



TARHEEL FIREFIGHTER



AND CAROLINA RURAL FIREMAN

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November 1986

Fire Alarm Pranks Have Officials Seeing Red

By TOM MOORE
Chapel Hill Newspaper
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL—It's become an almost weekly ritual on the UNC campus.

A fire alarm sounds in a dormitory, the residents hurry out, and fire trucks rush over, but find nothing is on fire.

"We've had prank calls in the past, but lately the problem seems to be getting much worse," said Chapel Hill Fire Marshal Joe Robertson.

This year, the Chapel Hill Fire Department has answered more than 70 prank calls on campus and at nearby Granville Towers. Last year, the department had 100 prank calls on campus.

"I don't know why, but apparently some people get a kick out of seeing others run out of a building to stand around in the cold and rain," Robertson said. "It isn't the least bit amusing to us, though."

That's because prank calls waste the department's time.

"I can't even tell you how much this costs us in dollars and cents," Robertson said. "Normally, we send out two engines and two public safety officers for every call, and they're tied up until that call is resolved."

Prank calls also have resulted in several injuries. "People do get hurt when they're rushing out of a building," Robertson said. "Just last year, one student broke his leg when he was running down some stairs to get outside."

The fire department not only has a problem with prank calls on campus, but with malfunctioning alarm systems there as well, said UNC police Sgt. Ned Comar. "Odd things will set off an alarm system—hair spray, cooking fumes, shower steam," Comar said. "We have to respond to every alarm because you never can afford to be wrong about a fire."

Most prank calls on campus occur in women's dormi-

tories, Robertson said. "They are almost always set off by a man—either as a joke or to watch the women run outside in their night clothes," Robertson said.

Prank calls are most often set up by someone pulling an alarm lever, Robertson said. But smoke bombs, firecrackers, cigars and water also have been used this year to set off alarm systems, he added.

Robertson said the fire department has been successful in catching pranksters. Earlier this month, a Columbia Street fraternity house resident was caught after falsely reporting a fire at the house. He was fined \$100 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service work.

"We've caught many offenders, but we want to do a better job," Robertson said. "We need help. If someone sees or hears someone setting off a false alarm, report them. We don't even have to have your name in order to charge and arrest them."

Big Fire Hits Pinehurst

BY FLORENCE
GILKESON
SOUTHERN PINES
PILOT

SOUTHERN PINES—Flames of undetermined origin destroyed one building and damaged three neighboring structures in an old section of Pinehurst Wednesday night, October 22.

Lost in the fire was a large horse barn of wood frame construction. The building was not occupied.

Damaged were the Village Market on McIntyre Road, the Tater Barn Tavern, and the Pinehurst Cafe.

Deputy Chief Lee Sudia of the Pinehurst Fire Department said the cause of the fire has not been determined. He said the fire is under investigation by the Pinehurst police and fire departments, the Moore County Fire Marshal's office, and the State Bureau of Investigation.

Asked if arson is suspected, Sudia declined to comment.

The location of the fire, the intersection of McCaskill Road, McIntyre Road, and

Rattlesnake Trail, is a heavily traveled one, situated behind Clark Chevrolet-Cadillac Inc.

Although it was a hot, rapidly burning blaze, the fire was brought under control within one hour after the initial call was received.

Assistance to the Pinehurst Fire Department was provided by seven fire departments from across Moore County.

Sudia said the fire was extinguished with the use of water from hydrants and through a tanker shuttle set up by the mutual aid units.

The call was first received by the Pinehurst Police Department at 7:26, and the first firefighters were on the scene within three minutes. The fire was considered under control by 8:20.

"We were concerned about the possibility that the radiant force of the fire could cause it to jump across streets and strike other buildings in the area," Sudia told The Pilot.

He described it as an exceptionally hot fire because

the horse barn, estimated to be between 60 and 80 years old, was made of heart pine.

Firemen traditionally refer to such a wooden structure as "fat lightning" because of its similarity to the wood splinters used to start wood fires in fireplaces and stoves.

An estimate of damage to the horse barn was not available, and the fire department had not determined the ownership of the two-story building estimated to be 50 by 60 feet in size.

Some structural damage to the outside and water and smoke damage on the interior was reported for the Tater Barn Tavern. Minor fire damage and some smoke damage occurred at the Village Market, but there was heavy structural damage on the interior of the Pinehurst Cafe.

Sudia said the firefighters had no shortage of water. He called the water from hydrants adequate until the assisting units were able to set up the tanker shuttle to boost the supply of water.

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Firemen Get Experience In Water Transport

YANCEYVILLE—A 12-hour class that involved six of the county's ten volunteer fire departments recently gave local firefighters valuable experience in transporting water to a fire.

The class, which was held at the Fairgrounds in Yanceyville, involved some 50 firemen from the Yanceyville, Providence, Casville, Pelham, Leasburg and Anderson fire departments. According to County Fire Marshal Vernon Massengill, who coordinated the class, the firemen involved learned new methods of transporting huge quantities of water to a fire scene.

"We learned how to get a large amount of water from one point to another safely and efficiently," said Massengill. "In all, we used about 50,000 gallons of water, and were able to pump continuously and without interruption, up to 500 gallons of water per minute."

The water for the exercise was taken from Ellis Denny's pond on highway 86 in Yanceyville, and was pumped out at the Fairgrounds.

The primary purpose of the exercise was to allow local firemen the opportunity to learn how to provide large amounts of water for fighting fire anywhere in the county. "Yanceyville has fire hydrants, but in the case of a very big fire, they wouldn't be sufficient," said Massengill. "In all other areas of the county, there aren't even any hydrants, so we have to get the water from somewhere." Working in cooperations with each other, the six fire departments involved in the exercise were able to fill two tankers at a time from the farm pond. This kind of training can benefit the entire county, said Massengill, as firemen learn to work together closely in fighting flames.

Continued on page 6

Firefighters Attend Seminar

By BILL HAYNES
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL—About 200 firefighters from Orange County and across the state descended on Carrboro recently for the Tar Heel Fire Protection Seminar.

Courses offered in the seminar included hazardous materials, fire ground command, computers, interior firefighting, investment in excellence, maintenance, mobile water supply, and farm machinery victim extrication.

"There is a big need for these courses," said Carrboro fire chief and seminar committee member Robert Swiger. "The courses allow firefighters from across the county with mutual aid agreements to be brought together to learn and interchange ideas together."

Mike Tapp, chief of the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Orange County Chief's Council, said the learning does not stop at the close of each class.

"You pick up a lot of theories and ideas after class is over just by talking," said Tapp.

The interior firefighting class filled up quickly because many of the departments sent their rookies to gain hands-on experience, said Swiger.

