



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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NOVEMBER 1977

Claremont VFD presents program to 400 children

Submitted by
Marshall N. Butler, Capt.
Claremont Fire Dept.
Claremont, N.C.

CLAREMONT — On October 14, 1977, the Claremont Volunteer Fire Department gave a fire prevention program to 400 children of the Claremont Elementary School. The program consisted of talks on fire prevention and fire safety. In addition, two films were shown on fire safety in the home. Later, the children were given literature that was donated by the Catawba County Fire Marshall's Office.

After the program, the children were given a tour of the newest fire truck of the department. The truck is a 1977 Howe, COE with canopy cab and pre-mounted "quick release" deluge unit. The department accepted delivery of this truck in October 1977.

The volunteers giving the program were: Chief Rupert Little, Assistant Chief (rural) Gene



All of the Claremont trucks are "white" in color. One of the most asked questions by the children was as to why the trucks are white instead of the traditional red.

Scruggs, Assistant Chief (city) Charles Pope, Captain Marshall Butler, Lieutenant Joe Carpenter, and firemen Rick Kale, Jerry Peeler, and Tommy Lambert.

Firemen Praised For Saving Life

GREENSBORO — Jerry S. Price and Rick Gentry, Greensboro firefighters, were commended in October by Greensboro Fire Chief R.L. Powell for saving the life of a young Greensboro College coed recently at the agricultural fair here.

Price and Gentry used the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge a particle of food stuck in the coed's throat, said Powell. Kimberly Maynor, 20 of 117 Elmwood Terrace was taken to a local hospital and released later that night.

The two firefighters were manning the city fire department's booth at the fair at the time Ms. Maynor was choking. A man led her to the booth where Price and Gentry were. Both men had training in the use of the Heimlich maneuver and had demonstrated it throughout the week at the booth.

Ms. Maynor had a piece of pizza lodged in her throat which cut off her breathing. According to Powell, a choking victim under such circumstances could die in four minutes.

YRAC installs new system

CARY — In July of this year, YRAC Rural Fire Dept. completed installation of a new Jet Assist Quick System on their 1200 gallon tanker. The system was installed by members of the fire department, holding overall costs to a minimum.

This system will allow the department to dump 1200 gallons of water in approximately 55 seconds. Using the quick dump in conjunction with a 1500 gallon portable tank, allows a more continuous supply of water at the scene of a fire.

The system was recently demonstrated to the Wake County Fire Chief's, with the assistance of the Morrisville Fire Dept. Morrisville more recently completed installation of gravity dump systems on their tankers. The demonstration was an effort to have standards set for a basic system to be used by all depart-

ments in the Wake County System.

Submitted by
Alan R. Anderson
YRAC Rural Fire Dept.
Publicity Committee

Chief Participates In Conference

CHAPEL HILL — Chapel Hill Fire Chief Everette L. Lloyd was a key participant in a national conference held in St. Louis, Mo., October 24-26, focusing on "Policy Leadership in Fire Protection."

The three-day conference, a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration project, was hosted this year by the St. Louis Fire Department. All conference sessions were held in the Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, Convention Plaza, St. Louis, Mo.

New Fire Prevention Code Now In Use

CONCORD — The Concord Fire Department is now operating under provisions of the 1976 edition of the Fire Prevention Code.

Chief Roy Deyton said he anticipates adoption of the new code by the Kannapolis Fire Department, and other fire-fighting units, "as soon as we've had a chance to study it thoroughly. It sounds like a good code, and we have to be prepared for emergencies involving various gases and other hazardous materials."

The new edition replaces the 1970 edition and was drafted by engineers of the American Insurance Association to prescribe regulations consistent with nationally recognized standards for the safeguarding of life and property from hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous materials.

According to Donald Moody, assistant chief and director of the fire prevention bureau at the Concord Fire Department, the new edition contains some major revisions for storage of combustible fibers, dry cleaning plants and explosives and some minor revisions to various other sections of the code.

New provisions were added for regulating facilities for liquified natural gas, gases, and hazardous materials in laboratories and highly toxic materials including pesticides.

Moody said the city does not have many of the hazards covered by such a code, but he added:

"A growing community is subject to having these hazards introduced sooner or later and it is better to be prepared for them than to allow them to develop unrestricted and then try to regulate them."

Interest in fighting fires leads to profitable business

From The Hickory Daily Record

By CHARLENE HAVNAER

HICKORY — An interest in firefighting has taken James R. Pitts, a 39-year-old Hickory native, a long way in the last 15 years.

Starting out as a \$400 per month fireman with the city fire department, Pitts has taken firefighting and turned it into a profitable business.

Through a great deal of initiative and self-instruction, the Hickory High School graduate has gone from on-the-scene firefighting to owning one of about 40 businesses in the United States capable of meeting the fire prevention needs of companies with special hazards.

Special hazards include computer rooms, press rooms, furniture factory paint rooms and others for which, once ablaze, water would not serve as an effective extinguisher.

"No two systems are alike. I take the individual needs and design an individual system for each hazard," he said.

Owner of Pitts Fire Safety Service Inc., he designs and installs automatic extinguishing systems for about 20 businesses per month in an area covering four states. The company, at 815 First Ave., SW, is the only one in the two Carolinas offering the service.

"We survey a man's needs for automatic protection and determine the type of chemical that should be applied to meet his needs," he explained.

The company also sells and services portable fire extinguishers. Pitts does all the selling and designing and four employees install the systems.

He said he likes designing systems more than fighting fires because he "can help more people



James R. Pitts With Fire Extinguisher Parts
Hickory Daily Record Photo

out and meet more people.

It's a challenge. Each job requires something new. My training from the fire department comes in handy because once you've been in the business for so long you can tell where the fire started," he explained.

"Information as to the origin of fires helps me design other systems.

"It's an interesting field; one I wanted to get into from the very start, but I knew I needed a lot of background," he said.

Since 1962 when he joined the Hickory Fire Department, Pitts has been gathering experience.

In a field where a knowledge of engineering is important, Pitts said he often wishes he had a college education, but that he compensated for not having one by reading a lot and through self-instruction.

After four years of fighting fires, Pitts said he realized a need in the Hickory area for a company offering a portable fire extinguisher service.

"Being a fireman, I had seen so many people get burned up, I wanted to get into something that met a need for the public, something I could help people

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**THE TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER
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"An Independent Voice
for Tarheel Firefighters"
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EMILY H. KING, Editor**

send all Editorial and Advertising Copy to:

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Editorial

Wouldn't you know, with blood pressure down, looking forward to a week of hitting the road to see as much as I could of the various activities in different places pertaining to Fire Prevention Week, something else would happen to keep me away? This time it was my "better half" who became ill a few days before the week started, then had to be hospitalized and needed someone with him constantly on his return home. I don't mean to sound heartless, but his condition is something he brings on himself, and his nearest relative is over 100 miles away and couldn't relieve me anyway, since she has to work. My family all are 500 miles away or more, retired or working. So there was no one to relieve me, and it always seems to happen when I least expect it, or when I have something planned for myself. Oh well, better luck next year, I hope.

