



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

VOL. 15 NO. 3

"AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION FOR TARHEEL FIREFIGHTERS"

MARCH 1978

R. Purvis Named As Investigator

DAVIE COUNTY — Deputy Robert Purvis of the Davie County Sheriff's Department has become the first qualified arson investigator for the sheriff's department.

Recently Purvis completed a 90-hour arson investigation course held at the Greensboro Fire Department and sponsored by the Justice Academy of the North Carolina Department of Justice.

Nahunta Fire Chief Retires

FREMONT — George Wayne Aycock Sr., Nahunta's first and only fire chief, retired from active duty in February.

Mr. Aycock was one of the charter members of the Nahunta Rural Fire Department.

He and several other men rebuilt the first fire truck for the department around 1955. The truck was housed in the old Nahunta School building across from the present site of the fire station.

Three years later the department was chartered by the state and Mr. Aycock was recognized as its first chief.

Mr. Aycock's retirement was effective Jan. 31. He will remain on the board of directors but not be involved in firefighting.

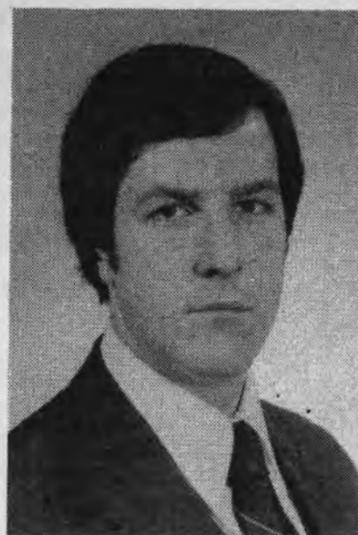
Mr. Aycock and his wife are owners and operators of Hobby Ceramics, Route 2, Pikeville.

State Fire Administrator Named

RALEIGH — Ken Farmer, administrative assistance to the chief of the Raleigh City Fire Department for the past four and one-half years, has been named executive director of the State Fire Commission, according to Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary J. Phil Carlton. Farmer assumed his new duties on March 1.

As the state fire administrator, Farmer will serve as staff director to the State Fire Commission which was established by the 1977 General Assembly. The position carries a salary of \$18,300.00.

The 26-year-old native of Caswell County graduated from N. C. State University in May 1973 with the B.A. degree in political science and public ad-



Ken Farmer
State Fire Administrator

Kennedy Honored As Fireman Of The Year

LaGRANGE — Raymond Lee Kennedy, of 501 S. Caswell Street, LaGrange, was paid the highest tribute by his colleagues on, January 27 as he was named Fireman Of The Year for the year 1977.

The award was presented to Kennedy during the local department's annual Ladies Night banquet held at David Crisp Barbecue.

The 43-year old Kennedy has been a member of the LaGrange Volunteer Fire Department since June, 1973. During that time, he has provided the local department with excellent services on and off duty.

Kennedy and his wife, Louie, have two children, Marian, a student at North Lenoir High School, and Ray, a student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The family attends the LaGrange Free Will Baptist Church.

Past president of the LaGrange Lions Club, Kennedy is employed with DuPont in Kinston.

The Fireman Of The Year award is an annual award presented by the local department to an individual who has contributed their time in fighting fires, saving lives and



FIREMAN OF THE YEAR — Raymond Lee Kennedy was honored by the LaGrange Volunteer Fire Department as 1977 Fireman of the Year during the organization's annual Ladies' Night Banquet held on January 27 at David Crisp Barbecue. Pictured left to right are, Cecil Burke, Jr., who gave a brief history of Kennedy's contribution to the department; Fire Chief Berkey Walters, who presented the award; Kennedy and his wife, Louie. (Photo by Glenn Penuel)

property, and other projects which will benefit the fire department and the com-

munity.

This is the third year the award has been presented.

LaGrange Fire Chief Berkey Walters was the first recipient and Assistant Chief Milton Jones was the second.

Also during the evening, wives of the firemen and special guests enjoyed a delicious steak dinner.

Guests included LaGrange Town Board members Mayor Pro - Tem George Mewborn, Dr. John Ward, Norwood Sutton, Randolph Pridgen and Charlie Jackson.

Retired LaGrange firemen were also paid tribute at the supper. They included James Puckett, Tyson Creech, George Mewborn, Early Kinsey, and Titus Harrison.

Submitted by
Glenn Penuel

Fireman appointed inspector

EDEN — An Eden fireman changed hats within city employment on February 9.

Benny Sexton, a fireman with the Eden Fire department since 1975, was appointed as Eden's full-time building inspector, Assistant Chief Manager Jim Pittman announced.

Sexton, who began his duties in that capacity in February, is

doing the same inspection and review jobs that Pittman had been faced with in the past year since the city last had an inspector.

"His (Sexton's) experience in the construction field and in having to comply with and know the basic building codes with respect to construction, plumbing and heating and air con-

ditioning" was the main reason he was selected to the important post, Pittman said.

"He has the ability to know the codes and he has been in construction work so he should know well what to look for."

In addition to enforcing the codes he already knows about mechanical, heating, air conditioning and general construction work, Sexton is required to enforce the new,

Continued on page 11

ministration. He took the position with the Raleigh Fire Department in June of that year.

Farmer is currently working on the Master of Public Affairs degree at N. C. State University. He completed the Municipal Fire Administration Course at the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill in 1975 and attended the National Fire Academy in Charlotte in 1976. He is a certified Emergency Medical Technician.

A member of the Wake-New Hope Volunteer Fire Department for the past three years, Farmer is currently serving as secretary of the Wake County Firemen's Association. He is married to the former Patricia

Continued on page 11

Additional Money Approved For Rural Firemen In March

ALAMANCE COUNTY — Each of the Rural Fire Department will receive an additional \$250 during March from the County Commissioners "due to the weather related work."

Dr. Earl Danieley presented the request from the Alamance County Fire Protection Association.

"It seems a reasonable request to me . . . I move we appropriate the money," Dr. Danieley said.

Since the county appropriates \$250 each month for the rural departments, the firemen will receive \$500 during March.