Swiger said he was surprised that the computer class was so popular because computer classes had not drawn large numbers at other seminars across the state. The class teaches firefighters how computers can aid them in their work.

Another popular course deals with extricating victims who have become entangled in farm equipment.

"A lot of the rescue squads signed up for farm extrication," said Tapp. "It teaches firefighters how to remove someone trapped in a combine with as little injury as possible."

"That's the type of class that was helpful in Orange County," said Swiger.

Classroom work took place at Grey Culbreth Jr. High School.

Swiger said they hope to make the seminar an annual event. He said, however, that preparation was a lot of work.

"Our committee met two or three times, then we found a place, then we made brochures, printed them and mailed them out," said Swiger. "We even had to decide what to serve them at breaks—I had to order 105 dozen doughnuts."

Swiger and Tapp said they were pleased with the response.

Editorial

The last of October I received a news release from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which I feel will be of interest to you. I have recently had a serious sinus infection, during which time I could not see well, in fact, I could see very little and this has delayed my getting this announcement to you, however, I think you will get this issue in plenty of time to make use of it.

In this bulletin, the NFPA announced a Fire Photography Competition. The theme of this contest will be "Firefighter Courage And Compassion," I am certain most departments have a member who is a photography "Buff", so a lot of you

will probably be able to submit entries.

The purpose of this competition is to depict the human element behind firefighting the public rarely sees. Recognition in excellence in photography, showing the courage and compassion of the Firefighter. This is an attribute all of the Firefighters I have known have always had a great deal of.

There will be cash prizes awarded and the First Prize Photograph will be featured on one of the 1987 NFPA Catalogues and will also receive a \$500 cash award; Second Prize will receive a \$300 cash award; and the Third Prize a \$150 cash award.

This competition is endorsed by the International Fire Photographers Association. All Photographers are



EMILY H. KING

invited to participate in this contest, Firefighter or not. If you do not have a photographer in your outfit, I am sure you know someone who would be interested in entering. Maybe someone who has done some photography of your group or activity you

have taken part in.

The deadline for entries is February 1, 1987. Hopefully, this will give you enough time to write (don't call) for a copy of the entry rules and more information than I have been given. It may be you already have some photos that would be suitable for entry.

The address to write to is: Judy Bolton, NFPA, Battery-

march Park, Quincy, Ma. 02269.

Good luck to you, if you decide to take part in this competition and my thanks to the NFPA for calling this contest to my attention.

Emily H. King

Salute To Firemen

SOUTHERN PINES—The three-minute response by the Pinehurst Fire Department to what could have been a very disastrous fire recently was truly remarkable.

The fire was damaging enough to several buildings, but it could have spread and have been far worse were it

not for the quick response of the Pinehurst firemen and the quick assistance given by seven other fire departments in Moore County.

That assistance from the other fire departments is an excellent testimonial to the

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Maury Vol. Fire Dept. Qualifies For Lower Insurance Rating

MAURY—The Maury Volunteer Fire Department recently became the first rural Fire Department in the county to qualify for a fire insurance rating improvement. This became effective on August 1st. Most commercial and residential properties in the Maury Fire District will be entitled to a lower fire insurance rate due to the fire department's rating classification improving from a Class 9 to a Class 8 status.

This fire insurance rating was the result of four years of work by the Fire Department that began with a visit to Nahunta Fire Department in Wayne County which was the first rural Fire Department in the nation to qualify for a rating improvement. During this visit members of the Maury Fire Department were shown what changes in equipment and fire fighting tactics must be made to qualify for a rating improvement which would lower the costs of fire insurance within the Maury Fire District.

The Fire Department began working toward the goal of a lower fire insurance classification by first locating and obtaining the owner's permission to use farm ponds as water sources for fire fighting in areas that did not have fire hydrants or hydrants capable of delivering enough water. Some of these ponds had to have a pipeline installed to bring the water out to a point where the fire trucks could access the water supply in almost any weather without becoming stuck. Next the department began training in the use of the quick-dump method of transporting water to the fire scene by using portable water tanks at the fire scene to reduce the time required to unload tankers to increase the amount of water delivered to the fire

scene. Later a fire tax district was established to enable the fire department to upgrade its fire fighting equipment to enable the fire fighters to reduce fire losses and at the same time give them better protection against toxic gases and heat so they can do a better job of extinguishment.

The department's training and equipment records were entered into a computer to improve record keeping and a maintenance program was implemented to insure all apparatus and equipment would be fully operational when needed. Large buildings in the fire district were pre-fire planned so the proper amount of fire equipment and personnel can be dispatched automatically to reduce response time and fire losses.

At the request of the fire department a representative of the ISO Commercial Risk Services office in Raleigh visited the Maury Fire Department in April to do a survey to determine if the depart-

ment qualified for a rating classification improvement. During the survey the fire department's record, equipment, and water sources were inspected along with several buildings in the fire district. Later the fire department with assistance from the neighboring fire departments had to transport water for approximately three hours to demonstrate that an adequate supply of water for fire fighting could be delivered to any area of the Maury Fire District.

The Maury Vol. Fire Department would like to thank the following groups and individuals which without their support this accomplishment could not have been possible. The citizens of the Maury Fire District, all the Greene Co. Fire Departments, the Greene Co. Board of Commissioners, and Dickie Hill, Greene Co. Emergency Services Coordinator.

Submitted by
Lt. Linda Williamson
Maury Rescue
Maury, N.C.

Engine and Fire Dog Still Answer the Calls

By JIM SCHLOSSER
Staff Writer
Greensboro News &
Record

GREENSBORO—Herman's ears—one from a collie, the other from a Dalmation—snapped to attention. Something was stirring in the firehouse. Herman, though, was out of position in the backyard.

"Watch him and see what happens," yelled a firefighter scurrying aboard the yellow engine.

When driver Buddy Lamar sounded the siren, Herman

bolted toward the front of the building, barkig wildly. But the 14-year-old mut couldn't catch up.

The engine was already on Westover Terrace and hurrying away, lights flashing, siren screaming. The meal of salmon cakes, potatoes and peas that Capt. R.F. Page had just cooked simmered uneaten in the kitchen.

Meet the only fire dog in the Greensboro Fire Department, an animal that goes bonkers every time his masters fire up the engine at Station 6.

Continued on page 6

Mock disaster drill sharpens EMS, firemen's response skills

YANCEYVILLE—The scene looked very real, a Caswell County school bus in a ditch, jammed against the rear of a tractor-trailer rig. Bales of hay, representing a hazardous chemical spill, burned smokily in an adjacent field. 'Victims' of the accident lay in the bus, under the bus, and in the cab of the truck, makeup mimicking the appearance of serious injuries.

