



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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Promoting Firefighters

Four firefighters with the Durham Fire Department received promotions on April 15 from Fire Chief J.A. Letzing, left. They are, from left, Milton E. Smith, Ronald W. Oakley, Roger W. Vandergrift, and Steven L. Cole. Cole, Smith, and Vandergrift were promoted from firefighters to firefighter-inspectors,

which involves working with the department's Fire Prevention Bureau. Oakley was promoted from firefighter to fire driver. The promotions were at Fire Station No. 1 in downtown Durham.

Durham Sun Photo

3 Firemen Reach Inspector, 1 Gets Driver

DURHAM — Three firefighters with the Durham Fire Department were promoted to the position of firefighter-inspector on April 15. One fireman was promoted to fire driver.

Promoted to firefighter-inspector were Steven L. Cole, Milton E. Smith and Roger W. Vandergrift.

Ronald W. Oakley was

promoted to fire driver.

The position of firefighter-inspector was authorized by the Durham City Council in 1973. In addition to the regular duties of firefighters, the position entails working with the department's First Prevention Bureau. Some of the bureau's responsibilities include conducting fire safety inspections of public buildings and, by request, private

residences.

The promotion to firefighter-inspections of public buildings, salary increase of five per cent.

Public Safety Director Barry DelCastilho noted that firefighter-inspectors may be

promoted to the position of assistant fire marshal, then to fire marshal. He said this is a promotional route not affected by the public safety program, which combines firefighting and law enforcement.

Moving Day For Firemen

KANNAPOLIS — Members of the Kannapolis Fire Department answered an early morning call on a recent Friday that lasted throughout most of the day. But it was a call very much to their liking.

They were moving into their new facilities, located on N. Church St. about two blocks south of the old ones.

Fire Chief Roy Deyton described the men as "real pleased" with the new station, which was under construction about a year and a half.

"It has several advantages over the old," he pointed out. "It will be about twice the size and will have four bays for trucks instead of two.

"Also, the men who drive the fire trucks will be located immediately adjacent to the new station, and can respond much quicker to alarms.

"Before they leave their quarters, where they are always stationed, they can press buttons which will open

Continued on page 12

Dunn, Erwin Firemen Take Training

DUNN — Dunn and Erwin firemen completed a two-day, 16-hour course in flammable liquids during a recent weekend at the Wilson County Technical Institute.

Among types of fires the classes dealt with were aircraft crashes and gasoline tank blazes.

Attending from Erwin were Sammy Davis, Wayne Wood, Barry Glover, Charles Byrd, Henry Johnson and Al Byrd.

Dunn firemen participating were Billy Barfield, Johnny Godwin, William Lester Johnson, Walter Smith, Harold Godwin, Leon Jernigan, Larry Massengill, Larry Smith and J.W. Edwards.

Hose Battle

MAIDEN — Maiden firemen at a training session recently at the high school had a battle of the hoses. The three-part session was to determine how long it would take firemen to set up at an actual fire. Firemen were divided into teams with John (Butch) Parker's team the first winner. Winner of the second session was Rick Parker's team with a time of one minute. According to Chief Brent Bauguess the third session took 45 seconds with Rick Parker's team the winner. Bauguess added that the only comment he could make was that both teams rated high in his opinion.

Siler City contracts for \$42,000 fire truck

SILER CITY — The town board here voted recently to award more than \$42,000 in bids for a new fire truck.

Welfore-Harris Ford of Siler City was awarded the contract for the chassis of the new vehicle, although its bid of \$17,299.33 was not the lowest submitted.

Chatham Motors, another Siler City firm, submitted the low bid of \$16,255 for the chassis, but Fire Chief Jim Dixon outlined differences between the two pieces of equipment, and the board opted to accept the Welfore-Harris bid.

Dixon discussed rear-axle

requirements and other specifications of the chassis.

Howe Fire Apparatus Co. of Anderson, Ind., submitted the only bid for providing equipment for the chassis, and the town accepted the \$25,629.69 figure.

Several other firms were invited to bid on the apparatus but declined.

In other action, the board voted to instruct town manager Don Tarkenton to contact the Federal Communications Commission in regard to interference problems with television reception in town.



OVER HERE? — Fireman Sam Griffin searches for just the right spot to hand a plaque bearing a picture of Kannapolis firemen whose world record in the hand and grab reel races set in Salisbury in 1933 still stands.

Kannapolis Daily Independent Photo

**THE TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER
and Carolina Rural Firemen**

**"An Independent Voice
for Tarheel Firefighters"**

**Published Monthly
EMILY H. KING, Editor**

send all Editorial and Advertising Copy to:

**207 Jackson St.
Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina 27870**

Editorial

Well, Spring Is Busting Out All Over and no one is more glad than I am to see it on the way! True, we still have some pretty cold nights but that makes the nice temperatures of the day that much better. I, for one, will never forget this past Winter, with all my pipes freezing and busting, and trying to keep inside and stay warm. Hopefully, the fire toll will be alleviated some with the warm weather. So many people returned to the use of open fireplaces, wood heaters, etc., I'm sure it brought the fire toll up some.



EMILY H. KING

I've just returned from a trip back to my old home state of Georgia for the first time in seven years, and all my former "home territory" has been built up so much I hardly knew a lot of it, in fact a lot of it is gone — given way to new roads, etc. Over half of the property that went with the house I was born in now belongs to Interstate 75, although one of my sisters bought it from the estate, and that is where we spent our nights. One of the things I was happy to note was the growth of the Rural Fire Departments, although they still have a long way to go to catch up with my adopted State of North Carolina. They are making progress, though. The last time I was there, the nearest department to my home was eleven miles away, now they have formed one right there in the Community.

While we were over at another of my sisters home about 20 miles away, would you believe my sister started a brush fire? She thought she had it out and, having recently been in the hospital with a heart condition, went in the house to rest a few minutes. When she again came out, the wind had come up and it had caught back up again. It was almost out of control, so they called the Fire Department, but they had it out before the fire department got there. Evidently, their members are not organized like ours are, because that department was only a short distance from her house. Maybe, next time!

When I was a child, it was almost a foregone conclusion that your house and most of your belongings were gone when a fire struck, except for what might be salvaged by neighbors with the help of a bucket brigade, the ones that heard the huge bell high on a pole that everyone had to ring in case of emergencies. It was originally put there to call workers in from the field for their dinner, but used for other things, too.

