepted delivery of a 750 GPM pumper-tanker

Continued on page 8

North Carolina Fire Departments

Best Regards,

*Emily H. King*

Emily H. King

## Let Us Hear From You

Please feel free to submit any story or pictures to us for publication in this paper. We may not receive information on your department that you feel would be of interest to others, so we ask that you send items of interest to us.

We reserve the right to edit any material submitted to us. Please note that when submitting a newspaper clipping we need to know the name of the newspaper, the town it is located in and the date of the article. We also need to know who wrote it if it has a byline. If you submit original photographs, please make a note on the back of each photo if you want them returned.

Let us hear from you. We appreciate your support.

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# Store Gutted By Fire

Dunn — Mr. and Mrs. James Tew of 905 North Ellis Avenue told Dunn police that they were awakened at 3:20 a.m. on a recent Saturday morning by a loud explosion and the sound of

he said, "but the fellows did a great job in battling the flames, they deserve every credit for the great job they did in containing the fire."

Warrick is temporarily



**FIRE GUTS STORE** — A fire of undetermined origin gutted the Holmes Variety Foods store on North Ellis Avenue. The loss was tentatively estimated at \$15,000 for the building and \$15,000 for the contents. Dunn Dispatch Photo

breaking glass. Going to the window the couple found that Holmes Variety Foods Store was engulfed in flames.

The building and contents, the store, located at the intersection of West Cole Street and North Ellis, were judged to be a total loss. The building had an estimated value of \$15,000 and the contents were said to have the same value.

The building was owned by Randall Holmes who had leased the business to Cecil Lee. Ricky Hardison is store manager.

Officials of the Dunn Fire Department have not established definite cause of the fire but believe that it started on the south side of the building near the check-out counter.

Tommy Warrick, one of Dunn's two full-time firemen, had high words of praise for the volunteer firemen.

"The building was totally engulfed when we got there,"

sidelined because of pulled ligaments suffered recently when he stepped on a chunk of concrete twisting his ankle while assisting with a rescue squad mission.

"They really did a good job," he concluded.

## Backfire Listed As Possible Cause Of

### Car Motor Fire

Graham — A backfire in the carburetor was listed as the probable cause of a car fire one afternoon in Graham.

The car belonging to Alesa Leonard caught fire on Kernodle Drive at the British Arms Apartments in Graham, according to chief Richard Baughn.

# Fire Levels Supply Warehouse

Dallas — Fire swept through a large building supply company warehouse recently and burned out of control despite the efforts of nearly 50 firemen from seven rural fire departments.

Firemen believe the building was struck by lightning, causing the blaze.

No one was reported injured in the fire that completely destroyed a 20,000-square foot warehouse at the Summy Building Supply Co. a half mile north of town.

Fire department dispatcher Harold Clemmer said employees of the firm had just left for the

day and several reported a bolt of lightning hit the cinderblock warehouse that housed paint, varnish, paint thinner, doors and other building materials.

He said the cans of paint, varnish and paint thinner were exploding by the time firemen arrived, keeping them from entering the building.

Heavy thunderstorms were reported over the area when the fire broke out.

Gaston County Fire Marshall Albert McGinnis said flames reached as high as 100 feet during the blaze. The fire began just before 6 p.m. and firemen remained on the scene for about an hour, McGinnis said.

"A TV man there asked me when we got the fire under control," McGinnis said. "I told him we never got it under control, it just burned itself out."

"We were able to keep it from spreading. It was within 50 feet of another large building, but with the wind direction, there was no danger of it spreading," McGinnis added.

He said firemen from the Dallas, Spencer Mountain, Agriculture Center, Rhyne, Lowell, Ranlo and High Shoals, fire departments responded to the call. At least 10 pieces of fire equipment were summoned to the blaze.

There was no estimate of the amount of damage, but McGinnis said a company official told him it was insured.

## Fire Takes Retreading Firm

Lenoir — The North Catawba Fire Department was called on a recent afternoon to the J&J Retread Company on the Connelly Springs Road.

When firemen arrived, the building was completely engulfed with flames but firemen were able to contain the fire to the shop and keep it from spreading to any area residences.