I also hope I'll be getting pictures, newspaper clippings, etc. from you about your celebration of Fire Prevention Week. I can never promise to see that all of them are printed, at least not in one issue, but outstanding ones could be printed later possibly, because Fire Prevention should never be limited to a one-week affair, anyway.

For the past few days we've had a lot of rain and the weather has been getting much colder — a foretaste of Winter, to remind us to get ready, I'm sure the warm weather will return soon, at least during the daytime. We've had warnings of a shortage of electricity — now that's going to be a big help to me when we have only recently moved into a total electric home! I was glad I wouldn't have to worry about getting flues cleaned out — now I'm going to

wish I did have one to clean, I expect. I'm like an ole bear in the Winter, sort of go into hibernation as much as possible until the weather begins to warm up again, but if I can't keep warm inside this Winter, just as well be getting out, huh?

I guess a lot of old fireplaces, as well as a lot of new ones, will be put into use this Winter, and a lot of the old ones will not get properly cleaned out — another fire hazard you haven't had to contend with during the Summer.



EMILY H. KING

This is a good thing for you to begin stressing now, before the real Winter hits us. I know it's hard, as well as expensive, to get someone to clean out heaters and fireplaces, but it is a vital expenditure.

I greatly appreciated my various invitations for Fire Prevention Week. I'm sorry I missed it all, but hope you all had a good crowd, lots of fun and had successful parades.

Emily H. King

Emily H. King

Put Fire Prevention High On List When Making Family Yuletide Plans

To keep the holiday season merry, keep fire hazards out.

Attention to fire safety when planning Christmas trees, lighting, decorations and gifts will go a long way toward making this Yuletide a happy one, advises the President of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Here are some Christmas-time fire safety recommendations from Charles S. Morgan, head of NFPA, the international center of fire prevention information:

Tree: Select a firm, fresh one, and put it at once in a cool place with its base in water. Before setting it up, cut about an inch off the base to help the tree absorb water, then place the tree in a sturdy stand containing water. To be sure the water level stays above the cut, check it daily.

Locate the tree away from heat and where it won't block exits.

Take it down as soon as possible after Christmas — the more it dries out, the more of a hazard it becomes. Don't rely on do-it-yourself flame-proofing treatments.

Lighting: Never use lighted candles on a tree or near any evergreen decorations.

Check sets of electric lights closely, for worn insulation, broken plugs, loose bulb sockets, and use only sets that carry the label of a leading national testing laboratory.

Use extension cords sparingly.

Never hang sets of lights on a metallic artificial tree — to avoid shock hazard, use only indirect spot lighting instead. If artificial tree has built-in electrical system, it should be "listed" by a recognized national testing laboratory.

Turn off all indoor tree and

decorative lights when leaving the house or retiring for the night. Outdoor lights should have special wiring intended for outside use.

Decorations: Use materials which are non-combustible, such as glass, or which are flame-retardant. Keep natural evergreens and polystyrene decorations away from candles, fireplaces and other open flames.

Be sure holiday costumes and masks, such as Santa suits and whiskers and children's pageant outfits, are flame-proofed.

Wrappings: Pick them up while opening gifts and put into covered trash containers. Never burn wrappings, boxes, etc., in the fireplace.

Gifts: To meet safety standards, all electric toys should be "listed."

Courtesy NFPA

Tragedy At A Mill Pond

HOPE MILLS — The fence which once encircled the mill pond behind Cotton Volunteer Fire Station No. 4 in Hope Mills was trampled down.

Whoever it was that once had tried to keep swimmers out of the hole on Rockfish Creek had apparently given up, and for good reason, because nobody had ever paid much attention to the fence, or the no trespassing signs.

They just went right ahead and dived in. Still do, in fact, but maybe they wouldn't any more if they had been with Earl Blackwell on the afternoon of July 22.

"It was that rock right over there," said Earl's father, Marvin Blackwell, pointing across the pond. "That's the one he dived off."

Nobody knows exactly what Earl hit. Could have been a big rock hidden under the water, or maybe an old ladder that was found there later.

But whatever it was, the impact cut Earl's head, broke his neck and severed his spinal cord.

"I saw the x-rays the other day," said Earl's father. "His spinal cord was laying over near his shoulder."

A Long Lifetime Ahead

Earl now lies in a hospital bed. He is paralyzed from the neck

down, and his parents say the paralysis will be permanent.

It is a tough thing for Earl and his family, because the boy is 13 years old. With a lifetime stretching ahead of him.

Before Marvin Blackwell took me to see the pond, I had visited with Earl, his father, his mother and his sister, Rita Hobbs, in the hospital.

Earl didn't have a whole lot to say, beyond hello, and I couldn't blame him.

"Sometimes he'll talk to us, and laugh, and sometimes he won't," said his mother. "But

he's keeping a lot of how he feels inside himself right now. A psychiatrist came to see him. Earl wouldn't talk."

"Seems like the boys who were swimming with him that day are the ones he enjoys seeing most," said his father. "They come pretty regular, and talk and laugh. I think sometimes he gets more out of seeing them than his mama and daddy."

In Bad Times, A Lot Of Friends

Marvin Blackwell works in a textile mill. His insurance will pay

Continued on page 11

Warning out on defective smoke units

CARY — The smoke detector in your home that's supposed to warn you of a fire may one day start a fire itself, according to Cary Fire Chief Ned K. Perry. Several companies have sold 110,000 defective smoke alarm units.

Some home detection units, made by BRK Electronics and marketed by AMF Corp., ITE Corp. and Sears, are being recalled by the companies.

But so far, only 25 per cent of the defective detectors have been returned.

Perry said that a defective detector ignited recently at the home of a Cary man, Daniel E. Christian of 130 Sycamore St.

Perry said an investigation of the defective units by the National Bureau of Standards found that thin plywood and low-density fiberboard commonly used in mobile home construction could sustain fires started by the detectors.

The companies have mailed warnings to 9,000 mobile home owners and plan to notify 18,000 mobile home parks in an effort to recall the units, Perry said.

BRK Electronics said the defective detectors bore several different model numbers, depending on the marketing company. They are: BRK models SS749AC, SS749ACS, SS749L and SS749SL; AMF models 2000AC and 2000ACL; ITE model IT01-AC and Sears models 9-57049, 9-57048 and 9-57047.

Capt. Soden Elected First VP For Term

ROCKY MOUNT — The North Carolina Fire Marshals Association has announced the election of Captain William Soden of the Rocky Mount Fire Department as its first vice president for a one-year term.

Captain Soden was elected to the position in a NCFMA meeting on October 19 in Southern Pines, and will be installed at a January meeting to be held in Salisbury.

Others elected were John Atwell, president, of Mecklenburg County; David Cauble, second vice president, of Alamance County; and re-elected as secretary and treasurer was W. A. Yoder of Pinehurst.

Objectives of the NCFMA, which was organized in 1968, are

to coordinate the efforts of its members in the fields of fire prevention, fire safety, fire protection, investigation and suppression of arson and unlawful burning, and to endeavor to provide a more efficient and uniform fire prevention program in North Carolina.

The NCFMA presently has more than 125 members from throughout the state.