What a long way the Fire Industry has come in my lifetime! Help in those days was only in the form of your neighbors. They came to help, and cared about helping each other. It's too bad that more people now care less and less about their neighbors and giving a helping hand to them. I guess, though, that is where our Volunteer Departments came from — formed by the same kind of people we used to have who wanted to help anyone in case of a disaster. Many people today never seem to come to the realization that this could be happening to them, and they might need help someday. The pursuit of wealth and success has taken a lot of the old-time goodness out of people today, but thank goodness, we still have those with the understanding and courage who want to help even those who do not appreciate it, until they need it.

It was nice to go home again and see my family, but it was pretty nice to get back to North Carolina, too. After living in N.C. for over 20 years, I guess I'm more of a Tarheel in many ways than a Georgian. I know I wasn't gone long enough to be missed, but I did miss being here, although I was happy to see my family once more.

Glad to be back,

Emily H. King

County firemen take training

CASWELL COUNTY — Firemen from seven of the county's eight fire departments participated in a fire training school during a recent week, sponsored by the Caswell County Firemen's Association and conducted by the Fire and Rescue Training Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

The school began on a Monday evening and continued through Thursday, covering basic fire fighting techniques. The instructor is Mike Shelton of Reidsville.

National Fire Protection Association CALENDAR

July 11-15, 1977	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WEEK , Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Mass.
Oct. 3-7, 1977	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WEEK , Radisson Denver Hotel, Denver, Colo.
Oct. 9-15, 1977	FIRE PREVENTION WEEK , internationally sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association
Nov. 14-17, 1977	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING , Atlanta Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Ga.
Dec. 5-9, 1977	NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WEEK , Holiday Inn O'Hare/Kennedy, Chicago, Ill.

Hendrix Appointed Fire Chief

HENDERSONVILLE — F.C. (Bud) Hendrix was appointed chief of the Hendersonville Fire Department by the Hendersonville City Commission on April 17.

Hendrix, who has been acting chief since Chief Edney retired last Dec. 31, is a 22-year veteran with the city fire department.

He joined the fire department in 1955, advanced through the ranks, and was made assistant fire chief in 1965.

Mayor Boyce Whitmire read a letter to the commissioners from Hugh Randall, civil service commission chairman, in which Randall certified that Hendrix was eligible for appointment as chief based on seniority and past performance.

The commissioners' vote was unanimous.

Since his appointment as acting chief, Hendrix has instituted a vigorous program to upgrade the training status of

Hendersonville firemen, including a 70-hour course in advanced firefighting techniques which all department personnel successfully completed.

Hendrix has also instituted a team inspection and pre-planning program for city business establishments — designed both to locate possible fire hazards and to familiarize firemen with the floor plans of city buildings which has been praised by city merchants.

He has gained the support of county fire officials through his efforts to improve cooperation between the city fire department and the county volunteer departments.

Hendrix and his wife, the former Vera (Tootsie) Lanning, live at 1107 Cherokee Drive. They have a married daughter, Rite, who lives in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Hendrix attends the First United Methodist Church of Hendersonville.



F.C. (BUD) HENDRIX
Hendersonville
Times-News Photo

Firemen Annex Woods Area

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg Volunteer Fire Department annexed the 23,000-acre Cabarrus Woods near the Mecklenburg line in April and revealed plans to build a sub-station on Rocky River Rd.

These actions came quickly after the Cabarrus Board of County Commissioners approved a three-member commission for the Harrisburg department with authority to annex and spend funds that include tax money. Members of the commission are Wayne Cothran, Tom Query and Janice Griffin.

After the three said they favored annexation of Cabarrus Woods, the county attorney presented an annexation document. The annexation became effective immediately.

At the county commissioners' March meeting, there was a controversy over the appointment of the proposed commission for the fire department, the annexation of Cabarrus Woods, and the proposed building of a sub-station.

County Commissioner Troy Cook said that since the March meeting, there had been a meeting of the minds in Harrisburg and opponents of annexation had come to realize annexation would mean more money for the fire district — which has a tax levy.

Harrisburg firemen have been answering calls to Cabarrus Woods, it was pointed out. One of the bones of con-

tention was the use of the fire department's funds, raised over a period of years, to build a sub-station.

Following the annexation of Cabarrus Woods, President D.J. Connell and Secretary C.H. McCall of the Harrisburg Fire Department informed the coun-

ty commissioners of plans to build a sub-station on Rocky River Rd. about 300 feet west of Robinson Rd.

The county commissioners formally appointed three-member commissions for all the fire departments, except

Continued on page 11

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.

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Where Have All The Chasers Gone

BESSEMER CITY — "As soon as we got our hoses connected, we had to spray the crowd before the fires," recalled P.R. Harmon who served as a Bessemer City Fire Chief for twenty-six years.

"We did it to protect the fire spectators and so the firemen could get at the fires to do their work," he pointed out.

Bessemer Citizens have had a love affair with fires for almost ninety years. Fire truck with some of the fire chasers reaching the fires before the fire fighters.

Fascinated by fire, practically the entire town used to turn out to view the more spectacular ones.

"They also followed the truck to grass fires, too," stated both former chiefs Harmon and Jim Schofield.

In the recent year, Bessemer Citizens have started displaying indifference to the sounds of the siren blowing forth from city hall to summon fire fighters.

"Fire followers are few now, stated present fire chief Johnny Goins. "Police started handing out citations, which put a stop to some. But," he added, "We still have the same ole faithfuls who are regulars at fires."

In talking about the city's past spectacular fires, a number were mentioned.

The town's first big fire took place in 1916 when the Lumina Theater burned. It was owned by the late R.F. Coble Sr., an early town mayor.

"Hunt Payne was the operator," Coble Jr. recalled. "The celluloid type film used then caught on fire. It caught about 5:30 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon."

"Most of the town's children had cleared out of the picture show at that hour. No one was burned or injured."

When the wooden theater burned, it caught other frame buildings adjoining it on fire in the 100 block of West Pennsylvania Avenue. Completely burned with the theater were a candy store, grocery store and a dry goods store.

"I worked in Gastonia and when I was called, I started out for Bessemer City. The dirt road was rough then and by the time I got to Bessemer City, everything was in ashes," Bob Coble Jr. stated.

He said he could see the blaze from Gastonia.

People sat on the railroad tracks to watch the fire.

"My daddy was one of the people sitting on the tracks watching the fire. The only thing the firefighters could do was to keep the fire from spreading any more than it did."

Fire fighting equipment then was a two-wheel cart with hose. Bessemer City had water services at that time.



FIRE CHIEF GOINS IN ACTION — Bessemer City Fire Chief Johnny Goins is pictured here directing fire fighters. He says the number of fire truck chasers has fallen off to just a few die-hard followers. "Policemen give citations now if anyone gets in the way of fire fighters." He pointed out, "It is dangerous for spectators to be around a fire and it is a hindrance to the fire fighters to have them there."

