



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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MAY 1985

Claremont Fire Department Veteran Reflects On Changes

By Patricia Tallent
Hickory Record
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT—Charles Y. Baker, 64, can remember when the only way to fight a fire in Claremont was with buckets of water.

Baker joined the Fire Department more than 45 years ago and still fondly remembers how the Claremont Bucket Brigade—the city's first Fire Department—operated.

"When there was a fire, someone would bang on a pan and everyone would come running," he recalled. "You formed a line and passed the buckets of water. You had to get right up at it (the fire) to throw the water. It was hard to get them out then."

The only thing firemen knew to do for a long time "was stay outside and squirt

water at a burning house," he said. "Now we go inside. The first obligation of a fireman is to save lives and then property."

Baker joined the department in 1939, the same year it purchased its first truck—an American LaFrance fire truck. The truck was chain driven with a 100-gallon tank. The purchase of a Ford pumper truck followed in 1956.

Before the truck, the department used a two-wheel, hand-pulled cart with 500 feet of 2½-inch hose on a large reel. Although it was an improvement over the bucket brigade, Baker said using the cart was still a hard way to fight a fire.

"Two men would have to pull the cart, and they would give out when they got to a fire," he said.

Baker said fire departments in those days also did not know anything about flame-

retardant uniforms.

"We didn't have any uniforms back then," he said. "All we had were plastic rain-coats. We didn't know anything about them."

As Claremont grew, a larger Fire Department was needed and the new City Hall, in which it is housed, was built in 1960. Baker helped build the new municipal building which replaced the old City Hall at 106 Main St.

He was elected chief of the Fire Department in 1962 and under his leadership it continued to grow. Fund-raisers like fish fries were held to collect money for a "water wagon" and a used Army jeep to fight woods and grass fires.

Throughout the years, Baker has watched the changes and improvements in firefighting methods. The Fire Department now has six

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Henredon Contributes \$\$\$ To Altapass VFD

SPRUCE PINE—A \$30,000 contribution to the recently organized Altapass Volunteer Fire Department has been made by Henredon Furniture Company's Spruce Pine Division.

This contribution will be spread over a three-year period, according to Keith Suddreth, Henredon manager.

In making the contribution, Suddreth stated "the company is proud to be a part in helping to provide a substantial sum of money to start the project."

Henredon has four plants located off Altapass Road in the Altapass community and

Suddreth noted that "nine of the charter members of the Altapass Volunteer Fire Department are employees at Henredon and are also members of the Henredon Fire Brigade."

E. J. Biddix, Henredon Fire Brigade assistant chief, is also assistant chief of the Altapass Fire Department. Other employees on the fire department are: Jim Burleson, Billy Lowery, Ray Saxon, Kenneth Suddreth, George Biddix, Carl Burleson, Dale Wiseman and Eddie Duncan.

Many other employees live in the geographical area that

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Canada Firewomen On Call

By Angela Griffin
Sylva-Herald

SYLVA—It may not be unusual to hear about "firewomen" in larger cities (although I never have), however, around Jackson county it is a new idea. In the more rural sections of the county where the homes are fairly isolated, having women on the local fire department is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The main reason for this is because the working men leave the area each day to drive a good distance to work in other towns, such as Brevard or Sylva.

Only a few short years ago, there was no fire station at all in the Canada Community. When a fire started, it took the closest fire department at least 15 minutes to find its way to the community. Then the firemen had to find their way around winding roads to where the fire was located. It was often necessary for neighbors to stand alongside a main road to direct the trucks in the right direction.

You may have figured out that by then, a burning house or trailer had a good chance of already burning beyond

control. This happened many times until around 1980 when a trailer was a total loss and some of the local people decided they needed to do something about the situation.

"I remember times when it seemed the whole country was on fire up here," recalls Luther Harris, assistant chief and one of the 21 firemen currently listed on the Canada Fire Department insurance roll. When a brush fire got started, it often destroyed acres of land before it could be stopped.

Boyd Sossoman, serving as Emergency Services Coordinator and Civil Defense Director, helped the interested Canada Community people to seek funds to begin a fire department. They started out by meeting at the old Community Building and then at the old school. On June 19, 1980, they adopted their constitution and bylaws. They obtained one four-wheel drive vehicle, a surplus truck which was converted into a fire truck with a 250 gallon per minute pumper.

After a while, the community received a \$500,000 block grant to build a new fire station. That was a happy day

for Fire Chief Lawrence Queen and those who had been struggling for months to get a real fire department started in their community.

When the idea arose, the women pitched in just like the men, to see to it that their homes would be protected. Husbands and wives alike attended all meetings, learning all they could to become efficient firefighters. Five women currently have their names on the insurance roll as official members of the Canada Community Fire Department.

Although the women have considered pulling out as members and becoming an auxiliary, they are needed more right now as trained firefighters. Due to the rural location of the community, most of the working men find it necessary to travel long distances to work in other towns in the area. Some get home as late as 8 o'clock at night. If a fire broke out in the community during daytime working hours, the women would be called upon to man the trucks and try to keep the fire under control until additional help from a

Continued on page 3

New Pumper

RIEGELWOOD—The Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire & Rescue, Inc., of Riegelwood, NC, purchased and received a new pumper from Emergency Equipment, Inc., of Raleigh, NC. After an 18 month thorough investigation for the right apparatus body and chassis to serve our area, we decided on a Ford F-8000 with a Catapillar 3208-N and a 4-speed Allison automatic. It has a Hale 1000 gpm single stage pump with a 1000 gallon tank and is equipped with the following: 1000 ft. of 3" hose, 400 ft. of 1¾" hose with TFT nozzles, 1 200 ft. section of 2½" preconnect attack line with a 2½" pistol-grip turbojet midrange nozzle, 4 SCBA's, 9 spare bottles, a 4300 watt generator with 2 500 watt telescoping lights, an Akron deluge gun with tips and Black Widow

nozzle, an electric smoke ejector, 3 ladders (24, 12, 10 ft.), a Kenmar low-level strainer for our department's water shuttle program, numerous handtools, lanterns, hardware, and a library of the areas industries and businesses' pre-fire plannings.

