



### Robeson County's Women Firefighters

From The Robesonian, Lumberton by Janice Casher

ROBESON COUNTY — Men aren't the only ones who get fired up about toy firetrucks when they are children. Susan Carol Stephens, the only woman in Robeson County who trained as a firefighter, has actually fought fires, was always big on playing with them when she was a little girl.

Now she no longer needs to pretend.

Today she has been to nearly 100 fires and fought them along side the men in the Northwoods Fire Department. And they have high regard for her ability.

"Susan is outstanding at her job," said Robeson County Chief Fire Marshall Wilson (Mutt) McNeill. "She is a fireman," he stated emphatically.

There are 6 other women, all members of the Deep Branch Fire Department, who have completed 36 hours of training to become certified as fire fighters. Dora Francis Lowery, Helen Godwin, Peggy Brewington, Hazel Graham Brenda Sampson and Marie Chavis are awaiting their first call to actually fight a fire. But the department's president, Hardy Brewington, has complete confidence in their ability.

"They are authorized to go to any fires and have trained with the hoses, driving and riding the trucks, using the ladders and rescue operations."



"Manning" the gauges and the fire hose on the department's new truck, Susan takes her job seriously and according to all accounts, does an admirable job.

Lumberton Robesonian Photo by Janice Casher

"I expect the same from the ladies as I would any firefighter," he said.

Another woman, Elnora Pfeifer, has completed many hours of firefighter training. She is secretary to the fire marshal and is anxious to complete her training.

#### SUSAN JOINS

"I realized they needed volunteers in the fire department so I asked the chief if he would let me join as a com-

munications officer," she said. "He agreed and I was voted in," she added.

"I took it upon myself to learn to drive the firetrucks," she said. "Prior to actually joining the department I would direct traffic at fires."

"I have always been fascinated with police and fire type jobs," said Susan. "My granddaddy was Chief of Police in Lumberton during the 30's.

During the day she comes down to the station and cleans the firehouse. She says the men do as much as she does in that department. Since she is in a stable position financially with her family's help she can devote a good deal of her time to her volunteer job.

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### Parkwood Names Fire Officials

PARKWOOD — The Parkwood Volunteer Fire Department has elected a new board of directors and department officers for 1976.

Robert L. Johnson is the new president of the board and John Rudisill is the new vice president. Frank Ambrose was elected treasurer and John Van Roy was named secretary.

Richard Sauer succeeded Richard Beech as chief of the department. Beech and Ed Finch were elected assistant chiefs. Finch had been a captain. The new captains for the volunteer force are Rudisill and Charles Settlemire.

### Fireman Is Commended For Life Saving Action

ASHEVILLE — Asheville fireman Ronnie Riddle was commended recently for his life saving action, even though he never left the fire station.

Chief P. N. Ball of the Asheville Fire Department presented Riddle a letter of commendation for saving the life of 19-month-old Steven James Stewart on Jan. 10.

Ball said the boy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Stewart of San Jose, Calif., were traveling through Asheville and stopped in at Biltmore cafe. At about 5:40 p.m., Ball said, they noticed Steven was having difficulty breathing.

They took him across the street to Fire Station 5 where Riddle, Capt. H.P. Oxner and driver C. T. Whitten were on duty. By this time, Steven was not breathing and was turning blue, Oxner said.

Riddle administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, Ball said, until the baby began breathing. He was then taken to the hospital and recovered fully.

"In the opinion of all who were present, it was stated that action taken by Fireman Riddle saved the life of this child," Ball said in the letter of commendation.

Ball also commended Oxner and Whitten and recommended them for certificates of recognition from the American Red Cross. Riddle was awarded the Red Cross' highest award, the Certificate of Merit.

Riddle, 29, lives on Union Chapel Road in Weaverville. Oxner lives at 257 Sulphur Springs Road in West Asheville and Whitten lives at 52 Rumbough Place.

### Fred Edwards Is Fireman of the Year

TRYON — Fred Edwards was presented the Tryon Fire Department "Fireman of the Year" Award recently at the ladies night banquet at Caro-Mi. The presentation was made by Seth M. Vining.

Mr. Edwards was chosen for his interest and service to the Tryon Fire Dept. A native of Tryon, he is the son of Mr. and

Mrs. Clarence Edwards who now make their home in Columbia, S. C. He has been chairman of the Fireman's Christmas Parade for a number of years and in 1974 was presented the Service Award by the Fire Department. He is married to the former

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### In Erwin During 1975

### Fire Dept. Proves Itself

ERWIN — The ultimate value of the Erwin Fire Department can easily be

proved by a look at the 1975 report of activities, as prepared by Gerald R. Smith, secretary.

The department, which covers an area encompassing more than \$25 million worth of property, limited fire damage for the year to only \$157,445 in 81 different emergencies.