Bessemer City Record Photo

On December 27, 1922, a boarding house burned that was located next to the Former Gambrill Mill office building. Two lives were lost, a Mr. Hoffman and his 12-year-old son. The boarding house was operated by a Mrs. Underwood.

The boarding house in the 200 block of East Virginia Ave. caught fire from the John Short house next door that was completely consumed by the fire.

Soon after the Short home and boarding house was lost to fire, the next big fire took place when the Atlas Mill on the corner of 11th Street and Alabama Avenue burned. The mill was not in operation. The building was used for a cotton and waste storage place for the Goldberg Mills.

"Henry Holden was fire chief when the Atlas burned," former Chief Schofield recalls. "Henry was in Charlotte when the fire broke out. He was called and came home to assist the fire

fighters. He said he could see the glow of the fire before he reached Gastonia."

The saddest fire the town has ever experienced took place in 1925 when the Charlie Nicholson residence burned in Vantine Community and resulted in all four of the Nicholsons' four small children burning to death.

The Nicholsons had gone that

Sunday night to church services and left the children locked in the house.

A man passing the Nicholson home saw it was on fire. He broke a window glass when he saw the oldest Nicholson son standing near it holding the baby in his arms.

The draft from the broken wind turned the blaze into a fiery sheet of flames that blocked any attempt of getting the children out of the burning house.

When firemen were able to enter the house, they found all four charred bodies under a bed where they surmised the children had huddled under in seeking refuge from the flames and smoke.

Making the tragedy sadder was the fact that the Nicholsons had just lost a son by drowning. He drowned in Long Creek near the Old Furnace location.

The Goldberg barn located between 8th and 9th streets and off of Louisiana Avenue burned in 1931

Former Fire Chief Schofield recalls the task firemen had in trying to rescue horses from the burning barn.

"When they brought out some of the horses, the horses would run back into the burning barn."

He recalled, "One horse went running through one door back into the barn and burst through a door on the other side getting back out."

Some others recall seeing a number of rats running from the burning barn.

"We took sticks and tried to

kill the rats as they ran out," some remembered.

When Central School burned in October of 1942, Chief Harmon recalled, "Every room in the building was burning at one time. We called for help from the Gastonia fire department."

Carroll Hotel burned on main street in 1945. Matthews Grocery store located next door, burned later. Both fires drew a number of spectators.

When the city hall burned in January of 1949, practically the entire town turned out when two barrels of weed killer stored in the building exploded, sending forth a bombing noise that was heard city-wide.

The first truck parked in the city hall was rolled out.

"When the weed killer exploded, it blew a wall out. Tin sheeting was in between the walls. Sheets of tin blew out into the middle of main street. If it had hit anyone, it would have cut him in two," recalls Chief Harmon.

"Three prisoners were in jail when the city hall burned. They made a racket in wanting out. The officer who had the key to the cell could not be located. Soon he came driving up. When the door to the jail cell was opened, one of the prisoners was down on his knees praying," recalled former Chief Harmon.

The jail prisoners were freed before the weed killer exploded.

The city has had other fires with some resulting in the loss of life. But the ones recalled most vividly were the ones mentioned above. They are ones people remember seeing because they were there. . . .

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BURGAW — FIREMAN HONORED — Andy Paluck of Burgaw, left, is seen as he was presented a plaque, after being named, "Fireman of the Year" by his fellow members of the Burgaw Fire Department. Making the presentation is Charles White, assistant fire chief of the Burgaw department. Paluck, who has been with the fire department for three years, was voted on by the firemen for this honor. Mr. Paluck expressed his appreciation for this honor and also gives much praise to his employer, Charlie Pullen of Western Auto, for being so willing and considerate of Paluck's rushing away from the store duties at the sound of a fire alarm. Approximately sixty persons, including firemen and their wives, Burgaw Town Board members and their wives, were in attendance. A delicious barbecued chicken dinner was enjoyed.

Burgaw Pender Chronicle Photo

County's Fire Departments Got 1,092 Calls During 1976

JOHNSON COUNTY — County Fire Marshal M.J. Oliver has prepared his annual report about the activities of Johnston County's 24 volunteer fire departments during 1976. Here are the highlights of his report, by individual department:

Antioch — 14 alarms answered; property damaged — \$16,000; property saved — \$95,600.

Archer Lodge — 20 alarms answered; property damaged — \$13,400; property saved — \$15,000.

Benson — 84 alarms answered; property damaged — \$41,300; property saved — \$177,200.

Bentonville — Five alarms answered; property damaged — \$2,900; property saved — \$112,000.

Bethany — 14 alarms answered; property damaged — \$7,000; property saved — \$12,025.

Blackman's Crossroads — 12 alarms answered; property damaged — \$18,000; property saved — \$2,000.

Brogden — 29 alarms answered; property damaged — \$13,500; property saved — \$106,000.

Clayton — 35 alarms answered; property damaged — \$37,760; property saved — \$87,740.

Cleveland — 35 alarms answered; property damaged — \$12,700; property saved — \$38,800.

Corinth-Holder — 21 alarms answered; property damaged — \$7,950; Property saved — \$20,050.

Elevation — Nine alarms answered; property damaged — \$4,850; property saved — \$38,900.

Four Oaks — 55 alarms answered; property damaged — \$352,425; property saved — \$472,525.

50-210 — 15 alarms answered; property damaged — \$39,300; property saved — \$53,200.

Kenly — 151 alarms answered; property damaged — \$103,050; property saved — \$53,200.

Kenly — 151 alarms answered; property damaged — \$103,050; property saved — \$364,900.

Meadow — 35 alarms answered; property damaged — \$30,900; property saved — \$41,000.

Micro — 19 alarms answered; property damaged — \$27,000; property saved — \$65,000.

Pine Level — 32 alarms answered; property damaged — \$24,140; property saved — \$215,860.

Princeton — 57 alarms answered; property damaged — \$80,550; property saved — \$717,450.

Selma — 141 alarms answered; property damaged — \$101,620; property saved — \$839,530.

Smithfield — 257 alarms answered; property damaged — \$174,912; property saved — \$326,108.

Strickland — 17 alarms answered; property damaged — \$4,750; property saved — \$6,750.

Thanksgiving — 10 alarms answered; property damaged — \$3,750; property saved — \$1,000.

West Johnston — 15 alarms answered; property damaged — \$4,800; property saved — \$1,700.