We are very thankful for the support that our community gives us and this has led us to purchase this excellent piece of firefighting apparatus. This will aid us a lot in helping us to reduce the ISO rating in our fire district. This truck has helped us in fire suppression, training and morale. This is the second pumper we have received from this company and they have done a great job for us.

Submitted by:
Fire Chief S. W. Camlin
ADR Fire & Rescue, Inc.
Riegelwood, NC



Acme-Delco-Riegelwood's New Pumper

Editorial

When I told you in November that, upon receiving my copy of "International Concepts for Fire Prevention," published by Tri-Data, Inc., I would try to give you a report on their findings on American Fire Deaths as compared to these other countries, I assigned myself a mountainous task! I have just received my copy, which is a 63-page book filled with interesting and informative material with which I hardly know how to begin to cover! There is no way I can do justice to this report, but will try to encompass what I can in a series of articles. However, a free copy of this report is

available to Fire Service Professionals upon request and I urge those of you in this category to write or call for your copy. Contact: Tri-Data Corporation, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22209, or call (703) 841-2975.

My personal thanks to Mr. Schaenman for my copy; also the Tobacco Institute whose grant made it possible. Mr. Schaenman was the project director and principal researcher for Japan and Hong Kong. Mr. Edward F. Seits, consultant for Tri-Data and a senior official of the Calif. State Fire Marshall's office, was principal researcher for Australia and New Zealand.



EMILY H. KING

Much of this article will consist of direct quotes from this report.

According to Mr. Schaenman, "As a nation, we are far behind others in the scope, intensity and effectiveness in our fire prevention efforts. Some U.S. communities do an excellent job in fire prevention. Few ideas in this report cannot be found somewhere in the United States, but by and large we short-change fire prevention efforts and always have. 'America Burning,' published by the National Commission of Fire Prevention and Control, 1973, said that in 1973 and, unfortunately, it is still true."

A senior Australian Fire Chief asked why it is that even though we put so much (U.S.) emphasis on public education and school programs, we still have a death rate twice as high as Australia? He felt that the *quality* of programs and specific techniques used were crucial and suggested that public information should be communicated in succinct short bursts to be effective, saying that fed continuously, it would disappear into the background with other information.

However, Hong Kong and Japan put much greater emphasis on fire prevention programs than we do, which I will discuss more fully later. Also, Hong Kong, with over

five million people living in the most densely populated place on earth, has fewer fire deaths per million than 57 of the largest 58 cities in the United States. For instance, Chicago has triple the number of fire deaths as Hong Kong and is half their size. Chicago had 126 fire deaths in 1983—Hong Kong had 40. Also, note that some fire deaths in Japan are self-immolation deaths and Hong Kong includes transportation deaths in their death charts. Engine 5 in Cincinnati goes to twice as many fires in its district in a year as occur in the city of Nagasaki (population 450,000).

New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Cincinnati do not have unusually bad records, however, their fire problems are typical of large cities. Our status of fire deaths, compared to other nations, isn't new. We have had the highest fire death rates per capita, in the world, for the last 20 years. Also, the highest rate of building fires per capita. Although these statistics are not new, they should certainly be enough to bring our people to a realization that there is much to be done in the way of cutting down these figures.

Probably the most significant fact that has emerged from this study, which is based only on the Far East and Pacific areas (Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand), is that the United States lags behind other nations in the intensity of our fire prevention efforts, resulting in the fact that our citizens are less aware and/or concerned about fire problems as they should be, have less knowledge about how to deal with them and less *motivated* to do anything about them.

"To be fair to ourselves (I quote Mr. S.), we have a more diverse people within one na-

tion and greater freedom to live as we wish than other nations, which makes the fire protection job more difficult." But there is always a theme we can use to diverse types of people to encourage more fire safety—endangering others (your loved ones, for instance), pride of ownership, losing parts of your personal and cultural heritage (as in China and Japan), economic losses and fear for your life. Not just *one* theme should be used; different ones may need to be used in different cities, neighborhoods or ethnic groups.

Next month I will try to cover some of the methods used in Japan and Hong Kong. These places put all-out emphasis on fire prevention in many, many ways, both from national, local agencies and citizen involvement, with practically the whole population involved in some way. I know we have a long way to go to begin to do all that they do, and don't know if it is at all possible to emulate many of their practices, but maybe we can make a start at it!

Emily H. King

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

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Fastest Growing Children's Crime

WASHINGTON, DC—On Tuesday, April 23rd, 1985, at the Capitol Building, Washington, DC, Senator Arlen Specter, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on juvenile justice, held a hearing on child arson and firesetting.

Witnesses included teenage arsonists and their mothers, firefighter volunteers, mental health experts, and the founder of the National Firehawk Foundation, a non-profit organization with a hundred percent success rate dealing with young arsonists and firesetters.