Owner of the firm, Paul Hoyle, said damage would run between \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Hoyle said fire started behind the cinderblock building and spread to the shop igniting rubber dust and rubber inventory in the shop.

Hudson firemen and some off-duty Lenoir firemen assisted North Catawba in battling the fire.

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# Lightning And Fire Hit Homes

Robersonville — The Robersonville Fire Department had three calls and two fires recently with lightning striking one house.

The Garland Warren residence north of Gold Point was struck by lightning but no fire was started in spite of the fact considerable damage was done to the building.

Another night at 11:00, the department reported to Hassell where two old houses were on fire. One of them was owned by Jodie Roberson and occupied by John Adams and believed to have caught fire first. The second house was owned by Mrs. John Eubanks and occupied by a Purvis. It was thought to have caught fire from the first one.

The first house was completely destroyed while damage to the second house was listed at about \$1000. The firemen were called back the following afternoon at 5:45 when the Roberson home caught back up after the firemen had left.

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Realistic Practice By Two Fire Departments Drew Good-Sized Crowd Of Onlookers  
Hickory Daily Record Photo

## Practice Realistic

Hickory — Members of the Longview Fire Department and Fairbrook Volunteer Fire Department got in some fire fighting practice late one afternoon and many people thought for a time that it was the real thing.

Assistant Chief Ernest Riley of the Longview Fire Department said procedures were the

same as for a real blaze as the two departments practiced fire fighting methods on an abandoned house off Highway 64-70-321 near the Ramada Inn. He added that he could easily see why people might have mistaken the practice for a real fire.

The two fire departments each dispatched a tanker truck to the house, which is among eight in the area that must be moved to make room for the completion of rerouted Highway 321. The houses are owned by the state, Riley said.

Riley said the practice was basically for the benefit members of the fire departments who don't have much fire fighting experience.

## Fire destroys first priming in Yadkin barn

Yadkin — A fire of undetermined origin destroyed a tobacco barn filled with first primings on the Parks Benton farm along Little Mountain Road two miles east of U.S. 21 in Yadkin County recently about 11:15 p.m.

The Arlington Fire Department responded to an alarm, but the barn had been destroyed when the unit arrived. The primings reportedly were collected July 19 by Bill Shore who leased the area.

The loss of the building and contents were estimated at \$2,500.

## Fire Destroys \$21,000 in Equipment

Edneyville — Over \$21,000 worth of apple orchard equipment was destroyed early on a recent morning when a fire swept through an apple storage shed in Edneyville.

Edneyville Fire Department Chief John Rhodes said his department received the alarm at 2:04 a.m. and finally extinguished the fire at 5 a.m.

Approximately 40 men from the Edneyville Fire Department responded to the call with four fire trucks.

Several firemen were overcome with smoke and noxious gases from the spraying poisons in the shed but did not require medical treatment, according to Rhodes.

The 40-foot by 65-foot shed was completely destroyed.

Also lost in the blaze was a power fork lift, welding equipment, spraying equipment and materials, 25 ladders, six chain saws, 30 picking bags, motor oil and electric drills.

A tractor-trailer rig parked next to the shed was slightly damaged when the heat from the blaze broke a window but it was moved before further damage was done.

Owner of the shed, Billy

Laughter of Waters Road in the St. Paul Community, said he was unaware of the fire until a neighbor called the fire department and the Laughter family was awakened by the fire engine sirens.

The shed was only about 100 feet from the Laughter house, but Rhodes said it was engulfed in flames when it was first reported.

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## Alston New Fire Chief

Warrenton — McCarroll Alston, veteran fireman and trainer for the Warrenton Colored Volunteer Fire Department, was appointed Fire Chief by the Town Commissioners. Alston is replacing Jimmie Roberts, who had served in this position since the death of Walker Burwell a number of years ago.

The Commissioners, while expressing regrets over Roberts' resignation and appreciation for his service, had words of praise for Alston. Alston is believed to have been the first black to be appointed fire chief in the more than 100 years history of the local company.