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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Fire Preparedness On-Going Thing

SHELBY — At local schools, nursing homes and Cleveland Memorial Hospital, fire preparedness is an on-going thing.

- Drills.
 - Classes.
 - Training.
 - Critiques.
- These are all parts of preparedness.

Charles Doty, city fire marshal, gets reports of the monthly fire drills held in the schools.

Twice a year, he pops into the schools unannounced and pulls the fire alarm and stands back to watch how things proceed.

At nursing homes, one drill on each of the three shifts is required once a month. And, Doty said, once or twice a year, he holds classes for nursing home personnel on the use of fire extinguishers and other fire prevention matters.

Cleveland Memorial Hospital has a "real strong fire program," commented Andy Treadway, executive housekeeper and hospital fire marshal.

The hospital safety committee meets monthly on all aspects of safety — fires included — Treadway said.

The fire plan includes a drill once a month, some announced, some not, he continued.

The orientation all new personnel are required to attend includes fire briefings and all hospital personnel are required to attend two fire training classes a year. One is in the fall and is held outdoors in cooperation with the city Fire Department on the methods and use of fire fighting. This includes setting fires around beds which those taking the class evacuate and then extinguish the fire properly, Treadway said.

And in the winter months there is a three day in-service program in the hospital classroom on fire fighting.



INSPECTION — Assistant Shelby Fire Chief Doug Allen, left, and Ken Bridges of Alston Bridges Barbeque chat following an in-service inspection of the business. The fire department was making these inspections of local businesses during the month of October.

Shelby Daily Star Photo

The hospital's general fire plan can be "activated in minutes and the fire alarm is a direct line to the county communications center, Treadway said.

Every door in the hospital is a fire door, he noted.

"We've spent a lot of time, ef-

fort and money" on the fire system. Treadway said.

"And we should."

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R. C. Kepley dead at 52

LEXINGTON — Robert Cecil "Tuttlewink" Kepley, 52, of 614 Beckner Road died recently in Lexington Memorial Hospital after a serious illness of four months.

He was born in Davidson County, to Edward Lee and Ida Mae Young Kepley. He was a firefighter with the city of Lexington and held the rank of captain. He had been with the force for 27 years. He was a veteran of World War II and served with the U.S. Army. He was a member of Fifth Street Alliance Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Elanorah House Kepley of the home; sons Robert W. Kepley of Elizabethtown, Ky., Johnny Ray Kepley of Lexington and William Kepley of Welcome; daughters Mrs. Farrell (Diane) Beck of Marion and Miss Beverly Kepley of the home; sisters Mrs. James Browning and Mrs. John Hoyle Young, both of Lexington.

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Firemen Participate In Buies Creek Competition

HARNETT COUNTY — Harnett County firemen gathered in Buies Creek for the second annual Fireman's Competitions in October. Seven of the County's twelve fire departments participated in the contest and demonstrations.

According to Mike Richardson, a Buies Creek fireman and coordinator of the event, the contests are held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week. County firemen visited elementary schools throughout the county to talk with kindergarten through third graders about fire prevention.

The Buies Creek Fire Department hosted the fireman's contest with all events taking place on a field provided by Campbell College.

Richardson reported the events were attended by Fire Depart-

ments from Angier, Buies Creek, Coats, Bunnlevel, Flatwood, Summerville, and Lillington. All of the above fire departments participated in the contest.

The ladder race was won by the Bunnlevel Fire Department in 11.5 seconds. Climbing over a 12 foot ladder held verticle by four ropes pulled tight by firemen is no easy task according to one participant. Two departments were disqualified for skipping a step on the ladder and allowing the ladder to fall to the ground. The clothes race required a participant to race 200 feet and get dressed in fireman's attire with the clock ticking away. Angier picked up the trophy for the clothes race as Mark Price won seconds ahead of the nearest competitor.

The firing competition was more spectacular and gave each department a chance to demonstrate their ability to quickly extinguish a fire. A large circle was soaked with five gallons of fuel oil and gasoline and then set afire.

Flames leaped in the air and black smoke bellowed as fire trucks raced to the fire battling the clock to put out the fire. Different techniques were employed

by various departments to eliminate the flames. The fastest team, from Buies Creek, eliminated the flame in 43 seconds but they were disqualified when a small flame continued to burn after the nozzels were shut off. Lillington walked away with the trophy with the time of one minute and two seconds.

A firehose, water and wet firemen highlighted the barrel race which was designed to indicate the skills of a fireman handling a firehose. Two departments would square off with 50 feet of one and one-half inch firehose to try to water blast a barrel across the competitors finish line. Spectators and officials got damp as fierce competition continued. Summerville sprayed their way to victory against the other departments.

An old-fashioned tug-of-war was the last competition of the day and was won by Buies Creek. The firemen from the Buies Creek Fire Department said, "We put the 'heavy-weights' on the line and did the trick."

In addition to the contests, demonstrations were made by several departments. Coats Rescue Squad showed how to properly rescue an injured fireman. Buies Creek demonstrated how to extinguish a car fire and Flatwood and Summerville showed how to use the "quick-dump" system.

A new type of smoke detector was displayed that would detect gases such as methane, propane and natural gas as well as fire and smoke.

Areas to get joint service

MOUNT AIRY — Two fire departments decided to jointly serve the Cross Creek, Parker Road, and River Hills Estate area at a fire protection meeting recently.

Representatives of both the Franklin and Four-Way Volunteer Fire Departments were present along with representatives of the three areas.

The central issue was which fire department would cover which area. It was noted that Parker Road Area Chairman William Beamer and Cross Creek Area Chairman Phillip Vaughn had nearly completed the solicitation of their respective areas on behalf of the Four-Way Fire Department whereas the solicitation of the River Hills Estate area had not

begun.

It was agreed that Parker Road and Cross Creek will be served by Four-Way until the Franklin Fire Department takes over the service. The Franklin Fire Department is about a mile and a half closer to the area than Four-Way, according to Bradley Bowman of the Franklin Fire Department.

The River Hills Estate area will be covered by the Franklin Fire Department.

Should you have a fire and live in the Parker Road or Cross Creek area, you should call the Four-Way Fire Department at 786-2324. If you live in the River Hills Estate area you should call the Franklin Fire Department at 786-2212.

Hospital Sustains Damages of \$3,500

DUNN — All routine activity continued in its regular pattern at Betsy Johnson Memorial Hospital recently during a brief fire which started in the new section of the hospital shortly before 9 a.m.

Dunn police officer D. R. Thompson was on routine patrol in the hospital area when he noticed several men running with fire extinguishers and hoses toward an area which was filled with smoke.

Officer Thompson entered the area which will be the new surgical suite when completed and found some burning stacks of Celotex ceiling material in one corner.

It was later determined that the fire had been caused by a hot bolt cut from several embedded in the ceiling for installing some equipment falling into the building material.

Woodrow Sullivan of Selma was cutting bolts which were too long for the piece of x-ray machine to be attached to with an acetylene torch when one of the

hot bolts fell unnoticed into the pile of material. He managed to put out one small blaze but failed to notice the second until it had gained some headway.