Neel Fleming said, "I'll second it, but this is not an appropriation to the Fire Marshal's budget. At budget time maybe we need to consider some appropriation for civil preparedness . . . I heard on channel eight our neighboring county didn't serve the populace as well as we did."

The commissioners approved the appropriation.

**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:**

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New Bern, North Carolina 28560**

Editorial

Some of you are probably tired of my articles in reference to the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in Southgate, Kentucky last May, but recent information sent to me by the NFPA has again brought it to my attention. Since this disaster was the second largest multiple-death building fire in the United States since the Coconut Grove nightclub fire in 1942 (that killed 492 people), and since complete investigation has shown that proper enforcement of fire safety codes could have prevented such a large loss of life, I hope I am forgiven for again bringing it to your attention. This fire disaster

spread required by NFPA's Life Safety Code, thus contributing to the rapid spread of fire; (4) DELAY IN NOTIFICATION — the fire developed for a considerable time before being discovered and then employees tried to extinguish the fire before alerting occupants and before calling the fire department (I am not sure if this is included in delay of notification or if the development time was included in the time by employees attempting to extinguish it or not — either was terribly wrong); and (5) LACK OF PROTECTION — the club did not have an automatic sprinkler protection as required by codes in effect at the time of the fire.

This disaster plainly shows the urgent need for expert Fire Inspectors of impeccable character. The public needs Fire Inspectors who keep up-to-the minute data for their inspections and will not allow anything to influence them to pass over even the slightest flaws in protecting the public from such terrible tragedies in the future.



EMILY H. KING

totally destroyed the supper club and a total of 164 persons lost their lives as a result — a loss to dwell on.

NFPA Fire Analysis Specialist, Richard L. Best, prepared an account of this fire in cooperation with the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and National Bureau of Standards. It is given in full in the January issue of Fire Command and answers the questions of: "How did the fire begin and spread?"; "How soon was the fire department notified?"; "What contributed to the high death count?" etc. The article is too lengthy for publication here, but is complete with floor plans, on-the-scene photographs, and material from the Kentucky State Police.

Several of the major factors contributing to the large loss of life I would like to quote are: (1) OVERCROWDED BUILDING — double the number of occupants that the building could safely accommodate; (2) INADEQUATE MEANS OF EGRESS — based on required square feet per occupant, not sufficient; (3) COMBUSTIBLE INTERIOR FINISH — the interior finish in the main corridor exceeded the flame

Emily H. King
Emily H. King

Champion Co. Marks 100th Anniversary

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO — The Champion Company will mark its ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY in May, 1978. From the early days, when the pioneering spirit was a way of everyday life in Springfield, Ohio, a local physician, Dr. A. A. Baker, started and guided The Champion Company into a century of growth. From 1878 to 1978 that growth has been reflected by the Company operations in Springfield, Ohio, Oakland, California and Toronto, Canada, contributing to the national market and products that go world wide.

The four divisions of The Champion Company handle the following: The Springfield Equipment Company manufactures paramedic/rescue ambulances; the Sozonian Division produces burial vaults; the

Special Products Division has been an active participant in every major United States missile program, making special containers for Aero Space, along with servicing that industry; and last, but not least ... the parent company, Cham-



pion, is a leading producer of embalming fluids, along with its associated product of Champion burial vaults, Champion dump trailers and funeral sundry products.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

- May 15-18, 1978 82nd ANNUAL MEETING of NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, Disneyland Hotel and Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, Calif.
- May 31, 1978 Deadline for Entries - Municipal Division - LEARN NOT TO BURN COMPETITION sponsored by NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
- Aug. 31, 1978 Deadline for Entries - Government and Military Division - LEARN NOT TO BURN COMPETITION sponsored by NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
- Oct. 8-14, 1978 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, internationally sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association
- Nov. 13-16, 1978 FALL MEETING of NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, Hyatt Regency, Montreal, Que., Canada
- Nov. 30, 1978 Deadline for Entries - Municipal Division - LEARN NOT TO BURN COMPETITION sponsored by NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Wake Forest firefighters distribute decals, information

WAKE FOREST — Starting in February, Wake Forest firemen began distributing safety decals for windows of homes and stickers with phone numbers to call in case of fire.

Decals are to be placed in the bedroom windows of children and invalids to help firemen locate those rooms in case of fire.

Fire Captain Jimmy Keith said distribution began within the city limits of Wake Forest and continued into rural areas.

Firemen are also distributing the following information sheet on what to do in case of fire in your home.

1. Call the fire department. Use the number on your phone sticker. If this number is not available, call the operator and report the fire as being in the Wake Forest Fire District.

2. Be brief, but give all of the important information. Give

your name, address, location and type of fire. (If there is no street or street number, try to give a landmark or some type of identification.)

3. Do not risk your life to try to save something out of your home. Even though the fire may not be bad, toxic fumes and gases in today's building materials and fabrics can be very dangerous to you.

4. Notify the first fireman on the scene if anyone is in the dwelling or if you think someone might be inside.

Some good rules to practice:
1. Have two pre-planned fire escape plans and plan a central meeting place outside of the house so no one will think someone might still be inside.

2. Practice fire drills in your home often.

3. Smoke detectors are strongly recommended. They have been proven early warning of danger and saving lives.

4. The children and invalid stickers have been placed in your windows for your safety and to aid rescue efforts. Please notify us if you move or if you have neighbors move in that need them.

5. We encourage that you leave electric can openers and other small appliances unplugged when not in use.

6. Keep exits free of obstacles.

7. Keep oily rags in safe containers and gasoline in safe containers.

8. Be careful with electric space heaters and keep frayed wires replaced on all appliances.

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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Firemen Get Leadership Training

GOLDSBORO — "The only person who can make a leader out of you is you," Elwood Inscoe told 45 firemen attending a 12-hour Leadership by Motivation School held recently.

Inscoe, deputy commissioner of insurance, was instructor for the school held at the Goldsboro Fire-Police Complex. The school was sponsored by the Wayne County Firemen's Association and the N. C. Department of Insurance. Firemen from Goldsboro and Wayne County attended.