The wreck was not real. It has been carefully set up on the Stadler Road in the Cherry Grove community as part of a disaster drill for the Caswell County Emergency

Medical Services and the Cherry Grove Volunteer Fire Department. The purpose of the exercise was to allow the EMS and the fire department to practice procedures that would be used in case of a real accident.

According to David Lucas, Caswell County's Emergency Management Coordinator, the drill was set up to test the training the EMS and fire department personnel had undergone. "The enactment was to better prepare local emergency services in the event the simulated disaster becomes a reality," said

Lucas. "This intensive training gives the participants first-hand experience in proper disposal of hazardous materials, plus providing emergency care under such conditions."

Once the scene was set, the EMS and Cherry Grove first responders were called to the scene. The Caswell Sheriff's Department and the State Highway Patrol provided assistance in traffic handling for the emergency vehicles.

First, members of the Cherry Grove Fire Department took steps to put out the fire. Then, firemen, wearing air packs, investigated the

scene, locating the injured. The 'victims', Allen Shell, Drake Moore and Michele Fuquay, were carried back by the firemen in metal stretchers to the waiting EMS personnel, who administered whatever aid was needed.

Overall, said Lucas, the disaster exercise was successful, providing valuable training for the emergency personnel involved.

Eric Tolbert, Area Coordinator for the State Office of Emergency Management, Area D, was on hand to evaluate the performance of local services.

New Officers

FRANKLIN—New officers of the Franklin County Fireman's Association were elected during the association's annual dinner at the National Guard Armory in Louisburg.

They are Mackie Rogers, president; Mike Leonard, vice-president; LeRoy Wood, treasurer; Joe Smith, secretary; and Milton Smith, chaplain.

Following dinner, catered by the Murphy House of Louisburg, Roy Taylor entertained the group with excerpts from his book *Sharecroppers, The Way We Were*.

Taylor is the editor of *The Wilson Daily Times* and a native of Wayne County. Taylor's books look back with "total beauty and appreciation" for everything which happened to him and his family during the Great Depression.

Fire Dept. Comes To Rescue

By NANCY WEBB
Charlotte Observer
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE—Pam Hill panicked when a fatal car wreck plunged a Park Road neighborhood into darkness.

Her infant daughter Jennifer's oxygen tent stopped working when the power failed.

A portable generator from the Charlotte Fire Department saved the day, she said.

"I called the fire department, and by the time I got to the front door they were there with the generator," Hill said.

Fire Capt. D.L. Ghorley and firefighters Chris Hardin, Steve Robinette and Frank Robinson were at the car wreck on Park Road near Seneca Place when they learned of Hill's trouble.

Kent Petrin, 24, of 9023 Arborgate Dr. died in the 2:30 a.m. accident. Police estimate Petrin's 1984 Chevette was traveling about 70 mph when it struck a utility pole across from Hill's house.

Between 1,200 and 1,400 Duke Power customers were without power for about 4½ hours.

Without her oxygen tent and accompanying mist machine, Jennifer Hill risked infection.

Born five weeks premature, she suffers from chronic lung problems. She and her twin sister Jessica celebrated their first birthdays Saturday, October 25.

Jennifer received a tracheostomy at about age 3 months. Doctors cut an opening in her trachea to help her

breath, her mother said.

The opening began to dry out after the power failed. Hill said she was about to move her family to a relative's house when she remembered to call a sales representative from Extracare, the medical supply company that provided the oxygen tent.

Hill called sales representative Dave Stafford at home. He suggested she borrow a generator from the fire department.

New Asheville Fire Chief

By BARBARA BLAKE
Asheville Citizen
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE—John David Rukavina, fire chief and acting city manager in St. Joseph, Mo., was named as chief of the Asheville Fire Department effective Nov. 10.

The appointment was announced by City Manager Doug Bean in a press conference in City Hall recently.

Rukavina, 35, has been St. Joseph's fire chief since April of 1984 and acting city manager since June. He earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota School of Law in 1976 and was graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1973.

Rukavina served as assistant to the fire chief in St. Paul, Minn., from 1980 to 1984; was chief of training in the Roseville, Minn., fire department from 1979 to 1980; and

Hill wasn't the only person who Ghorley and co-workers helped. Later that day they took a bottle of oxygen to an elderly woman at the Woodlawn House Apartments. Her breathing machine failed when the power went out, Ghorley said.

"We took her a full bottle of oxygen," he said. "That was enough to last her for a couple of hours, until the power came back on or until she could make other arrangements."

was captain of the Roseville department from 1977 to 1979.

He has been an adjunct faculty member and field instructor at the National Fire Academy, has published numerous articles in trade journals and had received a number of awards, including the Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year Award, the Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota State Fire Chief's Association and the Award of Merit from the Minnesota State Fire School/University of Minnesota.

Marc Zolton, city government reporter with the St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette, said Rukavina announced in October that he was leaving to accept the Asheville post.

"The reasons he gave us up here were that personal reasons played as much a part in his decision as professional," Zolton said.

Tylertown Fire Dept. seeks financial help

By SALLY JAMIR
Raeford News Journal

RAEFORD—Typically, the winter months of the year are more frequented by fires. Usually, the cause of fire is from heating units in the house and the dry weather that winter brings.

Fire stations in the area are called upon to render extra services to the community at this time.

The Tylertown Fire Department recently acted to have their equipment updated by asking the county for supplemental funds to help with the purchase of a used (1968) model pumper truck type vehicle to replace the 1954 model which they currently have. The department officially made the request during a recent meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Fire Chief Walter Blue stated in a letter to the commissioners that the model they currently have is "extremely costly" to run.

The fire department is requesting \$10,000 to help them with the \$13,000 they need for the purchase. Blue said at the meeting that the station had only two weeks to respond to the current offer of the 1968 model.

Blue said during the meeting that they are the smallest fire department in the county but felt strongly about their obligation to "make sure residents in the area are protected."

Commissioner Cleo Bratch-

er suggested trying to get the purchase financed through a lending institution. Blue responded that time was a factor as well as the reluctance of lending institutions to loan money to organizations which don't have collateral to offer.

Blue said he would look into the matter of financing the purchase.

Commissioner Hunt said he was in favor of granting the money but felt that "all of the commissioners should be present" before the decision is made.

Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch was out of town at the time of the meeting.

The possibility of setting a precedent for granting requests from other fire stations in the county was a concern of Chairman John Balfour.

Blue said each community which says it has a need should be considered on an individual basis. He said the Tylertown community has demonstrated a need.

According to County Manager William (Bub) Cowan, the Tylertown community receives \$4,210 annually through tax collection and there is a 95 percent collection rate.

A decision on granting the monies was tabled.