Annually, over 8,000 American children each year are arrested for arson, accounting for 37% of all arson arrests—the highest rate of juvenile involvement of any major crime, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Report.

Children who commit arson are predominantly fatherless boys with a history of child

abuse, neglect, giftedness, learning disabilities, drug use or behavior problems.

The National Firehawk Foundation, a non-profit organization which pairs recurrent child firesetters with firefighters under the direction of mental health experts, has 100 affiliates throughout the United States, including Washington, DC, and Prince Georges County, Maryland. The foundation asked Senator Specter to hold the hearing after common problems around the country were reported by its affiliates. These problems included a lack of adequate statistics on the nature of the problem, a lack of inpatient facilities willing to handle child arsonists, and a lack of fair arrest, sentencing and probation conditions.

Submitted by:
National Firehawk
Foundation
San Francisco, CA

Firm Salutes Fire Departments

ROXBORO—Baby Dream Inc., a Roxboro manufacturer of clothing and blankets for small children, saluted four fire departments for saving the plant from total destruction when a fire swept its warehouse on April 30.

Hermann Bennhausen, president of the firm, said that thanks to the four fire departments, the company is still in business. Plaques were presented yesterday to representatives of the fire departments at Clarksville Station Steakhouse to commend them for their work.

The fire departments are Roxboro Fire Department, Triple Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Moriah Volunteer Fire Department and Hurdle Mills Volunteer Fire Department.

The fire destroyed the warehouse and a million dollars worth of piece-goods inventory, but firemen were able to save the manufacturing building beside the warehouse. The cause of the fire hasn't been determined and foul play has not been ruled out. The State Bureau of Investigation is continuing a probe.

It took about 75 firefighters about 2½ hours to bring the fire under control and to prevent its spread to the nearby production building. About 140 jobs would have been lost if the fire had destroyed the plant, Bennhausen said.

Canada Firewomen On Call

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backup station could arrive. Sossoman said with the new mutual assistance program in effect in the county, the Cullowhee Fire Department is automatically called to back up the Canada Department on all calls. However, it takes the Cullowhee Department at least 15 minutes to travel up the mountain to the community.

Someone must be on hand during that 15 minutes or a piece of burning property will be a total loss.

The Canada Department has recently, through county funding, obtained six complete turn out suits. They have several beepers (pagers) which can be used to call members during an emergency. However, in the mountainous area, some locations block the signals and calls must be made by phone. This is where the fire chief's wife, Mamie Queen, comes in handy.

Mamie, who is one of the firewomen and a very active member of the department, calls all the fire members she can reach before heading out to try to help those on the scene of a fire. She recognizes the fact that the women may not be able to do some things, but they are learning and willing to try.

The department now has a Jeep which was donated by the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, a brand new mini pumper, the converted four by four Forest Service surplus truck, and a 1942 model American LaFrance 750 gallon per minute pumper. The women have driven the trucks, at least a short distance, to become acquainted with them. When asked if they felt they could handle them if necessary, the answer was "yes."

"We could drive the trucks and hold the fire down until back up help could get there," said Mamie, adding they are all very proud of their new truck, a Sierra 3500, which they received in September of last year through an HUD grant.

The firemen and women have been taking classes to become efficient firefighters. They have been given a general fire fighting course, a pump school, and a school given by the Forest Service on fighting woods fires.

Edith Harris compared setting up the new fire station as being like "setting up housekeeping—it takes a long time to get it all together."

But things are falling in place. The department is becoming well equipped. The new station, which is the bottom portion of a building serving as a community center, has four bays, two bathrooms with showers, a meeting room and a small room with a bed for manning the station overnight if necessary.

But Mamie really hit the nail on the head when she said it takes more than turning out at the meetings to make a well qualified fire department. "You've gotta fall in there and help clean and do other necessary things," she said. Edith agreed, adding, "You've gotta work and stick together and do what needs to be done."

The two women agree that all the people in the community who are interested in the department are good to turn out and help. So what more do they need you might ask. "We need muscle power," they say, and the support of the entire community to make this rural fire department work.

The station held its first fund raising supper last Saturday night, and with 50 people attending, they raised

\$160 to use for more pagers. They noted especially the donations made to the department by Cecil Ward and Helen Smith. "We had hoped to do better," said Mamie, "but there were many other activities that night." But every penny counts when you're "setting up housekeeping," and the money will be put to good use.

Currently on the membership list of the Canada Fire Department are Fire Chief Lawrence Queen, assistant fire chief Luther Harris, Cornell Ammons, Estes Burrell, Doug Queen, Jackie Queen, Eddie Queen, Ernie Akin,

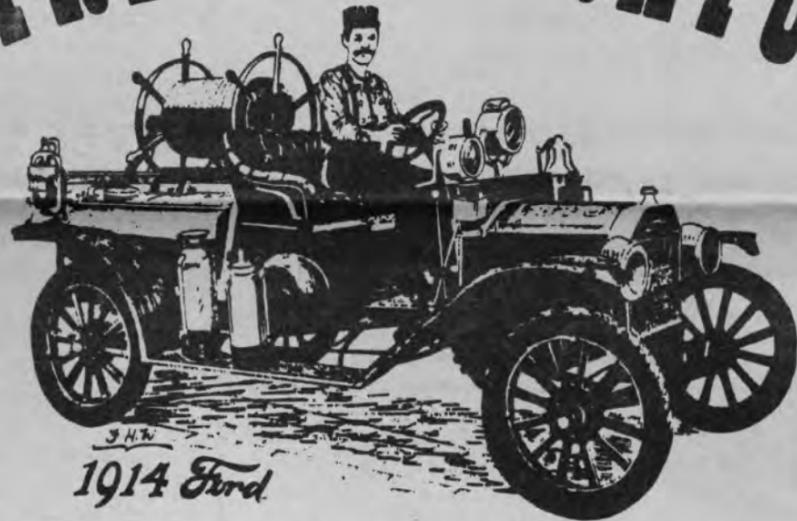
Thurmanelle Brown, Avery Brown, Denvard Ashe, Billy Joe Mathis, Robert Mathis, Edith Harris, Mammie Queen, Jimmy Galloway, Leonard Hoxit, Juanita Hoxit, Von Brown, Russell Brown and Margaret Mathis. Others such as Jimmy, Mary and Wayne Mathis are very good to attend the meetings, but the roll is limited by law to 21.