"A good leader is one who can get people to do the things he wants done, the way he wants them done and when he wants them done," Inscoe said.

He stressed points which would enable leaders to influence others. Some of these were: confidence, believing in self and other people; energy, must be willing to do everything he asked of his followers — and more; clarity, must be able to reason logically, weigh alternatives, make decisions and then be able to convey his thoughts; and courage, the capacity to "hang on" five minutes longer.

Other points were: boldness, a willingness to take chances; concern, considers the welfare of the community before personalities; morality, a stern code of ethics, a strong sense of personal morality and self discipline; and faith, must believe in his people as well as the goal toward which he is leading them.

Inscoe stressed the importance of attitudes saying, "A person can have a world of ability, but if he has a negative attitude his ability cannot be utilized."

The school concluded with a session on personal motivation.

Inscoe gave a five-point plan of personal motivation, "Crystalize your thinking, develop a plan, develop a sincere desire, develop confidence

and develop a dogged determination.

"When this has been done and we have accomplished it, we live with a positive expectancy. We live with the law of attraction — we attract what we think."

The school held at the fire-police complex was one of three held in Wayne County that week.

About 56 firemen from Wayne County and North Lenoir attended a Pump I class at the Pikeville Fire Department. The

instructor was Phil Riley.

A ladder class was held at the Dudley Fire Department and was attended by 35 firemen. Claude Shoe was the instructor.

Both Riley and Shoe are with the N. C. Department of Insurance.



FIREMEN ATTEND CLASS — About 45 Goldsboro and Wayne County firemen attended the 12-hour Leadership by Motivation school taught at the Goldsboro Fire-Police Complex recently. The instructor was Elwood Inscoe, Deputy Commissioner of Insurance, from Raleigh. The course, which began on a Monday and concluded the following Thursday, was sponsored by the Wayne County Firemen's Association and the N.C. Department of Insurance.

Goldsboro News-Argus Photo

Report from Swannanoa

SWANNANOVA — The Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc. responded to a record number of fire calls during the month of February.

Swannanoa responded to six structure fires which resulted in \$21,800.00 worth of damage to property and personal belongings. None of the occupants of the dwellings were injured by the fires. However, family pets were lost in two of the fires. Five brush-grass fires resulted in little or no damage. Two vehicular fires resulted in

Continued on page 10

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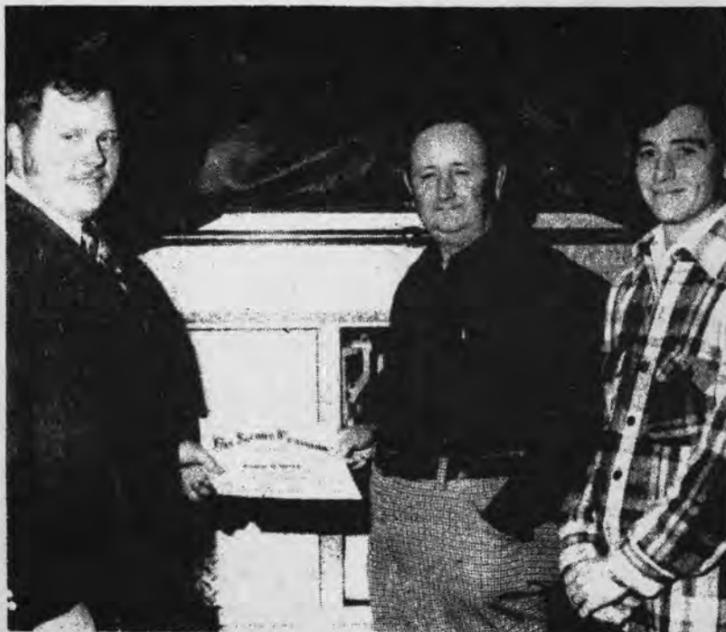
Hardy is certified instructor

SNOW HILL — Edwin Hardy of Jason Fire Department has been certified as a fire instructor by the N. C. State Board of Education, Department of Community Colleges' Fire Service Training Division.

In order to qualify for this certification, a person has to be a high school graduate and a member of a fire department for a minimum of four years.

Mr. Hardy attended a thirty-hour course in techniques and methods of teaching. He also was required to take an extensive job knowledge test. Following this he taught for twenty hours under the supervision of Emmel Coggins, Area Coordinator for James Sprunt Technical Institute, Kenansville.

The County Firemen's Association is pleased to have an instructor of Mr. Hardy's caliber involved in training their personnel.



NEW FIRE INSTRUCTOR . . . Edwin Hardy, (left) receives his certification as a fire fighting instructor from Donnie Grant, President of the Greene County Fire Chief's Association and Greene County Fire Marshall Dickie Hill.

Snow Hill Standard Laconic Photo

Center firemen honored

MOCKSVILLE — The Center firemen were honored Monday evening, February 20th, when members of the Center Community Development got together and planned a supper for them. The vegetables and dessert were prepared by the women and barbecue was the main course.

The attendance was just great and everyone in attendance enjoyed the celebration.

The tables were decorated with small red fire trucks, lighted red candles and fresh flowers.

Norman Forrest recognized the firemen and expressed appreciation for the support they had received from Center Community Development. During the past year one fireman was lost due to death who was Jim Tutterow. Another fireman, Martin Latham, resigned because of ill health. Their names were added to the plaque in the community building.

Chris Hooper, area coordinator of firemen at Davidson Community College was guest speaker. His talk was most informative. A film was shown titled, "The Noble Breed," This depicted the dangers of fire fighting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a drawing was held to give away the fire trucks. Winners were Michelle Kimmer, Wanda Ratledge, David Beck, Holly Harpe, Brian Williams and Frank O'Neal.

Martha Evans and Teresa Boger were awarded the flower arrangements that were used in decoration.

Retired fire captain dies

CHARLOTTE — Earl Bruce Gordon, 75, of 1219 Effingham Rd. died in February at Mercy Hospital. Gordon was with the Charlotte Fire Department for 35 years, retiring as captain.