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Vol. Fire Dept. Has Come A Long Way

By Matt Shaw
Rutherford County
News Enterprise

RUTHERFORD—The Green Hill Volunteer Fire Department has come a long way since an early fund-raising cookout caught their barbecue pit on fire and the equipmentless firefighters couldn't stop the pit from burning to the ground.

The department, along with Union Mills, the only fire departments in Rutherford County not to be supported by tax money, has added a 1,600 gallon water tanker to its pumper and brush truck. The tanker, which would have cost \$25,000 to have built, was built by the volunteers at one-tenth the cost, thanks to the donation of work and equipment.

In rural fire service, assistant chief Don Chatham said, "your greatest asset is your tanker's capacity for the amount of water you can carry, how soon you can load and go to a designated water supply and reload."

"We knew we had to replace the old one." The old tank held only 1,000 gallons and Chatham said, "we had to hold more water and be able to pump water on and off faster."

If a tanker is too small or slow it isn't just property that's endangered, Chatham continued: "the firefighters are also endangered."

Six men work with the hoses off the pumper truck. The pumper truck holds only about two minutes worth of water, so the tanker must be able to keep the pumper supplied quickly.

When the department began to look into updating their tanker, estimated for buying a tank custom-made to how they wanted ran around \$25,000. "For eight and a half years, we've been self-supporting," Chatham said. The volunteers decided to build their own tanker.

\$5,000 was budgeted to begin the project and then the department got lucky. In March, 1985, a tank was found at a Spartanburg oil business on a wrecked tanker. The tank was "the best possible," Chatham said. The load shift was designed with inner rigging to allow high speed travel. The tank was bought for \$900 and accord-

ing to Chatham "was an extreme bargain."

Beginning in April, 1985, the 25-member fire department began to work evenings twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to adapt the tank. Chatham said the plans squared up the tank, added cabinets to the side, completely refitted the tank to make it "first class."

Fire Chief Bobby Cook said members of the volunteer department approached the businesses where they worked. The businesses, after hearing about the project, helped by giving parts and labor to build the tanker.

According to a list supplied by the department, \$5,000 worth of brass valves were donated by Enersco Foundry of Spindale. Two valves also came from the Shingle Hollow Fire Department. "The valves were exactly the ones we would have bought," Chatham explained.

AG Industries Inc. of Forest City donated welding and welding supplies. C. F. Reces & Son Supply, Inc. of Rutherfordton donated machine work and the crane service to replace the tank. Carolina Metal Fabricators Co. of Forest City sold the department metal at cost and did the fabricating work for free.

Thompson equipment of-

fered the use of two tankers in case of emergency. Lucky Ones, Inc. of Forest City donated wiring, tubing and emergency lights for the tanker.

Chatham said the community also supported the department through the four barbecues held every year by the department.

The end result of all the support went into service at 7:30 p.m. July 26. The new tank can load in only five minutes and can unload in less than two. The final cost of replacing the old tank was less than \$2,500, Chatham said, a tenth of the estimated cost.

All that was left was to paint the new tank red and silver, Chatham said, and that would be done soon.

The volunteer department, under Chief Bob Cook, gets called out three or four times a month, Chatham said, and responded to about 40 calls last year. The department participates in mutual aid programs with surrounding communities. The only government money Green Hill received is the gas expenses through the mutual aid program, he said.

Next on the priority list is a support van to carry generators, breathing apparatus, rakes, shovels and other fire-fighting equipment, Chatham said.

Fire Damages At Plant Estimated Half Million

ASHEBORO—Damages estimated at one-half million dollars were reported in October, following a fire which damaged a building and contents in Industrial Park in South Asheboro occupied by Allen-Leonard Industries Inc.

Captain Gene Turner of the Asheboro Fire Department said that firemen responded to a call at 5:15 a.m. and remained at the scene for more than five hours, fighting a stubborn blaze and mopping up water and debris on the premises.

Turner said that the cause of the blaza has not yet been determined. The fire apparently originated in a work space toward the rear of the building, he said.

Firemen resounded with five units, including three pumpers and the department's snorkel truck. Firemen had to chop a hole in the roof to release some of the smoke before they were able to get to the seat of the fire, Turner said.

Owner of the building was listed as Hayden Allen.

Captain Turner said that several cylinders of acetylene gas were in the building but that none of them was set off by the heat. The only other inflammables, he said, were normal cleaning fluids associated in that type of business. The firm manufactures custom parts for the hosiery and textile industry as well as selling manufactured parts.

Maury Rescue Squad Is In Operation

MAURY—Maury Rescue Squad began operation June 25 of this year on the anniversary date that Maury First Responders were formed.

The Maury First Responders were organized June 25, 1984, and during those two years they responded to 445 calls for help on their area.

Maury Rescue has its own ambulance now and is responsible for the total care of its fire district and part of Scuffleton's. The truck came from Walstonburg after that squad had put its new truck in service.

Both Maury and Scuffleton Fire Departments supply the manpower needed for the rescue squad. They have a total of 18 members on the roster, ten are Emergency Medical Technicians, five are ambulance attendants and three are designated drivers.

After talking with Jim Westbrook, who serves as captain, and Linda Williamson, lieutenant, it seems that this squad is operating very efficiently and saving a lot of time, both for the patients and for the Greene County Sheriff's dispatchers.

The member, who has the truck on a designated night, has already lined up two people to be on call with him. When a call comes in for the Maury area, their pagers are set off.

The ones on call respond without being called on the radio or phone by the dispatcher. This cuts down on the traffic on the radio, leaves

Fire Chiefs Hold Meeting

WAKE FOREST—Wake County fire chiefs gathered for a quarterly meeting in Wake Forest recently. The group talked about firemen certification, fire protection, training, the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant exercise, etc. Present were, Tim Bradley, of the N.C. Fire Commission; Ken Farmer, chairman of the group; Wake Forest Fire Chief Donnie Hight and Rolesville Fire Chief Roy Ed Jones. The group was served food by the WF Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary.

the dispatchers free to do the other needed things in the case of fires and wrecks and saves precious moments in getting to the patient's location.

Director of Emergency Services Dickie Hill stated, "I am really proud of the Maury Rescue Squad members. They are working efficiently and operating their squad the way it should be done. After all the patient is the first priority, and the time they save could mean a matter of life or death."

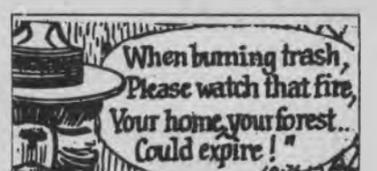
So far Maury Rescue Squad has responded to 17 calls since they've been in operation.

Members of the squad include: Leonard Hardy, David Williamson, Sammy Clemmons, Jim Hardy, Randy Hawkins, Mary Turnage, Shea McLawhorn, Johnny McLawhorn, Ed Mooring, Janice Westbrook, Bill Turnage, Chuck Stokes, Ricky Jones, Sue Farmer, Vann Cranford, Roland Vandiford, secretary-treasurer, Linda Williamson and Jim Westbrook.