Sossoman said it takes a station about one to one and one-half years to become proficient. He said since the department is just now getting all their equipment they are really just getting started. When the Canada Depart-

ment earns their rating, it will be for a four mile radius. This will help home owners on lower insurance rates.

It has taken a lot of long hours and a hard struggle to get a fire station open and operating in this rural section of the county, but it has been done and done well. The people are enthusiastic and energetic. They attend all the county fire meetings and take a part. And although they feel very lucky that they have not had any bad fires for a couple of years, when they do, firemen and firewomen alike will dress out and man the hoses to protect "their" community.

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Claremont Fire Department Veteran Reflects On Changes

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trucks—three pumpers, two tankers and a brush buggy—and 39 members.

The number of fires also has increased, Baker said, but the loss from fires is not as great as it used to be. "Today there are more fires because there are more people," he said. "But, firefighting techniques have improved. We are able to save more lives and property than we could before."

Baker added that the Claremont Fire Department covers less territory than it used to since the Oxford Volunteer and Bandys fire departments were formed.

An effective mutual aid agreement with 17 other fire departments also makes the Claremont department's job a little easier, he said.

Baker served as fire chief for 15 years—longer than any other chief has served in Claremont. He was forced to resign in 1976 when a blood clot from a traffic accident injury resulted in the loss of his right leg.

The loss of his leg has slowed him down, he said, "but it hasn't stopped me yet." Baker continues to work at least four hours a day.

He currently serves as an

advisor to the Fire Department and the City Council. He oversees maintenance of the equipment, does the bookkeeping and keeps department records such as training hours.

"I just fell in love with it (the Fire Department) and have been here ever since," he said.

What is the main ingredient of a good fireman? "Dedication," says Baker. "You never know when that siren is going to go off."

Volunteer fire departments are more effective than paid fire departments, he said, because the men are more dedicated and interested.

Despite all the time he has given to the Fire Department, Baker also has worked at a number of other jobs—including three years at C. D. Jessup Hosiery Co., as a brakeman and conductor for Southern Railroad for 15 years and as a carpenter for a number of years.

He became Claremont's maintenance supervisor in 1961. His duties included responsibility for the city's waterworks, reading meters and maintenance of all the city's buildings. Baker is probably the only person who knows the location and size of every waterline and meter in the city.

Throughout the years, he has seen mayors and council members come and go.

"We have a good mayor, board members, city manager and city clerks," he said. "They are all working out well."

Baker and his wife, Edith Montez Baker, have been married for almost 46 years. They have four sons, who have all been firemen.

Michael Baker is currently assistant chief of the Claremont Fire Department. Lowell Baker lives in Alexander County; Terry Baker lives in Claremont; and Wayne Baker lives in Hickory.

An Unusual New Book

NEW YORK, NY—A new fire service management guide, "Winning the Fire Service Leadership Game" by Hugh J. Caulfield, was announced recently for June

publication by Fire Engineering Books.

For every firefighter who wants to be a leader, and every leader who wants to be a great one, this text answers such questions as: *How strict should I be? How carefully should I stick to the rules with firefighters who are willing to risk their lives for me and others—rules that may have been made by superiors who would not risk their lives for anyone?*

The answers to these questions and other principles of management essential to a successful career in the fire service appear in the book as vivid scenes acted out in firehouses. You will immediately recognize how true to life the characters are drawn—even down to the language. You won't easily forget the insight they provide on "winning the fire service leadership game."

Hugh J. Caulfield was director of career training and officer promotion and served as a line officer in the NYFD. He retired with the rank of captain after 23 years. Hugh is presently Assistant Professor of Fire Science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He has degrees in business, science and public administration.

"Winning the Fire Service Leadership Game" can be ordered for \$19.95 from Fire Engineering Books, Box C-757, Brooklyn, NY 11205.

Fireman of Year

William Smith of N.C. 48 was named Fireman of the Year 1985 by the Rheasville Volunteer Fire Department during a dinner meeting at Western Steer Steakhouse recently. Smith, who has been with the volunteer firefighters for two years, received the plaque citing outstanding performance in the community from Frank Godsey, last year's recipient, and congratulations from Fire Chief Joe Lambert. An employee of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Weldon, Smith was nominated from the floor and elected by majority vote of the Rheasville VFD membership. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith Sr. of Lake View Paker here and a graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School.

Barking Dog Saves Couple From Fire

HENDERSONVILLE—A 2-year-old dog saved a sleeping Hendersonville couple from certain death recently when fire roared through their one-story frame house, but the pet perished in the inferno.

The incident started about 12:30 a.m. when the Whitted Street home of Walter and Lucille Carthens began burning.