Firemen Dickie Bennett and Boyd Barefoot responded to the call and within moments had the smoldering blaze put out.

Estimated smoke damage to the building, almost completely contained in the new section, was set at \$900. The damage to the 48 packs of building material was estimated at \$2,600.

Harrisburg home burns

HARRISBURG — The Lynn Rex Newsome family lost their home and all its contents recently when fire destroyed their mobile home at Stone Edge Mobile Home Park off Highway 49.

Firemen from Harrisburg and Jackson Park volunteer fire departments were called to the scene of the fire and when they arrived, the mobile structure was totally involed by flames.

There was no one at home at the time but fire officials believe the blaze may have started in the kitchen area. Total damages are estimated in excess of \$5,000.

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**Firemen Estimate
Damage at \$1,500**

MOREHEAD CITY — An estimated \$1,500 damage was done to accountant J. C. Harvell's office, 1500 Evans St., Morehead City, in a fire reported at 9:54 a.m. recently, according to Morehead City Fire Chief Edward Earl Guthrie.

Chief Guthrie said the chimney became overheated and caught fire. The heat scorched and charred some rafters near the chimney and threatened to set the attic afire. Firemen broke through the ceiling and doused the rafters to prevent the fire from spreading.

Fall Creek Fire Dept.

Hard Work And Dedication Pays Off

NEWLAND — Fall Creek Fire Department, one of the youngest in the Avery Fire-Rescue Association, received its rating in August of this year.

The department was formed after a barn burned in the community which is located in the Old Beech Mountain section. Banner Elk Fire Department offered excellent assistance, but the length of time in transit was against them, plus the steep and winding road leading to the community. Land for the Fire Hall was ob-

tained from Maude and Luther Bunton and Laura and Ernest Parlier in 1975 after the Department was chartered with 11 members.

The Department broke ground February 1, 1976, and bought a tanker the following April. They bought a pumper in May then borrowed \$6,000 to build the Fire Hall, doing the work themselves, except for the plumbing and wiring.

It was an opportune time for Fall Creek, as HUD funds available for Banner Elk Community extended to their depart-

ment, and they received a grant of \$20,000 plus \$2,000 from the Forest Service.

The monies were a godsend to the Fire Department, struggling along with all types of fund raising events.

Boyd McCloud, the Department's Chief, expressed his gratitude for the county's fire tax which was recently voted in. "It means everyone will pay for fire protection, instead of the few who had to work so hard in fund raising events." It gives our men more time to attend fire school and learn better ways of protec-

ting our citizens."

Although the rating is for a 4 mile area, McCloud stressed the fact that Fall Creek does answer all fire calls to the Tennessee line on one side and the Watauga county line on the other.

He also pointed out people living in the district can get a reduction on their insurance rates by notifying their insurance companies.

Anyone with questions concerning the district's boundaries may call Chief McCloud or any member of the Fall Creek Fire Department.



SMITHFIELD — Fire Safety Workshop — Representatives from local industries were instructed in fire safety tips and know-how at a Fire Safety Workshop on October 21. The workshop was sponsored by the Greater Smithfield-Selma Chamber of Commerce and N.C. State University. Those attending included: Jerry Carter, N.C. Department of Community Colleges; Ken Whitlock, Burlington Industries; Curtis Law, Fieldcrest Mills, Smithfield; Ron Hardee, Cutter Labs; D. T. Spencer, Van Rowell, Mack M. Johnson, Tony Jackson, Fieldcrest Mills, Eden; Graylon Dixon, David Adams, James Braswell, Burlington; Harold Stephenson, Griggs Equipment Inc.; Avis Hamilton; Cutler-Hammer; J. D. Fowler, instructor, Industrial Extension Service, N.C. State; Ray Munns, workshop coordinator, Director of Training, Burlington; Perry Blue, Burlington; Wayne Stencil, Ready Mix Concrete of Johnston County; Barry Strong, Fieldcrest Mills, Smithfield; and Henry Bradley, Burlington Industries.

Johnstonian — Sun Photo

Fire damages two homes

WAYNE COUNTY — A Wayne County fireman was overcome by smoke while fighting one of two weekend fires recently which destroyed one home and heavily damaged another.

Jordan's Chapel fireman Joe Cox was taken to the emergency room of Wayne Memorial Hospital by Grantham rescue workers from the home of Dewey Best on state road 1109 at Dobbersville.

A fire around 2:30 p.m. destroyed the \$20,000 house owned by Duke Best and did \$9,000 damage to its \$10,000 contents. The fire was blamed on grease on a stove.

Grantham and Smith Chapel firemen assisted Jordan's Chapel in fighting the fire.

Patetown firemen said \$8,500 damage was done the \$14,000

home of Ronnie Gurley on state road 1546 around 6:15 on the previous afternoon in a fire of undetermined origin.

Belfast and Nahunta firemen assisted.

Firemen said \$5,000 damage was done to the \$9,000 house owned by N. J. Daw and \$3,500 damage was done its \$5,000 contents.

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Residence in Tyro destroyed by fire

TYRO — The residence of Troy David Tilley and family on Route 3, Koonts Road, was destroyed by fire recently.

Tilley, his wife and two daughters had gone to spend a night at a sister's house in Yadkin College about 8 p.m., reports say.

The Tilley family left their eight-room frame home to escape an odor caused by fumes from a highly-flammable liquid wood stripper they had been using that

day on kitchen cabinets in the house.

The Tyro, Churchland and Reeds fire departments responded to the 2:30 a.m. call. Tyro Fire Chief Darrell Kimbrell said the fumes apparently gathered in the house and were ignited by the oil circulator.

Tilley left a window open before leaving but, apparently, circulation in the house was still insufficient.

Blaze starts in upper room

LOUISBURG — Centerville firemen were on the scene within eight minutes after a fire was reported in a house on the Clyde Murphy farm, approximately 2 and one-half miles south of Centerville on N.C. 58 around 4:30 p.m. on a recent Monday.

According to Murphy, a two story frame house was being readied for a tenant which expected to move into the home the next week and a pile of trash was being burned in the fireplace while he and the tenant cleaned up on the outside of the house.

When they looked back at the house, they discovered that the upstairs portion on the side of the chimney was on fire, causing

them to request assistance from the Centerville Fire Department.

Murphy stated he was really surprised when the firemen responded in such short a time lapse, and credited their quick response with the saving of the structure which had been heavily damaged in the upper north room of the house.

Wood shingles underneath the asphalt shingles on the roof led to further problems as the firemen sought to cool various hot spots in the frame dwelling. Several areas of the roof and some inside wall sections had to be ripped open to allow access to the fire and coals concealed within the sections.

The firemen were called out again to the structure around nine thirty that night when the flames rekindled in the home.

Lions Present Portrait



Winston Hester, left, president of the Sanford Lions Club, is shown at the 42nd anniversary Charter Night ceremonies held in the exhibit hall at the fairgrounds, where a portrait of the late Fire Chief J. O. Bridges, Sr. was presented to the Sanford City Fire Department. Jimmy Bridges Jr., center, represented the Bridges family, and Sam Bost, right, accepted the portrait on behalf of the firemen. The picture will hang in Station No. 1 on Hawkins Ave.