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# Fire Cripples Hastings Plant

King — Fire virtually destroyed the Hastings Company plant at King recently. The blaze was discovered about 10 p.m. and burned about three hours before it was brought under control by fire companies from Stokes, Forsyth and Surry. The fire was thought to have started in a stockroom in an old section of the plant. An employe said he thought it began in a pile of trash. The Hastings Co. moved to King in 1951 and rebuilds auto

parts such as brake shoes, water pumps, fule pumps and related automobile parts. Rierson confirmed that the company hopes to rebuild on the present site which is only a short distance from the center of King. The disaster poses a real threat to the economy of the area as the company employed 250 people, most of whom depended completely on earnings there for their livelihood. However, a report later stated that about 50 employees had returned to work at the plant and an effort was being made by company officials to find work for others. A number of employers in the King area have offered temporary employment to Hastings employes. Carlton Rierson, president of the company, said a source of employment for some of the workers would be the contractors who get the jobs of cleaning up the parts of the plant that can be cleaned up and rebuilding the parts that can't be.

King Fire Chief Kiver Alderman was one of the first firemen at the scene following the alarm and remained there all night. Women of the fire department auxiliaries served coffee and food to the firemen all night.



TOTAL DESTRUCTION AT ONE SECTION OF THE HASTINGS MANUFACTURING PLANT Walnut Grove — The Stokes Record Photo

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## Beacon Club Is Destroyed By Fire

Henderson County — Fire destroyed the private Beacon Club atop the ridge near Oak Dale Avenue about 8:30 p.m. recently. Three Henderson County volunteer fire departments, Valley Hill, Mills River and Etowah — Horse Shoe, answered the alarm. Flames from the blaze sent a towering column of smoke skyward, attracting hundreds of motorists to the Haywood Road area beyond Blythe Street. Valley Hill firemen asked mutual aid from two other departments when they saw the smoke column. The other

departments sent tankers and men.

The building was frame construction and was insured for \$15,000 but Club President Joel Wright said it would cost much more to replace it.

A spokesman for Valley Hill Volunteer Fire Department said the cause of the blaze was unknown.

The club is known to have had a problem with vandalism in recent months.

Earlier in the evening Valley Hill firemen were called to an abandoned house less than a quarter mile from the Beacon Club via a trail that runs along the ridge. Firemen found a fire apparently set by vandals.

Firemen were to return to the Beacon Club site near the Cablevision Tower off Haywood Road today to continue investigation.

The Beacon Club is a private social club organized a number of years ago in Hendersonville. It held its monthly cook-out meetings at the clubhouse.

## Firemen Aid Trucker

Elizabethtown — Two Elizabethtown firemen prevented a near disaster early one morning when a transfer truck loaded with ammunitions blew two tires.

Truck Lines blew two tires on its trailer on the same axle at the same time while traveling through Elizabethtown.

The tires heated up and the driver, using a citizens band radio, called for help.

An area resident, Doug Bordeaux, reportedly received the call and reported the incident to the Bladen County Sheriff Department which, in turn, called out the Elizabethtown Fire Department.

Jack Cross and Jerry Register, firemen with the department responded to the scene and aided the truck which was loaded with 22,000 pounds of explosives.

The truck, heading toward Wilmington, came through the town about 1:30 that morning.

Police officer, Red Hester assisted the firemen.

The crippled truck was finally stopped after being sprayed with water about a mile east of the town where the tires were replaced by a local truck stop crew.

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## Sauratown 'Fireman of Year' Named

Members of the Sauratown Volunteer Fire Department held a special meeting at the station on a recent Sunday

afternoon. Forty-seven members of the department and rescue squad attended. The purpose of the meeting

was the election of officers, transaction of business matters for the coming year and discussion of old business.

Officers elected were Edd Taylor, chairman; Brent Carroll, assistant; Carlton Jones, assistant; Sherrill Kiser, assistant; Ira Tedder, treasurer, and Larry Beeson and H. J. McGuigan, reporters.

An advertising committee, which will be responsible for advertising the multi-year barbecues sponsored by the department, was named. They are Roscoe Boles, Ken Martin, Bud Bennett, Mike Jones, Gaston Sizemore, Melvin Mabe, Doug Walsh and Mike Justice.

Mike Jones, Larry Beeson and Butch Westmoreland will represent the department at the Stokes County Firemen's Association meetings.

L. G. Tilley, Larry Beeson and Ken Martin were nominated to meet with the board of directors for consideration of chief of the department. Tilley is presently serving as chief.