Wilson's Mills — 32 alarms answered; property damaged — \$66,000; property saved — \$158,200.

Total — 1,092 alarms answered; property damaged — \$1,188,557; property saved — \$3,960,538.

Major Woods Fire Narrowly Averted By Quick Response

WARRENTON — Fire that originated when a tenant farmer burned over his garden in a high wind recently had already spread to nearby woods when the Warrenton Rural Fire Company arrived on the scene at the home of Willard Alston on the farm of Marie Alston near Parktown at 12:55 p.m.

"Had the firemen arrived five minutes later it would have probably burned to Liberia," Fire Chief A.A. Wood commented.

Nine men and three trucks responded to the call and were successful in putting out the fire after it had burned over about an acre of woods.

That fire was one of five fires that resulted in calls to the local rural firemen during the week.

A brush fire at the Burwell Powell home near Inez was extinguished by Warrenton Rural Firemen. The fire originated from a fallen power line. Four men and one truck responded to the call.

The rural firemen were aided by a forestry plow when they responded to a call to a woods fire on lands of a paper company between Inez and Arcola.

The local company dispatched one truck and four men where they were joined by the Arcola Rural Firemen. The fire was extinguished with water and foam. Fire originated from a tractor fire. Damage was not reported.

The Warrenton Company dispatched three men and a woods truck to Halifax County where a logger tractor was on fire near Highway 561. The men from the parent company joined the Arcola Company which dispatched two trucks to the scene. The fire was extinguished. Damage was not reported.

Fire men and one truck were dispatched to the home of Rev. Mr. Burnett, near Kearney's Garage, Route 3, Warrenton, at 11:30 another day, where they extinguished a trash fire.

Fourteen men, two trucks and a crash wagon were dispatched to the home of Marshall Stegal the next day at 9:30 a.m. The firemen used water extinguishing a grass, woods and outbuilding fire.

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Parker home totaled

MONROE — The home of Mrs. Dessie Parker, Rt. 4, Monroe was totally destroyed recently by a fire that took 30 minutes to control. The Sandy Ridge Volunteer Fire Department,

assisted by Stacks Road, fought the blaze. The cause of the fire was unknown and under investigation.

Monroe Enquirer-Journal Photo

Plant heavily damaged

SEABOARD — A fire which apparently started near compressors somewhere underneath the Union Camp sawmill here at 3 a.m. recently left in its wake damage estimated at more than one million dollars.

William Skipworth, plant superintendent stated that the estimate of one million dollars damage is "very conservative indeed." He added that insurance would very likely total the damage "much higher."

Terry Bishop, assistant plant superintendent stated one which foreman and two maintenance men were on hand when the fire was detected but by the time the Seaboard Fire Department arrived, the building was engulfed by flames.

The blaze raged on for approximately two hours and was

finally brought under control sometime around 5 a.m., according to Bishop.

"The estimated value of the chip-n-saw machinery inside the complex was almost a million by itself," Bishop stated. The assistant superintendent also added that "everything in reach of the blaze either burned or melted" as a result of the intense heat.

Plant Superintendent Skipworth stated that there would not be layoffs due to the blaze because some shifts were sent to the Franklin, Va., Plant and others continued with the bark process and other jobs at the Seaboard site.

Blaze destroys apartment

WINSTON-SALEM — A fire destroyed one apartment in Columbia Terrace recently and caused heavy damage to an adjacent dwelling, fire officials reported.

Fire investigators said the fire began on one side of a two-apartment duplex on Timlic Avenue about 2:45 a.m. and eventually spread to the apartment next door.

The investigators said the exact cause of the blaze has not been determined, but it appears to have been electrical in nature.

No injuries were reported, but damage to the structure and contents of the apartments is expected to be well over \$5,000.

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Fire destroys vacant house

SANFORD — Fire destroyed a vacant house on Carthage Street recently, according to firemen.

The house, which belonged to W.W. Seymour, Rt. 9, Sanford, was the former Buffalo Club, which had been converted. According to reports, no one had lived in the house for a year.

Fire Chief Sam Bost said firemen found the fire by accident. "Firemen went to investigate some smoke and found the house totally burned down," he said. "I guess it was a case where all the neighbors thought each other had called the fire department."

Bost said no one was supposed to be staying in the house, although firemen found some remains of furniture inside the house.

He added that a man had been seen by the neighbors going in and out of the house, but Seymour said no one had lived in the house for a year.

Firemen found no evidence that anyone was in the house during the fire.

The cause of the fire was undetermined. Bost said he does not know whether the fire was accidental or whether it had been set on purpose.

The fire spread from the house to the surrounding property, but the burned area was small. Bost said the cost of the damages had not been estimated.

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Manteo Coastland Times Photo