Sanford Herald Photo

SANFORD — As the highlight of its 42nd Charter Night program, the Sanford Lions Club presented a portrait of the late Sanford Fire Chief J. O. Bridges Sr. to the Sanford City Fire Department.

Hal Tysinger, portrait photographer, was commissioned by the club's board of directors to prepare the portrait as an honor to the late fire chief who was for 41 years an active member of the club.

The painting was presented by Lion Club President Winston Hester, who served as master of ceremonies. Club officers requested that the portrait be hung in fire station No. 1 on Hawkins Ave. Fire Chief Sam Bost accepted the portrait on behalf of the firemen. Jimmy Bridges Jr. represented the Bridges family at the presentation ceremonies.

In his eulogy for Bridges, Hester related that Bridges became a volunteer fireman in 1929 and then chief of the volunteers in 1939.

In 1962, when the City of Sanford established its first full-time fire department, he became the chief and served continuously until his retirement in 1975 after 46 years as a fire fighter. Bridges joined the Sanford Lions Club in November after the club had been chartered on June 28, 1935.

The charter night event, held in the exhibit building at the Lions Club Fairgrounds, attracted around 250 persons including Lions, their wives and guests. They heard a musical program by the Jim Marshall Singers of Raleigh, and were served a ham and beef buffet dinner in a festive autumn setting.

Tables were decorated with sprays of autumn leaves, berries and pumpkins, while shocks of corn, pumpkins and leaves brightened many parts of the big hall.

Guests at the head table included District Governor Gene Burns of Lake Waccamaw, District Deputy Governor Andrew Pat McNeill of Broadway and Mrs. McNeill, Zone Chairman James Sistruck of Buies Creek, Miss Janet Lee Barrett, Miss Lee County Fair, and her escort, Jeff Venrick, and Mrs. Winston Hester, wife of the club president.

Special guests included wives of deceased members, Mrs. Paul Watson, Mrs. C. W. Zachary, Mrs. A. K. Miller, Mrs. R. L. Miller, Mrs. Walter Temple, Mrs. J. O. Bridges, Sr., and Mrs. J. C. Langevin. Others now remarried whose first husbands were club members, recognized were Mrs.

Sara Martha Rosser, Mrs. Margie McIver and Mrs. Ollie Craven. Unable to attend were Mrs. Edna Yarborough and Mrs. Cora Makepeace.

Russel Mann, chairman of the Charter Night, introduced excerpts from Broadway musicals, gospel songs and did a spoof on an opera entitled, "The Grasshopper". As a warm-up prior to the presentation of the professionals, N. V. Keith presented a humorous skit that featured Ed Davis, Ralph Groce, Eddie Lind and Harry Thomas in the vast with Nancy Lind at the piano.

Serving with Mr. and Mrs. Mann on the Charter Night Committee were Mr. and Mrs. Coker Blue, Mr. and Mrs. Harold James, Mr. and Mrs. Earl May, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Mann Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brinn.

Liens presented the Lionesses gifts, which were brass ashtrays in the shape of a crab.

Kitchen Fire Damages House

HENDERSON — A fire starting in a pan of grease caused approximately \$7,500 damage to a house and its contents at 1206 Topleman St. recently.

The Vance County Fire and Ambulance Service was called to the five-room home of James Mangum, where they extinguished a fire in the kitchen.

Damage was limited to the kitchen and attic, but was estimated at \$6,000 to the dwelling and \$1,500 to its contents. The structure is owned by Archie Rozier.

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Auction, Barbecue Dinner Success

Northeast Firemen Say Thanks

WALLACE — A whopping \$5,800 says it for the success of the annual auction held by the Northeast Volunteer Fire Department recently. When all is tallied, the proceeds are expected to reach \$6,000. These figures include a \$1,000 donation to the Department by the Northeast Ladies Auxiliary. The figures speak for themselves as to the support given by the community. The annual auction is the only fund raising event by the Department during the year to obtain the necessary operating expenses of the Department.

Two grand prizes were awarded

this year—a freezer and 200 pounds of beef! Lucky winners were Steve Hanchey of Route 3, Wallace, who drove away with the freezer, and Rodney Hanchey, also of Route 3, Wallace, who won the 200 pounds of beef. It was noted the two winners have always been great supporters of the department during the past years and were very deserving of the prizes.

A whole pig, cut into sections was also given away with lucky winners being David Wood, Raymond Cavanaugh, Allie Eason, Kay James and Ed Duff.

The pig was given away by drawing numbers assigned to those participating in the auction.

Col. Bobby Cavanaugh again acted as official auctioneer and this year even Placed two live puppies on the auction block, a German Shepherd and Doberman Pincher. Twenty-nine dollars was the amount paid for the Doberman and six for the Shepherd. The item bringing the highest price was a bench vise which sold to the tune of \$55.

All items were donated to the Department by individuals including many businessmen

throughout the area.

"Without the donated items, the auction would not be possible. We greatly appreciate all outstanding support shown by those who gave to the event," noted one spokesman, "and those who purchased items."

Even the weather worked for the event this year, as temperatures were lower than on some occasions in the past, which further stamped approval on this most worthy cause. Already, Northeast folks, their friends and neighbors are looking forward to Northeast Firemen's Day 1978, the auction and barbecue!



SURPRISE ITEM ON AUCTION BLOCK! — This pretty German Shepherd puppy was one of two surprises placed on the auction block at the Northeast Firemen's Annual Auction. The other was a nice Doberman Pincher puppy. The Shepherd was sold at six dollars with the Pincher going at \$29. The annual event was a great success and is the only fund raising activity sponsored by the department.

Wallace Enterprise Photo

Ashford — North Cove Fire Hall Dedicated In Ceremony

MARION — The Ashford-North Cove Volunteer Fire Department dedicated its fire station in October in ceremonies attended by more than 150 people.

The site was dedicated to the memory of George Gaither "Jack" Moore, whose widow, Gaynelle Brown Moore, and son, George Carroll Moore, donated the land for the fire station.

J.W. Carpenter, president of the fire department, presided over the ceremonies, and several local officials made dedication remarks.

County Commissioner Jane Greenlee, Sheriff Hubert Haynes and County Firemen's Association President Howard Edwards spoke briefly during the ceremonies.

Among those attending were the Rev. George Williams of Hefner Memorial Baptist Church and the Rev. Jack Caudle of Concord United Methodist Church, representing the churches of the community; Charles England, chairman of the County Fire Commission; Ray Epley of the County Rescue Squad; Steve Prestwood and Gerald Hollifield of the N.C. Forest Service; and members of the McDowell County REACT Team.

The Ashford-North Cove Volunteer Fire Department was formed in January 1972 and now has 33 active volunteer firemen. Officers are Paul Branch, chief; James Harrison, assistant chief; Bill Hollifield and Ben Carpenter, captains; Richard Burleson, first lieutenant; and Travis Proctor,

second lieutenant. The department currently has three fire trucks.

The new fire station has a native stone exterior and features four bays, a meeting room and a basement.