Erwin firemen responded to 20 calls within the city limits, 61 within the Duke Fire District, and an additional seven outside the district. The greatest number of responses were for motor vehicles (18 per cent), grass and woods fires (13 per cent) and industrial responses (12 per cent).

There were 10 calls from industries, three from businesses, 22 from homes, eight from mobile homes, 11 for grass and woods fires, 16 for motor vehicles, six for barns,

three for electric transformers, two for mutual aid and seven false alarms.

Chief Louis Joseph had Secretary Smith prepare a written resume of the activities in 1975 as follows:

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### Coley: Fire Protection Is Standardized In Wayne

WAYNE COUNTY — Progress was made in Wayne county in 1975 to fulfill the goal of standardizing firefighting techniques and equipment, Fire Marshal Carl Ray Coley said in his year-end report.

"Fire Departments in the county made a special effort toward standardizing pumpers, tankers and other equipment. This was an essential step to take for our mutual aid system to work," Coley said.

In line with this goal, three new pumpers were placed into service during 1975 and four new pumpers were ordered. In addition, three new tankers were placed into service and one other one ordered.

Standardization of equipment throughout the county will enable firemen to provide better protection.

"We now have 19 tankers in the county equipped with Fast Dump. There are four more

being built. This will provide Wayne residents with better equipment to protect life and property," he said.

Standardization of the county training program was also initiated last year.

"These are the two greatest areas of progress in 1975. We continued to up date old equipment with newer and more modern equipment. Our

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### Plymouth VFD Elects Officers

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth Volunteer Fire Department recently elected officers for the new year.

Re-elected were Chief Lyman Mayo, II, assistants Billy Tetterton and Ed Womble, treasurer Carl Allen, secretary Garland O'Brien and assistant secretary Logan Womble.

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## Editorial

When I first began work on producing the Carolina Rural Fireman (now, Tarheel Firefighter and Carolina Rural Fireman, combined) the third city I went to in promoting advertising to raise funds for our publication was Goldsboro, N.C. Since I needed to also be in New Bern, working on our first issue, I ran an ad and found two ladies to begin helping there. At the end of the week, I received a frantic call from one of them, advising me if I wanted her to do anything I had better return and talk to the Fire Marshal then Eddie Summerlin, as he was blocking her efforts to sell advertising!

Armed with letters of character reference from the local Chamber of Commerce, Bank President, etc., I returned to Goldsboro (a little shaky in my boots) to try to appease the Fire Marshal I hadn't met, so that we could continue our work there. I expected a towering, grim man who would cut me down to size immediately, but went anyway. This was my first meeting with Eddie Summerlin, who later became a friend in the Fire Service, a truly dedicated man.

I put on my best "bib and tucker," a falsely courageous smile and braced myself for the interview. Imagine my surprise to find a quiet (but determined) man who heard me out completely! I had nothing concrete to show him except my letters, since I was doing the layout for the publication myself, a little at a time, and couldn't carry all that around. However, I guess my enthusiasm came through for the conclusion of the visit was that, although he could not endorse something that was really not yet in existence, at least he would no longer oppose me.

This came a little too late for the support I had hoped for there, as I had intended to feature the Goldsboro Firemen in our first issue, but we didn't do too badly and they were featured, anyway. I was told that there was a Rural Fire Department every four miles, and I saw for myself how well organized they were. I still receive newsletters from their Fire Marshal's office, and their Annual Report, which I have recently received from Fire Marshal Carl Ray Coley.

The Fire Service there has continued growing and advancing so much it is impossible to condense it in one Editorial, but I'd like to hit some of the high spots with you. Wayne County has for a long time had their own Fireman's Association. I still remember



**EMILY H. KING**

the very excellent Barbecue Dinner they served at one of their meetings to which I was invited and was able to attend! This is a very active organization and deserves recognition.

Among other things during 1975, they built one new station and additions to two more, with additions to two more in the planning stage. These are being made possible through FHA loans. This might present an idea or possibility for some of you who need to update your present facilities or construct new ones. In November, the second state-wide Water Supply School in the state was held there. 43 Fire Departments were represented, with over 200 firemen from the coast to the mountains. Also in 1975, they held another Annual Fire and Rescue School with 206 men enrolling and 177 completing the course. In June, 1975, at the State Fire School held in Rocky Mount) 40 men from Wayne County attended the entire week. This was the largest number of men in attendance ever from any county in North Carolina.

If my memory is still correct, I believe at the time of our first issue they had 16 Rural Fire Departments — they now have 27. As to the value of these departments and such well-planned and enacted organization, one can chart the work they are doing by reading their Fire Loss Statistics: Value of property involved in fires in 1975 was \$5,378,650.00; the loss was \$847,745.00. This adds up a savings of property protected at \$4,530,905.00!