The funeral was at Hankins and Whittington Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Bob E. Murdock, pastor of Glenwood ARP Church, officiating. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

He was born Oct. 24, 1902 in Monroe.

Surviving are his wife, Edna Bailey Gordon; one son, Earl B. Gordon of Gastonia; one daughter, Mrs. Gloria G. Senter of Norwalk, Calif.; one brother, Harry Gordon of New York City; two sisters, Miss Madelyn Gordon of Tampa, Fla. and Mrs. Virginia Sellers of St. Simons, Ga.; and six grandchildren.

Lawsonville Officers

LAWSONVILLE — The Lawsonville Volunteer Fire Department has appointed officers for 1978. They include: Ralph Bullins, chief; Ray Wilson and Willis Mabe, assistant chiefs; Joseph (Fleetwood) Tilley and Arthur Glidewell, captains; Glenn Stevens and Frankie Fowler, lieutenants.

Boundaries Of 54-East, Haw River Fire Districts Approved

HAW RIVER — The boundaries for the 54-East and Haw River Fire Districts were approved by the County Commissioners in February.

The 54-East district will be a sponsored project from Swepsonville. Some of the volunteer firemen in the Swepsonville Department live in the 54-East area and will help organize the new fire department, according to Commissioner Neel Fleming. (Not all of the 11 fire departments in the county are taxed fire districts.)

The 54-East district will cover from Davis' Store on Highway 54, east to the county line and a four mile radius from that point.

The Haw River district will cover roughly a four mile radius from the fire station in Haw River.

54-EAST DISTRICT

Dr. Earl Danieley made the motion to approve the boundaries.

going to vote on whether or not to be a taxed district. Fleming replied they will vote.

"We've got a different set of problems in our area and I wanted to know the difference," Foster continued. "That is not in question now," Danieley interjected.

The board approved the motion and set a tentative date for the hearing of April 6 at the Alexander Wilson School.

HAW RIVER DISTRICT
"We propose to serve by contract with the Haw River Volunteer Fire Department . . . the area outside the town limits," Dr. Danieley explained.

He then made a motion to approve the boundary of the fire district noting further work would be done before a public hearing would be held.

Fleming seconded the motion and then asked, "There's no overlapping in Swepsonville where Bob Scott lives is there? Both of my places are in these boundaries."

Danieley stated there was no overlap and noted the Haw River officials are pleased with the proposal.

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Raleigh Savings

Lumber warehouse burns in Rockwell

From the
Salisbury Evening Post
By LINDA BAILEY
Post Staff Writer

ROCKWELL — A fire so intense it made the middle-of-the-night sky look like daybreak and the frigid air feel like summer, consumed the main warehouse at Sides Lumber Co. shortly after 2 a.m. recently.

The 35,000-square-foot building was used for milling operations at the 60-year-old company, and inside were heavy machines such as a planer, a molder, a rip saw, and a joiner and finished lumber products such as molding, doors, door frames, casings and baseboards.

Brown Sides, president of the company which was started by his grandfather, said the building was not insured. Another member of the family-owned business, Hugh Beaver, estimated damages at over a quarter of a million dollars and said some of the machinery could not be replaced because it is no longer being manufactured.

The fire was spotted by a security guard and two members of the Rockwell Rural Fire Department sitting in a car at the fire department, located about a block away from the warehouse. The warehouse is behind the recently remodeled front office and display building and fronts on Railroad Avenue.

SAW IT IN MIRROR

The security guard for several Rockwell businesses, Kim Thompson, said the fireman, Steve Holshouser "looked up at his rear view mirror and the building lit up all over at one time."

The Rockwell city fire chief, Hugh William Bost Jr., said the building was wrapped in flames when the fire trucks from his department arrived, and the roof had already fallen.

During the height of the blaze, firemen were pouring up to 1,500 gallons of water per minute on the stubborn fire, which worked its way through the three floors and into sawdust bins and the kiln, used for drying lumber. The Sides family expected those areas to burn throughout the day.

Continued on page 8



BEARDS . . . as well as firemen's clothing, were coated with ice. Bob Pate had to raise his face shield, which frosted up like a car windshield, in order to see.

Salisbury Evening Post Photo

ADR Firemen Work 1,173 Hours In '77

WHITEVILLE — Acme-Delco-Riegelwood volunteer firemen answered 117 calls in 1977, utilizing 1,173 man hours.

More calls were answered and more man hours were used in February than any other month. Firemen answered 29 calls and used 327.50 man hours in February, followed by 15 in April, 92.25 hours; 15 in May, 171 hours; 9 in December, 86.50 hours; 8 in January, 70.50 hours; 8 in August, 133.25 hours; 8 in November, 54.40 hours; 7 in June, 86.75 hours; 7 in October, 69 hours; 5 in July, 32.50 hours; 3 in March, 25 hours; 3 in September, 25 hours.

A breakdown of the 117 calls includes structural, 35; grass, 19; woods, 17; auto, 15; wash downs, 7; mutual aid, 6; public

service, 5; industrial, 5; false alarms, 2; emergency rescue, 1.

Fire losses included \$173,325 in Acme-Delco-Riegelwood; \$350 in Riegelwood Sanitary District; and \$206,200 outside the district. Property saved through fire-fighting efforts included \$378,175 in Acme-Delco-Riegelwood; \$59,650 in Riegelwood Sanitary District; and \$70,950 outside the district.

Twelve civilians and one fireman were injured in '77 fires.

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Tom Togs Plant Damaged By Fire

CONETOE — Tom Togs, Inc., an infant's clothing manufacturing company here, was closed recently following a fire the previous night which resulted in extensive water and smoke damage to the plant.

N.C. Williamson, fire chief for the Conetoe Volunteer Fire

Department, said fire units from Tarboro, Speed, Princetonville, South Edgecombe, Bethel and Belvoir responded to assist his department with the call about 9:11 p.m.

An estimate of damages was unavailable, but a spokesman for the company reported damage was slight to the building in the receiving and cutting area. However, water from an automatic sprinkler system may have caused extensive damage to equipment and materials, he said.