The couple, who were not seriously injured, were awakened by the frantic barking of Sandy, a part boxer and greyhound, Mrs. Carthens said.

They lost all their possessions in the fire and were wearing borrowed clothes and living with a relative, Mrs. Carthens said.

They also lost Sandy that they raised from a puppy and "that was like a person to us," she said.

The couple was asleep when Sandy "started barking and raising sand," Mrs. Carthens said. "She came in the bedroom and woke us up and we saw the flames and the house was on fire."

While Carthens attempted to extinguish the blaze, Sandy "panicked and went back under the table in the front hall where she slept," Mrs. Carthens said. "It got her where she sleeps."

The couple spent the next day searching for a new home with the help of the Red Cross and other Henderson County agencies, but nothing turned up, she said.

Carthens is disabled and unable to work.

Hendersonville firemen, meanwhile were trying to determine the cause of the fire on the back porch where some clothes were kept.

The house, owned by Sandy Sherman of Hendersonville, is a total loss, has been condemned and torn down, Capt. Ronald Stepp of the Hendersonville Fire Department said.

Mrs. Carthens said some time will pass before she'll want another dog.

"Sandy had a beautiful personality," she said. "She played ball and swam. I don't think we would have waked up in time if it hadn't been for Sandy—no way."

"But I told them, 'If it hadn't have been the dog, it would have been you,'" Stepp said.



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Assistant Fire Chief Announced

GREENVILLE—Greenville native Raymond Carney has been promoted to assistant fire chief of the Greenville Fire and Rescue Department.

Carney has been with the department for 15 years and has served as a firefighter, lieutenant and captain. In his new position, he will direct activities of the department's number two shift. The department is run on a three-shift schedule with an assistant chief in charge of each shift.

Carney is married to Dede Carney and is a member of Sycamore Baptist Church. He also serves as chairman of the board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He holds an associate degree in management from Pitt Community College, and is a graduate of the North Carolina Fire College and Fire Prevention School. He has attended the National Fire Academy in Maryland and is a certified North Carolina Emergency Medical Technician.

Photos of April 13 Blaze Keepsakes for Firefighters

By Jim Schlosser
Greensboro News-Record

GREENSBORO—The hottest items in the Greensboro Fire Department these days are two 8-by-10 photographs of the April 13 fire that virtually destroyed the 300 block of South Davie Street.

Firefighter Chuck Whitworth, on behalf of his colleagues, has ordered 193 prints of one photo and 149 of the other from the Greensboro News & Record.

"It's a keepsake thing for us, something to show our kids when they're growing up, to let them know we were there," Whitworth said.

The firefighters aren't the only department members buying the photos. They are selling to secretaries in the fire administration office and mechanics who work on the equipment.

The fire, discovered shortly before 11 p.m., kept firefighters working all night. At one point, firefighters feared that the flames would spread to other parts of downtown. In all, eight buildings were destroyed or damaged.

Both photos were taken by staff photographer Joseph Rodriguez. One shows five firefighters silhouetted against Davie Street. The whole block is in flames. The

red glow is higher than the buildings.

The second shows firefighters and several fire trucks in the foreground and the Dixie Belle Textile Building ablaze in the background. The building's arched windows and walls are collapsing.

When Whitworth passed the word that orders were being taken for the photographs, he expected interest "but the response has been overwhelming," he said.

Whitworth says he could kick himself for being off duty the night of the fire. He didn't get to the scene until Monday morning, when the ruins were smoldering.

"I got to throw a little water on it and to operate the aerial ladder," he said. "It was not as much as I wanted to do."



Firefighters Awarded

YORK, PA — Key officials from Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS), York, PA, were on hand recently in New York City's City Hall to assist in presenting awards to a New York City fireman credited with saving the lives of three people. Daniel F. McNeil, president of VFIS (far left), and H. Lee Bainbridge, vice president of marketing (third from left), are seen with firefighter Guy Warren (in cap) and Vincent J. Zito, a Paterson, New Jersey firefighter also honored for his bravery. Also seen in the photo above (at far right) is Dennis Smith, publisher and editor-in-chief of Firehouse Magazine which sponsors the annual Firehouse Magazine Heroism and Community Service Award with VFIS and several other sponsors. VFIS is a subsidiary of the Glatfelter Insurance Group, York, PA.

Warren, responding to an early morning blaze in October, 1983, entered a three-story building engulfed in flames and eventually saved three people from death in the fire. New York City Mayor Ed Koch participated in the award ceremonies and presented greetings to the York contingent.

Zito participated in a multiple-alarm call in October, 1984, to a residential hotel where panicked occupants were standing at windows framed in heavy smoke. The firefighter ascended an aerial ladder to the seventh floor and consequently led several persons to safety before collapsing from acute smoke inhalation and exhaustion.

(Submitted by Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc., York, PA)

Firemen Take Training

MANTEO—Firemen from Nags Head and Manns Harbor participated in fire training exercises recently at the Sand Dollar Motel in Nags Head. The motel, which is in disrepair and out of use, will be burned later in a training burn that will offer fire departments in the county a chance to practice. The property is owned by Joe Norkus Enterprises out of Houston, Texas. The company reportedly hopes to develop the tract with a condominium development. Nags Head fireman Bill Jones discussed types of ladders with Manns Harbor fire chief Richard Burke and Manns Harbor firemen Bud Tillett, Chester Tillett and Bud Hall. Nags Head fire marshal Charles Remaley demonstrated use of a K-12 Stihl cutting tool in a ventilation exercise. Chief Paul Royston and volunteer firemen Kathy Fessler and Debbie Wofford watched.