Carpenter expressed appreciation to the Blue Ridge Division of Ethan Allen for donating a desk given away in a drawing and to the Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department for sending flowers for the 2 p.m. dedication ceremonies.

Refreshments were served to the crowd of approximately 150 attending.

Fire damages apartment

DURHAM — Fire recently at Morreene West Apartments at 700 Morreene Road damaged a bedroom at the home of Richard Kerly of Apartment R-8, Durham fire officials reported.

The blaze also caused smoke damage to the rest of the apartment.

Firefighters were on the scene from about 8 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

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Firemen Battle House Fire

EDEN — Improper use of flammable liquid to light a wood stove was apparently the cause of a blaze recently which gutted a house at 123 Short Morgan road.

City firemen battled the blaze at the residence of Doris Danials for an hour and one-half before they finally had it under control.

However, two rooms of the structure were already gutted.

The original alarm was at 8:45 p.m. Later in the evening, firemen were called back to the site to again douse the blaze which had apparently crept along a hidden place in the structure. This time, the blaze reached the ceiling and a portion of the roof was destroyed.

Chief Larry Rhodes said damage to the house and its contents was "total" and that the building was insured by its owner.

No injuries were reported.

Firemen battled two other blazes over the weekend.

Around noon the same day, firemen were again called to Home Lumber company off Meadow road to again fight a blaze in a pile of sawdust, which has plagued firemen over the past couple of months.

Chief Rhodes again reports the sawdust blaze under control and he added that the blaze "was smaller this time. Maybe we are getting close to it."

Then, at 6:15 p.m. that day, firemen fought a truck fire at the 1800 block of Stadium drive.

Minor damage resulted to the truck, owned by Wallace Dishman.

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Passer-by helps save couple from fire

LAWSONVILLE — A passer-by warned a Lawsonville couple early on a recent Sunday morning that their house was on fire, then helped the couple and neighbors put out the blaze during a thunderstorm.

The storm, described by several residents of the community as the worst they had ever witnessed, also knocked out telephones, electrical service for two-to-three hours in some areas and resulted in a fireman wrecking his car enroute to the fire.

No injuries were reported.

Donnie Wilmouth of Danbury, his wife Elaine and a passenger Becky Riggs were driving past the home of Ricky and Gail Bennett on N.C. 8 north of Lawsonville when they saw a bolt of lightning strike the two-story, frame house.

The couple had not been awakened by the bolt, but awoke when Wilmouth yelled to them that their house was ablaze.

Wilmouth, Mrs. Bennett's brother, David Mabe, and neigh-

bors David Hole, Junior Bennett and Vance Moore put out the blaze in the rain, using a garden hose.

While extensive damage was confined to one upstairs room, there was other damage throughout the house. Mrs. Bennett said that repair work will require new carpeting, paneling and sheetrock. In addition, a television set and washing machine were damaged. The lightning knocked off shingles and boards, burned several places where nails had held woodwork together, and burned a metal curtain rod.

Hole, who is also a fireman, drove to the fire station in Lawsonville to get the fire truck when a blaze was discovered in the attic.

Telephones were out of order, but other firemen learned of the fire by way of radio monitors. They were delayed a few minutes, however, by a live electrical wire which had fallen in front of the fire station.

The neighbors had the blaze under control by the time firemen arrived.

And fireman Arthur Glidewell had the misfortune of wrecking his 1976 Maverick enroute to the fire. Glidewell said the car slid around on the side of the road in front of the former Harry Martin's store, striking a parked car owned by Narvie Priddy.

Glidewell was not injured.

Mrs. Bennett said she and her husband would like to thank the Wilmouths, neighbors and firemen who came to their aid.

Rep. Jones at dedication

Harlowe gets firehouse



FIRE STATION CAKE — More than 50 people turned out for the dedication of North Harlowe's first fire station and stood in line for a piece of the celebration cake decorated with fire trucks. The department has been organized for about four years, but just now opened a fire station, built with Farmer's Home Administration funds.

New Bern Sun-Journal Photo

HARLOWE — First District Congressman Walter B. Jones officially dedicated this Craven County town's first fire station in October, telling a crowd of over 50 that rural fire departments tend to bring a spirit of cooperation to rural communities.

The Harlowe Volunteer fire Department was organized about

four years ago, serving a community of 1,400 families. The fire station, on NC 101 about seven miles east of Havelock, was built with Farmer's Home Administration funds.

Cong. Jones said he supported the Rural Development Act of 1972 that provides funds for rural communities to improve their standard of living.

"And this building which we are dedicating this afternoon is proof positive of the wisdom of that legislation," Jones said. He added that \$560,000 in FmHA funds have been loaned to build six fire stations in Craven County and purchase 10 trucks.

He also noted that the previous week had been National Fire Prevention week, and said he co-sponsored legislation "designed to encourage families to install smoke detecting devices in their homes."

His bill will provide up to a \$200 tax deduction for those purchasing smoke detectors for their homes.

The dedication ceremonies also included a special award given by the fire department to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Taylor, who allowed the fire department to use their field and barn to park the fire trucks before the station was built.

A cake decorated with fire trucks was cut following the ceremony and served with punch.

Officers of the department include Preston Taylor, president; Fire Chief Don Small; Pat Taylor, secretary; Carlton Small, vice president; and Lester Small, assistant chief and treasurer.

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New pumper arrives for claremont UFD



CLAREMONT — On October 11, 1975, the Claremont Fire Department ordered a new pumper from the Howe Corporation of Vinton, Virginia.

On October 16, 1977, we received this pumper. It is a C-900 Ford Cab-over, white in color. It has a 1,000 GPM pump with seven 2½" discharges (two on each side), one 2½" preconnect, two 2½" to the deluge unit. The deluge unit is a pre-mounted "quick release" unit.

This unit also carries 750 gallons of water with 1,000 feet of 2½" hose, 500 feet of 2½" preconnect discharge, and 500 feet of 1½" preconnect. It also has two pre-mounted "quick release" scott-air packs and a Globe restitution unit and a K-12 rescue saw. We also will carry one 35 foot, one 24 foot, and one 12 foot ladder.

This unit will be used in the rural section of our district.

We now have the following equipment: one 1,000 GPM pumper (rural) unit #76; one 1,000 GPM pumper (city) unit #71; one 500 GPM pumper (rural) unit #72; one 1,200 gallon "quick-dump" tanker #75; one 1,000 gallon tanker #73; and one brush truck #74 (which is on order also) should be here in a few weeks.

Submitted by
Marshall N. Butler, Capt.
Claremont Fire Dept.
Claremont, N.C.



New Officers

CLEVELAND COUNTY — The Cleveland County Fireman's Association elected officers recently at its quarterly meeting held at the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department. New officers are, left to right, secretary-treasurer J.B. Hamrick of the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department; president Robert Putnam of the Waco Volunteer Fire Department; and vice president William Davis of the Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department.

Shelby Star Photo

Man saved from flaming trailer

GARNER — A man, suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation, was dragged from a blazing mobile home on a recent Saturday night after a flash fire raced through the structure located off Simpkins Road west of Garner.

Emergency personnel were quoted as saying that George Morris, described as being in his late thirties, stopped breathing on the way to the Wake Medical Center, but was revived enroute.