Cause of the blaze had not immediately been officially determined, but the spokesman said it is believed to have started when a plug in an automatic clock short circuited.

The plant, which employs about 300 persons, is located on U.S. Highway 64 in Conetoe. Operations were discontinued temporarily.

Hookerton FD elects officers; two members receive honors

HOOKERTON — The Hookerton Volunteer Fire Department elected officers to serve the Department for 1978 with Mahlon Pittman being reelected as Chief; Douglas McLawhorn and Richard Albritton as Assistant Chiefs; Bobby Jones, Raymond Clemmons, Reddin Beaman, Jr., and Linda Pittman as Captains; James Oakes, treasurer; and Shirley Oakes, secretary. Bill Joyner, Buck Joyner, and Bud Taylor are to serve as the traffic committee, and Hazel Albritton will be the member-at-large.

The Firemen's perfect attendance certificates for '77 were presented to James Oakes, Reddin Beaman, Jr., Mahlon Pittman, Linda Pittman, Linda Jones and Jr. Fireman Jay Pittman.

The Fireman of the Year plaque was presented to Captain Linda Pittman by Chief Pittman because of her dedication and devotion to the Fire Department. Since joining the Department in December of 1973, she has been a great asset to the Hookerton Volunteer Fire Department.

During the day when the fire alarm is sounded and firemen are in short supply due to working elsewhere, Linda is one of the few who answers these alarms. Captain Pittman can do all the fire-fighting required from operating the pumper to fighting the fire from the nozzle.

She goes to all the training sessions held and does all she can to learn the latest techniques in fire-fighting.

The Rescue Squad also elected its officers for 1978 as

follows: Linda Pittman, Sergeant, Bobby Jones, Corporal, Reddin S. Beaman, Jr., secretary, and Shirley Oakes, treasurer.

The perfect attendance certificates were presented to Reddin Beaman, Jr., Shirley Oakes, and Linda Jones.

Reddin S. Beaman, Jr., was presented the Rescue Member of the Year Award for 1977

because of his hard work and time devoted to training in the Squad. Reddin is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and served as Sergeant of the Hookerton Squad in '77. He also joined the Squad in 1973 and has worked to help improve it.

Mahlon Pittman stated, "I, as Chief, would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda and



FIREMAN OF THE YEAR... In this particular case the "Fireman of the Year" for the Hookerton Volunteer Fire Department was a lady. Maylon Pittman, Chief of the Department, is shown above presenting the plaque to Captain Linda Pittman after she was selected for the honors.

Snow Hill Standard Laconic Photo

Reddin for their service and support to our Fire and Rescue Department and to congratulate them for being selected as Fireman and Rescueman of the Year.

"Our Fire Department is presently undergoing a 9-hour training course in Rescue Ropes instructed by Mellie Swaney. This course is being taught through Lenoir Community College, Greene County Unit. We will continue to strive to do our very best in order to help you, the community.

"Operating a Fire Department and Rescue Squad takes a great deal of sacrifice and work from everyone in the Department. I would like for all the members of the Hookerton Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad to know how much I, as Chief, have needed and welcomed their help and support during the past year. I encourage all of you to keep up the good work and I am very proud of you as individuals and as a Volunteer Department," he concluded.

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TAYLORSVILLE — FIREMAN OF THE YEAR — About thirty firemen from the Taylorsville Volunteer Fire Department watched along with their wives as Fire Marshal Gary Jennings (left) awarded Lanny Stewart (center) with a plaque honoring him as the department's Fireman of the Year. Jennings said Stewart is distinguished by serving in both the Taylorsville and Sugar Loaf fire departments. On the right is Flake Stewart, Taylorsville fire chief. The award came after the department's annual ladies' night banquet held recently at 220 Seafood in Stony Point, which featured entertainment by magician Bill McLaury.
Taylorsville Times Photo

Fire department promotions

WINSTON -SALEM — Chief A.B. Bullard announced nine promotions in the Winston-Salem Fire Department recently.

Harry L. Clodfelter and Sammy L. Myers have been promoted from lieutenant to captain and Jerry W. Kerley from lieutenant to fire planning officer.

B. Crafford, Tony E. Lambeth and G. Scott Turner were promoted from firefighter to engineer.

The promotions became effective in mid-February.

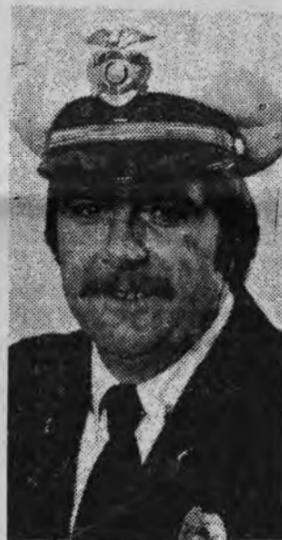


Harry Clodfelter
Winston-Salem
Photo

Promoted from fire engineer to lieutenant were Rodney W. Henley, Charlie L. Kirkman and Jimmy D. Midkiff. James



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Antenna accident causes blackout

MOUNT AIRY — A CB antenna fell on a 7,200-volt Duke Power distribution line on Spring Street recently and plunged the south end of the city into darkness.

Joe Dowdy of 510 Spring St., who was installing the antenna on his porch roof, escaped serious injury but his house was damaged by fire.

Wallace Smith, assistant Mount Airy fire chief, said firemen received the call around 6:25 p.m. and on arrival found a situation "to hot" to handle. The electricity was running with gutters and shooting into the ground causing an extremely hazardous situation according to Smith.

The 23 firemen responding to the alarm call had to wait until the electrical flow stopped, when a device at the substation opened. A Duke worker also responded and removed the antenna from the lines.

With the electrical flow stopped, firemen quickly moved to douse the flames which had erupted throughout the house.

Smith said the house was damaged slightly by fire, smoke and water.

The assistant fire chief noted that members of the Dowdy family, who were in the house when the incident occurred, escaped uninjured. Dowdy reportedly was burned on his hands.

Power was knocked off to most of the south end of Mount Airy until workmen restored the circuits and the power flow from the substation. A spokesman for Duke Power indicated electricity was off for about 30 minutes.