Master's Program

NEW YORK, NY—Starting September, 1985, John Jay College, a senior college of City University of New York, will be offering a Master of Science in Fire Protection Management. The program is designed to meet the needs of people in all branches of Fire Protection. It is the intention of the college to further the professionalization of the fire protection field by adding this program to its present undergraduate bachelor's degree in Fire Science and Fire Protection Management.

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Cherokee VFD News

CHEROKEE—The Cherokee Volunteer Fire Department and Rainbow Productions, Inc., of Charlotte are sponsoring a fund drive for the Volunteer Firemen to raise funds for communication equipment.

During the next couple of weeks a representative will be going door to door throughout the reservation asking for a \$10.00 donation. For your donation you will receive a free 8 x 10 photograph. Photographs may be taken of either an adult member of the family or of the entire family. Minors of the family will be photographed only after they have been photographed as a part of the family portrait.

Photographs will be taken at the Fire Department on June 22 and 23 by appointment between 9 A.M. and 9 P.M. Pictures will be back in about two weeks.

Additional photographs will be available for purchase.

Volunteer firemen ask everyone to help with this fundraiser. We are sure everyone will be satisfied with their portraits and the department will be also to continue its good service to the community. When our representative stops by your door, give us your help. We need it today, you might need us tomorrow.

George Sneed, Volunteer Fire Chief
James Fischer, Fund Raising Chairman

Firemen Reaching Department Goals

By David Freeman
Lenoir News Topic

LENOIR—Caldwell County volunteer firemen answered 1,775 alarms in 1984, a 22 percent increase over the previous year, according to county Fire Marshal Dale Coffey.

"We reached most of our goals that we set," the fire marshal told the Caldwell Board of County Commissioners recently. "The progress made by our fire departments far exceeded our expectations."

Coffey said "a record number" (319) of firefighters attended county training schools and each department now has a certified fire instructor.

Also, a pilot training program for rookie firemen was successful, according to Coffey. He said 39,451 manhours were invested in the training which brings the new fireman's proficiency up to veteran status.

The county First Responder Program, which places a trained fireman on the scene in any life-threatening situation, was started in October. Coffey said the aim of the program is to put qualified medical personnel on the scene until county paramedics arrive.

Coffey also cited efforts last

year to re-rate seven county departments. This could, if state reports due in April are favorable, result in lowered insurance premiums for Caldwell homeowners. Coffey also reported the county firemen's association has purchased a mobile compressor which allows the filling of air packs on the scene. In the past, such equipment had to be filled at the department.

At present, Coffey said the association is forming a hazardous material response team to respond to spills and other industrial accidents which might involve dangerous chemicals.

Coffey also told commissioners he investigated 41 fires in 1984, ruling 22 as arson. He said the loss last year to arson totaled \$463,000 and his investigations resulted in 10 arrests. Nine convictions have resulted with one case still pending in court.

Henredon Contributes \$\$\$ To Altapass VFD

Continued from page 1

would be the district covered by the Altapass Volunteer Fire Department.

Sudreth also stated that "Henredon is always pleased to be a part of community activities that help increase the security and personal safety of their employees.

Approximately 50 to 75 people attended ground breaking ceremonies Sunday afternoon, April 28, to begin the Altapass Volunteer Fire Department's construction of a fire station. The property is located at the intersection of Altapass Road and Henredon Road.

Rev. Overbay, pastor of the Altapass Church of God, gave the invocation and Joe Bidix, a life long resident of the Altapass Community, gave a brief history of the community.

Lloyd Glenn Jr., Chief of the Department presided. He

thanked the Altapass Baptist Church and the Altapass Church of God for providing a meeting place for the department and the community for their continued support.

H. Lee Ledford, who donated property for the new fire station, presented the deed to the fireman. Construction of the building should begin within the next 90 days. "On behalf of the Altapass Fire Department, we thank Mr. Medford for this generous donation," Chief Glenn said. "We also appreciate the financial help from the community."

"On behalf of the Altapass Fire Department, I would like to thank Keith Sudreth, Don Warren and Henredon Furniture Co. for this generous contribution and support. Through our combined effort we can make Altapass a safer place to live and work," said Lloyd Glenn, chief.



Product News

GASOLINE TANK TRUCK EMERGENCIES

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announces the availability of its newest training film, *Gasoline Tank Truck Emergencies*.

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Junior Firemen Pitch In

By Lynn Earley
Staff Reporter
Lexington Dispatch

LEXINGTON—Some still sport youthful appearances and tote high school books, but when fire departments need manpower to battle blazes, Davidson County junior firemen drop their after-school studies and activities to respond.

People too young to join volunteer fire departments as senior firemen can learn firefighting through these programs.

"I think it's a good program for somebody who's genuinely interested," Lexington Fire Chief Tommy Williams said recently. Williams' paid department does not include junior firemen, but some of his men have been junior volunteer firemen.

"They get kind of a supervisor's view of firefighting because they're not allowed to get into" burning structures, Williams said. "They have a chance to gradually work themselves in."

Some departments have encountered problems which have dampened their enthusiasm for these programs, however.

The South Lexington Department dropped its program about three years ago after the Sheriff's Department charged one of its junior firemen with nine counts of unlawful burning.

"When we really found out we did have one who was giving us problems, we just dropped it," South Lexington Chief Junior Freeman said. "We were afraid we might run into some more problems. You never know when you'll run into another one."