Maury volunteers would like to thank the Hookerton Squad members for helping them. They stated that Hookerton had been great to work with, and they really did appreciate everything they had done to help them in any way.

Congratulations Maury Volunteers on obtaining your part Stadler had goal of having your own rescue squad. You are performing an invaluable service to your community.

Submitted By
Lt. Linda Williamson
Maury Rescue
Maury, N.C.



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Tabor City Approached On New Fire Protection Deal For Adjacent Horry Area

TABOR CITY—Horry County, SC officials have asked for a renewed fire protection contract with the Tabor City fire department, after more than a year without a contract, officials said.

The lapse in a fire protection contract for areas of rural Horry County, SC close to Tabor City was an "oversight" on the part of the Horry County City Council, said councilman Paul Prince.

Prince, Horry County Fire Chief Hamp Shuping, Tabor City Manager Bob Cox and town Fire Chief Jerry Watts met to discuss a new contract proposal.

Shuping and Watts met again, and drove through areas that might receive fire

protection from Tabor City under a new contract.

The language in a former contract between Horry County, SC and Tabor City was so vague, Shuping said, that the town department could have been called to fight a fire anywhere in the adjacent South Carolina County. The new contract will specify the area in which Tabor City's Fire Department would have the "right and responsibility" to serve, Shuping said.

In the past, Watts said, Tabor City covered an area just along S.C. 410 and to the west of that highway a few miles south of the state line. Areas east of S.C. 410 were considered part of the Loris, SC Fire Department's territory.

Residents in the "Fowler-town" section just east of U.S. 701 and just south of Tabor City were not covered by any department, although Watts said "We answered whenever they called." Watts suggested that the Fowlertown area be included on Tabor City's area.

Shuping seemed to agree, telling Watts and Cox that

the important factor was "which fire station is the closest."

Under the old contract, which expired last year, Tabor City received \$2,000 per year from Horry County, SC for fire protection services. Watts said the town would seek more money under the new contract, because of the cost of providing protection was greater than \$2,000 per year.

Tabor City will seek more than a one-year contract, Cox said. The town will also ask for radio equipment on town fire trucks that would enable local firefighters to communicate with Horry County, SC dispatchers and other fire officials, Cox said.

The radio equipment was promised under a former contract more than two years ago, Watts said at that time. The equipment was never delivered.

With the new fire contract, residents just south of the state line here could see a lowering of fire insurance premiums and those who formerly could get no insurance could find it available.

Firemen Stage Demonstration

MOREHEAD CITY—Newport Fire Chief Brian Slaughter was pleased, even impressed, with his department's sprinkler demonstration conducted Sunday, Oct. 12, at White Sands Subdivision.

A building was donated by Ed Manning, developer of the subdivision. Plumbing and sprinkler fixtures were donated by Jim Ferrell. Mart Sheeby provided furniture.

Newport Mayor Derryll Garner and Assistant Fire Chief Don Lilly sat on chairs in the building while a trash can was set on fire.

Pat Truby, public relations officer for the department, said that within 14 seconds after the fire was set, a smoke detector sounded. A minute later, curtains were on fire. At one minute, 32 seconds, the sprinklers activated, and at one minute, 50 seconds, the fire was out (and so were the mayor and assistant chief).

The demonstration was designed to help promote the use of the residential sprinkler system.

Chief Slaughter said after the demonstration, "They sure get my vote."

Fire That Instructs

HENDERSONVILLE—Valley Hill Volunteer Fire Department conducted a controlled burning of a deserted Valley Hill house as part of a training exercise recently. The house, located at the corner of N.C. 191 and Norleon Street, had been vacant for several years and was given to the department by Jack Lovingood for the exercise according to Bill Stewart, an Emergency Medical Technician.

"We conduct these controlled burnings from time to time whenever we can get a house that someone wants to clear away," Stewart said. "Controlled burnings are invaluable training for new men because it offers them a chance to see exactly how a burning house behaves."

According to Stewart, the

house was ignited with diesel fuel and the alarm was sounded. Twenty-five firemen then rushed to the scene, where they alternately knocked the fire down and let it build back up again in order to practice. Volunteers from Valley Hill and Mountain Home volunteer fire departments took part in the exercise, which lasted from 7-10:00 p.m. Norleon Street was blocked to through traffic for a short time, though residents were allowed to come and go, Stewart said.

On-The-Job Training

MURPHY CHEROKEE SCOUT

MURPHY—Firemen from Cherokee County and the surrounding area recently participated in various firefighting training courses at Tri-County Community College.

Nearly 90 volunteers received realistic training in fire attack, high level rescue, LP gas fire (hazardous material), arson investigation and self-contained breathing apparatus techniques, according to David Slagle, TCCC.

The annual fall event is geared to school volunteer firefighters in battling various real life-threatening situations, noted Murphy Fire Chief W.C. King.

"Hopefully, we will never have to use the skills and techniques we were taught," he added, "but if such situations do occur, at least many of the volunteers have a basic knowledge of what must be done and how."

In addition to the all-day training session, firefighters also participated in a total of 12 hours of classroom lessons, King explained.

"Most people do not realize that there is a lot more to fighting fire than just spraying water onto it," he added.

The method of battling a fire depends on the type fire it is, King continued. "So far, none of us have had to fight an LP gas leak, which is an extremely dangerous fire."

"It's not like fighting many other fires," King continued, "where you get rid of one of the elements that a fire must have to feed on."

"In an LP fire, firemen must push the blaze back toward the leaking valve, if possible, so that someone can shut the valve off."

"If the blaze is extinguished before the feed source is shut down," he said, "then you run the great risk of an explosion."

Then there was the breathing apparatus technique training, King continued, "which was a very important session."

To firemen, the breathing apparatus or air pack is without a doubt, the most important piece of equipment they have, he noted. It, along with their fire suits, are the only items between the fire and survival.

"And it's vital for a firefighter to know how to put an

air pack on during a threatening situation," King said, "and also how to change it, in case something happens during the battle to the one the firefighter was originally wearing."

The air pack is also used during certain emergency rescues, King explained, "such as a rescue in a poisoned environment."

"These types of possible trouble situations must be taught in advance, how to handle," he added. "Then follow through with the realistic training sessions to ensure the firefighters have learned the techniques and can handle a real emergency."

Firefighters within various VFD's also undergo their own departmental training, several times a year, according to King.

"However, it is during the annual fall training session at TCCC where we learn additional skills," he explained.

According to Slagle, TCCC representatives meet with the VFD fire chiefs and together determine the types of courses to be held during the training.