Continued on page 9

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Lumber warehouse burns in Rockwell

The men had to battle both fire and ice. The nozzles of their heavy hoses froze to the ground and their coats and pants froze on their bodies. Their coats were so stiff with ice that they would stand alone when removed, and the ice popped off them. Water froze as it hit the ground and streets, creating a hazard in dark areas around the building. The Sides family was sure the water froze inside the shell of the building and they thought the ice would be at least a foot deep inside, judging from the amount of water used.

Chief Bost said it was necessary for the water to flow constantly through the hoses because "if we stopped a line and waited five minutes, it would be frozen." During the early morning hours, the temperature dropped three degrees to a low of 11.

Continued from page 5

ORIGIN UNKNOWN

The fire chief said there was no way to tell what started the fire.

A Rowan County Sheriff's Department deputy, Melvin Harviel, and Thompson, the security guard, had been in the area on patrol 45 minutes earlier, Bost said, and had seen nothing unusual. Beaver said it was impossible to lock the building and people had previously been found inside it during the night.

He said the company employs 18 people and none of them smoked while working inside the building. He said the building was not heated, except for a small wood stove in the office.

The family had learned to live with the threat of fire, Sides said, although the company had never experienced a major one. In fact, the last major fire in Rockwell to compare with this one was in 1953 when the Rockwell Roller Mill burned.

Because of the lumber milling operations, dust collects on overhead beams, Beaver said. "That dust was over an inch thick and once it catches fire, it will explode like gas," he added.

Firemen reported hearing a series of explosions inside the building, and they were thought

to have come from the dust and the gas tanks on two large dump trucks, parked inside and lost in the fire. "It was popping everywhere in the beginning," Beaver said.

The trucks were valued in the neighborhood of \$20,000 each. "If we could have just got the trucks out," said Hubert Ridenhour, vice president of the company, as he watched the flames.

Beaver said the dry dust inside the building was one of the reasons fire insurance was so expensive. "That's the reason it wasn't insured," he said. "The insurance rates were so high, the building would have paid for itself several times in insurance."

Firemen were only able to bring out several pieces of small equipment, located in the office. Beaver, called out of bed to the fire, said he left his home without socks, and water from the firemen's hoses froze inside his shoes as he helped carry boxes of nails out of the office.

"It wasn't cold in Rockwell at 2:30," he added. "It was like standing out in warm weather, and the sparks were like it was snowing over the railroad. It was really going."

Grass along the nearby railway tracks caught fire, but the fire did not spread to St. James Lutheran Church, another warehouse, and the Rockwell Casket Co., all located nearby. No firemen were injured, although there was some fear of the shell of the building collapsing because of cracks in brick walls.

Chief Bost said there was no way of estimating the temperature inside the burning building. "But when I drove up, I could feel the heat radiating through my windshield," he said. "It was that hot."

Navy Vet Becomes Full-Time Veteran

EDEN — Frederick Broadnax, a Morehead high school graduate and United States Navy veteran, has become Eden's newest full-time fireman, replacing Benny Sexton in the department.

Sexton had been promoted to the position of building inspector.

Broadnax has two distinctions as he begins his duties with the Eden Fire department. He is the department's first black full-time fireman, according to City Manager J. L. Greeson, who announced his appointment in February. He will also be only the second emergency medical technician in the department when he completes his current EMT training in mid-June.

Since the 24-year-old fireman also has a background in hospital corps work in the Navy, his training should make him an integral part of the fire department in terms of emergency medical care as well as in the performance of regular fireman duties.

The first duty assignment for Broadnax in the Eden Fire department will be as fireman-driver for station number one in the Leaksville section.

Broadnax first came into city employment under the state and federal funded CETA (Comprehensive Employee Training act) program, served through the Rockingham County fund.

It was only when the vacancy developed recently with Sexton's promotion that City Manager J. L. Greeson and Fire Chief Larry Rhodes decided to hire him as full-time paid fireman.

A 1971 Morehead high school graduate, Broadnax attended Rockingham Community college in a physical education curriculum for one and one-half years before entering the Navy in 1973.

He completed his basic training in the United States Naval Training station, Great Lakes, Ill., and then went to hospital corpsman school in San Diego, Calif. Later training included studies at the Great Lakes Naval Lab and he also served at the Bethesda, Md., Navy Medical center.

Separated from active service in 1977, he is still in the inactive reserve program.

Broadnax returned to Eden last October.

Fire destroys old residence

NORTH WILKESBORO — A landmark home at Millers Creek burned beginning about eight p.m. on a recent Friday.

Most people around Millers Creek called the place 'the McNeil home', but it was built by Daniel Bumgarner and bought and remodeled by H. C. (Cleve) Kilby in 1910. Mr. Kilby sold the home to Jeff McNeil in 1923. Dale Church had bought the home from the McNeil estate.

When the fire was discovered by Mrs. Paul Rash, a neighbor on the Charity Church Road, where the house was located, the fire had made much progress.

Millers Creek firemen quickly arrived and found flames rolling from the home. Firemen used both pumper trucks and the tanker and were successful in getting the fire slowed. However it soon burst out of control.

Cricket Fire Department was called for assistance. Nothing could be done to stop the fire, and it burned the house to the ground.

Misses Minnie, Hattie and Cora McNeil, daughters of Jeff McNeil, occupied the home for more than 50 years. Miss Hattie was a nurse, and Miss Cora was a school teacher.

It was a graceful, two-story home which was always kept in good condition.

The home was surrounded by trees on a slight hill just west of the N. C. 16 intersection at the 'Crossroads'.

One Millers Creek resident remarked the following mor-

Continued on page 10

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Out-Foxed Again

Albertson Hunt Short on Foxes But Fire Dept. Now Long on Cash

ALBERTSON — The Albertson Volunteer Fire Department is some \$2,000 richer, thanks to the annual Albertson Fox Hunt sponsored by the Albertson Ruritan Club in February.