How's this for looking back and going forward? Congratulations to Wayne County for having the type of men they have in their Fire Service!

*Emily H. King*

Emily H. King

## Volunteer firefighters of year

Submitted by  
Dianne S. Taylor,  
Written By ELLIS BABCOCK  
Daily News Staff

ONSLOW COUNTY — The Onslow County Volunteer Firemen's Association recently awarded the fireman and fire woman of the year awards to Mrs. Dianne S. Taylor, of the Holiday City Volunteer Fire Department and M.A. (Gus) Periera, of the Hubert department.

In nominating Mrs. Taylor the department stated that since she has been president of the fire department "she has brought this department in closer unity through her unselfish devotion and tireless hours of work and dedication."

"Mrs. Taylor's recognition of the importance of her assignment and the department is reflected in her many hours spent knocking on doors getting people interested in the fire department and heading many fund raising projects in order to purchase more equipment.

"As far as education, she has completed several fire fighting courses through Coastal Carolina Community College and has always been in attendance ready to learn and always striving to better herself as a fire fighter.

"Mrs. Taylor does not hesitate when called upon to take charge of a training fire and with her can-do attitude, performs all duties with little or



FIREFIGHTERS of the Year, Gus Periera, left, and Mrs. Dianne Taylor, are given their trophies by Camp Lejeune Fire Chief Hoskin Bass. (Staff photo by Ellis Babcock)

no supervision.

"Not only does she provide great leadership, but also she provides refreshments at every training and business meeting. Her door is always open for any member to discuss problems or just to visit and talk about our department.

"She is present at every association meeting, always getting the latest fire news to

bring back to share with our department.

"Through all of these and many more accomplishments Mrs. Taylor has gained the respect and admiration of the members of our department. Her motivation is a constant source of inspiration to all with whom she serves and reflects credit upon herself as well as the Holiday City Volunteer Fire Department.

"In view of Dianne Taylor's eminent performance, unselfish devotion and willingness to work, it is with great enthusiasm she is recommended for Fire Woman of the Year."

Continued on page 4

## Seminar Attacks Arson

The National Fire Academy of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration is pleased to announce that Battelle's Columbus (Ohio) Laboratories hosted a "Leadership Seminar for Developing a Coordinated Attack on Arson" January 13-15, 1976. Roger M. Freeman, Jr., President, Allendale Mutual Insurance Company, a member of the President's Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, served as Chairman.

The objective of this seminar was to utilize the efforts of many concerned groups in developing programs to combat arson. The majority of attendees represented expertise from key organizations which have impacted and could impact directly on the every growing problem of arson.

Representatives from the fire investigation, law enforcement, criminal justice, insurance and financial communities gathered and integrated program needs and expectations.

Dan J. Carpenter, Mecklenburg County Fire Administrator, attended this seminar as Chairman of the Arson Committee on behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

As a follow-on activity from the January meeting, attendees have returned to their organizations, to review the results of the meeting, and evaluate and consolidate position papers for development of a national action plan for a public and private sector attack on the arson problem.

The participants are returning for a February conference, the date of which is February 23-24, 1976. At the February seminar, a press conference is planned to disclose the recommendations of this group.

## 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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# Half Moon VFD Reports

JACKSONVILLE — The Half Moon Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 57 fire calls during the year of 1975. Following is a listing of the fire types and estimated damages: 1 transformer fire, \$950.00; 5 auto accidents, \$17,050.00; 2 electrical fires, \$100.00; 7 auto fires, \$2,725.00; 8 grass-woods, 180 acres woodland (no estimate); 9 mutual aid, no estimate; 5 false alarms, no estimate; 4 controlled burning, no estimate; 4 hot heaters, \$50.00; 6 houses, \$42,950.00; 2 grease, \$600.00; 1 mattress, \$100.00; 1 barn, \$10,000.00; and 2 search parties,

## Standardized

*Continued from page 1*  
training program became more standardized and the quality of instruction rose," he said. The continued growth of the county was cited by Coley as one of the reasons a uniform training and equipment standard needed. "Our rural area continues to grow in such leaps and bounds that I feel good training, a good rural water supply system and more modern equipment must remain our top priorities if we are to continue to have solid protection of life and property," he said.

## Fireman of the Year

*Continued from page 1*  
Shirley Phillips and they have two sons, Fred and Phillip. While in high school, Mr. Edwards was an outstanding athlete, playing football and golf. He won the Tryon Country Club Golf Championship for three consecutive years while in high school and retired the trophy. He also served as assistant pro at the Tryon County Club for a number of years and is now parts manager at Pruette Chevrolet. The family attends the Tryon First Baptist Church. He is also Co-Owner of Tryon Auto Parts. Toastmaster Clarence Scoggins presented Fred Swann a trophy in recognition of his service and dedication upon retirement. Mr. Swann is also a past recipient of "Fireman of the Year." Mr. Scoggins also presented Fireman Jerry Bradshaw a "Nut of the Year Award." It was a "nut" centered in an attractive frame. Mr. Scoggins also praised the work of Chief Roy Williams in manning the pumper during the recent Landrum Water crisis. Mr. Williams manned the first pumper in a series of seven to pump water from the fire hydrant at the state line to the Landrum Water Reservoir.