In June, 1982, a 17-year-old junior fireman was accused of setting nine brush fires between November, 1981 and April 1982, off Fairview Drive and in the Walltown Road area in South Lexington, according to Sheriff's Department reports. Investigators at the time attributed the cause to the youth's need to experience the excitement of putting out fires.

Looking back, Freeman agrees. "I think really what happens a lot of times in the younger men and boys, they get sort of overanxious," he said.

The community has not held the department responsible for the problem, Freeman said.

"I don't feel like they did, because we've had some awfully good response from the community since then," he said.

He has no plans, however, to start another program. And he would tighten admittance to any future program.

"I think I would have to personally do a little more screening," he said.

Some volunteer fire chiefs have encountered more minor problems, saying interest in these programs has dropped in their fire districts.

"I just haven't had the interest of the younger people," West Lexington Fire Chief Foy Young said. "I guess if they would really push me I would get it going. I've never really encouraged it. So far we've always had enough firemen."

Some departments continue to work with youth, training them for the day they might don equipment and lead an attack into a burning house.

Fire departments with junior firemen programs restrict participants' hands-on experience because of state laws and insurance regulations which set age limits for equipment usage.

"At Reeds we pretty much just started out rolling hose and so on, just hanging around the fire station," Lexington fireman Roy Sink said recently. Sink turned in his junior fireman status at Reeds in April when he turned 21 and became a senior fireman.

"In my opinion there's no doubt it's a good program, but

I think there are a few things to be worked out, mainly the age," Sink said.

He questions some departments' age limit of 21 for senior firemen. He points to his own firefighting history, saying he had worked as a fulltime paid fireman at Lexington two years before Reeds accepted him as a senior fireman.

"They should come in at 15 or 16 years old and do minimum work around a fire scene, roll hose and hang around the fire department" and become senior firemen at age 18, he said.

Sink plans to continue suggesting Reeds Fire Department change its age limits for junior firemen. Reeds' minimum age for junior firemen is 17.

Since some junior firemen attend high school, some people question whether the program disrupts classes. So far, however, West Davidson Senior High School has experienced no problems even though some junior firemen attend classes there, according to Principal Phil Rapp.

"We haven't had any actually leave school," Rapp said. "We've asked the chiefs and captains if they need them to call us. We want them to have need of their services (before calling). And if they have need, we want to supply it."

The school administration strongly believes in junior firemen programs, Rapp said. "Everybody's good at something," he said. "And they feel good about their participation in that program. If it makes them feel positive about themselves, we feel it's a good program."

Fire Marshal Charlie Corr praises junior fireman programs usefulness and says he may encourage the formation of a Boy Scouts Explorers' troop with similar goals.

Davidson Fire Departments Plan to Extend Boundaries

By Cinde Stephens
Enterprise Staff Writer

LEXINGTON—Five of the 22 volunteer fire departments in Davidson County are prepared to extend their service boundaries to close the gaps between departments.

County Attorney Jim Mock told the board of commissioners that the departments at Hasty, Pilot, South Davidson, Triangle/North Lexington and South Emmons have completed the process to extend their districts. Hasty's proposed extension includes three separate tracts, he said. A public hearing will now be held, and the board will be asked to approve the extensions.

The Volunteer Firemen's Assn. sought the extensions before July 1 so residents in the added areas can be included in figuring the departments' income for the 1985-86 fiscal year budget.

The extension of fire district boundaries will not increase the tax rate for people who already live in the district, according to Jeff Cecil, president of the Volunteer Firemen's Assn. and chief of Hasty Fire Dept. north of Thomasville.

In fact, the rate could decrease because there will be a larger tax base from which to draw, he said.

What will change is that people who own property in the "no man's land" between fire districts will begin paying for the service they have been receiving through the fire department's good graces.

In return, residents in those areas will be guaranteed ser-

vices and may receive a reduction in their insurance rate, which will counteract some of the tax they will pay, Cecil said.

For people who live within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant, the insurance benefit may be more than what they are paying for the fire service, he said.

In order to extend the boundaries of a fire district, the department must redraw the district; obtain a letter of recommendation from the department's board of directors and the county's fire commission; gather a petition indicating the support of two-thirds of the property owners in the area to be added; and receive approval by the county commissioners.

The areas that currently border existing fire districts may extend up to a mile, depending on where the area is in relation to neighboring fire departments, Cecil said.

The extension will "close up" the northern end of the county, so nearly all homes will have assurance of fire protection. But even with the expansion there are still areas in the southern end of Davidson that will not be in a fire district, Cecil said.

The northeastern corner of the county, which is served by Horneytown Volunteer Fire Dept., is a special case because it is not listed on the Davidson County tax books, Cecil said. The county fire association may call for a vote of the residents to extend that district, he said.

The extension of service to five miles was made possible because of a rating change for

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Solving Arson is Tough

By Lynn Earley
Staff Reporter
Lexington Dispatch

LEXINGTON—Possibly one of four or one of five Davidson County fires stems from illegal burning, fire department officials estimate.

Firemen and law officers fight a legal battle when they suspect illegally set fires. They must determine who started the blaze and gain a conviction against the person.

"One of the problems with us suspecting arson, we have got to basically come up with a motive," Capt. Charlie Corn with Lexington's Fire Prevention Bureau said recently.

The first step—determining whether a fire was intentionally set—proves easy in most cases, Corn said.

"There are plenty of clues there to tell us," he said. Corn and Sally Evans, a Lexington Fire Department fire inspector, have been trained to detect arson.