Morris was treated for a minor burn on one hand and was released shortly after arriving at the hospital.

An unconfirmed report said that the man was dragged from the burning structure by a neighbor minutes before fire trucks and rescue personnel arrived from Garner.

The home, located at 6108 Briarwood Drive, was described as a total loss. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Gensinger, who live nearby, the mobile home was valued at about \$3,000.

The fire originated in the rear bedroom of the mobile home that Morris had rented only two days before. Most of his possessions were destroyed in the blaze.

The cause of the 10:23 p.m. fire has not been determined. Firemen at the scene said that the fire did not start in the furnace or the fuse box. It was speculated that a bare light bulb in contact with a

bedspread may have caused the fire.

An ambulance returning to Angier left Highway 401 when the fire call went out and treated the man until a Garner unit arrived.

Fire units had the fire out within minutes, witnesses stated. Trees in the area were scorched by the flames and one report said the fire was visible as a reflection in the sky from Simpkins Road.

The mobile home was insured against fire, Mrs. Gensinger said.

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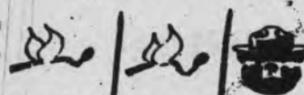
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RDU fire unit going full-time

From The
Raleigh Times
By DUDLEY PRICE
Times staff writer

Raleigh-Durham Airport will have a full-time fire department as soon as a dozen new firemen can be hired and trained.

The airport's system of using part-time firefighters has been criticized by experts as being inadequate to handle an air disaster. In response to this criticism, the airport authority recently appropriated an additional \$220,000 a year to hire 12 new firemen and to raise the salaries of the 22 already employed.

Within six months, these new employees will be working as full-time firemen. Currently, firemen double as linemen who fuel

private planes.

The allocation from the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority triples the present \$85,000 annual fire department budget.

Increased manpower and higher pay were part of the recommendations made by retired Raleigh fire chief Jack B. Keeter, who urged that the RDU fire department be upgraded.

Keeter, hired as a consultant to evaluate the program, told the authority in September the airport's program was inadequate because firemen were undertrained and underpaid and the department was understaffed.

Keeter recommended that RDU hire full-time firemen and that salaries be raised to reduce the high turnover. Currently, RDU firemen divide their time between firefighting duties and work as linemen who fuel private

planes and scrub windscreens. Keeter said three full-time firemen should man the firehouse around the clock.

W. E. Pegram, RDU operations manager and supervisor of the RDU crash/fire/rescue program, said the new firemen will divide their time between being firemen and linemen, but within six months to a year they will become full-time firemen once they are trained.

"I concur 100 per cent," Keeter said of the authority's action.

The new firemen will start at salaries of \$8,731 and earn \$10,740 including fringe benefits, after a year. Hiring is to begin immediately.

Starting salaries for present firemen will be raised from their present level of \$6,841 to \$8,731 with the allocation approved recently.

The total cost to the airport to implement the changes for the remainder of the present fiscal year is about \$94,000, according to James R. Weaver, airport manager.

Keeter recommended that firemen's starting salaries be raised to \$7,200 and to \$7,900 after a year. But R.D. (Rod) Adams, chairman of the authority's personnel committee, which recommended upgrading, said, "The committee felt we should go in for higher salaries."

Keeter said the additional firemen hired will also give present firemen more time to train.

Keeter also recommended that the airport buy additional communications equipment so firemen can have direct links to area firefighting and rescue groups.

Airport Director Henry E. Boyd Jr. said that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has advised it will help pay for the equipment, which is expected to cost about \$30,000.

Keeter also recommended that RDU buy a new small fire truck to replace a 1956 Chevrolet pickup that firemen use to speed to emergency scenes. Airport officials said the state has tentatively approved a \$42,000 grant to buy the new truck. Weaver said the truck will be purchased before the end of this year.

The allocation also will pay for salary increases for seven RDU policemen. Adams said the increase in policemen's salaries was required to keep pay levels comparable in the two departments.



GRAHAM FIREMAN — David Mitchell of 210 West Pine Street was voted Graham Fireman of the Year by his peers. For the past nine years the Graham Jaycees have sponsored the award and given a banquet saluting the local fire department.

Mitchell, who has been a fireman for six years, said, "I always wanted to be a fireman especially when I got out of service. I was in the Army stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas for three years. I enjoy being a fireman."

Graham Alamance
News Photo

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VFDs demonstrate fire equipment

GASTONIA — Three volunteer fire departments got together recently to demonstrate a new piece of fire fighting equipment.

Max Wolfe, chief of the Chapel Grove Volunteer Fire Department, said his department was joined by the South Gastonia and Rhyne departments to show the public a collapsible, portable water vat capable of holding 2,200 gallons of water.

"Most fire department tankers hold an average of 1,000 gallons of water and must wait approximately three minutes for the water to be pumped out of them before leaving a fire to acquire

more water," Wolfe said.

With the portable vat, the tankers can dump their load and use that three minutes to go for more water while the pumpers use the water from the vat. "This will be especially useful for larger fires in rural areas, such as churches, schools and factories, when a lot of water is needed and a city water supply isn't handy," Wolfe said.

The demonstration was held from 1-5 p.m. on two consecutive afternoons in the parking lot of Nichols Discount City on N.C. 74, west of Gastonia.

Tommy Young Retires From Fire Department

FARMVILLE — Tommy Young retired October 1 after 22 years as an active member of the Farmville volunteer fire department.

Farmville Fire Chief H. P. Norman sent the following letter of appreciation to Mr. Young:

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Farmville, I want to

thank you for the 22 honorable years of service you have rendered the Farmville Fire Department. It has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with you, serving others.

I hope you enjoy your retirement that is effective October 1, 1977.

Firemen Honored

SMITHFIELD — The Ladies Auxiliary of the West Johnston Fire Department sponsored Firemen's Day on Saturday, October 8 for the board of directors and members of the fire department.

A pig-picking was held with auxiliary members bringing the trimmings.

Following the supper, gospel singing was provided by the St. Mary's Grove Quartet.

Approximately 50 persons attended.

The fire chief is Leron Parrish. The firemen helped the women with the event.

Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary are: Mrs. Polly Parrish,

president; Mrs. Thurma Stephenson, first vice president; Mrs. Nadine Matthews, second vice president; and Mrs. Ida Campbell, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Matthews is chairman of the refreshment and entertainment committee. Other committees are headed by Mrs. Ida Campbell, Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Brenda Hardee, Mrs. Mertis West, Mrs. Royaline Clayton, and Mrs. Campbell.

Tragedy At A Mill Pond

Continued from page 2

The Hornets softball team sponsored a tournament, and raised \$206.

Lafayette Fire Department raised \$100, and the Godwin-Falcon Fire Department gave \$50.

In addition, Cotton Volunteer Fire Department No. 4 paid the \$42 ambulance bill for Earl.

If any other group, or individual, is interested in helping Earl, Bob Dunham is the man to contact, at Cotton Volunteer Fire Department No. 4, in Hope Mills. The number is 425-7879.

A Warning Ignored

I guess money given in a situation like this won't go all that far, considering how big, how many thousands, the ultimate bill will be.