Music was provided by the Royal Gems—Marion Brock, Pat Cowan, Robert Brock, Woody Cowan, all of Tryon and Jimmy Rumsey of Lyman S.C.

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no estimate. This brings the total to 57 with a total estimated damage of \$74,525.00.

Total estimated damages in our fire district was \$74,525.00. This estimate does include the auto accidents, although there was no fire at any of these accidents. The mutual aid calls are not listed in this estimate.

This department recorded three deaths in 1975, all of which were caused by auto accidents, and ten injuries. Seven of the injuries were the cause of auto accidents, three as the result of fires. There were several serious injuries due to auto accidents, however, there were no serious injuries due to fires. Two persons received minor burns to their hands as the result of the two grease fires. The other injury was caused when a firefighter stepped on a nail, puncturing his foot.

Several fires were investigated as arson, however, only one man has been arrested as the result of the barn fire. His case is still pending.

Submitted by

James R. Norris, Chief

Half Moon VFD

## Proves Itself

*Continued from page 1*  
PERSONEL

The Erwin fire Department & Rescue Squad served under the leadership of our newly elected Chief, Louis Joseph. Mr. Joseph was the first new chief elected by our department in over 25 years.

Other officers, serving were: Eugene Pope and Larry Smith, assistant chiefs. Billy Hobbs and G. R. Pope, Captains. Sammy Davis and Billy Moran, Lieutenants.

### BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

A new 1,980 square foot addition to our station was completed in August at a cost of \$52,000. This amount also included furnishings, some renovation to the station and expansion of our parking facilities on the south side.

The addition includes a training class room, kitchen, lounge and office as well as additional storage space.

Two hose drying racks were installed behind the station to hasten the drying of fire hose after a fire.

A deluge gun was donated to us by Burlington Industries. This gun will deliver 750 gpm

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and will be used primarily on major and bulk fires.

The Mack Pumper truck was completely overhauled and rewired to a 12 volt system at a cost of \$1,700. These repairs were performed at the Mack facility in Raleigh, N.C.

## TRAINING

During 1975 our department completed Units 1 and 2 of fire training. This represents a total of 768 manhours in fire training for these two courses. Mr. Bill Allred was the instructor for both Units and were sponsored by the N.C. Department of Insurance, Fire and Rescue Service Division.

We had six (6) members to complete the State 81 hour Emergency Medical Technician course taught in Lillington. This represents 486 manhours of training. Our department now has sixteen (16) Certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

## MISCELLANEOUS

During 1974 a new home, under construction, at Chicora Country Club was destroyed by fire. The loss was estimated to be \$100,000. As a result of this loss and the concern of members there to prevent a recurrence, a gate was installed at the Club swimming pool. We now have 200,000 gallons of water at our disposal should the need arise. Officers of our department have keys to this gate for emergency use.

## EMERGENCIES

January 5, 1975:- Two victims of possible carbon monoxide poisoning were found in their vehicle on the Swinging Bridge road outside of Erwin.



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January 9, 1975:- Two car collision occurred on the Slocum road outside of Linden resulted in six persons being seriously injured.

January 20, 1975:- A single car accident hitting a utility pole at Hodges Crossroads resulted in five persons being injured.

July 20, 1975:- Two young men from Dunn were stranded in the Cape Fear River for several hours as a result of their canoe being capsized. Our department spent over forty manhours in the direct rescue effort. This was in addition to twenty men on standby duty at the station.

April 14, 1975:- James Beasley, Jr. Automobile Repair Garage suffered extensive damages estimated at \$10,000, as a result of gasoline fire due to gasoline leaking out of a car being repaired.

August 8, 1975:- A Beauty Shop was heavily damaged in an early morning fire estimated at \$7,000. An adjoining Upholstery Shop had heavy smoke and water

damages. These shops were located in South Erwin.

September 29, 1975:- A residential dwelling owned by Dorothy J. Tolar and occupied by same was heavily damaged by fire in the early evening hours. Upon arrival by our members two bodies were discovered in the building. One of these victims lived for a short time upon arrival at the Dunn hospital, the other was DOA. Later investigation by the County Sheriffs office and SBI determined the victims had been shot and the fire set to cover the crime.