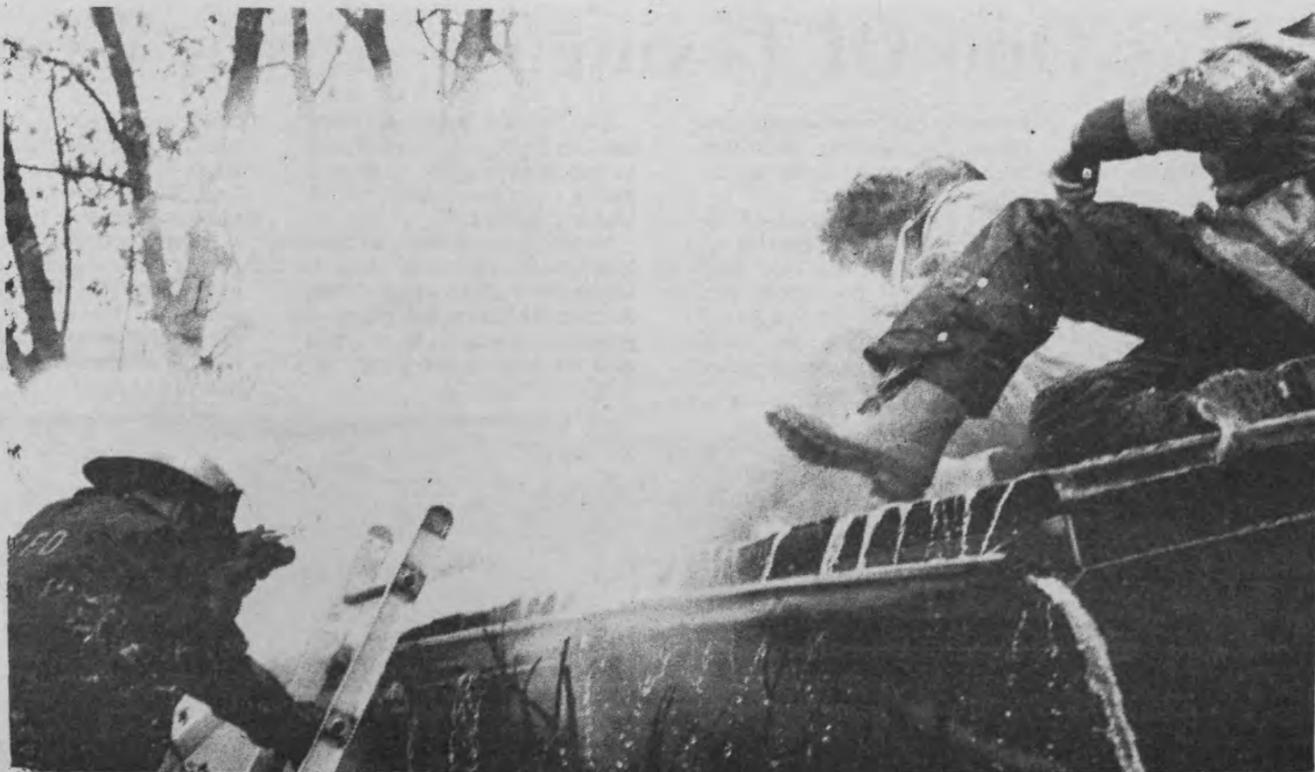


Just practicing

GASTONIA — Maybe you don't recognize them, but that's Capt. Roy Stowe and Firemen Dan Moore and Bill Jeffers 75 feet up during a practice exercise at Fire Station No. 1 W. Second Avenue. This particular truck was purchased last year at a cost of \$175,000. These firemen were preparing an agility test, which will be used in the future to screen all fire department applicants.

Gastonia Gazette Photo

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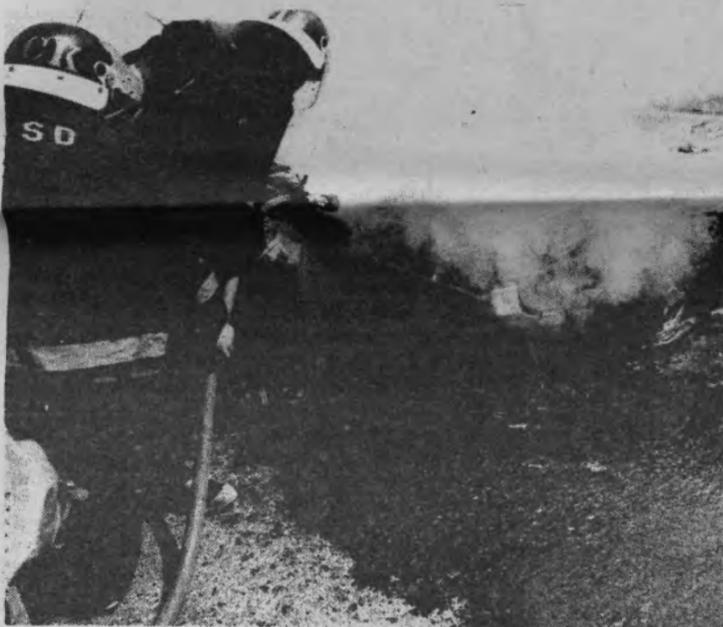


Heat and smoke push firemen back

SILER CITY — A nineteen-year-old physically handicapped girl was killed when flames swept her Siler City home. Efforts by her family, hospital personnel and firemen to reach the girl in the flaming house were unsuccessful due to the dense smoke and heat from the fire that gutted the two story house.

Numerous firemen were overcome by the intense heat and smoke, many such as above were forced from their positions as they battled the stubborn blaze.

Pittsboro Chatham Record Photo



KANNAPOLIS — DANGEROUS SITUATION — Bill Byrd of Mason St. escaped injury recently when his car caught fire while he was driving on Mooresville Rd. near Franklin St. Byrd stopped his car, got out, and called the Kannapolis Sanitary District Fire Department. Firemen were at the scene for about 20 minutes, putting out the fire and cleaning up. The 1968 Oldsmobile was destroyed.

Kannapolis Independent Photo

Home sustains fire damage

ASHEVILLE — The home of Mrs. Lucile G. Wilson at 49 Hudson St., was damaged by fire on a recent morning, according to a spokesman for the Asheville Fire Department, who said a bedroom was gutted by flames and other parts of the house suffered heat and smoke damage.

A neighbor phoned in the alarm, according to the firemen, who said the owner was out of town when the fire started. Two engines responded at 1:37 a.m.

The fire rekindled that afternoon and was quickly extinguished a second time. The cause of the fire was not determined.

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Truck Wreck Was One Of Lexington Area's Worst

From The Lexington Dispatch
By **ROBERT PAGE**
LEXINGTON — Alarm spread rapidly through the county recently following the tanker truck wreck on I-85 north of Lexington.

The 620 children at Pilot School, three-quarters of a mile from the wreck, were kept inside the building on the advice of civil preparedness authorities.

Firemen wearing breathing apparatus spread lime on the spilled chemical.

Forty sticks of dynamite at Cecile's Crushed Stone quarry were detonated to avert the danger of an unexpected explosion.

Traffic on temporary I-85 was detoured onto Old 29 shortly after 9 A.M. the Highway did not reopen until 1 A.M. the following morning, making it the worst truck wreck in the memory of highway patrolmen in Davidson County.

Wayne J. Savalli, 35, of Vincentown, N.C., the driver of the chemical truck, was instantly in the 8:15 A.M. wreck. He leaves a wife and two or three children behind, according to Don Waldt, regional manager of the Transport Associates, the company that paid his salary.

The man in the sleeper compartment of the chemical truck, Joe Chant, 42, of Delanco, N.J. was cut deeply on the leg and bruised. He was in good condition at Community General Hospital.

Lester Gearren, 53, of Asheboro, the driver of the Department of Transportation gravel truck that had pulled out

into the southbound land of the highway in front of the chemical truck was slightly injured and taken to Community General Hospital.

No charges were filed. The chemical truck was enroute to Taylor, S.C. from the Bristol Pa., plant of Rohm & Haas, a billion-dollar chemical firm.

The truck contained a blend of glacial methacrylic acid, ethyl acrylate and methyl acrylate. The blend is an emulsifier often used to make textile coatings.

Technically, the chemical is not toxic, but rescue workers had burned feet and red and watery eyes. Nine DOT workers exposed to the chemical were taken to Randolph Memorial Hospital, and one was admitted, according to the Davidson County Ambulance Service.