"We try to ensure that there is a varied selection that covers areas in which the chiefs express concern in handling properly," he continued.

"And every year, we try to ensure that the training courses are different."

In addition to the annual firefighting training session, in November, a new annual program, administered by the state, will begin in Cherokee County, according to King, known as a "tabletop drill."

"Representatives from all the various emergency agencies within the county," King explained, "along with county officials will gather in one office. A state representative will also be there, who will give us a written scenario of an emergency situation which we, the county agents, must ensure is handled properly."

"No one will know ahead of time, except the state agent, what the emergency or emergencies, will be," he added.

Reading from a book on how to deal with a certain situation is one thing, he added. "But putting that knowledge to the real test through realistic training is another."

—Patty Little



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Training And More Training

By JADE D. JUREK
Goldsboro News-Argus

GOLDSBORO—Training and more training is the key to the excellence of the Seymour Johnson AFB fire department.

Charged with protecting everything from fighter planes to fuel tanks to base housing, base firefighters must be well-versed in a variety of fire skills.

In 12 fire calls on base this year, damages were estimated at only \$346 from three minor kitchen fires. One person received a minor burn.

Fire Chief Douglas E. Courchene said house fires are the most common on the base, but firefighters must spend many hours learning how to fight fires on the flight line.

Among the department's training equipment are a simulated plane and a simulated house in the burn pit. The firefighters use the contaminated fuel to practice their firefighting skills.

Chief Courchene estimates 80 percent of the department's training time is spent on practical training. The other 20 percent is intensive classroom work.

"We train everyday," the chief said.

Forty-four of the fire departments 65 personnel are military, including the deputy fire chief who takes over when the fire department is deployed overseas and six sergeants in the operations div-

ision. The bulk of the department's firefighters are also military personnel who have received their basic fire training before coming to Seymour Johnson AFB for further training.

Chief Courchene is one of the department's civilian workers and he has served as chief of the department since 1973. Other civilians include two assistant chiefs, each one in charge of a shift of about 22 firefighters, several civilian crew chiefs and the assistant chiefs in charge of inspections and training.

The fire department runs 14 fire vehicles, the bulk on the flight line for crashes and aircraft fires.

They include a large P-15 crash truck, two medium size P-2 crash trucks and two P-19 crash trucks, all able to spray foam for firefighting; a P-20 to carry Halon and dry chemicals for fighting interior aircraft and electrical fires; a fully equipped rescue squad; three structural pumpers; a 1,500-gallon tanker for small fires and gas spills; and three vehicles for the chief and two assistant chiefs.

One special division is technical services. Technical services handles the inspection of all base facilities, provides fire extinguisher training for all base personnel and is responsible for testing the alarms and sprinkler systems in all base buildings, Chief Courchene said.

Firefighters also work to educate base personnel about

fire safety and prevention. Along with a fire prevention parade, poster contest, displays and seminars during Fire Prevention Week each October, the fire department also sees that each newcomer to the base is educated about fire safety.

Finally, the base fire department has mutual aid agreements with Goldsboro and Wayne County fire departments. This agreement means that the city or county volunteer fire departments can call on the base to help in emergencies. The base, too, can call on the city and county fire departments when extra fire on base.

The base helps the outside community three or four times a year, especially in situations where its foam trucks are needed for chemical fires or spills.



Prevent Forest Fires!

Engine and Fire Dog Still Answer the Calls

Continued from page 2

Unlike fire dogs of yesteryear, Herman doesn't ride to calls. But he gives firefighters a noisy sendoff by barking and running in circles as he chases the truck to the edge of Westover Terrace.

Never mind that the engine he loves so much has run over him twice in the confusion.

Appropriately, this senior-citizen canine is stationed at the city's oldest fire station.

The fire department plans to vacate Station 6 in the next two to five years and build a new station that will consolidate No. 6 and No. 5, a 1960s-era firehouse on Friendly Avenue at Sunset Hills.

Station 6 is not exactly an antique, but its years are showing. It opened in 1948, the city's first real suburban station. Back then, it was out in the sticks. Westover Terrace dead-ended a block north. Cows grazed in a field behind the dead-end barricade.

The new station had a 1927 wire-wheeled, chain driven truck that kids in Westover Terrace Apartments marveled at when it sped by. Even then, the engine seemed ancient compared to the big new models at Central Station downtown.

The old engine is now on display at Greensboro Park, though there's a move among firefighters to get it running again.

The old engine was perfect for the narrow bays of No. 6. Modern fire trucks barely can squeeze through the doors. "You have about a 2-inch clearance," Lamar says. Tire marks along the sides of the doors attest to previous close calls.

They have Herman, too. He isn't a purebred firehouse dalmatian, but his spotted right ear gives him legitimacy.

"Somebody brought him here about 11 or 12 years ago so the dogcatcher could pick him up," Page says. "But the dogcatcher never showed up. So Herman just stayed."

Firemen Get Experience In Water Transport

Continued from page 1

"We were surprised that we could move that much water so fast, and so efficiently," stated the Fire Marshal. "Hopefully, by learning these new techniques, we can help lower the fire insurance costs for residents in the county."

Teaching the exercise was Chief Bobby Wilson of the Guilford College Volunteer Fire Department. "Chief Wilson has been involved with firefighting for 30 years, and has been with the Guilford College department for 19 years," said Massengill. "As chief of that department, he had primary responsibility for the huge oil storage tanks located in Guilford County, near I-85. He was faced with the problem of having no hydrants, and so he developed this method of transferring large quantities of water swiftly." As part of Wilson's development of the method, 'dry hydrants' were placed at farm ponds within his fire district.

"A dry hydrant is nothing more than a PVC pipe that is

connected to a farm pond," explained Massengill. "With a dry hydrant in strategic locations, this eliminates the need to pull the fire trucks off the road to get to a pond for water. With a dry hydrant, one truck can be stationed there, and two pumpers can be filled from the pond at one time."

Massengill said he hoped that local residents, if they are asked by their department, will allow dry hydrants to be installed at their ponds. "There is no maintenance or cost involved for the landowner," Massengill said.

Massengill said he was very pleased with the level of cooperation between firefighters and the local landowner who allowed use of his pond for the exercise. "It really takes dedicated men to stand out in the rain all day in an exercise like this, when they could have been doing any number of other things," said Massengill. "I never heard the first complaint from any of them. I really appreciate the dedication they displayed."

Big Fire Hits Pinehurst

Continued from page 1

Responding to the first call for mutual aid were the Eastwood, Southern Pines and Aberdeen fire departments. Responding on the second call were the Carthage, West End, Seven Lakes and Robbins fire departments.