The firemen now have a mascot. He is "Honey Pot" and his master is Roscoe Boles. The dog attends all meetings and whenever the fire alarm sounds it is said he arouses his master and goes with him in his pickup truck to the scene of action.



L. G. TILLEY, reappointed chief of the Sauratown Volunteer Fire Department, receives "Fireman of the Year" award from Roscoe Boles.  
Walnut Cove The Stokes Record Photo

## Firemen Host WNC Meeting

Brevard — The Brevard Volunteer Fire Department played host to 125 firemen throughout North Carolina west of Charlotte recently for the meeting of the Western N. C. Fireman's Assn.

The local fire-eaters were hosts at a dinner in Brevard College cafeteria.

Fritz Merrill was master of ceremonies. Bob Terrell of The Asheville Citizen was the speaker, choosing as his topic, "Fires On Newspapers," and telling humorous incidents of typographical errors and other errata in newspapers.

## Loan Approved

Congressman David N. Henderson has announced that the Farmers Home Administration has approved a \$70,000 loan to the Mar Mac Fire Department for the purchase of a new pumper and add two bays to the station. The department serves 1,050 rural homes in Wayne. The loan is for 20 years at five per cent interest.

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## Littleton Firemen Hosts To Roanoke Association

Littleton — The Littleton Fire Department was host to the Roanoke Firemen's Association on Tuesday night, July 15 with approximately 50 members attending.

Jack C. Knowles of Raleigh was guest speaker. He talked about some of the great fires in the United States, historical fires in which valuable buildings as well as lives were lost. Among the fires he discussed was one at Wilmington.

"This country of ours has a great history as we approach the Bicentennial, 200 years of rich heritage. Help us to preserve these landmarks that remain," the speaker said.

Joe W. Atkins, fire chief, expresses thanks to all the Littleton merchants for gifts to make the event a success. Thanks also for help of the Boy Scouts under the direction of Wyatt Pegram in cleaning and painting of the fire station. Atkins said, "This young man has contributed a lot of work to

the fire department and we are grateful."

Members of the fire department are planning some remodeling at the firehouse and they need your help and support in their efforts to keep abreast of the needs of the community with fire fighting equipment and as well as keeping their buildings in good shape.

Help them to Help you!

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## Wayne County Submits Annual Report For 1974

From The Wayne County  
Annual Report For 1974  
Carl Ray Coley  
Wayne County  
Fire Marshal

As our old year must go out, our new year must come in and we began 1974 with a new president in Mr. Dwight Rose. President Rose was installed at the Annual Ladies Night Banquet attended by 207 firemen and guests.

President Rose appointed the Awards and Activities Committee, Training Committee, and Standards Committee and asked for their continued hard work. During 1974, the results of their hard work was seen. Our Program Committee had a year of very fine programs at each County Association meeting. A record number of men attended our County Fire and Rescue School. A combination Fire and Rescue School such as this was the first ever for our County with 242 men enrolling and 205 completing the school. Plans are already being made for our next school. In June, Wayne County sent another record 25 men to State Fire College in Shelby. This was by far the largest number of firemen from any County in North Carolina.

In 1974 we saw more Fire Departments ordering new pumpers and tankers with specifications to standardize this equipment, which will enable our departments to work more closely on mutual aid. More protective clothing was ordered for protection of our men. There was a big variety of training offered, some new classes, with more firemen participating. Again in 1974 our Committees did a fine job helping with these programs.

Through the help of our County Commissioners, this past year saw the last of our equipment for a quiet channel private line in our communications system ordered. This will certainly make our Communications System more efficient.

In March the President of our Association attended, along with me, the International Instructors Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Transportation was furnished by the Insurance Department Training Division. We felt this was an honor since only six people from our state were invited and two could come from Wayne County.

In June another fine Banquet in appreciation of our Fire and Rescuemen was sponsored by the Goldsboro Optimist Club. Mr. Johnny Stackhouse was the speaker. In the name of our Firemen and Rescuemen the Optimist Club donated \$1,000.00 to the Burn Center.