Other people in contact with the chemical or its fumes complained of dizziness and fatigue. The chemical gave a sharp odor that seeped into clothing.

The chemical is a volatile and as likely to burn as gasoline, according to Stuart Heil, a Rohm and Haas environmental control engineer who flew to the scene from the company's plant in Knoxville, Tenn.

Approximately 50 firemen, from the Pilot, Fair Grove, Silver Valley, Thomasville and Lexington departments, were on hand for the cleanup work that afternoon.

A second chemical truck was dispatched to the scene from Greensboro, and Rohm & Haas engineers pumped the chemical out of the crumpled trailer into it.

Heil said that detouring traffic had been a wise move. "If

someone had come along and flipped a cigarette into that mess, they could have set the whole thing off."

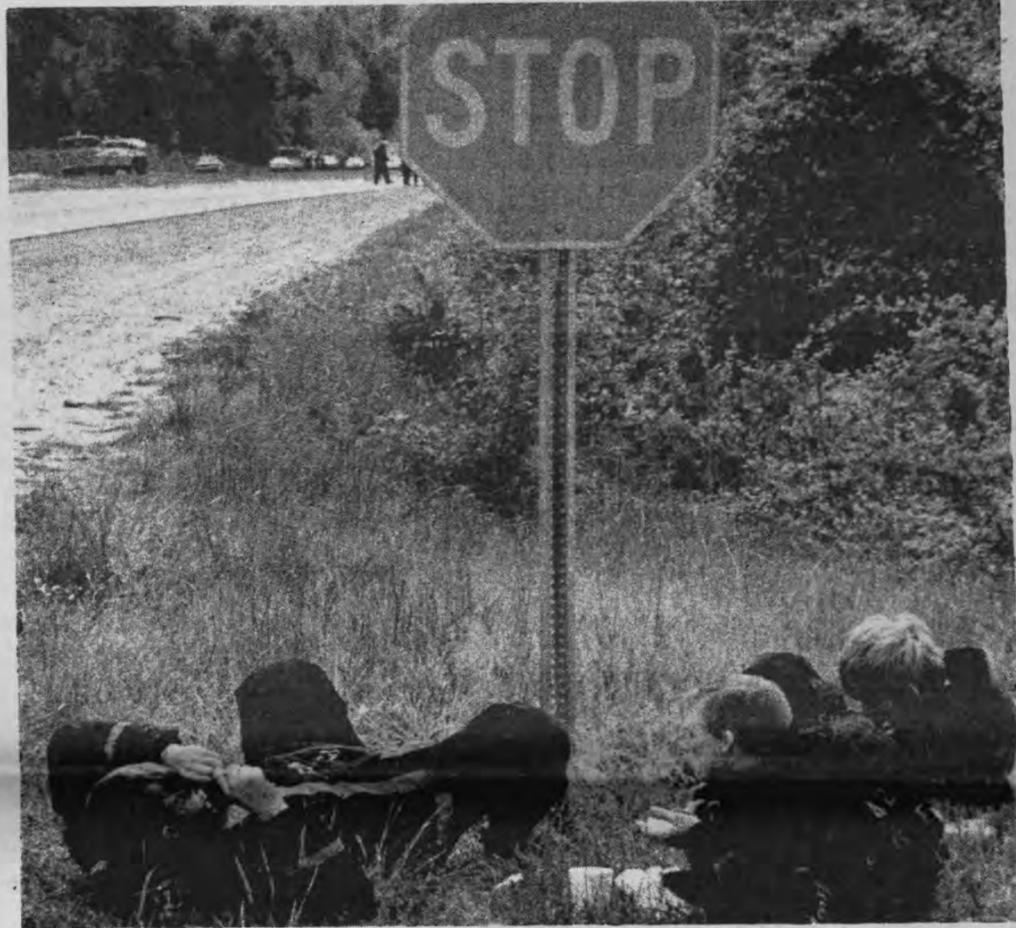
The truck had contained approximately 4,000 gallons of the chemical. Officials said they did not know how much had leaked out. Two piles of gravel were dumped in the ditch alongside the highway down from the wreck.

The cleanup work continued into the night, as groups of men in rescue gear stood in groups joking, as they often do at major disasters.

Waldt, whose driver had been killed, was angry with the circumstances of the wreck. "You don't drive down the highway expecting a guy to be stopped over the crest of every hill," he said.

A trio of wrecker trucks from Charlotte rolled the chemical truck onto its back and over onto its right side, before finally pulling it upright.

It had lain on its left side, wheels in the ditch, after the wreck. Savalli, the driver who was killed, had been pinned under the left saddle tank. It took rescue workers an hour and a half to free him.



Fair Grove firemen take a break from chemical fumes during the clean-up work. Lexington Dispatch Photo

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Fire Damage Is Heavy In Oxford

OXFORD — A fire that apparently originated around a pot left on the eye of a stove gutted a two story Oxford home on a recent afternoon.

Fire officials here say damages may run as high as \$40,000.

Fire Chief A.F. Cozart said the home of Maynard Gentry on Front Street caught fire about 3:15 p.m. after Mrs. Gentry left a pot boiling on a stove in the kitchen while she stepped outside for a few minutes.

When she returned, the kitchen was on fire, he said. Cozart said the fire spread from the kitchen cabinets across a hall in the back of the house, and up the stairs to the second floor.

He said about 60 per cent of the home was damaged by fire and water.

Cozart said it took volunteer firemen over an hour to extinguish the blaze, which destroyed a number of antiques the Gentrys had collected over the years.

Gentry, a local funeral home operator, said he had no idea how high damage estimates would run, "It'll be a lot, I know that," he said.

Cozart said no one in the Gentry family was injured in the fire, but Gentry's dog died of suffocation.

Fire Damages Tool Company

WINSTON-SALEM — A fire ignited by sparks from an acetylene torch caused about \$6,000 damage to the old Swift and Co. building at 211 E. Third Street recently, according to fire officials.

The building is now occupied by the Forsyth Industrial Tool

Co., and workmen were doing some work on the second floor when the fire broke out there at about 3:25 p.m. None were injured, fire officials said.

Damage to the building was estimated at \$4,000; damage to material inside was estimated at \$2,000.



RUTHERFORDTON — A LITTLE TOO LATE — Rutherfordton fireman pour the water to a flaming house on Elm Street but it is obvious that the building is too far gone to salvage. The firemen were able to control the balze and prevent it from spreading to nearby houses. The house, which was completely destroyed, was vacant at the time of the fire.