Ms. Olivia Smith, secretary of the fire department's ladies auxiliary, reported that proceeds from the hunt's breakfast, barbecue and fish stew dinner and evening dance totaled \$2,241.75.

The money will be used by firemen to help pay for one of the department's two fire engines. Ms. Smith said.

The fox hunt in the northeastern Duplin county community has been held since 1949. Some few years later, the Ruritan Club took over the sponsorship of the event, and for the last four years the club has donated the proceeds to the Albertson Fire Department.

Women of the fire department's auxiliary prepare and serve the morning meal of sausage, grits, eggs and homemade biscuits. They also make the potato salad, cornbread, slaw, etc. for the barbecued pork plates. The barbecue and fish stew are cooked by the firemen and Ruritan Club members. Wives of Ruritan members also assist at the event.

There is usually more food and fellowship at the hunt than there is actual fox hunting, although hundreds of fox hunters from across eastern North Carolina came in pickup trucks loaded with dog cages and equipped with CB radios.

The weather for the hunt was a little wet, but some veteran hunters say damp weather "helps the dogs pick up the scent (of the fox) better."

But there were no reports of any foxes being bagged this

year. Instead, many of the hunters complained that the dogs were chasing deer in the woods. And the reason the hunters were complaining is because deer season is over.

Anyway, it was the "biggest" day of the year in the small Duplin community. There were plenty of old fox hunters who got together around the log-burning fireplace to reminisce about past hunts, everyone enjoyed the food, the children played games on the outside and things were topped off with a big old-fashioned dance at the Albertson fire house that night.

Everything turned out fine, even if the foxes did out-fox the fox hunters this year.

Antenna Accident

Continued from page 7

Joe Edwards of Duke Power said two distribution lines were involved that supply power to the south end of town as well as to other areas in Surry County. One line is rated 7200-volts and the other is 2400 volts.

Edwards said the company's lines and equipment were undamaged. He indicated that Dowdy was fortunate to escape the situation without serious injury.

Firemen were on the scene of the fire for about 60 minutes.

Accidents involving CB antennas and utility lines have become common across the state and nation during the past two or three years with soaring figures indicating that the efforts have been unsuccessful thus far.

sales of CB radios. Accidents involving serious injuries, electrocutions and burning of homes and buildings have occurred repeatedly.

The increase in the accidents have prompted power companies to urge manufacturers of CB radios to carry a warning on kits regarding installation of antennas. Power company of-

Fire blamed on soot

THOMASVILLE — Soot ignited in the chimney of a residence on Johnsonstown Road on a recent afternoon, causing an adjacent wall to become overheated and catch fire, according to a spokesman for the Pilot Fire Department.

Mrs. C.W. Wall discovered the fire in her living room when a picture fell from a burning mantle. The sound of breaking glass drew her to the room, where she discovered the fire and called fire officials.

Firefighters responded to the residence at 12:45 p.m., and remained on the scene about an hour.

A fire department spokesman explained that soot had collected in the chimney from wood

being burned in a heater. The soot ignited, causing the chimney to overheat. The intense heat caused the livingroom wall to catch fire, burning a space from about four inches above the floor up to the mantle, which also burned. Damage was estimated as several hundred dollars.

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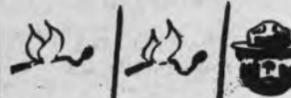
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Report From Swannanoa

Continued from page 3

minor damage. Five false alarms were also reported.

Causes for the structure fires ranged from overheated wood stoves to carelessness. Carelessness also played a major part in the brush-grass fires and one vehicle fire.

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Fire destroys old residence

Continued from page 8

ning that she remembered going to the McNeil home to look at magazines for school projects. She said she was always welcomed by the McNeil sisters and told to "get what you need."

Clyde Kilby, who operates Mulberry Grocery on N. C. 18 north, has some memories about the home. It was his father who purchased the home in 1910.

"I've got some good memories about the house and working on the farm there," he said.

Firemen hadn't immediately determined the fire's cause.

Flames could be seen for miles around. This caused many persons to rush to the scene. Lines of cars were parked along N. C. 16, and vehicles were parked at the new Millers Creek Elementary School.



Fire Prevention Class

Lincoln County — Fireman Bill Hoover of the Howard's Creek Volunteer Fire Department demonstrates fire extinguishers for nurses at the Lincoln County Hospital during a class on fire prevention and protection led by inservice director Vivian Dalrymple.

Lincolnton Lincoln Times - News Photo

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Spout Springs firemen completing new addition

SANFORD — Don Jones, fire chief of the Spout Springs Rural Fire Department, said that the recent addition of a 2,600-square-foot metal building at the rear of the original brick station will afford much-needed storage space for vehicles and also valuable training area.

The exterior of the addition has been completed, but work on the interior will continue for some months. The fire chief said that much of the interior finishing work will be performed by the 32 volunteer firemen. Larry Thomas, instructor in electrical classes at Central Carolina Technical In-

stitute, has offered to wire the building as a training exercise for his students.

"We appreciate very much this offer from such a trained electrician," said Jones. "The electrical work is very important to completing the interior, and we do not have a trained electrician among our membership."

Jones explained that a loan obtained from the Farmers Home Administration will finance the \$20,000 cost of the addition. The loan will be repaid at low interest rates from annual revenues which derive from the special tax levy of 15 cents per \$100 property

valuation levied within the four-mile fire district.

The levy produces approximately \$10,000 a year, Jones said. At the time the loan was sought, Jones noted, the department was entirely debt free. The department now has five vehicles, including two fire trucks, one pumper and two brush trucks.

The station, which stands at the intersection of NC 87 and NC 24, serves a district of four miles. However, firemen serve an area eight-and-a-half miles in radius, he said. The land for the original fire station, now eight years old, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cagle.



Don Jones, fire chief of the Spout Springs Rural Fire Department is shown in front of the fire station in Western Harnett County at the intersection of NC 87 and NC 24 where a 2,600-square-foot metal addition (left) was recently added to the original brick station. The \$20,000 addition, financed by a Farmers Home Administration loan, will be retired from income from the 15-cent tax levy that supports the district.