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**Volunteer Firefighters of Year**

*Continued from page 2*

Periera  
The letter nominating Periera reads:

"Since joining this department in 1959, Gus has diligently worked his way through the ranks to the position of assistant chief, a position he has held for the past two years.

"In preparation for this important job, he has com-

pleted many hours of course work through Coastal Carolina Community College and has attended the Wilson Technical Institute and schools at Camp Lejeune.

"Mr. Periera's knowledge is immeasurable at the scene of a fire. His quick thinking and precise actions enable his to do his job well, plus effectively supervise and instruct the other members in the correct procedures of fire fighting.

"Because of his knowledge and leadership this department has effectively been able to save numerous mobile homes, houses and other property from total destruction.

"Further, he has been the corner stone in helping this department and the community in our people-to-people program for fire safety, thus reducing the number of fire calls from in excess of 300 in 1967 to 49 this year.

"Mr. Periera has made many contributions to this department regularly, in both time

and resources. He personally rebuilt this department's 1966 pumper which is used as a brush truck.

"When the time came for the County Fair it was he who was instrumental in providing the experience, expertise and his own equipment so that this department could make wood items which were sold at the fair as a money making project.

"Mr. Periera has responded to countless fire calls involving every conceivable fire condition with this county. He has not been a physical hero who braved the inferno to rescue a life, but we, the members of the Hubert Volunteer Fire Department are proud and honored to submit Mr. Periera's name as our nomination for Fireman of the Year for Onslow County.

"Without his kind of dedication within our department we would be struggling to survive. Mr. Periera is a credit and an inspiration to the community he serves so well."

**Robeson County's Women Firefighters**

*Continued from page 1*

Her father is giving her room to decide what she will do in the future. As to whether she will be a professional firefighter, that remains to be seen.

**MEN ACCEPT HER**

At first and sometimes now, Susan feels the other firefighters in the county who are male will "stare her down" and that does make her feel uncomfortable. But the men at the Northwoods Fire Department are totally convinced in her ability to do the job." They have accepted me fully and they've taken up for me many times," she said.

Susan can run all the trucks in the department and she has adopted the fire utility truck as her own during fires. The other men swear the truck is difficult to drive but Susan says she never has any problems with "David", the name the firefighters gave the truck. "They say it's because I talk to it," she said.

Susan has yet to go into her first burning house. She freely admits that she would prefer to run the gauges on the truck, a necessary task at any fire. This would leave a more experienced firefighter to work the hose," she said.

However, Susan has been promised by her firechief that at the next house fire, she gets to go inside. "I've never been in a burning house and I'm not looking forward to it," she stated honestly.

"I want to go in but . . .," she said. "I know I'll be thinking, 'Lord a board is going to fall on me.'" "But I think men feel the same way. I've seen them shaking like a leaf when they go in — and the biggest look of relief on their faces when they come out."

RECOMMENDS THE JOB  
She would recommend the job to a female. "I'm not a women's libber but I would have fought it if they wouldn't have let me on," she said. "There's no reason a woman can't do the job she said. "Why can't a woman tote a hose?"

Chief Wilson McNeill has definite feelings on women firefighters. "If you get a lady physically and mentally alert, who is not excitable, and can carry her part of the load, she makes just as good a fireman," he said.

McNeill has seen Susan at fires. "I've seen her in operation and she did a wonderful job."

"She's very much on the ball." And because of Susan the fire marshal feels more women will be seen in the fire department.

**ELNORA PFEIFER**

Elnora Pfeifer is also not a strong women's libber but as she puts it, "I can do some things as good if not better than the boys."

She is the first woman to be chosen as secretary-treasurer of the Robeson County Fireman's Association.

Elnora has finished her Emergency Medical Technician training.

How does a 47 year old mother of 4 decide to become a firefighter? "Fate has something to do with it," she stated. "I used to be an art teacher than I had my children ranging in age from 4 to 23 years. Next I became the secretary to the fire marshal and became interested in the fire department. Everytime I can, I take some hours to know more about fire fighting," she said.

"I've gotten along fine with the men, they treat me like a lady and with respect," she added.

Elnora sees a real future for women in the fire department. "I would like to see more women trained. They could go to the fire station when a call comes in and get the truck going and take it to the fire," she said.

Robeson County during the past year has seen a growing interest among women to take part in fighting fires. Their bosses have high praise for their ability and see a real future for women to take their place along side men as firefighters.

**Fireman Robbed On Off-Duty Job**

CHARLOTTE — A 29-year-old Charlotte fireman, working off duty as an oil deliveryman, was robbed yesterday in west Charlotte, police said.

The victim, Michael McHam of 8819 Casa Lake Dr., was making an oil delivery at 3005 Amay James Ave. shortly before noon when a man approached him, pointed a sawed-off shotgun and demanded money, police said.

After taking McHam's wallet and making him empty his pockets, police said, the man fled on foot.