Rutherford County News Photo

Flames Destroy Wilkesboro Home



BATTLE FIRE — Wilkesboro firemen battle Westwood Hills fire on a recent morning. North Wilkesboro Journal-Patriot Photo

WILKESBORO — Flames destroyed a house on Holly Road in West Wood Hills, Wilkesboro recently.

A truck driver on U.S. 421 reported the fire at five a.m. when he saw flames, according to information from the Wilkesboro Fire Department.

Firemen said that when they arrived the home, rented by

Mickie Rhodes from Kent Mc-Neil, was engulfed in flames.

No cause for the fire could be determined. The home was described by Wilkesboro firemen as a 100 per cent loss.

Value of the home was estimated at \$40,000 or more. There was partial insurance on the house, the firemen said.

No one was at home when the fire started.

Although the home couldn't be saved, firemen kept the fire from spreading to woods and nearby houses.

Wilkesboro Fire Department was called to the scene at 9:30 a.m. when the fire flared again.

Morning fire burns house

NASHVILLE — A house three miles southeast of here was destroyed by fire on a recent morning, Nashville and West Mount firemen said.

The blaze of unknown origin was reported at 4:06 a.m. The house, owned by John A. Daughtridge and rented by George Lancaster, was valued at \$8,500 and destroyed. Contents, valued at \$2,500, were also destroyed.

Firemen said the house was insured but not its contents.

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Involvement Came 'After Hours', In Retirement

From The
Durham Herald
By BETTY HODGES
Herald Women's Editor

John S. Curtiss got involved in the needs of the northern area of Durham after he retired but Lewis C. Garrett found out he could make a difference by using his "after hours" time while he still held a full-time job. Both of them were named Key Volunteers recently in the annual recognition program that the Durham Morning Herald co-sponsors with the Volunteer Services Bureau.

Curtiss, a scholarly former professor of history at Duke University, was named in the "Over 60" category for spearheading both the

Carrington Community Education program and the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

It was the fire department that came first. Curtiss had retired in June of '69 when he decided to put his knowledge of the area around his Guess Road home to work in doing something worthwhile.

That something was pinpointed when a fire at the Hardin house of Infinity Road took the lives of two sleeping children.

"In those days this part of the county had to depend on Fire Truck No. 1 from the fire station downtown," he said. "And it took ten minutes or more for it to get out here."

The answer was obvious, he said: a neighborhood volunteer fire department.

With community sentiment aroused by the Hardin deaths Curtiss found out he didn't have to "twist any arms" to get people out to a meeting to get things started.

Quicker than he thought possible the group had organized, gotten four acres donated for a station site and mounted a campaign to vote in a fire tax to finance a building and equipment.

Curtiss was deeply involved in it all until the building was up, the truck bought and the outfit was ready to start putting out fires.

At that point, he was ready to turn it over to people like Dewey Davis, who qualified as a driver, and Marshall Fowler who qualified as a fire marshal

from his work at Duke.

"Pretty soon we were in business putting out fires." Curtiss says with pride.

Not realizing he was ripe for another project, the now experienced community organizer went to an Association of Retired Persons meeting and was intrigued by a film on a project in Flint, Mich., that documented ways to utilize school buildings after class hours.

"That gave me an idea," Curtiss said, and he was off again.

Checking around, he found that a lot of people "out our way" were traveling into town to take courses at Durham Technical Institute and he decided they'd be likely candidates for night courses in the area schools.

Carrington Junior High School principal Dennis Mc-

Carrington project and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and came up with a grant that financed a full-time director.

With Mrs. Barbara Foster at the helm the program was able to increase enrollment and offer classes two nights a week instead of just one.

There were setbacks, though. Efforts to plan something for out-of-school youngsters during the summer time and a program designed especially for senior citizens came to naught.

But a request for a federal funds to enlarge the program resulted in an \$89,000 grant and the Carrington project found itself attracting attention as a model for community education programs.

And with everything running smoothly, Curtiss has been able to sit back, just as he did with the fire department, and let

another big project right away.

"I've got a book on Russia's Crimean War that I'm getting ready for publication by the Duke Press and I'm spending what time I'm not ringing doorbells working on that," he says.

Red Cross Executive director Cynthia Reardon called Lewis Garrett "Mr. Red Cross in Durham" for his countless contributions to the local organization, but Garrett declines the title.

"There are too many 'Mr. Red Crosses' and 'Mrs. Red Crosses' to give the title to any one person," he protests.

Rather than admit to the impressive list of things he's done in the more than 40 years he's spent as a Red Cross volunteer he prefers to make two points:

"One — Red Cross is working with people and there is an opportunity in it for everyone who wants to help people.

"Two — The Red Cross is such a diversified organization that there is a job for every interest. And ordinary person can find something there he wants to do."

It's obvious that he is sold on the program. Called the night of his selection as Key Volunteer in the "After Hours" category, Garrett had plenty of time to talk. His wife was out of town, as a Red Cross disaster case worker helping the West Virginia mountain people rendered homeless by recent heavy floods.

"She just called this morning to say she was through there but she was being sent to Baton Rouge, La., to help victims of the flood there this week."

It's just an example, Garrett said, of the constant service the Red Cross renders without making any noise about it.

Garrett himself does most, but not all, of his Red Cross work closer home.

Inspired by the loss of a friend in a drowning accident, he first volunteered to teach a swimming and life saving course in hopes similar accidents could be prevented.

"Only this afternoon," Garrett said, "a gentleman came up to me in a store and asked if I remembered teaching him first aid seven or eight years ago. Then he told me the knowledge he had acquired in that course helped him save a life. This happens frequently and it makes it all worthwhile."

Over his years with the Red Cross, Garrett has worked with first aid, disaster, swimming and water safety, both as instructor and instructor trainer. He has put in time with the advisory council, worked with volunteers and safety programs on a divisional level and given time on the national level as well.

He's given a total of six gallons of blood and gives at least 40 hours in any one month to Red Cross work of one kind or another.

When there is a need for him to teach classes in the daytime or to travel as an adviser or trainer he simply takes vacation time.

Last year he put in over 800 volunteer hours and already this month he's put in 74 hours. "I keep account of it just for curiosity," he says.

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Curtiss (left), Garrett
Durham Herald Photo

Caskill was receptive to the idea and County School Superintendent Frank Yeager gave his okay.

It wasn't smooth sailing from there on but things did take shape pretty rapidly.

DTI's Dr. Ben Gunn took over and organized a shoestring program with an enrollment of 112 in seven courses the first year.

But on a \$5-per-course fee it wasn't always easy even to pay the janitor and Curtiss knew he had to go looking for money.