"We really appreciate this assistance. This could have

been a very serious fire, and the mutual aid we received kept the fire from spreading and doing even more severe damage," Sudia said.

In spite of the potential for

the fire spreading to other buildings in the neighborhood, the deputy fire chief said there was never any danger posed to the school or Manor Inn hotel.

Salute To Firemen

Continued from page 2

cooperation and working relationships all of the fire fighters have with each other.

The response of the other departments, ranging from Southern Pines to Robbins, also was quick and effective.

The firemen were able to keep the flames from spreading and to bring the existing

fire under control within an hour.

That is something Pinehurst and its firemen, as well as the firemen from other towns, can be proud of accomplishing.

The Pilot joins in saluting the firemen and their effective work.

Reprinted from Southern Pines Pilot.

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The Best Instrument To Fight Fires Is Education, Says Beck

By ANGELA GRIFFIN
Sylva Herald

SYLVA—Sam Beck was born and reared in Jackson county. Perhaps the strong attachment to his home county which has kept him here for 54 years (with the exception of four years in the Air Force) accounts for his apparent strong sense of responsibility to his fellow community members. Sam has shown love and dedication to his community by volunteering 29 years of his life in fire fighting and prevention.

This year Sam, along with, Veronica Nicholas, Olin Ensley and the C.J. Harris Hospital Auxiliary, is being honored by the state for his volunteer service to his community. These volunteers have given their time of their own free will, without monetary compensation and more often with the knowledge that their volunteer work will actually cost them

money in the long run. This year, these people, including Sam, have received the Governor's Award for Individual Community Service.

In nominating Sam for the award, it was said "he personifies all those unsung yet quietly appreciated people who are volunteer firemen on whom the safety of our homes depends."

"Besides actually risking of life and limb at the scene of a fire, there are in addition many, many long hours spent in fire prevention, training, maintaining equipment, fundraising and countless other duties of which most people are unaware. In addition to all these tasks, he has taken on the office of fire chief which means he holds the burden of responsibility for seeing that all these other tasks are satisfactorily completed."

Sam began his work as a fireman when he was a young man working on the printing shop at The Sylva Herald. He can still remember when he was voted into the fire department—the first Monday in July, 1958.

Coming into work as usual one Tuesday morning, Sam said to his boss, Mr. J.A. Gray, Sr., shop foreman Clyde Rector (who was a member of the Sylva Volunteer Fire Department) and Bart Cope, fire chief, came into the back shop. "Bart said, 'I just want to inform you that you were voted into the Sylva Fire Department last night.'"

It was a total shock to Sam, who said he had never given it any thought. He remembers the day because he was later informed by his pastor at Sylva First Baptist Church, the Rev. Bob Abrams, that he was voted to the Board of Deacons at the church that same night.

Although he had not sought the position on the fire department Sam stuck with it for 29 years. His first reactions were that he was scared because he had no training. But as he began to attend meetings and learned

what the volunteer fire department was all about, he began to like it.

In fact, he began to like it so well that after six months he made his commitment to the department. He dropped out of other organizations he belonged to such as the American Legion, the Lions Club and Woodmen of the World, in order to stay on the department without conflicts.

There was also another important factor in reinforcing Sam's dedication to the department. The first man in the community to die in a fire after Sam became a department member was one of Sam's lifelong neighbors. It was a depressing experience for Sam, but it encouraged him to stay on and become a better fireman. Sam said it took him a long time to get over that death and he just kept thinking there must be something he could do to help prevent it from happening again. It was probably the most important factor in enticing Sam to spend many years working on home fire prevention programs.

Fire Dept. Project

GOLDSBORO—The Goldsboro Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary has been involved in a project to bring together the past and present history of the department.

A collection of photographs has been obtained or made of each of the fire stations in the city.

The oldest photographs are of the front of the original fire station on John Street taken in 1929, and the fire station on Ash Street, taken in 1939. The collection also includes a photograph of the present fire and police complex which was dedicated in 1976.

The auxiliary has provided a photograph of Fire Chief C. Wesley Howell, who became a fireman on June 15, 1928 and was made chief on July 1, 1949. He retired Dec. 31, 1968.

Longtime Firefighter Remembered

By TED MELLNIK
Charlotte Observer
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE—It was a traditional joke to be played on a rookie firefighter at Charlotte's station No. 1. A veteran would put the rookie up to criticizing Jimmy L. Kirkpatrick's cooking.

Mr. Kirkpatrick would rant and snatch the rookie's full plate away.

"If you didn't like the food, he'd threaten to kill you and everything else and throw your plate into the garbage," said Assistant Chief H.L. Wilson. "Then, he'd turn around and give you his plate. He was a beautiful person."

Mr. Kirkpatrick of 2935 Enfield died Oct. 13, 1986, at Charlotte Memorial Hospital of cancer. He was 50.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Charlotte native and son of a firefighter, had joined the city fire department in August 1957. He spent all but two months of his career at station No. 1, 125 S. Davidson St.

His first assignment was on Engine 11, the company that answered calls to the shotgun houses of Second Ward's Brooklyn neighborhood, later razed in urban renewal.

Since February 1973 Mr. Kirkpatrick had been in charge of Rescue One, a large van that responds to entrapments and rescues.

"Jimmy was the kind of person who could do anything," said Chief R.L. Blackwelder. "And it had to be right for him to be satisfied."

"He'd grumble about something and turn right around and do it," Blackwelder said. "He loved to make you think he didn't like things, but he was a supporter of this department and this city all the way."

"He has a heart as big as a fire truck."

Firefighters, working in pairs, had stood vigil with Mr. Kirkpatrick around the

clock. "We had so many volunteers we had to rotate them," Battalion Chief Joe McElhaney said. "If you'd heard the phone ring, you'd know what kind of a person he was."

Mr. Kirkpatrick was a member of the N.C. Air National Guard.

Survivors are his wife, Becky; son, Jeff Kirkpatrick; daughter, Miss Julie Kirkpatrick; mother, Mrs. Mary Kirkpatrick; brothers, Tommy Kirkpatrick, Richard Kirkpatrick; one grandson.

Memorials can be made to Kilgo United Methodist Church, 2101 Belvedere Ave., Charlotte, N.C. 28205.

County Fire Chiefs Pick New Officers

By DEMONT ROSEMAN
Eden News

EDEN—Jerry Turpin, chief of the Yanceyville Road Volunteer Fire Department, was elected president of the Rockingham County Fire Chiefs Council in Oct. as a completely new slate of officers was elected.

Only Lloyd Bolt, county fire marshal, was returned to office. He is program chairman.

Turpin replaces two-term president Bobby Wharton, chief of the Ruffin Volunteer Fire Department.

Elections were conducted during the quarterly meeting hosted by the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department and the Auxiliary. About 50 persons attended the meal-meeting.