In addition, firefighters know to check for signs of intentionally set fires.

"The first step of a fire investigation starts with the firefighters," Chief Tommy Williams of the Lexington Fire Department said. "Firemen are taught to be on the lookout and not to remove evidence on the scene."

The color and heaviness of smoke at the fire sometimes sparks firemen's suspicions. Firefighters also check for suspicious people in the area or leaving the scene, Williams said.

If firemen suspect a fire was intentional, they notify their

supervisor, who usually contact Williams in the city or law enforcement agencies in the county.

"One of the reasons that we need the police department is because of the warrants—to make sure that we are covered there," Miss Evans said.

Fire department investigators follow set procedures.

"We do as little overhaul as possible," Corn said. Overhaul is when firemen clean up the scene.

Authorities must rule out all possibility of accidental burning to insure cases will hold up in court, if charges are filed, Corn said.

Fire investigators check for unusual burning patterns. For example, a puddle pattern would be more likely to be a case of illegal burning than would a V pattern.

"You may have what appears to be several points of origin," which would stir suspicions, Miss Evans said.

She and Corn have also learned to check for clues indicating incendiary devices were used. Some timing devices use candles, so they check for wax. They also check phones to see if they have been tampered with. In some cases across the United States, people have attached matches to telephones so the ringing phone will strike the match and start a fire.

Fire investigators also examine the situation for possible motives.

Motives can include fraud, such as when someone burns a building to collect insurance or when someone such as a tenant burns a building to inconvenience the landlord.

Vanity, as when someone wants to fight the fire, can be a motive, as can a crime to conceal arson or arson to conceal a crime. Other reasons are civil disorder, such as riots, and juvenile burnings.

Spite/revenge is "basically the most devastating" since the people who set such fires don't care who gets hurt, Miss Evans said.

A pyromaniac burning is another motive. Pyromania is when someone has an uncontrollable urge to set fires.

When law officers are called in, they check for possible connections with other suspected illegally set fires.

"You find that a person who has burned a place and gotten away with it, he'll follow a pattern," an experienced fire investigator who asked not to be identified, said.

District attorneys in some counties require a witness or confession before prosecuting someone, the investigator said.

"Arson is a common law crime," he said. "What that means is, you had to see it. Some D.A.'s say, 'Did you see

him light the match?' They still believe that."

Such requirements of strong evidence may be connected to the high conviction rate for charges of illegal burning, the investigator said.

In other cases, "it's not that difficult in some of the counties to get somebody indicted because some prosecutors will go with circumstantial evidence," he said. The conviction rate for such cases is also good, he said.

In North Carolina, people charged in illegal burning cases can face an arson charge, if they have set fire to an occupied dwelling; or a charge of unlawful burning, if they have set fire to an unoccupied dwelling.

They law considers any building which could be occupied, such as an apartment building up for rent, to be occupied, Corn said.

The sentence or fine varies, depending on aggravating factors, such as whether anyone was hurt in the fire. The penalty for arson is more severe than for unlawful burning.

Davidson Fire Departments Plan to Extend Boundaries

Continued from page 7

all the fire departments in the county.

Since Dec. 1, 1984, people who live within the district have been able to take advantage of a savings on their home insurance rate if they live within 1,000 feet of a water hydrant, he said.

County Manager Doug Flick said recently he would like to see the proposal taken a step further, so that people who live more than five miles from any fire department would be charged a special fire tax. The tax revenue could be used to pay the salary of the county fire marshal, he said.

As it is now, people who live more than four miles from the nearest department do not pay a special fire tax, as do

the people within the district, Cecil said. That creates a problem for fire chiefs, who hesitate to send equipment out of their district because of the danger of another fire occurring within the paying district, Cecil said. There is also a danger of damaging equipment outside the district when that equipment was paid for by people inside the district, he said.

By mutual agreement, the two nearest stations usually send one truck each if a fire occurs outside their four-mile district lines, Cecil said. If the districts are extended, it would assure service to homes in those outlying areas, "whereas now they're really at the mercy of the fire department," he said.

Fireman's Day Is a Success

WAKE FOREST—Everything went just about perfect for Franklinton's annual Fireman's Day celebration and Fire Chief Gary Bray said the event was one of the best ever.

Bray said he was not sure what the net profit from the event would be for the volunteer department, but gross receipts totaled a little more than \$13,000.

The barbecued beef was the highlight, he said, as the firemen were up all night cooking 1,250 pounds of beef in the ground for that day.

The threat of rain worried the beef cookers, Bray said, and Novo Biochemicals allowed the firemen to cook the beef in the ground under one of its sheds.

And on Saturday, May 8th, when the beef and 400 barbecued chickens were served, there was help from a lot of community residents, including the Franklinton Lioness Club.

"We had a lot of outside volunteers who came in and really helped us a lot," he said. "We couldn't have done it without the women."

The Lioness Club divided its members into shifts to work the serving lines, which often stretched from the firehouse up the sidewalks on Mason Street, he said.

Andy Park, WTVD-11 weatherman, was grand marshal for a parade and went straight to the firehouse after the 11:30 a.m. event to have a taste of the beef. He then greeted area residents around the firehouse and at a community yard sale which was held on the Franklinton High School playground.

The day's festivities ended that night with a Fireman's Dance featuring the Fire and Lace band at the Franklinton Elementary School gymnasium. The dance was also a success, Bray said.

Several donated prizes were given away in a drawing, with Scott Wood of Franklinton winning the top prize of a boat and motor.

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