He had had Mrs. Mary Duke Semans in one of his history classes so he used her as an intermediary between the

others handle things.

Still, he's found time to work on a few smaller projects, like getting out the vote for the bond issue to build county schools, to ring doorbells for the library bond issue and is even now to ring doorbells for the library bond issue and is even now circulating petitions to strengthen the Forest Hills and Stanford L. Warren branch libraries and establish one in the northern part of the county.

"We won't get all we're asking for, but we're hoping for something," he says optimistically.

Nor is Curtiss looking for

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Firefighters Exercise Better Than Television

KINGS MOUNTAIN — It was better than television.

Maybe that's why numerous Kings Mountians came out on E. King St. on a recent night to watch the members of eight different fire departments in action.

Although at first passersby were alarmed when they saw the old wood house, belonging to the Mary Lipford estate, going up in flames they were soon sitting back and enjoying the spectacle of firefighters conducting a controlled burn exercise.

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Gene Tignor said the exercise was held in conjunction with the Cleveland County Fire School. Classes were held all week, taught by Bill Allred of the N.C. State Insurance Department.

Participating in the exercise were members of the Kings Mountain, Grover, Oak Grove, Bethlehem, Cleveland County, Shelby, Casar and Earl (No. 3) fire departments.

A total of 55 firefighters were involved throughout the evening as the old house was set afire repeatedly until the structure was completely consumed.

During the exercise three firemen sustained minor injuries; two men inhaled smoke and a third cut his knee in a fall.

In the early stages of the burn firefighters were sent into the house to fight small fires, then later, when the walls and roof were blazing, the firefighters took up positions around the house to contain the fire to the one site.

The weather was hot and dry and no winds stirred, but one unit was detailed to keep a ready eye and firehose on flying sparks. Another fireman took a position beside a metal walled carwash beside the Lipford house to douse the walls when the heat became intense.

Twice during the exercise units were pulled away to assist in real emergencies. The units in the exercise were about one third the strength of the individual departments participating.

Charles Carpenter, local magistrate, told The Mirror-Herald during the burn there was criticism of the exercise and the destruction of the house.

"Some persons feel the materials in the house could have been used again, or that the materials could have been given to citizens to use as fuel," he said.

Carpenter said the house was offered to a salvage company, but that the fee asked for tearing the house down and hauling it away was very high. As an alternative the house was offered to the fire department and permission to burn the house was given the department in writing.

The house on E. King St. was built in 1920. In 1939 the house was bought by Mayor J.B. Thomasson and is currently in the Mary Lipford estate.

As the last wall of the structure was crumbling in flames, Chief Tignor, said, "I used to live in that house, too."



SILHOUETTES — Members of the Kings Mountain Fire Department are silhouetted against the flames that destroyed the Mary Lipford estate home on E. King St. as a part of a training exercise.

Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald Photo

Fire course completed

ALBERTSON — A 42-hour course in basic principles of firefighting has been completed by 17 members of the Albertson Volunteer Fire Department at James Sprunt Institute.

Among the firepersons

Firemen Annex Woods Area

Continued from page 2

Wincoff. This commission will be named in May.

Two county commissioners — Vice Chairman Robert A. McClary and Miss Marcelle Milloway — expressed unhappiness over the refusal by local legislators to introduce a bill that would give fire departments the right to vote on their three-member commissions.

McClary said some people have contended that legislators should not get involved in purely local problems. "Why are they in Raleigh if they don't want to become involved?" he asked.

It was pointed out that one legislator had introduced legislation providing the election of the Kannapolis Board of Education.

Miss Milloway said one legislator had tried to get people to vote on bingo, but was unwilling to allow fire districts to elect their commissions.

Commissioner Troy Cook and William O. Richards, Cabarrus director of emergency services,

said they preferred the present procedure of appointing the fire commissions. The county attorney was asked to study the procedures and develop some guidelines. S. Glenn Hawfield Jr., chairman of the county commissioners, said his main concern was for volunteer firemen, and he did not want anything to interfere with their spirit and their work.

receiving certificates were Mrs. Harry Stroud and Jackie Stroud, also the daughter of Fire Chief and Mrs. Harry Stroud, Melissa, who attended the sessions with her parents and received an honorary certificate.

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Lexington residence damaged by blaze

LEXINGTON — Fire which apparently started in a bedroom closet caused extensive damage to that room in the residence of Curtis G. Alford Sr. on Fairview Drive.

Lexington firefighters answered the call at 11:55 a.m. and had the fire under control within about 10 minutes, a spokesman said, although they remained on the scene until 1:05

p.m.

Firefighters were unable to determine the cause of the fire, however, as no apparent source of ignition was found.

Damage was extensive in the bedroom, but damages in furnishings in the rest of the house consisted of some heat and smoke damage.

Two trucks, manned by 17 firefighters, answered the call.

Firm damaged by blaze

FUQUAY-VARINA — A fire of undetermined origin caused extensive damage to Admas Concrete Co. on U.S. 401 north of Fuquay-Varina about 5:18 p.m. recently.

The fire was at the same location where a truck was destroyed by fire the previous evening causing \$12,000 damage to the truck.

Douglas E. Knott, chief of the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department, said firemen and Wake County Sheriff's Department are investigating the fires to see if arson is involved.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000 to the building and \$8,000 to the contents of the office, Knott said.

The fire was confined to the ceiling above the office, he said, but smoke and water damage was extensive.



Stan Martin, left, with Chief Lester Pulliam
Madison Messenger Photo

Retired Fireman Honored

MAYODAN — The Mayodan Fire Department honored retired fireman J. Stan Martin, 68, in April when Chief Lester Pulliam presented Martin with a plaque honoring his 20 years

of service to the department. Pulliam expressed gratitude to Martin and all former firemen for their service to the community.

Martin commented "We have about the same number of firemen, as when I began. The difference is we now have younger faces and new blood. When I started there was only one truck and now the equip-

ment is much superior."

Martin also said courses offered firemen now make the department much more efficient.

He said "the worst fire I ever saw during my years on the force was Dec. 11, 1957 when the Mayodan Lumber Plant burned to the ground. It was a bad fire and an awful cold day."

Moving Day For Firemen

Continued from page 1

the bay doors before they arrive.

One of the things firemen are most pleased with is the shower room — there was none in the old quarters — lined with lockers

and several showers. This gives them an opportunity to clean up before returning home, or to work, after fighting a fire.

There is also an assembly room adequate for the 20 firemen, and a large storage space overhead.

Deyton estimates that it will take several weeks to get settled into the new facilities. When everything is in order, he hopes to have Open House and invite the public.

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