In November our County was honored again by the Insurance Department as six Wayne firemen were invited to Shelby as instructors on Rural Water Supply. Recognition was again given to our Rural Water Supply as the Fire Academy at Georgia Tech filmed our Fast Dump operations for training purposes in their State.

Our number of Fast Dump tankers increased to 16 in 1974, with 5 more in the planning stages. This will soon mean that 100 per cent of our departments will be equipped with Fast Dump Tankers.

This year saw another Fire Tax District added when Nahunta brought our total number of Fire Tax Districts to nine. There are 2 more in the planning stages. Our citizens continue to support our Fire Service with this method of financial aid with little or no opposition.

Our number of alarms was 824 which was a decrease of 140 from 1973. This decrease was due to fewer grass fires as we did not have extremely dry conditions such as we had in 1973. We had 165 structural fires and 124 mutual aid alarms. This was also a decrease over 1973. Our number of mutual aid alarms speaks well of our willingness to help each other. We are very proud of our mutual aid program.

There were many calls for stand-by at wrecks for the Rescue Squads which we feel added to the safety of their work and the safety of their victims. We also had Rescue Squads answering fire alarms which made our firemen much more comfortable knowing qualified personnel were there as they participated in the number one most hazardous occupation.

Our tobacco barn and mobile home fires were about the same as in 1973 with 65 tobacco barns and 32 mobile homes.

The value of property involved was \$15,967,665.00. Our loss was \$735,575.00 which gave us a savings or property protected of \$15,232,090.00. Again tobacco barn and mobile home fires accounted for a large loss of \$232,865.00. Taking into consideration that these two types of fires are nearly always a total loss when the alarm is received we can see what a tremendous job our firemen have done in the protection of life and property.

As 1974 goes out and our new year begins, I would like to thank each of our 900 firemen in Wayne County for the fine job and unselfish giving of their time to the Fire Service in our County. As the cry for help comes in, I am sure with the type people we have as firemen our citizens of Wayne County will continue to get the very best Fire Protection available.

## Robbins to Buy New Fire Truck

**Robbins** — The town council of Robbins, meeting in regular session recently, approved the purchase of a \$45,856 fire truck for the town.

All but one member of the board were present for the meeting, and they voted unanimously for the purchase of the truck, a Ward LaFrance model which pumps 1000 gallons of extinguisher per minute.

## Rep. Oxendine Meets With Area Firemen

**Saddletree** — State Rep. Henry W. Oxendine, speaking to the 91 members attending Robeson County Firemen's Association meeting recently, gave a succinct talk.

President Elbert Jones presided, Chief Carlos Oxendine extended the welcome, and Rep. Oxendine was introduced by Fire Marshal Mutt McNeill.

The legislator first stressed the importance of the 1976 observance of the nation's bicentennial, noting that all races in America should join in because, as he said the United States is "the freest country in the world."

He dwelt briefly in inflation, citing it as a matter of "choices" and making it applicable to the present and the future.

He had high praise for rural fire departments, pointing out that such fire protection was not available only a few years ago.

Oxendine then turned to the last session of the N.C. General Assembly, citing that the liability insurance law had been changed.

This law provides for changes in age limitations, less cost of insurance for the safe young drivers, as opposed to those who are guilty of various violations. The new law takes effect September 1.

## Holt Elected Officer In Firemen's Unit

**Durham** — Lonnie Holt, a fireman in the Durham Fire Prevention Bureau, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Fire Marshal's Association.

Holt was elected recently at a meeting of the association in Asheboro.

## Project

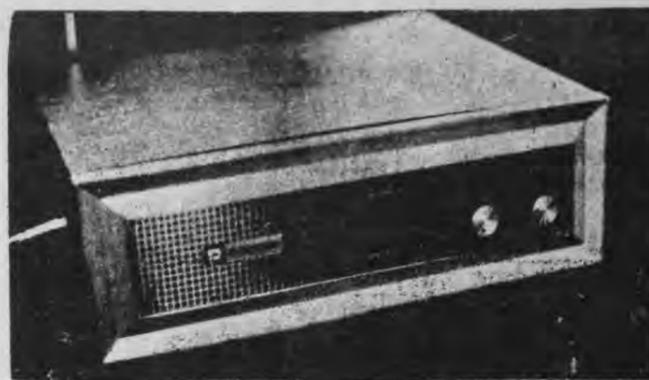
*Continued from page 2*

should be equipped with at least a 5 lb. size.