Sanford Herald Photo

State Fire Administrator Named

Continued from page 1

Underwood of Caswell County. The fourteen-member State Fire Commission will serve as a focal point for administration of federal fire prevention funds in the state, Carlton said. The commission will also be responsible for adopting a state plan for fire prevention and control and a state fire education and training plan.

The commission's duties, according to Carlton, will include, among others, increasing professional skills of fire protection and fire-fighting personnel, building public support for fire prevention control, and encouraging coordination of federal, state and local governments in preparing and implementing fire prevention and control programs.

Firemen Appointed Inspector

Continued from page 1

very strict, codes on insulation.

Pittman will give the new inspector training in this and other areas to bring him up-to-date.

Sexton, who has resided in Eden for some 13 years, is married with two children and his family resides at 711 Franklin drive.

Prior to joining the fire department, he had considerable building experience.

Completing his high school education at Stoneville in 1964, he began working with his father in the construction business then until 1969 when he joined Beaman Construction

company, of Greensboro.

In 1973, Sexton came back to a local firm when he worked for Jack Fleming, a building contractor. He held that position until he joined the fire department in 1975.

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Hughes named fireman of year

From the

Elizabeth City Advance
By KATHY M. NEWBERN
POPLAR BRANCH —

Chief David Henry Hughes of the Camden Volunteer Fire Department was named Fireman of the Year in February when the Albemarle Firemen's Association met here at Griggs Elementary School.

Hughes has been a fireman 22 years, serving as Camden chief the last six of those.

Two other awards, resolutions of respect were presented to the families of recently-deceased members of the Association: Easton Linwood Harrell of the Kill Devil Hills Volunteer Fire Department, and Chester Winslow of the Gates Volunteer Fire Department.

Other action of the Association's annual ladies' night included election and installation of officers. Serving as president of the association for the coming year will be Chief Charles C. Green, U.S. Coast Guard Air Base Fire Department, Elizabeth City.

Other officers are Charles Skinner Jr. of Hertford, first vice president; Bill Gard of Kill Devil Hills, second vice president; Johnny Gregory of Weeksville, secretary; Gary

Swanner of Edenton, treasurer; and Lawrence McInturiff of Swan Quarter, chaplain.

While no action was taken on any matters during the business session, the members did hear

comments concerning mutual aid assistance at the Winslow Oil Co. fire, Jan. 10, in Hertford. John Beers, a Hertford town councilman and fireman, read a letter expressing gratitude and appreciation from the town to all those assisting and standing by during the fire.

Hertford Fire Chief Charles Skinner Jr. added his personal thanks on behalf of the department.

Before adjourning, newly elected President Green read a letter from John C. Swindell, president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The letter explained recent efforts by the National Fire Prevention Control Administration to establish a National Fire Academy at Washington, D.C. for programs and training.



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JACKSONVILLE — NATION SOUJOURNERS, Camp Lejeune Chapter 329, recently presented a flag to the Back Swamp Volunteer Fire Department. Making the presentation was George Eckman, president of the chapter, to Chief Guylie

Fountain as fireman Gary Fountain and Soujourners Rocky Williams, Charles Disney and Harry C. Miley look on. Scout troop 43 of Back Swamp conducted a raising ceremony for the flag.

Jacksonville Daily News Photo

Tri-county forest fires claim 5,100 acres in '77

NEW BERN — Fire destroyed 5,100 acres of tri-county timberland and marshland in 1977 at a total cost to taxpayers of \$64,152 for suppression of the 211 outbreaks. The cost figures does not include the loss of timber products and jobs.

Year end reports from area foresters reveal extensive losses in Craven and Pamlico counties, but the loss of only 236 acres in Jones County was attributed to cooperation of "conscientious landowners by Jones County ranger Jack Sykes.

Pamlico County ranger Tommy Potter reported 1,800 of a total 2,649 acres burned during the year in Pamlico County were lost in two major fires, one in Silver Hill and the other in Hobucken. The cost of those two fires alone was put at \$25,555.

Of 71 fires in Pamlico County, Potter reports, 48 percent were "incendiary," or deliberately set. These fires accounted for 52 percent of the acreage lost, or 1,394 acres. Pamlico fire losses included 2,209 acres of timber and 440 acres of marsh.

Craven County Forest Ranger Jim Hines reported 108 fires burned 2,215 acres in Craven County at a total sup-

pression cost of \$27,186.

Volunteer fire departments assisted in 25 percent of the firefighting and were said to have controlled 200 Craven County brush fires without forest service assistance.

Hines said 33 percent of the Craven County fires were incendiary.

Total cost of suppression of 32 fires in Jones County was \$1,966, Sykes said, reporting 15.6 percent to be incendiary fires.

OTHER CAUSES

A breakdown of other fire causes in addition to those deliberately set were 29 percent caused by people burning trash and debris which got out of control in Pamlico, 37 percent in Craven and 62.5 percent in Jones.

Children caused 11 percent of the fires in Pamlico, 12 percent in Craven and 9.4 percent in Jones. Lightning was responsible for 3.1 percent in Pamlico, 7 percent in Craven and 3.1 percent in Jones. Smoking and campfires accounted for 3 percent in Pamlico, 5 percent in Craven and 3.1 percent in Jones.

Machine use, such as logging or farming equipment, caused 4 percent in Pamlico, 2 percent in Craven — with an additional 3 percent attributed to "miscellaneous" — and 6.3 percent in Jones. "As you can see, 92 percent of the fires in Pamlico County in 1977 were caused by man," Potter told Pamlico County commissioners last week.

However, he added that man also can help reduce the number of fires and loss of natural resources. He urged residents to report anything suspicious they see near the scene of a fire to the forest service or to the sheriff's office.

State law, he said, makes it a felony to willfully or maliciously set fire to the woodland of another to cause damage. The crime carries a penalty of not less than one nor more than five years in prison.

The ranger said anyone planning to burn trash or debris should be sure to clear a line of bare soil around the area to be burned to prevent spreading.

He also noted that burning permits must be obtained by those burning within 500 feet of a woodland or over 100 feet from an occupied dwelling.

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