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**Hare Now Lieutenant**

ELIZABETH CITY — William Leon Hare, firefighter for the Elizabeth City Fire Department, has been appointed Lieutenant. He officially began his duties in this position on December 26, 1975. Lt. Hare has been a firefighter for the past 5 years. He was employed on January 30, 1970.

At the sign of the Time & Temperature

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# Half-Million Loss In Shallotte Fire

SHALLOTTE — Fire swept through a downtown Shallotte shopping center on a recent Sunday morning, razing at least three businesses, and causing an estimated half million dollars in damages.

It was the worst fire in the town's history according to 21-year veteran Shallotte Fireman Robert Hawes.

The fire totally destroyed Shallotte Thriftway, Jones Store, Western Auto, and The Sandwich Shoppe, and damaged the Idle Hour Amusements Center.

The five-store shopping center was constructed almost 10 years ago, and was the third in the town to be destroyed by fire within a five-year period.

The fire was discovered at approximately 7:45 a.m. by an employee of Thriftway, Miss Ester Price, as she opened the back door of the store to prepare for work Sunday morning.

According to reports, the back of the store was filling with smoke as customers, unaware of the fire, waited at the front door for the store to open.

Miss Price reported the fire to Lt. Sonny Hankins at the Shallotte Police Department, who immediately called the fire department. Firemen and the police department were on the scene in less than five to seven minutes, according to Shallotte Fire Chief Robert Hawes.

"When I got there, it was just smoke coming out of the back of the building. We were cutting the door open at the same time Brunswick Electric was there cutting wires to cut off power. By the time we got the door open, they were ready for us to put the water to it."

Mayor Beamon Hewett said, "I got there immediately. The fire was still confined in the back room when we got there."

Shallotte immediately called for the help of other fire departments in the county, and Bolivia, Tri-Beach, Civietown, Sunset Beach, and Calabash fire departments answered the call in addition to the Shallotte Rescue Squad, and sheriff's deputies, the highway patrol and the Shallotte police department.

The fire appeared to be contained during the early stage, but flared when 25-mile and hour winds shifted and Jones Store, adjacent to Thriftway, became engulfed in smoke and flames.

Burning cinders and chunks of flaming tar from the roofs of the buildings were blown across the street, some landing on the rooftop of R.D. White's Standard Oil Company across the street.

Calabash and Sunset Beach Fire Departments were extinguishing the flying, flaming debris, while pumpers and Shallotte, Bolivia, and Tri-Beach and Civietown hosed down rooftops and interiors of stores in the shopping center.

"I thought we really had it contained in the Thriftway, but when that wind whipped up, it went into Jones' and got away from us," Mayor Hewett said.

He estimated 40 firemen were involved in fighting the blaze, with numerous bystanders offering a hand.

Mayor Hewett said there were only two minor injuries. Fireman Dickie Powell was slightly injured with a scraped knee, and Merle Hawes was overcome with smoke at one point, but later returned to continue fighting the blaze.

Firemen with masks and oxygen tanks entered the one-story buildings in an attempt to hose down flames fed by high winds.

Policemen, deputies and patrolmen were busy re-routing traffic from the major artery, Hwy. 17, to side streets so that hoses and emergency vehicles could have easy access to the burning structures.

"It was hot. It was dirty. It was nasty," said Mayor Hewett, who is a member of the Shallotte Fire Department.

Fire Chief Hawes said firemen were able to keep the blaze down as it moved from building to building, camouflaged by layers of billowing smoke.

"We couldn't stop it," he said.

## Carthage Firemen Name New Officers

CARTHAGE — Carthage firemen, in a meeting held recently, elected Ed Jernigan as chief. He will succeed Arthur Barber in that post. Jernigan is one of the three new members of the Carthage Town Board elected.

Other officers elected were Ken Suggs, assistant chief. Buck Cook, captain, Larry Caddell and J. D. Monroe, lieutenants, Tommy McKenzie, secretary-treasurer and Floyd Tyner, chaplain.

These officers have already taken over their duties.

## Stinel Chief Of Hazelwood Fire Dept.

HAZELWOOD — The Hazelwood Volunteer Fire Department recently elected new officers for the year.

Selected were Edward Stinel, chief; Johnny Summerrow, first assistant; Francis Smith, second assistant; and F. E. Kuykendall Jr., secretary and treasurer.

The department has 2 fire trucks and a water wagon and includes 22 members.

## Fire damages local tavern

RALEIGH — An early morning fire damaged a local tavern recently but there were

no injuries, according to Milton D. Rountree, chief of the Wake-New Hope Volunteer Fire Department.

Damaged was Thirsty's Tavern, located on U.S. 64 East just beyond the Raleigh city limits.

Rountree said cause of the blaze had not been determined.