As a community service, prepare a list of portable fire extinguisher suppliers in your county. Contact these dealers and ask them to help promote this project by placing ads in the newspapers or radio or setting up a static display in their store. The A.F.A. plans to distribute "Project Vehicle Fire" posters to help promote our project. Radio and newspaper coverage has already gone out in the ten county area.

If all the firemen in the Albemarle Region would equip their own vehicles with extinguishers, there would be over 1000 firefighting appliances available on the road today.

C.T. Skinner, Jr. and  
Chief L. C. Parks  
Project Coordinators



**EACH FIREMAN** of the Franklin Fire Department has a radio monitor like this one either in his home or car. The monitors (there are 25 of them in all) enable firemen to listen to all communications which take place between the sheriff's department, the firetrucks and the fire chief. The firemen can thus learn the exact location of a fire and respond to it directly, rather than reporting first to the firehouse.

## Fire Call!

*Continued from page 1*

to pay off the remainder of bill, Bulgin said.

One of the main advantages of the system, according to Bulgin, is that it will allow firemen to respond directly to a fire, rather than reporting to the fire station first to find out where the fire is located. Until now, a siren was used to alert firemen.

Bulgin said that the communications system will work like this:

The dispatcher at the sheriff's office in the courthouse will receive a call from someone reporting a fire. The dispatcher will press a button on an "encoder" and a two-tone signal will be sounded over each fireman's monitor unit.

When the dispatcher will announce the location of the fire, plus any additional information which he has.

A fireman will be able to remove his monitor from his home and take it with him on his way to the fire, since the unit can be plugged into an automobile's cigarette lighter. The fireman can thus hear all communication among the sheriff's department, the fire chief and the two fire trucks.

"This system is going to mean better protection for the whole area," said Bulgin. "It cuts down our response time and it provides for better protection for the town when our firetrucks are outside the city limits."

## YRAC Rural Fire Dept Reports

*Continued from page 2*

combination with a water capacity of 1,000 gallons. The unit was manufactured by the John Bean Company, and is lime-yellow in color. This unusual color is due to federal recommendations and can be easily seen in either day or night situations. The department ordered the new truck in November of 1974, at a cost of \$42,500. This is the first fire department in the county to receive a truck of this color.

Financing of the truck was available through an FHA Loan at 5 percent interest. The department expects to have it paid off in a few years.

Publicity Director  
Gary Boyette

## Hoskie Fire District Extended To 4 Miles

*Continued from page 1*

All other areas in the county have received a rating within a three-mile radius, Willoughby said, with the exception of Winton and Murfreesboro.

"In order for these two areas to receive ratings, their rural rosters and equipment must be brought up to standard. We have been working with them and hope to send off their applications sometime this month," Willoughby said.

The effective date for the Hoskie District was August 1.

## Spotlight on Kitty Hawk V.F.D.

*Continued from page 2*

**Haywood** (Station 2 — Collington Island), A-C Paul Pruitt (Station 3 — Kitty Hawk).

All fire calls are received by the Dare County Sheriff's Dept. in Manteo. The Sheriff Dept. Dispatcher alerts some 16 in Southern Shores, 12 in Kitty Hawk and 11 in Collington by group alert telephone. Other volunteers are alerted by phone.

Kitty Hawk Department has a very unique position in providing fire protection to the beach area during the summer vacation months with a vast increase in population. With beach cottages built so close together, the type construction of the buildings, and a constant wind factor, makes the job of firefighting tough. Kitty Hawk depends on a quick attack and exposure coverage to meet the challenge of structural firefighting on the beach.

Kitty Hawk Village began construction on a new station 3 on July 7th . . . the building, a metal "Butler" type will house a meeting room, an office and 3 apparatus bays. Kitty Hawk has received some fire service training through C.O.A. and with other Dare County departments in joint training sessions. We salute Chief Cliff Midgett and his department.

This digital copy of The Tarheel Firefighter and Carolina Rural Fireman was created by Mike Legeros in January 2020, from copies collected by retired Fire Chief Donald E. Whitaker in Pleasant Garden, NC.