Five political candidates, including U.S. House Republican Stu Epperson, were introduced. District Attorney-Elect Thurman Hampton was the speaker.

Gardner's Thanks Firefighters

ROCKY MOUNT—Gardner's Barbecue, which recently sustained major losses in a fire at its U.S. 301 central warehouse, honored those who fought the blaze with a pig picking at the site of the fire.

The fire occurred early Saturday, Sept. 20. Damage was primarily limited to the restaurant chain's storage and processing facility, which was destroyed. Gardner's largest retail restaurant, attached to the warehouse, sustained minor damage and is now fully reopened for dining room and take-out business.

Company President Jim Gardner said a pig picking for local firefighters was the most fitting way Gardner's could show its appreciation for the great work done by RMFD.

"Our fire department is to be very proud indeed of its outstanding record," he said. "Had they not responded to our fire in such a timely and professional manner, our losses would have been significantly greater," Gardner added.

As further evidence of its appreciation and support, Gardner's Barbecue has established the Gardner's Training Scholarship, which will be presented annually to the Rocky Mount Fire Department for training and support needs. The initial contribution of \$250 was made during a brief ceremony at the pig picking.

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Per-Call Funds For Departments

WINTON—The county commissioners recently approved a plan for equitable distribution of funds for volunteer fire departments in the county.

Fire marshal Charles Jones presented the plan which is based on the number of calls each department makes outside its town limits and fire district.

Asked if drill calls are valid, Jones advised they are not, but "if a department responds to a call and the call is cancelled en route, that would be valid because they have incurred costs. If it is cancelled before the unit leaves the building and the truck goes anyway, that will not be validated." He said he would be making the determination as to which calls are valid.

Jones has worked out a report form which is available from his office. The fire reports are standard ones and must be filed quarterly by the 15th of October, January, April and July. Any department not meeting the submittal dates will not be considered for that quarter's payment, according to the criteria for participation.

Jones's report states his office has studied the various ways to improve delivery of

county fire services through the volunteer departments. The departments have studied the feasibility of establishing fire tax districts and determined this would not give the needed financial support to keep their departments active.

The fire marshal found many of the departments lacked sufficient resources to meet their operating costs and keep equipment updated.

Based on these findings, Jones listed four recommendations:

- The county should accept a more responsible role in the organization and coordination of fire services in the county.

- The volunteer fire departments and the county should agree on a basic level of fire protection to be available to all citizens in Hertford County.

- The county, in cooperation with rural fire departments, would set five-year goals for fire protection to the county's citizens.

- The fire marshal encourages the county to set up a per-call account to provide additional funding to the department. The basic appropriation would remain the same from year to year. Jones asked for an increase in the

fund from the \$5,000 now set aside, to \$20,000 yearly.

Each department will continue to get the amount they now receive, plus the per-call allocation from the additional \$15,000.

The per-call funding criteria for participation would include:

- an agreement between the county and the departments, signed by July 1 of each fiscal year. Each department must provide workmen's compensation and have a mutual aid agreement, also signed by July 1.

- the minimum number of volunteers in each department as required by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) to maintain their fire rating and sufficient safety equipment for each volunteer. Rosters would be required as determined by the fire marshal.

- the departments' pump service tested and approved each year with a copy of the certification submitted to the Office of Emergency Management by July 1.

- meeting ISO specific requirements for their respective class rating as per the fire marshal's inspection.

The departments with established fire tax districts will get per-call payments on calls answered outside the district. This would apply to the Hoskie Rural Fire Department, as they are the only company with such a district.

At the end of each quarter, the fire marshal will total the number of valid calls made by eligible departments and divide the monies on a per-call basis.

The commissioners asked Jones how a subscriber system in the service area of each department would be handled. He said calls would not be answered to addresses where the subscription had not been paid. "The house would just burn down."

The board agreed, "That's not the way we want to go in Hertford County. We don't want that."

The rural departments in the county have been lobbying for additional funding to help them meet their costs to operate and replace equipment and vehicles. They maintain they have few ways to raise the needed money.

Agency To Evaluate Fire Department Applicants

By JOHN STAPLES
Kernersville News

KERNERSVILLE—Fire Chief Jimmy Barrow has convinced the Kernersville Board of Aldermen that \$2,400 to \$3,000 will be money well spent in evaluating applicants for jobs as officers of the Kernersville Fire Department.

The money will be spent initially to hire a nationally known agency to write tests for applicants for the posts of Fire Captain and Fire Lieutenant, two newly-created positions. The cost of the tests is \$1,200 to \$1,500 per job description.

Barrow said the tests would be followed by reviews by an "assessment center panel" composed of three fire service management personnel from other cities, and then by interviews with himself.

The Kernersville Fire Chief said several benefits will be derived from evaluations by outside sources, including the elimination of some weaknesses inherent in internal promotions.

"We used to use the good ol' buddy system," said Barrow. "When a person retired, a friend moved up. That has created some weak links in some fire positions."

Only those applicants who score in the upper percentage level of the test would be eligible for examination by the assessment center panel, Barrow said. After a one-hour interview by the panel, the applicants would then be ranked in order of performance.

The fire chief said the assessment panel has proven to be the most effective method of interviewing applicants to determine their skills and abilities. He said the cost of convening such panels is nominal, usually amounting to expenses for travel, lodging and meals.

Barrow said the town had received between 30 and 40 applications for the new officer positions. He said that besides applications from within the department, he had received many applications from North and South

Carolina, along with a few from Virginia and a few from as far away as California and Pennsylvania.

The fire chief defended the testing service as cost effective because the tests could be re-used at a later date with other applicants. He said funding for the test could be derived from the fire department's payroll account "which we are currently using at a slower rate than anticipated."

Alderman Robert J. Blakeley asked whether the town might not devise its own test rather than hire a national service to create one. Barrow said the test by the national agency is written to stand up under legal challenges of those who might not qualify for the fire department positions.

Alderman Larry R. Brown said that if the town was going to spend \$225,000 to add 12 new firemen to the department, "we'd better make sure the people we are getting are quality people."

Alderman Blakeley moved to accept the proposal for the outside evaluation, and it passed unanimously.

"I was against it when I came in here," Blakeley told Barrow, "but you sold me."

VFD Offers Inspections

WOODLAND—With cold weather approaching and people set to fire up their wood heaters and fireplaces, its time to check that chimney before the first wood fire. This fall The Woodland Volunteer Fire Department will offer free inspections to any interested persons in the Woodland area.

This will be only an inspection, not a clean out operation, the firemen will make the inspection and make recommendations to people with chimney problems. Anyone interested in this service should contact Gattis Hodges at 587-7852 or Charles Timberlake at Timberlake's Texaco at 587-2391.

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