Two slate-top pool tables and some carpet were burned, he said, "but the biggest damage was from smoke and heat."

Rountree had no estimate of the damage. William B. Dowd, the owner of the tavern, couldn't be reached for comment this morning. His wife said the building was insured.

The fire was reported at 4:43 a.m. by a passerby.

## Residence Destroyed By Blaze

SHARPSBURG — Fire destroyed a house and its contents four miles northeast of Sharpsburg recently.

Both Sharpsburg and West Edgecombe firemen fought the blaze which began about 9:50 a.m. at a house owned by J.F. Lancaster and located on the Lancaster farm. Occupant of the house was Retha Hinton.

According to firemen, the house was valued at \$2,500 and its contents were worth some \$2,000.

The fire began when a child kicked over a portable oil heater, firemen reported.

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# Five Firemen Awarded

MECKLENBURG COUNTY — Five volunteer firemen received distinguished service awards recently at the 25th annual banquet of the Mecklenburg County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Dwight S. Cross Jr., William T. Sherrill, Bruce E. Philemon, Carl M. Nance and Rev. Edwin M. Neff received the awards.

Each was awarded a certificate for "unselfish devotion to duty as a volunteer fireman of Mecklenburg County his untiring labors for the constant improvement of his community, and his generous donation of time and effort without any reward, and for the contribution he has made to the safety and welfare of his neighbors."

Sherrill, 29, is following in the footsteps of his father, who has won the same award. He has been active in the Cook's Volunteer Fire Department since he was 16 and now services as chief. Sherrill lives on Rt. 6 with his wife, Angela, and their children, Jennifer, Beth and Kevin.

with his wife, Charlotte, and their children, Bruce and Michele.



Nance

Nance, 44, has served 17 years in the Derita Volunteer Fire Department and has been chief of the department. He lives at 3212 Wales St. with his wife, Betty and their daughters, Darlene and Jackie. Their son, Terry, is also a volunteer fireman.



Neff

Rev. Neff, 39, has served 10 years in the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department. He is chaplain for the association. Rev. Neff lives at 2607 Starbrook Drive with his wife, Judy, and their children Marie and Mike.

The association represents about 800 firemen. Last year the association answered 923 fires and put in 16,218 man hours.

## Fireman Promoted

GOLDSBORO — Max Fulghum Rose, 34, of Eureka has been promoted to lieutenant in the Goldsboro Fire Department. He was a driver and has been employed by the department for 12 years.

Rose was one of 10 firemen tested for the promotion to replace Harvell Wilkins. His score was the highest made on the written test. He was recommended for the promotion by City Manager Kenneth Kyle.

Rose is a member of the Mt. Nelson Baptist Church, Fremont Masonic lodge and the Eureka Ruritan Club. He is married and has one son.



MAX F. ROSE  
Goldsboro  
News-Argus Photo

fire around it and his house caught fire.

Two rooms of his six-room frame house were "more or less" gutted by the fire and the rest of the house was damaged by smoke and water, according to members of the City Fire Department.

Hooper said that his water pipes had been frozen for the last two days. "I tried to thaw the pipes at the cut-off located in front of the house, but this didn't work," he said.

He said the spigot at the rear of the house is about 18 inches or so from the back of the house. The fire apparently got too hot and started the fire.

By the time firemen arrived, the fire had burned through the outside wall at the rear of the house. Firemen chopped a hole in the roof to allow the smoke to escape.

## Icy spigot leads to a house fire

GASTONIA — Carl Hooper of 508½ N. Oakland St. was trying to thaw out a frozen spigot on the outside of his house on a recent afternoon by building a

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Cross

Cross, 45, has served in the Huntersville Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years and is assistant chief. Cross lives in Huntersville with his wife, Jeannette, and their sons, Dwight and Tommy.



Sherrill



Philemon

Philemon, 31, has served in the Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Department for seven years. He is secretary and line captain of the department. He lives on 412 Whispering Pines Drive

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# Firemen's Association Elects 1976 Officers



Lincoln County Forester Calvin Mosteller presents a Smokey Bear award to Carl Hartsoe, outgoing president of the Lincoln County Firemen's Association, at his bed in Crowell Hospital. The award is from the U.S. Forest Service for his cooperation and work for the Forest Service and firemen.  
Lincolnton Lincoln Times  
News Photo

LINCOLN COUNTY — New officers for the Lincoln County Firemen's Association were elected at a recent meeting.

The officers and chairmen are: Elliott Loftin, South Fork, president; Bob Scronce, Union, vice president; Hub Finger, Boger City, secretary; Don Wise, Lincolnton, treasurer; Johnny Hoyle, Howards Creek, liaison officer; Bob Lynch, Lincolnton, training officer; Gaither Shurm, North 321, associate chaplain; Lewis Heavner, Howards Creek, fire prevention chairman and Hollis Henderson, Lincolnton, publicity chairman.