But it helps. Especially, it makes people like the Blackwells

for 85 per cent of Earl's hospital bills.

But the Blackwells don't know when their son will be released. They think he could be in the hospital for more than a year.

While the bills pile up and up and up.

"They're gonna be so high, I expect we'll pay all our lives and still never get through," said Marvin Blackwell. "We'll still owe when we're dead."

There will be other expenses when Earl gets out, such as a hospital bed, maybe a wheel chair, and various equipment designed to make life easier and more rewarding for a quadriplegic.

To help his family meet the expenses, friends have set up a trust fund. Earl's mother and his aunt are two of the trustees. The other is Bob Dunham, chief of the Cotton Volunteer Fire Department No. 4, behind which the pond that Earl dived into lies.

The fire department and Hope CB Club held a coffee break for Earl. The collected \$500.

feel good in bad times to know they have friends.

Maybe that's the most important thing.

"You know," said Mrs. Blackwell, "his daddy told Earl that morning, the last time he saw him before he got hurt, not to go down to that pond."

"His daddy said if Earl went down there, he might hit his head and drown. That's almost what happened."

Bob Dunham says four people have drowned in the pond behind his station in the last five years or so.

Now Earl lies in a bed, paralyzed.

"Still they come," he said. "There was two here earlier today. They just don't learn."

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Fighting Fires Leads To Profitable Business

Continued from page 1

with," he said.

"I thought about this while I was in the fire department. I saw a need," he said. "Many people did not have fire extinguishers."

So, with a step-van and manufacturer to supply him with portable fire extinguishers, the former fireman began a business which would grow enormously in the next eight years.

As his ambitions and clientele grew, Pitts became interested in designing and installing small automatic extinguisher systems for restaurants.

By "reading a lot" and attending several week-long schools offered by Safety First Products Corp. of New York, he learned the trade which he describes as much less technical than designing the larger systems.

"While designing restaurant systems, I got the courage to go ahead. I was getting inquiries about designing the larger systems, so I started checking around," he said.

For the next few years, Pitts read every manual he could on designing large systems and practiced designing them, he said.

After submitting several designs for large systems to Chemtron, a corporation in Chicago, Pitts enrolled in a 10-week course offered by the corporation and was certified as an engineer in special hazards.

"I submitted a lot of plans to them before they would turn me loose to do it on my own," he said.

Then in 1974, he decided his business had outgrown the step-van and built his present office building.

Although no longer a full-time fireman, Pitts still fights fires for the Longview Volunteer Fire Department. Until June, when the Hickory Fire Department abolished its volunteer program, he was a volunteer for the city department.

He is a member of the National Fire Protection Agency Association and the National Fire Equipment Distributors.

He and his wife, Helen and 10-year-old son Darrell live at 1616 First Avenue Place, NW.

Although work keeps him busy, Pitts takes time on the weekend to care for his Christmas tree farm near Spruce Pine.

He also enjoys hunting and fishing.

Fire unit unites neighbors

From The Raleigh Times
By TREVA JONES
Times staff writer

WAKE COUNTY — Folks in the Hopkins Crossroads community got tired of depending on others to put out their fires.

Now they're doing it themselves. Through a community effort they've built and equipped their own fire department, the Hopkins Crossroads Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

A near tragedy last winter spurred Hopkins Crossroads to action. Johnny Edwards, an elderly community resident, would have likely died in a house fire if two young men hadn't happened by and saved him.

Located in the eastern part of Wake County, Hopkins Crossroads had no fire department of its own. The nearest fire engines were eight miles away in Zebulon.

"We just had to have something to knit us together," said Charles Mitchell Jr., the fire chief. The Edwards' fire did that.

Once they got started, the few hundred community residents didn't mess around.

The first formal citizens meeting was held March 7 in the Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church, just about the only gathering place around big enough to hold more than a handful.

Recently the community held its first Firemen's Day. A barbecue and auction were held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. to raise money to

run the department for its first year.

And firemen were showing off their new firehouse. The 90 by 40 foot building looks simple on the outside. But the interior was built and finished as a labor of love with donated labor and materials.

The fire department has a pumper-tanker donated by two local men, a brush fire truck from the U.S. Forestry Service, and a water wagon on the way.

The water wagon isn't paid for yet, and they're still negotiating on the price, Frederick H. Ellington, chairman of the board of directors of the fire department, said.

Ellington, Fire Chief Mitchell and others interviewed said they have been a little surprised at the surge of community interest and pride that turned dreams of a fire department into reality.

One man said a few people who'd been mad with each other for years team up and work together for the community's benefit.

And newcomers have been welcomed right into the fold and put to work.

"They elected me lieutenant of the fire department. I think that was real doggoned nice of 'em," said Laney Mitchell, a Carolina Power and Light Co. employe who has only lived there about five years.

Mitchell said the fellowship created by the community working together has put new zest into the lives of many residents.

"It's been very good. In fact, I'd say it has pulled the com-

munity a lot closer together," said Baxter Hopkins, one of the Hopkins Crossroads residents. Hopkins, owns one of the two crossroads stores. Hopkins father, W.I. Hopkins, who won't sell a foot of land to anybody, gave a 1.3 three acre site for the fire station. Hopkins Crossroads was named for the Hopkins family many years ago.

Hopkins, like others in the community, is proud of the new firehouse. "It's really a showpiece," said Hopkins.

"I'd say this is the beginning of something for the good of the community," said Hopkins. He sounded just a bit wistful when he said he expects the firehouse will become the new town gathering place, instead of his store.

Crossroads residents emphasized that establishing the department, building it, and putting on the first fireman's day hasn't been a one-man operation, nor the work of a small clique.

Charles Mitchell Jr. and Edwin Bunn were foremen who coordinated the work inside the building. Many others who knew how to install plumbing or wiring simply showed up and worked.

Everything slowed down during the summer crop season, then picked up speed again when the community farmers could pitch in more. It hasn't been easy, and it wasn't always joyful and happy.

Sometimes there were differences of opinion. "but it seems like it always worked out," said one community resident.

"The ball started rolling. Just like a snowball, it kept getting bigger and bigger," said Cecil Hopkins, who runs the second of two crossroads stores.

When the community school passed into oblivion many years ago, some of the sap went out of Hopkins Crossroads, and community activities were pretty much limited to ballgames and picnics.

"This has put a new spirit back in," Cecil Hopkins said.

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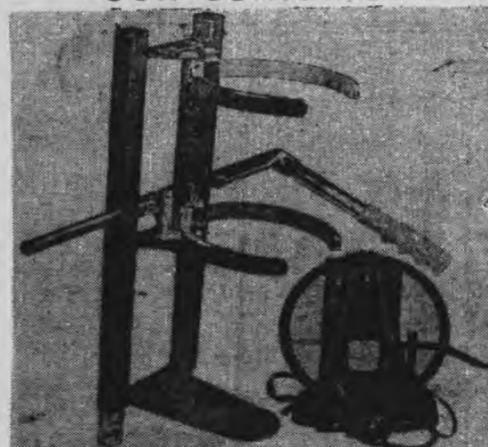
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