The organization met at the new Pumpkin Center Fire Department.

In other business, it was announced that countywide industrial sprinkler school will be conducted by the N.C. Department of Insurance March 15-18 at the Lincolnton Fire Department.

Outgoing president Carl Hartsoe, presently in Crowell Hospital, was honored.

Thirty-one firemen attended the meeting.

## Firemen elevated in rank

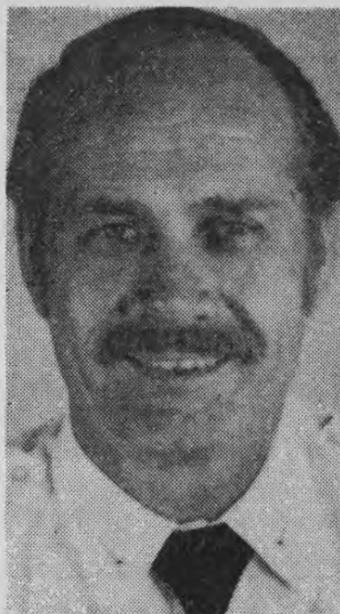
GASTONIA — T. R. Thomas, a 19-year veteran member of the Gastonia Fire Department, was promoted recently to the rank of lieutenant. J. C. Gibson, who has been with the department for six years, was elevated to engineer.

Both promotions were made according to Chief J. W. Spargo, because of the retirement of Lt. Kenneth L. Brown, who retired Jan. 14 for health reasons.

Thomas joined the department June 10, 1957, as a fireman and was promoted to engineer on July 11, 1970. He is married to the former Mary Mercer of Lowell. They are the parents of four children. Thomas and his family live at 1225 Green Circle Drive.

Gibson joined the department Jan. 31, 1970 as a fireman. He is married to the former Kathlene Turner of Lowell. They are the parents of two children and make their home at 2902 Goble St.

Lt. Brown joined the fire department Dec. 15, 1963. He and his wife, Rebecca, make their home at 326 Brentwood Drive.



T.R. Thomas

Gastonia Gazette Photo

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## Cornelius Members Practice

CORNELIUS — Cornelius Lemley Volunteer Fire Department members were joined by members of the Gilead Volunteer Fire Department for a 14 hour fire school held on Jan. 19th and 21st at the Cornelius Fire Station, and at an "on the site" buring exercise also.

Instructors were John Knoles

and Dale Reading, both of whom are fire inspectors. The class was offered through Central Piedmont Community College.

Classroom instruction was given during two evening sessions. Later, members of the departments burned an abandoned house while putting to use the theory they had learned during the class sessions.

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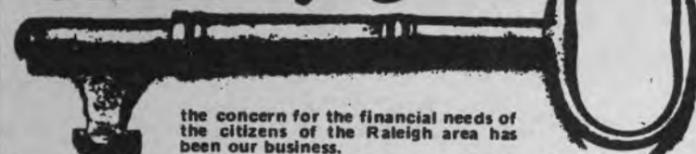
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### Pan Of Grease Catches Fire

KANNAPOLIS — The Kannapolis Fire Department answered a 9:55 a.m. call

recently to an apartment on Sears St. where they found a pan of grease on the stove had ignited. No damage was reported.

The apartment was occupied by Randy Brown and owned by Home Realty Co.

Firemen were out 25 minutes.

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# Robeson County Firemen's Association Meeting

Recently the Southeast Production Association co-sponsored a barbeque supper for the Robeson County Firemen's Association at their annual ladies night meeting. Approximately 400 persons representing city and rural fire departments in the county attended the event for which Robert E. Ballard, president of Southeast PCA, was the main speaker. Mr. Ballard spoke on the importance of setting goals as they apply to business and personal lives as well as to the fire departments.

Robeson county currently has 21 fire departments composed of 658 volunteer firemen. These departments are backed by six ladies auxiliaries which assist with fund raising and other departmental activities. Southeast PCA is proud to be



Wilson J. (Mutt) McNeill, Robeson County Fire Marshall, addresses city and county firemen and their families.

a part of a county in which so many individuals are willing to volunteer their time and ser-

vice to the protection of the lives and property of their neighbors through the county.



**MOUNT OLIVE — SMITH CHAPEL OFFICERS** — Officers of the Smith Chapel Fire department this year are, from left: Seated, Chief Keith Waller, Assistant Chief Billy Cashwell, Assistant Chief Charlie McClenny and Capt. J. C. Stephenson. Standing, Capt. Norris Jordan, Lt. Dennis Waller, Lt. Steve Waller, Lt. Gene Wolfe, and Chaplain M. R. Rose. Capt. Stevie Jordan was absent when the picture was taken.

Mount Olive  
Tribune Photo

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